

Video Review

Latest Tape & Disc Reviews plus Equipment Test Reports

\$1.75

THE WORLD AUTHORITY ON HOME VIDEO

NEW PRODUCT PREVIEW

Exclusive CES Report

Matching Equipment to Your Needs

Beware of Retail Rip-Offs



AUGUST 1981
CONTENTS

Video Review®



SPECIAL REPORT

Fall New Product Preview By Robert Angus. Full report on all the upcoming video equipment, prerecorded programs and accessories, from the Consumer Electronics Show **42**

FEATURES

The VCR Head-Cleaning Controversy By Marc Wielage. Dirty heads are among the most common—and most serious—of all VCR problems. What's the best way to correct them? Our step-by-step photo-guide shows how the pros do it. Plus: 10 Do's and Don'ts of Do-It-Yourself Head Cleaning **46**

The Plain-English Guide to 'Time-Shift' By Frank Lovece. Most VCR owners pay a small fortune for fancy taping features but few people take advantage of them. Now here's a down-to-earth guide to understanding time-shift, with a complete glossary of time-shift terms **50**

Reading Between the Lines of Local Video Ads By Robert Gerson. It's easy to be bamboozled and ripped-off by deceptive or misleading newspaper ads, unless you know exactly what to look for **52**

What Equipment is Right for the Programs You Like Best? By Robert Denmark. A rare look at the important relationship between the video equipment you buy and the programs you like to watch, to help you tailor a complete video system that matches your personal tastes **56**



EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

Test Reports Technical Editor Len Feldman and the CBS Technology Center report on their in-depth, hands-on tests of: Magnavox VR8340BK01 tabletop VCR . . . Vidicraft Detailer I image enhancer . . . Sony HVC-2000 color videocamera . . . Zenith VR9750J tabletop VCR **23**

PROGRAM REVIEWS

Video Picks Feature reviews of new tape and disc releases: Roy Hemming on Masada . . . Andrew Sarris on Somewhere in Time . . . David Hajdu on One Trick Pony . . . Leonard Maltin on Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis TV Party . . . Rex Reed on The Threepenny Opera . . . William K. Everson on D.W. Griffith: The Biograph Period . . . Marjorie Rosen on Asylum . . . Eric Berger on Vanishing Africa . . . Pete Couros on The Super Seventies and Ali: Skill, Brains and Guts . . . Al Goldstein on Sex Boat and Pink Champagne . . . plus more In Brief... **65**

Video Flicks Capsule reviews of movies (old and new) currently available to broadcast TV and cable TV, reviewed with home videotapers in mind **86**

Answers to May's Phony Flick Contest **102**

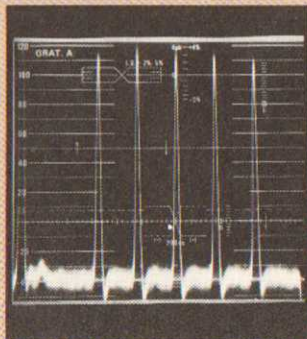
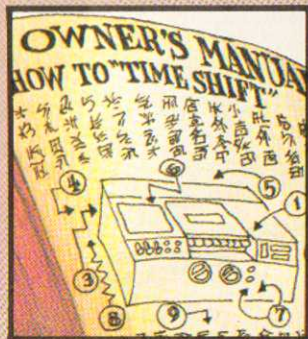
DEPARTMENTS

- Viewpoints** From editor David Hajdu **6**
- Freeze-Frames** A lighthearted look at video events **8**
- Newsbreaks** Art Levis on late-breaking video news **13**
- Questions** Video experts answer readers' questions **15**
- New Products** This month's hottest hardware **20**
- Top Tapes and Discs** Current bestsellers **66-67**
- Video Previews** What's due for release on tape and disc ... **82**
- Coming on TV** Worth viewing or taping this month **85**
- Video Views** Bob Angus on video Big Brotherism **104**
- Looking Ahead** Bob Gerson on flat-screen TV sets **106**
- Games** Phil Wiswell on games with wireless remote **108**

CONTINUING SERIES

Direct It: Jim Burrows Tells You How The director of TV's Lou Grant, Taxi and other hit series reveals some of the techniques that helped make him one of the most successful directors in television **58**

Critics' Choice: Taping Great Movie Scenes By Clive and Christopher Barnes. VCRs allow you the unique opportunity to compile your own customized anthology of the great moments in movie history. Here are the Barnes' critical choices for starting your own collection, complete with taping cues. Plus, a look at prerecorded anthologies of scenes **60**



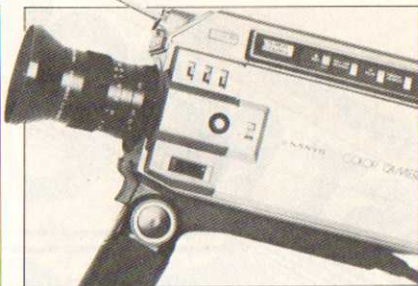
Cover Photo by Richard Fain

SANYO
Color Videocamera
VSC450 \$1,150

If you ever wished you had more hands during a videotaping outing, Sanyo's newest offering could be of help. It's one of the first video-cameras to feature remote-control VCR transport controls for activating your attached VCR's for-

ward and reverse visual scan. Along with the camera's 1½-inch monitor/electronic viewfinder, these remote controls let you "insert edit" current scenes into those you taped earlier.

Its 6:1, two-speed power zoom lens has an automatic iris.
Sanyo, 1200 W. Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90220 (213) 537-5830



QUASAR
Color Videocamera
VK-731TE \$1,120

Even though most videocameras require very little light, there are times when you might want to control the direction and amount of light for a scene. Built-in light shoes atop Quasar's new videocamera (and the slightly less sophisticated VK-726TE) let you attach any standard photographic lights.

The new camera also has an f 1.6, 6:1, two-speed power zoom lens with macro capability, a side-mounted electronic viewfinder and



an automatic iris with manual override. A fade-in/out control and boom microphone also come standard.

Quasar, 9401 W. Grand Ave., Franklin Park, IL 60131 (312) 451-1200



MAGNAVOX
Video-Game Cartridge
U.F.O. \$29.95

Evade the Starduster Drone Mines and defeat the deadly Fireball Satellites. Video sharpshooters can plug in this latest Magnavox cartridge into that company's Odyssey² video-game console and watch the photons fly.

The game includes memory displays of high-score-to-date and that scorer's name.

Magnavox, Interstate 40 and Straw Plains Pike, Knoxville, TN 37914 (615) 521-4332

MITSUBISHI
Projection TV Set
VS-515U \$3,800

The first projection TV set with built-in space for a VCR, the VS-5154 is a one-piece model with a 50-inch screen (measured diagonally). It is equipped to handle cable TV and stereo sound. Supplied jacks let you plug in outside speakers, and an amplifier provides simulated stereo sound during monaural programs.

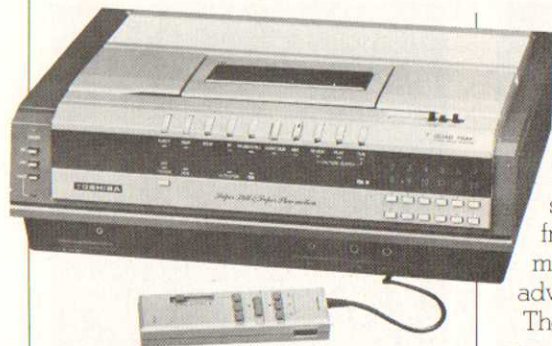
Scheduled for September availability, the three-tube model comes with an aluminized vinyl-

coated, washable screen.

Mitsubishi Electric Sales America, 3030 E. Victoria St., Compton, CA 90221 (213) 537-7132



Unless otherwise noted, all information is manufacturers' data—not results of Video Review tests or measurements. All listed prices are manufacturers' suggested retail. Availability of products varies according to supply and locality.



TOSHIBA
Videocassette Recorder
V-8500 \$1,495

Toshiba's new "Quad Trak" is a

four-head Beta VCR with a wide range of special effects. Programmable to eight events over 14 days, the recorder features two-, 17- and 40-times-normal-speed visual scan, as well as freeze-frame, variable slow motion and single-frame advance.

The solenoid-control VCR comes complete with multi-function, wired, remote control.

Toshiba America, Inc., 82 Totowa Road, Wayne, NJ 07470 (201) 628-8000

Look, no wires: Games by remote control



Phil Wiswell

A few days after receiving a new Remote Control Video Computer System from Atari, I made plans to have it photographed and sent it to the studio the night before the session. Later that evening, I received a phone call from the photographer. He sounded frantic and I had visions of my new game having been crushed to smithereens beneath a lighting pole.

"You forgot to send the connecting wires for the hand controls!" he chided. I assured him I had forgotten nothing—that you don't need wires with the new VCS—and that the hand controls work like walkie-talkies. There was silence for a moment. "You're kidding!" he squealed and then the line went dead.

Irresistible Game

Five minutes later (enough time to set up the console and figure out how to turn on the hand controls), the phone rang again. "You forgot to send any cartridges!" cried a desperate voice. I hung up the phone and smiled sadistically as I realized that the photographer's predicament was more than enough punishment for disturbing me at home late at night. There he sat with the newest thing in video games, months before the public would see it—and he couldn't even play a game! The joke was on me, however, as the next day he refused to photograph the system until I let him play all the new games.

The sleek, futuristic design of the console includes a slanted function-control panel. Power, difficulty level, select and reset functions are no longer switches, but pressure-sensitive buttons that light an LED

lamp when activated. At the rear of the unit is a hinged plastic dustcover for storage of the twin hand-controls. Beneath that is storage for the wire that connects the VCS to the TV set.

One Control for Three

With the old VCS machine you needed three different sets of hand controls to be able to play all of Atari's games. For example, Pong wouldn't work with the joystick controls and Space Invaders wouldn't work with the paddle controls. But *all* of the games will work with the new VCS because the hand controls combine joystick, paddle and fire functions—all you'll ever need for two-player games.

Fire buttons, as well as the select and reset buttons on each hand control (which allow you to keep playing from across the room without crossing the room after every round), are pressure sensitive. And a pressure sensitive fire button really makes a positive difference when split seconds count. You can shoot a bit faster, and you needn't raise a blister.

Of course, the real advantage these controls have over other systems on the market is that they are wireless. You can walk around the room, answer the telephone or the doorbell, and so on, so long as

you're within 50 feet of the television set. If you think your opponent is studying your finger positions, move away.

If, on the other hand, you want to study *your opponent's* finger positions, move closer. Yes, the new controls will probably give you a bit of exercise.

Extended Plays

Three questions pop into mind immediately: (1) Since only two controls come with the game, does the new VCS have four-player capability? (2) Can you use regular hand controls with the new system? (3) Do all the old and new Atari, Sears and Activision cartridges work with the remote controls?

The answers: Yes, the unit has four-player capability, but only two remote controls can be used with the system at a time. This means you'd have to use two controls from the old Atari system with the new ones. (All Atari controls can be used with the RCVCS.) Finally, all current cartridges from Atari, Sears and Activision, and all those under development for the

future, will work on both VCS machines.

The Remote Control Video Computer System details for a suggested price of \$199.95, which includes two remote hand controls, power supply and Atari's Air-Sea Battle cartridge. What you won't get are the wires. □

