

LASER DISC REVIEW

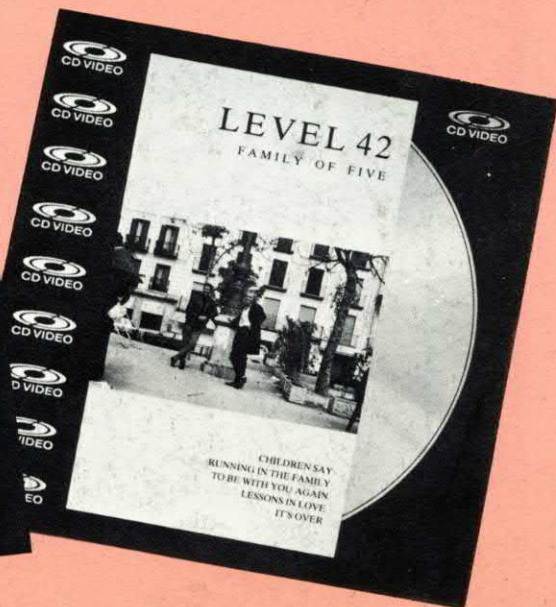
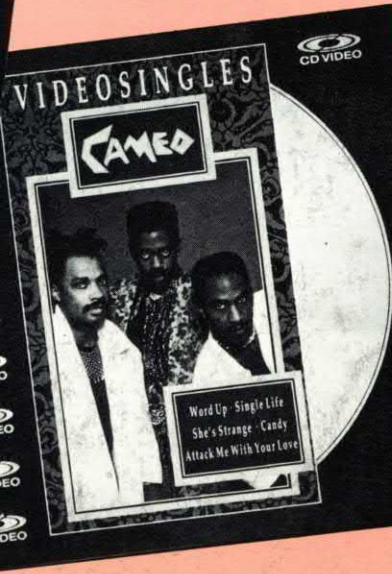
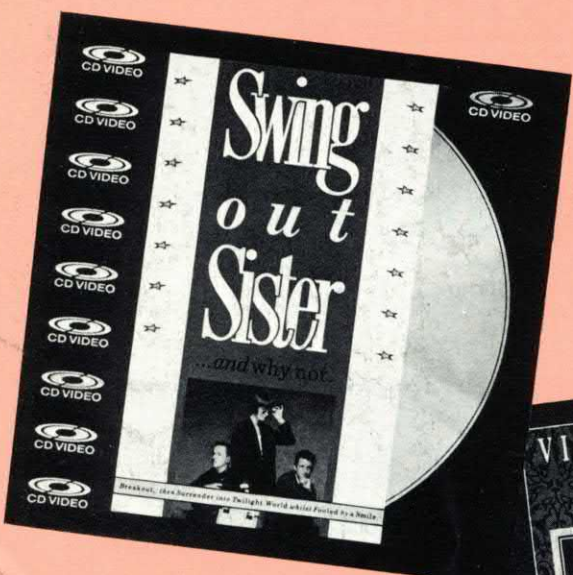
the home of quality viewing

ISSUE 18

£1.50

Australia \$5.50
U.S.A. \$3.50

**CD VIDEO
set for
September
-October
UK launch**



LASER & CDV Video Discs

- Largest Inventory in the USA.
- We **Stock** over 2,400 titles.
- 10% Discount on all Laser Discs.
- Visa, MasterCard, C.O.D.'s accepted.
- "No Time Limit" Laser Disc Warranty.

FREE CATALOG

Call or Write:

STARSHIP INDUSTRIES

605 Utterback Store Road

Great Falls, Virginia 22066

(703) 430-8692 or (703) 450-5780

Hours: 11 AM to 7 PM, Monday-Friday

LASER DISC HOTLINE

Recorded Message on New Laser Disc Releases
Available 24 Hours a Day

(703) 430-0330

LASER DISC REVIEW

ISSUE 18

EDITOR & PUBLISHER ... Philip Parr
DESIGN & LAYOUT . Gillian Tilbrook

CONTRIBUTORS Craig Hyland
Dwight R. Decker

Laser Disc Review is published approximately 4 times a year. It is copyrighted and may not be copied or the contents reproduced without consent.

© 1988

ISSN 0267 - 9671

LASER DISC REVIEW
PO BOX 526,
LONDON, UK
SW10 9AB

Tel: 01-351 4535

Single copies of LDR are £1-50 sent anywhere in the world. For those in mainland Europe and beyond who prefer airmail delivery the cost is £2.50.

A reduced rate subscription is £3-75 for the next three issues. This rate applies worldwide via surface post. For those in mainland Europe and beyond requiring airmail delivery the cost for three issues is £6-00.

Your subscription has expired if there is a cross in this box.



Payments may be in cash or by cheque, PO, Banker's Draft, IMO or GIRO (to a/c no. 55 521 2009). Make all payments out to "Laser Disc Review".

We can accept \$ bills and EEC currency notes and this is often a cheaper way for overseas readers to pay as bank charges can prove prohibitive in respect of small payments. We can also accommodate cheque payments in US\$ but you need add an extra \$5.00 to cover bank charges incurred this end. Other than the above examples, payment must be in £ Sterling.

Please indicate whether you are renewing an existing subscription or ordering a new one. If a new subscription, please state the first issue you wish to receive (ie. current or next.) For renewals it is only necessary to quote your subscription number and name. Easier still, just tear off the mailing label from the envelope.

If when writing to LDR you require a reply please include an SAE. Allowance should be made for the length of time taken to reply as the production of the magazine always assumes first priority.

Printed in the United Kingdom by:
Kingprint Ltd., Orchard Road, RICHMOND,
Surrey TW9 4PD.

Subscription Issues

LDR gets slim for summer - not so much to make us look good on the beach in our cozy - but more a result of the comparative lack of action disc-wise these last few months. We'd like to think, however, that those in charge of the CD Video launch have been sweating their whatsits off during this period so as to ensure a beefier edition next time. This will be the CD Video launch issue with equipment and disc (remember them?) reviews.

Depending on what form the CD Video promotion takes the coverage of subsequent issues of Laser Disc Review will be modified accordingly. There is a distinct possibility that the sort of magazine LDR becomes next year will bear little resemblance to what it has been up till now - it all depends on the sort of software that is released. Rather than take subscriptions under false pretences the plan is 'run out' current subscriptions and come back with a revised format which reflects CD Video proper. At that time readers can decide for themselves whether they want to re-subscribe. In this manner we can save any complaints and it also saves us having to undertake any refunds (which are administratively very expensive).

It should be possible to do all this by Issue 21, which is expected to appear in the spring of '89. In the meantime, please do not send any money for future copies past number 21. If your subscription has expired with this issue you should send only £3-75 to keep your sub active. All this is a slight inconvenience but we have to move with the times and this seems the most efficient way to do it.

We hope to improve the retail availability of LDR with the next issue, at least in the London area. For reasons that are more complicated than can be summarised here (that basically comes

down to the fact that at the moment we lose money on most copies of the magazine sold at retail level) it does not make sense to promote the LDR until there is 'product' out on the market.

This product we currently expect to be available in October, about which time LDR-19 should be out.

Contents

- 4 **LETTERS**
HD-MAC and Disc - Fresh
Rot Titles - Fixed Noise
Patterning Response
- 6 **TEN MOST WANTED**
Readers' Disc Wants
- 8 **WHAT'S HAPPENING**
CD Video Launch latest -
LaserVision, What's That?
Clip Report III - Pro
Logic Products -
Phonovision Entertainment
- Bits & Pieces
- 11 **PHILIPS' CD VIDEO**
ANNOUNCEMENT - May 16
- 12 **WHAT'S HAPPENING**
More Lines On HDTV -
To Russia With LV -
Volcanoes - Super LV
- Bits & Pieces
CVD's London Showing
- 3M's Erasable Disc
- 15 **DEALER NEWS**
Laserdisken II - SRS
- 16 **ICI DIGITAL PAPER**
New Recordable Disc
and Tape Medium
- 18 **AUDIO-VIDEO 88/89**
Some New Products
- 21 **WHAT'S HAPPENING**
No News on CAA Problems -
Big List Corrections
- 21 **SMALL ADS**
- 22 **USA REPORT**
New Hardware from Sony &
Philips - Pioneer LD-W1 -
CD-V Clip Launch List -
New USA LV Releases
- 26 **BOOK REVIEW**
Laser Video Disc Companion

Moving ?

Please allow at least three weeks when notifying us (by post only, please) of a change of address.

..... on HD-MAC & CD-V, Austr-Aliens, Rot and Noise

HD-MAC & CD-V

I have just purchased the latest (and last?) LV release *The Mosquito Coast*. In my collection of 74 discs this one is certainly the best and the quality of colour and definition - not to mention the complete lack of spots - leaves pre-recorded videotapes far behind.

At the moment I am somewhat confused as to the future of Laser/CD Video discs and hope to see in the not too distant future new releases in the new CD digital format. Has Philips abandoned the new player?

In recent months I have purchased vintage, classical and documentary films on pre-recorded VHS tape but would have bought these in the laserdisc format had they been available. I want to collect films that I can keep and play over and over again.

As I can understand it, the BBC and ITV companies will start broadcasting 1200-line high definition TV in three years time. How will this affect CD Video, assuming of course it catches on, seeing as existing disc players are geared to 625 lines?

D. Potter,
London

● It was indeed well-considered of CBS/FOX to leave us with as good-looking a disc as *The Mosquito Coast*. In respect of the cleanliness of the pressing, last year PDO Blackburn did tell us that an improvement was on the cards when the new laser beam recorder was installed. To be honest, though, the first title to appear (*Friday The 13TH*) did not show the major reduction in dropouts promised, but certainly by the time of the last few LV titles the discs were looking cleaner. The copy of *The Little Shop Of Horrors* we had for the write-up in LDR-16 was spectacularly clean and, in spite of many dark scenes, there was no visual distraction caused by little white spots or colour specks. On a couple of occasions there was a momentary white dash visible rolling down the screen, but even then one is

still only talking about a second or two of partial line dropout in 90+ minutes of programme. These brief sequences of descending white dashes are something of a novelty to PAL disc viewers but are a characteristic of CAA-mastered videodiscs and are quite often seen on NTSC titles (where CAA has been in use for many years).

The European approach to high definition TV (HD-MAC) involves a series of upgrades to a new 1250-line/5:3 widescreen format (compared with present day 625 lines/4:3) while at the same time retaining compatibility with existing TV receivers. At least that's the theory; there seems to be an awful lot of work to be done in a very short space of time if it is to achieve its targets. There are several ingenious aspects to the technology of the HD-MAC system, but one slightly disquieting one is that it appears to have been conceived mostly to satisfy the needs of broadcasters, rather than being defined as any sort of video medium.

The principle of compatibility with HD-MAC is based on the idea of transmitting the complete signal, with the TV receiver (MAC-modified; one imagines not too expensively otherwise it defeats the purpose of the exercise) displaying only as much of it as it is capable. The broadcasters transmit the full signal but you don't have to rush out and buy a whole new TV receiver to stay 'in tune'. You can upgrade your TV in your own time.

The principle exhibits some of the characteristics of the changeover to colour broadcasting; they were sending the colour signals out over the airwaves but the pictures were still viewable on the existing black and white TVs. Any such gradual transition is pretty much precluded with the Japanese HDTV approach unless broadcasters would be prepared to transmit both conventional and high definition TV signals simultaneously during the changeover period. This option is technically feasible now in NTSC broadcast areas; the broadcaster originates in HDTV, the signal is then transmitted simultaneously in full-bandwidth form and also down-converted to make it

receivable on existing TV sets.

Obviously, any HD-MAC videodisc would have to be a full-bandwidth product because, in being the signal source for your TV, it is fulfilling the role of 'the transmitter'. But a MAC modification to a conventional videodisc player (the 'receiver') would seem unlikely as HD-MAC involves a bandwidth requirement of 8.4MHz (compared to 5MHz on current videodisc) and some major revision of the hardware (a new short-wavelength laser, for example) would most likely be necessary to maintain reasonable playing times. Resort to a form of signal compression as a way round this problem seems improbable too. HD-MAC involves a four-fold compression of the signal to get it down to 8.4MHz as it is. With VCRs the transition would be easier, although one would only be able to record within the limitations of the present PAL/SECAM bandwidth, of course.

That then leaves us with the problem with 'old' software; discs (and tapes as well in this instance) that would need to be 'up-converted' in some way so as to reproduce on your HD-MAC TV when you do buy it. Whether the amount of digital signal processing available in such a TV will be sufficient to do this job too is not presently known. The TV companies certainly will need the facility in order to continue to exploit their programme archives, but the cost of such conversion techniques may be beyond the pocket of the consumer; in the short-term at least.

Whenever it does become possible the result will be vertical black strips at the left and right of the picture area on the now-wider TV screen, this being a preferable option to that of having the image artificially stretched and the screen filled with Fat Boy clones. Neither the HD-MAC or Japanese HDTV

formats can do much more than that to keep existing video libraries functioning in the decades ahead. Whatever approach is taken there is no way one can fully future-proof technology and some inconvenience and disruption is bound to occur. (Quite a lot in the case of videodisc it would seem!) With CD Video, there will obviously be a point when prospective CD-V purchasers will defer making any commitment to the format to save getting involved in building up a disc library that is shortly to be superseded by something better.

Austr-Aliens View

Following a shop clearance sale last month I took the plunge and purchased an ex-demonstration Pioneer LD-1100. The unit is in excellent unmarked condition and only cost £118.00. Thrown in were 10 discs (£6.99 - £9.99 each on average) and a 12 month guarantee on the unit. I have owned a video recorder from the first year they were released and have continually updated, with my present machine being a top range hi-fi unit. But nothing could prepare me for the experience of seeing *Aliens* on disc on my 28" Saba hi-fi stereo TV with the sound being played through Marantz extension speakers. The picture is the best I have seen my television reproduce, including transmission.

I would have liked to purchase the CLD-1050 but the prohibitive cost here (£995) together with the lack of digital software plus your review on the machine made up my mind. Keep up the good work in your disc reviews and don't drop the high standards that your magazine has achieved.

Finally, I can recommend Thames Valley Laser to anyone thinking of ordering via mail order. Keith Lloyd, its proprietor, is a thorough gentleman.

Herbert Brunnbauer,
Australia

Make My Day

I feel I must personally thank you for LDR-16 in which on page 30 you have given the English translation for the Japanese disc *Checking Dolby Surround*. I have owned this disc for some time now and was frustrated that I could not read the instructions given. Your issue made my day!

Sorry to hear that the PAL laser disc system is not doing too well in the UK. It was slow here too at first but is now gaining tremendous momentum in the U.S. and Canada. Be patient!

Herb Norenburg,
Canada

Laser Rot

I have now finished a complete appraisal of my collection of laserdiscs in respect of laser rot - Ugh! How I hate that word.

These were the very bad ones -

Atlantic City, Chariots of Fire, The Hunter, Escape From Alcatraz, The Poseidon Adventure, The Warriors, All That Jazz, The Sound Of Music, Fleetwood Mac/Mirage. Now the not-so-bad-but-getting-worse brigade - *Dracula '79, Cabaret, Raise The Titanic, Sea Wolves, Alien, Melissa Manchester*.

Perhaps I've been lucky but the other titles reported suffering from laser rot in your mag that I also have do not show any faults - yet.

Jason Deane,
Gwynedd

● A survey of one's collection is a course of action recommended to other readers if it has never been undertaken. It is better to weed out the duff pressings now, while there is still some chance of replacement ie. while stocks of many of these older titles still exist. One other reader has already complained that he could obtain no direct replacements for some of his now-deleted titles.

Discs that have gone defective since purchase should be returned to your dealer for replacement where possible. If this course of action is not open to you Philips/PDO discs should be returned to Konnekt, 69 Flempton Road, London E10 7NH. Problems with Pioneer discs should be taken up with Pioneer, 1-6 Field Way, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8UZ.

A mention of a particular title on a list of rotters is not a guarantee your copy will prove defective as well as different pressings of the same title exist.

Finally, other readers have reported copies of *The King & I* and *Roxy Music/Take The High Road* as going defective of late.

Fixed Noise Patternings

I would like to continue the investigation of fixed noise patternings on various film-to-video transfers raised in LDR-16. Recent enquiries about this to video engineers of my acquaintance here in Denmark have provided further possibilities beyond those already mentioned -

A fixed noise pattern can also be a manual adjustment fault in amplitude accuracy during analogue-to-digital signal processing in the Time Base Corrector (TBC). A TBC is used in all high quality studio environments to remove other undesirable artefacts in transfer stages such as synch pulse errors and video dropouts. (Other functions of a TBC include independent video and chroma gain, chroma phase, subcarrier phase, horizontal phase and black level controls.)

On NTSC-to-PAL converted material, where similar patterning occurs more often, the symptom can be caused by the use of inferior standards converters. Furthermore, when some of the original film transfers are also at fault, as described by Carleton Sarver in LDR-17, the finished result in PAL can be very gross.

Ole Alstrup,
Denmark

BINDERS

BINDERS FOR LDR
ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

BINDERS,
(LASER DISC REVIEW),
78 WHALLEY ROAD,
WILPSHIRE,
BLACKBURN,
LANCASHIRE
BB1 9LF

These binders can hold up to 24 issues of the magazine, depending on the thickness of future issues. They are furnished with an adhesive label carrying the LASER DISC REVIEW name in gold.

The total cost, which includes UK postage and packing, is £4.25 per binder. Make payments out to "Modern Bookbinders" and send to the above address. Allow a few weeks for delivery.

Ten Most Wanted

Here is the first batch of readers' Ten Most Wanted videodisc titles. In order to continue this survey in the most up-to-date manner readers taking out a new subscription or renewing an old one are encouraged to fill in their Ten Most Wanted on the reverse of the subscription form. Please keep to the approximate style of the lists below. Do not give vague descriptions of programmes that have never existed in any finished form - it's a bit optimistic to think companies are going to start commissioning special programmes for disc.

Important: The survey is limited to these subscription returns. Do not send in a list otherwise - we can't include it. Those readers sufficiently motivated to dash off lists regardless are encouraged to send them to the programme companies direct.

John Heffernan's Most Wanted

- The Jolson Story [FF]
- Jolson Sings Again [FF]
- Adv's Of Sherlock Holmes [ITV]
- Pinocchio [Disney FF]
- Singin' In The Rain [FF]
- Gentlemen Prefer Blondes [FF]
- Casablanca [FF]
- Miss Marple series [BBC TV]
- Sinatra Concert For The Americas
- Mickey's Christmas Carol [Disney]

Mark Green's Most Wanted

- Fire & Ice [Bakshi Animated FF]
- Marillion/Video Collection
- The Terminator [FF]
- Predator [FF]
- Gothic [FF]
- Blondie/Best Of
- Little Shop Of Horrors [FF]
- Mannequin [FF]
- Pretenders/The Singles
- Lifeforce [FF]

J.H. Napper's Most Wanted

- Zulu [FF]
- Zulu Dawn [FF]
- The Alamo [FF]
- Red Rum The Race Horse
- Fats Domino/Birthday Party
- Any Laurel & Hardy films
- Any Abbott & Costello films
- War & Peace [FF]
- Charge Of The Light Brigade [FF]
- War Of The Worlds [FF]

E.A. Green's Most Wanted

- Close Encounters [FF]
- E.T. [FF]
- Any Superman films
- Fatal Attraction [FF]
- Crocodile Dundee [FF]
- Any Marx Bros films [FF]
- Peggy Sue Got Married [FF]
- Any Marilyn Monroe films
- Any Walt Disney
- Any Country Music

James Ager's Most Wanted

- Vampire Lovers [FF]
- Dracula ['58 FF]
- The Chalk Garden [FF]
- Summer Magic [FF]
- Change of Habit [FF]
- California Holiday [FF]
- The Time Machine [FF]
- Whistle Down The Wind [FF]
- The Devils [FF]
- Elvis/1977 Concert

M. Drage's Most Wanted

- Short Circuit [FF]
- Any Rutger Hauer films
- F/X Murder By Illusion [FF]
- Secret Of My Success [FF]
- Lethal Weapon [FF]
- Tim [FF]
- Delta Force [FF]
- Jumping Jack Flash [FF]
- The Natural [FF]
- Harry's Game [TV]

John J. Fisher's Most Wanted

- The Third Man [FF]
- Adv's Of Robin Hood [FF]
- Star Trek IV [FF]
- Little Shop Of Horrors ['86 FF]
- The Living Daylights [FF]
- Genevieve [FF]
- The Cruel Sea [FF]
- Any London stage shows
- Seven Brides For Seven Bros [FF]
- Pinocchio [FF]

S.R. Lewin's Most Wanted

- E.T. [FF]

P.G. Read's Most Wanted

- Out Of Africa [FF]
- White Nights [FF]
- Empire Of The Sun [FF]
- The Rocky Horror Show
- The Mikado [ENO]
- War & Peace [ENO]
- The Black Adder [BBC]
- Meerkats United [BBC]
- The Lion In Winter [FF]
- California Suite [FF]

I. Churchill's Most Wanted

- Empire Of The Sun [FF]
- American Graffiti [FF]
- The Exorcist [FF]
- Any Cliff Richard films
- Any Clint Eastwood/Dollar films
- Blue Velvet [FF]
- 1984 [Burton FF]
- Cry Freedom [FF]
- Picnic At Hanging Rock [FF]

Mark John's Most Wanted

- Any Carry On films
- Any Madonna
- Any Electric Blue
- Nightmare On Elm Street III [FF]
- Little Shop Of Horrors [FF]
- Who's That Girl [FF]
- Evil Dead [FF]
- Crocodile Dundee [FF]
- Mannequin [FF]
- Any Prince

LASER DISC REVIEW

Back Numbers

The following back issues are still available at a cost of £1-50 each (but only £1-25 each if you are a subscriber). This rate applies both for the UK and overseas. The latter is for surface mail, the airmail rate being £2-00 per copy. Orders for back numbers exceeding £10-00 total value are eligible for a 25% discount.

LDR-5 - Introduction to NTSC LV. Player Survey. Summary of all previous disc reviews. (Issue includes Philips Autumn '85 LV list.)

LDR-6 - Looking at future LV disc developments. Japan Report. 49 disc reviews, including some PAL imports and porno discs.

LDR-7 - Pioneer CLD-900 review, LD-707 NTSC players. Pioneer PX-7 MSX Computer. Dwight R. Decker surveys the American Space discs.

LDR-8 - Forthcoming A/V products for '86. Japan Report. Dutch Space disc. Dutch catalogue update.

LDR-9 - Towards a PAL Combi Player. Video Recordings Act. Dolby Surround. Review of Marantz RV-353 Surround Sound Decoder.

LDR-10 - HDTV on disc at IBC. Review of NEC AV-300E Surround Sound Amplifier. 5000 More Discs - NTSC update. Presentation and Packaging Of LV discs.

LDR-11 - Reviews of Yamaha CLV-1 LV/CD Combi and Sony LDP-730 LV player with digital still frame. Philips 400 series specs. CD Video stirrings. Document & Data Storage on Optical Disc. LV Catalogue Corrections & Update.

LDR-12 - The big Philips/Polygram Amsterdam CD Video announcement. 12 page report includes CD Clip specs. What is CD-I? Dolby Surround Mixing. Video Recordings Act Update. Big new list of LV deletions.

LDR-13 - CD Video Chicago Launch. Full list of opera and classical music titles. Forthcoming A/V products for '87. How LV discs are made - Part I. The Ecodisc. 3M speaks out on Laser Rot.

LDR-14 - CD Video's PAL launch at the Berlin Funkausstellung. Full photo report. First CD Clip goes on sale in UK.

LDR-15 - First PAL Combi player reviewed, the Pioneer CLD-1050. All Show & No Go? - CD Video Launch Slips. How LV discs are made - Part II. A dealer's eye view of the USA LV scene. CD Clips reviewed.

LDR-16 - CD Video delay continues. UK LaserVision grinds to a halt. First Clip Report. New Sony player takes 4 disc sizes. Multi Audio. Digital Video Interactive. Virgin's Telecine operation. Little Shop Of Horrors chaptering. Sony Dolby Surround disc reviewed. Index for LDR 1 - 15.

LDR-17 - Pioneer CLD-99S digital Combi previewed. The Big List of all UK LV titles so far (10 pages). Latest Clip releases.

THAMES VALLEY LASER

HUNTERCOMBE
BANBURY ROAD
BICESTER
OXON OX6 7NL.

TEL: (0869) 242078



MAIL ORDER SPECIALIST

1000 DISCS Always In Stock

- ★ FACT SHEET COVERING SURROUND SOUND DISCS
MAGNETIC SOUNDTRACKS ON DISC AND FILM STOCK
GENERATIONS ETC. SENT WITH EACH LIST
- ★ QUANTITY DISCOUNTS AND SPECIAL OFFER REDUCTIONS
ON CERTAIN TITLES
- ★ REDUCED PRICE DISCS IN STOCK

SEND 50p FOR LIST
OF TITLES AVAILABLE

WE ANTICIPATE MOVING INTO NEW SHOP
PREMISES SHORTLY. WITH THIS MOVE
WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER A FULL
SERVICE IN ALL LASER PRODUCTS
INCLUDING COMPACT DISC AND CDV
SOFTWARE/HARDWARE

LASERDISC PRICE REDUCTIONS - AT THE
RIGHT ARE EXAMPLES OF SOME CURRENT
PRICE REDUCTIONS UP TO 31/8/88.
A MUCH FULLER LISTING AVAILABLE ON
REQUEST

POST & PACKING £1.50 ON ALL ORDERS
WITHIN THE UK

VISA AND ACCESS

SALE NOW ON

	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE
THE KILLING FIELDS	24.95	18.99
BREWSTERS MILLIONS	19.99	15.99
GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROAD ST	19.99	15.99
UNCOMMON VALOUR	19.99	14.99
TIGHTROPE	19.99	14.99
MASK	19.99	14.99
A ROOM WITH A VIEW	19.99	14.99
THE MEANING OF LIFE	19.99	14.99
FLETCH	19.99	12.99
STAYING ALIVE	19.99	12.99
AIRPLANE II	19.99	12.99
BEST DEFENCE	19.99	12.99
FOOTLOOSE	19.99	11.99
PRINCE/PURPLE RAIN	19.99	11.99
CATS EYE	19.99	11.99
MICHAEL JACKSON/THRILLER	11.99	8.99
PHIL COLLINS/LIVE	9.99	6.99

Dragon's Lair

Brand new PAL discs of
Dragons Lair arcade game

Send \$25.00 + \$8.00 shipping
- a total of \$33.00

Payment via International
Money Order in US\$ to be made
payable to Scott Edmunds

Orders to:
SCOTT EDMUNDS,
103 N. HIGHWAY 101 #217,
ENCINITAS,
CA 92024,
U.S.A.

Dealer enquiries invited

Lee Harling

TV & Video
Specialist



SALES — RENTALS — REPAIRS

MAIL ORDER SERVICE AVAILABLE
LASERVISION CENTRE

28/30 Back Lord Street
Blackpool
FY1 2BG

(0253) 294893

Laser Electronics

5 KERNTHORPE ROAD, KINGS HEATH,
BIRMINGHAM B14 6RA
TELEPHONE: 021-444 6080

COMPACT DISCS from..... £7-00

LASERVISION DISCS from..... £4-99

SECOND-HAND PHILIPS
VLP600 LV PLAYERS from £100-00

PIONEER CLD-1050
CD-V/CD/LV COMBI..... £649-00

Mail Order in UK
free for orders
over £20-00.



CD-V Latest

At the beginning of July it was still not possible to obtain any firm information from PolyGram (which is co-ordinating the software side of CD-V) about the breadth of software support for CD Video, but the launch remains fixed for the end of September/early October.

Though unconfirmed there have been suggestions from other sources there will be CD-V support from WEA and CBS Records, but not necessarily from day one of the launch. Quite whether there will be other manufacturers in the initial launch package is not known. Also not in the launch package, but expected to follow on later, are non-music programmes and films, though our investigations with the film companies have been unable to detect any activity so far.

We can suggest some longform PolyGram pop music titles that might be in the launch catalogue, all 30cm discs: Bon Jovi/*Slippery When Wet*
The Cure/*In Orange*
Eurythmics/*Live*
Kiss/*Exposed*
Huey Lewis/*Fore & More*
Level 42/*Live At Wembley*
Status Quo/*Rockin' Through The Years*
Tina Turner/*Live In Rio*
The Who/*Who's Better Who's Best*

Apparently there is a James Last live concert done in Berlin for East German TV but we don't know whether that will be available outside Germany. (The classical/opera titles will obviously be a selection of those listed in LDR-13.)

At the last moment some final proof versions of the PolyGram sleeves (for 20cm discs, but the design for the 30cm is the same) showed up which are featured on the cover (because there's no space left here!)

LaserVision - What's That?

The demise of LaserVision in the UK turns out to be more permanent than we originally reported in LDR-16. What we

then thought to be just the end of a business arrangement now amounts to something quite different.

As far as PDO is concerned there will be no more analogue sound LaserVision discs made - at least for the consumer market. PDO is being very coy about this, which is no big surprise when the full implications of it are taken on board. What they do tell us is that putting analogue sound LV out onto the market at the same time as CD Video hits will confuse the situation. Consequently they aren't going to make any more of them. So there.

Pro Logic Products

We did a preliminary report on Dolby Pro Logic (the upgraded domestic version of Dolby Surround that more closely approximates the professional cinema decoders) in LDR-16 which suggested Pro Logic products would be premium priced for a while. News comes from the US of a Pioneer VSX-9300S A/V Receiver that includes Pro Logic and lists for \$935. Considering the wealth of features on this 125 watt output unit it doesn't look as though the Pro Logic enhancement has added that much to the price - it would have been reasonably expensive even without it. For a similar price (\$949) NEC is introducing its PLD-910 Pro Logic Decoder in the US.

What's anybody doing in the UK? Beyond the possibility of the Sony SDP-777ES being introduced here (see p.19) the only other company contemplating a product is Yamaha with the DSR-100PRO (illustrated). Yamaha UK is considering bringing in some of these units but would not be drawn to suggest a price.

The DSR-100PRO has no in-built amplification and so needs to be used with such as Yamaha's M-35 4-channel power amp.

Info: Yamaha, 200 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts WD1 7JS. Tel:(0923) 33166.

Clip Report III



Desperate searchers after software for their CLD-1050s might have thought themselves especially fortunate when they stumbled across the selection of CD-V Clips in the big HMV store in London (150 Oxford Street) a month or two back. Yet closer inspection would have revealed these scarce gems to be Japanese imports and thus frustratingly video-encoded in NTSC and only usable as audio discs on a PAL CD-V player.

Other than a selection of PolyGram artistes (Bon Jovi, Tears For Fears, The Cure, Level 42 etc) there was a disc from The Police and Japanese artiste Ryuichi Sakamoto (of *Merry Christmas Mr Roberts* and *The Last Emperor* fame). All the discs were from the first batch of Japanese releases. HMV stocked them because PAL CD-Vs were unobtainable after the initial Level 42 UK release. We don't know whether HMV will continue to stock NTSC CD-V imports but if you are after any look for them in the regular CD racks over to the left hand side as you go in (not in the CD Singles bins).

HMV was stocking the French PAL Psychic TV CD-V, however, selling it at £11.99. Readers also report some success in obtaining the Durutti Column CD-V in various Virgin stores around the country.

Readers who sent off for the French classical CD-V by Agnes Gillieron report a fairly speedy response. Though the sleeve is rather uninspired the disc comes with good documentation and a numbered, signed insert too. Picture quality is only so-so. The video is a fairly straightforward presentation showing the artiste playing a black-keyed piano against a plain background.



WHAT'S HAPPENING... WHAT'S HAPPENING...WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Sound is all-digital but with quite a lot of room noise - the constant pumping of the piano foot-pedals being recorded in equal clarity with the music.

The disc is available from - Compact (CDV-001), 99 avenue Aristide Briand, 92120 Montrouge, France and can be paid for by quoting your VISA card number and its expiry date. The cost is 90FF + 37FF overseas postage (about £12-00 total).

Now follows the latest info on new PAL CD-V releases:-

MELODIYA - As of July there is still no sign of The Bazykina Twins (see LDR-17) making it in the UK (or anywhere else for that matter). Copyright disputes between the Russians and the Swedes (who made the video) continue to prevent a release.

FACTORY - The two CD-V Clips from Factory - New Order/*True Faith* (Facdv 183) and Joy Division/*Atmosphere* (Facdv 213) - did not see release as originally scheduled (April) but should now be out by the end of July. Along with them will be an additional release from New Order, bringing Factory's total of CD-Vs to four.

The extra disc is New Order's *Blue*

Monday 1988 (Facdv 73R). This Quincy Jones re-mix of the five year old hit was originally planned only as a US audio release but has been subsequently made available in the UK for fans also - in 7" & 12" vinyl and CD Single. The CD Single settled in for a period of weeks at the top of the CD Singles Chart and, seeing as there was a video available, Factory has added a CD-V too.

KLF - Finally (and this is only just coming together at press time) Phonovision Entertainment (see right), looked close to be arranging the CD-V release of The Time Lords/*Doctorin' The Tardis*. This novelty track, proclaimed as "Probably the most nauseating record in the world" on the record label, will likely be accompanied by the 'B' side, the 12" re-mix and possibly the instrumental version on the CD-V. It all depends on what can be organised in the time. (While contracts for the release have come together quite quickly, all the various other details have taken their time.) Though funded by Phonovision Entertainment the CD-V will appear under the same KLF label as the original hit, a provisional catalogue number of KLF CDV 003 has been allotted. Trade Distribution will be through Rough

Trade, both in the UK and European countries.

Phonovision Entertainment

Edinburgh's Laser Centre is no more. Proprietor David Henry has closed the shop but has not deserted the disc. He is presently in the process of setting up a new company, Phonovision Entertainment, with the express intention of releasing both CD/CD-Vs and LaserVision discs. In spite of the Laser Centre having been selling the CD-V Combi with some success the absence of software to support it has led to this change of tack.

Negotiations to release LV discs have been under way since February with several of the film companies who have previously released on LV. As none of them has yet made any plans for digital sound films under the CD Video banner David Henry has found them more than willing to discuss deals - if somewhat slow to be pinned down to a final contract.

An early obstacle - the unwillingness of PDO to press any LV discs for him (or even re-press existing titles) - seems to have been overcome by going to Sonopress in Germany for LV pressing capacity.

Phonovision Entertainment, 82 Great King Street, Edinburgh EH3 6QU.
Tel: (031) 557 2222.

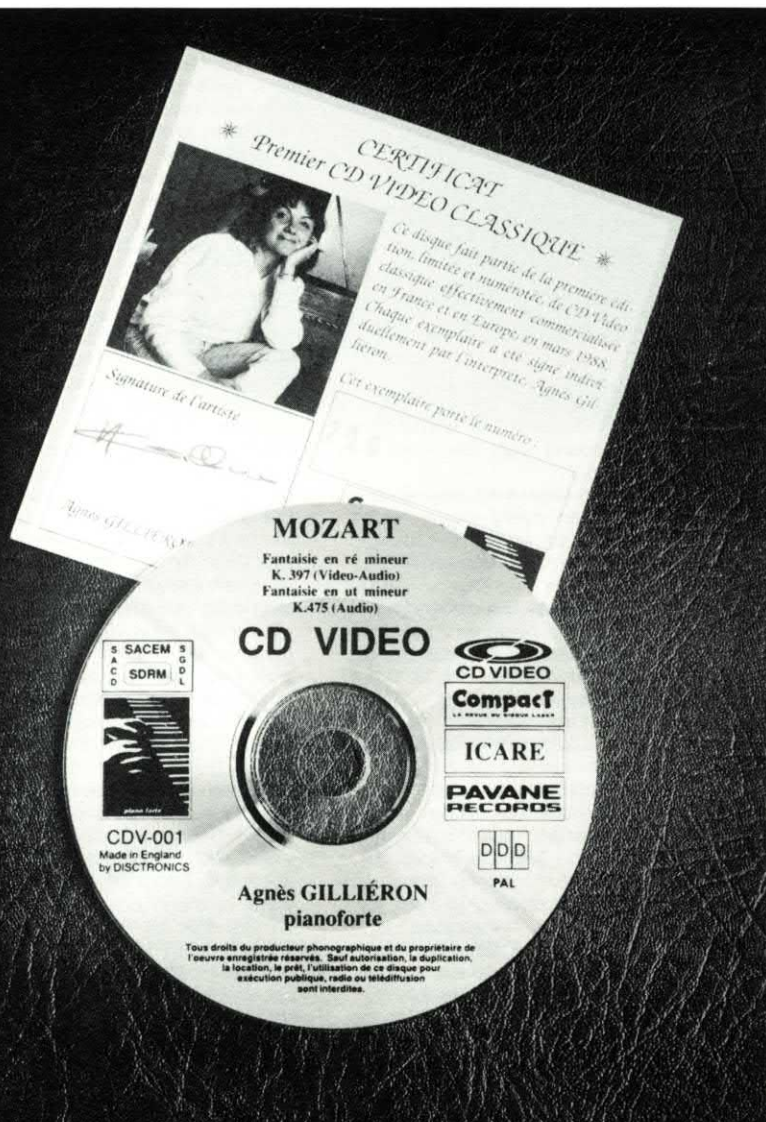
Bits & Pieces

● **US CD-Vs available now** - Orbis Records in Bristol who we reported on last issue have stocks of the recently released NTSC CD-V Clips from WEA and PolyGram. Price to LDR readers is £6-99 (make sure to tell them you are one as the price is lower). A full list of what is available is on page 23. Orbis' telephone number for orders is (0272) 736136.



● London's forthcoming (September) **Museum Of The Moving Image** that deals with the history and technology of the cinema will be using videodisc players and specially commissioned discs to generate images in the various displays.

● A reader advises that the previous source for **Dutch LV discs**, Videoscreen in the Netherlands, is no longer supplying them. We do not know of any alternative source.



...WHAT'S HAPPENING... WHAT'S HAPPENING... WHAT'S HAPPENING

● At a recent French audio and video show Thomson showed a mock-up re-recordable magneto-optical disc suitable for audio, video and data applications. Availability of the product in two years time was projected with a hardware price of around £300.

● The Massachusetts Institute Of Technology in the US devotes a lot of its time to researching communications and information technology. A current project involves **Paperback Movies**, the video equivalent of the cheap 'disposable' book. A favoured manifestation of the concept is a CD-size disc using digital encoding with the end result being viewed on a portable, flat-screen LCD TV/disc player.

● **Japanese CD-V statistics** that sound a bit back-to-front but must be right 'cause we got 'em from a PolyGram news sheet give the initial CD-V disc sales thus: the Unitel originated opera and classical music titles did a healthy 3,500 - 6,000 sales initially, the CD-V Clips somewhat less at around 1,200 each.

● **Hitachi Multi-Scan** - available now. If you have £60,000 to spare Hitachi can supply a 58" Multi-Scan rear projection monitor capable of producing non-interlaced images from any video source. At a recent London show Hitachi was showing it with signals being taken from an LV player. With double the number of lines on screen than on a conventional picture the image was considerably 'smoother' than normal without any noticeable artificiality or lag. The projector can be configured for virtually any signal source (ie. any one of the IBM graphics standards) with the appropriate decoder board. But if you're interested you'd better be quick as there is only one in the country - after that it's a 5 month wait. (Although the way Hitachi is talking they might be able to get the price down to about half the current figure; patience has its own rewards.)

CD Multi Audio

While early published specifications for CD Audio gave 80 minutes as the total achievable playing time, discs lasting this long have been somewhat rare so far. This year, though, we've encountered two 80 minute CDs - one on the US Rykodisc label (*Mission Of Burma* RCD 40072 - 80'05") and the other on the UK Meridian label (*Rossini - Petite Messe Solonelle* CDE 84133 - 79'59").

Yet these extended playing times pale into insignificance when compared to the 144 minutes on this Rodolphe CD of Beethoven's *Fidelio* (RPC 32494). And it is all on the one disc. The 'trick' is that this 1953 vintage recording is in mono and so each channel of the disc contains a separate signal. To play the programme all the way through you first play the left channel, then re-start the disc and play the right channel.

Because it is rare these days to have an amplifier that will have a suitable

CD Multi Audio
- more than 144
minutes on
one CD



speaker switching option (to enable one output channel to be sent to both speakers) most people will have to use the balance control on their amplifier to effect the channel changes. This isn't ideal because the sound only comes out of one speaker as a result. (It shouldn't really matter as the signal is mono - but one becomes used to the spread of sound, doesn't one?)

The reason this dual mono works at all is that the separation between the channels on CD is almost absolute. Analogue LaserVision offers a 55dB channel separation figure and one does not encounter any leakage problems there so the 90dB+ of digital can only be better still. But the reason that dual mono CDs have not been routinely released since the product's inception is that they are outside the CD Audio standard. That's why you can't switch between stereo channels of a CD in the same way you can with a LaserVision disc in an LV player.

But.... (some of you are thinking ahead already!).... all the LV/CD combi players have an audio track switching feature. So these will be able to play the likes of the Rodolphe CD without any tedious fiddling around with the amplifier, won't they? Wrong!

Every NTSC LV disc with digital sound we've encountered on every player we've encountered refuses to switch between channels, contrary to the convention on analogue. That means you lose a useful feature on NTSC digital LV discs that can only be recovered by reverting to the analogue audio tracks. Attempts to separate the CD Audio into left and right prove similarly fruitless.

With PAL CD Video there is no back-up analogue audio track so in order to retain the multi-audio feature (for bi-lingual movies etc) switching between digital channels will be possible - provided the appropriate code is put on the disc beforehand. The CD Video PAL standard allows for either stereo or multi-audio. Theoretically, if the manufacturers chose to, they could encode dual mono audio CDs with same tripping signal making such discs easily playable on any PAL combi player.

Quite why Philips and Sony, who defined the present CD Audio standard, chose to make multi-audio on CD a non-option is difficult to understand. The

only snag we've found is with the track (chaptering) logic. The Rodolphe disc does have specific markings for each track but you can't program the disc properly and the track/chapter skip function is not 100%. This is because the player reads the tracks as they come off the disc, regardless of which channel they are on. Thus while you are half way through listening to a programmed selection the player will pick up a track marker on the adjacent channel, interpret it as the end of your selection and send the player eagerly searching for the next track on the menu - leaving you musicus interruptus, so to speak. The problem is not so severe with track skip. All you need do here is skip through the occasional track mark that might be picked up on the other channel.

There is certainly an allowance for multi-audio in the forthcoming CD Interactive format (to excess, with all sorts of additional reduced-bandwidth, extended-play options - up to 20 hours at speech quality level). But as things are, with millions of pieces of hardware out there with no channel switching facility able to make convenient use of the multi-audio CD, the feature is not likely to be exploited on any other than specialist titles.

Even excluding the advantage of obtaining more playing time for your money MA has other advantages. Having just encountered a magazine review of a bunch of vintage classical CD re-issues (on Philips, coincidentally) that utilise the 'No-Noise' system to rid the master tapes/discs clicks and dropouts, where the reviewer concluded that the cleaning-up process introduced some audible side-effects not all consumers would find acceptable, another use for multi-audio becomes immediately apparent. Any of these recordings that were in mono could easily have been put on the disc on both versions, one channel with the best that could be done on the masters by conventional cleaning up, the other with the same recording subjected to the No-Noise treatment. And there would be no problems with the track positions being different on each channel.

Philips UK makes statement on CD Video delays



Finally, on May 16th, Philips made a proper statement about the position with the launch of CD Video. A previous press briefing scheduled for March 15th had been cancelled at very short notice and without any meaningful explanation. This made the May announcement particularly welcome and it is worth re-printing in full:

- The formal 'launch' of Philips CD Video is still scheduled to take place in September 1988 in the following countries - UK, France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland.
- Philips UK's intention of releasing limited product to start to stock trade outlets and commence sales to consumers in late May/early June has been delayed until the September pan European launch.
- The reason for this delay is due to tracking problems experienced with the playing of the 5" CD-V Single. These tracking problems have occurred when the machine reached a certain operating temperature.
- Another difficulty experienced in the development of the CD-V multi-format player was the interference of digital audio and analogue video, one signal influencing the other.
- Philips UK understands that the above problems have been resolved and final testing is underway prior to starting production to facilitate the September launch.
- Philips UK are in ongoing discussions with PolyGram UK to ensure that CD-V software will be available from software outlets complementary to Philips hardware outlets.
- Philips UK understands that production of software has started and that quantities of CD-V discs in all formats will be available for the September launch.



The first part of the statement is fairly straightforward and, apart from the date (1988 as opposed to 1987), is virtually unchanged from the original plan.

The reason for the cancellation of the May/June mini-launch (which was being kept a secret at least till the end

of March) is not known. We do know that in Germany a group of key dealers was contacted as to whether they would be interested in a CD Video launch around May time, but with a software catalogue of considerably smaller proportions than originally proposed. The consensus was to wait till adequate discs were available later in the year.

Very nearly the same 50 clip titles that would have been available to German consumers would have secured a UK launch too, but more than likely, the crucial reason for the cancelled early roll-out is to be found in paragraphs three to five. Here some of the problems Philips has encountered with the development of its first Combi have been defined, and as far as we know these weren't sorted out in time for player production by May/June.

What we can add to the software points raised in the last two paragraphs of the statement is hardly worth reading. News about discs (and discs is what it's all about) has been scarce indeed. The original estimates from PolyGram about the depth of software support should probably be revised. By mid-June the expected September launch list from PolyGram will contain 50 CD-V Clips, 5 - 10 longform pop music titles plus a selection of the opera/classical titles. Both PolyGram and Pioneer have been trying to drum up support from record and film companies to add to the basic PolyGram launch catalogue.

There are, so far (it's now mid-June), no film titles in the CD Video launch list. There is news of a serious effort to get something going in Germany filmwise. Titles from Warner, RCA/Columbia, Disney and MGM are supposed to be involved but nothing is fixed apparently.

We had a word or two with Philips UK (again mid-June) about the player trade-in. Without any prompting, their attitude was that a trade-in will not have too much appeal to existing LV owners (who are mostly feature-film buyers) if there are no movies on offer at the same time. They seem to have sussed the situation quite accurately. What's the point of buying a new £500 piece of hardware if nobody is putting out the software you require? Thus an attempt will be made to time the trade-in to coincide with an announcement of CD Video movies.

The trade-in offer won't run for longer than a few months after it's announced and one gets the impression that Philips UK wants to get the whole thing out of the way early next year. From this we may deduce they are optimistic about some deal for movies being worked out within this time frame. We'll see.

The N.V. Philips Group

The May 16th statement makes specific reference to "Philips UK" as opposed to just "Philips". It is worthwhile relating aspects of the company structure of N.V. Philips (or more precisely, N.V. Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken) in order to clarify some of the points.

For our purposes we need only concern ourselves with Philips, PolyGram and Philips-Du Pont (PDO). Put simply, N.V. Philips makes the players, PolyGram makes the programmes and PDO makes the discs.

PDO is the newest division, having been established in 1985 as a 50/50 partnership between N.V. Philips' optical disc making interests (formerly PolyGram's pressing plant in Hannover, Germany, the Blackburn videodisc plant and some of N.V. Philips activities in the Netherlands, such as the making of the laser beam recorders used in disc mastering). Hence what we used to know as Philips Blackburn is now just a part of PDO. With the advent of PDO, PolyGram is now solely a software company, mostly music, though with varying participations in feature film production over the years.

N.V. Philips owns most of PolyGram though the exact percentage seems to fluctuate from year to year.

N.V. Philips itself is a very large Dutch-based multinational company but the various national manifestations of the Philips brand name (which are really local trading companies) operate with varying degrees of autonomy. For example, Philips UK buys in products manufactured by the parent company, but not necessarily to the exclusion of all other manufacturing sources. This is why different Philips products become available in different territories. The expectation, of course, is that N.V. Philips products will always be favoured by the various national trading organisations, but it is possible to source lines from outside. (Most consumer electronics companies source products from outside manufacturers at some time or other.)

Not all outside sources are as outside as they first appear; N.V. Philips owns 50% of Marantz, Japan (which is unrelated to the U.S. Marantz brand), 35% of Matsushita Electronics (Panasonic/Technics) and 32% of Grundig, Germany.

More Lines On HDTV

"Sony continues its role as a leader in high definition video" says the news release giving details of new products for its HDVS 1125-line TV range - and some sales figures of previous ones.

Since beginning to market HDVS equipment in 1984 Sony has sold approximately 100 VTRs, 50 cameras and 200 monitors to broadcast stations, video production houses and programme production research laboratories.

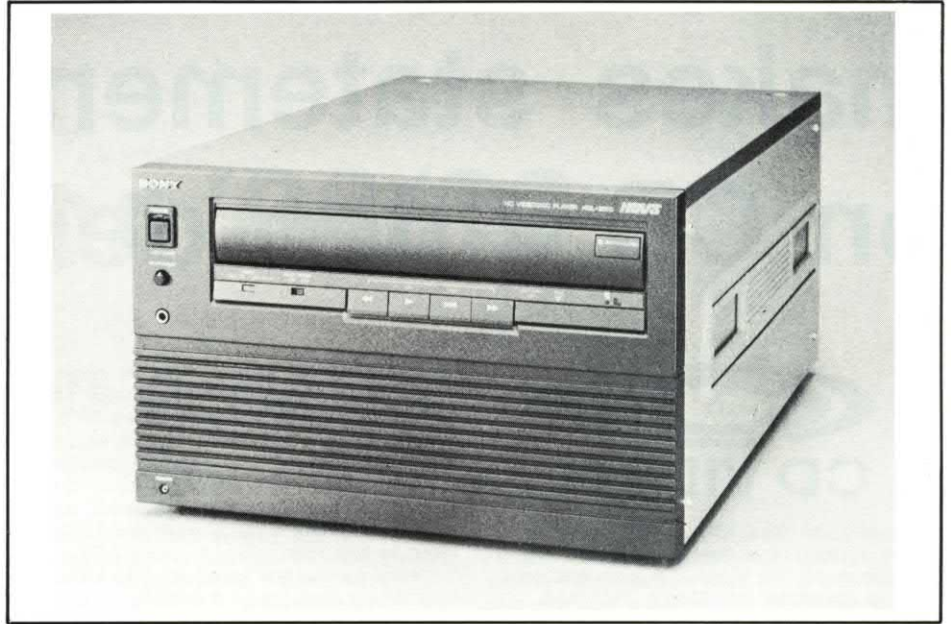
Among new product additions for 1988/9 are a new camera, an HDVS to NTSC downconverter, a 41" HDVS Trinitron colour monitor (c. £34,000) and the HDL-2000 HDVS videodisc player (c.£14,000).

The HDL-2000 is the world's first commercially available HDVS videodisc player, following the realisation of an earlier prototype model (see LDR-10). In order to encode the full HDVS signal, discs for the HDL-2000 carry the information on two tracks, read in tandem by a twin laser beam. The bandwidth quoted amounts to 20MHz of luminance and 6MHz of chrominance with a 43dB signal-to-noise ratio. Playing time of the discs (per side) is 15 minutes in CLV, 8 minutes in CAV. The discs also carry a conventional two-channel 16-bit PCM audio soundtrack.

At the moment the HDL-2000 will only be of use to organisations wishing to produce their own disc software for specialised uses. However, the first opportunity to view the results of Sony's HDVS efforts in the home, albeit in diminished form, have occurred with the video release of the feature film *Julia And Julia* this July. Released on NTSC disc in America (via CBS-FOX) *Julia And Julia* has already received cinema distribution there on conventional 35mm film prints. (U.S. correspondent, Craig Hyland, has seen it and reports of only so-so image quality. Some image lag was apparent, as were some vertical 'scanning' lines.) An Electron Beam Recorder is used to go from HDVS (at 30 frames per second) to film, with the frame rate being adjusted to match the conventional 24 frames-per-second cinema projection speed. (HDVS fields are omitted at intervals to minimise motion defects in the transfer.)

For conventional NTSC video release the HDVS original is virtually at the same frame rate - but not quite. Although NTSC is more conveniently quoted as being tied to a 60Hz frequency it is actually 59.94Hz, a 0.1% deviation which has to be compensated for in the HDVS-to-NTSC transfer.

However, the NTSC disc of *Julia And Julia* should be a lot closer to its source characteristics than any normal film-to-video transfer where the 24fps have to be expanded to suit the 60Hz/30 fps (alright, 59.94Hz if we're going to be precise) NTSC frame rate. (When *Julia And Julia* appears on PAL video the transfer will most likely be done from the 24 fps film print.)



Also in America, in the move to establish the Japanese 1125-line HDTV system, a recent preliminary meeting of the US Advanced TV Systems Committee (ATSC) voted to support it as the US standard for the production of movies and TV programmes. Beyond the predictable support of the Japanese hardware manufacturing members of the ATSC came votes from US cable TV companies (who see cable's strengths being revived by its ability to distribute the high bandwidth system more easily than the over-the-air terrestrial broadcasters), the Motion Picture Association of America (who represent the film-makers), the influential Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers (SMPTE) and CBS Broadcasting (which has in the past suggested it would be possible to transmit HDTV via satellite direct to consumers while simultaneously downconverting it to existing NTSC broadcast standards for terrestrial transmission).

Significant objectors to 1125 line HDTV were the European manufacturers, Philips and Thomson, and some American developers of similarly competing HDTV technologies such as the David Sarnoff Research Centre. Two of the American broadcasting networks, NBC and ABC, also voted against, as did the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB).

To Russia With LV

The 'Russian' CD-V Clip featured in LDR-17 constituted only part of a much larger story about Russian involvement in videodisc that was too insufficiently substantiated to merit relaying at the time. So now, this is what we didn't print.

It all started from a rather unlikely (though true) report of an LV dealer being informed by a Russian customer (who just happened to wander in) of an

exchange deal for disc technology between Philips/PDO and the USSR. The story went something like this: the Dutch company would supply the expertise and equipment to set up an optical disc pressing plant outside Moscow, which would be paid for in kind - in the form of a couple of hundred Soviet TV opera and ballet productions. Such non-cash deals are not unusual with countries having currency exchange problems, so it seemed quite a plausible tale.

Enquiries to Philips, however, produced nothing in the way of further enlightenment. In spite of the story being thoroughly checked out in the Netherlands it seemed to have no real foundation. Certainly there was a major CD chip technology deal that had been worked out (subject to the usual COMICON authorisation over the export of high technology products to Eastern European countries - there are all manner of restrictions on what electronics goods can be exported behind the Iron Curtain for fear that they'll come back some time in the future bolted into to the guidance system of a Russian ICBM). But no deal on setting up a pressing plant to make discs. Likewise, Polygram seemed unaware of any software deal - and it surely would have been the Polygram part of the Philips organisation that would have known the worth of and been able to market the programmes.

Well then, a nice story, but rather in the manner of a lot of others heard in videodisc dealers' emporia in respect of delivery dates of new discs and the imminence of CD Video - a matter of pure fiction.

That's how we left it. But tales of the Russian pressing plant persisted. As the story now goes, it seems like the Russians *did* come, take a look round at what was being done in the optical disc field, murmur something about a deal, and then promptly go back home and build all the necessary equipment themselves. Their research was evidently thorough.

It should be borne in mind that, despite the generally low level of technology of Russian consumer products, research applications with the laser are much more advanced. Holography is one instance of this, and recently, publicity has been given to the work of the Lebedev Physical Institute in Moscow's success at employing solid-state lasers in TV projection systems. Here there is promise of a projector applicable to HDTV that doesn't require the huge amounts of power and massive cooling systems of existing laser projectors.

Where our original investigations had gone adrift was obviously in believing the Russian LV story to be a recent one. In fact, it seems to have quite a history - back as far as 1983-4. Around this time the Russians showed up in the West with some test pressings of LaserVision discs they had done in a unique SECAM format. (The USSR uses the French-developed SECAM TV transmission system in preference to PAL.) Ideally there should be no need for a separate SECAM format because the LV standard calls for a harmonisation of PAL and SECAM in the player, so enabling just one 625-line system disc to be produced. For whatever reason the Russians wanted it differently.

As far as we know LaserVision discs have continued to be made in Russia ever since, though we don't know for what purpose. We do have subscribers in virtually every East European country (including Russia) but none of them has ever mentioned encountering any local product. A pity. We could always do with more discs.

Volcanoes AIV

On April 20th BBC Enterprises did a launch for their latest AIV disc *Volcanoes*. This £169.00 + VAT (£194.35) effort follows on from *The Ecodisc* and *The Domesday Disc(s)* in servicing the software needs of the VP 415 LV-ROM player.

The background to the production is interesting. It stems from an initiative by the educational division of the Oxford University Press to make some moves into the area of interactive video. Beyond the inherent appeal of the technology itself lay the desire to gain a foothold in optical publishing, often touted as the successor to print.

So, according to the man from the OUP, some of their willingness to investigate IV was prompted by fear; fear of the printed page being usurped by the optical disc. It's better to throw a bit of money at the new medium now - to gain some hands-on experience - than to be left at the starting gate if anything significant comes of optical technology.

Volcanoes is a single-sided disc. It contains 30 minutes of moving film excerpts, several hundred still frames and 5 MBytes of text. The text part includes the entire contents of a related book by Dr Peter Francis plus a special dictionary section culled from



the *New Oxford English Dictionary* listing all the many words (and their meanings) peculiar to vulcanology and plate tectonics.

It fell to *Volcanoes*' co-producer, Andy Finney (who may be known to readers on several counts - from dee-jaying on BBC Radio London to working on various pop music productions; see the sleeve notes for Deep Purple's *California Jam* videodisc for one), to demonstrate some of *Volcanoes*' highlights at the launch - including the dictionary.

As a result one now not only remembers that the Eskimo word for clinkery lava is 'aa' but, courtesy of a quick Tommy Cooper impression, also exactly how this odd word is pronounced - "A-a" - "Jus' like that". Unfortunately, this pronunciation aid is not on the disc too.

[BBC Enterprises/Education & Training Sales, Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT. Tel: 01-576 0521/0224.]

Super LaserVision

Well over a year ago a technical bod in one of the video/audio companies told us of a really impressive NTSC LV demonstration he'd seen. Apparently the technology had been tweaked a bit to achieve the desired result but he would say no more as to how it had been done. Subsequently news of a 'Super LaserVision' format leaked out with an apparent intention of marketing it in time to match the 'threat' of Super-VHS and ED-Beta. But, in spite of some fairly confident whispers from various Pioneer USA sources, nothing much has been heard of Super LV since.

So far as can be made out, Super LaserVision is a 500-line horizontal resolution upgrade (425 is about the most any manufacturer has claimed so far for conventional NTSC) that achieves its extra picture resolution by dropping the analogue soundtrack. (Unlike PAL, NTSC

videodisc presently carries both digital and analogue audio.) One would expect the new type of Super LV disc to be playable on any conventional digital sound LV player, but not on one of the older analogue sound only players.

There is some similarity here to the incompatibility situation we are having to endure with PAL LV/CD Video. (And Super LV is going to be an NTSC-only upgrade. PAL will remain as is.)

The move out of analogue sound seems inevitable - and this **does** involve the PAL LaserVision standard. PDO's recent reluctance to press any disc in analogue bears a strong relationship to Philips' apparent desire to drop the analogue audio circuits on CD Video players at some future date. When you think about it on a pan-European scale there is some logic to this, even if it will cause some inconvenience to the best established PAL LV market, the UK.

Dropping the analogue circuit from the player is reported to cut £25 from the retail price, a not inconsiderable saving. As there has never been any LV in the majority of European countries the omission of the analogue circuitry from future players will be of little consequence to the new CD Video market.

Bits & Pieces

● Haven't we been here before...?

Heard in a large London department store earlier this year was this statement from the video and hi-fi manager - "They showed us the new CD Video player at a Philips dealer show. But it was only a prototype and not working fully up to spec - they hadn't even fitted the Record button on the machine I saw".

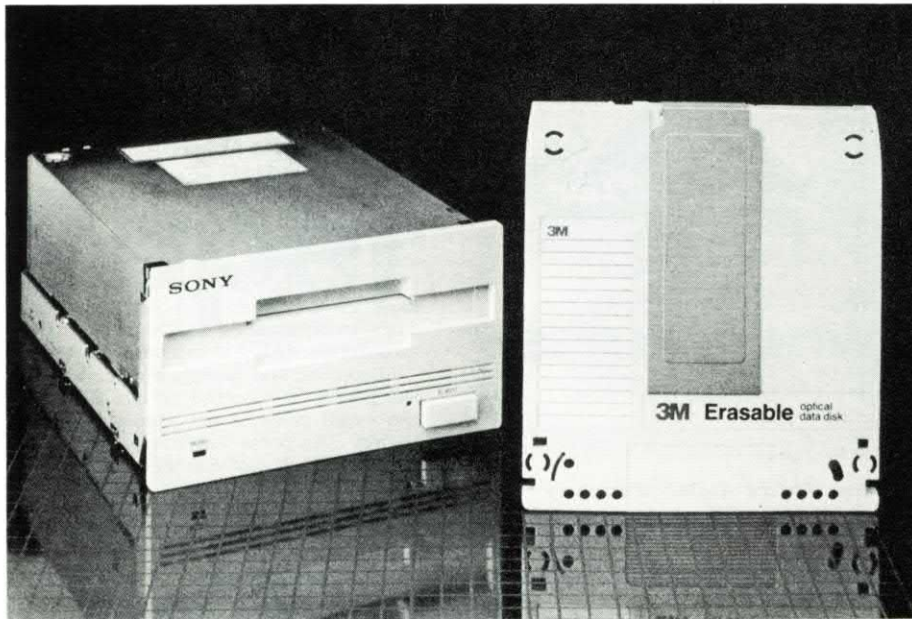
● **Did You See?** Early morning TV watchers (c. 2.00am) to one of Granada's *Other Side Of Midnight* programmes in May might have caught an item about CD Video. Our informant only witnessed a part of it but did mention that this included an interview with PDO representatives at the Blackburn pressing plant. One useful snippet forthcoming from the interview was that the 20 & 30cm digital discs will be gold-coloured to match the hue of the Clip discs and a copy (a PAL copy) of the Warner Home Video movie *The Witches Of Eastwick* was waved before the camera to illustrate the effect. But before getting too far out of your nest about the prospect of adding this digital sound movie to your collection when CD Video is launched you should bear in mind that only about 10 copies of this disc have been pressed. What was shown on TV was just one of a special trial batch done for Warner to demonstrate PDO's disc pressing ability with the new format.

● Doin' what suits the technology best?

The UK based interactive video company, The Soft Option, tells us of a recent contract in the USA which has involved supplying PAL discs and equipment. The reason for working in the 'wrong' TV standard being the ability of PAL CAV disc to provide 36 minutes of moving footage compared to the restrictive 30 minutes of NTSC CAV.

Optical Information Systems

1988



OIS International 1988 ("Europe's largest optical information and image management conference and exhibition") was held in London this June - the fifth such annual event. OIS stands for Optical Information Systems and the show covers just about everything to do with the professional and business applications of optical disc. It's not terribly exciting from a consumer point of view and, with the continuing expansion of the optical market generally, even the interactive video aspect of the show seems to be giving way to the application of optical disc in large scale data storage. But a few exhibits deserve a mention.

CVD

OIS 1988 proved to be the UK premiere of Compact Video Disc, a hybrid CD/LV format employing a compressed LaserVision analogue video signal along with CD digital audio and data. A CVD disc (in NTSC format) can offer 18 minutes of CLV or 10 minutes of CAV (18,000 frames) of video, the digital audio being either to present CD Audio standards or with one or both of the audio tracks being used to store up to 40/80 Mbytes of CD-ROM data. Unlike CD Video, this 12cm disc can display its video images throughout its playing duration and, of course, the CAV option is available - a configuration that has been excluded from the CD Video specification.

Showing CVD was Next Technology which is handling the US developed product (by SOCS Research, California) in the UK with a particular view to supplying a build-in drive to fit in a

standard microcomputer slot. CVD is seen as a promising interactive videodisc development by Next - sort of a mini *Domesday* disc.

The CVD demo disc was being played on a Pioneer CLD-900 LV/CD Combi hooked up to the CVD decoder box (a prototype) and shown on 20" Sony Profeel monitor. Picture quality looked reasonably good, actually - better than expected. Without displaying the resolution of an LV picture, the image quality was certainly adequate, with no major side effects resulting from the compression process. Some texturing of the video image was present but it was modest.

CVD discs can supposedly be made in any conventional LV/CD pressing plant with the aid of the CVD compression/encoding circuitry. This particular demo disc was made by LaserVideo, California (now part of the Discronics group). A PAL version of CVD has yet to be developed but Next believes that for the IV market this will not prevent CVD being exploited earlier. The flexibility of many of the newer multi-scan computer monitors should make it feasible to use CVD here in NTSC.

[Next Technology, St Johns Innovation Centre, Cambridge CB4 4WS. Tel: (0223) 341180.]

CD-ROM + Stills

Philips had a stand at OIS, the most interesting item being an experimental CD-ROM disc development by Haupt, Germany. It had turned up only shortly before the show and even the Philips demonstrator did not know the full

details. The disc apparently contained 4,000 digital still images at a 640 x 480 pixel resolution, close to the sort of picture resolution promised with CD-I. Sitting next to a conventional LV picture display the digital video picture looked impressively crisp though without the transparency (there was an element of noise/grain over the image) of a LaserVision picture. Also the colour was not quite as vivid. But still, an opportunity to see some digital stills proved an interesting experience. (The disc only shows stills. It takes several seconds to build up each picture - too slow for moving pictures.)

3M's Erasable

Least connected to the present coverage of this magazine but still a significant development was a showing of 3M's new erasable optical disc. Not only can you record on the disc but you can erase it and re-record it lots (millions) of times. The 3M disc is of the magneto-optical variety - which isn't the direction that the consumer varieties of optical disc are likely to follow as the hardware is less compatible with the present read-only technology. (An additional magnetic head is required on the other side of the disc, opposite the laser, to alter the polarity of the pits.)

However, 3M's magneto-optical disc is available now and, contrary to the original predictions the company was making, the data capacity of the 5.25" disc is 325 Mbytes per side, 650 Mbytes total. (Originally 3M was promising 230 Mbytes per side.) This is a similar packing density to an audio CD (550 Mbytes) and, in relation to competitive magnetic disc drives, a dramatic increase in capacity. High capacity magnetic disc drives do exist but they are expensive.

While 3M's discs are ready, the dedicated drive being made by Sony apparently isn't - quite - but it should be by the end of the year. Prices for the Sony drive were being vaguely quoted in the low thousands, the discs in the low hundreds - it's a bit early to talk firm prices apparently. This doesn't sound that cheap but compared to current magnetic prices it is - megabyte for megabyte. You pay more but you get **much** more.

It has to be said that the access times are faster for magnetic discs so there won't be an immediate battle between the technologies. Each will find its own niche. In favour of optical is the ten year projected archival life and the immunity to a head crash that can wipe out the entire contents of your magnetic disc.

While there was no shortage of recordable discs present at the various stands at OIS, 3M's Erasable stood out as an intriguing foretaste of the future. Certainly it brings digital audio recording in the home one step closer, even if the massive data requirements for video put this application still some considerable distance further away.

Dealer News

Laserdisken II - the sequel

Intrepid lone pioneer of LaserVision and CD Video in Denmark, Hans Kristian Pedersen, has been in touch again to let us know what's been happening since we last reported on his activities (LDR-8). You may recall that Denmark was one of the (majority of) European countries that never saw an official launch of LaserVision, an omission that through his shop, Laserdisken, Hans Kristian sought to put to rights a couple of years back.

Although Denmark was not on the list of countries to be subjected to the first wave of CD Video promotion either, Hans Kristian had been planning something topical to coincide with it. But as he succinctly points out in his letter - "Everything which has anything to do with CD Video seems to be long overdue" - and accordingly plans have been put back to the autumn.

Without any new LV discs for the best part of a year Hans Kristian has been supplementing (well, probably more than that) his income by doing some business with the new budget price sell-through VHS tapes. To keep the disc side of things ticking over Laserdisken has been building up interest in NTSC disc, supplying both players and discs - "I already stock 100-200 NTSC discs and I hope to build up a stock of 500-1,000 NTSC titles within the next year".



Such commitment to 'the other format' is possible in Denmark because trade is unhindered by such as the UK's Video Recordings Act which makes any similar dealer activity with movies on NTSC disc in the UK virtually impossible. (It could be done with music titles without too much fear of hindrance, but movies on NTSC disc through a UK dealer seems a remote prospect and direct import will remain an unavoidable inconvenience.) Certainly NTSC disc has allowed Hans Kristian to pursue his own interests with Disney material and, after some initial reservations about the supposedly 'inferior' NTSC format, he has become quite keen on it.

"I was unfortunate enough to encounter NTSC for the first time on a Pioneer SV series TV with the add-on NTSC decoder board. The disc player was a Pioneer LD-700. It looked terrible. Since then I have tested six different players, a couple of monitor TVs and watched hundreds of discs. I have surrendered completely." He goes on - "The Sony KX-27PS1 is still the best suited to NTSC as well as PAL and, though it may not be perfect, I have never seen anything better. For those who want something less fancy I recommend the Nordmende Prestige 72. It is a high-end multistandard 29" TV and quite reasonable in price considering the performance. The NTSC picture is quite good".

Hans Kristian's comments about NTSC monitor performance add to those from several others printed in recent issues. The now-discontinued KX-27PS1 (Profeel) seems to be settling in as the best all round compromise NTSC/PAL screen so far. Another Danish reader, Ole Alstrup, maintains that this model does indeed contain a comb filter to improve NTSC performance. His information comes from Sony Denmark. However, Sony UK told us that no comb filter was fitted. Fortunately we have a circuit diagram for this monitor so any reader who feels qualified enough to read it and confirm one way or the other is invited to get in touch with LDR. (If we find out the truth we might let Sony know too!)

Hans Kristian doesn't sound too enthusiastic about the Pioneer SV with

the add-on board and this is something we've heard from other sources. This particular model is a Thomson-sourced TV and hence European-made. It is becoming increasingly apparent that, although most of the European manufacturers are incorporating NTSC capability into their top-end TVs, it is often without too much reference to exploiting its finer points. (And readers who think NTSC is only relevant to disc here in the UK should be aware of at least one of our readers with a somewhat oversize satellite dish in his back garden presently tuning into the NTSC transmissions wafting about in the ether.)

Some remedy to the problem of the TV best suited to PAL/NTSC use now being discontinued may be found in the following report.

Live at SRS

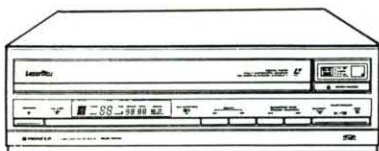
Stereo Regent Street, the self-styled "Home Of Pioneer In London" is more than ever worth a visit. Beyond the chance to see a working CLD-1050 PAL LV/CD/CD-V Combi it is now possible to witness an NTSC player in action. This all comes about as a result of SRS having a Pioneer SD-M28 NTSC/PAL monitor which is able to display the output of either format disc player. The SD-M28 boasts 580-line horizontal resolution, an 8Mhz bandwidth, a comb filter and a PAL/NTSC tuner. It has a 28" screen and sells for £950. As we understand it there will be a UK model of this TV later on (probably in the spring of '89), although the price will be about the same. (The SD-M28 is a multi-voltage model designed primarily for the US Forces in Europe but is available to special order from SRS.)

From July onwards SRS expects to be able to supply (to order) multi-voltage versions of the NTSC digital frame store CLD-3030 (like the CLD-99S previewed in LDR-17) and the NTSC LD-W1, again with the digital frame store but able to play four disc sides at one load (see write-up this issue). There is a provisional price of £700 on the CLD-3030.

STEREO REGENT STREET

245 Regent Street London W1R 7AF

Telephone 01-491 7922



Pioneer CLD-1050 PAL LV/CD/CDV Combi player available from stock

Pioneer LD-838D NTSC Digital Sound LaserVision player in stock

Pioneer CLD-3030 NTSC Combi with Digital Video effects available to special order

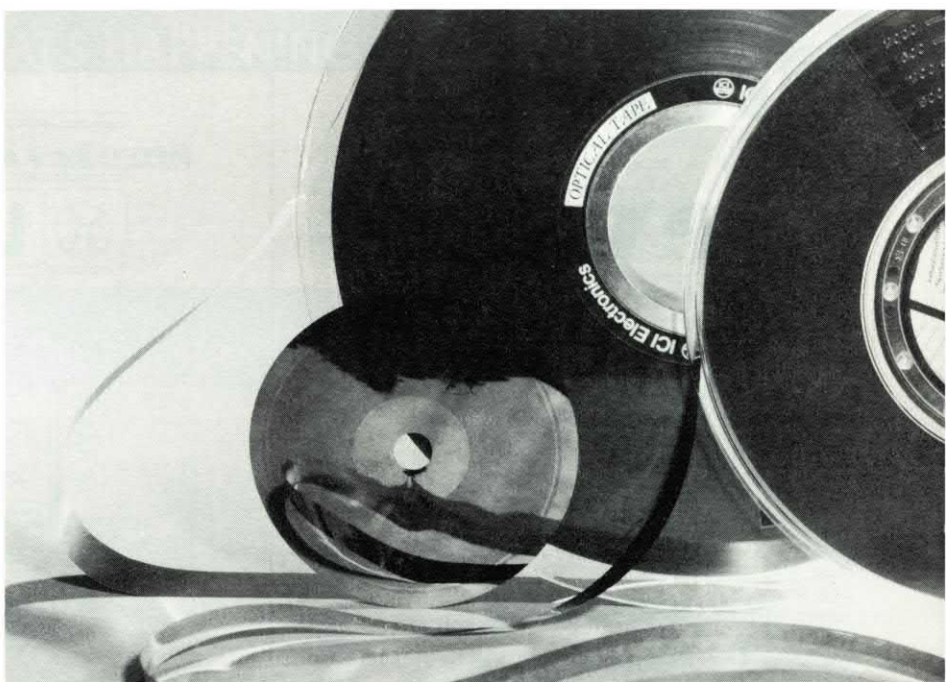
Pioneer LD-W1 NTSC LV player Digital Video + 2-disc/4 hour play available to special order

Pioneer SD-M28 PAL/NTSC monitor receiver with 580-line resolution available to special order

ACCESS - AMEX
DINERS - VISA

The Home of
PIONEER
in London

ICI Digital Paper



Above: ICI's Digital Paper functions in both tape and disc formats.

A new optical recording medium suited to both disc and tape is announced by ICI Electronics

Earlier this year, in February, ICI Electronics announced a new optical storage medium, to be known as ICI Digital Paper. Digital Paper is an optically read material that can be exploited in disc and tape form. It is a low-cost, recordable medium - but not erasable - and permanent in nature.

Independent hardware manufacturers have already developed both disc and tape drives for the new optical material, but so far only for computer data storage applications. The material, though, is suitable for digital audio and video too.

The very existence of ICI Electronics, let alone such an

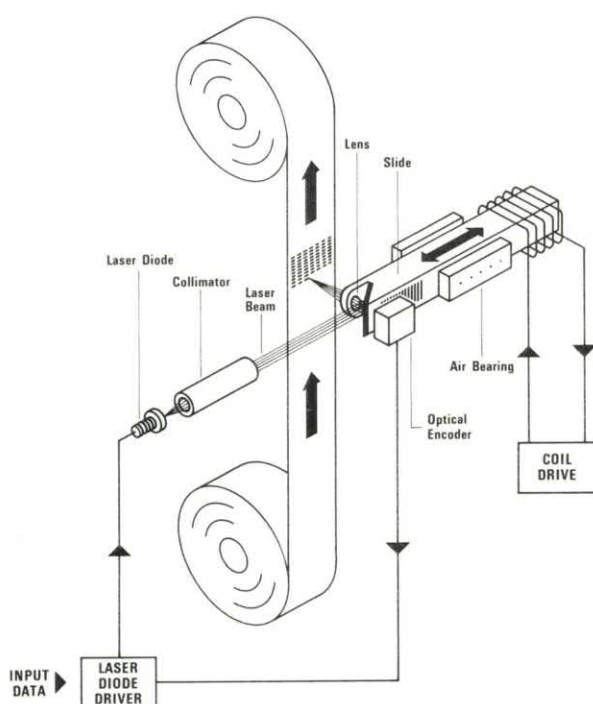
intriguing new product, may come as a bit of a surprise. ICI Electronics is indeed a new division of the huge chemical company and the fact that Digital Paper is being promoted through it has much to do with ICI's desire to sell the finished product - rather than just be a raw chemicals supplier of the constituent parts to others.

ICI Digital Paper is a dye polymer optical recording medium coated onto a polyester-based substrate which means that in tape form the product will look fairly conventional, but in the case of disc it could be thin and flexible and quite unlike previous optical discs. ICI is claiming a storage cost of 0.3 pence per megabyte on the new material, about one twentieth of current magnetic media costs. ICI suggests that it is only the limited resolution of present day laser semiconductors that prevents Digital Paper realising even greater storage capacities than are presently being proposed. When better lasers are developed Digital Paper will hold even more.

The first optical tape drive developed for Digital Paper (by Creo Products Inc of Vancouver, Canada) can store 1,000 gigabytes of data on an 880m reel of 35mm tape - all on a single 30cm tape reel. Access time to any portion of the tape is claimed as 28 seconds and a data transfer rate of up to 3 Mbytes/sec can be sustained. (ICI maintains that the medium has the potential for a 10 Mbytes/sec data rate while still providing an adequate signal-to-noise ratio for digital recording.)

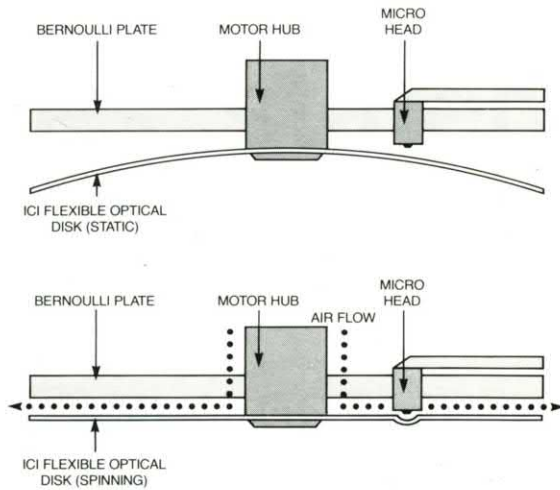
Digital Paper is a once-recordable medium and presently a 15 year data life is claimed. It is expected to be extended to 20 years in the near future. The Creo drive uses an array of laser diodes to write and read multiple tracks on the tape. There is no mechanical wear on the active side of the tape as a result. Applications for the Creo Drive

CREO TERABYTE OPTICAL TAPE DRIVE



Left: The Creo Optical Tape Drive writes multiple tracks simultaneously using an array of laser diodes.

NEW FLEXIBLE OPTICAL DISK DRIVE TECHNOLOGY



Left: The Bernoulli disc drive allows for a flexible disc and a simplified laser read/write head that can be held closer to the surface than with conventional rigid optical discs. Head crash is avoided as whenever the disc loses momentum its natural tendency is to fall away from the rigid drive plate.

by Bernoulli, the 18th century Swiss mathematician, when the air above a surface moves faster than the air below it causes 'lift' on that surface, rather in the manner lift occurs with an aeroplane wing. In the Bernoulli disc drive the disc is spun adjacent to a rigid plate. The pressure differential lifts the disc towards the plate and the pressure is then stabilised at the optimum head/disc distance. If at any time the air pressure in the drive is

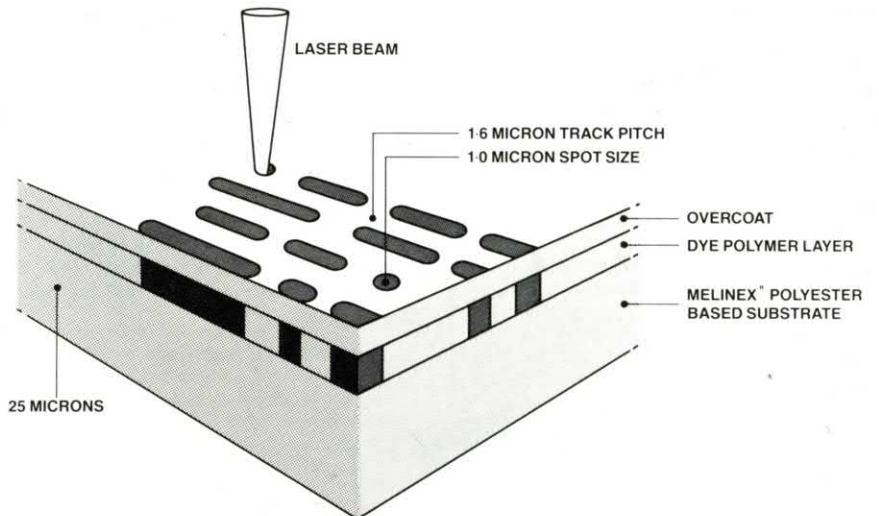
Below: The optical structure of a Digital Paper disc shares similarities with conventional products.

are seen in large-scale data storage and the first four production models will be supplied to the Canadian Department of National Defence and the Canadian Center for Remote Sensing in mid-1989.

The first disc drive developed by Bernoulli Optical Systems Corporation (BOSCO) of Boulder, Colorado USA echoes many of the characteristics of that company's existing 'Bernoulli Box' magnetic disc drives (used as high capacity 'Winchester' alternatives in small computer installations). Though the optical aspects of laser recording and replay of Digital Paper are similar to existing rigid optical discs, the Bernoulli principle makes the flexible drive unit quite different.

In a Bernoulli drive the disc is able to be spun very close to the optical head without fear of a collision. A disc/head separation to the order of 1 micron is possible. This allows a simplification of the whole optical assembly with reduced crosstalk and increased data capacity.

The reason the disc and head do not collide is that, according to the principles of fluid technology expressed



Left: Dr Ken Spencer of Creo Products Inc loads a 1,000 gigabyte reel of Digital Paper tape into one of the company's tape drives designed for mainframe data storage.

lost (or the drive subject to vibration of shock) the natural inclination is for the head and disc to separate rather than collide.

The 5.25" Bernoulli Digital Paper disc drive offers 1 gigabyte of recordable storage and is seen as having application as a permanent, low-cost data storage/archiving medium in the personal computer market.

But what of Digital Paper's application to mass production of discs by the master and stamp process used for such as LaserVision and CD? According to ICI the material is suitable for a stamped, mass replication process and discussions are under way with other manufacturers to develop the product in this area. (Names of these other manufacturers were not forthcoming when we enquired.)

As a mass replicated disc product for audio and video Digital Paper obviously encroaches on some pretty well established technologies and one can only wait to see whether any harmonisation between the old and new follows or the new material makes its own way in the world with a whole new range of optical hardware.

AUDIO VIDEO for '88/89

Forthcoming products, including CD Video

About this time of year we've become accustomed to mentioning the new audio and video products for the coming winter season. These are usually premiered to dealers in the spring with the aim of winning orders in good time to catch the build-up to xmas - always a busy time to sell new electronics.

This year not all the manufacturers showed their new products and so coverage will not be as complete. What follows is just a random selection of what caught the eye and ear.

The product that received more exposure than might have been expected so soon in the year was PAL Super-VHS (actually PAL/SECAM S-VHS - like videodisc, one size fits all), the

upgraded VCR format that has been available in NTSC markets for about a year. Showings of PAL models from several manufacturers would indicate this to be the big product in video dealers this coming season. (Well, as big as any product totting a four-figure price tag can be.) Provided CD Video reaches the market in some form by the proposed September launch date this could be the product to feature heavily in audio dealers' displays. Surprisingly, even with the over-extended build-up that CD Video has been subjected to, the product still appears to have some legs.

What CD Video could have done without is sharing the limelight with the new tape format; comparisons are bound

to be made. It's not the old "but it can't record" thing; more the fact that any second-rate masters used for a CD Video disc are now going to be impossible to justify when consumers can record images of better quality themselves. (Maybe that's why Philips is putting so much emphasis on CD-V being an **audio** product - hoping that the picture will assume a secondary role.)

It's worth mentioning the demo of Super-VHS put on by JVC. After a series of specially shot test pieces revealing the vastly improved resolution and colour fidelity the audience was treated to some movie excerpts supplied by Paramount (prefaced by the disclaimer that such excerpts imply no intention by Paramount to supply pre-recorded software on Super-VHS). Even at the viewing distance we were set at (which was a bit further away from the screen than ideal) the *Top Gun* excerpt revealed all the usual noise patterning and graininess we're accustomed to seeing on disc. *Beverly Hills Cop II* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* were grainy too. Paramount's 35mm-originated feature film excerpts didn't look as good as the video originated footage by JVC. That should give you some indication of how good Super-VHS can be - and how much better companies need to make their film-to-video transfers.

Remotes

Raising the standard of home video obviously bodes well for home audio/video in general. It should mean more attention paid to the picture performance of TV's and the further integration of the video and hi-fi. But every road has at least a few bumps.

Last year's A/V system snag was the mix'n match remote syndrome - where the temptation to step outside the range of one manufacturer's components was hindered by the fact that you started losing some of the control functions on the main remote control. To the rescue came the programmable remote into which you could feed all the signal pulses from your existing remote handset/s.

One of the best value for money programmable remotes we've encountered thus far is the Pioneer CU-AV100 Smart Remote Control Unit. It has a load of buttons on the front panel and should do just about everything you need - it'll even manage the central locking on your



Pioneer
CU-AV100
programmable
remote

car if that is your won't, in fact, anything that you already have an existing infra-red remote for, in addition to any of Pioneer's SR (System Remote) components.

But if you own a VCR with a rotary jog/shuttle control (or are maybe hankering after a disc player like the CLD-99S sometime) you will still have to forego the dream of a single remote on the armchair. (Availability of the CU-AV100 is from now and the price is £69-95 which works out to about £1 a button.

RGB, Y/C & CVBS

Another of the minor snags that has arisen is just what type of video signals one is going to need to route through the system. A year or two back it seemed sufficient to ensure everything (TV monitor, VDP, VCR, TV tuner etc) had composite (CVBS) inputs and outputs - either in the form of BNC plugs and sockets or the more straightforward phonos.

Now we have videodisc players due from Philips and Marantz that convert the composite signal on the disc into RGB and Super-VHS and ED-Beta VCRs that output split chrominance/luminance signals. Therefore any attempt to

Philips

In LDR-13 we carried some advance information of Philips Series 7 A/V system, including a diagram of how a set of components should be connected. The accompanying photo showed some pre-production dummies. Well, the goods have arrived for real now but on the units seen at the Philips show there was no sign of RGB/Scart connectors so possibly this range is not as suited to readers as first thought. (Also they are not available separately.) It may be worth keeping a look out for the next range of Matchline components (Matchline 4) instead which may show up at the end of the year. oo.

Philips did have a healthily proportioned 80cm/32" prototype Matchline 4 monitor TV on display. Black-finished and 'technically' styled it's the best-looking Matchline so far and the whole range will follow in this design. Philips has been a bit tardy in following the trend in large tube TVs but this product gap should be remedied by the end of the year. The 80cm model won't be cheap (should be into four figures) but it has the Picture In Picture feature and, like all the recent Matchlines, has NTSC video capability.

try writing or phoning to persuade them.

Pioneer

Pioneer was showing a new VSX-3300S A/V amp-cum-radio-tuner with its videodisc players (which we'll get to shortly), but though it has surround it is not a true Dolby Surround unit and might be a little lightweight in features for LDR readers. It is not available in Italy for some reason but out Italian readers might like to know about the VSA-700 A/V Dolby Surround Amplifier with Digital Delay that is **only** available there. This looks like a slightly more serious piece of business than the unit we get but the UK might be seeing something more in the A/V line from Pioneer next year.

Pioneer's TV range seems to overlap a bit these days. The SV-2802/2502/2102 (28"/25"/21") TVs are the ones that have the add-on NTSC video board option which the 2803 etc models don't. A more upscale PAL/NTSC monitor/receiver is available from Pioneer but presently only to special order via Stereo Regent Street in London (see ad). This goes for about £950 but doesn't have the now-essential Y/C input or RGB. But there may be a proper UK version to follow sometime in the future that does.

The next Pioneer Combi will be the CLD-1200, similar to the current US CLD-1030 shown here.



bring these signals together into a switchbox or A/V amp means you need plenty of sockets of each type to ensure everything can be hooked in.

It's not as bad as it seems - the composite video signal is easily carried in the seldom-well-spoken-of-but-we're-stuck-with-it Euro (or SCART) connector. Other pins in this 21-pin plug have been allotted to the RGB signals, so this connector very nearly does all. All except for the new S-terminal for the split chrominance/luminance signal that is neither composite or RGB but somewhere in the middle.

So if you are connecting everything up the right way on your switcher or amp you'll need at least one RGB input if you have a Philips or Marantz VDP, a couple of S-terminals if you think you might end up with two of the new VCRs (that's not as extravagant as it seems, one might just be for occasional editing or dubbing with a borrowed second machine), plus a couple of composites to take care of composite output VCRs and VDPs. (Bring back the radiogramme, eh?)

Sony

Sony showed a new A/V amplifier that is worth mentioning. Priced at £299-95 the TA AV480B is a 2 x 100 watts stereo plus 2 x 30 watts rear Dolby Surround unit with 4 video and 4 audio inputs. It comes with a programmable remote that will cope with other manufacturers' products you might wish to control and there is an alternative (additional cost) remote control available that has more functions (but no jog/shuttle!). The 430mm wide, black finish amp will connect in with other Sony SIRCS (Sony's remote control linkage system) components. The actual unit at the Sony show was not the final UK production model but the back panel looked well-populated with sockets (including a load of S-terminals).

Moving up the price range somewhat, Sony was showing its SDP-777ES Dolby Pro Logic Digital Surround Processor with a view to gauging response for a UK introduction. A £ price in the region of the model number was being hinted at, so if you are still interested you can

So What About CD Video?

There's not much point building up an A/V system without a focal point, which to many people's minds should be a disc player of some sort, regardless of what anyone is going to call it. This year (and it is supposed to be September **this** year according to Philips) the name is CD Video.

Philips showed the CDV 475 in its range of forthcoming equipment and is talking of introducing a Clip player as well during the CD Video launch period. It may be that a different combi player is made available in mainland Europe - either as an additional choice or an alternative. The £499 price of the CDV 475 seems firm and there was no indication of any change to the unit to make it capable of playing the 8cm CD single without an adaptor. Seeing as Philips is very insistent that CD Video is an audio product this omission is serious; virtually every other CD player

introduction this autumn will be 8cm capable - and at a lot less than £500.

Quizzed on the state of the trade-in offer against existing LaserVision players Philips reckons that those readers registered with its Silver Disc Club will be receiving offer information in good time for the launch. We don't have any details of the offer itself but those who take it up will be able to effect the machine changeover through a local dealer. It won't be a direct exchange with Philips. This will mean both an opportunity to inspect the player beforehand and to arrange some form of extended finance if necessary. The trade-in offer was always described to us as being of limited duration so the news that consumers won't be expected to cough up nigh on £500 in one lump with little advance warning is reassuring.

Less reassuring is the manner in which the CDV 475 was presented at the show - hardly any discs to be seen. While there was a different Robert Cray clip on display the player was accompanied by only the opera sampler, a 20cm Level 42 disc and two or three old clips. There were not even any empty sleeves stapled up on the wall behind to give an intimation of the wealth of software we'd been led to expect would be available for the CD-V launch, now just months away. Hardly an enticement.

Some folks from Polygram were on hand to field questions on software (which Philips neatly sidestepped). We got to speak to one (who was unaware of the existence of LDR and as a result possibly less defensive about the sort of questions that might crop up), but despite taking some time to talk he didn't come up with much that we didn't already know or feared to be true.

The lack of commitment to CD-V by software companies was put down to their reluctance to show their hands too early. We heard the old argument that CD-V could be **so big** that no-one wants to make a deal too soon and at too low price; and the one about the well-known pop stars who'd seen the system and were knocked out by it and

were really behind it. But no actual discs.

On the film side of things it is unlikely that the number of movies claimed to be available at launch will be. Indeed, it seems that all the official information about software we have conveyed in the past should be forgotten about. At a guess the CD Video launch package from Polygram will consist of what it consists of and progress from there, depending on how well the promotion takes off.

In spite of the vaporous nature of the software, Pioneer projects an image of some enthusiasm with CD Video. In October it will launch the CLD-1200 Combi player - an 8/12/20/30cm machine (similar to the Japanese CLD-77/US CLD-1030) selling at £550 or so.

It will be launched in October "regardless"; this meaning regardless of any further postponements of the CD Video system launch by the Philips group. Is this reckless talk? Pioneer UK has been maintaining for sometime that the UK would see a new player as long as few as 50 titles were made available at the launch, the argument being that CD started out with a dire shortage of discs and survived. And survived quite well. So why not CD-V? Some extra efforts are being made to drum up support from record companies for CD-V by Pioneer.

Although it is too soon to know the details, Pioneer is working on a trade-in deal too. Owners of UK model LD-700 and 1100 players will be offered some incentive to trade up to the new combi. More should be known around September/October time. (The offer is specific to UK model players - overseas PAL Pioneer LD player owners had best enquire with their local Pioneer company to see whether anything similar will operate.)

Sony showed CD Video as part of a special demo of some of its new products with a view to a UK introduction. Two players were shown: a Japanese model Clip player (CDP-301V) and a specially prepared PAL version of the MDP-201 Combi player (which didn't have any model number on it).

Rather in the manner Pioneer's CD-V display was well received, the Sony demonstration was similarly positive and both Clip and Combi players could be in Sony's mind to launch. Though no firm prices were being quoted a suggestion of around £300 for the Clip player was forthcoming. An equivalent audio-only CD player in the Sony range would be about £250 so this gives some idea of the premium the video facility commands ie. not much.

That Sony is presenting CD Video in such an upfront manner to its dealers virtually eliminates any doubt it will come into the PAL market - but this will probably be slightly after Philips and Pioneer. Something about "second wave" was mentioned.

Other manifestations of CD-V were spotted. Regardless of what they might be doing with CD-V, a trip to any Hitachi show is always worthwhile because of the company's regular use of videodisc players as a signal source for any piece of NTSC equipment needed to be demonstrated. So one got to see them feeding signals to Hitachi pocket TVs, a new projection TV planned for introduction next year and so on.

The projection TV was showing a Clip disc and it would seem that the company was testing the waters with dealers about CD-V. Hitachi's attitude to PAL CD-V was fairly cool last year in Berlin but there was mention of a possible UK model in '89.

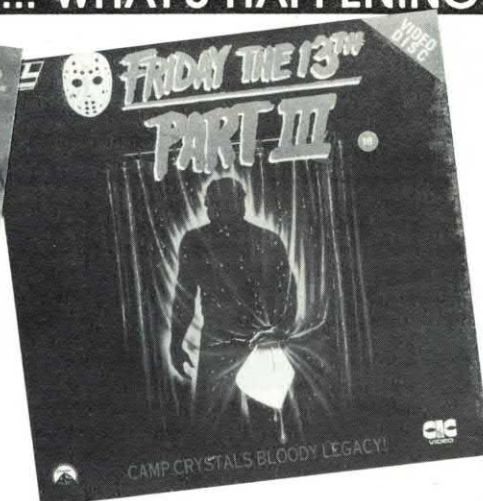
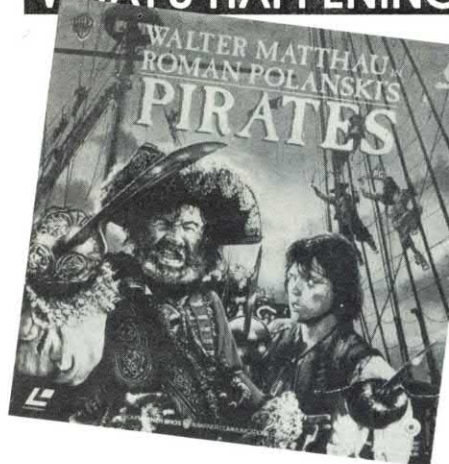
Similarly, Sharp, a former VHD supporter but recent convert to optical, was displaying its Japanese model CD-V900 Clip player that might turn up in PAL form if the market looks like it will take off.

While Technics/Panasonic is one of the major collaborators with Philips for CD-V there are no plans for any introductions this year in the UK. In fact, the company seems to be steering pretty much clear of anything to do with home A/V for the time being.

(Other believed front-runners in the CD-V promotion, Marantz and Yamaha, were not participating in the spring trade shows.)

Sony's CDP-301V (top) is very nearly the same size as the un-numbered Combi beneath it when viewed from the front.





No Solution To CAA Problem - Yet

There is still no firm news about the CAA LaserVision discs that have proved incompatible with all the models of Pioneer player. Relations between PDO (who made them) and Lightning (who released and distributed them) have soured considerably since the demise of LV in the UK. Essentially, Lightning is reluctant to take the replacements (which **have** been made) into stock until some compensation is forthcoming from PDO for the considerable costs involved in shipping them out and taking back the originals. Now that Lightning has been frightened off releasing LV discs by the chaotic and secretive manner of the CD Video introduction there is no great incentive for them to reach any agreement. Stalemate.

That leaves a quantity of consumers sitting on discs they cannot play satisfactorily on their machines - the usual fault is of the picture dropping into black and white at intervals towards the end of the disc side. The problem discs are:

Big Trouble In Little China
Friday 13TH
Friday 13TH - Part III
Howard... A New Breed Of Hero
The Mosquito Coast
Pirates
Pretty In Pink
Young Sherlock Holmes

Some readers report a measure of success in returning their faulty copies of these discs and obtaining replacements that will play OK. Sometimes it has taken two or three attempts, sometimes it has not been possible to find a disc that will play 100%.

Our present suggestion to troubled owners is to wait till the next LDR in which we hope to carry a review of the latest Pioneer player, the CLD-1200. Depending on how well this copes with the problem CAA discs will establish the best course of action to be taken subsequently.

Note: These eight listed discs play perfectly satisfactorily on Philips players. Since the beginning of the year PDO has modified its mastering machine to make the most recent CAA discs to (none of which has been released; apart from the eight re-presses they

have all been digital CD Video discs) fully compatible with Pioneer players.

LV Catalogue Corrections

The Big List In LDR-17 had to have one omission, didn't it? It was just too much to hope that we'd get it 100% complete the first time round. The absentee is *Popeye And Friends In Outer Space* on the Select label and readers are invited to amend their listings accordingly. We have to thank Rolf Kindermann for pointing out this omission (and supplying a whole list of other minor corrections which we'll use next time the list is printed). Hans Kristian Pedersen tells us he has a complete list of running times too which we'll also incorporate in a future reprinting.

Several people have queried the stock column in the list. This does contradict many of the deletion notices we passed on in recent issues but this stock column is (or was a couple of months back) a reasonably accurate accounting of the titles held in stock by the two wholesalers. Many of the titles we had previously listed as deleted were just sold out at Lightning Distribution. However, S. Gold still had many of these in stock - and still do. Therefore it is important to try more than one retailer when trying to obtain a disc listed as being in stock - most retailers only draw their stock from one or the other wholesalers, rarely both.

Small Ads

The Small Ads column is an ideal way for readers to communicate or buy, sell and exchange discs etc. List your advert clearly on a separate piece of paper from any other correspondence. The fee is £1-25 and will cover up to 40 words. We cannot take ads over the telephone. Due to the disproportionately high cost involved in sending small sums of money from abroad, overseas readers need send no money and can pay by just having one issue subtracted from their subscription account.

The deadline for the next issue is August 26th.

WANTED in good condition Trading Places, Star Trek III Search For Spock, Alien. Willing to pay good price - D. Stone, 26 Palewell Close, St Paul's Cray, Orpington, Kent BR5 3BX. Tel: 01-302 9560.
WANTED - Will swap Friday 13TH and Scanners for new copy of Police Academy. Ring Christian Webb (0924) 279637.

WANTED - Stevie Nicks, Pale Moon, Takanaka World, Alien, Star Trek III, Blues Brothers. Tel: 01-708 5045.

FOR SALE - LV Discs in both PAL & NTSC. SAE for list. B. Collier, 12 Coronation Drive, Leigh, Lancs WN7 2UU.

FOR SALE - LV collection including many deleted titles. SAE for lists to Mr P. Kondrotas, 83 York Street, Bedford MK40 3RN.

FOR SALE - 2001, 48 Hours, Apocalypse Now, Best Of Benny Hill, Blues Brothers, Brainstorm, Jaws and 350 other titles including many deletions, all for £3200. For full list send 50p and large SAE to C.J. Holdstock, 10 Maes-Yr-Afon, Holywell, Clwyd CH8 7HP.

FOR SALE - Pioneer LD-1100 videodisc player with r/c, bargain £120 with 2 films. Also Star Wars trilogy on laser disc for sale, bargain at £35. Phone (0742) 884183 or write to Mr J. Jagla, 92 Firtree Estate, Thurgoland, Sheffield S30 7BG.

FOR SALE - VLP 700 with r/c plus 80 discs, including Jaws for £300. Buyer collects. A. Bourne Tel: (0452) 410523.

WANTED - Playboy Vol 1 (Dutch), Grease, Blues Brothers, 1941, all Tom & Jerrys, Saturday Night Fever, Back To The Future, any 20/30cm promo material from Pioneer/Philips, any Mike Hunter hardcore discs (but not Sensations or Girls USA). Also Laser Disc Reviews 1,2,3 (originals only). Interested in anything on CD-V. Write or Phone to Bernd Moeller, Dimfelweg 12, 2000 Hamburg 26, W. Germany. Tel: 040 217908

HAVE YOU AN NTSC PLAYER? - Thinking of buying one? If you're interested in forming a club with other similarly equipped LV fans to swap news, reviews and information, write to: C.A. Bick, 5 Sedge Mead, Netley Abbey, Southampton SO3 5EY.

FOR SALE - PAL LV Discs at £3 each: No Nukes, 100 Rifles, Fantastic Voyage, Emperor Of The North, Body Music. At £4: Horseback, Harry Carpenter II. At £6: Tubes Video, Lords Of Discipline, Great Railways, Duran Duran/Sing Blue Silver, Electric Horseman. At £8: Starting Over, Vice Squad, Year Of Living Dangerously. At £10: Tora, Tora, Tora. At £12: Purple Rain.

NTSC LV Discs at £6: Firesign Theatre/Hot Shorts, Purple Rain, The New Kids, Big City Comedy, Grateful Dead/Dead Ahead, Working Stiffs, Cameo. At £9: Flamingo Kid, Howie Mandel/Watusi Tour, Steven Wright/Live, Billy Crystal/Don't Get Me Started. At £10: Sawdust & Tinsel, Dungeonmaster, Watermelon Man, Meatballs II, Flashdance, Star Trek III, Carlin At Carnegie. At £12: Blacula, Top Secret, Patti La Belle/Rainbow Tour, Electric Boogaloo-Breakin 2, Under A Cherry Moon. At £14: Crime Story

Inland postage £2 per shipment regardless of quantity. Overseas by quotation. Phone first to confirm availability. Tel: 01-351 4535. LDR, PO BOX 526, LONDON SW10 9AB



U.S.A. REPORT

June 1988 has now become the launch proper of CD Video with the new format discs finally becoming available and a selection of new hardware with it.

Sony MDP-200

Sony's first Combi player has gone on the market. The addition of the Sony name to the list of hardware backers in the US has always been seen as a significant development. The player Sony has chosen to introduce turns out not to be the MDP-AV1 as originally reported but a full-width (430mm) model similar to the Japanese MDP-201 player, although for America it has become the MDP-200. The player bears the logo "AV Laser" which is the term Sony is using in its advertising for the product. It is being prominently advertised in the video journals so Sony is obviously serious about making a go of the product though there have been

reservations voiced by company officials about the speed of take-off of CD Video. They see it being a slow build rather than a dramatic take-up.

Pioneer CLD-3030

New models from Pioneer are the CLD-3030 (the frame-store version of the recently introduced CLD-1030) and the LD-W1. We ran a write-up on the Japanese equivalent of the CLD-3030 (the CLD-99S) in LDR-17 which covered most of its features. The US model has a redesigned drawer to allow the playing of the 8cm CD Single without the need for an adaptor. The 3030 has a four-times oversampling digital filter and twin digital to analogue converters. The list price is \$1,300.

Pioneer LD-W1

Pioneer's most spectacular introduction has to be the LD-W1, a

LaserVision-only player but able to play all four sides of two discs at one load. If you want to watch *Gone With The Wind* without stirring from your armchair the LD-W1 is the machine to have.

It's a biggie, but from the front it just resembles one of the current Pioneer combis (minus its display panel) with an extra slim box on top. The list price is \$1,700 and the player incorporates a digital frame-store capability with the rotary jog/shuttle control being restricted to the remote. (Now there is no need to get up, there's no need to put the controls on the player, right?)

Pioneer quotes a 5 - 15 second gap in the programme while the LD-W1 changes sides. The player will play through a four-sided programme automatically in

Below: Run your own double-features without stirring from your seat with the new Pioneer LD-W1.





sequence or the user can program and search over any of the four disc sides.

Philips' Next Combis

Due later in the year are three combi players from Philips/Magnavox. These are the first 'proper' Philips combis. By proper one means made by Philips (in this case the Marantz factory in Japan

which is part of the Philips group). The earlier stop-gap Magnavox CDV 474 was essentially a Yamaha player, a version of the CD-V1000. Two of the new players will be sold under the Magnavox brand name as well, but the top of the range model will be sold with a Philips badge on it.

All the players have the anticipated 16-bit 4x oversampling audio feature. The

Above: Some of the pre-launch CD-V demo samples with their gold sleeves.

Magnavox CDV 484 is the basic model. The CDV 485 has ten function keys on the front panel (in addition to the remote), a headphone connection and the Favourite Track Selection (FTS) feature found on the company's CD players. FTS allows selected tracks to be stored in memory for later recall without the need for any re-programming.

Top of the range is the Philips CDV 488 which has a digital frame memory for CAV effects on CLV discs and a large programmable remote control. (The 488 is like the Japanese Marantz CDV 770 illustrated last issue.)

CD Video Discs

The initial list of CD-V Clips is published here, all PolyGram and WEA titles. The MCA disc was a promo done earlier in the year but apparently not sold directly through retail outlets. MCA Records is being claimed as a supporter of CD Video but no titles are to hand as yet. Likewise CBS Records. Sony, which now owns CBS Records, is supposed to be equipping its US plant (DADC, Indiana) for 12 and 20cm formats. All the WEA titles were pressed in PDO, Blackburn towards the end of May plus some of the PolyGram titles. (PDO in King's Mountain doesn't presently have videodisc capacity - for either CD-V or LV.)

The 19 longform PolyGram titles, the only large format discs being promoted under the CD Video banner so far, were expected to follow on from the Clip releases. (Full list last issue.)

Up until these first CD-Vs were released the only Clip discs to be found were those being supplied to selected US dealers to aid player demonstrations. They weren't intended for sale, but of course have been sold unofficially to appease impatient customers who have

The First US CD-V Releases

Date	Price	Number	Label	Artiste/Title
6.88	9.98	64001	Elektra	Baker, Anita / Sweet Love
6.88	9.98	870-701-2	Mercury	Bon Jovi / Livin' On A Prayer
6.88	9.98	870-702-2	Mercury	Bon Jovi / Never Say Goodbye
6.88	9.98	870-703-2	Atlanta	Cameo / Word Up
6.88	9.98	870-704-2	Mercury	Cinderella / Nobody's Fool
6.88	9.98	870-705-2	Mercury	Cinderella / Somebody Save Me
6.88	9.98	870-714-2	Mercury	Cray, Robert / Right Next Door
6.88	9.98	870-715-2	Mercury	Cray, Robert / Smokin Gun
6.88	9.98	64002	Elektra	Cure, The / Just Like Heaven
6.88	9.98	25679	WB	Fagen, Donald / New Frontier
6.88	9.98	870-706-2	Polydor	Fat Boys / Wipe Out
6.88	9.98	870-720-2	Polydor	Kingdom Come / Get It On
6.88	9.98	870-709-2	Mercury	Kiss / Crazy Crazy Nights
6.88	9.98	870-710-2	Mercury	Kiss / Tears Are Falling
6.88	9.98	870-711-2	Mercury	Kool & The Gang / Stone Love
6.88	9.98	870-712-2	Polydor	Level 42 / Something About You
6.88	9.98	81830	Atlantic	Levert / Casanova
3.88	Promo only		MCA	Lovett, Lyle / She's No Lady
6.88	9.98	81838	Atlantic	Madam X / Just That Kind Of Girl
6.88	9.98	25681	WB	Madonna / Papa Don't Preach
6.88	9.98	870-708-2	Mercury	Mellencamp John / Lonely Ol' Night
6.88	9.98	870-707-2	Mercury	Mellencamp, John / Paper In Fire
6.88	9.98	870-718-2	Mercury	Men Without Hats / Pop Goes The World
6.88	9.98	870-713-2	Polydor	Moody Blues / Your Wildest Dreams
6.88	9.98	25680	WB	Newman, Randy / I Love L.A.
6.88	9.98	870-719-2	Mercury	Rainmakers, The / Downstream
6.88	9.98	870-717-2	Mercury	Rush / The Big Money
6.88	9.98	870-716-2	Mercury	Scorpions / Big City Nights
6.88	9.98	870-700-2	Mercury	Winbush, Angela / Angel

8.88	FF	39.98	5145-80	FOX	Anguish [R]	L	DS	CC	PA	
5.88	Doc	99.95		PSI	Animal Encyclopaedia I:Mammals I	A	MA		PJ	Carnivores/Sea
5.88	Doc	99.95	PSI-88-007	PSI	Animal Encyclopaedia II:Mammals II	A	MA		PJ	Elephants
5.88	Doc	99.95	PSI-88-008	PSI	Animal Encyclopaedia III:Mammals III	A	MA		PJ	Monkeys/Bats
6.88	Doc	99.95	PSI-88-009	PSI	Animal Encyclopaedia V:Birds II	A	MA		PJ	Plovers/Gulls
3.88	Doc	99.95		PSI	Animal Encyclopaedia VI:	A	MA		PJ	Reptiles/Amphib
6.88	FF	36.95	ID 5269NW	NWV	Apprentice To Murder [PG-13]	L	Di	CX	CC	3M
6.88	FF	39.98	4744-80	FOX	Baby Boom [PG]	L	DS		CC	PA
6.88	Mus	34.95	071 204-1	LON	Bach: Brandenburg Concertos	L	S	Di		
6.88	FF	34.98	37212	WHV	Barfly	L		CX	CC	PA
5.88	FF	34.95	ML 100321	MGM	Barkleys Of Broadway, The	L		CX		PA
8.88	Mus	29.95		MV	Beethoven String Quartets 9 & 11	L	S		CX	PA
6.88	Mus	34.95	070 200-1	PHI	Beethoven: Symphonies 4 & 7/Kleiber	L	S	Di		
6.88	Mus	34.95	072 201-1	DG	Beethoven: Symphonies/Bernstein & VP	L	S	Di		
8.88	FF	34.95	594 LV	DIS	Benji The Hunted [G]	L	DS		CX	CC
6.88	Com	36.95	ID 5265LO	LOR	Best Of Comic Relief, The	L		CX		3M
5.88	FF	49.95	ID 5256LO	LOR	Black And White In Color [PG]	L	Di	CX	+	3M
6.88	FF	44.95		CRI	Black Narcissus	L	MA		PA	& Commentary
7.88	FF	79.95	CC 1141L	CRI	Blow-Up	L	MA		PA	WS & Commentary
5.88	FF	34.95	ML 100015	MGM	Blow-Up	L		CX		PA
6.88	Mus	39.95	072 205-1	DG	Boheme, La (La Scala w. Freni)	L	S	Di		
6.88	Mus	24.95	080 297-1	MER	Bon Jovi/Slippery When Wet - Videos	L	S	Di		
6.88	FF	34.98	40727	MCA	Born In East L.A. [R]	LA		CX		PA
6.88	FF	34.95	30143	COL	Born Yesterday	L				PA
6.88	Mus	34.95	072 203-1	DG	Brahms: Violin Conc D maj/Bernstein	L	S	Di		
5.88	Ani	34.95	ML 101323	MGM	Bugs Bunny Superstar	L		CX		PA
5.88	FF	59.95	ID 5249VE	VES	Caligula [unrated]	L	Di	CX		XXX version?
7.88	FF	59.95	ID 5230		Cardinal, The	L	S	Di	CX	3M
8.88	Ani	24.95		DIS	Cartoon Classics:Here's Donald/Goofy	L				3M
4.88	Mus	29.95	ID 5181	VES	Casey Kasem 1: The Sixties	L	Di			3M
5.88	Mus	29.95		VES	Casey Kasem: The Soul Years	L	Di			3M
6.88	Mus	34.95	PI-88-003	PII	Casiopea/New York 25 Hours	L	S	Di	CX	PJ
6.88	Ani	36.95	ID 5262LO	LOR	Chipmunk Adventure, The	L	S	Di	CX	3M
8.88	Mus	29.95	PS-88-025	PIS	Coltrane, John/The Coltrane Legacy	L	S	Di	CX	PA
7.88	FF	39.98	40763	MCA	Cry Freedom [PG]	L	DS	Di	CX	PA
6.88	FF	49.95	ID 5285LO	LOR	Dangerous Moves	L	Di		CX	+
5.88	FF	39.95	ML 100649	MGM	David Copperfield	L		CX		PA
6.88	Mus	39.95	PA-88-214	PIO	Davidsbundlertanze (NY City Ballet)	L	S	Di	CX	PA
5.88	FF	36.95	ID 5129ME	MED	Death Wish 4: The Crackdown [R]	L	S	Di	CX	3M
5.88	XXX	49.95	10051	IMA	Doll Face	L				Porno
5.88	FF	36.95		VES	Dolls	L	US	Di		3M
6.88	FF	34.98	21004	MCA	Double Indemnity	L			CX	PA
7.88	FF	34.95	ML 101401	MGM	Dr No [PG]	L		CX	CC	PA
4.88	Doc	39.95			Ducks Guide/Water Fowl & Game Birds	L	S	Di	CX	PA
8.88	FF	34.95	ML 100256	MGM	Easter Parade	L	Di	CX		3M
6.88	FF	36.95	ID 5194VE	VES	Eternal Evil	L	S	Di		3M
6.88	Mus	29.95	080 221-1		Eurythmics/Live	L	DS	Di		CC
8.88	FF	34.95	LV 1762	PAR	Fatal Attraction [R]	L	DS	Di		CC
5.88	FF	34.95	ML 101134	MGM	Fatal Beauty [R]	L	DS	Di	CX	CC
6.88	FF	44.95	ID 5247VE	VES	Flesh + Blood	L	Di	CX		3M
5.88	FF	36.95	ID 5229OR	ORI	Florida Straits	L	S	Di	CX	3M
6.88		29.95	ID 5276OR	ORI	Frog	L	S	Di	CX	CC
7.88	Doc	39.95	ID 5277LO	LOR	From Mao To Mozart - Isaacs Stern Doc	L	Di	CX		3M
6.88	FF	34.95	ML 101402	MGM	From Russia With Love [PG]	L		CX		PA
5.88	FF	49.95	ID 5221LO	LOR	Garden Of The Finzi-Continis, The	L	Di	CX	+	3M
6.88	FF	34.95	30194	COL	Gilda	L				PA
6.88	Mus	34.95	070 202-1	PHI	Giselle (Deutsche Opera & A.B.T.)	L	S	Di		
7.88	FF	34.95	ML 101403	MGM	Goldfinger	L		CX	CC	PA
4.88	FF	49.95		IMA	Good Morning Babylon	L	Di			3M
5.88	FF	36.95	ID 5252LO	LOR	Hearts Of Fire	L	DS	Di	CX	3M
6.88	TVM	36.95	ID 5263LO	LOR	Hitchhiker, The Vol I	L	Di	CX		3M
6.88	TVM	36.95	ID 5264LO	LOR	Hitchhiker, The Vol II	L	Di	CX		3M
6.88	FF	34.95		NEL	Hope And Glory [PG-13]	L	DS		CC	PA
6.88	FF	34.95	90234	NEL	I've Heard The Mermaids Singing	L	S			PA
6.88	FF	36.95	ID 5275ME	MED	Johnny Got His Gun	L	Di	CX		3M
7.88	FF	34.98	5034-80	FOX	Julia And Julia [R]	L	DS		CC	PA
5.88	FF	36.95	ID 5231NW	NWV	Kandyland	L	US	Di	CX	3M
6.88	FF	36.95	ID 5268NW	NWV	Killing Time, The [R]	L	Di	CX		3M
5.88	FF	39.95	ML 100326	MGM	King Of Kings	L	S		CX	PA
6.88	Mus	29.95	080 101-1	MER	Kiss/Exposed	L	S	Di		
5.88	FF	34.95	ML 100399	MGM	Knights Of The Roundtable	L	S		CX	PA
5.88	XXX	49.95	10050	IMA	La Bimbo	L				Porno
8.88	FF	39.95	30922	COL	Last Hurrah, The	L				PA
8.88	FF	34.95	30896	COL	Leonard Part VI [PG]	L	DS		CX	CC
6.88	FF	69.95		CRI	Life And Death Of Colonel Blimp, The	L	MA			PA
8.88	Mus	34.95	PA-88-220	PIO	Live From The Met: Highlights Vol 1	L	S	Di	CX	PA
5.88	FF	36.95	ID 5255ME	MED	Lone Runner, The [PG]	L	Di	CX		3M
5.88	FF	36.95	ID 6011LO	LOR	Made In Heaven	L	DS	Di	CX	3M
6.88	Mus	34.95	072 200-1	DG	Mahler: Symphony No 2/Bernstein	L	S	Di		
3.88	Ani	99.95		PSI	Maniac Age, The/Yoji Kuri	A			+	PJ
6.88	Mus	54.95	PA-88-215	PIO	Manon Lescaut (Metropolitan Opera)	L	S	Di	CX	PA
6.88		36.95	ID 5267LO	LOR	Masks Of Death, The/Sherlock Holmes	L	Di	CX		3M
6.88	FF	44.95	ID 5246VE	VES	Masque Read Death/Premature Burial	L	Di	CX		3M
6.88	FF	44.95	ID 5253LO	LOR	Maurice	L	Di	CX		3M
5.88	FF	34.95	ML 100193	MGM	Midnight Cowboy [R]	L		CX		PA
8.88	FF	34.95	ML 101135	MGM	Moonstruck [PG-13]	L	DS	Di	CX	CC
6.88	Mus	34.95	072 202-1	DG	Mozart:Piano Conc. 19 & 23/Bohm & VP	L	S	Di		
7.88	FF	39.95	ML 101310	MGM	Mr Skeffington	L		CX		PA
7.88	FF	39.95	ML 100031	MGM	Mutiny On The Bounty (1962)	L	S		CX	PA
6.88	Doc	29.95	ID 5280VE	VES	Nat.Geog:Australia's Improb. Animals	L	Di	CX		3M
6.88	Doc	29.95	ID 5278VE	VES	Nat.Geog:Lions Of The African Night	L	Di	CX		3M
6.88	Doc	29.95	ID 5279VE	VES	Nat.Geographic:The Invisible World	L	Di	CX		3M
5.88	FF	36.95	ID 5254LO	LOR	No Man's Land	L	DS	Di	CX	3M
8.88	FF	34.98	11756	WHV	Nuts	L	DS	Di	CX	CC
6.88	FF	36.95	ID 5261LO	LOR	Orphans	L		CX		3M
7.88	FF	34.98	4746-80	FOX	Overboard [PG]	L	DS		CC	PA
6.88	Mus	39.95	070 204-1	PHI	Pagliacci (La Scala w. Domingo)	L	S	Di		
6.88	Sex	29.95	ID 5242VE	VES	Penthouse Video/Love Stories	L	S	Di	CX	3M
6.88	Mus	36.95	ID 5237VE	VES	Pink Floyd/Recorded Live At Pompeii	L	S	Di	CX	3M
8.88	FF	34.98	24001	MCA	Plainsman, The	L		CX		PA
4.88	Doc			LOR	Playboy Centerfold/Donna Edmondson	A	S	Di	CX	3M
4.88	Doc				Playboy Centerfold/No 1					3M
4.88	Doc				Playboy Centerfold/Rebeka Armstrong					3M
4.88	Doc				Playboy Centerfold/Teri Weigel					3M
6.88	FF	36.95	ID 5520VV	VIR	Prick Up Your Ears	L	S	Di	CX	3M
8.88	FF	34.98	40761	MCA	Prince Of Darkness [R]	L	S	Di	CX	PA
5.88	FF	79.95		CRI	Princess Bride, The [PG]	A	DS	Di	CX	Widescreen
6.88	FF	36.95	ID 5286TS	TRI	Principal, The	L	DS	Di	CX	3M
6.88	FF	36.95	ID 5270NW	NWV	Prison	L	S	Di	CX	3M
5.88	FF	39.95		CRI	Producers, The	L		CX		Widescreen
5.88	FF	36.95	ID 5221VE	VES	Prom Night II - Hello Mary Lou [R]	L	Di	CX		3M

New Releases

For the benefit of readers equipped with NTSC players here is a list of recent and forthcoming LV titles. It includes the first of the PolyGram Group longform 'CD Video' discs which are 100% compatible with LV format discs. Therefore there seems no point in establishing a different list for these. (The CD-V Clips which do require one of the more recent players have been listed separately - on the previous page.)

Discs released or scheduled during the currency of this issue (only) are included in the list. Known forthcoming titles that do not yet have any specific release date are excluded. A listing does not guarantee the disc is released when it says it should be, or that its status will comply with the pre-release information (which comes from Pioneer/LDC, Image Entertainment and PolyGram release sheets).

Discs are listed alphabetically for easy reference with the anticipated month of release given in the first column.

Column two is an approximate content category: **FF** - Feature Film, **Doc** - Documentary, **Mus** - Music, **Com** - Comedy, **Ani** - Animation, **BGV** - Background Video, **TVM** - TV movie, **XXX** - Porno (or at least porno as far as H.M. Customs is concerned).

Columns three to five are price (\$), catalogue number and label respectively. Label abbreviations match those used in our previous UK listings except for these:

COL - RCA/Columbia
CRI - Criterion
DG - Deutsche Grammophon
DIS - Walt Disney
HBO - Home Box Office
IMA - Image
LIG - Lightning Video
LON - London Records
LVA - Laservision Associates
LOR - Lorimar
MED - Media Home Entertainment
MV - Master Vision
NWV - New World Video
ODC - Optical Data Corporation
ORI - Orion
PAR - Paramount
PHI - Philips Records
PII - Pioneer Imports
PIS - Pioneer Signature
PSI - Pioneer Special Interests
TRI - Tri-Star
VOY - Voyager Company

Cinema ratings (where available) are given after the titles.

L or/and **A** determines Long/Active play.

S defines stereo, **DS** is Dolby Stereo /Surround, **US** Ultra Stereo/Surround.

MA is Multi-Audio which covers all uses of the dual soundtrack facility.

Di is Digital Audio.

CX is CX noise reduction.

CC is Closed Captions. Discs with fixed subtitles are shown with **+**.

Pressing codes (which are mostly guesswork before release) are:

PA - Pioneer America
PJ - Pioneer Japan

3M - 3M
DI - Discronics/Laser Video

The final column includes any additional comments of relevance. **WS** indicates some form of widescreen.

8.88 FF	34.98	11003	MCA Psycho [PG]	L	CX	PA	"Remastered"
5.88 FF	36.95	ID 5233VE	VES Rawhead Rex	L	Di CX	3M	
5.88 Mus	29.95	PA-88-198	PIO Ready Steady Go! Volume 1	L	CX	PA	
6.88 Mus	29.95	PA-88-217	PIO Ready Steady Go! Volume 2	L	CX	PA	
6.88 FF	39.98	4743-80	FOX Real Men [PG-13]	L S		CC PA	
5.88 FF	29.95	CC 2000L	CRI Red Balloon/White Mane	L			
5.88 Mus	29.95	ID 5241VE	VES Reed, Lou/Live In New Jersey	L S Di CX		3M	
6.88 FF	36.95	ID 5272LO	LOR Return Of The Living Dead Part II	L US Di CX		3M	
6.88 Mus	59.95	071 501-1	LON Rigoletto (Pavarotti/Gruberova)	L S Di			
5.88 FF	36.95	ID 5251LO	LOR Rita Sue And Bob Too	L Di CX		3M	
7.88 FF	34.98	40109	MCA Road To Utopia	L	CX	PA	
6.88 Mus	34.95	071 200-1	LON Rubenstein Piano Concertos	L S Di			
6.88 FF	36.95	ID 5234VE	VES Running Man, The	L DS Di CX		3M	
6.88 Mus	29.95	080 103-1	MER Rush/Grace Under Pressure Tour	L S Di			
5.88 FF	36.95	ID 5260LO	LOR Russkies	L Di CX		3M	
6.88 FF	36.95	ID 5274ME	MED Saigon Commandos	L Di CX		3M	
4.88 Doc	49.95		VOY Salamandre: Chateaux Of The Loire	A MA		& Stills	
5.88 FF	36.95	ID 5216LO	LOR Sammy And Rosie Get Laid	L Di CX		3M	
5.88 FF	79.95		CRI Scaramouche	A MA		& Commentary	
6.88 BGV	34.95	PI-88-004	PII Sea Is A Lady/Toshiki Kadomatsu	L S Di CX		PJ	
7.88 FF	39.95		CRI Shoot The Piano Player	L		PA Widescreen	
7.88 FF	39.95		CRI Show Boat	L		PA	
5.88 FF	44.95	ID 5245VE	VES Sicilian, The [unrated]	L DS Di CX		3M	
6.88 FF	36.95	ID 5271NW	NWV Sister Sister	L Di CX		3M	
5.88 FF	36.95		LIG Slammer Girls	L Di		3M	
6.88 FF	34.95	90227	NEL Stacking [PG]	L		PA	
6.88 FF	36.95	ID 5214VE	VES Steel Dawn	L S Di CX		3M	
6.88 Doc	36.95	ID 5266LO	LOR Steep And Deep	L Di CX		3M Skiing	
6.88 FF	36.95	ID 5235VE	VES Story Of O Part II, The	L	CX		
6.88 FF	34.95	32771	COL Stranded	L		PA	
8.88 Mus	29.95	PA-88-205	PIO Streisand, Barbara/Central Park	L Di CX		PA 17.6,67 Concert	
5.88 FF	36.95	ID 5195VE	VES Survivor	L Di CX		3M	
6.88 Mus	34.95	070 201-1	PHI Swan Lake (Vienna w.Nureyev/Fonteyn)	L S Di			
5.88 FF	39.95	ML 100075	MGM That's Entertainment Part II [G]	L S Di CX		PA	
5.88 FF	39.95		CRI Threepenny Opera, The	L		+ German audio	
6.88 Mus	59.95	071 502-1	LON Tosca (Kabaivanska/Domingo)	L S Di			
5.88 TVM	36.95	ID 5250NW	NWV Tour Of Duty	L Di CX		3M	
5.88 FF	36.95	ID 5196VE	VES Transmutations	L Di CX		3M	
7.88 Mus	54.95	PA-88-219	PIO Trittico, II (Teatro Alla Scala)	L S Di CX		PA	
8.88 Mus	29.95		PIO Trumpet Kings	L		PA Jazz documentary	
6.88 FF	89.95		CRI Vengeance Is Mine	A		PA	
6.88 FF	36.95	ID 5273ME	MED Virgin Queen Of St Francis High, The	L S Di CX		3M	
5.88 Doc	99.95	PSI-88-005	PSI Visual Pathfinders: Alexieff/Parker A	A CX		PJ	
4.88 Doc	99.95		PSI Visual Pathfinders: John Whitney	A S CX		PJ	
5.88 Doc	94.95		ODC Voyager Gallery, The	A S Di		3M & floppy disk	
6.88 Mus	34.95	071 201-1	LON Wagner Overtures/Solti & Chicago Sym	L S Di			
8.88 FF	49.98		FOX Wall Street	L DS		PA	
6.88 FF	34.95		NEL Whales Of August, The	L		PA	
7.88 XXX	49.95	10049	IMA White Chocolate			Porno	
5.88 BGV	29.95	PS-88-204	PIS Windham Hill/Tibet (Mark Isham)	L S Di CX		PA	
5.88 FF	39.98	11741	WHV Witches Of Eastwick, The	L DS CX CC		PA	
5.88 FF	34.95	ML 100093	MCM Woman Of The Year	L CX		PA	
5.88 FF	36.95	ID 5232VE	VES Wrath, The	L DS Di CX		3M	
6.88 FF	49.95	ID 5284LO	LOR Year Of The Quiet Sun, A	L Di CX +		3M Polish audio	
6.88 Mus	36.95	ID 5236VE	VES Young, Neil/Rust Never Sleeps	L S Di CX		3M	

[continued from page 23]

been sitting on partly redundant hardware this last year. The sleeve inserts for these CD-Vs are a uniform gold design, unlike the official releases, and the discs are marked as demos. Even though we've encountered one of these discs marked as "Made in the U.K." they have all been made in Japan judging by their appearance.

Bits & Pieces

- Some interesting special editions are due from RCA/Columbia. *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* has been put down for a CAV re-issue (\$64.95), possibly in wide screen. Definitely in widescreen will be a *Lawrence Of Arabia* re-issue to follow on from a cinema re-release in early '89. The disc started out being a 250 minute/3-disc CLV package with a final CAV side of still-frame memorabilia, but the last we heard was that the running time had crept up to 337 minutes - and that still didn't include the overture, intermission and walk-out music!
- Further RCA/Columbia titles have been licensed for videodisc release by Image Entertainment over the next two years. The deal involves 110 back catalogue titles.
- **Disc Shortages.** In spite of the recent revamp of Pioneer's Carson pressing plant it is already working triple shifts seven days a week. A further plant expansion is imminent to cope with the increased demand.

Even Image seems to have stretched 3M's capacity to press its discs and has been back to PDO, Blackburn for extra capacity. Image claims to have a current requirement for over 1,000,000 discs a year.

- **Statistics.** An estimated 500,000 videodisc players currently exist in the USA with a projection of 1,000,000 by the end of 1989. These figures sound on the optimistic side. We'll see. Movies account for 85% of disc sales with the balance being music etc. A blockbuster movietitle can sell 20,000-25,000 units with regular 'A' titles doing up to 15,000 and 'B' movies 5,000. An estimate of 50-75,000 sales of *E.T.* this winter is being made. Excluding the contribution CD Video will make, the current flow of new LV titles seems to be rising to over 50 a month.
- Two announcements, partly related, about recordable CDs have been made. The American Tandy Corporation has announced its intention to market a re-recordable CD machine (*THOR-CD*) in January 1990 at a US cost of \$500. Research for this product has already been under way for two years by another US company, Optical Data Inc., from whom Tandy appears to be licensing the technology. The re-recordable disc, blue in colour, relies on a dye polymer coating for its erasability and uses two different wavelength lasers (one to write, one to erase). Disc costs have been put at less than the tape costs of Digital Audio Tape (DAT) which should give the product a very competitive edge according to Tandy. Tandy plans to

THE LASER DISC NEWSLETTER

THE LASER DISC NEWSLETTER is a monthly publication providing laser video disc owners with timely news and reviews of NTSC laser video discs. We cover both American and Japanese releases, and rare or unusual discs. You don't want to miss what we have to say!

A one year, 12 issue, subscription is \$25 within the US - \$40 outside North America. A sample issue will be sent free within the US, or at a cost of \$1 overseas.

THE LASER DISC NEWSLETTER, SUITE 428, 496 HUDSON STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10014, U.S.A.

license the technology to other hardware manufacturers but make the discs itself through its Memtek subsidiary. Backwards compatibility of the discs, allowing them to be replayed on existing CD player hardware, is claimed; the discs will be written to the current CD Audio specification.

One of the founders of Optical Data Inc., Clyde Feyrer, has for the last three years been involved in another company with similar interests, Interactive Data Vision (IDV). At the beginning of June IDV announced a recordable CD of its own, but this time reliant on once-only (WORM) technology. No dates for availability of the product were given.

- **Lawyer Stuff** - The presumed dormant Discovision Associates has reached some sort of agreement with N.V. Philips over optical disc patents that embraces all the CD offshoots of optical videodisc. DVA was set up (and ceased functioning on a day-to-day basis) before CD came onto the scene, but apparently many of the original patents established by its parent, MCA, apply to CD as well as just optical videodisc.

- **Lawyer Stuff II** - Though it hasn't come to be any substantial problem (yet), halfway through the preparation for CD Video it became apparent that if any dealer took to renting the discs they would be in contravention of the First Sale Law which in the US prevents such exploitation of audio products without express permission of the copyright owner. Because the little discs contain both audio and video their exact status is imprecise. Dealers can legally rent the large-format discs because they are classed as videos. [Look, we just write this stuff, don't ask us to make sense of it too.]

- The first CD + Graphics disc to make it onto the market has been Talking Heads' *Naked* in March.

- We started on two special editions, so we'll close on two more. A CAV widescreen version of *The Last Emperor* is planned by Criterion (\$129.95). Also they will be doing a CAV version of a restored *The Adventures Of Robin Hood*. (A CLV version is also due - from MGM.)

The Laser Video Disc Companion

...the book of the
discs of the films

If you had lived in the USA for the last three and a half years and owned a LaserVision player, most months there would have been twenty to thirty discs released from which to select your purchases. For the last three and a half years *The Laser Disc Newsletter* has reviewed the majority of these (plus a smattering of the more interesting Japanese releases) and 1,200 of the reviews have now been condensed into *The Laser Video Disc Companion*.

The book is not likely to become generally available outside the USA so you'll have to send off for a copy. But, even for a PAL-land-locked viewer, the £10 or so you will have to pay for a pile of reviews of discs that won't work on your player will seem worthwhile, purely for the reassurance it will bring; just knowing that movies on disc is a feasible proposition *somewhere* in the English-speaking world counts for a lot during this year (or more) of local deprivation.

The Laser Disc Newsletter itself normally consists of 10-12 duplicated pages of dense text; there are rarely illustrations. It has appeared regularly, at the beginning of each month, thus contradicting the often haphazard release schedule of the discs it deals with. (There is some commonality to the US and UK disc markets!) The newsletter appears to be the effort of a single person, Douglas Pratt, who manages to view and review those twenty to thirty discs each month while still holding down a day job. One is sometimes suspicious of a resort to the forward scan button during the slower moments of some titles but most of the important films on disc get a thorough going over. The reviews tend to favour content over disc presentation but usually a sentence or two is devoted to the visual and aural qualities of the

discs themselves. Catalogue numbers, prices, running times and the like do not feature in the reviews. However, Douglas Pratt obviously knows his stuff and writes in a witty, sustaining style that can work out dangerously expensive reading if you are in a position to be able to play (and thus buy) the discs in question.

For *The Laser Video Disc Companion* a considerable amount of editing of the reviews has been undertaken, presumably for space reasons; the book is all of 448 pages long as it is. This editing favours some reviews but there is some loss - both in respect of content and reader involvement. But this would be the criticism of a committed fan of the medium, whereas the book is probably aimed at a wider audience. The coverage of the book is complete - movies, popular and classical music, opera and ballet and special interest titles are bestowed appropriate representation.

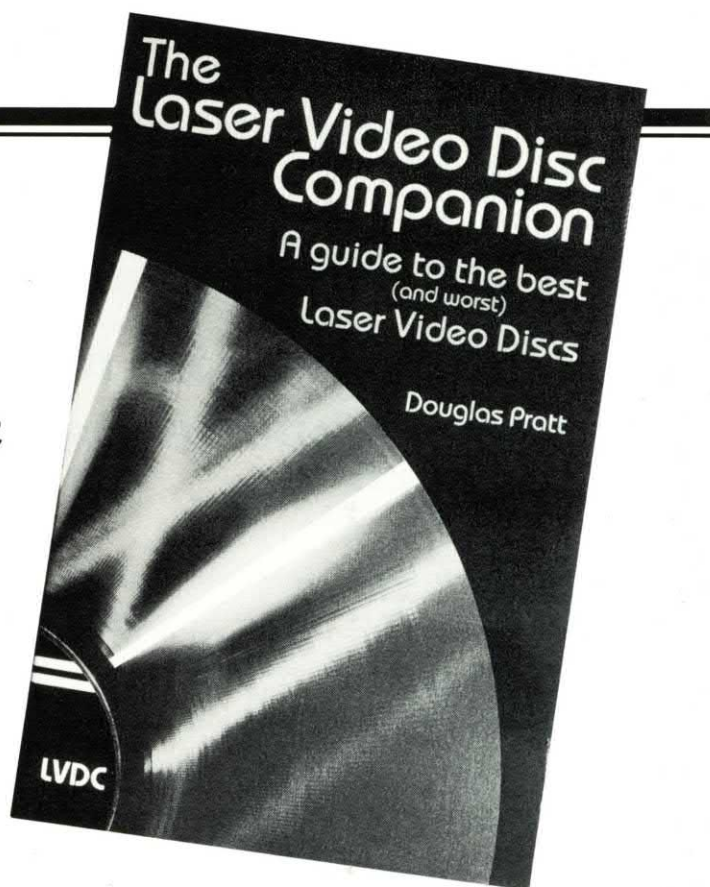
Beyond an introduction to the LaserVision medium itself there are further appendixes that list very nearly all the American releases so far, DiscoVisions included, plus a goodly selection of Japanese titles. Here there are catalogue numbers and some prices and running times, as well as details of stereo/digital sound/CX status etc. (A slight error occurs in the catalogue listings. Discs with Digital Sound are reputed to identified with the abbreviation 'DS' when in fact 'DI' is used.)

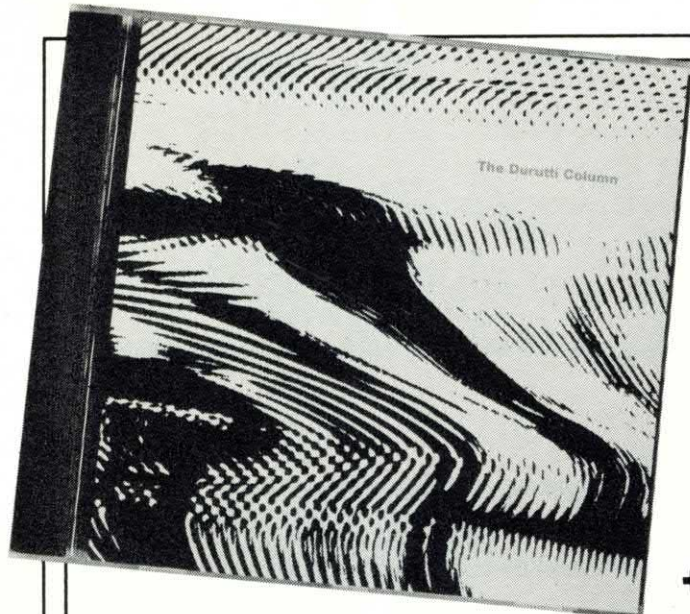
The layout of the reviews is basically alphabetical but, rather annoyingly, some discs have been subjected to group reviews. Though these are cross-referenced in correct alphabetical sequence such grouping does lead to movies like *Beat Street* and *Breakin'* being reviewed together while *Electric Boogaloo Breakin' 2* is dealt

with separately 40 pages on. In some of the other group reviews you have to read carefully to determine which disc is being referred to. This is no problem when reading the book through methodically, but when making subsequent reference back to a specific title it is unnecessarily time-consuming to have to scan through the entire text just to make sure that some crucial detail has not been missed elsewhere in the article. Seems like the book should be either alphabetical or not alphabetical - but not a mixture of the two.

The Laser Video Disc Companion (ISBN 0-918432-86-3) is a soft-cover (laminated) book of approximately A5 dimensions and 448 pages long. The cost is \$16.95 + postage. It can be obtained direct from the publishers - New York Zoetrope, 838 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, U.S.A. Surface mail postage is an additional \$2.00 (\$18.95 total) and airmail is \$13.00 extra (\$29.95 total). Airmail delivery is quoted as between 1 - 2 weeks and the review copy we received by surface mail took a presentable 4-and-a-bit weeks, though it is suggested up to 6 weeks should be allowed. The most convenient (and cheapest) method of payment is via Visa, MasterCard or American Express for which your name, address, card number and expiry date should be forwarded. Alternatively prepayment by international money order is acceptable.

[New York Zoetrope also supplies titles the likes of *The Encyclopaedia Of TV Game Shows*, *Movies Made For Television*, and the *Encyclopaedia Of Television Series, Pilots, And Specials 1937-1984* (this one in three volumes) which all run in the 500-600 page region and would seem essential additions for any trivia library. If interested, make sure to ask for their catalogue when you send in your order.]





CAMBRIDGE VIDEO

8 SEYMOUR STREET
CAMBRIDGE
CB1 3DQ

Telephone (0223) 213042



For all your CD & CD-V requirements

- + ALL NEW TITLES AVAILABLE ON RELEASE DATE
- + EXTENSIVE BACK CATALOGUE SERVICE
- + PLAYERS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES
- + MAIL ORDER FOR UK AND REST OF WORLD
- + TELEPHONE ORDERING SERVICE
- + ACCESS, VISA & AMEX

PHILIPS CDV 475 & MARANTZ
CV-55 CD VIDEO COMBI PLAYERS
AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER

CD VIDEO DISCS DUE IN JULY -
Joy Division/'Atmosphere'
New Order/'True Faith'
New Order/'Blue Monday 1988'

CD-Vs are £7.99 each
+ 50p P & P per order

SEND OR TELEPHONE NOW FOR LISTS

The Original Audio & Video Discount Sounds

20 Chadwell · HERTFORD ROAD · WARE · HERTS SG12 9JY · ENGLAND

TELEPHONE: 0920 61339

WE RECOGNIZE YOUR NEEDS FOR THE ULTIMATE IN A PROFESSIONAL MAIL ORDER SERVICE, THAT IS BACKED BY MAXIMUM RELIABILITY IN REQUIRING ALL OF YOUR CD VIDEO DISCS · COMPACT DISCS FILMS ON VIDEO · MUSIC ON VIDEO AND ANY OF YOUR OTHER AUDIO AND VIDEO NEEDS. FURTHER, IF YOU WANT COMPETITIVE PRICES, SHORT DELIVERY TIMES, 24 HOUR ANSWERING PHONE ORDERING SERVICE, BIG DISCOUNTS ALL THE YEAR ROUND, EXPORT ORDERS DELIVERED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, PLUS AN ELITE **PERSONAL MAIL ORDER SERVICE** THAT IS SECOND TO NONE.

DON'T YOU GET IN CONTACT WITH **ANDREW** WHO WILL ONLY BE TOO PLEASED TO HELP YOU OUT WITH ALL YOUR ENQUIRIES, SO DON'T DELAY, JUST SEND A £1 STAMP AND I THINK YOU WILL BE PLEASED WITH WHAT IS DELIVERED THROUGH YOUR LETTER BOX!

IN THE MEANTIME, LOOK WHAT'S ON OFFER FOR YOU:

BETAMAX BLANK VIDEO TAPES	FROM £3.14
CD VIDEO DISCS (12cm)	FROM
CD VIDEO DISCS (20cm)	FROM
CD VIDEO DISCS (30cm)	FROM £3.85
COMPACT DISCS	FROM £5.65
FILMS ON VIDEO	FROM £4.85
MUSIC ON VIDEO	FROM £3.75
VHS BLANK VIDEO TAPES	FROM £3.07



THE ANSWER: WHY

LASER LIBRARY

'Play and try before you buy'

Join the

LASER LIBRARY

Specialist APPROVAL Service for CD-Video
Discs and LaserVision Albums

Special Offers to Library Members



All UK Titles usually available

Worldwide Mail Order
Services

Send for Library Membership details



Approval service available throughout the UK.

Worldwide CD-V + LV + CD Mail Order Service. Send for details.

The Laser Library Limited · Richmond House · Richmond Road · Ipswich IP1 4DL