

Video De-Coding, \$150 'Kiddee' Camcorder

Macrovision Coding: It is still with us and may be losing favor, but not to worry! There are at least three different "de-coders" on the market that enable home copying for your own use.

I bought one of them, which was a kit for \$50. Upon ordering of unit, requested immediate shipment for doing an evaluation in Vol. 26 of SCB—as usual "manufacturer" made sure I didn't receive until after press time. He was lucky as would have 'blasted' it! It has been 're-worked' by them to now include diagram for additional circuitry which you must breadboard, (no kit/board available from them), to make work efficiently. Also the price was raised by \$20!

Quality is as they say, what you pay for! The \$200+ units work like a charm, no problems.

The latest information on tape companies that still use Macrovision coding: MGM/UA, CBS/FOX, HBO/Cannon, Disney, MCA, and Media. (You might still run into some old copies of Torchlight, Cotton Club, and The Sure Thing on the Embassy label, but they have quit coding.)

It doesn't make much sense to buy one of these units as can wait a few months after release date and catch it on cable. Or if local cable company has 'Pay Per View' can sometimes catch before released to video dealers.

On to a new item on the market and prediction that will be bigger seller than the 'Doll' craze was a few years back. (I want one of these myself).

Black and White Camcorder for \$150 - - - Yep! On the way for fall and especially the Christmas buying season. (High demand, low production, so, expect a price raise to accommodate the public as usual.)

FACTS AS KNOWN TO DATE:

Manufacturer: Fisher-Price

Name: Pixelvision

Model: PXL 2000, "childrens camcorder"

Price: Suggested retail \$150, (\$200 with small screen B/W monitor).

Power: AC or 6-AA batteries

Picture: Black and White reproduction

Cassette: C-90 Audio Cassette; gives 11 minutes of video with sound.

Audio: Built in microphone, pre-set level.

Focus: Pre-set, 4 inches to infinity.

Lens: adjustable, indoor or outdoors.

Indicator: Low light and power, LED.

Playback: Thru camcorder to receiver. Uses fixed head linear scan recording system. Solid-state CCD image sensor with 128 by 90 array of light sensitive element. The poor resolution from CCD is dealt with by shrinking on-screen picture. On playback only 3/4's of screen is filled, remainder has black border on all sides. Image becomes coarser as screen size increases. (On 25" set parts of the picture show up as visible squares). Best results with 13" or smaller set.