

## **V Technical Troubleshooting**

# Troubleshooting

## Introduction

The most common problems occur in harness components such as the coin acceptor, player controls, interconnecting wiring, etc. The TV monitor and PCB computer cause their share of problems too, but not as much as the harness and its component parts. TV monitor troubleshooting will not be covered here because it is covered in that section of this manual.

As you already know, the PCB computer is a complex device with a number of different circuits. Some circuits remain basically the same among games, but overall there are a great many differences between them. PCB troubleshooting procedures, therefore, can be lengthy and will differ greatly among games. However, some basic Z-80 CPU information is involved in this section.

## General Suggestions

The first step in any troubleshooting procedure is correctly identifying the malfunction's symptoms. This includes not only the circuits or features malfunctioning, but also those still operational. A carefully trained eye will pick up other clues as well. For instance, a game in which the computer functions fail completely just after money was collected may have a quarter shorting the PCB traces. Often, an experienced troubleshooter will be able to spot the cause of the problem even before opening the cabinet.

After all the clues are carefully considered, the possible malfunctioning areas can be narrowed down to one or two good suspects. Those areas can be examined by a process of elimination until the cause of the malfunction is discovered.

## Harness Component Troubleshooting

Typical problems falling in this category are coin and credit problems, power problems and failure of individual features.

### NO GAME CREDIT

For example, your prospective player inserts his quarter and is not awarded a game. The first item to check is if the quarter is returned. If the quarter is returned, the malfunction most certainly lies in the coin acceptor itself. First, use a set of test coins (both old and new) to ascertain that the player's coin is not undersize or underweight. If your test coins are also returned, coin acceptor servicing is indicated. Generally, the cause of this particular problem is a maladjusted magnet gate. Normally, this will mean slightly closing the magnet gate a little by turning the adjusting screw out a bit (see section on coin acceptor for more details).

If the quarter is not returned and there is no game credit, the cause of the malfunction may be in one of several areas. First try operating the coin return button; if the coin is returned, the problem is most likely in the magnet gate. Enlarge the gap according to the coin acceptor service procedures. If this does not cure the problem, remove the coin acceptor, clean it and perform the major adjustment procedure.

If the trapped coin is not returned when the wiper lever is actuated, you may have an acceptor jammed by a slug, gummed up with beer, a jammed coin chute, or mechanical failure of the acceptor mechanism. In this case, first check for the slug that will generally be trapped against the magnet. If so, simply remove the slug and test the acceptor. If the chute is blocked, remove the acceptor and remove the jammed coins. If there is actual failure of the acceptor, remove the unit and repair as indicated in the coin acceptor service procedures.

If the coin is making its way through the acceptor (that is, falling into the coin box), yet there is still no game credit, you either have a mechanical failure of the coin switch or electrical failure of the coin and credit circuits. The first place to begin is by checking the coin switch. Most of these switches are the make/break variety of micro switch, which is checked by testing for continuity between the NO, NC, and C terminals. When not actuated, the NC and C terminals should be continuous and the NO terminal open. When operated, the NO and C terminals should close and the NC should be open. If the coin switch checks out, examine the connections to the terminals to make sure there is good contact. If necessary, use the continuity tester and check from the terminal lug on the switch to the associated PCB trace. This will tell you if there is a continuous line all the way to the credit circuit.

If the coin switch wires do not check out, the problem is in the computer — most likely in the coin and credit circuitry.

If you do get game credit when a coin is deposited, but the game will not start when the start switch is pressed, you may have a problem in the start switch, the interconnecting wiring or in the computer. First check the switch. If the switch is OK, proceed to check the wiring. Again, make sure you go from the terminal lug on the switch to the PCB trace. This way, you will check the terminal contact as well as PCB edge connector contact. If the wiring is continuous, proceed to check the PCB credit circuit. If not, check each section of the wiring, until the discontinuity is located. If the wiring is OK, the problem must lie in the computer.

## Transformer and Line Voltage Problems

Your machine must have the correct line voltage to operate properly. If the line voltage drops too low, a circuit in the computer will disable game credit. The point at which the computer will fail to work will vary some from game to game, but no game will work on line voltage that drops below 105 VAC.

Low line voltage may have many causes. Line voltage normally fluctuates a certain amount during the day as the total usage varies. Peak usage times occur mainly at dawn or dusk, so if your machine's malfunction seems to be related to the time of day, this may be a factor. A large load connected to the same line as the game (such as a large air conditioner or other device with an exceptionally large motor) may drop the line voltage significantly when starting up. This drop can result in an intermittent credit problem. In addition, poor connections in the location wiring, plug, or line cord may also cause a significant drop in power. Cold solder joints in the game's harness, especially in areas like the transformer connections, interlock switch, or fuse block, may also produce the same results, although probably on a more permanent basis.

Sometimes location owners (especially in bars) replace light switches with dimmer rheostats, and the game is sometimes on the same line. Obviously, the voltage available to the game is going to drop dramatically when the dimmer is turned.

In any case, the way to check for correct line voltage is with your VOM. Set the VOM to 250 VAC and stick the probes in the wall receptacle. If it's OK here, check the transformer primary connections. If you do not get 117 VAC, examine the solder joints on the transformer, fuse block, and interlock switch. If you do get 117 VAC, the problem must be either in the transformer, harness connections, or in the PCB power supply.

If you suspect the transformer, check its secondaries with the VOM set to 50 VAC and correlate the readings with the legend on the side of the transformer. The transformer must also be correctly grounded, so check the ground potential as well, especially if there is a hum bar rolling up or down the TV screen.

## Harness Problems

Other harness problems include blowing fuses and malfunctioning controls. The repeating blown-fuse problem can sometimes be quite exasperating to solve, for short circuits have the tendency to occur in areas almost impossible to find. First, try inserting a new fuse, as old fuses age and blow without cause. If the new one also blows, you definitely have a short.

The best way to approach this problem is by turning the power off and disconnecting devices that may be causing the problem, such as the TV, transformer, and PCB. Disconnect the devices by pulling off their connectors, but do not allow them to touch. If necessary, insulate them with small pieces of electrical tape. Then, connect your VOM across the terminals of the fuse block (all electrical power shut off), and set it to one of the resistance scales. This will save blowing a fuse each time you want to check the circuit.

If the VOM reveals that disconnecting the devices removed the short, reconnect the devices one by one until the short returns. The last device connected is the one that is at fault. If the VOM reads a short even after the devices are disconnected, the fault must lie in the harness itself, and only patient exploration will reveal its location. First, carefully examine all the wiring, looking for terminals that may be touching, metal objects such as coins shorting connections or burned insulation. If necessary, use the VOM to check each suspected wire.

## Malfunctioning Controls

One of the most common problems here is a bad potentiometer. Typically, a bad pot will cause the image to jump as it reaches a certain point. The only cure for this one is to install a new pot.

If a feature that is operated by a switch (for example, joysticks, foot pedals, control panel buttons) does not operate at all, check the switch with a VOM or continuity tester to verify its operation. If the switch does not check out, replace it. If the switch is OK, you should suspect the input to the switch from the PCB. In this case, get out the harness and logic schematics and check to see what kind of input it is. In many cases, the input will be +5 VDC. If so, use the VOM to check its presence. Normally, the switch is used to pull a +5 VDC line LOW to GND or to pull a LOW line HIGH. If the PCB output is missing, check the wire length from the PCB. If you find the signal at the PCB trace, the wire length or connection is at fault. If not, begin exploring the PCB using the logic schematics.

# A Glossary of Microprocessor Terms

**MICROPROCESSOR** — one or several microcircuits that perform the function of a computer's CPU. Sections of the circuit have arithmetic and comparative functions that perform computations and executive instructions.

**CPU** — central-processing unit. A computing system's "brain", whose arithmetic, control and logic elements direct functions and perform computations. The microprocessor section of a microcomputer is on one chip or several chips.

**PROM** — programmable read-only memory. User permanently sets binary on-off bits in each cell by selectively fusing or not fusing electrical links. Non-erasable. Used for low-volume applications.

**EPROM** — erasable, programmable, read-only memory. Can be erased by ultraviolet light bath, then reprogrammed. Frequently used during design and

development to get programs debugged, then replaced by ROM for mass production.

**ROM** — read-only memory. The program, or binary on-off bit pattern, is set into ROM during manufacture, usually as part of the last metal layer put onto the chip. Nonerasable. Typical ROM's contain up to 16,000 bits of data to serve as the microprocessor's basic instructions.

**RAM** — random-access memory. Stores binary bits as electrical charges in transistor memory cells. Can be read or modified through the CPU. Stores input instructions and results. Erased when power is turned off.

**LSI** — large scale integration. Formation of hundreds or thousands of so-called gate circuits on semiconductor chips. Very large scale integration (VLS) involves microcircuits with the greatest component density.

**MOS** — metal-oxide semiconductor. A layered construction technique for integrated circuits that achieves high component densities. Variations in MOS chip structures create circuits with speed and low-power requirements, or other advantages (static will damage a MOS chip).

## Introduction to the Z-80 CPU

The term "microcomputer" has been used to describe virtually every type of small computing device designed within the last few years. This term has been applied to everything from simple "microprogrammed" controllers constructed out of TTL MSI up to low end minicomputers with a portion of the CPU constructed out of TTL LSI "bit slices." However, the major impact of the LSI technology within the last few years has been with MOS LSI. With this technology, it is possible to fabricate complete and very powerful computer systems with only a few MOS LSI components.

The Zilog Z-80 family of components can be configured with any type of standard semiconductor memory to generate computer systems with an extremely wide range of capabilities. For example, as few as two LSI circuits and three standard TTL MSI packages can be combined to form a simple controller. With additional memory and I/O devices a computer can be constructed with capabilities that only a minicomputer could previously deliver.

New products using the MOS LSI microcomputer are being developed at an extraordinary rate. The Zilog Z-80 component set has been designed to fit into this market through the following factors:

1. The Z-80 is fully software compatible with the popular 8080A CPU.
2. Existing designs can be easily converted to include the Z-80.
3. The Z-80 component set is at present superior in both software and hardware capabilities to any other microcomputer system on the market today.
4. For increased throughput the Z80A operating at a 4 MHZ clock rate offers the user significant speed advantages.

Microcomputer systems are extremely simple to construct using Z-80 components. Any such system consists of three parts:

1. **CPU (Central Processing Unit)**
2. **Memory**
3. **Interface Circuits to peripheral devices**

The CPU is the heart of the system. Its function is to obtain instructions from the memory and perform the desired operations. The memory is used to contain instructions and in most cases data that is to be processed. For example, a typical instruction sequence may be to read data from a specific peripheral device, store it in a location in memory, check the parity and write it out to another peripheral device. Note that the Zilog component set includes the CPU and various general purpose I/O device controllers, while a wide range of memory devices may be used from any source. Thus, all required components can be connected together in a very simple manner with virtually no other external logic.

## General Purpose Registers

There are two matched sets of general purpose registers, each set containing six 8-bit registers that may be used individually as 8-bit registers or as 16-bit register pairs by the programmer. One set is called BC, DE and HL while the complementary set is called BC', DE' and HL'. At any one time the programmer can select either set of registers to work with through a single exchange command for the entire set. In systems where fast interrupt response is required, one set of general purpose registers and an accumulator/flag register may be reserved for handling this very fast routine. Only a simple exchange command need be executed to go between the routines. This greatly reduces interrupt service time by eliminating the requirement for saving and retrieving register contents in the external stack during interrupt or subroutine processing. These general purpose registers are used for a wide range of applications by the programmer. They also simplify programming, especially in ROM based systems where little external read/write memory is available.

## Arithmetic & Logic Unit (ALU)

The 8-bit arithmetic and logical instructions of the CPU are executed in the ALU. Internally the ALU communicates with the registers and the external

data bus on the internal data bus. The type of functions performed by the ALU include:

<b>Add</b>	Left or right shifts or rotates (arithmetic and logical)
<b>Subtract</b>	Increment
<b>Logical AND</b>	Decrement
<b>Logical OR</b>	Set bit
<b>Logical Exclusive OR</b>	Reset bit
<b>Compare</b>	Test bit

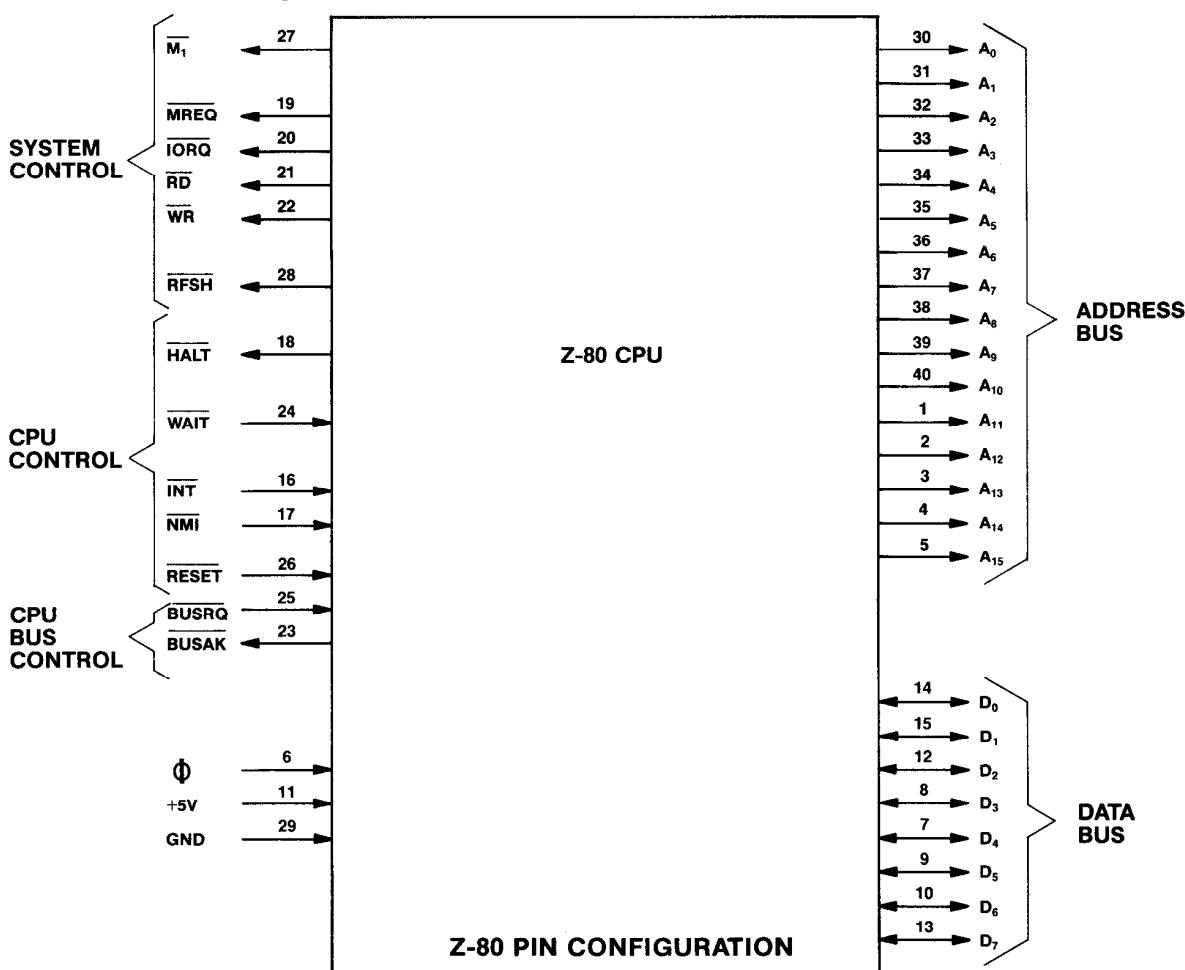
## Instruction Register and

### CPU Control

As each instruction is fetched from memory, it is placed in the instruction register and decoded. The control sections performs this function and then generates and supplies all of the control signals necessary to read or write data from or to the registers, control the ALU and provide all required external control signals.

## Z-80 CPU Pin Description

The Z-80 CPU is packaged in an industry standard 40 pin Dual In-Line Package. The I/O pins are shown in the below figure and the function of each is described.



**A<sub>0</sub>-A<sub>15</sub>**  
**(Address Bus)**

Tri-state output, active high. A<sub>0</sub>-A<sub>15</sub> constitute a 16-bit address bus. The address bus provides the address for memory (up to 64K bytes) data exchanges and for I/O device data exchanges. I/O addressing uses the 8 lower address bits to allow the user to directly select up to 256 input or 256 output ports. A<sub>0</sub> is the least significant address bit. During refresh time, the lower 7 bits contain a valid refresh address.

**D<sub>0</sub>-D<sub>7</sub>**  
**(Data Bus)**

Tri-state input/output, active high. D<sub>0</sub>-D<sub>7</sub> constitute an 8-bit bidirectional data bus. The data bus is used for data exchanges with memory and I/O devices.

**M<sub>1</sub>**  
**(Machine Cycle one)**

Output, active low. M<sub>1</sub> indicates that the current machine cycle is the OP code fetch cycle of an instruction execution. Note that during execution of 2-byte op-codes, M<sub>1</sub> is generated as each op code byte is fetched. These two byte op-codes always begin with CBH, DDH, EDH or FDH. M<sub>1</sub> also occurs with IORQ to indicate an interrupt acknowledge cycle.

**MREQ**  
**(Memory Request)**

Tri-state output, active low. The memory request signal indicates that the address bus holds a valid address for a memory read or memory write operation.

**IORQ**  
**(Input/Output Request)**

Tri-state output, active low. The IORQ signal indicates that the lower half of the address bus holds a valid I/O address for a I/O read or write operation. An IORQ signal is also generated with an M<sub>1</sub> signal when an interrupt is being acknowledged to indicate that an interrupt response vector can be placed on the data bus. Interrupt Acknowledge operations occur during M<sub>1</sub> time while I/O operations never occur during M<sub>1</sub> time.

**RD**  
**(Memory Read)**

Tri-state output, active low. RD indicates that the CPU wants to read data from memory or an I/O device. The addressed I/O device or memory should use this signal to gate data onto the CPU data bus.

**WR**  
**(Memory Write)**

Tri-state output, active low. WR indicates that the CPU data bus holds valid data to be stored in the addressed memory or I/O device.

**RFSH**  
**(Refresh)**

Output, active low. RFSH indicates that the lower 7 bits of the address bus contain a refresh address for dynamic memories and the current MREQ signal should be used to do a refresh read to all dynamic memories.

**HALT**  
**(Halt state)**

Output, active low. HALT indicates that the CPU has executed a HALT software instruction and is awaiting either a non maskable or a maskable interrupt (with the mask enabled) before operation can resume. While halted, the CPU executes NOP's to maintain memory refresh activity.

**WAIT**  
**(Wait)**

Input, active low. WAIT indicates to the Z-80 CPU that the addressed memory or I/O devices are not ready for a data transfer. The CPU continues to enter wait states for as long as this signal is active. This signal allows memory or I/O devices of any speed to be synchronized to the CPU.

**INT**  
**(Interrupt Request)**

Input, active low. The Interrupt Request signal is generated by I/O devices. A request will be honored at the end of the current instruction if the internal software controlled interrupt enable flip-flop (IFF) is enabled and if the BUSRQ signal is not active. When the CPU accepts the interrupt, an acknowledge signal (IORQ during M<sub>1</sub> time) is sent out at the beginning of the next instruction cycle. The CPU can respond to an interrupt in three different modes that are described in detail in section 5.4 (CPU Control Instructions).

**NMI**  
**(Non-Maskable Interrupt)**

Input, negative edge triggered. The non maskable interrupt request line has a higher priority than INT and is always recognized at the end of the current instruction, independent of the status of the interrupt enable flip-flop. NMI automatically forces the Z-80 CPU to restart to location 0066H. The program counter is automatically saved in the external stack so that the user can return to the program that was interrupted. Note that continuous WAIT cycles can prevent the current instruction from ending, and that a BUSRQ will override a NMI.

**RESET**

Input, active low. RESET forces the program counter to zero and initializes the CPU. The CPU initialization includes:

- 1) Disable the interrupt enable flip-flop

- 2) Set Register I = 00H
- 3) Set Register R = 00H
- 4) Set Interrupt Mode 0

During reset time, the address bus and data bus go to a high impedance state and all control output signals go to the inactive state.

#### **BUSRQ**

##### **(Bus Request)**

Input, active low. The bus request signal is used to request the CPU address bus, data bus and tri-state output control signals to go to a high impedance state so that other devices can control these buses.

When BUSRQ is activated, the CPU will set these buses to a high impedance state as soon as the current CPU machine cycle is terminated.

#### **BUSAK**

##### **(Bus Acknowledge)**

Output, active low. Bus acknowledge is used to indicate to the requesting device that the CPU address bus, data bus and tri-state control bus signals have been set to their high impedance state and the external device can now control these signals.

Single phase TTL level clock which requires only a 330 ohm pull-up resistor to +5 volts to meet all clock requirements.

### **Basic Logic and Processor Books**

#### **1. UNDERSTANDING SOLID STATE ELECTRONICS**

By: Texas Instruments	\$2.95
Radio Shack	\$1.95

#### **2. TTL COOKBOOK**

By: Dom Lancaster	\$8.95
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#### **3. DIGITAL VIDEO TEXT BOOK**

By: Kush-N. Stuff	
Wico	\$14.95

#### **4. BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MICROPROCESSORS**

By: Charles M. Gilmore	
Tab Books	\$5.95

#### **5. AN INTRODUCTION TO MICROCOMPUTERS**

By: Adam Osborne	\$7.50
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#### **6. 8080 SYSTEM USER'S MANUAL**

By: Intel	\$5.00
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*Prices may vary*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION  
IS TOLD IN AN EASY TO UNDERSTAND MANNER  
AND IS INTENDED TO AID THOSE WITHOUT AN  
ELECTRONICS DEGREE IN TROUBLESHOOTING AND  
REPAIRING THEIR GAMES T.V. MONITOR.

IF YOU READ THROUGH THIS SECTION AND STILL  
HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DISTRIBUTOR  
OR MIDWAY MANUFACTURING COMPANY AT THE TOLL  
FREE NUMBER PROVIDED WITH YOUR GAMES PAPERS.

**OUR STAFF AND OUR DISTRIBUTORS STAND READY  
TO HELP YOU!**

**THANK YOU**

**VI   T.V. Monitor**

# Color T.V. Monitor

## Introduction: (How to use this section of your manual.)

This section has been designed to simply familiarize you with one of the more mystical components in your game — the T.V. monitor. If you are an electronics technician who is quite knowledgeable on the subject, you may decide to just go to the schematics and start troubleshooting the defective monitor. But if you are like most people, a monitor is a T.V. set, and that means a complex doo-dad that means big buck repairs. This isn't necessarily so. This section of the manual will acquaint you with the monitor and could just help you repair it if you feel adventurous enough to give it a try. If you have any knowledge of electronics, especially the use of a voltmeter, the repairs you can make are astonishing. Just keep in mind that **ELECTRICITY CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS, SO BE CAREFUL!!**

If you want to understand how a monitor works, just read the "THEORY OF OPERATION" subsection. If you wish, you can follow along with the schematics. The information is presented in a very basic manner but more complete treatment of the subject can be found in the technical sections of bookstores.

If you want to attempt to repair your monitor, it would be a good idea to read this whole section beginning to end before starting. **Pay attention to all warnings**

**and take them seriously.** The more equipment you have the better, but a low cost Volt-Ohm-Milliammeter can often do the trick. Here are the steps to take:

1. Find the symptom that matches the problems your monitor has in the "SYSTEM — DIAGNOSIS" subsection. The diagnosis tells the circuit or area the problem may be in and possibly even the actual component causing it.
2. Once you have the circuit that is causing the trouble, read the "TROUBLESHOOTING" subsection to learn the procedure for finding the bad part.
3. Next, go to the schematic section and find the schematic that matches your monitor. It may be helpful to read the "DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MONITORS" subsection if you are unsure of which monitor you have. Use the schematic to see what parts are in the offending circuit.

That really is all there is to it. Just remember that there are some bizarre or rare symptoms not covered, or that a monitor may have two or more different problems that only a genius, the experienced, or an experienced genius can figure out. But be patient, follow safety precautions, and remember that there is also literature available from the monitor companies through your distributor or from Midway Manufacturing Company on request. (There is a toll free number on the back side of the front cover of this manual.)

# Symptom Diagnosis

1. **Insufficient width or height:**
  - A. Horizontal line (due to VERTICAL CIRCUIT DEFECT).
    - Bad yoke.
    - Bad vertical output section.
    - Open fusible resistor in vertical section.
    - Bad height control.
    - Bad flyback.
  - B. Vertical line (due to HORIZONTAL CIRCUIT DEFECT).
    - Bad yoke.
    - Open width coil.
    - Open part in horizontal output section.
2. **Picture spread out too far or crushed in certain areas:**
  - A. Horizontal or vertical output transistor.
  - B. Bad component in output circuitry.
3. **Line too close with black spacing:**
  - A. Problem in vertical section causing poor linearity.
4. **Poor focus and convergence:**
  - A. Bad high voltage transformer ("flyback") or control.
  - B. Focus voltage wire not connected to neck-board terminal.
5. **Colors missing; check:**
  - A. Interface color transistors.
  - B. Color output transistors.
  - C. Cracked printed circuit board.
  - D. Color circuits.
  - E. Video input jack.
6. **Picture not bright enough:**
  - A. Weak emission from picture tube. (Turn horizontal sync off frequency and put brightness all the way up for about 15 minutes. Occasionally this cures the problem.)
7. **Silvery effect in white areas; check:**
  - A. Beam current transistors.
  - B. Weak picture tube emission.
8. **Too much brightness with retrace lines; check:**
  - A. Beam limiter transistors.
  - B. Brightness and/or color blanking control set too high.
9. **Increasing brightness causes an increase in size and poor focus.**
  - A. Weak high voltage rectifier or regulation (high voltage unit).
10. **Small picture and/or poor focus:**
  - A. Low B+ voltage (power supply trouble).
11. **Vertical rolling:**
  - A. Vertical oscillator transistor, IC, or circuit.
  - B. No sync from logic board.
12. **Horizontal line across center:**
  - A. Vertical output circuit is dead (see symptom No. 1. A.).
  - B. Vertical oscillator is not putting out the right wave form.
13. **Picture bends:**
  - A. Horizontal sync needs adjusting.
  - B. Magnetic or electromagnetic interference.
14. **Flashing picture, visible retrace lines:**
  - A. Broken neck board.
  - B. Internal short circuit in the picture tube (arcing).
15. **Unsymmetrical picture or sides of picture:**
  - A. Defective yoke.
16. **No brightness, power supply operating — No high voltage for the picture tube; check:**
  - A. Horizontal oscillator.
  - B. Horizontal amplifier and output.
  - C. Flyback transformer (high voltage unit).
17. **No brightness, high voltage present; check:**
  - A. Heater voltage to the tube at the neck board.
  - B. Screen-grid voltage for the tube.
  - C. Focus voltage.
  - D. Grid to cathode picture tube bias.
18. **No high voltage; check:**
  - A. For AC input to the "flyback".
  - B. Horizontal deflection stages.
  - C. Flyback transformer.
  - D. Yoke.
  - E. Power supply.
19. **No horizontal and vertical hold; check:**
  - A. Sync transistors and circuit.
  - B. Wires and jack from logic board to the monitor.
20. **Wavey picture — (power supply defect); check:**
  - A. Transistors, diodes, electrolytic capacitors in the power supply.

**21. Moving bars in picture:**

- A. Ground connector off between monitor and logic boards.
- B. Defect in the power supply (see wavy picture symptom).

**22. Washed out picture (see picture not bright enough):**

- A. Check video signal at the cathode pins with an oscilloscope. If there is about 80 volts peak to peak, the picture tube has weak emission.

**23. Monitor won't turn on:**

- A. Problem in the power supply: Check fuse, transistors, open fusible resistor.
- B. Shorted horizontal output transistor.

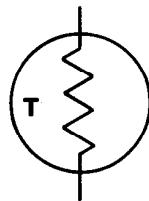
- C. Defective high voltage disabling circuit.
- D. Crack(s) somewhere on main chassis board.

**24. Can't adjust purity or convergence:**

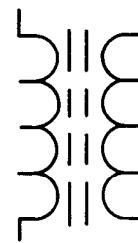
- A. Use a degausser to demagnetize the picture tube carefully following your degausser's instructions.
- B. Picture tube defective.
- C. Metal foreign material is in picture tube shield.
- D. Nearby equipment is electromagnetically interfering.
- E. The poles of the earth are pulling off the purity.
- F. Poor focus or width of picture.

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## Guide To Schematic Symbols



**THERMISTOR**  
(POLARITY DOESN'T MATTER)



**IRON CORE TRANSFORMER**  
(SUCH AS A FLYBACK)



**INDUCTOR, COIL, CHOKE**  
(POLARITY DOESN'T MATTER)

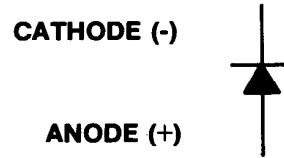


**FUSE**  
(POLARITY DOESN'T MATTER)

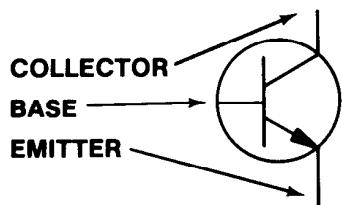


**ZENER DIODE**

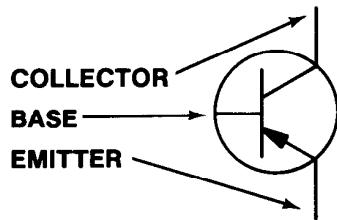
(-) CATHODE  
(+) ANODE



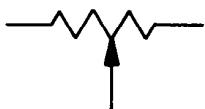
**DIODE**



NPN TRANSISTOR



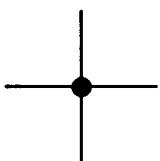
PNP TRANSISTOR



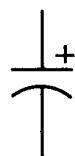
VARIABLE RESISTOR, POT, CONTROL  
(POLARITY DOESN'T MATTER)



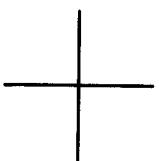
RESISTOR  
(POLARITY DOESN'T MATTER)



LINES ARE CONNECTED



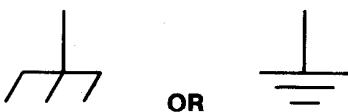
ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITOR



LINES ARE NOT CONNECTED



CAPACITOR  
(POLARITY DOESN'T MATTER)



GROUND

# Troubleshooting

Troubleshooting monitors requires experience, patience, and luck. The first step is to match the symptom the monitor displays to the diagnosis next to it in the "SYMPTOM-DIAGNOSIS" subsection. This will pinpoint the circuit the problem is probably in, and often the parts to check. Next, the circuit should be visually inspected to see if there are any parts broken, burned, or if something is there that shouldn't be, like a loose screw, etc. Some parts go bad before others and should be checked first. In fact, following is the general order in which parts usually go bad:

1. Semiconductors (like transistors, diodes, and integrated circuits).
2. Fusible resistors.
3. Electrolytic capacitors.
4. Resistors.
5. Capacitors and coils.

Always remember that a monitor can bite like a snake. Even when it is turned off, capacitors hold voltage and will discharge it to you should you be touching chassis ground. The picture tube or CRT, itself, is a giant capacitor, so avoid the flyback anode plug hole. With the monitor on, the power supply circuit and/or the flyback, which puts out at least 18,000 volts, **CAN BE KILLERS!!** Avoid handling power transistors (usually output transistors), yoke terminals, and other high power components when the monitor is on.

## **WARNING: That picture tube is a bomb!**

When it breaks, first it implodes, then it explodes. Large pieces of glass have been known to fly in excess of 20 feet in all directions. **DO NOT** carry it by the long, thin neck. Discharge its voltage to ground by shorting the anode hole to ground. Use a plastic handled screwdriver, connect one end of a wire with an alligator clip at each end to chassis ground and the other end to the metal shaft of the screwdriver. Using **ONE HAND ONLY** (put the other in your pocket) and touching **ONLY** the plastic handle of the screwdriver

**(DO NOT TOUCH THE METAL SHAFT)** stick the blade of the screwdriver into the anode hole. Be prepared for a fairly loud pop and a flash. The longer the monitor has been turned off, the smaller the pop and dimmer the flash. But **BECAREFUL**, picture tubes will hold a very

healthy charge for at least a week if not longer. Even after you've discharged it once, it may still carry a residual charge. It's better to be too careful than dead, which is why electronic equipment always carries stickers referring servicing to qualified personnel. Handle the side with the viewing screen against your chest when changing it. **ALWAYS** wear safety goggles when handling the picture tube.

To maintain the safety and performance of the monitor, always use exact replacement parts. For instance, the wrong components in the power supply can cause a fire, or the wrong color transistor may give a funny color to the picture. Service your monitor on a nonconductive firm table like wood, **NOT METAL**, and take off all of your jewelry just in case. With all this in mind, you are ready to begin troubleshooting.

Observe the picture carefully. Try to vary the appropriate control that would most likely affect your particular symptom. For example, if there is poor brightness or no picture, try turning up the brightness or contrast control. If the controls have no effect at all, chances are there is trouble with the control itself, the circuit it controls, or a nearby circuit that may be upsetting voltages. Go to the list of symptoms and determine with the schematic where the bad circuit is.

## **CAUTION:**

**Keep in mind that capacitors hold a charge as can the picture tube (for at least a week and usually longer), and could shock you.**

First, check for obvious visual defects such as broken or frayed wires, solder where it is not supposed to be, missing components, burned components, or cracked printed circuit boards. If everything looks good up to this point, make sure that diodes, electrolytic capacitors, and transistors have their leads connected in the right polarity as shown on the schematic and the circuit board.

Turn on the power and measure the voltages at the leads of the active devices such as tubes, transistors, or integrated circuits. Any voltage that does not come within at least 10% to 15% of the voltage specified on the schematic indicates either a problem with that device or a component connected with it in the circuit. The next step is to use the ohmmeter to narrow down the field of possible offenders.

To test a transistor, one lead of the ohmmeter is placed on the base; and the other lead placed just on the emitter, then on the collector. A normal transistor will read either high resistance (infinite), or little resistance (400 to 900 ohms), depending on the polarity of this type transistor. Then the leads should be switched, one remaining on the base, and the other switched from the emitter to the collector. Now the opposite condition should result: the resistance should be infinite if it was lower when the other lead was on the base. Consistently infinite readings indicate an open, and a short is demonstrated by 0-30 ohms on most of these test readings. Finally, place one lead on the collector, then the other on the emitter. No matter which lead is used, there should be infinite resistance. Any lower reading, such as 50 ohms (which is typical on a bad transistor), indicates a short.

This all sounds pretty confusing, but a little experience on a good transistor will make you an expert in no time. Usually, the lowest ohmmeter setting is used for testing transistors. Once in a great while a transistor may check out good on this test, but may actually be "leaky" or break down only on higher voltages. If in doubt, change it. It is also wise to check the transistor out of the circuit just in case some component in the circuit is affecting the ohmmeter reading.

A diode is tested like a transistor except it only has two leads. Again, there should be high resistance one

way and little resistance the other. If it tests bad, take one lead out of the circuit in case some component is messing up the ohmmeter reading.

**NOTE:** **DO NOT** leave soldering equipment on the leads too long since all semiconductors, especially integrated circuits, are easily destroyed by heat.

Without special equipment, integrated circuits are checked by verifying the proper DC voltage on the pins and the correct AC wave form using an oscilloscope. **BE CAREFUL:** Shorting their pins can easily destroy them.

Resistors are checked with an ohmmeter and should usually be within ten percent of the value stated on them and on the schematic. You may have to desolder one lead from the printed circuit board. If you wreck the foil on the board, carefully solder a small wire over the break to reconnect the conductive foil.

Capacitors are tricky. Their resistance goes up when checked with an ohmmeter which shows a charging action. As they suck up current from the meter, the voltage goes up and so does the resistance. If you are sure a particular circuit is giving you a problem and everything else checks out O.K., Electrolytic capacitors are prime suspects. Substitute a new one and keep your fingers crossed.

## Theory of Operation

To understand what goes on inside the monitor, large general groups of circuits will be examined instead of laboriously analyzing the branches and small circuits that make up these groups. This will help avoid confusion and aid in a basic, concrete, knowledge of what makes up a monitor.

### THE POWER SUPPLY —

The AC going to the monitor from the game transformer is just like the voltage and current from your wall outlet. It jumps up and down going positive and negative sixty times a second. But a monitor needs nice, smooth DC; direct current, not alternating. So diodes chop up the AC and a big electrolytic capacitor filters it out to make it even smoother. Since the monitor is a big piece of electronic equipment, with many circuits demanding a lot of power from the power supply, there are also zener diodes and transistors to help maintain a nice, constant, smooth voltage so that the monitor circuits don't jump around. And this is what happens when you see a wavy picture. There is AC creeping

through the power supply, so it must be malfunctioning. If the voltage from the power supply is too low, the other circuits will be starved for power and you may see a small, wavy picture, or none at all.

Some circuits receive voltages that are higher than what the power supply should put out. But they come from the flyback transformer which will be discussed later.

### THE INTERFACE SECTION OF THE CHASSIS —

The interface section of the chassis is fairly easy to identify. It is right by the place where the video jack(s) from the logic board(s) plug into. There are sets of transistors that receive the separate red, green, blue, and sync information from the cables that come from the logic boards. The circuits jack up the voltage and match impedances, or in other words, prepare the logic board outputs for the circuits that will really amplify them for the output devices such as the yoke in the case of the sync, or the picture tube that shows the colors.

An interesting aside is that our sync is composite negative sync. That means two things:

1. The sync is a negative going wave form.
2. There are two pulses going at different speeds over the same wire:
  - a. Vertical wave forms at 60 times per second (or Hertz) and
  - b. Horizontal wave forms at about 15,750 times per second (Hz).

The sync is amplified by a sync amplifier transistor and sent on its way to the oscillators. The sync or timing information will be explained along with the oscillator shortly.

The color information is sent via wires to the neck board where the main amplification occurs. This will also be discussed later.

## **VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL DEFLECTION —**

After the sync signal is amplified by the sync amp, it goes to two different sections, the vertical and horizontal circuits. Basically, the sync signals are for timing so the picture doesn't mess up since it is assembled like an orderly jigsaw puzzle, but so fast that you can't see the electron beams for each color painting the picture on the screen. This will all become clear soon. For now, we will follow the 60 cycle component of the sync as it goes on its journey to the deflection yoke.

The 60 cycle pulse goes to the vertical oscillator to make sure this circuit goes back and forth (or oscillates) at 60 times a second. Without this pulse keeping the circuit at the correct speed, it may get lazy and oscillate at 58 cycles or lower, or get ambitious and oscillate at 62 cycles or higher. At the wrong speed, the picture will start to roll up or down.

A Wells Gardner 13" or 19" color monitor uses transistors for its sync section. An Electrohome 13" or 19" color monitor uses an integrated circuit IC501 for its sync section. The idea is all the same. The output to the vertical amplifying transistors for all monitors must be a sawtooth wave form, sort of like a bunch of pyramids, racing to the yoke's vertical coils at 60 times a second.

Along the way to the output transistors, the 60 cycle pulse is shaped and amplified to do the job: the yoke magnetically pushes the electron beam to fill the screen out sideways looking at the screen with the greatest length going up and down. Or viewing the screen sitting like a home television set. The amplified vertical output fills the screen up and down. Watching a monitor like this, seeing only a horizontal line means a problem with the vertical coils of the yoke or anything from the vertical output section on back to the oscillator.

The horizontal section is very similar with a few exceptions. The horizontal wave shape is more like a square and has a frequency of 15,750 cycles a second. Again, Wells Gardner uses transistors for the horizontal oscillator, and Electrohome uses the other side of IC501. Still, the effect is the same. If the oscillator isn't going at the correct speed, the picture may move sideways, start to slant, or tear up with slanted thin figures. With both the vertical and horizontal of all monitors, there are variable resistors that change the speed of the oscillators up and down. This way you have controls that can make the correct frequencies to keep the electronic jigsaw puzzle nicely locked in place. If you're driving in a car and next to you someone else is driving their car at exactly the same speed, it will appear that they are not moving. And this is why the sync frequency and the oscillators frequencies must match, so the picture doesn't appear to move.

The correct wave form is shaped and amplified in the circuitry just like in the vertical section. But the horizontal output transistor is a large power transistor and not only serves to give current to the horizontal yoke windings, it also feeds the flyback transformer.

## **THE FLYBACK TRANSFORMER (OR HIGH VOLTAGE UNIT) —**

The picture tube needs high voltage to light up, and the power supply can't meet this demand. The flyback transformer receives current alternating at about 15,750 times per second from the horizontal output transistor. The "flyback" jacks up its input voltage and puts out a higher voltage alternating at the same speed. But, in your "flyback" there are diodes that chop up the alternating voltage to make it a smooth DC output just like in the power supply. This is what goes through that thick red wire to your picture tube. THIS AREA HAS ABOUT 18,000 VOLTS ON IT AND IT CAN KILL YOU!!

The "flyback" may be dangerous, but it is also generous. It has extra output windings which give voltage to the heater pins of the picture tube, voltage for the vertical deflection circuits, and picture tube screen-grid voltage. So in a way, the high voltage "flyback" is like a second power supply.

## **COLOR CIRCUITS**

The color circuits are pretty straight forward. The signals go into the interface section where some amplification and impedance matching occurs. These circuits are pretty sparse and simple. Each color just has two transistors and a diode with some resistors and capacitors. From here, the AC color signal is sent by wires to the neck board.

The color output circuits are on the neck board. The color signals going to the transistors are controlled by two variable resistors called drive controls. There are only two, one for the red and one for the green. The

blue doesn't have one. In the emitter part of each transistor is another variable resistor that is the cut off control. These controls vary the amount of amplified AC signal that goes to the cathodes of the picture tube. The more signal, the more color. The bases of each of these transistors are connected together and are all connected to the blanking and beam limiting transistors which are in the interface section.

The beam limiter helps control the brightness level, and the blanking transistor rapidly turns the picture tube on and off so that retrace lines don't show up on the screen. By turning up the brightness on a good monitor, these four to six retrace lines can be seen slanting diagonally across the picture.

### **PROTECTION CIRCUIT —**

To protect the high voltage section against voltages that are too high coming from the power supply which could cause X-rays to be emitted from the "flyback", a circuit senses the higher power supply voltage, and using a transistor, turns off the horizontal oscillator. Since the horizontal oscillator doesn't work, the horizontal output transistor has nothing to feed the "flyback" which in turn has nothing to feed the picture tube. The monitor will be silent, have no picture, and will appear to be off. **But don't be fooled.** There is still that excessive amount of voltage coming from the power supply. To find out, check the emitter on TR502 of the Wells Gardner monitors; or the emitter of X04 for the Electrohome monitor. Here are the voltages you should receive:

Wells Gardner = 127VDC  
Electrohome = 120VDC

The best place to measure this voltage on an Electrohome monitor is at a pin marked B1 on the chassis. This is because a 13 inch color Electrohome

monitor, the G07-FB0 or G07-902, has an integrated circuit and very little else in the power supply. Still, there should be 120VDC at B1.

### **THE PICTURE TUBE (OR CRT) —**

The picture tube or CRT is an output device. In other words, the end result of the circuits work is displayed by this part. Actually, the output of other circuits is in the neck of the picture tube.

First, there is the heater. The heater boils off electrons from the cathodes so that they (the electrons) shoot up to the screen to excite the phosphors so that the three phosphors emit three colors of light.

The cathodes are next, and again they emit electrons to turn on the tube phosphors, making it glow. The cathode can arc or short to the heater resulting in no picture and a defective picture tube.

Next come the grids. The first grid is grounded. The following grid is the screen grid which receives about 300VDC depending on the brightness setting. The next grid closest to the picture tube screen is the focus grid which gets about one fifth the amount of voltage that is applied to the picture tube anode.

After jetting from the cathode through all these grids, the electrons speed through a mask, a sheet of material with tiny holes, and then excite the tiny dots of phosphor in the inside surface of the picture tube screen. The green electron gun (or cathode and circuitry) spits out electrons which head for the green phosphors only. The same goes for the red and blue guns. The way the phosphor light blends determines the color seen. Should these electron beams become too intense, they may burn the phosphor. With the monitor off, this can be seen as a dark permanent image of the video information on the tube screen.

## **Differences Between Monitors**

The easiest way to identify the brand of monitor you are working with, assuming you can't find the brand name written on it anywhere, is to see if there are two circuit boards rising up from the chassis toward the picture tube neck. In other words, they stand up, or are perpendicular to the chassis, with a black plastic bracket holding them in place. This is a description of a Wells Gardner monitor. They use separate boards for main chunks of circuitry. Therefore, you have a "power board" (the power supply), an "interface board" (the interface section), and a "horizontal/vertical board" (for the deflection circuitry). Still, there are a few parts on the chassis, but most can be found on the board. An Electrohome monitor has no

separate boards, except for the neck board, and just has a flat chassis.

Another good way to determine which monitor you have is to check the transistor call out numbers that are printed on the chassis next to the part. For instance, on the neck board, one of the color output transistors is TR401. If you look through the schematics or the parts lists, you will find TR401 in the Wells Gardner literature. On the other hand, the neck board transistor may say X101. X101 can be found in the Electrohome literature. So, all Wells Gardner transistor call outs begin with TR, and Electrohome transistor call outs start with an "X".

# Parts Interchangeability

Some parts can be interchanged on all of the monitors. Here are the rules:

1. You **CAN** swap the voltage regulator TR502 or X01 on any Wells Gardner or Electrohome 19 inch monitor. You **CAN NOT** swap the voltage regulator on the 13 inch Wells Gardner or Electrohome (G07-902) since the Electrohome uses an integrated circuit for the power supply.
2. You **CAN** swap any resistor between monitors that has the same resistance, wattage rating, and tolerance.
3. You **CAN** swap any capacitor between monitors that has the same capacitance, and voltage rating.
4. You **CAN** swap any 19 inch picture tube on the monitors.
5. You **CAN NOT** change any part that is a **safety part**, one that is shaded in gray on the schematic; it **MUST** be **IDENTICAL** to the original. **To do otherwise IS DANGEROUS.** For instance, the 13 inch Electrohome (G07-904) monitor "flyback". looks identical to the 19 inch Electrohome (G07-904) monitor "flyback". In fact, there is even a 19 inch Electrohome (G07-905) monitor (which is an obsolete model) with a similar looking "flyback". **NONE OF THESE ARE INTERCHANGEABLE!!**
6. You **CAN** change any of the parts between the G07-904 and G07-907. They're essentially the same monitor except that the G07-907 has a vertically mounted picture tube.

If there is any doubt about what parts can be swapped between each manufacturer's 19 inch and 13 inch models, compare the manufacturer's part number between each one. If they match up, they are the same part.