

PRACTICAL

ELECTRONICS

JUNE 1975

30p



ADAPTABLE
**SYSTEMS
MONITOR**

This issue includes
INDEX
for Vol. 10

ALSO

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Mk. II

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Mk. I

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AND 3 DIODES

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| MT45 | Transformer for above | £3-90 | Carriage 50p |
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| MT70 | Transformer for above | £5-50 | Carriage 60p |

N.B. PS70 is not suitable for the SA50

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This well tried Pre-Amp mixes two decks, handles any ceramic cartridge, and features mic over-ride plus separate full range bass and treble controls on both mic and deck inputs. Ample headphone power is available for P.F.L. May be used for mono and is mains operated. Fitted with sturdy screening case. Controls: Mic vol, bass, treble. Left/Right fade, deck volume, bass, treble, h/phone select, vol, Mains. Size 17½in x 3in x 4in deep.



DISCO MODULE £12-50

Carr. 50p

Thousands sold of this extremely popular mono Pre-Amp. A mic input may be fitted using the VA30 (see below). Low consumption from a 9V battery. Features the same high standards of reproduction as the Stereo version. Controls: H/phone select, vol, Left deck vol, Right deck vol, bass, treble, master vol. Size 12½in x 3in x 2in deep.



3-CHANNEL SOUND-LITE £24-75

Carr. 50p

Only SAXON can supply such incredible value for money. This unit features 3kW power handling, full-wave control, bass, middle, treble AND master controls. Twin loudspeaker jacks for "through" connections. It may be used free standing or will panel mount next to either of the above. Also features unique CUT-BACK circuitry for extra wide range response. Size 12in x 3in x 2½in deep. Professional standards at a price you can afford!



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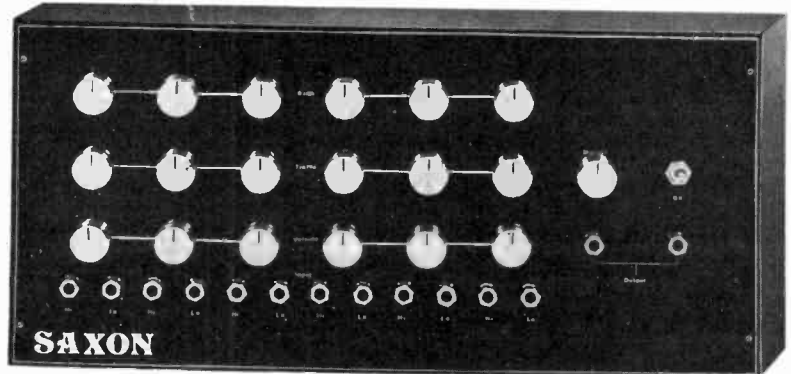
MULTI-PURPOSE MIXERS

M4HL £25-00 Carr. 60p
M6HL £35-00 Carr. 60p

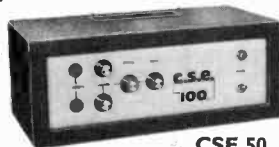
Featuring multiples of our VA30 module, the M4HL and M6HL fulfil the requirements of all clubs, groups, etc. where a high quality mixer is required. Each channel has one high and one low impedance input, plus volume, treble and bass controls. Input impedances may, if required, be easily changed. The M4HL has four channels, and one output, and the M6HL six channels (12 inputs) and a master control and two outputs. Either unit may be used free-standing or panel mounted. These mixers will feed all types of amplifier. Recommended for their versatility and high performance, and excellent value for money.

VA30 CHANNEL MODULE £3-90 Carr. free

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150	100	5 8	9.9 x 8.9 x 8.6	4.89 45
151	200	8 0	12.1 x 9.3 x 10.2	8.13 53
152	350	13 2	12.1 x 11.8 x 10.2	9.83 73
153	500	15 0	14.0 x 10.8 x 11.8	11.88 73
154	500	19 8	14.0 x 13.4 x 11.8	13.65 91
155	750	29 0	17.2 x 14.0 x 14.0	20.51 * *
156	1000	38 0	17.2 x 16.6 x 14.0	29.15 * *
157	1500	46 0	21.6 x 13.4 x 18.1	33.23 * *
158	2000	60 0	21.6 x 15.3 x 18.1	37.07 * *

AUTO TRANSFORMERS

Ref. No.	VA (Watts)	Weight lb oz	Size cm.	Auto Taps	P & P £ p
113	20	1 0	5.8 x 5.1 x 4.5	0-115-210-240	1.67 30
64	75	2 4	7.0 x 6.7 x 6.1	0-115-210-240	2.90 38
4	150	3 4	8.9 x 7.7 x 7.7	0-115-200-220-240	4.12 45
66	300	6 4	9.9 x 9.6 x 8.6	" " "	5.82 53
67	500	12 8	12.1 x 11.2 x 10.2	" " "	8.82 67
84	1000	19 8	14.0 x 13.4 x 14.3	" " "	13.68 91
93	1500	30 4	14.0 x 15.9 x 14.3	" " "	18.31 * *
95	2000	32 0	17.2 x 16.6 x 14.0	" " "	24.20 * *
73	3000	40 0	21.6 x 13.4 x 18.1	" " "	35.09 * *

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213	1.0	0.5	4	6.1 x 5.8 x 4.8	0-12V at 0.5A x 2	1.74 30	
71	2	1	12	7.0 x 6.4 x 6.1	0-12V at 1A x 2	2.29 38	
18	4	2	3	8.3 x 7.7 x 7.0	0-12V at 2A x 2	2.86 38	
70	6	3	12	8.9 x 8.0 x 7.7	0-12V at 3A x 2	4.12 45	
108	8	4	5	8.9 x 8.9 x 8.6	0-12V at 4A x 2	4.56 45	
72	10	5	6	9.9 x 9.6 x 8.6	0-12V at 5A x 2	5.14 53	
116	12	6	6	9.9 x 10.2 x 8.6	0-12V at 5A x 2	5.52 53	
17	16	8	12	12.1 x 9.9 x 10.2	0-12V at 8A x 2	7.26 60	
115	20	10	11	14.0 x 9.6 x 11.8	0-12V at 10A x 2	10.39 73	
187	30	15	15	14.0 x 12.1 x 11.8	0-12V at 15A x 2	13.59 85	
226	60	30	32	17.2 x 15.3 x 14.0	0-12V at 30A x 2	16.83 * *	

30 VOLT RANGE

Ref. No.	Amps.	Weight lb oz	Size cm.	Secondary Taps	P & P £ p
112	0.5	1 4	6.1 x 5.8 x 4.8	0-12-15-20-24-30V	1.81 30
79	1.0	2 4	7.0 x 6.7 x 6.1	" " "	2.40 38
3	2.0	3 4	8.9 x 7.7 x 7.7	" " "	3.49 38
20	3.0	4 8	9.9 x 8.3 x 8.6	" " "	4.53 45
21	4.0	6 4	9.9 x 9.6 x 8.6	" " "	5.13 53
51	5.0	6 12	12.1 x 8.6 x 10.2	" " "	6.41 53
117	6.0	8 0	12.1 x 9.3 x 10.2	" " "	7.15 60
88	8.0	12 0	12.1 x 11.8 x 10.2	" " "	9.90 67
89	10.0	13 12	14.0 x 10.2 x 11.8	" " "	9.87 73

50 VOLT RANGE

Ref. No.	Amps.	Weight lb oz	Size cm.	Secondary Taps	P & P £ p
102	0.5	1 12	7.0 x 6.4 x 6.1	0-19-25-33-40-50V	2.58 30
103	1.0	2 12	8.3 x 7.4 x 7.0	" " "	3.38 38
104	2.0	5 8	7.9 x 8.9 x 8.6	" " "	4.68 45
105	3.0	6 12	9.9 x 10.2 x 8.6	" " "	5.81 53
106	4.0	10 0	12.1 x 10.5 x 10.2	" " "	7.60 67
107	6.0	12 0	14.0 x 10.2 x 11.8	" " "	12.10 67
118	8.0	18 0	14.0 x 12.7 x 11.8	" " "	12.98 85
119	10.0	25 0	17.2 x 12.7 x 14.0	" " "	16.99 * *

60 VOLT RANGE

Ref. No.	Amps.	Weight lb oz	Size cm.	Secondary Taps	P & P £ p
124	0.5	2 4	7.0 x 6.7 x 6.1	0-24-30-40-48-60V	2.33 38
126	1.0	3 4	8.9 x 7.7 x 7.7	" " "	3.41 38
127	2.0	6 4	9.9 x 9.6 x 8.6	" " "	5.08 45
125	3.0	8 12	12.1 x 9.9 x 10.2	" " "	7.52 60
123	4.0	13 12	12.1 x 11.8 x 10.2	" " "	8.75 67
40	5.0	12 00	14.0 x 10.2 x 11.8	" " "	9.75 73
120	6.0	15 8	14.0 x 12.1 x 11.8	" " "	11.30 85
121	8.0	25 00	14.0 x 14.7 x 11.8	" " "	15.00 * *
122	10.0	25 0	17.2 x 12.7 x 14.0	" " "	17.52 * *
189	12.0	29 00	17.2 x 14.0 x 14.0	" " "	19.98 * *

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Ref. No.	mA	Weight lb oz	Size cm.	Volts	P & P £ p
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212	1A, 1A	1	6.1 x 5.8 x 4.8	0.6, 0-6	1.84 30
13	100	4	3.9 x 2.6 x 2.9	9.0-9	1.41 13
235	330, 330	4	4.8 x 2.9 x 3.5	0.9, 0-9	1.56 19
207	500, 500	1.00	6.1 x 5.4 x 4.8	0.8-9, 0.8-9	1.92 30
208	1A, 1A	1.12	7.0 x 6.4 x 6.1	0.8-9, 0.8-9	3.30 38
236	200, 200	4	4.8 x 2.9 x 3.5	0.15, 0-15	1.43 19
214	300, 300	1	6.1 x 5.8 x 4.8	0.20, 0-20	1.93 30
221	700 (d.c.)	1	8.7 x 6.1 x 6.1	20-12, 0-12-20	2.17 38
206	1A, 1A	2.12	8.3 x 7.7 x 7.0	0.15-20, 0.15-20	3.46 38
203	500, 500	2	4.8 x 7.0 x 7.0	0.15-27, 0.15-27	3.00 38
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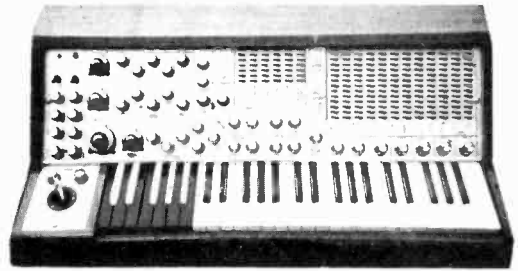
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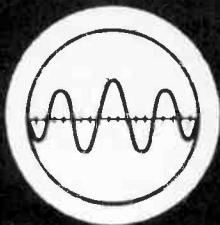
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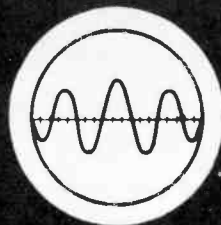
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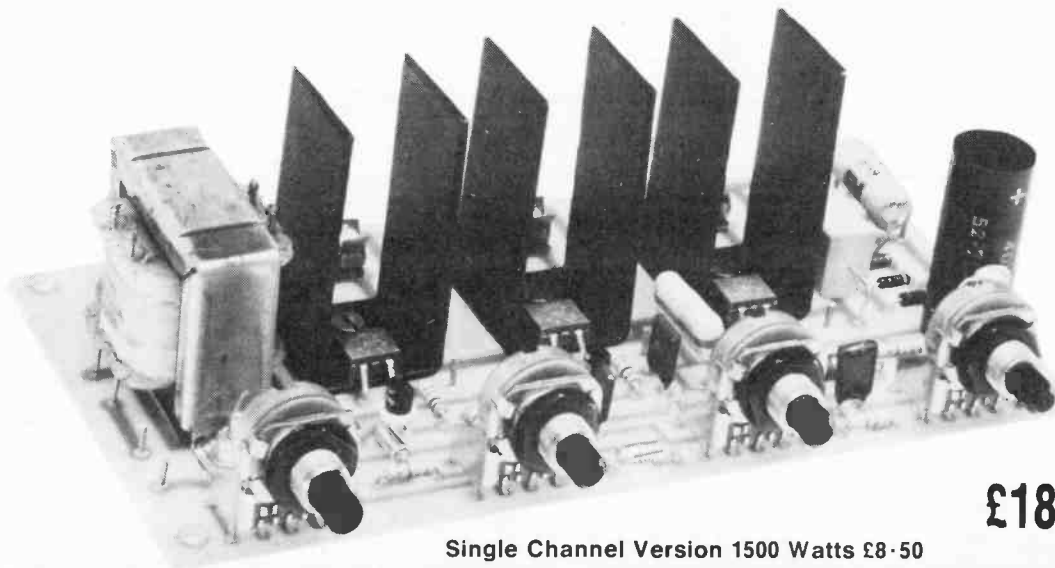
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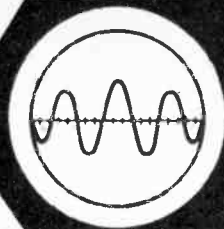
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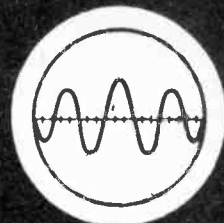
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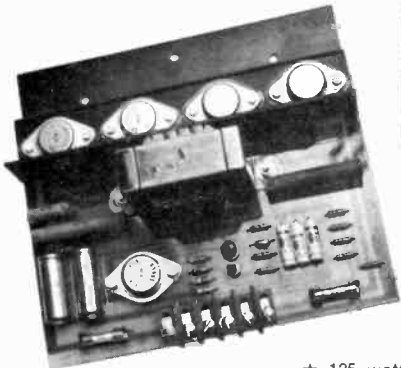
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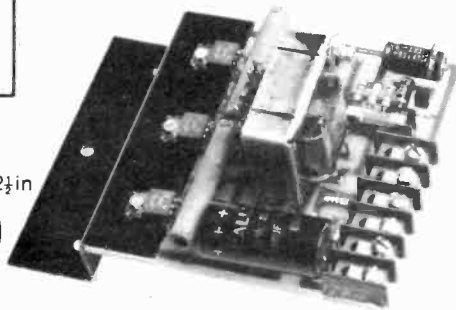
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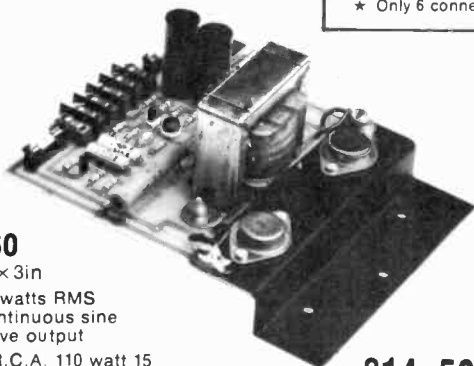
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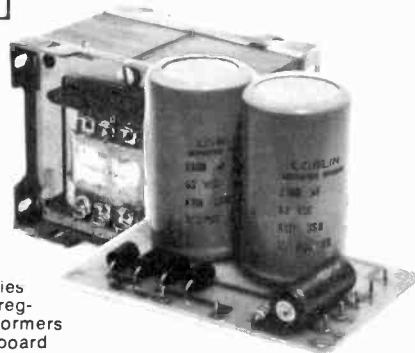
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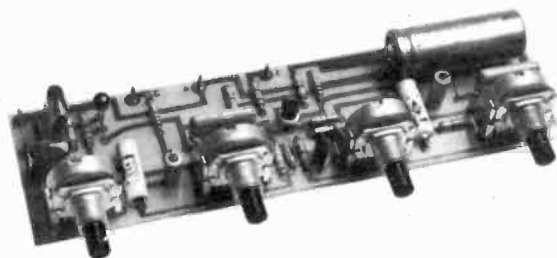
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TRANSISTORS BC204 11p BC209C 11p BC182 10p BC184 11p BC212 14p BC214 16p BC213 15p BC213L 15p ZTX300 15p ZTX500 17p 2N2484 24p 2N2904 30p 2N2905 27p 2N2219 22p 2N3054 100p	VOLTAGE REGULATORS μ A7815 220p 723 180p ARRAYS ML3046P 75p CA3096AE 120p OP. AMPS 709/8 Dip 39p 710/TO5 39p 741 46p 748 46p FETMOPA 450p	P.E. POWER SLAVES Special components available while stocks last. High Voltage MPSL01 39p; MPSL51 41p; MPSU07 69p; MPSU57 85p; SDT9203 150p. Constantan Wire 0.03 ohms/cm as specified for the POWER SLAVES. 20cm lengths 10p.	LISTS New lists are available for the: P.E. SOUND SYNTHESISER; P.E. MINISONIC; P.E. RHYTHM GENERATOR Please include 7p stamp or 9 x 4in S.A.E. with all requests for lists or information.	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h1>PE MINISONIC</h1> </div> <p>MINISONIC P.C.B.'S</p> <p>EA008a (Main Board). £3.35. Post free.</p> <p>EA008b (Power supply and Temp. Stabilisation) £1.86. Post free.</p> <p>MINISONIC COMPONENT KITS—PRICES ARE DOWN</p> <p>V.C.O. (2 required) £3.07 V.C.F. (1 required) £4.24 ES/V.C.A. (2 required) £4.98 Voltage Ref. £0.54 Ring. Mod. (1 required) £3.62 Noise Gen. (1 required) £1.64 Kbd. Control (1 required) £3.70 HF Osc. and Det. £1.80 Power Amps £2.41</p> <p>All above prices are for single kits of each type and include VAT. P. & P. Full details are included in lists.</p> <p>Miscellaneous Items</p> <p>5 way 180° DIN sockets 27p 5 way 180° DIN plugs 34p Battery connectors 9p/pair Hook up wire, 36 colours, ½ metre of each 70p Min. DPDT toggle switch £1.20</p> <p>VAT should be added to quoted price of miscellaneous items.</p> <p>SAVE BY PURCHASING A COMPLETE SET OF KITS AS DETAILED TOGETHER WITH SWITCH, BATTERY CONNECTORS, HOOK-UP WIRE AND P.C.B. Price £38. U.K. post free:</p>
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40 WATT SILICON				90 WATT SILICON			
Type No.	Gain	VCE	Polarity Price	Type No.	Gain	VCE	Polarity Price
40N1	15	15	NPN 20p	90N1	15	15	NPN 25p
40N2	40	40	NPN 30p	90N2	40	40	NPN 35p
40P1	15	15	PNP 20p	90P1	15	15	PNP 25p
40P2	40	40	PNP 30p	90P2	40	40	PNP 35p

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H35	100	Mixed Diodes, Germ. Gold bonded, etc. Marked and Unmarked	H61	4	40361 Type NPN Sil. transistors TO-5 can comp. to H66
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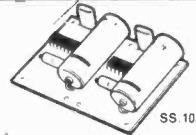
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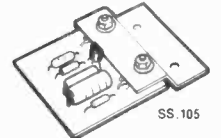
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SS.105

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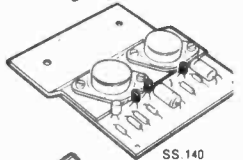
SS.103 Compact I.C. amp. with 3 watts R.M.S. output. Operating voltage 10-20. Size 3½in x 2in. **£1.75**

SS.103-3 Stereo version of above using one I.C. on each channel **£3.25**

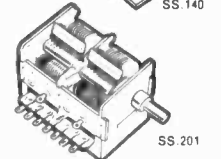
SS.105 A compact and useful all-purpose amplifier which will run excellently on a 12V supply. With 5 watt output, two make a good stereo amp. Size 3½in x 2in. **£1.95**

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SS.140 Excellently designed 40 watt R.M.S. (into 4 ohms) hi-fi amplifier. S/N ratio better than 75dB T.H.D. better than 0.2%. Power requirements—45V d.c. With 0.15in centre edge connections. Two can be bridged to give 80 watts R.M.S. into 8 ohms. **£3.60**



SS.140



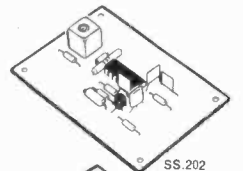
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SS.201 Front end with ganged tuning and geared slow-motion drive in rugged housing. Excellent sensitivity. Tunes 88-108MHz. With A.F.C. facility. Operates from 6-16V. **£6.25**

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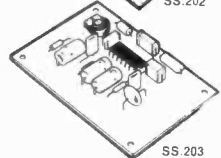
SS.203 Stereo Decoder. Designed essentially for use with SS.201 and SS.202, this module can also be used on most mono F.M. tuners. A.L.E.D. may be attached. Operating voltage 9-16V d.c. **£5.62**



SS.202

SPECIAL MONEY SAVING OFFER!

Save £5—buy all 3 units (SS.201, SS.202 and SS.203) together for **£12.12**



SS.203

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SS.300 Add this to an unregulated supply (say typically 45V output) to obtain a steady powerful working output adjustable from 12 to 60V. Essential for your audio and special systems. Money saving, very reliable and ideal for the workbench. **£3.25**

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Twin turntable console with cross-fade mic (with over-ride) and headphone monitor jacks, etc. plus unique 'AMPOWER 40' speaker with built in 40 watt R.M.S. power amp. You can add up to ten to give 400 watts! Portable console and one AMPOWER.£100 plus £3-50 carr. U.K., plus VAT.

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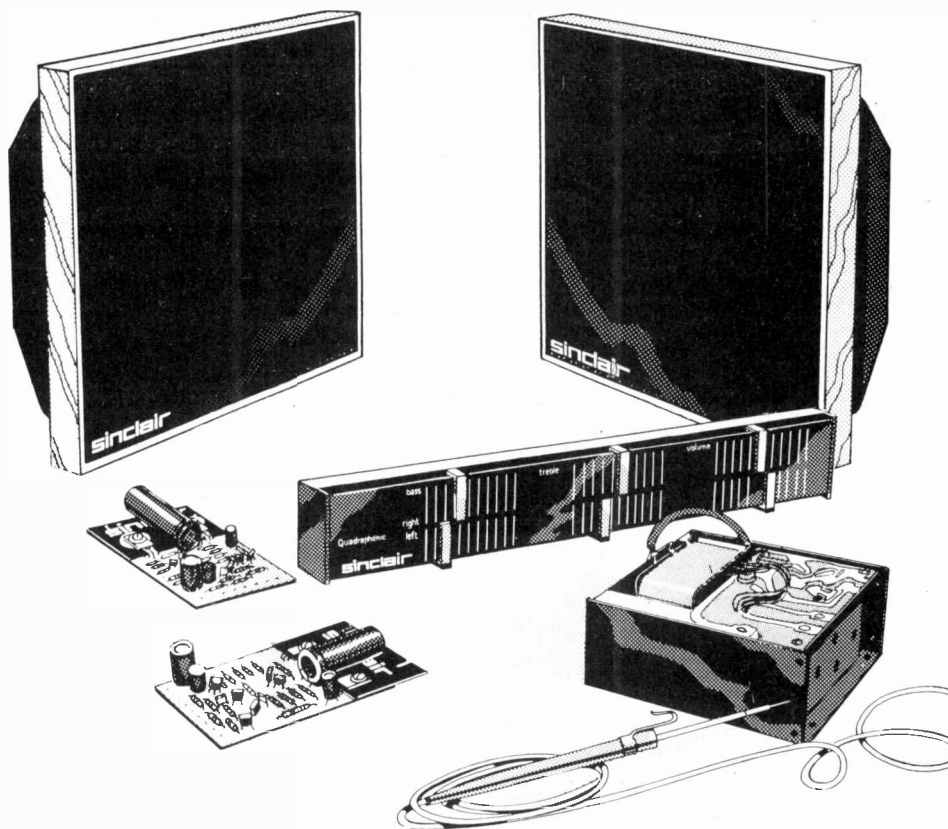
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PE6

Go quad for around £50

(including the speakers!)



Sinclair Project 80 hi-fi modules

If you've thought of switching to quad, you've probably found it an expensive process. Do you part with your existing stereo amp – which probably cost you a lot in the first place – and replace it with an even more costly quad amp? Or do you buy an expensive add-on kit – often costing as much as £90 even *without* the extra speakers?

With Sinclair Project 80 hi-fi modules, you can keep your existing amplifier... add a quad decoder, two power amps and a power supply unit... a couple of Sinclair Q16 speakers and you've got a high-quality, true quad system which will have cost you only £50 or so to convert!

How does Sinclair Project 80 work?

Project 80 is a comprehensive set of hi-fi modules or sub-assemblies. Amps... pre-amps... FM tuner... quad decoder... control units... everything you need to assemble hi-fi units. They're all designed to look alike and are all completely compatible with each other. Simply decide on the specification of the unit (stereo or quad) you want to build... buy the necessary modules... connect them up and house them.

You can even build a quad amp entirely from Project 80 modules. Two power amplifiers, a control unit and a power

supply give you a stereo amp for as little as £31.80 plus VAT. The necessary add-on quad modules cost only £36.80 + VAT. Together, they make up a true hi-fi quad amp for only £68.60 + VAT!

And whenever you choose, you can add extra Project 80 refinements. An FM tuner... a scratch/rumble filter... higher-output power amps – Project 80 is an enjoyable way to develop your own hi-fi system!

Is it difficult to build?

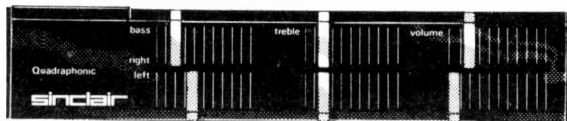
Not at all. All Project 80 module circuitry is complete in itself – all you have to do is connect the external wiring to numbered solder points.

And if you're not so hot with a soldering iron? Use Project 805 kits. Project 805 uses Project 80 modules, but provides special clip-on tagged-wire connections – positively no soldering! There are two Project 805 kits – the basic 805 stereo amplifier kit, and the 805Q quad conversion kit.

805Q can be used to convert a Project 80 or 805 stereo system, or your existing stereo system.

You'll find more details and some system suggestions opposite.

Project 80 hi-fi modules – the easy way to true quadraphonics.



Project 80 SQ quadrasonic decoder

Combines with and exactly matches Project 80 control unit for true quadraphonics. This unit is based on the CBS SQ system and is a complete quadrasonic decoder, rear channel pre-amp and control unit.

Specification
(9½ in x 2 in x ¾ in.) Connects with tape socket on Project 80

Project 80 power amplifiers

Two different amplifiers, designed to be used separately or combined, with Project 80 modules or as add-ons to existing equipment. Protected against short circuits and damage from mis-use.

Z40 Specification
(2¼ in x 3 in x ¾ in.) 8 transistors
Input sensitivity: 100 mV
Output: 12 W RMS continuous into 8 Ω (35 V). **Frequency response:** 30 Hz – 100 kHz ± 3 dB
S/N ratio: 64 dB. **Distortion:** 0.1% at 10 W into 8 Ω at 1 kHz
Voltage requirements: 12 V – 35 V
Load imp: 4 Ω – 15 Ω; safe on open circuit. Protected against short circuit.

Price: £5.95 + VAT

Project 80 power supply units

Range of power supply units to match desired specification of final system.

PZ5 Specification
Unstabilised. 30 V output. Including mains transformer.

Price: £5.95 + VAT

PZ6 Specification
Stabilised. 35 V output. Including mains transformer.

Price: £8.95 + VAT

Project 80 SQ quadrasonic add-on kit

Converts your existing stereo hi-fi system to quad using solderless connections

Contains following Project 80 units:

Project 80 SQ quad decoder/rear channel pre-amp and controls unit

Sinclair Q16 speaker

Original and uniquely designed speaker of outstanding quality.

Specification
(10½ in square x 4½ in deep)
Pedestal base. All-over black front. Teak surround. Balanced

control unit or similar facility on any stereo amplifier. Separate slider controls on each channel for treble, bass and volume.
Frequency response: 15 Hz to 25 kHz ± 3 dB. **Distortion:** 0.1%
S/N ratio: 58 dB. **Rated output:** 100 mV. **Phase shift network:** 90°: 10, 100 Hz to 10 kHz.
Operating voltage: 22 V – 35 V.

Price: £18.95 + VAT

Z60 Specification
(2¼ in x 3½ in x ¾ in.) 12 transistors
Input sensitivity: 100 mV – 250 mV.
Output: 25 W RMS continuous into 8 Ω (50 V). **Frequency response:** 10 Hz to more than 200 kHz ± 3 dB. **S/N ratio:** better than 70 dB. **Distortion:** less than 0.1% at 12 W into 4 Ω at 1 kHz
Voltage requirements: 12 V – 50 V.
Load imp: 4 Ω min; max safe on open circuit. Protected against short circuit.

Price: £7.45 + VAT

PZ8 Specification
Stabilised. Output adjustable from 20 V to 60 V approx. Re-entrant current limiting makes damage from overload or even shorting virtually impossible. Without mains transformer.

Price: £8.45 + VAT

2 x Z40 power amps
PZ5 power supply unit
Masterlink unit
On/off switch
plus pre-cut wiring loom with clip-on tagged wire connections, nuts and bolts, instruction manual.

Price: £44.95 + VAT

sealed sound chamber. Special driver assembly. **Frequency response:** 60 Hz to 16 kHz
Power handling: up to 14 W RMS.
Impedance: 8 Ω

Price: £8.95 + VAT

Quad system suggestions from Sinclair

1. Add-on quad to existing system:

12 W per rear channel RMS

Quadrasonic decoder + 2 x Z40 amps + 1 x PZ6 power supply + (existing stereo amplifier) + 2 x Q16 speakers + (2 existing speakers) + (turntable). Total Project 80 cost: £57.70 + VAT.

2. Add-on quad to existing system:

25 W per rear channel RMS

Quadrasonic decoder + 2 x Z60 amps + 1 x PZ8 power supply + (mains transformer) + (existing stereo amplifier) + (2 x equivalent speakers) + (2 x existing speakers) + (turntable). Total Project 80 cost: £42.30 + VAT.

3. Quadrasonic system built from scratch:

12 W per channel RMS

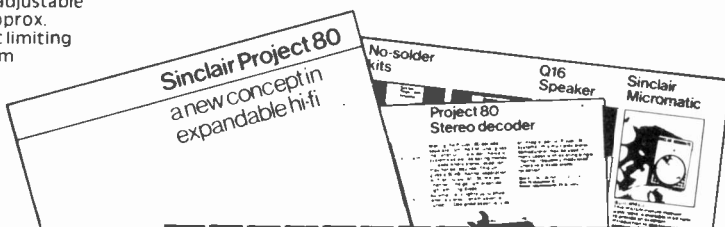
Pre-amp/control unit + quadrasonic decoder + 4 x Z40 amps + 2 x PZ6 power supply + 4 x Q16 speakers + (turntable). Total Project 80 cost: £110.40 + VAT.

What more can we tell you?

All Project 80 modules are backed by the remarkable no-quibble Sinclair guarantee. Should any defect arise from normal use within a year, we'll service the modules free of charge. And our Consumer Advisory Service is always available if you run into any problems. You'll find Project 80 at stores like Laskys and Henry's – but before you look, why not get really detailed information? Clip the FREEPOST coupon for the fully-illustrated Project 80 folder – today!

Sinclair Radionics Ltd,
London Road, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs., PE17 4HJ.
Telephone: St Ives (0480) 64646.

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To: Sinclair Radionics Ltd, FREEPOST, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs., PE17 4BR.

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PE/6/75

Please print FREEPOST – no stamp needed

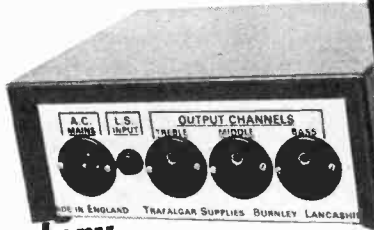
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▲ Front

600 watts per channel

Connects to your loudspeaker or loudspeaker socket. The unit can be connected to your existing spotlight fittings or to our type A or B fittings.



▲ Rear

Special Introductory Price

Including channel output plugs and mains input socket.

Only **£29.95** incl VAT plus p&p £1.00

Type B 3 BANK UNIT



B.C. fitting (less lamp)

£6.50 incl VAT plus p&p 40p each

Type A

(less lamp)

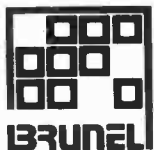
£1.60 incl VAT plus p&p 25p each.



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100 WATT Red, pink, yellow, green, blue, clear.
SPOT LAMPS Only £1.00 each
Minimum 3 lamps £3.00 plus p&p 25p.
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HIGH QUALITY SPEAKERS, 8 1/2 x 6 1/2 elliptical, only 2in deep. Inverse magnet, 4 ohms, rated up to 10W, £1.50 each, or 2 for £2.75 (qty. discount available).
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MINIATURE EARPHONES with min. Jack plug, 2 for 50p.
3 PIN MIN. MAINS PLUG AND SOCKET, 40p set.
LF CHOKES on 1" x 2" cores, 5 for 20p.
I.C. AUDIO AMPS, TB800, rated 5W (sorry, no data), £1 each.

MAGNATIC DEVICES PROGRAMMERS, contain 9 microswitches, with 9 adjustable drums for period switching (needs slow motion motor to drive drum, not supplied), many switching applications, £1 each.
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TRANSISTOR HEATSINKS, to take 2 x TO18 transistor, screw in clamps, block size 1 x 1/2 x 1/4in, with holes for mounting, 3 for 50p.
VARIABLE STABILISED PSU, solid-state, 240V a.c. input, output 0-24V d.c. at 500mA, + 32V d.c. at approx. 50mA. Voltage controlled by external 5kΩ pot. Size 7/8 x 4 x 2 1/2in (less 5kΩ pot), 85p each.
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LARGE DIE CAST BOXES (brand new ITT) 10 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 2 1/2in, £2 each.
25-WAY ISEP PLUGS AND SOCKETS, 40p set (1 plug + 1 socket).
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All 240V input, voltages quoted approx. RMS. (please quote type no. only when ordering).
TYPE 10/2, 10-0-10V at 2A, £1.50 each.
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TYPE 63/1, 6-3V at 1A, 85p each or 2 for £1.50.
TYPE 129, 400V at 20mA + 200V at 10mA + 6-3V at 500mA, £1.25.
TYPE 72703, 400V at 10mA + 200V at 5mA + 6-3V at 400mA, £1.25.
TYPE 70462, 250-0-250V at 80mA + 6-3V at 2A, £1.75.
RADIO SPARES 500W AUTO TRANSFORMERS, 100-110-130-200-220-240-250V tapped input and output, step-up or step-down facility, ex-new equip. £8.

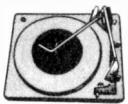
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BSR HI-FI AUTOCHANGER STEREO AND MONO

Plays 12", 10" or 7" records. Auto or Manual. A high quality unit backed by BSR reliability with 12 months' guarantee. A.C. 200/250V Size 13 1/2 x 11 1/2 in.



Above motor board 3 1/2 in. Below motor board 2 1/2 in. with STEREO and MONO CARTRIDGE **£9.25** Post 75p

PORTABLE PLAYER CABINET

Modern design. Resins covered. Vynair front grille. Chrome fittings. Size 17 x 15 x 8 in approx. **£5.25** Post 75p
Motor board cut for BSR or Garrard deck.

COMPLETE STEREO HI-FI SYSTEM

Two full size loudspeakers 13 1/2 x 10 x 3 1/2 in. Player unit clips to loudspeakers making it extremely compact, overall size only 13 1/2 x 10 x 8 1/2 in., 3 watts per channel, plays all records 33 r.p.m., 45 r.p.m. Separate volume and tone controls 240V a.c. mains.



Attractive Teak finish **£29** £1 carriage

SPECIAL OFFER! SMITH'S CLOCKWORK 15 AMP TIME SWITCH

0-60 MINUTES **£2.50** Post 50p
Single pole two-way. Surface mounting with fixing screws. Will replace existing wall switch to give light for return home, garage, automatic anti-burglar lights, etc. Variable knob. Turn on or off at full or intermediate settings. Brand new and fully guaranteed.



TEAKWOOD LOUDSPEAKER GRILLES will easily fit to baffle board. Size 18 1/2 x 10 1/2 in—75p. 10 1/2 x 7 1/2 in—45p

WEYRAD P50 — TRANSISTOR COILS

RA2W Ferrite Aerial 85p Driver Trans. LFD74. 85p I.F. P50/2CC 470 kc/s 40p 3rd I.F. P50/2CC 40p Spares Cores 3p P50/1AC 60p Mullard Ferrite Rod 8 x 1/2 in., 20p. 6 x 1/4 in., 20p. 3 x 1/2 in. 10p

VOLUME CONTROLS

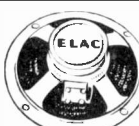
5k Ω to 2M Ω . LOG or LIN. L/S 20p. D.P. 35p. STEREO L/S 55p. D.P. 75p. Edge 5K. S.P. Transistor 25p

80 Ohm Coax 5p yd.

BRITISH AERIALITE AERAXIAL-AIR SPACED 48 yd. £2. 60 yd. £3 FRINGE LOW LOSS Ideal 825 and colour **10p** yd

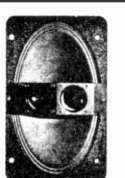
8in. or 10x6in. ELAC HI-FI SPEAKER

Dual cone plasticised roll surround. Large ceramic magnet. 50-16,000 c/s. Bass resonance 55 c/s. 4 ohm impedance. 10 watts. music power. **£4.35** Post 35p.



E.M.I. 13 1/2 x 8in. SPEAKER SALE!

With twin tweeters. And crossover. **£5.25** Post 35p
15 ohm. As illustrated. Post 35p



With flared tweeter cone and ceramic magnet. 10 watt. **£3.45**

Basic res. 45-80 c/s. Flux 10,000 gauss. Size 3 or 8 or 15 ohm. Post 35p

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THE "INSTANT" BULK TAPE ERASER AND HEAD DEMONSTRATOR. Suitable for cassette, and all sizes of tape reels. A.C. mains 240V. Leaflet S.A.E. **£4.35** Post 30p



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ELAC 9 x 5in HI-FI SPEAKER TYPE 59RM

This famous unit now available, 16 watts, 8 ohm. **£3.45** Post 35p

QUALITY LOUDSPEAKER ENCLOSURE

Teak veneered 3/4 in thick wood cabinet. Size 16 1/2 in x 10 1/2 in. Weight 23lbs. This cabinet features a wide mesh Silver Grill covering a separate compartment for mounting Tweeters or Mid-Range Horn. The fully sealed bass compartment is cut out for 6 1/2 in Woofer. £7.50 Carr. 85p. Rosewood Version £8.50 Carr. 85p. Baffle could be cut to take larger speaker.



RCS POWER PACK KIT

12 VOLT, 750mA. Complete with printed circuit board and assembly instructions. **£3.35** Post 25p
12 VOLT 300mA KIT, £3.15. 9 VOLT 1 AMP KIT, £3.35.

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Ideal for Mike, Tape, P.U., Guitar, etc. Can be used with Battery 9-12V or H.T. line 200-300V d.c. operation. Size: 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 1/2 in. Response 25 c/s to 25 kc/s. 26 dB gain. For use with valve or transistor equipment. **£1.25** Post 25p
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1-5V d.c. operation over 300 hours continuous on SP2 battery, fully adjustable swing and speed. Ideal displays, teaching electro magnetism or for metronome, strobe, etc. **95p** Post 25p

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MINIATURE 200V 20mA, 6-3V 1A £1.10
MIDGET 220V 45mA, 6-3V 2A £1.25
HEATER TRANS. 6-3V 1/2 amp 85p, 3 amp £1.40
GENERAL PURPOSE LOW VOLTAGE. Tapped outputs at 2 amp, 2.4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 25 and 30V £4.80
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2 amp, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 48, 60 £7.00
3 amp, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 48, 60 £8.70
5 amp, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 48, 60 £11.25
5, 8, 13V, 5 amp, £1.80, 6-0-4V 500mA 90V, 9V 1 amp 95p, 12V 300mA 75p, 12V 500mA 85p, 12V 750mA 95p, 10V, 30V, 40V, 2 amp, £2.20, 20V, 3 amp, £2.40, 2 amp, £2.50, 22-0-22V, 4 amp, £3.16V, 1/2 amp, 95p, 16V, 2 amp, £1.85, 0, 5, 8, 10, 16V, 1/2 amp, £1.60 20V 1/2 amp, £1.50.
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8/350V 22p	100 + 100/275V 85p	22 + 22/250V 20p
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32/500V 50p	8 + 8/450V 22p	350 + 50/325V 85p
25/25V 10p	8 + 18/450V 25p	100 + 50 + 50/350V 85p
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30-14,500 c/s, 12in. double cone, woofer and tweeter cone together with a BAKER ceramic magnet assembly having a flux density of 14,000 gauss and a total flux of 145,000 Maxwells. Bass resonance 40 c/s. Rated 20W. NOTE: 3 or 6 or 15 Ohms must be stated.

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Please state 3 or 6 or 15 ohms.

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'Group 25'	'Group 35'	'Group 50/15'
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For 12in or 10in dia. speaker 20 x 13 x 9in, £12.00 Post 75p
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LOUDSPEAKER CABINET WADDING 18in wide, 20p ft

GOODMANS 6 1/2in. HI-FI WOOFER

4 ohm or 8 ohm. 10W. Large ceramic magnet. Special Cambric cone surround. Twin cones. Frequency response, 30-12,000 c/s. Ideal P.A. Columns. Hi-Fi Enclosure Systems, etc. **£4.60**



ELAC CONE TWEETER

The moving coil diaphragm gives a good radiation pattern to the higher frequencies and a smooth extension of total response from 1,000 c/s to 18,000 c/s. Size 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 in. deep. Rating 10W, 3 ohm. Crossover £1.60 Post 20p

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LOUDSPEAKERS P.M. 3 OHMS: 744in., £1.25; 81in., £1.50; 85in., £1.60; 10in., £2.00; 8in., £1.75; 10x8in., £1.90.
SPECIAL OFFER: 8 ohm, 21in, 2 1/2in, 35 ohm, 2in., 3in., 25 ohm, 2 1/2in, dia., 3in, dia., 5in, dia., 6 ohm, 2 1/2in., 3in., 3 1/2in., 15 ohm, 3 1/2in, dia., 6x4in., 7x4in., 8x5in., **1c1 each**
3 ohm, 2 1/2in., 2 1/2in., 3in, dia.
RICHARD ALLAN TWIN CONE LOUDSPEAKERS, 8in. diameter 4W £2.50, 10in. diameter, 14W £2.85; 12in. diameter 6W £3.50, 3/8/15 ohms, please state. VALVE OUTPUT TRANS. 40p; MIKE TRANS. 50:1 40p. Mike trans. mu metal 100:1 £1.25.

Loudspeaker Volume Control 15 ohms 10W with one inch lead threaded bush for wood panel mounting: 1/2 in spindle. 85p each, Post 15p.

MAJOR 100 WATT ALL PURPOSE AMPLIFIER

All purpose transistorised. Ideal for Groups, Disco and P.A. 4 Input speech and music, 4 way mixing. Output 8/15 ohm. a.c. Mains. Separate treble and bass controls. **£59** Carr. £1.00 each
Guaranteed. Details SAE. NEW MODEL MAJOR—50 watt, 4 input, 2 vol. Treble and bass. Ideal disco amplifier. **£49.95**



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Add musical highlights and sound effects to recordings. Will mix Microphone, records, tape and tuner with separate controls into single output. 8V. TWO STEREO CHANNELS VERSION **£6.85**

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COAXIAL PLUG 10p. PANEL SOCKETS 10p. LINE 16p.

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100 ohm 20 watt Rheostat 2 1/2in diam. Ceramic Former. Screw Terminals 1/2 in. diam. spindle, 85p. Post motion. A.C. mains relay 3 pole change over, 75p.

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EMI TAPE MOTORS. 240V a.c. 1,200 r.p.m. 4 pole 135mA. Spindle 8-18x70-75in. Size 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 in (illustrated). Post 40p
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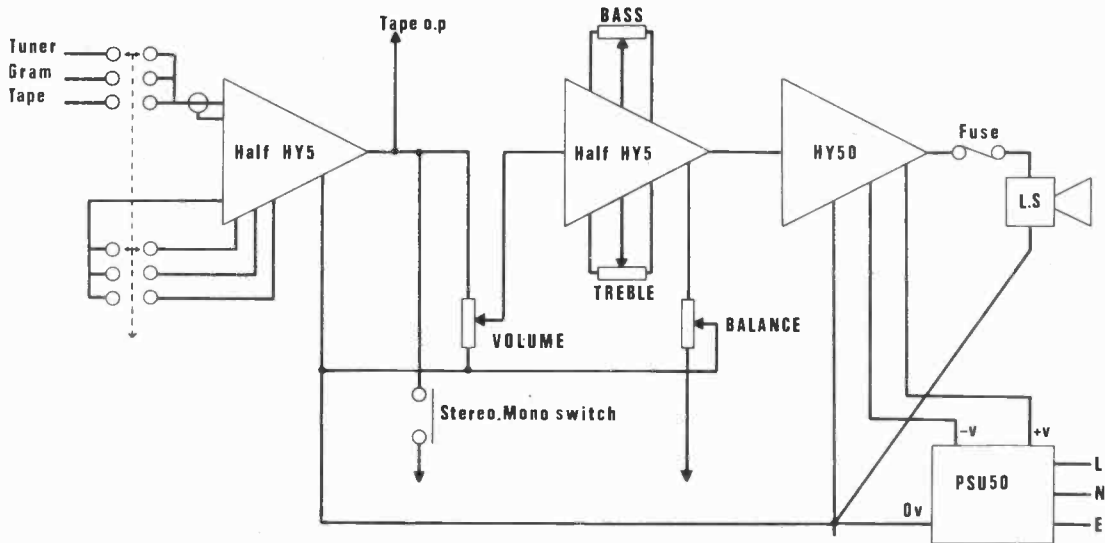
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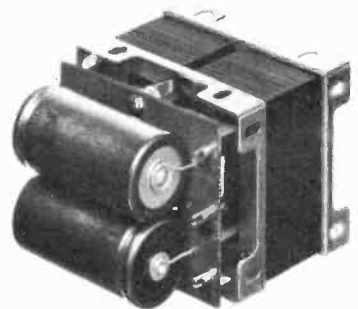
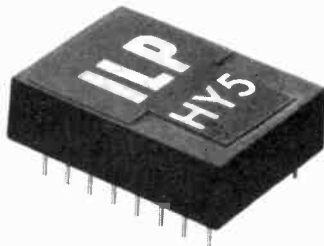


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MONO ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT DIAGRAM WITH INTERCONNECTIONS FOR STEREO SHOWN



The HY5 is a complete mono hybrid preamplifier, ideally suited for both mono and stereo applications. Internally the device consists of two high quality amplifiers—the first contains frequency equalisation and gain correction, while the second caters for tone control and balance.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
Inputs: Magnetic Pick-up 3mV RIAA; Ceramic Pick-up 30mV; Microphone 10mV; Tuner 100mV; Auxiliary 3-100mV; Input Impedance 47kΩ at 1kHz. Outputs: Tape 100mV; Main output 0db (0.775V RMS). Active Tone Controls: Treble = 12db at 10kHz; Bass = 12db at 100Hz. Distortion: 0.5% at 1kHz. Signal/Noise Ratio: 68db. Overload Capability: 40db on most sensitive input. Supply Voltage: = 16-25V.

The HY50 is a complete solid state hybrid Hi-Fi amplifier incorporating its own high conductivity heatsink hermetically sealed in black epoxy resin. Only five connections are provided, input, output, power lines and earth.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
Output Power: 25W RMS into 8Ω Load Impedance: 4-16Ω. Input Sensitivity: 0db (0-775V RMS). Input Impedance: 47kΩ. Distortion: Less than 0.1% at 25W typically 0-05%. Signal/Noise Ratio: Better than 75db. Frequency Response: 10Hz-50kHz ± 3db. Supply Voltage: = 25V. Size: 105 x 50 x 25mm.

The PSU50 incorporates a specially designed transformer and can be used for either mono or stereo systems.
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
Output voltage: = 25V. Input voltage: 210-240V. Size: L.70, D.90, H.60mm.

PRICE £4.50

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 Suitable replacement for
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 I.C.=15 amps, P_{tot}=
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600	09	17	1N4005	10	18	38	48	180
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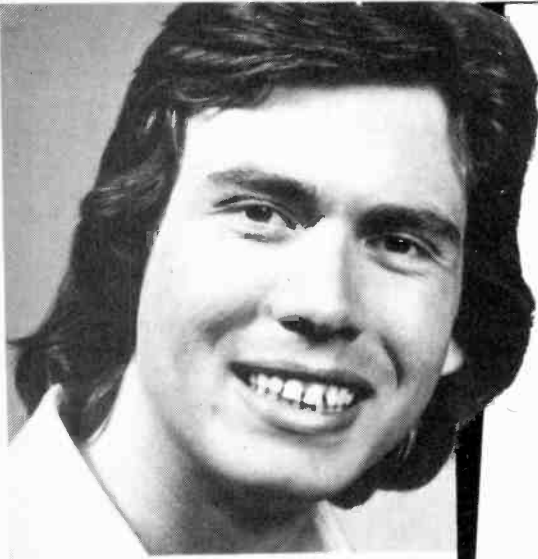
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Recently I've been telling you just why I've been a customer of Home Radio Components for so long. I've given special emphasis to their superb catalogue, and now it's time to show you a typical page. The problem is—which one? There are 240 to choose from—for example, 17 pages of capacitors, 6 of resistors, 10 of switches and 8 of stylii. These are run-of-the-mill things, but here's a page that's specially interesting—page 94, showing a Short Wave Kit and an Etching Kit.

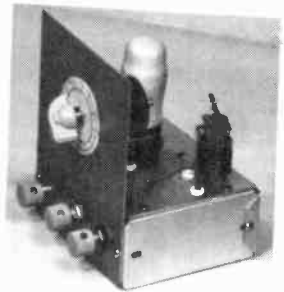
The managing director of Home Radio Components tells me there's quite a story behind these items. Briefly, Home Radio Components always listed a S.W. Kit, but eventually the firm making them ceased trading so H.R.C. decided to produce their own. When they looked around for an Etching Kit they were unable to find any at a sensible price, so again they said, "Right, we'll make our own!" Sounds simple, but the managing director told me that if you produce any kit within 12 months of deciding to go ahead you're doing very well. "As for the problems of producing an Etching Kit," he said, "I could write a book about it!" Incidentally, if you want to order either of these kits the prices are:

For Prices see Supplement

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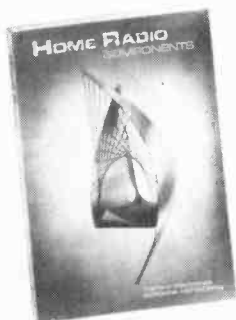
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94

ETCHING MATERIALS LISTED ON PAGE 95

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Periodicals, as opposed to books, may have but an ephemeral existence or, on the other hand, they may have staying power so that their useful life is extended far beyond their nominal period of public exposure. Publications in the latter class are of course often accumulated by their owners, and steadily build up into the proportions of a huge work of reference. In such cases an index does then become most essential if the stored material is to be fully utilised.

This undoubtedly is true in the case of **PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS**. We will therefore in future incorporate an index in every December issue, as a fitting completion of that volume. Because of this new policy separate indexes will not be offered for sale as hitherto. Therefore, in order to satisfy the present outstanding requirement, the index for Volume 10 has been included in this present issue.

Apart from its permanent reference value, an immediate perusal of this index should prove an interesting exercise. No doubt many things can be deduced from a sampling of 12 months' constructional projects. For instance, some readers might feel that the motorist is getting rather more than his fair share. Nine projects as opposed to three for the photographer. What does this indicate—deep and significant social changes? Or is it simply that camera manufacturers have been able to pack a lot of electronic gadgetry into their products whereas the motor car still remains a very accommodating vehicle for private constructors' ancillary units?

Audio retains a respectable portion of the cake, though the nine projects listed include but two solely for reproduction of music; it seems the truly adventurous are busy creating—not just *recreating*—sounds these days!

Intrumentation is a convenient term which can embrace a wide range of fascinating devices and systems. A total of seven such projects are listed, some still quite novel—like liquid crystal displays and gas detectors. Though technically important and exciting, many measuring and controlling instruments often take on an unglamorous role in real life. But in performing routine tasks, thermometer/controllers and their like are without doubt contributing to the current Save Energy Campaign.

And what of games? There are but two. So much for those complaints heard from time to time that electronics is used too flippantly.

But we are all entitled to our own prejudices and can analyse the listed items and draw what conclusions we wish!

More seriously, it is hoped this month's special inclusion will help our regular followers to extract the maximum usefulness from their stored issues with the least difficulty, whether now or sometime in the future. Casual readers should also benefit from this perspective of the immediate past. We hope it will help them to get the true measure of d.i.y. electronics.

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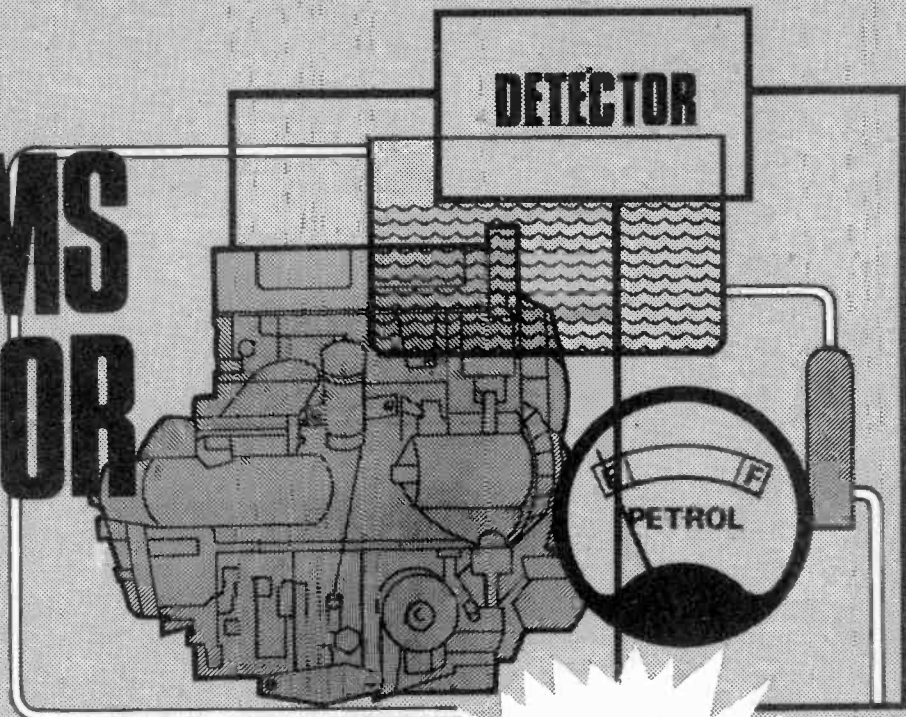
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ADAPTABLE SYSTEMS MONITOR

By L.J. BELL

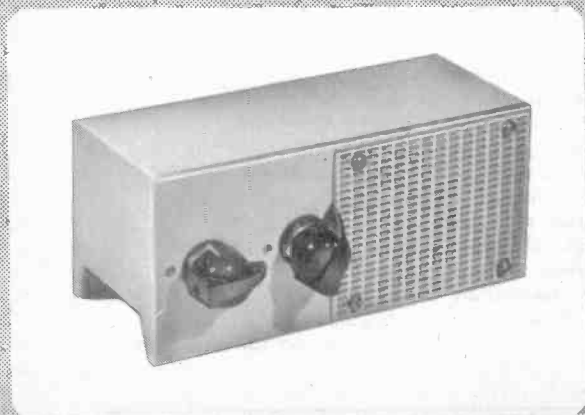


THE systems monitor is basically a device which will monitor a circuit and give an indication when an important parameter such as resistance, current or voltage (more often the last) lies outside a given value zone. The monitor discussed in the present article can be used for voltage monitoring in a wide variety of applications such as temperature, light level and other gauging areas and in security systems and the motor vehicle.

In the latter application a monitor can observe the state of any parameter which is measured using voltage, as in the normal petrol gauge and car thermometer.

BASIC CONCEPT

The present monitor is built around a Motorola comparator chip, the MC3302P, which contains four comparators. Selection of this device is based on its ability to operate from a single source, avoiding double power supplies, and its high input impedance which suits it to a very wide range of applications as it does not unduly load an observed circuit.



The MC3302P is a single chip i.c. and will in fact work with power potentials of from 2 to 28V. Thus the devices discussed may be powered from between 9 and 18V sources, suiting them to car applications amongst others.

The outputs from the MC3302P are so-called "open collector" so they should be connected to the positive supply via current limiting resistors which will hold the current to below 20mA.

COMPARATOR OPERATION

Whenever the voltage at the non-inverting input, the +ve input, is higher than that at the inverting or -ve input then the voltage at the output "goes high" as the output transistor in the comparator turns off and the full supply potential can be detected at the output.

Reverse the situation so that the voltage at the -ve input is higher than that at the +ve input and the reverse happens, the output "goes low" as the output transistor turns on and forms a low resistance path to earth.

One point of caution worth mentioning. The input potentials should not be allowed to either rise above the positive rail potential or drop to a negative value below zero volts.

FAMILIARISATION

To get the feel of a comparator it is a simple matter to wire one up on something like μ -DeC according to the circuit of Fig. 1. IC1a is one of the four comparators in the i.c., the pin connections for which are also shown. In fact it does not matter particularly which of the four is chosen, but for those who might wish to make a car systems monitor described later, the author's selection was based on being able to use some of the experimental circuit made up on Veroboard for a working model later.

If any form of experimental circuit is made up, it is suggested that an i.c. holder is used for the fairly obvious reasons that the chip is not damaged by soldering heat and is readily available for use elsewhere.

Assuming that the potentiometers are reasonably similar, one will be able to see clearly the way in which the output to the meter ME1 changes as the relationship of the voltages on the input pins changes.

Whenever the potential at the +ve input is higher than that at the -ve, the output will remain at nearly 9V but if the situation is reversed then the voltage drops to 0V. As a matter of interest an i.e.d. may be substituted for the meter if desired.

AUDIO OUTPUT

It is not difficult to convert a comparator into an oscillator or square wave generator by feeding the output back to the -ve input via a resistor as has been done in Fig. 2. The frequency of the output is governed by the RC combination C1, R4 and in fact the oscillator will not function unless the potential at pin 5 is about midway between +ve rail and 0V. R2 and R3 both act as base bias resistors for TR1 and provide the correct potential at pin 5.

Again one can try the circuit out on μ -DeC or other experimental layout or mount it on Veroboard.

SIMPLE MONITOR

Combining the circuits of Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 can create a simple monitor capable of giving audible indication of an increase in one voltage or decrease in another.

If this is done using the components of Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 in combination, then R1 of Fig. 1 and R2 of Fig. 2 become the same component and one of the potentiometers VR1 and VR2 is deleted. The comparator input which was connected to the deleted potentiometer becomes the input for the voltage to be sensed.

The circuit thus constructed will serve as quite a good voltage monitor capable of responding immediately to voltages which go outside the limits set by VR1. In fact in this circuit almost any potentiometer value from $1k\Omega$ to $1M\Omega$ may be used for VR1.

If accuracy of measurement is an important factor, then it is suggested that the circuit be modified in order to include some form of voltage stabilisation. A suggested circuit is shown in Fig. 3 where a Zener diode D1 is used to provide a stabilised voltage to one input of each of two comparators in the i.c. The Zener voltage can be up to three-quarters of the supply voltage.

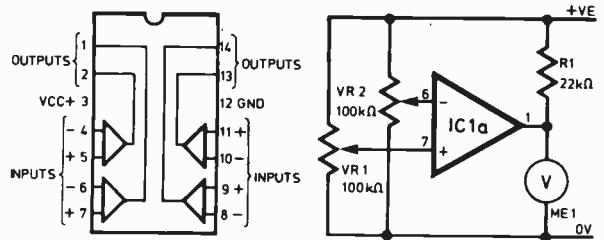


Fig. 1. The pin connections for the MC3302P i.c. and a basic circuit for familiarising oneself with the action of a comparator

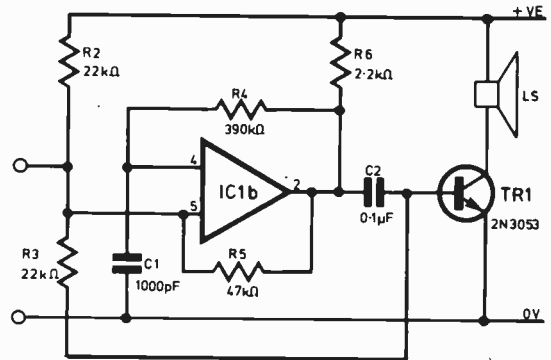


Fig. 2. Using a comparator to make up an audio oscillator

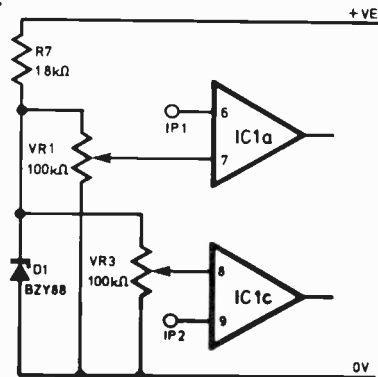


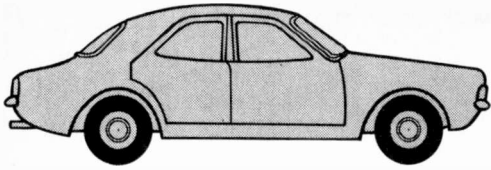
Fig. 3. Using a Zener diode to provide a stabilised reference voltage against which input voltages can be detected. Here two comparators are used to accept two separate and, if required, different inputs

APPLICATIONS

For the person who wants to monitor a simple voltage the foregoing will suffice. Indeed, the circuit can be used as a substitute for an oscilloscope for some purposes. If both inputs are joined together and set to react at very close or identical voltages, any alteration in input condition from the selected voltage will cause an output. Thus a varying input will cause an output.

As will be appreciated, the use of two input comparators in Fig. 3 presupposes the associated use of two audio oscillators and it is a simple matter to select the tone-deciding components so that two different tones are generated, one for a falling voltage and one for a rising voltage.

Thus the device could be used perhaps as a voltmeter for a blind person or where dark operation is required.



CAR SYSTEMS MONITOR

As mentioned earlier, one possible application of the monitor is in the automobile area where the system can be used to "observe" the state of, for example, the petrol gauge and the water temperature gauge.

Most vehicles have some form of automatic voltage control and the instruments in this case do not respond immediately to any change in parameter indicated. In fact, variations in battery voltage are compensated for by interrupting the supply voltage intermittently using a hot-wire thermostatic switch which operates at a few cycles per second.

The monitor in its simpler form would respond immediately to the variations caused by these interruptions and thus the circuit requires some modification. A suitable circuit is shown in Fig. 4 and here a degree of hysteresis is introduced by including resistors and capacitors on each input line. Using this arrangement the monitor only sounds the alarm if one of the observed voltages goes out of limit for more than a second.

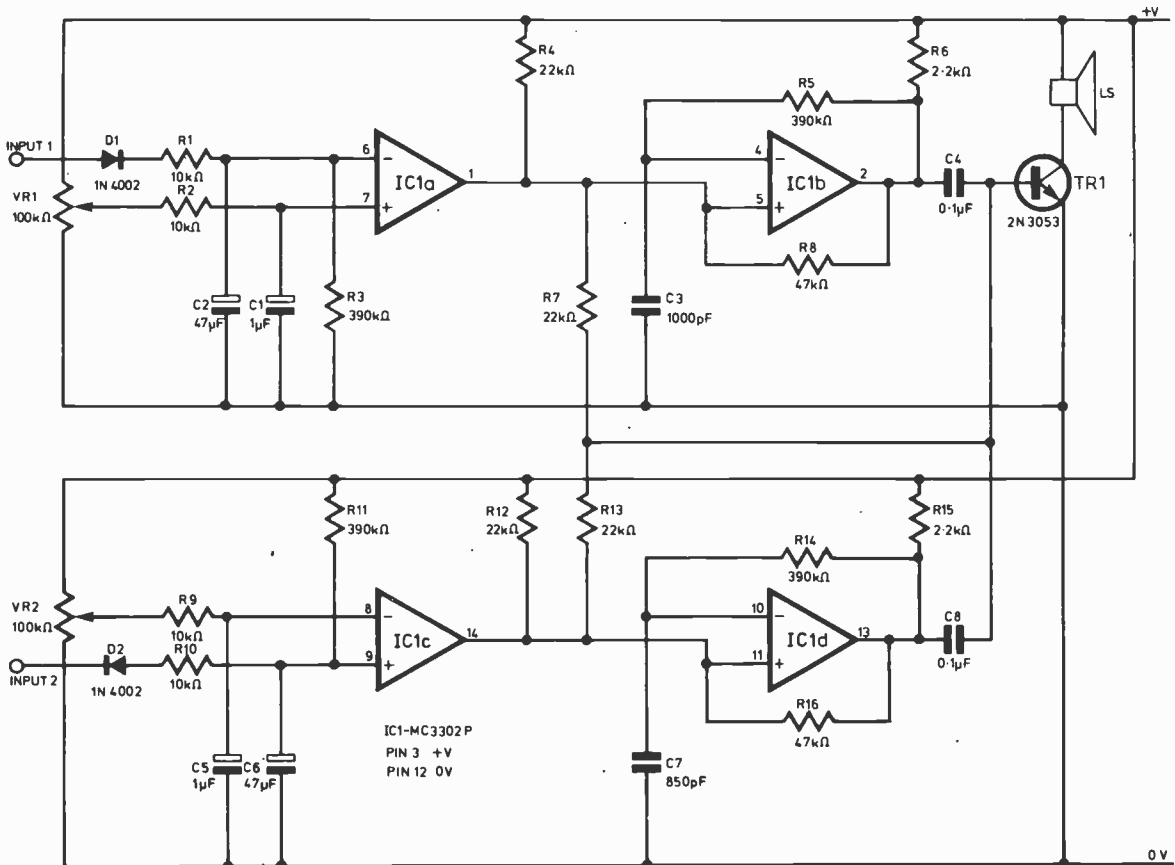
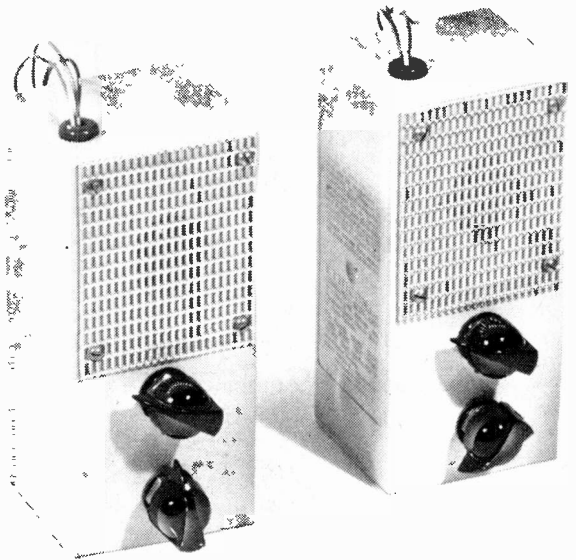


Fig. 4. Circuit diagram of a car systems monitor using the comparator i.c. For use on positive and negative earth vehicles see notes in the text

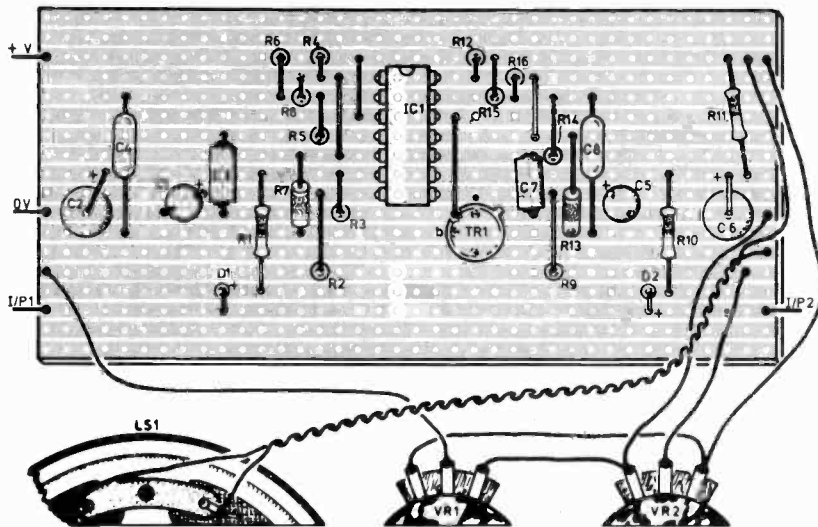


Fig. 5. Veroboard layout and cutting details for the car systems monitor of Fig. 4

COMPONENTS . . .

CAR SYSTEMS MONITOR

Resistors

R1	10k Ω
R2	10k Ω
R3	390k Ω
R4	22k Ω
R5	390k Ω
R6	2.2k Ω
R7	22k Ω
R8	47k Ω
R9	10k Ω
R10	10k Ω
R11	390k Ω
R12	22k Ω
R13	22k Ω
R14	390k Ω
R15	2.2k Ω
R16	47k Ω
All 5%, $\frac{1}{4}$ W	

Potentiometers

VR1	100k Ω lin (see text)
VR2	100k Ω lin (see text)

Semiconductors

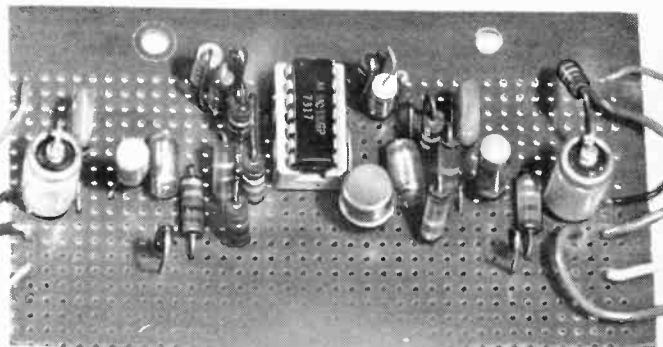
IC1	Quad comparator MC3302P
TR ₁	2N3053 or similar n.p.n.
D1 and 2	1N4002

Capacitors

C1	1 μ F
C2	47 μ F
C3	1,000pF
C4	0.1 μ F
C5	1 μ F
C6	47 μ F
C7	850pF
C8	0.1 μ F

Miscellaneous

Veroboard; case, preferably plastic; wire; solder etc.



Providing that the unit is constructed in an insulated container with only power supply leads and alarm inputs, then there is no real problem over negative or positive earth vehicles. The polarity of the power supplies remains the same for each case and the input protection diodes are the only components to be altered.

For negative earth vehicles, orient both D1 and D2 as D1 and for positive earth orient as D2.

As can be seen from Fig. 4, only one loudspeaker is required and by selecting different values for C3 and C7 two tones are produced thus identifying which input has altered.

The loudspeaker can be mounted in the box with the circuit board shown in Fig. 5 but care should be taken to ensure that there is no risk that holding bolts for the Veroboard contact both tracks on the board and parts of the chassis of the carrying vehicle.

The two monitors illustrated in the accompanying photographs are a car systems monitor and a simple monitor. Both are housed in small plastic cases together with their associated loudspeakers. ★

THIS month, the Power Supply, Tone Generator and Top C Envelope circuitry are described.

POWER SUPPLY

The circuit of the power supplies is shown in Fig. 2.1 and is basically a simple unregulated system apart from the 5V logic supply which is provided by a three terminal integrated regulator.

Transformer T1 is rated at 17V, 2A, with a 9V tapping. Other suitable alternatives would be 9-0-9V or 10-0-10V, but in the latter case it would be necessary to increase the value of supply line resistors to compensate for the higher voltage. The potted bridge rectifier D1-D4 should have a p.i.v. rating of greater than 50V and a 2A capacity. Using the Norman CT2 transformer the input voltage to the 5V regulator is approximately 9V on load. The value at the high level output is 19V, with a 2V drop across R1 which is linked to the touch resistors on the key switch assembly.

The negative supply is obtained from a voltage doubler. The requirement here is for less than 50mA so that the current rating of diodes D5 and D6 can be very low, with a p.i.v. of greater than 70V. A number of manufacturers can supply miniature transformers suitable for T2; on the prototype an Eagle version was used which gave -22.5V on load.

SOCKET PANEL

All sockets for the Piano are integrated into the Power Supply chassis (see photograph) providing a convenient mounting point for the mains input, pedal input, external amplifier output, and headphone output sockets, and the mains input fuse.

COMPONENTS . . .

POWER SUPPLY UNIT

Resistor

R1 3.9Ω 2W

Capacitors

C1 1,000μF elect. 16V
C2 1,000μF elect. 16V
C3 4,700μF elect. 16V
C4 4,700μF elect. 25V

Diodes

D1-D4 C1406 bridge rectifier (Electrovalue)
D5-6 ZS171

Integrated Circuit

IC1 MC7805CP (Motorola)

Transformers

T1 Mains transformer—Norman CT2 (Electrovalue) (see text)
T2 Mains transformer—12V 100mA

Miscellaneous

FS1 200mA fuse, FS2 1 amp fuse, LP1 mains neon, S1 mains switch on level potentiometer, Aluminium sheet 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ in × 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in, 8-way standard group board, tag strip, SK1 3 pin miniature mains socket, SK2 Standard $\frac{1}{4}$ in jack socket mono, SK3-SK4 Standard $\frac{1}{4}$ in jack socket stereo.

PE

JOANNA

PART 2

By A.J. BOOTHMAN B.Sc.



The zero level output of the Power Supply is used for connections to the other units in the Piano as will be shown later, but the earth input from the mains lead is connected to the output jack socket of the instrument, to avoid hum due to earth loops.

POWER SUPPLY ASSEMBLY

The plan/photograph view indicates the positions of all the major components in the Power Supply Unit. A piece of aluminium sheet 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ in × 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in is required to make the chassis which should be cut into the L-shape shown in Fig. 2.2. $\frac{1}{8}$ in holes should be drilled on the centres indicated, and air vent holes made in the bottom of the base plate with a $\frac{1}{8}$ in drill. The positions of the air vent holes are not critical but it is essential that matching holes are drilled in the bottom of the cabinet to give a continuous air flow. When all holes have been drilled

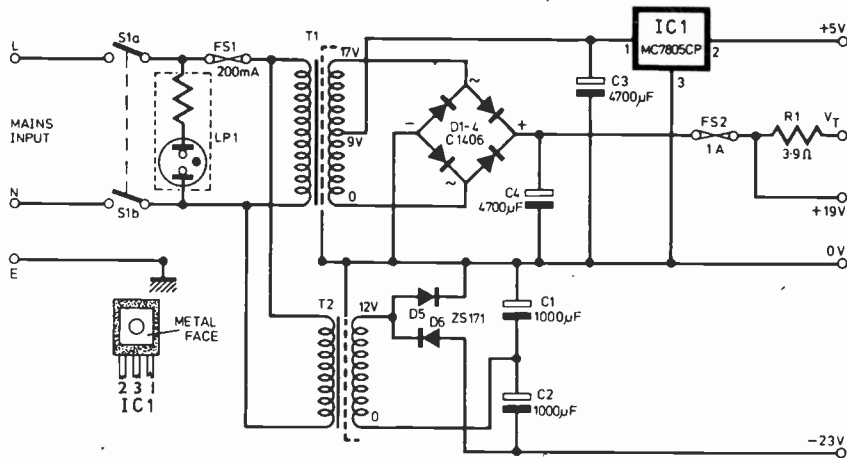


Fig. 2.1. Circuit of power supplies

in the aluminium sheet a paper pattern of the power supply base should be made. This will indicate the positions of all the holes such that when the cabinet is made the air vent positions can be transferred onto the woodwork, and in addition the positions of all screws (6BA) can be marked which allows the constructor to drill shallow holes in the cabinet to accommodate any form of protruding screw head used in the chassis assembly.

When the pattern is complete the chassis should be folded along the dotted lines shown in Fig. 2.2, folding upwards from the page. It is not necessary to fix the floating side of the chassis to the base since holes are provided for wood screws to fix into both the rear and the base of the cabinet when placed in position.

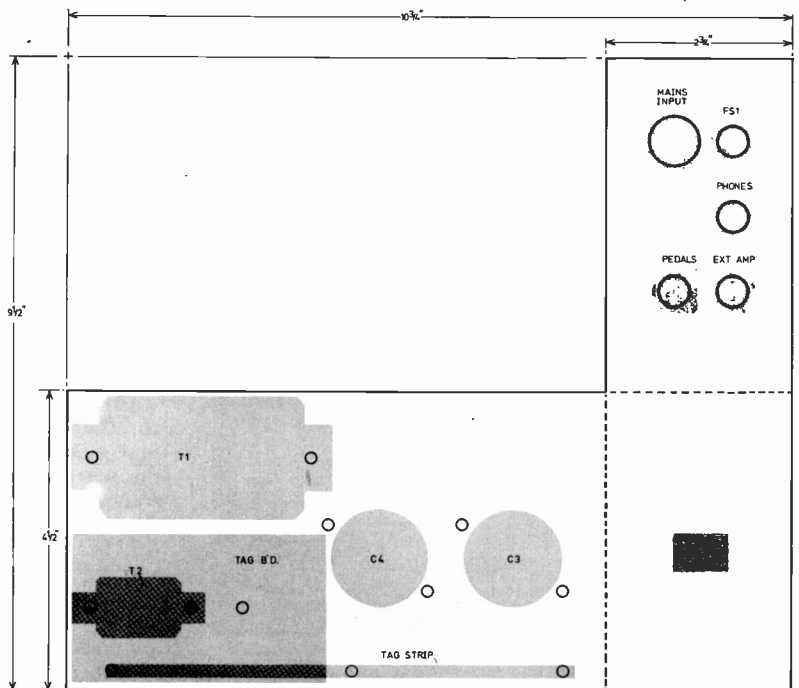
GROUP BOARD

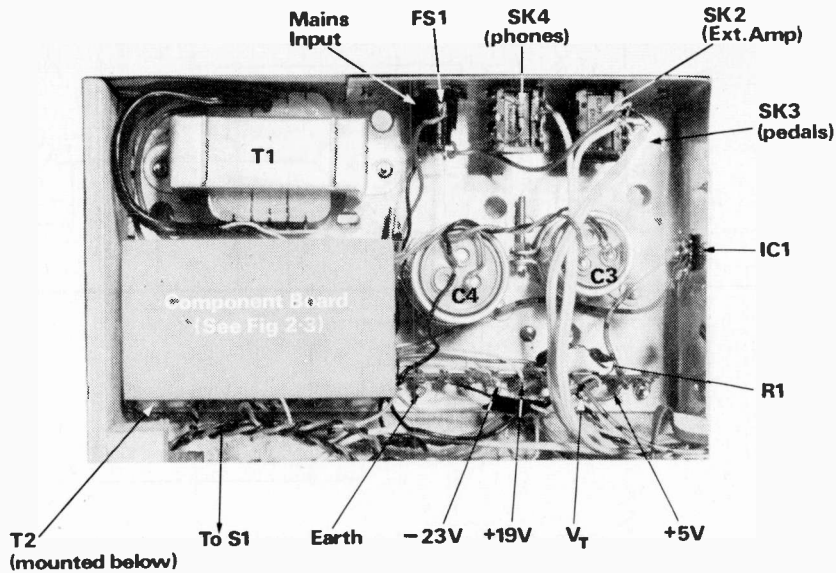
The rectifiers and negative supply smoothing capacitors are mounted on a 16 terminal group board, the layout of which is shown in Fig. 2.3. The board is fixed to the chassis on pillars, consisting of threaded spacers 1½in long, in an inverted position. C1, C2 and D1-4 are soldered to the lugs whilst, D5, D6 and FS2 are fixed to the back of the group board.

POWER SUPPLY CONNECTIONS AND FUNCTIONAL CHECK

In order to make the Power Supply a self-contained unit, all terminations are brought out to a tag strip running the full length of the supply. When all

Fig. 2.2. Chassis drilling and bending detail for p.s.u.





Position of major components in Power Supply unit

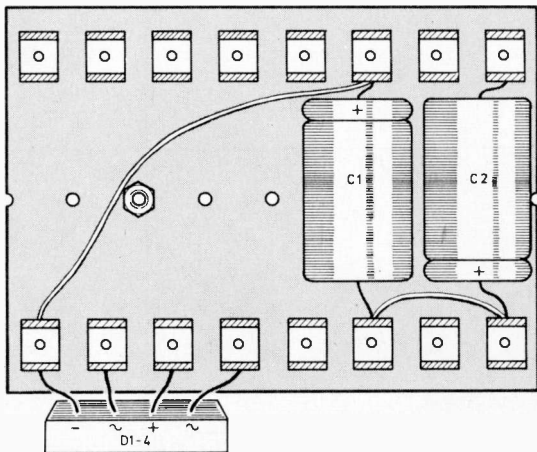
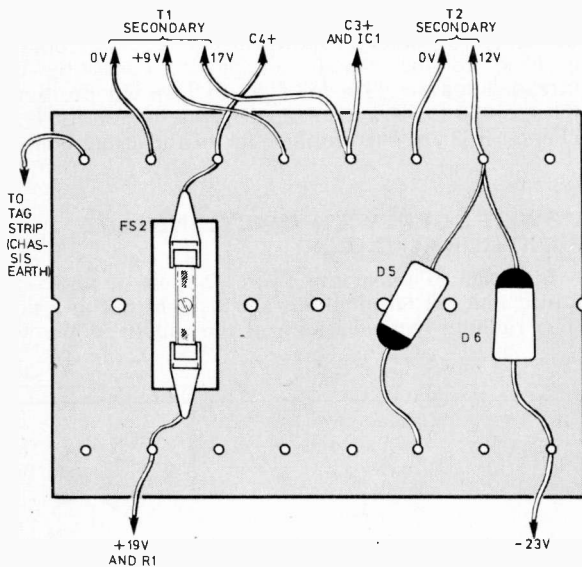


Fig. 2.3. Top and bottom views of group board

the interwiring has been completed the unit can be tested. Since both the internal resistance and the open circuit voltages of apparently similar transformers vary by a surprisingly high degree the unregulated voltage may have a fairly wide range.

The input to the 5V regulator should be in the region of 9-12V on a 600mA load but is not critical from the point of view of the regulator if it is in the range 8V to 15V. However, if for instance a 10-0-10V transformer is used, care should be taken not to exceed the voltage rating of C3. The +19V and -23V are on load measurements and are likely to be exceeded by at least 20 per cent when measured under open circuit conditions. Again if a transformer other than the Norman CT2 is used it would be advisable to use a higher voltage capacitor for C4. Open circuit voltages measured on the prototype were +24V, -30V, and +12V at the input to the 5V regulator.

TONE GENERATOR

Frequency generation in the Piano is dependent on the use of the General Instrument Microelectronics Master Tone Generator type AY-1-0212. This unit leads to the realisation of very accurate relative tuning across the keyboard, which is also extremely easy to adjust.

TUNING ACCURACY

Comparison of the top octave frequency values for the equal tempered scale and the chip indicate that maximum deviations occur in D, Eb, F and G, the worst representing 0.113 per cent of the absolute frequency. Experiments have been reported to have shown that the average person can distinguish an 0.7 per cent deviation if two tones are sounded simultaneously with this error, and that an excellent musician might approach 0.03 per cent (probably by luck). These tests were of course carried out under an unreal situation in that such a rigid comparison is not relevant to the intervals on a single piano keyboard. The author is convinced that the AY-1-0212 accuracy is irreproachable for this application,

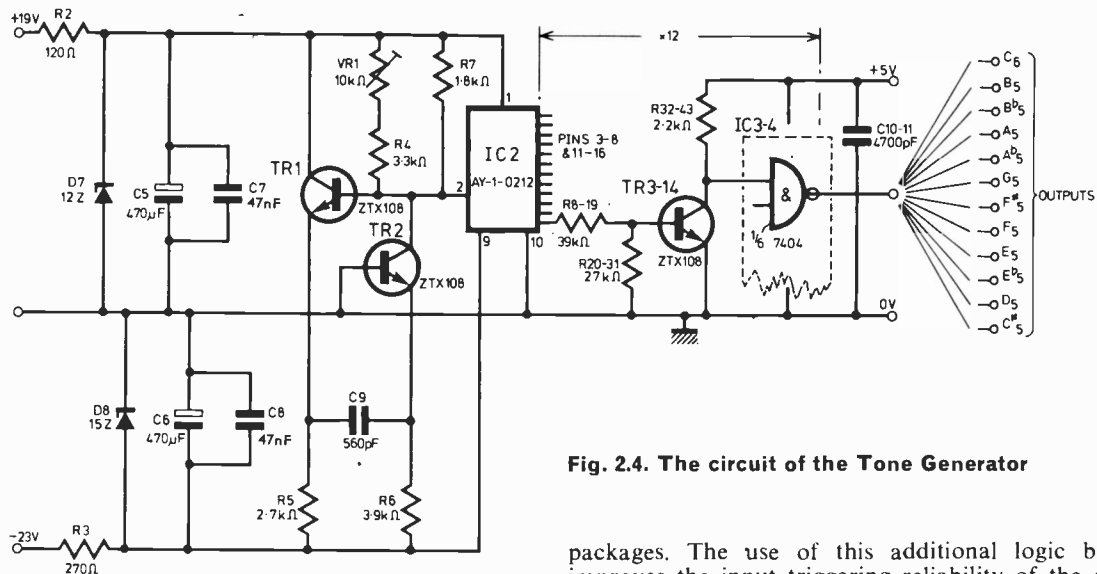


Fig. 2.4. The circuit of the Tone Generator

and the resulting chordal sounds from the keyboard are highly acceptable.

TONE GENERATOR CIRCUIT

The circuit of the Tone Generators is shown in Fig. 2.4. The raw supplies of 19V and -23V are regulated by Zener diodes to +12V and -15V respectively and supply a Bowes astable multivibrator driving the AY-1-0212. The Bowes astable is a non-saturating circuit easily capable of oscillating at the required frequency. The frequency of operation is determined by C9 and the combination of R7, VR1 and R4. For stability C9 should be mica or polystyrene, whilst R4 and R7 could be metal film.

The collector of TR2 swings between approximately 1V and 11V, which is the required input for the Master Tone Generator. The outputs of the AY-1-0212 are equivalent to a 3.5 kilohm resistor connected to a source alternately swinging between zero and 12V, and since the "Joanna" uses TTL dividers for economy it is necessary to have a buffer amplifier for each semitone of the top octave. TR3-TR14 perform this function, and each transistor is followed by a TTL gate in the hex inverter (7404)

packages. The use of this additional logic buffer improves the input triggering reliability of the quad divider packages, and is well worth the small additional cost of the two i.c.s.

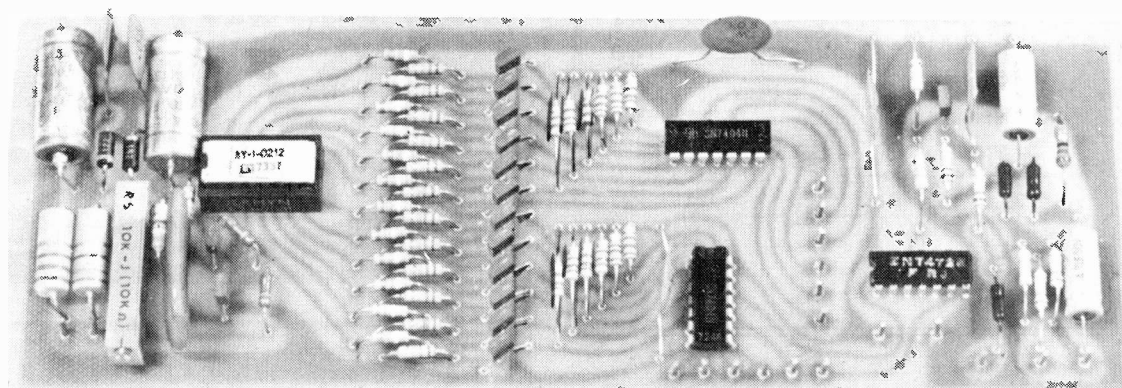
TOP C ENVELOPE CIRCUIT

For layout convenience the Tone Generator Board also contains the Envelope Shaper Circuit for top C. The circuit is shown in Fig. 2.6, with the single divider (7472) which provides pitch C5. The detailed operation of the Envelope circuit will be described next month, and is not identical for all notes.

TONE GENERATOR BOARD ASSEMBLY

The Tone Generator and top C Envelope circuitry are combined on a single printed circuit board, the etching and drilling details of which are given in Fig. 2.5 with the component assembly details below.

To assemble the board, the terminal pins should be fitted, followed by resistors, capacitors, diodes and transistors. VR1 should be a linear track potentiometer with rotary drive. The printed circuit board has been planned to accept two popular versions of this component. IC3, 4 and 5, should be soldered into the board, and it is recommended that a socket be used in the IC2 position, ready to accept the Master Tone Generator. If metal can transistors



Photograph for M.T.G. and Top C Board

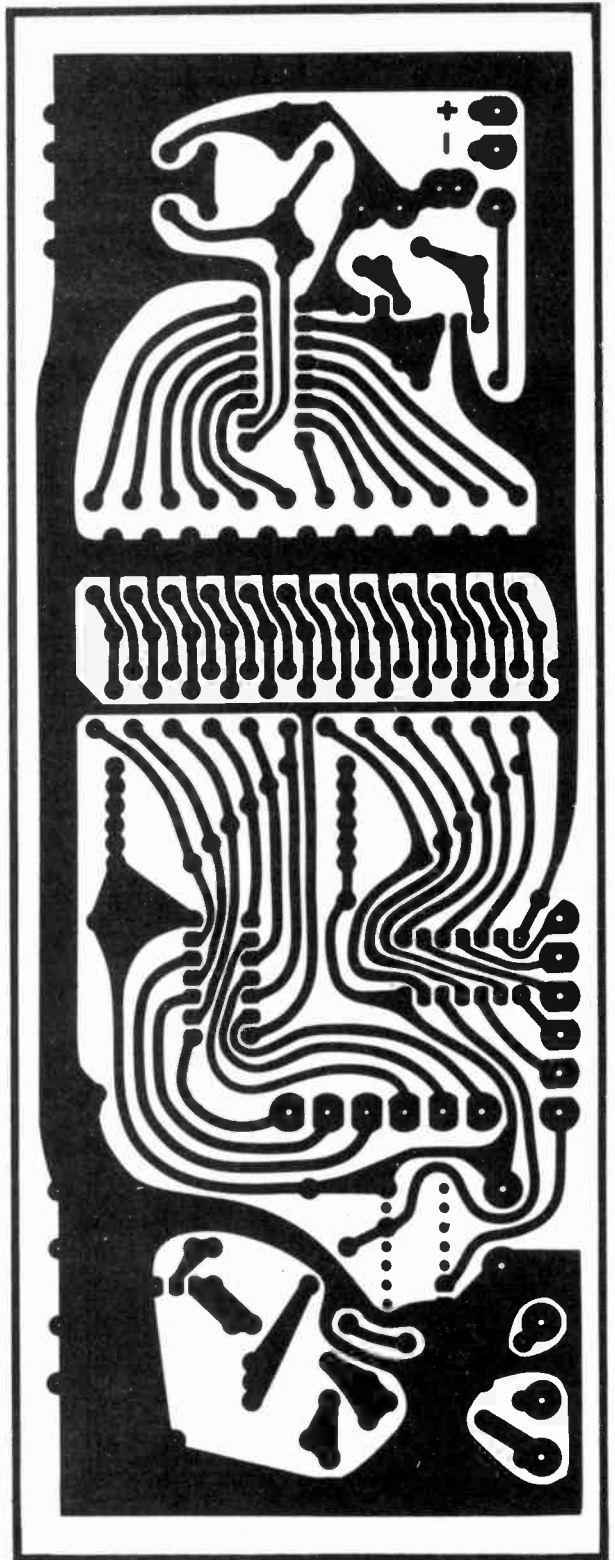
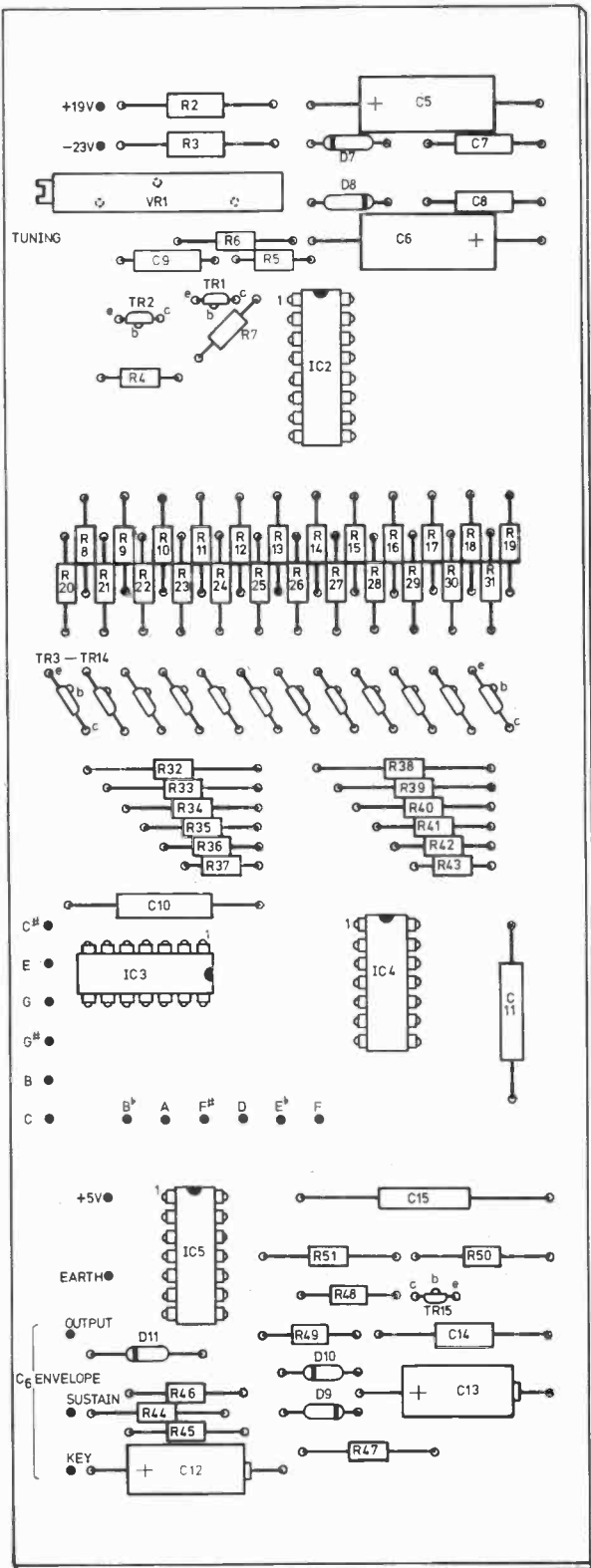


Fig. 2.5. Etching details and component layout for Master Tone Generator and Top C Board

are used instead of the ZTX 108, great care should be taken to ensure that the cans do not touch each other.

PRECAUTIONS WITH THE M.T.G.

The AY-1-0212 is an integrated circuit using MTOS (metal-thick-oxide-silicon) p-channel enhancement mode field effect transistors. Whilst General Instruments have designed protection circuits into the device it is wise to take a number of precautions in its use.

The devices are normally supplied packed in a conductive foam, and should not be removed from this until the constructor is ready to insert the unit into the socket. Handle the device carefully, having

COMPONENTS . . .

TONE GENERATOR BOARD			
Resistors			
R2	120Ω 1 watt	R32-43	2.2kΩ
R3	270Ω 1 watt	R44-45	120kΩ
R4	3.3kΩ metal film	R46	33kΩ
R5	2.7kΩ	R47	56Ω
R6	3.9kΩ	R48	150kΩ
R7	1.8kΩ metal film	R49	150kΩ
R8-19	39kΩ	R50-51	47kΩ
R20-31	27kΩ		
All ½ watt, 5%, except where stated otherwise			
Capacitors			
C5-6	470μF elect. 16V	C12	4.7μF elect. 25V
C7-8	47nF ceramic	C13	4.7μF elect. 16V
C9	560pF mica	C14	470pF
C10-11	47nF ceramic	C15	47nF
Potentiometer			
VR1	10kΩ multi-turn linear preset		
Diodes			
D7	12 volt Zener diode 1 watt		
D8	15 volt Zener diode 1 watt		
D9	11 Silicon diodes		
Transistors			
TR1-14	ZTX108	TR15	ZTX108
Integrated Circuits			
IC2	AY-1-0212 G.I.M.	IC5	ZN7472
IC3-4	ZN7404		

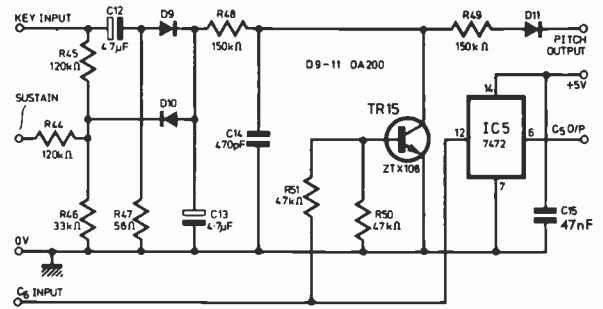


Fig. 2.6. Top C Envelope shaper

previously touched an earth lead, and if it is decided to risk avoiding the use of a socket then soldering should be carried out with a well earthed soldering iron.

EXPERIMENTING WITH THE TONE GENERATOR BOARD

The units built so far allow a test to be carried out, using the experimental keys and jig described last month. A test arrangement is shown in Fig. 2.7 in which one of the five experimental keyswitches is used to trigger the C6 envelope, and the resultant output can be checked using an external amplifier as described last month. The 12 semitones can also be checked and should give continuous square wave outputs.

When performing this experiment the power supply should first be loaded and the outputs measured to ensure that the voltages applied to the Tone Generator Board are correct, or damage to components on the board could result. For the touch mechanism to work correctly the four unused keyswitches must be in the grounded position, and the 39 ohm resistor used to give the correct touch voltage.

The 100 kilohm resistor soldered to the +19V terminal on the Tone Generator Board provides the correct level to check the Sustain pedal action on the single envelope. This part is only a crude test, and connection of the leads may introduce hum which should be ignored.

Next Month : The complete envelope generation system

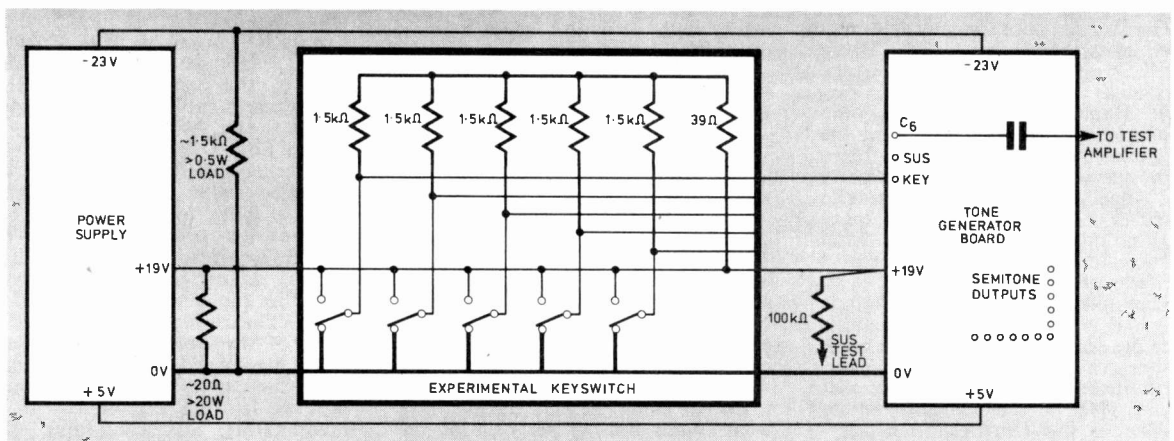


Fig. 2.7. Test set-up for the Tone Generator Board



BY FRANK W. HYDE

Our Space Commentator has just returned from a visit to the USSR. The Soviet Permanent Space Exhibition, Moscow was naturally one of the main items on his itinerary.

SOVIET ACTIVITIES

In December 1974 the *Salyut 4* orbital station was launched. This spacecraft has had a successful and profitable life so far. By March the station had made more than a thousand revolutions round the Earth.

The year 1974 was a very active one for Soviet space research. Academician Keldysh, President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, speaking at the general meeting, made special mention of the *Soyuz 16* satellite. This vehicle piloted by Anatoly Filipchenko and Nikolai Rukavishnikov, was launched to check the new systems and equipment to ensure the success of the *Soyuz-Apollo* mission.

The Intercosmos programme was also extended during 1974. Using satellites and meteorological rockets, specialists in the Soviet countries have studied the radiation of the Sun, ionospheric conditions and the magnetosphere. In addition there were special studies of the density and energies of micro-meteorite particles. A number of joint space exploration projects involving France, India and Sweden were also carried out during 1974.

The long term orbital stations *Salyut 3* and *Salyut 4*, had made it possible for a wider and more comprehensive exploration of the near-earth space as well as the processes taking place in the Sun and remote objects in the Universe. In near-earth activities the photography for

oil prospecting, gas exploration, the search for water resources and minerals was also a major part of the programme.

During 1974 it had been established, by automatic stations set up for the purpose, that there were no differences in the composition of the rocks found on Earth and the rocks found on Mars. It was also established that the magnetic field on Mars was more than a thousand times less than that on Earth. It had been noted that the Martian climate was continually changing. From the data received it was clear that at one time there must have been a very considerable amount of water on the planet.

MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE

At the time of writing there is another conference "Man and the Biosphere" taking place at Zvenigorod near Moscow. Among the items being discussed are the problems of the study of the Earth from space.

The Director of the USSR Space Research Institute, Academician Roald Sagdeyev, stressed that the main task of the conference was to work out unified systems for the study of Earth resources and the control of the environment by satellites. It was necessary to maintain a global watch in all areas of scientific activities.

He also said that it was important that not only was it necessary for all branches of science to co-operate, but also to consider international boundaries as less important. Pollution could spread over these boundaries and it was necessary therefore to consider close international co-operation to tackle such problems.

NEW LAUNCHINGS

In the first quarter of 1975 already there has been intense activity over a wide field. In February a single rocket launched eight satellites of the *Cosmos* series. They are all travelling in their calculated orbits with a period of revolution of 115.5 minutes.

The *Cosmos 719* was launched in March for studies of outer space. It has an extended orbit with a perigee of 182km and an apogee of 329km. The orbital period of revolution was initially 89.3 minutes. The angle of the orbit is 65°.

METEORITES IN THE USSR

A meteorite which weighed 2,276 grammes was found in Chukotka, North East Siberia. It was discovered when a brook was being cleared by a team from the Academy of Sciences.

Cobalt and nickel traces have been found but 90 per cent of the meteorite is iron. Behind the oxide

layers it is possible to discern in-grown laminae and crystals which are between 2 and 3cm in size.

The second meteorite find is perhaps the most significant so far as scientific history is concerned. It relates to the Tungus meteorite which fell to Earth in 1908 causing great damage over an enormous area. Trees were flattened over a very wide area, some completely charred. It was seen from many places in Asia and Europe.

A BLACK HOLE?

No pieces of the object were found in spite of many searches. The area was swampy and it was concluded that it probably vaporised or at least disintegrated into very small particles.

Recently there was a suggestion that it was not a meteorite but a small black hole which passed through the Earth. Support for this was claimed because there was an intense blue shaft of light seen at the time. This was not accepted generally as sufficient evidence.

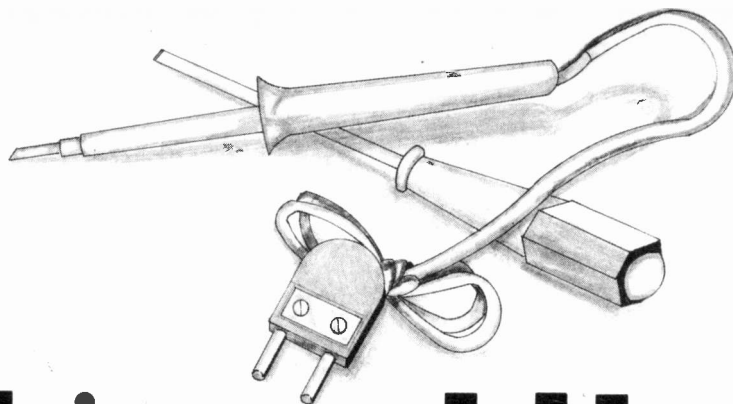
However, the mystery has now at least been modified for it is now confirmed that the meteorite was in fact the nucleus of a small comet. Final confirmation of this will help to evolve a theory of destruction of the nuclei in planetary atmospheres.

In a peat bog, near the centre of the disaster area, a profusion of molten glass spheres with bubbles of gas inside were found at a depth of 25.4cm. The composition of the particles is unusual. The silicates included in them have a high content of silicon and alkaline metals. The bubbles of some of the spheres are filled with carbon dioxide or hydrogen sulphide.

THE CONTINUING SEARCH

The comet hypothesis is supported by the fact that a glow in the sky persisted for several days and was seen as far off as Southern France. This could have been the comet's tail scattered by the pressure of the Sun's rays and which was caused to deviate to the west of the site of the fall.

The Soviet scientists believe that a considerable part of the comet exploded as it entered the atmosphere. The matter would have liquified or even vaporised. This would result in an aerosol cloud which stratospheric winds would carry in the direction of the north west. The result would be that the bulk of the debris would fall at a point a hundred kilometres or more from the centre of the explosion. It is now in that direction that the investigators are continuing their search.



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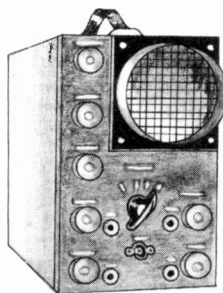
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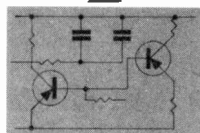
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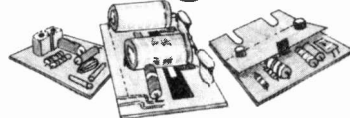
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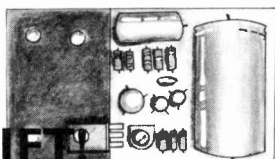
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TRANSDUCERS

PART 3 Inductive Devices & Physical Parameters

By P.R. ALLCOCK

INDUCTIVE transducers make use of the properties of magnetic systems involving magnetic materials, coils and air gaps, and they may be either passive or self generating. The self generating type relies on the principle of relative motion between a conductor and a magnetic field inducing a voltage in a conductor. In self generating transducers this relative motion is provided by changes in the measurand and consequently only dynamic measurements are possible with this device.

Self generating transducers can be conveniently grouped into four categories based on the way in which the output signal is generated by the magnetic system in response to the input measurand.

MOVING COIL SYSTEMS

All transducers that employ the principle of a coil moving in a magnetic field can be called moving coil transducers, the motion employed to cause coil movement depending on the details of the application. Thus the motion might be linear as in a moving

coil microphone, or angular as in the simple generator or a.c. tachometer.

These two cases are illustrated in Fig. 3.1 and Fig. 3.2 respectively. In Fig. 3.1 the measurand is sound pressure on the diaphragm and changes in this pressure cause linear displacements of the moving coil along the axis indicated. The concentric pole pieces of the permanent magnet system ensure a reasonably uniform radial flux in the air gap and only when the coil moves will there be a voltage induced in it.

Fig. 3.2 illustrates the principles of a coil that rotates in a fixed magnetic field and in this case two slip rings are required to make connection to the moving coil. The common moving-coil meter has a similar construction but is used to transform an electrical input into the angular displacement of a needle. Similarly, the moving coil loudspeaker uses

* North Staffordshire Polytechnic

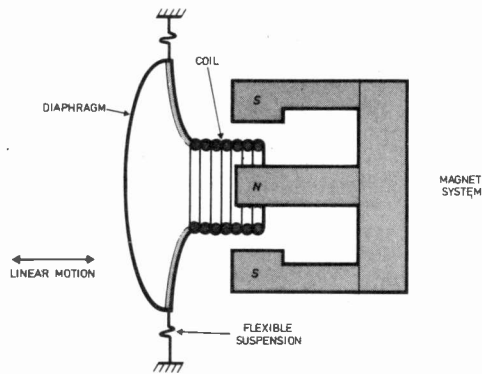


Fig. 3.1. The moving coil microphone

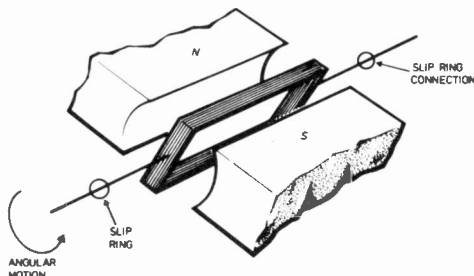


Fig. 3.2. The simplest form of a.c. tachometer using a moving coil

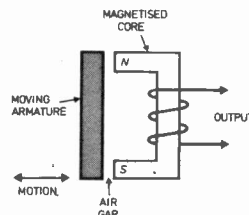


Fig. 3.3. The variable reluctance transducer

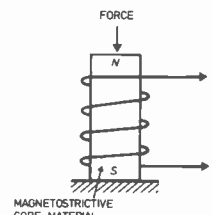


Fig. 3.4. The magnetostrictive transducer

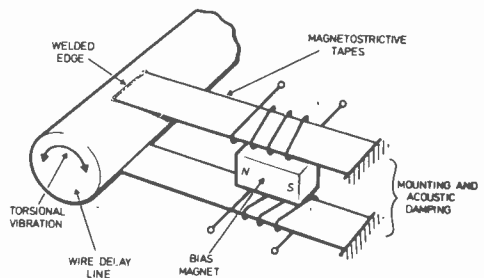


Fig. 3.5. The Scarrot-Naylor torsional transducer which makes use of magnetostrictive effects

the principle of Fig. 3.1 but the input is again the electrical signal and the audio output results from the displacement of air by the cone.

In all the moving coil transducer systems, the amplitude of the output signal will depend on the rate of change of the flux-linkage and so will be proportional to the linear or angular velocity. The linear moving coil system can indicate the sense or direction of movement as well as the velocity since the output polarity depends on the direction of movement of the coil.

The angular transducer on the other hand produces an alternating output which ever way the coil revolves. In some devices the coil is stationary and a moving magnet is used to give a velocity dependent voltage output, thus simplifying the problem of coil connections.

VARIABLE RELUCTANCE TRANSDUCERS

Transducers in this group utilise variation in the reluctance of the magnetic flux path and the principle is illustrated in Fig. 3.3. The armature moves through changes in the measurand, thus varying the lengths of the air gaps which form a significant part of the magnetic circuit. As the air gap increases the flux in the coil changes and a voltage is induced in the coil.

The output voltage can be calibrated in terms of changes in the measurand but since the flux variation with armature position is approximately an inverse law the output is only roughly proportional to armature velocity for small armature displacements. The armature is attracted to the magnet and must therefore be restrained by some flexible support system so that an air gap exists even with zero input.

The reluctance of the magnetic path is normally dominated by the reluctance of the two air gaps and under this condition the reluctance is approximately proportional to air-gap length.

MAGNETOSTRICTIVE TRANSDUCERS

Some ferromagnetic materials exhibit changes in their permeability when subject to mechanical stress. Consequently a coil wound on a core of such material will experience changes in its flux pattern when under stress. The voltage induced will depend on both the magnitude and the rate of change of the applied stress and the principle is shown in Fig. 3.4. Typical magnetostrictive materials include permalloys, nickel, cobalt and certain ferrites. The main areas of use are those in which high power levels are encountered, ultrasonic applications such as thickness gauging and underwater sonar detection systems.

The magnetostrictive behaviour of these materials is reversible in that suitable magnetic excitation will produce dimensional changes in the material. These effects have been used in some computer delay lines and one such application is illustrated in Fig. 3.5. The delay is produced by the propagation time of torsional waves transmitted down the nickel wire. The waves are initiated by causing the wire to twist as the two magnetostrictive tapes expand and contract due to the applied magnetisation. The magnet provides a permanent flux to which is added the flux due to the signal in the coils. The magnetisation is so arranged that one tape expands whilst the other shrinks giving a kind of push-pull drive to the delay wire. The receiving transducer is basically similar to the transmitter.

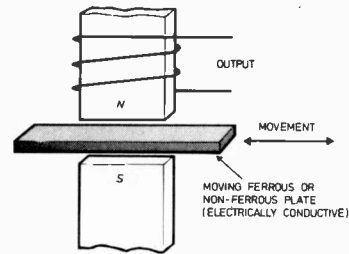


Fig. 3.6. Principle of operation of the eddy current transducer

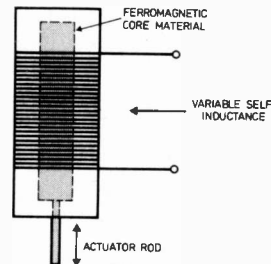


Fig. 3.7. Self-inductive version of the passive inductive transducer

EDDY CURRENT TRANSDUCERS

Referring to Fig. 3.6, if the plate is moved in the direction shown, eddy currents are set up within the plate in proportion to the plate velocity. These currents create their own magnetic field which tends to oppose the main field of the magnet system but as long as the velocity is constant there is no output signal. However, a changing velocity will cause changes in the magnetic flux which gives rise to an output which is roughly proportional to the acceleration of the plate.

PASSIVE INDUCTIVE TRANSDUCERS

Passive inductive transducers require power from some external source and the transducer is normally used to modulate, say, the current flow in the excitation circuit. Both static and time varying measurands can be handled and converted to quantitative output signals, the normal unmodulated excitation level acting as the zero reference. As with the self generating types, four main categories can be identified.

VARIABLE INDUCTANCE

The self or mutual inductance of a coil system can be made dependent on the position of a core of ferromagnetic material as illustrated in Fig. 3.7 and Fig. 3.8. In Fig. 3.7 the self inductance of the coil increases as the core enters the coil, reaching a maximum value when the core is in the central position.



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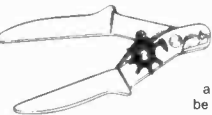
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		BC148	10	BFX66	28	11H Decca 30 Series			£4.50
		BC149	10	BFY50	19	11TAQ Decca 'Bradford'			£4.50
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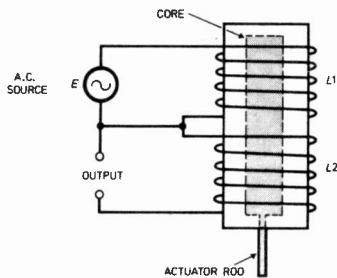


Fig. 3.8. Mutual inductance version of the passive inductive transducer

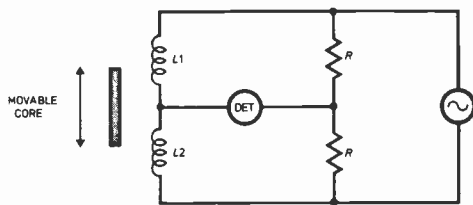


Fig. 3.9. A two-coil variable inductance transducer

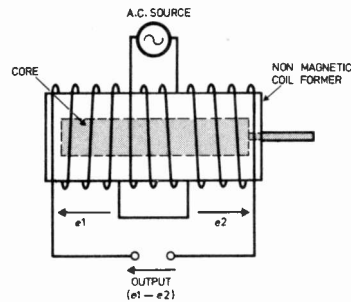


Fig. 3.10. The linear variable differential transformer (LVDT) in which displacement of the core to one or other side of a centre position gives a negative or a positive output

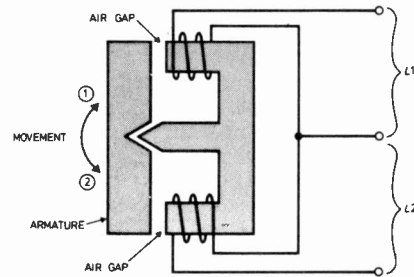


Fig. 3.11. A passive variable reluctance transducer in which armature movement will be caused by small angular or linear displacement

In Fig. 3.8 the mutual inductance coupling between the two coils L_1 and L_2 depends on the core position and hence the output voltage across L_2 can be calibrated, in terms of position, providing the excitation E is held constant. An alternative arrangement, Fig. 3.9, uses a coil system similar to Fig. 3.8 but with L_1 and L_2 connected as two ratio arms of an a.c. bridge.

As the core moves from the central position the effective inductance of, say, L_1 increases whilst that of L_2 decreases, thus causing an unbalance of the bridge and consequently the output detector can be calibrated as before. Since the changes in L_1 and L_2 act together to unbalance the bridge the sensitivity is effectively doubled.

Directional information can be determined from all of these arrangements although the method shown in Fig. 3.8 would require a phase-sensitive detector system since a simple a.c. detector would respond only to the degree of unbalance between L_1 and L_2 and would not indicate the sense of core displacement from the central position.

DIFFERENTIAL TRANSFORMER

The so-called linear variable differential transformer or LVDT is shown in Fig. 3.10. The device consists of three coils wound on a common former. The centre coil is connected to an alternating voltage source whilst the two outer coils are connected so that their induced voltages are in phase opposition.

When the core is central the induced voltages are equal and the output is zero. Any displacement of the core from the central position gives rise to a difference between the two voltages and an output

signal is then produced. The relative phase of the output voltage depends on the direction of displacement.

A core displacement to the right of centre is considered positive and the magnitude of the output is zero when the core is central. The change in phase either side of the zero position can be detected and used to indicate the sense of core movement.

The LVDT can be used with d.c. excitation in which case it becomes a dynamic transducer since no output occurs except when the core is in motion. The output amplitude is now proportional to the rate of change of the core displacement with time and thus gives a velocity-proportional signal. Rotary differential transformers are also available but the variation of output signal usually follows a sinusoidal variation. The output amplitude is approximately a linear function of angular displacement over a range of $\pm 30^\circ$.

VARIABLE RELUCTANCE (PASSIVE)

This class of devices relies on the change of inductance by virtue of a change of reluctance. Unlike the self generating system the core is not normally magnetised by the inclusion of a permanent magnet but relies on the external excitation. A double coil system for use in an a.c. bridge would be similar to Fig. 3.9 except that the changes in L_1 and L_2 would be the result of changes in reluctance due to, say, a changing air gap as shown in Fig. 3.11. Movement in the direction (1) increases L_1 and decreases L_2 .

Next Month: Synchro Transformers

SYMBIOSIS...

A composition for the

PE

MINISONIC

By M. POINTON

B.Mus.



NOT so very many years ago the electronics engineer and the musician seemed poles apart. A quick passing of the time of day as the serviceman finished his mammoth task of tracking down an intermittent crackle in the radio set was the sum total of their contact. Today that contact is more intimate, although it is often the electronics enthusiast who shows a greater interest in electronically produced music than the average musician. I find this sad. However through my contact with PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS I have discovered that there is a large body of people which believes, as I do, that a very big slice of our musical future will reflect, in some form or another, advances in electronic technology.

Many of these people will no doubt be the first to admit that their interest was really awakened by the appearance of the do-it-yourself synthesisers. The steady trickle of interested parties which followed the publication of the PE Sound Synthesiser details in 1973-4 is threatening to become a flood as the Minisonic makes its impact. There is no doubt at all that the low cost of this latest arrival is a significant factor in its popularity, and this can only be for the good. The more people can begin to appreciate the satisfaction of producing their own music the better.

demands little more than a superficial knowledge of how voltages can be made to interact, a reasonable pair of ears and an enthusiasm to do something new. And the sonic result of his efforts is not just a one-finger-dabble but an arrangement of sound events which, in sheer complexity and wealth of colour, can outshine the most virtuoso symphonic work in the repertoire.

SCORING FOR MINISONIC

This project makes use of some of the many effects to be found in the Minisonic, and although it is basically a re-creative exercise in that it centres on my composition "Symbiosis" there is plenty of leeway built into the score to allow for individual interpretation. To some extent this element of chance in what appears to be a rigid format was dictated by the synthesiser itself. It is extremely difficult to pinpoint precisely the many control settings without recourse to sophisticated external measuring equipment. In my own version of the work no measuring device was necessary so I consciously allowed for individual "error" in subsequent realisations.

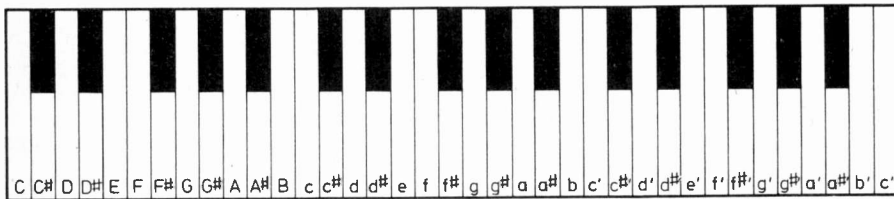


Fig. 1. The keyboard showing the letter names of the notes

MAKING MUSIC

With traditional acoustic musical instruments the way to expertise is a hard one; difficult techniques have to be learnt. Rapid and precise finger movement, subtle muscular control and, if you play with others, an almost telepathic rapport take years to achieve and a lifetime to perfect. Most of us do not have the time to devote to these necessary skills and we give up almost before we've started and resort to the secondhand—records, cassettes and radio.

The electronic sound synthesiser fulfils the amateur musician's needs admirably. In his hands lies the means to a musical creation which is his alone and

The equipment required for a performance of "Symbiosis" is not esoteric, comprising the Minisonic, a stereo tape machine with separate record and playback heads, another tape machine, a simple stereo mixer with at least five inputs, three outputs and channel switching facility, and a mono or stereo amplifier and speaker(s) for monitoring purposes. The Minisonic is the only sound source used. Although the stylus keyboard is not ideal from a performance point of view I have avoided the temptation to patch in a standard keyboard and this has meant that the kind of material used in the piece is relatively simple. Paradoxically the very

limitations imposed by the stylus have resulted in several accidental discoveries!

The sound patterns in the work have been kept fairly straightforward in the sense that I have tried not to overtax the resources of the performer by writing extended passages which require a considerable amount of dexterity both in stylus manipulation and rapid knob control. A diagram of the keyboard is given (Fig. 1) together with the letter names of the notes, as they are referred to in the text.

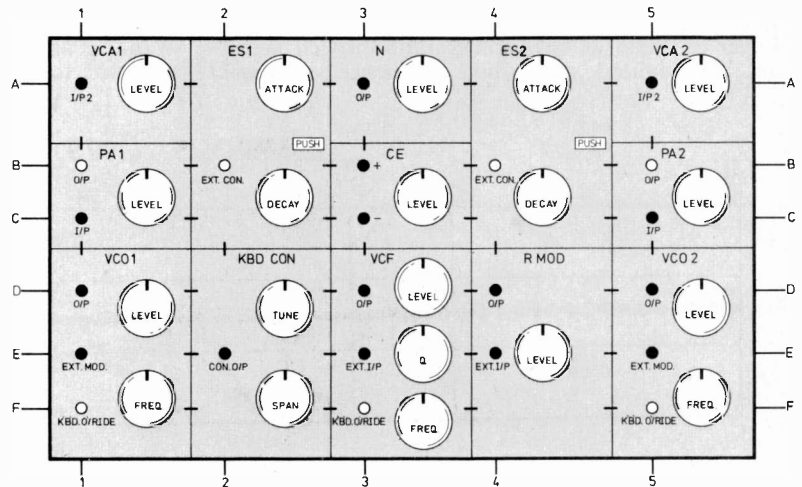
LAYOUT FOR PATCHING

In order to simplify the description of patching arrangements the original front panel lay-out of the Minisonic has been reorganised so that a matrix of input and output sockets could emerge. (Fig. 2) Throughout the text reference will be made exclusively to this diagram.

sound events in sequence. Each sub-section of the piece is marked off by vertical lines with a timing in seconds given at the top. The boxed upper-case letters, A to S, are for reference purposes only as the performer works through the data. Most of the events themselves are not meticulously annotated in order to allow for individual variation although their visual appearance often gives some clue to the kind of sound that is expected. The strict measurements of time are not meant to be adhered to rigidly—they merely give a sense of scale. An error of plus or minus ten seconds in sixty will not upset the piece unduly. The total duration of the work should be around seven minutes.

Before getting down to the work make sure that you have brand-new batteries in the Minisonic; although, as was mentioned in the constructional articles, most of the units will function down to $\pm 7.8V$.

Fig. 2. Reorganised panel layout to simplify control references



The units themselves are abbreviated as follows:

- VCO1, VCO2 : Voltage Controlled Oscillators
- VCA1, VCA2 : Voltage Controlled Amplifiers
- ES1, ES2 : Envelope Shapers
- PA1, PA2 : Power Amplifiers
- VCF : Voltage Controlled Filter
- RMOD : Ring Modulator
- KBD : Keyboard
- KBD CON : Keyboard Control
- CE : Control Envelope
- N : Noise Generator

The control settings for the Re-an skirted knobs used on the prototype (measured 1 to 12 over almost 360 degrees) are included too. With the potentiometers used the settings range from 1 (minimum) to 11 (maximum). It must be borne in mind that the settings given in this text may not accurately match those on any other machine. Where a particular configuration is critical hints will be given on achieving it.

THE SCORE FOR SYMBIOSIS

The musical score of "Symbiosis" (Fig. 3) is laid out pretty imprecisely as regards virtually every parameter and is simply a graphic representation of the

SEQUENCE A TO D

The v.c.o.s have first to be tuned, in the first instance to only one note. Unfortunately the v.c.o.s in the Minisonic are prone to frequency drift and the way to stabilise them is to patch in to the keyboard hold circuit. This is achieved quite simply by taking a lead with a miniature crocodile clip at each end and attaching the stylus tip to the bottom resistor on the keyboard chain. Normally one could hold the stylus on the keyboard but for this particular section of the piece both hands will be needed at the controls. The control settings are as follows:

- RMOD — Level 11
- KBD CON — Tune 3-8; Span 5
- VCF — Level 11; Q 1; Freq 5
- VCO1 — Level 11; Freq 7
- VCO2 — Level 11; Freq 7

With these settings you should be very close to requirements. The only additional adjustment is to KBD CON; rotate the knob until VCO2 gives out a middle C (check this with a piano or any other fixed-pitch instrument or tune to about 262Hz).

Patch-cords: 3E to 4D; 3D to 1C; 5D to 4E. With this set-up you should hear nothing. Advance VCF frequency to about 8 and both v.c.o.s will be heard out of tune. Adjust VCO1 frequency very slowly until a steady single pitch is heard. Next move the control very slowly indeed until a beat frequency of about 2Hz is heard. You are now ready to start recording the first section of the piece. Return VCF frequency to 5 or less.

Letter A in the score is silence; from A to B very gradually increase VCF frequency until the 2Hz beat is heard softly but comfortably. At letter B rotate VCO1 frequency clockwise very slowly until the beat frequency becomes, at C, a rasping noise. Immediately after C the effect of ring modulation appears as you continue, at an even, infinitesimally slow, rate, to rotate the knob. Continue this slow progress until about a minute has elapsed. The final eight seconds before D show that you have arrived at a distinguishable beat frequency of about 2Hz. (You will have passed several of these on your way up, shown by an inclined dotted line.) If you happen to like certain modulation effects, do not be afraid to linger on them or back-track and approach them again. Throughout the whole sequence increase

VCF frequency very slowly so that it reaches a peak in the middle of the eight-second "throb" at the end of the top line of music.

This done, cut the tape just before the last dying strain.

SEQUENCE D TO I

The setting-up procedure here is quite straightforward. No patch-cords are required since the relevant links are made internally. The only possible problem may be the tuning of the two v.c.o.s an octave apart. Initially set up as follows:

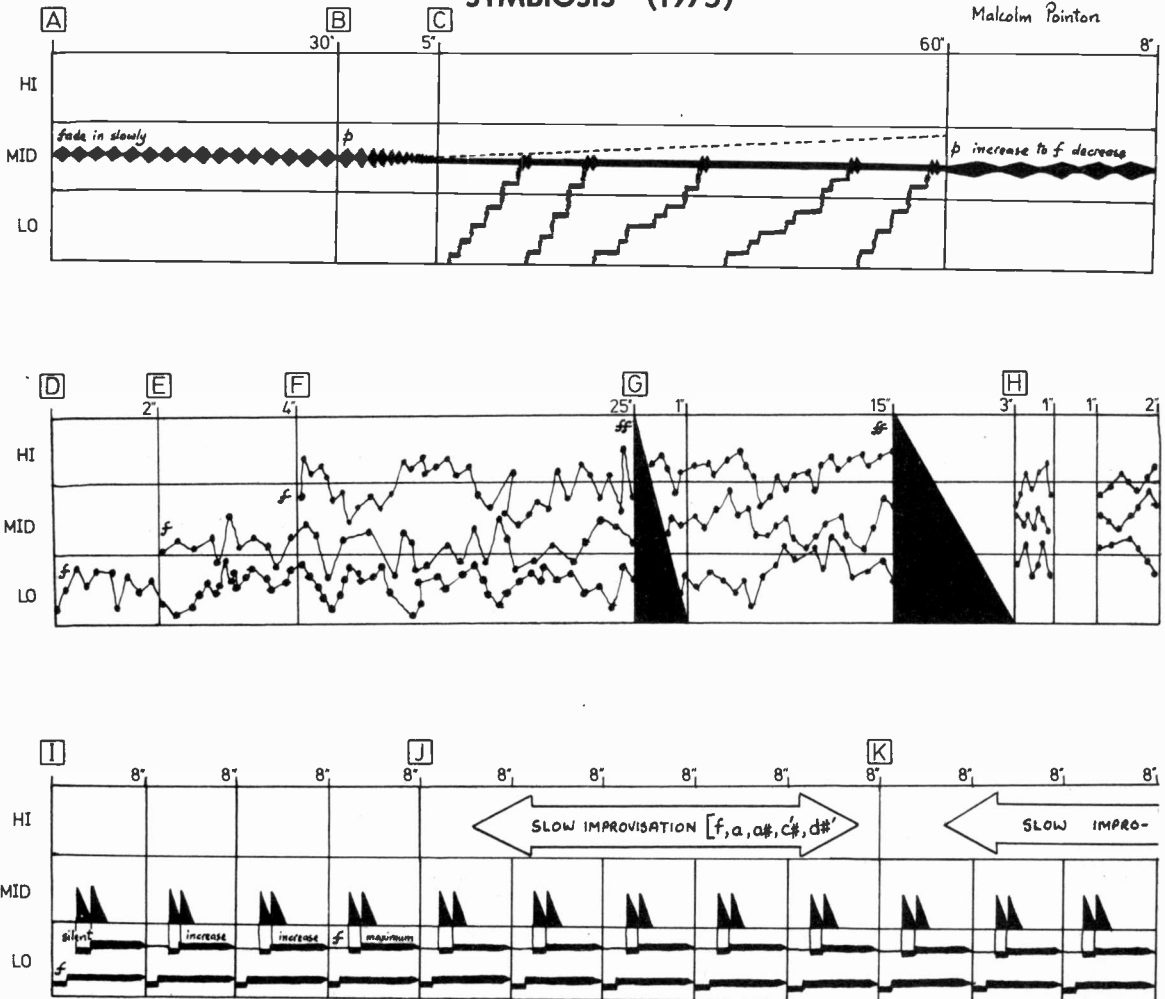
- VCO1 and 2 — Level 11, Freq 6
- ES1 and 2 — Attack 1, Decay 1
- VCA1 and 2 — Level 7
- KBD CON — Tune 5; Span 5

Tune the two v.c.o.s to the same pitch, then decrease VCO1 frequency to approximately 5.6 until they sound in tune.

Since this sequence is interrupted by two bouts of noise and a silence, sufficient material must be recorded to cover about 55 seconds. I suggest you

SYMBIOSIS (1975)

Malcolm Ponton



make 90 seconds' worth so that you can hack out the bits you like for the two interpolations after H.

On track one of your stereo machine record the bottom line of linked black dots. This should sound as it looks—pretty random in pitch and rhythm. Using the stylus dodge around the whole range of the keyboard as you like but without playing any long-held notes. The effect must be of short, rapid stabs.

Having recorded this, play back track one as you record the same kind of thing again on to track two. This time advance KBD CON tuning to 6, thus increasing the overall frequency by about an octave.

Play back both tracks through the mixer into your second tape machine whilst you play a third "random" sequence on the keyboard, this time with the KBD CON tuning set at 7.2, another approximate octave higher. The result is a piece of three-part counterpoint moving rapidly and nervously.

The noise at letter G is added, when all the foregoing has been completed, by playing the sequence back on to the first tape machine, your finger being

poised above the push button on ES1. The setting-up procedure for this noise is as follows:

VCO1 and 2 — Level 1
 ES1 — Attack 1; Decay 4
 VCF — Level 11; Q 11; Freq 7
 CE — Maximum clockwise
 N — Level 11

Patch-cords: 3F to 3C; 3A to 3E; 3D to 1C

This should give a one second decay time; if not, adjust ES1 decay accordingly.

This second splash of noise is recorded on to virgin tape and spliced on to the end of the contrapuntal sequence. For this noise the ES1 decay is advanced to give a three second envelope. On to this is spliced a one second cutting from the excess counterpoint, followed by a one second piece of clean tape and a two second stretch of counterpoint. The whole sequence can now be added to the end of sequence A to D.

Next Month: Symbiosis is concluded

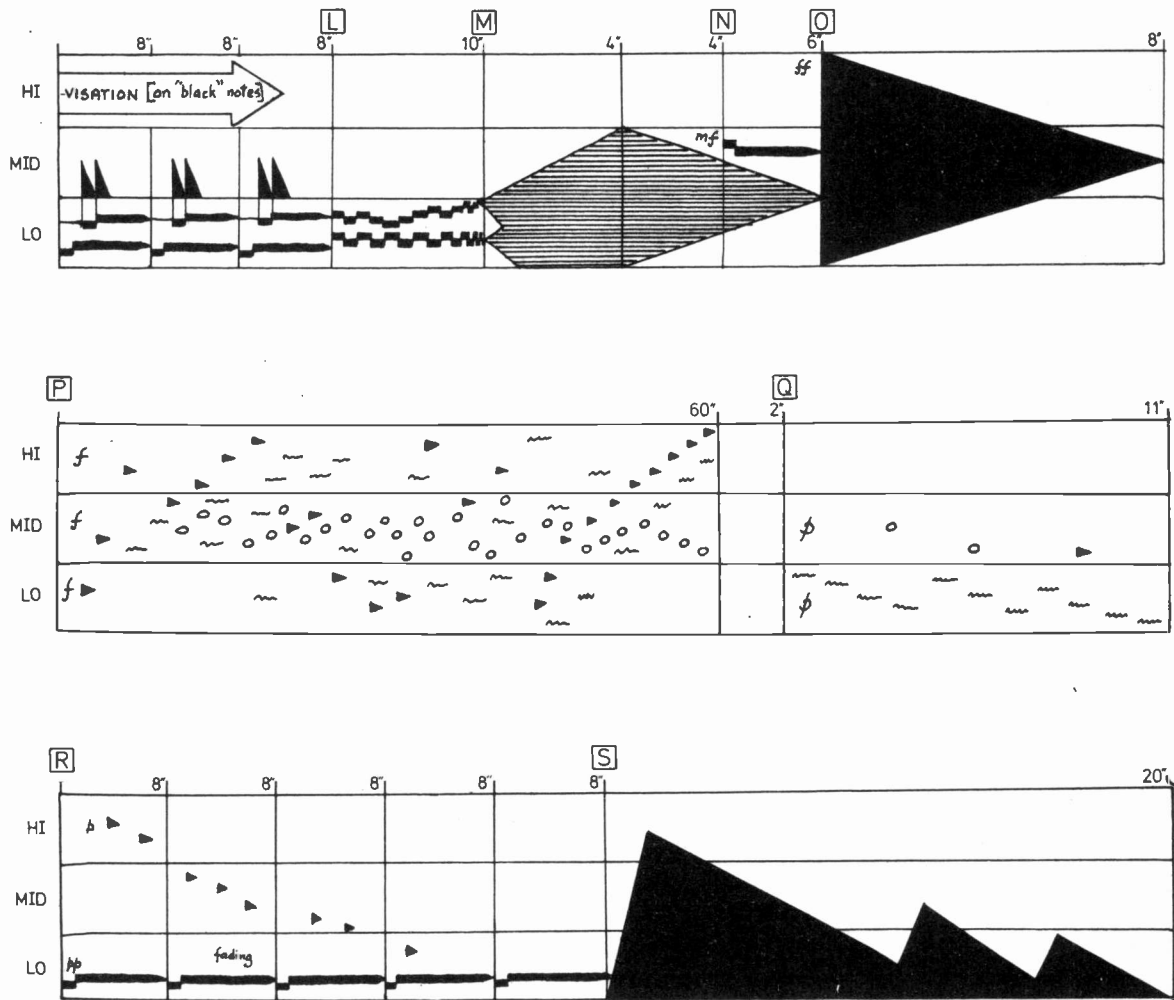
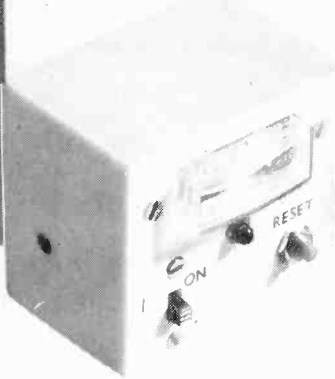


Fig. 3. Musical score of "Symbiosis"

REACTION TIMER

By C.R. MASSON



REACTION time is an aspect of human performance which is important in many situations. This article describes a pocket-sized device which measures the speed of reaction to a visual stimulus. It is possible to use the timer to find, for instance, the effect of alcohol on reaction time, and so should prove a fund of amusement around the local in one of its applications. However, whether lighthearted or more serious the uses are manifold.

THE UNIT IN USE

The person whose reactions are being tested presses a button which resets the previous reading and initiates the operation. After a delay of up to 10 seconds, a light appears and the subject has to release the button as quickly as possible. The time interval between the appearance of the light and the release of the button is measured and displayed on a moving-coil meter. The meter reading remains steady until the next time the button is pressed.

If the delay between the pressing of the button and the appearance of the light is constant, the sub-

ject will soon learn when to expect the light. To prevent this, the delay varies unpredictably between 0 and 10 seconds.

Most people's reaction times are about 150ms and nobody reacts faster than 100ms. Because readings on a linear time scale would be rather cramped, the reaction timer has a suppressed zero scale with the meter zero corresponding to about 100ms and mid scale to 150ms.

CIRCUIT DIAGRAM

The circuit diagram is given in Fig. 1 and a timing diagram illustrating one complete cycle of operation is shown in Fig. 2. Until the button S2 is pressed, the oscillator TR1, TR2 runs continuously, producing a short pulse every 10 seconds. The oscillator output is shown in waveform (a) and the press button voltage is shown in waveform (b). On the first pulse after the button has been pressed, the bistable is set. Waveform (c) shows the state of the bistable which controls the l.e.d. and the timing circuit. Waveform (d) is the voltage across the timing capacitor C3. When the button is released, the bistable is immediately reset, turning off the light and stopping the timing circuit.

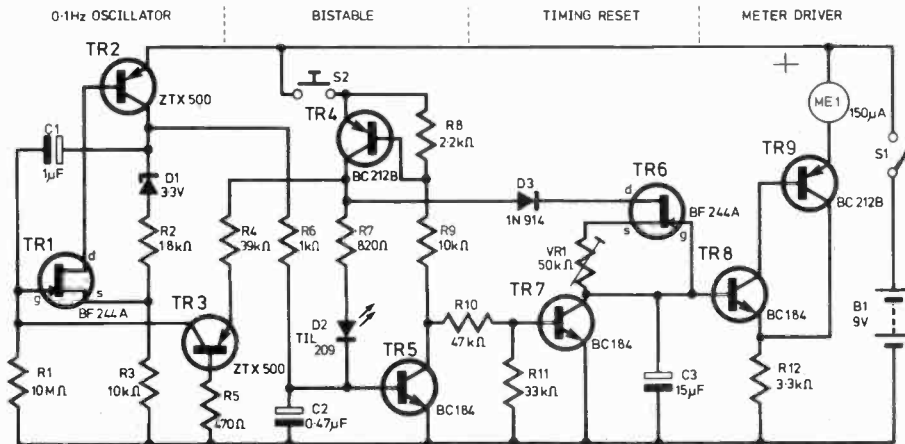


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of Reaction Timer

Since the delay time between the pressing of the button and the appearance of the light is dependent on the phase of the 0.1Hz oscillator which is unknown to the user, it is not predictable and will vary randomly in the range 0 to 10 seconds. However, the phase of the oscillator at the point where the bistable is turned on is known precisely and does not vary from one cycle of operation to the next. If no precautions were taken, the delay time for any test would be a simple function of the time interval since the end of the previous one. To avoid this, the phase of the oscillator must be altered by an unknown amount after the bistable has been triggered. During the time that the bistable is set, the oscillator frequency is increased to approximately 100Hz. This suffices to produce delay times which are, in practice, completely unpredictable.

The charge on the timing capacitor will decay because of leakage and the current taken by the meter. To minimise the rate at which the charge is lost, a unity gain amplifier with a high input impedance is interposed between the capacitor and the meter. In the prototype, the decay time constant is 1,500s which is more than adequate.

The timing capacitor is discharged when the button is first pressed but, of course, the discharge must be inhibited while the timing of the reaction is taking place.

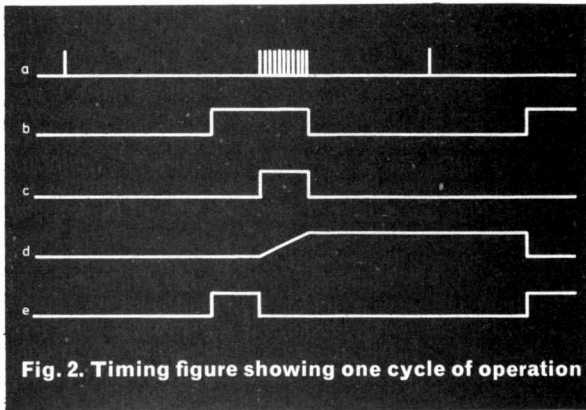


Fig. 2. Timing figure showing one cycle of operation

OSCILLATOR

The 0.1Hz oscillator is an unusual circuit employing an *n*-channel f.e.t. and a *pn*p transistor in a complementary arrangement. This produces pulses whose period is determined by the time constant $R1/C1$.

The duty cycle of the oscillator can be altered by making the charge and discharge paths of $C1$ different. In the Reaction Timer, $R1$ is 10 megohms and on positive half cycles it is shunted by the series combination of $R5$ and the forward-biased collector base junction of $TR3$.

The duty cycle given by this arrangement is about 0.005 per cent, with the transistors conducting for only $500\mu\text{s}$ in every 10s. With such a low duty cycle the current drain is negligible since the average current is only a few microamps.

BISTABLE

A complementary circuit is also used for the bistable, again to reduce power consumption. The necessary control of the bistable by the press switch is obtained by switching the supply to the bistable.

COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors

R1	10M Ω	R7	820 Ω
R2	1.8k Ω	R8	2.2k Ω
R3	10k Ω	R9	10k Ω
R4	39k Ω	R10	47k Ω
R5	470 Ω	R11	33k Ω
R6	1k Ω	R12	3.3k Ω

Capacitors

C1	1 μF 35V tantalum bead
C2	0.47 μF 35V tantalum bead
C3	15 μF 20V tantalum

Transistors

TR1	BF244 A
TR2-3	ZTX500
TR4	BC212B
TR5	BC184
TR6	BF244 A
TR7-8	BC184
TR9	BC212B

Switches

S1	Miniature d.p.d.t. slide
S2	Press-to-make

Potentiometer

VR1	50k Ω linear preset
-----	----------------------------

Diodes

D1	BZX61 3.3V 400mW Zener
D2	T1L209 or equivalent
D3	1N914

Miscellaneous

B1	9V PP3 battery
M1	150 μA meter (see text)
Box,	printed circuit, hardware

This means that the bistable will turn off as soon as the switch is released. The bistable is coupled to the 0.1Hz oscillator by $R6$.

The light is produced by an l.e.d., $D2$, which is driven directly by the bistable to save components. An l.e.d. is used because it is small and provides adequate light output from a current of less than 10mA whereas a filament bulb would probably require several times this current.

While the bistable is set, $TR4$ connects the top end of $R4$ to the positive supply to produce an emitter current of $200\mu\text{A}$ in $TR3$. On positive half cycles, the collector-base junction is forward biased as before and the current from $R4$ flows through the base lead of $TR3$. On negative half cycles, $TR3$ operates as a common base amplifier and its emitter current flows through the collector lead, increasing the rate of charge of $C1$ and hence raising the oscillator frequency.

$C3$ is the timing capacitor which is supplied with a constant charging current by $TR6$ while the bistable is set. Since the current is constant, the voltage across the capacitor is a linear function of time. A tantalum capacitor is used in this position because it has a low leakage current and a tolerance of 10 per cent. A tantalum bead could be used but the tolerance is worse. The total discharge current must be kept as low as possible so that the meter reading remains steady. Leakage through $TR6$ is prevented

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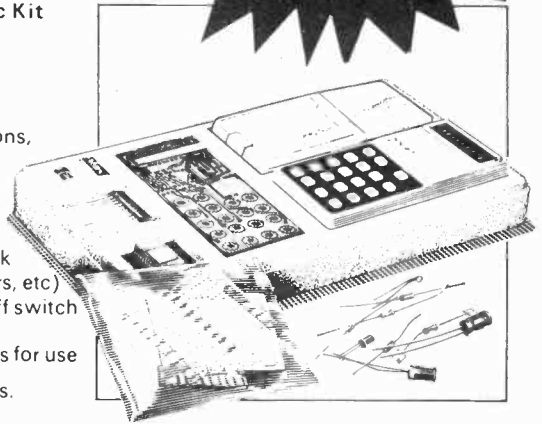
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3. Interface chips
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5. Printed circuit board
6. Keyboard panel
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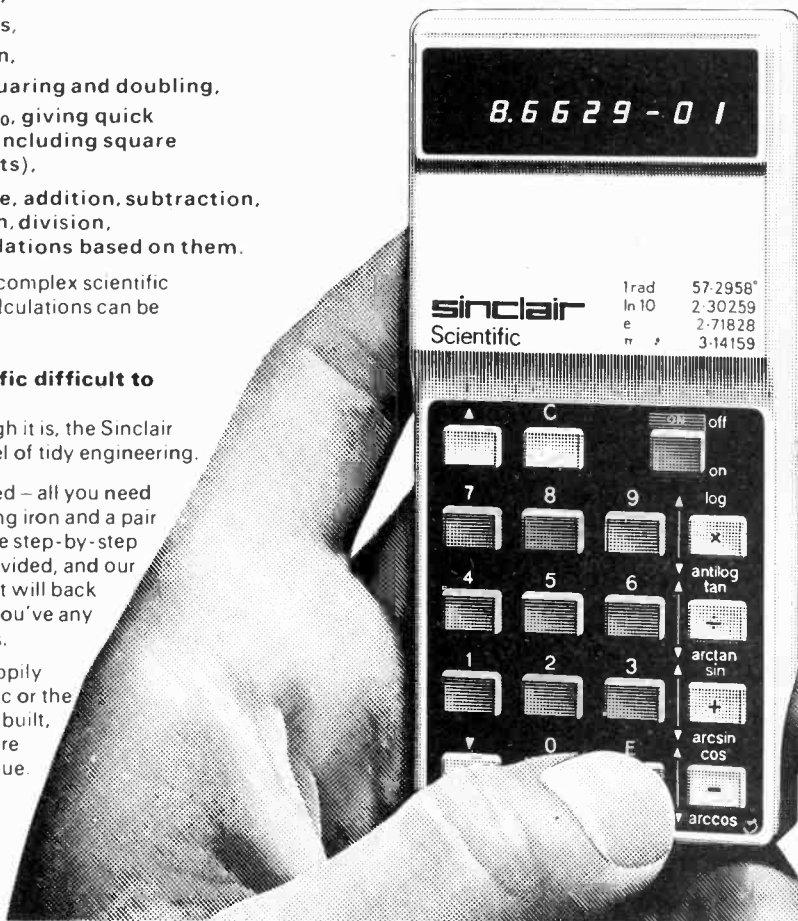
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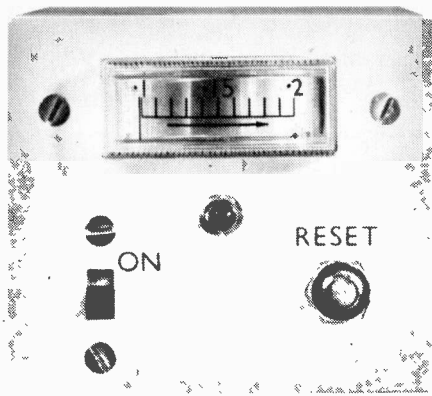
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by D3. The presence of R11 reduces the leakage through TR7. The maximum value of I_{CBO} for this type of transistor is low enough to be ignored. The buffer amplifier, which has a current gain greater than 10,000, takes only about 10nA at f.s.d.

RESET DRIVE

The base drive for the reset transistor, TR7, comes from the press switch via R8, R9 and R10 until it is shunted through TR5 when the bistable turns on. C2 was found to be necessary to prevent contact bounce from affecting the operation. If this component is omitted, the contact bounce will cause the reading to be set to zero as the switch is released and there may also be a tendency for the bistable to turn on as the switch is pressed.

METER SCALING

In the prototype, the meter reads from 100-200ms. The suppressed zero is obtained by virtue of the fact that the base-emitter voltage of TR8 must reach 0.5V before it conducts. The base-emitter voltage of TR8 is about 500mV so the resistor R12 is chosen to drop 500mV at f.s.d.; i.e. the value is given by:

$$R12 = \frac{0.5}{\text{full scale current}}$$

A $150\mu\text{A}$ meter was used in the prototype but any other may be used if R12 is changed to the appropriate value.

Since the author did not have access to a timer during development, an indirect method was used to calibrate the meter. After 150ms, the voltage across C3 should be 750mV and the meter should read midscale. After a time t , the voltage E across C3 is:

$$E = \frac{It}{C3}$$

where I is the current provided by TR6 in microamps.

If a resistor is placed in parallel with C3 and the current is applied for a sufficient time, the voltage will be:

$$E = IR$$

where R is the value of the resistor.

By comparing the two equations above, it can be seen that the voltage when a 10 kilohm resistor is present is the same as that after 150ms when the resistor is not present. To calibrate the meter, a 10 kilohm resistor is temporarily connected in parallel with C3 and the press switch is held down until the l.e.d. turns on. VR1 is then adjusted until the meter reads mid-scale. The resistor is then removed. The accuracy of calibration obtained with

Continued on page 504

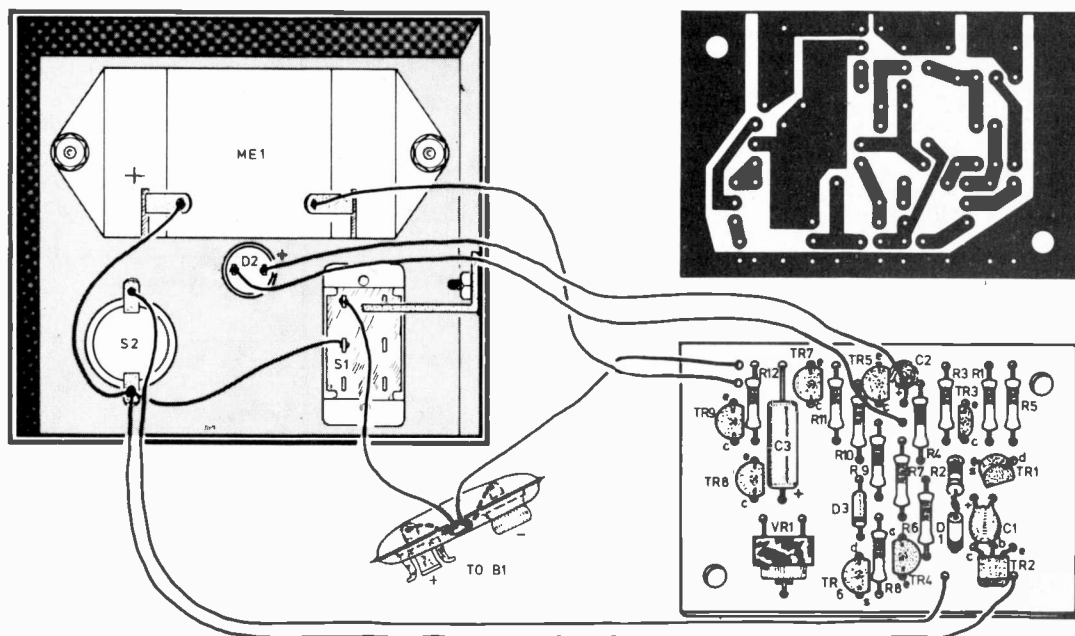
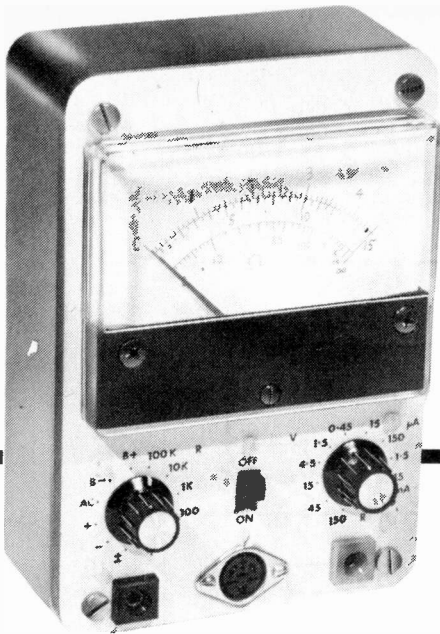


Fig. 3. Assembly details for Reaction Timer

ELECTRONIC MULTIMETER

By D.E. CROCKER



MODERN semiconductors are often operated at very low current levels so that the connection of a voltmeter drawing about $50\mu\text{A}$ may significantly change the potential which the user attempts to measure. Hence the need for an electronic multimeter in which the current for the meter movement is not taken from the circuit under test.

The multimeter to be described has an input resistance of $8\text{M}\Omega$ on all voltage ranges and thus draws negligible current. Unlike a conventional multimeter, it is suitable for the measurement of small alternating voltages since the effect of voltage drop and non-linearity in the rectifier diodes is eliminated while an amplifying probe further extends the sensitivity.

AMPLIFIER CONFIGURATIONS

Each of the circuit configurations shown in Fig. 1 can be used to increase meter sensitivity. Fig. 1a gives a current amplification of $1 + R2/R3$, $R1$ acting as a multiplier as in a conventional voltmeter. This requires very high values of $R1$ on the higher voltage ranges if switching between ranges is to be kept simple.

The arrangement of Fig. 1b is better in this respect, since ranges are altered using a potentiometer, $VR1$, giving constant input resistance. Furthermore, frequency compensation is easier since the loop gain is constant and phase shift in the feedback loop is smaller; this allows a wider bandwidth to be obtained. However, the operational amplifier must have a very low input current, otherwise this will flow through the potentiometer giving rise to a range-dependent zero error.

Since the feedback essentially controls the current through the meter movement, the inclusion of a bridge rectifier as in Fig. 1c will not significantly

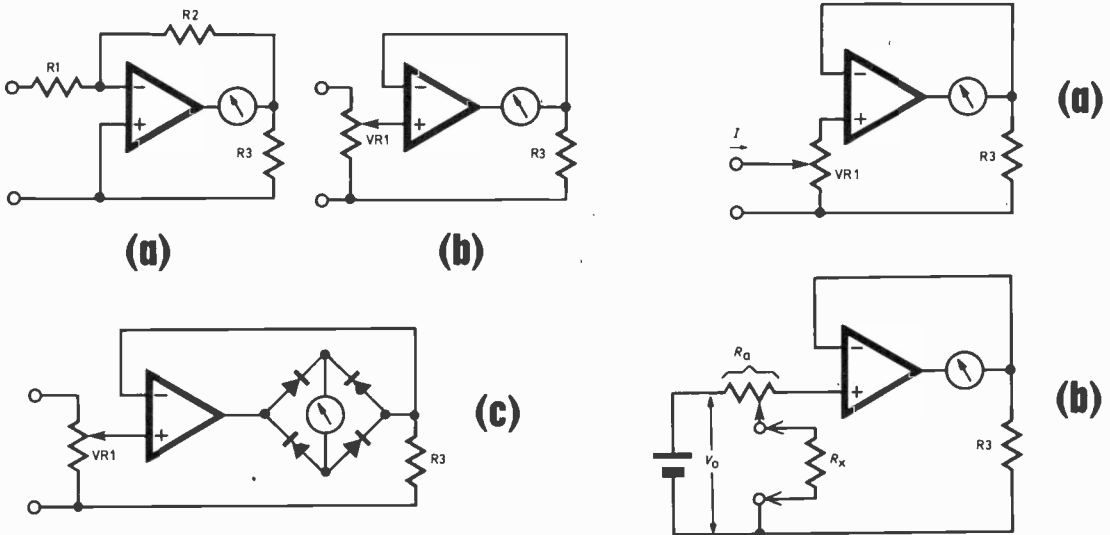


Fig. 1. Various methods of increasing meter sensitivity

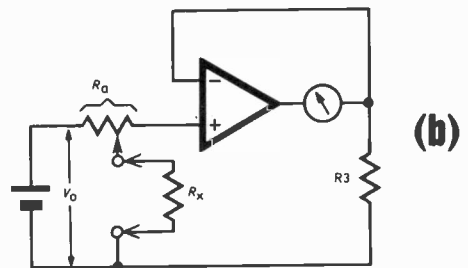


Fig. 2. Current and resistance measurement with an operational amplifier

MULTIMETER CIRCUIT DETAILS

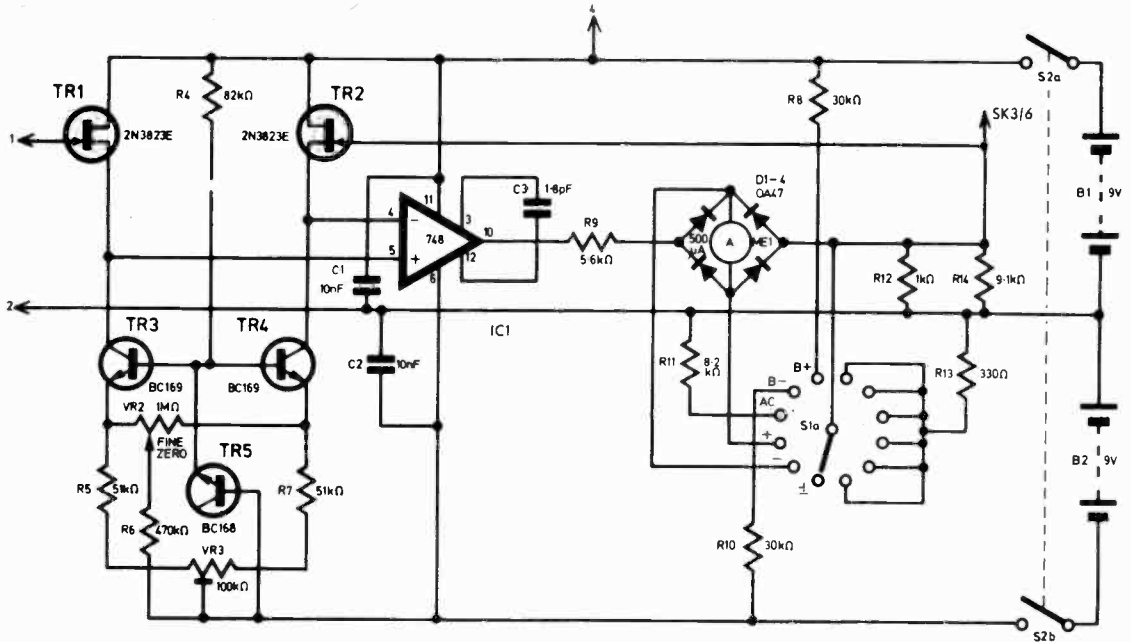


Fig. 3. Circuit diagram of a complete multimeter using f.e.t.s and an operational amplifier to give a high input impedance

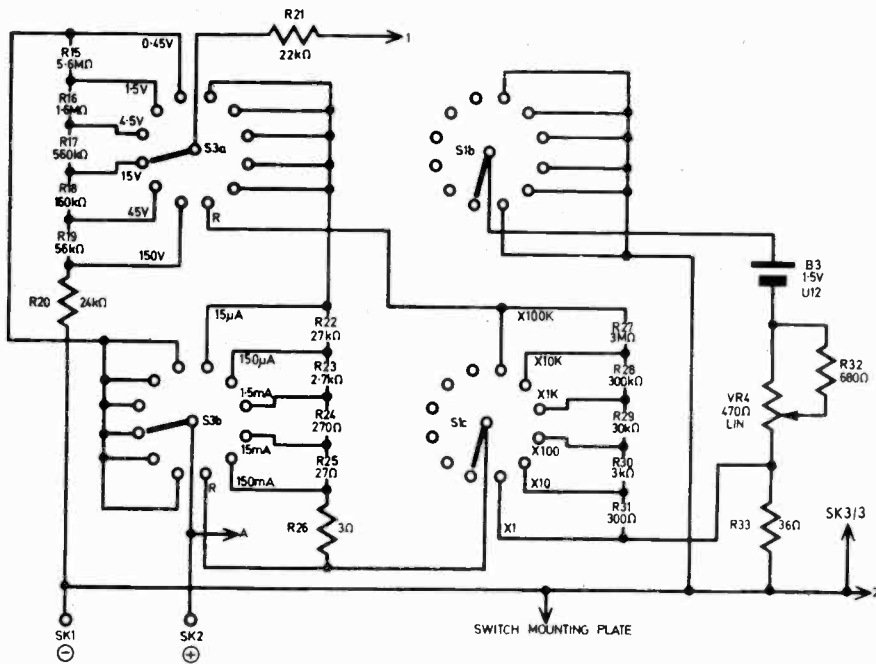


Fig. 4. Switching details for the circuit of Fig. 3

SPECIFICATION . . .

Voltage Ranges

0.45/1.5/4.5/15/45/150V a.c./d.c. f.s.d.

Input Resistance

8M Ω

Current Ranges

15/150 μ A/1.5/15/150mA a.c./d.c. f.s.d. Voltage drop 0.45V at f.s.d.

Bandwidth

Reading 2% down at 200kHz.

Resistance Ranges

6 forward reading ranges giving scale calibrations from 1 Ω to 100M Ω

Facilities

Can be set to respond to either polarity of input or both polarities. Internal batteries can be checked.

Accessories

$\div 10$ a.c. range multiplier

Diode probe can be used for r.f. measurement.

alter the linearity of the circuit. This allows the meter to be used on a.c. as well as d.c. and protects the movement from incorrect input polarity.

Current ranges can be provided by measuring the voltage drop across a resistance through which the current flows; this is the lower half of the potentiometer VR1 in Fig. 2a.

The resistance ranges can use the resistance to be measured in a potential divider fed with a constant voltage V_0 ; the voltage across the unknown resistance R_X is given by $V = V_0 \cdot R_X / (R_A + R_X)$ —see Fig. 2b, where R_A is that section of the potentiometer inserted between V_0 and R_X . This gives a non linear scale which is, however, forward reading.

THE AMPLIFIER

Using a basic circuit sensitivity of 450mV in the circuit of Fig. 3, a difference between the amplifier input terminals of 4.5mV would give a 1 per cent error. Since the output voltage for f.s.d. is about 4V (due to the inclusion of a series resistance R9 for overload protection) the amplifier open loop gain must be at least 1,000 for an error of less than 1 per cent.

The 748 amplifier used has a gain in excess of 10,000 so that the sensitivity could be increased to 45mV if required. A low input current is obtained by adding source followers TR1 and TR2, the source currents being stabilised by TR3, TR4 and TR5 used as a low current Zener diode, in order to eliminate drift with changing battery voltage.

S1 provides battery check facilities using R8/R10. In the a.c. position the sensitivity is increased to give an r.m.s. reading on sinusoidal a.c. By shorting out one of the diodes, the meter can be made to respond to one polarity of input only, hence the + and - positions. On resistance ranges the sensitivity is increased to reduce the current taken from the battery B3.

Fig. 4 shows the complete range switching circuitry. The number of ranges provided has been limited so that only two 12-way switches are required (S1 and S3).

COMPONENTS

The meter movement chosen for the prototype was an SW100 type as this is a convenient size. Unfortunately only the tip of the needle is knife-edged, but this covers the two principal scales.

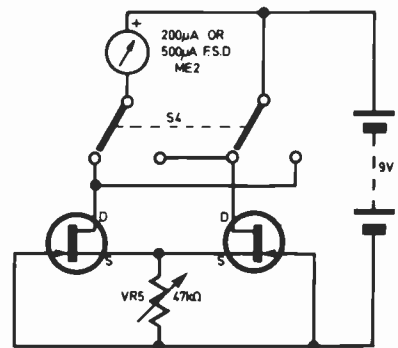


Fig. 5. F.e.f. matching circuit

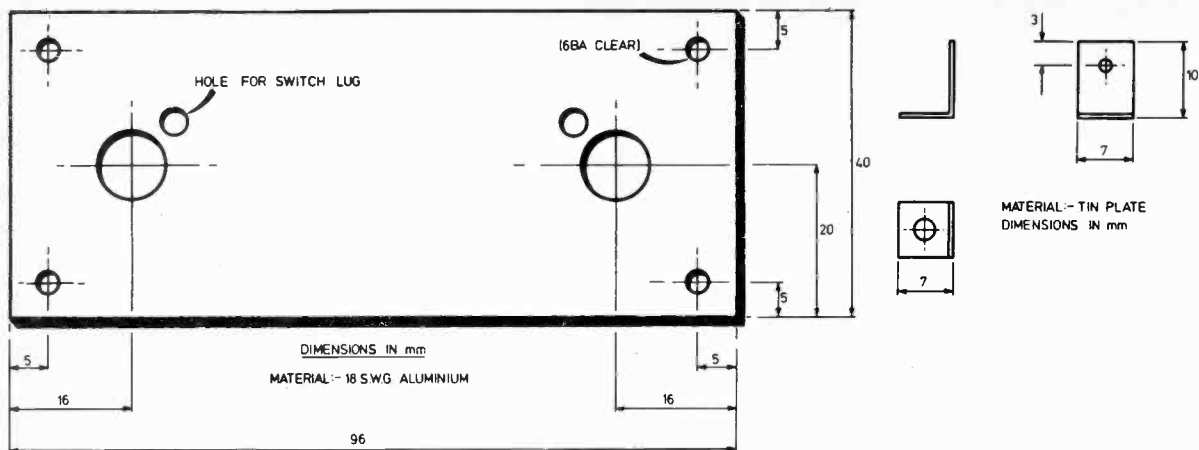
The only critical components are the field effect transistors TR1 and TR2 as it is essential that these have low gate leakage. 2N3819 types were found unsatisfactory in this respect, but the 2N3823E type specified was found to have typically less than 50pA leakage. A matched pair of transistors is needed, ideally matched for drain currents differing by less than 50 μ A when the gate-source voltages are equal and the average drain current is 200 μ A, although a pair matched for similar gate-source voltages proved satisfactory in the prototype.

In the prototype the f.e.t.s were matched by Electrovalue Ltd. for similar gate-source voltages at a specified drain current. The matching can be carried out using the circuit of Fig. 5 and here, to determine if a pair of devices shown are reasonably matched the meter is switched to read the drain currents alternately.

The 46k Ω potentiometer is slowly reduced until the sum of the two readings is 200 μ A. If the difference between the pair is less than 50 μ A they are suitable.

The range selection resistors are specified as 1 per cent tolerance although a fair accuracy is obtained with 2 per cent types. The 5.6M Ω and 1.6M Ω resistors may have to be selected from 5 per cent components using a bridge.

VR2 and VR4 were miniature potentiometers with a screwdriver slot on the rear; type P20 is suitable. Larger types will not fit the circuit board shown.



Details of switch mounting plate and battery brackets

The on/off switch employed was a slider type; this takes up less space than a rotary type but has only two poles so the cell used on resistance ranges is switched by S1 instead.

CONSTRUCTION

The multimeter should be housed in a well insulated case, and in the present instance a 160 × 105 × 55mm p.v.c. box was used. The amplifier, and the cell used for resistance ranges, are mounted on a Veroboard panel fixed on the meter movement. The Vero and component layout is shown in Fig. 6.

R14 and C3 are mounted above the board on Veropins for easy adjustment.

Range selection resistors are mounted on the associated switch wafers and the switches are fixed to an aluminium panel which provides a degree of screening. The batteries are fitted on the same panel, between the switches and the panel is fixed to the front of the p.v.c. box using 1/4in. 6BA tapped pillars.

S2 and SK3 are fitted under the aluminium panel and this requires the tags to be cut short due to the small clearance involved. The accompanying photographs show the layout in the p.v.c. box. Nylon bolts are used for fixings to the front panel for safety.

COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors		R21	22k Ω	} 1%
R1, 2, 3	See text	R22	27k Ω	
R4	82k Ω	R23	2.7k Ω	
R5	51k Ω	R24	270 Ω	
R6	470k Ω	R25	27 Ω	
R7	51k Ω	R26	3 Ω	
R8	30k Ω 2%	R27	3M Ω	
R9	5.6k Ω	R28	300k Ω	
R10	30k Ω 2%	R29	30k Ω	
R11	8.2k Ω	R30	3k Ω	
R12	1k Ω (see text)	R31	300 Ω	} 2%
R13	330 Ω	R32	680 Ω	
R14	9.1k Ω (see text)	R33	36 Ω 2%	
R15	5.6M Ω	R34	22k Ω	
R16	1.6M Ω	R35	10M Ω	
R17	560k Ω	R36	18k Ω	
R18	160k Ω	R37	47k Ω	
R19	56k Ω	R38	4.7k Ω	
R20	24k Ω	R39	47k Ω	
		R40	100 Ω	
		R41	100k Ω	

All 1/8W, 5% carbon film unless otherwise stated

Potentiometers

- VR1 See text
- VR2 1M Ω Lin. Miniature (see text)
- VR3 100k Ω Subminiature horizontal preset
- VR4 470 Ω Lin. Miniature (see text)
- VR5 47k Ω

Capacitors

- C1, 2 0.01μF disc ceramic
- C3 1.8pF ceramic (see text)
- C4, 5 0.068μF polyester or polycarbonate
- C6 10μF elect.
- C7 1,000pF ceramic

Integrated Circuit

- IC1 748 d.i.l. operational amplifier

Transistors

- TR1, 2 2N3823E matched pair of f.e.t.s (see text)
- TR3, 4 BC169 (2 off)
- TR5 BC168
- TR6 2N3823E
- TR7 BC258B

Diodes

- D1-4 OA47 (4 off)
- D5 OA79

Switches

- S1 3-pole, 12 way rotary (Doram, Maka)
- S2 2-pole slider
- S3 2-pole, 12 way rotary (Doram, Maka)
- S4 2-pole change-over

Miscellaneous

- ME1 500μA f.s.d. meter (SW100, Laskey)
 - ME2 200μA or 500μA, see text
 - SK1, 2 4mm black and red sockets
 - SK3 6-pole DIN socket
 - PL3a, c, d 5-pole DIN plugs
 - PL3b 6-pole DIN plug
 - B1, 2 9V, PP3
 - B3 1.5V U12
- Case, 160 × 105 × 55mm p.v.c.; Veroboard, 0.1in matrix 95 × 95mm; 18 s.w.g. aluminium sheet, 106 × 40mm; PP3 battery clips; 6BA pillars, wire etc.

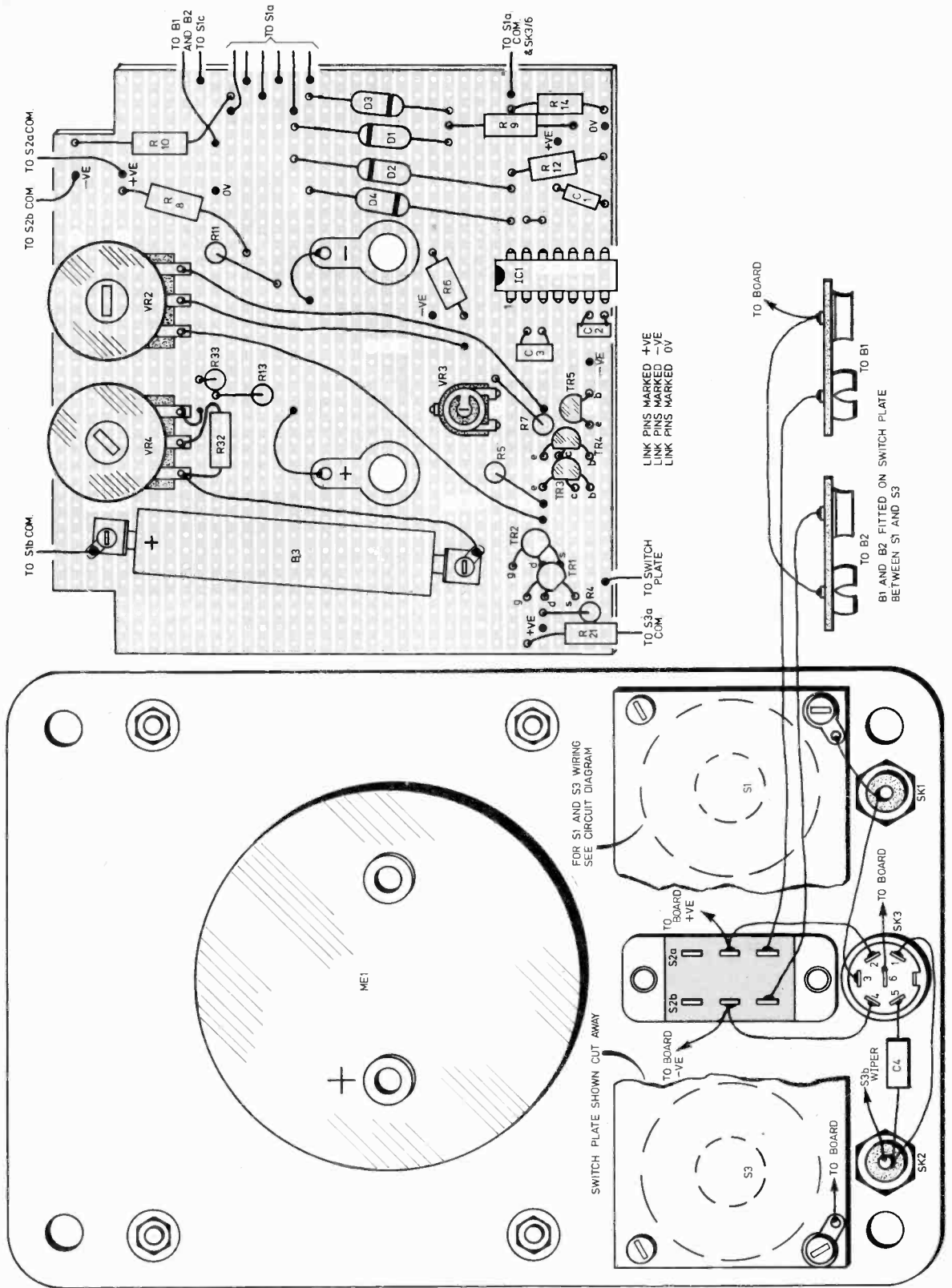


Fig. 6. Component layout and Veroboard cutting details

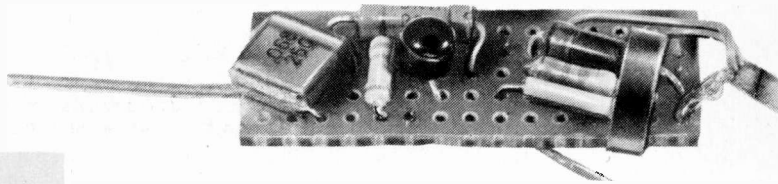
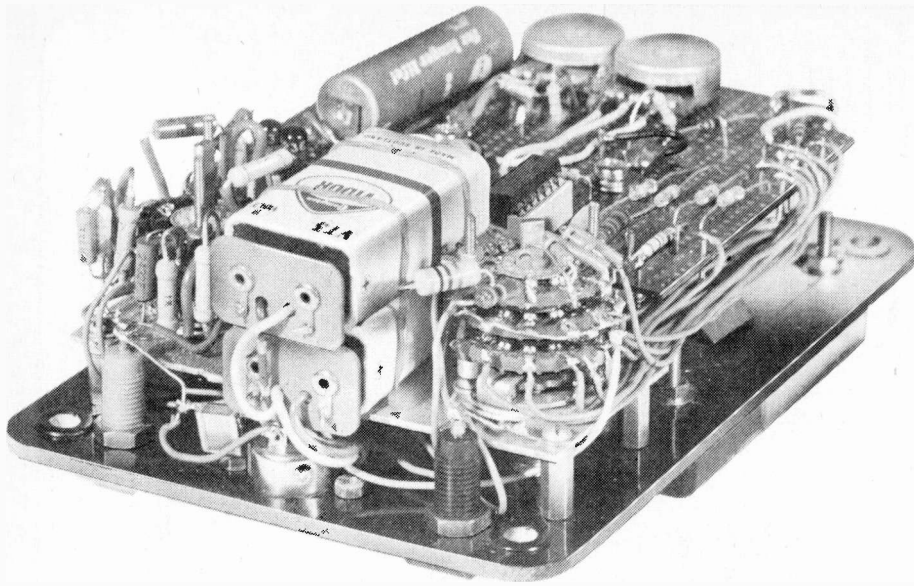


Table 1

Scale marking	Degrees	Scale marking	Degrees
0	0	40	49.1
1	2.6	45	51.7
2	5.1	50	54.0
3	7.4	60	57.9
4	9.6	70	61.0
5	11.7	80	63.5
6	13.7	90	65.7
7	15.6	100	67.5
8	17.4	150	73.6
9	19.1	200	77.1
10	20.8	300	81.0
15	27.9	400	83.1
20	33.75	500	84.4
25	38.6	1k	87.1
30	42.6	Infinity	90.0
35	46.1		

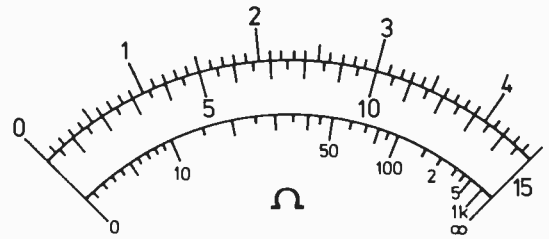


Fig. 7. Scales used on the prototype instrument

SCALING THE METER

The choice of ranges in multiples of 4.5 and 15 makes scaling easy since using a movement having a 90° full scale deflection (such as the SW100), increments of 0.1 on the 0 to 4.5 scale occur at intervals of 2° while increments of 0.5 on the 0 to 15 scale are at intervals of 3°. These scales are thus easily marked off using a protractor.

The non-linear resistance scale may be produced from Table 1. The scales are marked out on white paper which can be glued to the existing aluminium scale. The arrangement of the scales can be seen from Fig. 7.

SETTING UP

Select the 150V range and switch on. The meter should be zeroed by adjustment of the preset VR3, using VR2 as a fine adjustment. If this is impossible, the amplifier may be unstable (increase C3) or TR1 and TR2 may be mismatched.

Once zeroed, sensitivity can be adjusted by variation of R14 using a standard cell or other standard voltage. If no standard is available, R12 may be 1kΩ 1 per cent and R14 may be 9.1kΩ 5 per cent; this will give reasonable accuracy. If a signal generator is available, C3 may be optimised. With C3 too low the meter will oscillate or show a peak in sensitivity at about 500kHz, while increasing C3 too far reduces the bandwidth.

USING THE MULTIMETER

For voltage or current measurement select the range on S3 and set S1 to AC, +, - or ± as appropriate. If one side of the input is "earthy" this should be connected to SK1 (black socket).

MULTIMETER PROBE DETAILS

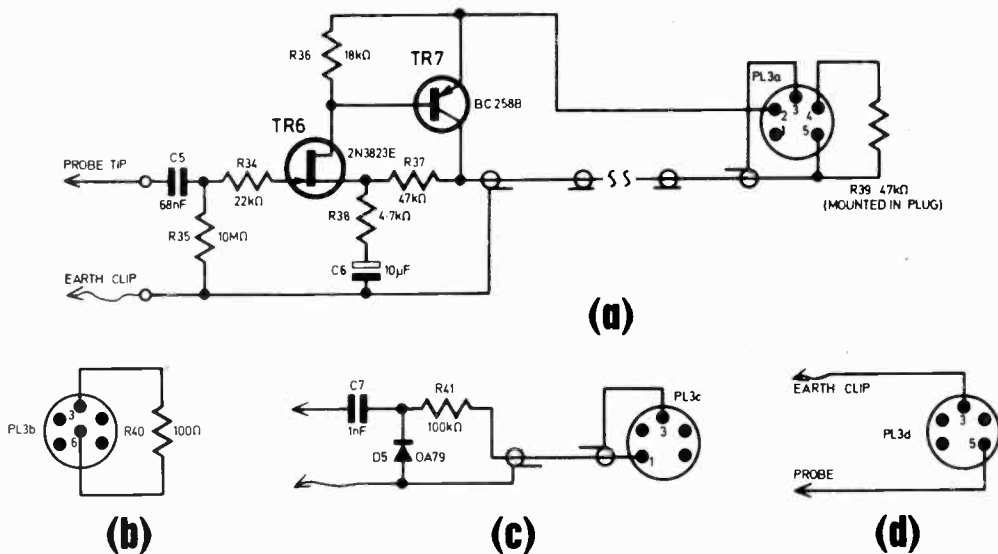
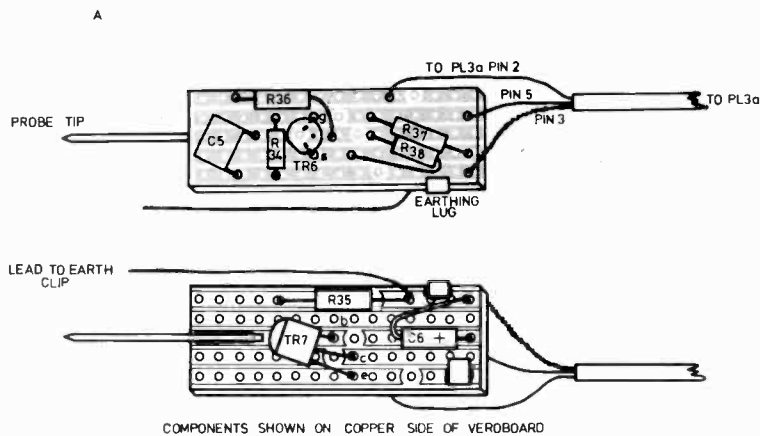
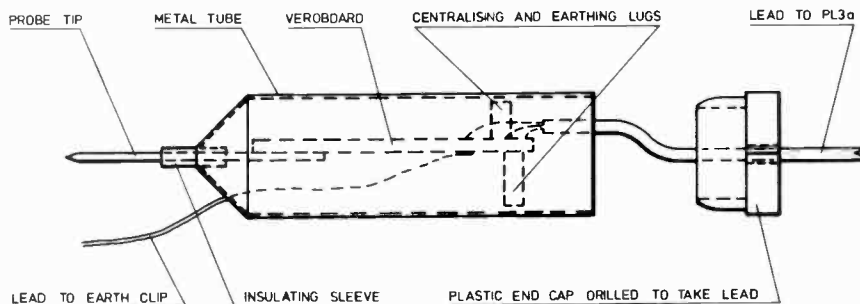


Fig. 8. Various probe and extender circuits for use with the multimeter. The plug numbering is as viewed from the rear (wire side) of the plugs



A.c. probe wiring and layout



A.c. probe case details



this method depends on the accuracy of the 10 kilohm resistor and the 15 μ F capacitor C3. A more precise calibration may be achieved by applying a pulse of known duration to the drain of TR6.

CONSTRUCTION

The prototype was built into a small plastic box as shown in the photograph. Exact measurements are not given because the size of box used will depend on the sizes of the components chosen by the constructor. Most of the components are mounted on a small printed circuit board (Fig. 3).

COMPONENTS

The bipolar transistors may be replaced by any reasonably high gain alternatives such as BC108, BC178, etc. The f.e.t. TR1 may be replaced by any *n*-channel f.e.t. with V_p less than 2.5V if C1 is altered to compensate for any change in frequency of the oscillator. If TR6 is replaced by a different f.e.t., it may be necessary to use a different value of resistance for VR1.

The meter used in the prototype was a cheap, rather non-linear tuning meter. If an accurate reading of time is desired, a better meter and a linear buffer amplifier should be used. ★



For measuring resistance, set S3 to R and select the range of multiplier on S1. Accuracy is greatest about one third way up the scale. Note that current is drawn from B2 whenever S1 is set to a resistance range, even with the meter switched off, so S1 should not be left in this position. Unlike a conventional ohm meter, the resistance range is "zeroed" by adjusting VR4 to set the reading to infinity with the leads open circuit. VR4 is accessed through a hole in the back of the case as there is insufficient room on the front panel; however, adjustment is needed only to compensate for battery ageing and not between ranges.

The batteries may be checked by selecting B+ or B- on S1 (preferably with the test leads unplugged), reading the battery voltage directly from the 0 to 15 scale. B1 and B2 should always be replaced together.

RANGE EXTENSION

The sensitivity of the voltage and current ranges may be extended by inserting into SK3 a 6 pole DIN plug with a 100 Ω resistor wired between pins 3 and 6 (Fig. 8b). On current ranges this has the advantage of reducing the maximum voltage drop across the multimeter from 450mV to 45mV. However, accuracy and bandwidth are both reduced.

For a.c. measurements an amplifying probe is preferred. The design of Fig. 8a has a gain of ten times and can be made conveniently small.

R.F. measurements can be made using a diode probe, such as the one in Fig. 8c.

When measuring a.c. voltages where a d.c. potential is present, the blocking capacitor C4 may be employed by using the probe of Fig. 8d. ★

... with outdoor leisure activities in mind we present the

PE Portable **GAS IGNITOR**

The first D.I.Y. design for a portable electronic gas ignitor powered from a 1.5V dry cell.

The ignitor produces a continuous stream of high voltage sparks capable of lighting natural, town and bottled gases.

Ideal for camping, boating and caravanning as well as for use in the kitchen.



Also... **SINE/SQUARE WAVE SIGNAL GENERATOR**

Output frequency is variable from 10Hz to 100kHz in four switched ranges. The output signal, which is 10V peak, can be attenuated down to 1mV. The output signal will drive loads down to 600Ω on the 1 to 10mV ranges and 100kΩ above 20mV.

The square wave facility is very useful for testing audio amplifiers. Some of the principles behind square wave testing techniques as particularly applicable to the hi-fi field will be given.

GUITAR EFFECTS PEDAL

Add eight—yes eight!—different sounds to your guitar by building this special effects pedal. Using an oscillator, a voltage controlled filter and a voltage controlled amplifier this pedal gives eight basic effects, all of which can be varied.



PRACTICAL **ELECTRONICS**

JULY 1975 ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 13, 1975—PRICE 30p

PLACE A FIRM ORDER WITH YOUR NEWSAGENT TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

MARKET PLACE

Items mentioned in this feature are usually available from electronic equipment and component retailers advertising in this magazine. However, where a full address is given, enquiries and orders should then be made direct to the firm concerned. All quoted prices are those at the time of going to press.

NEW CALCULATORS

In a bid to win a larger share (if that's possible) of the lucrative European calculator market, Sinclair Radionics have just announced the first models of a new range of calculators called the Oxford.

The three models, which are mains/battery portables, are the Sinclair Oxford 100, 200 and the 300 Scientific. The recommended retail prices are £13.98, £21.55 and £32.35 respectively.

The new Oxfords are designed as mains operated desk units, but with the facility for operating for several weeks from an internal 9V battery. All models include excellent large press keys and an angled red display for easy viewing.

The Oxford 200 has the addition of a memory and an automatic percentage key.

The optional mains adaptor unit for use with each of the Oxford calculators has a recommended retail price of £3.19.

Full details and addresses of nearest stockists of Sinclair calculators can be obtained from Sinclair Radionics Ltd., London Road, St Ives, Huntingdon.

THEATRE MIXERS

A range of high quality, transportable stereo sound mixing desks, specifically developed for theatre use, is announced by Cambridge Electronic Workshop.

The standard desk has 10 channels and contains cue lights, show relay/intercom systems, a monitoring system, loudspeaker switching and tape remote controls, all mounted on the front panel for ease of operation during performances.

The desks are capable of absorbing up to 30dB of overload at 0.1 per cent, enabling a good mix using the channel faders. The equalisation frequencies have been chosen for theatre use, bass tip-up filters are included and the presence frequency is continuously variable. Noise is claimed to be better than 126.5dB.

Further technical details and prices are available from Cambridge Electronic Workshop, 4 Water Lane, Oakington, Cambridge, CB4 5AL.

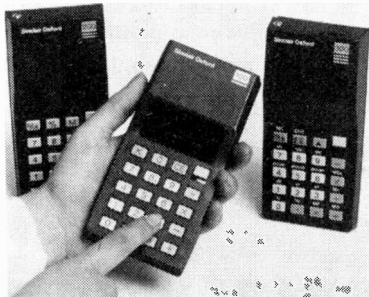
PRINTED CIRCUIT KIT

A new printed circuit kit containing all the necessary materials for producing "one off" boards is available from Home Radio (Components) Ltd.

By using one of the now familiar "special" marking pens, it is claimed that with a little care and by following instructions even the inexperienced can produce acceptable fairly complex printed circuit boards.

The kit contains two pieces of copper clad board, ferric chloride, etch resist pen, plastics etchant trough, tweezers, spoon and a laminate cutter. Also included in the kit is a booklet of instructions which readers are advised to read before handling the ferric chloride etchant.

The price of kit is £3.50 plus VAT and is available from Home Radio (Components) Ltd., 234-240 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3HD.



Oxford range of calculators from Sinclair Radionics

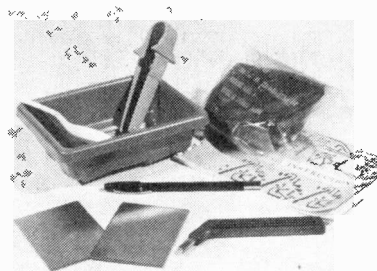
LIVE RHYTHMS

Probably the severest criticism of electronic rhythm generators is the monotony of the single bar sequences produced. Any owner of an electronic organ soon becomes very sparing in its use for this reason. A new development from Scotland claimed as the world's first fully synchronised continuous "live" rhythm unit departs entirely from the standard version.

Called the "Powerhouse", it uses 4 in multi-track continuous loop tape in eight cassettes. In all, 32 live rhythms have been recorded and each rhythm may be played in three different fashions: basic rhythm, more complex rhythm and a combination of both in synchronisation.

A mix control has been incorporated into the machine to facilitate the adjustment of the two volume levels in relation to each other.

When a musician wishes to change rhythms he can do so either by using a button on the front of the Powerhouse, or by using the special



Home Radio Printed Circuit Kit

rhythm control foot pedal. A mute mechanism is another of the Powerhouse's features; once again it can be operated from the main control panel or by the special foot pedal.

A sophisticated electronic speed governor allows the musician to vary the tempo over a very wide range to coincide with his own requirements. Once set, the speed is electronically locked until the tempo control is reactivated.

The Powerhouse will produce sounds in mono or stereo, depending on the amplifier used. Coupled to a conventional hi-fi stereo amplifier, it will double as a superb quality 8-track stereo cartridge player.

Retailing at approximately £140, the unit will be available from distributors as specified by Bandmast Limited of Gloucester Street, Glasgow.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

BUDGET, APRIL 1975

Prices quoted in this issue may be subject to alterations arising from the new Budget proposals

The Bandmaster Powerhouse Rhythm Unit



RESISTORS

The standard ranges of Resistors stocked are either E12 or E24 and the values are all in multiples of ten times the decade shown below. The E12 items are only those in bold type. The E24 items are both those in bold and light type.

10	18	33	56
11	20	36	62
12	22	39	68
13	24	43	75
15	27	47	82
16	30	51	91

CARBON FILM $\frac{1}{4}$ watt \pm 5% tol. 2p ea.
E12 Series 10 to 330K

CARBON FILM $\frac{1}{2}$ watt \pm 5% tol. 1p ea.
E24 Series 10 to 10M

'CERMET' THICK FILM $\frac{1}{2}$ watt \pm 2% tol. 8p ea.
E12 series 56 to 150K

METAL OXIDE FILM $\frac{1}{2}$ watt \pm 2% tol. 43p ea.
E12 series 10 to 1M

CARBON COMPOSITION $\frac{1}{2}$ watt 43p ea.
2.2 ; 2.7 ; 3.3 ; 3.9 ; 4.7 ; \pm 0.5 tol.
5.6 ; 6.8 ; 8.2 \pm 10% tol.

CARBON COMPOSITION 1 watt 53p ea.
2.2 ; 2.7 ; 3.3 ; 3.9 ; 4.7 ; \pm 0.5 tol.
5.6 ; 6.8 ; 8.2 \pm 10% tol.

CARBON FILM 1 watt \pm 5% tol. 33p ea.
E12 series 10 to 10M

CARBON FILM 2 watt \pm 5% tol. 63p ea.
E12 series 10 to 10M

WIREWOUND $\frac{2}{3}$ watt \pm 5% tol 0.22 to 0.47 15p
E12 series \pm 10% tol 11 to 270K 13p

WIRE WOUND 5 WATT 13p ea.

1	25	250	1.5K
1.8	30	270	1.8K
2.2	39	390	2K
2.7	50	330	2.2K
3.3	60	350	2.5K
3.9	68	400	2.7K
4.7	75	470	3K
5.6	82	500	3.3K
6.8	100	550	3.5K
7.5	125	600	3.9K
8.2	133	680	4.7K
10	150	750	5K
15	180	820	5.6K
20	200	1K	6.8K
25	220	1.2K	8.2K

WIRE WOUND 10 watt 14p ea.
All the values shown in bold in the 5 watt range

WIRE WOUND 10 watt \pm 5% tol. 20p ea.
10K ; 15K ; 20K ; 25K

WIRE WOUND 15 watt 133p ea.
All the values from 10 upward shown in bold in the 5 watt range.

POTENTIOMETERS



5K	250K	Log or Lin Less Switch (and 1K Lin)	14p
10K	500K	Log or Lin with Switch	26p
25K	1 Meg	Dual Less Switch	46p
50K	2 Meg	1 Meg Log only	57p
100K		10K Log + 10K Antilog Less Switch	46p

Sliders

10K	Single	33p
25K	DUAL	55p
50K		
100K		

Presets

Vertical or Horizontal			
.1 Watt 53p		.25 Watt 7p	
100	1K	10K	100K
250	2.5	25K	250K
500	5K	50K	500K
		1Meg	5Meg

Cermets

100	2.5K	25K	250K
500	5K	50K	500K
1K	10K	100K	1Meg

40p

CAPACITORS

Ceramic Plate
Mullard C333 Series 63 Volts Wkg.
all at 53p each

1.8pF	= 0.2pF	12pF = 2%	68pF = 2%
2.2pF		15pF	82pF
3.3pF		18pF	100pF
3.9pF		22pF	120pF
4.7pF		27pF	150pF
5.6pF		33pF	180pF
6.8pF		39pF	220pF
8.2pF		47pF	270pF
10 pF		56pF	330pF

Mullard 630 series 40 volts = 10% tol
629 series 100 volts
all at 53p each

390 pF	1000 pF	3300 pF
470 pF	1200 pF	3900 pF
560 pF	1500 pF	4700 pF
680 pF	1800 pF	* 10 nF
820 pF	2200 pF	* 22 nF
	2700 pF	

Eric Monolithic Ceramic 30 Volts Wkg.
27 nF 11p; 47 nF 13p; 100 nF 17p

Low Voltage Disc Ceramics
all at 53p each

0.01 uF	18v	0.1 uF	30v
0.022 uF	18v	0.22 uF	6v
0.047 uF	18v	0.47 uF	3v

Mylar Film 100 Volts Wkg.

1000 pF	23p	0.05 uF	33p
2000 pF	23p	0.068uF	5p
5000 pF	23p	0.1 uF	6v
0.01 uF	33p	0.2 uF	63p
0.02 uF	33p	0.47 uF	7p
0.04 uF	33p		

Polystyrene

MULLARD C295 Series 63 volts
Tolerance \pm 1%
8.800pF (6.8nF) C295 AH/D6K8 11p
8.800pF (8.2nF) C295 AH/D8K2 11p
13.000pF (13nF) C295 AH/D13K 15p
18.000pF (18nF) C295 AH/D18K 15p
20nF (0.02uF) C295 AH/D20K 15p
30nF (0.03uF) C295 AH/D30K 18p
39nF (0.039uF) C295 AH/D39K 18p
51nF (0.051uF) C295 AH/D51K 25p

Polystyrene 160 volts Wkg.
Tolerance = pF up to 33pF \pm 5% 47pF up
to 10 pf to 10,000 pf (0.01 uF) in multiples of:
10 ; 15 ; 22 ; 33 ; 47 ; 68.

Nimarks 0.22uF \pm 5% 1000 11p
Wima MKS 0.22uF
= 5% 100V 11p

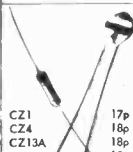
Mullard C280 Series. 250 Volts Wkg.
Metalised Polyester Film

0.01 uF	33p	0.22 uF	53p
0.015 uF	33p	0.33 uF	7p
0.022 uF	33p	0.47 uF	9p
0.033 uF	33p	0.68 uF	12p
0.047 uF	33p	1.0 uF	143p
0.068 uF	4 p	1.5 uF	22p
0.1 uF	43p	2.2 uF	263p
0.15 uF	43p		

Mullard C281 series 400 volts Wkg
Metalised Polycarbonate Film 10%

0.01 uF	5p	0.1 uF	8p
0.015 uF	5p	0.15 uF	9p
0.022 uF	5p	0.22 uF	11p
0.033 uF	6p	0.33 uF	153p
0.047 uF	63p	0.47 uF	163p
0.068 uF	63p		

VDR's & Thermistors



CZ1	17p
CZ4	18p
CZ13A	18p
CZ19	18p
E298CDA258	13p
E298EDA258	13p
E298EDA260	13p
E298EDA262	13p
E298EDA265	13p
E298EDP268	13p
E298EZ05	13p
E298ZZ06	13p
E299DDP336	14p
E299DDP338	14p
E299DDP342	14p
E299DDP348	14p
GL16	E1.21
GL23	E1.21
RS3	E1.49
RS4	E1.61

VA1005	16p
VA1026	16p
VA4033	16p
VA1034	16p
VA1039	16p
VA1040	16p
VA1053	16p
VA10555	16p
VA10565	16p
VA10665	17p

VA10675	19p
VA1077	19p
VA1098	21p
VA1104	31p
VA1107	29p

CAPACITORS



Silvered Mica 350V.
Tol. \pm 0.5pf 11p each
2.2 pf 18pf 30pf
3.3 pf 20pf 33pf
5 pf 22pf 39pf
10 pf 25pf 47pf

Tol. \pm 1% 11p each
50pf 150pf
56pf 180pf
68pf 82pf
75pf 100pf
82pf 120pf

250pf	330pf	500pf
270pf	390pf	680pf
300pf	470pf	820pf
	500pf	

12p each

1000 pf 1500pf 17p each
1800pf 220pf
2700pf 3600pf 5000pf
4700pf 8200pf

6800pf 8200pf 10000pf

Mixed Dielectric 600 Volts Wkg.
0.01 uF 8p ; 0.1 uF 9 p
0.022 uF 8p ; 0.22 uF 173p
0.033 uF 8p ; 0.47 uF 263p
0.047 uF 8p ; 1 uF 33p
0.068 uF 9p ;

Mixed Dielectric 1000 Volts Wkg.
1000 uF 63p ; 0.022uF 11p
2200 pf 63p ; 0.047uF 13p
3300 pf 7p ; 0.1 uF 13p
4700 pf 7p ; 0.22 uF 243p
0.01 uF 10p ; 0.47 33p

Solid Tantalum Beads all at 163p
0.1 uF 35v ; 10 uF 6.3v
0.22 uF 35v ; 10 uF 15v
0.47 uF 35v ; 10 uF 22v
1.0 uF 35v ; 22 uF 15v
2.2 uF 35v ; 47 uF 6.3v
4.7 uF 35v ; 100 uF 3v

Feed-through Ceramics
1000 pf 350v 6p

Disc Ceramics all at 53p each
750 Volt Wkg.
470 pf; 1000 pf; 5000 pf; 0.01 uF

Tubular HI-K Ceramics 750 Volts Wkg.
1000 pf 53p 3000 pf 53p
1500 pf 53p 5000 pf 53p
2000 pf 53p 0.01 uF 53p

Pulse Ceramics all at 10p each
12 kv. D.C. Wkg
10pf 120pf 200pf
22pf 140pf 220pf
68pf 150pf 250pf
82pf 100pf 270pf
100pf 200pf 300pf

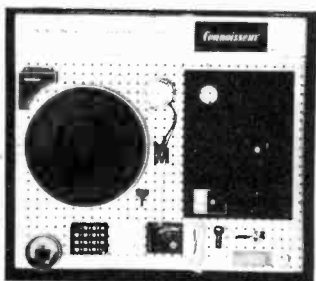
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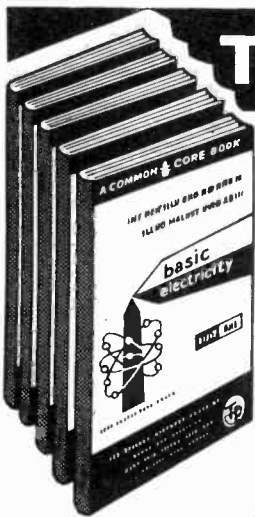
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CUTTING LOUDSPEAKER Baffles

THE chances are that when you come to construct a loud-speaker cabinet using only a modest supply of tools you will drill a ring of holes using a power or hand drill and then cut between the holes with a padsaw for the loudspeaker baffle holes.

This is a laborious and rarely attractive method which can be avoided quite simply by using a home-made trepanning tool.

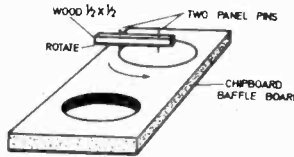


Fig. 1

As can be seen in Fig. 1, a bit of scrap wood about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. square with a couple of panel pins hammered through does the job. One of the nails is hammered through close to one end of the wood arm whilst the second is hammered through at a distance equal to the radius of the required hole from the first.

The first pin can now be hammered into the board at the centre of the required hole and the timber arm used as a lever to draw the other round the board to cut a path through the board.

It will be necessary to progress the cut from both sides of the board so as to avoid breaking of the hole edges when the cut is being finished.

This method was developed to cut holes in chipboard, always a difficult material to cut cleanly, and can no doubt be used on other materials with a little experiment. It could for example be improved by sharpening the tip of the cutting nail to an edge and by perhaps using heavier nails.

Using the original suggestion it takes about 10 minutes to cut a normal hole in chipboard and it should be remembered that the method can equally well be used in conjunction with a suitably sharp chisel to cut the recesses required for some loudspeakers such as the KEF T27.

K. J. Honour.
Kent.

RANDOM FLASHING DISPLAY

BASIS of operation of the flashing light display unit shown in Fig. 1 is fairly simple. TR1, TR2 form an astable multivibrator (they can be any general purpose switching transistors), TR2 is in the on state for about 0.01s which brings the collector voltage close to ground potential, logic 0.

This output is inverted by the first NAND gate in IC1 to make the output compatible with TTL. Thus one input of the second NAND gate in IC1 is at logic 1. Under these circumstances the three loop-connected gates in IC1 will now oscillate and in the prototype this was found to occur at about 24MHz.

During oscillation the four bistables in IC2 and IC3 will count something like 240k pulses, a number which will vary by about 1 per cent by virtue of the variation in oscillation frequency. In this way the count will be randomised.

The outputs of the bistables are monitored by transistors TR3 to TR6. If a bistable output is at logic 1 the associated transistor will be on and the series-connected relay

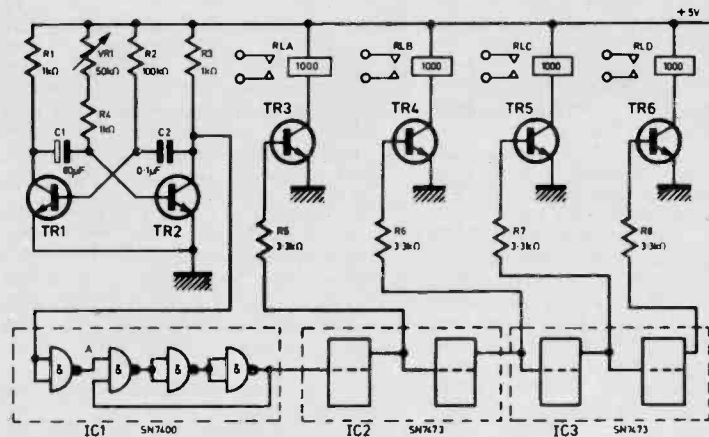


Fig. 1

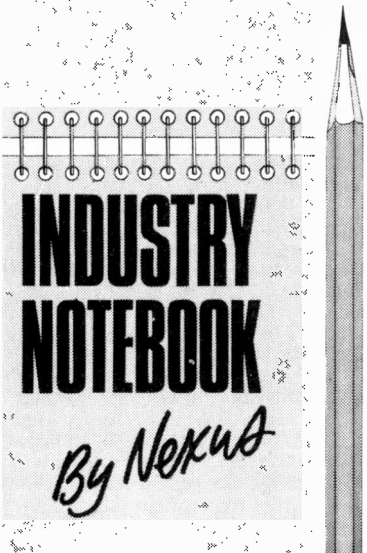
switched. In the prototype the relays were used to switch coloured lights at 60W.

If a linear potentiometer is used for VR1 the time interval between light changes will be found to be directly proportional to the angle of rotation of the pot. Indeed, with careful timing the equipment can be

made to appear music-controlled when used with sound equipment.

The J, K and Clear inputs of the two SN7473's must be at logic 1 so they should be connected together and then to the +5V rail via a 1k Ω resistor.

P. Hobson,
Sheffield.



INDUSTRY NOTEBOOK

By Nexus

GOOD AND BAD

First the bad news. Last month I reported that Transiron had pulled out of semiconductor production in Europe to concentrate on manufacture in the United States. Now I have to record that Microsystems International Ltd., the Canadian manufacturer, is closing down semiconductor manufacture altogether following heavy losses due, it is said, to an accelerated drop in demand and substantial price erosion in a softening market.

Microsystems International had made quite a splash in the industry since starting up in 1968. The company was regarded as something of a showpiece with a high level of technology, especially in MOS memories. The Canadian Government backed the venture with cash and sales were going well, running at 30 million dollars in 1974. But although this figure was nearly 9 million dollars up on 1973 so were the losses which increased to 12 million dollars.

However, Northern Electric, MIL's parent company, has been enjoying record profits and sales and it may yet turn out that MIL will have some role in the group though, apparently, not as a semiconductor manufacturer.

GOOD BAROMETER?

The ebb and flow of the fortunes of semiconductor manufacturers ought to be a good barometer for the international electronics industry as a whole. After all they are the people who make the fundamental building blocks of almost any modern equipment and, to a large extent, determine the trend of technology. But this particular barometer needs observing with a

sceptical eye. It tends to overshoot and undershoot and is nearly always out of phase with what is actually happening.

In short, it is very tricky to make forecasts of future demand in what is always a volatile situation, and even more tricky to strike the right balance of production capacity which must be enough to satisfy demand in good times and not so much as to produce big losses when times are bad and the manufacturing capacity, installed at great expense, is under-utilised.

The manufacturers like to work along with the equipment builders to get some idea of future trend. They beg customers to let them know of future requirements. But if the equipment builders themselves don't know how much they are going to sell, say, over the next two years, this is hardly helpful.

So the semiconductor manufacturers are forced to base forecasts on the trend of current orders and they don't like what they see. They then cut labour capacity as a precautionary measure and also cut investment in modernisation of plant. It is thought that world wide, semiconductor manufacturing capacity is already 50 per cent down through outright closures and other cut-backs. When good times come back there will be severe shortages and these could start as early as next year.

BUT IN THE FUTURE

In 1976 or 1977 when the semiconductor manufacturers have more orders than they can cope with and quote six months or more delivery time, it is then that the equipment manufacturers start ordering far more than they need and on more than one manufacturer in the hope of meeting their requirements. Just like trade unions asking for a £40 rise in the expectation of settling for £10. Faced with a seemingly unprecedented demand, the semiconductor manufacturers expand and are once again faced with over capacity.

How this unhappy cycle of events can be overcome is completely unknown and presumably we shall have to live with it for as long as world trade remains cyclic.

Everything, however, is not all gloom and doom. The Microelectronics Division of the French company CIT-Alcatel is planning to double turnover by 1980. And the Spanish company Piher, currently only making discrete devices, is planning to expand into i.c.s. Plessey has just introduced a non-volatile MNOS memory, claimed to be a world first, and with many new applications.

The latest problem is armed invasion. Indians of the Navajo tribe recently occupied Fairchild's Shiprock, New Mexico, plant in protest against redundancies. What next?

BRITISH IS BEST

It's not often that the British sell automotive industry equipment to the big boys in Detroit. It was quite a triumph, then, for Herbert Controls and Instruments to supply an electronic gauging equipment for the manufacture of diesel engines.

Weighing 28 tons, it's the biggest piece of test gear I've ever seen and, at £150,000, the most expensive. An all singing, all dancing, gauging system, it measures 94 parameters on diesel engine cylinder blocks at the rate of 35 blocks an hour. Every block is compared with a master block, deviations are listed on a computer print-out and the HCIL equipment even stamps one of five coded categories on the block to instruct the next stage of manufacture which size cylinder liner to fit. The computer programme can be switched to read dimensions in metric if required. Accuracy is such that the block classification is in steps of 0.0005 inches.

This is mechanical automatic testing on the grand scale. A mass of performance statistics is available but a discreet silence is maintained on how many manual inspectors the machine will make redundant in the hard-pressed Detroit manufacturing complex. But it is doubtful whether any human inspector, using conventional gauges, could take so many measurements without mistake, and he would have no chance at all on a time scale of less than two minutes.

GREAT SCOT

Perhaps even more unforgivable than getting a person's name wrong is getting his nationality wrong. In reporting on ITT Components Group Europe in a recent issue I wrote with British pride that the 16,000-strong organisation was run by Doug Stevenson whom I described as "another Englishman". He is, in fact, a Scot, and I hasten to amend the record.

ITT Components Group is feeling the pinch on entertainment components but otherwise doing quite nicely. Plenty of new products are in the pipeline and, despite current uncertainties, high technology developments are being brought forward, an example being a plasma display panel suitable for a data terminal which could be in the market place by the end of the year.

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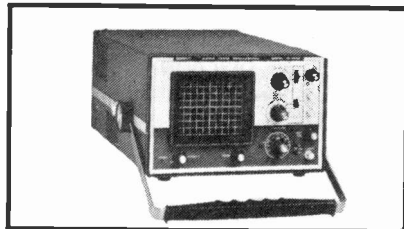
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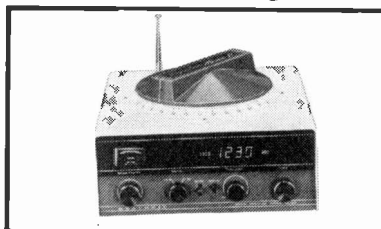
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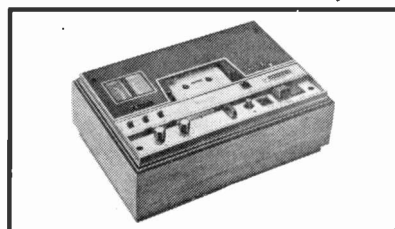
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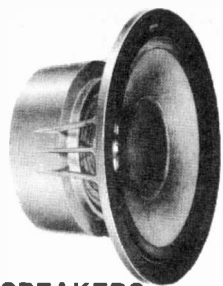
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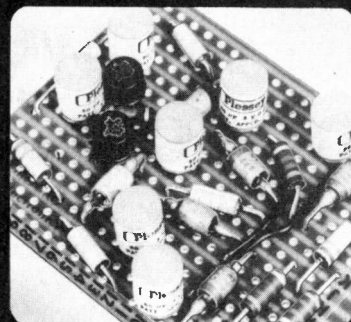
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Readout—

A SELECTION FROM OUR POSTBAG

Readers requiring a reply to any letter must include a stamped addressed envelope. We regret that we cannot answer any technical queries on the telephone.

“Bow, bow, ye lower middle classes”

Sir,—I would like to congratulate Mr C. J. Allen, “Musical Doorbell”, on a most amusing and enjoyable project.

May I add another specimen matrix, see Fig. 1, which plays a tune which will be recognised by devotees of Gilbert and Sullivan as accompanying the appropriate words:

“Bow, bow, ye lower middle classes.”

This version is suitable for the back door; or can be sold to Rolls Royce drivers. I have further modified my version so as to make it a plug-in change between doorbell and car horn status; also, in the latter application, nickel cadmium batteries are trickle charged from the car's 12V system.

W. H. Jarvis,
Perthshire.

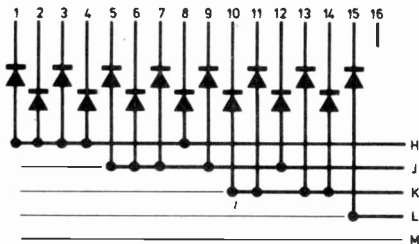


Fig. 1

Get With It!

Sir—With reference to the “Strictly Instrumental” article by Mr. K. Lenton-Smith in P.E. April 1975.

Mr. Lenton-Smith obviously has a good understanding of electronics. However, as for music, surely he has not done much research and is speaking purely and simply to provide a laugh for certain members of the older generation.

I refer specifically to the final paragraph in the article, in which he gives the impression that all pop groups sound alike, i.e.—rubbish.

Obviously, he has got no further than watching “Top of The Pops”.

For example, has he ever listened to the following:

Emerson, Lake and Palmer—“Trilogy”.

Black Sabbath—“Sabbath Bloody Sabbath” (track “Who are You”).

Also various tracks from early Elton John Albums.

Surely these must be rated amongst the highest in terms of best use of the synthesiser.

Yes, there are groups who abuse their instruments, but these are few and far between. Also, the few efforts at electronic classical music that I have heard have been O.K., but I would rather have had the original pieces and time.

Many of today's musicians have been using electronic instruments since they were first made available. Indeed, correct me if I am wrong, but did not E.L.P. (referred to earlier) develop the only synthetic drum device in current use?

It is far too easy to scoff at the work done, by the younger generation, but could Mr. Lenton-Smith achieve the title of “Best Keyboards” (NME 1973, Rick Wakeman or was it Keith Emerson), both in the pop field?

Finally, thank you for an excellent magazine, which I have been reading since about 1968.

P. D. Scargill,
Northumberland.

Tell It To The Marines

Sir—In your April Editorial “Vital Links”, you state, in reference to semiconductor devices “sensing” various stimuli, that “Only taste appears to be lacking at present”.

Like smell, taste is a chemical sense, strictly speaking, sensitive only to sweet, bitter, sour and salty stimuli (possible alkaline or basic also).

Electrochemistry is older than semiconductors. For a long time pH meters have “sensed” or “tasted” acid and alkaline (H and OH) ions by means of glass and calomel electrodes among others. Mercury electrodes used with polarographs have

sensed metallic ions at least, possibly others also. I am not sure if sweet and bitter tastes have been detected electrochemically, but some “tastes” at least have been so detected.

“Taste lacking . . . ?” Tell that to the Marines—chemists won't believe it!

M. Knight,
Shooters Hill.

pH meters do not use semiconductor sensors. True these well known instruments detect “taste”—but in a very limited fashion. Sweet substances cannot be “tasted” by conventional pH electrodes, nor probably can many other distinctive tastes. Any analogy with the human taste buds is very tenuous.

The likelihood of a semiconductor device being produced that would respond to a wide range of tastes seems extremely doubtful, on theoretical grounds—but we remain inveterate optimists where electronics is concerned.—F.E.B.

Full Marks

Sir—I would like to refer to your December 1974 issue of P.E.

I have recently completed the Dwell Meter described in an article by a Mr. S. Jones. Not only did it work first time, but it required no calibration whatever. It is extremely accurate, having been checked and compared with a commercial meter.

With petrol at its present price, the dwell meter is not just another gadget, it is a very useful piece of equipment. I give Mr. Jones full marks for both the design of the meter and the excellent presentation of his article.

M. McDermott,
Crawley,
Sussex.

Motionless

Sir—I have read the letter from the Rev. Canon Guest, Readout May, and would comment on it as follows:

The circuit in my article, “Car Clock Repairs” (Feb. issue), was arrived at after considerable experimenting, initially with circuits of the type recommended by the Rev. Canon. In a new clock with unworn contacts, his circuit will be satisfactory, and eliminate arcing and consequent wear of contacts, but in an old clock with badly worn contacts the simple circuit does not provide a full solution. It is difficult to bend the contacts exactly back to the original position to give correct operation over a period of time and with pitted, dirty contacts there will be intermittent contact, which will not be cured by the single transistor circuit.

The circuit given in the article, while it is of the monostable type, acts in this case as a pulse stretcher,

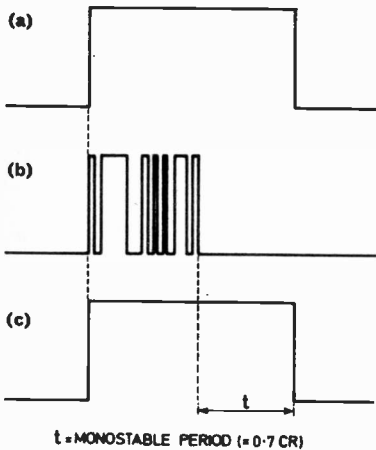


Fig. 1. Monostable pulse shapes from the circuit, all at the same arc of swing. (a) normal pulse (b) intermittent pulse due to worn contacts (c) pulse using monostable

giving a fixed delay after the contacts open. This compensates for both contact wear and intermittent contact in the manner shown, see Fig. 1.

The self-compensating action, mentioned by the Rev. Canon in his letter still occurs, as the period of the monostable starts from the end of the normal contact period.

In my circuit (including the supply decoupling), there are two diode forward voltage drops and one transistor V_{ce} in series with the clock coil when current is flowing.

This means that the clock is working on 10V normally, up to 12V or so when the engine is charging the battery. I found it would work down to below 8V, and there was no problem with "over banking" with the component values suggested.

I did not recommend oiling in my article, as any excess of oil (the correct quantity is minute) will have a detrimental effect, and may even stop the clock working at all. It is really necessary to dismantle the clock to oil it properly, and this is not recommended by the inexperienced.

While I agree that a stabilised power supply is beneficial, I found it unnecessary, as the simple diode/capacitor I suggested works well in practice. In any case, it is better to

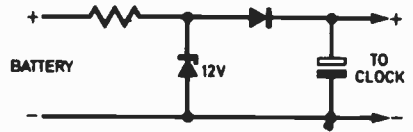


Fig. 2. Stabiliser circuit for car clocks

include the series diode, to guard against falling voltage while the starter, etc., are operated (see Fig. 2) and to increase the capacitor value as I recommended originally.

D. L. Cooper,
Dorset.

SORRY FOLKS

We would like to apologise to the two authors of *Ingenuity Unlimited* items published last month for omitting their names. The first item was the "Telephone Bell Synthesiser" by Mr M. Rudin, and the second was "Two-wire Signalling System" by Mr G. Rutter.

MILD & BITTER

CAN WE AFFORD TO BE EDUCATED By A.P.S.

"ONE must never confuse education with training."—This profound statement was made by a prominent member of the teaching Establishment. The implication being that the one is noble and the other—well just useful.

From an electrical viewpoint, we might rephrase it to:

"One must never confuse the gold leaf electroscope with the multimeter". With the former, given a dry day and the wretched thing is not in "one of its turns", the students are rubbing shoulders with the aristocracy of the past, Coulomb, Volta and the Venerable Bede. Fascinating properties of the pith ball can be deduced from observation of the two little gold foils.

To bring an AVO into such a gathering would be as outrageous as introducing Bingo into the House of Lords. How could one possibly detect the voltaic twitching of a frog's leg with such a common and above all useful instrument?

It must be very puzzling for an A level physics student to be cast out into the sordid environment of the real world.

He may soon be wishing that his tutors had been a little more earthy, a little more concerned

with circuitry, voltage drops, and simple filter action and a little less concerned with iron filings, magnetic lines, tangent galvanometers and the other relics of the traditional classroom. It is argued, and with justification, that students should be given a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of electrical science, particularly the historical background.

But must we go quite so far back? In these days of the computer, the integrated circuit, the phase-locked loop and quadraphonic sound does it really matter a damn if Newton, Leibnitz or Mick Jagger discovered the calculus? It would be wrong to throw out everything prior to 1940 but the Establishment might find it profitable to take a long hard look at the period prior to 1640—they may find that the lodestone could be discreetly laid to rest without causing serious discontinuity in the syllabus.

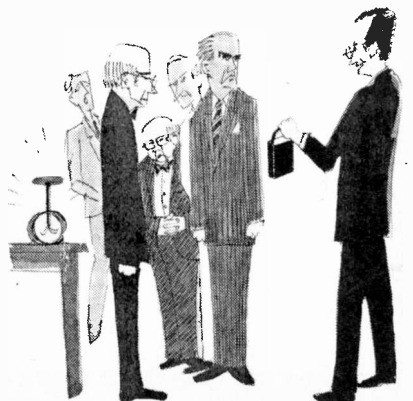
The pace of technology is frightening and is no longer subordinate to pure science. It is doubtful if we can really afford to waste so many teaching hours on the loftier aspects. Very, very few A-level students become involved in pure science so why not do a little more training and a

little less educating. The after-dinner chit-chat may lose a few dBs of sparkle but the money saved on ruined test equipment would go some way towards solving the balance of payments problem.

It is not unusual for BSc (Honours) graduates to solve 3rd order partial differential equations in the morning and attempt to measure the source impedance of the live mains in the afternoons, using a multimeter on the "Ohms" range.

To criticise established teaching methods requires chrome vanadium nerve and the temperament of a bomb disposal expert.

The writer has none of these—he is simply aged, cynical and a resentful taxpayer who has very little left over from his salary as a teacher!



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Sparkrite incorporates a short circuit protected inverter which eliminates the problems of SCR lock on and therefore eliminates the possibility of blowing the transistors or the SCR. (Many capacitive discharge ignitions are not completely foolproof in this respect.)

NOTE—FUEL CONSUMPTION:
The fitting of a Sparkrite Mk 2 should reduce fuel consumption although the amount of the reduction will vary. A fair estimate of the savings which could be expected, based on reports by our customers and upon our own experience, are as follows:
any 4-cylinder vehicle, 10% improvement
any 6-cylinder vehicle, 15% improvement
any 8-cylinder vehicle, 20% improvement
It is worth remembering that while fuel saving is important there are many other advantages to be gained from fitting a Sparkrite ignition system.

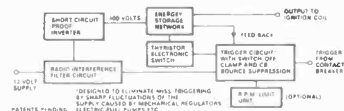
Voted best of 8 ignition systems tested by leading Motoring Magazine

THE KIT COMPRISES EVERYTHING NEEDED. Ready drilled pressed steel case coated in matt black epoxy resin, ready drilled base and heatsink, top quality 5-year guaranteed transformer and components, cables, coil connectors, printed circuit board, nuts, bolts, silicon grease, full instructions to make the kit negative or positive earth, and 10 page installation instructions.

WE SAY IT IS THE BEST SYSTEM AT ANY PRICE.

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Electronic R.P.M. limiter
This can be included in the unit to prevent over revving an advantage to most companies, hire firms, high performance drivers, etc.
Electronic/conventional Ignition switch.
Gives instant changeover from 'Sparkrite' ignition to conventional ignition for performance comparisons, static timing, etc. and will also switch the ignition off completely as a security device. Includes: switch, connectors, mounting bracket and instructions. Cables excluded.



PRICES: D.I.Y. assembly kit £10.93*. Ready built unit £13.86* (both to fit all vehicles with coil/distributor ignition up to 8-cylinders).
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* including VAT, post and packing.
We can supply units for any petrol-engined vehicle (boat, motorcycle, etc.) with coil/contact breaker ignition. Details on request.
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12	3	2	1	38p
13	6	4	2	58p
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When complete the light has a wide variety of uses such as workshop and workbench illumination, garage lighting, emergency lighting, lighting for camping, caravanning or boating, as an inspection lamp and many more.

If you can't spare the time to put the light together then we will supply it ready built (for a few extra pence).
PRICES
Assembly kit £3.19 (inc. VAT, post and packing).
Ready built £3.78 (inc. VAT, post and packing).
Diffuser 59p extra (inc. VAT, post and packing).

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ASTRO ELECTRONICS

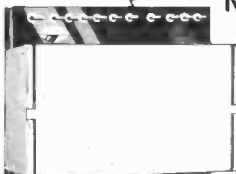
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Viscount III amplifier - volume, bass, treble and balance controls, plus switches for mono/ stereo, on/off function and bass and treble filters. Plus headphone socket.

Specification:

20 watts per channel into 8 ohms 40W peak. Total distortion @ 10W @ 1kHz 0.1%. P.U.1 (for ceramic cartridges) 150mV into 3 Meg. P.U.2 (for magnetic cartridges) 4mV at 1kHz into 47K, equalised within ± 1 dB R.I.A.A. Radio 150mV into 220K. (Sensitivities given at full power). Tape out facilities: headphone socket, power out 250mW per channel. **Tone controls and filter characteristics:** Bass: +12dB to -17dB @ 60Hz. Bass filter: 6dB per octave cut. Treble control: treble +12dB to -12dB @ 15kHz. Treble filter: 12dB per octave. **Signal to noise ratio:** (all controls at max.) -58dB. Crosstalk better than 35dB on all inputs. Overload characteristics, better than 26dB on all inputs. Size approx. 13 1/4" x 9" x 3 1/2".

Garrard SP 25 deck with magnetic cartridge, de luxe plinth and cover.

Two Duo Type IIa matched speakers - Enclosure size approx. 19 1/4" x 9 1/2" x 7 1/4" in simulated teak. Drive unit 13" x 8" with 3" tweeter. 15 watts handling. 30 watts peak.

Complete System with these speakers £62.00 + £5.50 p & p.

System 2. £82.00

Viscount III amplifier (As System 1a)
Garrard SP 25 deck (As System 1a)

Two Duo Type III matched speakers - Enclosure size approx. 27" x 13" x 11 1/4" Finished in teak simulate. Drive units 13" x 8" bass driver, and two 3" (approx.) tweeters. 20 watts RMS. 8 ohms frequency range - 20 Hz to 18,000 Hz.

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Scotland P & P. Surcharge
System 1a £1.75 System 2 £3.50

PRICES: SYSTEM 1a

Viscount III R102 amplifier	£27.00 + £1.60 p & p
2 Duo Type IIa speakers	£26.00 + £5.50 p & p
Garrard SP 25 with Mag. cartridge de luxe plinth and cover	£21.00 + £2.80 p & p

Total if purchased separately: £74.00

Available complete for only: **£62.00**
+ £5.50 p & p

PRICES: SYSTEM 2

Viscount III R102 amplifier	£27.00 + £1.60 p & p
2 Duo Type III speakers	£39.00 + £6.40 p & p
Garrard SP 25 with Mag. cartridge de luxe plinth and cover	£21.00 + £2.80 p & p

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EMI 350 KIT

System consists of a 13" x 8" approx. woofer with a 3" tweeter, crossover components and circuit diagram. Frequency response: 20 Hz to 20 KHz. Power handling 15 watts RMS into 8 ohms. (Peak 30 watts.)

Complete with crossover. Components and circuit diagram **£5.50** + £1 p & p.

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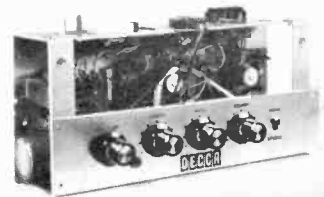


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Easy to assemble construction kit comprising fully completed and tested printed circuit board on which no soldering is required. All connections are simple push fit type making for easy assembly. Fine tuning push button mechanism is fully built and tested to mate with printed circuit board.

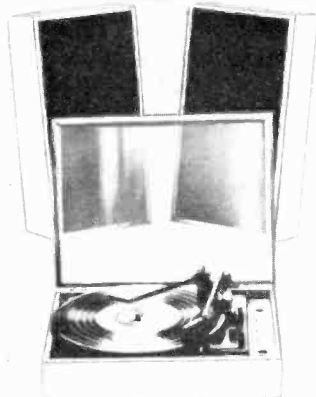
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION: (1) Output 4 watts RMS output. For 12 volt operation on negative or positive earth. (2) Integrated circuit output stage, pre-built three stage IF Module.

Controls volume manual tuning and five push buttons for station selection, illuminated tuning scale covering full, medium and long wave bands. Size chassis 7" wide 2" high and 4 1/2" deep approx. **£8.00 + 90p o & p.**

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The Tourist 1 Kit For the experienced constructor. If you can solder on a printed circuit board you can build this model. Same technical specification as Tourist TT. **Price £7.00 + 90p p & p.**

*STEREO 21 QUALITY SOUND FOR LESS THAN £20.00



Stereo 21, easy to assemble audio system kit. No soldering required.

The unit is finished in white P.V.C. and the acrylic top presents an unusually interesting variation on the modern deck plinth.

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Two speakers with cabinets.

Amplifier module. Ready built with control panel, speaker leads and full, easy to follow assembly instructions.

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Input sensitivity 600mV. Aux input sensitivity 120mV. Power output 2.7 watts per channel. Output impedance 8–15 ohms. Stereo headphone socket with automatic speaker cutout. Provision for auxiliary inputs — radio, tape, etc., and outputs for taping discs.

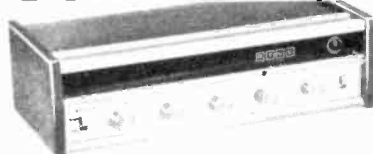
Overall Dimensions. Speakers approx 15 1/2" x 8" x 4". Complete deck and cover in closed position approx. 15 1/2" x 12" x 6".

Complete only £19.95 + £2.60 p & p.

Extras if required. Optional Diamond Stylus **£1.37.**

Specially selected pair of stereo headphones with individual level controls and padded earpieces to give optimum performance. **£5.00.**

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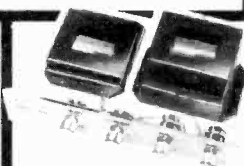
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*8 TRACK HOME CARTRIDGE PLAYER



Elegant self selector push button player for use with your stereo system. Compatible with Viscount III system. Unisound module and the Stereo 21. Technical specification Mains input, 240V. Output sensitivity 125mV. Comparable unit sold elsewhere at £24.00 approx. Yours for only

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Pre-amp — Output — 200mV. Auxiliary inputs — 200mV and 750mV into 1 meg. Mic input — 6mV into 100K 240 volt operation. **Turntables capacity —** 7", 10" or 12" records. **Rumble, wow and flutter** Rumble Better than — 35dB. Wow Better than 0.2%. Flutter Better than 0.06% (Gaumont kalee meter). **Finish —** Satin black mainplate with black turntable mat inlaid with brushed aluminium trim. Tonearm and controls in black and brushed aluminium.

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Unit Closed — 17 1/2" x 13 1/2" x 8 1/2" (app.)
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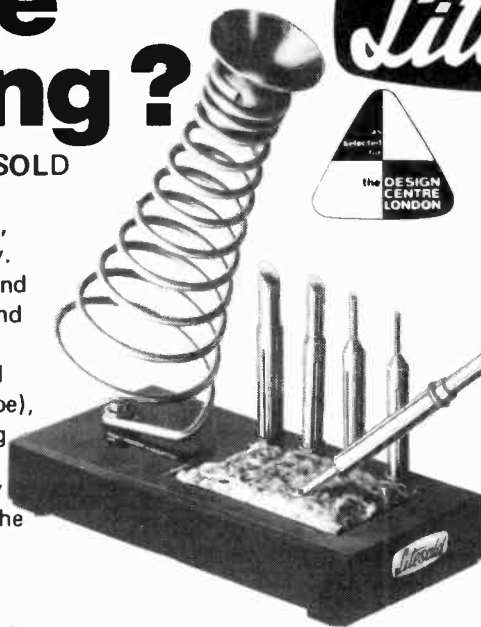
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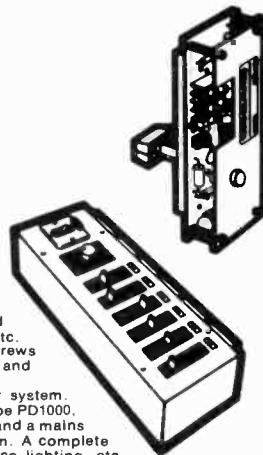
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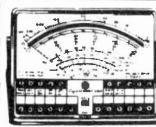
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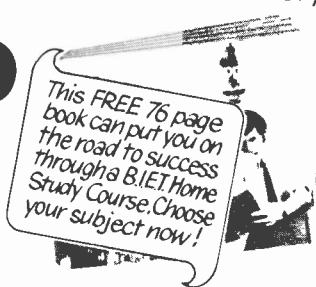
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