

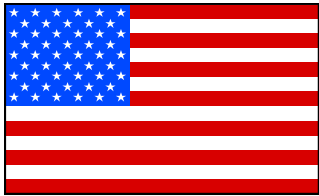


The "Speaker" The Voice of Nesda Ohio



Electronics Servicing Professionals

February 2012 Edition



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The (Ohio)Tax Man Cometh...

BY: Speaker Staff Writer

[EDITOR'S NOTE: we are re-printing as a public service a communiqué from the nesdaOHIO Secretary regarding changes in the OHIO STATE SALES TAX Filing procedure.

As you know from when you last filed your sales tax (They've had a warning on the Ohio Tax Web-Site for some months now) - OHIO is discontinuing their **E-Form tax filing** next month... I don't know about YOU, but I don't have any idea whatinahell an E-Form is... at least I didn't until today...



Your nesdaOHIO secretary (at great personal inconvenience) Called the Ohio Dept. of taxation today and found out. **THE E-FORM IS THAT PDF FORM (UST-1) THAT A LOT OF US HAVE BEEN FILING EVERY MONTH - WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT ANYMORE...** NO MORE FILING SALES TAX BY FILLING OUT THAT ONLINE PDF AND SUBMITTING IT.

THAT PDF is over and done with... Forgettaboutit !!!!

So, your nesdaOHIO secretary asked the nice lady at the dept of taxation "Whatinnahell am I supposed to do Next Month"? - and when she told me, THIS is what YOU will have to be doing too (unless you are already doing this new stuff instead of using the PDF form). We will be filling out a **New online form** at a **New Web Address**, and since this will be the first time for a lot us, this is what has to be done:

Since we can't use the PDF form any more, you have to go to www.ohiobusinessgateway.ohio.gov and set up a **NEW account**... Doesn't matter that you been filing sales taxes for the last 50 years - Unless you been specifically using the **Ohio Business Gateway** (this is different than the PDF form) you will have to set up a new account... It is confusing because the Ohio Business Gateway and The PDF forms were found on the same page and I always thought they were the same thing - THAT IS NOT TRUE... they were separate programs in the Ohio computer system and now we won't be using that PDF program any more.

You will have to create a **new username and password** on this Ohio business gateway than you were using on the PDF form... Your username/password that you used to use for the PDF form won't work here... they want more numbers and letters in the names on this new site

The GOOD NEWS is that they have a real good **video tutorial** showing you how to set up this new account... nesdaOHIO's *Computer illiterate* just did it, so if HE can do it, you probably can, too.

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Chief writer
Joe Sopko Sez....

Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to ?

Newsletter Hotline !
Got A News Item ?
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Please Contact:
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OR
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Issue #128

Watch this guy a few times and you can set up your new account so it is ready to use next month...

http://tax.ohio.gov/online_services/obg_movies/lesson_1/L1_how_to_register.html

NOW, as to how to file the form when you're ready to file your sales tax next month... It still is a UST-1 form, just not in PDF format... It is online... This tutorial HERE http://tax.ohio.gov/online_services/obg_movies/lesson_6/L6_prepare_report_ust1.html tells how to fill out that form on the new web-site.

...and THIS tutorial tells how to Pay the tax...

http://tax.ohio.gov/online_services/obg_movies/lesson_7/L7_ready_for_checkouts.html

Your Reporter didn't notice anything that addressed how to mail the check so he will have to watch it again, but he wanted to get this information to all Ohio Members as soon as possible. Remember, Filing Deadline is the 23rd of the month. Unless you use electronic debit of funds or creditcard, Your check must be RECEIVED by that date in order to avoid Penalties, Late Fees, and Waterboarding.

On the Ohio Business Gateway site, there are other video tutorials for other stuff, too... those above looked the most pertinent to this reporter... If you want to see more, here is a link to the tutorial page <http://business.ohio.gov/efiling/help/#tutorial>

regards,
your nesdaOHIO secretary

Editor Note: Your nesdaOHIO Editor, (at a great personal inconvenience), has made all the links in this article clickable.

Just click the link and it will take you to the pages the nesdaOHIO Secretary suggests you should look at.

While you are on one of these pages that you would like to be able to go back to effortlessly, just save it to your favorites, **OR** drag the little icon to the left of the web address to the desktop. When you want to go back, just double click the icon.

Don't need this shortcut any longer ? Easy, just right click it and delete it.
Yea, this works for any webpage you are viewing.

Click and hold, drag it to the desktop, you got a shortcut !



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CET Brain Teaser



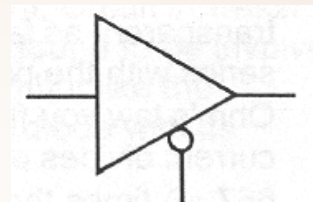
From the CET Study Guide and Practice Test

TODAYS QUESTION is presented in The Speaker just for fun with the permission of the ISCET, and maybe will get you started thinking about hanging out your own CET shingle. For more information, we invite you to visit the ISCET website at www.iscet.org We are grateful to them for allowing us to present this feature.

Today's question is from the CET Associate level Study Guide provided by ISCET.

The IC in the figure at the right would be found in a.....

1. Circuit to prevent bus contention.
2. Feedback circuit of a switch mode power supply.
3. Class A amplifier with on/off switching capability.
4. Class C amplifier with on/off switching capability.



Correct answer on last page.

Tech Tips

RCA TV, ATC221

Problem: No video-No convergence

Fix: Conv power supply was dead.

Replacing open TW19 on the Conv Bd fixed the set.

Vizio TV, VO32L

Problem: When you turn it on, amber Vizio light turns from amber to white, but no audio, video or backlight.

Fix: Found D803 on power supply shorted. Replace with MUR460 only.

JVC TV, HD56G647

Problem: The pic randomly blanks out.

Fix: The LVDS connector on the OP/DD assembly, (CN301) was not seated properly. Reseat and be sure the large ferrite core on the LVDS cable is not touching or rubbing anything when reassembling the set

Samsung TV, LN32A300J1D.

Problem: No video, but audio and backlight is working.

Fix: Check for an open fuse on the T-COM. This fuse is very small.

Mits TV, WD65735

Problem: Shuts down.

Fix: Check for error code. (MENU 3564)

If error is 3-4 or 6-6, check for continuity on all pins on the wiring harness between connector FB from the main board to connector CJ3 on the ballast. A new harness comes in two sections. FB to FB #249B917030, and FB to CJ3 #249B917040

Sharp TV, LC26SH12U

Problem: Dead, clicks only. Power LED will go from red to green.

Fix: Replaced the Power Bd, #9JDA31B01E240

Toshiba TV, 42HP66

Problem: Pic is washed out with bad color.

Fix: Replace the Z-SUS board fixed the set. #75003032, (6871QZH056B)

Mits TV, WD73727

Problem: Dead, lamp not coming on. Error code 34

Fix: Cause 1, suspect the lamp
2. Lamp enable line at connector CJ3 pin 5 on the interface board switches to 5V after turn on and goes to 0V after 5 seconds, if the ballast arc is heard suspect the lamp, #915P027010. If no arc is heard suspect the

ballast #938P018010.

3. Lamp enable line at connector CJ3 pin 5 switches to 5V after turn on but does not go back to 0V after 5 seconds, 12V supply at connector J3 pin1 and 5 volts at J3 pin 3 are good, suspect the engine. #938P019010

4. Lamp enable line at connector CJ3 pin 5 on the interface board does not switch to 5V after turn on, 12V supply at connector J3 pin 1 and 5 volts at J# pin3 are good, suspect the engine, #938P019010.

Sony LCD, KDL-32L4000

Problem: The bottom part of the picture flickers.

Fix: Common on all 32" Sonys. Replace the panel.

Mits TV, V22 chassis

Problem: Dead

Fix: Replaced all the following: Q5A01, 2SD2052, Q5A31, 2SC5778. Resistors, R5K02, 1k Ω , R5K01, 10k Ω , R5K12, R5K34, 27 Ω , half W, and R5K50, 1k Ω . The spark gap was burnt also, AG5K10.

JVC AV32D302

Problem: Dead, relay clicks.

Fix: Replaced STR-G6624

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My Horse is Constipated!



BY FARMER JOE.....

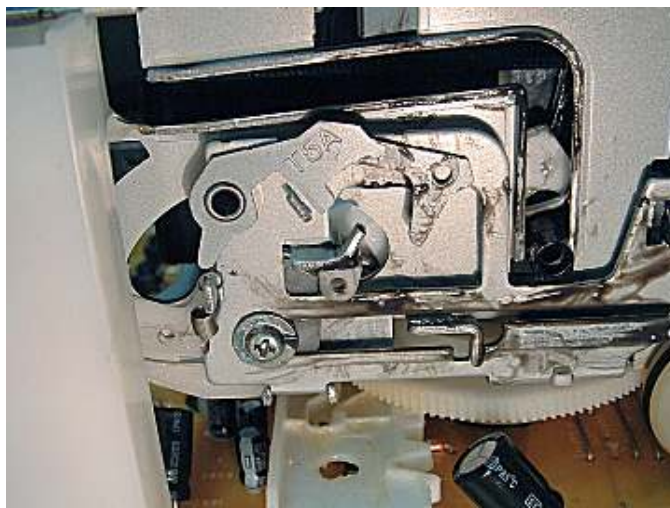
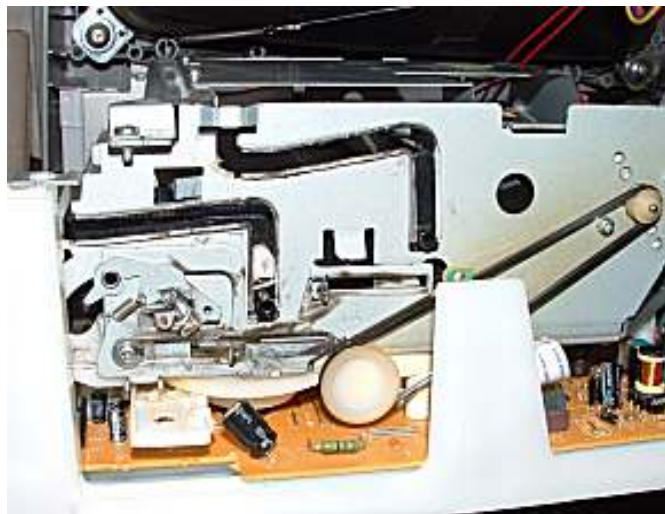
Well, it's True about my horse being constipated, but I didn't exactly use Those words when I happened to work on the **Magnavox 13" TV/VCR Combo** that came walking into the Servicecenter's doors.. The owner sought repair to correct a **Eject Problem**, and the trouble turned out to be such an obscure problem that when I found it I spoke aloud the Sentiment above – only I used the more colloquial expression “No Shixx!”



It started out easily enough when I set it on the workbench and shoved a tape in & out a few times. The tape went IN easily enough, but every once in a while, it would “catch” about halfway up. There was no loop of tape hanging out, but the cassette wouldn't be ejected far enough to be able to grab the cassette with your fingertips and pull it out of the set.

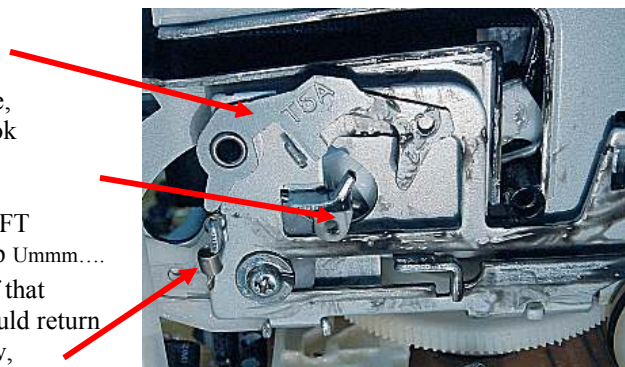
Well, we've worked on a Zillion of these combo's, so we figured that this would be an easy problem. Dismount the deck, Clean the Mode Sense Switch, and you've solved 99% of the problems on these units.. You can predict that THIS set was in the 1% that wasn't cured by that, since we are writing about it here in this space.

We looked around the moving mechanism for parts that were binding. Sometimes the mechanism worked, but every once in a while, it would hang up halfway through it's upward travel. These Rice-A-Roni Decks have so much “Slop” in everything that it's difficult to tell what is correct and what is not. Once the trouble was found, it was so easy as to be embarrassing. Compare the Two Pictures of the Takeup Side-Plate Below, The one on the left being “Normal”, and the one on the right showing the Trouble.



You should be looking specifically at THIS lever, shown here in the “Problem” Position. If you compare its position to the Normal Picture above, you'll see that the Right tip of the lever is too High! In This position that hook will NOT grab the post of the tape carrier and pull it fully up & out.

SO, why is it too high? Well, Squint REAL hard and look at the LEFT side of that lever. Do you see an extension Spring hanging down like a Limp Ummm.... Kleenex? THAT's what's causing this Intermittent Eject. The open end of that spring should be connected to that Hook-Lever. Then, the spring-tension would return that lever to the “Down” Position when the tape is inserted. As it is right now, with no spring tension on that Hook-Lever, it just lays around in a random position on that side plate. If “Random” happens to be “Down”, the mechanism works normally - But if you shove the tape in and this lever just happens to be positioned ”up”, the tape won't come all the way out.



Once you see that this is All that is causing this intermittent problem, you tell the whole shop that your Horse is Constipated by saying the shorter phrase “No Shixx!” while you are reattaching that open end. C'mon, now... Tell us how LONG it took you to spy that open spring!



You can't compare
apples to oranges.



When it comes to parts suppliers,
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Encompass is one of the nation's leading distributors of top-quality genuine replacement parts and accessories for a wide-range of consumer electronics, computer, imaging and major appliance products. With nearly 60 years of proven industry expertise, Encompass is the trusted partner your business can depend on for all your parts needs.

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Encompass Press Release

**Encompass Launches Green Choice Parts® Website
GreenChoiceParts.com offers access to thousands of eco-friendly,
cost-effective reclaimed parts for consumer electronics products**

Lawrenceville, Ga., January 5, 2012 – Encompass Supply Chain Solutions, Inc. (ESCS), a leading provider of forward and reverse logistics for a diverse range of electronics products and replacement parts, today announced its division Encompass Parts Distribution has launched the website GreenChoiceParts.com to market cost-effective, eco-conscious alternatives to OEM replacement parts.

Green Choice Parts are harvested from scrapped consumer electronics products that have become beyond economical repair or have cosmetic damage – primarily flat screen televisions – for use in out-of-warranty or extended warranty repairs. Parts are sourced from major retailers and rent-to-own companies that need an environmentally-responsible way to dispose of unusable products. Available components include printed circuit boards, speaker assemblies, power supply and more from top brands such as LG, Sony, Philips, Samsung, Toshiba and Panasonic, as well as a large selection of name brand appliance and computer products. Other product categories will be added in the future.

Green Choice Parts cost as much as 25% less than new parts, while providing the same functionality and reliability. Encompass provides a 180-day warranty on Green Choice Parts to help reinforce confidence in the quality of the parts.

“In addition to providing professional servicers with a less costly option to new parts, Green Choice Parts extend the life of consumer electronics by providing a channel for often hard-to-find components and making products repairable that otherwise may not be cost effective,” said Robert Coolidge, President of ESCS and Encompass Parts Distribution, which manages Green Choice Parts. “Manufacturers also benefit from reduced buy outs, better parts availability for their products in the market and improved warranty costs when seeking hard to find parts.”

Coolidge estimates that through Green Choice Parts, Encompass will annually divert about 7,500 pounds of electronics components from landfills.

“By recovering these parts from unsaleable goods, we are able to augment the parts supply chain, while also preventing a significant amount of e-waste from being discarded as trash.”

GreenChoiceParts.com offers servicers convenient access to thousands of reclaimed parts for flat panel TVs, with plans to expand its offering of appliance, computing and imaging products. Component details and photos are available, as well as online ordering and account management. Current Encompass Parts Distribution account holders can use their existing log in and password to obtain wholesale pricing and manage their accounts. New customers can download credit and credit card applications to open an Encompass account.

About Encompass Supply Chain Solutions, Inc.

Encompass is a market leader in forward and reverse supply chain management and high-tech repair services for a diverse and expanding range of consumer electronics, computer, major appliance and imaging products. Encompass, through its business units Encompass Parts Distribution and Encompass Service Solutions, provides end-to-end solutions for top OEMs, retailers, independent dealers and third-party administrators.





The Audio Corner

by Joe Sopko, CET

Do you repair Audio? Have you ever repaired Audio? With the times being what they are, perhaps you are beginning to take in Component Audio Systems for repairs when you never have before and discovering that they pose their own "Special" problems that you don't see within the sound section of a TV set.

If that describes you, then we're glad that you stopped in this corner for a visit. We'll talk about Receivers, Tape Decks, CD Players, Turntables, and many products that most pointedly do NOT have an imaging screen. If you Don't do audio, well, just pass us on by and go lip-read somewhere else

Today's Topic: Li-i-ttle Problem... Bi-i-gg Repair

As the owner was walking into the shop... (Errr... I Mean ... "Service-Center") I could have sworn he was carrying in a Bose Wave Radio. After all, it was a Large, Flat, Boxy, Table radio, with a built-in CD Player, and from the way he was lugging it, I suppose that it weighed about 20 pounds. Yep, that sounds like a BOSE, all right - but I was wrong. It was actually a Bose Wannabe - a **Cambridge SoundWorks Radio CD 740** and I've got to say that it has some pretty Neat Features that I haven't seen on the few Bose that I've worked on.

What's That? You say... "Better than Bose?"... "Call The Inquisitor - Burn this Heretic!" - - - - Hey Guys - Gimme a Break, I just calls 'em as I see 'em, and I have to say that I find Bose to be a bit Overhyped - and Overpriced. Once I fixed this Cambridge 740, it sounded every bit as good as the Bose, and it's extra feature of RDS would have tipped the Cambridge to my favor.

"RDS" is "Radio Data Service", and although it is not found on Every FM Station out there, I did find it present of lots of broadcasters in the Cleveland market. You could consider it to be a "Closed Captioning" for Radio. This CD740 has a Big Bright Display that can scroll TEXT - Like the Station Frequency 105.7 (Big deal, they ALL do that) But do they ALSO scroll the Call Letters like "WMJI" AND the Name of the Song "Good Vibrations" AND the Artist "Beach Boys". Ahhhhh... Now, Got your interest, do I. I have to admit that this is the first time I have seen this feature, and I also have to say that I Like It. Haven't you ever been frustrated by hearing a tune you like, and then you have to wait until the end of the song for the DJ to announce the name. Either you're distracted and miss it, or even worse, you wait through three more songs and then the DJ doesn't tell you the name at all anf just launches into a commercial. RDS Solves this Problem - but first I had to fix the radio in order to see it - and that's where the Little Problem - Big Repair comes in. The Cambridge was **Dead**



This Radio is a BEAR to work on! Just getting it Apart is a Chore. Giving the Radio the Once-Over, you would likely figure out that you need to remove the 4 screws from the Back Cover, but having done that you would see that you could only move that cover about 2 inches. There is a PCB with Very Short wires attached to that rear panel and nothing else is exposed.

So then you Flip the radio over and remove the Bottom cover - mainly because you can't see any other exposed screws anywhere. You've got a surprise waiting for you here, too, because 5 of those 7 Bottom screws are hidden beneath little Rubber Feet. You try taking off the bottom without finding those hidden screws, you better have one BIG Crowbar! But You STILL ain't Done... Not even Close!



Pivoting the Bottom Cover reveals the Cabinet Bottom. It's a Clamshell structure, with a seam running horizontally around the cabinet. There are 6 screws from the bottom holding these Clamshells together, and they will be coming out next. Did you notice the Bottom-Firing Powered Subwoofer? That's part of the technology that gives this small radio the Big Sound - I Did say that it was equal to the Bose, didn't I. Yeah, If you got this on your desk top and turn up the bass, your Paper Clips will be Vibrating - right onto the floor - and you'll have Whitecaps in your Coke.



With those bottom screws out, you just "Thought" that the Clamshell would open now... And you would be Wrong (Again). You have to remove the Speaker Grills from the front of the unit (They just pull off) and then you could see some screws running into the Top part of the Clamshell. Remove those 4 top screws and then you can lift up the top of the Clamshell cabinet from the rear and pivot the top as it detaches from the front panel. You won't be going far with that cabinet top, because all through this unit, they did not spare one inch of wire. There is "Just Enough" to move something "Almost" out of the way, and that is IT!



With the Top Clamshell open, you can see only a few items because the CD Player covers most of the Real Estate in there. This would be a Nightmare to work on for a serious Radio or Amplifier problem, but I SAID this was a "Little" Problem, remember? It was a BIG Repair, just to get to this point - where I could change the Fuse. Yeah - The FUSE! Can you see it? (Probably Not) but the GMA 1A fuse is in a black Inline Holder right next to the Power Transformer.

You have to loosen the Power Transformer and Tilt it because, just like with the Back Cover, they didn't spare you an Inch of extra wire - Not even an extra Half-Inch! The Inline Fuse-Holder is Not the "Push-Turn" Variety... You have to Unscrew it 27 Turns at the end of a short 2-inch wire (OK - It only SEEMED like 27 turns!)



Yeah, That's ALL that was wrong with this unit - a Fuse. It took 10 times as long to get this *^\$%^ thing apart as it did to actually make the repair - and this was a Small Repair! I shudder to think what would be involved if I had to change an Output IC.

But, "Alls Well that Ends Well" so they say, and this was Well after re-installing the 21 screws to get it back together. The CD played well and provided another surprise when it was tried. The CD not only plays CD music, but it also plays MP3's. It even has the capability to look into the folders that you've got your tunes organized into via your computer. Yeah, you could have a disc with all your Big Bands in one folder, all your '50's Rock & Roll in another, All your Bach & Beethoven in another, and all your Heavy Metal in the trash, and this player can look into each of those folders and play your favorite tune at the moment.



This Cambridge has a lot of nice features that I wouldn't mind in my Own radio... HMMMMmm... Lemme see - How much can I overprice this repair to make him tell me to "Keep It". Naw, That probably wouldn't work - the owner said that he paid about \$400 for it in 2005. It might be a bit of a stretch to try and justify a \$300 Fuse Job.

Maybe I can have him Mugged on the way out to his car...

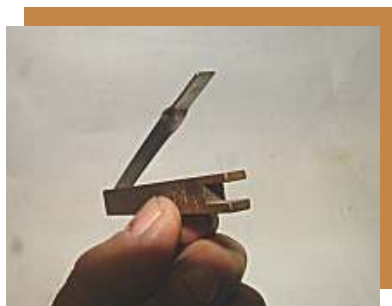
...And the Winnah IS:

You may remember that Last month we ran a contest to see Who could Identify the Gleaming Brass Object pictured in the Figures below. It was a tool from our Industry's Past, so looking at the average age of nesdaOHIOANS, we expected that there would be quite a Turnout of those who would remember using this "Pin Crimper". In actual fact, there was quite a response from the Geriatric set, all of whom came up with the correct answer (This coming from guys who forget the screwdriver they walked into the next room for – but who remember a 50-year-old Tool)

Yes, it's a Pin Crimper!. Remember all those 21FJP22 Picture Tubes that were developing Intermittent Filaments in 1965? Well, you slip this Baby over the Filament Pins, Push down on the Handle, and make a good Electrical Crimp Connection to cure that problem without ever having to heat up your soldering Iron. Many responders said that they also used this crimper on Octal Based vacuum tubes as well – Like 5U4's and 5Y3's. Are these guys CHEAP - or What?

We Congratulate **Mr. Arthur Bevilacqua** of **Essex Radio & TV** in **Essex, MA** for coming up with the correct answer . Maybe he wasn't the Oldest of the Old Farts who knew what this was and sent in an answer, but he WAS the Fastest, logging his answer in at 12:48am on 1/1/12 (according to the time stamp on the nesdaOHIO Secretary's computer). **Mr. Bevilacqua**, You can be looking for your FREE One Year Subscription to *The Speaker* to be coming to a computer screen near you!

Mystery Item #8 Identified: 21FJP22 Filament Pin Crimper



To all the rest of you Old Farts that responded, we here at *The Speaker* were so glad to hear from you that we have decided to extend YOUR subscriptions as well, making you All Winners! We do so love to hear from our readers, and we invite all of you to send in your articles of interest so that we may share them with all our readers.

Following is a list of All the winners of *The Speaker's* first What Izzit contest:-

1/1 7:43am
Darrell Loeffler
Mountain TV
Cocoa, Fl.

1/1 3:16pm
Dennis Shope,
Paul's TV ,
Englewood, Ohio

1/1 5:49
Sam Sieben, CET/CSM
In-Home TV Repair, CSC
Snohomish, WA
1/2 1:07pm
John Mielke
Main TV
Longmont, Co.

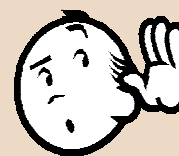
1/2 6:44pm
Ken Smith
Gulf Technical Services
Gulf Breeze, FL

1/3 1:27pm
Gene Hawtrey
Klamath Falls,
Oregon 97603
1/3 3:17pm
Robert Herring MST
H & H Electronics Inc

Recent: Dave Walkers Dad:
For removing the lead off the top of
the Horiz Output Amplifier tube ..

Recent: Mike Feldi
Carl's TV & Vacuum
Lansdale PA

" I have at least one of everything in
the picture and have #8 in my
hands right now! And ... Still not
sure what it is... It looks like a
combination tool..... If I had to
guess I would say some kind of a
wire stripper.



It was GREAT to hear
from all of you !

We were so pleased with the response to our last “What Izzit” contest, that we decided to extend the fun to This Month.

Pictured below is a tool from our repair industry’s past. If you can identify it, send an e-mail to: jsopko112@aol.com and the first correct entry will win a FREE one-year subscription to this magazine.

What Izzit?



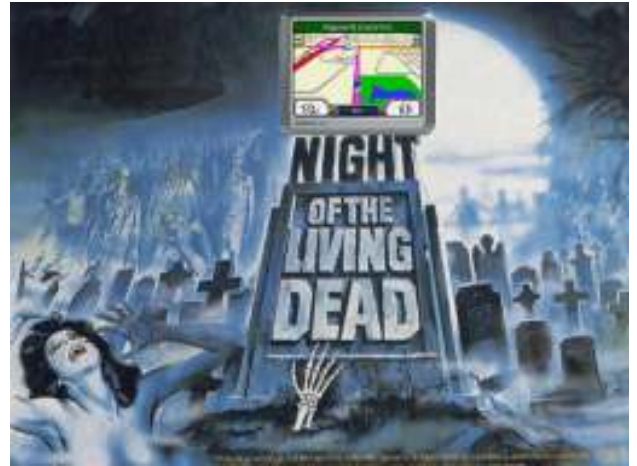
It is labeled “Workman Electronics, Sarasota, Florida, model W12, cat #7451”, but What is it Used For?

Your Reporter is willing to go on record here by saying that There just Ain’t NO WAY that anyone is gonna guess THIS one! The only one who is gonna get This one right is the Tech who submitted this photo, John Mielke of Main TV in Longmont, Co. --- (Uh, John, YOU are prohibited from entering This contest.) Anyone else is invited to send your guess to jsopko112@aol.com. Guess Right, and you will win a FREE One-Year Subscription to *The Speaker*.

Wow, What a Prize !!



The Computer Illiterate Presents:



Readers of *The Speaker* should be well aware of *The Computer Illiterate's* disdain for Modern Technology. An avowed Luddite, he has previously regaled us with tales of his Travels with "Bitchin' Betty", the Garmin Nuvi 250 GPS that *Mrs. Illiterate* has saddled him with at vacation time.

When last we heard, *Bitchin' Betty* "Accidentally" was pitched off of ... Err – I mean: Fell off of the Mile High Swinging Bridge at Grandfather Mountain, NC. *The Computer Illiterate* was seen to be wearing a Half-Smile as the decrescendo of *Betty's* plaintive cry echoed through the valley. Following the Police Investigation, All was well at *The Illiterate* Household - at least until the start of this year's Christmas Vacation.

The computer Illiterate opened the garage door to pull out the family Vacation Van when he saw IT. (Cue the "Twilight Zone" Music here: De de De De... De de De De...) In the Dim Light of the garage interior, he saw the faint outline of an "Object" that appeared to be resting on the windshield. It didn't register at first, but when he backed out into the light of day GA-A-A-A !!! It was the GPS THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED IN THE GORGE AT GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN !!!!

The Computer Illiterate exited the car faster than a Nascar Driver whose car had just crashed. It is not known if he even set the brake on the car. He was breathing hard and Fast as *Mrs. Illiterate* found him sitting on the ground, his eyes wide with fear, as he pointed at *Bitchin' Betty* firmly attached to the windshield. He tried to speak, but all that would come out was "B-B-B-itchin' B-B-B-et-t-t-y.... She's supposed to be DEAD!"

Mrs Illiterate seemed to be unaffected by this resurrection, and seemed to welcome Betty Back (while commenting about "Sisterhood" under her breath) , but it was a Very Nervous *Computer Illiterate* who sidled into the Van for the drive to visit family over the Christmas Holiday.

Truth be told, the travel through Southern Ohio, W. Virginia, Virginia, and into Tennessee passed uneventfully, and the first part of the Family Gathering brought forth the Joy and togetherness of the Holiday Season. It wasn't until Dec 30th that things began to get strange. It was announced by our hosts that "We will be having Dinner at 'The Farmer's Daughter' Restaurant". *The Computer Illiterate* admitted that he didn't know the restaurant's location – Whereupon *Mrs. Illiterate* whirled around and stated that "Betty" would take us there". OOH-H-h-h... Thought *The Computer Illiterate* with a bad feeling beginning in the pit of his stomach. "What City is it in", he asked. Heads turned slowly toward him as he was told: "C h u c k e y", Tennessee.



The Computer Illiterate visibly Blanched! "Chuckey" is the name of that Evil Doll in those Movies, and here they went and named a City After Him. This Does NOT Bode well! Your reporter tried to find a Dentist so that he could plead a prior engagement to get a Root Canal, but it was impossible to find one open at such short notice. With this evil omen, the family piled into 3 cars for the trek to "Chuckey" (More "Twilight Zone" Music, please - De de De De... De de De De...)

While *The Computer Illiterate* frantically rooted through the Glove Compartment looking for a Rand-McNally, *Mrs Illiterate* was pushing buttons on Bitchin' Betty's screen. "Drive" – she said in an imperious tone when she was done, and the ill-fated Vacation Van started out on what may be its final journey as car #2 in a 3-car convoy.

The Computer Illiterate Begged to stop at a Gas Station where he could buy a MAP – a REAL Map, Printed on PAPER - where God intended them to be – but he was talked down by all of the more techno-savvy family members.

The first inkling of things to come was when traveling South on I-26, Betty announced in an authoritative voice “Turn Left”! “HUH?” Said The Computer Illiterate. Snapping his head around... Turning left when travelling South would get you headed SouthEast when we had a general idea that our destination was to the SouthWest. It got worse from there. After Turning Right in what The Computer Illiterate knew was the correct direction, Betty uttered “Recalculating”, and seemed to sneer at him with an evil glint in her eye (Err – “Screen”) We continued on in blissful silence for several miles when she suddenly shrieked “TURN LEFT”!

At this point, all agreed (Except the computer Illiterate) that Betty should know where she was taking us, and the car turned left – onto a secondary county road. A Few Miles later, Betty shrieked again “TURN LEFT”. Now, here, The Computer Illiterate was Really getting suspicious. In the “Navigation” Class that he teaches in his Pilot’s Groundschool, The Computer Illiterate knows that Two Left Turns takes you back the way you came! This was confirmed by the little map printed onto Betty’s screen. While all were puzzling over this, Betty instructed once more “TURN LEFT” - Onto a Narrow Township Road... A VERY Narrow Township Road! A Very Narrow – DARK – Township Road – With No BERM! ... Called “Old Nursing Home Road” (Really, I’m not making this up)

Little beads of sweat started to form on The computer Illiterate’s forehead as he was remembering stories of other homicidal GPS’s that took their drivers into the wilderness to be covered by snowdrifts and eaten by bears. He was determined to give it One More Mile – but if it would have turned into a Gravel Road, or if he started to hear Banjo Music, he would be ready to Whip the car around and Beat Feet back to civilization. Fortunately, the “Nursing Home” did not look like the one in the photo, or he would have been out of there even quicker. In another mile, Betty commanded another “Turn Left” and we re-entered a 2 lane highway and proceeded past - - - a house that we had seen just a few minutes ago And a Cemetery! In his current state of mind, The Computer Illiterate thought that he was able to see “Things” moving around in the dark.



- Yes, Betty had taken us around in a circle, as confirmed by the electronic map on her face, and I swear that I could hear little faint snickers of laughter.

At that point, The Computer Illiterate’s Daughter, who is as techno-savvy as her father Is Not, whipped out her Cell-U-Lar phone with it’s built-in direction finder And told us to drive 4.7 miles in THAT direction.

This we did, and we wound up at our Restaurant destination – Despite the machinations of a Homicidal GPS who had its sights trained upon our Family.

The Computer Illiterate was last seen holding a small rectangular object while negotiating with the Kitchen staff at The Farmer’s Daughter restaurant for the loan of an apple press.



Help ME-e-e-e-e

You remember Betty..... Don’t cha ?



Customer Relations.....

More from the Service Nazi

"Zo, Zese two guys come into the store and ask if I got any used tv's for sale... He has what I thought was a European accent, but the name had more of a Latin flavor."

I point out ze Plasma Flatscreen that he was standing next to - the one with the big "FOR SALE" sign on it, and a 27" CRT Sony - also with a big "FOR SALE" sign.... Zey ask "How Much"?... So I say \$199.95 for the Flatscreen, and \$99.95 for the Sony.

Zen ze customer says "I Giff you \$100 for the Flatscreen"....

The Service Nazi smirks and says "I'll just bet you would - - - (pause) - - - (pause) - - - Then you would only owe \$100 more"

He say "What you mean"?

The service Nazi says "The price is \$199.95"

The alleged European/Latin says "I can buy new one for \$350"

The Service Nazi says "Then you go do that - Wal Mart is THAT way", pointing to the west. The Service Nazi considered sending them to Chagrin Falls' Lowe's Electronics, but he decided that he didn't want to inflict these axxholes on his new best friend, "Bobby" Lowe, the nesdaOHIO President. Sometimes The Service Nazi is able to make an instant appraisal of customers and decide that he doesn't like them.

Then The Service Nazi continues his story, by saying: "Zen zey go out to the car and start hauling in a 32" Zenith CRT TV." The Service Nazi watches them from behind his counter, not stirring an inch - Sees them jerking this heavy product out of the back seat, maneuvering it through the doors, grunting all the while, almost dropping it. After they stop huffing & puffing, one of them asks - "How much to fix this"?

The Service Nazi Says: "That all depends on what is wrong with it, I will be glad to locate the cause of your trouble and work up an estimate for your approval..." and writes down the guy's name, address, etc and makes a claim check, then says "That will be \$29.95 to cover the time involved in making your estimate"

The guy says "You charge me \$30 just to look at it?"

The Service Nazi casts his eyes downward toward the TV on the floor and says "No, I am LOOKING at it right now - and not chargink you a cent. If you want to find out vot is wrong with it, THAT will cost you \$29.95".

The guy says "I no Pay" (he is so eloquent)

The Service Nazi says "OK, I will hold the door while you and your buddy haul it out to the car"... and rips up the nametag & claim-check, allowing the pieces to flutter into the trash-can.

The guy looks at his buddy and finally lays his credit card on the counter, where the Service Nazi adds tax to the \$29.95 and fills out the credit slip... The Guy looks & says "You Charge TAX on estimate?"

The Service Nazi says "Oh NO zir - ' I ' do not charge Tax, YOUR GOVERNMENT charges tax... That will be \$32.27 on your card"

Then The Service Nazi takes a new - blank - nametag and starts again : "Your Name....", "Your Address.... "....

I do believe that it safe to predict that this will NOT be a "MINOR" cheap REPAIR... Not if The Service Nazi has anything to do with it.





Answer to this months CET
teaser question.

Number 1, circuit to prevent bus
contention.



Have you been to the
nesdaOhio Store yet ?

Go ahead, make your day !

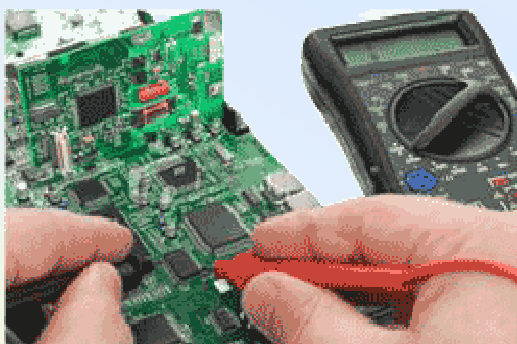
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