

"Scrambling" - UPDATE
by R.M.

Satellite.... Seems that HBO is now scrambling their satellite signal on a part time basis. Full time scrambling date isn't known. The equipment for encoding/decoding is already installed at the authorized cable outlets.

The only sure thing is that the Home Satellite Receiver Industry is all shook up!

HBO 'decoders' are not available to the home TVRO systems.....as yet. (AND DON'T THINK THEY WILL BE....)

The "En/Decoding" equipment is supposed to be so sophisticated that the technology is CLASSIFIED by the U.S. Government!

Video Cassette.... A new version of 'scrambling' a tape is on the market. Called "Macrovision", and encodes the tape with a signal that screws up the AGC (automatic gain control), of the VCR.

'Cotton Club' and 'Torchlight', are the two known releases by Embassy to have this process applied.

I rented 'C-C', and tried to duplicate the tape. It was a mess on color; but if you only have a B&W T.V.; no problem! A local rental outlet is having a number of complaints, about tapes not being stable on T.V. in normal playback operation. This I did checkout and found true on some models of T.V.'s.

NOTE: Cable companies are checking out this method of encoding their signals so that home taping of programs by their subscribers will be next to impossible.