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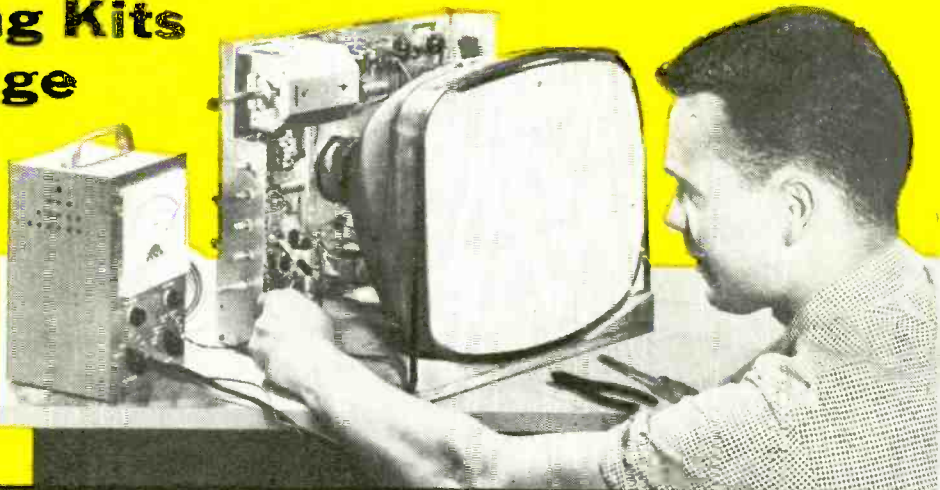
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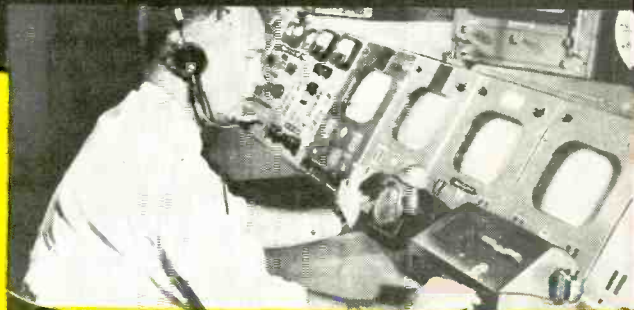
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ELECTRONICS ILLUSTRATED

February, 1961

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Contents

FEATURES

Courier Communications Satellite	27
To the Moon!	31
Hot New Prospecting Tool	42
Brain Surgery by Ultrasonics	56
Tape Recorder Doctor	58
TV Interference	62
Dollars from Discs	78
Sun Powered Lifesaver	81
Index	94

BUILD-IT PROJECTS

Grid Dip Meter Kit	34
How to Repair Radios-I	36
The Multi-Strobe	44
CB Tuning Adapter	50
Speaker Leads	53
Code Practice Oscillator-Amplifier	60
Tune Your Antenna	64
New Life for your Record Changer-II	67
Automatic Tape Switch	70
Interstation Muting for your FM Tuner	74
Diode Polarity	80
VOM Battery Conversion	80
Bass-Treble Booster for your Radio	84
Economy Directional Mike	86
Electronic Blinker	92

DEPARTMENTS

Electronics in the News	4
Try These	41
Hi-Fi Doctor and Clinic	54
Tape Tips	57
Electronic Brain	72
Hot Tips	83

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Profits That Lie Hidden in America's Mountain of Broken Electrical Appliances

By J. M. Smith President, National Radio Institute



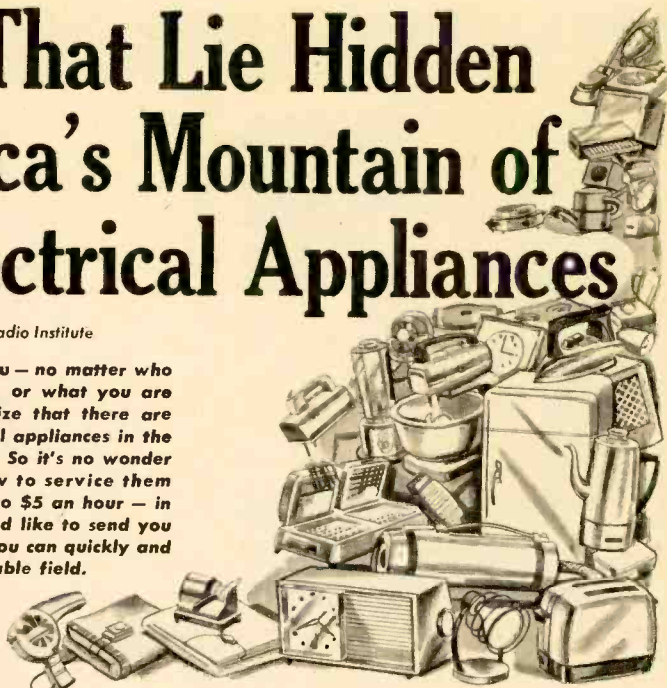
And I mean profits for you — no matter who you are, where you live, or what you are doing now. Do you realize that there are over 400 million electrical appliances in the homes of America today? So it's no wonder that men who know how to service them properly are making \$3 to \$5 an hour — in spare time or full time! I'd like to send you a Free Book telling how you can quickly and easily get into this profitable field.

THE COMING OF THE AUTO created a multi-million dollar service industry, the auto repair business. Now the same thing is happening in the electrical appliance field. But with this important difference: anybody with a few simple tools can get started in appliance repair work. No big investment or expensive equipment is needed.

The appliance repair business is booming — because the sale of appliances is booming. One thing naturally follows the other. In addition to the 400,000,000 appliances already sold, this year alone will see sales of 76 million new appliances. For example, 4,750,000 new coffee makers, almost 2,000,000 new room air conditioners, 1,425,000 new clothes dryers. A nice steady income awaits the man who can service appliances like these. And I want to tell you why that man can be you — even if you don't know a volt from an ampere now.

A Few Examples of What I Mean

Now here's a report from Earl Reid, of Thompson, Ohio: "In one month I took in approximately \$648 of which \$510 was clear. I work only part time." And, to take a big jump out to California, here's one from



J. G. Stinson, of Long Beach: "I have opened up a small repair shop. At present I am operating the shop on a spare time basis — but the way business is growing it will be a very short time before I will devote my full time to it."

Don't worry about how little you may now know about repair work. What John D. Pettis, of Bradley, Illinois wrote to me is this: "I had practically no knowledge of any kind of repair work. Now I am busy almost all my spare time and my day off — and have more and more repair work coming in all along. I have my shop in my basement."

We Tell You Everything You Need to Know

If you'd like to get started in this fascinating, profitable, rapidly growing field — let us give you the home training you need. Here's an excellent opportunity to build up "a business of your own" without big investment — open up an appliance repair shop, become independent. Or you may prefer to keep your present job, turn your spare time into extra money.

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YOUR EI NEWSLETTER

By now everyone has heard about the successful bouncing of amateur 1926-mc signals off the Moon. Since the triumph last summer it has been done again and again. It isn't as simple as making ordinary contacts via our old friend the ionosphere, but as Columbus said, "It's easy, if you know how." Our congratulations to all the original Moonbounce pioneers. Now, about that beard. To open a recent ARRL district convention, signals were sent to the Moon, bounced back down to Ohio, relayed to Long Island and thence to the convention rooms in New York. There they triggered a solenoid which operated shears to trim the beard of Sam Harris, W1FZJ, spark-plug of original attempt. Maybe it wasn't a close shave but it sure was different.

The Post Office is now evaluating the results of its recently completed 30-day test of "Speed Mail" between Washington, D. C., Chicago, and Battle Creek, Mich. Letters were handwritten or typed on special forms (remember "V-Mail" from World War II?) and no Post Office employee read them. They were opened, transmitted via AT&T lines to destination, printed and resealed entirely by automatic machine. . . . The Post Office is now testing an automatic typewritten address reader, too. As the "brain" of a sorting machine, this apparatus could separate letters according to destination and at the end hand each postman the mail for his area.

An electronic ignition system for cars developed by Tung-Sol Electric, Inc., of N. J., has been under test by car makers. System uses a thyatron tube plus germanium power transistors and silicon diodes and supposedly new circuit ideas that overcome bugs of all previous systems.

The Soviet Union will be the No. 2 computer "power," just behind us, by 1965, according to a U. S. computer expert just returned from visit to European factories. We now have a lead of "a couple of years" over Europe in computer hardware knowhow, but no monopoly on brains.

Atop the New Jersey palisades, across the Hudson River from skyscrapered Manhattan, a steel ribbed, scarecrow-shaped radio mast towers in lonely majesty. It is FM pioneer Major Edwin H. Armstrong's monument. Long unused after Armstrong's death, it may now serve as the support for a high UHF channel TV antenna during the FCC-suggested tests of the feasibility of UHF in large cities. The Empire State building now houses the broadcast antenna for the lower UHF channels Bell Telephone Labs recently demonstrated an acoustic *antifeedback* circuit to lick ringing and squawking in public address systems. The circuit introduces a five-cycle frequency shift between microphone and loudspeaker and then back to microphone again. This frequency shift was not discernible by listeners and eliminated in-phase feedback, major cause of howling. . . .

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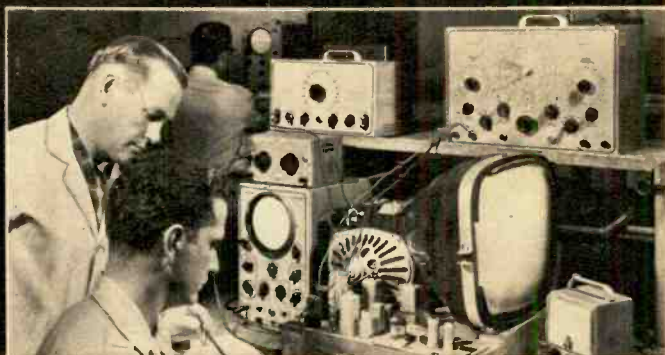
(Shown at left—Instructor explaining operation and testing of a large Motor Generator in our A.C. Department.)

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... News

New Gadgets, Instruments, Etc.

The "Infraphone," a self-powered voice transmitter and receiver that uses a beam of infrared light as its transmission medium was demonstrated recently by Infrared Industries, Inc., of Waltham, Mass. This is a commercial product to be on the market at a cost of \$40 per two-unit set (assuming you don't want to talk invisibly to yourself). This all-transistor unit uses a photosensitive



semiconductor sensitive to infrared. The sending and receiving circuits are separate so that 2-way conversations may be carried on simultaneously. The working range is several hundred feet, but it saves shouting and acts as a "wireless intercom." Of course Infraphones can be used only when both units are aimed at each other within line of sight.

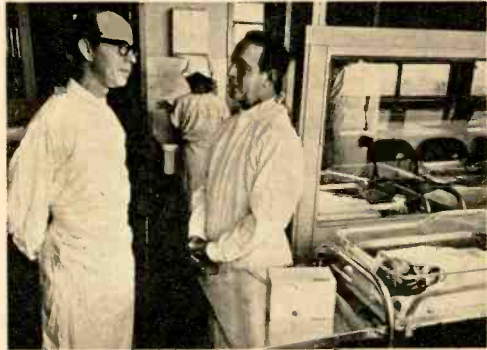


A new stripping gadget which slips onto the barrel of an Ungar soldering tip or heating unit and is used for stripping wire insulation while soldering has just been made available by Ungar Electric Tools, 4101 Redwood Avenue, Los Angeles 66, Calif. Three different types

of strippers are available: v-shaped, notched or circular. The price is \$.75 per unit.



Healthier, happier babies through electronics, that's the promise of the "Securitone" heartbeat simulator developed by Dr. Lee Salk and manufactured by Sonotone Corp., Elmsford, N. Y. When this instrument, the size of a small table radio, is placed next to a baby's crib or bassinet the baby hears from it



the sound of a normal heartbeat. Tests in hospital nurseries have demonstrated that this sound helps infants to sleep better and they cry less. Evidently it gives them the secure feeling they had in the womb when they heard this same sound. The "Securitone" will be sold in retail stores for under \$30.



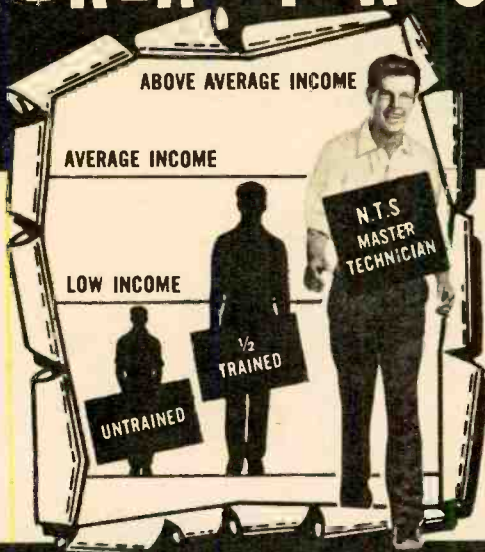
Only the hardiest boatmen go out on the water this time of year but now is the time to build things which will increase your boating fun come Spring. One item of proven usefulness is a depth finder. A new completely transistorized kit has just been announced by PACO Electronics Co., 70-31 84th St., Glendale 27, L. I., N. Y. It is the model DF-90 with a range of 120 feet calibrated in one foot intervals on its circular dial. The transducer (the gizmo you put on the bottom outside of the boat) is of the barium titanite type and can be mounted on the transom but will work better on the hull. The kit is \$84.50; factory wired the DF-90 costs \$135.50.

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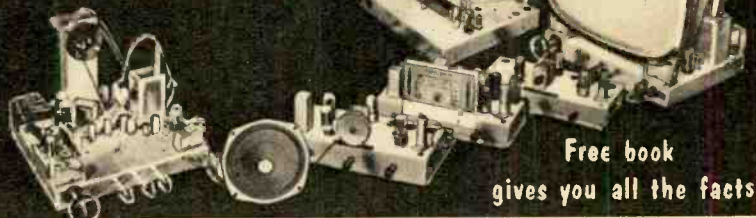
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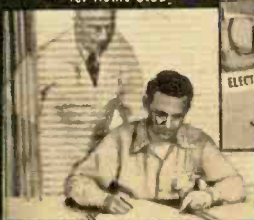
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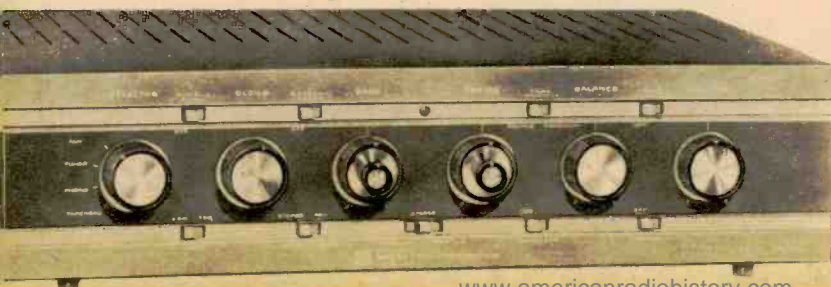
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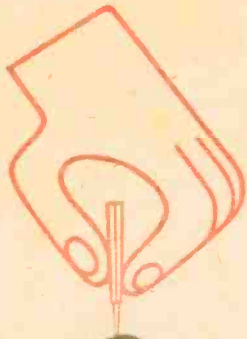
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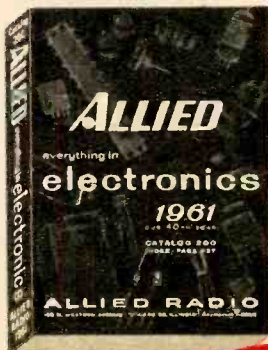
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...News

Going the techniques of mass production one step better, the Librascope Division of General Precision, Inc., of Glendale, Calif., has just developed a "universal" circuit card which can be adapted to many different circuit requirements, primarily for computers.



Basically, this is an etched circuit board with a universal pattern of lines—the interconnections formed when parts are soldered to the board form the particular circuit needed. What an idea for a kit maker!

An interesting new idea for enlarging the printed research departments of schools, laboratories and libraries has just been unveiled by the Nord Photocopy & Electronics Corp., 300 Denton Ave., New Hyde Park, L. I., N. Y. A central library's microfilm slides can be read by a viewer sitting before a television-type console miles from the library itself. In addition, the viewer can enlarge up to 60 times, electronically, any portion of the microfilm slide he wishes to view in greater detail. This slide can contain diagrams, written material, or photographs. The transmission system uses 945 lines per frame.

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	License	Weeks
Edgar T. Phelps, 931 Hickory Street, Poplar Bluff, Mo.	1st	12
Wayne Hogg, 4830 San Fernando Rd., Glendale, Calif.	1st	26
Robert Watson, Star Route, Box 24, Renovo, Pa.	1st	12
William H. Patchin, 3865 Westview Ave., NW, Canton, Ohio	1st	12
V. Dean DeVore, 309 Bess Street, Washington, Ill.	1st	16
Edward T. Wall, Box 184, Kenly, N. C.	1st	12
James W. Wranich, 4236 Michigan Street, Kansas City, Mo.	1st	20
Robert E. Sullivan, 2475 E. Douglas, Des Moines, Iowa	1st	12
Nelson S. Kibler, 1413 Patrick Henry Dr., Falls Church, Va.	1st	18
Barry L. Ulrich, 1110 Chestnut Ave., Barnesboro, Pa.	1st	14
Jerry E. Milligan, 707 Ragsdale Dr., Milan, Tenn.	1st	12
Robert S. Davis, 2100-10 Ave., So., Apt. 12, Birmingham, Ala.	1st	13

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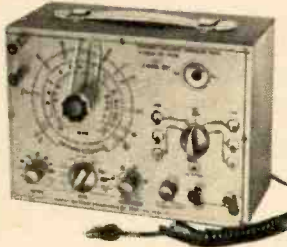
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...News

Your next bankbook may have your signature in it but don't worry, this is not an invitation to forgers to imitate your signature on a withdrawal slip if you lose your book or it is stolen. Your signature will be scrambled by a new electronic device called "Signaguard," just developed by RCA, and will be an unrecognizable mass of broken lines. When the passbook is presented at the



teller's window the device returns your signature to its original appearance for comparison with the withdrawal slip. The secret is light-transmitting glass tubes which scatter the information they see before it is imprinted on sensitized paper. Similar tubes in the teller's viewer re-assemble the writing. Your only fear now is a crook who likes to build electronic gadgets.

Sylvania Electric, whose "Panescent" nite light has sold over 1 million, has just introduced an electric switch plate with the same principle. This switch plate may replace any now in use in the home and provides a green glowing light in a darkened room. When the switch is flicked on, the normal room lights come on and the panescent glow goes off. The new switch plate is \$2.49. One plate adds about a nickel to your electric bill ... in a year.

For tapping new threads or renewing old ones in metal or plastic, CBS Electronics offers a new "Tri-Tap" tool combining the three most popular sizes, 6-32, 8-32, and 10-32 in one small tool. At your tube distributors.



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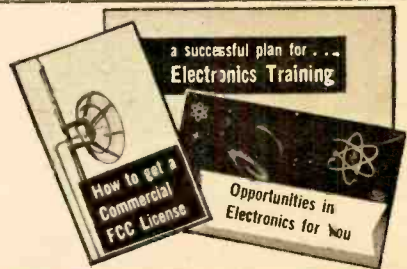
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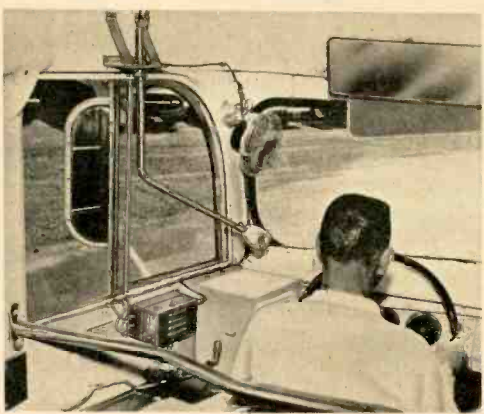
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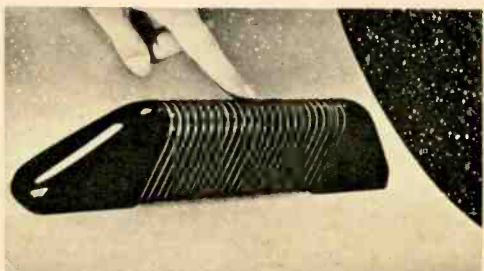


...News

Long needed has been a public address system tailored for school buses to enable the driver to talk to his passengers without taking his eyes off the road while driving. The DuKane Corp.



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J. Statatits, of 25 Poplar Pl., Waterbury, Conn., writes: "I have repaired several sets for my friends, and made money. The "Edu-Kit" paid for itself; I was ready to spend \$240 for a Course, but I found your ad and sent for your Kit."

FROM OUR MAIL BAG

Ben Valerio, P. O. Box 21, Magna, Utah: "The Edu-Kits are wonderful. Here I am sending you the questions and also the answers for them. I have been in Radio for the last seven years, but like to work with Radio Kits and like to build Radio Testing Equipment. I enjoyed every minute I worked with the different kits; the Signal Tracer works fine. Also like to let you know that I feel proud of becoming a member of your Radio-TV Club."

Robert L. Shuff, 1534 Monroe Ave., Huntington, W. Va.: "Thought I would drop you a few lines to say that I received my Edu-Kit, and was really amazed that such a bargain can be had at such a low price. I have already started repairing radios and phonographs. My friends were really surprised to see me get into the swing of it so quickly. The Troubleshooting Tester that comes with the Kit is really swell, and finds the trouble, if there is any to be found."

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It is understood and agreed that should the Progressive Radio "Edu-Kit" be returned to Progressive "Edu-Kits" Inc. for any reason whatever, the purchase price will be refunded in full, without quibble or question, and without delay.

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As an electrical trouble shooter the Model 70:

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- Will measure current consumption while the appliance under test is in operation.
- Incorporates a sensitive direct-reading resistance range which will measure all resistances commonly used in electrical appliances, motors, etc.
- Leakage detecting circuit will indicate continuity from zero ohms to 5 megohms (5,000,000 ohms).

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• D.C. VOLTS: 0 to 7.5/15/75/150/300/1,500 • A.C. VOLTS: 0 to 15/30/150/300/1,500/3,000 • D.C. CURRENT: 0 to 1.5/15/150 Ma. 0 to 1.5/15 Amperes • RESISTANCE: 0 to 1,000/100,000 Ohms, 0 to 10 Megohms • CAPACITY: .001 to 1 Mfd., 1 to 50 Mfd. • REACTANCE: 50 to 2,500 Ohms, 2,500 Ohms to 2.5 Megohms. • INDUCTANCE: 15 to 7 Henries, 7 to 7,000 Henries. • DECIBELS: -6 to +18, +14 to +38, +34 to +58. The following components are all tested for QUALITY at appropriate test po-

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micro-ampere meter is isolated from the measuring circuit by a balanced push-pull amplifier. • Uses selected 1% temperature coefficient resistors as multipliers. This assures unchanging accurate readings on all ranges.

SPECIFICATIONS

AS A DC VOLT-METER: The Model 77 is indispensable in Hi-Fi Amplifier servicing and a must for Black and White and color TV Receiver servicing where circuit loading cannot be tolerated.

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• AC VOLTS (RMS)—0 to 3/15/75/150/300/750/1,500 volts. • AC VOLTS (Peak to Peak)—0 to 3/40/200/400/800/2,000 volts.
• ELECTRONIC OHM-METER—0 to 1,000 ohms/10,000 ohms/100,000 ohms/1 megohm/10 megohms/100 megohms/1,000 megohms. • DECIBELS: -10 db to +18 db, +10 db to +38 db, +30 db to +58 db. All based on 0 db = .006 watts (6 mw) into a 500 ohm line (1.73v). • ZERO CENTER METER—For discriminator alignment with full scale range of 0 to 1.5/7.5/37.5/75/150/375/750 volts at 11 megohms input resistance.

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... News

It's so easy to become a Novice class radio amateur and the satisfactions derived from "hamming" are so great that it's surprising that more people don't become hams. One reason they don't is the fear of the code test but it only takes a couple of weeks' practice. Allied Radio Corp. in Chicago is doing its part



to help more people realize this. For the past six years they have given three 14-week classes a year on code and theory. This year they are inaugurating a new Thursday evening class which, like the veteran Monday class, will be given in the Allied cafeteria in their 100 N. Western Ave. building.



EICO has just brought out a new compact low-power standby rig for the 80 to 10 meter bands. The 723 is available as a kit for \$49.50 or factory wired for \$79.95 and features 60 watts to the final on CW. All other "musts" are included: TV suppression, modulator input socket, antenna relay, and panel meter. EICO, 32-00 Northern Boulevard, L. I. C., N. Y.

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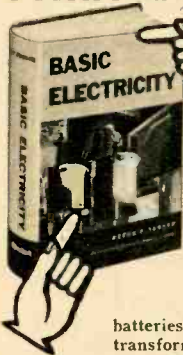
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... News

New Literature. . . .

A commendably honest (if you will forgive the title's presumptuousness) and well-written 32-page book called "All About Stereo" is now available from Bell Sound, 555 Marion Road, Columbus 7, Ohio, for 25¢. Written by John Conly, it has some interesting things to say about how to plan and choose a stereo system, components of course, for your home. . . . A useful little catalog for the transistor experimenter is the new Semiconductor Catalog of the Amperex Electronic Corp., 230 Duffy Ave., Hicksville, L. I., N. Y. It contains basic specs on a new line of VHF transistors suitable for converter, mixer and oscillator applications. . . . "How to Decorate With Music" is the name of an 8-page brochure available free from the Rek-O-Kut Co., 38-19 108th St., Corona 68, N. Y. Five room layouts are included to suit all decorating tastes (well, almost all anyway) and even if you don't agree with their suggestion to hang the loudspeakers above a planter in a neat little alcove (oh, the sound is important?) the other four recommendations do make sense.

. . . Like to window shop through test equipment catalogs? Well, you can get another one free from Precision Apparatus Co., 70-31 84th St., Glendale 27, L. I., N. Y. They request that you write for it on company stationery, ask for catalog 28. . . . Shopping for a microphone? Thirty models plus accessories, tape recorder heads, and hi-fi components are described in a new 28-page catalog issued by Shure Bros., 222 Hartrey Ave., Evanston, Ill. This is catalog 60A, and while you're at it, you might request their 8-page brochure listing all specs on Shure's Stereo Dynetic series phone cartridges and tone arms. . . . Mullard tubes have long been popular with advanced hi-fi designers and constructors in this country. A newly revised technical bulletin giving complete specifications for all Mullard tubes including the popular frame grid types should therefore be of wide interest. It is available free from International Electronics Corp., 81 Spring St., NYC.

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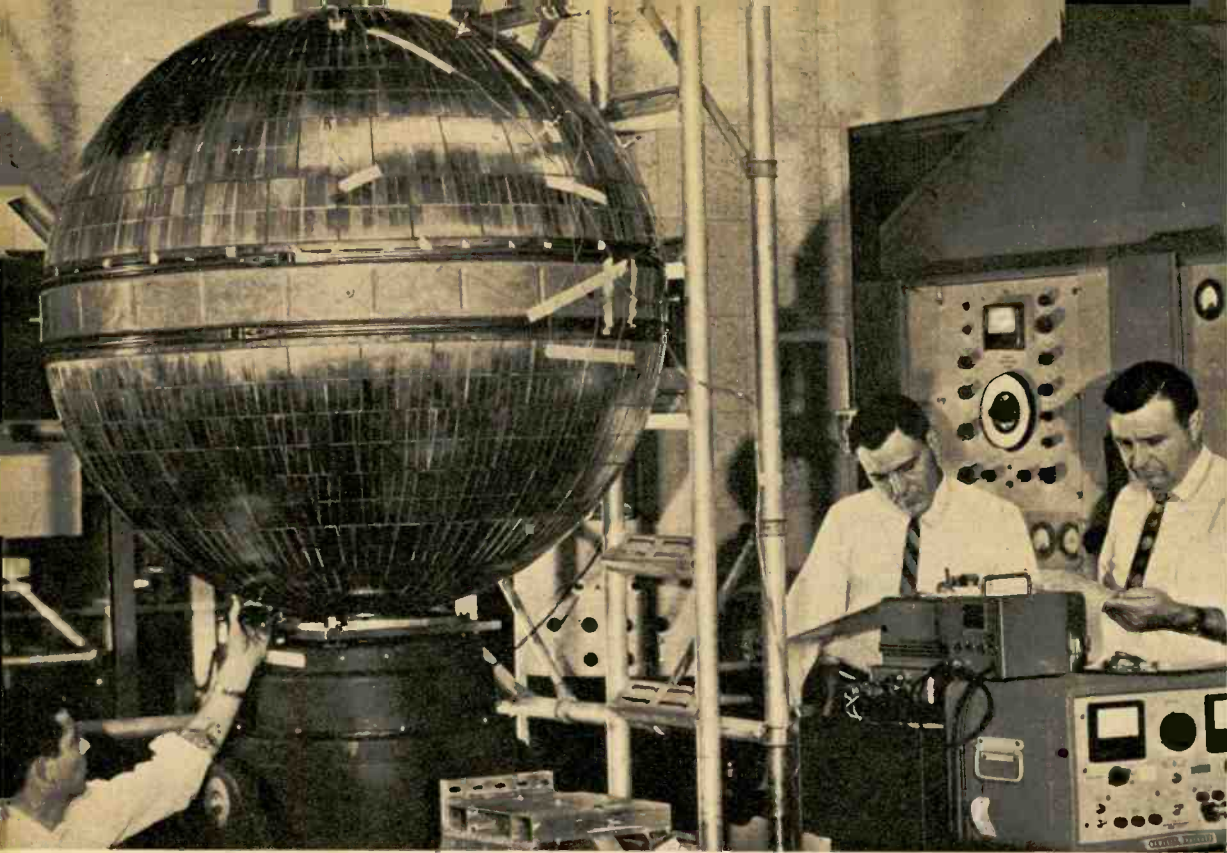
the future opens:

Courier Communications Satellite

The public has missed the significance of this achievement as a new communications link.

By Lloyd Mallan

ON October 4, 1960—precisely three years to the day after Russia launched the world's first man-made satellite—a breakthrough in space-age electronics was achieved by the United States. Appropriately, the project name was "Courier." It carries messages across the world, traveling through the sky with a speed of almost 15,000 miles an hour. It is mankind's first *active* telephonic-telegraphic-facsimile repeating station to be



Engineers run vibration checks on Courier's sphere in pre-launch inspection. "Skin" is covered with over 19,000 solar cells to power radio equipment.

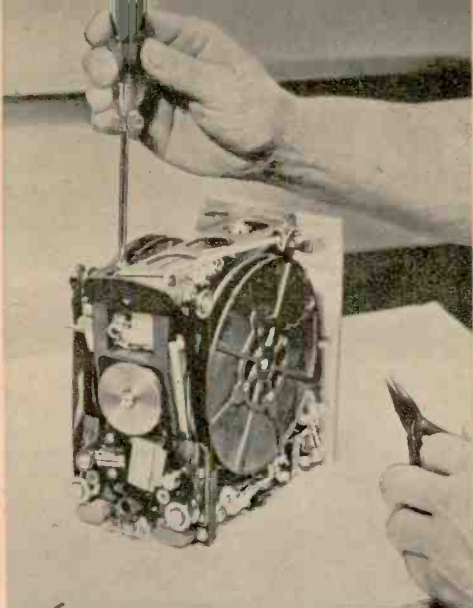
placed in orbit around the Earth. (The famous aluminized sphere, or "balloon," of Project Echo is merely a reflector of ground signals—a "passive" communications satellite.)

In the years since the Space Age began with the successful launching of Sputnik I, there have been a dazzling number of spectacular achievements. Because of this, the real significance of the Courier satellite has been missed by a jaded press and public. Certainly it had its moment of front-page publicity, but what it represents to the future of electronics and spaceflight was understandably glossed over, perhaps not even realized. The average member of the daily press lacks the background for a full appreciation of an event like this one.

Considering the highly reliable performance of the Douglas Thor-Able-Star rocket which launched Courier, the "hardware" is available today to establish a worldwide microwave commu-

nications network. Such a network would be independent of weather conditions, of distortions of the Earth's magnetic field caused by solar disturbances, of the time of day or night and of the seasons of the year. At present, global communications by radio are subject to them all, with their blackouts and fadeouts, and the shifting polarizations of the *Faraday Effect*.

This latter effect, discovered by Michael Faraday, is caused when an electromagnetic wave passes, under certain conditions, through a magnetic field. More simply, this means that when radio waves pass through the atmosphere in the presence of the Earth's magnetic field, their *plane of polarization* is continually shifted. The degree and direction of the shift depends upon the strength and direction of the geomagnetic field. The electrically charged particles of the atmospheric gases are affected by changes in the Earth's field-strength. These changes in turn affect



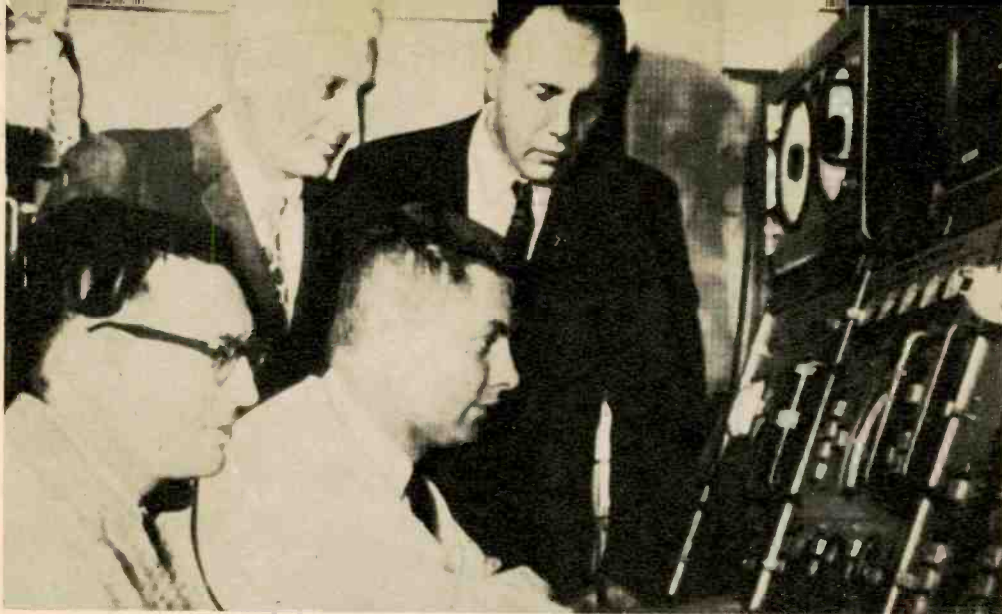
One of Courier's five tape recorders, each of which can record or play back 15,000 words a minute, or equivalent in other signal types.



Courier's ground control centers are specially designed mobile vans. Small control panel is used to give satellite data or "commands."

This view down the length of a control van shows engineers making early experiments with voices and pictures over 1500-mile New Jersey-Florida path.





A photo from Courier: showing the four men directly responsible for its success, it was sent to satellite, relayed back by facsimile, all in 5 minutes.

COURIER SPECIFICATIONS (approximate)

Weight:	500 pounds
Size	51" diameter
Spin rate	40 rpm
Orbit Altitude	600 nautical miles
Speed in Orbit	14,400 mph
Battery Power Supply	28 volt, 12 ampere-hour, nickel-cadmium
Charging Supply	19,152 solar cells 1.8 amp. charging rate
Total Power Consumption:	Standby: 10 watts Active: 225 watts
Data Storage	Five Tape Recorders 4 Digital, 1 Analog
Record-Playback Time	Five minutes total
Microwave Transmitters	Four, FM, 8 watt output
Microwave Receivers	Four, FM, 12 db noise figure
VHF Transmitters	Two, FM, 1.5 watts output. Two unmodulated, 50 mw output
VHF receivers	Two, "command," 6 db noise figure

zonal polarization, and be missed by the antenna. Or, a horizontally polarized wave would tend to become "vertical." With intermediate polarizations either type of antenna would be inefficient.)

The longer wavelengths are more easily affected because they are so much bigger from crest to crest. They cannot "sneak through" the spaces between the gaseous particles and are rotated as the particles rotate in the geomagnetic field.

Normally, electromagnetic waves, such as radio and light are not affected by magnetic fields because they carry no electrical charge. The Faraday Effect is imposed upon them *indirectly*, by the medium through which they move—if that medium is *isotropic*. That is, if it has the same properties through all directions, as the upper atmosphere has.

An outstanding achievement of Project Courier conquered not only the Faraday Effect but also a similar effect caused by a satellite's spinning and tumbling. These likewise cause a change in polarization of its radio signals, since its antennas are tumbling, too. The two effects together might well have made Courier unreliable for communications. But the Nutley Laboratories of IT&T engineered into Courier's ground-command stations [Continued on page 104]

the polarization. (Thus a vertically polarized wave, best received by a vertical antenna, would "rotate" toward hori-

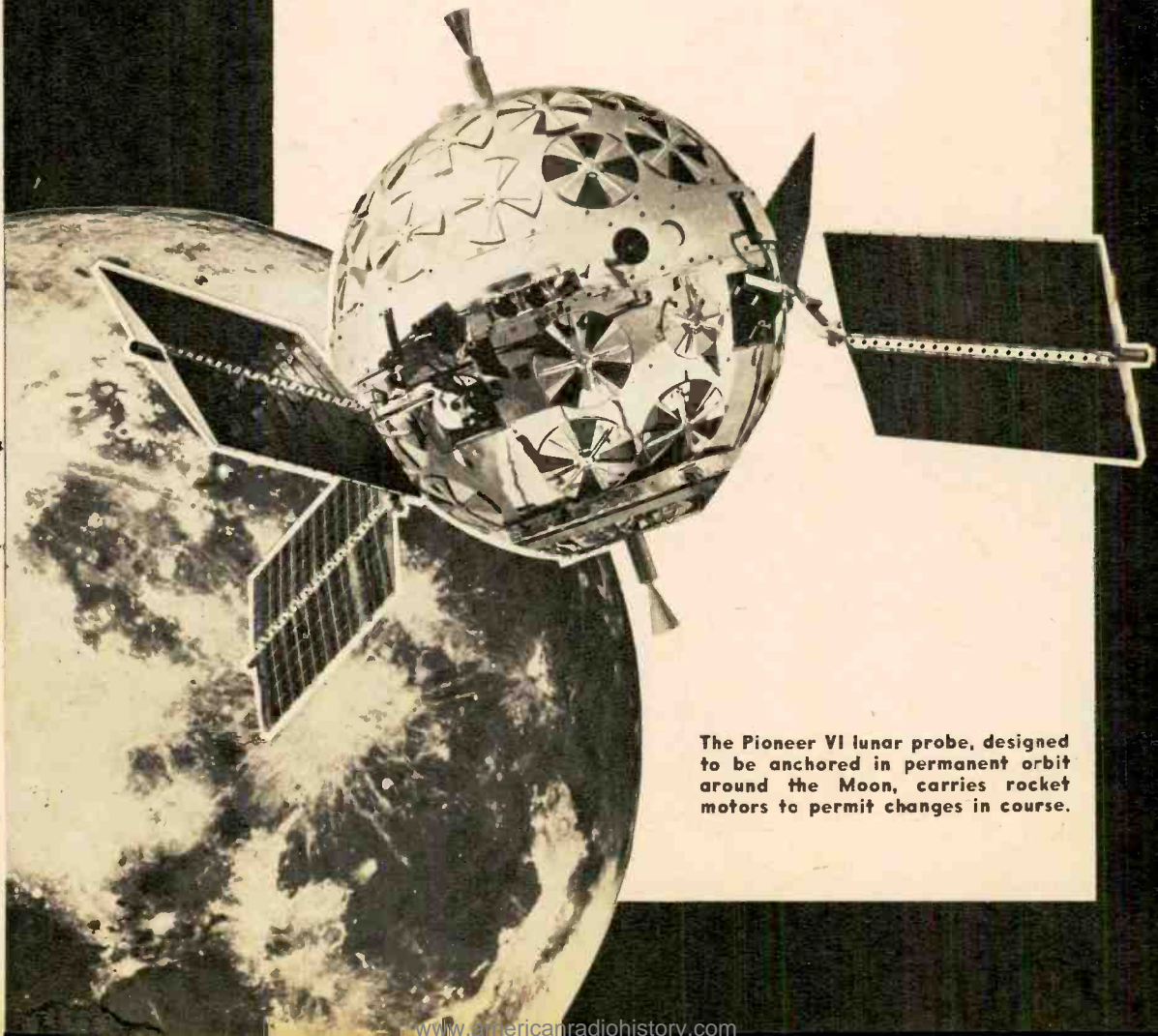
and now...

To The Moon

By **N. A. Rosa**, *Feature Editor*

AMERICAN rocket science has now progressed to where we can put 'a satellite in orbit around a satellite,' which is what the Pioneer VI Lunar Probe really is. The Moon is the Earth's natural satellite, and Pioneer VI is designed to circle it, practically forever, and tell us things we have never known before. All we had for thousands of years was naked-eye vision of one side of the Moon. In the last few hundred years we have had telescopes, and their magnified view told us a little more about our nearest neighbor in the universe. In the last couple of years we have had a few blurry pictures of the "far" side of the Moon as Russia's Lunik I made its single pass.

Now, a complete telemetering space laboratory will serve as a



The Pioneer VI lunar probe, designed to be anchored in permanent orbit around the Moon, carries rocket motors to permit changes in course.

lunar scout. It will send back vital information that will advance science generally, and help us design later steps: another telemetering probe that will land on the Moon and travel over its face, exploring directly; and eventually, the first man-carrying expedition vehicle.

Pioneer VI is the responsibility of Space Technology Laboratories, Inc., of Los Angeles, California. STL, coordinator for all the project's subcontractors, designed the probe itself, worked out the rocket combination needed to propel it, and set up and operated the *SpaN* network of tracking and control stations on Earth. (*SpaN* was first used for Pioneer I, Explorer VI, and Pioneer V.)

Pioneer VI has four separate instrument systems for measuring radiation energy levels, not only near the Moon and in "cislunar" space (the space "this side of the Moon," or between Earth and Moon), but also near the Earth. (This is partly because extra-heavy radiation near Earth, such as in the famous Van Allen belts, will swamp many instruments while the satellite passes through. Since it is not definitely known whether the Moon has such a belt, equipment capable of detecting and measuring one is included, and will also measure Earth's radiation while in its field.)

The probe also carries two sets of instruments for measuring the magnitude

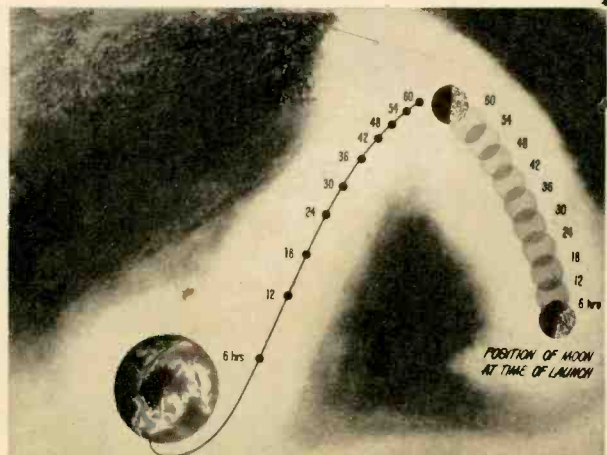
and direction of magnetic fields in space and near the Moon. For the first time, any magnetic field the Moon may have will be measured and charted. What we can learn about the Moon's magnetic field will throw light on the problem of the Earth's magnetism. (Contrary to the impression we all have had from school science classes, why the Earth is a magnet is still unexplained. It is definitely *not* the result of "deposits of magnetic ores" in the Arctic and Antarctic. In fact, such deposits as exist may be the result of the magnetic field!)

A micrometeorite momentum spectrometer aboard Pioneer VI is to measure both the number of space-debris impacts and their momentum (mass times velocity). It will tally the total micrometeorite traffic (called *flux*) through a given area of space in a given time and separate micrometeorites into two classes, depending on their momentum.

To get Pioneer VI's data on cosmic radiation, magnetic fields, solar radiation density, ionization, micrometeorite flux and momentum, and other phenomena back to Earth, Pioneer VI uses a recording-telemetering system known as "Telebit," also of STL design. Telebit was first tested in the Explorer VI earth satellite, and was used in the deep-space probe Pioneer V. You will recall that

During planning stages, "paper rockets" are "fired" in various possible paths around the Moon via computer, to find best design.

The probe is aimed ahead of the Moon, as hunters "lead" ducks, so that paths will cross. Retro-rockets control approach, insure orbit.

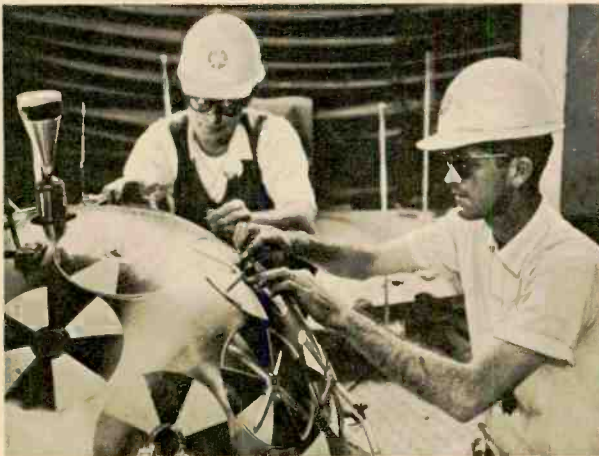


Pioneer V's telemetering signals were still being copied when the probe was 23,000,000 miles out.

Telebit collects, stores, and tallies data sensed by the probe's instruments all at the same time. To save electrical power, data are transmitted back to Earth only on command. Telebit takes the "reports" of each instrument, continuously "shapes" them into digital or "numerical" form, and waits for the query signal from Earth. Then it transmits a complete, tallied report: so many micrometeorite impacts in each momentum class since last report (or other "agreed on" time), cislunar or circumlunar magnetic fields of (certain) shape and intensity, solar radiation of the (proton, electron) type of (a certain) intensity, etc.

Telebit's two transmitters are each of two watts output. You will not be able to hear them on any equipment you may have—unless you are an engineer or operator at one of the SpaN stations or one of the great radioastronomy centers. One is used for telemetering, the other for tracking. SpaN has four stations: at South Point, Hawaii; Manchester, England; Singapore, Malaya and Cape Canaveral, Florida. All information from SpaN is funneled to STL headquarters in Los Angeles, and most instructions and queries [Continued on page 105]

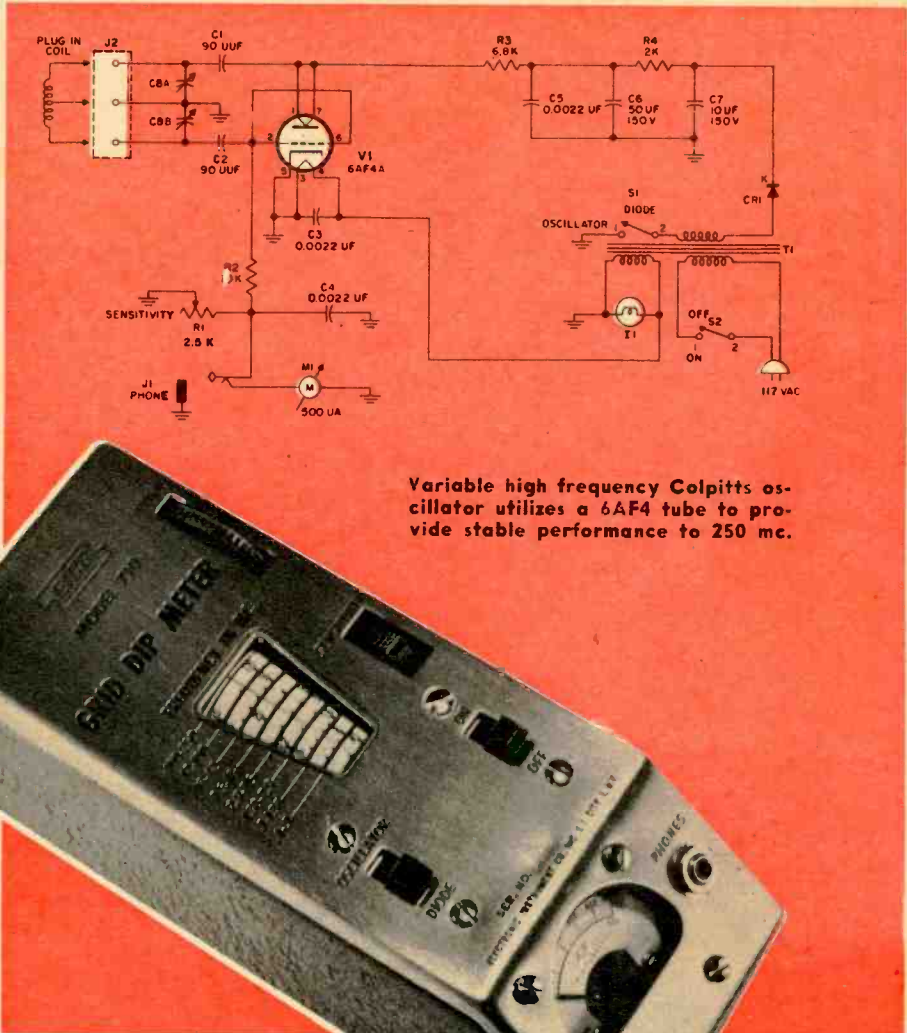
Technicians install temperature control "proppers." These cover and expose light or dark areas, which reflect and absorb heat from Sun.



February, 1961

Almost yearning upward, the Pioneer VI waits at top of its Atlas-Able 3-stage rocket assembly. Once in lunar orbit it will stay there theoretically forever.





Variable high frequency Colpitts oscillator utilizes a 6AF4 tube to provide stable performance to 250 mc.



El reports on a Grid Dip Meter Kit

IF you are a radio-television serviceman, ham, or electronics experimenter, a grid dip meter kit is one of the best bargains you can buy. One of the latest to appear is the EICO Model 710. To insure stability, the 710 uses a 6AF4 ultra-high frequency triode in a Colpitts oscillator circuit. Our unit was as stable as a rock all the way out to 250 mc. Eight precision wound ($\pm 0.5\%$) plug-in coils provide a wide overlapping frequency range of 400 kc to 250 mc. Matching the plug-in coils are eight frequency scales which are all on an easy-

to-read 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long scale and are wrapped on a cylindrical drum rotating through 340 degrees. A planetary drive makes for smooth and precise tuning.

The oscillator grid return includes a meter and a phone jack. Use of 500 microampere movement makes possible the 710's high sensitivity and sharp dip tuning. If a headphone is plugged into the phone jack, the unit becomes an oscillating detector which may be used for extremely accurate beat frequency measurement. An audio signal applied via the phone jack enables the 710 to be used as a modulated RF generator. A switch will turn off the oscillator plate supply thus enabling the unit to become a tuned RF diode detector with a meter in the diode load circuit.

The construction of the 710 required only two hours of building time. Here are a few hints which may smooth out a few rough spots.

After unpacking the kit and checking

the components, you may notice that the meter cutout in the panel is semi-circular instead of round, making it impossible to mount the meter as shown. The new design protects the meter from accidental breakage. However, some of the manuals went out before the change was noted.

To mount the variable capacitor, C8, the spacing bracket must be bent slightly to line up the mounting holes. It would be simpler to mount the solder lugs on C8 before it is installed.

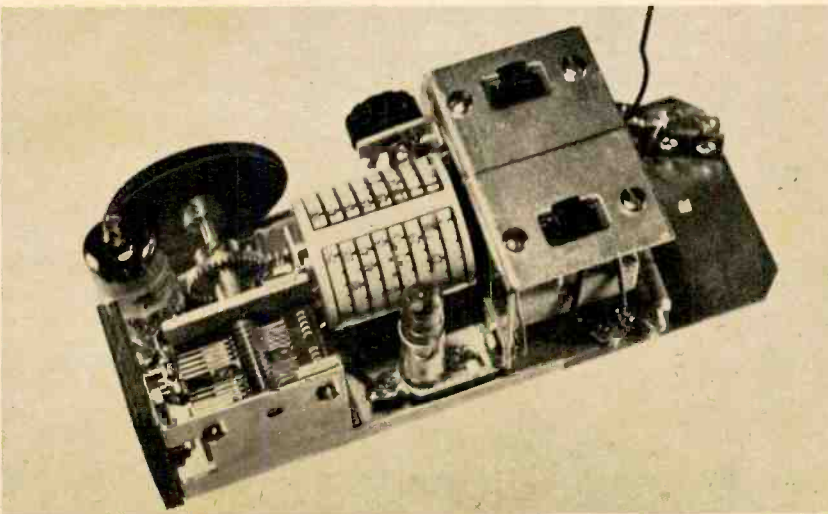
It cannot be stressed too strongly that the layout, lead length and dress must be followed exactly if accurate calibration is desired. Since the grid dip meter is a high-frequency device, these physical factors are critical. A difference of only $\frac{1}{2}$ " in lead length or component placement can substantially alter the calibration. As the tech specs show, at \$29.95 the EICO 710 grid dipper is definitely rated a *Good Buy*.

TECH SPECS

EICO states that if their construction manual is followed to the letter, the frequency calibration will be accurate to at least 5%. After completing our unit, we checked the accuracy on each of the eight ranges. Our test showed the accuracy of the 710 to be considerably better than that quoted by EICO.

The following are our results:

Band	Max. Error	Band	Max. Error
A (400-700 kc)	1.1%	E (7.5-18 mc)	0.8%
B (700-1380 kc)	0.5%	F (18-42 mc)	1.0%
C (1380-2900 kc)	0.3%	G (42-100 mc)	0.3%
D (2.9-7.5 mc)	0.6%	H (100-250 mc)	2.5%



Compact grid dip meter kit is shown complete except for meter and cabinet. Check wiring before installing drum, and gear assembly, center.

How to Repair Radios

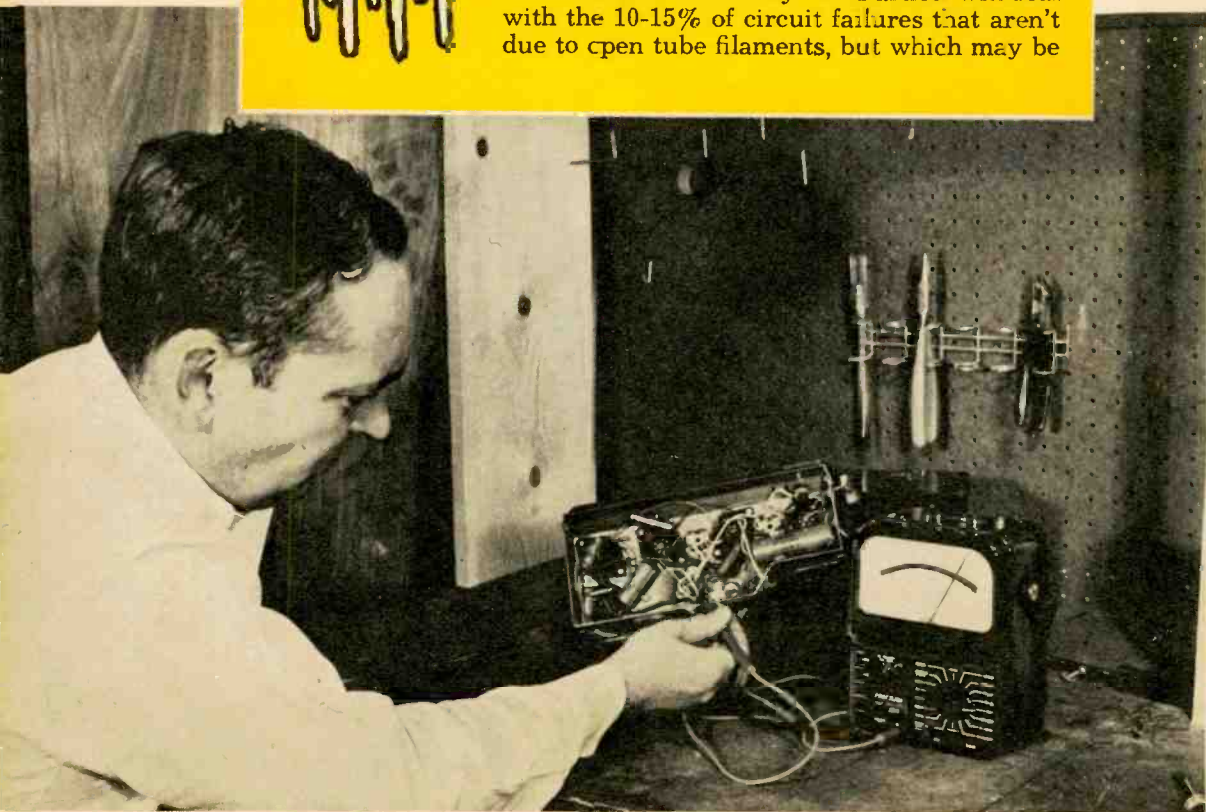
Part I — Circuit Theory

By George Gordon

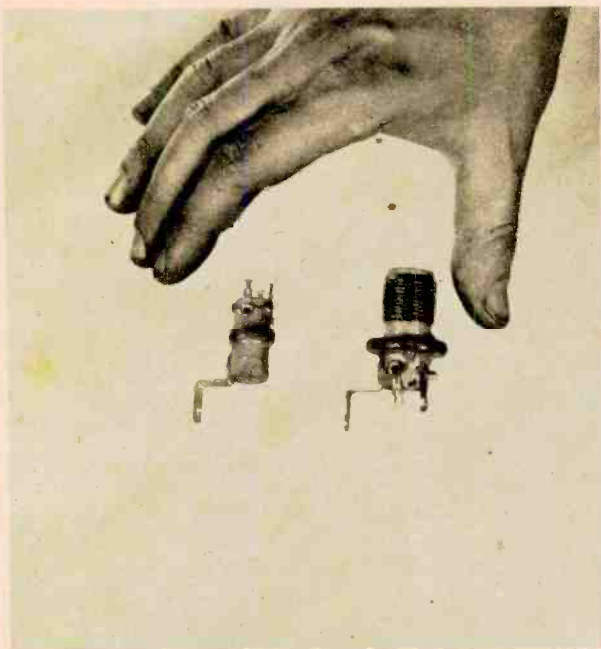


If you're reading this article, the chances are you're the owner of at least one AC-DC superheterodyne receiver, the "Model T" of the radio industry, and probably the most popular, practical electronic workhorse ever invented. At the last count, approximately 150 million radios were in use in this country. And about 80% of these are the common garden-variety 5-tube table model, an inconspicuous little sound box that has become as much a part of our daily life as the automobile or the telephone.

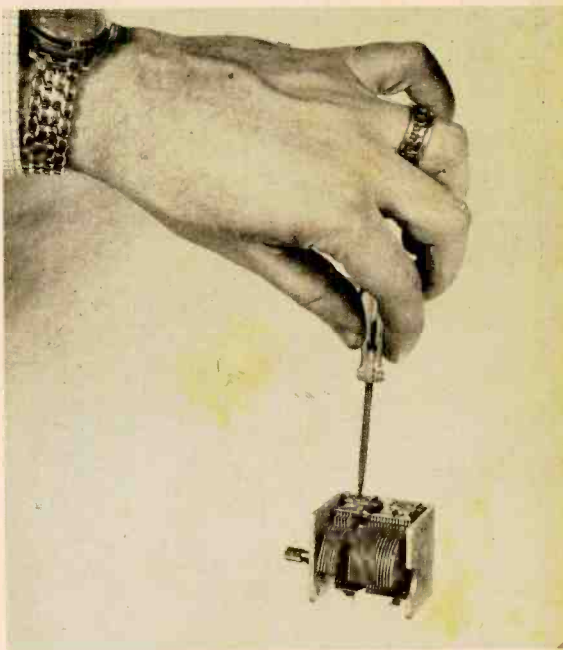
The shape and color of the cabinet may vary widely, but the important part—the "guts" of the set—remains as basic and as simple as ever. When one of these sets goes bad, nine out of ten times a defective tube (usually an open filament) is at fault. But what happens when the tubes check out okay? This article will deal with the 10-15% of circuit failures that aren't due to open tube filaments, but which may be



Superhet oscillator coil is smaller than antenna coil. Most new sets use a loop antenna.



Tracking of two sections of tuning capacitor is set by adjusting trimmer capacitor screws.



due to leaky, open or shorted capacitors, burned out resistors, open IF transformer windings, and dozens of other ordinary breakdowns that will cut a radio dead or make it very unpleasant to listen to.

A vast majority of repairs do not require elaborate test instruments. Using a maximum of logic and a minimum of tools, a high percentage of circuit failures can be tracked down. Only two things are necessary—a sound knowledge of the superheterodyne circuit and an inexpensive voltohmmeter. That is why the first part of this article will give you a brief, but concise, description of the superhet circuit. This will enable you to apply the trouble-shooting techniques that follow with intelligence and confidence.

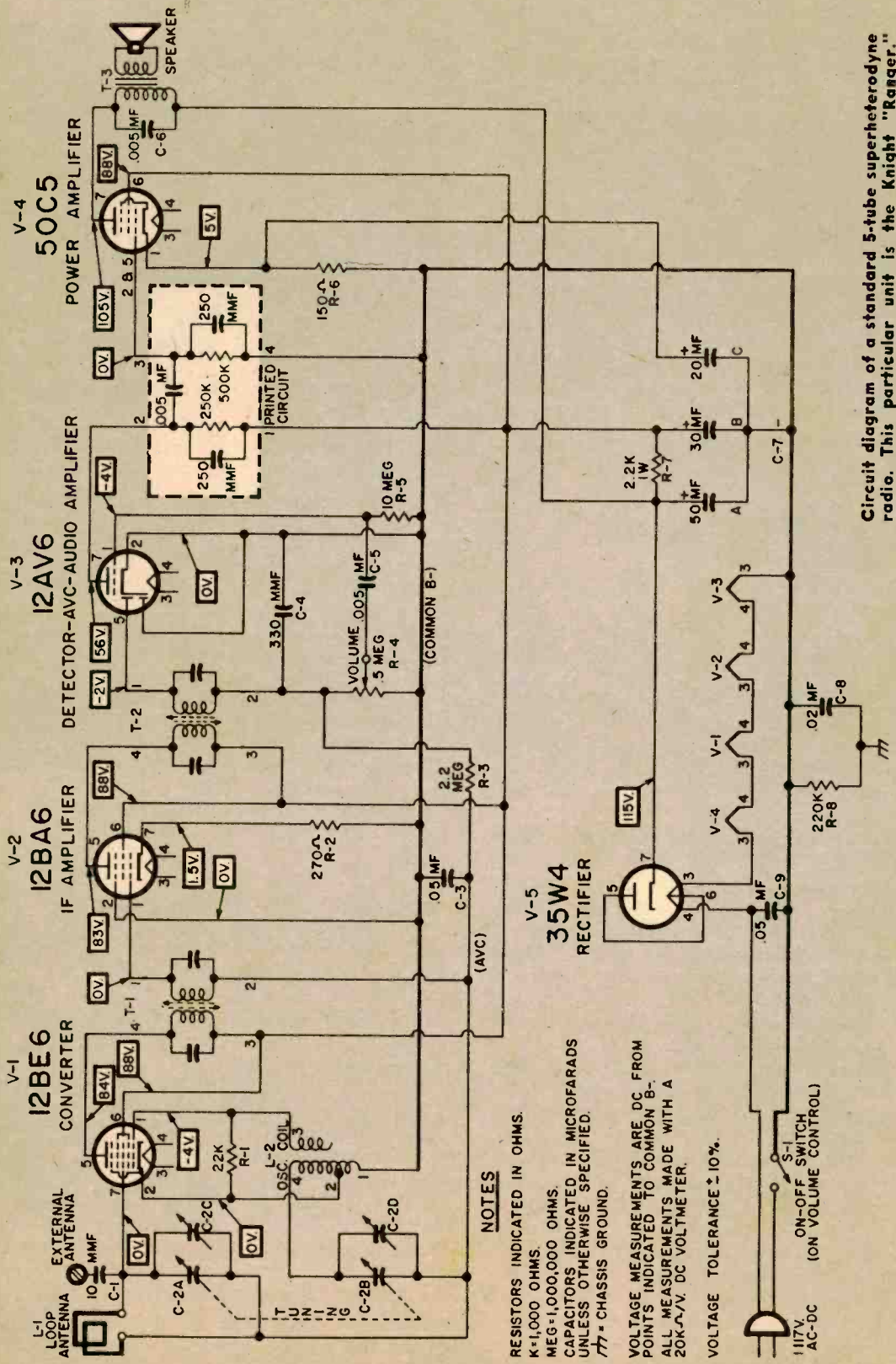
First, let's track the signal—from the microphone in the broadcasting studio to your ear. See diagrams on page 39.

Now, we know that a dozen or more stations can be transmitting at any given time. How does the superhet select the station you wish to hear and reject all the others? This is accomplished quite

simply by a tuning circuit consisting of a coil and a variable capacitor connected in parallel. (L-1 and C-2A). Depending upon the position of tuning capacitor C-2A, the tuning circuit will be most "receptive" to a particular frequency. If you want to receive a station transmitting at 1250 kc for example, the capacitor is turned until the circuit resonates (or reaches its highest receptivity) at that frequency. The 1250 kc signal will be fed to the first tube of the superhet, while the other frequencies will be excluded.

The next step in the process occurs at the *mixer* stage. The name is well chosen, for the signal that has passed through the tuning circuit is now mixed with another signal generated by an oscillator inside the superhet. The *mixer* is also called a *converter*.

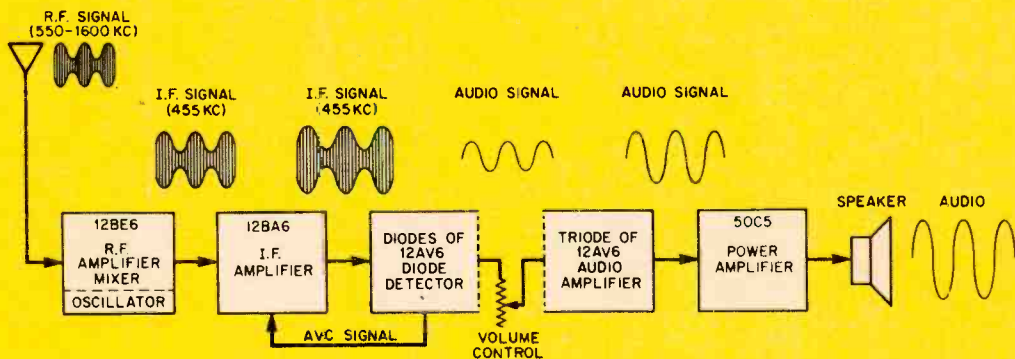
It is easier to design a circuit for one frequency than a circuit that must handle many different frequencies. Because the broadcast band has a range of 550 kc to 1600 kc (or a bandwidth of over one megacycle) a circuit to tune and amplify all these frequencies would be



NOTES

- RESISTORS INDICATED IN OHMS.
- K=1,000 OHMS.
- MEG=1,000,000 OHMS.
- CAPACITORS INDICATED IN MICROFARADS UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.
- /// = CHASSIS GROUND.
- VOLTAGE MEASUREMENTS ARE DC FROM POINTS INDICATED TO COMMON B-.
- ALL MEASUREMENTS MADE WITH A 20KΩ/V. DC VOLTMETER.
- VOLTAGE TOLERANCE ± 10%.

Circuit diagram of a standard 5-tube superheterodyne radio. This particular unit is the Knight "Ranger."



Block diagram of standard superheterodyne circuit showing progress of the broadcast signal through the various stages. Each stage has specific functions and all are powered by a rectifier circuit supplying about 150-volts DC.

fairly critical, complicated and expensive. But if the incoming RF signal could be changed to a signal standard frequency far greater efficiency could be realized. And this is what the superheterodyne's built-in oscillator accomplishes. By beating the local oscillator signal against an incoming broadcast signal an *intermediate frequency* (IF) is developed.

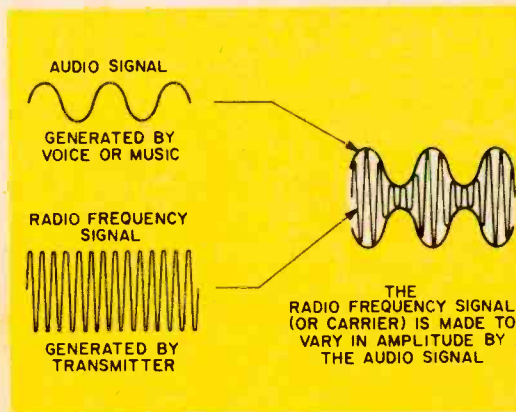
The local oscillator signal has been standardized at 455 kc *above* the incoming signal. In other words, if a carrier signal of 1000 kc is received, the oscillator frequency is 1455 kc.

To maintain the 455 kc difference, regardless of the carrier frequency, the tuning capacitor is physically joined, or *ganged*, on a common shaft and make up C-2A and C-2B. Regardless of the position of the tuning section, the oscillator is always tuned a precise 455 kc away from the frequency of the incoming broadcast signal.

The next step is to amplify the newly developed IF signal and get rid of the carrier and oscillator frequencies that are still in the mixer stage. This is accomplished by feeding the IF signal into a transformer whose primary and secondary are both sharply tuned to 455 kc. The IF signal is fed from T-1 and amplified by V-2 whose sole function is IF amplification. T-2 is another double-tuned job, this time serving as the output

IF transformer. Now is the time to separate or detect the audio signal—which is what we are really interested in—from the IF carrier. The IF signal shuttling back and forth across the secondary winding of T-2 (terminals 1 and 2) ends up at the diode section (pin 5) of the detector-audio amplifier stage. Since diodes conduct in only one direction, the positive half of the carrier is grounded because of the polarity of the diode comprising pins 5 and 2. The negative polarized signal is then taken off terminal 2 of T-2. C-4 grounds out any RF that

In order for audio frequencies to be broadcast they must be combined with an RF "carrier" frequency in such a way that the audio modulates the carrier (becomes part of the signal).



might have gotten through at this point. This detection process is also known as *demodulation*. A potentiometer (R-4) which serves as a *volume control*, determines the amount of audio signal that is applied to the grid of the audio amplifier section. Assuming that somewhat less than 1 volt of signal is fed to V-3's grid (pin 1), V-3 must boost this signal to anywhere from 1-8 volts, depending upon the volume desired. This much is needed in order to drive the final tube V-4.

A power amplifier tube (V-4) passes the boosted signal through the primary of step-down output transformer T-3. At the secondary of T-3 we obtain a much lower voltage, but a *high current*; and this current, varying with the intensity and frequency of the audio signal, drives the voice coil of the loudspeaker.

One last aspect of the superhet circuitry should be mentioned—automatic volume control, or AVC. Signal strength from different broadcasting stations may vary greatly, depending upon transmitter power and distance from the receiver. These variations could create uncomfortable listening conditions; blasting when you're tuning from one station to another or fading once you're tuned in.

This problem is eliminated by utilizing an otherwise wasted by-product of the detection process. In addition to the audio signal, a DC voltage is developed at the diode which is proportional to the strength *not* of the audio modulation, but of the *carrier*. In other words this DC voltage is there whether or not anyone is speaking into the microphone at the studio. The few AM radios that have tuning eyes utilize this voltage to indicate correct tuning because the carrier comes in most strongly when the radio is accurately tuned.

In most sets, the AVC voltage is tapped off the top of the volume control and led through a filter to remove the audio signal. In the Knight-Kit radio, R-3 and C-3 perform this function.

Note that the AVC line splits up, that the AVC voltage is applied to the signal input grids of both V-1 and V-2. This tends to bias the tubes to lower gain. When the signal strength AVC voltage

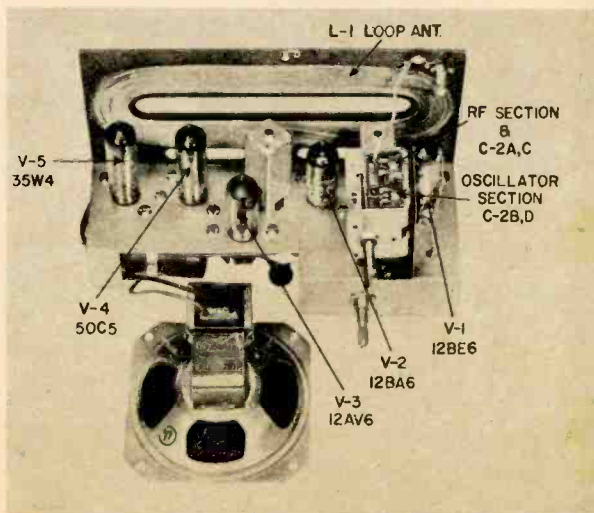
drops, the bias on the tube is less and the tubes gain goes up. As far as total circuit gain is concerned—we are back where we started from. You can see how the Automatic Volume Control circuit earned its name.

The power supply is a simple half-wave rectifier operating directly from the AC line. Either a vacuum tube or a selenium rectifier may be used (in which case we would have a 4-tube and a selenium rectifier). Smoothing of the pulsating DC supplied by the rectifier is accomplished by a pi-type filter consisting of two electrolytics C-7A and 7B and a resistor R-7. This DC supply provides the necessary voltage for the plates and screen grids of the tubes. (It's interesting to note here that this voltage is still called B-plus; before the modern power rectifier was developed, home radios used "B" batteries to supply the higher voltages.) Filament power is obtained by connecting all the filaments in series across the AC line. If you add up all the tube numbers preceding the letter designations, you will get about 115, which is equal to the line voltage.

Next month we are going to get to the heart of the matter and discuss the specifics of radio repair problems; their cause and cure.

(Continued Next Month)

Superhet tube layout showing logical layout. The broadcast signal travels from right to left.





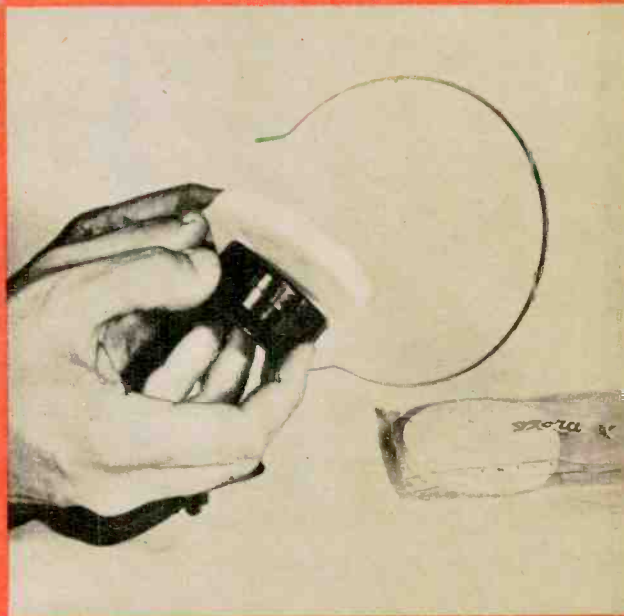
Try These

Cement Catches Drill Chips

Rubber cement daubed on the chassis where a hole is to be drilled will catch and safely hold the metal chips which might otherwise drop into wiring and cause short circuits. The rubber cement dries as you drill and is easily peeled off, chips and all, after job is done

Earphone Cushions

You can increase the comfort index of unpadded "cans" 200% by installing foam rubber cushions like those sold as powder puffs. Available at two for a quarter at any drug store, all you need to do is cut out the center of the pad (to clear the perforations in the phone cap) and glue it in place. The tighter coupling to your ears achieved by the cushions will cut down on room background noise and achieve an apparent increase in sensitivity of the phones.



Tape Limits Power Cord

It is common practice to knot a power cord just on the inside of a chassis to prevent the cord from pulling loose. This is a pretty tough task when the cord happens to be one of the larger rubber-covered type similar to the one pictured. A wrapping of several layers of electrician's plastic tape around the cord makes a better stop for large cords as shown.

The two men are setting up a Beryllometer, which uses a radioactive source to find non-radioactive beryllium. "Pot" in foreground holds "hot" sample, which is placed in lead shield under detector unit (left). Counter (right) is on six-foot cord so prospectors can back away from the probe unit's radiation danger.



"Hot" New Prospecting Tool

Valuable "wonder metal" is located by using "radioactivity in reverse."

By Lowell Adams

A CENTURY ago it was gold. A decade ago it was uranium. Today the magic word in prospecting is beryllium, the space age's newest wonder metal that costs up to \$90 a pound.

Gold required a 15¢ pan, uranium a \$100 geiger counter. Beryllium follows the trend by requiring for its discovery an instrument costing about \$2,500. It is called a Beryllometer.

The Beryllometer, brain-child of a team of University of Manitoba physicists, ferrets out beryllium ore deposits by irradiating

them with "hard" gamma rays emitted from a lead-shielded capsule of Sb^{124} , the radioactive isotope of the element antimony. The element beryllium is not radioactive. Nor is antimony until exposed to radiation. The latter's atomic weight then rises from 121 to 124 and it begins to disintegrate, emitting various forms of energy exactly like such radioactive substances as uranium, radium and thorium.

Thus bathed in the Berylometer's gamma rays, beryllium atoms release neutrons which impinge on the instrument's 5-inch diameter boron-impregnated fluorescent screen attached to the face of a photomultiplier tube. Each colliding neutron (but not reflected gamma rays) produces a flash of light on the multiplier and, amplified, becomes a square wave recorded visually on a digital meter or audibly in earphones.

An ore sample's beryllium content (the richest ores contain less than 10%) is proportional to the neutron count per minute, which is compared to master samples supplied with the instrument. Some 30 minerals in a dozen states may

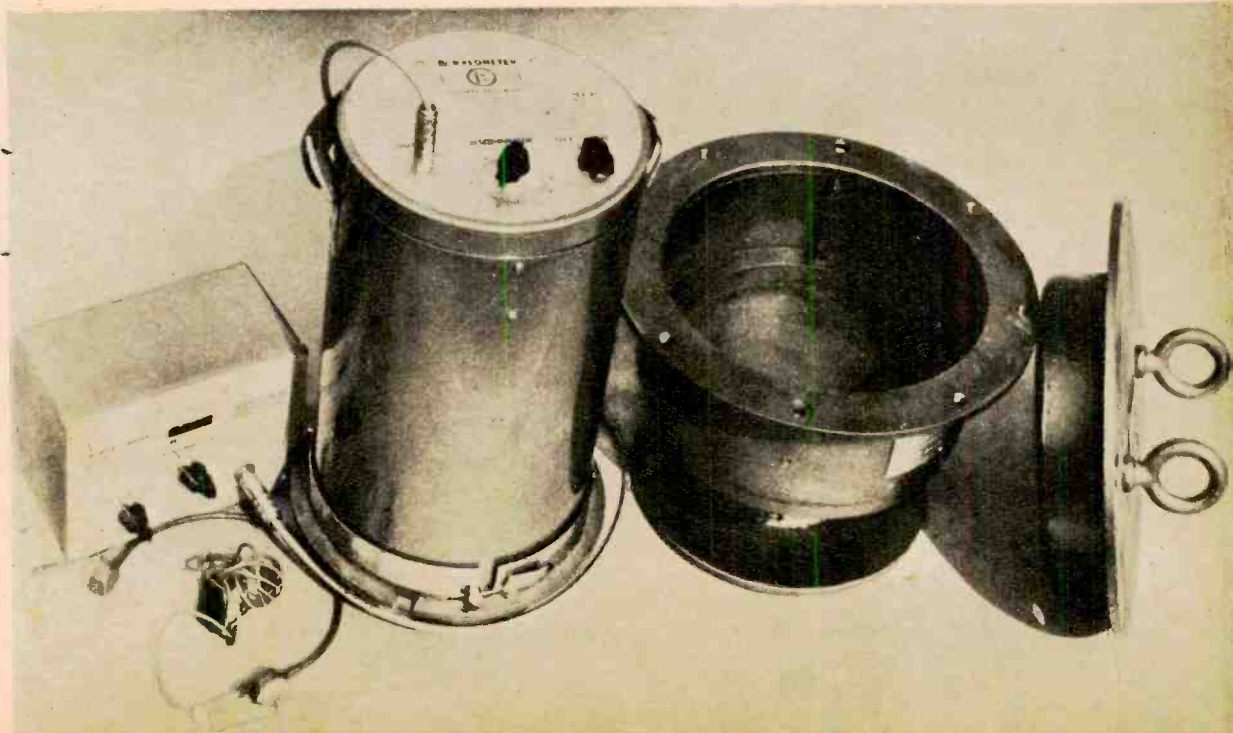
contain *beryl*, the usually greenish crystalline form of beryllium aluminum silicate (emerald and aquamarine are varieties). The Berylometer enables prospectors to find non-beryl ores, not as common or easily recognized as beryl-containing rocks like pegmatite.

The Berylometer weighs 39 pounds (the 1-inch-thick lead shielding on the "hot" capsule weighs 25 pounds) and is carried by two men on a litter not unlike a sedan chair. The litter keeps the instrument's operators a safe distance from the capsule. The Berylometer's components:

- *Gamma emitting detector.* Includes radioactive source, photomultiplier tube (DuMont #6364), phosphor screen and an amplifier-discriminator (4 transistors). The unit's 900-volt RF-type power supply is fed by a 7½-volt battery.

- *Counter-amplifier* (set 6 feet from the radioactive source). Its printed circuitry (7 transistors) amplifies the square wave pulses from the detector to drive a visual counter (numbered wheels) or [Continued on page 109]

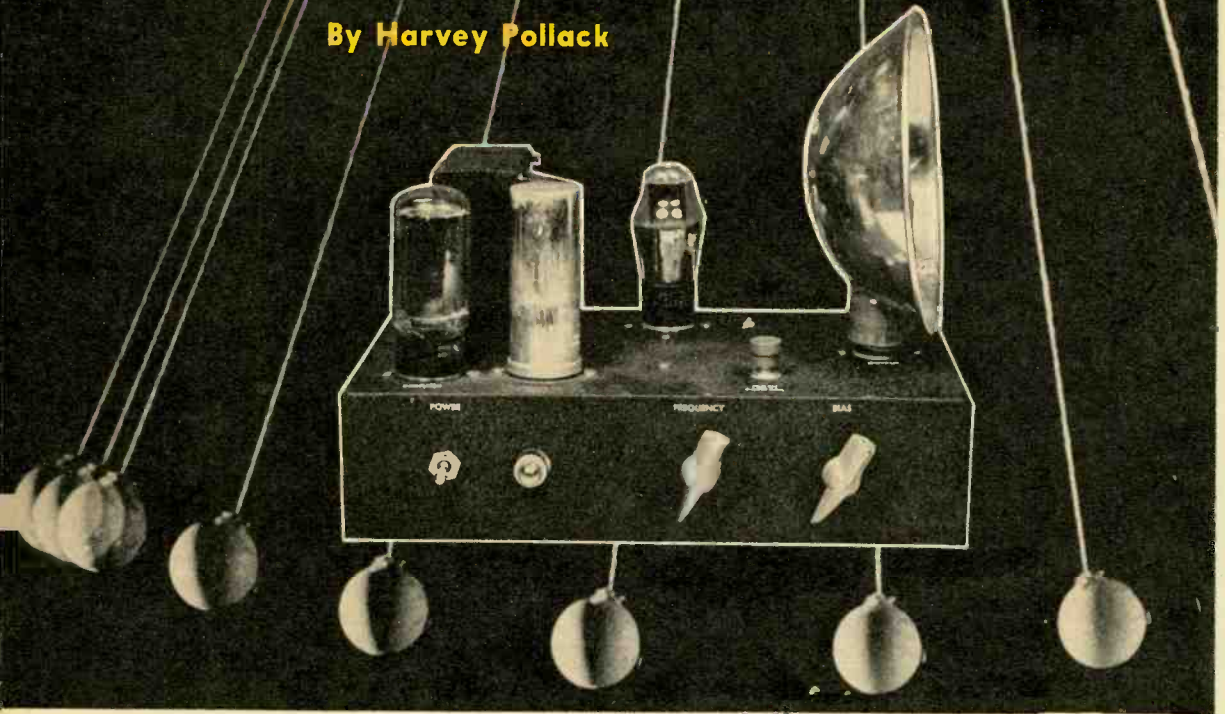
A close-up of the Berylometer's three components: the counter, left, which feeds earphones or indicator; the probe, which contains a fluorescent material and photomultiplier tube, and the container, right, for the radioactive element which causes non-radioactive beryllium to release neutrons for the counter.



The Multi-Strobe

Dual-purpose unit serves as a photographer's sequence speed-light or a high intensity stroboscope.

By Harvey Pollack



THE flick of a single switch converts this high-intensity stroboscope into a multiframe unit capable of taking high-speed sequential action photographs. As a stroboscope, this device is a valuable tool for freezing rapidly vibrating or rotating objects for close study, and for checking revolutions per minute and vibrational frequencies.

Aside from its double-duty capabilities, this stroboscope is distinguished by a very important characteristic: where other strobes utilize a neon lamp which gives, at best, low-intensity illumination, the Multistrobe circuit has been designed to trigger a standard photographic flashtube with blue-white output of sufficient intensity to be useful in a relatively bright area.

When operated as a multiframe unit, its output is approximately 10-watt-seconds. This illumination will give very

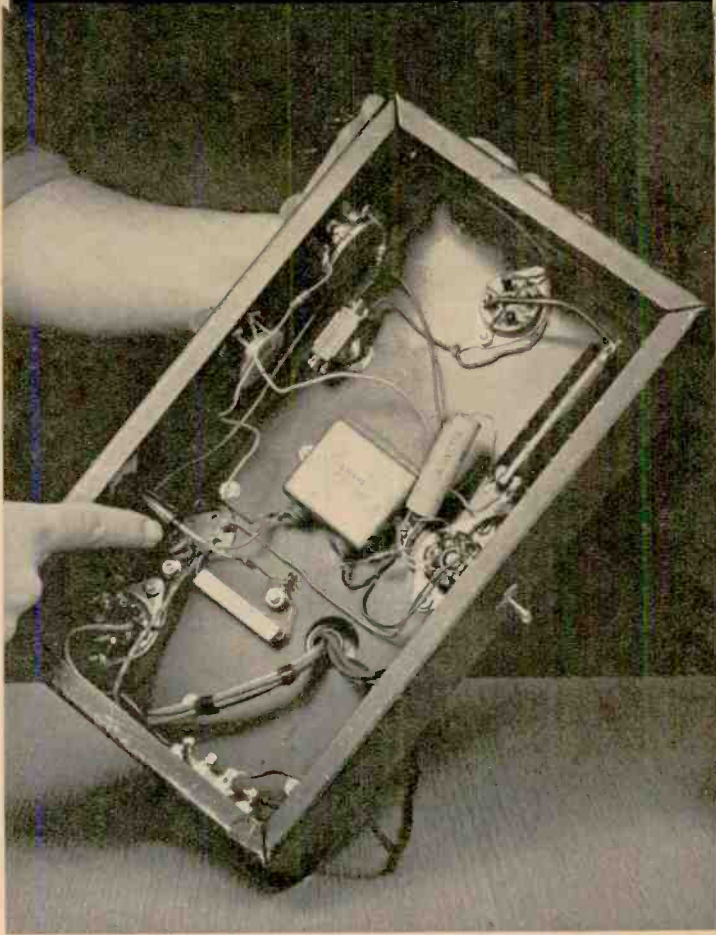
satisfactory negatives with a camera aperture of $f\ 4.5$ and a moderate speed film such as ASA 100 (tungsten). With a flash duration of only $1/5000$ of a second, very high-speed motion can be stopped cold.

Circuit Details

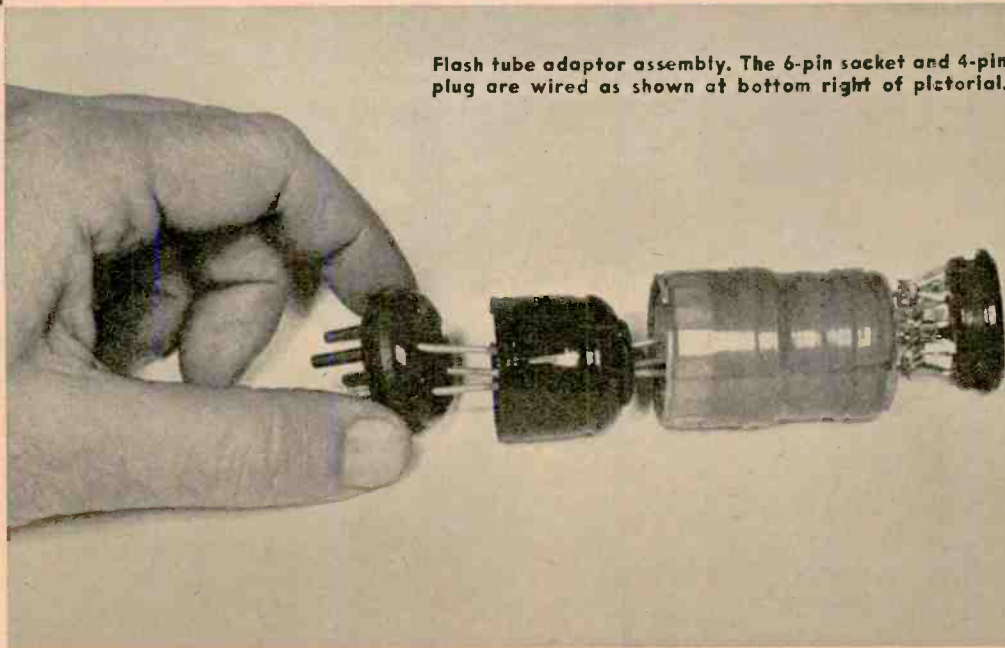
The rectifier circuit charges C1 and C2 to about 500 volts. With SW2 open (Strobe position) C1 is somewhat isolated from the rest of the circuit by R1. Capacitor C2 alone can store only enough energy to flash the tube at the lower intensity required for the variable-frequency stroboscope function.

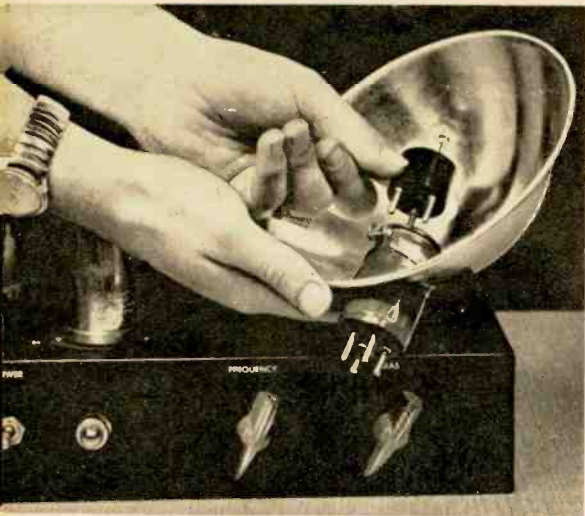
Thyratron tube V2 is in a relaxation oscillator circuit with R3, R4, and R5 making up a voltage divider to control the bias, hence the firing point of V2. With pushbutton SW3 depressed, V2's cathode circuit is completed and capaci-

Interior view of unit shows the wide separation of components. High voltage transformer at upper right is insulated from chassis and neon light is both an indicator and discharge unit.



Flash tube adaptor assembly. The 6-pin socket and 4-pin plug are wired as shown at bottom right of pictorial.





The reflector is fitted with a screw clamp which holds adaptor. Position flashtube firmly.

which was mounted a 6-pin radio socket to take the U-35. Of course, any tube of the correct size will do. A standard 4-prong plug was friction-fitted to the opposite end of the shell. The adaptor plugs into a 4-pin radio socket mounted on the chassis.

The above arrangement makes it possible to use the strobe tube and reflector at a distance from the main chassis. Merely make up an extension cable with a 4-prong plug at one end and a 4-pin socket at the other, being sure to use ignition cable for the high-voltage triggering wire. The constructor may be as flexible as he likes with respect to adaptors, reflectors, and mounting providing the necessary precautions are taken in insulation and spacing to prevent arcing from the high-voltage connection to chassis or other points.

The Strobe-Multiflash changeover switch SW2 was intentionally located at the rear of the chassis to keep it out of the way and prevent accidental changeover. Capacitor C2, a 1 mf oil-filled capacitor may be made larger if higher strobe intensity is desired. According to the Amglo Corporation specifications, C2 may be as large as 4 mf if the maximum flashing rate is limited to 30 per second. Since the light output energy is proportional to the capaci-

tance, it is therefore possible to obtain 4 times the brilliance with a 4 mf capacitor as compared with a 1 mf capacitor.

Operational Test

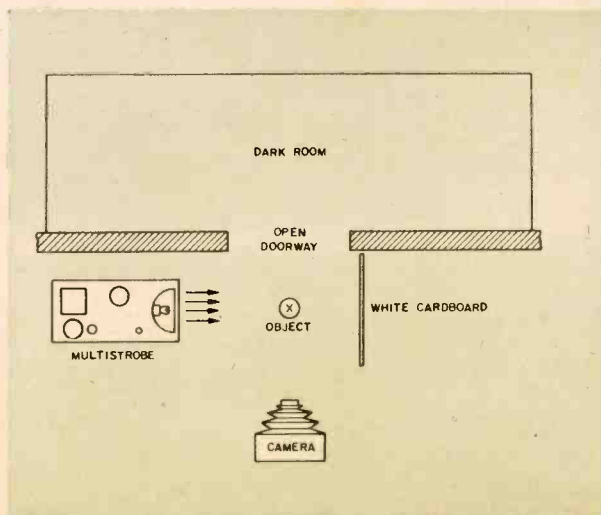
Plug in all tubes and with R2 and R4 fully counterclockwise, SW2 *open*, turn on SW1 and allow the unit to heat for at least 30 seconds. While holding SW3 down, slowly rotate R4 clockwise; about $\frac{1}{8}$ rotation. V3 should begin to flash quite slowly. The flashing rate should rise quite linearly as R4 is rotated in the clockwise direction. R2 serves as a fine-frequency adjustment. With both R2 and R4 fully clockwise, the flash repetition rate should be about 60 per second or 3,600 per minute.

Next, with SW3 open, throw SW2 on, and return the controls to their full counterclockwise positions. Again depress SW3 and slowly rotate R4 clockwise until the high-intensity multiflashes begin. Leave R4 at a point slightly beyond the point where flashing starts; in this position, greatest multiflash reliability will be obtained. Repetition rate may now be fully controlled by R2 for picture-taking.

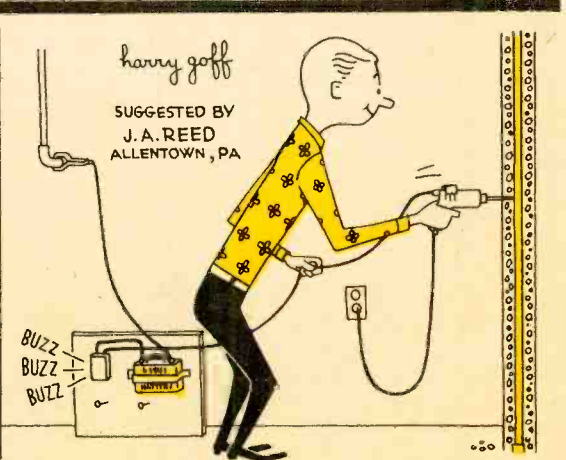
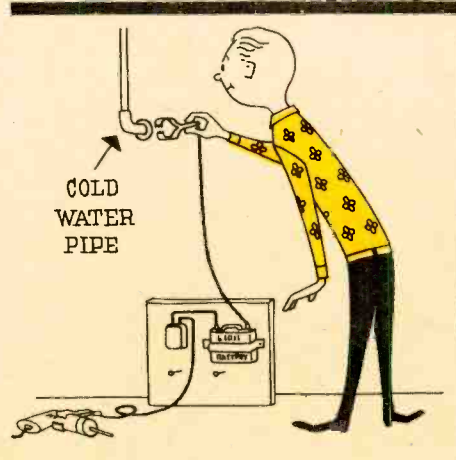
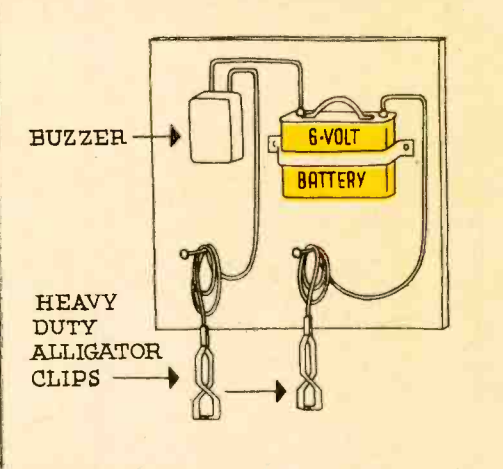
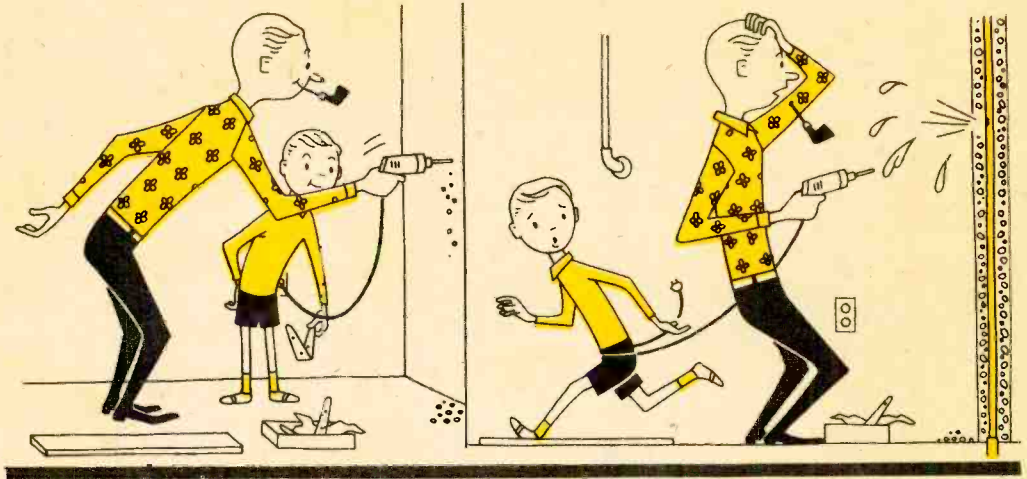
Calibration

If R2 is left in its full clockwise position
[Continued on page 108]

Multiflash lighting setup. A dark background is essential to obtain good strobe photos.



Henry and Me

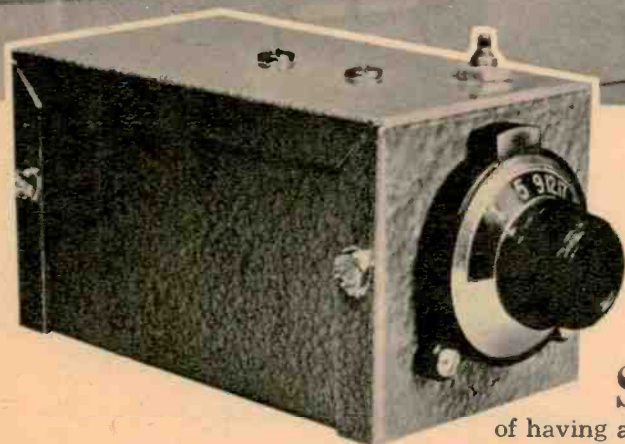


CB Tuning Adapter

By Herbert Friedman



Small size of this variable tuning unit makes it ideal for permanent or mobile rigs.



SOME Citizens Band units suffer from the handicap of having a non-tunable receiver. Tuning these rigs is accomplished by plugging in the proper crystal which holds you rock-steady to the selected channel. But on the other hand, if you want to roam the frequencies and see who else is cluttering up the channels, you need a fistful of crystals or you're stuck.

Here's a little receiver tuning adapter that can release you from your rock-bound state. The adapter uses no tubes or transistors and the cost of parts is slightly more than the price of one crystal. No modifications are required in the transceiver's wiring, thereby keeping resale or trade-in value of the transceiver at maximum. The adapter plugs directly into the crystal socket, and although originally designed for the Globe CB-100, it is easily adjusted to operate with some other transceivers. Check the schematic of your unit against the oscillator circuit on page 52 to see if this adapter can be used with your rig.

Construction

For home use, the adapter can be wired with solid hook-up wire. If you intend using the unit in an automobile or boat, number 16 or 18 buss bar wire should be used to insure stability under vibration conditions.

Coaxial cable is used for the connecting cable to insure frequency stability. There is no hand capacity effect while tuning and the frequency drift of the several units built has been negligible.

Coil L1 consists of five turns of #16 wire wound on a one-inch form or dowel and then stretched to a length of about one inch. It does not matter if L1 isn't exactly one inch or unevenly spaced as capacitor C3 will compensate.

An inexpensive vernier dial is used for tuning ease. The vernier is mounted in the exact center of the front panel. Place a 1/4" spacer or a 1/4" stack of washers between the C3's mounting foot

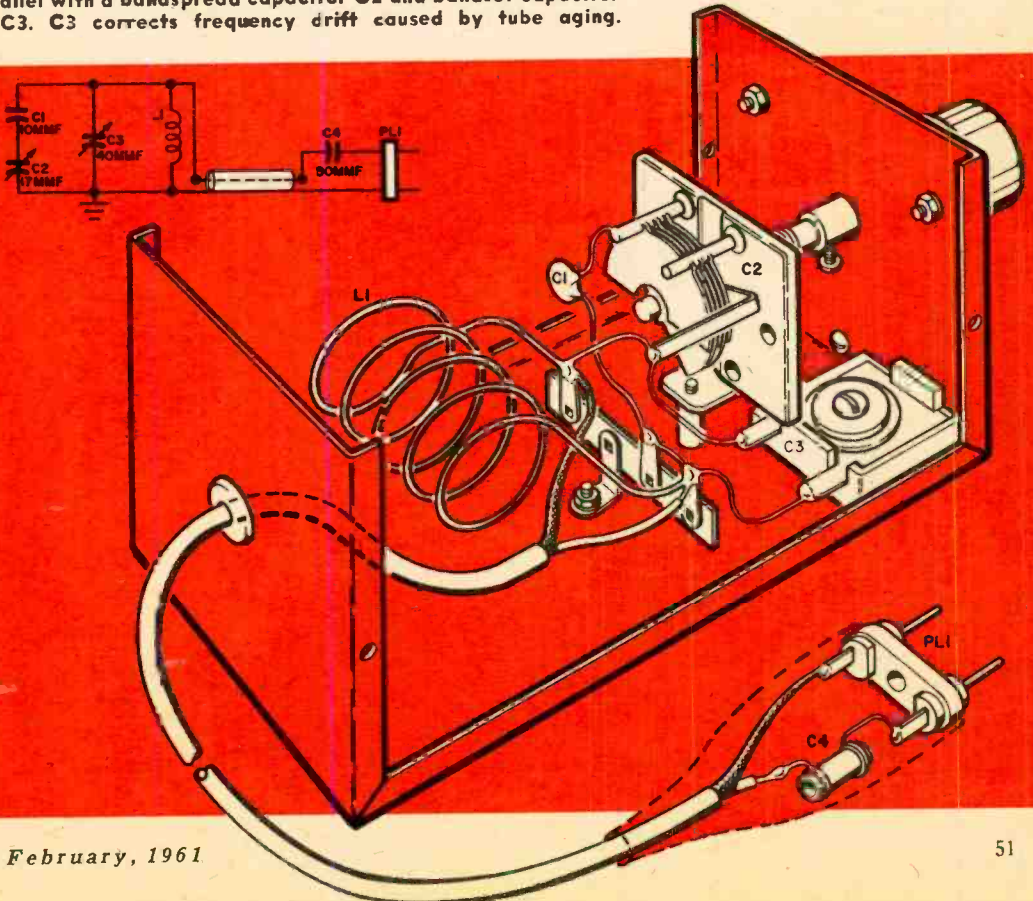
and the cabinet. Trimmer C3 mounts in a single hole and has sufficient spring loading to prevent a change in setting because of vibration.

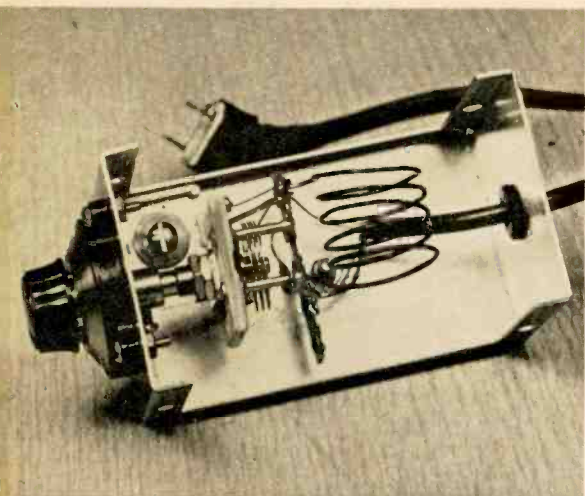
The coaxial cable should be 15 inches before stripping. This length is somewhat critical for the capacity of the cable is used as part of the tuning capacitance. However, if another inch or two is required to simplify mounting it can be added. Strip the rubber outer covering on one end of the coaxial cable for a length of 1.5 inches and pull the center conductor through the shield just

PARTS LIST

- C1—10 mmf disc capacitor
- C2—2.8-17.5 mmf variable capacitor (Hammarlund Type HF-15)
- C3—30 or 40 mmf maximum capacity trimmer capacitor
- C4—50 mmf tubular capacitor
- L1—See text
- PL1—See text
- Cabinet, 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" x 4"
- Misc.—Vernier dial (Lafayette type F-384 or Calrad), 15' of RG-58/U coaxial cable, wire brads, wire, grommet, 3-lug tie post

Referring to the schematic, the adapter, coil L1, is in parallel with a bandspread capacitor C2 and bandset capacitor C3. C3 corrects frequency drift caused by tube aging.





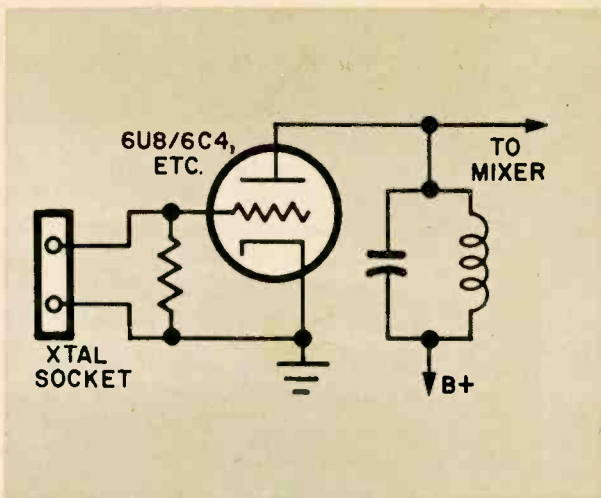
Interior layout of this unit is straightforward. Tuner is unaffected by hand capacity.

at the outer covering. This end is wired inside the tuner as shown. For greater rigidity, thoroughly tin the exposed portion of the shield.

Plug Assembly

Plug PL1 consists of a crystal socket and two nails, which are fitted firmly (not forced) into the socket. To insure good contact and prevent rust, tin both nails. Next, sweat solder the nails into the crystal socket, making certain the nails are vertical and parallel. Trim the nails to a length of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch using a pair of sturdy side-cutters. This completes the plug.

Connect PL1 to the free end of the coaxial cable as shown. The coax's outer covering is stripped one inch and the center conductor is again pulled through the shield. The shield is soldered to one terminal of the plug. Mark this terminal. The center conductor is soldered close to a 50 mmf tubular capacitor C4. The other end of C4 is soldered equally close to the second plug terminal. Note that C4 is more than a DC grid block. If it is placed anywhere other than specified, the coaxial cable series capacity will cause instability. Tightly bind the plug and coaxial cable with electrical tape. PL1 plugs into the crystal socket on the transceiver. The tuning ratio of C2 must be reduced for




Tuner will work only with this type crystal oscillator circuit. Just plug into Xtal socket.

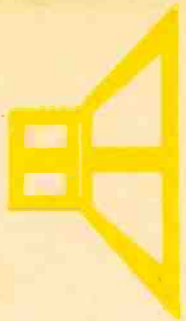
the Citizens Band. A 10 mmf disc capacitor (C1) in series with C2 will reduce the tuning ratio, with channels 1 through 22 occupying most of the dial.

When the tuner is complete punch a $1\frac{1}{4}$ " hole in the transceiver cover directly above the receive crystal socket. Plug the converter's connecting cable in the receive crystal socket on the transceiver, being certain the ground terminal is properly oriented. Set the vernier dial to mid-scale, set C2's plates to half mesh and then tighten the vernier drive shaft set screw.

Calibration

Now turn on the transceiver and adjust C3 slowly until either a CB station or maximum noise is heard. The converter is now tuned to the Citizens Band. You can attach the cover of the Minibox to the transceiver, then place the converter on the Minibox cover. Tighten all screws firmly. Next tune in a CB station of known frequency and adjust main tuning capacitor C2 to any calibration you desire.

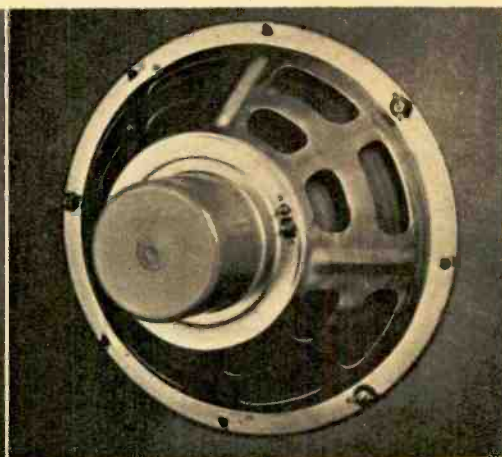
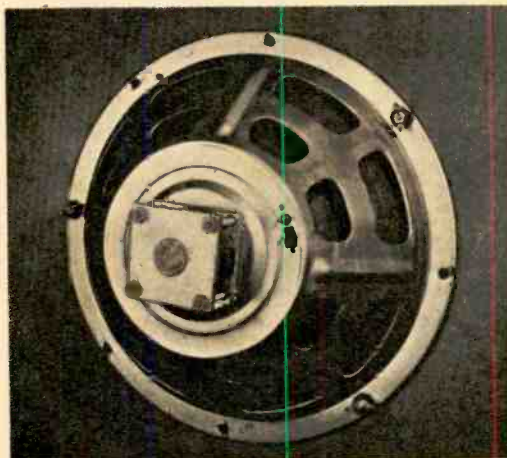
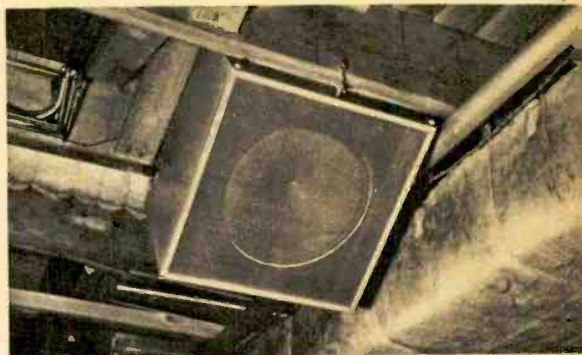
It is suggested that channel 11 be set for mid-scale. This will result in a reasonably linear dial. By adjusting the tuning capacitor toward minimum capacity the stronger 10-meter amateur stations that may be broadcasting can be heard. 



Speaker Leads

Speaker in the Ceiling

A test speaker is a very useful accessory and since it requires no handling, it should not occupy valuable workbench space. In a basement shop, the ceiling is a good place for it. Suspend it by hooks and eyes (as shown) so that it can be removed readily if desired.



Improving Speaker Appearance

Many PM speakers and field-coil type speakers can be improved in appearance by covering the magnets or coils with plastic or aluminum cups. Sales or trade value will increase also. Plastic or aluminum cups and bowls are available in a variety of sizes, so fitting one should not be a problem. Avoid tin and steel cups for this purpose.



Speaker Protection Shield

A simple cover can protect your speaker cone while it is in transit. As shown in the photos, the cover is simply a 13" diameter disc cut from 1/8" composition board. Two radial slots, each containing a bolt and nut, permits the shield to fit speakers from 12 to 16 inches in diameter. If you use a section of pegboard, it can be left on while the speaker is playing.

EI'S Hi-Fi Doctor

Audio Fact and Fiction—II: "Efficiency"

TO continue our exploration of the "mythology of hi-fi," let's move in this month for a close look at the question of speaker efficiency. As a term that pops up everywhere from casual audio salesroom conversations to high-powered advertising copy, "efficiency" is a concept well worth understanding. For a long time, though, it has been one of the most misunderstood and misused terms in the entire lingo of hi-fi.

Not too long ago, before the arrival of speakers like the AR-1 and KLH, the average audiophile used "efficiency" as a word of praise. If a speaker was efficient, it was good. At the moment, the situation is reversed, with "low-efficiency" often cited as a virtue by those who read and write speaker advertisements. Unless you're already used to this kind of about-face in automobile advertising, where today's heresy is tomorrow's truth, it's pretty hard to go along with the notion that efficiency can be a good thing one day and bad the next.

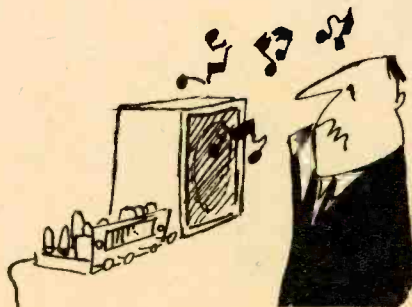
By itself, efficiency is simply a word to describe how well a speaker does in turning its input signal into audible sound. If a speaker converts two watts of electrical signal input into one watt of acoustical power, it is 50% efficient—and only two or three expensive horn-loaded speaker systems are anywhere near that efficient. But a speaker's efficiency, whether low or high, has nothing to do with its overall quality. It's simply a by-product of a speaker's particular design. Rather than as an index of quality, the real importance of efficiency is in indicating how much amplifier power will be needed for a particular speaker.

Like many other audio specifications, efficiency is usually measured at 1,000 cps—a fact which makes for some interesting by-play with facts and figures. The Klipschorn, for instance, rated as 50% efficient at the 1,000 cps measuring point, takes a sudden sharp drop in out-

put just below 35 cps. At 30 cps, the AR-1, rated at less than 1% efficiency, produces twice as much sound as the Klipsch for a given input power. Which speaker, then, is actually more *efficient*? Unless you listen only to the lowest organ pedal tones, the Klipsch is still the winner, needing only ten watts of amplifier power for most listening situations as against thirty *clean* watts for the AR-1 woofers.

It's easy to see why early audiophiles might have mistaken *efficiency* for *quality*. But why the current use of "low-efficiency" as an index of good performance? Simply because of the popularity of inefficient systems like the AR and KLH, and the desire of other manufacturers to indicate that their units have the same virtues *because* of low-efficiency. Some inefficient systems *are* as good as the AR and KLH, but certainly not *because* they demand high-powered amplifiers.

How important is efficiency, then? Well, one point to remember is that efficiency is a *problem* only when you can't afford to buy or build an amplifier of thirty or more watts. As with any audio component, your choice of a speaker should depend on how it *sounds* to you. If your choice turns out to be an inefficient speaker, you'll need a high-powered amplifier, not for loudness alone—which almost any amplifier can produce—but for reserve power to handle loud musical passages without distortion. *More on Power next month.*



and Clinic

Switching Cartridges

I switched from a crystal to a magnetic cartridge in my changer and suddenly my changer began to make sort of a humming noise through my hi-fi system once every revolution of the turntable. Is this due to hum pickup by the magnetic cartridge?

Robert Shearer, Waterville, Maine

On a friend's advice I traded in my old magnetic cartridge for one of the new miniature types with improved frequency response, but it has a type of "buzz" or vibration that comes through the speaker on certain notes. The same cartridge sounds okay on my friend's system. Can you explain this?

George Wolfe, Latrobe, Pa.

There's a lesson to be learned from the two questions above. When dealing with any equipment as sensitive as good hi-fi often is, don't assume any components can be added or replaced without proper adjustment, compensation, or matching. In the first case of the "hum pickup," I doubt that it is *hum* that's bothering Robert. More likely the problem is due to turntable rumble since the noise is described as cyclical (once per revolution). The better low frequency response of the new magnetic cartridge reproduced it when the older crystal cartridge could not. The solution to the problem is either to install a rumble filter or to repair the changer.

The "buzz" that is bothering George is due to weight differences. I suspect that the old cartridge was physically heavier than the new one, and when the new one was installed no compensation was made for weight difference. The buzz that's heard on certain notes is the result of the stylus bouncing from side wall to side wall of the record groove, rather than riding securely on the groove walls as it would with proper stylus force adjustment. Increase stylus pressure a gram at a time until the buzz disappears.

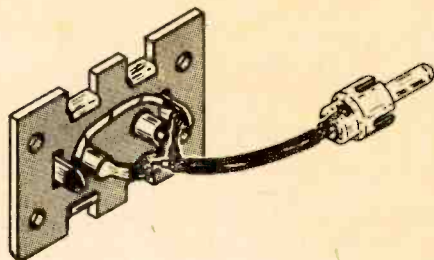
Hi-fi questions are all answered by mail. If of general interest they will appear in this column.

Tape Output Jack

I recently purchased a tape recorder to round out my hi-fi setup. I want to record FM programs but I find that neither my amplifier nor my tuner have an output for connecting a tape recorder. How would I go about connecting a "tape output" jack?

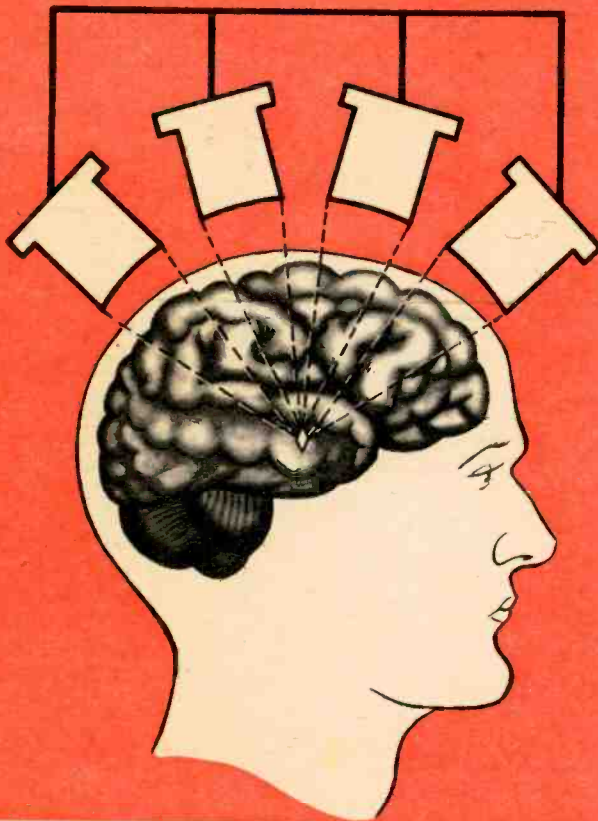
Gerald Armand, San Francisco, Calif.

The best spot to connect a tape output jack would be in parallel with the present output jack on your tuner. You would have the benefit of the usual low impedance output found at this point, and in addition the recording level to your tape machine and the monitoring level of your amplifier could be set independently.



The little adapter shown above can be constructed simply and requires no drilling of the tuner chassis for installation. Prepare a 2" length of shielded wire by installing a standard male phono plug on one end. Now bend the two "hot" terminals of the dual jack (Cinch 81B or G-C 9225) and solder them together with the center conductor of the shielded cable. The shielding of the cable should be brought to the ground lug on one socket of the jacks and a small jumper wire soldered between the ground lugs.

In order to tape off the air and monitor simultaneously, just insert the amplifier and recorder plugs into the adapter which plugs into tuner.



**brain
surgery
by
Ultrasonics**

**Safe and painless, without
harming healthy brain tissue,
ultrasonic beams can fight
tumors deep in the brain.**

By James G. Busse

ANESTHETIZED and at peace with the world, a patient is quietly wheeled into the new operating room at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City and propped up on the operating table, half sitting and half reclining under the large surgical spotlights.

It is no ordinary operating room. One wall is almost entirely covered with electronic equipment. Three oscilloscopes hang from the ceiling. Strange-looking control panels surround the operating table.

The patient, an attractive seventeen-year-old girl from Chicago, has been suffering from chronic headaches and, at times, temporary loss of vision.

High above her head a motor suddenly comes to life and a long mechanical arm descends through a hole in the ceiling of the operating room. At the end of the arm are four electronic instruments resembling huge microphones.

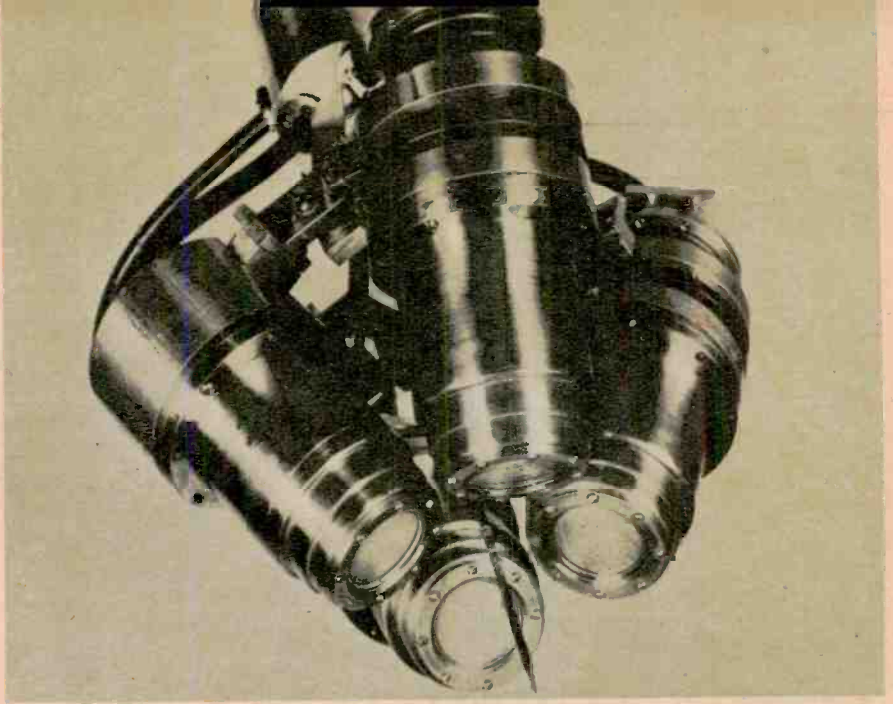
Deep within the patient's brain is a

malignant tumor. Unless it is removed and the pressure on her brain relieved, she will be completely blind in a few months. After that will come paralysis and finally death.

An X-ray technician appears with a fluoroscope to check the depth and exact position of the tumor. He uses four rubber-cushioned braces to secure the patient's head in position. The electronic apparatus attached to the mechanical arm is placed in contact with the patient's skull, and each is carefully aligned.

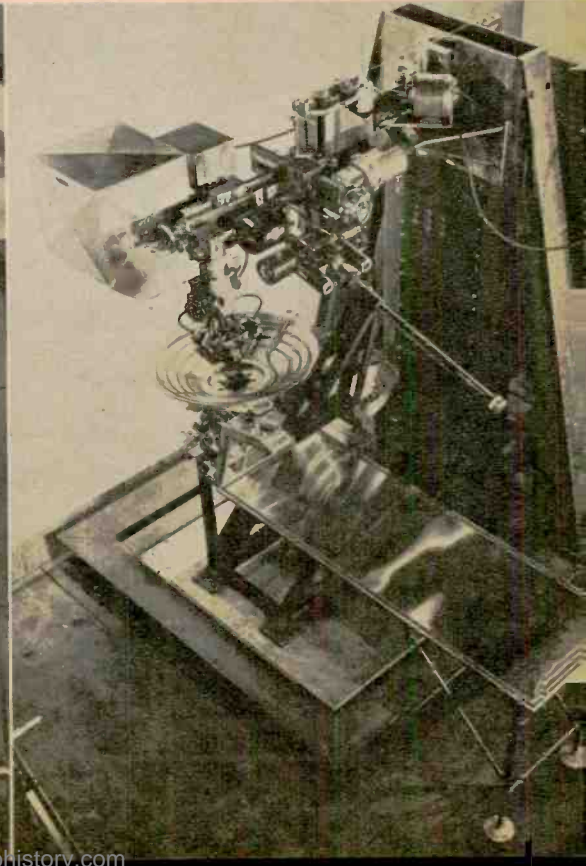
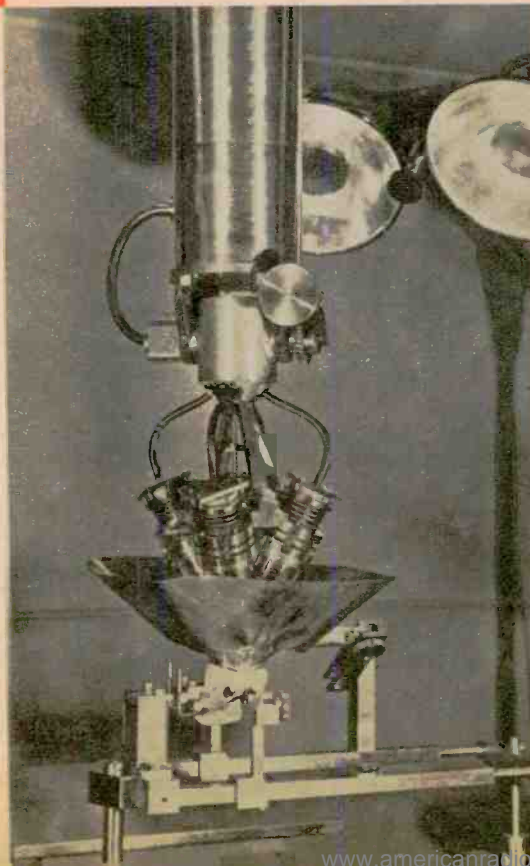
The surgeon is ready to begin the operation. He signals to an electronics technician at one end of the room. The technician quickly switches on to "standby" a battery of power supplies, ultrasonic oscillators, and power amplifiers. He surveys his equipment and nods to the surgeon.

The surgeon turns from the operating table to a small control panel mounted below the three [Continued on page 101]



Four transducers each emit an ultrasonic beam too weak to affect brain tissues, but where four beams meet, unhealthy cells are destroyed. No need to cut skull or scalp.

Left, experimental setup focused on animal skull. Joint on boom lets transducers be aimed in optimum direction. "Operation" lasts seconds, may be repeated with beams at a different angle. Conscious patient feels nothing, has no "operating room" fear.





Stan Hatfield, above, makes good use of his test gear in tracking down tape recorder circuit ailments. His shelves are stocked with spare parts for all makes and models of home and professional recorders. At left, Stan marches out of his shop to deliver two "good-as-new" machines.

El's money making careers in electronics

Tape Recorder Doctor

By James Joseph

In this era of the specialist, there seems to be room aplenty for those with tape machine know-how.

STANLEY R. Hatfield made a wise move when he decided to tune-in on tapes for a living—the billions of feet of magnetic tape reeling through the nation's more than 2.2-million tape recorders.

As a kind of doctor of magnetism, Hatfield cures tape recorders of what ails them, sending them back healthy to their owners—stereo fans, industrial researchers and businessmen with a penchant for putting thoughts on tape.

Hatfield presides over a well-equipped [*Continued on page 106*]

By latching onto a few service warranty deals whereby he backstops the machine maker's 90-day to one-year service warranty, Hatfield has been able to build a thriving business. Local retail dealers also require reliable tape specialists.



More and more business concerns are using magnetic tape dictating machines. This has opened a broad new area of opportunity for the serviceman. In addition to those of home and industrial recorder users. Stan is service agent for the Geloso and Grundig tape recorders.



Printed circuitry is the trend in home and portable recorders, again pointing up the need for specialized servicemen who know how to make repairs on a printed board.

single power transistor doubles in brass as a

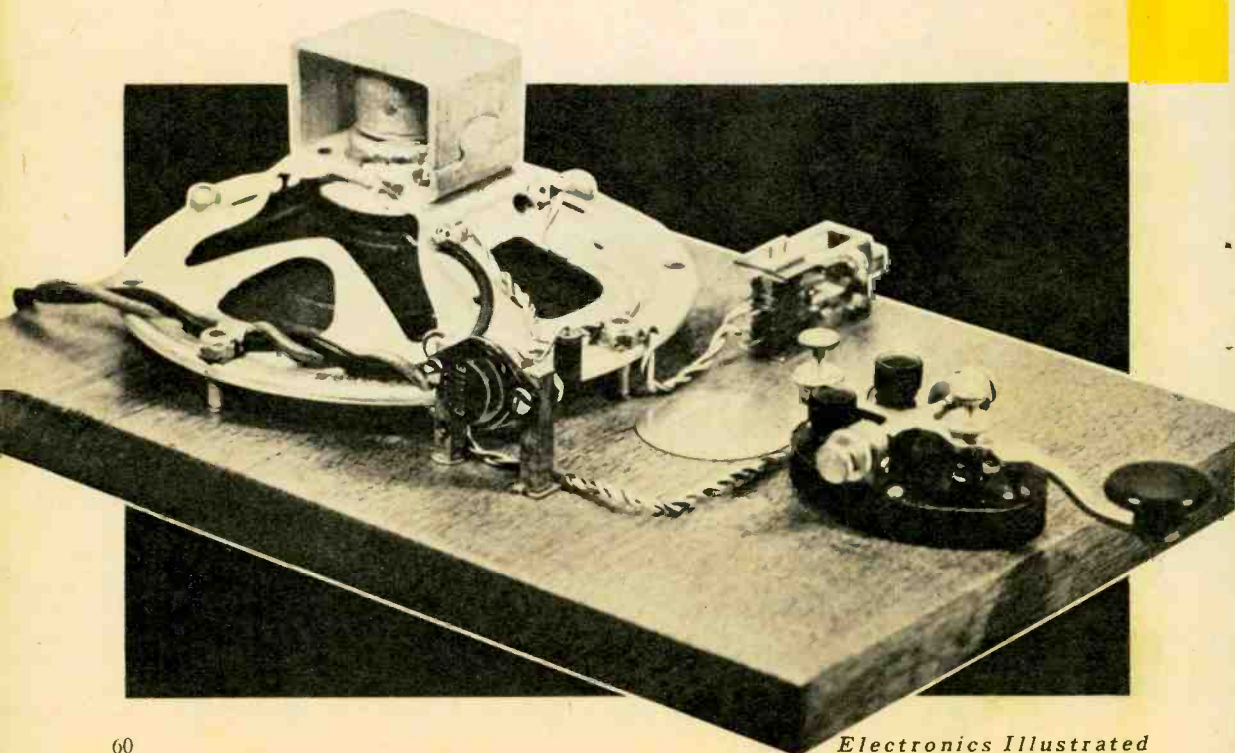
Code Practice Oscillator-Amplifier

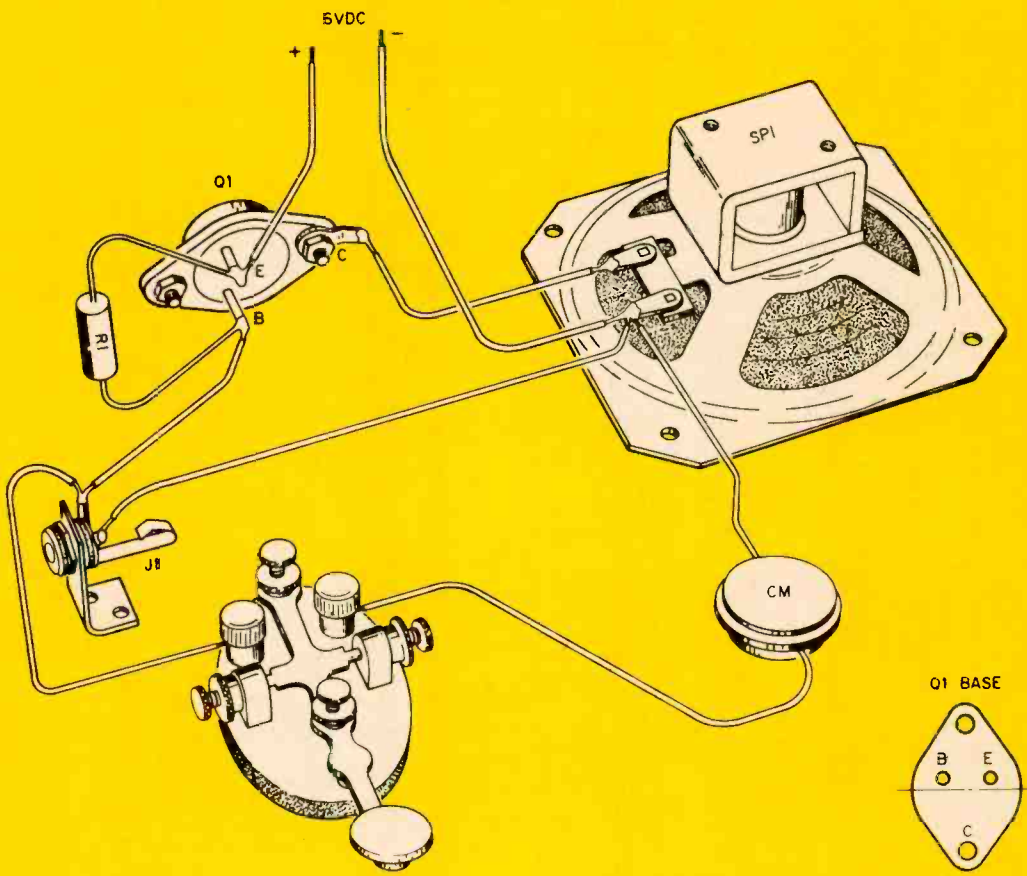
By Roy Pafenberg

THAT old headache, acoustical feedback can be useful—as the performance of this oscillator proves. Full loudspeaker volume and excellent keying characteristics are achieved by combining the simplicity of basic transistor amplifier and an acoustic feedback oscillator.

The instrument shown is probably the simplest that will provide the performance required of a classroom code practice oscillator. It consists of a carbon microphone button (CM) driving a common emitter power amplifier stage directly coupled to the voice coil of a PM speaker. The circuit has been tested with a wide variety of speakers, microphones and power transistors (2N34A, 2N255, 2N256, 2N554) and is completely non-critical.

Any convenient layout may be employed, although the bread-board layout shown offers the advantages of accessibility and ease of construction. No assembly precautions other than the placement of the microphone, are required. All components are mounted to the board with machine screws and the retaining



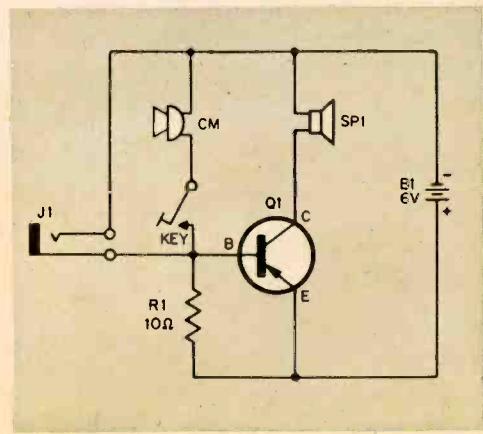


Only a few simple connections are required. Note ground lug at collector junction of transistor Q1.

- PARTS LIST
- R1—10 ohm, 2 watt resistor
 - Q1—Power transistor (see text)
 - B1—6-volt battery (single six-volt battery or four 1.5-volt cells in series)
 - J1—phone jack
 - SPI—4" or 5" PM speaker
 - CM—carbon microphone button
 - Key—Standard telegraph key

nuts are recessed in the underside of the board. The transistor is mounted on two metal standoff posts salvaged from a surplus transmitter. Since no heat sink is required in this application, any convenient means of mounting the transistor may be used. A solder lug is secured under one of the transistor mounting screws and used as the collector connection. Tube socket pins
 [Continued on page 113]

With key open, unit functions as a low-power audio amplifier. Jack J1 serves as input.





a citizen's band problem

TV Interference

Your CB license does not permit you to scramble your neighbors' TV pictures. Watch out for TVI.

By Tom Kneitel, 2W1965

CERTAINLY one of the most vexing problems which can face a CB'er is television interference (TVI); after all, it involves his neighbors. If, like many CB'ers, you are faced with a TVI situation, what can and should you say to your neighbors, what should you do, what is your responsibility?

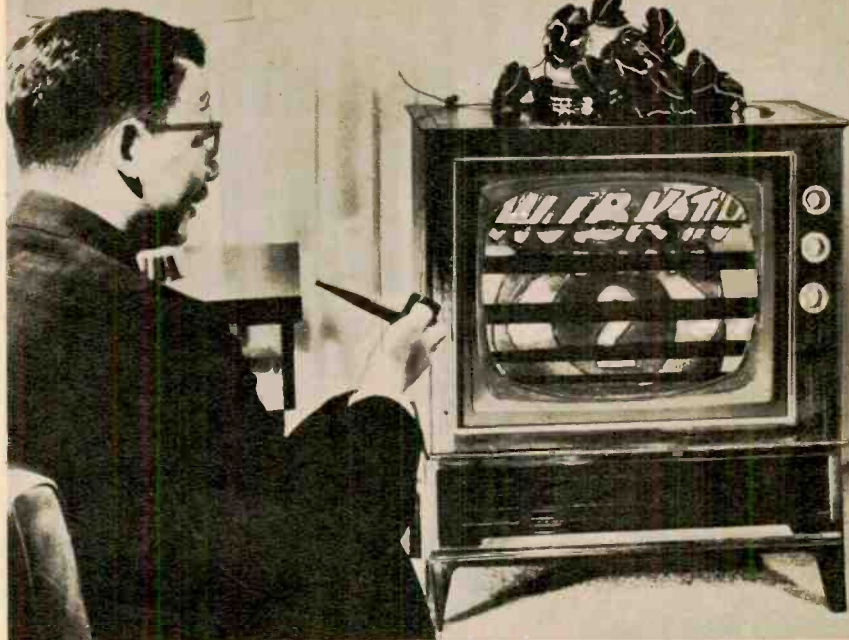
If you are accused, don't get angry and insulted—for all you know you might actually be the cause of the interference. Invite your neighbor in, listen to his complaint—be sympathetic, see his point of view. After all, he did pay good money for his TV set, and now he can't see the picture.

Show him your equipment. Explain that you have been issued a license by the Federal government for the operation of a radio station which does not transmit over a TV channel, but within a special band of frequencies set aside for the Citizens Radio service. Don't go into any kind of long-winded

Rube Goldberg technical explanation—he doesn't want a course in communications engineering, he wants only to regain the use of his TV set. Tell him that, like his TV set, your transmitter is also a piece of commercially made precision equipment. If it is interfering with his TV reception no doubt something is out of whack, either in your set or in his receiver. If you have no TVI on your own receiver, show him. Don't tell him right off the bat that *his* set is no good. Send him home with the assurance that you will take immediate steps to ascertain the reasons for the TVI.

Now you need to understand a few things about how your little rig might kick up.

The circuits in your transmitter can produce more frequencies than the 27-mc output frequency you are using. For one thing, you are probably using a "third overtone" crystal that actually



A harmonic from your transmitter can wreak havoc on nearby TV sets. So can the 27mc fundamental signal. Either the transmitter or the TV set may be at fault.

operates at about 9 mc, with "tripling" in the oscillator output circuit, or in the circuit of another tube, including the final amplifier. The operating conditions that produce these multiples of the original *fundamental* frequency can also produce other *harmonics*. You might be getting whiffs of energy at 36, 45, 54 and other multiples of 9 mc. Furthermore, your nominal "fundamental" of 27 mc may be splitting up into multiples, too, like 54, 81, 108 mc, etc., especially if the output stage is being driven a little hard ("souping up" a Citizens Band transmitter can result in heavy harmonic production). The output circuit of your transmitter is designed to be efficient only at 27 mc, but it *can* pass these other frequencies. Even if they are passed "inefficiently" they can do a lot of harm. Incidentally, harmonic power is wasted power; your [Continued on page 96]

High pass filters for the TV set, shown here, low pass filters for CB rig are easy remedies.





Tune Your Antenna

Get the most out of your ham rig. This unit will resonate most antennas in the 10-80 meter band.

By Howard S. Pyle, W70E

LOOKING for something simple, inexpensive and easy to build in an antenna tuner? Here's your answer! Designed primarily for use with the *Pogo Stick* antenna described in the August, 1960 *Electronics Illustrated*, it will give an excellent account of itself on any random-length antenna, horizontal or vertical, using a single-wire feeder or coaxial cable.

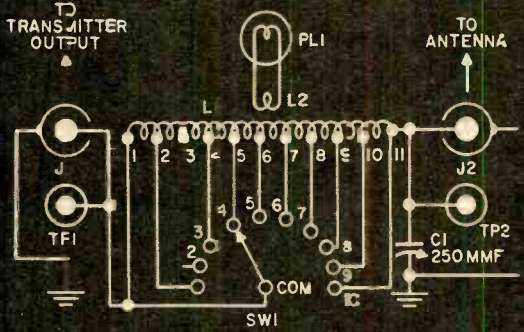
The circuit will be recognized as a conventional L/C network. With the constants shown in the Parts List, the writer has had no trouble in resonating several types of antennas and transmitters in the bands from 10-80 meters. Provision is made for input to the Tuner from the transmitter either by means of coaxial cable or a single insulated wire. Coaxial cable (the writer uses RG-58/U) is preferable however, and should be kept short; not over 18" if possible. If coaxial cable is chosen for the input line, J1 may be omitted. The same arrangement is provided on the output side of the tuner. If you use coax line, TP2 may be omitted; conversely, if an open-wire feeder is used J2 need not be installed.

The coil L1, is tapped every fifth turn and the turns connected in numerical sequence to ten points of the tap switch. (The writer used an 11-point switch which he had on hand, setting the stop for ten positions.) L2 is merely one turn of #14 solid wire in a spaghetti insulating sleeving, wrapped around L1 and the two ends soldered to tuning lamp bracket PL1. Note that the actual number of turns in L2 and its positioning along L1 is a variable and is dependent on transmitter power. Using a Knight-Kit T-50 transmitter running 50 watts input, two of the indicator lamps burned out initially! With a Johnson *Navigator* transmitter, at

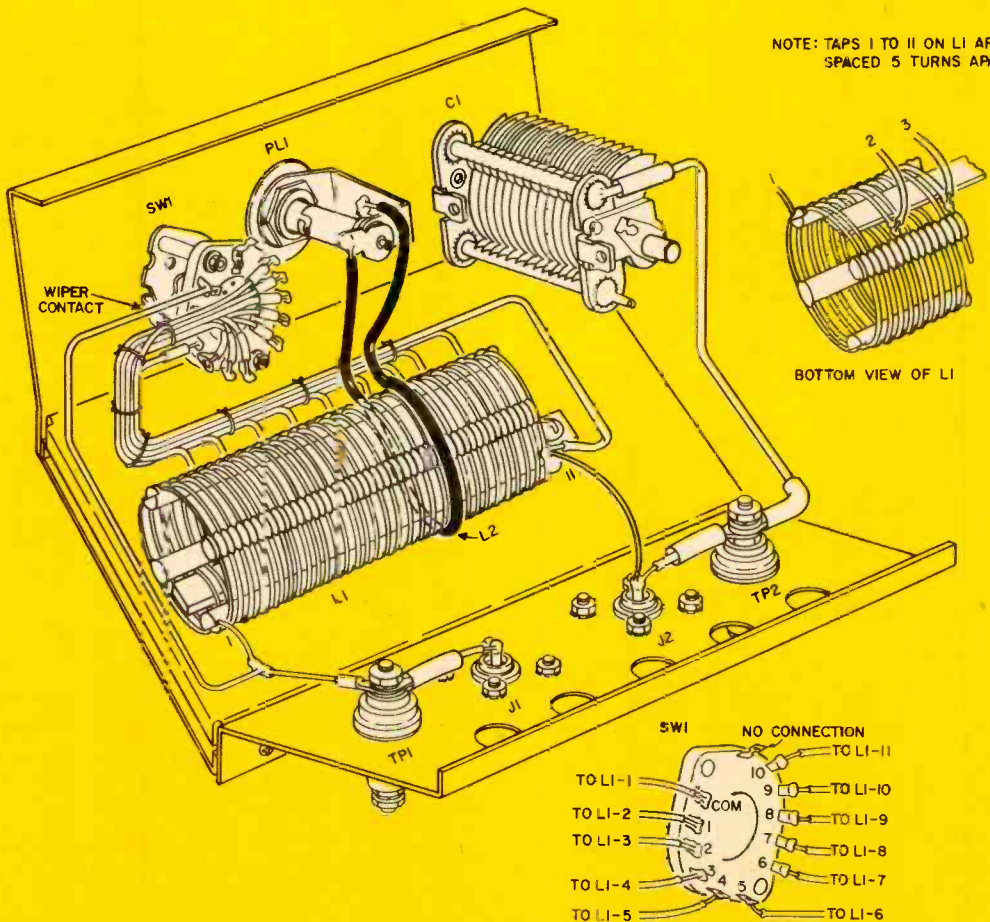
PARTS LIST

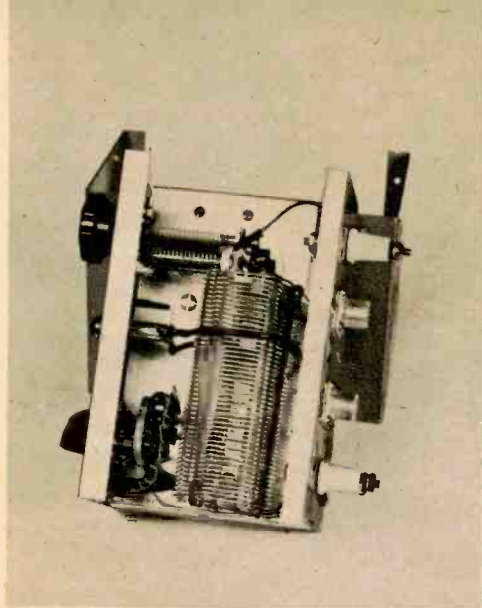
- C1—250 mmf variable tuning capacitor (Hammarlund MC-250-M or equiv.)
- L1—Tuning coil, 2" diameter 48 turns (Illumitronic 1610T or equiv.)
- L2—1 turn #14 wire (insulated, see text)
- PL1—#47 pilot lamp and assembly
- SW1—Single pole, 11-position non-shorting, switch (10 used)
- J1, J2—Coaxial chassis receptacle (Amphenol SO-239 or equiv.)
- TP1, TP2—Porcelain feed-through insulators (Johnson 135-40 or equiv.)
- Cabinet—The author used a special cabinet, however, a Minibox CU-3008A will do
- Misc.—Knobs, dials, hardware.

Main wiring connects tuning coil L1 to the rotary switch SW1 in sequence.



Schematic of unit. At resonance, power into antenna, will cause lamp PL1 to glow brightly.





Interior view. Adequate space is provided for all components. Coil L1 is insulated.

35 watts input, one turn for L2 produced normal brilliancy of PL1 at peak adjustment. Experiment a bit with your input power reduced before securing L2.

If your transmitter is in the 75 watt or higher class, put about a 1-watt resistor of about 47 ohms across the bulb initially, otherwise it may burn out. You may wish to leave this shunt in place permanently; I did when using a Johnson *Ranger* at 85 watts input! If the brilliancy of your #47 pilot lamp is too great before reaching peak, you might try replacing it with an NE-51 neon lamp (without a shunt). This worked well with the *Ranger* although it's not quite as sensitive as the #47 lamp.

Coax feed automatically "grounds" the tuner chassis to the transmitter, but for longwire antennas (and the "other" wire of a 2-wire feeder) a chassis screw is installed near T2.

Tuning is simple, but your first attempts may take a bit of "juggling." Set your transmitter band switch on ten meters (15 for novices!), and keep your transmitter input w-a-y down, but in resonance. Set switch SW1 on the antenna tuner to the first position. Rotate C1 very slowly, watching the final plate current meter, keeping it at resonance (dip point). Check the antenna load control on your transmitter frequently

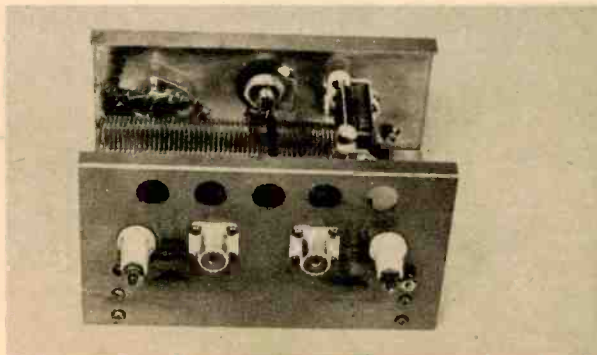
because all of these controls interact. As you approach resonance in the antenna tuner, PL1 should begin to glow. Slowly bring it up to greatest brilliancy by alternately adjusting your final amplifier plate current, antenna loading coil and C1 on the antenna tuner. Then try other taps on SW1 to attain the greatest brilliancy of PL1.

If, after going through the entire range of C1 in the Antenna Tuner, you have found no glow in PL1, increase the current in your final amplifier stage a bit and repeat the process. Do this several times, always keeping the final stage resonant. If still no results, check your wiring and components of the tuner, you may have goofed somewhere.

The object is to get the greatest glow possible within PL1's rating on each band. Less than normal brilliancy is nothing to be concerned about provided that the lamp glows brightest at some setting of C1 and SW1 and falls off rapidly on either side. Leave it at the peak setting, mark your dials or make up a chart for each band, and you'll find it quick and easy to return to maximum performance wherever you work.

As a final check for the dubious, hold a little NE-51 neon lamp on your antenna lead (if open wire). You'll find that at peak brilliancy on the antenna tuner, you'll get peak glow in the neon. Your antenna is getting all that your transmitter can give it; what the antenna *does* with it in the way of radiation, is something else again; that's between you and the antenna!

Flexibility is insured by using either a coaxial or single wire input jack on the tuner.





New Life For Your Record Changer

PART II

By Walter Salm

LAST month we discussed the basic repair and replacement procedure. Now after reassembly of the mechanism, there are a number of adjustments that should be made to wrap up the job.

On the Level

A frequent contributor to distortion is a record changer "that's not on the level." The turntable must be exactly horizontal or the tone arm will be pulled toward the inner or outer grooves. Rotate the turntable slowly with a spirit level resting on the mat and make sure that the bubble is centered in all positions of rotation. (Fig. 1) Some cardboard shims under the base of the changer or adjustment leveling screws

in the feet of the cabinet will do the trick.

Stylus Wear

A worn needle is worst possible villain you can encounter in the department of "how to ruin records." The proper groove position is shown in Fig. 2. The wear is never visible to the naked eye, and if you try to tell by how the record sounds, the needle is already wreaking all kinds of havoc on tender record grooves. The best way to tell if a needle is worn is to check it under a microscope looking for "flats." Microscopes are generally available for your use in most large record stores. Buy a diamond replacement stylus, the only

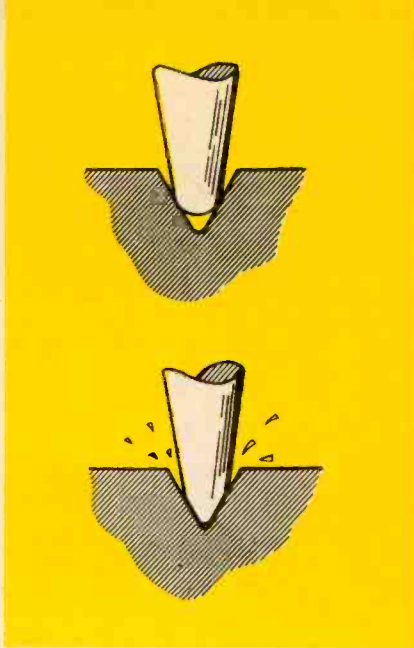


Fig. 2 ▲

◀ Fig. 1

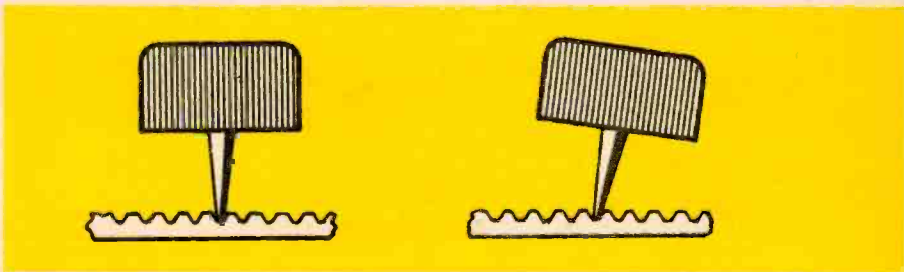


Fig. 3 ▶

needle that is long-wearing. Cost per playing time for the diamond is a small fraction of the cost of a sapphire tip.

Tilt Troubles

A new needle can still ruin records if it is not exactly perpendicular to the turntable surface (Fig. 3). Frequently the cartridge will not line up properly, causing disastrous needle tilt. This trouble is characterized by a whoosh-whooshing sound that gets louder and softer as the record revolves. Tilt can cause excessive needle talk also. The best way to check for stylus alignment is to place a mirror on the turntable and rest the pickup arm on it. (Fig. 4) When you observe the alignment of the stylus and its reflection from the edge of the turntable, it's easy to see if the stylus is

exactly in the proper playing position.

A tilted condition can be easily remedied by placing one or two small flat washers on the mounting screw between the cartridge and the pickup arm shell (Fig. 5). You will probably have to experiment with the thickness and number of washers to get the right alignment. If your cartridge is of the magnetic type, be sure that the washers are fiber or a nonferrous metal. A steel washer used next to a magnetic cartridge can cause distortion.

Stylus Pressure

Before closing up shop check the stylus pressure with a commercial gauge. For LP records anywhere from two to eight grams may be specified by the manufacturer of the cartridge. Note

that too light a stylus pressure for a specific cartridge can cause just as much trouble as too much pressure. Most changers have a weight adjustment in the form of a tension spring near the pivot end of the pickup arm like one of those shown in Fig. 6. There will be a screwdriver or thumbscrew adjustment that you can make very easily. Different models will have variations in the mechanism, but the idea will be the same for almost all models. Consult the

manufacturer's literature if in doubt.

Check Again

After you have finished all the servicing and adjustments, check the turntable once again with the spirit level, since you may have thrown it off balance by handling it. When everything checks out, put on your favorite jazz combo or Beethoven symphony and enjoy the fruits of your labor. You'll agree that it's been worth the trouble. ♣

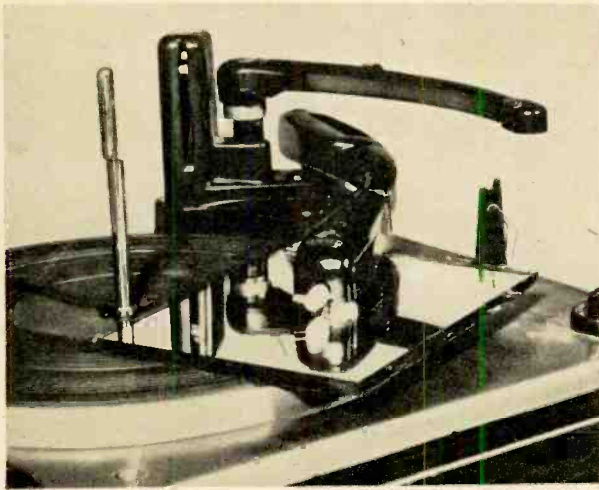


Fig. 4 ▲

Fig. 5 ▼

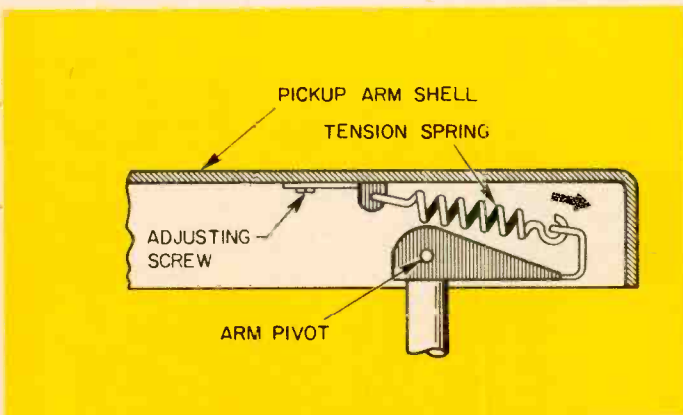
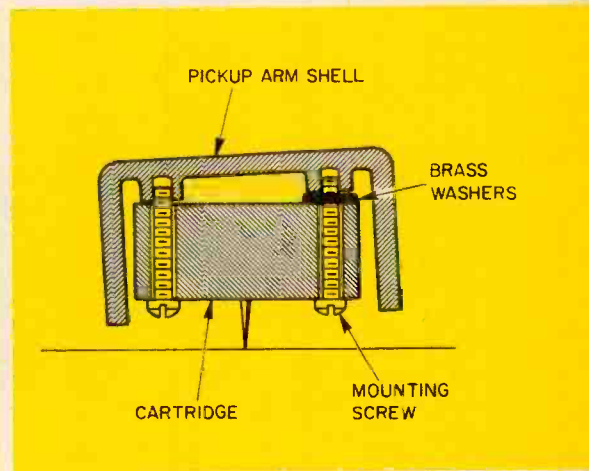


Fig. 6A ▲

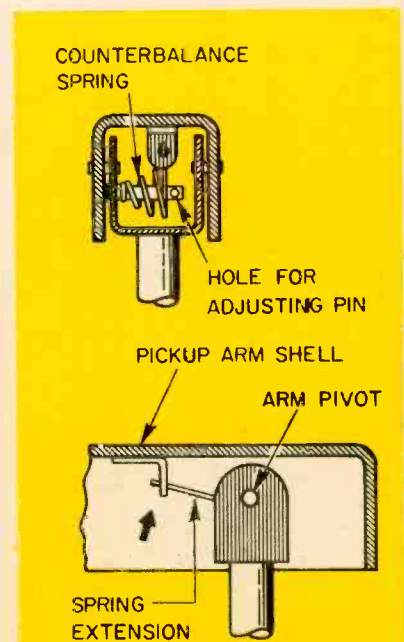


Fig. 6B ►



Automatic Tape Switch

By Ernest Wayland

This inexpensive, easily added switch turns off your recorder when tape ends or if a break occurs.

THERE are certain problems shared by most tape recording fans. The flap-flap-flap as your tape beats itself to shreds at reel's end after rewind is possibly one of the most common and annoying. Unless you have a professional machine, you've probably resigned yourself to a tense wait—finger poised over the “stop” button or to a “40-yard dash” at what you hope is in the nick of time. Of course, if you're the devil-may-care type who lets his recorder go its own merry way, then by now you expect the last several inches of each reel of tape to be mangled, and make proper allowances.

The automatic cutoff of the more expensive machines, not only turns the machine off when the tape has finished, but also functions during playing, as a safety device. Suppose there's a tape break during playback. The usual result is a snarl around the cap-

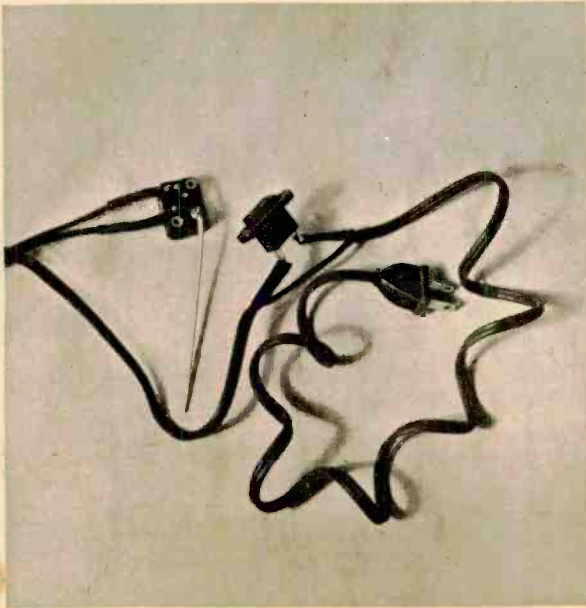
stan and perhaps several ruined inches of your favorite taped musical composition. If an automatic cutoff was in operation, tape movement would have stopped the moment the break occurred. You can install such a cutoff feature on your own machine in about an hour and at a cost of less than \$2.00.

The heart of the cutoff device is a MicroSwitch model V4-12 (MicroSwitch 24-30 Skillman Ave., L. I. C., N. Y. or a local dealer). A 3" length of #18 or heavier copper wire, which serves as a "feeler" is soldered to the brass actuator nub. Insulating sleeving (spaghetti) is slid over the wire to present a smooth surface to the tape. This wire is later bent to the appropriate shape for use with your specific tape deck. (Do not use iron or steel for the feeler rod, as it may develop a magnetic charge and induce noise onto your tapes.) A 1" length of heavy spaghetti is slid over each of the AC line cord wires before they are connected to the terminals of the MicroSwitch. When soldering is completed, the spaghetti is slid down over the terminals to insulate them.

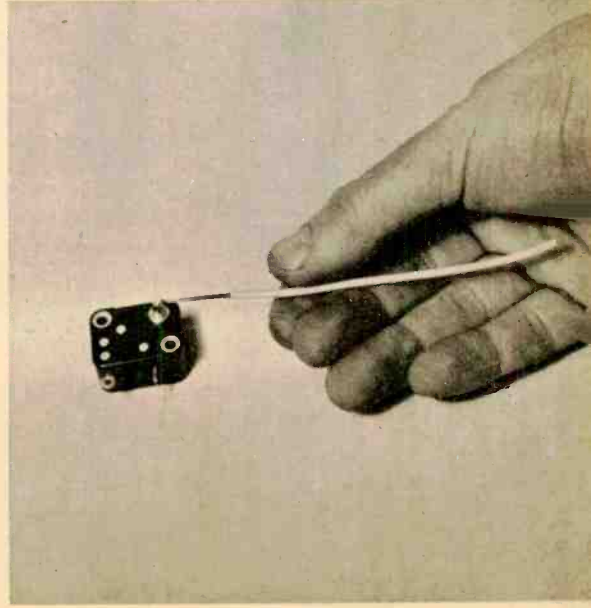
Break into the line cord at a convenient distance from the switch and wire in an AC female outlet. With the AC plug on the end of the wire, connected into a wall outlet, you should now have a simple series circuit with the MicroSwitch turning on and off any device plugged into the AC female socket.

Placement of the switch on your recorder depends mostly on the physical layout of the transport mechanism. A little experimentation may be necessary, but no difficult problems will be encountered. Placement and adjustment are facilitated because the feeler wire can be bent to provide the exact action desired. The switch assembly can be mounted on the tape deck plate by means of a self-tapping screw or even a good grade of glue.

If the mode of operation of your recorder makes it inconvenient to shut off the entire mechanism including amplifier by the MicroSwitch, then the switch can be wired so as to interrupt the current to the motor(s) only, leaving the amplifiers unaffected. In that case no extra line cords need be run to the AC power outlet.



Assembled parts of cutoff system. MicroSwitch goes on tape deck, AC outlet is for recorder.



Flexible insulated copper feeler rod, soldered to MicroSwitch, can be bent to fit as needed.

Electronic Brain

Have you any question on electronics? Send it in and the Electronic Brain will provide the answer.

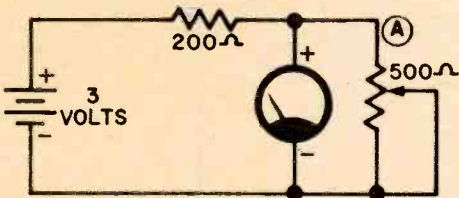
Meter Accuracy and Conversion

(1) What is the best way to check the accuracy of microammeters, milliammeters, and voltmeters?

(2) How can I convert a 0-100 ma meter to one that will read full scale when 20 ma flows through it?

Ralph Haglund, Blanchester, Ohio

(1) The easiest way to check the accuracy of any meter is to match its reading against another meter of known precision in an operating circuit. Current reading instruments are tested connected in series with the standard meter, while voltmeters are connected in parallel with the standard.



If precise meters are not available, accuracy of questionable instruments may be checked by using Ohm's Law. For example, suppose you wanted to test a 0-10 ma meter. The recommended procedure is to select a source of known voltage, say two fresh dry cells in series to provide 3 volts, then compute the resistance required to make the meter read $\frac{3}{4}$ full-scale with this source. Thus:

$$R = \frac{E}{I} = \frac{3 \text{ volts}}{.01 \times .75}$$

since 10 ma = .01 amperes. This gives:

$$R = \frac{3}{.0075} = 400 \text{ ohms}$$

If a 1%, 400 ohm resistor can be obtained, then you can count on this precision in testing; in other words, if the meter is accurate, the reading should be within 1% of 7.5 ma. Deviations from this value will tell you the precision of the meter. Voltmeters are checked

merely by connecting them across a source of known voltage.

(2) Assuming that the sensitivity of the meter movement will permit it to read full-scale when 20 ma flows, all you need do is remove the shunt now in it and replace it with one of higher resistance. Unless the exact resistance of the meter coil is known, the calculation of the shunt resistance value is impossible. It can be determined experimentally, however, without difficulty. Using the same 3 volts previously mentioned, connect the circuit shown in the diagram. Before connecting the battery, be sure that the potentiometer is short-circuited by bringing the wiper up to point A. Connect the battery and then gradually rotate the wiper until the meter reads exactly 15 ma. The potentiometer may be left at this setting permanently, or its circuit value may be measured by a good ohmmeter and a fixed resistor substituted for it.

Mine Detector Modification

Can a Signal Corps mine detector be modified so that it will detect gold and silver? If so, how could this be done?

Leo Hampton, Edmond, Okla.

The mine detectors used by the infantry in World War II were almost exclusively of the beat-frequency oscillator type. In principle, they were quite similar to the metal locator described in the September 1959 issue of *EI*.

Such detectors can differentiate between ferrous (or iron-like metals) and non-ferrous metals since the pitch of the beat-note goes one way for the ferrous and the other way for non-ferrous metals as the lode is approached. But there are many, many non-ferrous metals beside silver and gold: aluminum, copper, tin, and zinc are but a few examples. Thus, a metal detector cannot tell you whether the hidden lode is silver, or other non-ferrous metal.

Tube Parameters

What is meant by the word parameter as used in descriptions of tube and transistor characteristics?

Robert Royale, Rapid City, So. Dakota

In the strictest sense of the word, a parameter is a quantity that can vary, usually between well-defined limits, but which may also be held constant during tests to determine the effect of other variables. An example will help to clarify this.

When you study a group of Average

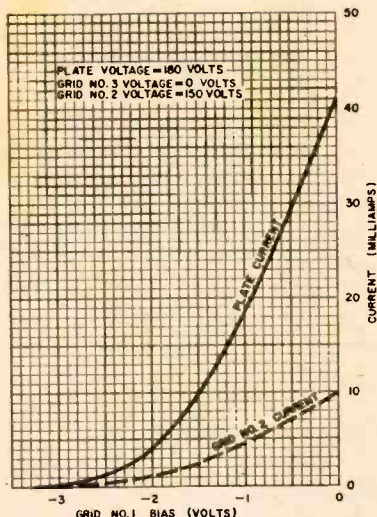


Plate Characteristic curves as found in receiving tube manuals, you find that any single curve is obtained by determining the plate current of the tube for various values of plate voltage with the grid voltage held constant. The curve itself is labelled with the constant value of grid voltage. Now when you go to the next curve of the family, you find a different grid voltage being used. The various values of plate current for the same plate voltages as used in the first curve are now very different from their former values. Such a set of curves should be called "Average Plate Characteristics with Grid Voltage as a Parameter." In other words, the grid voltage is a parameter because it is held constant for any given curve, but is allowed to vary to obtain the family of curves.

Signal Drop in Portable Radio

Why does the output of my portable transistor radio drop to an unusable level in an automobile or bus? Is there any way to cure this?

Jay Dean Kirk, Gallup, New Mexico

A car or bus is virtually an all-steel enclosure. Thus, it acts like a magnetic or "Faraday" shield with respect to anything inside it. The energy of the passing wave merely produces eddy currents in the metal of the enclosure rather than usable signals in the receiver antenna.

The only way to cure this is to erect an antenna outside the car or bus. Such an antenna need not be more than a few feet in length, but should project outward at right angles to the mass of metal. Connection is then made to the transistor input via a very small capacitor, such as 50 mmfd mica or ceramic. The capacitor must be kept small, otherwise it may detune the receiver and necessitate alignment for the new conditions. In the case of the family automobile, the normal car radio antenna may be used nicely, if the car is so equipped. It is necessary to make actual mechanical and electrical connection to the existing ferriloop or other antenna in the radio.

Line Voltage Fuse Check

Sometimes when I replace a blown fuse in my house, the new fuse burns right out. Is there some easy way to tell when the condition that caused the original burnout has been corrected?

Roy Castiller, Pueblo, Colorado

Yes. There is a very neat and very simple trick you can use to do just exactly what you describe.

When you have located the burned-out fuse, remove it and replace it with a standard incandescent lamp of 100 or 150 watts, the larger the better. If the lamp lights to full intensity, the line is short-circuited and a new fuse SHOULD NOT BE INSERTED. Go round to receptacles and other circuits that are controlled by this fuse, removing plugs and turning off switches one at a time. Each time you do this, check the light bulb screwed into the fuse receptacle. When the light extinguishes, you've found the faulty receptacle.

Add Interstation Muting To Your FM Tuner

By Daniel Horowitz

If you've ever had the yen to cut out the interstation noise while tuning your FM receiver, here's a little gadget that will do the job for you.

ARE you bothered by between-station noise when tuning your FM receiver? If so, here is a way to add a Squelch without disturbing the critical circuits of your tuner. The Squelch Unit itself is entirely external and requires only *one* non-critical soldered connection inside the tuner. The circuit employed is a transistorized computer-type Schmitt trigger which flips on and off depending on the exact level of the AGC voltage. The AGC voltage in turn, is determined by the carrier of the in-

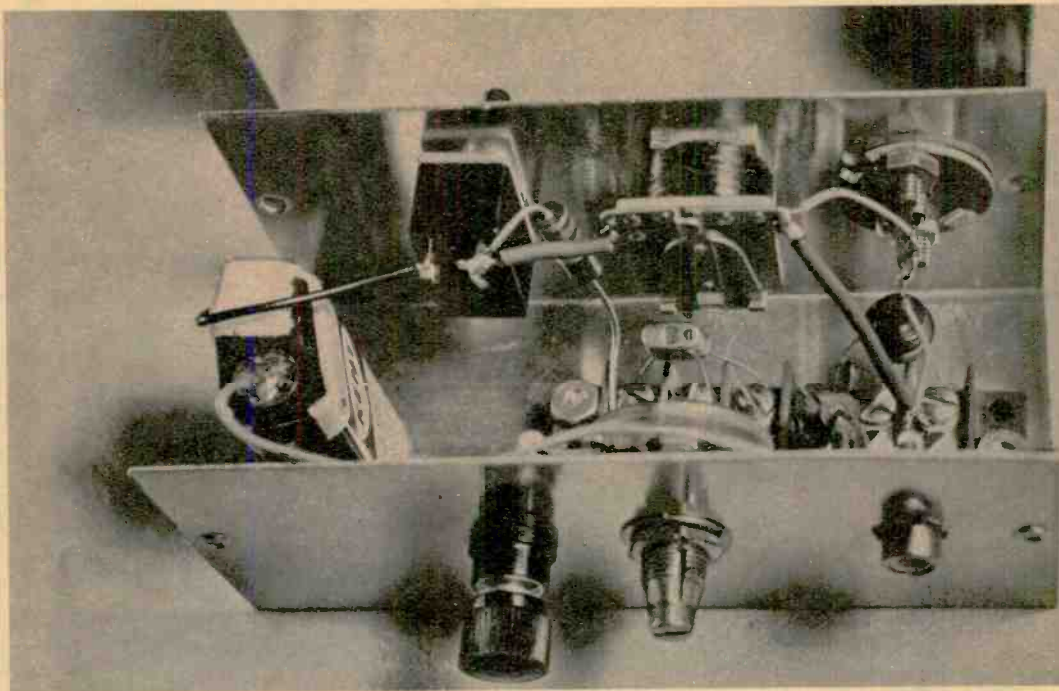
coming frequency modulated signal.

Construction

When constructing the circuit inside its cabinet wire up the barrier strip first before attaching it to the chassis, leaving leads of the proper length for making connections.

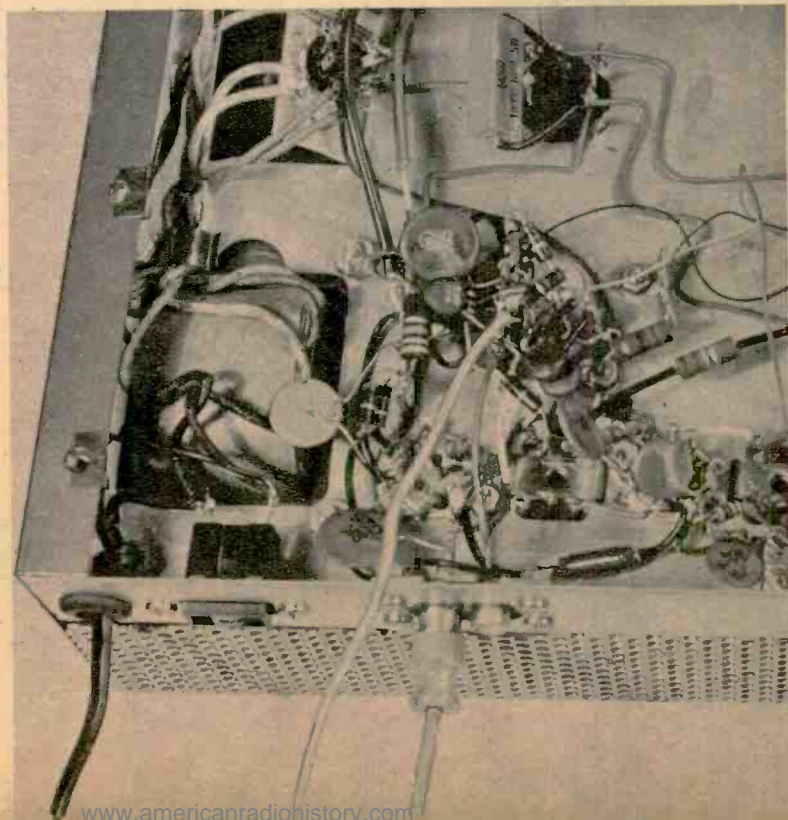
Transistors Q1 and Q2 are PNP types, which means that their collector voltages are negative. Be sure to observe proper polarity of the battery. The input connection for the AGC voltage (J1)

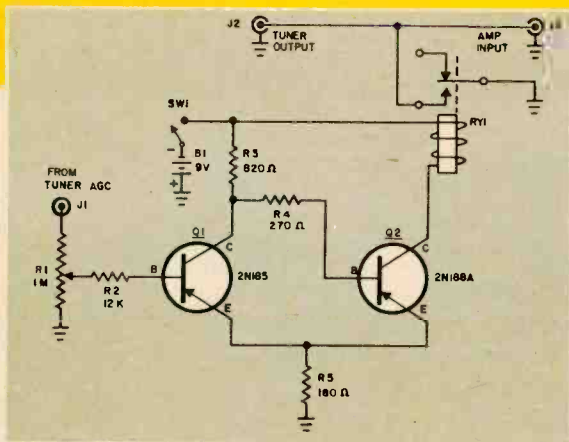
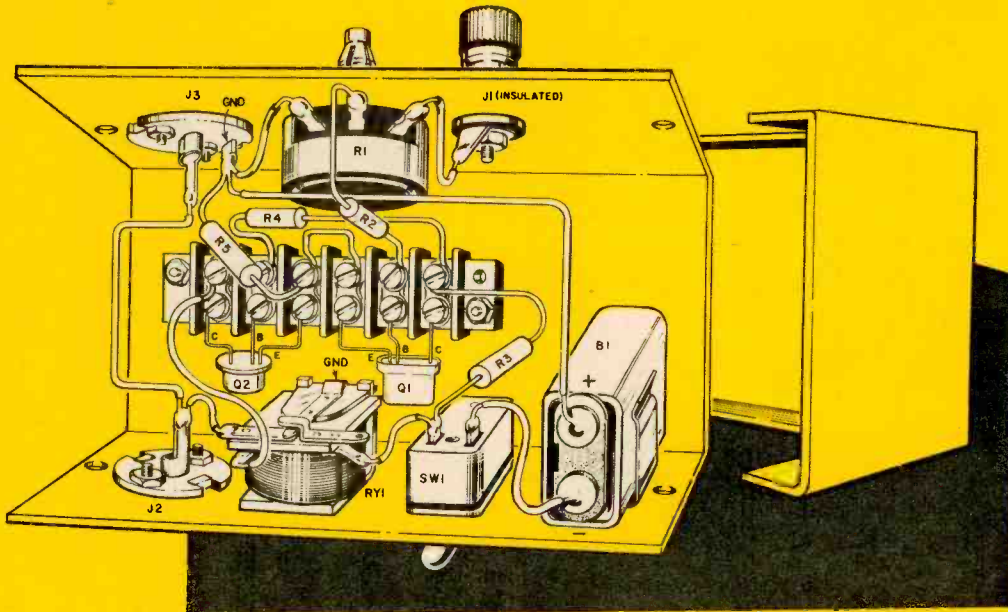




Interior closeup of Squelch chassis reveals screw-on connection of transistors to terminal board at bottom. The miniature relay is mounted on rear.

A short length of hookup wire must be connected to detector circuit of a typical FM tuner. Exact location is specified on schematic, next page.





PARTS LIST

- All resistors 1/2 watt, 10%
- R1—1 megohm potentiometer (slotted shaft)
 - R2—12,000 ohm
 - R3—820 ohm
 - R4—270 ohm
 - R5—180 ohm
 - Q1—2N185 transistor
 - Q2—2N188A transistor
 - RY1—6-volt, 335 ohm sensitive relay (Potter and Brumfield RS5D)
 - SW1—SPST toggle switch
 - B1—9-volt battery (RCA VS 312 or equiv.)
 - J1—Insulated binding post
 - J2, J3—Phono jacks
- Cabinet—Minibox, 5" x 2" x 2 1/4"
 Misc.—Battery clip, hardware, audio cables with phono plugs at each end. Screw-terminal, 6-connection Jones strip

Note AGC input J1 is insulated from ground and collectors are negative.

must be insulated from the chassis by a fiber washer so that the AGC voltage is not shorted out. All interior wiring of the unit (except the grounds of J2 and J3) must be insulated from the chassis.

After the Squelch Unit is constructed, it is necessary to identify the AGC line in the tuner. This is easily done if you have a schematic diagram of the tuner. If the tuner has a ratio detector, the AGC voltage is taken from the negative end of the large low-voltage electrolytic

capacitor associated with the detector tube (usually a 6AL5).

If the tuner uses a discriminator, the voltage is taken from either pin 5 or pin 1 (whichever is not grounded) of the 6AL5 discriminator tube. When the proper point is located, solder a piece of hookup wire to it and run the lead outside the case. Replace the tuner bottom plate.

Next make up a short length of shielded audio cable with phono plugs

at both ends. This will be used to connect from the tuner output to the Squelch input (J2). The cable from the tuner input of your amp or plugs into J3 on the Squelch Unit. Adjust the Squelch sensitivity control R1 for proper action.

The squelch may be added to AM receivers by connecting into the AVC line. (See *How to Repair Radios* on page 36.)

Theory of Operation

The circuit kills the sound from the FM tuner by grounding the audio output line except when a station is tuned in. The AGC voltage developed when a station is tuned in is used to trigger the squelch so that it restores the sound by removing the ground.

The circuit consists of a transistorized Schmitt trigger which drives a relay. The Schmitt trigger is a type of multivibrator circuit used to secure proper switching action. Relays will pull in at one voltage and will tend to stay closed

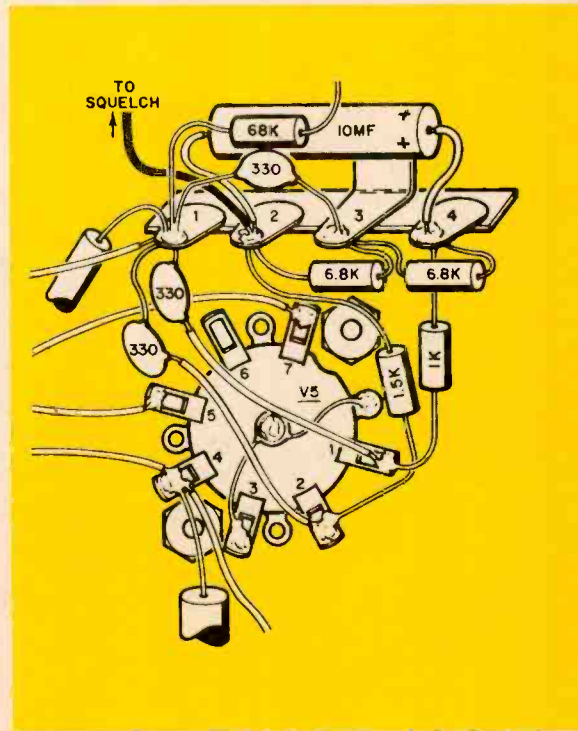
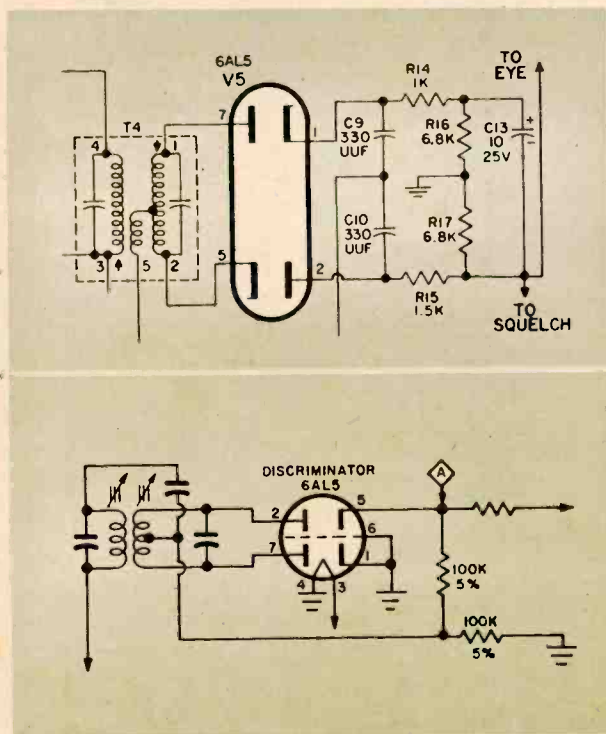
until the voltage is reduced to a much lower value. This characteristic would be inconvenient if the relay were driven by a simple amplifier. With the circuit used, the circuit controls the switching and the relay characteristics have no importance.

With no AGC input, Q2 conducts and Q1 is cut off. Current flows through the coil of RY1 closing its contacts and grounding the audio output line from the tuner. When the input AGC voltage rises to a certain value Q1 begins to conduct, and Q2 is cut off. When this happens, the RY1 opens and sound is restored.

This switching process is repeated when tuning from station to station. The circuit is adjusted using R1 so that the audio is heard normally when a station is exactly tuned in. Exceptionally weak stations may be received by switching off the Squelch unit using switch SW1. This removes battery power and leaves Relay RY1 in its open position.

A standard ratio detector and discriminator circuit. Letter "A" or output arrow to Squelch.

Connection should be made to negative end of capacitor in EICO detector circuit below.



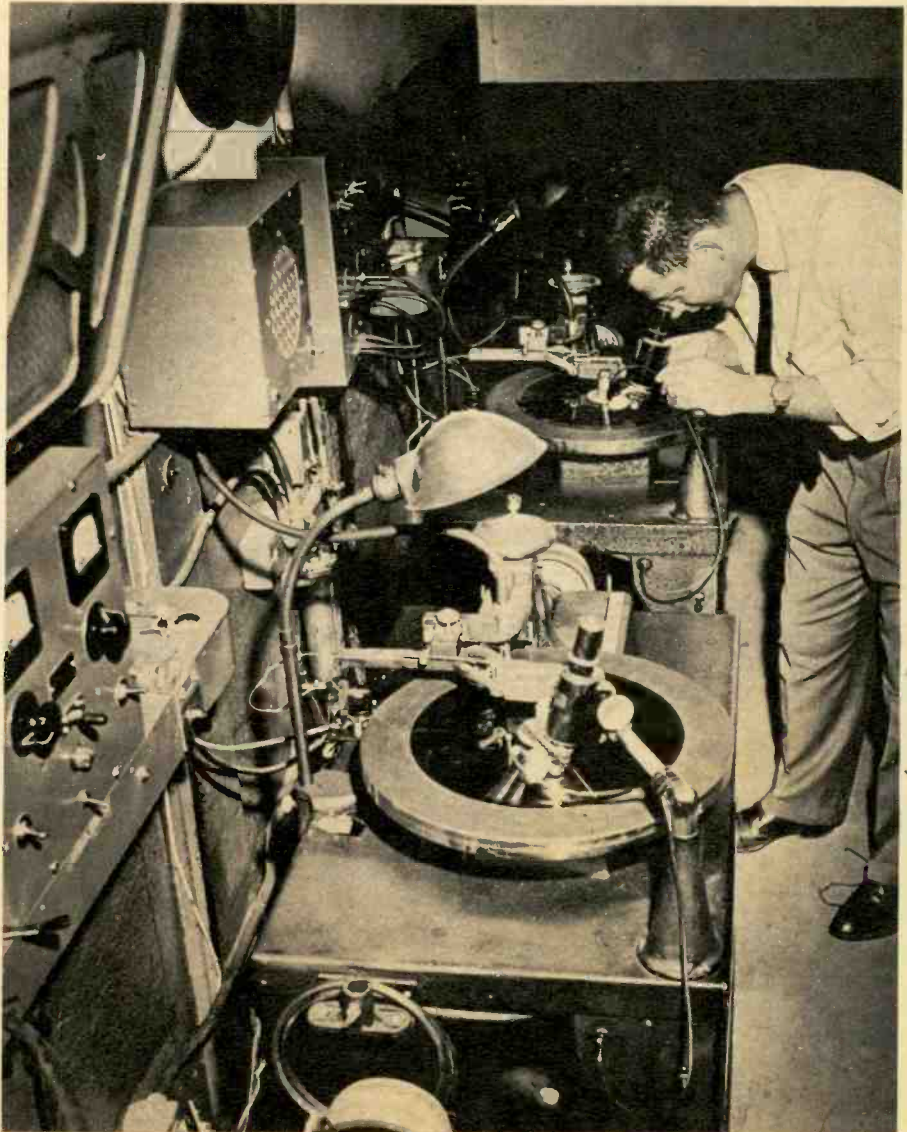
El's Money Making Careers in Electronics

Dollars from Discs

Everywhere the demand for good disc recordings means profits for the enterprising technician.

By James Joseph

Alan Gottschalk inspects groove in platter being cut at recording studio he and his father own. Equipment can cut four master discs simultaneously.





Left, Al monitors taping of singing hopeful's sample. Center, Al and Bert, his father, transfer tape to master disc at dubbing table. Right, Bert Gottschalk at turntable used for making 20 or fewer copies. Larger orders are sent out for pressing. Studio's business has a \$450 potential daily gross. Schools, churches, politicians, advertisers create demand for its services.

YOUR profits from discs can be "long-play" if, like Bert and Alan Gottschalk, a high-fidelity father-son team, you cater to sound sources: local ad agencies who hanker to cut a commercial groove, vocalists who want to hear themselves sing and businessmen big-wigs who have something to say . . . for the record.

The Gottschalks' Electro-Vox Recording Studio, geared both to grooves and tape, obliges them all:

- Its two wired-for-sound studios (rental fee: \$15-\$22.50 hourly) cater to ad men with a sales message (usually the 60-second variety).

- Its stable of *Ampex 350* recorders can tape the vocal works: a musician's hour-long recital, a minister's Sunday sermon, a young wife's audio "letter" for mailing home to friends and relatives, the spiel of a sales exec as he cajoles his far-flung field force to higher profits. Cost: \$15-\$25 for a recorded hour, plus the price of the tape.

- Its Gottschalk-designed record cutters (four of them) serve up freshly-grooved long-play records, from the new 16 rpm's to 78's, from 7-inch platters to giant-sized 16-inchers which may carry upwards of a dozen 60-second spot commercials. A high school choral group, as typical, may order 100 seven-inch, 45 rpm discs for \$125-\$135. A single 12-inch, 33 1/3 rpm recording, grooved both sides, runs \$6.50-\$7.50.

Just as lucrative is the Gottschalks' mobile recording unit, its tape machines dedicated to after-dinner speakers, corporate meetings and politicians. Rates: \$30 for the first hour of on-the-spot recording, \$12.50 hourly thereafter.

Then, too, Electro-Vox runs "air checks"—monitors radio-TV programs and commercials. The Gottschalks will tape a commercial, put it on record, have it next morning in a product peddler's hands (so he can check the commercial's continuity, be sure he got his air-time money's worth). Service fee: anywhere from \$5 to \$25, depending on recording time and whether a monitor tape must be transferred to discs.

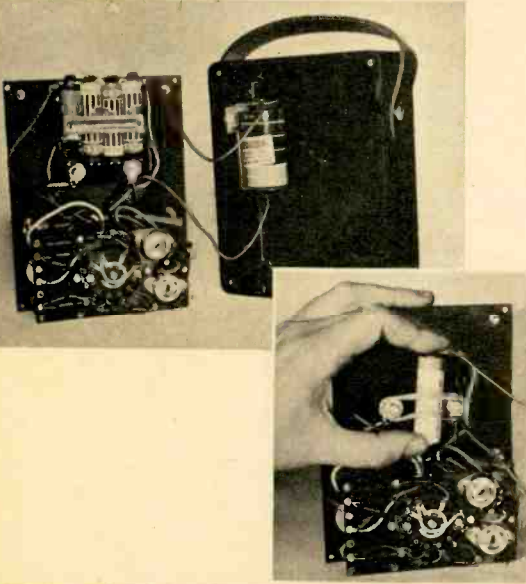
[Continued on page 110]

VOM Battery Conversion

If you own a volt-ohm-milliammeter (VOM) you know how annoying it can be to have its batteries go dead while the instrument is sitting on the shelf. In addition, certain of the 20,000 ohms-per-volt jobs have battery holders that tend to short out the cells if the instrument is jarred or hit. In that case, you not only have a dead ohmmeter, but the cells may leak all over the range switch. This will not only foul up your instrument but the low resistance of the battery fluid will probably short out the range switch.

There's a simple solution to the VOM battery problem made possible by the development of the new 6.5-volt mercury transistor radio batteries. Replace the four 1.5-volt "AA" penlight cells with a single mercury battery. In the unit shown, the battery holder was removed and the leads soldered directly to the mercury cell. The new cell is held in place by a heavy rubber band wrapped around the meter terminals.

—Dave Gordon



Diode Polarities

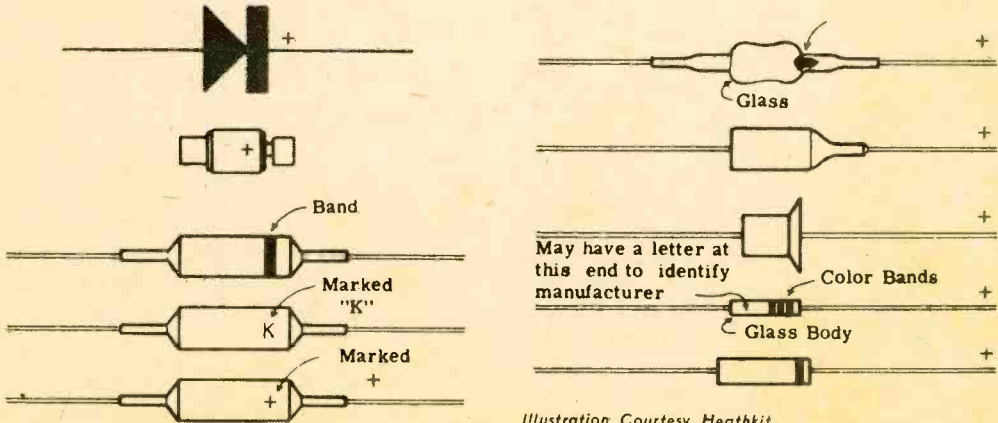


Illustration Courtesy Heathkit

FOR proper operation of semiconductor diodes, it is vital that they be installed with the proper polarity. If you slip up, you may not only ruin the diode, but in addition, damage some associated component. Since almost every semiconductor manufacturer seems to

have his own idea as to the proper way of indicating polarity (there are colored dots, bands, caps, letters, and, of course, plus signs), here's a handy reference chart covering most of the diode codes now in use. Refer to it often and avoid errors.



Pushing any button once makes this unit send a message. Below, jumper plugs make circuit board connections for different messages. Circuit can be designed for many applications.

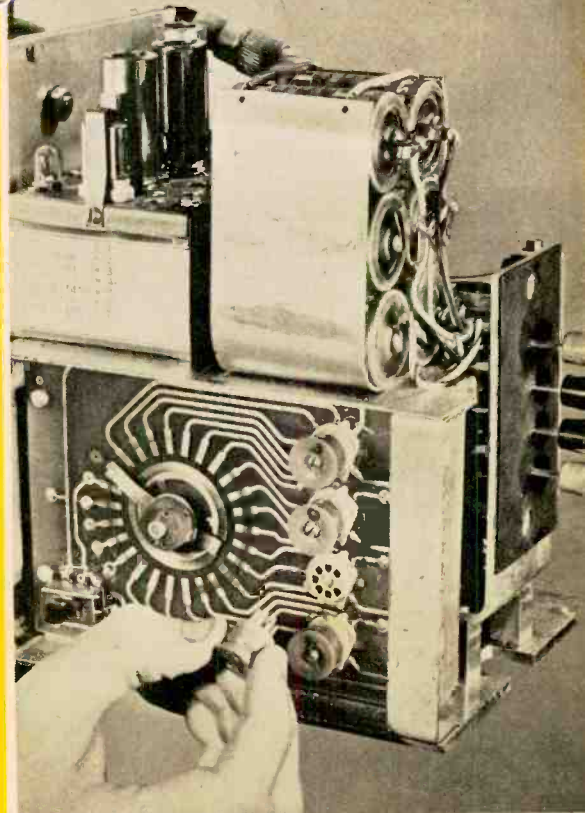
Sun Powered Lifesaver

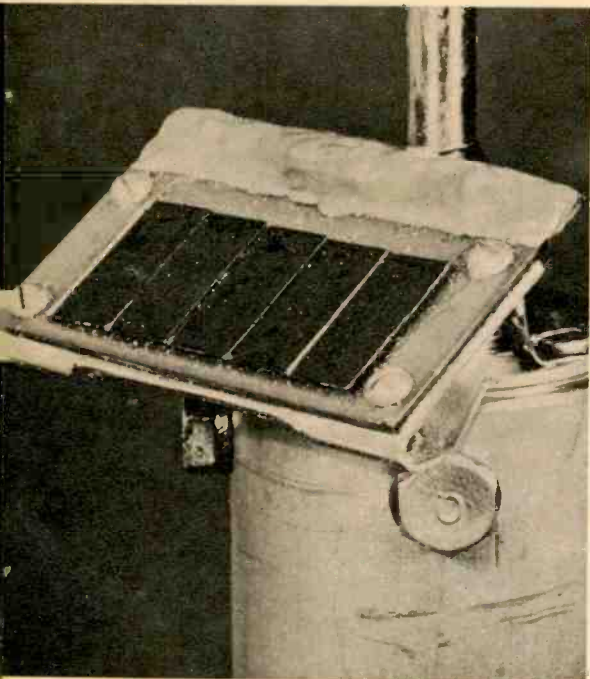
Solar cells power this remote "call box" for highway safety use or for any isolated area.

By James Joseph

A CAR suddenly fishtails on a crowded, high-speed turnpike. There's a grinding three-car crash . . . and casualties. Yet help is but a push-button away . . . as close, in fact, as the cigar-box sized, solar-powered "emergency call" radio transmitters installed every quarter mile both sides of the highway.

Now, moments after the crash, a motorist punches those buttons—labeled





Five silicon solar cells are mounted on the sleeve of the coaxial antenna, out of reach of vandals. They recharge set's storage cells.



Receiver interprets coded signal, flashes information in lighted letters on panel. The system can be used for telemetering purposes.

“police,” “ambulance,” “service truck” and “fire,” each one once.

The warning flashes across 18 miles to a police control board. On the board the emergency radio signals, decoded, are spelled out in illuminated letters: “Hollywood . . . in-bound . . . 2.5 miles . . . police, ambulance, fire, service”.

To the on-duty police officer the message has complete meaning: “Accident on the Hollywood freeway, 2.5 miles in-bound from the interchange . . . rush police, ambulance, firemen and a service truck.”

Sun-power has saved lives, as it may save your own, whether you are a motorist, a sportsman trekking wilderness America, or a weekend skipper.

Key to it all: Hoffman Electronics’ “safety satellite,” a revolutionary low-cost, sun-powered transmitter which, without overhead wires, buried cables or even a power source (save for the sun) can turn lifesaver almost anywhere.

All the user need do is push a button. The transmitter sends its message, then shuts off automatically. Push the buttons again, and the signal cycle is repeated.

The 3-tube “emergency call” transmitter, its six 1.25-volt nickel cadmium batteries recharged by five antenna-mounted silicon solar cells, can reach more than 25 miles line-of-sight, put out as many as 100-150 distress calls between rechargings, and remain operative even though its power source, the sun, doesn’t peek from behind the overcast for 10 to 15 days running.

Moreover, its circuitry can be quickly [*Continued on page 100*]

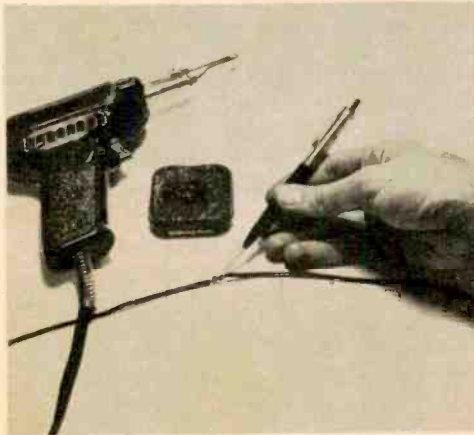
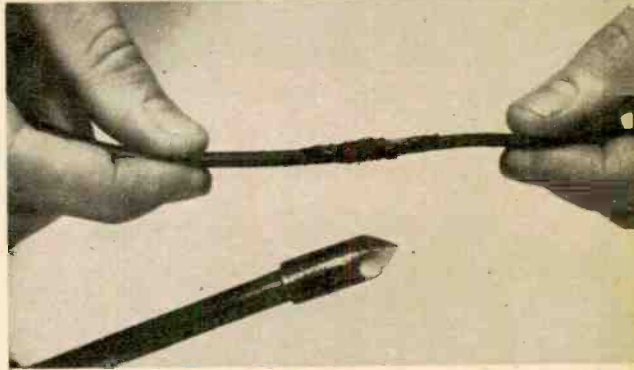


El's Hot Tips

By John Comstock

Roll a 3" wide scrap piece of fine mesh window screen into a cylinder and push it into the center of solder spool. The sharp wire ravelings will clean tips easily without sticking.

Hold a spliced wire that has been covered with black plastic electrical tape over the hot tip of a soldering iron. The heat will soften the tape causing it to contract and grip the splice snugly. Helps to waterproof the joint also!



Remove the ink cartridge from an old ballpen and insert a removable pipe cleaner. Use it as shown to apply soldering paste, or to apply liquid and paste lubricants or cleaners to band switches and other electronic components.

Need a cutting tip for your soldering gun? A brass wheel removed from an old alarm clock can be attached to the gun's tip with a nut and bolt. The wheel heats and cuts most plastics easily.

February, 1961





Bass-Treble Booster For Your Radio

By Leo Sands

FOR about a two-dollar investment, you can make a substantial improvement in the sound of a table-model radio. And, a set with an 8" or larger speaker can be made to have an even better tone. This is accomplished by adding selective feedback to improve bass response and a treble booster to bring up the high frequencies.

The bass response of a small table model radio is limited by the size and quality of both the loudspeaker and the output transformer. But, without changing them, and by adding only a few inexpensive parts, the bass response can be boosted sufficiently to make a noticeable improvement.

Fig. 1 shows the circuit of the audio amplifier and output stage found in most table model radios. To improve the bass response, a resistor (R7) and coil (L) are added. Disconnect one side of capacitor C and resistor R as indicated by the "X." Now connect R7 (10,000 ohm resistor) between the free ends of R and C. One lead of choke L is connected to the junction of R and the new resistor R7, and the other lead is grounded.

Here is how it works. The audio signal that appears at the plate of output tube V2 is divided across capacitor C, resistor R and choke L. As the audio frequency gets higher, more voltage appears across choke L because its reactance increases with frequency. The voltage across L is fed back to the grid of the power output tube V2 through the bottom of the grid resistor (R). Since this feedback voltage is *out of phase* with the incoming

signal, it reduces the gain of the power output stage. But, it reduces the gain more at the higher frequencies than at low frequencies. Hence, the low frequencies predominate and bass boost results.

The effect of the feedback on the high frequencies is barely noticeable because the small speaker and output transformer already favor the highs. But, you can give the highs an additional boost if you like by connecting a small capacitor (C1) from the center arm to the right hand lug (as viewed from the rear) of the volume control.

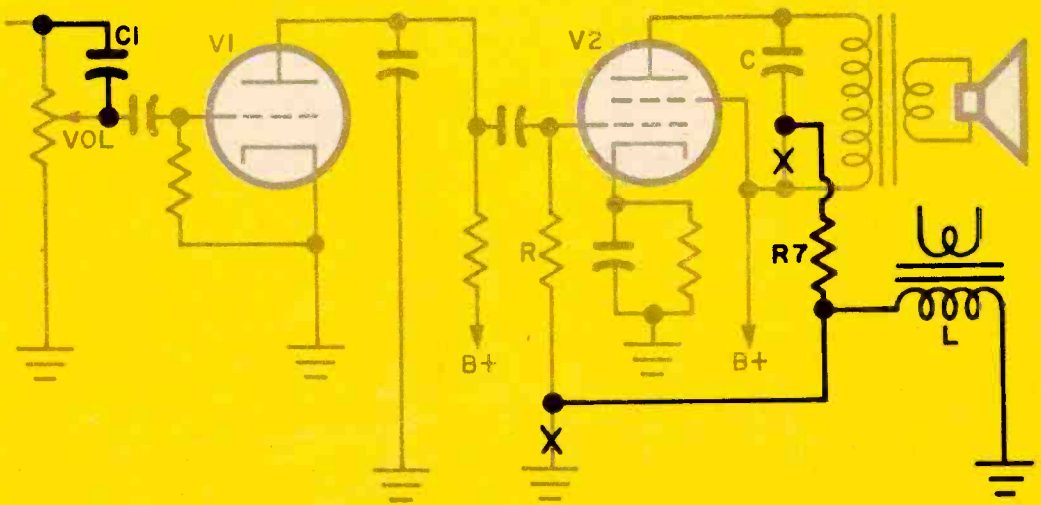
Treble is boosted because the capacitor allows the highs to take a short cut around the volume control. The reactance of capacitor C1 rises as the frequency becomes lower and decreases as frequency becomes higher. Hence, the high frequencies see a low reactance path through C1 thus jumping the attenuation effect of the volume control. But, the low notes and middle frequencies see a very high reactance path and

go the long way around via the volume control. When the volume control is set for low level sound, the highs are emphasized. At higher sound levels, the treble boost becomes less noticeable.

The value of C1 depends upon the resistance of the volume control and the amount of treble boost desired. Usually a 100 mmfd to 250 mmfd capacitor works fine, but don't be afraid to experiment. The choke L may be a small filter choke or an under-a-dollar output transformer with its secondary unused. To get the best results, it might be necessary to replace C with another value; usually .02 mfd provides the desired amount of feedback. If C is not present, add it as shown.

While this circuit does cut the gain of the radio's amplifier, the loss is slight. When the right combination of values of C1, C, R7 and L is found, the results are often spectacular. For several other modification ideas, see "Improve the Sound of a Small Phono" in the April 1960 *Electronics Illustrated*.

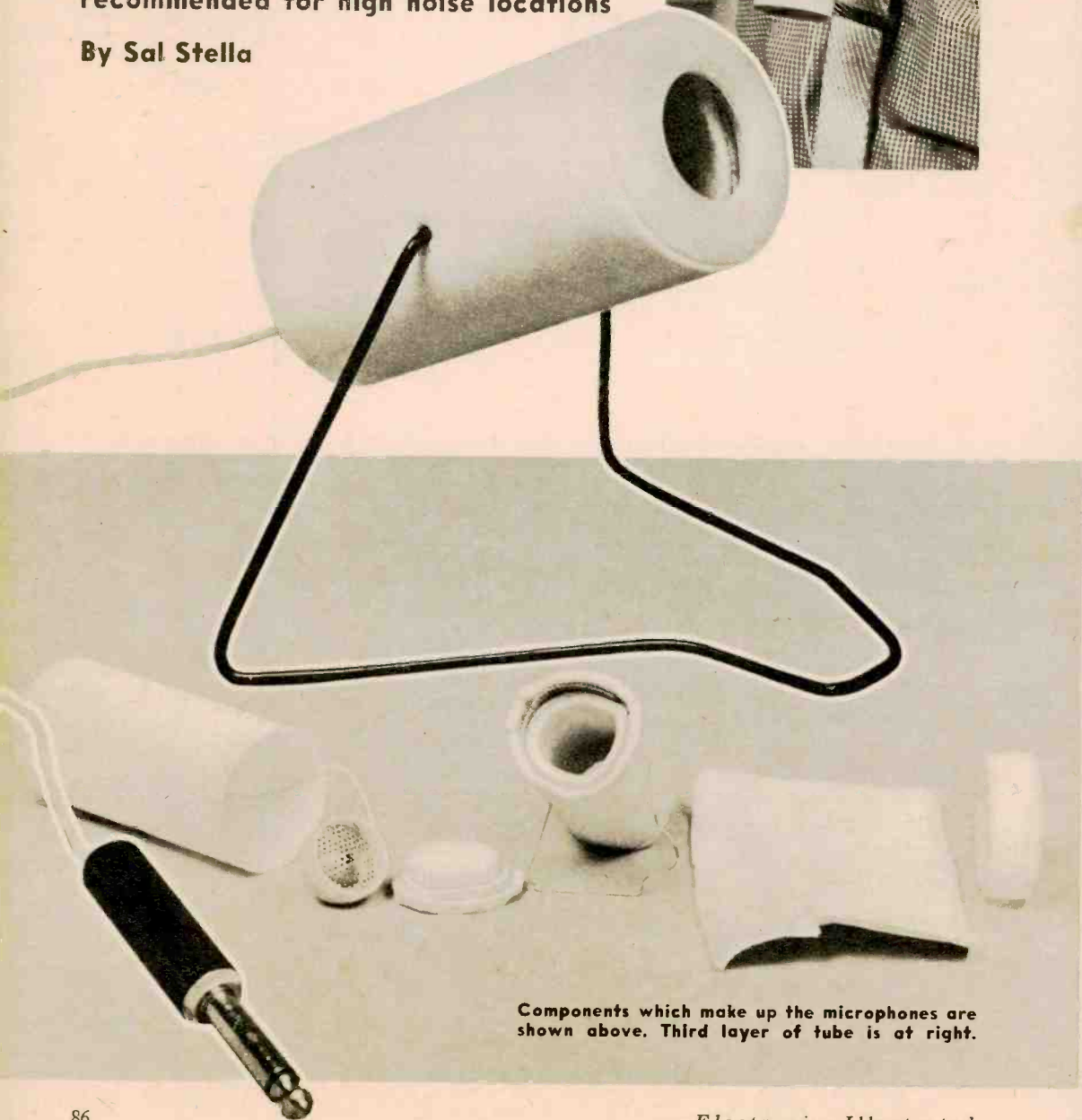
Audio section of a typical radio. Components to be added are shown in black. The two "X"s on the schematic indicate points in the circuit to be broken.



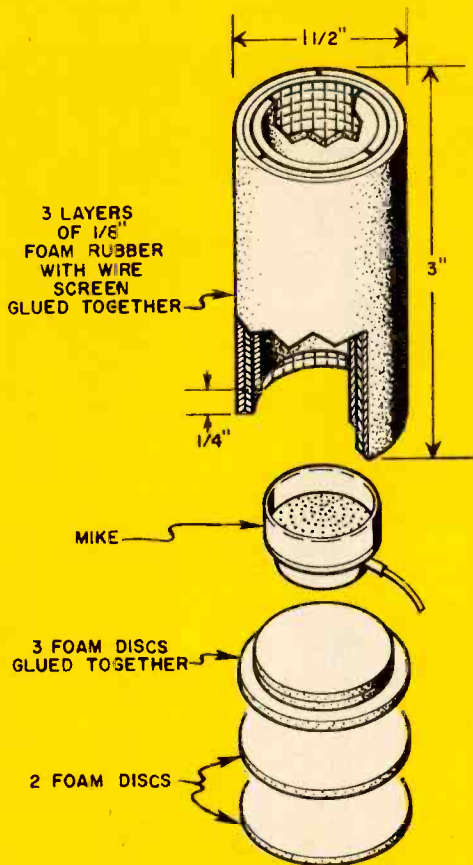
Economy Directional Microphone

Easy to build acoustically damped microphone recommended for high noise locations

By Sal Stella



Components which make up the microphones are shown above. Third layer of tube is at right.



PARTS LIST

- 1—Microphone (Lafayette MS 439 or equiv.)
- 1—piece of 1/8" foam rubber, 6" x 18"
- 1—piece of 6" square wire screening
- Plastic squeeze bottle, nursing bottle top, wire clothes hanger

The foam rubber is assembled in this manner to create the proper baffling setup. A plastic bottle serves as case.


FOR about \$2.00 you can build a microphone with enough directional properties to eliminate acoustic feedback or background noise effects in a PA installation. The one shown here actually can be held at right angles, within a foot of the speaker of a tape recorder amplifier at full volume, without feedback. Directionality is achieved by using foam rubber as acoustic insulating material. The arrangement shown in the exploded view slides inside a 4" long tube and serves to absorb sound originating at an angle to the opening of the assembled microphone.

The crystal earphone-microphone used is supplied with an auxiliary mouthpiece. The "funnel" section of the mouthpiece was cut off, but the threaded collar was retained to make a protective ring for the crystal.

The foam rubber tube is constructed using wire window screening as a form. The inside of the screen is lined with one layer of the foam rubber, and the outside with three layers of foam. This held the microphone securely in place when later installed in its case. Several foam discs are placed behind the mike also.

A plastic squeeze bottle (such as is used as a ketchup or mustard dispenser) serves as the microphone casing. The bottle top is cut off, and the screw top of a nursing bottle is force fit over the end of the plastic tube to serve as a cap.

A coat hanger, bent as shown in the photos, serves as a desk stand, or with the help of a small piece of string, it functions as part of a chest mike bracket.



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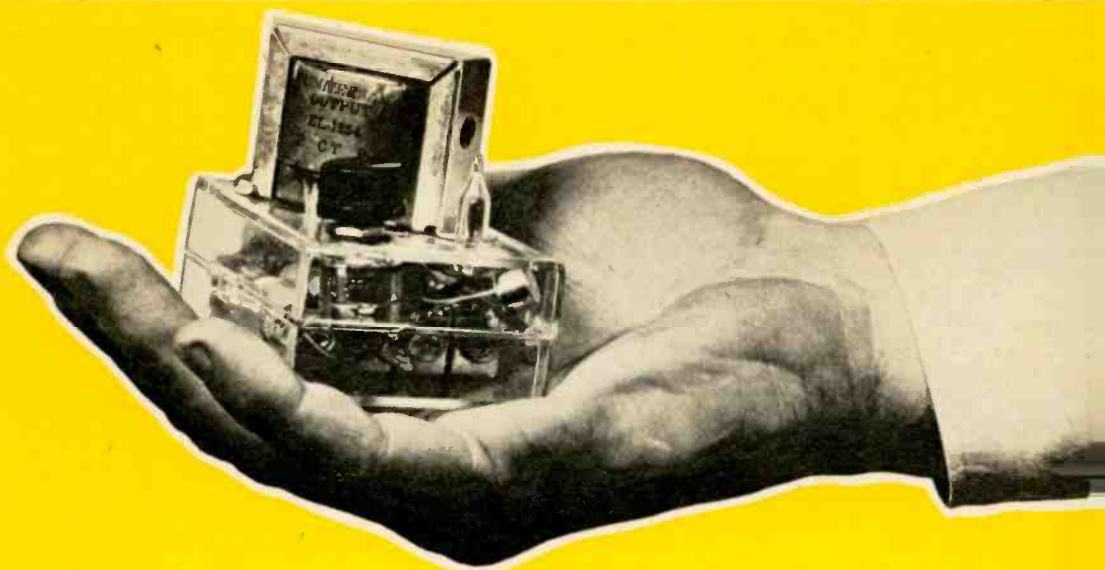
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Electronic Blinker

Four penlight cells power novel attention getter.

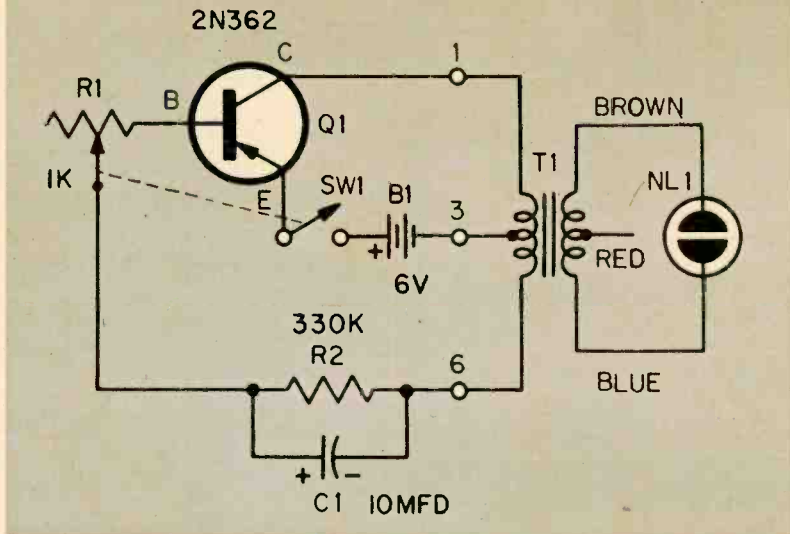
By Forrest H. Frantz

FLASHING lights always attract attention. This in itself recommends this electronic gadget as a display device, parlor gadget, conversation piece, or toy. We are all familiar with the relaxation oscillator circuits employing neon bulbs, but how many of us are aware that a transistor may also be used to periodically discharge a capacitor.

In the electronic flasher described, a step-up transformer is employed to convert the low voltage pulses from the transistor to a high voltage pulse sufficient to flash the lamp. Note that the regular secondary of the output transformer serves as the primary in this circuit and the regular primary is the secondary. The correct numbers and colors are noted in the pictorial. Although the transformer specified is moderately expensive, there is nothing to prevent you from trying out other cheaper units from your junk box. Just remember the transistor terminals connect to the low impedance secondary of the transformer.

When control R1 is at maximum resistance, flash frequency is greatest. At minimum resistance, the flash frequency is low with several seconds between flashes. Battery life is approximately equal to its shelf life.

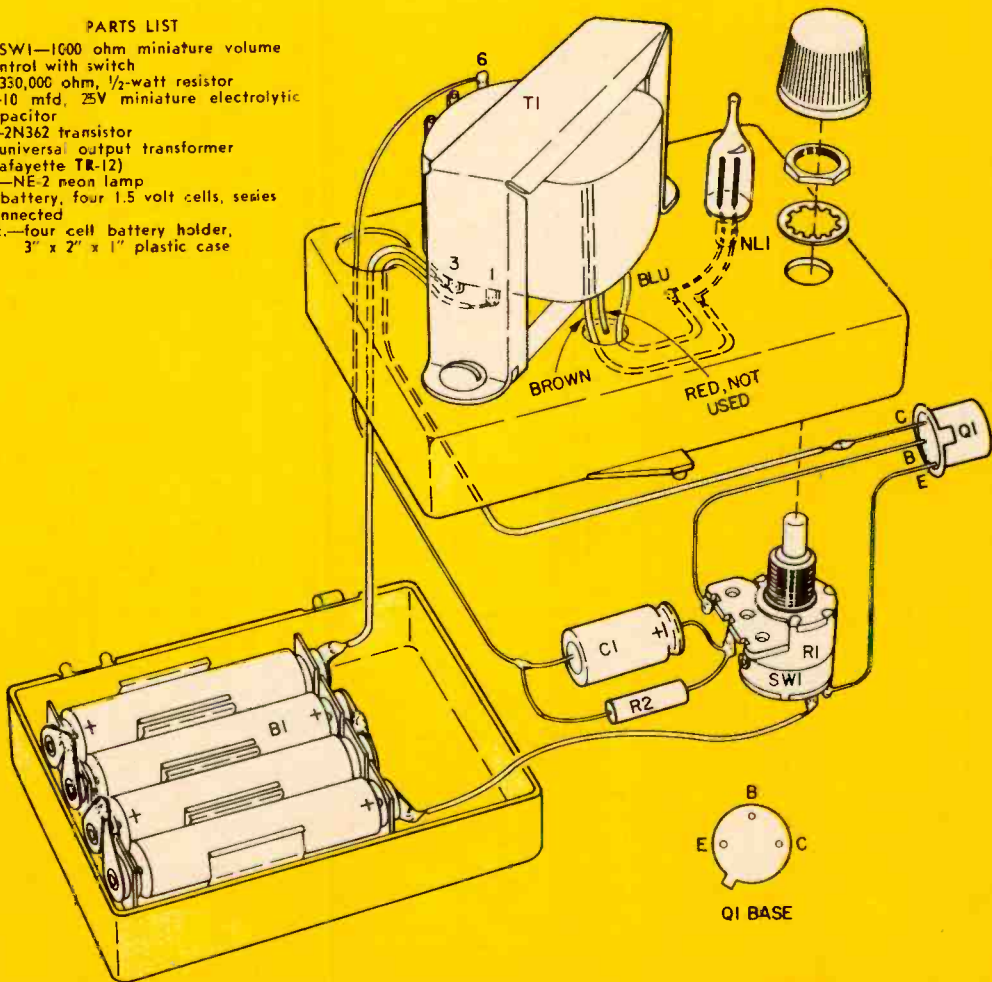
The battery holder terminal lugs must be bent over and soldered together to form a *series-connected* circuit. It's also a good idea to fill the battery holder contacts with solder to assure good contact with the cells when they're inserted.



Low voltage pulse from transistor Q1 is stepped-up by transformer T1 to fire neon lamp NL1. R1 controls flashing cycle of neon lamp.

PARTS LIST

- R1—SW1—1000 ohm miniature volume control with switch
- R2—330,000 ohm, 1/2-watt resistor
- C1—10 mfd, 25V miniature electrolytic capacitor
- Q1—2N362 transistor
- T1—universal output transformer (Lafayette TR-12)
- NL1—NE-2 neon lamp
- B1—battery, four 1.5 volt cells, series connected
- Misc.—four cell battery holder, 3" x 2" x 1" plastic case



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Repairs, TV	
Fix Your TV Set; Herrick (F)	63 Nov. 58
Fix Your TV Set; Greenberg (F)	81 Dec. 58

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TV in Your Car (F)	43 Sept. 58
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TV Over the Horizon; Hindley (F)	78 Aug. 59
TV, Report on Community (F)	90 Jan. 59
TV to Circle Globe; Johnson (F)	68 July 58
TV, New Look (F)	41 Oct. 58
TV Top Hot for Doctor (F)	86 Sept. 59
TVI, What You Can Do About; Smith (C)	40 Oct. 60

TEST EQUIPMENT

See also *Courses and Kits*

Alignment Generator CB; Cohen (C)	47 Aug. 60
Ammeters, How to Check (Brain)	61 Dec. 59
Cable Adapter, Universal; Trauffer (C)	100 Feb. 60
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Check Your RPM's; Wayland (C)	65 Sept. 58
Galvanometer (Brain)	86 Mar. 59
Ham Station Monitor; Doherty (C)	57 Oct. 58
Hi-Fi Tester; Pollack (C)	64 Apr. 59
Meter, Protect Your; Winklepleck (C)	60 Mar. 59
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Power Indicator, CB; Hollander (C)	32 June 59
Probes, Make Your Own; Rocke (C)	56 Feb. 60
Protect Your Meter; Winklepleck (C)	60 Mar. 59
Radio-TV Troubfinder; P. Hertzberg (C)	82 Nov. 59
RF Field Indicator; Pollack (C)	81 July 60
Signal Generators; Eisenberg (F)	58 Oct. 59
Signal Pencil; Winklepleck (C)	74 June 60
Stop That Capacitor Leak; Wayland (C)	96 July 60
Test Bench Control Panel; Johnson (C)	59 Sept. 60
Test Equipment Theory (See <i>Courses</i>)	
Test Instrument, 39c; Stanley (F)	76 Dec. 58
Transistor Tester (F)	82 May 58
Transistor Tester; Benrey (C)	48 May 60
Voltmeter, Electrostatic (Brain)	56 June 60
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1LN5 .59	4DT6 .55	6AV6 .40	6CV5 .70	6W4 .75	12AF3 .73	12BY7 .74	12K5 .65	25C96 1.44	1RS .62	5AM8 .79	6AV8 .89	6CY7 .71	6W6 .69	12AE6 .43	25D06 1.11	
1S5 .51	5AM8 .86	6AX4 .65	6DA4 .68	6X4 .39	12AF6 .49	12B27 .75	12SN7 .67	25D06 1.11	1T4 .58	5A05 .52	6AX7 .64	6E7 .71	6X4 .39	12AF6 .49	25D06 1.11	
1U4 .57	5A7B .80	6B6G .49	6DEB .58	6X5GT .53	12A15 .45	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25L6 .57	1U5 .50	5B7A .82	6BAG .49	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
1X2B .82	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	2AF4 .96	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3AL5 .42	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3AU6 .51	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3AU6 .51	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3AV6 .41	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3BA6 .51	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3BC5 .54	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3BC5 .54	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3BE6 .52	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3BE6 .52	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3BN6 .76	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3BN6 .76	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3BU8 .78	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3BU8 .78	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3BV6 .55	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3BV6 .55	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3BZ6 .55	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3BZ6 .55	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3CB6 .54	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3CB6 .54	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3CF6 .60	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3CF6 .60	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3C56 .52	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3C56 .52	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3CY5 .71	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3CY5 .71	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3D6 .60	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3D6 .60	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3DT6 .50	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3DT6 .50	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3E5 .80	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3E5 .80	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	3F4 .58	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
3F4 .58	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	4BC5 .56	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
4BC5 .56	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	4B3 .56	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
4B3 .56	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68	4B6 .75	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	25M4 .68
4B6 .75	5B7A .82	6B6C .54	6DEB .58	6X7 .64	12A18 .85	12C5 .56	12SQ7M .73	25M4 .68								

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<input type="checkbox"/> 80¢ ea.	Power AF Med. Freq. To -3	Min. Power Output 2.25 W	20 ma VCB = -16V	20 ma VEB = -16V	VCE = -1.5 Ib = 1 ma 40 min
<input type="checkbox"/> 140¢ ea.	Hi Power 15 AMP To 36		40 ma VCB = -100	40 ma VEB = -100	VCE = -1.5 Ib = 1 ma 30 min

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Dept. EI-261

TV Interference

Continued from page 63

output is being squandered on several frequencies, and you really want it concentrated on your 27-mc fundamental, for communication.

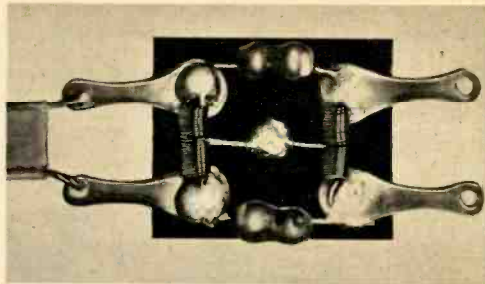
The TV channels begin at 54 mc, which is the second harmonic of your signal. 81 mc falls inside channel 6. The FM band and "utility" stations between channels 6 and 8 can be affected, too. So can the "high" TV channels. It's horrible to contemplate.

Notice that we said that harmonics *can* be produced. If they are being *transmitted*, you are at fault in a TVI complaint, maybe not wholly at fault, but enough for your neighbor to raise a ruckus with the FCC. When you transmit harmonics you are radiating radio signals on frequencies not allocated for the Citizens Radio Service, which, of course, makes your station's operation illegal.

As your CB rig is commercially manufactured, you may presume that the manufacturer has made a reasonable effort to design a set which will keep his customers within the law. If you have already determined that your transmitter's crystals are good and that the set is tuned for its maximum output (a properly tuned transmitter is less likely to produce harmonics) your best bet is to obtain one of the commercially made "low pass filters." A low pass filter is a small gizmo which is connected by a short length coaxial cable to the antenna jack on the rear of your rig. The antenna lead-in is then attached to the filter instead of directly to the rig. The function of a low pass filter is, as its name implies, to prevent all but signals lower than its cutoff frequency from leaving the transmitter. A filter with a 40- or 50-mc cutoff will permit your 27 megacycle fundamental signal to radiate freely while smothering its potentially annoying second, third, fourth, seventh and eighth cousins.

If, after a low pass filter is installed, the TVI still continues, then chances are that the fault lies in the TV receiver (although your transmitter may have been jointly at fault before you filtered the output). The TV set is supposed to reject non-TV signals, but not all can be depended upon to do that job.

There are several reasons why a fundamental frequency CB signal can blitz a TV set. One may be that your transmitting antenna is so close to the TV antenna that your signal overwhelms (or "overloads") the delicate circuitry in the TV set. Once



The completed high pass filter. "Chassis" is a piece of insulating material such as Bakelite.

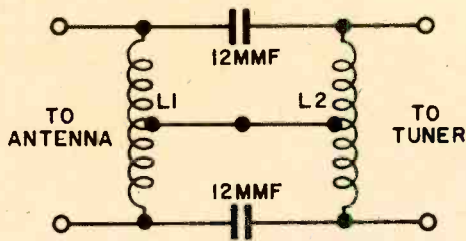
inside the TV receiver the signal causes the set itself to generate harmonics. It's also possible for the TV set to overload from "cross modulation." This means that your 27 mc signal "mixes" *inside* the receiver with the signal from another station on a higher frequency. If the other station happens to be in the FM broadcasting band it could cause interference on TV channels 2, 3, or 4. Should your signal mix with a TV station on channel 6, interference would be caused on channel 2. The above forms of TVI will occur only on certain channels—some will remain clear.

Possibly the most common cause of TVI is when a fundamental frequency CB signal leaks into the TV receiver through the intermediate frequency ("IF") amplifier. Some older TV sets have IF circuits *tuned* to 27 mc, which is already resonant to the fundamental frequency of your CB rig. This leaves a veritable "open door" for any reasonably strong CB signals to sneak in. This type of TVI, which is characterized by the interference appearing on all TV channels, is *always* the fault of the TV receiver.

Just for kicks you can fiddle with the TV set's fine tuning control to see if you can tune out the TVI. Sometimes this works. However, if this fails (and if I know your luck, it will), you'll have to use a little psychology.

The task of de-TV'ing receivers belongs to the TV service industry. In other words, if the TVI is definitely due to inadequate IF rejection in the TV receiver you should not, under any circumstances, offer or attempt to correct it. Nor should you agree to foot the bill for the set's work by a technician. It is the sole responsibility of the TV set owner to maintain his equipment so as to provide him with satisfactory service. You can, however, suggest a TV technician for the owner to call.

The TV service technician will probably install a "high pass filter" in the TV set's antenna circuit. It works like the low pass filter, only in the opposite direction; the



L1, L2 EACH 30 TURNS NO. 30, ENAM.,
CENTER TAPPED, ON 1/8"
FORM.—SEE TEXT.

Circuit of a simple, cheap high pass filter to be installed at TV set's tuner input terminals.

high pass filter will permit only signals on TV frequencies to pass while rejecting unwanted lower frequency signals. In order to be fully effective this filter should not be installed at the antenna terminals on the rear of the TV set, but wired directly across the set's tuner input. It might be worthwhile for you to keep one of these gimmicks around your CB station so that you can take it over to your neighbor's place to prove, by demonstration, that the corrective measures are on his shoulders and not yours. For demonstration purposes, the filter can be hooked to the receiver's antenna terminals. Tell him what you have hooked up but don't sell him your filter. Let the service technician do the work, so that if the picture tube blows in two years nobody can blame your tinkering.

An inexpensive high pass filter may be constructed from the diagram. (The same unit is manufactured by Regency as their Model HP-45. It sells for less than a dollar from most electronics supply houses.)

To make this unit (which was originally described in General Electric's "Ham News") all you need is a piece of insulating board (bakelite, lucite, anything!) 1x1 1/4 inches in size, five 4-40 screws (1/2" or even smaller), four solder lugs, two 12 mmf capacitors, a few feet of #30 enamel wire, and something for 1/8" coil forms—say a couple of old 2-megohm resistors. Drill screw holes near each corner—a quarter inch from the edges—of the board, and one in the exact center. Fit the holes with brass screws—use nuts, of course—putting soldering lugs under each corner screw. Solder your capacitors to the screw heads according to the diagram and photo.

Take two pieces, each 15" long, of the #30 wire. Fold each in half and scrape off half an inch of enamel at each fold. Taking each wire, solder the stripped sides together and bend up at a right angle. From the bend, measure off 6 3/8", cut, and tin about 1/8" at each end. Each coil is wound on one of your 1/8" forms, starting from one

end of each wire. Now you have two center-tapped coils, about 30 turns each. Solder the ends of the coils to the corner screws and the center taps to the middle screw, and *voila!* you have a high-pass filter.

Another solution (if your CB antenna and the TV antenna are near each other) is to lower the TV antenna until it is below the radiating section of the CB antenna. It might also help to change the TV set's lead-in from 300 ohm twin-lead to coaxial cable.

Closely akin to TVI is "P-I"—CB interference on phonographs and radio output sections. The cure is a 100,000 ohm resistor in series with the grid of the unit's first audio amplifier tube. Let the complainant have a service shop install it.

One final word, before you go through the whole bother with the filters and the explanations. You might do well to go over to your neighbor's house and take a gander at the interference on the receiver in question. Possibly it isn't even being caused by your station. It might be motors, a taxicab, a police car, diathermy, industrial equipment, appliances, a ham, auto ignition, another CB'er, another TV set's oscillator, or even a dying tube within the guy's own TV set—especially if he gets interference when you're not on the air!

Intermediate State Study

The "intermediate state" between superconductivity and normal conductivity is being studied by a new technique developed at the General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, N. Y. A combination of optical and magnetic methods enables scientists and engineers to see, directly and literally, the condition of materials in the "intermediate state." In this state some of the material is superconductive while some is normally conductive—some has absolutely no electrical resistance while some has normal resistance. The way materials pass through the "intermediate state," or fall into it because of strong magnetic fields, depends on impurities and metallurgical treatment. Since superconductive materials are expected to find heavy use in computers, missile and space guidance systems, etc., this state is of great importance to the designer as well as to the scientist.

FROM



LAFAYETTE

America's Citizens Band Headquarters

3 GREAT NEW CITIZENS BAND TRANSCEIVERS

CITIZENS BAND — The New Two-Way Personal Communications Method For Everyone. Fill out the FCC form enclosed with each Lafayette Transceiver. No examination or technical knowledge required — Any citizen 18 years or older is eligible for a license.

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- Telescoping Antenna — 3 ft. 9 in.
- Complete With Earphone For Private Listening
- Supplied With Attractive Leather Carrying Case & Crystals For Channel 10

Constructed with the care and precision of a fine watch. This new transceiver combines a portable transmitter and superheterodyne receiver designed for short range communication in the 27 mc Citizens Band. Advanced circuitry and design utilizes 9 transistors plus 1 diode to achieve a range of from 1.5 miles to 10 miles depending upon conditions. Low input power of 100 MW permits operation without FCC license or permit. Easy-to-use speaker serves as microphone, controls include push-to-talk switch and on-off volume control. Housed in sturdy aluminum case. Supplied with 8 miniature penlight batteries, earphone and attractive leather case with shoulder strap.

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- Foolproof Dependable Relay Switching
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- 4 Crystal-Controlled Receive Positions Plus Tuneable Receiver over all 23 channels
- "S" Meter With Switch To Measure Signal Strength and To Check on Wattage Input to Final
- Dependable Push-to-Talk Ceramic Microphone & Relay
- Adjustable Squelch Control
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HE-20 **99.50** ^{5.00}
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- Illuminated Dial
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The sensitivity and selectivity of this new transceiver equals that of the finest units available. Two or more of these transceivers will serve as an effective communication system over a distance of up to 20 miles, depending upon terrain and antenna height. Tunable Superheterodyne receiver section covers all 32 assigned channels with a sensitivity of 1 microvolt and provides for 4 crystal controlled receiving channels. 5-watt crystal-controlled transmitter operates on any 4 of 23 channels. Complete with rugged push-to-talk ceramic mike. Special bracket-handle allows installation in any location and any position. Size 12x5x8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "D. with 115V AC/12V DC Power Supply.

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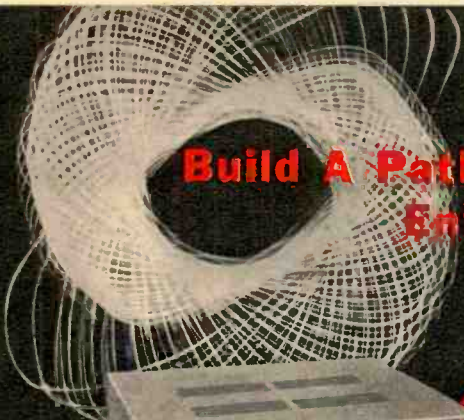
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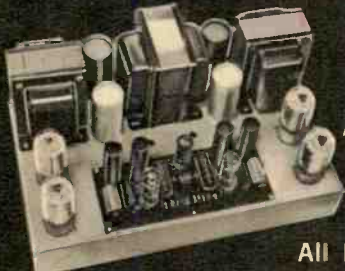
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All Lafayette Kits are Available on the Easy Pay Plan.
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Sun-Powered Life Saver

Continued from page 82

"instructed" to monitor ski trails, indicate a pleasure boat's position or read gauges of distant, unattended industrial processes.

- Installed along ski slopes, solar transmitters promise to turn electronic Saint Bernards, cutting rescue operations by hours.

- Rangers in our National Parks and Forests see the wireless, sun-run transmitters as low-cost lifeguards in America's most rugged wilderness country.

- As silent sentinels at hundreds of isolated emergency landing fields, the transmitters would bail a downed pilot out of his predicament . . . even though storms had cut telephone communications.

- A single \$300 solar-transmitter, set in an oil company's isolated tank farm, can pick up trouble signals from pumps and motors, warn engineers at distant field offices.

- But it's along our turnpikes, toll roads and freeways where the sun-system bids to save your life and mine . . . and without the costly necessity of overhead wires or buried cables essential to telephone call-boxes. Engineers figure it costs about \$8000 a mile to install a freeway with emergency telephones. By contrast, eight solar-transmitters (sited a quarter mile apart each side of the turnpike) can be installed for less than \$3000 a mile.

A storm-caused power failure could not put the solar system out of action.

Grins an engineer for Hoffman Electronics, "the only major 'power' failure that would affect them . . . would be if the sun burnt out."

The transmitters—frequency shift modulated—put out about 1 watt. Although the FCC hasn't yet assigned a system frequency, prototypes are testing on 72-76 megacycles.

As many as 1000 transmitters can beam emergency-coded signals (each containing 25 data "bits") to a single narrow-band receiver (typical: a modified standard 14-tube FM receiver). In highway nets, the receiver feeds a solid-state digital decoder which both prints the message (on tape) and displays it visually on a monitor board.

The five silicon solar cells—mounted atop a 20-ft. coaxial antenna to keep them from the reach of vandals—are the same type Hoffman supplies for U. S. space satellites (thus the name, "safety satellite").

The power for a single 1.5 second emergency message is generated by about five

minutes of sunlight. During solar recharging, a transmitter's six nickel cadmium batteries are in parallel. For sending, batteries are switched in series, five of them powering the transistorized power supply, the other energizing tube filaments and supplying keyer voltage.

A transmitter's printed code circuit can be quick-changed to send almost any message. Industrial engineers, for example, may want pressure readings one day, temperature data the next. To get it, they merely plug into the circuit a small button called a "code plug."

Substituting Code Plug X for Plug Y might, for instance, "instruct" the transmitter to monitor only process temperatures where, previously, it had watch-dogged flow rates and pressures.

Plugs make appropriate connections in pre-printed circuits. Dozens of different message circuits may be pre-printed on a transmitter's code board.

Says one process engineer, whose company plans shortly to install "safety satellites" at a remote tank farm, "substitute circuitry data plugs . . . and you change the whole pattern of data . . . without changing a single wire or calling in an expert to 'program' the device."

So far-spanning a monitor system carries a modest price tag: about \$300 for the solar-powered transmitter, another \$250-\$275 for the FM receiver. More complex decoding and display consoles, however, can up the monitor station tab to \$3000. This is not expensive for industrial or public installations.

Solar Modules

"Solar Modules," containing five shingled, plastic-encased silicon solar cells, are announced by the Semiconductor Division of Hoffman Electronics Corp. They can be used separately or arranged in series, parallel, or series-parallel combinations to meet particular output requirements. Tabs at each end of the plastic case carry terminals and battery polarity markings. Type H5B provides 32 ma. at two volts (64 milliwatts) and Type H5C supplies 42 ma. at two volts (84 mw) in sunlight at an illumination level of 100 mw per square centimeter. They can also be used in "electric eye" applications in artificial light. Prices: H5B, \$16.00; H5C, \$22.40. Hoffman Electronics Corp., 3761 South Hill St., Los Angeles, Calif.

Brain Surgery by Ultrasonics

Continued from page 57

scopes. He throws a master switch, sending the amplifiers' output energy down several shielded cables inside the mechanical arm to energize the four "microphones" touching the patient's head.

But the "microphones" are actually ultrasonic transducers, "loudspeakers" of a sort. Instead of changing sound waves into electrical energy, they do just the opposite. They begin to vibrate and emit ultrahigh frequency waves.

Except for the hum of the electronic equipment and the slow, steady breathing of patient, the room is quiet. The "sound" waves flooding the room have frequencies up to a million vibrations per second (1000 kc), far above our range of hearing.

Each transducer sends a separate beam of ultrasonic waves into the patient's brain. As *EL*'s readers know, ultrasonic waves can be focused like light waves. Special acoustical lenses, mounted at the end of each transducer, focus the beams upon a single point.

Deep within the patient's brain, the cancerous cells begin to vibrate as they are bombarded by the ultrasonic waves. The vibration produces heat which kills the diseased cells.

In a matter of seconds, an automatic timer shuts off the electronic equipment. One of the most delicate surgical operations has been performed without even scratching the patient's skin!

The credit for the development of the equipment which makes electronic brain surgery possible goes to a remarkable research team of two brothers at the Biophysical Research Laboratory in the University of Illinois College of Engineering.

Professors Frank and William Fry are members of a new breed of electrical engineers who are busy applying some of the latest developments in electronics to the advancement of medical science.

Instead of the conventional scalpel, as old as surgery itself, they envisioned an invisible scalpel—a narrow, powerful beam of ultrasonic waves penetrating the brain and destroying diseased cells. They knew that such an electronic scalpel would be able to probe many regions of the human brain formerly forbidden to surgeons—perhaps saving countless lives.

At first glance it appeared to be an impossible feat. If they kept the energy at a "safe" level, the energy waves would harm-

lessly pass through the brain without damaging either diseased or healthy tissue. If they applied a much stronger beam of waves, it would destroy almost every cell through which it passed.

In other words, a beam sufficiently powerful to do some good would "bore" a tunnel of destruction right through the brain. The solution was to use two or more weak beams that met right at the target. No single beam would be powerful enough to do any damage, yet when they met their combined energy would destroy everything in the target area. However, ordinary mechanical controls weren't accurate enough to make the scheme work.

The answer, of course, was in electronics. Not only could precision electronic controls accurately aim the ultrasonic beams, they could also measure their intensity and time the exposure. A surgeon using the equipment by itself would be operating blind. Electronic eyes and hands, however, enable him to enter the deepest part of the brain.

Now came the hard part of the project. The Frys had to teach surgeons how to operate with electronic controls. Once brain tissue is destroyed, it is gone forever. Only a brain surgeon is prepared to accept the responsibility for the use of the equipment in an actual operation. The electronic technician can only make sure the surgeon's tool won't fail him at a critical moment.

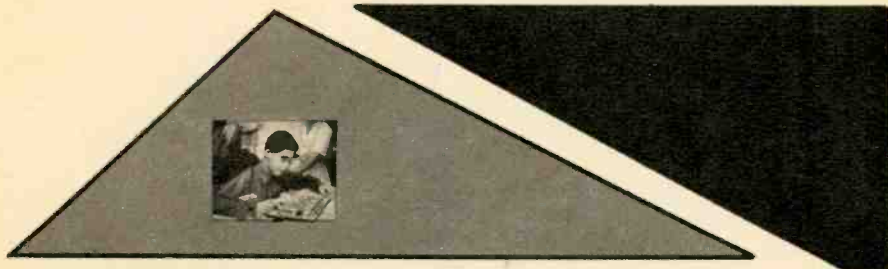
Years of animal experimentation had to be performed before the Frys were convinced their equipment was reliable and safe. Then came the big day. For the first time in medical history, a completely electronic operation was to be performed. The patient was a man suffering from Parkinson's disease, an ailment in which a nerve center of the brain is attacked, causing the person to tremble constantly. The ultrasonic beams passed through the patient's brain and for the first time in years his hands stopped shaking. Frank and William Fry then and there received their reward for almost ten years of hard work.

Although the University of Iowa Hospital is the first institution to perform electronic surgery on a routine basis, the University of Chicago, MIT, and the Burden Neurological Institute in England are but a few of the other places where scientists are experimenting with this unusual application of electronics. In the near future, electronic operations may be performed on other parts of the body. Electronic surgery spells new hope for sufferers from many diseases—including patients for whom little or nothing could be done only a few years ago.

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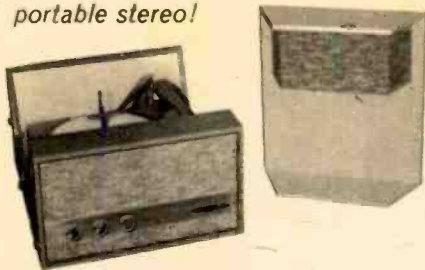
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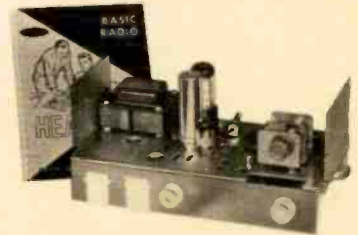
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Courier Satellite

Continued from page 30

a system of circular polarization.

By polarizing the command signals from the ground circularly, the satellite always receives a signal, regardless of its orientation or the Faraday Effect shifts. In addition, by receiving the Courier's transmitted energy at the ground station on complex antennas polarized in many planes, and combining their energy in phase before feeding it into the receiver, the satellite signals are recorded without interruption.

Apart from the many other remarkable electronic "firsts" achieved by Project Courier, this system of circular polarization for transmission and reception stands by itself as a feat of radio engineering. For even though the Faraday Effect decreases as frequencies are raised, the effect is still noticeable through the VHF channels. Only above about 2,000 megacycles does it become negligibly small. The reason for this is that higher frequencies have greater energy and smaller wavelengths. They can more easily penetrate the spaces between molecular and atomic particles of the atmospheric gases.

On the other hand, microwaves, as everyone knows, are normally a *line-of-sight* proposition. They do not follow the Earth's curvature, and are not reflected by atmospheric layers. They behave like visible light: solid objects "shadow" them, and they cannot be detected "below the horizon."

Microwave communications are more dependable and freer from atmospheric interference than all other kinds of radio communication. The big problem is in overcoming their line-of-sight-limitation. Courier solves that. In the process it has also solved many other formidable problems inherent in communications via space.

An outstanding example is the self-sufficiency of Courier. It has a power source of almost 20,000 solar cells. Its control circuitry rejects any command or query not properly coded. In other words, it cannot be jammed, either accidentally by interference or consciously by a potential enemy. Through "redundant" components, it "carries spare parts" for repairing itself.

The specially developed equipment aboard Courier for storing information can handle three and a half million data "bits" per minute. (*Bit* is jargon for an information element.)

Courier T-B can also be used for "real time" transmission: the simultaneous re-

ception and retransmission of messages or facsimile images between any ground stations visible to the satellite.

This last-described achievement proves the *feasibility* of instantaneous worldwide communications, including television. In fact, Courier is "merely an experiment." It is part of a much more advanced program now being worked out by the Department of Defense and the Army's Signal Research and Development Laboratory, at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. The total program is called *Project Advent*. Its aim is to place three Courier-type satellites in "stationary" orbits about the Earth before the end of this decade.

If three such satellites could be accurately spaced around the world in an orbit 22,500 miles above the Equator they would remain always above the same spot on the Earth, and every square inch of the globe would be in sight of one or another of them. (They would seem stationary because, at that distance, it would take them 24 hours to circle the planet—which is turning on its axis at the same rate.)

The present Courier, in its 600- to 750-mile orbit, can handle three and a half million words daily. This is nearly equivalent to the wordage handled by America's combined major news services. It includes what is carried by all transcontinental main news trunks, financial, sports, and special-purpose wires, regional and state loops and the ocean cables plus the radioteletypewriter circuits of all foreign bureaus.

Imagine the savings in time, money and accuracy if the news alone were instantaneously transmitted from one part of the world to another via Advent's three orbiting active-repeater stations high above the Equator. The cost of maintaining millions of miles of cables would be eliminated. Costly breakdowns and delays because of electrical storms would be unknown.

Yet this is only one aspect of Project Advent. There are many others. The most important, naturally, is global military communications to maintain the security of the free world. There is also the fact that telephone communications could be extended to the most remote regions on Earth. What a benefit this would be to scientific expeditions! (*It might also be a curse.—Editor.*) It would certainly help to stimulate the settling and exploitation of remote places rich in natural resources.

For the success of the even more ambitious Project Advent, the rocket is also already available—the Martin-built Titan ICBM. It only remains for the electronics researchers to design and "prove out" their equipment. They are working on it now.

To The Moon

Continued from page 33

to the probe will originate from there.

Power for all equipment is provided by solar cells on the vehicle's "paddle wheels." These convert about 8 per cent of the energy striking them into electricity, which is stored in batteries to keep the supply even and constant in spite of the spinning of the probe and of passes through the Moon's shadow. The minimum lifetime of the system is one year.

A remarkably simple and clever temperature control system keeps Pioneer's internal temperature from swinging to the wild extremes caused by space conditions. Past space probes have used patterns of light and dark paint or finishing to reflect and absorb solar energy in the right proportions. The fixed pattern treatment doesn't work very well. Pioneer VI uses propeller-like shutters to vary the proportions of light and dark areas as needed. Each propeller is shaped like a Maltese cross and partly covers a circle divided into alternating white and black areas—two interwoven Maltese crosses. Each one is turned by its own temperature sensor, a bimetallic spring that bends in one direction when heated, in another direction when cooled. Each sensor tends to keep itself at a "comfortable" temperature by turning the propeller vanes to cover and expose more or less white or black finish.

Pioneer VI's space guidance system is one of its most interesting and important features. For the first time in history, a lunar probe has its own control rockets. Pioneer has two. By command from Earth, either nozzle can be fired to speed up or slow down the hurtling ball, and give it the right speed for "falling" into an orbit around the Moon. (Alternatives: swinging past the Moon because of too great a speed, or crashing on the Moon, Lunik II style, because of too little speed.) The decision to make the firing depends on Pioneer's position and speed at certain critical moments. Position is determined by the bearing of the tracking antennas plus knowledge of Pioneer's speed.

Pioneer's speed is measured by a Doppler system. The Doppler Effect is famous, and not hard to understand: the frequency of any kind of radiation from a moving object seems to *shift*. The favorite example given is the locomotive bell on a train passing a railroad station platform. Its pitch rises as the moving bell approaches a listener on the platform, drops abruptly as it

passes and moves away. This is because the speed of sound in air is constant, at any given moment, and approaching sound waves crowd together, receding waves spread apart. The same is true of radio waves. The speed of electromagnetic (radio or light) waves in space is a constant 186,300 miles per second, no matter how fast or slowly their source is moving. For a transmitter in a lunar probe moving away from the Earth, each individual wave will be "spread" a little farther in space from the one emitted before it. Since the speed of all the waves is constant, the probe's radio waves will arrive at Earth spread out *in time* as well as in space. Thus their frequency will have *shifted* to a lower value. Measuring the shift accurately measures the speed; speed times time gives distance.

Interestingly, Pioneer VI carries no television or film equipment, unlike our earlier Moon probe designs or Lunik I, which took pictures of "the back of the Moon." This will infuriate some people: those who feel we must show the world that we can do whatever the Russians do. The furious ones probably number most of the people who felt we didn't need space-exploration programs at all, until after Russia launched her first two Sputniks. Since we can certainly build TV satellites (we originated them) and can put a satellite into lunar orbit, there is no question whether we can put a TV satellite into orbit about the Moon.

The most useful satellite ever launched has turned out to be Vanguard I, the 8-pound "grapefruit" satellite that went up two years ago, our second successful launching. It is still "beeping," as it may for a century, and it may stay up for a thousand years. It is still being observed closely. More has been learned from this one simple "bird" than from all the thirty-odd satellites we and the Soviet Union have launched put together. Pioneer VI will likewise circle the Moon for centuries, since there is no atmosphere to hinder it. When men are building bases on the Moon, Pioneer VI will still be giving them valuable information.

History will probably credit the United States with the "invention" of space science *provided* we stick to our policy of putting up scientifically useful spacecraft, rather than striving for propaganda feats to impress the ignorant. Crashing Lunik II on the Moon was sensational, but was simply like shooting a man. Orbiting a satellite around the Moon is more like shooting a cigarette out of a man's mouth, and then requiring the bullet to circle his head endlessly and report on his reactions. ●

Tape Recorder Doctor

Continued from page 59

"consulting room," where he earns upwards of \$15,000 a year—and he has never lost a patient.

The average tape recorder needs an electronic examination about every 18 to 24 months (average overhaul costs \$20-\$30). And there simply aren't magnetic specialists enough to handle all the patients. Last year, for example, some 500,000 tape machines were sold, their value pegged at \$80,000,000. Yet back in 1954, when home tape units first hit the market in quantity, not more than 100,000 were produced. At first, their owners generally turned them over to any handy electronic repairman.

But as tape machines grew more complex and higher in fidelity, more specialized and complex became their electronic ailments. Increasingly, recorder owners, private citizens and corporations alike seek out the specialist like Stan Hatfield, whose Hatfield Electronics, in Los Angeles, makes a year-round business of magnetic recorder repair. Also in need of the specialist are the several score recorder makers who must provide service-after-sales for their customers.

Admittedly, a few tape makers field their own service staffs. Such self-servicing applies mainly to dictating tape machines (the office-common variety). Most other makers look to independent electronic servicemen.

"Latch onto a few service warranty deals, where you backstop a tape maker's 90-day to 1-year warranty," says Stan, "and you'll find yourself tape-deep in work." One reason this is true is that local retailers refer their customers to you for service.

Hatfield's shop, typically, is warranty headquarters for the German-made Grundigs and for Geloso, the Italian recorder maker. Even though upwards of 50 percent of Stan's annual repair gross stems from these two companies, he's set-up to cure any recorder ailment.

Essential to the tape recorder specialist's kit are a phalanx of machine tools: a lathe (preferably the 10-inch variety

for turning parts); a hydraulic press for holing through chassis; and motorized bench saws for customizing consoles. (For a vocal studio, Stan recently wrapped up a \$4000 custom job, including installation of a Presto stereo recorder.)

Though Stan picks up some choice custom jobs, it's day-to-day repairs that build his bank account. Hatfield pegs his labor at \$6.50 an hour and may bill a customer \$26-\$30 for the 4-hours it takes to overhaul a precision recorder. He also pockets profits from parts—anywhere from 30-40 percent of their retail price.

Audio accessories not only add to his take, but pay his overhead (about \$150 monthly, which includes the \$75 rent he pays for about 550 square feet of shop space).

"When it comes to audio accessories," explains Stan, "I stock the works—everything, you might say, except tape recorders themselves." Microphones—both crystal and dynamic—cost customers \$8 to \$30, about 40 percent of it profit. The more than 30 varieties of recorder cables in his stock bins sell for \$1-\$6 apiece, and some of the more complex go higher.

Biggest profits, though, come from magnetic tapes, both unrecorded reels (1200-feet are priced at \$3.50, 33 percent of it profit) and the burgeoning "albums"—the tops in recorded music, which cost listeners anywhere from \$3.95 to \$11.95 (and return Stan a third of their list price as profit).

How do you turn tapes to profit? Hatfield turned tape recorder specialist after a few years as a radio-TV repairman. As a kid he liked to tinker with circuits, and he kept on tinkering through his hitch with the Air Corps during WWII. Out of service, he set up a radio-TV repair shop, and gradually turned to tape recorders.

Hatfield Electronics opened for tape recorder servicing in 1956, backed by a few thousand dollars (most of it invested in test gear and spare parts, including precision resistors, capacitors, and 500,000 assorted items of hardware, from terminal tie points to tube sockets).

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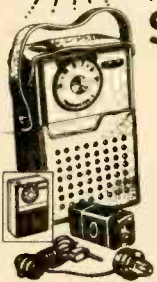
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The Multi-Strobe

Continued from page 48

tion, permanent single-control calibration may be applied to R4. This is done with the help of a cardboard strobe disc used for checking record turntable speeds. Using a turntable whose speed is exactly 78 rpm, illuminate the disc with the strobe light flashing at its maximum rate. Now back off R4 until the 78 rpm ring becomes stationary and mark the scale either 60 cps or 3600 rpm. Continuing counterclockwise very slowly, a number of other settings will be found for which the ring appears to stop rotating. In order, these are:

78 rpm Ring Stopping Point	Flash Repetition Rate cps	rpm
1	60	3600
2	40	2400
3	30	1800
4	24	1440
5	20	1200
7	15	900
9	12	720
11	10	600
6, 8, 10		no calibration

Testing

With V1 *only* in its socket, SW1 closed, SW2 open, potentiometers R2 and R4 fully counterclockwise. Measurements taken with 20,000 ohm/volt meter between indicated points and chassis.

V2	Pin #3	500 volts DC
socket	Pin #5	0 volts
	Pin #6, 8	495 volts DC with SW3 undepressed
		3.5 volts DC with SW3 depressed

4-prong flash tube socket

(V3)	Pin #1	500 volts
	Pin #2	500 volts
	Pin #3	0 volts

Caution: The 80 mf capacitor C1 retains a very healthy charge. While PL1 remains lit, keep your hands out of the circuit! C1 may be discharged by short-circuiting C2 (*not* C1) with an insulated screwdriver after power is removed. SW2 must be open (set to Strobe) during the shorting process

Hot New Prospecting Tool

Continued from page 43

generate audible clicks in earphones. Power source: two 7½-volt batteries.

An ideal space-age metal, beryllium slows neutron bombardment, weighs one-third less than aluminum and is nearly twice as strong. Moreover, its melting point—2,350°F—is twice that of aluminum.

It has some drawbacks. The metal is the cause of an obscure disease, tuberculosis-like in its effects, called berylliosis. It was recognized only a decade or so ago after workers in X-ray tube and fluorescent-lamp factories had come down with it. The metal is no longer used in fluorescent lights but a common form of the X-ray tube uses a beryllium target. Electrons from the filament bombard the target and cause it to emit gamma or X rays, the way gravel hitting a piece of sheet metal will cause it to emit sound. Properly handled, beryllium is safe to work and its strong, light alloys, with their resistance to high temperatures, are finding more and more uses.

Nobody expects a beryllium rush—not, at least, by amateur prospectors. The

Beryllometer's cost is high and the Atomic Energy Commission must issue you a license to operate the highly radioactive tool. Also, the radioactive source must be replaced about every four months, whether the Beryllometer is used or not. Cost of a replacement capsule: about \$120.

Beryllometers may be seen in many areas because known deposits of the different kinds of ore are distributed throughout the country. The best-known, pegmatite, is a form of granite (containing beryl crystals) found in cracks and fissures of other rocks in fourteen states. Non-pegmatite and non-beryl deposits are found in seven of these as well as five more. About 8000 tons of ore were used in the United States in 1959, but only about 300 tons were mined in this country. A beryllium "rush" currently is on in Utah's Topaz county.

If you are interested in prospecting and are able to ante up the high cost of the equipment (and can get a partner to help you carry it around) your state university's geology department, or your state bureau of mines, can locate the prospecting areas for you. The Beryllometer is manufactured by the Isotope Specialties Co., a division of the Nuclear Corporation of America, 170 W. Providencia, Burbank, California.



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Dollars from Discs

Continued from page 79

"Sound," says 29-year-old Al Gottschalk, "makes nothing but dollars and sense."

And it can make as much for you.

The Gottschalks' Electro-Vox, at the hub of things audio in Los Angeles, figures that, with all turntables spinning, it can gross upwards of \$450 daily. Electro-Vox's annual take from sound: about \$100,000.

Recently, for example, the Gottschalks contracted to supply 3000 discs of a high school's spring sing. Working from tapes supplied by the school, they cut a master disc, dispatched it to a local record presser who turned out the production run. The school paid 35 cents apiece for the 8-inch, 33½ rpm disc which cost the Gottschalks 18 cents. Profit from so routine a job: \$510.

Just as routine was another recent assignment: monitor a half-hour radio speech and put the 30 minutes on record. The Gottschalks billed the client \$12.50 for taping the broadcast, another \$9 for grooving it into a 12-inch, 33½ rpm disc.

This simple assignment required an Ampex 350 tape recorder (cost: about

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\$1450), a dubbing table (price-tagged \$500-up) and a disc recording machine (priced from \$1000 up, depending on the model, and whether you purchase it new or used).

Actually, however, many a local sound man grubstakes his audio career with only a few thousand dollars. Rather than expensive Ampex units he substitutes low-cost but serviceable home-type tape machines. He shop-fabs his own dubbing table—builds his own turntable, amplifiers and audio-mixing console.

He doesn't necessarily invest in a disc recorder. Instead, he sends his tapes to any of a dozen grooving companies (located in as many cities) who will make up records in any size and quantity . . . and rush them back to him air mail parcel post. Such speedy and professional service comes modestly priced: an average of 16 cents each for 100 pressings of a 7-inch vinyl 45 rpm record, about \$1.35 per copy if the record is fancied up with a special printed label and jacket.

"A photographer," says one expert, "doesn't have to process his own negatives . . . nor does the sound man need to process his own tapes."

Regardless of how you do it, essentially you'll be concerned with only four essential audio processes: dubbing tapes to tape, discs to discs, tape to discs and discs to tape.

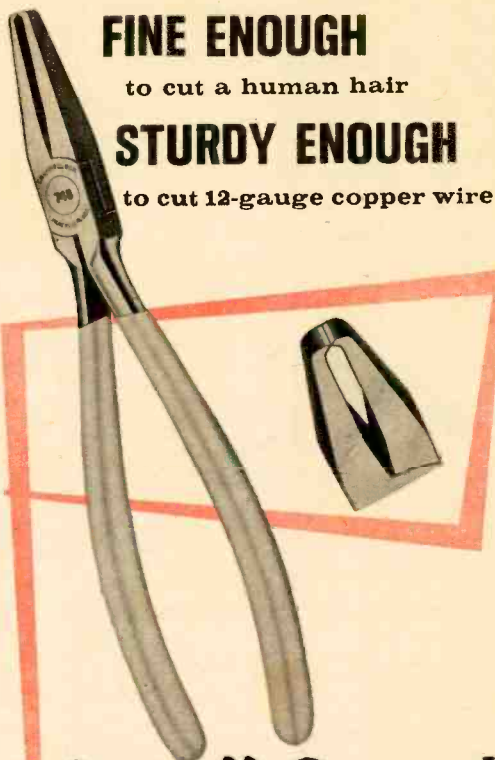
Why not, you may wonder, a strictly specialized career—dedicated solely to tape?

The reason: client preference varies. A corporate sales manager, typically, may well spiel his pep-talk to a tape recorder. But for distribution to his 100 salesmen scattered around the country, he needs records (since few salesmen can scrounge up a tape machine for the playback).

On the other hand, a local ad agency (paying you \$15-\$22.50 an hour for studio time), may prefer tapes—since tapes are more easily edited. Having taped a spot announcement, the agency may ask you to edit it, re-record it on fresh tape . . . and ship the works off to a local broadcasting station (which, as most, is equipped to handle tapes). Your fee for the works—studio time, editing and re-recording—may run \$50-\$100 for what, on the air, spans only 60 seconds.

Long-play profits? They're considerable—for the fellow who wants to earn a sound dollar.

See Electroplating in March EI



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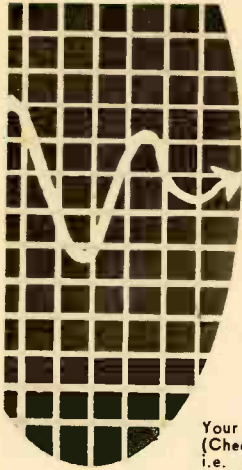
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Code Practice Oscillator

Continued from page 61

can be used to make contact with Q1's base and emitter pins. The speaker is mounted on the board with 1/2" standoffs.

Microphone button CM should be wired with about 6" of lead to permit shifting its placement. If a telephone-type microphone button is used, the connections may be soldered directly to the contact rings.

After the wiring is checked, connect a milliammeter in series with the battery. Current flow should be under 1 ma. Close the key and position the microphone button near the speaker. Violent audio feedback will result and the current should rise to between 200 and 300 ma. Considerable variation should be expected here as the current will be dependent on the battery voltage and characteristics of Q1 and CM. By shifting the position of CM, a variation of tone and volume will be noted.

The proper placement of the microphone button is far simpler to accomplish than describe. With the particular microphone button used, it was most convenient to mount the button under the speaker. Both resonance to the desired frequency and reduction of feedback to the required level was accomplished by gluing a plastic poker chip to the face of the button. Other simple expedients may be used, dependent on the individual layout, characteristics of the microphone and speaker, and the frequency desired.

No volume control was used in the unit described since lowering the battery voltage from 6 to 3 volts results in a considerable drop in output level.

This unit may also be used as a conventional audio amplifier. Jack J1 is installed as shown. To use as an amplifier, open the key and plug in a carbon microphone. The use of a long microphone cord is required to avoid undesired audio feedback.

All in all, this is a very worthwhile project, either for the novice who is interested in learning the code or for the old timer who desires some experience with transistor circuitry. —

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