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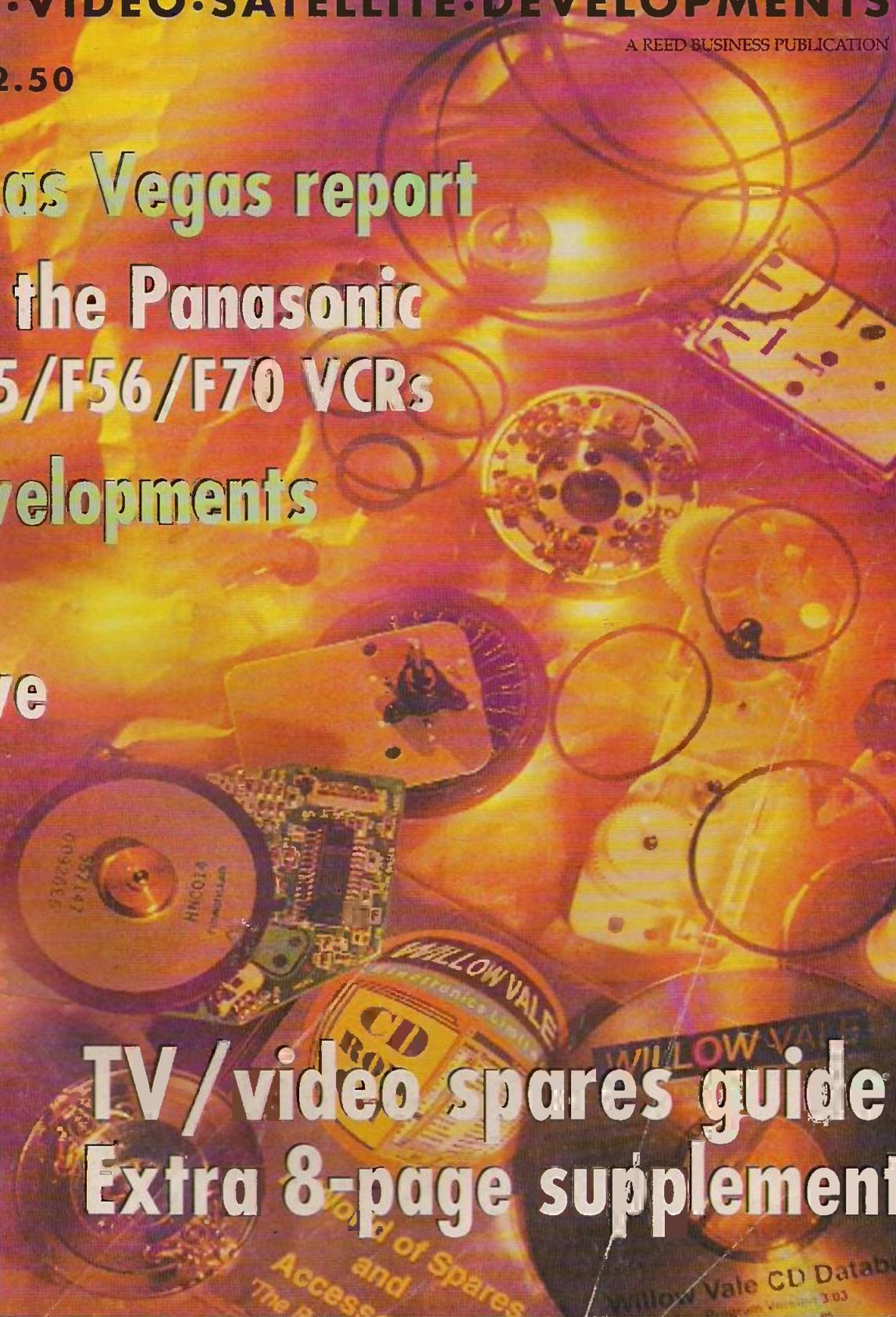
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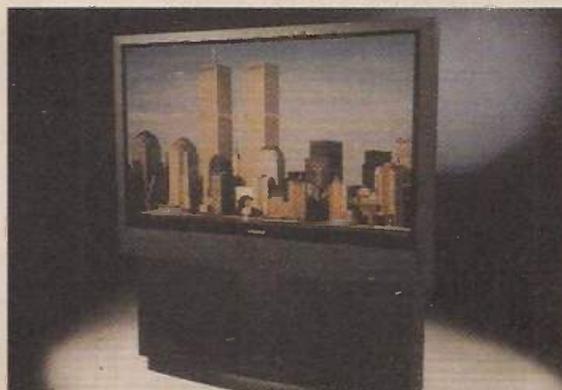
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Preparing for Digital TV

Digital TV will hit us in the UK later this year. Will we be ready for it then? Do I hear coughs and shuffling feet? Let's start with the public before we think about the technical side.

To its credit Pace Micro Technology of satellite receiver fame, whose future is closely bound up with the success of digital TV, has commissioned and published some market research which is not very encouraging. The Pace Report is based on the responses from some 1,200 viewers to questions on their attitudes to digital TV. Only 36 per cent knew what digital TV was. A high proportion of the viewers consider what should be the main advantages of digital TV as being "of no value at all". Asked about the benefits of increased choice of programming only 21 per cent saw this as being a reason for buying digital TV equipment: 35 per cent said that increased choice would be of no value to them. What about interactive TV? An even greater number of the viewers, 57 per cent, gave this the thumbs down - "of no value at all" was their reaction. As to home shopping, 64 per cent could see no benefit in this. When it came to pay-per-view, 65 per cent showed no interest.

From the technical point of view the prospect of better quality pictures and sound is of greater interest than the extra services made possible by digital TV. The viewers seemed to agree: 46 per cent thought that this would be "of some value" while 30 per cent were

prepared to buy sets for this reason. Other prospects that elicited interest were "more local news" and "improved access to government and local authority services".

Well, it was a rather small sample, but the results do suggest that a major marketing effort will be required to get the public interested. In particular it may be difficult to get the public to pay more for TV. If Rupert Murdoch and others can sign up the best entertainment, films and sports fixtures for pay-TV services, the public may have little option.

The public has hardly been primed for the advent of digital TV. What about the trade? Surely by now the set-makers should be running courses for their technical staff and for dealers' service engineers. But there has been hardly a murmur. Well we do know that money is hard to find in this highly competitive industry, but surely someone should see that this is an investment for future success and profits.

In the past local colleges have been responsible for much technical training. But in recent years there have been fewer and fewer courses for prospective or established TV/video technicians to attend.

It all looks to be rather a shambles. But perhaps we needn't be too alarmed. With modern technology, by which I mean all the work being done within those little plastic things, it's not

so important to have a detailed knowledge of signal decoding and processing techniques. How many headaches has teletext caused, or Nicam sound? Do you know exactly how these systems work and what goes on in those chips? Probably not. And by and large it doesn't matter. You check the supplies and the conditions at the various pins. Anything badly amiss here and the problem is soon solved.

It was quite different in the otherwise comparable early days of colour TV, when discrete component technology was used for decoding. Then you did need to know what went on and which stage did what if you were to be able to deal with faults such as no colour, unlocked colour, incorrect colours, Hanover bars and so on. The chip has made this largely unnecessary, and as a result has simplified servicing no end. The main headaches with today's servicing are caused by things like dry-joints that can be responsible for intermittent and other hard to pin down conditions.

I don't want to sound unduly blasé about this however. Clearly if no one has a clue we will be in difficulties and the trade will get a lousy reputation. Some training is essential, and now is the time when it should be being organised. Training is required for bench technicians, field and installation technicians and technical sales staff. The fact that so little is being done is not an encouraging start to the digital era.

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2S4992	0.31	2SD1556	5.11	BC212L	0.18	BD765C	1.68	BY255	0.14	R9594	15.79	STK5332	2.82	TDA2581Q	2.57	TEA2029C	7.04
2S81010	0.35	2SD1651	2.38	BC237	0.12	BF194	0.22	BY299	0.18	RF8C40	5.98	STK5342	4.07	TDA2582	3.85	TEA2029C	7.04
2S81066	0.77	2SD1858	0.43	BC237B	0.19	BF195	0.07	BY397	0.20	KAG210AH	6.15	STK5372H	6.84	TDA2583	1.12	TEA2029C	7.04
2S81143	0.77	2SD1877	2.14	BC238	0.11	BF197	0.18	BY398	0.16	LA4270	5.98	STK5421	9.52	TDA2600	7.69	TEA2029C	7.04
2S81243	0.60	2SD1878	2.63	BC238B	0.16	BF199	0.18	BY399	0.12	LA4280	3.12	STK5461	8.12	TDA2611A	0.64	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8560	0.43	2SD1879	3.16	BC307	0.06	BF258	0.04	BY448	0.30	LA4282	5.11	STK7253	7.69	TDA2611AQ	1.32	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8643	0.29	2SD1884	3.35	BC307B	0.15	BF420	0.21	BYD14D	0.35	LA4445	3.45	STK7308	6.41	TDA2653A	4.70	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8647	0.57	2SD1887	3.56	BC308	0.09	BF421	0.24	BYD13J	0.12	LA4460	2.50	STK7348	5.74	TDA3190	2.05	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8649A	0.77	2SD288	0.85	BC308A	0.09	BF422	0.19	BYD33J	0.16	LA4700	4.27	STR11006	7.30	TDA3330	14.21	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8688	1.61	2SD350A	1.97	BC308C	0.26	BF423	0.14	BYD33M	0.26	LA6324	2.05	STR4211	9.47	TDA3350	6.13	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8698	0.35	2SD381	1.66	BC309B	0.10	BF459	0.43	BYV1040	2.55	LA6510	2.94	STR50020	9.38	TDA3561A	3.85	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8716	0.43	2SD400	0.34	BC327	0.10	BF471	0.37	BYV95B	0.21	LA7830	1.88	STR50103	4.47	TDA3562A	4.62	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8772	0.50	2SD401A	0.77	BC328	0.14	BF487	0.57	BYV95C	0.28	LA7832	2.40	STR50103A	5.56	TDA3565A	3.85	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8774	1.61	2SD468	0.28	BC337	0.14	BF491	0.41	BYV96D	0.27	LA7835	2.99	STR54041	5.15	TDA3566A	6.41	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8891	0.60	2SD667	0.38	BC338	0.06	BF494	0.12	BYV96E	0.53	LA7837	4.19	STR5412	4.02	TDA3567B	10.31	TEA2029C	7.04
2S8892	0.35	2SD669A	0.64	BC368	0.18	BF759	0.38	BYW56	0.31	LC7132	4.70	STR58041	3.42	TDA3592A	4.60	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC1008	0.24	2SD718	1.90	BC369	0.18	BF869	0.38	BYW95C	0.21	LED3G	0.10	STR59041	8.11	TDA3640	5.98	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC124	0.48	2SD756	0.47	BC372	0.53	BF871	0.41	BYW95F	0.50	LED3R	0.10	STR6020	6.07	TDA3650	11.04	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC1318	0.19	2SD837B	1.12	BC546A	0.11	BF959	0.18	BYX55600	0.23	LED3Y	0.10	STRD1816	7.69	TDA3653B	1.54	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC1473	0.21	2SD856	0.79	BC546E	0.12	BF960	0.30	BZV10	1.34	LM317T	1.29	STRD4420	10.64	TDA3653C	2.82	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC1573	0.25	2SD882	0.43	BC547	0.11	BF970	0.43	BZK618V1	0.15	LM324N	1.48	T9053V	1.35	TDA3653CQ	2.57	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC1675	0.14	2SD898B	6.41	BC547A	0.04	BF990A	0.68	BZK619V1	0.16	LM339N	0.50	T9064V	1.87	TDA3654Q	1.44	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC1685	0.21	2SD965	0.67	BC547B	0.11	BF991	0.39	BZK6111	0.10	M49481	11.85	TAT720P	0.66	TDA3654Q	2.82	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC1740	0.16	2SD965R	1.05	BC548	0.11	BR100	0.38	BZK6112	0.13	M5218L	0.69	TAT780P	2.74	TDA4500	4.66	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC1815V	0.11	2SK1117	3.40	BC548A	0.11	BR103	0.62	BZK61120	0.28	M54544L	2.04	TAT781P	2.04	TDA4501H	9.57	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC2001	0.23	2SK1118	3.40	BC548B	0.06	BRX44	1.02	BZK6113	0.11	M58655P	4.96	TAT788AP	5.97	TDA4503	4.00	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC2023	0.18	2SK30A	0.35	BC548C	0.14	BRX49	0.43	BZK6116	0.19	MAL232CPE	4.70	TAT778P	5.11	TDA4505E	7.35	TEA2029C	7.04
2SC2073	1.03	7407	0.69	BC549B	0.11	BRV55	0.28	BZK6120	0.19								

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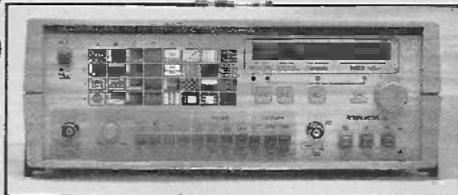


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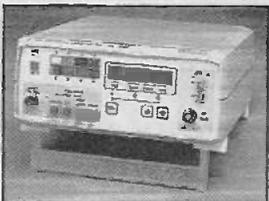
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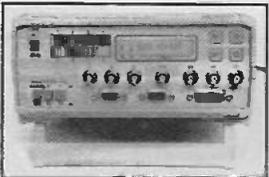
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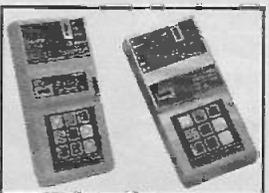
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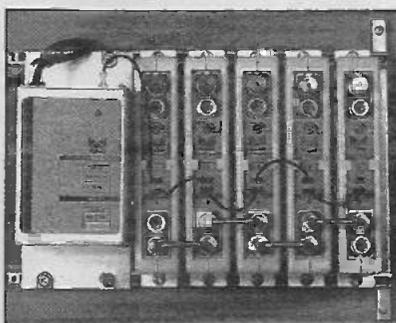
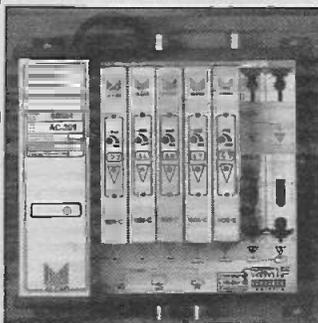
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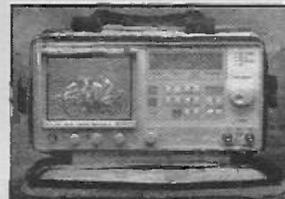
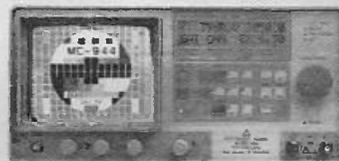
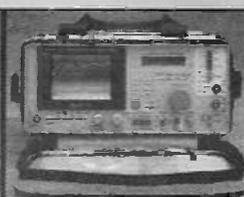
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Reports from
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Sony CCDTR305E

No playback was the complaint with this camcorder. Inspection revealed that there were other problems, like a rolling black-and-white E-E picture. Although there was no playback, as far as could be ascertained the mechanism operated normally in all modes.

I've had problems with this particular model before because of incorrect or scrambled data in the EEPROMS (pages D and F). So I did a quick reading. This was a good move – page D was empty! All was well after reprogramming.

Checks were carried out to determine the cause of the memory loss, but none was found. After a long soak test the unit was returned to the customer. That was eight months ago, and all seems to be well so far. Of course he probably hasn't used it yet! D.C.W.

Panasonic NVMS2B

The complaint with this full-size unit was "weak camera pictures". All playback etc. functions were OK. On test I found that the camera E-E picture signal was of low amplitude at only some 0.5V – checked at the AV connector with 75Ω termination. Since the signal level remained the same under all lighting conditions it seemed that the iris assembly might be at fault. This turned out to be the case.

The iris motor had leaked oil which had contaminated the iris vane assembly. From past experience I have found that it's unwise to try to clean these units to save expense – the cost of a complete new assembly is modest. Bear in mind the considerable amount of

Camcorner

time required for dismantling, cleaning, setting up etc. Having to do the whole thing twice is not recommended! D.C.W.

Sony CCDV5000E

This top-of-the-range (in its day) camcorder was brought in because it was inoperative, with only the DEW symbol flashing – in the EVF and LC displays. The cause was simply a bad connection at CN002 on the main syscon PCB. I cleaned and refitted the connector pins then carried out a service to complete the repair. D.C.W.

Canon UC10E

I've on several occasions mentioned the common types of mechanical fault that you get with units which use this mechanism – they are often caused by excessive pressure being applied to the cassette when it's inserted. This can bend the supply reel spindle etc. (or worse). So when this one arrived with a note that said "noise band on picture and intermittent shut down" I was not unduly worried. Quite normal I thought, and estimated accordingly.

After straightening the supply reel spindle and checking for correct back tension I realigned the tape path. OK so far. A tape was inserted (fortunately not an 8mm test tape) and playback was selected. The monitor produced a picture, which looked to be OK. After thirty seconds of play however a noise band appeared at the bottom of the picture then disappeared, only to reappear after a short while. This state of affairs continued until I stopped the tape.

The other mechanical functions were then tried. Fast forward was OK, also rewind apart from a cyclic rattle and vibration that came from the back-tension assembly. I also found that the lower edge of the tape was being severely chewed.

Play was once again tried, which confirmed the previous symptoms. I also noticed that the tape was being stretched and chewed at the

point between the take-up guide and the pinch roller. In fact the tape was under so much tension at this point that it would sometimes 'sing' like a violin string! Yet the back-tension was OK. The tape would ride up and down around the drum, and was also under excessive tension here.

I eventually found that the supply roller guide sleeve had seized on its spindle. It looked OK and was correctly positioned, but it wouldn't revolve. A new guide cured the problem.

Since that first experience I've had other units with 'sticky', erratically revolving guides. If the guide has not totally seized, cleaning usually clears the trouble. We live and learn! D.C.W.

Chinnon VC1700

I was told that this handy-cam style unit wouldn't record or play back. The cause was lack of the capstan FG signal. This was immediately obvious, not only from observing the action of the mechanism but from the fact that the motor ribbon cable was damaged! The damage was satisfactorily repaired by linking across the area affected. Just as well, as the motor is now no longer available. D.C.W.

JVC GRS505E

All functions worked but there was no output to the monitor when the RF unit was used – when an AV lead was used the picture and sound were OK. Diode D2 on the jack PCB had failed, removing the 8V RF supply. A faulty AV lead, which had previously shorted out the 8V supply, was the cause of D2's failure. D.C.W.

Canon E50E

If there is no viewfinder picture, check for around 1V or so of luminance at the input pin (11) of the AN2514 viewfinder driver IC. Then see if it comes out at pin 13. If there's luminance at pin 11 but nothing comes out, replacing C2901 (100μF, 6V) will probably put matters right. A.S.

TELETOPICS

Conditional Access Row

British Digital Broadcasting (BDB) has chosen SECA's Mediaguard conditional access (CA) system for its set-top decoder boxes in preference to a News Datacom system. BSkyB is to use the News Datacom system and is threatening to take legal action against BDB, alleging that when BSkyB withdrew from the BDB consortium there was an agreement to use a common CA system. News Datacom is a subsidiary of News Corporation, which has a forty per cent stake in BSkyB. SECA is a partnership between the French pay-TV group Canal Plus and the German publisher/TV company Bertelsmann.

It's believed that BDB's decision was taken on cost and proven technology grounds. The SECA CA system is already in use for services to Continental Europe, whereas the News Datacom system is still under development. BDB expects satellite and terrestrial digital TV broadcasters to transmit CA information for both systems

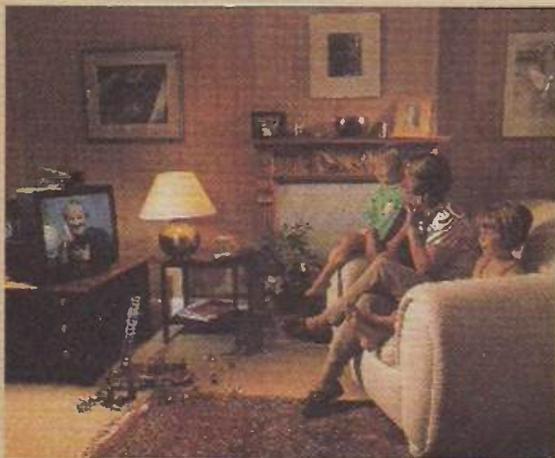
simultaneously, a process known as simulcrypt, to enable different types of decoder to be used. It admits that there is not going to be 100 per cent compatibility between the systems initially. Users wishing to add satellite to DTT (digital terrestrial TV) reception could buy an adaptor, which might cost about £80, to plug into their BDB set-top boxes. It seems that the main problem relates to the inability of a BDB box to handle BSkyB's electronic programme guide, which is designed to help viewers find their way around its 200 or so digital TV channels.

Both broadcasters claim to be on course for the launch of their services, BSkyB in June and BDB in the final quarter of the year. Representatives of UK broadcasters and television regulators however have met the Radio Communications Agency to voice concern about delays in negotiations over the right to use international frequencies for DTT. The broadcasters had already

complained to Margaret Beckett, the trade and industry secretary, about slow progress in negotiations with France and Belgium.

There has also been dispute about the provision of interactive services (home shopping etc.). British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), which is to provide interactive services for BSkyB, had planned to use a video-based technology known as Open TV. Other broadcasters are planning to use an internet-based technology such as Microsoft's WebTV. It seems that BIB is now opting to use a compatible standard. Carlton and Granada, joint owners of BDB, have been working with WebTV on TV viewer access to the internet. The WebTV system has been on sale in the USA for over a year and has attracted some 200,000 subscribers.

The Independent Television Facilities Centre predicts that digital TV will result in a huge increase in the demand for subtitling for deaf and hard of hearing viewers.



California-based video specialist 8x8 has launched its ViaTV phone in the UK at around £400. All you require is the unit, a standard phone line and TV set to plug into - and someone with the same equipment at the other end. Other models, one of which uses a comcorder, are to follow.

BREMA Highlights Sterling Threat

The House of Commons trade and industry committee, which is investigating Japanese investment in the UK, has been told by the British Radio and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (BREMA) that the strong pound and high UK interest rates are threatening the UK's position as the leading manufacturer of TV sets in Europe. Ten of BREMA's fourteen full members, including Sony, Matsushita, Toshiba, Mitsubishi Electric, Hitachi and

Sanyo, are Japanese owned. Last year the industry produced over six million sets worth about £2bn at retail prices. This is about a third of European production. The UK had a TV set trade surplus of some £500m last year.

BREMA points out that further inwards investment in the industry is being discouraged. It would also like to see an early decision on UK entry into European economic and monetary union.

Cable and Satellite Exhibition

The 11th Cable and Satellite Exhibition will be held at Earl's Court 2, London on May 18-20th.

Digital TV Coverage

The ITC has laid down a three-phase strategy for the start of digital TV services in the UK. Transmitters in the Phase 1 list must start broadcasting from the digital TV commencement date. This is expected to provide coverage of about 70 per cent of the population. Transmitters in Phase 2 must start within eight months, while those in Phase 3 must start within sixteen months. This will bring the coverage up to 90 per cent. Here's the list:

Phase 1: Belmont, Bilsdale, Black Hill, Caldbeck, Caradon Hill, Craiggelly, Crystal Palace, Divis, Durrus, Emley Moor, Fremont Point, Hannington, Mendip, Moel-y-Parc, Oxford, Pontop Pike, Rowridge, Sandy Heath, Stockland Hill, Sutton Coldfield, Tacolneston, Waltham, Wenvoe and Winter Hill.

Phase 2: Main stations Angus, Beacon Hill, Blaenplwyf, Bluebell Hill, Carmel, Darvel, Dover, Heathfield, Limavady, Llanddona, Midhurst, Presely, Ridge Hill, Rosemarkie, Selkirk and Sudbury. Relay stations Bristol I.C., Fenham, Guildford, Hemel Hempstead, Idle, Kilvey Hill, Lancaster, Nottingham, Saddleworth, Sheffield and Whitehawk Hill.

Phase 3: Main stations Bressay, Brougher Mountain, Chatton, Eitshal, Huntshaw Cross, Keelylang Hill, Knock More, Redruth, Rumster Forest, The Wrekin and Torosay. Relay stations Aberdare, Brierly Hill, Bristol K.W., Bromsgrove, Chesterfield, Fenton, Hastings, Keighley, Lark Stoke, Malvern, Olivers Mount, Pendle Forest, Plympton, Pontypool, Reigate, Rosneath, Salisbury, Storeton and Tunbridge Wells.

Business News

In announcing record profits last year Philips has made clear that its policy will be to increase marketing expenditure and focus on high-volume consumer electronics, from TV sets and audio systems to mobile telephones and also some business electronics products. Chairman Cor Boonstra wants the company "to become a leading force in the digital revolution". Profits reached F15.7bn (£1.7bn) against a loss of F1590m (£175m) in 1996. Sales increased ten per cent to F176.5bn (£22.77bn).

Philips TV Test Equipment has been acquired by Panta Electronics of the Netherlands. Its name has been changed to ProTeleVision Technologies A/S, or PTV. Panta

Electronics has announced its intention to invest in PTV to strengthen product development and human resources. PTV's products mainly serve studio, transmission and TV set manufacturing requirements.

Microvitec has sold its monitors/displays division to Conrac Technology of the USA, a former marketing partner. The division made an operating loss of £2.4m on turnover of £11.4m in the six months to the end of June 1997, its worst result in seven years.

Satellite equipment supplier Longreach Group plc has bought Electrotech Distribution, giving it exclusive distribution rights to the Maspro brand in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The Analogue TV Switch-off

The government has refused to announce a cut-off date for analogue TV transmissions but has ruled out a five year after the start of digital broadcasting option as not being practical. It plans a period of public consultation, and has accepted a National Economic Research Associates (NERA) recommendation to study the take-up of digital TV for two years

before announcing a cut-off date. The NERA study suggests a close down in 10-15 years' time.

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has said "I would not wish to switch off analogue broadcasts until digital receivers are as universally installed in households as analogue ones are now." TV sets are replaced on average every eight years.



JBC has introduced the Advanced Series range of soldering stations. Temperature fluctuations of 70°C with conventional irons are reduced to 30°C, cutting job completion times by half. As the maximum working temperature is 350°C compared to 450°C, the risk of damage to adjacent components and the PCB is substantially reduced. Automatic rest-state registration leads to a dramatic temperature drop, thus avoiding tip oxidation - tips are claimed to last up to five times longer than with conventional irons. The integral stand enables tip cartridges to be changed quickly with the station fully operational - the working temperature is reached within two seconds.

For further details contact JBC Soldering Solutions Ltd., Marshall House, 255 Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6NG - phone 0161 474 0299, fax 0161 474 0288.

Digital Digest

Intel, Hitachi, Matsushita, Sony and Toshiba have developed a digital encryption technology to prevent illegal copying of digital information in recorded, transmitted or software form. It's applicable to CDs and DVDs, and can be used to prevent digital pay-TV transmissions being copied. The format is based on public and symmetric key cryptographic techniques. A code would have to be entered before copyright material could be transferred from one device to another.

Subscribers to the French pay-TV service CanalSatellite can use a new interactive system called Zapfoot, which has been designed for viewers of French First Division football games. While one game is being watched, on-screen messages appear announcing significant events in other games: by pressing an OK button on the handset the viewer can automatically switch to the game relevant to the message.

Nokia has taken out a licence with internet pioneer Spyglass Inc. to use its Mosaic web technology in a new generation of set-top boxes. These will offer interactive services such as e-mail, internet access and home shopping. The Mosaic browser technology has been designed specifically for non-PC applications such as set-top boxes and internet phones. While most PC browsers require at least 10Mbytes of RAM, Mosaic requires only 3Mbytes.



John Edwards' Casebook

Ferguson 59P7 (ICC5 Chassis)

I've heard many disaster stories about repairing these sets, but the problems I've had to date have been quite straightforward – I bet I'll pay for saying that! This set for example was dead. One of the four BY255 mains bridge rectifiers was short-circuit, also the S2000A3 chopper transistor TP24. As usual the power supply area was full of dry-joints. It has been my experience with these sets that the best way to avoid bounces is to sit down, make myself comfortable and resolder all the power supply joints carefully, even the ones that look good – and don't forget the resistor in the degaussing circuit. After doing this and replacing the faulty components I powered the set via the variac. As all was well, a direct connection was made to the mains supply. Again the set worked correctly.

When the set had performed faultlessly on soak test for eight hours I phoned the customer and collection was arranged within the hour. The instant I put the phone down the set went dead – including the channel indicator. I bet you know that sinking feeling well. With the set back on the bench, I removed its back and switched on. It came to life straight away, without any hint of trouble. I tapped this and prodded that but the set behaved faultlessly. "Oh dear" I thought, "now what?"

Lady Luck was with me however, or most likely felt sorry for me. As I brushed against the mains lead the set went dead again. It could be switched on all right, so I wiggled the mains lead and heard a faint arcing noise in the mains plug. I felt mixed emotions when I removed the mains plug's top cover and gazed inside. Stupid of me – surely by now I've learnt always to check customers' plug wiring. This one was potentially lethal. The live and neutral screws were very loose, and the insulation on both wires had been stripped back to the cable grip. How on earth they didn't touch each other is beyond me.

As I finished making good the plug and refitting the set's back cover the customer arrived. He paid up cheerfully and, as he departed with his set, he glanced back and said "do you fix hairdryers – ours keeps going off and on".

"Did you put the plug on?" I asked.

He nodded to indicate that he had.

Smiling politely, I suggested that he should check the wiring.

Toshiba 2147B

This was an interesting fault. The customer complained that there was no sound. In fact I could just

hear very faint sound with my ear close to the speaker. The volume can be adjusted by a rotary control beneath the control flap – this was turned to maximum – by the handset's up-down buttons and, of course, the mute button.

A finger and screwdriver blade hum test at the input to the TDA1015 audio output chip IC621 proved that it was OK. So I connected my scope to the TA7680 IF chip's audio output pin 2. There was plenty of audio here. Thus encouraged, I traced the print to pin 15 of the TDA1524 chip IC620. This is a stereo or two-channel tone control chip that should provide a mono output at pin 11. There was no output here. To prove that IC620 was faulty, I checked that its input and output were AC coupled then linked pins 11 and 15 together. Sound blasted from the speaker. A new TDA1524 chip restored normal, controllable sound.

Hitachi CPT2176 (G6P Chassis)

This set was dead apart from a faint squeal that came from the power supply. When I disconnected one end of L795 to isolate the line output stage the power supply delivered the correct 110V output. From the outset I suspected the line output transformer, which in fact tested faulty. But with the transformer removed the power supply refused to work at all. I decided not to worry about this until a new transformer had been obtained and fitted. The following day I fitted the new transformer, reconnected L795 and switched the set on. Apart from the need to adjust the first anode and focus controls all was well.

Looking at the circuit diagram, I noticed that the winding connected to pins 1 and 2 of the LOPT provides feedback to the power supply. I assume that it provides pulses to synchronise the operation of the line output stage with that of the power supply, and that this is the reason why, with the transformer missing, the power supply didn't work.

Mitsubishi CT2525

The fuse and the 4-7Ω, 5W surge limiter resistor R901 were open-circuit. The 2SD1887 chopper transistor Q901 and the 3V zener diode D909 were short-circuit. I read somewhere that if you get a low resistance reading across D908 and D907 the TEA2164 chopper control chip is suspect. I did, so I replaced the chip as well as the other parts. I then resoldered numerous suspect joints in the power supply area. It was finally switch-on time. As usual, I brought my trusty variac into operation.

The set fired up normally and produced a good pic-

ture and sound. But after a few minutes I sniffed something cooking. After switching off I checked the chopper transistor with my finger to see if it was being asked to pass too much current. It was far too hot. I decided to check its 47 μ F base drive coupling capacitor C906. A multimeter resistance check suggested that it was OK, a reading of 32 μ F was obtained with the capacitance meter, but a scope component tester display showed that it was definitely very leaky. When I fitted a replacement, rated at 105°C, the power supply operated at normal temperature.

Ferguson FV62LV

In either the E-E or the record mode the picture would intermittently disappear into snow, as if the aerial had been disconnected. The cause of the problem was immediately obvious once the top cover had been removed, or so I thought: the tuner connections to the PCB were all badly dry-jointed. Almost open-circuit in fact. But resoldering them made little difference.

Closer examination revealed that the aerial socket's centre conductor had broken off inside the tuner module – because the customer had been frantically wiggling the aerial and RF leads in the hope of getting his picture back. Another job for MCES.

Orion D3100VP

The owner of this centre-mounted deck machine (I'm not keen on them either, Jeff) complained that the playback picture would disappear into snow for a few seconds then right itself. The machine could work for days without the fault putting in an appearance. "Oh dear" I thought, looking at the four VCRs and two TV sets on the soak test bench. Fortunately the fault appeared within minutes of my selecting play. One thick, snowy noise bar developed across the centre of the picture: it spread out to fill the top and bottom of the screen, then retracted to the centre again. This display was repeated three more times, with the sound pitch varying. Then, as the customer said, everything was back to normal. I thought about the possibility of missing or low-amplitude control pulses and cleaned the audio/control head. Then the machine joined the others on the soak test bench.

I connected a monitor, inserted a tape and prepared myself for a long wait. In order to start at the beginning of the tape, I selected rewind. The nature of the problem then became immediately obvious. The capstan rumbled then emitted an ear-piercing, high-pitched squeal as its speed increased. I thought it was going to disintegrate, and hurriedly pressed the eject button.

Accessibility above and below the deck is, fortunately, good with this machine. Once the capstan shaft circlip, the three retaining bolts and the bottom cover have been removed, the capstan flywheel can be gently withdrawn away from the stator PCB. If you get this problem you will see a brown stain on the shaft where lubricant was once present. I used a cotton bud and methylated spirits to return the shaft to its original shiny finish, then lightly greased the base of the shaft and reassembled the machine. I was rewarded with quiet reel functions and no more capstan speed variations.

NEI 2891 (CE25 Chassis)

To say that this set was dead was an understatement. Its power supply had suffered a severe headache, and I wondered whether it was going to pass this on to me. As I peered down at the lifeless power supply section of the chassis I noticed the charred remains of two

resistors and a bulging electrolytic capacitor that was just waiting to burst.

Some quick resistance checks seemed to indicate that there were shorts and open-circuits everywhere. It looked as if it was a nightmare. As the customer was there in front of me I decided to warn him. "It's not a while-you-wait job" I said, "you'll have to be prepared to spend £80 or £90" – hoping that he would take the set away. But no. "OK", he replied. "when will it be done? It's the wife's only pleasure you see."

I decided that the best plan was to check every component in the power supply individually, either by lifting a leg and measuring the resistance or, with capacitors, the leakage. Transistors were checked by desoldering two legs and checking for shorts. This method enabled me to draw up a list as I progressed. It sounds like a long and laborious approach to fault finding, but took only about a quarter of an hour.

The list of definitely failed parts was as follows: Tr100 (SGSIF344) chopper transistor, D104 5.1V zener diode and TDA8380 chopper control chip all short-circuit; IC100 (TC1D1101) optocoupler diode section leaky; R102 (0.22 Ω) and R109 (13.7k Ω) both burnt out; and C122 (22 μ F, 100V) very leaky. I replaced these items then powered the set via my variac. I was delighted when it burst into life and all was well.

Philips G110 Chassis with S-VHS

The customer complained that there was no sound when the input connection was made via the two S-VHS phono sockets. Audio connected via the scart socket was OK. I had visions of spending the day carrying out scope checks in complicated switching circuitry, so I decided to have a cup of tea to clear the head then go about the job logically. Well, it might start off that way, before frustration and guesswork took over.

The basic circuitry involved is shown, in simplified form, in Fig. 1. Audio input via pins 2 and 6 of the scart socket is presented to pins 2 and 12 of the HEF4053 audio switching chip IC7905. The S-VHS audio inputs go to pins 1 and 13 of this chip. The selected output appears at pins 14 and 15 and is then passed to pins 18 and 20 of the TDA8425 audio processor chip IC7260.

I disconnected the scart plug to view the S-VHS audio conditions. Signals were present at pins 1 and 13 of IC7905, but there were no outputs at pins 14 and 15. So pins 2 and 12 were permanently connected to the outputs. Fortunately the switching control inputs at pins 10 and 11 were OK. This meant an internal fault within the chip, which was confirmed when a replacement restored correct switching and S-VHS sound.

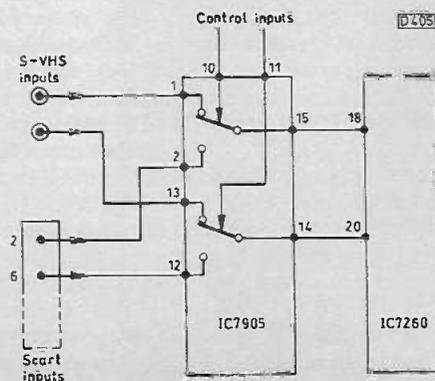
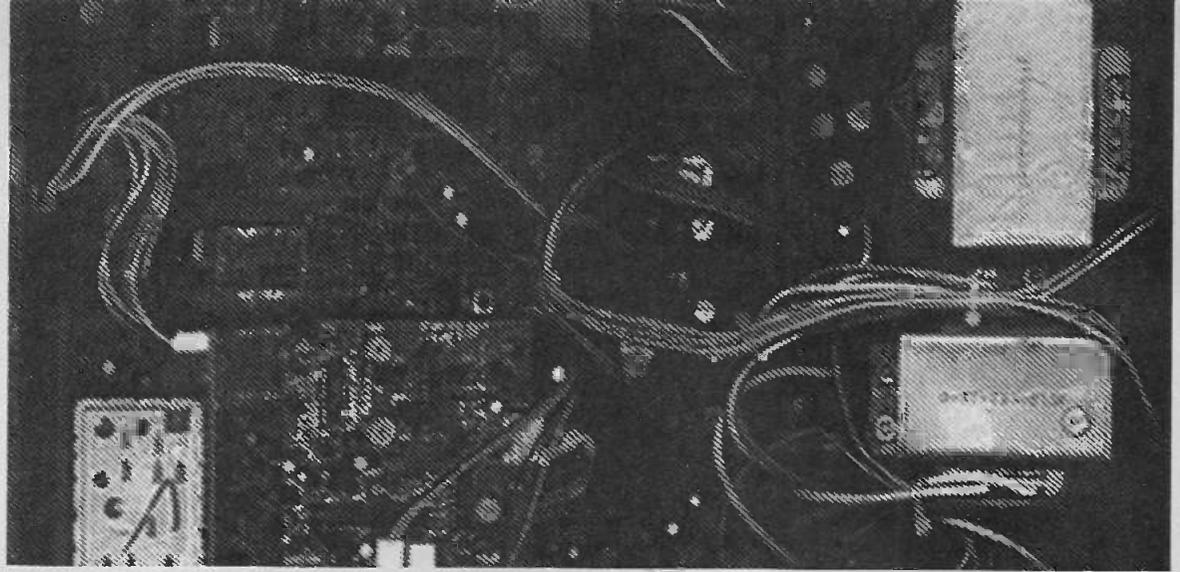


Fig. 1: The audio switching arrangement used in versions of the Philips G110 chassis with S-VHS provision.



Satellite Notebook

Reports from
Hugh Cocks and
Chris Watton

Pace SS9200 Power Supply

You find that the BUT11A chopper transistor Q1 has gone short-circuit and replace the usual components, especially C9 (1 μ F). If you then find that the receiver fails to work and the LEDs blink on and off faintly, check the value of the 0.22 Ω current-sensing resistor R13. It usually goes open-circuit when Q1 fails, but can go high-resistance instead. In one case recently R13 read in excess of 4 Ω , though it did not look distressed.

The clue with this fault is the fact that the LEDs blink on and off with no noise from the power supply. If they blink on and off and a distressed 'pinging' sound comes from the power supply, the cause of the trouble is more likely to be a short across one of the LT lines.

In view of the service that these receivers have now provided, the mains bridge rectifier's reservoir capacitor C7 (47 μ F, 400V) should be replaced whenever one of these receivers comes in for repair. If C7 is open-circuit the receiver may refuse to start or fail again within a very short time. A common symptom is a 50Hz buzz from within the box with a hum bar on the screen. You will often find that C7 is bulging at the top and maybe has a split plastic covering as well. A nearby lightning strike can finish it off, leaving the rest of the receiver intact.

When a customer brings one of these receivers in for repair I ask, wherever possible, for the mains lead – if it's of the detachable Pace type – to be brought in so that the condition of the mains plug can be checked. Any poor contact here can result in sparking and early

failure of the power supply.

There are lots of dubious two-pin, three-way adaptors in this part of the world (Portugal). To confuse matters they are called 'triplers'. Some have the same habit as their TV namesakes, internal sparking, which is unfortunate for any chopper power supplies that happen to be connected to them. We supply a known good-quality three-way adaptor to those in need of one because they lack mains outlets. But this has to plug into the mains socket, which may also have had habits – especially if elderly! **H.C.**

Off-air Software

Off-air software downloads for the Pace DVR500 receiver used with the Dutch Multichoice package started some months ago – mainly for changing the menus from English to Dutch and adding the Canal Plus logo (formerly Filmnet).

Further downloads are now available. They take about eleven minutes. With the latest one the receiver will provide teletext operation (previously not possible). The free-to-air channels, which were previously blocked, also become available together with a selection of ten 'Home Channels'. These can be set individually for default frequency, symbol rate and error correction values: for example 12.012MHz frequency, 27,500 symbol rate and 3/4 error correction is the Home Channel for Multichoice. By going into the installation menu the user can scroll through the home channels and reprogram them if required.

You can normally find whether a software upgrade is available via the installation menu. You are then

asked if you wish to proceed, the process taking about eleven minutes.

One or two DIY customers have had problems and have managed to 'crash' the receiver during the upgrade process. On-screen menus are not available to restart the process, but the receiver can be forced to take a new download via the front-panel buttons. The procedure is as follows.

Power up the DVR500. When dL starts to flash on the front panel, press the standby button. The d then stops flashing but the L continues. Next press the – button. The d will start to flash again then stop. At this point press the + button. There will then be a continuous dL display and the mail message LED, which is labelled with an envelope symbol, should light for five seconds.

The upgrade should then start. Its completion is indicated by rA showing in the front display, which is a sight to behold during the upgrade, with all manner of wondrous seven-segment LED display combinations!

Don't start an upgrade during bad weather, when there is a likelihood of signal attenuation or a power cut, as you may have to do it all over again. **H.C.**

Cambridge LNBs

We've had problems recently with two new Cambridge universal LNBs. They both produced the same symptoms. For a few minutes they would work normally, then the signals would gradually become weaker with lots of on-screen patterning. Torque screws hold the inner screening cover in place. In both cases tightening the

screws cured the fault. The patterning no doubt arises as the LNB warms up and the case expands slightly.

The cover serves two purposes. It provides the cavity area for the local oscillators – high- and low-band with a universal LNB – and screens the low-noise amplifier section. The latter is prone to instability should the individual stages not be properly screened, as output signals will feed back to the input stages.

Tightening the cover down does not affect the LNB's output frequency (the space between the tuning screw and the resonator disc in the local oscillator cavity sets the exact output range). I've checked this with both pretuned analogue and digital receivers: after tightening the cover down the output has been spot on – even with the receiver's AFC switched off.

Do the tightening carefully: tighten the screws gradually, in turn. Don't overtighten one while the rest are still semi-tight, as the cover may not sit properly over the PCB.

Previous (non-digital) models

didn't require the cover to be so tightly fastened, though the same problem could arise with early Continental Microwave (CMW) LNBs – especially in the summer months when the case expanded because of increased temperature.

Some non-digital Cambridge LNBs, both the larger- and smaller-cased models, suffer from intermittent output after quite a long period of trouble-free operation. The cause is normally a dry-joint between the F socket's pin and the PCB assembly. The pin seems to loosen from the original soldering: again, case expansion and temperature possibly play a part in this. H.C.

UHF Interference

A Philips-branded four-output LNB (Astra low/high band at any port) produced spurious signals across the UHF band, right down to 470MHz. Normally this would not have mattered, but a UHF distribution system was in use and some of the mess coincided with one of the local UHF channels.

The customer had brought the LNB from Holland. As a mixture

of analogue and digital receivers was in use throughout the house a four-output LNB had to be used. But we didn't have a replacement, and a cure was required.

The interference occurred with only the high-band feeds, when the local oscillator runs at 10.6MHz. The Astra analogue band is from 10.7GHz upwards, so I suspected that the frequency difference was coming down the cable.

Four IF/RF diplexers were fitted near the dish (ignoring the diplexers' 'RF' side), one at each output, to act as 950-2.150MHz bandpass filters. This solved the problem – by removing signals below 950MHz from the IF lines. H.C.

Pace Apollo 120

One of these units was reported to be dead. In fact the red LED at the front was pulsing slowly and there was a noise from the chopper transformer. The cause of the trouble was low HT at the primary side of the power supply because the mains rectifier's 47µF, 400V reservoir capacitor was faulty. To be safe rather than sorry I also replaced C59/60/61. C.W.

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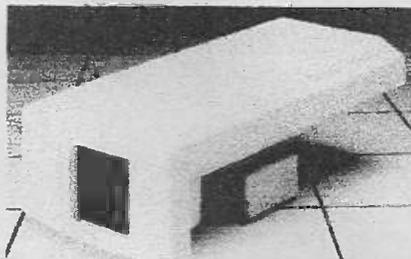
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SUPER WIDEBAND RADAR DETECTOR Detects both radar and laser. X K and KA bands, speed cameras, and all known speed detection systems. 360 degree coverage, front & rear waveguides, 1 1/2" 7x4 1/2" fits on sun visor or dash. £149 ref

CHIEFTAN TANK DUBLE LASERS 9 WATT+3 WATT+3 WATT OPTICS

Could be adapted for laser listener, long range communications etc. Double beam units designed to fit in the gun barrel of a tank, each unit has two semi conductor lasers and motor drive units for alignment. 7 mile range, no circuit diagrams due to MOD, new price £50,000! us? £199. Each unit has two gallium Arsenide injection lasers, 1 x 9 watt, 1 x 3 watt, 900nm wavelength, 28vdc, 500hz pulse frequency. The units also contain an electronic receiver to detect reflected signals from targets. £199 for one. Ref LOT4

NEW LOW PRICED COMPUTER/WORKSHOP/HI-FI RCB UNITS Complete protection from faulty equipment for everybody! Inline unit fits in standard IEC lead (extends it by 750mm), fixed in less than 10 seconds, reset/heat button. 10A rating. £6.99 each ref LOT5. Or a pack of 10 at £49.90 ref LOT6. If you want a box of 100 you can have one for £250!

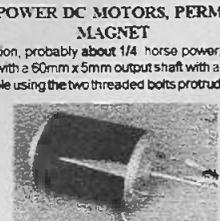
DIGITAL PROPORTIONAL B GRADE RADIO CONTROLLED CARS From World famous manufacturer these are returns so they will need attention (usually physical damage) cheap way of buying TX and RX plus servos etc for new projects etc. £20 each. sold as seen ref LOT2DP.

MAGNETIC CREDIT CARD READERS AND ENCODING MANUAL £9.95 Cased with flyleads, designed to read standard credit cards! complete with control electronics PCB and manual covering everything you could want to know about whats hidden in that magnetic strip on your card! just £9.95 ref BAR3!

WANT TO MAKE SOME MONEY? STUCK FOR AN IDEA? We have collated 140 business manuals that give you information on setting up different businesses, you peruse these at your leisure using the text editor on your PC. Also included is the certificate enabling you to reproduce (and sell) the manuals as much as you like! £14 ref EP74

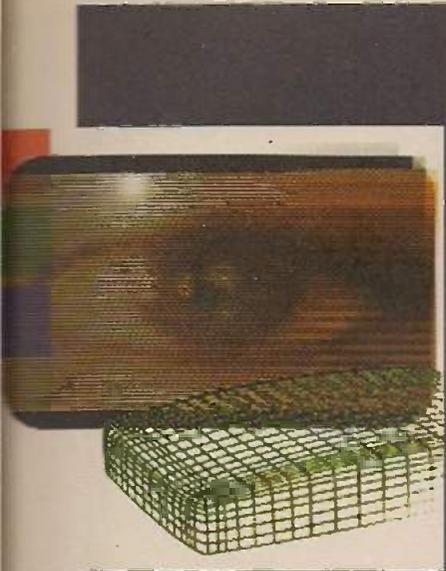
HIGH POWER DC MOTORS, PERMANENT MAGNET

12 - 24v operation, probably about 1/4 horse power, body measures 100m x 75mm with a 60mm x 5mm output shaft with a machined flat on it. Fading is simple using the two threaded bolts protruding from the front



£22ea REF mot4

Monitors



Reports from
Gerry Mumford
Adrian Spriddell
D.H.E. King and
I. Field

Commodore JD144C

Apart from the fact that the front LED was lit this monitor appeared to be dead. The power supply was OK however and there was EHT. A check at the tube's first anode (G2) produced a very low voltage reading, about 20V. The associated decoupling capacitor C938 (10nF, 2kV) was leaky. G.M.

Apple Performa Plus M9102Z/D

If one of these monitors comes in dead except for the front LED blinking very slowly, check the BY239-1200 diode D6513 in the line output stage. It tends to become leaky.

If, apart from four-five scattered lines, the height is reduced to about 1cm at the bottom of the screen, replace the TDA4860 field output chip IC7402.

You also come across these monitors with Philips and RM-Nimbus badges. G.M.

GoldStar CQ440

There was very low contrast. R749 (270k Ω , 0.125W) in the contrast potential divider network was open-circuit. G.M.

Compaq Presario 145V, Model 476

This monitor powered up all right. But there was no line sync and it squealed loudly. A clue was provided by the fact that the front LED

was out. This led to a check on the main 5V supply, which was low. The cause of the trouble was dry-joints at the 7805 regulator IC202 – despite the fact that it was securely glued. G.M.

AST LR14

These monitors always seem to have the same fault – they come in dead because the 2SC3885A line output transistor Q312 is short-circuit. The cause of this is the associated 6.8nF, 2kV tuning capacitor C322, which is sometimes dry-jointed but more often short-circuit and burnt up. As this capacitor has such a bad failure rate it should always be replaced. G.M.

Action Electronics SVGA

This monitor was dead. We found that the following components in the power supply had failed: C105 (100 μ F), C111 (1 μ F), R102 (270k Ω), R103 (820k Ω), Q101 (BUZ90A), BD101 (RS205) and, of course, F101 (2.5AT). We also had to replace C522 (47 μ F) on the CRT base panel. A.S.

Philips 4CM2789/22T

The cause of this monitor's failure was traced to ring cracks around the power supply feed plug pins on the line output panel. A.S.

Taxan SV787LR

Another dead monitor. The 2SC4742 line output transistor and C828 (47 μ F) in the power supply had failed. Once we'd replaced these items and got the monitor powered up safely we were confronted with the field collapse symptom. The TDA1675A field timebase chip had to be replaced as well. A.S.

Amstrad PC14M39 (Tatung Y2 Chassis)

There was no raster. To check whether the power supply or the line timebase was responsible I broke the print track between the line output transistor (TR407) and transformer and added a 40W bulb as a dummy load. There was no improvement, and checks in the

power supply failed to reveal any faulty components.

When I removed thyristor D821 in the start-up circuit, as suggested in Russ Philips' article (December), the power supply and lamp pulsed. This suggested an overload somewhere. I decided to check by feeding in external supplies. When an input to the 21V supply reservoir capacitor CE820 was increased to 9V the current was over 2A. This didn't produce any smoke, but my finger was blistered when I checked the TDA8146 pincushion correction chip IC405.

A new TDA8146 chip and reconnection of TR407 and D821, followed by a soak test, proved that all was now well. D.H.E.K.

Sordata CMC1412ADE

The problem was field collapse – a horizontal line across the screen. As this monitor is very awkward to work on, I decided to carry out a full run of cold checks, starting with the field flyback boost diode and capacitor. They are clearly marked, which makes it easy to identify the LA7830 field output chip's supply pin and then check back to the voltage source. No problems here. So I replaced the flyback boost diode – this device can check OK but still not work! Again no luck. On closer examination however I noticed that there was a dark ring around every soldered connection to the LA7830 chip. The joints were therefore remade.

This monitor is even more of a pain to put back together, so I was relieved to discover that the fault had been successfully repaired. I.F.

NESS – Club Model 500A

The job sheet said "no mains". In fact the TDA4605-type power supply was making a very quiet but brisk wheezing noise. The cause of the trouble turned out to be a tiny pinhole in the silicone-rubber insulating washer beneath the line output transistor. I had to polish the surfaces of both the heatsink and the transistor to avoid the pitting marks on them leading to a new weak spot on the replacement washer. I.F.



Colin McCormick on the problems that can arise when assembling or upgrading an IBM-compatible PC

In Part 1 last month I dealt with processors, motherboards and memories. We now move on to the various cards etc. required.

Video Cards

Pentium class motherboards and some later 486 boards have PCI as well as ISA slots. Earlier 486 motherboards may be fitted with a VESA (Video Electronics Standards Association) local bus (VLBUS) slot instead or as well. Video cards that plug into either PCI or VESA slots run much faster than those that fit into an ISA slot, but VESA ones are now obsolete. Don't even consider using an ISA card if you have an alternative – even text applications will suffer from poor performance.

Video cards are often the cause of problems unfortunately. It's quite common to plug a perfectly good video card into a perfectly good motherboard and find that it works badly, not at all or crashes on some applications. Updated video card drivers that may or may not resolve the problem are sometimes available on the internet. Often the only solution is to try a different type of card.

If a PC fails to boot up after it has been physically moved, I would start by checking that the video card is properly seated in its PCI, VESA or ISA slot. The monitor cable is often fairly heavy: the forces it can impose on the video card can make this flex and fail to make proper contact. For this reason if no other, I don't recommend moving a PC around the desk while it's switched on.

Even a cheap PCI video card will nowadays be supplied with 2Mbytes of RAM on board. This will provide a reasonable selection of resolutions and colours with Windows. 4Mbytes will provide very high resolution,

such as 1,600 by 1,200 pixels. This is suitable for a larger monitor. It's best to get all the memory you require at the time of buying the video card, since obtaining the correct type of memory to update the card at a later date can be difficult and expensive. Some cards take decidedly strange types of memory.

To get the best from a video card, particularly with Windows, be sure to install the drivers that come with it. I would also recommend installing Quickres in Windows 95. It comes in the Powertoys freebie add-on that can be downloaded from the Microsoft web site and allows for resolution changes without restarting Windows 95.

Many video cards, some with pretty sexy sounding names, are available from hundreds of manufacturers. Some of the biggest names in video cards, such as Cirrus Logic, S3, Trident and Tseng, may not make any cards themselves. They make the chip sets, which are built into video cards by companies all over the world. This makes product support pretty hopeless. The chip set manufacturer's web site will usually carry the latest driver software, but the manufacturer will make it clear that support for video cards cannot be provided. A video card from a well-known manufacturer such as Diamond, Matrox or Hercules may be just as prone to compatibility problems as any others. In fact they sometimes use the same chip sets as the cheaper no-brand cards, though you might suppose that better technical support will be available should problems occur.

I use a 4Mbyte video card made by an unheard-of company. It's based on the 128-bit Tseng ET6000 chip set. The price was modest at £60, there are no crashing problems that I am aware of and the performance standard is very high. It's quite long however, so there could be col-

lisions with components on some motherboards. Video cards based on this chip set (ET6000) work fastest when fitted with at least 2.25Mbytes of memory – in practice 4Mbytes is best.

Floppy Drives

Compatibility problems with floppy drives are rare nowadays: for many years 1.44Mbyte, 3.5in. drives have been the norm. 2.88Mbyte floppy drives were available for a time, but they never caught on.

LS120 (or A:) drives have appeared on the market recently: by using special discs, they provide 120Mbyte capacity and higher data-transfer rates than conventional 3.5in. discs. They can also read/write standard 3.5in. discs at an improved speed. It looks as if these drives will become the future standard format. For back-up work they certainly seem to offer more functionality than the Iomega 100Mbyte ZIP drive.

Motherboard manufacturers seem to have been a bit slow on the uptake however. Many motherboards will not work with them, or won't allow the machine to be booted up from one. If the system cannot be booted from an LS120 drive, a standard 3.5in. drive will also be required – otherwise you face the prospect of much hassle should booting from the hard disc fail. Bear this in mind before deciding to fit such a drive.

Tape Streamers

I know of a small business that asked a national PC supplier for a computer quote and was given quotes for all sorts of extras such as high-power speakers and 3D video cards. What was really required was a tape drive (tape streamer) so that if the hard disc crashed or the PC was stolen there would be a back-up to enable the firm to get running again quickly. Only a tape drive can back-up an entire machine at an affordable price. One should be fitted as standard to all but games machines. The most common type uses QIC (Quarter Inch Cassette) tape: an extended version is known as Travan. More expensive units may use 4mm and 8mm data tape.

The motherboard section in Part 1 last month touched on a common problem when fitting a tape drive: most tape units use a floppy interface and require a data rate of at least 1Mbits/sec in order to work. So fitting such a drive might call for the addition of a tape accelerator card, which can be expensive and will occupy one of the ISA slots. Although this is a common problem, some units such as the Iomega 2Gbyte drive do not even provide a sensible error message. If you do fit a tape accelerator card, it will provide improved performance over most floppy interfaces. Alternatively you could use an external tape unit connected to the PC's parallel port.

A few tape streamers use the hard disc IDE interface or an SCSI (Small Computer System Interface), but these tend to be costly. Older tape streamers with less than around 1Gbytes capacity may be able to use a slow floppy interface, but units of this type are now virtually obsolete and are difficult to obtain. If you can find them the Iomega Ditto 800 and HP Colorado T1000 are suitable.

Incidentally the Iomega 2Gbytes drive uses only pre-formatted tapes. If you want to format one later, because errors are building up, you can't – you must buy another special tape. I would avoid this particular drive. The HP Colorado 3.2Gbyte drive is a better deal.

A unit called a Danmere Backer enables a computer to back-up data on video tape using a VCR. I have to say that because of potential DMA (Direct Memory Access) channel clashes with sound cards and scanner units I cannot recommend it. In addition it makes high demands

of the VCR – at top data rate Betamax VCRs seem to work better than VHS ones. If you do decide to use one of these units, use only top-quality tapes – otherwise the data will deteriorate with time.

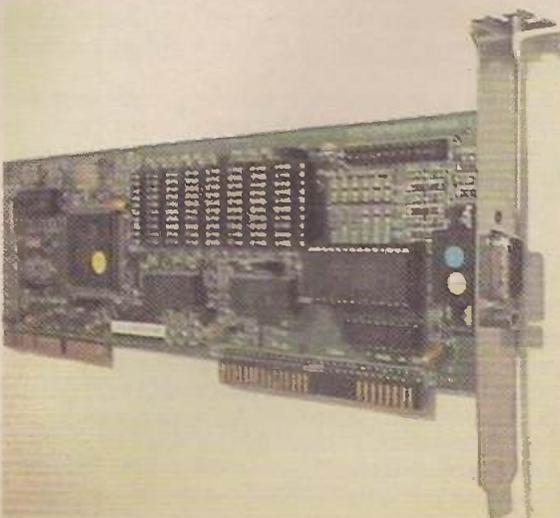
Some people view Iomega Zip drives as a back-up system. They are not really suitable for this purpose. The 100Mbyte drive is too small for some back-ups and uses special discs that are likely to become expensive as LS120 drives take this market over. The 1Gbyte drive is fine but is very expensive in comparison with a tape drive. Iomega Zip drives are more suitable for use when you need to move data from one PC to another: an external Zip drive can be plugged into a PC's parallel port to get a lot of data moved quickly. So they are more relevant to specialist business use than for domestic back-up purposes, where a tape drive offers better value for money.

Hard Discs, CD-ROMs

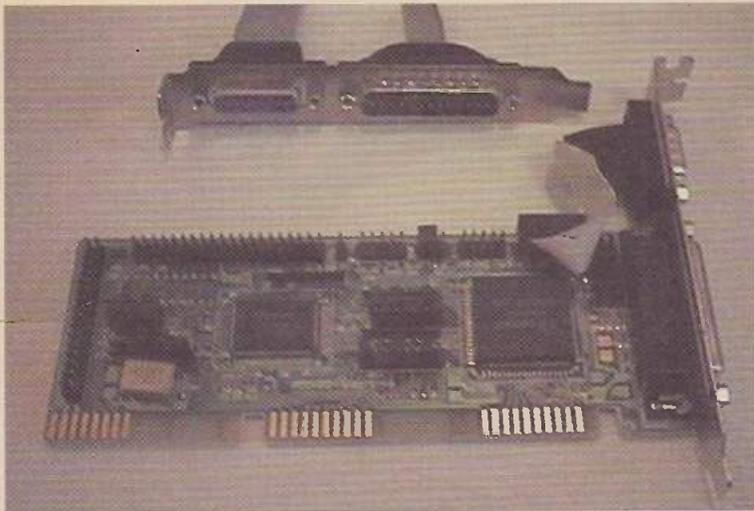
Old 486 and earlier motherboards may not be able to support larger drives, over 528Mbytes, properly. A Pentium class board will not have this limitation. Software patches to overcome the problem are available on the internet or sometimes from the hard disc supplier. The IDE interface will almost certainly be built on to the motherboard, so installation is usually as simple as allowing the motherboard's BIOS to auto-detect the drives.

With Pentium class motherboards there are typically two IDE channels, each supporting up to two drives, allowing four in total. Some 486 motherboards have the same arrangement, though many require an IDE or I/O port card to be plugged in via an ISA (slow) or VESA/PCI slot. The latter will work faster only when the driver software for the IDE interface is correctly loaded – yet many so-called professionals neglect this vital step when setting up a machine. The impact on performance can be dramatic. Motherboards with a built-in IDE interface do not usually require driver software to make full-speed use possible, but there may be some exceptions.

Be wary of fitting a very old IDE drive (as a slave for example) to the same IDE cable as a modern IDE drive (as master). Modern drives all use extensions of the original IDE specification – they are sometimes referred to as EIDE (Enhanced IDE) or ATAPI (AT Attachment Packet Interface). Older drives do not work with these, so connecting one via the same cable as an EIDE drive will result in the newer drive dropping this function, becoming much slower. In addition an older drive might not be correctly auto-detected by the BIOS, with the



A VESA video card.



Typical I/O card for an ISA slot.

result that you would have to enter the drive parameters (cylinders, tracks, sectors) into the BIOS set-up screen manually. If you have fitted one to the second IDE channel you are unlikely to have even this option.

Newer motherboards such as those with TXPro and Intel TX chip sets support Ultra DMA/33, which is a new, higher-speed version of the IDE interface giving improved access with an Ultra DMA/33 hard disc.

Most hard discs come in a 3.5in. form factor to fit in the same sized bay as a 3.5in. floppy disc. Quantum Bigfoot drives have a larger, 5.25in. form factor. If space permits, they represent fantastic value for money.

Incompatibility problems with hard discs are relatively rare but not unknown. The sort of thing that can occur is a 386 machine failing to run Windows 3.1 in enhanced mode when one particular type of hard disc is installed, or that a particular hard disc won't master or slave with another on the same cable. Another problem can be that the machine starts to boot then announces that there's "no basic ROM, system halted", leaving you nowhere!

Links on the hard disc enable each one to be set as master or slave, so that two can be fitted to the same cable. Sometimes you will see a link labelled CS (Cable Select). In practice I've found that this tends to put the drive into the slave mode, but this may vary.

I don't intend to go into detail with software related issues here, but will mention that hard discs with greater than 2Gbyte capacity are causing problems. Most versions of Windows 95 require such a drive to be partitioned as smaller drives. A very new version of Windows 95 may work but some applications, particularly disc management ones, may become confused and either fail to work or trash the hard disc data! It seems that Windows 98 will solve these problems (or make them worse?).

A common arrangement is to have a master hard disc and slave CD-ROM. But be careful about fitting an older IDE CD-ROM in this way: it can seriously slow down hard disc data transfer. If you are using an older IDE CD-ROM, such as a double-speed one that's not ATAPI compliant, it would be better to connect it to a sound card that has a CD-ROM IDE connector rather than the hard disc cable. CD-ROM connectors are not fitted to many modern sound cards however, and you need to be aware that as well as (or instead of) the IDE connector there may be connectors for Panasonic, Sony, Mitsumi or SCSI CD-ROMs. Modern CD-ROMs and sound cards have connections for analogue audio and direct digital links. Connect these if you can obtain or make a suitable cable.

Many modern motherboards can detect the presence of

an IDE CD-ROM automatically. This gives the option of booting the machine from CD-ROM. The driver software that comes with the CD-ROM should still be installed. A new CD-ROM drive will usually be despatched with the links set for slave mode operation, on the assumption that it will be connected to the same channel as the PC's main hard disc. If you already have two IDE hard discs, you will be connecting the drive to either a sound card or the secondary IDE channel, in which case the CD-ROM links need to be set to master mode. Set to slave mode if you have three hard discs and the CD-ROM is the fourth IDE device.

Most hard discs have links for master (often labelled DS or C) and slave mode (maybe labelled D or a C with a bar over the top) operation as well as cable select (CS), and perhaps a place to put a spare link (SP). There should not be a single-drive only link position, but some manufacturers manage to confuse the issue by including one.

I/O Ports, Modems

Modern motherboards have their serial and parallel interfaces on board. Older ones require I/O cards (usually with the hard disc and floppy interfaces included) to be plugged into an ISA, VESA or PCI slot. Perversely, only the very old ISA type interface cards are now readily available. So if you blow up a serial or parallel port on your motherboard you may be as well to buy a new motherboard. ISA cards often have a slow serial port that will run at only up to 19,200 baud, which is way below what's required for effective connection to a modern high-speed modem. For several years now the standard has been to fit serial ports that are compatible with the 16550A Fast UART (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter) standard.

All recent motherboards and interface cards have parallel ports that can work in the bi-directional mode. This is vital for connection to many modern printers as well as other external parallel devices such as scanners, tape streamers and the type of PIC chip programming interfaces commonly used to program decoder cards for D2-MAC satellite receivers. Some ISA cards may have only a uni-directional parallel port. Extensions of the original parallel-port specification are EPP (Enhanced Parallel Port) and ECP (Enhanced Capability Port). The latter may require the use of an IRQ (Interrupt ReQuest) vector and/or DMA channel.

I am not a great internal modem enthusiast. For one thing you can't see the lights, so you don't know when the device is active. And complicated wiring may be needed to connect the telephone. In theory an internal modem prevents tying up a serial port, but in practice it may be difficult to use the freed serial port since the modem will use the same IRQ vector as the serial port. Because of the lack of IRQ vectors, getting more than two serial ports to work in a machine is generally very hard work.

The central processor uses interrupts to stop processes. Since the processor has only one interrupt, expansion is required. A pair of Programmable Interrupt Controllers (PICs) can handle up to eight interrupt channels which are connected together in a master/slave configuration. A typical set of IRQ vectors is shown in Table 1.

You may need to juggle this about somewhat if you add ISA cards, such as tape streamer accelerator cards or scanners, that require IRQ vectors. Windows 95 would like to do all this for you – and if you have the latest PnP (Plug 'n' Play) motherboard and cards it might just do so! Very often you can spend hours juggling IRQ links when adding hardware.

Some devices require DMA channels. The only one normally used by DOS is DMA2 for the floppy disc. There are seven usable DMA channels, with DMA4 employed for cascading. A typical PC uses DMA1 for the sound card, but DMA channels can, like IRQs, be in short supply when several ISA cards are plugged in – particularly as 8-bit cards have access to only DMA1-3. Some devices will share DMA channels and IRQ vectors successfully. Experimentation may be the only way to find out.

The latest thing in motherboards is the USB (Universal Serial Bus), which is intended to overcome the shortfalls of using serial ports. When the manufacturers of peripherals finally get their fingers out, it will be possible to connect your mouse, keyboard, scanner, modem and a host of other external items to these connectors. You will even be able to fit and disconnect them without rebooting the PC. Most modern motherboards have a connector or two for this, though you may have to buy the cable to make the connection out to the case. I cannot tell you what kind of sockets are used as I still haven't seen one!

Conclusion

This article may have put you off the idea of building or upgrading a PC. That was not the intention. The great strength (and weakness!) of the IBM compatible PC is that it lends itself to home building and upgrading – unlike the Apple Mac and other types. But incompatibility problems do arise, so if you are thinking of building a PC try to get all the parts from one source. Even better, get the supplier to confirm that they all work together.

You can find a great deal of information on this subject by using a good internet search engine such as www.excite.com to look up particular keywords. A site I can particularly recommend is www.sysdoc.pair.com which is full of detailed upgrading information in plain language.

When upgrading a PC there is almost no way of knowing whether your intended upgrade will work perfectly, though it usually will. If it doesn't work correctly it may not be your fault – so try not to take it personally!

Table 1: IRQ Vectors

IRQ-0	System timer
IRQ-1	Keyboard
IRQ-2	Cascade interrupt to slave PIC
IRQ-3	COM 2
IRQ-4	COM 1
IRQ-5	LPT 2 if fitted. Often used for sound card
IRQ-6	Floppy disc
IRQ-7	LPT 1
IRQ-8	Real time clock/calendar
IRQ-9	Cascade interrupt from master PIC
IRQ-10	Unassigned
IRQ-11	Unassigned
IRQ-12	PS/2 mouse if fitted
IRQ-13	Math co-processor
IRQ-14	Primary IDE controller
IRQ-15	Secondary IDE controller if fitted

Service Support For Windows

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- ★ Prints professional looking insurance reports and maintains records in case of follow up by insurance company
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If you wish to try out Service Support or for more information please telephone 070500 43577 or email sales@pcbcomp.demon.co.uk and we will dispatch your disks immediately (along with full installation instructions).

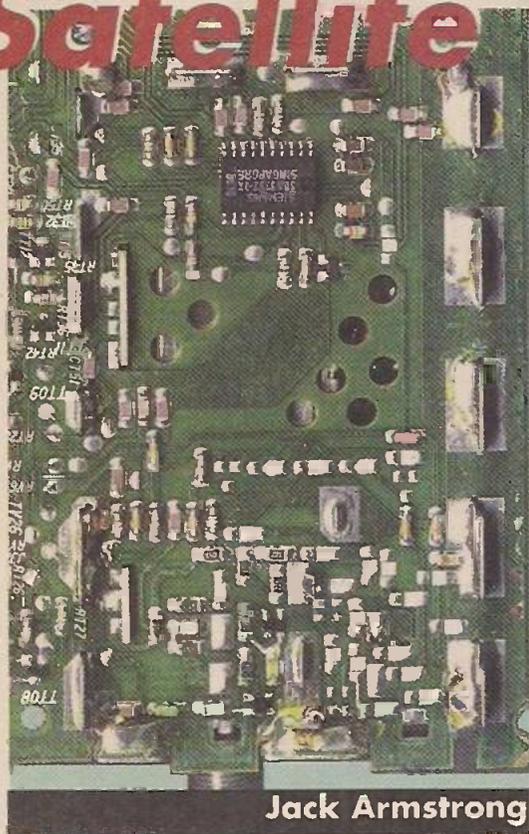
PCB Computer Services

Unit B4, Mariners House, 67-83 Norfolk Street, Liverpool 1 L1 0BG

Minimum Requirements: 486sx25 with 4mb ram and 6mb free space on hard drive, Windows 3.1 or higher and dos version 5 or higher (not required with Win 95)

Please Note: A rental add on facility will be available in the near future.

Satellite Workshop



Jack Armstrong

Ferguson SRD4

This old model gave sterling service in its day. But, not being Astra FD compatible, it is hardly worth spending money on an SRD4 nowadays. Some customers have more money than sense however (fortunately for me!). The nice old lady merely grinned at my suggestion "to use it as a door stop" while handing me a crisp fifty pound note.

Armed with this incentive, I decided that the SRD4 was worth saving after all and connected it up to see the fault for myself. The symptom was two test bars and the words "no signal" on the screen. There was no sound or picture on any channel, though the LNB voltage was correct. I've known a broken F connector solder joint to be the cause of this fault, also failure of the pnp transistor TP71, but with each of these conditions there's no LNB voltage.

Another common cause is failure of the SDA3202 IC, which handles the frequency synthesis operation for the tuner. It's a surface-mounted device which is beneath the board, behind a screening can. Unless you have the proper equipment, some patience is required to remove it successfully. Fortunately

I have the equipment – and I also still have quite a few of these ICs in stock, though the device is now obsolete. You can always rob one from an old Ferguson BSB receiver, or order one from SatCure (01270 753 311).

A quick check on the voltages around the chip convinced me that it really was the cause of the fault, so I fitted a replacement. This produced pictures that were far from perfect. Unfortunately, once the electrolytic capacitors in an old receiver have cooled down they tend to give up the ghost. The result is usually severe picture interference, which seldom disappears when the receiver has warmed up again. The only answer is to replace the electrolytics. With this particular receiver I had to fit a dozen new capacitors before acceptable picture quality was achieved. I think I'd earned my fifty quid!

Pace MSS508-IP

Two of these units arrived from a local dealer with precisely the same symptoms, "intermittent 'motor error' and broken diagonal lines that swim around the picture". It didn't take me long to see that the top of C263 (1,000 μ F, 63V) was bulging. This electrolytic capacitor supplies the positioner board voltage in the 508-IP and the Dolby board in the MSS1000.

Replacement with an ultra-high reliability type capacitor is recommended, and that's what I used. The original interference had now been cleared, but in its place there were more diagonal lines with soft edges. I fitted the complete RELK-IT10 (01270 753 311 for details) without curing this fault and was close to jumping up and down on the receiver when a customer walked in with an Amstrad model.

"Think me LNB's dud, but can you just check this for me to be certain, ta?"

Obligingly, I disconnected the MSS508 and connected up his Amstrad receiver. It worked perfectly but, curiously, precisely the same interference was present on the screen! Think. Ah. I'd been using my PaceLink system to

download the MSS508's memory contents and the computer monitor was next to my TV. The interference lines were coming from that! A whole hour had been wasted! Thank goodness the customer had arrived when he did.

"Why weren't you here an hour ago?" I asked, grinning.

"Sorry" he said sheepishly, "I had to do the shopping fer the mis-sus." With that he grabbed the receiver, slapped a fiver on the counter and ran.

"Oh" I began, "I er didn't mean to..." But he'd gone. I only wanted to apologise. Now I'll have to spend his fiver!

Pace Prima

Every once in a while I get a visit from my rival repairman, Woss-name, who has a shop up Church Street. He used to call in more often, then I stopped giving him cups of tea. Now he appears only when a receiver has him well and truly stumped and his customer is threatening legal action.

"Blue screen, no signal" he announced as he handed me a Prima PCB assembly. He knows I hate it when people bring me unprotected boards like this, so he does it on purpose. The problem of course is that the assembly is very easily damaged by static electricity or by knocks. I much prefer to have a complete unit with its case for protection.

"Saves you taking the screws out" he grinned. "Keeps costs down too."

"Leave it with me" I said. I can't work with him looking over my shoulder.

"Busy are we? OK, see ya later."

There was plenty of evidence of his meddling. Brown flux everywhere, hiding a multitude of dry-joints. I cleaned the board and tidied up the soldering before testing it. Then, sure enough, most channels produced just a blue screen.

The factory-reset doesn't alter the individual channel tuning with this model, but it can sometimes clear corrupted bytes in the 24C16 EEPROM. So I pressed the relevant

handset button sequence – menu 0 store > <. The receiver then produced good pictures and sound. Too easy. The EEPROM chip was actually quite hot to touch, though its 5V supply was correct. I decided to replace it as a precaution.

As an excuse to charge more I fitted a preprogrammed 24C32. This provides 250 channels instead of 125. It wouldn't do to undercharge old Wosname!

Fidelity SR950

The model that replaced the Amstrad SRD545 was the SRD700. It also appeared as the Fidelity SR950 Plus. The customer's complaint with one of these receivers was of "poor pictures". She was right. When the channel was changed the screen remained blank for several seconds before a semblance of a picture appeared. There were sparklies and wavy lines everywhere. In fact the display looked like VCR playback when the tracking is wrong or the heads are worn. Scrambled channels remained unwatchable.

As there was some improvement when I used my hairdryer to heat the tuner assembly I decided to investigate this first. It contains all

the video and audio processing circuitry: some surface-mounted devices and a few electrolytics are hidden inside. The service manual includes a circuit diagram. But as there are few component designations on the PCB it's not too helpful. A new tuner costs more than £50, so this wasn't an option!

I had another, non-working tuner, so I used this as a reference. A start was made by connecting electrolytic capacitors in parallel with those in the faulty tuner to see the effect. This could be done without desoldering the tuner from the board, a daunting task! When another 10µF capacitor was soldered across C41 there was a dramatic improvement: the sparklies disappeared, leaving a reasonably crisp but dull picture. There were still no decoder messages, and I could see that the video level was too low.

Turning RV901 on the decoder board to the fully clockwise position provided a temporary cure – decoder messages appeared, and I was able to get a Channel 5 TV picture and also Sky programmes with a card inserted. But all encrypted pictures had horizontal white lines scattered across the cen-

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

jack@netcentral.co.uk

One model per message – state make/model and fault symptoms. If you have no e-mail facilities you can write to him c/o Television, Room L302, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. Please enclose two first class stamps.

tre two thirds of the screen. These disappeared when another 10µF capacitor was connected across C68, while the video was brought back up to the correct level by soldering a 10µF capacitor across C69.

To remove the tuner module is a tedious job at best, with the risk of damage to tracks and pads. So I left my parallel capacitors in place and, with a sigh of relief, screwed the receiver back together. The capacitors don't look very tidy, but they will probably last twice as long as the originals and it minimises the cost to the customer.

Test Case 424

How much easier and simpler workshop life would be if there were no intermittent or spasmodic faults! Come to think of it, many more of our problems would disappear if there were no customers, just equipment. The customers pay our wages however, so we have to accommodate ourselves to their foibles and failings . . .

Our subject this month is a certain Hitachi VCR, Model VTF770, which had a very nasty intermittent fault. On rare occasions it would run at the wrong speed – "sometimes fast, sometimes slow" we were told, and at the same time the speed indicator would flip between SP/LP. That was as good as any user description is likely to be. No sample tapes were provided to give us any clues. We put the machine on an extended soak test: during many long hours the fault wouldn't put in an appearance, which is a not unusual situation.

Now Hitachi capstan motors can give both mechanical and electrical trouble, so TechnoCrat took out the motor, separated its rotor and stator/board components and cleaned, polished then lubricated its shaft and bearings. Once the motor had been reassembled and reinstated it ran very freely. So TC, fingers crossed, sent the machine on its way.

It came back with the same fault of course, but took three weeks to do so, such was the fault's shyness. This time it came with a sample tape that had been recorded while the fault was present, and a better fault description from the user. TC had primed the user when he had returned it after its first visit. We now had a sample faulty recording and also knew that the machine would sometimes play a rented tape at fast speed,

with noise bars across the picture and a fast, high-pitched sound accompaniment. Capstan going too fast perhaps?

There was nothing fast about the sound on the sample recording when it was played back by the machine or another one: indeed the sound reproduction was 'slow'. There was also a slow-motion effect with the picture, which was just visible on the monitor screen through the waves of snow caused by mis-tracking. The tape was now moving at the normal speed: it was plain that at the time of the recording the tape had been moving a great deal faster. This accounted for the "sometimes fast, sometimes slow" report: in both cases the tape was running too fast, the effects seen depending on whether the machine was in the record or playback mode when the fault put in an appearance. The user could observe record performance only in the playback mode.

TechnoCrat tried to instigate the symptoms, which seemed to be caused by capstan speed runaway. He assaulted the motor and the servo chip with freezer and blasts of hot air, and attacked the same areas with heavy blows from a screwdriver handle. He also checked the capstan FG pulses and their path to the servo chip. Finally he approached top technician Sage, a gentler soul, who put the sample recording in the troublesome machine and then, using a screwdriver as a lever rather than a weapon, did something on the deck. The sound and vision returned almost to normal, with just a bit of instability and mis-tracking, but the speed was correct. This provided the vital clue! What did Sage do, and what was the faulty component? Figure it out for yourself, then turn to page 443 to confirm.



The concluding instalment in Mark Paul's reference guide to the terminology of digital TV

The Language of Digital TV

Part 2 last month provided definitions for digital TV terms arranged alphabetically from A to M. This final instalment takes us through to zigzag scanning.

Node In IEE 1394 terminology this means a participant connected to the bus.

Non-uniform Quantising Method of quantising an analogue signal using unequally separated quantisation levels.

Orthogonal Sampling Use of a clock locked to the line frequency to sample a video signal, so that the samples obtained have fixed positions on a rectangular grid.

Orthogonality Property of a digitally-modulated multiple-carrier system when the spacing between consecutive carriers is equal to the inverse of the period of the modulating frequency. When this condition is met, the spectrum of any one carrier is at zero at the maximum value of its neighbouring carriers. This is the situation with OFDM.

P Frame/Picture A frame/picture which is coded using motion-compensated prediction from past I (reference) fields or frames.

Packet Consists of a header followed by a number of contiguous bytes from an elementary data stream.

Padding The addition of non-significant bits, sometimes referred to as padding bits, to adjust the duration of an audio frame. Or the addition of a non-significant bit stream, sometimes referred to as a padding stream, to adjust the bit rate of a bit stream.

Payload The useful 184 bytes following the header in a 188-byte MPEG-2 transport packet.

Phasor The electrical equivalent of a vector. An electrical quantity which is obtained by combining two other electrical quantities of identical frequency but different phase and amplitude.

Pixel Abbreviation for picture element, which is the smallest element that can be produced by an imaging or display device. A picture element is defined as the size of the scanning spot at rest, i.e. one line high and one line wide. In digital TV, a pixel is the smallest picture area that can be described by the bit stream.

Prediction-in-picture Coding When a pixel signal value is estimated on the basis of the values of neighbouring pixels.

Presentation Time Stamp A packet header that may be included in a PES (packetized elementary stream) to indicate when a presentation unit should be displayed or made audible.

Presentation Unit A decoded MPEG picture or audio frame.

Profile With MPEG-2, the 'toolbox' used for video encoding.

Programme Clock Reference Transport stream time stamp from which the decoder timing is derived.

Programme Specific Information Data included to make it possible to demultiplex transport streams and regenerate programmes.

Progressive Scanning System used by computer monitors: the lines are scanned out successively within a frame instead of being interlaced.

Puncture Technique used with DVB-S/T transmissions. To reduce redundancy, only some of the bits generated by the convolutional coding are used.

Quantisation Conversion of an analogue signal value to one of a limited number of digital signal values.

Quantisation Noise Distortion that's introduced by the quantisation process. Usually has the appearance of superimposed noise. Also known as Quantising Distortion.

Read To extract data from a memory device.

Reed-Solomon Coding A code used for error detection and correction. With DVB it's the 'outer' part of channel coding. Sixteen parity bits are added to the 188-byte packets, enabling up to eight bytes per packet to be corrected. This is referred to as RS (204,188,8).

Reset Circuit action to remove any data left behind by previous processing.

Reversible Coding Coding system that enables the exact information to be recovered by applying the reverse process. Same as lossless compression, opposite of lossy compression.

Roll-off Factor Steepness of the filtering applied to a signal to limit its bandwidth.

Run-length Coding Where a code is used to represent a relatively long series of identical bits instead of transmitting each bit individually.

Sampling Measuring an analogue signal at regular intervals prior to quantisation.

Scalability A decoder's ability to decode an ordered set of bit streams to produce a reconstructed sequence. Useful video is obtained when subsets are decoded. The first bit stream of the subset is known as the base layer, which provides the basic video information. Each of the other bit streams in the set is known as an enhancement layer. The base layer bit stream precedes the enhancement layer. This is an MPEG-2 technique that makes standard/high definition possible or improved reception in difficult signal conditions.

Scalability Profiles MPEG-2 layers, see Scalability. A spatially scalable profile gives improved resolution, an SNR scalability profile gives an improved signal-to-noise ratio.

Scaling Factor With MPEG audio, a 6-bit multiplying factor that's applied to each sub-band coefficient for the duration of a frame.

Scrambling With digital TV, alteration of the characteristics of the signal to prevent its unauthorised reception as clear information.

Simulcast Simultaneous transmission of a programme in two or more standards, e.g. PAL and DVB.

Simulcrypt Sending entitlement control messages and entitlement management messages for more than one conditional access system to provide reception with different types of decoder.

Slice With MPEG, a portion of the picture made up of horizontally consecutive macroblocks (see Fig. 1, page 330 March) – it's generally a complete row. Is used for intra-frame addressing and resynchronisation.

SNR Scalability Where the enhancement layers (see Scalability) contain coded refinement data relating to the DCT coefficients in the base digital video layer. This refinement data is used to improve the signal-to-noise ratio.

Source Coding Means compression. The coding operations involved reduce the quantity of data transmitted.

Spatial Capability Use of an enhancement layer to improve resolution. The enhancement layer contains predictions from the data in the base layer without using motion vectors. Layers can have different frame sizes, frame rates or chrominance formats.

Spectral Efficiency Ratio in bits/sec per Hz of a bit stream's bit rate to the bandwidth of the RF signal modulated by this bit stream.

Square Pixels Pixels obtained when the sampling results in the same resolution along the two axes of the picture, for example 640 x 480 pixels with a 4:3 aspect ratio picture.

Statistical Coding Digital signal coding that exploits the statistics of the signal to reduce the bit rate required for transmission.

Sub-band Coding Where the data stream representing a signal is split into a number of sub-bands by a bank of filters, with each sub-band individually coded.

Sub-band Sample With MPEG audio, the output from one of the 32 sub-band filters. The duration is 32 pulse code modulated samples, corresponding to 1 msec at a sampling rate of 32kHz.

Symbol With digital transmission this is the modulating information element. The number of bits per symbol depends on the type of modulation, for example 2bits/symbol with QPSK, 6bits/symbol with QAM.

Symbol Rate Number of bits transmitted per second.

System Clock Reference Time stamp, from which the decoder timing is derived, in an MPEG data stream. Synchronises the decoder and system clocks.

Table List of the information required to decode DVB transmissions or make decoding easier. Relates to MPEG-2, PSI and DVB-SI.

Thresholding With video compression the elimination of values below a given threshold to reduce the amount of information transmitted.

Time Stamp When a specific action, e.g. the arrival of a byte or presentation of a presentation unit, occurs.

Transform Coding Source coding (compression), where each picture is divided into sub-pictures, a linear transform is carried out on each sub-picture signal and the resulting signal is converted to digital form.

Transport Packet Packet of 188 bytes made up of four header bytes plus 184 payload bytes. Forms the basic block in an MPEG-2 transport bit stream, to which error correction is added.

Transport Stream MPEG-2 programme data stream.

Transport Stream Packet Header Data used to provide information about the transport stream payload.

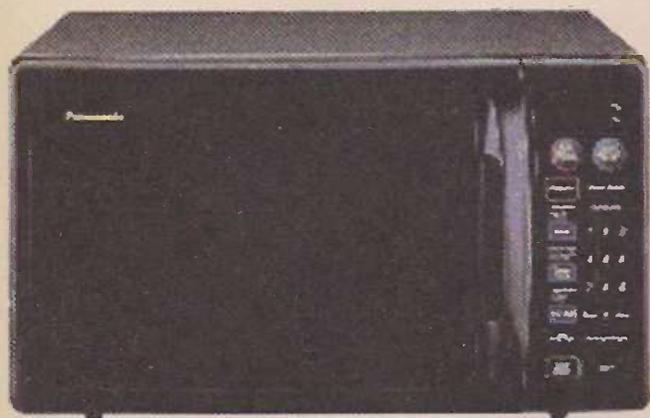
Variable Bit Rate Where the bit rate varies with time. Occurs during the decoding of a compressed signal.

Variable-length Coding Form of coding in which short code words are used for signal values that occur frequently while long code words are used for signal values that occur infrequently. One example is Huffman coding. Also known as entropy coding.

Video Sequence With MPEG, an uninterrupted series of groups of pictures that have the same basic parameters. The highest layer in the MPEG video data hierarchy. See Fig. 1 page 330, March.

Write Store data in a memory device.

Zigzag Scanning The DCT (discrete cosine transform) carried out in video compression results in a matrix of 64 coefficients. This matrix has to be scanned to convert it to a serial bit stream. Carrying out the scan in a zigzag manner, starting with the lowest frequency (DC) coefficient and ending with the highest, provides a data flow that is best suited to the next compression steps, run-length and variable-length coding.



What's Cooking?

J. LeJeune takes a look at the operation and servicing of microwave ovens, including the vital safety considerations

Technically the microwave oven occupies a place between domestic electronic and electrical equipment. It relies on an electronic device, the magnetron, to produce the microwave energy, and usually has an electronic control system. It also requires mechanical switches and cutouts and motors. The microwave oven is an immensely popular appliance, and thus represents a good business opportunity for service departments wishing to extend their field of activities.

The heart of the oven is of course the magnetron, a form of thermionic valve that was first developed in the Twenties. In its earliest form it consisted of a diode with a coaxial anode and filament which were mounted between the poles of a magnet. Operation of all magnetrons relies on crossed electric and magnetic fields. The more modern form, the resonant-cavity magnetron, was developed in the UK in the early Forties. As a source of high-power pulses for radar equipment, it made a substantial contribution to Allied military success during World War II.

In a microwave oven the food to be cooked is bombarded with RF energy at frequencies between 2,450-

2,458MHz (12cm) and powers ranging from 650-1,000W. Bombardment of the food makes the atoms of which it is made vibrate and collide with each other, thus generating heat. This kind of cooking, like conventional heating, works from the outer surface of the food inwards. RF cooking, using frequencies at around 60MHz and the induction principle, heats food from the inside outwards. Both methods are very efficient and rapid. The results differ from those obtained with radiant heating because there is no browning of the food — unless special containers are used in the oven to convert the RF energy into radiant heat.

Fig. 1 shows in block diagram form the basic microwave oven arrangement.

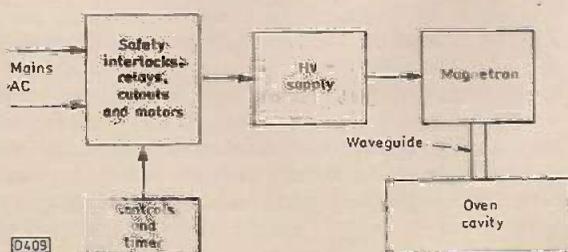
Warning

The first important point to note is that microwave ovens are hedged around with safety devices. They should, therefore, not be interfered with by anyone who does not understand their operation. Such interference may well introduce a health hazard. This fact means that the competent, qualified electronics engineer is the ideal person to undertake any repairs and maintenance required, including safety checks. We will return to the vital matter of safety later.

The Magnetron

The magnetron is a highly efficient generator of microwave energy. Fig. 2 shows the basic resonant-cavity magnetron configuration. The device's cylindrical cathode is mounted inside a cylindrical anode block that contains a ring of cavities. Each cavity is identical, and is the equivalent of a parallel tuned circuit resonant at

Fig. 1: Basic microwave oven block diagram.



the operating frequency. A strong magnetic field is applied, in parallel with the anode and cathode. As a result, the electrons emitted by the cathode follow a helical path as they move towards the anode instead of moving across radially.

There are helical current flows within the cavities as well as between the cathode and the anode block. The currents are all in phase. As the electrons in the cathode-anode path pass the cavities, they create an unstable condition, i.e. oscillation. A small magnetron of this type can generate high-power radiation: one that can easily rest in the palm of your hand can produce an RF output of 1kW. But because of the device's small size, forced-air cooling is required.

The RF energy for the oven is obtained by inserting a pick-up loop in one of the cavities. This loop feeds the oven cavity via a waveguide - a short stub 'aerial' links the loop to the waveguide.

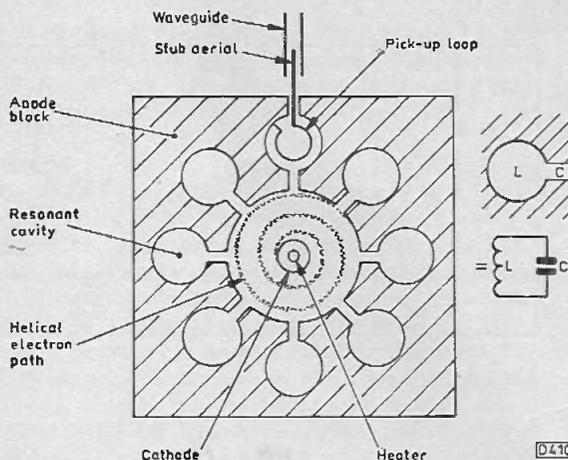


Fig. 2: Basic resonant-cavity magnetron arrangement.

Basic Oven

The basic elements of a microwave oven are thus an oven cavity, a magnetron, its power supply and a control system. To make cleaning easy, modern ovens have a stainless steel cavity.

The magnetron has a combined heater-cathode assembly which is normally operated at about 3-3.6V, 10A. External links are usually made by spade connectors. You will probably find them marked F and FA. Since the cathode potential is at approximately -4kV DC, the terminals are contained within a ceramic insulator. The anode block is at chassis (positive) potential.

The magnetron power supply is a simple transformer plus rectifier and capacitor arrangement but looks unconventional, see Fig. 3: it's basically a half-wave-voltage-doubling circuit without a reservoir capacitor. The magnetron acts as a second rectifier. On the positive-going half-cycle of the AC waveform produced by the transformer's secondary winding diode D1 conducts, charging C1 negatively. During this half-cycle the magnetron (M) is reverse biased - and is shunted by D1. So it's held non-conductive. On the negative half-cycles the magnetron conducts, doubling the charge across C1. The average DC produced by this arrangement is somewhat less than the peak voltage as there is no reservoir capacitor. Its level depends on the capacitor's value and the AC waveform developed across the transformer's secondary winding. The transformer also has a heater winding for the magnetron.

Control of the cooking time is normally carried out by an electronic timer which might have several programs of varying degrees of usefulness. Early models used a clockwork timer which pinged a bell at the end of the cooking period.

The control system incorporates a comprehensive arrangement of safety interlocks, with a microswitch to cut off the power if the oven door is opened while the magnetron is in operation. Thermal trips in the oven cavity and on the body of the magnetron cut off the power should the temperature be excessive. We've come across several HV circuit protection arrangements, see later.

Safety

Microwave emissions are known as ionising radiation. A strict maximum level of allowable radiation leakage from a microwave oven is specified. People also have to be protected from themselves, so a microswitch operated by the oven door latch is an essential part of the safety system. This microswitch interrupts the supply to the HV transformer and stops the timer simultaneously. In

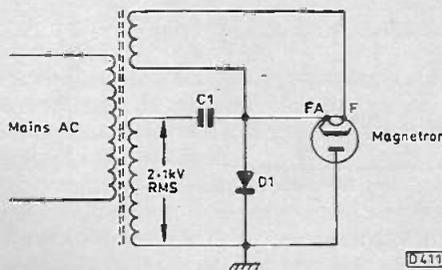


Fig. 3: Basic magnetron power supply circuit.

D1 charges C1 negatively during the positive-going half cycles. When the voltage across the transformer's secondary winding reverses it adds to the charge across C1.

most ovens the timer operation is simply interrupted: its count-down continues when the door is closed and cooking recommences.

A cutout mounted on or close to the magnetron's anode block is rated to go open-circuit at between 100-130°C. Another one in the oven cavity, to cater for overheating in the appliance, is normally rated at between 20-30°C higher than the magnetron cutout.

Spade connectors are mostly used, even in the HV area. Most are fitted with PVC boots to provide a degree of insulation.

Typical Oven Arrangement

Fig. 4 shows a simplified circuit of a typical microwave oven. Mains voltage is always present at the control panel, to power the timer clock, the timer itself and the control unit. This generally uses a microcontroller chip to supervise the application of power to the magnetron and run preset cooking programs and other features.

The application of power to the cooling fan, turntable motor and magnetron is also supervised by the microcontroller chip, with relays to apply the mains voltage to the relevant areas.

In some ovens the 20W lamp used to light the oven cavity is wired in series with the turntable motor to provide a more mellow illumination and slow down the motor. The motor itself is not much larger than the type used in past times in synchronous electric clocks and mechanical timers. It incorporates a gearbox. A small device inside the gearbox stalls the motor and makes it run in opposite directions alternately.

The Power Supply

The HV capacitor has a value of 0.75-1.2µF and is rated at 2,100-2,250V AC (50Hz). It should be discharged before you dive into the interior of the oven with metal tools or bare fingers - a 1µF capacitor with a charge of 2kV can hurt! I use a discharging tool for the purpose. It contains a 33kΩ, 2W resistor in a PVC sleeve with crocodile clips at either end. When this is connected a

Fig. 4: Typical microwave oven circuit.

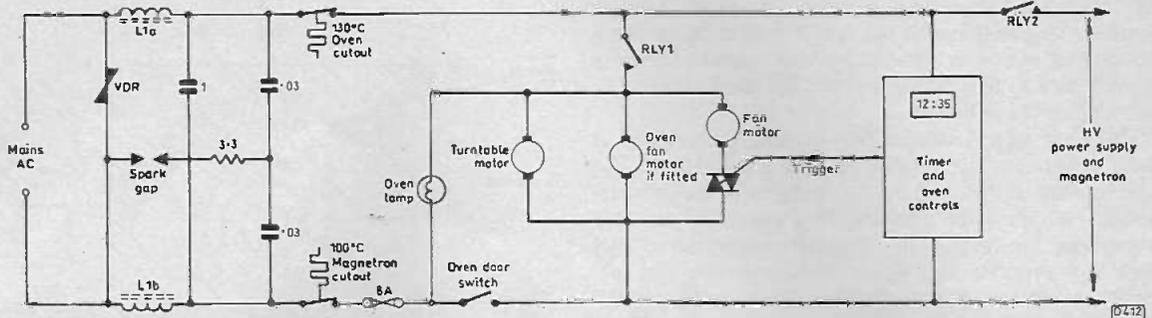
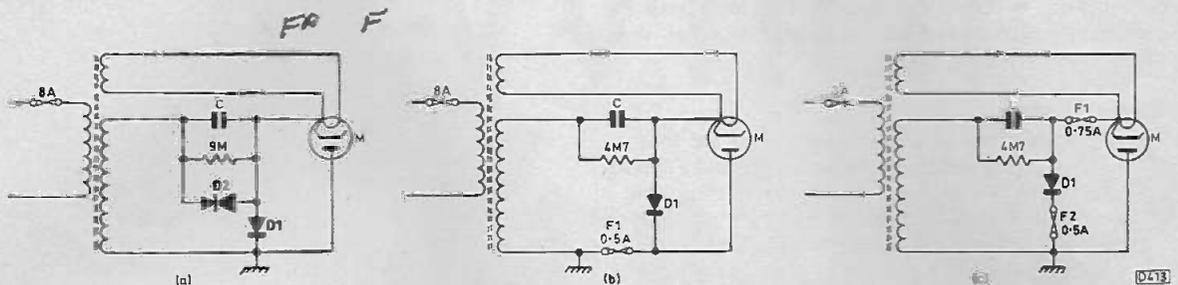


Fig. 5: HV fuse arrangements.



small spark is seen: I leave it in place for a few seconds to ensure complete discharge.

The magnetron's heater/cathode terminals are usually designated F and FA: the negative supply is connected to the FA terminal to avoid the anode current passing through the heater.

Fig. 5 shows various HV circuit protection arrangements. The one shown at (a) is widely used in Japanese oven brands. D2 is an asymmetric device that consists of two diodes connected back-to-back. Should an excess voltage condition arise in the transformer circuit one diode will go short-circuit and the other will conduct on alternate half-cycles. The excessive current flow will rupture the fuse on the primary side of the circuit. The alternative arrangements shown use an in-line fuse which is heavily shrouded in an insulating sleeve. Remember to discharge the capacitor before attempting to handle the fuse! The arrangement shown at (c) could be tricky if only F2 goes open-circuit, since the magnetron will continue to act as a rectifier and C could be charged to a considerable voltage should its shunt resistor have retired! The important point is: don't trust a thing.

Precautions

Do not operate the oven unless the door is closed, its hinges are OK, the RF seal is undamaged, the door itself is not distorted and the whole appliance shows no visible signs of damage. Your aim is to avoid exposure to microwave radiation.

Ensure that all internal connections are sound and that the waveguide flanges are properly gasketed and secure. The oven cavity should be spotlessly clean, and the oven should never be operated without a load – a jar of water will do. Never look into the waveguide when the magnetron is powered. You may be tempted to do this if you hear sparking from the magnetron's stub aerial. Such sparking is usually caused by standing waves in the waveguide because the oven cavity is empty.

One final tip may sound simple: to avoid heartache,

remove your mechanical or quartz wristwatch before handling the magnetron – it may stop!

Testing

Testing and proving is a very important part of a microwave oven service.

A magnetron's output power can be checked simply by measuring the temperature rise in °C of one litre of water during an 87-second period of full power output from the magnetron. A magnetron usually reaches full power about four seconds after the clock button has been pressed, so the timer should be set for about 91 seconds of cooking time.

To determine the correct time lag from switch-on to full power, insert in the oven cavity a small neon lamp with its wires cut off close to the pinch seal – along with the pot of water. The type of neon indicator used in TV touch-tuning selectors will do. It will glow brightly at full power. Don't leave it in the cavity for very long – it may shatter. Experienced engineers know by the 'grunt' from the transformer just before the magnetron takes current. This noise is caused by the unidirectional current that flows in the secondary winding for a few seconds until the magnetron's heater reaches its operating temperature and the magnetron starts to conduct: the transformer's core becomes heavily polarised, with the result that the metalwork around it vibrates at mains frequency.

The power output is given by the temperature rise in °C multiplied by 50. Thus if there's a 14°C rise in the temperature of the litre of water over an 87-second period the output power is 50 x 14 = 700W.

The oven should be run at full power for over a minute before the test. The water used should not start at a temperature less than 17°C.

Another method, which is claimed to be more accurate, is to place two 500ml beakers of water at equal temperatures in the oven. Run the oven at full power for thirty seconds, then check the temperature rise in each beaker. Take the average of the two readings, then multiply this by 70 to get the power output figure.

For the perfectionist, the formula is

$$P = (4.187 \times V \times \text{the temp rise})/t$$

where P is the power in Watts, V is the volume of water and t is the time during which the magnetron is on at full power. This test conforms to IEC 705 (1988).

The limit for microwave leakage is specified as a power of 5mW/sq cm at 5cm. I have yet to find a leaking oven! Use a calibrated meter and probe to carry out the test for this. Several instruments that fulfil the requirements laid down in the safety regulations are available from microwave oven spares suppliers.

It is important to check oven safety and power output after repair work has been carried out, before returning the oven to the customer. You can offer a leakage checking service to the public - this will form a useful addition to the services you provide. Impressive stick-on labels which say that the oven has been checked for radiation and output power are also available from component suppliers.

Control Circuitry

The control circuitry is usually microcontroller based. In the simplest ovens there is merely a timer to set the total cooking period and adjust the microwave power level. This involves switching the magnetron on for varying lengths of time depending on the average power required. A magnetron always operates at full power, but switching it on for three seconds in every ten amounts to 30 per cent power, and so on.

More sophisticated ovens have a humidity sensor that senses the steam which rises from certain ingredients to be cooked. This auto-cook facility works with only some foods - what they are is usually stated in the

user's handbook. This feature is also supervised by the microcontroller chip. The sensor elements for the auto-cook facility are fairly expensive. Fortunately they don't often fail.

Spares

Like all active devices, magnetrons come in a bewildering variety of sizes and arrangements. However a 'smaller one' will satisfy most replacement requirements, while some component suppliers' catalogues include equivalents lists. Most magnetrons are reasonably priced, but for some reason the Brother AM730 seems to be priced at six to seven times the average.

The less reliable mechanical items are the interlock switches, door latches and the occasional relay.

Sparks inside the oven cavity usually mean the end of the cover at the mouth of the waveguide: it's a sheet of fireproof material which is transparent to microwaves and is included to prevent steam and food particles getting into the waveguide. It is usually made of a mica-based material.

Control panels that use a membrane keypad are prone to failure. So are the ribbon cables that connect them to the microcontroller panel. Eventually the membranes collapse and fail to operate.

Because of the high voltages and the unusual voltage and current waveforms in the magnetron power supply, there don't seem to be any meters that will provide useful checks in this area. The best indication you can get is to use an electrostatic EHT meter, but the measurements are not accurate and the needle barely moves from the rest position. I intend to see if I can develop a suitable meter.



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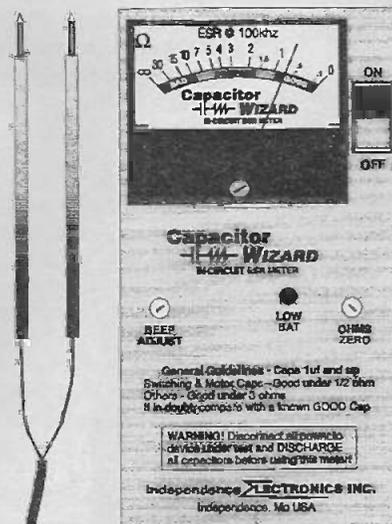
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Our Spanish pad is supposed to be a refuge, an escape from our busy life over the years. It doesn't always work out like that.

No sooner had we settled to our after-dinner drinks the other day than Hillbill Shagg payed us a visit. He's a thin, bright-eyed and craggy-faced builder who grafts like a horse to earn his simple living and wears a multicolour, knitted tea-cosy hat. He'd come to lay a path, and brought with him an ancient 12V portable VCR.

"E's blowed up, I think" he rasped.

I opened it up while he watched. All the fuses were blackened.

"How did you manage this?" I asked.

"Generator trouble" he replied.

I set about fixing it while Hillbill talked. He told us about the remote spot where he lives, in the mountains. Someone had given him a tiny wing of an old country farmhouse. As there's no mains electricity he uses a moody petrol generator that delivers 12V for his lighting, his VCR and TV set. He has no TV reception, so the VCR is important to him.

Much to my surprise I managed to repair his VCR. But he brought it back a few days later, this time with his regulator. A spot of luck that, as this time the 12V regulator had failed. It uses a pair of 39Ω, 2W wirewound resistors which had been reduced to coke.

"What do you do out there when you can't watch your tapes?" I asked him.

"I smokes the 'Appy Stuff' he replied.

Cuthbert's Gadgets

Son James, who is just seventeen and studying for higher things, does a few repairs here in Spain. One of his more regular customers is Cuthbert Lord, an old-fashioned man who has dozens of electronic gadgets. Playing with them is his life, so they have to be all right. He calls James often, and pays him well.

His latest trouble has been with a Pace PRD800 receiver-decoder. "Every few days it goes 'suh', then 'bzzzz'" he complained. "Now that can't be right, can it?"

James brought the receiver in and carried out the usual power supply service. After giving it a good soak test he took it back.

A week later Cuthbert called him again. "Last night it went 'cha' just once. At twenty past eight. Can you come and look at it again?"

James did as requested. While

listening for the noise he noticed Cuthbert's cat arch its back. Then it sneezed. "Cha."

"That's it!" cried Cuthbert, pointing to the Pace. "Take it in and get it absolutely right."

A few days later we saw Cuthbert at Tony's store. He was returning an electronic mosquito-killing machine he'd bought the day before.

"A mosquito flew into it at five past seven last evening. Then flew out and bit me."

Seeing whom it was, the shopkeeper bundled a replacement into his arms and led him to the door.

"Some mosquitoes around here are very tough" he said, "try this one."

Some Hitachis

When I returned to the UK I found that Steven was having trouble with an Hitachi C2118T (G7PS Mk 2 chassis). It had been in before with the same complaint – intermittent field collapse. On the previous occasion the cause had been the LA7835 field timebase chip IC601. This time the problem was worse when the set was hot.

When replacement of likely components failed to cure the trouble Steven decided on some prolonged voltage checks. The field timebase chip has two supplies, 9V for the generator section and 25V for the output section. The 9V supply comes from an MC7809 regulator, IC703. A check at the output from this regulator revealed the answer. As its temperature rose, the output dropped to zero. A new one put matters right.

Steven reckons that this device always runs hot in these sets. He fitted an extra large heatsink.

Paul was working on another of these sets. It was dead, and a check on the 82kΩ start-up resistors

I smokes the 'appy stuff.



revealed that one was open-circuit while the other read 100kΩ.

When they'd been replaced the set came on then died as the EHT rustled up. The cause was excessive HT. R909 (39kΩ) in the voltage-sensing circuit had risen in value to 43kΩ. A replacement restored normal operation.

Then Mr Cruddock brought in another Hitachi set, an older CPT2224 (NP81CQ chassis). I put it on the bench and powered it. There was a picture, but it was too bright on the left-hand side and a thin white line travelled up the screen. I had to start somewhere, and decided to check the field output stage in the hope of clearing the white-line fault. Just as well. The field output device (M601) sported a fine drop of dry-joints. Remaking them removed the line but left the uneven brightness. The cause of this fault was simply the reservoir capacitor for the HT supply to the RGB output stages - C715, 4.7μF, 250V.

When the set was given a soak test some spluttering was noted. Close examination revealed a dry-joint at one of the line output transformer's pins - the offset one that earths the body of the transformer.

Meanwhile Steven had yet another G7PS on the bench, this time a C2119T. Once again the fault was field collapse. In this case the 9V regulator's output pin had never taken to its solder blob. Resoldering put that right.

A Satellite Receiver

Our next customer was Ethel Smallbone. She had with her a satellite receiver-decoder.

"Up he went. Then my old man said 'Right, I'm off to the pub.'" "Right" I said.

The front panel said Finlandia. Underneath a notice said Granada M/N92LR1/A. In fact it was a Pace PRD800 and the problem was the usual power supply blow up.

We replaced the TEA2018A chopper control chip, the BUT11A chopper transistor, the 4.7Ω surge-limiter resistor R1 and the 1A fuse, then the three electrolytics C5 (22μF), C7 and C8 (both 10μF). Note that you have to use 105°C, low-ESR capacitors in these positions.

This restored the receiver to life and Mrs Smallbone was happy to hand over a couple of blues.

Flemings

The door opened and a Panasonic TX2 (Alpha 1 chassis) came

through on a pair of trotting legs. We then saw that they belonged to Norman Nutmeg, who stood there panting like a steamroller.

"If this 'un was full of Flemings I'd mend 'im myself" he told us. "Used to know my Flemings, I can tell you."

"Flemings?" asked Steven.

"Ah, you'd be one of the newer fellows" said Nutmeg. "Flemings - valves - after Sir Ambrose Fleming who invented the thermionic diode. Anyone could mend a set in those days, when you could pull out a Fleming and plug another one in. We mended our own sets then."

The Panasonic set was dead though alive - its display came on but the power supply didn't do anything. Paul dealt with this one. It didn't take him long to discover that the two 2SD965/R transistors Q801 and Q802 were both leaky. Q801 provides excess-current protection while Q802 provides standby switching.

No Colour

Another customer slid in and started to stroke the counter. I looked at him. He smiled and clasped his long fingers together.

"Could you possibly repair my set?" he asked.

I looked about him. "We could try" I said, "if we could see it."

"Oh, silly me!" he gushed. "it's in the car."

Paul went out and brought it in. Another Hitachi, this time a CPT1474 (NP84CQ Mk 4 chassis).

I pulled over a job card.

"Name?" I asked.

He brought his face down to me. "Kenny" he said.

"Trouble?" I asked, "er, the set, I mean?"

"No colour" he replied, "but a perfect monochrome picture."

Steven tackled this one - said he'd had it before. He checked the supply to the colour control and found that it was correct and stable (12V). The voltage at the slider is smoothed and is then fed to pin 5 of the colour decoder chip IC501, where it should vary between 1.6-3.5V as the control is adjusted. In fact the voltage here was low at 0.6V.

When pin 5 of IC501 was disconnected the voltage rose. So Steven replaced the chip which made no difference. A check on the other voltages around the chip produced a low reading at the brightness control pin 11, which is decoupled by C511 (2.2μF, 50V). This capacitor tested all right, but a

replacement cured the fault and restored the voltages.

A Dead VCR

Our final customer that day was an old, grey, stooping man though he sounded sprightly. He was carrying a Toshiba V204B VCR.

"Is Don Bullock still about?" he trilled.

"That's me" I said.

He stepped back, looked me over and drew his breath in sharply. "Good God" he muttered, then he straightened up.

"Remember Arthur Chickweed?" he asked, "that's me."

I looked at him in amazement.

"Must be thirty years, how do I look?"

Arthur shuffled a bit, then pointed to the VCR. "Half dead and ticking" he said.

I looked at him sharply.

Paul tackled this one. He went straight to the power supply where he yanked out CP007. This 10μF, 50V electrolytic is part of the chopper transistor's base drive circuit. When a replacement had been fitted the VCR sprang to life.

"Here, you can't fit one of those things to me, can you?" Arthur asked as he paid up. Then he looked at me. "While you're at it, you might fit one to the old man."

I straightened up and took a keen interest in the cloud formation outside the shop.

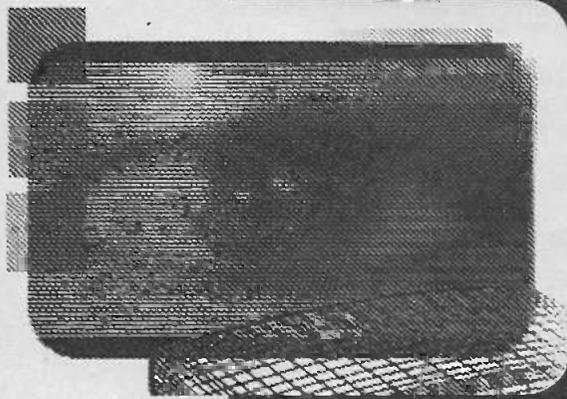
Requests

I've referred before to this magazine's many, many wonderful regular readers. When the editor kindly popped a Help Wanted request of mine into a recent issue, two came to my aid. Gerald May of Abertyswg, Rhymney, Gwent sent me a boxful of copies and asked for only the postage. James Lynch of Western Isles Electronic Services, Balivanich, Benbecula provided me with others.

James has the following issues available free to good homes: June, July, November and December 1987; January, February and April 1988; February 1989; July 1993; July, September and October 1994.

He needs the following issues: January, July, August and September 1989; March, April, July and August 1990. His telephone number is 01870 602 035.

And I need only the April 1985 issue to complete my collection. If you have one, please send it in care of the Television editorial office, Room L302, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.



Reports from
Philip Blundell, AMIEEIE
Denis Foley
Adrian Spriddell
Eugene Trundle
Maurice Kerry
Stephen Leatherbarrow
Keith Evans
Michael Dranfield and
Giles Pilbrow

Ferguson ICC9 Chassis

There was no sound or picture. The set would come out of standby, try to power up three times then go back to standby. In the standby mode the HT supply to the line output stage (USYS) is 90V. Each time the set tried to power up the HT increased to 152V for one second then returned to 90V.

Checks in the line output stage showed that the HT was present but there was no drive. So checks were made at the relevant pins of the STV2160 chip IV01, which incorporates the timebase generators. Everything was normal here. When I followed the path of the horizontal drive output from this chip (pin 32) I came to transistor TL63 (BC848B) which was open-circuit. A replacement restored the set to life. P.B.

Grundig CUC5361 Chassis

"Picture shakes" was the complaint with one of these multi-standard sets. There was intermittent picture rolling, and when the picture rolled the colour intensity seemed to increase. If the colour was then adjusted using the remote control the on-screen bar graph changed from "colour" to "tint". I thought that maybe the set was going into the NTSC mode (60Hz field frequency).

TV Fault Finding

The TDA8214A timebase generator chip IC520 should sense the signal's field frequency. If this is 60Hz, the state at pin 8 should change to let the microcontroller chip know. It wasn't changing, so my first guess was ruled out.

Two other possibilities sprang to mind. First, the remote control receiver can become noisy – the usual result of this is no remote control operation, though I have known the result to be front control lock-out or spurious channel changing. The other possibility was voltage or ripple problems with the microcontroller chip's supply.

The voltage was correct (incidentally the microcontroller supply is not always 5V – check which type of chip is fitted), but there was a ripple problem. So time was spent bridging electrolytics and replacing the 5V regulator IC686. I then noticed that the amplitude of the ripple measured at any point varied when the scope's chassis connection was moved from one place to another. This led to the conclusion that there was ripple on the set's chassis line.

The cause of this will be obvious to old-timers who can remember IIT CTV sets. The metal strengthening frame on which the main PCB is mounted is used as an earth path. There were dry-joints where the frame is soldered to the print. After a few minutes spent resoldering with a high-wattage iron the rolling had gone. P.B.

Philips K40 Chassis

There was sound but no picture: the EHT rustled up, the contrast and brilliance settings were not at minimum (as can happen when the Nicad battery is flat), and a field buzz could be heard coming from the scan coils.

Coloured rasters were produced when I injected a signal at the out-

put pins (12, 14 and 16) of the TDA3561A colour decoder chip. The chip's 13V supply was present at pin 1, but there was no sandcastle pulse at pin 8. This pulse is produced by the TDA3576B sync chip. A new TDA3576B IC restored the picture. P.B.

Sharp 59CS03H (CS Chassis)

This chassis will come as a surprise to any engineer who has not seen one before. The PCB is very compact, being packed with surface-mounted components. For this reason Sharp offers an exchange service: you can buy a complete chassis at a fixed price as long as the PCB to be returned has not been damaged by inexperienced attempts at repair. Sadly this option was not open to me: a neighbouring dealer had tried to repair the power supply, leaving the print in a sorry state.

A new chopper MOSFET plus R706, D718 and a couple of BC338 transistors got the power supply working with a dummy load. But the line output transistor was short-circuited, so there was still work to be done.

A new line output transistor failed to restore the picture – and there was a burning smell. The set was hastily switched off. DC checks in the line output stage revealed that the 13V supply rectifier D601 was short-circuit. With a new 1N4935 fitted in this position the picture came on, but was pin-cushion shaped – and the sound from both channels was distorted. Oh dear! The price of an exchange chassis was beginning to look very reasonable.

To reduce the dissipation, the field, audio and EW output stages all operate in class D. So a switching pulse fault seemed a possibility. D619 and D621 were both short-

circuit – but D621 was not shown on the circuit diagram. A phone call to Sharp technical revealed that later versions of the 59CS03 are fitted with the same chassis as the 59CS05. A look at the 05 manual supplied provided the correct diode types, and with replacements fitted the sound was OK and the picture a lot better. But the grey scale had a red tint.

The grey scale was perfect in the service mode. In the normal mode the picture was red. This was easy to deal with. The customer has a tint adjustment on the second page of the picture menu. It was set to warm. When this adjustment was restored to the centre position the final 'fault' had been corrected. P.B.

JVC C14ET1EK (Onwa Chassis)

There was no sound or picture, with field scan lines separating along the bottom of the screen. The 12V zener diode was short-circuit. It's a common fault with this chassis, which also appears in Alba, Bush and other models. I'd had the problem before, and also knew that C909 and C911 in the power supply have to be replaced to reduce the HT to a safe level. Otherwise the set will come back with the same fault after a week or two. It came back nevertheless.

"After a couple of days" the customer said, "there was a line wriggling along the bottom of the picture." I felt that this must be something to do with the previous problem, and measured the voltage on the 12V line. It was low at 11V. The fusible safety resistor R434 in the relevant rectifier circuit had increased in value from the correct 0.68Ω to 6.8Ω. It must have been rather stressed by the initial fault. Another item to replace as a matter of course! D.F.

Panasonic Alpha 1 Chassis

There was no sound or vision, either off-air or via the scart socket. The M51320P AV switching chip IC2601 was faulty. To check, remove the chip and connect a jumper lead across the input/output pin connection points – the set won't work at all with a leaky chip still in position. A.S.

ITT Digivision B Chassis

Various symptoms – dead or intermittently dead, reverting to standby or flashing on the picture – can be caused by the same problem. Check

the mains input choke for cracks in the soldering around its pins. You'll find it next to the mains switch on the front control PCB. A.S.

Sony KVM2531U (AE1 Chassis)

There was lack of height with cramping at the centre of the screen. A check on the +27V supply to the field output chip showed that it was low at 20V. The usual cause of this, as here, is that R802 (0.47Ω) has gone high because D801 is leaky or possibly short-circuit. We have used an RGP15J diode as a replacement. A.S.

Ferguson 51J8 (TX99 Chassis)

If the problem is intermittent flashing and sparking, which looks as if the mains plug is loose, check for dry-joints at the bank of 1kΩ resistors (R254-8 and R234) at the bottom of the TACS board. They provide the feed to the ZTK33 tuning voltage regulator. A.S.

Fidelity CTV140 (ZX4010 Chassis)

There were four horizontal black bars across the picture. They became worse as the colour, contrast and brightness were increased. C45 (10μF, 50V) in the beam limiter circuit was leaky. A.S.

Hitachi C2114RE

Video playback via one of these sets was marred by bent verticals at the top of the picture. The problem occurred with bought or rented cassettes – the VCR's own recordings were OK. On Hitachi's suggestion C104 was changed to 22μF, 16V and C205 to 4.7μF, but this made no difference. I found that reducing the value of C701 to 3.3nF and C702 to 0.47μF, 50V solved the problem, but must emphasise that this is an unofficial modification of my own devising! Model C1415R uses the same circuit. E.T.

Sony KVM2171U (BE4A Chassis)

This set appeared to be dead. But the HT rail was at 144V, so the power supply was OK. The line timebase wasn't running however, because PS603, an N25 circuit protector, had gone open-circuit. Fitting a replacement cured the fault, and no cause for its failure could be found.

Sony has issued a modification, as follows, to prevent this failure: change PS603 to type N75 and fit two 5.6V zener diodes across

IC603, one between pins 1 and 9 with its cathode to pin 1, the other from pin 9 to chassis with its cathode to pin 9. M.K.

Toshiba 2539D

Intermittent loss of sync and no remote control operation were the complaints with this set. Toshiba suggests that if the text PCB is a PB4600 the 27MHz crystal should be replaced. If the panel is not a PB4600, fit a 27MHz crystal. M.K.

NEI C25F1FXN

There was a blank screen though a rustle of EHT was heard at switch on. When the first anode control was turned up there was a blank raster with flyback lines. A check on the sandcastle pulses showed that there was a slow rise of the 0V DC level by about 1V between pulses. I eventually found that R121 (270kΩ) was open-circuit – it's near the line output transistor. M.K.

GoldStar CIT2168 (PC04A Chassis)

There was no sound or raster with the HT low at 50V instead of 118V. Replacing the 47μF, 160V HT reservoir capacitor C806S cured the fault. M.K.

Hitachi C2114T-311

If there is front panel control lock-up after half an hour or more, or the picture disappears when the set has warmed up, leaving a noisy raster with the controls locked, fit the updated microcontroller kit part number A523217. Links have to be changed and diodes removed – instructions come with the kit.

Note that the 4.194MHz crystal X001 can be responsible for the controls locking and the sound gradually breaking up and then disappearing when the set is hot. M.K.

Philips G110 Chassis

There were two faults with one of these sets (a Philips 28GR9772), poor field linearity and width variations. C2509 (2.2μF, 50V) was the cause of the first fault: it's in the field linearity feedback network. The second fault was caused by an intermittent width control (R3525, 10kΩ). When this preset was removed and checked it was found to have risen in value to almost 40kΩ. S.L.

Ferguson ICC8 Chassis

The problem with this set was poor focus, which improved somewhat during the course of an evening's viewing. When a new focus control

unit and even a complete CRT base panel failed to cure the fault we began to suspect the tube.

Fortunately a set with an identical chassis arrived in the workshop, so we were able to swap over the chassis temporarily. This proved that the CRT was OK. The cause of the fault turned out to be the line output transformer. An Omega 40308-11 was fitted, curing the problem. S.L.

Sanyo E4-B21 Chassis

There was no remote or front panel control. We checked the 5V supply to the M34300N4-627SP microcontroller chip IC701 and its 4MHz oscillator. No problems here. Pins 22-30 are the relevant address lines, and this is where the cause of the fault lay. Pin 22 was being held low by a leaky 6.2V zener diode, D743. It had reverse leakage, producing a reading of some 1.5k Ω . With the fault present the address line voltages were somewhere between 0V and 5V. When the fault had been repaired these lines were at either 0V or 5V, the correct situation. S.L.

Ferguson ICC6 Chassis

There was sound but no sign of a raster. Voltage checks on the CRT base panel revealed that there was something amiss with transistor TB11, via which the emitters of the RGB output transistors are returned to chassis. It proved to be short-circuit base to collector.

We've had to replace a number of line output transformers in both this and the ICC8 chassis. S.L.

Philips CP110 Chassis

The cause of intermittent low output from the power supply with pulsing, usually from cold, was traced to C2690 (100 μ F, 50V) which is mounted on a small sub-panel. S.L.

Ferguson ICC5 Chassis

There were two complaints with this set (Model 51K7), intermittent failure to switch on and "lines at the top of the picture". The lines turned out to be a very expanded scan over the top four inches or so of the screen. Two components give a lot of trouble in the thyristor-type field output circuit used in this chassis, a 1.5k Ω resistor (RL22) and a 4.7nF capacitor (CL22). They are mounted next to the thyristor (DL21), being connected in series across it. This time they were OK.

The field output stage uses a winding on the line output trans-

former, while the field scan coils are connected to a 21V supply that's derived from this transformer. A scope check on this supply showed that lots of line-rate pulses were present. When checked, the reservoir capacitor CL52 had a value of around 1 μ F instead of 1,000 μ F. A replacement cured both faults. S.L.

NordMende F17 Chassis

The problem with one of these Thomson sets was intermittent start up. It was a very random fault. We eventually traced the cause to CL33 (10 μ F, 50V), which is associated with TL17 in the safety circuit. It's connected to pin 28 of the TEA2029C chip IL14, and had fallen in value. The chassis is similar to the ICC5. S.L.

Grundig CUC2600 Chassis

It was a relief to find that this dead Grundig set didn't require a major power supply rebuild. Some quick checks showed that there was HT at the collector of the BU546 chopper transistor though there were no outputs from the power supply. Before replacing the TDA4600 control chip we decided to check C631 (100 μ F) which couples the drive to the base of the chopper transistor. Its value had fallen dramatically. K.E.

Ferguson TX98 Chassis

"Would sometimes go off" the customer said. When the set eventually did switch off a quick check in the chopper power supply revealed that everything worked up to what, according to the circuit diagram, should have been the TDA8138 5V/12V regulator chip IC11. Instead, in this set there was a sub-panel with separate 5V and 12V regulator chips. Close inspection showed that the 5V regulator was dry-jointed. K.E.

Toshiba 175T9B

Several key components in the power supply had failed, namely the STRD4420 chopper chip Q801, the R2M avalanche diode D808 (overvoltage protection), and the 6.2 Ω , 7W surge limiter resistor R801. The cause of their failure was one of the line output stage tuning capacitors, C646 (680pF, 2kV), which was short-circuit. K.E.

Philips CF1 Chassis

There was reduced height with cramping at the bottom. Electrolytic capacitors are always favourite for faults of this type in

sets of this age. After eliminating the two 100 μ F scan coupling capacitors I replaced the 4.7 μ F feedback capacitor C2403, which is connected to the slider of the height control. This cured the fault. K.E.

Ferguson ICC7 Chassis

I replaced a faulty mains on/off switch and then found that the set would die after thirty seconds to two minutes' operation. When checks on the major components in the chopper circuit were fruitless I carried out a close examination of the PCB and discovered a dry-joint at CP29, which is in the snubber network. The mains switch had failed because the customer had been repeatedly stabbing at it in frustration when the set kept switching itself off. K.E.

Toshiba 213R4B

The job card said "no sound". When I listened close to the speakers I detected some life in the audio stages, though the signal wasn't getting through. So it was a matter of tracing the signal path back from the audio output stage. This brought me to the TDA1524A chip IC620 which controls the audio signal level. A replacement restored the sound. K.E.

Philips GR1-AX Chassis

This set was allegedly dead, but I noticed that a low-level buzz came from the loudspeaker. The 95V HT and 5V LT supplies were OK, but the 9V supply was low at 5.5V. This supply feeds the audio output chip and also provides a start-up supply for the line preamplifier/driver transistors, via D6523 and L5524. This small choke had a crack along its body and turned out to be open-circuit. K.E.

Philips G110 Chassis

If the set is very slow to come on (about one minute) and won't switch off to standby, with the sound muting but a pulsating picture still present, replace R3617 (220 Ω). It's on the primary side of the power supply providing, in conjunction with a parallel zener diode, the isolated chassis return path. You will usually find that this surface-mounted resistor has gone open-circuit when there has been a major power supply blow-up. M.Dr.

Sharp 66CS03H

This fairly new set (less than twelve months old) wouldn't come

out of standby. The cause of the fault was traced to ripple on the 5V supply to the digital ICs. C714 (1,000µF, 10V) was the culprit – it had gone low in value. Personally I would have liked to see a low-ESR, 2,200µF capacitor in this position.

A replacement cured the fault. But when the set is still under guarantee Sharp likes to have the faulty chassis back, supplying a complete replacement. So we had to refit the faulty capacitor and order a replacement chassis. Is this how Sharp intends to build up a fault pattern with this relatively new chassis? M.Dr.

Bush 2064NTX

If the fault is field collapse, carry out a scope check at pin 42 of the TDA8361 multifunction chip IC100. If there is no field-rate sawtooth waveform here, replace R149 (3.3MΩ). M.Dr.

Tatung 180 Chassis

There was very low sound and no line or field sync. The composite video signal was present up to pin 27 of the SAA5231 teletext chip, but there was no output at pin 1. This problem was cured by replac-

ing the MAB8441P-T049 teletext microcontroller chip.

I now had correct sync, but there was still no sound. The TDA1524A volume/tone control chip on the sound PCB was faulty.

As the area around the tube's anode cap was very dirty, it seemed that the basic cause of the problems could have been EHT flashover. M.Dr.

Hitachi G7PS Mk II Chassis

High HT at switch on, with the result that the over-voltage protection diode ZD903 fails, is usually caused by the fact that R909 (39kΩ) has gone high in value. Exactly the same thing happens when C906 (4.7µF) dries up. It's best to replace both these items at the same time. Use an 0.75W metal-film resistor in the R909 position. M.Dr.

Ferguson ICC9 Chassis

The power supply blipped at switch on, i.e. the voltages at the secondary side of the circuit came up then the set died. The cause of the problem was the TDA8172 field output chip IF01: pin 5 had shorted to chassis. With the chip removed the set would cycle

between standby and on – presumably the same symptom would be produced by failure of the field timebase. M.Dr.

GoldStar CIT4785 (PC08X8 Chassis)

The symptoms were a dark picture with slight field non-linearity at the top of the screen. I found that the HT reservoir capacitor C820 (10µF, 160V) had dried up. The chassis uses a TDA4601 type power supply. G.P.

Hitachi C25-P819 (G7P Mk II Chassis)

The picture would intermittently become a mass of lines at the centre of the screen. This could be instigated by flexing the deflection board. The cause was a dry-joint at C702, which is glued to the rear of the board near the timebase generator chip IC701. G.P.

Sony KV2756UB

The picture was shifted over to the left and was stretched towards the extreme right of the screen. I found that C805 (15nF, 400V) and R517 (27kΩ) were both open-circuit. G.P.

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We welcome letters from our readers and try to publish as many as we can. You can send them typed, handwritten, or on disc. Address them to the Letters Editor, Television, Room L302, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2

Service Manuals

There have been several letters in recent months complaining about the high cost and poor quality of the service manuals provided by some manufacturers. On many occasions I've parted with considerable sums of money for the supply of a barely readable photocopy. There are other serious problems however.

Twice during the past month I've ordered a service manual which, on arrival, has turned out to have no circuit diagram. In both cases I was told, when I enquired, that the circuit is available as a separate item. But a circuit diagram is the most basic and essential piece of information in a service manual: what is the sense in selling a manual without one?

I find that many video manuals now omit mechanism timing information, which is again basic and essential. It seems that some manufacturers prefer to make us shell out for a mechanism as well as an electronics manual. Surely one basic manual with a couple of pages that cover the timing marks etc. is not too much to expect?

A further serious problem is that some manufacturers no longer include a full parts list in their manuals, possibly listing only the main parts and safety components. This can make it very difficult to order parts and saves only a few pages.

The poor quality, over-priced

Letters

manual is a part of the poor customer service provided these days by many manufacturers, whose only concern seems to be with turnover and market share. But it must be a short-sighted attitude, as brands can soon get a reputation for inadequate back-up service. The public gets to know about this, especially when it leads to repair delays. It then affects their future buying decisions.

Shane Humphrey, LCGI, Bideford, Devon.

Back Injury

Many engineers in our industry have suffered back injury as a result of carrying TV sets single-handedly. I can supply a copy of the report by the Robens Institute on the dangers involved in lifting and carrying TV sets. It runs to 18 A4 pages and the cost is £2.50.

Anyone who wants a copy should send me a large stamped, addressed envelope and a cheque for £2.50.
Harry Todd, 12 Oakhurst Close, Snaresbrook, London E17 3PZ.

Doming

In the February issue (page 285) Jim Littler raised the question of shadowmask doming and the relevance of beam-current limiting circuits to this. Doming was a common enough problem with delta-gun tubes in days gone by, and all colour TV sets suffered from it to a greater or lesser degree. The problem has largely been eliminated with the advent of various types of slot-mask in-line tubes and improved manufacturing/design techniques for the shadowmask frame and suspension.

The effect is caused by heat, and a few simple calculations show why it occurs. Suppose that the EHT is around 20kV and the peak beam current is 1mA per gun for a white area of the picture. The beam limiter circuit can be expected to come into operation to restrict the

tube's operation to a safe level when conditions of this sort are reached. But the DC power will be some 20W per beam, or 60W for the three of them. From memory I recall that some 60-70 per cent of beam energy is absorbed by the shadowmask. So this will be about 40W.

When this amount of energy is applied to a piece of metal little thicker than a razor blade it's obviously going to heat up rather rapidly. As a result it will expand. The trick with a shadowmask is to get it to do so linearly and in one direction, so that it will have minimal effect on beam landing. Careful choice of the type of metal used, precise manufacturing of this to control thickness and purity, and careful design of the shadowmask suspension frame within the CRT ensure that in general these conditions are met.

During an average-brightness scene, with beam currents of say 0.5mA per gun, the shadowmask will heat fairly smoothly and evenly. Expansion will be taken care of by the mask suspension system. As a result, if there is any change in beam landing accuracy it will be fairly minimal and spread over the whole screen face. It will not be noticeable with an average colour scene.

If a small area of the picture, say ten per cent of the total, is at peak white this section of the shadowmask will be subject to rapid heating in comparison with the surrounding area. The result will be non-linear expansion of the shadowmask material, with a 'bulge' at the peak white point. The bulge is dome-shaped, hence the term 'doming'. It results in pronounced beam mislanding: the white area takes on a 'dirty', hollow look after only a couple of seconds. With normal operation, in-line tube technology and modern design techniques minimise the effect.

- continued on page 427

TRANSISTORS/LINEAR ICs

Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price
BC107	8p	BD434	30p	BU126	65p	BV484F	325p	MJ4502	300p	LN35	50p	LINEAR ICs		AN6340	600p	BA335	55p
BC108	8p	BD435	31p	BU128	125p	BV48C	250p	MJ10012	300p	AN203	210p	AN6341	200p	BA338	80p	BA7004	200p
BC109	8p	BD436	30p	BU133	125p	BV560	425p	MJ1015	250p	AN210	165p	AN6342	325p	BA340	75p	BA7007	200p
BC109C	20p	BD437	28p	BU137	150p	BV61	1000p	MJ11016	300p	AN211	150p	AN6345	400p	BA343	60p	BA7021	180p
BC140	20p	BD438	36p	BU180	100p	BV70	100p	MJ11032	800p	BY127	8p	AN6345	400p	BA336	60p	BA7025L	100p
BC142	20p	BD439	40p	BU184	100p	BV90	175p	MJ11033	800p	BY127	8p	AN6345	350p	BA401	60p	BA7107	475p
BC143	20p	BD440	40p	BU204	65p	BV93	375p	MJ15003	250p	BY133	8p	AN6350	610p	BA402	60p	BA7212S	200p
BC147	8p	BD441	40p	BU205	70p	BV111A	200p	MJ15004	300p	BY164	40p	AN6352	450p	BA511	145p	BA7252S	160p
BC149	8p	BD533	50p	BU206	100p	BV111AF	225p	MJ15015	250p	BY179	35p	AN6352	300p	BA514	300p	BA7304	350p
BC159	8p	BD534	38p	BU207	150p	BW12	125p	MJ15016	350p	BY184	32p	AN6359	500p	BA516	150p	BA7751LS	150p
BC160	30p	BD535	38p	BU208	70p	BW12A	150p	MJ15022	400p	BY206	11p	AN6360	320p	BA518	150p	BA7752	250p
BC171	10p	BD536	38p	BU208A	75p	BW12F	250p	MJ15023	400p	BY207	20p	AN6362	400p	BA521	100p	BA7755	150p
BC172	10p	BD537	40p	BU208B	200p	BW13A	200p	MJ15024	400p	BY227	19p	AN6363	275p	BA524	240p	BA7767AS	155p
BC178	14p	BD638	50p	BU209	100p	BW13A2	500p	MJ15025	700p	BY228	28p	AN6367NK	400p	BA525	180p	BA8504	350p
BC179	14p	BD643	50p	BU209	90p	BW48	550p	MJE340	25p	BY228	28p	AN6368	60p	BA527	95p	BA1521B	60p
BC182	10p	BD645	50p	BU209	90p	BW49	550p	MJE350	80p	BY229	18p	AN6371	360p	BA532	100p	CA3140E	80p
BC182L	10p	BD647	50p	BU225	120p	BW50	400p	MJE520	30p	BY329-1200	150p	AN6387	480p	BA534	220p	CX145	38p
BC183	7p	BD649	50p	BU226	120p	BW51A	150p	MJE250T	120p	BY448	20p	AN6550	100p	BA536	35p	CX182A	80p
BC183L	7p	BD675	40p	BU312	50p	BW84	75p	MJE3055T	60p	BYT1	25p	AN6551	150p	BA538	150p	CX182B	100p
BC183L	7p	BD676	40p	BU325	55p	BW85	75p	MJE3055T	60p	BYT1-1000	30p	AN6552	45p	BA512	120p	CX136	600p
BC184	7p	BD677	38p	BU326A	75p	BW10	150p	MJE13005	60p	BYV95E	25p	AN6554	80p	BA614	70p	CX139A	750p
BC184L	7p	BD678	40p	BU406	60p	BW11	200p	MJE13007	100p	BYV96E	25p	AN6555	50p	BA618	55p	CX141	750p
BC187	7p	BD679	40p	BU406D	85p	BW37	220p	MJE13008	100p	BYX30	15p	AN6555	35p	BA631	280p	CX145	725p
BC187L	7p	BD680	40p	BU407	55p	BW37A	180p	MJE13009	200p	BYX35-800	25p	AN6556	45p	BA632	110p	CX149	350p
BC213	7p	BD681	45p	BU407D	75p	BW41	250p	MJE15029	200p	BYT1-1000	30p	AN6557	150p	BA658	350p	CX175	325p
BC213L	7p	BD682	45p	BU408	60p	BW42	250p	MJE15030	250p	IN4001	3p	AN6561	45p	BA681A	350p	CX187	725p
BC214	7p	BD705	50p	BU408D	75p	BW43	900p	MJE15031	400p	IN4003	3p	AN6652	45p	BA682A	350p	CX804A	85p
BC214L	7p	BD707	50p	BU409	85p	BW43A	150p	MJE15032	400p	IN4004	3p	AN6657K	425p	BA683A	400p	CX867	675p
BC237	7p	BD709	50p	BU412	175p	BW39	450p	MJE18004	150p	IN4005	3p	AN6670	600p	BA684	500p	CX868	500p
BC238	7p	BD711	50p	BU413	175p	BW40	210p	MJE18004	150p	IN4006	3p	AN6780S	80p	BA685	400p	CX877	300p
BC239	7p	BD736	50p	BU414B	250p	BW41	200p	OC29	350p	IN4007	4p	AN6870	450p	BA715	45p	CX925B	500p
BC300	20p	BD826	50p	BU415A	170p	BW42	200p	OC29	250p	IN4008	4p	AN6875	150p	BA718	45p	CX92015A	650p
BC301	20p	BD828	50p	BU426A	60p	BW43	200p	OC35	350p	IN4009	4p	AN6878	75p	BA728	55p	CX2016A	700p
BC302	20p	BD839	55p	BU433	120p	BW43A	50p	OC36	250p	IN4010	9p	AN6878	225p	BA728	55p	CX2016B	700p
BC303	20p	BD897	50p	BU500	100p	BW48	500p	S2000A3	175p	IN4011	9p	AN6880	75p	BA843	130p	CX20187	700p
BC304	25p	BD899	50p	BU500D	225p	BW80	180p	S2000AF	130p	IN4012	8p	AN6882	300p	BA1310	160p	CXA1001AF	1600p
BC327	7p	BD977	50p	BU505	90p	BW81	160p	S2055A	175p	IN4013	8p	AN6884	200p	BA1320	75p	CXA1019P	150p
BC328	7p	BDX33	60p	BU505D	90p	BW82	160p	S2055AF	175p	IN4014	8p	AN6888	150p	BA1330	120p	CXA1019S	150p
BC327	7p	BDX37	100p	BU505DF	90p	BW85	60p	S2530A	100p	IN4015	11p	AN6890	100p	BA1332	60p	CXA1044F	550p
BC338	7p	BDX44	100p	BU506	100p	BW86	30p	TI29	150p	IN4017	12p	AN6913	60p	BA1350	130p	CXA1044BP	475p
BC441	28p	BDX47	70p	BU506D	70p	BW87	100p	TI29A	22p	IN4018	12p	AN7000	650p	BA1355	125p	CXA1081	275p
BC446	17p	BDX54C	65p	BU506DF	100p	BW88A	350p	TI29C	22p	IN4019	12p	AN7001	650p	BA1355	100p	CXA1081M	250p
BC447	15p	BDX58A	70p	BU508A	70p	BW89	475p	TI29D	22p	IN4020	12p	AN7006K	400p	BA1355	100p	CXA1081S	250p
BC456	22p	BDX63C	175p	BU508AF	95p	BWZ1A	100p	TI30	25p	IN4021	12p	AN7060	175p	BA1404	120p	CXA1082AS	100p
BC537	25p	BDX64C	175p	BU508AFH	80p	BWZ2A	100p	TI30C	25p	IN4022	12p	AN7062	300p	BA1604	250p	CXA1191M	250p
BC546	8p	BDX65	80p	BU508D	76p	BWZ2AF	100p	TI31A	22p	IN4023	12p	AN7072	250p	BA2265A	250p	CSA1209P	400p
BC547	8p	BDX65C	175p	BU508DF	85p	BWZ3A	150p	TI31C	22p	IN4024	12p	AN7081K	200p	BA3306	60p	FTS542M	800p
BC548	8p	BDX70	175p	BU508DR	130p	BWZ4A	100p	TI32	22p	IN4025	12p	AN7081K	170p	BA3306	70p	FTS544M	800p
BC549	8p	BDX71	70p	BU508V	110p	BWZ5A	110p	TI32A	21p	IN4026	12p	AN7086K	135p	BA3312	60p	HA1125	125p
BC550	8p	BDX77	175p	BU508VF	100p	BWZ6	135p	TI32C	21p	IN4027	12p	AN7110	175p	BA3402	90p	HA1125	125p
BC556	8p	BDX87C	175p	BU526	76p	BWZ8AF	200p	TI33	30p	IN4028	12p	AN7111	100p	BA3406AL	120p	HA1137P	150p
BC557	8p	BDX98C	100p	BU536	100p	BUZ83	200p	TI33C	30p	IN4029	12p	AN7112	45p	BA3416BL	80p	HA1151	175p
BC558	8p	BDW24	50p	BU546	120p	BWZ8A	65p	TI34	65p	IN4030	12p	AN7114	135p	BA3422	350p	HA1151	175p
BC559	8p	BDW93	50p	BU603	125p	BWZ9A	260p	TI34C	65p	IN4031	12p	AN7115	110p	BA3505F	140p	HA1199	130p
BC560	8p	BDW94	50p	BU606D	225p	BY448	20p	TI35C	65p	IN4032	12p	AN7116	90p	BA3506A	70p	HA1201	225p
BC637	20p	BDV29	225p	BU608D	420p	BYT11	25p	TI36C	65p	IN4033	12p	AN7117	65p	BA3516	120p	HA1202	125p
BC638	20p	BDY66	225p	BU626	120p	IR120	225p	TI41A	22p	IN4034	12p	AN7120	100p	BA3520	130p	HA1319	200p
BC639	20p	BDY67	225p	BU705	130p	IR140	225p	TI41B	22p	IN4035	12p	AN7120	100p	BA3522	130p	HA1326	200p
BCY33	20p	BDY90	125p	BU706DF	175p	IR140	550p	TI42A	20p	IN4036	12p	AN7131	90p	BA3704	200p	HA1335A	350p
BCY34	20p	BDY92	100p	BU706F	150p	IRF230	550p	TI42C	20p	IN4037	12p	AN7133N	325p	BA3706	75p	HA1367	300p
BCY70	16p	BF137	35p	BU724A	100p	IRF240	425p	TI47	40p	IN4038	12p	AN7134	300p	BA3812L	80p	HA1377	120p
BCY71	16p	BF161	35p	BU761	70p	IRF260	375p	TI48	40p	IN4039	12p	AN7140	170p	BA382ZLS	80p	HA1384	600p
BCY72	16p	BF181	35p	BU806	70p	IRF330	60p	TI49	40p	IN4040	12p	AN7142	170p	BA382ALS	80p	HA1384	600p
BD115	30p	BF183	20p	BU807	60p	IRF340	325p	TI51	80p	IN4041	12p	AN7142	80p	BA3920	70p	HA1389	210p
BD124P	30p	BF195	7p	BU807F	75p	IRF350	750p	TI52	80p	IN4042	12p	AN7145	195p	BA4110	35p	HA1392	120p
BD131	25p	BF199	8p	BU808DF	210p	IRF450	650p	TI54	85p	IN4043	12p	AN7146	210p	BA4210	85p	HA1394	170p
BD132	20p	BF210	13p	BU810	110p	IRF500	110p	TI55	70p	IN4044	12p	AN7147	180p	BA4220	80p	HA1396	650p
BD133	50p	BF225	30p	BU824	60p	IRF520	110p	TI505	65p	IN4045	12p	AN7148	140p	BA423AL	70p	HA1423	110p
BD135	20p	BF240	16p	BU826	120p	IRF530	120p	TI506	65p	IN4046	12p	AN7149	160p	BA4236L	110p	HA1398	175p
BD136	20p	BF245	25p	BU826A	160p	IRF540	120p	TI507	65p	IN4047	12p	AN7154	180p	BA4402	45p	HA1406	120p
BD137	20p	BF254	15p	BU902	110p	IRF610	110p	TI510	40p	IN4048	12p	AN7156	240p	BA4403	220p	HA1123	350p
BD138	20p	BF258	15p	BU903	110p	IRF620	110p	TI511	40p	IN4049	12p	AN7158	310p	BA4405	80p	HA11231	170p
BD139	20p	BF256	18p	BU910	80p	IRF620	160p	TI512	30p	IN4050	12p	AN7160	160p	BA4411			

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HA13001	110p	LA2800	350p	LA7096	200p	LF353	48p	MC3302	50p	SAB3029	525p	STK3102 II	530p	STK5478	380p	STR16006	500p	TA7281	200p
HA13002	200p	LA3120	200p	LA7113	275p	LF355	50p	MC3401	45p	SAB3035	275p	STK1106	250p	STK5479	300p	STR19006	500p	TA7282	160p
HA13006	400p	LA3150	500p	LA7118	125p	LF357	70p	MC3423P	100p	SAB3036	725p	STK3122 III	725p	STK5481	470p	STR20036	480p	TA7283	200p
HA13007	300p	LA3160	200p	LA7123	130p	LF398	300p	MC3488AP	250p	SAB3037	700p	STK3152 II	900p	STK5482	285p	STR20012	450p	TA7284	200p
HA13108	280p	LA3161	400p	LA7210	60p	LM2426S	600p	MC34063AP	300p	SAB3042	825p	STK3156	500p	STK5483	440p	STR20015	450p	TA7284P	400p
HA13117	175p	LA3210	65p	LA7212	150p	LM301	26p	MN1220T	600p	SAB3064	130p	STK4017	400p	STK5486	450p	STR30110	330p	TA7288	220p
HA13118	140p	LA3226	60p	LA7214	190p	LM311	35p	MN1226	450p	SAB3209	225p	STK4019	480p	STK5487	525p	STR30115	275p	TA7291P	200p
HA13119	140p	LA3245	75p	LA7220	125p	LM319	166p	MN1228	500p	SAB3210	250p	STK4021	380p	STK5488	480p	STR30120	400p	TA7292P	325p
HA13127	350p	LA3300	140p	LA7222	110p	LM324	30p	MN1276	1300p	SAB6456	125p	STK4024 II	550p	STK5490	450p	STR30123	450p	TA7294P	450p
HA13128	400p	LA3301	110p	LA7224	150p	LM335Z	120p	MN1280	70p	SAB8048	225p	STK4025	530p	STK5632	400p	STR30125	550p	TA7299	200p
HA13130	450p	LA3361	100p	LA7225	250p	LM339	25p	MN3004	600p	SAB8051AP	700p	STK4026	480p	STK5720	400p	STR30130	250p	TA7302	76p
HA13135	500p	LA3365	70p	LA7229	275p	LM348	50p	MN3005	2000p	SDA2003	450p	STK4028	550p	STK5725	450p	STR40090	350p	TA7303	70p
HA13159	600p	LA3370	70p	LA7294	200p	LM358	45p	MN3011	4000p	SDA2004	325p	STK4032 II	510p	STK5730	460p	STR40115	600p	TA7307	100p
HA13150A	1150p	LA3373	70p	LA7323	225p	LM380	80p	MN3101	110p	SDA2208	700p	STK4034 X	925p	STK6216	300p	STR40159	300p	TA7310	100p
HA13151	875p	LA3375	300p	LA7297	120p	LM381	150p	MN3102	110p	SDA2007	300p	STK4036	470p	STK6324B	600p	STR43111	950p	TA7312	120p
HA13403	400p	LA3376	80p	LA7305A	350p	LM382	130p	MN3207	375p	SDA2008	400p	STK4038	680p	STK6327	1200p	STR44115	475p	TA7313	120p
HA13406W	400p	LA3380	300p	LA7308	70p	LM386	60p	MN3208	950p	SDA2112	450p	STK4040 II	650p	STK6328A	800p	STR45111	550p	TA7313	70p
HA13408	350p	LA3390	250p	LA7311	200p	LM387	100p	MN6030B	350p	SDA2120	200p	STK4042 II	800p	STK6431	850p	STR50020	350p	TA7314	175p
HA13412	600p	LA3400	250p	LA7320	120p	LM389N	105p	MN8163A	700p	SDA2131	225p	STK4044	800p	STK6607	400p	STR50092	550p	TA7315	200p
HA13426	500p	LA3401	90p	LA7323	325p	LM393	45p	MN1001M	600p	SDA2208	450p	STK4046	950p	STR50103A	260p	STR50113	500p	TA7317P	120p
HA13432	400p	LA3410	150p	LA7330	350p	LM431	50p	NE55	200p	SDA4212	775p	STK4048	1280p	STK6732	1000p	STR50115	500p	TA7320	200p
HA13441	250p	LA3430	135p	LA7331	250p	LM710	45p	NE55E	40p	SDA5241	725p	STK4050 II	1600p	STK6822	900p	STR50115	500p	TA7320P	200p
HA17524	450p	LA3600	60p	LA7332	225p	LM723	40p	NE558	80p	SDA5243-2	450p	STK4060	510p	STK6922	500p	STR51041	500p	TA7327	130p
KA2102	100p	LA3605	100p	LA7340	300p	LM741DIL	18p	NE555	110p	SDA5343	1450p	STK4065	650p	STK6932	525p	STR50213	500p	TA7323	80p
KA2130	160p	LA3607	125p	LA7376	150p	LM741MET	45p	NE567	115p	SDA5540	200p	STK4101	500p	STK6962	275p	STR50241	400p	TA7324	75p
KA2131	100p	LA4036	150p	LA7381	210p	LM747	55p	NE571	290p	SDA5542	450p	STK4131	500p	STK6972	450p	STR50341	475p	TA7325	80p
KA2206	150p	LA4031	140p	LA7520	200p	LM1017	200p	NE82	85p	SGF444	500p	STK4112	500p	STK6981B	600p	STR50504	450p	TA7326	200p
KA2209	125p	LA4032	140p	LA7530	200p	LM1035N	350p	NE5532P	140p	SGF5465	500p	STK4121	480p	STK6982	600p	STR56041	450p	TA7328	110p
KA2210	230p	LA4051	85p	LA7535	175p	LM1040N	650p	SAA1000	350p	SLA4003	750p	STK4122	580p	STK6982H	600p	STR58041	250p	TA7330P	80p
KA2212	65p	LA4100	80p	LA7545	160p	LM1203	225p	SAA1004	650p	SLA7020M	450p	STK4131	480p	STK7216	420p	STR59041	300p	TA7331P	80p
KA2213	130p	LA4101	80p	LA7550	276p	LM1203AN	225p	SAA1005	325p	STA301A	200p	STK4132 II	600p	STK7217	400p	STR60001	525p	TA7333	100p
KA2214	100p	LA4102	130p	LA7551	130p	LM1203B	225p	SAA1006	300p	STA311M	180p	STK4133	750p	STK7218	400p	STR6001	525p	TA7335	85p
KA2244	50p	LA4110	120p	LA7620	500p	LM1881N	375p	SAA1008	450p	STA401A	220p	STK4141 II	420p	STK7226	600p	STR6145	375p	TA7336	180p
KA2244	75p	LA4120	270p	LA7680	675p	LM1886	250p	SAA1010	400p	STA403A	270p	STK4142	530p	STK7251	500p	STR6102	425p	TA7337	175p
KA2261	100p	LA4138	105p	LA7681	650p	LM1888	300p	SAA1024	250p	STA405A	280p	STK4147 II	1450p	STK7253	450p	STRD1206	500p	TA7339P	175p
KA2263	100p	LA4140	60p	LA7710	260p	LM1894N	200p	SAA1025	250p	STA431A	250p	STK4151	680p	STK7308	350p	STRD1406	600p	TA7339P	175p
KA2264	100p	LA4142	65p	LA7800	90p	LM1895N	275p	SAA1026	400p	STA432A	220p	STK4152	850p	STK7309	400p	STRD1706	360p	TA7341	260p
KA2284	75p	LA4145	90p	LA7855	100p	LM1897N	330p	SAA1027	375p	STA434A	270p	STK4161	650p	STK7310	470p	STRD1906	660p	TA7342P	70p
KA2309	175p	LA4160	100p	LA7802	300p	LM2902N	40p	SAA1029	180p	STAA35A	270p	STK4162	550p	STK7311	380p	STRD1916	350p	TA7343	120p
KA2401	160p	LA4162	110p	LA7806	260p	LM2903N	40p	SAA1042	325p	STAA41C	220p	STK4164 II	1175p	STK7356	426p	STRD1906	650p	TA7347P	120p
KA2412	225p	LA4178	150p	LA7808	250p	LM3900	40p	SAA1043P	675p	STAA51C	280p	STK4171	900p	STK7358	440p	STRD3035	300p	TA7348P	125p
KA2412	125p	LA4198	150p	LA7920	100p	LM3909	100p	SAA1044	400p	STAA55C	240p	STK4172 II	680p	STK7382	560p	STRD4412	500p	TA7349P	175p
KA2413A	175p	LA4182	180p	LA7823	200p	LM3911N	200p	SAA1056	300p	STK471	210p	STK4181	680p	STK7404	400p	STRD2420	500p	TA7354P	65p
KA2414	100p	LA4183	130p	LA7824	130p	LM3911A	200p	SAA1057	300p	STK472	210p	STK4182	680p	STK7405	550p	STRD2420	500p	TA7354P	65p
KA2427	100p	LA4192	140p	LA7830	90p	LM3915	160p	SAA1058	225p	STK0025	420p	STK4191	700p	STK7408	875p	STRD2554	475p	TA7357	300p
KIA6213S	60p	LA4200	130p	LA7831	85p	LM3916	270p	SAA1060	375p	STK0029	360p	STK4192	700p	STK7410	1500p	STRD5541	475p	TA7358	85p
KIA6210AH	400p	LA4201	120p	LA7832	130p	LM3933	320p	SAA1061	250p	STK0039	600p	STK4211 II	1000p	STK7458	1250p	STRD6008	575p	TA7359	90p
KIA6281H	250p	LA4260	230p	LA7835	150p	LM3956	175p	SAA1062	250p	STK0040	520p	STK4211 V	800p	STK7564	600p	STRD6009E	450p	TA7361	125p
KIA6283K	150p	LA4261	200p	LA7837	180p	LM3957	150p	SAA1063	250p	STK0049	510p	STK4212 II	1200p	STK7561	650p	STRD6018	450p	TA7362	150p
KIA6296H	150p	LA4262	200p	LA7838	180p	LM3958	150p	SAA1064	250p	STK0054	510p	STK4213 II	1200p	STK7562	1000p	STRD6018	450p	TA7363P	175p
KIA7227CP	40p	LA4270	300p	LA7850	225p	LM1823S	500p	SAA1070	550p	STK0059	620p	STK4214	1080p	STK7563	800p	STRD6020	650p	TA7366P	65p
KIA7313	25p	LA4282	350p	LA7851	200p	M491BB1	600p	SAA1073	325p	STK0060	820p	STK4241 V	1250p	STK7573	400p	STRM6545	900p	TA7368P	35p
L149V	300p	LA4420	140p	LA7910	150p	M494B1	700p	SAA1075	350p	STK0070	1100p	STK4272	500p	STK7576	1500p	STRM6546	900p	TA7373F	150p
L165V	250p	LA4422	130p	LA7913	90p	M5265P	200p	SAA1066	175p	STK0080	580p	STK4273	550p	STK7703	1000p	STRM6549	900p	TA7374	175p
L200	200p	LM4425A	200p	LA7930	350p	M50115P	320p	SAA1069	325p	STK011	330p	STK4301	500p	STK8050	750p	STRS5741	800p	TA7376P	100p
L201	200p	LA4426	200p	LA7940	200p	M50117P	500p	SAA1071	200p	STK011	180p	STK4302	500p	STK8051	750p	STRS5741	800p	TA7378P	60p
L272M	110p	LA4440	200p	LA7953	300p	M50119P	525p	SAA1124	200p	STK016	780p	STK4332	365p	STK8260	1200p	STRS5801	800p	TA7401	200p
L290B	225p	LA4445	200p	LA9200	300p	M50422P	750p	SAA1130	550p	STK025	650p	STK4352	500p	STK8280	1850p	STRS6308	600p	TA7402P	260p
L291B	300p	LA4446	170p	LB1205	170p	M50461	350p	SAA1250	280p	STK050	1600p	STK4362	450p	STK73405 II	550p	STRS6309	600p	TA7402P	260p
L292	75p	LA4480	120p	LB1216	150p	M5078A	300p	SAA1251	380p	STK077	520p	STK4372	600p	STK73410	350p	STRS6707	575p	TA7403	325p
L293B	225p	LA4481	120p	LB1258	150p	M50786	500p	SAA1271	400p	STK078	580p	STK4392	500p	STK73410 II	500p				

LINEAR ICs/JAPANESE TRANSISTORS

Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price	Part	Price				
TAB164P	100p	TDA1180	120p	TD42760	400p	TDA4661	225p	TDA8391	675p	UPC1004C	130p	2SA771	90p	2SA1177	25p	2SB561	30p	2SC738	15p
TAB188P	350p	TDA1185A	190p	TD42760B	600p	TDA4670	475p	TDA8395	360p	UPC1009	950p	2SA773	30p	2SA1179	20p	2SB562	20p	2SC739	150p
TAB188P	130p	TDA1190	80p	TD42791	275p	TDA4680	350p	TDA8405	550p	UPC1018	170p	2SA777	50p	2SA1182	20p	2SB564	15p	2SC761	110p
TAB200AH	220p	TDA1200	80p	TD4282M	150p	TDA4715	75p	TDA8416	650p	UPC1020	200p	2SA778	100p	2SA1184	120p	2SB566	30p	2SC762	150p
TAB201AK	220p	TDA1225	500p	TD4282M	80p	TDA4715C	350p	TDA8417	550p	UPC1024	275p	2SA780	20p	2SA1186	50p	2SB568	50p	2SC763	50p
TAB207K	175p	TDA1236	240p	TD4284	200p	TDA4716A	450p	TDA8421	300p	UPC1025	230p	2SA782	60p	2SA1188	50p	2SB569	30p	2SC790	60p
TAB210	260p	TDA1251	150p	TD4304	100p	TDA4718A	250p	TDA8425	500p	UPC1026	95p	2SA794	30p	2SA1198	40p	2SB600	60p	2SC792	380p
TAB211AH	200p	TDA1276	150p	TD4304B	130p	TDA4725	750p	TDA8432	550p	UPC1028	90p	2SA812	15p	2SA1202	25p	2SB605	25p	2SC828	20p
TAB212K	280p	TDA1277	200p	TD4308	200p	TDA4730	200p	TDA8433	550p	UPC1031H	150p	2SA814	60p	2SA1205	225p	2SB634	40p	2SC829	15p
TAB215	300p	TDA1405	50p	TD43083	200p	TDA4810	250p	TDA8440	300p	UPC1032	60p	2SA816	70p	2SA1206	60p	2SB632	40p	2SC830	15p
TAB216H	300p	TDA1410	220p	TD43190	100p	TDA4814A	300p	TDA8442	200p	UPC1036C	110p	2SA817	20p	2SA1207	25p	2SB633	80p	2SC867	900p
TAB217P	120p	TDA1412	35p	TD43301B	400p	TDA4850	475p	TDA8443	350p	UPC1043C	125p	2SA825	20p	2SA1208	70p	2SB641	12p	2SC870	100p
TAB220AH	500p	TDA1508	275p	TD43310	120p	TDA4851	325p	TDA8444	200p	UPC1158H	70p	2SA836	20p	2SA1209	100p	2SB647	20p	2SC871	175p
TAB221AH	600p	TDA1508	175p	TD43410	150p	TDA4852	325p	TDA8445	325p	UPC1161	110p	2SA837	200p	2SA1210	120p	2SB648	45p	2SC900	30p
TAB225H	475p	TDA1510	170p	TD43420	200p	TDA4852	200p	TDA8452	200p	UPC1162	425p	2SA839	110p	2SA1212	800p	2SB649	35p	2SC930	15p
TAB225L	475p	TDA1512	140p	TD43501	300p	TDA4866	275p	TDA8453	350p	UPC1170	150p	2SA841	20p	2SA1215	550p	2SB673	10p	2SC936	300p
TAB227	250p	TDA1514A	325p	TD43502	360p	TDA4881	200p	TDA8461	950p	UPC1173	200p	2SA844	20p	2SA1217	100p	2SB676	85p	2SC941	15p
TAB229K	200p	TDA1515A	200p	TD43504	300p	TDA4935	300p	TDA8490	225p	UPC1187	120p	2SA847	25p	2SA1220	75p	2SB688	90p	2SC944	140p
TAB300P	200p	TDA1516Q	380p	TD43505	275p	TDA4940	200p	TDA8540	200p	UPC1178H	250p	2SA854	30p	2SA1221	70p	2SB703	90p	2SC945	10p
TAB410K	200p	TDA1517	150p	TD43725	350p	TDA4950	200p	TDA8570	250p	UPC1180C	200p	2SA861	45p	2SA1225	50p	2SB705	200p	2SC950	40p
TAB410P	200p	TDA1519	200p	TD43507	450p	TDA4944	175p	TDA8703	500p	UPC185H	400p	2SA872	25p	2SA1226	60p	2SB706	25p	2SC959	225p
TAB432	200p	TDA1519A	200p	TD43510	200p	TDA4950	100p	TDA8708	600p	UPC186	80p	2SA872A	50p	2SA1227	250p	2SB716	20p	2SC980	40p
TAB605N	350p	TDA1520	275p	TD43520	250p	TDA5030A	100p	TDA8730	225p	UPC1187	150p	2SA879	30p	2SA1232	180p	2SB718	60p	2SC982	20p
TAB605N	350p	TDA1821	210p	TD43530	250p	TDA5140A	200p	TDA8732	300p	UPC1188H	350p	2SA884	100p	2SA1237	25p	2SB727	100p	2SC983	120p
TAB607P	200p	TDA1821	125p	TD43540	350p	TDA5142	200p	TDA8735	150p	UPC1191	300p	2SA885	35p	2SA1238	30p	2SB733	75p	2SC1000	20p
TAB611AN	250p	TDA1524	200p	TD43541	175p	TDA5331T	200p	TDA8740	625p	UPC1197	140p	2SA886	70p	2SA1240	45p	2SB737	35p	2SC1003	20p
TAB615N	480p	TDA1526	225p	TD43560	260p	TDA5332T	150p	TDA8741	550p	UPC1198H	200p	2SA887	20p	2SA1240	45p	2SB737	35p	2SC1003	20p
TAB628N	350p	TDA1534	2000p	TD43561	300p	TDA5500	400p	TDA8808T	325p	UPC1210	150p	2SA893	15p	2SA1242	80p	2SB739	22p	2SC1010	225p
TAB631	500p	TDA1540	420p	TD43561A	300p	TDA5600	480p	TDA8809T	350p	UPC1215V	125p	2SA896	25p	2SA1244	120p	2SB744	56p	2SC1012	75p
TAB632N	450p	TDA1541	50p	TD43562	260p	TDA5600P	250p	TDA9045	300p	UPC1222	130p	2SA899	40p	2SA1245	55p	2SB750	60p	2SC1013	170p
TAB644N	450p	TDA1542	200p	TD43562T	200p	TDA5600	200p	TDA9080	200p	UPC1225H	150p	2SA900	40p	2SA1246	55p	2SB753	100p	2SC1014	140p
TAB646	375p	TDA1543	200p	TD43563	250p	TDA5701	200p	TDA9102C	250p	UPC1227V	225p	2SA904	20p	2SA1247	35p	2SB754	100p	2SC1015	85p
TAB653N	1500p	TDA15520	300p	TD43564	325p	TDA5708	275p	TDA9403	130p	UPC1228HA	45p	2SA907	650p	2SA1249	100p	2SB764	30p	2SC1046	250p
TAB659AN	900p	TDA1553AQ	325p	TD43565	25p	TDA5709	375p	TDA9500	750p	UPC1230	200p	2SA909	500p	2SA1252	100p	2SB765	70p	2SC1047	20p
TAB690N	700p	TDA1555Q	375p	TD43566	280p	TDA5800	850p	TDA9503	550p	UPC1237HA	70p	2SA912	70p	2SA1253	30p	2SB772	25p	2SC1050	280p
TAB691N	700p	TDA1557Q	300p	TD43567	280p	TDA5810	120p	TDA9513	225p	UPC1238	200p	2SA913	100p	2SA1256	30p	2SB774	50p	2SC1051	280p
TAB701AN	275p	TDA1558Q	300p	TD43568	300p	TDA5832	250p	TDA9520	225p	UPC1241H	150p	2SA916	90p	2SA1257	25p	2SB787	100p	2SC1059	15p
TAB718N	550p	TDA1560Q	675p	TD43570	375p	TDA5850	175p	TDA9821	200p	UPC1242H	150p	2SA915	30p	2SA1258	70p	2SB776	110p	2SC1069	175p
TAB720	525p	TDA1571	300p	TD43580	300p	TDA5930	225p	TEA0652	150p	UPC1245V	130p	2SA916	30p	2SA1261	150p	2SB788	35p	2SC1070	85p
TAB739P	450p	TDA1572	175p	TD43586	750p	TDA6100Q	150p	TEA0653T	80p	UPC1270H	250p	2SA921	40p	2SA1262	110p	2SB791	130p	2SC1079	300p
TAB872N	200p	TDA1579	125p	TD43590	250p	TDA6101C	120p	TEA0655	300p	UPC1274V	250p	2SA926A	25p	2SA1263	280p	2SB794	40p	2SC1080	225p
TAAS50	200p	TDA1576	70p	TD43591	200p	TDA6200	200p	TEA0661	200p	UPC1277	240p	2SA933	30p	2SA1264	25p	2SB795	45p	2SC1095	40p
TAA120S	40p	TDA1578A	210p	TD43592A	200p	TDA6200	750p	TEA1002	650p	UPC1278	240p	2SA934	30p	2SA1265	200p	2SB810	15p	2SC1096	140p
TAA396	70p	TDA1579	130p	TD43601Q	375p	TDA6600-2	700p	TEA1007	120p	UPC1288V	230p	2SA935	40p	2SA1268	50p	2SB816	60p	2SC1106	80p
TAA520	120p	TDA1589	275p	TD43602	225p	TDA6610-2	9100p	TEA1009	100p	UPC1297CA	325p	2SA937	20p	2SA1284	60p	2SB817	175p	2SC1114	415p
TAA530	100p	TDA1591	275p	TD43611	450p	TDA6612-2	9100p	TEA1015P	110p	UPC1298	325p	2SA939	140p	2SA1286	60p	2SB819	60p	2SC1115	280p
TAA547P	100p	TDA1591	200p	TD43612	450p	TDA6700	170p	TEA1017	280p	UPC1313H A	100p	2SA940	50p	2SA1289	50p	2SB822	40p	2SC1116	290p
TAA550	90p	TDA1598	160p	TD43645	400p	TD47010T	120p	TEA1019	175p	UPC1313H	100p	2SA940	50p	2SA1290	50p	2SB823	40p	2SC1117	290p
TAA800	40p	TDA1600	200p	TD43651	200p	TD47020T	175p	TEA1024	150p	UPC1318	300p	2SA949	60p	2SA1293	110p	2SB825	135p	2SC1161	110p
TAA810AS	40p	TDA1602A	400p	TD43652	500p	TD47021T	200p	TEA1035	200p	UPC1330HA	80p	2SA950	18p	2SA1294	450p	2SB826	75p	2SC1162	30p
TAA820	58p	TDA1670A	200p	TD43653-TX1000	500p	TD47050	100p	TEA1039	150p	UPC1335V	320p	2SA951	60p	2SA1295	500p	2SB827	200p	2SC1164	600p
TAA820M	100p	TDA1675	200p	TD43653	85p	TD47052	120p	TEA1045	300p	UPC1350	115p	2SA952	30p	2SA1301	250p	2SB828	200p	2SC1165	750p
TAA850	100p	TDA1675	200p	TD43654	80p	TD47053	120p	TEA1046	300p	UPC1350	115p	2SA952	30p	2SA1301	250p	2SB828	200p	2SC1165	100p
TAA850	100p	TDA1771	200p	TD43654Q	85p	TD47056	200p	TEA1061	175p	UPC1360C	200p	2SA954	30p	2SA1303	400p	2SB833	30p	2SC1170	150p
TAA900	80p	TDA1870A	200p	TD43710	300p	TD47057Q	225p	TEA1062	250p	UPC1362C	250p	2SA957	185p	2SA1304	110p	2SB867	80p	2SC1172	150p
TAA900	200p	TDA1872A	275p	TD43720	175p	TD47072	100p	TEA1064	250p	UPC1363	190p	2SA958	60p	2SA1306	110p	2SB861	110p	2SC1173	33p
TAA901AP	80p	TDA1904	80p	TD43724	300p	TD47077	175p	TEA1067	150p	UPC1363C	300p	2SA963	120p	2SA1307	100p	2SB863	220p	2SC1195	210p
TAA902P	80p	TDA1904	80p	TD43730	400p	TD47121	100p	TEA1067	350p	UPC1366A	350p	2SA965	30p	2SA1309	50p	2SB865	25p	2SC1212	35p
TAA909A	230p	TDA1908A	90p	TD43730	400p	TD47140	65p	TEA1068P	150p	UPC1367	250p	2SA966	30p	2SA1309	50p	2SB865	25p	2SC1212	35p
TAA925BP	410p	TDA1910	160p	TD43740	400p	TD47222	100p	TEA1087	400p	UPC1366C	130p	2SA968	65p	2SA1317	30p	2SB885	45p	2SC1214	15p
TAA930P	150p	TDA1940	180p	TD43750	400p	TD47230A	150p	TEA1101	425p	UPC1370C	300p	2SA970	25p	2SA1318	20p	2SB891	35p	2SC1215	25p
TAA934	750p	TDA1941	300p	TD43755	425p	TD47231A	80p	TEA1330	65p	UPC1373	85p	2SA979	35p						

TELEVISION

TV/VCR SPARES GUIDE 1998

The following list gives spares department addresses and telephone numbers or, where these are the same, service department or head office addresses and telephone numbers. Also included are details of various spares distributors.

Aiwa UK Ltd., P.O. Box 443, West Drayton, Middx UB7 0NZ.
0181 899 5520
Fax 0181 899 0055/0181 564 9067
See also CPC and Willow Vale.

Akai UK Ltd., Haslemere Heathrow Estate, 12 Silver Jubilee Way, Parkway, Hounslow, Middx TW4 6NQ.
0181 897 6388
Fax 0181 759 6118 (Service)
See also CPC, Wizard and Chas Hyde.

Akura Spares available from Akura Components Ltd., 44 Deerdykes View, Westfield, Cumbernauld, Glasgow G68 9HW. Also spares for Luks, Minoka and Royal Lux products.
01236 457 022
Fax 01236 457 053.

Alba Radio Ltd., 12 Thames Road, Barking, Essex IG11 0HZ. Spares for Alba, Bush, Roadstar. Some Goodmans and Hinari models and some Brother microwave and Dirt Devil.
0181 787 3000
Fax 0181 787 3110
See also Willow Vale, CPC, Wizard.

Ambassador Brand name used by Sentra Electronics.

Amstrad Spares handled by CPC Ltd. See also Chas Hyde & Son Ltd., Willow Vale and Wizard.

Autovox See Comet Group plc.

Beko (UK) Ltd., 40 Caxton Way, Watford Business Park, Watford, Herts WD1 8QZ.
01923 818 121
Fax 01923 819 652/3.

Beovision/Beocord Bang and Olufsen UK Ltd., Unit 630, Wharfedale Road, Wetherby, Wokingham, Berks RG41 5TP.
0118 969 2288
Fax 0118 969 3388
See also CPC.

Binatone Electronics plc., Unit 1, Ponders End Industrial Estate, East Duck, Lees Lane, Enfield EN3 7SP
0181 344 8888
Fax 0181 344 8877.
Trade only.

Blair's Electrical Services, 13 Belgrave Road, Dresden, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 4PR.
Spares for Saba, Thomson, Telefunken and Nord Mende.
01782 599 377
Fax 01782 599 378.

Blaupunkt Merrivale Television

Services, 1 Lockside, Tatbank Road, Oldbury, Warley, W. Midlands B69 4NS.
0121 544 6250
Fax 0121 552 1503.

BPL Spares for these TV sets available from Falmouth Hi Fi, 14 Market Strand, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 3DE.
Spares also available for Crown, Dansai, Datsurai, Kuro and Zenor
01326 313 412
Fax 01326 211 210.

Bush See Alba Radio Ltd. Also CPC, HRS and Willow Vale.

Cambridge Spares available from SEME.

Canon UK Ltd., Photo Division, Brent Trading Centre, North Circular Road, Neasdon, London NW10 0JF.
0181 459 1266
Fax 0181 459 4202.
See also CPC.

Cathay Spares available from Diamond Television.

Commodore Spares available from CPC.

Comet Group plc., After Sales H.Q., Unit 5, City Park Ind. Estate, Gelderd Road, Leeds LS12 6DR.
01132 310 523
Fax 01132 311 463.

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Crown Corporation Spares available from Key Electronics. See also CPC, HRS. Made in India models see BPL.

Daewoo Electronic Sales UK Ltd., Daewoo Building, 640 Wharfedale Road, Wetherby Triangle, Wokingham, Berks RG41 5TP.

0118 927 2272
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See also CPC and Willow Vale.

Dansai TV and Video spares available from NEI Made in India models see BPL.

Decca See Tatung (UK) Ltd., CPC and Wizard Distributors. Spares for chassis up to and including the 110/115 series available from D&S Electronic Services, Building 15, Unit 4, Stanmore Industrial Estate, Bridgnorth, Salop WV15 5HR.
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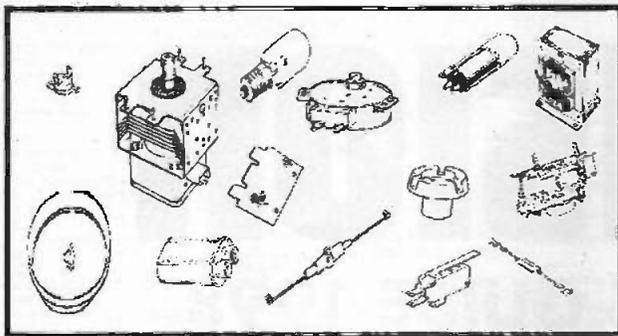
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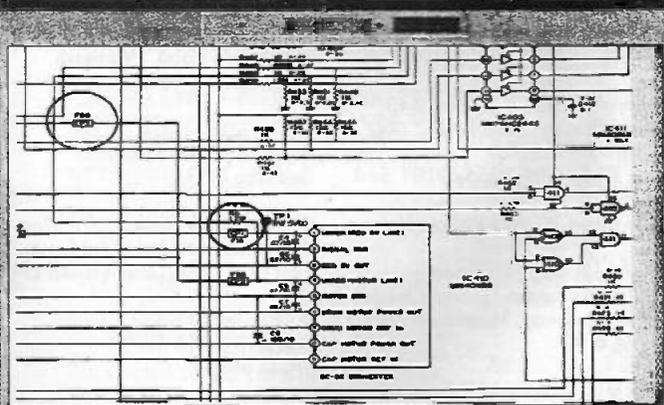
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Minoka Spares available from Luks Industrial Co. UK Ltd. and Akura Components Ltd.

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National, National Panasonic
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NCS See Genserve (GTS) Ltd.

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Onwa Electronics Simonside East Industrial Park, Newcastle Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 9AA.
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Orion See CPC.

Osaki Brand name used by Rumbelows. Spares for models VCR31/32/33, also mechanical parts for VCR35 available from Diamond Television.

Osume See CPC.

Pace Micro Technology plc, Victoria Road, Saltaire, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD18 3LF.

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01280 823 523
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Solavox Brand name used by Comet Group plc. See also CPC.

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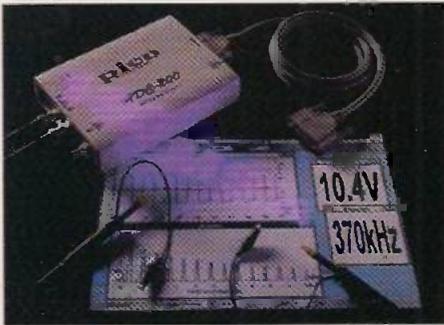
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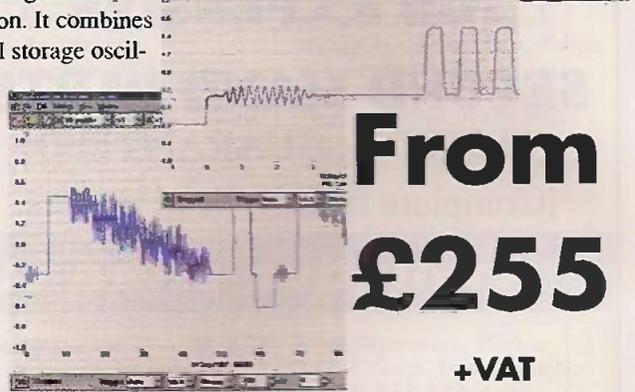
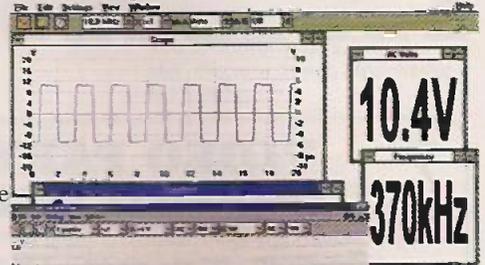
The disk on the cover of the March magazine contains two programs: the first is a demonstration version of PicoScope for Windows (see screen shots below) and the second an on-line catalogue and order form that allows you to buy any Pico product at a 15% discount. Alternatively you can order either the ADC200 or osziFOX oscilloscopes using the order form below. Please note that this offer is valid until 15 April 1998.

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1A	FUSE08	60p	FUSE24	60p	
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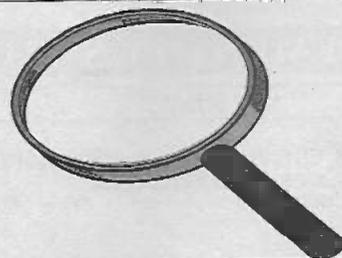
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D 050/37	LOT277	1450p	2432651	LOT80	1800p	4515 03 04	LOT169	1500p	TLF 14578 F	LOT42	1800p	094-010571.1	LOT285	1450p	1-439-311-31	LOT95	1550p
D 063/37	LOT207	1550p	2432761	LOT169	1500p	4515 03 05	LOT180	1800p	TLF 15006 F	LOT256	2000p	610.018.6620	LOT189	1650p	1-439-311-32	LOT96	1550p
D 066/37	LOT56	1650p	2432981	LOT37	1200p	4515 03 06	LOT168	1500p	TLF 70012	LOT78	1500p	610.018.6637	LOT215	1800p	1-439-331-22	LOT96	1550p
D 059/37	LOT200	1400p	2432982	LOT37	1200p	4515 03 08	LOT178	1500p	TLF 70012 F	LOT78	1500p	SHARP			1-439-331-41	LOT98	1500p
D 069/37	LOT56	1650p	2433011	LOT37	1200p	4515 03 09	LOT178	1500p	TLF 70012A	LOT78	1500p	RTRNF 1220 CEZZ	LOT39	1850p	1-439-332-00	LOT99	1600p
FCM 2015 AL	LOT78	1500p	2433012	LOT171	1650p	4515 03 10	LOT168	1500p	TLF 70018	LOT274	1550p	RTRNF 1783 BMZZ	LOT202	1800p	1-439-332-11	LOT99	1600p
FERGUSON			2433014	LOT171	1650p	4515 03 13	LOT30	1250p	TLF 70018 F	LOT274	1550p	RTRNF 1786 CEZZ	LOT211	1850p	1-439-332-41	LOT100	1600p
00 D-3-508-001	LOT38	1250p	2433014	LOT171	1650p	4515 03 14	LOT22	1250p	TLF 70161	LOT278	1300p	RTRNF 1786 CEZZ	LOT211	1850p	1-439-332-42	LOT100	1600p
00 D-3-508-002	LOT38	1250p	2433014	LOT171	1650p	4515 03 15	LOT22	1250p	TLF 70162	LOT272	1600p	RTRNF 2000 BMZZ	LOT214	1600p	1-439-332-52	LOT100	1500p
00 D-3-508-003	LOT276	1400p	2433021	LOT245	1600p	4515 03 19	LOT30	1250p	TLF 70162B	LOT272	1600p	RTRNF 2002 BMZZ	LOT307	1450p	1-439-333-00	LOT101	1450p
00 D-3-515-001 PL1	LOT276	1400p	2433021	LOT245	1600p	4515 03 22	LOT190	1650p	TLF 70162G	LOT272	1600p	RTRNF 2002 BMZZ	LOT307	1450p	1-439-333-12	LOT101	1450p
00 D-4-208-001	LOT79	1600p	2433441	LOT189	1900p	4515 03 24	LOT190	1650p	TLF 77001 B	LOT274	1550p	RTRNF 2003 BMZZ	LOT307	1450p	1-439-363-11	LOT101	1450p
00 D-4-208-002	LOT79	1600p	2433451	LOT189	1900p	4515 03 25	LOT190	1650p	PHILIPS			RTRNF 2004 BMZZ	LOT307	1450p	1-439-363-21	LOT101	1450p
00 D-4-235-002	LOT179	1250p	2433452	LOT282	1250p	4515 03 26	LOT196	1550p	4822 140 10142	LOT142	1800p	RTRNF 2005 BMZZ	LOT307	1450p	1-439-363-21	LOT268	1400p
00 D-4-235-004 HTI	LOT81	1350p	2433453	LOT282	1250p	4515 03 27	LOT198	1660p	4822 140 10145	LOT134	1450p	RTRNF 2006 BMZZ	LOT308	1350p	1-439-363-21	LOT268	1400p
00 D-4-235-0021G	LOT81	1350p	2433455	LOT234	1600p	4515 03 28	LOT27	1480p	4822 140 10146	LOT112	1700p	RTRNF 2007 BMZZ	LOT307	1450p	1-439-367-11	LOT311	1450p
00 D-4-260-004 HTI	LOT38	1250p	2433521	LOT85	1600p	4515 03 29	LOT179	1550p	4822 140 10151	LOT102	1700p	RTRNF 2023 BMZZ	LOT310	1550p	1-439-416-11	LOT255	1600p
00 H-0-701-2400	LOT182	1450p	2433581	LOT22	1250p	4515 03 30	LOT193	1550p	4822 140 10161	LOT104	1500p	SONY			1-439-416-12	LOT255	1600p
06 D-3-083-001	LOT82	1250p	2433721	LOT83	1400p	4515 03 31	LOT207	1650p	4822 140 10171	LOT114	1150p	3753100	LOT275	1500p	1-439-416-21	LOT255	1600p
06 D-3-083-002	LOT82	1250p	2433751	LOT81	1300p	4515 03 34	LOT156	1650p	4822 140 10176	LOT114	1150p	1-439-243-00	LOT91	1600p	1-439-416-23	LOT255	1600p
06 D-3-084-001	LOT23	1400p	2433752	LOT101	1300p	4515 03 35	LOT193	1550p	4822 140 10181	LOT104	1500p	1-439-243-11	LOT91	1600p	1-439-416-41	LOT255	1600p
06 D-3-087-001	LOT23	1400p	2433752	LOT101	1300p	4515 03 38	LOT207	1650p	4822 140 10191	LOT116	1600p	1-439-243-12	LOT91	1600p	1-439-416-51	LOT255	1600p
06 D-3-088-001	LOT24	1450p	2433891	LOT250	1350p	4515 03 40	LOT200	1400p	4822 140 10201	LOT104	1500p	1-439-243-31	LOT229	1700p	1-439-416-51	LOT255	1600p
06 D-3-093-001	LOT204	1600p	2433892	LOT23	1400p	4515 03 41	LOT184	1400p	4822 140 10206	LOT118	1550p	1-439-243-32	LOT229	1700p	154125A	LOT271	1650p
06 D-3-095-001	LOT87	1000p	2433893	LOT84	1400p	4515 03 43	LOT200	1400p	4822 140 10246	LOT111	1500p	1-439-244-11	LOT48	1600p	37010	LOT131	1450p
06 D-3-095-002	LOT87	1000p	2433893	LOT84	1400p	4515 03 44	LOT200	1400p	4822 140 10247	LOT105	1500p	1-439-244-11	LOT48	1600p	37011	LOT131	1450p
06 D-333-512-001	LOT204	1600p	2433952	LOT23	1400p	4515 03 46	LOT201	1550p	4822 140 10254	LOT107	1450p	1-439-244-21	LOT48	1600p	37012	LOT131	1450p
FETX 100 90 DEG	LOT04	1500p	2434002	LOT33	1000p	4515 03 50	LOT27	1450p	4822 140 10263	LOT117	1650p	1-439-244-31	LOT48	1600p	37013	LOT131	1450p
FETX 90 WHITE	LOT06	1650p	2434141	LOT33	1000p	4515 03 51	LOT27	1450p	4822 140 10269	LOT210	1350p	1-439-256-00	LOT48	1600p	37014	LOT131	1450p
FETX 100 100 DEG	LOT34	1600p	2434274	LOT44	1050p	4515 03 75	LOT27	1450p	4822 140 10271	LOT208	1650p	1-439-256-11	LOT45	1650p	37015	LOT131	1450p
GRUNDIG			2434274	LOT44	1050p	4516 16 01	LOT22	1250p	4822 140 10274	LOT123	1450p	1-439-256-11	LOT45	1650p	37016	LOT131	1450p
29201.008.01	LOT153	1750p	2434443	LOT86	1600p	MITSUBISHI			4822 140 10282	LOT122	1300p	1-439-256-22	LOT45	1650p	37017	LOT131	1450p
29201.014.01	LOT140	1500p	2434455	LOT234	1600p	731003	LOT51	1550p	4822 140 10283	LOT104	1500p	1-439-276-21	LOT45	1650p	37018	LOT131	1450p
29201.015.01	LOT149	1400p	2434583	LOT44	1050p	276-16399	LOT49	1500p	4822 140 10294	LOT125	2150p	1-439-280-00	LOT290	1700p	37019	LOT131	1450p
29201.017.01	LOT90	1250p	2435062	LOT296	1400p	334 B 07803	LOT50	1450p	4822 140 10306	LOT110	1200p	1-439-285-13	LOT92	1600p	37019	LOT131	1450p
29201.018.01	LOT163	1300p	2435121	LOT87	1000p	334 B 078030	LOT50	1450p	4822 140 10325	LOT132	1500p	1-439-285-11	LOT46	1300p	1810951	LOT55	1400p
29201.018.02	LOT81	1700p	2435131	LOT251	1450p	334 B 08104	LOT74	1600p	4822 140 10326	LOT122	1300p	1-439-285-11	LOT46	1300p	2433751	LOT01	1300p
29201.019.01	LOT62	1250p	2435141	LOT282	1300p	334 B 08108	LOT295	1600p	4822 140 10328	LOT124	1450p	1-439-285-12	LOT46	1300p	2433752	LOT250	1350p
29201.019.02	LOT62	1250p	2435301	LOT88	1450p	334 P 18506	LOT81	1550p	4822 140 10349	LOT106	1250p	1-439-285-13	LOT46	1300p	23236023	LOT281	1300p
29201.022.01	LOT63	1700p	2435671	LOT89	1800p	334 P 18507	LOT75	1500p	4822 140 10356	LOT284	1450p	1-439-286-11	LOT46	1300p	23236052	LOT131	1450p
29201.022.02	LOT166	1600p	2436201	LOT109	1200p	5908-05008A-AA	LOT70	1500p	4822 140 10367	LOT286	1400p	1-439-286-20	LOT46	1300p	23236698	LOT288	1400p
29201.022.03	LOT165	1350p	2436202	LOT109	1200p	O 108/37	LOT49	1500p	4822 140 10369	LOT109	1200p	1-439-286-12	LOT47	1400p	23236198	LOT288	1400p
29201.022.04	LOT165	1350p	2432101-2	LOT79	1600p	DCF1577	LOT73	1700p	4822 140 10381	LOT128	1300p	1-439-289-00	LOT47	1400p	23236255	LOT289	1500p
29201.022.04A	LOT165	1350p	2433451H	LOT81	1350p	DCF2077A	LOT275	1500p	4822 140 10384	LOT127	1550p	1-439-289-22	LOT47	1400p	23236428	LOT129	1400p
29201.024.01	LOT65	1600p	2433453H	LOT82	1250p	KFS 60226B	LOT272	1300p	4822 140 10395	LOT116	1600p	1-439-289-22	LOT47	1400p	23236425	LOT288	1400p
29201.024.04	LOT164	1400p	2433891H	LOT23	1400p	M5H-1F5W08	LOT275	1550p	4822 140 10406	LOT73	1150p	1-439-289-31	LOT47	1400p	3122113837011	LOT131	1450p
HINARI			2433892G	LOT84	1450p	NIKAI			4822 140 10421	LOT109	1200p	1-439-254-00	LOT93	1450p	150F60	LOT131	1450p
154 138 K	LOT24	1500p	T.T.	LOT113	1400p	ORION			4822 140 10478	LOT108	1250p	1-439-254-11	LOT93	1450p	150F60	LOT293	1550p
51 13814 1	LOT24	1500p	4515 01 08	LOT136	1600p	3714002	LOT02	1500p	094-00020.0.9	LOT113	1400p	1-439-303-00	LOT94	1300p	TFB 4039 AD	LOT281	1300p
51 14184 1	LOT24	1500p	4515 01 15	LOT139	1675p	PANASONIC			094-00035.0.2	LOT162	1350p	1-439-303-11	LOT94	1300p	TFB 4048 AD	LOT281	1300p

From the above it will be clear that beam current limiting has little effect on doming. There is enough energy in the beams to cause doming when the CRT is operating within normal limits. If the beam current is excessive, the symptoms will be worse: double the beam current and you double the power dissipation and hence the heat in the shadowmask.

I feel that the symptoms Jim saw are the result of shadowmask detachment. If you study the construction of a mask and frame you will see that there are spot welds at various places. These are subjected to continual stresses as the shadowmask expands and contracts. As a result, a less than perfect weld can fail. When this happens, mask movement as it heats up ceases to be unidirectional – because the mask is at this point free to move in a direction not intended. A very noticeable purity error will be apparent when there is high brightness in the vicinity of the detached area.

In such a case the best course is to replace the tube or, failing that, keep the brightness and contrast down, as suggested by the other engineer.

*Geoff R. Darby,
Proprietor Monitech,
Earls Barton, Northampton.*

Monitor Servicing

Since starting to repair monitors I've found a new type of clientele.

On the whole they are far more appreciative of my skills, especially the PC shops and the self-employed computer engineers who pass their customers' monitor problems over to me. I too respect them for their knowledge.

It makes a refreshing change to work for these people. I do get tired of members of the general public, who always seem to want something for nothing and are so quick with condemnation when things don't go their way. I've lost count of the times I have had to listen to people moaning about a TV engineer they once went to but have stopped, normally for some trivial reason. I generally end up feeling sorry for the engineer.

*John Edwards,
Welling, Kent.*

Mel's Mod

Recent Alba/Bush sets and their derivatives (Onwa chassis) generate their running 12V supply from a winding on the line output transformer via a simple resistor/zener diode regulator – see Fig. 1(a). The most common fault with these sets is failure of the zener diode, which goes short-circuit. The feed resistor then goes open-circuit, with loss of the 12V supply. We've tried fitting replacements, but they don't last very long.

The solution we now adopt is to forget the resistor/zener diode network and install a three-pin 7812 voltage regulator – see Fig. 1(b).

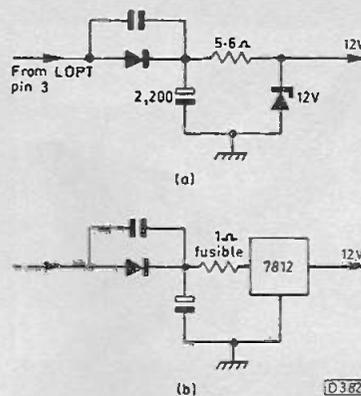


Fig. 1: Top (a) the zener diode 12V regulator circuit that's used in many Alba/Bush and other sets (Onwa chassis). Bottom (b) Mel's mod, using a 7812 regulator instead. It would be preferable to add 0.1µF decoupling capacitors at the regulator's input and output.

We've never had any comebacks after doing this. The modification is known locally as "Mel's Mod".

Depending on the exact chassis type, implementation of this modification is either easy or moderately easy.

Note that the HT voltage should always be checked. It can rise because of failure of electrolytics in the primary side of the power supply.

*Mel Davies, Holland Electronics,
Skelmersdale, Lancs.*

Obituary

Masaru Ibuka, co-founder of the Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corporation, which was later to become the Sony Corporation, died of heart failure on December 19th, 1997, aged 89. He was born in Nikko City, north of Tokyo, in 1908, and attended Waseda University where he carried out research in the photochemical laboratory. During this period he developed a neon light modulation system, which won him a prize at the 1933 Paris Exhibition, and acquired a knowledge of the properties of tape.

He founded the Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corporation with Akio Morita in 1946. It was a small company whose aim was to look for opportunities for new products using new technology. One of his first bright ideas was an

electrically-heated carpet, which sold very well. But it had no thermostat and no heat-insulating material, and was thus potentially dangerous when laid out on the traditional Japanese floor with its tatami covering. When the main hall of Horyuji Temple, Nara was burnt down because of a similar product made by another company, Ibuka decided to stop production.

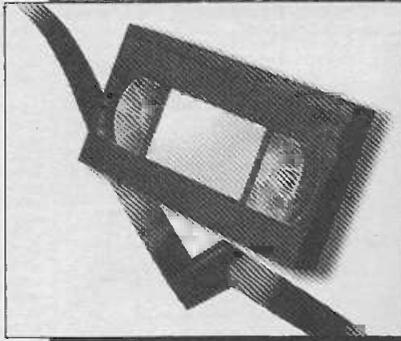
His research into tape material brought the first major breakthrough, with the development of magnetic recording tape in 1949 followed by the first Japanese tape recorder a year later. In 1955 Masaru Ibuka led the development of the first Japanese transistor radio, which was another success. The company's name was changed to the Sony Corporation in 1958 – a snazzy name was required for its products – and soon became

internationally known. A transistor television receiver followed in 1960.

There were other innovations during this period, but perhaps the biggest project that Masaru Ibuka led was the development of the Trinitron TV system which went into production in 1967. Other innovations followed, including the Walkman and the development, with Philips, of the compact disc.

Masaru Ibuka was president of the company from 1950-71, chairman from 1971-76, honorary chairman from 1976-94 and chief adviser from 1994-1997. His final title at Sony was as Supreme Founder and Consultant. But Masaru Ibuka had collapsed with arrhythmia, a heart condition, in 1992, after which he was confined to a wheelchair. He was married twice, and is survived by a son and two daughters.

Masaru Ibuka



Reports from
Michael Dranfield
Brian Storm
Chris Watton
John Trimmer
Gerald Smith
Roy Gaddas
Terry Lamoon
Adrian Spriddell
Ronnie Boag and
Michael Maurice

Samsung S11240/1260

To disable the auto-tracking when carrying out deck adjustments, solder together pins 4 and 6 of IC202. This is not mentioned in the service manual. M.Dr.

Sharp VC9300

These well-built VCRs from the Eighties video boom seem to go on and on, with very few problems apart from failure of the reel idler and cassette lamp. Something that's becoming more common however is failure of the tape to be wound back fully into the cassette. The cause is a weak reel motor. It's a great pity that this is no longer available from Sharp. You can increase the reel motor's unloading torque by adding a 12Ω, 0.5W resistor across the emitter and collector of transistor Q7754. M.Dr.

Ferguson 3V36/JVC HRD225

If the cassette housing refuses to accept a tape and the reel motor is turning, you will find that a circuit protector on the bottom PCB, at the back next to the word 'Elna', is open-circuit. In every machine I've come across where this N15 protector has failed the cause has been a shorted loading motor.

If you're stuck, a motor from an old cassette housing can be fitted – by swapping the pulley over. M.Dr.

VCR Clinic

Amstrad DD8900

If you have tuning problems with one of these double-decker machines, i.e. some stations can't be stored, try replacing C7, C9 and C15 in the IF block first. They are all 1μF, 50V: the 105°C type should be used. M.Dr.

Panasonic NVHD100

Slow rewind with four-hour tapes was the complaint with this machine. On test, rewind was indeed very poor with the sample, four-hour tape provided. After extensive checking and testing I replaced the end sensor diodes Q1501 and Q1502, more in hope than anything else. But this cured the fault! The part number for both of them is PN205L. B.S.

Panasonic NVJ45

The E-E picture had jagged verticals and the playback picture was non-existent. For video problems with these machines IC302, which is expensive, is the first suspect. Fortunately on this occasion the cause of the trouble was C1127 (330μF, 10V), which smooths the unregulated 6V feed to the series regulator in the power supply. B.S.

Saisho VR3000X

There was no sound recording. Playback sound was OK with pre-recorded tapes, and the E-E sound was also OK. A healthy sine wave erase bias, about 60V p-p, was present and bulk erase worked. There was a good audio signal at pin 19 of the audio processor chip IC5001 on the audio/IF module, but no audio signal at pin 2 of the BA7755 audio record/play switching chip on the same board. It had an internal short. C.W.

Matsui VX755/Saisho VR3600

The UHF output was intermittent

because of loss of the supply to the modulator. A check at pin 5 of CN501 in the power supply showed that there were no problems up to this point. The voltage here is applied to the 2SC2274 ripple filter transistor Q507, which was going open-circuit. We didn't have one in stock, but a BC639 proved to be a suitable replacement. C.W.

Panasonic K Mechanism

If you have a VCR that shows F03 or F04 in the front display, remove the loading motor and examine the white plastic coupling fitted to it. The coupling sometimes splits. You can either replace the whole motor assembly or, alternatively, the coupling is available separately from Panasonic as part number VDP1434 – a jig, part number VFK1322, is required to fit it on the motor shaft correctly. J.T.

Hitachi VTM502EUK

This machine had no display. A voltage check at pin 80 of the deck controller IC7400, which is also the display driver, showed that the 3V supply was missing. It's labelled HEST. When I traced back to the source I came to a faulty BC848B surface-mounted transistor, 7409, on the main PCB. Replacing this item restored the display. J.T.

Panasonic NVG50PX

This VCR's power supply didn't start up. Once I'd replaced C3 on the power board everything seemed to be fine initially. Then I noticed that the real-time counter didn't move and that playback was marred by tracking bars. The machine was OK in the rewind and fast-forward modes and also, strangely enough, in reverse search.

I first thought that there must be an alignment error, but close examination showed that the tape remained in the same position in all

modes. As this is a foreign model we didn't have a circuit diagram. After a lot of heating and freezing I discovered that C29 on board ref. 6500 series was low in value. The correct value is 10 μ F, 16V. I fitted a high-temperature type. J.T.

Panasonic NVSD30 (K Mechanism)

The customer complained of tracking bars and slurred speech. The machine also damaged my test tape. Tests showed that there was excessive back tension, but no amount of adjustment would correct it. Then I noticed that the reel brake didn't release. Part of the brake release mechanism was broken. The part number is VX20313. J.T.

Daewoo V200

There was intermittent loss of the playback picture – just snow. Checks showed that in the fault condition the PB5V supply to the head amplifiers was missing. It comes from Q304, which was dry-jointed. G.S.

Nokia 3716

The fluorescent display had failed. Checks showed that there was no -25V supply at either the display or the driver chip. Further checks showed that R927 (10 Ω , 0.25W) was open-circuit. A replacement restored the display. G.S.

Daewoo V435

This machine would accept a tape, but there was no play/record/FF or rewind. The drum motor wasn't turning properly. Once this had been replaced all functions were back to normal. G.S.

Akai VSG245

This machine could be tuned in but wouldn't memorise Ch. 4. When the EPROM presettings were checked they were found to be wrong and couldn't be adjusted. When a new EPROM (IC404) had been fitted and set up and the switching points had been adjusted the machine would memorise Ch. 4. G.S.

Sharp VCM20

This machine's owner complained that the LP symbol on the front display was always alight. A new microcontroller chip restored correct operation. G.S.

Daewoo V21

This VCR wouldn't tune. A check on the tuning voltage showed that it didn't change. The PMW signal at the timer chip varied, and on fur-

ther investigation I found that there was a small crack in the print at the back of the PCB. Hard-wiring here restored the tuning. G.S.

Nokia VR3615/Daewoo V200

If stop was pressed during play the tape would wrap around the guides. It would then get chewed when the customer tried to eject the cassette. The cause of the trouble was traced to the idler assembly FM mechanism. The moulding can become distorted: as a result, the assembly fails to kick the take-up motor into reverse.

The solution is to fit the upgraded assembly that's available from SEME under order code VDC7456. In fact it's best to replace this assembly as a matter of course whenever one of these machines comes into the workshop.

Another problem is that the pin tends to snap off the metal lever below the idler assembly. So the lever should be replaced as well. R.G.

Matsui VP9501OP

If the complaint with one of these machines is slowish, noisy rewind, do check the reel spools. They are clutches and have a tendency to fall apart when you remove the retaining clip. A new one will cure the fault. It's probably safest to replace both spools while you are carrying out the repair. It is also advisable at least to clean the mode switch: better to replace it, as the switch oxidises quite badly, giving rise to all sorts of strange symptoms. T.L.

Hitachi VT860

Poor and/or noisy loading and occasionally jamming were the complaints with one of these machines. Close inspection revealed that the capstan motor was struggling. So a replacement was fitted, along with the clutch base assembly, belt and pinch roller, which was very shiny. These items got the machine to work perfectly, but the repair proved to be a bit expensive. T.L.

Hitachi VT150

The E-E picture was subject to pulling and overloading. Playback of prerecorded tapes was OK, also operation with a video feed via the scart socket. The cause of the trouble was C07 (1 μ F) in the IF unit. A.S.

Matsui VX3000

The problem we had with one of

these machines was tuning drift. Replacing Q6006 (BC182L) and R6045 (33k Ω) cured the fault. A.S.

Sharp VCA111HM etc

If the drum speed is excessive, the amplitude of the FG pulses could be low. Check the printed FG coil on the motor PCB. You should get an almost short-circuit reading: if the reading is several ohms, the motor PCB will have to be replaced – it's available separately.

This fault can occur with any machine that uses the M series chassis. A.S.

Akura VX150

There was no E-E or playback video. Scope checks showed that the video waveform at pin 28 of IC201 was missing. It reappeared when pin 14 of ICC01 (type LC7475) was desoldered. A new LC7475 chip cured the fault. R.B.

Toshiba V711

This VCR was dead with no outputs from the STK5383 chip IC802 in the power supply. A new STK5383 chip restored normal operation. R.B.

Sharp VCM721

There was no tape take-up with one of these machines. The cause was dry-joints at plug AC on the capstan motor. R.B.

Daewoo V435

The symptoms with this machine were intermittent failure to come out of standby and no functions when a tape was inserted. The cause was C822 (330 μ F, 10V). This capacitor should be upgraded to 1,000 μ F, 10V. R.B.

Granada VHSHP7/Philips VR6185

When review was selected this machine would start to search then switch off. All other functions worked faultlessly. The cause of the fault was the mode switch – a replacement restored correct operation.

These models are fitted with the Panasonic G deck. M.M.

Akai VSS99

This S-VHS machine turned out to be a Mitsubishi clone. The symptoms were intermittent or no off-air signals. The tuner/IF pack is the same as that in the Mitsubishi CT2564STX range of TV models which can exhibit the same faults. Resoldering the dry-joints in the IF can restore normal operation. M.M.

Servicing

Panasonic Models NVJ30/J35/F65/F70

These oldish models can still provide excellent results. Fortunately the faults are reasonably predictable. Brian Storm on what to check when a faulty machine comes in

Although these VCRs are now well into middle age they are still capable of providing superb picture quality and performance. The NVJ30 and NVJ35 are improved versions of the NVL20 and NVL25. The NVF65 and NVF70 are hi-fi stereo versions with Nicam reception and editing facilities such as jog and shuttle.

These VCRs were all supplied with a bar-code scanning, multi-function remote control unit. A jog and shuttle remote control unit, Model VWRM65E, was available as an optional extra.

The Power Supply

Fig. 1 shows the power supply circuit. As with all older AV equipment, this is the place to look for the causes of obvious and not so obvious faults. It has become almost second nature with me to measure the 45V output from the power supply module in any Panasonic VCR, as this tells you so much about the machine's operation.

If the 45V supply is high, check C1114 on the primary side of the chopper circuit. If the voltage is low, check the reservoir capacitor C1118. A clue that the 45V supply was high is failure of the 20V zener diode D1113. It goes short-circuit when the 14V supply rises above 20V, killing the power supply completely.

Whatever the fault, it's always worth scoping the power supply outputs for hash noise. Replace any capacitors that are suspect. It's also wise to renew the soldering around the power components. It can become dry after passing high currents for eight or so years.

The most common power supply faults are as follows:

Dead power supply: Check C1109 (1 μ F, 400V), D1110 (10ELS2) which could be leaky, and whether D1113 (MA2200 20V zener diode) is short-circuit. In the latter event, check whether C1114 (47 μ F, 16V) is open-circuit. Check the crowbar circuit which was added in Model NVF65 (see below).

Capstan servo problems: Check C1122 (330 μ F, 10V).

Mechanism

Panasonic mechanisms became very much more reliable as the G deck evolved – there were four versions in all. With the addition of a review motor in Models NVF65/F70, placed cunningly above the deck mode switch, the machines became suitable for serious domestic editing, with seamless control of pause, cue and review. This was not previously possible with the G deck.

Here are the common mechanism faults:

Intermittent squeaking: Replace the capstan brake, part no. VXL1873/VXL2088.

Noisy rewind or fast forward: Replace the tension roller, part no. VXA3516.

Cassette housing keeps going out of line with the mechanism: Replace the side plate, part no. VXA4076.

Intermittent deck solenoid operation, Models NVJ30/35: Check whether plug P1504 is loose.

After the addition of the DC-controlled review motor, which first appeared in Model NVF70, Model NVF65 was provided with a crowbar transistor (Q6021) plus control circuitry (Q6020 and IC6004) as a precaution against incorrect operation and possible tape damage. Should the supply rails deviate far from their correct voltages the crowbar circuit will cut in, killing the power supply. Check this additional circuit, in the systems control area, if the power supply in Model NVF65 doesn't work when it's connected to the main PCB.

System Control

The syscon circuitry in all these models is generally reliable, though the MN15522VMS sub-systems microcontroller chip IC6801 in Model NVJ35 can be responsible for a number of different symptoms when it fails, ranging from 'write' shown in the timer display and refusal to power up to no E-E video and no systems operation.

Intermittent or permanent failure of the MN188166VHI chip IC6001 can occur with Model NVF70. The result is no operation, with a pause or play symbol in the fluorescent display or the tracking LED pulsing.

The NVF65/F70 and their bigger brother the NVFS100 can produce misleading symptoms when the 0.9 Ω resistor R6035 in the feed to the review motor goes open-circuit. If a tape is inserted it may be played, but any attempt to rewind or operate in the fast-forward mode will result in power-down.

Servo Circuitry

The servo circuitry is also reliable. With Models NVJ30/J35 the most common problem is C1122 (330 μ F, 10V) in the power supply going open-circuit. This can produce several symptoms, ranging from wow on sound to an unstable capstan then drum motor drive problems.

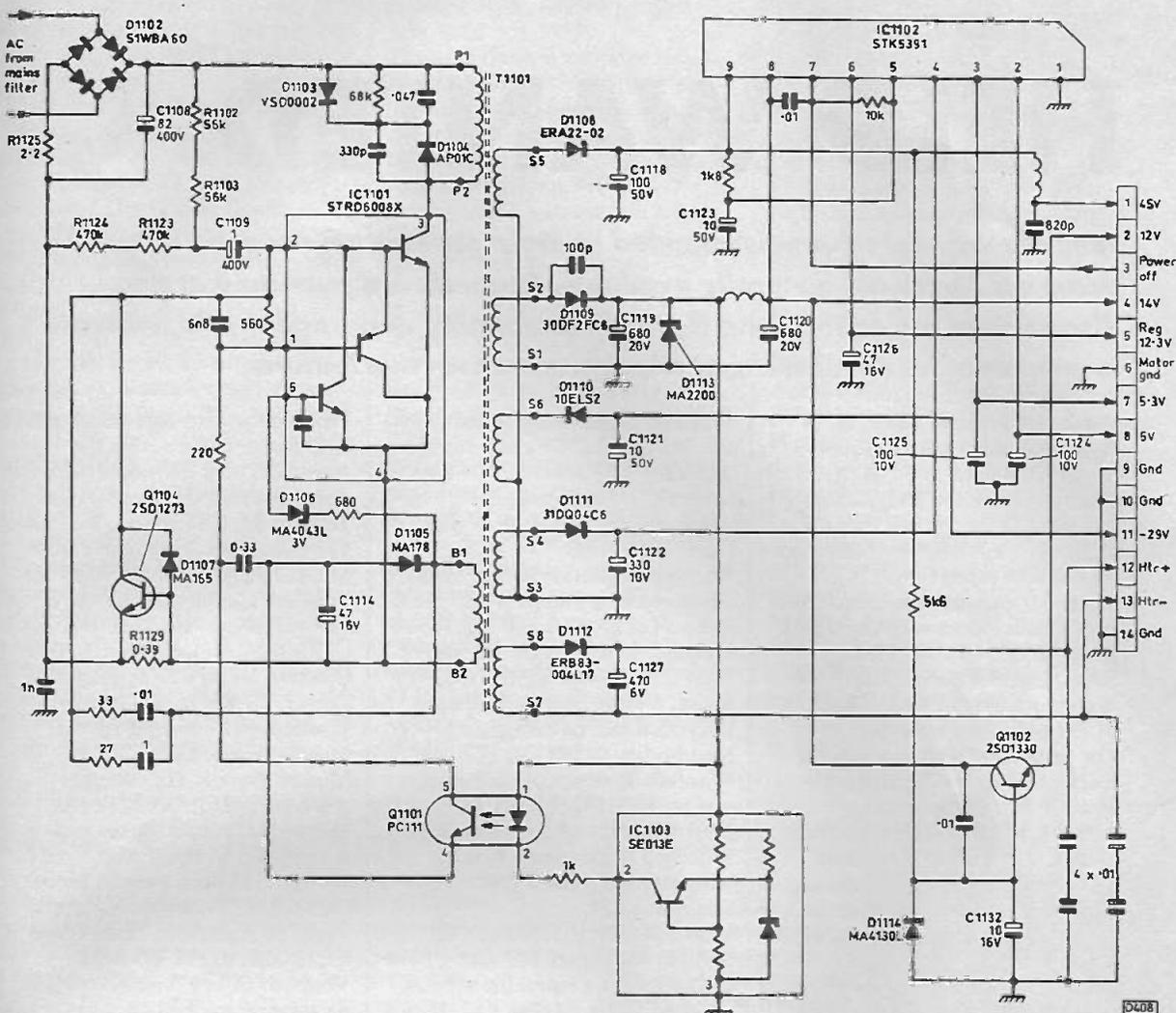


Fig. 1: Power supply circuit used in the Panasonic Models NVJ30/J35/F65/F70.

Another cause of capstan speed instability is the gap between the capstan stator FG head and the rotor. If this gap is too wide, the FG amplifiers will start to amplify noise. The result is intermittent playback speed faults.

A less common problem occurs when the capstan motor plug has been inserted in connector P2001 incorrectly. The result can be intermittent capstan cogging or capstan motor cut-out. It's a good idea to check this whenever a machine comes in, also to remake the solder connections to P2001 as dry-joints are another possible cause of intermittent stopping.

A particularly nasty fault with the NVJ35 occurs when the 1.5k Ω resistor R2302 in the FG circuit cracks. This can result in SP recordings being played back as if they are LP recordings, with no colour in the trick modes and wide noise bars in cue and review.

Miscellaneous Faults

The video circuitry, demodulator pack and timer board give very few problems. Don't be fooled by no E-E video with the NVF65: this machine has an audio only facility in the LP mode, with the video muted.

There will be no tuning when the tuner is stuck in the VHF mode because the memory chip IC7502 is faulty.

This chip can also be responsible for problems with the AFC defeat switching, which should be high or low and not somewhere in between – the symptom is failure to lock to stations when search tuning.

Finally, a general common faults summary:

No or distorted video, Models NVJ30/J35: The LA7150 chip IC3901 has probably failed.

No E-E picture (NVF65): Machine is in the LP mode.

No scart socket output, Model NVF70: R4908 and R4910 missing.

E-E picture patterning in the top corner: Replace C7678 (10 μ F, 16V).

Smeary E-E picture: Check C730 and C731 (10 μ F, 16V).

Low E-E or feedthrough gain: Replace the tuner unit, type ENV87837H3Y.

No tuning, stuck in the VHF mode: Replace the MN12C261 chip IC7502.

HELP WANTED

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

Wanted: Source of supply of Betamax video tapes, preferably new. F.C. Bailey, 53 Peile Drive, Taunton, Somerset TA2 7SZ. 01823 253 905.

Wanted: VHF/UHF TV converters for use with piped signals, any make any quantity considered. Also £1 TV coin meters with keys. G.H. Jones, Einion Electrics, Bridge Street, Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool. Powys SY21 0RZ. 01938 810 539 phone/fax.

For disposal: Old Luxor satellite receiver, slightly dilapidated, for spares/repair £8. Spectroline PC110A UV EPROM/wafer erasing system with built-in timer, £80. Two unused Verran AC Datalink Units with all leads and manuals, for transmitting serial or parallel via a mains ring at 39,200 baud maximum, £30. *Getting the Best from your Graphics Computer* by Lisa Walker and Steve Blount, 160 pages, £3. Julian Bohan 01522 871 926, mobile 0958 771 319.

For disposal: Two thousand or so radio and TV receiver circuit diagrams dating from 1937-83 - some later. Any offers? L. Burge, 40 Arch Road, Wyken, Coventry CV2 5AB. 01203 613 783.

Wanted: Tuner/modulator board TUV CPCB (BK2001F01002A) for the Amstrad DD8900 - or complete unit for break-up. J. Thomas, 21 Firs Close, Folkstone, Kent CT19 4HZ. 01303 277 864.

Wanted: Dynamic transistor checker Model TT144, new or used, or any other model with the same function. D. Bland, 311 Oxford Road, Reading, Berks RG30 1AV. 01189 504 212.

For disposal: Workshop mains isolation transformer. 1kVA metal cased for floor or wall mounting. Would exchange for reasonably sized IDE hard drive. Brian Hesling, 39 Oak Road, Glington, Peterborough PE6 7LD. 01733 253 446 (evenings).

Wanted: IF panel and sound IF for the Philips G2.2 TV and a capstan motor for the Panasonic 6010 time-lapse VCR. Jim Littler, 363 Atherton Road, Hindley, Wigan, Lancs WN2 3XD.

Wanted: Replacement video drum or whole working Philips N1701 VCR. Robert Langton 01304 852 415.

Wanted: LOPT for the Dansai 10in. CTV Model 1051 (T). J. Stuart, 2 Little Bell Hall Cottages, Drayton Road, Belbroughton. Nr. Stourbridge. 01562 730 197.

Wanted: Two sets of scan coils, part no. DSE1422BL for the Matsui Models 1420/1440A. John Wilson, 373 Dewsbury Road, Wakefield, W. Yorks WF2 9DT. 01924 381 824.

Wanted: TDA1037D audio IC (used in old Sanyo, ITT and Grundig sets). Central Electronics, 6 Queen Street, Stirling FK8 1HN. 01786 451 230.

Wanted: Capstan motor for the Hitachi VTF70E (it's marked Sankyo B2QKB on underside and has five electrolytics glued to the PCB). Ex-equipment ideal. Also Psions, dead or alive. Mark Stevenson 01507 478 570. mkstevo@nildram.co.uk

Wanted: Circuit diagram for the Telequipment S51B scope (the DS1 circuit is unsuitable). I need to know the values of R22, L3 and RV6. Also require front frame and graticule. P. Guarini, 31 Alderson Avenue, Rawmarsh, Rotherham, S. Yorks S62 7DE. 01709 371 188.

Wanted: Chopper transformer for the Zanussi Model 22ZT505 or complete power supply PCB. G.R. Goldsmith, 2 Stanley Close, Verwood, Dorset BH31 6EX. 01202 824 398.

Wanted: Signal-strength meter with Band II (FM) coverage. Working or non-working considered. J.M. Ainscoe, 49 Lon Ceredigion, Pwllheli, N. Wales LL53 5PP. 01758 613 790.

Wanted/for disposal: Require CRT base board with leads for the Amstrad TVR2 televideo. Have for disposal Video Circuits 31A and Telepart 3A CRT testers. V. Smith, 175 Lyon Park Avenue, Wembley, Middx HA0 4HD. 0181 902 5447.

Wanted: Circuit diagram for OTEC M14A monitor, s/n. G/H 01102410. C. Rigley, 1 Route D'Anton, Petit Claudos, MIOS 33380, France. Fax/tel. 33 556 266291.

Wanted: R/C handsets for the Mitsubishi HSM55 VCR and Mimtec Premier 2LD satellite receiver. Ted, 0151 632 0614.

Wanted: Circuit diagram and any information to repair a BIT Phax switch (fax/phone switch) Model PXS-C3. D. Benyon, Marshland View, St. Annes Hill, Bude, Cornwall EX23 0LT. 01288 353 373.

Wanted: Circuit diagram (or good photocopy) for the Canon E60 camera. Loan would help if necessary. Tyler TV, 26 Littlecote Estate, Petworth. W. Sussex GU28 0EF. 01798 342 210.

Wanted: CZ1 thermistor (grey dog-bone type as used in valve heater chains) for completion of a radio restoration. Trevor Wiltshire. Tora Technology, Pelican Road, Pamber Heath, Tadley, Hants RG26 3EL. 01189 701 163.

Wanted: 20MHz 5mV/div single- or dual-beam scope. Have for sale home-made crystal set, approx. 60 years old, in good condition. M. Payne, 23 Flagg Court, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2LS. 0191 427 6654.

Wanted: Working power supply panel for the Amstrad SRD510 satellite receiver. E.E. Woodcock, Que-Sera, 162 Maidenway Road, Paignton, S. Devon TQ3 2PT.

Wanted: Circuit diagram and parts list for a Vanilla VAN-C1402-39 monitor, sold by Tempo. G. Uddin, 52 Berkshire Road, Trowbridge Estate, Hackney, London E9 5LU.

Wanted: Remote control unit for a

Sony LDP3300 LaserDisc player (professional model) – or a way of operating it remotely with a replacement unit. Pone David Kimera on 0181 346 8809.

Wanted: Circuit diagram and any fault diagnosis information for the Commodore 1084SD2 colour monitor. R. Musson, 32 Ailsa House, Fairhaven-Green, Idle, Bradford, W. Yorks BD10 9ND. 01274 622 684.

Wanted: Sony remote commanders RMT223 and RMT230; a working Philips CTX-E chassis (Model 20CT2636/05T); a working 110° scan panel for the Rediffusion Mk 4 chassis; a Granada 8 rotary tuning panel 55-332 P5 (ITT); an operating manual for the Philips VCR Model VR2021/05. R. Bruce, 11 New Zealand Way, Rainham, Essex RM13 8JP.

Wanted: Circuit details for the Avo Universal LCR Bridge and Universal Test Bridge. D. Jannece, 54 Wyatts Green Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 0PX. 01277 822 380.

Wanted: Circuit diagrams to enable a Telequipment DM63 and a Gould OS245A scope to be repaired. Loan or copy if necessary. S.

Parkins, 70 Charlton Avenue, Newton, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 4ES. 0161 351 1892.

Wanted: 64 mon cartridge (assembler/disassembler) or similar, with instructions, for the Commodore 64 computer. Any hardware, software, books, mags etc. for this computer. Also looking for a VIC1541 disc drive + lead + instructions. John Mangan, 14 Chancery Lane, Huddersfield, W. Yorks HD1 2DT. 01484 435 014.

Wanted: Service manual or circuit diagram for the AOC monitor Model CM335. Photocopy or loan OK. A. Horsfield, 37 Hereward Way, Deeping St. James, Peterborough PE6 8QA. 01778 346 287.

Wanted: Two STK8250 Mk 2 chips or an equivalent. David Rolfe, 11a Aldwick Road, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex PO21 2LN. 01243 862 242.

Wanted: Service manual/circuit diagram for the Pioneer RT71 open-reel tape deck. Photocopy OK. Alternatively a layout showing and identifying the presets. E.T. Plumb, 44 Railway Road, Downham Market, Norfolk PE38 9EB. 01366 384 099.

Wanted: Touch-tuner control unit for the Rediffusion Mk 3 chassis. A. Tomkinson, 10 Lodge Court, Station Grove, Wembley, Middx HA0 4AP. 0181 903 5574.

Wanted: JVC HRD120MS VCR with working timer. Within travelling distance of Bournemouth. Also information on a supplier of JVC parts. Frank Cosgrove, 59 Fenton Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 5BS. 01202 432 973.

Wanted: Tuner and tube for a Pye Red Box or Philips equivalent. Complete TV set would be even better. Brian Barron, 55 Henderson Avenue, Cavehill Road, Belfast BT15 5FN. 01232 715 826.

Wanted: VHF to UHF converter, or circuit diagram + information. I have an old display unit with VHF output and wish to display the information on a TV set. T. Collins, 215 Arlott Crescent, Oldbrook, Milton Keynes MK6 2QT.

Wanted: Back issues of *Television* 1991-1994 in exchange for a Loewe Profit T28 chassis complete and/or tuner type U1100. P. Hill, 3 Mayfair Avenue, Halifax HX4 9JH. 01422 370 338 (evenings).

New CD Format

Sony and Philips have developed a new CD format, Super Audio CD (SACD), as the next-generation music CD. It uses direct stream digital (DSD) technology and a 1-bit representation of the audio waveform with 2.8224MHz sampling. SACD is compatible with existing CD players and discs.

An SACD disc has a dual-layer configuration, with CD information on top and DSD data beneath: a super bit mapping direct system downconverts the DSD sound. The system can offer two-channel or up to six-channel sound. An optional multimedia system enables the discs to provide text, graphics and video. The discs are protected by a digital watermarking system which can also include anti-copy data.

Sony and Philips have begun licensing SACD. The companies say that the first SACD players and discs will be launched in Japan early next year.

Keighley Instruments Ltd. has published its 1998 full line catalogue and reference guide. The 700-page catalogue covers a wide range of test and measurement equipment, data acquisition hardware and software products. For a copy contact the company at The Minster, 58 Portman Road, Reading, Berks RG30 1EA - phone 0118 957 5666, fax 0118 959 6469.

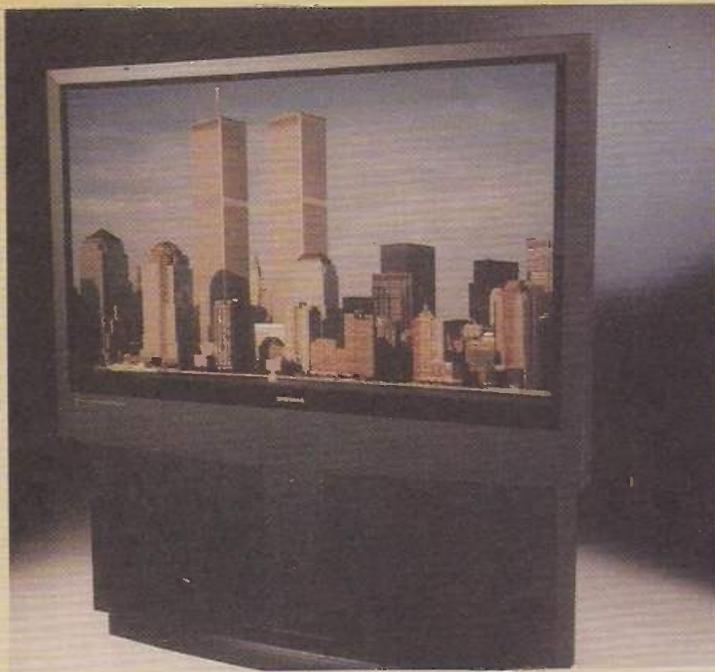


Video News

JVC has launched its first digital still camera, Model GCS1, and the GR-DVL9000 digital camcorder. Features of the GCS1 include an easily adjustable f1.6 lens, a 4MB internal flash memory, 10x optical zoom and a 1.8in. LCD screen. In the economy mode the memory can store up to 100 images. IR data transfer provides wireless data transfer to a digital printer or PC. A number of software packages are provided for PC connection. Suggested retail price is £399. The GR-DVL9000 is an ultra-compact camcorder with 4in. LCD monitor. Its progressive-scan CCD, progressive colour filter and high-band processor provide a resolution of

500 x 560 lines. The impressive specification includes PCM digital stereo sound and digital effects. Outputs include a JLIP terminal for direct serial port connection and an IEEE 1394 based terminal for direct digital-to-digital connection to other equipment with DV input terminals.

Pioneer is to launch two DVD players in the UK. Model DV505 at about £500 is a CD/DVD player; Model DVL909 at about £900 is a combi CD/LD/Video CD/DVD player. Hitachi is to start supplying mass-production DVD-RAM drives. They will use rewritable cartridges with a capacity of 4.6Gbytes.



The Winter Consumer Electronics Show at Las Vegas is a major event for the introduction of new products and systems. George Cole reports on this year's show, where the emphasis was on digital TV, DVD and multimedia devices

CES '98 Las Vegas

The Winter Consumer Electronics Show was held at Las Vegas in early January. This year's show took place during a time of major changes in the consumer electronics field: digital TV in particular was very much to the fore.

Digital TV

With the new services due to start towards the end of the year, digital TV was being busily pushed by broadcasters, manufacturers and programme makers. The road to digital TV in the USA has been a long one: many formats, including the European DVB system, were considered before agreement on a standard was reached. The Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC), whose members include chip manufacturers, broadcasters and electronics companies, finally agreed on a standard in December 1996. In April 1997 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) accepted it and allocated digital channels to the broadcasters.

The ATSC standard encompasses many things that digital technology has made possible. It includes provision for standard- or high-definition reception; video frame rates of 30 or 60 per second, with 24/30 frames per second for film material; 4:3 or 16:9 aspect ratios; and interlaced

or progressive scanning. Broadcasters and developers can use any or all of these features, secure in the knowledge that viewers with a digital TV set will be able to receive whatever's transmitted.

Whereas in Europe the prime purpose of digital TV is to offer a multitude of channels, in the USA the emphasis is on the provision of high-definition pictures. This makes sense: US viewers already have scores of channels available via terrestrial, cable and satellite services – DirecTV, a digital satellite TV service that was launched in June 1994, offers 175 channels. Another reason for the priority given to HDTV is the mediocre picture quality provided by the current NTSC system.

The ATSC Standard

So what is the ATSC standard? It's a sort of umbrella digital TV system. The channel bandwidth is 6MHz and the data transmission rate 19.3Mbits/sec. Audio is Dolby Digital, which offers two-channel stereo or 5.1 multi-channel sound. Broadcasters can choose the type and number of signals they transmit, provided the basic specifications are observed.

The HDTV specification provides a display resolution of 1,920 x 1,080 lines interlaced or 1,280 x 720 lines with progressive scanning. Transmission is within a single channel at one million pixels per 1/60th sec. A product or system that conforms with the HDTV standard must be able to produce a 16:9 aspect ratio picture at the minimum-resolution level, with Dolby Digital audio.

The standard-definition mode provides a resolution of 704 x 480 lines with progressive scanning or 640 x 480 lines interlaced. In the 480P mode half a million pixels are transmitted per 1/60th sec; in the 480I mode the transmission rate is a quarter of a million pixels per 1/60th sec. A product or system that conforms to the standard-definition specification is defined as having lower resolution than

HDTV while providing acceptable audio: the aspect ratio is undefined. Broadcasters can transmit up to four SDTV programmes simultaneously, or offer a mixture of SDTV programmes and interactive services such as data, internet and pay-per-view channels.

The FCC has laid down strict guidelines for the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting. The plan is to switch off the analogue transmissions in the year 2006, which could cause some dissension – there are around 250 million TV sets in the 98 million US households. For this reason some believe that the switch-off date will be deferred. The FCC has laid down that Network broadcasters, such as ABC and CBS, covering the top ten regions must simulcast at least half their analogue programming in DTV form from May 1999.

The top ten areas of greatest population density include cities such as New York, Washington and Los Angeles, accounting for about thirty per cent of US viewers. By November 1999 DTV broadcasting must be extended to the next twenty largest regions, including cities such as Miami and Seattle. The remaining commercial stations must begin DTV transmissions by May 2002, with non-commercial (i.e. public service) broadcasters going digital the year after. In 2004 all stations must transmit at least

Our heading photo, top of page, shows the Samsung SVP555JHD HDTV receiver.

three-quarters of their analogue programmes in DTV form, and by 2005 all programmes must be available in digital form.

The broadcasters and the consumer electronics companies are enthusiastic about DTV. Some broadcasters have already announced their plans for a start to digital transmissions in November. A major marketing operation is being undertaken to inform the public about DTV. As part of this operation the ATSC and the Consumer Electronic Manufacturers Association (CEMA) have agreed on a logo that will be used to identify digital receivers.

Some companies, including Hitachi, Mitsubishi, Sharp and Panasonic, have launched 'digital-ready' TV receivers – analogue sets designed for use with a digital set-top decoder. These sets have component video input sockets and the claim is that they will provide better picture quality. The first decoders are expected to be launched this summer.

The Hardware

Many companies showed digital receivers at CES '98. There were sets on display at the Hitachi, JVC, Panasonic, Philips, Sony, Sharp, Samsung and Thomson stands. US viewers like big sets, and many of the digital receivers were large-screen projection models. I have to confess that I was surprised by the picture quality produced by many of the HDTV projection sets, having expected to find the displays poorer than with direct CRT viewing. All the HDTV pictures were clear and sharp.

Samsung's first HDTV receiver, Model SVP555JHD, is a 55in. projection set with a built-in Dolby Digital decoder and an internal 45W sound system for the centre, left and right channels. There are output terminals for the Surround and sub-woofer channels. Hitachi's 61in. "ultra HDTV receiver" has a built-in digital satellite decoder. Mitsubishi announced several digital TV sets for launch next winter, including a 73in. HDTV projection receiver. Sharp's display included various prototype digital TV receivers, both projection and direct-viewing models, and set-top boxes.

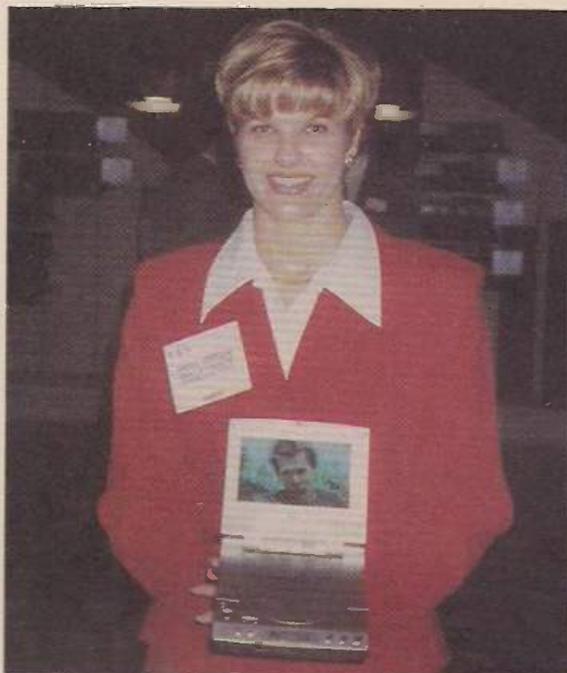
Philips announced a 64in. HDTV rear-projection model that's to be launched this autumn. The Philips Semiconductors TriMedia Product Group has developed hardware and software that enables manufacturers to develop ATSC receivers and set-top boxes quickly: a network interface module incorporates a Philips VSB chip that provides the channel-decoding operations and special function chips for audio and video source decoding.

Setmakers were being a bit coy about prices, but industry observers expect the first HDTV sets to cost around \$8,000-10,000 (£5,000-6,300). CEMA points out that one in four households buys a new set each year – a market of around 25 million sets per year. About 18 million households paid at least \$2,000 (£1,300) for their last TV set. With an average set life of eight years, CEMA believes that many of these 18 million will be ready to replace their analogue TV sets with HDTV ones. CEMA adds that in the past the price of new consumer electronics products has dropped by fifty per cent within ten years. That's a sobering thought!

Flat-screen TV

A number of flat-screen TV sets were on show, and it was interesting to note that most companies have adopted gas-plasma technology. Sharp displayed a set with a prototype 42in. plasma-addressed liquid-crystal (PALC) screen however – it looked great.

The Philips Flat TV is a 42-in plasma model that's just 4.5in. deep. Its features include split-screen displays (there are two tuners), digital picture effects and Dolby Pro-



The Panasonic DVD-L10 portable DVD player.

Logic sound. Philips forecasts that flat-screen TV receiver production in the USA will reach a million units by the year 2000.

Fujitsu showed its 42in. Plasmavision model. The screen provides a contrast ratio of 400:1 and has a life cycle of 30,000 hours, defined as when the brightness falls to fifty per cent of its initial level. Mitsubishi's 46in. DiamondPanel flat TV claims to have an even better contrast ratio of 500:1. This set will be launched in the USA during the second half of the year. Pioneer also had an impressive 50in. plasma set on display. Not all flat-screen TVs are large however: Hitachi showed a rather nice 25in. model.

DVD

The Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) system, which uses CD-sized discs to carry films and music videos, was launched in the USA in the spring of 1997. Since then over 320,000 players have been sold and over 600 DVD titles are now available. Most of the major Hollywood studios support DVD, the main exceptions being Fox and Paramount. The general feeling within the trade is that DVD sales have been good rather than spectacular. During the show the DVD Working Group 4 (WG4) announced that it had produced a draft specification for a DVD audio standard. It includes 96kHz sampling and 24-bit coding: this compares with 44.1kHz and 16 bits for audio CDs.

You could hardly move for second- and third-generation DVD machines. Sony had on show a five-disc CD/DVD-Video changer, Model DVP-C600. Denon's DVD3000 plays DVDs, Video CDs and audio CDs: it has a built-in Dolby Digital decoder and various video outputs including composite video, S-Video and component video. Denon's DVD5000 is a DVD player that conforms to the THX standard, which is claimed to provide better sound and picture quality than basic DVD players. The Pioneer DVD909 plays DVDs, audio CDs and LaserDiscs.

Panasonic presented five new DVD players including a portable model (see below). They all feature Panasonic's Virtual Surround Sound, which aims to provide surround-sound effects using a single pair of speakers. The new models include the DVD-A105, DVD-A110 and DVD-A310 – the latter includes a built-in Dolby Digital



The Marantz DR700 CD recorder.

decoder. All models have outputs for the Digital Theatre Sound (DTS) 5.1-channel audio system (see the Home Cinema section for more on this).

Samsung's DVD905 at \$750 (£490) is a smart-looking player with a steel chassis: outputs include composite video, S-Video and RGB. The Philips Model DVD420 at \$650 (£408) has a universal remote control unit and a handy remote control locator: if you can't find the handset you can press a button on the front of the player and the handset will beep. Sharp's DV550U, the company's first DVD player, is designed for use with audio mini systems – it's less than 30cm wide. The JVC XV-D2000BK has a Dolby Digital decoder and six analogue outputs: it also plays audio and Video CDs.

One of the nicest looking DVD players was Panasonic's portable Model DVD-L10. Weighing less than a bag of sugar, it has a 5.8in. colour LCD screen that can display 4:3 or 16:9 pictures. Other features include built-in speakers and an optical digital audio output. Power is provided by nickel metal hydride batteries that provide a continuous playing time of up to two hours. The DVD-L10 is priced at \$1,300 (£817).

Samsung also showed a dinky portable DVD player, called the P-Theatre. It weighs 0.9kg and can be used with a portable video headset. Alpine showed an in-car entertainment system that includes a DVD player.

There was disappointing news about DVD's European launch. A "big-bang" launch had been expected this spring, but delays in producing discs in sufficient quantities means that the launch will now be in the autumn at the earliest.

Divx

Digital Video Express, which has developed the DVD variant known as Divx, was present at CES '98. Unfortunately the first Divx hardware and software was hidden away in a back room: only selected dealers and manufacturers got a chance to see it. I was able to attend a special DVD conference that included the chairman of Divx however. To recap, Divx is a play-and-dispose DVD system. The idea is that consumers will buy a Divx title for about \$4-5 and play it on a special Divx machine (ordinary DVD players cannot play Divx discs, though Divx ones can read DVD discs). The Divx player is connected to an ordinary domestic TV set and to the telephone socket and has a built-in modem. Divx suggests that the first players

will sell for about \$100 (£63) more than a conventional DVD player.

When Divx is used as a rental system the disc is designed to play for some 48 hours, after which the disc's content becomes scrambled (powerful encryption keys are used). The player contains a clock which starts to count down when the disc is first played (not when purchased). If the user wants to extend the playing time for a further 48 hours an on-screen menu can be used to order the extra viewing time. A computer calls up the player at night, via the phone line, unscrambles the data and collects billing information. These calls are free to the Divx user. There will also be "gold" Divx discs for outright purchase: these provide unlimited viewing time.

Divx is being tested at two so far unnamed US cities. A national launch is planned for this summer. Companies that support Divx include Paramount, Universal, Buena Vista (Disney) and DreamWorks. There will be 100 or so titles at the launch, with 500 planned for the end of the first year. Companies that plan to sell players include Zenith (machines made by LG Electronics), Thomson, JVC and Panasonic.

The industry is divided over the arrival of Divx. Some Hollywood studios like Warner and some hardware companies such as Philips are resolutely opposed to it, arguing that Divx will create confusion. Others wonder whether Divx could stay in business, especially as forthcoming digital satellite and cable TV services will provide a myriad of near-video-on-demand services.

VCRs

Although DVD dominated the show there was plenty of evidence that VHS is still very much alive and kicking. Sony demonstrated a remarkable VCR tape library system called SmartFile. A number of companies have developed tape library systems, including Grundig, Hitachi and Sanyo. But most of these involve considerable user effort. SmartFile is different: it uses an ultra-thin memory chip which is housed within a cassette label (you read that right!). It can store up to twelve programme details.

The date, time, channel number and programme length are automatically stored in the chip whenever a video recording is made. The user can add the programme title by using an on-screen menu and the remote control keypad. Top-of-the-range SmartFile VCRs automatically add the programme title however by using data from a system called TV Guide Plus. Developed by Gemstar, this transmits programme information during the field blanking period, like teletext.

SmartFile VCRs have two sensors, one at the front and one inside. When a SmartFile cassette is placed in front of a sensor, its contents appear on the TV screen. With the cassette inside the machine, the VCR can be programmed to find a specific recording. Other features include a blank-time display which shows how much tape is left for recording, and programme lock which prevents erasure of a specific recording.

The first two SmartFile VCRs are Models SLVM10HF, which is to go on sale in the USA in June at around \$450 (£282), and SLVM20HF which will cost \$500 (£313). Each machine will be supplied with memory chip cassettes. Sony plans to market the labels separately.

Thomson's Models VRK692HS, VR645HF and VR568 include features called Commercial Advance and Movie Advance. The former places electronic markers at the start and end of commercial breaks recorded on a tape so that they can be skipped. Movie Advance looks for the end of promotional material at the beginning of a prerecorded tape, going straight to the start of the film. The VCRs sell in the range \$230-330 (£144-207).



The Sharp digital camcorder Model VLDP1U, which has a novel touch-screen control system.

Hitachi and JVC demonstrated Data VHS (D-VHS) VCRs that can store up to seven hours of MPEG-2 video on a VHS-sized cassette. JVC has two D-VHS machines. Model HM-DSR11DU comes with a dish and built-in decoder for EchoStar's DISH network. Price is \$1,000 (£630). Model HM-DSR11RU comes without a dish and costs £950 (£597).

The Samsung SV4000W is a four-head hi-fi VCR that can play, record and copy in the PAL, NTSC and SECAM modes. Price is around \$2,200 (£1,400). Sharp has developed a remote pager system for finding a misplaced VCR remote control handset: press a button on the VCR's fascia and the handset flashes and beeps.

Satellite TV

US viewers can choose from three major digital satellite systems, DirecTV, Primestar and EchoStar. The largest is DirecTV, which was pushing its system hard at CES '98. It has almost three million subscribers and uses a set-top decoder and 18in. dish to receive up to 175 channels. These range from sport to films and news to home shopping.

The service includes 'season tickets' for specific sports teams and pay-per-view events. Equipment prices start at around \$400 (£240), though there are special offers. Companies that market DirecTV equipment include Thomson, Sony, Toshiba, Panasonic and Hitachi.

Home Cinema

Home Cinema, or Home Theater as it's known in the USA (and that's how they spell it), is big business there. Some 1.2 million home theater-in-a-box systems are expected to be sold this year. Philips showed the DVX8000, a multimedia home theater system that incorporates a PC, a DVD player and a Dolby Digital system. The specification includes a DVD-Video/DVD-ROM drive that can also read CD-ROM and audio CD discs, a Dolby Digital and Dolby Pro-logic decoder, a video line doubler and a 233MHz Pentium PC with 32Mbytes of RAM. Not surprisingly, it has many audio and video input and output sockets – it would take too long to list them all here! Price is \$5,000 (£3,200).

Dolby says that there are now more than 1.2 million Dolby Digital decoders in use worldwide. The format received a boost when it became part of the statutory PAL area DVD specification (titles must now include either MPEG-2 or Dolby Digital sound – the latter was originally optional). Dolby Digital is the audio standard for NTSC area DVD discs, and over 1,110 LaserDisc titles are encoded with the system. In addition Dolby Digital is the standard audio system for the US digital TV system.

But Dolby has rivals, including Digital Theatre Sound (DTS), a 5.1-channel format that's used in many cinemas around the world. Technics, Panasonic and Yamaha displayed AV amplifiers and DVD players that were DTS compatible. The first DVD titles to be encoded with DTS audio are expected to be launched in the USA this summer.

Multimedia

The computer and consumer electronics worlds are converging. So it was no coincidence that Microsoft was prominent at CES '98. Sony and Philips demonstrated WebTV Plus. The system enables TV viewers to explore the internet: it uses a set-top box which plugs into a TV set and a telephone line. WebTV is now owned by Microsoft, and has some 200,000 subscribers in the USA.

WebTV Plus is an enhanced version with a faster modem (56kb/sec instead of 33.6kb/sec), a 1Gbyte hard drive for storing files and data from the internet (including



The Samsung DVD905, a second-generation DVD player.

video clips), and TV crossover links. The latter work when a TV channel produces web pages associated with a programme. By clicking an on-screen icon (the letter I) the viewer can see the programme and web page together on the screen – the TV programme is displayed in a 6 x 5in. window. The Philips WebTV receiver costs \$300 (£189). It includes an infra-red receiver called Web Eye: this enables the box to be hidden away. It can also be used with a keyboard and a printer.

Zenith and Mitsubishi also demonstrated internet set-top boxes while Sanyo showed its internet TV. This is a 16:9-format TV set with a built-in web browser, a modem and an 880 x 480 dots per inch display for showing computer graphics. It can be used to send picture e-mails (e-mail messages with pictures) and can be operated by a remote-control handset or a wireless keyboard.

Camcorders

Camcorder penetration in the UK has been stuck at around ten per cent of households for some time now. In the USA the figure is 29 per cent, and it's interesting that the full-size VHS format is still very much in evidence. RCA's CC4371 at \$700 (£440) includes a 3in. colour viewfinder and 32x zoom.

The JVC Dualcam Model GR-AXM700 is a combined VHS-C camcorder and digital camera with a flash memory that can store up to 44 images, a 3in. LCD screen for viewing images, and software that enables digital images to be downloaded to a PC. It also has a video input socket (a rare sight with UK camcorders) for putting PC images back into the flash memory. JVC plans to launch its Dualcam in the UK later this year.

Sharp's Slimcam Model VLPD1U is a mini DV model that's less than 3in. wide and weighs less than 1kg. It has a novel touch-screen control system with icons for activating features such as play, record, zoom and focusing. If you want to focus on a particular subject you touch the relevant icon then the image, after which the VLPD1U zooms in. Clever stuff – but the LCD will surely get rather grubby!

Electronic Delivery

I first came across a company called EMC3 (Entertainment Made Convenient) about four years ago. It was developing a digital electronic delivery system to transmit time-compressed data via satellite, cable, broadband telephone or microwave systems. Electronic Video, as it's called, can transmit a full-length film to a suitably-equipped VCR in five minutes. The VCR then plays the film back in real time.

At CES '98 EMC3 announced that it is to start the first Electronic Video service next year, in Canada. It will operate via the Telsat satellite, which is due to be launched this autumn. According to EMC3 it has received letters of intent from seventeen manufacturers that plan to build ELD technology into their products. They include JVC, Samsung and Sony.

Long-distance Television

Terrestrial DX and satellite TV reception. News from abroad and the latest on satellite launches and services. John Breeds' latest satellite book reviewed. Roger Bunney reports

January was an even quieter month for TV-DX reception than December. The weather wasn't so quiet however, with strong gales and rain, though there have fortunately been no reports of damage to DX aerial systems.

Apart from a few unidentified ch. E4 signals, the only DX reception here at Romsey has been from Lopik, Holland. The signal is usually present each morning just above the noise level – it's a weak, fluttery tropospheric signal, which I receive using a two-element wide-band Band I aerial at 32 feet above ground level.

Fortunately conditions have been more active for our Australian friends, who have benefited from some solar-related propagation such as transequatorial skip (TE). During the closing weeks of 1997 Wenlock Burton (Victoria) received China ch. C1 (49-75MHz), Malaysia (RTM) ch. E2 (48-25MHz) and Samoa (KVZK) ch. A2 (55-25MHz, system M). The latter signal was seen mid-afternoon, suggesting double-hop Sporadic E propagation: the other two signals were logged after 1900 hours and

were therefore more likely to be TE propagation. Robert Copeman (Victoria) has received similar signals, and comments that the current SpE season in Australia is better than in previous years.

There has been some TE reception in the Mediterranean area, in particular 50MHz signals from amateur radio stations in the southern regions of Africa. So we can hope that the millenium will bring plenty of activity as solar cycle 23 develops. A big maximum sunspot count is predicted for March-May 2000, at the peak of the cycle. It may be the last chance for really long-distance F2 terrestrial TV reception: by the time solar cycle 24 peaks, around 2011, terrestrial TV may well be largely digital and long absent from Band I.

Satellite Reception

The Satellite Festival took place over the weekend of January 16-18th. This year it seemed to be more of an infotainment than in previous years. Apart from line dancing and a fascinating video trip around the Mebo-2 Radio Caroline boat, there were numerous interviews that dealt with satellite topics, the internet and computerised (virtual) studio sets, also an item about digital TV. Hosted as ever by Eric from TESUG, the programme was available Europe-wide via the 12-225GHz horizontal transponder aboard Sirius 2 at 5°E.

Various Arabic downlinks carried the closing ceremonies of Ramadan. The transmission provided by Dubai TV from 13°E was an impressive event, featuring the central sacred area with a backdrop of soaring white minarets against a dark blue and then black sky. While Dubai, ART and MBC car-

ried the event in its entirety, most of the North African countries served by Eutelsat at 16°E (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco) transmitted their usual programming.

The VYVX ATLN downlink is usually carried by Intelsat K at 21.5°W. Interesting to find it carried eastbound via PAS-3R (43°W) at 0700 on January 22nd. Some days earlier this carrier transmitted pictures of what I assume was the VYVX back yard. Apart from the two Brightstar analogue leases and often a GMTV early morning feed, Intelsat K has become relatively quiet – perhaps it has all gone digital. One of the Brightstar transponders carried a Reuters feed with the indication "BMAC tests for USA Superbowl".

The weekend of January 24-25th brought lots of winter sports. Intelsat 803 with BT-UKI-156 featured cars racing on ice and snow; Kopernikus DFS-2 at 28.5°E carried two OB feeds with skiing and ice-hockey; there was skiing in the French Alps via Telecom 2C at 3°E and in Austria/Switzerland via Eutelsat II F4 at 7°E, the latter with sound in syncs.

Those with a tracking dish and a clear view to the south west should check PanAm PAS-5, which is now in orbit just above the UK horizon at 58°W. Ku band signals have been seen in the UK from this source – an Italian feed was seen during the Pope's visit to Cuba. This satellite is really intended to provide American coverage, so it represents a real DX challenge in the UK.

Nicholas Earley (Victoria, Australia) tells us that he now has 1.5 and 95cm dishes, the latter driven by a Pace positioner. The 1.5m dish is being converted to 4GHz (C

Eutelsat II F4 at 7°E and Intelsat 601 at 27.5°W provided, as usual, coverage of the Paris-Dakar race, with live news inserts nightly.



band) operation. For digital signals he has a Nokia 9500S receiver which performs well and "is easy to use once you get the hang of it". The handbook doesn't tell you how to access the red menus, but overall Nicholas is pleased with the receiver which he considers to be good value. It has an Irdeto CAM/card slot but cards are not available.

Roy Carmen in the Isle of Wight has been trying out a friend's Nokia 9500D box. While it gives great pictures and sound he feels that it's a one-satellite home-entertainment unit which is useless as a DX machine. Strong words! His criticisms are that it has no Ku-band search facility, that once a programme 'bouquet' is stored it prevents splitting out the clear, non-encrypted channels, that the clock relates to the received channel only, that storage is limited to about 330 channels, that satellite searching means keying in 1MHz at a time, and that there's no local UHF TV and no analogue loopthrough.

Julian Redwood in Christchurch has also found that digital DXing is more time-consuming than analogue. But John Locker, who has been receiving digital signals for over a year and has spent many hours with Nokia receivers, has found ways of speeding up the tuning and digital parameter changing.

I am investigating a new MPEG model that's claimed to be user-friendly, running at 2-45Mbps with all FEC rates. Until the second generation of digital receivers arrives I think we are stuck with D boxes that have much-modified software.

Broadcast News

Pirate TV: Older readers may recall TV Nordzee from the REM island. There are media rumours that an offshore TV studio is being established aboard a ship outside territorial waters in the Baltic Sea. "Zoom TV" would produce TV programming for distribution via satellite, thus avoiding national legal requirements. Apparently \$3m has been promised by a Monaco-based group. The water-based pirate would not provide any local terrestrial transmissions.

Poland: Nasza Telewizja started to provide a full service in central Poland on January 17th. Test transmissions started on December 31st. In the evening it joins with the TV Odra network in western Poland. **Hungary:** TV2 is now on air. It started within 88 days of being awarded the franchise and offers news, sport and family entertain-

ment. It's the first independently owned and operated national network and uses the transmitters vacated by MTV-2 which has now moved to satellite transmission.

Belgium and the Netherlands: The Belgian BRTN-2 programme is now called KETNET/CANVAS - the 16:9 PM5544 pattern has CANVAS at the top and KETNET lower down. The PM5544 pattern used by TV Noord in Holland has TV NOORD at the top and NOZEMA HOOGEZAND K36 lower down - the ch. E36 transmitter runs at 100kW ERP.

Portugal: Hugh Cocks reports that the state broadcaster RTP has been given EEC cash to experiment with 16:9 transmissions. Local broadcasters RTP/SIC/Ch 4 transmit many Brazilian telenovelas (soaps). Programme timings are still irregular. SIC recently transmitted part of a new telenovela before the previous series had finished, and on another occasion broadcast three hours of soap that consisted of parts of a new series intercut with sections of the old one.

Switzerland: The equipment, frequency allocation and assets of Milan-based SEI-TV have been sold to TV Svizzera, the Italian-language channel of Swiss state TV. SEI-TV, which provided a Milan regional news channel, closed down at the end of last year.

Japan: The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is pushing satellite digital TV and delaying terrestrial digital TV, which might start up in 2000. The reason for this is cost. Apparently each digital satellite costs some \$200m compared with an estimated terrestrial digital start-up cost of \$8bn!

Colombia: Two commercial national networks are now in operation, run by RCN and Caracol. The two public services continue. Full 18-hour, seven days a week operation of the new networks starts in July.

Satellite News

After suffering losses of over £13m during the past two years CMT (County Music Television) has ceased distribution in Europe. CMT was sold to CBS last September. It will continue in the Americas and SE Asia.

More on the loss of AsiaSat-3, which was launched at the Baikonur base, Kazakhstan on Christmas Day. For the first six hours the flight went well. Then the two-minute fourth stage burn lasted just one second, putting the satellite



into an elliptical orbit between 200km and 36,000km. Cause of the failure was burn out of the Energiya Co. gas generator, the third such failure. AsiaSat may purchase a second-hand in-orbit craft pending the launch of AsiaSat-4 in 1999. Unfortunately most of AsiaSat-3's capacity had been booked.

There are problems with the PAS-6 satellite at 43°W because of

An IRIB-SAHAL Iranian TV feed received via the Eutelsat Hot Bird slot at 13°E.

Aerial Techniques

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Sporadic E reception in Sydney, Australia from the Te Aroha ch. 1 (45.25MHz) transmitter in New Zealand. Photo from Todd Emslie, taken off VCR.

reduced output from its solar panels. Sky Latin America had booked all 36 transponders.

SES (Astra) plans to use the Spanish Hispasat craft at 30°W to provide digital TV services to Central America. Hispasat-C is to be launched next year with seventeen transponders to provide digital services across Europe.

Japanese Sky Broadcasting (JSkyB), which was about to start providing DTH services, and PerfecTV, which started DTH broadcasting just over a year ago, are to merge. JSkyB is being incorporated in PerfecTV. More competition came from DirectTV, which started DTH broadcasting on December 1st. It is estimated that one and a half million subscribers per service are required to make a profit. The high cost of setting up services made JSkyB think twice.

In France, a merger between CanalSatellite and Television par Satellite (TPS) is being considered to overcome the problem of high operating costs. AB SAT earlier agreed with CanalSatellite to use a common simulcrypt decoder standard.

INSAT has bought the Arabsat 1C craft which is now at 31.25°E.

Nigeria now has two satellite broadcasters. African Independent Television provides a 24-hour service via Intelsat 601 at 34.5°W. Its studio centre is just outside Lagos.

Minaj-TV, based at Obosi in Eastern Nigeria, has leased 9MHz of C band capacity aboard PAS-3R at 43°W to transmit its digital Minaj Broadcast International service across Africa.

Sony Entertainment TV is to start an Indian-language service intended for cable distribution in Europe: it's being supplied from Molinare's Soho, London HQ. Several UK cable groups have apparently booked the service. It's not known yet which satellite will be used. African-Caribbean Satellite Television is to start as a pan-European service via Eutelsat II F3 at 16°E.

The Swedish TV8 business channel is now available as an analogue service via Sirius 2. The UK 24-hour weather channel, also its Dutch and Italian versions, has closed down.

Intelsat has confirmed contracts for the launch of its first four IX series craft. Orbits are to be as follows: 901 at 60°E; 902 at 62°E; 903 at 24.5°W; 904 at 34.5°W.

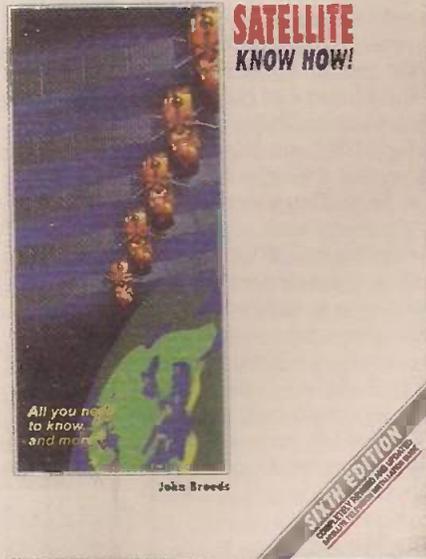
Book Review

Satellite Know How! is the snazzy title that John Breeds has adopted for the sixth edition of his well-known, authoritative and respected Satellite Television Installation Guide. The book is so well established that it's the study basis for trade assessment by the Confederation of Aerial Industries.

The page size and layout are the same as in previous editions, but this one has been expanded to cover the many changes that have been introduced in satellite TV technology in recent times.

The great advantage of this book is the clear, simple writing, with mathematics avoided, and its large, clear illustrations. Theory is presented in simple language, with appropriate drawings to make everything clear. If I can understand it all, the book has succeeded in its educational aim – it is also great bedtime reading for satellite anoraks!

The basic theory is all there, along with the essential practical information. So we have geostationary orbits explained, then information on the signals, dishes and related hardware, cabling, and wall, roof and garden installations. For serious installation work, elevation/azimuth tables are essential. So here are the angles for Land's End, Lerwick, Lisbon or Losinj (Croatia), should you be called upon to install dishes at these locations! It's not a solely how-to-Astra book: you get information on optimising for Astra, Eutelsat, Intelsat, Orion



or PAS reception.

The old material has been expanded as necessary – installing a tracking dish, polarisers, dual-probe LNBS, fixing bolts for wall brackets and actuators and so on. New features include DiSEqC switching, dual/multi LNB single-dish operation, and equipment connection via scart sockets – where and how. There's an extended section on actuator arm alignment – including the H-to-H assembly. Signal distribution js

also included. This explains for example vertical/horizontal switching with four-receiver systems.

Digital TV receives a mention but it's too early yet to go into practical details – a lot still has to be finalised. Once the decisions have been made, John will doubtless be using his trusty Amstrad to hammer out more digits in plain English.

I've recommended earlier editions of this work, and I recommend this one (you can claim it as a business expense!). For both the professional and the enthusiast, it's a worthwhile guide and reference work to keep on the bookshelf.

The book now runs to some 130 A4 pages, with soft covers. The basic price is £22, but postage is an expensive extra nowadays – £3 in the UK, £5 to continental Europe and £10 to the rest of the world, via air.

There have been some special offers associated with the new edition, such as satellite software. See the advertisements placed by Swift Television Publications (17 Pittsfield, Cricklade, Wilts SN6 6AN) in recent issues. For further information you can phone 01793 750 620, fax 01793 752 399, send an e-mail to

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or consult the web site

<http://www.swiftpub.u-net.com>

George Cole describes SES's plans for digital TV from 28.2°E and developments at 19.2°E

A special conference was held by the Société Européenne des Satellites (Astra) during February to explain the company's plans for digital TV and beyond.

Current System

There are at present seven Astra satellites, 1A-1G, co-located at 19.2°E. They can all be received using a fixed dish equipped with a universal LNB. This gives coverage of the analogue low-band frequencies (10.7-11.7GHz) and the digital high-band frequencies (11.7-12.75GHz). Astra 1A-1D have a total of 64 transponders which are used for analogue services: 1E-1G, with 56 transponders, are used for digital services.

Currently 97 analogue TV channels are broadcast via the Astra system, 47 of them aimed at English-speaking viewers. There are many more digital services – 201 TV and 148 radio. The largest digital TV markets in Europe are currently France, Germany and Spain. According to SES, of the 2.07 million digital TV subscribers in Europe at present 1.39 million use Astra for reception.

The number of digital TV subscribers is expected to show considerable growth during the next twelve years:

and 1G. Astra 1D has 18 transponders: 15 use band D (10.7-10.95GHz), with three spare. Astra 1E has 20 transponders, with three spares and the other 17 using band E (11.7-12.1GHz). Astra 1G has 32 transponders, with 16 operating in band G (12.5-12.75GHz) and 15 spare.

The plan is to move the 15 band D services via Astra 1D to 1E, leaving just four transponders for band E use. 1E will have 19 active transponders plus one spare. Astra's band E transmissions are to be moved to 1G, which will have 14 transponders operating in band E, the original 16 operating in band G and two spares. SES says its



Astra Update

SES predicts that digital will exceed analogue subscribers in 2004. By 2010, SES expects the European satellite TV market to have 52 million subscribers with 44 million of them watching digital services.

Astra at 28.2°E

So extra transponder capacity will be required. Later this year SES will launch two new satellites, Astra 2A and 2B, which will be co-located at 28.2°E. They will provide an additional 56 transponders, many of which have already been booked. BSkyB plans to launch the UK's first digital satellite TV service this June. The start will in practice be low-key, with a major push planned for the busy pre-Christmas period.

Astra 2A was due to be launched late last year, but problems with the Russian Proton launch vehicle have delayed matters and a May launch is now expected. This would be too late for the proposed start of BSkyB's digital services, but as a stop-gap solution SES is to move Astra 1D to 28.2°E, using its transponders for digital TV. This won't affect existing Astra services and consumers will not notice the change. This is possible because there are at present 21 spare transponders at 19.2°E.

Three satellites will be involved in the changes, 1D, 1E

customers, the service providers, simply have to reposition their uplink dishes, which takes about five minutes.

It will take around three weeks to move Astra 1D to 28.2°E: it could be done in as little as five days, but this would use up a lot of fuel and increase the risk of satellite collision. By moving 1D slowly, only one and a half month's fuel is used for the round trip. 1D should be in its new position by mid-March, ready to begin test transmissions. BSkyB will use up to 14 transponders aboard 1D.

If Astra 2A's launch is a success, the digital services will be transferred to it from 1D and the latter will return to 19.2°E. Should the 2A launch fail for any reason 1D will remain at 28.2° awaiting the launch of 2B towards the end of the year.

Most of 2A's 28 transponders have been booked, 14 by BSkyB, two each by Flextech and the BBC, one each by Discovery, UKTV and Viacom and a half by Turner Broadcasting, while 2.5 are booked for multiplexes. Deutsche Telekom has booked 16 Astra 2B transponders. Thus 40 of the additional 56 transponders are already assigned.

Developments at 19.2°E

SES will also be introducing changes at 19.2°E. Astra

Top photo. Launch of the Astra 1G satellite from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, via a Russian Proton rocket.



The SES-Astra digital network operations centre at Betzdorf, Luxembourg.

1H is to be placed in orbit here at the end of the year, for use as a back-up and for new two-way services (see below). A more powerful satellite, 1K, has been ordered from Aérospatiale. At the start of its life it will have 52 transponders in operation, reducing to 46 at the end. They are powered by 105W travelling-wave tubes. Astra 1K's expected lifetime is 13 years, though the new xenon-ion propulsion system could extend this for a further three years.

Astra 1K will serve three main purposes. The first is as a replacement for 1B and to provide back-up in bands A, C and D. The second is to extend Astra's coverage into central and eastern Europe as far as Russia. The third is to enhance a system known as the Astra Return Channel System (ARCS)

ARCS

ARCS is to serve businesses – and, eventually, consumers – who wish to send and receive data via satellite transmission. Satellites are good for sending data to large numbers of reception sites, but sending data back is awkward using e-mail, the public switched telephone network or ISDN lines.

ARCS will use Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs) and dishes to send data to Astra 1H or 1K in the Ka band (29.5-30GHz). The return path data rate will vary with the SIT power and dish size. A SIT type I terminal operating at 0.5W with a 60cm dish will provide a bit rate of 150kbits/sec: the more powerful SIT type III with 2W and a 120cm dish will have a bit rate of 2Mbits/sec, which is fast enough for MPEG-1 video. SIT prices will start from about £630.

The data sent from a SIT will be returned from Astra 1H or 1K to a central hub at SES's Betzdorf, Luxembourg headquarters. From there it will be uplinked to an Astra satellite and retransmitted in Ku band at speeds of up to 38Mbits/sec. SES plans to offer ARCS in 1999, but some countries have regulations that forbid the use of unlicensed transmission systems. SES is holding talks with European officials aimed at establishing a common, open standard for systems like ARCS.

ARCS is a step forward in satellite communications, but the need to use two satellites means that there are limitations with real-time interactive services – there's a gap of around one second as the data hops from one satellite to another. For this reason ARCS will probably not be used for telephony services. But SES is investing in a new generation of satellites that will provide on-board processing, thus eliminating the need to use two satellites.

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Answer to Test Case 424

- see page 401 -

While it's true that capstan motors in Hitachi VCRs can give trouble, it is seldom that a motor fault causes a speed up. There was no doubt that the tape was running fast when the fault was present, but this didn't necessarily mean that the capstan was rotating faster than it should do - in fact it was running at the correct speed when the fault was present, as Sage proved with his test.

What he did, while the faulty recording was being played, was to lever the pinch roller away from the capstan shaft a little. With many machines, depending also on the amount of tape on the take-up spool, this will stop the tape motion. But there was sufficient torque to keep the tape moving - at a higher than normal speed of course, and without any servo control. The fact that in this condition the sample tape was being played back at about the correct speed showed very clearly that at the time the recording had been made the pinch roller had not been fully engaged. The tape had been pulled across the deck solely by the take-up spool.

The primary suspect became the mode switch. There was no more trouble once a replacement had been fitted - along with the loading motor that comes with it. When it was dismantled, the old switch was found to have tarnished contacts.

NEXT MONTH IN TELEVISION

Surface-mounted Component Markings

Because of their small size, it's not possible to print the full type numbers on surface-mounted diodes and transistors. So a separate code is used. Many readers have reported difficulty in obtaining details of this code. We have therefore compiled a listing of the code numbers for commonly used devices. This will be provided as a separate, cover-mounted data card with next month's issue.

LG Electronics/GoldStar Fault Guide

Des Bray and Mike Hardy of the LG Electronics Technical Department have compiled for us a list of the more common LG and GoldStar TV/video equipment faults that users of the company's Technical Line ask about.

Digital TV - What Next?

Digital TV could bring about a convergence of the computing, TV and telecommunications worlds to provide us all with new services. Some of these are already available in various regions. J. LeJeune looks at some of the systems and possibilities.

Servicing the Microvitec Series 13 Chassis

The Microvitec Series 13 chassis is used in several VGA/SVGA monitors. Its unusual line output stage can operate at frequencies between 30-50kHz. Russ Phillips looks at the circuitry and provides guidance on fault finding.

TELEVISION INDEX/DIRECTORY AND FAULTS DISCS PLUS REPRINTS SERVICE

INDEX DISC

Version 5 of the computerised index to TELEVISION magazine covers Volumes 38 to 46 (1988 - 1996). It has thousands of references to TV/VCR fault reports and articles, with synopses. A TV/VCR spares guide, an advertisers list and a directory of trade and professional organisations are included. The software is easy to use and very quick. It runs on any IBM or compatible PC with 512K RAM and a hard disc. Price £30 (3.5" HD, alternatively 3.5DD" or 5.25" if required). Those with previous versions can obtain an upgraded version for £15. Please quote the serial number of the original disc.

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Each disc contains the full text for TV, VCR, camcorder, satellite TV and CD fault reports published in individual volumes of TELEVISION, giving you easy access to this vital information. Note that the discs cannot be used on their own, only in conjunction with the Index disc: you load the contents of the Fault Report disc on to your computer's hard disc then access it via the Index disc. Fault Report discs are now available for

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- Volume 39 (November 1988 - October 1989);
- Volume 40 (November 1989 - October 1990);
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Reprints of articles from TELEVISION back to 1986 are also available: ordering information is provided with the index, or can be obtained from the address below. Hard copy indexes of TELEVISION are available for Volumes 38 to 46 at £3.50 each.

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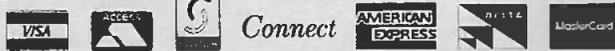
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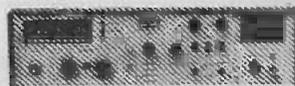
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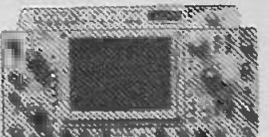


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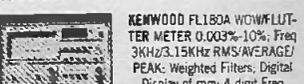
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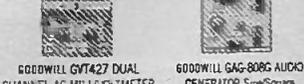
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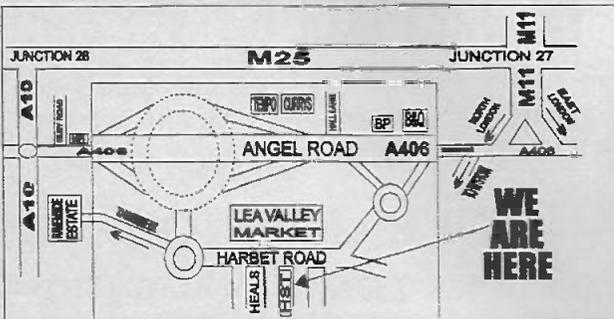
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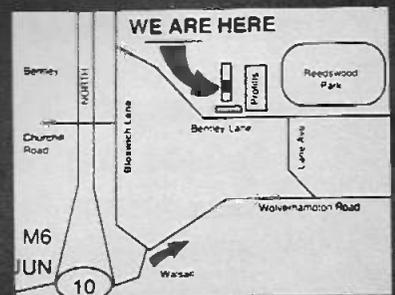
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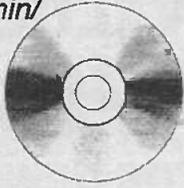
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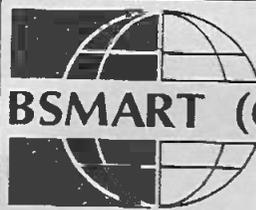
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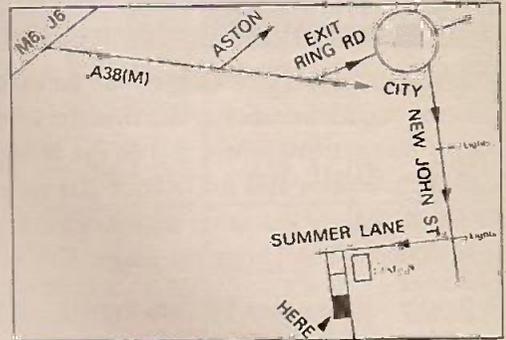


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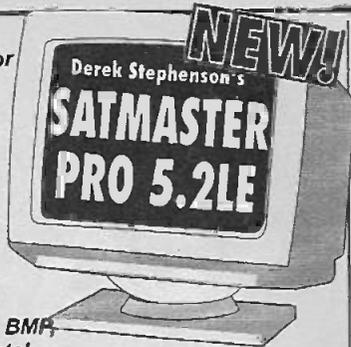
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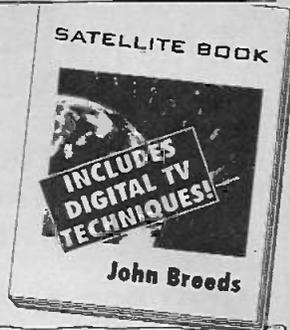
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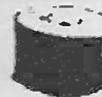
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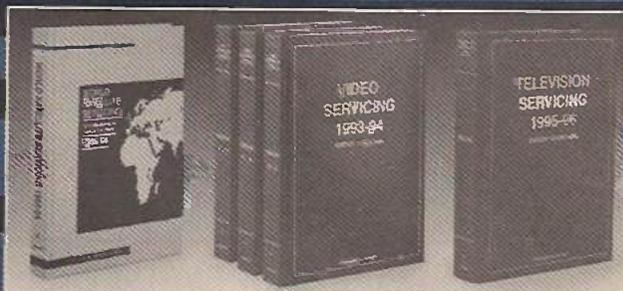
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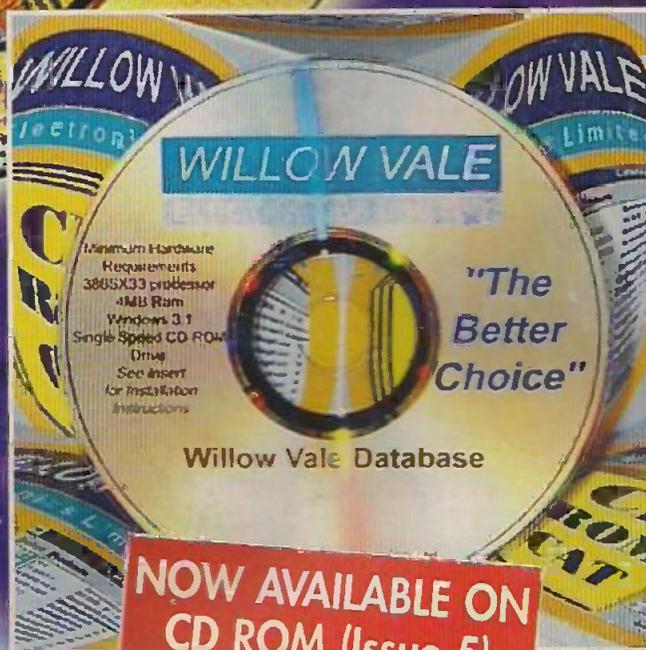
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