



It seems that each year the Fi goes Hi-gher and Hi-gher, unfortunately so does the price! A criticism of audio enthusiasts was given by one cynic who defined them as "People who listen to the equipment and not the music". After a day at the Hotel Russell listening to a great number of both units and music the following items of interest were noted.

TUNERS AND AMPLIFIERS

Richard Allen displayed their *Class A Stereophonic Amplifiers*. These amplifiers use transistors in Class A and Richard Allen offer some pretty convincing literature that this is the way to real solid state hi-fi. Also on show, the *C41* control unit. As shown in the photograph, this is quite a sophisticated unit.

Braun have preserved their see-through covers, their new *Audio 250* stereo control unit being no exception. It is equipped with a *PS410* turntable, tuner which incorporates a stereo decoder, and an amplifier section. The improved pick-up arm is fitted with a vernier scale for correct stylus pressure adjustment and is equipped with a *M75-6* cartridge. The player has a fine speed control and a semi-automatic cueing device. There is also a tuner section for the reception of f.m., f.m. stereo, s.w., m.w., and l.w. broadcasts. Power output is given as 2×15 watts continuous rating with a frequency response of $30-30\text{kc/s} \pm 0.5\text{dB}$. Distortion below 0.5% at 2×12 watts is claimed. If you want one it'll cost you £284 17s. 4d.

Leak, a big name in hi-fi, showed "big brother" to their *Stereo 30*. The new *Stereo 70* is all solid state and makers give the output as 35 watts per channel (both channels sine wave driven), total harmonic distortion 0.1% for all power levels up to 25 watts r.m.s., response flat $\pm 1\text{dB}$ $30-20\text{kc/s}$.

Philips offered an attractive system costing about £67 and consisting of a *GA228* record player, a *GH925* stereo amplifier providing six watts per channel, plus two *GL559* speaker enclosures ideal for shelf mounting as they stand less than a foot high.

Quad too are boasting all transistor circuitry. Their *Quad 33* control unit and *303* power amplifier were on show, the latter rated at 45 watts. Also on show, the *Quad FM Stereo Tuner* covering $87.5-108\text{Mc/s}$.

J. Richardson Electronics Ltd. appeared for the first time at the Fair with their *MA135* and *MA200* giving 35 watts and 100 watts respectively for 0.25% distortion at 1kc/s in each case. These are valve amplifiers as is the *SA170* stereo amplifier which has the same quoted figures per channel as the other two. Frequency response $\pm 0.5\text{dB}$ $20-20\text{kc/s}$.

Sansui showed four new units at the Fair. One, their *3000A* stereo tuner/amplifier, might accurately be

described as the most beautifully styled audio bomb I have ever seen. Don't be taken in by the total harmonic distortion factor of less than 0.8% nor the $\pm 1.5\text{dB}$ response from $10-50\text{kc/s}$. Neither should the 53 transistors and 46 diodes fool you. If you get one you will have a complete hi-fi set-up which will give a total of 130 watts. If this is too much, then try the *AU777* giving only 70 watts total with a total harmonic distortion factor of 0.1% and $\pm 1\text{dB}$ from $20-100\text{kc/s}$. Prices 167gns. and 105gns. respectively.

TAPE RECORDERS AND DECKS

Last year in our Audio Fair report, we mentioned that possibly the most noticeable trend was towards the use of cassette loading machines. This year however there were not many of these units around and the accent seemed to be on the big, high-quality machines ("high quality" varies from maker to maker quite noticeably this year). It is also interesting to note that the British manufacturers were outnumbered by overseas competitors in the tape recorder market, with **Akai**, **Ampex**, **Oki**, **Sennheiser**, **Tandberg**, featuring strongly.

Akai exhibited their four-track stereo tape deck model *3000D* which utilises silicon transistor preamps, three head system and grained wood finish. The price is £105 11s. 4d. Also on the stand were tape deck model *X-150D*—a cross-field stereo silicon transistor preamp type with four-track stereo/mono recording and playback at £130 2s. 4d., and the *M9* stereo tape recorder—a replacement for the company's *M8* at the price of £195 3s. 5d.

Model *753* stereo four-track tape deck was shown on the **Ampex** stand as the firm's lowest priced recorder at 91gns. and **Brenell** introduced their *Mark 510 series 3* deck accommodating tape reels up to $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter. **Bosch (Uher)** were showing their *Royal De-luxe* stereo tape recorder with two- and four-track facilities and $2 \times 10\text{W}$ power output.

It was pleasant to see that **Ferrograph** have introduced a completely new generation of tape decks—the *Series 7*—which, the makers say, is a completely new design and incorporates features that a market survey showed users desired. This new unit is an all-silicon solid state model with field effect transistors used in the input stages. It can be vertically or horizontally mounted (this could be another trend) and unit construction provides for the mounting of three individual units—the amplifier complex, power supply unit and the actual deck itself. These are mounted on a separate frame which is easily removable from the cabinet. Three motors are used—no belt or pulleys to go wrong—there are three tape speeds, variable speed spooling,

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