

Video Review

Equipment
Test Reports
plus
Latest Tape &
Disc Reviews

\$1.75

THE WORLD AUTHORITY ON HOME VIDEO

VIDEODISC FEVER: 10 Questions to Ask When You Buy

**Vacationing with
Your Video Gear**

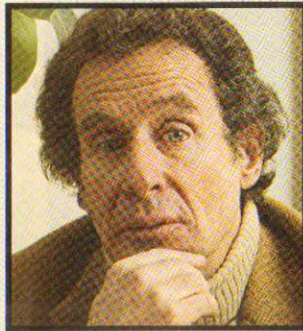
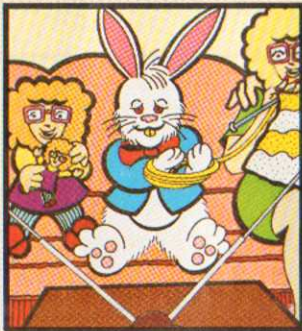
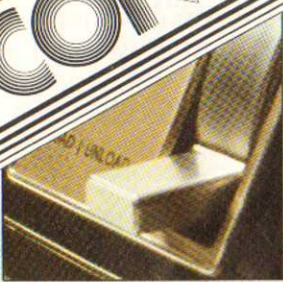
**Where to Get Your Home
Productions Shown**

**Year's
Best Tapes
and Discs**



APRIL 1981
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Video Review®



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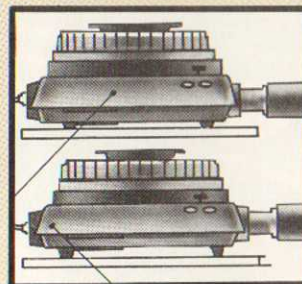
Test Reports *Exclusive: published for the first time anywhere, an in-depth study of 11 Beta-format blank videocassettes, from Ampex, Bedco, Dupont, Fuji, Scotch, Sony, TDK, Toshiba, VX and Zenith. Also, a note on RCA's new videodisc player 32*

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**GOLD STAR
Color TV Set
CMB-2020**

The centerpiece of most home-video systems is still the popular 19-inch TV set. And Gold Star's new color model has push-button controls plus direct-access remote-tuning control to switch from VHF to UHF channels.

A 13-inch companion model, the CMB-1410, is also new from the company.

Gold Star, 330 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017 (212) 687-7977



**ACTIVISION
Video-Game Cartridges**

Laser Blast, Tennis \$21.95 each

For Space Invaders fans who've grown tired of watching themselves get blown off the face of the earth, Activision's latest video-game cartridge lets you get blown up out of the sky. Turnabout is fair play in *Laser Blast*, where you control a starfleet under attack from a hostile planet.

Another new cartridge, *Tennis*, features animated players whose repertoire includes rushing the net, drop shots and other strategies.

Compatible only with Atari or Sears video-game systems.

Activision, Inc., 3255-2 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95051 (408) 727-7770

**MAGNAVOX
Videocassette Recorder
8310 \$799**

Magnavox's new six-hour VHS recorder is designed for simplicity and relatively low cost. Basic functions, a quartz-activated digital clock and remote pause control are the principle features of the machine.

Its size makes it easy to store, and it features a leatherette exterior. Three other models in Magnavox's VCR line come with additional features such as remote control and 14-day programmability.



Magnavox Consumer Electronics Co., I-40 and Straw Plains Pike, PO Box 6950, Knoxville, TN 37914 (615) 521-4332



**JVC
Color Videocamera
GX-88U \$999.95**

You can help conserve energy on your next video shoot with JVC's new energy-efficient videocamera. It operates at relatively low wattage and includes a standby mode to further conserve power.

A two-position color switch and electronic viewfinder are among the

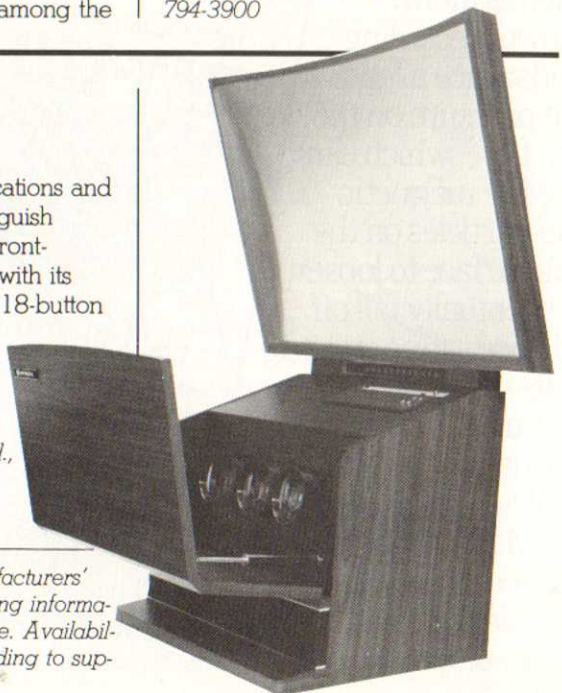
camera's standard features, plus it comes with a shoulder-bag-size carrying case. JVC's wide-angle and telescopic lenses or monitors can be eventual add-ons.

The 3.2 pound camera can record for an hour using a rechargeable power pack. US JVC Corp., 41 Slater Drive, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407 (201) 794-3900

**HITACHI
Projection TV Set
CT-5011 \$3,300**

High brightness specifications and an array of features distinguish Hitachi's new one-piece, front-projection system. Along with its 50-inch screen comes an 18-button remote control, five-inch woofers and two-inch tweeters in each of two speakers for stereo effect.

Hitachi, 401 W. Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90220 (213) 537-8783



All listed prices are manufacturers' suggested retail. Some pricing information not finalized at presstime. Availability of products varies according to supply and locality.

Answers and advice from the games hotline



Phil Wiswell

I've been answering reader mail for a year now, and I am pleased to report that I no longer receive letters from people asking if a video game will hurt their television sets. (In case there's still any

doubt out there, the answer is a definite "no!") Since many readers seem to have the same questions, I'll answer a few I hear the most with this month's column.

Question: *I own a Bally Professional Arcade system, and I'm worried. I've heard rumors that Bally might sell it to another company, or discontinue producing it. I'd hate to see such a fine video game go the way of the Fairchild. What's up with Bally?* —Worried

Dear Worried: Stop worrying. I know you haven't heard much from Bally during the past year, but a company called Astrovision has bought the Professional Arcade from Bally and is gearing up for a heavy marketing and promotion campaign to stimulate new interest in the machine. At the 1981 Winter Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Astrovision even introduced new game cartridges. More important, it introduced a new ZGRASS 32 keyboard (\$600) that attaches to the Professional Arcade, converting it into a home computer with 5K memory (expandable to 32K).

Question: *I am considering buying a television video game, but I only have a black-and-white set to hook up to. Is that okay?* —No Color

Dear No Color: While any video game will hook up to your black-and-white set, I don't recommend it. Several years ago I would have said it won't affect the game play, but that's no longer true. Games

have become very sophisticated—not only do you need to differentiate teams or objects on the screen through color, but color has actually become part of the gameplay in some cartridges. Mattel, for instance, labels the cartridges for its Intellivision system "For Use With Color TV Only." I actually tried Intellivision on a black-and-white set and, believe me, it's confusing. The game will work, but two things happen: (1) You don't get the arcade-like excitement visually that you would in color, and (2) You end up shooting down your own spaceships or tackling your own quarterback!

Question: *I am forever tripping over the wires that connect the hand controllers to my video game system, and they end up quite tangled. Does anyone make longer wires?* —Clumsy

Dear Clumsy: I've often experienced your problem myself, but short of soldering longer wires onto the machine (which I do *not* recommend), there's not much you can do. If you really want freedom in playing video games, you should check out Atari's new V.C.S. with wireless hand controllers. It's remote control, works from 50 feet away, and is every bit as functional as Atari's old controllers. Hopefully other video game manufacturers will follow suit and free us all from the bonds of tangled wire.

Question: *I can't decide which I want more: a video game or a home computer. I love to play video games on the television, but I really don't know that much about computers. What should I do?* —Confused

Dear Confused: Since you know you like video games, why not start with that? You won't be disappointed. Otherwise, you could invest hundreds of dollars in a home computer you'll never use. The best advice is to go to a com-

puter store or to a friend's house to try out computing for yourself. If you discover you have some interest in learning what you can do with a computer, then you might consider buying a video game system that can be converted into a fully operative home computer with the addition of a keyboard. The Imagination Machine by APF, Intellivision by Mattel, and the Professional Arcade by Bally are three good systems that work this way, and all are expandable so you won't end up with a powerless computer.

Question: *I've heard there's a company making game cartridges for Atari's Video Computer System, but I've searched all over and I can't find them. How can I get the games?* —Still Looking

Dear Still Looking: The company is called Activision (759 E. Evelyn Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086), and it will be well worth your while to get in touch with them. Activision now has 10 cartridges on the market for use with Atari's system, and some of them are better than the games Atari designed. Some of my favorites are *Skiing*, *Dragster* and *Boxing*.

Question: *The hand controls for my video game have loosened and don't work right anymore, and I also have two games that are broken with too much use. My problem is that I don't know where to get them fixed.* —Broken Up

Dear Broken Up: First, get the address of the manufacturer and then write to its Customer Relations Department, describing your problem. Ask what should be done. They'll probably tell you to send the set back to them.

Anyone with a question concerning video games should send it to me by writing to Games Editor, *Video Review*, 325 E. 75th St., New York, NY 10021. □