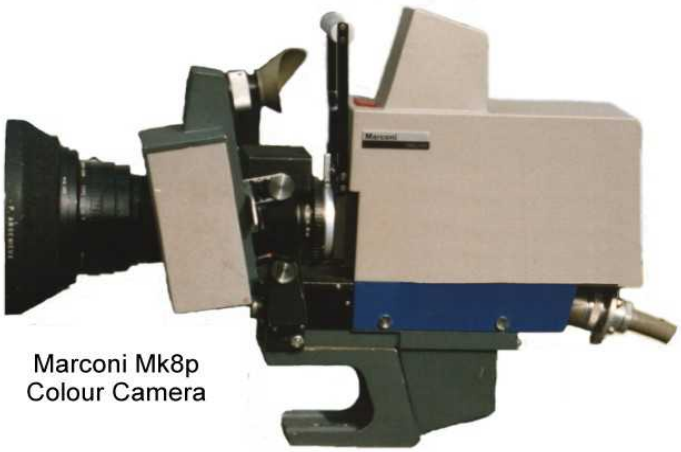
Marconi Mk.VIIIp Portable TV camera from 1974

Please do not touch

In the early 1970's broadcast television cameras were very large and cumbersome and there was pressure from the production side for a “man portable camera”. At this point in the development of cameras, most manufacturers produced a small version of the studio camera with most of the electronics in a second box.



Marconi Mk8p
Colour Camera

Marconi's answer was the MkVIIIp, this companion to the MkVIII studio camera is a first generation portable colour camera and like its contemporaries it is a two box solution, the tubes and head amps and line scans are in the camera and every thing else in an adjacent "auxiliary pack". The separation from camera to auxiliary pack was up to 50m and then 900m to the same CCU as the MkVIII. They are built to a high, near military, standard but are a bit cumbersome and still delicate. Because the tubes are arranged in a vertical fan it leads to an awkward shape for shoulder mounting. Marconi offered a choice between in front of the should or behind. I found the “camera forward” position with the shoulder pad behind the tubes more comfortable than the camera behind position. With the chest brace it was surprisingly “wearable”. He twin front hand grips worked well for me. The circuitry uses transistors and TTL logic. It's Achilles heel is the size and weight of the CCU, and the PSU, a mostly linear one, is just heavy. This is a big portable camera and fully dressed it was quite heavy.



The electronics pack for the camera, it could be mounted on a backpack frame or a trolley.

Most other manufacturers produced two part cameras notably, Philips, Bosch & IVC. These were all quickly superseded, first by cameras that contained all the electronics but still worked into a CCU, and then fully self-contained models appeared.

The camera is from the collection of the Television Camera Museum tvcameramuseum.org

More info on the camera

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