

Equipment, and the Useless Eco- legislation ...

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I have just had a Denon AVR1800 AV amp come across my bench. It is a reasonably sophisticated model with six channels and Dolby Digital and DTS modes, optical inputs and so on. It has an open circuit power transformer primary. Enquires to the Denon spares agent came back with the surprising news that it is "no longer available".

Now this is not what I expect from a company like Denon, given that according to the date codes on all the components, it was only manufactured in 1999. So what are governments doing, by forcing all of this lead-free crap on us in the name of eco-friendliness, and squealing about householders and their lack of recycling responsibility, and then allowing major Japanese manufacturers to get away with stuff like this ?

I've been in the consumer electronics repair game for a very long time, and I realise that spares can't be kept for ever, but I really think that for an item such as this, which I'm willing to bet being a Denon, set the owner back a pretty penny when he bought it, should be supported by them for at least 10 years, instead of it now being an otherwise perfectly good, piece of written-off potential landfill.

If governments **really** want to make an ecological difference with regard to consumer electronics, then they should stop pussyfooting around with all this ineffectual lead-free crap complete with all the reliability and service problems that it causes, and instead, make some serious efforts to address the issue of spare parts availability and, even more importantly, forcing the manufacturers to supply such parts at a realistic price, which reflects the true cost price and storage. This would save a very great deal of equipment, world-wide, from ending up as 'uneconomical to repair' garbage, two weeks out of warranty.

Oh, and before everyone starts on the conspiracy theories about how the manufacturers only want it to last just out of warranty so that they can sell you another, I don't subscribe to this line of thinking. I believe that poor reliability is down to the manufacturers cutting the cost to the bone on component spec'ing, along with poor design by fresh-out-of-university graduates who know all of the theory and none of the practice. As far as the cost and availability of spares go, I think that this is basic profiteering on the former, and that both are driven by the company bean-counters. There. That's my rant for the week ... d|:-(

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