

A RADICAL SOFTWARE STATE-OF-THE-ART REPORT

AUDIO SHMAUDIO

Electro-Voice has a new directional mike that seems to be a good mate for the Porta-Pak. It has a volume control on the body of the mike and allows you to lower the level of sound going into the pak. This is a very useful feature in those loud sound spaces where you'd normally get distorted sound with the Sony Automatic Gain Control (AGC). It must be said that even video tapes of loud conversations have distortion caused by the poor Sony circuitry. The number of the microphone is Electro-Voice 670V and the price is about \$50.00.

IMPROVING THE VIDEO SOUND

There is an electronic system of improving sound on video and audio tape recorders. The marvel is called a Dolby noise reduction unit and costs from \$50 to \$250 depending on the quality (There's also a \$1500 professional unit). The cheapest is the TEAC AN-50 at \$50.00. What the machine does is improve the signal to noise ratio, making the sound cleaner. However, it has to be used during recording and playback. It lowers the noise inherent in tape by 10 db or 90 %. Advent, that nifty company, makes the best and most expensive Dolby units with prices from \$125 to \$250.

Improving the sound of prerecorded tapes requires something like the Metrotec graphic tone control or equalizer (FEK-1) at about \$75 with a discount. This little thing can select sounds of five different frequencies and either decrease or increase them. It allows you to get rid of noise masking a desired sound. An example would be cutting out the sound of traffic on a tape of a street interview and boosting the sound of the voices.

LENS ADAPTORS

Extenders or extension tubes for a C mount lens (video camera) can be obtained from Bolex (\$26 for a set of four) and Spiratone (\$6 for a set of three). We have a Bolex set and they're very good for macro or detailed close up work. You change the magnification range with the different size tubes, however, they don't turn a normal lens into a wide angle lens and are only good for a limited range of the zoom lenses. Spiratone also makes what they call a Tel-Extender for C mount lens. It doubles the power of your lens and sells for \$19.95. Spiratone deals with people by mail and their address is:

Spiratone Inc.
13506 Northern Blvd.
Flushing, N.Y. 11354

OWNERS OF BATTERY BELTS

If you have a BP 30 you should adapt it so it can be charged from the Porta-Pak's power supply. The power supply will not over charge the battery belt. The charger Sony gives with the belt is unregulated (has no feedback from the battery that says it's had enough) and can over charge and ruin the belt. Over charging can happen if you leave the belt charging to long.

TECHNO CATALOGS

Some good catalogs to send for if you're into building hardware and surplus equipment.

B & F Enterprises
P.O. Box 44
Hathorne, Mass. 01937

Cheap IC's, electronic and optical

Gerber Electronics
852 Providence Hwy.
US Rte. 1
Dedham, Mass. 02026

Wide range of cheap IC's,

Denson Electronics Corp.
P.O. Box 85
Rockville, Conn. 06001

"World's Largest Selection of
new and used
TV cameras and Equipment."



THE EGG STORE
VIDEO FACILITY

THE EGG STORE is a new production and editing facility developed by C.T.L. Electronics and Frank Cavestani, and located at 146 Reade Street, just two blocks from C.T.L.'s showroom and service department. The primary function of The Egg Store is to provide a high quality production and editing facility for both 1 inch and 1/2 inch video tape, and to offer an environment for experimentation in the art and technology of video production. In addition, material can be transferred from 1/4 inch Akai, 1/2 inch CV, 1/2 inch AV, super 8, 3/4 inch cassette to 1 inch for editing, and then transferred back to the original format for distribution. Material shot on Akai, Sony, Panasonic, Javelin, IVC and Ampex equipment can be handled at The Egg Store.

The studio will also be equipped for multi-media presentations including film, slides, audio and live actors, dancers and musicians.

Special considerations will be given to artists and non-profit groups to use the facility during unscheduled hours at a nominal fee. Careful consideration has been given to the needs of the video community, including the capacity for closed circuit viewing of tape for audiences up to 40 persons. The close proximity of C.T.L.'s service department assures that the equipment will always be operating at the required standards. Artists and engineers are welcome at The Egg Store. For more information contact Frank Cavestani or Lynda Rodolitz at (212) 431-5293.