

Video Review

Latest Tape &
Disc Reviews
plus
Equipment
Test Reports

\$1.75

THE WORLD AUTHORITY ON HOME VIDEO

EXCLUSIVE: FIRST LAB TESTS OF 18 BLANK VIDEOTAPES

**Living with a
Satellite Dish**

**101 Ways
to Talk
Video**



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Video Review®

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Art Levis

□ **AUDIO MAKERS RUSH INTO VIDEO.** What began as a trickle is now a flood, with virtually every major supplier of audio equipment plunging into video hardware market. Where earlier ventures into video field by audio firms centered in videodisc, latest announcements also embrace VCR and projection TV. Behind rush into video are several factors: Video has replaced audio as new glamor product among affluent consumers—and audio sales have been in slump for past year or two.

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□ **NEWEST VIDEO NAMES.** Among latest to announce plans for video arena are Sansui, Fisher and Superscope. Sansui says it will probably enter U.S. market in fall 1981 with videodisc player, either with a JVC-developed VHD system or RCA's CED model. Laser optical system is good, Sansui officials say, but inherent high costs will limit its appeal to educational and institutional areas. Fisher, which earlier announced plans for projection TV (*VR, Feb. '81*) also intends to field Beta-format VCR, optical disc player in U.S. Superscope executives say VCR will probably be marketed in U.S. in 1981, possibly followed by disc player and projection TV system. Meanwhile, Pioneer will expand line beyond optical disc player in near future with projection system, Advent may add disc player and Aiwa says it plans to enter U.S. video market in year or two.

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□ **HURRY UP AND WATCH.** Speed-compression feature now available only from JVC may be common feature on new VCRs, says executive of VSC (Variable Speed Control) Company. VSC circuit allows user to speed picture up (to double normal speed) or slow it down (to half normal) while speech remains comprehensible. VSC, which says it is now talking to all major VCR manufacturers, claims new development reduces price of circuit to producers from roughly \$100 to \$10-\$12.

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□ **SHARP SHARPENS TV TECHNOLOGY.** Sharp has developed prototype color TV set with built-in time-delay device that allows picture to be stored, played back after brief interval. Firm says it has no concrete plans to sell the set.

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□ **COMPUTER PRICES DROPPING.** You'll soon see some low, low prices on those new home or personal computers. Commodore, one of the first companies to enter home field, is introducing new VIC 20, with color display monitor, at under \$300. Texas Instruments is dropping price of TI-99/4 model \$300, bringing price down to \$650 level. Even if those prices seem too high, you can have access to a home computer for as little as \$150—a month that is. Apple says that for that price customers can lease Apple II computer, monitor, several disc drives and printer.

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□ **HARD OF HEARING AID.** Poor hearing is no laughing matter, but at least the IRS is trying to make TV viewing somewhat easier for those with hearing loss. New captioning decoders now available are deductible as a medical expense, says the IRS. □