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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 1 1/3/98

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Date: Sun, 28 Dec 1997 03:51:16 -0800  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: FORWARDED TO CED DIGEST FROM REC.COLLECTING  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Subject: VIDEO DISKS: STAR COVERS & TITLES...OLD!!  
From: AVCC01A@prodigy.com (Mr. Dino J. Provenzano)  
Date: 1997/12/16  
Message-ID: <676v7b\$27c4\$1@newssvr04-int.news.prodigy.com>  
Newsgroups: rec.collecting  
[More Headers]

VIDEO DISKS:

FEATURE MAJOR MOTION PICTURES ( ALL VIDEO DISKS FROM 1979-84 )  
CED ( CAPACITANCE ELECTRONIC DISC SYSTEM )  
GREAT COLLECTIBLE TITLES ( SUPERSTAR COVERS )  
EXTREMELY LIMITED QUANTITIES  
( The video-disks are no longer made and are becoming a true collectible in the  
movie/TV  
collectible field. Every video-disk features the superstar or superstars on the  
cover!  
These video-disks were quite expensive when they first hit the market ( early  
1980's ) and now  
have found a place again in the Star-collectible fields ).  
HERE'S WHAT I HAVE:

CHARLIE BROWN FESTIVAL ( 4 MOVIES ) ( 1979 )  
A DOLL'S HOUSE ( JANE FONDA / TREVOR HOWARD ) ( 1973 )  
A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM  
( ZERO MOSTEL / PHIL SILVERS ) ( 1966 )  
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE  
( MARLON BRANDO / VIVIEN LEIGH ) ( 1951 )  
ABSENCE OF MALICE ( PAUL NEWMAN / SALLY FIELD ) ( 1981 )  
ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE  
( ELLEN BURSTYN / KRIS KRISTOFFERSON ) ( 1975 )  
ALIEN ( SIGOURNEY WEAVER ) ( 1979 )  
ALTERED STATES ( WILLIAM HURT / BLAIR BROWN ) ( 1981 )  
AMAZING SPIDERMAN (THE ) ( 1982 )  
AMERICAN GIGOLO ( RICHARD GERE ) ( 1980 )  
AN EVENING WITH ROBIN WILLIAMS ( 1982 )  
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL ( AL PACINO / JOHN FORSYTHE ) ( 1979 )  
APARTMENT ( THE ) ( J. LEMON / SHIRLEY MACLAINE ) ( 1960 )  
APOCALYPSE NOW ( 2 DISKS )

( MARLON BRANDO/MARTIN SHEEN/D. HOPPER ) ( 1979 )  
 ATLANTIC CITY ( B LANCASTER / SUSAN SARANDON ) ( 1980 )  
 BACKROADS ( SALLY FIELD / TOMMY LEE JONES ) ( 1980 )  
 BAD BOYS ( SEAN PENN / ALLY SHEEDY ) ( 1983 )  
 BAD NEWS BEARS ( THE )  
 ( WALTER MATTHAU / TATUM O'NEAL ) ( 1976 )  
 BAD NEWS BEARS ( BREAKING TRAINING )  
 ( WILLIAM DEVANE ) ( 1977 )  
 BANANA'S ( WOODY ALLEN / LOUISE LASSER ) ( 1971 )  
 BELLS ARE RINGING ( DEAN MARTIN / J HOLLIDAY ) ( 1960 )  
 BEING THERE ( PETER SELLERS / SHIRLEY MACLAINE ) ( 1980 )  
 BLADE RUNNER ( HARRISON FORD / RUTGER HAUSER ) ( 1982 )  
 BLONDIE ( EAT TO THE BEAT ) ( 1979 )  
 BLUES ALIVE ( JOHN MAYALL / JOHN McVIE & MORE ) ( 1983 )  
 BLUE HAWAII ( ELVIS ) ( )  
 BONNIE & CLYDE ( WARREN BEATTY / F DUNAWAY ) ( 1967 )  
 BREAKING AWAY ( D CHRISTOPHER / D QU Aid ) ( 1973 )  
 BRONCO BILLY ( CLINT EASTWOOD / SONDR A LOCKE ) ( 1980 )  
 BRUBAKER ( ROBERT REDFORD ) 2 DISKS ( 1980 )  
 BUDDY BUDDY ( J LEMMON / W MATTHAU ) ( 1981 )  
 BUTCH CASSIDY & THE SUNDANCE KID  
 ( PAUL NEWMAN / ROBERT REDFORD ) ( 1968 )  
 CALIFORNIA SUITE ( B COSBY / A ALDA / J FONDA ) ( 1978 )  
 CANDIDATE ( THE ) ( ROBERT REDFORD ) ( 1972 )  
 CARNY ( GARY BUSEY / JODIE FOSTER / R ROBERTSON ) ( 1980 )  
 CAPRICORN ONE ( OJ SIMPSON / KAREN BLACK ) ( 1978 )  
 CARRIE ( SISSY SPACEK / JOHN TRAVOLTA ) ( 1976 )  
 CATCH-22 ( ALAN ARKIN / JON VOIGHT ) ( 1974 )  
 CHAMP ( THE ) ( JON VOIGHT / RICKY SCHRODER ) ( 1979 )  
 CHARIOTS OF FIRE ( BEN CROSS ) ( 1981 )  
 CHARLEY CHAPLIN MODERN TIMES B/W ( 1936 )  
 CHILDREN OF THE CORN ( LINDA HAMILTON ) ( 1984 )  
 CHINA SYNDROME ( THE ) ( J FONDA / M DOUGLAS ) ( 1978 )  
 CLARENCE DARROW ( HENRY FONDA ) ( 1974 )  
 5CLOCKWORK ORANGE ( MALCOM McDOWELL ) 2 DISKS ( 1971 )  
 COME BACK TO THE 5 & DIME JIMMY DEAN ( CHER ) ( 1984 )  
 COMES A HORSEMAN ( JANE FONDA / JAMES CAAN ) ( 1978 )  
 COMPLETE TENNIS FROM THE PROS ( A ASHE & MORE ) ( 1981 )  
 COMING HOME ( JANE FONDA / JON VOIGHT ) ( 1978 )  
 COUNTRY GIRL ( THE ) ( B CROSBY / GRACE KELLY ) ( 1954 )  
 COUSIN COUSINE ( 1976 )  
 CRUSING ( AL PACINO / KAREN BLACK ) ( 1981 )  
 DARK VICTORY ( BETTE DAVIS / HUMPHREY BOGART ) ( 1939 )  
 DELIVERANCE ( BURT REYNOLDS / JON VOIGHT ) ( 1972 )  
 DETECTIVE ( THE ) ( FRANK SINATRA / LEE REMICK ) ( 1968 )  
 DIARY OF ANNE FRANK ( THE ) B/W ( 1959 )  
 DINER ( MICKEY ROURKE / KEVIN BACON ) ( 1982 )  
 DIVINE MADNESS ( BETTE MIDLER ) ( 1980 )  
 DON KIRSHNER'S ROCK CONCERT  
 ( COMMODORES / SMOKEY ROBINSON & MORE ) ( 1980 )

DRESSED TO KILL ( MICHAEL CAINE / A DICKINSON ) ( 1980 )  
DURAN DURAN ( 1980 )  
EARTHLING ( THE ) ( WILLIAM HOLDEN / R SCHRODER ) ( 1980 )  
EASY MONEY ( RODNEY DANGERFIELD / JOE PESCI ) ( 1983 )  
EDDIE MACON'S RUN ( KIRK DOUGLAS / J SCHNEIDER ) ( 1983 )  
EDUCATING RITA ( MICHAEL CAINE / JULIE WATERS ) ( 1983 )  
EL CID ( C HESTON / SOPHIA LOREN ) DISK 1 ( 1978 )  
ELECTRIC HORSEMAN ( THE ) ( R REDFORD / J FONDA ) ( 1979 )  
END ( THE ) ( BURT REYNOLDS / SALLY FIELD ) ( 1978 )  
ENTER THE DRAGON ( BRUCE LEE / JOHN SAXON ) ( 1973 )  
EYES OF LAURA MARS  
( TOMMY LEE JONES / FAYE DUNAWAY ) ( 1978 )  
FLAMINGO STAR ( ELVIS PRESLEY ) ( 1960 )  
FLASH GORDAN ( SAM JONES / MAX VON SYDOW ) ( 1980 )  
FLEETWOOD MAC IN CONCERT: MIRAGE TOUR ( 1982 )  
FOUL PLAY ( CHEVY CHASE / GOLDIE HAWN ) ( 1978 )  
FRANCES ( JESSICA LANGE / SAM SHEPARD ) ( 1982 )  
FRENCH CONNECTION ( THE ) ( GENE HACKMAN ) ( 1971 )  
FUN IN ACAPULCO ( ELVIS ) ( )  
FUTURE WORLD ( PETER FONDA / BLYTHE DANNER ) ( 1976 )  
GAME OF DEATH ( BRUCE LEE / K ABDUL-JABBAR ) ( 1968 )  
GO TELL THE SPARTANS ( BURT LANCASTER ) ( 1977 )  
GORKY PARK ( WILLIAM HURT / LEE MARVIN ) ( 1983 )  
GREASE 2 ( MICHELLE PFEIFFER / ADRIAN ZMED ) ( 1982 )  
GREAT DICTATOR ( THE ) ( CHARLIE CHAPLAN ) ( 1940 )  
GREAT SANTINI ( THE ) ( ROBERT DUVAL ) ( 1979 )  
HARD TO HOLD ( RICK SPRINGFIELD ) ( 1984 )  
HAROLD & MAUDE ( RUTH GORDAN / CAT STEVENS ) ( 1971 )  
HARRY & SON ( PAUL NEWMAN / BOBBY BENSON ) ( 1984 )  
HEAVEN CAN WAIT ( WARREN BEATTY / J CHRISTIE ) ( 1978 )  
HELL IN THE PACIFIC ( LEE MARVIN ) ( 1968 )  
ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU ( THE ) ( B LANCASTER ) ( 1977 )  
JAMES TAYLOR IN CONCERT ( 1979 )  
THE JERK ( STEVE MARTIN / BERNADETTE PETERS ) ( 1979 )  
JETHRO TULL ( SLIPSTREAM ) ( 1983 )  
JINXED ( BETTE MIDLER / RIP TORN ) ( 1982 )  
JONI MITCHEL ( SHADOW & LIGHT ) ( 1980 )  
KING OF COMEDY ( THE ) ( ROBERT DENIRO / J LEWIS ) ( 1982 )  
LADY SINGS THE BLUES ( 2 DISKS )  
( DIANA ROSS / B DEE WILLIAMS ) ( 1972 )  
LAST TANGO IN PARIS ( MARLON BRANDO ) ( 1972 )  
LAST WALTZ ( THE ) ( THE BAND & MORE ) ( 1978 )  
LEGEND OF THE LONE RANGER ( THE )  
( KLINTON SPILLSBURY ) ( 1981 )  
LITTLE BIG MAN ( D HOFFMAN / FAYE DUNAWAY ) ( 1970 )  
LONELY GUY ( STEVE MARTIN / CHARLES GRODIN ) ( 1983 )  
LONE WOLF McQUADE ( CHUCK NORRIS / D CARRADINE ) ( 1983 )  
LOVE ME TENDER ( ELVIS ) ( 1956 )  
LOVE & DEATH ( WOODY ALLEN / DIANE KEATON ) ( 1975 )  
MAIN EVENT ( BARBRA STREISAND / RYAN O"NEAL ) ( 1979 )

MAKING OF STAR WARS ( THE ) & ESB ( 1980 )  
 MAN WITH 2 BRAINS ( THE ) ( STEVE MARTIN / K TURNER ) ( 1983 )  
 MARATHON MAN ( DUSTIN HOFFMAN ) ( 1976 )  
 MELISSA MANCHESTER ( 1980 )  
 MIRACLE OF LAKE PLACID ( THE ) ( HOCKEY & MORE ) ( 1980 )  
 MISFITS ( THE ) ( CLARK GABLE / MARILYN MONROE ) ( 1961 )  
 MISSING ( JACK LEMMON / SISSY SPACEK ) ( 1982 )  
 MODERN PROBLEMS ( CHEVY CHASE ) ( 1981 )  
 MONSIGNOR ( CHRISTOPHER REEVES ) ( 1982 )  
 NEIGHBORS ( JOHN BELUSHI / DAN AYKROYD ) ( 1981 )  
 NEIL YOUNG & CRAZY HORSE ( RUST NEVER SLEEPS ) ( 1979 )  
 NIGHT HAWKS ( SLY STALLONE / RUTGER HAUSER ) ( 1981 )  
 NORMA RAE ( SALLY FIELD / BEAU BRIDGES ) ( 1979 )  
 ORDINARY PEOPLE ( 2 DISKS )  
 ( D SUTHERLAND / MARY TYLER MOORE ) ( 1980 )  
 OSCAR ( THE ) ( ELKE SUMMER / MILTON BERLE ) ( 1965 )  
 PAPILLON ( STEVE MCQUEEN / DUSTIN HOFFMAN ) ( 1973 )  
 PATERNITY: HE WANTS YOU TO HAVE HIS BABY  
 ( B REYNOLDS / L HUTTON / BEV D'ANGELO ) ( 1981 )  
 PAUL SIMON ( IN CONCERT ) ( 1981 )  
 POPEYE ( ROBIN WILLIAMS / SHELLY DUVALL ) ( 1980 )  
 POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE ( THE )  
 ( JACK NICHOLSON / JESSICA LANGE ) ( 1981 )  
 PRODUCERS ( THE ) ( ZERO MOSTEL / GENE WILDER ) ( 1964 )  
 PUMPING IRON ( ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER ) ( 1976 )  
 QUADROPHENIA ( THE WHO ) ( 1979 )  
 RED AUERBACH ( RED ON ROUND BALL )  
 ( JABBAR / RUSSELL / WALTON / ERVING & MORE ) ( 1982 )  
 RICH AND FAMOUS ( JAQ BISSET / CANDICE BERGEN ) ( 1981 )  
 ROAD GAMES ( STACEY KEACH / JAMIE LEE CURTIS ) ( 1981 )  
 ROLLING STONES ( GIMME SHELTER ) ( MICK JAGGER ) ( 1970 )  
 ROLLING STONES ( LET'S SPEND THE NIGHT TOGETHER ) ( 1983 )  
 ROLLING THUNDER ( WILLIAM DEVANE ) ( 1977 )  
 RUMBLE FISH ( MATT DILLON / MICKEY ROURKE ) ( 1983 )  
 SCARFACE ( AL PACINO ) 2 DISKS ( 1983 )  
 SEMI-TOUGH ( BURT REYNOLDS / K KRISTOFFERSON ) ( 1977 )  
 SERPICO ( AL PACINO ) 2 DISKS ( 1973 )  
 SHAFT ( RICHARD ROUNDTREE ) ( 1971 )  
 SHAZAM ( 1981 )  
 SHOOT THE MOON ( ALBERT FINNEY / DIANE KEATON ) ( 1981 )  
 SHOWDOWN ( THE )  
 SUGAR RAY LEONARD VS THOMAS HEARNS SEPT 16 ( 1981 )  
 SIX WEEKS ( DUDLEY MOORE / MARY TYLER MOORE ) ( 1982 )  
 SLEEPER ( WOODY ALLEN / DIANE KEATON ) ( 1973 )  
 SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT 3 ( JACKIE GLEASON ) ( 1983 )  
 SNOOPY COME HOME ( 1972 )  
 SOPHIES CHOICE ( MERYL STREEP / KEVIN KLINE ) ( 1982 )  
 SOYLENT GREEN ( CHARLTON HESTON ) ( 1973 )  
 STAR 80 ( MARIEL HEMINGWAY ) ( 1983 )  
 STARDUST MEMORIES ( WOODY ALLEN ) ( 1980 )

STARTING OVER ( B REYNOLDS / C BERGMAN / J CLAYB ) ( 1979 )  
 STAR WARS ( M HAMILL / H FORD / C FISHER ) ( 1977 )  
 STAYING ALIVE ( JOHN TRAVOLTA ) ( 1983 )  
 STING ( THE ) 2 ( J GLEASON / TERI GARR / MAC DAVIS ) ( 1983 )  
 SUDDEN IMPACT ( CLINT EASTWOOD / SONDRALOCKE ) ( 1983 )  
 SUPERBOWL XIV ( RAMS VS STEELERS ) ( 1980 )  
 SUPERMAN III ( CHRISTOPHER REEVES / RICARHD PRYOR )( 1983 )  
  
 SUNSHINE BOYS ( THE ) ( GEORGE BURNS / W MATTHAU ) ( 1975 )  
 SWAMP THING ( ADRIENNE BARBEAU / L JOURDAN ) ( 1981 )  
 SYBIL ( SALLY FIELD ) ( 1977 )  
 TAKE THE MONEY & RUN ( WOODY ALLEN ) ( 1969 )  
 TALES FROM MUPPETLAND ( 1977 )  
 TAXI DRIVER ( ROBERT DENIRO / CYBIL SHEPHARD ) ( 1976 )  
 TEN TIL MIDNIGHT ( CHARLES BRONSON ) ( 1983 )  
 TESS ( NASTASSIA KINSKI ) ( 1982 )  
 TIGHTROPE ( CLINT EASTWOOD ) ( 1984 )  
 THEY ALL LAUGHED  
 ( A HEPBURN / J RITTER / DOROTHY STRATTEN ) ( 1982 )  
 THEY DRIVE BY NIGHT ( H BOGART / GEORGE RAFT ) ( 1968 )  
 THEY SHOOT HORSES DON'T THEY ?  
 ( JANE FONDA / MICHAEL SARRAZIN ) ( 1969 )  
 THIEF ( JAMES CAAN / TUESDAY WELD ) ( 1981 )  
 THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR ( THE )  
 ( STEVE McQUEEN / FAYE DUNAWAY ) ( 1968 )  
 TOMMY-THE WHO ( ANN MARGRET / ERIC CLAPTON ) ( 1975 )  
 TOOTSIE ( DUSTIN HOFFMAN / JESSICA LANGE ) ( 1982 )  
 TRIBUTE ( JACK LEMON / ROBBY BENSON ) ( 1980 )  
 TRUE CONFESSIONS ( ROBERT DENIRO / ROBERT DUVAL ) ( 1981 )  
 TWELVE ANGRY MEN ( HENRY FONDA / EG MARSHALL ) ( 1957 )  
 VERDICT ( THE ) ( PAUL NEWMAN ) ( 1982 )  
 VISTOR ( THE ) ( MICK FLEETWOOD ) ( 1981 )  
 VIVA LAS VEGAS ( ELVIS / ANN MARGRET ) ( 1963 )  
 WESTWORLD ( YUL BRYNNER / JAMES BROLIN ) ( 1973 )  
 WHAT'S UP TIGERLILY? ( WOODY ALLEN ) ( 1966 )  
 WILD IN THE COUNTRY ( ELVIS / HOPE LANGE ) ( 1961 )  
 WIMBLEDON 1981 ( JOHN McENROE & MORE ) ( 1977 )  
 YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE ( JAMES BOND ) ( S CONNERY ) ( 1967 )  
 ZAPPED ( SCOTT BAIO / WILLIE AMES ) ( 1982 )

DINO PROVENZANO  
 ( 914 ) 255-0355  
 EMAIL BACK TO: <avcc01a@prodigy.com>

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Date: Sun, 28 Dec 1997 22:03:30 -0500  
 From: donald baraf  
 MIME-Version: 1.0  
 To: ceds@teleport.com  
 Subject: Useful Information

I have 5 RCA players. One of virtually every model. None of them work.

The problems are the following:

1- Bad Needle.

2- Automatic transport doesn't work.

3- Player works intermittently. On some disks it will start and on others it won't.

It seems to me that all of these problems except needle replacement can be fixed with standard parts. The problem is that I don't have a service manual or the know-how to repair the machine.

One use of this newsletter would be to encourage the writing of a manual, the establishment of a network of service centers, a voluntary hotline, the warehousing of parts that are available and the creation of contacts at RCA or Thomson.

It seems to me that except for the manufacture of parts that are not standard items in other machines there is no point in talking about buying the old manufacturing dies.

This really needs to be approached in a rational manner.

The point here is for us to be able to play what we bought and to use the machines.

Let's rally around those issues and stop talking about manufacturing new disks and manufacturing new machines.

I'd love to start a dialogue along those lines.

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From: TerryTC1  
Date: Sat, 3 Jan 1998 01:28:42 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Fix for J series players?

I have a couple of J series players that have both recently come down with the same symptom. When a disc is loaded there is a greater than normal delay before starting and then the disc begins play anywhere from 10 to 30 seconds into the side. Doing a reverse scan will only reluctantly bring the disc back beginning often taking several on and off applications of the search control. Once you have "loosened" it up the player seems to partially recover but usually exhibits the same problem the next time it is turned on. Does anyone have any idea of what is causing the problem or better yet what the solution might be? Is it a failure of the stepper motor or is some lubrication needed?

Hoping someone can help

Terry Collins

TerryTC1@aol.com

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED Player Search  
Date: Sat, 3 Jan 1998 14:32:43 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.2106.4

Telecom Technologies Incorporated is in search of a series 400 player for the National Capacitance Disc Library. Please send bids for sale to cayead@westelcom.com or postal service mail to: Telecom Technologies Incorporated National Capacitance Disc Library 2841 First Street Lyon Mountain, New York 12952

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: NCDL Live Discussion  
Date: Sat, 3 Jan 1998 14:38:00 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.2106.4

On Saturday, January 10th, the NCDL will hold a live discussion in the new CED Chat Room via the CED Magic site for those interested or inquisitive about the National Capacitance Disc Library, its mission and its current status. The discussion will be held at 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Saturday, January 10th. Hope you will attend. Sincerely Dan Cayea NCDL at Telecom Technologies

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Mime-Version: 1.0  
Date: Sat, 3 Jan 1998 23:35:49 -0800  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: VideoDisc Chat Room

Fellow CED'ers:

As you may have gathered from the prior message, I added a chat room to [www.cedmagic.com](http://www.cedmagic.com) this past week. The link is near the top of the main page,

emphasized with a "new" icon. Since CED Magic only gets about 15 non-consecutive hits per day, it's unlikely you'll be able to drop into this room at random and find anyone else there. So the intent is to set up specific times to hold chat room sessions as Dan did in the prior message. Dan, I noticed you didn't specify a time zone for your start time of 5:30 PM, but assume it's Eastern Standard Time, as you reside in New York. For everyone reading this, assume it's 5:30 PM EST unless you get a followup message stating otherwise prior to the start of the chat session.

--Tom Howe

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 2 1/10/98

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Date: Sat, 03 Jan 1998 16:32:13 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Returns!

I finally made it back to my parents' house and pored over the early 80's copies of Popular Science I had left there. These magazines had a cornucopia of news briefs and feature articles relating to CED's.

About a year ago I presented the first 9 parts of this series (CED digests vol. 1 no. 4 through vol. 2 no. 6). Without further ado, I now reintroduce this series to the CED digest. ENJOY!

Videodisc History, Part 10

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>From the January 1981 Popular Science -

[This article deals primarily with Pioneer's first Laser Disc player, and as such is not generally on topic. However, there are a few lines worth quoting to give the reader a basis of comparison with the CED players of the day. - Ed.]

Video-disc player - instant movies with push-button options  
by W. J. Hawkins

Video-disc players are not new - PS has been following their growth for five years and even devoted a 1977 cover



to them. But now they're out of the labs, out of the limited test-market stage, and, by the time you read this, into some 46 major cities throughout the country. Surprisingly, the first mass producer is Pioneer, the hi-fi manufacturer. Pioneer calls its \$750 video-disc player Laser Disc.

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>From the February 1981 Popular Science -

[This brief also is not directly on topic. However, it shows that RCA wasn't solely dedicated to CED technology. - Ed.]

Science Newsfront - Data disc  
by Arthur Fisher

Two engineers at RCA Laboratories have received a patent on the disc storage system shown above. Dr. Robert A. Bartolini and Dr. Allan E. Bell developed the 12-inch disc, which can hold 100 billion bits of information - enough, they say, to store the entire contents of a multivolume encyclopedia, and 10 to 20 times the storage capacity of currently used magnetic discs. Information is recorded and retrieved by laser, in a way similar to that used in some video-disc formats. Key to the RCA patent is a very thin layer of tellurium metal in the coating of the plastic disc. To imprint information, engineers use an intense beam of a new semiconductor laser, recently developed by RCA, to burn a series of microscopic pits in the tellurium. The information is later read by a less powerful beam from the same laser. The beam passes through the pits and is reflected into an electronic light detector by a layer of aluminum situated below the tellurium.

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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From: LLP33  
Date: Sun, 4 Jan 1998 13:18:31 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 1

if you do not like people on here talking about remanufacture, then ignore it, because when you bring up the fact that you dont like it, you are only perpetuating the discussion further, because that discussion until now was over a little while ago.

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Date: Mon, 5 Jan 1998 16:54:46 -0500 (EST)  
From: return  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>

Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 1  
MIME-Version: 1.0

Subject: The repairing of machines, and technical support.

Its nice to know that I'm not the only one out there that is alone trying to champion some sort of " sanity " in regards to "basic common sense" about getting your machines repaired when they breakdown!!

I have over the past 4 Digests tried to rally the cause for setting up a toll-free support line, Some sort of tech assist-line, or a list of Service centers in "all of our" areas and regions to help and assist us!

It is good to see someone else that does have some "Fore sight" that is pointing out the looming problem that all will face when machines breakdown. I've pointed out repeatedly, how there needs to be equal access and oportunity for "ALL" persons to get machines repaired, or to get technical assistance with machine problems.

I'll quote one recent person who has also stated this cause with me, "One use of this newsletter would be to encourage the writing of a manual, the establishment of a network of service centers, a voluntary hotline, the warehousing of parts that are available and the creation of contacts at RCA or Thomson."

If I could elaborate just a bit, it is important that we find someone who has particular experience on these types of machines, because some Tech's don't have this specific skill on these types of machines, but I'm very sure there are enough out there who are skilled enough with background on these machines to help the people out on this page. To be there when we all need assistance by telephone, or a repair policy set at a very resonable rate to ship our machines to be repaired there if we so desire.

If we don't address the problems at hand, then there won't be much of a future in this thing.

So, I recommend that we get ourselves networked, and organized together to began addressing this problem inorder to come up with a working solution to this. (instead of some of us sitting back on our duff's)

"I mean look at all the people that e-mail into this Digest that need Technical help with machines" I think the need has been established. To reiterate the last statement from the previous Digest volume, "Yes, we do need and deserve technical and repair service for what we have!!

Mark.....

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Date: Tue, 6 Jan 1998 10:15:37 -0800 (PST)  
From: Phil Frakes  
Subject: WANTED: Linda Ronstadt in Concert  
To: ceds@teleport.com

MIME-Version: 1.0

Looking for copies of the CED disc "Linda Ronstadt in Concert".  
Willing to pay top dollar. Email me at pfrakes@rocketmail.com.

Thanks.

-Phil Frakes  
405-340-9062

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Date: Wed, 7 Jan 1998 17:32:49 -0600 (CST)  
From: "Jason P. Ramsey"  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: WANTED: A good player and/or movies  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I would like to purchase or trade for a good CED player. It must be in very good working order. I would prefer it to be a later model with a remote. I'm also looking for any Disney, James Bond or Star Wars related films.

Please email me if you have any of the above. I have a few movies that I will trade with. LMK what you want, off the top of my head I know I have a few Pink Panther movies, Pink Floyd from Pompei, Rush: Exit Stage Left, The Who: the Kids are alright, The Go-Gos Live and a few others.

Thanks,  
Jason  
ramsejp@mail.auburn.edu

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Date: Fri, 09 Jan 1998 22:51:16 -0800  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: VideoDisc Auctions  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Fellow CED'ers:

The explosive growth of the auction web site <http://www.ebay.com> has resulted in CED's nearly always being up for auction there. Basically people list their items and a starting price, then others bid on them, generally for seven days. It's rather interesting to see how widely the prices vary. Sometimes there will be no bids on discs with starting prices of \$3.00, and at other times discs that at first thought might seem uninteresting are bid up, like a Mary Tyler Moore disc that went for \$18. Out of curiosity, I put the Beatles "Let It Be" up for auction, because it's been long out of print and is probably one of the most collectible titles. Right now, there's someone with an Elvis disc with a minimum bid of \$100. It will be interesting to see if someone actually bids on it. I recently updated the CED FAQ question "Where can I find RCA VideoDiscs and players?" with some suggestions for using Ebay.

--Tom

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 3 1/17/98

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Date: Sun, 11 Jan 1998 08:53:50 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History, Part 11

>From the March 1981 Popular Science column "Look and Listen"  
by John Free

Video-disc race

Toshiba has joined Zenith, JCPenney, Sears, Sanyo, and Radio Shack to market RCA's capacitance electronic-disc (CED) system. CBS will make discs for the video players. RCA plans to offer its under-\$500 disc machine this spring. Radio Shack may sell a Hitachi-made player with more features than RCA's. An under-\$100 adapter will enable Radio Shack CED owners to play stereo disc releases. RCA has indicated its initial entry will be a monaural-only model with a step-up stereo CED player to follow.

Later in the year, the video high-density (VHD) disc system is slated for sale by three jointly owned companies just formed by General Electric, Matsushita, JVC, and Thorn EMI. VHD players also use capacitance-type discs but are not compatible with CED. VHD firms, apparently making last-minute decisions about what player features to include, stress that the grooveless VHD-disc system can have stop-action, random-access, and slow-motion capabilities that CED doesn't have. To fill the VHD program library, movie companies and others are being offered bargain pressing rates (\$5.50 for a two-hour disc).

Not to be outdone in the three-way disc-system battle, Japanese, Dutch, and U.S. supporters of optical (laser) video discs have formed a promotional outfit called the Laservision Assn. Optical-disc players are now being sold in major cities by both Pioneer and Magnavox. Newest optical converts are Advent and Fisher, which plan to market the noncontact disc machines along with giant-screen projection TV's. A Laservision Assn. member, 3M, is making video discs.

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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Date: Sun, 11 Jan 1998 08:57:11 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: VideoDisc Auctions

On Fri, 09 Jan 1998 Tom Howe wrote:  
>The explosive growth of the auction web site <http://www.ebay.com> has  
>resulted in CED's nearly always being up for auction there.

I concur that ebay is a great outlet for obtaining CED's. I've had good success getting discs I want for a relatively low price.

--  
Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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From: "George Butts"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED Supply  
Date: Sun, 11 Jan 1998 11:15:56 -0800  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3

I recently had a rather disturbing experience regarding the purchase of CED's and I thought I might share it with the newsgroup. Last week I had a few days off and had an opportunity to visit my local Goodwill early in the morning. Usually I don't find much there, but to my surprise I discovered a giant bin full of CED's priced at 99cents per disc. Star Wars, Soylent Green, American Werewolf in London, The Wrath Of Khan... Some really great titles. The manager came by as I was sorting through them and told me that a local man had called the store and asked if they would be interested in receiving his collection of 400 CED's. The manager wasn't even exactly sure what they were, but he said yes. When I arrived there were about 100 in the bin. I asked where the remainder were and he said that without his knowledge one of his employees sent the rest to the main Goodwill store because they didn't think they could possibly sell them all. He mentioned that since I was so interested (I purchased about 40-I would have purchased more, but many 2 disc sets had been broken up when they randomly sent the remainder of the collection to the other store) he would see if he could contact the warehouse and get them back. Well, I kept checking day after day. He wasn't able to find anyone at the warehouse who had seen them. Then this weekend I discovered their fate. He said he finally got in touch with the person at the warehouse that had unpacked them when they arrived. This person made the decision that they were too old and nobody would be interested in them. So, he threw all 300 of them in the dumpster. The manager asked if they could be retrieved, but the garbage had already been taken away. I find this maddening. I used to get

upset with people that take advantage of collectors interest in CED's and drive up the price, but at least that keeps the CED's in circulation. I really don't know what the solution to this is. While the gentleman who donated them was no longer interested in them, I think he would be very disturbed to find that they had been thrown out with the garbage. I'm sure more CED's than we would like to think end up in someone's trash.

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Date: Sun, 11 Jan 1998 17:27:49 -0700 (MST)  
From: GLAHE FRED R  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 2  
MIME-Version: 1.0

The January 1998 issue of ELECTRONICS NOW has a good article by Sam Goldwasser (sam@stdavids.picker.com) entitled "Finding Information." It describes how to get repair parts and information from many sources, especially on the WWW.

Fred Glahe

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Priority: Normal  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
Subject: CED Information Binder  
Date: Sun, 11 Jan 98 16:39:29 PST

Telecom Technologies is offering to those who are interested an attractive information binder on the CED Format. The binder includes Frequently Asked Questions, CED Titles, the National Capacitance Disc Library Collection Database, and much, much more.

This colorful and informative binder is available to you for only \$24.95 (includes shipping) and comes complete with free updates for one full year and as an added bonus to your purchase Telecom will offer large discounts on future binder purchases and binder upgrades.

\*Coming Soon

CED Technical Reference Binder 3.1 Software Edition  
The Crafted Technical Reference Binder available for IBM Compatible Computers. This is currently in the beta stage, if you would like to beta test this software, please write to us.

If you would like more information on this binder please write to cayead@westelcom.com or write to:

Telecom Press

2841 First Street  
Lyon Mountain, New York 12952

To Order: (Cash & Money Orders Accepted ONLY)  
Telecom Press  
CED Technical Reference  
2870 First Street  
Lyon Mountain, New York 12952

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Priority: Normal  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
Subject: Defective Player Search  
Date: Sun, 11 Jan 98 16:45:28 PST

Telecom Technologies Incorporated is in search of defective or malfunctioning players for use and repair in the National Capacitance Disc Library. All contributions will be duely noted and appreciated. For more information or to send donations the address is:

Telecom Technologies Incorporated  
National Capacitance Disc Library  
2841 First Street  
Lyon Mountain, New York 12952

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Priority: Normal  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
Subject: CED Chat Room  
Date: Sun, 11 Jan 98 16:49:47 PST

Dear CED Enthusiasts:

I would like to personally apologize for abandoning those who were in the CED Chat Room on January 10 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm EST. As you may or may not have heard of the severe ice storm that has effected those of us in the northeast. Such effects have been communications line and power failures. This is the primary reason in which I was not available. I have scheduled a new time for the discussion. It has been scheduled for January 23 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm EST. I hope to see you there and once again I apologize for any inconviences that may have been caused.

Sincerely  
Dan Cayea  
Telecom Technologies

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Priority: Normal  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
Subject: The CED Future: 1998'  
Date: Sun, 11 Jan 98 17:21:07 PST

The CED Future: 1998'

As stated in CED Digest, Volume 3, Edition Two, I noticed a dicussion about the revivication of CED being dropped. In no case has it been. I have two non rhetorical questions to ask all of you.

- A. Should we all contradict each other and have few resources? or...
- B. Should we combing our resources and have much?

For the most part it has been said that the resurrection of this format would not be financial feasible. I would like to state once again (for those who didn't plug one ear to get this) that it was never mentioned that this project would be economically feasibile. That is true that it is relatively expensive to perform such a feat, this is true.

I propose this, and it has been stated time again that we attempt resurrent the media as in the films on CED instead of players in which to view them. RCA (before corporate buyout) actually had more revenues in production of media for CED players than the players themselves.

Just a thought...

(URC)1998 Telecom Technologies

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Date: Mon, 12 Jan 1998 14:48:53 -0800 (PST)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 2  
Mime-Version: 1.0

The Ebay note reminds me of a good question to ask everyone- what is THE absolute RAREST CED ever made that was intended for sale (meaning this doesn't include the promo-only discs). I know that Beatles and Elvis related stuff is getting to be a bitch with all the "collector" people



swarming around them; I was lucky enough to get Let It Be and a few Elvis movies for normal prices, I've paid a \$10 premium price however for GI Blues and the 1968 Comeback Special, as well as Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fights, and at an antique mall the New York Yankees Miracle Year. But keep in mind, the most notorious event on the 8-track front was the sale of "Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols" for \$100, making it the Holy Grail of 8-tracks for those of us who go looking for such junk. I had to cough up \$20 for Hard Day's Night at a flea market, just because I didn't even know it existed on CED, and it was on MPI Video which I never knew put out any CEDs. Did MPI put out any others? They've held the rights to the classic movie "Faces of Death" so it'd be cool to have that on CED (and as many of you may know, although it's supposed to be a documentary featuring actual death footage, most of it is actually just special effects; the narrator claims to be a doctor but it was found out he was just some actor.) Finally, a question I've asked before but haven't gotten an answer to so I'll see if there's anyone new who knows: What was the COMPLETE list of all the titles available at the March 1981 product launch; in other words if I bought a player the first day it came out and I also bought EVERY available disc, what would I have ended up with? I'd like to know this so I can group them in a special section on my shelf. As has been mentioned before, the very FIRST title to come off the production line was "Race For Your Life, Charlie Brown" (which was why I bugged my parents to get a videodisc player back then so I could have my own copy of it!) and the very LAST apparently was "Jewel of the Nile," although someone else told me it was 2 titles released the same day that were the very last, Youngblood and another movie I forget at at the moment. I've also been told that "Flashdance" was the first CED to have closed captioning, and considering the skipping problem it's often quite fun to try to read captions on CEDs because the captions go nuts when it skips. Thank god for built-in decoders, I can just imagine someone with their CED player and new copy of Flashdance running through one of those humongous TeleCaption decoders you had to get to see them. I'm not hard of hearing, but I enjoy this technology for some strange reason. It's the most fun when songs are playing because they print the lyrics, and sometimes get them wrong since I guess they didn't have any actual scripts to work with. (At the very end of most movies there's credits for what company did the captions along with a copyright indicating what year they were done and a warning about public performance of captions without permission.)

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From: ESmith1711  
Date: Thu, 15 Jan 1998 14:44:04 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: looking for the following CED'S

i am looking for the following movies, have not got any to trade but will buy for them.

1. return of the jedi

2. a view to a kill
- 3.making of michael jacksons thriller
- 4.diamonds are forever
- 5.tron
- 6.on her majestys secret service

also looking for a later series player (200 or above). will buy any of the following mentioned above.  
Gene (esmith1711@aol.com)

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Date: Sat, 17 Jan 1998 11:43:15 -0800  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Interactive VideoDiscs  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

Some of you have queried me about interactive CED's. The current featured CED is "A Walk Through the Universe", the first interactive CED title. This feature deals with interactive discs in general and also provides tables of released and unreleased titles.

--Tom  
<http://www.cedmagic.com>

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From: "Bud Klass"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED'S For Sale!  
Date: Sat, 17 Jan 1998 16:38:04 -0500  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I have a number of CED's for sale. Prices are \$2.50 for single discs and \$3 for double discs plus shipping. Or i would sell them all at \$2 apiece plus shipping. Please email me for the list.

Thanks,Bud

BudKlass@sprynet.com

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 4 1/24/98

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Date: Sun, 18 Jan 1998 12:09:01 +0200  
From: sobel  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: ad  
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)

I have 650 TITLES including rare, multiple, and even box set which I want to sell with three 400 series RCA players. The discs are \$2 ea./\$4 double plus shipping. Approx. half the discs are still in the shrink wrap. All offers considered. Players are \$100 apiece plus shipping. must sell as a package only!! sobel@isracom.co.il

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From: MPatoray  
Date: Sun, 18 Jan 1998 11:37:43 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: No Subject  
Organization: AOL (<http://www.aol.com>)

I am looking for an RCA 400 series player working or not. If anyone has one please let me know.  
Matt Patoray

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Date: Mon, 19 Jan 1998 10:09:39 -0800 (PST)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 3  
Mime-Version: 1.0

I've heard similar stories about Goodwill throwing out stuff that either has been in the store unsold for too long or that they think nobody even wants. Those who've read "8-track Mind", a "zine" for 8-track enthusiasts, had a story once about someone who regularly got lots of great tapes at a Goodwill until they got a new manager who stopped putting them out, just leaving them in boxes in the back room. When the writer of the letter asked where all the 8-tracks went, she lied and said there weren't any more, but one day she snuck into the back room and found the boxes of 8-tracks just sitting there, with lots of ones she'd wanted for a long time. She got caught though and permanently banned from the store- the manger told her "Goodwill has a policy, and I follow that policy: Never overload the merchandise, especially the 8-tracks, because they're dirty, bulky, and no one buys them anyway!"

I've heard other stories about things like perfectly good Vectrex game systems getting thrown out too. I don't know if the stores near me operate the same way, but this has made me very wary of them, and if I ever have extra stuff that I can't sell or trade on the net I will NOT be donating them to Goodwill. I will give them to some thrift store but

first make sure that they actually get put out for sale and never thrown out even if no one's bought them for months.

I wonder how many people who donate stuff know about this? It seems they'd do it with the assumption that it'd get sold and the money going to their charity, but if they get thrown out then that's just plain stupid; some thrift stores refuse certain donations if they think they won't sell.

I have occasional good luck with Goodwill though; went to one in Lodi on a whim (I live in Sacramento), this was during the first month I got into the format, and found lots of great discs there including Raiders of the Lost Ark, which turns out to be a pretty common title but I didn't have many stereo discs yet and I wanted something with a killer soundtrack to see how good the sound on CED was.

If the goodwills in your area are taking donations and just trashing them, I suggest contacting the head of the organization for the area and let them know you're displeased with this practice and won't be donating anything to them, and probably rarely stop at their stores either.

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From: ESmith1711

Date: Wed, 21 Jan 1998 00:09:47 EST

To: ceds@teleport.com

Subject: CED post

I am looking for the following discs

1. Return of the jedi (1st disc only)
2. A view to a kill (1st disc only)
3. Rocky 4
4. Diamonds are forever
5. On her majesties secret service
6. Thunderball ( 1st disc only)

i will buy or trade discs for these, will trade multiple discs for a couple of the above. Esmith1711@aol.com

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Date: Fri, 23 Jan 1998 22:46:26 -0800

From: Tom Howe

To: ceds@teleport.com

Subject: RE: Rare VideoDiscs

Mime-Version: 1.0

On Mon, 12 Jan 1998 Jesse Skeen wrote:

<The Ebay note reminds me of a good question to ask everyone- what is THE <absolute RAREST CED ever made that was intended for sale (meaning this <doesn't include the promo-only discs).

If I had to pick the rarest retail disc it would be "James Cagney: That Yankee Doodle Dandy". This was one of the last titles scheduled for August 1986 release (the date was later moved forward to June to accommodate closure of the pressing plant). Since this was a documentary, and an old one at that (from his

1981 come back in Ragtime), it probably was pressed in smaller quantities than any of the other August 1986 releases which included Enemy Mine, Murphy's Romance, Marie, Spies Like Us, Sweet Dreams, and Youngblood. The very last title pressed on June 27, 1986 was "Jewel of the Nile", but this one apparently isn't exceptionally rare as the plant personnel kept pressing it until there were no more empty caddies in the warehouse (most copies of this title will have two caddy labels, one glued directly over the other).

Looking over all the 1986 releases, there is only one that I've come across only once "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome". This title was a January 1986 release and a much hyped movie, so it may be mere coincidence that I've seen it only once. I'd be interested to know if anyone else on the list has this title.

I'm still working on the overall rarity rating for all titles, It's a very monotonous task. I need as many people as possible to fill out the rarity survey at the CED Magic site, as I still don't have enough of those to make a statistically significant distinction between the title pairs listed. Even if you have only one title on that survey, it's still useful to check it off and submit the form. One thing about the analysis is that some titles have emerged as being very common. Does anyone want to guess what the most common title appears to be? Here's a hint-- it's a movie that figured prominently in the news almost exactly one year after RCA introduced the CED system.

--Tom

<http://www.cedmagic.com>

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: NCDL Newsletter & Chat Room Meeting  
Date: Fri, 24 Jan 1997 09:31:01 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3

Dear CED Enthusiasts: I would like to apologize for the abandonment of the meeting and the temporary halt of the newsletter. The weather in northern New York, more specifically the Ice Storm of 1998' which you may or may have not known about has been wreaking general havoc on all here, including the computers. I ask you if you were subscribed to the newsletter to please subscribe again, so that I may update damaged files. Thanks Dan Cayea Telecom Technologies

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Date: Sat, 24 Jan 1998 09:32:21 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History, Part 12

>From the April 1981 issue of Popular Science,

the first half of a feature article  
by William J. Hawkins.

-----  
Now you can buy it: RCA's videodisc player

It's easy to set up, use, maintain--and features  
a reasonable price to boot  
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If you've been following the videodisc evolution in PS for the past few years, you know there are three major systems: Philips optical, RCA capacitance, and Matsushita's VHD. Magnavox and Pioneer are already selling players using the Philips system (both units tried by PS, Sept. '79 and Jan. '81). And now the RCA system is available.

But that's not all. At a recent Electronics Industries Assn. dealer trade show, about a dozen different brands were shown, all using one of the three major formats. All should be available within a year. And 1981 isn't just the year for video--it's promising to be the year for the videodisc.

I've been living with the RCA system for some time now. It's simple to use and easy to hook up. One control--a three-position lever switch--does most of the work. Push it down to the "LOAD" position, and a front door opens wide so you can insert the disc-jacket and all. You never touch the record. The machinery inside the player extracts the disc, and you pull out the empty plastic jacket. Then you just slide the switch up to "PLAY".

This player is different from the prototype I saw a few years ago. It has additional buttons for special effects: Reverse and forward "VISUAL SEARCH" buttons let you scan for a scene at about 16 times normal speed. Reverse and forward "RAPID ACCESS" buttons let you leap through the hour-long side. You can't see the picture in this mode, but a digital display counts up or down to show how far you've gone. The last button is "PAUSE", and it temporarily holds the show and blanks out the screen.

When the first side is through, you insert the disc jacket into the loading hole again. The disc is placed back in the sleeve and you pull it out. Turn it over, place it back in the hole, and remove the empty jacket. Another hour of play is ready to go.

[Look for the second half of this article in  
next week's CED Digest.]

--

Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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Date: Sat, 24 Jan 1998 13:10:16 -0700  
From: "Jerry E. Harper"  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: subscribe to digest

Where can I get my player repaired?

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\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 5 1/31/98

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Date: Sun, 25 Jan 1998 21:10:56 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History, Part 13

>From the April 1981 issue of Popular Science,  
the second half of a feature article  
by William J. Hawkins.

---

Now you can buy it: RCA's videodisc player

It's easy to set up, use, maintain--and features  
a reasonable price to boot

---

[see CED Digest vol. 3, no. 4, for part one]

The RCA system uses a stylus to track the record.  
It will wear out eventually (after several years of  
normal play, according to a spokeswoman for RCA).  
To replace it, you lift the plastic cover from the  
top of the machine to expose the stylus unit. Push  
a lever to remove it, and drop in a new one. The  
whole thing is done at home in about 30 seconds.  
Cost of a new stylus will be approximately \$70.

Connecting the player to your TV is also simple:  
It goes between your antenna (or cable) and the TV-  
antenna terminals. The player does all the switching

automatically. My only criticism: There are no video- and audio-output jacks. These would provide cleaner signals to TV's that accept them.

Nevertheless, the quality on my Heath projection TV is excellent, and audio reproduction is good. I did see an occasional glitch on one of the discs I watched. (Fast search sometimes caused a frenzied picture, cured only by turning off the player and restarting.) This may have been a disc problem and could be attributed to an early pressing. But it emphasized one important point for disc players: The quality of the programs-- technically and artistically--will be key to the players' success.

RCA has done an excellent job of keeping its player simple but useful, and reasonably priced at \$499.95. (Discs will cost between \$15 and \$25.) Still, its success, I think, will depend on deals signed in Hollywood.

[photo of a then-new SGT-100 (I presume) with a CED of 'Saturday Night Fever' being (un)loaded. Caption reads: "Disc and jacket are inserted into player. Jacket comes out, but the disc stays in."]

[photo of open stylus access panel and a hand holding a stylus holder upside down. Caption reads: "Top door on player pops off to expose stylus holder. Changing the stylus is easier than changing an audio cartridge."]

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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Date: Mon, 26 Jan 1998 10:31:24 -0600  
From: David Potochick  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: The RCA DVD Demo...

Has anyone seen the RCA DVD demo??? I saw it in a store this weekend and noticed it being very similiar to the old CED demo discs they used to have. It looks like DVD is here to stay and it's even coming to you from RCA.....

I'll have to bite my tongue on what I previously said about DVD.... I compared DVD to VHS and it is far superior even though it uses pixels to make a picture..... VHS is the worst format there is and I don't know how it has survived this long.... But, when VHS is finally killed, people will probably collect VHS tapes like CED's.....

Later,



Dave.

---

Date: Tue, 27 Jan 1998 13:14:19 -0600 (CST)  
From: "Jason P. Ramsey"  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: WANTED:  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I'm looking for any good movies, but the one I really need is RETURN OF THE JEDI, both discs. Would like it in good shape and working but I'll probably take anything.

I'm also in need of a good PLAYER. I would like it to be a later model with remote, but as long as it's in good shape and works well I'm interested.

I've got things to trade so if you have either one of these items, please let me know and we'll work something out.

Thanks,  
Jason  
ramsejp@mail.auburn.edu

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Date: Tue, 27 Jan 1998 17:45:47 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Stereo caddies

Generally, I know that stereo CED's come in blue caddies. Today I came across a stack of discs and discovered one that was stereo in a white caddy (Rambo: First Blood Part II). Is that common or are stereo discs almost exclusively packaged in blue caddies?

--

Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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Date: Tue, 27 Jan 1998 17:56:47 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Collectable CED's

Some discussion here has been focused on the rarity of various discs. That doesn't matter to me nearly as much as the uniqueness of a disc.

Does anyone have a master list or know of CEDs

that are unique in content. It could be that the movie has never been released on any other format, or like "The Kids Are Alright," CED is the only format to offer the movie uncut and at the proper speed! Perhaps the CED of "Blade Runner" is the original theatrical release and not the later (changed) video release nor the director's cut.

Any help in identifying those "special" discs is appreciated.

--

Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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Sender: geoff  
Date: Fri, 30 Jan 1998 21:26:19 -0600  
From: Geoff Oltmans  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 4

Anybody else got a Toshiba VP-100 player?

I've got a question. I just recently fixed the player (bad turntable belt), and lacking anything around a 28" diameter belt (the biggest made today apparently is 25"), I bought the 25" belt, and it works perfectly.

My question is this: is the VP-100 player stereo or not. I know, it's got a jack on the back that says "Stereo", but it's not the usual RCA type jack...it's a four pin DIN connector...two pins for ground, and then two other wires. I do get a LITTLE bit of sound out of one of the other two wires, but it's very quiet, so my guess is that it doesn't even get pre-amped. The other does absolutely nothing if I plug a channel from the stereo to it. I suspect that this player is simply MONO, with an expansion option to make it stereo. It seems kind of daft to me to put a composite RCA video and then a monophonic RCA jack on the back and then the 4 pin DIN connector if it is indeed stereo...so that's my guess. The other things that make me think this is stereo is that there are no badges anywhere on the front or top of the unit indicating that it is stereo, which seems weird cause most manufacturers of consumer electronic equipment (VCRs notably) use this as a bragging point...my Hitachi CED player clearly labels it STEREO.

For other people wondering about the unit...

The player itself was made in 1981, which also makes me think it's not stereo. :) There are a few things I like about the player, and a few that I don't. For one, I really like the front loading design of this one vs. the Hitachi. It's real smooth putting a disc in and there's all

these neat safeguards it uses to keep you from messing up the disc. It's got a clear window on the top...I kinda like to see the disc spinning inside. :) It has an 2 digit 14 segment time elapsed indicator, whereas the Hitachi just has an LED mounted on the pickup arm and a clear window with times ticked off. The player REMOVES the needle from the surface of the disc while using the "Rapid Access" buttons...it has X2 playback, Pause, slow access (FF RWD). It has an option for a wired remote...if you know how to make one, let me know! Oh yeah, the system is self cleaning, of course...when you insert a disc, it dabs the needle into the velvet to clean it - it retracts the needle again before the disc gets to the rear of the player. Oh yeah, tracking is pretty good...it doesn't skip much at all, unless the disc is trashed (I've got a Forbidden Planet that doesn't play well on either player), the other discs in my possession track about 95% accurately. It starts at the VERY BEGINNING of the disc...something my Hitachi doesn't do too well sometimes. On the Hitachi sometimes it misses the RCA Intro animation completely, or starts in the middle of it.

On the downside...

Firstly, I'm not at all happy with the way it handles discs. When you play the disc, the turntable moves up to meet the disc, and then the turntable starts. Unfortunately, until the disc gets up to speed, you can hear that the turntable is spinning faster than the disc is. Apparently, it only abrades the inner surface of the disc (the part with no program around the hole)...conversely I don't like the way it stops the disc either! To stop the disc you hit the "Reset" button on the front of the player, and the turntable is retracted immediately. Notice that I said it doesn't stop the disc from spinning first! So, the disc is rather abruptly reduced from 450RPM to 0 in about 1.5 seconds after it is suspended on park rests. No damage occurs from this either, so maybe it's nothing to worry about. My other dislike is that it is a heavy piece...about 25 pounds.

\*Geoff!\*

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\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 6 2/6/98

-----  
From: ESmith1711  
Date: Sun, 1 Feb 1998 12:55:23 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Wanted

I need an empty case for return of the jedi disc two, my case got cracked and

the player will not take it, will also consider a case with a bad disc. also looking for ANY cheap james bond discs, will buy or trade . Gene

---

Date: Sun, 1 Feb 1998 15:55:04 -0600 (CST)  
From: Drew Atari Fuehring  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Looking for a certain CED  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I was wondering if anyone could tell me if a movie starring Willie Nelson called "Red Headed Stranger" was ever put out on CED....If anyone knows where I could pick this up please let me know....I have some CEDs to trade if anyone is interested and has this movie....

Let me know....THANK, DREW

---

Date: Sun, 01 Feb 1998 15:28:45 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History, Part 14

>From the May 1981 Popular Science magazine "Look and Listen" column by William J. Hawkins -

Here comes the flood

---

Sit back, relax, clean your glasses--your eyes are in for a real workout for the next few years. That's the message from the major home-electronics manufacturers, and they're saying it with a whole new generation of video equipment. Hold onto your popcorn, but what you watch--and where you watch it--may never be the same.

First example: videodiscs. Within the year, all three major formats (Philips, RCA, VHD) will be available; more than a dozen makers and major distributors have already chosen up sides as to which format they'll be using. The latest, but by no means the least or last, is from Panasonic. It's a VHD system that uses a grooveless record (like the Philips system) for video information. Result: first-run color movies with stereo sound from (compared to tape) an inexpensive record. It has special effects such as slow motion, freeze frame, reverse, and fast motion. And it's equipped with a microprocessor for programming. You can instruct the player to show you specific sections of a disc, and in any order. That feature will be use-

ful on future instructional discs, for example.

[The article goes on to discuss projection and hand-held TV's as well as a combined video camera/recorder for taking your own home movies.]

[Accompanying the article was a picture of the mentioned Panasonic VHD player. It appears to be quite similar in size to the early CED players and even has a small door on top for access to something inside--no stylus with this format, though. There's a VHD disc beside the player and it appears about eight inches square and three-quarters of an inch thick.]

#### Quick Looks

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Three new videodiscs, two from MCA and one from OPA, get the most out of the Philips optical disc players. OPA's "How to Watch Pro Football" is interactive--you select chapter numbers to learn different aspects of the game. A stereo track on one chapter lets you listen to either the offensive or defensive coach. "The Blues Brothers" is all stereo. Although the two channels could have been emphasized more--especially for the incredible car-chase scenes in the movie--stereo sound really adds to the fun of watching a movie at home. "Cheech and Chong's Next Movie" is recorded using the extended-play mode (one hour a side). All went well except for a 20-minute span on one side. Occasionally, the disc jumped back so you'd see a scene again. That one needs a bit more work.

--

Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

-----  
From: (John O'Connell)  
Date: Thu, 5 Feb 1998 19:15:45 -0500  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED  
MIME-Version: 1.0 (WebTV)

I have CED's for sale.

-----  
Date: Thu, 5 Feb 1998 17:15:13 -0800 (PST)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 5

Mime-Version: 1.0

Quick question- why did MCA start making CEDs when they went almost exclusively with laserdisc since the beginning? Also has anyone noticed that the music played over the Universal logo at the beginning of "Smokey and the Bandit" is the opening logo music used on the old Discovision laserdiscs? Was that in the theatrical version, or just someone's subtle way of protesting having to master movies for this format?

---

From: LLP33  
Date: Thu, 5 Feb 1998 21:57:02 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: rca/dvd/vhs/ced

the dvd will not replace Vhs it is replacing Laser Discs.

---

Sender: geoff  
Date: Thu, 05 Feb 1998 23:07:08 -0600  
From: Geoff Oltmans  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED Player Modification

> Has anyone ever tried to get Separated Y/C output from a CED player? On the  
> silkscreen for the motherboard on the Hitachi player I have suggests it  
> might be possible.

\*Geoff!\*

---

Date: Fri, 6 Feb 1998 15:17:50 -0500 (EST)  
From: return  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3No. 5  
MIME-Version: 1.0

Guys, remember about a year ago we were talking about the mastering error on the Tron disc, where there is a 1-2 sec still frame where there should be motion..

Well, I've found another one. There is one on "Butterflies are Free" with Goldie Hawn when she is talking to the actor who plays the blind guy in the scene. I think its some where right at say either 32 or 34 or 36 min mark on side one of the disc. Goldie is talking to the man when you get a freeze frame for atleast 1 sec or more.

Just though I would see who else may have caught this one too??

Mark.....

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 7 2/14/98

-----  
From: Bill Vermillion  
Subject: Re VHD  
To: ceds@teleport.com (Tom Howe)  
Date: Sun, 8 Feb 1998 09:59:02 -0500 (EST)  
MIME-Version: 1.0

In CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 6 2/6/98

> [Accompanying the article was a picture of the  
> mentioned Panasonic VHD player. It appears to be quite  
> similar in size to the early CED players and even has  
> a small door on top for access to something inside--no  
> stylus with this format, though. There's a VHD disc  
> beside the player and it appears about eight inches  
> square and three-quarters of an inch thick.]

The VHD was a capacitance system, as was the CED. The CED used the grooved surface to move the arm/stylus combination, while the VHD used an embedded servo track.

I believe RCA's thinking at the time was the mechanical movement instead of servo would be cheaper. However we now know it was less reliable.

I saw the VHD demo'd at an AES (Audio Engineering Society) show in NYC about 1980/81.

The disks were 10" as I recall. They were groovless and had a 'sled' instead of a stylus, and the above mentioned embedded servo tracks drove the motors that moved the sled across the disk.

The demo was interesting in that the VHD was a 4 channel system. The channels could be audio or video. It's been well over 15 years ago that I saw that, but the demo was a film with 3 channels of sound. One of the ways the channels could have been used was to have 3 channels of video and one of sound, to emulate the multi-screen slide show presentations that were so popular in that era.

In the end the VHD was never introduced to America, but I recall that it survived for a fairly long period in Japan, being used in the educational market.

The engineering design was superior to RCA's approach (IMO).

The interesting mention in the included paragraph above was the it was a Panasonic player. I seemed to recall that it was JVC who had done much of the research in the VHD market.

My memory of the VHD demo I saw was that it was in a suite in NYC, and also show was a digital cassette format and a very realist 3-D (excuse that term) sound system.

THE digital cassette was the same shape/size of the Philips Compact Cassette and ran for approximately 90 minutes in one direction. (That was only a dozen or so years before the DCC debacle circa 1995). THE audio demo had a fly/bee buzzing around and it appear to go behind you. This was with a 2 speaker system, but listener placement was highly critical, as in similar systems later from Carver and Q-Sound.

Bill

--

bill@bilver.magicnet.net | bill@bilver.com

---

From: DOEck  
Date: Sun, 8 Feb 1998 17:28:58 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: CED movies

I am interested in selling all my CED movie collection of 120+.  
I need any type of information concerning this, about where to advertise,  
etc...

Thanks,

Mike Eckert

---

From: Kyleisus  
Date: Mon, 9 Feb 1998 23:01:17 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Service for CED player

I am trying to find someone who will service my CED player in the Phoenix Arizona area. Any ideas?

Thanks.



kyleisus@aol.com

-----  
Date: Wed, 11 Feb 1998 19:11:20 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History, Part 15

>From the November 1981 "Popular Science" Special on  
Home Electronics --

The coming record revolution: digital discs  
by Leonard Feldman

=====  
A laser "reads" the compact, no-wear disc to deliver  
superior hi-fi.  
-----

[The crux of this article is a discussion of the forth-  
coming introduction of Compact Discs to the masses.  
However, in a few points, quoted here, the article  
touches on technology used by RCA's videodisc system  
and its contemporary competitors.]

While the Philips-Sony [Digital Audio Disc] system is  
based on optical laser technology, Telefunken of West  
Germany has been demonstrating a different groove-type  
disc system. A mechanical pickup stylus traces digital  
information contained in the spiral groove. It now seems  
unlikely, however, that Telefunken's system will be  
accepted as a world standard, or even be offered to the  
public in the near future.

That leaves one other system, based on a grooveless disc  
that uses a pickup to sense minute changes in disc capaci-  
tance. This DAD was developed by JVC as a companion to  
its VHD (video high density) disc player for TV, slated  
for marketing early next year. JVC's audio-disc system  
uses the videodisc player with an extra plug-in adapter.

.....

The second digital audio-disc system we're likely to see  
next year is AHD (audio high density), developed by JVC  
with its videodisc. This format carries audio information  
as multiple rows of pits arranged in spiral tracks on discs.  
The disc rotates at a constant 900 rpm. A diamond pickup  
stylus with a metallic section glides along the surface of  
the grooveless disc, guided by additional tracking signals  
located alongside the audio tracks. AHD discs are made with

an electroconductive plastic. The stylus reads millions of tiny pits as changes in capacitance. This information is translated into digital signals and then into hi-fi audio signals. Discs are 10.2 inches in diameter and are automatically loaded from a protective case slipped into the player.

JVC says it plans to market its videodisc player, used to play AHD digital discs, at a price that's competitive with the \$500 capacitance-type video machines made by RCA and others. But it has not said how much the additional digital audio processor will cost.

--

Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

---

Date: Fri, 13 Feb 1998 21:53:45 -0600  
From: Geoff Oltmans  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: FS: Toshiba VP-100

I have a Toshiba VP-100 player for sale. It works quite well (especially after I just changed the turntable belt).

The player is in great shape...there are a few scratches, but nothing major...the needle has a nice sharp point to it.

Make an offer!

\*Geoff!\*

--

Geoff Oltmans - geoffatsprynetdotcom - filthy spammers!  
Kernal = Keyboard Entry Read Network and Link  
<http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/geoff>

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 8 2/21/98

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Date: Sat, 14 Feb 1998 12:15:58 -0800  
From: Michael Ashton-Moore  
To: tom@cedmagic.com  
Subject: CEDs  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain

Content-Disposition: inline

Hello Tom,

I have recently found a batch of CEDs.

Looking on the web for info made me decide not to throw them away, but see if anybody actually wanted them.

If you know of anyone who wants them, just get them contact me.

I am in the NJ area.

Here is the list on titles

Goldfinger

The Thing

The Verdict x2

The Cannonball Run

Staying Alive

Ordinary People x 2

The Toy

Body Heat

Airplane 2 - The sequel

Trading Places

Coma

Raging Bull x2

Empire Strikes Back

Thriller (Making of Michael Jacksons)

Raiders of the Lost Ark

Alien

Star Trek II - The Wrath of Khan

Blade Runner

Flash Dance

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

Tron

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

The Amityville Horror

An American Werewolf in London

And Justice for all

Richard Pryor Live on Sunset Strip

The Spy Who Loved me

Purple Rain

Omen III- The Final Conflict

Firefox

Polergeist

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From: RJGra

Date: Sun, 15 Feb 1998 11:16:43 EST

To: ceds@teleport.com

Mime-Version: 1.0

Subject: Only on CED

The question of which titles are available on CED and not on other video media comes up from time to time, and here are a few that I am aware of:

"The Disney Disk of Mystery and Imagination" was partially financed by RCA and has never been released in any other form. You can see an SJT 400 in the instruction and introduction section on the disk, but if you don't have an SJT 400 player you can't watch the disk.

Even though tape and laser compilations of Rocky & Bullwinkle have been issued, none of them contained the classic "Whotsamatta U" story arc of the first CED disk.

"American Hot Wax" was released on tape by Fotomat (remember them?) in the early days of home video, but has been out of print for years due to licensing problems with the music. I read somewhere that a copy of the old Fotomat release is selling for \$850 at Video Oyster, one of those dealers specializing in hard to find video (I would think it would be harder to find a collector willing to pay this price for what is undoubtedly a poor transfer--given the limitations of VHS circa 1978, but that's another story). When I read this, I pulled out my CED, popped open a beer and watched Jay, Fran and Lorraine witness the birth of Rock 'n' Roll. Eat your hearts out, tapeheads!

Bob Graham

-----  
From: analog.tv  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 7  
X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 19  
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 1998 14:58:50 EST

That's a cool website! I ran across two banana boxes full of ced movies at the church auction about two years ago.....nobody bid on them because the included player had a sound problem....none. I wound up with the mess and was determined to get the player fixed. I found a tech who found a bad chip in it---he'd fix it if I could find the chip. A friend in Indianapolis who started at RCA about when this ced thing came out was able to find a stick of the particular chips used in this player. I run the heck out of the critter now and through the website and friends in low places have found quite a few very good titles. There's almost no reason to watch commercial television and I don't miss the commercials. As my hobby is repairing/collecting pre-1950 televisions, there is a quirk these ced's have over conventional video tape: they play without distortion on these old sets. These oldies prefer a nice big synchronizing pulse the tape players abbreviate. Tape puts a nasty "S" curve on the top of the screen and there is no problem with the set aside from room dust on glowing tubes. Tom, my wife wants me to organize/catalog the movies we have....are you interested in a list for addition to the database in the website...no new titles but it might give an idea to the quantity of stuff out

there.....and there's still a lot. Later, CRAIG (GREENBELT, MD)

---

You don't need to buy Internet access to use free Internet e-mail.  
Get completely free e-mail from Juno at <http://www.juno.com>  
Or call Juno at (800) 654-JUNO [654-5866]

-----  
didn't use HELO protocol  
Date: Thu, 19 Feb 1998 10:33:33 -0600  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: Thomas Eyssell  
Subject: Newbie question  
Mime-Version: 1.0

I recently purchased 160 CEDs and a SFT100 at a flea market. Although there was no way to test the equipment, the discs were in original shipping boxes (about 8 to a box) and the outside of the player seemed pristine (and included the styrofoam shipping "covers". Now the bad news: while discs play well, any color (even on the logos at the beginning of b&w discs) constantly fades in and out. During the time it changes from color to b&w, the picture distorts.

I thought perhaps the player or discs were faulty, but then found another SFT100 and a couple of discs at a thrift store. They do the same thing!

This problem doesn't seem to be covered in the CEDMagic faq. Do these symptoms sound familiar? Being new to this technology, I am baffled. Any ideas?

Tom

-----  
Date: Sat, 21 Feb 1998 08:58:58 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History, Part 16

>From the December 1981 "Popular Science" -- Part 1  
by William J. Hawkins

VIDEODISCS - new alternatives to movies at home

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Grab the popcorn: Lots of new machines  
mean a new era in video entertainment

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Look close. That record of "Saturday Night Fever" has  
all the songs from the movie. Wait. Look closer--that  
record *is* the movie.

It's a videodisc. Not only does it contain a sound

track--it also contains the picture. Place it in a videodisc player connected to your TV set, and you get to see full-color, uncut, commercial-free movies--and more. Until recently, only two machines--Magnavox and Pioneer--have been available. But by the time you read this, over a dozen manufacturers should have units on store shelves, and many other makers plan to have systems within the next year (see table [to be recreated in a future installment of Videodisc History]).

Sound good? It does to me, but for some, the jury is still out. They argue the price is too high for what you get, and stiff competition from videotape recorders, as well as incompatible disc formats, have helped confuse and alienate potential customers. True? Well, there's only one way to decide--and that's to see what the new players have to offer.

What you get

They're players only. Videodisc machines can't record. You buy a prerecorded video record--as you do an audio record--place it in the player and watch its picture on your TV.

Prices for the new players range from \$430 to \$770 depending on the format, which determines the possible features. The format of the player is the technical way the video information is extracted off the disc. There are currently two types: LV (laser vision) developed by MCA and Philips, and CED (capacitance electronics disc) by RCA. A third system, VHD (video high density), designed by Matsushita, JVC, and GE, is planned for June 1982.

The formats are incompatible--you can't buy an LV record and expect it to play on a CED machine, or vice versa. And, as you can see from the table, even manufacturers are divided over which system is best. The fact is, each format has its own advantages.

The LV system, for example, uses a laser beam of light to "read" the information. Nothing mechanically touches the disc, so there's no wear or loss in picture quality over time. And, because of the way information can be placed on the disc, the unit has many special-effects capabilities.

Controls on the Magnavox player, for instance, allow you to vary the speed--forward or reverse--from 16 times normal down to still frame. And, in the still-frame position, it will hold one frame of the disc rock-steady on the screen for as long as you like

The Pioneer laser disc player does that and a bit more. Each frame on the disc is electronically encoded with a number. That allows you to instantly find and display any frame at any time. To do it, you enter the frame number on a numeric key pad on the player and push a SEARCH button.

In seconds the frame pops on the screen. It could be a picture of Bo Derek from her latest movie. Or, perhaps not as interesting but a lot more informative, it could be a chart of drill sizes from a how-to program disc. Sears has recently put its entire catalog on a disc. Pick one frame to see the newest radial-arm saw; press PLAY to see it in action. The same idea is used for musical-concert discs: Each song can be chosen with a CHAPTER number button.

All this gives the LV machines great possibilities for a variety of future uses. There is a drawback, however: cost. The LV machines simply are more expensive than CED players--and low cost, along with simple operation, is the main idea behind the CED design.

[The conclusion of this article will appear in CED Digest next week, with the comparison table coming the following week.]

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 9 2/28/98

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED FastFinder & Other CED Services  
Date: Wed, 25 Feb 1998 16:57:06 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3007.0

It has been some time since I had made a posting on the digest, but still do find the time to read it. Since the last time I had made a posting I have been busy developing services and publications dealing with CED and without further ado here they are... Telecom Technologies CED Fast Finder Service... Many CED enthusiasts have been looking for certain discs and with no avail give up their search. With Telecom's newly constructed Internet Search Enginges, Client and Electronics Databases we can help you find the disc(s) that you seek. What's the catch, not much of a catch at all, if we find the disc that you seek and most likely we will, all that we ask if 3.5% of the disc purchase price and we can't find them, then we don't want 3.5% In fact we believe that you'll be so pleased with us that we'll find your first five discs absolutely free. Just send an email to tti@westelcom.com with 'CED Fast Finder' in the subject line with your title in the text box. Telecom Technologies CED Internet Resource Binder... Many of us have Internet access, of course how could you be reading this if you didn't. But who really wants to log on every

time they want to look something up. The Internet Resource Binder contains hard copies of every available Internet resource at the time of publication. Using Telecom's newly constructed search engine, resources are not hard to find and have been compiled together. Why search all the time, when for \$29.95 you can have for a lifetime. Price per binder: \$29.95 Free  
Updates: One Full Year (Includes all updates released for one year after purchase) Online Support: Free at tti@westelcom.com To Order or Inquire write to tti@westelcom.com or write to: Telecom Technologies, Inc. 2841 First Street Lyon Mountain, New York 12952 Sincerely Daniel P. Cayea Telecom Technologies, Inc.

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From: ESmith1711  
Date: Fri, 27 Feb 1998 00:18:21 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: ced post

i need 2 bond movies to complete my collection  
1. a view to a kill  
2. on her majesties secret service  
if you have these i want them and have a couple other bonds to trade for them.  
thanks, Gene (esmith1711@aol.com)

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\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 10 3/7/98

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Sender: geoff  
Date: Thu, 05 Mar 1998 19:05:35 -0600  
From: Geoff Oltmans  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Cool book

I found a really neat book at the University library here...it was a book of Videodisc and optical storage (in fact, I think that's what the book was titled). It contained very in-depth information about various formats...including CED! There were two chapters specifically for CED, which contained information on VHD as well. The information was very technical, including information on stylus dimensions, mastering techniques, tracking control, etc. etc. I'd say a good 30-50 pages covering CED.

\*Geoff!\*

--



Geoff Oltmans - CPE Undergrad University of Alabama in Huntsville  
KERNAL = Keyboard Entry Read Network And Link  
<http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/geoff>

---

Date: Sat, 07 Mar 1998 00:07:57 -0800  
From: Tom Howe  
To: [ceds@teleport.com](mailto:ceds@teleport.com)  
Subject: RE: Color Shifts on RCA F and G players  
Mime-Version: 1.0

On Thu, 19 Feb 1998 c1803 wrote:

>I recently purchased 160 CEDs and a SFT100 at a flea market. Although there  
>was no way to test the equipment, the discs were in original shipping boxes  
>(about 8 to a box) and the outside of the player seemed pristine (and  
>included the styrofoam shipping "covers". Now the bad news: while discs  
>play well, any color (even on the logos at the beginning of b&w discs)  
>constantly fades in and out. During the time it changes from color to b&w,  
>the picture distorts.

These color shifts are usually the result of variations in the 450RPM rate the turntable needs to spin at. The Turntable Speed Check Strobe available in the tech info section at CED Magic can be used to check on this. Some players I've seen will play normally at the start of play and then start the color shifts later on. This is because the players have a limited ability to correct for speed variations with their time base correction circuitry, but as the stylus moves closer to the center of the disc the groove circumference continues to decrease, and at some point the decreasing signal bandwidth gets too narrow for the correction circuit.

RCA's F and G players seem particularly susceptible to this because of the 16 pole magnetic ring in the base of the turntable. Damage or weakness in any one of these poles is enough to throw the rotation rate off. I've looked at turntables that have undamaged magnetic rings, but still rotate unevenly, and believe it is due to weakness in the magnetic field strength due to age, which means this could eventually be an issue with all CED players. It already has affected all the Sanyo players I've ever seen, which all exhibit the same characteristic- the turntable won't spin up after a disc is inserted. But if the turntable is given a little nudge after loading the disc it will spin up and play normally. The strength of the magnetic field in the permanent magnets has decreased to the point that the electrically generated fields produced by the motor cannot overcome the inertia of the stationary turntable.

RCA's J and K players as well as the Hitachi manufactured units also depend on a magnet to get the turntable spinning. I haven't yet seen any of these units that won't spin up due to a weak magnet, but these players use a simple toroidal magnet that can be replaced or possibly remagnetized.

--Tom Howe  
<http://www.cedmagic.com>

-----  
Date: Sat, 07 Mar 1998 15:31:37 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 17

[sorry about forgetting to post this last week.]

>From the December 1981 "Popular Science"  
by William J. Hawkins

VIDEODISCS - new alternatives to movies at home -- Part 2  
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The CED units are basically no more complicated than an audio record player. A turntable spins the record, a stylus tracks the grooves to extract the audio and video information. (The stylus is rated for about 500 plays and can be replaced in minutes at home. Cost: about \$75.)

The only delicate piece in the system is the record itself. Scratches or fingerprints could destroy your movie. To prevent it, the CED records come in a permanent plastic jacket. You slide the record--jacket and all--into the player. Then you pull the jacket back out. The record automatically stays in place on the internal turntable.

Because it is a record-in-a-groove system, you can't instantly scoot all over the disc. It takes a bit of button-pushing. The basic RCA model gives you two fast-forward and two reverse speeds. But you don't see the picture while using the fastest speed (approximately 120 times normal). Instead, a visual indicator shows the approximate minutes into the disc. The type of indicator used varies with the machine. Radio Shack, for instance, uses a sliding wand on a time scale (like tuning a radio). RCA, Zenith, and Sanyo use a digital display.

Once you're near the area of the show you want, you can "home in" with the slower-speed button (16 times normal speed). Now you get to see the picture, and with practice, you can stop within a scene or two of where you wish to be.

There are some variations to all this. Some brands, such as Hitachi and Sears, have cut the fast search down to 60 times normal but allow you to see the picture in both speeds. And still others, such as Toshiba, have two slower speeds with visual search and a third high speed (130 times normal) you use with the digital display.

Still-framing is a bit of a problem on CED machines since each revolution of the record contains four separate frames of picture information. The result of the Sanyo machine is

a shaky still-framed picture (unless all four frames are nearly identical). The problem is solved another way by most other CED systems: they **\*\*don't have\*\*** a still-frame button. They have a PAUSE button that blanks the TV image.

[stay tuned for the final part of this article, including a comparison table of various models...next week]

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 11 3/14/98

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Date: Thu, 12 Mar 1998 13:56:38 -0800  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED/Newton Parallels  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

If you follow the technology press, you may have heard that Apple announced they are discontinuing their Newton personal digital assistant, and are now liquidating the existing product inventory. You may be familiar with this product as there's a Newton version of the CED Title Database available for download at CED Magic. I've had one of these since they first came out in 1993, and although I don't make extensive use of it, there are some cool functions available, like using it as a television remote control. I have even been considering programming it as a full-function SJT400 interactive remote. But in thinking about this, there are some striking similarities between CED and Newton:

-Both products were introduced with much fanfare, and RCA and Apple made convincing arguments that the products would be in use by a large portion of the population within a few years.

-Both were essentially released in the BETA stage. RCA had the skipping problem mainly attributable to too much disc lubricant, and the player design flaw where people would flip the function lever from load to play with the caddy still in the player, messing up the switch cams. The Newton had laughably bad handwriting recognition, that the press had a field day with.

- Both products were discontinued when they were selling in the Black. RCA was making a profit on disc sales when they discontinued CED, and the Newton by some accounts is the second best selling PDA (although it's way behind the Palm

Pilot).

-Both products were essentially killed rather than spun off. A consortium attempted to buy CED pressing rights in 1985, but the deal fell through because of RCA's high asking price. It sounds like they wanted CED to disappear completely so everyone would forget about it. Apple has decided to sit on their Newton technology rather than sell it, possibly with the plan to introduce a new PDA some time in the future.

More info on Apple's announcement can be found at <http://www.newton-inc.com>

--Tom Howe

<http://www.cedmagic.com>

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Date: Fri, 13 Mar 1998 09:35:43 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 18

>From the December 1981 "Popular Science"  
by William J. Hawkins

VIDEODISCS - new alternatives to movies at home -- Part 3

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Are they worth it?

Remember, videodisc players don't record. That makes videotape recorders--available for about \$100 more--their stiffest competition.

But with the videodisc player, you'll save money later--on the cost of the disc. A first-run movie is about \$30. That's not exactly cheap, but a prerecorded videotape of the same movie is at least twice that. Also, disc players offer more in special effects and, with the right discs, could be much more than just movie players. Instructional discs are available at present; future discs could mean an entirely new way of gaining information.

All this will hang on the programming material available. There is no doubt in my mind that videodisc players will survive alongside videotape--just as audio discs and audio tape recorders can be companions in a hi-fi system. But now we're in the midst of a Catch-22. Programming developers are waiting for more videodisc players to be sold before they begin producing more material, while videodisc buyers are waiting for a fuller library before they're willing to buy. And everybody's waiting to see what effect a third incompatible format will have this spring. Needless to say, for the videodisc to become a box-office smash, something has to give.

[The main picture accompanying this story shows an unsleeved DiscoVision disc in the background (no movie title, just the word "DiscoVision" on the label), and 7 different videodisc players in the foreground. The caption reads:

"New videodisc players offer excellent picture and sound quality. Units simply attach to TV antenna terminals. (Antenna is automatically switched to TV when player is turned off.) Some units have separate audio and video outputs for higher quality signals when used with a projection TV and hi-fi. A few offer stereo. Remote control is optionally available on some. Top to bottom are: Sanyo, Zenith, Radio Shack, RCA, Toshiba, Pioneer, and Magnavox."

The Pioneer and Magnavox units are clearly laserdisc players.]

[Two other photos appear, one showing a CED being inserted into a player and the other showing a laserdisc ("DiscoVision") being placed into the top-loading Pioneer player. Caption reads:

"Square plastic record jacket contains round CED disc above. CED machines, like this Toshiba, play an hour per side. The Pioneer LV system, right, gets a half-hour per side in the normal mode. Extended-play discs in the LV system get an hour per side, but only the fast-scan feature will work on these shows."]

[The following comparison table also appeared.]

Videodisc-player manufacturers--now and future

Manuf.	Model	Format	Price	Controls					
				Pause	Still	Slow	Fast	Random	Remote
Elmo	VEC 200	CED	500	X	X		2		X
Fisher	U*	LV	U	X	X	X	2	X	X
G.E.	U	VHD	U	X	X	X	X		U
Gold Star	U	LV	U	X	X	X	X	U	X
Hitachi	VIP1000	CED	530	X			2		X
JVC	U	VHD	U	X	X	X	X	X	X
Magnavox	8000	LV	699	X	X	X	X		
	8005	LV	769	X	X	X	X		X
M. Ward	10301	CED	430	X	X		2		X
NEC	U	VHD	U	X	X	X	X		X
Panasonic	U	VHD	U	X	X	X	2		X
Pioneer	VP-1000	LV	749	X	X	X	2	X	X
Quasar	U	VHD	U	X	X	X	2		X
R. Shack	CED-1	CED	500	X			2		X
RCA	SFT100W	CED	500	X			2		
Samsung	U	LV	U	X	X	X	2	U	X
Sanyo	VDR3000	CED	500	X	X		3		X

Sears	5474	CED	480	X			2		
	5478	CED	500	X			2		X
Sharp	U	VHD	U	X	X	X	2	X	X
Toshiba	VP-100	CED	525	X	X		3		
Zenith	VP-2000	CED	500	X			2		

\*Undecided

Manuf.	Model	Output			Available	Remarks
		RF	Video	Audio		
Elmo	VEC-200	X			Now	Stereo adapter jack
Fisher	U	X	X	X	March	
G.E.	U	X	X	X	June	Variable speed
Gold Star	U	X	X	X	End of 82	
Hitachi	VIP1000	X	X	X	Now	Remote optional; two visual-search speeds
JVC	U	X	X	X	June	Variable speed
Magnavox	8000	X	X	X	Now	Variable speed
	8005	X	X	X	Now	Variable speed
M. Ward	10301	X	X	X	Now	Stereo adaptable; remote control optional
NEC	U	X	X	X	June	Prototype info only
Panasonic	U	X	X	X	June	Prototype info only
Pioneer	VP-1000	X	X	X	Now	Variable speed
Quasar	U	X	X	X	June	Prototype info only
R. Shack	CED-1	X	X	X	Now	
RCA	SFT100W	X			Now	
Samsung	U	X	X	X	June	Prototype info only
Sanyo	VDR3000	X	X	X	Now	Comb filtering; direct- drive motor
Sears	5474	X			Now	
	5478	X	X	X	Now	Two visual-search speeds
Sharp	U	X	X	X	June	Random access requires optional unit
Toshiba	VP-100	X	X	X	Now	Stereo adapter jack
Zenith	VP-2000	X			Now	

\*Undecided

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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17TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

The CED System was introduced Sunday, March 22nd, 1981  
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Date: Sun, 15 Mar 1998 19:10:18 -0800

From: Phil Bridges

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: ceds@teleport.com

Subject: CED's

I have the following for sale, preferably as a package deal:

Titles are:

Firefox

Dumbo

Psycho II

Creepshow

Romancing The Stone

Altered States

To Be Or Not To Be

The Hunger

Blazing Saddles

Final Exam

The Muppet Movie

Sudden Impact

Arthur

Star Wars

Deadly Blessing

American Werewolf In London

The Empire Strikes Back X2

Seniors

Return Of The Pink Panther

Easy Money

Trading Places

Eyewitness

He Knows You, re Alone

Under Fire

Richard Pryor ^ Here And Now

Fuzz

Private School

The Last Unicorn

Quest For Fire

The Missionary

Jane Fonda, s Workout

Strange Behaviour

Losin, It

They Call Me Bruce?

Stayin, Alive

Halloween III  
Things Are Tough All Over

Music Discs

Picture Music  
Pink Floyd ^ At Pompei  
Stevie Nicks In Concert  
Who Rocks America ^ 82 Tour  
Kenny Loggins - Alive  
The Compleat Beatles  
Rush ^ Exit Stage Left  
Queen ^ Greatest Flix

as well as a SKT090 RCA player. Any offers are welcome at  
saxguy@golden.net

-----  
Date: Sun, 15 Mar 1998 21:57:56 -0800  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: FORWARDED TO CED DIGEST FROM ALT.VIDEO.DVD

> Subject: 10 GOOD REASONS CED STILL BEATS LD  
> From: slacker@aol.com (John "Doc" Holliday)  
> Date: 1998/03/12  
> Message-ID: <6e91f6\$6e6\$1@usenet46.supernews.com>  
> Newsgroups: alt.video.dvd  
>  
> Top ten reasons CED still beats LD:  
>  
> 10. No such thing as CED rot  
>  
> 09. Players and discs are less expensive: watch those garage sales!  
>  
> 08. Disc is never touched: no danger of fingerprint errors  
>  
> 07. CED owners have already recognized their format is dead; gotten on  
> with their lives  
>  
> 06. Titles available that were never released on LD  
>  
> 05. Good picture (not as good as DVD, but neither is LD's)  
>  
> 04. No friends hassling me to borrow titles  
>  
> 03. No danger of laser radiation  
>  
> 02. "Leonard Part 6" never released on CED  
>  
> 01. CED owners not ignorant or blind enough to proclaim their



> inferior format is better than DVD  
>

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Date: Sat, 21 Mar 1998 04:48:16 -0800  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Raise the Titanic  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

With all the current Titanic hoopla, I chose this for the featured disc at CED Magic. I've actually been planning a feature for some time comparing CED and DVD cover art, and this title fit the mold nicely for a simulated DVD to compare alongside the real CED.

--Tom Howe  
<http://www.cedmagic.com>

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Date: Sat, 21 Mar 1998 18:58:11 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 19

>From the January 1982 Popular Science column "Look and Listen"  
by William J. Hawkins

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#### Quick Looks

The items you see as you're checking out of the supermarket are specially selected to appeal to everybody--your eyes catch a glimpse of everything from razor blades to stories on how "I Beat Up a Martian" in tabloids. And soon you'll be able to sort through videodiscs: Humphrie Video is working with RCA to rent players and discs at food stores. Ripe ideas like that could make the videodisc a fruitful venture.

>From the March 1982 Popular Science column "Look and Listen"  
by John Free.

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#### Quick Looks

Videodisc players from Pioneer and RCA will have the CX noise-reduction system developed by CBS Technology Center built into them. RCA will use CX for its stereo videodiscs, slated for introduction this year. For audio LP discs, CX encoding-decoding cuts background surface noise while enabling playback on hi-fi systems not equipped with CX.

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 13 3/28/98

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From: Bill Vermillion  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 12  
To: ceds@teleport.com (Tom Howe)  
Date: Sun, 22 Mar 1998 12:08:27 -0500 (EST)  
MIME-Version: 1.0

CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 12 3/21/98  
> To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
> Subject: Videodisc History Part 19  
>  
> >From the January 1982 Popular Science column "Look and Listen"  
> by William J. Hawkins

> Quick Looks  
> Videodisc players from Pioneer and RCA will have the CX  
> noise-reduction system developed by CBS Technology Center  
> built into them. RCA will use CX for its stereo videodiscs,  
> slated for introduction this year. For audio LP discs, CX  
> encoding-decoding cuts background surface noise while enab-  
> ling playback on hi-fi systems not equipped with CX.

Just a comment on CX. CBS introduced the CX technology as a way  
to make better/quieter LP's.

I was at an AES show in NYC in late 1970's or early 1980's when the  
showed this technology. They had released, or test released a  
couple of recordings using this technology. CBS claimed it was  
totally transparent and not noticeable.

It was not transparent and was noticeable - at least for the  
engineers and producers who made the records. It was noticeable on  
good equipment. CBS took a thorough drubbing about this and  
abandoned this for LPs.

Considering that soundtracks for films were lower in quality and  
limited in range, this never presented a major problem there, at  
least none that I'm aware of.

CX was also designed to be 'compatible' eg playable without serious  
object on non-CX systems. Dolby and dbx, both being companding

technologys sound bad on systems with no decoding. Dolby was at least listenable, dbx was atrocious. We have 48 channels of dbx in our two 24-track rooms. It was okay there, but certainly not destined for the consumer marketplace.

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bill@bilver.magicnet.net | bill@bilver.com

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Date: Sun, 22 Mar 1998 15:03:38 -0400  
From: Rod Whisner  
Organization: 2001  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: auction announcement

Could you please post this auction notice for a Hitachi CED VIP 2000 and over 75 disc titles.

The auction can be accessed at:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/aw-cgi/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=9005242>

Thank you for your help! Feel free to contact us with the information below if you have any questions.

--

Rod and Melanie Whisner  
PO Box 26263, Wilmington, DE 19899  
302.658.5151

Whisner is the 32,580th most popular last name (surname) in the United States; frequency is 0.000%; percentile is 82.379

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From: "Video Trading Co."  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: subscribe  
Date: Sun, 22 Mar 1998 15:28:24 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3

I have available for sale nearly 4500 RCA CED's, new and used. Asking \$10,000. Includes 50 or more SJT and SKT 090's and 100's. Most players should work but most will need belts. Pete, squidinc@3wave.com

---

From: Beaumontj  
Date: Sun, 22 Mar 1998 16:08:47 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: skipping problems

I have a RCA SGT 200 and five or six CEDs. It seems like they play fine for about ten or fifteen minutes and then start skipping. I haven't played them to the end so I don't know if the skipping continues, but it does seem to happen with every disk I own. I assume the problem is the player. Anything I can do to fix it? Thanks.

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 14 4/4/98

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Date: Sun, 29 Mar 1998 06:15:17 +0300  
From: sobel  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: advertisement  
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)

I would like to sell my 650 TITLES with three SKT 400 players with remotes as a package for only \$1800 plus shipping. Please write to drilnfil@mailexcite.com for any more information you may require. Thank you

---

From: ESmith1711  
Date: Sat, 4 Apr 1998 01:37:52 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: post

i will trade the following ced's for ANY KISS stuff or old video games (atari, turbo grafx16 etc) wil also consider any other offers.

on golden pond, jane fonda workout,as we grow,mary poppins, robin hood (disney),patton disc 2 only,benji,califronia suite.

thanks, gene

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Date: Sat, 04 Apr 1998 06:31:23 -0800  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 20

>From the March 1982 Popular Science column "Look and Listen"  
by John Free -

Video for Computers

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Video screens pulsed with color and images. At dozens of booths, people clustered around TV sets, pushing buttons and swiveling joy sticks on control units. They were interacting with and changing the TV pictures.

An Asteroids and Space Wars arcade? No. It's what I saw when I stepped into a big auditorium in New York's Madison Square Garden recently. And the entranced videophiles weren't zapping alien spacecraft. They and I were surveying a new crop of interactive videodiscs. Instead of "The Godfather" or "The Sound of Music," these LaserVision discs had such memorable programs as how to reduce nearsightedness with surgery, or viewer-controlled tours through the Corning Museum of Glass, a West Coast harbor, or a power plant.

These optical videodisc programs are created for computerized interaction. The programmable computer is either built into an industrial disc player, such as the Sony LDP-1000 prominent at this Video Expo showcase, or the player's microprocessor is aided by an external computer. Wicat, Inc. (Orem, Utah), for example, was demonstrating its new minicomputer and a medical disc on the gastrointestinal tract.

Surrogate-travel discs pulled the biggest crowds. These feature pre-filmed tours of locations. You move through scenes--turning at corners, stopping, shuffling into fast forward--with computer controls. But schools and many companies are also disccovering the awesome information-storage potential of videodiscs. Other booths had training and maintenance discs, sales discs for GM and Ford, an interactive encyclopedia, and a disc with 100,000 of the 700,000 U.S. patents issued over the past 10 years.

All the disc players used were the laser-scanned, non-contact type, capable of freezing TV images. Meanwhile, in Europe, RCA unveiled an advanced version of its player, a home machine designed for grooved, stylus-read discs. The prototype is capable of accessing program sections by tapping in minutes and seconds on a key pad. Variations of its new machine could also display individual TV frames, say RCA officials. The advanced players are not for sale yet.

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 15 4/11/98

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From: Moviefun  
Date: Tue, 7 Apr 1998 22:29:10 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Later Model Machines

i would be interested in purchasing a later model CED player. picture search as well as picture scan and pause. Stereo and RCA output jacks is my main concern. if you have any of these machines for sale at a reasonable price, let me know. i have many other ced disks and laserdisks to trade.

also looking for the following CED's :

Ghostbusters, Return of the Jedi, Goonies, European Vacation, Raise the Titanic, West Side Story, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.

Thank You,  
Moviefun@aol.com

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Date: Fri, 10 Apr 1998 21:24:18 -0700  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 21

>From the May 1982 Popular Science column "Look and Listen"  
by John Free -

Quick Looks

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Despite sluggish sales by its future competitors, backers of VHD, the third non-compatible videodisc system, seem determined to proceed with its introduction this year. In January they announced 250 titles will be ready on the grooveless capacitance discs by year's end.

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>From the July 1982 Popular Science column "Look and Listen"  
by John Free -

Quick Looks

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From our "just what you needed" department: Pop the video-disc on your CED player and--ding-dong--Avon is calling. If the Avon-RCA deal goes through, the special discs will carry product information for Avon district managers. But it does make you wonder about how future catalogs could be sent in the mail.

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Neil - nw@ix.netcom.com

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 16 4/18/98

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From: "Jay and Sam"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: For Sale: SJT400 plus discs  
Date: Mon, 13 Apr 1998 14:23:04 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.2106.4

For sale: Newly refurbished SJT400 Interactive Disc Player (serviced by former RCA trained CED service repairman) plus remote in excellent working condition. Will include original owner's manual, SAMs technical service manual, non-working SJT90 (for repair parts on the 400), and about 400 discs (most viewed only once or twice) including practically all RCA interactive discs made. Will sell all as a package for \$649 (or best offer) plus postage.

Contact Jay Jones at bingo@home.com for additional information.

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Date: Thu, 16 Apr 1998 03:44:06 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 15  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Someone asked for "Temple of Doom" on CED, that wasn't released til late 1986 so I think it missed CED by just a few months as that was the year they quit making them ("Jewel of the Nile" was the very last title made I'm told.)

Regarding the catalog comment, it is a shame that discs haven't caught on for "junk mail", just those cheap VHS tapes. I heard the 1981 Sears Catalog had a laserdisc version sent to those who had their players registered (And I'd eat dirt to have one of these!) but that's about it on the consumer end. Nordictrack was one of the first products you could get free videotapes about to learn more about their product, several of this stuff (including hair-loss, religious stuff, and vehicles I have no intention of owning) I've sent for and received when they have cards to send in or

numbers to call requesting them. They're already cluttering up the thrift stores so I don't know whether this'll become rare stuff later on. ("Baby Care Basics" is one I see a LOT but don't know how to get a free copy of it!) A local TV staton just got purchased by Viacom and picked up the UPN network from another station, so they sent out tapes to "selected neighborhoods" telling us about the exciting changes ahead. In other words, the same old crap (including cut movies) they've been showing for a long time, so I appreciate the tape guys, but you gotta do better if you want me to watch! (There was a commercial for Carl's Jr. (a West Coast fast-food chain) and Dodge cars which I assume paid for most of this.) Oh well, those CD-V's (audio CD's with 20 minutes of audio only then on the outer part 5 minutes of analog CLV video with digital sound (no analog track) would've make neat sales tools, but that format never caught on. CEDs are so big and heavy I bet it would cost a fortune to mail out to people on a regular basis though! I bet in about another 20 years these video sales pitches are gonna be cult items, where people gather round just to get a good laugh out of them. Lots of people seem to throw theirs out but I always keep mine!

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Date: Thu, 16 Apr 1998 20:02:28 -0700  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 22

>From the August 1982 Popular Science -

Optical disc can store an encyclopedia - Part 1  
by John Free

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New recorders capture images, computer data,  
or audio for instant playback

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Imagine slipping an iridescent optical disc from a jacket labeled "Encyclopedia Britannica." The "Britannica's" 43 million-odd words and some 30,000 illustrations have been compressed from bulky book volumes onto one disc as a spiral pattern of microscopic pits. Put the disc in a player, tap commands on a microcomputer keyboard, and reference information appears on a TV screen.

Discs and machines with this incredible storage potential will soon be marketed. Unlike the play-only optical videodisc machines for entertainment now in stores, new optical digital discs can both record and instantly playback information--just like magnetic tape and disc machines for computers.

But optical digital discs have 10 to 100 times the



storage density of these magnetic media. Now it's practical to store \_images\_ of documents in digital form: A business letter is optically scanned and converted into digital bits--electronic ones and zeros. Then these bits are recorded--often as microscopic pits--on an optical disc. Since bits on discs can be transformed back into the original letter almost instantly, documents are rapidly accessible by computer.

Bits stored on the disc can also be encoded X-ray or conventional photos, TV pictures, voice messages, electronic mail, or torrents of computer data from a geological oil survey, among many other examples. Mass-storage optical digital discs are eagerly awaited by businesses and institutions buried by information flowing into their offices in all of these forms.

In a small room at RCA Laboratories in Princeton, NJ, I watched RCA's optical digital recorder demonstrated as a TV "frame grabber." Touching a big, five-foot-long glass tank, I could feel the disc motor whirring inside. "Let's try it here," said researcher Dr. Robert Bartolini, pushing a button while viewing a broadcast program. The recorder clicked and whirred as servos backtracked. A color TV image I'd just viewed live was frozen on a monitor.

Later, Bartolini detailed how a disc's 100-billion-bit storage capacity could hold an entire encyclopedia set. "It looks as if the optical recording field is really blossoming," Bartolini said, indicating that most computer firms are working on optical storage hardware.

About 30 companies are developing optical-digital-disc systems. Included are giants such as IBM, Xerox with Thomson-CSF, Eastman Kodak, and RCA, and Toshiba, Matsushita, and Hitachi in Japan. The current focus is on developing disc materials with the long life needed for archival storage. Although thin-metal films that can be pitted by lasers are a prominent medium, photographic film, organic dyes, and plastics that blister or contain light-sensitive metals may also be suitable. Most disc projects have been secret.

[Part 2 will appear in the next issue of CED Digest.]

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Neil - nwl@gte.net

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Date: Fri, 17 Apr 1998 13:01:37 -0700

From: Tom Howe

To: ceds@teleport.com

Subject: CED Rarity Rating Completed

Mime-Version: 1.0

Fellow CED'ers:

I've finally completed the CED Rarity rating and added it as a color-coded field to each title listed in the CED Title Database. There's a new URL, so go to the main CED Magic page and click on the link with the UPDATED marker:

<http://www.cedmagic.com>

OR

<http://www.teleport.com/~ceds/selectavision.html>

There also are now two versions of the CED Title Database, one based on frames for those with high-resolution monitors, and a non-frames version for those with low-res monitors or WebTV's.

--Tom Howe

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Sender: geoff  
Date: Fri, 17 Apr 1998 16:20:54 -0500  
From: Geoff Oltmans  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: FS: CED Collection

Well, I'm afraid that school has forced me to give up a few of my hobbies...and the CED is one of them. :( So I'm selling off my collection, player included.

Here's what I've got:

Sears/Hitachi CED Player. This is the stereo model. It's in a gold plastic case. The player has an excellent condition needle and plays (good) discs perfectly. :) All the discs in my collection work fine with it. There are a few scratches on the surface of the player, but no more than you would expect for a player this old. It has RCA jacks in the back for composite video and stereo sound.

Discs:

Alien  
Airplane (mono, disc is like new)  
Raiders of the Lost Ark (skips a little)  
Dragonslayer  
Star Wars  
Star Wars: Empire Strikes Back  
Star Wars: Return of the Jedi (both discs...see below)

Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan  
Goldfinger (mono)  
Return of the Pink Panther (mono)  
2001: A Space Odyssey (both discs)  
Wargames (disc is like new)

Make me an offer on all or part. I would prefer to get rid of the whole mess all at once, but it just depends on what works out best. All discs are stereo unless noted. Most discs play great, however some do skip a little in places, but nothing too major. One exception is disc two of Return of the Jedi. I bought the discs used (of course) and some fool that owned the discs before me decided to take disc two out of the caddy and put their fingerprints on the surface of the disc. The disc DOES play, however the quality is poor, and does skip a lot in places.

I like to be perfectly honest about the condition of everything since I didn't have that luxury when purchasing some of these (most notably Return of the Jedi).

Please email direct your offers.

Thanks!

\*Geoff!\*

--

Geoff Oltmans - CPE Undergrad University of Alabama in Huntsville  
KERNAL = Keyboard Entry Read Network And Link  
<http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/geoff>

-----  
Date: Sat, 18 Apr 1998 23:42:36 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Upcoming Additions to CED Magic  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

Now that the rarity rating is completed, I'll be adding a couple of other long awaited additions in the next few weeks. These will be the CED Player Reference Guide and CED Player Belt Replacement Guide. The player guide will include photos and specifications for all 39 production players, and the belt guide will spec all the neoprene and urethane drive belts used in these players. Like the RCA J/K player belt I've had available for purchase at \$1 for the last couple years, all the other belts will be available as well at \$1 for the smaller belts and \$2 for the turntable and timing belts. I also plan to have a CD-ROM available in late 1998 that will contain high-res images of all the VideoDiscs listed in the CED Title Database. A link near the top of the main CED Magic page provides more details on this.

--Tom Howe

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 17 4/25/98

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From: "Ed Ellers"  
To: "Tom Howe" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 16  
Date: Sun, 19 Apr 1998 14:46:35 -0400  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3007.0

Jesse Skeen wrote:

"I heard the 1981 Sears Catalog had a laserdisc version sent to those who had their players registered (And I'd eat dirt to have one of these!) but that's about it on the consumer end."

That was a seasonal sale catalog -- \*not\* the big "Wish Book" -- and was only issued on disc for one region (those catalogs vary by region, and they didn't want to do more than one disc). I've seen this; a dealer in Louisville got hold of one and used to use it to demo LD players.

"Oh well, those CD-V's (audio CD's with 20 minutes of audio only then on the outer part 5 minutes of analog CLV video with digital sound (no analog track) would've make neat sales tools, but that format never caught on."

The format didn't, but nearly all CD/LD players will play CDV singles so it's not a matter of incompatibility. Actually the singles were popular for a while in Japan, but with only the video portion (no CD audio section).

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Date: Fri, 24 Apr 1998 11:28:47 -0700  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 23

>From the August 1982 Popular Science -

Optical disc can store an encyclopedia - Part 2  
by John Free

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New recorders capture images, computer data,

or audio for instant playback

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[Part 1 of this article appeared in the  
previous issue of CED Digest.]

#### Terabyte Memory

Mass storage with optical digital discs involves huge numbers. An optical disc can store about 50 billion bits per side. (A common data-storage term, the byte, requires eight bits, or the memory space for one alpha-numeric character.) International Resource Development, Inc., a Norwalk, Conn., consulting firm, recently contrasted the capacities of optical discs with conventional storage. Costs and quantities needed for storing 100 billion bits of data are compared:

Medium	Quantity	Cost (\$)
Magnetic disc	80 200-megabyte packs	40,000
Computer tape	90 tapes (2400', 6250bpi, 8trk)	1,350
High-density mag tape	2400' (2-in. tape)	100
Optical disc	One 12-inch disc	10

The \$10 cost of an optical disc is projected. Actually, only one firm at this writing is marketing optical discs. Drexler Technology (Mountain View, Calif.) charges several thousand dollars for its evaluation discs. The low price is foreseen with full-scale production in the mid-1980's.

Hard magnetic discs are stacked for compactness and read with multiple heads for fast access to data. Manufacturers of optical-digital-disc systems are devising jukebox-like packages, too. An optical scanner for each disc surface ensures split-second playback of data. Such stacked optical discs make compact terabyte (trillion byte) storage memories feasible. About 1000 optical discs should be able to store the contents of the National Archives.

#### Video vs. digital

While the technology going into optical discs is similar to that used for optical videodiscs, there are several important differences. The videodisc standardized by N.V. Philips and MCA starts with a glass master disc. A video signal, like that broadcast from TV stations, switches a sharply focused laser beam on and off. A spiral pattern of pits that vary in length is created on the master after processing.

Additional steps provide metal discs used to stamp out the plastic Laservision copies sold in stores. During the production process, a speck of dust bigger than the micron-size (millionth of a meter) pits can contaminate a disc. In optical-disc players, a laser beam reflected from the spiral disc tracks

creates light pulses of varying duration. The highly reflective metal area between the pits produces these pulses.

That dust speck can screw up the video signal briefly. You might see it as a black scan line in the picture. The light flashes from the disc surface are actually decoded as a frequency-modulated (FM) signal by the player's electronic circuits.

Now contrast the requirements and technology for an optical digital disc. The disc surface might have a thin coating of tellurium, an element that melts at relatively low temperatures. A solid-state laser in the recorder-player can deliver 50-mW bursts of light to melt pits in the metal. The signal to create these pits is in an on-off digital format, more condensed than video signals since it requires only the presence or absence of a short pit on the disc.

The signal encoding these pits might be a TV picture of a photo from an encyclopedia. In that case, a speck of dust on the disc might create an acceptable if irritating glitch in the picture. For computer data--say, a satellite-transmitted update of your credit-card records--however, that dust speck or micron-size blemish on the disc would be disastrous.

To avoid data distortion, optical digital recorders use an error-detection technique. Philips, a pioneer in both video and digital optical discs, calls its monitoring method "DRAW" (direct read after write). Before it is encoded with data, part of the laser beam used to "burn" pits into a disc is split off.

This second beam can be used to monitor what has just been written on the disc. By comparing this data with the original information, errors are detected. Another section of the disc can then be used to store the data again, and the computer keeping track of everything is programmed to "forget" the bad-data section.

Research is also under way to find reliable techniques for storing digital information on videodiscs. For this, the digital data might be encoded on a video signal before storage. This simplifies mass production.

[Part 3 of this article will appear in  
the next issue of CED Digest.]

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Neil - nwl@gte.net

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From: "plc"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: belt size for sgt100?  
Date: Fri, 24 Apr 1998 15:02:47 -0500  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3

MIME-Version: 1.0

Hi, I need to know what size the belt that pulls the turntable on the SGT100 is? I found a player but it has no belt, not even a broken one. can you help? iceman@yournet.com

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 18 5/2/98

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Date: Sun, 26 Apr 1998 12:24:11 -0400  
From: linville  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: styles

I am looking for a styles for RCA disk player mod. SJT 090 could use more than one. Tom

-----  
From: "Frank Gregory"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: SJT-100 Question  
Date: Sun, 26 Apr 1998 22:36:47 -0400  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3  
MIME-Version: 1.0

About a year ago, I bought an old SJT-100 player with some problems. Got it for just a couple of bucks, and figured I'd use it for parts if I ever found ANOTHER SJT-100. Well, today I did find another one, with other problems. I figured I'd try making one working machine from the two. The first thing I did was replace the belt on the gears that grab and release the ced caddy. And so far, it works really nice and quiet. Grabs the CED, releases it, and drops it. Then the player starts to spin, and the needle moves into position to play.

Problem: It then just sits there. I hit the play/pause button and NOTHING happens. hit it again, nothing, hit again. nothing. the gears that operate the stylus act like they WANT to do something, but don't.

First, is there another belt I'm maybe missing, or could my motor on that side be weak? The gears themselves seem fine, and they do pull the stylus BACK into position when I'm ejecting the disk.

Any help would be appreciated. I'd like to get this backup #3 up and running soon. Thanks!

-----  
Date: Fri, 01 May 1998 01:03:52 -0700

From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED Player Reference Guide  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

I've completed the CED Player Guide and uploaded it to CED Magic under the Hardware Museum section on the home page. The guide provides images and specs on the 39 different production players. Now I'm working on the Belt Replacement Guide.

--Tom Howe  
<http://www.cedmagic.com>

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 19 5/9/98

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NOTICE: THE NEXT ISSUE OF CED DIGEST WILL BE DELAYED BY TWO DAYS  
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Date: Thu, 07 May 1998 02:05:33 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: belt size for sgt100?  
Mime-Version: 1.0

The flat neoprene belt that drives the turntable in RCA's F and G players has an inside diameter of 21.8" and a width of 0.187". The FR21.5 belt from PRB is the nearest stock equivalent that will work fine as a replacement. This should be available from any repair shop that carries PRB belts, which is the name brand most widely stocked. This belt will also be available from CED Magic for \$2 when I get the Belt Replacement Guide completed in about another 3 weeks.

--Tom Howe  
<http://www.cedmagic.com>

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Date: Sat, 09 May 1998 12:15:17 -0700  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History - Part 24

>From the August 1982 Popular Science -



## Optical disc can store an encyclopedia - Part 3

by John Free

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New recorders capture images, computer data,  
or audio for instant playback  
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[Sorry for the delay. Parts 1 and 2 of this article appeared in CED digest volume 3, numbers 16 and 17.]

### Pits and blisters

One of the earliest experimental optical-digital-disc systems was developed by Philips. Its tellurium-coated discs have a hermetically sealed air space. For archival storage, the micron-size pits must remain perfect for many years. But air or water vapor oxidizing tellurium after the pits are formed creates defects.

The 3M Co. developed an approach that avoids tellurium altogether. Its experimental discs have three layers: a high-melting-point plastic on the surface, a plastic beneath it that creates gas when heated, and a reflective surface on the bottom. A laser heating the middle layer causes a bubble to form on the outer surface. To read the disc, a laser beam shines through the bubble and is reflected from the bottom layer.

Proponents of 3M's technique claim a "cleaner" signal with the neat bubbles during playback; pits burned in metal have jagged edges that produce signal noise with stray reflections, they say. But an RCA researcher cites the frailty of the bubbles as one of the reasons his firm abandoned the bubble approach.

Drexler Technology's Drexon discs have minute silver halide spheres and filaments distributed in a plastic, making it reflective. These metal particles absorb laser light during the "write" process, and have lower reflectivity (like pits in thin-metal discs) during playback.

### Electronic offices

Although the recession may slow introductions, optical digital recorders have been under development since the 1960's, and various systems using the hardware are finally on the way.

Toshiba has an office system with a built-in laser printer to produce copies of documents stored on optical discs. The unit also has a facsimile scanner to convert printed or typewritten material into electronic signals for disc storage. A Philips system, called Megadoc, has similar capabilities.

One disadvantage of optical discs, the inability to erase them for reuse, may not be overcome until the 1990's. But meanwhile, permanent-storage digital discs are expected to have a major impact on automated office systems and on systems used

for storage of huge computer data bases.

How about optical digital recorders for the home? RCA's Bartolini is skeptical. "Playback of digital samples is more forgiving," he said. The technology in conventional consumer-model disc players is adequate for playback, Bartolini explained, but the ultra-precise standards needed to record micron-size pits are an obstacle to home machines.

[A photo accompanies the article showing two engineers holding up an optical disc, with the apparent reading/writing device in the foreground. The caption reads "High-density optical-storage disc, patented by these RCA researchers, holds 100 billion bits of information on two sides--enough for an entire encyclopedia."]

[Another photo shows a consumer-looking player/recorder, along with a cutaway drawing of the read/write mechanism and a cross-section of a disc showing the pits recorded on it. The caption reads:

"At a railroad station in Kyoto, Japan, a travel agency has been using Matsushita's still-picture video recorder to show travel scenes for its package tours. The new optical-disc recorder-playback unit (photo) can store 15,000 frames of TV pictures. Unlike most conventional methods of information storage, the disc recorder needs no processing time. Connect a TV camera or another source of video signals--say, a freeze-frame tape machine--and the disc recorder can "grab" individual TV frames. A built-in microcomputer aids retrieval of frames within 0.5 second.

Matsushita's recorder employs technology similar to that going into prototype optical-digital-disc machines: A solid-state laser "burns" a pattern representing each TV frame into a thin film of material on the disc. To play back the recording, the same laser, operating at reduced power, beams light on the concentric groove used for each picture. Reflected light is then reconverted into the original TV image.

During recording the video signal varies the intensity of the laser beam. A chain of pits (diagram) with different reflectivities is created on a tellurium suboxide layer. The beam penetrates a thin protective disc layer. A linear motor and encoder position the laser for recording and playback."]

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Neil - nwl@gte.net

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Date: Sun, 10 May 1998 08:51:46 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: SJT-100 Question  
Mime-Version: 1.0

On Sun Apr 26 "Frank Gregory" wrote:

> I started patching one together from two non-working ones. Got it to  
>load/unload fine. the player starts spinning the disk, and the stylus  
>moves into position, then it just sits there with the - - signal on the  
>LED.

Frank:

This is one of the common modes of player failure where the player appears mechanically functional, but displays the double dash forever after the turntable spins up. A fully operational player would only display the "--" for about six seconds, as the system control microcomputer waits for the stylus to read the signal from the disc and the DAXI (Digital AuXiliary Information) to be recovered. As soon as the DAXI stream is decoded, the time counter starts. The failure of the signal to be read could have many causes ranging from a dead stylus to the failure of any capacitor, diode, transistor, resistor, inductor, IC, signal trace, or solder joint between the stylus tip, DAXI decoder, and system control microcomputer. The best way to diagnose such a problem is to progressively observe the signal with an oscilloscope starting at the stylus cartridge. When a problem node is found, the individual components attached to that node can be tested. A less systematic way to accomplish this is to use a multimeter in conjunction with the voltage charts printed in many CED player service manuals to determine if the voltage is correct at each node in the player.

--Tom

---

From: "Roagie"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Cleaning Discs  
Date: Sun, 10 May 1998 11:03:42 -0700  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3  
MIME-Version: 1.0

Hello all-

I recently aquired a nice setup of 51 discs and a Sears player. I like it a lot, it's very bazarre! Anyway, I have this Planet of the Apes disc that refused to play... I tried to let the stylus clean it as recommended in the

FAQ but was only greeted with lackluster results. The machine would keep returning to 00. Anyway, figuring this disc was a loss I opened it up and removed the media. In a last ditch effort, I took a kleenex and went around and around removing some whitish residue and dust. I then tried it again and it worked good... played all the way through! Is there some reason kleenex is not recommended? The disc woulda been a waste had I not done that... Opinions and other cleaning stories appreciated! Thanks :)

-----  
From: Proton958  
Date: Tue, 12 May 1998 15:55:52 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: For the CED Digest

Just found a old brochure from Sharp from 1981. Its "Preliminary Information" on the Sharp VHD Video Disc Player and Random Access Unit. The Player looks similar to a CED player and the R/A Unit is the same size and was designed to sit on top of the VHD player. VHD was very similar to CED but the disc size was 10.2." The disc was inside a caddy just like CED. The player used a flat diamond stylus guided by a tracking signal encoded on the grooveless disc. Contact without grooves. This eliminated many of the problems CED had by using a groove system. When hooked up to the Random Access Unit it was possible to have special effects like still frame, slow and fast motion in either direction and random access. Sharp talks about plans for Audio High Density (AHD) discs. By connecting an optional AHD PCM demodulator between the VHD player and a stereo system, "you can enjoy the full benefit of the new digital sound from AHD disc." There were two sides to the discs just like CED. Playing time 1 hour per side. Motor rpm was 900. The VHD player was about the same size as a CED machine. Weight 26.5 lbs. The R/A Unit weight was 99.2 lbs!! I remember VHD was sold for a short time in Japan, but never lasted very long and was not introduced to the U.S. This is an impressive 4-color brochure and it looks like at one time VHD had much to offer. Of course optical became the system of choice just a short time later.

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 21 5/23/98

-----  
From: Eric Christensen  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Wanted!: CED player  
Date: Tue, 19 May 1998 10:28:14 -0500  
X-Priority: 3  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I am in dire need of a CED player. If anyone has an extra one laying

around or anything like that, please let me know. I will be glad to take it off your hands for a good price. Thanks,

ERiC.

---

To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Re: CED Digest -----cleaning of the disc  
X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 15  
From: (craig v roberts)  
Date: Tue, 19 May 1998 19:57:43 EDT

One problem with the needle in the groove system is that the grooves are so fine and any imperfections will show as a skip or temporary garbage. One possibility is to run the thing reversed so the needle will bump off the offending piece of dust or the offending piece of dust will bump off the stylus.....lemme order another one. A better way is to use those square cotton press cleaning pads found in print shops or some other clean soft cotton cloth. I use a professional glass cleaner ( ethyl alcohol + isopropal alcohol + water ) and gently wipe the disc in a circular direction. I get the surface damp but not wet. This plus the next playing usually gets the contamination off. However, it will not eliminate the actual scratches on the surface. These are repetitive clicks in the sound and the best way to get rid of these is to find another disc. Also, don't swap side one with side two or the side reader in the player will fool you when you're not paying attention. Anybody out there have Stanley Kubrick's Lolita for sale or Sparticus----I like Kubrick's movies. Craig Roberts Greenbelt, Maryland

---

From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Telecom Capacitance \* NCDL History & Future  
Date: Wed, 20 May 1998 08:36:16 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

Telecom Technologies Incorporated \* Telecom Capacitance National  
Capacitance Disc Library Dear Fellow CED Enthusiasts: Admittedly it has been quite some time since the last communicaid about the operations and status of the National Capacitance Disc Library here in Lyon Mountain, New York. With the purchase of new computer systems and software I make a new pledge to you, that such a long silence about this project will hardly occur again. Since the start of this personal hobby I have grown to be quite fond of this obsolete yet lovable entertainment media, I have desired to build a complete collection of CED titles, both media and documentation for future preservance. In that I decided to use my small and underfunded electronics services company as a front to begin the project. As my hobby as grown into a infatuation so has my

company. A new division has been created, as indicated by the header Telecom Capacitance and it deals strictly with the occurrences of CED. Telecom Capacitance performs many services now with CED, but in this issue of CED Digest, that is not the focus point. The focus point of this communication is to inform you of the status of Telecom Capacitance formerly the NCDL, an apology for the lack of continual updates, and finally a request for enthusiast support in a project. Since the last communication the library growth rate has been minimal, only increasing 7 titles through donation and purchase. This is primarily the fault of myself being in charge of Telecom Technologies Incorporated having to temporarily relieve myself of duties because of illness in the related family. Despite such a shortcoming the goal remains the same, to create a complete CED informational library for future preservation. Any documentation, or media donations or information on possible sales would be greatly appreciated. On a second note, I would formally wish to apologize to those whom subscribed to CED Digest therefore subscribing to the NCDL Communication whom have not received a communication sometime. For as reasons indicated above I have not been available to oversee the operations of the company. For that I am deeply regretful. Those who wish to subscribe to the newsletter, which will be in tune much more than the previous versions, I welcome you to do so. Unlike CED Digest, Telecom Capacitance Newsletter will only contain information relevant to the ongoing mission of Telecom Capacitance, which is to build a library for future preservation. Last but not the least for this communication is a request for your assistance in a related CED project. Many of you are aware of the CED Chat Room created by CED Digest host, Mr. Tom Howe. For major discussions on the media that was an excellent idea. However unless a meeting has been prescheduled it is unlikely that the room will be occupied during a random entrance. Many of you have also heard about Instant Messenger by America Online, Inc. This handy and toll-free program will allow us to communicate while online without having to check in to the CED Chat Room. The web page to register and then download this program (Windows 3.1, 95, 98, Unix, and Mac/OS supported) is located at url <http://www.aol.com/aim> and should be safely downloaded there. If you decide to do this, please select an available name with CED anywhere within its' context and please send a copy of the name to [tti@westelcom.com](mailto:tti@westelcom.com) with CED-AIM Project in the subject line. A database of names will then be compiled and released on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to CED Digest and Telecom Capacitance Newsletter, so that one may stay up to date with their AIM software. I hope that many of you will participate. In closing, 'When one has undisputable faith, anything can be achieved.' Good day to all from Telecom Technologies Incorporated and its' subsidiaries from Lyon Mountain, New York. Telecom Technologies Incorporated (Telecom Capacitance) 2841 First Street, Second Floor Postal Office Box 90 Lyon Mountain, New York 12952-0090

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Date: Fri, 22 May 1998 19:38:01 -0700  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <[ceds@teleport.com](mailto:ceds@teleport.com)>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 25

>From the October 1982 Popular Science column "What's new  
in Electronics" by William J. Hawkins -

#### Videodisc player

Now trimmed down twice, Pioneer's new Laser Disc LD-660  
player is just 5-5/8 inch high--and has a list price of  
only \$600. The unit reproduces CX-encoded audio in stereo.  
Video controls allow freeze frame, slow motion, scanning,  
and step frame.

[A photo of the top-loading player accompanied the article.]

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>From the May 1983 Popular Science column "Look and listen"  
by John Free -

#### Quick Looks

Videodisc notes: A third type of videodisc system called  
VHD didn't make its scheduled U.S. introduction. It is now  
slated to go on sale in Japan about the time you read this.  
Some 200 albums will be available for the \$625 player, which  
has random-access capabilities (accessing TV frames by num-  
ber).....RCA says it will introduce a CED player later this  
year with random-access features, too.....Interactive optical  
discs (using random-access and other player features) are  
slowly growing in numbers: MysteryDisc, a detective plot  
with a variety of solutions is a new addition. Also, arcade-  
game-maker Sega Enterprises is readying a disc-based game  
offering spectacular space-war action with realistic movie-  
like scenes instead of computer graphics. And MCA Video  
Disc is marketing Action Adventure Games, an interactive disc  
that lets players guide "real" images (actors), not computer-  
graphic symbols, through action scenes.

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Neil - nwl@gte.net

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From: RKolba0211  
Date: Sat, 23 May 1998 16:22:56 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Seeking the Elusive Titles

CED disc collecting is a lot like life itself. In infancy we collect discs  
from local stores, usually paying retail. When the format was discontinued we  
all ran out and bought more (because they were cheap.) They then sat in  
storage as we couldn't decide what to do with them and there seemed to be no  
resale market available. (This was analogous to our adolescent period.)

Then, lo and behold, we discovered Tom Howe's web site and finally saw a complete list of all releases... 'twas then we decided to go for it. Why not attempt to collect ALL titles? As we pursued this seemingly impossible task we found ourselves having to purchase complete collections in order to acquire one or two sought after discs. As a result, our individual inventories grew and grew.

I have now reached maturity and am searching for those collectors who, like myself, are close to compiling a complete collection. I have several duplicate titles that Tom has rated EXTREMELY RARE and VERY RARE and I surmise that some of you out there have what I need and vice versa. Rather than use the shotgun approach, let's use the rifle approach. I am 70 titles short. Let's exchange WANT LISTS. Let me know if my idea has merit. Bob Kolba

---

From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: "Tom Howe" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED Magic CD-ROM Inquiry  
Date: Sat, 23 May 1998 19:18:00 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

I have seen as many of you have seen that a CED Magic CD-ROM will eventually be published. This CD-ROM is to contain all the information of the CED Magic Web Site and high-resolution images of all video discs. The inquiry that I have is... The web site is periodically updated to contain new information, links, and other forms of data. Will the CD be designed to be installable onto hard disk? If so, will it be designed to be upgraded to recognize updates of the CED Magic Web Site? Thanks, Daniel P. Cayea TCE/TTI

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 22 5/30/98

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From: Richard & Sally Taylor  
To: "'ceds@teleport.com'" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Wow !  
Date: Sun, 24 May 1998 19:31:12 -0700  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I just discovered this site...I'm new to the web.  
This is great ! I am a C.E.D. person and have felt alone for so long.  
Richard



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Date: Sun, 24 May 1998 21:18:48 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED's in San Francisco  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

On a recent SF visit I hit a lot of the used record stores in town. I didn't see any CED's except at one store, which has had the same assortment of about 200 titles in the back of the store for at least seven years. The owner overpriced these way back then, but I believe he's open to negotiation on the price, as he'd like to sell them off. The store is:

Music & Rhythm, 962 Market St., (415) 673-5790.

There also is a huge new Amoeba Music store in what used to be a bowling alley near the end of Haight St. There weren't any CED's, but I did see some a couple years ago in their Berkeley store across the bay. The store does have a large selection of used LaserDiscs. I finally found the elusive Emerson, Lake & Palmer "Pictures at an Exhibition". Amoeba Music is on the web at:

<http://www.amoebamusic.com>

--Tom

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From: Bojay1997  
Date: Mon, 25 May 1998 17:36:55 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: National CED Library!

I have a question, is anyone a little suspicious about this? Isn't this guy just a collector trying to complete his collection for free or next to nothing? Is there a physical location we could visit this library? Sorry, but I've seen lots of posts like this from computer collectors who are looking to complete their collection, not create a museum.

Bojay

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Date: Tue, 26 May 1998 13:34:39 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Twins on Stereo Demo Disc  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Fellow CED'ers:

For those of you unfamiliar with the Stereo Demo Disc, it starts with a young lady talking about VideoDiscs and how they just got better. She then splits into two, and the twins do a little song and dance emphasizing the new stereo sound. I've always wondered who these twins were, as they looked familiar. Well, in sorting through some discs getting ready to take photos of them, there the twins were on the back of "The Lonely Guy" caddy in a picture with Steve Martin. It turns out they are Candi and Randi Brough, with a number of screen and TV appearances including "B.J. and the Bear" and "The Dukes of Hazzard". Here are the URLs of their IMDb pages:

<http://us.imdb.com/Name?Brough,+Candi>

<http://us.imdb.com/Name?Brough,+Randi>

Their song "Coming at Ya from All Sides" is also now available in the music section at CED Magic.

--Tom Howe

<http://www.cedmagic.com>

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Date: Sat, 30 May 1998 20:13:43 -0700

From: Neil Wagner

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>

Subject: Videodisc History Part 26

>From the November 1983 Popular Science column

"Look and Listen" by William J. Hawkins -

Last minute...

RCA has just introduced the first random-access CED disc player. Any point on the disc can be selected and played, making interactive discs possible. The first two discs--"A Week At The Races," which allows you to bet on the outcome of horse races, and "Many Roads To Murder," which contains mystery stories you must solve--are \$30. The SJT 400 player is \$500.

=====  
>From the May 1984 Popular Science column

"What's New in Electronics" by William J. Hawkins -

Front-loader

Just drop in the videodisc: The newest Pioneer Laser-Disc is a front-loader. Inside, a semiconductor laser replaces the conventional helium-neon-gas laser for longer life and a more compact design. Introduced recently in Japan, it will soon be available here for about \$860.

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Neil - nwl@gte.net

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 23 6/6/98

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Date: Sun, 31 May 1998 15:49:31 -0700  
From: Lee Fisk  
Organization: Where ever it falls.  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Intro, kind of.

Hello,

I'm a new voice in the news list. I'm currently working in Tucson for a microelectronics company. I worked for RCA during the eighties as an engineer in Sommerville, NJ, when RCA was assembling and dismantling the CED program. It was a good time to pick-up cheap discs which I did. From my understanding Tucson seems to have some good CEDs too. I haven't looked. I believe that the CED program placed RCA in the position which allowed GE to take them over. Well no use crying over dead companies.

My most played CEDs are Easy Rider, Apocalypse Now and Wizard of Oz. There are a bunch I don't play. Any one got really good recommendations regarding skipping. My Blondie and Grateful Dead CEDs are particularly bad for that; nothing worse then jumbled skipping Blondie..

Well enough babble.

Best regards,

Lee Fisk

Tucson

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To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: ced museum or collector?  
X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 14  
From: (craig v roberts)  
Date: Tue, 02 Jun 1998 06:43:03 EDT

I have been into vintage televisions and radios for years and my scope of interest has wandered into video discs as well. One can find several radio museums and a few television museums on the web. I can guarantee each one of these started with a collector with vision (or lack of space). And there are over time some of these that don't succeed past ten years. Usually these go to auction and the cycle starts over again.

Why not support this museum fellow? If he's looking for freebies it will be a thin situation and luck will determine what interesting stuff will be seen there. Without support I am sure success will elude him.

This website seems to be a sort of museum itself----the information available is almost impossible to find elsewhere. I give credit and thanks to Tom for having the vision to set up a base point for interest in CED movies. CRAIG  
Greenbelt, Md analog.tv@juno.com

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Date: Tue, 2 Jun 1998 23:27:30 -0700 (PDT)  
X-Sender: jpiper  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
From: James Piper  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 22

I have a CED that some one might want, "Academy Award Winners Animated Short Films". I would like to trade for an older war movie like "Sargent York", "Stalag 17", "The Longest Day" or "A bridge too Far". ...Anyway just Email me at jpiper@utah-inter.net. Thanks.... JP

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Date: Sat, 06 Jun 1998 23:33:34 -0700  
Subject: Warehouse Find ! -Forwarded  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Forwarded Mail received by: Tom Howe  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.71.1712.3  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3  
Date: Sun, 31 May 1998 14:11:18 -0700  
From: "Video Trading Co." <squidinc@3wave.com>  
Subject: Warehouse Find !

Nearly 4,500 RCA CED's, new and used. Must sell! Asking \$10,000 O.B.O. = Includes 60 or so SJT or SKT 090's and 100's, belts, parts, and carts. = Great opportunity for collector or entrepreneur...Pete

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 24 6/13/98

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Date: Sun, 07 Jun 1998 20:45:09 -0500  
From: "Rex Burks"  
Organization: Military Sales & Service Co.  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Problems with a Vendor?!?

Greetings All!

I am writing in response to Daniel Cayea's posting in the last issue regarding a negative experience while conducting business with Walter D. I obviously can't speak on Daniel's experience, but I can tell you that just two weeks ago, I had a very pleasant transaction with Walter D. I purchased 8 CED's from him in response to his posting on ep.com. Not only did he send the 8 I requested, but also sent two other titles as free gifts that I had not even ordered! All 10 discs were in near mint condition, and appeared to have been from a private collection (no rental marks of any kind). The discs were packed for shipping very professionally and safely. I found both his communications and shipping to be very prompt.

I do not know Walter outside of this one transaction, and I am solely a private collector, I have never sold a CED in my life, so I have no axe to grind.

I'm sure there is some logical or technical explanation for Daniel's negative experience, but as for my own, I can completely recommend doing business with Walter D.

Keepin' it in the groove!

-Rex Burks  
Dallas, TX

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 25 6/20/98

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From: Steven McKearney  
Date: Tue, 16 Jun 1998 17:47:27 -0700 (PDT)  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: my CED players' problems!

Hello fellow CED enthusiasts! I've got two RCA players that have particular problems, and I was wondering if any of you could offer me any advice on how to repair them. Here goes:

1. I have an SGT-200 that seems like it would be a great machine, picture and stereo-wise, but it constantly fast forwards. I've had it a part, but I can't seem to fix it with my bare minimum experience of repairing electrical stuff. I also have a Zenith ZP-1000 (i believe that's the number), that I was hoping I could use to transfer parts into the SGT-200, but the ZENITH also has a psycho timing problem. It will play discs, but every minute or so, when it decides to move forward to play the next "minute's worth" it jerks and freaks itself out. is this a player lubrication issue? It's not a disc lubrication-skipping issue. The disc plays fine, and has a great picture, until the timer decides to move forward to the next minute. Sigh.

2. My main machine is an RCA SGT-400. It plays discs flawlessly, but none of the forward or search, or pause or reject functions work. I've removed the front panel, and the cause is \*not\* that the panel is disconnected, so I'm wondering if there's some fuse that controls these functions. I basically have to watch the whole disc in order to remove it when it enters "reject mode" on its own. Also, is there any chance a remote [if I could find one] for this would work these functions even though they don't work on the panel?

Thanks for listening.

--Steve  
stevemc@icsi.berkeley.edu

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Date: Fri, 19 Jun 1998 22:13:16 -0700  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 27

On the inside front cover of the October 1982 issue  
of Popular Science -- a full-page color advertisement:

Hint #12 from RCA VideoDiscs

H O W   T O   P U T   A   L I T T L E   E X T R A  
M A G I C   I N   Y O U R   M A R R I A G E :

Plump up the pillows on the sofa. Forget about the office.  
And think about having a magical evening. The two of you.  
Next to each other. Alone.

With the magic of the RCA VideoDisc System, you can get the

fire burning brighter with "Some Like It Hot." Or have a close encounter of the best kind with "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

In fact, RCA VideoDiscs can keep you side by side on the loveseat for hours. Have a mini-honeymoon with "California Suite." Get away from it all with "The African Queen." Make beautiful music together with Neil Diamond in "The Jazz Singer." Leap for joy over a ballet like "Giselle."

RCA VideoDiscs have over 250 fantastic programs you can bring home right now. There are movies, sports, stereo concerts, the arts--and new releases every month, so you can build your own personal collection. Players start at under \$300, and VideoDiscs are as low as \$14.98. The System is so easy to operate you can do it while holding hands--and RCA VideoDiscs play over and over on any brand of CED videodisc player and on any TV set. But only RCA has the variety of programs that'll put a little more spice in your life.

Watch "Fiddler on the Roof" rather than reruns on TV. Have "Victory at Sea" instead of doldrums in the den. Or show each other "Heaven Can Wait"--after the kids are in bed.

See your nearest RCA dealer now and find out just how much magic you can bring home.

And how much it can bring to your home life.

R C A

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V i d e o D i s c s  
Bring the Magic Home

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Neil - nwl@gte.net

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 26 6/27/98

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Date: Mon, 22 Jun 1998 20:26:14 -0700  
From: Neil Wagner  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 28

>From the February 1984 issue of Popular Science -

#### VIDEO TEACHERS

A new RCA interactive videodisc player offers much more than just movies. It plays games, lets you select scenes

from its repertoire, and even functions as a teacher. (Yes, it also gives you a test.) And an unusual future probably awaits it.

by William J. Hawkins

I took a deep breath and put down my money. A moment later, I heard the announcer say, "They're off," and the race track in front of me filled with the pounding hooves of thoroughbred horses. Number Six had won the last time, and my bankroll for the day said that he'd do it again. But a few minutes later, I was thinking how well Number Six would do as a bottle of glue.

Time to go home? No, time to turn off the TV and call it a night. Fortunately for my bank account, I was using RCA's first interactive videodisc, "A Week at the Races," and its new SelectaVision 400 interactive-videodisc player. The disc is merely a "high-tech" game you play. But as I found out, the idea of interactive-disc playing can involve far more than just games and home entertainment.

RCA's disc player is similar to past models: Pop in a videodisc, and you see its contents--from movies to concerts --on the screen in color. If the unit is connected to your hi-fi, you hear the sound in stereo. But this new interactive model allows you to choose particular sections for viewing and to specify the order in which they will be shown. Those scenes and the order in which you see them can be different each time you use the disc.

You make your selections by pressing buttons on an infrared remote control. The numbers you choose represent specific "bands" encoded on the disc. In its simplest form, each band number may represent a particular song on a concert disc: Choose band number three on a Luciano Pavarotti disc, for instance, and in moments he's ready to sing "Recondita armonia." For other discs, the technology provides a whole new way of displaying information.

For example, another disc I tried was CBS's "A Walk through the Universe." I began at band 33, which automatically froze a frame displaying the menu of major topics. I was curious about the origin of the universe, so I tapped "20" into the remote control. The main menu disappeared, and within a few seconds I was told that there are two theories--big-bang and steady-state--and that I could learn about either one by selecting the appropriate band from another menu that now appeared on the screen.

I chose one, and soon I was watching a presentation of animated concepts, drawings, and interviews with leading scientists. Was I learning anything? The disc now began to ask me questions about what I'd seen; it gave me a test. You answer questions by tapping in band numbers that move you to



other areas of the disc. There, you're told whether you're right or wrong, and why.

Finally, the disc showed another display of suggested band numbers to enter for an automatic sequence of presentations. I could, for instance, have created a debate between the big-bang and steady-state theorists, or have plotted my own personal course through specific planets of the universe. That ability to show individualized, one-on-one material could make future videodiscs the most powerful "video teachers" since the personal computer.

[This article will be continued in the next issue of CED Digest.]

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Neil - nwl@gte.net

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 27 7/4/98

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From: "Colasanti"  
Organization: Fern Hill  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Wed, 24 Jun 1998 23:52:50 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Internet Mailing List  
Priority: normal

Let me make this short & quite possibly sweet for CED collectors out there:

We have between 1200 & 1500 CED's, mostly RCA SelectaVision titles, all in good to excellent condition, as well as a dozen or so CED players. We would like to sell as a single lot. So ...

Make an offer. All serious inquiries entertained.

Thanks / lmc

Lou Colasanti  
Fern Hill  
1680 Upper Notch Rd.  
Bristol, VT 05443  
phone: {802} 453-5124  
MAILTO: fernhill@sover.net

-----  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: "Tom Howe" <ceds@teleport.com>

Subject: The TCE Preservation Project  
Date: Sun, 28 Jun 1998 14:04:01 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3 (Normal)  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
Importance: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

Dear CED Enthusiasts: Many remember the debate to get CED going again, well the race is on. Telecom Capacitance Electronics is now the first on the reactivation battlefield first starting with a complete media preservation. To subscribe to the TCE Newsletter send email to tti@westelcom.com with TCE Subscribe in the subject line and you will be added to the mailing list. If you would just like a list of currently preserved titles you also send email to tti@westelcom.com however put TCE Database in the subject line. I hope that many of you will take interest. Thanks for the support. Sincerely Daniel P. Cayea TCE/TTI

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From: MELBANEW  
Date: Mon, 29 Jun 1998 09:37:12 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: CED'S For Sale

FOR SALE --- Entire CED collection, consisting of 1200 - 1300 different cataloged disc--- 500 - 700 miscellaneous disc --- many players and parts. Will sell the whole collection for \$2,000.00.

Billy F. New  
1155 Edith Drive  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117  
Phone: 904 252-1783  
Email: BILLYFNEW@AOL.COM

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From: Beaumontj  
Date: Mon, 29 Jun 1998 21:28:55 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: jerky picture

i have a panasonic sgt 200 which plays discs fine until about the 30 minute mark, when the movie (and audio) seems to skip frames. it's definitely the player. any suggestions about how to fix it? thanks.

---

From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Active Channel for CED Magic  
Date: Thu, 2 Jul 1998 11:09:17 -0400  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3

MIME-Version: 1.0

Dear CED Enthusiasts & Tom:

Would it be possible to have CED Magic an Active Channel for Internet Explorer 4.x and up?

Daniel P. Cayea

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Date: Fri, 03 Jul 1998 21:54:31 -0700

From: Neil Wagner

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>

Subject: Videodisc History Part 29

>From the February 1984 issue of Popular Science -

#### VIDEO TEACHERS

A new RCA interactive videodisc player offers much more than just movies. It plays games, lets you select scenes from its repertoire, and even functions as a teacher. (Yes, it also gives you a test.) And an unusual future probably awaits it.

by William J. Hawkins

[Part 1 of this article appeared in CED Digest vol. 3, no. 26.]

Interactive-disc playing is a first for the RCA capacitance electronic disc (CED) format, which uses a stylus. But its competitor, the laser disc, has had interactive capability for some time. (Scooting a laser beam of light over a disc surface was technically easier to do than moving a mechanical stylus to a precise point on a CED disc.)

In comparing the two systems, I found little difference in access time (the longest it took to find a particular section was about 30 seconds), ease of use, and picture quality on a conventional TV. However, the SelectaVision 400 did have a few new programming features.

Besides being able to start at specific bands, you may also choose specific scenes by entering the minutes and seconds at which they begin and end. (The playing time is digitally recorded on the disc and can be displayed on the screen for reference.) The 400 then plays just that portion of the disc, allowing you to view specific material--or merely watch your favorite scene of a movie over and over.

One other handy feature is a button called "Memory." When you press it, it electronically marks the scene you are seeing (by storing its location by time in a memory). You can auto-

matically return to it later.

Naturally, you also can manually hunt out a scene by using a visual-search button (you see the images at 16 times normal speed) or a high-speed button for scanning at 120 times normal speed.

Computer match-up?

There's one other way you can find specific areas of an interactive disc that RCA isn't talking about yet: with your home computer. At the rear of the 400, there's a small connector. The brochures don't mention it; the instruction manual for the 400 simply says it's for future use. But the technical manuals (for servicing) show that it is a serial interface (connection) for a computer.

Combined with a home computer, the interactive capabilities are limitless: video games that never play the same way twice; disc-based encyclopedias containing thousands of pictures and facts that pop up on the screen in response to your keyboard query; and teaching aids that progress with each student's abilities.

Why doesn't RCA advertise this computer capability? My guess is that RCA is saving that bit of information for when it introduces its own home computer. (RCA has just reorganized and created a "Special Products Division" that sounds suspiciously like home-computer development to me.) If I'm right, remember that you read it first in "Popular Science."

Right or wrong, however, it's clear that the variety of new discs and imaginative concepts that is bound to come will soon give a whole new meaning to "home entertainment."

The price for the SelectaVision 400 is \$500. Interactive discs will be approximately \$20 to \$30 each. Besides "A Week at the Races," two mystery discs--"Many Roads to Murder" and "Murder, Anyone?"--are currently available.

[The title photograph shows a SelectaVision 400 {I presume}, with a rather bulky remote, a CED titled "A Walk Through The Universe," and in the background, a TV monitor showing the main menu of said disc. The infrared remote has three columns by 6 rows of buttons on the left half, and two individual columns of 6 buttons each on the right half. The picture is too small to make out the writing above any of the buttons. Overall, the remote appears about 6 inches square.]

[An accompanying diagram shows the "Videodisc recording format" --it looks like a pizza sliced 8 ways--and notes that "odd sectors contain audio-control information," "even sectors contain band information," "one video field per sector", a "vertical blanking interval" between each sector, and "audio information located on line 17 of each vertical field."]

[A series of photographs has this caption:

"Each videodisc contains digital information about its contents {diagram discussed above}. One piece of data may tell the player to freeze frame. Other data tell it to reproduce stereo sound or add CX noise reduction. The disc also contains time and band numbers used for interactive play; the photos above show how to proceed through information about early astronomers. The player's connections {final photo} are for RF, video, and audio--and 'control.'"

The same "A Walk Through The Universe" disc was used for demonstration of the menu structure in the series of photos.]

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Neil - nwl@gte.net

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 28 7/11/98

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From: Bojay1997  
Date: Sun, 5 Jul 1998 11:49:38 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Anyone have a CED 400 player?

I am still looking for a 400 series RCA CED player with all the interactive titles. Does anyone have one for sale? I would be willing to compensate you very heavily. Thanks,

Bojay

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Date: Mon, 06 Jul 1998 06:09:52 -0700  
From: Ted  
Organization: Home Copy  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 27

Again the computer interface works very well. I have the technical information about how to use it as I was the Project Coordinator for the "Features Player". LMK if there is an interest.  
Ted

-----  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"

To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: The Battle Begins  
Date: Tue, 07 Jul 1998 18:33:48 PDT

Dear CED Enthusiasts:

Many remember the debate to get CED going again, well the race is on. Telecom Capacitance Electronics is now the first on the reactivation battlefield first starting with a complete media preservation. To subscribe to the TCE Newsletter send email to tti@westelcom.com with TCE Subscribe in the subject line and you will be added to the mailing list. If you would just like a list of currently preserved titles you also send email to tti@westelcom.com however put TCE Database in the subject line. I hope that many of you will take interest. Thanks for the support.

Sincerely  
Daniel P. Cayea TCE/TTI

PS. If you have been wondering why you have not recieved either the database or the newsletter, verify the following. After subscribing to either you should recieve a welcome message from me, if you haven't please try again.

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 29 7/18/98

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: The Race is On!!  
Date: Sun, 12 Jul 1998 10:20:54 PDT

Dear CED Enthusiasts:  
Many remember the debate to get CED going again, well the race is on. Telecom Capacitance Electronics is now the first on the reactivation battlefield first starting with a complete media preservation. To subscribe to the TCE Newsletter send email to tti@westelcom.com with TCE Subscribe in the subject line and you will be added to the mailing list. If you would just like a list of currently preserved titles you also send email to tti@westelcom.com however put TCE Database in the subject line. I hope that many of you will take interest. Thanks for the support.

Sincerely  
Daniel P. Cayea

TCE/TTI

PS. If you have been wondering why you have not recieved either the database or the newsletter, verify the following. After subscribing to either you should recieve a welcome message from me, if you haven't please try again.

I thank you for your patience, and support.

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From: ESmith1711  
Date: Sun, 12 Jul 1998 22:35:19 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: message

i am looking for the following james bond ced's (one or both discs in any condition)

- 1.on her majesties secret service
- 2.a view to a kill
- 3.thunderball

also looking for return of the jedi,any help appreciated .Esmith1711@aol.com  
(Gene)

---

Date: Mon, 13 Jul 1998 11:10:09 -0500  
From: David Potochick  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 28 -Reply

I may have another player for sale soon.... I'll let everyone know as soon as I find out if it works or not.... It is a stereo model... I haven't tried it out yet though.... More details later...

Later,

Dave.

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Date: Mon, 13 Jul 1998 23:50:43 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: RCA F/G Player Playback Problems  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

Recently there were a couple posts about problems with these machines. In one

instance a player advanced about half-way through playback and then halted. In the other case the player would exhibit playback problems at about one minute intervals during playback. Both problems could have the same cause-- a worn-out Servo Drive Belt. This belt drives the mechanism that advances the pickup arm across the disc surface. Machines that halt at some point during playback may also have an out-of-wack pickup arm or guide rail, which often happens when the player absorbs a lateral impact. The effect of such an impact-- namely the inability of the pickup arm to move any further, usually gets more pronounced the closer the arm gets to the center of the disc. This can be corrected by loosening the screws holding the pickup arm and guide rail in place and tightening them in other positions. Replacing the Servo Drive Belt will sometimes provide enough additional torque to overcome a modest misalignment without resorting to loosening the screws. This belt is located at the right rear of the player, and its precise location can be viewed in the F/G Chassis photo provided in the "CED Player Belt Replacement Guide" at CED Magic. This guide also provided specs on a replacement belt.

--Tom Howe <http://www.cedmagic.com>

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To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: BOBBIE JO AND THE OUTLAW DISC -Forwarded  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Priority: 3  
X-Mailer: Microsoft Internet Mail 4.70.1157  
Date: Fri, 17 Jul 1998 19:37:02 -0700  
From: "Terry Haney"  
To: tom@cedmagic.com  
Subject: BOBBIE JO AND THE OUTLAW DISC  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain  
Content-Disposition: inline

Hello---I am searching for a copy of BOBBIE JO AND THE OUTLAW on video disc. The movie stars Lynda Carter and Marjoe Gortner. I don't collect these discs, but I do collect Lynda Carter memorabilia. I would like to have a good copy to mainly be used as a display item.

Thanks---Terry Haney

[terryh@peop.tdsnet.com](mailto:terryh@peop.tdsnet.com)

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\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 30 7/25/98

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: The Race Is On, Still!  
Date: Thu, 23 Jul 1998 05:55:20 PDT

Dear CED Enthusiasts:

Many remember the debate to get CED going again, well the race is on. Telecom Capacitance Electronics is now the first on the reactivation battlefield first starting with a complete media preservation. To subscribe to the TCE Newsletter send email to tti@westelcom.com with TCE Subscribe in the subject line and you will be added to the mailing list. If you would just like a list of currently preserved titles you also send email to tti@westelcom.com however put TCE Database in the subject line. I hope that many of you will take interest.

Thanks for the support.

Sincerely  
Daniel P. Cayea  
TCE/TTI

PS, those of you who requested the title database should receive your online copy within two to three weeks. The database is being reconstructed to include new additions.

---

From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RCA SJT-100's Available Now!  
Date: Sat, 25 Jul 1998 16:43:20 PDT

Telecom Technologies Incorporated through our subsidiary Telecom Capacitance Electronics is now offering RCA SJT-100 Videodisc players in two package options for sale!

Package One:  
RCA SJT-100  
15 Day Limited Warranty\*  
Price - \$50.00, and does not include shipping\*\*\*

Package Two:  
RCA SJT-100  
Limited Lifetime Warranty\*\*  
Price - \$75.00, and does include shipping.\*\*\*

\*15 Day Limited Warranty does include stylus & belts, and does include circuitry and integrated electronics.

\*\*Limited Lifetime Warranty does not include stylus and belts but does include circuitry and integrated electronics.

\*\*\*Pending on player weight, shipping may be either 4th Class Certified or Priority Mail, pending on consumer demand of TTI. Shipping may also take up to four weeks pending on availability of players, player testing (for warranty protection)and etcetera.

Daniel P. Cayea  
Telecom Technologies

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Date: Sat, 25 Jul 1998 22:52:43 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED Storage Shelves  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

For those of you who've asked me how I store CED's, the CED Magic site now has plans for a build-it-yourself shelf. Some other storage options are also discussed. The link is located in the Miscellaneous Information section on the main page.

--Tom Howe  
<http://www.cedmagic.com>

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 31 8/1/98

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Sender: geoff  
Date: Sun, 26 Jul 1998 08:47:15 -0500  
From: Geoff Oltmans  
Organization: Totally Disorganized  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: FS: Sears/Hitachi Stereo Player

Well, I thought I'd give this another go, so here it is:

I have a Sears/Hitachi Stereo player, model # 934.54811350. It has 7 control switches on the front. The player turns on and starts playing when a disc is inserted, and stops and powers off when the disk is removed. It has a gold metallized finish that has a few scuffs on it, but no more than you would expect for a player made in '84. I replaced the belts a few months ago, and the stylus is still sharp and it plays well.

I'm asking \$75.00 obo.

Thanks!

\*Geoff!\*

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RCA SJT-100's  
Date: Sun, 26 Jul 1998 07:40:39 PDT

Telecom Technologies Incorporated through our subsiduate Telecom Capacitance Electronics is now offering RCA SJT-100 Videodisc players in two package options for sale!

Package One:RCA SJT-100  
15 Day Limited Warranty\*  
Price - \$50.00, and does not include shipping\*\*\*

Package Two:RCA SJT-100  
Limited Lifetime Warranty\*\*  
Price - \$75.00, and does include shipping.\*\*\*

FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO tti@westelcom.com ON THIS OFFER!

\*15 Day Limited Warranty does include stylus & belts, and does include circuitry and integrated electronics.

\*\*Limited Lifetime Warranty does not include stylus and belts but does include circuitry and integrated electronics. \*\*\*Pending on player weight, shipping may be either 4th Class Certified or Priority Mail, pending on consumer demand of TTI. Shipping may also take up to four weeks pending on availibility of players, player testing (for warranty protection)and etcetera.

Daniel P. Cayea  
Telecom Technologies

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From: LAWPATS  
Date: Mon, 27 Jul 1998 09:46:34 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 30

Hi -- I enjoy your web site and the newsletter. I have an RCA SJT400 (my second one) -- on which I recently installed a new drive belt and stylus. I had not used the player in years. The player now takes the disc and plays them, but an old problem has resurfaced. The screen is washed out, even the

player data --time, track, "reject", "pause" etc., looks blurred or smeared. Sometimes it will clear itself up, but for the most part it seems that every light colored part of the picture is smeared over the rest of the picture. When CED was still being sold in the stores, I took one player (SJT400) with the same problem for repair - and they never did fix it. Any ideas?

Thanks,

Dan

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Date: Wed, 29 Jul 1998 07:53:30 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 29  
Mime-Version: 1.0

I heard from someone a while back that the "interactive" player will actually damage your discs. It's OK to use the normal player functions on the 400, but I've been told that if you use any of the 'special' features like band search, etc, then the disc will get "scratched somewhat fierce" as he put it. This is why I haven't been searching the globe for one, and if I ever do find one I don't even know if I'll buy it if this is true. ("Is this true? Is this horrible thing true?"- Henry Gibson as Wilbur the pig in 'Charlotte's Web')

I do have "Murder Anyone?" which does play back with the "nonsensical results" as Tom put it, at the end there's several minutes of a screen saying you've won the game or something like that. Doesn't look like it had much replay value as a game regardless of whether it worked or not. I also have "A Week at the Races" which is fun to watch because of the guy obviously reading everything off cue cards and there's lots of nice horse racing video footage too, again though what good is this as a game once you've seen every clip and know who's going to win?

I'm fortunate enough to have one of the VCRs that has digital special effects, a great feature which for some insane reason is not available on any current VCR models anymore. Once you've got it you can't live without it, I use it as my main TV tuner because you can just hit a button and get a perfect still-frame, no tape required! This is also extremely useful with my CLV format laserdiscs, which my player can't still-frame, and of course CEDs, which is physically impossible to still-frame (the 'page mode' just repeats 4 frames over and over as that's how many are on each rotation) I wonder if this technology would have been built into future CED players had the format survived. Since I like to study a lot of my videos up-close, this VCR was worth what I paid for it even if it didn't have the S-VHS recorder built in :) If I went into an electronics store today and was forced to pick out a new VCR, I honestly don't think there are any that I'd really want. Last time I looked a lot of them didn't even seem to have any buttons on the machine OR the remote! If I ever need a brand-new one then -maybe- a pro model might do it for me (and what's the deal with Hi-Fi machines not being able to play

linear stereo? I have a lot of non Hi-Fi stereo tapes so I'd have to watch them in mono if I didn't have the older model that has both regular and Hi-Fi stereo!)

I like being able to watch the old RCA opening disc logos in slow-motion, there's a couple frames with (gasp!) a little dirt on them. By the way has anyone noticed that there's actually TWO slightly different versions of the original opening, the less common one the music at the end plays noticeably slower and the colors are a bit different. I know "The French Connection" has this one on it. Anyone know the story on this?

OK, one more question; my posts always get longer than intended- has anyone compiled a list of material that is, has, was, and most likely always will be available on CED ONLY? Obviously the demo footage from the promo discs won't be on DVD anytime soon, although I've made tapes of these for those who otherwise would never have seen them. Other stuff I have that I've never seen anywhere else include a 1954 stop-motion animated movie of "Hansel and Gretel", the notes on the back cover says these were actually electronic puppets but doesn't say how they worked, the movie starts out with this boring intro in black and white where all you see is the hands of a guy holding a book and smoking a cigarette as he reads something about the animation process used in the movie.

Lots of music videos I have were either on tape at one point or made for cable, but many seem impossible to find on any other format today.

Totally Go-Go's, one of my favorites, was on cassette from Thorn/EMI for a while, I don't know if it was even in stereo. This disc does turn up quite more often than you'd expect. I've also got stuff like the Doobie Brothers HBO special that I've never seen on any other format. BTW, the Joni Mitchell "Shadows and Light" concert was made for the MCA

Discovision laserdisc label, but when they went under after suffering notorious defects, Pioneer took over and got the manufacturing process down right and completed post-production on this and released it as one of the first Pioneer Artists discs (Warner also put this out on tape.) I have an RCA disc of episodes of the 1960's Spiderman cartoon show (yes, THAT one with the unforgettable theme song) that I don't believe exist on tape, sadly they didn't include the "In Color" intro I remember from the very beginning of the show (I didn't know Ralph Bakshi was involved in this show til I read the cover though.) Lots of the sports titles like "Miracle at Lake Placid" and TV compilations like "Don Kirshner's Rock Concert" seem impossible to find except on CED too.

Re: "Bobbie Joe and the Outlaw"- when I found this in a used record store they told me that Lynda Carter, after hitting it big, has been trying to buy every existing copy of this movie so no one ever sees it again, because she appears nude in part of it. Luckily they only charged me 5 bucks for this even though they convinced me I had a real collectors' item on my hands. (This place has some old Discovision laserdiscs like Saturday Night Fever and Electric Horseman that they want 100 bucks for!!) Vestron Video certainly put out the most interesting stuff on CED, the format just wouldn't be the same without it (I still love how on most discs they cram side 1 as far as it can go to 60 minutes, then sometimes have as few as 10 minutes total on side 2 on short movies! BTW if you have "Sex on the Run" watch it with the volume up high and you can hear a

radio station in the background, at one point you can even hear the DJ identify it!)

I also love the other weird kids' stuff like "As We Grow," which is a video-ized version of those dreaded "sound filmstrips" we used to be subjected to in school (do they still use those damn things?) Notice there are NO moving pictures in the whole thing, but they try to make it more interesting by doing stuff like panning the camera across the pictures and stuff like that. This was from Scholastic Productions, a name I remember very well from my early school years, are they still around? There's also Learning Corporation of America's "Family Entertainment Playhouse" which were shown in classes on 16mm film and usually followed by a class discussion on what important message the story they just saw had. There were 2 volumes of these gems, again which I've never seen available on any other video format, volume 1 features a very young Anthony Michael Hall in one story (thanks for this one Tom!) Which leads me to another subject I could go on and on about but won't, watching a lot of these old movies you can sometimes see actors playing bit parts who became/are more famous today. Can anybody think of some, like Jim Carrey's appearance in "Peggy Sue got Married" which I think came out after CED died, also any other stuff that's only obtainable on CED? (Mono versions of the Jane Fonda workouts did make it to tape but still say "produced by RCA Videodiscs", as did Dr. Spock's "Caring for your Newborn", sad to say.)

This is getting long, so even though I haven't written in a while I'm gonna go, since I'm actually up at an early hour I'm gonna make an hour's trip out to the area's only mid-week flea market in beautiful Galt, CA, followed by a thrifting expedition in nearby Stockton where I've gotten a lot of my best CEDs from (including my first copy of "Star Wars" during my first month of collecting.)

Alan Smithee (who to his knowledge has none of his films on CED, just his contribution to the John Landis segment of "Twilight Zone the Movie".)

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 32 8/8/98

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Date: Mon, 3 Aug 1998 03:49:41 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 31  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Re: CED problems- "snowy" or noisy picture is almost always a stylus and/or disc problem, either the stylus picked up a piece of dust or the disc itself already has damage. Usually pausing for a few seconds solves this problem, as I've had this happen on some discs that was so bad the

picture went blank completely, but just hitting reverse-scan back to where the problem started it played back a decent picture that time. A common quirk on my SGT-200 is pictures with a lot of white- black video noise usually shows up in the white.

---

From: ESmith1711  
Date: Wed, 5 Aug 1998 00:23:59 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: james bond ced's wanted

hello, i am still in need of the following bond discs  
1.on her majesty's secret service  
2. thunderball

and would also be interested in any bond discs released on "cbs fox" labels.  
have many other bond discs to trade or will purchase. gene

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 33 8/15/98

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Sender: geoff  
Date: Sun, 09 Aug 1998 07:52:56 -0500  
From: Geoff Oltmans  
Organization: Totally Disorganized  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 32

> Re: CED problems- "snowy" or noisy picture is almost always a stylus  
> and/or disc problem, either the stylus picked up a piece of dust or the  
> disc itself already has damage. Usually pausing for a few seconds solves  
> this problem, as I've had this happen on some discs that was so bad the  
> picture went blank completely, but just hitting reverse-scan back to  
> where the problem started it played back a decent picture that time. A  
> common quirk on my SGT-200 is pictures with a lot of white- black video  
> noise usually shows up in the white.

It seems to me that a lot of this problem is caused by static buildup on the surface of the disc itself. The disc is a good static conductor (hence why they used it I'm sure), but the downfall I think is that it can be vulnerable to buildup when inserting or removing the disc. This is probably more evident now since the coating is drying out on discs, and doesn't protect it as well.

That's my opinion anyway. :) I could be dead wrong. Sure some of it's caused by dust particles, but I've seen some that are absolutely sparkly and I don't think there's much way that much dust could get into the caddy.

\*Geoff!\*

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From: LAWPATS  
Date: Mon, 10 Aug 1998 09:40:28 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 32

If the "snowy" picture info was in answer to my request for info re white-smeary picture -- it is off base. The problem I have occurs even without a disc in place -- the SJT400 has black framed messages (such as "LOAD DISC") that have nothing to do with the stylus or the disc and these are smeared as well. Has anyone else had this problem -- and can it be resolved?

Thanks

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Date: Thu, 13 Aug 1998 04:36:59 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 32  
Mime-Version: 1.0

I may have asked this earlier but got no response, so I'll ask it again: What was the very first CED to have closed captions? Someone told me it was "Flashdance". I'm not deaf but since my TV has closed captions I enjoy looking at them; movies like Flashdance help you learn the words to the songs! Also, anyone know why the "Columbia Pictures Home Entertainment" tapes were captioned, while the RCA discs which appeared to use the same master (nothing before the movie at the beginning and that blue and yellow copyright crawl at the very end) were not captioned? Also, if you have the promo-only "\$19.98 Preview Disc", check out the clip from "Trading Places". Eddie Murphy says a dirty word which is muted out on the soundtrack, but the caption signal is still there so if you turn that on the offensive word will appear onscreen! Also on 'Making Michael Jackson's Thriller' (a must for any video collection) during the TV clip of him singing "Billie Jean" the captions from the show are intact too, although nothing else on that disc is captioned. RCA gave screen credit to the National Captioning Institute on their tapes at the very end, after the FBI warning, but notice for the longest time it said "Captions Copyright 1984" on tapes made around 1986? Just a memory from my tape-watching days, which ended when I got laserdisc (and CED).



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Date: Sat, 15 Aug 1998 23:44:26 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: Washed Out Video on SJT400 Player  
Mime-Version: 1.0

From the description of the video problem on the SJT400, it sounds more like a video mixing problem rather than a carrier distress problem due to intermittent stylus contact. The SJT400 has two more circuit boards than other players, and these contain the on-screen display (OSD) and remote keyboard microcomputer (RKM) functions. Specifically, the problem is probably with the OSD IC (U6103) on the OSD circuit board. This chip can overlay up to six lines of text on the video recovered from the CED, even though the SJT400 only uses the bottom line. When the chip goes into failure, it often generates a weak white video that when mixed with the CED video results in a washed out appearance over the entire screen. This chip is susceptible to heat failure, meaning the player may operate normally for a few minutes before the washed out appearance commences, or the problem may only manifest itself during the summer in an environment that lacks air conditioning.

The first thing to try is operating the player out in the open in a cool environment. This may be enough to prevent the chip from overheating, but if the washed-out video appears the instant the player is turned on, the chip may have already completely failed.

--Tom Howe

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 34 8/22/98

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From: LAWPATS  
Date: Sun, 16 Aug 1998 12:09:17 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 33

Tom: Very interesting re: SJT400 -- can the chip be replaced? The player is now operating in an airconditioned environment -- and the white wash occurs at different times -- sometimes when the player is first started its white washed and then it clears up (only to return) and sometimes it starts clear and then becomes white washed. Is the chip (or board) available and is it easily replaced -- if not would Radio Shak (with their promise of repairing all brands of electronics) be able to repair this? Thanks for your help.

Note: the drive belt is new and so is the stylus/cartridge.

Dan

---

From: Unclejack  
Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1998 21:47:50 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Working STEREO player with remote, disks

SelectaVision STEREO CED Player Model SGT 250  
working - with working remote

82 CED packages

Action - 7 titles  
Animation - 7 titles  
Classic - 2 titles  
    Citizen Kane RKO 1941  
    Psycho Universal 1960  
Comedy - 20 titles  
Disney - 9 titles  
Drama - 4 titles  
Music - 25 titles  
Other - 5 titles (2 preview albums)

\$250 for everything includes free shipping  
individual disks \$5/each  
list free by return EMail

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Date: Sat, 22 Aug 1998 22:26:26 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE:RE:Washed Out Video on SJT400 Player  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Dan:

The additional information that the washed out appearance comes and goes makes me think that this is not heat failure of the OSC Video Chip. Usually when heat failure begins it remains constant until the player is turned off and allowed to cool or the problem chip is cooled off by some other means, like the supercool propellant sprays used to pinpoint heat failure problems.

The intermittent washed out video points to one or more nodes inside the player experiencing intermittent electrical contact. This could be a difficult-to-locate cold solder joint, or more likely, oxidation on one of the multiple-pin header connectors that link the circuit boards together.

To fix this problem, the player should be put in the service position as detailed in the service manual. Sometimes the mere action of establishing the service position is enough to repair a malfunctioning player, as the header

connectors all get jiggled a little bit during the process. But even if this occurs, all the header connectors should be unplugged and replugged several times (with the power off) to scrape off more oxidation and insure a long-term fix. The connectors holding the sandwich of the OSC and RKM boards together also need to be unplugged and replugged.

--Tom Howe

-----  
Date: Sat, 22 Aug 1998 22:55:41 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: DVD Surpasses CED  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

According to CEMA figures, there were 84,709 DVD players shipped to dealers in July 1998, bringing the total for 1998 up to 361,046 DVD players. When added to the 1997 figure of 437,000 players that brings the total so far up to 798,000 units, thus surpassing the total of 750,000 CED players manufactured through the end of 1984. Measured against time, DVD player sales have been out performing CED player sales by about 3-to-1, taking into account the fact that about 200,000 of those CED players were sold at discount after the system was canceled in April 1984.

These CEMA figures are published in the Laser Scans Newsletter available at:

<http://members.aol.com/laserscans/>

The August 1st issue has an interesting discussion of the DVD vs. DIVX debacle. It is creating consumer apathy and confusion similar to that generated by Beta vs. VHS in 1977 and LaserDisc vs. CED in 1981.

--Tom Howe

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 35 8/29/98

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: RCA Videodisc Players for sale!  
Date: Sun, 23 Aug 1998 17:09:13 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

Telecom Technologies Incorporated through our subiduate Telecom Capacitance Electronics is now offering RCA SJT-100 Videodisc players in two options for sale! Package One: RCA SJT-100 15 Day Limited Warranty\* Price \$63.00, includes shipping and handling charge. New York State Residents add a 7% Sales Tax Package Two: RCA SJT-100 Limited Lifetime Warranty\*\* Price \$80.00, includes shipping and handling fees. New York State Residents add a 7% Sales Tax FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO tti@westelcom.com ON THIS OFFER! color=#000000> \*\*15 Day Limited Warranty includes basic operation, stylus & belts, as well as circuitry. \*\*\*Limited Lifetime Warranty, circuitry is covered for as long as you own are the original owner of the player under this plan. Belts and Stylus are covered for 15 Days. SHIPPING INFORMATION: Shipping can take up to for weeks. Players are procured >from a separate supplier, cleaned and refurbished to meet the TCE Quality Assurance Check. If a player can not meet the TCA Quality Assurance Check within four weeks, your money is immediately refunded. To order send USPS Money Order or other Bank Money Order (out of state checks and credit cards are not accepted) with a copy of this advertisement with the purchase option circled to: Telecom Technologies Incorporated 2841 Standish Road Postal Office Box 90 Lyon Mountain, New York 12952-0090

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From: EBWells  
Date: Sun, 23 Aug 1998 22:00:17 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 34

I asked if you had an extra stylus for a J model player. I finally managed to find one off of a busted SJT-090. I also bought a load of SFT-100 and SFT-100 equivalent players for \$20.00 from a flea market. Miraculously, one of the players still worked when I tested it. By the way, I have two questions to ask.

1. You wouldn't happen to have an extra Hitachi VIP-2000 sitting around that you would want to sell? (Parts may not be a problem, since I have a Realistic CED-1 for parts and a spare Hitachi type stylus.)

2. I am in the process of restoring an RCA SFT-100. I am just about finished, except, the pickup will not read the disc correctly. To add to the problem, none of the visual search keys work. Whenever I press them, the audio is muted but the picture does not advance. I rebuilt the mechanics properly, according to a reference unit of the same model number. My guess is a fault in the stylus kicker block. Any answers?

- Reinhart

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Date: Mon, 24 Aug 1998 02:05:32 -0700 (PDT)  
From: Jesse Skeen

To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 33  
Mime-Version: 1.0

I know this is going a little off-subject, but the subject of heat buildup causing video problems in the SJT-400 reminded me of the recent disablement of my NEC VCR's digital special effects. Nobody makes VCRs with this feature anymore, for some reason I just cannot comprehend as it becomes something you can't live without once you have it. The digital effects board in mine got overheated, the repairman said this was a design flaw with this model- they put it too close to the motor and other parts that heated up a lot and it couldn't take it. I had to have him disable it just so I could still use it as a VCR, since on normal operation the video still passed through this board and since it died it made it extremely distorted. Luckily at the shop they had a used deck that had the same features plus a little more, and it was S-VHS which was one thing I didn't have yet. Don't ignore those vents on your equipment, do whatever it takes to see that they aren't covered up! If you have to stack your equipment, put something in between them on all 4 corners so they'll have some breathing space (I use 35mm moviepreviews from the theater I work at, since I collect those and take them as soon as they get pulled from the screens when the actual movie comes out.)

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED Enthusiasts on AOL AIM  
Date: Mon, 24 Aug 1998 20:30:58 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3155.0

Many of us have heard about the AOL Instant Messenger. Well how many CED Enthusiasts are subscribed to it? We should tell each other so that we can chat about current CED issues that are mentioned on the CED Magic Site and CED Digest. Daniel P. CayeaTTI/TCE

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From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Previous CED Digest's  
Date: Tue, 25 Aug 1998 22:32:43 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3155.0

Does anyone have previous editions of the CED Digest either in hard copy of electronic format? If so, please contact me. If anyone else needs them I have some, but am in need of many more. Daniel P. Cayea

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 36 9/5/98

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Date: Sat, 05 Sep 1998 08:33:21 -0700  
From: Neil  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: \*CED Digest <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Videodisc History Part 30

Back from summer vacation...for one last, brief look at history.

>From the September 1984 Popular Science column "Look and Listen" by William J. Hawkins -

Thousands of exhibits were shown at the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago. Here are some of the show's highlights:

Pioneer introduced eight-inch videodiscs. They contain up to five "music videos" that can be played on a home LaserVision player or on the company's new \$7,000 commercial video jukebox.

An interactive videodisc system from RDI (2261 Cosmos Ct., Carlsbad, Calif. 92008) uses speech recognition. Speak into a microphone, and you control the movements of cartoon characters in a visual adventure game. The \$1,300 system attaches to any laser videodisc player.

=====  
And with that, my subscription to Popular Science ran out or there was no further mention of videodiscs.

I've enjoyed sharing these tidbits with you. Hope you enjoyed them as much as I.

Now, back to your regularly scheduled programming.

--  
Neil - nwl@gte.net

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\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 37 9/12/98

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Date: Sat, 12 Sep 1998 02:09:49 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Baseball Fun and Games  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

I recently watched this disc for the first time and noticed something rather unusual about it. At the start of Side 2, long-time NY-Yankees announcer Mel Allen comes on and talks about Side 1 of the disc and what you're going to see on Side 2. Other than RCA's demo discs and some interactive titles, this is the only regular release I've watched where separate video was recorded discussing the contents of the disc itself.

Mel Allen passed away a couple years ago, so there's quite a bit of web info about him. Here's one link at NY Yankees Magazine:

<http://www.yankees.com/web/news/magazine/17-6.mag/flashback.html>

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: TMANDRAKE  
Date: Sat, 12 Sep 1998 10:45:22 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: stylus

I'm looking for a stylus for a model SGT 200 videodisc player. Can anybody help?

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 38 9/19/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Sun, 13 Sep 1998 12:38:49 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: Stylus  
Mime-Version: 1.0





-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Fri, 25 Sep 1998 20:41:48 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED Magic Active Channel  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

In response to some requests, I've set up an Internet Explorer active channel for CED Magic. This will only work for IE version 4.0 or later, and creates a icon in the channel bar where the most popular CED items from the site can be opened. Windows 95/98 users can also select an animated VideoDisc logo as their screensaver. The link to subscribe to the channel is near the bottom of the main CED Magic page in the Miscellaneous section.

--Tom  
<http://www.cedmagic.com>

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Sat, 26 Sep 1998 22:38:22 -0400  
Subject: Remote  
X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 0-2,4-8  
From: (drew man)

Hello,  
My name is Andrew Lakin. i must say your web site CEDmagic is Sweet !  
I am writing to you because I want to know if you can help me.  
I recently purchsed a CED Player at a Garage sale for \$4. it still works too!!  
My Problem is that it did'nt come with a remote control.  
It is a RCA model#SGT 250 and needs a remote control model#CRK32A.  
CAN YOU HELP ME???????

Thanks

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 40 10/3/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: KatGlen1  
Date: Sun, 27 Sep 1998 22:33:01 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 39

Donald Baraf writes that he has broken CED players and more or less blames this digest for not providing him with an easy fix. We are dealing with a company that no longer exists. The RCA of that era is gone. Yes, the technology was doomed before it was sold to the public. Laser was the wave of the future. But each one of us is still a fan of the system much like collectors of old phonographs or 78's. They are just a small bunch of people but share many similar frustrations. It's been 15 years since RCA told us all that it was over. Each one of us has an obligation to report parts sources or people who can supply parts or service to this digest and make us all aware of what we find. If none of us does that then shame on us. But it's certainly not the fault of Tom or anyone who has done so much to help us all and provide us with a lot of information and good memories. I have five CED players that I purchased new and about 150 discs. That was a lot of money back in the mid 80's.

But I still enjoy playing with the machines and just looking at the discs. Each one of them needed belts changed and by having the CED Magic info at hand to tell me how saved me a ton of money and many hours of frustration. I am very grateful. Glenn

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Mon, 28 Sep 1998 12:31:23 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 39  
Mime-Version: 1.0

On Sat, 23 Aug 1997 Tom Howe wrote:

>From: Tom Howe  
>To: ceds@teleport.com  
>Subject: RE: Disc Fails to Load  
>Mime-Version: 1.0

>

>On Mon, 11 Aug 1997 Donald Baraf wrote:

>>The main problems are (i)the machine will not "bight" the disc and  
>>engage and (ii)the transport will not take the disc in.

>

>Donald:

>

>Both problems are probably due to function motor drive belt failure. Here is  
>the text of a web page detailing replacement of this belt. If you have web  
>access, the site below has photos to accompany the text.

>

>--Tom Howe

>[www.cedmagic.com](http://www.cedmagic.com)

>

>

>Function Motor Drive Belt Replacement

>

REMAINING CONTENT DELETED

Donald:

Did you try replacing the function motor drive belt, as I suggested back in August 1997? Your description of the problem sounds exactly like belt failure, which is a simple repair that costs a dollar and only requires a few minutes to complete. Here's the URL of the J/K Player Belt Replacement Instructions:

<http://www.cedmagic.com/tech-info/function-motor.html>

If you replaced the belt and are still having problems, try posting a followup message describing the problems in detail. Most player problems are due to belt failure or stylus cartridge failure, and these issues are addressed in detail at the web site. Electronic component failure is much more difficult to address as the most efficient way to locate electrical faults is to use signal tracing in conjunction with the service manual, test disc, and an oscilloscope. This requires the physical presence of the player and the skill to use the diagnosis and repair tools. Since CED players contain about 500 electrical components, a verbal description of an electrical failure may provide little insight into the specific problem, although in many instances the circuit area where the failure exists can at least be narrowed down.

It sounds like you want the CED Magic web site to provide a repair service for CED players. I'm a CED hobbyist like everyone else on this mailing list, and started the site to pass on through writing what I've learned about the hobby to other CED enthusiasts. Part of the reason why the volume of messages to this mailing list has decreased is due to new information available at the web site, since people no longer have to ask where to get belts or stylus cartridges, and other questions are being answered by perusal of the CED Digest archives. Although I'll continue to expand the tech info section of the web site as time permits, it will never be able to fully address electrical repair of players. CED players still turn up in thrift stores and are regularly auctioned at [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com), so the most cost effective way to deal with electrical failures at present is to get a working player and keep the broken one as a potential parts source.

--Tom Howe

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: Narpet2112  
Date: Wed, 30 Sep 1998 13:21:58 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: CED Stilus and Belts

I have an RCA SJT-400 CED player that has a problem with skipping and sticking on most disks played. I assume the is a problem with the stilus and/or belt.

I would like to try and refurbish the player (I guess I'll have to try and do it myself) and would like to purchase a new stilus and belt. Can anyone inform me where these items are available for purchase? Thank you very much.

Narpet2112@AOL.COM

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Fri, 02 Oct 1998 14:38:12 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: Remote for RCA SGT250 Player  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Andrew:

There are several remotes you can use on the SGT250. Among these are:

CRK34A SGT250 Remote Stock #154499  
CRK34C SJT300(early production) Remote Stock #157164  
CRK34D SJT300(late production) and SKT300 Remote Stock #157233

The early models run on three AA batteries and have three infrared LED's to properly divide the voltage, while the outwardly identical late model uses two AA's with two LED's. These remotes are still available from Fox International at 800-321-6993. Even though the 154499 is the technically correct replacement for your player, you may want to consider the others, as 154499 costs about twice as much as the other two models. The probable reason is that 154499 is the highest demand of the three, and parts suppliers have a tendency to hike the price on in-demand obsolete parts that are nearly depleted in inventory.

--Tom Howe

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Fri, 2 Oct 1998 21:30:37 -0400 (EDT)  
From: return  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 39  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I am compelled to agree with Donald Barf in his recent entry to the CED Digest. I find it hard to disagree with him on his comments concerning the validity and usefullness of the site.. what good does it do someone if they have 4 broken machines and cannot fix them nor obtain any information or assistance in that area??

A title base, and those other things look impressive, but it is of no use when you've gotten a ton of disc in the attic with no working machines to play them on. This comes back to the issue I raised last year on the digest concerning why there is no direction on the "Site" for organizing

an effort to arrange a central repair point for all of these people with broken machines a place to shipp them to so they can be repaired by a skilled tech with some experience with these machines (ex-RCA tech?).

We don't need "PREDATORS". We have seen them already on this site. Lack of Focus and Lack of concearn seems to prevade on this issue. I think the Gentleman is correct in his description of the site in this regard.

NO one seems to respond lately. I feel compelled to agree with him on this issue. The site is "not" providing any real "Help", or assitance in machine repair...Instructions on repairing a loading Belt are as inadequate to facing "Real" "hard-core" machine problems as trying to fix Israeli-PLO peace arrangements in the Middle-East. The "Silence" from this site concearning any type of assitance on machine repair is "Deafing!"

Maybe what we do need is a museum as suggested by the letter, only it will be a museum of Broken machines instead of working ones.....

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 41 10/10/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: Richard & Sally Taylor  
To: "'Tom Howe'" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: RE: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 40  
Date: Sun, 4 Oct 1998 12:57:01 -0700  
MIME-Version: 1.0

Hi,  
Just got to say.....this site is better than no site! We enjoy the Digest....even the complaining and are happy that it exists/we found it.The suggestion that "someone" might offer repair service is a good one....just need to have "someone" step up to the table..... and figure out a way to insure that they are reputable.  
Thanks for the site Tom !

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Sun, 04 Oct 1998 16:30:43 -0700  
From: "Marlin Bates, IV"  
Organization: The Bates Motel  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 40

Tom Howe wrote:  
>  
Hmm, I have been reading the messages and thought I would comment. The CED

Magic site is an amazing collection of facts and titles. I thank Tom for maintaining such a comprehensive site. In fact, it was his site over 3 years ago which helped me fix my first player since childhood (it needed a new load belt) and Tom told me what was a very good replacement.

Additionally, his list of titles has enabled me to know where I am in my status to get all of the titles. (I have 1222 titles!!) On that note - Tom, the "Memories of Videodisk" lists some 300-odd foreign titles released (although not by title, only that they released X number of foreign titles) do you have any idea what they titles were and how they differed.

Now, if someone needs a machine fixed, I have found that a simple read of Tom's site will fix most of the run of the mill problems AND you can always e-mail him for the other problems. He is really quick and very helpful. INstead of running the site down, perhaps we could gather up a bit of common fixes, write it up in HTML and offer it to Tom to add to the site.

Half the fun in hobbies like this is trying to find out how to fix them and then patting yourself on the back when you do. Failing that - I will gladly take the broken players off of your hands.

-Marlin

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Michael Russell"  
To: "Tom Howe" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 40  
Date: Mon, 5 Oct 1998 23:23:53 -0700  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.2106.4

Hello Tom;

Well, I finally bought a CED player, for too much money, at ebay. SJT 100. It arrived broken, of course.

I have been playing with it--the mechanism is remarkably straightforward... the belt in the left rear that ejects the outer case and positions the disc is worn out, but when I cycle it by hand it puts the disc in place and it will try to play. BUT, the direct drive turntable is unbalanced and makes load thunking sounds as it tries to spin. Question: Does the large bolt in the bottom center, the one with the tapped screw center, by any chance come with a pin bearing of some sort that the turntable spins on? If so, I am missing that interior screw.

SO, I need a bearing and a belt--both obtainable, I guess. But before I throw good money after bad, is there any way to figure out if the stylus is good via visual inspection? If the stylus is shot, the whole thing is a

waste, but if it is good, then it is worth fixing.

Thanks for your help!

--Michael Russell

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Thu, 08 Oct 1998 18:07:24 -0700  
From: "Mike Miller"  
Mime-Version: 1.0:  
X-Sent-Mail: off  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 40

Donald Baraf & chemfish,

You guys are looking a gift horse in the mouth. I've been to a couple dozen 8-track and Beta video websites, and none of them give the level of support for those "dead" mediums that CEDmagic provides for videodiscs. When my 8-track needed a belt I had to measure the old one, hunt around and finally pay \$5 for it. But with the videodisc player a dollar bill in the mail got me the belt a short while later.

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: WDE704CINN@aol.com  
Date: Sat, 10 Oct 1998 18:08:50 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Disc Player and Disc's

RCA Selectavision/Video/DiscPlayer model SFT 100 W

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 42 10/17/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: ALCHUS  
Date: Sun, 11 Oct 1998 11:56:29 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 41

TOM

I just wanted to add my two cents regarding your site.

To the fellow that was critical of your site, I suggest that he sell his player and disc(s). [if you give me a list of titles ^ I will make you an offer].

It seemed that he was disappointed that with a click of his mouse someone didn't show up at his house and fix his player back to "brand new" status.

Keep in mind that this is yesterday's technology. The reason some of us retain our interest in the CED format is that we have dozens (or hundreds) of titles. I think that if RCA called each owner of a CED player up and said that they would trade a DVD machine for our CED machine and replace each title with a new DVD disc for no cost ^ there would be no need for this CED site. But that trade-in program will not happen in my lifetime.

In my case, I had a CED machine that I took apart to see what was wrong with it. It stayed apart for over 5 years. I knew that at the least I needed a take-up belt. But I wasn't sure that if that was all I needed. After reading the tips at your site, I was convinced that the belt was the only problem with my machine. You sold me a belt and now I have a working machine.

For the 5 years that this machine was sitting in my basement, I keep telling myself I might as well dump it (along with my 75 titles). If it wasn't for your site, my machine and discs would be sitting in some landfill. I applaud you for taking the time (and cost) to run this site. I'm sure that somewhere down the line my machine will give out. I then will use your site in trying to sell my small collection of discs and even my machine for parts. I don't expect your site to fix my machine for eternity.

Again, much thanks.

Alchus

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Mon, 12 Oct 1998 17:21:00 -0400 (EDT)  
From: return  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: "Getting Machines repair'd for all Ceder's" And Be Wary Tips!!  
MIME-Version: 1.0

My, My, My.....

Aren't we suddenly a lively crowd again. This site had been deserted for sometime like Death valley, Calif. Gee, We have suddenly come alive again talking about helping others get there machines repaired, or atleast some help to others again.

You mean that "Gift-Horse is on the move again?" Actually, it would be reather selfish for me to take the credit. I think we all should give



Donald Barf a big round of applause and express some appreciation for his willingness to be direct and honest about his feelings. There's some folks around here who don't have that candor or ability apparently. Donald Barf got everyone talking again. Isn't that something. Why did it have to come down to that? Atleast we are all back on the subject of how we are going to organize a process or system of how to "Better" address and assist CED'ers out there who need serious help with machines.

However, I have another agenda besides this. Something just as important to us all. It seems we have another type of problem. problem no# 1.-- Everyone be on your guard. There is a person who is going around and breaking other persons deals and agreements up. We have a person who swarms in on other peoples deals and "High-Balls" the seller by offering more money than what the others have already agreeded to pay, thus shaking loose those agreeded buyers. Then the High-Baller turns around and LOW-BALLS the seller after he is ready to sell. The seller is then faced with accepting far-less than before, and also very upset are the other buyers as well.

No#2) It has been discovered that this same person is also contacting other CED Disc owners to encourage them to do "PRICE FIXING"! The sellers were being contacted and then were told not to let certain titles go for less on a certain dollar amount. For example: selling a certain title for no less than \$20.00-\$30.00 a pop. All other parties (sellers of disc) were contacted by the very same person also. A pattern had emerged from the parties which lead a trail back to the CED-Magic web-site. That same person also uses the site as well.

So, Heads-up folks, be careful who your dealing with. Protect yourselves by not paying way over or to much for a disc. If it is outrageous then don't pay that much for it, chances are the seller has been contacted by this person. Also, if your selling something be careful of persons who contact you out of no where with an astronomical price for an item and your common sense tells you its too good to be true, then follow your common sense.... Smoke them out by asking questions, and asking for C.O.D. or other assurance's. This will usually flush the person out.

No.#3) Another problem is sending machines to trusted persons for them to work on for you..(this also connects with our previous agenda on machine repair) Always be very cautious of this. The person on the other end may tell you they will look at it. The machine may only need a belt or something very simple. Once the machine is received by them they will tell you that it is not repairable and refuse to send it back to you""then you know you've been HAD! This recently happened to a person dealing with a SJT-400 player.

No.#4) also, be careful of certain parties who claim they will pay you for machines or disc, and then they turn around and want them as Free donations. You will later see that very same disc or machine show up for sale later on.

This is being issued to all on the site, and to new persons on the site who have not been around long enough to know about Predators out there who do use this site for other purposes...

Take care to all and be careful in your dealings. This party still

uses this web-site so be on your guard!!.....

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: "Tom Howe" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CD-ROM Project Report  
Date: Mon, 12 Oct 1998 20:58:25 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3155.0

Dear Tom: Just out of curiosity, I and I am sure that many of the other CED Hobbyists are wondering how the CD-ROM project is coming along. I am also wondering if you have an expected date of when the project is to be completed.  
Thanks Daniel P. Cayea

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Thu, 15 Oct 1998 13:13:59 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: Dragging Turntable on SJT-100 and other J/K Players  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Michael:

You're right about there being a turntable height adjustment screw inside the adjusting nut on the bottom of the player. There should also be a lock screw directly below the adjustment screw, but this was an add-on in mid-manufacture, so many players are missing it. With the adjustment screw absent the turntable sits in the lowest possible position and rubs against the lower panel. There is also a thrust plate that sits in the turntable spindle well between the spindle and the adjusting screw. This is just a tiny round holeless washer, and it's common for it to get lost when the turntable is removed and the player is placed upsidedown. Sometimes it gets drawn to the magnetic ring of the turntable, and can be found clinging there even years later. The player will still operate without the thrust plate, but there will be more friction and wear on the tip of the spindle with it directly contacting the adjustment screw.

The adjustment screw is no longer available as an RCA replacement part, but it's an industry standard part that can be obtained at most large hardware stores. The threads inside the adjusting nut are SAE standard 6-32, so the formal description of the part is a 6-32 by 3/8" socket head set screw. The lock screw is the same part, but 1/4" in length. To adjust the turntable height follow these steps. With the player unplugged and the cover off, rotate by hand the large white second reduction gear adjacent to the function motor until the disc transfer rod retracts below the turntable. Elevate the player on a couple of blocks so you can spin the turntable by hand while raising the turntable with

the set screw. The socket head accepts a 1/16" hex key, and a good rule of thumb is to slowly raise the turntable until the drag is eliminated, then rotate the set screw another full turn to provide an additional 1/32" of clearance.

You also asked how to determine if a stylus cartridge is good. There is no way to be absolutely certain short of testing it in a working player, but some cartridges can be visually determined to be bad by the absence of any point on the stylus tip. If you're going to buy a function motor drive belt, attach a reminder note and I'll include 3/8" and 1/4" set screws in the envelope. This should be enough for you to get the player running mechanically, and there's a good chance that's all it may need to be fully operational.

--Tom Howe

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: TMANDRAKE  
Date: Sat, 17 Oct 1998 12:24:50 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: selling out

I have 2 non-working CED disc players. One needs a new stylus and the other is beyond my very limited abilities to repair. I also have quite a few used discs. Could anyone tell me if its worth my time to try to sell or should I just trash this stuff? Any advice here would be greatly appreciated.

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\*\*\*\*\*  
CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 43 10/24/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Sun, 18 Oct 1998 08:29:15 -0500  
From: "Rex Burks"  
Organization: Military Sales & Service Co.  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 42

ALCHUS wrote:

<<<I think that if RCA called each owner of a CED player up and said that they would trade a DVD machine for our CED machine and replace each title with a new DVD disc for no cost - there would be no need for this CED site.>>>

Unbelievable!

This is by FAR the most ridiculous thing I have heard all morning! Now, I am new to this CED thing, so I'll admit that I might not be in touch with the motivations of all of the other subscribers, BUT... I guess I just assumed that our collective interest in CED went beyond our desire for a way to watch movies at home!

SelectaVision appeals to me in MANY ways, none of which has anything to do with my perception that DVD is somehow more desirable. In fact, I owned my DVD player (Pioneer DVL-700) BEFORE I ever found a CED player, about six months ago. I have been a record collector for most of my life, and was on cloud nine excitement when I stumbled upon Tom's WebSite, and learned of this amazing needle-in-the-groove video format. I spent the next two months aggressively searching for a player. I had to have one!

Anyway, my point is, CED is an AMAZING collectable as these things go. I never have anyone in my home anymore without giving the full demonstration, and no one is ever disappointed. In a world dominated by Optical Discs and Magnetic Tapes, I find CED to be a refreshing and unique technology that is simply oozing with the marvelous kind of retro appeal that is the absolute earmark of the FINEST collectibles.

I am sorry for you that you have missed this point entirely, because it might have brought you a lot of joy!

Happy collecting to CED people everywhere (And a special thanks to Tom for all he has done for this marvelous hobby!)

Your Friend,

-Rex Burks  
Dallas, Texas

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Sun, 18 Oct 1998 13:19:41 -0500 (EST)  
From: kate jenkins  
To: CED Magic List <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: more warnings...  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I'm glad someone posted the "warnings" in the last issue. I've been meaning to address this subject for a while now - especially after someone posted that he "paid \$100 for a player on Ebay" that didn't work.

For those on this list who don't actually own a player and who are looking for the "holy grail of lost technology" it's important to understand that few of the remaining CED players out there still work. It's been my

experience that nearly 100% of the ones you find do not work. No exaggeration. I recently took out a classified in a state-wide classified trader paper "looking for CED players." I got several calls (about 6,) I asked all of them "does it work at all?" And of course the response was always something like "I don't know, I haven't used it in 10 years - it's out in my garage now." I would always ask them to test it out and call me back if they could get a disc to load, even 1 out of every 20 tries... ( I didn't want to drive out to their house to pay for another broken machine...) Same situation with mailordering. People have sworn to me that the machine works and somehow when it arrives, it's not in even a semblance of working order.

Anyway

---LET'S TALK ABOUT E-BAY---

If an ad says "AS IS" it means \*broken.\* Often people will say (with CEDs and 8tracks,) Yes, it works but I don't have any CEDs (or 8tracks) to test it with... This translates, "I am fully aware that this machine doesn't work. I am hinting to you very subtly that it doesn't work."

As a summary and as stated in an earlier post - use extreme caution...

---AN INTERESTING SIDENOTE--- (for those of you still reading...)

I live in Bloomington, Indiana - the town where most of your CED players were manufactured so many years ago. The Thompson plant is just 8 blocks away from my house and I can take 10 steps from my porch and actually see it!!! I think of you guys everytime I take a gander at it!

Anyway, I got a bit of a chuckle reading over the CED digest archives from last year when there was much talk of recovering the old manufacturing equipment from the original factory. The plant is now closed, decrepit-looking, with broken glass windows. I thought to myself, I know the CEOs at RCA couldn't possibly give a shit about whatever became of this technology which didn't net them enough profits to continue with. (They closed the plant last year, turning hundreds of Bloomington residents out of their jobs to move most of their Bloomington and Indianapolis manufacturing to Mexico. It's a pretty big issue here in my town - or at least it was...)

Anyway folks, thanks for listening to my ramble. I agree that the CED site is a great resource. I applaud Tom for taking so much time to provide such extensive info. I trashed my last working player in 1992 and I wish I knew then what I know now...

Rock on friends, Kate.

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com

From: WDE704CINN  
Date: Mon, 19 Oct 1998 22:11:40 EDT  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: RCA Video Disc

I have a RCA Model #100W video disc player and (25) disc's. Would you be interested in purchasing same or could you refer me to another source. This was purchased when they first came out so it is quite old, but still functions.  
Thank you.

W.David Estilow  
704 Heritage Rd.  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077  
(609) 829-0450

---

Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Wed, 21 Oct 1998 13:47:59 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: Realistic 16-301 Player  
Mime-Version: 1.0

>please add us to the ced mailing list, we are looking for parts for our  
>realistic brand ced player

Hello:

Your Realistic player is actually manufactured by Hitachi, and is electrically and mechanically identical to the Hitachi VIP1000 player. The Sears 934.54780150 is also a clone of this player. You can determine these equivalents by looking at the CED player reference guide at:

<http://www.cedmagic.com/hardware-museum/ced-player-guide/>

As for parts, Hitachi has nothing available, even though they were the manufacturer. The last time I checked, Radio Shack still had about 20 parts available, one of which was the stylus cartridge. You should be able to get a list of parts by walking into any Radio Shack and requesting they access "Tandy Retail Services Faxback" using the model number 16-301 or possibly 160-0301, which is how it was listed on the form they printed out for me. Sears is probably the best source for parts, but it would require using the Sears service manual to cross reference the part numbers. The Sears manual is available from Howard Sams Co. at:

<http://www.hwsams.com>

You didn't mention what parts you need, but the most likely ones are the stylus

cartridge or drive belts. In particular, any Hitachi player that still has the original loading and arm drive belts probably needs replacements. These belts can be purchased via the CED Player Belt Replacement Guide at:

<http://www.cedmagic.com/tech-info/belt-replacement-guide/>

--Tom Howe

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Wed, 21 Oct 1998 14:31:03 -0700  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: CD-ROM Status  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

This is a general report on the status of the RCA VideoDisc collector's guide CD-ROM, which structurally will be similar to the CED Magic site, but will include about 600 MB of additional data comprised of high-res photos of all the caddies listed in the CED Title Database. A more detailed description is available at:

<http://www.cedmagic.com/home/cd-rom-survey.html>

I'm shooting right now to have the CD-ROM pressed and available in Jan. 1999, which will avoid having it complicate my 1998 taxes. There has been sufficient interest to justify having an actual disc pressing rather than a bunch of recordable CD-ROM's, so I'm now working on getting a disc image ready for glass mastering.

The CD-ROM will be "web enabled" meaning there will absolute links to pages on the internet in addition to the relative links pointing to files on the CD-ROM itself. The absolute links will be red in color, so users will know not to click on them unless they have an active internet connection. One of the absolute links will go to a page at CED Magic that will be an ongoing list of new items added to the site since the publication of the CD-ROM.

--Tom Howe

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 44 11/7/98

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"

To: "Tom Howe" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: TTI Library Status  
Date: Sun, 1 Nov 1998 09:17:24 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3155.0

Many of you have wondered what happened to that NCDL-CED Library for which I subscribed to their newsletter. To answer that question nothing? The newsletter was reader based and since no one submitted anything there was nothing to print. However the list of available CED's (50 Movies on 63 Discs) in the library for loaning is available now. If you had previously requested a list please accept my apologies for the lack of timing and competence but assure you the list is ready to go out. The list is written in HTML format and is easily read in almost any browser. Thanks Daniel P. Cayea  
Attachment converted: Hard Disk:Daniel P. Cayea.vcf (TEXT/ttxt) (0001B76E)

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 45 11/14/98

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Sun, 08 Nov 1998 16:30:38 -0500  
From: David & Marilyn Keever  
Organization: D. & M. Inc.  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CEDs

While cleaning a house I found a collection of RCA SelectaVision Video Discs, approximately 35-40. Are they collectible? Is there a buyer in this area (Fort Myers/Sarasota, FL). They are not in wrappers. Among them is The Beatles - "Let it BE" and Barbarella.  
Any help would be appreciated.  
Thank you,  
Marilyn Keever  
dekmkk@sunline.net

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: CHAUNCEY13  
Date: Mon, 9 Nov 1998 02:17:15 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: re: ced and player for sale



For sale - RCA disk player, remote, extra stylus, original instruction book and approximately 300 titles on ceds.....best offer  
Sharon

---

Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Thu, 12 Nov 1998 16:04:49 -0800  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: Remote Control of SJT400 player with the PalmPilot  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Hello All:

It seems there are a number of you with players missing their remote controls, so I added a new page in the Software Downloads section of CED Magic detailing how to use a PalmPilot as a remote for the SJT/SKT 400 players. This provides the same 30 functions as RCA's original remotes, and is a fully configurable, learning remote. You can draw your own keypad layout designs on the PalmPilot screen, then use the training function to program your existing remotes into the PalmPilot. The OmniRemote program from Pacific Neo-Tek has several screen designs built-in for TV, VCR, Amp, CD, and Cable. Up to 15 categories can be created, so this program could be used to control all your IR consumer electronics appliances that uses digital coding (nearly all units from 1984 on).

For the video buff, this program alone could justify the purchase of a PalmPilot, and there are thousands of others PalmPilot programs available. I'll have a PalmPilot version of the CED Title Database available in the near future.

--Tom  
<http://www.teleport.com/~ceds/selectavision.html>

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 46 11/21/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: "Tom Howe" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Message Board for CED Enthusiasts  
Date: Sun, 15 Nov 1998 12:00:30 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3155.0

Dear Enthusiasts: I have created a message board for people who are interested in the Telecom Capacitance Free Disc Library to post messages and read messages about the library or the CED format? The url is <http://www.InsideTheWeb.com/mbs.cgi/mb221026> Thanks Daniel P. Cayea

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "FutureTech1"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED Questions for Tom & Group  
Date: Mon, 16 Nov 1998 23:33:06 -0500  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3155.0

Hi Tom,  
Love the really great work you do with the CED Magic Site. I have a few question I could your help with. Everyone else is welcome to help also.

First my 400sjt has acquired a new problem. When I reach the end of a disc side (about 40-60 on counter) the image begins to become very snowy. It's not the disc because it does it on everything and when the disc is played on my other unit the picture is very clear. It not the stylus because it very clear at the start of disc play. I think it has something to do with the turntable adjustment. HELP!

Do you have a more complete list of all the CED titles that took advantage of the dual audio function. I have all of the disc listed in the FAQ, was wondering if you could supply a list with the rest of the CED titles.

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
X-WebTV-Signature: 1  
From: (TIMOTHY POREE)  
Date: Tue, 17 Nov 1998 20:36:52 -0500 (EST)  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: selectavision vioedisc player  
MIME-Version: 1.0 (WebTV)

LOOKING TO BUY A PLAYER IN GOOD  
WORKING CONDITION, RESPOND IF YOU  
CAN HELP. THANK YOU

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "J. Bowers"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Will not track  
Date: Fri, 20 Nov 1998 21:20:14 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0

X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

I have two very early CED players that start to play, but I don't think the stylus is tracking.. I purchased these units new in 1981. They probably have not been used more than 50 hours. Can someone help with this problem? I'd like to get them working. Jon

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "George Butts"  
To: "Tom Howe" <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Will Trade VHS Movies For CED's  
Date: Sat, 21 Nov 1998 09:04:15 -0800  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.71.1712.3

I have many pre-recorded theatrical VHS movie screeners that I would like to trade for CED's. If interested, please see my VHS movie list at;  
<http://members.spree.com/dcwhit/movies.htm>  
Let me know if anything interests you and please send CED title trade list.  
Thanks,  
George

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "The Libby's"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Holocaust movie discs 4 parts  
Date: Sat, 21 Nov 1998 12:15:46 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

I have a very good set of the Holocaust video discs 4 parts . I seen on TV and read in our local paper that Berlin may receiving S. Speilberg,s video about the Holocaust. something about the Jewish Museum is very interested in obtaining this video . I have received 3 offers for the set from \$10.00 each disc to \$100.00 for the set. I have about 3000 other discs in my possession Please advise me on this should I put them on the Web for bid . I will write a few letters . Thank you for any input on this matter. Harry Libby  
(fiddy@ime.net)  
Standish Maine 04084.

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 47 11/28/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Sun, 22 Nov 1998 07:30:27 -0800  
From: Tom Howe  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: RE: Video Noise and Dual Audio Titles  
Mime-Version: 1.0

>First my 400sjt has acquired a new problem. When I reach the end of a disc  
>side (about 40-60 on counter) the image begins to become very snowy.

This sounds like a problem in the video converter circuitry related to the decreasing signal-to-noise ratio as disc play time increases. This could be a failure in just about any component in the video converter, although a likely candidate is the integrated circuit U3402. This same chip was used in all RCA players, so the part could be scavenged from a parts machine.

>Do you have a more complete list of all the CED titles that took advantage  
>of the dual audio function.

The FAQ lists all the English/Spanish titles that indicate dual-language on the caddy. All the Jane Fonda discs except "New Workout" had the music w/instructions or music only dual audio function.

--Tom

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Kato"  
Organization: The University of Birmingham  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Mon, 23 Nov 1998 14:20:37 +0000  
Subject: Problem Disc/CED player  
Priority: normal

I have a Hitachi VIP201P which was obtained "broken". Opening it I found a disk which had apparently misloaded, and simply put the disc back on the spindle - testing it allowed it to play.

The player has worked okay since, until yesterday when I was watching that disc, when I turned over to side two, it spent ages "tracking" before it started to play. Then when it reached the end of the side the player could not return the head to the side standby position (it stopped above the disc). Despite this the player attempted to position the disc to eject it, pushing it up against the stylus and mechanism.

Brute force was used to extract the disc, the player appears to be working except that it cannot play that disc at all - has anyone got

any suggestions for what is wrong.....

TTFN

--Kato

For excitement, fun and really wild things, why not visit:

[www.fortunecity.com/skyscraper/nuclear/229/](http://www.fortunecity.com/skyscraper/nuclear/229/)

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
 From: (TIMOTHY POREE)  
 Date: Mon, 23 Nov 1998 12:39:44 -0500 (EST)  
 To: ceds@teleport.com  
 Subject: RCA SELECTAVISION VIDEODISC PLAYER  
 MIME-Version: 1.0 (WebTV)

I,M TRYING TO LOCATE A PLAYER IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION, ON WITH THE FEATURES FOR PLAYING BOTH SIDES, SLOW SPEED. REPLY IF YOU CAN HELP.

THANK YOU

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
 Date: Thu, 26 Nov 1998 08:19:40 +0200  
 From: sobel  
 MIME-Version: 1.0  
 To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
 Subject: CED's and 400 players for sale

best offer taken for 650 CED titles (approx 1,000 discs) including Holocaust boxed 4 disc set, and three SJT 400 RCA players with remotes and instruction books. Package deal. MUST GO>>>>>relocating soon!!! respond to [drilnfil@mailexcite.com](mailto:drilnfil@mailexcite.com)

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 CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 48 12/5/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
 From: Spike26740  
 Date: Mon, 30 Nov 1998 01:14:26 EST  
 To: ceds@teleport.com  
 Mime-Version: 1.0  
 Subject: 2 players, 130 disks to trade

looking to trade 2 players, one works and 130 plus disks for a laser disk player, i'm in the Phoenix, Arizona area.  
contact [Spike26740@Aol.Com](mailto:Spike26740@Aol.Com)

---

Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Tue, 01 Dec 1998 16:20:55 -0800  
From: Donald Borowski  
Organization: Hewlett-Packard Co.  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: Snowy Picture at End of Disc

"FutureTech1" wrote:

> Subject: CED Questions for Tom & Group

> First my 400sjt has acquired a new problem. When I reach the end of a disc  
> side (about 40-60 on counter) the image begins to become very snowy. It's  
> not the disc because it does it on everything and when the disc is played on  
> my other unit the picture is very clear. It not the stylus because it very  
> clear at the start of disc play. I think it has something to do with the  
> turntable adjustment. HELP!

Yes, it certainly could be a bad stylus. I had this happen once when I  
moved  
one of my players without the lockdown pins in place. The next I used  
it, the  
disc would play OK at the beginning, but get snowy at the end. Even the  
time  
indicator quite incrementing. A new stylus fixed the problem right  
away.

Don Borowski  
Spokane, WA

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: (Robert Armentrout)  
Date: Wed, 2 Dec 1998 19:55:47 -0800 (PST)  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED Fans  
MIME-Version: 1.0 (WebTV)

We discovered CED's in July of this year when we picked up a Toshiba  
stereo player with 19 CED's for the bargain price of \$10.00 (for all) at  
a local garage sale. Everything works great (but no instruction book  
for the player). We have been hooked ever since! We discovered that  
the best place to find more discs was on the web, specifically e-bay.  
Some discs have skipped a little but most of them play just fine. We  
now have about 30 CED's and just recently acquired another player that  
we found at a thrift store for \$8.00. The store owner had no idea what  
the machine was and it had a disc stuck inside. We managed to locate a  
CED in the back of the store and removed the disc that was stuck and  
tried the player. It worked, we bought it and now have a player in 2

rooms in the house. And amazingly enough, the thrift store machine plays better than the other one. We left our name at the thrift store in case they came across any other discs or players. Received a letter a couple of weeks later saying they had about 15 CED's and were we interested. We drove out the following weekend and managed to pick up 6 more discs for \$3.00 each.

Keep your eyes peeled at garage sales and look at thrift stores. You just never know what you might find.

Rob & Jerie Armentout

PEACE

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Donation Thanks  
Date: Fri, 4 Dec 1998 20:45:51 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.0810.800

Dear Enthusiasts: As always I try to keep you informed on my corporate and hobbyist CED plans. Well I would like to thank Dr. John Trasco for his donation of many discs to my project. He may now loan any disc (now just discs he has loaned) from the library. In time for the holiday season, any person who has made a donation may extend their loaning period up to 5 weeks so that may not have to worry about returning discs during the season. Thanks Daniel P. Cayea

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 49 12/12/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: (TIMOTHY POREE)  
Date: Mon, 7 Dec 1998 21:42:00 -0500 (EST)  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: selectavision  
MIME-Version: 1.0 (WebTV)

H'i im wondering if you could help me find a player or players in the 250-400 series. Reply if you can help.

---

Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Preservation Project Looking For Trades!  
Date: Fri, 11 Dec 1998 20:24:12 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.0810.800

Dear CED Enthusiasts:

The purpose of the preservation project was not obtain every piece of CED hardware and software but just 1 copy of each. As people make donations or as new items are purchased and placed into the library certain titles may overlap. So I offer the following:

The project will trade the following titles for titles that we do not have:

Raiders of the Lost Ark  
GiGi [UA]  
Goldfinger  
Psycho  
MASH: The Motion Picture  
Ben-Hur  
The Bridge on the River Kwai  
The African Queen &  
Cabaret

Serious inquiries only. If you would like to trade please email me at cayead@westelcom.com for a copy of the preservation projects current holding list.

Daniel P. Cayea

Daniel P. Cayea  
2841 Standish Road  
Postal Office Box 90  
Lyon Mountain, New York 12952-0090

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CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 50 12/19/98

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Sun, 13 Dec 1998 19:59:22 -0500 (EST)  
From: return



To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 49  
MIME-Version: 1.0

I was wondering? and have an idea. I noticed the new movie clips that have recently been added to the site. The ones loading and unloading with the 100 player and the sjt-300 player. It occurred to me that this technique could also be used to show and edify everyone how to repair a machine. Why not use this as a means to show all how to make certain repairs on their machines??

For ex: showing locations where to attach a test probe with a multi-meter, or pointing out where someone could look for a specific problem area on their machines? Or still, showing areas on a circuit board where a certain problem would lie? (ex: chip, transistor, mechanical gears, or any problem componet?)

Why not edify all on where to look for a machine problem??  
Would this not be helpful to all who need machine help???  
Why not use this as a solution to the problem of machine help in all the commentary that transpired back a few months ago??.....

---

Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Mon, 14 Dec 1998 07:33:02 -0600  
From: "David Potochick"  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 49 -Reply  
Mime-Version: 1.0

I'll gladly trade the CED "Ordinary People" for something I don't have. I do have "Radiers Of The Lost Ark" on CED but I'm not trading that....

I'm looking for the "Aerobicize" CED that I didn't buy recently... It disappeared from the thrift store that I saw it at.... It's probably in a landfill about right now.... Ugh... That one ius just a plain 70's sexist classic if you know which Aerobicize collection I'm talking about.

Later,

Dave.

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Mon, 14 Dec 1998 08:08:24 -0600  
From: "David Potochick"  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Subject: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 49 -Reply  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Okay, I haven't been putting in my \$0.10 worth around here so I decided that I would...

-DUST & CED's-

Dust On CED's can cause the needle to skip tremendously... It is highly recommended not to leave discs in turned off players like I have. A skipping disc may just need to be cleaned with soap and water... Now this is what I do and my discs play fine afterwards. Just use dish detergent and warm water in a kitchen sink and wash the dust off of them... elt them dry and then insert them back into the sleeves. Some people have told me that this takes the silicone protectant off of the discs But this has not caused a problem as yet for me... My Benji disc is still playing fine...

To truly preserve your CED's, copy them to another video format and watch them that way... This may not be legal but it is one way of preserving them. I record my CED's to Beta tapes for BACKUP purposes and watch the Beta tapes instead o the discs. (Why Beta??? Beta is still far better than VHS in picture quality.)

Later,

Dave.

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Tue, 15 Dec 1998 16:35:28 -0800  
From: Donald Borowski  
Organization: Hewlett-Packard Co.  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Quality of CED Video Transfers

I was watching my CED of "Funny Girl" last week. A bit into the movie, is struck me that the image looked a lot like what I would call "old video" rather than film. I then started viewing the image very critically.

I saw any number of things which I associate with the old image tubes (vidicons?). There was a "pastey" look which comes from too little contrast or more likely nonlinearities. Colors tended not to be very saturated. In dark backgrounds, there was some video noise of course, but worse was a stationary pattern which looked something like video noise.

There has been much improvement in video transfers since the hayday of the CED, and I think this is where most of the improvement in the look of video has come. I need to look through my collection of CEDs and see if there are any well done transfers. This would give me an idea of how well CED could have done.

Being a laserdisc owner, another thought struck me. If CED were made in Constant Linear Velocity mode like many laserdiscs, the playing time for CED would be up to two hours per side! That would have been a real advantage!

Donald Borowski  
Spokane, WA

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Wed, 16 Dec 1998 03:25:36 -0800 (PST)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 49  
Mime-Version: 1.0

Having broken down and gotten a DVD player (actually a Laserdisc/DVD player, so I don't feel like too much of a traitor!) I've been very pleased with it for the most part. The digital problems (picture becoming blocky and unnatural motion) do not happen on most discs- there are some exceptions, the only bad ones I have seen are from smaller companies which I have already written to letting them know I won't buy any more of their discs unless this stops. But for the most part this looks to be a good format, no more annoying side changes on laserdisc, and able to hold more different soundtracks. (I get a kick out of the foreign languages!) I'd dreaded DVD because I thought for sure it would be terrible, and while I'm glad to be proven wrong I was a bit disappointed that I wouldn't be witnessing a second CED, as I had thought originally DVD would die a quick death. But a consolation prize has come- DIVX, the incredibly stupid in every sense of the word 'variation' on DVD which requires a modem-equipped player and basically makes you pay every time you want to watch a disc, and can take away your ability to play it if a movie gets "pulled" for legal or other reasons (I can imagine Disney doing this!) Thankfully, although people did buy DSS which was the last new electronics product I detested, they have been smart enough to stay clear away from this one and it doesn't look like we'll have it around too long. Ironically RCA sells Divx players- they're making the same mistake twice!

This is an amazingly ridiculous format and as such I am amused by it, I've been saving brochures for it and have the free VHS tape advertising it which you can get by calling 1-888-PAY-DIVX (it's supposed to be "Say Divx" but you can spell it both ways!) Get this- at least if you call outside of regular business hours, a computer will take the call and take your request for the tape by entering your phone number, and from that it will get your address from their "database". It reads off just the number of your address for verification; it got mine even though my address isn't listed in the phone book! This adds even more to the "Big Brother" fears people have about Divx, as many point out how they know what movies you watch and when. One person thought if a crime happens in your neighborhood and you happen to be watching a movie where something

similar happens, you can expect to get a visit from the police!  
WHEN Divx dies, I do want to get a nice collection of discs, provided they don't all suddenly vanish in someone's attempt to bury this mistake. I don't know how stores will handle this, ideally they would be sold off real cheap but- this is what will make this a lot different than CED collecting- you won't be able to actually WATCH any Divx discs in this situation because even if you have a Divx player, if they shut down the billing system the player calls it will not let you play the disc, meaning the movie on it is locked away forever! I did buy one Divx disc, which when played on my player gave me a nice message- yellow letters on a blue background, programmed as a 10-minute "title" with auto-repeat-reading "You have attempted to play a Divx disc in a DVD player without the Divx feature. The Divx feature is required to play this disc. For more information on Divx call 1-888-SAY-DIVX". So if I were to eventually get a collection of every Divx title ever made (I could see cases of these things being dropped off at Goodwill) I wouldn't be able to watch them, but I can at least still watch my CEDs! I still hope to get a decent number of them after it fails though, as things this stupid just need to be preserved! Hopefully nobody will ever try anything like this again, since if it did take off we would have similar systems like pay-per-listen CDs and pay-per-play video games.

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Project Donation: Thanks  
Date: Sat, 19 Dec 1998 14:40:14 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.0810.800

I would like to thank again Dr. John Trasco for his continued support and donations to the preservation project.

I would also like to thank Matt Patoray for his contribution of West Side Story.

They are both great people for supporting such a project and I hope that others will too.

A copy of titles in the preservation projects holding are available in the following formats: Microsoft Works 4.0, Microsoft Access 97, and HTML. For a copy of the database in each of these formats please send me an email at cayead@westelcom.com with 'Holdings Database [File Format]' in the subject line and I will email your copy within one business day pending on demand.

Most thanks,  
Daniel P. Cayea



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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: Beaumontj  
Date: Sun, 20 Dec 1998 13:44:06 EST  
To: ceds@teleport.com  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 50

my ced player has developed a skipping problem. it happens with all the discs i've tried so far, but usually not until 20-30 minutes into the movie. can anyone tell me if i need to clean the discs, the players, or if something is broken? thanks.

-----  
Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
From: "Daniel P. Cayea"  
To: <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: CED'ers on AIM  
Date: Sun, 20 Dec 1998 20:56:11 -0500  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.0810.800

Was just thinking that we should register ourselves for AOL's Instant Messenger. We could collaborate our names in CED Digest and chat with our fellow hobbyists.

Daniel P. Cayea  
The Lyon Mountain Company  
2841 Standish Road  
Postal Office Box 90  
Lyon Mountain, New York 12952-0090

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Delivered-To: ceds@teleport.com  
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 02:42:27 -0800 (PST)  
From: Jesse Skeen  
To: Tom Howe <ceds@teleport.com>  
Subject: Re: CED Digest Vol. 3 No. 50  
Mime-Version: 1.0

re: "smeary" video transfers- I haven't watched "Funny Girl" so I'll have to do that soon, but there are several other discs that are fun to watch just to laugh at the bad transfers. "Kramer Vs. Kramer" is especially

bad, all copies were like that until the recent remastered laserdisc.  
Benji is smeary and has a lot of pan and scanning for just a 1.85 movie,  
Network has tons of smearing too.

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END CED Digest Vol. 3