

Chicago Daily Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Saturday, October 6, 1951

Homemade Color TV Set



Carl Beckman of Naperville made a color converter for his 7 inch black and white television set with odds and ends costing only \$8.20. The string in his right hand controls a wooden brake which controls the speed of the motor to achieve perfect synchronization. (Story on page 1 of this section.)

BUILDS HIS OWN TV COLOR SET AT COST OF \$8.20

BY ANTON REMENIH

(Picture on page 4)

The most popular man in Naperville today is Carl W. Beckman, 34, the man who "made" a color television set with odds and ends costing \$8.20.

He is the only man in the suburb, and perhaps the entire Chicago area, who can watch the Princeton-Navy football game in color over WBKB today while reclining comfortably in an easy chair at home with a glass of milk in hand. Beckman expects a lot of friends who haven't been around much lately to knock on the door and say: "Just passing by and thought I'd say hello. How are you, Carl, old pal?"

Beckman, assistant manager of a roofing company in Cicero, was inspired to convert an old 7 inch black and white TV set to color after reading a "how to do it" article in a science magazine.

Contraption Barred by Wife

"Mine is a Rube Goldberg contraption," he chortled. "My wife, Eileen, won't let me play with it in the living room. She calls it 'The Thing.' Keep it in the basement. But it works."

Converting any black and white set to color requires two basic operations. The set must be adapted to reduce number of lines on the screen from 525 to 425. Beckman accomplished this simply by adding three resistors in the right places.

The second requirement is a tri-colored spinning disk in front of the picture tube. Beckman bought some red, blue, and green cellophane, cut six segments, and fashioned a 13 inch circle, using transparent tape to hold it together. For rigidity, he pressed the cellophane circle between 1-16th inch layers of plexiglass.

An old washing machine motor [one-fifth horse power] spins the disk. The motor's natural speed was 1,725 r. p. m. Beckman reduced rotation to 1,440, the speed required for color TV synchronization, with a belt and pulley arrangement. Perfect synchronization is achieved with a simple hand braking device on one of the pulleys.

Motor from Junk Heap

"Something like braking a team of horses down hill," he said.

Here is the cost breakdown: Plexiglass, \$5.50; belt, \$1.40; pulley, \$1, and cellophane, 30 cents. A neighbor contributed the resistors. Beckman found the motor in a junk heap.

Beckman will be able to pick up today's Princeton-Navy game either in black and white or color simply by throwing a small double pole switch.

How does Beckman's "home-made" set work? He checked it on KSKBS [channel 2] which periodically is transmitting color test patterns.

"It works fine," he said. "Colors are bright. I'm delighted. My neighbors are amazed. And my wife is flabbergasted. She never thought I had it in me."



TELEVISION PROGRAMS FOR TODAY



CHICAGO TELEVISION CHANNELS

WGN-TV—9 WNBO—5
WENR-TV—7 WBKB—4

*Indicates listing paid for by sponsor to give you more information about program

- 9:15 A. M.
- [7]—Magic Screen
- [4]—Aces on Faces
- 9:30 A. M.
- [0]—Magic Carpet
- [7]—Jr. Circus
- [4]—Ed McConnell
- 10:00 A. M.
- [9]—Movie for Kids
- [4]—Bob Atcher
- 10:20 A. M.
- [7]—A Date with Judy
- [4]—Kiddy Showtime
- 11:00 A. M.
- [9]—Feature Film
- [4]—The Big Top
- 11:20 A. M.
- [7]—Theater of Romance
- [5]—Dizzy Dean
- 11:45 A. M.
- [9]—Pre-game show
- [5]—Pre-game show
- 12 NOON
- [9]—World series
- [5]—World series
- [4]—Film
- 12:50 P. M.
- [4]—Princeton vs. Navy
- 2:00 P. M.
- [5]—Illinois vs. Wisconsin
- 3:00 P. M.
- [4]—Gridiron Multiscope
- 3:45 P. M.
- [9]—Powerhouse of Sports
- 4:00 P. M.
- [9]—Empire Theater
- 4:15 P. M.
- [5]—Post-game show
- 4:20 P. M.
- [7]—Lucky 7 Ranch

- ### SPECIAL TV EVENTS
- 12:00 noon—[9] [5]—Baseball. World series. Yankees vs. Giants.
 - 12:30 p. m.—[4]—Football. Princeton vs. Navy. [In color only.]
 - 2:00—[5]—Football. Illinois vs. Wisconsin.

- 4:30 P. M.
- [5]—Nature of Things
- 4:45 P. M.
- [5]—Bob Conditine
- 5:00 P. M.
- [5]—Inside story
- [4]—Tom Kemp
- 5:15 P. M.
- [4]—Western Theater
- 5:20 P. M.
- [7]—Willie the Whopper
- 5:30 P. M.

- 5:30 P. M.
- [9]—Telesports Digest
- [5]—Mr. Wizard
- 5:45 P. M.
- [4]—Patricia Bowman
- 6:00 P. M.
- [9]—Pet Shop
- [7]—For Cowboys Only
- [5]—Chicago Playhouse
- [4]—Sammy Kaye
- 6:30 P. M.
- [5]—Range Rider
- [5]—One Man's Family
- [4]—Beat the Clock
- 7:00 P. M.
- [9]—Saturday feature
- [7]—Whiteman TV Teen club
- [5]—All Star Revue
- [4]—Ken Murray
- 8:00 P. M.
- [7]—Lessons in Safety
- [5]—Show of Shows
- [4]—Faye Emerson
- 8:30 P. M.
- [9]—Wrestling
- [7]—Maywood Harness Racing
- [4]—Show Goes On

[7] WENE-TV—HAIL THE CHAMP, Greatest, laughiest NEW TV show for kids . . . for the whole family. Popular **HERB ALLEN** emcees as head coach while youngsters compete in stunts and races. Swell prices add to the fun and excitement. "Hail the Champ" is presented by Chuckles, champ of jelly candies every Saturday at 5:30.



- 9:00 P. M.
- [4]—Crime Photographer
- 9:30 P. M.
- [4] WBKB—REBUTAL presents "MR. & MRS. KUP" starring Ler. and Essie Kapeinet with their guest stars: **BETTY KELLY** **BETTY & JANE KEAN**
- [9]—Wrestling (cont.)
- [5]—Hit Parade
- 10:00 P. M.
- WBKB—"STUDEBAKER TELE-MOVIE TIME," a pedigoric monster runs amok and turns on his master in the startling feature film "The Return of the Ape Man," starring Bela Lugosi and John Carradine. Presented by your local Studebaker dealer.
- [9]—Wrestling (cont.)
- [7]—Word of Life Songtime
- [5]—Grand Marquee, BHM
- 10:20 P. M.
- [7]—Video Playhouse
- 11:00 P. M.

- [9] WGN-TV—Saturday Night Movie Date Donald Cook in "CONFIDENTIAL" Blazing guns—brutal action! G-Men exposes cruel "numbers" racket in New York! See luminous LIBBYA, too. Presented by the Three Great Libby Furniture Stores.
- 11:30 P. M.
- [4] WBKB—Murder Before Midnight. Mystery film. Prize Jackpot. Allied Auto Co., 3435 Archer Ave.
- 12 MIDNIGHT
- [4]—Night Owl Movie