



Television Prompting Devices



A Mark IV Image-orthicon Camera with 'Autocue' attachment. 8161



A Type V3020 Vidicon Camera with 'Minicue' attachment. 8401

'Autocue'

Busy artists are not always able to become completely word-perfect for brief television performances and their assurance is greatly increased by the 'Autocue' visual prompter.

It consists of a moving paper strip on which the script is typed by a special typewriter having very large characters. An operator controls the speed of drive to all slave prompters which work in synchronism and can be attached to the front of the camera. The artist is therefore able to follow the script while looking into the camera lens.

An alternative method of operation, which is particularly suitable for the Type BD 871 Vidicon Camera, is to have a piece of coated optical glass in front of the camera lens at an angle of 45° and reflecting the 'Autocue'. The artiste is thus unaware of the camera lens which effectively looks through the image of the script.

The complete equipment consists of a master unit with, generally, three slave displays, a special typewriter, a felt-pen writing kit for hand drawn items, a power unit and set of interconnecting cables. Various forms of mounting are available for the slave units; the type of camera should thus be specified. Floor-mounting stands and the direct-vision system housing

for the Type BD 871 Camera are also available.

The equipment can be purchased outright, or in the U.K. a hire service (which includes operators) is provided.

'Minicue'

A smaller version of the 'Autocue' is now available, using normal typescript which is magnified by a large lens. The script roll is loaded from a plug-in cassette and the speed control is conveniently operated by foot or hand pressure by the speaker. Unlike the 'Autocue', a second unit and operator are not required.

The 'Minicue' is intended for presentation and announcer's cameras and is shown here fitted to the Type BD 871 and the Type BD 864 Vidicon Cameras. A viewing distance of about six feet (two metres) is quite practicable.

The equipment is packed in a transit case and consists of the 'Minicue' itself, speed controller and cables. A universal mounting bracket is supplied which is suitable for either of the vidicon cameras mentioned. A second script cassette can be supplied if necessary. The script is typed on 4-inch (10.2 cm) wide paper-roll using a standard machine with 'pica' or larger type faces such as 'bulletin' or 'great primer'.



A Type BD 864 Broadcast Vidicon Camera with 'Minicue' attachment. 8402

Photos by courtesy of Autocue Ltd.

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