



THE CC-103 is the first commercially available tape recorder-player-copier to be equipped with a "variable speech control" system, allowing compressed speech without changes in pitch or tone. It has been developed by Magnetic Video Corp., Farmington.

# Device Can Speed Up Speech By 2.5

FARMINGTON Magnetic Video Corp. of Farmington has developed a low-cost tape playback system which compresses speech up to 2½ normal speed without changes in tone or pitch. Magnetic Video is located at 23434 Industrial Park Ct., Farmington.

The new system has been incorporated into the copycorder family of portable cassette recorders, players and copiers developed by the firm.

EQUIPPED with "variable speech control" (VSC), the CC-103 copycorder can reduce listening time by more than half.

"This reduction will allow persons to obtain information and communicate with each other better, faster and more easily," says Andrew A. Blay, president.

"But the most remarkable feature of the VSC copycorder is that, for the first time, the user has an inexpensive way of taking a normal speed original and making a compressed copy.

"To date, persons, especially educators, have been frustrated in their desire to use compressed speech. They have had to send their originals away to have a compressed version made, which was costly and time consuming. Or they have had to buy expensive compressed speech play-back only machines, which usually meant the listener was tied to the machine at the machine's convenience."

The teacher now can give a student a compressed tape cassette copy, which can then be played on any regular cassette tape player.

THE DEVICE is a patented tiny solid-state module smaller than a sugar cube. By regulating the VSC dial on the copycorder, the user can vary the recorded speech played back and or copied on the machine to meet his particular listening needs.

Speech can be compressed up to 2½ times normal speed without the familiar "Donald Duck-like" distortion effect of speeded up conventional VSC unit samples systematically. It isn't selective to pauses and long vowel sounds only. Research has shown, states Blay, that anyone can easily understand speech that has been doubled.

Just as a reader learns to speed read at 400-600 words per minute, persons can "speed listen" at three to four times normal speed with training.

Now in production, the device will sell for about \$500.

In the educational market, the CC-103 offers time-saving advantages to students, teachers, language labs, the chronically ill, and to speech and hearing therapists.

"Secretaries transcribing tapes can adjust playback speed to match their typing rate.

The VSC will allow the blind to readily increase listening speed to that of the average sighted reader's rate of 250 words per minute, he adds.

# Occupational Hazards Topic For Seminar

ROCHESTER A two-day workshop on occupational safety will be held March 7 and 8 at Oakland University in Rochester.

The workshop will focus on health and environmental control features of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

The seminar is sponsored by the conference department of Oakland University.

SPEAKERS will be safety directors who have consulting roles in assuring compliance with the act.

George E. Tubish, consultant from Grand Rapids, will lead the March 7 discussion on environmental monitoring, air contaminants, threshold limit values, and personal protection for chemical spills and heat stress.

# Local Firm Takes Award

Newport West, a 60-acre project engineered by a Plymouth firm which will include 216 condominiums in Ann Arbor, has received the 1972 award for outstanding urban conservation development from the Washtenaw County Soil Conservation District.

Engineers for the project are Norman L. Dietrich Associates, 670 Church, Plymouth. The project engineer was John W. Neault, 9338 Patton, Livonia.

The project was recognized for a number of soil and water conservation measures completed on the site during 1972 to control erosion and off-site sedimentation.

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