

## Echomatic Essentials: Meazzi & ESE

*A collection of information – information - information*

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### Introduction

Whilst those interested in time-delay echo units are aware of the Meazzi products of the late 1950s and early 1960s (available in the UK from Jennings Musical Industries Ltd), it is perhaps less well known that Eric Snowball Electronics (ESE) produced three tape-loop based echo units to ~2010. Regrettably all the aforementioned units are no longer manufactured.

The ESE Echomatic VI has six replay heads in common with the Meazzi Echomatic (1) Model J (sold in the UK as the Vox Echo Model J). The ESE Echomatic IV(R) has more than the four replay heads in common with the Meazzi Echomatic 2 (sold in the UK as the Vox Echo Model No. 2) as both the ESE Echomatic IV & VI units feature an additional effect utilising the first three replay heads.

For the purposes of endeavouring to recreate the sound effects utilised by Hank Marvin in the early days of The Shadows – principally prior to 1962 – an ESE Echomatic VI (Serial No. EM6-035) has been modified. In its standard form the ESE Echomatic VI produces a good range of echo effects. However, study of its circuit diagram suggested it could be modified to achieve considerably more; not necessarily an exact emulation of a Meazzi Echomatic Model J, but a more reasonable / acceptable compromise, perhaps!?

The modification of the Echomatic VI consists of replacing the push-button head selection switches with variable resistors (potentiometers) to control the level of the signal from each head, for both replay and regeneration purposes. The final step was to reconfigure the relative positions of the heads to achieve (as far as possible with the tapped holes available) a reducing inter-head time delay.

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