NEWS

Stellavox purchased, reorganized; convertible A/D machine announced

Stellavox, the Swiss tape recorder manufacturer, has been purchased by Goldmund, a Swiss manufacturer of high-end consumer audio components. The company has been reorganized and given a new name, Digital Audio Technologies.

A number of new products have been announced in conjunction with the acquisition, including synchronizing devices for film and television and the simplification of the portable recorders under the name of SP9.

Also announced was a program to upgrade the TD9 to a convertible analog/digital machine. New machines will be able to be converted from analog to digital recording by exchanging pluggable elements, including the headblock, tensiometers and electronics. The digital elements will be available for different standards, and existing owners will be able to upgrade their machines.

Gentner acquires Texar

Gentner Electronics has acquired Texar, a manufacturer of audio processing equipment for broadcast facilities, in a cash transaction. Texar's Monroeville, PA, facility has been closed and all operations have been moved to Gentner's Salt Lake City facility.

President Russell Gentner said that the product line will continue to carry the Texar name, and several new products will be introduced in the near future.

Ambisonic operas broadcast

Four operas recorded digitally in ambisonic surround sound were broadcast in October by National Public Radio stations.

Recorded by KWMU-FM, the St. Louis public radio station that regularly airs ambisonic programs, the operas were distributed as part of the "World of Opera" series.

Ambisonic recording allows listeners with ambisonic decoders can hear the program with front/back information, in addition to the regular left/right stereo information. Listeners without decoders hear the material in normal stereo or mono.

The operas were recorded by Barry Hufker, with Mary Edwards and John Miller. Equipment used included the AMS/Calrec SoundField microphone and Series M mixing console; mics by Shure, Schoeps and Neumann; and Valley People

mic pre-amps. Additional ambisonic equipment was built by Audio & Design, including a UHJ transcoder, which converts an ambisonic signal into two, stereo/mono-compatible channels, and a pan-rotate unit, which allows a sound to be positioned at any point around the listener.

KWMU premiered the first ambisonic broadcast in May 1984.

Fostex equipment stolen

Fostex reports that equipment en route from a trade show was stolen from a Ryder van parked at 3760 Caheunga West on the evening of Oct. 2. All of the equipment was contained in individual Bobadilla gray ATA-style flight cases with the orange Fostex logo on the sides.

The equipment and their serial numbers are:

- 1 Fostex 160 recorder, #617611.
- 2 Fostex 260s, #0601 and #2584 (numbers are last four in series).
- 2 Fostex X-30s, #591696 (look out for #602861, #597843, #608015, #602875).
- 1 Fostex model 80 recorder, #0205009.
- 1 Fostex 4030 synchronizer, #1201 or #0250 (last four numbers).
- 1 Fostex 4035 synchronizer controller, #0119 (last four numbers).
- 2 Fostex 460 recorders, #0200153, #0002 (last four numbers).
- 1 Fostex 1840 mixing console, #004 (last three numbers).
- 1 pair of Fostex RM900 monitors, #805039 and #805040.
- 1 pair of Fostex 6302B monitors, #6134, 6135 (last four numbers).
- 1 Fostex M20 mic, #0200011.
- 1 Fostex M55 mic, no serial number available.
- 1 pair of Fostex T-20 headphones.
- 1 Sony VO 5800 video recorder, no serial number available, but has a special Fostex factory modification, which is a 20-pin connector labeled Shinji 8540 mod.
- 1 Fostex SPA 11 powered speaker with mic stand adapter.
- 1 Sony KV XBR 25-inch video monitor.

Anyone with information concerning the equipment should call Steve Teipe at Fostex at 213-921-1112. A reward is available for information that leads to the recovery of the stolen equipment and/or the arrest and conviction of any suspects.

UCLA plans winter engineering courses

The UCLA Extension Department of the Arts has scheduled four recording engi-

neering classes this winter.

"Recording Engineering Practice I" will meet on Wednesdays from Jan. 4 through March 22, and will be taught by Van Webster. The workshop will deal with recording studio procedure, giving each student experience as a mixer, recordist and setup person. The workshop will meet at Webster's studio, Digital Sound Recording. The fee is $895.

"From Fixer to Mixer: Studio Operation and Maintenance" will meet on Thursdays from Jan. 2 through March 23, and will cover first-level servicing, alignment, diagnosis and repair of audio recording and related equipment. Duke Gee, a service technician with Fostex, will be the instructor. The course will meet at UCLA; the fee is $450.

"Audio Signal Processors: Effects Devices—A Workshop" is on Mondays from Jan. 9 through March 20. The workshop will provide a detailed examination of outboard equipment, including lectures, discussion and hands-on exercises. Independent engineer Michael Braunstein will be the instructor. The workshop will meet at UCLA and the fee is $295.

"The Merging Technologies of Audio and Video: A Production Workshop" will meet on Thursdays from Jan. 29 through March 16, and will deal with the new tools available to audio producers, engineers and musicians, and visual producers, editors and technicians. Topics covered include audio-for-visual production planning, film scoring in the computer age, synchronizing audio/audio, audio/video and MIDI/SMPTE, digital audio recording on videotape, music and sound effects for visual post-production and new techniques for stereo television. Lectures will be at UCLA, and production sessions will be at Metavision studios. The instructor will be Theo Mayer, president of Metavision. The fee is $295.

For more information, contact UCLA at Box 24901, Los Angeles, CA 90024; 213-825-9064.

MacMusicFest 2.0 announced

The second annual MacMusicFest has been expanded to two days and is scheduled for Dec. 3-4 at the Paramount lot in Hollywood.

Hosted by Filmsonix, the Record Plant affiliate, and Apple Computer, the festival will include the latest in Apple systems, music software, synthesizers, and film and television products. Also included will be