



BY MICHAEL DOLAN



25 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 2001 *Journal* published in: “On Scanning Format and MPEG-2 Coding Efficiency” by E. B. Bellers and G. de Haan. “The traditional analog video broadcast standard is an interlaced format. Interlace was included in the standards for television broadcasting for very good reasons; however, with the introduction of digital video broadcast (MPEG-2), we should reconsider the use of interlace as part of a digital video chain. Moreover, video format conversion, in general, may also require reconsideration as it can be performed either at the studio end (transmitter side) or at the receiver end (television set). This paper examines the efficiency of MPEG-2 coding for interlaced and progressive video and also compares de-interlacing and picture-rate up conversion before and after coding. We found receiver side de-interlacing and picture-rate up conversion, i.e., after coding, to give better image quality at a given data rate.” For the full article, see: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8cz9j3>

“With the introduction of digital video broadcast (MPEG-2), we should reconsider the use of interlace as part of a digital video chain.”

50 Years Ago in the Journal

The June 1976 *Journal* published in: “Graticules for Judging Television Waveforms” by Pierre Mertz. “The following three papers deal with the subject of using a graticule or overlay on an oscilloscope to help determine whether or not a television waveform will produce a subjectively acceptable picture. Aspects of this subject have been discussed as far back as 1947–1948. The concept of echo weighting and several data involved in the concept were described in a *Journal* paper of May 1953 (Influence of Television Transmission Echoes)...In the early days, the communications people were scared of picture deterioration

In this column we provide interesting historical briefs from the *Journal* articles of days past. The purpose of this column is primarily entertainment, but we hope it will also stimulate your thinking and reflection on the Society's history, how far we have come in the industry, and (sometimes) how some things never change.



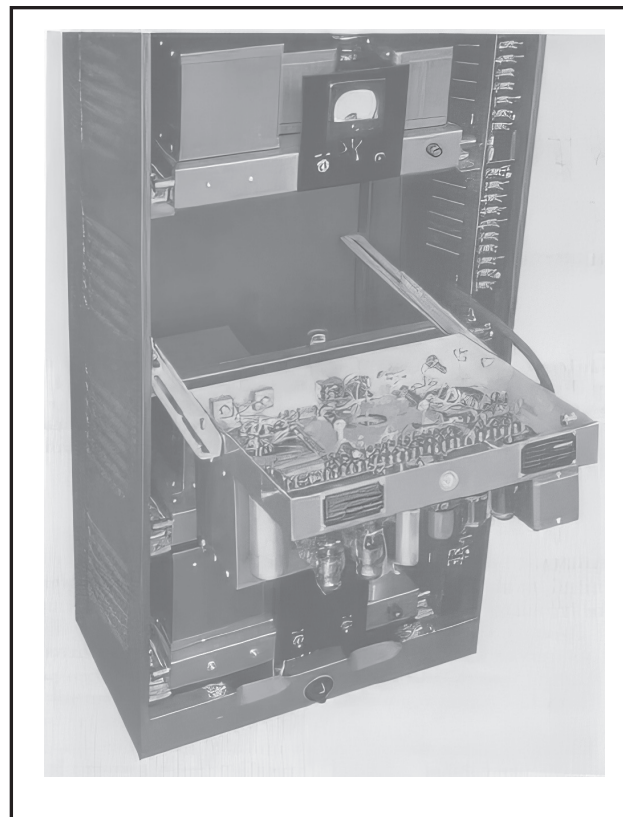
and afraid of the consequences of possible miscalculation. Present-day engineers are more firmly certain, because of the widespread experience, of their tolerances.” For the full article, see: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6uyucz>

75 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1951 *Journal* published in: “A New Theater Sound System” by B. Passman, J. Ward. “A fully integrated sound system designed to meet the needs of regular and drive-in theaters, having power requirements ranging from 20 to 280 watts, features standardized chassis and cabinet design, interchangeable power amplifiers and a plug-in preamplifier located in the soundhead. Use of modern circuit techniques and conservative rating of all components afford reliability and rated performance under all conditions. See **figure 1**.” For the full article, see: <https://tinyurl.com/mr45k2cm>

100 Years Ago in the Journal

The May 1926 (issue 26) published in: “The Use of Motion Pictures for Governmental Purposes” by Raymond S. Peck. “Approximately thirty years ago the birth of the motion picture may be said to have occurred. Newspapers at that time describing the invention, which was exhibited in the Marlborough Hall of the Polytechnic in Regent Street, London, spoke of it as “*A contrivance by which a real scene of life and movement may be produced before an audience in a life-size picture. We have journeyed far in the comparatively brief span of thirty years. Today the modern motion picture film has interwoven itself into the warp and woof of our world civilization to a degree that is little short of marvelous. This world-wide acceptance of the motion picture by the various nationalities scattered over the “seven seas” has been the means of developing a tremendous industry and fostering what may be termed a universal language, the “language of pictures.” For the full article...The United States, through its federal and state governments, is making a wide use of motion pictures. The importance of the film industry to the United States has been recognized by*



Chassis inverted for service (**Fig. 1** from *JSMPT*, May 1951, p. 528).

the establishment of a section or bureau within the United States Department of Commerce” ...” The British Government, through its Admiralty, has produced many informative and technical films and used them to splendid advantage in all parts of the British Empire.” This also includes: Australian Commonwealth, France, Canada, and Jamaica.” For the full article, see: <https://tinyurl.com/34tf7spe>

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