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# TELEVISION

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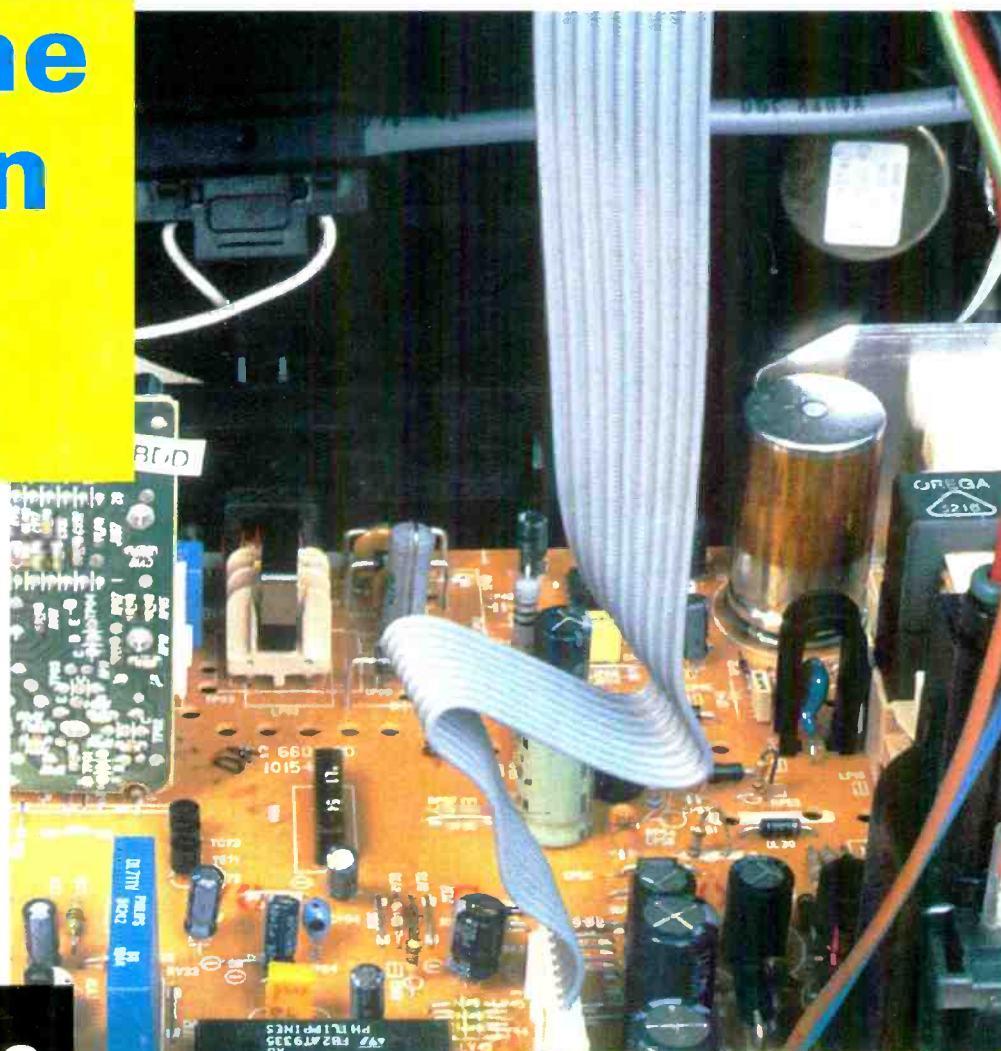
**FREE TV & Video Spares Guide**

**Inside the  
Ferguson  
ICC6  
Chassis**

**JVC GR45  
Fault Notes**

**Improved  
Nicam  
take-off**

**Servicing the  
Microvitec  
02/03 Games  
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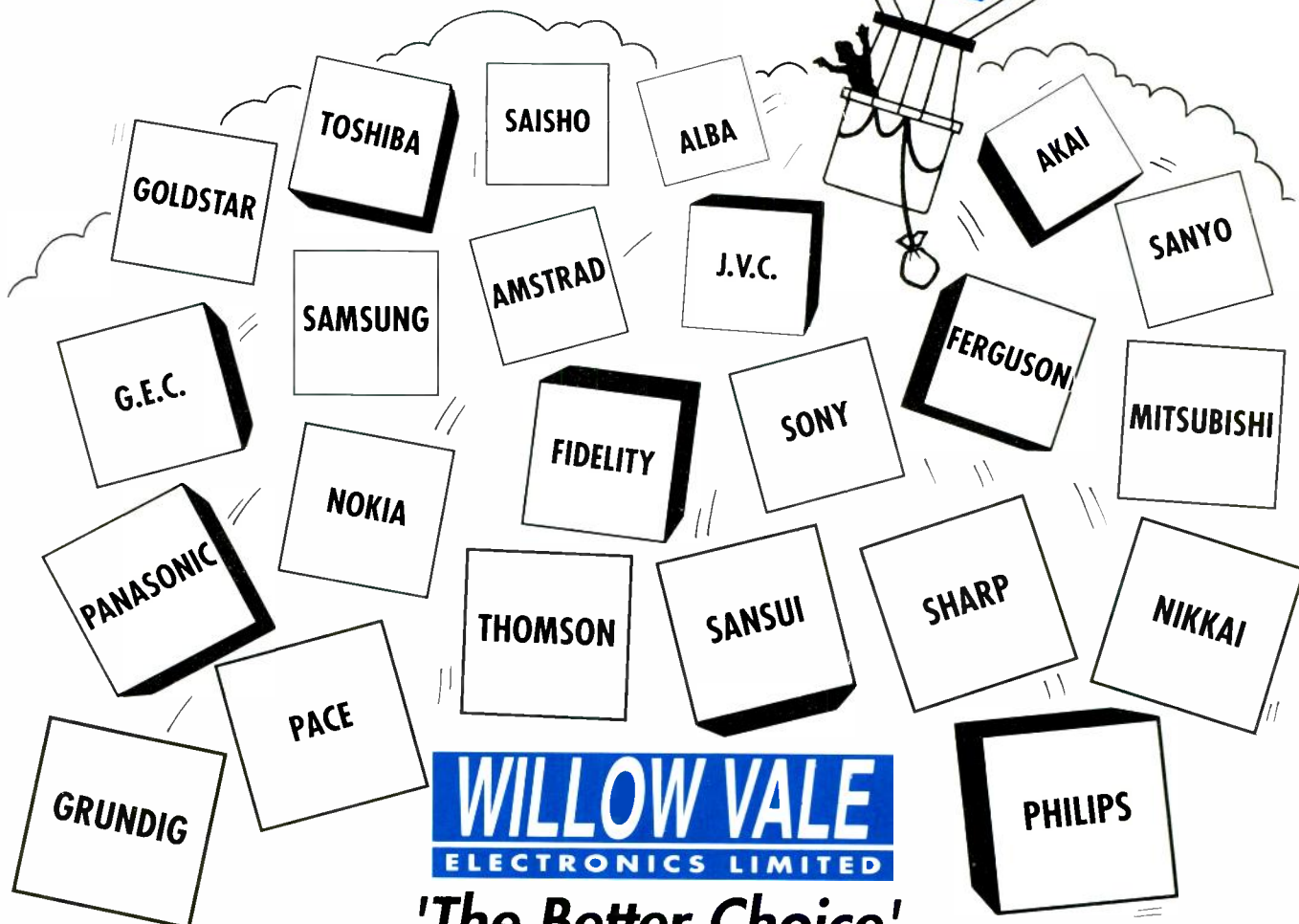
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# TELEVISION

OCTOBER 1994

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September 21st

Vol. 44, No. 12

Issue 528

## 846 Improved Carrier Take-off for Add-on Nicam

*Keith Cummins*

To obtain optimum Nicam reception it may be necessary to build and install a separate sound i.f. strip where the receiver has a combined vision/sound i.f. amplifier/demodulator.

## 850 Fault Notes on the JVC GR45 Camcorder

*Keith T. Keeton*

## 851 CD Player Casebook

## 858 Sat Mod: Uniden 7007 LNB Use *Brian William Ewan*

How to modify the Uniden UST7007 satellite receiver so that it can be used with a Marconi LNB.



## 860 Inside the Ferguson ICC6 Chassis, Part 1 *Mark Paul*

Start of a look at the circuit techniques used in this recent Thomson/Ferguson chassis. In this part the power supply and microcontroller arrangements are described.

## 870 Servicing the Microvitec Games Monitor

*Peter Hubbard*

How to tackle faults with the Microvitec LCCD 02 and LCCD 03 monitors used in arcade games machines – it's the same basic chassis as the Cub monitor.

## 872 The Panasonic Z4 Chassis, Part 2 *Ray Meadows*

This instalment deals with the signals side of the chassis,

in particular the complex TV/AV/RGB switching arrangements. 50/60Hz operation and composite/S-video switching are other aspects covered.

## 882 Review: Video Training Tape

*Eugene Trundle*

Visions Video Productions' training tape on Akai machines is warmly recommended.

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**The November issue will be published on October 19th.**

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Indexes for Vols. 38 to 43 are available at £3.50 each from Video Interface Products Ltd., who can also supply a six-year consolidated index on computer disc. For further details see page 878.

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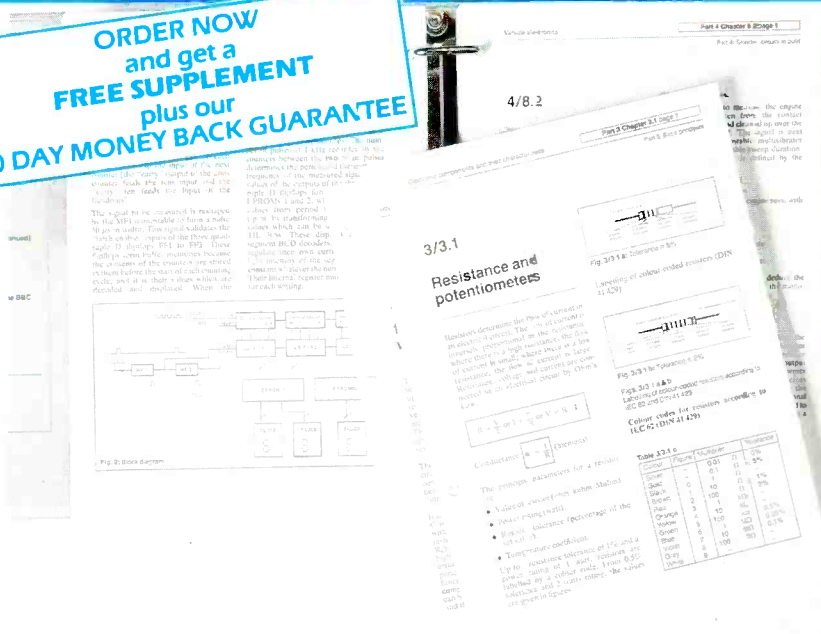






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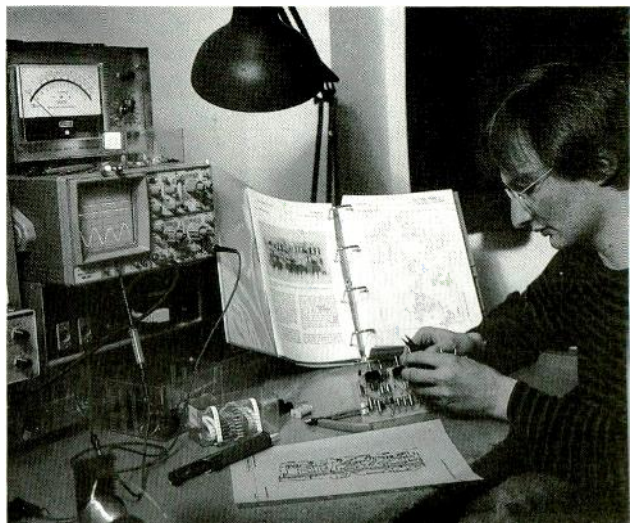
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## Rising Prices?

Could the unthinkable be about to happen? Could we for the first time in recent years find that the prices of consumer electronic products, in particular TV sets, are on the increase? This thought is prompted by reports that there is a worldwide shortage of the type of glass used for c.r.t.s. Even though tube manufacturers are at present working at full capacity, there will be an estimated shortfall of ten million c.r.t.s this year – production is expected to be around 150m tubes, demand 160m.

Only a small number of companies in the world manufacture the high-quality lead glass used for c.r.t.s. They include Philips, Schott (Germany), Videoglass (France) and several Japanese manufacturers including Nippon Electric Glass and Asahi Glass. There are two main reasons for the shortage. First manufacturers have, as a result of the recession, cut investment in the special plant required. Secondly several manufacturers have decided to take advantage of the recession to carry out routine maintenance and refurbishment. About a quarter of the industry's capacity has been closed.

These are not things that can be changed overnight. Demand for c.r.t.s is at present understood to be growing by about 25 per cent a year (think of all those computer monitors for a start). It takes considerable time to install production equipment and bring plant to

full production. The effect of all this could well mean more expensive tubes and thus TV sets/monitors.

Two major investment programmes have been announced recently in this field in the UK. A Japanese-German joint venture is to invest nearly £200m in a tube glass plant at Cardiff Bay. The companies involved are Schott Glaswerke and Nippon Electric Glass. Some 750 jobs will be created and the first customer will be Sony's Bridgend plant. Installation of a fully integrated manufacturing facility for c.r.t. glass will take five years. The Welsh Office is to provide regional selective assistance. Philips has announced that it will invest "£100m before 1997" on increasing the capacity of its UK tube manufacturing plants. Almost three quarters of this will be spent on increasing the capacity of its glass-making plant in Blackburn. According to Wim de Kleuver, chief executive of Philips Components, after extensive reorganisation Philips' UK manufacturing plants are as cost-effective as any in Europe: several are world-class, with performance equal to that of the best Asian producers. That's nice to know, anyway.

There have also been worldwide chip shortages recently, again because of low manufacturing investment during the recession. All these factors taken together could mean higher retail prices. But then those who have made such

suggestions in the past have usually been proved wrong. There come into the equation the economies of scale once production builds up. It seems unlikely however that the long-term decline in the prices of consumer electronics products can continue.

## Right to View

The lawyers could be about to have a field day in connection with TV reception. Judge Richard Havery QC, a High Court official referee, has given residents of London's Docklands leave to take court action against the owners of Canary Wharf on the grounds that the office development interfered with their TV reception over a period of more than two years. A claim for £1.5m damages is to go ahead, though with a stay to give Canary Wharf Ltd. an opportunity to appeal against the decision. The claim, by 680 residents, is for loss of reception between 1989-1992.

The latest ruling supersedes a 1965 court decision that TV interference is not an actionable nuisance. Canary Wharf had put forward as a defence the fact that its 790ft tower was part of a government scheme to encourage redevelopment in the Docklands. This argument was rejected.

The legal profession will doubtless find plenty here to get its teeth into.

---

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### COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photograph shows the Ferguson ICC6 chassis. See article on pages 860-864.

# Teletopics

## **PALplus Transmissions to Start**

Channel 4 is to start transmitting programmes in PALplus form this month (October). It has agreed to broadcast at least 500 hours between October 1994 and the end of 1995. The funds required to cover the costs, estimated at around £1.5m, are being provided by the European Commission and Nokia. Granada also plans to transmit PALplus broadcasts. Nokia is to launch its 28in. Model SFN7296 with PALplus decoder to coincide with the initial Channel 4 broadcasts. The set also incorporates Dolby Pro-Logic Surround sound and will sell at around £1,300.

Channel 4's PALplus broadcasts will be in the south east initially, with nationwide transmissions starting next January. Other European broadcasters that support PALplus include the German Bayem 3 and ZDF networks and the Swiss SRG station. The BBC, which is also a member of the PALplus consortium, has no plans to offer the system to viewers at present.

PALplus uses the 16:9 aspect ratio, with 432 active lines instead of the 576 with a standard 4:3 PAL signal. Thus 4:3 aspect ratio receivers will display the programmes with a black band at the top and bottom of the picture. The PALplus decoder expands the 432-line picture, adding h.f. information transmitted during the 144 'blanked' lines to achieve a picture with a somewhat higher resolution than the standard PAL one. The signal that carries this fine picture detail – in analogue form – is referred to as the 'helper' signal.

While on the subject of transmissions, Sky Sports' live broadcasts of this season's FA Premiership will include Dolby Surround effects. The German network ZDF is also to introduce Dolby Surround with its transmissions, on a wide range of programming.

## **Flat Panels**

Philips is to start sample production of a 10.4in colour flat panel display by the end of the year, with full production some time next year. The panel uses TFD+R (thin-film diode plus reset) technology, which involves fewer mask steps than TFT technology. Panels of up to 20in. should be possible using it.

Pixel International is setting up a plant, in the south of France, to produce its Field Emission Display (FED) flat panels. These use c.r.t. type technology.

Planar Systems, a US/Finnish company, has announced that it will soon have available commercially a solid-state, full-colour flat panel that uses electroluminescent technology. Full-scale manufacture is expected to start next year. Advantages claimed are high contrast and resolution, because colour screening does not have to be incorporated.

## **Video News**

VideoPlus is to launch Control Plus+, a universal remote control handset and VideoPlus unit that also features CallSet. This enables users to set up their handsets via the telephone. The user calls a helpline number and after providing details of the AV equipment involved (brand and model numbers) a coded signal is sent back down the

line. Control Plus+, which is priced at £60, can replace up to four RC units for VCR, TV, cable and satellite equipment. It includes Fasttext and teletext functions.

Matsushita has started to supply the world's first video tape for digital VCRs. The tape is called Diamond Coat Metal (DCM): it has a polyester base that's coated with a magnetic material topped by what is described as "an amorphous diamond-like carbon film". Recording density is 105kbits/inch, enabling a single cassette to record four and a half hours of video.

A group of Japanese firms led by Sony and Matsushita is working on a standard for the next generation of video CDs, to be known as the Digital Video Disc. It will enable two hours of video and sound to be recorded on a 5in. disc. Hardware could be on the market by 1996. No technical details have been released to date.

International agreement has been reached by a number of leading companies on a rather different type of disc, a 3.5in. disc that uses magneto-optical technology. It can be used to store 600Mbytes of sound, video and/or computer data. The technique is at present expensive, with disc drives costing around £520.

## **Satellite TV**

According to research carried out by GfK the number of satellite TV dishes installed in the UK rose by 34,000 in June to 2,666,000. The May and April figures were 20,000 and 47,000 respectively. Growth during the first six months of 1994 totalled 200,000, the lowest figure since GfK started to monitor the market in 1991. The equivalent figure for 1993 was 213,000. GfK's research shows that the market peaked in the second half of 1991, when the net increase in the number of installations was 345,000.

BSkyB's operating profit in the year to June 30th rose by 170 per cent to £170.1m. The figure includes exceptional profits of £20m, mainly the result of the sale of the second Marco Polo satellite. BskyB plans to add four new programme services to its present twelve and is increasing its basic subscription rate by £3 a month. According to BskyB dish sales have been running at 17,000 a week recently.

NTL is to demonstrate a digital TV system that transmits eight channels in the space occupied by a single analogue TV channel at the International Broadcasting Convention.

GEC-Marconi's LNB Division has been sold to Grundig Satellite Communications Ltd. It will be renamed Gooding Microwave Technology. The Division is understood to be the market leader in the UK and to have a third of the European market.

## **New from Toshiba**

New TV and VCR ranges have been announced by Toshiba. The TV sets feature Toshiba's Quadryl system, which uses two pairs of speakers. The two speakers mounted at the top of the set are arranged to propagate the sound in a wide arc so that it reaches viewers' ears a fraction of a second after the sound from the main stereo speakers at each side of the screen. The technique produces more dynamic Nicam sound.

The V3 range of VCRs incorporates a number of new features including the Pro Drum system. This has the head amplifiers mounted within the drum to give improved signal-to-noise performance. The deck has thirty per cent fewer parts and incorporates a self-diagnosis system to

simplify fault finding. There are numerous other features, many aimed at increasing the machines' user friendliness – these include helpful on-screen messages.

### Multimedia News

Philips has launched a new CDi player, Model CDi450. The top-loading, transportable unit is aimed at younger users, with a suggested price of £300. A version equipped with a digital video MPEG decoder will cost around £450.

There should be around one hundred Video CD titles from various companies available by this Christmas. Some from CD Vision will cost less than £10.

Panasonic has confirmed that its recently released REAL FZ1 3DO player is to sell at £400 without an MPEG video cartridge: an add-on MPEG decoder at around £150 should be available by Christmas.

IBM has developed a single-chip MPEG-2 decoder measuring 8.1 x 8.15mm. It consumes 1W and has 208 pins. Current price is around £66 in quantities of 1,000.

Motorola hopes to establish a standard for multimedia set-top boxes with its 68340 microprocessor, which is to be used by most companies that have unveiled plans to enter the market. The company is working closely with Microware, whose DAVID (Digital Audio/Video Interactive Decoder) set-top box operating software has received wide acceptance.

Acorn Computer however has set up a subsidiary, Online Media, which will produce set-top boxes based on Advanced RISC Machines' ARM processor. Online Media is part of a consortium of companies, including Cambridge Cable, that will be testing video-on-demand (VOD) services in the Cambridge area later this year. The system will use MPEG-2 video and an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) system to transmit the digital video.

The US appeals court in Washington has upheld an FCC decision to allow local telephone companies to offer 'video dial tone' services. These are not as sophisticated as VOD, simply enabling programme companies to use the telephone system to deliver video material.

### In Brief

The ERT Brown Goods Show mentioned in this column last month is to be held at Olympia on April 2nd-4th 1995.

TV Licensing has appointed a nationwide team of TV dealer representatives to strengthen its links with dealers. The aim is to improve the reporting of addresses where new or rented TV sets have been installed. By law dealers have to inform TV Licensing about TV sets that are sold or hired.

Philex plc, Philex House, 110-124 The Broadway, West Hendon, London NW9 7BP (081 202 1919, fax 081 202 0015) has issued a substantial new catalogue detailing the company's full ranges of electronic components and electrical accessories. The 48-page catalogue is colour-coded for ease of reference to the 3,000 lines stocked by Philex.

SGS-Thomson Microelectronics has introduced a new range of line output transistors designed for use in high-definition monitors and TV receivers. The THD series is a family of h.f., 1.5kV bipolar devices that use cellular emitter planar technology. The fast turn-off switching characteristics enable the transistors to operate at up to 64kHz. Typical fall times with an inductive load are 280nsec at 32kHz for the THD410HI and 200nsec at 64kHz for the THD412HI.

# Next Month in TELEVISION

## SERVICEMAN'S GUIDE TO SCOPES

Scopes have come a long way since the early cumbersome, heavy designs that used valve technology. The latest models offer features and value for money that would have seemed impossible just a few years ago. Next Month David Botto starts on a practical two-part series that will cover scope setting up and what you can do with such instruments. If you are thinking of buying a new scope, the article will help you to select a state-of-the-art instrument that's right for your servicing needs.

## ADDING A SECOND/THIRD LNB

Satellite reception can be increased by mounting a second and possibly a third LNB in front of a dish to pick up signals from extra satellites. Brian William Ewan provides details of suitable hardware and the fixing and alignment that may be needed.

## TOSHIBA SERVICE BRIEFS

More service know-how on the company's TV/video products, based on information contained in the *Toshiba Technical Bulletin*.

## WORKSHOP SAFETY

You might think that electrical safety in the workshop is a simple matter: use a mains isolating transformer. But what about test equipment and tools, fusing and protection and the dangers presented by earthed objects? Eugene Trundle provides clarification and suggests safe working practices and wiring set-ups.

## TV CHASSIS DESCRIPTIONS

More on the techniques used in the Panasonic Z4 and the Thomson/Ferguson ICC6 chassis.

## CD PLAYER SERVICING

Les Austin on the practical aspects of servicing Philips CD players, many of which come to the service department in disguise.

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# What a Life!

**Donald Bullock**

I should have guessed that we'd be on to a loser when Mrs. Gusher first telephoned us. "Do you give free estimates on video repairs?" she trilled. "I has to arst, 'cos my husband's run away."

"We'll have a look at it and give you a good idea if you can bring it in" I replied.

"Do you think it'll go in my bag?" she asked. I looked down the 'phone, hard. "Sure to" I said.

Later she called in. She was short, squat, made up like a redskin and dressed in coloured silks and chiffons. And she laughed – all the time.

"The tape got itself jammed in" she said. "And with my husband being run away I tried to get it out, but it needs a hexpert. 'Phone me how much, so I can draw it out ready, there's a dear."

Steven's pretty good with modern recorders. I'm not too bad myself – when I can understand their cockpit dashboards. This one was a Mitsubishi HSB31. It looked new to us, but there was a tape jammed in it all right. When Steven opened it up he found a kitchen knife inside. He also found that the mechanism was in a mess. The lace-up arms were mechanically free, and the pinch roller fell about. In this model it operates together with the action of the cam – but not in this particular machine. In addition the tape guides and head were covered with tape oxide and debris, as if a wet tape had been inserted and played.

Steve spent a time dismantling the machine and making a list of the replacement bits required. Then he phoned Mrs. Gusher and told her the news and the price, about £60.

"You must be joking" laughed Mrs. Gusher, "you people are all the same. I told you about my husband running away. I can go to a tenner, no more. If you can't do it for that, put it all back together and I'll take it somewhere else."

So Steven spent another hour putting it back as it was. At nine o'clock next morning she called to collect it, laughing away as though it was all too funny. "I'll let you do it when my husband comes back" she remarked.

## Comparisons

Later we had trouble with our cat and had to run her down to the vet. Steven collected her that afternoon. "How much did he charge" I asked, "fifteen quid?"

"You're not going to like this" Steven replied. "One hundred and one pounds. And that Mrs. Gusher was there with her dog. She parted with £70."

I noticed that Steven was preoccupied that evening. After a while he let me know what was on his mind.

"I wouldn't mind being a vet" he said, "how would I go about training?"

"Dunno" I replied, "but it would be worth finding out."

## Mr. Oddie's Matsui

Our next caller seemed a queer old cuss. He placed a 14in. Matsui set on the counter, smiled at us and began to shape words with his lips. But no sound came out.

I returned his smile and bent my head towards him. But I still couldn't hear. "What's up?" I asked, bending closer.

"Very quiet sound" he bellowed, then laughed until his eyes were wet.

When he had gone I put the set on the bench and tried it. He was right. The sound was so quiet that you had to put your ear to the speaker to hear it.

The nearest circuit we had was for the 1420A. We checked the speaker then connected it across the output transformer's secondary winding, thus bypassing the earphone socket. No difference. As both transformer windings were intact we moved back to the output coupling capacitor C354 (6.4 $\mu$ F, 160V). We took it out and discovered that it was open-circuit. When a replacement had been fitted the set blared away just like its owner, Mr. Oddie.

## A Visit from John Berryman

John Berryman the undertaker was our next visitor. Being fit, fat and red-faced, you'd think he was a farmer. "How's business?" I asked.

"Couldn't be better. As long as they goes on dying we can go on living. Here, come and see what I've got in the van."

I was a bit wary. John uses the van to transport his customers, but I needn't have worried. What he had to show me was a huge Hitachi, Model CPT2138 (G7P Mark 2 chassis). "Dead" he declared.

We brought it into the workshop, then he had to fly. "Gotta pick up a nice old fellah" he said.

The fuses were intact but the 3.9 $\Omega$ , 7W surge limiter resistor R901 was open-circuit. After replacing it and checking the bridge rectifier D901 I started the set up gingerly with the variac. It drew a lot of current. So I wound it down and checked the BUT11AF chopper transistor Q901 and the 2SD1884 line output transistor Q702. Both were leaky. Pleased with my sagacity, I replaced them and tried again. The set still drew a heavy current. So I looked further and soon noticed that C919 (4.7nF, 1kV) in the snubber network across the chopper transistor had a black line around its edge. It was a soot sandwich. I fitted another one, checked the rest of the power supply and, as I found nothing else amiss, I tried again with the variac. This time the set sprang to life.

I'm cleverer than old John I thought to myself. Then I reflected on it. I'm certainly not richer. After a further minute's thought I amended my conclusion. I'm not clever at all, I decided.

## An Hitachi VCR

Miss Lushbod clopped in with her Hitachi recorder and smiled. I stood entranced. "It goes well for a while, then seems to get exhausted" she said. I nodded understandingly. Then she went, leaving the VCR, and I was back in the hard grey world. Greeneyes brought in the tea at this point.

"What a horrible looking girl!" she said.

"I know", I replied.

The VCR was an Hitachi VT64E and sure enough its capstan slowed down and stopped after about half an hour. My fault indexes referred me to Graham Richard's note in the May 1993 issue of *Television* – page 511. This suggested replacing the CH4R7-20V VDR in the capstan servo circuit. The only trouble was that Graham didn't give the circuit reference number. I looked and looked, and eventually found it. It's a brick-coloured disc about the size of a penny, roughly in the middle of the board, with a thick black plastic sleeve slipped over it.

As we didn't have a replacement we tried, as suggested, a 4.7 $\Omega$  resistor as a temporary measure. The machine then

– continued on page 878



# Improved Carrier Take-off for Add-on Nicam

Keith Cummins

Towards the end of February 1993 Rowridge started to transmit Nicam with the BBC channels. I had been obtaining satisfactory results with ITV and Channel 4, but found that the BBC channels suffered from pops and crackles, especially on captions. I use the Maplin Nicam decoder as an add-on unit with my Sony TV receiver, as described in an article in the April 1991 issue of *Television*.

## Analysing the Problem

My problem with BBC reception led me to dig out Steve Cannon's article (Problems with Nicam) in the October 1992 issue. The similarity between setting up Panasonic Nicam receivers, described by Steve, and my Maplin decoder was immediately apparent. Test points 6 and 7 in the Maplin unit correspond with pins 19 and 20 of IC2501 in the Panasonic chassis. But unfortunately Maplin doesn't mention these test points! Anyway, using Steve's article as a guide I connected my scope, in the X-Y mode, to test points 6 and 7. This produced the four-phase signal shown in Fig. 1. The alignment was not far out. I adjusted VC1 (carrier crystal frequency) to square up the pattern, then T1 and T2 to obtain the cleanest display.

As I monitored the signal however I noticed that the display became noisier when certain pictures were being transmitted. This was accompanied by the pops and crackles. So something else needed doing.

In the arrangement I described in the April 1991 issue a simple emitter-follower stage is used as a buffer between

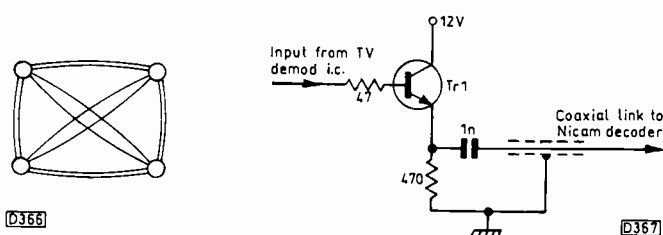


Fig. 1 (left): Correctly squared-up X-Y display. Adjustment of the carrier crystal frequency trimmer rotates the pattern about its axis.

Fig. 2 (right): The Nicam take-off circuit originally used.

the TV set and the add-on Nicam decoder, see Fig. 2. As my Sony receiver doesn't have separate sound and vision i.f. sections, the signal at this point contains everything that's being transmitted – the luminance and chrominance signals, sync pulses, teletext, f.m. mono sound and Nicam.

Careful observation of the Nicam carrier showed that on BBC-1 it was received at a lower level than on the other channels. While the intermodulation effects of the

video signal on the Nicam one were present on all channels, the lower level of the BBC-1 carrier meant that this channel was more susceptible to interference than the others. With certain pictures, containing heavy print or graphics, there was sufficient interference to corrupt the data. Under these conditions Nicam would either drop out or be crackly. Certain other shots, such as crowd scenes, with a large amount of video energy at intermediate bandwidth, could produce rough-sounding or 'gravelly' audio – this is a typical effect when data corruption occurs with a digital audio signal.

My first attempt at sorting out the problem involved moving the aerial. Half a day spent "messing about", as my other half put it, certainly made an improvement. But certain pictures still caused problems. The worst was with the zebra stripes at the introduction to *Wildlife on One*: this always produced a barrage of crackles, even when there had been no problems for days.

Although I'd never read anything that explained why Nicam receivers have separate vision and sound i.f. strips, I felt I now knew: the Nicam signal, 19dB down with respect to the vision carrier, is vulnerable to vision harmonics and intermodulation. In addition there's no guarantee that the SAW filter in a receiver not designed for Nicam reception will allow much of the Nicam carrier through, so the signal-to-noise problems with the Nicam carrier become greater.

## The Solution

I now realised that the receiver would have to be modified somehow to provide separate vision and sound i.f. routes. Could this be done easily? It seemed to be rather a daunting idea at first, but I sat down to study the Philips data on i.f. amplifier/demodulator chips and also looked at the Maplin tuner design that's intended to go with the Maplin Nicam decoder I use.

I came to the conclusion that I would have to change the Sony receiver's SAW filter to one that splits the vision and sound signals immediately after the tuner. The sound would have to be diverted to a separate i.f. amplifier/demodulator dedicated to recovering the 6MHz f.m. sound carrier and the 6.552MHz Nicam carrier. Fortunately the Sony Model KVX2521U (AE-1 chassis) has a signals panel (board A) that's not fully used and also has tracks that allow different SAW filters to be fitted.

My first move was to fit an SW166 SAW filter and check that the vision side still worked. Having proved this point I built a separate demodulator circuit on a 2 x 2in. piece of strip board – the circuit is shown in Fig. 3. The 6MHz feed to the receiver's f.m. sound section was then disconnected from its original source, the input being taken from the new circuit instead. The extra board was mounted on the screening plate that covers the track side of board A.

After checking through everything thoroughly I

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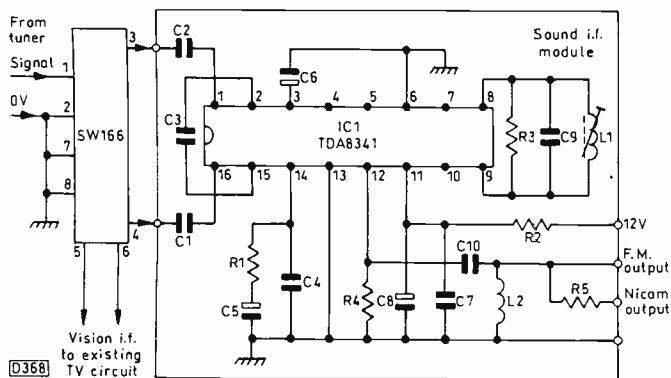


Fig. 3: The dual-output SAW filter and added sound i.f. module.

plucked up courage and switched on. To my amazement everything worked immediately! Even L1 proved to be almost exactly on tune: adjustment produced only a slight signal improvement. A check on the Nicam eye pattern showed that although some jitter was still present it was constant and no longer varied with picture content. I set up the a.f.c. carefully, and apart from reassembly the job was complete.

### Details

Now for a bit more detail. Fig. 4 shows the overall responses of the two sections of the SAW filter. You will see that in both cases there is a response at the vision carrier frequency. This is to be expected with the vision signal: with the sound an intercarrier beat is required for both the f.m. and Nicam signals, so a restricted bandwidth vision signal is allowed through. Because the vision bandwidth is limited, harmonics are prevented from interfering with the Nicam signal and there is no intermodulation (note that the good old f.m. mono signal is far more tolerant in this respect, which is why separate sound take-off before the i.f. amplifier is not needed when there is no Nicam circuitry).

The main item in the added sound i.f. module (Fig. 3) is a TDA8341 chip. The connections to pins 4, 5, 7 and 10 are not used: they are associated with a.f.c. and tuner a.g.c., which are provided by the vision i.f. amplifier/demodulator chip. The TDA8341 chip has its own internal a.g.c., which is useful since it tends to 'iron-out' differential signal changes between the sound and vision. C4 is the a.g.c. reservoir capacitor, R1 with C5 forming an anti-hunt damping network. The unused tuner a.g.c. control input still needs to be decoupled: this is done by C6. The SAW filter's differential output is applied to pins 1 and 16.

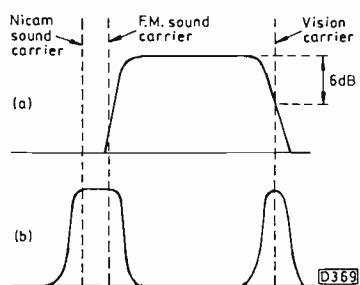


Fig. 4: Vision (a) and sound (b) responses of the SW166 SAW filter.

At the other end of the chip the reference amplifier's resonant circuit L1, C9, R3 (needed for the synchronous demodulation process) is connected to pins 8 and 9. A 12V supply, decoupled by C7 and filtered by R2, C8, is fed to pin 11. Pin 13 is the chassis connection. C7 should be mounted close to the chip. The output is taken from pin 12, being developed across R4.

C10 and L2 form a high-pass filter that removes unwanted l.f. components of the vision signal – these are present as a result of the SAW filter's narrow-band vision response, mentioned earlier. Outputs are taken to the f.m. and Nicam sound circuits. R5 is a buffer resistor: no attempt is made to match the coaxial cable link to the Nicam decoder – provided it's not much more than a foot long it can be regarded as a low-capacitance screened lead.

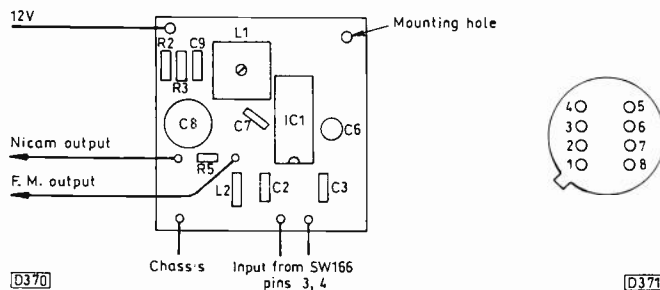


Fig. 5 (left): Basic layout on strip board. For clarity, not all components are shown. The board is 2in. square with the strips running left to right.

Fig. 6 (right): Connections to the SW166 SAW filter, viewed from beneath. Pin 1 signal input from the tuner, pin 2 earth connection to the tuner, pins 3 and 4 sound i.f. output, pins 5 and 6 vision i.f. output, pin 7 not used, pin 8 input earth return.

A basic layout, without all the detail, is shown in Fig. 5 for guidance. Fig. 6 shows the connections to the SW166 SAW filter. C3, which is used for internal decoupling at the input to the TDA8341, can be mounted on the track side of the board, directly across pins 2 and 15 of the chip.

### Setting Up

The improved performance obtained by using a separate sound i.f. circuit makes Nicam decoder setting up less critical. I still consider that Maplin's setting-up instructions are too sparse however. You need a scope and knowledge of what you're doing to set up a Nicam decoder correctly. The Maplin decoder's designers must have considered that TP6 and TP7 are necessary, even though the instructions don't mention them. Since I left the TV trade sixteen years ago, I doubt whether I could have solved my DIY Nicam problems without having learnt from *Television*. What about those Maplin customers who don't read *Television*? Maplin briefly mentions the use of "more sophisticated test equipment", but gives no indication of what this would be or how to use it.

Here are my recommendations for setting up the Maplin decoder, using a double-beam scope:

(1) Monitor the signal at TP1. Adjust T1 and T2 for the best eye pattern, i.e. least noise, with the crossover points at the centre of the eye pattern completely level.

(2) Monitor TP6 and TP7, using the scope in the X-Y





# Fault Notes on the JVC GR45 Camcorder

Keith T. Keeton

The following is a summary of faults we've encountered with this camcorder.

## Camera Section

**E-E display consists of a black screen:** The iris was closed because of a faulty motor. Remedy was to replace the lens.

**E-E picture dark with no colour, playback o.k.:** There was loss of signal at C45 (video 1 board) due to a break in the track between the CCD and C45. A link was fitted.

**E-E picture has green haze, with loss of colour, playback o.k.:** This fault can be intermittent. The cause is a faulty THE175A hybrid i.c. (IC9) on the video 1 board.

**E-E picture has coloured vertical lines:** Connector CN304 loose (video 1/encoder boards). Fault may be intermittent.

**E-E picture has coloured vertical lines, playback o.k.:** Pins 13 and 14 of the CCD were not soldered together (video 1 board). Could have been because the CCD had been replaced without reference to its type.

**E-E display white, playback o.k.:** The MC8089A chip IC3 on the video 1 board was faulty.

**E-E display has coloured lines, playback o.k.:** This has been caused by several things, all on the video 1 board. A faulty horizontal driver can provide incorrect pulses to the CCD. L1 being open-circuit will affect these pulses. On one occasion the wire between pin 5 of CN102 and L1 was open-circuit.

**Ghost on E-E picture, playback o.k.:** IC301 on the encoder board was faulty.

**No auto-focus:** CP302 (ICPF10) on the encoder board was high resistance. Replacing CP302 cured the fault.

**No LP record colour. SP recordings o.k. and playback of prerecorded tapes in the SP and LP modes o.k.:** Track was open-circuit between LPF2 and R119 on the Y/C board. A link cured the fault.

**No E-E picture, playback o.k.:** The VC2041 chip IC402 on the indicator board was faulty (the fader was in operation). On another occasion the cam ext line was earthed because of a faulty jack (Y/C board).

**No EVF record indication (line only):** Q407 on the main board was faulty – V rec line didn't go low enough.

**No E-E sound, playback o.k.:** IC201 on the main board was faulty.

**No colour recording, E-E and playback o.k.:** The

THE045A chip IC4 on the Y/C board was faulty (signal input present at pin 12, no output at pin 26).

## Camera/VTR Faults

**No playback/record. E-E o.k., fast forward and rewind o.k.:** The BU3721K chip IC101 on the main board was faulty (no PG pulse output at pin 38).

**Sound recording intermittent, E-E o.k.:** Bias at pin 4 of CN12 on the main board low because R332 was dry-jointed.

**Failure to record sound or erase old sound, E-E o.k.:** Q306 (2SA1036K) on the main board open-circuit base-to-collector.

**SP or LP recording but not both, E-E o.k.:** IC103 on the main board faulty.

**SP or LP recording but not both without powering down, E-E o.k.:** R183 on the main board was open-circuit.

**Records black screen, E-E and playback o.k.:** IC2 (AN3212S) on the Y/C board faulty.

**Records snowy picture:** IC1 (BA7600K) on the Y/C board faulty (no f.m. at pin 29).

**Records snowy picture, E-E o.k.:** IC401 (HD6305Z0FCV05, HD63705Z0FCV05 or HD6305Z0FCV06) on the main board faulty (pin 67 not going high).

**Warbling recorded sound, E-E and playback o.k.:** IC101 (BU3721K) on the main board faulty.

**Records in monochrome, E-E and playback o.k.:** Vectorscope check shows that the burst phase of the camera output is incorrect. Adjust R307 (encoder board).

## Mechanism Faults

**Capstan error message, may be intermittent:** Central pulley teeth not always catching on the take-up reel. Replace the central pulley.

**Capstan motor runs fast in playback:** Faulty capstan motor.

## VTR Faults

**Keyboard does not appear to operate:** Camera/ext line earthed because of faulty jack. Replace jack board.

**Keyboard operation faulty – eject produces record:** R410 on the main board open-circuit (pin 2 of connector 1 at 1.7V instead of 5V).

**Low playback luminance, E-E o.k.:** R31 on the Y/C board open-circuit or not earthed (very high signal level at TP15).

**No playback/record, E-E and FF/rewind o.k.:** RA102 on the main board open-circuit (no PG pulses to main micro chip).

**No playback/record/FF/rewind:** IC101 (BU3721K) on the main board faulty (capstan not rotating).

**No power to camcorder. Emergency shut down in operation (no 8V line):** We've had several causes of this. IC2 on the main board faulty; Q4 on the main board faulty (not dropping to 4.5V); Q1 (2SB1009) on the main board faulty.

**No power to camcorder:** IC402 faulty (no reset at pin 3 of IC401). Alternatively the operation board faulty (no power-on signal to pin 8 of IC401).

**Monochrome playback, E-E o.k.:** C202 on the Y/C board leaky (X1 running at incorrect frequency). Replace C202 and reset oscillator to 4.43361MHz.

**Monochrome playback, record and E-E o.k.:** BPF2 (part no. PU59478) on the Y/C board faulty (not passing signal to pin 23 of IC4).

**Playback picture rolls:** Was cured in one case by adjusting R103 for maximum f.m. signal (f.m. envelope slightly down, f.m. tracking out). In another case IC101 (BU3721K) was faulty (not locking up). These items are on the main board.

**Playback picture rolls, won't track:** R108 on the main board misadjusted (head switching incorrect).

**Snowy playback picture with no audio:** Faulty oscillator connection at CN10 on the main board.

.....  
**Reports from Mike Leach, Ian Bowden and Nick Beer**

# CD Player Casebook

## Kenwood RXD27L

This midi system wouldn't read discs. When a disc was inserted a click could be heard and the turntable failed to rotate. There was a decided air of bodge about the machine – someone had been here before! The cover screws were missing, and the CD printed panel was loose. The laser came on and lit up, and the tracking coil came on hard – that was the clicking sound.

The cause of the trouble turned out to be obvious, though a service manual was required to put matters right. Someone had clearly replaced the focus driver transistor Q5 as there was an RCA type transistor in this position. The service manual told me that a 2SD1266, which is an npn device, is the correct type. The one fitted was a pnp transistor. When a 2SD1266 had been fitted the machine worked perfectly. And it hadn't, for a change, been tweaked! **M.L.**

## Pioneer XDZ54T

The CD section was absolutely dead: there were no results at all. As Q101 in the sub power supply was faulty there was no negative output. Replacing this transistor restored the –32V supply, and I thought that this would cure the problems. It didn't: the CD player section was still dead. When I made some meter checks on the main CD panel just about everything seemed to measure –32V, so it seemed likely that an earth connection was adrift somewhere.

After spending some time getting nowhere I realised that the connecting lead between the power supply and the CD panel had been reversed at the CD end (CN1). As a result the earth connection was made at pin 5 instead of pin 2, while the –32V line was connected to pin 3 instead of pin 4. When the lead had been connected properly the CD section started to work . . . sort of.

Only tray one would open, and all the segments of the display were lit very brightly. But the machine did now

play. A new microcontroller chip was required to fix the display fault, also a new connector and ribbon cable between the display board and the main CD board. Apart from that, everything seemed to be o.k.! **M.L.**

## Technics SLP520

The complaint with this machine was that all the fluorescent display figures and symbols lit up: the correct ones were at full brightness, the others at half brightness. Apart from this the machine worked all right. I soon found that the –32V supply to the display driver/system control microcomputer chip had risen to –38V. Checks revealed that the small pnp regulator transistor Q13 was short-circuit collector-to-emitter and that zener diode D14, which ties the display filament supply to the –32V line, was also short-circuit. **I.B.**

## Technics SLP110

The report said that the machine wouldn't play discs. When a disc was inserted the unit would focus correctly and start to spin the disc. The r.f. level seemed to be o.k., but the disc speed varied and the traverse unit moved in and out rapidly, until it moved so far that the optical unit was off the edge of the disc.

As focus was achieved and the CLV servo appeared to be trying to work we tried turning the tracking servo gain right down. The traverse unit then stayed in one place. There seemed to be instability in the tracking/traverse servo, but we then found that the tracking coils on the objective lens assembly were open-circuit. So a new optical unit was required. **I.B.**

## Technics SLXP700

The complaint about this incredibly slim portable player was that it would intermittently fail to read or play a disc. If left running it would remain o.k. The cause of the problem was the spindle motor, which was tight. Unfortunately replacements are available only as a complete assembly with the optical unit etc., i.e. the traverse deck. **N.B.**

# Long-distance Television

**Roger Bunney**

Conditions in the UK during July were hot and at times humid, though rain cooled us towards the end of the month as a low-pressure system approached from the Atlantic. While June produced excellent Sporadic E (SpE) reception, there was a tail-off during July with more mundane signals. The hot weather produced enhanced tropospheric reception however, with numerous DXers reporting intense Band III/u.h.f. signals.

A good lift occurred on July 9-11th, when signals from Germany, France, Denmark and the Benelux countries were received across much of the UK: Band I, III and u.h.f. reception from Spain was frequent in the west country. There was a smaller lift on the 19/20th, with much the same reception. The biggest lift occurred on the 22-25th, when signals from the Netherlands received by Cyril Willis at King's Lynn were so strong that tropospheric overloading occurred. There was good reception from Germany, Denmark, France and the Benelux countries, while Roger Fussell reported good reception in Cornwall from the Iberian peninsula.

The SpE log for the month is as follows:

7/7/94	RAI (Italy) chs. IA, B; TVE (Spain) ch. E2; CIS ch. R1; SLO (Slovakia) ch. R1.
8/7/94	DR (Denmark) E3; TVE E2, 3.
9/7/94	TVE E4.
11/7/94	TVE E2, 3, 4.
13/7/94	TVE E4
14/7/94	SVT (Sweden) E2; RAI IA; TVE E3.
15/7/94	TVE E3.
16/7/94	RAI IA; TVA (Italy) IA; TVE E2, 3; JUG (Yugoslavia) E3, 4.

17/7/94	RAI IA, B; TVA IA; C+ (France) L2, 3; JUG E3; TVE E2, 3, 4; +PTT (Switzerland) E2.
18/7/94	SLO R2; CZ (Czech Rep.) R1; SVT E2, 3, 4; TVP (Poland) R2; JUG E3; NRK (Norway) E2, 4; DR E3; CIS R2; RAI IA; C+ L2; TVE E2, 3, 4; SVT E2, 3, 4.
19/7/94	SVT E2, 3, 4; RUV (Iceland) E3, 4; NRK E2, 3; DR E3, 4; C+ L2; ORF (Austria) E2a; ARD (Germany) E2, 3, 4; JUG E3; TVP R2; SLO R2; YLE (Finland) E3; RAI IA; CIS R2.
20/7/94	TVE E3; RAI IA.
21/7/94	NRK E2; TVE E3.
22/7/94	CIS R2; RAI IA; SLO R1; SVT E4.
23/7/94	TVE E3.
26/7/94	TVE E2, 3, 4.
28/7/94	TVE E2, 3, 4; RAI IA; JUG E3.
29/7/94	SVT E2, 3; CIS R1, 2.
31/7/94	RAI IA; TVE E3; JUG E3; +PTT E2; ARD E2; SVT E2, 3.

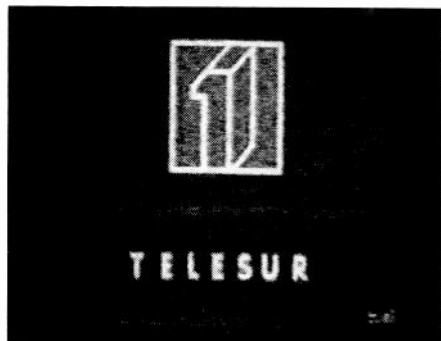
Our thanks to David Oliver (Birmingham), Cyril Willis (King's Lynn), Roger Fussell (Torpoint), David Glenday (Argyle) and Tim Anderson (St. Leonards) for sending in reports on conditions and reception.

Last month I reported reception from N. America during June. Reception of US amateurs in the 50MHz band was also logged (*Six News*, July 1994) on June 9th (2100-2230 GMT) and the 15th (2200-2330 GMT). It's interesting that nearly all long/double-hop SpE reception from N. America occurs in the late evening, from 2100 onwards. This is obviously the best time to look for long-haul DX-TV.

*Six News* also reports that the 50-54MHz band has been allocated for various types of amateur radio operation in Estonia, at up to 400W PEP SSB maximum. The 50-52MHz band has been allocated for amateur radio operation in Latvia, at up to 50W maximum, except near the Kuldiga region ch. R1 TV transmitter. A Bermudan amateur has been heard in the UK operating in the 50MHz band at only 10W!

## Satellite Sightings

Throughout July and into August the Newsforce digital SNG unit at Goma sent back pictures of the distress and suffering along the Rwandan border, both as one-way reports back to a network centre and as two-way reports. Newsforce uplinks in Band C (4GHz), using digital compression.



Left: The Spanish Telesur caption, received by Tim Anderson in St. Leonards. Centre: Romania ch. R2 received by Ryn Muntjewerff in the Netherlands via SpE propagation. Right: Another example of SpE reception by Ryn Muntjewerff, this time JTV (Jordan) ch. E3.

In a typical two-way interview between a reporter and a studio interviewer at NBC, New York the uplink from Goma arrives in Europe as a Band C signal, is distributed in Europe via (usually) Eutelsat II F4 at 7°E and is sent across the Atlantic in Band C: reverse audio is via an Immarsat phone circuit, no reverse video being used. NBC News is usually available via Sky News at 2330 hours. Feedback to Europe is via Intelsat K, uplinked from the USA in Band C, with cross-strapping in the Ku band for the Sky downlink. A further uplink via BT's London Teleport puts the NBC feed from Goma on to Astra, with European downlinking in the Ku band. At least four hops are involved, with little noticeable loss of quality.

A favoured way of receiving Newsforce is from the EBU leased 11.074GHz (V) transponder: as sound-in-synchs is used a sync restorer is required to obtain stable pictures. Use of digital compression produces interesting video effects: as a result of a fault the Goma link was lost; on its return the picture appeared in small blocks that rapidly merged into a normal shot.

Riots in the Gaza strip on July 17th received extensive coverage, with live circuits via Eutelsat II F3 at 16°E. Jerusalem Capital Studio feeding OB inserts to German TV. Studio Tel Aviv also appeared at 16°E.

The appearance of the caption "Reserved for United Artists Programming" via Intelsat 601 (11.055GHz horizontal) is something of a mystery: the long-awaited SciFi channel maybe?

The Czech Cable Plus feed has returned to Gorizont 26 (11°W) at 11.525GHz after its brief stay at 40°E.

Intelsat 702 has been seen on test at 37.5W, with data though no strong carriers or captions. After the tests the craft will move to 1°W.

BBC World Arabic Television continues to be fed to the Orbit facility in Rome: check at 11.658GHz (H) during the day and evenings for programme offerings.

Intelsat K continues to send N. American sports feeds to Europe from 21.5°W. Check at 11.499GHz (H) and 11.532GHz (V): the signals are usually 525/NTSC.

A difficult satellite for me is PAS-1 (PanAmSat) at 45°W. The NHK-leased transponder can often be seen carrying west-bound news feeds. Have a look at 11.675GHz horizontal.

## News Items

**Gibraltar:** GBC has been allocated an additional channel, in Band III, for a GBC-2 service. No details yet of the actual channel number and the opening date, which is likely to be far ahead.

**UK:** Bad news for UK TV-DXers. The South Yorkshire Supertram Light Transit System is to use Philips' Band III equipment for communication between the 25 trams and HQ. Seven Band III channels will be used, with three base-station sites. Communications operator Trunked Radio Networks has been allocated nearly 200 extra Band III channels (sub-bands 1, 2): new regional networks are to operate in London/Medway/Brighton, Bristol/Cardiff, Thames Valley/M3 corridor, Bedfordshire/Wisbech, Exeter/Plymouth, Southampton/South Wilts, Birmingham central/south, Yorkshire/Humberside, Norwich/Norfolk, Borders/Edinburgh/Glasgow, Nottingham/Derby/Leics, Aberdeen and M5 via Gloucester/Cheltenham/Worcester.

**Poland:** Canal Plus with CKT is to transmit films, sports

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programmes and documentaries for 21 hours a day from terrestrial transmitters in thirteen major cities. Filmnet has entered into partnership to deliver subscription films via satellite.

**Germany:** A third CLT channel, RTL-Club, is due to start operating from Cologne. CLT hopes that the service will go national.

**China:** The first commercial station is now in operation, run by the Guangzhou (Canton) Television Company (CTV).

**Bahrain:** TV services are at present as follows: ch. E4/10 local Arabic service; ch. E44 Egyptian satellite TV; ch. E46 MBS satellite TV; ch. E55 a local English service; ch. E57 BBC WS TV. In addition a local MMD service supplies five channels.

**Kenya:** BBC WS TV is now being broadcast by the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation network.

## A Bit of History

Ike Kerschner, writing in the April issue of the US magazine *Monitoring Times*, reports that "a number of years ago" he was involved with a TV repeater housed on an aerostat balloon tethered at 10,000ft in Saudi Arabia. Programmes were microwave linked up to the aerostat, which had its own generator and a ch. E3/A2 transmitter that broadcast across all of Saudi Arabia. Does any reader have any further information on this

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project? I'm aware that Aramco TV has operated for years in Dhahran.

### Satellite TV News

Domestic satellite dishes have now been banned in Saudi Arabia. Owners have been given a month to remove their installations.

NTL has been awarded a contract to uplink two channels from MBC's Battersea studio centre. Band C will be used despite a ruling that further uplinks in this band should be avoided because of interference problems; the rules have been relaxed as the very low-lying site provides localised screening.

The launch of Apstar 1, with 24 Band C transponders, has led to disputes between broadcasters; its orbital position at 131°E is very close to other Band C operators at 130°E (Russia's Rimsat 1 craft) and 132°E (the Japanese CS3a satellite).

Keep checking Intelsat K at 21.5°W: there are incentives that give three-months' free use of a newly leased transponder (27 or 54MHz bandwidth). Times are hard now, with digital compression!

Plans to introduce encryption with the services via Hispasat at 30°W have been put back pending agreement on a standard and on methods of marketing the programmes.

### Getting Started with Satellite Reception

In response to a number of requests, here are some thoughts on getting started with satellite reception. Take

the dish first. A 90cm dish is a good choice, but if you can manage a 1m or 1.2m dish the results will be that much better. Dealers now usually offer offset rather than prime-focus dishes. If buying a new one, the Lenson Heath range is competitively priced.

Always buy a feedhorn that matches the dish. Manufacturers usually provide a matching assembly, often with a ferrite polariser. This type of polariser is preferred to the mechanical type. It operates with a twin-wire control cable from the receiver to switch between vertical/horizontal polarisation and adjust the skew. If the receiver has a three-wire output (for use with a mechanical polariser) a small interface box can be used to convert this to two-wire operation. The Racal wideband ferrite polariser is a popular model which will introduce an insertion loss of about 0.15dB.

You will want to be able to move the dish to track across the satellite belt. Two types of tracking dish mount are available on the domestic market, the Horizon-to-Horizon (H-to-H) and the polar mount. The H-to-H type is generally used with dishes up to about 1.2m with their own integral motor system. Larger dishes tend to use a polar mount, with an actuator arm to move the dish. Both types of motor tend to be noisy, which can cause problems with neighbours when wall mounting is used. I understand that Swedish Microwave has introduced a quiet tracking dish: any reports on its performance would be welcome. Motor operation is controlled by either an integrated receiver/positioner or, less common these days, a stand-apart motor-control box. Control and motor (power drive) cables will have to run outdoors to the dish. They also provide feedback on dish position.

Provided the receiving site has a clear view across the sky, at least from say 16°E to 27°W, accurate tracking alignment can be achieved without too much difficulty. I had a frustrating time trying to get correct tracking but experienced installers can fit and track a dish system fairly easily.

C Band (4GHz) reception can be forgotten with a dish of this size. For Ku band reception a single triple-band LNB will give coverage of 10.9-12.7GHz with voltage switching for band changeover. Bear in mind that once Astra 1D is in operation there will be signals at down to 10.7GHz. The three bands are the FSS band, 10.95-11.7GHz, which carries most activity, the 11.7-12.5GHz DBS band which has fewer signals and the 12.5-12.7GHz Telecom band which is used mainly by French TV and telecom circuits. As an alternative to voltage band switching a mechanical diplexer (orthomode transducer) can be used with two single-band LNBS and separate feeders – a simple (A/B) changeover switch is required indoors to select the output.

The LNB should have a very low noise figure. A few years ago a Ku-band LNB with a noise figure of 2dB would have been considered acceptable; they are now available at around £60 with a noise figure of well under 1dB, 0.7dB being a common figure. The lower the noise figure the better the results with a small dish and in the presence of rain. All LNBS are fitted with an F socket. Use high-quality, double-screened coaxial cable, with water-tight boots or waterproof tape at the F plug termination.

I'll touch on receivers next time. Meanwhile, I would recommend that you take a good look at John Breeds' *Satellite Television – Installation Guide*, 3rd edition, or his other compilation *The Satellite Book*. Both are available from Swift Television Publications, 17 Pittsfield, Cricklade, Swindon, Wilts SN6 6AN – telephone 0793 750 620.

## Sony CCDF340

The customer complained about distorted recordings. Investigation showed that the inlet and outlet guide poles had become loose and had moved. Resetting them provided good recordings and playback, but a check on the tape path showed that cyclic tape curling occurred at the top of the exit guide. A new guide pole cured this. **N.B.**

## Panasonic NVS1

This palmcorder, from a local school, had been dropped. There were no LCD or LED displays and none of the deck keys worked – the door eject was also very tight (there's a door as well as the carriage). Connector P6201, which is surface mounted on the VCR operation PCB, had been partially forced off. Refitting it sorted out the electronic problems – the SM connectors are always the first to suffer when these units are dropped. The door latch was tight because the cassette lever angle U across the top of the mechanism had been bent. The two levers and spring are available as an assembly (part no. VYQ0479) from Panasonic. **N.B.**

## Panasonic NVMS50

Severe tape riding, especially in the cue and review modes, is not uncommon with this model. The pinch roller is naturally favourite but excess friction between the upper and lower drums is also a possibility. There is a degree of wandering when these machines are working normally (as with many C decks): this shouldn't be confused with a fault. **N.B.**

## Ferguson FC27/JVC GRA1

A noisy crackle with E-E and recorded sound was traced to R605 in the audio section of the YC PCB being dry-jointed. **D.C.W.**

## Chinnon VC1500

We've had several of these with a loose viewfinder. Usually all that's required is to refit the securing screws, but a little Loctite will prevent recurrence. **D.C.W.**

## Sony CCDF340

E-E was o.k. but there was no playback picture. On tracing through we found that the playback r.f. luminance signal was missing at pin 60 of the YC processing chip IC360. Q409 in this signal path was open-circuit emitter-to-base. **D.C.W.**

## Hitachi VM1200

This middle-aged, full-size VHS machine produced a knocking noise from within when in play or record. All was well in the fast forward and rewind modes. On inspection we found that the noise seemed to come from the capstan motor, but only when the pinch roller was in contact. The capstan bearings were suspect but proved to be o.k. The cause of the

problem was the fact that the pinch roller pivot was loose where it is joined to the operating lever at its base. This lever is made from a 'soft' aluminium and had become distorted. A replacement made for a quiet life! **D.C.W.**

## Samsung VC805P

Playback of good recordings was o.k., but there was no colour recording on the tape and the E-E pictures showed only 'flashes' of colour. We investigated the camera section and found that everything was functioning correctly up to the encoder chip IC302. The chroma signal was present at pin 24 of this chip. It got no farther than the 3.58MHz bandpass filter L303 which was open-circuit. Normally the filtered chroma signal passes to the YC mixer stage etc. to provide the composite AV output. **D.C.W.**

## Canon A9E

A severe impact had left the cassette housing partially ejected, with a noticeable twist in its alignment with the body of the camera. After dismantling the unit and removing all the PCBs etc. we inspected the mechanism. Because of the impact, the main chassis base was curved instead of being flat. Fortunately in this model the base is made of a cast material, not the more usual plate construction. We decided to try to straighten the unit – otherwise a complete chassis would be required. In the event this proved to be highly successful, restoring the assembly to a fully working condition. **D.C.W.**

## Sony CCDTR45

The reported fault was no functions with the caution symbol present in the viewfinder. We traced the cause to a small amount of oil on the lower drum. After cleaning it with the appropriate materials we noticed that playback showed signs of head wear (black and white inversion). Everything was o.k. when new heads had been fitted. Whether there was any connection between the oily drum and the head problem we don't know. **D.C.W.**

## Sony CCDV8AF

These elderly camcorders are usually worth repair as they have AV inputs and can be used as a VCR for off-air recording etc. This one had no playback picture, only snow. Cleaning the video heads made hardly any difference – perhaps the slightest vestige of a picture could be discerned amongst the noise. Repeated attempts at cleaning produced no further improvement.

Checks around the playback circuits were inconclusive but seemed to suggest that the heads were worn. We finally removed them and inspected them under a microscope normally used for surface-mounted device reworking. All three heads were seen to be coated with 'globules' of oxide! We carefully removed this until the surfaces could be seen, then refitted them. The results were good. It would perhaps be worthwhile carrying out such an inspection with other apparently faulty heads. **D.C.W.**



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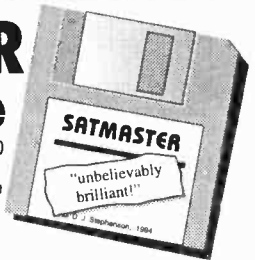
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# Sat Mod: Uniden 7007

## LNB Use

Brian William Ewan

The modification described in this article enables the Uniden UST7007 satellite receiver to be used with a standard- or bullet-type Marconi LNB. The polarisation switching required is provided by the circuit shown in Fig. 1. It can be built on stripboard or any other convenient base – there is nothing critical. Fig. 2 shows the connections to the receiver. The Uniden UST7007 has been available cheaply in recent months, generally minus LNB.

You'll need the following tools and hardware: a Phillips screwdriver (fine point is preferable), a pair of side cutters, a pair of long-nose pliers, an instrument driver (straight blade with fine point), four lengths of wire for the connections

the case top – two at the left and two at the right. Take off the lid.

Locate the inside of the three LNB polarity screw terminals at the rear of the receiver, the threaded screw hole near the front of the right-hand central support as seen from the front of the receiver (this is the point where the added regulator is to be fitted), plug/socket J101 at the inside front of the case and the blue lead to plug J101. These points are illustrated in Fig. 2. Proceed as follows:

(1) Fit a mica or rubber isolator to the back of the regulator and a plastic isolator to the screw hole at the top. Fit the

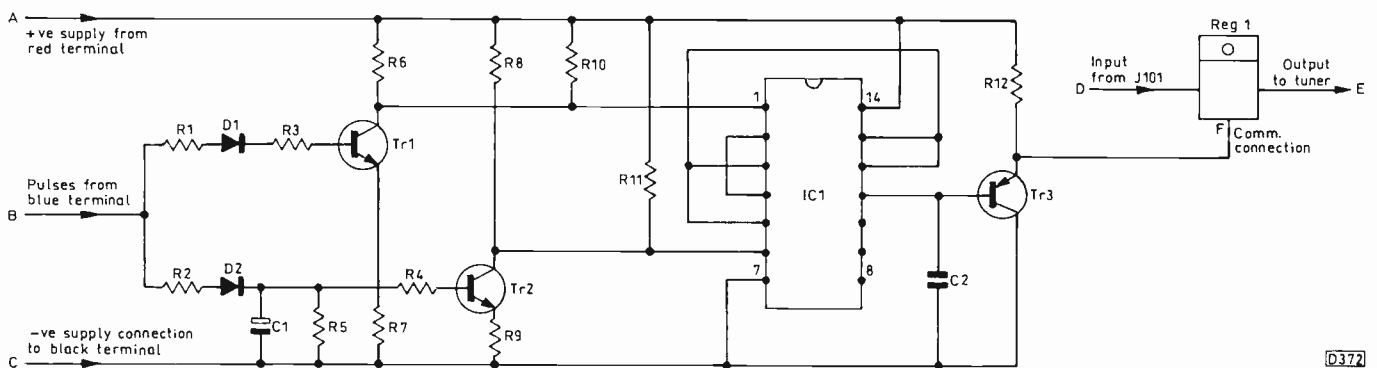


Fig. 1: The polarisation switching circuit. The voltage at point F alters the output from the regulator chip REG1.

(about 15cm long), a soldering iron and a small quantity of solder. The component details are shown in the accompanying table.

### Fitting Instructions

With the power off, remove the four screws that secure

regulator to the central support with a screw through the hole mentioned above.

2) Cut the blue lead between plug J101 and the tuner (in the centre of the case) about mid way.

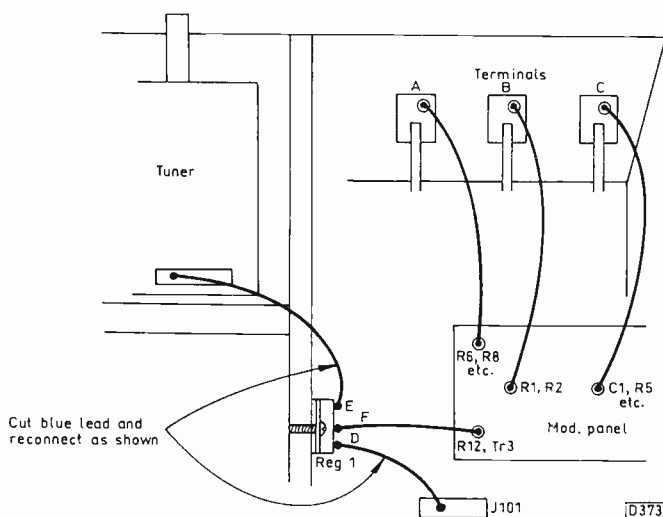


Fig. 2: Connections between the switching circuit and the rest of the receiver.

### COMPONENTS LIST

#### Resistors (all 0.5W):

R1	10k $\Omega$	R2	10k $\Omega$	R3	56k $\Omega$
R4	56k $\Omega$	R5	47k $\Omega$	R6	10k $\Omega$
R7	1.5k $\Omega$	R8	10k $\Omega$	R9	330 $\Omega$
R10	10M $\Omega$	R11	10M $\Omega$	R12	470 $\Omega$

#### Capacitors:

C1	4.7 $\mu$ F, 63V	C2	0.1 $\mu$ F
----	------------------	----	-------------

#### Semiconductor devices:

REG1	7812 12V regulator
IC1	CD4011B CMOS quad 2-input NAND gate
D1, 2	1N4148
Tr1, 2	BC182
Tr3	BC212

(3) Strip and tin the ends of the four connection leads required.

(4) Solder the cut blue lead from the tuner to the regulator's output pin (right-hand side). This is identified as point E in Figs. 1 and 2.

(5) Solder the blue lead from plug J101 to the regulator's input pin (left-hand side), i.e. point D.

(6) Apply a small amount of solder to the inside legs of the three LNB polarity screw terminals at the right rear of the receiver's case.

(7) Solder lead A to the inside leg of the red terminal.

(8) Solder lead B to the inside leg of the blue terminal.

(9) Solder lead C to the inside leg of the black terminal.

(10) Solder the lead from R12/Tr3 on the modification panel to the regulator's central, common connection – point F in the diagrams.

(11) You'll find that the modification switch panel will sit comfortably inside the right-hand side of the case. Refit the receiver's lid and screws.

## Testing

Reconnect all leads – LNB, aerial input and r.f. output. Reconnect to the mains supply and switch on. The switch next to the screw terminals at the rear of the receiver's case – marked OFF 18V CONT – should be in the centre, 18V position. Select a horizontally polarised channel and if necessary adjust the skew control. Then select a vertical channel. Channel and polarisation change should take place. Finally make any skew adjustments needed to the other horizontal channels.

# Help Wanted

*The Help Wanted column is 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:** M51394P colour decoder chip for the Sanyo Model CTP6229. Ron Dimmock, 71 Churchfield Road, Liverpool L25 3SE. 051 487 5113.

**Wanted:** LOPT and e.h.t. rectifier for the Vega Model TV402D. T. Milverton, 121 Borrowdale Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 5QL. 021 477 2044.

**Wanted:** Remote control unit for a Goodmans C141/Osme CTV1484R. Peter Ward, Petgra, Forest Corner, Ringwood, Hants BA24 3JW. 0425 475 445.

**Wanted:** TDA3568 jungle chip used in the Grundig CUC2410 chassis or a working module type 29504-107-02. Phil, Palter TV, Clare, Suffolk. 0787 278 296.

**Wanted:** PJX04A chip or power supply panel for the Amstrad SRD600 satellite receiver. G. Smith, 91 Arnold Street, Boldon Colliery, Tyne and Wear NE35 9BE. 091 536 6392.

**Wanted:** May 1991 issue of *Television*. J.T. Stuart, 2 Little Bell Hall Cottages, Drayton Road, Belbroughton, Nr. Stourbridge DY9 0DN. 0562 730 197.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram and any other information on the Ingersol XK512B portable TV/radio receiver. E.J. Edwards, 43 Hoose Court, Market Street, Hoylake, Wirral L47 5AB. 051 632 0614.

**Wanted:** Any U-View servicing guides up to 1988. Justin Smith, 4 Shenstone Road, Hillsborough, Sheffield S6 1SQ. 0742 346 029.

**Wanted:** March 1993 issue of *Television*. A. Petch, 97 Wordsworth Avenue, Parson Cross, Sheffield S5 8NB.

**Wanted:** Complete chassis (Z3) for the Panasonic Model TX1786, working if possible. Also a remote control unit. Mike Levy, 19 Totternhoe Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx HA3 0HS. 081 907 3620.

**Wanted:** Upright Y/C PCB for the Hitachi VTM640E VCR. P.J. Lee, 58 Greatham Road, North Bushey, Herts WD2 2HP. 0923 243 456.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram for the Pioneer Model F223L tuner. Photocopy will do. G.R. Smith, 12 Hunton Court, 1-3 Gravelly Hill North, Birmingham B23 1BT.

**Wanted:** Leader LCT910A c.r.t. tester/rejuvenator. One needing repair might do. Or a Video Circuit Model V31A. Also circuit diagram for the TR500 c.r.t. reactivator made by New Dimension TV, Stockport, Cheshire. Pat Foran, Knockeen, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

**Wanted:** Hitachi Trimode CPT0652 receiver or tube type 150AYB22. Derek Mander, Chiltern House, Unit One, Waterside, Chesham HP5 1PS.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram for the Telefunken Model DC676GB. D.R. Dunmall, 6 Brandon Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1SD. 0322 224 975.

**Wanted:** NE654N chip for the JVC KD-D50B stereo cassette deck – or address of a source of supply. David Upton, 85 Clyne Court, Sketty, Swansea, W. Glamorgan SA2 8JA. 0792 207 697.

**Wanted:** Power supply and remote control unit for a Beovision 4402. A. Ashurst, 62 Westfield Road, Harp-

enden, Herts. 0582 767 990.

**Wanted:** AT2055/00 LOPT for the Forgestone 400 receiver. S. Kneale, 74 Cae Mair, Beaumaris, Gwynedd LL58 8YN. 0248 810 555.

**Wanted:** Service information or circuit diagram for the Technics three-band stereo receiver Model SA300L. Photocopy would do. A.G. Davies, 16 South Street, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8EL.

**Wanted:** Any information on the universal remote control unit type PRC54. Lance Williams, Kemerton, Ribchester Road, Blackburn BB1 9EE. 0254 249 668.

**Wanted:** Subpanel type PW2357 for a Toshiba chassis dated around 1982. David F. Maratos, 28 Clarendon Road, West Manchester M21 1RW. 061 881 0142.

**Wanted:** LOPT for the Huanyu Model 37C-3. I. Dennett, 2 Alfred Street, English Street, Hull HU3 2DF. 0482 585 270.

**Wanted:** Instruction book for the Uniden UST8008 satellite receiver, and a Rabbit Model R8000P. R.A. Ward, 5 Sydney Road, Marton, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS7 8HG. 0642 318 466.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram/service manual for the Matsui Model 1480. Len Dyke, 19 Mursley Road, Swanbourne, Milton Keynes MK17 0SH. 0296 720 602.

**Wanted:** Teletext panel for the Sanyo VHR5240E/Granada VHSGS5 VCR. P.K. Osborne, 29 Shirecroft Road, Westham, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0NH.

**Wanted:** Circuit diagram/service manual for the Ferguson 3V24/3V25 portable video/tuner and camera. C.M. Clements, Carl's Electrical, 1 Ingleby Road, New Ferry, Wirral, Merseyside L62 1BA.

# Inside the Ferguson ICC6 Chassis

## Part 1

Mark Paul

The ICC6 has evolved from previous Thomson chassis in the ICC5/7/8 series. While its basic purpose is to serve as a simple receiver aimed at the popular section of the market, it employs state-of-the-art technology and incorporates numerous features.

Basic design features are as follows: power supply to operate with an a.c. mains input over the range 180-264V; chassis to drive a range of 90° tubes with sizes from 42-50cm (17, 20 and 21in.); mono only sound output with 5W music power; single scart socket with S-video option; second loudspeaker socket; PAL/SECAM decoding. Optional features are as follows: teletext; front connectors in parallel with the rear-mounted scart socket; 16:9 format control; RGB switching by remote control; auto switching between AV and TV modes.

### Basic Outline

Fig. 1 shows a simple block diagram of the chassis. The various i.c.s used in the chassis are as follows:

IA01	TEA2006	Audio output
IF01	TDA1771	Field timebase
II06	SDA3202	Frequency-synthesis tuning
IP01	TEA2261	Chopper control
IR01	ST6393	Microcontroller
IR81	TDA8139	Reset pulse generator and standby switching
IS10	LA7550	Vision and sound i.f. amplifier/demodulator
IV01	STV2110	PAL/SECAM decoder, video processor, sync separator and line drive generator
IX01	TEA2014	TV/AV switching
IX02	MC14066	RGB switching

### The Power Supply Arrangements

The switch-mode power supply has two modes of operation, standby and normal. Fig. 2 shows the circuitry – the chopper transformer LP16 provides mains isolation. There are three output voltages,  $U_{sys}$  (h.t.) which varies depending on the type of tube; UA 24V; and UStby 13V. Other supply lines (UV 200V, UL1 24V and UL2 13V) are derived from the line output transformer.

The TDA8139 chip IR81 plays a vital role in the standby mode in providing a switched 9V output (U2). When it switches this supply off, following a command from the microcontroller chip IR01, the supply to the line oscillator in IV01 (pin 5) is removed. As a result the line timebase shuts down and there are no line output transformer derived supplies.

The power supply is self-contained in terms of both operation and regulation. Thus the unloading that occurs when the line timebase shuts down is sensed by IP01 which in turn switches to its standby mode of operation. In this mode IP01 produces bursts of short-duration pulses to drive the

chopper transistor. This is sufficient to keep the chopper circuit 'alive' and enable the reservoir capacitors on the secondary side to have some charge. It also means that there's no need for a separate standby power supply.

In this burst mode the UStby supply is present at IR81 which in turn provides the microcontroller chip IR01 with a reset and a 5V supply (U1). IR01 is thus able to respond to a switch-on command from the remote control unit. When this is received IR01 in turn sends a command to IR81 which produces its 9V output for the line oscillator. This starts up and the line driver stage also starts to work as it is provided with a standby supply derived from the UA line. The line output stage in turn comes into operation, producing the following outputs:

UL1	24V	Used by the line driver stage in normal operation (takes over from the UA feed via DL30/31) and by the field timebase chip.
UL2	13V	Used by the tuner and i.f. section, the field scan circuit and the watchdog circuit (more on this later).
UV	200V	Used by the RGB output stages and the c.r.t.
UH		Pulsed supply for the c.r.t. heaters.
UH1		From same tap as UH: OSD sync pulses.

Transistor TV62 delays the 9V feed to pins 1 and 41 of IV01: it doesn't switch on until the line output stage produces the 13V supply (UL2). The reason for this delay is to give the line drive a soft start: the mark-space ratio of the line drive pulses moves from about 20:80 to 40:60 once the voltage at pins 1 and 41 reaches 80 per cent of the voltage at pin 5 (line oscillator supply). Once through this soft start the receiver works normally.

Once the receiver has powered up to the normal operating state the voltages on the various lines should be as follows:

$U_{sys}$	104V with 17in. sets, 113V with 20/21in. sets. Once this voltage has been set up (PP34) the other supplies are:
UA	21-27V measured at pin 5 of IA01.
UStby	13V $\pm$ 1.5V measured at pin 1 of IR81.
UL1	23V $\pm$ 1V measured at pin 9 of IF01.
UL2	12.7-13.6V measured at CL14.
UV	190-210V, depending on c.r.t. type, measured at CL11.

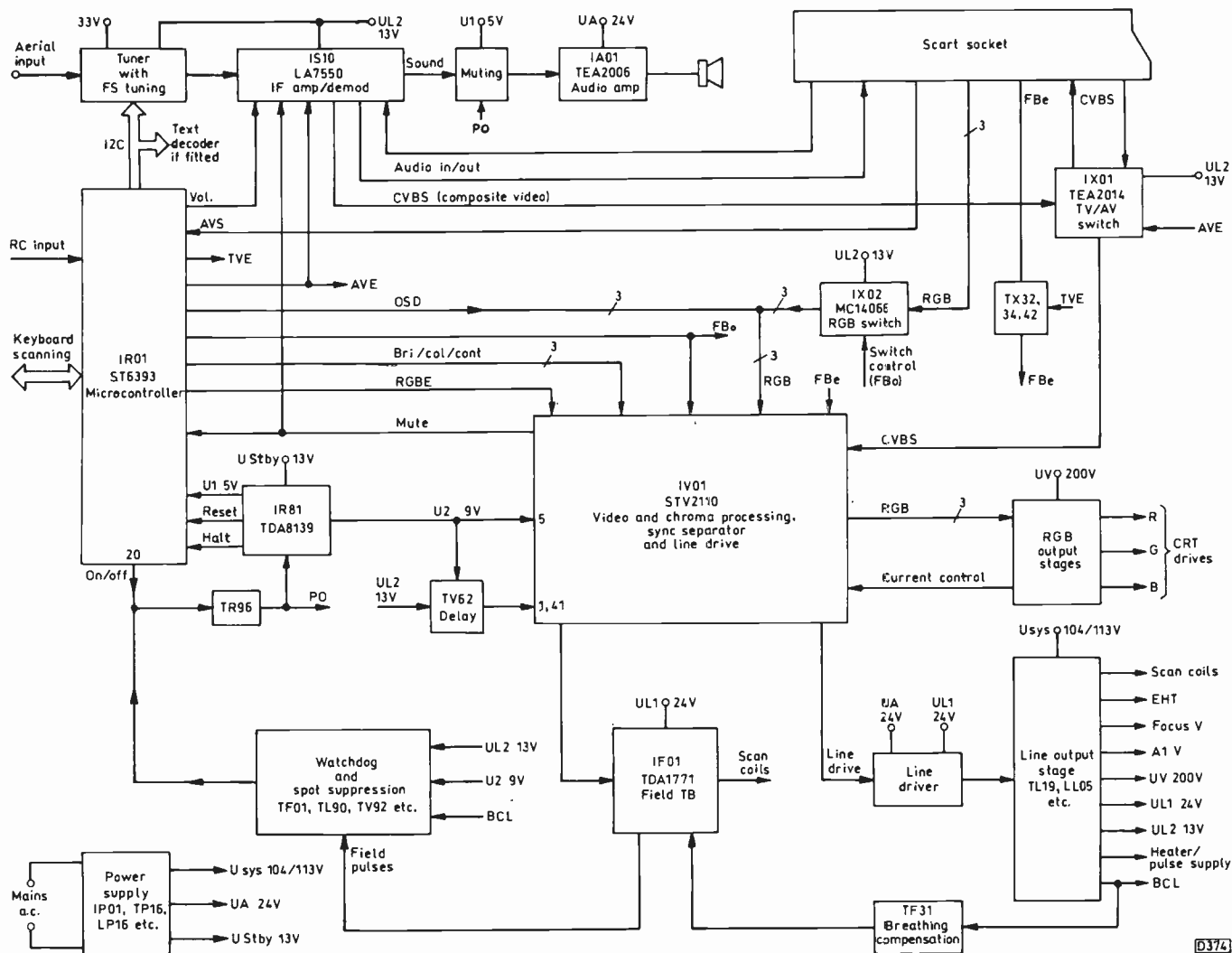


Fig. 1: Simplified block diagram of the Thomson/Ferguson ICC6 chassis. E at the end of an abbreviation stands for enable.

U-EHT 24-26kV depending on c.r.t. type.

U1 5.1V  $\pm$ 0.1V measured at pin 9 of IR81.

U2 9.2V  $\pm$ 0.2V at pin 8 of IR81.

The Usys voltage must be set up first as all the supplies obtained from the line output transformer depend on it. Always refer to the correct manual, as the Usys voltage varies with the c.r.t. Set up the Usys voltage with the volume and beam current at minimum, using PP34 and monitoring pin 5 of the line output transformer (LL05).

A return to the standby mode is achieved by disabling the 9V supply to pin 5 of IV01. In this mode Usys, UA and UStby may vary by  $\pm$ 15%.

### Power Supply Operation

The heart of the chopper power supply is the TEA2261 chip IP01 (see Fig. 3). This device is also used in the ICC7/8 chassis but is used slightly differently here – there's no feedback from the secondary side of the circuit to pin 2. With the ICC6 chassis fault-finding should be even easier since IP01 is self-contained in having its own oscillator, regulation loop and trip circuitry.

At switch on CP22 charges via RP11. When the voltage at pin 16 of IP01 reaches 10.3V it starts to produce pulses at pin 14 to drive the chopper transistor TP16. Once the circuit gets going DP21 rectifies the pulses produced by winding 7-

8 of the transformer (LP16), taking over the supply to IP01.

A soft-start arrangement within IP01 protects TP16 at switch-on. CP41 at pin 9 of the chip is the soft-start capacitor: as it charges, the mark-space ratio of the drive to TP16 is altered so that its on time is gradually increased. This soft-start operation occurs every time the power supply is started up.

The switching frequency of the output from IP01 in normal operation is 28kHz. Initially at start-up however the frequency is 2kHz, rising with time. This effect is achieved by using the circuitry connected to pin 10 to alter the time-constant of the internal oscillator connected to this pin. Initially CP33 has no charge, presenting a low impedance to the current flow via winding 7-8 on LP16 and rectifier diode DP32. Thus CP33 takes all the charge and there is no current flow via RP41. As CP33 charges, a greater current flows via RP41, charging CP40. While CP40 is charging, the time-constant at pin 10 is changing and the power supply's frequency increases until it reaches 28kHz. Once CP33 has charged, the regulation loop becomes active.

The current and voltage conditions in winding 7-8 of the transformer are directly proportional to those in the primary winding 2-5. It follows from this that winding 7-8 can be used to provide the information required for regulation, controlling in turn the on time of the chopper transistor TP16 and the energy stored in the transformer. This energy is transferred to the secondary side of the circuit when TP16 is switched off. Thus the regulation takes place in the primary side of the circuit, with no need for feedback from

the secondary side.

Regulation is carried out via a standard error amplifier within IP01, the error input being at pin 6.

The design of the chopper transformer ensures very good magnetic coupling between all its windings. This means that its efficiency is good, also its loop gain, i.e. its ability to respond quickly to sudden changes in the load conditions on the secondary side and maintain the  $U_{sys}$  and  $U_A$  voltages within the specified limits.

The power supply maintains its outputs over a mains input range of 180-264V a.c., providing regulation over a receiver power dissipation spread of 45-90W.

The value of RP32 is important as this, with the rest of the feedback circuit, sets the receiver's working parameters. RP32 also limits the peak overshoots that appear at pin 8 of LP16 when TP16 switches off. It acts as an integrator to reduce the sensitivity of the error-amplifier's input to the overshoots. PP34 acts as the set h.t. control – we've already described the correct adjustment procedure.

When the set is switched to standby the line output stage shuts down and the  $U_{sys}$  line is left without a load. Consequently the voltage rises. This increase is sensed by the regulation circuit and eventually pin 7 of IP01 will flag-up the fact that the set is in the standby mode. IP01's internal logic then switches the chip to the burst-mode operation previously mentioned: the frequency of the bursts is set at about 120Hz by the time-constant of CP34/RP33/RP34/PP34. In standby the receiver's power consumption is reduced to about 7W.

### **Driving the Chopper Transistor**

First some general points. From the reliability point of view the critical times when a large-current switching transistor is operated with an inductive load are when it switches on and off. While the device is actually conductive, its reliability is a function of the chip size, package design and heatsinking. Steps must be taken to cater for the sensitivity of such a transistor when it switches on and off: much of the circuitry around a chopper or line output transistor is present for this purpose.

Because the base region of a chopper (or line output) transistor is large, it cannot switch off instantaneously when asked to do so. The switch-off signal may be present, but electrons are still en route through the junction. A problem now arises in that the magnetic field associated with the inductive load starts to collapse and the back-e.m.f. principle comes into operation. Thus the collector voltage rises very rapidly (think of the flyback pulse at the collector of the line output transistor). Although the current still flowing in the base region is very small, when this is multiplied by the collector voltage the wattage that has to be dissipated internally in a very short time is considerable. Without protective measures the transistor will 'punch through' and be destroyed. It's important to minimise the effect of the current carriers at switch off, and to slow down the rate at which the collector voltage rises. The measures taken in the chopper circuit in the ICC6 chassis are as follows.

Two techniques provide TP16 with an optimum negative base voltage for low-loss switching off. First DP26 with CP27 and RP26 act on the drive from pin 14 of IP01, establishing a negative voltage at TP16's base from the very first drive pulse. Secondly after several drive pulses the 'diode battery' formed by DP27-30 with CP29 will also have charged to produce a negative base voltage. A further contribution to this action, even before the first drive pulse appears, is provided by the resistor chain RP14-20 which provides CP29 with an initial charge. The effect of this

negative base bias is to hasten the passage of the electrons in the base region at switch off.

Further steps slow down the rate at which TP16's collector voltage rises when it switches off. The first is the well-known snubber circuit, in this case CP13/DP13/RP13. Since CP13 has zero charge when TP16 switches off, it presents a low impedance to the rising collector voltage – you can think of it as an electronic shock absorber. The value of CP13 is chosen so that the voltage rise is slowed down sufficiently to give time for the effect of the base charge carriers to be minimised. DP13 'resets' CP13 when TP16 next switches on, so that the circuit will operate again at the next switch off.

Should TP16 fail, it's important to check the components in the snubber circuit – especially if the complaint is of random chopper transistor failure.

There's also a snubber-type circuit, CP50/DP50/RP50, on the secondary side of the circuit. It operates in exactly the same way as the circuit on the primary side but serves two purposes: to damp TP16's peak collector voltage and to improve the power supply's regulation characteristic by reducing unhelpful voltage fluctuations.

With all circuits that use switching devices of this type it's important to minimise the electrical disturbances, sometimes referred to as 'spooks', that are created and can be picked up in say the signal circuits. The two snubber circuits help, along with coils LP13/LP14/LP51 and capacitors CP14/CP53/CP56/CP58, to reduce such effects.

TP16's base drive circuit is really quite conventional: RP22 supplies the current needed, LP29 damps the current swings in TP16's base circuit caused by its switching while R25/28/29 damp the ringing introduced by LP29. Diodes DP27-30 limit the voltage across CP29.

### **Protection**

When fault-finding in this sort of circuitry the first thing to ascertain is whether the receiver is sick downstream, damaging the power supply as a result of excessive current drain, or whether the power supply is producing excessive output voltages and thus damaging the rest of the receiver.

The protection arrangements used in the ICC6 chassis are similar to those in the ICC7/8 and are of well-established type.

If TP16 passes excessive current because of an unhealthy low impedance on the secondary side of the circuit the voltage developed across RP04 will rise. This rise will be fed back to pin 3 of IP01. Two thresholds activate different current limiting within IP01.

If the voltage at pin 3 rises to 0.6V, referred to as the first threshold, the internal logic within IP01 removes the drive to TP16. A voltage rise of this sort could be caused by a transient overload. In this case IP01 will reset itself and the power supply will then start up again. If a genuine fault is present the receiver will trip again. With each trip CP36 at pin 8 is charged to a higher level by an internal current source within IP01. If the tripping continues and the voltage at pin 8 rises to 2.55V the power supply shuts down. The receiver then has to be switched off and on again for it to try a restart.

If there's a severe short or other overload the voltage across RP04 will breach the second threshold level of 0.9V. The power supply will then produce a 'hard' shut down. Again the receiver will have to be switched off and on for a new start retry.

Fusible resistors RP53/54/56 provide protection against shorts across the secondary supplies produced by LP16.

IP01 also monitors the mains voltage. It will shut down

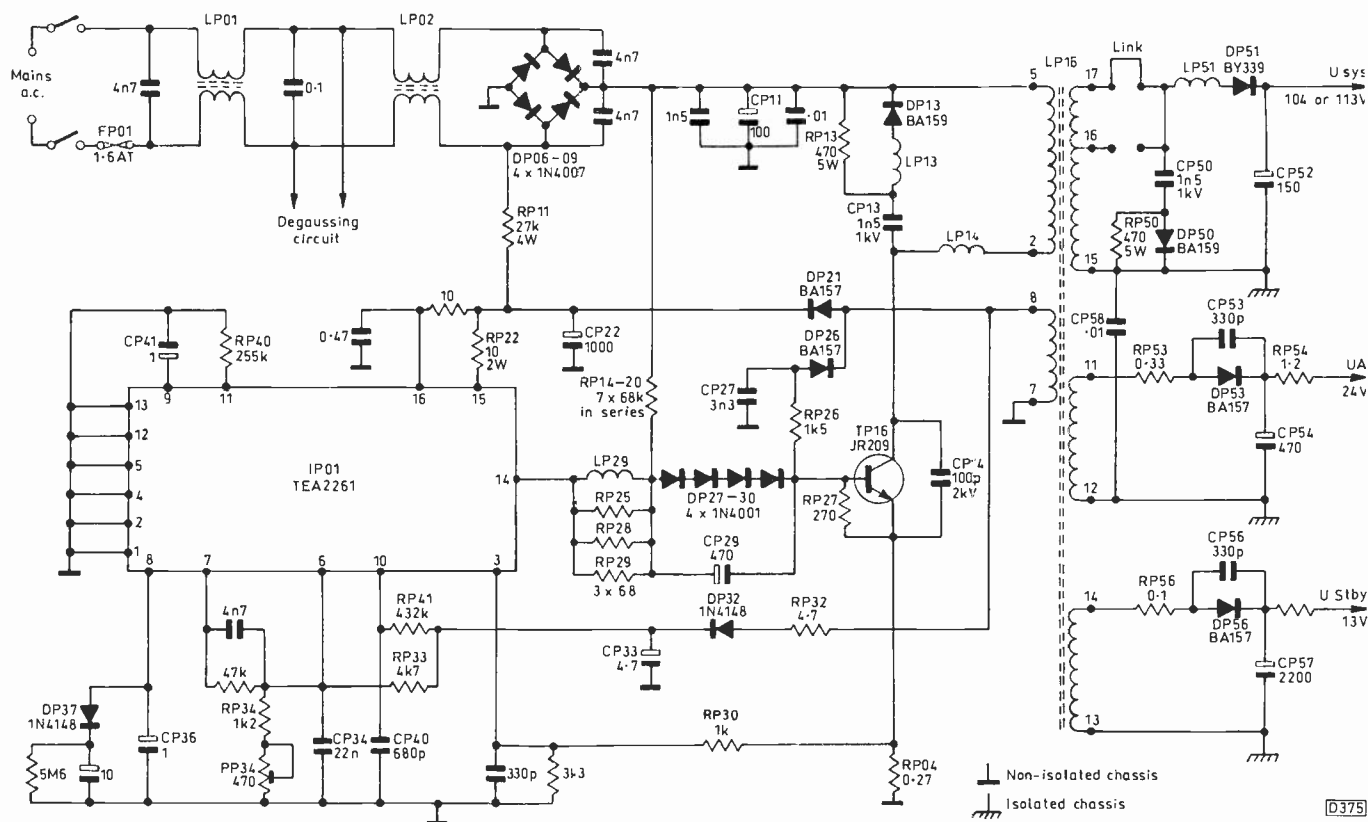


Fig. 2: The ICC6 chassis power supply circuit.

in the event of the voltage at pin 16 falling below 7.4V or rising above 15.4V.

### The Microcontroller Chip

The local keyboard is linked to the microcontroller chip and the rest of the receiver via connector BR02. The keyboard is the same as that in the IKC2 and ICC7/8 chassis, though not all the pin connections may be used. The main connections are as follows:

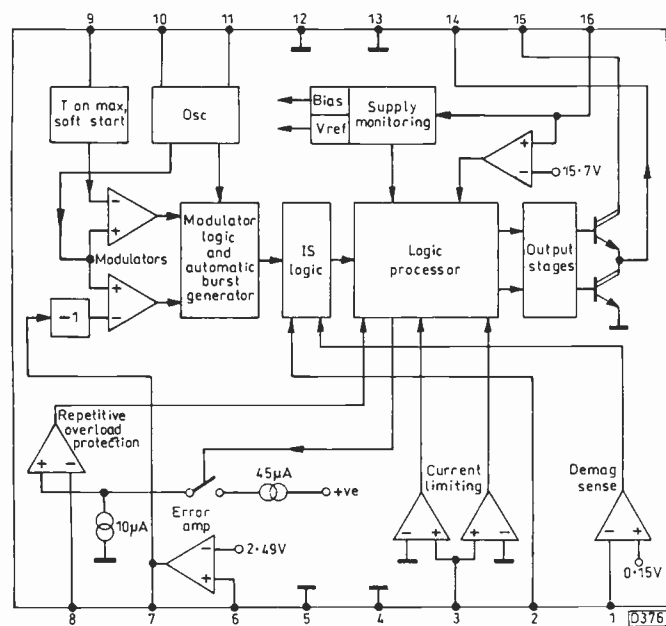


Fig. 3: Block diagram of the TEA2261 chopper control chip IP01.

Pin 1. This receives a 13V (UL2) input to operate the LED indicators when the line output stage is working.

Pin 2. This is for standby. The 10V present here is derived from the UA line via zener diode DR10.

Pin 3. This is the chassis return for the indicator lights.

Pins 4-9. These provide the matrix input to pins 16-11 of the microcontroller chip IR01.

Pin 10. This feeds the remote control commands to pin 35 of IR01.

Pin 11. This receives the 5V (U1) supply for the IR receiver.

IR01 is type ST6393. It has an internal EEPROM to store the programme selections as well as other user settings, i.e. the analogue controls etc. It's helpful to be aware of the following pin connections:

Pins 2-4 are the pulse-width modulated outputs for brightness (referred to as luminance), colour, contrast and volume control.

Pin 7 operates via TR16 to switch to the RGB mode if inputs without fast blanking are present at the scart socket.

Pin 9 is connected to pin 8 of the scart socket – the AV sense input. This is used to detect the following conditions: 5V represents a 16:9 format signal; 12V represents a 4:3 format signal. After integration within IR01 an output appears at pin 1 – high for 4:3, low for 16:9.

Pin 10. A TVE (TV Enable) input (high) at this pin shifts the receiver back to the TV mode. This is used to suppress

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An explanation of the links between IR01 and the power supply system is necessary. The UStby voltage (13V) produced by winding 13-14 on the chopper transformer, in conjunction with DP56/CP57, is fed to pins 1 and 2 of the TDA8139 chip IR81 (see Fig. 4). This chip contains two stabilisers, one producing a 5V and the other a 9V output.

The 5V output appears at pin 9. When, initially, the voltage at this pin rises to 4-9V pin 6, after a delay set by the charging of CR88 (connected to pin 3), goes high to provide IR01 with halt and reset information. The reset is delayed by the time-constant formed by RR75 and CR79.

When the mains supply to the receiver is switched off, the 5V supply decreases to 4.85V and the halt signal goes low. The 5V supply goes down fairly slowly; it takes at least 50msec to fall to 4.5V after the halt signal jump. This enables IR01 to store the receiver's last operating status in its EEPROM.

The 9V output at pin 8 of IR81 is set by RR81-3, which are connected to pin 7, and an internal 2.5V reference. It's used to supply the line oscillator in IV01 and is switched on by the PO (power on) input at pin 4. This comes from pin 20 of IR01 via TR96.

### Troubleshooting Hints

When the receiver is first switched on IR01 waits for an answer from the tuner via the I2C bus. The tuner is powered by the line output stage sourced UL2 (13V) supply. The PLL is powered by a 5V supply which is derived from the 13V line via transistor TH02. So if the PLL supply is present the 13V supply must also be present and the line output stage must be working. If these conditions are not met IR01 will stop and wait.

IR01 must receive correct field and line pulses at pins 27 and 26 respectively for the OSD to be positioned on the screen. It waits for these pulses as an indication that the receiver is on. The pulses must be less than 1V in the low condition and more than 4V in the high condition. If these conditions aren't met IR01 will stay in a loop with no command whatever accepted and the OSD oscillator will stop.

the fast blanking (FB) information from the scart socket when RGB plus FB inputs are present.

Pin 18. This activates the S-video mode (high) when the receiver is in the AV mode and there's a signal input at the scart socket.

Pin 19. This pulses the standby indicator when childlock is activated.

Pins 22-25. These are the on-screen display (OSD) outputs, 22 red, 23 green, 24 blue and 25 fast blanking.

Pins 26 and 27. These are for line and field sync respectively for OSD operation.

Pins 28 and 29. An LC circuit connected to these pins forms a start-stop oscillator for the OSD.

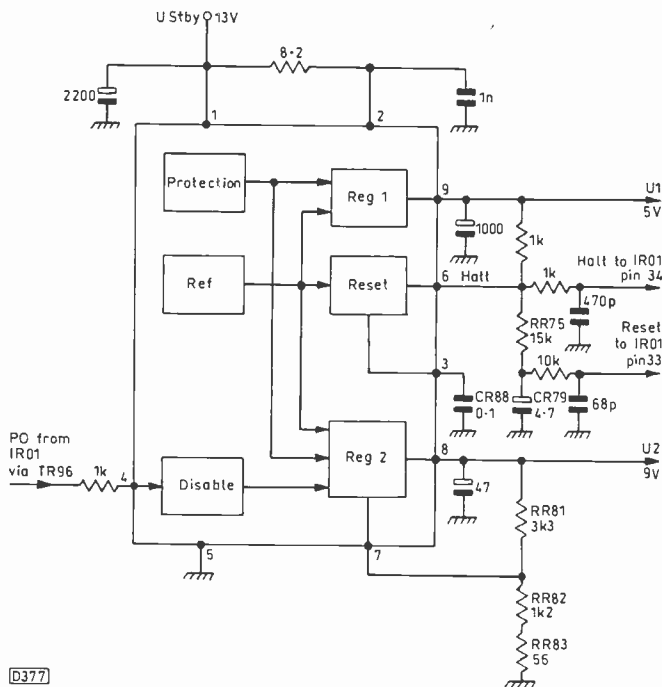
Pins 31 and 32. The 8MHz clock oscillator's resonator QR01 is connected to these pins.

Pin 35 receives the remote control commands.

Pin 36 is the mute input to stop the sweep tuning once signal reception is optimised.

Pin 37. This switches the tuner between PAL L (low) and PAL B/G (high).

Pins 40 and 41 provide the I2C bus (data and clock) connections to the tuner and text (when fitted) modules.



D377

Fig. 4: Circuitry around the TDA8139 chip IR81.



# TELEVISION

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**Bush.** See Alba Radio Ltd. Also HRS and Willow Vale.

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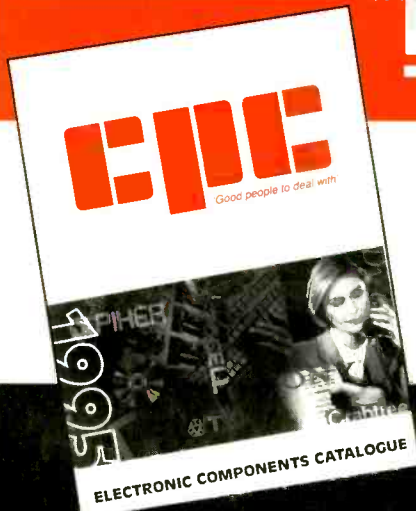
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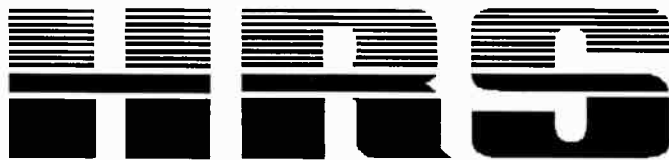
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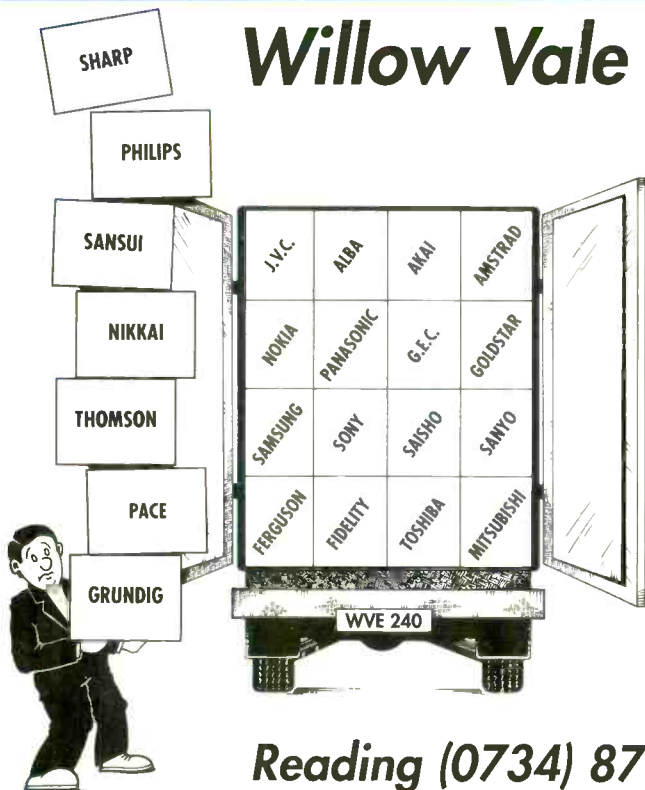
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See also SEME.

**Prinz.** Brand name used by  
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**Proline.** Brand name used by  
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**Ultra.** See Ferguson Ltd.

**Uniden.** Crystal Communications, 33 Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8AE.  
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# Test Case

## 382

As the nights draw in and the morning air starts to get nippy we are hoping for an upturn in trade, in both the retail and service sides of the business. Even brand-new equipment can present problems however, a point illustrated by the case of old Mr. Sutton and his newly-delivered Sony SLVE80 VCR – with hi-fi sound, Nicam, VideoPlus, dual-mode shuttle and goodness knows what else. He had bought it to replace his ageing Hitachi VT150, which had finally reached the end of the road. Now here he was on the phone complaining about the Sony machine's sound reproduction. "All weird and echoey" he said. "Not two days old and in trouble all ready" he continued. Our good lady Pam arranged to send someone along.

The man despatched was Cathode Ray (CR), whom we met for the first time in this column a couple of months ago. When he arrived at Mr. Sutton's house he listened to the sound from the new machine. It was certainly peculiar. But it was hard to discern the exact nature of the

symptom let alone its cause. The sound was distorted to an extent that depended on its frequency and type: a 'nasal' effect with some speech, a slight echo effect with some types of music, and thin, tinny reproduction of certain components of both speech and music. Strange indeed!

They tried playing a recording made by the old machine. It sounded perfectly all right, allowing for the fact that it wasn't a hi-fi recording. No tinniness, no distortion. Maybe the new machine had a recording fault then? The E-E sound was fine, especially with ITV and Channel 4 – the BBC hasn't got around to Nicamising us here yet. CR's next test – a playback check with a commercially-recorded movie – totally dispelled the idea that there was a fault in the machine's record section: if anything the reproduction was even worse, with more discernible echo and distortion. Could the fault have upset both the record and playback sound? Ray had to pass the workshop on his way to the next call. So he beat a hasty retreat with a sample recording, promising to call back later that day after trying the cassette in another machine.

Once in the sanctuary of the workshop CR tried the tape with a hi-fi machine and an ordinary one with a linear/longitudinal sound system. In both cases the sound came through

without distortion. The upshot was that he returned to Mr. Sutton and collected the machine so that it could be tested on the bench. As CR traversed his garden path for the fourth time that day, the old gentleman muttered about new-fangled gadgetry and the virtues of his old Hitachi VCR.

On the bench the machine performed, in the playback mode, exactly as it had in the house. This time it was of course hooked up to a different (mono-sound) TV set. Connecting its output to a stereo TV set and then to a stereo amplifier with spaced out speakers didn't improve matters: under these conditions the audio reproduction was even more confused and torn up. While the lads were listening and puzzling, Sage rolled back into the workshop from his lunch.

"Phase" he said, "that's what it is. The Beatles used a sound-phasing effect in the Sixties with Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds, and so did the Small Faces in Itchycoo Park, around 1967." What on earth was he on about? More to the point, did he know what was wrong with Mr. Sutton's video? "Oh yes" said Sage, "there's nothing wrong with his video." Within minutes the problem had been sorted out.

Over to you! The answer's on page 882

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# TV Fault Finding

Reports from Chris Watton, Steve Cannon, John Edwards, Nick Beer, Chris Plaice, Richard Newman and Chris Avis

## Huanyu 37C2

The power supply whined and there was only about 2.7V on the h.t. line. When the base and emitter of the line output transistor had been shorted across and a dummy load had been connected across the power supply's h.t. output the voltage was restored to the correct 115V. Checks in the line output stage led us to the transformer, which had a short on the secondary side. C.W.

## Finlux 3000 Series

Although failure of the SDA3202 chip in the tuner circuit has been reported before as a common problem, the result being loss of tuning, it's worth noting that a wet finger applied to pin 18 of this chip will usually bias Ti4 enough to display some signal being received. This will prove that the tuner is working. Not very technical, maybe, but it's effective. C.W.

## ITT Digivision 7180

There was no audio, just a very loud buzz and a load of noise that sounded rather like a computer data tape. The ADC2310 audio processor chip IC3101 was faulty. C.W.

## Sanyo CTP7131

This set seemed to be dead. Checks showed that the BU208A line output transistor was short-circuit. Before replacing it we decided to check the h.t. voltage, which at 185V was some 40V too high. The cause of this was traced to C314 (220 $\mu$ F, 25V) in the power supply. C.W.

## Finlux 3021F

With some pictures the colour intensity seemed to be greater in different parts of the screen. The cause of the problem was hum on the 12V supply, the culprit being the 47 $\Omega$  resistor Ra34 which is connected in series with the earth pin of the 7812 12V regulator chip ICa2. A check on the 12V rail with a voltmeter produced a reading of 12.4V: when the scope was brought into operation we found that about 350mV of hum was present. After replacing the resistor the voltage was correct at 12V and was as smooth as silk. C.W.

## Amstrad CTV2200

When this set had been on for a few hours the top inch of the picture would become compressed. The cause of the fault was traced to C812 (0.018 $\mu$ F, 160V) which is in the feedback circuit between the TDA3652 field output chip and the LA7800 timebase generator chip. C.W.

## Panasonic TC2195 (Z3T Chassis)

When this set was first switched on the field scan was cramped at the bottom. As the set warmed up the cramping became less. As Panasonic chassis are notorious for elec-

trolitic capacitor faults I went on the hunt for one that might be the cause of the trouble. But the culprit eventually turned out to be the TDA3653C field output chip IC451. C.W.

## Finlux 3621F

This set came in because there was no picture or sound. The power supply and the line output stage both worked and the tube's heaters were alight. When the text button on the remote control unit was pressed P100 appeared in the top corner of the screen and, because the text sync unmuted the audio stage, there was sound. A scope check showed that there was a video output from the SAWF so attention was turned to the TDA2450-2 vision i.f. chip ICi2. As the 11V supply was present at pin 3 we decided to fit a replacement. This restored normal operation. C.W.

## Hitachi CPT1455 (NP84CQ-2 Chassis)

This set was dead, some strange sounds coming from the power supply. We found that the protection diode ZD953 was short-circuit. When this had been replaced a check showed that the h.t. varied between about 80V and the point where ZD953 again went short-circuit. The cause was traced to C908 (4.7 $\mu$ F, 160V). C.W.

## Philips CP110 Chassis

The bottom half of the raster was missing, with the top cramped. A check on the voltages in the field output stage revealed that R3572 (1.5 $\Omega$ ) had failed. It's connected between the emitters of the field output transistors. C.W.

## Harwood CTV14

The customer complained that the set was always off tune. This was hardly surprising considering the grotty little presetters and switches, but they shouldn't have needed to be retuned every five minutes. A check showed that the 33V tuning supply was spot on. I then found that pre-setter six had an effect on the tuning of all the others. Replacing diode D14 produced some improvement: the tuning was further stabilised when diodes D9-D16 were replaced, but it still drifted. When I removed the push-button unit I discovered some fluxy type gunge on both sides of the panel. Cleaning this off finally put matters right. C.W.

## Philips 2A Chassis

The raster was cramped at the bottom and stretched at the top. The cure was to replace C2575 (4.7 $\mu$ F, 63V) in the field linearity feedback loop. C.W.

## Philips 2B Chassis

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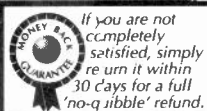
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top half completely black, or with a 3in. black band across the top half of the screen. As the set warmed up, the black area would slowly shrink until it disappeared completely. After this the fault wouldn't return until the following day.

At first a teletext fault was suspected. But a scope check at the blanking pin (28) of the TDA4580 video control chip IC7300 produced a steady zero voltage d.c. display, so we could rule out the teletext area. Over to the contrast control pin 19. Once again nothing amiss. When we checked at the sandcastle pulse input pin 10 however the field blanking section was seen to be about ten times its normal width, thus blanking off much of the picture. As the fault cleared, the width of the field blanking pulse shrank until it returned to the correct mark-space ratio.

The field blanking pulse comes from the field output chip via diode D6564. We'd already tried using a can of freezer, but not in the field output stage area. Freezer checks here brought us to D6570 and C2571, which provide the flyback boost. We replaced the capacitor first (100µF, 25V) and that put an end to an intermittent, head-scratching fault. S.C.

### Toshiba C2636B

When this set was switched on a very loud, continuous crackle came from the speaker and there was field collapse. The customer said that the screen would return to normal after about an hour. I decided to take his word for it as I didn't want the set's agony to be prolonged. Fortunately the cause of the crackling was obvious when the print side of the PCB was examined: the screw that secures the line output transistor's heatsink to the earth print was loose. When this was tightened we had normal sound.

Although I didn't have the circuit diagram, the voltages

around the two field output transistors (an npn/pnp pair) seemed about right. So I concentrated on the electrolytic capacitors in the circuit. To cut a rather long story short, a full-sized picture with good linearity was restored by replacing C448 (100µF, 160V), C316 (470µF, 50V), C317 (2.2µF, 50V) and C313 (4.7µF, 160V). They had all gone very low in value. J.E.

### ITT Compact 80R Chassis

Excessive width was the complaint with this set. Neither the width nor the EW pincushion presets had any effect. Replacing the BD135 transistor Tr563 and slight adjustment of the presets (R556 and R565) restored a normal raster. J.E.

### Ferguson TX9 Chassis

"It's just the switch" the customer said over the phone, "I've had a matchstick lodged in it for ages, but now it's gone for good." I'll never learn. Armed with a new switch I arrived at the customer's home. Yes the switch was duff, but so was the T9051V line output transistor. The customer eyed me with suspicion when I told him this, but agreed to the estimate. He didn't take his eyes off me for a minute while I fitted the new bits. I was praying that nothing else was wrong with the set, and wasn't helped by the customer going on about a watchdog programme he'd seen recently about TV and video con men! The gods were on my side this time however – the set worked all right. J.E.

### Matsui 1480A

It's quite common to have to replace the R2M protection

diode D508 in the power supply: it goes short-circuit, shutting the set down with only the channel indicators working. I had a merry dance this time however: the set was still dead after replacing D508 and the STR50103 chopper chip IC501. There should be a 330V peak-to-peak waveform at pin 3 of IC501 and 103V d.c. at pin 2. Both were missing. I've had failure of one or other of the 330k $\Omega$  start-up resistors R502 and R503 in the past, but they were both intact. The culprit turned out to be the 2SB698E power switch transistor Q108, whose emitter is connected to pin 2 of IC501. A check produced a low resistance reading between its emitter and collector. I fitted a BC327 transistor and the set worked fine. **J.E.**

### **ITT CVC30 Chassis**

This old-timer was dead with a high-pitched whistle that came from the power supply area. There was 160V across the h.t. reservoir capacitor C52 but nothing at pin 13 of the line output transformer as R96 (22 $\Omega$ , 10W) had gone open-circuit. Despite the set's age, it produced a very nice picture once R96 had been replaced. **J.E.**

### **Panasonic TX15M1T (Z4 Chassis)**

There was no video input via the scart connector or the front-mounted phono socket though the set worked fine in every other respect. The fault cleared when the back cover was removed, reappearing when the very thin PCB was flexed back to the straight plane it would assume with the back fitted. The cause of the fault was not the video path going open-circuit. A scope check at pin 20 of the scart socket showed that the video was being lost here because of a short to chassis in the fault condition. We found that the connections for the screened lead that connects the phono video input socket to the scart connection, on pillars at the front of the PCB, were shorting together. Re-spacing and resoldering cured the problem. **N.B.**

### **Matsui 1410**

This set had come in dead some weeks previously. The usual problems had been present: the 2SC3156 chopper transistor short-circuit, the associated diode D508 short-circuit and the 3-9 $\Omega$  surge limiter resistor open-circuit. Two mica washers had been fitted to the transistor, so one had been removed and of course heatsink compound had been applied, but here we were again with exactly the same fault. Very careful examination of the print showed that there was a hairline crack around one of the joints to the sub-PCB on which the chopper transistor is mounted. Resoldering this and replacing the three failed devices restored trouble-free viewing. **N.B.**

### **ITT Compact 80 Chassis**

This set was dead with the MR856 145V rectifier D733 short-circuit and its 10 $\mu$ F, 450V reservoir capacitor C734 open-circuit. **N.B.**

### **B and O MX3000 (314X Chassis)**

There was a weak picture which the customer said got worse, either fading out or washing out to white. Dry-joints on the tube base socket were common with the earlier MX2000 (31XX chassis), but there's no such weakness with these sets. There were numerous dry-joints on the main board however: resoldering those at the line output trans-

former cured one fault (the tube's heaters going out). The tube base socket had to be replaced to cure the other fault: the plating on the contacts was peeling, the result being intermittent high-resistance contact with the pins. **N.B.**

### **Sony KVM1420UB**

There was a yellowy picture, i.e. no blue. I've had this before with these sets because the first anode (G2) control hasn't been set correctly. On this occasion however the voltage at the colour decoder chip's blue output pin 5 was low at 3V instead of 5-7V. The voltages at the red and green output pins 3 and 1 were o.k. The chip turned out to be faulty (IC302). **N.B.**

### **Philips CP110 Chassis**

This set would go off after a period that varied from ten minutes to five hours. It would then stay off, coming back on again after a similarly indeterminate period. The cause was a dry-joint at the collector of the chopper transistor Tr7665. Dry-joints were also developing at the pins of the chopper and line output transformers. **N.B.**

### **Tatung 140 Chassis**

One of these sets suffered from field bounce with teletext reception. It was an interlace fault that was soon traced to a dry-joint at pin 8 of connector M501. **N.B.**

### **Huanyo Model 37C3**

There was no e.h.t. and the c.r.t.'s heaters were out. The cause of the trouble was traced to dry-joints at the brown plastic coated inductor that's alongside the scan-coil plug. **C.P.**

### **Ferguson ICC8 Chassis**

This set suffered from intermittent fuse blowing. The cause was leakage in the blue protection capacitors across the bridge rectifier diodes. **C.P.**

### **Toshiba 2500TBT**

When the EW correction is poor you may find that IC361 is hot or short-circuit. The basic cause of the fault is that the 30V zener diode D368 has gone open-circuit. **C.P.**

### **Philips 3A Chassis**

Power supply failure in these sets is far less common than with other chassis in the series. If you do however get problems with shorted BUT12A chopper transistors and resoldering the chopper transformer doesn't provide a cure, check for cracked print around pins 2 and 11 of the transformer. You'll find that the power supply works at up to about 180V from a variac but destroys the transistor when the input voltage is slightly higher. A recent set with this problem had a hairline crack in the print about half an inch from pin 11. The transistor fails because its switch-off circuit doesn't work correctly. It's thus driven hard on with a high mains input. **R.N.**

### **Grundig CUC220 Chassis**

Intermittent start-up was the problem with this set. The chassis uses a standard Siemens type power supply with a TDA4600 chopper control chip. The main problem was that

C631 (100 $\mu$ F, 40V) in the BU208A chopper transistor's base drive circuit had dried out. Replacing this item cured the intermittent start-up, but there was some ringing on verticals. This was cured by replacing C633 (220 $\mu$ F), C647 (1 $\mu$ F) and C642 (100 $\mu$ F) which were all in poor condition. It's also good practice to check the value of R646 (270k $\Omega$ ). **R.N.**

### Sharp C1410HW

This portable was brought in because the on/off switch was faulty. Fitting a replacement was no problem. The customer also complained that there was a black line down one side of the screen. When we powered the set we saw that the picture was shifted to the left. This was caused by the fact that the shift potentiometer had fallen to pieces. A new 330 $\Omega$  potentiometer put that right. **R.N.**

### Ferguson ICC5 Chassis

I must confess that I don't like these sets. This one made a loud tripping noise that came from the line output stage. It would trip three times then die. Apart from lots of dry-joints, I soon found that the EW correction transformer LG11 was short-circuit all round. So I ordered a new one plus a TDA4950 driver chip (IG01) as this had also suffered.

When the parts arrived I fitted them and also replaced a couple of charred resistors. At switch on I was rewarded with . . . nothing, or rather a very soft tripping noise three times before the set once again died. I cold checked all the diodes in the line output stage, also the output transistor, but could find nothing wrong. With the line output stage disconnected and a dummy load connected between the cathode of DP41 and chassis the power supply ran quite happily. So what was wrong?

For want of something better to do I replaced the line output transistor, which was type S2000A3. Not having one of these I tried a BU508AF. The set then worked normally and continued to do so. I later fitted the correct type, but couldn't find anything wrong with the original one when carrying out meter checks on it. Maybe it broke down under load. Something to bear in mind in future. **R.N.**

### Orion 14ARX

This set was dead although, I was told, it hadn't had much use. Certainly it was clean inside, but it refused to start. The 330k $\Omega$  start-up resistors were o.k., also the STR50103 power supply chip. The clue was provided by R532, a large 2.2k $\Omega$  wirewound resistor, which got very hot after a few seconds. It feeds a diode and a 3.3 $\mu$ F, 250V capacitor, C530. This item was dead short, a replacement restoring the set to life.

It's no wonder that the capacitor had failed. It is of minuscule proportions and is mounted very close to three wirewound resistors. The original one had obviously been running very hot, as the outer plastic cover was discoloured. I used a high-grade type of larger proportions, rated at 105°. **R.N.**

### Granada C51CZ7 (Salora K Chassis)

This set fought back to the last. It came in dead and the customer said that "a good thump" used to get it going but now nothing happened. First I tackled all the dry-joints in the Ipsalo circuit (power supply/line output stage) which then made some effort to run but took about half a minute to start. This was put right by replacing CB604 (1,000 $\mu$ F, 25V) and CB601 (1 $\mu$ F, 63V). But the set then produced a

bright blue raster. The voltage at the tube's blue cathode was low because the blue output transistor was faulty. Once this had been replaced I got a snowy raster which gave way to intermittent picture and sound when the tuning board was moved. More dry-joints on the main panel sockets. The picture then obtained was grainy because of low gain, the tuner being defective.

The final problem was inability to store tuning and personal preference data. Replacing the MDA2061 EEPROM chip on the tuning panel cured this. I'm sure that most of these problems were caused by the constant bashing the customer had been giving the set. **R.N.**

### Philips 8841 (G110 Projection Chassis)

I had been asked to look at one of these sets. Apart from their physical size they are no different, in general, from a standard TV receiver. This particular set was in the protection mode, which usually means that there's a fault with one of the c.r.t. driver stages or a field collapse. The three c.r.t.s are run at very high brightness levels and would be severely damaged under certain fault conditions, hence the elaborate protection circuitry.

I was able to isolate the cause of the fault fairly quickly by disconnecting the blue drive. I should then have been able to get a yellow picture, but all I got was a collection of very diffused, barely discernible blobs that moved about. I tried various things, like the focus control and the e.h.t. splitter, but got nowhere. Then I started to think of the expense if the c.r.t.s were faulty – all three? It seemed unlikely, but it was getting late. So the problem was left until Monday morning.

When my colleague removed the front screen to check the c.r.t. lenses the cause of the strange display was immediately apparent. The back mirror was missing! It appeared to have been broken at some time, and the bits had been removed. The set had then been stored. Replacement would still be a very expensive job, and we don't know whether the c.r.t.s are all good. Maybe I'll continue this saga at some later time. . . **R.N.**

### ITT CT3835 (Compact 80 – 110° Chassis)

Another dealer had replaced the tube but then obtained no picture. Winding up the first anode control produced a blank raster, so field collapse was eliminated as the cause. The decoder chip had already been tried (twice!), so something was telling it to sulk. A check on the sandcastle pulse at pin 4 of the TDA1941 sync/line oscillator chip showed that the field pulses were absent, though the line component was present. Field pulses at 13V p-p should arrive at pin 18 but didn't. They come from an emitter-follower transistor, T401, which was open-circuit base to emitter and collector, and short-circuit collector to emitter! A new BC548 woke up the decoder and cheered up the dealer. **C.A.**

### Philips CTX-E Chassis

As well as no colour, this receiver appeared to have unresolvable grey-scale tracking errors. Once the B&K tube tester had showed that all three guns were firing well our quest for the missing chroma began at pin 8 of the TDA3560 colour decoder chip, where we found that there was a nicely built sandcastle. The voltages around the chip were low however, because the 9V supply at pin 1 was low. The 10 $\Omega$  feed resistor R3222 had risen in value to 41 $\Omega$ ! A replacement restored the colour and correct tracking. **C.A.**

# *Servicing the Microvitec Games Monitor*

*Peter Hubbard*

The owner of the local games arcade has just paid us another visit, this time with a Microvitec monitor for repair. These are not quite as popular for arcade games as the Hantarex 9000 we looked at in a previous article (June 1994) but we do get quite a few of them in for repair, usually from Barcrest quiz games machines. Two versions of the chassis are used, the LCCD 02 and LCCD 03, depending on the age of the machine. There are only minor variations between them, and these notes apply to both.

LCCD apparently stands for Low Complexity Colour Display, which shows that someone at Microvitec has a sense of humour. The chassis is obviously not as complex as a modern multisync computer monitor, but it's probably the most complex one used in arcade games. It is the same chassis as the Cub monitor, which was popular for use with the BBC-B computer. You usually find that the chassis is marked either LCCD 02 or LCCD 03 at the rear edge of the PCB: the two versions of the chassis can also be identified by the colour of the PCB – blue in the 02 version, brown in the 03. Note that later versions of the Cub monitor are fitted with the series 4/5 chassis, which is not the same animal.

For an arcade games machine the Microvitec monitor is unusual in being designed to run from a 180-240V mains supply rather than the 120V isolating transformer in the game cabinet. It has a discrete component, self-oscillating switch-mode power supply of the Siemens type, the chopper transformer providing mains isolation. Do not forget that the section of the power supply on the primary side of the chopper transformer T2 is not isolated, and that the mains bridge rectifier's reservoir capacitor C11 can retain its charge for a very long time after switching the monitor off, especially when the switch-mode power supply isn't working.

## **Equipment Required**

As we pointed out when looking at the Hantarex monitor, usually only the chassis is brought in for repair. So a tube assembly will again be required. You can use the same tube/frame set-up as for the Hantarex monitor, though the 120V transformer won't be required and the scan coils will need a different plug. I use the same set-up for all chassis: the scan coils have an array of plugs and leads to suit the various monitors I service.

## **Inputs**

The mains input is via a three-pin plug, the innermost pin being for earth. I never connect this pin while servicing a

monitor. The thought of a direct connection to earth should I accidentally touch something live, even with an isolation transformer in circuit, doesn't seem conducive to continuing health. It's not the shock that hurts, rather the sharp edge that is always there when you pull your hand away.

Remember that there is no video drive once the monitor has been disconnected from the game logic board, so you will not see a raster unless you either provide an input or turn up the first anode preset on the tube base panel slightly.

## **The Power Supply**

There's a 2A fuse (F1 and F2) in both the line and neutral connections to the power supply to protect the bridge rectifier (D1-4) and its reservoir capacitor (C11). The output from the bridge rectifier is taken to the chopper circuit via a 1A fuse (F3).

If the monitor is dead, check for approximately 300V at F3. If there's no voltage here check fuses F1 and F2 and the bridge rectifier diodes D1-4, which are type 1N4007. If the voltage is low, check C11 which can be dry-jointed or open-circuit. It's usually a 100 $\mu$ F, 385V electrolytic, but the value is occasionally 220 $\mu$ F.

If there is power at F3 but this fuse is open-circuit, check the chopper transistor TR2. In the 02 chassis it's a BUW81A Darlingon device, in the 03 chassis it's an R3213. If TR2 is not faulty check resistor R16 which provides the feedback link to its base. The value is usually 3.3k $\Omega$ , 5W but other values are fitted in some chassis and in the 03 version there are two 1k $\Omega$  resistors in parallel. If R16 is o.k., check thyristor TY1 by substitution, using a BR103. It's on the front edge of the chassis, by TR2's heatsink.

If F3 has not blown, check R15 (1.5 $\Omega$ , 2W) which is in series with TR2. It can fail of its own accord or when TR2 goes short-circuit (F3 open). Can you hear the power supply tripping? If so disconnect the tripler and try again. If the power supply is then o.k., replace the tripler. If the tripping continues with the tripler disconnected replace zener diodes D18 (BZX79C7V5) and D20 (BZX79C33V) and transistor TR1 (BC307). Turn the set-h.t. control VR4 to minimum (anti-clockwise) and switch on. If the power supply still trips the chopper transformer T2 is suspect. If the power supply works, reset the h.t. for 124V at the link in the scan coil plug PL201.

If F3 is o.k. and the power supply isn't tripping, check for 124V at the link in the scan coil plug. If the voltage is o.k. the cause of the fault is probably in the line output stage. If the voltage is missing check resistor R8 and capacitor C10 in the start-up circuit. Sometimes C10 is not fitted and R8 is in the position marked C10. R8 can go high in value, inhibiting the start up. It's usually 22k $\Omega$  though 39k $\Omega$  is sometimes used. C10 is 22nF, 400V. These values apply with the BUW81A chopper transistor. With the R3213 R8 is 3.3k $\Omega$ , 1W and C10 56nF, 400V.

If R8 is o.k. check the h.t. rectifier diode D23. Replace with type MR818 if necessary. Also check the reservoir and smoothing capacitors C27 and C28, which are both 47 $\mu$ F, 250V.

A rider should be added at this point. The posistor TH1 in the degaussing circuit can cause various problems. It can blow the mains fuses, cause impurity or result in low voltages when it falls in value.

## **The Line Output Stage**

A faulty tripler often kills the BU500 line output transistor TR202, though it can occasionally fail of its own accord. If TR202 is o.k., check for 124V at its collector.

Absence of this voltage probably means that the 15Ω, 3W fusible resistor R231 has sprung open. If so, resolder it and soak test the monitor. R231 sometimes goes open-circuit for no apparent reason. If it goes open again, suspect either the tripler or the line output transformer T203.

An EW control, VR328 (220Ω), is incorporated in some chassis. It's quite common to find that this and the associated 180Ω, 1W resistor R325 have burnt out with C312 (220μF, 25V) having gone open-circuit, presumably dried out by the heat from the adjacent resistors.

### Sync Faults

Check capacitor C210 for dry-joints if the problem is intermittent line sync. Occasionally the TDA1180A chip IC201, which provides both line and field sync, is faulty.

### Field Collapse

In the event of field collapse check for 24V at the anode of D302. If the voltage here is low, try disconnecting the cathode end of D302 and check again. When the TDA1170S field timebase chip IC301 fails it usually pulls the 24V rail down with it. If the voltage remains low when D302 has been disconnected check the 10Ω fusible surge limiter resistor R235, the BA157 rectifier diode D201 and the 1,000μF, 35V reservoir capacitor C224.

The field timebase chip can be a bit difficult to remove as it has a large heatsink soldered to the middle six pins (three on each side). It makes sense to unsolder this then remove the chip. Care is needed as the PCB is easily damaged.

### No Picture

Check for 200V at the orange lead on the tube base. If it's missing, check the relevant rectifier diode which is D22, type MR818. Also check the 47μF, 250V reservoir capacitor C26.

If the 200V supply is o.k., check for 18V at the input to the 12V regulator IC1. If the 18V supply is missing the usual cause is the 4.7Ω fusible resistor R26; if the 12V supply is missing IC1 (7812) is usually to blame. The 18V rectifier D24 occasionally fails. Replace with a BA157.

See also set black adjustment below.

### The RGB Output Stages

Flashing colours is a fairly frequent fault, the usual cause being dry-joints around the transistors on the tube base. The RGB output stages are of the class AB type. A permanent colour bias is also common. First check whether one of the fusible resistors R907, R922 or R936 is open-circuit. In the 02 chassis their value is 1kΩ, in the 03 chassis 100Ω. If these are all o.k. it's tempting to correct the colour by adjusting the background controls. But if you do this the problem usually returns several days later, invariably because one of the 2W resistors R904, R912 or R918 is slowly rising in value. Check them before making any adjustments. Values are 18kΩ in the 02 chassis, 15kΩ in the 03 chassis.

### Set Black Adjustment

Disconnect all signal inputs then turn the brightness (VR134), contrast (VR111) and first anode (VR932) presets to minimum (anti-clockwise).

Adjust VR906 (red), VR914 (green) and VR921 (blue) in turn for 140V at each tube cathode.

Advance the first anode preset until a raster is just visible. If the colour is not neutral, reduce the setting of the appropriate control(s) to correct the balance.

Reduce the setting of the first anode preset to just extinguish the raster.

Faults in the tube's first anode supply network will cause brightness problems, including a blank screen. The preset itself (VR932, 2.2MΩ) is suspect while R236 (150kΩ), R934 (180kΩ) and R933 (150kΩ) all tend to go high in value. They are rated at 1W: 2W is better.

### Colour Gain Adjustment

A d.c.-coupled scope is required for adjustment of the colour gain controls, also a suitable test pattern with approximately equal amounts of peak white and black on all colours. Set the contrast control (VR111) to maximum then remove link TL901 on the tube base.

Adjust VR903 (red), VR910 (green) and VR916 (blue) for 60V p-p at the emitters of TR901, TR903 and TR905 respectively.

Replace link TL901 and readjust the contrast control for a normal picture.

### In Conclusion

Check carefully for dry-joints and replace any tired-looking components before you return the chassis to its hard life in the arcade. Most arcade operators value reliable repairs.

An article on the Cub version of the chassis, in the August 1992 issue of *Television*, showed some of the circuitry including the power supply and provided various fault notes. There were also several letters on the chassis in the October 1992 issue.

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# The Panasonic Z4 Chassis

## Part 2

Ray Meadows

In this instalment we'll look at the signals sections of the chassis including the AV switching arrangements.

### Tuner and IF

In common with most recent Panasonic chassis the Z4 uses an Ecom ENV series tuner, with unbalanced output. These tuners are good from the cost/performance point of view though there are sometimes selectivity and adjacent channel interference problems.

Fig. 1 shows in outline the 'front end' of the chassis. The sound and vision i.f. amplifier/demodulator chip IC101 is a Mitsubishi M51362SP, which is effectively a cut-down

internal video detector oscillator to be adjusted.

Ceramic filter X151 removes the sound subcarrier, the filtered video re-entering the chip at pin 30. The input is applied to a noise inverter after which equalisation, using negative feedback, takes place. The feedback input is at pin 3, where the filtered sample is fed to the inverting input of the equalising amplifier. The video output at pin 3 is buffered by Q130 before leaving panel B.

The sound i.f. signal is tapped from the emitter of Q112 then amplified and filtered by Q235 and Q210, entering IC101 at pin 11. Detected 6MHz sound appears at pin 15 then passes via the ceramic bandpass filter X211 to pin 13 for limiting and demodulation. L2112, connected to pins 17

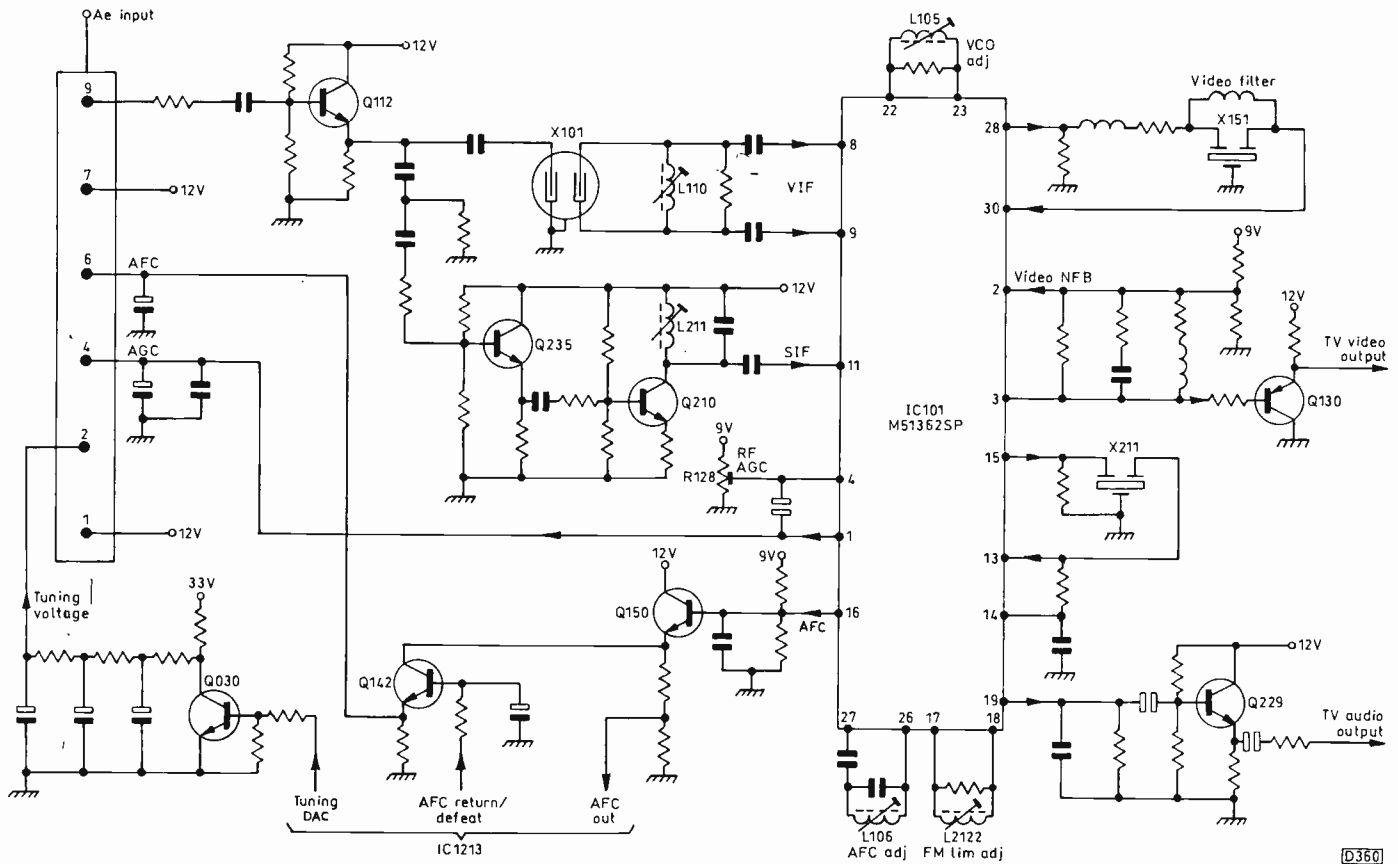


Fig. 1: Arrangement used in the Z4 chassis' front end.

version of the M52020SP used in the Alpha 3 chassis. It does not have a QIF (quadrature i.f.) circuit as no stereo sound Z4 models were planned.

Circuit operation is straightforward. For tuning the microcontroller chip produces a 'DAC' (pulse) output which is applied to Q030. This transistor along with the following CR filter network produces the analogue tuning voltage which is fed to pin 2 of the tuner. The tuner's i.f. output is buffered by Q112 and then passes via the SAW filter X101 which produces a balanced input for pins 8 and 9 of IC101. The signal is then amplified and demodulated within the chip, the output appearing at pin 28. Coil L105, connected to pins 22 and 23, enables the phase of the

and 18, enables the internal three-stage limiting amplifier to be adjusted. Audio emerges at pin 19 and is buffered by Q229 before it leaves panel B.

There's internal a.g.c. within IC101, and a tuner a.g.c. output is produced at pin 1. The a.f.c. output at pin 16 is buffered by Q150 then leaves the board on its way to the main microcontroller chip. It returns and after smoothing passes via Q142 to pin 6 of the tuner. When a.f.c. is not required (whilst tuning) the microcontroller chip switches Q142 off, blocking the a.f.c. feed to the tuner.

Models equipped for SECAM reception use the M52020SP 'Alpha 3' i.f. chip, with two extra SAW filters for the high and low a.m. sound carriers. As the SECAM



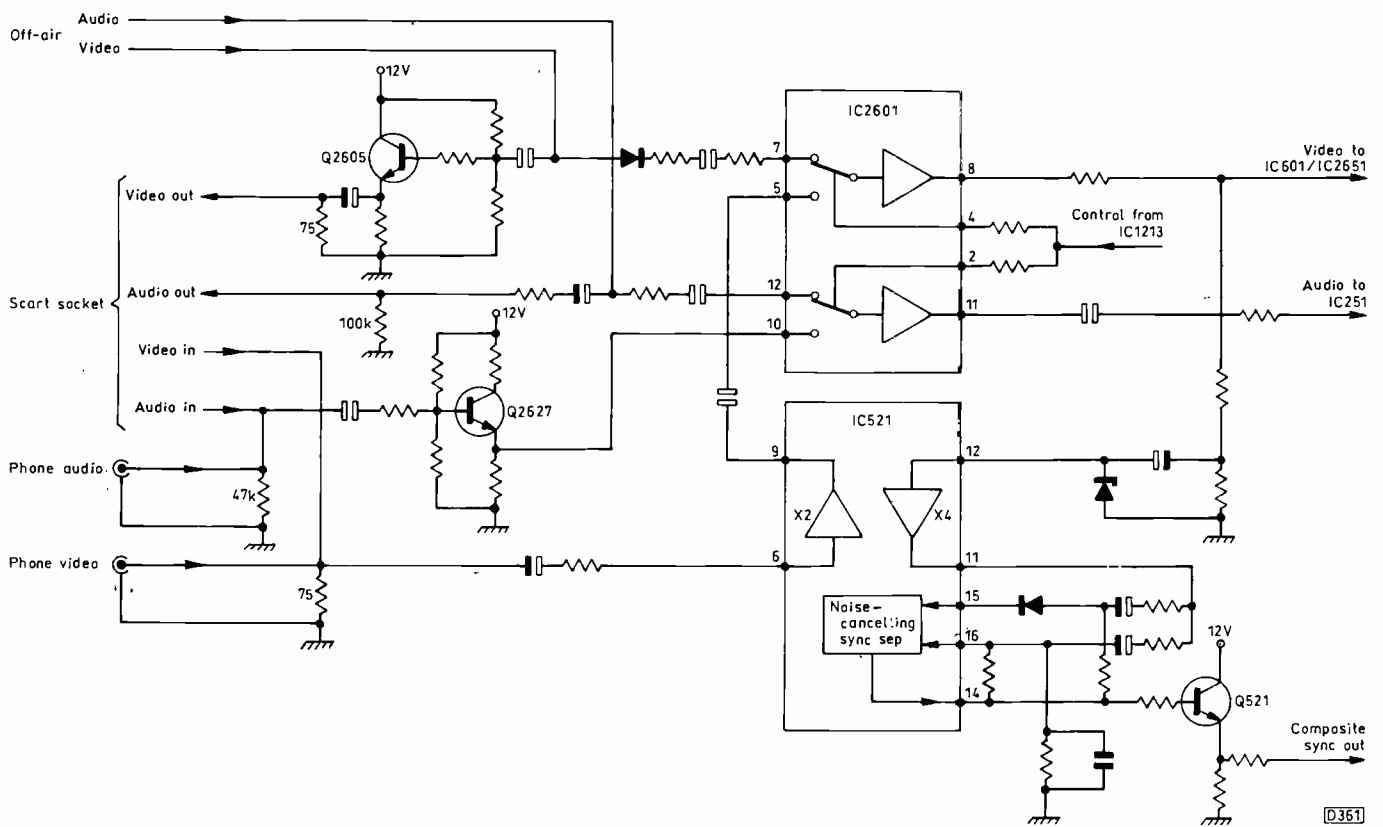


Fig. 2: The TV/AV switching system.

sound system ties up both sound i.f. channels in the chip, an additional f.m. sound demodulator must be provided to cater for PAL signals. Thus IC2101, an AN5215 as used in the Alpha 3 chassis for mono f.m. sound, is fitted. With this lot added the complete circuit becomes almost identical to that in the French version of the Alpha 3 chassis.

### The AV Signal Paths

When the audio and video signals from panel B reach panel E they go two ways (see Fig. 2). One provides recording outputs at the scart socket AV1 (the sound signal connection to this socket was omitted in Fig. 2 last month). The other paths lead to the TV/AV switch chip IC2601 on panel H where they are joined by the audio and video input signals that enter from the external AV sockets. Thus source selection takes place on panel H. Note that although the chassis is fitted with a rear scart and front phono connectors these count as a single AV input, the signals from both socket arrangements being mixed together.

IC2601 is a two-pole AV switch with gain. As the external video is attenuated by the dual input socket arrangement the signal is first fed to IC521, where it passes through an amplifier with a gain of two. This restores the video signal to its original level. The external audio input is buffered by Q2627. The switching in IC2601 is controlled by an output from the microcontroller chip.

We'll mention another function of IC521 here, sync separation, for the sake of completeness. The selected video output from IC2601 returns to panel E. A feed is also taken to pin 12 of IC521, whose sync separator section contains a noise-cancelling circuit, a clamp and an amplifier. The output is buffered by Q521: it provides solid, clean field sync pulses for the 50/60Hz standards selection chip IC1301 on panel E. When these pulses are gated with a pulse derived from the line output stage a stop signal is provided

for search tuning (see Fig. 4). This also enables the microcontroller chip to synchronise the on-screen displays in the absence of video signals.

S-video equipped models also have a rear-mounted S connector and audio phono socket on panel E (they were shown on panel H in error last month). When the S-video plug is inserted an internal mechanical changeover switch cuts the external composite video path to IC521 and inserts the S luminance in its place. It also passes a signal to the microcontroller chip. A simple diode switch is used for the S chroma feed. To take into account the different Y and C delays with composite and S-video signals a composite/S-video switch (IC2651 - not shown in Fig. 1 last month) is incorporated prior to the video processor chip IC601 on panel C.

The audio and video signals return from panel H to panel E. Here the audio goes to the amplifier chip IC251 while the video leaves again to go to the decoder/video processor chip on panel C.

### The RGB Signal Paths

RGB signals are generated by the main microcontroller chip as on-screen display characters, come from the teletext decoder (when fitted) and also come from the scart socket. Remember that these sets were designed when BSB D-MAC receivers with RGB outputs were appearing. The RGB switching circuitry (see Fig. 3) is thus rather complicated for a small-screen chassis.

The RGB inputs from the scart socket and the teletext RGB signals meet at IC3301 whose outputs are determined by the main microcontroller chip IC1213. This receives two RGB status signals, one from the text decoder and one from pin 16 (fast blanking) of the scart socket. In sets intended for Continental markets a third status signal comes via pin 8 of the scart socket. A low level at pin 29 of IC1213 indi-

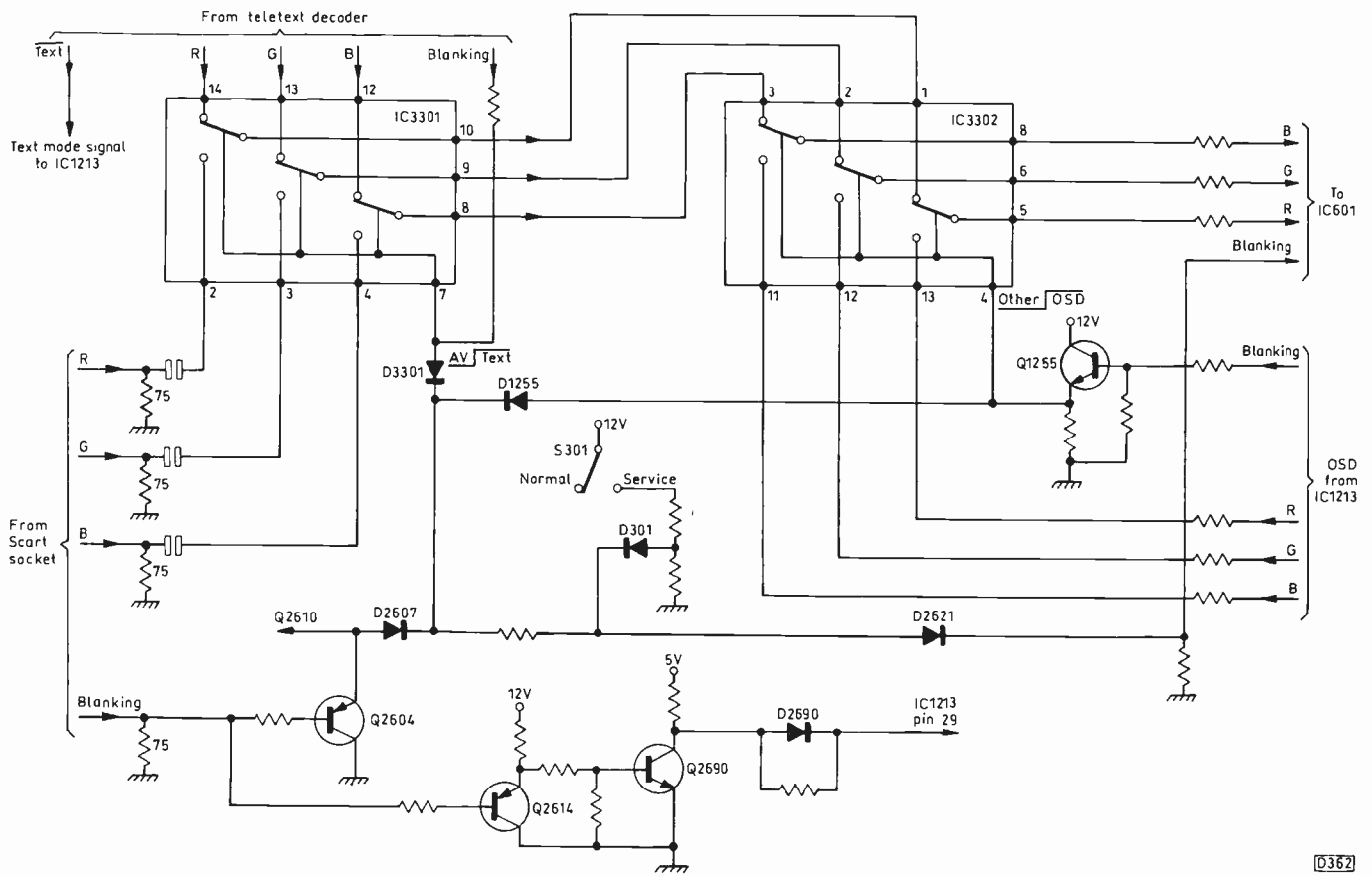


Fig. 3: The RGB signal switching system.

icates that there are external RGB inputs while a low at pin 52 indicates that the teletext decoder is active. Based on this information, IC1213 supplies a signal to pin 7 of IC3301 to select the appropriate outputs. This signal is also passed to the video processor IC601. A further input from the service switch S301 removes all the video signals when the service mode is selected.

The outputs from IC3301 pass to the second RGB switching chip IC3302, where the on-screen display signals from IC1213 are added. In this case only the active blanking OSD signal is used, so that OSD characters can be inserted into other RGB sources. In non-teletext sets the OSD signals

are fed to both switching chips. At one stage elimination of one of the RGB switching chips was decided upon, but the two chips were retained to maintain chassis flexibility.

The outputs from IC3302 are passed to the video processor chip IC601 which incorporates further switching.

### 50/60Hz Mode Selection

The circuitry that centres on IC1301 (see Fig. 4) measures the timing of the sync input from IC521 to control 50/60Hz operation. IC1301's output does several things. It switches the video processor between PAL and NTSC operation and tells the field output chip IC451 to adjust the height so that it remains the same in both the 50Hz and the 60Hz modes. It also tells IC1213 the mode in use so that the on-screen display timings can be adjusted to suit the scanning. Note that the field drive from IC601 is used as a trigger input for IC451 which contains a ramp generator.

Fig. 4 also shows the search-stop circuit.

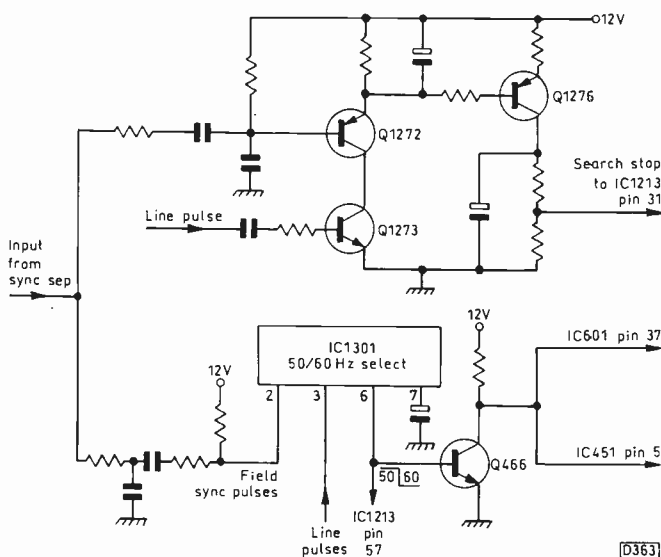


Fig. 4: The 50/60Hz system switch and search-stop circuit.

### Video Processing

UK models use a one-chip colour decoder based on the Matsushita AN5603K (IC601) which also provides field and line drive outputs. Fig. 5 shows a simplified block diagram of IC601 (video sections only) and the S-video switching arrangement.

The composite video signal from the TV/AV switching chip IC2601, coming via panel E, is buffered by Q601 then enters LC601. This combination device contains both the luminance low-pass filter and the chroma bandpass filter. Additional chroma signal rejection is provided by X301 in the luminance signal path.

With S-video equipped sets the signals pass through the composite/S-video switching chip IC2651. When an S-

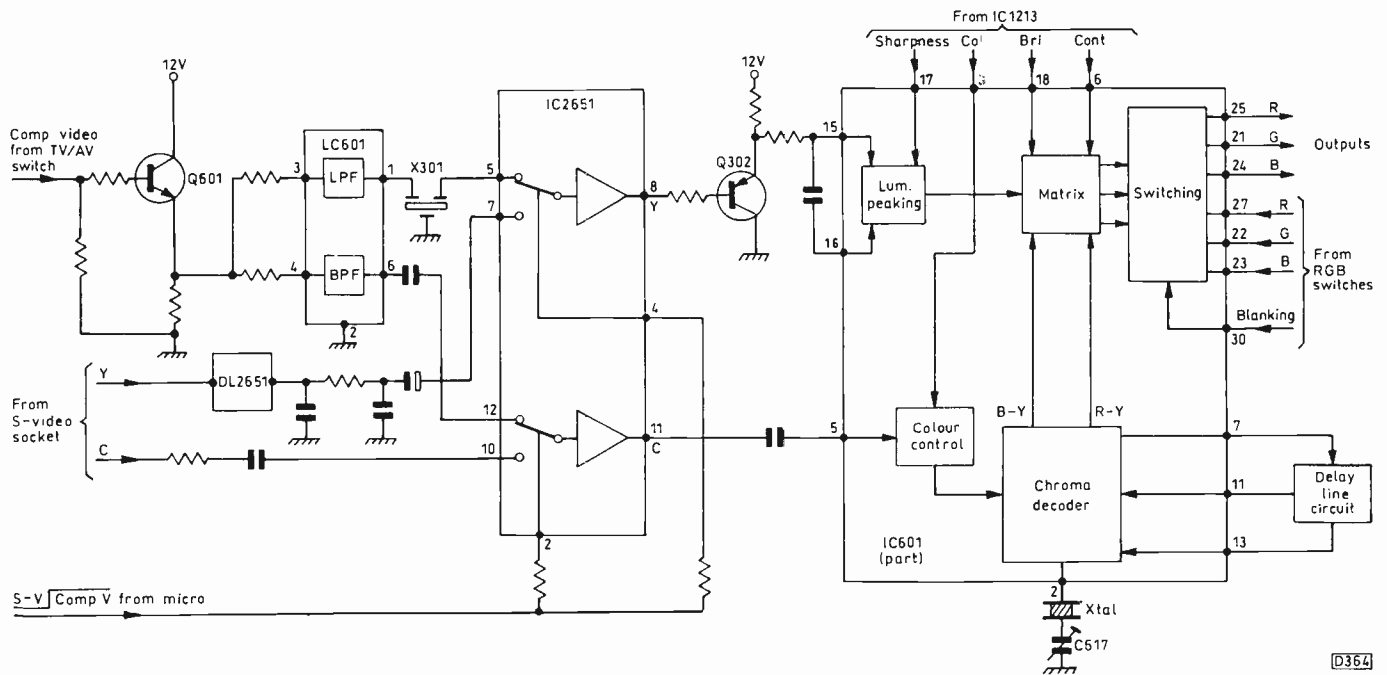


Fig. 5: Simplified block diagram of the S-video/composite-video signal decoding arrangements.

video source is plugged in, the microcontroller chip is informed of this fact by the mechanical switch in the S-video socket. It then produces a low output which is fed to pins 2 and 4 of IC2651 to produce the switch-over to S-video operation. Delay line DL2651 in the S-luminance path adjusts the Y-C delay. The outputs from IC2651 are passed to IC601.

In sets without S-video facilities IC2651 and DL2651 are omitted and a discrete-component LCR filter replaces X301.

IC601 performs all the conventional PAL or NTSC signal decoding and processing. As the chip doesn't have facilities for I2C bus control, the microcontroller chip provides pulse-width modulated digital colour, brightness, contrast and sharpness control outputs which are filtered prior to application to IC601. Presets for sub-colour, sub-brightness etc. adjustment are thus to be found on panel E, close to the microcontroller chip.

When IC1301 detects a 60Hz signal, pin 37 of IC601 is set high for NTSC operation. A limitation of this system is that 60Hz signals have to be decoded in NTSC form. Thus modified NTSC playback, available for example from some Laserdisc players and VCRs, will produce only monochrome displays.

IC601's internal functional blocks include those for chroma processing, a.p.c. and the crystal-controlled reference oscillator. Adjustments are limited to C617 (crystal oscillator, referred to as the a.p.c. trimmer), the chroma delay line preset R611 and matching coil L601. The outputs from the balanced chroma demodulators are matrixed with the processed luminance to produce RGB signals which are then fed to switches for input selection. The selected RGB outputs are fed via panel E to the RGB output stages on panel Y.

SECAM-equipped models use the same video processor chip but also have a second chroma processor IC602 (type AN5633K), a bell filter and additional delay lines.

### RGB Output Stages

As in other Panasonic chassis simple class A RGB output stages are used. They nevertheless give good results. Fig. 6 shows the red channel circuit.

The emitters of the RGB output transistors are linked to the sliders of potentiometers that are connected between the 12V supply and chassis. These presets control the d.c. bias applied to the output stages, adjusting the cut-off points. In addition there's a gain adjustment in the R and G output stages to adjust the tube drives.

The collector of each output transistor is connected to the h.t. line via a peaking choke. With 15in. models the h.t. is

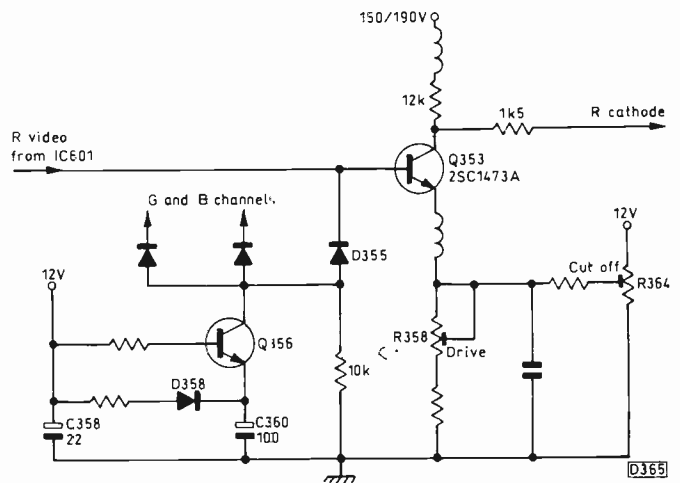


Fig. 6: The red output stage and switch-off spot suppression circuit.

150V while with 21in. models it's 190V. Cut-off and white-balance adjustments are straightforward: use the method described in the May issue of *Television* (page 482) for the Alpha 3 chassis.

### Switch-off Spot Suppression

Switch-off spot suppression is provided by Q356 and its associated components. When the set is powered C360 charges via D358 to 12V. Thus the base and emitter of Q356 are held at the same voltage and the transistor is cut off. At switch-off the 12V supply, which is generated by the chopper circuit, falls rapidly. As D358 is then reverse

biased, the voltage at Q356's emitter will be higher than that at its base. Being a pnp device it conducts, blocking the drives to the output transistors.

### **Audio Amplifier and Muting**

The audio signal from the TV/AV switching chip IC2601 (panel H) is fed to amplifier chip IC251 on panel E. This Matsushita AN5265 device contains a voltage-controlled attenuator for volume adjustment and an output stage that provides 3W (music power) with a 20V supply. The 'top-dome' speaker helps to accentuate the sound by projecting it forwards from the sealed speaker enclosure.

This is a very cost-effective arrangement, the chip's peripheral circuit containing only a dozen or so components.

The pulse-width modulated digital volume control output from the microcontroller chip is smoothed by an RC network then buffered by Q1201 and fed to pin 4 of IC251. Mute transistor Q202 is also connected to this pin. It receives mute inputs from the microcontroller chip and from the power-on mute transistor Q201. The microcontroller chip switches the sound muting on when either the channel is changed, search tuning is in operation or the signal is lost. The microcontroller chip has PWM digital tone control outputs but these are not used in the Z4 chassis.

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# Letters

## **BUILDING A SERVICING BUSINESS**

I quite enjoy reading the letters pages in *Television*. The carping can be a bit indigestible, but Paul Smith's letter of encouragement (September) was a nice change.

Three times I've launched out and built a servicing business from scratch. My initial qualifications were C and G Telecomms and Quality Control – not a sniff of television. I rode the range with the other after-hours cowboys, cutting the throats of established shops while holding down a day job. When I felt sufficiently confident I gave up the day job and, with two weeks' holiday pay, launched out full time.

In those 405-line, v.h.f. valve days everybody had a grub screwdriver, could tune i.f.s and locate and change 'picture valves'. When there was a shortage of engineers who could change from monochrome to colour I took a course at an evening college. I was then able to take on subcontract work for shops that either didn't have an engineer of their own or couldn't handle colour servicing. At my peak I would visit five shops in rotation, clearing the work at each one. My experience increased rapidly. I started a small TV rental business, using reconditioned sets that I happened to like (mostly Thorn and Philips). The other sets I reconditioned were sold from the small workshop premises I rented cheaply. I learnt not to flick molten solder on my socks and never to pull an aerial plug from a TV set with my backside pressed against an earthed object.

Ten years after starting I sold the business, in London, and started the whole process from scratch in Norfolk. It took me three years to get the second business off the ground, and that included another day job. I diversified and made the mistake of moving from direct servicing to trade repairs. My main work now consisted of repairing as-new products from the Far East. I eventually had fifteen people working for me. When the importers went to the wall my overheads soon saw me off. In these circumstances you'll find that banks, who are basically fine weather friends, will pull the rug in their own interests. So after nine years I returned to London and another day job.

I'm now back in Norfolk on my third rebuild, older and wiser I hope. After five years I can again say that the first two were the hardest. The gap between the second and third attempts was ten years. This time when I plugged in my soldering iron and opened the doors I found that people expected me to be able to fix their VCRs. My circuits were ten years out of date, and so were my knee-jerk repair fixes. I felt like a cowboy again, but you soon gain experience and

after just twelve months I felt at home with the VCRs and TV chassis that were being brought in. With servicing it's not the interesting technical fault but the 'oh no, not another Hitachi LOPT' that pays the wage.

I generate letterheads on a PC, and fax orders with a credit card number for spares that are received by return of post. A modem is used to order spares from MPS Electronics or Willow Vale. This has the added advantage of instant price and availability information and (as with fax) can be done after normal working hours. With parts being readily available you don't need to keep an expensive stock of spares. Get an answerphone, which will pay for itself in no time. Some callers will hang up, but people are becoming used to talking to these machines. Be prompt in calling them back.

I can highly recommend Irwin Electronics for the fast and reliable supply of VCR refurbishment kits at reasonable prices – I regularly place orders as late as four o'clock in the afternoon and receive them the next day. Willow Vale is very fast and friendly. I opened an account with them for £100 without references (it's not always easy to open an account without a track record).

CPC has a large catalogue but it's advisable to check on prices which can vary widely, affecting your profit margins. Delivery can be quick but can also take several days. Even with a new catalogue it seems to be my luck that wanted items have been discontinued. Some of their prices are hard to beat however.

Don't be afraid to use pattern spares when they come from reputable manufacturers such as Konig. They can be a fraction of the price of an original and can be fitted with confidence. Being competitive with your labour charges can be a waste of time should the cost of spares push the economics through the roof. Check out Grandata and Sendz, who both offer bargain spares. Grandata will respond by return if faxed but Sendz can be approached only by snail mail.

My experience with firms like CHS, SEME and HRS can only be described as inscrutable. Requests for catalogues may be met with a call for payment or a banker's form. RS Components will supply only account holders but can be approached through Electromail, which is fast and efficient: you'll need to buy the catalogue.

I have been building up a library of manuals for the chassis more commonly encountered. On the odd occasion I've been helped out by getting a copy of a circuit from the local technical college.

Have a go, but keep the day job until your reputation and customer base grows sufficiently. Keep your overheads low, otherwise they will crush you during the quiet summer spell. If you are any good you'll succeed. And if you start to make a fortune let the rest of us know how you do it.

Never stop learning and keeping up with developments.

Don't let technofear stop you entering uncharted waters. Total knowledge of a system is wonderful, but the majority of repairs can be carried out with common sense and good working practice. Expertise is learnt, in a very short time, not in a classroom but on the bench. I expect callback rates to be less than one per cent.

Not every job that's brought along is worth doing. If you can't guarantee a reliable repair for the money spent, pass the job over. Many things are repaired and put back into service when a replacement would be a better bet. But don't write off something that could give good service. Give a no-quibble, money-back guarantee to avoid problems with customers who will never be pleased with whatever you do.

I've found that over thirty years working in and around this business have been rewarding: often frustrating, but always interesting and varied.

*Ian Rees,  
Wisbech, Cambs.*

## DECLINE OF THE TRADE

I've been an avid reader of *Television* for some twenty five years. During this time there has been much comment on the decline of our once great trade. It's time to analyse the reasons for this decline.

Despite inflation, there has been an almost continuous decrease in the price of new products. For example, a large-screen colour TV set can be bought at less than the price quoted twenty five years ago. It will have remote control, and possibly teletext and Nicam stereo sound. Once a trend towards lower prices becomes established, the public finds it hard to accept that there should ever be an increase in the price of any of our products. Who can blame them when the multiples every week find any excuse to advertise yet another 'sale'? But it's not easy to be sure about who exactly is to blame for this crazy situation. Is it the retailers; or is it the manufacturers, who fail to ensure that the price of their new products reflects the added value of improved technology and the rise in the price of other consumer goods and the cost of living?

A typical new family car cost about £1,000 on the road in 1970. A similar car, though with improvements, will today cost you around £12,000. On a pound-for-pound basis, your average 20in. colour set with teletext etc. should cost around £2,500! It seems that manufacturers and importers concentrate on price alone in a desperate though misguided attempt to increase market share.

I vividly recall a visit from the local Sharp area manager in 1987. He told me that the price of a certain portable CD/twin cassette/radio model that had previously retailed for typically £349 was to be reduced to £249, i.e. by almost thirty per cent! He tried to convince me that this would be to my benefit as the product would be easier to sell. The point he conveniently overlooked was that we would have to sell virtually fifty per cent more in product volume to maintain the same gross profit level.

The problem is not just with new equipment. Those of us who have benefited from the higher gross profit generated by used equipment are finding that the trade price of typical ex-rental VCRs for example is now disproportionately high. If you have to pay £50-60 plus VAT for a 3V35 it can be very difficult to justify a price tag of say £99 when prospective customers know that they can buy a brand new two-speed machine at the local discount store for as little as £159. They don't worry about the fact that it's a little known brand.

I sympathise with your correspondents who have complained about manufacturers' failure to provide tech-

nical support to non-account holders. If the manufacturers were to return to the real world and give priority to reasonable profit margins rather than market share at any cost they might be able to provide such support for their customers through retail outlets.

When it comes to servicing, the price of spare parts has not fallen in the same ratio as that of new products. Yet the cost of living and hence that of skilled labour is forever rising. Because of this, any product with a price tag of less than £50 is no longer economical to repair – either in or out of warranty.

Your correspondent ('Less Gloom Please' August) is right about one thing – servicing as we know it is surely on the way out. He is also correct in saying that large profits and an easy time cannot be expected. But he must appreciate that in the commercial world you cannot survive on job satisfaction alone. I do however know of two local businesses that have, in my area (Gloucestershire), been unusually successful in our trade. Could the reasons be that in both cases the owners have an admirable grasp of the importance of maintaining profit margins and fund their operations themselves – in other words they work for themselves and not for the bank manager!

The mind boggles at where it's all going to end. How soon will it be before we see Nicam CTV sets at under £200 with a six-year guarantee, twelve months' interest-free credit and nothing to pay for six months? Will the manufacturers, retailers and the public ever wake up to the fact that without profit our situation can and surely will get only worse?

*S. Cook,  
Gloucestershire.*

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

It was with great interest – and not a little sympathy – that I read John Edwards' letter headed the "need for technical support" in your August issue. He can take some comfort from the fact that his is not a lone voice in the wilderness. The problems he experiences with manufacturers who restrict access to technical information have become more and more widespread in recent years, to the detriment of the consumer, the retailer and the trade in general.

While I appreciate the tough times that manufacturers have faced over the last few years, I have always believed that by cutting back on technical support they are digging themselves deeper into the hole. As John Edwards says, why should he bother to recommend a manufacturer's products to his customers when he knows that he won't receive an iota of technical help should a piece of equipment cause difficulties?

Willow Vale has been attempting, in its own way, to step into the breach with the introduction of our Techline. This began as a fairly low-key telephone advice service in the spring of 1993 but now has a staff of six who deal with upwards of 800 calls a month from retailers and technicians needing assistance in repairing TV sets, VCRs, audio, satellite and ICE equipment, microwave ovens and business equipment. It has become a major feature of our operation and, being currently free to all Willow Vale account holders, needs its own substantial budget.

Unlike most manufacturers however we don't regard this service as a troublesome loss-maker. While we pride ourselves on our corporate policy of putting the customer first, we also recognise that a service such as Techline creates a great deal of goodwill which indirectly boosts our business. Many manufacturers would be well advised to do likewise.

Techline is fully supported by three manufacturers at present – Grundig International, Sharp and Pace – though the scope of our service embraces all major brands. We hope that others will join them, especially those who at present could be accused of doing their customers, the industry and their shareholders something of a disservice.

*Max Hofmann, Marketing Director,  
Willow Vale Electronics Ltd.,  
11 Arkwright Road, Reading RG2 0LU.*

## MOTORISED DISH NOISE

A few points with reference to motorised dish noise, which has come up in the DX-TV column recently. A very good book called *Noise and Vibration in Buildings* was published by a company called Sound Services (I'm not sure of the exact title): it's now possible to have a radio studio next door to a plant room. The fact that actuators are noisy is probably because the gears are not machined to the theoretically optimum tooth shape, which varies with the gears' diameter: as a result the teeth behave as cogs.

With regard to airborne noise reduction, check whether the dish rings or pings when tapped. A good thick layer of car body underseal applied to the rear of the dish is a help in this case. A good brand is Adup Bronze (adup = anti-drumming under protection). Comma also does a good product.

Structurally transmitted noise can be troublesome. For example a hammer-action drill can often be heard several houses along a terrace. The answer is rubber. Price up four Leyland Mini exhaust mounts at a motor factors. The type with a round plate at each end and a five-sixteenth stud is good. They cost only about £1.50. If they are placed in a large enough square, wind deflection won't be a problem. One possible fixing method is to obtain some round steel bar – concrete reinforcing bar is good – and get a friend with a lathe to drill and tap the ends to suit the mounts. Screw the mounts to the bars, drill the wall and cement the bars in. Resin is quicker but messier. Isopon or fibreglass resin mixed with sand are also useful fixatives. Araldite is too slow and costly for this purpose.

If tracking speed isn't vital, try reducing the voltage applied to the drive motor. The positioners I've seen seem to apply voltage to the motor until the correct jack count is reached: the jacks will run happily at 18V, 24V or 36V.

It should be possible to get the materials for the job for less than £15, including five litres of underseal – a thin coat is no use. It may even be possible to use 'sandwich' sound deadening, as in Lexus cars. Do ensure that any bits glued on can't fall off and cause injury.

Finally, exploding switch-mode power supplies – there

have been several references to catastrophic failure with this type of circuit. Spikes on the mains supply is a likely cause, so I fit VDRs in the mains plugs of all my prized electronic possessions. At 50p a time it pays!

*D. Benyon, I.Eng.,  
Bude, Cornwall.*

## MATTERS ARISING

It seems that capstan motor drive chips frequently fail long before the rest of the motor assembly wears out. Perhaps this is due to lack of lubrication, or maybe because these motors are often used to drive everything from the tape transport to tape and cassette loading via various ingenious linkages. Whatever the cause, these i.c.s now fail with monotonous regularity. But few manufacturers supply this i.c. as a separate part. This is a short-sighted waste of resources that makes many an otherwise healthy machine beyond economic repair.

We have written to several manufacturers for an explanation. Hitachi told us – we wrote about the VT520 – that these parts are not manufactured separately from the motor! Similarly silly excuses have been received from other manufacturers. In our experience the only helpful manufacturer in this respect is Panasonic, who will at least supply the circuit board with stator and i.c. at a reasonable price (about the third of a new motor). Because of their superior design qualities however these parts hardly ever fail in Panasonic machines.

When are some manufacturers going to realise that this difficult attitude to the supply of discrete parts will affect the future sales of their products? They should supply the parts that engineers need rather than offering only what is more convenient to themselves.

On another subject I feel compelled to complain again about your thoughtless front cover photography. The August front cover shows a technician (?) reaching into a set with both hands: one hand is grasping the metal chassis while the other one seems to be adjusting the purity/convergence ring magnets. There are high voltages in this area. They can give you a nasty belt even when you have one hand behind your back. With an earth path through the heart muscle (via the other hand attached to the chassis) a shock could be lethal.

Finally it would be interesting to know what proportion of faults is caused by 'a large pair of unqualified hands' delving into the circuit before it reaches the technician (Ray Porter's article, September). In my experience this is a factor in over half of the faulty equipment brought in.

*L. Mackenzie, T.Eng.,  
Edinburgh.*

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## What a Life!

*– continued from page 844*

worked well and went on and on. Later we connected a meter across the VDR and warmed it. Its value rose until it was virtually open-circuit. Then we froze it and the value came back down. Our thanks, Graham.

### **Walter Wingnut's KT4**

Walter Wingnut brought in his Pye TV, one fitted with the Philips KT4 chassis. "Smells of burning" he said, "and it whines and the picture's milky."

"Poor thing" I said. Off he went and we dismantled the

set. Our noses directed us to the line output stage panel, where we found that R3166 (1.5kΩ) was little more than a tube of soot. This resistor is in series with the earthy end of the diode-split e.h.t. section of the line output transformer, and is linked to chassis by the bulky 47nF decoupling capacitor C2167 – the network provides a sensing point for the beam limiter. There is also a feed from this point to the EW correction circuit, to stabilise the width when large beam current variations occur. The obvious thing to do was to check the capacitor. It tested all right, but we decided to replace it along with the resistor.

When we tried the set again there was a good picture and the whining had stopped. The resistor ran cool during a soak test lasting several hours. So we pronounced the set fit and put it aside awaiting Walter's return.

# VCR Clinic

*Reports from John Edwards, Brian Storm, David Belmont, Chris Watton, Simon Bodgitt, Gerald White, John C. Priest, John Pitt-Francis, Richard J. Avis, Mike Leach and Gerald Smith*

## Akai VS23

The loading arms were in the fully laced-up position but the carriage (loading block as Akai calls it) was in the eject position. I've had this fault before, so it was simply a matter of removing the carriage, resetting the timing and fitting a new mode switch. **J.E.**

## Panasonic NV366

When this VCR was switched on the take-up spool rotated, even without a cassette loaded. With a cassette inserted all tape modes worked but there was no auto-stop when the tape had been fully rewound. The cause of all this was dry-joints at plug/socket PL6010 on the main PCB. Because of its position at the rear edge of the board it is subjected to physical stress when the board is hinged down, there being very little slack in the wiring to the socket. **J.E.**

## Panasonic NVL25

There were power supply problems, with D1113 on the secondary side of the supply short-circuit. This device is present to protect the machine from excessive supply voltages. If the supply lines rise above a certain level it goes short-circuit and brings the excess-current trip into operation until the power supply is reset. Unfortunately when D1113 had been replaced there was still no power – until C1109 (1 $\mu$ F, 400V) in the start-up circuit was replaced. But there was still a problem: C1114 (47 $\mu$ F, 63V) was also open-circuit, and D1113 again blew. When D1113 and C1114 had been replaced the machine worked normally. **B.S.**

## Panasonic NVFS88

This S-VHS machine refused to record, despite the display indicating that it would. All it did was to erase the previous recording, which showed that the full-width erase head was working. After thumbing through many pages of circuit diagrams it became evident that IC6003, working with the main systems control chip IC6001, provides the various record switching signals – or, in this case, didn't. A new BU5863F chip restored the machine to its former glory. **B.S.**

## Panasonic NV180

This portable didn't like being portable! Any attempt to move it would be like pressing the stop button, but leave it alone and it would operate perfectly. When the cabinet was removed the fault disappeared. Every plug, connector and lead was checked and tightened, but the fault returned upon reassembly. With a certain amount of language not normally heard in the workshop I removed the casings again. After some time the cause of the fault was traced to the five-pin edit socket connections on the front panel: two of them would short together when the unit was tilted. I cured the problem by fitting sleeving over the exposed solder connections. **B.S.**

## JVC HRD750

The complaint with this machine was that it kept switching

from hi-fi to normal, being almost always in the normal mode, when a prerecorded tape was being played. The cause was a slightly misaligned exit guide. I'm getting a few of these machines with loose entry/exit guides. **D.B.**

## Philips VR6462

When reverse or play/search reverse was selected the supply reel would rotate slightly then the machine would go into the standby mode, with the tape still laced. If any key was pressed the machine would power up and unthread the tape. All the other functions worked perfectly.

The cause of the fault was eventually traced to the control disc (large gear) on the underside of the deck. When we removed this we found that a small piece of plastic was stuck in the groove that operates the back-tension arm. The debris made the control disc jam before reaching its destination. The control system saw this as heavy running of the threading motor and thus shut down to standby. **C.W.**

## Ferguson 3V35/JVC HRD120

The problem with this machine was intermittent loss of the signals. We found that the 33V tuning supply disappeared intermittently, the cause being C21 (100 $\mu$ F, 50V) on the power supply panel. It's part of a voltage doubling circuit. **C.W.**

## Sanyo VHR4160

Fast forward and rewind would sometimes operate, at other times the machine would wind only very slowly. The cause of the trouble was the fact that the brakes stayed on: after a few revolutions the deck stopped. All this was in turn because the loading belt was worn, though it was not immediately apparent. **C.W.**

## Sony SLV401 (Hitachi 520 deck)

The customer said that he had had a lot of trouble with this deck, which had been looked at by others. As the fault persisted it was a challenge – though not much of one as it turned out. The complaint was that the machine would rewind for only eight-ten seconds, then stop: after its visit to the last repairer the machine now had the same trouble in the forward/play direction.

I looked in the top and selected the various transport modes. The deck worked fine but stopped after a few seconds. So I checked at the deck connector, where the reel pulses should be. There was only a minute waveform with the tape moving in either direction. A look at the sensors then proved useful. As I removed the bottom I saw a piece of green wire that joined the outputs from the supply and take-up sensors. I presume that this had been done in a bid to steal some pulses from one side to make up for those missing on the other side. Tut, tut, whatever next?! Well, after removing the wire the deck worked perfectly in the forward direction, but reverse still stopped after a few seconds. A check at the relevant sensor showed that there was no output. When the reel disc was removed the reason

for this was instantly apparent: the magnetic ring that operates the Hall device had fallen off and was stuck to the steel deck. When this had been refitted to the disc all the problems had been cured. We now had beautiful, square take-up and supply side pulses.

The curious thing for me is that if someone had sufficient knowledge to realise that the deck stopped because of lack of reel pulses (hence the wire link), why didn't he look at the sensor? Come on Bill Bodgey, at least have a look first before adding extra bits! I was so pleased with the outcome that I almost didn't charge for the job. Thankfully I returned to my senses before the customer came back to collect his machine. C.W.

### Sanyo VHR3300

The deck functioned in all modes but would stop intermittently in play or record. The tape counter showed that the tape was moving steadily, so the reel pulses were initially discounted. They were in fact intermittent: cleaning the opto unit cleared the fault. Don't be misled, as I was, by thinking that the reel pulses drive the counter. It's driven by the output from the audio/control head. C.W.

### Panasonic NVJ35

The deck made its usual whirry noises when the machine was plugged in but after two seconds it was dead, with no display or deck functions. Checks in the power supply department showed that all the output voltages were present and that during the brief period after connection to the mains the switched supply lines were also correct. So why no display? Over to the display section to check around IC7501. Its 5V supply was correct and the resets were o.k., but there was no waveform at the osc. 1 pins 2 and 3: one pin was at 5V, the other at zero. Replacing crystal X7501 restored normal operation. C.W.

### Panasonic NVFS90

As the owner copied tapes from his camcorder he was concerned about the overall picture quality. There was pulling and colour phase shift at the top of his copies, and horizontal tearing. In this situation it's highly probable that there has been head and tape path wear – the VCR had been in use for a couple of years.

So the owner agreed to replacement of the video heads, the tension band and the pinch roller. The resultant tape path improvement made the horizontal tearing much worse however. We discovered that the vertical sync pulses had noise at the bottom: so too, on closer inspection, did the horizontal sync pulses. This noise turned out to be some type of carrier signal. It took a couple of hours one evening to trace the cause of the fault to a CCD delay line circuit on the sub-luminance board – in fact it took some time to find the board! The culprit was C1 (1 $\mu$ F) which couples the video signal into the CCD delay line chip. Once this capacitor had been replaced the picture was greatly improved. S.B.

### JVC HRD880

When cold this machine would power off in fast forward or rewind. It was o.k. when hot and played all right. When stop and fast forward were selected during play the machine unthreaded and then started in fast forward slowly for a few seconds, but at the point where the fast forward system would normally accelerate the power unit shut down and all the displays went out.

Checks showed that the 17V motor power supply was switched to the capstan motor by the micro chip and Q601 for 8msec before the power supply shut down. The capstan motor current rose to approximately 250mA, which was normal, so the capstan motor was o.k. The trouble was that the power supply couldn't provide the current. A substitute power supply solved the problem, and we subsequently found that C19 (270 $\mu$ F) was down to about 6 $\mu$ F. S.B.

### JVC HRD455

"Won't accept a tape" the note said. The cause was failure of one or both of the cassette detect microswitches on the cassette housing. We replaced them both. S.B.

### Mitsubishi HSB10/20/30

Streaking on the picture can be a problem with these machines: the effect consists of black streaks after white, noticeable with the machine's own recordings and particularly in the LP mode with the HSB30. The symptom looks like that produced by head wear, and in fact a replacement head will provide a temporary cure, as I found to my cost. The solution is to readjust the carrier set control VR2A3 as follows: (1) Ensure that the white and dark clip controls VR2A2 and VR2A1 are correctly set as per the manual. (2) Connect a frequency counter to TP2M. Select external input but don't connect any input to the VCR. (3) Adjust the carrier set control VR2A3 for 3.8MHz. G.W.

### Sony SLVX50DH

This machine was an absolute pig! When it was first put on test on the bench there was a cyclic disturbance to the playback picture. You could see, below the deck, that there was a definite jerk from the capstan with each rotation. There was a momentary 'throw' in the reel belt at the same time; also a faint audible click from the capstan motor.

The capstan assembly and belt were both removed and examined, but no fault with either of them could be found. The capstan itself rotated smoothly with no roughness or catching, and neither the belt nor the gearing were misshaped in any way. Some time was spent checking around the FG/PG amplifier chip IC402 on the MA44 servo board. Eventually we ordered and fitted a new capstan motor (part no. 8-835-382-01). On test the capstan ran smoothly, with no jerk or tick, but on playback there was now a different (previously hidden?) cyclic interference. This was loss of capstan servo control, so that bands of interference drifted through the picture.

The same area of board MA44 was examined. Because of incorrect conditions at pins 47, 59 and 62, the CXP80116 system control chip IC501 became suspect. We ordered a replacement (part no. 8-752-813-37) but on receipt it had a different suffix (660Q) from the one in the machine (673Q). As it's an 80-pin flatpack device we decided to double check before fitting it. A long chat with my namesake at SES produced the information that this machine is actually a Hong Kong model, and that IC501 is different – and critical. The correct type (CXP80116-673Q, part no. 8-752-815-66) was ordered and when fitted provided a complete cure. But it had taken several weeks and much head scratching to resolve the problem. J.C.P.

### Saisho VR805S/Hinari VXL2

There was a spurious white liney pattern on the E-E video output. We tackled the fault by breaking into the E-E circuit



at various points leading to the record/playback switching chip to establish where the interference was being generated. In fact we worked back until we were off the main board! The cause of the trouble lay in the u.h.f. module – and was fully cured by those nice people at MCES. **J.P-F.**

### **GEC V4004H/Hitachi VT33**

The various front panel controls produced the wrong responses – for example if you pressed play you got pause. The cure was to replace the multi-resistor unit, circuit reference RA701. **J.P-F.**

### **Akai VS105EK**

The complaint was of intermittent stopping with the tape not relacing. So a new idler was fitted, and this seemed to provide a complete cure. For good measure we fitted a new pinch roller as the old one was quite shiny and couldn't be cleaned to produce a nice matt finish. The original fault returned however after the machine had been sent back to the customer. A permanent cure was achieved only when the entire idler/clutch/gear assembly (part no. MZ36696012) had been replaced. We couldn't find anything amiss with the old one! **J.P-F.**

### **Saisho VR1200HQ/Matsui VX820/Hinari VXL35**

The take-up spool worked very sluggishly, leading to stopping and/or tape spillage. Usually with this deck you find that the idler belt is broken or slack, but a replacement made no difference. Close inspection around the take-up spool showed that the secondary brake pad was not properly attached to the metal lever. To prove the point we used Evostick to reattach it. A new brake was then ordered to complete the repair. **J.P-F.**

### **ITT VR3919**

The electronic circuitry used in this model is much the same as that in the Sanyo VHR3100E, but the microcontroller chip and deck are different. This one arrived with no front display. So we checked through the various supply lines and found that the 5V and 12V supplies were missing. Circuit protector F5001 had gone open-circuit. When this had been replaced the display lit up and the machine accepted a cassette and laced up. But there was still a long way to go!

Playback was perfect, but after two seconds the machine unlaced. This was just long enough to establish that the correct squarewave was reaching pin 38 of the microcontroller chip (IC3001). This left only the mode switch information at pins 20, 21 and 22. The conditions here were correct for the cassette down and play conditions so we concluded, correctly, that the capstan servo was not responding because IC4001 was faulty. The correct replacement is type LC7412-8017 – the suffix is important, indicating that the software is correct. **J.P-F.**

### **Amstrad UF20**

I've had several of these fairly new machines in. The first one had no wind/rewind. Those helpful guys at Amstrad told me to replace the M lever, which did the trick. It's available from CPC under part no. AM255034 and is mounted under the cam and the loading motor – replacement is quite easy however.

The problem with another one was that it refused to

accept a cassette. A faulty cassette push switch (CPC part no. AM255151) was the cause. It's not easy to replace this – the whole machine, including the PCB, has to come out. **R.J.A.**

### **Amstrad VCR4600**

I don't get many machines with erase faults. A quick waveform and voltage check revealed that R405 (22Ω) was open-circuit. Note that it's a safety component. **R.J.A.**

### **Ferguson 3V24/JVC HR2200**

This elderly portable wouldn't power up properly. The capstan motor would spin slowly when power was applied, but nothing else would happen. Then, after about ten minutes, the unit would spring to life of its own accord. This gave normal operation until the machine was switched off for several minutes, when the whole business would be repeated.

We initially thought that one of the supplies had failed, but this was not the case. The 12V, 9V and 10V supplies were all present. Wondering where to go next, we decided to check the voltages around the microcontroller chip IC4. This proved to be a good idea, as several of them were somewhat adrift. The problem was associated with the reset, at pin 7. As the voltage here was permanently high, at 7.5V, the chip was locking up. The cause of the fault was C70 (10μF, 16V) which was leaky. **M.L.**

### **Toshiba V300**

After about five minutes in the E-E/record mode this machine would produce what looked like a tuner fault – the picture would flicker. This could be rectified for a short time by slight tapping on the main PCB, then the fault would return. We removed the tuner and did some resoldering, but no dry-joints were evident. Other soldering jobs were then done in various parts of the machine, all to no avail.

We found that gently tapping the power supply produced very profound effects, so this time we did some resoldering in the power supply circuit. Again no dry-joints were evident. I eventually noticed that the power supply is partly held in position by a short screw that passes through the bottom of the machine. It makes a connection between the metal bottom cover and the earthy side of the power supply. This screw was missing. After fitting a replacement the problem had been cured. It took about two hours to find out what was wrong, and about half a pound of solder. **Grrrr!** **M.L.**

### **GoldStar GHV1296**

In play, pause or search this machine would intermittently loose the picture. If you changed mode however the picture would usually come back. We found that the 5V supply to the head amplifier disappeared intermittently. It's supplied via the mode switch – replacing this item cured the problem. **G.S.**

### **JVC HRS4700**

There were no functions and CP2 was open-circuit. After replacing CP2 and running the machine on test the protector again blew. This time I monitored the capstan current in the play mode and found that it intermittently peaked. Replacing the capstan motor and CP2 cured the problem – confirmed by a couple of days' soak test. **G.S.**

# Review: Video Training Tape

Eugene Trundle

A newly established business, Visions Video Productions, is in the business of making training and educational video tapes for service technicians and retail sales staff. The subject of this review is the company's technical training tape on Akai 'home deck' VCRs produced during the past five years. The tape runs for one hour and ten minutes, and is aimed squarely at the bench technician who services these machines.

## What's on the tape

The tape is very much a hands-on affair throughout. The first twenty five minutes are given over to dismantling and reassembling the deck, paying particular attention to phasing and mechanical alignment. Many useful servicing tips are included. Some very good production techniques have been used in this section, with diagrams melting into actual moving pictures and a good commentary throughout.

The next twenty five minutes are devoted to mechanical and electrical adjustments. All the important deck setting-up procedures and the alignment of the electrical presets are covered. The presentation here involves a picture-in-picture technique: the main picture shows the adjustment being carried out by hand while a small insert picture shows the resulting waveform displayed on an oscilloscope screen. In conjunction with the spoken description this works very well for instructional purposes – in some ways it's better than actually being there!

The final twenty five minutes provide various hints and tips relating to over a dozen models in the Akai VCR range produced over the past five years. It's reminiscent of an experienced technical liaison officer's visit to the workshop. The most common faults, failings and foibles of the machines are described, including the various modifica-

tions and the service kits produced to alleviate them. Part numbers and hands-on demonstrations of fitting and setting up are provided. A useful, practical demonstration shows you how to get into the remote control zapper and the problems you may find when you do. This section also has off-TV-screen pictures of the symptoms produced by certain known faults. Some of these could save you from buying a new upper or lower drum only to find that your diagnosis was wrong!

## Conclusion

Having been puzzled a time or ten when servicing Akai VCRs I found this tape a great help and would welcome one like it for each model that finds its way to my bench. This could happen too – I'm told that other training, educational and demonstration tapes are in the pipeline from the same company.

One of the great advantages of this type of instructional tape is that you can run it while you are actually doing the job, and use the search, slow-motion and freeze-frame facilities of the playback VCR to capture the detail of things like the mechanical alignment and phasing of the deck mechanism.

I can recommend this tape to anyone who is involved in servicing and repairing Akai VCRs.

## Availability

The tape is available to the trade at £19.95 plus VAT, or £21.95 plus VAT per single copy by mail order, including post and packing, from Visions Video Productions, Technology House, 23 Spring Lane, London SE25 4SP. Telephone 081 654 1379, fax 081 654 8492. The tape is also available from Willow Vale Electronics.

## Answer to Test Case 382

– see page 865 –

The Beatles. The Small Faces and Itchycoo Park. If you listen to these pop-music tracks from the era of Sage's long-lost youth you can hear a similar effect to the playback produced by Mr. Sutton's wrongly-programmed Sony VCR. Wrongly programmed because the old gent had somehow got himself into his wonder-

machine's menu system and locked the audio playback into the MIX mode. With this you get a mixture of the hi-fi and the longitudinal sound tracks. It's intended for use only with audio-dubbed tracks.

When both tracks reproduce the same material strange effects and distortion will occur. One reason for this is the fact that the frequency response of the tape's longitudinal, edge track falls far short of its hi-fi counterpart. In addition there are phase and timing differences between the signals recorded on the two types of sound track. These differences add, cancel, jangle and echo when the

signals are mixed together, though the tracks sound fine when they are listened to individually. Hence the good playback when the Sony machine's recordings were tried in another machine, and the much worse reproduction when the 'library' cassette recorded by another machine was played back by the Sony VCR – the spacing between the other machine's rotary and stationary audio heads differed slightly from that in the Sony machine, adding to the problem.

Use of the remote control handset and the set-up menu quickly restored the Sony VCR's good sound playback.

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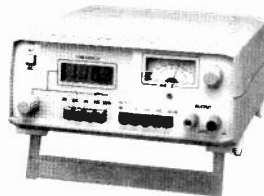
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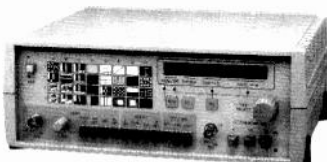
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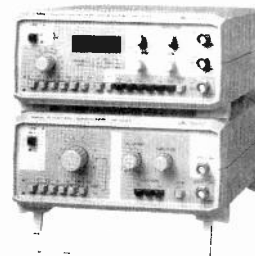
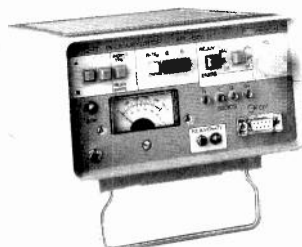
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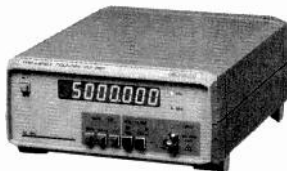
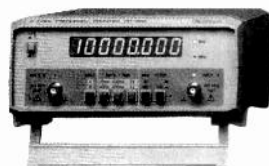
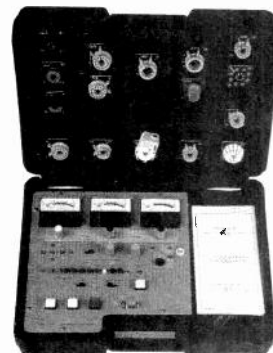
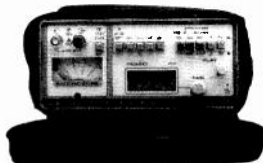


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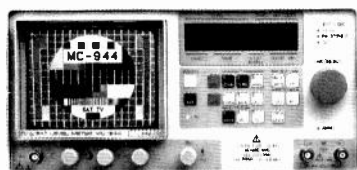
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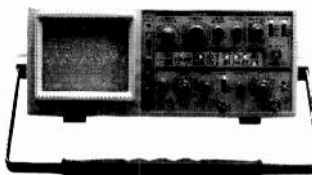
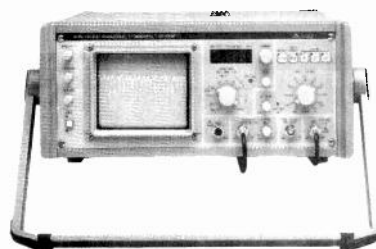


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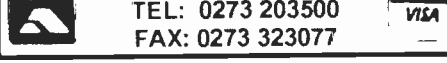
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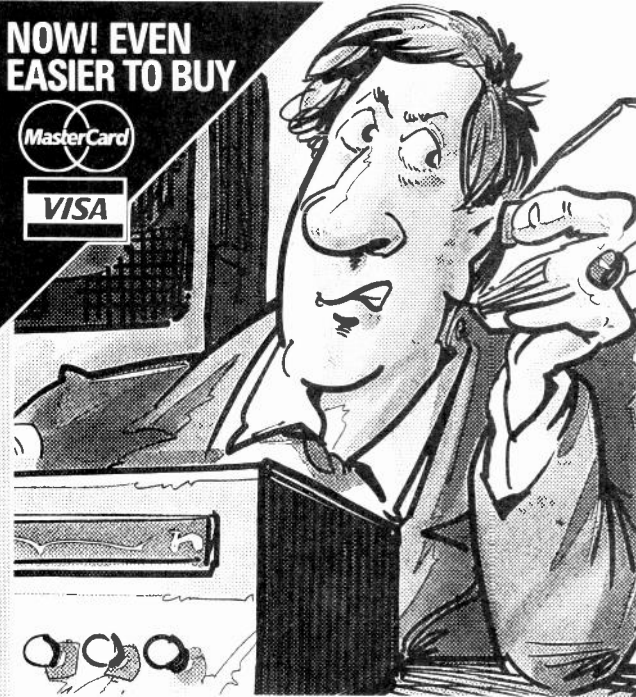
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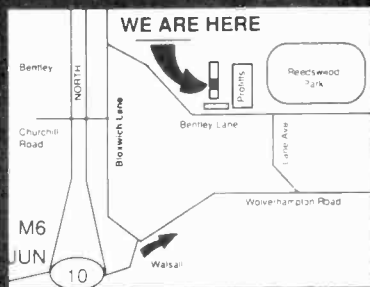
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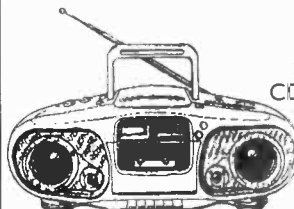
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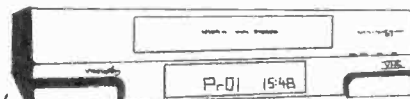


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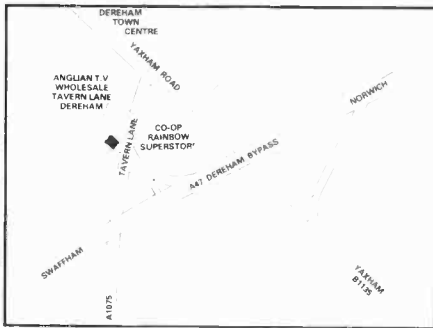
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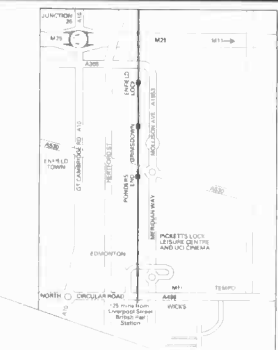
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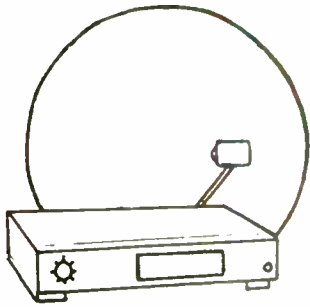
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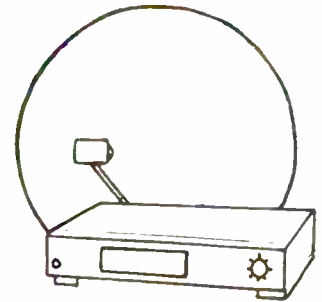
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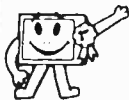
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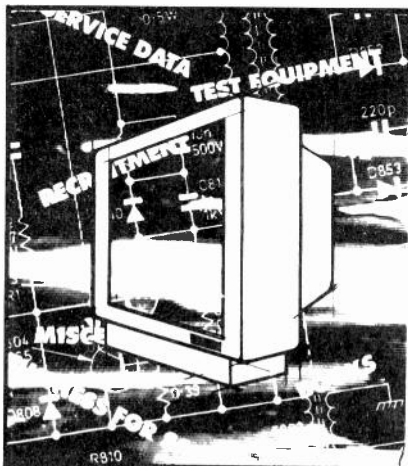
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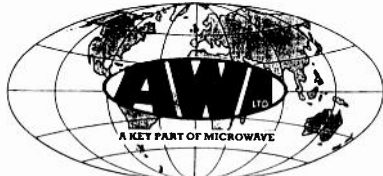
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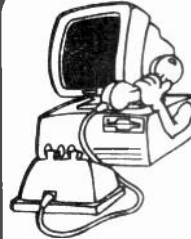
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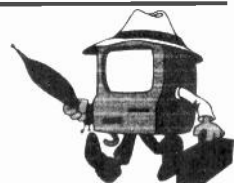
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<b>PANASONIC TV Video hand set</b> 1993 models with door - 3 types <b>£7 EACH</b>		<b>GE C</b> Telephone Type T1033 £7 <b>Polarizer Control Unit</b> Salora £15 Battery 22AV5591 £10 Video Camera Type £10 Regulated Power Supply 1200 MA 3V - 6V - 9V - 12V D.C. £10		<b>PHILIPS</b> Decoder SAA IC 5020-5030 504011-5050 £8.00 K40 Text Panel <b>ICCS TUBE BASE ON PANEL</b> £5.00 <b>ICCS DECODER PANEL</b> £15.00 <b>ICCS TEXT PANEL</b> £15 K35 Decoder £8.00 K35 Sound OP £4.00 TX10 Tube Base on Panel £3.00 <b>PHILIPS HAND SET</b> K35-K4-K40, etc £10 Universal Tripler with small focus pot. Green type £7.00 <b>THORN CASSETTE HOUSING PAS2680SU</b> £18.00 <b>LITHIUM BATTERY BR-2/3 Volts</b> 20p <b>TUNER, SAT 2000 KHC</b> £8		<b>WE HAVE OVER 250 TYPES OF STK AND STR I.C.S. SEND FOR LIST</b> 85-4538-3 Tatung GEC 8 Button Unit Print. Type 1990 to 1992. £5.00 Philips Handset IC SAA3010P £3.00 MAB8461/W063 £3.00 BG 3187 - 642 - 1005 Tripler Grundig £7 Ferguson Hand Set for 1K 2000 and 1K 7000 £8 Ferguson 60V3 - 913 IC AM748D3 £5 <b>FERGUSON ICs</b> Ferg-TX982 £3.00 TMP47C 634N 2685 £3.00 ST16391B1/B2 ICC7 £4.00 VIDEO PLUS HAND SET £15.50 THORN TA35 9 VOLT POWER SUPPLY £4 Microtext PC Teletext card with DOS software to save, print and download £16.50 Microtext for Windows software option £79.95 International Rectifier EHT Diodes G7701 HV34 6KV 3 for 8p 6A/600V Stud Diodes 20p    B17W 92800R £3.00    DL 701 50p 6A/1000V Stud Diodes 20p    24A473 PNP CP 10p    DL 711 Mullard 50p					

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<b>SATELLITE RECEIVERS — New Ferguson BSB</b> Chassis with Tuner, Modulator etc £10 Hand Set £1.50 £4 Post				<b>SAT RECEIVER EARLY BIRD £25</b> 33V33, 3V37 BATTERY £10 Postage £5		<b>TX100 HAND SRT (785) £10</b> Power Supply 0-15 Volts 0-30 Volts 3 Amps with Meters £34 Post £5		<b>6.000 and 4.600 4.700 £3</b>					
SMALL SATELLITE TUNERS (950 to 1750 MHz), I.F. frequency 4000MHz..... £9.00 each VHF/UHF S BAND TUNER..... £3.00 DAM MAINS CHASSIS AMSTRAD MONITOR C..... £10 UNIVERSAL TRIPLER, NEW TYPE..... £4.00 VIDEO LEADS..... 80p AMSTRAD Lamp O.P. Transistors with Diode 2SD453..... £1.00 VIDEO LAMPS, 1 ang Lead..... 24p HITACHI & GEC FRAME, Thick Film..... £6.00 FIDELITY SPLIT DIODE..... FCC2215AE..... £20 FCC2015BE..... £10 FCC2215BE..... £10 K30 FRONT PANEL TEL-TEX TYPE..... £5.00 NEW G11 LINE OP PANEL..... £8.00 PHILIPS YEARS AHEAD THE CREDIT CARD CALCULATOR Solar Powered..... £3.75 NEW PHILIPS SBC 1833 Solar & Battery Powered Calculator..... £8.00 THORN PANEL TX9 REC & REMOTE PANELS with Mains Trans..... £5.00 TX100 FRONT PANEL..... £5.00 TX10 TUBE BASE ON PANEL..... £3.00 TX91F..... £2.00 THORN PANEL No. 515-353, 548-02, 565-01, 509/102, 515-173, 508/161..... £5.00 THORN TX STEREO SOUND O.P. PANEL (I.C. TA7227P)..... £1.00 THORN VIDEO AERIAL AMP 01 M4-597-000..... £6.00 ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCER..... 15p				<b>CAMCORDER SANYO NP22</b> 6v 1300mah Rechargeable Battery Pack £6.00		<b>New Eprom for converting Ferguson BSB Receivers to D2 MAC and PAL - 99 channel is tunable and each one can be put into memory - also has menu.</b> £20 PAL panel (to convert to PAL) £20 SEND FOR DATA		<b>TELEPHONE BATTERY SANYO 3.6V 250/MA - £2</b> <b>VARTA 3.5V 280 MA £3.00</b> <b>FEEHORN FOR OFFSET ANTENNA £8.00</b> <b>HITACHI U/V HAND SET VIDEO £10</b>					
TX100 REMOTE PANEL No.56413IC M293B/and SAA5012 £10 etc				144MHz Changed Over Relay Aerial 50p		PHILIPS UNIVERSAL BATTERY TESTER SBC 1-95 £3.00		TX100 SWITCH MODE TRANS 5157/48 £5 AND 00D4253001 00D3082001					
TX100 REMOTE PANEL IC £10				6251 FRAME O/P THICK FILM HITACHI GEC £9.00		NEW DETECTOR £10.00 PHONE HOME TO CHECK WHETHER YOU HAVE AN INTRUDER SEND FOR DATA WITH TELEPHONE £20.00		STEREO SOLAR RADIO VHF AND MW £10.00					
NICAM UNIT — Ferguson made for ICC5 Chassis — home market and export — has circuit diagram and can be converted to most sets. TOSHIBA Nicam panel & IF export only has the Toshiba chip set £7.00				THICK FILM HITACHI HM9205A £4.00		REGULATED PWR SUP 500MA 1.5V 12V DC switched + & - £5.00		G11 470 MFD 250v £1.35					
LARGE Foams pots. Fits Pyc, GEC, IIT, Decca 75p				TX10 REMOTE PANEL £5		<b>MADE BY PLESSEY — MADE IN ENGLAND</b> New public telephone exchange original price cost £299.00 Network exchange line (at home or in a small business) has two telephones and cables and NS5107 control unit <b>SPECIAL PRICE £40</b> Send for data		3V33 HAND SET £10					
<b>BSB SAT/REC NEW CHASSIS, TUNER AND MOD £5 + Post £3</b>				<b>PHILIPS NEW TYPE U/V HANDSET £10</b>		TX9-TX100 FRONT PANEL £5 WITH REMOTE £10 NON REMOTE 8 push button £10		<b>12 Volt Relays 20p with D/P changeover</b>					
G11 LOP1 Panel £4.00 G11 Tip Switch £20.00 G11 IF Panel £3.00 G8 Push Button Unit £2.00 G8 Con/Panel New Back Type £4.00				<b>MIXED TOSHIBA HANDSETS FIVE FOR £12</b>		PULSE CAPACITOR 20 for a £1 mixed (1500V to 2KV)		PHONO TO LEADS 3 Metre ..... 30p					
Have you got Acid Rain in your garden? PH METER £5.00				Post £5 Actuator Antennmotor £15.00		<b>DECODER C-CAM PHILIPS MADE FOR K40 CHASSIS IC No. TDA 3590 £5.00</b>		LEAD SCART TO D PLUG ..... 50p					
LATEST VIDEO For Latest Philips, GEC, Pyc and Hitachi. Front panel with memory chip and push button and pots and LEDs £6.00 NEW				TX100 FRONT PANEL £5 8 Button		ITB BG2032-642A TRIPLER £5.00		BRIDGES RECTIFIER Mixed BR-31 to 34 2 Amp to 5 Amp ..... 8 for £1.00					
<b>FERGUSON CHASSIS 1KC-2000 £15 TX86 Chassis £14</b> NEW TX100 CHASSIS TX90 CHASSIS WHITE SPOT £20 Post each, £6 TX80 CHASSIS £15				<b>SALORA SAT RECEIVER CONVERSION KIT</b> For models 24M60, 25M90, 28M90, SB1206E, SB1365 £15		ITT/KOKIA HF IF MODULE 24K No 5828-04-10 £15.00		TUNER U/V 616 ..... £10					
LNC HIGHZ NOKIA — LNB FOR OFFSET DISH £13.00				TX90 TO TX100 8 BUTTON UNIT £4.00		TERR 7-008A — 115-B-2010 FCC-2885PLE TEEF 1-030A UHF, VHF TUNER — SMALL TYPE £4 EACH		POWER SUPPLY KIT 0.28 volts 1 1/2 amps with 2 meters ..... £12 Printed circuit board and components					
ELECTROMAGNETIC POLARIZER 10.95 — 12.75 GHz £9.00				TX85 2435701		BRIDGE RECTIFIERS — MIXED 10 FOR £1		MODULATOR KIT ..... £5 5v to 12v for all cameras etc					
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5 Mixed AMSTRAD VIDEO MOTORS £5.00				TX85 2435016		SHARP MSHFCH99 £10 EACH 0004-235 002-01 FIT MOST SETS New Thorn Hand Set Type u/v (£10)		TUNER U/V 616 ..... £10					
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TX10 8 way button unit £8.00 24v O 24v 3Amp MAINS TRANSFORMER £3.00 MSH1FCP09 £2.??				TX85 2434494 £15		INFRA RED DETECTOR (for outside use) with Time Control & Distance Control £12 Sensitivity Adjustment Control Night Adjustment Time Delay Adjustment		U/V 6, DIODE TRIPLERS £2.00					
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SATELLITE TUNER 950MHz-1750MHz £5.00				<b>BURGLAR ALARM £2.00 with siren 9 VOLT</b>		TRV3 Amstrad Cassette Mechanisms. New with 2 motors and sound head. £15 £5. Amstrad Television Tuner UHF. Small, Fits most Amstrads. £6.		NICAM MKII KIT MODULE £20.00 with data					
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