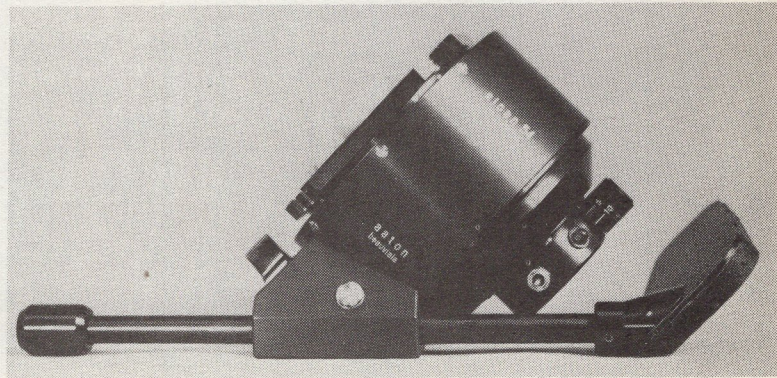
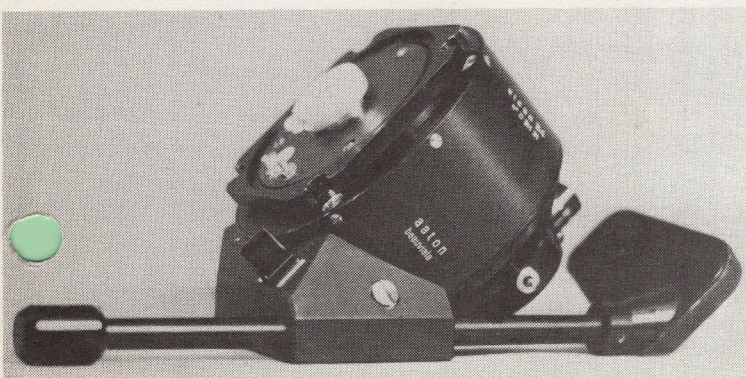
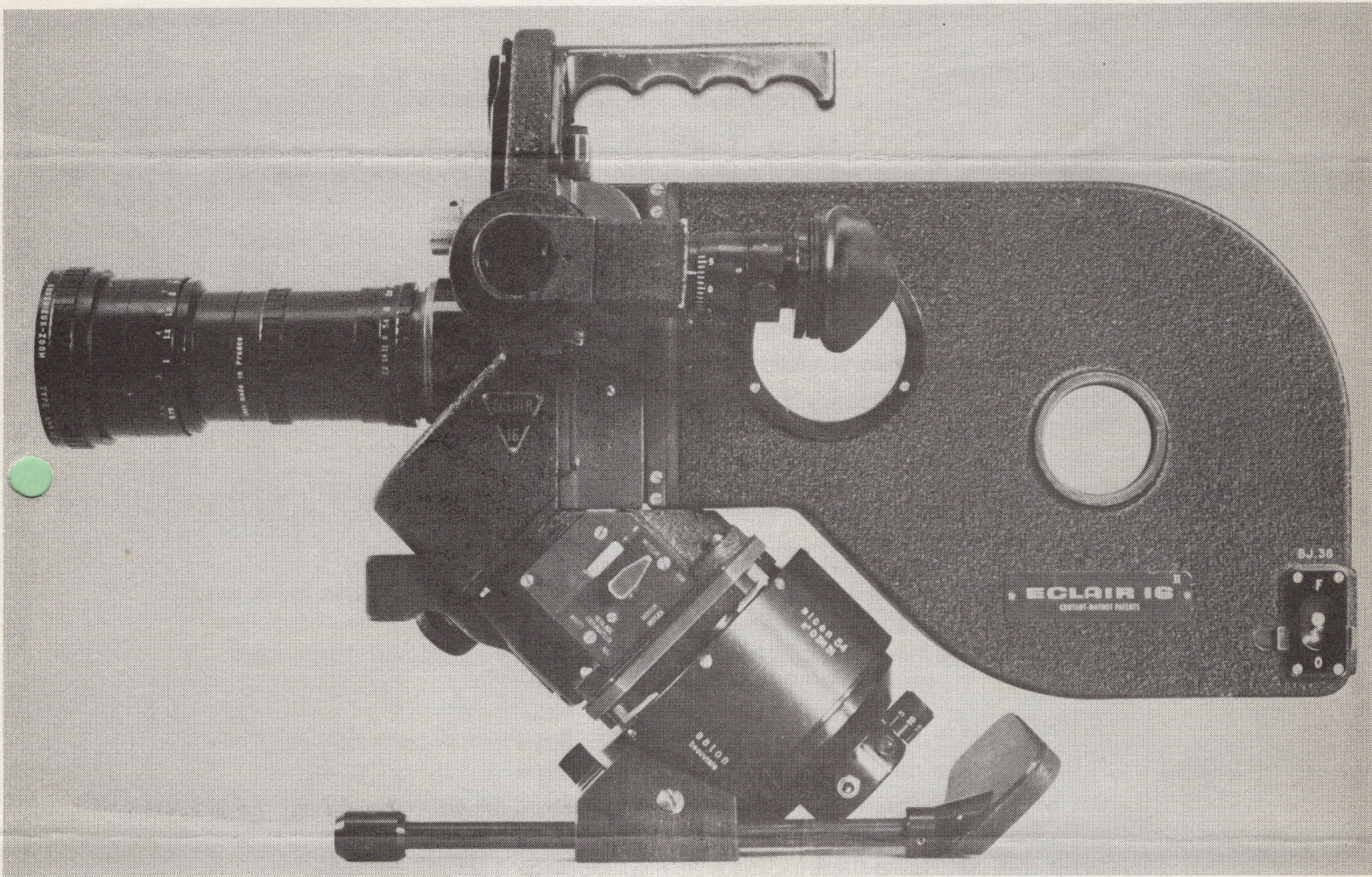


BELDEN
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.



BELDEN COMMUNICATIONS INC.

P.O. BOX 92 • RADIO CITY STATION • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019
(212) 889-9432

ALCAN 54 - Price \$2,395.00 Retail

Physical Characteristics

- ...Flat base motor for direct attachment onto all tripod platforms.
- ...Large triangular base maintains the camera in a vertical position, even w/zoom and without magazine.
- ...Sliding shoulder grip to adjust the view finders position in relation to the eye.
- ...Good shoulder position, because the rod's position and the motor's form allow the hand to remain on the camera body.
- ...The height of the camera is reduced by 2-1/2".
- ...Motor weighs approximately 4 pounds (1850 grams). This is the smallest and lightest crystal motor available for Eclair NPR.
- ...Easily interchangeable modular electronic circuit facilitating repair work and maintenance, cutting downtime.

Electronic Characteristics

- ...12 volt power supply - power drain of 2.2 amps at 72°F.
- ...Connected to the battery by a Cannon XLR 4.42 identical to that used by the Eclair 16 NPR $\begin{matrix} \oplus & -4 \\ \ominus & -1 \end{matrix}$
- ...Complete protection from polarity inversions of power supply (10 A fuse in the base). Spare fuse is under the metal plate set around the tripod screw receptacle.
- ...Speed controlled by a 5MHz high stability crystal $\pm 15 \cdot 10^{-6}$ precision over -10°F - +125°F temperature range (1/4 frame over 400').
- ...24 F/S.
- ...25 F/S.
- ...Variable speed (5-10-15-18-20-28-32 F/S) controlled by a graduated knob.
- ...Automatic stop in viewing position.
- ...Out of crystal warning by noticeable flickering in the view finder (3 FPS flicker in view finder).
- ...60 Hz (or 50 Hz) synchronization signal between 1 and 3 on XLR.
- ...Clapper Signal
 - No pilotone during starting.
 - Signal which sets off the bloop oscillator on the recorder.
 - Clapper lamp lights up on the camera.
- ...Signal Lamp
 - Off when on crystal control.
 - Lights up when out of crystal (battery low, etc.).
 - Continuously lighted when on variable speed (wild).
- ...Exterior slaving for filming on television screen with Atelan accessory (accessory for exterior 50 and 60 Hz slaving; applications; play back, filming on television screen, etc.)
- ...IF ALCAN MOTOR IS SWITCHED INTO CRYSTAL MODE DIRECTLY FROM VARIABLE SPEED MODE WITHOUT STOPPING MOTOR, THE "OUT OF SYNC" ALARM DROPS MOTOR INTO 2 FPS "HIGH FLICKER" MODE. MOTOR MUST BE SWITCHED "OFF" AND THEN "ON" AGAIN TO RE-ESTABLISH CRYSTAL CONTROL. THE MOTOR MAY BE SWITCHED FROM THE CRYSTAL MODE TO A PREVIOUSLY SELECTED VARIABLE SPEED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

ALL ORDERS SUBJECT TO PRICE AT TIME OF DELIVERY.

Product Report

These Product Reports are, insofar as we can humanly make them, the honest observations of a working photographer/cinematographer with years of well-grounded practical experience. Each piece of equipment reviewed has gone through several weeks of actual use in the field. This is not a "lab test," but rather, a report on the suitability, the quality, the handling, the reliability, and the ruggedness of each unit as it relates to the everyday needs of the filmmaker.

Alcan 54 Crystal Motor

by Steven T. Smith

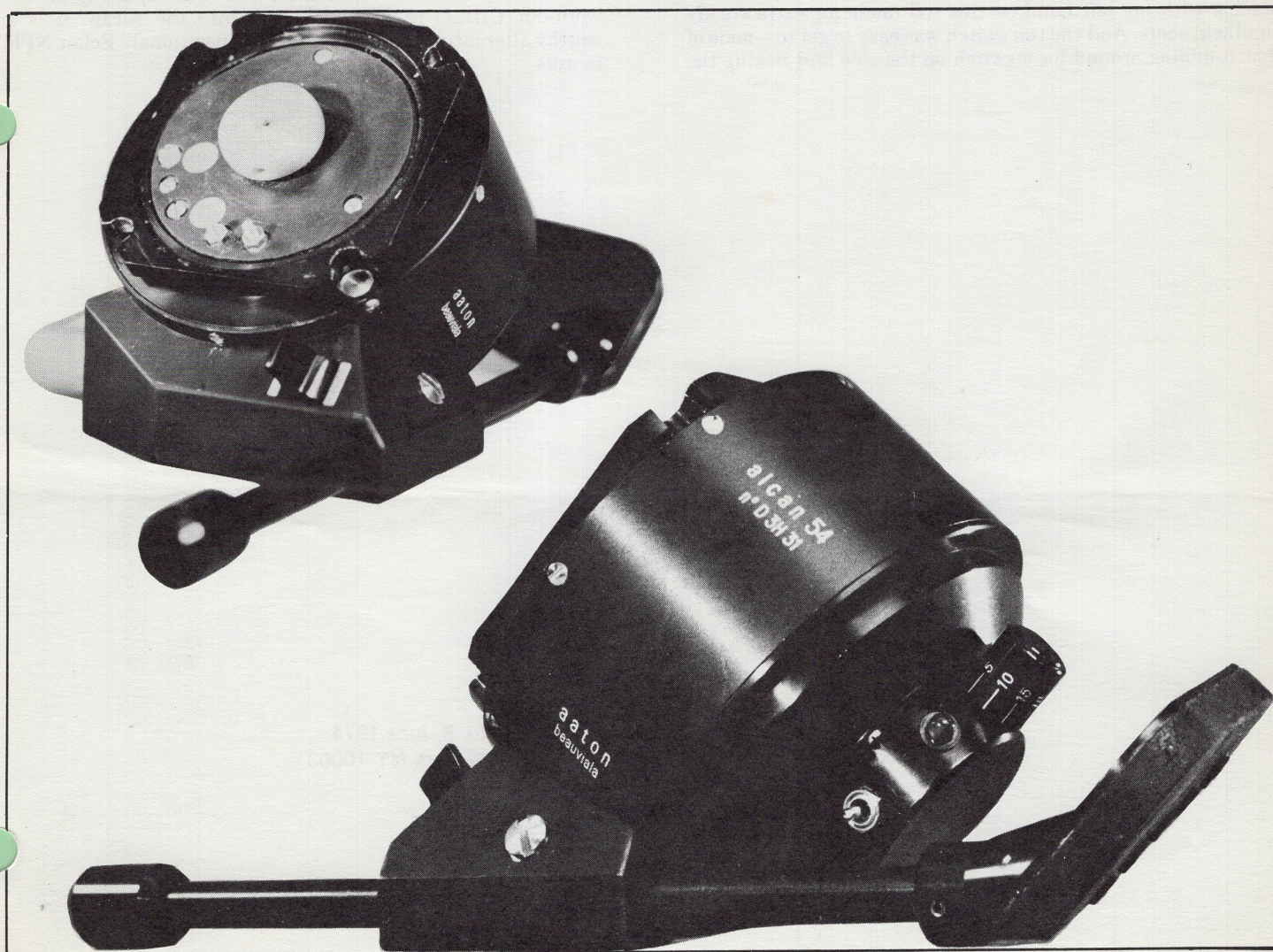
In recent months yet another Universal Motor for the Eclair NPR has appeared on the market. First there was the BEALA. Then the Perfectone Compact. And now the Alcan 54. I doubt that any other camera has such a wide variety of crystal motors available. The new entry, the Alcan, was designed by Aaton Beauviala, for many years with Eclair Corp. On his own now, Beauviala has introduced this new universal motor, and will shortly begin marketing a new 16mm production camera, the

Aaton 7. The Alcan 54 motor is imported into this country by Belden Communications of New York City. Many dealers, as well as the Eclair Corporation of America, handle the motor.

The Alcan is the smallest of all the NPR motors. Its diameter is about the same as the BEALA, but it is only about half as long. As a result of the compact size the use of the Alcan reduces the overall height of the NPR by two and-a-half-inches. The shape of the motor, as you can see in the photo, is as weird as the camera itself. You do not need to use a heavy camera cradle, as on the BEALA. Nor do you have the bulk of the Perfectone's flat-base. The Alcan has a small flat-base for attaching the camera to a tripod, and it also has an adjustable shoulder support rod for handheld shooting. This support rod doubles as a base to set the camera down on.

This odd-looking arrangement works quite well. The real test is to have the very heavy 9.5-95mm on the front and then pull the magazine off. If the camera rocks forward and crashes down on the front element of the zoom then you know the base doesn't work too well. But the camera with the Alcan did not crash. It just sat there and remained pretty steady; rocking a bit, but steady and firm nonetheless. The Alcan weighs four pounds—at least half a pound lighter than any other motor.

The camera Run switch is right on the front of the Alcan. It is an easy-to-find and easy-to-grip flip-switch. I got to like the



Run control very much. Normally I use the Perfectone on my NPR, and the on-off is on the side of the motor—kind of a pain to reach and operate. But the Alcan control is right at your fingertips and is a pleasure to flip on and off.

The motor mode control is on the rear of the Alcan. A three-way toggle controls crystal and variable speed. For some strange reason two positions on the toggle are crystal—the forward and the center. For safety sake use the forward position. The rear position is for variable speed. A small dial permits setting the speeds from 5 to 32fps. Whenever the motor is operating out of the crystal mode a small red “out-of-sync warning light” comes on. Also, you cannot switch from crystal to variable (or vice versa) while the motor is running. If you try it the motor will just stop. That’s a nice little precautionary device. You can change the crystal speed from 24fps to 25fps just by moving a screw on the motor front. And the Alcan 54 will always stop the camera in the viewing position. No more inching—it’s all taken care of for you (as on the Perfectone and the BEALA).

Two brass studs provide the clapper signal to slate the film and to set off the bloop oscillator in the recorder (when you run cable-sync). Two power input connectors are available: the standard four-pin Cannon XLR and the ACL-type Jaeger. The camera runs off 12v DC, pulling 2.2 amps at 72 degrees. If you need to run cable-sync you can take sync and bloop off Cannon pins 1 and 3 and use a pigtail to get the signal down to the recorder (or go through the battery, if it is equipped to split sync).

The Alcan 54 is a very comfortable motor to use on a somewhat uncomfortable camera. Its compact size permits resting the NPR a bit further back on the shoulder than other motors do. The support rod not only provides a base for your shoulder but gives you an extra support out front. I found that bracing with my left hand on this rod made for extra-steady handheld shots. And the run switch was easy to get to—none of that fumbling around for a switch on the side and risking the

loss of THE shot. The fact that the motor brings the height down 2½ inches helps reduce the center of gravity. It also runs quietly when on the camera, although our test sample sort of “whined” a bit when not attached to an NPR. But once on the camera the Alcan was as quiet as a “silent” motor should be.

The cost of the Alcan is \$2395—cheaper than either the Perfectone or the BEALA. But the workmanship on the Alcan does not seem to be as high as that on the other two motors. I speak here only of the exterior finish. My tests in the field lead me to believe the Alcan may not look as pretty as the other two, but it will perform just as well.

As for repairs—Belden stresses that “easily interchangeable modular electronic circuits facilitate work and maintenance, cutting downtime.” This is so. Just pull a circuit board and stick in a new one and the motor is as good as new. But there is one problem with this. Replacing a board may cost two to three times what a similar failure in the BEALA or Perfectone might cost. Eclair Corporation of America did some checking on repair costs and found that the average Perfectone repair came to about \$75. If you have to replace a circuit board in the Alcan it could cost over \$300. Downtime on the motor would be considerably less. But you should be aware of the cost factor involved. I understand that both Belden and Eclair are looking for ways to bring the cost of the boards down.

As with all products in this business, you have to make certain compromises, certain trade-offs. The Alcan is a good universal motor for the NPR. It does everything it is supposed to do. And it’s just about the most comfortable motor I’ve ever used on an Eclair (which is terribly important if you’re shooting handheld during eight-hour days). You may have to pay a bit more if the motor breaks down—but the initial cost is lower, and it is certainly a very versatile drive. If you are considering buying an NPR, or are faced with replacing an old worn-out CIBLO or KRYMO, look into the Alcan. It is a worthy alternative to the other two “conventional” Eclair NPR motors.