

Hardware Hints from Videoball

JOE REPAIRBEAR SAYS:

Tired of that cable mess? Try Lowel clips for your cables. They're reusable - no gummy tape residue. It keeps your cables coiled neatly. Treat them kindly and they won't need fixing. Clips are available from: Lowel-Light Photo Engineering, 421 W. 54th St., New York, N.Y., 10019 for \$3.50.

Headcleaning: If you want to be sure that that head is clean, get a 50x magniview. It is usually used to inspect phonograph needles for wear. Watch for a greyish deposit on the head. It takes a little practice to hold it steady enough to see through clearly, but keep on trying.

Those little metric screws for the 3400 are hard to find when they get lost. So I found a place to get metric-screws. Try: Capital Screw and Nut, Co., Box 1061, 611 Bergman St., York, Pa., 17405. They can order for you if your size isn't in stock. Sizes are listed in the back of the service manual.

Them Sony mike cables have a notorious reputation for shorting out just when you need them. So we changed our system over to a heavier cable -- 2 conductor shield with Cannon ends. They seem to be able to take a real beating and not break. You use a Cannon female to a male mini to get into the deck.

Mikes: A good unidirectional is the Shure Unisphere dynamic 210 SD. A better one is the unidirectional Beyers M260N. It needs a windscreen outside and cannot be blown into - that can break the little metal ribbons. Both range from \$60-\$70.

A cheap headphone that we've had pretty good results with is the Telex 610 D, 600 ohms. It costs about \$7.50.

As for braces, we've tried almost everyone on the market: Arri, Leopold Ugli Pod, Camera Mart, Preznal double shoulder, Universal shoulder pod from Cine 60. The two we like best are: the Preznal double shoulder brace (it is a little heavy, but well-liked by women), and the Universal shoulder pod (good all round uses, light, but not too enclosing). Both have camera mounts modi-

fied for the Sony portapak camera. Available from: CINE 60, 630 Ninth Ave., New York, N.Y., 10036. Price is \$198.00.

Batteries: WARNING!!! THE BP-30 IS DANGEROUS!!! We had three explode. The battery paks were charging. After they were unplugged, they started exploding. One of the cells was driven through a sheet metal shelf! Watch out for overcharging!



I had a BP-30 that read o.k. on a volt meter but burned out the power board on a portapak. The BP-30's have become a pretty frustrating problem for us. Any suggestions???

Question: How can you tell how much to charge them?

Answer: You can't.

An Alternative: the CINE 60 Belt.

This belt is more expensive than the BP-30 but seems to be more reliable. The only problem is overcharging. One way to check the belt for overcharge is to put the deck in standby/record mode and watch the needle on the battery level meter. If it goes past the silver into the black, leave the deck in the standby/record mode until