

# electronics today

ISSN 0142-7229

INTERNATIONAL

AUGUST 1982 75p

## ETI MOBILE—To Be Built By Humans Run By Computer ETI MICROTUTOR—Teach yourself To Handle Machine Code!

**Configurations—a new “building block”  
approach to circuit design**

**Build our new game project—  
novel design concept**

**Playmate project  
for aspiring  
guitarists!**



**Major New Series!  
Designing Micro Systems—  
Computer Circuitry Made Easy**

AUDIO... COMPUTING... MICRO...

...ROBOTICS...

Powertran's black boxes are packed with punch. Not only are they superb kits to buy and build they really do the job! Imaginative and ingenious design goes hand in hand with top quality materials and outstanding performance capability. With their smart black styling the kits harmonise visually as well as musically.

Your can built each unit independantly for its set task and then gradually increase your array until you have a complete bank of formidable controllable power.



Complete Kit — £49.90 + VAT

**MPA 200** is a low price, high power 100W amplifier. Its smart styling, professional appearance and performance, make it one of our most popular designs. With adaptable inputs the mixer accepts a variety of sources yet straightforward construction makes it ideal for the first-time builder.



Complete Kit — £49.50 + VAT

**CHROMATHEQUE 5000** — a 5-channel lighting system powerful enough for professional discos yet controllable for home-effects. Sound to light, strobe to music level, random or sequential effects — each channel can handle up to 500W yet minimal wiring is needed with our unique single-board design.



Complete Kit — £175.00 + VAT

**ETI VOCODER** — 14 channels, each with independent level control, for maximum versatility and intelligibility; Two input amplifiers — for speech/excitation — each with level control and tone control. The Vocoder is a powerful yet flexible machine that is interesting to build and thanks to our easy to follow construction manual, is within the capability of most enthusiasts.



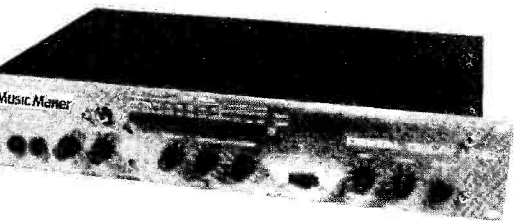
Complete Kit — £64.90 + VAT

**SP2 200** twice the power with two of the reliable, durable and economic amps from the MPA200; fed by separate power supplies from a common toroidal transformer. Superb finish and quality components throughout — up to (even over!) the standard of high priced factory-built units.



**DJ90 Stereo Mixer** — this is a really versatile new mixer that enables the constructor DJ to produce a professional performance every time. There are two stereo inputs for magnetic cartridges, a stereo auxiliary input and mike input. Other 'plus' features are auto-panning for fast or slow, slider controls, multi-mixing, ducking, interrupt, input modulation, in short everything... the whole works — AND — under £100 complete! (We have illustrated the DJ90 teamed in our own console with the Chromatheque and an SP2 200 and speakers.

Complete Kit — £97.50 + VAT



**Digital Delay Line** — our latest kit! With its ability to give delay times from 1.6 mSecs to up to 1.6 secs. Many powerful effects including phasing, flanging, A.D.T., chorus, echo & vibrato are obtained. The basic kit is extended in 400 mS steps up to 1.6 secs. Simply by adding more parts to the PCB. Compare with units costing over £1,000! Complete kit (400 mS delay) **£130** + VAT. Parts for extra 400 mS delay £9.50p.

*Quite simply the best way to make music*



#### WORLD LEADERS IN ELECTRONIC KITS

- **Money Back Guarantee** — If you are not completely satisfied with your Powertran Kit return it in original condition within 10 days for full refund.
- **Free Soldering Practice Kit** — To assist the beginner we will supply, on request with your first kit order, a free soldering practice kit with useful tips and illustrations.
- **Component Packs** — Most kits are available as separate packs (e.g. PCB component sets, hardware sets etc). Prices in our FREE catalogue.
- **Ordering** — Full ordering details, delivery service, and sales counter opening — inside back of this issue.

PORTWAY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, ANDOVER, HANTS SP10 3NM. (0264) 64455.

# electronics today

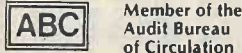
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**Phil Walker** : Project Editors  
**Alan Griffiths** : Divisional Advertisement Manager  
**T.J. Connell** : Managing Director

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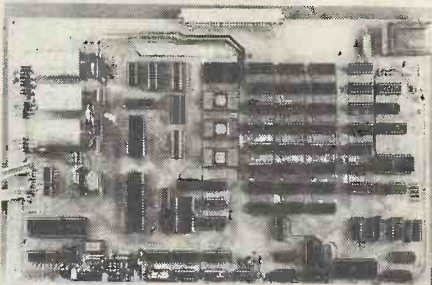
## EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE

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## FEATURES

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 Some humour and some hard facts about the electronics scene.

**DESIGNING MICRO SYSTEMS** ... 19  
 Everything you ever wanted to know about microcomputing hardware (but didn't know who to ask).



**TECH TIPS** ..... 34  
 Three pages of circuit designs submitted by our inventive readership.

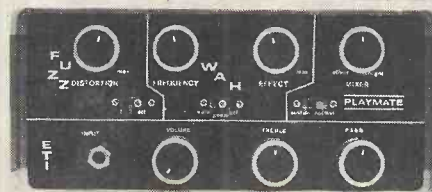
**CONFIGURATIONS** ..... 45  
 Ian Sinclair has done us proud on this one. This new series examines some of the basic transistor building blocks and gives all the design data you need to use them yourself. One to cut out and keep.

**READ/WRITE** ..... 58  
 This month's page of readers' correspondence deals with such diverse topics as lucid dreams, car control and crossword puzzles.

**DESIGNER'S NOTEBOOK** ..... 66  
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**DATA SHEET** ..... 78  
 You wanted it back and here it is! Our monthly glimpse at the manufacturers' info begins with a fast buffer amplifier.

## PROJECTS



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 No, not *that* sort of Playmate — this one's a guitar amplifier with built-in fuzz and wah-wah effects. It's portable, too.

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 We conclude this novel project with the full constructional details and the calibration procedure.

**MICROTUTOR** ..... 50  
 Get to grips with 6502 machine code; this very cheap teaching tool allows you to get hands-on experience with the language of the microprocessor.

**RUGBY CLOCK** ..... 60  
 How would you like a clock/calendar you never have to put right? Here it is, with a whole lot more to offer besides.

**SOUND TRACK** ..... 72  
 We were bored with the usual sort of hand-held DIY electronic game, so we came up with this audio version of the shoot-'em-down type.

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 We've enough modules designed now to make something of them — and it's time you got involved, too.

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## INFORMATION

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**SWITCHES**

TOGGLE: 2A, 250V  
 SPST 33p  
 DPDT 44p

**SUB-MIN TOGGLE**  
 SPST on/off 54p  
 SPDT 1/cover 60p  
 SPDT centre both ways 105p  
 DPDT 6 biased 75p  
 DPDT centre off 88p  
 DPDT biased both ways 145p  
 DPDT 3 positions on/off 185p  
 3-pole 2 way 205p

**SLIDE 250V:**  
 DPDT 1A 14p  
 DPDT 1A c/off 15p  
 DPDT 12A 13p

**PUSHBUTTON 6A**  
 with 10mm Button  
 SPDT latching 99p  
 DPDT latching 145p  
 SPDT moment 99p  
 DPDT moment 145p

Mini Non Locking Push to Make 15p  
 Push to Break 25p

**DIL SWITCHES**

(SPST) 4 way 70p; 6 way 85p;  
 8 way 90p; 10 way 145p.  
 (SPDT) 4 way 190p.

**ROTARY SWITCHES:**  
 (Adjustable Stop type)  
 1 pole/2 to 12 way, 2/2 to 6 way;  
 3 pole/2 to 4 way; 4P/2 to 3 way 45p

**ROTARY:** Mains DP 250V 4 Amp on/off 56p

**ROTARY:** (Mak-a-switch)  
 Make a multiway switch. Shafting assembly has adjustable stop. Accommodates up to 6 wafers (max 6 pole/12 way - DP switch) Mechanism only 90p

**WAFERS:** (make before break) to fit the above switch mechanism.  
 1 pole/12 way, 2 pole/6 way, 3 pole/4 way, 4 pole/3 way, 6p/2 way 56p  
 Mains DP 4A Switch to fit Spacers 4p. Screen 6p 45p

**ROCKER:** 5A/250V SPST 28p  
 ROCKER: 10A/250V SPDT 38p  
 ROCKER: 10A/250V DP c/off 95p  
 ROCKER: 10A/250V DPST with neon 85p

**VEROBOARD 0.1in**

2 1/2 x 3 1/4	73p	52p
2 1/2 x 5	83p	
3 3/4 x 3 3/4	83p	
3 3/4 x 5	95p	79p
3 3/4 x 17	425p	211p
4 3/4 x 17	425p	211p
Pkt. of 100 pins	50p	
Spot face cutter	118p	
Pin insertion tool	162p	

**VERO WIRING**  
 PEN - Sprock 310p  
 Spare Spool 75p  
 Combs 6p

**FERRIC CHLORIDE**  
 1 lb bag Anhydrous 195p  
 50p P&P

**COPPER CLAD BOARDS**  
 Fibre Single 5 R B P  
 glass sided 110p  
 6 x 6 90p  
 6 x 12 150p

**VERO BOARD 0.1in**

VQ Board 175  
 DIP Board 385  
 Vero Strip 144

**PROTO DECS**  
 Veroblock 375p  
 S-Dec 350p  
 Eurobreadboard 520p  
 Bimboard 1 575p  
 Superstrip SS2 1350p

**DALO ETCH RESIST PEN**  
 - Spare tip 90p

**ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCER**  
 40kHz 325 pr

**ICD CONNECTORS**

PCB Plugs with Header Socket	PCB Pins	Angle	Price
2 x 5 way	90p	85p	65p
2 x 8 way	130p	150p	110p
2 x 10 way	145p	165p	125p
2 x 13 way	175p	200p	150p
2 x 17 way	205p	235p	165p
2 x 20 way	220p	250p	180p
2 x 25 way	235p	270p	175p
2 x 30 way	-	-	230p

**EURO CONNECTORS**

DIN	Socket Strt	Socket Angle	Plug Strt	Plug Angle	Price
41617-31	200p	-	-	150p	-
41612	-	-	-	-	-
A+B	-	-	-	-	-
2 x 32 way	340p	345p	295p	325p	-
41612	-	-	-	-	-
A+C	-	-	-	-	-
2 x 32 way	360p	355p	300p	350p	-
41612	-	-	-	-	-
A+B+C	-	-	-	-	-
3 x 32 way	420p	425p	370p	400p	-

**RIBBON CABLE**  
 12cr Grey Cable 10 way 12p 22p  
 16 way 18p 32p  
 20 way 25p 40p  
 24 way 30p 50p  
 34 way 48p 60p  
 40 way 55p 75p  
 50 way 65p 90p  
 64 way 85p 110p

**DIL PLUG HEADERS**  
 14 pin 4p 99p  
 16 pin 4p 105p  
 24 pin 8p 178p  
 40 pin 25p 255p

**ZIF DIL SOCKETS**  
 24 pin 575p  
 28 pin 620p  
 40 pin 975p

**PANEL METERS**

**FSD**  
 60 x 46 x 35mm  
 0-500µA 200p  
 0-100µA 200p  
 0-500µA 200p  
 0-1mA 100p  
 0-5mA 100p  
 0-10mA 100p  
 0-50mA 100p  
 0-100mA 100p  
 0-1A 100p  
 0-2A 100p  
 0-25V 100p  
 0-50V AC 100p  
 0-300V AC 100p

'VU' 495p each

**RELAYS**

Miniature, enclosed, PCB mount Our RL5 series.  
 S.P.C.O.  
 RL6-91 170i coil, 7V5 to 12V DC; 380V/6A AC, 1300VA/50W 210p  
 D.P.C.O.  
 431i coil, 4V2-7V DC; 250V AC, 5A; 1100VA/150W 215p  
 RL5-111 170i coil, 8V-14V; 250V AC, 5A 220p  
 RL6-114 740i coil, 17V5-29V 250V AC, 5A 222p

**'WEMON' WATFORD'S Ultimate Monitor IC**

A 4K Monitor chip specially designed to produce the best from your Superboard Series I & II, Enhanced Superboard & UK101. As reviewed by Dr. A. Berk in Practical Electronics, June 1981.  
 Price only £12 + 50p P&P

**CRYSTALS**

32.768kHz	100
100kHz	350
455kHz	295
1MHz	375
1.008MHz	275
1.28MHz	302
1.6MHz	395
1.8MHz	395
2.0MHz	220
2.4576MHz	225
3.278MHz	150
3.5794MHz	98
3.6854MHz	300
4.0MHz	150
4.032MHz	290
4.80MHz	200
4.194304MHz	200
4.433619MHz	120
5.0MHz	160
5.185MHz	300
5.24288MHz	225
6.144MHz	320
6.5536MHz	225
7.168MHz	250
7.68MHz	200
8.0MHz	220
8.86723MHz	175
9.00MHz	175
10.0MHz	150
10.24MHz	200
10.7MHz	200
12.0MHz	200
14.31814MHz	170
16.0MHz	270
18.0MHz	180
18.432MHz	180
19.968MHz	240
24.0MHz	150
26.189MHz	150
27.648MHz	170
27.145MHz	190
38.66667MHz	175
48.0MHz	170
100.0MHz	250
116.0MHz	250

**PIEZO TRANSDUCERS**

Type PB-2720 75p

**BUZZERS**, miniature, solid-state

6V, 9V & 12V 70p

**LOUDSPEAKERS**

Miniature, 0.3W, 8Ω, 2in, 3 1/2in, 2 1/2in, 3in 2 1/2in 40i, 64i or 80i 80p

**ASTEC UHF MODULATORS**

Standard 6MHz 280p  
 Wideband 8MHz 425p

**BBC MICRO UPGRADE**

(Our BBC Micro Upgrade Kits will save you £ s s s...)  
 16K Memory (8 x 4186AP) £18  
 Printer User I/O Port Kit £8.20  
 Expansion Bus Kit £2  
 Complete Printer Cable 36" £13  
 SK9 with 36" Cable £41  
 Disc Interface Kit £3  
 Analogue I/O Kit £6.75  
 Serial I/O Kit £7.50  
 Expansion Bus Kit £6.50  
 SK11 with Cable 36" £3  
 SK12 with Cable 36" £3.75  
 5 pin DIN Socket £0.40

**ETI PROJECTS**

We stock most of the parts



**JUMPER LEADS** (Ribbon Cable Assembly)

Length	14 pin	16 pin	24 pin	40 pin
24 inches	145p	165p	240p	380p
6 inches	185p	205p	300p	485p
12 inches	185p	215p	315p	490p
24 inches	215p	235p	345p	540p
36 inches	230p	250p	375p	585p

**AMPHENOL PLUGS**

IEEE (24 way) 675p  
 Centronic parallel (36 way) 650p

**DIL SOCKETS (TEXAS)**

Low	Wire	Price
8pin	8p	25p
14pin	10p	35p
16pin	10p	42p
18pin	16p	52p
20pin	22p	60p
22pin	25p	70p
24pin	25p	70p
28pin	28p	80p
40pin	30p	99p

**ANTEX SOLDERING IRON**

C-15W 450p CX17W 475p  
 CCN-15W 495p CX25W 500p

Spare tips, assorted sizes 65p  
 Spare Elements 210p  
 Iron stand with sponge 165p

**D CONNECTORS: Miniature**

9 way 15way 25way 37way

Plugs	18way	160p	250p
Solder	160p	210p	250p
Angle	160p	210p	250p
Pins	120p	130p	195p
Sockets	110p	160p	210p
Angle	165p	215p	290p
Pins	150p	180p	240p
Covers	100p	95p	100p

**25 way 'D' CONNECTOR**

Jumper Lead Cable Assembly 560p  
 18" long, Single end, Male 570p  
 18" long, Single end, Female 570p  
 36" long, Double Ended, M/M 1025p  
 36" long, Double Ended, F/F 1050p  
 36" long, Double Ended, M/F 995p

**ZX81 16K RAM PACK**

Fully built & tested. Plugs straight into ZX81 Micro Only  
 £17.35 + p&p 50p

**TRANSFORMERS:**

Prim 240V  
 6-0-6V; 9-0-9V; 12-0-12V 100mA 98p

pcb mounting, Miniature, Split Bobbin  
 3VA; 2x6V-0.25A; 2x9V-0.15A; 2x12V-0.12A; 2x15V-0.1A 200p  
 6VA; 2x6V-0.5A; 2x9V-0.3A; 2x12V-0.25A 270p  
 2x15V-0.2A 270p  
 Standard Split Bobbin type:  
 6VA; 2x6V-0.5A; 2x9V-0.4A; 2x12V-0.3A; 2x15V-0.25A 220p  
 12VA; 2x6V-1.3A; 2x6V-1A; 2x9V-0.6A; 2x12V-0.5A; 2x15V-0.4A; 2x20V-0.3A 295p (35p p&p)  
 24VA; 2x6V-1.5A; 2x9V-1.2A; 2x12V-1A; 2x15V-0.8A; 2x20V-0.6A 330p (60p p&p)  
 50VA; 2x6V-4A; 2x9V-2.5A; 2x12V-2A; 2x15V-1.5A; 2x20V-1.2A; 2x25V-1A; 2x30V-0.8A 440p (80p p&p)  
 100VA; 2x12V-4A; 2x15V-3A; 2x20V-2.5A; 2x25V-2A; 2x30V-1.5A; 2x50V-1A 920p (75p p&p charge to be added over and above our normal postal charge).

**VOLTAGE REGULATORS**

P.V.	Price
1A TO3 Metal case -ve	
5V 7805 145p	7905 220p
12V 7812 145p	7912 220p
15V 7815 145p	7915 220p
18V 7818 145p	
1A TO220 Plastic casing	
5V 7805 40p	7905 45p
12V 7812 40p	7908 60p
15V 7815 40p	7912 45p
18V 7818 40p	7915 45p
24V 7824 40p	7924 60p
100mA TO92 Plastic casing	
5V 78L05 30p	79L05 60p
12V 78L12 30p	79L12 60p
8V 78L08 30p	79L08 60p
12V 78L12 30p	79L12 60p
15V 78L15 30p	79L15 60p

**CA3085**

LM3008	95p
LM3004	170p
LM3004H	170p
LM305H	140p
LM305K	135p
LM317K	350p
LM317KP	89p
LM317H	280p
LM323K	500p
LM325N	240p
LM326N	240p
LM337	175p
LM723	350p
LM723	135p
TBA625B	75p
DA1412	150p
78H05 + 5V/5A	550p
5H5 + 5V to +25V	595p
79HC-2.5V to 24V 5A	785p

**CMOS**

4000	10	4075	15	4539	110
4001	10	4576	48	4543	150
4002	12	4077	18	4544	150
4006	50	4081	16	4549	375
4007	15	4082	16	4553	245
4008	48	4085	50	4555	35
4009	24	4086	52	4556	35
4010	24	4089	125	4557	320
4011	11	4093	26	4557	320
4012	16	4094	120	4558	320
4013	25	4095	75	4561	10
4014	50	4096	70	4562	495
4015	50	4097	250	4563	180
4016	20	4098	75	4566	165
4017	38	4099	110	4568	250
4018	45	4100	95	4572	20
4019	25	4101	99	4570	85p
4020	50	4102	99	4581	250
4021	50	4103	99	4582	99
4022	50	4104	99	4582	99
4023	16	4105	105	4583	99
4024	32	4106	105	4585	99
4025	16	4408	790	4597	330
4026	90	4409	790	4598	290
4027	24	4410	725	4599	290
4028	50	4411	675	4599	290
4029	60	4412	675	40085	45
4030	30	4415	480	BARGRAPH, Red 10 segments	225
4031	125	4422	280	40100	215
4032	90	4433	770	40101	130
4033	125	4433	770	40102	140
4034	140	4437	770	40103	175
4035	65	4435	850	40104	95
4036	275	4440	999	40105	110
4037	110	4450	350	40106	46
4038	110	4450	350	40107	60
4039	290	4490	350	40108	450
4040	50	4500	675	40109	100
4041	60	4501	28	40110	300
4042	45	4502	60	40111	240
4043	50	4503	40	40112	300
4044	50	4504	75	40113	50
4045	105	4506	35	40114	65
4046	650	4507	35	40115	75
4047	50	4508	130	40116	220
4048	40	4510	46	40117	180
4049	25	4511	46	40118	220
4050	25	4512	50	40119	220
4051	45	4513	199	40120	30
4052	60	4514	115	40121	88
4053	50	4515	115	40122	90
4054	85	4517	275	40123	72
4055	85	4518			



# COMPUTER WAREHOUSE

**NOW OPEN**  
MONDAY-SATURDAY  
9.30-5.30

## BULK BUY SPECIALS

### RAM SCOOP

4116 200 NS 8 for £12.95  
4164 200 NS £8.50 each  
2102-650 NS 8 for £5.50  
INC VAT

### 25 WAY "D" CONNECTORS

50+ 100+  
25p 1.70 1.10 0.95  
25S 1.90 1.20 1.00  
ALL + VAT

### WIRE WRAP SKTS.

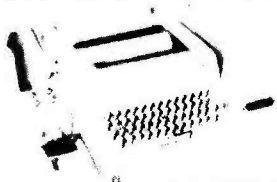
24 Pin Vero 28p  
14 Pin Gold 22p  
16 Pin Gold 24p  
100 PCS Min Ord.

**C10**  
DATA CASSETTES  
10 for £5.75  
Inc. VAT

### RF CONNECTORS

50Ω BNC PLG 50p  
75Ω BNC PLG 50p  
PL269 PLG 40p  
SO239 SKT 35p  
100 PCS MIN ORD.

## TELETYPE ASR33 I/O TERMINALS

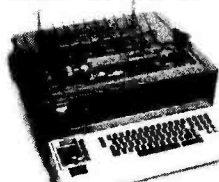


From £195 + CAR + VAT

Fully fledged industry standard ASR33 data terminal. Many features including ASCII keyboard and printer for data I/O, auto data detect circuitry, RS232 serial interface, 110 baud, 8 bit paper tape punch and reader for off line data preparation and ridiculously cheap and reliable data storage. Supplied in good condition and in working order. Options: Floor stand £12.50 + VAT

KSR33 With 20ma loop interface £125.00 + VAT.  
Sound proof enclosure £25.00 + VAT

## "OLIVETTI TE300" PRINTER/TERMINALS



A complete I/O terminal with integral 8 hole paper tape punch and reader, full ASCII keyboard, 120 column printer, and control unit. The printer is capable of 150 baud with a serial TTL or balanced input-output sold in good overall condition but untested. Complete with circuit unguaranteed. Connect direct to your micro at ONLY £99.00 + £11.50 carr + vat.

## MPU EXPERIMENTATORS +5v, 12v, 12v+24v POWER SUPPLY

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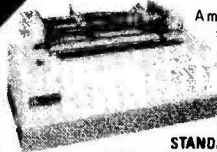
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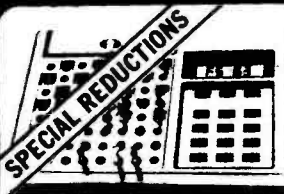
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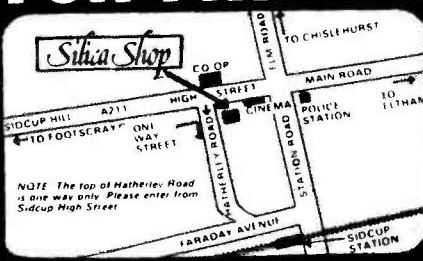
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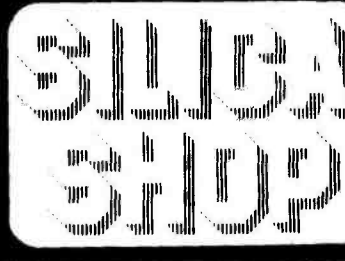
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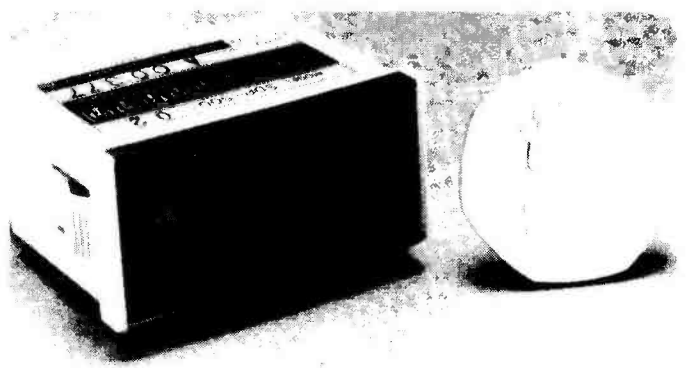
<p><b>DIACS</b>                  BR100 40p                  ST2 29p</p> <p><b>THYRISTORS</b>                  Sensitive Gate                  Small Signal                  2N5600 30p                  2N5601 32p                  2N5602 35p                  2N5603 37p                  2N5604 40p                  2N5605 42p                  2N5606 45p                  2N5607 48p                  2N5608 50p                  2N5609 52p                  2N5610 55p                  2N5611 58p                  2N5612 60p                  2N5613 62p                  2N5614 65p                  2N5615 68p                  2N5616 70p                  2N5617 72p                  2N5618 75p                  2N5619 78p                  2N5620 80p                  2N5621 82p                  2N5622 85p                  2N5623 88p                  2N5624 90p                  2N5625 92p                  2N5626 95p                  2N5627 98p                  2N5628 100p                  2N5629 102p     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2N5871 708p                  2N5872 710p                  2N5873 712p                  2N5874 715p                  2N5875 718p                  2N5876 720p                  2N5877 722p                  2N5878 725p                  2N5879 728p                  2N5880 730p                  2N5881 732p                  2N5882 735p                  2N5883 738p                  2N5884 740p                  2N5885 742p                  2N5886 745p                  2N5887 748p                  2N5888 750p                  2N5889 752p                  2N5890 755p                  2N5891 758p                  2N5892 760p                  2N5893 762p                  2N5894 765p                  2N5895 768p                  2N5896 770p                  2N5897 772p                  2N5898 775p                  2N5899 778p                  2N5900 780p                  2N5901 782p                  2N5902 785p                  2N5903 788p                  2N5904 790p                  2N5905 792p    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              2N5975 968p                  2N5976 970p                  2N5977 972p                  2N5978 975p                  2N5979 978p                  2N5980 980p                  2N5981 982p                  2N5982 985p                  2N5983 988p                  2N5984 990p                  2N5985 992p                  2N5986 995p                  2N5987 998p                  2N5988 1000p                  2N5989 1002p                  2N5990 1005p                  2N5991 1008p                  2N5992 1010p                  2N5993 1012p                  2N5994 1015p                  2N5995 1018p                  2N5996 1020p                  2N5997 1022p                  2N5998 1025p                  2N5999 1028p                  2N6000 1030p                  2N6001 1032p                  2N6002 1035p                  2N6003 1038p                  2N6004 1040p                  2N6005 1042p                  2N6006 1045p                  2N6007 1048p                  2N6008 1050p                  2N6009 1052p                  2N6010 1055p                  2N6011 1058p                  2N6012 1060p                  2N6013 1062p                  2N6014 1065p                  2N6015 1068p                  2N6016 1070p                  2N6017 1072p                  2N6018 1075p                  2N6019 1078p                  2N6020 1080p                  2N6021 1082p                  2N6022 1085p                  2N6023 1088p                  2N6024 1090p                  2N6025 1092p                  2N6026 1095p                  2N6027 1098p                  2N6028 1100p                  2N6029 1102p                  2N6030 1105p                  2N6031 1108p                  2N6032 1110p                  2N6033 1112p                  2N6034 1115p                  2N6035 1118p                  2N6036 1120p                  2N6037 1122p                  2N6038 1125p                  2N6039 1128p                  2N6040 1130p                  2N6041 1132p      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1800p                  2N6309 1802p                  2N6310 1805p                  2N6311 1808p                  2N6312 1810p                  2N6313 1812p                  2N6314 1815p                  2N6315 1818p                  2N6316 182</p>
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# DIGEST

## Beeb's Loss of Memory

If you're stuck in the waiting list for a BBC Microcomputer, we've done some simple arithmetic that may persuade you to cancel your order and choose an alternative. One of the major selling points of the Beeb machine has always been the high resolution graphics, but it isn't until you let high-res loose on your memory that you find out the snag. For example, the Model A is advertised as being a 16K machine. In fact it's only 16K if it's turned off. As soon as you switch on, the operating system automatically reserves 3328 bytes as its workspace, and a further 1K goes to the memory-mapped screen if you're in mode 7 (40 x 25 teletext).

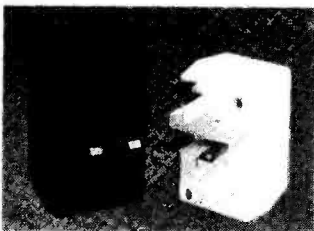
In any other graphics mode you lose a whopping 8-10K, so a '16K' machine actually has a maximum of 11.75K of user memory for programs, and a minimum of 2.75K! In the '32K' Model B, the screen can steal up to 20K in highest-res graphics mode, giving 27.75K maximum, 8.75K minimum. These figures have been available since the specs were published over a year ago, but how many people have actually put two and two together and come up with 2.75? Not many, we suspect. The most charitable comment we can make is that there could be a lot of disappointed customers when deliveries are finally made. On the other hand, you do get one of the best BASIC interpreters around—but stick to mode 7 if you want enough memory to use it properly.



## SDP Shrinks Drastically

Hot on the heels of the BICC-Verro Speedwire prototyping system, reviewed exclusively in the June ETL, comes the SDP-500 range of digital panel meters. The SDP range (do we detect political overtones?) is, into miniaturisation in a big way, if that's not a contradiction — they measure only 48 x 24 x 48 mm. Packed into this tiny case we have the latest

LSI dual-integration A-to-D technology for high stability and excellent noise rejection (40dB at 50 Hz), bright 9.2 mm LED display with anti-glare filter, externally programmable decimal points and external hold. The eight models cover DC voltage or current measurement from  $\pm 199.9$  mV to  $\pm 199.9$  V and  $\pm 199.9$   $\mu$ A to  $\pm 199.9$  mA. The supply is 5 V at 100 mA maximum. For a comprehensive application guide contact Verospeed, Stansted Road, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, Hants SO5 4ZY.

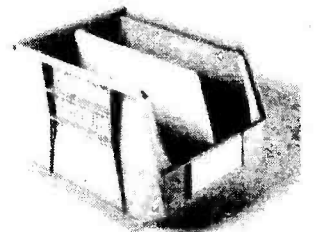
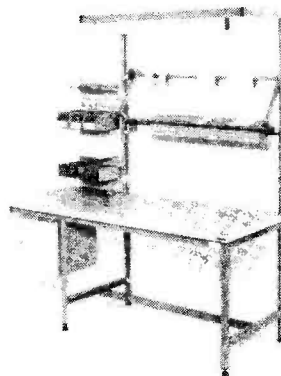
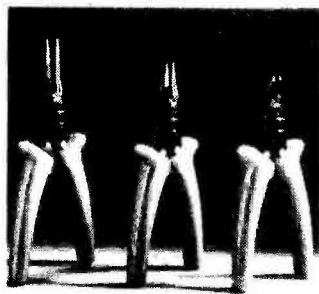


## Plug-in Power

These smart cases have been added to the West Hyde range and are designed to house power supplies for low-voltage equipment such as calculators, radios and TV games. Two sizes are available, both able to accommodate PSU components including the transformer, and the case may be plugged directly into a 13 A socket. You can have any colour so long as it's black or white, and the case is moulded in impact-resistant ABS. More details from West Hyde Developments Ltd, Unit 9, Park Street Industrial Estate, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1ET.

## Cut With Comfort

Now hands that do cutting can feel soft as your face...with these self-opening, cushion-grip hand tools. The three tools each weigh about 80 grams and comprise an angle side cutter, short fine nosed and long fine nosed pliers. Each tool costs £2.90 plus 45p P&P and VAT, and is available by mail order from Electronic Hobbies Ltd, 17 Roxwell Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2LY.



## That's Entertainment?

It seems there's at least one jolly wag at Linvar Ltd; they've sent us details of the ASAD Work Centre. ASAD? — well, that stands for All Singing All Dancing, to signify the fact that it's somewhat versatile. When

assembled the Work Centre is 5' by 2'6", but it can be packed up into its tailor-made carton for storage. The total cost is £89.90. Drawers, cupboards, shelves and a host of other accessories are available, including a paper cutting unit. This features in the Linvar Packing Bench, built from ASAD components. This more specialised work centre is designed to be the basis of a cost-effective packing department. Another aspect of Linvar's involvement in small parts storage is the 'Linbin' range of polypropylene containers, one of which is shown in the second photo. Linvar can be contacted at Barkby Road, Leicester, LE4 7LL.

## Flock Of Eagles

Eagle International, the industrial electronics company, have introduced three new professional public address mixer/amplifiers. These are the TPM 40, TPM 80 and TPM 120 models which offer — surprise, surprise — 40, 80 and 120 W RMS output power. All three are suitable for both four-eight ohm or 100 V line speaker systems. General spec is 30 Hz-15 kHz frequency response, priority paging over background music, master volume controls

etc, and two year guarantee. Individually, the TPM 40 has battery backup for mains failure, three mike and two auxiliary inputs, plus a tone control; the TPM 80 is mains-only with a tone control, four mike, one record deck and two auxiliary inputs; and the TPM 120 has the same inputs as the 80 but with independent bass and treble controls and more versatile input controls. Further information from Eagle International, Precision Centre, Heather Park Drive, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 1SU.



# Rapid Electronics

Tel: 0206 36412  
Hill Farm Industrial Estate  
Boxted, Colchester  
Essex CO4 5RD



## HARDWARE

PP3 battery clips	6p
Red or black crocodile clips	6p
Black pointer control knob	15p
Pi Ultrasonic transducers	350p
*6V Electronic buzzer	60p
*12V Electronic buzzer	65p
*PB2720 Piezo transducer	70p
*64mm 8 ohm speaker	75p
*64mm 8 ohm speaker	75p
20mm panel fuseholder	70p

## CABLES

20 metre pack single core connecting cable ten different colours	65p
Speaker cable	10p/m
Standard screened	16p/m
Twin screened	24p/m
2.5A 3 core mains	23p/m
10 way rainbow ribbon	66p/m
20 way rainbow ribbon	120p/m

## PANEL METERS

Size 60 x 46 x 35mm	
0-500mA	0-500mA
0-100uA	0-1A
0-500uA	0-50V AC
0-1mA	VU
0-10mA	0-300V AC
0-50mA	0-25V
0-100mA	0-30V DC
495p each	

## TRANSISTORS

AC125	35	BC157	10	BC548	10	BF880	25	TI29C	60	ZTX300	14	*N23702	6
AC126	25	BC158	10	BC549	10	BF829	25	TI30A	45	ZTX301	16	*N23703	9
AC127	25	BC159	8	BC550	10	BF828	25	TI30B	50	ZTX302	15	*N23704	6
*AC128	20	BC160	45	BCY72	18	BF882	25	TI30C	60	ZTX304	17	*N23705	9
AC176	25	BC168C	10	BCY72	18	BF887	25	TI31A	45	ZTX341	20	*N23707	10
AC187	22	BC169C	10	BD015	80	BF888	25	TI32A	45	ZTX501	15	*N23708	10
AC188	22	BC170	8	BD132	35	BFY51	23	TI32C	60	ZTX502	15	*N23709	10
AD142	120	BC171	10	BD133	50	BFY52	23	TI33C	75	ZTX504	25	*N23773	210
AD149	80	BC172	8	BD135	50	BFY53	32	TI34A	60	ZN697	20	*N23819	18
AD181	40	BC177	18	BD136	30	BFY56	32	TI34C	85	ZN698	40	*N23820	40
AD182	40	BC178	18	BD137	30	BFY56	32	TI35A	160	ZN706A	20	*N23823	65
AF124	60	BC179	18	BD138	30	BRV39	40	TI35C	180	ZN708	20	*N23866	90
AF126	50	BC182	10	BD139	35	BSX20	20	TI36A	170	ZN918	35	*N23903	10
AF139	40	*BC182L	8	BD140	35	BSX29	35	TI36C	195	ZN1132	22	*N23904	10
AF186	70	BC183	10	BD024	110	BSY95A	25	TI41A	60	ZN1613	30	*N23905	6
AF229	75	BC183L	10	BD026	110	BUD06	110	TI42A	60	ZN2218A	45	*N23906	10
BC107	10	BC184	10	BD022	85	BUD06	200	TI20	100	ZN2219A	25	*N24037	10
*BC107B	12	*BC184L	7	BF180	35	BUD08	170	TI21	100	ZN2221A	25	*N24038	10
*BC108	9	BC212	10	BF182	35	MJ2955	99	TI22	90	ZN2222A	20	*N24060	10
BC108B	12	BC212L	10	BF184	25	MJ2955	50	TI141	120	ZN2368	25	*N24061	10
BC108C	12	BC213	10	BF185	25	MJ2955	65	TI142	120	ZN2369	18	*N24062	10
*BC109	9	BC213L	10	BF186	15	MJ2955	65	TI147	120	ZN2370A	15	*N24063	10
BC109C	12	BC214	10	BF192	12	MJ2955	65	TI147	120	ZN2370A	15	*N24063	10
BC114	22	*BC214L	8	BF196	12	MPF102	40	TI3055	55	ZN2904	20	*N24539	30
BC115	22	BC237	8	BF197	12	MPF104	40	TI340	45	ZN2904A	20	*N24539	30
BC117	22	BC238	14	BF198	10	MPA505	22	TI44	45	ZN2905	22	*N24577	45
BC1119	35	BC308	15	BF199	18	MPA506	25	TI45	45	ZN2906A	22	*N24607	30
BC137	40	BC327	14	BF200	30	MPA512	30	TI50	30	ZN2906	25	*N24608	40
BC139	40	BC328	14	BF201	30	*BF244B	22	TI51	30	ZN2906A	25	*N24609	40
BC140	30	BC337	14	BF245	30	MPA550	30	TI59	30	ZN2906A	25	*N24610	40
BC141	30	BC338	14	BF256B	45	MPA505	55	VN464F	75	ZN2907	25	*N24611	40
BC142	25	BC477	30	BF257	32	MPA506	55	VN66AF	85	ZN2926	9	*N24612	40
BC143	25	BC478	30	BF258	25	MPA505	65	VN66AF	95	ZN3053	23	*N24613	40
BC147	8	BC479	30	BF259	35	MPA556	60	*VTX107	40	ZN3054	25	*N24614	40
BC148	8	BC479	30	BF259	35	MPA556	60	*VTX108	8	ZN3055	20	*N24615	40
BC149	9	BC547	7	BF240	23	TI29B	45	ZTX109	12	ZN3442	120		

## FREE TRANSISTORS!

Yes that's right! It's transistor month at Rapid! On all orders over £15 received we give you 10 BC184L general purpose transistors (value £10) absolutely free of charge. Offer expires 31st August 82. Please mention this magazine.

## POTENTIOMETERS

Rotary Carbon track Log or Lin 1K-2M2  
Single 32p; Stereo 85p; Single switched 80p;  
Slide 60mm travel single Log or Lin 5K-500K 63p each  
Preset. Submin. hor. 100 ohms-1M 7p each  
Cernmet precision multiturn, 0.75W 1/4in 100 ohms to 100K 85p each

## CONNECTORS

DIN	Plug	Skt	Jack	Plug	Skt
2 pin	9p	9p	2.5mm	10p	10p
3 pin	12	10p	3.5mm	9p	8p
5 pin	13p	11p	Standard	16p	20p
Phono	10p	12p	Stereo	24p	25p
1mm	12p	13p	4mm	18p	17p

## BRIDGE RECTIFIERS

1A 50V	22
1A 400V	35
2A 200V	40
2A 400V	45
6A 100V	80
6A 400V	95
VM18 DIL	
0.9A 200V	50

## CAPACITORS

Polyester. Radial leads. 250V. C280 type  
0.01, 0.015, 0.022, 0.033 6p; 0.047, 0.068, 0.1  
7p; 0.15, 0.22 9p; 0.33, 0.47 13p; 0.58, 20p; 1u  
23p  
Electrolytic. Radial or axial leads.  
0.47/63V, 1/63V, 2.2/63V, 4.7/63V, 10/25V  
7p; 22/25V, 47/25V 8p; 100/25V 9p; 220/25V  
14p; 470/25V 22p; 1000/25V 30p; 2200/25V  
50p  
Tag end Power Supply Electrolytics.  
2200/40V 110p; 4700/40V 160p; 2200/63V  
140p; 4700/63V 230p  
Polyester. Miniature Siemens PCB  
1n, 2n2, 3n3, 4n7, 6m6, 10n, 15n 7p; 22n, 33n,  
47n, 68n 8p; 100n 9p; 150n 11p; 220n 13p; 330n  
20p; 470n 26p; 680n 29p; 1u 33p; 2u 80p  
Tantalum bead  
0.1, 0.22, 0.33, 0.47, 1.0 @ 35V 12p; 2.2, 4.7,  
10 @ 25V 20p; 15/16V 30p; 22/16V 27p;  
33/16V 45p; 47/16V 27p; 47/16V 70p; 68/6V  
40p; 100/10V 30p  
Ceramic disc. 22p 0.01u 50V 3p each  
Multilayer miniature ceramic plate  
1.8p to 100pF 6p each  
Polystyrene. 5% tolerance  
10p-1000p 6p; 1500-4700p 8p; 6800-0.012u  
10p  
Trimmers. Mullard 808 Series  
2-10pF 22p; 2-22pF 30p; 5.5-65pF 35p

## UHF (CB) Connectors

PL259 Plug 40p Reducer 14p	38p
SO239 square chassis socket 38p	38p
SO239S round chassis socket 40p	38p
IEC 3 pin 250V/6A	38p
Plug chassis mounting	80p
Socket free hanging	80p
Socket with 2m lead	120p

## Simply phone 0206 36412 with your order

## DIODES

BY127	12	*1N4001	3
OA47	10	1N4002	5
OA90	8	1N4006	7
OA91	7	1N4007	7
OA200	8	1N5401	15
OA202	8	1N5404	16
1N814	4	1N5406	17
*1N4148	2	4000M/Zen 6	
BZK61 Series	zeners	1.3W	
4V7-39V		15p each	

## BARCLAYCARD VISA

## SOLDERING IRONS

Antex CS 17W Soldering iron	450p
2, 3 and 4.7mm bits to suit	65p
CS 17W element	210p
Antex XS 25W Soldering iron	480p
3.3mm and 4.7mm bits to suit	65p
Solder pump desoldering tool	480p
Solder nozzle for above	70p
10 metres 22awg solder	100p
Soldering iron stand for above	190p

## REGULATORS

78L05	25	79L05	65
78L12	25	79L12	65
78L15	25	79L15	65
7805	40	7905	45
7812	40	7912	45
7815	40	7915	45

## SWITCHES

Submin toggle	
SPST 56p SPDT 60p *DPDT	
50p	
Mixtute toggle	
SPDT 80p SPDT centre off 90p	
DPDT 90p DPDT centre off	
100p	
Standard toggle	
SPST 35p DPDT 48p	
*Miniature DPDT slide 12p	
*Push to make 12p Push to	
break 22p	
Rotary type adjustable stop	
1P12V 2P2V 3P4V all 55p	
DIL switches	
4 SPST 80p 6 SPST 80p 8	
SPST 100p	

## SOCKETS

*8 pin	7p	Wire-wrap	25p
*14 pin	9p	25p	35p
*16 pin	10p	42p	42p
18 pin	15p	52p	52p
20 pin	18p	60p	60p
22 pin	20p	70p	70p
24 pin	22p	70p	70p
28 pin	28p	80p	80p
40 pin	32p	98p	98p
Soldercon pins	60p/100		

## RESISTORS

1W 5% Carbon film E12 series 4.7-10M 3p each	
1W 5% Carbon film E12 series 4.7-10M 2p each	
1W 1% Metal film E24 series 100-1M 6p each	

## TRANSFORMERS

Please add carriage charges to our normal post charges  
Miniature mains  
60V, 90V, 120V all @ 100mA 100p each  
PCB mounting. Miniature  
6VA 0.6, 0.6 @ 0.25A; 0.9-0.9 @ 0.15A;  
0.12, 0.12 @ 0.12A 200p each (plus 60p carriage)  
6VA 0.6, 0.6 @ 0.5A; 0.9, 0.9 @ 0.4A; 0.12, 0.12 @ 0.25A 270p each  
High quality. Split bobbin construction  
6VA 0.6, 0.6 @ 0.25A; 0.9, 0.9 @ 0.4A; 0.12, 0.12 @ 0.3A 220p each  
12VA 0.6, 0.6 @ 0.1A; 0.9, 0.9 @ 0.4A, 0.12, 0.12 @ 0.5A; 0.15, 0.15 @ 0.4A 295p (plus 40p carriage)  
25VA 0.6, 0.6 @ 1.5A; 0.9 @ 1.2A; 0.12 0.12 @ 1A; 0.15, 0.15 @ 0.8A 330p each (plus 60p carriage)  
50VA 0.12, 0.12 @ 2A, 0.15, 0.15 @ 1.5A 440p each (plus 75p carriage)

## VERO

* Verobloc 350p	
Size 0.1 matrix	
2.5 x 1	22p
2.5 x 3.75	75p
2.5 x 5	85p
3.75 x 5	95p
VO board	160p
Verobins per 100	
Single sided	50p
Double sided	75p
Spot face cutter	105p
Pin insertion tool	162p

## OPTO

*3mm red	8	*5mm red	8
*3mm green	12	*5mm green	12
*3mm yellow	12	*5mm yellow	12
Clips to suit 3p each			
*red	TL132		
*green	TL178		
*yellow	TL111		
TL138	40	ORP12	85
2N5777	45	TTL colour	90

## COMPONENT KITS

An ideal opportunity for the beginner or the experienced constructor to obtain a wide range of components at greatly reduced prices. 1W 5% Resistor kit. Contains 10 of each value from 4.7 to 1M (650 resistors) 480p  
Ceramic Capacitor Kit. Contains 5 of each value from 22p to 0.01u (135 caps) 370p  
Polyester Capacitor Kit. Contains 5 of each value from 0.01 to 1uF (86 caps) 575p each  
Preset Kit. Contains 5 of each value from 100 ohms to 1M (total 65 presets) 425p each  
Nut and Bolt Kit. Total 300 items 180p  
50 68A 1/2" bolts  
50 68A 1/4" bolts  
50 68A washers  
25 68A 1/2" bolts  
25 68A 1/4" bolts  
50 68A nuts  
50 68A washers

## VERO WIRING PEN

Pen + spool 310p	
Pin Insertion Tool	162p
Combs	75p

## ORDERING INFO

All prices exclude VAT. Please add to total order.  
Please add 50p carriage to all orders under £10 in value. Send cheque/PO or Access/Visa number with your order. Please note new address. Callers most welcome - we are just 10 minutes from the centre of Colchester. Telephone orders welcome with Access and Visa. Official orders welcome from colleges and schools etc. Export orders no VAT but please add carriage. All components brand new and full spec.

## LINEAR

ICL7106	90	LM358	50	LM3914	200	NE567	100	TL064	96	
ICL7611	95	LM377	150	LM3915	220	NE570	100	TL071	90	
*555CMOS 80	ICL7621	180	*LM380	65	LM1360	120	NE571	400	TL074	96
*555CMOS 150	ICL7622	180	LM381	120	MC1310	150	*RC4136	68	*TL081	26
709	25	ICL8038	200	LM3						

## Shorts

- A lot of hot air from Hellermann Electric of Plymouth; their new heat-guns, the GHM Mite and GHW-Triac are ideal for use with the "Helashrink" range of heatshrink sleeving.
- The ZN435 from Ferranti is a new multifunction eight-bit data converter. The standard 18-pin DIL IC contains a fast DAC, an up/down counter, a precision voltage reference and a clock generator. Uses include ramp-and-compare and tracking ADCs, low-frequency waveform generators, fader controls and radio channel selectors.
- Thorn EMI and JVC have postponed the launch of the VHD videodisc system in Japan for economic and marketing reasons. The same decision was recently taken in the USA. To achieve a co-ordinated launch, VHD won't now appear in the UK until 1983.
- Gulf Oil have donated an out-of-date IBM computer to the Science Museum in London. The machine was originally bought in 1978 for a quarter of a million pounds; the Science Museum hope

to have it in running order eventually.

- The first edition of the Electroware catalogue is now available and contains too much to list here; we'll just say it's good, it's free (30p P&P, though) and it's available from Electroware, Dutton Lane, Eastleigh, Hants, SO5 4AA.
- Stuck when it comes to metric conversion sums? The LC950 from Casio can switch from one system of weights and measures to another and has a split level display showing both sets of figures. RRP is £18.95.
- It seems there are people in the electronics industry who can think up even worse puns than us (is this possible, you gasp). MC Computers Ltd, of Newbury has launched a repackaged version of the Apple II personal computer, so naturally they've called it the Apple Pi.
- The 1982 edition of the IC Master (which contains details of more than 55,000 ICs) is now available in two hardback volumes from Paterson, Steadman and Partners of Saffron Walden. Price is £59.00 inclusive, which is one tenth of a penny per IC.



## Fax You Should Know

For a special three-month evaluation period, ITT Business Systems will allow customers to rent a Telefax facsimile unit at virtually half-price. At the end of the three months, they have the option to buy the unit or return it.

Facsimile transmission, as if you didn't know, is an electronic method of sending test, pictures, or graphics: the document is scanned, coded and sent down a telephone line to be printed out as hard copy on a receiver anywhere in the world — all very clever, although the young lady looks quite bored by it all. If you're interested, ITT Business Systems live at Diversey House, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Herts EN4 0BU.

## Lithium Cell Clicks

Kodak's new disc camera is revolutionary in more ways than one — it will be using a high performance lithium battery from Matsushita. The disc camera does not use conventional film — pictures are taken on a flat disc of film and the camera includes automatic film advance exposure control and electronic flash. The lithium battery was chosen to power all this lot because of its high-rate pulse discharge capability (greater than 1 A), wide operating temperature range,



10-year shelf life and high reliability and safety. The lithium cell is expected to find increasing use in consumer products including cameras, flashguns, radios, transceivers, and telephone pocket pagers, as well as security and emergency equipment.

## Orient On Air

Here's a novel story — Pye Telecommunications have won an order to supply mobile radio equipment for Chinese transport vehicles. It would have been nice to report that the rickshaw in the picture was being fitted with the equipment, but not

such luck; it's the Kew Kwan Motor Road Co. buses that are getting the two-way treatment. It'll be the first time that China has had radio-controlled vehicles, and Kee Kwan, who hold the exclusive bus tour franchise for Macau, expect that the system will improve route supervision, efficiency and safety.



## More For Less

Zemco's latest car computer, the CompuCruise, has several new features but costs £20 less than the previous model. For £130 you get on-line fuel consumption; clock with stopwatch facility, cruising speed control, distance/time/fuel-to-arrive calculations, battery voltage indicators, inside and outside temperatures and about 15 other functions. The car freak who has everything (except a computer) can contact Zemco at 66 Earlsdon Street, Coventry, CV5 6EJ.

## Candid Cameras

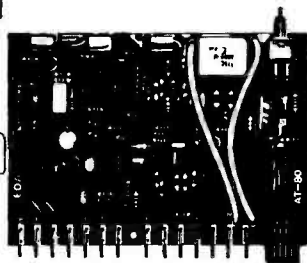
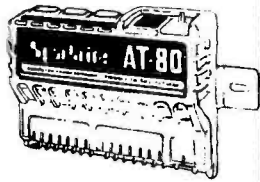
Could this be a prototype TV of the future, once satellite TV brings us a bewildering choice of channels? Nope — it's JUPITER, a CCTV control system from Photo-Scan Ltd for multi-camera configurations. The microprocessor-based system allows cameras to be incorporated in multiples of 32, with up to 10 monitors, video recorders, remote camera controls, controls for up to four alarms per camera, and a lot of other stuff for security with a vengeance. Because the system is software-based the surveillance system can be modified to meet the needs of any customer. Photo-Scan are at Dolphin Estate, Windmill Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 7HG, if you want to know more — what we want to know is, why we never see security guards that look like this.



Step-by-step fully illustrated assembly and fitting instructions are included together with circuit descriptions. Highest quality components are used throughout.

# Sparkrite

BRANDEADING ELECTRONICS  
NOW AVAILABLE IN KIT FORM

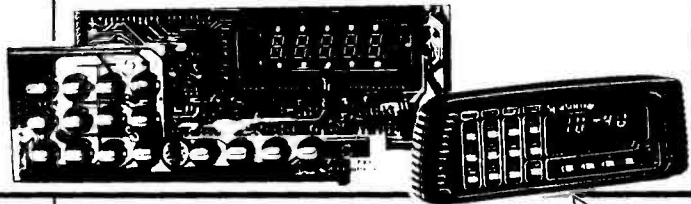


## AT-80 Electronic Car Security System

- Arms doors, boot, bonnet and has security loop to protect fog/spot lamps, radio/tape, CB equipment
- Programmable personal code entry system
- Armed and disarmed from outside vehicle using a special magnetic key fob against a windscreen sensor pad adhered to the inside of the screen
- Fits all 12V neg earth vehicles
- Over 250 components to assemble

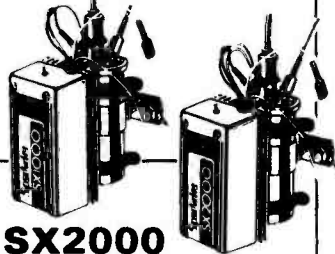
## VOYAGER Car Drive Computer

- A most sophisticated accessory
  - Utilises a single chip mask programmed microprocessor incorporating a unique programme designed by EDA Sparkrite Ltd.
  - Affords 12 functions centred on Fuel, Speed, Distance and Time.
  - Visual and Audible alarms, warning of Excess Speed, Frost/Ice, Lights-left-on.
  - Facility to operate LOG and TRIP functions independently or synchronously.
  - Large 10mm high 400ft-L fluorescent display with auto intensity.
  - Unique speed and fuel transducers giving a programmed accuracy of + or - 1%.
  - Large LOG & TRIP memories. 2,000 miles. 180 gallons. 100 hours
  - Full Imperial and Metric calibrations.
  - Over 300 components to assemble
- A real challenge for the electronics enthusiast!



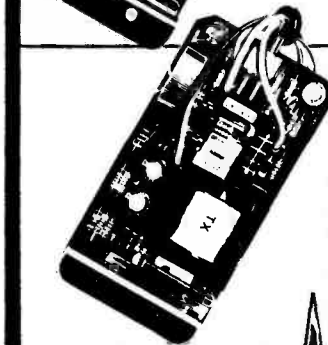
## SX1000 Electronic Ignition

- Inductive Discharge
- Extended coil energy storage circuit
- Contact breaker driven
- Three position changeover switch
- Over 65 components to assemble
- Patented clip-to-coil fitting
- Fits all 12v neg. earth vehicles



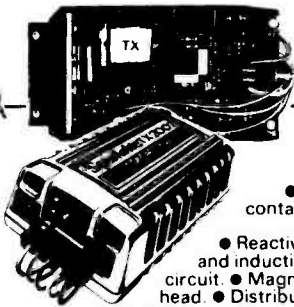
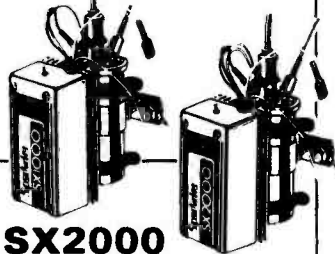
## TX1002 Electronic Ignition

- Contactless or contact triggered
- Extended coil energy storage circuit
- Inductive Discharge
- Three position changeover switch
- Distributor triggerhead adaptors included
- Die cast weatherproof case
- Clip-to-coil or remote mounting facility
- Fits majority of 4 & 6 cyl. 12V. neg. earth vehicles
- Over 145 components to assemble.



## SX2000 Electronic Ignition

- The brandleading system on the market today
- Unique Reactive Discharge
- Combined Inductive and Capacitive Discharge
- Contact breaker driven
- Three position changeover switch
- Over 130 components to assemble
- Patented clip-to-coil fitting
- Fits all 12v neg. earth vehicles



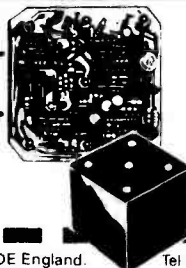
## TX2002 Electronic Ignition

- The ultimate system
- Switchable contactless
- Three position switch with Auxiliary back-up inductive circuit.
- Reactive Discharge. Combined capacitive and inductive.
- Extended coil energy storage circuit.
- Magnetic contactless distributor triggerhead.
- Distributor triggerhead adaptors included.
- Can also be triggered by existing contact breakers
- Die cast weatherproof case with clip-to-coil fitting
- Fits majority of 4 and 6 cylinder 12v neg. earth vehicles
- Over 150 components to assemble

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## SPECIAL OFFER

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## MAGIDICE Electronic Dice

- Not an auto item but great fun for the family
- Total random selection
- Triggered by waving of hand over dice
- Bleeps and flashes during a 4 second tumble sequence
- Throw displayed for 10 seconds
- Auto display of last throw 1 second in 5
- Muting and Off switch on base
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SX 1000	£12.95	£25.90
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TX 1002	£22.95	£45.90
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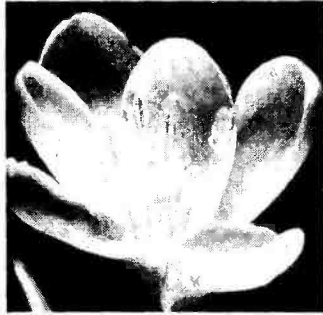
SEND ONLY SAE IF BROCHURE IS REQUIRED

BRANDEADING BRITISH ELECTRONICS

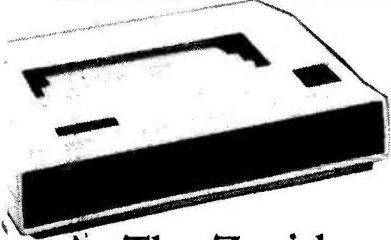
CUT OUT THE COUPON NOW!

## The Light Fantastic

This bizarre pic arrived at the office with an announcement that General Instrument Lamps of Bury St. Edmunds will be marketing Tokyo Minilite Ltd products in Europe. Assuming they haven't cheated with a fake flower, then Minilite definitely lives up to its name. For further information contact General Instrument Lamps Ltd, Beetons Way, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6RA. Note to ad agencies: it's ingenious pix like



this one that make it worthwhile ploughing through the hundreds of boring press releases we get each week.



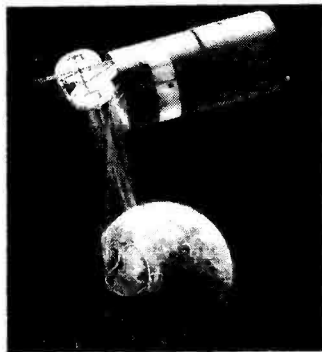
## At The Zenith

Regular readers of the mag will know the high regard we have for Heath Electronics and the quality of their kits, so a new printer from Zenith Data Systems (a Heath division) has to be good news. The Z-25 is a bi-directional printer with quad tractor feed which provides accurate forms

registration, and a 9 x 9 dot matrix head for high quality print. The character set includes all 95 ASCII characters (upper and lower case) as well as 33 graphics characters. The high print rate (greater than 150 characters per second) results in a print speed of about 300 lines per minute for 10 column lines, and 65 lines per minute for 132 column lines. The operator can select from 10, 12, 13.2 or 16.5 characters per inch, while the completely enclosed cabinet results in quiet operation. The printer interfaces to microcomputers via an RS-232C serial interface or 20 mA current loop. The printer (and other Zenith products) are marketed in the UK through Zenith Data Systems outlets.

## AUSSAT — Owzat?

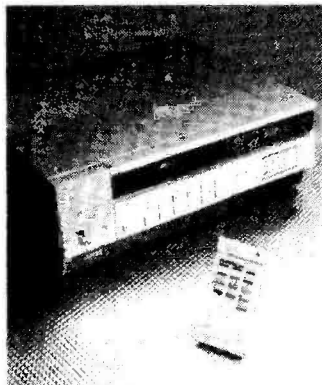
Hughes Aircraft Company have signed an agreement to build Australia's first communication satellite system. The three satellites, to be known as AUSSAT, will provide a variety of communication services including the first TV transmissions to many of the communities and homesteads in the remote outback regions. Other services include digital data transmissions, telephony, air traffic control and maritime radio coverage. The first of the satellites



will be launched in mid-1985, and each satellite is warranted for seven years; one hell of a trip for the service engineer, though!

## Stereo VHS

Sound quality continues to improve in the video recorder field; the new top-of-the-line HR7650 EK from JVC features stereo sound amongst a host of other goodies. This means that the increasingly frequent simultaneous broadcasts on TV and FM radio can be recorded, as well as allowing playback of the fast-growing number of pre-recorded stereo video tapes. Sound quality is further improved by the inclusion of a Dolby noise reduction system. There are some pretty good extras on the video side too, such as insert and assemble editing, a special effects playback for fast or slow picture search, double speed play, still



frame and frame advance. A full function IR remote control unit is also provided. Please can I have one for my birthday?

## Change Of Key

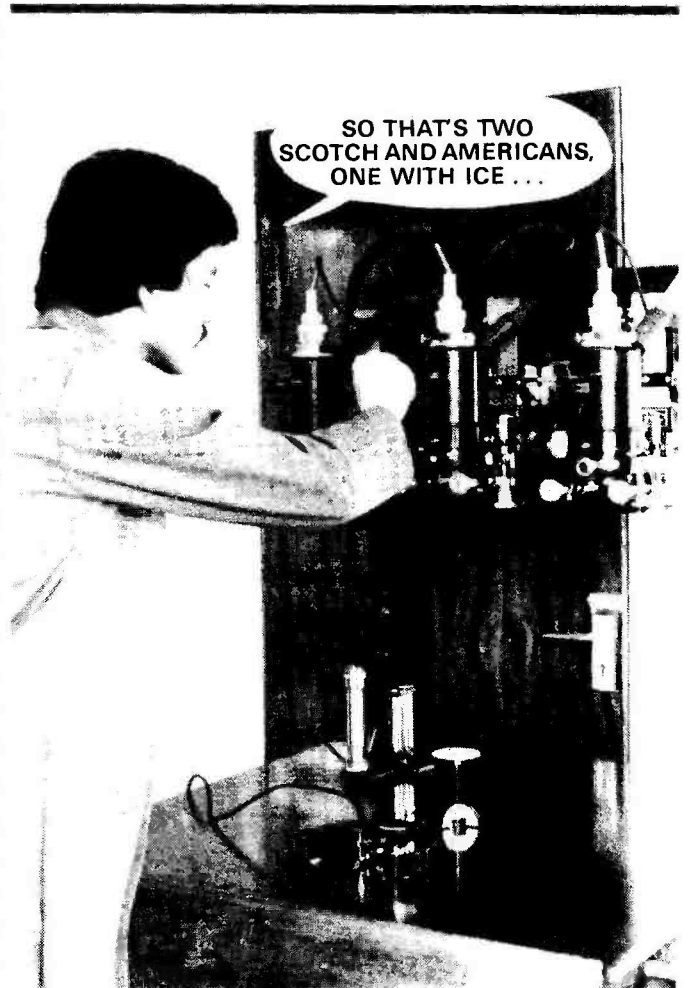
This is a gorgeous young lady and that's her hotel key in her hand. Well, no-one would dispute the first statement, but the second probably requires a bit of explanation. The card is part of a new programmable electronic door lock system developed by the Yale Security Group for better hotel security; the system is known as Yaletronics. Each lock uses a Yale mortice lock and a microprocessor synchronised to the central computer — the locks are each battery-powered to avoid any costly hard-wiring. The present "credit-card" keys are presently made from plastic, but anything could be used; they have the advantage of being small, light and able to have the hotel's logo, room number and other information printed on them.

Each successive guest at the hotel is assigned a different code combination from the millions stored in the computer on a floppy disc with a 5000-room capacity. The system has a printer to record such information as who made each key, the security level and the date. There are six security levels, from guest keys through maid's keys to master keys and emergency keys. The receptionist uses the system to punch a new key for a guest when he checks in, the microprocessor in the lock



cancelling the previous card. Hotel owners with security problems can obtain further information from Yale Security Products Ltd, Wood Street, Willenhall, East Midlands, W13 1EA.

Of course, it was only a matter of time before a security company caught up with the private detectives on TV, who've been opening doors with credit cards for years...



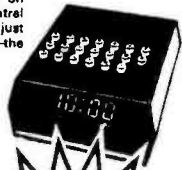
## THE MULTI-PURPOSE TIMER HAS ARRIVED

Now you can run your central heating, lighting, hi-fi system and lots more with just one programmable timer. At your selection it is designed to control four mains outputs independently, switching on and off at pre-set times over a 7 day cycle, e.g. to control your central heating (including different switching times for weekends), just connect it to your system programme and set it and forget it—the clock will do the rest.

### FEATURES INCLUDE:-

- 0.5" LED 12 hour display.
- Day of week, am/pm and output status indicators.
- 4 zero voltage switched mains outputs.
- 50/60Hz mains operation.
- Battery backup saves stored programmes and continues time keeping during power failures. (Battery not supplied).
- Display blanking during power failure to conserve battery power.
- 18 programme time sets.
- Powerful "Everyday" function enabling output to switch every day but use only one time set.
- Useful "sleep" function—turns on output for one hour.
- Direct switch control enabling output to be turned on immediately or after a specified time interval.
- 20 function keypad for programme entry.
- Programme verification at the touch of a button.

(Kit includes all components, PCB, assembly and programming instructions).

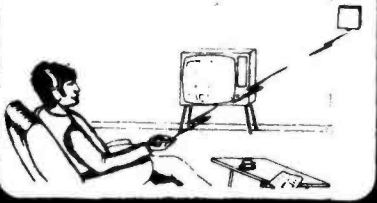


**NOW ONLY £39 WITH SO MANY EXTRA FEATURES. OPTIONAL BLACK PLASTIC CASE. READY DRILLED £2.50**

## HOME LIGHTING KITS

These kits contain all necessary components and full instructions & are designed to replace a standard wall switch and control up to 300w. of lighting.

- TDR300K Remote Control Dimmer **£14.30**
- MK6 Transmitter for above **£4.20**
- TD300K Touchdimmer **£7.00**
- TDE/K Extension kit for 2-way switching for TD300K **£2.00**
- LD300K Rotary Controlled Dimmer **£3.50**



## MINI KITS

- MK1 TEMPERATURE CONTROLLER/THERMOSTAT**  
Uses LM3911 IC to sense temperature (80°C max.) and triac to switch heater. 1KW **£4.00**
- MK2 Solid State Relay**  
Ideal for switching motors, lights, heaters, etc from logic. Opto-isolated with zero voltage switching. Supplied without triac **£2.50**
- MK3 BAR/DOT DISPLAY**  
Displays an analogue voltage on a linear 10 element LED display as a bar or single dot. Ideal for thermometers, level indicators, etc. May be stacked to obtain 20 to 100 element displays. Requires 5-20V supply. **£4.50**
- MK4 PROPORTIONAL TEMPERATURE CONTROLLER**  
Based on the SL441 zero voltage switch, this kit may be wired to form a "burst fire" power controller, enabling the temperature of an enclosure to be maintained to within 0.5°C. Max. load 3KW **£5.55**
- MK5 MAINS TIMER**  
Based on the ML1034E Timer IC this kit will switch a mains load on (or off) for a preset time from 20 mins. to 36 hrs. Longer or shorter periods may be realised by minor component changes. Max. load 1KW. **£4.50**

## 3-NOTE DOOR CHIME

Based on the SAB0600 IC the kit is supplied with all components, including loudspeaker, printed circuit board, a pre-drilled box (95 x 71 x 35mm) and full instructions. Requires only a PP3 9V battery and push-switch to complete. AN IDEAL PROJECT FOR BEGINNERS.  
Order as XK102. **£5.00**

For a detailed booklet on remote control - send us 30p & SAE today.

## "OPEN-SESAME"

The XK103 is a general purpose infra-red transmitter/receiver with one momentary (normally open) relay contact and two latched transistor output. Designed primarily for controlling motorised garage doors and two auxiliary outputs for drive/garage lights at a range of up to 40 ft. The unit also has numerous applications in the home for switching lights, TV, closing curtains, etc. Ideal for aged or disabled persons.

The kit comprises a mains powered receiver, a four button transmitter, complete with pre-drilled box, requiring a 9V battery and one opto-isolated solid state switch kit for interfacing the receiver to mains appliances. As with all our kits, full instructions are supplied.

Only **£23.75**

Extra Solid State Switch Kits (XK104) and transmitters (XK105) can be supplied.

**XK104 £2.40    XK105 £10.50**

## THE HOME CONTROL CENTRE

This New Remote Control Kit enables you to control up to 16 different appliances anywhere in the house from the comfort of your armchair. The transmitter injects coded pulses into the mains wiring which are received by receiver modules connected to the same mains supply and used to switch on the appliance addressed. Receivers are addressed by means of a 16-way keyboard, followed by an on or off command. Since pushing buttons can become rather boring, the transmitter also includes a computer interface so you can heating, electric blanket, make your coffee in the morning, etc. without rewiring your house. **JUST THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES.** The KIT includes all PCBs and components for one transmitter and two receivers plus a pre-drilled box for the transmitter.

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**DL 1000K**  
This value-for-money kit features a bi-directional sequence, speed of sequence and frequency of direction change, being variable by means of potentiometers and incorporates a master dimming control. **Only £14.60**



A lower cost version of the above, featuring unidirectional channel sequence with speed variable by means of a pre-set pot. Outputs switched only at mains zero crossing points to reduce radio interference to a minimum. **Only £8.00**

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This new design is based on the ICL7126 (a lower power version of the ICL7106 chip) and a 3 1/2 digit liquid crystal display. This kit will form the basis of a digital multimeter (only a few additional resistors and switches are required—details supplied), or a sensitive digital thermometer (-50°C to +150°C) reading to 0.1°C. The basic kit has a sensitivity of 200mV for a full scale reading, automatic polarity indication and an ultra low power requirement—giving a 2 year typical battery life from a standard 9V PP3 when used 8 hours a day, 7 days a week. **£15.50**



## REMOTE CONTROL KITS

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Pulsed infra red source complete with hand-held plastic box. Requires a 9V battery. **£4.20**
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Based on ML922 decoder IC. Functions include on/standby output, toggle, control of volume, tone and lamp brightness. Includes its own mains supply. **£12.00**
- MK12 16-CHANNEL IR RECEIVER**  
For use with MK8 kit with 16 on/off outputs, which with further interface circuitry, such as relays or triacs, will switch up to 16 items of equipment on or off remotely. Latched or momentary outputs—please specify when ordering. Includes its own mains supply. **£11.95**
- MK13 11-WAY KEYBOARD** For use with MK8, MK18 and MK11 kits. **£4.35**
- MK16 Mains Powered IR Transmitter**  
Mains powered for continuous operation—single channel, for applications such as burglar alarms, automatic door openers, etc. Range approx. 6 ft. **£2.50**
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For use with MK6 or MK16. Relay output with DP 3 Amp change-over contacts, may be used as latched, momentary or "break beam" receiver. Operates from 6-13V d.c. **£9.50**
- MK18 HIGH POWER IR TRANSMITTER**  
Similar to MK8 but with range of approx. 60ft. **£6.20**
- Auxiliary Kits: MK2 Solid State Relay**  
Opto-isolated with zero voltage switching. No. triac supplied. **£2.60**
- MK15 DUAL LATCHED SOLID STATE RELAY**  
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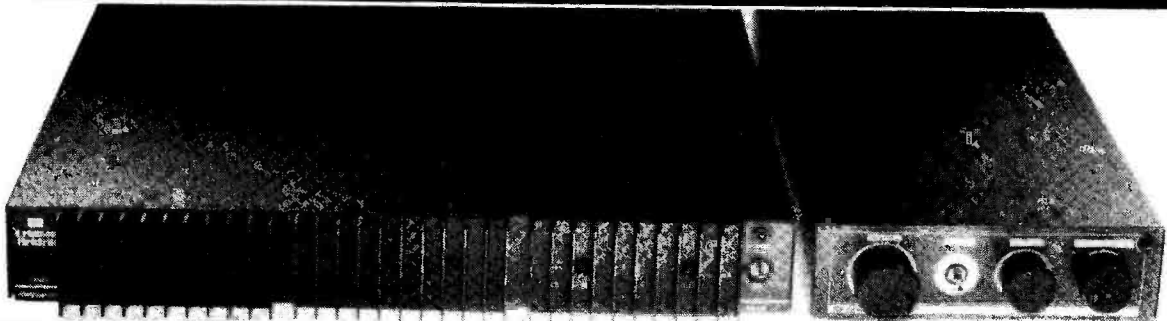
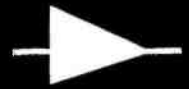
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# New Products



### HIFI STEREO AMPLIFIER KITS

From one of Britain's leading esoteric amplifier manufacturers comes an exciting new package of stereo amplifier kits, designed to offer all the advantages of true high fidelity but without the usual price penalty.

These new kits offer the choice of moving magnet or moving coil inputs, 40 to 100 watts per channel, in fact, everything that made the previous models so popular is included but with added style, easier construction and a full two year warranty.

The new range consists of The CK 1010 Stereo Pre Amplifier, The CK 1040 WPC Power Amplifier, The CK 1100 WPC Power Amplifier.

#### CK 1010

This kit contains all the necessary parts to build a complete pre-amp. The main PCB is ready assembled and tested therefore construction is simply a matter of point to point wiring and mechanical assembly of the connections and controls to the pre punched chassis.

The CK 1010 takes its DC supply from the CK 1040, 1100 or, if using a different power amplifier a PSK power supply kit. Inputs for disc, tuner and tape are provided and an optional add-on moving coil input can be fitted to extend its versatility. (MC2K)

#### CK 1040

This is a nominal 40 watt per channel power amplifier kit which features our dual power supply and the DC output for the CK 1010. All components such as heatsinks, wire and connectors are included and protection is provided from short circuit outputs.

#### CK 1100

Similar to the CK 1040 this model provides a nominal 100 watts per channel with extra heatsinking and thermal cutouts are provided as standard. When correctly assembled these kits are guaranteed for two years.

"It would seem then that Crimson have maintained their position at the top of the commercial kit-build field. There is no oriental amplifier I know of that can better the sound of this combination overall at any price and only a few - such as the KA-1000 (£500+) - are of comparable standard. . . . I can say no more than that for £250 it (CK 1010/MC2K/1100) is a bargain and one that becomes the reference point for kit amplifiers from now on."

**PRICES** CK 1010 - RRP £90.00; CK 1040 - RRP £119.00; CK 1100 - RRP £149.00; MC2K - RRP £25.000; PSK - RRP £20.00

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## ACTIVE SPEAKER

A long time ago in a magazine far, far away (well, ETI December '75 to be exact), we published a design for an active crossover. The idea was to avoid the need for bulky, high current coils along with all the problems involved in high-power crossover design, and perform the filtering on the low-level signal. Each audio band was then fed to its driver via its own power amp, removing the need for any conventional crossover altogether. For some time now we've been planning to go one better by presenting a complete active speaker system, with the electronics built right into the speaker cabinet. When we tell you it's a joint design with the speakers by Badger Sound Systems and the power amplifiers by Crimson Elektrik, you'll appreciate how good it is. Don't miss the September issue of ETI if you know what's good for your ears.

## AUTO VOLUME CONTROL

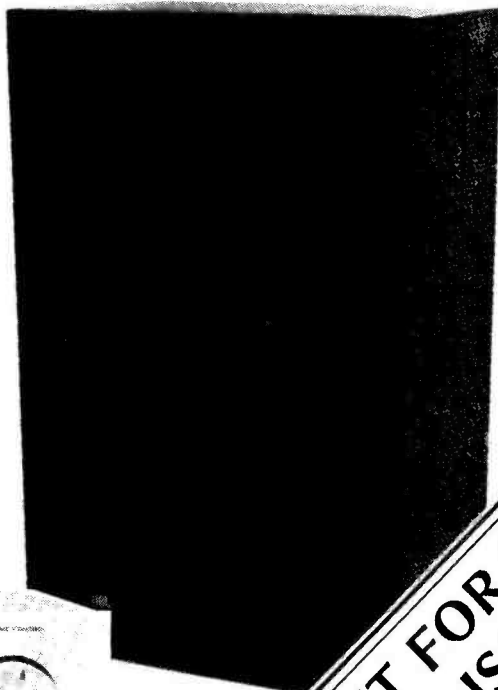
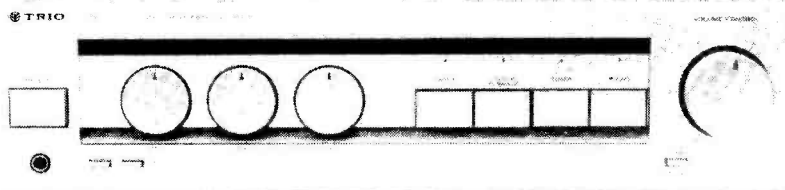
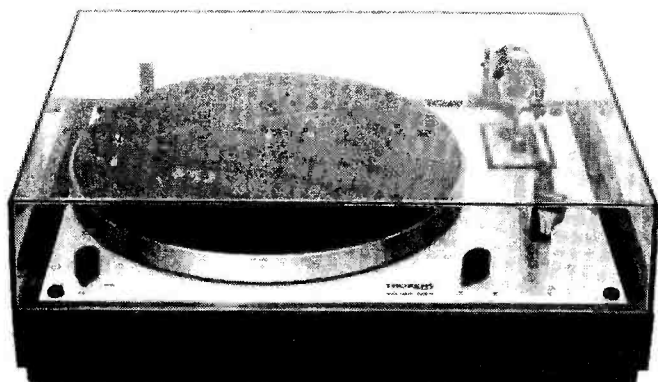
We had hoped to bring you this project in the issue you're holding but lack of space at the last moment meant it had to be held over. The best laid plans of mice and men etc (you can decide for yourself which category editorial staff are part of . . .). Anyway, it's well worth waiting for, because with only a four transistor circuit on a small PCB you can replace your manual volume control with a completely automatic version. Note that this is true volume control, affecting loud and soft sounds equally; not a compressor which reduces the dynamic range of the signal. It's the ideal upgrade for the mike inputs on your public address system.

## SIGNAL MEASUREMENT

Tim Orr, our man of many parts (most of them integrated circuits), is usually to be found within the pages of ETI expounding on the subject of electronic music in one form or another. Next month we have something a little different from him — an article about audio from the point of view of test gear. This is an in-depth feature about several aspects of electronic measurement techniques, including true RMS conversion, noise measurement, and an explanation of the decibel, a unit many people find a trifle confusing. Naturally there's also the usual helpful tables and circuits you've come to expect from us.

## AUDIOPHILE

Something for the (relatively) hard of wallet is the subject of our (relatively) tame hi-fi expert. The September Audiophile will contain a review of the system shown here, which will provide you with excellent sound quality for an outlay of £500. Deck by Thorens, amplifier by Trio, loudspeakers by JBL — we're not sure if it's built by robots too, but it certainly delivers as far as performance is concerned.



Articles described here are in an advanced state of preparation. However, circumstances may dictate changes to the final contents.

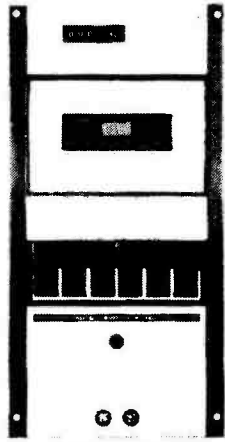
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### MULLARD SPEAKER KIT

40 watt R.M.S. 8ohm DESIGNED BY MULLARD SPECIALIST TEAM IN BELGIUM comprising a Mullard 8" woofer with foam rolled surround, Mullard 3" high power dome tweeter and a cleverly designed B.K. Electronics crossover combining spring loaded loud-speaker terminals and recessed mounting panel. Supplied complete with assembly and cabinet details. Recommended cabinet size 240 x 216 x 445mm.

PRICE £13.90 + £1.50 P&P per kit



6 piano type keys

### STEREO CASSETTE TAPE DECK MODULE.

Comprising of a top panel and tape mechanism coupled to a record/play back printed board assembly. Supplied as one complete unit for horizontal installation into cabinet or console of own choice. These units are brand new, ready built and tested.

**Features:** Three digit tape counter. Auto-stop. Six piano type keys, record, rewind, fast forward, play, stop and eject. Automatic record level control. Main inputs plus secondary inputs for stereo microphones. **Input Sensitivity:** 100mV to 2V **Input Impedance:** 68K. **Output level:** 400mV to both left and right hand channels. **Output Impedance:** 10K. **Signal to noise ratio:** 45dB. **Wow and flutter:** 0.1%. **Power Supply requirements:** 18V DC at 300mA. **Connections:** The left and right hand stereo inputs and outputs are via individual screened leads, all terminated with phono plugs (phono sockets provided). **Dimensions:** Top panel 5 1/2" x 11 1/4". Clearance required under top panel 2 1/4". Supplied complete with circuit diagram and connecting diagram. Attractive black and silver finish.

**Price £26.70 + £2.50 postage and packing.** Supplementary parts for 18V D.C. power supply (transformer, bridge rectifier and smoothing capacitor) £3.50.

**NEW RANGE QUALITY POWER LOUD-SPEAKERS** (15", 12" and 8"). These loudspeakers are ideal for both hi-fi and disco applications. Both the 12" and 15" units have heavy duty die-cast chassis and aluminium centre domes. All three units have white speaker cones and are fitted with attractive cast aluminium (ground finish) fixing escutcheons. Specification and Price.

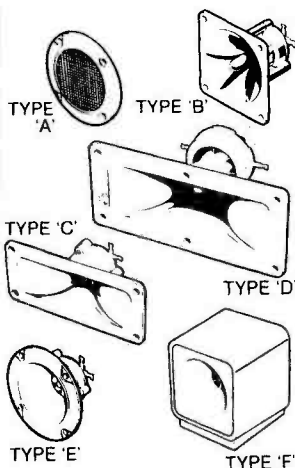
**15" 100 watt R.M.S.** Impedance 8ohm 59 oz magnet, 2" aluminium voice coil. Resonant Frequency 20Hz. Frequency Response to 2.5KHz. Sensitivity 97dB. **Price £32 each.** £2.50 Packing and Carriage each.

**12" 100 watt R.M.S.** Impedance 8 ohm, 50 oz magnet, 2" aluminium voice coil. Resonant Frequency 25Hz. Frequency Response to 4KHz. Sensitivity 95dB. **Price £23.70 each.** £2.50 Packing and Carriage each.

**8" 50 watt R.M.S.** Impedance 8 ohms, 20 oz. 1 1/2" aluminium voice coil, Resonant Frequency 40Hz. Frequency Response to 6KHz. Sensitivity 92dB. Also available with black cone fitted with black metal protective grill. **Price: White cone £8.90 each. Black cone/grill £9.50 each.** P & P £1.25 each.

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**TYPE 'C' (KSN6016A)** 2" x 5" wide dispersion horn. For quality Hi-fi systems and quality discos etc. **Price £5.45 each.**

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**TYPE 'E' (KSN1038A)** 3 1/4" horn tweeter with attractive silver finish trim. Suitable for Hi fi monitor systems etc. **Price £4.35 each.**

**TYPE 'F' (KSN1057A)** Cased version of type 'E'. Free standing satellite tweeter. Perfect add on tweeter for conventional loudspeaker systems. **Price £10.75 each.** U.K. post free (or SAE for Piezo leaflets).



### 1000 MONO DISCO MIXER

A superb fully built and tested mixer/pre-amp with integral power supply. 4 Inputs 2 turntables (ceramic cartridge). Aux. for tape deck etc., plus Mic. with override switch, all with individual level controls. Two sets of active tone controls (bass and treble) for Mic. and main inputs. Master volume control. Monitor output with select switch and volume control. **Outputs** Main 750 mV Monitor 500 mV into 8 ohms **Supply** 220/240V AC50/60Hz **Size** 22 1/2" x 4 1/4" x 2 1/4" **zprice** £39.99 + £2.50 P&P

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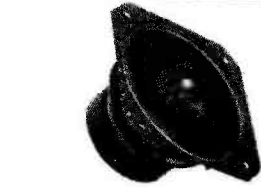
**Price: £28.50 + £2.50 P&P**



### POWER AMPLIFIER MODULES



Vu Meter

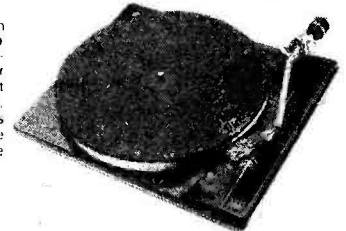


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Power Amplifier Modules with integral toroidal transformer power supply, and heat sink. Supplied as one complete built and tested unit. Can be fitted in an L.E.D. Vu meter available as an optional extra.

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**Loads:** Open and short circuit proof. 4-16 ohms.  
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**T.H.D.:** Less than 0.1%  
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**Prices:** OMP 100 £29.99 each + £2.00 P&P  
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 Vu Meter £6.50 each + 50p P&P

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Build a quality 60watt RMS system 8ohms

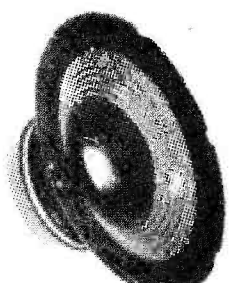
Build a quality 60 watt R.M.S. system

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- ★ 3" Tweeter 2.5KHz-19KHz
- ★ 5" Mid Range 600Hz-8KHz
- ★ 3-way crossover 6dB/oct 1.3 and 6KHz

Recommended Cab-size 26" x 13" x 13"  
 Fitted with attractive cast aluminium fixing escutcheons and mesh protective grills which are removable enabling a unique choice of cabinet styling. Can be mounted directly on to baffle with or without conventional speaker fabrics. All three units have aluminium centre domes and rolled foam surround. Crossover combines spring loaded loudspeaker terminals and recessed mounting panel.  
**Price £22.00 per kit + £2.50 postage and packing.** Available separately, prices on request

### 12" 80 watt R.M.S. loudspeaker.

A superb general purpose twin cone loudspeaker. 50 oz magnet, 2" aluminium voice coil, Rolled surround. Resonant frequency 25Hz. Frequency response to 13KHz. Sensitivity 95dB. Impedance 8ohm. Attractive blue cone with aluminium centre dome.  
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# DESIGNING MICRO SYSTEMS

When the chips are down, ETI delivers the goods. In this major new series, Owen Bishop takes the lid off computers and the ICs that go into them. This is the definitive treatise on hardware.

This series is aimed at those readers who already know something about electronics, but who would like to know how electronics is being used today in perhaps its most important application of all — the computer. The series will be concerned with only one of the two types of electronic computer, the digital computer. The other type, the analogue computer, has several important applications but in the main its work has been taken over by digital computers.

We still owe something to the analogue computer, for our trusty work-horse, the op-amp, was originally designed as its building block. Whereas the analogue computer operates with precisely determined voltages which are allowed to vary continuously over their range and are analogues of continuous physical quantities, the digital computer operates with only two discrete voltage levels. The analogue computer depends on the high precision of its op-amps, and needs an op-amp for every step in its computations.

As we shall see, the electronic requirements for the digital computer are much simpler, allowing designers to concentrate on obtaining high speeds of action. The units of the circuit are simple logic gates, thousands of which can be manufactured on a single slice of silicon, already connected to form the complex logic circuits of the computer. This allows the digital computer to have great computing power combined with flexibility of function. It also allows the computer to be mass-produced cheaply so that, today, anyone with a few tens of pounds to spend can buy one.

## The Heart Of The Matter

Figure 1 shows the heart of the computer to be its central processing unit (CPU). It is connected to a number of other devices — the peripheral devices. Input devices usually include a keyboard, so that the operator can send information to the CPU. Information may consist of instructions and data. Input devices might include sensors (eg circuits to measure

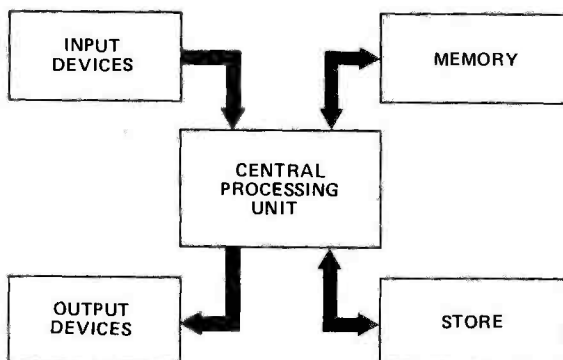
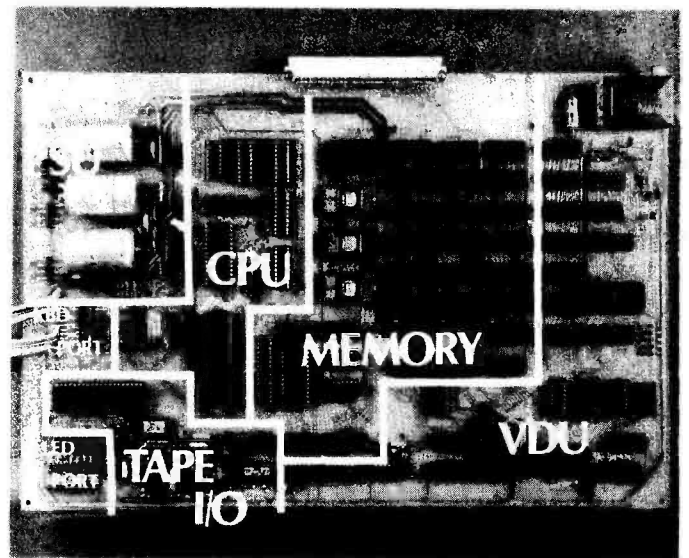


Fig. 1 Block diagram of a computer.



temperature) so that the CPU can obtain its data directly without need for intervention by a human operator. One essential part of this would be an analogue-to-digital converter sub-circuit, to convert the analogue quantity (in this case temperature), to its digital coded equivalent.

Output devices allow the CPU to communicate the results of its computations to the world outside. There is usually a monitor screen on which messages and the results of calculations are displayed. There may also be a printer or a chart plotter. Alternatively there may be direct control of a robot arm or similar device.

The memory is one place where information is stored. The instructions tell the CPU what to do (its program), and it is provided with data to work on. The computer is able to use part of the memory for storing other data which arises from its computations. Information can be transferred between CPU and memory very rapidly and in either direction. Memory is where the currently-used information is held. The store is for information that is not required urgently. The store may consist of a tape deck or disk drive, by means of which information is stored in magnetic form. Blocks of information can be transferred between CPU and store in either direction, but only relatively slowly. The amount of information which can be held in store is much greater than the amount held in memory.

## The CPU

This has the job of receiving instructions and data, either from input, memory or store, processing the data according

to the instructions, and then sending the results of its computation to an output device, memory, store, or possibly to more than one of these. In a main-frame computer, the CPU occupies several circuit boards, but in the personal computer the whole CPU is replaced by a single integrated circuit, the **microprocessor**. This article and the remainder of the series will concentrate on the personal computer, or microcomputer, using a microprocessor as its CPU.

We have been able to use very large scale integration (VLSI) to put all the logical parts of the CPU on to one slice of silicon. The CPU must include an oscillator, or clock, by means of which all its actions and the actions of other peripheral devices are synchronised. It is not possible to reduce the physical size of the components required for this, in particular the quartz crystal, so a least part of the clock circuit is external to the microprocessor. The clock circuit and microprocessor (MPU) together constitute the CPU of the microcomputer.

### We Want Information

Before we look at what goes on inside the MPU we must consider the concept of information in more detail. The unit of information is the bit. The term 'bit' is a shortened version of 'binary digit'. A bit can have one of two values, '0' or '1' but not any other value. This binary concept is widespread in thought, in logic and also in electronics. Table 1 shows pairs of opposite and mutually exclusive states. A binary digit is '0' or '1'; it cannot be anything else. A statement is true or false; truth is by definition the *whole* truth, for half-truth is meaningless. A switch is either on or it is off; it cannot be partly on. If the circuits are made so that only two voltages (low and high) produce definite results and so that intermediate voltages give indeterminate results, then voltages are either high or low. Transistors are either fully off, or fully on (saturated). Given these binary states, the state of any one pair in Table 1 can be used to represent the state of any other pair. For example, we can stipulate that the digit '0' is represented in a computer circuit by a low voltage, and the digit '1' is represented by a high voltage; falsity by '0' or a low voltage, truth by '1'. Here we have a system which allows numerical values and logical statements to be represented in terms of electrical signals. This is the basis of the digital computer.

TABLE 1

0	1
No	Yes
False	True
Absent	Present
Switch off	Switch on
Transistor off	Transistor on
Open circuit	Closed circuit
Low voltage	High voltage

### Grab A Byte

In this system, the bit is the minimum quantity of information to be dealt with. Normally a computer deals with far more information than this. Bits are usually handled in groups. Some of the earlier MPUs handled bits in groups of four, but the majority of micros handle them in groups of eight. A group of eight digits is called a **byte**. In the computer, a byte is represented by a set of eight lines (eg tracks on the PCB), each at high (= 1) or low (= 0) voltage. Or it might be represented by a set of eight flip-flops or bistables, each one either set (= 1) or reset (= 0). According to the interpretation placed on it, the byte could represent:

- A binary value, ranging from 0000 0000 (= 0 decimal) to 1111 1111 (= 255 decimal)
- The truth or falsity of eight different logical statements.
- A coded instruction to the computer.

There is more to be said on this subject next month, but for the moment we will rest with the fact that the computer has to handle binary information represented in electronic form.

### On The Level

For most MPUs the low and high voltages are standardised at 0 V and +5 V respectively. These are the same levels as are used in the 7400 TTL series of ICs. These values are nominal; a Z80 MPU, for example, interprets any voltage between — 0V3 and 0V8 as 'low'. Any voltage between 2 V and 5 V is interpreted as 'high'. Voltages between 0V8 and 2 V produce indeterminate results and must not be allowed to occur. The lack of insistence on precise voltage levels allows computer circuits to remain relatively simple in electronic terms, yet be highly reliable in action.

### Those Important Little Places

If the CPU is the heart of the computer, the heart of the CPU is its **arithmetic logic unit**. The ALU is where data is manipulated according to the instructions stored in memory; we shall describe some of its operations next month. The ALU is able to operate on all eight bits of a byte in a single operation. We say that the **word length** is eight bits, or one byte. Some MPUs, such as the Texas 9980A, have a 16-bit word, but the general principles of its operation are the same as described below.

As an example of a well-known MPU we shall first consider the 6502 (Fig. 2). This successful but relatively simple MPU is used in the Apple, the PET, the BBC Microcomputer, and several other popular microcomputers. The ALU operates in close conjunction with the **Accumulator**. This is a set of eight flip-flops which temporarily hold a byte which is to be operated on by the ALU, or is the result of an operation performed by the ALU. The two registers known as X and Y may also be used to store one byte of data each. Data can be transferred between these registers and the Accumulator in either direction. These registers are therefore useful for storing values obtained in one stage of a calculation, ready for use at a later stage. They are also used as index registers, in which the values held in X or Y are the base addresses of selected blocks of memory. This makes it simpler to access blocks of memory; when storing a table of data, for example.

Since data has to be transferred from one register to another, or from a register to the ALU, it speeds the operation of the MPU if a whole byte is transferred in one operation, rather than bit-by-bit. This requires a set of eight lines connecting all the registers and the ALU. This is called the **data bus**. To distinguish it from a similar set of lines which connect the MPU with the peripheral devices, it is more precisely known as the **internal data bus**.

### It's Under Control

The **control bus** consists of several lines along which signals are sent to coordinate the actions of the various parts of the MPU. For example, if the data held in register X is to be sent to the ALU, a signal must be sent along a control line to register X, making it place the data on the data bus. Register X makes the lines go 'high' or 'low' according to the pattern of 0s and 1s held in its eight flip-flops. At the same time a signal must be sent along another control line to the ALU, making it accept the data now present on the data bus. The control lines emanate from a special part of the MPU called the **Control**.

Despite its impressive name, the Control is no more than a slave. It knows how to carry out the tasks it is allotted, but does not remember what it has just done, and does not know

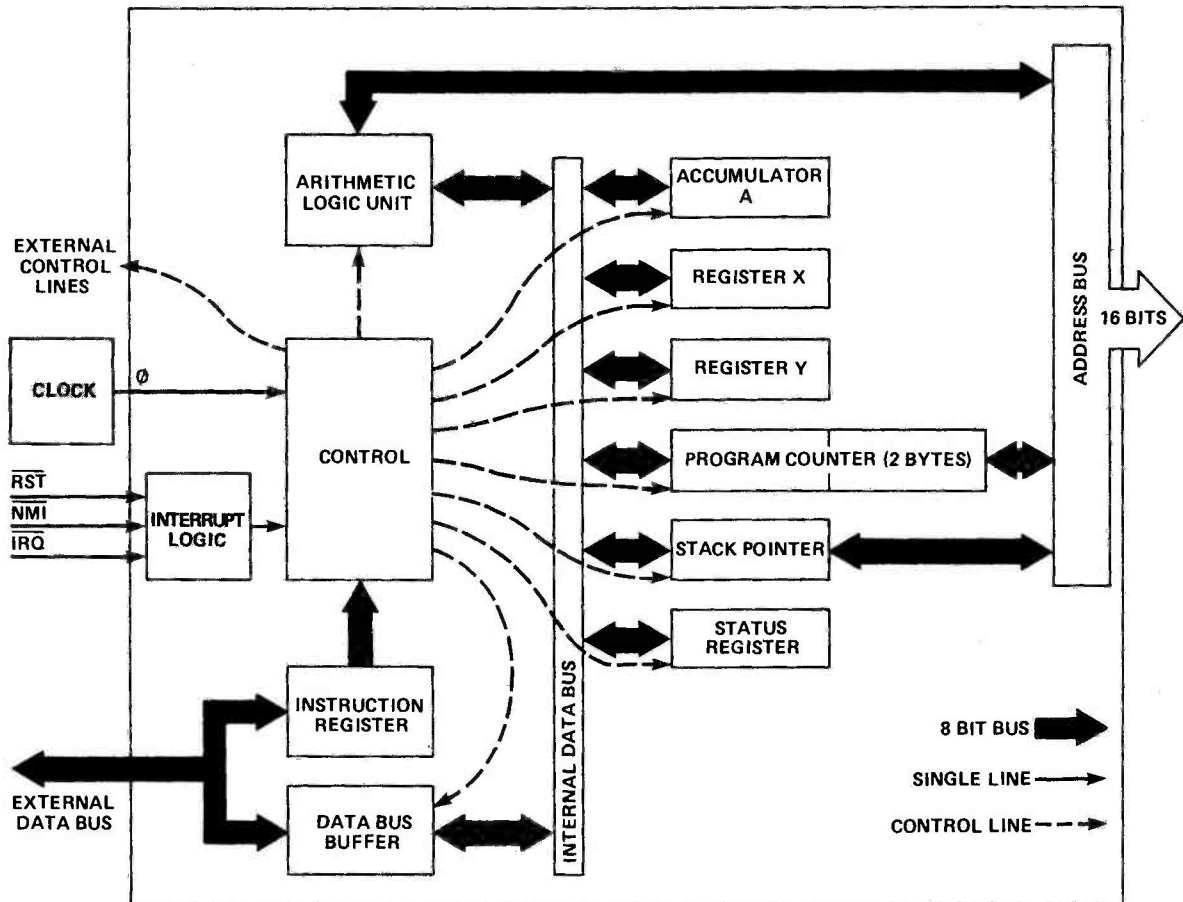


Fig. 2 The internal structure of the popular 6502 microprocessor.

what task it must perform next. The list of tasks (the program) is stored in memory at a sequence of locations. The control simply fetches these instructions from memory, a byte at a time, and acts on each immediately it is received. For this purpose it needs the **Program Counter**, a register in which it records how far it has reached in the program — a sort of 'bookmark'. Since a single byte cannot store numbers greater than 255 (decimal), and since most programs have far more bytes than this, the Program Counter is a double-byte register. Its 16 bits allow any number up to 1111 1111 1111 1111 (binary) to be stored, equivalent to 65535 (decimal).

During its calculations, the MPU often has to store data in the **Stack**, a special section of memory set aside for this purpose. As data is added to or removed from the Stack, the position in memory of the first item in the Stack (the Top of Stack) changes. The **Stack Pointer** register records the current position of Top of Stack, so that the MPU knows where to go to retrieve the stacked data.

### Status Symbols

The **status register** should be considered as eight individual bits, arranged together for convenience as a byte. Each bit is set (made equal to 1), or reset (made equal to 0) individually as the result of a particular operation. For example, bit 7 is set whenever the result of an operation results in a negative value. Bit 1 is set when the result of an operation is zero. These bits, which indicate whether a particular event has occurred or not, are often known as **flags**. Bit 0 holds the 'carry' digit from additions or subtractions in the accumulator.

The remaining sections of the MPU are concerned with communicating with the peripheral circuitry. There is the **data bus buffer** which detects voltage levels on the external data bus and copies these on to the internal data bus. Or it

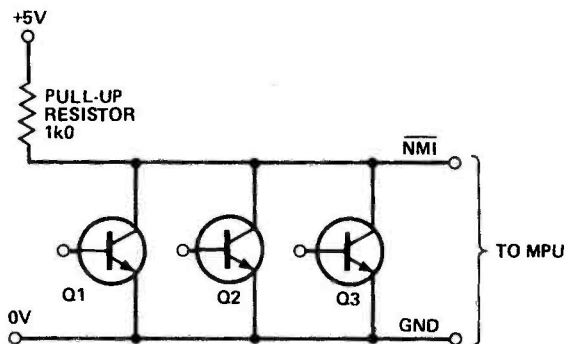


Fig. 3 Switching on any of the transistors generates an  $\overline{\text{NMI}}$

can operate in the reverse direction. If the data bus is carrying an instruction, this is accepted by the **instruction register**. From there it goes to the control which decodes it and then acts upon it. The **address bus** receives outputs from certain registers putting voltage levels on the 16 address lines, a subject which will be dealt with later.

### Dealing With Interruptions

The **interrupt logic** receives signals along any of three lines. All three lines are normally held high by pull-up resistors. The lines are thus described as 'active-low'. In other words, it requires a low level on the line to make the MPU respond. Most control lines in the computer are active-low. This makes it simple for any number of devices to bring the line to its low state. If the line is connected to open-collector transistors, for example (Fig. 3) this is equivalent to a wired-OR

configuration. Then if any one of these transistors is turned on, the voltage level on the line is made low. If a line is active-low, this fact is indicated by a line above its abbreviation (eg  $\overline{RST}$  for active-low 'reset').

The reset line is used to initialize the MPU, either when the computer is first switched on or if it gets into a 'latched-up' condition, in which normal methods of controlling it do not work. There is generally a pull-up resistor holding the voltage high, with a 'Reset' press-button hidden in a fairly inaccessible place at the rear of the computer. Pressing this button temporarily grounds the reset line.

When the computer is first switched on, resetting is usually done automatically, by having a large-value capacitor to hold the line low for a short period while the rest of the system reaches its full voltage levels (Fig. 4). There is no reset button in the Sinclair ZX-81. To reset, you simply turn off the power, wait a moment or two and then reapply power. Resetting the MPU resets the program counter to zero, so that it returns to the beginning of the program stored in memory and starts again.

On receiving a low signal on one of the interrupt lines (NMI or  $\overline{IRQ}$ ) the MPU finishes whatever operation it is engaged in, then stores away (on the stack) any data relating to that operation. This takes only a few microseconds, after

which the program counter is sent to the address in memory of a special interrupt service program. It performs whatever this program requires, then returns to its original program, recovers the data from the stack and continues with the original program as if nothing had happened. Interrupts are used by peripheral devices to gain the attention of the MPU when it is urgently required. The non-maskable interrupt (NMI) takes priority. It cannot be ignored by the MPU, and, while the MPU is performing the NMI task, it cannot be interrupted again. The Interrupt Request ( $\overline{IRQ}$ ) has second priority. The MPU can be pre-programmed to ignore an  $\overline{IRQ}$  altogether. In the 6502, this is done by setting digit 2 of the Status Register to '1'. An  $\overline{IRQ}$  task can be interrupted by an NMI. After completing the NMI task, the MPU continues with the interrupted  $\overline{IRQ}$  task. When this is completed (assuming there is no further NMI) it returns to its original program.

### Z80 Anatomy

Most MPUs have the same kind of organization, or architecture, as the 6502. The Z80 MPU, which is the processor for a wide range of computers including the TRS-80 Models I and II, the Research Machines 380Z, and the Sinclair ZX-81, has a rather more elaborate set of registers. The main set comprises the accumulator (A), the flag register (F, corresponding to the status register of the 6502), and registers B, C, D, E, H, and L, which are general-purpose registers. There is also an alternate set of registers, A', F', B', C', D', E', H', and L'. The MPU normally begins operations by using the main set, but can be switched over to use the alternate set instead, leaving the main set unaffected. It can be switched back to the main set again later.

In addition there are two index registers (IX, IY corresponding to X and Y in the 6502), a stack pointer, and a program counter. In the Z80, IX, IY, SP and PC are double-byte registers (16 bits). Finally there's the interrupt vector register (I) in which instructions for a complex series of vectored interrupts can be stored, and the memory refresh register (R) which is used in connection with refreshing the dynamic memory of the system. This topic will be dealt with in a later article.

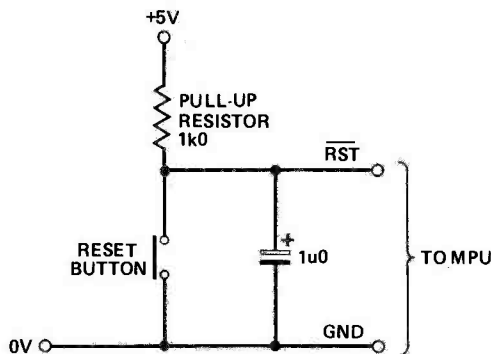
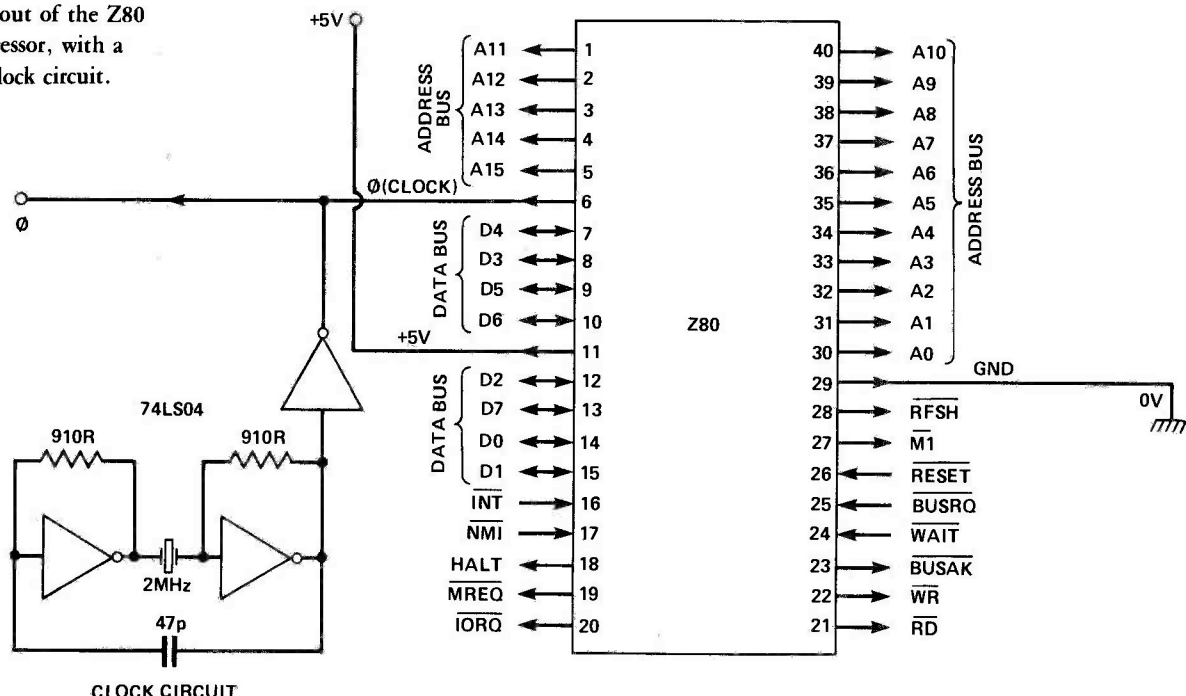


Fig. 4 A suitable circuit for generating a power-on reset pulse. A manual reset button is also provided.

Fig. 5 Pinout of the Z80 microprocessor, with a suitable clock circuit.



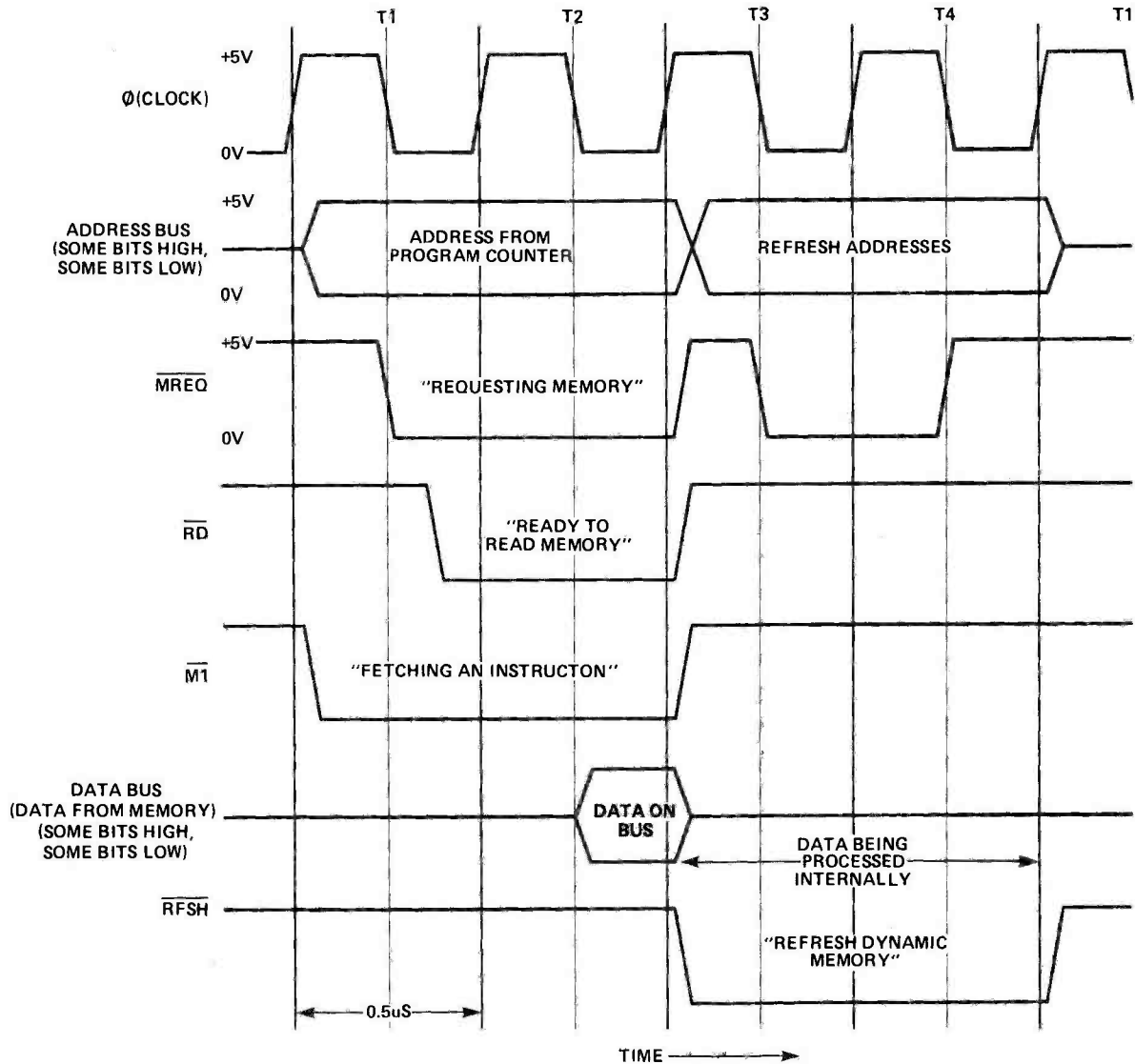


Fig. 6 The clock and control signals for the Z80.

## Making The Connection

The typical MPU is contained in a 40-pin DIL package as shown in Fig. 5, which uses the Z80 as an example. It requires a regulated 5 V DC supply, which is applied between pins 29 (system ground) and 11 (+5 V). The clock circuit supplies pulses at 2 MHz in the case of the original Z80 MPU. The newer Z80A can operate with a clock rate up to 4 MHz. The clock signal may also be taken to peripherals; for example, the circuits which control the monitor.

The eight data lines, D0 to D7, come direct from the data buffer (Fig. 2). These may act as inputs or outputs, though not in both capacities at the same time. The data bus is taken to the peripherals, to allow for transfer of data between these and the MPU. In order that the peripherals will know which one (and *only* one) of them is to receive or transmit data, each peripheral is also connected to the address bus. This is a set of 16 lines, A0 to A15. Address lines are outputs from the MPU. By putting various combinations of highs and lows on these lines the MPU can indicate which peripheral it is addressing. The peripheral may be a printer or a relay on a control board. It may be a single location in memory. Since there are 16 lines, there are 65536 possible combinations of highs and lows, this being the maximum number of locations which can be directly addressed. This figure is usually written in its shorter form, 64K, where one 'K' is not 1000, but 1024 ( $= 2^{10}$ ).

## Peripheral Procedures

The remaining pins of the IC are connected to control lines which connect the MPU to certain of the peripherals. We will consider the input control lines first. The functions of  $\overline{RST}$ ,  $\overline{NMI}$  and  $\overline{INT}$  (=  $\overline{IRQ}$ ) have already been dealt with. A low level on  $\overline{WAIT}$  causes the MPU to halt its operations. It may have asked a peripheral to send data to it but the peripheral is not ready to put the data on the bus. Instead the peripheral sends the  $\overline{WAIT}$  signal, and the MPU suspends action until the peripheral has had time to put the required data on the bus and let the  $\overline{WAIT}$  line go high again. The bus request signal ( $\overline{BUSRQ}$ ) is used by certain peripherals to force the MPU to hand over control of the address bus, the data bus and certain control lines. This is used during an operation known as **Direct Memory Access (DMA)** in which blocks of data are transferred between memory and other peripheral devices without the intervention of the MPU. This is not usually implemented on the smaller microcomputers.

There are eight outputs in the control bus of which we shall mention only three now, dealing with the rest later as part of specific examples. The Machine Cycle One output ( $\overline{M1}$ , pin 27) indicates when the MPU is fetching an instruction from memory. Two outputs of special importance are read ( $\overline{RD}$ ) and write ( $\overline{WR}$ ). When the MPU is to receive data from a peripheral it puts the address of the peripheral on the address bus and make the  $\overline{RD}$  line low. This indicates to

the peripheral, which is also wired to the  $\overline{RD}$  line, that it is to transmit data and not to receive it. When the MPU wants to transmit data to a peripheral, it puts the address on the address bus and makes the  $\overline{WR}$  line low.

## Clocking On

With so many signals being passed in several directions, and with the data bus being required for transmissions into or out of the MPU, it is essential that all these activities take place to a clearly defined schedule. Although micros and their peripherals act at fantastic speeds, these are only fast according to our human scale of appreciation. To an MPU a memory which responds in a microsecond is not particularly speedy. The MPU even has to wait a while to give it time to put the data on the bus, and for the voltages to settle to their intended levels. To keep all sections of the system operating in an orderly way, and to allow the circuits a finite (even if infinitesimal) time to react, the clock is of major importance.

As an example of the way the various parts of the system interact, let us consider what happens when the MPU goes to memory to find the instruction which it is to execute next. Figure 6 shows the voltage levels on the lines concerned. The top curve shows the regular pulsing of the system clock at, say, 2 MHz. At this frequency, each of the periods  $T_1$  to  $T_4$  is 0.5 microseconds (uS). The MPU begins by making  $\overline{M1}$  low, indicating that it is about to fetch an instruction from memory. At the same time it puts on the address bus the address of the memory location in which this instruction is stored. It has obtained this address from its program counter, which has just been incremented following the execution of the previous instruction. The addressed location does not

know at this stage whether it is to be read or written to.

On the next low-going edge of clock, the Memory Request line ( $\overline{MREQ}$ ) indicates that this is an operation involving memory (as opposed to a printer, or monitor peripheral, for example). Immediately after this, the  $\overline{RD}$  line is taken low by the MPU, indicating that this is a read operation. The  $\overline{MREQ}$  signal is used to enable (or 'turn on') the memory IC so that it is ready to put its data on the bus. Since many such ICs are permanently wired to the bus and since only one can be allowed to put data on to any line at any one time, memories have tri-state outputs. These can be high, low or 'high impedance'. The high impedance state means that the output is virtually isolated from the bus and not able to communicate with it. Outputs are in this state until a  $\overline{RD}$  signal is received by the IC. The  $\overline{RD}$  signal can be fed to the memory IC so as to make its outputs change to low impedance and take the lines of the bus to high or low states.

As soon as the data has appeared on the bus the CPU reads it into its instruction register. It has until the next rising edge of the clock to do this. Then  $\overline{M1}$ ,  $\overline{MREQ}$  and  $\overline{RD}$  are made high, indicating that the operation has been completed. The total time for the whole operation is 1 uS. During the next 1 uS the CPU passes the data along its internal bus to its control, where the data is decoded as an instruction and then acted upon. While this is happening there is no need to take in further data and, since the instruction is still being decoded, the time for acting upon it has not yet arrived. In the Z80, this period is used for refreshing dynamic memories, as will be explained in a future issue.

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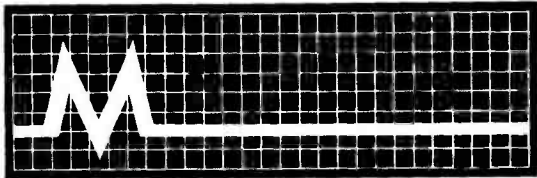
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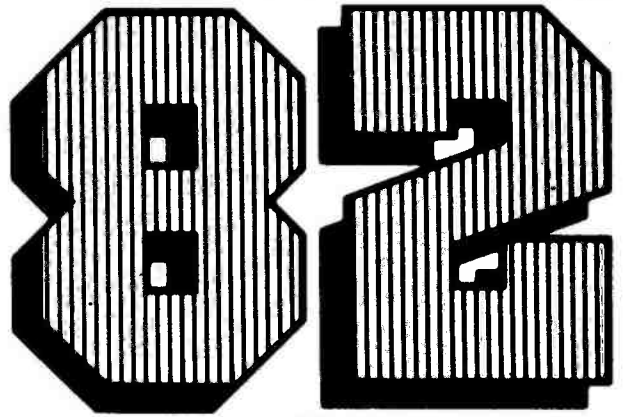
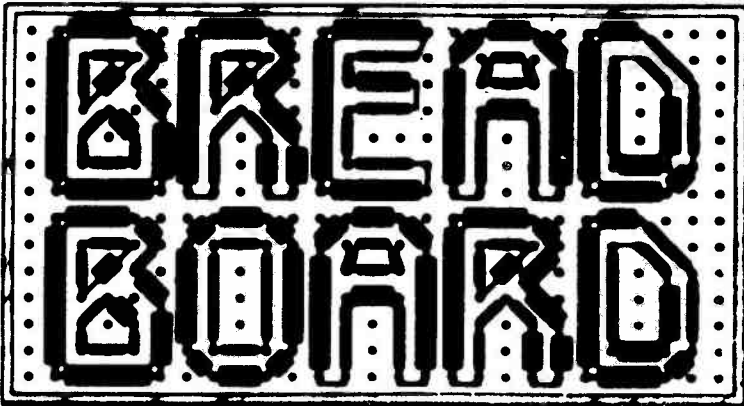
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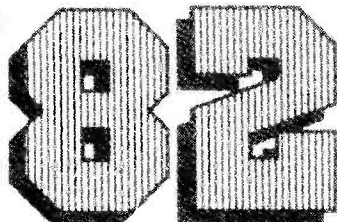
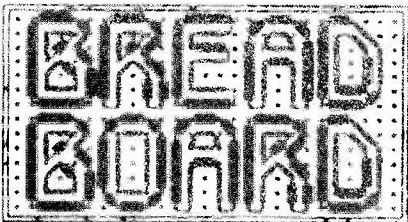
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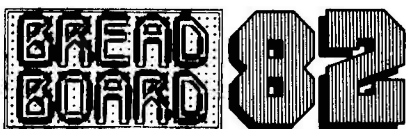
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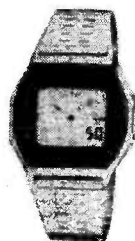
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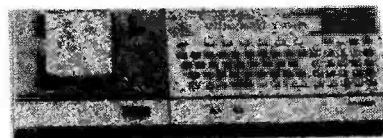


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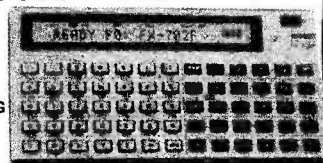
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# PLAYMATE GUITAR EFFECTS/AMP

The sounds of the superstar in your own room — or in the middle of a field! The PLAYMATE will help you on your way. Design and development by Phil Walker

The Playmate is a small practice amplifier for use with a guitar giving a few watts output for easy listening while also providing some of the basic effects used by many musicians. It is ideally suited to those who do not carry all the various effects units around in their guitar case but would like to be able to practice at odd moments or in out-of-the-way places.

In addition to the amplifier and standard tone controls etc, various distortion and wah-wah effects are possible. As a by-product of the circuitry a sustain effect is also possible.

The sound output is provided by a small internal loudspeaker and the whole module is powered from a small mains unit or batteries. An

external foot pedal could be used with the wah effect if required. This consists of a variable resistor and a couple of other resistors to provide the necessary control current. The internal control is still active at this time and can be used to set an operating range.

## The Circuit

The circuit is in general straightforward. It consists of an input buffer with a gain of about 50 followed by a signal compression stage which reduces the dynamic range greatly in order to feed the effects circuitry at a constant level. The effects consist of a distortion-inducing stage for fuzz and a variable band-pass filter for the wah wah. After the effects stages, the

dynamic range of the signal is restored to normal before being fed to the mixer, tone controls and power output stages.

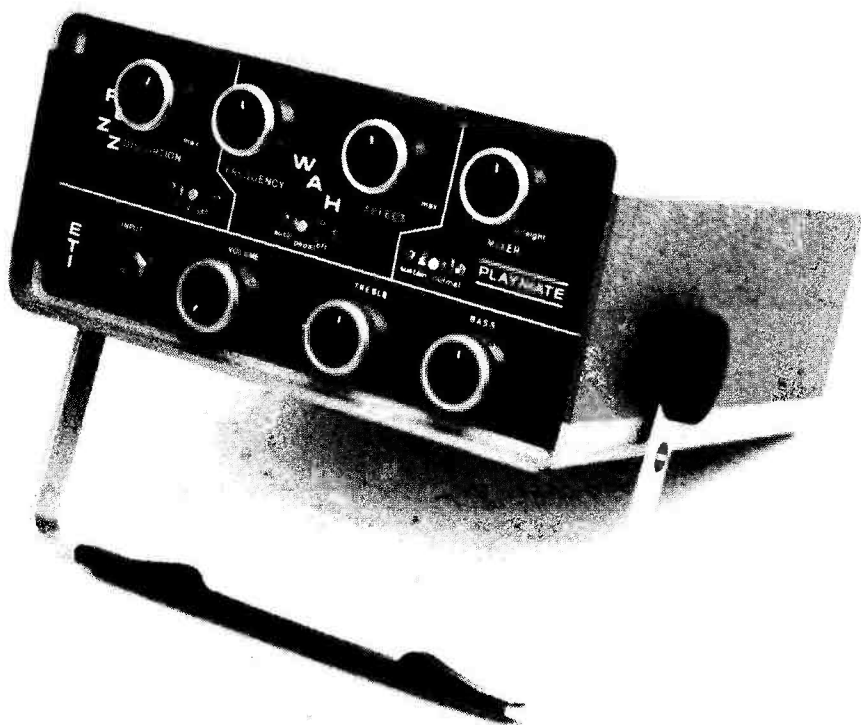
The input buffer consists of a single 3140 CMOS op-amp whose gain is set at 48 by R2, R3. The following dynamic range compressor consists of one part of a LM13600 dual transconductance amplifier. The gain of this device is a function of the amplifier bias current, the input diode current and the load resistor. The output buffer of the device is used here as a peak detecting rectifier which charges a capacitor (C3) to the peak value of the output signal less two base-emitter drops (about 1V4). If this voltage is greater than about 0V7 the resulting current flowing through the input linearising diodes causes the effective stage gain to decrease and keep the output level constant.

## Distorting The Facts

Distortion effects in this project are of two types. The first is mainly even harmonic generated by half-wave-rectifying the input, inverting it and then mixing it with the original signal to get from no distortion to complete frequency doubling. In addition to this, overload type distortion is provided by a high gain clipping amplifier using non-linear feedback (IC3a,3b).

Wah wah sound effects are produced by a current-controlled state variable filter. The control current determines the centre frequency of the pass band while a two-gang variable resistor sets the bandwidth and compensates for inevitable gain changes.

Tone controls are of a standard type and use frequency-selective feedback networks around an op-amp. The following power amplifier has been designed to have a low quiescent



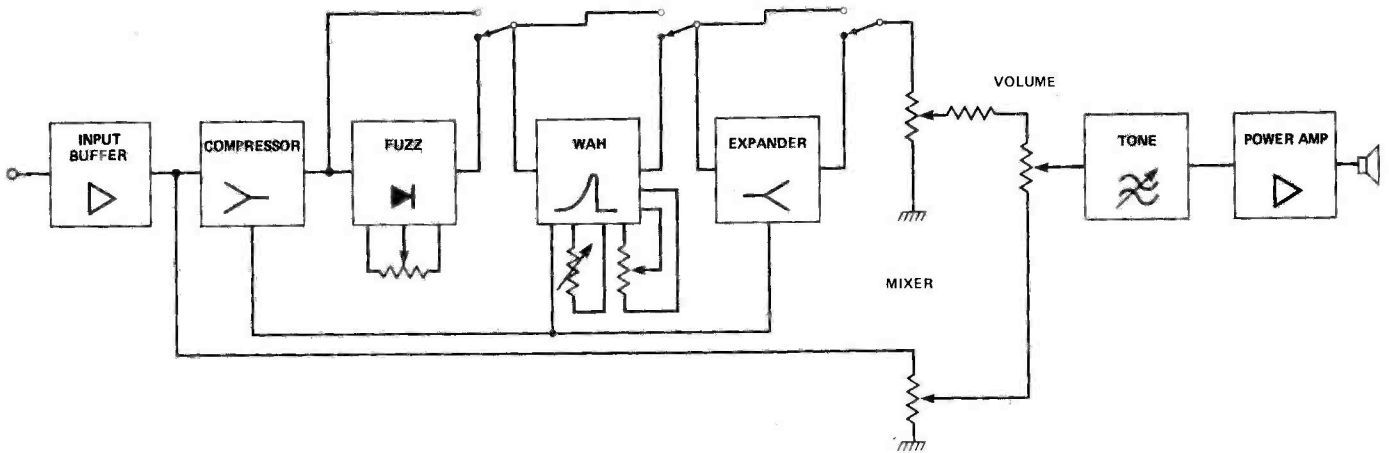


Fig. 1 Block diagram of the Playmate.

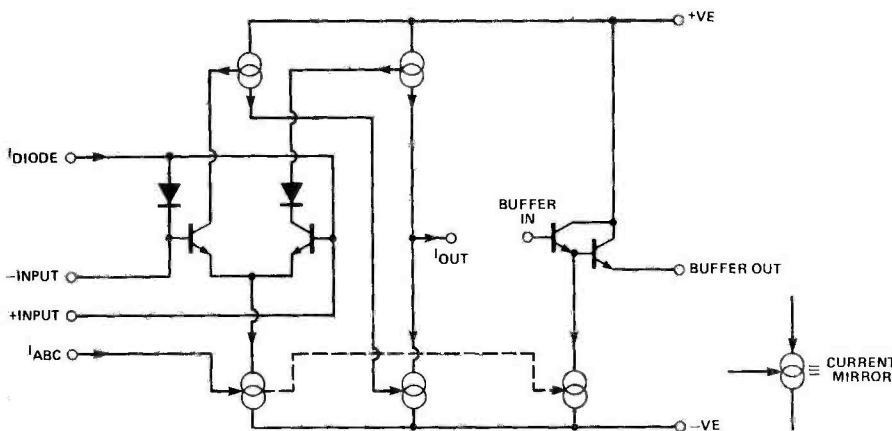


Fig. 2 Internal circuitry of the LM13600 — an operational transconductance amplifier!

$$I_{out} = \frac{I_{abc} \times q \times V_{in}}{2KT} \times V_{ir}$$

$$26 \times 10^{-3}$$

If the diode current is not zero and the signal current is less than  $I_{D/2}$  then the transfer function is:—

$$I_{out} = 2 \times I_{abc} \times \frac{I_s}{I_D}$$

where

- $I_s$  = signal current
- $I_{abc}$  = amp. bias current
- $I_D$  = lin. diode current
- $I_{out}$  = output current

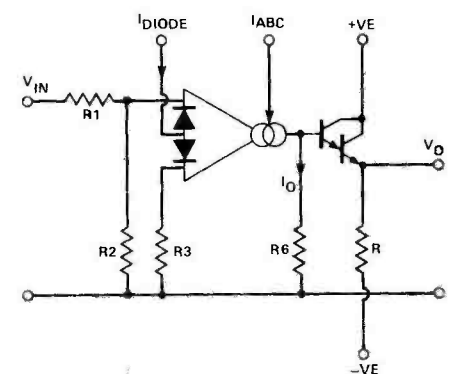


Fig. 3 Basic voltage amplifier circuit.

current. This is important if batteries are to be used as many amps of the IC variety take 30 mA or more, or are designed for single rail working.

### The LM13600

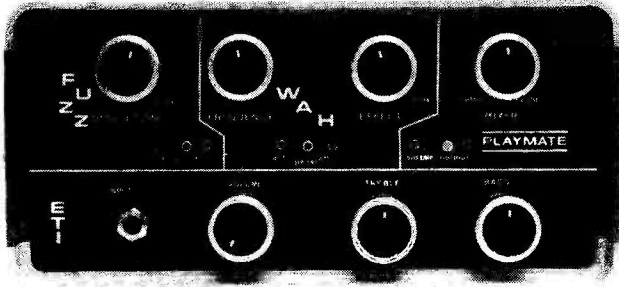
This device is used for two functions in this project. One of these is the compressor/expander while the other is the wah wah. In both of these, use is made of the fact that the

gain of the device is dependent on the amplifier bias current and the linearising diode current (provided that the input current is less than half the diode current). In fact the output resistor also determines the gain but is not so easily varied.

If the diode current is zero then the manufacturers' data sheet shows that the transfer function of the device is:—

If we use resistors for input and output, it can be seen that the voltage gain of a stage using this device can be controlled easily by use of the bias and linearising diode currents.

Figure 3 shows the basic circuit for a voltage amplifier and from it we can show that the output voltage  $V_o$  is dependent on the bias and diode currents.



## HOW IT WORKS

The gain of the input buffer IC1 is set by R2 and R3 at 48. R1 determines the input impedance while C1 provides DC blocking. The output from this device goes to the dynamic range compressor IC2a and its buffer IC3a. This part of the circuit also provides control signals for the expander circuit and, if required, for the wah wah effect. The buffered output from the compressor then goes via C4 to the first part of the fuzz effect circuitry constructed around around IC3b. Here an inverted half-wave-rectified version of the input signal is produced by the action of D1 and D2 in the feedback network of IC3b. This is applied to RV1 from which a portion is selected and mixed with a little of the original signal. As the half-wave-rectified signal at this point of the circuit is twice as great as the straight-through signal, by varying the setting of RV1, amounts of distortion varying from none to virtual frequency doubling can be selected.

The mixture of signals obtained above is now applied to IC3c where they are amplified. The amount of amplification is determined by the setting of SW1. In position 3 minimum gain is provided and in fact the whole fuzz section is bypassed. Position 2 gives the same gain, allowing the first distortion stage to be effective. The final position connects D3 and D4 via C5 and R19 into the feedback circuit of IC3c instead of R18. This has the effect of greatly increasing the small signal gain but causing the output to limit sharply, thus clipping and squaring the output. This facility is available on whatever output is coming from IC3b.

The output from the fuzz stages now passes to the wah wah. This effect is produced by the current controlled state variable filter used in a band-pass mode. The filter is realised by using a LM13600 device with a controlled bias current providing the variable centre frequency. The 'Q' factor is controlled by a dual gang potentiometer, half of which is used to control the 'Q' factor while the other half compensates for the effective gain change as this is altered. In this type of circuit the frequency range is determined by the values of C7, C8, R24 and R26, while the actual centre frequency is controlled by the amplifier bias current. If the bias current is allowed to become too small it is sometimes found that a thump is heard at the output; in order to prevent this R34, R35, D5 and R33 are used in the control circuitry to keep the current above this threshold.

SW2 selects between the control options for the wah wah circuit. The 'off' position bypasses the circuit altogether, the 'pedal' position makes access to an external foot pedal if fitted, while the 'auto' position connects to an output from the compressor stage. This control signal is a current which is proportional to the amount of signal compression being

applied to the input signal. The magnitude of this current increases as the input signal increases. The result of this is that when the input signal is loud, the wah wah centre frequency is high and as the input decays, the wah wah frequency decreases with it. The effect of this is to make a wah sound automatically whenever a string or chord is played.

The output from this section is buffered and adjusted in level by IC3d. After this the signal passes to the signal expansion stage built around IC2b. C23 provides DC isolation and R36 converts the input voltage to a suitable drive current for the IC. For this application the linearising diode current is held constant while the amplifier bias current is varied. Q1 in the compressor circuit provides the control current for this stage allowing a good match in the attenuation/gain characteristics of the two stages. SW3 selects either the output from the expander or bypasses it as required to give normal or sustain on the effects channel.

A dual gang potentiometer RV4 allows mixing between the original signal and the effect-modified signal. This is followed by a volume control RV5 to set the output sound level.

After the volume control, IC5a buffers the signal before applying it to the tone control circuit around IC5b. The configuration used here is a very common type of feedback arrangement. As an approximation, the gain of an op-amp with feedback is taken as  $-(\text{feedback resistor value})/(\text{input resistor value})$ . If we replace the feedback and input resistors with variable impedances, we find that when the feedback impedance is greater than the input impedance then the overall gain is greater than unity, and vice versa. As impedances vary with frequency, the gain at each frequency will tend to be different. The only time the gain does not vary is when the input and feedback impedances are equal whatever their magnitude. This is the general principle on which the tone control networks operate.

The final section to be considered is the power amplifier stage. Voltage amplification is provided by IC6 and the output from it drives two complementary compound Darlington pairs, Q4/Q6 and Q5/Q7. Quiescent current through the output devices is set by RV8 in conjunction with Q3, R54 and C19. R59 and R60 aid in maintaining bias stability and provide some protection to the output transistors in the event of a fault. R61 and C20 compensate for load impedance variations at high frequency and C18 reduces the high frequency gain of the power amplifier to reduce the possibility of RF oscillation. The large capacitors C21-25 are to reduce the effects of aging batteries and prevent low frequency oscillation or intermodulation distortion.

$$V_o = \frac{V_{in} \times 2 \times I_{abc} \times R_L}{R1 \times I_D}$$

$$I_{in} = V_{in}/R_{in} \text{ Therefore}$$

$$\text{and the gain } \frac{V_o}{V_{in}} = 2 \times \frac{I_{abc}}{I_D} \times \frac{R_L}{R1}$$

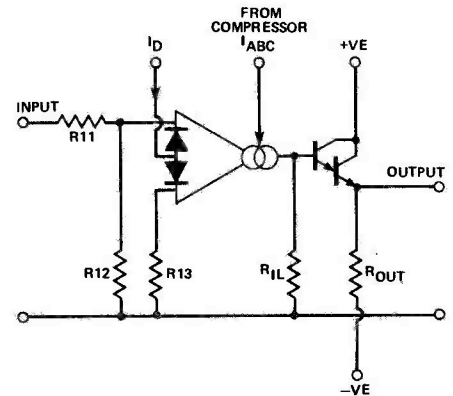


Fig. 4 The LM13600 as an expander.

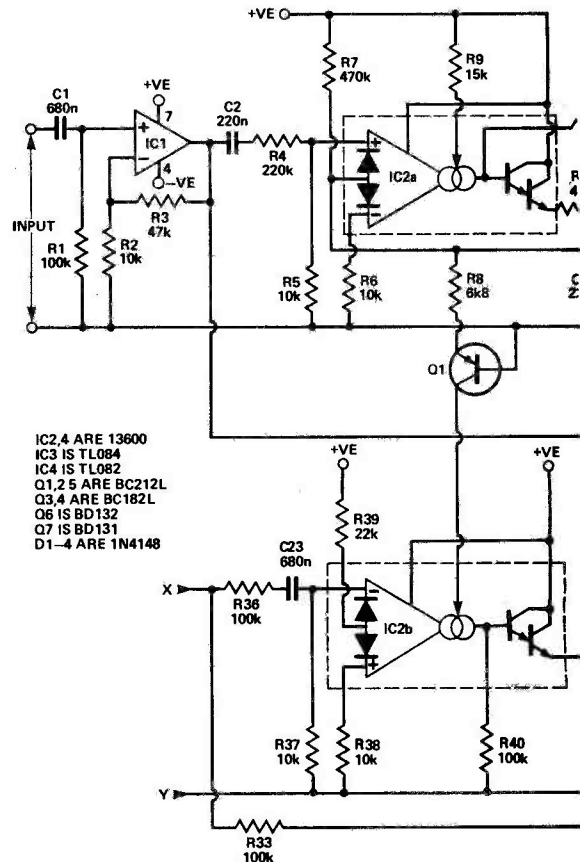


Fig. 6 Circuit diagram for the Playmate.

## Compressing With The LM13600

Figure 5 shows the circuit used in this project to compress the dynamic range of the signal input. For very small signals  $I_D$  is virtually zero and the amplifier operates with a very high gain. As the signal increases, the output peak voltage will reach a level sufficient to charge the capacitor C to about one diode drop. If the input

signal tries to increase further the resulting current into the input diodes will cause their impedance to fall, thus increasing the attenuation of the input and maintaining a constant output level.

At any time the current flowing into the diodes is:—

$$I_D = \frac{2 \times (V_o - 3 \times 0.7)}{R_2}$$

The  $3 \times 0.7$  represents the voltage drops associated with the base-emitter junctions of the output buffer transistors and the voltage drop of the linearising diodes. This voltage does vary with temperature and current so since another control current is required for the expander function, this is derived by using a resistor and common base transistor. The configuration gives a current output which tracks the compressor control current very closely as it has the same number of junctions in series.

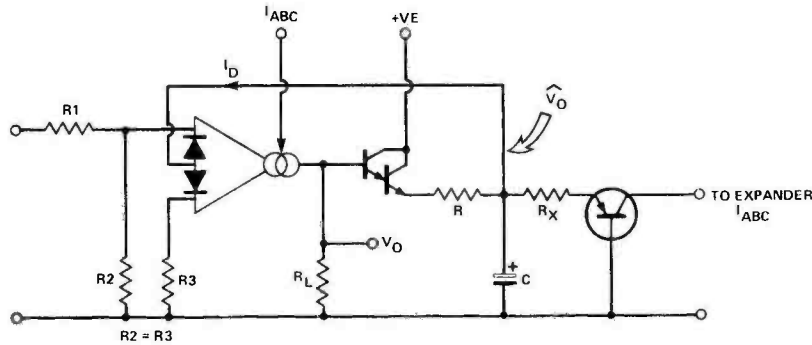
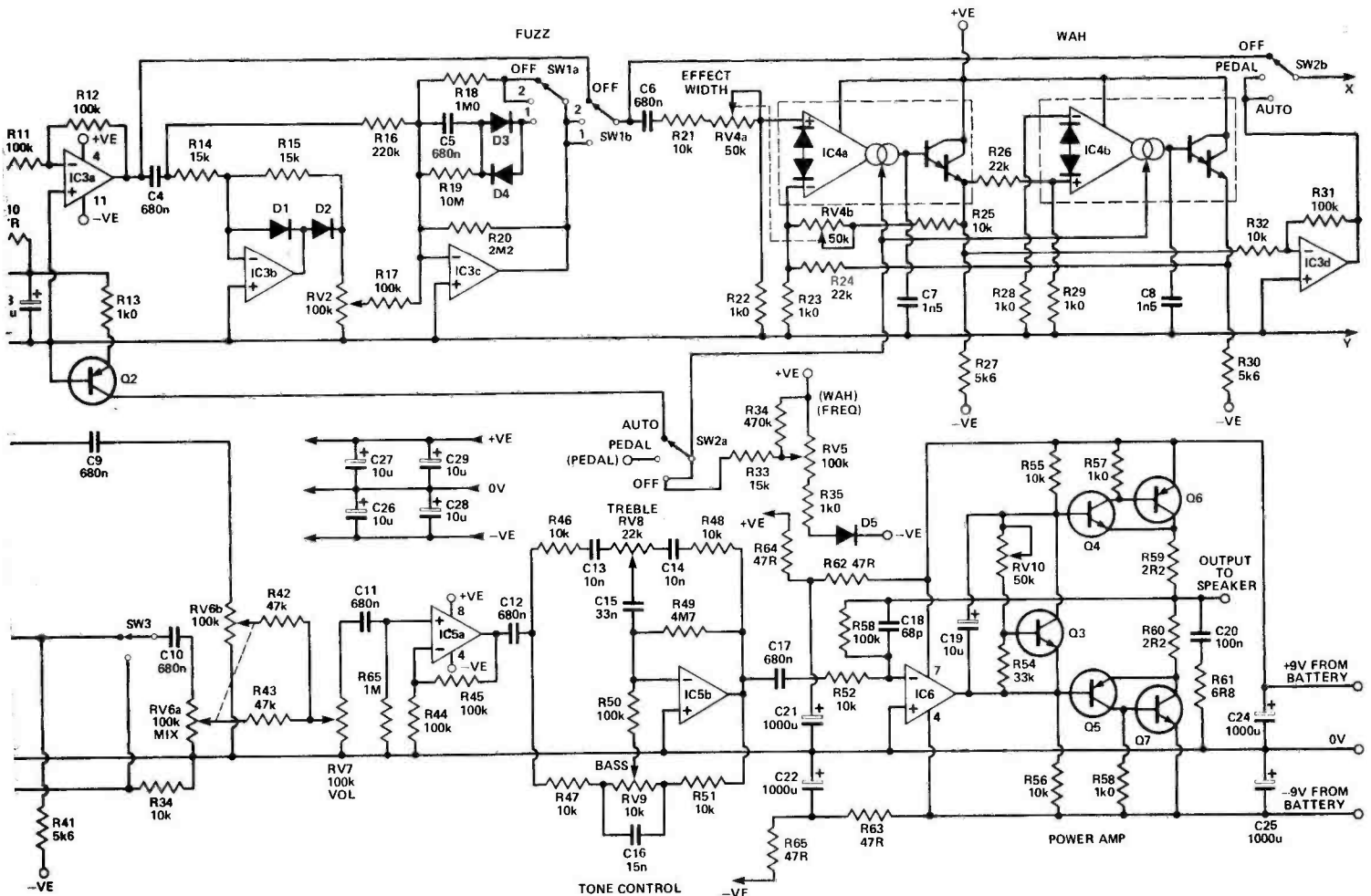


Fig. 5 Here the LM13600 is configured as a compressor.

## The LM13600 As An Expander

If the current produced by the above circuit is fed into the bias current input of a virtually identical stage while the diode current is held a constant then the voltage gain equation above shows that the gain of the circuit will be increased as the current increases. Moreover the product of the two gains will be constant giving an invariant overall signal transfer function.



The construction details, parts list and overlays will appear next month. ET

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	3x012	12+12	3.33	
	3x013	15+15	2.66	
	3x014	18+18	2.22	
	3x015	22+22	1.81	
	3x016	25+25	1.60	
120 VA 90 x 40mm 1.2 kg Regulation 11%	4x010	6+6	10.00	<b>£6.90</b> +DP1 57 +VAT 11.26 TOTAL £8.16
	4x011	9+9	6.66	
	4x012	12+12	5.00	
	4x013	15+15	4.00	
	4x014	18+18	3.33	
	4x015	22+22	2.72	
	4x016	25+25	2.40	
160 VA 110 x 40mm 1.8 kg Regulation 8%	5x011	9+9	8.89	<b>£7.91</b> +DP1 57 +VAT 11.44 TOTAL £9.35
	5x012	12+12	6.66	
	5x013	15+15	5.33	
	5x014	18+18	4.44	
	5x015	22+22	3.63	
	5x016	25+25	3.20	
	5x017	30+30	2.66	

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	6x013	15+15	7.50	
	6x014	18+18	6.25	
	6x015	22+22	5.11	
	6x016	25+25	4.50	
	6x017	30+30	3.75	
	6x018	35+35	3.21	
300 VA 140 x 50mm 2.6 kg Regulation 6%	7x012	12+12	10.00	<b>£10.17</b> +DP1 57 +VAT 11.83 TOTAL £14.00
	7x014	18+18	8.33	
	7x015	22+22	6.82	
	7x016	25+25	6.00	
	7x017	30+30	5.00	
	7x018	35+35	4.28	
	7x026	40+40	3.75	
500 VA 140 x 60mm 4 kg Regulation 4%	8x016	25+25	10.00	<b>£13.53</b> +DP1 57 +VAT 12.38 TOTAL £16.26
	8x017	30+30	8.33	
	8x018	35+35	7.14	
	8x026	40+40	6.25	
	8x025	45+45	5.55	
	8x033	50+50	5.00	
	8x042	55+55	4.54	
625 VA 140 x 75mm 5 kg Regulation 4%	9x017	30+30	10.41	<b>£16.13</b> +DP1 57 +VAT 12.42 TOTAL £18.95
	9x018	35+35	8.92	
	9x026	40+40	7.81	
	9x025	45+45	6.94	
	9x033	50+50	6.25	
	9x042	55+55	5.68	
	9x029	220	2.84	

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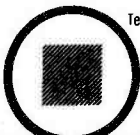
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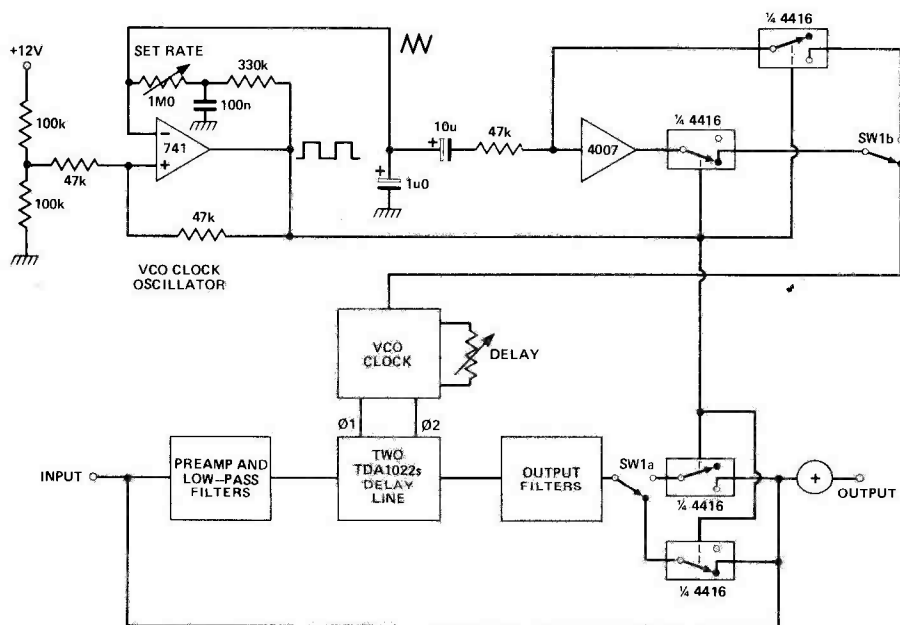
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7454	22p	74331	100p	74LS340	100p	4091	90p
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7456	22p	74333	100p	74LS342	100p	4093	90p
7457	22p	74334	100p	74LS343	100p	4094	90p
7458	22p	74335	100p	74LS344	100p	4095	90p
7459	22p	74336	100p	74LS345	100p	4096	90p
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7464	22p	74341	100p	74LS350	100p	4101	90p
7465	22p	74342	100p	74LS351	100p	4102	90p
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7476	22p	74353	100p	74LS362	100p	4113	90p
7477	22p	74354	100p	74LS363	100p	4114	90p
7478	22p	74355	100p	74LS364	100p	4115	90p
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7483	22p	74360	100p	74LS369	100p	4120	90p
7484	22p	74361	100p	74LS370	100p	4121	90p
7485	22p	74362	100p	74LS371	100p	4122	90p
7486	22p	74363	100p	74LS372	100p	4123	90p
7487	22p	74364	100p	74LS373	100p	4124	90p
7488	22p	74365	100p	74LS374	100p	4125	90p
7489	22p	74366	100p	74LS375	100p	4126	90p
7490	22p	74367	100p	74LS376	100p	4127	90p
7491	22p	74368	100p	74LS377	100p	4128	90p
7492	22p	74369	100p	74LS378	100p	4129	90p
7493	22p	74370	100p	74LS379	100p	4130	90p
7494	22p	74371	100p	74LS380	100p	4131	90p
7495	22p	74372	100p	74LS381	100p	4132	90p
7496	22p	74373	100p	74LS382	100p	4133	90p
7497	22p	74374	100p	74LS383	100p	4134	90p
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CA3019	80p	LM711	70p	8809G	150p	CR76579	180p
CA3046	70p	LM725	40p	8809H	150p	CR76581	180p
CA3048	225p	LM733	70p	8809J	150p	CR76583	180p
CA3059	300p	LM741	18p	8809K	150p	CR76585	180p
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CA3080E	72p	LM748	35p	8809M	150p	CR76589	180p
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CA3089E	200p	LM1014	150p	8809P	150p	CR76593	180p
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HA1368	270p	LM3917	225p	8809AD	150p	CR76621	180p
HA1369	270p	LM3918	225p	8809AE	150p	CR76623	180p
ICL7660	200p	LM3919	225p	8809AF	150p	CR76625	180p
ICL8038	300p	LM3920	225p	8809AG	150p	CR76627	180p
ICM7216B	160p	LM3921	225p	8809AH	150p	CR76629	180p
ICM7217	750p	LM3922	225p	8809AJ	150p	CR76631	180p
ICM7555	70p	LM3923	225p	8809AK	150p	CR76633	180p
ICL7611	90p	LM3924	225p	8809AL	150p	CR76635	180p
LC7120	325p	LM3925	225p	8809AM	150p	CR76637	180p
LC7130	325p	LM3926	225p	8809AN	150p	CR76639	180p
LF347	160p	LM3927	225p	8809AO	150p	CR76641	180p
LF351	48p	LM3928	225p	8809AP	150p	CR76643	180p
LF343	100p	LM3929	225p	8809AQ	150p	CR76645	180p
LF356P	90p	LM3930	225p	8809AR	150p	CR76647	180p
LF357	120p	LM3931	225p	8809AS	150p	CR76649	180p
LM13331	50p	LM3932	225p	8809AT	150p	CR76651	180p
LM103	425p	LM3933	225p	8809AU	150p	CR76653	180p
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LM310	120p	LM3935	225p	8809AW	150p	CR76657	180p
LM311	75p						

# TECH TIPS



## CMOS Phaser

S.P. Giles, Edmonton

This is an extension of the usual op-amp phaser, which uses CMOS inverters instead. IC1a amplifies the input signal to compensate for some of the loss in gain through the four-stage allpass network formed by IC1b-1f and IC2a-2c. The resistance of the four resistors marked  $R_x$  is altered by the enhancement FETs in IC3 and the changing voltage applied to their gates by slow oscillator IC2d,e as in the ETI audio phaser.

To set up, adjust RV2 for approximately the same level as at X, then adjust PR2 until the familiar phasing sound is heard with a smooth sweep. RV2 can then be adjusted for the best effect. These adjustments should be made with RV1 at a minimum; this is a feedback control which gives a deeper phasing effect. PR1 should be adjusted so that with RV1 full on, the feedback whistle just disappears.

## Guitar Harmoniser

S.P. Giles, Edmonton

This is one for guitarists who cannot afford commercial units which cost at least £1000 at the moment. Constructors who have built the CCD phaser will be familiar with the pitch-changing effect when it is set up in the vibrato mode, and must have noticed that the longer the delay, the greater the pitch change above and below the frequency of the input.

All that this circuit does is to silence the output for one half of the clock modulation oscillator's cycle. This is achieved using a 4416 quad CMOS switch, which is controlled by the square wave output of the clock modulation oscillator. This IC differs from the 4016 in that two switches will be on and two will be off even when the same control signal is applied to each switch. Depending on which way SW1 is connected, either the raised or the lowered frequency of the input will appear at the output, which can be

adjusted by the rate control or by altering the delay of the TDA1022s.

There are many circuits available for TDA1022 clocks and filters so I have not bothered to include them here. Constructors must remember that there will be a slight tremulant effect as the signal in harmony with the input will only be present for the time that the clock modulation oscillator is high or low.

## Mains Remote Speaker

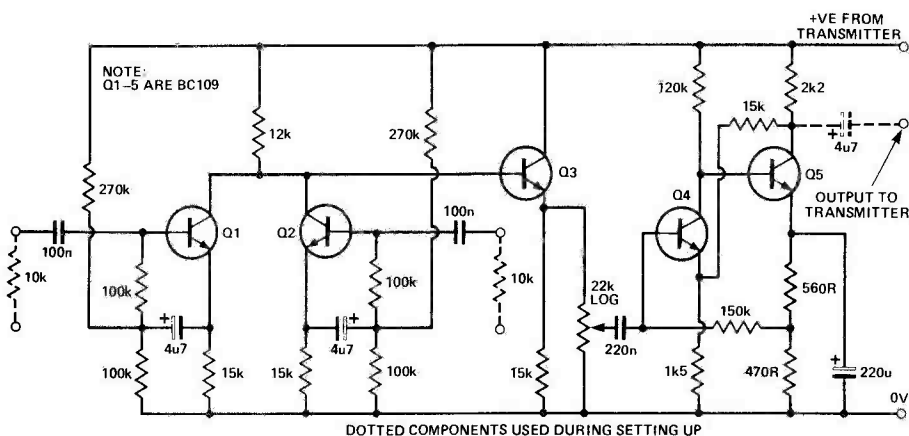
G.M. Perry, West Kilbride

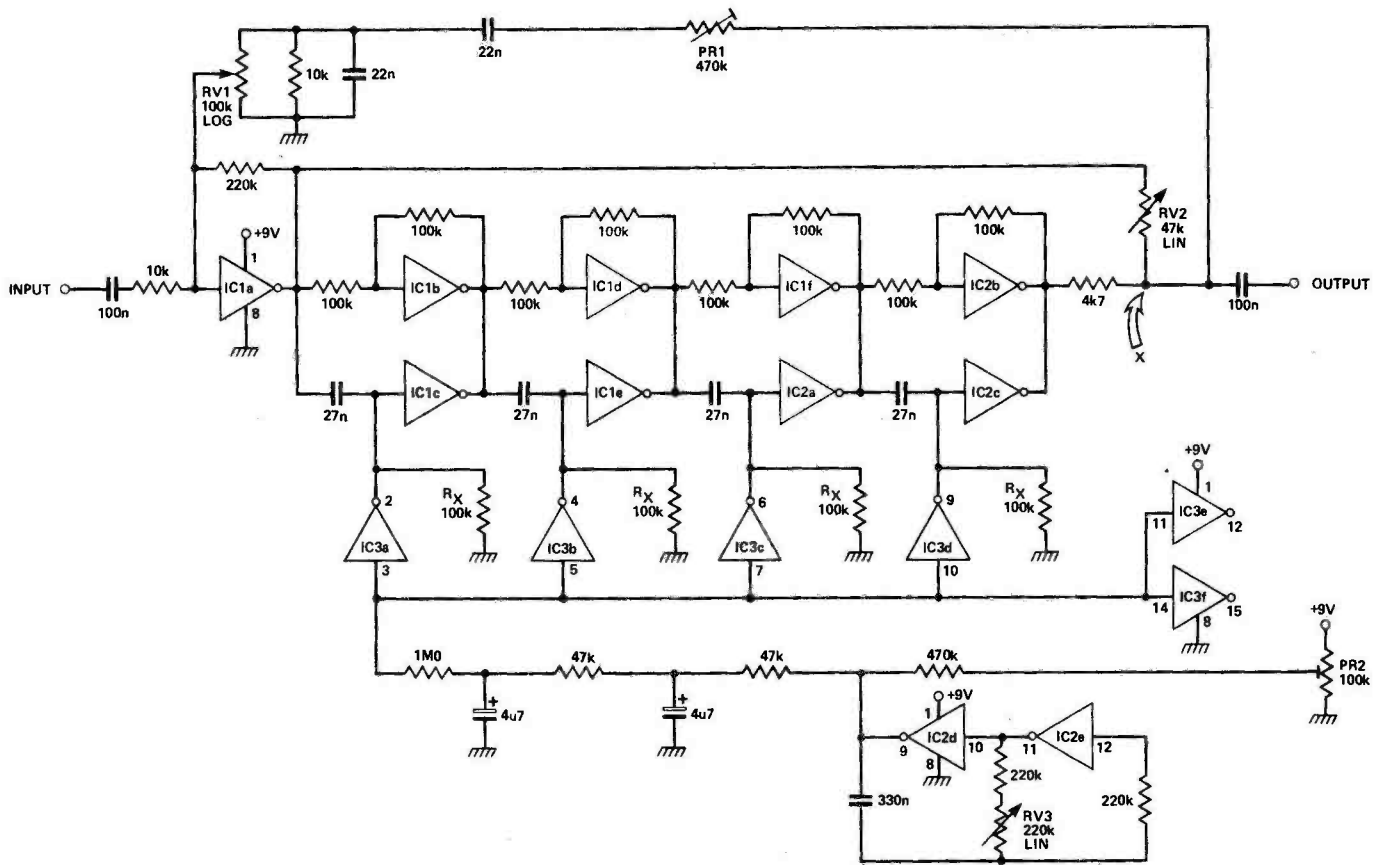
I have used the idea you recently published as the 'Ear-stretcher' com-

munication system to produce an extension speaker. The receiver unit (slightly modified) has been built into a small speaker/cabinet unit, while the transmitter is connected to the hi-fi via a 20 dB amp and mixer. (This combines the stereo channels into a mono signal). The result is a portable speaker

which can be plugged into any mains socket in the neighbourhood and produce an acceptable audio quality from the hi-fi system. In three weeks I've been asked to build four units!

The modifications are as follows. The receiver is built as in the Ear-stretcher except for the following; the mains input is switched and RV1 is a 220k log pot (not a switched pot); the 'mute' is wired off; C13, 14 are 100n; C15 is omitted; C19 is 3n3. In the transmitter, C6, 7, IC3 and RV1 are not used and the circuit shown here is used to provide the signal input (instead of the microphone unit). This is a mixer with a high impedance input followed by a 20 dB amp. It is important to connect the positive supply of the mixer amp to the regulated side of the transmitter power supply. Screened cable has been used for all audio connections and an operating frequency of 250 kHz was chosen to minimise mains-borne RFI on Radio 4.





## Number-guessing On The FX-501P

David Kenyon, Knaresborough

I wrote this program for the Casio FX-501P and FX-502P, but it could easily be adapted for other programmables. The object is to guess a three-digit number generated by the calculator. To start the game, press INV P8. The display will show the number 15, which is the number of attempts you have. To make a guess, enter the number followed by EXE. One of two numbers will come up on the display; -1 means the guess was too low, while 2 means the guess was too high. If you succeed in guessing the number the number of attempts you made will be displayed. The numbers in the program marked with an asterisk may be changed to give a different number of attempts.

CODE	LOC	
INV P9		MR 0
INV RAN	1	=
x	2	MIN 3

1	HLT	22
0	LBL 2	23
0	2	24
0	=	25
=	INV PAUSE	26
AC	INV DSZ	27
INV P8	GOTO 5	28
GSB INV P9	LBL 1	29
1*	1	30
5*	+ / -	31
MIN 0	=	32
LBL 5	INV PAUSE	33
HLT	INV DSZ	34
INV X ≥ F	GOTO 5	35
GOTO 3	TOTAL IS 44	
INV X F		
GOTO 2		
GOTO 1		
LBL 3		
0		
=		
INV DSZ		
1*		
5*		
—		
MR 0		
=		
MIN 3		



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Drawings should be as clear as possible and the text should be typed. Text and drawings must be on separate sheets. Circuits must not be subject to copyright. Items for consideration should be sent to ETI TECH-TIPS, Electronics Today International,

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## Intelligent Alarm Switch

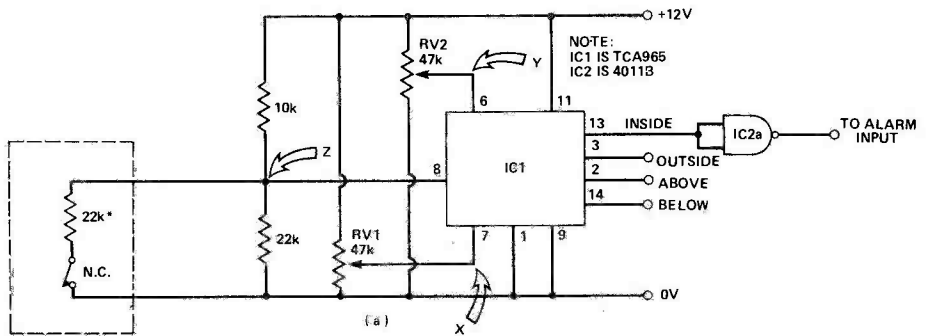
S. S. Norman, Sunbury-On-Thames

This simple circuit is built around a TCA965 window discriminator. It is a device which is given a predefined "voltage window" set by RV1 (lower limit) and RV2 (upper limit). The four outputs, which are normally high, indicate whether the input voltage (pin 8) is inside, outside, above or below the "window". Figures 1 and 2 show two possible circuits for normally open or normally closed switches.

The resistors marked \* are mounted inside or fixed with epoxy to the switch to be "defended". RV1 and RV2 are set to form a window around the voltage at point Z. Once set, any attempt to cut the wires to the switch or short the switch out in an attempt to bypass it will pull the voltage at point Z out past the window and the output to the alarm will go high. Needless to say the switch will also activate the alarm in the normal way.

The smaller the window about point Z the more sensitive the circuit becomes. To set up the circuit, measure

Fig. 1



REMOTELY LOCATED ALARM SWITCHES

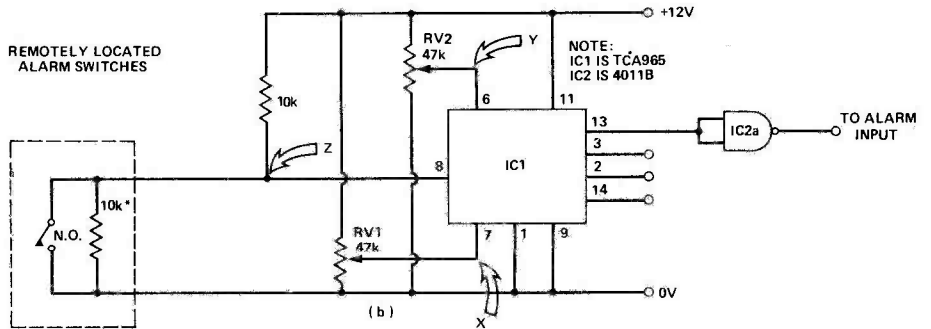


Fig. 2

the voltage at point Z (with the circuit in its standby condition). Then adjust RV1 to set the voltage at point X to be

0V5 lower than point Z. Now adjust RV2 to set voltage at point Y to be 0V5 higher than point Z.

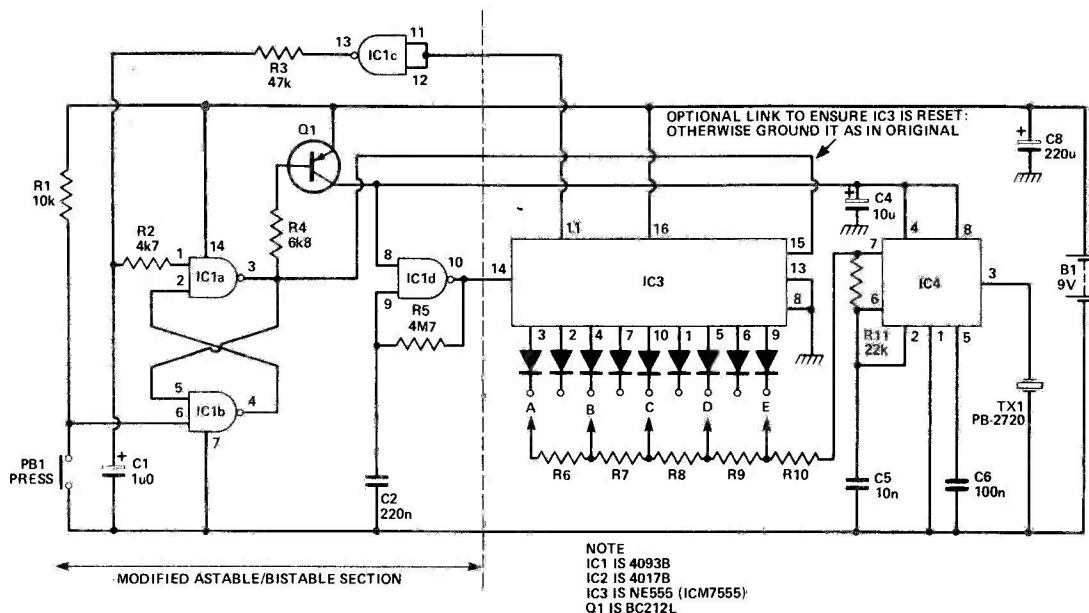
## Current Saving Modifications For The Musical Doorbell

William Leung, Harlow

In the original Musical Doorbell circuit (ETI December '80) IC1 and IC2 can

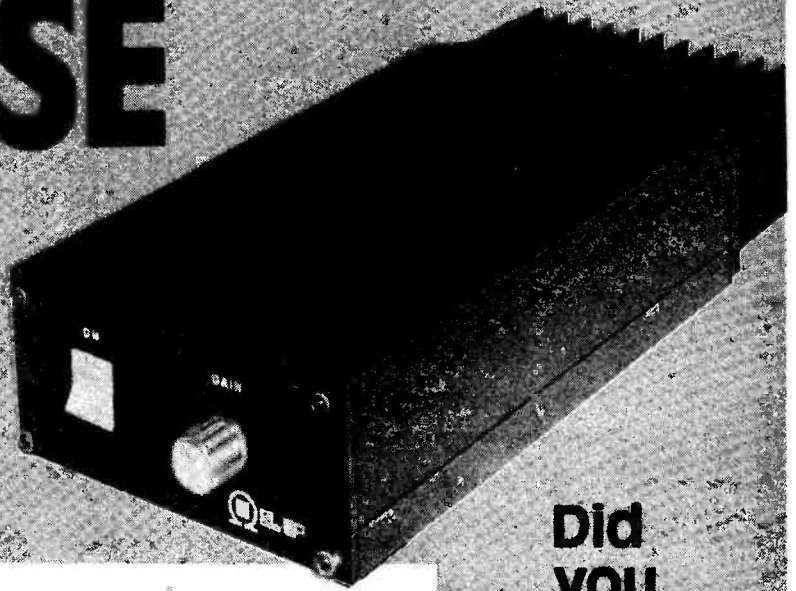
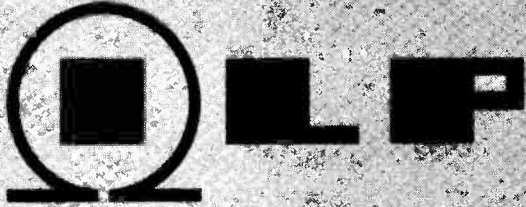
be replaced by a single CMOS IC. This chip has four NAND Schmitt triggers. The bistable formed around IC1a,b is different from that of the original, in that it requires a negative trigger pulse. This explains why R1 and PB1 are transposed, the presence of IC1c as an inverter, and R4 being connected to the output of IC1a rather than IC1b. Next comes the astable; this is only gated into operation when IC1 pin 8 goes high.

One further current-saving modification which I have yet to try out is to replace C7, R13 and the speaker with a piezo-electric transducer (the PB-2720). To go even further, IC4 can be an ICM7555 when using TX1, although it must be stressed that TX1 only has a range between 1 kHz and 7 kHz, so R6-R10 will need some adjustment ie they should be reduced.



NOTE  
IC1 IS 4093B  
IC2 IS 4017B  
IC3 IS NE555 (ICM7555)  
Q1 IS BC212L

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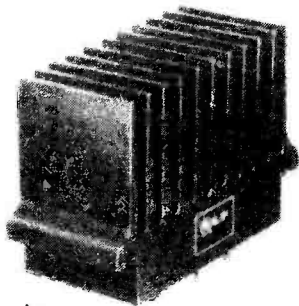
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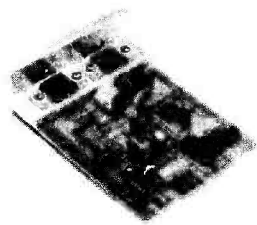
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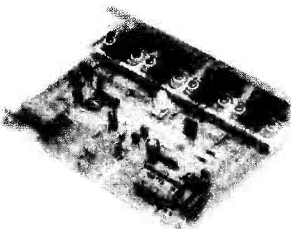
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2708 450ns	2.79	280A DART	5.70	4518	0.40	14 Pin	0.09
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4 + 5V	2.29	280 P10	2.85	4526	0.70	18 Pin	0.13
2716 350ns (+5V)	3.59	280A P10	3.15	4528	0.70	20 Pin	0.14
		280A S10-0	11.99	4541	0.99	22 Pin	0.17
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4116 200ns	0.70	6800	2.99	74LS02	0.12	<b>LOW PROFILE - GOLD</b>	
4118 150ns	0.94	6802	3.99	74LS03	0.12	8 Pin	0.22
4118 200ns	3.35	6803C	12.10	74LS05	0.12	14 Pin	0.29
4164 200ns	4.05	6809	9.99	74LS09	0.12	16 Pin	0.31
4516/4816 100ns	3.25	6810	1.12	74LS10	0.12	18 Pin	0.33
5516 200ns	8.38	6821	1.25	74LS11	0.12	20 Pin	0.36
6118 200ns	5.18	6840	4.20	74LS12	0.12	22 Pin	0.40
6116 LP 200/150ns	7.81	6845	9.50	74LS13	0.22	24 Pin	0.42
				74LS14	0.37	28 Pin	0.54
				74LS15	0.12	40 Pin	0.81
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# KITCHEN SCALES PART 2

The final part of this out-of-the-ordinary, state-of-the-art, nifty little gadget describes the construction and calibration procedures. Design and development by Rory Holmes.

Assemble the PCB in the usual fashion, noting the IC orientation, and the polarity of ZD1 and the tantalum capacitors. Also check the BC184L pinouts; these often cause confusion. Twelve Veropins should be inserted at the points marked for external connections. Another point to watch is the hole marked beneath preset PR1; this should be drilled out to 3 mm diameter before mounting the preset, thus allowing its adjustment from either side of the board. Likewise, a 3 mm hole drilled on the other centre allows a secure 6BA mounting bolt for the board.

When complete, the board may be initially tested by inserting all the ICs into their sockets and connecting a 9 V PP7 battery to the supply terminals as indicated. If a scope is available, the

digital sine wave approximation should be observed at the junction of R14 and C6; it could also be checked with a crystal earpiece, when a high pitched tone of 10 kHz should be heard. The reference supply voltage can be measured with a multi-meter across the wire link and a 0 V terminal. It should be in the region of 5 V if all is well, the exact value being unimportant. At this stage the transducer should be built and wired up before further testing of the PCB.

## Winding You Up

The LVDT is wound using 32 swg enamelled copper wire on a piece of 20 mm diameter plastic tubing of the type used for electrical conduit, and available from DIY shops. Any similar piece of tubing will suffice since the dimensions are not critical. Figure 1 shows the winding arrangements. Two separate secondaries are wound either side of the central primary winding. All the windings consist of 100 turns wound in the same direction in flat layers; four layers of 25 turns for each secondary, and two layers for the primary. The accuracy and linearity of the LVDT transducer depends upon the two secondaries being as similar as possible and symmetrically positioned about the primary winding. Care should thus be taken to ensure the layers are evenly wound and tightly packed. Super-glue may be used to retain each layer as it is wound. After completing the windings and finishing with a liberal coat of glue the two secondaries are then wired in series opposition to form one coil by connecting together the end of each winding.

The LVDT should now be wired up to the PCB using screened leads as illustrated on the overlay diagram. On



our prototype assembly we used a four way 'Molex' PCB plug and socket for this connection since the transducer assembly could then be conveniently plugged in.

Figure 2 shows how the LVDT is mounted to measure displacement. As described last month the mechanics of an ordinary pointer scale are utilised to provide the linear displacement with weight via the in-built spring and pivot.

For our prototype we used a small low cost Salter scale which incorporated a ball-race slide mechanism to support the weighing pan. Practically any type of scales could be converted to a digital readout, provided there is room to mount the LVDT and its associated driver electronics.

## Scaling The Heights

Obviously, the more precise the mechanics of the original scale, the greater the degree of accuracy that can finally be achieved with the electronic transducer. The principle is to attach the main coil to a fixed part of the scale while the ferrite core is attached via some rigid element to the weighing pan movement, such that as weight is put on the scale the core moves linearly along its axis into the coil former.

In our prototype the two steel plates of the slide were used to support the transducer as represented in the diagram. Two pieces of PCB material fixed with epoxy act as brackets for the coil former and ferrite core.

The mounting arrangement is not too critical but the following points should be observed. The coil must not be too close to steel or other magnetic material and likewise the ferrite core mounting should be non-magnetic and non-conductive. Remember to allow sufficient leeway on the ferrite mounting

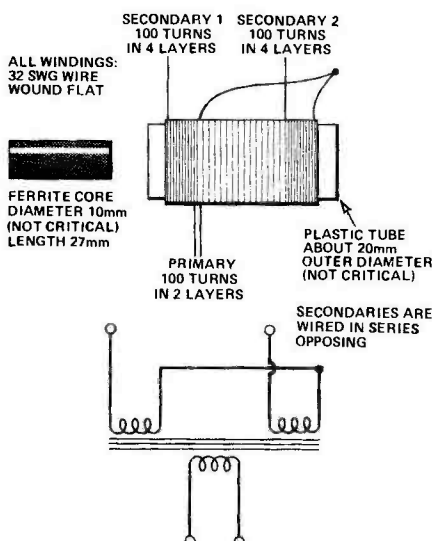


Fig. 1 Coil winding details.

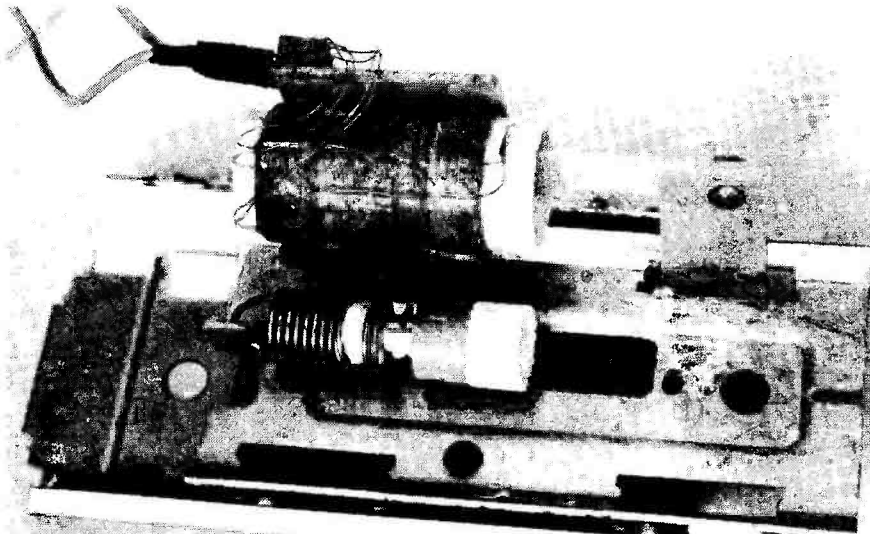
## BUYLINES

The bandgap reference diode ZN423 is available from most semiconductor suppliers as are all the other more familiar semiconductors. Ferrite rods and copper wire can be supplied by Watford Electronics and 10 turn wirewound potentiometers are available from Henry's Radio.

The most expensive item in this project is the very neat LCD panel meter, a state-of-the-art CMOS module available from Verospeed Ltd (known as the DPM200, order ref. 89-25453C).

Suitable mechanical scales are available from most large department stores from about £5 upwards. The type used on our prototype conversion was a small Salter scale with a ball-race slide mechanism (around £6). The PCB Service advert is on page 69.

Alternatively, for the mechanically ingenious with a bent to experiment, a large selection of springs can be obtained from Proops of Tottenham Court Road for about £1!



The scale mechanics with the LVDT added. Compare with Fig. 2.

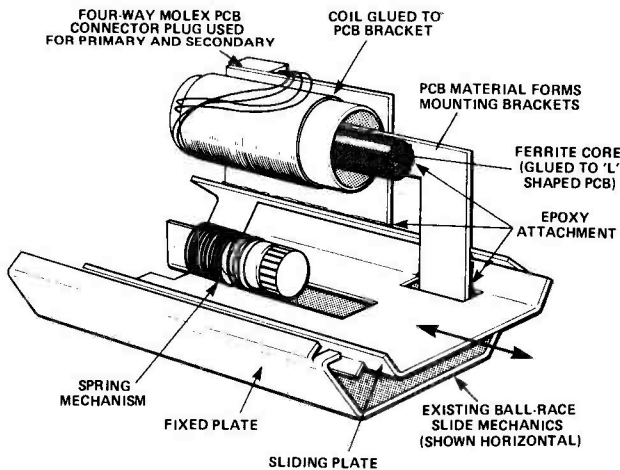


Fig. 2 An artist's impression of the sensor to help with construction.

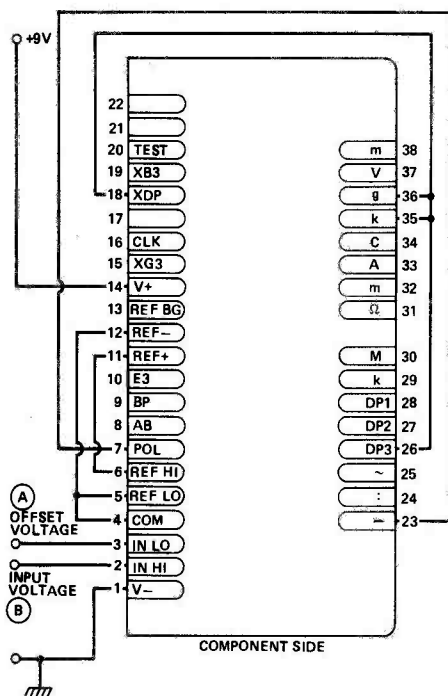


Fig. 3 The (corrected) wiring diagram.

for the full displacement (about 1 cm). The ferrite core must be central in the tube, with the axis of both coil and core parallel to the direction of weight displacement. Sufficient rigidity can be achieved using epoxy glue on the transducer, but initially the ferrite core should only be secured to its bracket with tight rubber bands until the calibration procedure.

Having completed the transducer the entire unit can now be tested by wiring up to the LCD meter-module. Wire up the module according to the connections shown in Fig 3 (this has been reprinted due to an error in last month's diagram).

The input voltage at point B should then be connected to the corresponding point on the PCB; point A temporarily connects to the 2V5 reference terminal. After connecting the DVM supply rails to the 9 V terminals on the PCB, power can be switched on. When the ferrite core is near the middle of the coil the meter should be close to 0 V and will indicate + or - readings as the core is

moved to either side of the null position. The 100 mV sine wave across the primary coil can be observed on a scope along with the other waveforms illustrated last month. If all is well, the electronics can be assembled inside the scale. Figure 5 shows how we arranged the various components to fit into the existing scale box. The back of the case has now become the front to allow room for the LCD display! The 10 turn potentiometer, RV1, should also be connected up at this stage, along with the on/off switch, so completing the interwiring.

## Calibration

Once you are satisfied with your mechanical arrangement for mounting the transducer and associated electronics, the scale should be calibrated using standard or known weights. First, the offset voltage input to the DVM module, marked 'A' on the wiring diagram, should be temporarily connected to the 2V5 reference terminal shown on the PCB overlay. The preset PR1 should be set at roughly half travel, and the scale loaded up with about 1 kg. After switching on the supply, the ferrite core should be adjusted relative to the coil until it's approximately in the middle at the null output position (this corresponds to half scale deflection). As the null position is approached the DVM will accordingly decrease to zero reading. The ferrite core should now be fixed permanently to its mounting plate using epoxy and allowed to set. When set, the DVM reading must be brought exactly to zero by the addition of small increments of weight, sugar or salt being ideal. The known weight, which can be anywhere between 1/2 and 1 kg, should be added to the scale pan, and PR1 adjusted until this weight is shown on the LCD display



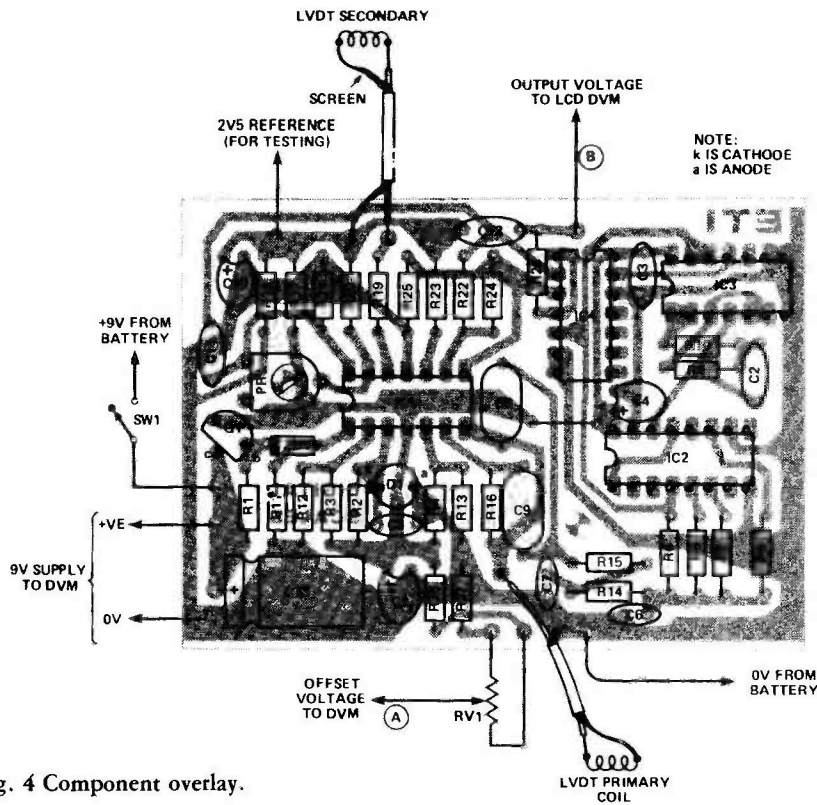
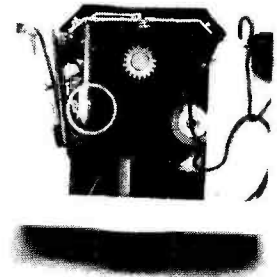


Fig. 4 Component overlay.

(turning PR1 clockwise increases the reading).

Now remove the weight to check that the reading returns to zero, and adjust PR1 accordingly (a few adjustments to PR1 may be necessary to set the correct reading for the known weight).

Finally, the offset input 'A' can be disconnected from the 2V5 reference and wired to the slider of RV1. Rotating RV1 will alter the reading and the meter can now be easily zeroed for any weight measured, including the empty scale pan. You may now proceed to calibrate the larder.



The mechanics, seen from above.

## PARTS LIST

### Resistors (all 1/4W, 5%)

R1, 11, 13	1k0
R2	2k7
R3	27k
R4,28	100k
R5,8	33k
R6,7,16	22k
R9,12,17,18,19,20,22,24	10k
R10	220k
R14	68k
R15	5k6
R21,25	1k5
R23	4k7
R26,27	270k

### Potentiometers

RV1	47k 10 turn wirewound potentiometer
PR1	470k miniature horizontal preset

### Capacitors

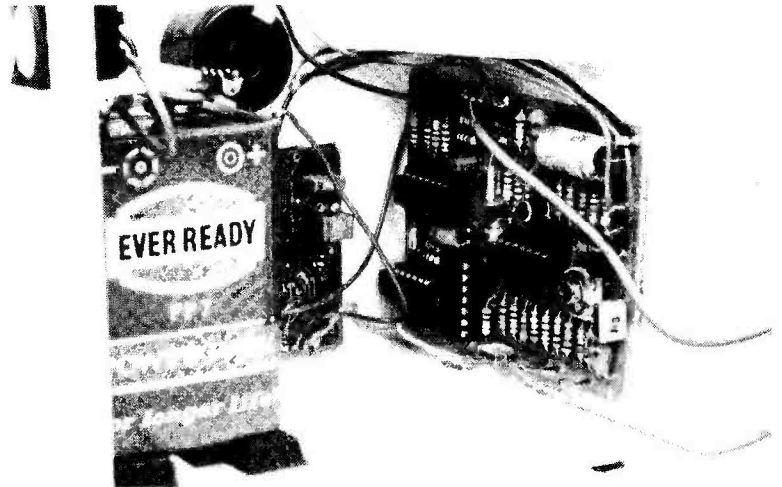
C1,4,10	22u 16V tantalum
C2	220p polystyrene
C3,7	10n ceramic
C5	68n ceramic
C6	2n2 ceramic
C8,9	1n5 polystyrene
C11,12	100n polycarbonate
C13	220u 16V electrolytic

### Semiconductors

IC1	LM324
IC2	4018B
IC3	4093B
IC4	4066B
Q1	BC184L
D1	ZN423
ZD1	2V7 400 mW zener diode

### Miscellaneous

LVDT (see text); PCB (see Buylines); scales (see Buylines); 3 1/2 digit LCD panel meter type DPM 200 (see Buylines)



An internal view showing the arrangement of the boards.

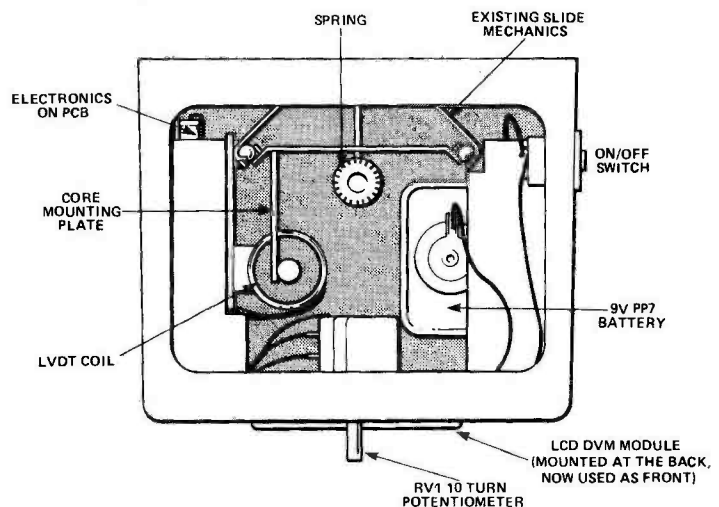


Fig. 5 Artist's impression of the 'view from the top'.

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# INTERAK 1 COMPUTER SYSTEM

**INTERAK 1 Computer System:** International Size Cards, Rack mounting, 4 MHz Z80, 16K RAM expandable to 48K. Single card VDU suits standard 625 line television sets (VDU special cards "no snow", "no wait" states; character set held in EPROM permits user-defined graphics characters etc - effective resolution 256 x 240 dots). 2K ZYMON 1 monitor in 2716 EPROM £14.95, includes manual with listing. Easy to interface with international size cards from various manufacturers, e.g. "Kermit" EPROM Programmer cards, Dual RS 232 Interface. Relay output (optoisolated). Cards plug into 13 slot ISBUS motherboard (any card in any slot), cost £11.50, suits 19" x 3U rack. Typical bare-board prices: MZB-3 CPU Card £11.50, MKD 2 16K Dynamic RAM card £11.50, VDU/K single board VDU £15.95.

INTERAK 1 is also available in industrial environments e.g. programs can be developed on the complete system, then the "target" system can be constructed on a few cheap cards, using e.g. ROM and RAM cards (mixed 2716 and 2114 devices). In the event of more work being needed on the "target" system, the cards can be brought back to the main INTERAK 1 system and simply plugged into the standard ISBUS.

Note: INTERAK 1 uses no ULA or other "funny" chips; the majority of components used are simple 74LS series gates, buffers, etc., and all popular (i.e. low cost) memories such as 4116, 2114, 2716, etc. Moreover any ASCII encoded keyboard is suitable for input. Programs and data (Kansas City standard) are stored on your unmodified domestic tape cassette recorder; a special feature of ZYMON 1 is that check-sums are embedded throughout the data stream for increased data confidence. We have already sold several thousand boards from this range, which has been established since prehistoric times (1978), i.e. pre-Sinclair, pre-Com, pre-Tangerine etc.

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## FEATURED CARD THIS MONTH - VDUK

- \* International Size Card (114 x 204mm)
- \* Fast Z80A CPU runs at full 4MHz
- \* Quartz crystal controlled.
- \* Address and data lines fully buffered (four buffer chips).
- \* Power on reset, and manual reset.
- \* Reset line pulsed to maintain Dynamic RAM data when reset is active.
- \* Z80A Refreshed Dynamic RAMs transparently.
- \* On-board 4-bit address latch included for easy interface to Dynamic RAMs.
- \* On-board "boot" EPROM socket, addressable at any 4K boundary.
- \* Boot EPROM can be disabled under software control.
- \* Power & I/O mp circuit to any 4K boundary.
- \* Epoxy-glass PCB.
- \* Double-sided board, tinned copper tracks.
- \* Gold-plated edge connector on A side.
- \* Needs only single 5V rail (if 5V on-board EPROM is used!)

**DESCRIPTION**  
The MZB-3 is a "Kermit" card which has been selected for use in the INTERAK 1 computer, as it is ideally suited for this purpose.

**Bus Allocations**  
The "Kermit" allocation for the NWAAT line on the card is position A30, and this needs re-routing to position A34 to suit ISBUS-A and INTERAK 1. The CPU card is the heart of a computer system (or perhaps more correctly the "brains"). The Z80A is an ideal choice since it is rapidly becoming the standard 8-bit microprocessor. (This is proved by observing that many 6502 based computers now provide "add-on" Z80A adapters; you never see an add-on 6502 for a Z80A based computer.)

**Crystal Controlled**  
The Z80A is a specially selected fast version of the standard Z80, it is used on this card at its full 4 MHz operating speed. No "Wait" states are included to slow the CPU down, but the NWAAT line on the bus is available for use with slow memories. Note that the

VDU-K and the MKD-2 Dynamic RAM cards do not require any wait states, and so the CPU card in an INTERAK 1 system can operate at its full speed. The "Clock" signal required for the Z80A is not a normal LSTTL level, but is required to swing right up to +5V. At full speed an "active pull-up" is needed to meet this requirement, and is included on the MZB-3 card. A separate clock of the same frequency is output to the bus for those cards which require it.

**Reset**  
A power-on reset circuit is included as standard, so that the system starts to operate in an orderly manner. A push-button switch is provided so that the user can reset the system at any time, without the need to sacrifice the contents of memory by switching the computer off. The reset signal is taken to the bus, so that any other cards which require resetting can be reset at the same time.

**Dynamic RAM**  
As the user can reset the CPU at any time special circuitry is needed, and is included on the card, to ensure that the reset pulse does not occur in the middle of a Dynamic RAM access, and so corrupt any data stored. As Dynamic RAM needs "refreshing" several hundred times a second, and this is carried out by the CPU, it is important that the reset pulse is not maintained for too long a time. The reset circuitry on the MZB-3 card ensures that this requirement is met also.

Although the Z80A has been chosen primarily because it is the best and most well-known microprocessor, a very useful built in feature it possesses, which is not available to the users of say the 6502, is its ability to refresh Dynamic RAM "transparently". More will be said on the subject of refreshing, why it is needed and so on, on the MKD-2 card data sheet, but there are several aspects which are most conveniently covered here.

The built in Z80A refresh is described as "transparent" because it is carried out at a time when the Z80A is not using the bus, and so does not slow the Z80A down in any way. The particular time

used is available after each "op code fetch"; this is when the next instruction of the program has been fetched and is being decoded by the Z80A. Special hardware within the Z80A chip outputs the necessary refresh signal at this time, without the rest of the CPU being involved at all.

A special 4-bit latch has to be added to the CPU circuit, to feed the top four address lines when Dynamic RAMs are being used, and of course this is included on the standard MZB-3 card.

**Buffers**  
Buffers are needed in a computer system to allow each card to drive the bus with sufficient power so that neither computer or data will be damaged to expensive integrated circuits will occur. It becomes doubly important when the CPU is being run at top speed, so that the signals can reach their full voltage levels in the short times available.

Beware of systems where the buffering is omitted simply to give a low price "starter kit", or to cram too much circuitry on the introductory card in the system.

**Power on Jump**  
An important feature of INTERAK 1 is that it has RAM starting at location zero. This is for many technical reasons why this apparent complexity is a good thing, and these are discussed in the various INTERAK 1 leaflets. Suffice it to say that the technique of having RAM at zero solves more problems than it causes. There is in fact very little benefit in starting the minimum address, but an expandable system like INTERAK 1 should have as few limits as possible placed on the future needs of the more advanced user (for example note that the well known disk operating system CP/M will not work correctly if RAM is present from zero upwards).

At power on the RAM at zero will not usually contain any useful program, and it is necessary to force the Z80A to "jump" to get its first instructions from some other address (usually one at which an EPROM is to be found). This address can be set by wire links to any 4K boundary, and the INTERAK 1 system it has been chosen to be E000 (hexadecimal). One of the first tasks of the program at E000 is to disable the power-on jump circuitry.

74LS			
74LS00	11	74LS78	18
74LS01	11	74LS79	18
74LS02	11	74LS80	18
74LS03	12	74LS81	18
74LS04	12	74LS82	18
74LS05	13	74LS83	18
74LS06	12	74LS84	18
74LS07	12	74LS85	18
74LS08	12	74LS86	18
74LS09	12	74LS87	18
74LS10	13	74LS88	18
74LS11	13	74LS89	18
74LS12	13	74LS90	18
74LS13	21	74LS91	18
74LS14	38	74LS92	18
74LS15	13	74LS93	18
74LS16	13	74LS94	18
74LS17	13	74LS95	18
74LS18	13	74LS96	18
74LS19	13	74LS97	18
74LS20	13	74LS98	18
74LS21	13	74LS99	18
74LS22	13	74LS100	18
74LS23	14	74LS101	18
74LS24	14	74LS102	18
74LS25	14	74LS103	18
74LS26	14	74LS104	18
74LS27	13	74LS105	18
74LS28	14	74LS106	18
74LS29	14	74LS107	18
74LS30	13	74LS108	18
74LS31	13	74LS109	18
74LS32	13	74LS110	18
74LS33	15	74LS111	18
74LS34	15	74LS112	18
74LS35	15	74LS113	18
74LS36	15	74LS114	18
74LS37	15	74LS115	18
74LS38	15	74LS116	18
74LS39	15	74LS117	18
74LS40	13	74LS118	18
74LS41	13	74LS119	18
74LS42	32	74LS120	18
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74LS44	38	74LS122	18
74LS45	40	74LS123	18
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74LS72	14	74LS150	18
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74LS216	14	74LS294	18
74LS217	14	74LS295	18
74LS218	14	74LS296	18
74LS219	14	74LS297	18
74LS220</			

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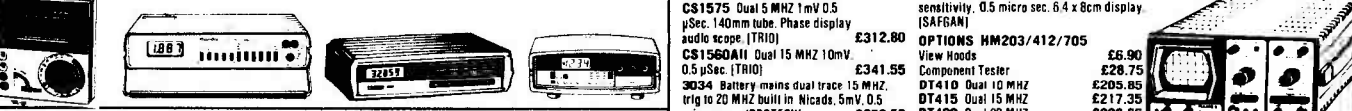
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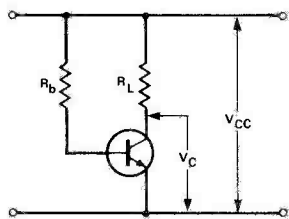
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# CONFIGURATIONS

Not ETT's answer to James Burke but a new series aimed at the designer. Ian Sinclair will be looking at some of the basic workaday circuits that often get eclipsed by the more glamorous ICs, showing you how and why they work and how and why to use them. We kick off this month with common-emitter transistor bias.

Configurations is a new series which aims to provide you with fundamental circuit design data for a number of the most commonly used circuit blocks. A very large amount of circuit work concerns these standard arrangements, so that by gathering your pages of Configurations each month, you will be able to build up a complete designer's handbook of circuits and their design data. We're starting this month with the most fundamental of all — biasing and calculating gain and bandwidth of the single-stage common-emitter amplifier, using a silicon transistor with a resistive load.



(a) TO FIND A VALUE FOR  $R_b$ , GIVEN A DESIRED VALUE OF  $V_c$ :

$$R_b = \frac{R_L h_{fe} (V_{CC} - 0.6)}{V_{CC} - V_c}$$

$R_L$  AND  $R_b$  IN KILOHMS

(b) TO FIND WHAT VALUE OF  $V_c$  WILL BE CAUSED BY A GIVEN BIAS RESISTOR:

$$V_c = \frac{V_{CC} R_b - R_L h_{fe} (V_{CC} - 0.6)}{R_b}$$

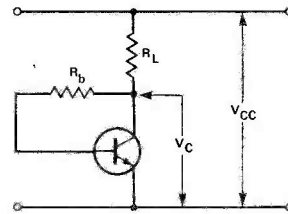
$R_L$  AND  $R_b$  IN KILOHMS

Fig. 1 Simple single-resistor bias circuit. The value of resistance depends critically on the value of  $h_{fe}$  for the transistor.

The simplest bias circuit, of course, is that of Fig. 1, using a single bias resistor connected between the base and the supply positive. We're not going to spend much time on this one, because it's not a very good bias method from any point of view. The reason is that the resistor value has to be spot on for this method to work, and you have to know the current gain ( $h_{fe}$ ) value for that particular transistor (not just the average for the type) to a fair degree of accuracy. If you need to use that method and have a box of 1% tolerance resistors handy, then the design data is illustrated in Fig. 1. One of the few things that can be said for the circuit is that a high input resistance is attainable, but more on that subject later.

## A Favourable Bias

A much more practical bias method is illustrated in Fig. 2. This makes use of DC shunt feedback between the collector and the base of the transistor, and is less likely to be upset by the changes that occur in the characteristics of the transistor as it heats up. You still have to know the  $h_{fe}$  value for the transistor, but the collector voltage won't be so far out if you just use an average value for the type and it happens that the one you're using is at one end of the range of values. The formula, like the previous one, assumes that the base-to-emitter voltage when the transistor is conducting will be 0V6 and since this is the quantity that changes most as a silicon transistor heats up, it's worth while taking a look at how this bias method is affected.



(a) TO FIND A VALUE FOR  $R_b$ , GIVEN A DESIRED VALUE OF  $V_c$ :

$$R_b = \frac{R_L h_{fe} (V_{CC} - 0.6)}{V_{CC} - V_c}$$

$R_L$  AND  $R_b$  IN KILOHMS

EXAMPLE: IF  $R_L = 2k2$ ,  $h_{fe} = 100$ ,  $V_{CC} = 9V$ ,  $V_c = 3V$ , THEN

$$R_b = \frac{2.2 \times 100 \times 2.4}{6} = 88k$$

(b) TO FIND A VALUE FOR  $V_c$ , GIVEN  $R_b$ :

$$V_c = \frac{R_b V_{CC} + 0.6 R_L h_{fe}}{R_b + R_L h_{fe}}$$

Fig. 2 Shunt-feedback bias. The value of collector voltage is less dependent on the  $h_{fe}$  value. Note the units, with all resistances in kilohms.

Figure 3 shows two calculations of collector voltage, both assuming a supply voltage ( $V_{cc}$ ) of + 9 V, load resistor of 2k2,  $h_{fe}$  value of 100, and bias resistor  $R_b$  of 88k. However, one uses 0V6 as the  $V_{be}$  figure and the other uses 0V5. The difference in the collector voltage is negligible, which points to this method of bias as being a very useful one when you are worried about the effect of temperature changes on the performance of the transistor.

<p>ASSUME IN BOTH CASES THAT <math>R_b = 88k</math>, <math>h_{fe} = 100</math>, <math>V_{CC} = 9V</math>, <math>R_L = 2k2</math>.</p> <p>WHEN <math>V_{be} = 0V6</math>, <math>V_c = \frac{88 \times 9 + 0.6 \times 2.2 \times 100}{88 + 2.2 \times 100} = 3V</math></p> <p>WHEN <math>V_{be} = 0V5</math>, <math>V_c = \frac{88 \times 9 + 0.5 \times 2.2 \times 100}{88 + 2.2 \times 100} = 2V93</math></p> <p>DIFFERENCE IN <math>V_c = 70</math> mV</p>
---

Fig. 3 Effect of temperature. The  $V_{be}$  (assumed 0V6 for a silicon transistor) decreases as the temperature rises. The calculations show that the collector voltage value is hardly affected.

The circuit uses feedback, of course, and unless something is done to remove the feedback of AC, the gain of the stage and its input resistance will be reduced. The reduction in gain isn't serious for most circuits, but the input resistance problem can be more serious — it's detailed later in this article. Both can be tackled if AC is removed from the feedback path by splitting the bias resistor into two parts and decoupling it, as shown in Fig. 4.

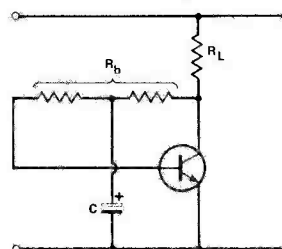
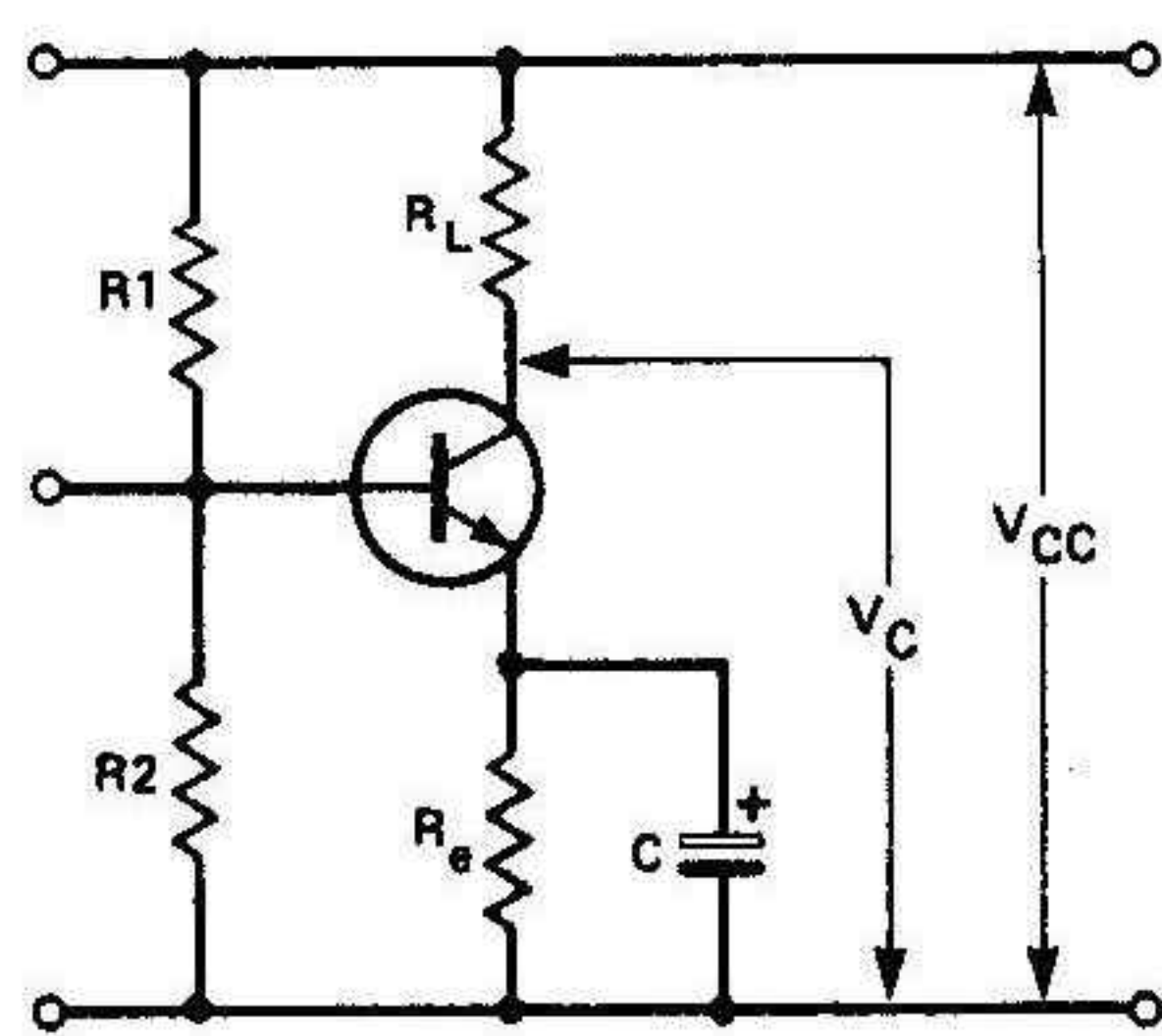


Fig. 4 Removing AC feedback by splitting the bias resistor into two sections and decoupling.

## An Arrangement With Potential

The most-extensively used of all bias methods is our old friend in Fig. 5, which uses a potential divider to provide a constant voltage (we hope) at the base of the transistor, and DC feedback (series feedback this time) through the emitter resistor to stabilise the bias. The notable thing about the formula is that  $h_{fe}$  doesn't appear anywhere in it, so that the bias should not be affected by the value of  $h_{fe}$ . This means that the circuit is very tolerant of wide ranges of  $h_{fe}$  values, providing the base current of the transistor is not so large that it disturbs the base bias voltage set by the potential divider. As a rule of thumb, if the current flowing through R1 and R2 (equal to  $V_{CC}/(R1 + R2)$ ) is something like 100 times the base current of the transistor, then the circuit will work exactly as per design, and any transistor whose base current is within limits can be used with the same bias components. If the base current of the transistor is far from negligible then complications arise, and it's easier just to use lower values of R1 and R2 — but for the effect on input resistance, see later. For voltage amplifier stages where the collector current is only about 1 mA, values like 6k8 and 1k5 on a 9 V supply will suit the circuit very nicely.



(a) TO FIND  $R_e$  FOR A DESIRED  $V_C$ :

$$R_e = \frac{R_L \left( \frac{V_{CC} R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \right) - 0.6}{V_{CC} - V_C}$$

(b) TO FIND  $V_C$  FOR A GIVEN  $R_e$ :

$$V_C = V_{CC} - \frac{R_L \left( \frac{V_{CC} R_2}{R_1 + R_2} \right) - 0.6}{R_e}$$

Fig. 5 The potential-divider bias method. This is particularly useful for mass-produced circuits, because bias does not depend on  $h_{fe}$  values.

## Decoupling Is De Problem

One disadvantage of the circuit is that there's an emitter DC voltage so that the available voltage swing at the collector is correspondingly reduced. The other point, which is important where space is limited, is that decoupling of the emitter resistor is essential. Without decoupling the gain is low; it's given by  $R_L/R_e$  and will be around two to six times for the kind of values you are likely to end up with in a practical circuit. The decoupling capacitor operates at low voltage, so that a 3 V or 6 V type is normally adequate, but its value has to be large to avoid a noticeable loss of gain at low frequencies. It certainly isn't enough to have the reactance of the capacitor equal to the resistance value of  $R_e$  at the lowest frequency for which the amplifier is intended to be used, because if you make this assumption for each coupling and decoupling time constant, you'll end up with practically no gain at that frequency. Aim for a capacitor reactance of about one fifth of the emitter resistance value at the lowest frequency you intend to use and the results will be more acceptable. With C in microfarads and  $R_e$  in kilohms, this means a value given by the equation

$$C = \frac{5000}{2\pi f R_e}$$

and for a 390 ohm emitter resistor, this indicates a capacitor value of around 50uF for a 40 Hz breakpoint. Even at 3 V working, this is going to be a component that will be larger than the resistors or the transistor.

IF  $h_{ie}$  = INPUT RESISTANCE IN KILOHMS,  $I_C$  = STEADY COLLECTOR CURRENT IN MILLIAMPS, AND  $h_{fe}$  = VALUE OF CURRENT GAIN, THEN

$$h_{ie} = \frac{h_{fe}}{40 I_C}$$

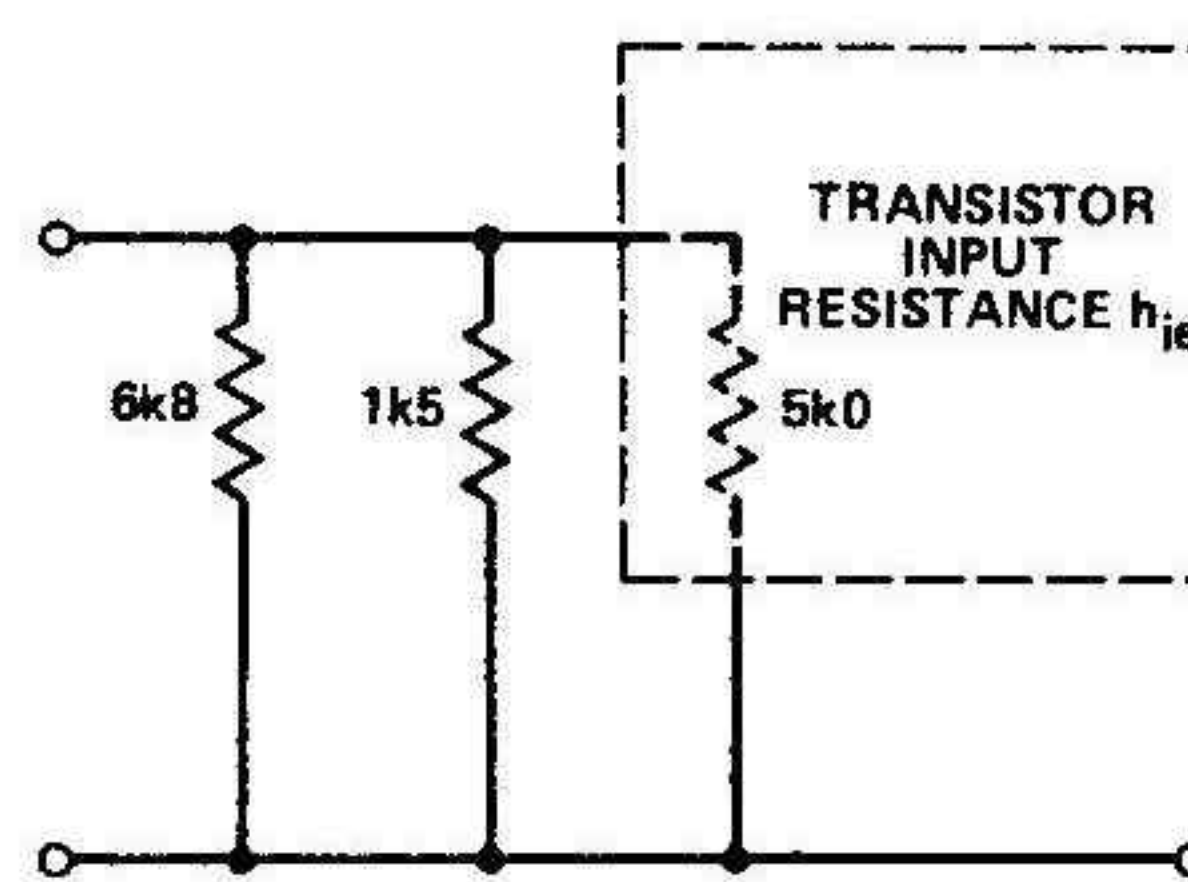
EXAMPLE: IF  $h_{fe} = 400$  AND  $I_C = 1\text{mA}$ , THEN  $h_{ie} = \frac{400}{40 \times 1} = 10\text{k}$

Fig. 6 Transistor input resistance,  $h_{ie}$ . Note this is for the transistor only, and assumes zero-signal conditions.

## You Know My Resistance Is Low

The input resistance of an amplifying stage is, as the name suggests, the ratio of input voltage to input current for an AC signal at a frequency in the middle of the bandwidth. The input resistance of a transistor is not constant, but if we take the value which it has at the setting of the bias current, with no signal, then this is a reasonable average to take for small signal inputs — small meaning millivolts. The value is calculated as shown in Fig. 6, and it depends on the  $h_{fe}$  value and the bias current. In general, using transistors with high  $h_{fe}$  values operated at low collector currents will give the highest input resistance values for the transistor, but you can usually assume values in the region of 1k0 to 10k.

These are just input resistance figures for the transistor itself, however, and the total input resistance will be affected by the bias components. When we use the potential divider bias circuit, for example, both R1 and R2 (in Fig. 5) are connected between the base and a line which is at 0 V (AC). How so, you ask? Well, as far as AC voltage is concerned, the supply positive line is as much of an earth as the genuine earth line, since they are connected to each other by a whopping great electrolytic in the power supply circuit. Hence all of these bias resistors are in parallel across the base-to-earth path, considerably lowering the input resistance (Fig. 7). If you think that the shunt feedback circuit of Fig. 2 is better then think again, because the collector end of the bias resistor is connected to a voltage which is in antiphase to (and of much greater amplitude than) the base voltage, so it behaves as if its value were  $R_b/G$  connected to earth. G is the voltage gain of the stage, so that if  $R_b = 88\text{k}$  and  $G = 50$ , then the bias resistor is effectively 1k76 in parallel with the input resistance of the transistor itself.



$1/R_{IN} = 1/5 + 1/1.5 + 1/6.8$  (ALL RESISTANCES IN KILOHMS), SO  $R_{IN} = 0.986\text{k} = 986\Omega$  WHERE  $R_{IN}$  IS TOTAL INPUT RESISTANCE

Fig. 7 The effect of bias components and  $h_{ie}$  on total input resistance.

## Gainful Employment

The output resistance of a single transistor amplifier consists of the output resistance of the transistor itself, usually around 30k, in parallel with the load resistor. Since load resistor values are usually of the order of 1k0 to 10k, this in practice means that we can use the load resistor value as the value for output resistance when we are dealing with resistor-capacitor coupled stages.

The crunch comes when we want to find what the gain of an amplifying stage will be. For a silicon transistor which has enough  $h_{fe}$  to class it as being in the land of the living, the maximum voltage gain is given by  $40 \times V_{RL}$ , where  $V_{RL}$  is the voltage across the load resistor when no signal is applied — the bias voltage in other words across  $R_L$ . For example, if you are using a transistor with 4V5 across the load resistor, then the maximum gain is  $40 \times 4.5$ , which is 180 times (we showed how to derive this figure in 'Gm Revisited', April 79), and that's the value which can be

# FEATURE : Configurations

measured if you use a low impedance signal generator, a very small signal amplitude, and a high-impedance oscilloscope to measure the output.

Practical circuits, however, use higher-resistance devices as signal sources and lower resistance devices as signal loads, so that the gain when we take into account the potential-dividing effect of all these loss-makers is a lot less. For example, if we imagine our transistor stage to be fed with a signal from another stage with an output resistance of 2k2 and feeding into a stage with input resistance of 1k0 (and with these same values itself) then its gain (Fig. 8) will be a miserable 17.5 times. It's not the gain of the transistor which has fallen, notice; it's the attenuation caused by the potential dividers which is dissipating the signal. The moral is that input and output resistances are important when you are aiming for maximum gain, and that everything you can do to raise input resistance and reduce output resistance can be useful.

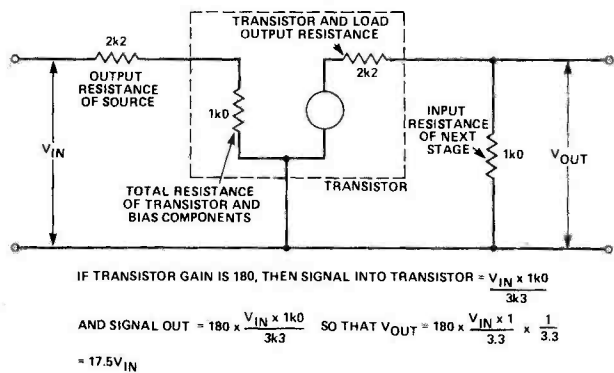


Fig. 8 The effect of input and output resistances in forming potential divider circuits with the internal resistances of source and load.

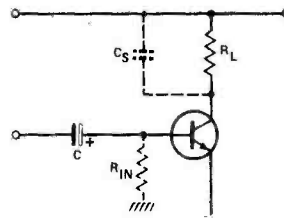


Fig. 9 The time constants which affect bandwidth for a single stage. Note the different units for the two equations.

LOW-FREQUENCY GAIN IS 3dB DOWN ON MIDBAND GAIN WHEN

$$\frac{1000}{2\pi f C_S} = R_{IN} \quad (C_S \text{ IN MICROFARADS, } R_{IN} \text{ IN KILOHMS})$$

OR  $f = \frac{1000}{2\pi C_S R_{IN}} \quad (f \text{ IN HERTZ})$

HIGH-FREQUENCY GAIN IS 3dB DOWN ON MIDBAND GAIN WHEN

$$f = \frac{1000}{2\pi R_L C_S} \quad (C_S \text{ IN PICOFARADS, } R_L \text{ IN KILOHMS, } f \text{ IN MEGAHERTZ})$$

## Strike Up The Bandwidth

The bandwidth of an amplifier stage is defined as the range of frequencies over which the gain does not drop 3 dB below its mid-band value. For a simple amplifier stage, the limits of bandwidth are set by the time constants of the coupling and emitter-decoupling capacitors at the low frequencies, and by the effects of stray capacitance at the high frequencies — Fig. 9 shows the details. Most modern transistors have good high-frequency gain and since stray capacitance can be made small with modern circuit layouts, frequencies into the many megahertz range can be expected. This is much more than is necessary (or desirable) in many cases, and it's a wise precaution to trim the bandwidth for the purpose you need. This can be done by introducing a time constant into the feedback network of a simple filter.

All of which brings us inexorably to the subject of feedback, and that's where we'll start next month, when we'll be looking at feedback pair circuits, their biasing and their gain. **ETI**

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AC125 27	BC139 32	BC213A10	BCX31 17	BD235 45	7402 20	7482 70	7166 100	4002 22	4071 27		
AC126 27	BC140 32	BC213B10	BD106 65	BD236 45	7403 20	7483 68	7167 100	4006 30	4072 27		
AC127 27	BC141 32	BC213C10	BD115 64	BD237 45	7404 20	7484 295	7170 195	4007 26	4075 25		
AC128 27	BC142 32	BC214 10	BD116 82	BD238 45	7405 20	7485 95	7173 120	4008 36	4076 90		
AC141 28	BC143 32	BC214B10	BD121 80	BD239 45	7406 28	7486 28	7174 90	4009 36	4077 40		
AC142 28	BC144 32	BC214C10	BD123 240	BD240 55	7407 48	7487 198	7175 80	4010 45	4078 30		
AC176 28	BC145 12	BC214L10	BD131 45	BD240A55	7408 20	7488 38	7176 85	4011 24	4081 28		
AC187 28	BC149 12	BC237 18	BD132 45	BD241 55	7409 20	7489 75	7177 85	4012 28	4082 30		
AC188 28	BC153 12	BC238B30	BD133 45	BD437 47	7410 28	7492 30	7180 90	4013 40	4085 92		
ACY18 70	BC154 12	BC239C30	BD135 45	BD438 47	7411 25	7493 50	7181 200	4014 92	4093 52		
ACV19 70	BC157 12	BC251 12	BD136 45	BD506 55	7412 22	7494 75	7182 200	4015 96	4099 155		
ACV21 90	BC158 32	BC258B30	BD137 55	BD519 47	7413 40	7495 65	7184 200	4016 39	4100 140		
ACV132 90	BC159 32	BC301 30	BD138 45	BD520 55	7414 80	7496 85	7185 200	4017 82	4106 140		
AD130 100	BC160 32	BC303 30	BD139 45	BD589 100	7416 28	7497 80	7188 500	4018 87	4107 115		
AD143 95	BC161 32	BC307 30	BD140 45	BD648 100	7417 28	7100 310	7190 100	4019 81	40174 95		
AD140 95	BC167B32	BC308 30	BD155 55	BD711 48	7420 20	7104 150	7191 190	4020 96	4160 83		
AD149 105	BC168 12	BC309 10	BD175 75	BD712 48	7425 28	7105 150	7192 95	4021 72	4161 83		
AD161 50	BC169 12	BC317 10	BD178 52	BF115 28	7426 30	7107 48	7193 100	4022 82	4162 83		
AD162 50	BC170 12	BC318 10	BD177 87	BF117L28	7427 25	7109 27	7194 90	4023 25	4163 83		
AF106 50	BC171 12	BC327 10	BD178 68	BF119 100	7428 54	7110 25	7195 90	4024 30	4175 83		
AF114 65	BC172 12	BC328 10	BD179 80	BF121 55	7430 20	7111 60	7196 95	4025 23	4402 83		
AF115 50	BC173 12	BC337 12	BD180 80	BF123 60	7432 28	7116 170	7197 85	4026 152	4412 83		
AF116 65	BC174 12	BC338 12	BD185 75	BF125 55	7433 36	7118 95	7198 145	4027 50	4419 83		
AF126 55	BC177 12	BC384L30	BD186 75	BF127 60	7437 30	7119 340	7199 145	4028 102	4445 83		
AF127 50	BC178 12	BC440 40	BD187 75	BF152 32	7438 30	7121 36	7221 200	4029 140	4446 83		
AF139 52	BC179 12	BC441 32	BD188 75	BF154 15	7440 25	7122 48	7278 95	4038 117	4449 83		
BC107 12	BC181 12	BC461 30	BD189 80	BF153 32	7441 60	7123 60	7428 95	4040 97	4501 83		
BC107B12	BC182L12	BC477 20	BD190 80	BF155 50	7442 80	7126 80	7428 95	4041 115	4502 83		
BC107C12	BC183 10	BC478 20	BD195 80	BF156 40	7443 100	7135 50	7436 64	4042 80	4503 83		
BC108 12	BC183A10	BC479 20	BD196 80	BF157 35	7444 100	7141 60	7439 375	4043 90	4510 90		
BC108A12	BC183B10	BC517 12	BD197 90	BF158 35	7445 90	7143 550	7439 195	4044 95	4511 125		
BC108B12	BC183C10	BC527 12	BD198 90	BF159 35	7446 90	7144 250	75107 120	4045 90	4512 85		
BC108C12	BC184 10	BC537 12	BD199 95	BF160 35	7447 65	7145 65	75108 130	4046 152	4514 205		
BC109 12	BC184B10	BC547 12	BD200 95	BF162 32	7448 65	7147 125	75110 240	4047 112	4515 215		
BC109B12	BC184C10	BC548 12	BD201 85	BF163 32	7449 25	7148 85	75140 180	4048 67	4516 72		
BC109C12	BC184L10	BC549 12	BD202 85	BF165 30	7451 25	7150 120	75141 95	4049 80	4518 95		
BC113 18	BC186 12	BC550 12	BD203 78	BF166 60	7453 50	7151 75	75150 200	4050 47	4526 115		
BC114 18	BC187 20	BC556 12	BD204 90	BF167 60	7454 25	7153 65	75154 186	4051 80	4528 80		
BC115 18	BC204 20	BC557 12	BD205 85	BF173 32	7460 25	7154 100	75182 150	4052 85	4538 85		
BC116 18	BC205 20	BC558 12	BD206 85	BF177 35	7470 32	7155 60	75451 45	4053 75	4539 85		
BC117 18	BC207 20	BC559 12	BD207 95	BF178 32	7472 28	7156 80	75452 45	4054 150	4541 110		
BC118 18	BC208 10	BCY30110	BD208 95	BF179 32	7473 32	7157 70	75453 45	4055 135	4555 68		
BC125 18	BC209 10	BCY31120	BD222 45	BF180 35	7474 30	7160 90	75454 95	4056 145	4561 68		
BC126 32	BC212 10	BCY32120	BD225 45	BF181 35	7475 44	7161 90	75494 110	4066 80	4568 85		
BC136 32	BC212A10	BCY70 15	BD232 45	BF182 35	7476 35	7162 90	76003 220	4068 30	4569 85		

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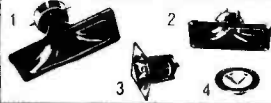
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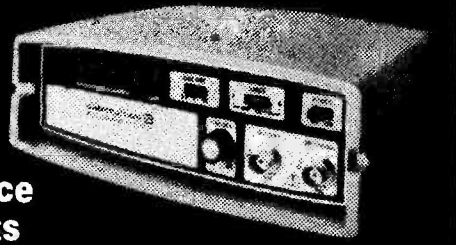
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- \*8610B 600MHz 9-Digit Frequency Meter
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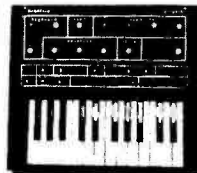
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(As Published in conjunction with 'Practical Electronics')

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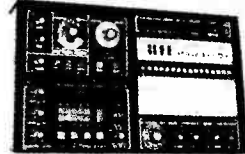
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(As Published in conjunction with 'Practical Electronics')

COMPLETE KIT £289 £399 MANFD.



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A MUSICIANS INSTRUMENT FOR: SOLOISTS - SINGERS - RECORDING - PRACTICE - LIVE PERFORMANCE - COMPOSITION

The BAND BOX provides an Electronic Backing Trio consisting of Drums, Bass, and a Chord Instrument (one of 16 Waveform Envelope combinations), with the capacity to store over 3,000 User Programmable Chord Changes on more than 120 different Chords. Using advanced Microprocessor technology, Playback of 50,100 Scores can be executed in any Key and at chosen Tempo. Complete Master Pad is electronically indexed and stored on secondary battery back up. Facility exists for composition of Intro, Repeat Chorus, and Coda sections including Multiple Score Sequences. Sockets are provided for Volume Pedal and Footswitch plus separate and mixed instrument Outputs. Total size 19" x 11" x 4 1/2" incorporating Master Rhythm.

## THE Programmable DRUM MACHINE

(As Published in conjunction with 'Practical Electronics')

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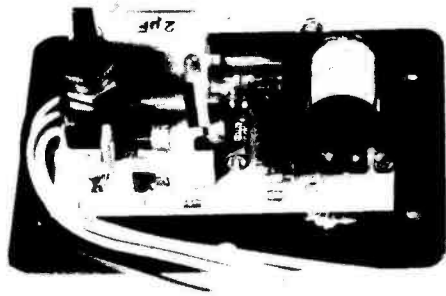


The Clef Master Rhythm is capable of storing 24 selectable rhythmic drum patterns, invented, modified, and entered by the Operator on to Eight Instrumentation tracks. A three position Instrumentation control expands the number of instruments available to twelve, grouped into sounds typical of playing with Drumsticks, Brushes, or Latin American Bongos and Claves. Sequence operation allows two rhythm sections to be coupled with the second (B) section appearing at four, eight or sixteen bar repetition. All drums can be adjusted for level and resonance on internal controls to suit individual taste, thus producing good musical sounds in a battery driven unit 8 1/2" x 5" x 2 1/2".



# ELECTRONIC IGNITION

Makes a good car better



As a  
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**TOTAL ENERGY DISCHARGE** electronic ignition gives all the well known advantages of the best capacitive discharge systems.

**PEAK PERFORMANCE** — higher output voltage under all conditions.

**IMPROVED ECONOMY** — no loss of ignition performance between services.

**FIRES FOULED SPARK PLUGS** no other system can better the capacitive discharge system's ability to fire fouled plugs.

**ACCURATE TIMING** — prevents contact wear and arcing by reducing load to a few volts and a fraction of an amp.

**SMOOTH PERFORMANCE** — immune to contact bounce and similar effects which can cause loss of power and roughness.

## PLUS

**SUPER POWER SPARK** — 3½ times the energy of ordinary capacitive systems — 3½ times the power of inductive systems.

**OPTIMUM SPARK DURATION** 3 times the duration of ordinary capacitive systems — essential for use on modern cars with weak fuel mixtures.

**BETTER STARTING** — full spark power even with low battery.

**CORRECT SPARK POLARITY** unlike most ordinary C.D. systems the correct output polarity is maintained to avoid increased stress on the H.T. system and operate all voltage triggered tachometers.

**L.E.D. STATIC TIMING LIGHT** for accurate setting of the engine's most important adjustment.

**LOW RADIO INTERFERENCE** fully suppressed supply and absence of inverter 'spikes' on the output reduces interference to a minimal level.

**DESIGNED IN RELIABILITY** an inherently more reliable circuit combined with top quality components — plus the 'ultimate insurance' of a changeover switch to revert instantly back to standard ignition.

## IN KIT FORM

it provides a top performance electronic ignition system at less than half the price of competing ready-built systems. The kit includes everything needed, even a length of solder and a tiny tube of heatsink compound. Detailed easy-to-follow instructions, complete with circuit diagram, are provided — all you need is a small soldering iron and a few basic tools.

## AS REVIEWED IN

ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL June '81 Issue  
and EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS December '81 Issue

**FITS ALL NEGATIVE EARTH VEHICLES,**  
6 or 12 volt, with or without ballast

**OPERATES ALL VOLTAGE IMPULSE TACHOMETERS**  
Some older current impulse types (Smiths pre '74) require an adaptor —  
PRICE £2.95

**STANDARD CAR KIT £14.85**  
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**TWIN OUTPUT KIT £22.95**  
For MOTOR CYCLES and CARS with twin ignition systems  
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PLUS  
£1.00  
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Prices  
Include  
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**DIMENSIONS:** Length 12.5 cm  
Width 8.9 cm  
Height 4.3 cm  
Lead length 100.0 cm

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

The basic function of a spark ignition system is often lost among claims for longer 'burn times' and other marketing fantasies. It is only necessary to consider that, even in a small engine, the burning fuel releases over 5000 times the energy of the spark, to realise that the spark is only a trigger for the combustion. Once the fuel is ignited the spark is insignificant and has no effect on the rate of combustion. The essential function of the spark is to start that combustion as quickly as possible and that requires a high power spark.

The traditional capacitive discharge system has this high power spark but, due to its very short spark duration and consequential low spark energy, is incompatible with the weak air/fuel mixtures used in modern cars. Because of this most manufacturers have abandoned capacitive discharge in favour of the cheaper inductive system with its low power but very long duration spark which guarantees that sooner or later the fuel will ignite. However, a spark lasting 2000µs at 2000 rev/min. spans 24 degrees and 'later' could mean the actual fuel ignition point is retarded by this amount.

The solution is a very high power, medium duration, spark generated by the TOTAL ENERGY DISCHARGE system. This gives ignition of the weakest mixtures with the minimum of timing delay and variation for a smooth efficient engine.

**SUPER POWER DISCHARGE CIRCUIT** A brand new technique prevents energy being reflected back to the storage capacitor, giving 3½ times the spark energy and 3 times the spark duration of ordinary C.D. systems, generating a spark powerful enough to cause rapid ignition of even the weakest fuel mixtures without the ignition delay associated with lower power 'long burn' inductive systems.

**HIGH EFFICIENCY INVERTER** A high power, regulated inverter provides a 370 volt energy source — powerful enough to store twice the energy of other designs and regulated to provide sufficient output even with a battery down to 4 volts.

**PRECISION SPARK TIMING CIRCUIT** This circuit removes all unwanted signals caused by contact volt drop, contact shuffle, contact bounce, and external transients which, in many designs, can cause timing errors or damaging un-timed sparks. Only at the correct and precise contact opening is a spark produced. Contact wear is almost eliminated by reducing the contact breaker current to a low level — just sufficient to keep the contacts clean.

## TYPICAL SPECIFICATION

	TOTAL ENERGY DISCHARGE	ORDINARY CAPACITIVE DISCHARGE
SPARK POWER (PEAK)	140 W	90 W
SPARK ENERGY (STORED ENERGY)	36 mJ 135 mJ	10 mJ 65 mJ
SPARK DURATION	500 µs	160 µs
OUTPUT VOLTAGE (LOAD 50pF EQUIVALENT TO CLEAN PLUGS)	38 KV	26 KV
OUTPUT VOLTAGE (LOAD 50pF + 500 KΩ EQUIVALENT TO DIRTY PLUGS)	26 KV	17 KV
VOLTAGE RISE TIME TO 20 KV (Load 50pF)	25 µs	30 µs

TOTAL ENERGY DISCHARGE should not be confused with low power inductive systems or hybrid so called reactive systems.

## ELECTRONIZE DESIGN



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Tamworth, B77 5BY  
Phone: (0827) 281000



# MICROTUTOR PART 1

BASIC, Pascal and the like are OK but if you want to get the most out of your micro then machine code is where it's at. This machine code tutor will help you throw off your chains; you have nothing to lose but your SYNTAX ERRORS. Design and development by Tangerine Computer Systems.

**R**eal computing was able to escape from the lofty realms of the mainframe and into the hands of the layman because of two major developments. The first was when large-scale integration techniques enabled the production of small, versatile microprocessor chips which were adapted into small, relatively low-cost microcomputers. (The microprocessor was originally conceived for use in industrial machine control.) The second was the invention of the BASIC computing language, which allowed the complete beginner to write working computer programs easily and without any knowledge of the system hardware he was working on.

Unfortunately such ease of use can only be obtained by means of a compromise, and the major drawback of the average microcomputer is speed — or rather lack of it. BASIC is painfully slow when compared to the speed of operation of the microprocessor, because each BASIC statement requires a series of machine code subroutines to be executed. Obviously better use can be made of the system hardware if programs are written directly in the language of the microprocessor — machine code. Direct access to the processor means access to swift, versatile and efficient programming.

## All Systems Go

Consequently some of the most popular

micro systems haven't had BASIC as a language at all! Typical products include KIM, SYM, the late lamented MK14 and the AIM 65, still a well-known 6502 machine code development system. And now there's the ET1 Microtutor, a project we're hoping will coax more of our readers away from the security of BASIC and into machine code, the real stuff of microcomputing.

The Microtutor has been designed for us by Tangerine Computer Systems, who were responsible for the highly popular Space Invasion game we published in November 1980. The monitor program for the system is based on TANBUG, as used in the Microtan 65 computer from the same company; this is a remarkably powerful monitor with many useful programming commands available to make machine code easier to manipulate. The hardware is designed around the 6503, a member of the 6502 family with the same instruction set but an address range of only 4K as opposed to the more usual 64K. Thus the microprocessor is more compact

(only 28 pins instead of 40), but any software written for it will also run on the Microtan 65. Furthermore, once you're familiar with the instruction set of the 6500 family you should be able to write machine code programs for home computers based on the 6502 such as the PET, Acorn System 1, Acorn Atom, Superboard, UK101, Apple, VIC and the BBC machine, which should give you plenty of scope! (Indeed, the PET is designed so that the entire system can be reconfigured from software, but you'll have to become pretty good to attempt that!)

## Give Us The Tool

The Microtutor is a very sophisticated and professional-looking piece of equipment. The hex keypad is mounted directly on the PCB, as are the power supply regulator, cassette interface, and a VDU with UHF output on channel 36 for direct connection to a domestic TV set (one up on the AIM 65!). The PCB is incredibly compact and a masterpiece of design, as you can see from the photographs.

The only external equipment required is a battery charger type power supply (supplied with the kit from Tangerine), and a domestic TV and cassette recorder for storing your programs (not supplied with the kit!). In the interests of economy of design and cost, the Microtutor has no



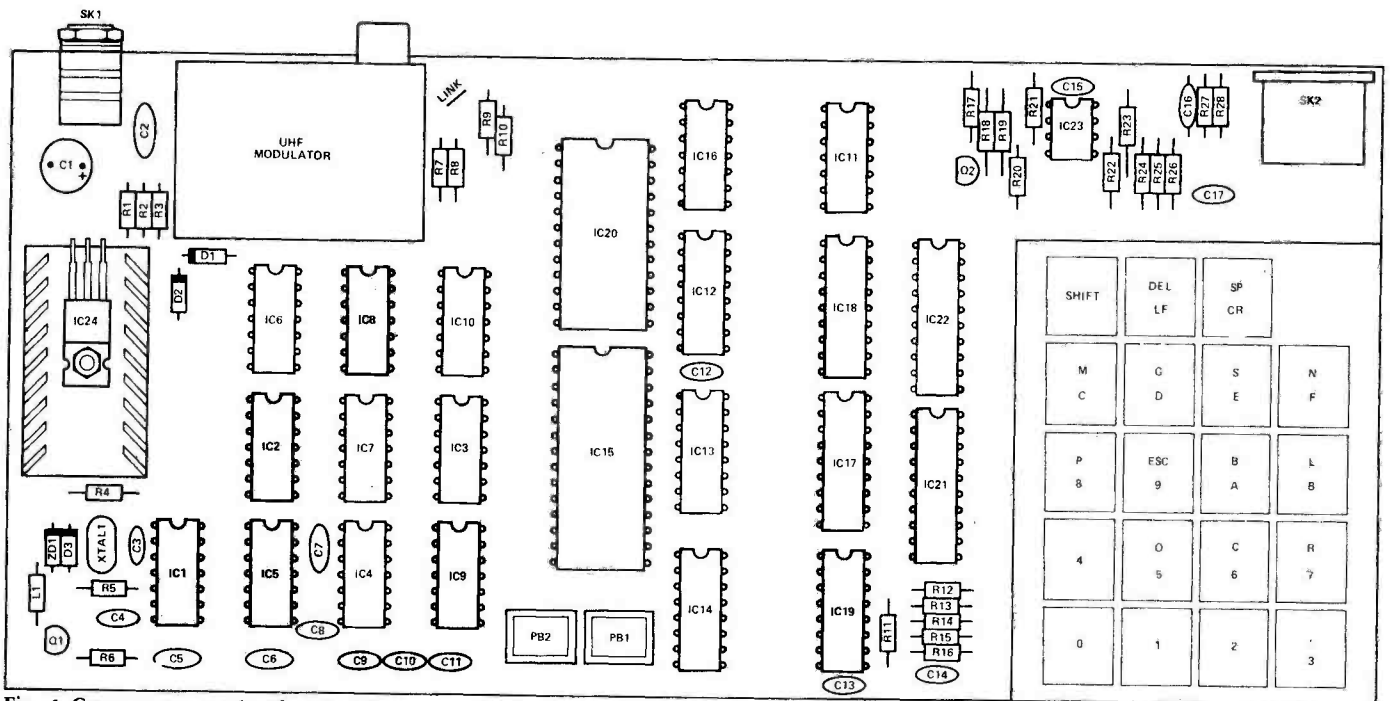
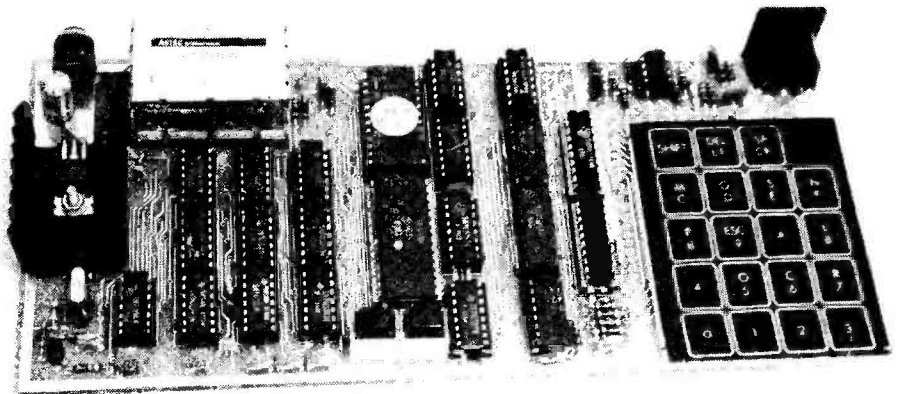


Fig. 1 Component overlay for the Microtutor. Note that all the ICs have pin 1 pointing upwards.

graphics and the ASCII set repeats through the entire range of 256 character codes. Only upper case is available (see Table 1).

Apart from a teaching aid for machine code programming, the Microtutor is also intended to be used for I/O experiments; thus all the bus lines and control signals are brought out to pads on the PCB so that external circuitry can be connected.

The only thing to remember about machine code is that it is very unforgiving of errors. Unlike BASIC, a programming blunder won't produce a polite message on the screen and a chance to try again; more often than not your program and data may be corrupted, or the thing gets locked into an endless loop until it disappears up its own data bus. When developing software for a home computer there is often little choice at this point but to switch off the machine to cure things, causing loss of program and laborious re-entry. We've had some nasty experiences in the office with the PET this way! On the Microtutor things are more civilised; two buttons are



The PCB is very compact and uses thin tracks, so a fine bit is essential on your soldering iron.

## SPECIFICATION

CPU:	6503 (addresses 4K)
ROM:	2K containing monitor program. EPROM is 2716 (5 V version)
RAM:	1K. Used for user program and memory-mapped VDU
I/O:	1K space available
Display:	16 rows by 32 characters, upper case only
UHF Output:	Channel 36

## PARTS LIST

Resistor (all  $\frac{1}{4}$ W, 5%)

R1	75R
R2	470R
R3	220R
R4-17 22 27	1k0
R18, 24	10k
R19, 23	120k
R20, 21	2k2
R25, 26, 28	22k

Capacitors

C1	100u 10 V PCB electrolytic
C2, 5, 6, 9-17	100n ceramic
C3, 8	10n ceramic
C4, 7	100p ceramic

Semiconductors

IC1, 8	74LS04
IC2	74LS73
IC3, 9	74LS393
IC4	74LS21
IC5, 16	74LS74
IC6	74LS08
IC7	74LS11
IC10	74LS00

IC11	74LS32
IC12-14	74LS157
IC15	6503
IC17, 18	2114
IC19	86S64BWF
IC20	2716
IC21	74LS374
IC22	74LS244
IC 23	LM358
IC24	7805
Q1, 2	BC184L
D1-3	1N4148
ZD1	6V8 400mW zener

Miscellaneous

XTAL1	6 MHz crystal
L1	100uH choke
SK1	miniature charger socket (PCB-mounting)
SK2	5-pin DIN socket (PCB-mounting)
PB1, 2	push-buttons (PCB-mounting)
PCB	(see Buylines); hex keypad; UHF modulator type UM1111E36; IC sockets; PCB-mounting heatsink for regulator.

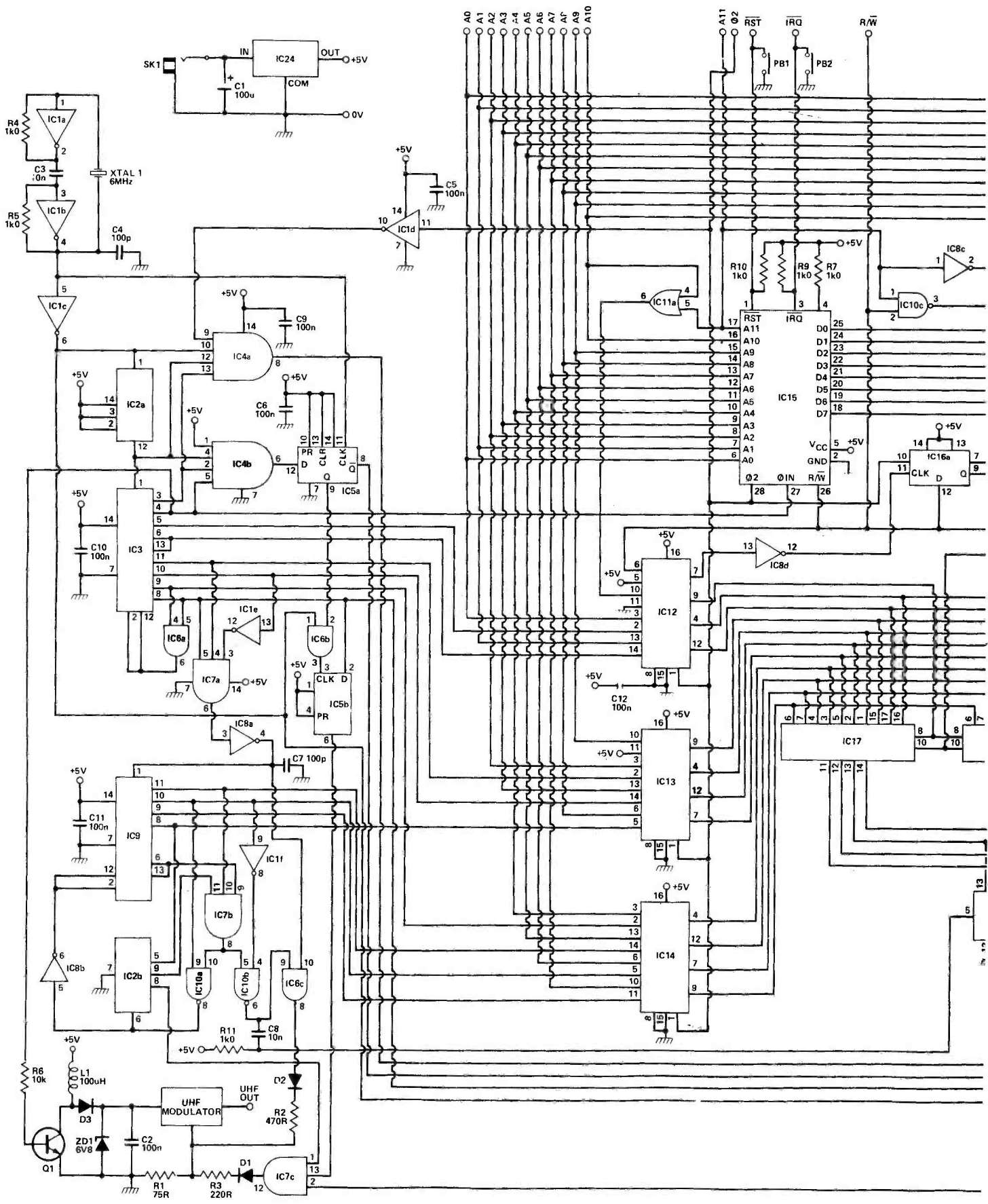


Fig. 2 Complete circuit diagram for the Microtutor.

## BUYLINES

A complete kit of parts for this project, including the power supply, is available from Tangerine Computer Systems, The Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 4BH.

## HOW IT WORKS

The CPU (IC15) and the video display share the same memory. Access to the memory is switched at the processor's  $\phi 2$  clock rate (as on the Microtan 65), using the address selector IC12-14. This alternately connects the CPU and CRT address onto the RAM chips IC17, IC18. IC16a is a R/W synchroniser to ensure the RAM chips get proper set-up and hold times on the R/W line after it passes through the address selector IC12.

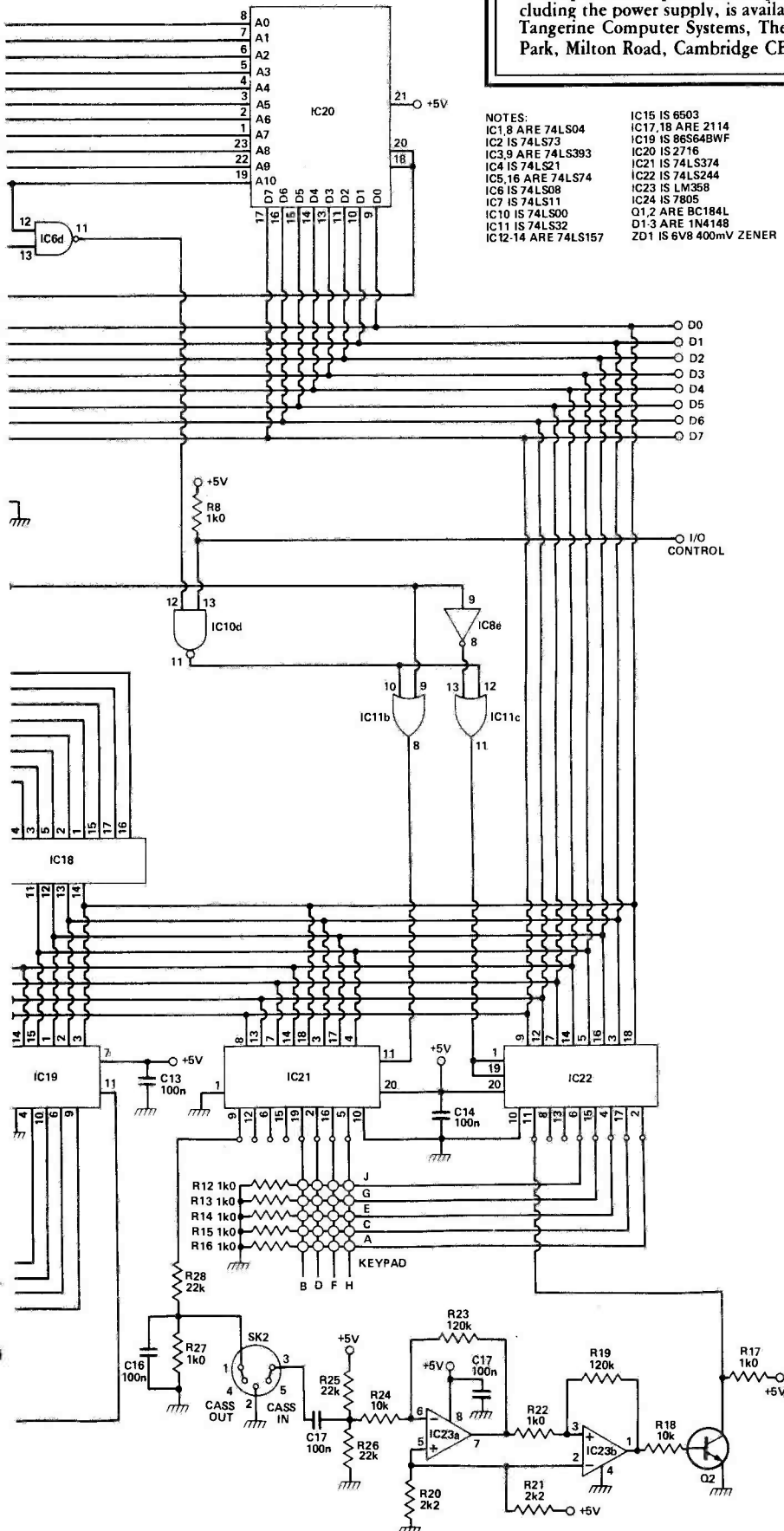
The master clock oscillator is built around three of the inverters in IC1; XTAL1 sets the operating frequency at 6 MHz. The clock signal enters the counter chain down the left of the circuit diagram at pin 1 of IC2a. IC3 generates all the character addresses along the video line for CRT refresh, with IC4a and IC4b/IC5a generating two of the timing signals required by the character generator IC19. The count length of IC3 is determined by the AND gate IC6a. IC7a generates the line sync pulses while IC5b/IC6b produce the line blanking. The line sync pulses also clock counter IC9, which together with IC2b generates all the line addresses. IC2b, IC7b and the associated logic controls the count length of the line counter and produces the frame sync. IC2b also produces the frame blanking directly.

IC19 is the character generator which receives data from the memory chips IC17, 18 during the time interval that the CRT refresh address is switched through. Data is latched and the character pattern is clocked out under the control of the various input signals to this chip. The character data is mixed with the line and frame blanking in IC7c, while the line sync and frame sync pulses are mixed in the AND gate IC6c to give a composite sync. The output of IC7c is mixed with the composite sync in the diode circuit (D1, D2 and associated resistors) to give an analogue video signal which is fed to the UHF modulator.

The modulator requires a supply of about 6V5. To avoid the need for a separate PSU, this is derived using the DC-DC converter based on L1 and Q1, which is driven via R6 from the CRT counter chain.

IC20 is the 2K EPROM containing the monitor program. For the EPROM to be enabled, A11 must be high and R/W in the read mode; these lines drive NAND gate IC10c which provides the chip select signal to pins 18 and 20 of the EPROM. Gates IC8c, IC6d, IC10d, IC8e and IC11b,c enable the I/O port, controlling the hex keypad and the cassette interface. Any location between 400 and 7FF (Hex) will address the port provided the I/O control line has not been pulled low externally. When reading, IC22 is enabled; when writing, IC21 is enabled. IC23 and associated components form the input amplifier for the cassette interface.

The only expansion the Microtutor has is for I/O experiments; the address bus, data bus, R/W,  $\phi 2$  and I/O control lines all come out to pads on the PCB. If the user builds an external I/O circuit then that circuit must operate the I/O control, which is active low, to disable the keypad circuits, otherwise bus contention will result. The monitor program assumes that they keypad is located at 7FF. Any location in the I/O address space will activate the keypad port if I/O control is not pulled low, however. For further I/O experiments, all eight bits from IC21, 22 are brought out to pads. This means that users can experiment with bigger keypads or utilise the unused bits. RST and IRQ also come out to pads on the PCB.



- NOTES:
- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| IC1,8 ARE 74LS04    | IC15 IS 6503           |
| IC2 IS 74LS73       | IC17,18 ARE 2114       |
| IC3,9 ARE 74LS393   | IC19 IS 86S64BWF       |
| IC4 IS 74LS21       | IC20 IS 2716           |
| IC5,16 ARE 74LS74   | IC21 IS 74LS374        |
| IC6 IS 74LS08       | IC22 IS 74LS244        |
| IC7 IS 74LS11       | IC23 IS LM358          |
| IC10 IS 74LS00      | IC24 IS 7805           |
| IC11 IS 74LS32      | Q1,2 ARE BC184L        |
| IC12-14 ARE 74LS157 | D1-3 ARE 1N4148        |
|                     | ZD1 IS 6V8 400mV ZENER |

provided, reset and interrupt. Both will get you back into the monitor from a faulty program if it gets out of hand, without clearing the memory; interrupt will do so without losing any breakpoints you may have set (breakpoints are explained fully later).

### Construction

The PCB is double-sided but through-hole plated, so components only have to be soldered on the underside. Fit all the low profile components first, ie the link, resistors, diodes and choke, then the keypad. This is stuck to the component side of the board with double-sided sticky pads; insert the connecting wires through the holes in the PCB first, secure the keypad in position with the pads and then solder the connections.

Now you can fit all the IC sockets and capacitors but don't insert the ICs until later. Solder the choke, crystal and transistors in place, then the UHF modulator. The voltage and its heatsink are bolted to the PCB and no insulating washers are required.

Finally mount the two sockets (power and cassette) and the large push-buttons, then insert all of the ICs paying great attention to the device type.

### Ready To Go

Once you've double-checked everything, you're ready to connect the power supply and TV set. The modulator is connected to the TV using UHF coaxial cable with a phono plug at one end and the usual coax plug at the TV end. Switch on the set and tune the TV until you get a steady black-and-white picture — at this point the screen will contain garbage. Press the RESET button and the screen should announce TANBUG. You may now use the keypad, as described below, to enter the wonderful world of machine code.

As an example of the sort of power you've got at your fingertips, here's a direct comparison. Some time ago it was necessary for someone in the office to check all four-digit numbers for certain combinations of digits. A BASIC program on the PET took about five minutes to write and about 15 minutes to run. The same problem, when solved by the Microtutor, took somewhat longer to write the program, but checked through all 10000 numbers in three seconds!

### All About TANBUG

The TANBUG monitor program is located in 2K bytes of read only memory (ROM) at the top of the address space ie pages 8-15. It

contains facilities to enter, modify, run and debug programs. TANBUG will only operate in the memory map of the Microtan system, it is not a general purpose 6502 software package and has been specifically written for Microtan/Microtutor.

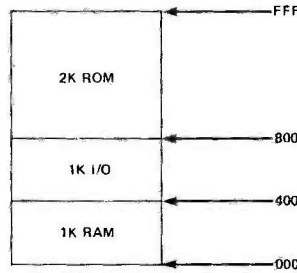


Fig. 3 Memory map.

Locations 200-3FF (pages 2 and 3) are the visual display memory — TANBUG writes to these locations whenever a command is typed to the monitor. Locations in pages 4 to 7 are the addresses of the peripheral attachments, eg keyboard. Locations 100-1FF (page 1) are used as the stack by the microprocessor. Since the stack is of the push-down variety it follows that the whole of this will not be used as stack storage in the majority of programs. TANBUG requires to use locations 1F0-1FF as stack storage (only 16 locations). The rest of this area is free for user programs. Locations 40-FF are also available as user RAM, the preceding locations 0-3F being reserved for use by TANBUG. User programs which do

not use the stack may therefore be loaded anywhere in the area 40-1FF. For user programs which do use the stack, the user must calculate how many stack locations are required and reduce the upper limit accordingly.

The keypad is used as follows, its layout being shown in Fig. 1. TANBUG interrogates the keypad for a depressed key, then translates the matrix encoded signal into an ASCII character which it puts up on the visual display. Because of the limited number of keys it has been necessary to incorporate a shift function on the keypad. So, to obtain the character P for example, the user presses and releases SHIFT, then depresses and releases P. The SHIFT key contains a self-cancelling facility — if the user presses SHIFT twice in succession the pending shift operation is cancelled. So as an example, using the two keys SHIFT and 8 the operations SHIFT P yields P on the display. SHIFT SHIFT P yields 8 on the display. DEL deletes the last character typed. Repeated deletes erase characters back to the beginning of the line.

Having described some of the background to TANBUG it is now possible to describe the commands and syntax of TANBUG, ie how to use it. An example is shown later on. All numerical values of address, data and monitor command arguments are in hexadecimal. The symbol <CR> means on depression of the carriage return key, <SP> the space key, and <LF> line feed. In all examples, text to be typed by the user will be in bold type, while TANBUG responses will not. ■ indicates the cursor.

<ADDR> means a hexadecimal address, <ARG> means hexadecimal data and <TERM> means one of the terminators <CR>, <SP>, or <LF>.

All commands are of the form <COMMAND><TERM>

or <COMMAND><ARG> <TERM> or <COMMAND><ARG>, <ARG><TERM> or <COMMAND><ARG>, <ARG>, <ARG><TERM>

where <COMMAND> is one of the mnemonic commands and <ARG> is a hexadecimal argument applicable to the command. It should be noted at an early stage that the longest argument will contain four hexadecimal characters. If more are typed all but the last four are ignored. As an example consider the memory modify command M12340078 <CR>. In this case location 0078 will be modified or examined as all but the last four characters are ignored.

TABLE 1

Hex	Character	Hex	Character
20	Space	40	@
21	!	41	A
22	"	42	B
23	#	43	C
24	\$	44	D
25	%	45	E
26	&	46	F
27	'	47	G
28	(	48	H
29	)	49	I
2A	*	4A	J
2B	+	4B	K
2C	,	4C	L
2D	-	4D	M
2E	.	4E	N
2F	/	4F	O
30	0	50	P
31	1	51	Q
32	2	52	R
33	3	53	S
34	4	54	T
35	5	55	U
36	6	56	V
37	7	57	W
38	8	58	X
39	9	59	Y
3A	:	5A	Z
3B	;	5B	[
3C	<	5C	\
3D	=	5D	]
3E	>	5E	^
3F	?	5F	_

<TERM> is one of the terminating characters <CR>, <SP>, <LF> or <ESC>. In fact TANBUG accepts any of the "control" characters (HEX code 0-20) as terminator. TANBUG will reply with a ? if an illegal command is encountered.

## Starting The Monitor

Press the reset button on the Microtutor. TANBUG will scroll the display and respond with TANBUG

Note that on initial power-up the top part of the display will be filled with spurious characters. These will disappear as new commands are entered and the display scrolls up. On subsequent resets the previous operations remain displayed to facilitate debugging.

## Memory modify/examine command M

The M command allows the user to enter and modify programs by changing the RAM locations to the desired values. The command also allows the user to inspect ROM locations, modify registers and so on. To open a location type the following

M <ADDR> <TERM>  
TANBUG then replies with the current contents of that location. For example, to examine the contents of RAM location 100 type M100<CR> TANBUG then responds on the display with

M100,0E,■

assuming the current contents of the location were 0E.

There are now several options open to the user. If any terminator is typed the location is closed and not altered and the cursor moves to the next line scrolling up the display by one row. If however, a value is typed followed by one of the terminators <CR>, <LF> or <ESC> the location is modified and then closed. For example, using <CR>

M100,0E,FF

location 100 will now contain FF. If however <SP> is typed, the location is re-opened and unmodified.

M100,0E,FF

M0100,0E,■

This facility is useful if an erroneous value has been typed. The terminators <LF> and <ESC> modify the current location being examined, then open the next and previous locations respectively ie using <LF>

M100,0E,FF

M0101,AB,■

and using <ESC>

M100,0E,

M00FF,56,■

Using <LF> makes for very easy program entry, it only being necessary to type the initial address of the program followed by its data and <LF>, then responding to the cursor prompt for subsequent data words.

Note that locations 1FE and 1FF should not be modified. These are the stack locations which contain the monitor return addresses. If they are corrupted TANBUG will almost certainly "crash" and it will be necessary to issue a reset in order to recover.

## List command L

The list command allows the user to list out sections of memory onto the display. It is possible to display the contents of a maximum of 120 consecutive memory locations simultaneously. To list a series of locations type

L <ADDR>, <NUMBER>  
<TERM>

where <ADDR> is the address of the first location to be printed and <NUMBER> is the number of lines of eight consecutive locations to be printed. TANBUG pauses briefly between each line to allow the user to scan them. For example, to list the first 16 locations of TANBUG (which resides at C00-FFF) type LC00,2<CR>.

The display will then be

LC00,2

C00 A2 FF 9A E8 86 17 20 B7

C08 FF 8D F3 BF A2 0E BD DF

If zero lines are requested (ie <NUMBER> = 0) then 256 lines will be given.

## Go command G

Having entered a program using the M command and verified it using the L command, the user can use the G command to start running his own program. The command is of the format G <ADDR> <TERM>. For example, to start a program whose first instruction is at location 100 type G100<CR>. When the user program is started the cursor disappears. On a return to the monitor it re-appears.

The G command automatically sets up two of the microprocessor's internal registers:

- The program counter (PC) is set to the start address given in the G command.
- The stack pointer (SP) is set to location 1FF.

The contents of the other four internal registers, namely the status word (PSW), index X (IX), index Y (IY) and accumulator (A), are taken from the monitor pseudo registers

(described next). Thus the user can either set up the pseudo registers before typing the G command, or use instructions within his/her program to manipulate them directly.

## Register modify/examine command R

Locations 15 to 1B within the RAM reserved for TANBUG are the user pseudo registers. The user can set these locations prior to issuing a G command; the values are then transferred to the microprocessor's internal registers immediately before the user program is started. The pseudo register locations are also used by the monitor to save the user internal register values when a breakpoint is encountered. These values are then transferred back into the microprocessor when a P command is issued, so that all intents and purposes the user program appears to be uninterrupted.

The R command allows the user to modify these registers in conjunction with the M command. To modify/examine registers, type R <CR> and the following display will appear (location 15 containing 00 say).

TABLE 2

15	Low order byte of program counter (PCL)
16	High order byte of program counter (PCH)
17	Processor status word (PSW)
18	Stack pointer (SP)
19	Index X (IX)
1A	Index Y (IY)
1B	Accumulator (A)

## R

M0015,00,■

Now proceed as for the M command.

Naturally the M command could be used to modify/examine location 15 without using the R command — the R command merely saves the user the need to remember and type in the start location of the pseudo registers. Pseudo register locations are shown in Table 2. Two typical instances of the use of the R command are:—

- Setting up PSW, IX, IY and A before starting a user program.
- Modifying registers after a breakpoint but before proceeding with program execution (using the P command) for debugging purposes.

Note that when modifying registers in case (b) care must be taken if PCL, PCH or SP are modified, since the proceed command P uses these to determine the address of the next instructions to be executed (PCL, PCH) and the user stack pointer (SP). ET

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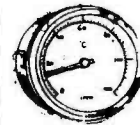
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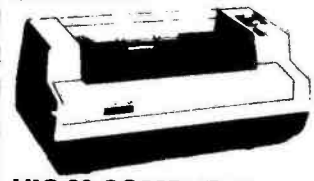
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**POLYESTER CAPACITORS (100V)**  
1nf to 680nF 6p 1uF 1u5 8p

**ELECTROLYTIC CAP (uF/V)**  
1/25 to 150/25 6p 160/25 640/16 3p  
220/25 470/25 10p 470/40min 12p  
1500/40 22p 2000/18 14p ..... 15p

**DIOLYTR 2A/250V DPST..... 20p**

**RCT 3 way SPST..... 30p**

**RESISTORS (1W 5% carbon film)**  
10 ohms to 10 Mohms E12..... 1p

**PRESETS** (miniature horizontal) ..... 4p  
100 ohms to 1 Mohms..... 4p

**POTENTIOMETERS LIN 4K7 10K 22K**  
100K 1M LOG 47K 22K 47K 100K  
220K  
470K 1M 2M2 ..... 25p

**ZENER DIODE**  
3V3 to 27V 5p  
1A/200V 17p  
1A/400V 20p  
1A/600V 17p  
1A/100V 16p  
2A/100V 20p  
8A/400V 32p  
3A/600V 35p

**THYRISTORS**  
1A/400V 20p  
1A/600V 17p  
1A/100V 16p  
2A/100V 20p  
8A/400V 32p  
3A/600V 35p

**OPTO ELECTRONICS**  
DL703 70p  
DL707 70p  
OR172 65p  
5 mm clip 3p  
3mm & 5mm  
Red LED 9p  
Green 9p  
Yellow 9p  
Rect Green 9p

**DIL SOCKETS**  
8 pin 7p  
16 pin 11p  
18 pin 16p  
5 mm clip 3p  
3mm & 5mm  
24 pin 16p  
28 pin 16p  
40 pin 16p

**DIODES**  
DA91 7p  
DA200/2 4p  
1N916 4p  
1N4148 4p  
1N4005 4p  
1N5400 11p  
1N5402 13p  
1N5404 14p

**VOLTAGE REGULATORS**  
500mA: 1N4148 4p  
1N4005 4p  
1N5400 11p  
1N5402 13p  
1N5404 14p  
79M12 20p  
79M24 20p  
1 Amp: 1N5402 13p  
7805 50p  
7812/15 50p  
7818 50p  
7905 60p  
7912/15 80p  
7918/24 60p  
1A5 70p  
7805 70p

**BRIDGE RECTIFIERS**  
W02M 16p  
W06M 17p

**AY-5:**  
4007D 450p  
CA2018H 50p  
CA2019 50p  
CA2028A 40p  
CA2048 245p  
CA2054 40p  
CA2080 65p  
CA2090A 40p  
CA2090A 40p  
CA2130E 70p  
CA2160E 100p  
LF351N 32p  
LF356N 60p  
LM10C 80p  
LM301AN 14  
LM308N 8  
LM318H 80p  
LM318N 100p  
LM339N 40p  
LM380N 55p  
LM381N 90p  
LM382N 70p  
LM4158N 35p  
LM4180 170p  
LM4390N 40p  
LM4391N 200p  
LM13600 100p  
LM1310N 50p  
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MC1496P 50p  
MC15098 600p  
ML922 450p  
NE555 22p  
NE562 40p  
NE567 140p  
NS76115AN 125p  
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TBA641BX11 125p  
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TB A800 65p  
TB A820 80p  
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TDA1008 35p  
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ZNA24E 150p

**CMOS**  
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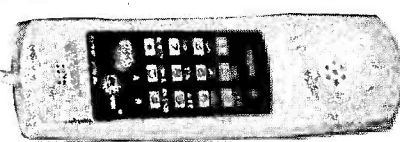
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# MEMORY TELEPHONE



One piece phone with 11 or 22 number memory. These numbers can be changed at will. Last number dialled or any memory number can be automatically redialled. Plays a melody to the called party when muted. Requires no external power or batteries. Distortion free sound. Electronic bell can be switched off. Easy to connect. 12 foot cord. 12 months warranty. **11 no mem: £55. 22 no mem: £65.**

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BFX86	18p	TIP38A	127p	2N914	14p	2N3866	40p
BFX87	23p	TIP2955	54p	2N918	16p	2N3903	11p
BFX88	22p	TIP3055	48p	2N1131	11p	2N4037	35p
BFY50	20p	2N2217	18p	2N1132	13p	2N4058	10p
BFY52	18p	2N2219	15p	2N1304	23p	2N4061	6p
BFY53	10p	ZTX107	10p	2N1306	23p	2N5458	40p
BSX20	10p	ZTX108	10p	2N1308	30p	2N5459	35p
BZ205	105p	ZTX109	10p	2N2222A	15p	2N6027	15p
BU208	11p	ZTX300	9p	2N2369	14p	3N128	20p
MJ2955	90p	ZTX301	9p	2N2484	18p		
MPF104	40p	ZTX303	10p	2N2646	40p		
MPF105	40p	ZTX311	16p	2N2904	17p		
MPF106	40p	ZTX341	16p	2N2906/7	17p		
OC28	50p	ZTX500	11p	2N2926G	10p		
TIP29	25p	ZTX501	11p	2N3053	20p		
TIP28B	28p	ZTX502	16p	2N3055	40p		
TIP30	25p	ZTX503	14p	2N3702	to		
TIP30B	28p	ZN697	20p				

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**ETI AUGUST 1982**

**57**

# READ/WRITE

Letters for this page should be addressed to Read/Write at 145 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0EE.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to enquire if your magazine or any of your readers have heard about or tested an electronic device for inducing dream consciousness (lucid dreams).

This bedside machine monitors the breathing rate of a sleeper by means of a sensitive thermistor attached to the nose. During a dream period, the breathing rate increases above normal; this is used to trigger a mild electric signal to the wrist of the dreamer telling him that he is dreaming and should become conscious in his dream.

Lucid dreams, being far more vivid than normal, are in full colour and three dimensional. The dreamer also has full control over his dream environment and can manipulate it at will. He can dream consciously about anything he chooses and total dream recall is normal.

This equipment was designed and developed by a Dr. Keith M. T. Hearne of Hull University and I believe manufactured and marketed by Campden Instruments (Incam Ltd) of London. But despite persistent enquiry, I have seen no test or reports on this equipment in electronic magazines. Have you or any of your readers seen anything?

I would be very grateful for any information you may have come across on this interesting device!

Yours faithfully,  
Mark Botham,  
Northumberland

Sorry, never heard of it. Sounds like it makes video games look a bit sick though. Control your dreams at will, eh? Interesting...very interesting...

Dear Mr. Harris,

I am enclosing my entry for your Prize Crossword No. 3. However, I am sorry to say that I do not find this feature up to the usual standards of the rest of the magazine.

May I draw your attention to Crossword No. 1 in the January issue. Clue 24 Down was "Radiation particles are certainly not passive." At first I chose "Active" as the answer. However, on reflection, a radiation particle may be an ion, so I changed the answer to "Action."

You can imagine my surprise when you published the answer as "Active." The problem really lay in the fact that

the only letter crossed with this puzzle was the letter 'C', common to both possible answers.

Now, five months later, in Crossword No. 3, the same difficulty arises. Clue 22 Across is "Timely happening." The only letter crossed with is the second letter, which I make an 'E'. Hence the possible answers (all having some connection with time) are as follows: Decay, Death, Delay, Hence, Hertz, Leave, Merge, Peaky, Recur, Relay, Relic and Telex.

Many of these are also technical terms and therefore likely to be the correct answer. May I remind your Crossword compiler that the rule is: "If a clue is to be made wholly or partly vague, the answer must have sufficient letter crosses to enable it to be verified as the sole answer." The puzzle to be solved should involve ingenuity in word manipulation, not guesswork or thought transfer!

Yours sincerely,  
Paul M. Richardson,  
Tavistock

Comments received. Passed on to our compiler, who will no doubt have a few cross words to say in reply.

Dear Sir,

I was happy to read the article in your April Birthday supplement entitled, "Steering Wheel? - Wot Steering Wheel?". Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to the Prime Minister in February this year.

Robert W. Teasdale,  
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

Letter to Prime Minister,  
February 1982

On giving some thought to future cars, I thought it would be a good idea if they had some form of electronic control.

The system of flashing lights on the motorways was a good idea, but motorists tend to ignore this system, and I thought that futuristic systems could be devised to electronically control the speed of cars (to prevent them going too fast under certain conditions, eg fog), with a built-in safety device for the driver to ignore these signals in an emergency: electronically controlled to respond to certain speed limits; controlled to stop or slow at traffic lights (being able to override this signal if

conditions desired it); controlled to slow at pedestrian crossings, crossroads and junctions; controlled to keep a safe distance from the car in front (with an override to overtake for a short period if necessary and an exterior signal to indicate when on override); controlled to slow at obstructions, again with an override.

Fast cars are dangerous and use a lot of energy. What is required is a safe, controlled car with power to get up hills and through adverse conditions.

I'm sure it would be better to have a safe, controlled system rather than fast dangerous cars, thus cutting down on accidents, death, disablements, and the work of all the services involved in accidents. I hope these suggestions can be put to future scientists and car manufacturers.

Dear Sir,

As so many of us are now using electronically operated quartz crystal controlled watches, may I suggest that an article giving a detailed description of their operation would be of considerable interest.

I am, yours sincerely,  
H. Vernon Kirby (Regular Reader),  
Hayling Island

Couldn't agree more. You wanna write it?

Dear Sir,

I know that you are busy men, but looking through recent ETIs, I came across two speaker systems - the ETI V3 (Oct 1981) and the Wharfedale E70 kit (April 1982). I would be interested in knowing your views on them.

Do you feel that it would be of interest to ETI's readership if you reviewed all the hi-fi projects and compared them to corresponding commercial units?

Yours faithfully,  
M. G. Hill,  
Harrow

The V3 and E70 are designed to meet different criteria. The V3 is an 'all-rounder' primarily intended for use with a wide range of music at 'normal' (if there is such a thing) volume levels. It is designed to be as neutral as possible in its portrayal of the signal.

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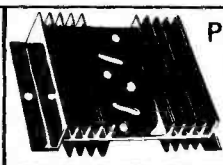
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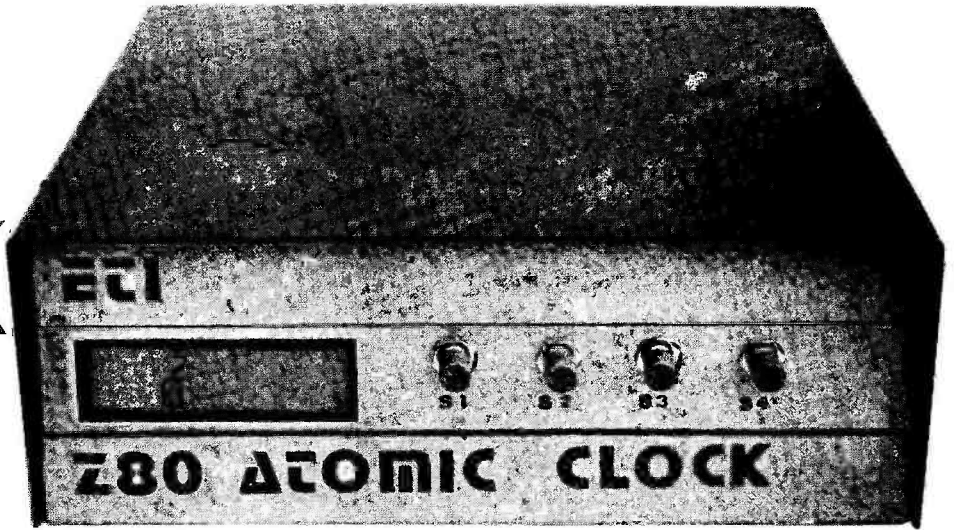
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# RUGBY CLOCK



If you want to know the time, ask MSF Rugby. This accurate and versatile clock/calendar is packed with facilities and never needs resetting. Design and development by Stephen Makumbi.

Clock designs appear fairly regularly in hobbyist magazines, but they usually fall into one of two basic types. The first type derives clock pulses from the 50 Hz mains, and while these provide a highly accurate long-term performance, mains frequency variations in the short term can cause errors of several seconds in either direction. The second type relies on a built-in oscillator, usually crystal-controlled which gives excellent short-term precision but a steadily accumulating long-term error.

If only you could build your own atomic clock! This is a project slightly

outside the scope of the magazine, but fortunately it isn't necessary to go quite that far. We can all get to share the atomic clock at the National Physical Laboratory because it's used to send coded time data, 24 hours a day, on a 60 kHz radio carrier from a transmitter at Rugby. The signal is transmitted at around 50 kW RF power and can be received over most of Western Europe. Of course, a specialised receiver is required to demodulate and decode the time signals, and *that's* the project we're offering; a clock that displays the correct time of day, date, day of week, and plenty more besides, with no need to ever

correct it. Even when the signal completely disappears the clock senses this and automatically switches on to its own crystal timebase back-up clock.

All the information is checked thoroughly for parity and validity. As an example, February 29th 1983 will be rejected and dashes put into the display in place of the date.

We've included a comprehensive alarm system comprising no less than eight independent alarms. For each alarm setting there is a choice of a melody (author's 12 bar rock), altering the state of eight TTL-compatible lines, or both! The eight lines could, of course, be used

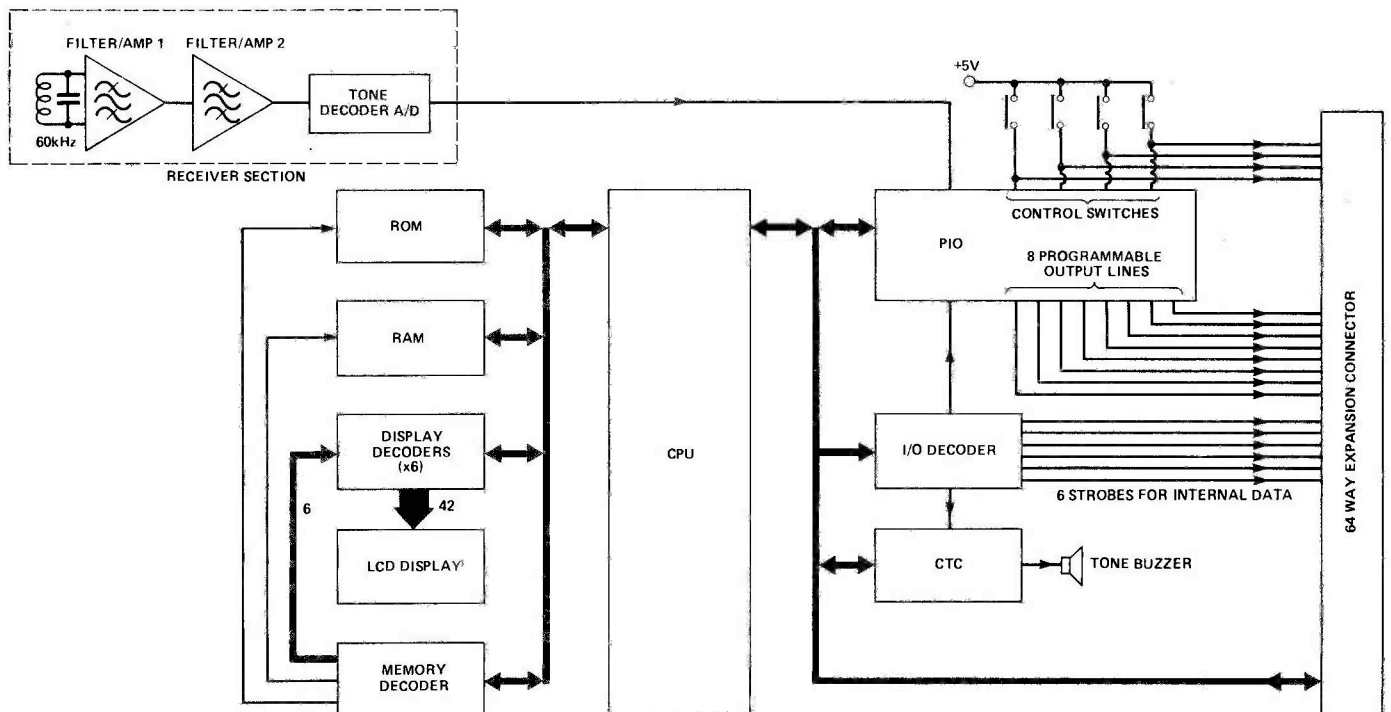


Fig. 1 Block diagram of the Rugby Clock.



Typical time display. Display format is set to 12 hour clock.



Mode 2, phase 1; the hours have been set at 12 for alarm number 2.



Mode 2, phase 2; alarm number 1 has been set for buzzer and port to function.



Mode 2, phase 3; bit 1 of alarm 6 will switch high when the alarm goes off.

to turn on and off eight different electrical appliances (through relays).

There is also a separate timer with a unique mode of operation capable of recording up to 240 lap times without interrupting the count! All this makes is simply the best clock available for home use — or anywhere!

## General Description

There are three basic modes of operation designated 1, 2 and 3; clock, alarm, and timer respectively. On reset the clock automatically enters mode 1. Another switch would enter mode 2. In order to enter mode 3 (timer) you have to press reset while pressing one of the switches.

The emphasis in this system is ease of expansion and interfacing. To this end, all the important CPU lines are brought out to a dual 32-way connector. Also, all the information that is transmitted is output to six decoded port selects (including the timer). We intend to publish useful add-on units in the future. The entire unit can be controlled by an external computer, instead of by the push-buttons.

## The Circuit

At the heart of the system is a Z80 microprocessor. Several other processors were considered including the RCA CPD 1802 for its low power consumption, Intel 8039 for its 'all-in-one' design, plus good BCD handling, and the Intel 8088 for its speed and overall superior processing power.

The Z80 was chosen because a good interrupt structure was of paramount importance in this application. IC4 decodes the lower 32K of the 64K address space into eight blocks each 4K long. These eight blocks are allocated to the PROM, RAM and six LCD displays. It might appear a waste for each digit in the display to take up an entire 4K of addressing space, but this simplifies

decoding logic and reduces chip count. Furthermore, there is 32K of memory still free!

As you may have gathered from the above text, the displays are 'memory mapped'; whenever the CPU wants to read or write to memory (in the lower 32K) pin 3 of IC6c goes high,  $\overline{MREQ}$  goes low, and A15 is low, indicating to IC4 that a memory read or write is about to take place. If at this time the address bus contains 2XXX to 7XXX hex (X = don't care) then one of the six LCD displays will be selected. Similarly IC19 is used to decode the input/output section. This IC is active when A7,  $\overline{IORQ}$  and one of  $\overline{RD}$  or  $\overline{WR}$  are low; the port selected depends on the binary value that is present on A2 to A4. This effectively divides the lower 128 port addresses (out of a possible 256) into eight separate ports each four addresses long and repeating 16 times.

The CPU clock signal is generated by XTAL1, IC5a, R1, C1, CV1. This is fed to IC5b and IC5c which are connected in parallel to provide a higher drive and isolation.

IC5d and IC5e together with R2, R3, R4, C2, SW5 form the manual and automatic power-on reset. The RESET signal is ANDed with M1 by IC6a, IC6b to form a hardware reset for the PIO (Zilog ran out of pins and omitted a proper reset pin). Incidentally although Zilog don't mention it, it's possible to reset the PIO by software. This method is used in this application, but the hardware alternative is there in case another application using the board requires it. (Anyway, we had a couple of NAND gates spare!)

IC9 to 14 are LCD display latch-decoders. Information available at the

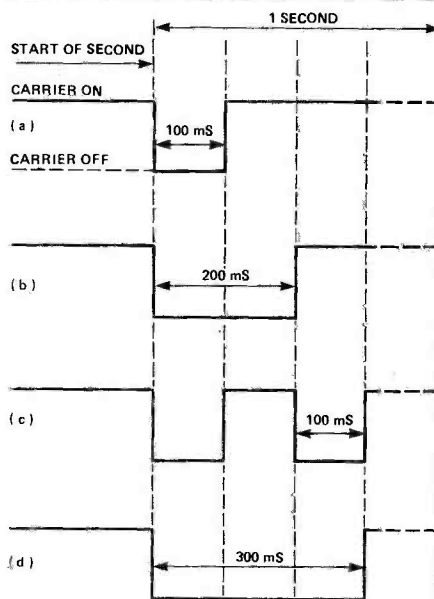


Fig. 2 (Above) Coding data into one second. (a) a 0; (b) a 1; (c) time difference; (d) a second containing odd parity.

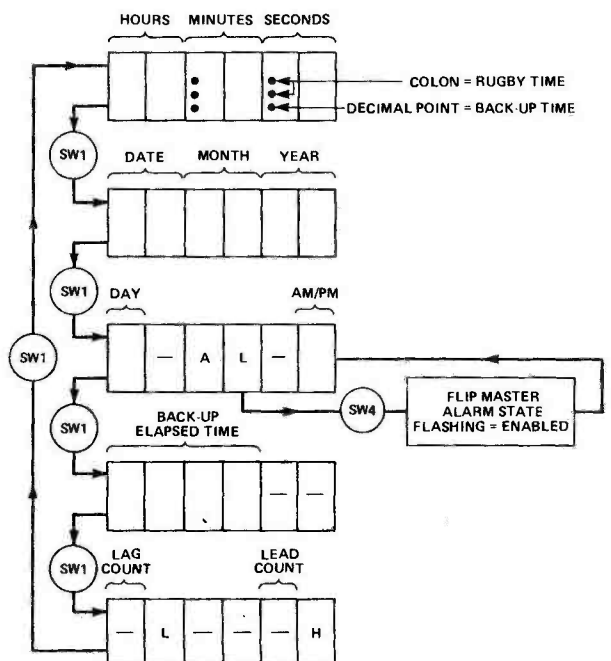


Fig. 3 (Right) The five clock faces available in Mode 1. From top to bottom they are time of day; date; day of week and master alarm indicator; time since clock switched to back-up; and BST/GMT time difference.

data pins (2-5) is latched internally when the latch input (pin 1) receives a positive-going pulse. Since this is of opposite polarity to the signals coming from IC4, a hex inverter is used.

LCD displays require a square wave drive signal on the segments in antiphase to that on the backplane. IC8c and IC8d provide such a signal with a frequency of approximately 50 Hz.

This is fed to the backplane input of the display and also to each display driver (IC9-14). These ICs perform the phase reversal, but unfortunately they don't have decimal point and colon outputs so these have to be generated externally using PIO A0 and A1. IC8a and IC8b perform the phase reversal on these.

IC15 performs several functions; serial input port (SIO), timer, tone generation for radio data, internal timing, user timer (mode 3) and alarm tune.

IC17 also performs several functions, including inputting the state of the switches SW1-SW4, inputting radio data, controlling the display decimal point and colon, inputting the default hour format (12/24); it's also a programmable output

port in conjunction with mode 2!

The receiver follows an unusual design. For a start there are no cumbersome coils; instead the entire tuning section comprises two state variable filters in series (IC20, 21). They also provide the necessary gain to couple to IC22 via FET buffer Q1. The two filters provide very good selectivity which is required at these low frequencies due to interference, especially from TV timebase circuitry. When properly tuned by PR1-4 it is possible to have the receiver closer to a TV set than is possible with many current designs. IC22 is a tone decoder whose output pin goes low when a signal within its passband is present at its input (pin 3). Q2 inverts this signal to high for 'carrier on'. There are some spare inverters on the main board which could have been used instead, but the aim was to have a self-contained receiver.

### Rugby Transmissions

The incoming radio carrier is switched off and on throughout the entire minute to convey the time information in

binary-coded form. The carrier is switched off at the beginning of every second, and the point within the first half of the second that it comes on again determines whether the bit sent within that second is a logic 1 or 0, ie, if it switches on after 100 mS, then the bit is a 0. Otherwise it will switch on after 200 mS in which case the bit is a 1. Figure 2 should make this clear.

As each second transmits only one bit of a binary coded number more than one second may be needed to transmit a whole number. Each unit is allocated the minimum number of bits which will represent the maximum value of that unit; for instance, 'Day of Week' takes up three seconds (three bits) since these will contain binary combinations 0-8 (8 not used).

Seconds 7-16 contain information about the time difference between BST and GMT. An extra pulse (break in carrier) will indicate 1/100th second difference.

The total number of pulses within seconds 1-8 represent the number of hundredths of a second that BST lags behind GMT. Otherwise, those which occur in seconds 9-16 indicate BST leading GMT by their total multiplied by 10 milliseconds.

Seconds 17-51 contain the time, date, day of week, month and year. Seconds 51-59 contain a unique binary code which is used by detecting systems to synchronise; although the clock presented here uses a different system for synchronisation.

Seconds 52-58 also contain a parity checking code on the information that was received between seconds 17-51. That is to say a pulse 300 mS long indicates that the unit in question should have an odd number of 1 bits. A pulse of 200 mS indicates an even number of 1s.

The first second (0th) contains a fast serial code which also specifies the time, date and month.

Just before this code is a very short negative-going pulse (carrier off). It is the only pulse shorter than 3 mS in the entire minute. For this reason it is detected by its unique size and used for synchronisation. The fast code is then read immediately. Synchronizing on this code as opposed to the six second ident makes it possible to make another attempt within 10 mS of the previous attempt if the previous one was false. In the other case it would take at least six seconds to find out if the ident is valid or not before the subsequent trial is attempted.

### More On Modes

As mentioned earlier, there are three basic modes which the clock could be in. In order to economise on front panel switches, SW1-4 are all multi-function and the function of each switch

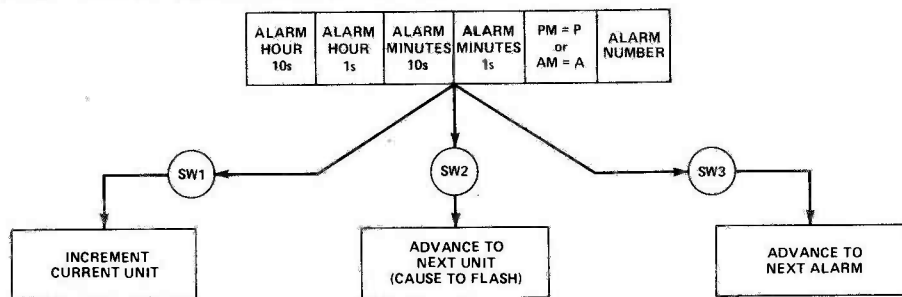


Fig. 4 Switch functions for Mode 2, phase 1.

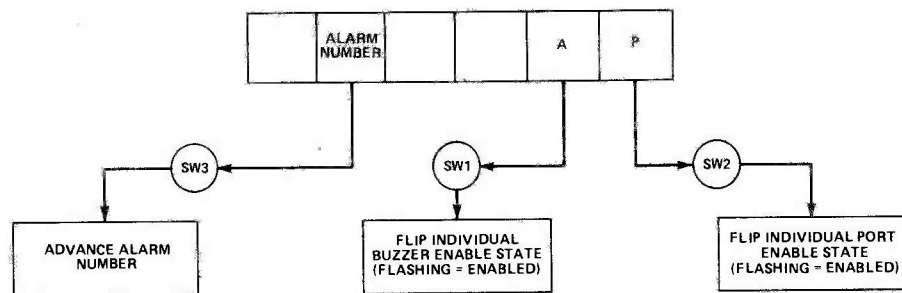


Fig. 5 Switch functions for Mode 2, phase 2.

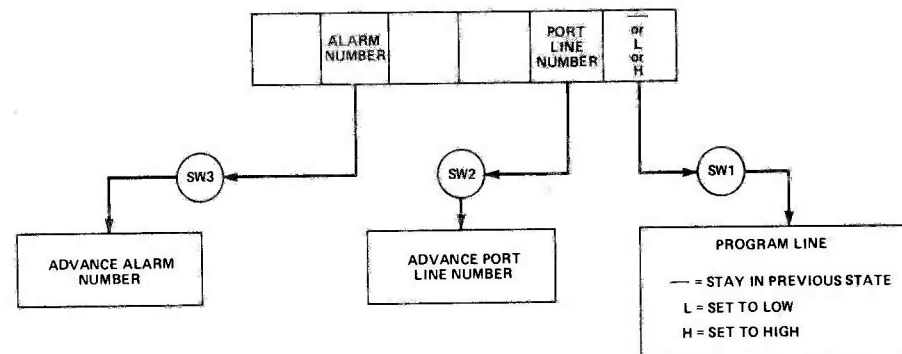
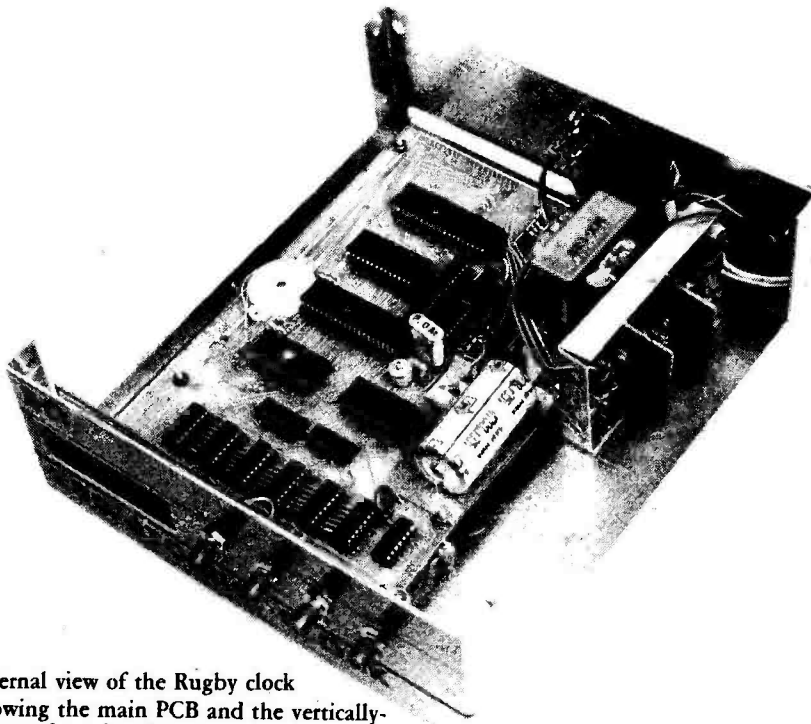


Fig. 6 Switch functions for Mode 2, phase 3.



Internal view of the Rugby clock showing the main PCB and the vertically-mounted receiver board.

depends on which mode, face or phase one is in.

## Mode 1

Mode 1 is the default mode on power-on and displays the current time and related information. When the unit is first switched on a blip should be heard from the buzzer in sympathy with the incoming signal. This is useful for tuning purposes, as the receiver can be tuned until a clean blip (generally one a second) is heard.

After some time the blip will stop and the display will change from dashes to the correct time. The date information will take a further minute to appear. Now, assuming that you have waited this further minute, then pressing SW1 causes the display to change to date, month, and year. Press SW1 again and the day of week will appear on the left hand digit while the right hand digit will be either 'A' or 'P' (AM or PM). The middle two digits will contain letters 'AL'. This is the master buzzer enable/disable indicator. If while on this third face you press SW4 the letters 'AL' will begin to flash, indicating that the master alarm is enabled, ie any of the eight alarm settings will sound the buzzer of the preset time. With the master alarm disabled, none of the alarm settings will ever activate. Repeatedly pressing SW4 will toggle the master alarm between 'enabled' and 'disabled'.

Pressing SW1 once more will move on to face 4 which shows the amount of time in hours and minutes since the clock has switched to automatic back-up time. Normally this face will show

“00.00--” meaning that the clock is running on Rugby Time.

Pressing SW1 once more will move on to face 5 which shows the BST/GMT time difference information. L indicates 'lagging' while 'H' indicates 'leading'

Finally, pressing SW1 again will wrap round to face 1 to display the time. It is possible to do a quick return to face 1 from any face except face 3 by pressing SW4 twice. Pressing SW2 while face 1 is displayed will change from 12 to 24 hour display and vice-versa.

## Mode 2

In Mode 2 any one of eight alarms may be set to sound the buzzer and/or configure the state of the eight lines on port B. Each individual alarm can be enabled/disabled to sound the buzzer or alter the settings of the eight port lines.

From Mode 1, press SW4. The display will show 'AL', indicating the alarm mode. From here you can branch in any one of three directions depending on what you want to do. Let's call this point X. If you want to set an alarm time, from point X press SW3. The display will show a 1 on the right hand side indicating that the current alarm is alarm 1. The rest of the display will contain dashes, and the hour position will be flashing meaning that the hours will be the next unit to be set (like a digital watch). Pressing SW1 will advance the hours. Pressing SW2 will cause the minute 'tens' to flash. Similarly pressing SW1 will alter the minute tens. Pressing SW2 once more will advance to minute 'ones', and then wrap round to hours. SW3 will advance through the alarm

numbers and is effective from whichever state the 'setting' procedure is in.

To exit 'alarm set' mode at any time press SW4 which will turn the display back to time display. Press SW4 again to go back to point X. This time we want to enable the alarm we have just set to sound, so press SW1 and then press SW3 to the desired alarm number. Now press SW1; the 'A' will start to flash. If you also want to enable the alarm to alter the port lines, press SW2; 'P' will start flashing. Press SW4 to go to mode 1.

For the third branch from point X, press SW4 again and this time follow it by SW2. Press SW3 to advance to the desired alarm number, then press SW2 to advance to the required bit number. Pressing SW1 will cycle through -, H, L; refer to Fig. 3 for the significance of these letters. Once, again, to exit, press SW4.

When any of the set alarm times come up the buzzer should play a tune and the port lines will take up the state that was programmed. Anyone who dislikes the tune can get it changed for one of their choice by sending a good quality tape or a manuscript to the designer via Technomatic. Details of the charge for this service will be available from Technomatic.

When the tune starts playing, pressing SW4 will stop it. Pressing SW3 will start a 10 minute snooze delay after which the tune will play again. When the tune is playing SW4 and SW3 will perform these two functions no matter what mode, phase or face you happen to be in; the current meaning of those switches will be postponed for one key depression.

## Mode 3

This is the timer mode. It is entered by pressing SW5 (reset) and SW4 simultaneously, then releasing reset followed by SW4. The display will show both the colon and the decimal point. Pressing SW4 will start the count; pressing SW4 again will stop it. Pressing SW2 during the count will latch the current display. Repeated pressing of SW2 will latch (and store) up to 240 laps. Pressing SW1 will view the laps in store even while counting is in progress. Pressing SW3 will display the current count, if you happen to be viewing laps or have just latched a lap.

## Expansion

The board was built with expansion in mind, hence the 64-way connector which carries all important signals. We hope to publish useful add-ons in the future.

Next month we continue this project with the circuit diagrams and How It Works.

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2114-200ns	90p
2114-450ns	90p
2716-450ns	210p
2732-200ns	440p
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LS13	LS148	LS385	4040	58p	4521	195p
LS14	LS149	LS386	4042	62p	4522	110p
LS15	LS150	LS390	4043	70p	4523	110p
LS20	LS151	LS393	4044	70p	4524	110p
LS21	LS152	LS395	4046	65p	4528	90p
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LS40	LS162	LS407	4070	20p	4543	120p
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LS47	LS164	LS409	4072	20p	4547	130p
LS48	LS165	LS410	4073	20p	4549	380p
LS49	LS166	LS411	4074	20p	4551	105p
LS51	LS167	LS412	4075	20p	4553	295p
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LS114A	LS190	LS435	4114	33p	4496	320p
LS122	LS191	LS436	4115	33p	4497	320p
LS123	LS192	LS437	4116	33p	4498	320p
LS125A	LS193	LS438	4117	33p	4499	320p
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6850	165p
6852	250p
6854	795p
6875	490p
8726A	140p
8795	105p
8796	105p
8797	105p
8798	105p
8799	105p
8728	140p
8080A	360p
8085A	595p
8154	1000p
8155	880p
8205	242p
8259	170p
8216	70p
8224	200p
8226	275p
8228	250p
8243	495p
8250	320p
8251	320p
8253	300p
8255	300p
8257	800p
8259	800p
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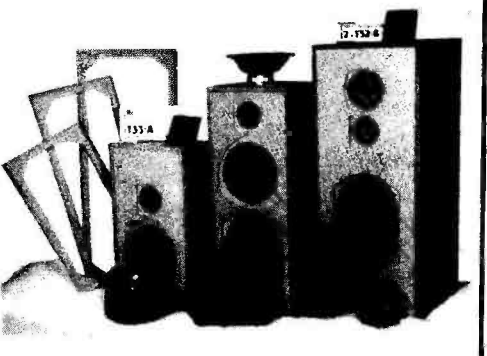
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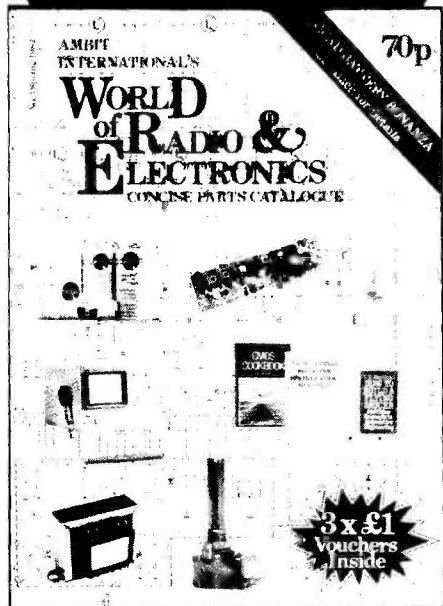




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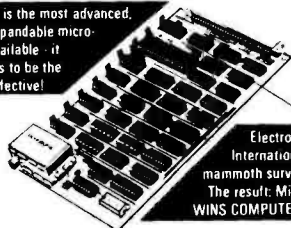
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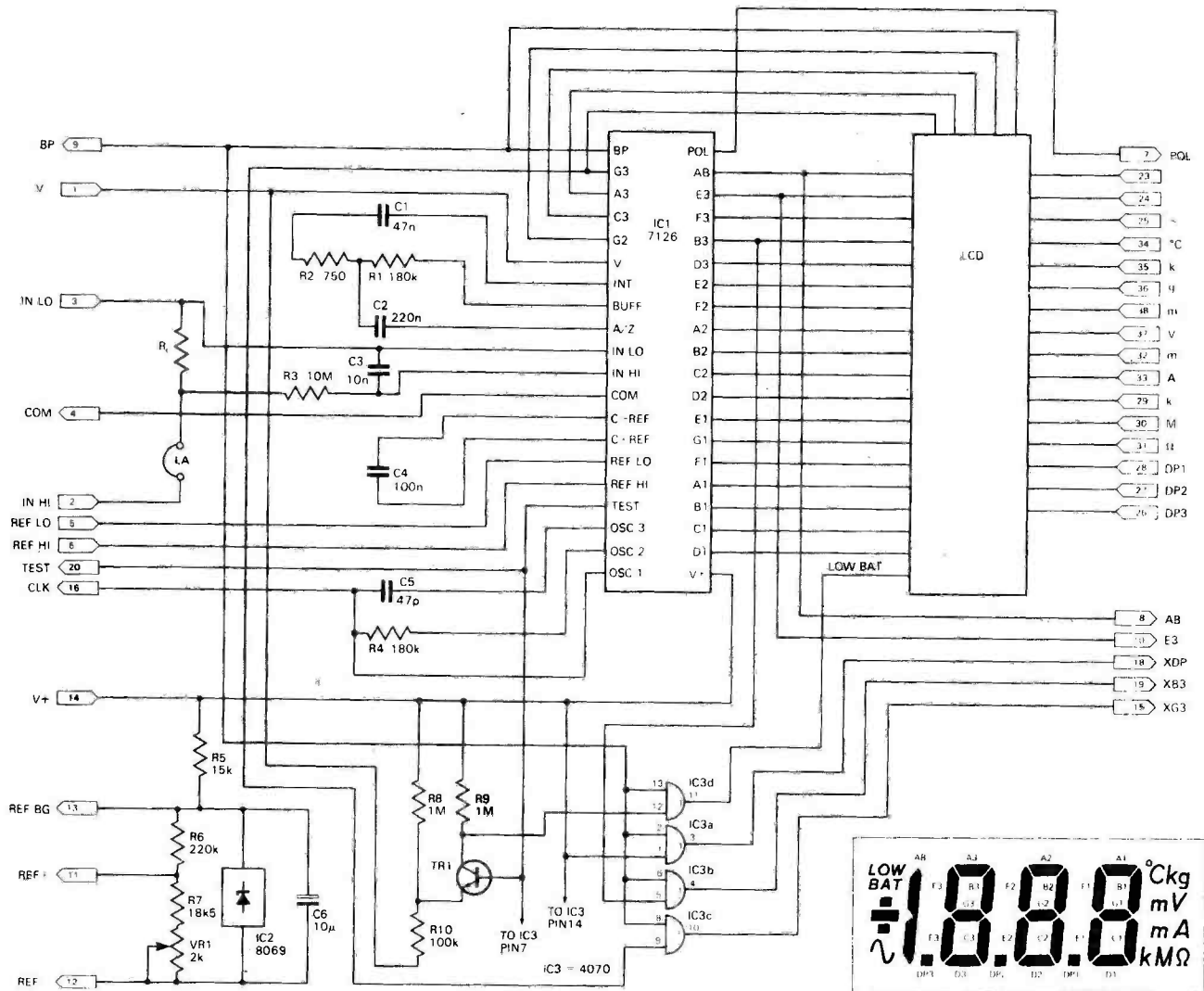
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**Fig. 3** Circuit diagram of the module. R1, R2 and C1 determine the integrator time constant and C2 reduces the susceptibility to noise of the auto-zero circuitry. The display is guaranteed to read zero when the analogue input is 0 V. An input filter formed by R3 and C3 assists with overload protection for the 7126 IC. The input voltage may exceed the

supply voltage provided the input current does not exceed 100  $\mu$ A. The frequency of the internal oscillator is determined by R4 and C5 and provides three samples per second typically. The module is calibrated by means of VR1 for a full scale reading of 200 mV with link LA in circuit and resistor R<sub>c</sub> omitted.

number of unexpected bonuses for the designer. A square wave clock signal, an extra negative supply rail, a bandgap precision voltage reference, a common rail for op-amp references, plus four logic signals for autoranging meter circuits — all these signals are available for use in external circuits. Table 1 charts the pin numbers in numerical order with their symbols and basic functions.

## Supply Rails

The module can be operated from a single supply between 5 V and 15 V across pins 1 and 14, at a current of 100  $\mu$ A, using the bandgap reference. However, the internal reference can be used instead, reducing the current to 50  $\mu$ A with a minimum voltage of 7 V. A low battery warning indicator is set to come on at 6V4, determined by the R8/R10 potential divider. R10 can be altered if required; 220k gives a 7V2 warning.

## Legends/Annunciators

The symbols can be enabled very easily by directly connecting the XDP output on pin 18 (an inverted backplane

signal) to the required segment. This may also be done via logic or switches for automatic selection of the decimal points.

## Inputs

Pins 2 and 3 are the non-inverting and inverting inputs respectively; these analogue inputs are truly differential and may be operated to within 0V5 below the positive supply and 1 V above the negative supply. Common mode rejection ratio within this range is typically 86 dB.

## Voltage References

The Analogue Common pin is included primarily to set the common mode voltage for battery operation or for any system where the input signals are floating with respect to the power supply. The common pin sets a voltage that is approximately 2V8 more negative than the positive supply. This is selected to give a minimum end-of-life battery voltage of about 6 V. However, the analogue common has some of the attributes of a reference voltage. When the total supply voltage is large enough to cause the zener to regulate (greater than 7 V) the common voltage will

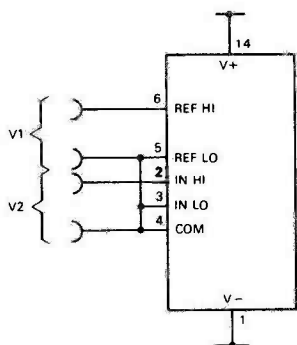


Fig. 4 Measuring the ratio of two voltages. The maximum input voltage is  $\pm 2$  V with a 9 V supply.

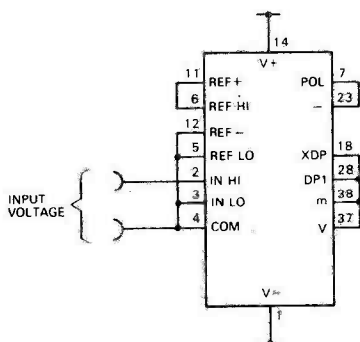


Fig. 5 Measuring a floating voltage source with 200 mV full scale. Autopolarity indication is implemented, together with the decimal point and mV annunciation.

TABLE 2			
	REQUIRED FSD	LA	$R_c$
IN HI	2 V	10M	1M0
	20 V	10M	100k
IN LO	200 V	10M	10k
	2000 V	10M	1k0
IN HI	200 $\mu$ A	LINK	1k0
	2 mA	LINK	100R
	20 mA	LINK	10R
	200 mA	LINK	1R

have a low voltage coefficient (0.001%), low output impedance (about 15R), and a temperature coefficient typically less than 800 ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C.

The analogue-to-digital converter of the IC operates in a ratiometric mode, such that the digital display is  $1000 V_2/V_1$ , as shown in the diagram of Fig. 4. Here, the inverting inputs of the reference and voltage inputs are both connected to common (REF LO and IN LO). REF HI is normally connected to the 100 mV bandgap reference from REF + as shown in Fig. 5, thus giving the 200 mV full-scale deflection. Output REF + is 100 mV with respect to REF - when the latter is correctly terminated. REF BG is 1V2 with respect to REF -. REF - should normally connect to the COM terminal as the diagram indicates.

To alter the full-scale reading of the DVM module, the link LA and resistor  $R_c$  shown in the circuit of Fig. 3 should be altered. Table 2 shows the values required for several ranges of current and voltage.

## Outputs

The polarity output on pin 7 is a square wave in-phase with the backplane signal when the analogue input has positive polarity and in anti-phase when the input has negative polarity. It can be connected directly to the “-” symbol (pin 23) for normal

polarity indication. The clock on pin 16 may be used for systems timing or as an input to override the internal oscillator and control the sample rate. If CLK is connected to V - the display may be held at a particular value but this should not be connected for extended periods as the steady DC potential applied to the LCD may cause the segments to “burn”.

The oscillator frequency is divided by four before it clocks the decade counters. It is then further divided to form the three convert-cycle phases. These are signal integrate (1000 counts), reference de-integrate (0 to 2000 counts) and auto-zero (1000 to 3000 counts). For signals less than full scale, auto-zero gets the unused portion of reference de-integrate. This makes a complete measure cycle of 4000 (16000 clock pulses) independent of input voltage.

An oscillator frequency of 48 kHz is used for three readings per second.

## Test

The test pin serves two functions. It is coupled to the internally generated digital ground through a 500R resistor (digital ground is set at approximately 5 V below +V). Thus when operated from a single battery supply, TEST can be used as the 0 V rail for externally generated segment drivers, such as decimal points (or any other presentation the user may want to include on the LCD display), or it may be used as a common mode reference level to ensure compatibility with most op-amps.

If TEST is connected to V + the LCD segments will be turned on and the display will read as shown in Fig. 6 (This mode should not be used for extended periods, to avoid damage to the LCD).



Fig. 6 The display when in the “TEST” condition.

SPECIFICATION	
Input impedance:	>100M
Full scale reading:	199.9 mV
Accuracy:	0.05% of reading $\pm 1$ digit
Power supply:	5 - 15V DC
Power consumption:	50 $\mu$ A (in low power mode), typically 8,000 hours PP3 life
Sample rate:	3 readings per second
Auto-zero:	No necessity to adjust for offsets
Auto-polarity:	Automatic polarity indication eliminates the need to reverse input leads to obtain correct reading.
Overrange warning:	1 in leading digit with other digits suppressed
Bandgap reference (50 ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C typ.)	incorporated for excellent stability of reading
Digit height:	15 mm (0.6") can be read at distances up to 10 metres
Low battery warning:	direct display, voltage threshold easily adjusted
Operating temperature:	0 $^{\circ}$ C to 50 $^{\circ}$ C
Overall dimensions:	72 x 36 x 12 mm
Panel cut-out:	68 x 33 mm
Display annunciators:	many useful legends are built into the custom LCD which may be activated as required
Auto-zero	With the inputs shorted, the display should read zero, the negative sign being displayed about 50% of the time
Overrange:	Inputs greater than full scale will cause suppression of the three least significant digits, i.e. only 1 or -1 will be displayed
Polarity	The absence of a polarity sign indicates a positive input reading. A negative input is indicated by a negative sign.

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Up until now PCBs were always the hardest component to obtain for a project. Of course you could make your own, but why bother anymore?

Now you can buy your boards straight from the designers — us! As of this issue all (non-copyright) PCBs will be available automatically from the ETI PCB Service. Each board is produced from the same master used to build our prototypes, so you can be sure it's accurate, and will be finished to the high standard you would expect from ETI.

In addition to the PCBs for this month's projects, we are making available some of the more popular designs from our recent past. See the list below for details. Please note that **NO OTHER BOARDS ARE AVAILABLE**. If it's not listed, we don't have it!

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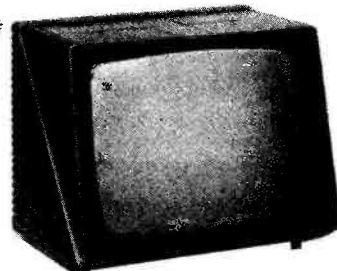
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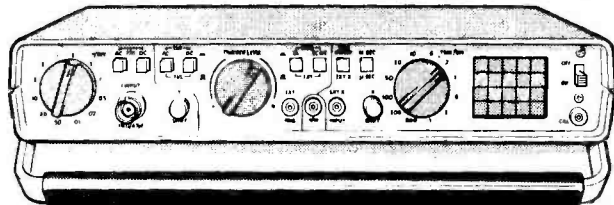
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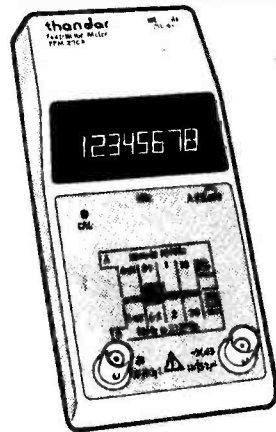
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# SOUND TRACK

Play it again (and again, and again), SAM!  
When you feel like working off your aggressions, try to zap the nasties as they fly past. Design and development by Phil Walker.

The ETI Sound Track is an 'arcade' game you can carry in your pocket. It requires no special displays as all the cues are sounds. The object of the game is to intercept all 15 of the attackers with your own armament. In order to do this you have to judge the best moment to fire from the simulated sound of the attacker. It is made more realistic by the fact that both volume and frequency changes due to Doppler shift are included. As the game progresses the speed of the attack increases to prevent you getting too used to one pace. Also there are three levels of skill which determine how difficult it is to hit the attackers at all.

At the end of the game, if enough of the attackers have been intercepted, an LED will light up to

give an assessment of your performance. As an option, an aiming control can be fitted, if space permits, which will allow multiple shots if you are quick enough. To start the game, press the reset button and wait for the first attack. Now it's up to you. Bear in mind that your shots are effective only at the end of the shooting noise and while the target light is on.

## The Circuit

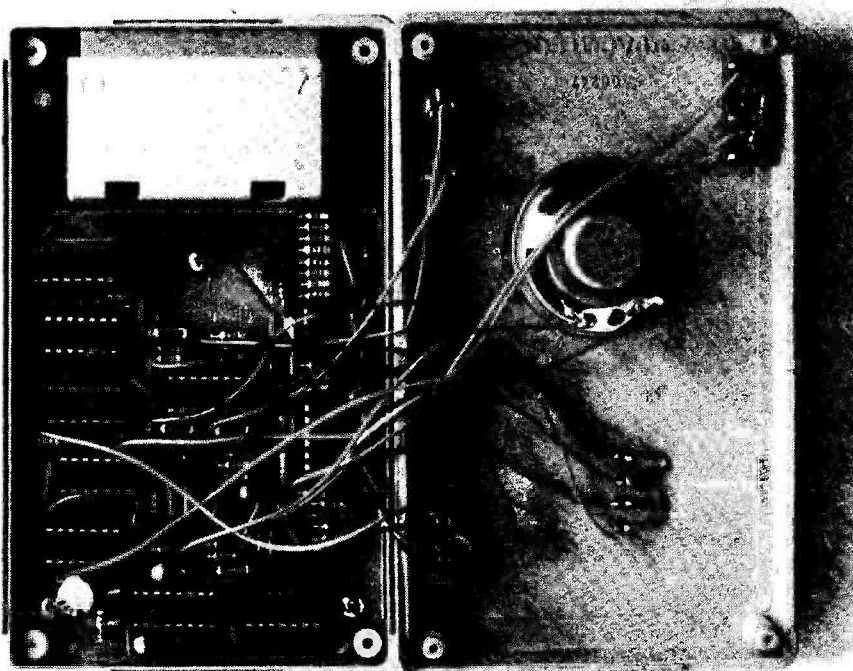
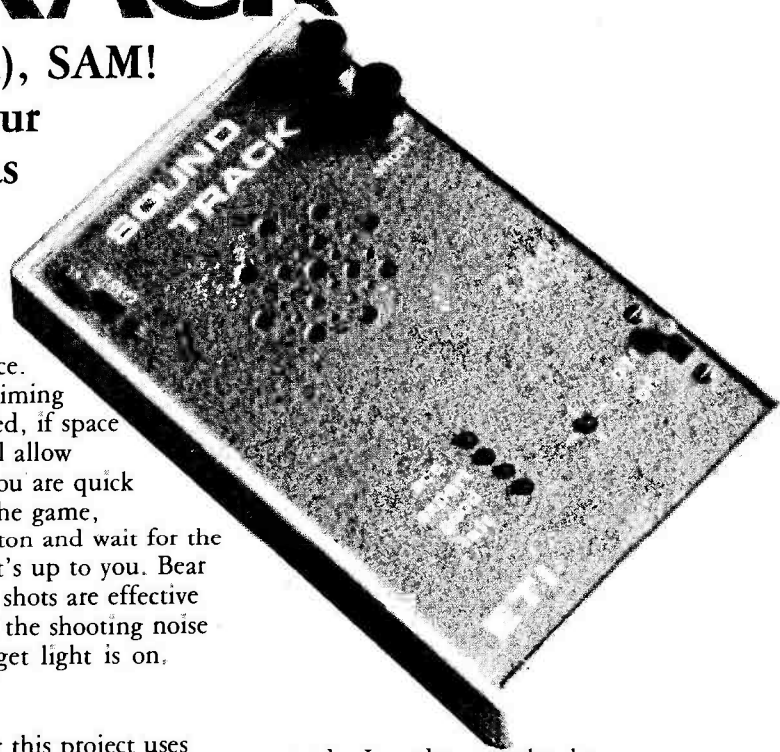
The circuit for this project uses standard op-amps, CMOS counters and gates and a special sound effects IC. This allows us to make fairly realistic sounds to simulate an object flying past, some sort of weapon being fired and an explosion if a successful interception has been

made. In order to make the completed project hand-held, the PCB is fairly crowded but quite a lot has been put onto it.

The heart of the system is a voltage controlled oscillator operating at a frequency of less than 0.2 Hz. This provides two outputs; one is an asymmetrical triangle wave which controls the attack sound effect and simulates the position of the target while the other output is a logic signal to drive the score counters. The VCO frequency is modified by the attack counter such that the attacks proceed more rapidly as the game progresses.

The fire control section of the circuit produces two signals. The first of these is a long pulse which causes the shooting sound to be made by the sound generator. The second, immediately after, is a short pulse which enables the hit detector. If at the same time the ramp from the VCO is within the limits of the window discriminator in the hit detector, then a HIT will be registered and the HIT counter updated. At the same time the sound generator will be switched to provide an explosion effect.

The sound select logic and analogue control switching (in the absence of any other demand) will





assume an attack sequence and configure the sound generator to give a mixture of white noise and a tone. As the ramp voltage from the VCO falls, simulating an attack, the volume will increase to a maximum and then decrease again. Simultaneously, as the volume reaches its peak, the pitch of the tone will decrease rapidly and stabilise at a lower level to simulate Doppler shift. While the ramp voltage returns to its starting level the sound generator is inhibited.

If either shooting or explosion effects are demanded, these will take precedence over the attack sound. The explosion is produced by envelope-shaping the white noise source in the chip while the shooting sound is given by an audio frequency VCO, frequency-modulated by a much lower frequency triangle wave.

The display given by the LEDs is to give some indication of the number of successful interceptions made in a game. The first LED will light when eight out of the 15 attacks have been stopped. The next will light at 12, then 14, and finally 15. There is one other LED which flashes each time a HIT is possible, but note that the shoot button usually has to be pressed before it lights.

## Construction

No major problems should be encountered in making this project; care must be taken when soldering the board as there are many places where tracks run between IC pins. Make sure that all the links are in

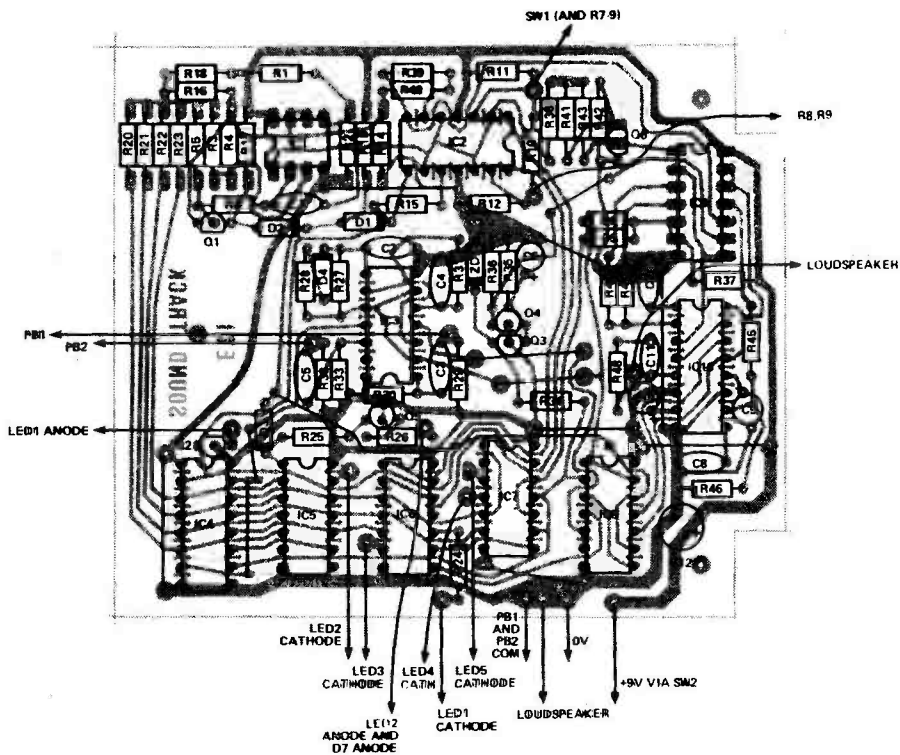


Fig. 1 Component overlay for the Sound track hand-held 'arcade' game. Note that some components are mounted off-board; see the photographs.

place and that diodes, ICs and polarised capacitors are the right way round. Low profile IC sockets may be used but the case we used may then be a little tight.

SW1, R6 and R7 were mounted so that they fitted beside the battery compartment on one side while PB1 and PB2 went the other side. The LEDs are mounted on the front of the box so that they poke through the panel; use a little glue to hold them in place. Some interconnection work

and components have to be put on to these (D7-10) and this should be kept as close to the panel as possible. If there is room, fit RV1 and R7 but this will only be possible if a very small potentiometer is available or a different box is used.

All interwiring should be carried out using thin flexible wire and kept as short as practicable. When fixing the loudspeaker check first that it will fit in the desired position and adjust fixing pillars etc. to ensure this. It is

## PARTS LIST

### Resistors (all 1/4W, 5%)

R1,2,4,12,39	100k
R3,5,6,22,29,30	
R31,32,33,35	1M0
R7,15	220k
R8,46	6k8
R9,10,42	15k
R11,41	82k
R21,27	2M2
R14,23	470k
R16	180k
R17,19,37	27k
R18	150k
R20	4M7
R25	47k
R24,26,38	1k0
R28,48	10k
R34,36	22k
R40	3k3
R43	4k7

R44	1k5
R45	68k
R47	12k
R13	is not used
Potentiometer	
RV1	100k linear
Capacitors	
C1,8	100n polycarbonate
C2	220n polycarbonate
C3,5	4n7 ceramic
C4,11	1n0 ceramic
C6	2u2 16 V tantalum
C7	10n ceramic
C8	68n polycarbonate
C9,10	10u 10 V PCB electrolytic
C12	100u 10 V PCB electrolytic

### Semiconductors

IC1	TL082
IC2	TL084
IC3	4093B
IC4	4520B

IC5	4012B
IC6	4023B
IC7,8	4011B
IC9	4066B
IC10	SN76495 (see Buylines)
Q1,2,3,4,6	BC182L
Q5	BC212L
D1-10	1N4148
ZD1	5V6 400 mW zener
LED1,3,4,5	Green miniature LED
LED2	Red miniature LED
Miscellaneous	
SW1	miniature 3-position slide switch
PB1,2	miniature push-to-make push-button
SW2	miniature slide switch (on/off)

Case (Pac-tec type HP); PP3 battery and connector; knob for pot; loudspeaker (1" dia, 8 ohm) — see Buylines; PCB (see Buylines).

# PROJECT : Sound Track

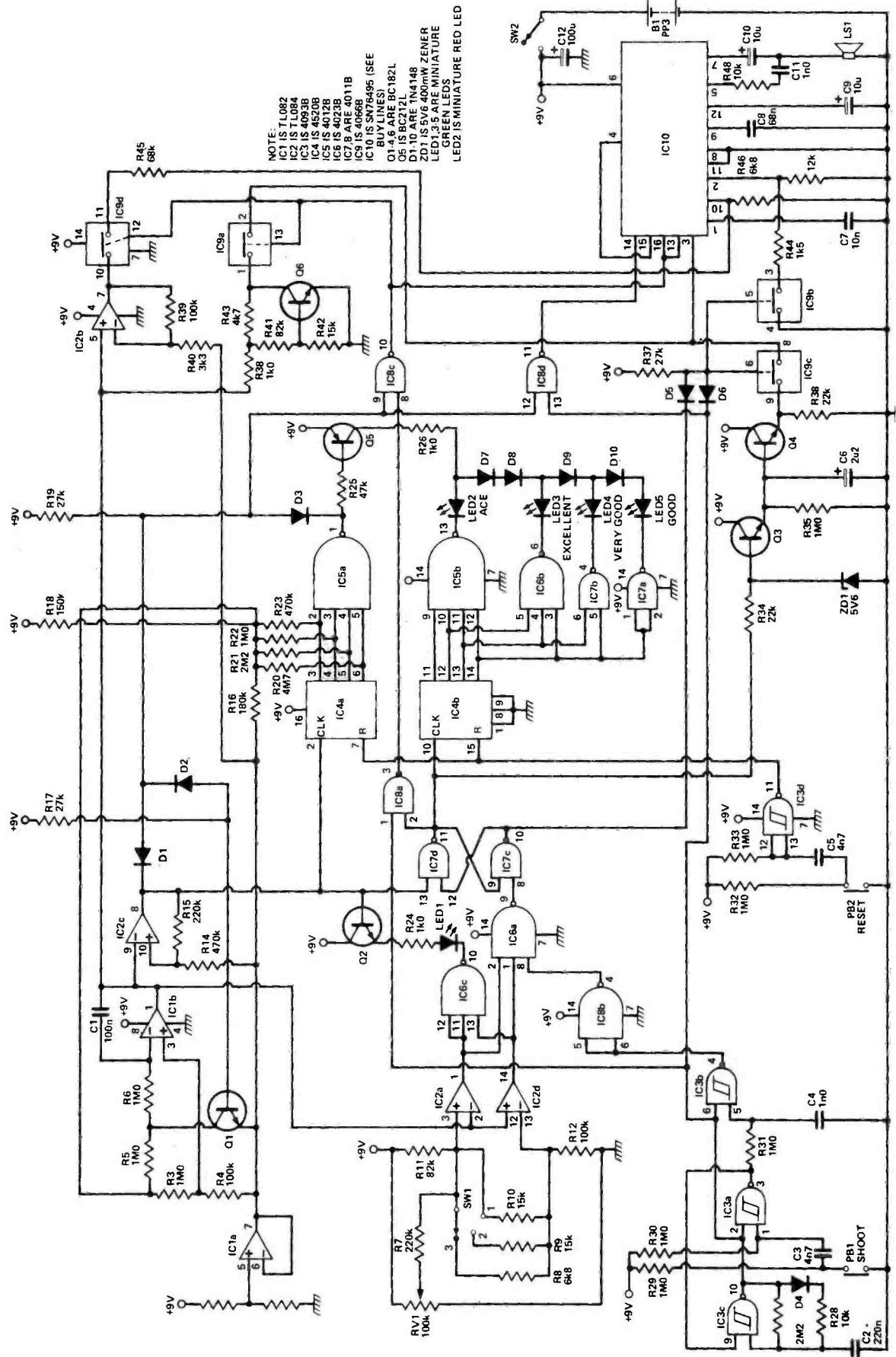


Fig. 2 Circuit diagram for the Sound Track.

## HOW IT WORKS

IC1b buffers the voltage at the junction of R1 and R2 to give a reference at half the supply. IC1a and IC2c form a very low frequency voltage controlled oscillator. R20-23 make a simple D-to-A converter which varies the VCO frequency by a small amount as the game progresses. The timing for the whole game is derived from the VCO and provision is made by D1-3 to stop the circuit oscillating when the required 15 attacks have been counted by IC5a.

IC2a and IC2d form a window comparator whose position and width can be varied by RV1 and SW1. IC3a and IC3c are connected as a monostable and are triggered by PB1 being closed. C3 ensures that the period of the monostable is not affected by further closures of PB1. When the monostable time ends, IC3b is enabled for a short time determined by R31 and C4. This signal is inverted by IC8b and is applied with the outputs from the window comparator circuit to IC6a. If all the inputs to this IC are high at the same time this signifies a "HIT" and the output of IC6a will go low. This action causes the latch formed by IC7c and IC7d to be set with IC7c output high. The resulting low on IC4b clock input increments that counter, increasing the score, while further counting on the same attack run is prevented by the latch action in IC7c/d. IC5b, 6b, 7b and 7d decode the outputs from IC4b to give a

suitable display on the LEDs when Q5 is enabled by IC5a at the end of the game. IC3d is used to debounce the reset switch PB2 and the circuit at its input ensures that only a short pulse is available at its output.

The analogue control signals for the sound generator chip IC10 are produced in three parts and switched into circuit when required by IC9. The control signals for IC9 and IC10 are derived by IC8a, 8c, 8d and an AND gate made up of D6, D5, and R37.

The analogue control signals are produced individually. The Doppler style fall in frequency as each attack progresses is produced by IC2b. This device has a fairly high gain and at the start of the attack its output is driven to the positive rail by the ramp output from the VCO. As the ramp voltage falls past the reference voltage the output of IC2b will change from positive to negative quickly (but not instantaneously). If there is no other sound required at the time this output will modulate the oscillator in IC10 via R45.

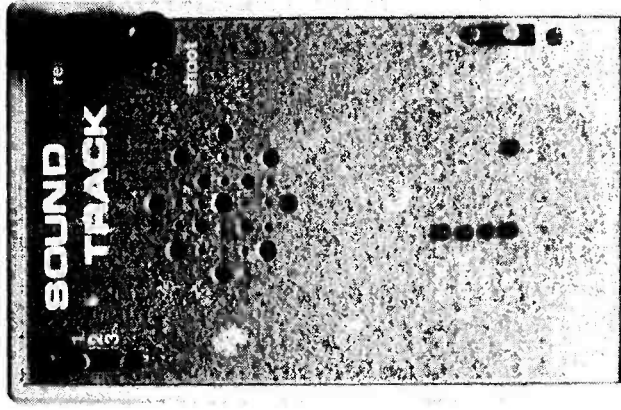
Another effect required to simulate an object passing is that the noise produced by it will first increase and then decrease. This is accomplished by the circuit around Q6. At high voltages Q6 will be fully on and the output is low. At low voltages Q6 will be off but the output will again be low. As the voltage applied to the circuit increases, until the voltage on the base of Q6 is sufficient

to make it conduct) the output voltage will be the same as the input. When, however, Q6 starts to conduct, the junction of R38, R41, and R43 will stay at a constant potential. The reason for this is that as the input voltage rises, more current will flow into the circuit via R38. A small amount of this will go through R41 to drive Q6 further into conduction, drawing the rest out via R43. This action will continue until the voltage across Q6 is virtually zero again. The output from Q6 drives the volume control pin of IC10 via IC9a.

The last effect is of a decaying explosion. While IC10 will produce the noise of the explosion, the decay envelope has to be generated by Q3 and Q4. Most of the time the base of Q3 is held at 5V6 by the output of IC7d (part of the "HIT" latch). In the event of a "HIT" being registered, the base of Q3 will now be driven low. C6, which previously was held at about 5V by Q3, will start to discharge via R35. The voltage on C6 is buffered by Q4 and fed to IC10 by IC9c. Also for the explosion effect, R44 is connected into circuit by IC9b. This changes the noise slightly to give a more realistic sound. C11 and R48 are included in the amplifier circuit feedback to give more prominence to the mid-frequencies and cut down on the hiss effect of the digital generation of the various noises.

intended that it fits with part of the cone overlapping the battery compartment so a little shaving with a sharp knife may be required. When the speaker position is known, drill a series of holes in the panel and glue it into position.

The wiring may now be completed and the box assembled to finish the project. Fit a PP3 battery to the connectors and it should be ready.



The on-off switch, SW2, is mounted on the front panel at the bottom right-hand side such that it will be over R38, 41-43.

## BUYLINES

Not too much here that's hard to find. The sound generator chip is one of the latest ones from the Texas Instruments range, so it should be available from TI stockists such as Technomatic and Watford Electronics. The Pac-tec case is available from Watford or direct from OK Machine and Tool Ltd, 22 Dutton Lane, Eastleigh, Hants. The speaker is type R3812 from Henry's Radio, while the PCB is available from us via our PCB Service (see page 69).

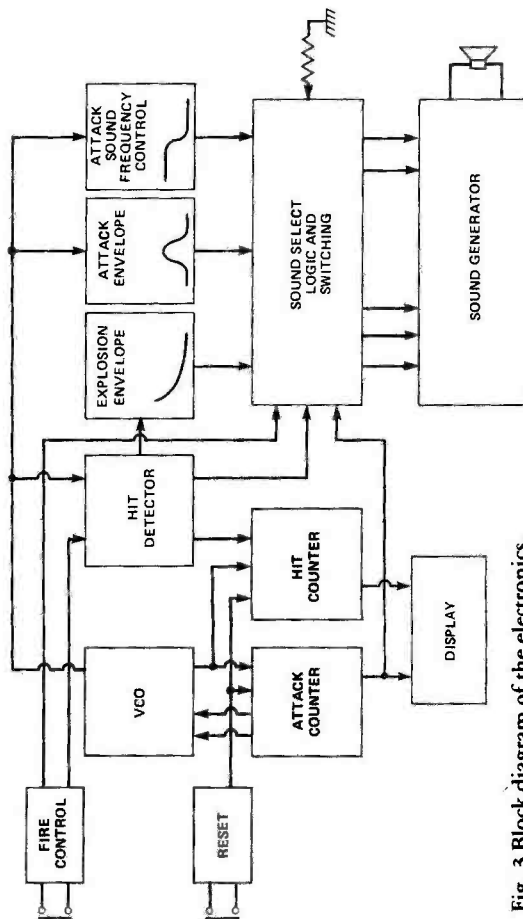


Fig. 3 Block diagram of the electronics.

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## Features

- Wide Bandwidth - d.c. to 125MHz
- High Slew Rate - 1400V/ $\mu$ s
- Operating Temperature Range  $-25^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+85^\circ\text{C}$
- High Output Drive -  $\pm 10$ V with 100 $\Omega$  Load

## Applications

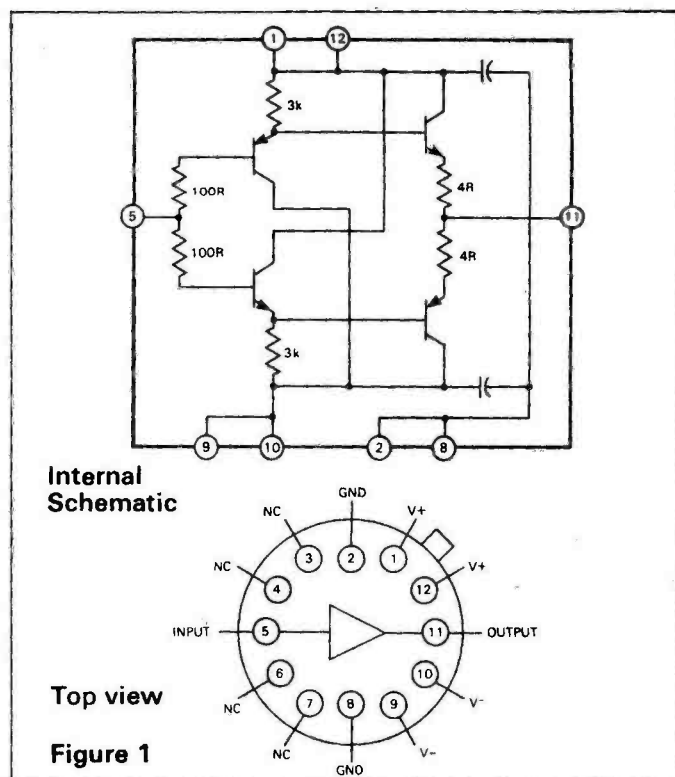
- Current Boosters
- High Speed A/D Input Buffers
- Coaxial Cable Drive
- High Speed Line Drivers
- Video Impedance Transformation

## Absolute Maximum Ratings

Supply Voltage (V+ to V-)	40V
Maximum Power Dissipation	1.5W
Input voltage	Equal to supply Voltage
Maximum Continuous Output Current	$\pm 100$ mA
Maximum Peak Output Current	$\pm 250$ mA
Operating Temperature Range (Case)	$-25^\circ\text{C}$ to $+85^\circ\text{C}$
Storage Temperature	$-65^\circ\text{C}$ to $+150^\circ\text{C}$
Lead Temperature (Soldering 10 sec)	$+300^\circ\text{C}$
Maximum Junction Temperature	$+175^\circ\text{C}$

## Electrical Characteristics

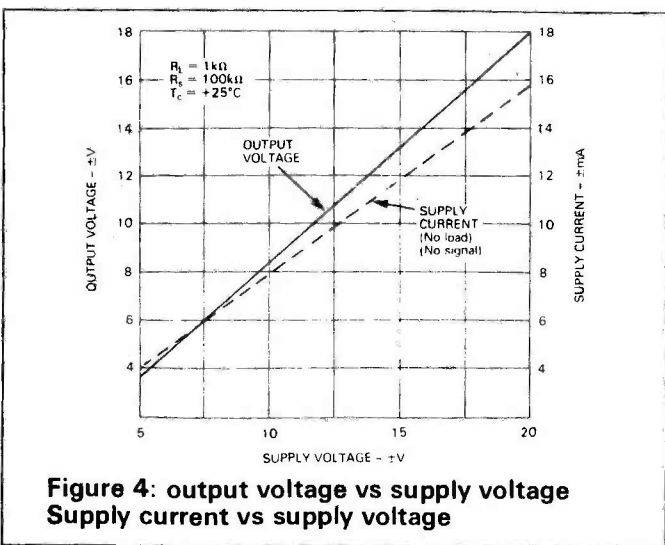
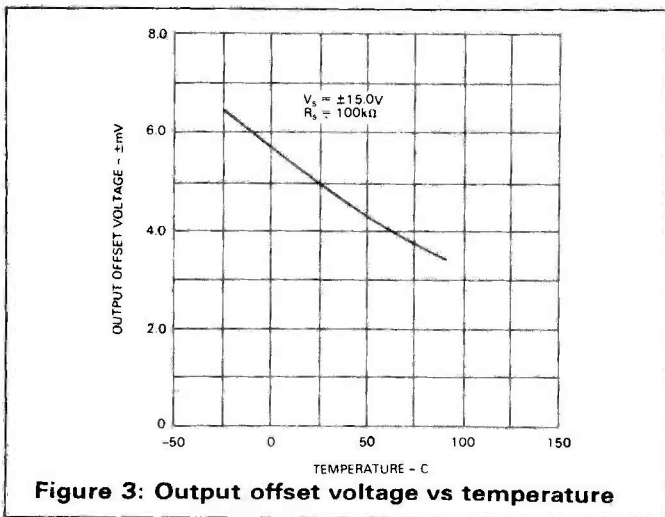
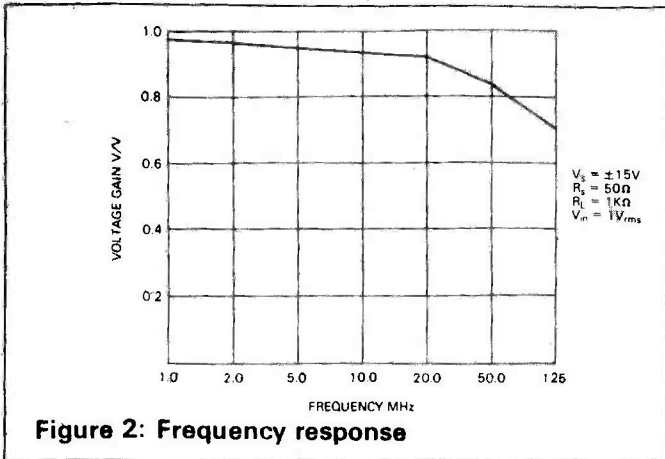
( $V_S = \pm 15$ V,  $R_L = 1$ k $\Omega$ ,  $T_C = 25^\circ\text{C}$ )



Parameters	Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Units
Input Bias Current			5	25	$\mu$ A
Input Impedance	$V_{IN} = 1$ V rms, $f = 1$ kHz	100	200		k $\Omega$
Voltage Gain	$V_{IN} = 1$ V rms, $f = 1$ kHz	0.94	0.96	1.0	V/V
Output Offset Voltage	$R_S = 50\Omega$		10	25	mV
Output Offset Voltage $T_C$	$R_S = 50\Omega$		25	75*	$\mu$ V/ $^\circ\text{C}$
Output Impedance	$V_{IN} = 1$ V rms, $f = 1$ kHz, $R_S = 500\Omega$		8	12*	$\Omega$
Output Voltage Swing	$R_S = 50\Omega$ , $V_S = \pm 5$ V	$\pm 12^*$	$\pm 13$ 6		V
Supply Current	$V_{IN} = 0$ V, $V_S = \pm 15$ , $V_S = \pm 5$		15 10	20	mA mA
Power Consumption	$V_{IN} = 0$ V		450	600	mW
Slew Rate	$V_{IN} = \pm 10$ V, $R_S = 50\Omega$	1000	1400		V/ $\mu$ s
Bandwidth	$V_{IN} = 1$ V rms, $R_S = 50\Omega$	100	125		MHz
Rise Time	$\Delta V_{IN} = 0.5$ V, $R_S = 50\Omega$		2		ns
Propagation Delay	$\Delta V_{IN} = 0.5$ V, $R_S = 50\Omega$		1.5		ns
Phase Nonlinearity	BW = 1 to 20MHz, $R_S = 50\Omega$		2		Degrees
Harmonic Distortion	$f > 1$ kHz, $R_S = 50\Omega$		<0.1		%

\*Applies over full temperature range  $-25^\circ\text{C}$  to  $+85^\circ\text{C}$

## Typical Performance Curves



## Applications

### Layout Considerations

As is the case with any high-speed design, proper layout is critical to avoid the introduction of unnecessary errors due to high-frequency coupling, stray capacitance, and the like.

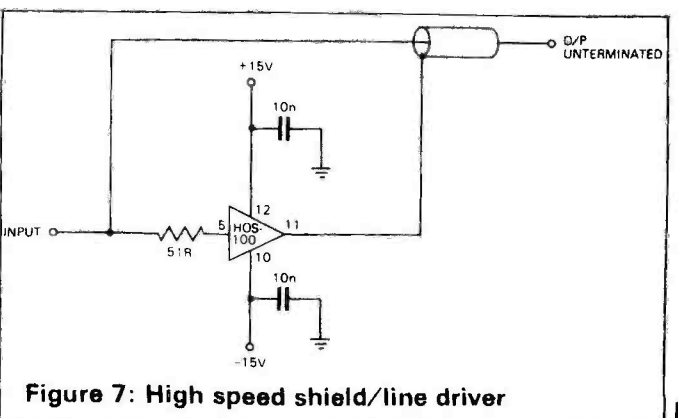
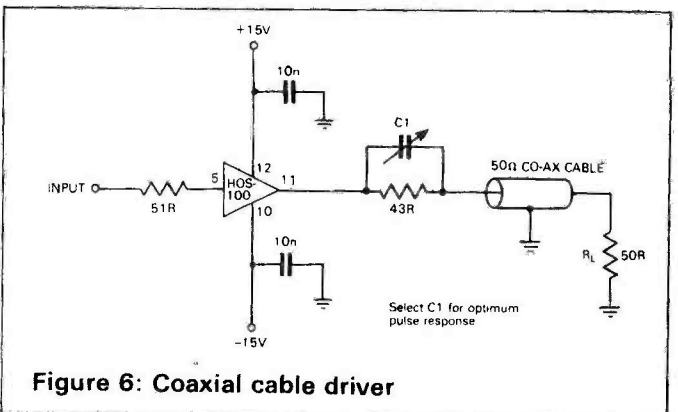
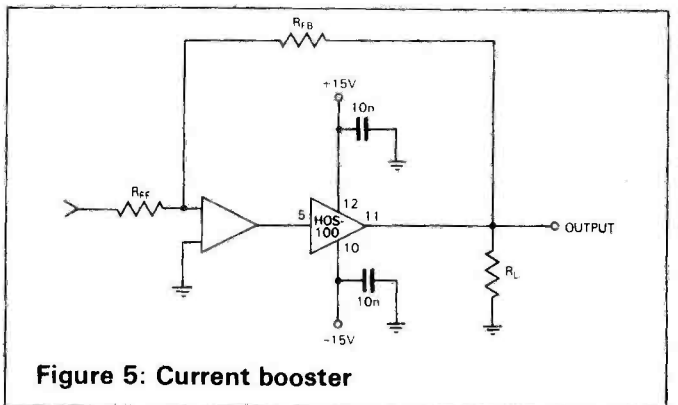
Large ground planes should be used whenever possible to provide a low resistance, low inductance circuit path, as well as shielding the effects of high-frequency coupling. Sockets should be avoided, as the increased inter-lead capacitance can degrade bandwidth. Input and output connections should be kept as short as practical.

### Capacitive Loading

The HOS-100 has been designed to drive capacitive loads of several thousand picofarads (such as coaxial cable) without oscillation. In these applications, peak current resulting from  $(C \times dv/dt)$  should be limited below the absolute maximum peak current rating of  $\pm 250\text{mA}$ .

Also, power dissipation due to driving capacitive loads plus standby power should be kept below the total power rating of 1.5W.

### Typical Applications



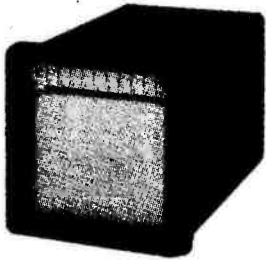
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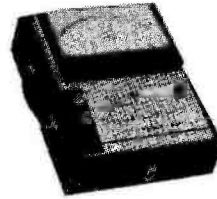
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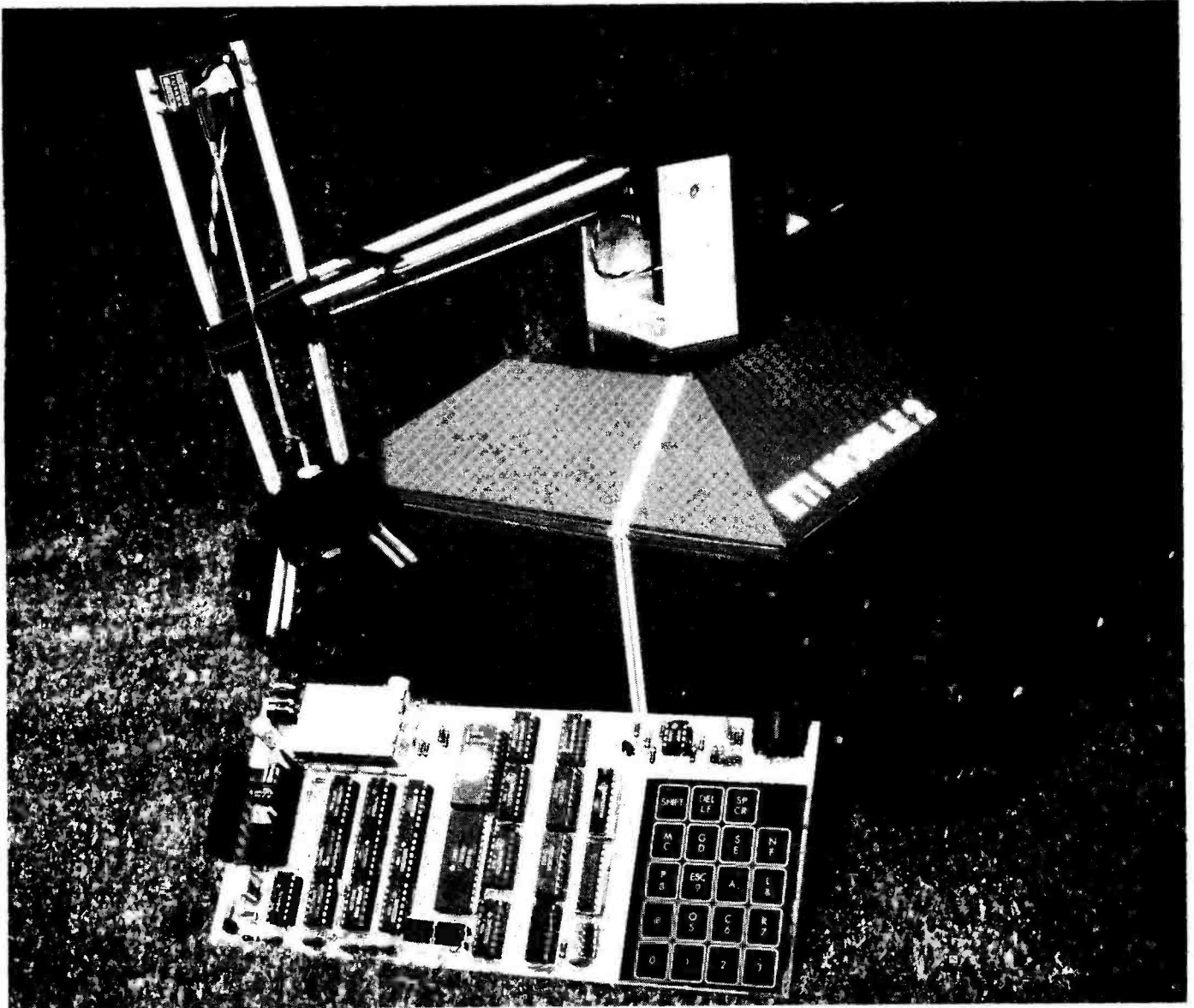
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# ETI MOBILE 2

Regular readers will have followed our Motor Control series with (we hope!) a curious interest. It may have crossed your mind to wonder exactly what ETI is up to *now*. All this talk of Robot Control and no robot!

Way back in our April issue we showed the base of our Mobile 2, and since then have been steadily mounting modules into it, building up the basis of an advanced robotics project.

This month it's time to lay out the complete series and to involve the future participants and designers in the project – you! We have developed a complete mobile, with arm and

computer link which we will be presenting over the next few months. After that it's up to you, our readers. We hope to be able to continue the series with projects and features based upon your designs and programs for the Mobile 2.

## Too Mobile?

The complete ETI Mobile comprises a tracked base with servo driven arm – for which a low-cost metalwork kit is available – infra-red proximity detectors, on-board interface and control circuitry, wireless link to a home computer port and an experimental positional detection system.

Enough of this 'you and us' attitude – it's time for some reader involvement. We've been publishing robot modules thick and fast, but now it's your turn to be inventive; together we can make beautiful robots.

The home computer acts as the "brain" and can be thus programmed to make decisions upon the information returned to it by the Mobile. The latter's motor drive system is linked via an eight-bit port arrangement to the control board, placing the tracks directly under computer control.

This means that a set of pre-arranged instructions can be sent to the mobile, causing it to follow a path around obstacles and obstructions, thus functioning in any environment. As the computer carries all the software, decisions upon "what to do if..." can be modified and expanded at the touch of a cursor!

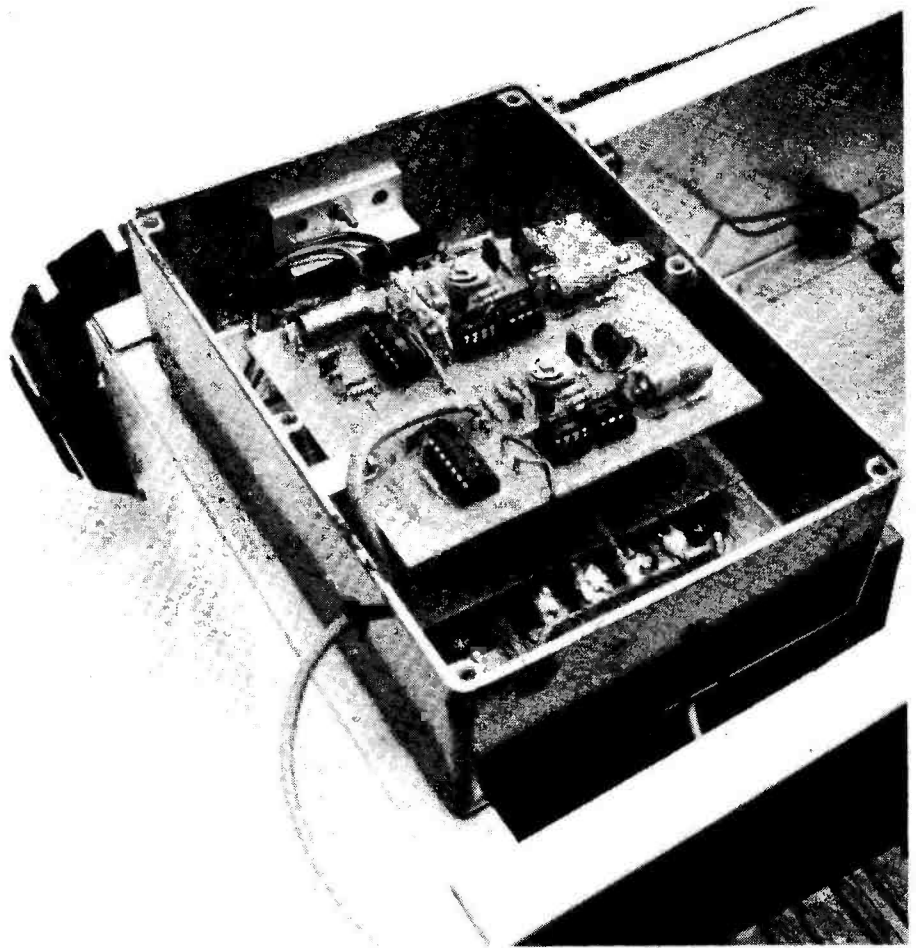
Similarly, the arm is ported onto the bi-directional data link and can be software controlled from the computer. Alternatively the arm may be used as a 'stand-alone' design, for which the interface has also been configured.

### Some Arm In it

The servo-driven manipulator we are proud of! Produced in conjunction with Remcon Electronics, it overcomes many of the complex mechanical hang-ups which beset earlier constructs.

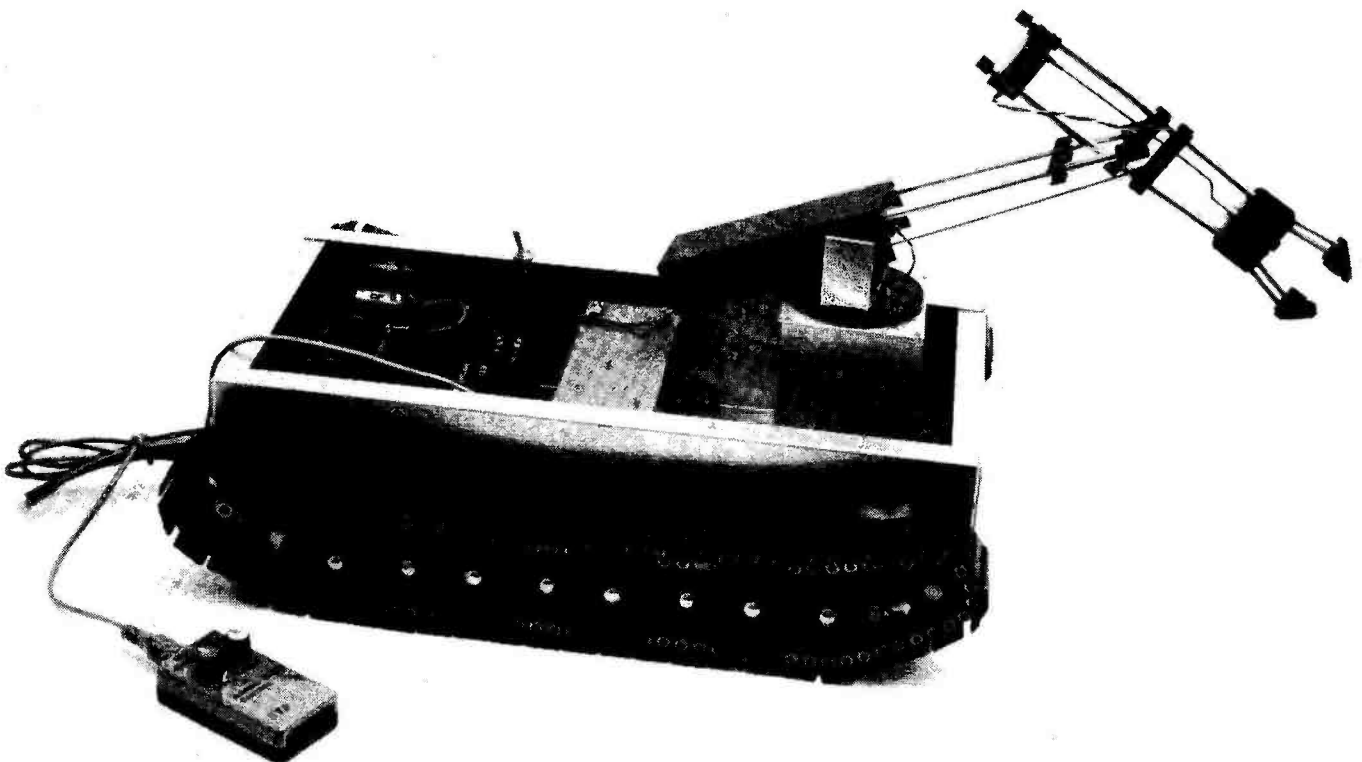
It is ideal for teaching purposes, being controllable by any of:

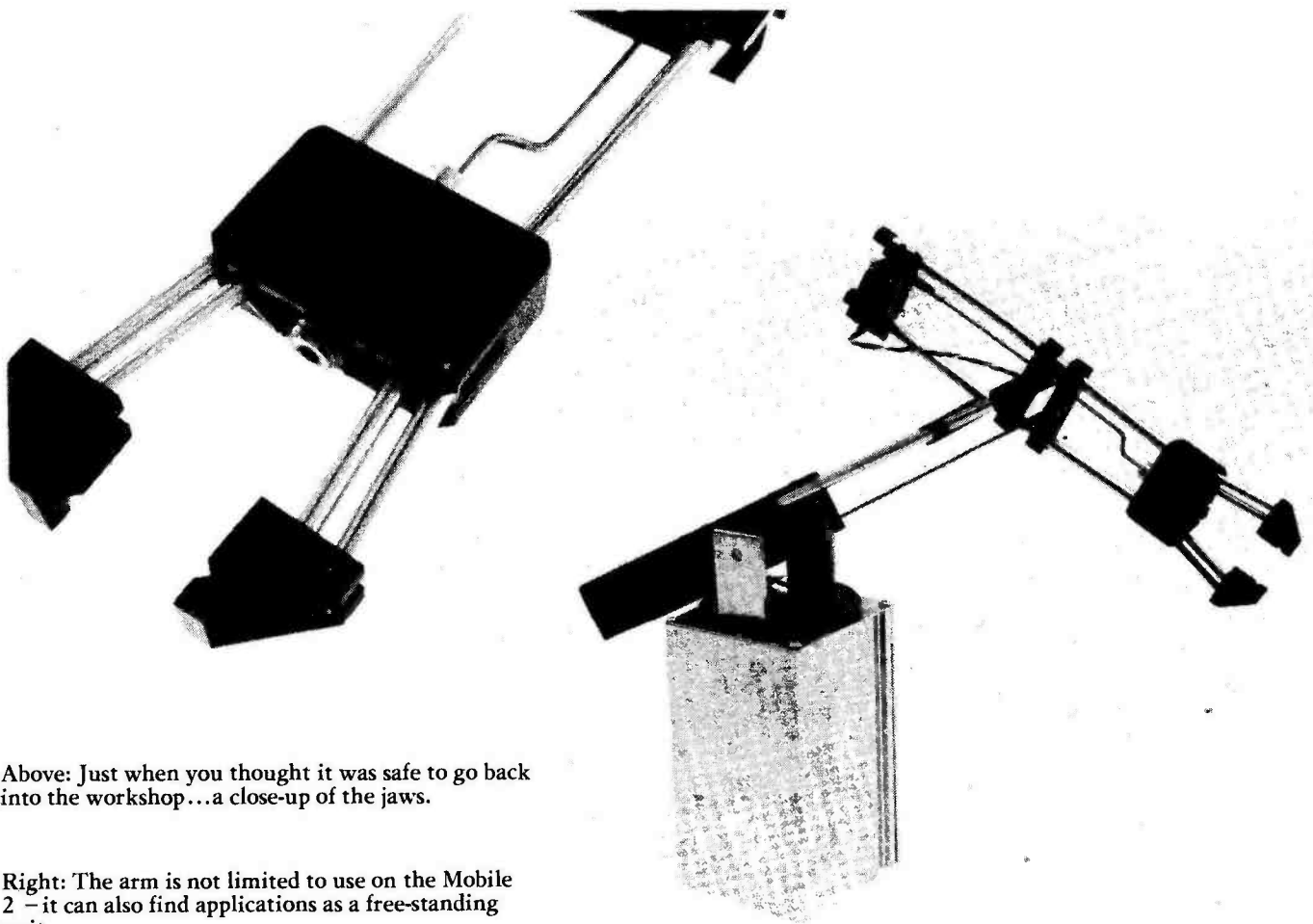
- (i) a standard radio control system, such as employed in model aircraft, etc.
- (ii) a 'tele-operator' which allows direct instruction of the arm – and the pupil operating it.
- (iii) a microcomputer, using our interface.



Above: The analogue PWM control board and motor driver board for the Mobile 2.

Below: The Mobile 2 with hand controller and servo manipulator.





Above: Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the workshop... a close-up of the jaws.

Right: The arm is not limited to use on the Mobile 2 - it can also find applications as a free-standing unit.

## MOBILE 2 - MECHANICAL SPECIFICATION

### TRACTOR UNIT

Dimensions:	19 3/4" x 13 1/2" x 5 1/2" high (unloaded)
Ground Clearance:	1 1/4" unladen
Operational Payload:	11 lbs.
Will climb a 3" stepped obstruction with full payload.	
Ratio of drive units:	60:1 (variable, see Buylines).
Drive Voltage:	7V2
Starting Current:	9 A
Running current:	3A5
Operational Velocity:	2.5 feet per second.
Smooth Incline Capability:	30°

By varying the type of servo employed, the function and power of the arm can be selected to suit the application required.

To reduce the load placed on the servos, the arm is designed to be self-balancing, whatever servos are used. On the standard manipulator, high resolution types are employed to improve accuracy as much as possible

while under computer control.

The mechanical set-up of these arms is critical for best performance, and for that reason we have arranged that they be supplied built and tested, as part of the mobile metalwork, or as a separate item if you prefer. Buylines has the details.

### Base Comments

The heart of the whole system is the tractor unit upon which the Mobile is constructed. The final design, although very simple in appearance, has only been arrived at after much debate and experimentation.

Tracks were used for their superior abilities with regard to climbing obstacles and coping with varying surfaces, ie. carpet, concrete, vinyl, etc. Infra-red rotation counters are fitted to both the motordrive shafts, to enable accurate control to be exercised over both the base speed and direction.

A brief spec of the capabilities of the base are given elsewhere in this article. All the metalwork is purpose built, and pre-drilled for our range of modules. After having tried out various commercial options - model tank mechanics, for example - we came to

the conclusion that not only is it the superior to have custom metalwork made - it is actually cheaper! Initially we had ruled it out purely on grounds of expected price level.

### How Close Encounters?

Mobile 2 is a fairly large beast to let loose around your living room (19 x 13 x 5" approx. not including arm and cover!) and so it is important that it be prevented from colliding with obstacles. Remember that so far as *it* is concerned anything in the way, be it your prize drinks cabinet, hi-fi speaker or granny, is simply an obstruction.

In our June 82 edition we published our 'Proximity Detector' module, of which Mobile 2 has four. They are mounted above each track corner and may be angled, such that even glancing contact is prevented. They provide adequate protection.

The control board logic is so configured that the IR detectors provide an override which halts operation of any program, so long as an obstacle is present. Unless programmed to do anything else, the mobile will halt at any obstruction large enough to register on two detectors, ie a wall.

## Well Developed Robot

Our Mobile 2 is presented as an open-ended project. We want our readers to carry it on and develop it as far as they can. The modules to come from us will be:

- 1) Arm Interface and control circuitry, to allow stand-alone control, or porting to main PCB of Mobile 2.
- 2) Main Control PCB – mounted within the mobile and will accept up to four eight-bit peripherals, with appropriate strobing, and operate in conjunction with the link.
- 3) Computer Link – a bi-directional data transfer system which has as a receiver a home computer system to which it connects via a standard interface.
- 4) Experimental Positional System – to allow the Mobile to 'map' its environment and thus function more precisely.

One future use for the Mobile – which we are still working on – is that of office messenger. It would be 'called' to a particular room or desk, loaded with papers, etc, and dispatched to another location, programmed at point of departure. It will have to avoid doors, people and cats whilst doing so! That one may be a while coming if left to us,

but we'll get there! It would use the same metalwork and basic electronics.

"If left to us" is the key phrase there – what about that vast reservoir of design talent and ingenuity that goes under the name of ETI's readership? It's about time *you* got into robotics, too!

Once we complete the basics of this project, then it's up to you to carry it on. Even now, if you have any ideas or strong feeling as to how the Mobile should grow, let's hear them. We will publish what correspondence we can on the subject and implement any ideas which are practical!

Next month, we commence construction of the Mobile with the base, motors and speed control. Past modules which will be used in the Robot were published in:-

- 1) ETI March 82 p. 61-63
- 2) ETI April 82 p. 94-97
- 3) ETI May 82 p. 34-36
- 4) ETI June 82 p. 66-70

Photocopies are available from our offices if you've been foolish enough to lose your back issues! (Enclose £1.25 – inclusive of p&p – for each article. Address your request to: Xerox Department, ETI, 145 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0EE)

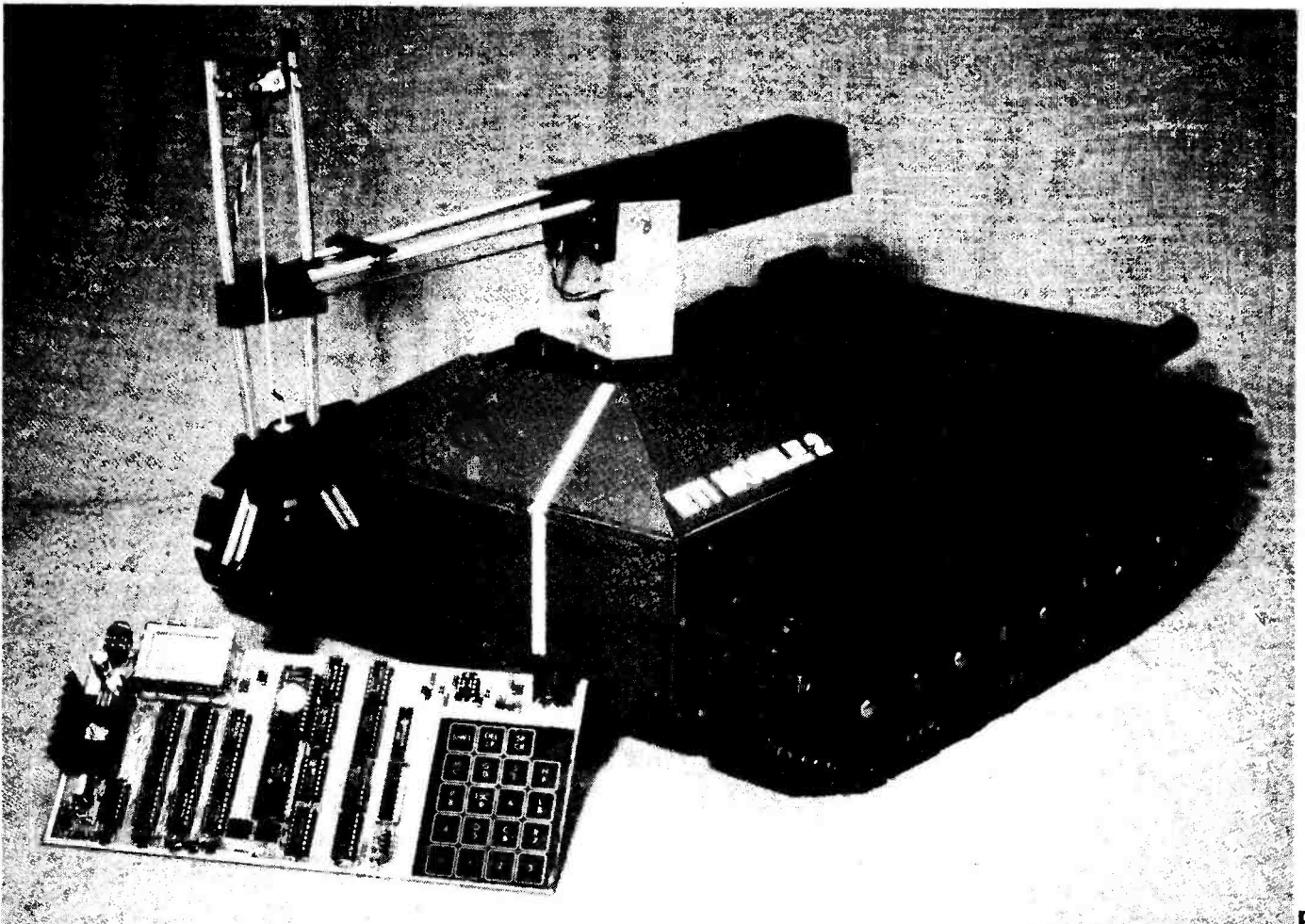
## BUYLINES

The metalwork for this project is all available from Remcon Electronics Ltd, 1 Church Road, Bexleyheath, Kent (Tel. 01-304 2055)

They supply the tractor unit as a complete kit with full assembly instructions. All injection moulded components for track and suspension system are included – as is an assembly spanner! The aluminium chassis is ready punched and drilled with all required fixings. Motors and gearboxes are supplied as assembled and coupled to the

output shafts. The final ratio of the gearboxes may be varied between 300:1 and 3:1 to obtain different performances from the mobile. The price complete, including VAT and p+p, is £125. Drive units are available separately at either £21.25 without shafts, or £26.75 with. Prices are inclusive.

The manipulator, supplied built and tested and ready wired, will be described more fully in a forthcoming article, but is available now, with high precision servos, for £175 all inclusive.



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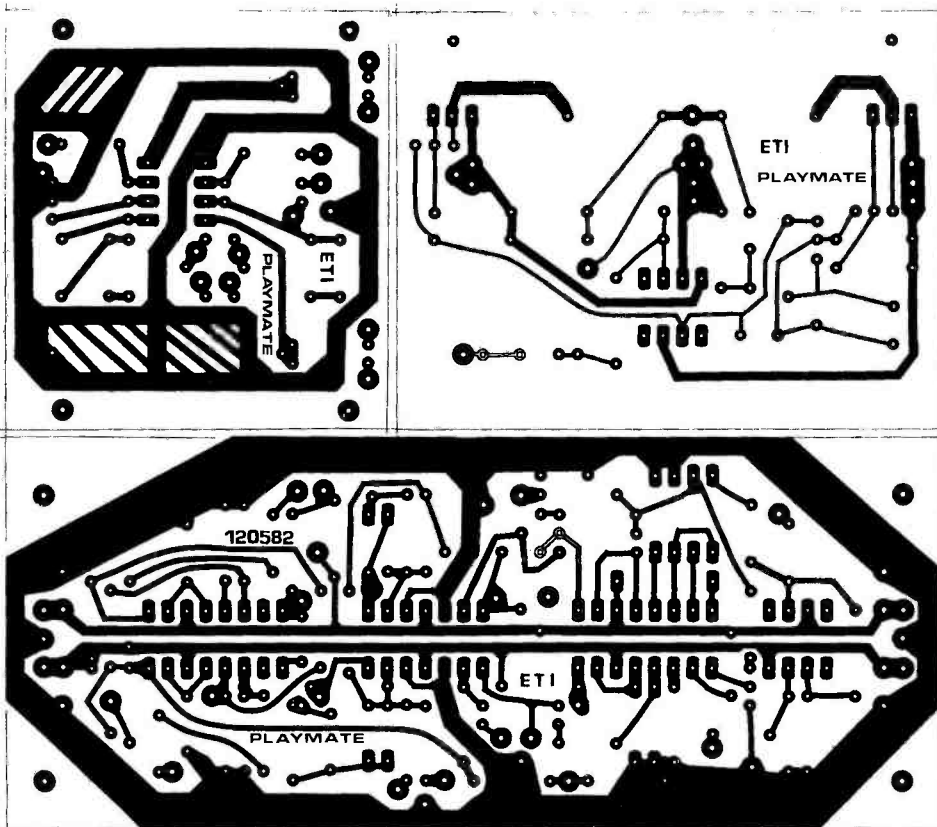
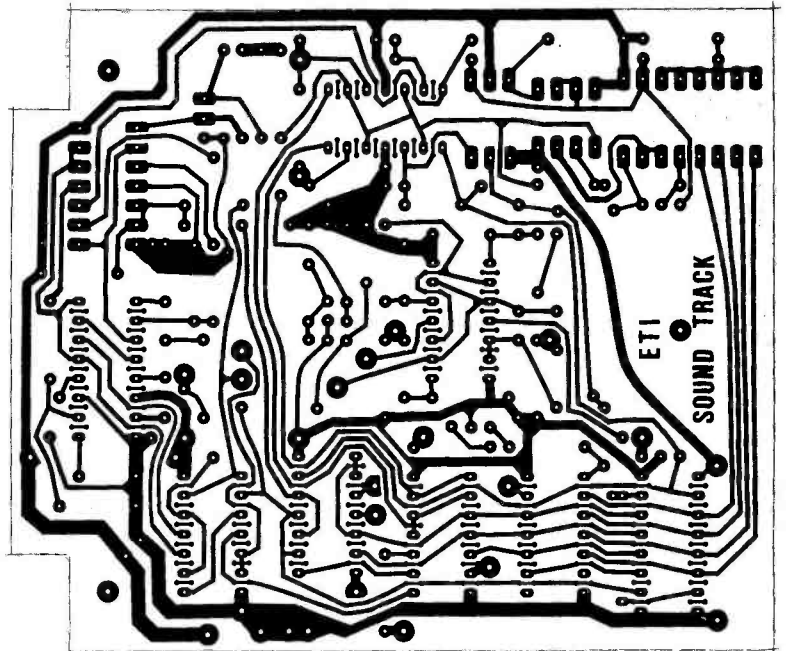
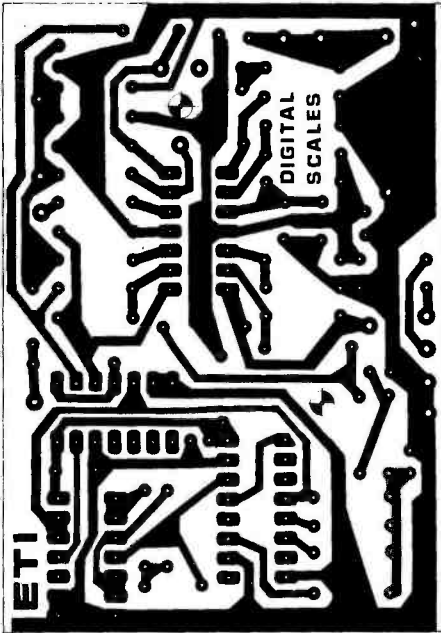
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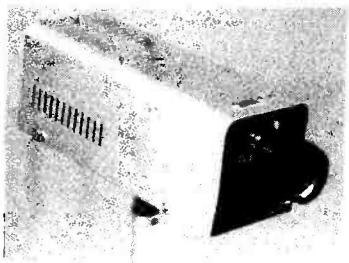
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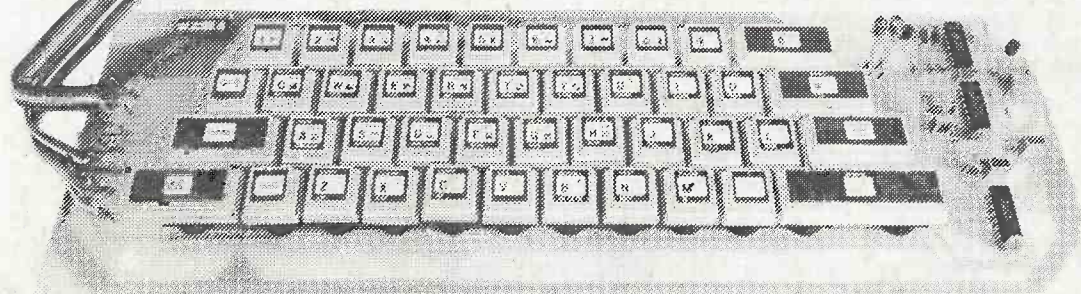
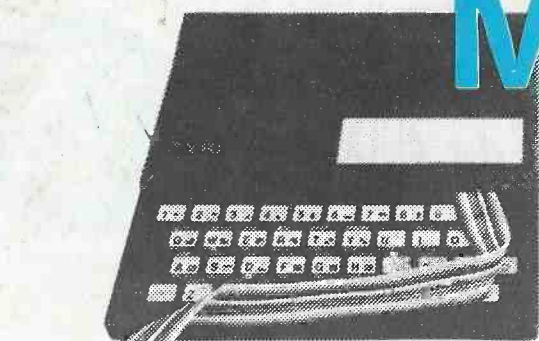
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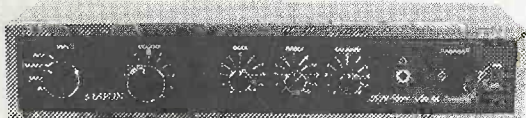
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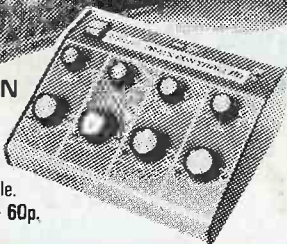
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