Subject: Ahh, those were the days!
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 02 Apr 2002 16:59:32 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Some tied the left side to the chassis, but electricians sometimes didn't pay attention to the standard, which is to make the left side neutral. So it is just as common to find the chassis at line voltage as neutral. Since it's AC, "neutral" really isn't relevant to the operation of the circuit, but when you touch the chassis, you sure find the relevance! It can also make connecting equipment togetyher very exciting.I'm sure you recall the "floating ground" that was common in stuff made in the 50's and 60's. That was the first attempt to make household electronics safer. If one side of the line is connected to the chassis and you touched the chassis of two devices together - one plugged in one way and the other plugged in opposite - the two chassis would be at opposite potentials and sparks fly. So with floating grounds, that doesn't happen but it still means the chassis would "float" to about 70 volts.These are why most guys use an isolation transformer on the old stuff - Trying to keep from letting the smoke out of the scope. Remember those 1-to-1 isolation transformers?