

European and American Television Cameras

	Make	Marconi
	Model	MkVIII B3215
	Country	UK
	Camera Type :	
	Studio Colour	
Camera Description :		
Full facilities studio camera with interesting offset lens and viewfinder making for a very compact camera.		

Data	Data	* Excluding Lens & Viewfinder	
Tube details	3 x Plumbicons 30mm XQ1020	Line standards	625/50 525/60
Lens details	Zoom, Special 10:1 to 42:1 ranges	Colour standards	R G B outputs ext. Coder
Sig. to Noise	48dB in flat channel	Drives or locking	Mono pulses
Sensitivity	750lux @ f4	Weight *	34Kg.
Resolution	100% @ 5Mhz with correction	Colours	Two tone Grey
Viewfinder	18cm. Tilts	Dimensions *	408H x 360W x 580L mm.
Camera cable	BICC T.188913mm. to 3000ft	Date introduced	1970-1
Power supply	100-125v 200-250v 48-60Hz 650 VA		

Associated equipment

CCU B3217, PSU B3218, Control panels B3219, coder B3373, full range of studio equipment.

Features

Auto colour balance, Auto Line up with built in diascope, Printed scanning coils, Visual auto test facility, Factory matched optics. Comprehensive monitoring controls. B version had improved registration, light bias and HOP. The settings for auto line up and colour balance were stored in motor driven potentiometers.

References

Communications and Broadcasting Volume 11 No. 2 (a Marconi publication).
B version announced SMPTE Oct 1973 p896.

Notes

43 were sold in the UK and 426 exported a total of 469. Ref. PM. Tom Mayer states in IEE Colloquium that over 600 Mk8's were sold. I have seen serial numbers into the high 500s.

This is one of my favorite cameras. They are built to a high, near military, standard and are easy to work on. The camera head is a nice size and when fitted with the Angenieux 42:1 lens has an impressive performance (for 1970 of course!). The circuitry uses transistors and TTL logic so I think they can be kept working well into the future. It's Achilles heel is the size and weight of the CCU, the PSU, a mostly linear one, is just heavy.

The 7" viewfinder, B3128, is used on the Mk5, Mk6, Mk7, and with some modifications on the Mk8 and Mk9 cameras. It has a high brightness of 2150 lumens and can resolve over 600 lines. It has proved to be reliable in service considering they are all 30+ years old now. Some of the early CRTs have a defect with the tube faceplate bonding. This leads to spots on between the tube and the front glass.



The camera chassis and scanning yokes.