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VOL.4

NO. 6

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ON THE COVER

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January, 1963

The Commonsense Market

By THE EDITOR

THE revelation that up to $\pm 500,000$ worth of transistor radios might be imported from Japan during 1963, with the entire approval of the British Government, was bound to cause some apprehension—in and out of the radio industry. The widely advertised offer of a transistor tape recorder at a 'believe it or not' price must, at first, also seem calculated to bring frowns to the brows of British manufacturers. Indeed, the response to this 'fantastic' offer was so enthusiastic that the people concerned confidently expected to sell 40,000 of these Japanese models before Christmas.

Is this further influx of low-price foreign goods a bad thing for the tape recording industry in Britain? In the long run, we estimate, it can do more good than harm. Thousands of young people—and their elders—who might never be introduced to the hobby through more expensive equipment may be persuaded to delve deeper into its pleasant mysteries—and, in due course, into their pockets. Almost every new motorist, sooner or later, buys a bigger, more expensive car. But very few Daimlers can be seen displaying 'L' plates . . .

STRENGTH FROM ABROAD

Some of the most impressive tape recorders which have appeared on the scene in the last two or three years have been made in Japan. None can deny the influence their presence has exerted on an industry which derived its first inspiration from Germany and the Continental countries, on which it still draws for much of its strength. Just how much is evident from the special supplement on *The Continental Market in Britain*, in this issue.

Tape recording, like amateur radio, is essentially international in its interests and applications. As such, it is playing an increasingly important part in breaking down the last remaining barriers between the nations. While British manufacturers can produce equipment of the kind they are offering today, and give the high standard of service to their customers which is equally important, they have nothing to fear from the removal of any trading restrictions—always provided they have equal opportunity to compete in the international market.

We know of at least one British firm which is selling its products, like coals to Newcastle, in Western Germany and is being encouraged to cater for the fastidious American market. And there must be at least a few thousand Japanese enthusiasts who would like to buy British, if they could . . .

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S INCE tape recording began, the inventive skills of many nations have contributed to its progress. The marketing genius, too ... In these pages Amateur Tape Recording looks at some of the manufacturing firms which have established themselves in Britain after building their reputations on the Continent ... makers of tape recorders, microphones and magnetic tape whose products have become an important part of the tape recording industry in this country.

MARKET IN BRITAIN

THE CONTINENTAL

surveyed by THOMAS SHERIDAN

A SK any tape recording enthusiast to name a dozen different makes of machines now on the market, straight off the cuff, and see how many of them come from one or other of the Continental or Scandinavian countries. Just to make it more difficult, make him put them in alphabetical order and give the actual country of origin. Belcanto—Denmark . . . Butoba—Germany . . . Optacord—Germany . . . Philips— Holland . . . Revox—Switzerland . . . Stuzzi—Austria . . . Tandberg—Norway . . . Telefunken—Germany . . . Uher—Germany . . .

That's nine—and the list is not complete, though it covers quite a lot of territory, and indicates the extent to which these six countries have contributed to the development of tape recording right from the very beginning. And if you include the manufacture of magnetic tape, you can add France. Belgium, and Italy to the list.

From Denmark

To the tyro, some of the names of Continental tape recorders are still unfamiliar, but most of the firms concerned have been around for some time.

Magnetic recording, as practically every schoolboy now knows, had its origins in the work of the Dane, Valdemar Poulsen. More than 60 years later the successors to this momentous achievement, the Danish firm of Bang and Olufsen (represented in this

TURN TO PAGE II

it will from the

ABOVE: The AKG D 19 BK microphone with table stand.

BELOW: The Belcanto tape recorder.



never before such compact versatility

4-Speed Versatility $\frac{15}{16}$, $1\frac{2}{5}$, $3\frac{2}{5}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. **4-Way Power Supply** U2 Dry Cells, 'Dryfit' Accumulator, A/C Mains and 6, 12 or 24 volt Car Battery. Concealed power unit combines unique mains system and re-charging device with built-in safety switch. The only Tape Recorder on the market with an accumulator which can be re-charged by a car battery. **Compact** — Only $10\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{4}$ " — Weight without batteries 6 lb. approx. **5**" **Reels** — Up to 8 hours playing on one tape.

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THE CONTINENTAL

MARKET IN BRITAIN-from page 9

country by Aveley Electric Ltd., South Ockendon, Essex), can claim credit for the versatile little mains machine which, appropriately, starts the alphabetical list. Combining good appearance with portability, the **Belcanto** serves schools and colleges as well as amateur recordists.

Among the most serviceable of transistor portables—as countless outdoor recordists will testify—is the **Butoba** MT5 (reviewed in *The Sound Scene*, August '62 issue). The same West German firm, which was founded in 1856 and made its first portable tape recorder with a precision spring motor in 1953, is responsible for the Butoba MT7, a smaller machine of elegant design which is specially suitable for cinefilm work. The two are marketed here by *Denham & Morley Ltd., London, W.1.*

The **Optacord** range is made by Loewe-Opta, a German firm which has enjoyed a world-wide reputation for more than 35 years and is represented here by *Highgate Acoustics, London*, W.I. Evidence of the ability of the Optacord 412, a transistor portable built like a brief-case, to withstand pretty rough treatment was forthcoming last summer from Lt.-Col. M. E. Banks, R.M., leader of the British Joint Services to Alaska. In a letter he wrote:

'The Optacord 412 was a great success and stood up very well to the low temperatures and rough conditions. I myself found it extremely useful for keeping my diary while at base camp . . . We worked it very hard and it gave us excellent service.'

New ideas

Since the first 95L model of the Uher tape recorder was given a strenuous public test at the Dusseldorf Radio Fair in 1956, this company's constant endeavour to produce machines to meet the needs of their users has led to several 'firsts' in the field. It claims to have been first with a combined tape recorder and dictation machine—the Uher Universal (*The Sound Scene*, October '62).

With a tradition of precision engineering dating back many



Stuzzi's Memo-Cord

wears, the present firm (represented here by *Bosch Ltd., London, W.1*) relies on export business for half its increasing turnover. Its 500 employees are housed in a new factory at Munich where it plans to produce 11 different models following the success of the 4000 Report, a transistorised battery model which incorporates four speeds.

Probably the best known of all the machines imported from Germany are the **Telefunken Magnetophon** range manufactured in Hanover by the firm which can claim the distinction of having originated tape recording (see 40 Years of Tape Recording, September '62). It has an enviable reputation for the design and construction



Assembling the 4000 Report in the Uher factory at Munich.



View of the Gevaert factory at Antwerp, with windowless buildings of ultra-modern conception.

of equipment to suit both amateur and professional needs, which is distributed in this country by *The Welmec Corporation, London, W.C.2.*

German genius in this field has produced the **Sennheiser** microphones marketed here by *Tellux Ltd., Romford, Essex.* And from Austria comes the impressive range of **AKG** microphones, famous the world over. In the AKG factory in Vienna over 700 employees are engaged in producing something like half a million dynamic and condenser microphones per year; among them, hundreds of different versions made specially for manufacturers of Continental tape recorders. They are distributed here by *Politechna (London) Ltd., London, W.1.*

Pocket-size

From Vienna, too, comes the Stuzzi Magnette, the battery portable tape recorder which since its debut four years ago has found favour with enthusiasts in many countries. It has been used by royalty, leading politicians and explorers; by airline companies and the armed forces. Its success has been such that the business founded by Victor Stuzzi, a brilliant young TURN TO PAGE 13





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THE CONTINENTAL

MARKET IN BRITAIN-from page 11

electrical engineer, in a small shop near his home 15 years ago has expanded out of all recognition. The Stuzzi concern (represented in this country

by Recording Devices Ltd., London, W.10), also produces the Tricorder and the Memo-Cord, a pocket-size machine with its own built-in microphone and loudspeaker designed for busy execu-tives and journalists.



The Tandberg factory at Oslo, set in spacious grounds.

From Switzerland

The Swiss-made Revox, marketed here by Revox (U.K. Concessionaires) Ltd., London, W.14, is more in the professional class; a solid, reliable machine weighing all of 50 lbs., equipped with speeds up to 15 ips. and 10{in. spools. It is in the same price range as the **Tandberg** Series 6 (*The Sound Scene*, December '62), a stereo tape deck, to which has recently been added the Series 7 stereo tape recorder.

These highly efficient machines are made in a garden factory in Oslo. The man who heads its 500 workers. Vebjørn Tandberg himself, is a brilliant engineer, an expert in human relations and, above all, an idealist.

The welfare of his em-

ployees is one of his passions. Another is the Tandberg Radiofabrikk

Foundation, which exists to foster research in electronics in Norway as well as to guide the fortunes

of the Tandberg firm,

which has doubled its size every ten years since 1933

and has markets in 50 countries. Its agents here

are Elstone Electronics

everything from lamp

bulbs to cyclotrons and operates in 55 countries,

The giant firm of ulips, which makes

Ltd., Leeds.

Philips,



A German girl displays the Optacord 409.

is another which believes that a successful company must be a happy one. Started in 1891 with 20 employees, it now has 75,000 workers in the Nether-lands alone. The main factory at Eindhoven employs more than 38,000 of the town's population of 170,000, and the company has built 12,000 houses for them to live in and provided them with a health centre staffed by 40 doctors,

Today, Philips tape recorders are Britain's biggest sellers, and their professional machines are used by the BBC. In the domestic field they were the first to adopt upright styling; they pioneered 4-track recording, and have jumped into the lead as far as tape economy is concerned by combining the system with a speed of 15 ips.

The first tape

Of 20-odd brands of recording tape now on sale in Britain, at least five hall from the Continent. One of the most popular among amateur recordists is **BASF**, product of the Badische Analin- und Soda-Fabrik, Ludwigshafen, which first supplied the iron powder for Pfleumer's paper tapes in the early days of experimentation with the Magnetophon.

When BASF advanced the idea of using cellulose acetate instead of paper, magnetic recording took a vital step forward. And when, in 1944, the firm produced the first tape which for the American and, later, the British tape recording industry.

The German firm of Agfa-a name known to all photographers-is now extending its reputation in Britain as a producer of magnetic recording tape, which has become available here during the past year. The quality of the professional tapes made in the firm's factory at Leverkusen has long been accepted in recording studios, and several of its special manufacturing techniques have been adapted for the benefit of the amateur recordist.

The introduction of 4-track recording has increased the demand for high quality tape, and the Agfa research labora-tories are constantly working to keep up the improvements they have already effected, in anticipation of further refinements in tape recorder design.

Passing the test

Over 65 years experience in making photosensitive coatings has enabled the Belgium firm of Gevaert to produce recording tapes which, in the last two or three years, have fulfilled the demands made upon them in many different spheres and as many parts of the world, So popular has **Gevasonor** become among users in this country that twice the footage has been sold this year as in the first nine months of 1961.

In the main factory near Antwerp, which covers 65 acres and employs 9,000 people, the bill for research is more than 5 per cent of the turnover. The thoroughness of this research is such that a complete studio has been equipped with different makes of tape recorders for the express purpose of testing tape on individual machines.

The Italian firm of Ferrania, which is also one of the world's biggest manufacturers of film base, houses its 4,000 workers in a complete village near Savena, with its own cinema, cafes and shops-and power station, which not only supplies the factories that work round the clock but power for street lighting and domestic needs. Most of the workers have cars, and can rent company flats with garages for £2 17s. a month, a fraction of the normal rent.

Under such ideal conditions, production of tape and film is rising rapidly. The distributors in this country are *Neville* Brown & Co. Ltd., London, W.1.



Chemists at work in one of the Agfa laboratories at Leverkusen.

January, 1963



WITHOUT TEARS

THE term hi-fi has been greatly misused. To many people it simply means any old record player or tape recorder that will churn out highly undesirable and distorted noise.

Some manufacturers and dealers have been quick to take advantage of this by labelling cheap record players, tape recorders, amplifiers and loudspeakers with the tag 'hi-fi.'

In its original conception the abbreviation referred to 'high fidelity'—and it is surprising how many are even unaware of this. High-fidelity simply meant that the equipment—a true hi-fi system embraces several items—was capable of sound reproduction at its best, and to an agreed standard of performance.

Only the best

First we must consider the original recording or radio broadcast, right from the microphone used in the studio.



Recording and broadcasting concerns have agreed to maintain quality of reproduction to the best known standard, and they do so by using expensive studio equipment. The record companies preserve this high quality right up to the final copy of the disc sold to the public. The broadcast companies maintain their quality right up to the transmitted radio wave.

Now, providing the equipment used to reproduce the record or radio programme is comparable with that used

► A hi-fi loudspeaker can make all the difference to reproduction from a tape recorder. Here is a Robuk RK3 with an inexpensive home-built speaker of which details will be given later in ATR. initially in the studio, the quality of reproduction as heard by the listener will be of the same order. But cheap reproducing equipment cannot do this because it may introduce unwanted distortion, hum and noise, or it may reduce the wide frequency range necessary for the reproduction of the original sounds.

This means that the reproducing equipment—in fact, all equipment, from microphone to loudspeaker—must perform over the same frequency range as our natural hearing, or approximately 16 to 20,000 cps. A frequency range of 20 to 15,000 cps is more likely in practice.

Unwanted noise

Other factors are distortion of the original sounds and unwanted noise which may be added by amplifiers and other equipment in the reproducing chain. When one stops to consider the length of this chain and the amount of equipment and processes involved, it is not surprising that noise and distortion can easily be added to a very marked extent by one piece of equipment.

A faulty amplifier valve, or even maladjustment of a control, can introduce violent distortion and a cheap record player can add more than 20 per cent distortion to an otherwise almost flawless L.P. record. A poor tape recorder can do the same for a pre-recorded tape; though I hasten to add that not all pre-recorded tapes are by any means free of distortion. Few, in fact, compare with a good L.P. record, though they should be much superior. But that is another story . . .

In my next article in this series I will deal with the basic hi-fi system. Meantime, if you have doubts about the quality of reproduction from your 'hi-fi' record player or tape recorder, go along to one of the reliable dealers and ask them to demonstrate some really hi-fi equipment. I think that many owners of cheap equipment labelled 'hi-fi' are due for a shock when they hear the real thing.

ALL ABOARD FOR STEREO

A radio, TV and hi-fi installation aboard Mr. T. E. Sopwith's new yacht *Philante V* includes a Garrard transcription auto changer, a Philips 4-track tape recorder and a Chapman AM/FM tuner unit. The control unit is a new Expert preamplifier featuring Audiorama which, feeding into two 15 watt Expert amplifiers, provides full stereophonic sound throughout the yacht with the aid of seven pairs of 8in. speakers. The new pastime . . . do-it-yourself interviews

GET YOUR IDOL TAPED!



says RACHEL LINDSAY

A GROUP of enterprising young ladies I heard about the other day have set up their own interview service. It's such a good idea, with so many possibilities, that I thought you'd like to hear about it.

Whenever you read in a newspaper or magazine an interview with a famous personality, there always seem to be so many questions the interviewer didn't ask, so many things left unmentioned. So these girls, who work in the same office and talk over their elevenses and four o'clock teas, made a

list of all the people they would like to interview and all the

questions they would like to ask them. Then they clubbed together and bought a tape recorder. The leader of the group wrote to the people they wanted to interview and made appointments to see them.

In one day

Luckily, the three celebrities chosen for the first interviews were all in London, in show business. And when the group's spokesman came up to town with her tape recorder, she was able to see all three people in the same day. She asked them all the questions which she and her friends wanted answered, and got it all down on tape.

Because the show business personalities were not being interviewed by the press but by their fans, they naturally gave a more uninhibited interview and answered frankly all the questions they were asked. When the amateur interviewer went back to the office, the girls had a gorgeous time listening to their idols on tape.

Real people

As one of them told me: 'We learned much more about these three personalities than we had ever learned before from reading about them. Now they are all the more real to us—not just as show people but as human beings. And we've got them on tape for keeps!'

And, of course, to play over to their friends and neighbours. Can you see the immense possibilities of the idea? You could build up a whole collection of such intimate interviews—a sound library of

STRICTLY FEMININE

your favourites, who can talk to you in your own room just when you care to press the

button. Much more exciting than collecting autographs!

Many of the amateur recordists who belong to tape clubs go out and get interviews with the stars who visit their local theatres, and use their material in the programmes they make up for the old folk and the blind. I gather they find them quite approachable and willing to What singing star could object to being interviewed by lovely identical twins Susan and Jennifer Baker, who, with their Grundig TK1, advanced on Michael Holliday from both sides?

oblige I'm sure you would too, if you went the right way about it.

Take a tip

Why not take a tip from these three smart girls? Aren't there lots of questions you would like to ask celebrities, that never seem to be asked by anyone else? For instance: what perfume does Lady Barnett prefer? And Helen Shapiro... does she sing in her bath? What do you want to know about your favourite actor or actress that you haven't seen in print somewhere?

Here's a chance for women who own tape recorders (or can borrow their husband's) to pluck up courage and take the initiative in doing their own interviewing of the people they admire.

Let me know how you get on, won't you?

NEW FIRM TO PROMOTE LANGUAGE LABORATORIES

Electronic Classrooms Ltd., an associate company of Recording Devices Ltd., agents for Stuzzi tape recorders, has been formed to give advice and supply all necessary equipment for language laboratories in this country.

tories in this country. The company will work in close touch with one of the leading American firms which has 17 years' experience in electronic teaching methods. Dr. Paul King, who demonstrated the system in London to launch the new project, is a pioneer of language laboratories and adviser to American government departments on language study problems.

At first most of the equipment used will be of American origin, but eventually some of it will be made in England.

Students sit in individual booths and communicate with the teacher through a microphone and earphones. The teacher operates a control panel through which he can contact any number of booths or address the whole class. Special attention can be given to slow learners without holding up the rest.

STAN WHITE responds to

The LURE of the ORGAN



Mike Slater at the console.

FAIR organs, church organs, theatre organs, electronic organs... and tape recorders. Somehow they go together. Certainly, where there's an organ of any sort you'll find a tape recorder—or somebody trying to get within microphone distance of it.

Since I first introduced the subject of recording the theatre organ in this magazine, many enthusiasts have written to me asking to be directed to one, and how to go about recording the pipeless electronic organ. So let's pull out a few stops . . .

Wherever the Theatre Organ Club meets up and down the country, you'll find a fair gaggle (and I fancy that's the word) of eager tape recordists. So long as they're fully paid-up members, they are at liberty to record the music played by virtue of the official card issued to them.

All in tune

The last club meeting I attended was at the Lyric Cinema, Wellingborough, which houses a Compton organ with two manuals and five pipe ranks, plus a melotone electro-static unit—a sort of electric organ extra. There are few of these units left in working order now, but the amplifiers had been rebuilt specially for this recital and the organ pipes tuned the week before.

The local press gave the number of people attending as over 300. At least half a dozen tape recorders were active, with microphones placed in position according to the whims of the recordists. Two of them had their mics slung in front of the organ chamber; two had them in the front stalls, and two made use of the balcony.

Three organists entertained, and the recordists captured a wealth of music at that recital. The only thing they couldn't take away with them was the colourful console lighting effects; but perhaps by now they have built their own Home Chromasonics to accompany the music. And there are other opportunities coming up . . .

Next meeting of the club is on Sunday January 6 at the ABC Theatre, Buttermarket. Ipswich, Suffolk, when organists Mike Slater, Harold Flatman and Bob Simkins will perform on the Wurlitzer organ with its three manuals and eight pipe ranks. The recital starts at 2 p.m. The following Sunday, January 13, at the Odeon, Morden, Surrey, there will be a silent film show with Alan Ramsey at the Compton organ. This show starts at 1.15 p.m., and the audience are requested to gather in the balcony, leaving the lower auditorium for the tape recordists. If you're interested in joining the Theatre Organ Club you should write to

If you're interested in joining the Theatre Organ Club you should write to secretary Ralph Bartlett, 121 Clyfford Road, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex. Come on—get organised!

... but still likes that slurring sax sound

* Sorta May. Billy May and his Orchestra. World Record Club TT

180. Twin-track mono, 34 ips. What a welcome release this is! Twelve numbers, nicely arranged and played by the orchestra which retains the essential trade mark established by Mr. May a decade ago. I mean that slurring sax sound . . .

Every number is standard, the selection including 'Chicago,' 'Deep Purple' and



'Just One of Those Things.' It's a tape that should be made welcome in any home where pleasant pop music is appreciated. In fact, a lot of people sorta may go for it.

*Carmen Jones. World Record Club TT 181. Twin-track mono, 3¹/₄ ips.

Another in the series of WRC releases

featuring music and song from famous shows. With Grace Bumbry as Carmen, George Webb as Joe and Ena Babb as Cindy Lou, it is extremely well presented throughout this recording. Yet somehow I doubt its sales potential.

I feel it is hardly a suitable choice, in view of the other shows in the series featuring a similar cast. But, then, Carmen was never one of my favourites, so I could be wrong. Production-wise, it's just about perfect.

Vamp Till Ready. The Jo Jones Sextet, World Record Club TT 178. Twintrack mono, 3³/₄ ips.

The Sextet do an intriguing job of work here. The mainstream atmosphere prevails throughout, but it is rather more subdued than you might expect. Yet, though anyone can follow the tunes, there are some good jazz improvisations. Besides being suitable for dancing, this

Besides being suitable for dancing, this lively music makes pleasant listening. 'Thou Swell,' 'Liza' and 'Royal Garden Blues' are some of the items. Yes, you'd do well to keep up with these Joneses...

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Amateur Tape Recording & Hi-Fi

RUSS ALLEN recommends A SAMPLER OF JAZZ



III-FI DISCS

FOLLOWING last month's debacle, I've been trying out some stylish equipment—a Thorens TD 124 Transcription Turntable with loads of intriguing features like built-in stroboscope, variable speed control and turntable clutch.

It's a beautiful, precision-made job and runs like a dream. With it was an Ortofon SMG 212 pick-up arm with a CG mono head, and once I'd successfully matched and screened it to my own preamp and speakers, it was a delight. I shall be most reluctant to part with it . . .

Incidentally, the demonstation stereo at Metro-Sound (who loaned me this equipment) is something really worth hearing. Costing round about £300, it's a knock-out! I'm tempted to sell the car and have a ball . . .

•If you read this before Christmas is upon you, may I suggest a splendid gift to initiate someone in modern jazz? It's **Riverside Giants of Jazz, Jet 1 A-B.** Two 12in. L.P.s for the price of one: seventeen tracks, all different groups. They've all been issued before, and this is a sort of sampler. There's everyone who's anyone from Cannonball Adderley to Monk, Bill Evans to Charlie Byrd. A genuine bargain.

Continuing in the spirit of Yule, how about a musical show? Okay, let's go to The Real Ambassadors, CBS (S)BPG 62083. Written by Dave and Iola Brubeck, it features Louis Armstrong and his Band, Lambert, Hendricks and Ross, and Carmen McRae.

This is a complete show inspired by Satchmo's Statesponsored visit to the Gold Coast. *Downbeat* magazine gave the disc their highest rating, and I quote: 'No jazz album released in the last year has made a more immediate impression of freshness, vitality and reality ...'

•For a good British laugh you can't do better than The

Sounds of Hoffnung: Columbia SEL 1704, a delightful extravaganza of musician's humour. Side 1 is a take-off of the erudite music jargonists, and too true to be anything but frightening is 'Punkt Contrapunkt.' Side 2 is Gerard talking about his tuba as only he could, and playing with three others an arrangement for four tubas of Chopin's Mazurka No. 47 in A minor. Beautiful!

•Also fun in its way is Swinging all the Way with Frances Faye: Verve VLP 9007, arranged and conducted by Marty Paich and featuring Bud Shank, alto; Stu Williams, trumpet; Al Hendrickson, guitar.

I like Miss Faye. She isn't so much a singer as a narrator with music. Her voice has that hard, husky quality the best jazzers have and she delivers the lyrics in hard, shiny crystals, adding humour and superb

humour and superb timing for good measure. The Paich backing is the most.

•Eric Dolphy, originally hailed as another Ornette Coleman, has quickly been accepted (and applauded) by most of those who cried 'foo', and we see his name almost every month in some group or another. He heads



Russ Allen tries out the Thorens Transcription Turntable with Ortofon pick-up arm, by courtesy of Metro-Sound.

his own group on At the Five Spot, Vol. 1: Esquire 32-173. Dolphy, alto and bassclarinet, the late Booker Little, trumpet, Richard Davis, bass, Ed Blackwell, drums.

An excellent set that swings all the way. Recorded live (July 16 '61), it's full of excitement and atmosphere. Dolphy is dissonant Dolphy: Little demonstrates his tremendous technique—wow!

●At the other end of the scale, quiet, serene, tasteful and whimsical, is **Ramblin' with Mose Allison, Esquire** 32-171 (recorded April 18 '58). *Allison*, piano and vocal, *Addison Farmer*, bass, *Ronnie Free*, drums.

Allison's an enigma. He's played in groups with Stan Getz, Al Cohn, Zoot Sims and others, yet often plays what is more or less 'tea music'; you know, sorta Teddy Boys' Picnic gear. Pretty, but unjazzy. However, he's a most entertaining rascal and I always enjoy his whimsy ways.

•Rah! Mark Murphy. Riverside RLP 395. Orchestra arranged and conducted by Ernie Wilkins. Recorded New York, September-October, '61.

Describing a new singer is difficult. Murphy is good—a bit of a male Annie Ross with a tinge of Eckstein and Tony Bennett. He's a lad that's with it, and Side 2 is mainly a vocal version of jazz instrumentals—'Milestones,' 'Doodlin',' etc.

The brassy backing is good and swinging, never overriding. Rah-rah-rah! for Murphy-mark him down.



January, 1963

THORNTON HEATH WINS THE ATR CUP

AND NOW ... A BIG RECORDING CONTEST-JUST FOR THE CLUBS!

- ▶ THORNTON HEATH Tape Recording Club has won the *ATR* Club Challenge Cup. Despite strong opposition, it has held the No. 1 position in the Club League Competition for the past three months and has earned the title of Top Tape Club for 1962.
- ► CAMBRIDGE Amateur Tape Recording Society, which gained a record number of points in one month for staging its second Audio Exhibition, has been narrowly beaten to second place by Brixton Tape Recording Club, which has done much original and useful work in the past year.
- SHARING FOURTH place with Rugby comes Northampton, which for five months held top position in the League and might have won the Trophy had it not been obliged to postpone its attempt to organise a local exhibition in October.

Consistent effort counts

- ▶ THE RESULTS clearly show that it is the club which does consistently good work, particularly in drawing public attention to its pursuits and giving service to the community, that gains most points in the competition. The *ATR* Trophy will be presented to the successful club at a meeting in the near future.
- ▶ WHAT OF 1963? Many more clubs are expected to enter the contest, in which a new, exciting feature will be introduced. Points will still be awarded every month for outstanding effort, originality, promotion of tape recording, and useful service to charitable and other causes.
- ▶ IN ADDITION, ALL CLUBS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE ATR TAPE RECORDING CONTEST, IN WHICH SIX TROPHIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR THE BEST TAPE RECORDINGS IN AS MANY DIF-FERENT CATEGORIES. The points gained in this contest will be taken into consideration in the Club League competition for the ATR Challenge Cup.
- ► THE SIX extra trophies will be donated by leading manufacturers including BASF Chemicals Ltd., Fi-Cord Ltd., Lustraphone Ltd., Philips Electrical Ltd. and Simon Equipment Ltd. The contest will be judged by a special panel of experts whose names will be announced later.
- ▶ THE ATR Tape Recording Contest, like the Top Club competition of which it will form an important part, will be unique in its encouragement of healthy rivalry between the tape clubs. Further details will appear in subsequent issues.

Fairground music

BOSTON Soundhunters recorded Herbert Epton's fairground organ of 1912, which had stood unused for 20 years (except by rats) when he renovated it. Excellent mono and stereo tapes resulted. Two intensive sessions on tape editing were held, and members of the Skegness club paid a return visit.

On the run

Members of Brixton Tape Recording Club secured interviews with Billy Smart Jnr. and performers in his Circus during its stay at Clapham Common. With a battery of portables strung along the route and other members tagging behind the leaders, the club also covered the Veteran Car Run from London to Brighton, where some of the drivers were interviewed.

New music

Doncaster club was joined by members from **Barnsley**, **Wakefield**, **Hull**, **Rother**ham and **Sheffield** when *ATR* Technical Editor F. C. Judd gave a talk on the making of sound effects and musique concrête. A most interested audience

THE LEAGUE POSITION

Dee

		Pts.
1.	THORNTON HEATH	44
2.	BRIXTON	39
3.	CAMBRIDGE	38
4.	NORTHAMPTON	37
4.	RUGBY	37
6.	SWANSEA	33
7.	NORTH LONDON	32
8.	HULL	29
9.	WHITSTABLE	27
10.	WALTHAMSTOW	23
11.	SOLENT	18
11.	SOUTH DEVON	18
13.	MEDWAY	16
14.	MIDDLETON	14
15.	CARLISLE	12

heard him demonstrate how British and Continental composers were laying the foundations for the new music.

Midlands alliance?

The possibility of a special committee to form an alliance between Midlands clubs was discussed at a joint meeting between Kidderminster and South Birmingham. It was reported that 12 out of 16 clubs were already in favour of the idea, and it was agreed to obtain further views and try to settle differences of opinion on details.

For the archives

Leyton Tape & Audio Club held an open evening when members of Walthamstow and Bethnal Green clubs assisted in demonstrating tape recording to the general public. Most impressive dem was a tape loop which stretched along a corridor for about 40ft. and was looped over two direction signs!

The local council has invited the club to make a sound picture of the borough for its archives. As a first step towards this, members recorded the Armistice Day service at Harrow Green War

Amateur Tape Recording & Hi-Fi

Memorial. Following requests by patrons of the programmes it presents to clubs and hospitals, the club also visited Wool-wich to put the story of the Ferry on tape.

Songs of the villages

Leicester club members are engaged in recording the folk songs of the county, with the help of the oldsters of several villages. After discs are made from the tapes, the songs will be set down in manuscript and preserved in the city museum. The club's recording of the Freedom of the City ceremony when the honour was conferred on a local alder-man will also be put on disc for the archives.

The fire brigade staged a mock turn-out for the benefit of the club, when member W. H. Walker took a ride on the fire engine with his Butoba portable. A sound track is being added to an 8mm film about the club made by members.

Full programme

Since moving into new premises, the Middleton club has been occupied with a full programme including a sound hunt, lectures by members, and participation in the Oldham 'Leisure and Pleasure' Exhibition. Members were the guests of Oldham Gramophone Society at a film show which included the BASF film, The Magic Tape.

Following his resignation as secretary, energetic George West was elected to an advisory post to assist the chairman and the new secretary, John R. Witts, 119 Heywood Old Road, Middleton, Manchester.

Police! Fire!

Finally settled in new premises, Northampton Tape & Cine Club resumed shooting its current production, Friday the 13th—with the help of the local police. Even the fire brigade turned out by special request . .

Besides recording local concerts and presenting a fortnightly news round-up for the blind, the club has started a new service of Bible studies on tape.

'The Microphone'

Three new tape recorders bought with funds raised by local associations have increased the number of blind listeners to the Enfield Microphone, North Lon-don's fortnightly tape news service, which has proved very popular. To gather material for its 45-minute editions club members have been covering public meetings and conducting interviews with local personalities.

Sight and sound

'How to do it' sessions are a regular feature at meetings of **Reading Cine** and Tape Recording Society, where members have been busy on their own interpretations of the title Wheels, both in film and tape.

A recent visitor was F. C. Judd, ATR Technical Editor, who illustrated the tech-niques involved in creating sound tracks for films and musique concrête.

Fully fledged

With some misgivings, being only four months old, Solent Tape & Audio Club accepted a commission by Gosport Council to provide sound coverage of the

DON'T MISS ANY POINTS

Make certain that regular news of your club activities is sent to the Club News Editor, ATR, Room 532, 168 Regent Street, London, W.1.

opening of a new hospital wing at Northcott House old folk's home. Television was there too . . . A superb recording now rests in the council archives, and the club feels it has found its feet.

After presenting some recorded tapes to music appreciation classes at Brune Park High School, the club was invited to instruct local teachers in tape recording technique. A volunteer lecturer is also giving the club-now meeting three times a month-an 18 weeks' course in

TOP TEN CLUBS FOR JANUARY 1. SOLENT 6. NORTH LONDON 2. LEICESTER 7. WALSALL 3. LEYTON 8. WEST HERTS. 4. MIDDLETON 9. NORTHAMPTON 5. BRIXTON 10. URMSTON

- January, 1963

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These youngsters took an intelligent interest when Middleton Tape Club displayed their equipment at Oldham 'Leisure and Pleasure' Exhibition.

elementary electronics. Demonstrations have been given by Truvox and Fi-Cord, and the BBC's Southampton studios were visited.

Members are producing sound effects for two local drama groups and pro-grammes for the Home for the Blind and the Children's Home, as well as for two old folk's homes.

Glorious Devon

South Devon started editing a tape entitled The Holiday Trade in the West Country, for which interviews with the Chief of Police, the Entertainments manager and visitors had been obtained by members during the summer.

Tapesponding

Urmston & District club members are tapesponding regularly with the Walsall club and finding it both enlightening and entertaining. Technical Advisor S. Wig-nall is giving short lectures answering members' queries at every meeting. First piece of equipment the club has acquired is a 4-channel microphone mixer with independent preamplifiers for each channel. A documentary tape, The Sound of Manchester, is gradually taking shape under producer Bob Corfield.

Boost for the dub

A novel recruiting drive by the Walsall club relies on a five-minute 'commercial' distributed by a local trader-Mr. M. L. Chambers of Audio Electronics Ltd.who presents it to purchasers of new SEE NEXT PAGE

THE SWOP COUNTER

THERE'S a queue forming already at the ATR Swop Counter! 'Congratulations on this latest innovation,' writes C. E. Herbert, 'Dingley Dell,' Morton, Nr. Sandown, Lo.W., who was one of the first to respond to the invitation in the December issue. He details some items he is prepared to exchange with any other reader for 'anything reasonable they have to offer.'

These are a brand-new E.M.I. jointing block and cutter in its original box; a Lustraphone C48 dynamic microphone on DIY ('quite good') floor stand; a brand new Haynorette 16mm animated cine editor (cost 15 gns.); and four WRC pre-recorded tapes used once only. Offers should be sent direct to Mr. Herbert—not to ATR.

G. H. Capes, 3 Esdelle Street, Norwich, NOR O4N, has for disposal a new Lustraphone crystal mic; a Lane tape amplifier in good order complete with tape deck (not working); a Leak LMS tuner and preamplifier with inputs for gram 78's, mic and mic transformer. He needs a portable battery tape recorder (need not be working) and a spare Ferrograph record head, mono or stereo.

In search of a good quality 2-track recorder is E. C. W. Palmer, 16a The Terrace, Barnes

Bridge, London, S.W.13. He offers in exchange a brand-new Mohican Heath full coverage receiver with ten transistors, telescopic aerial and tuning meter housed in strong steel green cabinet. It covers all short wave bands plus medium wavelengths (600 Kc/s to 30 Mc/s) and was listed at £50.

Maurice L. Chambers, 139 Goldthorne Avenue, Sheldon, Birmingham, 26, treasurer and organiser of Tape Programmes for the Blind, has a Philips EL3536 4-track stereo tape recorder, practically brand-new and seldom used, which his organisation would like to exchange for a 2-track model 'of equal calibre' for copying work; preferably a Ferrograph 4A/N in similar first-class condition.

A Lustaphone LD66 microphone, brandnew and unpacked, is offered by R. East, 295 Burton Road, Lincoln, in exchange for a Wearite de-fluxer or a 7in. (2400ft.) spool of BASF or Scotch DP tape in similar condition.

To effect an exchange, readers must write direct to the person offering the goods. If you have something to offer for something you need, and would like to use this free ATR service, write to: The Swop Counter, ATR, Room 532, 168 Regent Street, W.1.

machines. Besides giving examples of the uses of a tape recorder, it draws customers' attention to the club's activities, invites them to visit its headquarters and offers them six months' free membership.

At the club's AGM only the weekly meeting place and time remained unchanged. In a major shuffle among officers and committee members, Peter Lane took over as chairman and founder-secretary Mrs. Joan Walford gave place to Paul Clark, 20 Springvale Avenue, Parkhall, Walsall.

Safety first

At the request of Watford Home Safety Committee, the West Herts society produced a tape on fireworks dangers. Hemel Hempstead Cine Society visited the club to show films, including one of the local carnival for which members had made the sound track. The club, in turn, visited Hemel Hempstead Recorded Music Society for a demonstration of Tandberg stereo equipment.

NEW CLUB

Paignton: A Sound Society is holding fortnightly meetings at the Oakdene Hotel. The secretary is Alan S. Heather, 7 Gibson Road, Paignton, Devon.



NEWS OF THE CLUBS

THE SOUND SCENE

4-TRACK STEREO IS THE LATEST FROM GRUNDIG

A STEREOPHONIC 4-track tape recorder, the TK46, has been added to the Grundig range. With separate erase, recording and playback heads and separate amplifiers for recording and playback, it enables a second recording to be synchronised with an earlier one and allows for simultaneous or delayed monitoring.

Echo effects may be introduced, the delay being governed by the selected speed and the intensity by an internal feedback control. Superimposition is possible without erasing the earlier recording, and the output level from both channels can be controlled independently or by a single control. Output power is 3 watts from each channel.

Other features of the machine, priced at 99 gns., are a press button position indicator, tape cleaner, recording input selector, and facilities for remote control. Microphones available for use with it are the GDM 18 at 7 gns. and the GDSM 202—a special stereo mic—at 14 gns.

The TK41

Mechanical and electrical performance of the TK46 are similar to that of the TK41, which is also new from Grundig. Basically this is a twin-track version of the well-known TK40 (for review see *The Sound Scene*, *ATR*, June '62), but with the addition of a 7 watt push/pull output stage and separate bass and treble controls.

Besides facilities for superimposition and mixing, and for remote control connection, the TK41 provides inputs for telephone adaptor, radio and gram pick-up, and outputs for monitor amplifier, extension amplifier and loudspeakers. High and low impedance output sockets are fitted.

The machine will take up to 7in. spools, and switches off automatically at the end of a tape. Three speeds are available, the quoted frequency response at the maximum speed of $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips being 60 to 18,000 cps ± 3 dB, and wow and flutter less than 0.2 per cent at $1\frac{7}{8}$ ips. Signal to noise ratio is given as better than 50 dB.

Finished in two-tone grey and weighing $27\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., the TK41 costs 75 gns., including microphone.

LOW-PRICE TAPES CLAIM TOP QUALITY

A new series of recording tapes is being marketed by Golden Tapes at remarkably low prices, with the added inducement of a further reduction if three reels are purchased. They are claimed to be the lowest priced top quality tapes on the market.

Standard and L.P. tapes of pvc are of British manufacture, and the D.P. variety, of fully tensilised Mylar, of American origin. All are available on 5in., 5³/₄in. and 7in. spools. Threeinch message spools of D.P. are also offered.



The Grundig TK46 Stereophonic Tape Recorder

ATR has tested a sample of Golden Tape supplied by the distributors and found it satisfactory. Further details and prices from Golden Tapes, 66 Wardour Street, London, W.1.

TRIPLE PLAY TAPE BY GEVASONOR

The range of Gevasonor Magnetic Tapes was recently extended by the addition of Triple Play, which is available in 3in. spools (450ft.) at 21s. 6d., 4in. spools (900 ft.) at 38s. 6d., and 5in. spools (1800ft.) at 65s. 6d. The stock numbers are Tr.P/137, 275 and 550, respectively.

Using a tensilised polyester base, the thickness of this tape is 17 microns, only one-third the thickness of the firm's standard tape, type M.

UNDER TEST:

THE CLARKE & SMITH TR634 TRANSISTORISED TAPE RECORDER Reviewed by F. C. Judd, A.Inst.E.

 \mathbf{T} HOUGH this tape recorder is intended for schools and other institutions where a rugged machine is required. it is of interest to all ardent recording enthusiasts. With a high

is of interest to all ardent recording enthusiasts. With a high standard of performance and some useful facilities not found on many domestic tape recorders, it was designed with the collaboration of British education authorities and is built to a rigid specification.

Fully transistorised and housed in a strong, yet not unattractive wood case, it should withstand the full treatment by the most ungentlemanly schoolboys. On the other hand, the deck layout and the various facilities have been carefully planned for complete ease of operation.

Wearite deck

The deck is the well-known Wearite, with two speeds— $7\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{4}$ ips—its clock-type tape position indicator and autostop. The deck will take up to $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter spools which, with L.P. and D.P. tape, will provide ample recording or replaying times.



connoisseurssay SINON

... the connoisseur with an eye for a bargain chooses the SIMON SP5 because no other tape recorder in the price range gives him so much at professional standards!

Unrivalled facilities of the SIMON SP5 include uni-directional twin track recording, two speeds, 7-inch spools, dual channel mixing, master fader, monitoring through loudspeaker and level setting, controlled echo, track to track recording, controlled bias, recording level meter.

* You can buy the SIMON SP5 as a stereo recorder, or in a monaural version ready wired and fitted for easy conversion to stereo.



SIMON SP5 Price from 95 gns "Tape recording in the new age"



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SIMON Cadenza Ribbon Microphone Price 10 gns "Makes a piano sound like a piano"

For full technical details of SIMON tape recorders and microphones, consult your dealer. In case of difficulty please write to :

48 GEORGE STREET LONDON W.1

Amateur Tape Recording & Hi-Fi

THE SOUND SCENE —from page 29

Since the record/replay amplifiers are separate, a direct monitoring system has been made possible by fitting an extra replay head. One can therefore monitor either the incoming signal or the recorded version of it. Another useful facility is two-channel mixing, which permits microphone and external music sources to be smoothly mixed by separate gain controls. Inputs are provided for high or low impedance microphones and high-level signals such as those from a radio, gramophone pick-up or another tape recorder.

The controls

Apart from the input gain controls there are bass and treble controls which provide lift and cut, a monitoring switch for selecting either monitoring system, and a switch for cutting out the erase bias when superimposing or as a precaution against accidental erasure.

The recording level indicator is a moving coil meter type calibrated in percentage of tape modulated, with a prominent red calibration mark for 60 to 80 per cent as average recording level. There are three output sockets: one for an external amplifier, one for an external speaker and one—presumably 300 to 600 ohms—labelled 70 V line.

What teachers need

The machine submitted for test performed according to the specification. Besides testing it with the usual bench instruments I was able to demonstrate its virtues to a large assembly of schoolteachers, and from their comments it would appear that this is just the kind of tape recorder needed in schools. Though, from my conversations with many teachers around the country,







Frequency response of the Clarke & Smith TR634. Record to playback—aux. input to output. Bass and treble controls response is that of replay amplifier.

very few schools have any tape recorder and most education authorities have little idea what can really be accomplished with suitable equipment.

Frequency response of the TR634 for the two speeds is more than adequate and, as the response curves show, was within 1 dB or so of the specification. The bass and treble controls provide ample modification of a recording during replay, and hum and noise—including that from erased tape—was well within the figures quoted. Replay noise was lower than that from virgin tape. Speed fluctuation was a little noticeable on steady tones at $3\frac{1}{4}$ ips, but within specification at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips, a performance comparable with other standard Wearite decks.

Though this tape recorder may at first seem expensive it should be borne in mind that it has been designed to provide the best possible performance under conditions where it might get a good deal of rough handling. Supplied complete with a 1200ft. reel of tape and spare spool of the Ferrograph type, it retails at 103 gns.

A similar model with a Truvox deck can be supplied at 86 gns. Both are manufactured and distributed by the Clarke and Smith Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Melbourne Works, Wallington, Surrey.

Α	BRIDGED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
tha	and flutter: Less than 0.2 per cent at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips; les n 0.3 per cent at $3\frac{1}{4}$ ips. ind time: Less than 1 min, for 1750ft, standard tape
	width: 0.095in.
Track	sense: To international standards; upper trac
	output of power amplifier: 10 watts.
Disto	rtion of power amplifier: Less than 1 per cent a c. at 10 watts.
Frequ 50	the property response: 50 to 15,000 cps ± 3 dB at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips to 9,000 cps ± 3 dB at $3\frac{3}{4}$ ips.
Signa	I to noise ratio: 50 dB at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips; 48 dB at $3\frac{3}{4}$ ips.
Input (su 3, 6	s: 1, 1 ¹ / ₂ mV at 300,000 ohms impedance; 2, 15 mV table for 15 to 30 ohms impedance microphones) 0 mV at 0.5 M.ohm impedance.
	uts: 1, 15 ohms; 2, 70 \vee line; 3, 1 \vee at 5,000 ohm bedance.

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When Brenell introduce a new development in the tape recorder field you can be sure that it's worthy of your attention. As you well know the development of a new machine takes time but below are a few details to whet the appetite.

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Full information will be published shortly

Models available

MARK 5 DECK 28 gns.

Brief specification of Mark 5 Deck

Four speeds— $I_{\overline{z}}^{2}$, $3_{\overline{z}}^{3}$, $7_{\overline{z}}^{1}$ and 15 ips. Selective frequency correction . 3 independent motors . Interlocked controls . Fast rewind (1200 ft in 45 secs) . Up to $8_{4}^{1/2}$ reels . Pause control . Provision for extra heads (mono or stereo) . Mark 510 will accommodate $10_{2}^{1/2}$ N.A.B. spools (7 gns extra).

MARK 5 Type M 88 gns.

Other Models: MARK 5 64 GNS. MARK 5 Stereo £99.12.6

Write for details to the sole manufacturer



BRENELL ENGINEERING CO. LTD. 1a DOUGHTY STREET, LONDON, W.C.1. Tel. HOLborn 7356 (3 lines)

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The Things You Say

Quick service

Charles A. Brown, Harrow Weald, Middx., writes:

GREAT deal has been said about dealers; how about manu-А facturers and the service they give? I had to take a Mk. 5 deck with a damaged wafer back to Brenell the other day, and I saw there what service really means. The deck was taken from me, repaired, checked and given back to me in 15 minutes -free of charge.

A representative of the firm told me they have a good name which they intend to preserve, and they do their utmost to effect any repairs as quickly as possible without lowering the standard of the work done. While I waited I was shown over the repair and testing departments and saw the demonstration room. I'll take off my hat to Brenell and all the name stands for, any day.

(Such glowing tributes as this are seldom paid-at least, on paper, though many more may be deserved. We are glad to help in airing Mr. Brown's satisfaction.-Editor.)

Unflagging interest

OJ. Lewis, Highbury, London, N.5, writes:

I am writing as a new reader to say how much I enjoy your publication. I admit that it is the first one I have found interesting from beginning to end, and I hope it will continue this way.

I recently purchased an HMV 2202 tape recorder, and though a superimposition button is fitted I cannot find any way of monitoring music so that commentary can be added in the correct places. Is there any attachment that will enable me to do this?

I also wish to purchase a radio jack, either crystal or transistor. Can you recommend one and tell me where it can be purchased?

(Details of a record monitoring system appeared in Tape Without Tears in the November issue. Truvox Ltd., Neasden Lane, London, N.W.10, make a simple radio jack. Alternatively you could use a Stuzzi radio tuner, marketed by Recording Devices, 44 Southern Row, Kensington, W.10.-Technical Editor.)

Go to it!

J. H. Robinson, Penarth, Glam., writes:

Congratulations on your magazine, which I find thoroughly interesting and educational. My first-ever attempt at construction was your Mixer unit which, thanks to the simple drawing of the layout, worked first time and is still working.

Now I am keen to have a go at something else. In the article on tape editing in the November issue, a bass/treble/volume unit is mentioned. Can you give details of this and, I hope, an article on how to construct it? Once again, many thanks for the pleasure I get from ATR.

(We trust you will have equal success with the construction project you ask for, which you will find in this issue.-Editor.)



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