

Comics and Psionics



Take a good look at this frame from an old Superboy story. Look familiar? Here we have Lex Luthor sitting at a console, a radio transmitter console and wearing a peculiar headgear disguised as a radio headset. Brilliant, is it not. I got the comic book that this came out of in the spring of 1963 and if I had had my wits about me I could have built that machine. Unfortunately at thirteen my brain just could not wrap itself around the idea of building a telepathic transmitter. Psionics, at that point in my young life, was not even a blip on the family radar screen.

But this was not the first exposure to an idea that would later result in the horrors that I have inflicted upon unsuspecting humanity, not to put too fine a point on the matter. The notion of mind helmets was a common theme in comic books in the mid to late 1950s and early 1960s and I saw any number of them. One of my favorites is this one.



I first acquired the story that this frame came out of in 1959, just before Memorial Day weekend. It is pretty self explanatory and no, I have never had a desire to be able to project mental images onto a screen but if you look at the style, you can see an obvious influence, especially as my latest helmet here

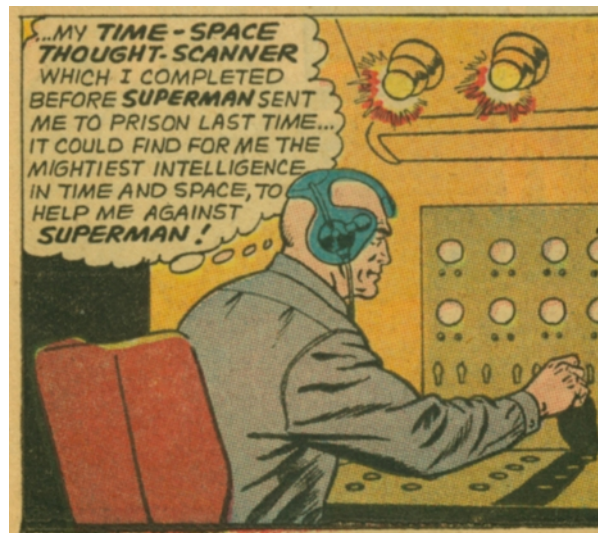


has a light emitter in pretty much the same place as the projection beam in the Jor el helmet.

It was, however, after my fourteenth birthday that I acquired the comic books that provided these images.



This one should really look familiar! A few years after building my first box and helmet I was digging around in my old comic books and came across the one that contained this panel and I nearly laughed myself to death, for here was my equipment, complete with helmet being used for purposes that I was experimenting with at the time.



And of course, as our old friend Luthor knows, everyone needs a Time-Space Thought Scanner, which is nothing more than a radionic device with headgear being used to snorf around in the ether to find stuff. One never knows what the hell one might encounter.

Inspiration can come from the most unlikely sources. It can lay dormant for decades but when the time comes it will show itself and put the person to work. We never know what things that we encounter in life will become ideas put into practice.