

# The Face Theatre

*You can carry a mini theatre on your face now. Sounds strange and incredible right! SONY has come up with a product which allows you to do just that!*

■ G.P. Vinayababu



**Y**ou are engrossed in watching the breathtaking true to life visuals of 'True Lies' on the big theatre screen. You have a feeling that you are all alone in the theatre. Surrounded by scintillating sound effects of the Arnold Schwarzenegger starrer in all its subtleties, you are getting a wholesome experience of the movie.

Wonder where? All these at a distance

of just 2m from the action that too in the cool comfort of your home.

All alone!

That's true! SONY, the worldwide leader in consumer electronics, a master of miniature technology has come up with yet another of those miniature products- Glasstron.

First it was the walkman which allowed the listener to have a personalised

experience of listening to music. Now it's the 'Glasstron' which provides a customised-personalised multimedia experience to a user.

Personal Viewer or the Multimedia scope as it is called, has innumerable features which ensures an out of the world experience to its users. The any where any time concept has been made possible through Glasstron with some of the most

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Glasstron in use

advanced technologies built into the product.

Glasstron is built on the same lines as 'Walkman', which treats each listener as a separate entity with specific tastes and individual preferences, while ensuring that the others are not disturbed by it. This is the same concept being incorporated in Glasstron.

Strangely enough, this has come close

have imagined only in dreams. Weighing a mere 370g, Glasstron allows you the freedom of carrying it anywhere and use it at anytime you want right in front of your eyes.

Glasstron's main feature is its head mounted display which is similar to the ones used in virtual reality entertainment gadgets. Infact, Glasstron also is a sort of virtual reality gadget which simulates the theatrical

on the heels of SONY's biggest Television, the first ever home theatre for wholesome entertainment at home. The 53' wide SONY home theatre is the biggest & the most advanced TV to hit the market. The same 53' effect is recreated but virtually through Glasstron.

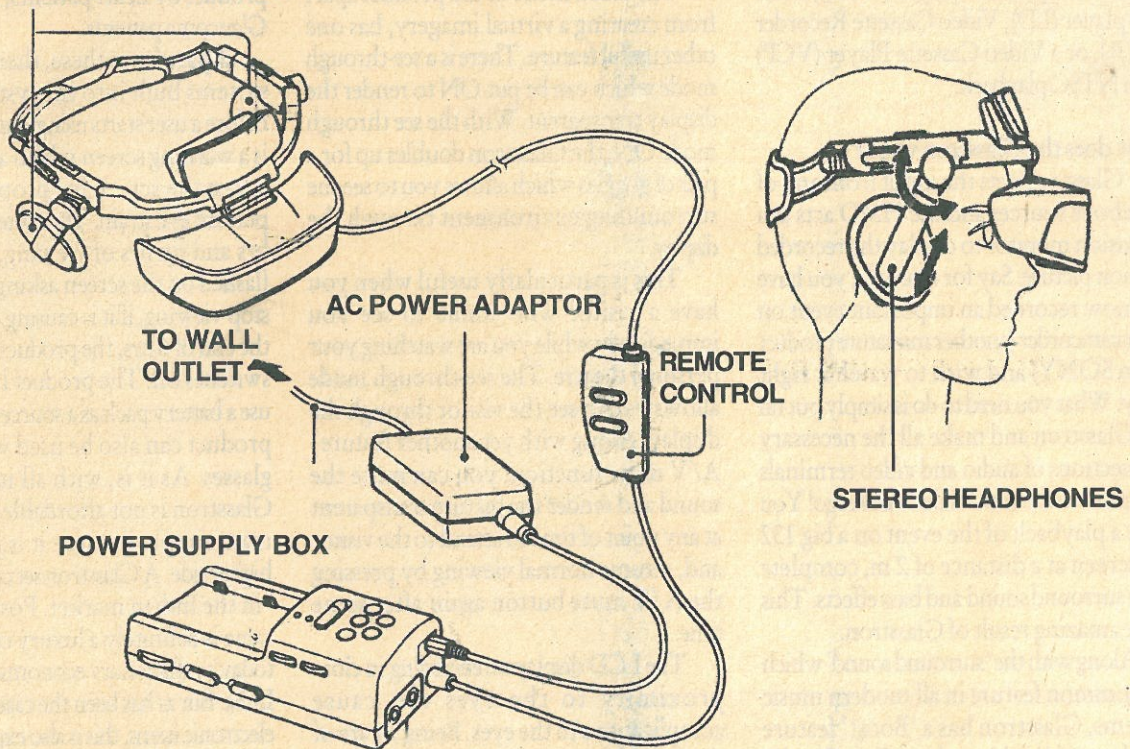
Glasstron Personal theatre is an enchanting product which you could

### Glasstron - Features

- Personal audio visual entertainment.
- Virtual image size 132cm (52) at 2 mtrs ahead.
- Battery operation.
- Portable size (only 370g).
- Colour adjustment (Colour intensity/Hue/Brightness)
- "Surround Sound".
- "AVLS" (Auto Volume Limiter System).
- "Boost" for bigger base effect.
- Connectable to any VCD/LD/VCR/VCP with NTSC playback.
- See-through mode.
- 4H 40M operation with lithium Ion battery (NP-F730)

environment and creates an impression that the viewer is watching a 132cm screen at a distance 2m in dark surroundings. The head mounted display consists of two liquid crystal displays (LCD's), one each corresponding

### STEREO HEADPHONES



Features Picture

## Your personal theatre

Sony made audio history when it introduced the Walkman and sound became portable. Now it is breaking new ground by making big screen entertainment possible anytime, anywhere by creating Glasstron (PLM-100).

The perfect personal theatre, Glasstron with its personal head mounted LCD monitor and attached stereo headphones, allows enjoyment of vivid and dynamic images and sound privately without disturbing anyone else. The lightweight and compact Glasstron gives the same excitement of watching a 132 cm (52") screen from two metres away.

Glasstron is ideal for outdoor use, as it also runs on battery

power. The 'See-through function' of the Glasstron allows the viewer to alter the transparency of the screen. The shutters on the LCD can be completely closed to simulate a movie hall environment. Open shutters enable the viewer to see through the Glasstron even as a programme is on. A unique screen mode closes the image area of the screen while the surrounding areas continue to be transparent, thus creating an impression of a floating picture.

Glasstron comes with an AV cable that can be connected to almost any NTSC video source, including personal and home Video CD players, Laser discs players and Betacam or VHS video decks. As a special introductory package offer Glasstron is available with Sony's world class portable video CD player DV-500 at Rs. 70,000/- with two Li-ion batteries free.

to the eyes of the viewer. The LCD is a high precision technology which produces high quality dynamic images. The LCD is made up of red, blue, green and black dots and when in close proximity to the eyes, the images on two LCDs converge to form a single clear image of the visual.

The input to the HMD can be either be a video compact disc player (VCD), Laser disc player (LD), Video Cassette Recorder (VCR), or a Video Cassette Player (VCP) with NTSC playback.

### How does the Glasstron work?

The Glasstron gets the input from any of the above sources and the HMD acts as a television monitor to display the recorded motion picture. Say for example, you have just now recorded an important event on your camcorder (another miniature product from SONY) and wish to watch it right away. What you need to do is simply put on the Glasstron and make all the necessary connections of audio and video terminals from and to the camcorder! And ergo! You have a playback of the event on a big 132 cm screen at a distance of 2 m, complete with surround sound and bass effects. This is the amazing result of Glasstron.

Along with the 'surround sound' which is a common feature in all modern music systems, Glasstron has a 'Boost' feature which provides a bigger bass effect, thereby allowing you to enjoy a deep powerful sound

of music. The audio features also include Auto Volume Limiter System (AVLS) which is an advanced technology incorporated into Glasstron. By switching AVLS to ON, you can prevent sound escaping from the headphones to surroundings. AVLS doesn't degrade the quality of the sound, nevertheless.

The video mode of the product apart from creating a virtual imagery, has one other useful feature. There is a see-through mode which can be put ON to render the display transparent. With the see through mode ON, the Glasstron doubles up for a pair of goggles which allows you to see the surrounding environment through the display.

This is particularly useful when you have a visitor who wants to see you immediately while you are watching your personal theatre. The see-through mode allows you to see the visitor through the display. Along with yet another feature - A/V mute function, you can mute the sound and render the picture transparent at any point of time to attend to the visitor and, resume normal viewing by pressing the A/V mute button again after some time.

The LCD display screen being in close proximity to the eyes can cause complications to the eyes. Being aware of these problems, SONY warns the product buyers not to allow children aged below 15

years to use the product as their eyes would not be fully developed to take the strain and fatigue associated with using the product. There is also an option to set a password for the system in order to prevent children from using the same. It also has a whole range of safety instructions to its users which includes restrictions on the use of product by heart patients, BP suffers and Glaucoma patients.

Apart from these, there are warning systems built into the system itself. Just before a user starts using the product, there is a warning screen which asks the user to adjust the screen for proper viewing to prevent eye strain. Then after two hrs, four hrs and six hrs of viewing, warnings are flashed on the screen asking the viewer to stop viewing, if it is causing eye fatigue. At the end of 6 hrs, the product automatically switches off. The product has a facility to use a battery pack as a source of power. The product can also be used while wearing glasses. As it is, with all its advantages, Glasstron is not affordable to a common man, simply because it is priced on the higher side. A Glasstron set cost Rs. 70,000/- in the Indian market. Possession of the same is definitely a luxury of sorts even in today's inflationary economic conditions in India. But as has been the case with all other electronic items, this is also expected to come down heavily to offer a price/performance advantage to the customer. □