

Ambisonic Decoder

A new unit from IMF Electronics brings the days of universal acceptance of the UHJ Ambisonic system even closer. Previously, the only decoder available has been one from Integrex, which has been around for a few years. Whilst this was designed primarily for the domestic market, the new IMF *D20B* decoder will equally be at home in the Ambisonic studios of the future.

Controls on the unit include master volume, layout (for setting up the system for your particular speaker positions), a UHJ button for Ambisonic decode, a 'test' position, a B-Format switch for replay of non-matrixed UHJ material (eg master tapes), forward preference and distance compensation switches (to bias the decoder towards the front of the Ambisonic soundfield, and to compensate for closeness to the speakers respectively), and a 'super-stereo' switch with associated 'width' control, to enable normal stereo material to be played back in 'simulated surround-sound'. This latter feature gives added image stability to normal stereo signals and enables the user to determine the desired width of the sound-stage.

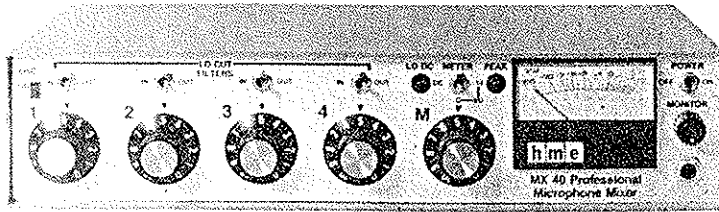
Initially, decoders are being made available on a limited basis, allowing audiophiles and professional users to experience the system. During initial setting up, the unit requires a fairly complex lining-up procedure, but when the basic parameters (like speaker layout) have been determined, the unit is very simple to operate. For those who have experienced Ambisonics, stereo will no longer be sufficient: this decoder makes professional and domestic surround-sound use easily practicable and is sure to have an impact on the development of future sound recording and reproduction techniques.

Hire service

Mobitrack Sound Processes, which was formed three years ago to hire and service professional sound equipment for the film and TV industry, has now entered the recording industry market.

Current services offered by Mobitrack include sound film transfer to and from 1/4in and SN Nagra tapes, 35mm and 16mm magnetic film; master duplicating on tape or cassette; hire of tape recorders, mixers, mics and cables, and video equipment; and servicing and parts supply for a variety of products.

Mobitrack Sound Processes Ltd, 4 Latham Road, Twickenham TW1 1BN, Middlesex. Phone: 01-891 2815.



UHF wireless mics

Four new UHF studio quality wireless microphone systems are now available from HM Electronics Inc.

Operating on 400-470MHz they offer more additional open channels than are available in VHF radio bands alone particularly in multiple systems.

Both the *System 24E Body Pac* and

the *System 27E Handheld UHF* systems are available with standard and portable receivers and all are based on HME's existing dynamic expansion design which reproduces the input signal linearly to over 100dB.

HM Electronics, Inc, 6151 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, Cal 92120, USA. Phone: (714) 280-6050.

Valley People Gain Brain II

Valley People, formed from the recently merged Allison Research and Valley Audio, has introduced its first new product the *Gain Brain II* limiter/compressor/Ducker. Based on psycho-acoustic research into the relationship between waveforms and perceived loudness, the device features waveform recognition circuitry which it is claimed gives significant improvement in dynamic integrity during limiting, and less pumping etc. than conventional peak or rms responsive devices. The unit offers the usual comp/limiter functions plus other facilities, such as an interactive gain control device (ducker) and controlled impact accentuation giving the effect of expansion even though the device is actually limiting. The device has provision for stereo intercoupling, side chain operation for frequency dependent gain control, and for remote VCA and/or remote GR metering. *Gain Brain II* costs \$380, is designed to mount in the *TR 804* processing package, and can be used with the Valley People *EGC 101* VCA which is utilised as the unit's feed forward gain control element.

Valley People Inc, PO Box 40306, 2820 Erica Place, Nashville, Tenn 37204, USA. Phone: (615) 383-4737.

Calrec automation system

A new automation system from Calrec Audio, is designed around its recently developed digitally controlled attenuator (DCA). This offers great noise and expense advantages over the VCAs currently used by most systems. The associated micro-processor based automation has dedicated key and ASCII input, floppy disk store and VDU output, with optional hard copy printer. The system will operate with SMPTE, Maglink or EBU timecode.

Calrec Audio Ltd, Hangingroyd Lane, Hebden Bridge, Yorks HX7 7DD. Phone: 0422 84 2159.

Stolen equipment . . . 1

During the evening of September 29, prior to the 5th Sound Broadcast Equipment Show held at the Albany Hotel, Birmingham, several items of NEAL-Ferrograph equipment were stolen from the NCP car park adjacent to the hotel. Anyone with information on the items listed below are requested to contact NEAL-Ferrograph or the *Studio Sound* editorial office:

NEAL 302 Cassette recorders (black with teal end checks), serial nos. 31275 and 31464;

Ferrograph *SP7* type A2 stereo (balanced) recorder, serial no. 107471;

Ferrograph *SP74* 4-channel logging recorder, rack mount version, serial no. 108254;

Ferrograph *RTS2* audio test unit with tape and leads, in black leather carrying case, serial no. 4853; and Ferrograph *ATU1* auxiliary test unit with test leads, in black leather carrying case, serial no. 1842.

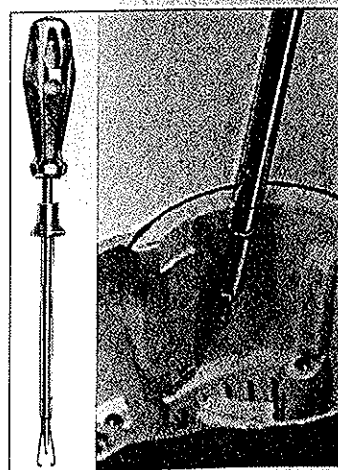
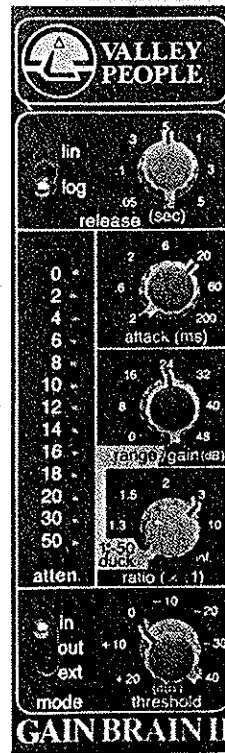
NEAL-Ferrograph, Simonside Works, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE34 9NX, UK. Phone: 0632 566321.

Stolen equipment . . . 2

We have also been notified that a Brenell *Mini 8* has been stolen, serial no. 000382/L8. If you are offered this machine, please contact either the police or Mr G Lawson at Listenfine Ltd, 22 Gibson Square, London N1 0PD. Phone: 01-359 0411 or 01-840 3444.

Stolen equipment . . . 3

Recently stolen in London was one of the first Klark-Teknik *DN60* 1/3-octave realtime spectrum analysers, serial no. A004. Anyone with information on this analyser is asked to contact David Leake, sales/marketing manager, Klark-Teknik Research Ltd, Walter Nash Road West, Kidderminster, Worcs, UK. Phone: 0562 741515.



Screw-holding screwdrivers

A new range of screw-holding screwdrivers has been introduced by Drapers. Ideal for inserting and starting screws in narrow spaces or where a spare hand is needed to hold a torch, the screws can be held and released with a one-handed action.

Standard blades are available in 4, 5 and 6mm widths and for cross-head screws blades can be obtained for Nos 1 and 2 size screws.

Available from tool and hardware stores, the screwdrivers cost under £3. Further details on these and other hand tools from B Draper & Son Ltd, Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants.