

NOVEMBER 1966

24





TO MEET THE STANDARDS OF THE CONNOISSEUR... Ampex 800 Series of Stereo Tape Recorders for sound perfection

Designed to out-perform all other Tape Recorders in their price range, with *solid state* electronics for maximum reliability. A revelation in pure sound reproduction in 4-track Stereo or Mono. For true fidelity recording or hours of the most satisfying listening pleasure this superb Ampex instrument defies comparison at anything approaching the price. Look at the features that put the Ampex 800 Series years ahead: Versatile 3-speed Operation · Precise Dual Capstan Drive · Interlocked Tape Controls

· Lifetime Ampex Deep-Gap Heads · Accurate Record Level VU Meters · Uncomplicated, straight line Threading · Simplified Operation · Die-cast Aluminium Construction · Constant Speed, High-efficiency Motor. Additional features are Automatic shut-off switch—turns off tape transport when tension is lost; automatic tape lifters eliminate head wear during fast wind operations; automatic digital counter allows you to return to a selection on your tape quickly.

AMPEX

Ampex sales and service facilities are conveniently located throughout Europe and the Middle East. For more information write to: Ampex Great Britain Ltd., Acre Road, Reading. Berkshire, England. Telephone Reading 84411 · Ampex S.A. Via Berna 2, Lugano, Switzerland. Telephone 091/3.81.12 · Ampex Europa G.m.b.H 6 Frankfurt Main, Düsseldorfer Strassa 24, Germany. Telephone 252001-5 · Ampex, 41 Avenue Bosquet, Paris 7e, France. Telephone 705.38.10.

BRITAIN'S LARGEST SPECIALISTS

As Britain's largest tape recorder specialists we claim to have an unrivalled selection of the most up to date recorders on display in Gt. Britain. The most experienced staff with expert knowledge. Ideal demonstration conditions with every recorder ready for immediate demonstration and comparison. The finest FREE AFTER SALES SERVICING facilities available. The largest, most centrally situated and accessible showrooms in London devoted exclusively to tape recorders. Exaggerated claims? Don't take our word for it, put our claims to the test and visit whichever of our Showrooms is most convenient to you. You won't be disappointed and it's ten to one that if you are interested in buying a tape recorder you'll become one more of our many thousands of satisfied customers.

HIGHEST PART EXCHANGES

0

INTEREST-FREE TERMS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

SONY TC260

UHER 4000L

- OVER 100 MODELS ON DISPLAY
- UP TO 2 YEARS' FREE SERVICE

AKAI 355 The world's finest and most comprehensive recorder. Unique Akai Cross Field record head. Completely automatic track reversal and replay. 20 watts output. All transistorised amplifier. V.U. Meters. Freq. 40-21,000. Has to be heard to be believed.

239 gns.

BRENELL Mk 5M The most comprehensive and finest mono recorder made by this famous British company. 3 heads, 4 speeds. Up to 10½ tapes. Bass, treble controls. Mixing. Before and after record comparison facilities. V.U. Meters. 6 watts output. Separate record/replay amplifiers.

93 gns. 93 gns.

UHER 4000L A superb 2 track all transistorised battery/ track 40-20,000. I Watt output, 4 Speeds. 5° tapes. Ultra lightweight only 6 lbs. Capable of recording to the highest standards and used extensively by professionals. 103 gns.

SPECIAL OFFERS!

ELIZABETHAN LZ 507 GRUNDIG TK30 SONY 777 Profe Z 507 Brand new 35 gns. As new 32 gns. Professional Recorder 85 gns. As new 35 gns. AKAI M69

AKAI X4 Completely fully transistorised stereo battery/mains portable. Superb performance. 3 Speeds. 5" Tapes. V.U. Meters. 4 Tracks. Operates from rechargeable batteries or mains, unit optional extra. Has own power amplifiers. Freq. 40-20,000. Excluding microphones.

Completely port-**AIWA TP 1002** ns 4 track stereo recorder. 2 Speeds Tapes. 2 Loudspeakers (one detachable) Separate record/replay controls for each channel, 2 V.U. Meters. Weighs only 7 lbs. Unbelievable stereo performance. Complete inc. two microphones and every acc. Fantastic value. 44 gns.

One of the most This latest VORTEXION WVB tried and tested models available. This latest model has the new Wright & Weaire 3 speed deck. 3 Motors. 3 Heads. Separate record/replay amplifiers. Before and after record monitoring facilities. 4 Watts. Variable bias. 8½" tapes, etc. £115.10.0

portable tape recorder. Available in both 2 or 4 track models. Extremely portable and a delight to use. Easy to operate push buttons and controls. High quality dynamic microphone incl. Freq. 40-14,000. Wonderful quality. A remarkable 49gns.

SONY TC260

A brilliant new 4 track stereo model. Separate record and playback volume controls. Bass and treble controls. V.U. meters. Automatic tape stops. 7" Tape. 2 speeds. Superb Hi-fi quality. Complete incl. 2 dynamic microphones, fantastic value at 97 gns.

REVOX 736 The stereo tape recorder that sells by reputation alone. One of Switzerland's finest products. Full professional record/replay facilities. 4 Preamplifiers. 3 Heads. 2 V.U. Meters. Track to track facilities. Freq. 30-18,000. For the perfectionist.

127 gns.

SPECIAL OFFERS!

AKAI M7 Stereo PHILIPS 3549 Inc. COSSOR CRI607 Stereo FERROGRAPH 4AN As new 82 gns.
Inc. accs. As new 39 gns.
eo As new 39 gns.
Perfect order 42 gns.

The latest fully auto-AMPEX 1100 matic 4 track stereo recorder by this world famous company. No tape threading, no turning over of tapes, no track changing. All done fully automatically. Separate V.U. meters. 2 Drive capstans. 4 Heads, etc. The most advanced design available. 50 gns.

WYNDSOR VANGUARD

The newest model to the famous WYNDSOR stable. 3 Heads. Before and after record/replay facilities. 3 Speeds. 4 Tracks. 7" Tapes. Freq. 40-15,000. 6 watts output. Detachable 8" Hi-fi speaker unit giving superb reproduction. A wonderful value for money recorder at 59 gns.

B & O 2000

The most comprehensive fully transistorised stereo recorder available. Its facilities are too numerous to list. Available in 2 or 4 track, suitcase or table model versions. A recorder for those wishing to purchase the finest available.

119 gns.

VIDEOTAPE DEMONSTRATIONS

We are demonstrating at our 82, High Holborn W.C.I showroom, during the period October 18th to 27th the fantastic PHILIPS VIDEOTAPE TELEVISION CONSOLE. Call into our showrooms and see this fascinating and superb equipment recording television programmes direct off the air or live Video Recordings made with the camera. Don't miss this exciting opportunity for seeing the development of the future now! (Domestic Videotape recorder for under £350 available January 1967).

82 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.I (I minute Holborn Underground) 242/4 PENTONVILLE ROAD, N.I (3 minutes from King's Cross Station) 228 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2 (I minute Liverpool Street Station) 36 LEWISHAM HIGH STREET, S.E.13 (I minute Lewisham Station) 2 MARYLAND STATION, STRATFORD, E.15 (adj't Maryland Station) 205 HIGH STREET NORTH, E.6 (opposite East Ham Station)

AKAI 1700

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KING'S CROSS, STRATFORD, LEWISHAM, EAST HAM: Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Halfday Thursday.

NUSOUND TAPE RECORDER CENTRES



B & 0 - for those who consider design and quality before price





B & 0—the quality angle in pickups

The B & O SP6 magnetic cartridge has been designed to provide as nearly as possible the perfect link between the gramophone record and the main amplifier. The diamond stylus is set at the B & O pioneered and now accepted standard of 15° from the vertical. It employs a symmetrical micro-cross armature for excellent stereo separation with minimum cross-talk. Push-pull design reduces harmonic distortion to a minimum. Also available with elliptical stylus (SP8). Result: A superb instrument capable of the highest fidelity.

Frequency response: 20 c/s – 20 kc/s \pm 2.5 dB. Output: 7 mv per channel at 5 cm/sec. Channel separation: better than 28 dB at 500 c/s. Stylus pressure: 1–3 gms. Compliance: 12–15 \times 10–6 cm/dyne. Moving mass: approx. 1.5 mgms. Load: 47K ohms. Mounting: standard $\frac{1}{2}$ " centres (SP6 and 8) or Plug in fitting for B & O arm (SP7 & 9). Weight: approx. 10 gms. Stylus diameter: .0007" Elliptical: .0007" \times .0002" Price: SP6 and 7 £8.8.0d. SP8 and 9 £14.14.0.

Bang & Olufsen—Danish Design—Danish Craftsmanship.









B & O also make the Beogram transcription deck, the Beocord range of Tape Recorders, Beomaster integrated Tuner amplifiers and high quality Beovox pressure chamber loudspeakers.

Write or telephone today for comprehensive colour catalogue to :-

Bang & Olufsen U.K. Sales Division

(A Division of Debenhams Electrical and Radio Distribution Co. Ltd.)
Mercia Road, Gloucester. Telephone: Gloucester 26841

London Showrooms: 70-71 Welbeck Street, London, W.1. Telephone: HUNter 2143.

DP0225



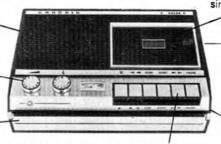
Go anywhere with the Grundig C100 – first portable cassette recorder with high performance and output power!

Twin track, single speed—the C100 can be converted to mains operation by replacing the battery compartment with a mains power pack (optional extra).

Sensitive volume and tone controls, Frequency range 40-10,000 c/s. Fantastic output power of 2 watts.

Retractable carrying handle. The C100 weighs only $7\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., costs only $39\frac{1}{2}$ gns. complete with dynamic stick microphone.





Six smooth piano-key controls. Start, Stop/Eject, Pause, Record, Fast forward and Rewind. Recording level meter combines with battery voltage indication.

No tape spools on the C100. Just a simple cassette that plays or records for ___1½ or 2 hours, Click—it's loaded!

New Grundig DC motor—fully transistorized—and stabilized, without brushes or commutators. Silent operation. No distortion—even if you use the C100 when moving.

Please tell me	more abou	t the new	Grundig C100,
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new Grundig	recorders,	radios and	stereograms.

NAME

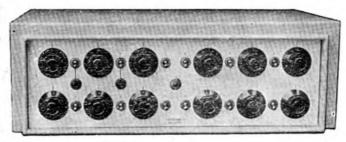
Post to Grundig (GB) Limited, London, S.E.26.

—Vortexion

12-WAY ELECTRONIC MIXER

quality equipment

The 12-way electronic mixer has facilities for mixing 12 balanced line microphones. Each of the 12 lines has its own potted numetal shielded microphone transformer and input valve, each control is hermetically sealed. Muting switches are normally fitted on each channel and the unit is fed from its own numetal shielded mains transformer and metal rectifier.



FOUR-WAY ELECTRONIC MIXER

This unit provides for 4 independent channels electronically mixed without "spurious break through," microphone hum and background noise have been reduced to a minimum by careful selection of components. The standard 15-50 ohm shielded transformers on each input are arranged for balanced line, and have screened primaries to prevent H.F. transfer when used on long lines.

The standard 5 valve unit only consumes 18.5 watts. H.T. is provided by a selenium rectifier fed by a low loss, low-field transformer in a screening box. The ventilated case gives negligible temperature rise with this low consumption assuring continuence of low noise figures.

20,000 ohms is the standard output impedance, but the noise pick-up on the output lines is equivalent to approximately 2,000 ohms due to the large amount of negative feedback used.

For any output impedance between 20,000 ohms and infinity half a volt output is available. Special models can be supplied for 600 ohms at equivalent voltage by an additional transformer or 1 milliwatt 600 ohms by additional transformer and valve.

The white engraved front panel permits of temporary pencil notes being made, and these may be easily erased when required. The standard input is balanced line by means of 2 point jack sockets at the front, but alternative 3 point connectors may be obtained to order at the rear.

Mixer for 200-250 V AC Mains				£40	8	6
Extra for 600 ohm output model				£1	18	6
Extra for 600 ohm 1 milliwatt outs	out			£3	0	6
Size $18\frac{1}{8}$ in. wide $\times 11\frac{1}{8}$ in. front to	back	(exclud	ing plu	igs) ×	61	in.
high. Weight 22 lb.						

THREE-WAY MIXER and peak programme meter for recording and large sound installations etc.

This is similar in dimension to the 4-Way Mixer but has an output meter indicating transient peaks by means of a valve voltmeter with a 1 second time constant in its grid circuit.

The meter is calibrated in dB's, zero dB being 1 milliwatt-600 ohm (.775 V) and markings are provided for +10 dB and -26 dB. A switch is provided for checking the calibration. A valve is used for stabilising the gain of this unit. The output is 1 milliwatt on 600 ohms for zero level up to +12 dB maximum. An internal switch connects the output for balance, unbalance, or float. This output is given for input for 40 microvolts on 15 ohm.

An additional input marked "Ext. Mxr." will accept the output of the 4-Way Mixer converting the unit into a 7-Way controlled unit. This input will also accept the output of a crystal pick-up but no control of volume is available.

The standard input is balanced line by means of 3 point jack sockets at rear but alternative 2 point connectors may be obtained to order at the front or rear as desired.

The 8 valves and selenium rectifier draw a total of 25 watts.

P.P.M. for 200-250 V AC Mains ... Price on application Size $18\frac{1}{8}$ in. wide \times $11\frac{1}{4}$ in. front to back (excluding plugs) \times $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. high. Weight 23 lb. 10/15 watt Amplifier with built-in mixers. 30/50 watt Amplifier with built-in mixers.

2 × 5-way stereo mixers with outputs for echo chambers, etc.

Full details and prices on request.

VORTEXION LIMITED,

257-263 The Broadway, Wimbledon, S.W.19

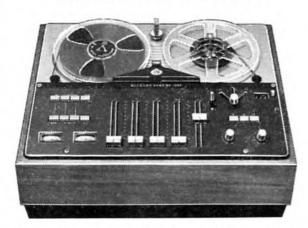
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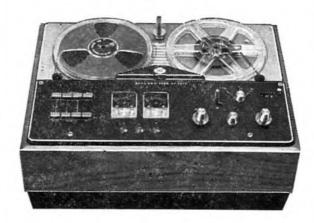


BEOCORD 2000 K DE LUXE



The new Beocord 2000 de luxe has everything—one of the best semi-professional tape recorders. 3 speeds. 7" tapes. 4 heads. Two track record and playback plus 4 track playback. High and low input impedance selectors for gram and back. High and low input impedance selectors for gram and radio. 6 way mixing facilities. Separate controls for record and replay. Before and after record monitoring facilities. 2 V.U. meters. Two types of automatic tape stops. Sound on sound. Variable echo facility. Multiplay. 16 watts output. Frequency response 30-20,000 c.p.s. at 7½ i.p.s. Available as table model or suitcase version. 135 gns. or 139 gns.

BEOCORD 1500 DE LUXE



The ideal stereo tape unit for use with any Hi-Fi System. 3 speeds. 7" tapes. 4 heads. Records 2 track, plays back 2 or 4 track. Before and after record monitoring facilities. Separate controls for record and replay. Switchable high and low inputs on gram and radio. 2 V.U. meters. Two types of automatic tape stops. Sound on sound. Multiplay and echo facility. Superb performance. Frequency response 30-20,000 c.p.s. at $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. One of the finest tape units available today. 105 gns.

BANG & OLUFSEN synonymous with the highest quality in tape recorders and high fidelity equipment requires display and demonstration conditions combined with an After Sales Service that do justice to these wonderful products.

At THE NUSOUND B & O CENTRE we have a superb display devoted exclusively to the entire B & O range with demonstration facilities "second to none" and an After Sales Service without parallel.

Our expert staff, all 100% B & O enthusiasts, are able not only to demonstrate this superb equipment under ideal conditions but to give you expert advice and technical assistance based upon many years of experience in selling B & O products.

If its B & O you are interested in then there is only one place to visit and that is THE NUSOUND B & O CENTRE.



HOW TO GET THERE

Situated only 100 yards from the junction of New Oxford Street, High Holborn and Southampton Row, "The Nusound B & O Centre" is one of the most accessible showrooms in London. Only one minute from Holborn Underground.

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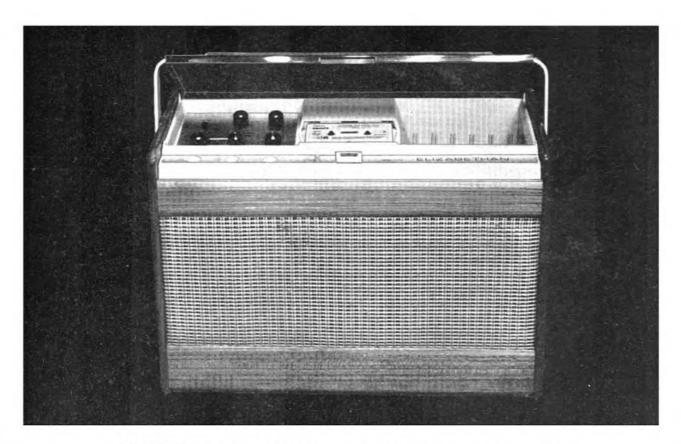
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82, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.I. Open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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NEVER in the history of tape recorders a machine that looks and sounds like this!

Tall and handsome, cassette loaded and with a wonderful depth of sound (it has a 10 inch round Hi Fidelity speaker). And only the fabulous new Elizabethan LZ 612 allows you to slip a 90-minute programme from the top pocket of your jacket—or your handbag—and be listening to it at over 5 watts output, literally in the next second. No wonder this unique machine was the sensation of the Radio Show. Just study its advanced features . . . but better still, go to your Elizabethan dealer . . . hear it . . . and judge for yourself!

- Completely portable, mains/battery and car supply operated.
- Furniture style solid teak acoustic cabinet.
- Specially developed 10 inch round Hi Fidelity speaker.
- Separate bass and treble controls.
- Full mixing facilities via independently controlled inputs.

- Straight through amplifier monitoring providing 'listen while you record'.
- Separate mic, radio and gram inputs.
- Record/battery level indicator meter.
- 90 minutes per cassette playing time.
- 5½ watts output Supplied complete with microphone, tape cassette and leads. LZ 612 45gns.

the Sound alone tells you it's

elizabethan

SEE AND HEAR THESE OTHER ELIZABETHAN MODELS, TOO!



LZ 9102T 27 gns Compact portable battery operated cassette loaded tape recorder weighing only 3 lb.



LZ 32 (twin track) 32 gns LZ 34 (four track) 34 gns Brilliant 3-speed mains operated 2 and 4 track recorders.



LZ 102 49 gns
Fully transistorised 4 track
3-speed mains operated recorder
with outstanding performance.



LZ 711 75 gns Complete portable mains operated stereophonic tape recording system for the creation of professional quality tapes.



Why Kodak P.300 tape gives you better high frequency response at low speeds

When you record at speeds below $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips, noticeable high frequency losses will occur, whatever your equipment.

But now, with Kodak P.300 Triple Play Tape, you can bring these losses to a lower level than ever before. That's because Kodak P.300 Tape has been specifically designed for low-speed operation and incorporates 'gain' at high frequencies. This enhanced high frequency response at low speeds has not been achieved at the expense of the tape's other features. Its combination of exceptional wavelength response, signal-to-noise ratio and low distortion cannot be equalled by any other triple play tape in the world. What's more, print-through is up by only IdB on standard play tape. Yet these are not your only benefits. The oxide coating on Kodak P.300 tape is accurate to within millionths of an inch, providing incomparable uniformity of output. And this uniformity, together with the flexibility of the specially

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But you be the judge. Try Kodak P.300 Triple Play Tape for your next recording and hear for yourself.

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Kodak sound recording tapes - the best tapes in the world



MODEL TC530—FEATURES ■ 4-track stereophonic and monophonic recording and playback ■ Quadradial (4-way) speaker system ■ High precision all silicon solid state circuit ■ Vertical or horizontal operation ■ "Retractamatic" pinch roller for easiest tape threading ■ 3-speed, full 7" reel capacity ■ Tape position indicator ■ Instantaneous pause control ■ Two illuminated, calibrated VU meters ■ Automatic "Sentinel" tape stop ■ Stereo headset jack. Price 120 Gns.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Power requirements:

Tape speed:

Reels: Recording system: Frequency response:

Wow and flutter:

Power output: Signal-to-noise ratio: Harmonic distortion:

Level indication: Tone controls: Inputs:

100-125V and 220-240V AC, 50/60 c/s 65 watts. 7½ ips., 3¾ ips. and 1¾ ips. instantaneous switching.

7" diameter or smaller .

4-track stereophonic or monophonic.

30-20,000 cps at 7½ ips. (±3dB 50-15,000 cps. at 7½ ips.) 30-13,000 cps. at 3½ ips.

30-10,000 cps. at 17 ips.

Less than 0.17% at 7½ ips. Less than 0.3% at 3¾ ips.

Less than 0.4% at 17 ips. 5W R.M.S. per channel.

Better than 48 dB (at peak record level). Less than 3% at 0 dB line output.

Calibrated VU meter x 2

Separate controls for bass and treble. Low impedance microphone inputs: transistorised

(will accommodate any microphone from 250 ohm to 1 K ohm impedance).

Inputs (cont.):

Outputs:

Weight:

Accessories:

High impedance Sensitivity-72 dB (0.19mV) 100k ohms) Auxiliary: Sensitivity-22 dB (0.06V).

Line outputs: 0 dB (0.775V), load impedance 100k ohms.

Speaker outputs: 2 x 8 ohm.

Binaural monitor output: will accommodate stereo headset Model DR-3C (10k ohm impedance).

Dimensions: 1916" wide x 915" high x 1576" deep. 41 lbs. 10 ozs.

Stereo recorded 5" tape, 7" reel. Two SONY dynamic microphones (F-96), Integrated record replay connector type RK-46 60c/s Motor pulley, Reel cap. Head cleaning ribbon, Splicing Tape.



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Yours for less than one-third the actual price





Framed in white painted wood in contemporary style, either individually or as a set, they make fascinating and educational decoration for a study, a boy's bedroom or, because the colours and designs are so good, for your living room.

The research that leads the way in space

the tartan tab from a reel of 'SCOTCH' Magnetic Tape.

3M Company research has provided communications systems for much of the space programme. The same research developed 'SCOTCH' Magnetic Tape with Superlife, used by tape enthusiasts all over the world. The most stringent precau-

authentic in every detail, each one could be yours for a mere 7/6 (plus P & P) and

tions and meticulous standards are essential for all equipment used in space—the same standards are applied to the recording equipment sold to you.

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Actual size of all pictures 162" x 144"

Scotch **MAGNETIC TAPE** first with the new ideas

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(Ea	ch print 7/6 plus 2/- postage and packing)
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	STICK YOUR TARTAN TABS HERE Offer closes 31st Jan 1967

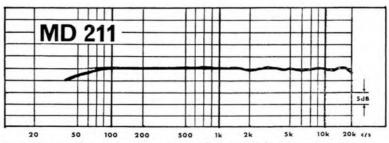
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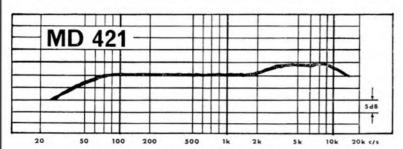
FREE TRIAL AND 20% DISCOUNT (For ONE month only)

by Sennheiser

Quantity production has now brought these microphones within the price range of the serious amateur.



The finest moving-coil microphone in the world. Condenser quality from a rugged dynamic capsule. Response **guaranteed** ±2.5dB of curve shown. Omni-directional characteristic — 200 ohms impedance. **Price £35.15.0.**



Dynamic Cardioid for studio and outside broadcasts.

Variable bass cut and integral presence lift (see graph) to broadcasting specification. Over 30,000 already in use. Dual impedance 200 ohms/30,000 ohms. Windshield available.

Price £32.10.0.

We are so confident that a short test will convince you of the outstanding value of these microphones, that we have arranged for you to try one of these with your own equipment free. Furthermore, for the month of November the price is reduced by 20%. Send us details of your tape recorder (so that we can send a suitable cable) and a returnable deposit as shown below. If your equipment matches the quality of the microphone you will want to keep it, and there is nothing more to pay. If you decide to return the microphone, your deposit will be returned immediately (providing the microphone is returned in good condition within 10 days).

Deposit for MD 421: £26.0.0.; MD 211: £28.12.0.

Audio Engineering Ltd. 33 ENDELL STREET, LONDON, W.C.2 TEMPLE BAR 0033



Tandberg model 9 the world's finest Monaural Tape Recorder



A new facia in the finest Scandinavian design tradition plus Tandberg precision audio-engineering now combine to make the Tandberg Model 923 the monarch of portable, monaural tape recorders.

The Tandberg Model 923, 2 track, 3 speed $(7\frac{1}{2} \text{ ips, } 3\frac{3}{4} \text{ ips,})$ $1\frac{7}{8}$ ips) machine includes a formidable built-in speaker and amp system of the highest quality which provide exacting performance standards without any auxiliary equipment.

Superlative sound, functional simplicity, clean design, the classic look of teak combine to make the Tandberg Model 923 the ultimate in the field of portable, monaural Price: 69 GNS. tape recorders.

Model 8 (2 speed version) available from 54 GNS.

Sooner or later you'll turn to Tandberg -why not sooner?

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No. II

November 1966

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Charlie Griffiths, West Indies famous fast bowler, in a peaceful mood as he records comments on the Aldwych scene by his colleagues Rawle Brancker and Rohan Kanhai before setting off on a tour of London sights. Charlie is using the Philips EL.3301 cassette recorder which was supplied to the team, together with Musicassettes, during their stay in England.

Back numbers, if still in print, are available at 2s. 6d. per copy.

Address all communications

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EDITORIAL

ADVERTISING

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LUDgate 9088

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Tape trends and tape talk

By the Editor

I HAVE MET some ambitious enthusiasts over the past ten years, but Philip Towell, founder-secretary of the Boston Sound Hunters and a British Contest winner on more than one occasion, takes the biscuit! He has just moved into a new house and the heart of the building is a sound studio 36 feet long and 23 feet wide. Last month the Sound Hunters invited their friends to a demonstration there and there cannot be a club in the world with comparable headquarters.

I cannot improve on the description of the studio sent me by Mr. Towell: "It is 36 feet long and 23 feet wide at one end, the other end being four feet shorter. No one wall is parallel to another, so that the sound waves cannot bounce back on themselves, causing distortion. The south wall is all double-glazed, from floor to ceiling, and the cunningly-designed cedar shingle roof overhangs, to give an attractive little terrace looking towards the river, where ships can be seen passing to and from the docks.

"The studio ceiling rises from eight feet high to some 14 feet, sloping up to a set of pivoting clerestory windows set in the roof, and catching all the sun.

"The shorter angled wall is clad in natural cherry boarding, giving a warm glow to the room, and reminds one that the owner is a director of one of our leading timber firms. A rich gold Wilton carpet and scarlet curtains (in which the gold is repeated) over the full length of the room, makes a grand splash of colour, which is accentuated at night by swivel spotlights set in the ceiling.

"Covered by a picture is a sound-proof double window of BBC pattern, and a noisecheck door off the studio leads into the monitoring room. . . Part of the skirting board slides up to reveal a pipe for microphone cables to be fed into the studio."

It's enough to make the BBC jealous—particularly that terrace, with the ships passing.

I REFERRED TWO months ago to the first Czechoslovakian amateur tape recording contest. I now have a full account of this event, supplied by my good friend, Wilhelm Gluckert, of Mainz, who was there as an adviser and observer. It makes clear that tape recording is now developing rapidly as a hobby in the countries of Eastern Europe and there seems hope of early contact between east and west.

Herr Gluckert tells me that the Czech radio sponsored the contest. Radio Prague, it seems, has a regular weekly programme for the "phonoamateurs," as they call them there, and it was around this programme that the first contest was organised. Three hundred tapes were received.

The best six have been submitted, I understand, as Czech entries in the International Contest, CIMES, and I am keenly looking forward to hearing them at the judging in Hilversum, and to meeting the representatives of the Czech movement,

Herr Gluckert adds that the Polish radio was represented at the Czech contest and evidently the amateur movement is developing well there, too. The possibility has been broached of holding future CIMES judging in Eastern Europe. It would be an exciting extension of the activities of the International Federation of Sound Hunters.

THE BRITISH ENTRIES in CIMES are, I think, well up to the standard of previous years and there seems to me to be a sporting chance that, at the presentation party at the Criterion in Piccadilly Circus on Friday, November 4, there may be one or two CIMES prizes to add to the array of silver trophies and piles of tape which—along with the top award of £100—will be distributed that night.

This party will round off the 1966 contest, the last of the series of three sponsored by the leading firms in the tape field. A lot has been learned from the expanded effort which the backing of these firms has made possible and it is my earnest hope that they will now agree to continue their sponsorship and that the Contest will be developed in accordance with the lessons learned to date.

I expect to learn a lot, too, from the experience of the BBC with the contest they are running from Manchester. I have been invited there on November 13 to help with the judging.

THE CONTINUED INCREASED DEMAND for TAPE Recording Magazine and an adjustment in our distribution arrangements may still be causing some temporary difficulties in some parts of the country in picking up a copy casually from your nearest bookstall. So, if you want to be sure of your copy, place a regular order with your newsagent, please.

THE RESULTS

TAPE OF THE YEAR

"EXCERPT FROM MACBETH"—The witches' cavern scene, with the competitor portraying all the characters. 7 min. 57 sec.

Entered by A. Brown, of Mitcham, Surrey.

The Emitape Challenge Cup, donated by E.M.I. Tape Ltd., together with a prize of £100.

NOVICE AMATEURS

Ist "GRANDFATHER'S CHRONOCLASM"-A humorous musical tape with the traditional tune, "My Grandfather's Clock." 2 min. 15 sec.

Entered by K. McKenzie of Sunderland, County Durham.

The Scotch Trophy, donated by Minnesota, Mining and Manufacturing Co. Ltd., together with a prize of £10 and £15 worth of magnetic tape.

2nd "DREAMS OF NORTHUMBRIA"-A folk song specially composed for this Contest. 3 min. 42 sec. Entered by C. Blair, of Sunderland, County Durham. The Agfa Cup, donated by Agfa Ltd., together with a prize of £10 of magnetic tape.

3rd "TRAINS"-A stereophonic recording of train movements. 4 min.

Entered by E. Fitzgerald, of Hawick, Scotland. The Acos Cup, donated by Cosmocord Ltd.

ADVANCED AMATEURS

1st "BREEZE AND I"-A musical performance by the competitor, using multi-tracking techniques. 2 min. 30 sec.

Entered by P. Griffin, of High Wycombe, Bucks. The Philips Shield, donated by Philips Electrical Ltd., together with a prize of £10 and £15 worth of magnetic tape.

2nd "NEGRO SPIRITUALS"-Stereophonic performance of a medley of well-known spirituals. 6 min. 8 sec. Entered by J. Shuttleworth, of London, S.E.9.

The Kodak Shield, donated by Kodak Ltd., together with a prize of £10 worth of magnetic tape.

"SARABANDE AND FINALE"—Stereophonic recording of an Amateur String Orchestra in a work by Corelli. 5 min. 11 sec.

Entered by W. P. Copinger, of Kilmarnock, Scotland. The Irish Trophy, donated by Elstone Electronics Ltd.

GROUPS

1st "THE MAKING OF A MASS"-A dramatised account of the stereophonic recording of a choral Mass. 7 min. 56 sec.

Entered by R. Partridge, for the Oxford University

Tape Recording Society.

The Amphlett Shield, donated by the Federation of British Tape Recording Clubs, together with a prize of £10 and £15 worth of magnetic tape.

2nd "TUTTI"-Stereophonic recording of a humorous choral version of a nursery rhyme. 3 min. 55 sec. Entered by G. Furneaux, for the South Devon Tape Recording Club.

The BASF Shield, donated by BASF Chemicals Ltd., together with a prize of £10 worth of magnetic tape.

3rd "THE BUS RUN"-A feature tape of a coach outing, by Class 1S2 of St. Peter's RC Secondary School, Aberdeen. 7 min. 52 sec. The Mastertape Trophy, donated by Mastertape (Mag-

netic) Ltd.

British Amateur Tape Recording Contest 1966

A REPORT BY THE EDITOR -

Alan Brown, of Mitcham, who submitted "The Tape of the Year" in the 1966 Contest, is only 20 (though he has had eight years' recording experience). After hearing his brilliant "Excerpt from Macbeth," Eric Robinson, who was one of the judges, remarked "What will he do when he's 40?'

This tape is, indeed, a tour de force. Apart from recording, Mr. Brown acted all the roles himself in the opening scenethe witches' scene-from Macbeth. The contrast in voices he secured largely by changing pitch by varying recording speeds: not a simple doubling or halving of normal tape speeds, but slight variations only, secured by using a Brenell deck and equipping it with specially-prepared capstans. The sounds of the wild heath were skilfully added.

Mr. Brown is a real enthusiast—that is obvious from the list of equipment he used: the Brenell deck, a Ferrograph machine, Reslo ribbon and Grampian DP4 mikes, a home-built mixer, a ring modulator, oscillator and amplifiers.

A slightly longer version of this tape was part of an entry which earlier won Mr. Brown a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Another tape which particularly appealed to the jury was Mr. P. Griffin's "Breeze and I," an outstanding example of multi-tracking. Mr. Griffin played six musical parts separately, recorded them separately, then mixed them together while adding yet another part! Music and multi-track recording is his special enthusiasm and he spent three days in his garage completing this effort, which emerged as the best entry in the Advanced Amateur class.

The judges did not find it quite so easy to pick the winners of the Novice and Group sections. Among the novices, Mr. K. McKenzie's "Grandfather's Chronoclasm" stood out for its lively beat. This again was a good exercise in multi-tracking, a nice blend of music and sound effects. One of the judges suggested it would have been even better if it had ended with a cuckoo cry!

The Oxford University Tape Recording Society, which has featured in previous prize lists, emerged as the winner of the group section with "The making of a Mass"-a recording of an Oxford choir, the Schola Cantorum Oxoniensis-at rehearsal. The judges concluded that the recording was seeking after a sense of drama which was not quite realised, but nonetheless it was a fine recording.

The overall standard of entries this year was well up to the average of earlier contests, but cannot be said to have exceeded it. The question is raised: how much farther can we expect amateur achievement to go? Technically, some excellent results are now regularly achieved. In presentation, in imaginative treatment of a chosen theme, there is still a long

The judges were: Douglas Brown (Chairman), Donald Aldous, John Crabbe, Timothy Eckersley, Alan Freeman, John Gilbert and Eric Robinson.

VIDEO

OUR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE Now—An Exclusive Report on the SONY Domestic V.T.R.



Our test outfit in use. The image on the screen is not very clear in the photograph owing to reflections from the ceiling

THE Video Tape Recorder is at last a reality—if one can afford or justify the rather large outlay required, or put off buying that new car until next year. Recently the Japanese Sony Corporation laid plans to provide a model for the UK market. It will be similar to that supplied to North America but compatible to the UK 405 line TV transmissions, priced at approx. 350 gns. for the V.T.R. and monitor, plus 125 gns. for the complete camera and tripod

The production line in Japan is not yet in full swing and bulk deliveries are not expected to be available before the end of 1956. However, Sony UK showed a number of working prototypes similar to the production job at this year's Earls Court Radio Show. One of these was made available

duction job at this year's Earls Court Radio Show. One of these was made available to us for test and examination.

The Videocorder arrived in two substantial and highly professional looking grey suitcases, the larger weighed 66 lb. and contained the Video Recorder and the monitor/receiver (looking for all the world like the normal Sony 9-inch Portable TV). The smaller case contained in well padded compartments, the camera, a substantial tripod with pan head, microphone and various connecting leads, splicing kit and head cleaning material.

Examination of the deck showed a clear and functional control layout and what at first appeared a bewildering tape threading sequence. The ½-inch tape passes over the drum holding the rotating heads in a shallow diagonal to achieve the favoured economical "helical scan." The two heads rotate against the tape at 25 rps, allowing the very low tape speed of 7½ ips to be used, resulting in about one hour's recording time from a reel of tape—making one feel distinctly better about the apparently high cost of video tape, which averages £12 for this length of recording.

On the right is the main function control panel, a simple, 3 position electro-mechanical operation for play, rewind and stop; a separate fast forward control provided. To the right of this is the record button which can be used independently of the

main tape transport control to enable the Videocamera to be accurately set up and monitored on the screen before recording commences.

Next to the record switch is the recording source selector, a simple two-way switch labelled "TV" and "Camera." One VU meter is fitted, but adjacent to it is a 3 position switch selecting "AC voltage," "Video" and "Audio" respectively. The needle centred in the green segment of the scale indicates accurate levels of AC voltage and Video signal. Audio level is shown by fluctuating deflections as with a normal tape recorder. Video and Audio levels are adjusted by 2 concentric controls to the right of the panel. A separate pull switch controls the motor which must be put into the "Standby" position immediately the tape has been stopped or the rapidly rotating heads would quickly wear grooves in the tape.

One tends to expect to find the controls of a V.T.R. as complicated as an analytical computer, but after assessing those of the "Videocorder" it is a relief to find how simple they actually are. The monitor/receiver, in appearance and controls, is in every respect a normal TV receiver with the exception of a two-way switch on the front panel marked "TV" and "Camera." This switch selects the programme source.

Turning finally to the camera, this is as straightforward as a cine camera in operation. Of course it has no motor or shutter but it does have the addition of connections to the rear—mains and video leads, and an adjustment marked "Focus." This operates the concentration of the Videcon to the camera lens and not the optical focus as might be supposed. The tripod is substantial and offers pan and tilt facilities plus a crank controlled elevation offering an immediate variation in height of approximately two feet.

Having studied the operational technicalities of the "Videocorder," power was connected and an aerial lead inserted into the appropriate socket on the Receiver/Monitor. Switching on the Receiver/Monitor and selecting channel 2 immediately brought forth a picture due to complete transistorisation. A little correction for contrast and brilliance was needed and

there emerged a beautifully clear image on the screen. Standing back four or five feet from the receiver removed any indication of line, a refreshing sight in this day of 23-inch monsters! The "Videocorder" was switched on and the "Record" button was pressed into the TV position. "Video" was then selected and the VU meter needle advanced in the scale into the green segment; finally Audio was selected and similarly adjusted. The record button was depressed and held down and the tape control moved into the "forward" position. The mechanical noise could be best described as a quiet "purr." Sound level on the monitor could be controlled independently and reduced to zero for silent record-

The mechanical noise could be best described as a quiet "purr." Sound level on the monitor could be controlled independently and reduced to zero for silent recording. Replaying the recording and switching the monitor between TV and Tape, a direct comparison could be made. The recorded quality was fractionally lower than that of the original, but certainly no less than that of a domestic receiver adjusted for slightly less than absolute optimum performance.

less than absolute optimum performance.

Attention was then turned to the camera and the necessary simple switching operations carried out. The Videcon was focussed and, under quite normal domestic lighting an image appeared on the screen. Aperture and focus were adjusted. To obtain optimum quality the addition of a directed 100 watt



With the covers removed the rotating head assembly is clearly seen

floodlight produced a first class picture. The microphone was connected and audio level adjusted. Recording commenced.

The immediate and dramatic success of

The immediate and dramatic success of our very first recording confirmed the simplicity of the entire operation. Various subjects were suggested and in each case it was only necessary to adjust the floodlight and camera by reference to the image on the screen, check the video and audio levels and start the spools turning.

It was particularly noted that there was a blur or check incompanion to the confirmed to the confirmed that there was a blur or check incompanion to the confirmed to the conf

It was particularly noted that there was no blur or ghost image apparent when the camera was panned on a moving subject. This was surprising as the effect had been noted previously on other, more expensive, equipment.

As out test recordings continued the need for editing quickly became apparent. We had on our tape a random collection of unrelated sequences with gaps between. It

(Please turn to page 406)

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TAPE RECORDING TECHNIQUES

DENYS KILLICK continues his series with a practical discussion about microphones and their uses with suggestions for test recordings.



A typical application for an omni-directional microphone. Script readers group around a Sennheiser MD 211. Note the drawn curtains

LIVE RECORDING

 ${f F}_{
m are}^{
m IRSTLY}$, to those many readers who for having to break the sequence last The exciting news of video developments occupied so much space that "Tape Recording Techniques" was literally squeezed out. The management of the Sound Department in both video recording and in sound-and-cine depends entirely for its success on a proper understanding of the fundamentals of sound recording and microphone technique, although the specific application of those techniques will be very different to pure sound applications. A thorough knowledge of microphones, their types, and how to use them, is essential to any sound recording and it is therefore appropriate that this article should follow our special video feature.

Live recording involves the use of a microphone. It also involves the use of recording equipment (tape recorder) and, quite obviously, the sound source—or subject to be recorded. These are the three essential ingredients to any live recording and of them only one, the microphone, is normally variable. The recorder will be the machine one happens to own, the sound source will be the subject it is desired to record. When these facts are known, we can, in theory at least, decide in the light of the circum-

stances which would be the best kind of microphone to use and how we should position it. In practice it may well be that only a single microphone is available and there is no choice. This needn't worry us because an understanding of the kinds and types of microphones available will at least enable us to use the single instrument we have to its best advantage.

A glance down any reputable dealer's list of tape recorders being offered for sale will reveal what may appear to be a surprising anomaly. Most of the machines in the medium- to low-price bracket are offered for sale at a price inclusive of microphone; machines in the medium to high bracket are usually offered for sale at a price exclusive of microphone. At first it might appear that this is an unreasonable state of affairs. The truth is that micro-phones are highly specialised instruments and it is assumed that the person buying a more expensive, or "professional," machine will either own microphone equipment himself or alternatively will wish to purchase the kind of microphone that will be suited to the recording work to be undertaken. There is no such thing as the "ideal" microphone which would be equally suited to all kinds of recording. The microphone which might be excellent for one job could be useless for another.

The notes given here are not intended to apply only to expensive microphones. Even if the microphone you happen to own is a humble instrument of uncertain origin you may be quite sure that it will fall somewhere within the categories about to be mentioned. As it is impossible to

properly use even an expensive, professional microphone to its best advantage unless certain basic information about the instrument is known, how much more difficult would it not be to get the very best out of a cheaper instrument under amateur conditions?

CHECK THE IMPEDANCE

All microphones are said to have an impedance and the value of that impedance is one of the first things we want to know. This is expressed in ohms. The simple rule to follow is that the impedance of the microphone must match the impedance at the microphone socket into which it is being fed. This latter figure can be established by reference to the recorder manufacturer's specification sheet. Provided this rule of matched impedances is observed, then any microphone can be used with any recorder. The only exception occurs in some early tape recorders where a polarising voltage was applied to the microphone socket, and in these cases, now fortunately rare, only the microphone recommended by the manufacturer should be used—similarly those same microphones cannot be used without the polarising voltage.

So firstly check the impedance at the microphone socket by referring to the specification sheet and then examine your own microphone. It would be very nice to be able to say that all microphones are marked with their impedance values. Unfortunately this is not so. However, if your microphone was supplied with the machine then its impedance can be taken to be that quoted in the specification sheet. Nearly all mains domestic recorders utilise what is known as a "high impedance" microphone input. If the rule is followed we are, with such machines, restricted to the use of high impedance microphones only.

One of the characteristics of the high impedance microphone is that it should only be used on a relatively short cable, whereas low impedance microphones may be used on cables of any reasonable length, say up to half a mile. The advantages of long cable runs are obvious. For many recording jobs separation between the machine and the microphone is vital and this can only be achieved by using low impedance microphones.

With domestic equipment the difficulty is easily overcome. When a low impedance microphone, together with its extended cable, is used, a matching line transformer is inserted in the cable run converting the low impedance to high and thus making it suitable for feeding into the equipment. Line transformers should always be positioned in the cable within about twelve inches of the microphone input socket; this is to keep the high impedance end of the cable as short as possible. Long high impedance microphone lines are liable to pick up electrical interference and produce hum. This danger is lessened by keeping the "high" end as short as possible, but care must be taken to avoid close contact between the transformer and mains supply cables or other sources of possible interference.

Departures from the rule of matching

impedance will result in loss of sensitivity, a deterioration in the signal to noise ratio and attenuation of some parts of the audio frequency spectrum. Gross mis-matching can result in an extreme loss of sensitivity to the point where no signal is received at all. Impedance is a property of all microphones and knowledge of its value does not indicate either the kind of microphone or its directional pattern.

THE BASIC DIRECTIONAL PATTERNS

All microphones have what is known as a directional pattern. No microphone can be used properly unless this directional pattern has been established. There are three basic directional patterns and they are:

- 1. Omni-directional or equally sensitive to sound coming from all directions.
- 2. Figure-of-eight or sensitive to sound on the front and rear faces of the microphone, but relatively dead on the two sides.
- Cardioid or heart-shape; that is, sensitive on the front face but relatively dead on the rear.

These directional patterns are usually indicated diagrammatically as shown in figures 1 to 3, but it is most important to remember that these patterns are three dimensional and not in a single plane. In other words a truly omni-directional microphone would be equally sensitive to sound as if it were in the centre of a sphere and not just in the middle of a circle around its face. In fact an omni-directional microphone will tend to discriminate against certain frequencies approaching from particular angles. The pattern obtained in laboratory tests would therefore not be quite a true sphere at all frequencies.

Similarly a figure-of-eight microphone progressively rejects certain ranges of frequencies as the sound source moves around towards its sides. The sides themselves should only be regarded as "relatively" dead; in practical use some sound is bound to "creep" around to its front faces. The same holds good for the cardioid directional pattern.

The ability of a microphone to discriminate against sounds coming from certain known directions is invaluable. It is the basis of quality recording. By the use of an appropriate directional microphone we can reduce the effect of room reverberation. There is a big difference, acoustically, between a domestic living room and a sound studio. It's much simpler to change the microphone than to change the room. Properly orientated a directional microphone will reduce the level of unwanted sound, such as traffic noises from a window. On the other hand an omni-directional instrument would be needed to record, say, a large group of people having a discussion or reading scripts. Those taking part would be arranged in a circle with the microphone at its centre. A figure-of-eight microphone would be useless for such a plan.

All owners of microphones should check on the directional patterns of their instruments if not already known. In its simplest form this is very easily done. Take a recording of a sound as it moves, three dimensionally, around the microphone. As the sound source most readily available is one's own voice, record this as you walk around the microphone, being careful to remain equidistant from it. As you move, say where you are in relation to the microphone

Continue the monologue around the face of the microphone and then up and over the top, following on round to the underside. Playback of the tape will immediately reveal the directional pattern. If in doubt, regard the microphone as omni-directional. Cardioid or figure-of-eight microphones will give an obvious result that could not be mistaken. Do not imagine that your own microphone is too insignificant to have a directional pattern. All microphones have directional patterns which can be established in the manner described.

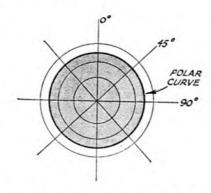


Fig. 1. The directional pattern of an omni-directional microphone, sensitive to sound from all directions

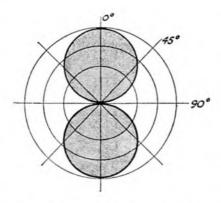


Fig. 2. Figure-of-eight: live front and rear, dead at the two sides

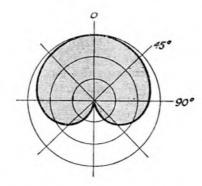


Fig. 3. A Cardioid response, relatively dead at the rear

Top Right: An A.K.G. D12 in use. This is a cardioid moving-coil, shown here with singer Freda Ryans



THE FIVE GROUPS OF MICROPHONES

Nothing we have so far said about microphones is directly related to the principles on which they operate. These may be classified, according to design, into five main groups; carbon, crystal, moving coil, ribbon and condenser. Each group has its own distinctive properties.

Carbon microphone inserts must be mentioned because there are probably more of these than any other kind. Their main use is in telecommunications where they perform a valuable service in the hand-sets with which we are all familiar. Their very limited frequency response makes them unsuitable for quality recording. They are ideal for the purpose for which they were intended, being cheap to produce, robust and small in size.

Crystal microphones are the first we can consider for serious recording work. At a cost ranging from a few shillings to about five pounds they are very robust and so will withstand a certain amount of ill use. Their output is high. The frequency response of a crystal microphone usually falls short of the accepted full range needed for top quality of music or speech. Impedance is always high so they cannot be used on a long mic. cable. As their directional pattern is omni-directional they will pick up sound from any angle. These microphones are generally regarded as good all-round instruments of low cost. Higher priced microphones of other types will give better results as might be expected. If cost is the limiting factor and the short cable does not matter then a crystal microphone is indicated.

Moving coil microphones form a most interesting group, prices ranging from a few shillings to upwards of £100. Many of the small, plastic-cased microphones offered with recorders and supplied at an inclusive price are simple instruments of this type.

The simplest kind of moving coil microphone is omni-directional. These instruments are highly suited to outdoor recording of all kinds as they are not likely to suffer physical damage from the action of wind, although this may be picked up as a grating, harsh sound in the recording. Wind shields are sold to minimise both this

(Please turn to page 406)

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ON THE FRINGE

A new monthly round-up of news from the world of hi-fi

TAKING A STROLL THROUGH THE HI-FI LABYRINTH

THE recording enthusiast soon finds his interest in his hobby embracing the very wide field of "Hi-Fi" and all its associated equipment. Paraphernalia, some might call it. But how intriguing this world of amplifiers, tuners and speakers can be. It can also be confusing—and expensive.

One can't get away from the fact that good quality equipment is needed for good reproduction of sound. There's no such thing as *perfect* reproduction; all we can try to do is to approach the original as closely as possible. In terms of pure quality it would be absurd to expect to get better out of our recorders than we feed in. If we record from a poor radio source the result must be a poor recording.

When following the traditional British pursuit of "listening to the wireless" we might not pay too much attention to the quality. A radio programme is transient; we listen, it is heard and then it is gone. Record it and its impermanence becomes permanence. Every time that tape is heard the imperfections will be repeated. The listener's annoyance will increase to the point where the tape will either be erased and re-recorded, or will be put on one side and never used again.

The term High Fidelity is misleading. If fidelity is truth, what is "high" truth? On the other hand "Hi-Fi" is a popular and convenient description which can be tied as a label to a piece of equipment, endowing it with an aura of respectability joined to a price in guineas instead of pounds. Unfortunately it has come to be accepted, rather like the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval, as representing something tangible. Regrettably it is sometimes used to deliberately mislead. We await in vain the arrival on the market of apparatus proudly and honestly announced as "low fidelity."

The only safe path through the hi-fi labyrinth is to cautiously follow makers' specifications. Cautiously, because even they may be worded ambiguously. The very best advice that can be given to anyone who is searching for really good equipment is to buy only that which carries the name of a manufacturer who, like Cæsar's wife, is above suspicion. There are many of them, their products are excellent and often no more expensive than inferior equivalents.

One last word of warning—the really inexperienced should never trust their own ears. The sense of hearing has to be educated. What might sound wholly acceptable today might become a rather nasty, grating sound tomorrow. The sound that might be pleasant in a dealer's show-room might not be at all pleasant to live with.

Living with high fidelity provides the key to the whole problem. Good class equipment is likely to serve faithfully for all, or at least most, of your listening life. It's one of the longest term investments you can make. So the choice should always be slow, careful, considered and deliberate. Like a good wife, good equipment is a joy to live with and will doubtless be a comfort in one's old age. But a bad wife. . . .

SERVICE BUREAU

A glossary of tape terms part 9 by HARRY MACK

SIGNAL.—Electrical impulses that convey the information, qualified by external factors, such as noise, distortion, when used to designate the "goodness" of an amplifying channel. For purposes of comparison, and exact measurement, the signal is related to its input and output, with noise and distortion quoted.

SIGNAL LEVEL.—Sensitivity of an amplifying channel can be quoted as a signal level required to obtain a standard output. Alternatively, the signal level may be a measured output obtained from a standard source.

SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO.—Ratio of output voltage from a tape recorded at 100 per cent modulation and replayed at a specified distortion level to the noise voltage from the system plus the tape noise itself. Readings of complete output level can be taken and compared with readings derived from replaying an unmodulated tape. A good tape recorder should have a signal-to-noise ratio better than 40 dB, i.e. 100:1.

SINGLE TRACK.—More correctly, full-track, denoting a recording made across the whole width of the tape. Much professional work is single or full-track recording, to facilitate editing and improve signal-to-noise ratio.

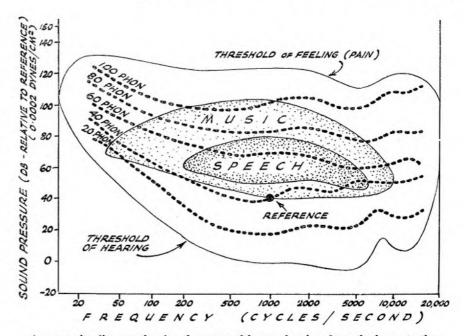
SLEEP-LEARNING.—Method of using a tape recorder to replay set lessons via a "pillow loudspeaker." The principle of hypnopaedia has been known for centuries, but only since the tape recorder has been developed has a domestic application of the method been possible. The tape recorder is arranged to switch on at preselected times, usually about an hour after normal sleeping time and about an hour before normal waking. Special time switches are used. For repetitive work of this nature, the endless cassette is an advantage, with automatic rewind or tape direction reversal.

A Sleep-Learning Association has been formed to investigate the technique and to promote and encourage what is regarded as an educational aid.

sound.—The auditory sensation at the ear, caused by particle displacement (pressure) or particle velocity when the air is set in motion. As the ear behaves in a non-linear fashion, it is necessary to measure differences in sound level logarithmically; the decibel, 1/10th of a Bel, is used for this purpose. This is an expression of the ratio of one power to another, electrically, and acoustically it is used as a statement of relative sound pressures. Thus 0 dB equals a sound pressure of 0.0002 dynes per centimetre².

Using this reference level, the unit of absolute sound measurement, loudness, is the Phon, which at 1,000 cps is the same as the decibel.

Loudness depends on the frequency of the sound; whereas a sound at 1,000 cps of 60 dB relative to the reference given



A composite diagram showing the range of human hearing, from the lower to the upper limits. At both the extreme limits "hearing" becomes "feeling." The shaded portions show the comparatively small range of intensity and frequency covered by both speech and music compared with the capability of the human ear. Heavier dotted lines show the "equal loudness" contours, which demonstrate the difference in sound pressure needed to give an equal subjective response at the ear at different frequencies. All points along each line are of equal loudness

above will produce a certain aural sensation, a much greater loudness level, about 80 dB, will be needed at 50 cps to produce the same subjective effect. But both sounds would be stated to have a "loudness" of 60 phons.

A chart of equal-loudness contours, based on average hearing, is necessary to understand the phenomenon of changing aural sensation with frequency and sound pressure.

Human hearing deteriorates with age, the higher frequencies suffering most. The lowest sound an average ear will distinguish will be around 30 cps, below which we tend to "feel" the vibrations rather than "hear" them, in the pure sense. At the upper limit, depending on age and health a frequency of 15,000 cps would be normal, with younger persons and those with acute hearing able to distinguish frequencies up to about 18,000 cps.

SPEED.—Tape transport speed is a vital standard, necessary for the replaying of pre-recorded tapes without a change in pitch. Replaying at a slower speed would lower the pitch of the musical tones and replaying at a faster speed would raise them, the amount depending on the speed difference. Twice the speed of tape travel raises the tones one octave. Regularity of speed of tape travel is necessary for faithful reproduction. (See wow and flutter.)

Tape speed has evolved from the original standard used by the German Magnetophone, the forerunner of the modern tape recorder, whose rate of tape travel was

76 centimetres per second. This is about 30 ips, and the latter figure was established by a number of makers who contributed to the advances in the technique just after World War II. (The speed of the original wire recorder, the **Telegraphone** of Vlademar Poulsen, was 7 feet per second!)

Improvements in mechanical and electrical materials and methods have made slower tape speeds possible with no loss of quality. This enables more tape to be spooled, and gives a longer playing time. Speeds, however, have been established as sub-multiples of the original 30 ips, and are now standardised at 15, $7\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{3}{4}$, $1\frac{2}{8}$ and 15/16 ips. One or two non-standard speeds are now being employed for cassette machines, 2 ips being the standard speed for many of these later entries to the field.

SPLICING.—Method of joining cut tape. Joint may be a straight butt or a diagonal cut and techniques include overlap of tape, with cement binding, use of non-adhesive tape with cement or a backing of adhesive tape.

SPLICING TAPE.—A special, pressure sensitive non-magnetic tape used for splicing magnetic tape. Its "hard" adhesive will not ooze and consequently will not gum up the recording head, or cause adjacent layers of tape on the reel to stick together. (Cellulose tape should never be used.) Can be obtained in a number of colours and used as a form of marker.

To be continued



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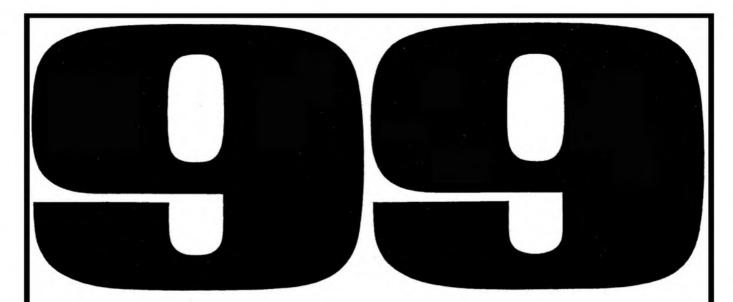
The X 300 also has Akai's unique Crossfield Head. On conventional recording heads the bias current tends to erase the higher frequencies. On the Akai Crossfield however the bias current is fed into a separate head opposite the recording head, in such a way that it can't interfere with the higher frequencies. This makes possible true high fidelity recording at much slower tape speeds than normal.

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By Audios

ONE of the snags of writing a gossip column is not the problem of what to put in, but rather the decision of what to leave out. Never before has there been so much activity in the world of recording. We could talk at some length about the recommendations of the Committee for the Mechanical Recording of Court Proceedings. Our great legal brains have at last acknowledged the existence of the tape recorder, and it is now recommended for use as an official piece of court equipment. By recording the proceedings and then typing back from the tape, a transcript will be available more cheaply, more readily, and possibly more accurately than by the employment of shorthand writers.

Although interesting, such an item of news is scarcely calculated to send our readers into transports of delight, though the shorthand writers may well be cast into the depths of despair. Progress usually breeds contention as is revealed in a recent report in the Daily Mail. Under the title "What they have done in Glenrothes for the Convenience of the Public," we learn that a £120 tape recorder has been installed in a new public lavatory in the middle of this Fifeshire town. It is said that the town's development corporation feels that the music will "counteract the silence and emptiness usually present and gives some life and cheer" to the place. Provision of the tape recorder was said to be recognised as desirable in a building of that nature. The down-to-earth Scots councillors are not going to take this suggestion lying down. One of them is quoted as saying that he had heard of music while you work but this idea was ludicrous, deplorable and daft.

So the argument will doubtless rage with all the passion and intensity of a French film. My thanks to Doris Tassell of Totnes, Devon, who sent me the cutting. It really did brighten what might otherwise have been a rather dull day.

IT'S surprising what does come floating into the office. I have a letter here from a Mr. A. C. Cleve-Sculthorpe who complains that he has in his possession a three-inch tape from a Mr. Brian Holden of Glasgow, and can't return it to him. Apparently Mr. Holden has moved. So if you read this

Mr. Holden and get in touch with us, we will put you in touch with one missing three-inch tape.

HAVE you ever read of a success story and wished it could have been about you? The President of the Sony Corporation of Japan was telling me the other day that his Company was founded twenty years ago on a capital of one hundred and eighty pounds sterling. Today its annual sales total thirty-six millions and its em-ployees number six thousand. I suppose we should consider it a tribute to the potential value of the British market that such an influential person should find it necessary to travel six thousand miles to visit this tight little island. But where is our native ingenuity, inventiveness, and business acumen? Did you have a couple of hundred pounds to spare twenty years ago? If you did and you've still got that two hundred in the bank the moral is obvious. But then it was all said so many years ago in the parable of the talents.

We've been talking quite a lot about value for money recently. Whatever the economic condition of the country the man in the street is more concerned with getting good value for the money he spends than anything else. To get value for money we need well-designed and well-manufactured equipment handled by dealers who understand what they are selling and who are prepared to honour their obligations to their customers. The greater the range of equipment and its associated accessories that becomes available the more complex is the dealer's job. We have now reached the stage where one firm (Nu-Sound Tape Recording Centres) has set up three specialist sales organisations each dealing comprehensively with one make of equipment. The advantage of this method is to give the customer, you or I, the best possible advice and specialist service. This arrangement is a very honest endeavour to provide that "something extra" for the customer and as such is to be applauded.

 $T^{\it HERE'S}$ something very intriguing about a secret. This particular secret was of some dimensions and uncertain shape, shrouded in heavy covers. The covers were not removed-I did not see beneath them. This-object-was in the home of Mr. Leslie Watts of Jordan-Watts Ltd., loudspeaker manufacturers. From beneath the covers came some of the most beautiful sounds I have heard. What is it? I've just told you it's a secret! Obviously it's a speaker, and in fact it's a single-unit stereophonic speaker, but more than that I just don't know. But I do know what it sounds like and I do know that when it's off the secret

*

list I shall have full information which I shall only be too pleased to pass on to you. In the meantime I have the memory of some of the best reproduced sound I have heard.

I am always suspicious of the sort of demonstrations we hear at the Audio Fair. To demonstrate his prototype speaker Mr. Watts used a medium quality gramophone transcription unit coupled to a medium quality amplifier. On the turntable he placed one of his children's discs—"Winnie the Pooh" I think it was—and let the results speak for themselves. Speak for themselves they certainly did.

WE'VE all read about the way in which astronauts are fitted with instruments to record their various physical conditions, such as heartbeat, body temperature, etc. You might be interested to know that a similar method is being used at Guys Hospital to record patients' cardiac conditions. Devices are fixed to the body and signals, fed to amplifiers, are recorded on magnetic tape using a multi-channel tape recorder. The tapes can be stored so the signal can be converted into visual form as a wavy line on squared paper.

Another well known use of tape in the service of humanity is in the "Black Box" used as part of the safety system in aircraft. Until the news came drifting into the office the other day I was unaware of the fact that civil aircraft are compelled by the British Ministry of Aviation to carry approved crash proof flight recorders. The words "crash proof" are interesting. We always tend to regard our recording equipment as delicate. Aircraft recorders have to stand the most exacting tests. Amongst those listed are a crashing force of five thousand pounds. Another, the "Javelin" consists of a sharply pointed, five hundred pound, steel bar being dropped from a height of ten feet to give an estimated one million seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds per square inch impact force. As if this wasn't enough the container is then heated in an open fire at a temperature of 1,100 degrees centigrade for 30 minutes and later is immersed in salt water.

This equipment must be of a different breed to the recorders that I use at home, although I must admit that one accidentally blew over in a gale of wind and suffered no damage. But that's child's play compared to the flight recorders.

A NOTHER prototype I have been looking at recently is a fifty watt bass speaker unit. Testing the unit has its own peculiar difficulties. At present it can't be used because the neighbours complain. Not of the noise but the vibration. It's smashed every piece of crockery in their cupboard. Funny what a jaundiced view some people take of progress and research.

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from page 396

must at once be confessed that no attempt was made to produce a "programme" in the true sense of the word as there was insufficient time. Nevertheless, with some trepidation we proceeded to attempt to join the sequences together by cutting out the blanks to give continuity.

To our surprise we very quickly became adept at cutting out sections of tape and rejoining at the right places. All that was needed was a forty-five degree cut across the face of the tape and a conventional splice as in standard audio practice. The mechanism is so arranged as to permit the head to revolve whilst the tape is stationary, thus giving a "still" picture on the screen, and it is in this way that the tape can be marked at the correct spot for editing. Care must be exercised not to permit the head to revolve for more than a second or two against the stationary tape—longer periods would produce excessive wear in the oxide coating.

After a couple of attempts we were getting as near perfect splices as one could wish to see. As the head passed the joint on playback there was just the tiniest trace of a horizontal hold flash on the screen. We did feel this to be one of the most significant results achieved in our testing since it proved that this equipment may be used by the amateur enthusiast to produce real television feature programmes.

The Sony Video Recorder utilises a rotating head assembly in conjunction with 4-inch tape at the conventional tape recording speed of 7½ inches per second. The rotating assembly contains two heads which revolve at a controlled speed of 25 rps. One head is used for recording and picks up every other field, or scan line. For play back both heads are used, the second head re-scanning the same field as the first. This produces the appearance on the screen of a completely interlaced 405 line picture. As with a cine projector where each "frame" is projected twice to minimise flicker, so this Sony system provides a smooth, even picture. The use of alternate-field recording and repeat field playback makes it possible to run the tape at half the speed that would be necessary if both heads were recording.

In a normal tape recorder the signal is recorded in a straight line, which moves past the stationary head at a few inches per second. Professional Video Recorders—as used by the various TV companies utilise "transverse scan," which is a small head revolving almost vertically across the tape at a fantastic speed, calling for refinements which result in this type of equipment costing many thousands of pounds. The Sony Helical Scan is a compromise between these two systems. The tape passes over the rotating heads in a spiral, thus the recordings are made virtually diagonally across the tape enabling the maximum amount of information to be recorded with the minimum usage of tape. Using helical scan permits the Synchronising Signal, Video signal and Audio signal to be recorded on one ½-inch tape at an extremely moderate cost.

from page 399

and violent breath effects when used at close range to the voice.

It is usual to pay up to £10 or more for such a simple instrument. Studio moving-coil microphones having an excellent frequency response and capable of quality work of the highest order naturally cost more. A glance around a professional studio would reveal several microphones, both cardioid and omni-directional, in the £30 price bracket and such instruments would satisfy even the most discriminating ear. One manufacturer even offers an omni-directional instrument with a sensibly flat response to 20,000 cycles per second. This gives superb quality which until recently could only be obtained by using a microphone costing three or four times as much. One can, however, still pay up to about £100 for very robust and ultra-directional studio moving-coil microphones.

Ribbon microphones operate through the action of what is literally a very fine metallic ribbon suspended in a system of magnets. Because the ribbon is fragile the microphone must be protected carefully against shock or wind. This kind of microphone is therefore reserved for use under controlled, indoor conditions. Only specially modified versions should be used outdoors.

The directional pattern is figure-of-eight. This is easily appreciated if one considers the suspended ribbon. The front and rear faces of the microphone are the front and back of the ribbon itself; the side faces are the two edges of the ribbon. Ribbon microphones are liable to distort explosive consonants and to register exaggerated breath noises. They will also accentuate the lower frequencies giving a "boomy" quality to a voice if it should approach too closely. Their disadvantages are more than compensated by their ability to give us really good quality at reasonable cost.

There are a large number of excellent ribbons available at around £10 or £12, all having a frequency response of up to about fifteen thousand cycles per second and so giving very acceptable quality on both music and speech. Ribbon microphones should never be hand-held, and should never, never be used for any kind of close talking or close singing technique. Close approach to the microphone requires the use of either the moving coil or the condenser types.

Condenser microphones are indeed the aristocrats of the microphone world. Quality is outstanding as tones of up to twenty thousand cycles are reproduced. There are complications however. The principle of operation of the condenser microphone involves the use of a polarising voltage and so the microphone must either be plugged into the mains or must operate from a specially designed battery pack. Additionally it is provided with its own electronic pre-amplifier and so its greatest disadvantage, one of cost, is likely to be considerable. At one time all microphones of this type cost £100 or more but today, thanks to improved design, a good condenser microphone can be purchased for as little as about £70. In this brief description of the different kinds of microphones we have travelled a long way from the simple crystal costing as many shillings.

HOW TO POSITION A MICROPHONE

Probably the reader already owns a microphone. If so, check on its kind and its directional pattern in the manner described. If it should be an omni-directional microphone it can now be used in the light of that established fact. Because it is omni-directional it will not only pick up the sound of your voice as you are seated in front of it, but it will also pick up the sound of your voice as it is reflected from the walls of the room in which you are seated. In addition it will also pick up traffic sounds from the road and any other stray noise that might chance to be around. The worst place to position such a microphone would be in the corner of a room where sound reflections are likely to be at their greatest. Probably as bad would be adjacent to a window above a noisy road. Sound reflec-tions and the entry of unwanted noises will at once be lessened if curtains are drawn across windows; the heavier the curtain the better. Sound reflections can be lessened by placing the microphone in front of some soft furnishing fabric such as a settee or easy chair.

The writer is only too familiar with average domestic conditions; he not only lives in them himself but he has discussed them with large numbers of amateur enthusiasts over a period of many years. In a domestic living room a suitable niche, such as on the sideboard, is found for the tape recorder. There it is kept and there it remains. The microphone, usually on about six or eight feet of lead, is used immediately adjacent to the machine regardless of whether or not this is the correct position. This is a completely wrong method of operation.

If you are working on a short mic. lead, then the maximum distance between microphone and machine is fixed. The machine itself, however, is not fixed because you may use as long or as short a mains cable between the wall socket and the machine as you might wish. In every room there are one or two positions for the microphone that will give very much better results acoustically than anywhere else. These positions should be established by patiently taking short recordings at different points. When the optimum spot is found in relation to the major items of furniture then that is the position to use even if it means temporarily removing the recorder from its home on the sideboard when in use.

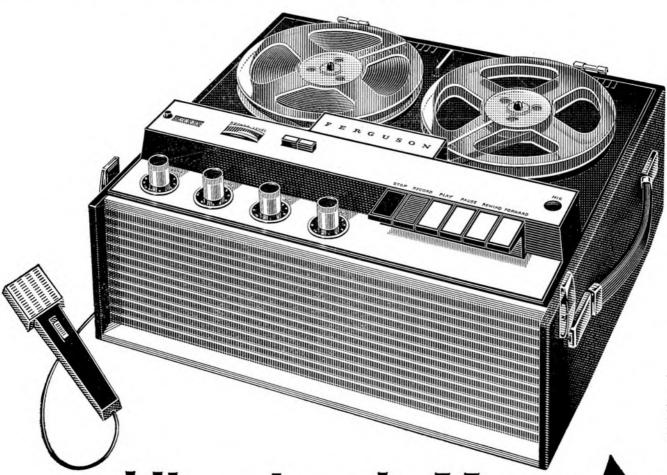
MORE EXPERIMENTS

We shall have a great deal more to say about microphones and microphone positioning. During the next four weeks do try the experiments that have been mentioned. But to make the points quite clear I would like you to try recording under two extremely different conditions. The most resonant room in the house is usually the bathroom because it is small and often tiled. Try taking a short voice recording with the microphone in the bathroom (but be careful to keep your mains lead outside).

Now try the other extreme by taking the microphone to bed. Your family may think you are crazy—ignore them. Bunch up the bedding to form a tent and crawl underneath with the microphone. This is the easiest way of achieving a dead acoustic.

(Please turn to page 411)

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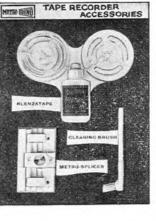
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OUR READERS WRITE

TAPE AND EDUCATION GARY CORNFORD COMMENTS

YOUR special investigation into "Tape in the Schools" (August issue) and the accompanying articles by Winifred Bayliss and Messrs. Hodgson and Ranger were really excellent and I do congratulate you on them. There is far too little creative use of tape recorders in our schools and I've yet to come across a school that does not have a machine of some sort or other. Thus there is no excuse other than that the teachers cannot be bothered or have never thought of the tape recorder as a means of making schoolwork interesting and creative.

I hope your articles will not only be read by the "converted" but will find their way into the hands of headmasters and teachers as yet "unconverted."

May I air just one criticism of Denis Gilbert's article? He stated that I "condemn this use of recording equipment (for C.S.E.) as inappropriate." It seems likely that Mr. Gilbert misunderstood me. I welcome the use of the tape recorder into the examination; what I condemn is the attitude that this is all the machine should be used for. It is after all a "recorder" and one aspect of its use is that it can faithfully record human speech. However, in many Secondary Schools the only time the pupils' speech will be recorded will be during the CSE English examination. He will probably never have the opportunity to use the machine creatively either by himself or with others.

As a side issue to this I think it worth mentioning that a large number of children nowadays have tape recorders of their own —some of them having very expensive models indeed. Many pupils are thus able to work a tape recorder but are not able to use it—their recording is limited to taping Radio London or some other "pop" station. The need to "teach tape" in schools is not only to ensure the full use of the school machine, but should also provide our affluent pupils with the ability to use their own machines properly.

GARY CORNFORD.

Southfields. London, N.W.8.

A REQUEST FROM JAPAN

YOUR name has been recommended by the tape club of Waseda University here in Tokyo, who inform me that you have a system enabling us to exchange views and opinions by recording our voice on tape.

I would be happy if you could introduce me to some friends who are interested in hearing from my country. I would like to hear what people in other countries think about the world situation today; of their cultures; and ways of life.

I have majored in English and American Literature at Tokyo University, and am now studying French. For this reason I would be happy to establish a tape exchange system in English. My full address is 3-240 Shindenmachi, Ishkawa-shi, Chiba-ken, Tokyo.

MISS MAKIKO IWAKAMI.

Tokyo, Japan.

WE ARE ALWAYS PLEASED
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THE CULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE DISABLED YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

FOLLOWING the report of a specially appointed ad hoc sub-committee, the Cultural Society of the Disabled is being completely reorganised. I have been given the job of reconstituting the Tape Reading Service.

Offers of help from individuals or clubs willing to do copying of tapes to enable the service to operate smoothly and quickly are welcome. It is hoped to start by reading from audio journals (we have readers available but would welcome volunteers who are good at it!) making eight to ten copies of each every month for distribution to

Those willing to help would be supplied with a five-inch master tape (recorded two-tracks at 3½ ips) and sufficient blank tapes to cover the needs. These would then be returned to a central address for distribution. A special label would be supplied so the volunteer(s) would be involved in no cost and would merely be giving up time to do the copying once a month. This service would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from enthusiasts willing to help blind and disabled people in this way.

64 Barrow Road, ROBIN BARCLAY.

Streatham, London, S.W.16.

RECORDING FROM RADIO OR TV

THE wording of reader Bassford's letter describing his difficulty in obtaining good recordings from radio and television (May issue), and the request for a "suitable pre-amplifier which would make the microphone more sensitive in input 2" rather makes me suspect that this reader has been trying to record radio by means of his microphone, and further that he has plugged the microphone into input 2 (radio input).

If this is indeed the case the apparent lack of sensitivity of the Reslo microphone is explained, as input 2 has not sufficient amplification for a microphone; it is intended for sources with a much higher output. Microphones should only be used through input 1, and the Ferrograph Manual explains in considerable detail the various methods of recording.

Trying to record radio by means of a microphone is a waste of time as room noises are added, and in addition the radio quality will never be of a very high standard. Better results would be obtained by connecting the external loudspeaker out-

put of the radio to input 2 on the recorder, and keeping the radio volume low, but for hi-fi recordings it is necessary to use what is known as the diode method of connection by taking the radio output from across the volume control, as mentioned in the Editorial reply.

If much recording is to be done, and firstclass quality is required, it is best to follow the Editor's suggestion and use a separate tuner unit; some of these will also supply television sound and avoid the necessity of tampering with a TV set, as the latter procedure can be dangerous owing to the live chassis and high voltage encountered. The Editor rightly warns against any attempt to connect a TV direct to a tape recorder.

L. REID.

Belfast, Northern Ireland.

MANUFACTURERS ARROGANT?

AM alarmed by the arrogance of manufacturers who introduce tape machines with non-standard tape widths and speeds. Formerly it was chiefly certain large American firms (RCA, 3M) which promoted cassette machines, but now it is the "Mr. Bigs" from the Continent.

Readers of *TAPE* know that any intelligent child can operate the normal standard open-reel tape recorder blindfolded. But with the advent of the cartridge-loaded machine even infants and the feeble-minded can join the party. Is this worth the price?

Such non-standard equipment will go far to halt tape exchanges among recording enthusiasts. Perhaps that is one of its purposes. But obviously the main goal is to make blank tape (in patented cassettes) and taped music much more costly. These factories think we don't spend enough on our favourite hobby!

It is not realistic to expect the tape journals to lead resistance against anarchy in tape machine design: Editors must maintain a neutral stance between advertiser and subscriber. But I am sure that each tape enthusiast will warn his friends against acquiring non-standard, non-compatible equipment.

J. L. BEST.

Brussels, Belgium.

TECHNIQUES CONTD.

from page 406

Take a short voice recording similar to the one in the bathroom but under these very cramped and uncomfortable conditions. If the bedroom and the bathroom recordings are now played back, one immediately after the other, you will have the two extremes of acoustic and the difference in sound quality will probably stagger you.

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JAZZ

By Mike J. Gale

THE ANATOMY OF IMPROVISATION. Dizzy Gillespie and others. WRC (TT 526), 34 ips, 29s. 6d.

There is something here for everyone especially the serious collector of jazz. In a unique presentation, sections from this tape have been transcribed and form part of "The Book of Jazz" by Leonard Feather (Arthur Barker Ltd.) giving the purchaser of both a wonderful opportunity to increase his knowledge and appreciation of what is after all, the basis of jazz.

The variety of individual talents make it impossible to spotlight a particular perfor-mance and in addition, the nature of this album is such that the entirety must be the yardstick. Its span (1949-1956) is in itself, an interesting study but while there is so much here to debate, analyse and assess, it also provides a wonderful package of pleasure.

Rightly, the programmers have restricted the items to ten: Jessica's Day. Bloomdido, Blues for the Oldest Profession, Trumpet Blues, Confab with Rab, Platinum Love, Hallucinations, Monogram, Blues in B flat and The Opener.

Rightly because the whole programme is perfectly balanced and, like that once famous advertisement, there isn't too much and there isn't too little.

Strongly recommended.

WILD BILL DAVISON. Freddy Randall (tpt); George Chisholm (tbn); Lennie Felix (pno); Dave Markee (bs); Tony Allen (dms); Ronnie Gleaves (vbs) and Bruce Turner (alt, clt). WRC (TT 552) 34 ips, mono, 29s. 6d.

William Davison, born in Ohio in January 1906, sampled his first recording session at the age of eighteen as a member of the Steinberg band. Three years later he moved to Chicago and played with a variety of bands until 1932 when, as a motorist, he was involved in an accident which took the life of his passenger, the great Frank Teschemacher.

Some rather vindictive stories circulated the first thing he said after hearing of Teschemacher's death was alleged to be "Where the hell are we going to find a clarinet player as good as Frank for the band!") and he claims he suffered for over ten years-professionally-as a result of the accident (or alleged remarks?).

His career wandered from group to group and prior to working with Eddie Condon he served in the armed forces from 1943 to 1945. Davison spent ten years at Condon's club and during this period he made several visits to Europe where he often recorded.

This album, the result of a British tour, is typical of his well known method of forgetting subtlety and lashing savagely at a melody until it is transformed into a vehicle for his rasps and growls. His lack of complication is, within limits, refreshing but the support on this album is, to be polite, impotent.

One could say, I suppose, that its interest is restricted particularly with the competition around.

The set consists of Royal Garden Blues, Memories of You, Hindustan, If I had You, All of Me, Wolverine Blues, Ghost of a Chance, Strutting with some Barbecue and Tin Roof Blues.

Gusto and charm from Russ



By Don Wedge

RUSS HOUR. Russ Conway with accompaniment by Geoff Love. Columbia (TA-33SX 6055), 3½ ips, mono, 35s.

There is no medley on this latest Russ Conway album, but nevertheless its a sing-along all the way. Conway has a winning way with refurbishing tunes that have already sold by the million, and presenting them freshly. But he never departs from the melody for an instant.

His choice here ranges from the corny Red Roses For A Blue Lady to the normally sophisticated Lullaby Of Broadway.

Conway, however, knows that the great big British public really isn't all that sophisticated, and he is happy to please them. He does so with gusto and charm.

SOUL AND INSPIRATION. The Righteous Brothers with orchestra conducted by Michael Patterson. Verve (TA-VLP 9131), 34 ips, mono, 35s.

"Soul And Inspiration" is not only the title song of this LP but its entire theme. The Righteous Brothers (who are not related) are forceful soul singers.

They strive to create an emotional experi-Their media is a set of moving ballads, their mood one of melancholia.

In its way it is stirring. But don't expect to be very uplifted.

THE SONNY SIDE OF CHER. Cher with accompaniment directed by Harold Battiste, Jr. Liberty (TA-LBY 3072), 33 ips, mono, 35s.

The colourful team of Sonny and Cher burst on Britain a year ago and threatened to be the biggest thing since sliced bread and the Beatles. They didn't quite maintain the promise but they have become an important part of today's pop scene.

This album features the female half of

the duo, and is produced by the male part, Sonny Bono.

Songs vary from Cher's own recent hit Bang, Bang to other contemporary successes like Elusive Butterfly, Like A Rolling Stone and It's Not Unusual. As such Cher suits them.

Unfortunately she is much out of her depth in Charles Aznavour's A Young Girl and the Edith Piaf success Milord, Ol' Man River and Girl From Ipanema grossly over-rate Cher's capabilities,

SPANISH EYES. Al Martino with orchestra conducted by Pete De Angelis. Capitol (TA-T 2435), 3\frac{3}{4} ips, mono, 35s.

Capitol (TA-T 2435), 32 ips, mono, 35s.
One of the big singing heart-throbs a decade ago, Al Martino has made a substantial comeback in the past year in America. His success has not been repeated in Britain to the same degree, but nevertheless he is finding renewed acceptance here.

This album is titled after his big American success of earlier in the year. The other songs on it are popular successes like My Foolish Heart, Make The World Go Away and Forgive Me.

Martino's high-tension balladeering hardly makes for relaxed listening however.

WHERE THE ACTION IS. The Ventures. Liberty (TA-LBY 1297), 3³/₄ ips, mono,

The Ventures use their guitars in quite a different way. An American beat group which has surprisingly found even greater success in Japan than in its home country, the Ventures have made nothing like the same impact here. Perhaps it's because we are well served by the Shadows.

Most of the numbers on the album are in the vogue of today and written as such. There is a leavening of such standards as Fever and A Taste Of Honey.

PARIS SWINGS. Elmer Bernstein and the Swinging Bon Vivants. WRC (TT 516),

3³/₄ ips, mono, 29s. 6d. No lover of the French café bands—those

accordions grate on me—I approached this record with reluctance.

But I was pleasantly surprised. I should have expected better of Elmer Bernstein, famous for his film scores from The Man With The Golden Arm onwards.

He takes all the hackneved French standards—Under Paris Skies, I Love Paris. La Vie En Rose and so on, but gives them modern harmonies. The result is a combination of hip and the traditional. Compromises do rot always work. This one does.

The tapes reviewed this month are issued by the

following companies.
"Capitol," "Columbia," "Liberty," "Verve,":
E.M.I. Records Ltd., 20, Manchester Square,
London. W.I.
"W.R.C.": World Record Club, Box II, Park-

"W.R.C.": World Record Club, Box II, Parkbridge House, The Little Green, Richmond, Surrey.

LEDA TAPES have introduced a scheme to enable tape recording clubs to purchase quantities of Lafayette magnetic recording tape at trade prices. The scheme (minimum order £10) also includes a guarantee that the company will repurchase the tape at the price paid up to three months after an order has been placed if the society does not wish to retain it.

Interested clubs are invited to contact Leda Tapes for full details.

Leda Tapes, 12 Montague Road, Leytonstone, London, E.11.

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TAPE RECORDING YEARBOOK, 1966 edition. Sole recorder annual.

nnual. 7s. 6d. (USA \$1.25)

Lists available tape recorders, decks, mikes, etc. including specifications and prices; addresses of Clubs, Manufacturers, etc.

The Law and Your Tape Recorder by Andrew Phelan (Barrister). 3s. 6d. (USA \$0.75) Interprets the law in UK for the tape recorder owner; what is free, forbidden, restricted.

REPLICAS of very first issue of TAPE Recording Magazine (February 1957). Unobtainable for years. 2s. 6d. (USA \$0.65)

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FOUR new models introduced by Denham & Morley at the Radio Show are the Japanese-manufactured Standard SR-100 and SR-300, the Norwegian Radionette Multicorder, and the Butoba ATB70 cassette-loaded car tane recorder.

sette-loaded car tape recorder.

The SR-100 (illustrated below) is a cassette-loaded machine designed for use with the Philips Musicassettes. Operating at 1½ ips it is powered by six UM-3 dry cells and can also be operated via an adaptor from the mains supply.

Fully transistorised, six tubes, it measures 7 x 4½ x 2½ inches and weighs 2½ lbs. It features a 1½-inch round loudspeaker handling the power output of 300mW and has a quoted frequency range of 100-6,000 cps. The playing time is thirty minutes for each of two tracks on the eighth-inch wide tape used. It costs 25 guineas.



The SR-300, illustrated top, is a twospeed half-track recorder operating at $3\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{7}{4}$ ips. With accommodation for $3\frac{1}{4}$ inch spools it will provide a playing time of 9 minutes per track using standard-play tape (175 ft.) at $3\frac{3}{4}$ ips.

The quoted frequency range is 200-6,000 cps.

Designed for vertical operation, the transistorised SR-300 is powered by six UM-2 dry cells or via mains supply using the adapter supplied. It features a 24-inch round loudspeaker handling the power output of one watt, a meter recording level indicator and remote control operation via the microphone switch. Measuring approximately 8 x 8 x 3 inches, it weighs 5 lbs. The price has still to be announced.

The introduction of the Multicorder heralds Denham's appointment as U.K. Agents for the Norwegian Radionette equipment. The Multicorder, illustrated right, is another battery-mains operated recorder.

With tape speeds of $3\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{2}{8}$ ips, and accommodation for 5-inch spools, it provides a playing time of 32 minutes for each of its four tracks using standard-play tape



(600 ft.) and $3\frac{1}{4}$ ips. The frequency range is quoted as covering 10.000 cps ± 3 dB and wow and flutter is given as better than 0.2 per cent.

Among the features are meter recording level indicator combined with battery life indicator, pause control, combined tone control and digital rev counter. The price is 49 guineas.

Their second cassette recorder is the Butoba ATB70 which is designed with provision for a built-in radio tuner unit.

Operating at a non-standard tape speed of 3 jps, the ATB70 has a quoted frequency range of 50-12,000 cps and utilises an endless tape cassette giving 24 minutes playing for each of its four tracks.

Among the features are automatic recording level control, pause control, combined tone control, and facilities for operation from five U2 batteries or AC mains. It has a power output of 1½ watts which can be augmented with a six-watt amplifier, provision for which is made in the car mounting bracket.

The ATB70 measures 104 x 9 x 32 inches and weighs 91 lbs.

Denham & Morley Limited, 173-175 Cleveland Street, London, W.1.



THE SILVER VOICE A NEW SPEAKER BY ADASTRA

LATEST unit from Adastra is their Silver Voice 15" loudspeaker which has been developed for use in audio systems either as a twelve-inch full range speaker or with mid-range and high note units.

The Silver-Voice is designed to handle a frequency range from 25-16.000 cps and has a power rating of 15 watts (RMS) or thirty watts peak. It features a ½-inch diameter aluminium voice coil coupled to the Silver Disc HF diffuser. Other features include a stress-free cone with plastic foam surround, dust proof centring device, and a cast chassis in silver enamel finish. The impedance is 15/16 ohms.

Overall diameter is $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches, overall depth being $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches and the weight $6\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Connections are via screw terminals. The Silver Voice 15 will retail at $9\frac{1}{2}$ guineas.

Adastra Electronics Ltd., 167, Finchley Road, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W.3.

WOW & FLUTTER METER AND FREQUENCY TEST DISC FROM LENNARD DEVELOPMENTS

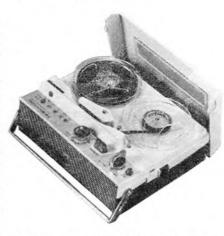
THEIR appointment as UK distributors for wow and flutter meters manufactured in Germany is announced by Lennard Developments, who also introduce frequency test records to DIN and CCIR recommendations.

The meter is the ME101 manufactured by Tech. Phys. Lab. Dipl. Ing B. Woelke of Munich. This is a fully transistorised unit designed for multiple testing and after-sales service work together with laboratory investigations, it features standardised sockets for direct connection to tape recorders for home use in addition to the normal measuring connections.

The test records are twelve-inch discs for wow and flutter measurement to DIN and CCIR recommendations. Pressed in this country, the discs feature two bands on each side, one for 33 rpm the other for 45 rpm (zero level 5 cm/sec), and include a 3,150 cps frequency tone. Primarily intended for use in conjunction with the ME101 meter, these records are also available for use with other equipment.

Lennard Developments Ltd., 7. Slades Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.

NEW PORTABLES DISTRIBUTED BY HEDDON-SMITH



T WO mains and battery-operated tape recorders have been introduced by the Heddon-Smith Group Ltd. First of the new models is the $29\frac{1}{2}$ guinea/CTR5450 two-speed recorder operating at $3\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{7}{8}$ ips.

The CTR5450, illustrated above, is a transistorised recorder with accommodation for five-inch spools providing a playing time of 32 minutes for each of its two tracks using standard-play tape (600 ft.) at 3½ ips.

Brief specifications indicate features including fast powered rewind, recording level indicator, tone control, safety erase lock to prevent accidental erasure and an output of 700 mW.

It measures $11\frac{1}{4} \times 8\frac{2}{8} \times 43/16$ inches and weighs 8 lb. The price includes a dynamic microphone with remote control stop/start and earphone.



Second new model is the CTR3000, illustrated above. Also transistorised, this model accommodates $3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch spools providing a playing time of 8 minutes per track using standard-play tape (150 ft.) at $3\frac{3}{4}$ ips. It has an alternative speed of $1\frac{7}{8}$ ips.

Measuring approximately $8\frac{3}{4}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches it weighs 5 lb., operates from four U2 batteries and is easily adapted for AC mains operation.

Included in the price of 19 guineas is a remote control dynamic microphone, earphone, three-inch reel and a demonstration tape.

Heddon-Smith Group Limited, Heddonia House, 7-9 William Road, London, N.W.I.

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Below are listed tape recorder others with similar interests.

Waite, Roy W. (39). 7, Deacon Road, Kinson, Bournemouth, Hamp-shire. Cine and slide photography, music. 31 11 ips. 7-inch spool. Stella ST458 and Philips EL3541, four-track, Stella ST471, battery portable.

Whitehead, Henry (30). Connaught Barracks, Dover, Kent. Photography, films, music, not classical. 73, 34 ips. 7-inch spool. Grundig TK60 and TK27. Female contacts preferred. Holland, Denmark, USA, Hawaii. Letters first please.

Williams, Raymond George (39), 65, Tudor Avenue, Watford, Hertfordshire. Electronics, serious music. 15, 7½, 3½ ips. 7-inch spool. Collaro tape deck with Type "C" amplifier. Sweden, Holland,

Wilkinson, John (31). 34, Gregory Crescent, Eltham, London, E.9. Motoring, all sports. 3½ ips. 5½-inch spool. Fidelity Playmaster. Wilson. George (41). 23. Highfield Street, Cemetery Road, Pudsey, York-shire. 7½, 3½, 1½, ips. 7-inch spool, Kolster-Brande and Stella, four-track.

Kolster-Brande and Stella, four-track.

Woolf, Norman (28). 42, Coleraine
Road, Blackheath, London, S.E.3.
Painting, travel, music. 73, 3½, 1½ ips.
7-inch spool. Male contacts preferred
in UK, USA. Israel.

Wrench, Alan (33). 20, Cranage
Road, Levenshulme, Manchester 19,
Lancashire. History of American
Civil War. 7½, 3½ ips. 7-inch spool.
Civic recorder. USA.

Voung. James P. (21). 7, Rusby,
Voung. James P. (21). 7, Rusby

Young, James P. (21). 7, Rugby Road, Kilmarnock. Ayrshire, Scotland Motoring. shooting, bowling, music. 7½, 3½, ½ ips. 7-inch spool. Elizabethan LZ29, Grundig TK23. Letters not required.

Young, Stan (45). 8, Kings Road, Egham, Surrey, Jazz, pop and beat music. 7½, 3½, 1½ ips. 7-inch spool. Grundig TK46.

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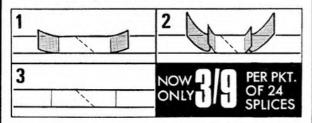
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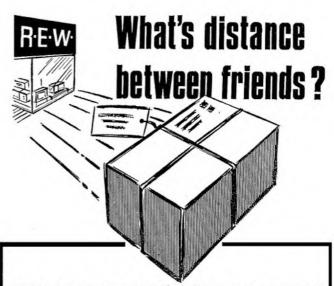
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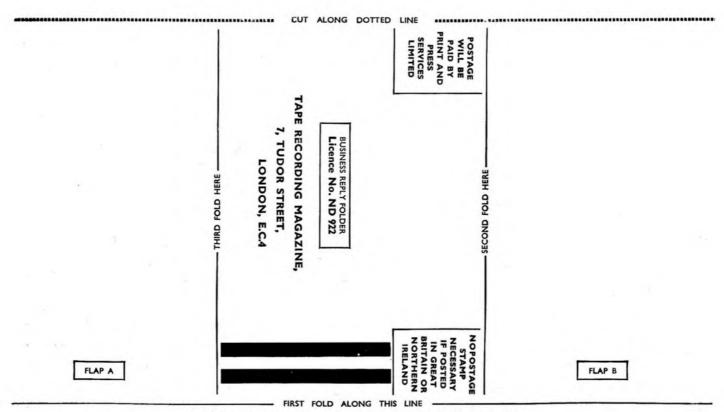
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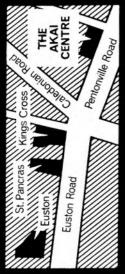
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