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EXTRAVAGANCE?

Is it an extravagance to silver plate the critical Radio Frequency circuit (front-end) of an FM tuner? Scott doesn't think so . . . and neither do the editors of the leading hi-fi magazines.

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Herman Burstein

Harold Lawrence





We are frequently asked how loudly a specific loudspeaker can he played without distortion or danger of destruction. This question is not easily answered when asked in regard to home or studio music reproduction.

If the material to be reproduced is a simple sine wave, voice coil heating is the normal controlling factor, and the point where excessive heat (or excessive voice coil travel) is reached can be simply determined. However, steady-state sine waves are not typical of most program material, and this power limit is unrealistic when appli.d to musical reproduction.

One outstanding characteristic of musical energy is its transient nature. Even when an orchestra plays a sustained high level chord with no audible variation, the combined waveform shows markedly fluctuating peak energies. These peaks are formed when each constantly changing waveform adds to the energy of other waveforms.

Typically, energy peaks in music will reach a level up to ten times the average or R.M.S. value. The relatively low average level tends to protect the speaker from high heat build-up even at extremely high listening levels.

In laboratory studies, we have applied up to 100 watts of musical program material to E-V high fidelity speakers with no apparent distortion and no signs of immediate failure due to heat or fatigue. One fact became quickly evident. The absolute loudness limit for most high fidelity systems lies not with the speaker, but rather with the amplifier

Careful oscilloscope analysis revealed that waveform distortion appeared first at the amplifier output, usually in the form of clipping. The loudspeaker faithfully reproduced this distorted waveform, giving rise to the subjective analysis that the speaker was being "overdriven." Substitution of a more powerful amplifier, with greater reserve power at the same acoustic output, eliminated the "speaker distortion" completely!

The problem of maximum loudness in any system is further complicated by the growing trend toward speaker systems of medium or low efficiency. If a speaker system, by design, trades six or eight db of efficiency for other benefits (wider range or smoother response), it necessarily places a heavier burden on the amplifier to provide a clean signal at high levels.

The absolute limitations of any speaker system based on peak performance requirements are very difficult to objectively state. Listening tests have proved to have the greatest validity to date, yet results vary from listener to listener, and with the frequency and duration of the peaks.

A realistic rating for most small speaker systems would be in the order of eighty to one hundred watts peak handling power. To realize this poten-tial requires an amplifier of forty to fifty watts rating (based on peak performance twice that of the steady-state rating).

For technical data on any E-V product, write: ELECTRO-VOICE, INC., Dept. 1233A Buchanan, Michigan



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Construction . . .

• A Ton-and-a quarter of Sound. Walter Wysoczanski describes a curved-mouth concrete horn stereo speaker system he built in his home, each side of the stereo pair weighing over 1200 pounds without drivers.

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Coming

NEXT

Month

\*\*\*\*\*\*

• Very Low Voltage Relay Operation. Ronald L. Ives. A way of using the 5-volt filament tap on a power transformer, made available by replacing the rectifier tube by a solid-state rectifier, to power a low-voltage relay.

### General . . .

• The Transient Performance of Loudspeaker Dividing Networks. Robert M. Mitchell describes the classical solution for dividing networks and demonstrates the inadequacies of that solution. Instead he proposes a method whereby one network will do what two do now—and better.

and

### **Equipment Profiles...**

Stanton Model 800B Stereotable

H. H. Scott 340B FM-stereo tuner-amplifier

### In the January Issue

On the newsstands, at your favorite audio dealer's, or in your own mailbox.

\*\*\*\*\*

AUDIO CLINIC

Joseph Giovanelli

Send questions to: Joseph Giovanelli 2819 Newkirk Ave. Brooklyn 26. N. Y. Include stamped. self-addressed envelope.

#### Lower Amplifier Output

Q. Recently I noticed a marked loss of volume in my left speaker. I suspected my output tubes might be weak. I replaced all four. I still do not have equal volume in each channel.

Do I need to replace the remaining tubes in my amplifier? Name withheld, Bronx, New York.

A. If your preamplifier is separate from the amplifier, do not assume that the difficulty will be found in the amplifier. Any check suggested later in this answer should also be applied to the preamplifier.

If you have two separate amplifiers in the stereo system, it is possible that the rectifier in one of them has gone bad, thus causing the drop in volume. (I knew that you mentioned that your particular system was an integrated amplifier, meaning that two amplifiers were mounted on a single chassis, and perhaps the preamplifier is included as well. However, in order to make this material fit the many amplifier-preamplifier possibilities, I am being more general than your particular problem called for.)

If you are using an integrated system, first check the remainder of the tubes. If all tubes check normal on a dynamic tube checker, you will then have to work from the voltage and resistance chart supplied with most amplifiers. If no such chart has been provided, work from the schematic and do some guessing. The causes for this condition are multitudinous. If you have a sigual tracer, work back from the output stage. Another trick which you can try is to pull the tubes out, starting from the output stage. Compare the sound when doing this against that produced by an equivalent tube pulled out of the working channel. This is a primitive method, but the results are often obtained more quickly than with more scientific checking.

than with more scientific checking. You will finally come upon a stage where pulling out a tube in the defective channel does not sound the same as a tube removed from the operating channel. You will then know that the trouble you are having is in this area of the amplifier. Now when I refer to the sound made with a tube removed, I refer to the "thump" or "bang" which is produced when the tube is in the process of being removed.

Once you have pinpointed the area where trouble is present, you then can use the more conventional methods for determining the exact nature of the trouble. Check such things as lack of plate or cathode voltage. As a further check in this same regard,



make your checks from plate to eathode rather than from plate to ground.

I referred earlier to the use of a signal tracer. There are two types and I use them both at one time or another. One type of tracer is nothing more than amplifier which is fitted with test leads at its input. These test leads can be placed in the various grid, plate, and cathode circuits of an amplifier. As this device is moved from the input to the output, there should be an increase in signal output from this tracer amplifier at each successive stage. If one stage does not provide its share of gain or pernaps introduces a loss, then you will know that this stage is the one which is defective and must be further investigated to determine the cause of the malfunction. Remember that a cathole follower; possesses approximately unity gain, so if you connect your tracer to the output of such a stage, no gain will be produced over that provided by the preceding stage. Further, connecting your tracer to the plate circuit of such a stage will provide no signal because of the in-tentional bypassing of this circuit with large capacitors.

The other type of tracer is one which is actually a source of signal. Such devices are very often self-contained units employing transistors or miniature buzzers. They are often shaped like a pen. Connecting the tip of this kind of tracer to the various points in the amplifier or preamplifier will produce a signal in the output, and the amount of signal obtained will be dependent upon the gain of the amplifier at the point where the signal is introduced. When using this probe, note that moving the device from input toward the output will result in less and less gain with each stage. I prefer, when using this instrument, to work from output to input.

work from output to input. Remember that the tools you use will not solve your problems—they are only aids. When properly used, they are useful diagnostic aids. Do not use any test instrument until you understand its operation. Do not connect it into a circuit until you are certain of its probable action and the results you should expect. In other words, do not use a tool haphazardly with the idea that you "may turn up something."

that you "may turn up something." By thinking and observing, you, the experimenter, will learn far more about the subject of sound reproduction. Further, you will be able to bring about the results you seek in a more scientific manner and will usually bring them about more quickly.

To illustrate this point, recall my simple process whereby a tube is removed from a channel, one at a time to listen to the "bang" produced. How many of you took me at face value and did not question what might happen in certain instances. You should have asked me some of the following questions or at least have asked yourself these questions:

1. Will my speaker be damaged by the transient clicks produced by the removal of a tube?

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

"my daddy bought us a Garrard Automatic Turntable...he says it's worth a million!"

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ment GX-13, Garrard, Port Washington, N.Y.





for the price of one

Now, 8 hours of full-range, true, high fidelity stereophonic music, or 16 monaural hours, can be yours on one 7" reel, with the revolutionary new Roberts Cross Field "770" Tape Recorder. The average tape cost per album: only 33¢. The "770" has an exclusive patented third head, the Cross Field Head, which separates recording and biasing functions. The result: the "770" records 40 to 22,000 cps, producing true fidelity at 17_8 ips and preserving the high frequency harmonics that breathe life into music playback. The Cross Field playback head has a gap width of only 40 micro-inches, the smallest, most responsive head ever engineered. For this head, Roberts employs NC-88, a new alloy, that is practically wear-proof. Other features: 2-speed, electrically-switched, heavy-duty hysteresis synchro-nous motor, miniscule wow and flutter at slow speeds: special ventilation system keens the "770". nous motor, miniscule wow and flutter at slow speeds; special ventilation system keeps the "770" cool even after 8 hours; two 5" x 7" self-contained elliptical, extended-range, heavy-duty Alnico V-magnet speakers; new automatic total shut-off switch.

Today, see the Roberts Cross Field "770" Tape Recorder at better music and camera centers. \$499.95.

Specifications: $7\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{3}{4}$, $1\frac{7}{8}$ ips. Power Amplifier Output: 12 watts • Frequency response: at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips, 40 to 22,000 cps ± 2 db; at $3\frac{3}{4}$ ips, 40 to 18,000 cps ± 2 db; at $1\frac{7}{8}$ ips, 40 to 13,000 cps ± 3 db • signal to noise ratio: -55 below 0 recorded level • Wow and flutter: at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips, less than 0.12% rms; at 33/4 ips, less than 0.20%; at 11/8 ips, less than 0.30% . Blower vent system . 2 large stereo 5" x 7" elliptical, extended range, heavy duty Alnico V magnet speakers • Hysteresis synchronous instantaneous electrically controlled 2 speed motor · Automatic total shutoff · Operates Horizontally or Vertically.



New Model 330: Another achievement of Roberts' elec-tronic engineering. Sound-on-sound multiple recording, 3 heads for separate record, playback, erase; two 7" full-range speakers. Special biasing for FM Multiplex Re-cording Systems. Speeds: 7½, 3¾ ips. 27 lbs. \$349.95.



New Professional Model 455: New Professional Model 455: Has three electrically swiched, dual-speed motors, senarate bass controls, 4 simultaneous mixing inputs, playback loud-ness controls, track selector, two full range 5" x 7" speak-ers. 71/2, 33/4 ips. \$559.95; Remote control, \$49.95.

See the entire line of Roberts professional and home tape recorders from \$269.95 at better music and photo centers.

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IN CANADA: J. M. Nelson Electronics Ltd., 7725 Adera St., Vancouver 14, B. C. (Prices slightly higher in Canada)

2. Where should the volume control be set?

3. Are there any direct-coupled stages in the circuit which might be adversely affected by this procedure?

The answer to Question 1, depends upon the wattage of your amplifier and the wattage of the speakers connected across it. If there is likely to be damage as a result of this procedure, pad down the speaker so it will not receive sufficient power to ruin it.

The answer to Question 2, is that the volume control will have to be set at its fully advanced position or you will not obtain much output from the phono stage being removed. Further, if you are comparing one channel against the other, the balance control must be set at the same points on each channel.

Question 3, cannot be answered for you. You will have to consult the schematic of the amplifier you are working on.

Equipment Performance and Line Frequency

Q. I am assembling a high fidelity system Q.1 and assembling a high plainty system consisting of preamplifier, amplifier, turn-table, tape recorder, and two speaker sys-tems. All of this equipment is rated at 60-cps 110-120 volts. The turntable can be used at 50-cps. The tape recorder can be converted to 50-cps. In the future I will be living in areas where power line ratings are 220 volts at 50 cps.

These are my questions: 1. Can this sys-tem be utilized at both 60-cps 120 volts and 50-cps 220 volts? 2. What changes, if any. should be made and in what pieces of equipment to cope with these requirements? J. Schiller, Midland, Mich.

A. Whenever operation of a particular piece of equipment is to be changed from one line frequency and voltage to another, it is well to check with its manufacturer to obtain his views on the matter before buying the equipment.

In the case of the amplifier and preamplifier, you have no real worry about frequency as long as the equipment has been conservatively rated and designed— especially the power transformers. No changes will be required. No detrimental effects should be expected.

However, in the case of the turntable and the tape recorder, line frequency is a problem. Not only must the motor be capable of operating at reduced frequency, but also there must be a means provided to allow the turntable to run at proper speed. The speed of the motor varies with applied frequency. The lower the frequency applied to the input of the motor, the lower will be the speed of rotation of the motor shaft. You need some kind of separate or variable pulley arrangement if the line frequency is to be changed during the time you own the equipment.

Similarly, the tape recorder drive mech-anism must be provided with suitable pulleys if correct tape speed is to be maintained when the supply line frequency is changed.

Because most equipment will not be provided with tapped transformers and motors, you will need a transformer which will convert the 220 volts found in Europe to the 120 volts required by American-made equipment. This transformer must have a power-handling capacity somewhat greater than the total amount of power required by the equipment it feeds. In addition, the transformer must be capable of operating at 50 cps.



No Larger Than A Record Changer ... Every Inch A Troubador

The New Empire 488 ... tailor made for console or equipment cabinets. It is well known that acoustic feedback has been harassing playback equipment in console cabinets for years. This is due in large measure to the close proximity of turntable to speaker. Not too long ago, Audio Magazine tested the Empire Troubador ... they reported: "We tried to induce acoustic feedback by placing the turntable on top of our large speaker system and turning up the gain—we were unsuccessful." Other factors important to cabinct owners are stability and level surfaces, the jars and jolts of heavy footsteps or accidental bumps can jump some arms even in the most stable cabinets. Stability under virtually any conceivable situation is now assured by Empire's sensational "Dyna-Mount" (vibration-absorbing multiple floating suspension system) found only in the new Empire 488. The Famous Empire 398 . . . *professionals' turntable*-too perfectly engineered for even a whisper of distortion . . . too handsome to hide behind cabinet doors. Hi Fidelity reports: "The Troubador represents a precision-engineered product of the highest quality . . . wow, flutter and rumble completely negligible . . . speed accuracy very good . . . maximum tracking error of the arm judged to be negligibly small . . . very low needle talk, minimum hum pick-up . . . clean response . . . one of the finest, handsomest record players available."

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Dick Leibert: The Happy Hits of Christmas

RCA Victor LSP 2771

Ordinarily, Christmas releases very seldom arive in time to make Light Listening's De-cember column. This gloony fact has tended to cast this corner in a light that has been far to cast this corner in a light that has been far from flattering, indicating to some a Scrooge-like nature on the part of your reviewer that is thoroughly unjustified. This year, luckily, RCA Victor has come to the rescue with an earlier-than-usual release of a Christmas album worthy of gracing any sound fancier's stocking. This stereo recording featuring Dick Leibert at the console of the Radio City Music Hall Wurlitzer organ is the sort of item that Hall Wurlitzer organ is the sort of item that, in former years, would have been mentioned a month later in the January issue because it definitely rates recognition as a seasonal re-

lease, even on a delayed basis. The encouraging thing in this stereo release is the way in which the organ at Radio City manages to override the slight limitations still present in the RCA Dynagroove process. The frequency range of this album almost reaches that of the conventional RCA Victor stereo record. Despite the closer-than-average position of the mikes, the very lowest pedal notes do not extend to the region where they would be felt rather than heard. There is some cone pushing below 80 cycles or so but it is not be left lattice than heard. There is some cone pushing below 80 cycles or so but it is not the best buss response you can get these days with today's stereo cutters. What saves the day is the close position of the mike (or mikes) at the particular loft containing the organ's largest pipes. Located on each side of the giant Music Hall stage, the Wurlitzer's pipes range in size from a tiny tube no larger than an ordinary lead pencil to the largest member of the family extending some thirty-two feet in length. The same mikes, however, deliver a treble range of gratifying energy, giving the illusion of total response in the Music Hall for the past thirty years, is proba-bly the only man alive with a total command of all the tricky combinations possible on the world's largest theatre organ. He uses a good percentage of them in creating the busload of effects thet are part of *large Bulle L Harged* world's largest theatre organ. He uses a good percentage of them in creating the busload of effects that are part of Jingle Bells, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day and Leroy Ander-son's Sleigh Ride. For all his generosity in novel effects, Leibert still manages to save the best gradies in the bar for the still will still the best goodies in his bag for the scintillating arrangement of the Parade of the Woodcn Soldiers that closes the album.

Peter Sellers: Fool Britannia

Acappella AC - 1 Presenting Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara Verve V-15038

In recent months the record industry has been discovering that it's far easier to release a comedy record than it is to get someone to laugh at it. To be even moderately successful these days, humor on records requires a per-sonality capable of projecting to full advant-age the bright material that has always been needed to draw laughs in any medium of show business. These two comedy releases should prove diverting to a fairly wide audience of record buyers. In view of the fact that Peter Sellers fans have had to be content so far with only two albums in the catalog, this third release may stir interest that exceeds the actual merit of the disc itself. Unlike his earlier records on the Angel label, "Fool Britannia" is not an exclusive Peter Sellers production throughout its length. The script for these sketches on England's Profumo vice scandal was written by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse of "Stop the World" fame. Along with Joan Collins (Mrs. Newley), Daniel Massey and Michael Lipton, they assist Sellers in a collection of vignettes calculated to further unnerve an already shaking establishment unnerve an already shaking establishment back in the home country. Much of the ma-terial reflects the speed with which Newley and Bricusse threw it together since there was no way of knowing whether the Profumo-Keeler case would still be in the news by the time the record came on the market. Some of the blows struck in the cause of satire only glance the subject yet the cast applies more venom to its task than any non-Ritish crow venom to its task than any non-British crew would dare. Sellers spearheads the attack with would dare. Sellers spearheads the attack with a blistering five minute impersonation of Frime Minister Macmillan. As the record con-tinues, however, the gibes at Macmillan take on an air of warm geniality once the cast takes on the British scandal press and other institutions trying to turn a profit over the Profumo affair. Sellers does his best char-acter work in skits dealing with a newspaper tycoon and a shady film producer. It is hardly necessary to remind anyone familiar with this comedian's work that even a lightweight comedian's work that even a lightweight Sellers effort can be substantially more anusing than that of many of his competitors. The Verve comedy record starring Jerry

LIGHT LISTENING

Chester Santon

Stiller and Anne Meara would possibly have attracted more attention during a month that didn't see the release of a Peter Sellers disc. This new comedy team, recorded before an audience at the hungry i in San Francisco. is already on i's way to a very promising career on the basis of this diverting disc. Their ma-terial is original and delivered in a key low enough to hold the attention of today's so-phisticated audience. The New York accent, in all its rich forms, is their specialty and they use it with cutting effect in most of their skits. Miss Meara is particularly versatile, equally at home in a Greenwich Village coffeehouse, lampooning TV commercials, arguing with her husband or ribhing the life out of commentator Pauline Frederick in a delicious sketch called "The Whale." Good husband and wife teams are still a comparative rarity in the comedy field. Stiller and Meara should have no diffi-culty going to the top—if they keep up the pace they have set in this recording

Miltinho: Rhythm and Sound of Bossa Nova

Audio Fidelity AFSD 5984 Mariachi Nacional: El Hombre Mexicano Audio Fidelity AFSD 6116

Audio Fidelity's latest excursion below the Latin American music in the whole gamut of Latin American music in the very latest sound. The predictable nature of AF's sound Latin quality is not the least of the engaging fea-tures in these releases. At a time when just about any established label is apt to spring a sound gimmik aimed at the very widest mass market, it is a genuine pleasure to place a compliant stylus assembly into the lead-in groove of these well made, no-nonsense stereo

discs. Taking the newer material first--the Bossa Taking the newer material first—the Bossa Nova album stars the subtle talents of the great Brazilian drunmer Antonio Da Souza, internationally known as simply "Militinho." Following several seasons as a featured mem-ber of Joao Gilberto's famous group, Militinho bears unquestioned credentials for his own starring album. Working here with the Oscat Castro-Neves orchestra, he never overshadows the smooth efforts of the solo instrumentalists. The result is a Bossa Nova album with a

Piaf and Sarapo at the Bobino Capitol ST 10348

There is mild irony in the fact that Edith Piaf's first record in which she talks to an audience in the introduction of her songs appeared a day or so after her death in Paris early in October. Capitol Records may have other recordings by France's unique song stylist still in the vaults but this release will draw exceptional attention while stories of her almost incredible career are carried in almost incredible career are carried in newspapers and magazines. Side One of this release, recorded before a very ap-preciative audience at the Bohino in Paris, finds the great Piaf still in full voice while Side Two introduces Theo Sarapo in his North American dise debut. He is the young Greek singer who be-came Piaf's husband in 1962. His is a light voice, employed in a half dozen songs that betray considerable evidence of Piaf coaching.

musical quality fully as satisfying as the im-peccable sound. The Mariachi album is by no means the first of its kind produced by Audio Fidelity's far-ranging Latin department. Unlike many of the previous releases by the ubiquitous street musicians of Mexico, this one offers a good deal of vocal as well as instrumental fare. The four guitarists, three violinists and two trunpeters of the Mariachi Nacional are di-rected by Arcadio Elias in a typical program of South American favorites. The selections most familiar to our ears include Adios Mari-quita Linda, Guadalajara and the specialty of bull fight bands, La Virgen de la Macarcna. bull fight bands, La Virgen de la Macarena.

Morton Gould: Spirituals for Strings **RCA Victor LSC 2686**

If you value magnificent string playing by an orchestra of experts as heard in just about the best string sound available today, don't miss this truly outstanding release. Any string fan whose record budget for the year is at the point of depletion should make this recording point of depletion should make this recording the first order of business in the year ahead. Stirring spirituals such as *Deep River*, *Go Down Moses* and *Sometimes I Feel Like a Morton* Gould is fortunate that his string orchestra has not been subjected to the Dyna-groove process in this recording. Despite the fact that the Dynagroove system has been watered down and is now relatively innocu-ous in some releases, even in its mildest form the still introduces ton end distortion that this it still introduces top end distortion that this Gould recording does not have. Appraised on decent equipment, this recording is the most convincing argument RCA has produced to date for the total abandonment of the whole Dynagroove concept.

Anna Moffo/Sergio Franchi: The Dream Duet

RCA Victor LSC 2675

It should be obvious to anyone that this It should be obvious to anyone that this joint venture with soprano Anna Moffo is the nicest thing that has happened to Sergio Franchi since he arrived here from Italy in September 1962. Miss Moffo, one of the most appealing young stars of the Metropolitan Opera Company, has the voice and talent to provide more than fifty percent of the dream in any Dream Duet. She is an unfailing de-licht in the hieldy thought of operating duets in any Dream Duet. She is an unfailing de-light in the highly thought of operetta duets that Jeannette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy used to do in the Thirties. With the exception of some of the repertory, there is nothing whatever in the work of these present-day artists to remind one of the bygone Mac-Donald-Eddy team. Anna Moffo is a sophisti-cated woman of the world with precious little of the older-girlish charm that was Miss Maccated woman of the world with precious liftle of the older-girlish charm that was Miss Mac-Donald's hallmark. As for Sergio Franchi, it will take you a while to get used to his Italian accent in the lyrics of a Herbert or Frimi tune. Miss Moffo, a native of this country, has no such difficulty. If you can accept the touch of incongruity in the Franchi accent, you'll find much to admire in the smooth blend of voices backed by the stylish arrangements of Henri René's orchestra.

"Without question, the SA-1000 is one of the finest amplifiers we have ever tested. In addition, it reproduces music as well as it tests...this is due to the unusually excellent transient response in conjunction with its unusually excellent everything else."

-AUDIO / September, 1963



150-watts of power!

distortion, thus indicating the extreme conservativeness of the official rating. The output stage of the SA-1000 is engi-

The output stage of the SA-1000 is engineered around the newly developed 8417 beam power pentodes, *never before used in any electronic device*. Designed specifically for use in this amplifier, the 8417 offers extreme linearity, resulting in greatly reduced distortion, and has unusually low drivevoltage requirements, permitting the previous stages to 'coast' at their lowest possible distortion levels.

Total Harmonic Distortion at 1 kc: Solid Line Intermodulation Distortion (60 cps/7 kc, 4:1): Dotted Line



Each pair of 8417's in the SA-1000 drives a giant output transformer via platecathode coupling—a modified and improved 'ultra-linear' configuration that provides 12 db of the most desirable and stable type of negative feedback in the output stage.

The driver stage, too, is entirely novel. A triode-connected 6HU8/ELL80 dual power pentode circuit developed by Fisher engineers is capable of delivering 40% more drive to the output stage than is required — and at a remarkably low impedance. The result is very low distortion, the fastest possible recovery time, great stability and hence outstanding transient response.

The input stage of the SA-1000 is of a type widely used in laboratory oscilloscopes but never before in high-fidelity amplifiers. A compensated input attenuator in conjunction with a cathode-follower circuit permits adjustment of the input signal from 0 db to -12 db in closely calibrated 3 db steps without the slightest effect on input impedance and frequency response.

The power supply of the SA-1000 is one

of the most elaborate ever used in a stereo power amplifier. Regulation and filtering are of the highest order and all silicon diodes as well as filter capacitors are most conservatively operated.

Bias and balance are readily adjustable on each channel by means of the built-in laboratory-type calibration meter, but the controls for these rarely needed adjustments are ingeniously concealed behind an attractive hinged cover—another Fisher exclusive.

These are the most important facts and figures. You cannot fully evaluate the Fisher SA-1000, however, simply by reading about it. A comparative listening test at your dealer is an absolute must in this case. Then you will know that, even in this exalted category, not all power amplifiers sound exactly alike – and that the most flawless of them all costs only \$329.50.* It is also available in StrataKit form as the K-1000, priced at only \$279.50.* Both carry the famous Fisher Warranty for all tubes, diodes and parts for one year from date of purchase. Industry wide standard: 90 days.

\$1.00 VALUE! ONLY 25¢! The new 1964 edition of The Fisher Handbook, a compre-

hensively illustrated 52-page reference guide, component catalogue, and idea book for

custom stereo, plus detailed



information on the Fisher SA-1000 Stereo Power Amplifier. I enclose 25¢, double-wrapped, to cover cost of handling and mailing. FISHER RADIO CORPORATION 21-29 44th Drive, Long Island City 1, N.Y. Name_______ Address_______ City______ Zone_____ State_______ The Fisher

AUDIO • DECEMBER, 1963

THE SA-1000 represents Fisher's first entry

in the highly specialized class of extremely

high-powered dual-channel basic amplifiers

There has been no scarcity of advanced equipment in this heavy-weight category;

excellent high-wattage stereo power ampli-

fiers of well-known makes have been avail-

able at prices starting in the \$230-to-\$270

range (for factory-wired kits) and rising all the way up to \$764 (for a pair of singlechannel models of very de luxe construction). What does it mean, then, when Fisher

finally decides to match its own contender

against such formidable competition and

To those who know Fisher, it can mean only one thing: Fisher has exhaustively tested, measured and evaluated all these

other power amplifiers in its own labora-

tories and finds the SA-1000 to be distinctly

superior to all of them, regardless of price.

As for the price tag, it happens to be in the

low 300's rather than the 400's or 500's solely as a result of Fisher's unusually large

and technically unmatched manufacturing

facilities, geared for heavy initial produc

Frequency Response (0 db = 4 watts) Subsonic Filter: Dotted Line

The Fisher SA-1000 is a challenge to the

severest critics and most discriminating judges of professional sound reproducing equipment, both as to specifications and

listening quality. Its music power rating is 150 watts IHF Standard, with *both* channels driven. The RMS power rating, again with both channels driven, is 130 watts (65

watts per channel). However, as a glance

at the intermodulation curve will show, each

channel will deliver 80 watts at 0.5% IM

tion in anticipation of demand.

sets the price at \$329.50?



If you're willing to pay anything for professional quality.....but would rather not

The Concertone 605 is for the one man in several who can't stand less than perfection...but can't see why professional quality should cost so much. Never before have so many features and so much professional quality been available at this price. Read ahead carefully and see: Precision plug-in head assembly...includes four precision heads; Separate microphone and line controls (input can be mixed); Delay memory control circuit (never spill or break tape); Automatic glass tape lifters, including electric cue feature; Sound on sound and add sound; Solenoid operated brakes; Three motors, including 2-speed hysteresis synchronous drive; Automatic rewind; Exclusive Reverse-O-Matic[®]. Learn all about the 605 in complete detail. Ask your dealer for a demonstration or send for free literature today.



CONCERTONE 607

Broadcast version

The Concertone 607 with higher impedance is for the true professional or broadcaster. Remote control optional. This superb tape recorder is constructed to 19" x 14" dimensions, permitting it to be used as an exact replacement for old or outdated tape recorders.

CONCERTONE 400 COSMOPOLITAN

For people on the go...it's the Cosmopolitan - Combination Tape Recorder with AM Radio. A versatile companion and co-worker for business or pleasure travels. 5" reel capacity. Push-button operation. Amazing fidelity. Remote mike. Foot-pedal control. This all-transistorized recorder has big recorder features in miniature form.



for further information write:

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LETTERS

Electron Flow Revisited

SIR

Going over some back issues of AUDIO, I came across a most inane controversy, concerning electric current and the movement of charge. It began in the April 1960 issue and appears to have petered out unresolved with a rather vituperative letter against engineers in the July 1961 issue.

against engineers in the July 1961 issue. First off, I think we should deal with some of the factual errors in Mr. Tonelli's July 1961 letter. I examined a few physics textbooks (most engineers I know got their basics from elementary physics courses) as well as a number of engineering texts, and the only definitions I could find of an ampere were in terms of the forces existing between two wires when they were carrying said ampere (defining something called an Absolute Ampere) or in terms of the amount of metal moved across an electrolyte in a given period of time (defining something called an International Ampere). Nothing about electrons!! And those who computed the equivalent of the Absolute Ampere in terms of the number of electrons passing a given point in a given time came out with a value of 6.2421 \pm .0013 × 10¹⁸ electrons. He should not mar-vel that it comes out "exactly $2\pi \times 10^{18}$ electrons" since this came out of his head.

Mr. Nissen does have a point though. However, I find if I follow his suggestions, I get some rather ludicrous results. For example, a pound of copper contains 43×10^{23} atoms. The nuclei of these atoms carry a charge of 2×10^7 coulombs. If I walk down the street at 4 miles an hour, carrying a pound of copper, I generate 3.6 x 107 amperes because I'm moving this mass of charged nuclei. In addition, I generate another 3.6×10^5 amperes from moving the electrons associated with these nuclei. I assume that currents are still capable of being added in Mr. Nissen's world, so merely by walking with a pound of copper, I generate 72 million amperes. The magnetic field surrounding me sucks in automobiles and topples the steel framework of buildings. Or rather, because my walking is the source of power, I find that the pound of copper is frozen in place in space. Every time it moves, it generates terrific magnetic fields that, acting on the objects around it, oppose its movement, or hastens it, who knows.

Also, since Mr. Nissen cannot conceive of a current without something moving (an electron, an ion, and so forth), we'll have to do away with Mr. Goeller's "displacement current," which is a movement of nothing, even though it creates and carries with it (Mr. Goeller might claim) a magnetic field. And with the elimination of the displacement current, poor J. C. Maxwell is left out in the cold; he can no longer rely on his "conceptually based" current to see him through to the development of his wave equations and the fiction-based hypothesis of electomagnetic radiation. But wait!! Without electromagnetic radiation, Mr. Nissen is out of work! The power KQED pumps into its antenna serves to heat the transmission line and nothing more. Worse, the sun can only deliver energy to the earth in the form of charged particles. I can't see!!! there's no light! And no growing things, no me!!! What has existence become ???

> Louis L. Semprebon 5 Sonth Park St. Hanover, N. H. 03755



7 SUPERB HIGH FIDELITY LOUDSPEAKERS



The brilliant new Jensen SIGMA Series incorporates the newest advances in electro-acoustic design, plus performance and reliability that set new standards for high fidelity unitary loudspeakers. Note these outstanding features:



and shape even after long service. Heavy-duty die-cast frames give rigidity, perma-

nently accurate alignment of moving system.

Jensen's full-time research and development program has consistently produced significant advances in loudspeaker design. Recent developments have dictated numerous changes in the construction of loudspeakers to take advantage of new performance possibilities. The 7 speakers in the new SIGMA Series incorporate all of those refinements and changes which have been proven effective. The SIGMA Series represents the first completely new loudspeaker group redesign in the industry in a number of years. It makes available a comprehensive range of types most often requested for unitary requirements at reasonable prices.





For complete information on SIGMA Series speakers write for Catalog C-165.

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Edward Tatnall Canby

BEST SEAT IN THE ORCHESTRA

My first, this month, is going to be, for a change, in pictures rather than words. Well—a few words. Just to pin down the pictures.

You see, so many people are blabbing around about hi fi and stereo offering the best seat in the concert hall and all that, I wonder sometimes how many of our less technical readers know what those "concert hall" recordings *look* alike.

I assure you (and them), they don't look like what they sound like. Not a wee little bit. Unless, of course, you're a recording engineer or an A & R man yourself and thus are able to take a look at a particular recording set-up and instantly "audualize" the sound that might result.

the sound that might result. (Hey—what is the word I want? If we have "visible" and "audible," then why not "visual" and "audual"?)

Many of our readers are entirely familiar with the looks of a recording date. But then, again, most home listeners—aud probably some of our friends here—aren't at all. A recording made in, say, Carnegie Hall, is to them, as far as they can imagine it, like a concert in Carnegie Hall. Or, say, a "live" broadcast. Rows of seats out front, maybe empty for the recording. Orchestra on stage, soloists up front, with conductor. Chorus, if any, ranked back of the orchestra, banked up against the rear.

tra, banked up against the rear. Well, it ain't necessarily so. In fact it is very seldom so. Many a "concert hall" for recording is actually a shabby hotel ballroom, an ancient town hall, brewery, gymnasium or what have you. And many are extheatres or auditoria which have given up the living ghost in favor of the canned. Yet real concert halls are often enough in-



volved too. What is astounding is not the hall but the lay-out within the hall

Talk of the best seat in the concert hall— I beg you to examine these photos and decide for yourself who sits there, if anybody. Who, but the orchestra itself! Where, then, do you, the enthralled stereo listener, consider your own ears to be? Where do you place your living room throne? It should quickly be evident that "you" are everywhere, all over. You are cocking an ear, in triplicate mikes, from the sides, from in front, from on-stage and on the floor, from above and below, inside soundproof boxes, cornered by sound-trap panels like big telephone booths; and not a one of these many locations is "it"—the best seat in the house! There ain't no seeh thing.

Figure 1 shows the famed Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam recording for London in a relatively conservative set-up. I.e., the orchestra is seated en masse roughly in the way it plays for a concert. But look where it sits. In the area normally occupied by seats and listening people which, oddly enough, we often call the orchestra. For once, the term is apt, literal and accurate. As for the stage, they didn't even bother to pull open the curtain.

You can't see them, but there are in addition to the mikes up front on booms, at least two other sets of mikes in the middle of the orehestra, one low pair directly in front of the tympani, the other, high, just



Fig. 3. "Greenwillow" being recorded at Webster Hall in New York. (Photo courtesy RCA Victor.)



Fig. 1. Concertgebouw Orchestra during recording session. (Photo courtesy London Records.) Fig. 2. (right) Session with Charles Munch conducting the Berlioz "Requiem" in Symphony Hall, Boston. (Photo courtesy RCA Victor.)

Here's what you get for under \$270 with the new Eico 2400 tape deck



Three extra-powered 4-pole, shaded pole motors: two reel motors, and a capstan motor with enclosed fan to stabilize winding temperature and torque.

■ Built-in heavy gauge spring steel structural panel for permanent accuracy of mechanical alignment. Provides the structural strength which, together with proper balance of all the transport parts, permits either vertical or horizontal operation of the recorder.

■ Hardened stainless steel capstan shaft, ground within ±.00015 inch drives tape on uncoated side to eliminate wear. Non-magnetic stainless steel tape guide.

Huge, steel bar stock capstan flywheel turned and bored in one operation for perfect concentricity and dynamic balance to reduce wow and flutter to inaudibility.

Seamless Neoprene capstan drive belt provided an elastic coupling between the capstan motor dual-speed pulley and the capstan flywheel to filter out motor vibration and provide the correct speed transformation. Optimum belt size and composition for inaudible wow.

■ Jam-proof belt shift mechanism selects 7½ or 3¾ ips tape speed.

Smooth, fast electro-dynamic braking (DC applied to reel motors) eliminates the problems of mechanical brake deterioration.

• Constant hold-back tension and mechanical filtering of supply reel motor "poling" is obtained by passing the tape between a felt disc pressing against a guide post located between the supply reel and the combination head. AC voltage applied to the supply reel motor provides hold-back of the supply reel itself. Precise control of tape tension and lowest flutter are achieved by careful proportioning of these two sources of hold-back tension.

The curved tape path around the combination head, plus precisely controlled tape tension, eliminates need for troublesome pressure pads.
 Four position function switch: FAST WINDING, STOP (STANDBY), PLAY, RECORD. At FAST WINDING, a separate control normally at neutral, is used to select rewind or fast forward (1200 feet in 30 seconds). At STOP,

the reels are electrically braked and the capstan turns at the selected tape speed (the amplifiers are set for playback to permit **cueing**). At either PLAY or RECORD, the pinch-roller presses the tape against the capstan and the felt disc presses the tape against the guide post to provide instantaneous, slur-free, smooth tape drive. A relay provides momentary extra-power to the tape-up reel motor to avoid slack forming between it and the capstan. Even when starting with a practically full tape-up reel, there is no risk of spillage or tape bounce that can mar the first moments of recording or playback. A mechanical release button must be pressed to turn to RECORD, thus preventing accidental erasure. This control system prevents direct transition from one transport mode to another, thus eliminating the most common cause of tape spillage.

Automatic end-of-tape stop switch turns off take-up reel motor when tape runs out during recording or playback.

Digital turns counter permits easy indexing of selections on a tape.

Provides 4-track stereo erase, record, and playback, plus 2 track mono playback.

Stacked narrow gap (100 micro-inch) laminated record-playback head (mu-metal shielded), combined with double gap (double erasure) stacked erase head, Professional, 4-point head mount permits adjustment in all planes.

Dual electron-ray indicator tubes for stereo recording.

Separate line and microphone mixing level controls in each channel.
 Recording levels may be pre-set while the function switch is set at STOP (stand-by).

- Push-pull 70 kc oscillator.
- Correct record and playback equalization at both the 7¹/₂ and 3³/₄ ips.

■ In kit—Tape transport supplied assembled & tested—only electrical controls & amplifier need be wired.

■ Hand-rubbed walnut base included in the price of both kit and wired unit. Eico 2400, semi-kit \$199.95, wired \$269.95.



If these aren't enough performance features, then you're ready for the studio quality EICO RP-100 Transistor 4 Track Stereo/Mono Tape Recorder. 3 motors include hysteresis synchronous capstan motor and electro-dynamic (d-c) braking; 7¹/₂ & 3³/₄ ips tape speeds; 3 heads, hyperbolic ground for superior tape contact, adjustable in all planes; all-electric push-button operation with 2 solenoids; automatic tape lifters, end-of-tape switch; independent transistor record and play amps for off-the-tape monitoring and sound-on-sound recording; mixing mic & line level controls; dual recording level meters. Semi-kit (transport assembled & tested) \$299.95; wired \$450. Both the 2400 and RP-100 are made in the U.S.A. Ask your dealer to demonstrate the new EICO 2400 or the professional quality RP-100 today.

TELO

EICO ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT CO., INC., 131-01 39TH AVENUE, FLUSHING, N. Y. 11352



achieve THRILLING LIVING PRESENCE

WITH THE **FINCO**[®] AWARD-WINNING FM ANTENNA

Broadcasting authorities agree that an outdoor antenna is absolutely essential for the reception of full quality monaural and multiplex FM sound.

A FINCO FM antenna will deliver a clean, undistorted signal and bring in more stations, regardless of location.

Guarantee yourself the best seat in the house for tonight's FM concert . . . install a fidelity-phased *FINCO* FM antenna.



beyond the keyboard of the celesta, near the orchestra's right rear.

The main stereo "ears," up front, are mounted on high booms, gracefully dipping downward to right and left like tall, bowing artists. The rear mikes undoubtedly act as accent mikes, sharpening up color and presence via careful admixture of near-to sounds into the over-all pickup from the front.

Figure 2 is American classical recording, in Symphony Hall, Boston. It makes use of the radically different American approach, three-track throughout, with wide separation of the musical components into spacedout groupings, each with its own set of microphones. Again, the audience seats are gone and the orchestra sits in the audience's usual spot. But here the spacing is much freer, almost surrounding the conductor, Charles Munch, who is recording the Berlioz "Requiem" for RCA Victor. The chorus, you'll note, is far removed, occupying the normal concert stage. High-rise microphones tower everywhere, like antenna masts in some zany indoor transmitting station. There is a dual set-up, one array for the stereo recording and another for the mono version. Mikes clutter the stage, and the floor too; chorus and orchestra each have their own. The powerful percussion instruments, you'll note, are grouped along the left side in front of heavy sounddampening screens. (But what happens to their low tones?) (Or are they reflecting screens?)

Opposed groups of trombones are seen high at the sides in the second balcony. Berlioz calls for four groups at the four corners of the hall but here two are placed high on each side. The fourth group is offcamera to the left.

There is a lone tenor solo in the work; at press time I still hadn't been able to find him.

Yes-there's an organ, in operating condition. Console and player to the left on stage, organ in its usual place. That's one thing they couldn't change.

stige, organ in its usual place. That's one thing they couldn't change. *Figure* 3 is a "Pops" recording which has traditionally been far out and technically ahead of "classical" in the use of new means for picking up sound. This is RCA Victor's Webster Hall recording spot in New York and the show is "Greenwillow" with Tony Perkins; the song being recorded is *He Died Good*, in case you have the disc.

the disc. This is a more radical instance of the type of recording used by RCA Victor in Symphony Hall with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, *Fig.* 2. Again, the instruments are spread out in groups, with multiple mikes, but you will notice that here the microphones are placed near to individuals or small clumps of players, clearly for a more selective close-up effect. More of those upright sound panels, to isolate individual blocks of sound. The harp is off by itself, apparently with a private mike, and next to it the double-bass plays towards what looks like a huge open book and is probably, if my eyes aren't too dim, a specialized reflector.

The vocal soloists, of course, are 'way off up there on the stage, with their own set of mikes right in front of them. They live, acoustically, in their own semi-private sound-environment, henmed in by the stage dimensions.

Don't overlook—if you can see them those tall, thin white lines ascending from the two side balconies. They could very well be topped with more mikes, intended to pick up the over-all room-sound and fuse all the disparate elements into one.

RCA notes that the conductor, Abba Bogin, is seen at lower right "directing all the musical activity." Well, I never thought

| A | U | DI | 0 | • | D | EC | ΕN | ЛB | ER, | 1963 |
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FROM THE DIMINUTIVE TO THE GIGANTIC... PIONEER MAKES IT !!

Typical of Japan's world-renowned electronic industry is the Pioneer Electronic Corporation. During the quarter of a century that has elapsed since it came into being, Pioneer has built up an enviable reputation in the production of quality loudspeakers, a reputation based upon relentless research and the latest production methods.

In particular, Pioneer has in recent years become the undisputed leader in the production of the miniature loudspeakers used in the tiny transistorized radio or television sets that are the star performers in Japan's current export trade.

Pioneer produces loudspeakers of every size, ranging from tiny $1\frac{1}{2}n''$ models to gigantic 32n'' models. It has the largest production capacity in the world — 1,200,000 units per month. Uniformly outstanding in performance, and sturdy and reliable in durability, these speakers are also used by well over a 100 top manufacturers of electronic appliances around the world, including such world-famous names as Hitachi, Toshiba, or Sony.

Yet Pioneer's comprehensive line of loudspeakers is but one of its highly diversified activities in the audio world. Pioneer-made high fidelity amplifiers and other quality audio components are equally well known among both professional and enthusiast alike.

So whatever the requirement is, be it commercial, professional or home, Pioneer can help — help bring to the discerning better sound.





I'd see the day when it had to be explained that the conductor of a piece of music di-rected "all" the musical activity going on! That's recording for you. Some time before this recording session,

I attended a strikingly similar one in the same place at which a "classical" opera was taken down. Classical or no, the lay-out was the same, with the orchestra clumped here and there about the floor (the harpsichord off by itself) and the opera soloists standing on the same stage with their own mikes. In that case, too, there were separate systems for mouo and stereo, with even a separate recording and control booth for each system. Only one conductor-the present conductor of the Boston Symphony (Leinsdorf). But lots and lots of people had their fingers and voices in the musical pie, via talk-back loudspeakers all over the place.

All in all, a recording session is not very much like a concert.

THE SOUND OF CONFUSION

Some months ago I tore a hunk of clip-ping out of the New York Times. It was an ad several feet high from the famous emporium that rivals Macy's, down in New York's Herald Square. For reasons of delicacy I'll call them Thimble's. "Thimble's has the Stereo!", it began somewhat cryptically

Well, Thimble's was full of enthusiasm for "the stereo." Its adman was surely aimiable, friendly, set upon his virtuous job of selling. And yet-I heard in his genial words the tell-tale beginnings of devastat-

words the tell-tale beginnings of devastat-ing confusion. There's entirely too much confusion going around these days. I accidentally ripped off a couple of words—the lead line on my clipping reads "Nobody has — exactly — ke yours." Easy to interpolate: the motto was "Nobody has ears exactly like yours" and Thim-ble's goes on to explain, "From that fasci-nating fact (electronics discovered it) you get your clue to choosing stereo: it must sound right for you."

Well, so it must, I suppose. If this last gambit sounds like a number of other ads that shout "Designed for YOU!" and "We asked you what you wanted—here it is," we still must admit that any stereo we buy must be right for us. For particular ears. But Thimble's isn't ready to stop there, and perhaps that is why I find myself writing here.

You see, an ad that is merely innocuous and noninformative doesn't bother anybody. It's when an advertisement begins to suggest a concrete idea in a liquid sort of way that we begin to get agitated. Nobody bats an eye at total newness and richer, fuller everything, nor do we jump when we are asked to "Hear the Difference," or to "Find Out," or "Judge for Ourselves." Water off a duck's back for all of us. But when an ad ... well, look further at Thimble's:

"To choose the proper stereo, listen. But you need to listen to several sets to know which fits you. Thimble's has great names, and scores of models . . . Your ear may get concert fullness from a set at \$149-then that's your buy. You may have ears so sensitive that only the delicate mechanism in a \$1200 set gives you full musical plea-sure. Thimble's has sets so fine that what the electronics people call distortion runs as low as 2 per cent—that's below what most people can possibly hear."

Whoa, there—just a moment. Not so fast! Now you and I know that this is merely the purplish prose of an inoffensive and well-meaning ad writer and we can guess that he's not exactly a hi fi expert,

(Continued on page 61)



Condenser Microphone with Transistorized RF Circuitry

...INNOVATION by

Actual size of Sennheiser Condenser Microphone Model MKH 104. Professional Net **\$195.**

> Actual size of Battery Adapter Model MZA 6. Professional Net **\$18.**



This response curve is not a theoretical projection. It was individually plotted for a random-picked Sennheiser Model MKH 104 Condenser Microphone, and it is virtually identical in shape and output level to the separately plotted, signed curves provided with all Sennheiser Transistorized RF Condenser Microphones in this series. (All Sennheiser professional microphones are packaged with individually plotted curves.) Note the broad frequency response, exceptional flatness and the controlled peak at the upper-frequency extreme. Also note the absence of peaks and dips in the critical portions of the spectrum. Need we say more?

The actual size photographs on this page are not simply of the microphone itself; they depict the entire system, including the compact, low-voltage, power supply. The microphone barrel contains a transistorized, 10 mc RF push-pull oscillator feeding a bridge circuit. The output of the bridge circuit is then amplified by an additional stage before being applied to the microphone terminals. This Sennheiser configuration guarantees stability, noise suppression, and smooth extended response at good output levels.

Low-impedance circuit design renders the system insensitive to interference from magnetic fields. The rugged, meticulously designed structure assures insensitivity to mechanical noise, air-pressure shock waves, and high humidity.



Versatile mounting of the MKH 104, with or without the Battery Adapter connected, adapts the microphone to any conventional arrangement. The lightweight, collapsible desk tripod shown here is an optional accessory.

Power for the MKH 104 Transistorized RF Condenser Microphone is readily furnished by Battery Adapter MZA 6. The adapter may be plugged directly into the microphone base or anywhere along the microphone cable. It holds 6 miniature mercury cells of the hearing-aid type, Mallory RM-625 or equivalent. One set provides 50 to 60 hours of continuous operation.

WHO IS SENNHEISER? If you have worked with quality microphone systems, you are familiar with Sennheiser products. Established in 1945, Sennheiser Electronic has become Europe's largest manufacturer of quality microphones, supplying them to world renowned manufacturers who have been marketing these products under their own brand names for use in professional recording and broadcasting, high fidelity systems, tape recorders, dictating machines, hearing aids, and many other applications. "Sennheiser" is synonymous with leadership in microphone engineering.

TECHNICAL DATA

Acoustic system : Directional characteristic : Frequency range : No-load transmission coefficient at 1000 cps (Sensitivity measured in anechoic chamber) : Impedance :

Noise voltage: Distortion at sound pressures to 100 dynes/cm3 Overload level: Power-supply voltage: Operating current: Temperature range: Dimensions: Weight: CAL DATA pressure responsive spherical (ommidirectional) 20 to 20,000 cps

auprox. $2mv/dyne/cm^2$ auprox. 800 ohms, unbalanced, ungrounded (accessory cable-transformer matches to 200 ohms) approx. 10 $\mu\nu$

1% approx. 300 dynes/cm² 8 ∨ ±1 ∨ approx. 5 ma -10° to+70°C (+14° to +158°F) 3√a in. diameter: 5 in. long 3 oz.



CORPORATION (N.Y.) 25 West 43rd Street, New York 36, N.Y. • (212) LOngacre 4-0433 Plant: Bissendorf/Hannover, West Germany



For complete technical specifications, call or write Sennheiser Electronic Corporation (N.Y.).



15

EDITOR'S REVIEW

WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE . . .

... make a VU meter with a built-in "eye tube"? Over the years there has been much argument about the relative virtues of both these devices. Frankly, both have virtues and defects, although on balance, if we had to choose one or the other we would prefer the VU meter. But why need it be a choice between the two? Why not combine them so that we can read peaks quickly (eye tube) and at the same time have a damped meter which provides reproducible readings? In our opinion there is every reason *for* combining these two indicating devices in one housing. Certainly the cost would not be great, and the added information would more than offset a slight increase in cost.

. . . design a tuning device for FM tuners similar to the signal-seeking devices used on some car radios? Considering the increased need for accurate tuning, and the existing devices for automatically setting tuners to the stereo or mono modes, it would seem to be a logical next step for FM tuners. The design problem is certainly not too difficult. For example, one could use a detector nulling scheme, such as used by Sherwood, and drive the tuning dial by means of a small motor until it reached a null point. In concept this is similar to a servo system. It might be too costly to be practical, or it might not. We hope someone tries it anyhow.

... join us in asking manufacturers to color code input and output connectors. For years audiofans have been struggling with a maze of sockets which invite disaster when one has to work in cramped or poorly-lit quarters. It is about time that manufacturers agreed on a standard color code, and it is up to audiofans to insist that they do. Don't wait, insist!

... make a logging scale for the bass and treble controls of audio amplifiers? Since it is sometimes necessary to adjust bass and treble with different recordings, it might be worthwhile to log the values for a particular record so that the next time it is played we need not repeat ourselves. This is definitely not a major problem, but it is one we have all experienced from time to time.

SHELLS FOR CONCERT HALLS

In this issue we present an article by Harold Lawrence wherein a system is described for improving sound projection in concert halls. This system employs Fiberglas shells erected at the rear and sides of the stage to provide a "properly balanced" projection. (Of course the question comes to mind as to what is meant by "properly balanced," but that is another line of thought.) We wish to make it clear that this article is presented in order to inform readers as to what is being done in concert hall acoustics currently, rather than to suggest a method. Hopefully, in the future, we will present other views as to the proper way to achieve excellent acoustics in concert halls.

THAT GENT WITH THE WHITE BEARD

S THERE REALLY A GENT WITH A WHITE BEARD? Every year about this time that question is raised anew by countless little children and audiofans all over the world. It's traditional and expected. But what about those who assert that the idea was conceived by an advertising man to unload bulging warehouses? In a way they have a point there. Just read a few of the ads you see around White Beard time and you will be convinced that the copy writer pictured that luxurious white beard as a cover-up for some dark thoughts. But that doesn't mean White Beard was invented for that purpose; it just works out that way.

Anyhow, as purveyors of truth and enlightenment, we will attempt to answer some of the questions which are implicit in the doubts of children and cynics. You see, at AUDIO we *know* that there is a man with a white beard.

Question 1. Where does he get those millions and millions of toys?

Answer. Discarded audio projects.

Question 2. How does he get into houses without chimneys?

Answer. FM. (The bag is multiplexed.)

Question 3. Will he come to my house this year?

Answer. If you have an FM receiver. (Multiplex if you want goodies.)

Question 4. How does he get about so quickly? Answer. Credit cards.

Question 5. Will he say anything?

Answer. Certainly, and the staff of AUDIO joins him :

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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The new generation of automatic turntables tracking and tripping at lower and lower forces demands this new kind of cartridge. Demands a "floating stylus" that protects your diamond and record as it plays...demands complementary electrical characteristics which maximize the use of forward-looking circuitry whether vacuum tube or solid state. The U-38 meets these demands and makes your automatic **sound like** a turntable. With Pickering's famous plug-in replaceable stylus assembly you get a cartridge with a life-time of trouble free performance. Pickering and Company, Inc., Plainview, New York.







Years ago, Sherwood high-fidelity tuners and amplifiers were evaluated by highly-respected, totally-impartial research companies as either the finest designed or the best valued on the market. Although we were pleased by such endorsements of pure quality in design and performance, the really significant fact was that other leading components carried higher price tags. Subsequent Sherwood components have received ratings indicating features and performance equal or superior to brands carrying price tags at least 20% higher. A current example of Sherwood design superiority is our new S-8000III receiver. Sensitivity is rated at 1.8 microvolts. Capture effect is an outstanding 2.4 db. No other FM receiver can claim the 80-watt music-power rating of the S-8000III, and only one other (priced \$50 higher) offers the professional D'Arsonval zerocenter tuning meter that's standard with Sherwood. We still believe that our old-fashioned policy of superior engineering and realistic prices is best for both you and Sherwood.

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STEREO RECEIVERS . TUNERS . AMPLIFIERS . STEREO INDICATOR LIGHTS . SPEAKER SYSTEMS . CONTEMPORARY CABINETRY

Controlling Sound-Reinforcement Systems

DAVID L. KLEPPER*

Control equipment for sound-reinforcement systems is often selected on the basis of a "line" of equipment and price rather than an engineering analysis of the problems. This article reviews the functional requirements of control systems and the application of some basic principles in meeting these requirements. Manual systems are described in this article. Future articles will discuss automatic equipment.

The control equipment for sound-reinforcement systems usually accomplishes one or more of the following functions:

a, selection of the signal input b, control of level ("gain" of reinforcement

e, control of level for auxiliary systems, broadeast lines, and/or tape recorder feeds

d. remote operation of tape recorders or reproducers

e. deliberate distortion of the signal: frequency response, limiting, compression or expansion.

* Bolt, Beranek and Newman, Inc., 50 Moulton St., Cambridge, Mass.



Fig. 2. Simplest sound-reinforcement system.

In planning controls to accomplish these functions, there are four points which are extremely important:

1. correct location of the control console



Fig. 1. Noise criteria curves show allowable noise level in each octave band for a variety of spaces. Churches should meet NC-25 or NC-30, concert halls NC-20.

- 2. satisfactory electronic performance standards
- 3. proper signal flow through the control system
- 4. location of the individual controls for the operator's convenience

Even the simplest systems require attention to the first and second points.

Control Location

Most sound-reinforcement systems provide reinforcement for speakers with both weak and strong voices who stand varying distances from the microphone. Obviously, an adjustable level control is necessary. Unfortunately, many soundreinforcement systems do not locate this level control in a really satisfactory position. A typical church sound-amplification system may have the controls in the sacristy, the basement, or a similar location, while the most common control locations for a school auditorium sound system are the side-stage area or the principal's office. These locations are analogous to placing drivers of automobiles in the trunk.

This point cannot be emphasized too often: sound-amplification-system controls should be placed in a location where the operator can hear the sound he controls and see the individuals producing the live sound that is being amplified. While a properly adjusted monitor loudspeaker can provide an indication of the sound-system performance, it does not continuously alert the operator to room acoustics and noise conditions. Correctly located controls allow the operator to hear the "mix" of live and amplified sound heard by the audience. The usefulness of an operator's listening position in the audience area is demonstrated every time an audience takes a few minutes "to get settled" at the start of a show. The operator, hearing the noise, live sound, and amplified sound, will automatically raise the level of amplified sound to provide high in-



Fig. 3. Simple multi-input sound reinforcement system.

telligibility; yet later, when the audience is quiet and attentive, the high levels will sound unnatural, and the operator will reduce gain. Similarly, in large coliseum and exhibition spaces, crowd noise may require a sudden increase in amplified signal. Or. a weak-voiced guest minister may require more amplification, which must be matched to reverberant acoustics of a church. As a last example, a singer's voice will invariably require more amplification with louder orchestral accompaniment; judging this balance requires, obviously, a well-trained operator, but also one who hears both the live sound and the amplified sound he controls.

The level control for any reinforcement system belongs, therefore, within or adjacent to the audience area. Assuming that an auditorium sound-reinforcement system is well designed and provides reasonably even coverage, this may be an inconspicuous location along the side or rear wall. Likewise, the level controls for a church sound-reinforcement system may be located in the back of a pew, in a balcony railing or in the side or rear walls of the church.



Electronic Performance

We have often heard that the performance of electronic sound-reinforcement equipment need not be as excellent as home high-fidelity equipment or broadcast audio equipment. Our experience is that high-quality installations require electronic equipment meeting high performance standards, and typical performance specifications for a control console might be as follows:

a. Gain: 90 db

b. Power Output: +18 dbm at less than $\frac{1}{2}$ percent thd, 100–15,000 dps.

c. Frequency Response: ±1.5 db, 30-15,000 cps

d. Source Impedance: 30/50, 125/150, 250/300 ohms mic. inputs

¹ The most satisfactory of the remote level-control equipment now being manufactured uses a photocell as the resistance element with the remote level control actually controlling the amount of d.d. to a light bulb which varies the intensity of light and thus the resistance of the photocell. Two examples of this type of equip-ment are Fairchild's "Lumiten" and Altec Lansing's "Revocon."

4.

cording.

Typical



e. Load Impedance: 600 ohms

f. Noise Level: 70 db below +18 dbm output (mixer and master controls adjusted for 68-db net gain).

The performance characteristic where less expensive mixer units, or units custom-built by contractors, often falls down is signal-to-noise ratio. A speechreinforcement system should be able to deliver approvimately 85 db (when the lecturer or actor shouts) to the seating area. If the system is employed for music reinforcement, then 95 or 100 db without noticeable distortion would be a good level. To predict the permissible background noise level, we may refer to criteria already established for airhandling system noise for spaces of different types.

The noise level of a good concert hall, lecture room, theater, or church rarely exceeds the NC-25 curve (see Fig. 1), and often is as low as NC-20. These noise criteria curves correspond in most cases to "A" scale (weighted broad band) sound level meter readings of 30-35 db and 25-30 db, respectively. Considering that tube noise (high-frequency noise) is the main component in control equipment background noise, the requirement of a 70-db signal-to-noise ratio does not appear excessive. The realism of even the best acoustically designed sound-reinforcement system can be spoiled by a constant hiss emerging from the loudspeakers.

Which Signal Goes Where

A line diagram of the simplest possible sound-reinforcement system is shown in Fig. 2. A microphone is connected to the input of a combined preamplifierpower amplifier, which is connected to a loudspeaker. Only one microphone is employed, so the "selection" function is eliminated. It might be a simple church reinforcement system where amplification is provided for the pulpit position only, or it may be a reinforcement system in a small school auditorium, where only weak-voiced lecturers (or the principal) require reinforcement.

The first step in the expansion of a simple system would be the addition of several microphone inputs (Fig. 3). Now the system controls must select the proper input as well as control level. The most straightforward approach to providing such controls is the use of separate mixer-amplifiers which generally provide four low-level microphone inputs and usually include four input gain controls and one master gain control.

Use of a separate control amplifier or mixer unit has several advantages over the use of an integrated mixer-power amplifier. Heat from power output tubes does not affect critical resistors in tubetype low-level stages or the transistors



Fig. 5. Sound reinforcement system for church or multi-purpose auditorium such as a theater or concert hall.

becoming more prominent in these devices. In addition, the separate mixers are usually somewhat smaller than integrated mixer-power amplifiers with the same number of inputs; consequently, they may be more easily located in the ideal position acoustically, without creating an undue architectural problem. Finally, over-all system equalization may be easily installed between the mixer output and the preamplifier input.

If the availability of conduit for microphone lines is limited, as would (often) be the case for new systems in existing construction, then control wiring and the special control devices discussed earlier may be useful.

When the sound-system controls are required to provide an auxiliary output for broadcasting or recording purposes, then principles of signal flow must be considered. The author has run into a considerable number of sound-amplification systems having seriously compromised performance, because the same control and amplification system was expected to deliver a signal to a reinforcement loudspeaker system in a church nave, overflow loudspeakers in surrounding vestibules, chapels, or classrooms, and finally a feed for tape recording or broadcasting. Often, each of these outputs demanded different microphone pickup requirements, different level requirements, and different over-all equalization

Straightforward control of "which

signal goes where" to such systems may be seen in Fig. 4. The output of the speech-reinforcement mixer provides a speech signal for broadcasting and/or recording. However, the equalization applied to the sound-reinforcement system does not affect recording or broadcasting. Music (choir, organ, and congregational singing), is picked up for transmission to the overflow coverage loudspeakers in the narthex and chapel, but these signals are not amplified in the nave. Finally, mixing of the speech and music signals is accomplished by the broadcast and recording operator, who hears the signals via a monitor loudspeaker in a separate control room, isolated from the nave, and somewhat duplicating the acoustical conditions found in the narthex and chapel (complete isolation from the live sound in the nave). Finally, this operator can also double as the radio-broadcast system announcer, and his announcements will not be amplified within the church. One integrated mixer-power amplifier unit could not satisfy the control functions that this set of engineered components provides!

We may note that such a system can grow in logical fashion. Perhaps the broadcast and recording functions would be installed first; the overflow coverage and reinforcement added later, or vice versa.

The same functional diagram, with no change, might also apply for a typical small eivic or college auditorium. Reinforcement would be provided for lectures. Loudspeaker coverage in lobbies would be provided for dramatic events and symphony concerts, but reinforcement within the auditorium would not be provided for these activities. Finally, any activity, whether reinforced or not, could be recorded or sent out over a broadcasting line.

A further addition to such a system might be provisions for playback of recorded music. In that ease, switched equalization might be desirable to optimize the performance of the system for voice reinforcement and music playback, again without affecting the signal fed for overflow coverage or recording and broadcasting. A functional diagram for such a system may be seen in Fig. 5.



Fig. 6. Simple two-channel reinforcement system.



Layout

A well-trained or experienced soundsystem operator can usually control an auditorium or church system with the neatly located rotary controls of the standard "broadcast" control console. However, best results can be obtained when the principle of "proper location of controls" is followed fully and the microphone positions on the stage can be seen to correspond with the location of the gain controls at the console. This ealls for custom-built consoles, and it is often advisable to take one more step towards efficient operation by the use of slide-type attenuators rather than rotating knobs. Figure 6 shows such a control console and the corresponding microphone positions for a typical Broadway show.

A "map of the chancel"² control console is one approach for a church soundreinforcement system. Only one speech microphone is "live" at any one time, and pushbuttons can control the selection of each microphone, with one master gain control. Here the push-buttons are arranged to form a map of the microphone locations in the chancel.

More complicated sound-reinforcement systems require more careful layout of console operating panels to insure easy and straightforward operation.

Stereo Systems

The simplest stereophonic sound-reinforcement systems are merely two single-channel systems, side-by-side (*Fig.* 6). One microphone picks up speech at

² Dr. Paul S. Venklasen calls these "geographical" consoles.



Fig. 8. Altec Lansing 1567A mixeramplifier.

the pulpit and transmits it to the loudspeaker over the pulpit; another picks up speech at the lectern and transmits it to a loudspeaker above the lectern. Is this a stereo system? Let the reader supply his own definition. In any case, it is obvious the controls merely double those usual to the simplest single-channel system.

At the opposite extreme are the control panels for some large music There pan-potentiometers allow a ual transition of any sound source from one loudspeaker system to an adjacent system. The controls are laid out to simplify operation as much as possible; yet there is no question but that a very skilled operator is required.

Somewhat intermediate is the control cousole shown in *Fig.* 7. In the stereo mode of operation, the system is basically two channel, but with both channels feeding a bridged center-channel amplifier and loudspeaker system. The console is not much more difficult to operate under these circumstances than as a single-channel system. Nevertheless, both to simplify operation and also due to the satisfactory hall acoustics where this system is installed, the system is most frequently operated as a single-channel system, with the stereo side channels "patched" for sound effects.

In all these examples, equalizers, compressors, and patch panels are deliberately left off the console operating panel. The author feels very strongly that only the controls operated during a program should be located on the operating panel. In other words, it should be kept as simple and straightforward as possible. Accessory devices are best located in a sound-equipment rack, located behind the operator; and all patching and switching that can be accomplished before a program begins may be performed conveniently, assuming that the rack is intelligently laid out. The good procedure is to locate rack-mounted controls, including patch fields, at a convenient height, between three and six feet off the floor, with extreme upper and lower spaces reserved for unattended equipment, such as power amplifiers, power supplies, and fans.

The author's experience is that limiter amplifiers and equalizers are best located in the equipment rack, not on the control console where they are all-too-often adjusted when unnecessary. There are exceptions, such as portable sound system consoles that must be used in a variety of acoustical environments. However, the broadcast and recording practice of one



Fig. 9. RCA BN-6B mixer-amplifier.

equalizer for each microphone input is usually unnecessary in a sound-reinforcement system with microphones having approximately the same frequency response when employed for their proper functions.

Intelligent planning is, obviously, only a part of good sound-system controls. Great credit must go to the electronic engineers and designers who have created today's highly reliable equipment and to the better sound-system contractors whose installations are truly works of art. The lines on paper that represent the planning discussed here are, perhaps, a small part of the total effort, but an important part.

Equipment

Manufactured input mixer assemblies often represent an economical way of obtaining high quality control units. On the other hand, use of individual preamplifier, line amplifier, and powersupply units usually will result in a



Fig. 10. Altec Lansing 250SU stereo console.

more expensive control unit, if the additional labor costs necessitated by highquality workmanship are included. However, too often the placement of controls on manufactured mixer units and control consoles complicates operation of the sound-reinforcement system.

The performance characteristics discussed earlier are achieved by different techniques in the mixer-preamplifiers shown in Fig. 8 and 9. The Altee Lansing unit employs vacuum tubes, with high-level mixing following the input pre-amplifier stages. The RCA unit employs transistors in advanced amplification circuits that result in extremely low distortion.

Either of these mixers can provide excellent results when used properly. To feed more than one power amplifier, or tape recorder, isolation amplifiers, and so on, the best practice is to match impedances employing isolating (or "buildout") resistors, but using the balanced output connected for 150 or 600 ohms.

Larger sound-reinforcement systems may require mixer preamplifiers capable of controlling gain on more than four or five inputs simultaneously. Such requirements are sometimes met by using two or more of the small mixer-preamplifiers discussed above, with the outputs wired together through isolation networks. This can only be considered a compromise solution, because the advantage of a single master gain control built into the unit is lost with such an arrangement, and the presence of two or more master gain controls adds an unnecessary complexity to the operation of the sound-reinforcement system. The best approach, where the layout of the controls is suitable, is to use one of the control consoles manufactured for both radio broadcasting and sound-amplification system use. The best of such units employ plug-in preamplifiers and line amplifiers. Figure 10 and 11 show typical control consoles. The plug-in construction of such control consoles allows them to be tailored with reasonable ease to particular signal-flow requirements. The two-channel versions can usually handle the simultaneous functions of sound re-

AUDIO • DECEMBER, 1963

inforcement within a hall or church, and amplification to exterior spaces or recording and broadcasting simultaneously, and without interference.

The plug-in units themselves have been subject to miniaturization over the past few years. At the same time, their reliability and performance has increased markedly. Through the use of speciallydesigned transformers, the Altee Lansing preamplifier employs only two tubes, and a few resistors, yet provides a complete push-pull input-to-output preamplifier that does not permit failure of a single tube to interrupt a program. These appear to currently represent the ultimate in tube-type plug-in amplifier design, and the Langevin "Nova" line is somewhat similar. The RCA plug-in preamplifier employs transistors in advanced, low-distortion circuits similar to those employed in the four-input mixer discussed earlier.

Theater Systems

There are two different (and opposed) schools of theater sound-system design and operation: the touring system school and the permanent system school. The Touring Sound System (Old School)

Most "Broadway" touring shows rent all equipment for voice reinforcement and for sound-effects playback; this equipment remains with the show for the duration of its run, both on Broadway and on tour. Low cost seems a prime requirement for this rental equipment, and this factor is an automatic limit on the quality of the equipment. The most important limitation of such rental systems is the lack of an "acoustical match" between the entire sound system, particularly the loudspeakers, and most of the auditoriums where the shows play, but that is not a subject for this particular article. In any case, these touring systems generally contain rack-mounted control facilities which are positioned at the right or left wings of the stage where the sound-system operator can follow the same cues as the lighting control operator. For some shows, these are the same person!

The members of the stage-hands union who are called upon to act as soundsystem operators for such shows usually have considerable experience in this activity. Therefore, they are able to get unusually satisfactory results, considering equipment and conditions with which they have to work. Rather than depending upon what they hear during a particular performance of the show in a particular auditorium, they work from a cue sheet usually first established during initial rchearsals of the show, and then modified according to the experience of the producer and director who listen from the audience area. While such a control system allows no modification for varying auditorium acoustics, it does have the advantage of placing sound control directly under the direction of the producer and director.

The results of such sound-system control are not completely evident to listeners of plays in New York City. However, when shows which have played to 1800-2200 seat theaters in New York are taken to auditoriums either much larger or having very different acoustical conditions, the results can be disastrous and even ludierous.

The Permanent Reinforcement System (New School)

A well-designed "house" reinforcement (Continued on page 6θ)



Fig. 11. RCA BC-7 stereo console.

The Auditioneer

JOHN WHITACRE*

A record and tape playback unit which permits copywriters and others interested in integrating words and music to audition at their desks.

T HE MODERN RADIO STATION uses many sound effects, music bridges, background music, and other attentiongetting devices to produce commercials and programs.

The copy writing department is charged with the responsibility of putting the right words with the various sound effects or music.

For many years the copy department at WILS needed only a phonograph to play agency commercials and sound effects. Gradually some of the commercials and other programming material began arriving on recording tape. Finally, late in 1959 our engineers built the "Fidelimatic Tape Recording System."¹ Now all the commercials, music bridges, and station identifications are recorded on tape cartridges before being played on the air.

The copy department was being forced to audition most of their material in the auxiliary control room. This not only took them away from their telephone and typewriter, but many times they had to wait their turn to use the equipment. Needless to say, a great deal of valuable time was lost.

* 2609 Devonshire, Lansing 10, Mich. ¹ John Whitaere, "The Fidelimatic Tape Recording System," AUDIO, October 1961.



Fig. 2. The wood may be ordered cut to size if you wish to assemble it yourself.



Fig. 1. The completed Auditioneer (on the left). The Auditioneer you see pictured here (Fig. 1) came to fruition as a result of this problem. No longer do they waste time "going to" the equipment. We have brought the equipment "to them."

Conceived and built by the WILS engineering department, the Auditioneer not only does a good job for the copy department, but it pleases the eyes and ears of all who use it.

The Cabinet

The cabinet was difficult to design. It was built so that the user doesn't have to bend over too far when threading tapes on the recorder. At the same time, if the top was made too high it would be troublesome cuing-up records or playing tape cartridges.

Although we were fortunate in having our engineer, Francis Schafer, design and build the cabinet, I believe you could order the wood cut to exact size by a local lumber company and assemble it yourself. If you observe Fig. 1 and 2

The sound from this new Shure cartridge is awesome in its vitality & clarity

A NIGHT-AND-DAY DIFFERENCE

From the very first prototype, the sound from the new Shure Series M44 Stereo 15° Dynetic Cartridge was incredible. Even skeptical high fidelity critics have expressed unconcealed surprise at the audible increase in brilliance, clarity, transparency, presence, fullness and smoothness of this amazing new Shure development. A close analysis of its performance reveals startling differences in this ca-tridge-although not extraordinarily improved in the "usual" areas of frequency response (still a virtually flat 20-20,000 cps) or in compliance (25 x 10⁻⁶ cm/dyne)—rather it is in the distortion measurements where Shure engineers have achieved a highly significant and dramatic reduction of 75% to 90% in 1M and harmonic distortion from even such admirably distortion-free cartridges as earlier versions of the Shure Stereo Dynetic, Further, cross-talk between channels has been effectively negated in the critical low frequency and mid ranges . . . providing superior channel separation throughout the audible spectrum.

SCRATCH-PROOF RETRACTILE STYLUS And, as if that were not enough, the new 15° cartridge incorporates a totally efficient retractile stylus that momentarily retracts whenever excessive forces are applied to the tone arm. It cannot scratch records—even if bounced onto the record or dragged across the grooves.

PERFECTION IS A MATTER OF DEGREE It has been known for some years that a difference between the angle used to cut stereo records and the angle of the stylus of the cartridge used to play them would result in an increase in IM and harmonic distortion audible on certain records. With widely different cutting angles employed by the record companies, the effective angle of the playback cartridge stylus had of necessity to be a compromise so as to provide the best possible results from records of all makes.

Recently, industry attention was focused on this problem by a series of technical articles ascribing the difference in effective vertical angles between the cutter stylus and the playback cartridge stylus as a cause of distortion and urging the adoption of a standard effective angle to which records would be cut.

Major record companies have now begun to use an effective cutting angle of 15°, which is the proposed standard of the RIAA (Record Industry Association of America) and EIA (Electronic Industries Association.)

With the emergence of the single standard effective vertical tracking angle for cutting records, Shure engineers immediately began what seemed on the surface the seemingly simple but in actuality the arduous and exacting task of converting their formidable Stereo Dynetic cartridge to the 15° effective tracking angle. It couldn't be done. So Shure designed this radically new moving-magnet cartridge that will track at an effective angle of 15°. Graphically, this is the kind of cartridge geometry involved in the new Shure Series M44 15° Stereo Dynetic Cartridge:



THE ULTIMATE TEST

You must hear this cartridge to appreciate the totality of the sound improvement. It will be instantly recognizable to the ear without the necessity for elaborate test instruments or A-B listening tests—although we assure you, instruments and A-B tests will more than substantiate our claims.

| M44 SERIES SPECIFICATIONS | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | M44-5 | M44-7 | | | | | |
| Frequency Response: | 20-20,000 cps | 20-20,000 cps | | | | | |
| Output Voltage at 1000 cps
(Per Channel, at 5 cm/sec
peak velocity): | 6 millivolts | 9 millivolts | | | | | |
| Channel Separation (at 1000 cps): | Greater than 25 db | Greater than 25 db | | | | | |
| Recommended Load Impedance: | 47,000 Ohms | 47,000 Ohms | | | | | |
| Compliance: | 25 x 10-6 cm/dyne | 20 x 10-6 cm/dyne | | | | | |
| Tracking Range: | 3/4 to 11/2 Grams | 1½ to 3 Grams | | | | | |
| Inductance (Per Channel): | 680 millihenries | 680 millihenries | | | | | |
| D.C. Resistance (Per Channel): | 650 Ohms | 650 Ohms | | | | | |
| Stylus: | .0005" diamond | .0007" diamond | | | | | |
| Stylus Replacement: | N44-5 | N44-7 | | | | | |
| Cartridge Price, Net
(Including stylus): | \$49.50 | \$44.50 | | | | | |
| Replacement Stylus Price, Net: | \$21.75 | \$16.75 | | | | | |

Monophonic Styli:

Model N44-1—For monophonic LP records, with .001" diamond \$16.75 net Model N44-3—For 78 rpm records, with .0025" diamond \$14.25 net











Now...a new EASTMAN Sound Recording Tape!

Take a piece of the new Eastman tape. See how tough it is . . . how clean it breaks under stress.

Look! No stretch...when it breaks—it breaks clean!

NEW! Support material for EASTMAN Sound Recording Tapes is DUROL Base. A specially prepared form of cellulose triacetate—smooth, tough, durable, highly flexible—provides high strength with low elongation. When equipment accidents happen, it breaks clean. Splices are made easily, quickly—with minimum program loss.

Another important feature: "Lifetime Coding," your assurance of highest quality. Printed on the back of all EASTMAN Sound Recording Tapes is a continuously repeated, permanent legend. This identifies Eastman Kodak Company as the manufacturer and provides a convenient means of indexing these tapes.

For information, see your electronic supplier or write

Magnetic Products Sales

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY Rochester 4, N.Y. **New "R-type" binder.** This gives a smoother, tougher surface, thereby reducing tape noise and distortion. In addition, it provides extreme abrasion resistance, preventing oxide build-up at the head. Even more important, however, are the amazing magnetic properties of coatings of "R-type" binder which make possible two superlative tapes—both available now . . .

At leading electronic supply houses: Type A303, a vastly superior low-print tape with output comparable to a fine general-purpose tape ... also Type A304, a high-output tape with remarkably low print-through.



Unique ultra-handyThread-EasyReel with indexing scale and built-in splicing jig.



closely you won't have too much difficulty.

American black walnut was selected for the cabinet material. Except for the bottom plate, legs, leg braces, speaker trim, and pegboard, it is constructed of 3/4-in. walnut plywood. Clamps, wood blocks, screws, and glue were used to guarantee solid, square, corners. Triangular-shaped wooden blocks are glued firmly against the legs to give them maximum strength. To make the cabinet more sturdy, the legs were joined near the bottom with a solid walnut brace. The two braces are joined together by a piece of walnut plywood. This not only makes the cabinet more rigid, but forms a useful storage shelf. The legs were mitered to accept the braces and the braces were mitered for the shelf. All mitering was done with a wood bit and chisel. The joints so formed were glued in place.

The fine walnut grain is enhanced and protected by two coats of Vitrolene. Vitrolene is a varnish-like wood finish distributed by Minnesota Paints, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Although they recommend it for a durable gymnasium floor finish, we have used it quite successfully for some time now to finish cabinets that are likely to be abused.

In a home you probably wouldn't need leg levelers, but in a radio station experience has taught us to put levelers under mobile cabinets. The Auditioneer has been so equipped.

The **Equipment**

When it was decided to build a complete auditioning unit, one of the very first items salvaged from the old phonograph was the Rek-O-Kut Model LP-743 turntable. It was taken apart, cleaned, lubricated, and reassembled. A new motor starting switch and capacitor were installed.

A Viking Model 75 Tape Deck was taken out of service by a nearby radio station. I purchased it for \$20 without even inspecting it. It was disassembled, cleaned, lubricated, and some worn parts replaced. It works very well.

Left over from our earlier experiments with "The Fidelimatic Tape Recording System" was a Viking Model 36 Fig. 4. Back view of the completed unit.

Cartridge Playback deck. Unlike the Model 35 Cartridge deck, it uses a solenoid to hold the pressure roller against the capstan instead of a mechanical latching system. The solenoid feature would make it easy for us to re-cue tape cartridges on this deck. We certainly don't want any cartridges appearing in the control room unless they are cued-up and ready for use on the air!

Viking built the power amplifier we are using in the Auditioneer. It was part of a Viking Model 36. An NAB tape playback equilization network is already incorporated in the amplifier circuit. To get a better bass response from the amplifier when being fed from the three sources, we changed capacitor C_s from 0.01 μ f to 0.025 μ f and bridged the tone control, R_7 , with an 18,000-ohm resistor (R_6) .

The General Electric VR-II carridge initially used with the Gray transcription arm would over-drive the first stage in the Viking amplifier. A voltage divider consisting of R_{47} and R_{48} dropped the signal appearing at the grid of V_{\perp} to a value equal to that being generated by the tape heads.

Viking of Minneapolis designed the first three stages in our cue-sensing amplifier circuit. We modified it to fit this application. For instance, the fund feedback loop from the collector of Q_2 to the emitter of Q_1 is designed to roll off most of the higher frequencies.

The Amperite thermal relay, RL_2 , is used to delay application of voltage to the collector of Q_4 , the triggering or cuetripping circuit. If this were not done, it would be necessary to hold down on the "Run" switch until all the cue burst had been pulled past the cue-sensing head.

Power for the cue-sensing amplifier and the relay control circuit is taken from the existing power transformer in the power amplifier. This was done by adding one diode, D_{1} , and two capacitors, C_{10} and C_{27} .

The speaker grill shown in Fig. 1 and the two speakers you see in Fig. 3 were removed from a used Ampro tape recorder. The small speaker is electrically coupled across the large one through an electrolytic capacitor. It sounded well this way so it was not changed.

A black anodized aluminum panel was engraved with the various controls nomenclature. On this panel are the VOLUME control, TONE control, INPUT switch, ON-OFF indicator, and STOP-START switches for the cartridge mechanism.

Performance

Now, about the fidelity of the AUDI-TIONEER. First let me point out it was not designed for use as a high-fidelity mechanism. It was designed as a "work horse" for the copy department. However, measurements have been made using an Ampex alignment tape on the tape deck and cartridge deck. The speakers were disconnected from the amplifier output and a 5-ohm wirewound resistor was placed across the amplifier output terminals. A number of measurements with a Barker & Williamson distortion meter across the 5-ohm resistor indicated a frequency response of plus or minus 2 db from 50 cps to 10,000 cps. Since an RIAA network is not incorporated in the amplifier, it is unfair to expect a good response from the General Electric cartridge. But a slight adjustment of the tone control yields a (Continued on page 54)



Fig. 5. Lettering and dial calibration marks were engraved in the 1/16-in. thick black-anocized aluminum panel.



"...by combining this unit, Citation A,

with a solid state basic amplifier of comparable quality, a sound path could be set up that approaches the classic goal of amplifier design—a straight wire with gain." –HIGH FIDELITY MAGAZINE

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PROFESSIONAL 80 WATT SOLID STATE STEREO BASIC AMPLIFIER



Nandsome front panel: facilitates custom installation. Features include current-adjustment meter, on off switch with pilot light and low-cut filter. Removable bottom panel conceals idling adjustment controls.



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The "classic goal of amplifier design" is now reality. The big "B" is here. The Citation B. A power-packed "brute" loaded with 80 watts of flawless performance – a true product of the computer age. • The "B" has the widest frequency response of any basic amplifier – 1 to 100,000 cps. • The "B" has the best square wave response – less than one microsecond rise time. • The "B" has the highest damping factor – 50 to 1 at 10 cps. (No other power amplifier is even close.) • The big "B" is the only power amplifier completely free of hangover or clipping at full power output.

close.) • The big "B" is the only power amplifier completely free of hangover or clipping at full power output. The Citation B reflects Harman-Kardon's solid state leadership in every way-performance, design and construction. "A straight wire with gain" when matched with Citation A, the big "B" will also enhance the performance of any other high quality stereo preamplifier. For more information — write Citation Division, Harman-Kardon, Inc., Plainview, N.Y., Dept. A-12.



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Tep view of chassis: computer construction throughout. Five sub-assemblies assure easy accessibility and minimum operating temperature through efficient heat dissipation; laced mi itary wiring harness couples each stage.

An Open Baffle Parallel-Series Array

Taking advantage of the excellent midrange of multiple speaker arrays, and the space saving of an open-backed infinite baffle, an economical (money and space) and good sounding speaker system can be constructed.

R. S. OAKLEY, JR.*

MULTIPLE SPEAKER ARRAY consists of a number of small speakers in a single enclosure or baffle. Since multiple speaker arrays appeared on the scene several years ago their stock has risen and fallen severely as different authors voiced opinions on them and presented fact about them.¹⁻⁸ Much has been clarified during this time, and more and more designers are developing arrays. Still, there are some areas where theory and practice differ, and some questions which have not yet been settled.

It is generally agreed that multiple speaker arrays do perform well in the midrange frequencies. Particularly low transient distortion in the midrange has been noted. Increased radiating area decreases cone excursion and voice coil velocity, resulting in lower distortion. Low-frequency response, however, is still limited by array fundamental resonance. In addition, low-frequency distortion can be minimized only by using high quality speakers. Similarly, highfrequency response suffers to a degree from interference effects, but is also limited by voice coil quality.

Almost all multiple speaker array designs use inexpensive 6-in. speakers and have tweeters to extend their response on the high end. Different approaches

* 101 Montclair Ave., Waltham, Mass.

- Norman H. Crowhurst, "Pillar of Sound," *Hi-Fi Systems*, Autumn, 1959. C. F. Mahler, Jr., "Hi-Fi Performance 1
- from Small Speakers," AUDIO, December, 1959.
- Norman H. Crowhurst, "Acoustic Mat-3 rixing-A Basis for New Loudspeaker Developments," Audio, November, 1960.
- C. F. Mahler, Jr., "The Series-Parallel Speaker Array," AUDIO, November, 4 1960.5
- Jim Kyle, "Sweet Sixteen," Popular Electronics, January, 1961. Jim Kyle, "Sweeter with a Tweeter," Popular Electronics, April, 1961. James F. Novak, "Performance of
- Series-Parallel Speaker Arrays," Audio, September, 1961.
- John W. Ward, "Another Word on Mul-tiple Speakers," AUDIO, December, 1962, 8



Fig. 1. Parallel-series test setup.

have been used, however, in the following aspects of array design: number of speakers employed; electrical connection of speakers; enclosure or baffle design; orientation of speakers; and, placement and control of fundamental resonance.

Number of Speakers Employed

Arrays to date have employed as few as three and as many as 32 small speakers. The number chosen depends on desired nominal impedance, and enclosure or baffle design. Three factors, however, are basically related only to the number of speakers used in an array : power handling capacity, cone excursion; and, increase of efficiency in the midrange.

In an array of N speakers, power handling capacity is N times that of the individual speaker. This is accomplished without any loss of speaker efficiency, and allows an added margin of 10 log N db between the power required to drive the array and the power the array can handle. Cone excursion, at the same time, is reduced by a factor of \sqrt{N} . A proportionate reduction of distortion over most of the range of the array is thus made possible because suspension non-linearity is a major cause of distortion.

Actual increase of efficiency is restricted to the midrange. This results from mutual coupling between speakers at midrange frequencies. Maximum theoretical boost varies as power handling capacity margin, and is expressed as 10 log N db. Increase of N, therefore, is good for increasing power handling and reducing distortion, but it is bad in the middle frequencies where mutual coupling boosts efficiency and produces a hump in the response curve. Table 1 gives values of 10 log N db and \sqrt{N} for various array complements.

Electrical Connection of Speakers

One factor in the choice of the number of speakers in an array is the electrical connection of the speakers. In an array of N speakers, the nominal impedance could be as high as N times the single speaker impedance, or as low as 1/N times single speaker impedance. Practical values of array nominal impedance do not allow straight parallel or series connection because most amplifiers are designed to operate best with 4. 8, or 16-ohm nominal impedance loads. Since most arrays use speakers with 3.2ohm voice coils, practical means of con-



If not for University's Classic Mark II...



the three-way system with two 12" speakers-plus!

From the first moment of its appearance, the Classic Mark II won instant and unanimous acclaim as the most exciting new instrument in the world of music reproduction. Its range, its presence, its spaciousness and dimension are truly outstanding, even when compared with the so-called "world's bests." Its reputation, however, posed this immediate challenge: Could University now create a speaker system with the essential qualities of the Mark II, but in a more compact size... and at a more moderate price? Could University now bring the pleasure of uncompromising big system high fidelity to a broader range of music lovers?

The challenge has been answered with the new Classic Dual-12, created by a totally new approach to the design

of speaker systems. Instead of the conventional 3-speaker arrangement, University's Dual-12 incorporates two 12" speakers...plus the Sphericon Super Tweeter! One 12" speaker is a woofer specifically designed for optimum reproduction of the ultra-low frequencies (down to 25 cps); the other, a woofer/mid-range, reinforces the woofer, removes the peaks and valleys that cause harsh, strident sounds in ordinary systems and provides flawless mid-range performance. The renowned Sphericon is included to assure silky, transparent highs soaring effortlessly up to 40,000 cps! Power Requirements: 10 watts. Size: 23³/4" x 31¹/4" x 15¹/2". Oiled walnut finish. **\$229.95** Hear it at your hi-fi dealer, or write: Desk R-12.





Fig. 2. Cutaway of "Sonic Screen."

nection are fairly limited. In addition, it has been found desirable to connect arrays in parallel-series rather than in series-parallel, so that the parallel connection will smooth the impedance curve of the array.

In the simple test setup shown in Fig. 1, consisting of four identical 3.2-ohm speakers wired in series-parallel, the array impedance is 3.2 ohms. Assuming that the four speakers are truly identical, there should be no current through the wire which converts the array from series-parallel to parallel-series, because the circuit is a balanced bridge. A sensitive pair of earphones connected across the bridge, however, indicate that there is a considerable amount of current, and that therefore parallel-series connection is more desirable for the array. Table 1 gives preferred and alternate values of array impedance.

Enclosure or Baffle Design

The terms "enclosure" and "baffle" have been used interchangeably by many writers on sound reproduction. Here a distinction is made between the two terms. Enclosures which are suitable

| Table 1
VARIOUS ARRAY COMPLEMENTS | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| No. | 10 log N | \sqrt{N} | Preferred Z (Nom.) | Alternate Z | | | |
| 3
4
5
6
8
10
12
16
20
24
32 | 4.8 db
6.0 db
7.0 db
7.8 db
9.0 db
10.0 db
12.0 db
13.0 db
13.8 db
15.0 db | 1.7
2.0
2.2
2.4
2.8
3.1
3.4
4.0
4.5
4.9
5.6 | $3.2 (3.2 \div 2 \times 2)$ $4.8 (3.2 \div 2 \times 3)$ $6.4 (3.2 \div 2 \times 4)$ $8.0 (3.2 \div 2 \times 5)$ $9.6 (3.2 \div 2 \times 6)$ $3.2 (3.2 \div 4 \times 4)$ $4.0 (3.2 \div 4 \times 5)$ $4.8 (3.2 \div 4 \times 6)$ $6.4 (3.2 \div 4 \times 8)$ | 9.6 (3.2×3)
12.8 (3.2×4)
16.0 (3.2×5)
19.2 (3.2×6)
12.8 $(3.2 \div 2 \times 8)$
16.0 $(3.2 \div 2 \times 10)$
19.2 $(3.2 \div 2 \times 12)$ | | | |

for use with multiple speaker arrays include the "infinite baffle" (which is neither infinite nor a baffle), the simple bass reflex, and the ducted port bass reflex. The "infinite baffle" is the simplest enclosure design. It can be of almost any proportions as long as its enclosed volume is such that the resonant frequency of the system remains relatively unchanged. Too small an enclosure will add stiffness to the mechanical system of the loudspeakers and raise the resonant frequency. The "infinite baffle" has three disadvantages: its relatively large size, its waste of the backwave of the speakers, and its lack of control over the resonance of the speakers.

The bass reflex overcomes these disadvantages to an extent. The ideal proportions of a bass reflex enclosure are around 3:2:1.5, and its enclosed volume is determined by the radiating area and the resonant frequency of the speakers enclosed. In general the bass reflex is a large enclosure, but not as large as the "infinite baffle." The bass reflex utilizes speaker backwave at low frequencies, and is designed to reduce and distribute the system resonance. Using a ducted port makes the bass reflex still smaller, but requires better damped speakers than the simple bass reflex. Both the bass reflex and the "infinite baffle" are of limited value for use with large arrays because of their size, but with small arrays (of three to six speakers) they are quite practical.

For larger arrays a baffle is the only answer. The true infinite baffle usually consists of a wall of the listening room, with the speakers' backwave radiating into another room or large closet. Its permanent nature makes it rather impractical for most audiofans, and it has no control over speaker resonance. The open baffle allows the backwave to radiate into the listening area, essentially doubling speaker efficiency, however it too has no control over resonance. Considerable ingenuity is required to disguise the basically poor appearance of the open baffle.

An open backed enclosure can be designed to at least partially overcome the disadvantages of the open baffle. Sides need only be extended back far enough so that the speakers are hidden. Also backwave radiation can be controlled to some extent. The open-backed enclosure, then, is basically an improved open baffle—suitable for home use. The major disadvantage of this design is that considerable care must be exercised in placing the system in the listening room because of the backwave radiation.

Orientation of Speakers

Speaker orientation in an array consists of center-to-center spacing and the number of speakers placed in a line. The center-to-center spacing determines at what frequency maximum midrange boost will occur, and at what frequency destructive interference will begin. The number of speakers in a line determines how much of the theoretical maximum boost will be encountered in practice, and the polar response of the array. Speaker orientation for small arrays is not nearly as important as with large arrays because the theoretical maximum boost in the midrange is not as great, and because destructive interference will not be so severe.

Mutual coupling between speakers occurs at frequencies for which speaker (Continued on page 53)

| 6.5" | 7.0'' | CENTER-1
7.5" | Table 2 O-CENTER 8.0" | SPACIN(
8.5" | G
9.0" | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Midrange bo | ost frequend | ies | | | | |
| 256.1
655.0
1280.5 | 232.7
593.4
1163.3 | 217.2
553.9
1086.0 | 203.6
519.2
1018.0 | 191.5
488.3
957.5 | 171.3
436.7
856.4 | 1/8th
max
5/8th |
| High-frequen | cy interfere | nce | | | | |
| 2004.9
4009.8
8019.6 | 1861.7
3723.4
7446.8 | 1737.6
3475.2
6950.4 | 1629.0
3258.0
6516.0 | 1532.0
3064.0
6128.0 | 1370.2
2740.4
5480.8 | 1 wave
2 ''
4 '' |

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tion motor, \$89.50 (less cartridge and base). For complete details, write to:





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HERMAN BURSTEIN*

(Note: To facilitate a prompt reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your question.)

Changing to a VU Meter

Q. I am building a stereo recording amplifier utilizing printed circuit boards made available by Tandberg as replacement parts for their Model 6 tape deck. Would it be possible to substitute an inexpensive VU meter for the magic eye indicator? If so, where should the meter connections be made? Would additional circuitry be necessary to obtain reasonably accurate readings?

A. A VU meter has to be driven by a low-impedence source, such as a cathode follower. The signal to the magic eye tube in the Tandberg is provided by a highimpedance source, that is the plate of a 12AX7 amplifier. The signal is taken from the arm of a 0.5-megolim pot connected via a capacitor to the plate. This arm should be connected to the input grid of a cathode follower, and the output of the *cathode* follower should be connected to the VU meter via a series 3600-ohm resistor.

You will of course have to calibrate the meter, which means adjusting the arm of the pot so that the meter reads 0-VU when a 400 cps tone is recorded at a level 6-db below that which produces 3 per cent harmonic distortion on the tape. Identify the recording level, at 400 cps, which causes the magic eye to barely close. At 6-db below this recording level, the VU meter should read 0.

Recording from One Tape Machine to Another

Q. I recently purchased an EMI recorder, model L2B, and would like to build a battery eliminator so that the machine may also be used for playback taping with a second recorder which I own. I would also like to eliminate the playback electronics when taping with the second machine. Would it be all right to take the output directly from the playback head of the EMI, and if so what impedance should it work into?

A. Your question concerning a battery eliminator is outside my scope, but you can try writing to the companies that make silicon and germanium rectifiers; some of them publish schematics for power supplies. Also write to the manufacturer of your tape recorder.

As for your second question, the playback head in a typical home machine should work into an impedance of about 500,000 ohms. You cannot feed the signal from the playback head of one machine

* 280 Twin Lane E., Wantagh, N. Y.

directly into the input jack of a second machine because the signal must first be amplified and equalized; equalization involves a large amount of bass boost in order to provide flat response.

Hummy Tape Machine

Q. Recently I purchased a used *** tape recorder at a very reasonable price. The machine works superbly as a self-contained unit but has defied all efforts to integrate it into my audio system in a satisfactory way. The only external outputs are through the audio output stage, and these have higher distortion and some hum. I tried tapping off the plates of the driver stage and again got too much hum. The cathodes are bypassed so that I cannot obtain a signal off them. As a last resort I took the signal from the playback head and fed it into the tape head input of my external preamp. Even this results in hum. The hum ceases when the power switch of the tape recorder is turned off. From all of this it appears that the main cause of hum is the power transformed. Is there any way to correct this?

A. The first models of your tape machine had considerably more hum than later models. Quite possibly you are right in stating that the power transformer in the machine is responsible. Replacement with a better shielded unit might help. An alternative is to remove the power transformer completely from the machine and reconnect it via long leads. If hum is your principal objection to deriving the signal after the audio output transformer, try loading this transformer with a 4-ohm resistor; I have been informed by the manufacturer's representative that is no load on the output transformer you switch off the internal speaker and that the hum level may drop if you µut in a load resistor.

Frequency Response Specifications

Q. In tape recorder specifications, as published by manufacturers, it occurs to me that there are three possible meanings that may be attached to the figures for frequency response. 1. If a signal is recorded and played back through the selfcontained preamps, the signal output is down from the original signal by number of decibels specified by the manufacturer. 2. With a recorded tape, the output of the playback preamp is down from the signal originally impressed on the tape. 3. The response of the heads only, wi hout the preamps. Which of these systems is in use; and is it governed by an industry code of some sort?

A. The frequency response specification of a tape recorder has nothing to do with the decrease or increase of over-all signal level as the signal passes through the tape recorder or any part of it. It simply indicates the extent to which flat response is maintained, using 1000 cps as a reference frequency. To illustrate, assume that the manufacturer specifies record-playback response at 7.5 ips as ± 2 db between 40 and 14,000 cps. This means that if signals of equal magnitude are fed into the tape recorder at all audio frequencies, those between 40 and 14,000 cps coming out of the recorder are within 2 db (above or below) of the magnitude of the 1000-cps frequency reproduced by the machine. If the 1000-cps signal is amplified 10 times by the machine, then all frequencies between 40 and 14,000 cps are also amplified within 2 db of 10 times; that is, between 8 and 12 times.

Varying Volume with Tape Grade

Q. For some time I have been transferring my record collection to tape. The other day I read in a book on tape recording: "The correct setting of the volume control varies according to the grade of magnetic tape you are using, and the recorder may have been set for a different grade." Is the quoted statement true, and to what degree?

A. In the early days of tape recording there were substantial differences among the magnetic exides used for coating the tape, especially between the black and red oxides. Accordingly, the recording level for a given amount of distortion on the tape varied a good deal. Today, however, if you use the conventional tape of virtually any reputable manufacturer, you will find that the maximum recording level —resulting in 3 per cent tape distortion at 400 cps cycles—is about the same (that is, within 1 or 2 db). The single exception I know about concerns high output tape, made by one or two companies, which permits a maximum recording level several db higher than does conventional tape.

Unwanted Bass Boost

Q. I own a tape player which is fed into a preamplifier. Unfortunately, this combination produces a noticeable but not serious boost of the bass frequencies and a lesser dip in the extreme highs. Recently, however, when using this setup in conjunction with a friend's tape recorder for copying tapes, I noticed that this effect becomes worse when I play a copied tape on my machine. Now the tapes are noticeably "bassy" and unnatural. Since I feel that my tape player is one of the best, I would rather try to modify its equalization than buy a different player—unless absolutely necessary. Now, if at all possible, would you recommend going about changing the equalization? My limited knowledge of this field requires a very specific and scaled down explanation in great detail.

A. What you describe as "bassy" reproduction may really be loss of highs rather than emphasis of bass. Such loss could be due to widening of the gap in the playback head or to azimuth misalignment. When you play a tape on your machine, copy it on your friend's tape recorder, and play it back on your machine, you are repeating the original frequency imbalance, so that the effect is worse than before.

Hence the first step is to have a competent technician check for head misalignment and head wear. However, if equalization is indeed at fault, which may well be, this must be remedied by a technician and not by you. Changing equalization is a technical business requiring an accurate audio oscillator, a good VTVM, and an understanding of tape machines and their equalization circuits.


Now enter the world of the professional. With the **Sony Sterecorder 600**, a superbly engineered instrument with 3-head design, you are master of the most exacting stereophonic tape recording techniques.

Professional in every detail, from its modular circuitry to its 3-head design, this superb 4-track stereophonic and monophonic recording and playback unit provides such versatile features as: • vertical and horizontal operating positions • sound on sound • tape and source monitor switch • full 7" reel capacity • microphone and line mixing • magnetic phono and FM stereo inputs • 2 V.U. meters • hysteresis-synchronous drive motors • dynamically balanced capstan flywheel • automatic shut off • pause control and digital tape counterall indispensable to the discriminating recording enthusiast. Less than \$450,[§] complete with carrying case and two Sony F-87 cardioid dynamic microphones.



Multiplex Ready! * Yes, less than \$450!

Sony tape recorders, the most complete line of quality recording equipment in the world, start at less than \$79.50. For literature or name of nearest dealer, write Superscope, Inc., Dept. 7 Sun Valley, Calif. In New York, visit the Sony Salon, 585 Fifth Avenue.

JAZZ AND ALL THAT

BERT STANLEIGH

Mint Mulligan

Gerry Mulligan, one of the most popular and widely recorded of modern jazzmen, is well known for his approach to small band writing and arranging. Unquestionably he has greatly influenced all modern groups since the late forties. Equally, his mastery of the baritone sax rank him at the very top of his profession.

sion. Recently we had the rare pleasure of attending the final recording session for his latest LP, a sextet featuring Mulligan on baritone and piano, Bob Brookmeyer, valve trombone, Art Farmer, flugelhorn, Jim Hall, electric guitar, Bill Crow, bass, and Dave Bailey, drums. The session was at the Nola Penthouse Studio in New York; Hal Mooney was the engineer.

tor, and Tom Nola was the engineer. The stereo master tapes were recorded in a conventional manner conforming to current studio technique; the musicians were deployed in a circular arrangement with the guitar in the center and the other instruments placed about a circle with a 6-foot radius. A U47 microphoue was placed about a foot from each of the three wind instruments, and a fourth was suspended just above the drummer's head, over the cymbals and snare drum; BK-44s were used for the bass and the output of the guitar's sound system; one 666 picked up the bass drum, and a second in the center of the circle at a height of about uine feet, was used to catch overall sound, fed through an EMT reverberation unit, and then split equally between the two channels of the master tape. Trombone, flugelhorn, and drums were fed from the mixing console into the left

Trombone, flugelhorn, and drums were fed from the mixing console into the left channel of the two Ampex 300s, while the right channel received the baritone, bass, and guitar. The resulting sound was close up with a solid center. Once levels had been set, Tom Nola made no attempt to keep his VU meters at the zero mark. He did ride the gain a bit on solos, but just to make sure they didn't run into the red. As a result, these recordings have a broader soft to loud dynamic range than is generally encountered on jazz discs, and this wide range is of particular benefit because of the exceptionally sensitive performances achieved on this release.

None of the tension, so often present at record sessions, was evident. A happy, easy going atmosphere prevailed in both the control room and the studio, and the musicians were clearly so pleased with the results they were getting that the session ran an extra two hours, continually building with no betdown at the end. The resulting recording is not only one of the best of Mulligan's many, but one of the best examples of modern jazz on discs. Rarely has a studio recording conveyed so much excitement and successful collaboration.

The recording has just been released by Philips and is entitled "Night Lights" PHS 600–108.

Gerry Mulligan Quartet: Spring Is Sprung Philips Mono PHM 200-077

Mulligan's first contribution to the Philips label is a quartet waxing that pairs Mulligan and Bob Brookmeyer in highly polished baritone, valve trombone duets and also features

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each of these men as pianist, a rar ty and pleasant surprise. Both musicians acquit themselves well on their new instrument, with Gerry winning top honors for a fine, strutting chorus in *Spring is Sprung*.

Paul Desmond: Take Ten RCA Victor Stereo LSP-2569

Full programs of jazz solos by leading sidemen are an innovation recently popular on discs but rarely encountered in live performances. Such recordings have a great deal to recommend them, particularly if the selected offer sufficient contrast to prosent a cross section of the soloists' ideas, and most importantly, if the soloists have the necessary inventiveness to sustain an entire program without resorting to repetition of the devices.

Paul Desmond makes it abundantly clear on his new Dynagroove release that he has more than enough thoughts to fill an LP. With the assistance of Jim Hall, guitar, Gene Cherico, bass, and Connie Kay, druns. Desmond plies his tenor sax in eloquent, delicate, and soul searching variations on such hennes as Black Orpheus, Samba de Orfeu, Alone Together, and his own Take Ten. Throughout the record he maintains a simple, straightforward manner of speaking from the heart that helps to huild the selections into a unified suite that demands full listening attention from beginning to end. The end, incidentally, provides this set's sole disappointment. The One I Love, which closes side B, is faded out instend of ending as a complete statement. Surely this was unnecessary on a 20-minute side. Sound on this splendid record is superbly matched to the performance. The four instruments are well spread out, solos are not too far forward, and the wide dynamic range is particularly appealing in its soft passages. One more feature, too pleasant to omit mentioning, is the witty set of liner notes that Desmond contributes to this project. Articulate writing is a rarity among jazzmen.

Martial Solal: at Newport '63 RCA Victor Stereo LSP-2777

A pleasant solo recital by a French planist, this album is the first American recording of a uusician whose work has received high acclaim from Duke Ellington and Dizz, Gillespie. Like a number of his compariots, Solal favors his right hand over his left, and his playing is rich in decorative embellishment but somewhat lacking in strong rhythmic bass. His inventions are misty and inpresionistic, and the rather distant sound pickup helps to make this an enjoyable dise for background listening. The only hitch is that since it was recorded at the 1963 Newport Festival, applause follows each number. Monsieur Solal's voice is heard announcing each selection, and an MC chimes in with a closing announcement at the end of side II. Since Solal's appearance at the Festival was not long enough for a full LP, additional numbers were recorded at reherasal, and audience cheers were dubbed in after each of the added selections.

Kai Winding: Solo Kai Winding Verve V-8525

Another set of solos is offered by Kai Winding. One of the most frequently recorded of modern jazz trombonists, Winding has previously been waxed playing with dther horns. Now he can be heard with just a plano and rhythm background as he improvises freely on familiar tunes like *Hey There*, *I Believe in You. How are Things in Glocca Morra*, and a couple of unfamiliar numbers whose titles give a clue to Kai's present employment as musical director of New York's Playboy Club: *Playboy's Theme* and *Pm Your Bunny*. Always an expressive musician, he makes full use of the opportunity this album provides for extended expression. Some of his former impetuosity is missing, replaced by a more relaxed, free swinging manner and an uncomplicated directness that makes this set an appealing portrait of this modern master.

Cal Tjader: Several Shades of Jade Verve Stereo V-8507

This album is a distinct departure from jazz vibraphonist Cal Tjader's other representations on discs, and on first hearing I was keenly disappointed by arrangements whose Orientalisms are reminiscent of Ketelby's *In a Chinese Temple Garden*—only at first, however. We had been playing the disc in mono, since there was no stereo marking on either the jacket or label; happily, it was given a second try in storeo. What a difference! The tight, constricted quality disappeared and was replaced by a delicate, spread-out pattern of shinmering sound, And the music itself sounded quite different with the voices emerging from individual locations instead of overlapping each other. In addition to Tjader, personnel includes Lalo Schifrin, conductor and piano, Phil Kraus, reeds and woodwinds, George Berg, bassoon and bass clarinet, Don Butterfield, tuba, Jack Del Rio, tamhorine and conga, George Duvivier, bass, Urbie Green, trombone, Irving Horowitz and Leon Cohen, oboe, Walter Levinsky, flute, Rohert Northern, French horn, Johnny Rae, timbales and percussion, Jimmy Raney, guitar, Ernie Royal and Clark Terry, trumpet, Stan Webb, woodwind, Arnold Eidus, Leo Kruezek and Emanual Vardi, violin, Charles McCraken, cello, and Robert Maxwell, harp. Not all of these men appear on each selection, but the wide variety of instrumental timbre is an important contribution to this collection of Asiatic-sounding jazz whose varying moods and rhythms are linked together by the deft and sensitive playing of Tjader.

Kimio Eto: Koto Master

World Pacific 1428

From oriental-flavored jazz to Japanese koto music is less of a leap than you might suspect, particularly if you start with Kcasetsu No Hibiki (The Sound of Construction and Progress), a composition by Mr. Eto, on this fascinating new record. Although the piece is essentially Eastern in color, Mr. Eto has clearly been influenced by European musicians, and the result is a work that blends Oriental and Occidental so successfully that it provides and excellent bridge to the somewhat more obscure compositions that follow. While their style may be unfamiliar to most listeners, it is by no means forbidding, and the rich, plucked sound of the koto is fascinating in Kimio Eto's virtuoso performances. Of the five pieces represented on this release, four are ducts. Presumably they are sound-onsound recordings by Eto, since no mention is made on either the label or liner of another musician. Recording is excellent with lots of presence but none of those irksome, rasping sounds that usually occur when plucked strings are too closely miked.

Eric Weissberg, Marshall Brickman: Banjo & Bluegrass

Elektra EKL-238

The plucked strings of the native American banjo offer a fascinating contrast to those of the koto. These two quite different recordings have much more in common than plucked notes, however. Each is a remarkable virtuoso experience, and the wise selection on this record of banjo solos, duets, and numbers with fiddle, guitar, or mandolin accompaniment, makes its program a bright, merry listening delight. Unabashedly *country* music, these performances are so direct and appealing that they manage to avoid all of the arch, cornball mannerisms that make so much music of this variety insufferable. Weissberg and Brickman have turned out a disc that serves both as a practical demonstration of traditional Seruggs style banjo playing and as an example of how pleasing and genuine Bluegrass music can sound.



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HEATHKIT MODEL IM-30 TRANSISTOR TESTER

While the use of tube testers has been commonplace for many years, there has been so far a dearth of transistor test instruments that were capable of providing the same sort of information that a comprehensive tube analyzer does. True, there have been simple units which gave the most elementary information, and even many tube testers are equipped with transistor sockets and terminals so that it is possible to make some sort of comparative test on the solid-state devices.

The Heathkit IM-30 transistor tester actually gives much more information than a quality check on transistor gain and a means of measuring element currents, and should probably have been called an analyzer. Actually it does nothing that an experimenter cannot set up using a few connecting wires, batteries, and a meter, but it does simplify the measurement of transistor characteristics so that it is only necsesary to operate a few switches to set up practically any d.c. measurement desired. And while the measurements are all in terms of d.c. values, the a.e. characteristics can be determined quite readily by making a few measurements and putting the values into simple equations.

In the words of the manual accompanying the unit, the instrument "tests transistors and diodes under conditions that correspond to actual d.e. operating conditions," and "a.e. operating conditions can be readily found by testing the transistor at two different bias points and calculating the desired a.c. operating condition."

Description

The IM-30 tester is a neat and attractive unit measuring 1034 in. wide, 1014 in. deep, and 51/2 in. high, and weighing 8 lbs complete with its seven "D" cells which power all of the measurements. Along the top are nine binding posts-three for connections to the transistor or diode under test, and two each for external bias supply, external col-lector-voltage supply, and external leakage-voltage supply, with maximum values of 5, 50, and 150 volts respectively. A 15- μ a zero-center meter indicates all of the mea-sured currents and voltages as well as the sured currents and voltages, as well as the null point for gain measurements. The top three knobs, from left to right, control polarity, collector voltage, and leak voltage. The polarity switch has three positions-NPN or DIODE FWD, OFF, and PNP or DIODE REV. The collector-voltage switch selects internal batteries in 1.5-volt increments up to volts or switches in the externally supplied voltage up to 50 volts, and at the same time selects the proper meter multiplier for measuring the actual voltage. The leak-voltage switch performs the same function for leak voltage. The second row of knobs are the bias control, collector-current switch, and leak-current switch. The bias control adjusts collector current to any desired value from 0 to 15 amps. The two current switches select meter ranges from



Fig. 5. Heathkit Model IM-30 Transistor Tester. $15~\mu a$ to 1.5~amps in decade steps for leak current, and from 150 μa to 15 amps for collector current.

Along the lower left of the panel are four spring-return lever switches which set up the measuring circuits for the various tests and apply the element voltages—in no case are any voltages applied to the transistor or diode unless one of these four switches is operated. The first switch on the left is pushed upward to measure base current and pulled downward to measure gain-about which more will be said. The second switch measures collector voltage or collector current; the third measures leak voltage and short-test current-a precaution taken before making any other measurements. The fourth switch is used for diode testing or for measurement of collector to emitter leakage (I_{ceo}) and for collector to base leakage (I_{cbo}) . Just above the lever switches is a socket for small transistors.

The large knob at the lower right is the gain indicator, calibrated in two ranges— 0 to 150, and 150 to 300, the desired range being selected by a slide switch at the right. To make a gain measurement, the element voltages are set up and the GAIN lever pulled; the gain knob is then adjusted to obtain a null indication on the meter, and the Beta (or Alpha) read directly off the scale. The alpha ranges are from 0 to 0.993, and from 0.993 to 0.9966, thus covering practically any possible condition.

For ease in connecting transistors to the binding posts along the top, two alligator clips with banana plug ends are provided for the collector and emitter posts, and a third clip is provided on a short connecting wire for the base.

The batteries used to power the instrument are carried in a compartment at the rear and accessible by simply removing a cover plate.

Construction

Those who enjoy building kits-as we do -will find this one simple, and not even much of a challenge. It builds quite easily, and aside from the final connections to the battery-case section is neat and businesslike in appearance. In view of the heavy currents which must be accommodated for power transistor tests, the major part of the wiring is with fairly heavy wire, which naturally stays in place well. We added some lacing to the panel wiring just because we enjoy making a "profesisonal" appearing unit, but it is not at all necessary. The over-all time required should be less than six hours, and both construction and checkout instructions are exceptionally clear and accurate throughout. The information on the use of the instrument is equally clear and concise, and amounts to a treatise on transistor testing. The IM-30 transistor tester is an instrument which should be in the test equipment array of every serious experimenter—particularly since the list of transistors is growing so rapidly that it is difficult to keep an up-todate file of transistor characteristics. With this unit it is possible to obtain the characteristics of any transistor in just a few minutes, without the need for knowing anything further than the maximum collector voltage and current which should be applied, and these parameters usually appear in any catalog listing, even though the others do not. For diode testing alone it is well worth its cost. **M-1**

KORTING "MOZART" MODEL 3000

The Korting "Mozart" 3000 is a 2-speed, quarter-track stereo tape recorder that is neat in appearance, gives the impression



of a sturdily-built, serviceable machine, and performs well on the whole. It is fully self-contained, having two single-ended power amplifiers, built-in speakers facing left and right, and two dynamic microphones. A readily accessible compartment provides roomy space for microphones, power cord, cables, and so on. It has the most easily removable yet secure lid the reviewer has seen, and though the machine is somewhat on the bulky side because of all it contains, nevertheless it still weighs in at less than 30 pounds and therefore is readily portable. Priced at approximately \$300, it offers commensurate value to the person who is interested in good quality.

Functions and Features

Operating speeds are 7.5 and 3.75 ips. The speed selector is coupled with the power switch so that speed can be changed only when power is off, thereby protecting the mechanism. A single record-playback head is used, which is still the rule for machines in this price category. A threedigit counter is provided. The record-level indicator is a single magic-eye tube connected to both channels. The eye is strongly damped in order to maintain the reading at signal peaks and facilitate proper setting of record level. Use of one rather than two record-level indicators in a stereo machine is something one might quarrel with.

Although the 3000 is self-contained, abundant provision exists for connecting its output to external playback equipment. Through jacks located on the top or rear panel one can derive the output signal at the tape head, after voltage amplifier, or at the output transformer of the power amplifier. Output after the voltage amplifier is across 33k impedance, so that a cable of about 5 to 6-feet long can be used between the 3000 and an external amplifier.

An input jack marked Tuner-Phono accommodates high-level signal sources. An input jack marked Radio has extremely high sensitivity and apparently is designed to accommodate European tuners that have very low signal output. The input impedance of the jack is rather low, but apparently could work satisfactorily with a high-impedance dynamic microphone. The microphone jacks are intended for lowimpedance mikes and feed into 200-ohm step-up transformers, which is a very unusual arrangement for non-professional tape recorders.

All the input and output jacks are of the European (Hirschmann) type, which presents something of a problem in making connections to American home equipment that ordinarily uses phone and phone jacks and plugs. The European jacks, however. are of rugged construction and have the advantage that one jack can accommodate two (stereo) channels. The 3000 comes with one double cable having a European plug at one end and two phono plugs at the other. To permit simultaneous input and output connections to external equipment, the manufacturer should have provided two double cables.

The mechanical and electrical functions are principally and intelligently controlled by nine pushbuttons neatly arranged in horizontal rows of three or two. Tape motion is controlled by a group of three marked Rewind, Start, and Forward, which should be self-explanatory. Underneath is a Stop button, and alongside the latter a Record button. When the tape is moving at operating speed (Start button down) it can be stopped either by the Stop button or by slightly depressing either the Rewind

or Forward button. When the tape is moving at high speed (Rewind or Forward button down) it can be stopped either by the Stop button or by slightly depressing the Start button. Hence the Stop button seems almost superfluous. However, it has a second and vital function: It must be held down in order to depress the Record button and thereby put the machine into the record mode. When the Record button is up, the machine returns to the playback mode. As an extra safeguard against accidentally going into the record mode and thereby grasing a tape, substantially more pressure is needed on the Record button than on any of the others. Furthermore, if the machine is stopped by the Stop, Rewind, or Forward button, it is automatically disengaged from the record mode. However, if the operator wants to halt the tape but remain in the record mode, he can push a Pause lever.

When recording, two track selector pushbuttons, marked L and R, determine which incoming signal goes on which tape track. If only button L is depressed (for mono recording), both the left and right inputs are fed to the upper section of the tape head (which records track 1 or 4). If only button R is depressed, inputs L and R both go to the lower section of the head (track 3 or 2). If both buttons are depressed (for stereo recording), input L goes to the upper section.

The converse takes place in playback. If only button L or only button R is depressed, the signal from either the upper section of the tape head or from the lower section goes to both the L and R outputs. If both track selector buttons are down, the signals of the upper and lower sections respectively go to the L and R outputs.

A single gain control governs all inputs and outputs and both channels in the record and playback modes. Concentrically mounted is a balance control for varying the relative levels of the left and right ininternal speakers in playback. The balance control affects the signal only at the power amplifier stage.

To monitor the incoming signal when recording or to permit the machine to be used as a public address system, incoming 1, and R signals are both fed into the right speaker. The balance control can be used to vary the level of the right speaker without affecting recording level.

The 3000 does not permit recording on one channel while playing the other, so that true sound-on-sound recording, which involves exact synchronization between successive signals, is not feasible. However, it is possible to superimpose any number of recordings on one track, albeit without synchronization, by means of a Trick lever, which simply pushes the erase head away from the tape.

A substantial amount of treble cut can be introduced at the power amplifier stage by means of a two-position switch.

Electrical Performance

Frequency response is rated at "30 to 18,000 cycles at 7.5 ips" and "40 to 14,000 cycles at 3.75 ips," but nothing is said in the specifications about flatness of response. The reviewer's measurements, although confined to the range of 50 to 15,000 cps, leave no doubt of substantially extended response at both speeds; they also show more than the ± 3 -db deviation from flat response which is usually considered the maximum consistent with quality reproduction.

Following are the measurements of playback response at 7.5 ips, using Ampex test tape 31321-01 and based on response at 1000 cps as 0 db:

| Frequency
(cps) | Left
Channel | Right
Channel |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 50 | – 2.5 db | – 0.5 db |
| 100 | - 0.5 | 2.0 |
| 250 | - 1.0 | 0 |
| 500 | - 0.5 | - 0.5 |
| 700 | - 0.5 | - 0.5 |
| 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2500 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| 5000 | 2.5 | 3.5 |
| 7500 | 3.0 | 3.5 |
| 10,000 | 3.0 | 4.0 |
| 12,000 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| 15,000 | 6.5 | 8.0 |



Fig. 2. Korting "Mozart," Model 3000.



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(John Milder)

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SAFETY



The AR turntable is listed under Reexamination Service of Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. We do not know of any other current non-automatic separate turntable or record player so listed.

The AR turntable is guaranteed for one year; the guarantee covers both repairs and reimbursement of any freight costs.

Literature, including a list of dealers in your area, is available on request. The AR turntable and AR speakers are on continuous demonstration at AR Music Rooms, on the west balcony of Grand Central Terminal, N.Y.C., and at 52 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. No sales are made or initiated at these showrooms.



56800 complete with arm, oiled walnut base, and dust cover, but less cartridge, 33¹/₃ and 45 rpm

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The price of the one-speed turntable has been increased from the original \$58. This price increase, made necessary by manufacturing costs, is the first in AR's nine-year history.

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On a record playback basis, substantially less high-frequency peaking was measured at 7.5 ips. In fact, the 50-15,000 cycle record-playback response at 7.5 ips may be described as close to excellent. Following are the measurements, made 20-db below peak recording level (corresponding to magic-eye closure at 400 cps) and using Audio 1861 tape (1-mil Mylar):

| Frequency
(cps) | Left
Channel | Right
Channel |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 50 | -0.5 db | 0 db |
| 100 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| 250 | -0.5 | 0.5 |
| 500 | 0 | - 0.5 |
| 700 | 0 | 0 |
| 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2500 | 0.5 | 0 |
| 5000 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| 7500 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 10,000 | 2.0 | 1.5 |
| 12,000 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| 15,000 | 4.0 | 4.0 |

At 3.75 ips, record-playback response extended substantially to 15,000 cps, but at the cost of appreciable peaking in the range of about 8,000 to 12,000 cps, where it is quite noticeable. Following are the measurements of record-playback response at 3.75 ips using Audio 1861 tape:

| Frequency
(cps) | Left
Channel | Right
Channel |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 50 | 3.0 db | $3.5~\mathrm{db}$ |
| 100 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| 250 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| 500 | () | 0 |
| 700 | 0 | 0 |
| 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2500 | 0.5 | 0 |
| 5000 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| 7500 | 4.5 | 2.5 |
| 10.000 | 6.5 | 4.0 |
| 12,000 | 7.0 | 4.0 |
| 15.000 | -2.0 | - 4.0 |

Signal-to-noise ratio in home tape recorders is customarily measured (by such as Ampex, Tandberg, and others) on the basis of a 400-cps tone recorded at a level that produces 3 per cent harmonic distor-tion on the tape. When a magic-eye is the record-level indicator, the eye should close at the 3 per cent harmonic distortion point for a 400-cps signal. In the case of the Korting 3000, eye closure corresponded to distortion between 3.2 and 3.4 per cent, depending upon which speed and which recording channel was used. The deviation from 3 per cent distortion is probably negligible. Signal-to-noise ratio, measured at 400 cps on the basis of eye closure, varied from 46 to 48 db, depending on tape speed and channel. This checks well with the manufacturer's specification of 40 db based upon 1 per cent harmonic distortion, which represents a recording level about 6 to 8 db below that which produces 3 per cent distortion. A signal-to-noise ratio of 46-48 db is between fair and good.

Crosstalk, evaluated by recording a 400cps signal at peak level (eye closure) on one channel and listening for it in playback on the other channel, was virtually inaudible. Crosstalk couldn't be measured because it was well below the noise level.

Input sensitivity measured about 65 mv on the Tuner-Phono input. It is slightly over 1 mv on the Radio input. Microphone input sensitivity (for a low-impedance dynamic mike) is rated at 0.1 mv. Peak output is roughly 1 volt. Using a full-track test tape, output on the left channel measured about 1.5 db more than on the right channel. The machine's balance control does not correct this unless the output is taken after the power amplifier stage.

Mechanical Performance

The Korting 3000 handles tape as nicely as any home machine this reviewer has yet seen. It starts without appreciable slurring or bounce, and it stops promptly without spilling or jerking tape. One can alternate immediately among the three transport modes—rewind, forward, and normal without spilling or jerking tape. The reviewer couldn't spill or break tape no matter what he tried. The machine even withstood the most difficult test of all: yanking the power cord with the lape in motion; whether in the rewind, forward, or normal mode, the reels smoothly coasted to a stop with the tape intact. The main thing one might wish for with respect to tape handling would be the inclusion of an automatic stop in case the tape breaks

When the tape is in the rewind or forward mode it is spaced slightly away from the record-playback head, thereby minimizing head wear. However, it does remain in contact with the erase head, where the consequences of head wear are less important. If desired, one can space the tape away from the tape during rewind or forward wind by pushing the Trick lever, but then he must remember to restore the erase head to operating position before recording again.

Wow and flutter were judged by listening to a 3000-cps tone recorded and played back on the 3000. It sounded good. Strangely, it sounded slightly better on 3.75 ips than at 7.5 ips, although the reverse is ordinarily true.

The principal mechanical fault one can find concerns speed accuracy. At 7.5 ips the 3000 measured 3 per cent fast. While this is of no consequence when recording and playing on the same machine, a speed error of this magnitude will probably jar a musical car when playing recorded tape.

Circuitry

The chief item of interest here is that the Korting 3000 is a hybrid, using both transistors and tubes. In each channel one set of electronics is used for both becording and playback, with switching to meet the different equalization requirements of the two modes. When speed is changed, equalization is automatically changed.

In each channel the first four amplification stages are transistorized, with feedback equalization between stages 4 and 1. The fifth stage is a tube that drives the tape head when recording and is a singleended power output tube when playing back. When recording, the left channel's power output tube is converted into a hghfrequency oscillator that supplies bias current to the record head and erase current to the erase head. The right channel's power output tube continues to drive the right speaker in the record mode for monitoring of P.A. purposes.

Filament current for the tubes is a.e., with each side of the power transformer's filament winding grounded through a 47ohm resistor to reduce hum. A single d.c. power supply employing four diodes meets the varying d.c. requirements of both the transistors and tubes.

Internal adjustments are provided for equalization and bias current. To protect the output transformers, load resistors are switched in when the internal speakers are switched out. M-2 What's new from Ampex?

Collector's Library



Here's good news for people who care how their sounds sound - and how their tape collection looks. It's Collector's Library-a new tape from Ampex. It's ideal for all general recording needs and for building an attractive tape library. Here's why: 1) An exclusive Ferro-Sheen* oxide surface gives maximum frequency response, clean operation and low head wear. 2) The new book-like design on the box gives your tapes a matched set appearance. Just five or six boxes look like a collector's library. In addition to this each box comes with famous "Signature Binding" - the simulated leather binding and gold foil strip for custom labeling of your tapes. 3) Collector's Library is economically priced. You'll save money on every box of tape you buy. Available on Mylar** and acetate bases in all popular sizes. Collector's Library is the latest addition to the fine line of Ampex precision tape. Ampex Corp., Redwood City, California.

*TM Ampex Corp. **TM for Dupont Polyester Film





What new recorder is virtually custom-built?

AMPEX F-44

The F-44 is a brand new 4-track stereo recorder from Ampex. It's Ampex through and through. And there's this, too: at every stage of manufacture Ampex tunes, adjusts and aligns each F-44 to obtain its maximum performance far beyond minimum specifications. Thus, no two F-44s are quite alike. Each is virtually a custom-built recorder. Each performs to the utmost of its capabilities. And each gives you the best possible sounds today—and for many years to come. As an F-44 owner, you'll receive from Ampex a record of the individual performance specifications of your own F-44. This record shows the frequency



response curve, the signal-to-noise ratio, the flutter and wow, and the crosstalk rejection measurement. And it is signed by the Ampex engineers who tuned and adjusted your recorder. The new Ampex Fine Line F-44 also features a new special design hysteresis motor for smooth, quiet, accurate operation; an easy-to-read point-to-point record level meter for each channel; multiple sound-on-sound capability; new simplified controls; and the Ampex one year warranty. See and hear the new F-44 at your local Ampex dealer. Brochure? Write: Ampex Corporation, Redwood City, California. Sales and service throughout the world.



Fig. 3. Fisher 500-C FM-Stereo Receiver.

FISHER 75-WATT FM-STEREO RECEIVER, MODEL 500-C

The Fisher 500-C is the latest in a series of receivers that goes back many years the first 500 was introduced in 1957 if our memory serves us correctly. Then the 500 included an AM tuner (in effect the current model 800) and was mono. The current 500(-C) incorporates a 75-

The current 500(-C) incorporates a 75watt (IHF) stereo amplifier, and FMstereo tuner, and an audio control center all on one 36.5-lb. chassis. The features offered by the 500-C are rather interesting since they are the measure of the 1963-4 audiofan; a surprisingly far cry from his 1957 predecessor. In a way, the 500-C is a catalog of conveniences since most of the "features" are in that category

The most convenient feature is automatic switching between stereo and mono FM reception; all one does is tune in an FM station and the 500-C does the rest: If the broadcast is monophonic, the receiver sets itself for monophonic playback; if the broadcast is stereo, the receiver automatically switches to stereo playback, and turns on a light to tell you about it. No, the 500-C doesn't turn itself on and off, but once it's on...

In addition to the usual complement of audio controls the 500-C provides a method of prime and auxiliary speaker control which permits two pairs of speakers to be operated simultaneously, or either pair separately. (We found this arrangement ideal for AB'ing speaker systems.) Combining this ability to operate four individual speaker systems with the center-channel output of the 500-C enables the user to operate, and control, five speaker systems at the same time; truly an exciting prospect for audiofans who like to surround themselves with sound. (And don't forget the reverberation facilities.) For those who prefer headphone listening, the jack is conveniently located on the front panel. The headphone circuitry is arranged so that it can be used for direct monitoring during tape recording.

Circuit Description

FM: The antenna input connections provide two options: local or normal. The local connection reduces signal level by means of a 270-ohm series resistor, the normal connection feeds directly to the tuned antenna coil. The signal then goes to an r.f. circuit Fisher calls "Golden Synchrode" (neutrode in engineerese). This circuit is unusual in the sense that it is not commonly used, although not new. The neutrode configuration is theoretically lower in noise than the usual cascode since it uses one triode instead of two. Of course, to take advantage of theory it is necessary to use a tube with a very low noise figure and sufficiently high G_m . The tube used is a new type, the 6HA5, which seems to have the required attributes.

The oscillator and mixer stages are 6CW4 Nuvistors. The rigid mechanical structure of the Nuvistor should help to make the oscillator more stable, indeed we found that the tuner drifted less than 0.01 per cent. Next comes the four i.f. stages, the last two providing limiting. The ratio detector also limits. The signal, upon leaving the detector, goes through the multiplex circuitry (time division) if the signal is stereo and bypasses this section if it is mono. From there, on to the amplifier!

Amplifier: The amplifier has six pairs of inputs and two pairs of outputs, not counting the speaker connections. (Tuner inputs are internally connected.) One set of inputs and outputs are for a reverberation device; three sets of inputs are low level (tape head and two phono) and the remainder are high level (aux, monitor in). The remaining set of outputs are for recording.

The amplifier circuitry is standard, utilizing 12AX7's for the various preamps and tone drivers, as well as for the phase inverter. Each output stage uses a pair of 7591 pentodes with fixed bias. The output transformers are quite husky (we have a strained back to document that), and the 4-ohm taps are grounded, rather than the common, in order to derive the center channel.

Performance

By implication, and sometimes overtly, we have been led to believe that separate components are inherently better than integrated components. Well, 'taint necessarily so. In fact, it is our opinion that one would have to pay considerably more to get performance equal to the 500-C in separate components. For example consider the performance of the amplifier section: Power output, 75 watts (IHF) or 60 watts rms (0.6 per cent harmonic distortion, both channels driven); harmonic distortion, 0.6 per cent (1000 cps, rated output); IM distortion, 0.7 per cent; phono sensitivity, 3.5 mv; tape head sensitivity, 2.3 mv; aux sensitivity, 210 mv; response 20-20,000 cps ± 1 db; channel separation 55 db at 1000 cps; hum and noise (high level input) 82-db below rated output.

Or consider the FM section: FM harmonic distortion, (400 cps), 0.5 per cent; signal-to-noise ratio, 70 db; capture ratio, 2.3 db; separation, 33 db at 1000 cps; sensitivity, $1.8 \,\mu\nu$ (IHF). In addition it pulled in 36 stations, loud and clear, using our standard antenna.

Considering the performance, and the many features, and the quality of the parts, we doubt that you could do better in separate components at anywhere near the price of the 500-C. Don't misunderstand us now, we firmly believe that it is the component design approach that makes such an excellent value possible. On the other hand it should be clear from the performance statistics that the Fisher 500-C is an excellent instrument by any standards.

One thing more: the Fisher 500-C is an unusually fine sounding unit, a fact not necessarily revealed by statistics. We must admit we took an instant liking to it.

In sum, we suggest that the Fisher 500 C may well fill the needs of those audiofans who want their FM and audio system electronics in one neat package. Look into it.

SHERWOOD FM-STEREO TUNER, MODEL S-3000V

Sherwood is well known as a manufacturer of high quality tuners and amplifiers. Indeed, over the years they have achieved an exceptional reputation amongst audiofans for producing fine products and at reasonable prices. The Sherwood S-3000V is no exception to this rule; it is an FM tuner which performs exceedingly well in receiving mono and stereo broadcasts. In addition it is put together in such manner that it may be expected to retain its performance level for a long time. The S-3000V, in common with other new

The S-3000V, in common with other new Sherwood models, features a zero-center tuning meter. This tuning meter operates to indicate the point at which the detector is nulled so that it is possible to tune very accurately. In fact, we found this tuning system to be one of the most accurate and convenient we have encountered for achieving minimum distortion.

The Sherwood S-3000V also provides a stereo indicator light which automatically glows when a stereo broadcast is being

(Continued on page 58)



Fig. 4. Sherwood FM-Stereo Tuner, Model S-3000V.

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For Xmas: Gr-reat!

Bach's Greatest Hits. The Creative Swingle Singers, Ward Swingle. Philips PHS 600-097 stereo

This is the recording of the century— or a lot of people think so. Johann Sebastian Bach's keyboard works. *sung*, note for note, by the most extraordinary ensemble of wild young people you'll ever hear. We are not shown their pictures but the album says they're French and they sound like *les Beatnik* for sure, probably with beards, berets and black stockings.

No matter! Such an immediately drasort of jazz (if it really is jazz) has seldom been heard and the composing seldom been heard and the composing credit is purely to Bach himself. Only the addition of a roving plucked double bass and a mild accompanying rhythm section augment the actual notes of numerous items from the Preludes and Fugues from the famed "Well Tempered Clavier," the organ works and various hurnbeight nices, not to montion one Clavier," the organ works and various harpsichord pieces, not to mention one of the most complex and rapid fugues from Bach's last great work, the "Art of the Fugue!" Astonishing. *Everything* is sung, even including the correct ornaments. The jazzy feel to the lines of eighth notes is, oddly, quite proper Baroque-period practice and more authentic than the solema literal play.

authentic than the solemn, literal play-ing of generations of classical planists and organists. The "doppa-doppa" and "boopy-do" syllables the singers use to help themselves (and give a jazz effect) are entirely reasonable, adding instru-mental *icius* (transient attack). But best of all is the sheer musicianship-- the superb musical phrasing, the perfect harensemble, the impeccable stylistic sense of color and planes, good enough to outbarbership Bach many a highly professional Bach keyboard artist.

You can call it jazz, but for me it is Bach—about as splendid as it comes. (And a quick P.S.—this disc was at press deadline 98th on the 100 best sell-ing LP records.)

Solo Recital

Gina Bachauer Queen of the Keyboard. Mercury SR 90349 stereo

I should say she is! This lady is a one-woman orchestra all on her own. The piano transcription of scenes from "Petrouchka" which opens this record is absolutely startling in its dimension, as though the huge orchestra were playing in all its bundled straight were playing in all its hundreds straight through her fingers. You can hear the trum-pets, clarinets, strings—and of course, the piano. An astonishing illusion if you know the Petrouchka music in its original orchestral sound.

She is a big, hearty, utterly musical planist (see cover) of fabulous powers, one of those great souls who seem to use the piano merely

means to bigger things-music itself. as a means to bigger things—music itself. Paradoxically, thus, her technique is so ex-traordinary that you will quite forget the piano itstlf in favor of what it says; it is a "transparent" medium. A stunning illusion and only the greatest musicians can pull it off. After the immense sounds of Petropchka's orchestra comes big Chopin, the Polonaise in A Flat income and free substitutions as 18 years

A Flat, joyous and free-swinging as an 18-yearar fac, joyous and recessinging as an royear-old-prodigy performance, yet impeccably musi-cal too. And on the obverse, a Liszt Rhapsody and Book Two of the youthful Brahms "Paganini Variations." What a woman!! What a record.

Schumann: Cello Concerto. Lalo: Cello Concerto. Janos Starker; London Symphony, Skrowaczewski.

Mercury SR 90347 stereo

And here's another in this really splendid -And here's another in this really splendid Mercury series of solo discs, each will a big black-and-white portrait of the artist on the cover under the 35 mm, banner-spread across the top. Too many solo recordings are just specialist-recitals, or sleazy would-be pops offerings, full of insipidity. Especially, I must emphasize, cello solo records! Not this one. For here you have good music, good cello music, an intelligent, musical, communicative cellist and a superbly understanding orchestra, Just as important—there's Mercury which

Just as important—there's Mercury, which puts the cello back from you, in its rightful place where it can sound human and blend into the rest of the musical fabric where it should, or sing out at a distance in the cello's finest manner.

If only the hardened big-outfit recordmen would learn to treat cello music this way-instead of smearing such as that great ham Piatigorsky all over the mikes, giant-size, breathing down your neck, against a faint and distant accompaniment somewhere off in the background! Only seasoned cello-worshippers love that stuff. There are millions of them, alas.

So-buy this one with confidence, and learn what this wonderfully expressive old instru-ment can do in good company, for you.

Bach: The Goldberg Variations. George Malcolm, harpsichord.

L'Oiseau-Lyre SOL 261/2 stereo

The great Bach show-piece is played here by Britain's phenomenally brilliant harpsi-chordist; yet in a curious way the recording isn't very impressive where by rights it ought to be devastating, as have been earlier Malcolm records over the years. First, poor recording. The sound is no only

somewhat strident and peaky but there is an intermittent form of flutter—actually, I think, an electrical distortion rather than actual mechanical flutter—which appears in the more wiry passages to rob the sound of its musical authenticity. And there is an unpleasant clattery sound to the upper notes in the louder registrations; one has the sense that all is not well whenever the intensity creeps above a certain level "The active corticue are above a certain level. The soft portions are lovely.

Second, it becomes more clear here than previously that Malcolm is what might be called an extrovert performer—superb at the big showy sort of Bach and especially the complex and high-speed music, but less musically impressive in the more introspective

slower music of the aria type, less interested in the longer dramatic shapes than a Lan-dowska-who built these Goldbergs into a towering, almost Wagnerian emotional perience.

It's high-level playing, definitely, and splendid listening, sound-quality aside. But the Goldbergs can be even better.

Bach: Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue; Fantasia in C mi.; Six Little Preludes; Toccata in D; Prelude, Fugue and Allegro. Fernando Valenti, harpsichord

Columbia MS 6516 stereo

Evidently Columbia has been looking around Evidently Columbia has been looking around for a house harpsichordist. Here's an aimable, accomodating one who has been taken over from Westminster, where he genially set out to record all five million or so Scarlatti harpischord sonatas and managed to get dozens of LPs out before looking the other way evid for a the whole business. (Columbia) and forgetting the whole business (Columbia's "ex," the famed Ralph Kirkpatrick, edited all of them but managed to produce only one splendid recorded set for the company. He's been working for DG since then.) Valenti is one of those wholly gracious and

Valenti is one of those wholly gracious and pleasing musicians whose product one some-how feels the urge to praise, even when it doesn't merit superlatives. I hate to have to say it, therefore, but I find the Valenti per-formances as they have been in the past— skillful, highly professional, utterly compe-tent, yet on the whole musically colorless and lacking in real inner drama. If he seems to borrow considerably from such as Wanda Landowska, it is merely that his own concept isn't strong enough to outweigh the great lady whom every harpsichordist emulates in spite of himself. spite of himself.

spite of himsen. Nor is the recorded harpsichord sound pleasing. Is it the instrument itself? Or is it more likely Columbia's famed piano record-ing technique, hard as nails, newly applied to this much more wiry instrument?

this much more wiry instrument? I can tell Columbia that if you want a harpsichord to sound mellow, rather than tinny, you first place it in a fine space—dead or live—and then get those mikes back, away from the innards. At close range, the instru-ment is ugly as all getont. Its brilliant sound is at peak flavor when heard at a mellowing distance do to come in medical écones. distance, so to speak in musical focus

Lieder von Schubert, Schumann, Brahms. Irmgard Seefried, soprano; Erik Werba, pf.

Deutsche Gramm. 136.372 stereo

She is one of the great German sopranos, She is one of the great German sopranos, with a uniquely expressive little-boy voice and an impeccable ear; she has sung countless concerts and made many distinguished record-ings. Something was wrong for this one. The music is as lovely as ever, her long-time ac-companist as fine as ever; but she wavers, sounds tired, strains, makes near-flubs. Tragic to hear a great artist in such moments of strangele struggle.

Some of the Seefried discs have been "live" concert performances. Might this be one of those, issued in spite of momentary troubles because of its content? Or is there really something wrong? Seefried is far from elderly, so we can hope it was the former and that her next will be as radiant as ever.



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John Hammond accompanying himself on guitar and mouth-harp Vanguard VSD 2148 stereo

Count singers like this in the solo recital category. That's what this is, folk or no.

category. That's what this is, folk or no. An astonishing amount of sheer emotion is going into what passes superficially as folk singing these days. Its significance is far deeper—for, whether good music or punk, this sort of thing *is* genuine expression via musical means. In the past, all "great" music has come from such an urge. That it should find the peculiar outlets we have in America today, from negro jazz, from gospel hymns, to city blues and college bluegrass, is a thing that sets us off from other parts of the world in very important ways. in very important ways.

Just listen to this 20 year old. He almost weeps with earnestness. He moans. He shouts, weeps with earnestness. He moans. He shouts. He shakes with the passion of his expression. It is for real, and no two ways about it. His music is a bit raw srill, his emoting too llteral for the best emotional economy, as every older musician of importance learns in the end. Yet his personal style, still ranging over the folk world, is already pretty subtle and more sophisticated than he knows, I think. He speaks for the wide-open places and the poor and down-trodden—and where does he come from 2 Well he went to college, anthow come from? Well, he went to college, anyhow, like so many of the most eloquent "folk" performers.

It isn't directly what he says (and sings) here that is important, nor his excellent guitar, nor the harmonica that he plays simultaneously, via that thing that holds it in the air in front of his face. It's the sheer emotion that goes into musical sound-raw or no. For there you have a glimpse of what music really is, whatever sort, wherever.

It's significant to me that if it weren't for the accompanying printed texts, you wouldn't be able to understand one word in fifty this boy sings. They are dead in earnest, those words. But it is the music which expresses them.

Special

Sir Winston Churchill, First Honorary Citizen of the United States. Narr. David Perry.

Colpix PS 2000 (2) mono

Maybe this was to cash in on Churchill's recent bonor while it was hot (and upon his likely death at any moment)—but the old man himself out-manœuvres any possible commercial taint and makes of this a splendid and astonishingly revealing documentary. It contains 4 entire LP sides of Churchill speech-making, with continuity provided by a quite "symphonic" music, as bridge and as backmuch

"symphonic" music, as bridge and as back-ground, not important but—thank the Lord— not intrusive or pompous either. In fact it adds to the ease of listening and manages not to interfere a bit with Churchill's words. (It neatly masks the background noise.) The recordings carry from his first days as Prime Minister through to the war's end. ranging about in time with some friedom; many quotations are spoken briefly by the commentator, to supplement the actual voice of Churchill. Famous words abound—the iron curtain. blood, sweat and teurs, and the like —but much of the material will be unfamiliar and new to most listeners. and new to most listeners. I think what strikes most significantly here.

so long after, is the revelation of Churchill's utterly canny political sense—on an inter-national scale—his extraordinary way with words that hit the weaknesses of his enemies, wheedled his would be friends. rallied those who faltered (of course) but even more rattled who faithered (of course) but even more faithed those who were undecided. His wooing of the Italian people over Mussolini's head was down-right shameless yet utterly inspired; his honeyed speeches towards France in the war's crucial days, seem now almost calculated, and yet they were not, in the highest sense. Just

superb politics. Most assuredly you'll get a full-sized por-trait of this extraordinary old fellow here. lot broader than any you may have imagined before

Parents Magazine Music Appreciation Library: A Young People's Introduction to Haydn. A Young People's Introduction to Schumann (Also many others). Written by Joseph Machlis; Norman Rose, narrator.

Wonderland 1489; 14 mono

This Appreciation of Music series for children, sponsored by the well known mass-medium journal, combines a safe and entirely conventional approach to the time-worn subconventional approach to the time-worn sub-ject with some modest but useful virtues, notably a large quantity of well-performed music (some of it manhandled) and a reasonably informative if wholly innoccous text featuring the composers' life histories. A lot more—a very great deal more—could be done for inculcating a love of music in children via the LP record. But within their cure strict limitations, these discs do profit

children via the LP record. But within their own strict limitations these discs do profit from the availability of so much more music (and LP space) now than in the past. Oddly, the treatment is far from uniform in detail though the discs feature the same reader and the same technique of musical ex-amples frequently faded under the speaking voice. The Schumann disc is quite exemplary in its respect for the dignity of the music. The fades are done deftly and the fade-outs or cut-offs are made at reasonable points in the music, without commiting undem mathem. the music, without commiting undue mayhem. The Haydn disc, though, must have been put The flayed disc, though, must have been put together by a less skillful hand (or the same hand on a bad day...). Time after time the music is faded just as it reaches climactic in-terest and the fades are cut, after the voice terest and the fades are cut, after the voice begins, in very clumsy fashion right in the middle of a phrase or a note or two beyond the obviously intended point. One outrageous example from Haydn's late masterpiece "The Creation" allows a soprano to gulp out only a few phrases of one of the most famous Haydn arias before she is rudely squelched, practically in the middle of a note. Is this an example to set for our children? If we show such casual disrespect for the very monuments of culture that we are sup-



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posedly "teaching," how can we expect chilposedly "teaching," how can we expect chil-dren to learn to understand music for itself? The background-music technique is indeed useful, but never when musicm values are ignored, or when the text is irrelevant to the music being heard. I suggest that every parent who has a mind to try these make a point of pre-audition-ing them with an ear for musical treatment. If you don't know the difference, then ask some who does to bely you.

The mostly excellent recordings are anony-

mous-probably good mono tapes from the huge number made obsolete by stereo and now available for licencing.

Beethoven: Fifth Symphony. "How a Great Symphony Was Written" (from Bernstein TV). N. Y. Philharmonic, Bernstein.

Columbia MS 6468 stereo plus 7" bonus disc.

I didn't get to play the main record here. was too much interested in the bonus supplement.

This excerpt from Bernstein's TV program. where a group of abortive sketches for the "Fifth," out of Beethoven's sketch books, are put bodily into their presumed places in the work itself, orchestrated to match the orig-nals are in piano-like format), is designed to show what Beethoven might have done—and didn't.

didn't. The project was a brilliant one and par-ticularly with the Philharmonic on hand to do the honors in full-orchestra sound! If it is a wee bit oversimplified, it does make a couple of good hammered in points: that (a) composers often sweat and finme over their work en route (like engineers) and (b) there are incurrently lower to work on works elusive are innumerable possible ways towards elusive perfection; only the top guys pick the right one out of the rest even if it may take them years to do it. It did Beethoven, And he con-

years to do it. If did Beethoven, And he con-siderately wrote out and left behind all the duds, for us to see, Most of us cover up our en-route sketches to salve our pride. Bernstein's "Flfth," you can be sure, is a big, sincere, slightly erratic version, warm, on the clumsy side but penetrating right to the Romantic core of the Beethoven expres-sion. I can say that without hearing it !

Ravel—The Complete Orchestral Works. Paris Cons. Orch., Cluytens. Angel \$3636D (4) stereo

For people with passionate musical ears there is something elemental in Ravel that carries his impact beyond that of the rela-tively intellectual Debussy. It takes a fairly sophisticated ear, to be sure, for Ravel's har-mentary encourage and a source of the source o nonies are enormously complex, his orchestra-tions extraordinarily subtle. Even so, Ravel had "it" in musical terms.

had "it" in musical terms. This is a splendld, a gorgeous stereo album for the Ravel-gorger. It had me thoroughly titillated to the depths of my being, even though not every plece seemed to me exactly to my liking. The disquietingly urbane "Mother Goose" music, for instance, didn't seem right at all—to me, though perhaps not to you. Again, Ravel is a deeply personal composer and interpretations vary in highly personal waves.

It is a great thing, any way you look at it, to be able to hear such a wide span of one composer, all under one musical roof, straight out of the home territory of France itself. Some of it is bound to send you through the ceiling. Especially if you go straight through the album,

Debussy: La Mer. Ravel: Rapsodie Espagnole. Boston Symphony, Munch. RCA Victrola VICS 1041 stereo

Stravinsky: Firebird Suite. Debussy: Three Nocturnes. Paris Cons. Orch., Boston Symph., Monteux.

RCA Victrola VICS 1027 stereo

A new reissue label from RCA with a pleasantly nostalgie name and a useful func-tion in the age of stereo. The execution, judging from these two, is something else again.

For instance, though one of these, the Boston-Munch disc, offers entirely adequate sound quality, the other, featuring two widely separated orchestras, has a uniformly unpleasant, nasally distorted sound on both sides, evi-dently a common product of the reprocessing job. It's hard to believe the original tapes had

this sound in common. More unpleasant for my ears is the "dyna-More unpleasant for my ears is the "dyna-grooving" of both discs, which evens the loud and soft parts so drastically that at times you can even hear the tape hiss and audito-rium background noise coming up with the fainter music. Of course, the label "Dyna-groove" is reserved for RCA's first-line prod-uct. But does that mean RCA is going to turn off the system when it comes to fixing up its other lines for nopular appeal on "average" other lines for popular appeal on "average" home equipment? Common sense says if the equipment is there it might as well be put to work! Only don't use the name.

My experience to date suggests that the ore "popular" a record is, from RCA, the more more blatant is the dynagrooving. Oddly enough, this means that the really top RCA recordings get a soft-pedalled dynagrooving which is entirely unobjectionable.

So-take a long look at the Victrola label, You won't have to worry about the music. It'll be good, of its type, you can be sure.

Schoenberg: Serenade for Septet and Bass Voice, Op. 24 (1923). Melos Ensemble of London, Bruno Maderna.

L'Oiseau-Lyre SOL 250 stereo

This tootling, twittery, waltzy little Sere-This tootling, twittery, waitzy in the Sere-nade is not only important in the "12-tone" composer's development but it happens to be one of his most easily listenable works and one that is likely to please almost any hi fi home listener who likes rhythms and tone colors and sharp sounds galore—whether it be Schoenberg or Scheherezade. Don't be wor-ried about the bass solo (John Carol Case); he sings in only one movement, as one of the instruments rather than as a featured solo, and he's good, anyhow. Æ



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Dept. X, Genoa, Illinois



A New Approach To Acoustical Shell Design

DURING THE PAST SUMMER, the New York Philharmonic performed a concert at the Monterey Fair site in California. Ordinarily, the activities of a major orchestra on tour receive only local news coverage, but the circumstances surrounding this event were unusual. The New York Times reported that the Philharmonic had ordered an acoustical shell to be flown from Norwalk, Connecticut, especially for the concert.

Having in mind the weight and dimensions of most acoustical shells, I conjured up a picture of the loading operation: bulky segments being inserted into the mouth of a huge U. S. Air Force cargo plane of the type used to transport trucks, troops, and light artillery. Could this be the first time an acoustical symphonic shell had been airborne[§]

The brief *Times* item engaged in no such speculation. The shell, it stated simply, had been designed and built by the Stagecraft Corporation, whose president, Christopher Jaffe, had flown to Monterey to supervise its installation. Anxious to learn more about the "flying shell," I arranged to meet with Mr. Jaffe on his return home.

An energetic, articulate man with a background in music, chemistry and engineering, Jaffe is a late starter in the business of acoustics, having founded Stagecraft in 1960. Since then, he has been very busy. To his credit are some 18 acoustical shells built for symphony orchestras, as well as more than a score of other shells designed for universities, hotels, and auditoriums.

The rapid emergence of Stagecraft on the acoustical scene grows out of a new awareness on the part of critics and public alike of the importance of acoustics in our concert life. Stimulated by the controversies surrounding Royal Festival Hall and Philharmonie Hall, and by the attention paid to acoustics in high fidelity sound reproduction, people no longer are willing to accept inferior sound in their concert halls, most of which suffer from multiple sonic illnesses. The question keeps coming up: What can we do about these acoustical invalids?

There are two alternatives. First demolish the old hall and start fresh, utilizing the latest concepts of acoustical design. Second, treat the hall to an acoustical facelifting.

Obviously, financial reasons dictate the latter course for most communities, although several new concert halls have sprung up in Seattle, New York, Detroit, and Indianapolis during the past decade. But, as everyone knows, newborn halls often emerge with natal defects as serious as those afflicting their predecessors. Take the case of Detroit's Henry and

Take the case of Detroit's Henry and Edsel Ford Auditorium. Built in 1956 as part of the Motor City's new riverside civic center, the hall seats nearly 3000, has a low ceiling, smooth walls, and at the time of its completion, a shallow plywood and canvas shell. The reverberation period was extremely short, recalling the notorious sound characteristics of N.B.C.'s Studio 8H, and there was virtually no blend of orchestral choirs.

The full impact of the hall's shortcomings hit Detroit's music lovers a couple of years later when the city played host to a convention of music critics. After attending a concert as the Ford Auditorium, critic Harold C. Schonberg deplored the hall's acoustics, saying it was impossible to form an opinion of the performance of the Detroit Symphony under the baton of Paul



Fig. 1. Leonard Bernstein conducts New York Philharmonic at Monterey Fair site, August 31, 1963.

Paray on the basis of what he had just heard.

The critics departed, leaving Detroiters in the threes of an agonizing reappraisal. An acoustician's firm was commissioned to design a shell which, it was hoped would lengthen the reverberation time and improve the over-all sound. The shell was installed at a cost of \$110,000 in 1959, and was introduced in time for the new symphonic season. As it turned out, Ford's malady was incurable. True, the strings now produced a slightly brighter if somewhat glassy tone, but the hall's character remained unchanged. All the familiar problems were still there: dryness, slapback, acoustical overload, frequency selectivity and a generally coarse orchestral texture. To make matters worse, the shell caused the overhead organ grille to ring audibly at 580 eps.

at 580 cps. For the musicians, too, the Ford Auditorium was no more successful. To overcome the lack of reverberation, the players increased their volume of tone. Had they played at normal dynamic levels, they would have been unable to hear themselves, not to mention their colleagues, at all times. The inevitable result was a narrowing of the dynamic spectrum, with rough, grating string sound, clamorous brass, and the entire sonority robbed of the luster of upper partials.

As musical director of Mercury Records, I supervised several recording sessions in the newly-shelled hall. The hall's acoustical obstacles proved insurmountable, and we moved our operations to the former home of the Detroit Symphony, the Paradise Theatre, now a shabby derelict located on the once-fashionable Woodward Avenue. The hall had been used successively as a movie house, a temple, and finally abandoned to the elements, its proscenium shot through with gaping holes. Acoustically, however, it was still very much alive. In fact, it took the orchestral players a full session to adjust their touch and embouchure to the liveness of the hall.

A parallel situation existed in the Cyrus Northrop Memorial Hall in Minneapolis, the home of the Minneapolis Symphony. For years, concert goers had complained about the uneven sound diffusion and lack of "resonance" in the sprawling 4700 seat auditorium. The orchestral management commissioned Bolt, Beranek & Newman and Theatre Consultant George C. Lzenour to design and construct a massive demountable shell. It was a solid piece of work: skins of sheet steel 3/32-inch thick formed the shell, coated on the back with ½ inch of damping compound; diagonally intersecting trusses constituted the modulated surface; and Plexiglas sheets (acoustical clouds) were placed out over the audience to help the diffusion of the string sound.

The new Northrop shell was an improvenient over the fimsy sponge-like enclosure that had "served" the orchestra in the past. But, like its Detroit counterpart, it fell short of the mark.

More successful was the acoustic renovation of Severance Hall in 1958. For the revamping of the home of the Cleveland Orchestra, the management engaged Heinrich Keilholz as its acoustical consultant. Keilholz, who is one of the four acousticians brought in by Lincoln Center to improve the acoustics of Philharmonic Hall, literally tore Severance Hall apart. Tile replaced carpets, textured non-absorbent fabrics displaced drapery, a light transverse eurtain superseded the old velour curtain, and a host of other sound-soakers were banished from the hall. The stageshell was constructed of convex plywood panels designed to blend orchestral timbres

on stage. The outcome was an increase in reverberation time of no less than one second, a warm and rich sonority, and a good balance of instrumental choirs. In short, wrote Irving Kolodin, "Severance Hall shows... results that appear to be a 'resounding' success."

Most critics agree that the renovation of Severance Hall was a hit. However, against the costly misses and near-misses of Ford Anditorium, Northrop Anditorium, and Philharmonic Hall, it stands out as a dramatic exception. What of the homes of other U.S. orchestras? Not many communities can afford to spend the large sums of money necessary to construct bulk-density shells—much less build new auditoriums. And even those cities capable of supporting extensive renovations should be reluctant to wade into the murky waters What is wrong with the bulk-density shell?

shell? "The principle of bulk density is valid when applied to the walls and ceilings of an auditorium, but there is no evidence to justify also applying it to the shell design itself."

Specifically, what do you mean by the "bulk-density principle"?

The bulk-density principle has its origin in auditorium architectural acoustics. It stresses the importance of equal reflection throughout the frequency range of sound energy from the wall and ceiling surfaces of the hall. In its application to stage-shell design, the aim is to keep all sound energy within the shell confine. This is why bulkdensity shells must be designed so large. With equal reflection, the timpani and



Fig. 2. The Fiberglas acoustical shell used to back up the New York Philharmonic in Monterey.

of acoustical experimentation. (The "tuning" of Philharmonic Hall goes on.) Surely there must be other ways of treating ailing halls.

Chris Jaffe believes he has found a better approach. Through a bold concept that euts through most of the costs and complexities of traditional methods, he has come up with acoustical shells that are lighter, cheaper, smaller and more versatile than most 'permanent' installations. A case in point is the acoustical shell Stagecraft designed and built for the Cincinnati Symphony. Installed in October 1961 at a cost of \$15,000, the new unit is 33 ft. deep and 58 ft. wide; the wing baffles are 24 ft. high and the rear baffles are 18 ft. high. The shell weighs one and a balf tons. That same year, the Minneapolis Symphony installed its new shell. The Northrop unit costs more than \$110,000, weighs 30 tons, and is 30 ft. high. (The width and depth of both shells are approximately the same.)

Both shells were designed for full symphony orchestras. Yet the differences in cost and weight are striking, even after one has taken into account the varying dimensions of Northrop and Music Hall. I asked Jaffe whether these figures represented a sacrifice in quality in the case of the Cineinnati shell. "Don't be misled by the price and specifications," Jaffe warned. "No acoustical compromises were made in Cineinnati. These figures are an outgrowth of years of work in the design, fabrication, and installation of lightweight enclosures, which we feel are actually superior to the heavy bulk-density shell." brass would predominate in a small shell. The acousticians then cope with the distribution of sound throughout the hall . . . this is where the acoustical clouds come into the picture. After the shell has been installed, there follow the inevitable problems of blend and balance of instrumental sections."

How do your shells differ from the bulkdensity shells?

"Bulk-density shell designers attempt to improve the acoustics of a hall by treating the entire area around both the orchestra and the audience in a similar fashion. We attack the orchestral area separately. In most cases, narrow-band sounds tend to be soaked up, while broad-band sounds are hard to get rid of. Our first job is therefore to achieve a correct blend and balance of orchestral instruments on the stage. We have found, after several years of experimentation, that the best way to achieve this is by designing a shell that would absorb the sound energy of certain sections of the orchestra on a selective basis, utilizing materials with a higher-percentage re-flection of the mid- and high-frequency sounds."

In other words, you pre-mix the sound of the orchestra before it reaches the audience, like a sort of acoustical pre-amp.

"Exactly. Now, take the case of a hall in which timpani and brass mask the sounds of violins and woodwinds. To obtain more narrow-band sound, we design our shell material to pass frequencies between 60-100 cps. This does not mean that this range



This photo and caption (the price is an approximation) appeared in the September 1963 POP-ULAR SCIENCE as part of an article entitled "The Low-Down on Hi-Fi Stereo." It is a picture



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will be lost; such attenuation does not exceed two decibels. And let's not forget that much of this sound energy is being projected *directly* at the audience. What matters is that the winds and strings will now be heard in proper relationship with the rest of the orchestra."

That's all well and good but how would you cope with halls suffering from a lack of broad-band sound, such as Philharmonic Hall, where acousticians have noted that, at one time, frequencies below 250 cps were attenuated 10 to 15 decibels?

"Our selective-absorption shells are extremely versatile. We are able to balance orchestral sections not only by means of the choice of shell material, but by angling the floor and ceiling baffles and making effective use of openings as well. Some double bass energy will be attenuated, it is true, but only in order to achieve an over-all balance."

Assuming that your selective-absorption shells are in a class with, or superior to, bulk-density shells, what advantages do they offer to theatre and orchestral managers, beyond price and weight?

agers, beyond price and weight? "A typical Stagecraft shell consists of polyester resin-reinforced interlocking fiberglas segments weighing only from 40 to 80 pounds. The number of musical forces naturally dictates the size of each shell. A symphonic shell for example, incorporates 28 segments, with ceiling baffles. Now the advantages involve portability, storage, ease of installation and durability."

"An average Stagecraft unit can be efficiently moved from one location to another in a small pickup truck, and can be stored in a cubic space of 4-feet by 5-feet by 18feet. The full-sized acoustical shell we built for the Oakland Symphony can be erected by a two-man crew in about two hours. I know of one auditorium where a bulk-density shell required an expenditure of \$1200 each time it was erected. Extremely costly special rigging was installed to reduce the high setup expenses. But it still costs \$400 to erect the shell for each concert. The ease of installation and demounting of our accoustical shells also makes structural remodelling totally unnecessary in multipurpose halls."

A comparison of the specifications of your symphonic shells with those of the bulk-density type reveals that yours are lower and closer to the orchestra.

lower and closer to the orchestra. "Selective absorption makes this possible. The 40-foot-high downstage wing panels normally required in bulk-density shells can be cut in half."

With the shell "hugging" the orchestra, isn't there a danger of producing a boxedin sound? "The openings take care of that. Besides,

"The openings take care of that. Besides, I'd like to point out that, although our shells are lightweight, the material (fiberglas) is actually denser than plywood." Since he founded Stagecraft three years

Since he founded Stagecraft three years ago, Jaffe has designed, built, and tuned a large number of acoustical shells. Among his customers are the Atlanta Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Corning Philharmonic, the Fresno Symphony, the Louisville Symphony, the Oakland Symphony, the South Bend Symphony, and the Wheeling Symphony. In addition, he has designed shells for multi-purpose auditoriums and for outdoor events.

for outdoor events. A man of average height with clear blue eyes, a cleft chin, and hands constantly in motion, Jaffe came to the field of acoustical design through theatre design. A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he had designed an off-Broadway theatre-in-theround in 1949, called the Circle Theatre. The idea of an arena theatre was new at the time and, as it turned out, shortlived. The place (35th Street) and the play (William Saroyan's *The Son*) spelled commercial failure.

"After my theatrical adventure, I quit show business and turned to engineering. For the next nine years, I worked on new applications of aluminum and magnesium. Light-metal extrusions, you know, represent one of the largest industries to develop after World War II. Extrusions eliminate the need for extensive tooling and make possible the most intricate shapes without heavy industrial dies. Typical of the applications of light-metal extrusions are storm windows, truck-bodies, and aluminum-glass facades for skyscrapers."

During these years, Jaffe never lost his interest in music and theatre design. When N.B.C. took over the Ziegfield Theatre in the early Fifties, he was called on to design a floor that would not require structural alteration in the theatre. Jaffe drew on his experience with light metals to build a panel-floor made of standard truck-body extrusions, with a magnesium decking, and topped with smooth masonite.

Aware of the need for effective, lowcost acoustical shells, Jaffe applied his engineering and acoustical knowledge to this problem. His work suggests that we are witnessing a new trend in the design of acoustical shells. Whether or not it will outnode the bulk-density shell, just as the aluminum and Fiberglas rowboats have outclassed the wooden ones, remains to be seen. But it is interesting to note that Heinrich Keilholz, the designer of the Severance Hall's acoustical shell, has fabricated a Fiberglas acoustical shell for the San Francisco Symphony.



SPEAKER ARRAY

(from page 32)

spacing is from $\frac{1}{8}$ wavelength to $\frac{5}{8}$ wavelength. For instance in an array of 6-in, speakers with center-to-center spacing of 7.5-in, coupling occurs between 217 cps and 1086 cps, with maximum boost at 553 cps. Destructive interference effects are more difficult to measure, but appear to occur in the range of frequencies for which speaker spacing is 1 to 4 wavelengths. Table 2 gives the frequencies affected by various center-to-center spacings.

If a 32-speaker array is arranged in four lines of eight speakers, it is essential that the lines of eight be oriented vertically instead of horizontally if any dispersion of high frequencies in the horizontal plane is desired. Such an arrangement comes within 2 db of the maximum theoretical boost of 15 db. An array of 16 speakers, four in a line, realizes even more of the maximum theoretical boost, and has identical polar response in both planes—which is the worst possible case.

Control of Fundamental Resonance

The majority of inexpensive 6-in. speakers have a fundamental resonant frequency of around 120 eps. This high a resonance will give poor bass response. In addition, the damping of such speakers is usually poor, so that the array will exhibit a peak in response of as much as 10 db. This makes for "single note" bass which is unmusical at best, and at 120 eps tends to accentuate any hum problems which may exist in the sound system. Using such speakers in a bass reflex enclosure will extend reponse by half an octave and will damp out the peak at 120 eps.

In an untimed enclosure or baffle, however, it is desirable to have resonance occur half an octave away from troublesome hum frequencies. For an inexpensive speaker system, then, 85 cps would be ideal, and for a more expensive unit 42 cps—falling halfway between 30-cps turntable rumble and 60-cps hum—should be ehosen.

In a multiple speaker array the added mass of the air load tends to lower speaker resonance somewhat. In general, however, damping remains the same unless some measure is taken to smooth the impedance curve or add acoustic resistance to the mechanical circuit of the system. One way to smooth impedance is to use speakers with resonances staggered at least a half an octave apart. At 85 cps this would mean 71 and 101 cps which are definitely outside the normal \pm 10 per cent tolerances of **a** single speaker unit. Acoustic resistance can be added in the case of the open backed enclosure by hanging a Fiberglas curtain behind the speaker array.

The "Sonic Screen"-A Practical Array

One quite satisfactory version of the multiple speaker array is shown in *Fig.* 2. It is a result (far from an end result) of the author's interest in arrays over the last few years. Although not providing the ultimate in sound reproduction, the "Sonic Screen" does an extremely creditable job for its very low cost. This array consists of ten $5 \times$ 7-in. oval cone speakers with 1.0-oz. magnets mounted on a 3/s-in. grille-cloth-covered plywood panel which is in

turn attached to a 2×4 -in. frame. The finished system stands 51-in. high, 18-in. wide, and is slightly less than 5-in. deep. Its back panel is identical to the front panel to allow backwave radiation, and in between is placed a Fiberglas curtain.

The speakers are wired in parallelseries so that the amplifiers sees a nominal S-ohm load, and no tweeter is used (a more expensive version not shown here uses a tweeter and better quality 6-in. speakers to extend high- and lowfrequency response). Because this array is quite efficient and because its midrange transient response is excellent, it is well suited for use with moderate power direct-coupled transistor amplifiers. **E**



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Akustomat makes it possible to use sound as a controlling medium for the recording operation. The machine can be used as a dictating machine, for example, without the need for a start-stop button—one simply speaks and the machine starts recording, and when the dictator pauses, the machine stops. Thus it may be used to monitor and record sounds of an intermittent nature over a long period of time without actually running except in the presence of some sound. We know no other machine which has this feature.

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AUDITIONEER

(from page 28)

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PARTS LIST

Resistors

All resistors 1 watt unless otherwise noted 2200 ohms R_1, R_{27}, R_{40}

| ×7 2077 40 | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $R_2, R_{18}, R_{20}, R_{30},$ | 470 k |
| R_{37} | |
| R_{3} | 221 k (deposited car- |
| | bon) |
| R_4 | 680 ohms |
| R_{5} | 100 ohms |
| R_{6} | 18 k |
| R_{γ} | 200 k pot (tone con- |
| | trol) |
| R_8 | 2.2 Meg. |
| R_{g}, R_{I3}, R_{2g} | 220 k |
| R_{I0} | 100 k pot (volume |
| | control) |
| R_{11} | 3900 ohms |
| $R_{12}, R_{33}, R_{38}, R_{45}$ | 10 k |
| R_{14}, R_{34}, R_{39} | 1000 ohms |
| R_{15} | 1 Meg. |
| R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{28} | 47 k, 1 watt |
| $R_{_{19}}$ | 125 ohms, 5 watt |
| R_{21} | 22 k |
| R_{zz} | 1000 ohms, 1 watt |
| R_{zs} | 100 ohms pot (hum |
| | balance) |
| R_{24}, R_{25} | 100 ohms, 5 watt |
| | |





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> 30 $\mu f/450$ volt, electrolytic 20 µf/450 volt, electrolvtic

> > iature electrolytic

10 $\mu f/25$ V, submin-

iature electrolytic $100 \ \mu f/25 V$, submin-

iature electrolytic

 $0.1 \ \mu f/600$ volt,

tubular

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \text{electrolytic} \\ C_{15}, C_{15} \\ \hline \\ CAN \\ \text{CAN} \\ \text{electrolytic} \\ C_{16}, C_{17} \\ \hline \\ C_{16}, C_{17} \\ \hline \\ C_{19}, C_{20}, C_{25}, C_{28} \\ \hline \\ C_{19}, C_{20}, C_{25}, C_{28} \\ \hline \\ C_{21}, C_{26} \\ \hline \\ C_{21}, C_{26} \\ \hline \\ \end{array}$$

 C_{27}

 C_{29}, C_{30}

Miscellancous

| miscentari ous | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| D_{I} | 1N91 |
| D_2, D_3 | 1R 5A4 |
| D_4, D_5, D_6 | 1N34 |
| Sw | (on volume control |
| Sw2 | Grayhill 4002 |
| Su | Grayhill 4001 |
| Sw_{λ} | Centralab PA 1000 |
| F_t | Buss AGC 3 |
| F_{2} | Buss AGC 1.5 |
| S, | Jones S-306 |
| S_2 | Jones S-302 |
| $\tilde{P_1}$ | Jones P-306 |
| $P_{2}^{'}$ | Jones P-302 |
| \tilde{Rl}_{I} | P&B KA11AY |
| Rl | Sigma 4F-5000 |
| Rls | Amperite 115NO5T |
| V ₁ | 12AX7 |
| V ₂ | 6AN8 |
| V_{s}, V_{4} | 6BQ5 |
| $Q_{1}^{3}, Q_{2}^{3}, Q_{3}$ | 2N508 |
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| | PA2288 |
| T_{2} | PA227 |
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Four uses three separate drivers. The cabinets for the E-V Two and E-V Four are constructed of $\frac{3}{4}$ in hardwood and are fluished on four sides to allow use of either vertical or horizontal position. A compression VHF driver and diffraction horn is used in the E-V Six, and a fourway electrical crossover, with crossover frequencies at 250, 800, and 3500 cps. The E-V Six uses an 18-in. low-frequency driver. The E-V Six system, in traditional styling, is available in mahogany or handrubbed oiled walnut finish. Electro-Voice, Inc., Buchanan, Michigan. M-6

• Tape Recorder in Teak Cabinet. A new, completely self-contained stereo tape recorder, the Miranda "Sorrento," completely enclosed in teak cabinetry, marks the entry of Allied Impex into the high-fidelity field. There are no handles or other external hardware to indicate that the cabinet houses a tape recorder. This unique concept makes it possible for the Miranda to become part of the living room decor, rather than having to be concealed behind doors. The Sorrento features solid-state circuitry with 21 transistors and 19 diodes in an OTL circuit and an all-electronic matrix type pushbutton switching system. Tape movement of the Sorrento is controlled by three separate motors, for capstan drive (7½ and 3¾ ips), rewind and



fast forward. A servo motor is also incorporated in the circuitry for use with the remote control unit. This optional accessory includes individual channel volume controls as well as the full complement of tape transport controls. Other features are: tape lifters and tension bars; auto-

matic shutoff; pushbutton mode controls; individual volume and tone controls for each channel; illuminated VU meters; and two built-in 4×6 speakers. Power output of the Sorrento is rated at 7 watts, 3.5 watts per channel. User net price of the Sorrento is \$399.95. The remote control is \$34.95, dynamic microphones, \$19.95 each. Allied Impex Corporation, 300 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y. M-7

• Professional Tape Recorder. Gotham Audio Corp. announces the availability of the new EMT Studer C-37 series master tape recorder. The machine, manufactured in Switzerland, has been well tried and proven with over 300 units operating in boadcasting and recording installations throughout the world. Extreme attention has been paid to achieve top performance specifications, operating and maintenance ease, and editing functions. For example, wow and flutter content is ± 0.04 per cent rms, signal-to-noise ratio is 66-dt unweighted at 15 ips, full track. A unique tape tensioning device allows extremely smooth and uniform tape handling. Electronic and electro-magnetic elements are completely plug-in. Editing features include built-in tape marker, motor-driven cutting scissors, editing indexing, splicing block, and precision tape timer reading directly in minutes and seconds at any speed. The recorder is available as $\frac{94}{2}$ -in. full or two track; $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. three or four track; 1-in. four track; as well as film



synchronous and preview head models. Four-track machines have complete sync monitoring amplifier and switching. Gotham Audio Corp., 2 West 46 Street, New York 36, N. Y. **M-3**

• FM-Stereo Booster. A new, indoor FM booster offering an eight-fold increase in signal strength for FM radio receivers has been introduced by Blonder-Tongue Laboratories, Inc. Called the Stereobooster, model FMB, it has a power gain of 18 db and an unusually low noise figure. List price of the amplifier is \$21.00. A highgain booster, such as the FMB, can im-



prove the over-all signal-to-noise ratio by increasing receiver limiter action, offering an ideal solution to the problem of stereo (multiplex) reception. The Stereobooster claims to be especially effective with older tuners that do not have sensitive front ends. The unit can be installed indoors near a receiver by means of its patented stripless screws. Blonder-Tongue Laboratories, Inc. 9 Alling Street, Newark 2, N. J. M-9 • 100-Watt OTL Stereo Power Amplifier. The Futterman Model H-3 amplifier has been in development for 10 years and uses advanced vacuum tube circuitry (patent pending). No driver or output transformers are used. The loudspeakers are coupled to the amplifier by large computer-grade electrolytic capacitors. Conservatively rated at 50 watts rms per channel (16-ohm load) the amplifier has more than adequate power for any loudspeaker system. Its square-wave response is claimed to be unequalled by any other amplifier. The H-3 amplifier has a damping factor of 200 and is ultra-stable with all loads, even when driven into heavy overload. Both the harmonic and intermodulation distortion of the H-3 amplifier is so low that it is difficult to measure with even the best of laboratory test instruments. The model H-3 Stereo power amplifier is a quality con-



structed instrument. All of its components are of the highest grade and of U.S. manufacture. Extreme care is taken in its construction and tests. Tech Instruments Corp., 58-17 37 Ave., Woodside, N.Y. M-10

• High-Compliance Ceramic Cartridge. The Electronic Applications Division of Sonotone has just made available a new highcompliance version of its series of "Velecitone" phono cartridges. Designated the "Mark IV," the cartridge offers compliance of 15 × 10⁻⁶ cm/dyne in all directions, separation of 30 db between channels, and tracking force of 1.5 to 3 grams for professional arms and 3 to 4 grams for changers. The "Mark IV" features Sono-



tone's latest advance in record playing, the Sono-Flex. A unique method of gripping the needle shank in a resilient butyl rubber mount allows the needle to be flexed in any motion, without damage. The "Mark IV" is available in two needle combinations: Diamond with sapphire and a double diamond model. Electronic Applications Division, Sonotone Corporation, Elmsford, New York. M-11

• Transistor 100-Watt Stereo Amplifier. The Knight KN-999 transistor 100watt stereo amplifier uses 19 transistors, 8 diodes and temperature control convectors. Controls include pushbuttons to select the program source desired. Other highlights: stereo headphone jack; two-position recordmonitor switch; two phase switches; five pairs of stereo inputs (two with level controls): and a massive power transformer.



Price of the KN-999 is \$199.95, less case. Allied Radio Corp., 100 N. Western Ave., Chicago 80, Ill. **M-12**



your search is over

You'll never be satisfied with anything less than McIntosh quality once you've heard it. You'll put an end to stepping up to something better in your search for the ultimate, because McIntosh is the best. There are good reasons: Exclusive, patented circuits set new standards in performance. Careful engineering and conservative design practices ensure long term dependability. Consider amplifier output stages, for example, that need no bias or balance adjustment, no tube selection or matching, to deliver rated performance. McIntosh components are devised to fulfill every present need, anticipate your future ones. Like the classics, they endure.

ILLUSTRATED ABOVE:

Model MX110 Stereo Tuner-Preamplifier and Model MC-240 Dual 40-Watt Power Amplifier. You need only add speakers.

Model MX110: A single chassis combines the quality and flexibility of a separate multiplex tuner in the broadcast-monitor class with a professional stereo control center _______\$399.00

MC-240: Superb, distortion-free, two channel model, conservatively rated at 40 watts per channel. Flat frequency response well beyond the limits of the audio spectrum with neglible phase shift. ______\$288.00



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Newest from Telex INTEGRAL CHANNEL CONTROL with HEADPHONE STEREO



The famous Stereo-Twin® performance is now linked with the most advanced engineering development in the headset field -INTEGRAL CHANNEL CONTROL

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level. It's better, more convenient and costs less because no separate stereo control center is required.

Audiophiles look to Telex for the best in high fidelity performance. Now Stereo-Twin with INTEGRAL CHANNEL CON-TROL adds to the list of Telex "firsts" in listening pleasure. \$29.15

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COMMUNICATIONS ACCESSORIES 3054 Excelsior Blvd. • Minneapolis 16, Minn



SHERWOOD

(from page 44)

received (stereo-mono switch in stereo position). A stereo-mono switch permits bypassing the multiplex circuitry if monoonly reception is desired (slight reduction in noise level that way). The remaining controls on the front panel include an interchannel hush defeat

switch plus the power-level control.

The front panel is quite handsome, com-bining a glossy white-enamel finish with gold borders and knob-fronts plus a rather large slide-rule dial. At night, the greenlighted dial is quite attractive and easy to read.

Circuit Description

The circuit is straightforward. We would judge that the S-3000V achieves its excellent performance by means of quality components and conservative practice rather than unusual circuitry.

The 300-ohm antenna input terminals are connected to a balun which in turn feeds the signal to a tuned circuit and then to the cascode r.f. amplifier (a 6BS8). A 6GH8 triode-pentode is used as the oscil-lator-mixer. The next two stages are 6AU6 lator-mixer. The next two stages are 6AU6 i.f. amplifiers which are followed by a 6BN6 limiter. The pentode section of a 6GH8 is used as an FM driver and is fol-lowed by a pair of germanium diodes in a ratio detector configuration. If the stereo-mono switch is in the mono position, the signal then goes through the usual de-emsignal then goes through the usual de-em-phasis network and out. In the stereo po-sition of the switch, the signal goes through the multiplex circuitry which consists of a 19 kc amplifier, a 38 kc oscillator-doubler, a balanced demodulator containing four diodes, de-emphasis and 38 kc filter net-work, and an audio amplifier. The stereo indicator is a near bulk which is ignited indicator is a neon bulb which is ignited when a 19 kc signal is present and am-plified by means of a 12AT7. The indicator action seems to be relatively insensitive to noise and, since it does not use a relay, very quiet.

Performance

FM tuners are extremely difficult to report about simply. It is quite possible to port about simply. It is quite possible to provide lengthy technical reports which would only be understood by an engineer familiar with this field. Obviously we can't do that. Equally we can't say that the product is good, or fine, or excellent and let it go at that. Instead we are con-strained to do a little of each. Thus we can report that the distortion

Thus we can report that the distortion of the S-3000V is extremely low-IM 0.25 of the S-3000V is extremely low—IM 0.25 per cent and harmonic 0.22 per cent at 400 cps. The capture ratio is 2.1 and the stereo separation is 35 db at 100 cps. Sen-sitivity, IHF, is 1.8 μ v. Disregarding measurements, we were able to receive 35 stations loud and clear with our standard antenna system. Also the S-3000V is quite insensitive to impulse noise and other disinsensitive to impulse noise and other disturbances.

To us the significant factors are that the S-3000V is able to receive a large number of stations easily and with low distortion. That means it is a very fine tuner, up amongst the best. At its relatively modest price (\$165) it is an interesting prospect for anyone needing a tuner.

SHURE STEREO STUDIO DYN-ETIC, MODEL M222

The Shure Studio Dynetic was first introduced in the year 1957, and we profiled it in May of that year. The present Studio

PORTABLE... PRECISION-MADE!

STANFORD

Butoba

PRODUCT OF WEST GERMANY

NEW BUTOBA model MT-7F



SPECIFICATIONS:

Records 2 full hours • Power supply: rechargable battery, or 6/12 V car battery, or AC converter • Push buttons enable easy operation while in carrying case • Safety record lock • Microphone and Radio Phono inputs • Headphones/external speaker connections • Pause control • $3\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{7}{8}$ ips. • Frequency response: 10C-12,000 cycles at $3\frac{3}{4}$ rigs. • Recording level indicator • 4'' x 6'' heavy duty loudspeaker • Transistorized speed regulator.

BUTOBA model MT-5



BUTOBA is a precision tape recorder, qualityengineered and handcrafted by skillec West German technicians, offering performance and features never before found in portable recorders! New Reduced Price!

UNEQUALLED FEATURES:

6 hrs, recording on 5 inch reels • Fast forward and rewind • 2 motors with transistorized electronic speed control • tone control • pushpull amplifier • 5" x 7" heavy-duty speaker • Tape counter • 40 hrs. on 8 ordinary flashlight batteries • Transistorized, battery or AC.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Response: 50-13,000 cps. (a $3\frac{3}{4}$ ips., 60-6,000 cps. (a $1\frac{7}{8}$ ips. • Half track • Compact • Lightweight • With dynamic mike • Full line of accessories.





| C | I | R | C | L | E | -5 | S |
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Dynetic differs from the earlier model mainly in that the cartridge is stereo; the arm itself is virtually identical.

For those who are not familiar with this arm, it can be described as a balance beam mounted on a tapered U-beam. Confused? Let us try to clarify that a bit. The eartridge is mounted on one end of a round shaft several inches long. At the other end of the shaft is a counterweight consisting of an internally threaded sleeve which serews onto the shaft, in or out to balance the cartridge (or unbalance). Toward the center of the shaft there is a cross-shaft which rides in jewel bearings (the crossslaft is that bump to the rear of the cartridge). Thus we have a balance beam, which is unbalanced by the counterweight to apply the desired tracking force.

But balance beams move vertically only, what about horizontal motion? The remainder of the arm supplies horizontal motion, pivoting about the shaft seen toward the rear of the arm. That bearing is a jewel too.

Thus the major portion of the arm moves horizontally only, and a balance beam a few inches long does all the vertical movement.

How is the cartridge raised and lowered? Simple, press the plastic button on top of the arm and it raises the cartridge as long as it is pressed (it pushes down on the counterweight). Cute. The main arm is also counterweighted,

The main arm is also counterweighted, for obvious reasons, and this counterweight is dynamically damped to roll off response below 20 eps.

By the way, that shaft toward the center and on the outer side is the arm rest. The arm is magnetically attracted to it.

The cartridge employs the moving-magnet principle (Shure holds the patent for that principle) with an easily-replaceable stylus. Its balanced design makes it rather impervious to hum pickup. The stylus-tip radius is 0.5-mil for the M22D cartridge supplied. An advantage of this system is that the arm will accept the M1 (monophonic) cartridge for those who prefer to use a mono cartridge to play mono records. Compliance of the cartridge is quite high, being in the order of 20×10^{-6} emper dyne.

We found that the M222 tracks quite well at a force of 1.2 grams. Output at 1000 cps and at 5 cm/sec. was 4.2 mv. Frequency response, using the CBS Labs STR-100 test record and a 47k load, was within 2 db from 20-20,000 cps. The resopnse curve was relatively flat out to 6000 cps where it took a 1.5-db dip which started to rise again at 10,000 cps and continued up to a 2.5-db bump. at 15,000 cps. Channel separation was 24 db at 1000 cps, closing up to 6 db at 15,000 cps.

In use, the Shure Stereo Studio Dynetic provided good sound quality, especially in the bass frequencies. Its handling of transients is quite good. An excellent armcartridge combination. M-5

COUGH COUGH TOO MUCH? SHORT OF BREATH? BREATH?

Encontra de la contra de la con

You <u>may</u> have a Respiratory Disease. Don't take chances. See your doctor, says your local . Christmas Seal organization.



WHY ALTEC DROPPED "HI FI" IN FAVOR OF "PLAYBACK"

There was a time when the term "hi fi" commanded an awed respect; but today its application can be virtually meaningless. So misleading, in fact, that the Federal Trade Commission is attempting to establish a binding definition of "high fidelity"—one on which the FTC can issue a ruling that will protect the buying public against the increasing horde of inferior products that are being advertised as "hi fi"

But a simple, workable definition that would adequately classify truly dedicated high fidelity components is not easy to come by. On request, the EIA composed a definition which was so loose that we understand the FTC found it entirely unacceptable and have now turned to other industry bodies for suggestions in the hopes that someone can come up with an industry solution that can be used to clearly identify those products that are capable of music reproduction above the ordinary.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

For Altec, the solution was so obvious we're rather embarrassed that we hadn't thought of it before. We simply dropped "hi fi" and replaced it with the original generic term for all Altec recording studio equipment... PLANBACK.

PLANBACK is the one definition that cannot be compromised or falsely exploited. For **PLNBACK** is the term used in the recording industry to designate the studio sound reproducing equipment relied on by conductors, performing artists and recording engineers to accurately compare the realism of a recording with the live rendition.

Only *genuine* **PLANBACK** components have been able to meet or surpass these critical demands.

THE ASSURANCE OF PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTANCE

Since the beginning of modern sound reproduction, PLNBACK has been directly associated with Altec Lansing. For Altec, and only Altec, sells 80% of its products to the professional usage market. This is your assurance that any Altec component you choose for your home is of genuine studio PLNBACK quality. You need only ask yourself this: Who should be better judge of audio components than the user whose living depends on them?

The more you think about it, the more you'll appreciate why Altec dropped the term "high fidelity" and has returned to its original genre. "Hi fi" is a matter of personal interpretation. PLNBACK is a matter of *fact*.

@ 1963 ALC

Altec Lansing Corporation Anaheim, California CIRCLE 71



ACOUSTECH SOLID STATE AMPLIFYING **SYSTEM**

"... better than the best** seems to 'grab hold of' and control a speaker to a degree that has led many listeners to remark that the speaker itself 'never sounded the finest square wave better.' response I have ever observed* These are examples of the acclaim accorded the Acoustech I Solid State Stereo Power Amplifier since its introduction at the 1962 New York High Fidelity Show. Now the first "all-out" solid state amplifying system is made possible with the new Acoustech II Stereo Decade Control Center. These two units afford the listener a new standard in music reproduction and reliability possible only with solid state circuitry throughout.

For full information on these remarkable Instruments, send coupon below. Acoustech I \$395, Acoustech II \$348 (slightly higher west of Rockies) *High Fidelity Magazine, August, 1962 *HiFi/Stereo Review, February, 1963



SOUND SYSTEMS

(from page 23)

system must obviously provide an excellent match between the sound system and the auditorium. However, if such a system is to be used properly, a near perfect match is also required between the sound system and the operator. Touring shows will come into an auditorium such as the Fisher Theatre in Detroit, the Bushnell Auditorium in Hartford, or the Jacksonville Municipal Auditorium and remain for varying periods, from one day to several weeks. There will hardly ever be a rehearsal before opening night, and the soundsystem operator must solve any "problems" on the spot. Also the reviews obtained by the show will be entirely on the basis of the first night performance, and everything must be right that first night.

When shows appear at theaters or auditoriums which have sound systems relatively well matched to their acoustical properties, the management of these theaters usually require, as a minimum, that the house reinforcement loudspeakers be used, and not the touring sound system loudspeakers. The output of the touring show's control "rack" is then patched via microphone lines to the sound-system's power amplifiers, and the results can be quite satisfactory

Even better, and with increasing frequency, shows appearing at houses with really fine sound systems use the complete house sound-reinforcement system, sometimes even for sound-effects reproduction.

A control console for a well designed house reinforcement system should follow the guides in this article. Either a standard broadcast-type console or one employing slide-type attenuators would be applicable. Æ

THIS MONTH'S COVER

This month we have a cover installation which was supplied to us by Dick Levy of Seneca Audio-Visual in Buffalo, N. Y. This installation is in the home of A. Frank Cowen, Jr., 83 Woodbury Drive, Eggertsville, N. Y.

The equipment installed in Mr. Cowens' system includes a Fisher 40-watt stereo amplifier and AM-FM tuner. The speakers include a pair of Electro-Voice SP-12 low-frequency reproducers plus a pair of electrostatics for the high frequencies. The turntable and arm are Weathers. The cabinetry was custommade by a local firm, Auburn-Watson, Co.

STARTLING PERFORMANCE

Hit of the New York Hi-Fi Show

The New KSC Speaker System



"The KSC-1 is easily the finest speaker in its price class I have heard"... Larry Zide, American Record Guide, Sept. 1963.

Hundreds of music lovers who already own these remarkable speaker systems are unanimous in their comment..."Simply Overwhelming!" They're refer-ring to the startling realistic reproduction — smooth from 30 to 20,000 cps, absence of distortion, superb quality, and the surprising low price
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Three mag-nificent speaker units from SEAS of Norway, skillfully niticent speaker units from SEAS of Norway, skillfully blended, plus ingenious cabinet design produce ex-traordinary sound quality that is a delight to hear m Perfect for use in finest monaural or stereo instal-lations. We invite your comparison m Size: 12"wx12½" Dx20"H— fit any standard cabinet. Oiled walnut, many other finishes m Listen at these fine studios or write for literature and name of nearest distributor.

AIREX, N.Y.C. • HARVEY RADIO, N.Y.C. • SAM GOODY, all stores • INT'L. HOME FURNISHINGS, N.Y.C. RESCO, Phila. . HI-FI SHOP, Balt. Also Compare Our Sensational New KSC-55 Low Cost Hi-Fi System

KSC SYSTEMS, INC. P.O. Box 303A, Knickerbocker Sta., N.Y. 2, N.Y.



AUDIO ETC

(from page 14)

either. But with the best will in the world you can't start tossing off atom-smashers like that with impunity. Somebody's likely to get confused. Millions of people. There's a sure fire term for this sort of

There's a sure-fire term for this sort of thing, invented long ago. Half-truths. As somebody said, too, a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing, or words to that effect. Nonsense is just fine—but half truths are worse than nonsense any day. Half truths, addled semi-sense, the sort of writing that Thimble's uses multiplied everywhere every day, is the bane of hi fi sense and the instigator of really dangerous confusion concerning the true values of our noble stereo.

Look back at Thimble's genial ad. So we all hear differently? Of course (and electronics did discover how to measure the same). From person to person, our response to sound waves varies within the normal spectrum, quite aside from the more extreme kinds of hearing losses and distortions that rank as abnormal. But does this imply that, like glasses and hearing aids, our stereo machines should be tailored to fit our individual pairs of ears, matched to our hearing characteristics?

Well, that's what Thimble's has practically said. It's right there, in so many unintended words.

Don't laugh too hard. It could be serious. What about the great Dynagroove controversy (and many an earlier one of similar purport) ? Do we tailor our phonograph records for maximum effect on cheap machines? Or do we shoot for the one-and-only standard, true high fidelity? Do we match varying ears—or reproduce sound faithfully?

Thimble's has an idea there, if perhaps by sheer accident. Let's all take audition tests and then go out and build equalizers to match our personal hi fi equipment to our ears. Better than tone controls and much more expensive.

But what of Thimble's own stereos? There's more. Thimble's observes that some of us have \$149 ears and others have such "sensitive" members protruding from the sides of our heads that no less than a \$1200 stereo can possibly fill our bill. Now just what is Thimble's saying here?

Is a \$149 pair of ears, maybe, immune to distorted highs and bumpy pseudo-bass? Well, maybe so. And do those \$1200 ears possess Extended Range and superior distortion-analyzers, built right in? Seems that way. Of course there's no mention whatever of musical taste, background, experience, preference, nor of our education or lack of the same in respect to good reproduced sound. These things do count—they count enormously. But let it pass: I fear that what Thimble's really meant by all this was a bit less inspiring. Some people have \$149 wallets, and to heck with their ears. Others, Thimble's optimistically hopes (and with reason), go around bulging with \$1200 bundles of green stuff, or equivalent in credit cards.

In which ease, what Thimble's is really saying is that the poorer your wallet, the dopier are your ears, and the guy who carries all that lettuce is obviously equipped with "sensitive" listeners to match. After all, don't sensitive people buy Cadillaes? (Or Lincolns or Imperials—let's be fair, now.) Thus do we move from the preposterous to the ridiculous. And so, I say, come on now, Thimble's, are you trying to confuse the great American public? You sure are helping to.

What about that happy little 2 per cent figure? I'm wondering where *that* came from, and how Thimble's really might have pushed it around to make some better sense. If I'm right, the sleaziest \$19.95 hi fi can be made to measure "as low as" 2 per cent distortion, somewhere in its innards, if you turn down the volume to minimum perceptible power output and discount the loudspeaker and the phono cartridge. "As low as," my eye (and car)! Nor is there any word from Thimble's man about the other and equally interesting extreme—"as high as." As high as 10 per cent? Very possible, at \$149.

And yet, you know, what I'm thinking is (Continued on page 63)



THE economical approach to most portable and console requirements, the new Lang Compact Mixer is ideal for use in any recording or broadcasting facility. The high gain, low noise Lang Compact Mixer has four low-level inputs and one high-level input with echo feed on each. In addition the Lang Compact Mixer has exclusive master gain control and echo

return. More and more the new Lang Compact Mixer is becoming the standard of quality for quality-conscious studios. Use one, two, or more units for multi-channel application.

Price less accessories: \$395.00

ACCESSORIES: Matching meter panel. 1, 2 or 3 Weston meters. Plugin microphone and line transformer. d echo Hammon reverb unit.



portable perfection for hi-fi fans

From Denmark comes this aristocrat of portables. Superb AM-FM-Shortwave performance with all the features you can imagine in a high quality portable: one full watt push-pull output and a $5'' \times 7''$ speaker, flywheel tuning with sliderule dial, full range independent tone controls, pushbutton band selection, tuning meter and battery indicator, loudspeaker-earphone output and separate tuner output, plus plug-in connection for an auto antenna and accessory mounting bracket for overthe-road hi-fi.

Write for detailed specifications and test reports.



CIRCLE 61





Maintaining Hi-Fi Equipment Joseph Marshall Joseph Marshall A valuable reference for nayone whose living or hobby is servicing hi-fi equipment. Outlines the professional approach for servicing all types of hi-fi components. Covers trouble-shooting of elec-tronic, mechanical and accustic problems. 224 pages. pages. No. 58 Paperback \$2.90*



Designing and Building Hi-Fi Furniture Jeff Markel

Written by a professional Written by a professional hi-fi furniture designer who has taught furniture design at leading col-leges, this book is an au-thentic reference of value to the hi-fi fan and pro-fessional custom builder. Covers everything from types of woods to furni-ture finishing for the mechanically adept; de-sign principles, styles and arrangements for the decor minded. 224 pages. No. 79 Paperback \$2.90*



Handbook of

Sound Reproduction

Right up to date, a com-

Edgar M. Villchur



"The AUDIO Cyclopedia" Howard M. Tremaine

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High Fidelity Omnibook Prepared and edited by C. G. McProud, publisher of Audio and noted au-thority and pioneer in the field of high fidelity. Contains a wealth of ideas, how to's, what to's, and when to's, writ-ten so plainly that both engineer and layman can appreciate its valuable context. Covers planning, problems with decoration, problems with decoration. cabinets and building hi-fi furniture. A perfect guide. No. 115 \$2.50*

Tape Recorders and Tape Recording Harold D. Weiler



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UDIO Anthology Edited by C. G. McPraud, publisher of AUDIO. An an-thology of the most signifi-cant articles covering: stereo recording and reproduction; stereo multiplex; measure-ments; stereo technology, construction and theory — which appeared in AUDIO during 1958 and 1959. The 5th is truly a collectors' item and a valuable reference for the professional engineer, teacher, student, hobbyist and hi-fi fan. 144 pages.

No. 125

\$3.50



By the editors of AUDIO, the original magazine about high fidelity. A 1962-1963 product review of steree high fidelity components. Valuable reference for the high fidel-ity enthusiast and hobbyist. Part I contains a thorough discussion of the Problems of a Stereo Installation; Port II is a camplete treotise on Selecting a Tape Recorder. Indispensable to the prospec-tive buyer of stereo com-ponents and tope recorders. Includes a section on where to buy various steree hinfi components ond accessories. 156 pages. By the editors of AUDIO, the

High Fidelity Simplified Harold D. Weiler

The complete hi-fi story – answers all questions about tuners, changers, amplifiers, tape recorders, speakers, record players, etc. Lots of ideas for custam installa-tions. Tells how to achieve concert hall reception in your home. 216 pages. No. 142 \$3,30





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CIRCLE 75



that Thimble's may actually be trying to say the right thing, honestly—for that \$1200 machine surely can measure up to some respectable distortion figures. Now why not give legitimate spees, and reap some legitimate credit?

why not give legitimate spees, and reap some legitimate credit? Along with all this, Thimble's has tossed in some additional blockbusters about stereo itself—they had to tell what stereo is, after all. "The basic idea of stereo, of course," sold the ad, "is to reproduce in your own home the kind of sound you hear in a concert hall." OK, OK—that's a safeand-sound observation that we have heard before, even if 1 do, myself, happen to disagree heartily with it. (See above.)

and-sound observation that we have heard before, even if 1 do, myself, happen to disagree heartily with it. (See above.) "That full, rounded living sound is created because sound comes to you from left and right—and what your left ear hears is different from what your right ear hears. Stereo separates these left and right sounds for you in your own home." Half-truth again! Stop! Sound comes to

Half-truth again! Stop! Sound comes to you from left and right, all right, and also from above and behind and sometimes down below, not to mention from straight ahead. And what your right ear hears is, indeed, different from what the other one hears. BUT please, Thimble's, stereo reproduction doesn't *separate* these sounds in your home—it *brings them together*. Look, Mr. Thimble's man, do you realize what you're getting us into here?

"Concert hall sounds" are partially, and significantly, separated by the mikes and recording machines at the sound-source. Yes. And this partial separation is, indeed, maintained all the way into the home living room, if with some degradation in the twoway stereo record groove and probably some more in the stereo cartridge. But there, I remind you, the separation ends. The home loudspeakers bring logether the separated sounds for us, to create the over-all and single stereo sound.

Dear me, if a few more people (including Thimble's) could get that idea through their heads, we might have less of all this preposterous ping-pong stuff.

Things like this are insidious. Multiply Thimble's inoffensive little explanation by the inevitable million and you get a sea of confusion, among people who ought by this time to have learned at least the simple sense about stereo's values. Instead, they get more devastatingly confused every day. It's bad, and I mean it. A few million more half-truths, innocent or no, and we'll reach such an impasse that stereo—and hi fi too —will be talked straight out of existence. If you're going to make any dollars at all in this business, you'll have to make \$en\$e first.

Stereo, or Hi-Fi?

Wanna see what I mean? Well, now that I've quoted you a sample of the output, one source out of millions for public confusion, let me toss at you a piece of the end-product, right from a befuddled consumer.

This is a genuine, unrehearsed letter, and don't think it isn't typical of many more that all of us supposed "experts" get, not to mention phone calls and aimiable conversations at dinner parties, hi fi shows and all over the place.

This correspondent has been reading all sorts of publicity, that's for sure. Especially, the optimistic publicity that, because advertising can *never* say a negative thing, has avoided the objectionable yet reasonably accurate "mono" in favor of a happy but dangerously meaningless superlative, "hi fi." Oh no—of course, *nobody* meant to suggest that a stereo disc isn't a hi fi disc, though it has to be admitted that a hi fi disc isn't always stereo. But because of the implied confusion in these two overlapping terms, the general consumer is now so utterly mixed up about the difference "he-

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multiplay facilities. **Specifications:** Frequency response: 60-16,000 cps at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips. Head gap: 0,00012". Signal-to-noise ratio: better than -48 db. Wow and flutter: less than 0.14% at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips. Recording level indicator: one-meter type. Program indicator: built-in, 4-digit adjustable. Inputs: for stereo microphone (1 twochannel); for phono, radio or tuner (2). Foot pedal facilities (1). Outputs: for external speakers (2), for external amplifiers (1 two-channel); headphone (1). Recording standby. Transistor complement: AC 107 (4), 0C75 (6),0C74 (2), 0C44 (2), 2N1314 (2), 0C79 (1). Line voltage: 117 volts AC at 60 cycles. Power consumption: 65 watts. Dimensions: $18\frac{1}{2}$ " x 15" x 10". Weight: 38 lbs. Accessories: Monitoring headset and dual microphone adapter. For a pleasant demonstration, visit your favor-

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tween" hi fi and stereo that it's going to

program (my own) and writing me to ask-"In your opinion which is the bett r re

"I personally am not sold on ster o. It seems to me stereo gives off a sq eaky sound, not a true sound, whereas high fidelity is more true. I may be wrong. I

"My player is Stereo-High Fidelity so I can play both types, but for the life of me I can't reconcile myself to pay one dollar

more for stereo records when I can get better sound-so it seems to me-in high

"I would appreciate a reply. Thank you."

Don't go telling me, well, he's just one of

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those nuts. He is not. He's just one of those

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AUDIO • DECEMBER, 1963

Industry Notes ...

• University's New One-Million Dollar Plant Dedicated. Haskel A. Blair, president of University Loudspeakers, received the keys to University's new manufacturing plant in Oklahoma City. The dedication ceremonies culminated three years of planning and a 1500 mile move from White Plains, New York. Mayor Jack S. Wilkes, of Oklahoma City, presented the national and state colors to Mr. Robert McCulloch, Chairman of the Board of Ling-Temco-Vought, (University is a division of Ling-Temco-Vought). The keys were presented to Mr. Blair by Paul Strasbaugh, Secretary of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. After the ceremonies, over 150 guests were given tours of the new facility. Proluction was shut down in New York on June 30th and resumed on July 5th in Oklahoma City. The move was so well planned and executed, virtually no shipping delays were encountered. The precision of the move was made possible with the aid of the PERT computerized scheduling services, made available by University's parent company.

• Roof Raised at Scott. The recently announced addition to the H. H. Scott plant in Maynard, Mass. has reached the stage of construction wherein the roof has been placed over the steel structure. When last seen, the construction resembled a huge swimming pool with a roof. An important construction official (wheelbarrow foreman) opined that the structure would be complete within three months if it didn't get too cold, or rain, or snow. Mr. Scott noted that the new structure would more than double existing plant space.





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*Some of the E-V microphone firsts include: The Differential. Mechanophase, Variable-D®, Cardiline and Sound Spot®, plus slim dynamic and lavalier microphone designs, Acoustalloy® and Acoustifoam. And the E-V Model 642 has earned the first Academy Award microphone citation in 22 years, for its contribution to motion picture sound.