February 1980 $2.50

73 Magazine for Radio Amateurs

tempo...

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...the new S-5

Shown with optional touch tone pad

* The only synthesized hand-held offering 5 watts output. (Switchable for 1 or 5 watt operation)
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* External microphone capability.
* The S-5's exciting low price...only $349.00
* With touch tone pad $399.00

SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency Coverage:	144 to 148 MHz
Channel Spacing:	Receive every 5 kHz, transmit Simplex or ± 600 kHz
Power Requirements:	9.6 VDC
Current Drain:	17 ma-standby 500 ma-transmit
Antenna Impedance:	50 ohms
Dimensions:	40 mm x 62 mm x 170 mm (1.6" x 2.5" x 6.7")
Weight:	17 oz
Sensitivity:	Better than 5 microvolts nominal for 20 db

SUPPLIED ACCESSORIES
Telescoping whip antenna, ni-cad battery pack, charger.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES
12 Button touch tone pad (not installed): $39 • 16 Button touch tone pad (not installed): $48 • Tone burst generator: $29.95 • CTCSS sub-audible tone control: $29.95 • Rubber flex antenna: $8 • Leather holster: $16 • Cigarette lighter plug mobile charging unit: $6 • Matching 30 watt output 13.8 VCD power amplifier (S30): $89 • Matching 80 watt output power amplifier (S80): $149

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Please call or write for complete information. Also available from Tempo dealers throughout the U.S. and abroad.

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W2NSD/1 NEVER SAY DIE

editorial by Wayne Green

ASIA FLEW

Next October, if you can get away, you should go on the IEEE tour of Asia. You'll love it.

Sherry and I went in 1979 and it frustrates me to have that much fun without getting others to enjoy it with me. How would you like to get a ham license in Korea and get on the air as a DX station for a while? How would you like to meet the only ham on Taiwan, Tim Chen BV2A? Or get together with most of the active hams in Hong Kong for a dinner . . . and some operating? A visit to the hundreds of electronics stores in Tokyo's Akihabara section is something you will see nowhere else on Earth.

The tour was set up to coincide with electronic shows in Taipei, Osaka or Tokyo, Seoul, and Hong Kong. These shows have the latest in consumer electronics, including some ham gear, plenty of microcomputers, calculators, digital watches, hi-fis, TVs, TV cameras, and VTRs. If you are able to come back without some gadgets, you are better than I am. We brought back a Sanyo midget TV/radio/clock, a musical calculator, and a calculator watch exactly like the Seiko, but at about half the $275 Seiko price.

The hams on Guam are dying to meet you and set up one hell of a party. So are the hams in Hawaii . . . so you can get some "rest" on the way back. The whole tour was under $2000 per person, which is very reasonable considering that they put on a lot of free dinner parties and entertainments. If we can get about 20 hams to go on the next trip, I think we can work up hamfests in at least seven countries. Game?

HL9WG

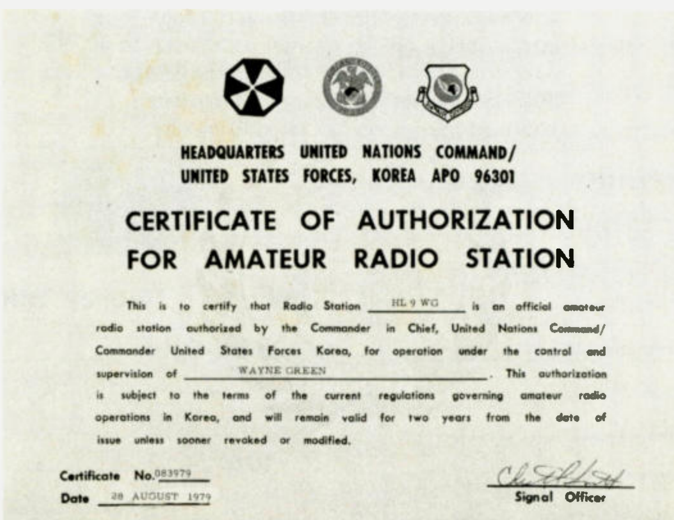
The hams in Korea made my visit there unforgettable. I'd stopped off there on a flight around the world in 1959, back when Seoul was a large village more than a city. Today it stretches for miles and has a big shopping district, complete with several department stores.

Sgt. Charles Milhans WA7QYI /HL9UN took off several days to show Sherry and me around Korea. He's there with the rather sizeable U.S. contingent. My ham ticket had been arranged ahead of time and was quickly issued by the U.S. Amateur Radio Operations Director, Major Smith. Charlie then got us together with Mike Wengert HMØOM, an American living in Seoul as a civilian. Mike is a Korean-speaking radio commentator who runs a weekly radio program telling the Koreans about the reactions of the rest of the world to events in Korea.

Mike and Charlie took us all over town, interpreting for us where needed and introducing us to the marvelous Korean food. I'd heard a lot about kimchee, a fermented cabbage, which is served with almost every Korean meal. Not being a big fermented food fan, I approached it with hesitation. It was great! It had some of the tang you get with hard cider which is fermented.

The most exciting part of the visit to Korea was the trip to put my foot into North Korea. I'm a collector of countries visited, so I hate to make a trip without adding at least one more country, even if it is only a step over the border. In this case, Charlie had been talking with Chris Wenstrom HL9KL, one of the Swedish team minding the South Korean border at Panmunjom, and had made arrangements for us to come up and visit.

Charlie, Sherry, and I started



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W2NSD/1 became HL9WG in Korea, courtesy of the UN Command.

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Just after talking with W2NSD/1 from Seoul, using my HL9WG call, this photo was snapped. Next to me is Namil Kim HM1HJ, seated is Mike Wengert HMØOM, our new importer for Instant Software in Korea, and on the right is Hea-Soo Ree HM1BO, the president of the Korean Amateur Radio League. 10:15 at night there is 9:15 am the same day back home.

out early in the morning on a bus and arrived at the demilitarized zone (DMZ) after an hour or so of bussing from one small village to another. It was a bit sobering when we signed the agreement that the U.S. would no longer be responsible for us as we entered the zone.

Chris took us all around the border area, showing us the meeting building, which is right on the border, with the North Koreans taking pictures of us every inch of the way. They had telescopic cameras for slides and movies. We'd been warned not to wave back when they waved at us, the intent being to have movies of us waving and immediately call for a meeting because our waves were considered as obscene gestures and thus a breaking of the peace agreement. Without waving, we went into the building, and, with the North Koreans watching every move and filming, we walked about twenty feet into North Korea . . . snapped some pictures as proof . . . and hastily went back into the South Korean half of the building. Country number 91 for me. Whew!

What I'd like to do next time is have a bunch of hams along and all bring those glasses with Groucho eyebrows and big noses . . . and everyone wear those while visiting the place. That ought to drive them crazy . . . or at least crazier.

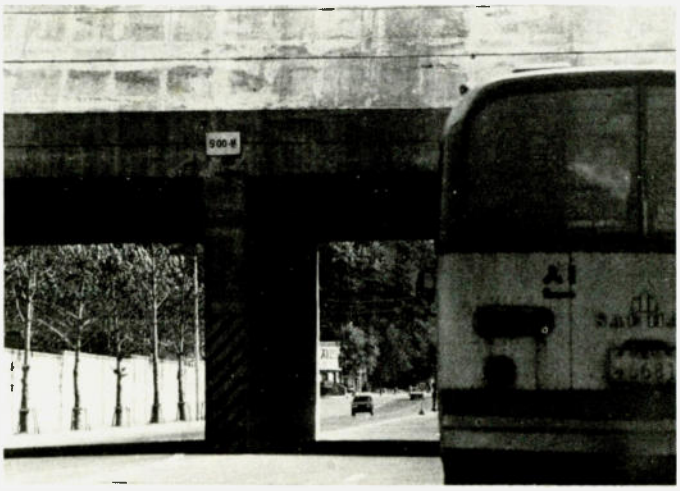
We had a very nice lunch with Chris and the Swedish peacekeeping staff. It's much like a little country club up there . . . with the exception that things could go to hell at any moment. After lunch, I sat down and made a few contacts with Chris's rig. Since someone had just been kidnapped from our side the night before, it was exciting to walk along the border on a wooded path, hoping that this would stay a peaceful visit.

On our first night in Korea, Sherry and I attended a dinner arranged by the tour . . . a dinner show at the Sheraton Walkerhill Hotel. The dinner was fine, but the show was crummy . . . not quite up to Gong Show talent. The next night, we had another tour dinner and then went to visit Charlie, where I got on the air and worked a bunch of Ws.

The next night we went to see Mike. The head of the Korean Amateur Radio League (KARL), Hea-Soo Ree HM1BO, came over and visited, as did the KARL Supervisor, Namil Kim HM1HJ. I got on the air for a while using Mike's rig and made quite a few stateside contacts . . . the best one being with W2NSD, my home station at *73 Magazine*, operated by Jeff DeTray, the Assistant Publisher.

No sooner were we getting used to modern day Seoul than we were on the plane for Osaka and a second electronics show. The Japanese didn't have as many incredibly loud hi-fi exhibits as the show in Korea; however, it was a much larger show . . . spread out in three big buildings. One was devoted mostly to parts and equipment modules and the other two were consumer electronics, including quite a number of microcomputers. The state of the art has progressed in the last year in color home TV cameras. I was particularly interested in that because I'd like to update my theory audio tapes with video . . . in color.

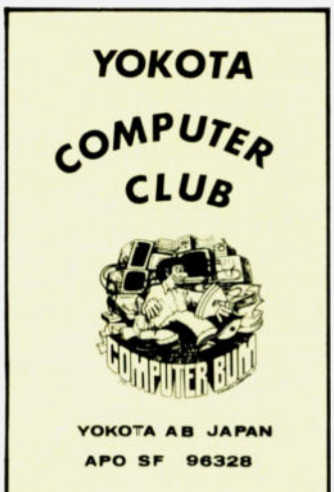
They had some food booths at the show, so we lunched there and then caught our tour bus for a visit to the big shrine at Osaka. A couple of rolls of film later, we were bussed back to downtown so we could see the department



All of the main roads in Korea have these underpasses. The idea is that should North Korea invade the country, explosives in the support columns would blow them away, leaving the roads completely blocked by the debris from above them. This reminded me a bit of the rails which are designed to spring up out of the roads (via radio control) in Switzerland should they be invaded. These are on all mountain roads and would most effectively stop tanks and other traffic.

Japan Airlines gets you ready for the world of chopsticks on your way to Asia. Here's Sherry getting practice with some noodles.

A Japanese subway train is remarkably like those in our country . . . with a few exceptions. First, they are incredibly clean. Even the tracks are clean, with no papers or cans thrown down there. Second, they are filled with Japanese . . . and the ads are all in Japanese. A ride is charged by the distance, much like the London Underground, with short distances costing about 50¢ and longer about double that.



There are enough Americans with microcomputers to have not just a computer club, but a very active one. They hold meetings weekly and fielded nearly a hundred for my talk.

stores. Whoops! There's a McDonald's! I found a number of our tour group inside pacifying Big Mac attacks. I tested the hot fudge sundae . . . just like the ones in Nashua, New Hampshire . . . not very good.

That evening, Mr. and Mrs. Inoue (the president of Icom) picked Sherry and me up for dinner. Naturally, they knew a wonderful restaurant and we had what was beyond a doubt the finest Japanese dinner of our lives. Tempura, Kobe steak, the works. We enjoyed having a chance to talk again, it having been several years since they had visited me in New Hampshire. At that time we took them up to the *73 Magazine* repeater site on some snowmobiles, courtesy of Chuck Martin of Tufts Electronics.

Here I am shaking hands with Yasushi Oshima, the mayor of Osaka, during my recent visit to that city. That's the key to the city hanging around my neck . . . that and 100 yen got me a ride on the subway. The mayor was most gracious, and, in addition to the key, he laid a beautiful photo book about Osaka on me. His aide turned out to be JE3DTA.

It isn't very prepossessing . . . just a carved wooden sign over the entryway. Upstairs are the offices of the China Radio Association, with all but one of the membership being not licensed. The Association publishes a quarterly magazine, with articles in the most recent issue covering satellite business systems, sunspots, Skylab, the radio and radar facilities at their new international airport, the Marisat satellite system, working ability of computers, biomedical instrumentation, and radio amateur activities.

Prices are stiff in Japan if you don't know your way around. I made the serious error of having breakfast in the hotel (International) the first day in Osaka. It was not only crappy, it was $8.25 for just one breakfast. That was a small glass of undrinkable bitter orange juice, one over-easy egg which was hard as a carp, and a thick slice of cold toast. Ugh.

When we decided to venture out for dinner we took a taxi to the downtown area, first going to the department stores for some shopping (and money changing). The restaurants all have very lifelike plaster models of the foods in their windows, complete with prices. We looked over at least a hundred restaurants before settling on a Chinese restaurant. It was right across the street from a Baskin Robbins and next door to another McDonald's. The food was fine and the prices moderate . . . particularly for Japan. We decided to brave the subway system to get back to the hotel . . . and

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Like I said, in China you usually have about a dozen to a table, with a lazy Susan in the middle of the table. This is kept full of food, with many meals running to over a dozen different courses. Urp. These people were part of our tour group . . . Bob Chen at right, our tour leader.

had no problem. It is easy to use, being well marked, using the French metro system of signs. It's exciting to try something new like that.

We spent a little more time seeing the electronics show the next morning and then went to see the mayor of Osaka. He presented me with a key to the city plus a gorgeous book of photos of Osaka. His assistant turned out to be a ham.

After the key ceremony, we went back to the hotel and had lunch at a nearby American-type restaurant. I had one more meeting with a Japanese group wanting an exclusive license for our Apple programs for Japan. I bought two cups of coffee and one small cake . . . and the hotel bill was far more than for the lunch around the corner. Oh, well, this can happen to you in New York, too. I guess they ship television sets to the U.S. at a loss and make up for it with their hotel restaurants.

Right after lunch, we got on a bus and headed for the airport . . . and Taipei. I was looking forward to seeing Tim Chen BV2A. I'd contacted him from Seoul on 20m and gotten his phone number. The tour schedule was too busy the first day in "China" to see Tim, but we did get together the second day.

Busy? Right after breakfast we went to the electronics show. You know, they are making a lot of electronic equipment in Taiwan these days. The city, like Seoul, had grown up incredibly since my visit in 1959. Mopeds and motorcycles by the tens of thousands . . . chaos. They had some digital watches that got me to thinking again about importing . . . though the Otron watches I'd seen in Seoul seemed to have a couple more functions. I'd checked over the field a few months earlier at the Premium Show in New York and opted for Otron at that time . . . and had never been disappointed. It was very handy on this trip because it had two time zones at the push of a button . . . alarm, stopwatch . . . all those nice functions. But would hams want to spend $50 for a

Ever eat a Mongolian? Very good taste . . . when barbequed. The spelling in Hong Kong is not a strong suit.

Alas, even in China they have topless entertainment.

This is the lobby of the Grand Hotel in Taipei. Our tour group is heading upstairs for another fifteen-course lunch, complete with Peking duck. That's Tim on the left.

nice watch like this? There are a lot of others that look similar, though they do not have quite as many functions.

Whoops, time to get on the bus and go to a luncheon put on by the Chinese Products Promotion Center. This was a big one and we were all seated at tables according to the products we were interested in. I sat at the computer table and quickly attracted two young chaps trying to export an inexpensive dot matrix printer. It needed a bit more developing of the driver circuits, but could be competitive. I aimed them at tour member Dave Freeman of Advanced Computer Products (one of our advertisers in *Kilobaud MICROCOMPUTING*).

We were all invited to a Chinese cocktail party that evening, so we rested up at the hotel for a bit and bussed into downtown and this event . . . arriving just a hair late. I was the first one into the party and grabbed the last hors d'oeuvre as a waiter took away the platters . . . and then the lights went out. We had to grope around in the dark to get back to the elevators and leave the hotel. Don't invite me to another Chinese cocktail party.

The dinner that night was arranged by the tour and it was excellent. The only problem, perhaps, was trying to pick up those big slippery mushrooms with plastic chopsticks. The show after the dinner was Las Vegas quality, not like the bomb in Seoul. Everyone enjoyed it.

The next day was October 10th, the biggest holiday of the year for Taiwan . . . they call it

No, Tim Chen BV2A is not a midget; that's one hell of a big door. If you've contacted Taiwan recently, this is the chap you talked with.

Double Ten. There were flags everywhere and balloons by the thousands. We watched the parade for a bit on television and then went out to see the town with Tim Chen, the only ham on Taiwan. The first stop was the club station, BV2A/BV2B. From there we took a taxi around town and ended at the museum . . .

This picture was taken on the biggest holiday of the year on Taiwan, Double Ten (October 10th) . . . hence the balloon in the center of the circle. That building across from our hotel (the Regency) is a department store. Handy. Still, this is almost two miles from the downtown area, where just a few years ago they had rice paddies.

Over 20,000 people participated in the Chinese Double Ten celebration in this sports arena. About 3,000 girls were used to hold up colored boards to make pictures and designs. They were kept busy with dozens of designs. The errors were surprisingly few considering that there was no way for them to get together to practice before the event.

The colored signs spell out a welcome for our group.

Now we see children at play.

running into our tour group there! This museum is a must.

Not far from the museum was the Grand Hotel, where we all had lunch. Tim didn't seem familiar with Peking duck . . . perhaps that is more of an American dish. But we had about twenty courses of excellent food, with Tim as our guest. The hotel is opulent.

We went for a visit to a shrine and then saw a bit more of Taipei before Tim had to leave for work. He is a representative for Columbia Pictures in Taiwan. Sherry and I rested a bit, trying the best we could to digest that enormous lunch before going out for another dinner at the expense of the tour. This was to be a Mongolian barbeque.

This was different. You go along a line like a salad bar and pick out the kind of meat you want . . . from a choice of beef, venison, pork, etc. The meat is frozen and sliced thinly. Then you add vegetables and sauces to the bowl. They take the whole bowl of food and dump it on a red hot stove top, turning it quickly to cook it . . . and back into your bowl. It was delicious. They had more meat on the table and some soup in a fondue-like pot so we could cook it at the table.

The biggest surprise was after the meal. We went by bus to a huge auditorium and sat for several hours watching one of the most spectacular shows I've seen. There were about 30,000 people present and groups of children of all ages took turns putting on very well produced and choreographed acts for us. Have you ever seen about fifty youngsters, maybe twelve years old, all juggling something like a badminton shuttle with their feet at once . . . without anyone making a mistake? They were standing up, not lying down, to do it.

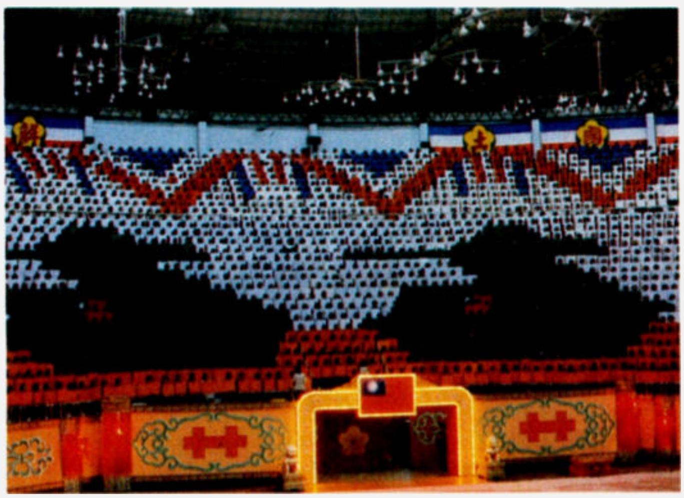
They had some of the most complex rope jumping I've seen, too, with groups jumping rope within other ropes . . . within other ropes. Have you ever seen a triple rope sine wave with three groups inside jumping rope? Or two sets of double loops at right angles, with others inside all four loops jumping rope?

The networks would do well to get a remote to the Double Ten celebration next year. I know I'm planning on being there . . . how about you?

We still had one more day in Nationalist China . . . which meant another big lunch, more trade show, several miles of walking around town in the afternoon, a visit to more Taiwan products on display, and a mammoth Chinese dinner. Sherry passed this one up . . . I think the walk did her in. The head of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce ate at my table (there are always about ten or twelve to a table and a lazy Susan for passing the food around). He may just have won the office by being able to drink anyone else under the table. He went for four rounds of drinks at our table, drinking drink for drink with each person at the table . . . then he moved on to the next table! Amazing capacity.

After an early start from Taiwan, we arrived at Hong Kong (country number 92 for me . . . I'll get to 100 yet) in the early afternoon. We unpacked quickly and went off to the consumer electronics show in a downtown hotel. This was a smaller show, but certainly interesting. The prices in Hong Kong are about the best of the trip for watches. I was hoping to get some glimpse of the legendary TRZ-80 at this show, but no one admitted even knowing about it. I'd seen pictures of it in an Australian magazine, so I knew it was not imaginary.

Wiping our fingers from the



But no one can forget that not far away is mainland China and the constant threat of war for which Taiwan must be constantly prepared.

With a cheering section of 3,000, it is possible to come up with even the most complicated of Chinese characters.

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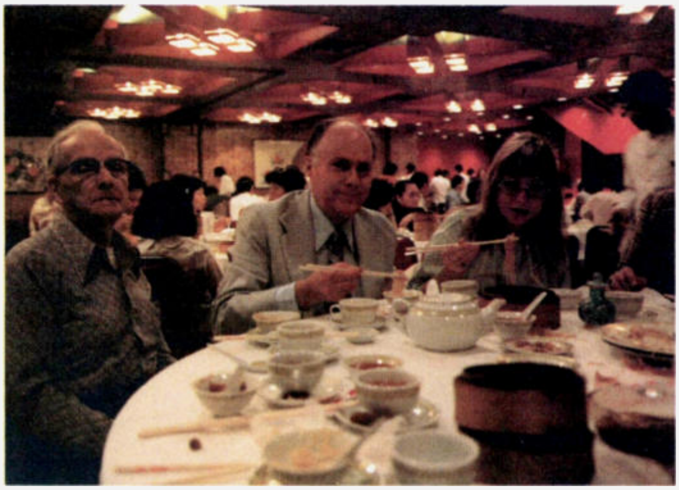


Here are Sherry and I eating some Chinese tripe. The recipe is in the text. This was during a lunch with Tony Lo and a group of VS6 hams in Hong Kong. They're hoping you'll be coming next year so we can have a really big dinner.

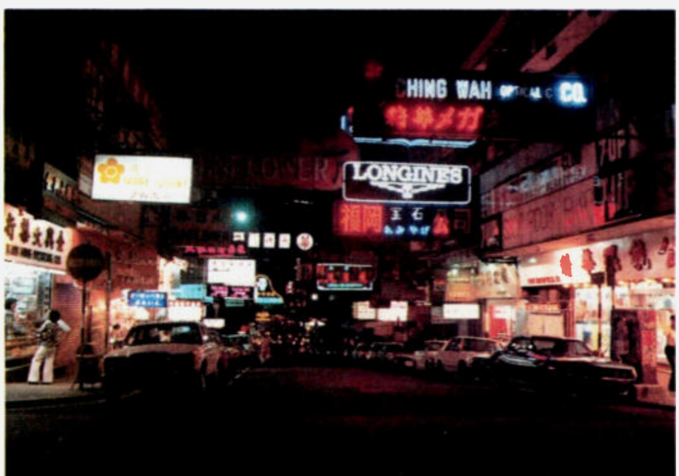
In Hong Kong, the signs go right across the streets. I don't know of any other place like this. With several thousand refugees arriving daily from Viet Nam, the place is very crowded.

hors d'oeuvres at the electronics show, we walked across the street to another hotel and a 16-course Chinese dinner . . . paid for by the tour. It was first rate, as usual. Most of the dinners on the trip were furnished by the tour . . . and most were memorable.

The visit to Hong Kong was much too short. They do have a repeater going there and I was happy that I'd brought along my Tempo S1 hand unit. I met some of the VS6 gang at the show and had lunch the second day with a tableful of them, led by Tony Lo, a doctor and head of the TRS-80 computer club (with over 300 members). Almost every ham there had a TRS-80, so we had a lot to talk about. The lunch was in a Kowloon restaurant . . . three floors packed solid with people. Carts are pushed around and you grab dishes of food from them. I don't think we had any less than a dozen courses for lunch . . . mostly top notch. I am not a big fan of their tripe, though I've figured out how to make it from easily available materials at home. You take some wide rubber bands, knot them at one end, and boil them for two hours in red pepper. If they are too tender, make that just an hour of boiling.

I mentioned that I hope to be able to talk a few more hams into coming along next time and the VS6 group said they'd sure like to have an excuse for a heck of a Hong Kong hamfest. And next time I'd allow at least one more day so we could take the hydrofoil up to Macao for one more country.

There's a chance that we might be able to swing a short trip into mainland China, too. If I get some encouragement to this write-up, I'll start to work on that. No, I don't think we will get a ham license there. I think I can conjure them up for Korea and Hong Kong, and I'm game to try for Japan, but both BV and BY are tough nuts to crack. Guam is no problem if we go there.



This Hong Kong street scene was taken quite late at night. Earlier on, it can take a half hour just to drive around a couple blocks, the traffic is so heavy in some parts of town.

From Hong Kong, we flew back to Japan . . . Tokyo, this time. And though we didn't get to our hotel until almost 10 pm, our prospective distributor for Instant Software was there, waiting. With almost 200 stores selling microcomputers in Japan, it looks like a great market for our computer programs.

The next morning, we had breakfast with Nishi, the editor of *ASCII* magazine and JH3FTA. Nishi dashed off to other matters while Sherry and I took a subway downtown to the Akihabara section of Tokyo. You've probably read about this place, where there are hundreds of stores selling electronic equipment . . . hi-fi, televisions, ham gear, microcomputers, calculators, digital watches . . . it is the only place like this in the world and worth a visit.

From there, we took the subway to the Ginza, which is much like Times Square in New York, only not as crappy. There we found, amid the department stores, a McDonald's, a Dairy Queen, Shakey's Pizza, and other such imports from the U.S.

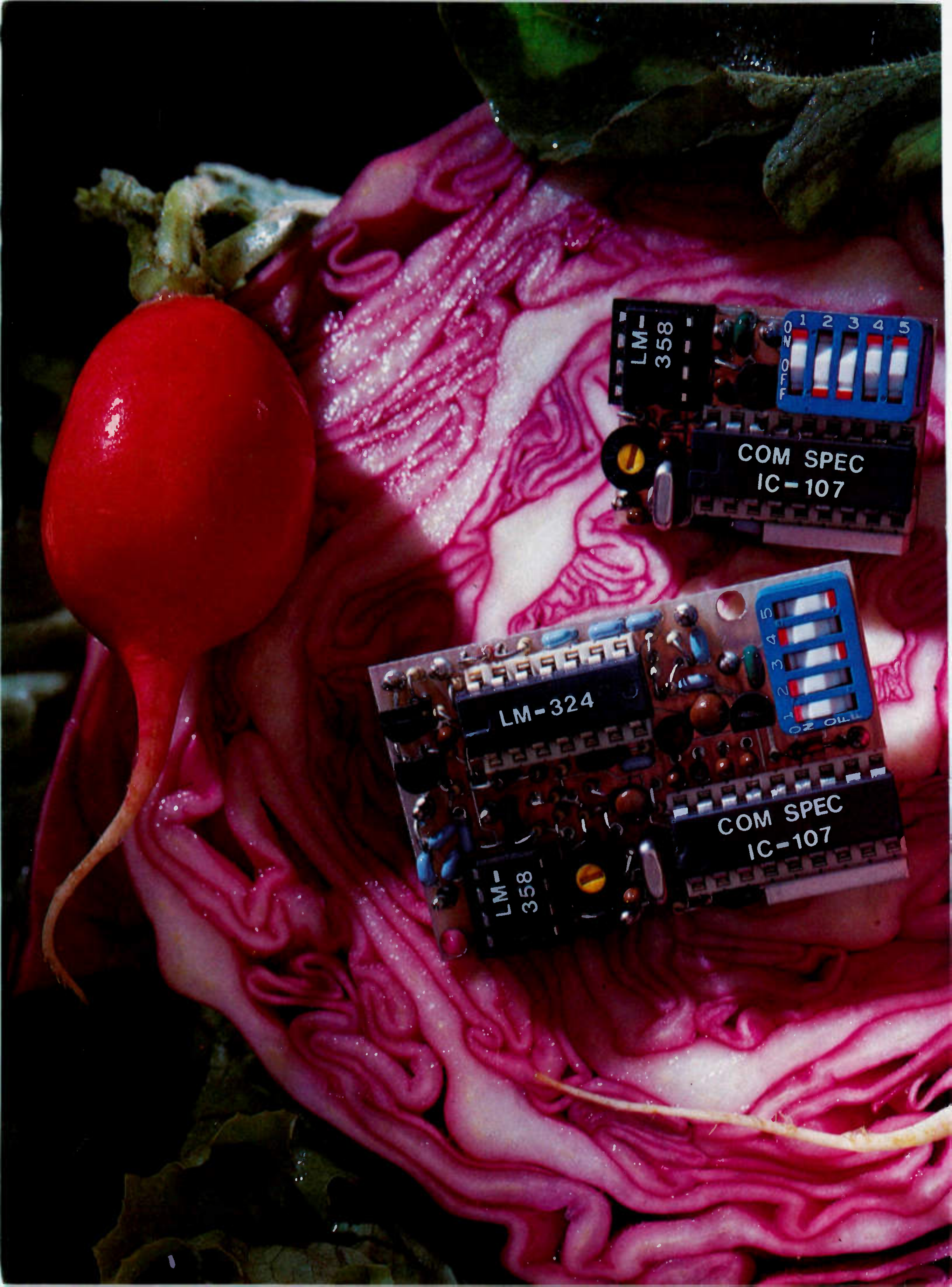
After a short rest at our hotel, we went out for dinner with the Tokyo International Amateur Radio Association . . . at a French restaurant. The meal was excellent and the array of hams formidable. I talked over an hour . . . until the restaurant threw us out on the street.

On the second day in Tokyo, we again took the subway downtown to visit the department stores and the shops . . . and in the afternoon we were driven out to Tachikawa. We visited a store specializing in discount electronics in that area where I bought a musical calculator (Casio Melody 80) and Sherry bought a tiny television (B&W), complete with digital clock and alarm, plus AM-FM radio . . . the whole thing 5" x 1¾" x 6" deep! It was built for the U.S. TV channels and radio frequencies. What a toy! It worked from built-in batteries, ac, or a car cigarette lighter jack.

After a wonderful Japanese dinner, we went to the Yokota Computer Club and I talked for a couple of hours. They had over 60 members for my talk and the enthusiasm was high. The club meets once a week, so they are a very active group.

On our last day in Tokyo, we had breakfast with our distributor and the Japanese Apple importer and were taken on a tour of the town by Nishi, including a visit to the *ASCII* offices and some computer stores. In the afternoon, we were picked up and driven to the Yaesu laboratories, where we met Sako, the president of Yaesu (JA1MP). They have some remarkable equipment under development in their lab . . . one rig using an idea which I suggested to another manufactur-

Continued on page 141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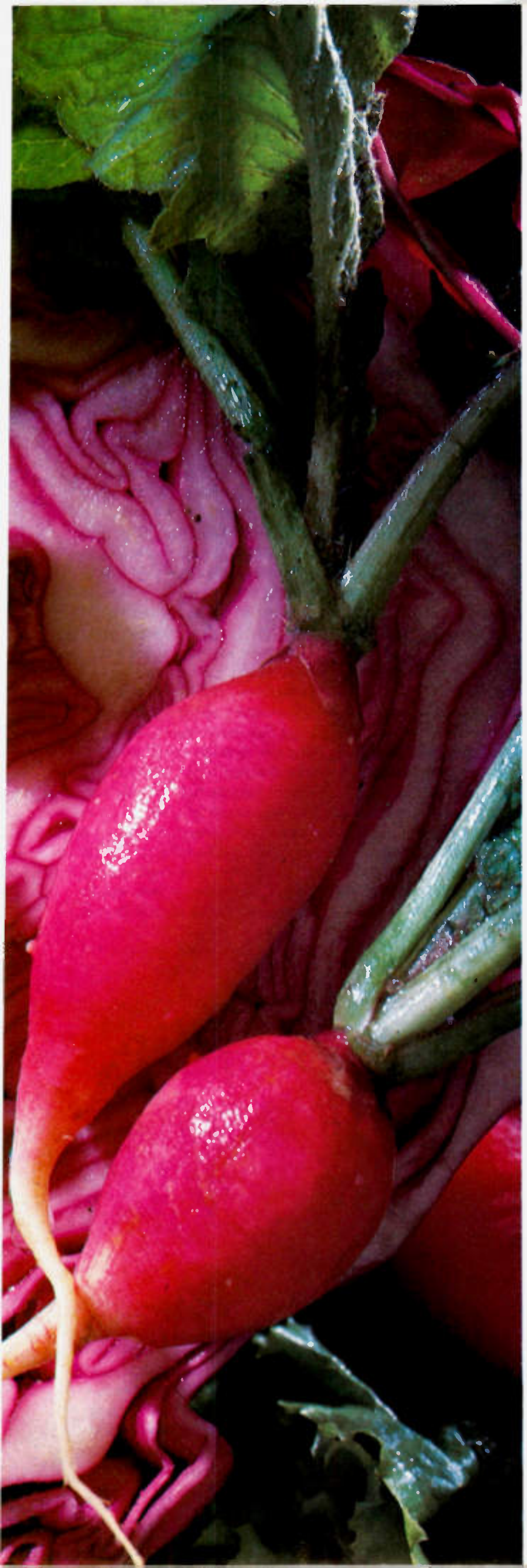

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Looking West

Bill Pasternak WA6ITF
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I rarely comment on the work of another author, but in this case I must make an exception to my rule. Why? Because I believe that the November article by Bob Cooper W5KHT entitled "The Satellite TV Primer" was the most interesting piece ever to appear in this or any other amateur radio magazine. I don't say this lightly. I firmly believe that the real future of communications lies "up there" rather than "down here." People like Bob Cooper are aware of this, although it's only been lately that the overall populace of this nation has come to understand the capabilities of geosynchronous satellite communications. We are at the dawning of a new era. This is why it was so important that amateur radio retain its satellite frequencies; it was a truly sad day when most were lost at the ITU conference some years ago. In many ways, it's hard to fault the League for that debacle, since their shortsightedness came from their deep commitment to HF communications. When one is involved right smack dab in the middle of an "in" thing, it is sometimes quite hard to see past the end of one's nose. What is hard for Newington and many thousands of amateurs to comprehend is that the day of long-haul HF communications is fast drawing to a close, to be replaced by geosynchronous satellite relay. An announcement has been made of tentative WARC approval of three new HF bands at 10, 18, and 24 MHz. This has yet to be approved by the overall plenary council. While it may hold some small amount of significance if it is approved, it's far from earth-shattering in overall significance. Oh, it will mean a bit more HF room and probably a new generation of highly touted, highly overpriced equipment, but nothing more important than that. If it would mean the return of the lost satellite frequencies, then it would be meaningful.

With more meetings on the horizon, the ARRL's job is far from over. It must learn and completely understand a totally new communications technology in record time if amateur radio is to survive the space race. The OSCAR program is just the tip of the iceberg. If we can somehow get back even the smallest sliver of what was lost in '72, then that will be a real victory. It might be wise to look toward AMSAT rather than Newington for leadership in this one, since those in AMSAT are the people who really understand the future and where it can lead. Today, we take terrestrial repeater stations for granted. They're everywhere, and a little 1-Watt hand-held radio lets you talk for miles. Someday, transceivers one-fourth that size may permit worldwide "amateur-to-amateur" communications, through some form of geosynchronous satellite network. The technology is on its way. The only problem left is where there will be amateur spectrum for their use.

THE BAJA 1000 STORY

We close this month with an item that will be of interest to many amateurs. It's the story of the Baja 1000 Off-Road Race and how amateur radio participated in it. The following letter from Earl Grandison K6WS, vice president of the Baja Amateur Radio Racing Association, tells it all.

"I thought that a rundown of the Baja Amateur Radio Racing Association (BARRA) activities in support of the Baja 1000 Off-Road Race between Ensenada and La Paz would be of interest.

"We established eleven radio stations, including remote transmitting and receiving sites for the net control in Ensenada. These stations were located at Ensenada, La Paz, and nine checkpoints along the 985-mile off-road course.

"Besides handling passing times and broken vehicle reports, we also provided three aircraft for rescue purposes, each of which was equipped with amateur radio equipment to communicate on VHF directly with any checkpoint. The race began at dawn on Wednesday, November 7th, and finished Friday evening. The fastest vehicles completed the course in a little over nineteen hours.

"Thursday evening there was considerable concern over reports that a bike rider had suffered a broken arm and was somewhere on the 160-mile stretch between checkpoint 7 and checkpoint 6, and that car 100 had crashed somewhere along that stretch and the driver was out of water. Andrew Acevedo WA6DPR started north from checkpoint 7 in the dark in his four-wheel-drive mobile unit. Several hours later, he encountered a Mexican. Since Acevedo speaks fluid Spanish, he was able to determine that the injured bike rider had been taken to a small fishing village which was not on the map. He headed in that direction and reported via radio that he had the lights of a small village ahead and that a vehicle was approaching. The vehicle was driven by a Mexican citizen who was bringing the injured rider, Jesus Martinez (a resident of Ensenada) to checkpoint 7. He was transferred to Acevedo's vehicle, where it was determined that he had a broken collarbone. First aid instructions were provided by medics in La Paz and Acevedo immobilized the broken collarbone. He also learned from the Mexican citizen that car 100 was located 50 miles south of checkpoint 6, from which a rescue team had been dispatched to pick this driver up later that evening. The Helio Courier *Angel One* was at San Ignacio (checkpoint 6) and

Continued on page 141

When car 204 checked into checkpoint 2, it was interesting to note that the right rear tire was flat and that the driver had 92 miles to go before he reached the next pit crew.

K6W's VW camper contained the high frequency radio station used during the Baja 1000. Members of BARRA used a Ten-Tec 544 running off two large marine storage batteries and a Ten-Tec tuner feeding into a 122' longwire (which can be seen coming out of the insulator behind the driver's door). Mike, the junior op of K6WS who was responsible for the campfire, is shown talking to Dick Hojaboom WA6YCG, the chief operator at checkpoint 2.

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THE OPERATING EDGE

DX

November, 1979, while not as hectic as October, offered a fine assortment of operations and increased activity for the chaser of countries, zones, prefixes, and awards. November is always sandwiched by the two weekends of the *CQ* Worldwide Contest, each requiring at least a week's recovery for the serious contester and DXer. For most of the world, the only band which allowed one any sleep at all during the contests was 10 meters, and then only five or six hours per night. If you operated 15, you missed some interesting dead-of-night openings if you crashed in bed.

6 meters opened during November, enabling many to complete Worked All States and starting others thinking of nabbing all continents. WL7ACY and AL7C supplied contacts with Alaska while KH6BZF and other Hawaiians worked all comers. On November 17, AL7C reportedly worked all 50 states. EI2W struggled mightily to cross the Rocky Mountains, while JA stations were worked as far east as Philadelphia. At this time, it appears the great barrier to WAC this sunspot peak will be Africa, where there is no activity on 50 MHz except for South Africa (ZS), which is a difficult proposition for North America.

With sunspot counts over 200 and solar flux measurements at 325 and above, all bands 1.8-50 MHz showered the active operator with worldwide opportunities during the autumn and early winter of 1979; DXing has never been better, not even during the sunspot peak of the late 50s, which had more sunspots. The reason? Activity, along with improved equipment. A glance at DX bulletins and reports in the magazines in 1958 and 1959 shows plenty of DX worked on 20, some on 15, but little on 10. Six meters was plied by the dyed-in-the-wool VHF operator, but equipment restraints kept most of the world's amateurs off both 6 and 10 meters. Reports from the old-timers of "10 meters open both short and long path to everywhere in the world 24 hours a day" in 1959 appear to have been greatly exaggerated.

Sunspots and the HF conditions they bring are of greatest value when an important expedition hits the bands, as the Saudi Arabian-Iraqui Neutral Zone 8Z4A operation in mid-November illustrated. While this group did not make their "goal" of 50,000 contacts, surely everyone who needed a contact with this "country" was able to work their S9 signal on at least one band. 8Z4A was everywhere at once, it seemed at times. They were observed on 80-10 meters during their ten days of activity. The expedition was mounted by a group of active Jordanian DXers, who took the best in equipment and antennas to ensure a successful operation. The final ingredient, a long run of operating, ruled out disaster in the form of a two- or three-day propagation wipeout from solar flares or magnetic storms. QSLs for 8Z4A are handled by Mary Ann Crider WA3HUP, RFD 2, Box 5A, York Haven PA 17370.

KH6GB came on from Wake Island (KH9) with an Argonaut during November for a few days; Wake's rareness had already been reduced considerably by an operation by Dan Lynch WD6CDU in July, 1979. KH6GB/KH9's five Watts were readily workable by many who had missed previous operations from Wake Island. QSL to KH6JUO (in the *Callbook*) or Harvey Sandal, 98-1077 Mahola Pl., Aiea HI 96701.

Another good one (two, actually) to get in November was SV0AA operating from, first, Crete, as SV0AA/9, then a week later as SV0AA/5 from the Dodecanese Islands. QSLs are via N2OO in the *Callbook*.

The YASME Foundation is sponsoring more operations by Iris and Lloyd Colvin, W6s QL and KG, respectively. They began a winter trip operating from Grenada, formerly VP2G and now J3. Signing J3ABV, the Colvins logged 10,000 contacts on 160-10 meters. They worked DXCC during the first week and then again during the *CQ* Phone Contest. Altogether, they worked 152 different countries, the most ever for them during a 3-4 week stay in one place. Grenada had a peaceful revolution and change of government recently and the Colvins were forced to post a very large cash bond to cover their radio equipment.

The Colvins departed Grenada on November 9 and began operations a few days later from St. Vincent as VP2SAX. They were active during the *CQ* WW CW Contest and into early December, then were on to J7, St. Lucia. All QSLs for YASME operations go to YASME, PO Box 2025, Castro Valley CA 94546.

While we are on the subject of YASME, here is their latest press release, dated November 26, 1979:

"Effective 23 November 1979, there has been a reorganization of the YASME Foundation QSL-handling personnel. Primary sort of all incoming mail and first response to each operation is being handled by W6BSY, with assistance from WB6DOQ. Continuing response to all YASME Foundation DXpeditions, past and present, is being handled by WA6AKK. Mail for all YASME DXpeditions should continue to be sent to The YASME Foundation, PO Box 2025, Castro Valley CA 94546.

"The previous team of YASME QSL handlers was led by Ferne Hughes and WA6AHF, with assistance on continuing response by K6YK, K6PBT, and WA6CPP. They have now concluded their association with the YASME Foundation, and I wish to thank each of them for their many hours of time and effort.

"The speed of response to your QSL card request is determined by many factors, some of which are beyond your control. However, there are several things which should be done by anyone submitting a QSL card to the YASME Foundation, which will ensure the most expeditious return of the QSL card which is being sought (I cannot presume to speak for other QSL handlers, but I feel these same items would get good results from any source).

"These things to do are: 1) Always send a self-addressed envelope with enough of the sender's postage affixed, or include IRCs, to cover the cost of mailing your envelope back to you; please note that in the U.S., an airmail envelope must have airmail postage affixed to it or it will be returned. 2) Always use UTC, GMT, or Zulu (they're all the same!) for the date and time of the contact. 3) Always send a separate QSL for each contact you wish confirmed. 4) Never send cards for more than one callsign (being handled at the same location) in the same envelope. 5) Never send more than one request for confirmation of the same contact unless you have waited a reasonable time (six months in many cases) to receive a reply. 6) It is suggested that one return envelope be provided for each card submitted for the fastest possible response. 7) Try to remember that the cards you seek are being answered by volunteers who have jobs, families, and other commitments and activities in their lives, as we all do, and give them the courtesy you would expect were you in their shoes."

Perhaps the above should have been titled "Novice Corner" for this month! Actually, we hear that managers of QSLs still receive 5-10 percent of cards with other than UTC, or the wrong date, or "I worked him sometime the third week of March; can you find me in the log?"

As predicted on these pages last month, the ARRL has indeed changed the format of the winter DX activity they sponsor. It is now called the ARRL International DX Contest. You can read the rules on page 94 of the December issue of *QST*. They aren't even used to the change down in Newington; the name of the activity has been changed from "Competition" to "Contest," yet the person who made out the table of contents in *QST* labeled it a Competition, while the announcement titled it a Contest. They are soliciting donors of plaques; for $35 you can donate a plaque to be awarded to a fellow contester and deduct it from your taxes as a contribution to a nonprofit organization! ARRL HQ for details.

The WARC will end about a week after this is written; news from Geneva has been virtually non-existent due to pressure from the conference chairman. Calculated guesses at this point on the effect of the conference on DXing would seem to indicate possible new HF bands, opening up of the 50-MHz band in Europe, lowered CW requirements above 28 MHz, and

Continued on page 140

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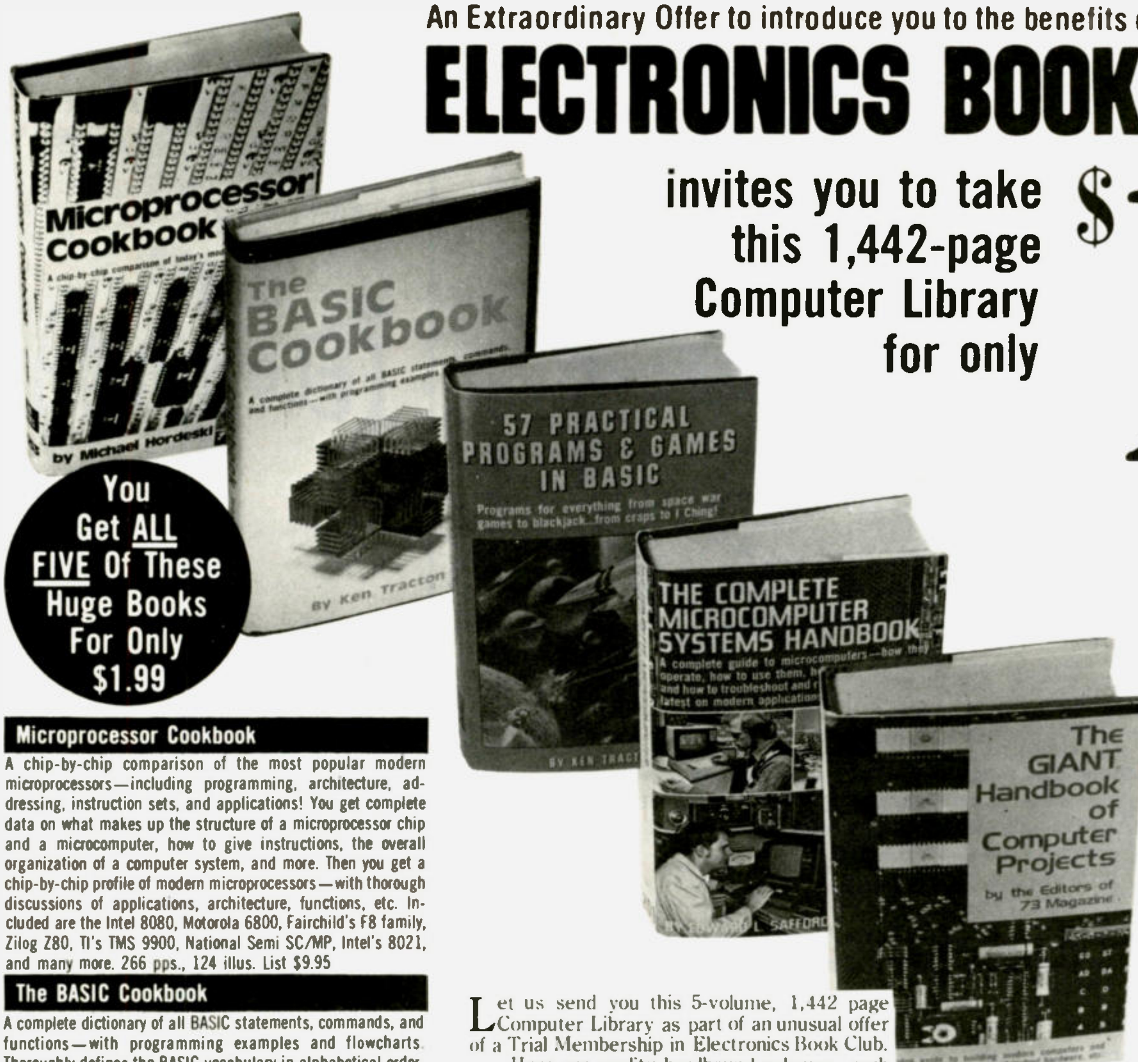

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A chip-by-chip comparison of the most popular modern microprocessors—including programming, architecture, addressing, instruction sets, and applications! You get complete data on what makes up the structure of a microprocessor chip and a microcomputer, how to give instructions, the overall organization of a computer system, and more. Then you get a chip-by-chip profile of modern microprocessors—with thorough discussions of applications, architecture, functions, etc. Included are the Intel 8080, Motorola 6800, Fairchild's F8 family, Zilog Z80, TI's TMS 9900, National Semi SC/MP, Intel's 8021, and many more. 266 pps., 124 illus. List $9.95

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ST-280

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$299.95

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WE INVESTIGATED

All tuners lose some rf power. We checked several popular tuners to see where the losses are. Mostly they are in the inductance coil and the balun core.

So we switched from #12 wire for the main inductor to ¼'' copper tubing. It can carry ten times the rf current. And we've moved the balun from the output, where it almost never sees its design impedance, to the input where it always does. Thus more power to your antenna.

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We have a better way; a built-in 50-ohm noise bridge that lets you set the tuner controls without transmitting. And a switch that lets you tune your transmitter into a dummy load. So you can do the whole tuneup without going on the air. Saves that final; cuts QRM.

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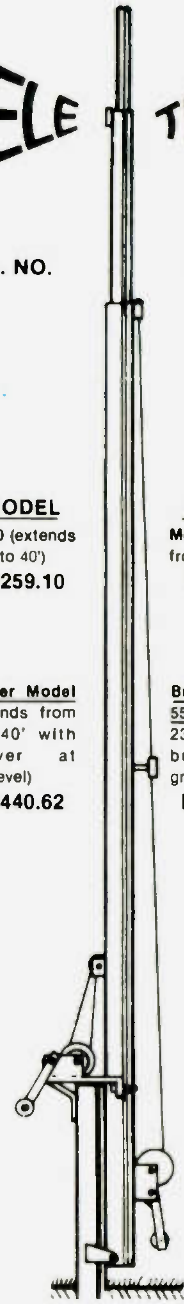

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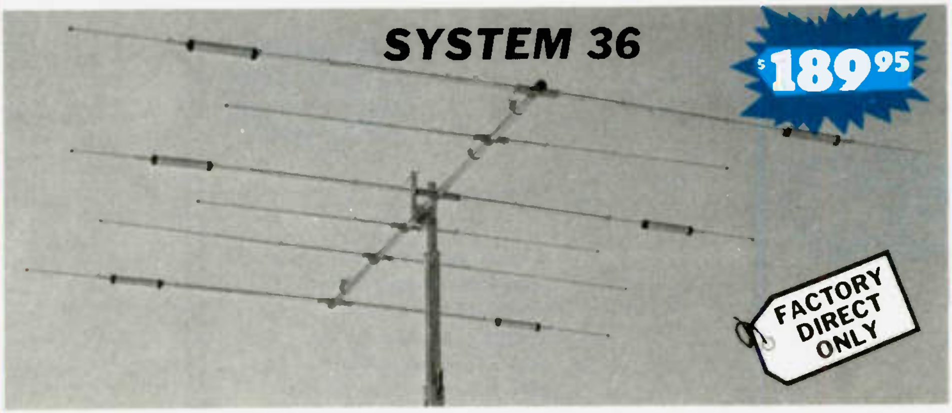
✓ Reader Service—see page 179

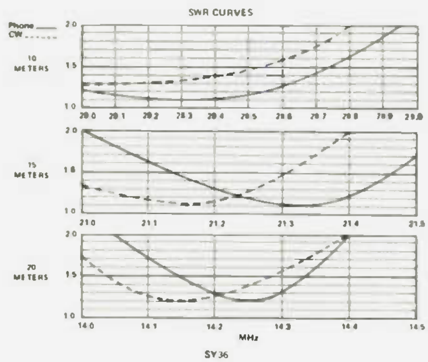
WILSON SYSTEMS INC. MULTI-BAND ANTENNAS

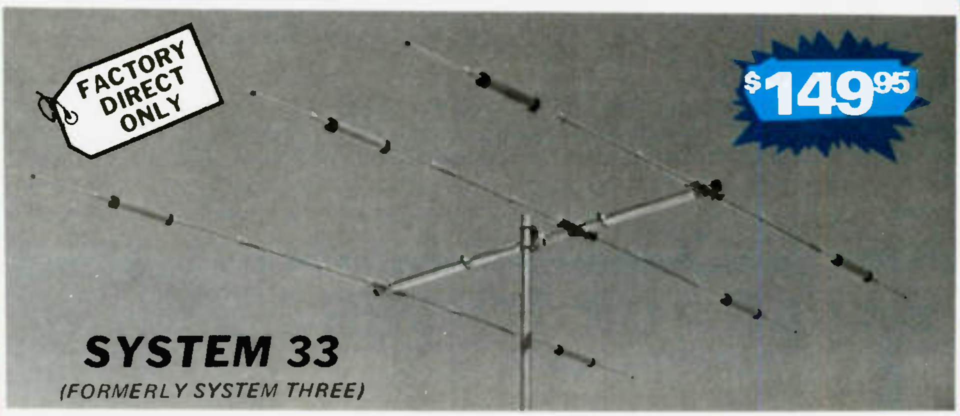


A trap loaded antenna that performs like a monobander! That's the characteristic of this six element three band beam. Through the use of wide spacing and interlacing of elements, the following is possible: three active elements on 20, three active elements on 15 and four active elements on 10 meters. No need to run separate coax feed lines for each band, as the bandswitching is automatically made via the High-Q Wilson traps. Designed to handle the maximum legal power, the traps are capped at each end to provide a weather-proof seal against rain and dust. The special High-Q traps are the strongest available in the industry today.

SPECIFICATIONS

Band MHz	14-21-28
Maximum power input	Legal Limit
Gain (dBd)	Up to 9 dB
VSWR @ resonance	1.3:1
Impedance	50 ohm
F/B Ratio	20 dB or better
Boom (O.D. x Length)	2" x 24' 2½"
No. of Elements	6
Longest Element	28' 2½"
Turning Radius	18'6"
Maximum mast diameter	2"
Surface area	8.6 sq. ft.
Matching Method	Beta
Wind Loading @ 80 mph	215 lbs.
Maximum wind survival	100 mph
Feed method	Coaxial Balun (supplied)
Assembled weight (approx)	53 lbs.
Shipping weight (approx)	62 lbs.





SYSTEM 33

(FORMERLY SYSTEM THREE)

Capable of handling the Legal Limit, the "SYSTEM 33" is the finest compact tri-bander available to the amateur. Designed and produced by one of the world's largest antenna manufacturers, the traditional quality of workmanship and materials excells with the "SYSTEM 33". New boom-to-element mount consists of two 1/8" thick formed aluminum plates that will provide more clamping and holding strength to prevent element misalignment. Superior clamping power is obtained with the use of a rugged 1/4" thick aluminum plate for boom to mast mounting. The use of large diameter High-Q traps in the "SYSTEM 33" makes it a high performing tri-bander and at a very economical price. A complete step-by-step illustrated instruction manual guides you to easy assembly and the lightweight antenna makes installation of the "SYSTEM 33" quick and simple.

SPECIFICATIONS

Band MHz	14-21-28	Boom (O.D. x length)	2" x 14'4"	Wind loading at 80 mph	114 lbs.
Maximum power input	Legal Limit	No. of elements	3	Assembled weight (approx)	37 lbs.
Gain (dbd)	Up to 8 dB	Longest element	27'4"	Shipping weight (approx)	42 lbs.
VSWR at resonance	1.3:1	Turning radius	15'9"	Direct 52 ohm feed — no balun required	
Impedance	50 ohms	Maximum mast diameter	2" O.D.	Maximum wind survival	100 mph
F/B Ratio	20 dB or better	Surface area	5.7 sq. ft.		

WSI WILSON SYSTEMS, INC.

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$49.95

WV-1A

4 BAND
TRAP VERTICAL
(10 - 40 METERS)

No bandswitching necessary with this vertical. An excellent low cost DX antenna with an electrical quarter wavelength on each band and low angle radiation. Advanced design provides low SWR and exceptionally flat response across the full width of each band.

Featured is the Wilson large diameter High-Q traps which will maintain resonant points with varying temperatures and humidity.

Easily assembled, the WV-1A is supplied with a hot dipped galvanized base mount bracket to attach to vent pipe or to a mast driven in the ground.

Note:
Radials are required for peak operation.
(See GR-1 below)

SPECIFICATIONS

- 19' total height
- Self supporting — no guys required
- Weight — 14 lbs.
- Input impedance: 50 Ω
- Powerhandling capability: Legal Limit
- Two High-Q traps with large diameter coils
- Low angle radiation
- Omnidirectional performance
- Taper swaged aluminum tubing
- Automatic bandswitching
- Mast bracket furnished
- SWR: 1.1:1 or less on all bands

GR-1

$10.95

The GR-1 is the complete ground radial kit for the WV-1A. It consists of: 150' of 7/14 stranded copper wire and heavy duty egg insulators, instructions. The GR-1 will increase the efficiency of the GR-1 by providing the correct counterpoise.

A SWAN FOR EVERY NEED

Take a look at the three hottest new SSB Transceivers this year. They're all made in America and they're all from Swan. Whatever your dreams—from a compact fully synthesized mobile to a full-blown base station with dual PTO's—one of these will bring them to reality today. They're all solid state, all 235 Watts PEP and CW on all frequencies, and most of all they're affordable.

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HF SSB Transceiver featuring "VRS" a knob with a new twist, and over 100,000 fully microprocessor-controlled frequencies or present or envisioned "ham" bands.

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Dual PTO's, 235 Watts PEP & CW on all frequencies, IF Passband tuning, with LED position indicators and full break-in.

☐ All solid state ☐ Modern design and styling ☐ Tunable notch filter ☐ 4 Function Meter ☐ Speech Processor ☐ VOX ☐ Adjustable AGC Decay ☐ 2 Position CW Wave Shaping ☐ 16 Pole IF Filter ☐ Crystal CW Filter ☐ PLL Synthesized Band Selection

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235 Watts PEP & CW on all frequencies. The field-proven Rig the whole world's talking about.

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Awards

Bill Gosney WB7BFK
2665 North 1250 East
Whidbey Island
Oak Harbor WA 98277

In the November, 1979, issue, I outlined the entire awards portfolio being offered by the Central Radio Club in Moscow. Thanks to Paul Schuett WA6CPP/WA7PEI for pointing out the fact that I failed to mention that both the R-10-R and R-15-R Awards have a 24-hour time restriction. Perhaps our readers would like to pencil in this addition to the rules for future reference. It is my understanding that the applicants may have to wait approximately one year (or even longer) for their awards to be processed rather than the three- to four-month period previously announced.

Last year I confronted the ARRL about their WAS Award Program. Having just completed my 6-band effort and well on my way to Working All USA on 7 bands, I thought for sure they would recognize such achievement by issuing a certificate or plaque. To make a long story short, they do not have any awards, nor did they show any interest in the concept.

As merely a method of gathering support from our readers, I would like to hear from those persons who at this time could qualify for Working All USA on 6 bands, 7 bands, or 8 bands if such awards were made available. This "poll" should not be construed to mean *73 Magazine* is going to sponsor such a program; however, once I can gather support from other amateurs who can qualify at the time this article appears, I will lead a pursuit to acquire such a sponsor. By the way, I am seeking response from those who've achieved these multi-band goals anytime in their amateur career. There would be no time limit or starting date requirement. Be sure to enclose an SASE if a reply is expected.

DX AWARDS FROM ITALY

A very good DX friend of yours and mine, John Paul I8KDB, recently wrote a very complimentary letter about our awards column and asked that we share the awards program sponsored by the Associazione Radiotecnica Italiana (ARI). John Paul noted that the following general rules apply to all HF awards issued by the ARI and recommended they be read together with the conditions governing each individual certificate.

All inquiries and/or applications shall be addressed to the ARI Awards Manager, G. Nucciotti I8KDB, Via Fracanzano, 31-80127 Napoli, Italy, together with 2 IRCs for airmail reply.

ARI awards will be issued to any amateur who will submit:

- A letter, dated and signed, with applicant's name, address, and call. He must certify to have complied with all rules governing amateur radio in his or her country and to have kept fair play and good sportsmanship in operating toward the award for which the application is claimed.
- The complete list of QSLs, with callsign, date, frequency, reports, time, and type of emission (CW, AM, SSB, RTTY).
- QSLs for checking. QSL cards must be submitted without corrections, erasures, or additions and must be clearly readable.
- US $1.00 or 10 IRCs for foreign applicants. The Marconi Award is free; only a mailing fee is charged.

To get an award in a specific class, the cards must show the corresponding data in a clear format. Foreign applicants may avoid sending QSL cards by submitting a checklist of the cards duly certified by an appointed or elected official of a national amateur radio affiliated society or club. The ARI Awards Manager reserves the right to check, on request, one or more claimed contacts as necessary.

CERTIFICATO DEL MEDITERRANEO (CDM)

The CDM is issued to those amateurs who can show confirmation of a two-way contact on the HF bands since June 1, 1952, with (a) a fixed station in at least 22 countries of the list shown below, and (b) at least 50 amateur stations located in peninsular Italy, both for a accumulated total of 72 QSLs.

The same station may be worked once only. Two classes of CDM are offered: Mixed (AM, SSB, CW, RTTY) or Phone Only (AM, SSB). The minimum reports allowed to qualify are RS 33 or RST 338.

Countries List: Spain, Balearic Islands, Ceuta and Melilla, Morocco, France, Algeria, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Lebanon, Egypt, Greece, Dodecanese Islands, Crete, Mount Athos, Turkey, Syria, Yugoslavia, Albania, Malta, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Monaco, Tunisia, Israel, and Libya.

WORKED ALL ITALIAN PROVINCES (WAIP)

This province award is issued to those amateurs who can show confirmation of a two-way contact on the HF bands since January 1, 1949, with a fixed station in at least 60 provinces of the Italian Republic for foreign amateurs or in 75 provinces for Italian amateurs. The same station may be worked twice or more if in a different province each time. Minimum reports acceptable are RS 33 and RST 338. Starting January 1, 1978, this award may also be endorsed for single band and/or for all 95 provinces.

List of Italian provinces:

Agrigento, Alessandria, Ancona, Aosta, Arezzo, Ascoli Piceno, Asti, Avellino, Bari, Belluno, Benevento, Bergamo, Bologna, Bolzano, Brescia, Brindisi, Cagliari, Caltanissetta, Campobasso, Caserta, Catania, Catanzaro, Chieti, Como, Cosenza, Cremona, Cuneo, Enna, Ferrara, Firenze, Foggia, Forli, Frosinone, Genova, Gorizia, Grosseto, Imperia, Isernia, L'Aquila, La Spezia, Latina, Lecce, Livorno, Lucca, Macerata, Mantova, Massa, Matera, Messina, Milano, Modena, Napoli, Novara, Nuoro, Oristano, Padova, Palermo, Parma, Pavia, Perugia, Pesaro, Pescara, Piacenza, Pisa, Pistoia, Pordenone, Potenza, Ragusa, Ravenna, Reggio Calabria, Reggio Emilia, Rieti, Roma, Rovigo, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Siena, Siracusa, Sondrio, Taranto, Teramo, Terni, Torino, Trapani, Trento, Treviso, Trieste, Udine, Varese, Venezia, Vercelli, Verona, Vicenza, Viterbo.

Continued on page 150

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With anti-tip bracket even a heavy-handed key pounder cannot tip. All the features of the HK-3.

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- Heavy base — no need to attach to desk
- Navy type knob

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Model HK-5A Electronic Keyer

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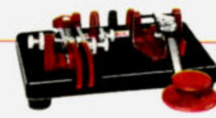
Converts any HK-3 to HK-3M

$2.99 Prepaid



Model HK-4

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Sends unlimited random code. Never repeats same sequence. Tailor level to your ability. Vary speed 5-50 WPM.

BRAND NEW

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✓M52

Copy code faster and upgrade quicker. Now you can tailor the level of code practice to your exact needs. Practice copying code anywhere and anytime you have a spare moment. Practice at home, in bed, driving to work, during lunch, etc.

The new MFJ-410 "Professor Morse" is a computer-like random code generator and keyer that sends an unlimited supply of precision Morse Code in random groups.

It never repeats the same sequence so you can't memorize it like code tapes.

Vary speed 5-50 WPM and read on speed meter.

Vary spacing between characters and character groups (for example, copy 5 WPM with 13 WPM characters) to give proper character sound at low speed.

Select alphabetic only or alphanumeric plus punctuation (period, comma, question, slash, double dash.)

Tone control. Room filling volume. Built-in speaker. **Ideal for classroom teaching.** Earphone jack (2.5 mm) for private listening.

Uses 110 VAC, or 9-18 VDC, or 4-C cells (for portable use). Optional cable for car cigarette lighter ($3.00). 6x2x6 inches.

Built-in full feature keyer. Volume, speed, internal tone and weight controls. **Weight control** adjusts dot-dash space ratio; makes your signal distinctive to penetrate QRM. Speed meter works for keyer, too. Tune switch keys transmitter for tuning. Reliable solid-state keying: grid block, cathode, solid state rigs. **OPTIONAL BENCHER IAMBIC PADDLE.** Dot and dash paddles have fully adjustable tension and spacing. Heavy base with non-slip rubber feet eliminates "walking". $39.95.

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BOX 494, MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS 39762

Contests

Robert Baker WB2GFE
15 Windsor Dr.
Atco NJ 08004

1980 International SSTV Contest
See page 177!

More and more announcements are arriving too late for inclusion in the contest calendar. Material for this February issue had to be received at my QTH no later than November 25th. Please send material as early as possible and send it directly to my home QTH as shown. Sending information via Peterborough only delays delivery as it has to be forwarded to me. If you are still working on the contest rules but have decided on a date, send me a quick note so I can at least list the date as early as possible. I continually try to list contest dates as far in advance as possible to help avoid too many contests being scheduled on the same dates.

CWSP INTERNATIONAL DX COMPETITION

Starts: 0000 GMT Saturday, February 2
Ends: 2400 GMT Sunday, February 3

Amateurs throughout the world are invited to participate in this annual event. Entry classes include single-operator and multi-operator (only club stations, single transmitter), all-band only. All contacts must be on CW.

EXCHANGE:

RST and QSO number starting with 001. CWSP members will add "/CWSP" after the report.

SCORING:

QSOs within the same country count for multipliers only; no QSO points are given. QSOs with other countries in the same continent count 1 point per QSO. QSOs with other continents are 3 points. Multipliers are given for each ARRL DXCC country and for each Brazilian prefix (PY1, PT7, PS8, etc.). Countries and prefixes count only once regardless of band. Final score is the sum of all QSO points from all bands times the final multiplier.

AWARDS:

First place in the world will receive a cup and award. First place in each continent will receive a medal and an award. Awards will also be issued to first place in each country, CWSP members, and clubs.

ENTRIES:

Logs must contain times in GMT, worked station, exchange, multipliers, and points per band. Logs and summary must be mailed no later than March 15th to: CWSP Contest Committee, Caixa Postal 15098, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

SOUTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY

Starts: 1800 GMT Saturday, February 2
Ends: 2400 GMT Sunday February 3

Sponsored by WA4SJS, N4AKO, and WA4YUU; all amateurs are invited to participate. The same station may be worked on each band and mode and SC stations may work other in-state stations. Novices and Technicians must sign /N or /T to identify their class.

EXCHANGE:

RS(T) and state, province, country, or SC county.

FREQUENCIES:

Phone—3980, 7280, 14280, 21380, 28580.

CW—3550, 3710, 7050, 7110, 14050, 21050, 21110, 28050, 28110.

No repeater contacts are allowed.

SCORING:

SC stations score one point per QSO and two points for QSOs with Novices or Technicians. Final score is the QSO points times the sum of SC counties, states, provinces, and DX countries worked. For all others, score one point per SC QSO and two points per SC Novice or Technician QSO. Multiply total QSO points by the total number of SC counties worked (46 maximum).

ENTRIES AND AWARDS:

Certificates to top-scoring stations in each SC county, state, province, and DX country. Also to Novice and Technician winners in each SC county and US state. Include a summary sheet with your entry showing the scoring and other information. Logs must be mailed by

Continued on page 143

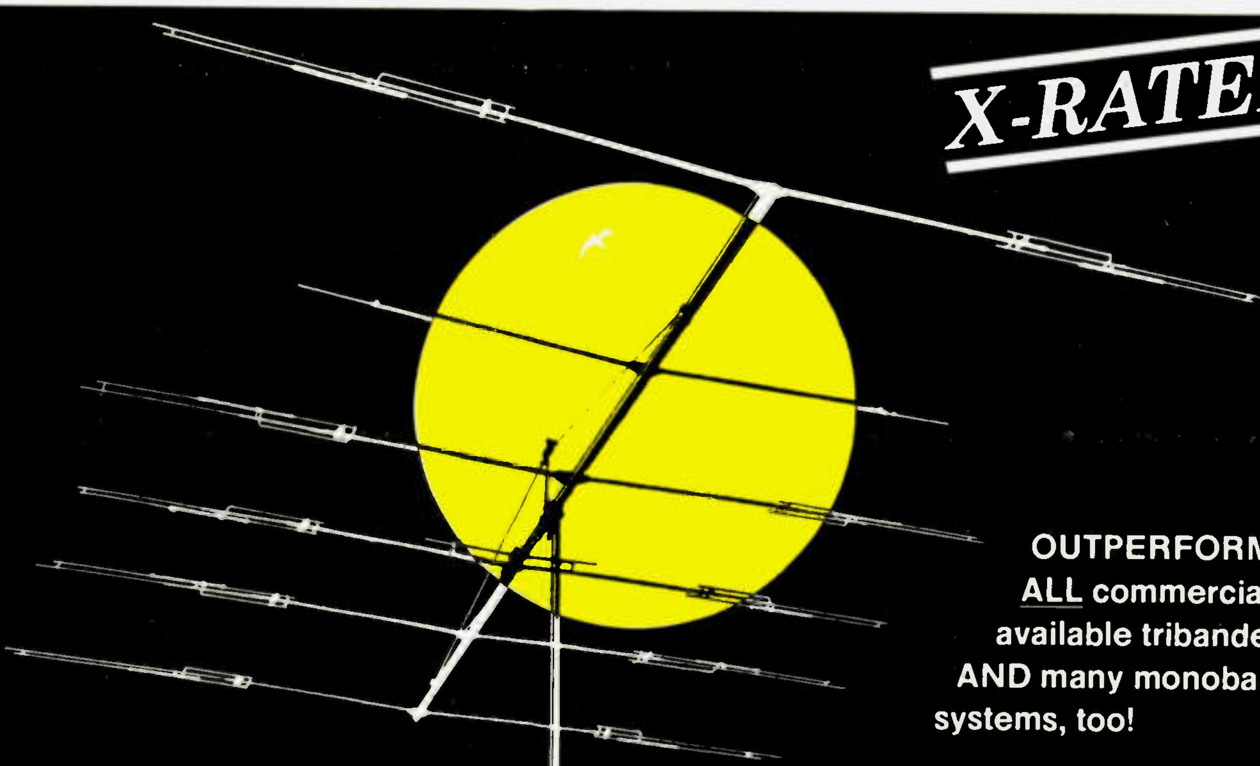
Calendar

Feb 1-10	**ARRL Novice Roundup**
Feb 2-3	**South Carolina QSO Party**
	CWSP International DX Competition
	Marconi International DX Contest—Phone
Feb 2-4	**New Hampshire QSO Party**
Feb 9-10	**QCWA QSO Party—CW**
	Two Land QSO Party
	PAØ Contest
Feb 16-17	**ARRL DX Competition—CW**
Feb 23-24	**French Contest—Phone**
Feb 23-25	**Vermont QSO Party**
Mar 1-2	**ARRL DX Competition—Phone**
Mar 8-9	**QCWA QSO Party—Phone**
Mar 9-10	**Europe and Africa RTTY Giant Flash**
Mar 22-24	**BARTG Spring RTTY Contest**
Mar 29-30	**YL International SSBers QSO Party—CW**
Apr 5-7	**QRP ARC International QSO Party**
Apr 19-20	**YL International SSBers QSO Party**
Apr 26-27	**Helvetia Contest**
May 17-18	**Florida QSO Party**
June 28-29	**ARRL Field Day**
Sept 13-15	**Washington State QSO Party**

Results

RESULTS OF THE H26 CONTEST, 1979

European Scores		*SWL*	
C31QA	60	BRS 32525	29160
DK7XS	30885	*Non-European Scores*	
DM3PQO	31680	K9PNT/DU2	576
EA7ALG	8103	EA8TY	864
F9KP	24338	HS1ABD	2394
G4FDC	13050	JA1ADN	5766
GD4GWQ	1440	KP4V	5202
GI4GDV	612	LU2DPW	504
GM4FSA	780	OA4ZP	1242
GW3INW	5445	OD5LX	60
HA3KNA	13680	PY1BOA	2205
I2LVN	45	UK9HAC	24300
LA9HW	9768	UD6DHC	2592
LZ1XL	17820	UH8BO	240
OE1DSA/3	31590	UJ8JCQ	231
OH2DW	21924	UL7MAR	30246
OK3KAG	27216	UM8MBN	2106
ON7YD	7425	VE2FGL	10209
OZ7SAC	2964	VE3DMC	7437
PA2TMS	7200	VO1AW	4059
SMØCCE	17493	VK2BAC	1254
SP9PDF	9717	N1NA	16983
UK3ACR	31155	K2SX	351
UA2FCB	16524	W3ARK	7371
UK5IBM	37962	W4OEL	17013
UC2WAZ	6336	W5EIJ	330
UP2BAW	12600	W6UA	1581
UQ2GEC	3024	K7CU	495
UR2RKS	27	W8DA	13500
YO3CR	17490	WØBMM	1104
YU2CRM	11094	YV1OB	1581
4U1ITU	63	ZL1AJU	4455
		HB9BA/4X	10146



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2 meter V.S.W.R. Band Width	Better than 1.5:1
Maximum power	150
Nominal impedance	50 Ohms
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Performance and Mechanical Patents Pending	

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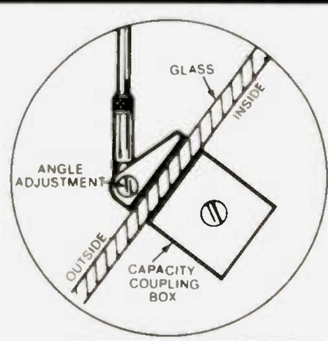

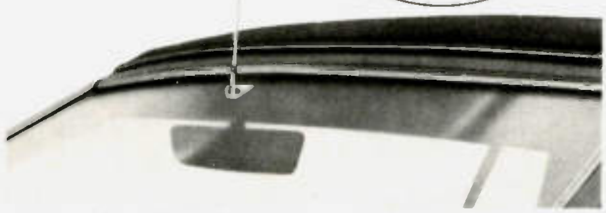

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Microcomputer Interfacing

Jonathan A. Titus
Christopher A. Titus
David G. Larsen
Peter R. Rony

Since microprocessors like the 8080 and 6800 do not have multiplication and division instructions, subroutines (that contain addition and subtraction instructions) must be written to perform these operations. A typical paper-and-pencil decimal and binary multiplication for two different sets of numbers is shown in Fig. 1.

As you can see, the "mechanics" of multiplication are very similar in these two examples. As the multiplicand is multiplied by larger and larger powers of ten or powers of two, the result of the multiplication has to be shifted to the left by one, to increase the significance of the result. For instance, when 1024 is multiplied by the 9 in 596, the result (9216) is shifted to the left by one place, because the multiplication is really 90 x 1024 and the result is really 92,160.

To multiply two binary numbers, the 8080 must examine the multiplier, a bit at a time. If the bit is a logic one, the multiplicand is added to the *partial sum* (initially zero). If the bit examined is a logic zero, then the multiplicand is not added to the partial sum. Regardless of whether or not that addition takes place, the partial sum *must* be shifted one bit position, after each bit in the multiplier is examined.

To keep the 8080 multiplication software example (Example 1) as simple as possible, we will write a subroutine that multiplies two eight-bit numbers. These two numbers must be stored in the 8080's D and E registers and the 16-bit result will be stored in registers B and C (register pair B). When the MP88 subroutine is called, register pair B is cleared because it will be used to store the *partial sum* and finally the 16-bit result of the multiplication. The L register is loaded with the number of bits in the multiplier, octal 010, hexadecimal 08, or decimal 8. At NXTBIT, the multiplier that is contained in register D is moved to register A, shifted once to the right, and saved back in register D. These instructions shift a single bit of the mutiplier into the carry, so that the state of the bit (logic one or logic zero) can be tested with software instructions.

If the state of the carry after the shift is a logic zero, this means that the multiplicand is not added to the partial sum, so the JMP to NOADD (*NO ADD*ition) is executed. If the carry is a logic one, the JMP to NOADD is not executed. Instead, the multiplicand, contained in the E register, is added to the partial sum which is contained in register pair B.

At NOADD, the 16-bit number contained in register pair B is shifted to the right by one bit position. The multiplier's bit count, which is contained in the L register, is then decremented by one. When this bit count is decremented to zero, the 8080 will return from the MP88 subroutine, with the 16-bit result of the multiplication in register pair B. If the bit count is nonzero, the JMP to NXTBIT is executed, so that another bit in the multiplier can be tested and any additions performed.

The multiplication of the two eight-bit binary numbers was performed by an *add and shift algorithm*. Binary division can be performed by a *subtract and shift algorithm*. An example of binary division is shown in Fig. 2. Binary division is more complex than binary multiplication. To divide two binary numbers, the divisor is subtracted from a larger portion of the dividend, which has less and less significance. If the divisor is larger than the part of the dividend that it is being subtracted from, a borrow occurs. In this case, the divisor is added to the *result of the subtraction* to "regenerate" the original part of the dividend that was being tested. A zero is then entered in the quotient for the bit position being tested. If no borrow occurs when the subtraction is performed, the result of the subtraction is used as the new partial dividend and a one is entered into the quotient since the divisor was successfully subtracted from the dividend. The subroutine listed in Example 2 divides the content of the E register (the dividend) by the eight-bit content of the D register (the divisor) and the eight-bit result (the quotient) is saved in the H register and the remainder is saved in the C register.

The LXIH instruction in the DIV88 subroutine (Example 2) loads the number of bits in the divisor (octal 010, decimal 8) into the L register and the H register is loaded with zero. This is done because the H register will be used to store the quotient. The MVIC instruction loads the C register with zero. The C register will be used to store the *partial dividend*. At NXTBIT, the dividend is shifted one bit to the right. The most-significant bit (MSB) is shifted into the carry and the remaining bits of the dividend are saved back in the E register. The partial dividend in register C is then moved to register A, and the bit from the dividend is shifted from the carry into the least-significant bit (LSB) of register A. The SUBD instruction subtracts the divisor from the partial dividend, which was in the A register. If the divisor is subtracted from a larger or equal number, the JMP to NOADD is executed. If the divisor is greater than the partial dividend, a borrow occurs,

Continued on page 141

```
     1024                 00100110
   x  596               x 00011011
     6144                 00100110
    92160                001001100
 + 512000               0000000000
   610304              00100110000
                      001001100000
                     0000000000000
                    00000000000000
                + 000000000000000
                  0000010000000010
```

Fig. 1. Decimal and binary multiplication examples.

```
            00001110
1011  ⟌ 10011011
        - 1011
          10000
        -  1011
            1011
          - 1011
           00001
```

Fig. 2. A binary division example.

```
MP88,   LXIB    /SET THE REGISTER PAIR THAT WILL HOLD THE
        000     /RESULT OF THE MULTIPLICATION, TO
        000     /000 000 (HEXADECIMAL 0000)
        MVIL    /LOAD L WITH 8 (DECIMAL), THE BIT COUNT
        010     /OR THE NUMBER OF SHIFTS TO TAKE PLACE
NXTBIT, MOVAD   /MOVE THE MULTIPLIER INTO A
        RAR     /SHIFT IT ONE BIT TO THE RIGHT
        MOVDA   /THE CARRY IS EITHER 1 OR 0, SAVE THE MULTIPLIER
        JNC     /IF THE CARRY IS 0, JUST SHIFT THE
        NOADD   /RESULT.  IF THE CARRY IS A 1, ADD THE
        0       /MULTIPLICAND TO THE RESULT, THEN SHIFT IT
        MOVAB   /GET THE MSBY OF THE RESULT
        ADDE    /ADD THE MULTIPLICAND
        MOVBA   /AND SAVE THE MSBY OF THE RESULT
NOADD,  MOVAB   /NOW SHIFT THE 16-BIT RESULT ONE
        RAR     /PLACE TO THE RIGHT.
        MOVBA   /SAVE THE NEW MSBY
        MOVAC   /NOW SHIFT THE LSBY TO THE RIGHT.
        RAR
        MOVCA
        DCRL    /HAVE ALL 8 BITS OF THE MULTIPLIER
        JNZ     /BEEN TESTED YET ?  NO, TEST ANOTHER BIT
        NXTBIT
        0
        RET     /YES, THE ANSWER IS IN REGISTER PAIR B
```

Example 1. An eight-bit by eight-bit multiplication subroutine.

```
DIV88,  LXIH    /LOAD THE L REGISTER WITH 010 (DECIMAL 8)
        010     /OR HEXADECIMAL 08 AND LOAD THE H
        000     /REGISTER WITH 000 (THE RESULT WILL BE IN H)
        MVIC    /LOAD THE C REGISTER WITH 000
        000     /THIS REGISTER WILL BE USED FOR STORAGE
NXTBIT, MOVAE   /MOVE THE DIVIDEND TO A
        RAL     /SHIFT THE MSB OF A INTO THE CARRY
        MOVEA   /SAVE THE SHIFTED DIVIDEND BACK IN E
        MOVAC   /GET THE PARTIAL DIVIDEND STORED IN C
        RAL     /SHIFT THE CARRY INTO THE LSB OF A.
        SUBD    /SUBTRACT THE DIVISOR FROM THIS NUMBER
        JNC     /IF THE CARRY=0, THE SUBTRACTION DID NOT
        NOADD   /PRODUCE A BORROW.  THEREFORE, SHIFT THE
        0       /QUOTIENT.  OTHERWISE ADD THE DIVISOR BACK TO A
        ADDD    /ADD THE DIVISOR BACK TO THE CONTENT OF A.
NOADD,  MOVCA   /SAVE THE PARTIAL DIVIDEND BACK IN C.
        CMC     /COMPLEMENT THE CARRY.
        MOVAH   /AND SHIFT THE CARRY INTO THE LSB
        RAL     /OF THE H REGISTER.  IF A BORROW, C=0
        MOVHA   /IF NOT, C=1
        DCRL    /HAVE ALL EIGHT BITS BEEN SHIFTED YET?
        JNZ     /NO, SHIFT ANOTHER BIT OF THE
        NXTBIT  /DIVIDEND AND TRY ANOTHER SUBTRACTION
        0
        RET     /THE ANSWER IS IN H WHEN THE 8080 RETURNS
```

Example 2. An eight-bit division subroutine.

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99.95 Without Battery Capability

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- 8 Digits *Not* 6 or 7 Digits
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- Resolution 1 Hz @ 50 MHz *Not* 10 Hz
- Resolution 10 Hz @ 450 MHz *Not* 100 Hz

FREQUENCY COUNTER STRAIGHT TALK

There are only three functional requirements for a frequency counter: 1. Good accuracy over temperature 2. Resolution 3. Sensitivity

Good accuracy over temperature. Crystal oscillators drift with temperature changes. This change is specified in parts per million (PPM). The 5500 TCXO (temperature compensated crystal oscillator) holds an accuracy of 1 PPM from 17° to 40°C. This corresponds to ± 450 Hz at 450 MHz. Counters with 2 PPM accuracy would read to ±900 Hz at 450 MHz. Counters with 10 PPM accuracy would read to ±4500 Hz and so on.

Resolution. What is the value of the least significant digit displayed? A counter with 10 Hz resolution would display 146.52000 MHz as 146.52000 i.e. with the last digit left off. A counter with 100 Hz resolution would display 146.5200. The 5500 with *8 Digits* is capable of resolving 1 Hz from 50 Hz to 50 MHz and 10 Hz from 50 MHz to 500 MHz. Counters with only 7 digits usually can only resolve 10 Hz to 50 MHz and 100 Hz to 500 MHz. The above effects, accuracy and resolution are cumulative. Example: a seven-digit counter with 1.5 PPM accuracy reading 450 MHz would only be accurate to ±675 Hz ±100 Hz (last digit error) or ±775 Hz. The 5500 with eight full digits and 1 PPM accuracy would be accurate to ±450 Hz ±10 Hz (last digit error) or ±460 Hz maximum. Not bad for $99.95. You really need that eighth digit to achieve real accuracy.

Sensitivity. The 5500 requires only 10-15 mv of signal to stabilize and achieve an accurate reading. A one watt hand-held can be read with accuracy at a distance of 15-20 ft. from the counter using the T600 antenna. Counters with 150 mv sensitivity will only stabilize at distances of less than a foot.

The outstanding sensitivity of the 5500, the result of its unique engineering design, and built-in preamp assures stable, accurate readings every time you key up your transmitter.

If you are tired of receiving a plastic bag of sometimes surplus, sometimes defective material only to spend all night trying to solder both sides of the PC Board because the manufacturer chose to use low cost PC Boards without plated-thru holes; if you chose a kit because you only budgeted a hundred dollars for a frequency counter, then the DSI 5500 Counter is the answer. It is 100% factory assembled and tested. DSI strives to purchase the highest quality, prime materials imposing the most rigorous quality requirements possible. Every PC Board that DSI manufactures is plated-thru solder re-flowed, and 100% factory assembled, tested and burned-in in the USA, assuring years of trouble-free service. DSI has worked hard to achieve our worldwide reputation for the best price to quality features ratio in the industry. DSI's 5500 now makes it possible to buy a 100% factory assembled accurate 8-digit frequency counter for under $100.00. Buy quality — Buy performance — Buy cost effectiveness — Buy DSI.

FOR INFORMATION — DEALER LOCATION — ORDERS — OEM
CALL 800-854-2049 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS CALL 800-542-6253

Model	Price	Frequency Range	Accuracy Over Temperature	Sensitivity @ 100 Hz - 25 MHz	Sensitivity @ 50 - 250 MHz	Sensitivity @ 250 - 450 MHz	Number of Readouts	Power Requirements	Size H W D
5500	$99.95	50 Hz - 512 MHz	TCXO 1 PPM 17° - 40°C	10 - 15 MV	10 - 15 MV	15 - 50 MV	8	*115 VAC or 8.2 - 14.5 VDC	1½" x 5" x 5½"

*With AC-9 Adaptor.

5500 wired factory burned-in 1 year limited warranty. Prices and/or specifications subject to change without notice.

TERMS: MC - VISA - AE - Check - M.O. - C.O.D. in U.S. Funds. Please add 10% to a maximum of $10.00 for shipping, handling and insurance. Orders outside of USA & Canada, please add $20.00 additional to cover air shipment. California residents add 6% Sales Tax.

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San Diego, California 92123
(714) 565-8402

5500 Wired $99.95
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Includes Rechargeable NiCad Battery Pack and AC Adapter.
T600 BNC Antenna 7.95
AC-9 AC Adapter 7.95

New Products

NEW HF MOBILE ANTENNA

Discoil Corporation has introduced a new high-performance high-frequency mobile antenna that covers a frequency range of 3.5 to 30 MHz without changing coils or adjusting rods.

The DISCOIL is the first mobile antenna to be manufactured utilizing aerodynamic design principles to prevent excessive layback while in motion, reducing detuning effects found in conventional mobile antennas. The "wing" on top of the coil acts as a wing on an aircraft, tending to hold the antenna in a more vertical position. The vertical portion of the antenna (the coil) acts as a rudder reducing sidewobble. The wing also acts as a capacity hat, reducing the amount of inductance required in the coil, increasing antenna efficiency.

The 2½-foot circumference, plated, printed circuit coil is three times larger than any other commercially available antenna coil, allowing more actual radiation from the coil itself.

The 108" overall length, center-loaded antenna features stainless steel upper and lower sections and fits any standard 3/8-24 antenna mount.

Factory-set coil taps are supplied for the center of 15-, 20-, 40-, and 75-meter phone bands. Other taps are easily installed for other frequencies, such as MARS, CAP, etc. Frequencies and bands are simply changed by clipping a lead to the predetermined tap.

For further information, write *Discoil Corporation, PO Box 1076, Brackettville TX 78832.* Reader Service number D75.

INFO-TECH M-200E TRI-MODE CONVERTER

For those readers who are not yet aware of it, there is a revolution going on in non-voice two-way communications. While hams still will be required to interpret Morse code reception to pass their exams, they now have another option available to them for on-air operation.

Automatic Morse senders and readers are now available as an operating aid. If you can type, you can send perfect CW, and if you can read, you can copy at incredible speeds! At present, there are two classes of instruments available to accommodate this luxury: the digital reader and the video converter.

As an extra bonus, most manufacturers of these new devices include RTTY capability as well. Info-Tech's M-200E is a luxurious example of just how much fun RTTY and CW can be.

The flexible M-200E is lightweight and compact, especially considering its enormous versatility. 3½ inches high, 9 inches wide, and 12 inches deep, the unit weighs a scant five pounds! Power consumption is 20 Watts at 120 V ac. The front panel is white enamel and the cabinet is black; bright LEDs signal various status conditions during actual operation. An internal character generator provides a full alphanumeric display when used with any standard video monitor. 32 characters per line is standard; 72 is available at extra cost.

CORRECTION

The Madison Electronics ad for Belden products which appeared in the December issue was incorrect. Please refer to the Madison/Belden ad elsewhere in this issue for the correct prices. *73* apologizes for the error.

In our lab test, we fed the M-200E output into a Radio Shack TRS-80 video monitor (an internal connection must be made to this monitor; it will not take video directly through its interface cable). Video output is a 5 x 7 matrix, positive (white on black), 2.5-volt p-p negative sync.

For those operators who wish hard copy, loop outputs are accessible on the rear apron for an ASCII printer or for conventional RTTY teleprinter. Automatic scrolling (line feed) and carriage return are featured.

Morse Reception

For those of us whose code speed has dwindled over the years, the M-200E puts us up at the head of the pack! Speeds from 5 to 60 words per minute (and higher with an internal adjustment) are automatically copied!

For receivers without tuneable bfo's, a rear-panel fine tuning control permits CW pitch adjustment from 800 to 1200 Hz. The passband is sharp, so receiver stability is essential.

A phase-locked loop separates the actual CW note from background noise, and a front-panel LED signals the operator when the signal is properly adjusted within the passband.

For CW operators who can't stand noise, there is an input for a key on the rear apron which allows soundless code practice! While the CW reader portion will allow the poor band conditions, it *demands* a good fist. Erratic keying will be displayed as invalid characters.

RTTY Operation

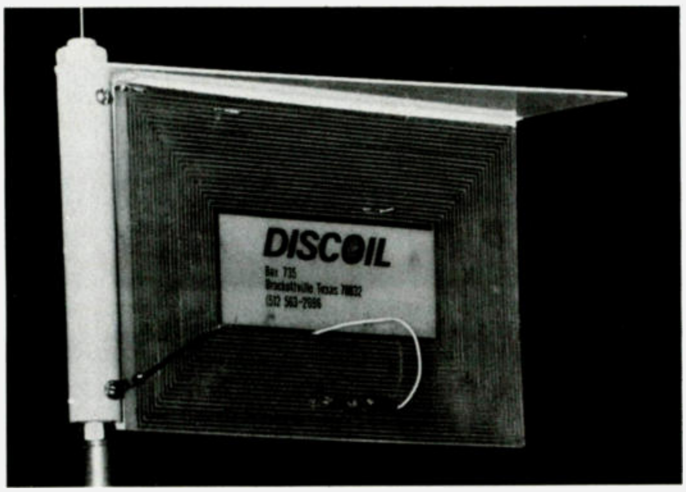
Perhaps the real beauty of the M-200E is its RTTY flexibility. Speeds may be selectable as 60, 66, 75, or 100 words per minute and 110 baud ASCII. RTTY shift may be selected as 170, 425, or 850 Hz. Non-standard shifts may be copied by straddle tuning, utilizing the panel meter as a tuning indicator.

While proper speed selection may be determined by the classical trial and error method of switching back and forth until legible copy is demodulated, the M-200E has a special feature: By simply pressing the reset button twice in succession, correct speed will be displayed on the monitor (or printer)!

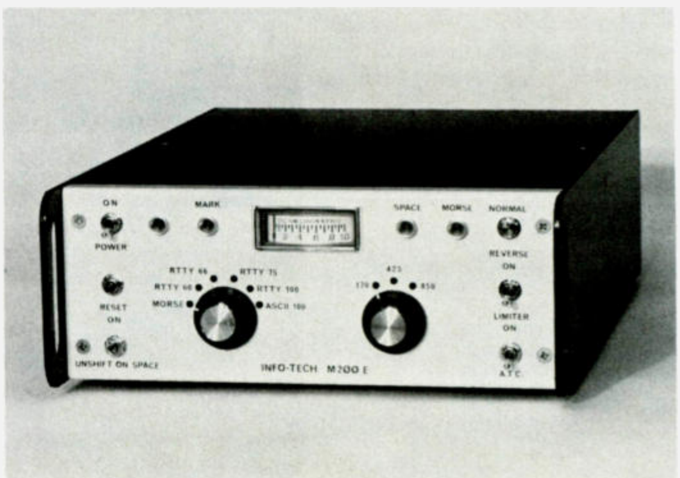
Audio input impedance to the tri-mode converter is nominally 1000 Ohms; it will perform with impedances as low as 4 Ohms, however.

Automatic threshold control may be selected for single-tone copy, an aid to non-standard RTTY signals. Hard limiting is also available to preserve error-

Continued on page 145



New HF mobile antenna from Discoil.



Info-Tech's M-200E tri-mode converter.

LETTERS

AED IS OK

Every once in a while, someone comes along with an idea in either kit form or in a completely assembled shape that is so unique and so easy for the average ham to understand and assemble that some mention should be made.

I am writing because I have just put together the standard kit supplied by AED Electronics, 750 Lucerne Road, Montreal, Quebec H3R, for a 220-MHz Midland digital read-out transceiver. The instructions are simple and straightforward. The circuit board is silk-screened for the components, so there is no need to be an electronics engineer to assemble the kit.

When I turned the scanner on, I was amazed at the number of repeaters that are not listed in the book that come up and that I now know are available to me and other hams. There is no way, without the scanner, that you could find these repeaters without a lot of manual manipulation of the dials.

I might add that the scanner for the 220-MHz Midland radio is so ingeniously designed that it fits into a compartment as if it was originally equipped by the manufacturer. The price for it in kit form is less than half of other scanners that I have seen on the market.

I think some mention should be made in the magazine to alert the hams to this very unique and usable item.

Martin D. Shapiro WA3IFQ
Philadelphia PA

OLYMPIC QSLS

The amateurs of Franklin County NY will be distributing special 1980 Winter Olympic QSL cards to each of their contacts for a period before, during, and after the Olympics in Lake Placid NY.

The cards contain the primary Olympic logo, the Franklin County seal, and the standard QSL information. The Franklin County Legislatures both printed and paid for the cards. Anyone that would like more information on the cards can get in touch with me.

Shawn D. McGovern KA2BSC
117 Webster Street
Malone NY 12953

SSTV DXCC

Not so long ago, during a QSO when I told you I was getting within sight of my 2x SSTV DXCC, you asked me to let you know when this did happen and to send you my photo with details, etc.

By DXCC Award Authorization dated September 28, 1979, I was informed that I had been awarded DXCC Certificate No. 3 for Two-Way SSTV contacts with 101 countries.

The significance of No. 3 is that it is No. 3 in the world and puts me automatically on the Honor Roll behind W8YEK with 108 countries and G3IAD with 101 countries. Actually, I then had 103 countries but with only 101 confirmed; since then, AP2AD has sent his QSL card and ZK1AA (June 5, 1979) says his QSL is in the direct post!

I have been active with SSTV on all bands from 80m to 2m since November, 1972, chiefly with Robot equipment starting with their 70 monitor and 80 camera, the model 61 fast-scan monitor, and, for the last two years, the 400, the latter with UK modifications designed by G3UEU and G3OQD.

Rf wise, I use a Heath SB-401 transmitter and 303 receiver, an Autek QF-1A filter, and an SB-220 to either a TH6DXX or 40/80m Lazy H at 56 ft. I also run an FT-901 through the SB-220. 2m equipment includes an FT-221R with a Lunar rf-switched preamp through a NAG 144XL linear to a pair of 16-element Tonna yagis stacked vertically above the TH6DXX (at 58 ft.), with the top one at 72 ft.

Richard Thurlow G3WW
March, England

Richard Thurlow G3WW.

GAG ORDER

In the November issue of *73 Magazine*, there were two letters pertaining to the atrocious operation on the Hurricane Net during the time hurricane David was approaching the US. The letters regenerated the disgust I felt while I also was monitoring the net.

It seems to me that the biggest violation of good operating habits was that many radio operators could not keep their mouths shut. Whenever an interfering signal appeared, the many unsolicited comments that followed were as damaging to the net operation as was the deliberate QRM. In time of emergency, no station should transmit unless called upon by the net control operator.

Obviously, there are times when the control station cannot hear all the signals on the net and, in such cases, the information must be relayed. But, what I heard on the net wasn't a case of merely relaying information —it was operators who insist on getting their little trivial and redundant comments aired. To such operators, I say "Horsefeathers!" Let the control operators do the chatting.

It was also very ridiculous to hear the continual inquiries for weather data. Instead of calling for the weather information, stations on the net should monitor the circuit and allow the control station to repeat the data at reasonable intervals, thus allowing the net to be clear for more important traffic.

To the net control operators: You did a great job under conditions that were, at times, unbearable and unnecessary. I hope, in the future, we in the amateur radio community will be more considerate and try to cooperate so that not only will emergency conditions be managed efficiently, but also so amateur radio will not be degraded.

Bill Farris K1WF
Chatham MA

MEDICAL ADVICE

Memorial Hospital Medical Center is an 850-bed facility located in Long Beach, California, on the Pacific Ocean. Know-

Continued on page 152

Leaky Lines

Dave Mann K2AGZ
3 Daniel Lane
Kinnelon NJ 07405

Many who have been licensed for years fail to realize that some of our number, being inexperienced, need some patience and understanding. And it is up to us to provide it. If we dig down into those long-forgotten crevices of memory, we will undoubtedly discover, each and every one of us, that someone once gave us encouragement, way back when it really counted. If amateur radio operators constitute a "fraternity," as we are so fond of terming it, then it is difficult to account for some attitudes as expressed on the ham bands.

We proclaim our universal equality. Ham radio brags about the fact that it is so democratic; there are no aristocrats. Oh, to be sure, there are some of us who possess wealth and fame. But, on the air, we like to think of ourselves as equals who are friendly and solicitous of each other. King Hussein of Jordan, JY1, one of the world's most privileged individuals, has never been heard to push his weight around on the bands, lording it over just plain commoners. Neither do hundreds of others like him who enjoy the advantages of position and affluence.

But there are some hams who delude themselves with a totally alien concept. They regard newcomers not as colleagues in a common enterprise, but as interlopers and outlanders. They refer to their inexperience as one might speak of leprosy. They lose no opportunity to treat them with contempt and open hostility, and, in so doing, they reflect poorly on all of us.

There used to be one of these self-styled aristocrats who would call CQ in the following obnoxious manner: "Hello CQ, CQ, CQ. No As, no Bs, no kids, no lids, no space cadets." And he would sign his call (two letters, of course). His reputation was anything but enviable; he made quite a name for himself as some sort of a nut and instead of the approbation and respect he thought himself entitled to, he earned nothing but disdain and the reputation of a latter-day Ebenezer Scrooge.

His disciples are still among us. They constantly berate others with deprecatory references to CB and some even resort to the foulest language. They show no patience toward others and, undoubtedly, cause much pain and embarrassment.

New amateurs have a right to expect fairness. According to the terms of their class of license, they are entitled to no less than others, and have a right to be properly indignant when they are denied common courtesy by those who have an exaggerated sense of their own importance.

Just to demonstrate how hypocritical some guys are, I'd like to recount a recent incident.

There are thousands of DX chasers who would give their eyeteeth for a crack at a 5R8. So when one of these elusive stations showed up on 20 meters recently, you can imagine the excitement it generated. It began with only a dozen or so stations in the know, but the word spread quickly to the hinterland and, before long, virtually everyone within earshot arrived on the frequency.

Things were cool; no one wanted things to get out of control, for experience clearly demonstrates that if there is anything that will drive a rare DX station away, it is one of those bedlams where you can't even hear yourself think. Everyone on the frequency was circumspect in his behavior, that is, everybody except a certain moron in South Carolina whose call sign I won't repeat, merely in the interest of avoiding becoming involved in lynching or a tar-and-feather party.

The operator of 5R8TV requested that someone take a list so that he could work as many contacts as possible in the limited time available. The moment a list was mentioned, the 4th-district idiot began announcing his pronunciamento. You would have thought that he was speaking from Mount Sinai—all the righteous indignation burst forth from his rotten mouth like lava from a volcano. He fulminated loud and long, polemicized like a filibustering politician, and rent the air blue with invectives.

The others on the frequency were unable to hear anything, and you can imagine what this sounded like in Malagasy. 5R8TV left for parts unknown, leaving the frequency to the imbecile. And the hopes of hundreds of DXers bit the dust!

About a week later, it became known that Juergen TN0HL was about to work some Americans on either 10 or 15 meters. A German-speaking W9 and a few others from various call areas were slated to assist in the operation and all others were admonished to be on their good behavior, since this DX operator is known to be strongly opposed to boisterous pileups and would probably leave at the first sign of disorder.

On the first day, things went perfectly. Several stations worked the TN (including K2AGZ—how lucky can I get?), and there was fine cooperation from all on the frequency. So much so that Juergen told Bill WB9TTM that he had enjoyed the experience and intended to come back. It was clear that if decorum could be maintained, he would come on a regular basis, and since he is scheduled to remain in TN-land until next June, this would mean that all of us would get a shot at this elusive country.

Well, what do you think happened next?

The very jerk who had maligned list operations so viciously and had created all the chaos which chased the 5R8 away was heard trying to get on the list for Juergen! Imagine, this hypocrite who was so opposed to lists was not above attempting to get on one of them. It was clear that this dogmatic opposition did not apply when it came to a prefix that he needed for himself. He was only against lists for other people.

His arrant hypocrisy angered all who had heard his prior diatribe. Many of them said that even if they had made the list, they would rather pass up the contact than remain on the same frequency with this boor. Several stated that if Juergen had shown up (which he didn't), they would have seen to it that the South Carolina lid would never have been permitted to hear his signal report from TN-land. I can't say that I blame them a bit.

Someone ought to circulate the idea that anyone who can identify such a creep (and there are many who make speeches without identifying themselves) ought to be urged to divulge his identity and thus expose his stupidity. Maybe that would help to rid us of all the self-appointed policemen and monitors who are forever parking themselves on the frequencies of DX stations so they can issue their orders and comments to everybody else. I don't know what makes these jerks feel that they have a right to act as supervisors, but there is a hard core of such lunatics who systematically show up.

It would be nice if a volunteer goon squad went around the countryside sticking pins into their coax cables. Better still, why doesn't one of those brilliant young geniuses with all the solid-state savvy design a circuit that will send a shot of about 50 kW right into the tank circuit of such offenders? Maybe it's possible to construct a sophisticated rf sniffer that can track down the exact location of radio pests, follow it just like one of those heat-seeking missiles, and wipe it out.

If someone were to come up with such a circuit, I know about a hundred DXers who would pay almost anything to get one. In fact, I'm willing to buy the first one. I guarantee you that a certain jackass in South Carolina would be walking around with frizzled hair-ends and singed eyebrows if ever I got the chance to zap him with a shot of rf! Boy, wouldn't that be just great!

Ham Help

I am looking for manuals, schematics, etc., for an old Clough-Brengle Type CRA "Graphoscope." I would be happy to cover costs of mailing, copying, etc. Can anybody help?

Roy Moses WD5ICY
2002 Cindy Lane
Denton TX 76201

I wish to purchase a 6-meter CW-AM-SSB receiver to match my Heathkit HX-30 transmitter.

I also would like to convert a Royce 640 SSB-AM CB transceiver to 10 meters and need info and a schematic.

Gordon Juveli WB0ZSA
10925 Morris Ave. S.
Bloomington MN 55437

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✓ Reader Service—see page 179

RTTY Loop

Marc I. Leavey, M.D. WA3AJR
4006 Winlee Road
Randallstown MD 21133

In our continuing efforts to inform newly-arrived RTTY addicts of the "stuff" available out there, this month's column will address the question of machine availability. While a comprehensive review is beyond the scope of one column, I hope that readers with specific problems might find some useful information herein.

"Where do I get a Teletype™ machine?" is a question I have heard posed more times than I can count. There are surely several sources for machines, not all of which may be obvious to the newcomer. First of all, open a mouth! Make it known in your area that you are looking for a teleprinter. Tell the guys at the club; if you are not a member—join! Maybe there is a local pub or store where hams congregate. Sally on over there when the crowd is present and ask around. You never know what is sitting in someone's basement. Okay, you say, that's been tried and it is strike one; now what? Start checking the ads on local store bulletin boards and club newsletters. Maybe place a "wanted" ad yourself. When you find a machine for sale, try to find a knowledgeable person to look at it with you, to be sure it works and all that. Then haggle a bit for price, and you've got a machine. Whoops, strike two, you say? Well, it's time to start checking the ham ads in national magazines looking for something reasonably close by to look at. I really would not be too keen on buying a "pig-in-a-poke," that is, a Model 35 shipped sight unseen from California, unless there was some assurance that the machine was worth the money. But that is for the individuals involved in the transaction to work out.

Now, there may be one more way for the enterprising individual to get a machine at a reasonable price. It's chancy, but can pay off. At the end of most metropolitan newspaper classified ad sections is a list of "auction sales." These usually are companies that went broke and are selling off their inventories, fixtures, and business machines to pay off their creditors. Now, every once in a while, a teleprinter will be part of these sales. Although ASCII machines, such as ASR-33/TELEX machines, are the most common, you never know, and it does not hurt to have one more source. Besides, if you pick up an ASCII machine at a good price, it might pay to convert Baudot to ASCII to use the machine. When ASCII is legal on the ham bands, you would be ready to go. If you have no interest in eight bits whatsoever, you might be able to swap with a Baudot-owner-newly-turned-computerist.

Now, you may notice that I have not said too much about commercial dealers. There is a good reason for that. With few exceptions, and they really are not worth mentioning, no dealer to my knowledge has shown any ongoing concern for the ham market. They might sell you a machine now, but they let letters of inquiry and complaint sit around for a few months. Their prices tend to be a bit higher than buying from another ham, although they tell you they have "reconditioned" the machine. I leave it to you, with a large "caveat," when it comes to dealing with commercial teleprinter firms.

Next month, we will continue with information useful to the neo-RTTY-phyte with a brief survey of some terminal units available: assembled, kit, and scrounge-your-own-parts versions.

Turning to the lighter side, the winner of this month's RTTY Loophole award is the ARRL. It seems, in an effort to keep all of us in line, *QST* for October, 1979, carried their "annual updated list of abbreviations," on pages 65-66, to "clip out for easy reference." Trouble is, "RTTY" is listed as meaning "radiotelephone." Thanks to the boys in Newington for that one!

John Bates KAØCCD/8 noted with interest the comments on connecting the TS-820 to run RTTY with most ordinary demodulators. Fig. 1 is the circuit John has been using to connect his TS-180S to a Flesher TU-170. Using a 4N25 optoisolator, John is able to use the TTL level output of the TU to key the transmitter. This should work with any TU that provides a TTL level output. Thanks, John.

Interest in receiving non-ham RTTY signals is quite high and has generated a number of letters. Bud Riegert KØYIP of St. Louis, Missouri, is looking for stations transmitting in ASCII so that he may check out an ASCII-to-Baudot routine for his Apple-II. Anyone with specific information on such stations may forward it along to this column for future inclusion.

Along the lines of the "weather" transmissions covered a few months ago, a letter was received from George P. Firmin WA4FSK (not a bad call for a RTTY enthusiast) who wonders about decoding transmissions he has received, like this:

66228 05210 05315 05323 04928
66028 06525 06234 05838

Well, George, while I am fairly certain that these, too, are weather information transmissions, I do not have the key to decoding them. I am sure that one of our readers does, however, and hope to be able to pass that along to you in the near future.

The Stark RTTY Group's *Watts Happening* is still coming out of Massillon, Ohio, and contains a new wealth of information, ranging from simple circuits to local sources for RTTY equipment. Write to Joseph Ebner WB8RVM, 138 Page Street N.W., Massillon, Ohio 44646, if you are interested in joining the group.

Don't forget *73*'s Specialty Communications Achievement Award, mentioned last month. Drop a line to Bill Gosney WB7BFK, care of *73*, for information, or check elsewhere in this issue. I am waiting to print the name and call of the first to win this award on RTTY right here in RTTY Loop.

Next month we will cover a few ways to enter the demodulator market. Until then, have a Happy Valentine's Day, and keep those green keys active.

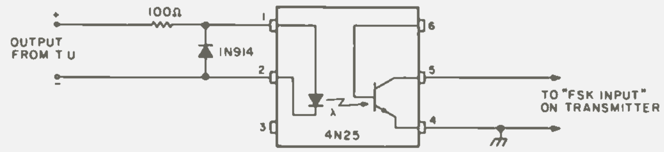

Fig. 1.

Ham Help

I am a cardiovascular physiologist at the medical school in Recife and a radio amateur (PY7CPC). Teaching physiology with a limited amount of lab equipment is surely a challenge! One of the most useful pieces of equipment is a polygraph recorder (and one of the most expensive items, too).

Can any of my radio amateur colleagues come up with a B/W TV adapter/modulator through which a student could display an EKG or EEG signal? A 1.0-mV/cm vertical display and a sweep of 2.5 cm/sec is what is needed. The EKG has a frequency response of 0.05 to 85 Hz (not very critical for student labs).

This would be a tremendous boon to physiologists and pharmacologists who can't afford to buy expensive recorders for their student labs, and could use their B/W TV as a display. Perhaps somebody could adapt a TV game chip to do the job!

Carlos Peres da Costa, MD PhD
Ave Boa Viagem 4520
Recife PE 50.000 Brazil

I have recently converted a 23-channel CB rig (AM) to 10 meters and am interested in building a mobile linear amplifier for it. I would appreciate receiving copies of schematics of such equipment that others have homebrewed or being referred to recent magazine articles on the subject. The amplifier can be anywhere in the 10- to 50-Watt range. Thanks for any help.

Steve Zahos KR4S
13817 Barne's Spring Rd.
Midlothian VA 23113

I recently acquired a linear amplifier and, after many phone calls, found the successors to the original manufacturer who say that they cannot help me.

I'm looking for an operator's handbook and/or schematic for a Westrex 9200 100 W LPA. It is a rack-mount government style and covers 2-30 MHz. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Paul T. Petty KB7BP
Box 366
Hawthorne NV 89415

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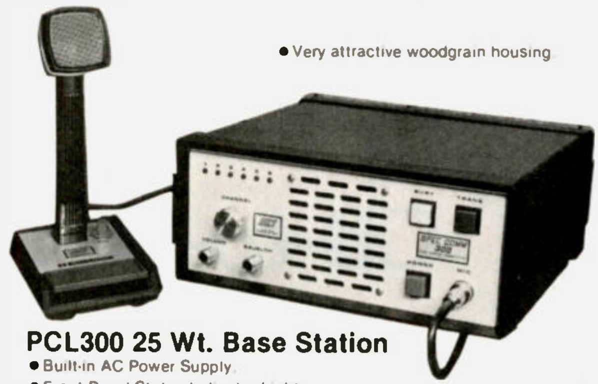

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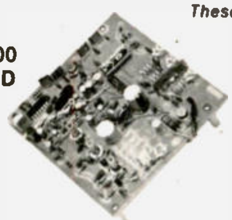
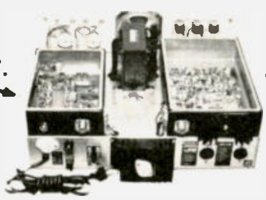
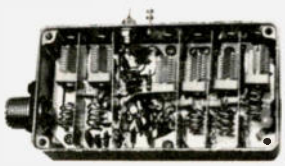


RX ASSY.



TX ASSY.



FL-6

SCT 110 BOARD

SCR100 VHF Receiver Board

- Wide dynamic range! Reduces overload, 'desense', and IM
- Sens 0 3 uV/20 dB Qt. typ
- Sel. -6dB @ ± 6.5 KHz, -110dB @ ± 30KHz. (8 Pole Crystal Fltr.)
- 'S Meter' Output
- Exc. audio quality! Fast squelch! w/xtal

SCR100 Receiver Assembly

- **SCR100 mounted in shielded housing**
- Same as used on SCR1000
- Completely asmbld. w/F.T. caps, SO239 conn., AF GAIN POT, etc.

SCR450 UHF Receiver Bd. or Assy.

- Similar to SCR100, except with 12 Pole IF Fltr. & 8 Resonator Front End Fltr.!
- Discriminator & Deviation Mtr. Outputs
- ***Totally New Advanced Design!***

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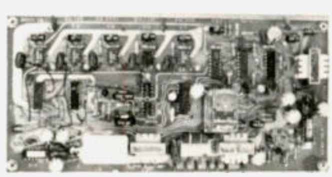

SCAP Autopatch Board

- Provides all basic autopatch functions
- 3 Digit Access; 1 Aux. On/Off function, Audio AGC; Built-in Timers; etc.
- 0/1 Inhibit bd. also available.
- Write/call for details and a data sheet.

RPCM Board

- Used w/SCAP board to provide "Reverse Patch and Land-Line Control of Repeater.
- Includes land line "answering" circuitry

FL-6 Rcvr. Front-End Preselector

- **6 Hi Q Resonators with FET preamp (2M or 220 MHz).**
- **Provides tremendous rejection of "out-of-band" signals w/out the usual loss!** Can often be used instead of large, expensive cavity filters.
- Extremely helpful at sites with many nearby VHF transmitters.
- Gain: apx. 10 dB.
- Selectivity: −20 dB @ ±2.0 MHz; −60 dB @ ±6 MHz (typ.).

TRA-1 Timer Reset Annunciator Board

- Puts out a tone "beep" on rptr xmtr apx 1 sec after rcvd. signal drops—thus allowing time for breakers
- Resets rptr time-out timer when tone is emitted
- Adjustable time delay and tone duration.
- For use with CTC100 and ID100/250.

TMR-1 Timer Board

- Can be set up for 1 of 2 configurations.
- #1) Time Out Warning Tone
- #2) "Kerchunker Killer"—initial Rptr. Xmtr. key-up delay.
- For use w/SCR1000, or CTC100/ID250.

CTC100 COR/Timer/Control Board

- Complete COR circuitry.
- Carrier 'Hang' & T.O. Timers.
- Remote xmtr Inhibit/Reset control
- Provision for panel control switches & lamps.
- 100% Solid State CMOS logic
- Many other features

ID250 CW ID & Audio Mixer Board

- Adjustable ID tone, speed, level, timing cycle.
- 4 Input AF Mixer & Local Mic amp.
- COR input & xmtr. hold circuits.
- CMOS logic; PROM memory—250 bits/channel.
- Up to 4 different ID channels!
- Many other features, Factory Programmed

SCT110 VHF Xmtr/Exciter Board

- 7 or 10 Wts. Output. 100% Duty Cycle!
- Infinite VSWR proof
- True FM for exc. audio quality
- New Design—specifically for continuous rptr. service
- Very low in "white noise"
- Spurious −70 dB. Harmonics −60 dB.
- With .0005% xtal.
- **BA-10 30 Wt. Amp board & Heat Sink**, 3 sec. LPF & rel. pwr. sensor.

SCT110 Transmitter Assembly

- SCT110 mounted in shielded housing
- Same as used on SCR1000
- Completely assmbld. w/F.T. caps, SO239 conn.
- 7, 10 or 30 Wt. unit.

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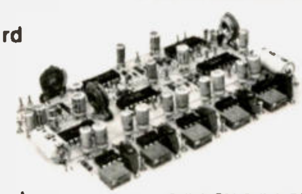
SCT410 UHF Transmitter Bd. or Assy.

- Similar to SCT110. 8-10 Wts.
- Avail. w/ or w/o OS-18 Super High Stability Crystal Osc./Oven.
- **BA-450 30W. min. Amp. Bd.**



TTC100 Touchtone Control Board

- 3 digit ON, 3 digit OFF control of a single repeater function. Or, (optional) 2 functions (2 digits ON/OFF each).
- Can be used to pull in a relay, trigger logic, etc.
- Typically used for Rptr. ON/OFF, HI/LO Pwr., P.L. ON/OFF, Patch Inhibit/Reset, etc.
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CB-to-10 FM Continued

—another way to join the fun on 29.6

John Sehring WB2EQG
P.O. Box 306
Oradell NJ 07649

Recently increasing FM activity on 10 meters between 29.5 and 29.7 MHz has led me to investigate methods of getting on this interesting mode. Actually, the thing that got me started occurred one Saturday afternoon as I tuned above 29.5 MHz looking for a local 10-meter FM repeater. Much to my surprise (who in the heck ever tunes up this high on 10 meters, anyhow?), there was plenty of activity. In particular, WR2ANW's 10-meter-to-2-meter crossband link was hopping, and there were plenty of stations on the simplex frequency (29.6 MHz), too. I noticed that the combination of sometimes terrific 10-meter propagation and the QRM- and QRN-suppressing characteristics of FM was quite intriguing—DX signals often sounded just as clean and quiet as locals. After hearing all this, I thought it would be nifty to talk to the boys on 29.6 as well as the local 2-meter gang via the crossband repeater link. (There are easier ways of getting on 2 meters, though!)

I sat down to figure out the fastest and easiest way of getting on 10-meter FM. Unfortunately, there was no surplus commerical lowband FM (30 to 50 MHz) gear around the shack; such gear would have been relatively easy to convert to 10 meters. The only piece of equipment that covered 10 meters was the main station HF transmitter, a filter-type SSB/CW exciter, a Hammarlund HX-50A. Turning to the "technical library" for some ideas yielded the distinct possibility of FMing a transmitter simply by hanging a variable-capacitance diode (varactor) in the oscillator tank circuit.[1-4] By applying a varying (audio) voltage to the varactor, it might just be possible to shift the oscillator's frequency at an audio rate—in other words, frequency modulation! Luckily, this method got me on FM in just a couple of hours, using only a few parts. Here's how.

Varactors are small diodes whose capacitance can be controlled by an externally applied voltage; they are used often these days to replace variable capacitors in tuning circuits. Most varactors are rated for their nominal capacitance at about 4 V dc and are typically operated from 2 to 30 volts. See Fig. 1 for a typical varactor operating curve.

A simple circuit using a varactor to supply a voltage-controlled capacitance is shown in Fig. 2. Here, the potentiometer, R, applies a dc control voltage to the varactor, VC, which determines its capacitance. Capacitors C1 and C2 provide rf bypassing and dc blocking, while the RFC keeps rf energy out of

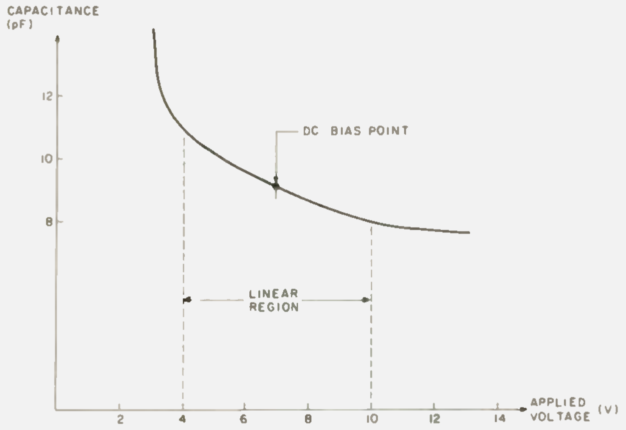

Fig. 1. Typical varactor characteristic curve.

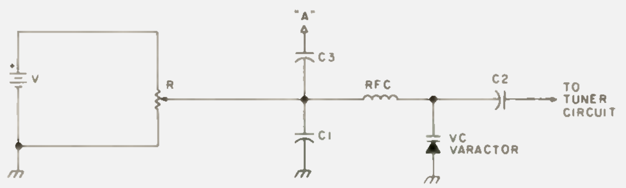

Fig. 2. Basic varactor circuit.

the power supply. Changing the applied dc voltage shifts the varactor's capacitance as per the curve in Fig. 1.

Now, if the varactor circuit were connected to the tuned LC circuit of an oscillator, then the varactor's changing capacitance would shift the oscillator's frequency a certain amount, by adding or subtracting from the total tank circuit capacitance. Let's take this idea one step further. Suppose that we now apply an audio (ac) voltage to the varactor circuit at point A of Fig. 2, through the coupling capacitor, C3. The varactor would then change its capacitance in step with the applied audio voltage. With the varactor connected to an oscillator's tank circuit, the oscillator's frequency would once again be shifted, but this time the frequency shift would be in step with the applied audio voltage. Hence, we would have frequency modulation of the oscillator.

You may wonder why we continue to apply dc voltage to the varactor along with the audio voltage. A look at Fig. 1 shows that the varactor's voltage-capacitance characteristic is linear (straight) only in the center of its curve. That's the part of the curve which we want to use for our frequency modulation scheme, swinging the varactor's capacitance upward and downward from the center of this linear region with our audio (modulating) voltage, to achieve linear frequency modulation. The adjustable dc bias is used to place us at the center of the linear portion of the curve.

My particular rig already has a varactor in its vfo tank circuit (as shown in Figs. 3 and 4), which is typical of vfo circuits. The varactor's purpose has nothing to do with modulation, though, and is used for shifting the vfo's frequency by about 3 kHz to offset SSB carrier-oscillator shift when switching from USB to LSB. The varactor already has some dc bias voltage on it, so let's see what happens when an audio voltage is also applied. Remember, though, that this technique is applicable to many different kinds of transmitters or transceivers, old or new, CW, AM, or SSB, since they all have oscillator(s) which can be frequency modulated. The basic idea is to get just a bit of audio-modulated capacitance into a suitable point of a variable or crystal-controlled oscillator tank circuit in order to frequency-modulate it. For example, since almost all SSB rigs use frequency heterodyning stages, conceivably any oscillator in the chain (vfo or crystal) could be FMed by the varactor circuit. (If you're a Yaesu FT-101 owner, see Reference 5.)

Fig. 4 shows the actual varactor frequency modulator circuit used. Point B is where the varactor circuit is connected to the vfo of Fig. 3. The audio signal is applied at point A of the varactor circuit, Fig. 4, as before. For a source of audio, I first used an inexpensive cassette tape recorder and microphone. The recorder's speaker output was connected to the varactor circuit at point A of Fig. 4. It worked! However, the first few QSOs revealed that the audio quality was bassy and muffled. The audio coupling capacitor, C3, then was made smaller until acceptable audio quality resulted; the final value of C3 in my particular application was 270 pF.

Actually, some of the bassy audio quality results from the fact that most FM

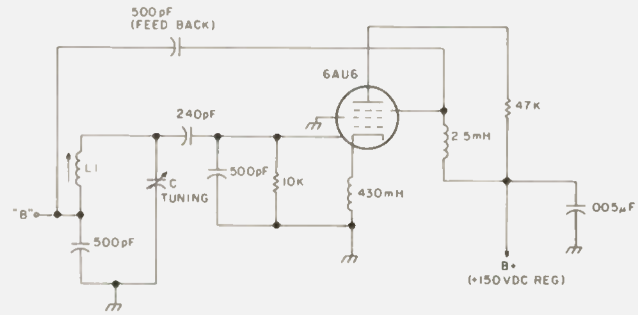

Fig. 3. Typical 6-MHz vfo.

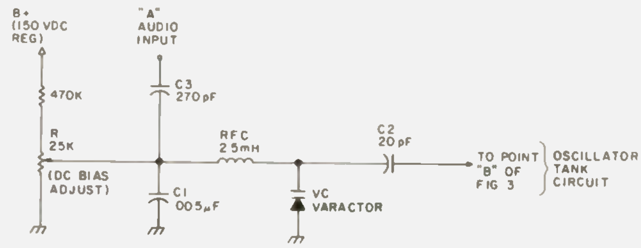

Fig. 4. Varactor frequency modulator circuit. Varactor part numbers: 1. Motorola HEP-R2503 (20-pF nominal capacitance); 2. Motorola MV2205 or MV2209 (swing 15 to 60 pF); 3. Motorola MV839; 4. Amperex H4A/1N4885.

receivers have "de-emphasis" circuits built in, which roll off the audio frequency response at the high end. Such a circuit is intended to complement (cancel out) the opposite kind of circuit built into FM transmitters, "pre-emphasis," which boosts the higher audio frequencies. This scheme is used to enhance the overall signal-to-noise ratio of an FM system by boosting the highs on transmit and cutting them on receive. I don't pretend that a sufficiently small value of coupling capacitor will produce exactly the right amount of pre-emphasis, but it does the job and produces pleasant audio quality on FM receivers.

You'll also have to decide what value to use for capacitor C2 in Fig. 4. If this capacitor is too small, you won't be able to get enough deviation; if it's too large, you'll have too much deviation, and it may throw your vfo way out of calibration and/or load it down excessively. I would suggest starting out with small values of capacitance at first and then increasing them if necessary. Examination of your particular vfo circuit should reveal where to attach the varactor circuit and roughly how big C2 should be.

References 1 through 4 show numerous different types of oscillators and similar methods of FMing them. As a rough guide in setting up your circuit, determine how much ±dc voltage is needed on the varactor to shift your oscillator by plus and minus 5 kHz; you can check the frequency shift using a receiver with a bfo and an accurately calibrated dial. The value of dc voltage thus determined will then be approximately the peak level of audio voltage you'll need. One of the nice things about FM is that practically no power (only voltage) is necessary for the frequency modulator. I wound up with plenty of deviation to spare.

Although this lash-up worked on the first try, who would want a tape recorder patch cord hanging out of the bottom of the rig permanently? So, a way of

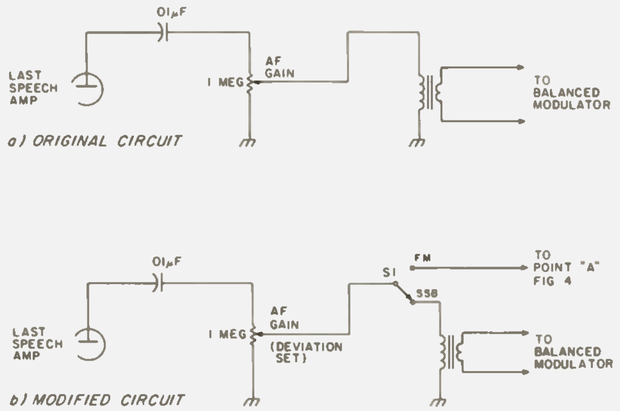

Fig. 5. Typical speech amplifier circuit.

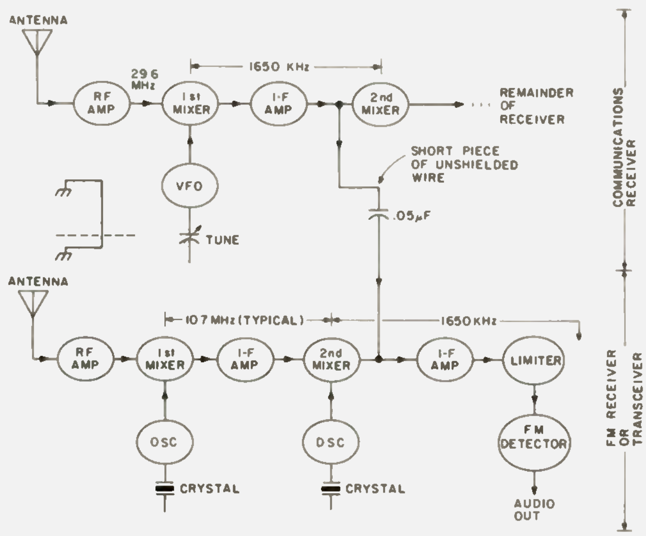

Fig. 6.

using the rig's own built-in speech amplifier was sought. A partial schematic of the Hammarlund's speech amplifier appears in Fig. 5 along with the very simple modification for FM. Once again, the speech amplifier circuit is quite typical; usually only a few volts of audio is needed. The SPDT switch, S1, removes the audio from the balanced modulator and applies it instead to the varactor circuit of Fig. 4. Shielded cable should be used for this modification, to avoid hum and rf pickup. The beauty of this change is that it in no way alters the other functions of the transmitter.

Operation on FM is simple: Tune up the rig in the CW mode, observing the maximum rated plate current limit for continuous, key-down operation. This is likely to be less than the rated CW input and equal to the RTTY or SSTV ratings, as we certainly don't want to overstress the final amplifier or power supply. After tune-up, flip S1 to FM and set the microphone gain for the desired amount of deviation. I happen to use an outboard speech processor (af compressor/clipper/lowpass filter combination) intended for SSB use on FM, too—it keeps the average deviation level (analogous to modulation percentage) high, prevents over-deviation, and crispens up the audio somewhat.

Some questions remain, though, about the operation of an FM transmitter: How much deviation is permissible, and how do you correctly adjust your FM transmitter for it? Well, most FM activity is limited to ±5 kHz deviation—so-called narrowband FM. First, you can roughly set your deviation based on signal reports from other FM operators. However, since each FM receiver will have somewhat different tolerances to over-deviated signals, you may get inconsistent observations. Generally speaking, your audio should sound about as "loud" (have as much deviation) as most other FM signals on the air, but no greater. Excessive deviation will sound grossly distorted and can cause splatter.

For deviation adjustment purposes, you also can use the following technique: Set FM deviation using an SSB receiver, by tuning the FM signal for zero beat, with no modulation applied. Then, while listening to the FM signal, modulate the FM transmitter normally and advance its deviation control (microphone gain) until the signal thus received becomes grossly distorted; back off on the deviation control until the signal becomes clean again. Use the widest available selectivity setting on the SSB receiver for making this adjustment. For example, a 5-kHz-wide receiver would indicate roughly the ±5 kHz deviation limit.

For practice, you might try listening to FM signals on the air, to get an idea of what a narrowband FM signal sounds like on your particular SSB receiver; a repeater output would probably be a good bet to be properly adjusted. Note, however, that an FM signal thus detected will obviously not be demodulated properly (it will probably sound garbled), but the onset of distortion caused by excessive deviation will be clearly audible.

The theory behind this technique is that the first pair of FM sidebands of an FM signal is indistinguishable from the sidebands of an AM signal. FM and AM signals thus considered differ only in that the FM sidebands and carrier are 90° out of phase with one another, whereas the AM sideband and carrier are in phase with each other. Further, for narrowband FM, both the first pair of FM sidebands and the AM sidebands occupy approximately the same bandwidth when using equal modulating signals. By receiving an FM signal on an SSB receiver with its bfo operating ("exalted-carrier" reception), you can replace the FM signal's 90° phase-shifted carrier with the bfo carrier (which is not 90° shifted). This provides an "equivalent" AM signal for our adjustment purposes.[4]

What about the reception of FM signals? Slope-detection in the AM mode works OK on most receivers by tuning off to one side of the FM signal; use the broadcast selectivity available. Ironically, the steeper the sides of the AM receiver's selectivity characteristics are, the harder it is to slope-detect an FM signal. Unfortunately, slope-detection doesn't provide any of the FM reception advantages—quieting and impulse noise rejection, for example. I presently use two different methods for true FM reception.

First method: The main station receiver here is a Hallicrafters SX-101A. This receiver has a double-conversion i-f strip, with a first i-f frequency of 1650 kHz. Also at hand is a Hammarlund FM-50A VHF-FM transceiver that has a 1650-kHz second i-f frequency. To use the SX-101A as a tuneable front end for the FM-50A's FM i-f strip, make these changes: First, remove the SX-101A's second mixer tube (V5, a 6BA6) and insert a short

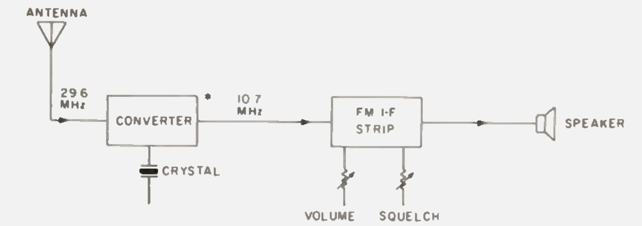

Fig. 7. 10-meter FM reception. (Can be any i-f frequency.)

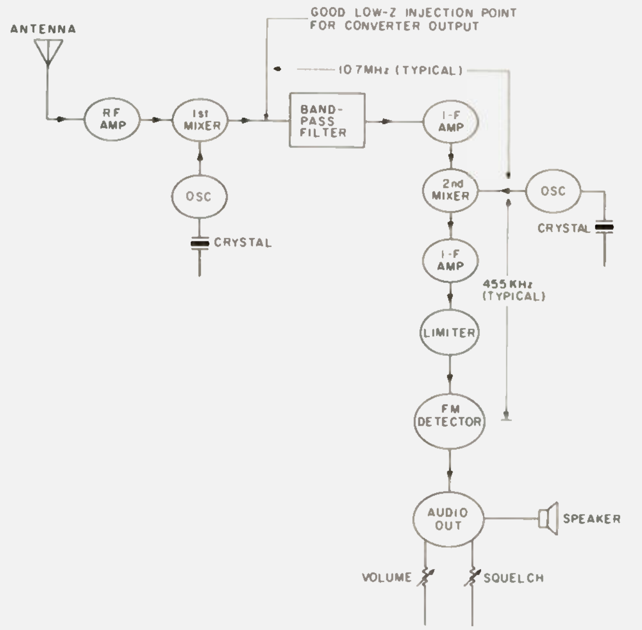

Fig. 8. Typical FM receiver block diagram.

piece of unshielded, insulated wire into pin 1 (grid circuit) of the now empty 6BA6 socket. Then, connect the other end of the wire to the grid circuit of the FM-50A's first 1650-kHz i-f amplifier via a .05-uF disc capacitor. Removing the FM-50A's receive crystal or mixer tube will disable its front end.[6] See Fig. 6.

Another such combination I've used consisted of a general coverage receiver having a single-conversion 455-kHz i-f strip, used to feed the latter half of a transistorized FM i-f strip, also at 455 kHz, from a Johnson "Monoscan" UHF scanner.* In addition, numerous FM adapter circuits and ideas may be found in References 1, 2, and 4. With a little experimentation, comparable hybrid arrangements with other sets may be found to be feasible.

Second method: Use a crystal-controlled converter (for example, a VHF Engineering Model RF-28** or Hamtronics Model C25-50***) to convert the 10-meter signals down to the i-f frequency of the FM i-f strip you want to use; for example, 10.7 MHz is a common i-f frequency. Just about any FM i-f strip is usable like this—all that you have to do is select a converter crystal to match the i-f frequency you need. See Fig. 7. The only trick is to select the right spot to inject the converter's output into the i-f strip. The best point seems to be just before the high i-f bandpass filter; most of these filters have relatively low input impedances (about 500 to 1000 Ohms), making connections relatively uncritical. Fig. 8 shows a common FM i-f strip configuration.

In case you're wondering, yes, Virginia, 10-meter FM operation is channelized. The frequencies are: national simplex—29.6 MHz (don't call CQ though; "QRZed" or "listening on the frequency" is better). Repeater pairs are—input/output, 29.52/29.62, 29.54/29.64, 29.56/29.66, and 29.58/29.68 MHz. Most are open machines. Caution: Don't go below 29.5 MHz using ±5 kHz FM because the Friendly Candy Company doesn't allow it—±2.5 kHz FM is the limit "down below." Lately, I've heard some simplex activity on frequencies between the repeater outputs, e.g., 29.61, 29.63 MHz, etc.

Results: Running 75 Watts output to a vertical antenna and using the first reception method has yielded fine results. I've worked mobiles all over the country with full quieting and some DX, too! Telling the guy at the other end that he's listening to a modified SSB exciter gives him something to think about, too.

Additional applications: There are some other important uses for FM or frequency-shift capability in an HF transmitter. You can achieve very clean frequency-shift keying (FSK) for radioteletype (RTTY) operation by feeding two discrete dc voltages to the varactor circuit (omit the coupling capacitor, C3), to give you the proper frequency shifts. Also, it would appear that better slow-scan television quality (SSTV, which uses frequency-modulated video signals) could be achieved by, once again, directly FMing the transmitter, using the varactor frequency modulator instead of feeding the SSTV (or RTTY) signals through the microphone input of the transmitter. In both the RTTY and SSTV modes, nonlinear operation, spurious products, and splatter may result unless: (a) your carrier and unwanted sideband suppression is very good, and (b) your speech amplifier, balanced modulator, filter, and amplifier stages are amplitude- and phase-linear and distortion-free (quite rare!). Direct frequency modulation of the carrier gets around the problem of avoiding the speech amplifier, balanced modulator, and filter stages entirely.

As a final thought, those of you with 10- to 6- or 2-meter transverters could easily get on VHF-FM. And, of course, the ideas in this article and in the references would be just fine for getting on FM that old VHF-AM/CW rig lying around the shack.

I would welcome your experiences and comments on 10-meter FM operation, and I'll answer questions if you include an SASE. CUL on 29.6 FM! ■

*Available (used) without cabinet, power transformer, or crystals from: Science Workshop, Box 393, Bethpage NY 11714, for $14.95; a nice item for experimenters.

**Available from: VHF Engineering, 320 Water St., Binghamton NY 13901, in kit form, $13.95 plus postage.

***Available from: Hamtronics, Inc., 65A Moul Rd., Hilton NY 14468, in kit form, $25.50 plus postage.

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Sunspot Predictions for 1980

—whither propagation?

Editor's Note: The sunspot forecast presented in this article does not agree with the one issued by our own propagation expert, John H. Nelson. In the March, 1977, issue of *73 Magazine*, Nelson predicted that Cycle 21 was going to be a moderate to low cycle. Nelson further predicted in *The Propagation Wizard's Handbook* that both Cycle 21 and 22 would be moderate to low. In the *Handbook*, Nelson explains his forecasting methods and gives us the reasons for his predictions. While we continue to believe that Nelson's is the more accurate forecast, we thought you would be interested in this, another view of the subject.

***The Propagation Wizard's Handbook* is available from the 73 Radio Bookshop, Peterborough NH 03458. Please include $6.95 plus $1.00 postage and handling. You'll find John Nelson's monthly propagation forecast near the back of each issue of *73*. ■**

William E. Hardy WA3NKP
Environmental Data & Information Service
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Rockville MD 20852

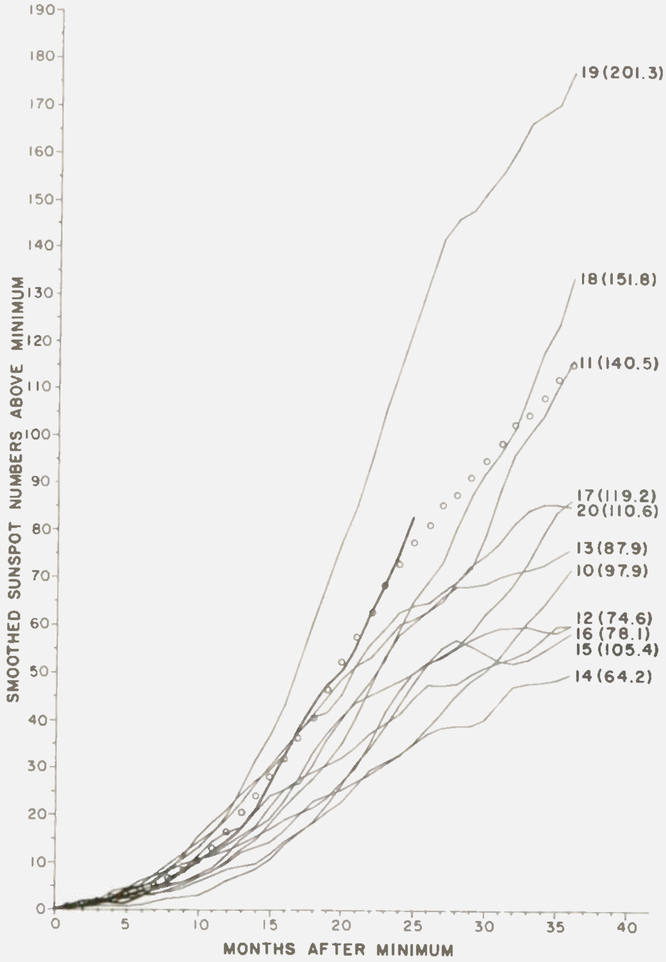

Fig. 1. Sunspot maxima for previous cycles.

The frequency of the occurrence of sunspots varies in cycles averaging around 11 years in length. Twenty cycles have been observed since 1755. We are now approaching maximum activity in Cycle 21, the minimum activity having occurred in 1976. The highest number (201) occurred in Cycle 19 in March, 1958. Radio communications, especially in the 3-to 30-megahertz (high-frequency) band, are vitally affected by sunspot activity, long-distance propagation increasing dramatically as the cycle approaches its maximum of activity.

Because of this significance, a number of investigators have made their predictions of sunspot maxima for Cycle 21 and the times of their occurrences. Predicted maxima range from as low as 60 to highs of up to 200, to occur in the years from 1979 to 1984. Published during the past two sunspot cycles, investigators used some type of time series or pattern analysis of the sunspot numbers alone to arrive at their predictions. Others have included physical indications such as the tidal effects of the accurately-determined planetary alignments.[1,2,3]

Measurements of the horizontal component of the Earth's magnetic field to predict subsequent maximum sunspot activity was such a departure.[4,5] A strong negative correlation between the number of "abnormal quiet days" of this horizontal component and the sunspot maximum reached during the next half-cycle of solar activity was used. A simpler relationship was employed whereby there was found a high correlation between the value of the geomagnetic sum of the Kps index (average of geomagnetic activity at a number of high latitude stations) during the years immediately preceding solar minimum and the solar maximum reached during the next cycle.[6]

A major limiting factor in the success or failure of predictions is the size of a reliable data base containing, at best, 11 sunspot cycles. Data prior to 1848 is considered to be unreliable. The first seven cycles (starting from about 1755) have been noted to differ statistically from the subsequent cycles, so that some investigators used only the later cycles in constructing an average solar cycle.[7]

Scientist H. H. Sargent III of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has recently summarized a number of predictions of the time intensity of Solar Cycle 21.* Working in NOAA's Space Environment Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado, Sargent has an-

ILLUSTRATION OF MODIFIED OHL METHOD OF PREDICTION

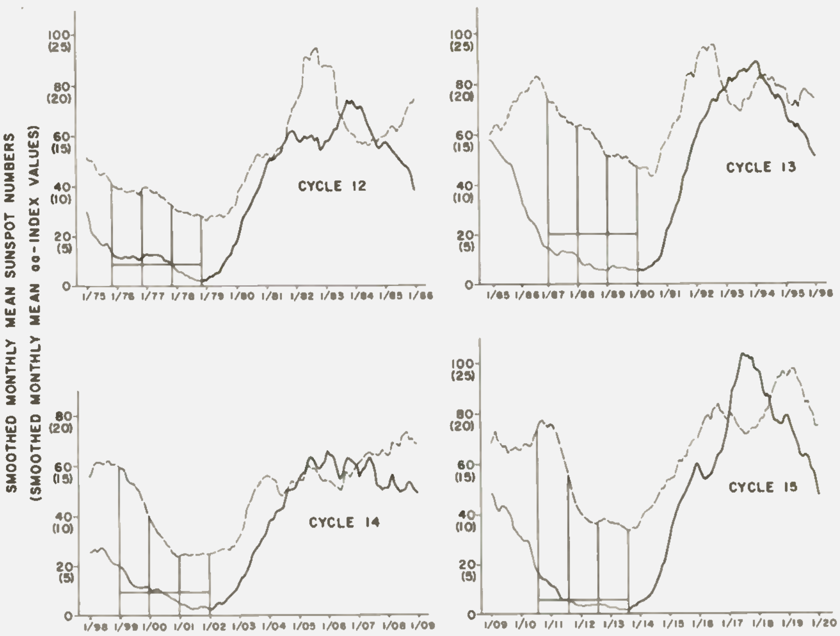

Fig. 2. Most predictions to date have indicated a low sunspot value (120 or less) for the present cycle, Cycle 21. One of these, however, predicts a smoothed sunspot maximum value of 154 to occur in early 1980 which is considerably higher, and earlier, than the others. A high correlation between the value of geomagnetic activity during the years immediately preceding solar minimum and solar maximum reached during the next half-cycle has been found. If accurate, Cycle 21 will be equivalent to, or greater than, the second largest observed in the past century. This would have a profound effect on radio communications, especially in the high-frequency range (3-30 megahertz). The illustration shows pairs of even- and odd-numbered sunspot cycles (solid lines) plotted with concurrent geomagnetic cycles (dashed lines). The shaded areas indicate the variables between the smoothed geomagnetic and sunspot cycles used in the computations.

alyzed the method of A. I. Ohl in predicting the maximum level of sunspot activity (154 in 1980).[6,8,9] This prediction is unique in that its value for Cycle 21 is considerably higher than most of those made in recent years by a number of investigators.

The method used to make the prediction was founded on a data base of only 11 sunspot cycles. This was done because geomagnetic data not available prior to 1868 was used. It was considered that the cycle of geomagnetic activity which accompanies each sunspot cycle may be separated into two components. One is a sporadic component associated with large solar flares, and one a recurrent component thought to be caused by high-speed solar wind streams. It was found that the size of the recurrent component is closely related to the maximum value of the succeeding sunspot cycle. Factors proportional to the sunspot numbers at solar minimum were subtracted from the magnetic indexes for similar periods, resulting in a corrected magnetic index which is highly correlated with the next smoothed sunspot maximum. A best predictive equation was determined using multiple regression to calculate the maximum smoothed value of the following sunspot cycle. This predicted value for Cycle 21 is 154.

The small data base that was used (11 cycles) resulted in large confidence intervals. The 95 percent confidence interval extends from 103 to 203, and the 90 percent interval from 113 to 193. The probability of exceeding a smoothed sunspot maximum value of 120 is 92.6 percent. There is less than one chance in a thousand that the relation developed is one of mere chance, convincing evidence that magnetic activity in the declining phase of one sunspot cycle is somehow physically related to the level of solar activity during the next cycle. Using this equation, the past 3 sunspot cycles would have been predicted within 5 percent, and several would have come within 1 percent of the observed values.

A careful examination of Cycles 10 through 20 showed that the even-numbered cycles were different in appearance from the odd-numbered cycles; as each cycle proceeded to its maximum value, even-numbered curves are more truncated while the odd-numbered ones rose rather deliberately to maximum. This suggested two dif-

*Sargent, H. H. III, 1978, "A Prediction for the Next Sunspot Cycle," *Conference Record*, 28th IEEE Vehicular Technology Conference, March 22-24, Denver, Colorado, pp. 490-496.

ferent families of cycles. An average odd-numbered cycle was constructed from the five odd-numbered cycles (Cycles 11-19) and rescaled between the last observed minimum (12.2) and the predicted maximum value for Cycle 21 (153.6). This made possible the prediction of the monthly values for Cycle 21; the predicted maximum value falls in early 1980.

Also, an analysis showed that the three largest cycles had the steepest emergencies while the smaller cycles proceeded less steeply from the minima. The predicted emergence slope for Cycle 21 correlated well with those of the largest cycles and follows closely the observed values through July of 1978. Each cycle settles down to a smooth and steady upward pace within about 18 months after solar minimum, and the upward slope of Cycle 21 had become well established in the first few months of 1978. This feature should make it possible to confidently predict the maximum value of Cycle 21.

The effects of high sunspot activity on radio communications, especially in the high-frequency part of the spectrum (3-30 megahertz) and the lower end of the very high frequency band (30-300 megahertz) would have both advantages and disadvantages. The more than 350,000 licensees of the Amateur Radio Service will find it possible to conduct extremely consistent, long-distance communications frequently and with relatively low power.

On the other hand, radio operators confined by law to specified frequencies may find them more heavily congested than at the present time, making them much less efficient as methods of intelligible communication. This is generally the case with increased solar activity.

There are ways such high activity can temporarily worsen propagation conditions, however. Solar-flare events and related geophysical aspects such as sudden ionospheric disturbances and geomagnetic and ionospheric storms can disrupt radio communications for periods of a few minutes to several days. If Cycle 21 is as large as predicted in this analysis, relatively more of such major disruptions can be expected.

Those charged with planning relative to the vital radio communications the world over (especially in the high-frequency range) may find of interest this prediction of sunspot activity in the present cycle, as well as its rationale. ■

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✓ Reader Service—see page 179

An End to Dials and Meters?

—nope . . . but discrete LEDs make an interesting substitute

73 Magazine *Staff*

One of the items that usually proves to be a bit of a chore in constructing any piece of equipment or accessory item is a dial (and dial scale). Multi-turn dials with an indicating scale can be expensive, and constructing various other forms of dials and scales can require considerable mechanical ability.

There is the alternative, today, of having a digital readout, but digital readouts can consume a significant amount of power for portable equipment. Also, in some cases the use of a digital readout is a far more elaborate option than is needed. A case in point might be a roller inductor in an antenna tuner. Usually, one just wants to know approximately where the roller inductor is set, since final tuning would be done using an swr meter or a wattmeter.

This article explores some simple alternatives to ordinary mechanical or digital-type readouts, using LEDs. Several LED circuits are described, to suit almost any requirement from indicating the approximate position of a roller inductor in an antenna tuner (just using several LEDs) to having a long string of LEDs arranged to form a frequency scale in which the LEDs light in turn as a receiver or a vfo is tuned. All of the circuits require, however, that a voltage be supplied to the circuit which is proportional to the shaft rotation of the inductor or capacitor being tuned (except for varactor diode-tuned vfos

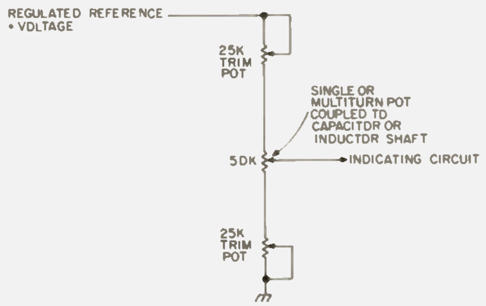

Fig. 1. Typical circuit for a potentiometer coupled to the shaft of a variable capacitor or inductor.

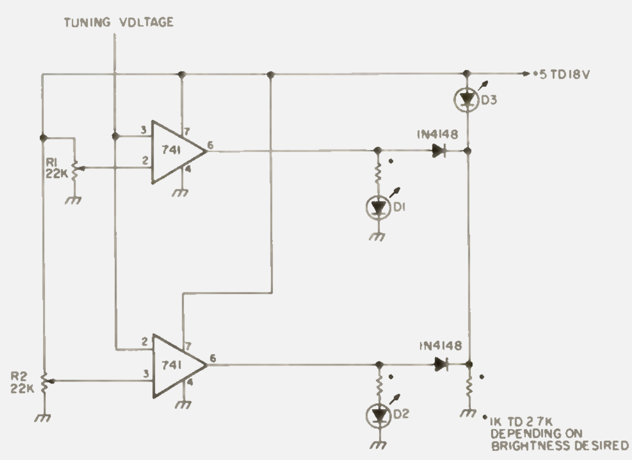

Fig. 2. LEDs D1, D2, and D3 can be set to light in turn according to the value of an applied tuning voltage. R1 and R2 are trim pots and set the voltages at which the LEDs light. The circuit can be easily constructed, especially if a dual 741 is used.

where the dc tuning voltage already is available).

How to do all this will vary from application to application, of course. Usually, one can find some way to couple a single- or multi-turn potentiometer to a tuning shaft. This is the only area in which some mechanical work is required to implement an LED scale. As shown in Fig. 1, it often is handy to add trim-type potentiometers in the circuit so that the voltage range covered by the potentiometer coupled to the tuning shaft can have both its upper and lower range adjusted.

The circuit in Fig. 2 provides only three LED indicators, but it uses readily-available 741 ICs and can still provide some useful tuning indications. For example, it can be used to indicate approximately which third of a roller inductor is active in a small antenna tuner. Also, it can be used as a warning indicator, with a vfo, that one is near the edge of a band, or it can be used to "bracket in" a small portion of a band so that it is readily apparent when one has tuned to the lower, middle, or upper part of the frequency range chosen.

The two 741s operate as comparators, and the potentiometers, R1 and R2, set the points at which either D1 or D2 will light. When the input voltage to the circuit exceeds the voltage set on pin 2 of IC1 to ground, D1 will light. When the input voltage is smaller than the voltage set on pin 3 of IC2, D2 will light. When the input voltage is in between (smaller than the D1 ignition voltage but larger than the D2 ignition voltage), D3 will light. There is nothing at all critical about using the circuit, but to avoid confusion when initially adjusting the potentiometers, be sure that the D1 ignition voltage is set higher in value than the D2 ignition voltage. Since the LEDs involved are switched separately, they need not have exactly the same characteristics. One can use different colored LEDs if desired, therefore, in each position.

The circuit in Fig. 3 uses a new, inexpensive (about $1.00) IC from Texas Instruments. Basically, it does the same thing as the circuit in Fig. 2 but contains everything in one IC, drives up to 5 LEDs, and contains a few extra features. At about 0.2 volts input on pin 8, pin 2 goes low and the first LED will light. As the input voltage increases in 0.2-volt steps, pins 3, 4, 5, and 6 will go low in turn and light the LED connected to them. At 1.0 volt input, all the LEDs will be lighted. Note that this is a slightly different action than in the circuit in Fig. 2 where only one LED at a time is active. Also, using this circuit, there is no way to change the 0.2-voltage steps needed to light successive LEDs. Further features of the IC are that when the input voltage goes below approximately 0.2 volts, the first LED will flash on and off periodically. Also, the IC contains a built-in voltage regulator so that the supply voltage need not be regulated. Although the circuit shown uses LEDs, the output terminals (pins 2-6) can actually switch currents up to 80 mA at a maximum voltage of 18 volts. One could, therefore, use small lamps for the indicators, or even set up a solid-state buzzer on one of the outputs to indicate aurally that some high or low limit had been reached.

The circuit in Fig. 4 moves into the "big time" with LED displays, in that a string of 10 LEDs is involved. This circuit uses an IC that was specifically designed to drive a string of LEDs in response to a variable input voltage. The LED action is like the circuit of Fig. 2 in that only one LED is active at a time, depending on the voltage level being sensed. The IC itself will take only a few milliamperes of current, so the main current drain using the circuit will be from the LED that is active. The circuit is suitable, therefore, for many types of portable equipment applications.

This circuit is suited for construction of an electronic LED scale, since the 10 LEDs provide sufficient "spread." For instance, if a receiver had a tuning knob which covered 25-kHz/revolution, a string of 10 LEDs could be used to provide markers every 25 kHz across a 250-kHz portion of a band. If a linear vfo is used, therefore, the combination of having LEDs *and* the dial skirt divisions marked will provide readout to 1 kHz over a 250-kHz range.

The IC, although it is a small 16-pin type, packs

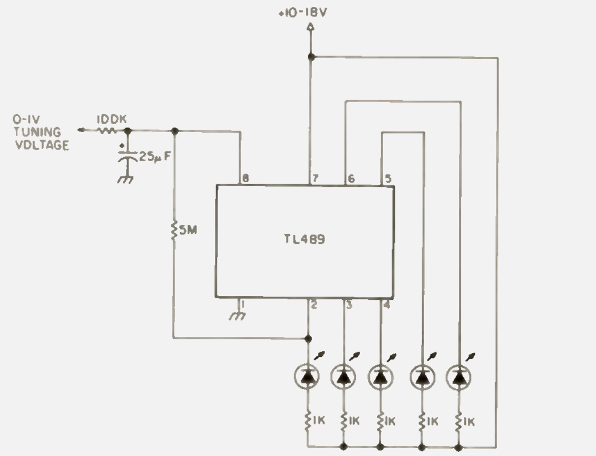

Fig. 3. In this circuit, as the input voltage varies from 0 to 1 volt, one LED will light (and stay lighted) for each 0.2-volt step in the input voltage.

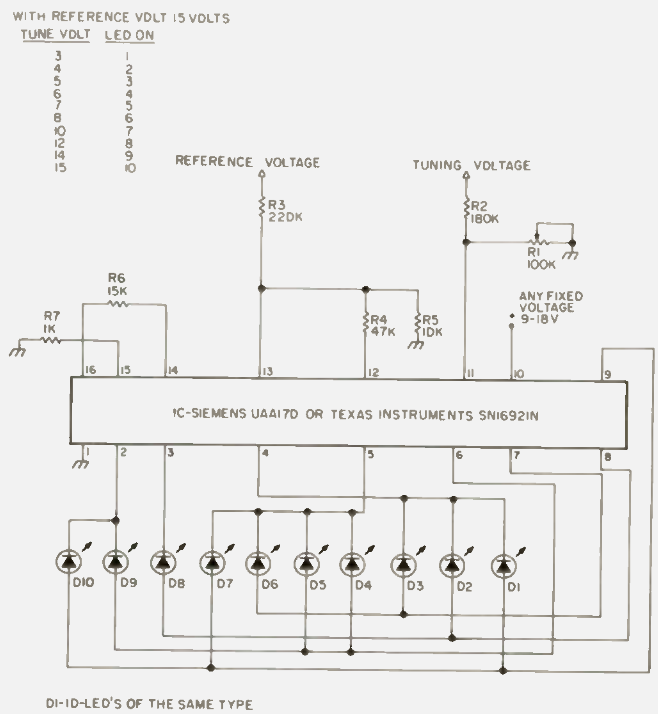

Fig. 4. The circuit of a 10-LED indicator. The size of the IC has been exaggerated for clarity; it is a normal 16-pin type and provides for very compact circuit construction.

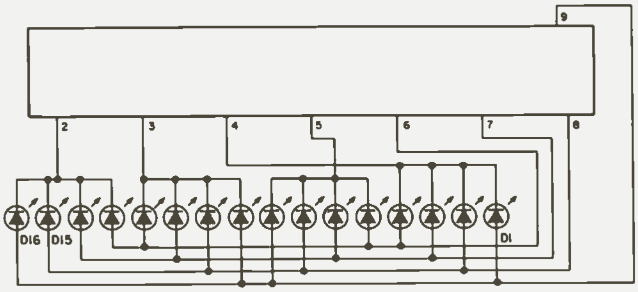

Fig. 5. The circuit of Fig. 4 can be expanded to control 16 LEDs as shown here. Pin connections not shown remain the same as in Fig. 4.

quite a bit inside. There are sixteen differential amplifiers and a resistive voltage-divider network, plus the driver circuits for the LEDs and a voltage regulator. The internal resistive voltage-divider network has equal value resistors, so that the device will function only to produce a linear LED scale.

There are three voltages that are important in the application of the IC. The voltage applied to pin 10 is the supply voltage for the IC and can be any regulated or unregulated voltage between 9 and 18 volts. The voltage on pin 13 is the maximum reference value of the variable-tuning voltage, and the voltage on pin 12 is the minimum reference value of the variable-tuning voltage. These voltages, as well as the actual tuning voltage on pin 11, cannot exceed 6 volts.

In many circuits, such as where varactor diodes are voltage-tuned in an oscillator, however, the maximum value of the tuning voltage will exceed 6 volts. Therefore, voltage dividers have to be employed, as in Fig. 4, where the tuning voltage varies between 4 and 15 volts. R1 and R2 form a voltage divider to limit the voltage on pin 11 to 6 volts maximum. R3, in conjunction with R4 and R5, set the high value of the tuning voltage on pin 13 and the low value on pin 12. The table in Fig. 4 shows which diodes will light for different tuning voltages.

Making R1 variable provides a slight adjustment similar to the mechanical analogy of centering the scale. The difference in voltage between pins 12 and 13 can be as low as 1.2 volts if a very restricted tuning voltage range is necessary. However, the LEDs will tend to present a mushy display at this voltage. That is, one LED will come on before the foregoing one is completely extinguished. If the voltage difference between pins 12 and 13 is at least 4 volts, the LEDs will light sharply one after the other.

The circuitry connected to pins 11, 12, and 13 will not load down any external circuitry because of the high resistances involved. So, the circuit is ideal for use with varactor diode-tuned vfos. There is a 5-volt regulated reference voltage available from pin 14 to ground. In some cases where only low current drain is involved (3 mA maximum), this voltage can be used as the reference voltage on pin 13 and the source of the variable-tuning voltage. Only one external voltage is needed then, to pin 10. R6 controls the brightness of the LED display and can be made variable, if desired, to keep the current drain at a minimum for portable applications or to vary the display brightness according to external lighting conditions. The LEDs used should all be of the same type for the circuit to function smoothly. Different colored LEDs can be used if their voltage/current characteristics are similar.

The circuit in Fig. 4 actually does not utilize the full capabilities of the IC, but is probably the most useful because of its 10-position scale. Actually, the IC will drive up to 16 LEDs, as shown in Fig. 5. All of the foregoing discussion about setting the voltage levels on various pins of the IC still applies. Again, however, it is worthwhile to emphasize that the LEDs must have the same electrical characteristics.

One may wonder if the circuits in Figs. 4 or 5 can be further expanded to create even longer LED scales. In most cases, this can be done easily if the tuning voltage range is not too small. If it is on the order of 1 to 14 volts, for example, one IC can be set up to respond to 1 to 7 volts and the other from 7 to 14 volts, with their inputs (pin 11) paralleled. The setting up of each IC to respond to a given voltage range is done, as explained previously, by putting the desired low- and high-reference voltages on pins 12 and 13 of each IC. Note that the high voltage of the first IC, which is a nominal 7 volts, should be a bit higher than the nominal low 7 volts of the second IC. The reason for this is to provide a smooth crossover between the LED displays associated with each IC. For instance, if two circuits of the type shown in Fig. 4 were used, when 7 volts or slightly over was reached, the last diode in the first IC (D10) would light simultaneously with the first diode (D1) associated with the second IC. These diodes would not be used in the scale display but must be left in the circuit.

By careful adjustment of the 7-volt overlap point, there will be a smooth step between diode D9 from the first IC and D2 from the second IC. This overlap adjustment can be achieved by making R7 in the circuit in Fig. 4 a trim pot instead of a fixed value resistor. If one used two circuits of the type shown in Fig. 4, therefore, 18 diodes actually will be available to form a scale; there will be 30 diodes available in the case of the circuit in Fig. 5.

Although the foregoing circuits were presented for use as LED tuning or logging scales, they can be applied to many other uses around the shack. The most obvious might be as battery voltage monitors. The circuits in Figs. 2 and 3 are particularly suited for this purpose. Also, the circuits can be used to replace or to augment analog meter readouts. The circuit in Fig. 4, with or without the additional LEDs shown in Fig. 5, is particularly well suited for this purpose. It has a high impedance input, and the response time is easily fast enough to follow speech peaks once the audio sample has been converted to dc by a suitable rectifier.

The Texas Instrument ICs are available from the usual supply sources, while local availability of the Siemens IC can be determined by writing to Siemens Components Division, 186 Wood Ave., S. Iselin NJ 08830. Siemens actually makes two ICs—the UAA170 and the UAA180. They are similar, except that the UAA180 provides a display such that the LEDs remain lighted once their voltage detection level is reached. The amount of current required with, say, 10 LEDs lighted would make this type of display unsuitable for most portable applications. However, where current availability is not a problem, the display is a very effective one in place of an analog meter display. ■

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The Paper, the Station, and the Man

—a brief history of the New York Times radio stations

The year was 1920, and the prestigious *New York Times* was in trouble. Communications from England and especially from occupied Germany were in bad shape after World War I. The Navy, still handling messages, had only one land line to NBD, Bar Harbor, Maine. News dispatches from Berlin that were being transmitted by the long-wave station, POZ, Nauen, Germany, were being received at the Bar Harbor installation, but would arrive at the *Times* newsroom 24 to 48 hours later. As everyone knows, nothing is deader than day-old press.

The *Times* had always been interested in wireless communication. Even back in December of 1901, when Marconi had been able to transmit the letter "S" to Newfoundland from the Poldhu station in southern England, the *Times* had not joined the rest of the world in doubting that wireless messages could ever be sent across the Atlantic. Instead, the paper had called the Marconi transmission a triumph and had written columns about the achievement.

Also, the *New York Times* had been the first to receive a message sent to the west from the newly-established wireless service between Clifden, Ireland, and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. From that time, January, 1912, until the outbreak of World War I, nearly all *Times* dispatches from London and Paris had come by wireless to the Glace Bay station and then over special land lines leased by the paper.

When trouble came after the war in the form of unreliable communications, it was decided to establish a long-wave receiving station in the tower of the *Times* building at Times Square; this did not bring the success hoped for in receiving dispatches from POZ, Nauen, Germany, however. So, who better could they turn to for improving this situation

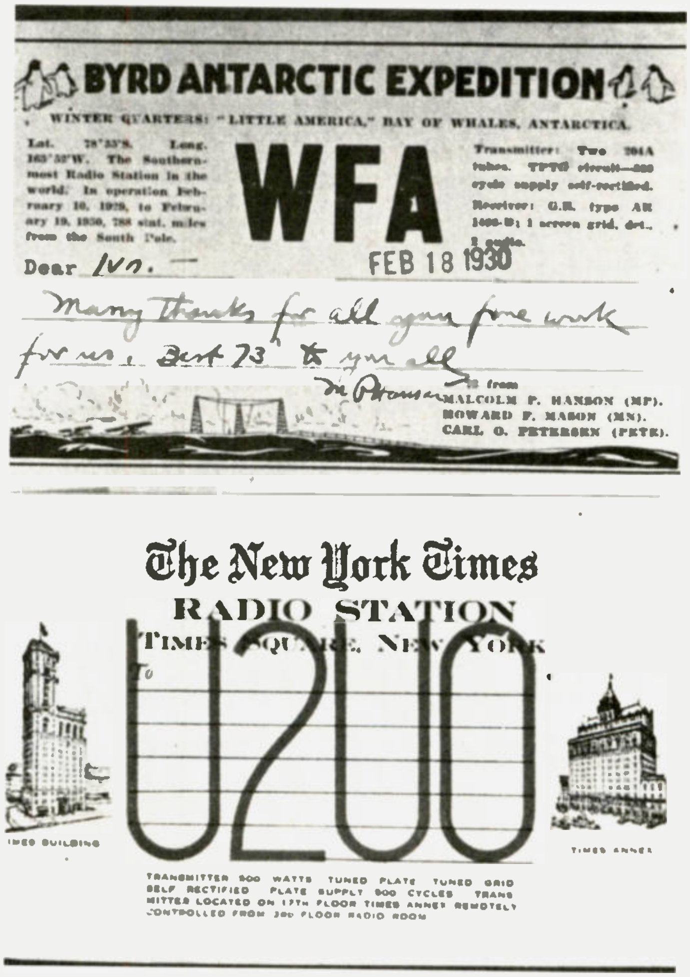
Times *receiving sets, 1925.*

Times *receiving sets, 1926. Note long-wave receiver and two-stage amplifier in background.*

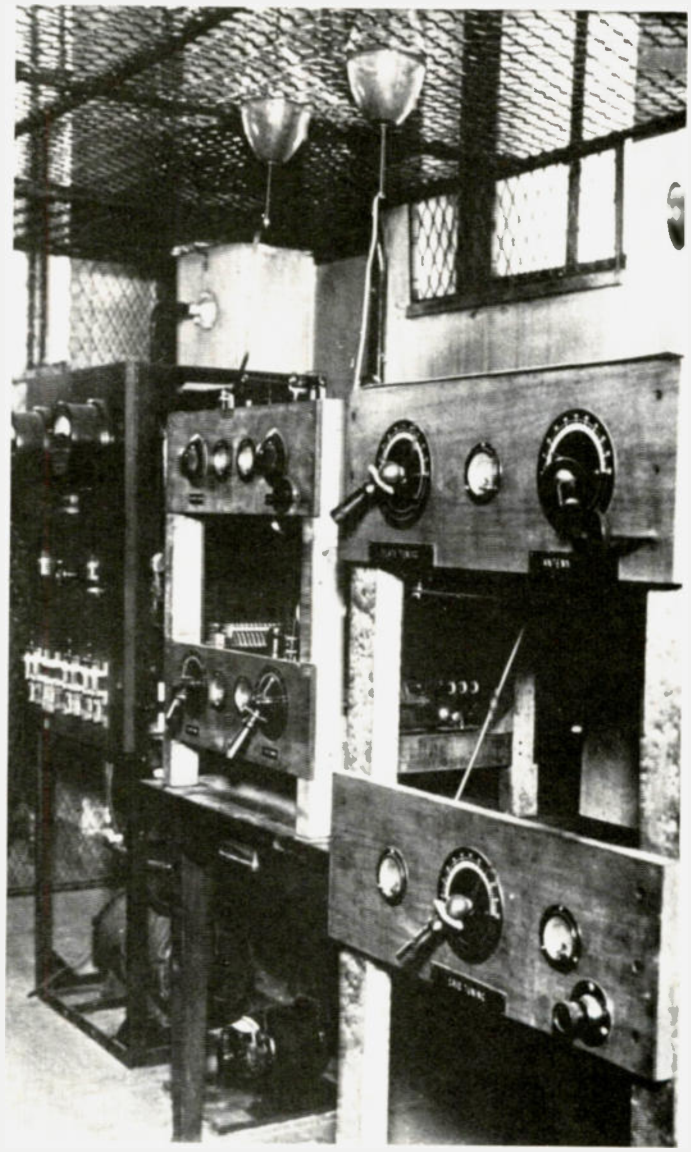
than Reginald J. Iverson, a former crack operator at transatlantic Navy receiving stations in Belmar, N.J., Chatham, Mass., and NBD, Bar Harbor, Maine?

Once employed at the *Times*, Iverson began assembling improved equipment for the new receiving station. An antenna was run from the top of the flagpole on the *Times* building down to the corner of the Flatiron Building at 43rd St., then along the third-floor offset and back up into the radio room. Another antenna went from the top of the tower down to the other side of the building.

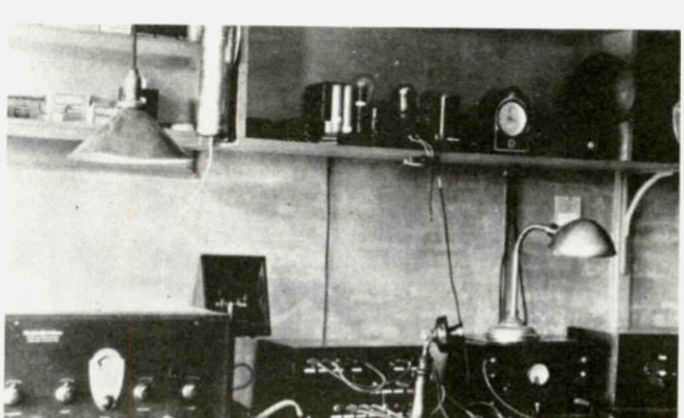
Early equipment consisted of a Kennedy long-wave receiver with a two-stage amplifier and Baldwin phones, later to be supplemented by receivers designed and built by Iverson. All of this finally brought better reception from Europe so that dis-



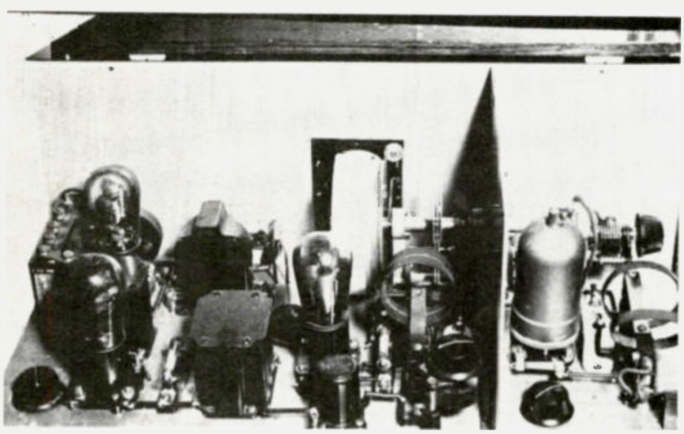
WFA and U2UO QSL cards.



Amateur transmitter using two 204 tubes with motor-generator under table. Note: This same transmitter was used in 1928 with slight modifications at WHD. Located in Times Tower, Times Square, N.Y.



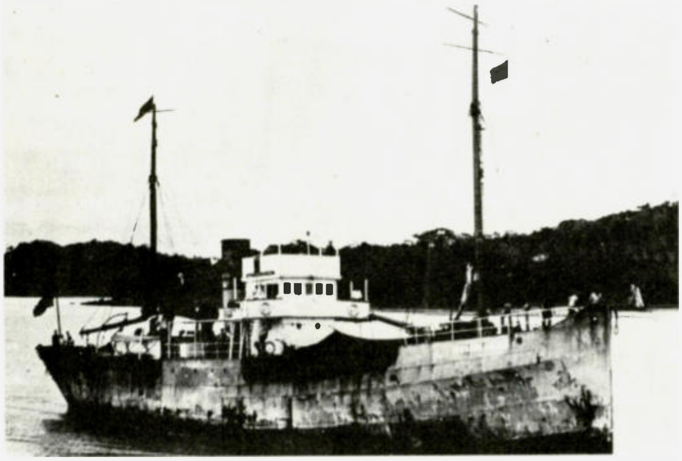
Front view of Byrd expedition receiver.



1928 shortwave receiver built by Iverson for reception from the Admiral Byrd 1928 expedition. Back view.

patches received during the day could be printed in the paper that night. Two years later, in 1922, this station was superseded by a completely new installation, and the radio room was moved from the tower to the new *Times* building on 43rd St. Radiotelephone had become popular, and several broadcast receivers were added at the new installation.

At this time, in order to further improve press reception, Iverson was sent on a lend-lease basis to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to establish another transatlantic receiving station. This project, to be known as *News Traffic Board, Ltd.*, was a joint venture of the *New York Times, Philadelphia Public Ledger, Chicago Tribune*, and a Canadian paper.



Byrd ship Eleanor Bolling, *1928 expedition.*

The New York Time

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1929.

BYRD PLANE IN AIR OVER THE ANTARCTIC 'TALKS' TO NEW YORK

Two-Way Messages by Radio Across 10,000 Miles Establishes a Record.

INNED FOR ENTIRE HOUR

Times Operator in Touch With the Craft From Take-Off at 3:15 A. M. Yesterday.

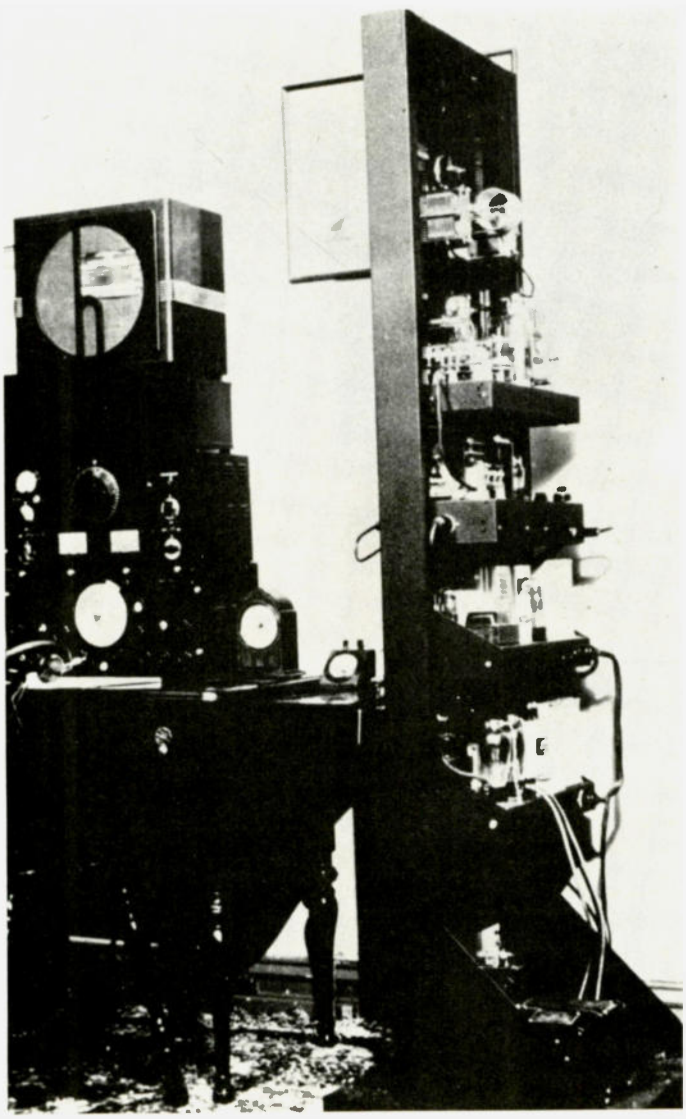
AN FRANCISCO ON CALL

BYRD PLANE IN AIR 'TALKS' TO NEW YORK

Continued from Page 1, Column 8

The Transmitter Equipment

New York Times *headlines, 1929 Byrd flight.*



R. J. Iverson W2LDR home station in Astoria, L.I., 1938.

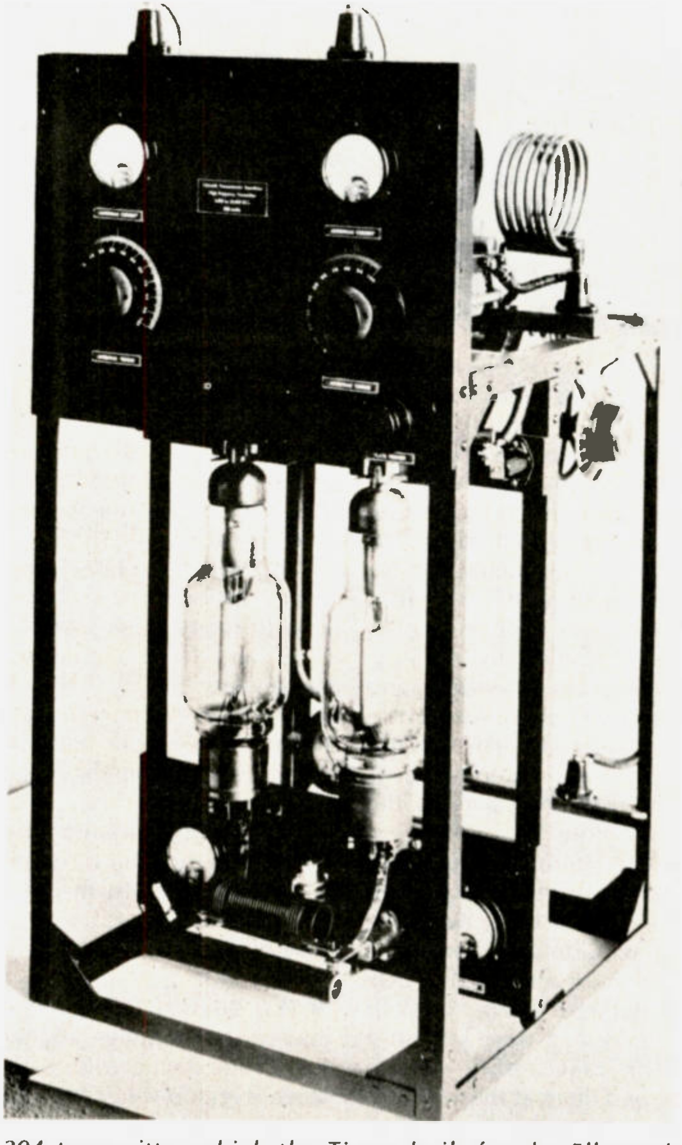
1935 flight: Thor Lothing, N.Y. to Norway, before takeoff. Picture of plane with note to R. J. Iverson of the Times. (Times installed his radio.)

Shortly after completion of the Halifax station, its efficiency and that of Iverson, its only engineer and operator, were sorely tried when Irish rebels cut the transatlantic cables at the repeater stations along the Irish coast. This left in operation only two very slow cables, one of them from France. Since this reduced the communication channels considerably, Iverson sat at the typewriter fifteen hours daily, from 10:00 am until 1:00 am, copying the London long-wave press transmissions until more operators could be recruited. His perseverance greatly expedited copy intended for the United States and Canadian newspapers, and this experience proved to the papers the value of wireless. They now poured more money into building a better station at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, with a vastly improved antenna system. Balanced loops and towers were installed. Incidentally, this station was a forerunner of Press Wireless, founded in 1929.

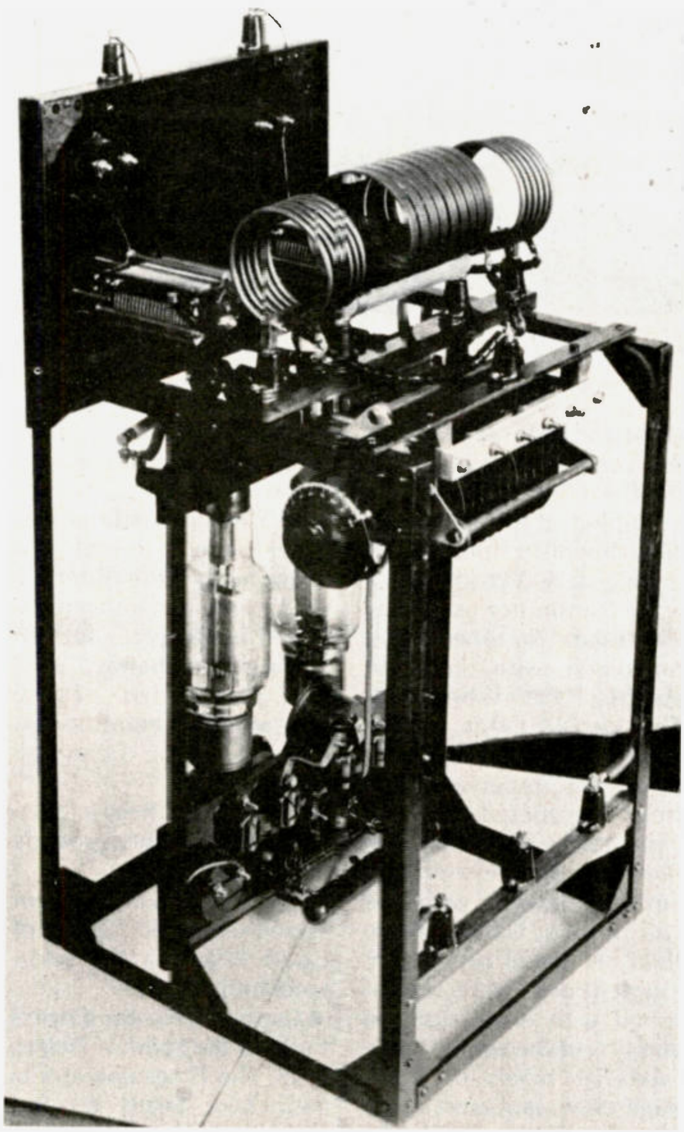
Iverson returned to the *Times* in 1924 as chief engineer. The receiving equipment was updated, long-wave receivers were built with audio bandpass in the outputs, and new antennas were erected. All of this resulted in excellent reception from Europe.

About the time that shortwave frequencies were coming into use, around 1926, a rash of explorers and fliers were making headlines. When Richard Byrd and Amundsen reached Spitzbergen Bay in their race to be first to fly over the North Pole, Byrd by plane and Amundsen by the dirigible, *Norge*, the commercial dispatches that came from there were

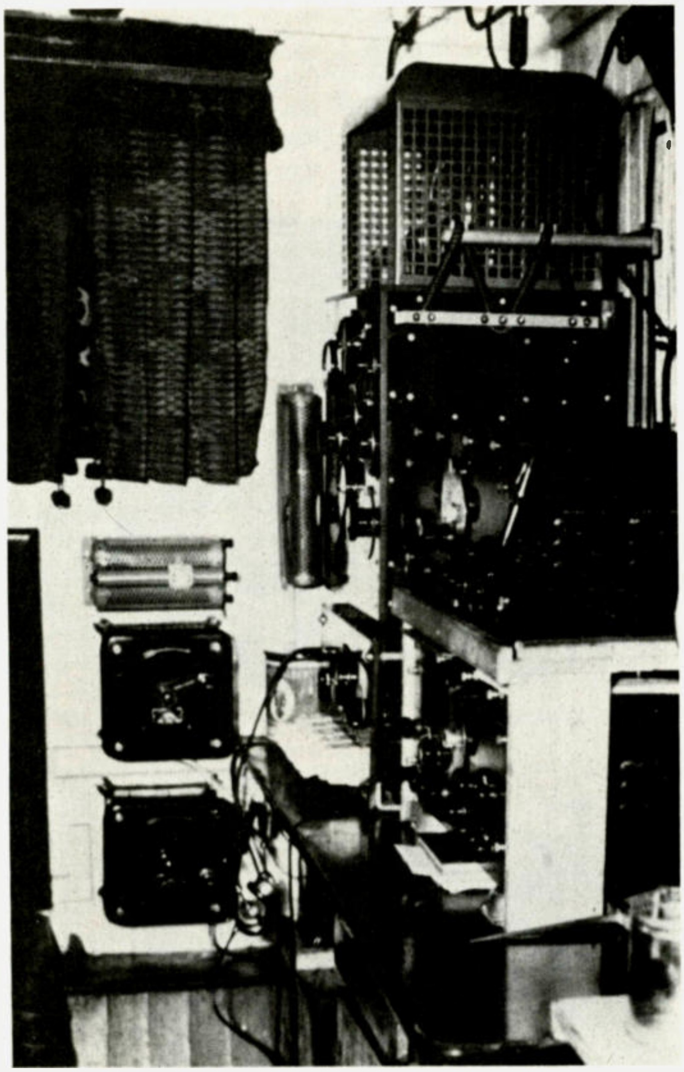
Press Wireless receiving room, Little Neck, L.I., 1929.



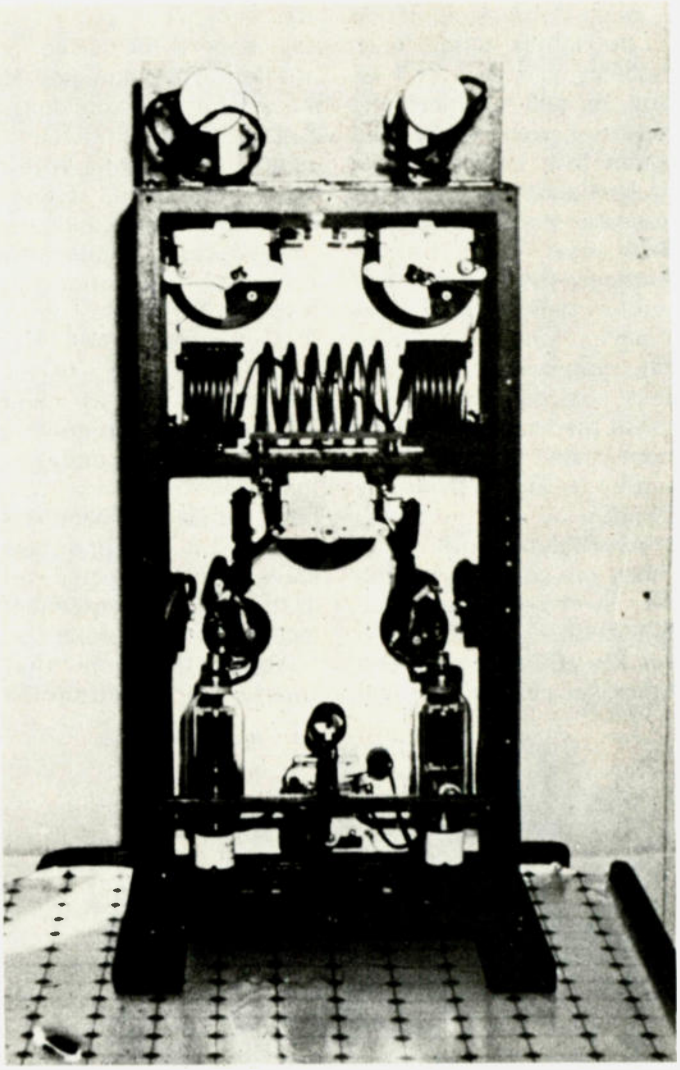
204 transmitter which the Times *built for the Ellsworth trans-Antarctic expedition. Front view.*



Back view of same transmitter.



Louise Boyd North Greenland expedition, 1938. Front view.



Back view of one of the transmitters. Times-*built by R. J. Iverson. Call letters of expedition: LAHR.*

unsatisfactory even when the *Times* had to pay over $1.00 a word for them. This prompted the engineering department to build immediately a 500-Watt shortwave transmitter using two 204 tubes in tuned-plate, tuned-grid, with the plate supply furnished by Crocker-Wheeler motor generators. Several high-frequency receivers also were constructed.

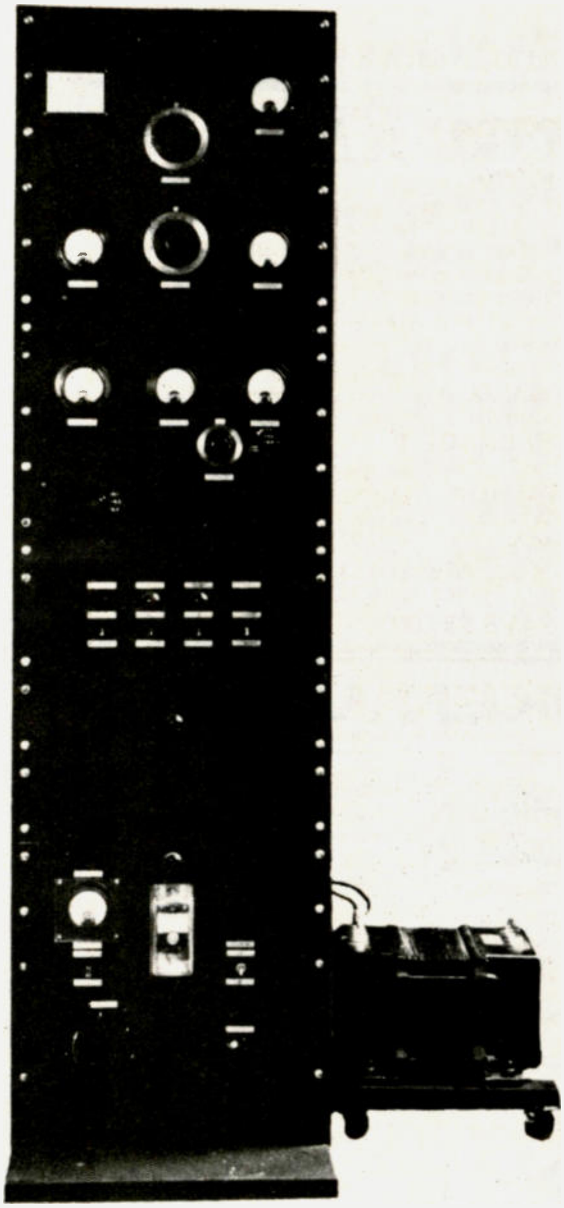
In 1926, the *Times* applied for and received an amateur license with the call letters U2UO. From then on, direct press communications were established with expeditions to all parts of the world. Thousands of words of front-page copy appeared under the slug, "By wireless to the *New York Times.*" Two years later, at the insistence of the American Radio Relay League, station U2UO was phased out and a commercial license was issued with the call letters WHD. Frequencies were assigned in the press section of the marine bands.

A partial list of the noteworthy expeditions covered by the *Times* follows:

- The Richard Byrd and the Amundsen flights (already mentioned above).
- The Count Von Luckner 'round the world "Cruise of Good Will" on the yacht *Vaterland*, in 1927.
- Captain William Erwin's flight in the *Spirit of Dallas*, 1927. The *Times* operator in New York heard his last message as his plane fell into the Pacific and was lost.
- The Byrd Antarctic Expedition to Little America, 1928. Much of the equipment was supplied by the *Times* in exchange for exclusive newsbeats. More than two million words were handled by the stations of the expedition, and communication with Little America was so reliable that it was referred to as "the 9000-mile wire to the South Pole."
- The Hobbs University of Michigan Expedition to Greenland, 1928. An interesting sidelight here was that the Rockford (Illinois)-to-Sweden fliers, Haskell and Cramer, were lost after their last radio signals placed them at the northern tip of Labrador. No word of them was heard until they walked into Hobb's camp 100 miles from their landing site. The first edition of the *Times* that very night carried the story

During the 1930s, the *Times* station worked closely with many other expeditions and fliers. Some of these were:

- War maneuvers in the far Pacific. The paper had its correspondent on the flagship, *Pennsylvania,* and WHD communicated directly with the fleet through a receiving station in Iverson's home in Astoria. The transmitter was controlled by land line.
- The Russian flier's Moscow-to-Los Angeles flight, lost in the Arctic without a trace. Iverson was commissioned to obtain a complete radio station to communicate with the search expedi-



One of WHD's postwar transmitters, 1947.

News receiving room with printers. Note National HRO in background.

tion headed by Wilkins and based in Poirt Barrow, Alaska. The plane was never found.

● The Lincoln Ellsworth trans-Antarctic expeditions under Sir Hubert Wilkins, 1938-9. Iverson built all of the transmitters and organized and secured communications equipment used for two years. At this time he became active in amateur radio as W2LDR to service the expeditions with an outlet for news and personal messages.

● The expedition of San Francisco socialite Louise Boyd to North Greenland. The same services were performed for communications as in the expeditions above. Her valuable surveys were used by the Navy in World War II.

With the coming of World War II, there were no more explorations. The world had become too small and there were more immediate concerns.

News broadcasts begun by station U2UO were now continued with WHD twice daily on marine frequencies and were heard regularly by Australia, South America, and ships at sea. The reputation of the *Times* was such that it was the only station allowed to transmit its hour-long newscasts without a censor sitting in the radio room. Also, half a dozen shortwave receivers were set up to constantly intercept broadcasts from London, France, Berlin, and Rome. This information was important to the reporters and correspondents, although much of the news from the Axis powers was exaggerated or untrue.

Soon after the war, the twenty-five-year-old transmitters of WHD were replaced by two modern crystal-controlled jobs with the increased output of 2 kW. They now had ac in the radio room in the tower where formerly there had been only dc. News summaries were broadcast until the mid-sixties, when it seemed that there was no further need for them.

After the armistice, the Reuters News Agency, London, wanted to establish itself in the United States and South America. The *Times* agreed to handle their east-to-west communications into the States. High-speed radio circuits were set up at the London end and receiving time was leased from Press Wireless and ITT. The signals then were piped into the *Times* radio room. Thirty to forty thousand words of press copy from Reuters were handled daily, received on Hellschreibers, facsimile-type printers. These were made in Germany and were capable of taking fifty words a minute.

In 1965, the license of WHD, which had seen such extraordinary service, was allowed to lapse and Iverson, after almost fifty years with the *Times*, retired. ■

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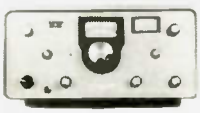

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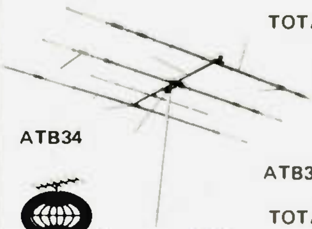

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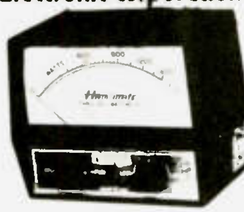

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50 watts	50H	50A	50C	50D	50E
100 watts	100H	100A	100C	100D	100E
250 watts	250H	250A	250C	250D	250E
500 watts	500H	500A	500C	500D	500E
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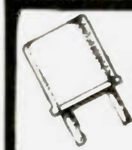

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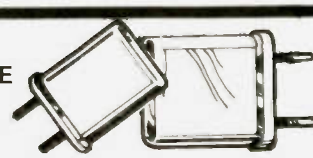

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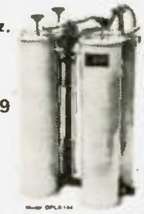

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QRP from Canton Island

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Author's note: Since my April, 1979, visit, some changes have taken place which may have an important effect on Canton as a DX location. First, the area has been included in the newly-formed Republic of Kirabati and the military is no longer in charge of the island. Second, while the treaty is being finalized, the US representative on Canton is Larry KS6DV. He has been doing a fantastic DX job as KS6DV/KH1 and VR1PJ (just changed to T3PA). It's possible Canton may soon lose its place on the "rare DX" lists.

Call me naive. I honestly believed my trip to Canton Island would give me a chance to do some late night operating, something I rarely do at my home QTH just outside Honolulu. I thought I might even be able to work some rare DX stations, if I were lucky.

Little did I realize at the time that *I* was considered by some to be rare DX myself. I still consider myself to be a relative newcomer to amateur radio. My first Novice ticket was WN3CNX, obtained in 1954. I procrastinated a lot, never got on the air, and my unused license expired a year later. Finally, twenty-three years later, in 1977, I tested again and was given KH6JUO. In March, 1979, I upgraded to General and changed my call to KH6GB. As you can see, although I've known a bit about ham radio for quite a few years, my actual association has been very limited. Being basically economy-minded, I decided to try low power for a while and settled on the Ten-Tec Argonaut.

Officially, my Canton trip was Air Force business—not a DXpedition. The radio gear was an afterthought, really. I packed more clothes than necessary, a typical fault of mine, but carefully left space for the Argo and its power supply. I casually mentioned my pending journey to a close friend, Marv KH6DL, and he came unglued, asking, among a hundred other questions, if there was room in my luggage for him. He tried to warn me of something called "pileups," but I didn't get the picture. He asked which bands and frequencies I'd be working, and got rather panicky when I truthfully replied that I hadn't thought about it. The afternoon before I departed, Marv provided a hastily-built 20-meter dipole and suggested a frequency I might try. We set up a tentative time to meet on the following Saturday, April 7th. It was the earliest I felt I'd be able to set up, and so I was on my way.

Wednesday, April 4th, arrived and the four and one-half hour flight from Hickam Air Force Base to Canton was routine. We flew on a C-141 Military Airlift Command (MAC) plane. Accompanying me on the trip was Jim KH6HIT, also an active-duty Air Force member, who, although he chose not to operate, would later prove to be an outstanding engineer.

Around noon, we climbed down from the C-141 aircraft onto the sweltering ramp at Canton. Canton is one of eight small islands and the only inhabited one within the Phoenix Island group. There is a "British" side of Canton, but its only residents are sea birds and hermit crabs which thrive in the aging Pan American Airways clipper station ruins. During and after my trip, I was told I could have used a VR1 call in addition to the KH1. However, since I had very short notice of the journey, I hadn't had time to seek approval from the British government, so I could not and would not use the VR1.

Canton is a closed military installation, with a caretaker force of about thirty government contractor personnel. The temperature upon our arrival was 90° F, and the first order was to unpack and brief the site manager on our visit. This was accomplished quickly, and almost before we knew it, the day was ending. Jim and I were told that the night life on Canton is virtually nil, so we decided to begin hooking up the radio. Jim took my old, homemade 15-meter dipole and tied it about six feet off the ground, between two coconut palm trees. Orientation was no problem—we simply ran it the same way that the trees ran! We had no idea which direction was north until the setting sun gave us our first clue. Now, where were we in relation to the rest of the world?

Fifteen meters appeared to be a poor choice on my part, for after two hours of intermittent CQing, I had worked one VK and a ubiquitous Japanese station. Jim and I raised the antenna as high as possible, leaving one end dangling in a palm tree while securing the other end to a building eave, but there was no improvement. Jim then fabricated a 10-meter dipole, but a half-dozen QSOs proved it (or the band) to be as unreliable as my previous attempt on 15. Then Jim suggested we try Marv's prefab 20-meter dipole in the same two trees. Why didn't I think of that?

By now it was totally dark (where did I put that flashlight?). We quickly learned why there wasn't much night life on Canton. It should rate as the sandbur capital of the world, or at least of the equatorial zone. Our stumbling around in the dark produced many ouches and groans and raised havoc with the many hermit crabs who had decided to investigate the disturbance. Finally, however, the new dipole was up, and a quick front-to-back check showed a nice, low swr; we did *something* right. A rapid CQ (or two) and success—an answer! During the next ninety minutes, I worked thirty-four stations, ranging from W4OOW in Georgia to one each P29, H4, UAØ, KC6, 5W1, and several VKs and ZLs. I was in heaven. Little did I know that this was merely the tip of the iceberg.

For the next several evenings, Jim and I (mostly Jim) experimented with different antenna directions and heights, finally settling on a 060° heading with a height of about fifteen feet. This precarious altitude was reached by taking two 2 × 4s found drifting in the nearby lagoon and lashing them to the trees. The dipole ends were then tied to the tops of the 2 × 4s. This arrangement worked fine until one 2 × 4 came tumbling down during a rain squall, taking the dipole with it. (So *that* was why the swr needle jumped to 5:1—funny it didn't affect the ongoing QSOs.)

Somewhere along the way, perhaps during the second evening of operation, I was asked by Bob AA4AR in Tennessee if I could use some help. Well, his offer was a real blessing, because up until this time I had been roughing it, trying to punch through the QRM alone. Bob and I worked together until QSB did him in, but then Larry W7IUV spoke up and took charge. He, along with several friends from the Central Arizona DX Association, assisted in setting up schedules and such. By the third night, it all began to make some sense to me. We could now move along with about two hundred contacts each evening, covering a three- to four-hour period. Larry, Ned AA7A, or Wayne W7QS would take a list up frequency, while the others maintained order down where I was. It worked perfectly, and we continued this method until my final evening on Canton. I'm firmly convinced that their help enabled many US and DX stations to contact me. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to make contact. Several other operators also were extremely helpful, doing what they could, when they could. Some of these were Walt AG5H, Bill WB7BFK, and Don WB7AQX. There were others whose names, unfortunately, got lost in the heat of the battle, but I'm sure their QSL cards will straighten that out!

Quite a few QRP stations came through with 5 by 7 to 5 by 9 reports from New York, New Jersey, and the Southeast. Their 5-, 8-, and 10-Watt rigs should certainly help prove that full legal power isn't everything. Don't get me wrong—there were times when I wished for more oomph, but when you don't have it, you do what you can with what you've got. Incidentally, my prime frequency was 14280, up or down a bit, depending on QRM.

The final totals, as yet unverified, show that for twenty-five hours of operation, I worked 1150 stations, all with the 5-Watt Argonaut and the 20-meter dipole. Miraculously, on the last evening, Craig WB7EUT checked in from Wyoming, giving me QRP WAS. I experienced considerable difficulty working into Europe and the Middle East, and it was frustrating to hear the 4X4s, OEs, OKs, and EAs calling, among others. Unfortunately, they couldn't read the Argo. Despite this, I managed to work all continents QRP, thirty-six countries (including G3RCA), several Italian stations, and F6EXV. South America was well represented, and solid contacts were made with JY3ZH and EA8BW.

Would I do it again? Absolutely, but with better preparation. I'd try for approval of a VR1 call. I'd still use the Argonaut, but would look for a small beam and tower to make life easier. An unresolved difficulty is the problem of access approval for Canton and the actual trip itself. Since Canton is still military, only those with a valid, official reason can visit there. Also, the only aircraft authorized to land are military types, and military passengers are limited to sixty-six pounds of luggage each. If and when these difficulties are ever resolved, Canton Island would truly be a DXer's paradise. ■

Photo by James K. Gilman KH6HIT

Harv KH6GB on Canton Island.

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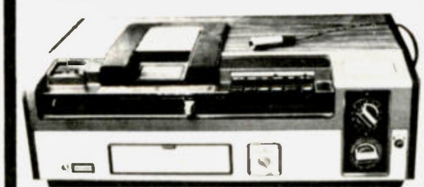

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In Search of Power Line Interference

—how to find it and get it stopped

Fortunately for all of us in the United States, there are no minimum limits established for radiation of interference from overhead power lines. Had there been a minimum limit established, we might have had to live with it, no matter how disruptive it was. The Federal Communications Commission is fully responsible for establishing limits of interference for any device that may be causing harmful interference, and at this time, the FCC considers overhead power lines to be "Incidental Radiation Devices." The radiation of interference is incidental to their primary function of transmitting 60-Hz electrical energy. The only requirement the FCC has for incidental radiation devices is contained in Section 15.25, Part 15, of the FCC Rules and Regulations, which reads as follows:

"An incidental radiation device shall be operated so that the radio frequency energy does not cause harmful interference. In the event that harmful interference is caused, the operator of the device shall promptly take steps to eliminate the harmful interference."

The definition of harmful interference is in Section 15.4 (b) of Part 15 of the FCC Rules and Regulations:

"Harmful Interference—Any emission, radiation or induction which endangers the functioning of a radionavigation service or of safety services or seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with this chapter."

Now that you have read the law concerning power line interference (and it amazes me, the number of utilities that profess to have no knowledge of this federal law), what can you do to eliminate RI and TVI caused by gap-type (sparking) sources from power lines and their associated apparatus?

My advice to you is not to sit back after making a phone call to the utility company, registering an interference complaint and expecting the interference to disappear. If you do, you may have a very long wait. There are some power companies which are spending over a hundred thousand dollars per year in their interference programs, but, unfortunately, there are many which are not meeting moral and legal responsibilities in this area.

I am served by one of only four investor-owned electric utilities in the nation with two million or more customers. It serves approximately 4.5 million people and is the second fastest-growing electric utility in the nation. I make mention of this as it was only two months ago that they purchased a receiver capable of covering all the frequencies between 540 kHz and 30 MHz. I was informed that this equipment was purchased so that they could verify the places I had located and informed them about which were causing low-frequency interference in my area. So don't expect many of the electric utilities to have an all-wave receiver, spectrum analyzer, ultrasonic detector, "Little Snoop" interference locator, yagi antenna interference equipment, loop antenna, etc.

Before going any further, I would like to mention that in many cases of gap-type RI or TVI, the electric company is not at fault.[1] The electric power companies generally are responsible for less than 50% of the sources that cause electrical interference. (This figure varies, based on the type of program the utility company has instigated for handling interference complaints and how they maintain their lines.) It has been estimated that more than 95% of these power-line sources of interference are due to gap-type discharges. The remaining 5%, or less, are due to corona discharge.

Gap discharges occur on power transmission equipment when metal parts become electrically isolated by corrosion. The parts will then be charged, by the action of the electric field, to different potentials until the gap insulation becomes overstressed, at which time a complete breakdown of the gap takes place. The resultant discharge is termed gap discharge. This gap is usually "operative" during fair weather. As soon as moisture appears, the gap is "shorted out." Consequently, interference caused by gap discharge usually is absent in wet weather. These sources can be located and completely eliminated.

Gap discharges can occur in insulators, at tie wires, in lightning arresters, between neutral or ground wires and hardware, and in electrical equipment that is defective, damaged, or improperly designed or installed. Gap discharges can and do occur frequently in overhead power lines.

The majority of all interference caused by electric transmission lines, other than line corona, fall into three main categories: (1) improper hardware, (2) faulty apparatus, and (3) physical construction.

The manner and paths by which interference is transmitted to the receiver are the most important characteristics of interference. The interference energy can travel by one, or, simultaneously, by two or three of the following means of transmission: (1) by conductor, via the transformer or by the neutral wire into the receiver power supply, (2) by induction, when the power line carrying the interference energy is near enough to the receiver antenna to be coupled into the receiver, and (3) by radiation, when the energy is transmitted into space with the power line acting as a transmitting antenna. In this last instance, the energy can be radiated from a distant line and be reradiated from a nearby fence, power line, or metallic structure.

Low-frequency interference generally is carried by the first two methods. Conduction currents decrease more slowly with distance along the line as the frequency is decreased. Radiation is generally the cause at high frequencies. Power line interference is roughly in inverse proportion to the frequency. The higher the frequency, the lower the absolute interference level. Above a frequency of 100 MHz, conducted power line interference is quite likely to be only six to ten pole-line spans from your receiver. There have been cases of radiated power line interference originating from a source as far as 30 miles away. This is the exception and not the rule. Generally, the high-frequency power line noises which will bother you are located less than one mile from your location. If you can see the interference on the screen of your television set, on channel 2, 3, or up to channel 6, the interference source will usually be less than one thousand feet from your QTH.

Since we have touched now on the basic fundamentals of the way power line interference travels, let's see what you can do to track down the location of the source.

For high-frequency noise, you should have a beam antenna—and, preferably, one resonating at ten meters—plus a street map, a 6-pound sledgehammer, and a portable FM receiver. Yes, I said FM receiver, even though you may have been taught that FM discriminates against amplitude noise. On low-frequency noise (160-75 meters), I use a portable AM receiver with coverage from 540 kHz to 4 MHz. Your receiver in the shack must be capable of operating in the AM mode. Listening on a receiver in the SSB position, or with the bfo on, won't permit hearing what the noise sounds like. It is very important to hear the pitch of the noise so that you can distinguish between power line noise and other electrical noise.

Tune your receiver in the shack to a clear frequency, preferably on ten meters. Now turn your beam until the noise peaks (make sure you are not picking the noise up off the back of your beam). Now get your street map out and draw a line on it in the direction your beam is pointed. Get in your car and turn the FM car receiver on to a clear channel on the low end of the band. (If you do not have an FM receiver in your car, you are in for some walking.) Start driving to the streets you have marked on your map.

As you approach the source, you will start hearing the interference. As the amplitude increases, tune your receiver higher in frequency (again make sure you pick a clear frequency). When you think you have reached the peak noise level, stop your car. Now use your portable FM receiver to locate the pole with the highest noise level. Tap the suspected pole with the sledgehammer. This vibration should cause an intermittent noise in your portable receiver if this is the noisy pole. Report this pole location in writing to your electric utility company as the source of interference.

From experience, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to reconfirm, in writing, every phone conversation you have with your utility company. Some employees have a very convenient way of not remembering what was discussed. Also, do not hesitate to call them to find out what progress they are making correcting the source of interference. Persistence will pay off.

Tracking down low-frequency noises is an entirely different ball game. I will not go into this method at this time, even though I have been extremely successful in locating these for the electric company. Unless you have a receiver in your car which covers 75 and 160 meters, you are in for a lot of walking. Don't think you can track it down with your AM car radio by itself. What you hear at 540 kHz may not be heard on 75 or 160 meters. Also, what you hear on 75 and 160 meters may not be heard on the broadcast band. Do not use an AM broadcast-band receiver to track down line noises unless you are well experienced in power line noise technique.

I would like to mention that noises which usually bother all frequencies are generally caused by loose connections, tie wires, lightning arresters, insulators, and hardware. Very seldom are they caused by a transformer. However, most noises generated by power lines that are heard only on 75 and 160 meters are usually from transformers.

Within the past 3 years, I have located 67 sources of power line noise with the above procedure. These locations were reported to the electric utility and 55 have been corrected. (I did have to send the utility company a copy of the FCC rules regarding incidental radiation devices.) The majority of our power line interference has been caused by loose clamps and connections, plus oxidized tie wires and dead-end insulators. A few cases were lightning arresters. 24 of the locations were noisy transformers (mainly caused by a capacity current discharge) that were causing only low-frequency interference. These the electric company replaced. As of this writing, the utility company has work orders written on 12 more noisy transformers that were causing only low-frequency interference.

Since I embarked on this project, my neighbors have a much better image of amateur radio. Many times the power line interference was being blamed on my amateur radio station. One of my neighbors cut my 160-meter antenna down twice, thinking this was causing his TVI when it actually was power line interference. Many of the neighbors have thanked me for locating the source of the power line interference and for having the electric company eliminate the interference.

There have been some very informative articles published in *QST* and other publications concerning power line and electrical interference. I have listed them below. You should obtain and read them—particularly the first one. Since electrical noises are generated by many sources, one should have the information covered in this article before blaming the power company for the interference.

Although I have been active in amateur radio since the early 1930s, it has been only in the past two years that I have become knowledgeable about EMI. With study and experience, you also can become knowledgeable on the subject. You will experience the pleasure of clearing up not only your reception, but also the reception on your neighbor's TV set. Good hunting! ■

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Hard Copy from your Xitex Terminal

—when a video display isn't quite enough

Many hams and computer enthusiasts are turning to video terminals to get rid of the noise machines. There are times, however, when hard copy is desirable, and the purpose of this article is to describe how to obtain parallel ASCII data output from a popular video terminal, the Xitex SCT-100 (see *73*, December, 1978).

The SCT-100 accepts either ASCII or Baudot serial data, current loop or RS-232, at two selectable baud rates. Obviously, two different printers would be required if both ASCII and Baudot modes are used and if the printers are interfaced with the signal sources. Fortunately, the SCT-100 converts all signal inputs, either ASCII or Baudot, to parallel ASCII; thus, a single printer will suffice for both modes.

The Xitex SCT-100 video terminal board utilizes a single-chip dedicated microcomputer, the Mostek MK3870/14001A/79056, which identifies an MK3870 chip pre-programmed for video terminal use with either ASCII or Baudot serial data. The MK3870 is a complete 8-bit microcomputer on a single MOS integrated circuit. It executes the F8 instruction set and includes 2K bytes of ROM, 64 bytes of scratchpad RAM, and four 8-bit I/O ports. It requires a single +5-V power supply. All I/O lines are TTL compatible, but each is limited to one TTL load unit.

A partial schematic of how the MK3870 is used in the Xitex SCT-100 is shown in Fig. 1. Port 4 (pins 8-15) is an 8-bit bidirectional data bus used to output parallel ASCII data to the video-screen-refresh RAM and to input parallel ASCII data from the keyboard. Only seven data bits are used for character/control function definition, the eighth data bit being programmed for keyboard strobe input.

Buffers U7 and U15 both enable and buffer keyboard data when U10 pin 31 (KSTB) is scanned by the internal MK3870 firmware.

U10 pin 7 (STRB) is a port 4 strobe, active low when port 4 is used for output. Unfortunately, STRB is also active during other system functions, such as screen clearing, which use printable characters. For use as a printer strobe, STRB must be further qualified to indicate when ASCII data output on the bus is valid for printer input.

U10 pin 32 (K1) is a firmware-generated strobe which, when combined with STRB, will produce the desired output strobe.

With reference to Fig. 1, one IC1 gate inverts STRB to active high, which is then combined with K1 in another IC1 NAND gate. The resulting output strobe (STROBE) is active low and only about 4 µs wide. My printer will accept a strobe this short, but if yours requires a longer strobe, the optional single-shot IC2 may be added. The other two gates of IC1 invert the respective strobe signals to produce active-high or active-low signals as required by your printer.

Remembering that the I/O lines are limited to one TTL load unit each, I buffered the data lines to my printer with IC3 and IC4. I used 74LS08 AND gates for active-high output and 74LS00 NAND gates for active-low output. One CMOS CD4049 or CD4050 and one unused gate from IC1 or U15 also can be used.

I solved the problem of getting at the required eleven connections (Gnd, +5 V, U10 pins 7, 32, and 8-14) through use of the 16-pin DIP socket, J3, which I do not use otherwise. I had to remove the serial output connection from J3 pin 8. The choice of specific pin connections on socket J3 was arbitary and has no special significance. Alternately, you can jumper to unused lines on the S-100 edge connector, J4.

I mounted IC1, IC2, IC3, and IC4 on a small PC board near the SCT-100 board. All power is taken from the SCT-100 board.

If you are real fussy about making modifications on your SCT-100 board, you can escape with having to add only two jumpers. Jumper U10 pin 7 to U15 pin 6, and U10 pin 32 to U15 pin 10. Then, mount U7 and U15 external with IC1-IC4 and connect back to the SCT-100 board with 16-pin DIP plugs in the U7 and U15 sockets.

If your ASCII printer requires serial input, then the addition of a standard UART circuit will turn the trick.

I used the particular chips shown because they were handy at my local Radio Shack. Do not tempt fate with your thirty-five dollar microprocessor by using anything heavier than low-power Schottky chip loads. Bypass the +5-V bus with 0.1-uF discs at each chip. And last, keep the distance from the SCT-100 board to your off-board ICs short: six inches or less if possible.

Incidentally, the MK3870 is virtually a single-chip ASCII/Baudot serial/parallel converter by itself. Costwise, it is competitive with the multi-chip versions. You might wish to consider this if your only printer is a Model 15 or 19 Baudot machine and you need a parallel ASCII/serial Baudot conversion. I have an article in the planning stages on just such applications. I would be interested in hearing about any reader experiences or ideas.

I wish to thank Bob Ferrier with Xitex and Mike Miller with Mostek for their technical assistance with this project. ■

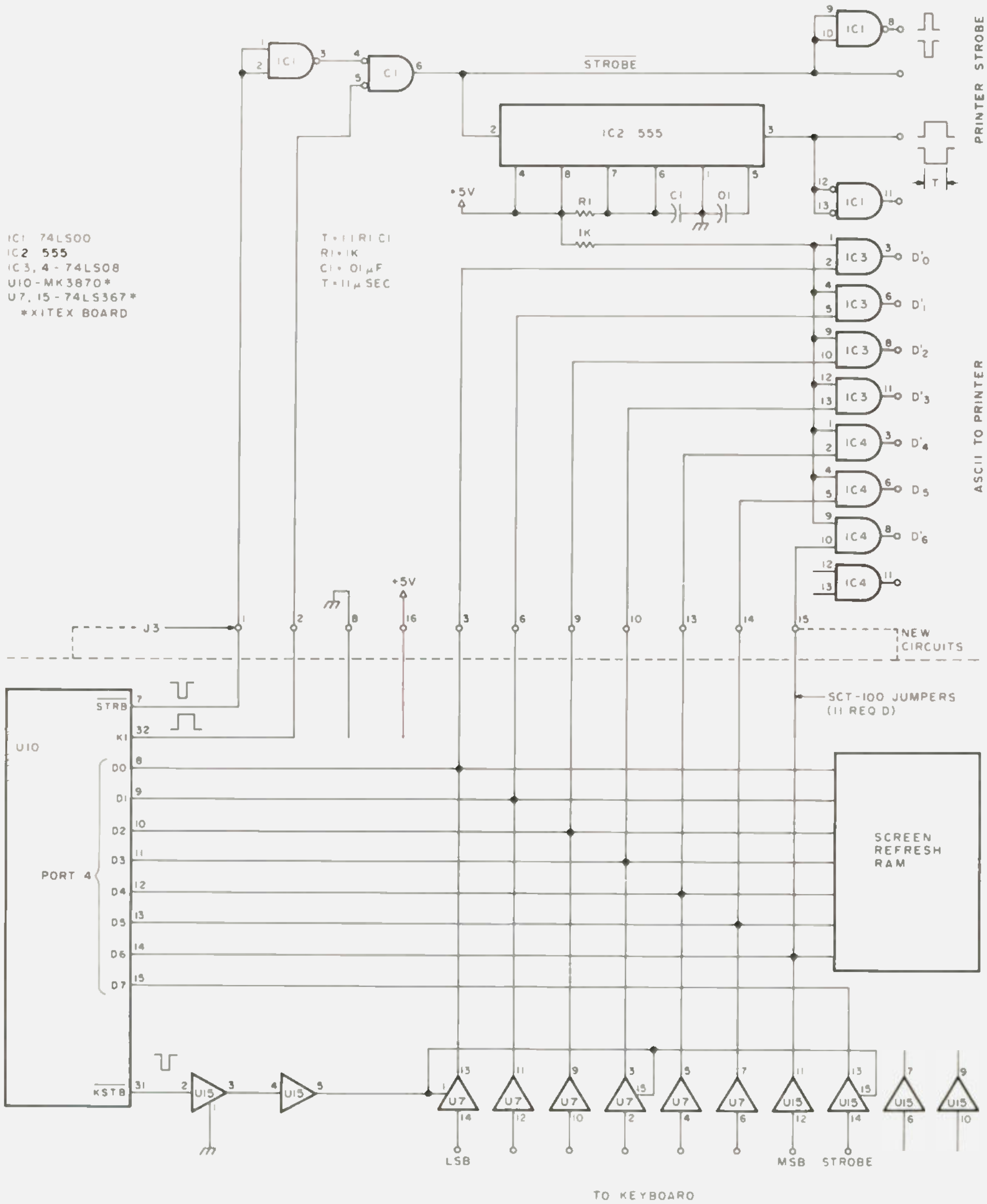

Fig. 1. Partial Xitex SCT-100 schematic showing additional circuits required to generate printer strobe and buffer printer data.

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Excavation Litigation

—don't dig a hole without your lawyer

To put up a good beam usually requires a good tower; to put up a good tower—especially if self-supporting—requires a good concrete base. To pour a good base requires that you dig a hole—and that sometimes causes a few legal problems.

There are probably other potential legal problems that I have not thought of that might arise when digging a hole near a property line, but here are four such problems which have been brought to my attention so far.

Error In Calculating the Property Line

This kind of error can come about in two ways. First, sometimes the property line is not where you think it is, especially on hillside properties. And you would be surprised how expensive it is to move a tower after your neighbor discovers it is on his property and will not let you keep it there! To avoid this problem, if there are no property-line survey marks you can rely on and if the tower is to be positioned anywhere near a property line, have the line surveyed before you dig.

Second, although I know it sounds dumb, some people forget that the antenna is wider than the tower. So, if the tower is right next to a property line, the antenna could stick out into the neighbor's air space. If that happens, the neighbor has the right to make you move it—and that is just as bad as if the tower itself were over the property line. So do not forget to calculate carefully the radius of the antenna over 360 degrees before planning the tower.

Blocking the Neighbor's View or Sunlight

This problem, too, seems to crop up mainly in hillside properties. It may seem to be the height of reasonableness for the valley dweller with a hillside near his house to place a tower on the hillside and capture a position above the surrounding hills, but to the dweller on top of the ridge, an antenna sticking up at the edge of his yard—so that he has to look between the director and the reflector to see the sun setting over the ocean—can be very frustrating.

The legal aspects of blocking a view (or sunlight) are now in a state of change and vary in different courts and different locales. The point to be aware of, however, is that the trend is toward recognition by courts of these rights and away from the absolute property rights characteristic of earlier times. The advent of solar power—even in theory, if not yet often in practice—has given an impetus to this trend, as judges, along with other people, have begun to recognize the importance of not allowing sunlight to be blocked or "hoarded" by anyone.

From the radio operator's point of view, the thing to do is recognize the potential problem and try to position the tower and antenna where it will not interfere with any often-used view, particularly some unusual or spectacular view, nor block light to an important area. If there is some problem in avoiding this result, consider other alternatives, such as:

(a) A motorized, or hand-crank tower, to lower the antenna when it is not in use;

(b) A smaller-sized antenna; or

(c) Meeting with the potentially-offended neighbor and obtaining permission to erect the tower on some less offending spot owned by the neighbor. I know of one case where a hillside dweller offered to allow an amateur operator below to put the beam antenna right on the hilltop dweller's house, just to get it out of the beautiful ocean view from his backyard.

Interference With Underground or Property Line Easements

Many property titles are legally "burdened" by deeds to telephone companies, electric companies, cable television operators, and other utilities which give these services various rights. Usually these rights are to install—either under or over the ground—various cables and pipes and often to enter onto the property to replace, service, and check these installations. These easements are often so broad that although you "own" the property—and the right to have it included in your property taxes!—you or your predecessor have given up the use of these (usually five-foot) strips.

If you install anything which blocks utility company rights or prevents exercise of the rights granted, you may be required to move your tower. Even if the utility is not using the easement now, it might wish to do so a few weeks after you install the tower, or it might just make difficulties because it is run by people intent on enforcing their rights.

In the western states, you probably can check these easements on a title insurance policy, which often has a map attached to it showing the easement. In the eastern states, easements are more complicated, and you may have to check with a lawyer to have a basic title search done.

Another aspect of the same problem is the danger of cutting or otherwise damaging cables or pipes when digging the hole. By checking in advance to be sure you are not digging into an easement, you can eliminate your risk of legal liability here. It is not uncommon, however, to find utilities which have run their lines outside of designated easements, so you still may dig up something unexpected.

Causing Damage to the Neighbor's Structure

There are three general ways I have known this to happen:

(a) Mechanical drilling, such as by jackhammer, can cause shock waves potentially damaging to nearby structures.

(b) Loss of lateral support can cause unexpected (and sometimes almost inexplicable) land movement resulting in damage to nearby structures. In California, there are special statutory duties created which require a person digging near a property line to give advance notice to the neighbor and which create special liabilities for damages which result from taking away lateral support from a neighbor's ground.

(c) By far the most common major problems I have seen resulting from property line excavation are water drainage problems. In an area where there is a rainy season, particular care should be taken not to change any drainage pattern, as the slightest change can cause thousands of pounds of water to accumulate in unexpected places.

It goes without saying that an equally damaging result can occur from accidentally cutting or blocking a water line or sprinkler feed, as water can build up underground for a long period before discovery.

Have I talked you out of putting up that tower? I have not even mentioned deed restrictions, height limitations, airport clearance and lighting regulations, city permits, covenants running with the land, neighbors running after you with a shotgun, or a host of other problems. I stopped with digging the hole.

Please do not let this discourage you. My only point has been that if you are going to dig a hole, do not dig it very near a property line unless you take special care to avoid the special problems that can arise in that situation. ■

Reader Service—see page 179

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Noise Rejector II

—an exciting sequel

The name of the game (particularly on 160 meters for about nine months of the year) is to achieve QSOs through various QRN types and levels—atmospherics, line buzzes, TV and industrial radiations, etc. It is only October through February that nature-made and man-made noises are not the chief deterrent to ham operation on the lower frequency bands, though even on higher bands noises can be a nuisance at times. It has long been easier to QSY upward during the QRN season to escape the problem. And how often—on all bands—are QSOs interrupted by some sort of QRN? To combat the problem successfully, rather than run upward in frequency in dismay and frustration, I was forced to devise a means of coping with the noise.

QSY-up has not been my favorite tactic in over forty years of hamming. Various loops and low-noise receiving antennas were tried with some success, but there were always drawbacks, such as solid-state circuitry, preamps, etc., getting zapped because of malfunctioning antenna relays or just forgetting to flip the relay switch while gassing away at length on the air. Round tables and DXers just love this sort of thing. Then, too, depending on the time of day, loops often pick up only sky-wave propagation or vice versa. There also have to be adjustments made, such as tuning, turning, switching, etc. This happens often in the frenzy of a DX pileup. So I tried approaching the problem from the other end, trying many varied devices. Many were built, but I seldom produced a unit which would not materially disturb signal intelligence while overcoming QRN of various sorts. Eventually, I was able to work out circuitry that performed in the manner desired with a minimum of drawbacks. Fig. 1 is the circuit which has proved adequate.

73 Magazine printed my first article on this noise-coping-modifying system in their September, '77, issue. Since that time, several refinements and additions have been made in the circuitry. This improved circuit has proved most helpful on all bands, and the 3" × 6" × 2½" utility box of the older circuit will take the changes.

As the circuit diagram (Fig. 1) shows, the unit is a succession of af clipper, limiter, filter, and peaking circuits coupled in a simple easy-to-build device. Pleasantly, the circuit layout is uncritical, with common parts used throughout. New parts may be obtained from the catalogs of the big electronics parts supply houses. (I have found all the parts I've needed at neighborhood TV servicemen's supply stores.)

It may be best to begin the project on a 10" piece of 1" × 6" breadboard. This can be fronted by a piece of 3" × 10" aluminum paneling, in order to mount jacks and controls. Breadboarding will give one the opportunity to test the circuit, making adjustments, substitutions, evaluations, and generally improving the project prior to final construction. The circuit values shown in the diagram have suited my particular needs over the years and may serve as an equally good starting point for you. When these values were finally determined and circuit performance was approved, the unit was finalized and made electronical-

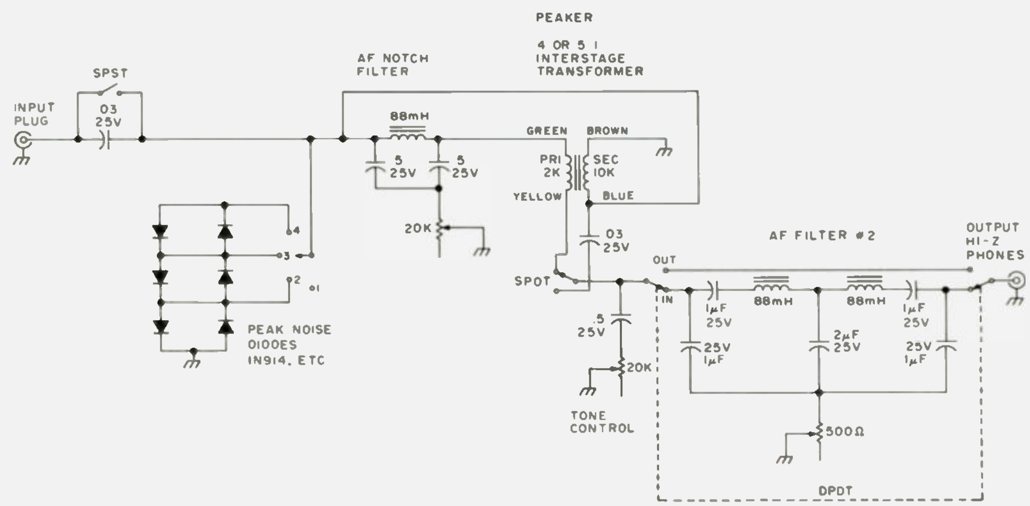

Fig. 1. Circuit diagram.

ly attractive by mounting it in the utility box. A small chassis would do just as well.

Circuit Description

The unit's input phone plug fits into the phone jack of a receiver/transceiver. Hi-Z phones plug into the unit's output jack. The af input feeds into the .03 input capacitor, which is shorted by an SPST toggle switch. This varies the amount of signal/garbage to be passed. When clear atmospheric conditions exist, the switch is put in the closed position so more af can pass any signals and noise. This is particularly useful when copying the weak ones. Other noise can be modified in later circuitry, either by the two filters or by the tone-control, depending on the type of noise. Because signals are just one form of atmospheric disturbance, such filtering devices are designed to overcome noise at the same time that they raise signals to a copyable level. Some circuits accomplish this better than others This process can be tricky, as the suppression of unwanted noise usually interferes with "good" signals. A slight attenuation is normal, depending on the circuitry. A signal/noise-discriminating circuit is what is needed. There is only slight signal attenuation with this circuit. It doesn't "ring." The signals are lifted above the remaining background noise to a copyable level. Sometimes—under some conditions—the unit effects only a slight improvement. However, the improvement is *usually* dramatic, making a QSO possible under otherwise impossible conditions. This logic and unit have proved very successful over the years, dealing with almost all noise types and conditions. As low-noise antennas are often inconvenient, this approach is simplest and most adequate . . . for this ham.

Cascaded diodes form the clipper-limiter. It clips high-noise pulses in addition to peaks and buzzes at the initial part of the circuit. The clipper-limiter deals with these before signal distortion can get into later circuitry, thus freeing the later circuitry to deal with other types of noises. A four-position rotary switch successively selects the required rejection depth. Next comes af filter #1, an af notch-type filter, which narrows the af passband and exalts and clarifies signals. It is varied by the 20k pot. Like all elements of this unit, this one is also noise-modifying. Then the peaker circuit raises the af level that had been lowered somewhat by previous circuitry. Its transformer primary can be switched in/out, adjusting to still other noise conditions. The tone control handles atmospherics most effectively and is probably the most used control in the unit. The final section starts with a DPDT toggle switch which selects or bypasses filter #2. This filter is noise-eliminating as it sharply narrows the af passband, which also contributes to further receiver selectivity. In combination, these circuits increase the range and effectiveness of the unit.

Should you require more audio or desire to get more volume from a speaker, a solid-state op amp could be used, but a larger housing box will be required. I use this unit barefoot, as is, getting completely adequate earphone gain.

While I am sure that this unit is not the final answer to our noise problems, it still is a valuable step in that direction. At any rate, this is an interesting and helpful approach to our problem. Why not throw these parts on the workbench some evening, and, if you can, improve it. You may be very pleased with its considerable utility, as I have been. See you on 160. ■

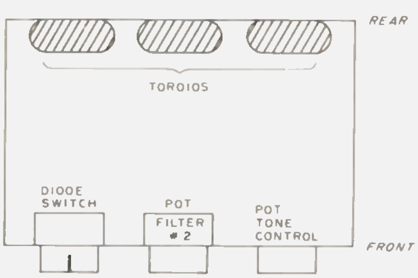

Fig. 2.

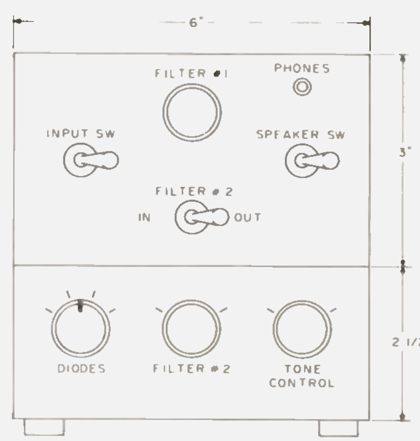

Fig. 3.

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Willowick OH 44094

Trouble-Free ID Timer

—for repeaters

Does your repeater suffer from an identity crisis? Does it over-identify? If it does, this project is just what you need.

The circuit for this timer evolved from many disappointing experiences with other long-time delay methods used over the years, all of which suffered from glitches on the power or signal lines causing extraneous identifications.

Although the circuit described was designed for a ten-minute timing interval, other intervals can be obtained by changing resistor and capacitor values. In addition, if a microprocessor is used for control, it can test the timer to ascertain the status and effect an interrupt if desired.

Design Goals

The timer circuit was designed with the following requirements in mind (see schematic in Fig. 1):

1. The timer must be set by a TTL high-to-low transition supplied by the carrier-operated switch.

2. The timer must provide a TTL active-high pulse to initiate the identification generator circuit.

3. An identification sequence must occur immediately when the repeater is accessed if it has been dormant for longer than ten minutes.

4. An identification sequence must occur once, and only once, during any ten-minute interval while the repeater is in use.

5. The timer circuit must use readily available parts.

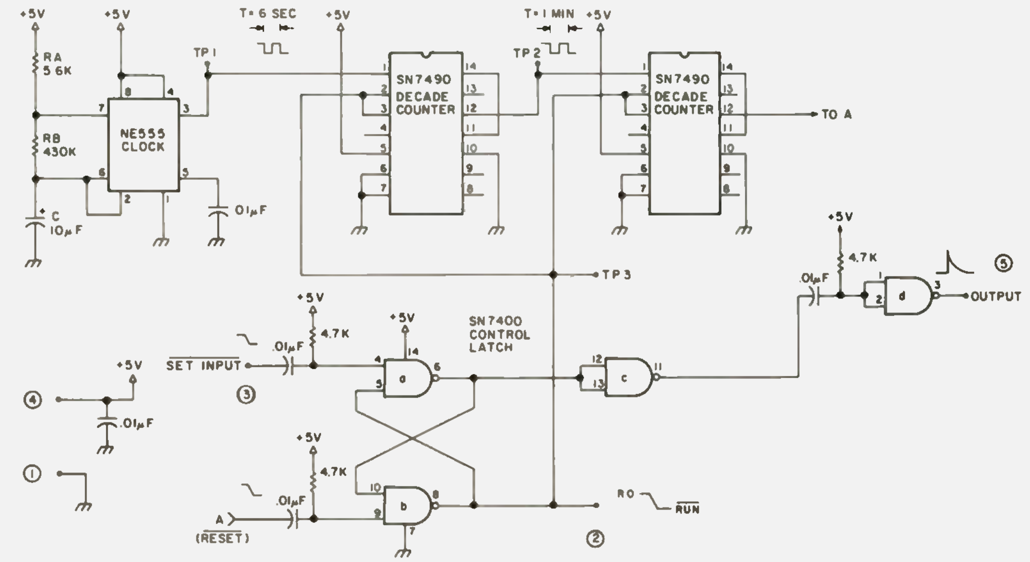

Fig. 1. Schematic of the timer circuit. Encircled numbers are PC board terminal designations. All resistors are ¼ Watt, 5%. All capacitors are disc ceramic except the timing network capacitor, which is a dipped tantalum type.

Clock

A free-running (astable) multivibrator is used as the clock. It consists of an NE555 integrated circuit and an RC timing network. Values for Ra, Rb, and C were calculated from the following formulas (T denotes the period of the clock):

$$T = 600\ \text{seconds}/100$$
$$T = 0.693\,(Ra + 2Rb)C$$

The output of the clock can be monitored by connecting an oscilloscope between TP-1 and ground. Operation of the clock is not affected by the control latch; therefore, a square wave should be observed at TP-1 whenever power is applied.

If you need some other period, the calculated values will probably not work out to be standard EIA resistor values. In this case, use the next higher EIA values. Precision resistors are not required, since satisfactory stability will be achieved with 5% tolerance components.

Divider

Two decade counters are connected in cascade to achieve a divide-by-100 counter. The clock drives the input of the divider chain, and the divider output is used to drive the reset input of the control latch.

Whether or not the divider is allowed to function depends on the status of the control latch. When the control latch is in the reset state, a logic-high condition will be present at pin 2 of each counter. This is a reset-to-zero (R0) state which prevents the counter from incrementing, even though clock pulses are present. When the control latch is placed in the set state, a logic zero is placed on pin 2 of each counter. This permits the counters to increment in response to clock pulses.

Operation of the first counter can be verified by connecting an oscilloscope between TP-2 and ground. A square wave having a period of one minute will be observed when the divider is running.

Control Latch

The control latch consists of an RS latch formed by cross-connecting NAND gates A and B. When an active-low pulse is applied to the set input, the latch is placed in the set state. This causes two events to occur. The output of gate B becomes logic low, which is the run signal for the divider. The output of gate A is inverted by gate C which, in turn, causes gate D to output an active-high pulse which is used to initiate the identification sequence.

Once the latch is set, subsequent pulses at the set input will have no effect on the timer. After the timing interval elapses, which in this case is ten minutes, the divider provides a high-to-low transition to the reset input of the control latch. This causes the control latch to revert to the reset state and, consequently, the divider is reset to zero. The latch will remain in the reset state until the next set pulse is received; then, the cycle will repeat.

Construction

The circuit was built on a PC board measuring 3-5/8″ by 1-1/2″ from the artwork shown in Fig. 2. For those of you unable to roll your own, arrangements have been made with Firston Electronics, PO Box 151, Streetsboro OH 44240, to supply etched and drilled boards at a nominal cost. Prices are available for an SASE.

Assembly should proceed quickly by following the component location drawing, Fig. 3. The usual precautions should be observed, such as double-checking the polarity of electrolytic capacitors, inspecting for solder bridges, etc.

Testing

Connect a 5-volt power supply to terminals 1 and 4 while observing proper polarity. Check to verify that the clock is running by verifying the square-wave signal at TP-1.

Apply an active-low pulse to the set input (terminal 3). In order to achieve proper operation, the set input must be nearly +5 volts prior to application of the pulse. Refer to Fig. 4 for suggested methods of accomplishing this. Verify that the latch was set by observing the logic level at TP-3. A logic-high state indicates reset and logic low indicates set.

Connect the oscilloscope to TP-2 to verify that the divider chain is counting when the latch is set.

To verify that an output pulse occurs when the latch is set, connect an oscilloscope between terminal 5 and ground. Apply a set pulse and observe a very fast, active-high pulse at terminal 5. Unless you have experience with digital circuits, you may have some difficulty seeing this pulse because of the short duration.

During the testing phase, you may find it annoying to have to wait the full ten minutes for the latch to be reset. You can shorten the timer to one minute by shutting off the power supply and removing one of the counter integrated circuits. In its place, install a jumper wire between pins 1 and 12. Now, the timer interval will be reduced to one minute.

Conclusion

The timer described has been in operation for over a year with excellent results. Elimination of extraneous identifications sure makes the repeater more pleasant to listen to. ■

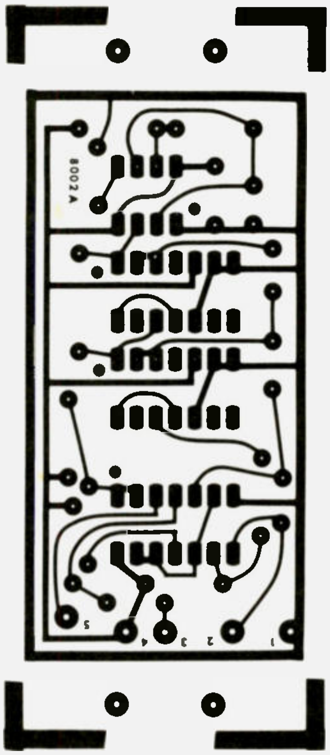

Fig. 2. Actual-size artwork showing the foil side of the PC board.

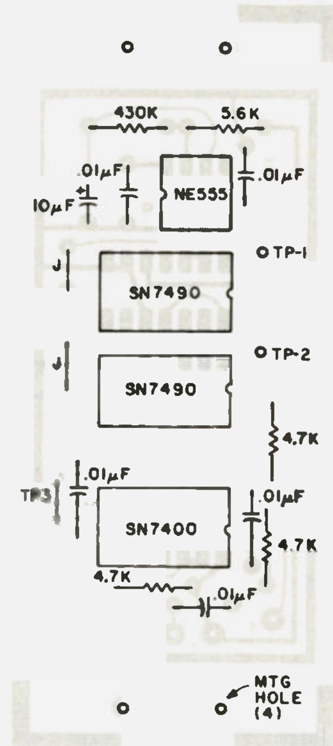

Fig. 3. Component location drawing. A dot is placed near pin 1 of each integrated circuit for identification. TP-1 and TP-2 are made from cut-off resistor leads and have an "eye" formed at one end. TP-3 is a jumper with an "eye" formed in the middle.

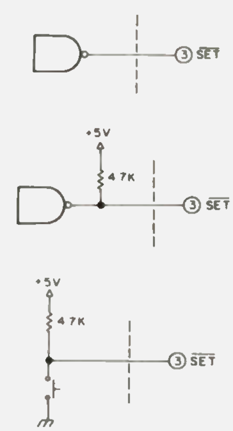

Fig. 4. Totem pole TTL gate, top; open collector, center; hardware switch, bottom. The set input must be held near +5 volts when set pulses are not present. This may require the use of a pull-up resistor if an open collector gate is used to drive this input or if it is driven by a switch.

Bob Heil K9EID
PO Box 26
Marissa IL 62257

So You Want to Build a Beacon?

—here's how

This project was started as a club activity to help the two-meter enthusiasts in the Midwest to determine how two-meter propagation varied from day to day. The goal was to set up a 24-hour beacon, battery powered, and vertically and horizontally polarized. This was to be accomplished with very easy-to-get parts so that the project could be duplicated widely—so that many clubs around the country could follow suit and, perhaps, start a series of beacon systems on the low end of two meters.

The frequency that the Marissa Amateur Radio Club (MARC) set up for the beacon was 144.050. Since many two-meter operators have only FM equipment, a method was devised so that the signal could be copied with the conventional CW receiver as well as an FM receiver.

Transmitting Strip

The transmitting strip used was one of the one-Watt VHF Engineering strips. One of their kit versions was used and it was found very easy to assemble and align. Since it would be used to transmit a regular broken-carrier, A1 CW signal, the oscillator and tripler were wired to run all the time while the driver and final were keyed from the identification board. This was done by

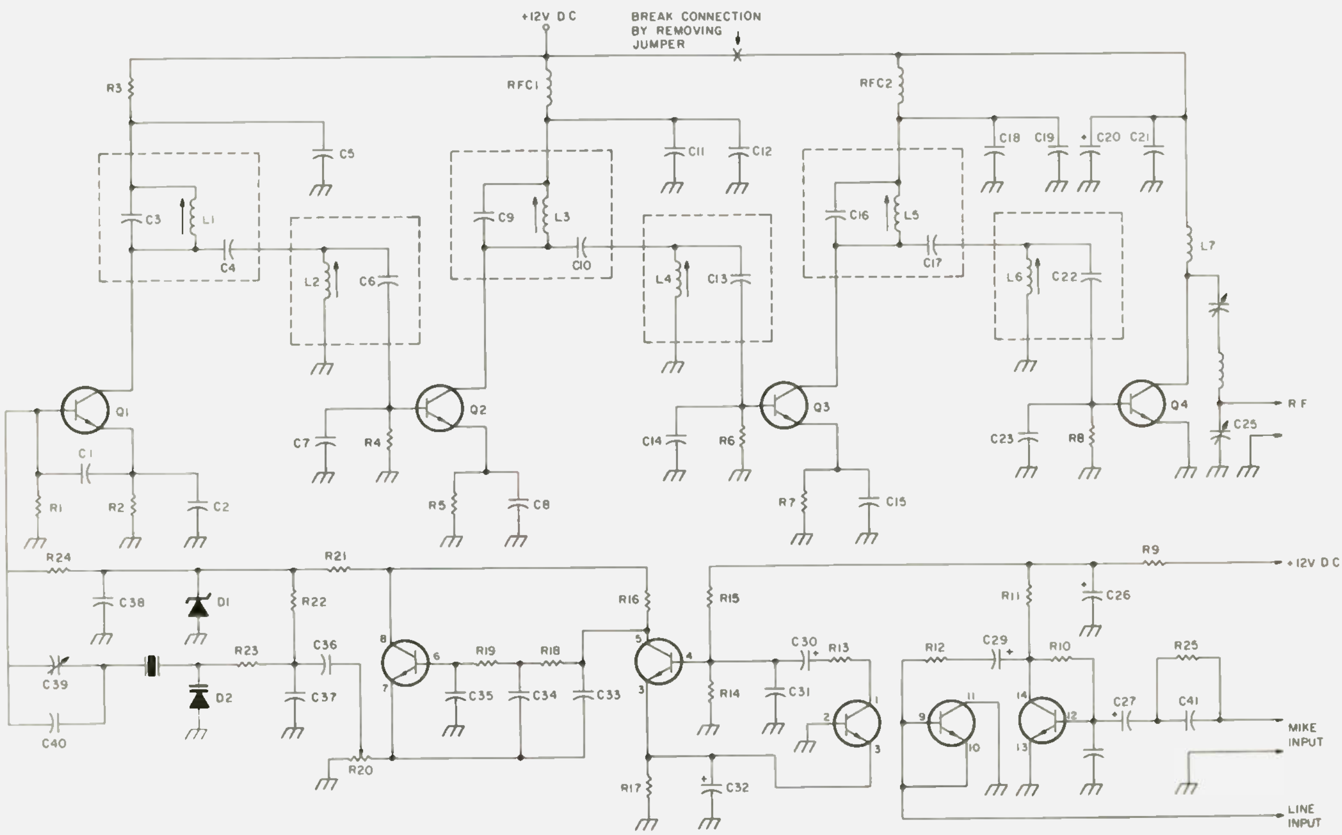

Fig. 1. VHF Engineering TX 144 transmitter.

simply breaking the B+ lead that feeds the driver and final transistors. No problems were encountered. Fig. 1 shows this modification to the regular VHF strip. Fig. 2 shows component location.

CW Ident Board

A system to program the beacon very easily was developed by using one of the CW identification boards from VHF Engineering. This board has a RTTY output which actually is a logic high with each character that the circuit sends. The board is mainly for FM repeater use, and the audio tone from the 555 tone oscillator is used to drive the audio section of repeater transmitters. The system used for the beacon uses *both* outputs. A simple 2N2222 transistor circuit uses the RTTY logic output to drive an electronic switching network that keys the driver and final transistors of the transmitter. This gives us the CW A1 signal for receivers that will be listening in the SSB or CW mode. At the same time this is happening, a very small amount of audio is taken from the normal tone oscillator circuit of the CW ident board to drive the microphone input of the transmitter strip. Adjustment of this audio tone is kept very low so as not to FM the CW signal too much. It takes only a very slight amount of level to make a tone audible when listening to the signal through a regular FM receiver. (See Fig. 3.)

Power Supply

Since we wanted the beacon to run continuously without any failure, it was decided to use a car battery with a charging system so that there would be no need to rely upon the ac line at all times. A small 3-Amp, 12.6-volt regulated dc supply was tapped across the sealed-type car battery, keeping the battery trickle-charged. The entire transmitter and identification board draw only around 500 mA, so that the battery will run the system for several days should ac power fail. (See Fig. 4.)

An accessory circuit that may be of use is shown in Fig. 5. This circuit senses any 110-volt ac failure, and should the power drop, the battery takes over automatically. When this happens, a low-level beep tone is generated every 3 seconds. This tone is fed to the audio input of the transmitting strip and warns any control operators that the ac power has dropped and the beacon is running on battery power.

This circuit is not necessary but is a nice addition for groups which may have problems with ac power losses. It has been our experience that many operators become dependent on the beacon for checking nightly (or daily) band conditions on two meters; it is best, therefore, that all systems should be made so that power failure will not affect beacon operation.

Control Access

If you remote your beacon, you should have some form of link control to shut the transmitter down should any problems occur. An easy approach to this is to use a Midland 13-509, 220-MHz rig. This is a natural for link use. It takes about one hour to get the unit split up and ready for action. The receiver board is mounted with four screws. Remove the squelch and volume pots and cut out all of the crystal wires from the 12-channel switch. Since you will use it only on one frequency, the 12-channel switch and socket assembly also can be removed.

The transmitter board is left in the original case and chassis. Simply remount the receiver board along with the beacon equipment and connect the logic system that you choose to do your controlling. This should take care of any link control situations that you might need for this or any other project. There have been numerous articles in *73 Magazine* describing various logic control systems that can be used over the 220-MHz link, so there is no need to cover that subject here.

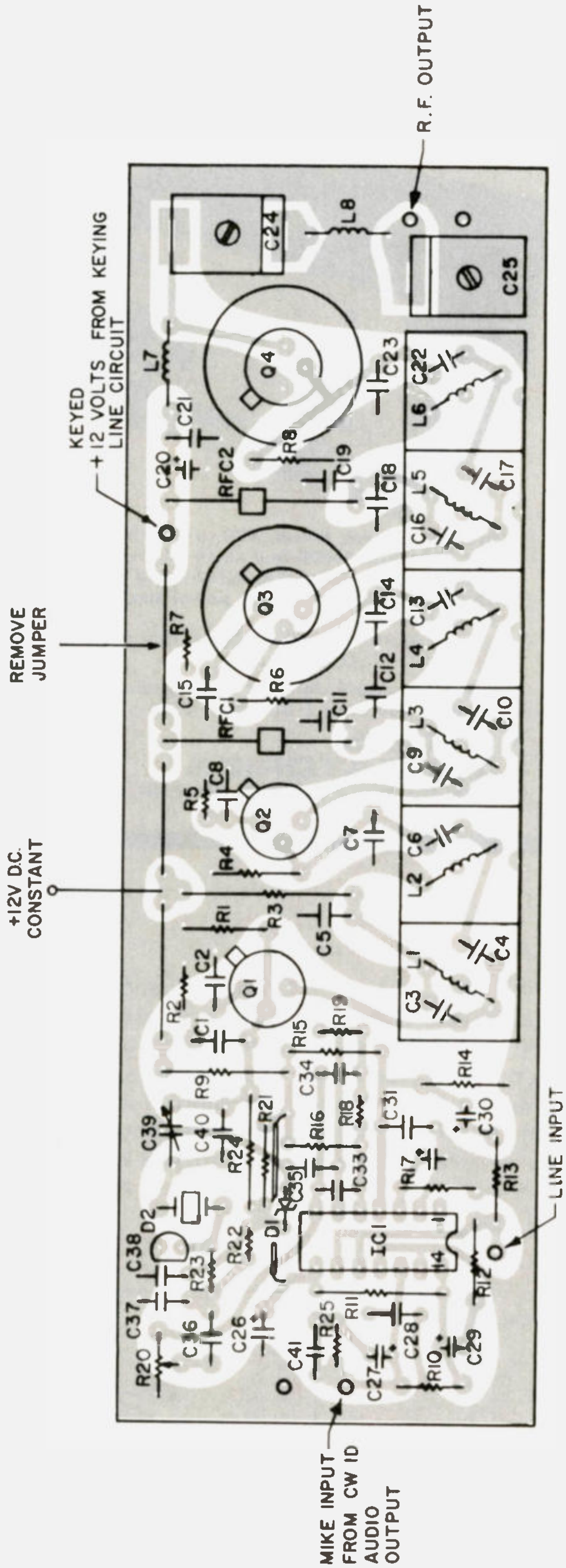

Fig. 2. Component location (component side).

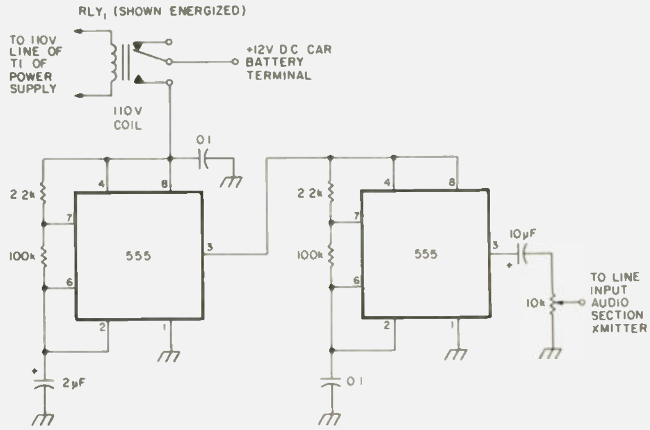

Fig. 5. Power failure beeper.

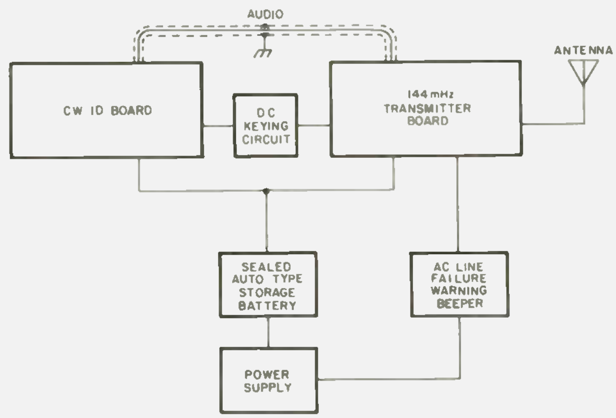

Fig. 6. Block diagram, WD9GOE beacon.

Antenna System

It was decided that both horizontal and vertical polarization must be used to give maximum coverage with the beacon. Several systems were tried, but the simplest and most effective was obtained with a Cushcraft four-pole AFM-4D antenna system. Two of the dipoles were turned to the horizontal plane and two to the vertical plane. The regular phasing harness was used, and the antenna seemed to work beautifully. It gave us the necessary pattern with ease in connecting and mounting.

Results

The MARC beacon group has programmed the identification CW board with a long, three-second steady tone followed by the club call, WD9GOE, and the word "beacon." This then repeats after a two-second stand-by. The VHF Engineering CW ident board has just the correct number of bauds for all of this. The diode matrix *could* be expanded, but this would be quite involved and really is not necessary since all of the necessary information can be programmed on the regular board.

The beacon committee of MARC asked that all stations receiving the beacon QSL to WD9GOE; they were going to send a report to the FCC at the end of December. Several of the reports received to date are from 300 miles out, and many of the SWOT group (Side Winders On Two) have done a great job in passing the word of the beacon's existence. Many of these serious two-meter operators rely on the Marissa beacon to plot a propagation each day. Some of them are even using a time recorder coupled to a tape recorder and are monitoring the beacon on a 24-hour basis so that they can chart the paths. ■

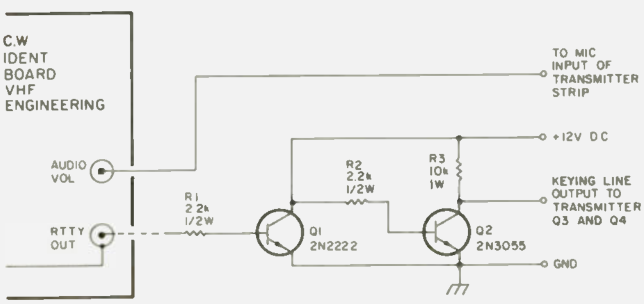

Fig. 3. Transmitter keying circuit.

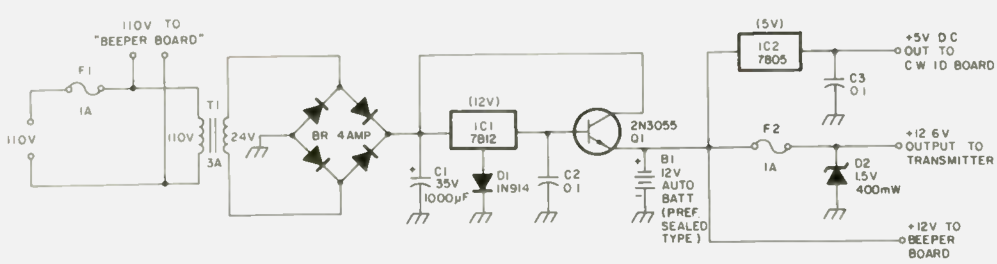

Fig. 4. Power supply for the beacon.

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- 4 bit CPU chip for frequency control.
- Keyboard entry of all frequencies
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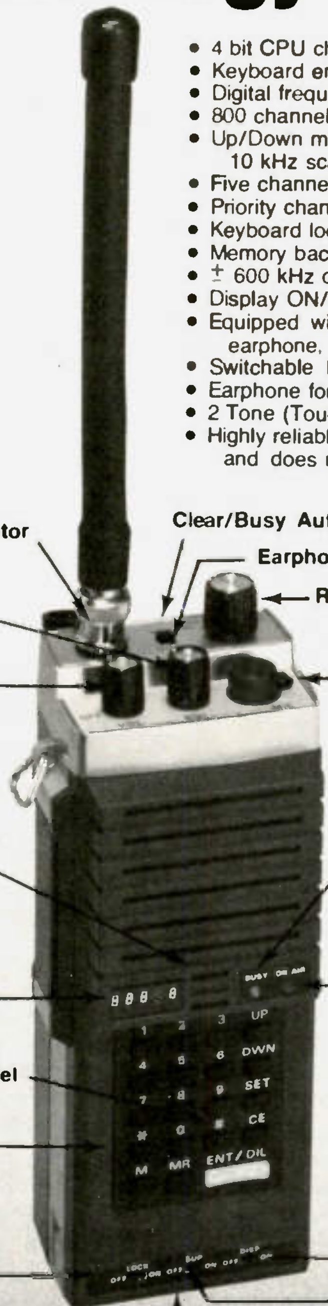
- 800 channels across 144-148 MHz.
- Up/Down manual scan, or auto scan for busy/clear channels. 10 kHz scanning steps.
- Five channels of memory
- Priority channel with search-back feature.
- Keyboard lock to prevent accidental frequency change.
- Memory backup
- ± 600 kHz or odd repeater splits.
- Display ON/OFF switch for battery conservation.
- Equipped with rubber flex antenna, wallmount battery charger, earphone, shoulder strap, and belt clip.
- Switchable RF output 2.5 watts (minimum) or 200 mW
- Earphone for private listening
- 2 Tone (Touchtone®) Input from Keyboard
- Highly reliable LED frequency display (works in cold temperatures and does not fade with age)



SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL

Frequency coverage: 144-148 MHz
Number of channels: 800
Emission type: F3
Batteries: NiCd battery pack
Voltage requirement: 10.8 VDC ±10%, maximum
Current consumption:
Receive: 35 mA squelched (150 mA unsquelched with maximum audio)
Transmit: 800 mA (full power)
Case dimensions: 68×181×54 mm (HWD)
Weight (with batteries): 680 grams

RECEIVER

Circuit type: Double conversion superherterodyne
Intermediate frequencies.
1st IF = 10.7 MHz
2nd IF = 455 kHz
Sensitivity: 0.32 uV for 20 dB quieting
Selectivity: ± 7.5 kHz at 60 dB down
Audio Output: 200 mW at 10% THD

Price And Specifications Subject To Change Without Notice Or Obligation

TRANSMITTER

Power Output: 2.5 watts minimum /200mW
Deviation: ± 5 kHz
Spurious radiation: −60 dB or better
Microphone: Condenser type (2000 ohms)

OPTIONS

LC-C7 Leather Carrying Case
YM-24 Remote Speaker/Microphone
Tone Squelch Unit
NB-P9 Battery Pack
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Denville NJ 07834

Working with FETs

—part III: the source follower

In part II of this article, I continued a discussion of audio amplifiers which use the FET, the transistor that thinks it's a tube. Let's finish up by examining more of the functions these devices can be made to perform.

Let's look at the output signal from our basic FET amplifier (Fig. 1). Usually it is coupled through a medium-value electrolytic, such as 10 uF. This is higher than the tube circuit of Fig. 2. A word about why: While the input impedance of the FET is high, even close to a tube, the circuit resistances are often lower, such as in the drain circuit. The coupling circuit in an RC (resistance-capacitance) coupled circuit is frequency-sensitive. The resistance and capacitance values form a tuned circuit at audio frequencies.

This is related to the time constant of the R and C combination. As a practical matter, it usually is a factor at low frequencies in interstage coupling. The effect is used in tone controls to form circuits to pass or reject frequencies. It is usually the low-frequency cutoff, however, that is the main factor. This is not so critical for communications use, but you may want to make circuits for other uses.

If the tube circuit uses 220k and 0.05 uF as its circuit, then obviously your 10k or 20k, or even less, drain resistance will require more capacitance to do the frequency-coupling job. 10 uF is easy, but there are circuits where you might want 100 uF or more for low-frequency use. The output from the FET drain is still considered high impedance, however. There is a low-impedance output stage. In tubes, this is the common cathode follower. In FETs, it's called a source follower. It is so simple you can't miss.

The basic circuit is shown in Fig. 3. The major difference here is that there is no load resistance in the drain circuit and the drain is bypassed to ground. I used 10 uF for test purposes, but it probably should be more. The input circuit is the same as for the other amplifier, only the output is taken from the source resistor instead of the drain circuit. The coupling capacitor was another 10 uF. I have lots of them, but here, too, it could be larger in value for best low-frequency response.

Now then, the resistance value is shown as 2.2k. This is very commonly the same value as for a tube circuit, and it is the same as in the standard FET amp circuit.

A few things about the source follower. The gain is unity. Come again? That means the gain is one, or more accurately, there is no gain at all. In fact, the gain is less than that. You don't ever get as much out as you put in. It usually can run about 95% of the input, though. Now why would anyone go to the trouble of building an amplifier that doesn't amplify? Oddly enough, the circuit is popular because it doesn't amplify. It has other uses. Let's start with its ability to non-amplify.

There are circumstances where you want a circuit to perform a function, but you don't want gain. The source follower is often used as a mixer circuit. In-

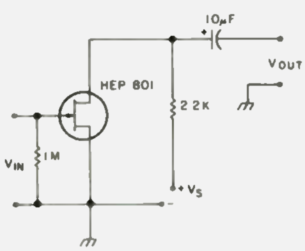

Fig. 1. FET triode circuit.

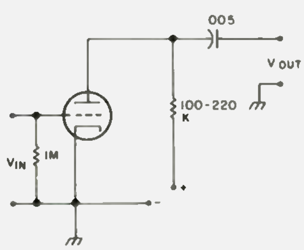

Fig. 2. Triode tube voltage amplifier stage.

puts of various levels are given to the circuit and the output is a smaller signal, but all the inputs come out at the same level. Here gain is not needed, but the ability to control varying signal levels is. This is not the real reason for the follower circuit, however. Its real claim to fame is as an impedance transformer. Here we gain some pragmatic advantage with the circuit.

The normal triode gain-type circuit had a high output impedance. It also had a high signal-output voltage compared to the input. Let's look at what happens to that output when it goes any distance.

The best way to send a signal any distance from the amplifier is with shielded cable of some sort. Right away, we have a problem. Over any appreciable distance, that cable will have a certain amount of distributed capacitance. This will form a trap circuit that will affect the high frequencies. You will start to cut off your audio high frequencies if you use a long cable at the output of the amplifier.

You also will attenuate the signal strength. Sure, your regular amplifier has a higher output voltage than input, but at high impedance, the loss is more as the distance increases. A high-impedance line is also more susceptible to hum and other noise pickup, even though it is shielded.

So, you lose high frequencies, you lose more signal, and you get more hum and noise using a high-impedance output and shielded cable.

That's why you need an impedance-transforming circuit. It takes a high-impedance signal in the gate circuit and turns it into a low-impedance signal at the source. But what does this do for us?

Well, at the lower impedance, you don't have the problem of high-frequency loss that you do with the other circuit. At the lower impedance, you do not have as much signal loss. At low impedance, you stop thinking in voltage terms and start thinking in current terms. You are trying to put some audio power through the cable; even though it is low power, it is not just a matter of signal voltage. Still, your losses will be much less at the lower impedance than the same power at high impedance would be. Also, the lower impedance is less susceptible to stray hum and noise pickup. That is one of the major reasons for using low impedance and why so much fancy audio equipment is geared to a 600-Ohm line or even lower impedances.

What does it mean? Well, if you have a tuner and made the output to the amplifier a high-impedance triode stage, it wouldn't work well when you hooked it up by cable to your amplifier. If you made it a cathode follower or FET or transistor equivalent, you would be able to run a cable of reasonable length and avoid a number of problems. You also may have had trouble when you ran a long cable from a high-impedance microphone to your tape recorder. It picked up hum and noise. That's why many modern recorders use low-impedance mikes. There are some ham rigs that are sporting low-impedance mikes, too. Same reason.

Start with the 2.2k value shown, but play around with a few values to see how the circuit works. You might monitor the current with a VOM so you don't hurt the FET. For most uses, if you go much less in value, you will cut down on the output voltage; you will get much less than the input. Past a certain value, you will not get any more output from the circuit, so you don't get anything using too big a value, either.

While this circuit is good to work with to learn, I really don't recommend a small-signal FET for this particular application. It's a matter of power. At low impedance, you need more current to drive the line and the FET is not designed for current, or at least this one isn't. From a practical viewpoint, a bipolar transistor would be the choice here, but the operation is much the same.

You might have a finished circuit that has two transistors. Your first stage would be a gain stage, as was described. This would build up your signal voltage. The next stage would be the follower stage. You already have your gain, so its job is to change the signal to a low impedance for the cable. This stage may have a gain control to adjust the actual output. This would allow you to set the output to a specific value.

Apart from cable use or where a long run has to be made, there is one other common use such a stage might have. This would be to change a high-impedance signal to a low-impedance signal to go with a transistor. A bipolar transistor is comparatively low impedance, and you might have too much loss trying to ram some signals right into the transistor.

A FET is sometimes used between the signal and transistor stages to make a better match. The same condition can happen with ICs, too. The follower circuit is a handy circuit to keep in mind. It's so easy to make and work with, and when you need it, you have it.

One other effect was noted during experimentation with the regular amplifier. At a certain point, the

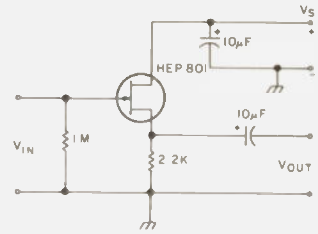

Fig. 3. Source-follower circuit.

output signal exceeded the supply voltage and the signal peaks cut off. Under ordinary circumstances, this is just plain garden-variety distortion, but it does have some useful applications. If you increase the input, the peaks get flatter and flatter. With the best-gain circuit (bypassed resistor), you can adjust the output waveform so that you get a fairly symmetrical square-wave pattern with about 4 volts peak-to-peak input. This is well within the allowable input for the FET, and you get something very close to a square-wave output.

So who needs a circuit that clips the peaks? Well, sometimes it's nice to have square waves, but if you're going to get critical, there are better ways to do that job. There are some applications where this type of circuit is used. It is very similar to the input circuit of many frequency counters. This is often two-stage, the first to give gain, and a clipper stage to precondition the ac input signal so that it looks like a square wave to the ICs to follow.

The FET is high impedance and won't be as much of a load to a sensitive input signal as would a low-impedance IC. There's our impedance match again. This is also similar to the circuits used in musical-instrument amplifiers to get fuzz sounds and long, sustained distortion effects. The square wave will have a fuzzy sound to start with, and, if you really clip hard, the note will decay as the signal decreases. But

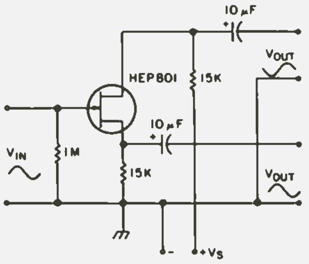

Fig. 4. Basic phase-inverter circuit.

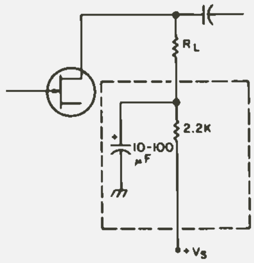

Fig. 5. Decoupling circuit.

because only a tiny input is needed to get the square-wave output, the same output can continue for quite some time before the note will die out.

Since the square-wave output will remain about the same amplitude for most of the time, it seems like the note just hangs in there forever. Normally, the note would decay rapidly to the ear as the amplitude died down. It's a handy little circuit for some purposes and not too hard to get running. Another one to keep in the back of your mind.

There is one tricky little application of the follower circuit which often has been used in audio work. This is the phase inverter. The output signal of your standard triode amplifier is 180 degrees out of phase with the input signal. The output signal of the follower circuit is in phase with the input signal. Thus you can get two signals that are 180 degrees out of phase with each other. The trick is in how you do it. I played around with adjusting back and forth until it suddenly fell into place and was obvious.

Start with your high-gain circuit values. Make the source resistor the same value as your load resistor and take off the two outputs. You now should be in business—see Fig. 4. I found that the circuit would work with values of less than these, but as you go down, the output voltage goes down, too.

It should be mentioned that this is another non-gain circuit. It has the characteristics of the ordinary source-follower circuit. The outputs from both points will be slightly less—or more than slightly less depending upon resistance values—than the input. Its function is to split phase, not provide gain. You either get the gain beforehand, or you get it back after the two channels split up.

Still, you have to admit that it is an easy circuit to try. When you are done, you will have a circuit that will give you two outputs that are 180 degrees out of phase with each other. It is the key circuit for feeding a push-pull amplifier stage. There is also a tube and a bipolar equivalent for power amplifier use. If you have a dual-trace scope or an electronic switch for your scope, you can see both signals at once and see the phase difference. With a simple scope, you may not be able to see the inversion, and it will look like something is wrong as you go back and forth between the outputs.

My scope wouldn't show it, so here is an easy test for use with a basic scope. Feed your audio input signal to both the vertical and horizontal inputs. Adjust the controls for a convenient trace size at your normal amplifier input level. This should yield a straight line slanting diagonally across the face of the CRT. If there is more than a little bend, you may have scope trouble. This will show you what two in-phase inputs will look like.

Now connect the signal to both the input of the amplifier and the vertical input of the scope, and connect the source output to the horizontal input. It should look just like your first test—in phase. Now switch the horizontal scope lead from the source to the drain output. The line should now slant diagonally across the CRT from the other two corners. If both were on at the same time, it would look like the letter X, each output forming one stroke of the letter. If you remember your geometry, the two lines are at right angles to each other and, therefore, 180 degrees out of phase.

You will get the out-of-phase single line also if you connect the two outputs to the two scope inputs, so keep in mind which slant represents in-phase and which represents out-of-phase.

There are other uses for such an inverter besides a class B amplifier stage. Often you will see an input stage for gain feeding this type of circuit.

There is one other common circuit feature which may be most helpful in many applications. This comes under the heading of power-supply filtering, but is usually referred to as a decoupling filter. It serves two purposes: It does the final job you can do on power-supply hum, and it prevents the signal from the circuit from trying to sneak in somewhere else through the supply wiring.

Remember that most of these circuits are used at extremely low levels. This is where any hum or feedback getting in is going to be amplified by later stages and cause all kinds of trouble. Even though the follower circuit is not a gain circuit, it can carry the false signal through just as well.

The circuit is simple—just one additional resistor and a bypass capacitor, as shown in Fig. 5. The resistor is usually a fairly low value. The most popular value is 2.2k, with a bypass capacitance of the same value as the others in the circuit. I used 10 uF because that's what I had a handful of, but I would recommend more than that. 100-uF capacitors are almost as cheap at these power levels.

The filter serves as the final filter in the power-supply lead and also doesn't like to let anything come back the other way from the circuit. At the low current the FET draws, the 2.2k has only slight voltage drop, not enough to bother circuit operation, but it does a great deal to handle hum. If you are having a hum problem, you may even get some benefit from a higher resistance value, but don't just do that as a precaution.

You will be surprised what decoupling can do to some of the crud you will pick up bench-testing. I have a habit of using multi-foot test leads and can't abide a circuit lead less than a foot long, so if the circuit is tame that way, it may work great done right. Then again, it may not, but that's another story. Even a good supply can give you some trouble at that distance, and I found that batteries can be a headache. When they get weak, they are not the steady hum-free power source they are cracked up to be. I have gotten some really inspired feedback and oscillation with the same circuit using batteries, and yet it worked well with the supply.

Ordinarily, I don't recommend putting in parts just in case they might be useful, but there is a strong case to be made for decoupling circuits in any finished audio circuit you might want to build. That's a decision you will have to make for yourself. I would probably put it into any test gear circuits I made, but I might skimp on some other gear I made.

I found working with the FET circuits one of the easiest transitions to make with solid state. You get the advantage of working with familiar tube concepts, but you also are working with solid state. That can give you the confidence you need while getting hands-on experience with solid state work. While you may not apply these circuits exactly as shown or with this FET, the experience you get working with them will help you with all triode designs, tube, FET, or bipolar. I would recommend playing around with these circuits or breadboarding with a different FET, if you have one, until you become comfortable working with them.

Your scope and the VOM (for safety) are the key test gear items. Then you can really see what is happening inside the circuit. Almost any available input signal can be adapted for use, but a mike and an audio sine wave (even 60 Hz through a potentiometer) will make it easier.

A few weeks of work with these circuits will give you a feel for operation that no amount of book theory can equal. You will see the effects of troubles and of proper operation, and your impressions will carry over when you work on any gear.

I hope that this has given you a solid, pragmatic tour of circuit operation that will take away a lot of the theoretical mystery about what goes on inside of these standard circuits. ■

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Microcomputers and Your Satellite Station

—part II: ground station antenna bearings

In the first article in this mini-series (January, '80), I described a program for the TRS-80 microcomputer from Radio Shack that takes the drudgery out of computing polar orbit satellite crossings. One of the nice things about cozying up to your own personal computer is that the machine soon loses its exotic aura and you begin to appreciate it for what it really is—a very versatile, general-purpose, problem-solving machine. As far as the satellite station is concerned, there are lots of other jobs that can be handled quite nicely by a microcomputer. In this second of three articles, we will discuss one of these—the job of computing ground station antenna bearings for receiving signals for geostationary satellites.

Geostationary orbit is a phrase used to define a special category of orbit in which the satellite remains permanently in position over a given point on the Earth's surface (known as the satellite subpoint). Since the satellite does not appear to move in relation to the Earth below, the position of the satellite as seen by a ground observer does not shift. The satellite appears to remain fixed in the sky, making antenna alignment quite simple. If the proper bearings are known, the antenna can simply be fixed in place. This makes such spacecraft highly useful for relays to ground-based stations since one doesn't have to worry about tracking large directional arrays.

The trick of achieving a "fixed" orbit is possible because of the fact that distance from Earth determines the time required by a satellite to complete an orbit. It follows that there is an altitude at which a circular orbit would require precisely 24 hours (1440 minutes). This magic altitude turns out to be about 35,900 km (22,300 miles). If we have a circular orbit (located over the equator) with a period of 24 hours and a direction of rotation that matches that of the Earth, we have a situation where the satellite's movement in space matches precisely the rotation of the Earth below, making the satellite geostationary.

Unfortunately for amateurs, we have no geostationary communications satellites now, nor will we have any in our immediate future. The polar orbiting NOAA communications satellites are in orbits with a mean altitude of around

Given:
A (station latitude; + for ° N, − for ° S).
L_O (station longitude; + for ° W, − for ° E).
L_S (satellite subpoint longitude; + for ° W, − for ° E).
(1) $L = L_O - L_S$.
(2) D = arc cos (cos L x cos A).
(3) IF D = 0, then E (elevation) = 90° and no azimuth bearing is required; if D≠0, then go to step 4.
(4) Elevation = arc tan [(sin(90 − D) − 0.1513)/cos(90 − D)]
(5) C = arc cos [− (tanA/tanD)].
(6) IF L = 0, then azimuth = C.
IF L≠0, then go to step 7.
(7) Azimuth = 360 − C.

Fig. 1. Given the geographic coordinates of the ground station (A and L_O) and the longitude of the satellite subpoint (L_S), it is possible to calculate the antenna bearings with a maximum of seven steps as shown above. The reason for the D = 0 option in step 3 is that if D = 0, you will be right under the satellite and the antenna must be pointed straight up (elevation = 90°). The reason that no unique azimuth bearing exists in this situation will be obvious if you point your arm straight up and then try to determine what its compass bearing is. It's anything or nothing—take your pick!

1400 km (840 miles), and they have orbital periods of about 115 minutes. (In contrast, the moon, which is located almost a quarter of a million miles away, requires a period of 28 *days* to complete one Earth orbit.)

Weather Satellites and OSCAR

If you would like a taste of what the future holds, simply listen in with an FM receiver on 135.6 MHz while the ATS-1 satellite is doing its thing out over the equator at 140° W. If you think your local repeater is hot stuff, you have yet to hear low-powered stations scattered all over the Pacific Basin communicating with all the advantages of noise-free FM! Virtually all commercial communications satellites (telephone, Telex, TV, etc.) utilize geostationary orbits, as do the GOES weather satellites which transmit their pictures at a frequency of 1691 MHz. (See "Be A Weather Genius," *73 Magazine*, November, 1978.)

The problem, of course, is to know where to point the antenna. The *Weather Satellite Handbook* (a *73* publication) presents a simplified graphics approach to determining antenna bearings, and while this approach is adequate for the relatively wide beamwidth yagis used in the VHF range, it is not precise enough for use with the high-gain dishes used for GOES weather satellites or for those never-say-die experimenters who are even higher in frequency who want to snatch first-run movies and other interesting TV fare from the commercial satellites.

The solution to finding precise antenna bearings involves some spherical trig exercises. A most lucid discussion of the mathematics involved is included in an article by Shuch (*HR*, May, '78), which also includes a program for implementing the equations on the HP-25 calculator. An ordinary scientific calculator can be used to solve the equations, but you do have to watch the mathematical progression quite carefully, lest you get lost! Programmable calculators are a big advantage, but they require loading the program prior to execution, and you do have to follow the associated instructions carefully as to loading data and registers.

A microcomputer is an ideal tool for these calculations because its programming can be made interactive. All you have to do is supply data for some very specific questions, with any special notes actually incorporated in the program. Since the program can be loaded from cassette, you eliminate the time and possible errors associated with manual program entry in a programmable calculator.

See the box accompanying this text, which deals with the mathematical approach taken in bearing calculations. All this is derived from Shuch's article.

The Computer Program

Since one of my aims is to interest you in the applications of consumer microcomputers (without requiring a second mortgage), the program is such that it will run on a machine with only the minimal 4K memory and the bottom-line Level I BASIC. As we shall see, it can be done quite easily, although I had my doubts at first. If you have a TRS-80 with Level II BASIC, there will be little problem with this series of calculations, as the Level II dialect incorporates the various trig functions directly. My goal in this series, however, is to show how to get the best possible use out of the less expensive Level I BASIC.

The problem is that since Level I does not have integral trig functions, you must use subroutines which Radio Shack kindly supplies in the back of the Level I user's manual. The required trig subroutines used up almost half the available memory, so some work was needed to fit a completely interactive program into the remaining memory. The resulting program just fits (only 577 bytes are left over); it is

Calculating Antenna Bearings

The calculation of the antenna bearings has been organized into a series of seven steps in Fig. 1. I won't go through an explanation of the exercise in trigonometry because it is explained very well in Shuch's paper. Although it may look difficult at first glance, you can run off a demonstration exercise on any pocket calculator equipped for trig functions. Let's run through a sample, using the following set of data referenced to GOES E (Fig. 3).

Station latitude (A) = 45° N.
Station longitude (L_O) = 85° W.
Satellite subpoint longitude (L_S) = 75° W.

Following through with the steps of Fig. 1, we would proceed as follows:

(1) L = (85) − (75) = 10.
(2) D = arc cos [(cos 10) (cos 45)].
= arc cos [(.9848) (.7071)].
= arc cos (.6964).
D = 45.864°.

D is not really so mysterious for the non-math types—it is simply the hypotenuse of a spherical triangle and happens to represent the angular distance between the ground station and the satellite subpoint. With a few more operations (and the use of a constant), we can use this distance to compute the elevation angle for a spacecraft at geostationary altitude.

(3) If D should happen to be 0, it would mean that you were living under the satellite and would require a 90° elevation angle with no worries about azimuth. Obviously, our D is not equal to 0, so we must plug on to step 4.

(4) Elevation = arc tan [((sin(90 − 45.864)) − .1513)/cos(90 − 45.864)].
= arc tan [(sin(44.136) − .1513)/cos(44.136)].
= arc tan .6963 − .1513/cos(44.136).
= arc tan .5451/.71769.
= arc tan .7595.
Elevation = 37.22°.

After that expression, moving on to the azimuth calculation is a piece of cake.

(5) C = arc cos[− ((tan 45)/(tan 45.864))]
= arc cos[− (1/1.0306)]
= arc cos − .9703.
= arc cos − .9703.
C = 166.01°.

(6) If L is equal to or greater than 0, then C is our azimuth. Since 10 (L) satisfies this condition, then azimuth = 166.01° (true).

Now, if all you want is one or two bearing sets, you can go right ahead and use the manual technique, or even adapt it to a programmable calculator. If you want to be able to snap the calculations off for other operators, or need the convenience of being able to run a set of bearings off quickly (as I do), then the computer is the answer. In my case, I run a small business, building satellite ground station hardware. Finding antenna bearings for geostationary satellites is a service that I provide for customers who purchase antenna hardware. It was simply getting to be too much trouble to program the HP-25, and I decided to put the TRS-80 computer to work.

shown in Fig. 2. I will not attempt to go through the program step by step, but I will make a few observations.

First, although the general program structure parallels the manual problem-solving procedure, a more extensive array of variables is used to adequately slide in and out of the various subroutines. On occasion, other dodges are used to get around limitations in the trig subroutines.

Second, be sure to type it exactly as printed—particularly with the 30XXX subroutines. If you don't, you will run out of line in some cases. Also, there is a bug at some point in the arc sin subroutine that is required to run the arc cos subroutine. I never could determine where it was, but it affects the calculation of all *negative* arc cos operations for numbers larger than .707—resulting in a situation where the resulting value is the same as if the number were positive—not so good. In any case, a small addition was made to take care of this problem, so be sure to type it as shown.

Hopefully, Radio Shack will remove the problem in future editions.

Using the Program

After the drudgery of pounding out numbers on a calculator, the computer run is a breeze. Once in RAM, the program actually executes as quickly as the HP-25 version. With the computer, however, you have no instructions to consult, nor need you double check to make sure that the correct number is loaded into a specific register. All you have to do is answer some simple questions for the first run, with even simpler entries into later runs, if desired.

When you hit RUN for the first time, the computer will print out the heading data (I love bylines and wouldn't dream of burying the brag lines in REM statements) and then ask for the name of the spacecraft. Once you enter this, it will ask for the station longitude, satellite subpoint longitude, and, finally, the station latitude. The machine then rapidly computes the bearings and prints them as shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is, in fact, what you should get if you plug in the data used for our sample calculation.

Note that following the data printout, you are presented with three options, terminate program, get data for another spacecraft, or get data for a new station.

If you enter Ø, the program ends. If you hit 1, the computer retains the station location data and asks for the name and subpoint longitude of the new spacecraft and then goes on to display the data. If 2 is entered, the computer retains the spacecraft name and location, requests the new station longitude and latitude, and then displays the bearing data. If the requested spacecraft is out of range, the computer will announce that fact and give you the three options.

Summary

Despite the fact that it occupies most of the 4K memory, the program can be loaded fairly quickly. Once on line, it is as fast or perhaps faster then a programmable calculator. The

Fig. 2. Interactive program, written in Level I BASIC for the TRS-80 microcomputer, for the computation of antenna bearings for reception of signals from geostationary spacecraft. Data required to run the program are the satellite subpoint longitude and the longitude and latitude of the ground receiving station.

```
1Ø   CLS
2Ø   P."GEOSTATIONARY SPACECRAFT ANTENNA"
21   P."BEARING PROGRAM"
22   P.
23   P."BY DR. RALPH E. TAGGART"
24   P.
25   IN."WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE SPACECRAFT";A$:CLS
3Ø   P."LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE ENTRY NOTES"
31   P.
32   P.TAB(1Ø);"W LONG. IS ENTERED AS A POSITIVE NUMBER"
33   P.TAB(1Ø);"E LONG. IS ENTERED AS A NEGATIVE NUMBER"
34   P.
35   P.TAB(1Ø);"N LAT. IS ENTERED AS A POSITIVE NUMBER"
36   P.TAB(1Ø);"S LAT. IS ENTERED AS A NEGATIVE NUMBER"
37   P.
38   IN."ENTER STATION LONGITUDE";M
39   IN."ENTER SPACECRAFT SUBPOINT LONGITUDE";N
4Ø   IN."ENTER STATION LATITUDE";K
1ØØ  L=M-N:P=.1513
11Ø  X=L:GOSUB 3Ø36Ø:Q=Y
12Ø  X=K:GOSUB 3Ø36Ø:R=Y
13Ø  IF (L=Ø)*(K=Ø) THEN E=9Ø:GOTO 18Ø
14Ø  D=Q*R:GOSUB 3Ø52Ø:D=Y
15Ø  X=9Ø-D:GOSUB 3Ø376:F=Y-P
16Ø  X=9Ø-D:GOSUB 3Ø36Ø
17Ø  X=9Ø-D:GOSUB 3Ø69Ø:E=C
18Ø  E=E+.Ø5:E=INT(E*1Ø)/1Ø
2ØØ  X=K:GOSUB 3Ø32Ø:Q=Y
21Ø  X=D:GOSUB 3Ø32Ø:R=Y
211  IF (L=Ø)*(K>Ø) THEN I=18Ø:GOTO 5ØØ
212  IF (L=Ø)*(K<Ø) THEN I=Ø:GOTO 5ØØ
213  IF (K=Ø)*(L>Ø) THEN I=9Ø:GOTO 5ØØ
214  IF (K=Ø)*(L<Ø) THEN I=27Ø:GOTO 5ØØ
22Ø  S=Q/R:S=-S:J=S:GOSUB 3Ø52Ø
225  IF (J Ø)*(ABS(J)>.7Ø71Ø7) T. I=18Ø-Y:GOTO 25Ø
25Ø  IF L Ø T. 27Ø
26Ø  I=36Ø-I
27Ø  I=I+.Ø5:I=INT(I*1Ø)/1Ø
```

```
5ØØ  CLS
51Ø  P.TAB(25);A$
52Ø  P.
525  IF E<Ø T.P.TAB(25);"OUT OF RANGE":GOTO 55Ø
53Ø  P.TAB(10);"ANTENNA ELEVATION = ";E;" DEGREES"
535  IF E=90 T.P.TAB(1Ø);"NO UNIQUE AZIMUTH":G.55Ø
54Ø  P.TAB(1Ø);"AZIMUTH + ";I;" DEGREES TRUE"
55Ø  P.
56Ø  P.TAB(2Ø);"STATION LOCATION:"
57Ø  IF K>=Ø THEN P.TAB(25);K;" N":GOTO 58Ø
575  IF K<Ø THEN P:TAB(25);ABS(K);" S"
58Ø  IF M>=Ø THEN P.TAB(25);M;" W"
585  P.TAB(25);ABS(M);" E"
61Ø  P."FURTHER OPTIONS:"
62Ø  P.TAB(1Ø);"TERMINATE PROGRAM - Ø"
63Ø  P.TAB(1Ø);"ANOTHER SPACECRAFT - 1"
64Ø  P.TAB(1Ø);"NEW STATION - 2"
65Ø  IN."OPTION #";Q
66Ø  CLS:IF Q=Ø THEN 8ØØ
67Ø  IF Q=1 THEN 71Ø
68Ø  IN."STATION LONGITUDE";M
69Ø  IN."STATION LATITUDE";K
7ØØ  GOTO 1ØØ
71Ø  IN."WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE SPACECRAFT";A$
72Ø  IN."WHAT IS THE SUBPOINT LONGITUDE";N
73Ø  GOTO 1ØØ
8ØØ  END
```

```
To this listing must be added the subroutines on p.218,219, and 220
of the Radio Shack Level I BASIC manual:
   TANGENT: enter lines 3Ø32Ø-3Ø34Ø
   COSINE:  enter lines 3Ø36Ø-3Ø365
   SINE:    enter lines 3Ø376-3Ø455
   ARCCOSINE: enter  line 3Ø52Ø
   ARCSINE:   enter lines 3Ø55Ø-3Ø63Ø
   ARCTANGENT:enter lines 3Ø69Ø-3Ø76Ø
   SIGN:      enter lines 3Ø81Ø-3Ø84Ø
```

```
                    GOES E

          ANTENNA ELEVATION= 37.2 DEGREES.
          AZIMUTH= 165.7 DEGREES TRUE.
                    STATION LOCATION:
                         45 N.
                         85 W.
FURTHER OPTIONS:
          TERMINATE PROGRAM - Ø
          ANOTHER SPACECRAFT - 1
          NEW STATION - 2
OPTION#?_
```

Fig. 3. Sample printout, given the following input data: Name of spacecraft: GOES E; Station longitude: 85; Satellite subpoint longitude: 75; and Station latitude: 45.

trig subroutines are certainly more involved than having the functions directly available in the BASIC dialect, but you will notice this only for your first run prior to storing the program on tape. Once the program is in RAM, it runs so fast that you will find it hard to believe that it is actually using the involved subroutines. The results are accurate and fast, becoming another useful tool for the active satellite station.

My third and final article will outline an antenna tracking program for polar orbiters. ■

Design Practical PLL and Timer Circuits

—program generates standard R and C values for 567s and 555s

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I recently set out to design a circuit centered around the 555 timer-oscillator and the 567 tone decoder. I was immediately confronted by a problem that is not uncommon among amateur designers: ridiculously obscure capacitance values (or resistance values) calculated from standard design formulas. To obtain these capacitances, one must then hook up two or more capacitors in various series-parallel combinations. This is often tedious and impractical. I therefore went to my newfound friend, the computer, and sought a program that would give me a practical solution to this problem.

Fig. 1 is the schematic diagram and frequency design formula for the 567 tone decoder. The frequency of the decoder is determined by the formula, f = 1/RC. It is obvious that for a given frequency there are an infinite number of possible RC combinations. We do not, however, have access to all values of R and C, but only to those standard values that are manufactured. It would be a simple task, I thought, to have the computer take all possible standard values of

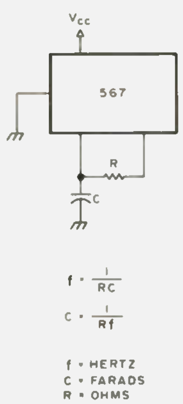


Fig. 1. 567 tone decoder circuit.

```
list

05 dim a(25), R(77)
10 print "This program is designed to select the"
15 print "proper values of resistance and capa-"
20 print "citance for the proper operation of the"
25 print "567 tone decoder."
30 print
35 print "Enter the desired frequency of operation"
40 input f
45 print
50 print
60 let s=1
65 for I=1 to 13
70 read a(I)
75 next I
76 print
77 print "The following values of resistance"
78 print "and capacitance determine the fre-"
79 print "quency of";f;"Hz"
80 let A=1
85 for J=2 to 7
90 for I=3 to 13
95 let R(A)=a(I)*10^J
100 let A=A+1
105 next I
110 next J
115 for A=1 to 66
120let C=1/(R(A)*f)
125 if C<10^(-9) then 175
130 for H=1 to 9
135 let d=C/10^(-H)
140 if 1<d then 150
145 if d<10 then 155
150 next H
155 for I=1to6
160 if .95*a(I)<d then 170
165 if d<1.05*a(I) then 190
170 next I
175 next A
180 goto 350
190 print
195 print
200 print "Set";s;":"
205 print "R1 ="; R(A);"ohms"
210 print "C1 =";1000000*C;"uf"
215 let s=s+1
220 print
225 goto 175
230 data 5.0,10.0,1.0,2.2,3.3,4.7,1.2,1.5,1.8,3.9,5.6,6.8,8.2
350 end
```

Fig. 2. 567 program listing.

resistance and, at a given frequency, calculate C for all those values. The computer would then select those values of C which were within 5% (or any given tolerance) of standard capacitance values. Thus, the aforementioned pains of design could be alleviated!

In Fig. 2, the program I used for the 567 is listed. The program is in BASIC and essentially performs three very basic tasks:

1. Input:
   (a) The computer receives the design frequency specified by user.
   (b) The computer internally determines all standard values of resistance.
2. Calculation:
   (a) The computer takes the first resistance and calculates C at the given frequency.
   (b) If C is a *standard value* of capacitance greater than .001 uF (why mess with low-value capacitors?), then C is sent to the output section.
   (c) If C is less than .001 uF or not a standard value, the computer takes the next value of resistance and performs instruction 2.(a) with this resistance.
3. Output:
   (a) The computer receives value of R and prints R.
   (b) The computer receives value of C and prints C.

Now let's get to the meat of the program.

Lines 10-30 are merely the introductory print statements. At 40, the user inputs the frequency "f". At 65, the values of a(1) through a(13) are read from the data statement at line 230 (see Fig. 3). Note that the values of a(1) through a(6) are the significant digits of the more common standard values of capacitance and that a(3) through a(13) are the significant digits of the common standard value of resistance. These values of a(1) through a(13) will be used first to obtain all the standard resistance values, and then to determine whether the calculated capacitance is indeed a standard value.

Lines 80-110 take the subscripted variable R(A) and make it equal to the significant digit a(I) multiplied by a power of 10 (10^J). Essentially, it does *this* (starting from 80):

A = 1
J = 2
I = 3
$R(1) = a(3) \times 10^2 = 1.0 \times 100 = 100$ (Ohms)
A = 2
I = 4
$R(2) = a(4) \times 10^2 = 2.2 \times 100 = 220$ (Ohms)
A = 3
I = 5
$R(3) = a(5) \times 10^2 = 3.3 \times 100 = 330$ (Ohms)

You can see that we will be able to store up to 66 values of resistance in R(A), ranging from 1.0×10^2 to 8.2×10^7 Ohm. (Note that for my purposes, I didn't want values of R less than 100 Ohms. This is up to the designer and can be altered according to his needs.)

At line 115, we get a little more complex. Within a "for-to-next" loop, we have two more "for-to-next" loops! We begin with the first of 66 values of resistance and at line 120 we calculate C. If C is less than 10^{-9} (.001 uF), then it is bypassed and the next value of resistance is used to calculate yet another value of capacitance. If C is greater than .001 uF, then we must determine the significant digits of that capacitance and see if they are close to the standard values we desire.

At 130, we start dividing C by the various powers of 10 until we get to the power of ten corresponding to the one of the capacitance. This will be when d is greater than 1, yet less than 10. For example, if C is 5.0×10^{-8} (.05 uF), when it is divided by a power other than 10^{-8}, it will yield a quotient less than 1. However, when H = 8, $C/10^{-H}$ will be equal to 5.0. Thus, d will be equal to

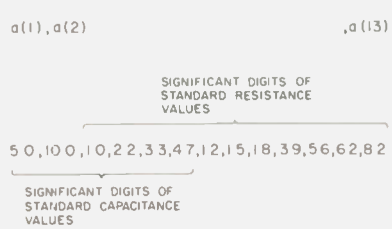


Fig. 3.

```
[illegible]

The following values of resistance
[illegible]
[illegible] of 10000 Hz

Set 1 :
R1   100 ohms
C1   1 uf

Set 2 :
R1   220 ohms
C1   0.4545 45 [illegible]

Set 3 :
R1 = 470 ohms
C1   0.12766 uf

Set 4 :
R1 = 1000 ohms
C1   0.1 uf

Set 5 :
R1 = 2200 ohms
C1 = 4.54545 E    uf

Set 6 :
R1 = 4700 ohms
C1 = 2.12766 E-2 uf

Set 7 :
R1 = 10000 ohms
C1 = 0.01 uf

Set 8 :
R1 = 22000 ohms
C1 = 4.54545 E-3 uf

Set 9 :
R1 = 47000 ohms
C1 = 2.12766 E-3 uf

Set 10 :
R1 = 100000 ohms
C1 = 0.001 uf

Edit.
```

Fig. 4. 567 sample run.

```
list

05 dim a(25),R(77)
10 print "This program is designed to select the "
15 print "proper values of resistance and capa-"
20 print "citance for the proper operation of the"
25 print "555 timer-oscillator."
30 print
35 print "Enter the desired frequency of oscillation"
40 input f
45 print
50 print
60 let s=1
65 for I=1 to 13
70 read a(I)
75 next I
76 print
77 print"The following values of resistance "
78 print "and capacitance determine the fre-"
79 print "quency of ";f;"Hz."
80 let A=1
85 let B=1
90 for J=2 to 7
95 for I=3 to 13
100 let R(A)=a(I)*10^J
105 let R(B)=R(A)
110 let A=A+1
115 let B=B+1
120 next I
125 next J
130 for A=1 to 66
135 for B=1 to 66
140 let C=1.44/((R(A)+2*R(B))*f)
145 if C<10^(-9) then 195
150 for H=1 to 9
155 let d=C/10^(-H)
160 if 1>d then 170
165 if d<10 then 175
170 next H
175 for I=1 to 6
180 if .995*a(I)>d then 190
185 if d<1.005*a(I) then 210
190 next I
195 next B
200 next A
205 goto 350
210 print
215 print
220 print "Set";s;":"
225 print "R(A)=";R(A);"ohms"
230 print "R(B)=";R(B);"ohms"
235 print "C=";1000000*C;"uf"
240 let s=s+1
245 print
250 goto 195
260 data 5.0,10.0,1.0,2.2,3.3,4.7,1.2,1.5,1.8,3.9,5.6,6.2,8.2
350 end
```

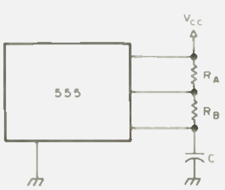
Fig. 6. 555 program listing.

the significant digits of capacitor C.

Next we go to 155 and begin a process which will determine whether d (the significant digits of C) is within 5% of the significant digits of any of the common standard capacitance values. These, as explained previously, are stored in variables a(1) through a(6).

Let's see how it runs.

When I=1, the first value of a(I), or a(1), will be 5.0. The instructions in 160 and 165 are such that if d is 5% above or below the standard value (5.0 in this case), C will be transferred to the output section beginning in 190. If it is not, the computer will see if d is within 5% of the next standard value, and so on. If it is not within 5% of *any* standard values, C is bypassed, the next value of R(A) is selected, and the whole process begins once more. Please note that one may select capacitors that are even closer to the standard values if he makes the tolerance less than 5%. You'll note that in the program for the 555 timer, the capacitance selected is within .5% of the standard values. However, if you make the tolerance too precise, you may find that there are *no* capacitors that close to the standard values and thus there will be no output from the computer.



$$f = \frac{1.44}{(R_A + 2R_B)C}$$

$$C = \frac{1.44}{(R_A + 2R_B)f}$$

Fig. 5. 555 oscillator circuit.

The program ends with some print statements, giving us the results of the computer's long, hard work. (It takes a few seconds!) All we need to do is enjoy the fruit of its labor!

Fig. 4 shows the printout as the program is run.

In Fig. 5, we have a more complex design formula. For the oscillation frequency of the 555 timer, we need to use *two* resistors and a capacitor. Fig. 6 shows the program for this circuit. Note that the program is identical except for some additional lines. What I've done is generate *two* sets of standard resistance values, R(A) and R(B), and calculated C for the 66^2 possible combinations between them.

One thing that might be confusing is the logic used in selecting the order of the data in a(1) through a(13). Studying Fig. 3 may clarify it for you. Some values are needed only for the capacitors, some only for the resistors, and some for both. Thus, it was necessary to order the data statement that way. If you wish to write your own program, consider these things. (Also be certain to make one of the values of a(I) equal to 10.0. Even though you have the digits 1.0 for the lower values of capacitance, the program will not work for significant digits of 9.99, etc., unless you have a data of 10.0 included.)

As you can see, the program is flexible and the reasoning can be applied to more complex formulas. So, next time you have a design problem, put away your scratch pad and take out your computer! ■

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DUPECALL . . . for Your Next Contest

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"CQ contest, CQ contest. This is K4TSY calling . . . K4TSY, this is K4HTU, over . . . Err, uh . . . K . . . 4 . . . H . . . T . . . U. Um, let me see now, have we worked before? (Much scrambling follows.) Just a minute, OM, I'm checking to see if we have worked earlier in the contest (more fumbling). Gee, I can't seem to . . . oh yeh, looks like we already worked earlier. Do you agree? Over. This is K4HTU . . . well, if you say so . . . but I'm not sure either . . ."

Does this sound familiar? For me, it was all too often the case. I do keep a dupe sheet, but I find it very hard to keep up during a rapidly moving contest. (For the uninitiated, a dupe sheet is a list of the stations worked, organized to facilitate the checking of station calls during the contest.) This sheet is normally arranged by call area, or simply alphabetically for DX.

I never found a good way to do it by hand, so I thought of using my microcomputer (an SWTPC 6800 machine) to help the cause. The result is the program that is presented in this article. I call it DUPECALL (Listing 1).

How To Use It

The program has two start-up modes, cold and soft. The cold start is like starting with a clean piece of paper; it clears memory and starts you at the beginning. The soft start just lets you jump back in where you left off (more about that later).

When loaded and started at $0100 "cold start," DUPECALL will respond with a prompt, a "greater than" sign, ">". This tells you that the program is waiting for an input. You type in the call to be recorded (up to 6 characters long) and end the field with a carriage return (CR). The CR tells the program that you have completed that particular call. Then, upon receipt of the CR, a check is made through all preceding memory. If no dupe is found, the prompt is changed to a plus, "+". If you want to add it to the list, type another CR; if not, type a minus, "−". The program will delete the last entry from the file and return the prompt ">" to indicate that it is ready for the next entry.

The input field is limited to 6 characters, so if you try to type 7 characters, the program will respond with "ERROR." Erase that entry from the file and return the prompt. This is also the way to correct a mistake. Just fill the field to "overflow," accept the "error" message, and try again after the prompt. You are forgiven.

The program's reponse to a dupe is a message to that effect, but the last call is left on the screen and the dupe message is typed under it for later reference. The duplicate call is erased from the file, as with the error mode above.

If you want to exit the program, just respond to the prompt with a "less than," "<", character. The LT will cause the program to make a clean exit. The top of file address is recorded at the beginning of the file and control is returned to MIKBUG.

The idea of a clean program exit is useful for more than just the soft start. The memory, loaded with calls (your file), can then be recorded on cassette tape. Then, with another program, like TYPECALL (Listing 2), the same data can be printed out. Actually, it's a good idea to stop once in a while to record the data file on tape, just to protect it. Use MIKBUG PUNCH and save DUPECALL and its file together. Put $00B3 into locations $A002-3, the contents of $0200 into locations $A004-5, and type P.

The soft start point allows you to get back into DUPECALL wherever you left off. Just type "G", and when the prompt is returned, you are back in DUPECALL, ready to continue entering calls for more duplicate checks. If you have used TYPECALL, be sure to reset the restart vector to $0113 before typing "G" Start TYPECALL at $0030.

The program as presented runs in 4K of memory and holds just under 600 calls in that much memory. If you have more memory available, change location $0109 to suit your needs.

Overview

A first look at the assembly listing may scare you, with all those jumps and branches. Bear with me and I'll show you how it works.

The program is divided into two parts. The first simply writes the inputted ASCII characters into memory. The second checks the preceding memory for a duplicate string of characters.

The input, as written into memory, is organized into fields of 6 characters. This means that calls up to 6 characters long are stored together. The calls are packed serially every 6 memory locations. The second half of the program compares the trail field, character by character, with the characters in the table of fields before it. If no duplicate is found, the prompt is replaced by a "+", as mentioned above. The program recognizes another CR as the go ahead to leave the last call in memory alone and return a prompt. A minus is recognized as the indication to delete it. After doing so, the prompt is returned. TYPECALL just prints the file out in columns. The printout will stop after each 15 ($0034) lines for viewing on a CRT. But a CR will cause the printout to continue. I have placed the origin of TYPECALL so that it resides just under DUPECALL for convenience in recording.

Functional Description

Here is a functional blow-by-blow description of the program itself: Begin DUPECALL at $0100 for the cold start. This will load $0200 through $0FFF with spaces ($20). The restart vector ($A048) is set for soft start ($0113). A prompt is written to the terminal by PDATA1 from the string starting at $00BD, which leads into INEEE, where characters are entered into memory sequentially, 6 ($0139) at a time. If more than 6 are entered, then PDATA1 at $0142 prints the error string ($00C1) and backspaces to the start of the field ($015F).

With the trial entry field complete with a CR, DUPECALL jumps to "TEST" ($0178) and backsteps to find the start of this trial field. The start of the table is superficially set to $01FC, and this location is compared ($0190) with the data in the first field location. If a match is found, each location is checked until: 1. the field is a complete match and DUPE is printed ($01B0); or 2. there is no match ($0196) and the table field pointer is stepped to the start of the next field ($01A2) and tried again.

```
E07E              PDATA1  EQU     $E07E
E1AC              INEEE   EQU     $E1AC
E0E3              CONTRL  EQU     $E0E3
0200              FILBEG  EQU     $0200
0FFF              MEMEND  EQU     $0FFF
                          OPT     PAG
00B3                      ORG     $B3
00B3              BUF0    RMB     2
00B5              BUF1    RMB     2
00B7              BUF2    RMB     2
00B9              BUF3    RMB     2
00BB              BUF4    RMB     2
                          OPT     PAG
00BD 0D 0A        PROMPT  FDB     $0D0A
00BF 3E 04                FDB     $3E04
00C1 2E           EOR     FCC     /...ERROR.../
00C2 2E 2E
00C4 45 52
00C6 52 4F
00C8 52 2E
00CA 2E 2E
00CC 04                   FCB     $04
00CD 0A           DUPE    FCB     $0A
00CE 2A                   FCC     /****************** DUPE ******************
00CF 2A 2A
00D1 2A 2A
00D3 2A 2A
00D5 2A 2A
00D7 2A 2A
00D9 2A 2A
00DB 2A 2A
00DD 2A 2A
00DF 20 44
00E1 55 50
00E3 45 20
00E5 2A 2A
00E7 2A 2A
00E9 2A 2A
00EB 2A 2A
00ED 2A 2A
00EF 2A 2A
00F1 2A 2A
00F3 2A 2A
00F5 2A 2A
00F7 2A 2A
00F9 2A 2A
00FB 04                   FCB     $04
00FC 0D 2B        PLUS    FDB     $0D2B
00FE 00 04                FDB     $0004
                  *
                  ***********************************************
                  *
                  *    THIS IS THE COLD START POINT
                  *
                  ***********************************************
                  *
0100 CE 02 00     CSTART  LDX     #FILBEG
0103 86 20                LDAA    #$20      SPACES
0105 A7 00        NFIN    STAA    X         THIS LOADS RAM WITH SPACES
0107 08                   INX               UNTIL MEMEND IS REACHED
0108 8C 0F FF             CPX     #MEMEND
010B 26 F8                BNE     NFIN
010D CE 02 02             LDX     #FILBEG+2
0110 FF 02 00             STX     FILBEG    THEN SETS POINTER TO FILE START
                  *
                  ***********************************************
                  *
                  *    THIS IS THE SOFT START POINT
                  *
                  ***********************************************
0113 CE 01 13     SSTART  LDX     #SSTART
0116 FF A0 48             STX     $A048
0119 8E A0 7F             LDS     #$A07F
011C FE 02 00             LDX     FILBEG    PICK UP END OF FILE POINTER
011F DF B5        BEG     STX     BUF1
0121 CE 00 BD             LDX     #PROMPT
0124 BD E0 7E             JSR     PDATA1
0127 DE B5                LDX     BUF1
0129 5F                   CLRB
012A BD E1 AC     NCH     JSR     INEEE     NEXT CHARACTER
012D 81 3C                CMPA    #'<       EXIT CHARACTER
012F 26 04                BNE     NOEXIT
0131 C1 00                CMPB    #0
0133 27 24                BEQ     GETOUT    < CH IN FIRST SPACE
0135 81 0D        NOEXIT  CMPA    #$0D
0137 27 16                BEQ     BEF
0139 C1 06                CMPB    #6
013B 2D 0C                BLT     AGN       BUFFER NOT FULL YET
013D DF B3                STX     BUF0
013F CE 00 C1             LDX     #EOR
0142 BD E0 7E             JSR     PDATA1    ERROR MESSAGE
0145 DE B3                LDX     BUF0
0147 20 16                BRA     ERASE     ERASE ROUTINE
0149 A7 00        AGN     STAA    X
014B 08                   INX
014C 5C                   INCB
014D 20 DB                BRA     NCH       TO NEXT CHARACTER
014F C1 06        BEF     CMPB    #6
0151 27 04                BEQ     TEST1     FULL..CONTINUE
0153 08                   INX
0154 5C                   INCB
0155 20 F8                BRA     BEF       ANOTHER?
0157 20 1F        TEST1   BRA     TEST      PROCEED WITH COMPARISON
0159 FF 02 00     GETOUT  STX     FILBEG
015C 7E E0 E3             JMP     CONTRL    RETURN TO MIKBUG (EXIT)
015F 86 20        ERASE   LDAA    #$20      ERASE ROUTINE
0161 A7 00                STAA    X
0163 09                   DEX
0164 A7 00                STAA    X         STEP POINTER BACKWARDS
0166 09                   DEX               AND REPLACE SPACES
0167 A7 00                STAA    X
0169 09                   DEX
016A A7 00                STAA    X
016C 09                   DEX
016D A7 00                STAA    X
016F 09                   DEX
0170 A7 00                STAA    X
0172 09                   DEX
0173 A7 00                STAA    X
0175 5F                   CLRB
0176 20 A7        BEGI    BRA     BEG       THIS IS A BRANCH ISLAND
0178 DF B5        TEST    STX     BUF1
017A 09                   DEX
017B 09                   DEX               STEP POINTER BACK 6
017C 09                   DEX
017D 09                   DEX
017E 09                   DEX
017F 09                   DEX
0180 DF B9                STX     BUF3
0182 DF BB                STX     BUF4
0184 CE 01 FC             LDX     #FILBEG-4 THIS SETS UP THE TEST POINTER
0187 DF B7                STX     BUF2      TO A DUMMY START POSITION
0189 C6 06        CHK     LDAB    #6
018B DE B9                LDX     BUF3
018D A6 00        CONT    LDAA    X         CONTINUE CHECK
018F 08                   INX
0190 DF BB                STX     BUF4      CHECK EACH FIELD
0192 DE B7                LDX     BUF2
0194 A1 00                CMPA    X
0196 26 0A                BNE     NXC       NO MATCH
0198 08                   INX
0199 DF B7                STX     BUF2
019B DE BB                LDX     BUF4
019D 5A                   DECB
019E 2E ED                BGT     CONT
01A0 20 0E                BRA     FDP
01A2 08           NXC     INX
01A3 5A                   DECB              MOVE AHEAD TO NEXT FIELD
01A4 2F 02                BLE     OUT
01A6 20 FA                BRA     NXC
01A8 DF B7        OUT     STX     BUF2
01AA 9C B9                CPX     BUF3
01AC 27 0C                BEQ     PRMT      GOT TO LAST LOC IN FILE
01AE 20 D9                BRA     CHK       AND NO MATCH
01B0 CE 00 CD     FDP     LDX     #DUPE
01B3 BD E0 7E             JSR     PDATA1    DUPE MESSAGE
01B6 DE BB                LDX     BUF4
01B8 20 11                BRA     ERS
01BA CE 00 FC     PRMT    LDX     #PLUS     NO MATCH FOUND SO REPLACE
01BD BD E0 7E             JSR     PDATA1    PROMPT WITH +
01C0 DE B5                LDX     BUF1
01C2 BD E1 AC             JSR     INEEE
01C5 81 2D                CMPA    #'-       DELETE CHARACTER (-)
01C7 27 02                BEQ     ERS
01C9 20 AB                BRA     BEGI
01CB 86 20        ERS     LDAA    #$20      LOAD SPACES BACK
01CD 09                   DEX
01CE A7 00                STAA    X         IF DELETE CH OR DUPE,
01D0 09                   DEX               MUST STEP POINTER BACK AND
01D1 A7 00                STAA    X         RELOAD SPACES INTO MEMORY
01D3 09                   DEX
01D4 A7 00                STAA    X
01D6 09                   DEX
01D7 A7 00                STAA    X
01D9 09                   DEX
01DA A7 00                STAA    X
01DC 09                   DEX
01DD A7 00                STAA    X
01DF 20 95                BRA     BEGI      GO TO START AGAIN VIA ISLAND
                          END
        NO ERROR(S) DETECTED

    SYMBOL TABLE:
AGN     0149    BEF     014F    BEG     011F    BEGI    0176
BUF0    00B3    BUF1    00B5    BUF2    00B7    BUF3    00B9
BUF4    00BB    CHK     0189    CONT    018D    CONTRL  E0E3
CSTART  0100    DUPE    00CD    EOR     00C1    ERASE   015F
ERS     01CB    FDP     01B0    FILBEG  0200    GETOUT  0159
INEEE   E1AC    MEMEND  0FFF    NCH     012A    NFIN    0105
NOEXIT  0135    NXC     01A2    OUT     01A8    PDATA1  E07E
PLUS    00FC    PRMT    01BA    PROMPT  00BD    SSTART  0113
TEST    0178    TEST1   0157
```

Listing 1.

```
E1AC            INEEF    EQU   $E1AC
F1D1            OUTEEE   FQU   $E1D1
E0E3            CONTRL   FQU   $E0E3
0200            FILBEG   EQU   $0200
                         OPT   PAG
0020                     ORG   $20
0020            FLDCNT   RMB   1
0021            LINCNT   RMB   1
0022            CHRCNT   RMB   1
0023            COLCNT   RMB   1
                *
                *
0030                     ORG   $30
0030 CE 02 02   STRT     LDX   #FILBEG+2  START OF FILE
0033 C6 0F      NXP      LDAB  #15        LINES PER PAGE
0035 D7 21               STAB  LINCNT     LINE COUNT
0037 C6 04               LDAB  #4         START FIELD CDUNT
0039 D7 23               STAB  CDLCNT     COLUMN CDUNT DN LINE
003B 86 0D               LDAA  #$0D       DD CR
003D BD E1 D1            JSR   OUTEEE     OUTPUT IT
0040 26 17      NLIN     BNE   OUS        NEW LINE?
0042 86 0A               LDAA  #$0A
0044 BD E1 D1            JSR   OUTEEE     OUTPUT LF
0047 86 0D               LDAA  #$0D
0049 BD E1 D1            JSR   OUTEEE     OUTPUT CR
004C D6 23               LDAB  COLCNT     START FIELD CDUNT
004E D7 20               STAB  FLDCNT     FIELD DN LINE
0050 D6 21               LDAB  LINCNT     LINE COUNT ON PAGE
0052 5A                  DECB
0053 27 20               BEQ   INP
0055 D7 21               STAB  LINCNT     LINE COUNT
0057 D6 20               LDAB  FLDCNT     FIELD CNT  DN LINE
0059 86 20      OUS      LDAA  #$20       SPACE
005B BD E1 D1            JSR   OUTEEE     OUTPUT IT
005E 86 06               LDAA  #6         CHAR PER FIELD
0060 97 22      CHCO     STAA  CHRCNT     CHARACTER COUNT
0062 A6 00               LDAA  X
0064 BD E1 D1            JSR   DUTEEE     OUTPUT THE CHARACTER
0067 96 22               LDAA  CHRCNT     CHAR COUNT
0069 08                  INX
006A BC 02 00            CPX   FILBEG     END OF FILE?
006D 27 0F               BEQ   GETOUT     DONE
006F 4A                  DFCA             CHARACTER COUNT
0070 2E EE               BGT   CHCO       NEXT CHARACTFR
0072 5A                  DECB             FIELD ON LINE
0073 20 CB               BRA   NLIN       TO NEXT FIELD
0075 BD E1 AC   INP      JSR   INEEE
0078 81 0D               CMPA  #$0D       INPUT=CR ?
007A 26 02               BNE   GETDUT     NO, THEN OUT
007C 20 B5               BRA   NXP        YES, NEXT PAGE
007E 7E E0 E3   GETOUT   JMP   CONTRL     EXIT TO MONITOR
                *
                *
                         END
     NO ERROR(S) DETECTED


   SYMBOL TABLE:
CHCO    0060      CHRCNT  0022      COLCNT  0023      CONTRL  E0E3
FILBEG  J200      FLDCNT  0020      GETOUT  007E      INEEE   E1AC
INP     0075      LINCNT  0021      NLIN    0040      NXP     0033
OUS     0059      OUTEEE  E1D1      STRT    0030


S11300030CE0202C60FD721C604D723860DBDE1D157
S11300402617860ABDE1D1860DBDE1D1D623D72207E
S1130050D6215A2720D721D6208620BDE1D1860675
S11300609722A600BDE1D1962208BC0200270F4AC0
S11300702EEE5A20CBBDE1AC810D260220B57EE0E8
S104008DE398S9
```

Listing 2.

The test is complete when the table pointer equals the first location of the trial entry field ($01AC). A plus will replace the prompt, and the location counter (pointer) is set to the start for a new entry. DUPECALL then waits for disposition (keep it or not) of the last entry.

If a dupe is found (#1 above) and so indicated, the trial field is erased (ERS), starting at $01CB. Control is returned to BEG ($011F) for the prompt, and so on . . .

To exit, type a "<" in response to the prompt ($012D). The pointer to the end of the file is stored in location $0200 for use in soft start, and then control is returned to the monitor. If you type a "<" in a location other than directly after the prompt, the program will ignore the exit request and treat it as just another character in the field.

Soft starting at $0113 simply reloads the index counter (pointer) with the contents of $0200, the location of the end of the data file, and you are cleanly back to "BEG" for a prompt then to INEEE as before.

It really works nicely and is fairly fast. With my 4K machine, it takes about 2 seconds to check from $0202 to $0FFF. I can wait that long! Further, my 4K of memory will hold 4096 − 512/6 = 597 calls. That's not a bad weekend of contesting for one guy. I can hardly talk after 500 contacts!

So, there you have it, a program to keep your check log for you and check for duplicates with each entry. I have used it often and found it very useful. I hope you do, too. ■

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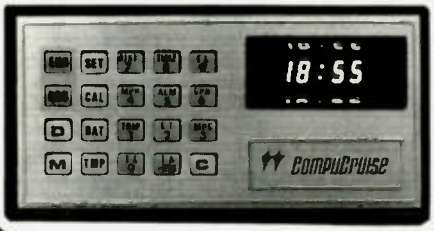

This gadget fits into most dashboards . . . no strain even in a tiny sports car like the Mazda RX-7 . . . and once you have it, every trip is like flying a 747. The darned thing tells you the time, how fast you're going, how far you've been on this trip or since the last regassing, how many miles per gallon you're getting, either at the instant or the average on the trip . . . or gallons per hour at the moment or for the trip . . . temperature outside . . . inside (or coolant temperature, if you prefer) . . . oh, it has an elapsed time for the trip, a stop watch, lap time, an alarm . . . how much further for your trip, how many gallons more the trip will take, how much longer for the trip at your present average speed . . . yes, it gives you your average speed for the trip. You prefer it in metric, no strain . . . liters remaining, etc. Did we mention that it also has cruise control either at a speed set on the control board or at whatever speed you are travelling? The Compucruise will keep you busy and entertained during any trip . . . telling you more than you will ever want to know.

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Marty Reynolds AA4RM
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Add 'Em Up: An IC-22S Programmer

—select a frequency by adding the settings of three switches

Like many other IC-22S owners, I soon tired of the diode matrix rat race. It began to look as though I was just going to have to live with about twelve programmed frequencies. A dozen channel frequencies is about all that I can commit to memory, and I don't like fumbling for a cross-reference table when amnesia strikes. However, I couldn't sit still for this limitation, since I'd just replaced a twelve-channel rock rig.

Photos by N4ZM

Photo A. The IC-22S at AA4RM.

At the suggestion of friends, a literature search for alternatives was begun. The hunt disclosed what are essentially two schemes. The first was to install a switch calibrated for 50 or 100 common splits. The other was any of a family of external programmers that used a switch register employing binary toggle or DIP switches, BCD, or octal thumbwheel switches, etc. Option 1 was slick, but I wanted as near to all 256 frequencies available as possible. Option 2 returns us to the translate-table arena and, to me, was as unsatisfactory as ever.

I went back to head-scratching, but not for long, because—Eureka!—an appealing symmetry quickly appeared. Here's what I saw: Take the programming number, N, which is made up of 8 binary digits set with your diodes. Note that if N is 108, the synthesizer fre-

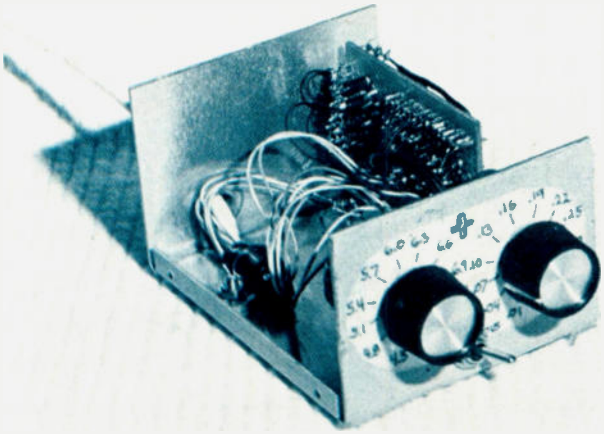

Photo B. Option one.

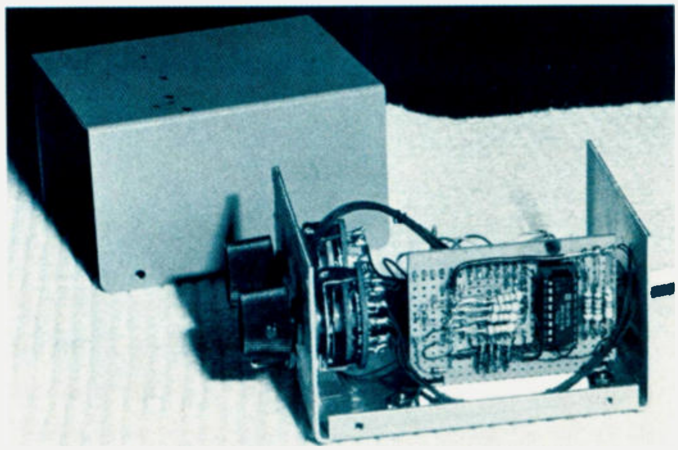

Photo C. Option two.

quency is 146.01 MHz. Check that if 20 is added to N, we go up 300 kHz to 146.31 MHz. And a scheme then emerged. What if I built a system using two diode matrices? One would select 300-kHz steps and the other would fill in the intermediate twenty 15-kHz intervals. Somehow I could then add them together and send the result to the IC-22S. I'd have but two simple switch readings calibrated directly in frequency to mentally add together to determine where I was operating. (Example: 146.31 MHz + .06 MHz = 146.37 MHz.) Bliss would reign.

What I actually built works this way: The 22S gets an N made up of the sum N1 + N2 + N3 (instead of N1 + N2 as above). I have a single-pole, 12-position rotary switch calibrated from 144.51 MHz (N1 = 8) through 147.81 MHz (N1 interval = 20). There is a second rotary switch with 10 positions starting at .00 MHz (N2 = 0) through .27 MHz (N2 = 18), with 30-kHz intervals (N2 interval = 2). 15-kHz settings are made with a toggle switch setting N3 equal to 0 or 1. This setup allows selecting 240 of the 256 possible frequencies.

I admit that doing the addition initially sounded like a job for a bagful of logic. However, it turns out that only one chip is needed to do the deed. It's called a four-bit full adder and has two names: 74C83 or 4008. Before going further, you may note that these are the very low-current CMOS numbers. Well, the 22S already uses CMOS logic and has 9 volts regulated to match. One more chip on that line seems to bother no one.

Back to the operational aspects. It takes eight bits or binary digits to represent any number in the range 0-255. Icom uses a notation wherein D0 is the least significant bit (coefficient of 1) and D7 the most significant (coefficient of 128). Refer now to Fig. 1. Generally, to add a selection from the N1 matrix to a selection from the N2 matrix requires operations on all bit positions from the first which is common to both, D2, up through D7. Note here that the N3/15-kHz bit, D0, is common to neither N1 nor N2 and doesn't enter into these adding considerations.

Regardless, working with D2 through D7 is working with 6 bits, not 4. However, by picking 128 as one of the "stops" for N1, we get around the need for having bits D7 and D6 added. Stated another way, D6 will never be simultaneously "on" in any pair of N1 and N2 matrix selections. Hence there will be no "overflow" or "carry" out of the summed D6 values into D7. The resultant D6 (that sent to the 22S) is formed from a

DIODE SETTINGS (VALUE / NAME)

SWITCH	FREQ (MHz)		128	64	32	16	8	4
		N1	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2
1	144.51	8					X	
2	144.81	28				X	X	X
3	145.11	48			X	X		
4	145.41	68		X				X
5	145.71	88		X		X	X	
6	146.01	108		X	X		X	X
7	146.31	128	X					
8	146.61	148	X			X		X
9	146.91	168	X		X		X	
10	147.21	188	X		X	X	X	X
11	147.51	208	X	X		X		
12	147.81	228	X	X	X			X

a) N1 MATRIX

DIODE SETTINGS (VALUE / NAME)

SWITCH	FREQ (MHz)		16	8	4	2
		N2	D4	D3	D2	D1
1	.00	0				
2	.03	2				X
3	.06	4			X	
4	.09	6			X	X
5	.12	8		X		
6	.15	10		X		X
7	.18	12		X	X	
8	.21	14		X	X	X
9	.24	16	X			
10	.27	18	X			X

b) N2 MATRIX

Fig. 1. Diode matrix layouts.

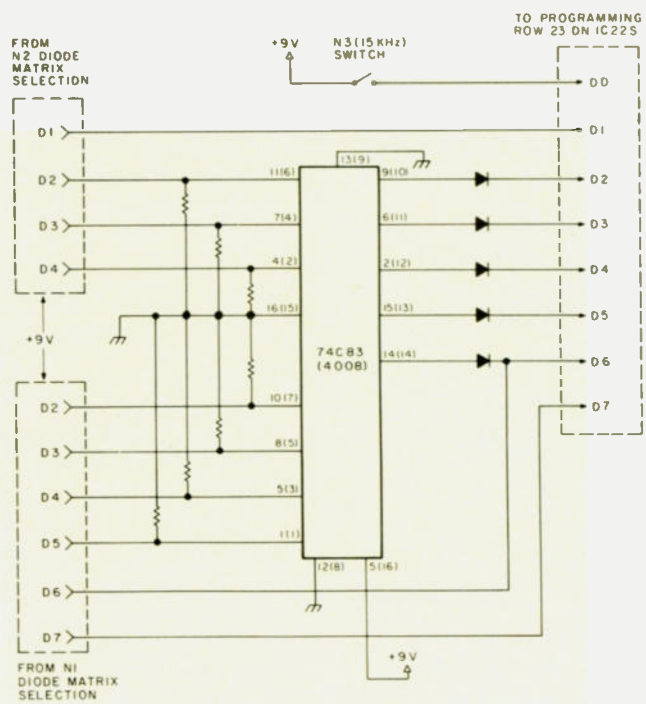

Fig. 2. Programmer schematic. All diodes are 1N918, 1N4148, etc. All resistors (pull-downs) are 27k, ¼ W. +9 V is taken from diode supply voltage in the 22S at board position 23 (channel "0").

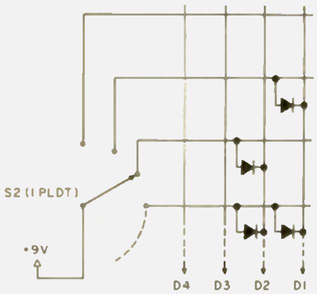

Fig. 3. First four elements of the N2 diode matrix. Refer to Fig. 1 for the remainder of N2 and all of N1 diode placements. All diodes are 1N918, 1N4148, etc.

"wired diode OR" of the carry out line of the 4-bit adder with the D6 line from the N1 matrix. The four-bit adder has lines D2 to D5 input from the N1 matrix, and lines D2 to D4 from the N2 matrix (N2's D5 is "made" zero since it doesn't exist).

Fig. 2 shows the electrical connections for the programmer. Pin connections in parentheses are for the 4008 chip; the others are for the electrically interchangeable 74C83. Fig. 3 is a schematic excerpt of the smaller diode matrix and switch.

I built the programmer into a small 3-3/8" x 3" x 2-1/8" utility box (LMB CR332). The photos show the construction used. All electronics are on a little piece of perfboard. The diode matrices are fabricated by pushing a "row" of cathodes through the board and tying them together with one strand of a piece of 7 x 22 hookup wire. The column anodes are similarly terminated. The connections to the IC-22S internal diode matrix board are made through a 10-conductor cable (8 logic lines, +9 volts, and ground). Logic and +9 V go through the 9-pin accessory socket. The ground connector is anybody's choice (I used two pieces out of a wrecked Molex plug). I might point out that I get +9 V from the diode matrix supply connection for the channel where the programmer will be selected. This means that the only IC-22S internal connections are to the diode matrix board. Additionally, it means that when you move off the programmer channel, the programmer is disabled and it's business as usual in the 22S.

The parts count for the little beauty is low. About 51 diodes, 7 resistors, 2 switches, the chip, etc. The buck count is commensurately small, as I spent just under $8 for all new parts. Design, layout, and debugging took 3 nights. However, I might note that this was my first foray into the area of CMOS and at first I omitted the pull-down resistors, which caused some very puzzling results. Also, I had never used perfboard/push-terminal construction before. After parts accumulation, I think an experienced person should be able to build the programmer in one evening.

A final note about dial calibration. All N1 settings are scribed with the 1-kHz suffix omitted, and N2 readings have 1 kHz added. That is, 144.51 MHz on N1 is written 144.5, and .00 kHz on N2 is called .01 kHz, etc. This greatly improves one's ability to mentally add the N1 reading to the N2 (and N3, if "on") to get the effective frequency selected.

The programmer has a side advantage in that you (as I do) can use it as a remote tuning head. The 22S can skulk under the seat where one can "braille-read" the relatively large power and frequency-split front-panel toggle switches. You may never see the 22S face-to-face again until the car is traded. ■

Gary McClellan
2500 N. Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton CA 92634

The Oscilloscope Survival Course

—the finer points of scope usage

Let's face it; in this day and age, one of the handiest pieces of electronic equipment you can own is an oscilloscope, and there is a good chance that if you do much building, you either own a scope or want to buy one. That's great, because there is nothing like a scope picture to show you what a signal looks like. However, you must know the finer points of using a scope to get the full benefit of the instrument, and that is what this article is all about.

If you have read my other "Survival Course" article you will understand that I am trying to discuss the finer points of using modern electronic test equipment. Most of my hints are based on actual hands-on experience with the latest electronic gear, plus the observations I have made as an engineer. Thus, I am in a position to offer you operating hints that will help you to get more out of your equipment, and, I hope, to make it last much longer. You might not find many of the things I discuss mentioned in the user manuals that come with your equipment, as the manufacturer often takes for granted you have some knowledge of the equipment or chooses to ignore the basics of the product. I feel that since many changes are taking place in the instrument industry, it is especially important to discuss the often-over-looked fine points of test instruments. With that, let's spend some time with the oscilloscope.

Let's limit our discussion of oscilloscopes to the more common units with single-ended vertical-input amplifiers. There are so many different types of scopes and combinations of plug-ins, that there just isn't room to discuss the samplers, spectrum analyzers, logic analyzers, and umpteen more combinations of scopes. It would take several books just to cover the use and care of such exotic devices! If enough readers are interested in a particular type of scope, perhaps I can oblige with another article, but for this one our discussion is limited to the simpler models.

One of the biggest weaknesses of most scopes is the signal-handling overload ability of the vertical input—and often the horizontal (often labelled "Ext. Sweep") input is even less tolerant. You must exercise reasonable caution when connecting a signal to your scope. What happens if you don't? Depending upon the type of signal (pulse, dc, ac, etc.) and its level, you can expect to blow an FET amplifier and possibly part of the vertical attenuator. Needless to say, watch what you apply to the input jack, because if you don't, you may end up shelving the scope for parts or sending it back to the factory. Let's look at some of the types of voltages to handle with care and to avoid putting on the input of your scope.

One of the most common ways to kill a vertical amplifier is to put more voltage on the input than it is designed to take. Often the input attenuator will be set to the lowest range, compounding the problem. Thus, the input stage will connect directly to the input jack via any overload protection circuitry. At the first sign of overload, out goes the amplifier! Good sources of high voltage include any form of vacuum tube equipment, power transformer secondaries, and tuned circuits in transmitters. One way that you easily can cause damage to your scope is by using it to tune up your car's engine. Invariably, the input connection will be a turn of wire around one of the spark plug leads; all that's necessary is one arc through the wire—and scratch one scope! This method of tuning up an engine is fine, but some basic precautions must be taken. It should be mentioned that you can kill an input amplifier with *less* than a cycle of an overload signal if it is great enough.

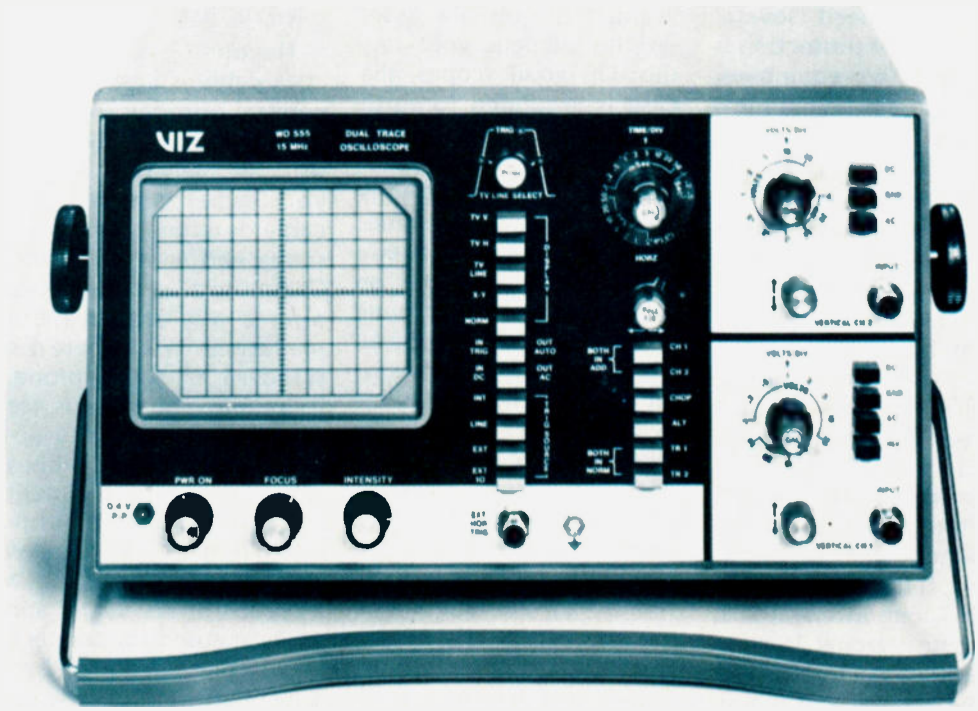

Photo A. VIZ WO 555 15-MHz dual-trace oscilloscope.

The precautions that you can take to save your scope from overloads are simple and easy to implement. First, you should know the capability of your scope. Dig out the manual, if necessary, and look in the specifications section for the rated maximum input voltage on the vertical input. Note that if only one voltage is given, it must be the total of any dc plus the *peak* value of any ac signal. Thus, if you are looking at the plate of a tube and see 150 volts dc and a 15-volt ac signal, the total voltage to the scope is 165 volts. Remember this total value, as sometimes it is easy to forget how the voltages combine and can exceed the maximum input of your scope. If you can't find how much voltage your scope can take, simply check the vertical attenuator for a clue. If the highest range is 20 volts per division and there are 10 divisions, you can safely apply 20 x 10 = 200 volts. Generally, there's a 150% or greater overload factor, so you can apply up to 300 volts peak-to-peak.

If there is a switch-selectable coupling capacitor on the input of your scope, you are limited to the total dc plus peak ac voltage equal to the working voltage of that capacitor, so bear this in mind when you work with large dc offsets. In practice, the lesser of the two (attenuator + overload vs. capacitor working voltage) determines the maximum signal you can safely apply to the vertical input of your scope.

The horizontal input (or Z-axis, or other input) is often less defined as to what voltage levels it can take. The manual is the best source of information, as there generally is no attenuator on this less-used input. That's unfortunate, because commercial scopes—especially the cheaper ones—do not always have good input protection. Play it safe and limit your input voltages to under 10 volts peak-to-peak if you can't find the voltage rating.

It's easy to avoid damaging input overloads. You should always use scope probes with your unit. Not only are they easy to use, but they are also much safer than alligator clips. Also shielded probes are a must when looking at very low level signals in high-impedance circuits where hum can play havoc with the signal. If you are unsure about the level of the signal, use a X10 probe and set the vertical attenuator to the highest range. Then connect the probe and adjust the attenuator accordingly for a reasonable display. Avoid exceeding the probe's voltage ratings (usually 500-600 volts) when you make your measurement. Also, the use of a X10 probe offers more protection to the scope due to the attenuating effect of the probe. This is because damaging current is limited by the 9-meg resistor in the probe cable. Watch how you connect the probe to the equipment. If possible, power the equipment first, connect the probe, adjust the attenuator, and then read. Remove the probe, turn off the power, and you are all set.

This method allows you to quickly remove the scope from the circuit in case of an overload, minimizing any damage. Also, any equipment turn-on/turn-off surges won't reach the scope and fry the front end circuitry. To be completely safe, check the schematic of the equipment you are working on and avoid any point with voltages higher than the scope/probe combination can handle. This includes power transformer secondaries (tube equipment), tank coil circuitry in transmitters, and so on. Let me wrap this up by saying that overvoltage is still one of the more common ways to kill a scope, and despite low-voltage logic circuitry becoming more common, it can be a problem. With just a few simple precautions, you shouldn't have problems.

Another sort of input overload problem is more subtle and needs explanation. That is the effect high pulse voltages have upon a scope input circuit. Often you can be measuring a signal containing a pulse big enough to damage your scope and not know it. If you do much

TV repair, you know what I mean! TV sets have stages like the vertical and horizontal outputs with skinny pulses, plus signal, that can exceed several kV! Your best protection is to check the equipment schematic and avoid measurement on any point marked "Do Not Measure."

Now you know why this phrase turns up in electronic equipment. What happens when you measure one of these points? The pulse gets into the probe, sometimes causing internal arcing. It may damage the internal resistor on X10 probes or break insulation in X1 probes, and the result is always permanent change of accuracy. If the signal gets into the scope attenuator, it may cause arcing in resistors and capacitors, changing the accuracy of the attenuator. If that isn't enough, the pulse may reach the input FET, knocking it out and—get this—often *without* harming the over-voltage protection circuitry! This is because the over-voltage protection circuitry may act too slowly to save the FET, which must be a fast device.

So play it safe, and keep away from those "Do Not Measure" points. Also, be wary of any part of a circuit where there is an inductive component (transformer, choke, etc.) involved, plus any power handling circuitry. These combinations are good candidates for big pulses. Prime types of equipment to be careful around include radar (naturally), any TV, most transmitters with tubes, and unloaded power transformers. Transformers are mentioned because they generate horrendous spikes when power is removed. Either put a load on them or use the scope only when power is on.

While on the subject of inputs and signals to avoid, I would like to mention a situation that comes up occasionally that damages the cables only. I call it "cable-itis," and the story on this ailment goes like this: On good scopes, the case is grounded to earth through the 3-wire power cord and the building wiring. Not to be forgotten is the fact that it is sometimes necessary to check either the power line or some piece of equipment not containing a power transformer. So, with conditions like these, it is inevitable that the ground clip on the cable is connected to the ground in the equipment. Since that ground is either ground or 120 volts, depending upon which way the equipment plug is inserted, the result is *boom*! Scratch one scope cable. Often you will lose only the ground wire coming off the probe, but more important is the harm that can be done to you when the wire explodes. Play it safe and always use an isolation transformer on the equipment in such a case. Never use an adaptor plug on the scope, since the case still will be hot—and that can be just as dangerous as a wire exploding.

Your input cables and probes are just as important as the scope itself. Let's take a quick look at the different types and what they can do for you. Coax cable is used for most general-purpose connections to the scope. It offers shielding to the signal and not much more. A pitfall you should know about is that the capacitance of coax cable is high—and that means increasing attenuation as your input frequency goes up. In fact, if you use just three feet of any coax cable, your input impedance (standard scope impedance) of 1 meg will drop quickly as you check frequencies above 1 MHz or so. If that sounds bad, substitute ordinary microphone cable for the coax, and the higher losses will attenuate your signals even further!

The point is, an ordinary coax cable is best for only general-purpose low-frequency use. If you want to work at high frequencies, you either shorten the cable or terminate it at the scope end with a resistor. Commercial scope probes offer a way around these limitations. While there is a standard X1 scope probe, its primary purpose is for general low-frequency applications. Most X1 probes offer little improvement over the coax-and-clip-leads lash-up, electrically. Mechanically, however, a X1 probe offers a safer and easier method for connecting to a piece of equipment. Thus, that X1 probe is recommended for most uses.

Of course, if you are looking at the output of, say, a signal generator, you would find a coax cable with mating connectors on each end a much more desirable way to go. But the choice is yours. The most useful probe, and one that offers a higher degree of safety to the user, is the X10 probe. Not only does it divide input signals by 10, but it raises the input impedance to 10 megs at dc levels. These features allow you to read higher voltages with your scope while providing a greater safety margin, and you can work with sensitive circuits with reduced loading. And, to top that off, good X10 probes have extended frequency response and less capacitive loading so that you can look at rf voltages with vastly reduced loading due to the probe. This means less disruption of the circuit and more accurate waveforms on the scope. Typical X10 probes have responses to within a few dB from dc to 60 to 100 MHz. This probe is thus a necessity to anyone working with signals in the rf range, and you should have one.

There is a very good X10 probe on the market—the Heath PKW-105. Made in England, it offers switchable X1-ground-X10 positions, plus a bunch of adaptors for making different types of connections. At $28.00, it's not cheap, but that's better than half the cost of other probes.

To get maximum performance out of a X10 probe, you should be aware that they all have a compensation trimmer to null out cable capacitance. You connect the probe to your scope and touch the probe tip to a square wave signal source. Then you adjust the compensation trimmer to make the corners of the waveform as square as possible. This simple step will give you maximum bandwidth out of your probe/scope combination.

Let's continue by discussing the controls on the front panel of your scope. Since all scopes are slightly different, I can describe only the common controls among them. You will note, however, that the controls I mention are for a scope with triggered sweep. If you have the asynchronous type of scope, you can probably relate some of the things we are talking about—then someday they will mean more when you get a better scope. If you get the impression that I don't care for the free-run sweep scope (asynchronous), you are right. Their uncalibrated vertical amps, unstable sweep, and nonlinear trace have precluded their use in serious electronics work. About the only thing asynchronous scopes are good for is as modulation monitors, and that's fact! They are toys. If you are buying a new scope, avoid this type

Photo B. Hickok Model 532 30-MHz dual-trace oscilloscope.

of scope and you will avoid being sorry. Spend the extra money to get a decent unit.

Let's start with the vertical controls. These include the vertical sensitivity switch (sometimes called Vertical Attenuator), vertical gain adjust (sometimes called Vert. Sens. Vernier), and the vertical centering control.

Basically, the vertical sensitivity is a coarse gain adjust with typical positions labelled 1-2-5, for 1 mV, 2 mV, and 5 mV. It is used to set the gain of the vertical section of the scope to what is appropriate for your signal. This control is one of the most-used on your scope.

The vertical gain vernier is just a pot the fine-tunes the sensitivity of the vertical input over a small range. In short, it is a calibration control, as it affects the sensitivity of your input. Normally, there is an off or CAL position at which to set this knob, so that the vertical input is calibrated and the sensitivity is equal to the numbers on vertical sensitivity knob.

The vertical centering knob is used to move the trace around the screen, or center it, as the name implies. That takes care of basics with which you already should be familiar.

There are a number of things to consider when setting the vertical controls on your scope. For longer life, it is wise to keep the vertical attenuator set at the highest range, even when the scope is not used. As mentioned before, one of the easiest ways to kill a scope is to put a 200-volt signal on it when it is set to the 2-mV position. Play it smart and keep that switch set to the highest voltage position if you don't know your input voltage. And, better yet, use a X10 probe. The vertical gain vernier pot is always left in the CAL position, of course. The only exception to this is when you want to look at the top of a waveform just slightly larger than the screen and don't want to change the attenuator position. Turning the knob reduces the gain and allows you to see all of the waveform.

This knob also is useful when setting your scope up for Lissajous figures and X/Y measurements, where you are comparing two signals and want them to be the same size. The vertical centering control is used to position the trace and waveform at a convenient place on the screen. This is done, of course, so that the waveform can be positioned on the graticule (illuminated crosshair on screen) for measurement.

If your scope is left on unattended for long times, it is wise either to turn the centering control so the trace is off the screen or to turn the intensity control down to extinguish the screen. This will save you from burning a hole or creating a dim spot in the CRT. CRTs are expensive, so always take a moment to move or dim the trace before leaving the scope unattended.

The next important controls are the horizontal sweep controls. These include the sweep time switch, sweep time vernier, and the triggering controls. The sweep time switch is the most often used of the group, and its function is to set the sweep speed, or the rate at which the spot moves across the screen. Typically, this switch is calibrated in a 1-2-5 sequence like most vertical attenuators, and the numbers correspond to values like 1 ms, 2 ms, 5 ms, and so on. Note that these values are always in time-per-division on your scope. If you set the switch to 10 ms and you have 10 divisions, your total sweep time is 100 ms. This is important when estimating frequency of a signal off your scope.

The sweep time vernier is a pot, and its function is to change the calibration. Like the vertical vernier, it allows fine tuning of the sweep, and, also like the vertical vernier, the sweep time vernier normally stays in the CAL position.

The trigger controls consist of the slope switch, trigger level, and auto/manual trigger switch. These controls get almost as much use as the sweep time switch, so you should be familiar with them. The slope switch selects the point at which the sweep starts on your input signal. Remember that in a scope with triggered sweep, the signal starts the sweep running, and the sweep is not adjusted to it as in those old-fashioned asynchronous scopes. The switch tells the sweep to trigger either when the signal goes positive or negative and is nothing more than a coarse setting.

The trigger level is a fine-tune adjustment, and it allows you to move the trigger point up or down the positive or negative part of the waveform (set by the slope switch).

The auto/manual switch on your scope may have several names, but regardless of what it is called, it serves one purpose and that is to select normal triggered sweep or a free-run mode. The free-run mode is the triggered sweep circuitry continuously being triggered by an internal signal source. This ensures having a trace on the screen at all times, even in the absence of an input signal. When a signal is connected to the scope, it locks onto the signal, triggering properly. This free-run mode is valuable for when you are looking at a dc signal or a steep-sided ac signal that may not trigger the scope properly in the manual-trigger mode.

Setting the horizontal sweep controls is easy. If you turn on the scope and can't find the trace, simply set the auto/manual switch to auto to bring on the sweep and adjust the centering controls. On the more expensive scopes, there is a switch marked Beamfinder to minimize knob-tweaking. You simply press the button and a large spot appears showing you where the trace should be. If it's not where you want it, you adjust the centering controls to put it where you want and adjust the sweep controls to get a trace.

When setting the sweep controls, the sweep vernier always stays in the CAL position, and the sweep time switch is adjusted for two or more cycles on the screen. If you have no idea of what the signal will look like, always start the sweep time switch on its lowest position (slowest sweep) so that you don't miss anything. This is fine for looking at dc levels, too. The 100 ms/div position is about right for most purposes. You probably will spend a lot of time fiddling with the triggering controls, as their positions may vary with the size of your signal and its shape. Even the most expensive scopes are very "tweaky" in this respect, and some require a lot of adjustment for a stable trace.

The slope switch is adjusted for either a positive or negative going display. Note that you don't have much choice if your signal is a logic level, swinging from ground to plus 5 volts!

The auto/manual switch is set to suit you—or, if you can't trigger on your input signal, try auto. Then, the trigger level control is adjusted for a stable trace. If you have trouble locking in the signal, a good rule of thumb is to check the slope switch, then switch to the auto sweep (auto/manual switch), and adjust the trigger level. This should do it. If you are looking at many signals at once, like a line of TV composite video, for example, remember that you will be able to lock in only the vertical or horizontal sync pulses, and not the video or all signals at once. The fact that a triggered scope can lock only one signal at a time is overlooked at times!

The remaining scope controls are few and easy to adjust. The intensity control is adjusted to show the trace in normal ambient light. Excessive brightness usually broadens the trace, making identification of narrow pulses difficult, so use minimum brightness. If necessary, move the scope away from bright overhead lights, or cut a lightshield for the CRT to screen out glare.

The focus control is adjusted for the sharpest trace, or course, but you can sometimes expose a narrow pulse in a signal by defocusing slightly; try it! That takes care of the scope panel controls.

Your scope has many important physical features of which you may not be aware. First, most low-cost scopes are very sensitive to magnetic fields. The most sensitive areas are the face of the CRT and the back of the scope. If you get too close to a magnetic field, you will bend the trace, and that can goof up your readings. Keep away from large power transformers, for example. Also, high-performance scopes generate quite a bit of heat, so for longer life allow plenty of ventilation. That means you should never stack equipment next to and over your scope if it generates a lot of heat. Finally, you should know that scopes are very sensitive to drops. If you drop it, or if it falls off a bench, you probably will damage something (not the CRT, one hopes). At the least, the calibration may have changed, so always check after a drop. It is wise to open the case and visually check the chassis for anything that has broken loose. Then, resolve to put it in a more secure place next time!

Let's hope this article enables you to get a little more out of your scope. It's tough to cover a subject like this in such a short article, but high spots have been discussed and pitfalls exposed, and that should help. ■

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47 CFR Part 97

[Docket No. 19652; FCC 79-758]

Providing for the Amateur-Satellite Service

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Commission orders a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to revise Part 97 of the Commission's rules and regulations. It is evident that the amateur satellite service has become an important facet of amateur radio, thus, it is now time to develop rules for the service. Hence, a statement of the amateur satellite service requirements in the rules would give notice to the amateur community on procedures to follow when engaging in amateur satellite service operations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 5, 1980 and reply comments must be received on or before March 6, 1980.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy C. Howell, Federal Communications Commission, Private Radio Bureau, Personal Radio Branch (202) 254-6884.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 2025 M Street NW. Washington, D.C.

Adopted: November 20, 1979.
Released: December 4, 1979.

In the matter of amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules to provide for Amateur-Satellite Service, Docket No. 19652. See Also 39 FR 1643, January 11, 1974.

Background

1. On February 14, 1973, the Commission adopted amendments to Part 2 of the Commission's rules in Docket No. 19547. These amendments incorporated into the rules the Amateur-Satellite Service (AMSS) as established by the World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications in Geneva, 1971. Certain frequencies already allocated to the Amateur Radio Service were also allocated to AMSS. Furthermore, AMSS frequency bands 435-438 MHz are also shared with the Government Radiolocation Service on a secondary basis.

2. On October 25, 1973, the Commission adopted a Notice of Inquiry in Docket No. 19652 which was published in the **Federal Register** on November 8, 1973, 38 FR 30566 (1973). In our Notice of Inquiry, we indicated the desire to receive comments from interested parties concerning: The structures of the new Amateur-Satellite Service: the technical standards licensees in the Service should have to meet; and, the qualifications licensees should possess.

3. The Commission received approximately fifteen comments in response to the October 25, 1973 Notice of Inquiry. All comments received have been carefully analyzed by the Commission's staff and we are now prepared to issue formal proposals in this proceeding.

4. Prior to WARC-ST, five amateur space stations licensed by the FCC were placed in operation. Since WARC-ST, three more space stations licensed by the FCC became operational. These stations were operated pursuant to waiver of the Commission's rules for amateur radio stations (Part 97). It is evident that AMSS has become an important facet of Amateur Radio; thus, it is now time to develop rules for the service. Hence, a statement of the AMSS requirements in the Rules would give notice to the amatuer community on procedures to follow when engaging in AMSS operations. Therefore, the Commission could discontinue its present system of granting waivers on an individual basis. Consequently, the end result would be uniform regulations of AMSS operations.

International Regulations

5. As a result of WARC-ST, a new paragraph was added to Article 41 *Amateur Stations*, of the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (see. 156A Spa2 § 6, and the Appendix to this Notice). This paragraph requires space stations in AMSS to be fitted with devices for controlling emissions in the event harmful interference is reported. Furthermore, it requires FCC to inform the International Frequency Registration Board (I.F.R.B.) of all space stations to be authorized in AMSS. Additional, Article 7 of the ITU provides that "space stations shall be fitted with devices to ensure immediate cessation of their radio emissions by telecommand, whenever such cessation is required under the provisions of these regulations" (see 470 Spa2 § 24).

6. Elsewhere in the Radio Regulations of the ITU, definitions of terms related to space station operations were added, as were the requirements for advance publication coordination and notification.

Experience in Licensing Space Stations

7. F.C.C. experience in licensing space stations has brought Commission attention to various problems encountered when attempting to operate a space station pursuant to rules enacted to regulate other types of amateur radio stations, via Part 97. These are:

(A) § 97.79 *Control operator requirements and § 97.88 Operation of a station by remote control.* These rules require a control operator to be at an authorized control point whenever the station is in operation. For low earth orbit satellites, the station is not in view of any telecommand station for extended periods. Therefore, no single control operator, or any reasonable number of control operators, could possibly be at all times at a control point(s), able to command the space station, as required by the general rules.

(B) § 97.84 *Station identification.* This rule requires every amateur radio to transmit its assigned call letters. None of the amateur satellites authorized by the F.C.C. have had this capability. Furthermore, based on the F.C.C.'s experience in this area, the nature of space operation would seem to make such a requirement meaningless.

To date, F.C.C. licensed amateur space stations have simply identified themselves with the letters "HI" in Morse Code telegraph. Except for the first few amateur satellites, even this identification probably serves no useful purpose.

Another area of concern regarding station identification is telecommand operation. To maintain the integrity of the telecommand capability, knowledge of the location and identity of such stations must be limited to only those persons engaging in controlling the space station. Otherwise, information on controlling the space station could fall into the hands of persons who could use it to effect improper operation of the station, possibly resulting in interference to other services or damage to the station.

For this reason, telecommand stations are not required to identify with F.C.C. assigned call signs. Their transmissions are brief, (time required to transmit a call sign could exceed the time required to transmit a series of commands), and their transmissions are directed skyward making the causing of interference unlikely.

(C) § 97.85 *Repeater operation and § 97.126 Retransmitting radio signals.* The only amateur radio station permitted to automatically retransmit the radio signals of other amateur radio stations are stations in repeater operation or auxiliary operation. This capability is one of the principal features of amateur satellites, so provision has to be made to permit it.

(D) § 97.91 *One-way communication.* This rule lists the types of one-way transmissions permitted in amateur radio which are not considered broadcasting (amateur radio stations may not broadcast). One-way space-to-earth telemetry transmissions from a space station, and one-way earth-to-space telecommand transmissions to a space station are not covered by this rule.

(E) § 97.117 *Codes and ciphers prohibited.* This rule prohibits the use of codes and ciphers in the Amateur radio service, where the intent is to obscure the meaning. Telemetry transmissions must use codes to transfer data, as do telecommand transmissions. While telemetry codes are only to facilitate communications, telecommand codes must also obscure the meaning of the message for the same reasons discussed under § 97.84 Station identification.

The Comments

8. Generally, very few comments expressed opposition to the establishment of an Amateur-Satellite Service. Only one comment expressed total opposition to the establishment of an Amateur-Satellite Service,[1] and, the rationale for this opposition was the following: "Whenever rules are issued governing a rapidly growing field, progress in that field inevitably slows or stops completely." Hence, according to the one negative comment any regulations for AMSS would hinder technological growth in this area. The Rules proposed herein are fundamentally the same set of rules AMSS has been operating under. We are proposing to move from a procedure based on a series of waivers, to one which is premised on rules developed via the rule making process.

9. One comment suggested that amateur communication achieved by reflection from the moon, should not be governed by the rules adopted for AMSS.[2] Such communication, it is claimed, does not represent a significant source of interference to other radio services, and is better regulated by the existing rules governing the Amateur Radio Service. Article 1 of the Radio Regulations of the ITU defines AMSS as "a radiocommunication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purposes as those of the amateur service" (see, 84ATA, Spa2). This definition is used for the purpose of AMSS in the proposed rules. Therefore, communications conducted by passive reflection of signals off the moon would not constitute operation in AMSS.

The Proposal

10. The Commission proposes to add a new Subpart H, *Amateur-Satellite Service*, to Part 97 of the rules. The rules for the Amateur Radio Service would apply except in those instances specifically covered by the proposed Subpart. Generally, all amateur stations and amateur radio operators would be authorized to operate in the Amateur-Satellite Service to the extent of the privileges authorized by their amateur radio licenses, without any additional authorization by the Commission. Space operation would be limited to holders of the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Examination material related to the Amateur-Satellite Service is incorporated only in Examination Element 4(B), a requirement for the Amateur Extra Class license.

11. Any amateur radio station licensed by the Commission, having a control operator holding an operator license with the necessary frequency privileges, could be designated by the space station licensee to conduct telecommand operations. Certain privileges not afforded other amateur stations would be permitted authorized telecommand operations for the above-discussed reasons. Furthermore, the licensee of the space station could authorize amateur radio stations in other countries to conduct telecommand operations, subject to the regulations of the licensing authority in the other country. In regard to space stations licensed by the Commission, however, there would have to exist the capability to effect an immediate, permanent cessation of emissions from the space stations via telecommanded operations conducted by one or more stations licensed by the Commission.

12. We are proposing to exempt both space stations and telecommand stations from the station identification requirement for the reasons given in paragraph 7, above. Article 19 § 2 of the Radio Regulations of the ITU provides:

> "A station shall be identified by a call sign or other recognized means of identification. Such recognized means of identification may be one or more of the following necessary for complete identification: name of station, location of station, operating agency, official registration mark, flight identification number, selective call number or signal, selective call identification number or signal, characteristic signal, characteristic of emission or other clearly distinguishing features readily recognized internationally."

Instead of transmitting their call sign, information of the type specified by Article 19 § 2 would be filed with the F.C.C. by the station licensee.

13. In addition to Article 41 (see paragraph 5, above), Article 7 provides that "space stations shall be fitted with devices to ensure immediate cessation of their radio emissions by telecommand, whenever such cessation is required under the provisions of these Regulations" (see 470V Spa2, § 24). All of the frequency bands allocated to AMSS are shared with the Amateur radio service. Furthermore, AMSS frequency band 435-438 MHz is also shared with the Government radiolocation service. We are proposing to incorporate these requirements into the Rules.

14. Article 9A§ 2 (see, 639AA, Spa2) of the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) sets out the procedure for the Advance Publication of information on planned Satellite Systems. The procedure is the following:

> "An administration (or one acting on behalf of a group of named administrations) which intends to establish a satellite system shall, prior to the co-ordination procedure in accordance with No. 639AJ where applicable, send to the International Frequency Registration Board not earlier than five years before the date of bringing into service each satellite network of the planned system, the information listed in Appendix 1B."

Article 9A, § 2, No. 639AJ provides the following:

> "Before an administration notifies to the Board or brings into use any frequency assignment to a space station on a geostationary satellite or to an earth station that is to communicate with a space station on a geostationary satellite, it shall effect co-ordination of the assignment with any other administration whose assignment in the same band for a space station on a geostationary satellite or for an earth station that communicates with a space station on a geostationary satellite or for an earth station that communicates with a space station on a geostationary satellite is recorded in the Master Register, or has been co-ordinated or is being co-ordinated under the provisions of this paragraph. "For this purpose, the Administration requesting co-ordination shall send to any other such Administration the information listed in Appendix A."

We are proposing that informational filings be at: two years, and three months (the three months are to allow for processing); updates one year, and three months. Further, we anticipate the first filing period could be waived where justified. However, amateur satellites placed into orbit prior to receiving international sanction may be required to discontinue operation in favor of a prior request, or to avoid interference to other radio services.

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[1] This comment was filed by Amateur radio operator Mark Zimmerman.

[2] This comment was filed by amateur radio operator K. D. Tentarelli.

15. We seek comment on the proposal and on the desirability of the information requirement, particularly in terms of clarity of the questions, instructions, and format. The information requirements included herein are subject of General Accounting Office clearance.

Comments Solicited

16. The specific amendments we are proposing are set forth in the Appendix. Authority for issuance of this Notice is contained in Sections 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended 47 U.S.C. 154 (i) and 303(r). Pursuant to procedures set out in § 1.415 of the rules and regulations, 47 CFR 1.415, interested persons may file comments on or before February 5, 1980, and reply comments on or before March 6, 1980. All relevant and timely comments will be considered by the Commission before final action is taken in this proceeding. In reaching its decision, the Commission may take into consideration information and ideas not contained in the comments provided that such information or a writing indicating the nature and source of such information is placed in the public file, and provided that the fact of the Commission's reliance on such information is noted in the Report and Order.

17. In accordance with the provisions of § 1.419 of the rules and regulations, 47 CFR 1.419, formal participants shall file an original and 5 copies of their comments and other materials. Participants wishing each Commissioner to have a personal copy of their comments should file an original and 11 copies. Members of the general public who wish to express their interest by participating informally may do so by submitting one copy. All comments are given the same consideration, regardless of the number of copies submitted. All documents will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its headquarters in Washington, DC.

18. For further information concerning this rule making, contact Roy C. Howell, Rules Division, Private Radio Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 254–6884.

Federal Communications Commission.

William J. Tricarico,

Secretary.

Appendix

Part 97 of Chapter I of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is proposed to be amended as follows:

§ 97.3 [Amended]

1. In § 97.3, paragraphs (i) and (k) are deleted and designated (Reserved).

2. A new Subpart H is added, as follows:

Subpart H—Amateur-Satellite Service

General

Sec.
97.401 Purpose.
97.403 Definitions.
97.405 Applicability of rules.
97.407 Eligibility for space operations.
97.409 Eligibility for earth operations.
97.411 Eligibility for telecommand operation.
97.413 Space operation requirements.

Technical Requirements

97.415 Frequencies available.

Special Provisions

97.417 Space operation.
97.419 Telemetry.
97.421 Telecommand operation.
97.423 International advance publication.
97.425 International coordination.
97.427 Notification required.

Authority: Secs. 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i) and 303(r).

Subpart H—Amateur-Satellite Service

General

§ 97.401 Purposes.

The Amateur-satellite Service is a radio communication service using stations on earth satellites for the same purposes as those of the Amateur Radio Service.

§ 97.403 Definitions.

(a) *Space operation.* Space-to-earth amateur radio communication from a station which is beyond, is intended to go beyond, or has been beyond the major portion of the earth's atmosphere.

(b) *Earth operation.* Earth-to-space-to-earth amateur radio communication by means of radio signals automatically retransmitted by stations in space operation.

(c) *Telecommand operation.* Earth-to-space amateur radio communications to initiate, modify, or terminate functions of a station in space operation.

(d) *Telemetry.* Space-to-earth transmissions, by a station in space operation, of results of measurements made in the station, including those relating to the function of the station.

§ 97.405 Applicability of rules.

In all cases not specifically covered by the provisions of this Subpart, stations in space operation, telecommand operation, and earth operation, shall be governed by the provisions of the rules governing amateur radio stations and operators (Subpart A through E of this part).

§ 97.407 Eligibility for space operation.

Amateur radio stations licensed to Amateur Extra class operators are eligible for space operation.

§ 97.409 Eligibility for earth operation.

Any amateur radio station is eligible for earth operation, subject to the privileges of the operator's class of license.

§ 97.411 Eligibility for telecommand operation.

Any amateur radio station designated by the licensee of a station in space operation is eligible to conduct telecommand operation with that station in space operation.

§ 97.413 Space operation requirements.

An amateur radio station may be in space operation where:

(a) The station has not been ordered by the Commission to cease radio transmissions.

(b) The station is capable of effecting a cessation of radio transmissions by commands transmitted by station(s) in telecommand operation whenever such cessation is ordered by the Commission.

(c) There are in place, sufficient amateur radio stations licensed by the Commission capable of telecommand operation to effect cessation of space operation, whenever such is ordered by the Commission.

(d) The notifications required by § 97.423 (b) & (c) are on file with the Commission.

Technical Requirements

§ 97.415 Frequencies available.

The following frequency bands are available for space operation, earth operation, and telecommand operation.

Frequency Bands

kHz

7000–7100
14000–14250

MHz

21.00–21.45
28.00–29.70
144–146
435–438(1)

GHz

24–25.05

Stations operating in the Amateur-satellite Service shall not cause harmful interference to other stations between 435 and 438 MHz

Special Provisions

§ 97.417 Space operation.

(a) Stations in space operation are exempt from the station identification requirements of § 97.87 on each frequency band when in use.

(b) Stations in space operation may automatically retransmit the radio signals of other stations in earth operation, and space operation.

§ 97.419 Telemetry.

(a) Telemetry transmission by stations in space operation may consist of specially coded messages intended to facilitate communications.

(b) Telemetry transmissions by stations in space operation are permissable one-way communications.

§ 97.421 Telecommand operation.

(a) Stations in telecommand operation may transmit special codes intended to obscure the meaning of command messages to the station in space operation.

(b) Stations in telecommand operation are exempt from the station identification requirements of § 97.87.

§ 97.423 International advance publication.

All stations to operate on earth satellites or to communicate with stations on earth satellites are subject to the international advance publication procedure for the purpose of informing foreign administrations, in advance, of the intended operation. The proposed technical parameters of planned stations are to be published internationally (generally from 2 to 5 years prior to the commencement of space operations). The data required for this purpose are set forth in Appendix 1B of the international Radio Regulations.

§ 97.425 International coordination.

All stations proposed for earth and space operations and which utilize an earth satellite in a geostationary orbit are required to be prior coordinated with affected foreign administrations pursuant to the provisions of Article 9A of the international Radio Regulations. For this purpose, the Commision is obligated to collect and forward the data specified in Appendix 1A of the international Radio Regulations. No coordination is required for operations utilizing non-geostationary orbits.

§ 97.427 Notification required.

(a) The licensee of every station in space operation shall give written notifications to the Private Radio Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

(b) Pre-space operation notification.

(1) Three Notifications are required prior to initiating space operation. They are:

(i) *First Notification.* Required no less than twenty-seven months prior to initiating space operation.

(ii) *Second Notification.* Required no less than fifteen months prior to initiating space operation.

(iii) *Third Notification.* Required no less than three months prior to initiating space operation.

(2) The pre-space operation notification shall consist of:

(i) *Space operation date.* A statement of the expected date space operations will be initiated, and a prediction of the duration of the operation.

(ii) *Identity of satellite.* The name which the satellite will be known.

(iii) *Service area.* A description of the geographic area on the Earth's surface which is capable of being served by the station in space operation. Specify for both the transmitting and receiving antennas of this station.

(iv) *Orbital Parameters.* A description of the anticipated orbital parameters as follows:

Non-geostationary satellite

(1) Angle of inclination
(2) Period
(3) Apogee (kilometers)
(4) Perigee (kilometers)
(5) Number of satellites having the same orbital characteristics

Geostationary satellites

(1) Nominal geographical longitude
(2) Longitudinal tolerance
(3) Inclination tolerance
(4) Geographical longitudes marking the extremities of the orbital arc over which the satellite is visible at a minimum angle of elevation of 10° at points within the associated service area.
(5) Geographical longitudes marking the extremities of the orbital arc within which the satellite must be located to provide communications to the specified service area.
(6) Reason when the orbital arc of (5) is, less than that of (4)

(5) *Technical Parameters.* A description of the proposed technical parameters for the station in space operation and all other stations to engage in satellite communications; however, recognizing that a wide variety of amateur radio stations would be transmitting and receiving from a station on an earth satellite, only the parameters of a "typical" such station should be indicated. The description where possible, shall include the following:

(1) Carrier frequency [1]
(2) Necessary bandwidth [3]
(3) Class of emission [2]
(4) Total Peak Power [2]
(5) Maximum power density (watts/Hz)
(6) Antenna radiation pattern [3]
(7) Antenna gain (main beam) [3]
(8) Antenna pointing accuracy (geostationary satellites only) [3]
(9) Receiving system noise temperature [4]
(10) Lowest equivalent satellite link noise temperature [5]

(c) *In-space operation notification.* Notification is required after space operation has been initiated. The notification shall update the information contained in the pre-space operation notification. In-space operation notification is required no later than seven days following initiation of space operation.

(d) *Post-space operation notification.* Notification of termination of space operation is required no later than three months after termination is complete. If the termination is ordered by the Commission, notification is required no later than twenty-four hours after termination is complete.

* * * * *

3. In Appendix 2, the undesignated paragraph following the headnote is revised, and a new paragraph SEC. 6 is added as follows:

Appendix 2

Extracts From Radio Regulations Annexed to the International Telecommunications Convention (Geneva, 1959), as revised by the World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications, Geneva, 1971.

* * * * *

Article 41—Amateur Stations

* * * * *

Sec. 6. Space stations in the Amateur-satellite Service operating in bands shared with other services shall be fitted with appropriate devices for controlling emissions in the event that harmful interference is reported in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 15. Administrations authorizing such space stations shall inform the International Frequency Registration Board (I.F.R.B.) and shall ensure that sufficient earth command stations are established before launch to guarantee that any harmful interference that might be reported can be terminated by the authorizing Administration.

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[1] Only the frequency range in which the carrier frequencies will be located need be submitted for international advance publication purposes if carrier frequencies have not been determined.

[2] Not required for international advance publication but should be included if this information is available.

[3] These antenna characteristics shall be provided for both transmitting and receiving antennas.

[4] For a station in space operations.

[5] The noise temperature at the input of a typical amateur radio station receiver corresponding to the radio frequency noise power which produces the total observed noise at the output of the satellite link excluding noise from other non-associated radio systems.

6m Fun with the FT-625RD

—six is hot, so why not?

Glenn W. Malme W6OJF
9337 Gotham Street
Downey CA 90241

Probably 95% of the current ham population knows that six meters is one of their bands, and that's about all. Others have heard about TVI problems—and gave up before they started. Those days are now gone, for the most part.

After World War II, six meters became my first love. It all started when Pappy Dow, who ran a surplus store in Pasadena, sold a group of us the Collins MBF. The name Collins did the trick. All we had to do was move that ac/dc transceiver to the six-meter band. TV was just starting out here on the coast. W6XAO was the station call for Channel Two. To say that we had TVI problems was putting it mildly. I recall one neighbor walking around the block getting signatures on a petition to have me forced off the air.

About this time I met Faust Gonsett. Faust had introduced his world-famous two-meter Communicator. Why not one for six meters, I asked Faust? Sure enough, his little company in Burbank soon gave birth to the six-meter version.

Six meters was as hot as the proverbial two-dollar pistol. It was open worldwide every day and sometimes late into the night. I recall putting my six-meter Gonset (one T for the product, two Ts for Faust's name) in my 1953 Plymouth, connecting the antenna from the car's radio to the rig, calling CQ, and literally working the world. Each noon I had regular skeds on my way home for lunch with LU9MA in Argentina. He'd give me 40 over 9 reports for my little "4-Watts-out" Gonset while mobiling. The car antenna pulled out to 55 inches, which was just right for six. And, in just one weekend in the early 1950s, I worked all 48 states. This was before Hawaii and Alaska joined the group.

So why am I telling you all this? Simply because it's about to happen again. Six meters is again coming into its own and along with 10 meters will be the hottest of the ham bands. I had been reading the propagation reports, and my blood pressure began to build up. Could it really be? I dusted off my Gonset Com 3, checked it over, fired up the old girl, and connected it to a makeshift CB ground plane which I had hurriedly chopped down for six meters. The old Gonset tuned up just fine. The output was about 4 Watts, and the swr was 1.5:1 after a bit of tinkering.

The band was dead, not a signal to be heard. So I did some more tinkering and then QRZed the band. Now I heard a carrier. To make my story short, it was a KH6.

He was as surprised as I was. "I think everyone just sits around and listens; no one ever calls CQ," he observed. He flipped his two-meter rig on one of the

The Yaesu FT-625RD.

island repeaters and rousted up two others who quickly fired up on six. When we were through, I tuned the band and found several sideband stations down around 50.1, but as the old Gonset is strictly AM, I couldn't do much.

So that started me looking about, and the end result is that I now have a new do-everything Yaesu all-mode FT-625RD transceiver on my operating desk. This beautiful little rig will do everything but make a cup of coffee. The FT-625RD covers 50-54 MHz in four one-MHz switch positions. Frequency readout is in red-colored LEDs. The rig offers a memory system which provides for storage and recall of any transmit, receive, or transceive frequency. A 600-cycle CW filter is available for CW operators.

Built into every FT-625RD is an rf speech processor, a noise blanker which just can't be beat, VOX, semi-break-in CW with sidetone, and offset tuning (clarifier) for both receive and transceive frequencies. It has a novel automatic mike gain control (AMGC) which acts as a microphone squelch to minimize transmission of random noises in the operating room.

Hey, I forgot to tell you appliance operators that once you peak the receive signal on a multipurpose S-meter (one knob does it), you are all set to transmit—no tuning, dipping, and loading! And, there's a knob which varies the output anywhere from one to 25 Watts.

For FM enthusiasts, the FT-625RD includes a plus or minus 1-MHz repeater split plus an auxiliary split for use with a crystal. Tone burst and a discriminator center meter are included for maximum versatility.

For you guys who want to lift the hood and see what the motor looks like, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Completely solid state, all circuits are on plug-in computer-type circuit boards. Rear panel connections are for relay control, ALC input, PTT (for foot-switch control if you wish), CW jack, and connection for an external speaker if you so choose.

The front panel has every conceivable goody you can ask for. The mode switch provides LSB, USB, FM, AM, and CW. While the rig is vfo controlled, there is provision for 5 crystal positions and any split up to 4 MHz is possible with optional crystal.

And, like all Yaesu products, the transceiver will accommodate any 50-to-60-cycle line voltage, thanks to a tapped power transformer, from 100 volts to 234 volts. The FT-625RD transformer in the US models is set for 117 V ac. And, if you want to run the rig mobile, a second power cord is provided for 12 V dc. It takes 700 milliamps on receive and 7 Amps on transmit. On AM, you'll get 8 Watts of rf output, and, as I said, up to a comfortable 25 Watts on other modes. All you need to get on the air is an antenna. All power cords, PTT mike, and built-in speaker are furnished.

I just signed with WB6WOX, WB6JBC, and WB6DLR, each of whom praised the transceiver's performance at the receive end. After we signed, I tried to call WB6DLR back, only to be told that he was on his way to "the local candy store"—no doubt to get his FT-625RD.

Six meters will be a new frontier for most of the hams today. So, why not join the gang and, as the band gets better each day, work the world? ■

Paul Lutus
291 N. Gold Canyon Dr.
Kerby OR 97531

Albert and his Theories

—a layman's look at Einstein

"I do not know how I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me." —Isaac Newton

"In the light of knowledge attained, the happy achievement seems almost a matter of course, and any intelligent student can grasp it without too much trouble. But the years of anxious searching in the dark, with their intense longing, their alternations of confidence and exhaustion, and the final emergence into the light—only those who have themselves experienced it can understand that."—Albert Einstein

You might as well discard the belief that relativity theory is too complex for mortal man or woman to comprehend, because you will have a good understanding of its physical and philosophical implications in a few more pages—perhaps in spite of yourself. You may then join in some speculations about those matters which lie beyond the theory, areas about which little is known for sure. If you are clever enough, you may someday make a fundamental contribution to that frontier of knowledge, as Einstein did in his own time. He, after all, was mortal, rumors to the contrary notwithstanding.

Some History

Someone once defined science as not so much knowing, but knowing that we know, in the sense of testing each theory exhaustively and inventing hypotheses to tear down existing beliefs. It is hoped that, by straining ideas this way, only those unshakable ones will survive and win general acceptance. It doesn't always work that way. Sometimes the theories include hidden assumptions that are themselves not subjected to test, assumptions so intrinsic in our thinking that we don't realize that they can be questioned.

While all his friends were out getting the plague, Isaac Newton was hiding in his mother's house in Woolsthorpe, England. He had some prisms to play with, among other things. He was very clever, and experimented at length with the prisms, until he was sure that the prevailing theories of light were wrong. He had few hidden assumptions, which was very helpful. The young are like that.

It was then thought that colors appeared from prisms because thin glass passed only red, and hence through the colors to the thickest part of the prism, passing violet. Newton disproved this in a simple way: He divided a beam of sunlight into its component colors with one prism, and then placed a second prism in the colors which resulted. He saw that there were no further changes in the colors, which would have been required by the prevailing theory. He foolishly printed this proof, which, among other things, made all the existing physicists look silly for having swallowed the old belief without test. One of them, Robert Hooke, literally argued with him until he (Hooke) was dead. The old are like that.

The important thing to come out of Newton's work with light, however, was the idea that it consisted of waves, not particles. (It may turn out that neither is true, but that's another story.) This had important consequences, for a particle can just fly along, but a wave must have a medium through which it passes. When you watch spreading ripples on a pool of water, you aren't watching a physical thing, after all—you are watching energy transfer itself through the water according to some rules having to do with, for example, the water's density and the gravitational force acting on the water. The water must be there for the ripples, and air is needed for sound waves, and so forth.

As a result of Newton's finding, therefore, it was seen that some kind of medium must permeate all of space, to carry the waves of starlight to us. It was named ether, and within a short time everybody called it The Ether (doubtless, named by the same guy who called fluxions "The Calculus"), as if it was a sure thing and nobody would call it wrong. Lots of experiments seemed to confirm its existence, and after a while people got tired of talking about it. It became a hidden assumption. So everybody was happy and went home. Very human. Don't forget: Scientists are human.

But a man named Maxwell rocked the boat in the late 1800s. He didn't mean to: In fact, his theories about electromagnetism included the ether assumption. He just thought it would be fascinating to measure the Earth's speed through the ether. He saw that this could be done by measuring the speed of light in different directions, for, by so doing, one could find the direction and speed through the ether.

An American, Albert Michelson, saw a way for this to be done with sufficient sensitivity to detect the motion, using two beams of light, one moving out and back in the presumed direction of travel, one moving perpendicular to this direction. These two beams could be combined after their trips, and compared. By measuring the two beams, it was possible to get around the problem of actually measuring the speed of light directly; one measures instead the difference in travel time for the beams, using, in other words, one beam to test the other.

This can be done in the following way: If one drops two stones in a pond, the waves will meet in the center and create an interesting pattern of bumps, elongated areas, and quiet areas. The quiet areas are those places where the two waves oppose exactly, peak to trough. This is called interference, and it works for all waves.

When two light waves (of a single color) are made to meet in this way, the areas of opposition are dark. This results in a pattern of light and dark bars, each dark bar indicating an interval of distance nearly as small as that of light waves themselves. This makes the method very sensitive, sensitive enough to measure the difference between the two beams in their journeys.

The difference Michelson intended to measure was to be the result of the different travel time taken by a beam of light moving along the direction of travel versus one moving across the path. (See Fig. 1.) At first glance, it would seem that a beam moving out and back would be slowed down on the outward trip, then speeded up equally as it came back, pushed forward by the ether. But it turns out that the outward trip takes longer, because it is slower, and this results in a measurable difference when compared with the crosswise beam. If such a difference existed, this device would detect it. Michelson intended to rotate the entire apparatus, so that the out-and-back and the crosswise beams would trade places, and look at the interference pattern to see if it changed appearance.

Poor Mr. Michelson! He was so upset. No matter how he turned his apparatus, there was no change in the appearance of the light and dark bars. As if there were no ether! But, of course, there had to be.

He repeated his experiment with better equipment, in collaboration with Edward Morley. (Scientists always gang up when they get nervous; very human.) This was a beautiful piece of equipment, a huge slab of marble (to minimize the effect of vibration on the interference pattern), floating in a pool of mercury (to facilitate turning). All this served to reinforce the original conclusion: no difference.

Michelson considered the experiment a failure, but some saw the other, more frightening possibility, that of no ether. Immediately, however, it was decided to try to save the ether (a term actually used at this time) by developing an explanation for Michelson's null result. Perhaps the ether is dragged along by the Earth, like a sheath, so that experiments conducted at the surface would not reveal the motion? Experiments ruled this out. Maybe the Earth doesn't move? Such was the state of panic.

George FitzGerald proposed a really strange explanation: Everything gets shorter in its direction of travel through the ether, using the following formula: $L' = L\sqrt{1-(V^2/C^2)}$, where C is the velocity of light, V is the speed of travel in compatible units, L is the original length (at rest) and L′ is the length that comes about by moving at velocity V. This would explain the null result of Michelson's experiment: Everything gets a little shorter, just compensating for the expected difference in travel time of the light beam!

Hendrik Lorentz later expanded on this idea (thus perhaps saving FitzGerald from the nuthouse), including an even stranger correction for a problem he foresaw: No test at that time could distinguish between the forward-moving travel-time problem, and the smaller crosswise problem, which also would

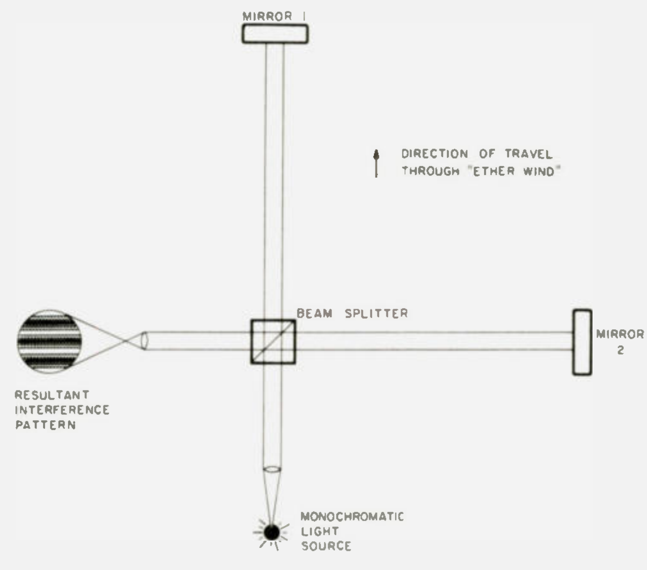

Fig. 1. The Michelson-Morley Interferometer. The travel time for forward case (mirror 1): $t' = t/[1-(V/C)^2]$; for perpendicular case (mirror 2): $t' = t\sqrt{1/[1-(V/C)^2]}$, where t = travel time "at rest," t′ = travel time when apparatus is at velocity V through "ether wind," and C = speed of light in compatible units.

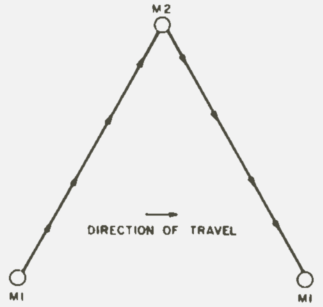

Fig. 2.

have to be explained eventually. The crosswise problem is illustrated in Fig. 2.

A beam leaves mirror 1, and travels to mirror 2, then back again. An observer who is "not moving" relative to the experiment sees it as drawn. Instead of the distance being straight between the two mirrors, the beam must move at an angle, and, more importantly, move over a greater distance, than if the system were "at rest." For some involved reasons, the shrinkage used in the forward direction cannot be invoked here. So what's left? What else can we bend, in order to save the ether? Time, said Lorentz; time is all we have left. If the beam moves over a greater distance, and takes no longer, which was shown in the Michelson-Morley experiment, then time itself must change nature at the velocity of travel to compensate. He invoked the same formula used for lengths, this time dividing instead of multiplying, so that time was dilated as lengths were shortened.

These ideas were met with wonder, but the alternative was to abandon the concept of an ether, which was far worse. That would have meant giving up the wave theory entirely, leaving lenses and other such commonplace devices without an explanation. Light, after all, had been shown to faithfully propagate at a specific and constant velocity. Particles move at all kinds of speeds, depending on their

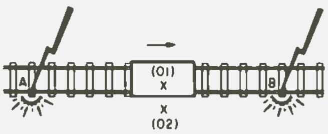

Fig. 3.

nature and energy, but light was constant.

Nobody wanted to give up the ether—the world would have become a scary place. So they listened nervously as Lorentz explained about the effect of traveling at the speed of light. Lengths in the direction of motion would shrink to zero, he said, and time would stand still. Lorentz was a physicist, remember, not a diplomat.

The Special Theory of Relativity

When Albert Einstein was 16, he asked himself the question, what would the world look like if I were traveling on a beam of light? No one could have helped him at that time, there being a great fuss about the threatened "loss" of the ether, and a lot of new theories were trying to rescue it, some simple, some complex, none subject to experiment. He pondered this idea alone in Germany, and later in Switzerland. (He chose Switzerland, when he was permitted to choose, because he hated the military atmosphere in Germany, and swore himself to lifelong pacifism; isn't fate cruel?)

He worked in the patent office in Bern in his early twenties, sometimes surreptitiously working on his calculations, quickly hiding his notes whenever someone approached. His job was to evaluate patents submitted to the office for worth. I have a copy of one before me now that he may have had occasion to see. It is an improved popgun. Isn't that great? "Hey, Sam, Al Einstein over at the patent office likes your popgun!"

The job at the patent office followed a so-so academic career; his salary was augmented by tutoring positions, in which he taught mathematics and physics to private individuals for small fees. His attempts to enter the universities as a teacher, hoping eventually to become a professor, were not successful. The pile of notes in his desk grew more voluminous as time passed.

In 1905 Einstein submitted a paper to a famous German journal of experimental physics, *Annalen Der Physik*. The title of the paper was "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies." The contents of this paper were later to become known as the theory of special relativity. Special relativity deals with the theory that uniform (non-accelerated) motion cannot be detected in the sense of being compared with some universal frame of reference, such as an ether. In this theory, Einstein explains the apparent failure of the Michelson-Morley experiment (without referring to it specifically) and gives the Lorentz contraction theory a new interpretation. Essentially, he kept all of Lorentz's formulas, but explained them differently.

In his theory, it is postulated that there is no experiment which can be conducted inside a closed, uniformly moving vessel to detect motion. Newton's theory stated that no mechanical experiment would reveal any motion which might exist; Einstein's theory extended this to include optical or other experiments.

Think about this for a minute. If no optical experiment can reveal the speed of travel (inside the closed frame of reference), then Michelson's ether either doesn't exist, or is of no use in establishing speed. This means that every experiment ever conducted that gave a speed for light referred that speed to something other than the ether, or the background stars, or the sun's environment. What, then?

It was Einstein's genius that revealed to him the hidden assumption of those before him: that the speed of light existed apart from the truly basic things that make up the universe of the senses, space in three dimensions, and time. He explained that the speed of light is as basic to the structure of space as up, down, or sideways. And, in some cases, if it came to a necessary change in one of these, the speed of light would bend the others to fit its own constant velocity. It was shown to be as fundamental in the structure of space as any of these, to be, in essence, a yardstick of time, although that specific description was to come later.

Besides expanding on Newton's mechanical relativity, therefore, Einstein included the requirement that the speed of light be constant, regardless of the motion of its source. A spacecraft traveling at half the speed of light, sending a beam of light out in the direction of travel, would be seen by another spacecraft (which was at rest, relative to the first) to be sending a beam of light at the normal velocity. But measurements onboard the first would reveal that the beam is traveling at the usual velocity of light, which, in the world before Einstein, would have meant a speed 1½ times that of light!

One may ask, which is the true speed? Which spacecraft is "right"? In the world of Einstein, there are no longer absolute answers

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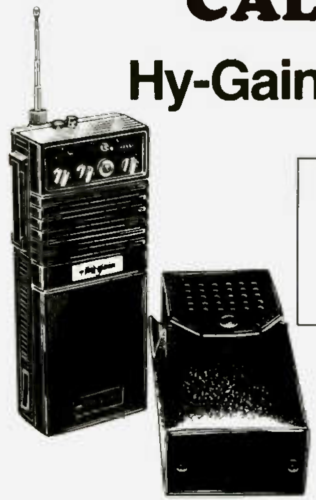

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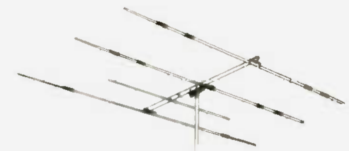

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to such questions, because time and space are themselves no longer absolute.

The best example of this uncertainty is a thought experiment used by Einstein himself. Consider the following and see Fig. 3: Two observers (O1 and O2 in the illustration) are passing one another. One is standing on the embankment of a railroad track, the other is riding in the train. At the instant that the two observers are across from one another, two lightning bolts strike equidistant points along the railroad track, one in front of, one behind the train. The observer on the embankment sees the two flashes as simultaneous. The moving observer, since he is moving towards one flash and away from the other, sees the forward flash first. The observer on the embankment concludes that since he was stationary and saw the two equidistant flashes simultaneously, they really were simultaneous. The observer on the train, aware of his motion, calculates the difference between the arrival times of the flashes and he, too, concludes that they were simultaneous.

This all precedes Einstein, of course. In Einstein's relative view of these events, the observer on the embankment has just as much right to assume that he is the one in motion, he and the rest of the world, backwards in relation to the train, and that the observer on the train is stationary. Now the embankment observer concludes that since he is actually moving backwards toward the flash behind the train and he saw them simultaneously, the forward flash happened first and caught up. The train observer, using the same logic, agrees, since he is now "at rest" and saw the forward flash first.

So we can no longer say with absolute certainty whether two such events are simultaneous, or have any other order, and this uncertainty increases as the distances between events increases. Absolute determinism of the old kind remains only for events which have no spatial separation. Two colliding ice skaters still *really* collide simultaneously.

In some cases, it can be said that event B *followed* event A, such as a case where a radio signal (which travels at the speed of light) arrives, delivering a message to turn off the bath before it overflows. This case meets the requirement that the space-distance, measured as an ordinary distance, is less than the time-distance, measured with the new yardstick of the speed of light. This has important consequences other than baths, for, if the space-distance is greater than the time-distance, event B cannot have been caused by event A (the sending of the signal), because no signal or material particle can move with a velocity greater than that of light. Imagine a sphere of causality, spreading out through space at the speed of light, within which volume events *may* be caused by the original signal, but outside which, events *cannot*.

The interesting effects predicted by Lorentz now are part of the geometry of Einstein's universe, but for quite different reasons than originally formulated. In Lorentz's view, the shrinkage in the direction of travel was a change in an object's true dimensions, due to the pressure of the ether wind. In Einstein's view, whatever dimension is taken is the true dimension, because an object's reality is defined as much by velocity as by space coordinates and sizes. The time dilation described by Lorentz to save the ether is used in the same proportion to describe a geometric change in space-time, in which time and space are on an equal footing, and in accord with the requirement that the speed of light be the same for all observers in all states of motion.

Consider Fig. 4. Here, a rowboat moves across a river, seen (A) from the frame of reference of the riverbank, and (B) from the frame of reference of the flowing water. Clearly, an observer on the bank sees a larger distance traveled than the observer on the boat itself. If the boat were a beam of light, and its transit time were clocked both by a waterborne and beached observer, there would be two different velocities recorded for light, because velocity is distance per unit of time. To complicate matters unnecessarily, let us say that there is a helicopter flying overhead at three times the stream flow rate. This observer would see the boat moving backwards at twice the rate seen by the bank observer!

One might generalize and say that there are an infinite number of frames of reference, each giving a different value for the speed of light.

In the case of light beams, however, there is no "water" and no preferred frame of reference. A nosy spacecraft occupant, peeking into the window of another which is moving at a different rate of speed,

—might watch a test of the speed of light,

—might see just such an elongated light path brought about by the difference in the speeds of the two craft,

—might see the other's clock timing the transit of the beam,

—and might smugly note that, as far as *he* is concerned, the beam moved over a greater distance than the other crew perceives. He would then see the clock inside the other spacecraft, and notice that it is slow. Not just off, as in maladjusted, but running at a different rate entirely.

To make matters worse, the other astronaut is holding a sign up to him now, in the porthole through which he watched the experiment. It reads: *"Your Clock Is Slow."*

A final, and important effect of the special theory is the one having to do with mass. Let us say that one wants to measure the mass of a cannonball inside one of our disagreeing spacecraft. On Earth, one may simply weigh it, but in space we must employ a more roundabout method: We measure its inertia, its resistance to change. After all, Newton and Galileo showed that inertia is proportional to mass. So we push against the cannonball with a measured force, and see how much time it takes for the ball to get moving at a specified rate.

From the standpoint of our own clock, the mass is the same as on Earth. But our friends are waving another sign from the other ship: *"Your Clock Is Slow And That Cannonball Is Heavier Than You Think."* That other crew, who used their own clock to judge the mass of the ball, found it to be heavier since it took more time, as they perceived it, to get it rolling.

This is the real limitation to an approach to the speed of light: The mass of the craft would approach infinity, requiring infinite energy to make the final push to the speed at which photons move. And they seem so ordinary!

This mass increase rounds out the effects of

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the special theory: Time dilates, length in the direction of travel shortens, mass increases; all as seen by a relatively stationary observer, and all in accord with the quantity: $\sqrt{1-(V^2/C^2)}$.

It is important to understand that everything, not just clocks, slows down on the moving frame. After all, the reason clocks slow down is because the paths by which atoms communicate with one another (at the speed of light) are lengthened by the above formula, and all the messages about mechanical state or energy level therefore take longer to deliver. In a balance-wheel clock, for example, the pressure of the spring can be transmitted to the wheel at no greater than the speed of light, and the path of travel is now longer. The present state of inertia of the wheel itself is transmitted back at the same speed, also over a greater distance. It doesn't require magic, it just required an Einstein to think of it in the first place!

If you happen to have a fantastic sense of rhythm, you still won't notice the change in the clock's ticking, because your body will slow down by the same amount. You will age less quickly than those at rest. Of course, if you look out a porthole, you will see everything happening at a faster pace than usual, and all inside the craft will seem completely normal.

Einstein kept on thinking, after the publication of the special theory. Three months later, he published another paper in which he showed that if a body gives off energy, it loses mass by the relation: $M' = E/C^2$, in which M' is the "lost" mass. During the next two years he realized that the reverse must also hold: that all mass has energy, and, finally, that they are equivalent. He expressed their equivalence this way: $E = mc^2$.

A proof of this equality was, at the time, difficult. Later on, it became easier.

Learning to resist the temptation to re-prove Einstein's mass-energy equivalence theory involving large groups of civilians has become the most important task facing us.

The General Theory

The special theory won Einstein wide recognition, although some physicists refused to accept the ideas—which is as it should be. Many changes came about for him as a result, but he was busy with a new problem. You will remember that the special theory dealt with the equivalence of uniformly moving bodies, those that are not being accelerated. Einstein wanted to prove that these, too, were equivalent, and that no test could distinguish between them, using the same rules as in the case of uniform motion.

This was going to be tough. After all, if a rocket's motors are pushing the rocket forward, it is very likely that the occupants will be pushed into their seats as a result of the inertia of their bodies, and they will realize, in the absence of any other clues, that they are being accelerated.

True, said Einstein, but can they distinguish between, say, a 32-foot-per-second acceleration in a spacecraft, and just sitting on the ground? He began to think about the similarity of gravitational and inertial effects.

Galileo had shown that the force of inertia is proportional to the force of gravity—that is, for a given mass, the force of gravity drawing it to the ground is in proportion to the inertial force resisting the movement. Thus, objects of greatly differing masses, ignoring air resistance, fall at the same rate. Isn't it strange, thought Einstein, that these forces are exactly proportional?

In 1916, after 11 years of study, he published the general theory of relativity, so named because all forms of motion, not just uniform, are shown to be equivalent as far as any test or special effects are concerned.

To accomplish this, it was necessary to deal with some very difficult questions. For example: In an accelerating spacecraft, an astronaut is being pushed into his seat by inertia. If we now take the spacecraft as the frame of reference, and assume the universe to be moving backward all around it, how does the inertial force arise then?

Einstein explained it this way: Inertial forces arise equally between any two material bodies which are accelerated relative to one another. Once the two bodies are in uniform motion, or at rest, the force disappears. Try to change the state of motion between them, and the force appears resisting the acceleration. Therefore, he said, inertia comes about as an interaction between the spaceship and all the rest of the matter in the universe, and one might as well think the universe is in motion, as the spacecraft—the force would be the same.

As for the relationship between inertia and gravity, Einstein had something wonderful to say about it, which will take a little telling.

In Fig. 5, a light beam is shown passing from one side of the spacecraft to the other, while the craft is being accelerated. This makes the beam, as seen from the spacecraft, take the path shown.

Does this remind you of something? The astronauts, measuring the time the beam takes, will find a different result than those not accelerating, and this would violate the constancy of the speed of light. But, as in the special theory, because of the curved path, the clocks used to measure the time are slowed down. (The formulas are more involved because the path is curved, but time-dilation is the result in either case.)

Now take the case of a laboratory on Earth, being accelerated by gravity at 32 feet per second. According to the general theory, there is nothing special about the frame of reference of the lab that can distinguish it from a spacecraft being accelerated by the same amount. Doesn't that mean the clocks will be slowed down in the lab on Earth, just as in the spacecraft? Yes, says Einstein. Time passes more slowly in a gravitational field than out in space.

And it happens in much the same way as in the special theory: by bending space itself, and time, so that the constancy of the speed of light is maintained.

Having said all that, we now come to the crowning achievement of the general theory: Gravity and inertia are the same thing. They're the same force! Because of the change of geometry of space near large masses like the Earth, objects move towards it,"thinking" themselves to be in uniform motion. This is important: The moon, traveling in its orbit, "thinks" that it is moving in a straight line, and no acceleration is required to make it move in a circle, or ellipse. How can this be?

Try this thought experiment. Two observers are on the moon, one on the far side, one on the near side. They are required to operate little rocket motors so that both sides of the moon move forward at the same speed, so that it moves in a straight line. (They obviously were hired by Newton.) Every second, each pulses his rocket by a measured amount. This would seem to move the moon off and away in a straight line (in the absence of gravity, which we haven't yet invoked).

But the observer on the near side is nearer to the Earth than the other, and, as was shown above, his clock therefore is giving fewer ticks. His rocket motor is, therefore, operated less frequently, and the moon moves around and around the Earth, and the observers are mystified. (The actual geometry is more complicated than this, involving space as well as time changes.)

Another important effect of this equivalence between gravity and inertia is that a gravitational field will bend light waves! Look again at the diagram of the accelerated craft and the curved beam of light. It was shown that the same effect can be observed on Earth, therefore a beam of light that passed near the surface would also be curved, and take off in a new direction. This idea was tested in a very dramatic way in 1919 by the English astronomer, Eddington. It was realized that starlight would be deflected a measurable amount when it passed close to the sun. This effect might be perceptible during an eclipse of the sun, after which comparisons might be made of the stars' positions without the effect of the sun.

Eddington made an expedition to Brazil to photograph the stars' positions during an eclipse. Einstein had predicted a deflection of 1.7 seconds of arc. Newtonian physics also predicted a deflection, but one about half as large as that suggested by Einstein. No test of this kind had ever been conducted, and there were at least three possible outcomes: Einstein's value would be seen, Newton's would win out, or there would be no deflection of the starlight. According to a story of the time, two astronomers are discussing these possibilities. "What if there turns out to be a deflection twice as large as Einstein predicts?" "That's simple," says the other. "Eddington will go mad."

Despite some bad weather, some photographs were taken and compared with standard observatory pictures of that part of the sky, and the results agreed with Einstein.

It was chiefly because of the result of this experiment that the public became aware of the theory, and Einstein became famous. He later said about it, "Fate has punished my hatred for authority by making me an authority."

Some Consequences and Speculations

We have seen that inertia and gravity result from the interaction of matter, and are not independent of it. It therefore is possible that the force of inertia might be related to the total amount of mass in the universe and its distribution through space. An Austrian physicist, Ernst Mach, suggested that in an empty universe there would be no inertial forces. One could shine a flashlight out the back of the Queen Mary and it would get moving in a hurry! The only moderating influence in this case would be the negligible mass of the ship itself. In practice, investigators have used this concept (called Mach's

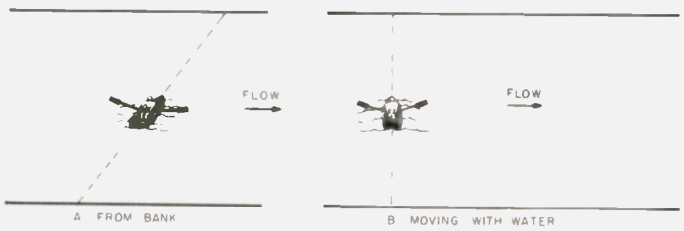

Fig. 4.

Principle) to estimate the total mass of the universe, assuming that local forces are the result of this interaction.

Einstein was aware of this possibility, and saw that his universe would tend to spread outward or fall inward rather than stay put, because any tendency to fall inward, for example, would increase the inertial, and therefore the gravitational, forces between the galaxies, thus increasing the speed of collapse. His universe was like a coin balanced on edge. He introduced a cosmological constant, therefore, the effect of which was to hold widely separated masses apart, thus balancing the forces.

In the 1920s, Edwin Hubble discovered that the universe is expanding, and the need for a cosmological constant went away. If the universe is expanding, it no longer must maintain any balance. (Einstein hadn't liked the cosmological constant, anyway; it was inelegant.)

Now, if the universe is expanding, which seems likely, it must have been all together at once sometime in the past, and started moving apart. George Gamow, a Russian-born physicist, proposed what is now known as the big bang theory, in which the present state of the universe was initiated by a tremendous explosion, throwing energy and matter all over. Wow, said just about everybody. And various experimental evidence has supported the theory. Distant galaxies are receding

Fig. 5.

from us in proportion to their distance, the farthest ones moving the fastest. Gamow predicted that there would be a small thermal residue of the original big bang, sort of a cloud of thermal energy all over the universe. He guessed that it would be at about 5 degrees Kelvin, and recent tests using airborne microwave detectors are in good agreement with this prediction: about 2.7 degrees Kelvin.

One of the possible consequences of this expansion is that inertia, and therefore gravity, gets slowly weaker, because the density of matter is declining. This might explain planetary cracking and fissuring as forces other than gravitation begin to get the upper hand. This idea is being subjected to experimental test in devices made to measure the force of gravity with great precision. Some theories have gravity and inertia changing in different proportions, so that orbits would slowly move outward and take longer. A study of the moon is presently underway to try to detect this effect.

Other studies are underway to try to decide whether the universe will continue to expand, or eventually collapse inward again. It really is a simple calculation—all one needs to do is find out how much matter there is in the universe, and its distribution, and apply the gravitational rules including Mach's Principle (if it turns out to be so) to the results. If the average velocity of the masses is greater than the "escape velocity" mandated by their mutual attractions, the universe will expand forever. If not, then there will have to be a theory devised to explain the collapse (big thump?). Finding and tallying all the matter that exists is another problem. Some galaxies may be receding from us so fast that we can no longer see their light. Some may be hidden behind dust clouds.

We now know (or assert, arrogantly) that stars emit energy by way of nuclear processes according to Einstein's mass-energy equivalence principle. The energy is emitted in the course of transformations of elements. In the life of a star, however, there comes a time when all the likely candidates for transformation are used up and truly basic matter remains which won't give up any more energy. When this happens, the star begins to collapse to a smaller, denser configuration. This comes about because the energy emission, which used to maintain the size of the star through thermal turbulence and sheer pressure, has greatly decreased.

If a star is somewhere between three and ten times the size of our sun, it can collapse into such a small, dense configuration that the escape velocity required is greater than the speed of light. This means that no light can escape it, nor any other kind of signal. And if a stray bit of light or matter should come by, it will be sucked up and never heard from again. The star itself and all that is captured by it are literally crushed into nothingness.

These things, called "black holes," are thought to exist; in fact, there are some candidates in the night sky, but they do present a paradox: Matter and energy can be changed only in form. It isn't permitted to take it away entirely! Some people claim that the stolen mass-energy must pop up somewhere else, say, out of a "white hole" in another universe. In which case there might be white holes in this one from black holes in that one; all we need to do is figure out which of our new, fascinating observations is actually a white hole.

People who have to believe in relativity (there are always some of those, for any theory) are made nervous by the idea of antimatter. There are lots of versions of the theory in which antimatter is at least possible, and the existence of certain antiparticles is taken for granted in the high-energy physics labs, where electrons and positrons (the antimatter equivalent of an electron) are made to collide in huge storage rings. But if a ball of regular antimatter were proven to exist (or coexist, to be more specific), then relativity would be in a big jam.

Consider the following two cases: In one, the ball of antimatter is floating inside a craft, and the craft's motor is started. The floor starts to rise toward the ball. Of course, the ball stays in place until the floor hits it since it has no forces acting on it until then. In the other case, the craft is assumed to be sitting on Earth instead of firing its rocket. Antimatter is repelled by ordinary matter, so the ball takes off toward the ceiling. These two frames of reference are therefore no longer equivalent, as required by the theory. A space crew could keep a little bit of antimatter around on their journeys, and use it to find out things not permitted by Einstein!

A group of theorists once came up with a mathematical treatment of the universe in which matter is no more than a local space-time irregularity, instead of creating such irregularities, as presented here. After all, it's the chicken-and-egg problem: Did the matter or the local distortions in space-time appear first? And what does "first" really mean, in the world of Einstein? These guys were sure that they had lost their collective minds, and were all set to commit themselves. Moral: Understanding relativity too well is almost as bad as not understanding it at all. ■

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Reader Service—see page 179

New from Longs . . . Kenwood R-1000 compact communications receiver

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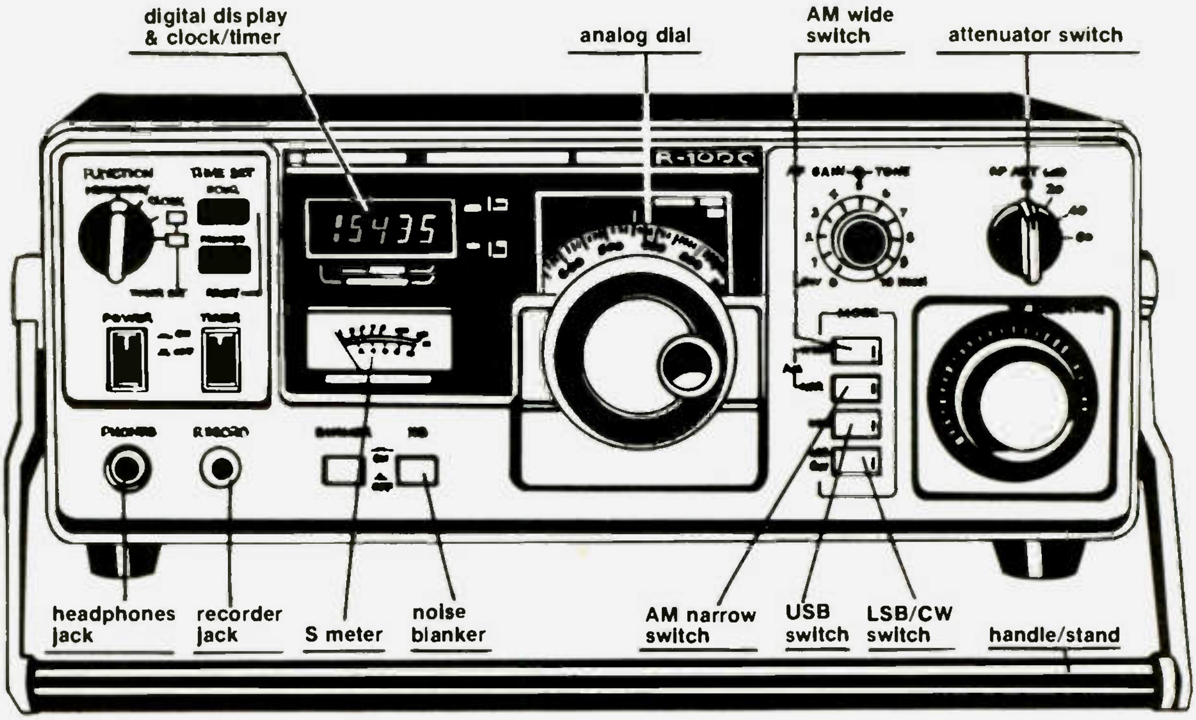

The new, compact (12¾W x 4½H x 8-9/16"D) R-1000 is a high class general coverage receiver covering 30 bands from 200 KHz to 30 MHz. It features: PLL synthesizer, digital display readout (1 KHz step) and analog dial calibrated at 10 KHz intervals from 0 to 1,000 KHz. The 12 hr. quartz digital clock with timer can be set to go on or off at any time. A stepped RF attenuator provides 20, 40, and 60 dB attenuation to protect the unit from damage by high input power signals. Also features: 3 stage IF filter, tone control, built-in noise blanker, dimmer switch, recording terminal, selectable AC power voltage (100, 120, 220 or 240 VAC), wire antenna terminals and UHF connector (SO-239 for coax cable), large 10 cm built-in speaker, external speaker jack, 2 position antenna selector switch, accessory terminals for timer and muting circuit. Has calibrated S meter, AF gain control, 4 mode switches. Selects LSB/CW, USB, narrow AM or wide AM.

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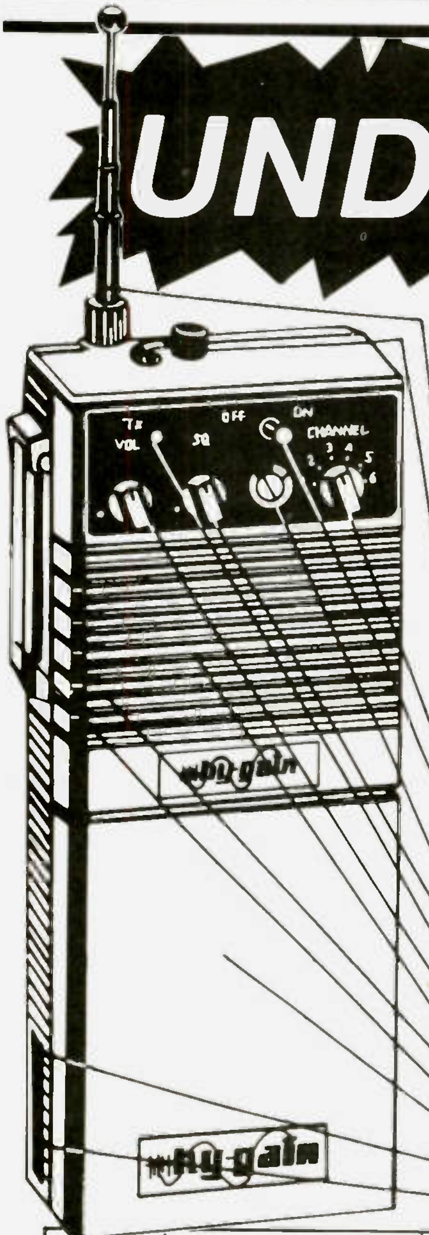

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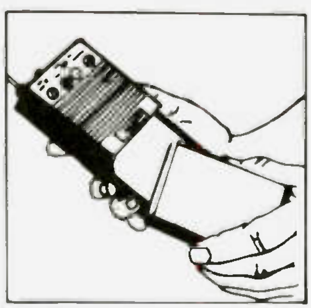

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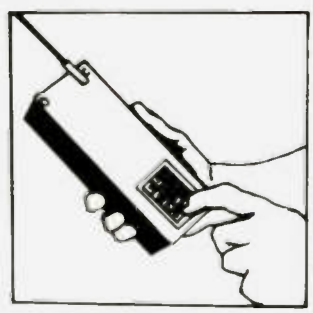

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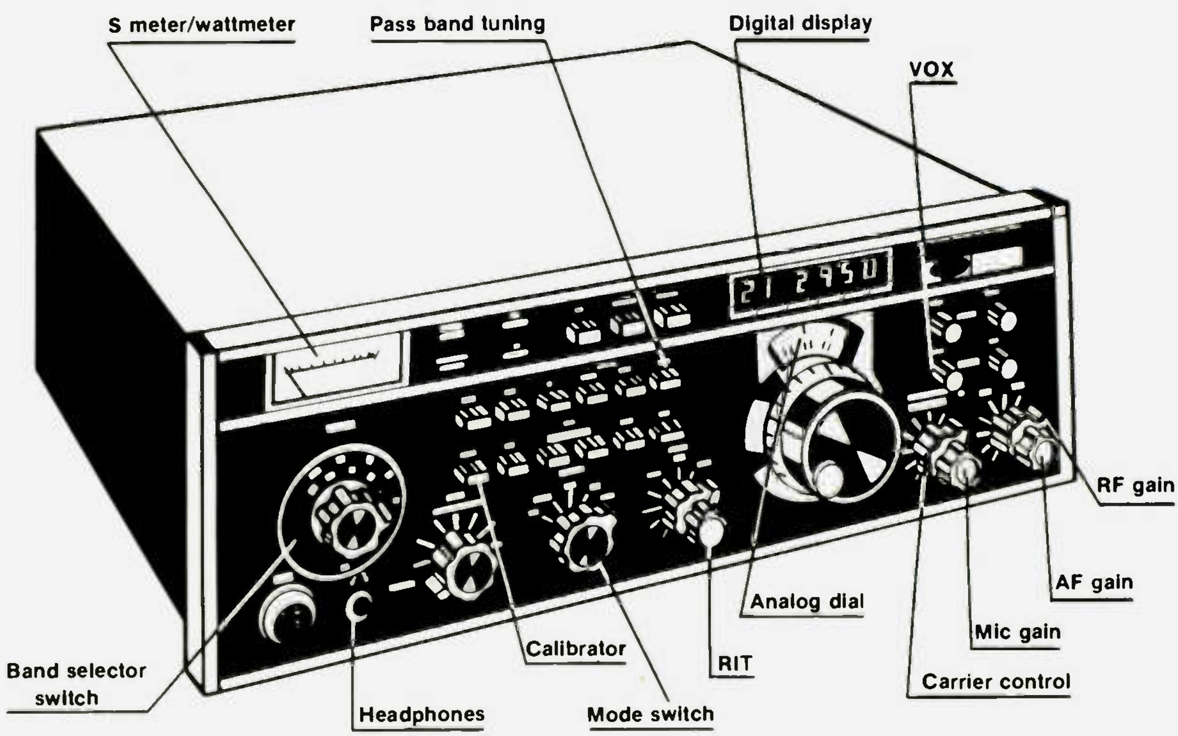

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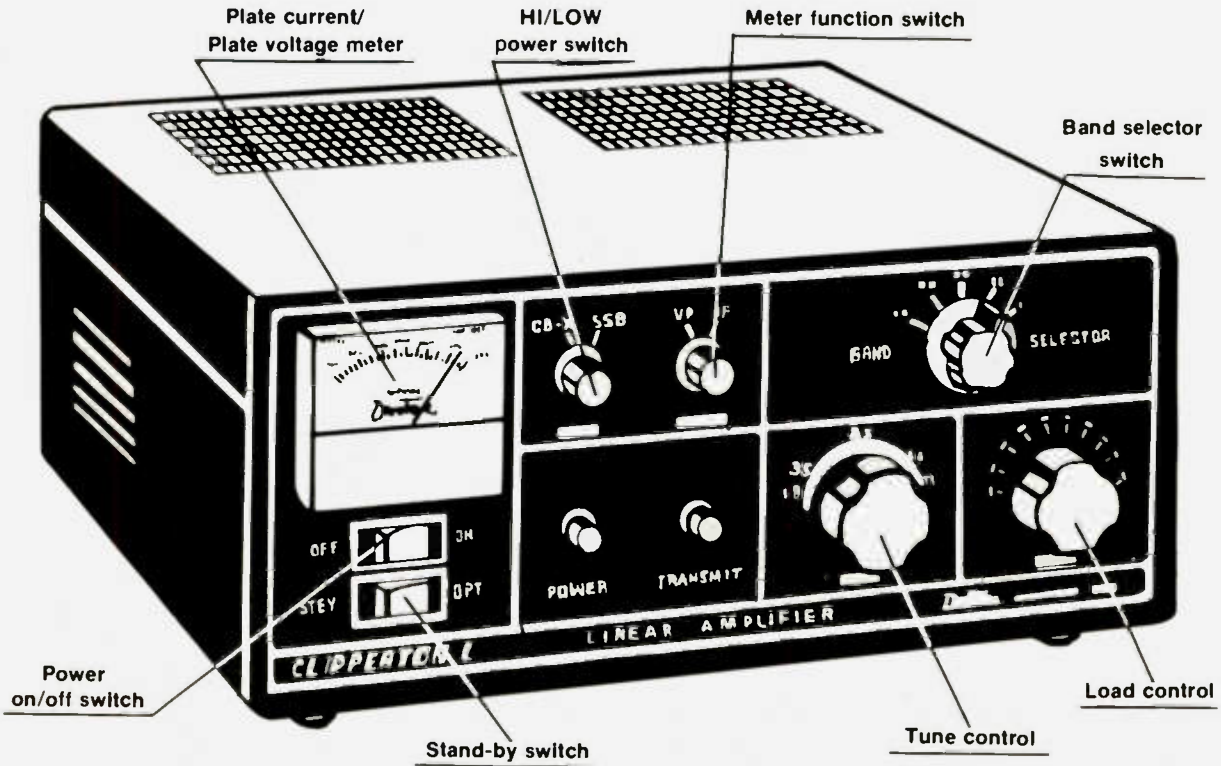

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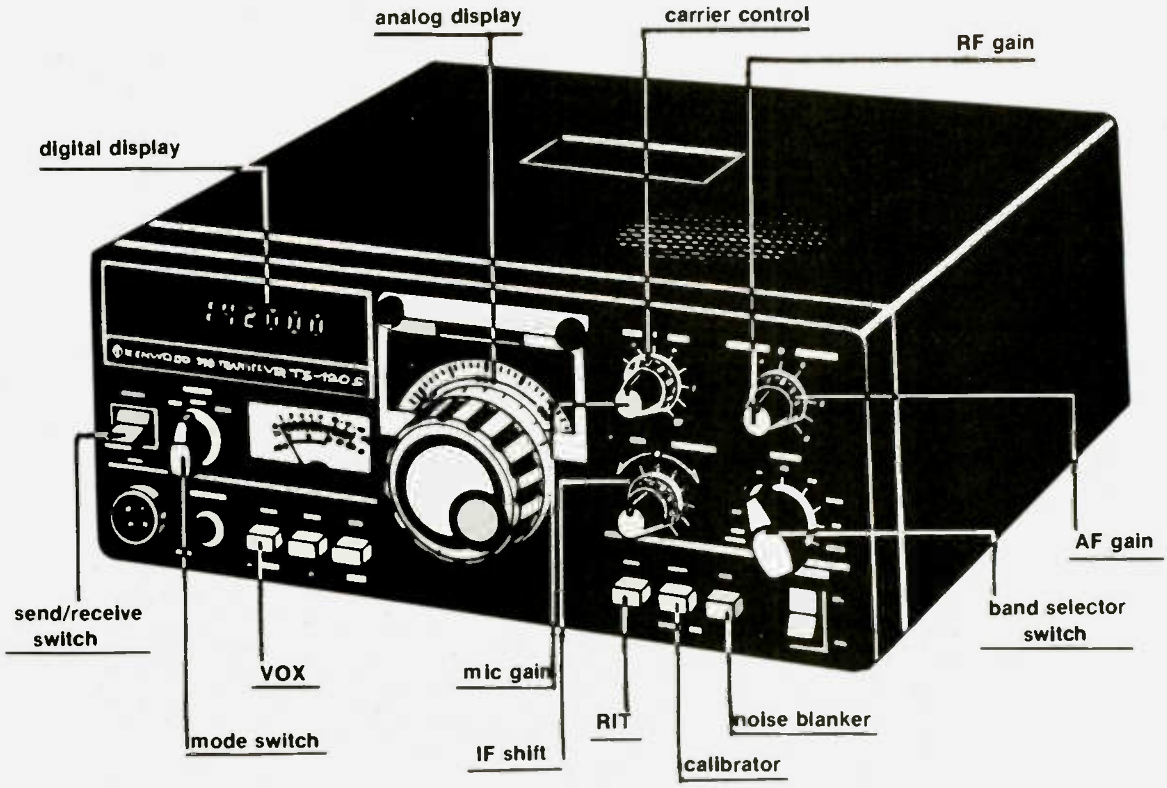

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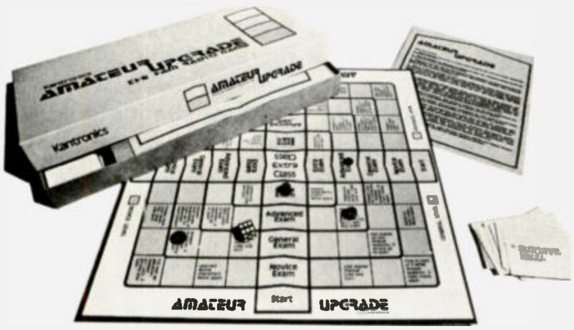

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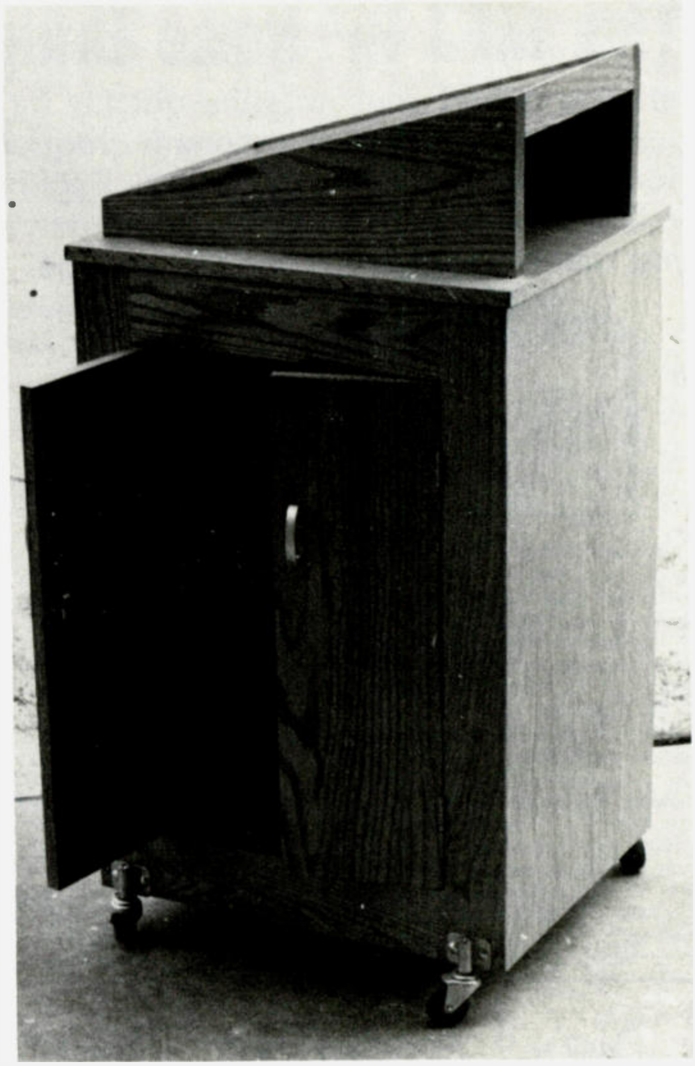

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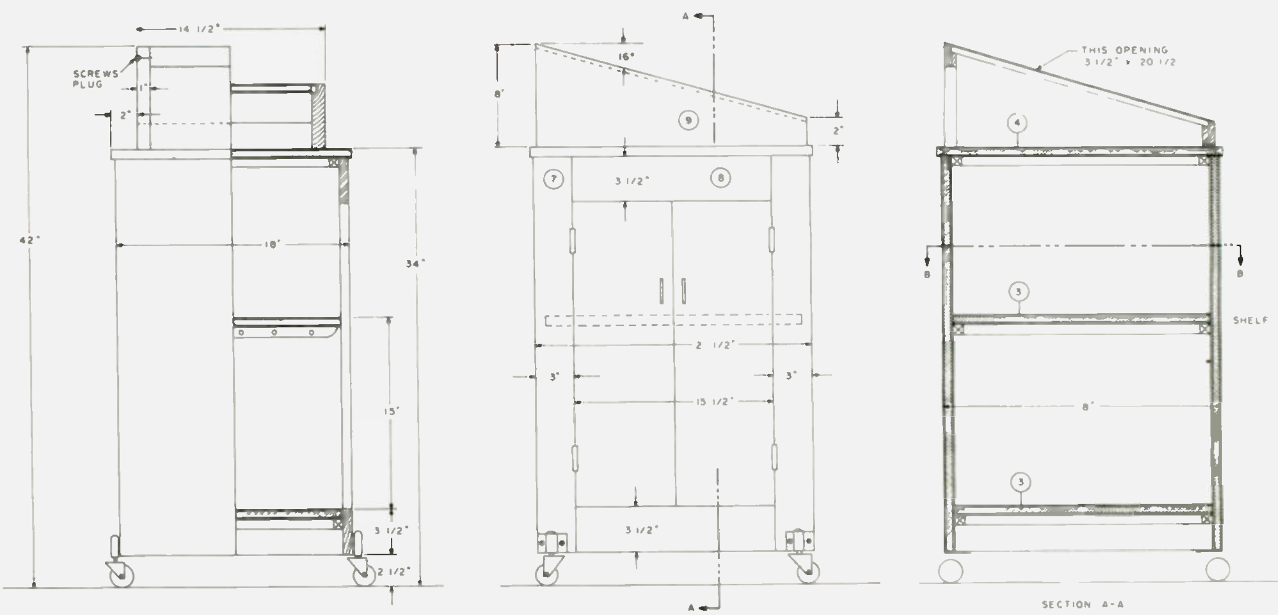
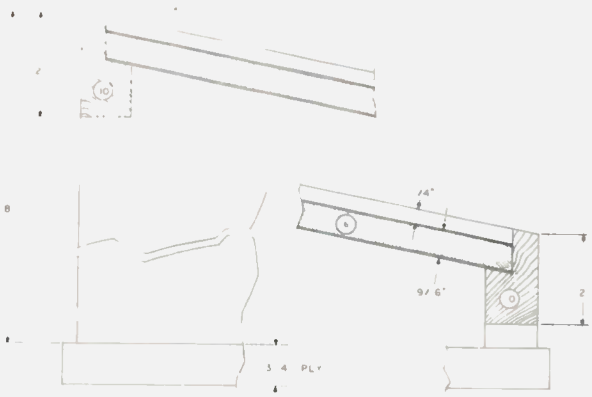
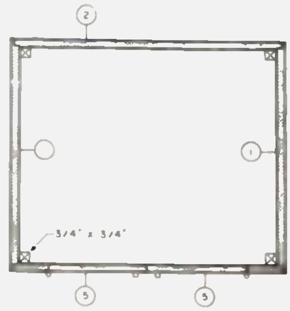


scope. The doors on the cart could be left off; however, they do not add much to the total cost and do keep the items inside secure. The good quality wheels are worth the extra expense.

The cost of materials will be approximately $30.00. Compare this with the cost of a commercially-manufactured cart. The prices of other carts vary between $135.00 and $300.00. Very few would try to duplicate this cart exactly, so the drawing is used only to show some of the construction in this unit. The plywood is press-type wood with a thin veneer on both sides. G1S means "Good 1 Side," which means that one side is knot-free; however, the other side is often very good. This type of plywood can be used in place of G2S ("Good 2 Sides") if you want to save some money. ■





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2	1	¾" x 21½" x 30¾"	left side, ply G1S
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4	1	¾" x 18½" x 22"	top, ply G1S
5	2	¾" x 7¾" x 23¾"	doors, ply G2S
6	1	½" x 13½" x 20¾"	sloping top, ply G1S
7	2	¾" x 3" x 30¾"	sides of frame for doors, oak, solid
8	2	¾" x 3½" x 17½"	top & bottom for door frame, oak, solid
9	2	1" x 8" x 20⅝"	side of top unit, oak, solid
10	2	1" x 2" x 14½"	ends of top unit, oak, solid
		12 linear feet of ¾" x ¾" strips as required	
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	4	hinges 2½" x 2½"	
	2	roller catches for doors	
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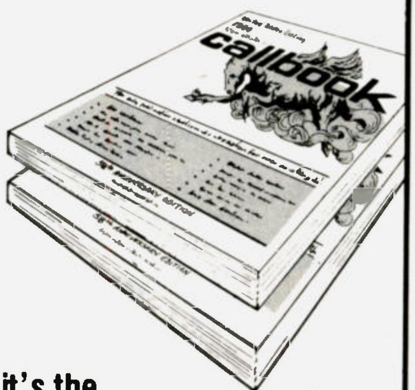

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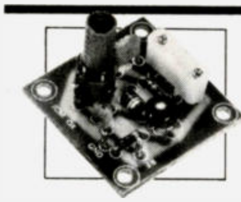

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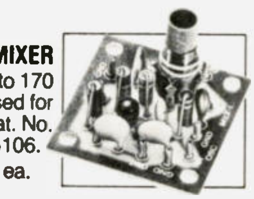

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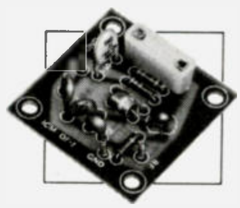

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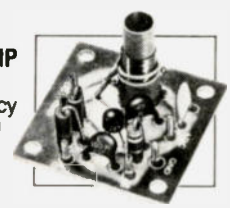

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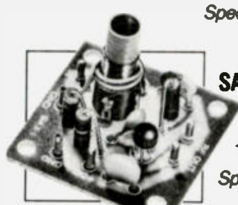

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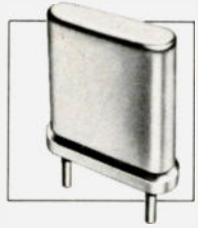

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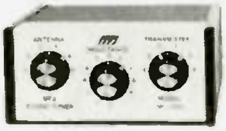

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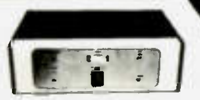

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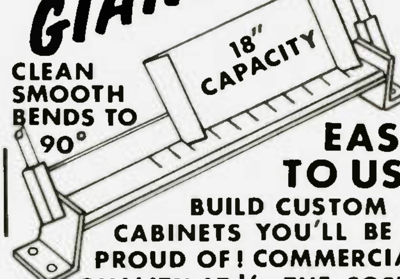

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DX

from page 20

no relief from the problems created by the shared status of 3.5 and 7 MHz with HF broadcasting. These guesses, due to the lack of word from the conference, are like trying to bet Sunday's football games on Saturday with half the football league down with the flu.

Bits and pieces now from November's DX happenings:

Alex Kasevich W1CDC announced that the Caribe DX Association has had to scrap its plans for an expedition in August, 1980; Hurricane David last fall wiped out the group's seaplane, which was based in Florida.

USSR stations, including UB5WF, UT5BN, and UC2AAK, are operating on 160 meters, most often at 0400 between 1850 and 1855.

K1MM operated from Mauritius (3B8), then from Reunion as FR0MM during the *CQ* CW Contest, putting in a single-band 10-meter effort; he went next to Malagasy Republic (5R8), but failed in attempts to obtain a license to operate. Word is that no American will be granted permission there in the foreseeable future. Bill (K1MM) operated from the Hong Kong QTH of VS6DO in the *CQ* Phone Contest and racked up 2,000 contacts in a short operating session.

More pulse-type interference was heard on 20 meters in early November and continued intermittently for a month or so. While it was not as bothersome as the "woodpecker," we note that its source was reported to be the US government in the form of the US Air Force. Senator Goldwater K7UGA entered a note about the USSR woodpecker in the Congressional Record.

The 1S1DX Spratly expedition is still in the red; they have photographs of Amboyna Cay, from which the operation took place, available for $3.00 (3.5" x 5") and $10.00 (8" x 10"). Proceeds will go to the fund set up for the expedition. Orders to Bob Schenck N2OO, 212 Oak Leaf Drive, Tuckerton NJ 08087.

The US personnel on Diego Garcia Island ("Chagos" on your Countries List) have a new club callsign, VQ9CI, which made its debut during November.

N4HX/TT8 came on from Chad in mid-November and expects to be there for some time. "Bull" is active almost exclusively on SSB on the higher bands, although some operation on 40 and 80 meters is promised during contests. QSL to ON5NT, not the *Callbook* address, but rather Ghislain Penny, Box 5, Aalter, Belgium.

ON4LS appeared aboard ship off the Somalian coast, signing 6O4LS and claiming to be anchored at the shore. No word as we write on DXCC status, but the heavy betting is that it won't count until he sets foot on shore.

Jim Smith P29JS traveled in the Pacific and operated from the Solomons (H44) and Nauru (C21); he has been mentioned as one of the possible operators on a rumored upcoming operation from Heard Island.

TN8AJ, who opened up from the Congo in October, says he has become an avid DXer and is looking for new countries; after the initial shock of QSO demands, he has settled down and tries to work the pile-ups as best he can. He did not have a DM license when he left East Germany, so he is, in fact, a Novice. Two new Congolese licenses, TN8AH and TN8BF, both await equipment. An operation proposed for early December from both TN and TL by KA1BQ, KA1BOH, and I8MPO may have reduced the demand for the "Terrible Ts."

The *National Contest Journal* "has been reorganized. A board of directors has been formed to manage the business and publicity activities of the *NCJ*, in hopes of making the magazine a more viable and timely publication. The Board members are W2GD, K5RC, N6SF, and K0TO (a former editor of *NCJ*). The new editor is Randy Thompson K5ZD... There is an issue in distribution and another issue will be printed in late December with all the high-claimed scores of the fall contests. The December issue will be the first under the new management and will be mailed to all subscribers and all former subscribers. A new PO Box will also be announced, along with subscription information." The *NCJ* has been published more-or-less regularly, six times per year, over the past half decade; it is must reading for serious contesters and has DX information relating specifically to DX contests.

S2BTF showed almost nightly from Bangladesh, on the W7PHO "Family Hour" gathering on 21340; a list is taken at 0045 with two stations from each US call area making the list each night. Occasionally, S2BTF could be found answering CQs a half hour or so before his official appearance on the "net."

4N0MP was a special call from Yugoslavia, honoring the 125th anniversary of the birth of Michael Pupin, a Yugoslav/American inventor who taught at Princeton University for many years.

K7ZCW/3C1 showed up on 20 meters in late November for a brief operating stint; October's 3C1AA extravaganza had cleaned up much of the demand for Equatorial Guinea QSOs.

VE3HRS/TZ continues his on-again, off-again, activities from Mali; he is not particularly interested in working pile-ups, as much as DXers would like. Harassment will drive him from the bands, as it has others over the years.

If EI8H had actually been in all the places the bootleggers have had him the past year or two, he would have made DXCC in person. There was a reason why he was picked on, and many have wondered why so many of amateur radio's unofficial policemen made life difficult for him. The following report appeared in the September, 1979, issue of *Break-In*, the Official Journal of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters:

"EI8H—This station, one of the biggest sources of QRM to DX for years, has been silenced. The operator, an aging Patrick, has finally been tricked into being caught for his blatantly stupid action on the bands. His consistent jamming, bugging, and illicit operation have resulted in him losing his EI8H call. It all came about after Patrick bugged so many DX nets with his high power signals. If one had worked in or listened in on any DX net, it would be found that sooner or later he would show up. He created chaos by placing a carrier on the net frequency; on many occasions, it was associated with music, bells, chiming, or buzzsaw noises which completely disrupted the operation. European stations could not work weak Pacific or other DX because of the bedlam. He certainly achieved his goal. On another operation, his call would appear with EI8H/A, GT, GJ, HB0, and many other areas. All of which cost DX dollars, IRCs, and postage for no end result. His operation was also linked with many other bogus calls as well.

"His downfall came about on August 1st, when P29JS and several European operators put their plan to the test. They gave advance notice about a special station which was to show up on the P29JS (Jim Smith) Net. SM5BBC made arrangements at the European end with the EI Post Office officials to be ready. Tracking stations in South West England, CT2, and SM soon confirmed their suspicions.

"Patrick duly came on as they expected and the Post Office officials swooped in, catching him red-handed. His license was cancelled, but they could not confiscate his station. If he were to operate again without a license, the officials could then take all of his station away.

"The person largely responsible for the closing down of EI8H has been SM5BBC, who has brought diplomatic pressure to bear on the EI Post Office to do something about the mess being created by EI8H's actions.

"SM5BBC is to be commended for his action which has nearly made him bankrupt. Financial remuneration is recommended to ZLs. If you can spare a dollar or IRCs, I suggest you send it; it will give confidence to those who are prepared to fight for the clearing of our DX bands of unwarranted, selfish operators who mean to cause hardship to amateur radio."

We couldn't have said it better. The above was written by Arthur Law ZL2HE, one of New Zealand's most active DXers and editor of *Break-In*'s "DXing" column.

The information for this column, with the exception of the above excerpt, was from *The DX Bulletin* out of Vernon CT. Please support the DX bulletin of your choice by sending information when you have it. Better yet, send it to *all* the bulletins, plus, of course, to *73* for inclusion in this column.

Looking *West*

from page 18

arrangements were made over the amateur radio circuit for the pilot (Bob Morefield WA6FTN) to fly down at dawn, pick up Martinez, and fly him to the hospital in Ensenda, 700 miles to the north. During the rescue of Jesus Martinez, his mother and family were kept fully informed by Chuck Reiter WA6IWS and John Sidler WA6OZF, who were translating in Spanish at Ensenada net control.

"Once again, amateur radio operators proved that they could provide effective emergency communications across difficult terrain and distances."

LINKING DEPARTMENT (CONT.)

Let me say a few words about Bob Couger W6KPS, a human dynamo.

Bob is a person who believes that cooperation with others is the key to accomplishing his objectives. For example, a few years ago Bob pulled off what I consider an amazing feat. He placed into operation an open 146.34/.94 repeater, complete with autopatch facilities, and did so with the blessings of the remote-base owners who had been opposed to such a system until that time. How did he do it? He worked *with* the amateur community, rather than as an independent entity trying to conquer the world. It took quite a few years for him to reach his goal of setting up an open .34/.94 repeater in his area, but when it did go into operation, it was welcomed by everyone—including the remote owners who had originally been opposed to its establishment.

The latest venture that Bob is involved in is another "cooperative" open interlinked system between his own repeater, the WR6AFR Juniper Hills-Lancaster system and the WR6ACE system. At the WR6AFR site, Kitt Clover (the system's owner) has installed equipment that permits accessing other open repeaters as far away as Las Vegas, Nevada.

Bob explains the operation this way: "To operate this radio system, all that is necessary is to think of it as a string of dominoes. For example, if you are in Santa Maria, California, and want to talk to Las Vegas, you first dial your two-meter radio to the W6KPS/RPT repeater on 147.81/.21. You then enter a touchtone code that links you to WR6ACE, followed by another code that activates the link to WR6AFR. Entering yet another code turns the WR6AFR equipment to .28/.88 transceive and you have thereby gained access to the Las Vegas .28/.88 repeater. By sending the codes in reverse order, the link is terminated."

Bob stresses two important factors. First, that users of the interlink should identify themselves both before and after sending any control codes. Second, they should always remember that courtesy while operating is of paramount importance. To again quote Bob: "We are only guests on these other systems and do not own them."

Will this system ever be extended into Los Angeles and further south? I doubt it—unless the problems with jamming we have here can be dealt with and a semblance of order restored to LA two-meter operation.

More information about this interlinked system and its operation can be obtained by sending an SASE to Bob Couger W6KPS, 1095 McCoy Lane, Santa Maria CA 93454.

Microcomputer Interfacing

from page 32

so the divisor is added to the result of the subtraction by the ADDB instruction. The A register now contains the original partial dividend.

When the 8080 executes the instructions at NOADD, it must enter a logic zero or logic one into the quotient. Therefore, the state of the carry is complemented by the CMC instruction and then saved in the H register. If the subtraction did not generate a borrow, then the carry is a logic zero, but a logic one must be entered in the quotient. If a borrow was generated, the carry is a logic one. This means that a logic zero must be entered into the quotient. The CMC instruction complements the state of the carry to the state needed in the program. Finally, the content of the L register is decremented by the DCRL instruction. If more bits within the dividend must be tested, the 8080 jumps back to NXTBIT; otherwise, it returns from the subroutine with the quotient in the H register and the remainder in the C register.

There are a number of *software tricks* that can be used to simplify these two mathematical subroutines. However, unless your microcomputer can execute multiply and divide instructions or has special *multiply/divide hardware*, multiplication and division operations will have to be performed using these or similar algorithms.

W2NSD/1 NEVER SAY DIE

editorial by Wayne Green

from page 14

er, but which for some reason never was used.

From the lab, we were taken to dinner at a special chicken restaurant (no, not Colonel Sanders, though there are a number of them around Tokyo). The dinner started with raw chicken, served the same as they do raw fish, with a tare sauce. It was delicious. From there, we went through a series of chicken dishes . . . it seemed like dozens . . . until I wasn't sure I would be able to get up. Have I mentioned that you sit on the floor in most Japanese restaurants? It was a wonderful meal and I hope to have another chance at one next year.

The world is full of very good food if you are game to try. Some people can't even try these things and find out whether they are good or not. Some things don't taste good to me . . . some being an acquired taste . . . like beer. Some things are fine in the right setting. I am not much of a tea drinker, yet I do enjoy the Chinese green tea served in a glass, or even the most British of tea served with biscuits for afternoon tea. I can almost get into liking beer when I'm in a German beer hall, surrounded by people singing and having a good time, drinking beer by the liter.

The next afternoon, we stepped off the Pan Am plane in hot, humid Guam. I'd visited there for a few hours in 1959, but had not had a chance to see much on that trip. The trip before that was when my submarine, the *Drum*, pulled into Apra Harbor on Guam on January 17, 1945, after our 12th war patrol. We'd been patrolling around Okinawa and had had some very close calls during that patrol run. We'd been depth-charged enough so the Japanese had reported us sunk . . . news which went out on the radio in the U.S., but which fortunately my folks had missed.

When we cruised into Guam, the fellows on the other submarines in for refit and refueling were amazed. The Navy was amazed, too . . . they didn't even have our mail there for us, which made our Christmas presents even later . . . we got most of them in February, which was tough on the cakes and cookies. The fruit cakes survived, but who cared?

As soon as the arrival orgy of eating fresh fruit, tomatoes, and ice cream was over, we packed our seabags and headed for Camp Dealey, a rest camp over near Talofofo village. We had two weeks of "rest" there. The rest consisted of distilling as much torpedo alcohol as possible in a converted coffee urn and mixing it with canned grapefruit juice. It got awfully drunk at times.

The crew quickly found other potables than their "gilly" (torpedo alcohol). The Guamanians had a pleasant-tasting lethal drink made from palm sap. They would cut off the top of a coconut palm, collect the sap, and distill it . . . lightning.

Bill Davis K7IRC/KH2 met us at the airport and drove us to the Guam Hilton. Guam has grown up. That almost completely devastated town of Agana in 1945 now looks more like the outskirts of Phoenix, with some tall buildings and a lot of stores and industries. The thatched huts are now ranch-style houses.

We had just time to unpack a few clothes and then get to a nearby hotel for a dinner with the hams and computer hobbyists of Guam. 114 of them turned out, with their wives, and we had a real fun dinner. After the meal, I talked everyone to sleep alternately on amateur radio and computers. I mentioned that I wanted to get a couple dozen hams to come on the tour next year and their enthusiasm was high . . . be sure to bring HTs to use the local repeater and be prepared to pair off with local hams to get in some rare DXing.

The next morning we were driven all over the island, including a try at finding old Camp Dealey. The camp was completely gone, remembered only by a gas station with the name on it. There are a few houses where the camp used to be and a whole lot of jungle. I talked over old times with some of the people in Talofofo, which used to consist of a few dozen grass huts and now looks like a small town in California.

The next stop was for a couple hours in Hawaii. I quickly got on the local repeaters and was called by Katashi Nose KH6IJ, a very old friend. He sounded surprisingly well and was obviously enjoying being able to get back on the air after his illness. He is still writing his column for the *Honolulu Advertiser* . . . it's been a fixture of the paper for many years.

That evening we arrived in San Francisco and an overnight rest before continuing to Boston and Peterborough. Sako had presented me with his latest HT, the 207, and I finally had an opportunity to get it charged up so I could try it out. I had a ball scanning all of the channels with it . . . imagine a scanner built into an HT! But for some reason I couldn't get it to transmit above 145.99 MHz. Hmmm, it can't be a Japanese model, because it has the 600-kHz split for repeaters, and it isn't an American model . . . what went wrong? I checked with Yaesu in California after getting back and found that it was a European model. They will send me an American model as soon as they get a new batch. I can hardly wait . . . the rig looks fantastic.

For some reason, I had no problem adjusting to the twelve hours of time difference when we arrived in Asia, but after getting back, I found myself struggling not to have six-hour afternoon naps and one-hour nightly naps. It took a couple of weeks before I was really back to normal.

The trip was more fun than I can ever describe . . . and I hope some of you readers will be able to make three weeks available next October and come along for some hamfests, a lot of Chinese food, and a wonderful time.

GOVERNMENT AT IT AGAIN

A newspaper clipping sent in by WB2EQG was so preposterous that I had to read it twice to be sure that it wasn't a joke in poor taste.

It seems that our government has such a desperate need to spend more and more money that they are now asking for recommendations on mandatory safety standards to prevent CBers from electrocuting themselves by leaning towers against power lines. This is being done by the U.S. Product Safety Commission, 1111 18th Street NW, Washington DC 20207.

Granted that some CBers managed to electrocute themselves . . . and possibly a few hams, though I have yet to get word of a ham fried this way . . . is this any reason to insulate the power lines? Or to force tower manufacturers to insulate them? Common sense has to be counted on somewhere. This, claims the bureau, is now the single largest cause of electrocution in our country. I don't believe it.

If this is a problem, it needs to be made more of in magazine articles. But with the continuing drop in CB . . . particularly in DXing, which was big a few years ago . . . I suspect that the tower biz for CBers is way down.

Again, if it is a problem, every CBer has to buy his tower from a dealer . . . so make sure that dealers remind the customers that such a danger is a real one. Ham dealers reading this: Be sure to mention this when a ham buys a tower . . . or anyone else . . . even a CBer.

In the meanwhile, Washington is going to move ahead on this serious problem and come up, at great expense, with a target deadline for the proposed standard set for April 30, 1981. Can't anyone stop this crap?

ON THE RADAR FRONT

Preliminary tests of the latest Radio Shack Micronta ($200) show it to be as good or even perhaps a tad more sensitive than any of the other detectors I've tested . . . and that's getting to be quite a bunch by now. I have it in parallel with the Fox in our RX7 and it is nip and tuck between the two. One thing is for sure: With this detector, your chances of getting clocked by a radar unit without knowing it are nil.

For those of you who are sanctimoniously mumbling that speeders ought to be caught anyway and that radar detectors should be outlawed, let me give you a piece of information: The estimates of speeding tickets given in error run as high as 30%, according to testimony in courts. That means that some percentage of perfectly innocent motorists who were driving under the posted speed limit were read inaccurately by a patrolman and given tickets. More and more non-speeders are seeing the light and arming themselves with detectors so they will know before getting into radar reading range and thus can lower their speed substantially below the posted limit.

For those readers who have managed to get a ticket, either through the 30% mischance mentioned, or even by operating your rig near a radar unit and thus giving it a false speed reading, you'll want to get a kit from Electrolert to help you fight the case. You may be able to find *The Ticket Book* in a local bookstore ($6.95) . . . if not, Electrolert has 'em available. But their $30 kit is a very big book . . . 1¾" thick and packed with information which will help your lawyer . . . or you, if you want to try the case yourself. There is a very complete deposition guide, plus detailed technical data on every radar unit . . . and data on many court cases which have been won. With lawyers running around $50 to $75 per hour, you really want this bundle of data. Electrolert, Inc., 4949 South 25A, Troy, Ohio 45373.

This same firm has just announced a new detector which they claim is as sensitive as the famed Escort. I haven't gotten delivery on our Escort as yet, though we've had one on order for several months. It's due in soon. Then, if I can get one of the new Fuzzbuster elite, I'll have a chance to see how they compare. We have plenty of radar in New Hampshire. It's the moving-car type, which has the very worst reputation for accuracy and falsing.

Of the units I've tested, I've found the $100 Micronta Road Patrol to be fairly good. It does false a bit more than I like, causing momentary panic. The $200 Micronta falses now and then, too, which is a common problem. The Fox is a very small unit and can be had with a remote control so it is invisible to the world . . . which is nice. Why aggravate the bears? It has not yet given a false alarm.

I've had nothing but miseries with the Whistler. The Fuzzbuster II works quite well . . . as does the Bearfinder. Both the Snooper and Super Snooper false so much that I just ignore them. The Centurion rarely speaks up until we are going by the radar unit, far too late for anything useful. One of the better units tested was the Long Ranger. Someone swiped it from my car and I haven't seen them advertised again, so I've lost track of the firm making them.

Other than as a very good

money-maker for towns, police radar serves little useful purpose. Most of the radar units are poorly designed and built, and those that are good cost so much that the police won't buy them. The units, even the best of them, require a lot of training of the officers . . . which also rarely happens. So you have a poor unit in the hands of an untrained officer . . . and you're the pigeon.

NONPROFIT

One of the reasons names are being changed on familiar things, such as "maintenance engineer" instead of "janitor," is that this also changes the way we feel about these things. Some recent letters from readers indicate that because *73 Magazine* is not a nonprofit organization, it must therefore be a profit organization. I don't think anyone with any familiarity with the magazine would describe it that way. The real case could be better described as a non-nonprofit organization.

The socialist and fascist camps preach that making a profit is a bad thing and making a larger profit is obscene (which I always thought had something to do with sex). I don't have anything against profits or even obscene profits, it's just that I have never been much oriented in that direction. I do have a thing about trying to break even . . . a little passion which developed when I got behind and had the aggravation of putting off creditors. That's a real bummer.

I don't really understand this whole business of nonprofit corporations. I belong to one nonprofit club which keeps from making a profit by paying delightful salaries to its top officers . . . and which has salted away close to two million dollars in cash and securities. I suspect that if I tried something like that with my non-nonprofit corporation, I would soon be hanging by the thumbs in court.

Most corporations have a bunch of stockholders who are forever pushing for profits . . . which are then (after taxes) distributed as dividends. Back when I started *73*, I had in mind going public and thus permitting the readers to share in the ownership of the magazine. But, as I looked into it, I found that this would put the pressure on for "performance" of the stock . . . the need for profits, which could then be shared. I felt it was better to share any projected profits in the form of a larger magazine. And why not spend any possible profits on payments for articles, making it so the hams with the drive to write, and thus benefit all of us, would benefit?

I started *73*, not as a way to make a lot of money, but as a way to publish a magazine which would be enjoyed by hams and would encourage them to build equipment and try new ideas. I think my goal has been accomplished.

Aha, but what about starting new magazines? Certainly that takes a big investment from somewhere? Oddly enough . . . and please don't let this get out . . . once you know what you are doing, you can start a new magazine for virtually nothing. I've done it several times recently. The only investment needed to get *Kilobaud MICROCOMPUTING* started was a $10 poster at a computer show. The 1,000 subscriptions sold paid for further subscription mailings and putting together the first issue. The ad revenue from the first issue paid for the printing and mailing of the magazine . . . and it was just a question of pulling on the bootstraps to build it up.

Unlike a nonprofit organization, *73* does not have one share of stock invested in securities. Nor are there any six-figure bank accounts kicking around. We still invest any probable profits in a bigger magazine and payments to authors. It will probably continue that way as long as I last.

OCTOBER WINNER

As much as we hate to, this month we will actually be *giving* money to one of our advertisers. Frank Kalmus WA7SPR, president of RF Power Labs, Inc., had the audacity to write "Easy-to-Build 220 Transverter," which our readers sagaciously voted October's best article, so we are forced to send him a $100 bonus check. Save us the the embarrassment, Frank: Hold the articles!

Contests

from page 30

March 8th to: SC QSO Party, Elliott Farrell, Jr. WA4YUU, PO Box 994, Walterboro SC 29488. Include an SASE with your entry for a copy of the contest results.

NEW HAMPSHIRE QSO PARTY

Operating Periods:
2000 GMT February 2 to 0500 GMT February 3
1400 GMT February 3 to 0200 GMT February 4

This year's contest will be sponsored by the Nashua ARC to promote the Worked New Hampshire Award. Stations may be worked once per band per mode. NH stations may work each other.

FREQUENCIES:

Novice—3730, 7130, 21130, 28130.

CW—1810, 3555, 7055, 14055, 21055, 28130.

Phone—1820, 3935, 3975, 7235, 14280, 21380, 28575.

VHF—50.115 and 145.015 FM simplex.

Suggested times—phone on the hour, CW at 30 minutes past. No CW QSOs allowed in the phone band.

EXCHANGE:

NH stations send RS(T) and county. Others work NH only and send RS(T) and ARRL section or country.

SCORING:

Score 1 point per QSO. NH stations multiply QSO points by the number of NH counties plus ARRL sections and countries. Others multiply by the number of NH counties.

AWARDS:

NH club competition awards will be certificates signed by the governor of NH with a trophy for the winning NH club. Mark your summary sheet with the club's name for any club entries. Other certificates and the Worked NH Award will be issued.

ENTRIES:

Mailing deadline for entries is March 16th. Send your entry with a large SASE for results and/or awards to: NARC, R. Lint, 10 Hartwood Drive, Merrimack NH 03054.

ANNUAL QCWA QSO PARTY

CW
Starts: 0001 GMT February 9
Ends: 2400 GMT February 10
Phone
Starts: 0001 GMT March 8
Ends: 2400 GMT March 9

Each contact made with another QCWA member will count as a single point. Contacts with the same station on more than one band can be scored only once. Contacts made with captive stations, such as when operating in local nets, are not valid. Remember this is a QSO *party* and not a contest. There will be no multipliers. All contacts are equal. The total number of contacts with QCWA members, wherever they may be, is your score. The QCWA certificates which you can earn are your "bonus." Put the activities manager to work with your request for certificates you were able to earn during the QSO Party.

FREQUENCIES:

Any authorized amateur frequency is permissible. The following suggested frequencies have been selected to minimize interference to others: Phone—3900-3930, 7230-7260, 14280-14310, 21350-21380, 28600-28630; CW—3530-3560, 7030-7060, 14030-14060, 21040-21070, 28040-28070.

EXCHANGES:

A valid QSO must contain the following minimum information exchange between both parties: QSO number, operator's name, chapter identification (official number or name). Members not affiliated with a chapter may use "AL" to so identify.

ENTRIES:

It is the responsibility of each contestant to provide a legible log, no carbon copies, and to list all claimed contacts. The total contacts for each page will be recorded at the bottom of each page in an appropriate place. The total contacts for the party should be recorded on the top-right of the first page of the log. Include your name, address, call, QCWA number, and chapter on each page. Log sheets will not be returned. Make sure you have correct postage when sending in your logs. Send your logs no later than March 31st to: Yankee Chapter, QCWA, Walter Woodward W1RCJ, 14 Emmett Street, Marlboro MA 01752. Separate logs and scores must be submitted for both the CW and phone parties.

Results

RESULTS OF WASHINGTON STATE QSO PARTY FOR 1979
sponsored by
Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society (BEARS)

Call	Location	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
K4ZGB	Alabama	134	29	8,932
AI7O	Alaska	3	4	36
W7ZMD	Arizona	86	26	6,032
N6PE	California	78	23	4,761
KØKV	Colorado	29	14	1,022
W1TEE	Connecticut	42	16	1,904
W4KFA	Florida	18	9	324
N4NX	Georgia	137	32	10,496
K7TAK	Idaho	5	4	60
W9QWM	Illinois	19	12	600
KØTJB	Kansas	24	14	672
WA4QMQ	Kentucky	40	14	1,218
W5WG	Louisiana	89	24	5,664
W1DLC	Maine	37	15	1,455
K3KX	Maryland	11	7	147
WB1ANT	Massachusetts	10	7	147
WD8QBB	Michigan	26	11	605
WBØLNO	Minnesota	27	11	594
W7RIR/Ø	Nebraska	35	16	1,376
KA1EP	New Hampshire	15	10	300
WA2DFC	New Jersey	18	12	564
WB2NDE	New York	66	20	2,640
K4YFH	North Carolina	15	9	387
WA2DJM/Ø	North Dakota	1	1	2
N8FU	Ohio	24	11	572
K7DRD	Oregon	17	9	441
WA3ISG	Pennsylvania	20	11	440
WA4YUU	South Carolina	20	10	440
WAØBZD	South Dakota	42	16	1,472
WA4CMS	Tennessee	19	10	530
W5NR	Texas	25	14	1,050
W4KMS	Virginia	30	15	1,155
K8KVX	West Virginia	19	12	456
W9YT (WB9PYE opr.)	Wisconsin	17	11	462
VE3CEF	Ontario, Canada	77	20	3,920
PY1BOL	Brazil	2	2	8
JA7KE	Japan	33	13	1,072

WASHINGTON

Call	County	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
N7RC	Chelan	35	21	2,205
*VE7ZZ/W7	Clark	533	76	98,040
WA7PMW	Cowlitz	448	53	47,488
W7WMO	Grant	221	43	27,391
AI7J	Island	870	70	124,950
K7UR	King	129	43	13,330
W7IIT	Kitsap	50	20	4,350
WA7FMT	Kittitas	68	30	6,120
W7BUN	Pierce	787	61	96,197
K7EQ	San Juan	112	32	9,504
WA7JUJ	Skagit	406	58	47,720
*VE7ZZ/W7	Skamania	533	76	98,040
N7ABA	Snohomish	359	45	32,355
W7RVQ	Spokane	76	30	4,560
N7RV	Thurston	97	39	11,349
WA7LOQ	Walla Walla	140	36	10,080
WB7CAO	Whatcom	1,513	63	190,764

*Operated from Clark/Skamania county line.
Numbers after calls are: QSOs, multipliers, and total score.

ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST
CW
February 16-17
Phone
March 1-2

A number of significant changes have been made to this year's rules for the DX contests. The new rules are as follows, as received in an advance copy from the ARRL.

The contest is open to all amateurs worldwide. The object is for amateurs worldwide to work as many amateur stations in as many DXCC countries of the world as possible using the frequency bands of 1.8 to 30 MHz. The contest periods are as shown above, starting at 0000 GMT on Saturday and ending at 2400 GMT on Sunday on the dates shown.

CATEGORIES:

Single operator—one person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of spotting nets is not permitted. Single-operator categories are further classified as allband or single-band (one only) entries. It is recommended that single-band entrants who make contacts on other bands submit logs for checking purposes for the other bands.

Multi-operator—more than one person operates, checks for duplicates, keeps the log, etc. Multi-operator categories are further classified as single-transmitter or multi-transmitter. For single-transmitter, only one transmitter on any one band during the same time period is permitted. Stations must remain on a band for 10 minutes once a contact is made on that band, with one exception. One other band may be used during the 10-minute period if the stations worked are new multipliers only. Multi-transmitter has no limits other than only one signal per band.

QRP—single-operator stations with 10 Watts input or less.

EXCHANGE:

W/VE stations (includes 48 contiguous United States and does not include Canadian islands of St. Paul and Sable) exchange signal report and state or province. DX stations send signal report and power as a three-digit number indicating the approximate transmitter input power. The same station may be worked once per band. Crossmode, crossband, and repeater contacts will not count for contest credit. Incomplete contacts (includes callsign and exchange) do not count for points or multipliers. Aeronautical and maritime mobile stations may be worked for QSO credit only.

SCORING:

Contacts with your own country count for multiplier credit only. W/VE stations count three points per DX QSO. DX stations earn three points per W/VE QSO and two points per other DX QSO. The DXCC countries worked on each band count as multipliers. Multiply QSO points by the sum of multipliers per each band.

CLUB COMPETITION:

ARRL-affiliated clubs compete for gavels on three levels: unlimited, medium, and local clubs. Details can be found in the January *QST*.

AWARDS:

Plaques and certificates will be awarded in various classes; see *QST* for the complete list. DX entries making over 1000 QSOs receive certificates.

ENTRIES:

All entrants are encouraged to use forms available from the ARRL in reporting contest results. Include a large SASE or IRCs and send as early as possible. Logs should indicate times in GMT, bands, calls, and exchanges. Multipliers should be clearly marked in the log the first time worked. Entries with more than 500 QSOs must include cross-check sheets (dupe sheets). All logs must be in chronological order except for multi-multi entries. All operators of multi-operator stations must be listed. Entries must be postmarked within one month of the last contest weekend. All stations are requested to send their entries as early as possible. Entries received after mid-July may not make *QST* listings. Regular ARRL disqualification rules apply.

VERMONT QSO PARTY
Starts: 2100 GMT Saturday, February 23
Ends: 0100 GMT Monday, February 25

Sponsored by the Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club, everyone is urged and invited to join in the fun. The same station may be worked on different bands and modes for additional QSO points. Vermont mobile stations may be worked considering each new county they enter as a new station.

EXCHANGE:

Vermont stations send QSO number, RS(T), and county. Others send QSO number, RS(T), and ARRL section.

FREQUENCIES:

3685, 7060, 14060, 21060, 28100, 50260, 144-144.5.

3932, 7265, 14290, 21375, 28600, 50360, 145.8.

3909, 7290, 14325.

SCORING:

Out-of-state stations score 3 points per VT station worked and multiply this total by the number of Vermont counties worked on each band. VT stations score one point per contact and multiply by the number of ARRL sections and countries worked.

AWARDS:

A certificate will be awarded to the highest-scoring station in each ARRL section and foreign country submitting logs. A trophy will be awarded to the highest-scoring station outside of VT. The highest-scoring single-operator station in VT will have his/her name and call engraved on the Doris McGrath memorial plaque. This award, donated by Mrs. Doris McGrath in memory of her husband, W1EQB, will be awarded in this manner for a ten-year period. The operator winning the QSO party the most times, or the station with the highest score during the period, will receive the plaque. A special certificate will be awarded to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th highest-scoring stations in VT. The W-VT (Worked Vermont) Award will be issued to stations working 13 out of Vermont's 14 counties, provided the station has not previously been issued this award. A special certificate will be awarded Vermont multi-operator stations.

ENTRIES:

Send logs or facsimiles together with an SASE no later than March 31st to: Gerald W. Benedict W1BD, 23 Foster Street, Montpelier VT 05602. Winners of awards will be announced the 3rd Thursday in April at the regular meeting of CVARC.

New Products

from page 34

free copy with poor signal conditions like fading. A rear apron scope jack provides 10 volts p-p at 100k Ohms for critical tuning applications.

The M-200E is designed to work alone for reception, or with a matching Info-Tech keyboard for transmission as well.

Construction

Info-Tech is not a newcomer to the scene of digital communications, and their quality control shows it. Double-sided, plated-through glass epoxy circuit boards are used throughout. All ICs are fitted with sockets. Extensive MOS circuitry reduces power consumption and keeps heat dissipation low. Tight power-supply regulation further increases reliability.

On the Air

The performance of the M-200E is very impressive. It is obviously designed by engineers who know ham radio requirements as well as commercial standards. We couldn't resist the temptation to connect the M-200E to a general-coverage receiver to see what was going on among the utilities. CW and RTTY reception was a snap. 66 and 100 wpm RTTY signals were copied with no problem. Even when used in conjunction with an inexpensive receiver, the unit performed flawlessly, so long as the signal was drift-free. The passband of the active audio filters is extremely tight . . . it has to be . . . and tolerates little off-frequency input.

We recommend the Info-Tech M-200E to anyone seriously considering digital communications. M-200E tri-mode converter, $500. Available from *Info-Tech, 2349 Weldon Parkway, St. Louis MO 63141*. Reader Service number 145.

Robert B. Grove
Grove Enterprises, Inc.
Brasstown NC

REVIEWING THE YAESU FT-207R—AND MORE

The present overwhelming popularity of 2-meter FM seems to be situated between craze and epidemic proportions throughout the United States and the world in general. Almost every amateur holding a Technician or higher class license owns at least one 2-meter FM mobile rig, and it appears that an almost equal number of amateurs are beginning to also enjoy the pleasures of 2-meter handie-talkie operations. Judging by the unlimited capabilities of these hand-held portables, one can logically assume that personal portable communications will reach new peaks of success during the 1980s. Likewise, we can expect to see crystallized hand-helds give way to more sophisticated synthesized units of comparable size. That will create an open market for older crystal-controlled units while providing all the advantages of "big rigs" in the newer style hand-held units.

During previous years, I have owned one of almost ever avail-

The Yaesu FT-207R and assorted items used by K4TWJ. Vinyl case was cut from FT-202R item. Klitzing amplifier boosts handie output to 50 Watts. Full-length pull-up antenna significantly extends handie's range. Adapter at left mates PL-259 to BNC. Battery tester described in text placed beside 207. Finally, 207's battery pack is in front of unit. A Yaesu speaker mike and length of coax with PL-259 and BNC were secured in the car and thus omitted from this photo.

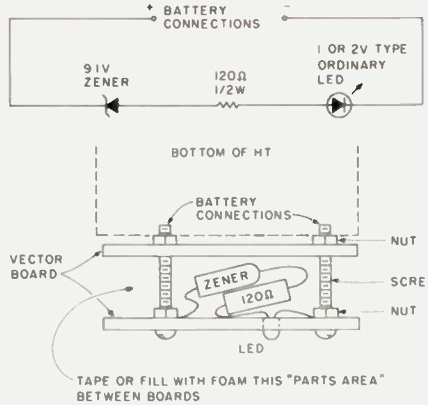


Fig. 1. HT battery monitor as described in text.

Conditions	Total Current
Receiver on, squelched, readout Off	38 mA
Receiver on, signal present, readout Off	70 mA
Receiver on, signal present, readout on	77 mA
LED readout	7 mA
Frequency memory	2 mA
Transmitter on, low power	255 mA
Transmitter on, high power	915 mA

Table 1. Current drains of FT-207R.

able 2-meter FM hand-held unit. Included in this list are Motorolas (the 100 is a gem), Wilson, Drake (TR-22 styles), Standard, Clegg, Tempo, and the Yaesu FT-202R. I recently purchased a new Yaesu FT-207R microprocessor-controlled, frequency-sythesized handie, however, and the results have created a whole new ball game of 2-meter fun.

The 207 is an 800-channel hand-held unit which is exactly the same size as the 202, except its upperfront section (speaker grill/mike area) is approximately ⅓ inch thicker. Since this extra size is placed in the handie's top front, it is practically unnoticeable. The unit fits my small hand exactly like a 202; the speaker/mike section doesn't interfere with handling or carrying. Rather than using a handful of penlight batteries, the 207 employs a 10.8-volt battery pack similar to that used in the Wilson units. The handie is well balanced and bears a striking resemblance to Motorola units. Audio quality is similar to the Standard: clean and natural.

Operation

Using a 207 is similar to operating a Yaesu CPU-2500 or Kenwood 7600 (complete with microprocessor unit) right from your hand. The last 3 digits of a frequency are entered on the touchpad and the red ENT/DIL bar is depressed. This frequency is LED-displayed in the area adjacent to the mike. The display automatically shuts off after 2 or 3 seconds unless the DISP switch is on, but the selected frequency is maintained. This frequency (or any other frequency appearing in the readout) can be placed in memory by depressing a number, 1 through 4 (memory address), and M. The other 3 memories can be loaded in a similar manner, and a 5th frequency can be programmed by stopping the previous procedure at the ENT/DIL bar depression. A selected memory can be recalled by depressing its address and MR, or the unit can be stepped through its memories with MR and UP or DWN. The memories can be automatically scanned by holding UP or DWN for two steps (approximately one second). A miniature slide switch on top of the handie determines if the scan stops on a clear or busy frequency or straight scans, letting you hear all the action at once (great for watching drive-time activity build). The scanning function may be manually canceled when desired by depressing UP or DWN or by squeezing the push-to-talk once. Subsequent use of the push-to-talk activates the transmitter as usual. Complete tuning of the 2-meter band is accomplished by selecting a bottom or top limit, if desired, and/or depressing ENT/DIL and UP or DWN once for each 10-kHz step. Holding UP or DWN for 2 steps (approximately 1 second) moves the handie into scan mode. Again, the scan is similar to that previously described and UP, DWN, or push-to-talk cancels the function. There are also 3 or 4 other ways of programming and using the handie, but that's the general concept. Incidentally, the LED readout is illuminated during scanning. If the DISP switch is off, the readout shuts off 1 second after scanning stops. The rig also holds that particular frequency until the UP or DWN button reactivates scanning.

The priority mode functions are as follows: Assume you want to listen or become involved in a conversation on, for example, .16/.76, and you want to monitor, say, .52 for a call. Let's further assume that .52 is programmed in memory 1. Press 676 and ENT. The rig is now on .76 and that frequency is displayed. Next, press 1 and MR. The rig switches to .52 and that frequency is displayed as 6.52 1, meaning memory 1 recalled. Now press # and the priority is enabled. If the DISP is on, the readout shows 6.76 P again. This cycle will continue until a call is received on .52. The rig will then halt on .52. The priority can be reinitiated by pressing #, if desired. The clear, manual, busy switch can also be used with priority functions.

If you make a mistake when punching frequencies on the handie, the display lights E. Punching the CE button clears your bungle and you can start again. The SET button is used for programming oddball splits. During transmit only, the keyboard becomes a touchtone™ pad. The LOCK switch disables the keyboard to prevent butter-fingered amateurs from accidentally changing frequencies when handling the rig. A small switch on the handie's bottom selects 250-mW or 3-Watt rf power levels, and an external earphone jack is mounted on top of the rig. An earphone is included on the transmitter offset switch for maintaining or removing power on the unit's memory when the main switch is OFF (backup OFF position). A removable belt clip is mounted on the handie's back. I'm sure the kitchen sink is also in there somewhere, but I haven't yet found it.

Personal Evaluation

Personally, I was sold on the 207 from the time I saw its first advertisement. It's small enough to fit in a coat pocket (its weight, however, gives people the illusion that you're carrying a .38). The LED display is great, since I seem to either be in an indirectly-illuminated room or outside at night when using the handie. The channel-busy LED can be noticed at a glance from across a large room, and that's quite convenient. The selectable power levels (250 mW or 3 W output) have been enough reason in themselves for many amateurs to select a 207. Make no mistake: 250 milliwatts is the perfect rf level for using nearby repeaters or driving amplifiers at relaxed, lower levels. The 3 Watts is also beneficial for those "fringe" periods.

One of my main considerations when selecting an HT is microphone and antenna location. Possibly, this is a spin-off from recent propaganda concerning biological effects of rf, but I don't want rf radiating broadside into my eyes. This dictates the HT's mike being located at least midway of the unit rather than at its top, plus the ability to maneuver the antenna behind the ear and toward the back of my head (rig canted when transmitting). The 207 fits this requirement very smoothly.

The 207 uses a 10.8-volt (450 mA) nicad battery pack rather than a handful of rechargeable penlight cells. Thus, if the battery dies while you're in some strange airport, you can't simply purchase dry-cell penlights and continue on your way. On the other hand, an extra nicad battery pack is easily carried and exchanged, provided Yaesu produces more than one per radio. Since the battery situation is a main focal point of 207 discussions, I decided to measure current drains for myself. The results are shown in Table 1. Since I use the 207 on more of an occasional rather than a constant basis, the ability to switch off memory backup voltage is quite beneficial. It takes less than 30 seconds to reload the memories, but if this becomes a hassle, you can simply leave the memory backup on. The cost of memory retention is 2 mA, which theoretically drops a 450-mAh battery to half charge in approximately 115 hours or 4½ days. The receiver in my particular handie pulls substantially less than specified in the Yaesu manual, and the LED readout pulls a mere 7 mA. Thus, there's absolutely no concern about leaving the LEDs on continuously. I usually get between 3 and 5 days occasional use from the battery pack in my 207, which confirms the 207 is not a battery eater. Yaesu failed to discuss battery-charging considerations in the manual, and the 207 doesn't have a meter, so you're on your own. If you try watching the transmit LED, you'll probably be unexpectedly hit with dead batteries during an important QSO. This irritated me, so I rigged the circuit shown in Fig. 1 for battery monitoring. A discussion of this circuit appears at the end of this article.

I use the 207 either fixed, mobile, or portable while moving around during the day or night, and it has performed flawlessly. The receiver is "hotter" than any HT I've seen (it picks up 2 local repeaters without any antenna!). The transmitter measures 3.1 or .3 Watts (Hi/Lo) output. A Klitzing 3-Watt in/50-Watt out 2-meter amplifier and Yaesu remote speaker-mike round out the fixed/mobile setup. Since I carry the handie with me when leaving the car (and the amplifier is mounted out of sight), the chance of theft is minimized.

207 Battery Monitor

The circuit of Fig. 1 uses a common 9.1-volt zener, 120-Ohm ½-Watt resistor, and a garden-variety LED to accurately indicate the 207's battery-pack condition. The 120-Ohm resistor varies LED brightness to the point that battery-pack voltages between 11 and 10.2 volts produce bright LED illumination. The LED becomes quite dim at 10.1 volts and extinguishes at 10.0 volts. Approximately 30 minutes of use later, battery voltage drops below 10.0 volts, and recharging is required (all voltages measured on transmit: highest power level). This circuit (which costs approximately 45 cents to build) has proven more effective than any HT-installed meter I've seen. Quite simply, it uses the zener's avalanche point to accurately detect the "knee" of the nicads' discharge curve. Other HT nicad supplies could be monitored using a similar circuit. Merely select a zener with a voltage rating near your power supply's "knee" and calibrate the circuit using a variable voltage power supply.

My battery monitor is enclosed between 2 pieces of vectorboard+ as shown in Fig. 1. The screws holding this "sandwich" together mate with battery contacts on the rig's bottom. The tester is then merely held in position when needed.

Conclusion

All aspects being considered, I honestly feel the 207 is a great little rig. If I didn't own a handie-talkie, there would be no reservations or time wasted—I would purchase an FT-207R. Once you become accustomed to handies, you'll truly feel undressed without one.

Yaesu Electronics Corporation, 15954 Downey Ave., Paramount CA 90723; (213)-633-4007. Reader Service number Y1.

Dave Ingram K4TWJ
Birmingham AL

DSI INTRODUCES 50 HZ-500 MHZ POCKET-SIZE LSI DIGITAL FREQUENCY COUNTERS

A new series of hand-held digital frequency measurement instruments that provide all the accuracy and high readout legibility of the full-scale types—yet are not much larger than a 120-millimeter cigarette pack—has been announced by DSI Instruments, Inc., San Diego, California. Two models, the 500HH that has a frequency range of 50 Hz to 500 MHz and the 100HH that has a frequency range of 50 Hz to 100 MHz, are offered.

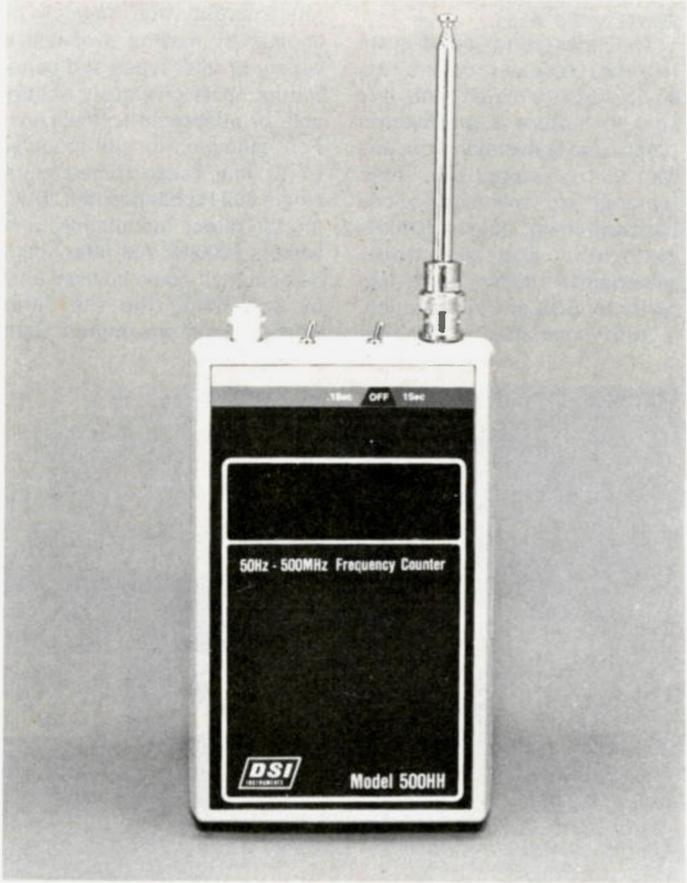
Their large 8-digit LED display, with characters that measure a full 0.4" high, features automatic decimal point shifting and zero blanking. Total case dimensions (excluding antenna) are only 3.5" wide x 1.25" deep x 5.75" high—about the same as a typical pocket-size calculator.

They're accurate to within 1.0 ppm (TCXO timebase) over a wide temperature range of +17° C to +40° C. The Model 500HH has a high sensitivity that is typically 30 mV at 100 Hz to 250 MHz and 50 mV at 250 MHz to 450 MHz, while the typical sensitivity of the 100HH is 30 mV at 100 Hz to 50 MHz. What's more, they have prescale input resolutions of only 10 Hz in just 0.1 second (or 1.0 Hz in 1.0 second).

They have BNC direct inputs of 1.0 megohm (50 Ohms prescaled). Utilizing low-drain LSI circuitry, they operate from a built-in rechargeable 8.2 to 14.5 V dc battery pack or 115 V ac using an external ac adapter that also trickle-charges the battery pack.

Applications cover a broad variety of service, testing, adjustment, and calibration uses where precise performance and high reading legibility across wide frequency range requirements—along with pocket-size convenience—are prime considerations.

Deliveries can be made immediately from local or factory



Pocket-size LSI digital frequency counter from DSI.

inventories. All the units are 100% factory pretested before shipment, and they carry a full one-year limited warranty.

For complete technical data, quantity pricing, and local outlet information, contact *DSI Instruments, Inc., 7914 Ronson Road, San Diego CA 92111; call toll-free (800)-854-2049, or from California exchanges call collect (714)-565-8402.* Reader Service number D25.

HEATH INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO RECEIVER AND MATCHING CW TRANSMITTER

Heath Company, the world's largest manufacturer of electronic kits, has announced the availability of a new amateur radio transmitter and matching receiver.

The new HX-1681 CW transmitter combines solid-state technology with vacuum tube finals to give a transmitter said to be capable of 100 Watts minimum output on 80 through 15 meters and 75 Watts out on 10. It features full break-in CW operation (QSK), built-in vfo, solid-state TR switching, sidetone output with adjustable tone and level, and receiver muting. Keying is provided for the addition of an external power amplifier.

The matching solid-state HR-1680 receiver covers the 80- through 10-meter band. It is said to feature a preselector-tuned dual-conversion front end for .05 uV sensitivity. Also featured are solid-state diode bandswitching, built-in 100-kHz calibrator, and switchable wide/narrow active audio circuitry for SSB or CW operation.

Both transmitter and receiver are offered in kit form and include instruction manuals said to be so complete and concise even a novice builder can complete either project. For more information on these and nearly 400 other electronic kits you can build yourself, write for the latest free Heathkit Catalog at: *Heath Company, Department 350-940, Benton Harbor MI 49022.* Heath is a subsidiary of Zenith Radio Corporation. Reader Service number H5.

FOX-TANGO CRYSTAL FILTERS

Fox-Tango Corporation, sponsor of the 4000-member, eight-year-old International Fox-Tango Club for owners of Yaesu amateur radio equipment, announces the expansion of its quality line of eight-pole crystal filters and related accessories to include not only popular models produced by Yaesu, but also those of Kenwood, Heath, Drake, and Collins.

Noting that most manufacturers of amateur radio equipment were content to supply relatively few filters to supplement the SSB unit supplied as standard equipment, and these as extra cost options of six poles or even less, Fox-Tango decided it was time to offer the worldwide amateur fraternity true "freedom of choice" by making available a variety of filter types and bandwidths never previously obtainable or adaptable to their rigs. For example, for its popular FT-101 line, Yaesu offered only a single 600-Hz bandwidth CW filter for direct installation, and while a 6000-Hz AM filter could be bought, it could be used only by sacrificing the CW filter whose spot it pre-empted. Both optional Yaesu filters were of six-pole construction. By contrast, for the same set, Fox-Tango now offers 250-, 500-, 600-, 1800-, 2400-, and 6000-Hz bandwidths—all carefully designed and manufactured eight-pole units made up of specially treated Hi-Q high quality quartz crystals. Moreover, to compensate for the lack of space in the original design for more than one optional filter, Fox-Tango offers inexpensive diode switching boards (both single and dual types) for most Yaesu and Kenwood models which permit the addition of up to three filters more than those for which the manufacturer provided room. Thus owners of older models can "update" their sets either by the "drop-in" installation of superior filters to supplant original units or can supplement them by adding selectable bandwidth filtering, often using switches already existing on front panels. All filters are custom-made to perfectly match the sets for which they are designed, both physically and electronically, so installation is a simple matter of tightening two nuts and soldering two connections. Fox-Tango filters are guaranteed on a money-back or replacement basis, as preferred, for one year.

The following filters are currently available for the brands indicated:

Yaesu: FT-101 (to F), FR-101, FT-301, FT-7/B, FT-901/101Z, FT-200, FT-401. Bandwidths: 250, 500, 600, 1800, 2400, 6000 Hz.

Kenwood: TS-520/R-599, TS-820/R-820. Bandwidths: 250, 400, 1800, 2100.

Heath: All but SB104. Bandwidths: 250, 400, 1800, 2100 Hz.

Drake: R-4B/C only. Broad 1st i-f (6- or 8-kHz BW). Narrow 1st i-f (600- or 800-Hz BW) with relays for switching from broad to narrow i-f for CW only. Very sharp 2nd i-f (plugs in) 125 Hz. Product detector kit: converts existing units to superior double-balance type.

Collins: 75S-3B/C. For superior CW. 250-Hz bandwidth.

Since not every bandwidth is available for every listed model, write for detailed specifications to: *Fox-Tango Corporation, Box 15944, West Palm Beach FL 33406; (305)-683-9587.* Reader Service number F24.

MAGNETIZED SIGNS FROM FOTOGRAFIX

Now, any amateur radio club can receive the recognition for public service work it deserves. Fotografix announces the introduction of amateur radio public service signs for emergency and mobile use. The signs are entirely magnetic and are guaranteed safe at highway speeds. They have been wind-tested at above 70 miles per hour. Because the entire sign is made of a flexible magnetic material, it attaches securely to magnetic metallic surfaces without room for air pockets.

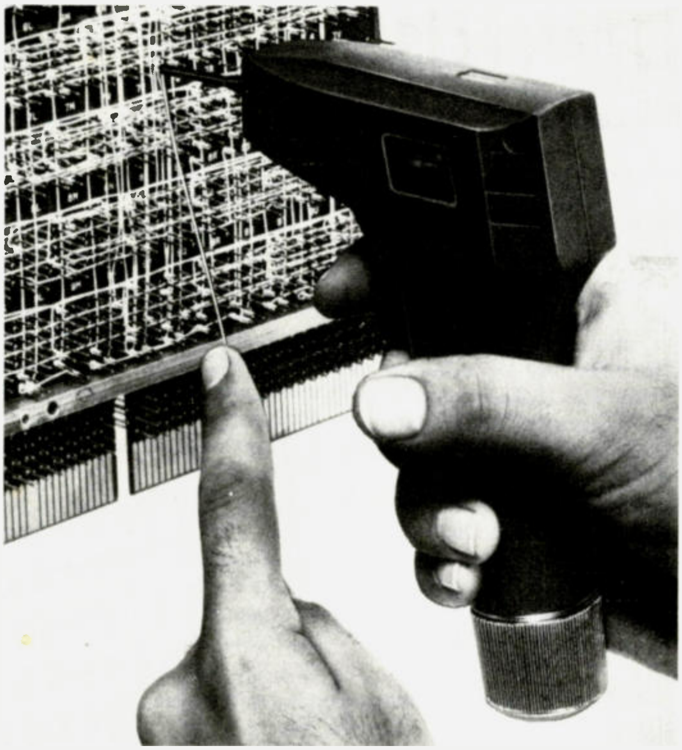
The signs are available with "AMATEUR RADIO Emergency Communications Unit" or "AMATEUR RADIO Public Service Volunteer" slogans and can be personalized with club names in quantities of 25 or more sets.

Each sign carries a special logo with radio operator, head-

Heath's HX-1681 transmitter and HR-1680 receiver.

Crystal filter from Fox-Tango Corporation.

Fotografix' magnetic sign.



BW-2630 wrapping tool from OK Tool.

phones and handie-talkie, and storm cloud in the background. The signs are waterproof and wash easily with mild soap and water. They will not fade, peel, or crack in hot sunlight.

For more information or to order, write to *Fotografix, PO Box 202, 522 Arizona St., Lawrence KS 66044.* Reader Service number F25.

NEW CATALOG FROM HAMTRONICS

Hamtronics, Inc., has announced a new 1980 catalog, which is yours for the asking. The 24-page catalog features many types of kits of interest to the radio amateur or two-way shop. Exciting new products in the catalog include a 435-MHz transmitting converter, a new UHF FM receiver, an AM receiver for aircraft and DX warning, a weather tone alert receiver module, a new low-noise VHF converter, and several new linear power amplifiers for VHF and UHF. These new products follow in the tradition of other fine Hamtronics kits, including their famous VHF and UHF converters and preamps and FM transmitters and receivers.

For your free copy of this informative catalog, call (716)-392-9430 or write *Hamtronics, Inc., 65F Moul Rd., Hilton NY 14468.* (For overseas airmail delivery, please send 4 IRCs.) Reader Service number H16.

BATTERY-POWERED WIRE-WRAPPING TOOL

The new BW-2630 is a revolutionary battery-powered wire-wrapping tool. The tool operates on 2 standard "C" size nicad batteries (not included) and accepts either of two specially designed bits. Bit model BT-30 is for wrapping 30 AWG wire onto .025" square pins; BT-2628 wraps 26-28 AWG wire. Both produce the preferred "modified" wrap.

Designed for the serious amateur, BW-2630 even includes both positive indexing and anti-overwrapping mechanisms—features usually found only in industrial tools costing five times as much. Pistol-grip design and rugged ABS construction ensure performance and durability. In stock at local electronic retailers or available directly from *OK Machine and Tool Corporation, 3455 Conner Street, Bronx NY 10475.* Reader Service number O5.

NEW CLOCK KIT FROM BULLET

The new 6-digit mobile/fixed station Zulu clock kit is now available from Bullet Electronics. The kit features quality G-10 plated and drilled PC boards, detailed step-by-step instructions with illustrations and schematics, and all the required parts.

The kit nomenclature will be ZULU II and has as standard features large ½" character LED readouts, a quartz crystal timebase, battery backup, 12 V dc operation, readout blanking and brightness control, noise rejection circuitry, and a calendar-on-demand feature.

The ZULU II will be sold either without a case or with an attractive injection molded case in either blue or beige. The addition of a small 12 V ac transformer allows standard ac operation. The kit is aimed at the amateur radio market and is the result of numerous customer requests for a clock of this design.

For more information, contact *Bullet Electronics, PO Box 401244-E, Garland TX 75040; (214)-278-3553.* Reader Service number B8.

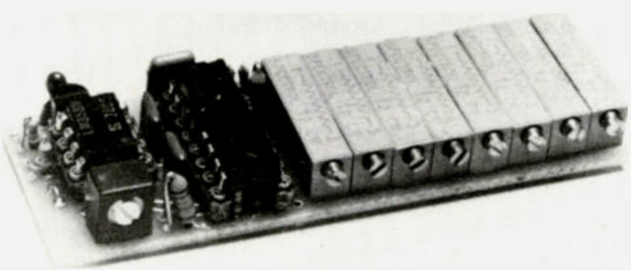
MULTI-FREQUENCY ENCODER

Selectone Corporation announces a versatile new multi-frequency encoder for both CTCSS and burst tone signalling applications. The miniature circuit board measures only 1" W x 2.85" L x .38" H and will accommodate up to eight (8) fully tunable tone frequencies. If fewer frequencies are required, the board may be sheared off to reduce the overall length.

Two standard configurations are available: the Model ST-105 CTCSS encoder and the Model ST-115 burst tone encoder. The ST-105 operates over the standard CTCSS frequency range of 67.0 to 250.3 Hz, while the ST-115 will generate burst tones with the range of 800 to 3000 Hz with field selectable burst durations of 300 ms, 500 ms, 1 second, or continuous. Other frequency ranges are available on special order.

The ST-105 and the ST-115 are furnished with complete installation instructions and 18" flying leads for wiring to a multi-frequency selector switch (customer provided).

For more information, contact *Selectone Corporation, 26203 Production Ave., Suite 6, Hayward CA 94545; (415)-887-1950.* Reader Service number S110.



Multi-frequency encoder from Selectone.

Awards

from page 28

DIPLOMA GUGLIELMO MARCONI (DGM)

This award is to celebrate the experiments carried out by Marconi in various parts of the world and bring them once again to the attention of radio amateurs. The DGM will be awarded to those who make contact with the localities in which Marconi once conducted his experiments. To qualify, it is necessary to forward to the ARI all details of your contacts and a) 40 QSLs chosen from the localities listed below, or b) 35 QSLs chosen from the list below plus the QSL from the official commemorative station, II4FGM, and one from any other G. Marconi memorial stations for a total of 37 QSLs.

When required (i.e., G = London, I4 = Bologna), the QSLs must indicate the city or region of the locality as required below. The DGM is made available for AM, SSB, CW, RTTY, SSTV, and mixed modes. There is no band limitation; however, all contacts must be made on or after January 1, 1973.

Being somewhat of a 10-meter QRP enthusiast using a converted CB rig, I recently contacted Hugh Aeiker WA8CNN, who happens to be the Awards Custodian for the QRP Amateur Radio Club International. After hearing everyone on the band claiming to run QRP or QRPp, I figured once and for all I would get the true definition of these terms from one of the orginators of an organized QRP group. Not only did I get this group's point of view as stated in their Constitution and By-laws, but I became the recipient of a full packet of information concerning their awards program.

It appears that this QRP fraternity, founded in 1961 by K6JSS, set the QRP standard to mean 100 Watts CW/AM or 200 Watts PEP . . . input. As for QRPp status, we find the group recognizing this power only in the 5 Watts or less range. Now this is not to be confused with standards set by other QRP societies, such as the Michigan QRPp Club International, which also defines QRPp as under 5 Watts output, yet QRP is much less than 100 Watts.

As for their awards program . . . it is packed full of incentives, as you'll witness by reading on.

The main objective of the QRP ARC International Awards Program is to demonstrate the use of limited power which creates less QRM on the amateur bands, while still allowing us to enjoy the usefulness of the hobby. The club issues the following awards which are available to any amateur meeting the requirements as set forth for each below.

QRP-25

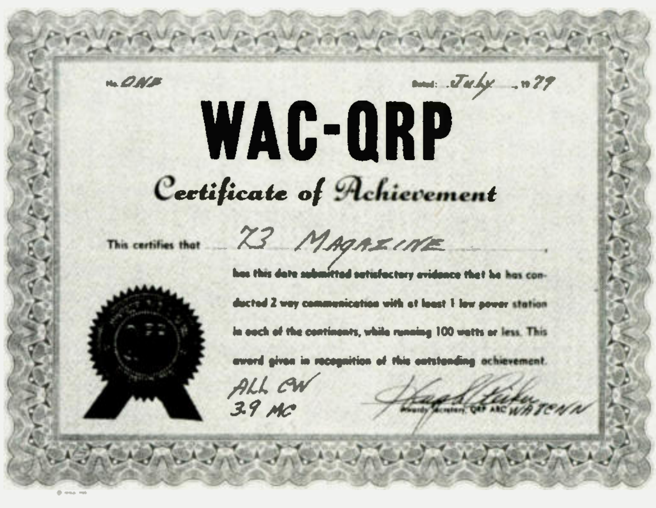
This award is issued to any amateur working at least 25 members of the QRP ARC International. Endorsements are issued for 50, 100, 200, and every additional increment of 100. To apply, send copies of logbook data, $1.00 or 5 IRCs, and a signed statement that you limited your power to 100 Watts input (200 Watts PEP SSB). Your list should also include the membership numbers of each station worked. There are no restrictions on band or mode recognition.

WAC-QRP

This award is issued to any

List of qualifying contacts for DGM

Country	*Specific Region or City*	*Prefix*
Capo Verde Island	Any	D4C
Portugal	Lisbona	CT1
Madeira Island	Any	CT3
Morocco	Any	CN8
Spagna	Cadice	EA7
Ireland	Any	EI
France	Any	F
Corsica	Any	FC
England	London	G
England	Flatholm Island	GB
England	Wight Island	G
Northern Ireland	Any	GI
Scotland	Any	GM
Switzerland	Any	HB
Vatican	Any	HV
Italy	Bologna	I4
Italy	Any	I5
Italy	Roma	IØ
Italy	Fondaz G. Marconi	IY4FGM
Italy	Torre, Tigullio Marconi	IP1TTM
Italy	Sicilia	IT9
Italy	Sardegna	ISØ
Japan	Any	JA
Argentina	Buenos Aires	LU-A-B-C
Belgium	Any	ON
Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	PY
Sweden	Stockholm	SM
Sweden	Gotland Island	SM1
USSR	Leningrad	UA1
Canada	Any	VE1
Newfoundland	Any	VO1
Labrador	Any	VO2
Australia	Sydney	VK2
Bermuda	Any	VP9
USA	Massachusetts	W1
USA	New York State	W2
USA	New Jersey	W2
USA	Missouri	WØ
USA	Illinois	W9
India	Any	VU
Gibraltar	Any	ZB
Yugoslavia	Any	YU2
Libya	Tripoli	5A
Any	Memorial Stations	Any



amateur for confirmed contacts with low power stations in all six (6) continents. Power inputs again must be carefully adhered to and a statement must be made certifying the power was within rules governing the program. Keep in mind also that both your own station and the station you are contacting must be using QRP to qualify. Your QSL cards received must state the station's power used. Fee is $1.00 or 5 IRCs.

WAS-QRP

This WAS award is issued to any amateur who makes contact with QRP power and contacts stations, one in each of the 50 US states, who are also using QRP power or less. Award fee is $1.00 or 5 IRCs. GCR apply.

DXCC-QRP

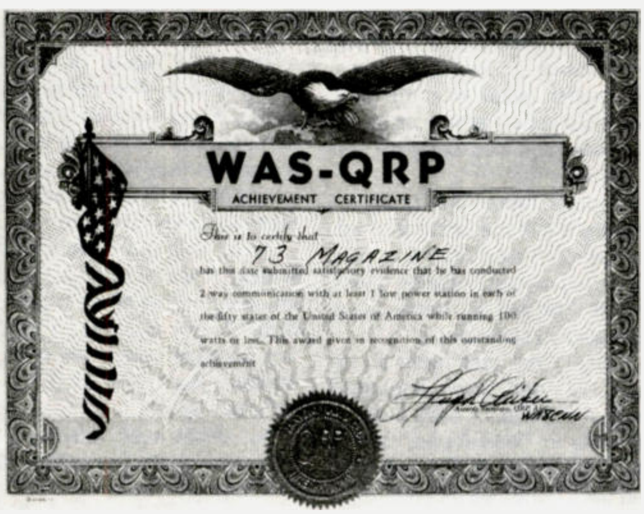
This DX award is issued to any amateur who utilizes QRP power and contacts 100 different countries, each of which must also be using low power and so stating such on their QSL card. To apply, send log data and $1.00 or 5 IRCs. GCR apply.

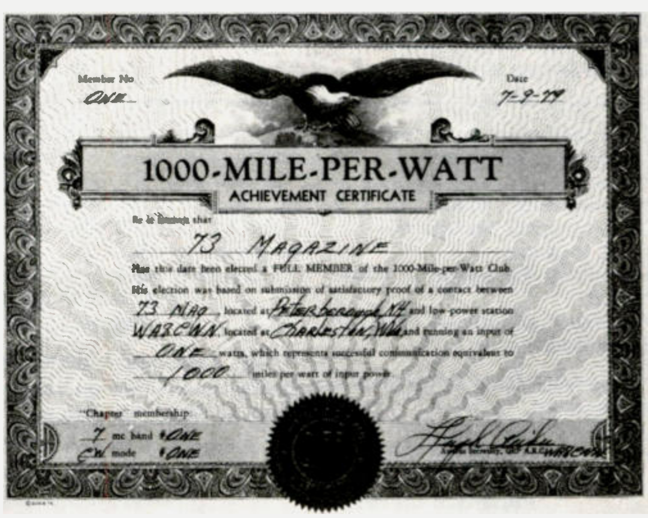
KM/W 1000-MILE-PER-WATT AWARD

Issued to any amateur transmitting from or receiving the transmissions of a low power station, such that the Great Circle Bearings between both sides divided by the power input of the low power station equals or exceeds 1000 miles per Watt. Confused? Ah, it's not all that bad! Special endorsements are given for single band or mode achievements. To apply, send copies of full log data including power used on both sides, signal reports exchanged, band and mode, and specific location of QTH on both sides. Include $1.00 or 5 IRCs. GCR apply.

DXCC-QRPp

Issued to any amateur for confirmed contacts with stations in 100 DX countries; power levels of 5 Watts or less must be used by the applicant. Reading the rules closely, I find no power restriction on the stations you must work. To apply, send logbook data, including power used and type of equipment used. Enclose $1.00 or 5 IRCs. GCR apply.





WAS-QRPp

Issued to any amateur for confimed contacts with each of the fifty (50) US states while operating five (5) Watts maximum output. To apply, forward all pertinent log data and $1.00 or 5 IRCs to the Award Manager. GRC apply. Special endorsements will also be issued for states contacted for levels of 20, 30, 40, and 50 states.

As with all awards offered by the QRP ARC International, should you wish to apply, in order not to delay processing of your award, please furnish not only the data, but also the power levels used for each award and the type of equipment used.

All award applications should be sent to: Hugh Aeiker WA8CNN, 5 Keiffer Drive, St. Albans WV 25177.

My special thanks go out to Ade WØRSP/K8EEG, QRP editor for *CQ Magazine*, who recently provided me with the latest up-to-date information concerning some very popular QRP awards being offered by amateur fraternities.

DXCC-QRPp

This award, initiated by the *MILLIWATT: National Journal of QRPp* in 1971, offers a very distinctive challenge to dedicated QRPp stations the world over.

The award requires contacts with DX stations in 100 different countries of the world with the aid of list- or net-type operations. The rules clearly state power must be limited to five Watts or less output. To apply, the applicant must submit a log list in alphabetical order of callsign prefix of the station worked, indicating date, time, and frequency of each contact. QSL cards must accompany your listing and a signed declaration must be made as to the maximum power and type of equipment used. Application fee is $15.00 to help defray the cost of the large 30-inch trophy suitably engraved.

DXCC MILLIWATT

This award is also sponsored by the *MILLIWATT: National Journal of QRPp*. The same rules apply for this award as for the DXCC QRPp except that all indications of power level should read "under one Watt output." Applications are the same as for DXCC-QRPp.

THE MILLIWATT FIELD DAY TROPHY

Initiated in 1970, this trophy is awarded to the highest-scoring QRPp station in the ARRL Field Day event held each year in the month of June. To enter, you must submit an ARRL summary sheet, or similar, plus a listing of the stations you work band by band. You must state in your application the power level used, the type of equipment, as well as your method of measuring output power. If you use 1-5 Watts, you may multiply your score by four.

For power level under one Watt output, you may multiply your score times 5. In addition, another 1.5 times your score may be added for operating your QRPp station independent of power mains. Another 150 bonus points are earned for full portable setup away from your QTH.

All three awards, the DXCC-QRPp, DXCC Milliwatt, and the Milliwatt Field Day Trophy, are obtainable by making application to: Adrian Weiss WØRSP, 83 Suburban Estates, Vermillion SD 57069.

Ham Help

I am interested in becoming a radio operator. Does anyone know of any radio classes near me?

Herbert E. Scott
84 Torrey St.
South Weymouth MA 02190

Although our Michigan Technological University Amateur Radio Club has a long history, any records of the club prior to 1971 are not known to us. If someone knows anything about the early days (before 1971) of our club, please contact me. Any help will be appreciated.

Hideki Yumoto AG8C
133ECH MTU
Houghton MI 49931

LETTERS

from page 35

ing that your publication is one of the most widely read among hams, I thought your readers might be interested in a recent experience we had which has resulted in our offering a new service.

Our emergency department became involved with a distress call at sea that was picked up by a local ham. They needed medical advice and called Memorial Hospital. We agreed to accept the collect call and our emergency department physician was able to provide the appropriate medical advice.

W6CRD's phone patch, which we received last month from VP5TJ/MW, Region 3, from the 77-foot motor vessel *Tin Ajo* to our hospital's emergency room, was what precipitated our getting involved. Via the patch, Dr. Allen Hooper was able to successfully treat the vessel's chief engineer for severe coral-induced infection though he was across the Pacific at the time. W6CRD ran follow-up contacts between the ship and Dr. Hooper until the infection subsided and the patient was out of danger.

Fortunately, these situations arise infrequently, but when they do, medical advice is a necessity. In the aftermath of this recent incident, we are now offering to accept collect calls from amateur radio operators in California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington who are in contact with maritime mobile stations who have medical emergencies. All they need do is call our hospital's emergency department, which is (213)-595-2133.

William J. Loveday
Vice President,
Memorial Hospital
Medical Center
Long Beach CA

PARANOIC

I read with interest Mr. Conklin's letter in the November, 1979, Letters (p.16). First of all, my actions concerning the Russian woodpecker were not boo-boos. The Russians are obviously experimenting with their point-to-point 14-MHz band. I and hundreds of others were merely trying to verify the reports we read in *73*.

I chased the woodpecker on three occasions, and my excursions into this mess were experimental in nature; they were intended to help determine the nature of the phenomenon. I am now drafting a report to the FCC detailing my experiences (mostly of a monitoring nature) and if they feel that my actions were not useful or warranted, they may take any action they desire. *They* will decide points of legality.

My position on this matter is that I (and the others) was emitting signals of an experimental nature regarding an unusual phenomenon found on the 14-MHz ham band. My references to using SSTV and other modes were, of course, frivolous. Any other images created by my letters are incorrect (and in some cases paranoic!).

The reason Mr. Conklin could not find me in the ARRL Intruder Watch program is that I prefer direct action. The record of the Watch program is well known. I cannot speak for the other hams mentioned in Mr. Conklin's fascinating letter.

Steve Baumrucker WD4MKQ
Durham NC

WORTH WAITING FOR

The November *73* was a little late in arriving, but the splendid article by W5KHT entitled "The Satellite TV Primer" was well worth waiting for.

This is an upcoming technology that will change long-distance radio transmissions as well. Many thanks.

Paul G. Stecher
Westwood NJ

GREAT HELP

For some time, I have been intending to write you and tell you how much I enjoy *73*. Your November issue was the best yet. Your timely article on satellite reception was excellent and well done.

Another factor that really interests me is the amount of advertising. Receiving *73* is like receiving a ham catalog every month. The ads are tremendous and always well done.

This is my last renewal for *QST*. I'm just plain disgusted with the ARRL. I have been a member for 56 years and during that time the ARRL has watched our ham bands be nibbled away and done little or nothing. Every time you criticize them, the headquarters staff draws up the drawbridge, fills the moat, and shoots arrows at you.

Keep up the good work—your *73 Magazine* and policies have really been a great help to amateur radio.

Wells Chapin W8GI
Kingsley MI

Thanks for the letter, Wells. Your many articles on the history of amateur radio have been extremely well done. You obviously have been keeping much closer track of events than most amateurs and have things in perspective. We don't really know how the results of WARC will work out, though I join amateurs everywhere in hoping for the best. If we do luck out, it will be galling to see any group crow about the results and try to claim credit. The pattern of events leading to WARC held no reason for optimism for amateur radio, despite years of golden opportunities to do the needed groundwork. You have written about this many times, with your ideas and helpful suggestions falling on deaf ears.—Wayne.

PROGRESS

The "Bad Taste" letter from Dale Richman (November, 1979, p. 190) leaves me with deep concern, also. If it were not for *73*, I would not find out the latest in solid-state technology and how MDS and satellite TV works.

As an avid fast-scan ATV operator, I am interested in the challenge of receiving a picture from distant sources. If *73* did not publish such material, I couldn't learn and progress in amateur radio.

So, please keep publishing all kinds of articles, like home-brew UHF and microwave devices. After all, where would we be if no one had info on how to build these receivers?

John Du Bry K6KDO
Yucaipa CA

Ham Help

First, I'm interested in getting in touch with a net for disabled amateurs, if there is one. If not, is anyone interested in forming such a net?

Second, I need information and specifications on the following pieces of equipment:

- Link VHF high- and low-band transmitters, receivers, and transceivers (2210, 1623, 2552, 1905 ED-2, 2240 ED-18, and 2365);
- Teleprinter TT-4;
- Test set CPR-60 AAB, a two-band VHF-UHF test receiver;
- ARC-1, Command Sets (ARC-5), VHF ARC-5;
- BC-1206 and BC-1306 receivers;
- Western Union Telefax transceiver (no model number). It has three push-buttons: "incoming," "stop," and "outgoing";
- Hickok vacuum tube volt-ohm-milliammeter, made for the Department of the U.S. Navy;
- ARB receiver;
- Realistic Timekube®, model 12-159;
- Realistic Jetstream AM-AIR Band receiver.

Any help would be very much appreciated.

John C. White WB6BLV
560 N. Indiana St.
Porterville CA 93257

I am in need of a schematic and operating instructions for a Hammarlund HQ-180A. I would be happy to pay copying and shipping costs. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Dante H. Ventriere KA4JRE
17831 NW 18 Avenue
Hialeah FL 33015

The Kenwood International Users' Club is now operational. Send an SASE for details.

Robert A. Pohorence N8RT
9600 Kickapoo Pass
Streetsboro OH 44240

OSCAR Orbits

Courtesy of AMSAT

Any satellite placed into a near-Earth orbit suffers from the cumulative effects of atmospheric drag. The much publicized descent of the Skylab space station was a graphic demonstration of these effects.

The OSCAR satellites are subject to atmospheric drag, of course, and the present period of intense solar activity has accentuated the problem. During this period, our sun has been expelling huge numbers of charged particles, some of which find their way into the Earth's upper atmosphere, increasing the density (and thus the drag) there. It is through this region that the OSCARs must pass. OSCAR 8, in a lower orbit than OSCAR 7, is the more seriously affected of the two.

If the drag factor is not considered when OSCAR calculations are performed, long-range orbital projections will be in error. For example, by the end of 1979, OSCAR 8 was more than 20 minutes ahead of some published schedules. The nature of orbital mechanics is such that extra drag on a satellite causes it to move into a lower orbit, resulting in a shorter orbital period. Thus, the satellite arrives above a given Earthbound location earlier than predicted.

Using data supplied to us by Dr. Thomas A. Clark W3IWI of AMSAT, the equatorial crossing tables shown here were generated with the aid of a TRS-80™ microcomputer. The tables take into account the effects of atmospheric drag and should be in error by a few seconds at most.

The listed data tells you the time and place that OSCAR 7 and OSCAR 8 cross the equator in an ascending orbit for the first time each day. To calculate successive OSCAR 7 orbits, make a list of the first orbit number and the next twelve orbits for that day. List the time of the first orbit. Each successive orbit is 115 minutes later (two hours less five minutes). The chart gives the longitude of the day's first ascending (northbound) equatorial crossing. Add 29° for each succeeding orbit. When OSCAR is ascending on the other side of the world from you, it will descend over you. To find the equatorial descending longitude, subtract 166° from the ascending longitude. To find the time OSCAR 7 passes the North Pole, add 29 minutes to the time it passes the equator. You should be able to hear OSCAR 7 when it is within 45 degrees of you. The easiest way to determine if OSCAR is above the horizon (and thus within range) at your location is to take a globe and draw a circle with a radius of 2450 miles (4000 kilometers) from your QTH. If OSCAR passes above that circle, you should be able to hear it. If it passes right overhead, you should hear it for about 24 minutes total. OSCAR 7 will pass an imaginary line drawn from San Francisco to Norfolk about 12 minutes after passing the equator. Add about a minute for each 200 miles that you live north of this line. If OSCAR passes 15° east or west of you, add another minute; at 30°, three minutes; at 45°, ten minutes. Mode A: 145.85-.95 MHz uplink, 29.4-29.5 MHz downlink, beacon at 29.502 MHz. Mode B: 432.125-.175 MHz uplink, 145.975-.925 MHz downlink, beacon at 145.972 MHz.

At press time, OSCAR 7 was scheduled to be in Mode A on odd numbered days of the year and in Mode B on even numbered days. Monday is QRP day on OSCAR 7, while Wednesdays are set aside for experiments and are not available for use.

OSCAR 8 calculations are similar to those for OSCAR 7, with some important exceptions. Instead of making 13 orbits each day, OSCAR 8 makes 14 orbits during each 24-hour period. The orbital period of OSCAR 8 is therefore somewhat shorter: 103 minutes.

To calculate successive OSCAR 8 orbits, make a list of the first orbit number (from the OSCAR 8 chart) and the next thirteen orbits for that day. List the time of the first orbit. Each successive orbit is then 103 minutes later. The chart gives the longitude of the day's first ascending equatorial crossing. Add 26° for each succeeding orbit. To find the time OSCAR 8 passes the North Pole, add 26 minutes to the time it crosses the equator. OSCAR 8 will cross the imaginary San Francisco-to-Norfolk line about 11 minutes after crossing the equator. Mode A: 145.85-.95 MHz uplink, 29.4-29.50 MHz downlink, beacon at 29.40 MHz. Mode J: 145.90-146.00 MHz uplink, 435.20-435.10 MHz downlink, beacon on 435.090 MHz.

OSCAR 8 is in Mode A on Mondays and Thursdays, Mode J on Saturdays and Sundays, and both modes simultaneously on Tuesdays and Fridays. As with OSCAR 7, Wednesdays are reserved for experiments.

OSCAR 7 ORBITAL INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY

ORBIT #	DATE	TIME (GMT)	EQ. CROSSING (DEGREES WEST)
23845	1	0118:54	87.9
23857	2	0018:13	72.8
23870	3	0112:29	86.4
23882	4	0011:49	71.2
23895	5	0106:05	84.8
23907	6	0005:24	69.7
23920	7	0059:40	83.2
23933	8	0153:56	96.8
23945	9	0053:16	81.7
23958	10	0147:32	95.3
23970	11	0046:51	80.1
23983	12	0141:07	93.7
23995	13	0040:27	78.6
24008	14	0134:43	92.1
24020	15	0034:02	77.0
24033	16	0128:18	90.6
24045	17	0027:37	75.4
24058	18	0121:53	89.0
24070	19	0021:13	73.9
24083	20	0115:29	87.5
24095	21	0014:48	72.3
24108	22	0109:04	85.9
24120	23	0008:24	70.8
24133	24	0102:40	84.3
24145	25	0001:59	69.2
24158	26	0056:15	82.8
24171	27	0150:31	96.4
24183	28	0049:50	81.2
24196	29	0144:06	94.8

OSCAR 8 ORBITAL INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY

ORBIT #	DATE	TIME (GMT)	EQ. CROSSING (DEGREES WEST)
9728	1	0127:32	71.1
9742	2	0132:31	72.4
9756	3	0137:30	73.6
9770	4	0142:29	74.9
9783	5	0004:16	50.4
9797	6	0009:15	51.6
9811	7	0014:14	52.9
9825	8	0019:13	54.2
9839	9	0024:12	55.4
9853	10	0029:11	56.7
9867	11	0034:10	58.0
9881	12	0039:09	59.2
9895	13	0044:08	60.5
9909	14	0049:06	61.8
9923	15	0054:05	63.0
9937	16	0059:04	64.3
9951	17	0104:03	65.6
9965	18	0109:01	66.8
9979	19	0114:00	68.1
9993	20	0118:59	69.4
10007	21	0123:57	70.6
10021	22	0128:56	71.9
10035	23	0133:55	73.2
10049	24	0138:53	74.4
10062	25	0000:39	49.9
10076	26	0005:37	51.1
10090	27	0010:36	52.4
10104	28	0015:34	53.7
10118	29	0020:33	54.9

OSCAR 7 ORBITAL INFORMATION FOR MARCH

ORBIT #	DATE	TIME (GMT)	EQ. CROSSING (DEGREES WEST)
24208	1	0043:26	79.7
24221	2	0137:42	93.3
24233	3	0037:01	78.1
24246	4	0131:17	91.7
24258	5	0030:36	76.5
24271	6	0124:52	90.1
24283	7	0024:12	75.0
24296	8	0118:28	88.6
24308	9	0017:47	73.4
24321	10	0112:03	87.0
24333	11	0011:23	71.9
24346	12	0105:38	85.5
24358	13	0004:58	70.3
24371	14	0059:14	83.9
24384	15	0153:30	97.5
24396	16	0052:49	82.3
24409	17	0147:05	95.9
24421	18	0046:24	80.8
24434	19	0140:40	94.4
24446	20	0040:00	79.2
24459	21	0134:16	92.8
24471	22	0033:35	77.7
24484	23	0127:51	91.2
24496	24	0027:10	76.1
24509	25	0121:26	89.7
24521	26	0020:46	74.5
24534	27	0115:02	88.1
24546	28	0014:21	73.0
24559	29	0108:37	86.6
24571	30	0007:56	71.4
24584	31	0102:12	85.0

OSCAR 8 ORBITAL INFORMATION FOR MARCH

ORBIT #	DATE	TIME (GMT)	EQ. CROSSING (DEGREES WEST)
10132	1	0025:31	56.2
10146	2	0030:29	57.5
10160	3	0035:28	58.7
10174	4	0040:26	60.0
10188	5	0045:24	61.3
10202	6	0050:22	62.5
10216	7	0055:21	63.8
10230	8	0100:19	65.0
10244	9	0105:17	66.3
10258	10	0110:15	67.6
10272	11	0115:13	68.8
10286	12	0120:11	70.1
10300	13	0125:09	71.4
10314	14	0130:07	72.6
10328	15	0135:05	73.9
10342	16	0140:03	75.2
10355	17	0001:48	50.6
10369	18	0006:46	51.9
10383	19	0011:44	53.1
10397	20	0016:42	54.4
10411	21	0021:39	55.7
10425	22	0026:37	56.9
10439	23	0031:35	58.2
10453	24	0036:32	59.4
10467	25	0041:30	60.7
10481	26	0046:28	62.0
10495	27	0051:25	63.2
10509	28	0056:23	64.5
10523	29	0101:20	65.8
10537	30	0106:18	67.0
10551	31	0111:15	68.3

Review

COMPLETE GUIDE TO AMATEUR RADIO
by Joseph DuBovy
Parker Publishing Company, 1979

You are not alone if you have ever wished that there was ONE book that had all the answers to questions about ham radio. The publisher's description of a *Complete Guide to Amateur Radio* might make you think that such a book is finally available. Billed as "the indispensable guide to amateur radio," this 264-page hardcover book from Parker Publishing Company may turn out to be a disappointment to many amateurs. It is intended for beginners who are full of questions and looking for easy-to-understand answers.

The *Complete Guide to Amateur Radio* will not leave a prospective ham baffled by a lot of unexplained technical jargon or long-winded theoretical discussions. The author, Joseph DuBovy W2TCC, guides his readers from an introduction to the "magic of ham radio" to a description of how to build a simple transmitter and antenna. Along the way, topics such as satellite communication, receiver block diagrams, and basic semiconductor theory are discussed. While no subject gets thorough treatment, most of the questions a beginning ham might have are answered.

Promotional literature and the book's jacket claim that the knowledge needed to pass the Novice or General/Technician license exam is included. Unfortunately, much of the information is several years old. The author even refers to a $9.00 license cost, something that changed about five years ago! The guts of the licensing material is of the question-and-answer variety. As the exams get tougher and include many questions on the frequently changing rules and regulations, it is unlikely that the dated information will be adequate to pass the exams.

Another advertised feature of the book is its chapter on the Navy's special method for mastering Morse code. While the segment on sending is painstakingly complete, the "secrets" for receiving code are brief. I think that the secret of learning code is not held in a few paragraphs of a book; it is in regular practice, using a challenging source of code.

The one-tube transmitter described in the *Complete Guide to Amateur Radio* would be easy to construct if you were already an experienced builder. Unfortunately, the author gives an incomplete explanation. Only a smattering of construction practices can be found and the table showing the color-coding scheme for resistors does not tell the reader what number each color stands for. The most obvious omission is a mention of safety practices. This is especially important when the first-time builder is tackling a project containing a high-voltage supply like the one described.

Much of the book's strength lies in its numerous diagrams and charts. Many of these are from ARRL publications and they do a good job supplementing the text which contains a lot of generalities. The book is not published by one of the traditional ham radio firms, which may account for the expansive description on the book's jacket and in mail-order advertising. The retail price, $14.95, may make many amateurs think twice about buying the book. The *Complete Guide to Amateur Radio* is suited for beginners, but they should realize that other sources of information may be needed.

Tim Daniel N8RK
Terre Haute IN

Corrections

With regard to my article, "Son of Keycoder" (November, 1979, p. 106), several sharp-eyed readers have called my attention to two small errors in the diode matrix encoding chart (Fig. 3, p. 109). The letters in error are K and X. The correct encoding is shown here.

K	INV/I-17	INV/I-16	INV/I-15	INV/I-14	INV/I-13	INV/I-12	INV/I-11
K				X	X		X
X			X	X			X

Revised Fig. 3, "Son of Keycoder."

I will be happy to answer any questions readers may have about the circuit or construction details.

L. B. Cebik W4RNL
Knoxville TN

Ham Help

I have several old automobile radios that have vibrator power supplies. Somewhere in my readings I saw an article that gave circuit descriptions and parts data to convert to transistor power *in the vibrator can.* In other words, the whole circuit is built in the can itself and the present socket is used. I cannot remember where I saw the article. Any assistance will be appreciated. Thanks.

Walter F. Seaberg, Jr. WA4TQI
1801 Pimmit Drive
Falls Church VA 22043

I am willing to pay for a copy of pages 19 and 20 of the Galaxy III transceiver manual (#183-29).

Arthur H. Curling W5MIC
131 Archimedes
San Antonio TX 78223

I would like to obtain a copy of an owner's manual to Xerox, or a Xerox copy, for an RCA Senior volt-ohmist VTVM, model WV98C. Also, what is the availability of dc/ac-Ohms probe and cable, model WG299D.

Please advise about what you have and price. I will ensure return of manual.

Harry C. Lein W7HNP
1109 Highland Avenue
Bremerton WA 98310

I would like to hear from anyone interested in starting a ragchew/roundtable on 50.150 MHz, Thursday evenings, 2000 Pacific Standard Time, 0400 GMT.

Berand Kirschner WB0YCQ
4439 Jupiter Drive
Riverside CA 92505

I recently obtained a Heath SB-102 transceiver and am interested in hearing from hams who have made modifications/improvements to the unit, especially in the receiver.

John DiLorenzo KA1FN
Box 179BR
Griswold St.
Jericho VT 05465

I need an instruction book, service manual, and/or schematic for a General Radio model 1601 A VHF bridge. Please advise cost of original or reproduction.

Roger Moe W7KGG
Route 1, Box 1140
Wapato WA 98951

I would appreciate any information, especially a schematic, on a Narco Superhomer VHF aircraft transceiver. I would also like to get a schematic and information for a Dumont model 304-A oscilloscope.

I will copy and return with a postage refund or purchase at a reasonable price.

Gary B. Trustle WB8SPV
424 Franklin Ave.
Waverly OH 45690

If you had trouble with either the code or theory and rules & regs (or both!) when you were studying for your Novice ticket but conquered those problems and went on to join the ranks of licensed radio amateurs, then I need your help. Please write to my wife, Cindy, and relate your experiences and hardships so she will realize that she's not the only one who is having a hard time. She really needs help and encouragement.

Timothy M. Mrva WD8QLB
436½ E. Exchange St.
Owosso MI 48867

I need any available data on a Hickok Vacuum-tube volt-ohmmeter, Department of Ships Model OBQ-1. Thanks.

John C. White WB6BLV
560 N. Indiana St.
Porterville CA 93257

I need a schematic for my vintage National NC57B receiver. I will gladly reimburse costs. Thanks.

Larry Pike WD9HCR
PO Box 3766
Quincy IL 62301

ALL BAND TRAP ANTENNAS!

Social Events

Listings in this column are provided free of charge on a space-available basis. The following information should be included in every announcement: sponsor, event, date, time, place, city, state, admission charge (if any), features, talk-in frequencies, and the name of whom to contact for further information. Announcements must be received two months prior to the month in which the event takes place.

GRAND JUNCTION CO
FEB 9

The Grand Mesa Repeater Society will hold its 1st annual Western Slope Swapfest on Saturday, February 9, 1980, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Lincoln Park Barn, Grand Junction, Colorado. Table reservations are $2.00 in advance, per table. Talk-in on 146.22/.82. For further information, write to Larry Brooks WBØECV, 3185 Bunting Ave., Grand Junction CO 81501.

MANSFIELD OH
FEB 10

The Mansfield mid-winter hamfest and auction will be held on February 10, 1980, at the Richland County Fairgrounds, Mansfield, Ohio. Featured will be prizes, a flea market, and an auction to be held in large heated buildings. Doors will open to the public at 8:00 am. Tickets are $1.50 in advance and $2.00 at the door. Talk-in on 146.34/.94. For additional information or advance tickets, contact Harry Frietchen K8HF, 120 Homewood, Mansfield OH 44906, or phone (419)-529-2801 or (419)-524-1441.

MINONG WI
FEB 17

The Wild Rivers Amateur Radio Club will hold a midwinter swapfest on Sunday, February 17, 1980, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Minong village hall, Minong, Wisconsin, 45 miles south of Duluth-Superior, 90 miles north of Eau Claire on Highway 53, and 135 miles from Minneapolis-St. Paul. Admission is $1.50 and tables are free. There will be a raffle drawing for a scanner. Talk-in on .28/.88 and .52. For information, contact Roger Doehr W9DLY, Rte. 5, Box 452, Hayward WI 54843.

LIVONIA MI
FEB 17

The Livonia Amateur Radio Club will hold its 10th anniversary Swap 'n Shop on Sunday, February 17, 1980, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, at the Churchill High School, Livonia, Michigan. There will be plenty of tables, door prizes, refreshments, and free parking available, plus reserved table space of 12-foot minimum. Talk-in on 146.52. For further information, send an SASE to Neil Coffin WA8GWL, c/o Livonia Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 2111, Livonia MI 48150.

GLASGOW KY
FEB 23

The Mammoth Cave ARC will hold its annual Glasgow swapfest on Saturday, February 23, 1980, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Glasgow Flea Market, south of Glasgow on Highway 31E. There will be a large heated building with plenty of free parking. Spaces are available for $3.00 each. There will be no meetings or forums, just door prizes, free coffee, and a large flea market. Admission is $2.00. Talk-in on .34/.94. For additional information, contact WA4JZO, 121 Adairland Ct., Glasgow KY 42141.

LANCASTER PA
FEB 24

The Lancaster Hamfest will be held on February 24, 1980, at the Guernsey Pavilion, located at the intersection of Rtes. 30 and 896, east of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. General admission is $3.00, except children and XYLs. Doors will open at 8:00 am. All inside spaces are available by advance registration only and are $3.00 each for an 8-foot space, which includes a table. There will be free tailgating in a specified area outside, if the weather permits. There will be a two-hour Dutch Country tour by an advance registration of $4.00. Food will be served at the hamfest. Also, there are excellent restaurants and accommodations in the area. Talk-in on .01/.61. For information, write Sercom, Box 6082, Rohrerstown PA 17603.

AKRON OH
FEB 24

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club will hold its 26th annual electronics equipment auction and flea market on Sunday, February 24, 1980, from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm at North High School, Akron, Ohio. Tickets are $2.00 each. Even though it is suggested that you bring your own tables, some tables will be available for $2.00 each. Featured will be refreshments and prizes, including a first prize of a Kenwood TS-120S and a second prize of a Kenwood TR-2400. There will be plenty of room for buyers and sellers. Talk-in on 146.52 and 146.04/.64. For details, write CFARC, PO Box 6, Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221 or phone K8JSL at (216)-923-3830.

LAPORTE IN
FEB 24

The LaPorte Winter Hamfest will be held on February 24, 1980, starting at 8:00 am, in the LaPorte Civic Auditorium, LaPorte, Indiana. There will be plenty of free tables, plus coffee, donuts, and hot food will be available. Admission is $2.50 at the gate, or $2.00 in advance. Talk-in on 146.52. For information, write LPARC, PO Box 30, LaPorte IN 46350.

DAVENPORT IA
FEB 24

The Davenport Radio Amateur Club will hold its ninth annual hamfest on Sunday, February 24, 1980, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, at the Davenport Masonic Temple, Highway 61 (Brady Street) and 7th Street, Davenport, Iowa. Tickets are $2.00 in advance; $3.00 at the door. Tables are $3.00 each, no limit, with a $2.00 additional charge for ac electrical hookup. Talk-in on 146.28/.88 WØBXR repeater. Advance tickets can be purchased by writing to club treasurer Clarence Wilson WAØOEW, 1357 W. 36th Street, Davenport IA 52806.

VIENNA VA
FEB 24

The Vienna Wireless Society will hold its annual WINTERFEST™ on Sunday, February 24, 1980, at the Vienna Community Center, Vienna, Virginia. There will be indoor tables, sales, prizes, food, and outdoor frostbite tail-gating. The event at 6:30 am for vendors; 8:00 am for general admission. Admission is $3.00, including one prize ticket; $2.00 for an extra prize ticket. Pre-teens with parents are free. Tables are $5.00 to $2.00, depending on the quantity. Frostbite tail-gating is $1.00. Reservations close February 15. For reservations, contact Carrol N. Guin, 7533 Oak Glen Court, Falls Church VA 22042. For other information, contact the Viennna Wireless Society, PO Box 418, Vienna VA 22180.

MARLBORO MA
FEB 24

The Algonquin Amateur Radio Club will hold its 3rd annual ham radio flea market on Sunday, February 24, 1980, at the Marlboro Jr. High School Cafetorium, just off Rte. 85 North, Marlboro, Massachusetts. Admission will be 50¢. The event will be held rain, shine, or blizzard. Food will be available. Tables will be $5.00 in advance or $7.50 at the door. Talk-in on .01/.61 and .52. For more information or reservations, contact Charles D. McCarthy W1BK, 128 Forest Ave., Hudson MA 01749, or phone (617)-562-5622.

WINCHESTER IN
MAR 15-16

The Randolph Amateur Radio Association will hold its 1st annual hamfest on March 15-16, 1980, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, both days, at the National Guard Armory, 700 Western Ave., Winchester, Indiana. Featured will be door prizes, food and drink, and a program of speakers for both days. The cost per table, or an equivalent space, is $3.00. Tickets are $2.50 at the door, or $1.50 in advance. Talk-in on 147.90/147.30, 223.30/224.90, and 146.52.

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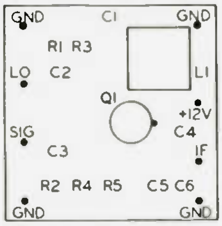

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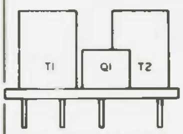

FULL SCALE RF PREAMP.

HFT INC
158 West 9th St
Deer Park NY 11729

HAM SCAN-1: YAESU MEMORIZER

- Scans 145-148 MHz in 10 sec., stops 3 sec. on active channels, simple 7 wire installation.

ORDER HAM SCAN-1.................... $39.95

HAM SCAN-2: K'WD 7625, 7600, 7400A, KDK 2015R, 2016A, CLEGG FM-28 MIDLAND 13-510, HW-2036, Others soon.

- Adds one channel of memory to any above rig
- Scan range selectable by position of radio's MHz switch. Up to full 4 MHz width.
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- Mike-mounted switch provides 3 functions: start/stop, remote freq. incrementing and xmit interlock while actively scanning
- Scanner mounts inside radio, no external box
- Assembled, tested and guaranteed $59.95

ORDER HAM SCAN-2 and specify type of radio

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T64

URFI

(UNIVERSAL RECEIVED FREQUENCY INDICATOR)

Digitize your receiver's dial with the DIAL SPOTTER. Adapts to most Communication Receivers with simple connection to VFO. From $149.95 Write for Data Sheet.

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G27

UNBEATEN SIX BAND ANTENNA

THE JOYSTICK VFA

(Variable Freq. Antenna) claims unbeaten scoring over commercial and/or conventional antennae
● Simple, rapid erection ● Not only 6-band but CONTINUOUS 0.5 – 30 Mhz., incl. BC & MARS ● Omni-directional ● Substantially Harmonic FREE ● 1,000,000 miles per watt unbeaten record! ● Poor QTH s enhanced! CLIFF DWELLERS ANTENNA! ● QUOTE from CQ Mag. – "If you are high enough the antenna will operate (esp. at 15-20) as well as the well-known 3-element beam with which we compared it. The tests were 'operational, not theoretical'! We find that if we can hear 'em we can work 'em."

SYSTEM 'A' $110.00
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500 W.P.E.P. &/or Improved Q Factor Receive

Each System 3 sections easily assembled to make unit 7' 6" long Matching ATU Air mail cost included

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G3CED Tel: 011 44 0843 62535 G3VFA

Please send all reader inquiries directly

AUTOMATIC CW COPIER

Now you can copy the fast CW stations. The NEW professionally designed DE-150 plugs into a transceiver's earphone jack & automatically displays Morse code as it is being received. New characters are entered from the right and shift left giving a continuous easy to read display of the latest code received. $425.

One year warranty and 15 day return privilege. Add $5 for shipping. VISA & MC cards welcome.

D73

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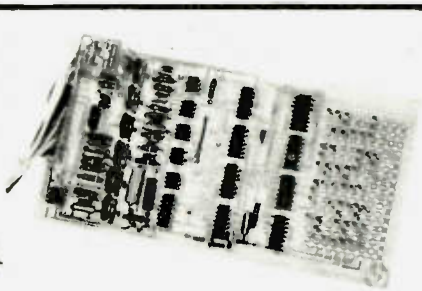
50 144 REPEATERS 220 450 Mhz

Hi Pro Mk I

New and Improved Receiver and Transmitter



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OPTIONS
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- **Basic auto patch**
- **Matching cabinet**
- **.0005% High stability crystals**

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2M 130-175 MHz Basic Repeater for 2 meters with all the features of the HI Pro MkI less the power suply and front panel controls and accessories.

50 MHz $889.95 450 MHz 899.95
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M36

NEW PRODUCTS!

Super Color S-100 Video Kit $99.95
Expandable to 256 x 192 high resolution color graphics. 6847 with all display modes computer controlled. Memory mapped. 1K RAM expandable to 6K. S-100 bus 1802, 8080, 8085, Z80 etc.

Gremlin Color Video Kit $59.95
32 x 16 alpha/numerics and graphics; up to 8 colors with 6847 chip; 1K RAM at E000. Plugs into Super Elf 44 pin bus. Not expandable to high resolution Graphics.

Elf II Adapter Kit $24.50
Plugs into Elf II providing Super Elf 44 and 50 pin bus plus S-100 bus expansion (With Super Expansion). High and low address displays, state and mode LED's optional **$18.00.**

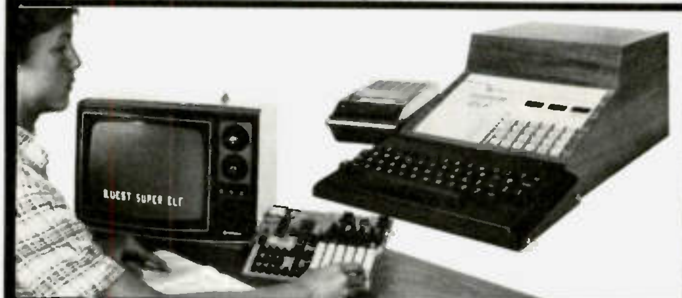
1802 16K Dynamic RAM Kit $149.00
1802/S-100 expandable to 32K, Hidden refresh w/clocks up to 4 MHz w/no wait states Addl. 16K RAM **$79.00.**

Quest Super Basic
Quest, the leader in inexpensive 1802 systems announces another first. Quest is the first company worldwide to ship a **full size Basic** for 1802 systems. A complete function **Super Basic** by **Ron Cenker** including floating point capability with scientific notation (number range ±.17E[38]), 32 bit integer ±2 billion; Multi dim arrays; String arrays; String manipulation; Cassette I/O, Save and load, Basic, Data and machine language programs; and over 75 Statements, Functions and Operators.

Easily adaptable on most 1802 systems. Requires 12K RAM minimum for Basic and user programs. Cassette version in stock now. ROM versions coming soon with exchange privilege allowing some credit for cassette version.

Super Basic on Cassette	$40.00
Tom Pittman's 1802 Tiny Basic Source listing now available. Find out how Tom Pittman wrote Tiny Basic and how to get the most out of it. Never offered before.	$19.00
S-100 4-Slot Expansion	$ 9.95
Super Monitor VI.I Source Listing	$15.00

Coming Soon: Assembler, Editor, Disassembler, DA/AD, Super Sound/Music, EPROM programmer.



RCA Cosmac Super Elf Computer $106.95
Compare features before you decide to buy any other computer. There is no other computer on the market today that has all the desirable benefits of the **Super Elf** for so little money. The Super Elf is a small single board computer that does many **big** things. It is an excellent computer for training and for learning programming with its machine language and yet it is easily **expanded with additional memory, Full Basic, ASCII Keyboards, video character generation, etc.**

Before you buy another small computer, see if it includes the following features: ROM monitor; State and Mode displays; Single step; Optional address displays; Power Supply; Audio Amplifier and Speaker; Fully socketed for all IC's; Real cost of in warranty repairs; Full documentation.

The **Super Elf** includes a **ROM** monitor for program loading, editing and execution with **SINGLE STEP for program debugging** which is not included in others at the same price. With **SINGLE STEP** you can see the microprocessor chip operating with the **unique Quest** address and data bus displays **before, during** and **after** executing instructions. Also, CPU mode and instruction cycle are decoded and displayed on 8 LED indicators.

An RCA 1861 **video graphics** chip allows you to connect to your own TV with an inexpensive video modulator to do graphics and games. There is a **speaker system** included for writing your own music or using many music programs already written. The speaker amplifier may also be used to drive relays for control purposes.

A 24 key **HEX keyboard** includes 16 HEX keys plus **load, reset, run, wait, input, memory protect, monitor select** and **single step**. Large, on board displays provide output and optional **high** and **low address**. There is a 44 pin standard connector slot for PC cards and a 50 pin connector slot for the Quest Super Expansion Board. Power supply and sockets for **all** IC's are included in the price plus a detailed 127 pg. instruction manual which now includes over 40 pgs. of software info. including a series of lessons to help get you started and a music program and graphics target game.

Many schools and universities are using the Super Elf as a course of study. OEM's use it for training and research and development.

Remember, other computers only offer Super Elf features at additional cost or not at all. **Compare before you buy. Super Elf Kit $106.95, High address option $8.95, Low address option $9.95. Custom Cabinet** with drilled and labelled plexiglass front panel **$24.95.** Expansion Cabinet with room for 4 S-100 boards **$41.00. NiCad Battery Memory Saver Kit $6.95.** All kits and options also completely assembled and tested.

Questdata, a 12 page monthly software publication for 1802 computer users is available by subscription for $12.00 per year.

Tiny Basic Cassette $10.00, on ROM **$38.00**, original Elf kit board **$14.95. 1802 software;** Moews Video Graphics **$3.50.** Games and Music **$3.00**, Chip 8 Interpreter **$5.50.**

Super Expansion Board with Cassette Interface $89.95
This is truly an astounding value! This board has been designed to allow you to decide how you want it optioned. **The Super Expansion Board comes with 4K of low power RAM** fully addressable anywhere in 64K with built-in memory protect and a **cassette interface**. Provisions have been made for all other options on the same board and it fits neatly into the hardwood cabinet alongside the **Super Elf**. The board includes slots for up to 6K of **EPROM** (2708, 2758, 2716 or TI 2716) and is **fully socketed**. EPROM can be used for the monitor and Tiny Basic or other purposes.

A 1K Super ROM Monitor $19.95 is available as an on board option in 2708 EPROM which has been preprogrammed with a program loader/editor and error checking multi file cassette read/write software, (relocatable cassette file) another exclusive from Quest. It includes register save and readout, block move capability and video graphics driver with blinking cursor. Break points can be used with the register save feature to isolate program bugs quickly, then follow with single step. The Super Monitor is written with subroutines allowing users to take advantage of monitor functions simply by calling them up. Improvements and revisions are easily done with the monitor. If you have the **Super Expansion Board and Super Monitor** the monitor is up and running at the push of a button.

Other on board options include **Parallel Input and Output Ports with full handshake**. They allow easy connection of an ASCII keyboard to the input port. **RS 232 and 20 ma Current Loop** for teletype or other device are on board and if you need more memory there are two **S-100** slots for static RAM or video boards. Also a 1K Super Monitor version 2 with video driver for full capability display with Tiny Basic and a video interface board. **Parallel I/O Ports $9.85, RS 232 $4.50, TTY 20 ma I/F $1.95, S-100 $4.50.** A 50 pin connector set with ribbon cable is available at $15.50 for easy connection between the **Super Elf** and the **Super Expansion Board.**

Power Supply Kit for the complete system (see Multi-volt Power Supply).

Same day **shipment**. First line parts only. Factory tested. Guaranteed money back. Quality IC's and other components at factory prices.

INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

7400TTL	
7400N	17
7402N	18
7404N	19
7409N	23
7410N	18
7414N	70
7420N	18
7422N	39
7430N	20
7442N	50
7445N	69
7447N	60
7448N	69
7450N	18
7474N	35
7475N	49
7485N	88
7489N	1 85
7490N	43
7492N	43
7493N	43
7495N	69
74100N	90
74107N	35
74121N	34
74123N	59
74125N	45
74145N	69
74150N	95
74151N	69
74154N	1 00
74157N	69
74161N	87
74162N	87
74163N	87
74174N	96
74175N	90
74190N	1 15
74192N	87
74193N	85
74221N	2 00
74298N	1 65
74365N	66
74366N	66
74367N	66

74LS00 TTL	
74LS00N	35
74LS02N	35
74LS04N	35
74LS05N	35
74LS08N	35
74LS10N	35
74LS13N	55
74LS14N	1 10
74LS20N	35
74LS22N	35
74LS28N	41
74LS30N	35
74LS33N	75
74LS38N	55
74LS74N	1 25
74LS75N	1 00
74LS90N	85
74LS93N	70
74LS95N	1 10
74LS107N	45
74LS112N	45
74LS113N	35
74LS132N	89
74LS136N	45
74LS151N	85
74LS155N	85
74LS157N	85
74LS162N	1 15
74LS163N	1 15
74LS174N	2 00
74LS190N	1 06
74LS221N	1 95
74LS258N	67
74LS367N	1 35

LINEAR	
CA3045	90
CA3046	1 10
CA30[illegible]	1 80
CA[illegible]	1 90
CA[illegible]	2 95
LM301AN/AH	35
LM305H	87
LM307N	35
LM308N	89
LM309K	1 50
LM311H/N	90
LM317T/K	3 75
LM318	1 35
LM320K-5	1 50
LM323K-5	5 95
LM320K-12	1 50
LM320K-15	1 50
LM320T-5	1 60
LM320T-8	1 60
LM320T-12	1 50
LM320T-15	1 60
LM324N	1 15
LM339N	1 55
LM340K-5	1 35
LM340K-8	1 35
LM340K-12	1 35
LM340K-15	1 35
LM340K-24	1 35
LM340T-5	1 25
LM340T-8	1 25
LM340T-12	1 25
LM340T-15	1 25
LM340T-18	1 25
LM340T-24	1 25
LM343H	4 50
LM350	7 50
LM370	1 15
LM377	3 00
LM379	5 00
LM380N	1 00
LM381	1 60
LM382	1 60
LM703H	40
LM709H	28
LM723H/N	50
LM733N	67
LM741CH	35
LM741N	32
LM747H/N	75
LM748N	35
LM1303N	1 75
LM1304	1 10
LM1305	1 27
LM1307	2 00
LM1310	2 75
LM1458	47
LM1800	1 75
LM1812	7 50
LM1889	3 00
LM2111	1 75
LM2902	1 50
LM3900N	60
LM3905	1 75
LM3909N	89
MC1458V	50
NE540H	3 75
NE550N	1 00
NE555V	39
NE556A	85
NE565A	1 00
NE566V	1 50
NE567V	1 00
NE5708	5 00
78L05	60
78L08	60
78M05	85
75108	1 75
75491CN	50
75492CN	55
75494CN	89

A to D CONVERTER	
8038B	4 50
8700CJ	13 95
8701CN	22 00
8750CJ	13 95
LD130	9 95
9400CJV/F	7 40
ICL7103	9 50
ICL7107	14 25

CMOS	
CD34001 Fair	50
CD4000	16
CD4001	28
CD4002	28
CD4006	1 10
CD4007	28
CD4008	28
CD4009	45
CD4010	45
CD4011	28
CD4012	28
CD4013	39
CD4014	1 00
CD4015	1 00
CD4016	45
CD4017	1 05
CD4018	94
CD4019	45
CD4020	1 02
CD4021	1 25
CD4022	1 10
CD4023	28
CD4024	75
CD4025	28
CD4026	2 00
CD4027	66
CD4028	85
CD4029	1 02
CD4030	45
CD4035	1 02
CD4040	1 02
CD4042	85
CD4043	85
CD4044	85
CD4046	1 67
CD4049	45
CD4050	49
CD4051	1 13
CD4060	1 42
CD4066	71
CD4068	40
CD4069	40
CD4070	50
CD4071	28
CD4072	28
CD4073	28
CD4075	28
CD4076	1 45
CD4078	40
CD4081	28
CD4082	28
CD4116	47
CD4490	5 50
CD4507	1 00
CD4508	4 25
CD4510	1 02
CD4511	94
CD4515	2 52
CD4516	1 10
CD4518	1 02
CD4520	1 02
CD4527	1 51
CD4528	79
CD4553	3 50
CD4566	2 25
CD4583	4 50
CD4585	1 10
CD40192	3 00
74C00	28
74C04	40
74C10	28
74C14	2 10
74C20	28
74C30	28
74C48	1 95
74C74	75
74C76	1 40
74C90	1 15
74C93	1 40
74C154	3 00
74C160	1 44
74C175	1 35
74C192	1 65
74C221	2 00
74C905	6 00
74C906	75
74C914	1 95
74C922	5 50
74C923	5 50
74C925	6 95
74C926	6 95
74C927	6 95

INTERFACE	
8095	65
8096	65
8097	65
8098	65
8T09	1 25
8T10	4 50
8T13	3 00
8T20	5 50
8T23	3 10
8T24	3 50
8T25	3 20
8T26	1 69
8T28	2 75
8T97	1 69
8T98	1 69

MOS MEMORY RAM	
2101-1	3 95
2102-1	95
2102AL-4	1 25
2102AN-2L	1 60
21L02-1	1 18
21F02	1 25
2104A-4	4 95
2107B-4	3 75
2111-1	3 75
2112-2	3 95
2114L-1	7 40
2114L-3	7 90
4116	10 95
25138	6 30
MM5262	40
MM5280	3 00
MM5320	9 95
MM5330	5 94
PD411D-3	4 00
PD411D-4	5 00
P5101L	13 95
4200A	9 95
82S25	2 90
91L02A	1 50
HD0165-5	6 95
MM57100	4 50
GIAY38500-1	9 95
MCM6571A	9 95
9368	3 50
4100	10 00
416	16 00

CLOCKS	
MM5314	3 90
MM5369	2 10
MM5841	14 45
MM5865	7 95
CT7001	5 80
CT7010	8 95
MM5375AA/N	3 90
MM5375AG/N	4 90
7205	16 50
7207	7 50
7208	15 95
7209	4 95
DS0026CN	3 75
DS0056CN	3 75
MM53104	2 50

MICROPROCESSOR	
6800	17 50
6802	18 75
8080A	8 95
8085	27 00
Z80	14 75
Z80A	19 75
8212	2 90
8214	8 00
8216	2 90
8224	2 90
8228	5 35
8251	8 50
8253	15 00
8255	9 25
8257	19 50
8259	19 50
1802CP plas	13 95
1802DP plas	17 95
1861P	11 50
CDP1802CD	19 95
CDP1802D	25 00
CDP1861	12 95
6820	9 95
6850	12 95
6502	12 50
6504	16 50
6522	13 60

UART/FIFO	
AY5-1013	5 50
AY5-1014	7 50
3341	6 95

PROM	
1702A	3 95
2708	10 50
2716T1	29 50
2716 Intel	48 00
2732	115 00
2758	22 50
8741A	85 00
8748	75 00
8748-8	60 00
8755A	85 00
N82S23	2 95
N82S123	3 50
N82S126	3 75
N82S129	3 75
N82S131	3 75
N82S136	8 75
N82S137	8 75
DM8577	2 90
8223	2 90

CONNECTORS	
30 pin edge	2 50
44 pin edge	2 75
100 pin edge	4 50
100 pin edge WW	5 25

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Solder Tin Low Profile PIN	1 UP	PIN	1 UP
8	15	22	30
14	14	24	35
16	16	28	42
18	27	36	58
20	29	40	57

2 level 14 pin ww 20

WIRE WRAP LEVEL 3

PIN		PIN	
14	32	24	86
16	33	28	1 00
18	57	40	1 23

CRYSTALS	
1 MHz	4 50
2 MHz	4 50
4 MHz	4 25
5 MHz	4 25
10 MHz	4 25
18 MHz	3 90
20 MHz	3 90
32 MHz	3 90
32768 MHz	4 00
1 8432 MHz	4 50
3 5795 MHz	1 20
2 0100 MHz	1 95
2 097152 MHz	4 50
2 4576 MHz	4 50
3 2768 MHz	4 50
5 0688 MHz	4 50
5 185 MHz	4 50
5 7143 MHz	4 50
6 5536 MHz	4 50
14 31818 MHz	4 25
18 432 MHz	4 50
22 1184 MHz	4 50

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74C923	5 50
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DA15S	3 10

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2N2907A	25
2N3053	40
2N3638	25
2N3643	25
2N3904	18
2N3906	18
2N3055	69
2N4400	25
2N4401	75
2N4402	20
TIP31	60
TIP33A	1 00

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Sinclair 3½ Digit Multimeter	$59.95
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TRANSFORMERS	
6V 300 ma	3 25
12 Volt 300 ma transformer	1 25
12 6V CT 600 ma	3 75
12V 250 ma wall plug	2 95
12V CT 250 ma wall plug	3 50
24V CT 400 ma	3 95
10V 1 2 amp wall plug	4 85
12V 6 amp	12 95
12V 500 ma wall plug	4 75
12V 1 amp wall plug	6 50
12V 3 amp wall plug	8 50

DISPLAY LEDS			
MAN1	CA	270	2 90
MAN3	CC	125	39
MAN72/74	CA/CA	300	1 00
DL704	CC	300	1 25
DL707/DL707R	CA	300	1 00
DL727/728	CA/CC	500	1 90
DL747/750	CA/CC	600	1 95
DL750	CC	600	1 95
FND359	CC	357	70
FND500/507	CC/CA	500	1 35
FND503/510	CC/CA	500	90
FND800/807	CC/CA	800	2 20
3 digit Bubble			60
4 digit Bubble			80
DG8 Fluorescent			1 75
DG10 Fluorescent			1 75
5 digit 14 pin display			1 00
NSN69 9 digit display			60
7520 Clairex photocells			39
TIL311 Hex			9 50
MAN3640	CC	30	1 10
MAN4610	CA	40	1 20
MAN4640	CC	40	1 20
MAN4710	CA	40	95
MAN4740	CC	40	1 20
MAN6640	CC	56	2 95
MAN6710	CA	60	1 35
MAN6740	CC	60	1 35
MA1002A		8 95	
MA1012A		8 95	
102P3 transformer		2.25	

ROCKWELL AIM 65 Computer
6502 based single board with full ASCII keyboard and 20 column thermal printer. 20 char. alphanumeric display, ROM monitor, fully expandable. $375.00. 4K version $450.00. 4K Assembler $85.00, 8K Basic Interpreter $100.00.

Special small power supply for AIM 65 assem. in frame **$49.00.** Complete AIM 65 in thin briefcase with power supply **$485.00.** Molded plastic enclosure to fit AIM 65 plus power supply **$47.50.**

AIM 65/KIM/VIM/Super Elf 44 pin expansion board; 3 female and 1 male bus. Board plus 3 connectors **$22.95.**

AIM 65/KIM/VIM I/O Expansion Kit; 4 parallel and 2 serial ports plus 2 internal timers **$39.00.** PROM programmer for 2716 **$150.00.**

Multi-volt Computer Power Supply
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Wave Analyzer and Sweep Drive
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This fan is super quiet, efficient cooling where low acoustical disturbance is a must.
Size 4.68" x 4.68" x 1.50", Impedance protected, 50/60 Hz 120 volts AC
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Frequency response 40 to 300 MHZ
Gain 300 MHZ 16dB MIN.
17.5dB MAX.
50 MHZ 0 to − 1dB from 300 MHZ
Voltage 24 volts DC at 220ma MAX
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Size	Price	Size	Price
35	$2.15	58	$1.85
42	$2.15	59	$1.85
47	$2.15	61	$1.85
49	$2.15	63	$1.85
51	$2.15	64	$1.85
52	$2.15	65	$1.85
53	$1.85	66	$1.90
54	$1.85	1.25 mm	$1.85
55	$1.85	1.45 mm	$1.85
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H.P. 2835	2.20
MBD101	1.89
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8080A	3.95		
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ALL CRYSTALS $4.95

19.2 kHz
32.0
37.35
49.710
70
81.9
96
225
250
285.714
576
1.0000 MHz
1.3047
1.689600
1.7
1.76375
1.77125
1.773125
1.78675
1.80224
1.81875
1.845125
1.84375
1.845625
1.84575
1.846
1.84825
1.84975
1.8575
1.908125
1.925
1.925125
1.927
1.932
1.982
1.985
1.9942
1.995975
1.964750
2.0000
2.0285
2.05975
2.125
2.126175
2.12795
2.1315
2.133275
2.13505
2.136825
2.1425
2.144625
2.14675
2.148875
2.151
2.153125
2.15375
2.155
2.15525
2.157375
2.1595
2.16375
2.165875
2.170125
2.17225
2.174375
2.1765
2.17925
2.18475
2.18575
2.194125
2.207063
2.208313
2.209563
2.210812
2.210813
2.212063
2.214562
2.214563
2.215625
2.217938
2.21975
2.222125
2.22325
2.22675
2.22875
2.23725
2.2395
2.24075
2.241
2.246
2.2475
2.2925
2.2975
2.30000
2.320
2.326
2.32625
2.32825
2.3525
2.35256
2.368
2.374
2.375
2.38725
2.395
2.396875

2.42 MHz
2.4375
2.44275
2.4495
2.45
2.46125
2.482
2.486
2.51375
2.581
2.604
2.6245
2.618
2.62825
2.633125
2.639
2.63575
2.64325
2.646
2.647
2.650750
2.6545
2.65825
2.660
2.662
2.66575
2.6695
2.677
2.68075
2.681
2.6845
2.68825
2.69575
2.702
2.704
2.71075
2.715
2.716
2.723
2.730
2.7315
2.73225
2.732625
2.733
2.737
2.73975
2.742125
2.7425
2.744
2.7445
2.74475
2.746875
2.751
2.754
2.75525
2.762375
2.7735
2.776625
2.78
2.790
2.814
2.817
2.8225
2.835
2.85
2.854
2.854285
2.865
2.868
2.8725
2.876875
2.887
2.889
2.894
2.910
2.920
2.925450
2.92545
2.931
2.94375
2.945
2.94675
2.952
2.966
2.973
2.980
2 981
2.98325
2.987
2.9989
3.001
3.0235
3.045
2.049
2.053
3.062
3.067
3.074
3.1125
3.126
3.137
3.13975
3.1435
3.144
3.145

3.1545 MHz
3.158
3.1585
3.1615
3.1625
3.166
3.16975
3.177
3.181
3.1825
3.18475
3.1885
3.2035
3.20725
3.2105
3.2165
3.2175
3.2315
3.23275
3.2365
3.23775
3.2385
3.238875
3.23925
3.24
3.24025
3.2405
3.241
3.2425
3.244
3.248875
3.24925
3.24975
3.2515
3.253625
3.255
3.256125
3.258625
3.261
3.261125
3.266125
3.268625
3.271125
3.273625
3.3
3.3345
3.4045
3.4115
3.4325
3.4535
3.4675
3.4815
3.5
3.579545
3.64
3.656
3.80
3.803
3.805
3.860
3.901
3.908
3.9168
4.0000
4.011
4.126666
4.194
4.26
4.3
4.57
4.6895
4.6965
4.7175
4.7245
4.7315
4.765
4.89
4.90370
4.93333
4.96296
5.000
5.13125
5.139585
5.147917
5.164583
5.21482
5.25926
5.30370
5.33333
5.34815
5 348400
5 426636
5.436636
5.456
5.4675
5.4990
5.5065
5 1111
5.515
5.5215
5.52593
5.544
5.5515
5.559
5.5665
5.574
5.5815
5.58519
5.589

5.604 MHz
5.61482
5.619
5.6115
5.6265
5.62963
5.6415
5.64444
5.6715
5.675
5.680
5.695
5.7
5.70370
5.7105
5.733333
5.74815
5.80741
5.83704
5.85185
5.8968
5.92593
5.95556
6.00
6.155
6.16296
6.210
6.22222
6.25185
6.28146
6.31111
6.321458
6.37037
6.380416
6.380833
6.381041
6.381666
6.382291
6.382916
6.384166
6.384791
6.383541
6.385416
6.40000
6.427083
6.42963
6.45
6.45926
6.47
6.4711
6.48889
6.510
6.537
6.567
6.57778
6.582
6.60741
6.612
6.6645
6.66667
6.673
6.693
6.705
6.723
6.7305
6.738
6.75125
6.753
6.7562
6.7605
6.7712
6.77625
6.68148
6.81482
6.84444
6.87407
6.880000
6.90370
6.910
6.93333
6.940
6.96296
6.97778
7.186666
7.193333
7.34350
7.35
7.36296
7.37778
7.390
7.42222
7.443
7.45850
7.4615
7.4685
7.4715
7.473
7.47850
7.4815
7.49850
7.5015
7.62963
7.65926
7.67407
7.68889
7.71852
7.77778

7.79850 MHz
7.80150
7.81
7.926667
8.00769
8.075
8.15571
8.364
8.820
8.8285
8.837
8.8455
8.854
8.8625
8.871
8.879500
8.888
8.905
8.9135
8.9305
8.939
8.956
9.0265
9.37491
9.545
9.555
9.565
9.585
9.65
9.7
9.75
9.8
9.85
9.9
9.934375
9.95
10.0000
10.010
10.020
10.021
10.040
10.20833
10.80375
11.0000
11.13
11.1805
11.228
11.2375
11.27
11.2995
11.3565
11.705
11.750
11.755
11.805
11.855
11.905
11.955
11.96125
11.965
12.925
12.93
13.102
13.2155
13.2455
13.2745
13.2845
13.2945
13.3045
13.3145
13.3245
13.3345
13.3445
13.3545
14.315
15.016
15.020
15.036
16.39074
16.39166
16.965
17.00925
17.01018
17.015
17.065
17.115
17.165
17.215
17.280
17.8710
17.9065
17.9165
17.9265
17.9365
17.9465
17.9665
17.975
17.9735
17.9935
18.290
19.100
20.1
23.25
23.575
25.9
25.99961
26.66667
26.8965
26 9
26 958

27.70 MHz
27 77778
27 845
27 9
28 728
28.88889
28.9
28.93888
29.896
29.9
30.0000
30.9
31.0000
31.11111
31.66667
31.9
32.0000
32.22222
32.6
32.9
33.0000
33.33333
33.9
34.0000
34.4444
34.44444
35.0000
35.55555
36.0000
36.21750
36.66667
37.00000
37.2175
37.385
37.460
37.77777
38.00000
38.33333
38.77777
38.77778
38.88888
38.88889
39.00000
39.160
39.51851
39.55555
39.592593
39.629630
39.666667
39.703704
39.74071
39.777778
39.81481
39.851852
39.88888
39.92592
39.962963
40.00000
40.037037
40.074074
40.111111
40.14814
40.18518
40.222222
40.25925
40.29629
40.33333
40.37037
40.407407
40.444444
40.48148
40.51851
40.555556
40.59259
40.62963
40.66666
40.703704
40.740741
40.77777
40.814815
40.85185
40.88888
40.925926
40.96296
43.33333
45.0000
49.84166
49.95
50.0000
53.45
57.45
59.45
60.45
61.95
66.66667
70.0000
72.855
75.185
76.66667
82.75
83 0000
84 0000
90.833
93.1346
93 535
93 9353
94.3
95.35
106.850
146.64
147.09
153.6

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Polorad Model 1206
1.95 to 4.20 GHz
signal source
$400.00
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GHz signal generator
$550.00

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TYPE	PRICE
TD261A	$10.00
TD263A	10.00
1N2930	7.65
1N3716	5.00
1N4396	7.50

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3N128	$1.00
40673	1.39
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79¢ each or $59.00/100
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available $5.95

E.F. Johnson tube socket #122-0275-001
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2300 MHz CONVERTER KIT

**PC board and assembly instructions
$25.00
PC board with 13 chip caps - assembled
$44.50
PC board with all parts for assembly
$79.95
PC board assembled and tested
$119.95**

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TYPE	PRICE
2N1561	$15.00
2N1562	15.00
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2N1693	15.00
2N2857JAN	2.45
2N2876	12.35
2N2880	25.00
2N2927	7.00
2N2947	17.25
2N2948	15.50
2N2949	3.90
2N2950	5.00
2N3287	4.30
2N3294	1.15
2N3301	.75
2N3302	1.05
2N3304	1.48
2N3307	10.50
2N3309	3.90
2N3553	1.45
2N3818	6.00
2N3866	1.09
2N3866JAN	2.70
2N3866JANTX	4.43
2N3924	3.20
2N3925	6.00
2N3927	11.50
2N3950	26.25
2N4072	1.70
2N4135	2.00
2N4261	14.60
2N4427	1.09
2N4429	7.50
2N4430	20.00
2N4957	3.50
2N4958	2.80
2N4959	2.12
2N4976	19.00
2N5090	6.90
2N5108	3.90
2N5109	1.55
2N5160	3.34
2N5179	.49
2N5184	2.00
2N5216	47.50
2N5583	4.43
2N5589	4.60
2N5590	6.30
2N5591	10.35
2N5637	20.70
2N5641	4.90
2N5642	8.63
2N5643	14.38
2N5645	11.00
2N5764	27.00
2N5842	8.65
2N5849	19.50
2N5862	50.00
2N5913	3.25
2N5922	10.00
2N5942	46.00
2N5944	7.50
2N5945	10.90
2N5946	13.20
2N6080	5.45
2N6081	8.60
2N6082	9.90
2N6083	11.80
2N6084	13.20
2N6094	5.75
2N6095	10.35
2N6096	19.35
2N6097	28.00
2N6136	18.70
2N6166	36.80
2N6265	75.00
2N6266	100.00
2N6439	43.45
BFR90	3.00
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HEPS3003	29.88
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HEPS3006	19.90
HEPS3007	24.95
HEPS3010	11.34
HEPS5026	2.56
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MM1552	50.00
MM1553	56.50
MM1601	5.50
MM1602/2N5842	7.50
MM1607	8.65
MM1661	15.00
MM1669	17.50
MM1943	3.00
MM2605	3.00
MM2608	5.00
MM8006	2.15
MMCM918	1.00
MMT72	.61
MMT74	.94
MMT2857	2.68
MRF245	31.05
MRF304	43.45
MRF420	20.00
MRF450A	10.35
MRF476	1.38
MRF502	.49
MRF504	6.95
MRF509	4.90
MRF511	8.60
MRF901	5.00
MRF5177	20.70
MRF8004	1.44
PT4166B	3.00
PT4571A	1.50
PT4612	5.00
PT4628	5.00
PT4640	5.00
PT8659	10.72
PT9784	24.30
PT9790	41.70
PT9847	26.40
SD1043	5.00
SD1116	3.00
SD1118	5.00
SD1119	3.00
TA7993	75.00
TA7994	100.00
40281	10.90
40282	11.90
40290	2.48

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kit #1
Motorola MC14410CP CMOS Tone Generator
CMOS Tone Generator uses 1MHZ crystal to produce standard dual frequency dialing signal. Directly compatible with 12 key Chomeric Touch Tone Pads. Kit includes the following:
1 Motorola MC14410CP Chip
1 PC Board
And all other parts for assembly, with 1 MHz crystal $20.65

Kit #2
Fairchild 95H90DC Prescaler 350MHZ.
95H90DC Prescaler divides by 10 to 350 MHZ. This kit will take any 35MHZ Counter to 350 MHZ. Kit includes the following:
1 Fairchild 95H90DC Chip
1 2N5179 Transistor
2 UG-88/U BNC Connectors
1 PC Board
And all other parts for assembly. **NOW ONLY $24.95**
Less 95H90 chip $10.95

FAIRCHILD VHF AND UHF PRESCALER CHIPS

95H90DC	350MHZ Prescaler Divide by 10/11	$ 9.50
95H91DC	350MHZ Prescaler Divide by 5/6	8.95
11C90DC	650MHZ Prescaler Divide by 10/11	16.50
11C91DC	650MHZ Prescaler Divide by 5/6	15.95
11C83DC	1GHZ Divide by 248/256 Prescaler	29.90
11C70DC	600MHZ Flip/Flop with reset	12.30
11C58DC	ECL VCM	4.53
11C44DC	Phase Frequency Detector (MC4044P/L)	3.82
11C24DC	Dual TTL VCM (MC4024P/L)	3.82
11C06DC	UHF Prescaler 750MHZ D Type Flip/Flop	12.30
11C05DC	1GHZ Counter Divide by 4	74.35
11C01FC	High Speed Dual 5-4 Input NO/NOR Gate	15.40

CRYSTAL FILTERS: Tyco 001-19880 same as 2194F
10.7MHZ Narrow Band Crystal Filter
3 db bandwidth 15khz minimum 20 db bandwidth 60khz minimum 40 db bandwidth 150khz minimum. Ultimate 50 db: Insertion loss 1.0db Max. Ripple 1.0db Max. Ct. 0 + − 5pf. Rt. 3600 Ohms.
NOW ONLY $5.95

**We bought 6,000 LED digital clocks, made by Spartus. All have alarms. Sold as is. (Some alarms don't work.)
$7.95 each/2 for $13.95
Have National clock module Model MA 1002 and 1023. Can be used for 12- or 24-hours.**

TUBES

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3-500Z	90.00	100TH	144.00
3-1000Z	225.00	572B	39.00
3B28	5.00	811A	12.95
3X2500A3	150.00	813	29.00
4-65A	54.50	5894	39.00
4-125A	68.75	6146A	5.25
4-250A	80.00	6146B	6.25
4-400A	81.50	6159	10.60
4-1000A	255.00	6293	18.50
5-500A	145.00	6360	7.95
4CX250B	38.50	6907	35.00
4CX250F	53.50	6939	9.95
4CX250G	53.50	7360	10.60
4CX250K	72.00	7984	10.40
4CX250R	48.00	8072	45.00
4CX350A	60.00	8156	7.85
4CX350FJ	70.00	8226	127.70
4CX1000A	289.00	8295A/PL172	328.00
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4CX15000A	400.00	8560AS	50.00
4X150A	37.00	8950	7.80

TERMS:
All checks and money orders are in U.S. funds!
All orders sent first class or UPS.
Please include $1.50 minimum for postage.
All prices are in U.S. dollars.
All parts prime/guaranteed.
5% service charge on all bank cards.

BANK AMERICARD/VISA/MASTERCHARGE
Your Number
(or equivalent)

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MHz electronics

✓M8

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Will also fit CRT tubes 1EP11 and 1EP1 EIA base #E11-22
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100VDC @ 70Amps
.22mfd
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for drilling P.C.B.

5 mlx	**$6.00**
10 mlx	**$10.00**

25AMP SCR's

2N681	$1.10
2N682	1.25
2N683	1.45
2N684	1.60
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2N686	1.95
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189-505-5	1.7-14.1pf
189-506-105	1.8-16.7pf
189-507-5	2-19.3pf
189-508-5	21.-22.9pf
189-509-5	2.4-24.5pf
189-1-1-4	1.2-4.2pf
189-4-5	1.5-9.1pf
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189-6-8	1.8-13pf
189-503-5	1.4-9.2pf

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MPF102	.45 or 10/3.50
MFE131	1.00 or 10/8.00
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MFE2000	1.00 or 10/8.00
MPF4391	.80 or 10/6.00
2N4303	.50 or 3/1.00
2N5484	.50 or 3/1.00
2N5555	.90 or 2/1.50
2N5639	.48 or 3/1.00
2N5246	.50 or 3/1.00
2N5248/MPF102	.45 or 10/3.50
3N201	1.99 or 10/12.00
3N157A	6.00 each

MOTOROLA POWER TRIACS

TO-220 case
15Amps 600PRV
99¢ each or 10/$7.50

TUBES

2E26	$ 5.00
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4CX250B	38.50
4CX250R	40.00
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6KD6	4.00
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8908	8.99
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Other numbers on request

HIGH VOLTAGE CAPS

22mfd @ 500VDC
7/8 in. x 1 1/2 in.
$1.99 each

330mfd @ 450VDC
Can Type
1 7/8 in. x 4 1/4 in.
$4.99 each

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HIGH VOLTAGE CAPS

150uf @ 450VDC
Can Type
1⅜ in. x 3½ in. high
$2.99 each

50uf @ 450VDC
Can Type
1 in. x 3 in. high
$2.99 each

MINI TRIM POTS

5 Ohm	5 K
10 Ohm	10 K
17 Ohm	20 K
50 Ohm	25 K
100 Ohm	50 K
150 Ohm	100 K
200 Ohm	200 K
500 Ohm	250 K
1 K	500 K
2 K	1 Meg
2.5 K	5 Meg
4.7 K	

49¢ each

MINI RF CHOKES

.2 uh	33 uh
.5 uh	39 uh
.56 uh	47 uh
.68 uh	100 uh
1.5 uh	680 uh
2.2 uh	1000 uh
3.3 uh	1 mh
6.8 uh	1.1 mh
10 uh	2.5 mh
22 uh	6.8 mh
27 uh	10 mh

79¢ each

PRESS FIT RECTIFIERS

DO-21 500VDC @ 25Amps
2/$1.00

MAN 3's

4/$1.00

FULL WAVE BRIDGES

Motorola	MDA 204/3N256	2Amps @ 400VDC	**$ .69 each**
Varo	VH147	6Amps @ 100VDC	**1.00 each**
Varo	VS148	2Amps @ 100VDC	**.69 each**
Varo	VS647	2Amps @ 600VDC	**1.29 each**
Motorola and GI		25Amps @ 600VDC	**2.99 each**

RF TRANSISTORS

2N2270	$ .78
2N2857	1.80
2N2857JAN	2.45
2N2947	17.25
2N3261	2.10
2N3375	7.99
2N3553	1.80
2N3866	1.09
2N3866JAN	2.70
2N3866JANTX	4.43
2N3925/M9477	6.00
2N3948	2.00
2N3950	26.25
2N3818	6.00
2N4072	1.70
2N4427	1.09
2N4429	7.50
2N4877	.90
2N4959	2.12
2N5108	3.90
2N5109	1.55
2N5179	.43
2N5177	20.70
2N5190	1.50
2N5583	4.43
2N5214	20.00
2N5589	4.60
2N5590	6.30
2N5591	10.35
2N5637	20.70
2N5645	11.00
2N5842/MM1607	8.65
2N5919	30.00
2N5946	13.20
2N5849/MM1620	20.00
2N5862	50.00
2N6080	5.45
2N6081	8.60
2N6082	9.90
2N6083	11.80
2N6084	$13.20
2N6094	5.75
2N6095	19.35
2N6097	28.00
2N6166	36.80
2N6439	43.45
40280	2.00
40281	10.90
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40894	.99
FT3551C/2N6082NS (no stud)	4.00
PT3563	5.00
PT4132D/2N5641	4.90
PT4571A	1.50
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MRF221	10.00
MRF227	2.00
MRF240	price on request
MRF245	31.05
MRF247	39.95
MRF314	14.00
MRF412	price on request
MRF422A	42.30
MRF426A	price on request
MRF450	10.35
MRF450A	10.35
MRF454/568BLYCF	17.95
MRF472	1.15
MRF475	2.90
MRF476	1.38
MRF477	2.00
MRF479	price on request
MRF485	price on request
MRF502	.49
MRF629	3.00
MRF901	3.99
MRF911	3.99
MRF5176	13.00
MRF8004	1.44

Other numbers on request

✓ Reader Service—see page 179

✓ Reader Service—see page 179

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Low Cost...High Performance

DIGITAL MULTIMETER

$99.95 WIRED

Low cost, high performance, that's the DM-700. Unlike some of the hobby grade DMMs available, the DM-700 offers professional quality performance and appearance at a hobbyist price. It features 26 different ranges and 5 functions, all arranged in a convenient, easy to use format. Measurements are displayed on a large 3½ digit, ½ inch high LED display, with automatic decimal placement, automatic polarity, and overrange indication. You can depend upon the DM-700, state-of-the-art components such as a precision laser trimmed resistor array, semiconductor band gap reference, and reliable LSI circuitry insure lab quality performance for years to come. Basic DC volts and ohms accuracy is 0.1%, and you can measure voltage all the way from 100 µv to 1000 volts, current from 0.1 µa to 2.0 amps and resistance from 0.1 ohms to 20 megohms. Overload protection is inherent in the design of the DM-700, 1250 volts, AC or DC on all ranges, making it virtually goof proof. Power is supplied by four 'C' size cells, making the DM-700 portable, and, as options, a nicad battery pack and AC adapter are available. The DM-700 features a handsome, jet black, rugged ABS case with convenient retractable tilt bail. All factory wired units are covered by a one year limited warranty and kits have a 90 day parts warranty.

Order a DM-700, examine it for 10 days, and if you're not satisified in every way, return it in original form for a prompt refund.

Specifications

DC and AC volts:	100 µV to 1000 Volts, 5 ranges
DC and AC current:	0.1 µA to 2.0 Amps, 5 ranges
Resistance:	0.1Ω to 20 megohms, 6 ranges
Input protection:	1250 volts AC/DC all ranges fuse protected for overcurrent
Input impedance:	10 megohms, DC/AC volts
Display:	3½ digits, 0.5 inch LED
Accuracy:	0.1% basic DC volts
Power:	4 'C' cells, optional nicad pack, or AC adapter
Size:	6"W x 3"H x 6"D
Weight:	2 lbs with batteries

Prices

DM-700 wired + tested	$99.95
DM-700 kit form	79.95
AC adapter/charger	4.95
Nicad pack with AC adapter/charger	19.95
Probe kit	3.95

TERMS: Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. COD, add $1.50. Minimum order $6.00. Orders under $10.00, add $.75. Add 5% for postage, insurance, handling. Overseas, add 15%. NY residents, add 7% tax.

600 mHz COUNTER

$99.95 WIRED

The CT-70 breaks the price barrier on lab quality frequency counters. No longer do you have to settle for a kit, half-kit or poor performance, the CT-70 is completely wired and tested, features professional quality construction and specifications, plus is covered by a one year warranty. Power for the CT-70 is provided by four 'AA' size batteries or 12 volts, AC or DC, available as options are a nicad battery pack, and AC adapter. Three selectable frequency ranges, each with its own pre-amp, enable you to make accurate measurements from less than 10 Hz to greater than 600 mHz. All switches are conveniently located on the front panel for ease of operation, and a single input jack eliminates the need to change cables as different ranges are selected. Accurate readings are insured by the use of a large 0.4 inch seven digit LED display, a 1.0 ppm TCXO time base and a handy LED gate light indicator.

The CT-70 is the answer to all your measurement needs, in the field, in the lab, or in the ham shack. Order yours today, examine it for 10 days, if you're not completely satisfied, return the unit for a prompt and courteous refund.

Specifications

Frequency range:	10 Hz to over 600 mHz
Sensitivity:	less than 25 mv to 150 mHz less than 150 mv to 600 mHz
Stability:	1.0 ppm, 20-40°C, 0.05 ppm/°C TCXO crystal time base
Display:	7 digits, LED, 0.4 inch height
Input protection:	50 VAC to 60 mHz, 10 VAC to 600 mHz
Input impedance:	1 megohm, 6 and 60 mHz ranges 50 ohms, 600 mHz range
Power:	4 'AA' cells, 12 V AC/DC
Gate:	0.1 sec and 1.0 sec LED gate light
Decimal point:	Automatic, all ranges
Size:	5"W x 1½"H x 5½"D
Weight:	1 lb with batteries

Prices

CT-70 wired + tested	$99.95
CT-70 kit form	75.95
AC adapter	4.95
Nicad pack with AC adapter/charger	14.95
Telescopic whip antenna, BNC plug	7.95
Tilt bail assembly	3.95

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R8

BOX 4072, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14610
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ALARM CLOCK KITS:

4 Digit .5"

Here it is! The first of several quality kits we have been asked for: Here is what you get — unbelievable as it may sound...

- 1 National - 5375AA Clock Chip
- 1 Bowmar Clock Stick Readout (L.E.D.) 4 digit - 1/2"
- 13 Transitors
- 2 Push Buttons for time set
- 2 Toggle Switches for alarm
- 1 Filter cap
- 4 1N4000 series diodes
- 1 1N4148
- 2 Disc caps
- 29 Resistors
- 1 Transducer (Speaker) for Alarm
- 1 LED Lamp for alarm indicator

ORDER KIT CK-100AC

NEW! $9.99

P.C. Board **$2.25**

Plug In Transformer **$1.50**

D.C. MODEL

Same as above except it includes 60 Hz timebase.

This Kit Includes:

- 1 National 5375AA Clock Chip
- 1 Bowmar Clock Stick Readout - (L.E.D.) 4 digit - 1/2"
- 12 Transistors
- 2 Push Buttons for time set
- 2 Disc caps
- 27 Resistors
- 1 MOV
- 1 60 Hz time base

ORDER KIT CK-100DC

NEW! $12.75

P.C. Board **$2.25**

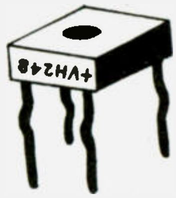
MICRO MINI TOGGLE SWITCHES

6 for $5 with hardware.

99¢ EACH

VARO FULL WAVE BRIDGE

6 AMPS 200 PIV
#VH248
3/4 IN. SQUARE **NEW!**



89¢ ea. 4 For $2.99

RCA SENSITIVE GATE TRIAC

TO-5 CASE. HOUSE #40531
ALSO SAME AS T2300D.
2.5 AMPS 400 PIV

5 FOR $1.19

Perfect for Dimmers, Color Organs, etc.
PC LEADS

Sonalert® on P.C. Board

Direct from a radar detector manufacturer! 4-741 on a board - plus 12 capacitors, trim pot and many useable components plus a Mallory Sonalert® - well worth the price of the board alone - while they last - **$2.50 ea.**

We bought 350,000 LED's. And you get the savings.

Reds, greens, yellows, orange, small, medium, large. Bags of 25 - mixed **$2.75.** That's only 11¢ each Compare this bargain up to twice our price

FACTORY PRIME

BI - Polar LED 59¢ ea. or 10 for $5

LAB-BENCH VARIABLE POWER SUPPLY KIT

5 to 20 VDC at 1 AMP. Short circuit protected by current limit. Uses IC regulator and 10 AMP Power Darlington. Very good regulation and low ripple. Kit includes PC Board, all parts, large heatsink and shielded transformer. 50 MV. TYP. Regulation **$15.99 KIT**

LED BAR GRAPH AND ANALOG METER DRIVER

New from National Semi. #LM3914. Drives 10 LED directly for making bar graphs, audio power meters, analog meters, LED oscilloscopes, etc. Units can be stacked for more LED's. A super versatile and truly remarkable IC. Just out!

SPECIAL PRICE: $3.99 INCLUDES 12 Page Spec. Sheet

CLOCK MODULE OPTIONS
MA1008 A and D MA1013

Switches and pot for all options

Includes:
5 push buttons
1 toggle
1 10K pot **$2.50**

Alarm Parts (including high impedence transducer) Much more efficient than a speaker **$1.50**

Transducer only (unbelievably loud!) **$1.10**

16K DYNAMIC RAM CHIP
WORKS IN TRS-80 OR APPLE II

16K X 1 Bits 16 Pin Package Same as Mostek 4116-4. 250 NS access. 410 NS cycle time Our best price yet for this state of the art RAM. 32K and 64K RAM boards using this chip are readily available. These are new fully guaranteed devices by a major mfg.

VERY LIMITED STOCK!

"MAGAZINE SPECIAL" - 8/$79.50

SONY 23 WATT AUDIO AMP MODULE

#STK-054. 23 WATTS SUPER CLEAN AUDIO. 20HZ to 100 KHZ ± 2 DB. HYBRID, SILICON, SELF-CONTAINED MODULE. ONLY 1¾ x 2½ IN. WITH DATA.

COMPARE AT UP TO TWICE OUR PRICE! **$6.50 each**

60 Hz CRYSTAL TIME BASE
$4.95 (Complete Kit)

Uses MM5369 CMOS divider IC with high accuracy 3.579545 MHZ Crystal. Use with all MOS Clock Chips or Modules. Draws only 1.5 MA. All parts, data and PC Board included. 100 Hz, same as above, except $5.95

SILICON POWER SOLAR CELLS

2 Inch Dia Approx 5 VDC at 500 MA in sunlight Factory new units, not rejects as sold by others. Series for higher voltage, parallel for higher current. Converts solar energy directly to electricity

LIMITED QUANTITY. $5.99 ea

FAIRCHILD PNP "SUPER TRANSISTOR"

2N4402. TO-92 Plastic. Silicon PNP Driver. High Current. VCEO-40 HFE-50 to 150 at 150 MA. FT-150 MHZ. A super "BEEFED-UP" Version of the 2N3906.

8 FOR $1.19

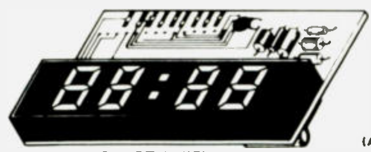
SOUND ACTIVATED SWITCH

Not a kit Already assembled Clap your hands and turn on lights, music boxes, coffee pots, etc Full spec sheet with each unit.

69¢ 10 for $5.50

NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR "COLOSSUS JR." JUMBO CLOCK MODULE

MA1013 BRAND NEW!



$8.50

2 FOR $15

(AC XFMR $1.95)

ASSEMBLED! NOT A KIT!

MANUFACTURER'S CLOSEOUT!

PERFECT FOR USE WITH A TIMEBASE.

- Bright 4 digit 0.7" LED Display
- Complete-Add only Transformer and Switches
- 24 Hour Alarm Signal Output
- 12 Hour Real Time Format
- 50 or 60 Hz Operation
- Power Failure Indication
- LED Brightness Control
- Sleep and Snooze Timers
- Alarm "on" and PM Indicators
- Direct Drive - No RFI
- Direct Replacement for MA1012
- Comes with Full Data

TOSHIBA POWER AUDIO AMP

5.8 WATTS RMS Typical Output. 50 to 30,000 HZ ± 3 DB. For CB's, tape decks, PA's, etc. Works off of a single supply voltage from 10.5 to 18 VDC. 10 Pin plastic DIP with special built in heat sink tab. Perfect for use on 12VDC. With Data. **$3.99 each**

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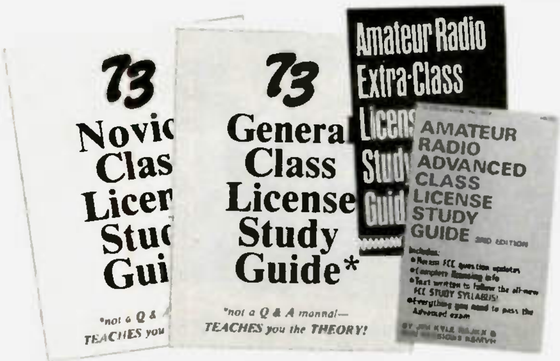


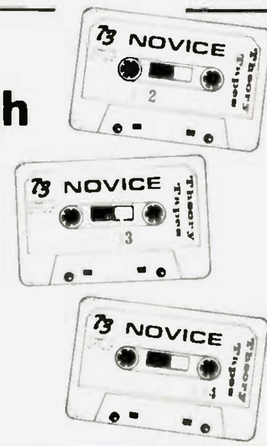
• **NOVICE STUDY GUIDE**—SG7357—Here is a completely new study guide and reference book for the potential ham. This is not a question/answer memorization course. Electronic and radio fundamentals are presented and explained in an easy-to-understand fashion, preparing the beginner for the Novice exam. Includes the latest FCC amateur regulations, as well as application forms. Easily the best path into the exciting world of ham radio! $4.95.*

• **GENERAL CLASS STUDY GUIDE**—SG7358—A complete theory course for the prospective General or Technician. This reference explains transistor, amplifier, and general radio theory, while preparing the Novice for the "big" ticket. After getting your ticket, you'll use this guide again and again as an electronic reference source. Not a question/answer guide that becomes dated when the FCC updates the amateur exams. $5.95.*

• **ADVANCED CLASS STUDY GUIDE**—SG1081—Ready to upgrade your license? To prevent retaking the FCC theory exam, you need the *73* Advanced theory guide. SSB, antenna theory, transmitters, and electronics measuring techniques are covered in detail in this easy-to-follow study guide. Special modes and techniques, such as RTTY, are also treated. An engineering degree is *not* necessary to master Advanced theory—try this book before visiting the examiner's office! $6.95.*

• **EXTRA CLASS LICENSE STUDY GUIDE**—SG1080—Before going for your 1 x 2 call, it pays to be a master of the Extra class electronic theory. This study guide is the logical extension of the *73* theory course. All the theory necessary to pass the exam is presented. Antennas, transmission lines, swr are discussed, as well as noise, propagation, and specialized communication techniques. This book is not a classroom lecture or memorization guide, but rather a logical presentation of the material that must be *understood* before attempting the Extra exam. Save yourself a return trip to the FCC and try the *73* method first! $6.95.*

NOVICE THEORY TAPES
Startling Learning Breakthrough



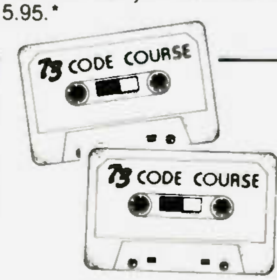
• **NOVICE THEORY TAPES**—CT7300—Startling Learning Breakthrough. You'll be astounded at how really simple the theory is when you hear it explained on these tapes. Three tapes of theory and one of questions and answers from the latest Novice exams give you the edge you need to breeze through your exam. *73* is interested in helping get more amateurs, so we're giving you the complete set of our tapes for the incredibly low price of **ONLY $15.95.***

Scientists have proven that you learn faster by listening than by reading because you can play a cassette tape over and over in your spare time—even while you're driving! You get more and more info each time you hear it.

You can't progress without solid fundamentals. These four hour-long tapes give you all the basics you'll need to pass the Novice exam easily. You'll have an understanding of the basics which will be invaluable to you for the rest of your life! Can you afford to take your Novice exam without first listening to these tapes? Set of 4—$15.95.*

SSTV

• **SLOW SCAN TELEVISION TAPE**—CT7350—Prize-winning programs from the 73 SSTV contest. Excellent for Demo! $5.95.*



73 CODE TAPES

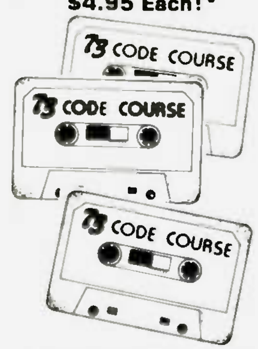
Any Four Tapes For $15.95!*
$4.95 Each!*

"GENESIS"

5 WPM—CT7305—This is the beginning tape for people who do not know the code at all. It takes them through the 26 letters, 10 numbers and necessary punctuation, complete with practice every step of the way using the newest blitz teaching techniques. It is almost miraculous! In one hour many people—including kids of ten—are able to master the code. The ease of learning gives confidence to beginners who might otherwise drop out.

"THE STICKLER"

6+ WPM—CT7306—This is the practice tape for the Novice and Technician licenses. It is made up of one solid hour of code, sent at the official FCC standard (no other tape we've heard uses these standards, so many people flunk the code when they are suddenly—under pressure—faced with characters sent at 13 wpm and spaced for 5 wpm). This tape is not memorizable, unlike the zany 5 wpm tape, since the code groups are entirely random characters sent in groups of five.



"BACK BREAKER"

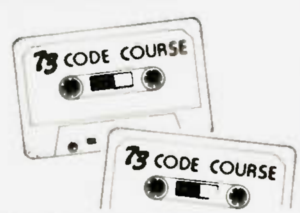
13+ WPM—CT7313—Code groups again, at a brisk 13 per so you will be at ease when you sit down in front of the steely-eyed government inspector and he starts sending you plain language at only 13 per. You need this extra margin to overcome the panic which is universal in the test situations. When you've spent your money and time to take the test, you'll thank heavens you had this back-breaking tape.

"COURAGEOUS"

20+ WPM—CT7320—Code is what gets you when you go for the Extra class license. It is so embarrassing to panic out just because you didn't prepare yourself with this tape. Though this is only one word faster, the code groups are so difficult that you'll almost fall asleep copying the FCC stuff by comparison. Users report that they can't believe how easy 20 per really is with this fantastic one hour tape.

"OUTRAGEOUS"

25+ WPM—CT7325—This is the tape for that small group of overachieving hams who wouldn't be content to simply satisfy the code requirements of the Extra Class license. It's the toughest tape we've got and we keep a permanent file of hams who have mastered it. Let us know when you're up to speed and we'll inscribe your name in 73's CW "Hall of Fame."



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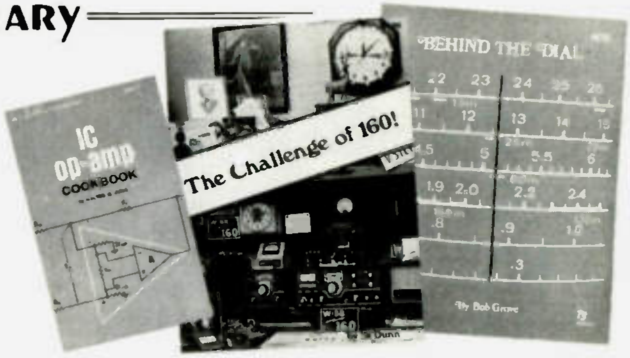

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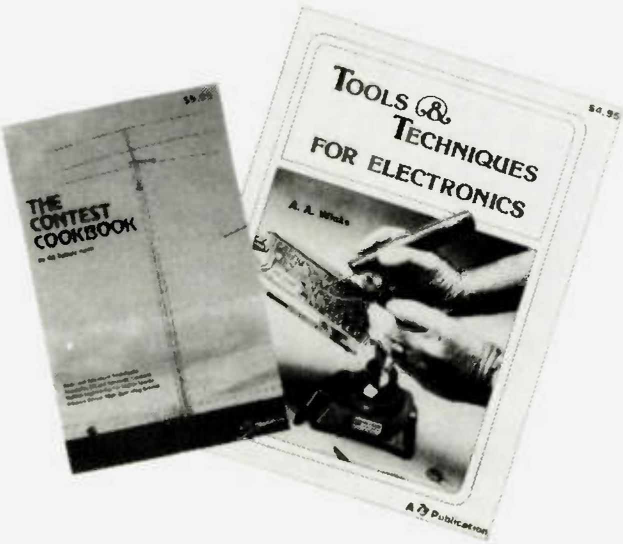

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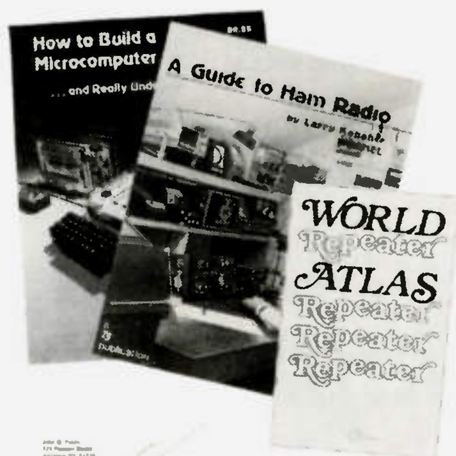

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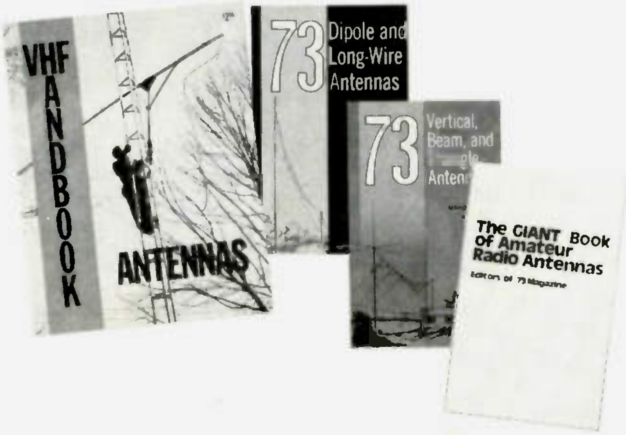

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propagation

by
J. H. Nelson

Due to unforeseen circumstances, J. H. Nelson's "Propagation" was unavailable this month. His column will resume soon.

1980 INTERNATIONAL SSTV CONTEST

Saturday, March 8, 1500 to 2300 GMT
Sunday, March 9, 1500 to 2300 GMT

SPONSOR — *73 Magazine*, Peterborough NH 03458 USA

OBJECT — To exchange SSTV pictures with as many stations in as many parts of the world as possible during the contest periods.

FREQUENCIES — All amateur frequencies between 3.5 and 29.7 MHz where SSTV is permitted.

EXCHANGE — Exchange of pictures must include callsign, RST report, and consecutive contact number starting with 001. FCC rules require a verbal exchange of callsigns for US stations. Do not include the contact number in the verbal exchange.

CREDITS — One (1) point for each station worked. A station may be worked once on each band for credit. One (1) point for each US state or Canadian province worked. Five (5) points for each country worked. Five (5) points for each continent worked. Each state, province, country, and continent may be counted only once for credit. Total score is the sum of all credits

ENTRIES — Activity sheets should show station worked, state or province, country, continent, and band (80, 40, 20, 15, 10). Summary sheets should show number of stations worked, number of states and provinces worked, number of countries worked, number of continents worked, and total score. Entries become the property of the contest committee. Excessive discrepancies in a contest entry may cause disqualification. Contest entries must be postmarked no later than April 30, 1980. The decisions of the contest committee are final.

AWARDS — The top scorer will receive a certificate and a one year subscription to *73 Magazine*. Certificates will also be awarded to the station working the most countries and to the station working the most continents.

Send all entries to:

R. Brooks Kendall W1JKF
10 Stocker St
Saugus MA 01906

or David Ingram K4TWJ
Eastwood Village, #1201 South
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- Selection of receiver/transmitter functions from either front panel or external VFO
- "DMS" (Digital Memory Shift)

Impressive as the "WAYFARER" is its versatility can be greatly increased by the addition of the FV-707DM (optional). The FV-707DM, though only one inch high, allows the storage of 13 discrete frequencies and with the use of "DMS" (Digital Memory Shift) each memory can be band-spread 500 KHz. These 500 KHz bands may be remotely scanned from the microphone at the very smooth rate of 10 Hz steps.

The FT-707 "WAYFARER" is a truly unique rig. See it today at your authorized Yaesu Dealer.

YAESU
The radio.

YAESU ELECTRONICS CORP., 6851 Walthall Way, Paramount, CA 90723 • (213) 633-4007
YAESU ELECTRONICS Eastern Service Ctr., 9812 Princeton-Glendale Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45246

KENWOOD'S TR-2400

...synthesized, BIG LCD, 10 memories, scanning...and more!

Kenwood TR-2400...It's a synthesized 2 meter hand-held transceiver...the answer to any Amateur's operating requirements! Its many advanced features include:

CONVENIENT TOP CONTROLS

- **LCD digital readout**
- Readable in direct sunlight (better than LEDs)
- Readable in the dark (with lamp switch)
- Virtually no current drain (much less than LEDs) and display stays on
- Shows receive and transmit frequencies and memory channel
- **10 Memories** (always retained with battery backup)
- **Automatic memory scanning** (for "busy" or "open" channels)
- **Mode switch for the following operations:**
- Simplex
- Standard repeater by offsetting the transmit frequency + 600 kHz or − 600 kHz
- Repeater with nonstandard splits by offsetting the transmit frequency to any frequency stored in memory 10
- **REVERSE** momentary switch for the following applications:
- Checking signals on the input of a repeater
- Determining if a repeater is "upside down"
- **Built-in Touch-Tone generator** using 16-button keyboard
- **Keyboard selection** of 5-kHz channels from 144.000 to 147.995 MHz
- **UP/DOWN manual scanning** and operation from 143.900 to 148.495 MHz in single or fast continuous 5-kHz steps. Even operates on MARS repeaters within this range by using memory 10 for transmit offset frequency.
- **LCD "arrow" indicators**
- "ON AIR"
- Memory recall
- Battery status
- Lamp switch on
- **Two lock switches** to prevent accidental frequency change and accidental transmission
- **Subtone switch** (subtone module not Kenwood-supplied)
- **BNC antenna connector**
- **1.5 watts RF output**

The TR-2400 comes with the following standard accessories:
- Flexible rubberized antenna with BNC connector
- Nicad battery pack
- Battery charger

Optional accessories include:
- Leather case
- Base Stand (for quick charge and easy base-station operation)
- DC (automobile) quick charger

ST-1 BASE STAND (OPTIONAL)

SEE YOUR AUTHORIZED KENWOOD DEALER FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE TR-2400.

KENWOOD

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TRIO-KENWOOD COMMUNICATIONS INC.
1111 WEST WALNUT/COMPTON, CA 90220