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## RENDAR

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For the benefit of those who have a scientific rather than a literary bent, may we explain? Omar Khayyam was a Persian Tent Maker who lived in the 11th Century. He was also a Poet, Philosopher and Astronomer. Thanks to the fine translation by Edward Fitzgerald, his best known work is the exquisite "Rubaiyat". It was first produced in England as a pamphlet and offered at sixpence. It didn't sell and was reduced to twopence. As there are only three known copies left in existence you may imagine what they are worth today!

One of the best known verses runs as follows: Here with a loaf of Bread beneath the Bough, A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse and Thou Beside me singing in the Wilderness And Wilderness is Paradise enow.

We hope that throws some light on our cartoon. If you read the poem you are bound to come to the conclusion that O.K. liked his tipple-obvlously a thoroughly "good type".

What's all this to do with Electronics? You may well ask!!!
Nothing really, but atter all, this is the Christmas Number, so we should be able to let cur hair down. In any case we are sure you must already know that we produce an excellent Components Catalogue which will make interesting holiday reading for you, listing as it does some 6,785 items (over 1,750 illustrated) and costing only 75p including postage and packing (only 55 p if you collect it). It also contains 10 vouchers (each worth 5 p when used as directed). Are you convinced? No? Well you'd better go out and buy Omar's "Rubaiyat" Instead!

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| watts | Tolerance | Range | available | 1-99 | $100+$ |
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| $\frac{1}{2}$ | 10\% | 3. $3 \mathrm{M} \Omega-10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | E12 | 1.0p | 0.8p |
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| 1 | 10\% |  | E12 | $1.0 p$ | 0.8p |
|  | 5\% | 4.7R-1M | E12 | $1 \cdot \mathrm{Op}$ | 0.80 |
| 4 | 10\% | 10-102 | El2 | $6 p$ | 5.5p |

Quantity prlce applies for any selection. Ignore fractions on eotal order.

DEVELOPMENT PACK
0.5 watt $5 \%$ lskra resistors 5 off each value $4.7 \Omega$ to $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$.

E12 pack 325 resistors $\mathbf{6 2} \cdot \mathbf{4 0}$. E24 pack 650 resistors $\mathbf{\$ 4} \mathbf{7 0}$

## POTENTIOMETERS

Carbon track $5 k \Omega$ to $2 M \Omega$, log or linear (log tW. lin 1 W).
SKELETON PRESET POTENTIOMETERS
Linear: $100,250,500 \Omega$ and decades to $5 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. Horizontal or vertical P.C. mounting ( 0.1 matrix)
Sub-miniature 0.1 W , 5p each. Miniature $0.25 \mathrm{~W}, 6 p$ each

TRANSISTORS

| A | 15p | A |  | BD131 | p |  | 45 p | 2N3702 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AC126 | 12p | AFI25 | 20p | BD132 | 75p | OC28 | 50p | 2N3703 | 12p |
| AC127 | 12p | AFI26 | 20p | BDI33 | 75p | OC35 | 50p | 2 N 3704 | $13 p$ |
| ACl28 | 12p | AFI27 | 20p | BFIIS | 25p | OC42 | 12p | 2N3705 | 12p |
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| AC132 | 12p | AF178 | 32p | BF177 | 28p | $\bigcirc{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} 45$ | 12p | 2N3707 | 12p |
| ACI76 | 12 p | AFI80 | $40 p$ | BF178 | 32p | OC70 | 12p | 2N3708 | 10p |
| AC187 | 22p | AFI81 | 40p | BF179 | 32p | OC71 | 12p | 2N3709 | $11 p$ |
| C188 | 22p | BC107 | 9 p | BFI80 | 32p | $\bigcirc \mathrm{C} 72$ | 120 | 2 N 3710 | $11 p$ |
| D140 | 50p | BC108 | 90 | BFl81 | 32p | OC81 | 12p | 2N3711 | $11 p$ |
| AD149 | 45p | BC109 | 9 p | BF194 | 15p | OC820 | 120 | 2N4062 | 17p |
| ADI61 | 33p | BC147 | 13p | BFI95 | 15p | 2N2904 | 20p | 40360 | 35p |
| AD162 | 36p | BC148 | 13 p | BF197 | $15 p$ | 2N2926R | ${ }^{9 p}$ | 40361 | 35\% |
| AFII4 | 20p | BC149 | 13p | BF200 | 32p | 2N2926O | $9 p$ | 40362 | 40p |
| AFIIS | 20p | 8C157 | 14p | BFYS0 | 20p | 2N2926Y | 9 p | 40408 | 40D |
| AFI 16 | 20p | BC158 | $14 p$ | BFYSI | 20p | 2N2926G | 10p | ZTX302 | 15p |
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$400 \mathrm{~mW} 5 \%$ 3.3V so $30 \mathrm{~V}, 15 \mathrm{p}$

DIODES
RECTIFIER
BY 127
BZY 10
BZY13
IN4001
iN4004
IN4007

## BRUSHED ALUMINIUM PANELS

$12 \mathrm{in} \times 6$ in=25p; 12 in $\times 2 \mathrm{fin}=10 \mathrm{p}$; 9 in $\times 2 \mathrm{in}=7 \mathrm{p}$.
SLIDER POTENTIOMETERS
$86 \mathrm{~mm} \times 9 \mathrm{~mm} \times 16 \mathrm{~mm}$, length of track 59 mm
SINGLE IOK, $25 \mathrm{~K}, 100 \mathrm{~K}$ log. or lin. 40 p .
DUAL GANG, 10K + 10K etc. log. or lin, 60p KNOEFOR ABOVE $12 p$.
FRONT PANEL 65p
If Gauge panel $12^{\circ} \times 4^{4}$ with slots cut for use with sllder pots. Grey or matt black finish complete with fixines for 4 pots

 | $\mu A 709$ | $40 p$ | $\mu A 741$ | $45 p$ | 14 and 16 pin |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mu A 710$ | $45 p$ | $\mu A 748$ | $45 p$ | $16 p$ |

| 1250 V | 14 | 12p | SIGNAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 800 V | 6A | 25p | OA90 |
| 200 V | 6A | 20p | OA91 |
| 50 V | IA | 7p | OA202 |
| 400 V | IA | 8 p | IN4148 |

THPESMISTORS
VA1055S VA1066S RA3
RA17 R 53
C 90 C 90
C 120

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 160 V . $0.01 \mathrm{p} .0 .47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 13 \mathrm{p}$ $160 \mathrm{~V}: 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.015 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 3 \mathrm{p}, 0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 34 \mathrm{p} .0 .15 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, MULLARD POLYESTER CAPACITORS C2BO SRIESF, 13p.
250 V P.C. mountine: $0.01 \mu F \quad 0.01 S_{\mu F} 0.022 \mu F$ H 350 . 0 . mountine: 0.0 FF, $0.033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
 $\left.\begin{aligned} & \text { MYLAR FILM CAPACITORS 100V, } \\ & 0.001 \mu F, 0.002 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.005 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.02 \mu \mathrm{~F} \\ & 2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{D}, 0.04 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 31 \mathrm{p} .\end{aligned} \right\rvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { CERAMICDISCCAPACITORS }\end{aligned}$ ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS-MULLARD $015 / 6 / 7$ RANGE REPLACES C426, C487 RANGES
 68/16, $100 / 4$. $100 / 10,100 / 25,100 / 40,150 / 6 \cdot 3$, $150 / 16,150 / 25,220 / 4,17 / 63,68 / 6 \cdot 3$ $3304,330 / 10,470 / 6 \cdot 3,50$ each. $68 / 63,150 / 40,22025,330 / 16,470 / 10,680 / 6 \cdot 3$, $1000 / 49 \mathrm{p}$. $100 / 63,150 / 63,220 / 40,470 / 25.680 / 16$. $1000 / 10$, $1500 / 6.312 \mathrm{p}, 220 / 63$. $470 / 40,680 / 25,1000 / 16,1500 / 10,2200 / 6 \cdot 3$, ISp, $330 / 63,680 / 40,1000 / 25,1500 / 16$,
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| 5 mA ．${ }^{\text {a }}$ ． ． | 空．75 | 50 V ．A．C． | 11.6 |
| 10 mA ．．．． | 告 1.75 | 160v．A．C． | 12．85 |
| 20 mA ．．． | 81.75 | 300V．A．C． | 1－85 |
| 50 mA | 11.75 | $500 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{~A}, \mathrm{C}$ ． | 12．85 |
| 100 mA | 81.75 | 8 Meter 1 ma | 1－85 |
| 150 mA | E1．75 | vU Meter | 钺． 50 |
| Type MR，4SP．2in．square frents |  |  |  |
| 60MA ．．．．．． | 82．50 | 5 mmp ． |  |
| 50－0－50ر／A | 82．80 | 10V．D．C． | 1.8 |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~A} \quad \ldots \cdot$ | 2e．30 | 20V．D．C． | 31.6 |
| $100-0-100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ | 笣．06 | 50V．D．C． | 11.85 |
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| $\operatorname{lmA} \cdot \ldots .$. | 11.85 | B Meter 1 mA | 4．05 |
| $\sin A$ ．．．．．． | 81－4 | VU Meter ．． | 28.50 |
| 10 mA | 21.85 | 1 amp．A．C． | － 81.85 |
| 50 ma | 管－85 | $5 \mathrm{mmp}, \mathrm{A} . \mathrm{C}$ ． | － 81.85 |
| 100 mA | 11．85 | 10 amp ．A．C． | － 11.8 |
| 500 mA | 1－85 | 20 amp ．A．C． | － $11-85$ |
| 1 amp．．．．． | 11.8 | 30 mmp ．A．C． | －$\frac{1}{2}$－ $0^{5}$ |

＂SEW＂EDCWISE METERS Troe PE．70． 3 17／32in．$x$ 15／32in．x
$\qquad$
$\qquad$ $100 \mathrm{pA} \ldots$ $100-0-1$
$200 \mu \mathrm{~L}$
＂8EW＂BAKELITE PANEL METERS
Tyoe MR．65．3tin．square fronts

|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{array}{llll}25 \mu A & . .\end{array}$ | 60 mV ．D．C．$\quad 40$ |
| $50-0-50 \mu A$ | $100 \mathrm{mV}, \mathrm{D} . \mathrm{C} .$ |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ ．．． 28.6 | 60v．A．C．－． |
| 100－0－100ja 88.50 |  |
| $500 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ … | 300 V ．A．C．＊ |
| 500－0－800 -A 2e．15 |  |
| $\operatorname{lmA} \cdot . . . .$. | 1 mmp A．C．＊ 28.16 |
| $\underline{1-0-1 m A ~ . . . ~}$ | 5 mmp A．C．－${ }^{\text {c }}$－15 |
|  | 10 mm ．A．C．－${ }^{\text {ctit }}$ |
| 10 mA ．．．．Eter | 20 mmp ，A．C．－${ }^{\text {etel }}$ |
| 60mA ．．．． | 30 am. A．C．－${ }^{\text {a }}$ |
| $100 \mathrm{~mA} . . . .88 .15$ | 50 smp ．A．C．${ }^{28} 15$ |
| 500 mA ．．．． 58.15 | VU Meter ．．s3．40 |
| Trpe S－80 03 mm ．square fronts |  |
| $50 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ ．．．．．．88．60 |  |
|  |  |
| 100－0－100 $\mu \mathrm{A}$－3 50 |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 20V．D．C．．．ex．${ }^{\text {d }}$ |  |
|  | 5 amp．D．C． |
| 300 V ．D．C． 28.8 | 500V．A．C．．${ }^{\text {d }}$ |
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＂YAMBASHI＂VARIABLE VOLTAGE TRANSFORMERS Eroelloat qualty ．Low grice Immedint delivery

| P－800 General Purpose Bexch Moantins |  |  |  | 8－980．Panal Mountins <br> 1 Amp 87.00 |
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Teate PNP or NPN tres． Alstors Audio Indicalion． teries．Complote with bat－ indructions，etc． 84.50 P．\＆P． 20 p．
EGULATEO POWER SUPPL Solld atate．Variable output 0－24V DC up to 1 sng．Dual scale fueter to monitor


P．REGULATED P．S．U
 Soltd atake．Variable output 5.20 volt D．C．up to 2 amp ． independent meleri rent．Output 2201240 A．C．Stue $71^{\prime \prime} \times 51^{\prime \prime} \times 35^{\circ}$ 314．97．$P$ ．\＆$P$ ． 25 p ．


PS． 10008 REGULATED POWER SUPPLY
Solld state．Onepat 8， 8 or 12 volt DC up to 3
ampa．Weter to monitor current．Input $220 / 240 \mathrm{y}$


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6/30/60/:500/
(2/20)/2011 'зк /2чик 1 "

MODEL TE-12
S0,00K O.P.V. $0 / 0 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{A} / \mathrm{in} / 120$ (1) 3 M! oivu 0 ent

MODEL TE-200


 <br> \section*{MODEL 500
30.1 HH $0.0^{2}$ <br> \section*{MODEL 500
30.1 HH $0.0^{2}$ <br>  <br> E3 371.}


HIOKI MODEL 750 X


370 WTR MULTI-METER


Selected TEST EQUIPMENT



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| FTC-401 TRAMSISTOR TESTER |  |
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## everyday electronics

## IN RETROSPECT

With the first 12 issues already behind us and a new year almost here, it is a good time to look around and take stock.

Since Everyday Electronics first appeared, many thousands from all walks of life and of many different age groups must have gained their first insight into the workings of mysterious electronics. For them formidably looking barriers have been demolished and the fundamentals of electronics laid bare.
Our first course of painless initiation into the theory and practice of this technology was recently concluded. Teach-In has given a great start to many newcomers, and on these foundations they can continue to build: through further study plus active participation in the form of practical experiments, as described in our current series entitled Demo Circuits.

Valuable experience is of course also acquired through constructional work. Our projects provide good variety and should go a long way towards satisfying all tastes. It will have been noted that Everyday Electronics has no inhibitions about the uses of electronics. This technology is ideally suited for simple uncomplicated down-to-earth applications, as is proved by the many projects of decidedly homely character which have already appeared in these pages.

## NATURAL PROGRESSION

Their appetite whetted, some readers are bound to be eager now to pursue their studies even further, and to widen their practical

Our February issue will be published on Friday, January 19
experience through building more advanced, more ambitious, and more thought-provoking pieces of electronic equipment.

Having been responsible for starting so many off in the first instant, we feel duty bound to assist by suggesting the next move. If such enthusiasts do follow our advice, we shall have a continuing interest in their progress, because the most logical next step is for them to get acquainted with our associate and parent publication Practical Electronics. This is a well established meeting ground for the keen amateur, the serious student, and the professional technician and engineer.

## EASY DOES IT

Everyday Electronics will continue to provide the ideal introduction to this all important subject. Within these pages anyone completely unfamiliar with electronics will always find helpful easy-to-follow articles dealing with elementary theory, as well as simple practical designs for building at home.

And now, at this time, we would like to offer seasonal greetings to all our readers. To those who have supported us from the beginning of volume one, a special thank you.


[^0]
## EASY TO CONSTRUCT SIMPLY EXPLAINED


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The approximate cost of components given, for constructional articles, in the box shown opposite is an estimated cost compiled from suppliers current catalogue and advertised prices. Parts for some projects may work out more expensive while others may be cheaper than our quoted price, depending on where the components are purchased.

We would like to point out that we, as publishers, cannot supply kits of parts or individual items for any of the published designs.

WITH the winter coming on, many householders and motorists find the need to know when the temperature falls below a certain level. This simple device is designed to be used to check if the temperature sensed by a remote thermistor has fallen below a set level.

The device can be powered by a small 9 V battery for portability and, provided it is not left on but used as a regular quick check, the battery will last for quite some time. The unit may also be powered from a car battery by using a simple stabilizer and it will provide the motorist with a check when ice may be forming.


## CIRCUIT OPERATION

The circuit is basically a Schmitt trigger (Fig. 1) which is switched from one mode to the other by the variation in resistance of the thermistor RTH1. The temperature at which the Schmitt will switch is set by VR1 and, when the resistance of RTH1 rises with a fall in temperature TR1 is caused to turn off and TR2 to turn on, thus causing LP1 to light. The backlash or hysteresis inherent in this circuit will prevent the lamp from extinguishing until the temperature has risen to a few degrees above the pre-set level. (For a full description of the Schmitt trigger action, see Demo Circuits next month.)

To set the level required it is necessary to arrange for the thermistor to be at the temperature level at which the Schmitt must switch, then adjust VRI until LP1 lights and turn VR] back very slightly. To check this level switch off the unit, allow the thermistor to warm up, switch on the unit and cool the thermistor, checking the temperature at which LP1 lights.

## CONSTRUCTION

Commence construction by cutting the Verohoard to the size shown and drilling the mount-

## A simple device for detecting a remote temperature fall



Fig. 1. Complete circuit diagram of the Ice Warning Device.
ing hole. Next solder the components to the board as in Fig. 2. Solder the transistors last, using a heat shunt on each lead as it is soldered. No breaks are necessary in the copper strips. Next connect the flying leads making sure that they are long enough to allow the case lid to open fully.

Connect the negative iead to the battery connector and the positive lead to the switch (Fig. 2 ), another lead should be connected from the switch to the positive battery terminal. The two leads from TR2 and R1 can be connected to the lamp and the other three leads can be connocted to VRI and RTHI (as in Fig. 2).

## Components .... © T (1) <br> Resistors <br> R1 3.3ks? <br> R2 2.2k!? <br> R3 47!2 <br> R4 $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{ks}$ ? <br> All $10 \% \frac{1}{2} W$ carbon

Capacitor
C1 100, 1 F elect. 12V
Thermistor
RTH1 VA1005 rod type
Transistors
TR1 AC 127 germanium pnp
TR2 AC 127 germanium pno

## Miscellaneous

VR1 10k!2 carbon potentiometer
S1 S.p.st. toggle switch or push to make, push to break button
LP1 6V 0.06A bulb and panel mounting holder B1 9V PP3 battery
Veroboard $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in 0.1 in matrix, control knob, case (see text), 4BA fixing, battery connector, wire, two way connector for RTHI

## CASE

The case of prototype is constructed from an empty tobacco tin, the components and battery fit snugly into this box and it is also very cheap. Remember to insulate the Veroboard if a metal box is used. Lamp LPl and its holder are available in many shapes and sizes therefore the method of fixing will vary.


The complete Ice Warning Device, housed in a tobacco tin case.

## CAR SUPPLY

As previously stated the unit may be powered by a car battery, Fig. 3 shows a suitable arrange. ment for a simple Zener stabilizer for 12 V systems. When connecting the unit to the car wiring make sure that the polarity is correct.

To finish the complete unit the case can either be painted or covered with Fablon, or similar material, and lettered to indicate the control functions.

If RTHl is to be left outside at the mercy of the elements it should be protected by a coat of paint or by enclosing it in Araldite or one of the plastic fillers sold for use on car bodies, etc.

Fig. 3. Simple stabilizer circuit for use with a 12 V car supply.


## 



Fig. 2. Layout and wiring of the complete Ice Warning Device. There are no cuts in the Vero. board copper strips.

IRES TAKEN OUT THROUGH
GROMMET IN CASE SIDE



# Selecting Ilif Fi 

## By Terence Mendoza B.Sc.

To many people high fidelity is a term which covers a bewildering array of complex looking boxes with complicated sounding names. While these people may wish to get rid of their old record player for something better, they are deterred by the multiplicity of hi fi gadgetry available.

This article is intended to give guidance to such people and, if you class yourself within this group, don't get disheartened-the most fanatical hi fi enthusiast at some stage knew just the same as you do now.

## how HI FI CAME ABOUT

The sound medium, which achieved popularity after Edison's cylinder phonograph, was the 78 r.p.m. shellac disc. In the early days discs were recorded on one side only but, with the advent of mechanization due to electricity, the "onesiders" gave way to discs recorded on both sides. The era of the mechanical "wind-up" gramophone came to an end and the electric gramophone seized the market with advantages which included efficient volume control, a reasonably consistent running speed and a necessity for less expenditure of elbow grease!

The status symbol syndrome appeared at this stage and audio has never fully recovered-the cabinet swelled in size, acquiring a wireless, an ornate contemporary appearance and price to match and thus the majestic radiogram was born. There is no doubt that these immense items sounded impressive-with material available at the time. This material consisted of discs with background crackle and hiss, and medium and longwave radio, also rather noisy and prone to radio interference.

Radiograms were designed principally as elegant items of furniture and secondly as reproducing equipment that would give a pleasing sound by cutting down the unpleasant background noise-accomplished by constructing the cabinets to absorb the (mainly high frequency) hiss, and noise. Nowadays we would politely call the sound muffled bat at the time it was referred to as "mellow toned"

Major improvements in the quality of available sources, the 33 r.p.m. disc with a much lower background noise and v.h.f.-f.m. radio with a virtual absence of interference, set the equipment manufacturers the task of building radiograms which would handle new material to its
best advantage.
The hiss of the equipment became important for the first time and so did the unwanted hum which could now be differentiated from the source material. The cabinet resonance, formerly used to disguise the shortcomings of disc and radio, were no longer needed and the concept of high fidelity became established.

True high fidelity implies the "closest approach to the original sound"-with the eyes closed it should not be possible to differentiate between a live musician playing and a recording of the musician.


Individual hi fi units made by Goodmans. The units are a.m./f.m. tuner, amplifier and record deck.

## TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

Problems occurred with the overall improvement in reproduction equipment. If a better radiogram was used at high volume, the speakers would make the cabinet vibrate. This vibration, when mechanically transmitted through the disc, caused the pickup (sensitive to vibration) to respond and this vicious circle of events resulted in a whistle called feedback. The speaker had to be separated from the rest of the cabinet to alleviate this effect and this allowed for more control over the shape and size of speaker cabinet which in turn affected the fidelity of the resultant sound.
Magnetism and electricity, as readers will be aware, are closely linked and, under suitable conditions, each can generate the other. There was a tendency for the electrified coils of the amplifier transformer to set up powerful alternating magnetic fields which the record pick-up, generally a magnetic transducer, would detect. This signal would then be amplified along with the wanted signal from the disc, to be heard as "mains hum." The cure was to remove the amplifier from the vicinity of the pick-up. Thus the radiogram had now become three separate units-record deck, plus arm and pick-up cartridge, amplifier with preamplifier and power supply circuitry and a loudspeaker.

Accurate spatial localization as well as fidelity of reproduction was still needed to realize the ideal of the "closest approach to the original sound."

It is our brains that determine the direction from which sounds come, an extremely complicated process analyses the signals received by each ear comparing them for differences in loudness, phase and delay. Variations in these factors when equated against the external aural environment, enable the brain to localise the direction of a sound source.

## STEREO

Stereophony, or stereo, is the hifi process that provides the ears with enough additional information to give the subjective impressions of specific sound loci positioned in space between the two (or more) speakers of the reproducing system. Grooves in a stereo record are cut in such a fashion that two sets of information can be derived from a single groove (Fig. 1)-this information is then amplified by a pair of amplifiers (incorporated in one unit in the modern stereo amplifier) to give the signals power enough to drive two loudspeaker units placed some distance apart.

When the same signal is fed with equal power to each speaker it will appear to emanate from a point in space midway between the two speakers. Increasing the power to one speaker will subjectively appear to move this localization point more towards the speaker in question. The localizing mechanism of the brain is efficient only in the horizontal plane and not in the vertical plane (we don't have ears on top of our heads or beneath our chins!) so a two speaker system is adequate for recreating the full spread and depth of an orchestra in front of us.


Fig. 1. Showing how a stereo signal is obtained from the record.

## PLANNING YOUR SYSTEM

A newcomer can benefit by planning for his "ultimate system" from the beginning. Bearing in mind that he need not buy all the units at one time, he can budget for fewer, better quality components, e.g., by not buying a radio tuner in the first instance, he can initially afford slightly better record deck, amplifier and


A Philips "compact" system, containing tuner, amplifier and record deck.
speakers-tius the hi fi can improve at the same pace as the ear becomes discriminating and the pocket can afford, a choice of sources being added when finances will allow.

## SPECIFICATION

Hi fi equipment fulfils stringent specifications which guarantees that it will faithfully reproduce all the subtleties of musical sounds without coloration or distortion. An understanding of hi fi specifications allows one to assess the expected performance of different items of equipment before hearing them. In particular, the following points are important:

1. There should be a low noise level throughout the system. Noise is defined as unwanted sound and this covers hiss, rumble (low frequency sound mechanically originating from record turrtables) and hum (due to induced magnetised fields). It is quoted as a signal to noise ratio and is measured in decibels (dB).

Construction of an EMI loudspeaker kit. This simple to assemble complete kit is a cheap way of obtaining speakers.


The ratio compares the unwanted noise with a predetermined output power-this output is usually the maximum power an amplifier will deliver without distortion. The first stage of amplification, the pre-amplifier, deals with the smallest voltages as delivered directly from the sources. Different sources deliver different size voltages and hençe have to be amplified by different amounts to give sufficient energy to drive the power amplifier. Because of this, different noise figures may be quoted for various sources, e.g., radio 62 dB , tape 65 dB (the higher the figure the better).

One may sometimes see the signal to noise ratio quoted for the pre-amplifier, amplifier system with all the input gain (volume) controls set to maximum sensitivity (turned right up). This gives an idea of how the noise level would behave under the hypothetically poorest possible conditions.
2. The equipment should respond in exactly the same fashion to whatever audio frequency is fed to it, e.g., the frequency range should be very wide and smooth. This range should extend from the deepest bass notes to the highest overtones. For this reason manufacturers aim to equal at least the range detected by a young person's ear, e.g., 20 Hz to $20,000 \mathrm{~Hz}(20 \mathrm{kHz}$ ).

This range is only useful if it is smooth so that it does not colour the sound, hence a frequency response is quoted within stated limits, i.e., $30 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$, this particular specification indicates that over the stated frequency range the amplifier will not amplify any one frequency more or less than 1 dB against any other frequency; 1 dB loudness difference is less than most people are able to detect. The ear is most critical to loudness differences that occur around $1,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ and this frequency is taken to be on the 0dB mark to standardize graphical representations of frequency response (see Fig. 2).


Fig. 2. A frequency response graph. The response is $30 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$.
3. Distortion must be low; if it is not the sound will be "gritty" and unpleasant. 0.5 per cent total harmonic distortion and less is reasonable and less than 0.1 per cent is considered excellent.
4. There should be enough amplifier power in reserve to handle transients (sudden loudness increase, as in fortissimo passages) cleanly and without distortion. For a good system about 15 watts per channel is considered a reasonable minimum.
5. Cross-talk, the level at which the sound from one channel leaks on to the other channel -should be low throughout the system. An average figure is 40 dB beneath a signal of equivalent power fed to the other channel, although the minimum recommended value differs with different audio units.
6. The speed at which tape or disc recordings have been made should be produced accurately during replay or the pitch will fluctuate and music sound unpleasant particularly on long sustained notes, short term fluctuation is termed flutter and slower speed changes wow.

Wow and flutter is quoted as a percentage and a reasonable average for a tape recorder is 0.15 per cent and for a turntable is 0.1 per cent.

## FIRST UNITS

The first units to consider for the basic system are the speakers and stereo amplifier. The amplifier is usually integrated with the preamplifier which is responsible for increasing the minute signals from the record pick-up, tape head or tuner so that there is enough power to drive the loudspeakers.

Stereo amplifiers provide flexibility in the control of sound so that it can be tailored to suit various types of recorded quality, room acoustics (which influence what the hi fi sounds like) and individual personal taste. Judicious use of the tone controls can reduce obnoxious record crackle and/or distortion.

The prime controls are bass and treble, the former affecting the deep sounds to enhance or reduce them and later having similar effects on the high notes. Filters to remove turntable rumble and record scratch are of ten provided; these are similar to tone controls in that they affect a band of frequencies, reducing the output of the amplifier over the narrow range in which the unwanted sound is produced. Amplifier prices in the hi fi category range from about £30 to $£ 300$ or more.

## SPEAKERS

Once amplified the signals pass on to the loudspeakers. Desirable qualities of loudspeakers can be listed as follows.

1. The two speakers should be of the same design and housed in identical enclosures (boxes) to ensure that the stereo image (the ears subjective placing of the sound between the speaker) remains stationary. If dissimilar speakers are used the sound will veer towards one or other speaker at those frequencies which the particular speaker reproduces more loudly -this is called the colouration of the speaker.
2. Aesthetic appearance and size must also be taken into account, speaker cabinets are fronted with acoustically transparent grille material and some firms offer a choice of both grille material and wood finish. The wood finish
should be chosen to suit the room for which the hi fi is intended and the same finish is normally used for all the units in the chain.

Speaker prices range from $£ 25$ to over $£ 300$ per pair. Despite the fact that loudspeakers for hi fi have been designed to be relatively free from both distortion and colouration each unit nevertheless has its own sound. This is due to the many interacting compromises of size and shape of speaker cone, of the cabinet and its construction and many related factors so it is advisable to compare a selection of models in the same price range, listening to well known material in a familiar environment-many dealers will bring speakers round to a potential customer's house so that he may make his final judgment under favourable conditions.

The smaller bookshelf speakers best suit small rooms and the floorstanding ones suit rooms with larger areas-the larger the speaker, the more faithfully it can reproduce the bass end of the spectrum. However, a bookshelf speaker will still handle bass well, despite definitive size due to the cabinet being constructed in the form of an "infinite baffle," i.e., completely sealed except for an aperature for the speaker cone. It thus approximates to a baffle board of infinite dimensions; air moving behind the baffle cannot flow round to the front, either in a true (if hypothetical) infinite baffle or in the compact type of enclosure.


Cross sectional view of a basic speaker system employing two speaker "drive" units.

## SPEAKER POSITION

Speakers should be placed fairly symmetrically in relation to the room and its furnishings; the positions should be experimentally deter-


Diagrammatic representation of the units available to build up a stereo hifi system.
mined to give a good sterco spread in the listening area which should encompass the seating arrangements; generally this means a speaker separation of more than six feet.

As a guide, bass response is enhanced if speakers are stood in corners and/or on the floor; small speakers should be placed on shelves to give a more direct path to the listeners ears. If there is an abundance of soft furnishings in the room the treble may have to be boosted at the amplifier to compensate for absorption losses which occur at the higher frequencies.

## HI FI SOURCES

If radio is to be the source, then a tuner will be required and, for reasons already stated, it should be capable of receiving f.m. transmissions on v.h.f. F.M. tuners require special aerials to be fitted to the roof or in the loft hence due consideration should be given to the aerial-totuner wiring.

At present BBC Radio 3 and Radio 2 carry many sterco transmissions and plans are under way for Radio 4 to also "go stereo."

Stereo tuner prices extend from about $£ 30$ to $£ 150$ or more. One common approach is to combine the tuner with the amplifier-the larger unit looks neater yet has all the facilities to be expected from the two as discrete components. Tuner-amplifier prices are from about $£ 50$ to $£ 800$ or more.

For discs, a record deck will be needed. It consists of a turntable, arm and pick-up cartridge. The turntable should be heavy to give it a flywheel-type momentum to overcome slight speed variation and it should be free from mechanical vibration. Also mounted on the wooden platform, or plinth. with the turntable. is the arm which should be of low mass, well
balanced (to cut down effects due to inertia) and frictionless. The cartridge. carried by the pickup arm, itself carries a cantilever which is tipped with an accurately made, microscopically small stylus (the modern-day counterpart of the needle).

Diamond styli are to be preferred as they wear very slowly and hence considerably reduce the risk of accidentally damaging a collection of records by playing them with a worn stylus. The stylus has the immense and incredible task of remaining in the groove of a record following the most minute directional variations whilst at the same time being subjected to terrific velocities and pressures. In addition it must rest so lightly in the groove that it does not distort the plastic material of the disc and, as is to be

The Garrard Zero 100 record deck.

expected, the cartridges are expensive, relative to their size-from about $£ 4$ to $£ 60$ or more.

Although some decks come complete with arms. many firms make separate arms with weights to counterbalance the weight of the cartridge and inevitable side thrust effects. Devices may be incorporated which lower the arm slowly onto the record, protecting both record and stylus from damage. Prices of arms span the approximate bracket from $£ 10$ to $£ 50$.

## TAPE

The use of tape as a source really requires an article to itself. Three principal types of tape unit exist - open reel machines using tape spools, cassette players and tape cartridge players. Cassettes and cartridges have the advan-


The Brenell Mk 6 stereo tape deck complete with pre-amplifiers but not power amplifiers or loudspeakers. This is a high quality hi fi tape unit.
tage of simplicity over open reel machines although the open reel machine is the obvious choice if any "creative" recording is to be done. Good quality cassette decks incorporating noise reduction systems go from about $£ 40$ and open reel hi fi stereo decks from around $£ 60$.

## INTEGRATED SYSTEMS

It is important that all items in a proposed system match in respect of input/output impedances and, in the case of pickup cartridges, amplification and equalization. Dealers are happy to advise on such matters and most offer complete "unit audio" systems matched through-
out. If the impedance of chosen speakers is less than that of the amplifier output it is possible to overload the amplifier, the converse also applies, e.g., an amplifier with 8 ohm outputs powering 15 ohm speakers will not give so much output.

Although it has already been stated, it is important to hear units before purchase to determine whether the standard will match up to that of the equipment already owned, if any. The guide that I personally find useful is that the price of the pair of speakers should be slightly more than that of the amplifier. Highly acceptable hi fi is obtained from units one third the way up the price brackets and, near the top end, the law of diminishing returns comes into play and more money has to be spent to realise any noticeable increase in quality or available facilities. Careful buying can give a hi fi to be proud of for $£ 250$ with tape, disc and tuner.

## RULES

To conclude, rules to remember are: pre-plan for the final system in stages if it cannot all be purchased at one time. Check that the quality, impedances, voltages and wattages of the different items match. Quality is best judged with material familiar to the listener in a domestic setting. Sustained piano notes will reveal wow, and transient response (and hence reserve power) can be judged on orchestral music with a wide dynamic range. Don't get so bogged down that you are spending all your time listening out for hiss and hum on your equipment. Once you've got your hi fi learn the facility of turning off your technical criticisms so you can just sit back and enjoy the music. Happy listening!


The Danasound Dynamic headphones produced by Danavox. These headphones are lightweight for comfort and are available wired for stereo or mono.


THIS month's circuit-shown in Fig. 2.1belongs to a group called relaxation oscillators. The principle of operation is that Cl is allowed to charge up to a pre-determined value and then transistors TR1 and TR2 rapidly discharge the capacitor. The potential at point $A$ thus rises from nearly zero to the pre-determined level following the characteristic capacitor charge curve and then reverts rapidly back towards zero.

The cycle is made to be repetitive and the signal waveform at point $A$ resembles a sawtooth. Strictly speaking the rise in voltage is not directly proportional to time so the upward going ramp is not what we call linear unless the voltage level at which discharge commences is low compared with the total range of charging voltage (i.e. our battery voltage).

## CIRCUIT ACTION

The important circuit action occurs between TR1 and TR2. Assume that R2 and R3 are the same value and that TR2 is not conducting; the potential et point $B$ will be exactly half the supply voltage i.e. $4 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~V}$. Also assume that Cl initially has no charge on it so that the potential at A is zero. The emitter of TRl is now more
negative than its base so no base current can flow (it is a pnp type). In the absence of base current no current can flow between its emitter and collector and this, in turn, prevents base current flowing in TR2 which is an $n p n$ type. Because of this no current flows between collector and emitter of TR2 and the potential at B will stay exactly as we have already described (4.5V).

Fig. 2.1. The basic circuit diagram of the relaxation oscillator.


Capacitor Cl immediately starts charging towards 9 V but when the potential at A reaches $5 \cdot 1 V$ we arrive at the situation, when the emitter of TRI is now 600 mV more positive than the base and TRI turns on (we are assuming silicon transistors are being used). Current flows from the charge held in Cl and from the positive rail through R1 into the emitter of TR1 out of its collector and into the base of TR2. Transistor TR2 thus switches on and current is drawn between its collector and emitter; this current flows through R2 and the potential at B starts to fall.

The fall in potential at B makes it easier for base current to flow in TR1 therefore TR1 passes heavier collector current which drives TR2 further into conduction. This causes the potential at $B$ to decrease even further and again this makes TRl conduct harder. We can go round this loop over and over again; each time the transistors switch on more and more until they are fully conducting (we say they reach saturation). This process occurs very rapidly.

The main current flowing into the emitter of TRl comes from the charge held on Cl and, provided RI has a high value compared with the effective resistance of the emitter/collector and base/emitter paths of TR1 and TR2, the potential at A will fall towards zero very rapidly. When the voltage at A reaches a level slightly more than 600 mV , TRl will start to switch off because base current can no longer be maintained; this reduces the base current in TR2 and the latter starts to switch off. This makes the potential at B start to rise and again we have a cyclic effect in the loop between TR1 and TR2. Eventually both transistors are back to a nonconducting state and Cl starts to charge up at the beginning of a new major cycle.

## OUTPUT AND FREQUENCY

The interaction we have described between the two transistors is called regenerative positive feedback and is characteristic of many types of oscillators. This circuit has a bonus because apart from the sawtooth waveform produced at

A we get, as a by-product, a repetitive series of very fast negative going spikes at point $B$.

In practice R1 is usually of a high value so we are not able to draw much current from the waveform at A before we start to alter voltage levels; this means we will have to use a current amplifier after that stage if we want to make use of the signal-this is described in the experiment which follows. Resistors R2 and R3 can be of quite low values hence there is not so much of a problem in this respect if we wish to make use of the pulses at point B.

The frequency of the sawtooth is controlled by the charging rate of Cl through Rl and the potential at which discharge starts-this could be called the trigger level. If the latter is set to be half the supply voltage the frequency is approximately $\frac{1}{0.7 \times C l \times R 1}$ where C and R are measured in Farads and Ohms respectively. It is thus a simple matter to alter the frequency by substituting different values for $\mathrm{Cl} ; \mathrm{Rl}$ could be varied as well but this is not desirable as its value can affect the critical potentials that are necessary to maintain oscillation.

## PRACTICAL CIRCUIT

A practical circuit that can be made up on Demo Deck is shown in Fig. 2.2. It will be noticed that TR3, TR4 and TR5 have nothing to do with the main circuit and are there to enable the operation to be monitored on a meter and on a lamp. Transistors TR4 and TR5 are two emitter followers in cascade (called a Darlington pair); they enable us to use the very small current available at point A to drive a bulb. Transistor TR3 is an emitter follower driving the $\operatorname{ImA}$ meter of Demo Deck (MEI) as a high input impedance voltmeter.

The flying leads from both these indicating circuits can be connected to either point A or point B (Fig. 2.3). Use VR2 of Demo Deck (5 kilohm) to see the effect of altering the triggering level-however, start with point B at $+4 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~V}$. If this voltage is set lower than mid-rail the amplitude of the sawtooth and negative going


Fig. 2.2. The practical oscillator circuit. Transistors TR3, TR4 and TR5 do not affect the oscillator, they are used for monitoring purposes only.



Fig. 2.3. The circuit of Fig. 2.2 built up on the Demo Deck. VR2 controls the triggering level.
pulses will decrease but the frequency increases -also the linearity of the sawtooth improves.
Remember that the sawtooth amplitude is never more than 600 mV more positive than the setting of point B so do not expect to get full brilliance from the bulb (the situation is made worse by the forward base emitter drops of TR4 and TR5); this could be improved by increasing
the supply voltage to 12 V . Try different values for Cl ; if Cl is reduced to less than about $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ it will be difficult to monitor oscillation because the measuring system does not respond quickly enough.

## Next month : Schmit? Trigger

# Ruminations By Sensor 

## Any Old Iron

While out in the countryside, last Sunday, I came across one of those "unofficial" rubbish dumps -the country dweller's only way of disposing of his empty bottles and cans, and other waste of our consumer society. The dump was pleasantly situated near a little stone bridge which took the lane over a stream, and I stopped for a while and looked down into the water below.
The autumn sun glinted on some metal in the rubbish and I noticed an old radio lying there. It was a model I knew well, a five valve superhet with long, medium and short waves, built about 1946. The bakelite cabinet lay broken into many pieces, amongst the empty beer cans but the steel chassis was complete and the glass dial was unbroken.

At some time in the past the valve rectifier had been removed, together with the transformer, and a selenium rectifier and mains dropping resistor had been fitted, I could not see the speaker anywhere and did not feel inclined to dig for it, but I know that the original loudspeaker for this set was a mains energised type with a 1000 ohm field winding which also served as a smoothing choke.

When the transformer and valve rectifier were removed it would have been necessary to fit a permanent magnet speaker and modify the smoothing arrangements, as the rectified mains voltage would not be sufficient to cope with a volt drop in the field winding of around 100 volts plus the required h.t. line voltage.

The set had been lying there for some time but I had no doubt that it could be made to work again without too much difficulty-unlike many of our present day miniature radios, which defy any attempt at repair!

## A Good Old'un

Apart from the use of fre-
quency modulation, the contemporary domestic radio performs no better than did my old friend on the rubbish dump. The improvements in the last twenty-six years have been in materials, components and methods of production; steel chassis and hand wiring have given way to printed circuits, capacitors have become smaller, resistors are less than half the size they used to be. A watt is still a watt but the resistor manufacturers have quietly managed to produce components that will dissipate the power much more efficiently with a consequential decrease in physical size.

Magnetic steels and ferromagnetic materials have been improved so that loudspeaker magnets can be made smaller and more powerful and the frame aerial has been superseded by the efficient ferrite rod. Transistors have taken over from valves and the "bakelite" cabinet has been replaced by a stronger, less brittle plastic moulding. What we need now is a miniature loudspeaker that doesn't sound like a "strangling chipmunk."

## A single channel super-regenerative receiver for model control.

Tне transmitter was described last month. This concluding part deals with the receiver, and gives a few useful tips on installing and operating the equipment.

## RECEIVER CIRCUIT

The detector used in the receiver circuit of Fig. 1 is of the super-regenerative type. Transistor TR1 is maintained in a highly sensitive condition, just on the verge of oscillation, at 27 MHz , by a secondary oscillation of "quench" frequency of about 25 kHz . Although the action of a superregeneration receiver can seem complicated, it does offer good sensitivity with minimum size and cost.

A difficulty common to all high gain radio receiver circuits is instability caused by small amounts of stray capacitance existing between components and wiring. Slight instability is difficult to identify, and it does have an adverse effect on receiver performance.
In the present case, instability can be prevented by placing a resistance R3 across the radio frequency choke $L 2$. The actual value of R3 will depend on individual circuit differences, such as the high frequency gain of TR1 and the physical spacing of components. It might be thought more convenient to use a sub-miniature variable resistor instead of a fixed resistor for R3, but the variable resistor could shake out of
adjustment when subjected to engine vibration and crashes. Details will be given later on the correct selection of R3.

Looking at the other detector circuit components in Fig. 1, Zener diode D1 prevents a drop in receiver sensitivity by holding the detector supply voltage constant until the battery is exhausted. Ccil Ll is tuned to the 27 MHz carrier, while C2, C5 and C6 govern the quench frequency.

## RECEIVED SIGNAL

When a signal is picked up by the receiver aerial, consisting of a tone modulated carrier from the transmitter, the carrier portion of the signal is removed by the filtering action of L2 and C5, to leave an audio tone signal plus quench frequency at the junction of L2 and R4, and this combination is fed to the base of TR2 by C\%. Positive half-cycles of the quench frequency serve to bias TR2 on.

The collect.or load of TK2 consists of the primary winding of Tl tuned by C8, which offers a high impedance to a signal of 500 Hz and a low impedance to signals of other frequencies, thus rejecting the quench frequency and any interference from electric motors while passing on the 500 Hz tone to TR3.

The amplified a.c. signal appearing at TR3 collector is converted into a steady d.c. current -at the collector of TR4-after rectification by D2 and smoothing by C11. The d.c. current is then further amplified be TRS to a level of


Fig. 1. The complete circuit diagram of the Radio Control Receiver.

## Components

| Resistors |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| R1 | $8 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~kg} 2$ |
| R2 | $5.6 \mathrm{kS2}$ |
| R3 | $820 \Omega 2$ (see text) |
| R4 | $560 \Omega 2$ |
| R5 | $150 \Omega 2$ |
| R6 | $470 \Omega 2$ |
| R7 | 33 kS 2 |
| R8 | $680 \Omega 2$ |
| R9 | $470 \Omega 2$ |
| R10 | $100 \Omega 2$ |
| All $\frac{1}{4}$ | watt $\pm 10 \%$ carbon |

## SHOP TALK

## Capacitors

| C 1 | $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ tantalum bead type |
| :--- | :--- |
| C 2 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ miniature tubular polyester |
| C 3 | 10 pF polyestyrene |
| C 4 | 22 pF polystyrene |
| C 5 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ miniature tubular polyester |
| C 6 | 47 pF polystyrene |
| C 7 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ miniature tubular polyester |
| C 8 | $0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ tantalum bead type |
| C9 | $30 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 6 V printed circuit type |
| C10 | $30 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 6 V printed circuit type |
| C11 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 10 V printed circuit type |

Transistors
TR1 BC108 silicon npn
TR2 BC109 silicon non
TR3 BC109 silicon non
TR4 BC109 silicon non
TR5 AC128 germanium pnp

## Diodes

D1 BZY88 2.7V 400 mW Zener diode
D2 OA90
D3 OA200

## Miscellaneous

T1 Ardente D. 1001 transformer (see note 1) L2 $\quad 5 \mu \mathrm{H}$ radio frequency 1 A TV choke B1 HP7 (3 off) or $4 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$ Deac
Coil former for $\mathrm{L} 1,5 \mathrm{~mm}$ diameter with ferrite or figh $Q$ core (see note.2); Veroboard size 2.4 in . $\times 0.7 \mathrm{in}$. $\times 0.1 \mathrm{in}$. matrix; $28 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. enamelled copper wire; 3.5 V 0.3 A bulb; non-reversible plug and socket; standard insulated wire.
Note 1: Home Radio Henry's are currently supplying a much larger transformer under the same type number.
Note 2: Henry's Radio type 1 with $1 f$ ferrite core.

## Relayless Motorised actuator

R11 100S
R12 100 :
R13 100s
All $\frac{1}{4}$ watt $\pm 10 \%$ carbon
TR1 AC128 geimanium pnp
D1 OA200
M1 d.c. motor with reduction gearbox
S.r.b.p. board for switching disc

## Interference suppressor

```
C12 0.1\muF
C13 0.1\muF
L3, L4 2A TV choke (2 off)
```




Ci $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$


Fig. 2. The layout of the components on the top side of the Veroboard. Vertical mounting is em. ployed; component sizes have been reduced for clarity. Also shown is tantalum capacitor
approximately 0.5 A , sufficient to energise an escapement or small electric motor. Diode D3 prevents large voltage surges from inductive loads damaging TR5.

If an accidental short circuit occurs across the actuator load, TR5 can sustain a current of about $0 \cdot 8 \mathrm{~A}$ for several minutes before overheating. but this will only occur with a continuous signal from the transmitter or a receiver fault.

## RECEIVER CONSTRUCTION

To get the receiver down to a small size it is necessary to place components as close together as possible, and for this reason bare leads should be insulated with sleeving to prevent touching.

Before construction, check that the dimensions of Tl are ${ }^{1}$ in $\mathrm{x}^{{ }^{3}}{ }_{8}$ in $\times{ }^{1}{ }_{2}$ in. Much larger transformers are sometimes offered by suppliers, under the same type number, and these would not fit into the space available.

Commence construction by cutting and drilling a picce of $0 \cdot 1$ in matrix Veroboard ( to size, 2.4 in $\times 0.7 \mathrm{in}$ ), and break the copper strips with a spot-face cutter, Fig. 2.

Drill a ${ }_{4}$ in hole in the circuit board, position



Fig. 3. Winding details for coil LI.
C2, to accept L1 coil former. The former can be of the same type as that used for the crystal oscillator coil in the transmitter, with the square mounting base removed with a fine saw. Glue the Ll former flush with the copper strips in the hole in the receiver circuit board.

To wind LI, see Fig. 3. Solder the end of a reel of $28 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. enamelled copper wire to location $D 3$ on the Veroboard then close wind 10 turns on the former and anchor the end of the coil to location $D l$ on the Veroboard. Smear some polystyrene glue on Ll windings to hold them secure.

Components can now be mounted on the receiver circuit board, starting at the L1 end. but omit R3 for the time being. Transformer Tl is glued to the board. Check that all electrolytic capacitor and diode polarities are correct.

Flexible insulated wire about 18 inches long will serve for the receiver aerial, and leads $B, C$ and $D$ can be of similar wire about 6 inches long.

## TESTING AND ALIGNING THE RECEIVER

Temporarily solder an 820 ohm resistor to
the underside of the circuit board for R3, and a 3.5 volt 0.3 amp bulb as an output load across leads C and D. Adjust the core of Ll so that it is just entering the coil.

For initial testing the receiver can be wired to a large 4.5 volt battery, such as a 126 or PP11, with lead $B$ to the positive terminal.
If, on connecting the battery, the bulb load glows and remains alight, reduce the value of the temporary R3 resistor to, say, 560 ohms. Alternatively, if the bulb load does not continue to glow, see if it will light up when the core of Ll is screwed almost out of its former, this will indicate the correct detector working point. In the event of no glow, even after adjustment of L1, increase the R3 value to 1 kilohm, or omit the resistor completely.

## Two views of the completed receiver component

 board.

## RANGE CHECK

When it is considered that the correct value for R3 has been determined, the receiver can be range checked. Place the receiver, together with its bulb load and battery on a small insulated tray or wooden board, and get a friend to key the transmitter at a distance of several yards with aerial retracted. Tune Ll in the receiver so that the bulb load glows only when the transmitter is keyed. If there is any tendency for the bulb to remain alight after the transmitter key is pressed, reduce the value of R3 slightly.

Now have the transmitter aerial extended and start walking away with the receiver until the bulb no longer responds to transmitter keying. Slight adjustment of the receiver coil core will be necessary to obtain maximum range.

In built-up areas the working range will be much less than that obtained in open country, or when the receiver is operating in a flying model.

If range testing is satisfactory, Ll core can be secured with a dab of cellulose paint, and R3 soldered permanently in position on the upper side of the circuit board.

## INSTALLING THE RECEIVER

For small model aeroplanes, the battery pack can consist of three HP7 cells in a plastic holder. which has short leads terminated by a nonreversible two-way plug. A matching socket is soldered to receiver leads $B$ and $D$. It is advisable to have two or three quick-fit battery packs to interchange between flights, so that each has time to recover.

As an alternative to the HP7 pack, a 4.8 volt rechargeable Deac pack can be employed to advantage, and this is available from good model shops, complete with charging instructions.

If the receiver is to be operated in a model boat, or large aeroplane, it may be possible to use bigger batteries, such as three HP2's in a holder wired straight to the receiver with an on-off switch in the positive lead.

Receiver circuit board and battery pack should be separately housed in foam lined balsa or plastic boxes, for protection against engine fuel. water, and hard knocks.

Where electric motors are in use in the model, it is advisable to fit interference suppressor chokes and capacitors, see Fig. 6.

## SINGLE CHANNEL MECHANISM

A typical example of a single channel control system is shown in Fig. 4, using an escapement or actuator with four crank positions, and operated one step at a time (sequentially).

In the initial position (Fig. 4a), the actuator crank and rudder linkage holds the rudder straight with the engine control lever biased towards fast speed. Pressing the transmitter keying switch once causes the crank to move one step anti-clockwise, thus pulling the rudder to the right (Fig. 4b).

When the keying switch is pressed again, the crank moves on one step to engage with the engine lever (Fig. 4c) thus giving straight rudder and slow speed. Left rudder at fast speed (Fig. 4d) results when the transmitter key is pressed three times, and finally the crank is returned to its initial position after four keyings.

If the transmitter keying switch is operated rapidly, the model does not respond-apart from a slight wobble in some cases-to intermediate steps in the Fig. 4 sequence, and so it is possible, for example, to obtain left rudder almost immediately after the initial position by keying three times in quick succession.

## REFINEMENTS

Possible refinements which may be found on commercial escapements and actuators, or obtained by modifying existing equipment, is automatic selection of the initial position by holding down the transmitter keying switch for several seconds. Alternatively, some escapements and actuators offer intermediate steps (half

## Radio Control Receiver




Above photograph of the transmitter and receiver.

Fig. 4 (left). A typical single channel control system.


Fig. 5. Details of a circuit of a relayless motorised actuator.
rudder) when the transmitter key is held closed.
A fail-safe mode (engine-off, rudder straight) can be initiated if no signal is received after a pre-arranged time lapse, and this will operate if the model goes out of range, or if the transmitter batteries go flat.

Escapements and actuators can be obtained from model shops, or constructed at home if suitable tools are available. A fuller description of the electromechanical side of model control is beyond the scope of this article.

## ACTUATORS

The output from a relayless receiver is primarily intended to drive a rubber or clockwork escapement directly, thus saving the weight and cost of a miniature relay. However, there are a number of single channel actuators (motorised servos) available which are generally more powerful and economical of battery current than an escapement, without being much heavier Some actuators are intended for use with the manufacturer's own receivers, but they can be purchased separately.

Actuators can be divided into two categories, relay operated and relayless. The former are normally used with receivers having a singlepole changeover relay, but they may be modified quite easily for relayless operation with the addition of a few components, see Fig. 5.
If a relayless actuator is purchased, this will already incorporate a switching transistor, but check that the unit is intended for 3 volt to 4.5 volt operation from a receiver having a negative earth.


Fig. 6. Interference suppressor circuit for small electric molors.

The mechanically minded reader will be able to construct his own actuator using Fig. 5 as a guide. Electric motor stall current should not exceed 500 milliamps at 3 volts, and the reduction gearbox ratio should be about 36 to 1 . It is advisable to fit the suppressor circuit of Fig. 6 to the actuator motors.

Cover photograpm: model aircraft kindly loaned by Radio Modefler



Acd e cobour dimension to jour audio equipmett. This threa c lannel colour un $t$ modulates the light lavel ct three different colsured lamps in lime with tha bass, middle and creble notes of any mus $c$.

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Euying a new house or iust enowating your own? The damp locator gives a quicr check or walls and focrs. Easily carried in 113 pocket if "spots" damp, and not just colt, walls.

## UHF TV Aeria

Are ycu now able to receive all television pragrammes on t.h.f. 625 ines f-mm a local transmiter, but do not have a proper aerial? Then sou mast mot miss rext menth's issue which shows how to build a simple a.h.f. aerial vary cheaply.
Al in the Feb. 73 ssue of (1) Con Sxe Fridcy Jon 19th.

# BASIC Ectricity <br> Magnetic Effect of Current 

By Maureen Birch

I F we pass an electric current through a coil of wire, we can make an electromagnet. Electromagnets have many uses in everyday life and electronics; this month we describe how to make a magnet and will use it to carry out a few simple experiments.

## ELECTROMAGNET-CONSTRUCTION

Obtain about 9 in . of $1_{4} \mathrm{in}$. diameter steel reinforcing rod and bend it into the shape of a "U" keeping about $1^{1}$ 2in. between the legs of the "U". Pure iron rod would be better to useand easier to bend-but this is not so easy to find. You will also need two 2 in . lengths of plastic or paxolin tubing that will just slide over the steel rod-metal tubing should not be used. These tubes are to be used as formers on which we can wind coils of wire.

Use 32 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire to wind 300 turns on each former; keep the winding as

Fig. 3.1. Winding details of the solenoids described in the text. Two identical solenoids are required.

neat as possible-preferably having three layers each of 100 turns. These coils, which will carry the current, are called solenoids. The ends of the windings should be connected to plasticcovered connecting wires-red at one end and black at the other, making sure that both solenoids have the same "sense" i.e. if you hold the solenoid so that the red wire is at the left then the enamelled wire coming from that termination should start by going over the top of the tube and away from you, see Fig. 3.1.

Slip one solenoid over one leg of the steel $U$ then reverse the other coil and place it in position on the other leg. Connect the red and black wires from the solenoids together as shown in Fig. 3.2 so that the coils are effectively series connected and then connect the remaining pair of wires to a 9 volt battery.


Fig. 3.2. Details of making the U-shaped electromagnet. A convenient supply is obtained by connecting two $4 \frac{1}{2}$ volt bell batteries in series.

## CORE MATERIALS

The steel rod becomes a fairly strong electromagnet and you should be able to pick up other objects containing iron. These are called ferromagnetic materials unlike non-magnetic sub-
stances such as wood, paper, glass etc. Incidentally some materials such as pure nickel -which do not contain any iron-are also called ferromagnetic.

If you had used an iron rod in the experiment then as soon as the battery is disconnected, any objects formally attracted to the magnet will fall off. Because we have used steel some magnetism remains after the current has stopped flowing. This is called remanance and is one of the disadvantages of using a steel core for an electromagnet-although it is the principle by which all permanent magnets can be made. You will see why remanance is an embarrassment to us a little later.

## NORTH-SEEKING POLE

If you put a short straight length of steel through our solenoid and then freely suspended it from cotton (Fig. 3.3) so that it is free to swing in a horizontal plane you will find that our "straight" electromagnet will swing round so that its long axis is pointing in a roughly geographic north-south direction.


Fig. 3.3. A straight magnet will line up along the earth's magnetic axis.

What happens is that our magnet gets attracted in a preferential direction by the earth's magnetism. Provided we keep our battery connection the same, one end of the magnet will always point in the northerly direction. We call this the north-seeking pole.

You can carry out a simple experiment by making two such straight magnets (use the solenoids we have already made), and connect them in series as before, but make sure the free red lead goes to the positive terminal of the battery. The red end of each magnet will be
the north pole (to keep to our geographic description we shall call the other end of each magnet the south pole).

Now suspend one of the magnets on a thread and hold the other in your hand as in Fig. 3.4. Bring the north pole (red end) of the one you hold close to the north pole of the suspended magnet. If you are lucky and have a very free suspension you should see the suspended magnet try and swing away-it is repelled; now let the south pole of the one you are holding approach the north pole of the other and you will find a strong attraction between them. This demonstrates one of the fundamental rules of magnetism-like poles repel each other, unlike poles attract.


Fig. 3.4. Experiment for showing that like poles repel, unlike poles attract.

## RULE OF THUMB

Obviously, suspending an electromagnet on a piece of cotton is not a very convenient way of finding which pole is which. Fortunately there is a much easier and less cumbersome method.

If you imagine you are holding the solenoid in your right hand so that your fingers wrap round it, pointing in the same direction that conventional current is flowing (i.e. from positive to negative) then your thumb will point to the north-seeking pole, see Fig. 3.5.


Fig. 3.5. A simple way of determining the northseeking pole of an eleciromagnet.

## LINES OF FORCE

We have seen that the electromagnet exerts a force on, and will pick up magnetic objects placed near it. Any such objects that respond to the magnet are within what we call the field of the magnet. This field is often represented by imaginary lines of force which are close together where the field is strong and further apart where the field is weak.
These, so called, lines of force run from the north pole of the magnet through the air to the south pole. Let's make it quite clear that these lines are purely imaginary and are only a convenient way of showing the shape and distribution of the field around the magnet. A single line of force represents one unit of what is called magnetic flux. A strong magnetic field produces flux lines very close together and we say we have a high flux density. It is stressed again that the concept of lines is simply a convenient way of trying to put a rational explanation to a phenomenon that even now is not fully understood by scientists.

If you place a magnet underneath a piece of paper and sprinkle iron filings over the top of the paper you will see them link up with each other under the influence of the magnetic field and set themselves in the general direction of these flux lines (see cover photo). Try this with the straight and U-shaped electromagnets.

## ATTRACTIVE TERMS

Just as an electric current flows more readily in a good conductor so magnetic flux passes more


Fig. 3.6. Imaginary lines of force around (1) straight magnet (2) U-shaped magnet.
readily through iron than through arr. We say iron has a higher permeability than air; alternatively we could say that air has a higher resistance towards transmitting flux, i.e. it does not have the ability to carry such a high flux density and the lines of force have to spread out to pass through a larger area, we call this resistance to carrying flux reluctance. Air has high reluctance and for iron it is low.

If you hold a piece of iron or steel across both poles on your " $U$ " magnet you will find it is held on with quite a strong force. Moving the steel away you will notice that the attraction lessens with increasing distance. The reason for the strong force holding the steel to the magnet in the first instance is that the lines of force easily pass through the low reluctance path of the steel (it in effect closes the magnetic circuit) and as you try and pull it away, the magnetic forces caused by the flux try to maintain the low reluctance path by resisting the pull. As soon as you break the magnetic circuit you introduce an air gap that has high reluctance (the wider the gap the higher this reluctance) and at the same time the steel is moved into a lower magnetic field area; hence the force pulling on the steel gets less and continues to reduce as you move further away.
The natural thing is for flux to pass through the path of least resistance. Hence, if you have a magnet and a loose piece of steel or iron nearby, it will get pulled in towards the magnet producing a lower reluctance path between the pole pieces.

## RELAYS

This effect is put to use in electronics in the form of relays. The relay is basically an electromagnet with a piece of iron held off the poles by a spring. This piece of iron is called an armature because it will move when the magnet is activated by a current in the coil.

An electric contact is fixed to, but insulated from, the armature in such a position that when the armature is pulled in towards the pole to close the magnetic circuit, the contact touches a second contact, the pair acting as a switch that can be used to operate other electrical equipment. Most commercial relays have several contacts arranged to open or close when the coil is activated.

The main application of a relay is to control a circuit that is handling very high voltages or currents from a circuit with a low current that is just sufficient to pull in the armature.

## BUZZER

It is difficult to make a home-made relay that works satisfactorily but we can use our electromagnet to make a similar type of thing-an electric buzzer.

Mount the magnet on a wooden base as shown in Fig. 3.7 and make an armature by
 of the armature.

When you connect up like this the electrical circuit is closed and the magnet is activated; this causes the armature to be pulled towards the magnet and the contact on the reverse of the armature is broken-the magnetic effect is lost and the armature flies back because of the springiness of the phosphor bronze; this remakes the circuit and the cycle is repeated. The armature moves backwards and forwards very rapidly and produces a buzzing sound.

You may need to experiment with the width of the gap between the magnet and the armature and also the return spring tension (adjusted by turning the supporting screw in the wood).

If the gap is too narrow and the armature touches the magnet and there is insufficient return tension you may find the armature "sticks" to the magnet. This is because of remanance and is the problem we mentioned earlier; using pure iron alleviates this problem.
Next month: meters


> Readers' Bright Ideas: any idea that is published will be awarded payment accoiding to its merit. The ideas have not been proved by us.

A very simple and valuable "third hand" when soldering small components is a pair of pliers with an elastic band once or twice around the handles to close the jaws gently but firmly.

One step further, if necessary, is to clamp the pliers to a block of wood with another one or two thick elastic bands.

> G. Bartholomew, Buckhurst Hill.

I have found an alternative method of attaching the leads of the transistor that is being tested, to the Transister Tester by using small one pin midget sockets, as sold at model shops for plugging together radio control units. These can be fastened into holes in the lid of the tester and the transistor leads pushed into them. This way is far neater than the crocodile clips that were suggested.
T. J. Felmingham,
Berkshire.

THis third and final part of the Beta electronic guitar article describes the electronics to be installed within the body of the guitar-namely fuzz, treble boost, treble cut and volume.


## By Brian W. Terrell B.Sc.

suitable for mputting to commercially available guitar amplifiers a transformer Tl is used that serves a dual purpose. Besides matching the 5 ohm pick-ups to 50 kilohm inputs, it steps up the voltage produced by the pick-ups by a factor of approximately 15.

If you are using ready made (commercial) pick-ups (usually high impedance types) there is no need for Tl and this should be omitted.

Fig. 18. The complete circuit diagram of the Beta "electronics'".


The two switches S2 and S3-both double-pole two-way types-are used for passing the resultant signal from the transformer through either fuzz or treble boost effects. For position of switches as shown, the signal passes straight to the output jack socket.

## FUZZ

The fuzz effect is derived from the circuitry around transistors TR1 and TR2. The circuit employed is a two-stage amplifier using feedback biasing with a differentiator across its output.

This arrangement of TR1 and TR2 is known as a d.c. feedback pair. The bias for TR1 is derived from the emitter of TR2 via R2.

The d.c. feedback pair configuration provides a high gain with stability and at the same time increases the input impedance of the amplifier.

The combination of VR1 and C2 form what is known as a decoupler; the d.c. resistance of the emitter leg of TR2 will remain constant, but the a.c. resistance (and hence a.c. gain of the stage) will vary according to the position of VRI wiper.

For bottom $E$ fundamental on the guitar about 160 Hz ), the a.c. resistance offered by the capacitor will only be about 100 ohms and will decrease with rising frequencies.

Ignoring R4 for the moment, the resistance to a.c. will be given by the parallel combination of the wiper resistance (with respect to ground) and C2. As VR1 wiper moves towards TR2 emitter, a.c. resistance falls, consequently a.c. gain increases.

As a.c. gain is increased, clipping of the input signal is seen at TR2 collector, maximum clipping occurring with VRI completely shunted by C2.

The clipped signal is then fed to the differentiator and spikes are formed across R5, the degree of "spikiness" depending on the amount of clipping. Thus VRI acts as a "fuzz control."

The resistor R4 was found to be necessary to prevent oscillation when VRl is set for maximum fuzz. If oscillation is experienced, R4 should be replaced with a 500 ohm preset and adjusted for maximum fuzz without oscillation.

## TREBLE BOOST

The treble boost unit shown in Fig. 18 was designed with the aid of Teach-In part 12. components $£ 6.00$ all parts listed

Basically it consists of a low-value capacitor, C4, at the input of a single-stage amplifier using potential divide bras (R6 and R7) with a.c. decoupled emitter.
The function of C4 is to present a very high resistance to low frequencies and thus attenuate them while allowing higher frequencies to pass through to the amplifier stage with little attenuation. Typical impedance values for C 4 are: 3 megot.ms for 100 Hz input signal to 30 kilohm for a 10 kHz signal (and less for higher frequencies).

Therefore at the output we see the original signal but with its treble content (higher frequencies) substantially increased in volumei.e. boosted.

## VOLUME AND TONE

The volume control is nothing more than a potentiometer, VR3. The signal from the pickups (or fuzz or treble boost units) is placed across VR3 and the wiper used to tap off the desired amount of signal-volume.

Connected to one side of VR3 is capacitor C7 which is also connected to the wiper of VR4, the tone control. This capacitor presents a high resistance path to low frequencies and a relatively low resistance path to high frequencies.

With VR4 wiper at the ground end of its track, C7 effectively shunts high frequency signals to ground i e. they do not appear across VR3 since VR3 resistance is much greater than that offered by C7.

The degree of shunting-or treble cut as it is-is determined by the setting of VR4 whose resistance between wiper and ground adds to the a.c. resistive effect of C7.
Photograph of the complleted component board. Note the use of screened cable.


## CONSTRUCTION

The layout of the components on the Veroboard is shown in Fig. 19. The components are to be mounted on the Veroboard that was used last month in the temporary wiring up.

Remove the screened cable connecting the board to the pick-ups and then make the

remaining cut-outs on the underside of the board as detailed in Fig. 19.

Begin by fixing and soldering all the capacitors in position, paying attention to the electrolytic capacitor polarities. Now solder in the resistors and the link wire E16 to L16.

The transistors should now be soldered in position. A heat shunt must be used when soldering each leg of the transistor otherwise permanent damage may result to the transistors.

Do not connect any flying leads to the component board at this stage. Leave the board to one side.

## INSTALLATION

With the pick-ups, switch covers, scratch plate control recess back panel and jack socket cover removed, undertake the installation.

Fix the switch cover to switches S2 and S3 with the two earthing solder tags as shown, and wire up as indicated in Fig. 20. For this you will need two lengths of screened stereo cable and two lengths of single screened cable. The cables should be long enough to reach to the control section with a few inches to spare.

Thread these cables through the plastic tube in the body and the channel to the control section (all cables must be thin).

Fig. 19. Layout of the components on the top side of the Veroboard and the regions of copper strip to be removed from the underside. Do not attach the flying leads until installing in guitar body.
To wire up the flying leads refer to Fig. 20 which shows connections to the controls and output.

On the underside of the switches used in the prototype, the connecting tags were labelled 1 to 6 as shown in Fig. 20. It is advisable to mark these cables (from S2 and S3) to the control section accordingly for easy recognition later.

Now place the pick-ups in position and thread the screened cable from each pick-up into the control section and solder these to the selector switch Sl (pushed through from the topside of the guitar). Screw down the pickups and Sl cover.

Screw the four potentiometers on the aluminium securing bracket (details Fig. 21) and then screw this bracket in position. Note that one end of each potentiometer is soldered to its casing. Do this and then solder a piece of tinned copper wire across each potentiometer case as shown.

Solder in capacitor C7 between VR3 and VR4 and wire VR3 to jack socket as detailed. Secure battery in position with fixing bracket (details Fig. 21) and connect the negative side of the battery clip to the jack socket, SK1, as detailed.

Fix the jack socket to its cover and screw in place. Now lay the component board in position and connect up the remainder of the wiring as shown in Fig. 20 using minimum lengths of cable.

Fix the board to the control section base with

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## ELECTRONIC

 CUITAR

Fig. 20. The complete wiring details of the Beta "electronics". Screened cable must be used where indicated. The units are switched on by inserting the jack plug.

Fig. 21. Details of the potentiometer fixing bracket and the battery securing bracket.
a small woodscrew through location C5.
Next screw on the control section backplate, scratch plate, attach knobs to the controls and the installation is complete. Both units will be connected to the battery on insertion of the jack plug.

It is imperative that the wiring is carried out as detailed and screened cable used where indicated.

As shown, all parts of the system are earthed, and touching the pick-ups or switch toggles when plugged into a main amplifier should produce no hum. If there is hum, the system should be completely checked out and remedied.

## Components ....

Resistors
R1
R2 100ks:
R3 10k!
R4 150:
R5 10k!?
R6 560k!?
R7 150k!
R8 10ks!
R9 2.2ks!
All $\frac{1}{4}$ watt : $10 \%$ carbon
Potentiometers
VR1 1k!! carbon linear
VR2 100ks: carbon log.
VR3 100k! carbon log.
VR4 100k!! carbon log.

## Capacitors

C1 2 "F elect. 10 V
C2 $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 10 V
C3 3900 pF
C4 4700 pF
C5 $10 ״ \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 10 V
C6 $0 \cdot 1$ F
C7 $0.5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
Transistors
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { TR1 } & \text { BC109 silicon npn } \\ \text { TR2 } & \text { BC109 silicon npn } \\ \text { TR3 } & \text { BC109 silicon npn }\end{array}$
Switches
S1 Pick-up selector switch (Re-an Products Ltd.) as listed last month
S2 D.p.d.t. miniature toggle
S3 D.p.d.t. miniature toggle
Miscellaneous
T1 Matching transformer ( 5 ohm to 50 kilohm) type M218 (Zeta Windings Ltd.) as listed last month
SK1 Jack socket type R26/1 (Re-an Products Ltd.) as listed last month
B1 9V battery PP3
Veroboard $24 \times 12$ holes 0.15 in matrix as listed last month; screened cable; stereo screened cable; battery clip for PP3; $\frac{1}{6} \mathrm{in}$. aluminium plate: $5 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in} \times 1 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}$. and 2 in . $\times \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}}$; small wood screws.

## USING THE INSTRUMENT

The Beta guitar can be used with most commercially available guitar amplifiers.
To recap, the switch located alongside the four control knobs, is the pick-up selector switch for front, rear or both pick-ups together. The treble boost unit has no adjustment, it is either in or out of circuit by the operation of switch S3. The fuzz effect on the other hand has two controls-for amount of fuzz and volume of fuzz output, VR1 and VR2 respectively. The fuzz is operated by S2. Only one effect unit can be used at a time.

When the jack plug is inserted both units draw current from the battery; current consumption is very small, in the order of 3 mA , so the PP3 battery will last for some time before needing replacement.

Since the fuzz gives considerable amplification, a volume control, VR2 has been added to enable a balance between "straight through" volume and fuzz volume to be made. This should be set as follows: With the master volume VR3 set to maximum, switch S2 and adjust VR2 to give the required balance.

A final couple of notes: when using the treble boost, it is advisable, for maximum effect, to have VR4 turned fully up, since in effect VR4 is a treble cut control. The lead connecting the guitar to the main amplifier should be screened cable-not the television aerial type.

## FINISHING OFF

If you have not already painted your guitar here are a few hints.

Make sure that all the screw holes etc. are made for attaching the fitments and then remove all the fitments. Unscrew the neck.

Thoroughly clean up all the woodwork with sandpaper and fill in all "digs and chips" there may be with a filler such as Polyfilla or Plastic Wood. Allow to dry and sand again. When satisfied a suitable undercoat should be applied to the woodwork. Fill and sand again if necessary.

By far the best painting method is spraying and if done well will give a really professional result. If spraying, cellulose paint is ideal since it dries hard in a very short time and can be "cut-back" easily to give an immaculate shine. If using a brush, a hard gloss enamel such as Valspar is recommended as was used on the prototype; use a 1 inch brush. Painting should be carried out in a warm dust free room.

On the prototype the fretboard was coloured black using a black leather dye, and when dry after a few coats, coated with a thin layer of clear varnish. Masking tape was used to mask the fretboard whilst painting to obtain a straight edge along the neck.

Wait until the paintwork is completely dry before final assembly.
Modifications to build a bass guitar will be described shortly.



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This edition of E.E. is No. 1 Volume 2 and during the past fourteen months (Volume 1 started in November 1971) we have endeavoured to keep you, the reader, reasonably happy and free from component buying problems. In the beginning (of E.E.) we suggested that you could help yourself avoid any frustra-tion-concerning component buy-ing-by getting together a few catalogues from some of the firms that advertise regularly in our pages. This information is of course still pertinent and at this time of the year many suppliers are reprinting and issuing new catalogues or supplements to old ones. So if you feel you need some more information or your old catalogues, like ours, are falling apart through over use, now is the time to look for new editions


Two buying problems have come to light concerning components for previous projects. The first concerns the Radio Tuner that was described in the September 1972 issue (now unavailable); the problem component being the Repanco DRR2 coil. Only a limited number of these coils are manufactured for the retail market and the demand created by the tuner was such that the coil became unobtainable-even from Repanco.

So if you have had to wait for the coil the reason is that Repanco have had to make some more.

The second buying problem has been with the wood for Beta, many people have been unable to obtain the wood or have been quoted high prices. We have been informed by Montague and

Collard, of 123 Southlands Road, Bromley, Kent, that they can supply all the wood for $£ 3.09$ plus 80p for postage-a hard type of mahogany is supplied for the body (this is quite suitable). Also an incorrect size for the neck/head assembly was given in the article -the correct size is $30 \times 2 \times{ }^{1}{ }_{2}$ inches-this size is supplied by the above firm.

## Beta Treble Boost and Fuzz

The treble boost and fuzz unit described in this issuc for use inside the Beta Electronic Guitar can of course be used with almost any electric guitar, or with standard pick-ups simply by omitting Tl from the design. For this reason the effects unit is likely to prove more popular than the actual Beta-which is already being built by a large number of readers.

However, since all the parts, excepting perhaps the two miniature d.p.d.t. switches, are generally available there should be no troubles. For the switches you can contact Henry's Radio or Home Radio if your normal supplier cannot help. The switches are fairly expensive-about 50p each-but look good and operate positively; they also fit in the space available. There is one point to watch with these suitches, if pressure is applied on the end of the lever, directly towards the base of the switch there is a danger of breaking the mechanism inside. So take care, and do not lay the guitar on its face.

The potentiometers used for the control of the various effects on the Beta are special in that they are smaller than the usual types. These pots are about $7_{B}$ inch in diameter and, if you have difficulty in obtaining them, they are available from Electrovalue 28 St Judes Way, Englefield Green, Eghanı, Surrey TW20 0HB (type P .20 ). This firm can also supply the miniature switches (type 7201) and produce a comprehensive catalogue for 25 p post free.

## Radio Control Receiver

Once again some notes on supply of parts for the Radio Control Receiver are given in the components list.

Two possible buying problems may occur with components, the first is the Zener diode; the $2 \cdot 7 \mathrm{~V}$
type is not generally available but Electrovalve can supply them -see above. The other problem is concerned with the printed circuit type capacitors, these are available from G. W. Smithonly in packs of five-or your local supplier may have them.

With regard to the supply of actuators, no doubt many readers will construct their own units and there are many types of motor available from model shops that will be suitable, you will have to go to the nearest one and ask. If you intend buying a ready made actuator then the model shop is also the best place to enquire.

## Ice Warning Device

As far as we can see there are no "difficult" components in the lce Warning Device. The thermistor is the only unusual part and is available from most of the large London based suppliers. should you have difficulty locally

The author has used a pushoon pushoff switch in the prototype device but it may be better to use a toggle switch since it will then be easier to tell if the unit is on or off.

## New Products

An interesting soldering producl has come our way this month. This is a new thermostatically controlled 70 watt iron from Litesold. The iron, called the Litestat. is eninently suitable for our type of work; although the power may appear high, remember that the temperature is controlled so overheating of the bit is pre. vented (we use a similar iron in our workshop).

The heating element is protected by a tough stainless steel binding, and the handle is a onepiece moulding in unbreakable nylon. A detachable look is fitted for hanging the iron.

An internal indicator lamp shines through the translucent handle when the supply is switched on and pulses with the operation of the thermostat.

Interchangeable bits are screw mounted using a special thread to prevent seizure, and are supplied in three sizes. Bits are of high grade copper and are available in standard chromium or long-life iron plated finishes.

The price of the litestat is $\mathrm{£4} \cdot 80$ and it is available for 24 V . $100 / 120 \mathrm{~V}$ and $220 / 250 \mathrm{~V}$ operation.


Phonograph; Science Museum, London

## THEY

MADE MARK
NOS Hertz

By J. E. Gregory

FOR the final article in the series, we return to Germany to meet the man who discovered the existence of wireless waves, and whose name has been adopted as the official unit of frequency. (See Table 1.)

Heinrich Rudolph Hertz, was born in Hamburg on February 22, 1857. Heinrich's father was a lawyer and senator, and his mother the daughter of a physician. Herlz received cuery encouragement from his parents, and lived in a comfortable, cultural and academic atmosphere. Unlike so many of the other early pioneers he did not have to struggle against poverty. but he did suffer with ear trouble from an early age.

After leaving school he went, in 1878 at the age of 20 , to Munich to pursue an engineering career which he later abandoned in favour of physics.

In 1878 Heinrich enrolled in the Berlin University, where he specialised in the study of natural science, mathematics and magnetics. Here he came under the influence of the German philosopher and physicist Hermann L. Von Helmholt\% who had contributed to the development of the electromagnetic theory of light and indicated its general possibilities.

## WIRE-LESS

In 1879 the Berlin Academy of Science offered a prize for research on the problem of estab. lishing experimentally a relation between electromagnetic forces and the dielectric polarization of insulators. Helmholtz drew the attention of Hertz to the problem. Hertz started to tackle it by studying the mathematical theories of Maxwell that electricity and light are fundamentally a single phenomenon; that both are waves of the same kind, differing only in wavelength. He also reasoned that if a moving electric charge could

Table I: HERTZ (Hz)
The Hertz, symbolised by the letters Hz , has gained world recognition as the official unit of frequency, and is equal to I cycle per second. It is often used with the prefix k ( $1 \mathrm{kHz}=$ one thousand cycles per second), and with the prefix $M$ ( $1 \mathrm{MHz}=$ one million cycles per second).

The number of complete wavelengths that pass any point in one second is the frequency of the waves. The frequency of radio waves varies from thousands to many thousand million Hz . All electromagnetic waves travel at a speed of approximately 186,000 miles per second. The Hertz was adopted by the International Electrotechnical Commission in October 1933.
broadcast electromagnetic waves, a device similar to that which produced the waves should be able to receive them and change then back to an electric charge

In 1885 Hertz married Elizabeth Doll, daughter of a professor, and was himself appointed professor of experimental physics at the Technical High School at Karlsruhe. It was here that he started his experiments of trying to generate radio waves by means of an electric spark.

Hertz constructed a transmitter that could make a strong electric spark jump between the knobs on the ends of two metal rods. He then placed a metal ring with a spark gap in it a few feet away. There were no wires between the transmitter and the metal ring, which was in fact, the first "wireless" receiver.

Hertz held his breath, switched on the appartus, and made a spark jump across the spark gap between the knobs. Immediately a spark jumped across the spark gap of the metal ring. Electromag. netic waves, produced by the first spark gap, travelling to the ring had caused the spark to jump across the ring's spark gap. By such means Hertz produced electromagnetic waves with wavelengths from a few metres to 30 centimetres (ultra short waves).

## WAVE PROPERTIES

Hertz lived for his work and continued his experiments. Having proved that these waves existed, he proceeded to show that they
could be reflected, and polarised just as light can; he measured the velocity of propagation and found it to be of the same order as that of light and radiant heat.

In 1889 Hertz was appointed l'rofessor of Physics at the University of Bonn; at the age of 32 he had achieved a position in the academic world not ordinarily attained until much later in life. He continued his work and carried out research into the discharge of electricity in rarified gases and also produced his treatise on the principles of mechanics; this was to be his last work.

In the summer of 1892 Hertz suffered an illness which developed into chronic blood poisoning. He died on New Year's day 1894, at the age of 37 ; a prema. ture death had robbed the world of the accomplishments of a man who has been called the Grandfather of Radio.

## POST SCRIPT

Hertz's experiments were described in a paper called "Electromagnetic Waves in Air and Their Reflection", and were published in an electrical journal. An Italian teenager vacationing in the Alps happened to read the story. For him it contained the germ of an idea. Why not use the sparks for signalling? The young man was so excited by the prospect he cut short his holiday and rushed back to his home to try his first experiment. His name Guglielmo Marconi, the first man to make use of Hertzian waves.



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| $8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 450 V | 17p | 2,000 HF | 50 V | 53 p |
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| $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 7 p | $2.500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 50 V | 60p |
| $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 50 V | 10p | 3,000 F | 25 V | $48 p$ |
| $32 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 450 V | 27p | 5,000 F | $25 \vee$ | 60 |
| $50 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 50 V | 10p | 5,000 ${ }^{\text {a }}$ F | 50 V | 410 |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $25 V$ | 10p | 8-8 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | 450 V | 180 |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 50 V | $11 p$ | $8-16 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 450 V | 20p |
| $250 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 140 | 16-16 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | 450 V | 27 |
| $250 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 50 V | $17 p$ | 16-32 ${ }^{\text {a }}$ F | 450 V |  |
| $500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 180 | 32-32 11 F | 350 V |  |
| $500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | Sov | 25p | 50-50,1F | 350 V | 38 |


\section*{MINIATURE ELECTROLYTICS <br> | ${ }^{1 \mu \mathrm{~F}}$ | 63 V | 8p | 47, 4 F | 25 V | 68 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ${ }_{3}^{2.2 \mu F}$ | 63 V | ${ }_{6 p}$ | 68.4 F | 16 V | ${ }_{60}$ |
| $4.7 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 6 p | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | lov | ¢ |
| ${ }_{8 \mu}{ }^{\text {F }}$ | 40 V | $7 p$ | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 78 |
| 10,6F | $25 V$ | 6p | $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 118 |
| $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 64 V | 70 | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | lov | 110 |
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| 1 pole | ${ }^{40 p}$ | ${ }^{40}$ | 40 | 408 | 40 | $40 \%$ | cos | 40 |  |
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A truis high quatity stereo auplinier -conipape the specitication. cumpare the pefce. Out put: 8 wate. per Distortion: $1 \%$ Output Inppeilance 8 oligns moni. Inpula equalleefl 10 R.I. A.A. Magnetic fnv . Ceranuic 100 mV . Tuner 100 mV . Tapie 100 mV . Tape out 150 NV . Ith sockets for inputs and outpute. Cont roln: Bam, Trehle. Solume, Balance, Aclector. Mono/giereo alte,
Biereo headphome 8 iereo headphone socket. Atractive slimi line dexis Blace $121^{\circ} \mathrm{I}$ 61 $\mathrm{x} 01^{\circ}$
only \&15-00 carr. bop.

Mik. 11 farsslon available wilh Teak Finlish Cabinet

## PREMIER PARAGON STEREO HI-FI AMPLIFIER


fole reproruction records. radlo and tape at a rezaonable
brice. fitted with will the controlw and faclistea
you're ever likely to Hant, the Paragon fusaily onsy fount with a mplifiern
 There's atao a minndard ntereo jack socket on the front panel, ylum a ceramic/maknetic cartridge awficb und a mann outlet macket on the hack pantl.
Apecifcatione $10+10$ watts intos obtrm. Power/frequency remponse: OdB 10 waten isto 8 ohing -3in 20 Hz . 286 Hz phono ( +m V) Ceranic phono (RBuV) Radiof Tape ( 100 DH V ). Hyb and low Alters. Teak Anish cablnet. Size: 1:2 $33^{\circ} \times 10 \mathbf{y}^{\circ} \mathrm{E} 2.00$ P. $\mathrm{H}^{1} .50 \mathrm{p}$
Premier Steroo System '68'
arapon timbliter flarrard spmgilli in teak inlinh pllath with cover and Atted Gollring fin00 wereo magnetle rartrjige plun a pair of Marmien ila
Coniplele w lith Free lo:colw and plugn.


## PREMIER HI-FI STEREO SYSTEMS

SYSTEM " 800 "
Considet of tie Prenier R00 Mk il all tranmintor meten Amplther (deacribed left) Garrard auto/thanual record player untt Atted mitereohmono cartridge cloth front ioulspeaker nystenis. Almolutely complete and mupplied reails to phug in and play. The 800 Mk II ampltiter hana an output of walts per channel with inpuin for ceramic ant mocket and bealphone mocket. Controln: Bans, Treble, Yolume. Balance, Belector. Mono/Biereo switch. Seadghene socket. Power on/
on. Teak finlth cabinet with
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SSTEM "THREE"
Thin conslets of KLINOEL KC903 tereo asmplitier givtag 6 wite rma per channel will Bava. Treble, Volume and Halance Controls. Inputa for SIagnet ic and Cerabic olek -ub, uner, tape in and out. Sterec headphone socket. finfrary Sonotone 9TALICD dia
 be matching syslem

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Hand. Wirla Medfum waveband providen enter tuning of Radio Lu=embourg, etc. Built in ferrite rod aerial for MW and LWW. Retractable 4 sect ion 24in. chrome prlated telence pic serial for sw. Socket for Jar Aerial. powerful pum-pull output. 7 transintors ant 12 diodes, fine tone moving coil speaker. Air spaced ganged tuning cond-naer. Volume/on/off. tuning and wave change conirola. Attractive cane with carrsing handle Size $9 \times 7>4 \mathrm{in}$. apprix. Eany to follow Lustructions and diapranl. Parts price list and easy build plans
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etc. Benbitive fer-
rite rod aerial and
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for Sbort Waves.
3 in. Speaker. 8
tages-6 tramsistors and 2 oloaes Attractlve black cane with red grille, dial and black knobn with polisbed metal inserta. Size $9 \times 5!\times 2 \ddagger \mathrm{in}$. approx. Easy build plans and parts price list 15 p (FREE with parta).



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Secaltive fertie roil serial for M.W. and L.W. Tele* scoplc serial for short Waves. 3 in . 8 peaker 8 improved ocople serisise transistors plus 3 diodes. Attractive cane in black with red grille, dlal and black knobs with polished metal inmerts. Bize $9 \times 5 t \times 2 j \mathrm{in}$. npproz. Puab pull output. Battery economieer $m$ witch for extended battery iffe Ample power to drive a larger speaker. Parte price $i$ ist and eany build plans 25p (FREE with parts).


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