

The Daven Corporation-Pioneer TV Parts Supplier

By  
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By the middle of 1928 Jenkins Laboratories had started broadcasting three days a week from 3XK Washington, D.C. on 46.7 Meters. The program started with the silhouette of a girl bouncing a ball as sort of a trademark.

Amateur radio operators that tuned into that frequency could hear the video signal. Some described it as the buzz of a bumble bee, others said it sounded like an intermittent high pitched whirr and one listener thought it was similar to the teeth of a buzz saw with regular clicks as though the blade was nicked or bent.

For those who were interested, the radio supply houses started stocking parts from which radiovisors could be built. The Daven Corporation in Newark, N.J. was one of the first to list the basic items. There were the neon tube or lamp, the scanning disc and an AC 900 r.p.m. motor with a rheostat to adjust the speed.

The Daven Corporation made a 12" scanning disc with 24 holes, a larger disc with 36 holes and another with 48 holes. Then there was one with 24, 36 and 48 holes all in the same disc. The 48 hole spiral was near the outer edge, the 36 hole spiral a little closer to the center and the 24 hole spiral just inside the other two. In order to change from one spiral to the other a sliding bracket was used to raise and lower the lamp.

The Daven Corporation called themselves resistor and amplifier specialists and made amplifiers with three and four stages. A 171 tube was used in the last stage for television. These units still turn up with antique radio parts.

Bruce Hertzberg, a fine young collector who lives at 268 Pinelake, Wayne, N.J. was lucky and located a Daven kit recently in the New York area.

The Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. has a 12" Daven assembled kit and a large scanning disc in their storeroom.

The Daven Corporation also advertised a large box like complete radiovisor that at first glance looked like the front side of an octagon cylinder. They stayed in business until about 1933, after that both the cabinet model and the Corporation seem to have disappeared.

