

Sun Monitor Tuneup – how?

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I recently acquired (from the dumpster) several Sun Microsystems 20" monitors, model GDM – 20D10, which appear to be Sony Trinitrons on the inside. They are really nice when working properly, but were manufactured in 1994 so probably aren't worth sinking \$ into.

I'd like to get two of them running to upgrade the 17" pair I'm currently using.

One worked reasonably well as-is, but was unusable due to severe CRT burn-in. The others had symptoms ranging from collapsed display to failure to power on at all.

I made inquiries about professional repair, but nobody was willing to provide even a diagnostic estimate – they said the chassis is unreasonably difficult to work on.

I decided to have a go myself, and experienced the difficulties first hand – the internals are completely surrounded by multiple layers of metal shielding, with circuit boards mounted to the inside of the shields all over the place. It takes almost an hour of disassembly just to check the power supply fuse, and close to another hour to dismount boards and arrange them such that one can apply power and take measurements with any degree of safety.

Without going into tedious detail, I've swapped parts around and now have two working monitors with good CRTs. One is almost perfect, except for a slight "shimmer" (not sure how else to describe it), while the other is sharp but exhibits faint retrace lines and has the display offset to the left about 1/2" further than can be corrected with the remote control.

It seems to me the remaining problems are minor and could probably be corrected via internal adjustments, but there are a *lot*, mostly unlabeled, and I'm well aware that fiddling with them to see what effect they have is not the recommended approach. Looks like these monitors now just need a good "tuneup".

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Any suggestions on next steps? – given that obtaining a service manual is highly unlikely, the professionals aren't interested, and my electronics knowledge doesn't extend much past digital logic circuits?

TIA

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