

SSTV - A NEW BRITISH SCAN CONVERTOR IN KIT FORM

Review

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For the past decade the universally popular SSTV convertor has been the Robot range developing through the 400 series to the present model 1200C. Other convertors, such as the German SC1/2 series, because of incomplete incompatibility, have not taken off outside Europe.

The Robot 1200C, because of its widespread appeal, has been cloned and appears as the LM8000 in Australia and the NS88 in Japan, but these are clones with no radical difference from the parent.

Over the years amateurs have made many modifications to the 1200C, and a fully modded 1200C is now beginning to assume a distinct birds-nest appearance, and the limit of what can be done to improve picture quality and facilities has probably been reached.

After 10 years the need for a fresh approach was due so that the art of SSTV could advance from the present plateau.

With this in mind, a completely new convertor has been designed, with a fully working prototype and PCB designs in the system, is being offered to radio amateurs under the name of Superscan 2001.

SUPERSCAN 2001

This is a state of the art SSTV scan convertor costing considerably less than similar performance systems. The following are some of the attributes claimed:

- Compatibility with all current SSTV systems and modes, and fax and including a specially developed EPROM by G3OQD.
- Four 256 x 256 high resolution memories, each capable of displaying 262144 colours.
- A full PAL decoder with delay lines for perfect pictures from a colour camera (NTSC available via a link on the camera PCB).
- Fast parallel computer and printer interface and a 4800 baud interface.
- Standard RGB output allowing direct connection to a 625/525 line analogue input colour monitor.
- Design parameters allow the future acceptance of a 1 M/bit EPROM.
- Built-in mouse control system.
- Text overlay features without losing stored pictures, providing on-screen help messages.

- CMOS RAM battery back-up to store information such as text screens and set-up procedures.
- Readily available components, uses 1 Mbyte DRAMS.
- High stability oscillator fitted as standard.
- Requires no additional interfaces or switching boards.
- Can be built as a receive and store only system.
- The kit is guaranteed free from defects, genuine faults rectified F.O.C.
- Free technical help hotline or by fax or post.

The commercial version of Superscan will be available by the summer of 1992 and the total cost for the kit is £200.00 or \$US400 (+/- 20% to allow for production cost variations). The kit will include a set of three PCB boards, the EPROM, and full constructional details. Intending constructors are asked to reserve their kit by

sending a deposit of £50.00 (\$US100) (refunded if kit not ready by late summer 1992) to the designer who will notify when the kit is ready for despatch, when the balance will be due.

Please note: resistors, capacitors, diodes, solder, ICs, etc., are not included in the kit but are said to be readily available. Also not included in the kit is a PC interface card, or a specially designed enclosure. I would suggest that enquiry is made to determine what hardware is or is not to be included, e.g: transformer, outlet sockets, plugs, IC holders, etc. Until this is known the final approximate cost cannot be determined, but it will be considerably more than the £200 presently quoted for the 'kit'.

The author will be building this kit and a full review will appear in CQ-TV at a later date.

Further information can be had from the designer:

Jad Bashour, 55 Brampton Road, London, N15 3SX. Tel: 081 809 3911.

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