CYCLEUPDATE

New slide inserted

Cycling electronic slide tray continues

Old slide out

THE MICRO ALTERNATIVE

Microcomputers offer another approach to page creation. If you plan to create hundreds of pages, the Norpak unit is worthwhile because of its ease of use, but a page-creation system based on a common microcomputer can be more than satisfactory for smaller volumes.

Several of these exist. Cableshare, of London, Ontario, sell a system called Picture Painter, used with an IBM PC microcomputer.

Microtaure, an Ottawa softwarehouse, can equip you with another page-creation system, also based on the IBM PC. They sell the software, not the hardware, but the hardware is standard: an IBM PC, with both a colour and a monochrome monitor, plus a gridded pad and pen.

And Tayson Information Technology of Calgary and Toronto will sell you software, again for your IBM PC, that lets it function as the cycler and "slide projector". It sends codes to to a decoder, which in turn produces RF or RGB that you can feed into your head-end. NAPLPS decoders are available from companies such as Norpak, Electrohome and Microtel.

Some related equipment can produce full NTSC composite video output, so you can generate pictures that you can then edit and manipulate with any of your existing video manipulation equipment.