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BLACK LEATHERETTE SIDE PANELS Dimensions: 52"×17½"×12". Speaker positions for Twin 10"×5" Speakers



SPEAKERS 6/6 2''—75 Ω . $2\frac{1}{2}''$ —35 Ω . P. & P. 2/6. ACOS MICS. 35/- STANDARD STICK MIC. 2gns. P. & P. 3/6. ASSORTED CONDENSERS

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Everything needed (except plywood) for building: 1 Invisible Beam Projector and 1 Photocell Receiver (as illustrated). Suitable for all Photoelectric Burglar Alarms,

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CONTENTS: As above. Twice the range of standard kit. Larger Lenses, Filter, etc. Price 29/8. Postage and Pack. 1/6 (U.K.). Commonwealth: Surface Mail 2/6. Air Mail 10/-.

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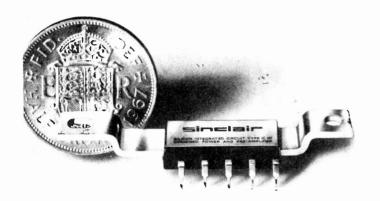
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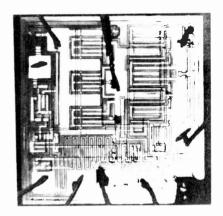
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10 WATT MONOLITHIC INTEGRATED CIRCUIT AMPLIFIER AND PRE-AMP





theworld's most advanced high fidelity amplifier

The Sinclair IC-10 is the world's first monolithic integrated circuit high fidelity power amplifier and pre-amplifier. The circuit itself, a chip of silicon only a twentieth of an inch square by a hundredth of an inch thick, has an output 5 watts R.M.S. (10 watts peak). It contains 13 transistors (including two power types), 2 diodes, 1 zenor diode and 18 resistors, formed simultaneously in the silicon by a series of diffusions. The chip is encapsulated in a solid plastic package which holds the metal heat sink and connecting pins. This exciting device is not only more rugged and reliable than any previous amplifier, it also has considerable performance advantages. The most important are complete freedom from thermal runaway due to the close thermal coupling between the output transistors and the bias diodes and very low level of distortion.

The IC-10 is primarily intended as a full performance high fidelity power and pre-amplifier, for which application it only requires the addition of such components as tone and volume controls and a battery or mains power supply. However, it is so designed that it may be used simply in many other applications including car radios, electronic organs, servo amplifiers (it is d.c. coupled throughout) etc. The photographic masks required for producing monolithic LCs are expensive but once made, the circuits can be produced with complete uniformity and at very low cost. It also enables us to cover every IC-10 with the Sinclair guarantee of reliability.

■ SPECIFICATIONS

Output 10 Watts peak, 5 Watts R.M.S. continuous. 5 Hz to 100 KHz±1dB. Frequency response Total harmonic distortion Less than 1% at full output. 3 to 15 ohms. Load impedance 110dB (100,000,000,000 times) total. Power gain 8 to 18 volts. Supply voltage 1 \times 0.4 \times 0.2 inches. Size Sensitivity 5mV. Adjustable externally up to Input impedance 2.5 M ohms.

■ CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The first three transistors are used in the pre-amp and the remaining 10 in the power amplifier. Class AB output is used with closely controlled quiescent current which is independent of temperature. Generous negative feedback is used round both sections and the amplifier is completely free from crossover distortion at all supply voltages, making battery operation eminently satisfactory.

APPLICATIONS

Each IC-10 is sold with a very comprehensive manual giving circuit and wiring diagrams for a large number of applications in addition to high fidelity. These include stabilised power supplies, oscillators, etc. The pre-amp section can be used as an R.F. or I.F. amplifier without any additional transistors.

SINCLAIR

IC.10

with IC.10 manual and 5 year guarantee

59/₆

POST FREE



SINCLAIR RADIONICS LIMITED 22 NEWMARKET ROAD · CAMBRIDGE Tel. 0223-52731



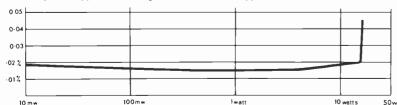
Z.30

THE WORLD'S LOWEST DISTORTION HIGH FIDELITY AMPLIFIER.

For four years, the Sinclair Z.12 dominated the constructor world, being the best selling unit of its kind this side of the Atlantic. Excellent as it was, the new Sinclair Z.30 is still better. Half the size of the Z.12, it has more than twice the power, very much greater gain and a level of distortion 50 times lower. This incredible figure results from using over 60dB of negative feed back with a constant current load to the driver stage obtained by incorporating a two transistor circuit in place of the more usual bootstrapping. 9 silicon epitaxial planar transistors are used to provide enormous power; up to 20 watts RMS sine wave (40 watts peak). The circuitry of this marvellous amplifier allows it to be operated from any voltage from 8 to 35 to perfection. At all output levels, distortion is only 0.02%. This puts true laboratory standards into the hands of every user of a Z.30. Two Z.30s and a new Stereo Sixty will make a stereo assembly of such perfection that it could not be bettered in its class no matter how much you spent. But the Z.30 has an enormous variety of applications, particularly where quality, precision and reliability are essential. It can also be used entirely on its own as an amplifier for an efficient economy record player.

APPLICATIONS

Hi-fi amplifier; car radio amplifier; record player amplifier fed directly from pick-up; intercom; electronic music and instruments; P.A.; laboratory work, etc. Full details for these and many other applications are given in the manual supplied with the Z.30.



SPECIFICATIONS

Power output—15 watts R.M.S. into 8 ohms using a 35V supply: 20 watts R.M.S. into 3 ohms using a 30V supply.

Output—Class AB.

Frequency response—30 to 300,000 Hz 1dB.

Distortion—0.02% total harmonic distortion at full output into 8 ohms and at all lower output levels.

Signal-to-noise ratio—better than 70dB unweighted.

Input sensitivity-250mV into 100k().

Damping factor->500.

Loudspeaker impedances-3 to 15 ohms.

Power requirements—From 8 to 35V d.c. (The Z.30 will operate ideally from batteries if required.)

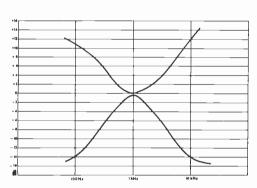
Size— $3\frac{1}{2}$ \times $2\frac{1}{4}$ \times $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Built, tested and guaranteed, with circuits and instructions manual 89/6



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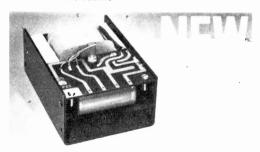




Curves to show bass and treble cut and boost

Ready built, tested and guaranteed with instructions

£9.19.6





This attractive and completely new unit is intended for use with two new Z.30 amplifiers to provide the finest possible standards of stereo reproduction. Four press buttons and four rotary controls are used to provide on-off, three input selectors and Volume, Bass cut/boost, Treble cut/boost and Stereo balance. The on-off button also switches the power amplifiers. The front panel in brushed aluminium is flush mounted to the cabinet front, it being necessary only to drill holes to accommodate the controls. Rear adjustable brackets hold the chassis tight to the cabinet. The very latest ganged rotary controls are used to afford compactness and extra long working life free from noise.

The Stereo-60 may also be used with 2 IC-10's or any other high performance amplifiers.

SPECIFICATIONS

- ●Input sensitivities—Radio—up to 3mV Magnetic Pickup-3mV: correct to R.I.A.A. curve # 1dB; 20 to 25,000 Hz. Ceramic Pickup-up to 3mV: Auxiliary—up to 3mV.
 Output—1 volt.
- Signal-to-noise ratio-better than
- ●Channel matching—within 1dB. ●Tone Controls—TREBLE 15 1 —15dB at 10 KHz: BASS 15 t 15 to -15dB at 100 Hz.
- ●Power consumption 5mA.
- Front panel-brushed aluminium with black knobs and controls.
- ●Size 8½ 1½ 14 inches.

PZ.5 POWER SUPPLY UNIT

A new heavy duty mains power supply unit designed specially to drive two Z.30s and a Stereo Sixty. New compact design. For AC Mains, 200-240V/50Hz. £4.19.6

USE THIS COUPON FOR Z.30, STEREO 60 AND P.Z.5.

Q.16 LOUDSPEAKER AND MICROMATIC ON NEXT PAGE

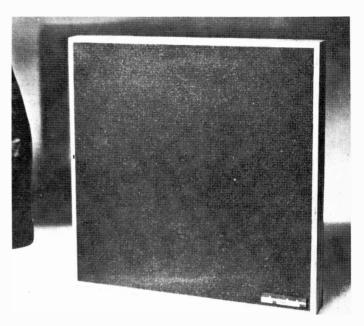
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For which I enclose cash/cheque money order	PE 170						

SINCLAIR

Q.16

new elegance in an outstanding loudspeaker

All the superb features which went to make the Sinclair Q.14 have been incorporated in the new Q.16 which gives an exciting new opportunity for you to match your Sinclair equipment with modern decor. Employing the same well proven acoustic system in which materials, processing and styling are used in such a radical and successful departure from conventional design, the new Q.16 presents an entirely new appearance with its attractive teak surround and all-over special cellular foam front chosen as much for its appearance as for its ability to pass all audio frequencies without loss. The Q.16 is compact and slim. Its new styling makes it eminently suitable for shelf mounting, but it is no less versatile than its famous predecessor. Listen to a pair of Q.16s in stereo and marvel at the standards of quality and clarity they



The Q.16 will handle loading up to 14 watts R.M.S. and presents an 8 ohm impedance to the amplifier output. Frequency response extends from 60 to 16,000 Hz. with exceptional smoothness. A specially designed driver system is used in a sealed and contoured £8.19.6 response at all frequencies. Size: 9\frac{3}{2}" square \times 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep from front to back.

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SINCLAIR MICROMATIC The world's most success-ful miniature radio



Specifications Specifications
Size:

| 13 'x | 1, 'x | (46 x 33 x | 3 mm).
Weight incl, batteries:
| 10 z. (28 35gm) approx.
Tuning:
Medium wave band with bandspread at
higher frequency end.
Earpiece.
Magnetic type.
Case: Ready buit, tested and guaran-teed, with earpiece.

Black plastic with anodized aluminium front panel, spun aluminium dial. Mallory Mercury Cell RM675 (2 required)
each 2/9d.

59/6 Plus I/Id, P.T. surcharge

USE THIS COUPON FOR MICROMATIC AND Q.16 ORDERS

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Considerably smaller than an ordinary box of matches, this is a multi-stage A.M. receiver meticulously designed to provide remarkable standards of selectivity, power and quality. Powerful A.G.C. is incorporated to counteract fading from distant stations; bandspread at higher frequencies makes reception of Radio 1 easy at all times. Vernier type tuning plus the directional properties of the self-contained special ferrite rod aerial makes station separation much easier than with many larger sets. The plug-in magnetic earpiece which matches exactly with the output provides wonderful standards of reproduction. Everything including the batteries is contained within the attractively designed case. Whether you build your Micromatic or buy it ready built and tested, you will find it as easy to take with you as your wristwatch, and dependable under the severest listening conditions.

SINCLAIR GENERAL GUARANTEE

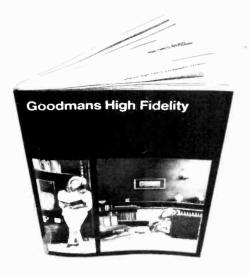
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Plessey SL403A 3W Audio Amplifier	49/6
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Complete stereo system - £29.10.0

The new Duo general-purpose 2-way speaker system is beautifully finished in polished teak veneer, with matching vynair grille. It is ideal for wall or shelf mounting either upright or horizontally. Type 1 SPECIFICATION:-

Type 1 SPECIFICATION:—
Impedance 10 ohms. It incorporates Goodmans high flux 6"×4" speaker and 2½ tweeter. Teak finish 12"×5½" x5½", 4 guineas each. 7/6d.p. 8p. Type 2 as type 1. Size 17½" x 10½"×5½". Incorporating 10½" x 6½" bass unit and 2½" tweeter. 3 ohms impedance 5½ guineas plus15/-p. & p.

7/6d, p. & p. Garrard Changers from £7.19.6d, p. & p. 7/6d, Cover and Teak finish Plinth £4.15.0d; 7/6d, p. & p.

Quetto Integrated Transistor Stereo Amplifier £9.10.0

The Duetto is a good quality amplifier, attractively styled and

finished. It gives superb reproduction previously associated with amplifiers costing far more.

SPECIFICATION:— SPECIFICATION:—
R.M.S. power output: 3 watts per channel into 10 ohms speakers.
INPUT SENSITIVITY: Suitable for medium or high output crystal
cartridges and tuners. Cross-talk better than 30dB at 1Kc/s.
CONTROLS: 4-position selector switch (2 pos. mono and 2 pos. stereo)

dual ganged volume control.
TONE CONTROL: Treble lift and cut. Separate on/olf switch. A preset balance control





The Classic

Teak finished case

£9

Plus P. & P. 7/6

SPECIFICATION:
Sensitivities for 10 watt output
at 1KHz into 3 ohms. Tape Head: 3mV (at 3).
i.p.s.) Mag. P.U.: 2mV. Cer.P.U.: 80mV. Tuner: 100mV.
Aux. 100mV. Tape/Rec. Output. Equalisation for each
input is correct to within +24B (R.I.A.A.) from 2014z to 20KHz.
Tone Control Ronge: Bass: 13dB at 60Hz. Treble: ±14dB at 15KHz. Totol Distortion: (for 10 watt output) < 1:5%. Signal Noise: < 60dB. A.C. Mains
200-250V. Size 12\frac{1}{2}\in long, 4\frac{1}{2}\in long, 4\frac{1}{2}\in high. Built and tested.



The Viscount INTEGRATED HIGH FIDELITY TRANSISTOR STEREO AMPLIFER £14.5.0

Plus P. 8. P. 7/6

4 ohms speakers (20 watts monoral). Input: 6-position rotary selector switch (3 pos. mono and 3 pos. stereo). P.U., Tuner, Tape and Tape Rec. out. Sensitivities: All inputs 100mV into 1-8M ohm. Frequency Response: 40Hz-20KHz ±2dB. Tone Controls: Separate bass and treble controls. Treble 13dB lift and cut [at 15KHz]. Boss: 15dB lift and 25dB cut [at 60Hz]. Volume Controls: Separate for each channel. A.C. Moins Input: 200-240V, 50-60Hz. Size: 12½ × 60in × 2½ in teak-finished case. Built and tested. P. & P. 7/6.

Viscount Mark II for use with magnetic pick ups. specification as above. Fully equalised for magnetic pick ups. Suitable for cartridges with minimum outputs of 4mV/cm/sec. at 1kc.



THE RELIANT Mk. II SOLID STATE GENERAL PURPOSE AMPLIFIER

£6.16.0 Plus P. & P. 7/6 In teak finished case

SPECIFICATION: Output: 10

SPECIFICATION: Output: 10

Vatts into a 3 ohms speaker.

Inputs: (1) for mike (10mV). Input (2) for

gram. radio (250mV) individual bass and treble control.

Transistors: 4 silicon and three germanium.

Mains input: 220/250

volts. Size: 10½ × 4½ × 2½in. Mike to suit (crystal): 12/6 plus 1/6 P. & P.

8 × 5in speaker 14/6 plus 3/– P. & P. Mk. I 5½ gns. plus 7/6 P. & P. Less teak

SPECIAL, OFFER

Complete stereo systems comprising BALFOUR 4 speed auto player with stereo head, 2 DUO speaker systems size $12\times6\frac{1}{6}\times5\frac{1}{2}$ in. Plinth (less cover) and the DUETTO stereo amplifier. All above items

£20 Plus P. & P. 20/-

NEW COMPLETE HI-FI STEREO SYSTEM

Comprising SP 25 Garrard Mk. II with diamond stereo cartridge, Viscount amplifier Mk. I, Two type 2 speakers, Plinth and cover. £39 plus £2 P. & P.



THE ELEGANT SEVEN Mk. III (350mW Output)

7-transistor fully tunable M.W.-L.W. Super-het portable. Set of parts. Complete with all components, including ready etched and drilled printed circuit board—back printed for fool-proof construction. MAINS POWER PACK KIT: 9/6 extra.

Price £4.9.6 Plus P. & P. 7/6.

Circuit 2/6. Free with parts.

THE DORSET

(600mW Output)

7-transistor fully tunable M.W.-L.W. Super-het portable with baby alarm facility. Set of parts. The latest modulated and pre-alignment tech-niques makes this simple to build. Sizes: 12 × 8 × 3in. MAINS POWER PACK KIT: 9/6 extra.

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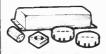


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for translator circuit measurements.

SPECIFICATION

DUV: 0-0-6-6-30-120-600-1,200 V at 20K/OPV. ■ ACV:
0-6-30-120-600-1,200 V at 10K/OPV. ■ DU Current: 0-0-6-6-600-6000 V at 10K/OPV. ■ DU Current: 0-0-6-6-600 V at 10K/OPV. ■ DU Current: 0-0-6-6-600 V at 10K/OPV. ■ DU Current: 0-0-6-600 V at 10K/OPV. ■ O Expacitance: 0-002-0-201 (AC 6V range). ■ Decibels = 20 to +634B. ■ Output: 0-05uf blocking capacitor. I ses two 1-5V (I'.7 type) batteries. Black bakelite cabinet -Size 5 ± 3 ± 1½in. Complete with test leads.



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measurement ranges. **SPECIFICATION** DCV: $0 - 0 \cdot 25 - 2 \cdot 5 - 10 \cdot 50 \cdot 250 - 1,000V$ at 25K/OPV. $0 - 0 \cdot 125 - 1 \cdot 25 - 5 \cdot 0 \cdot 25 - 125 - 500V$ at 25K/OPV. $0 - 1 \cdot 5 - 5 \cdot 25 - 125 - 500V$ at 25K/OPV. $0 - 1 \cdot 5 - 5 \cdot 25 - 125 - 500V$ at 25K/OPV. $0 - 1 \cdot 5 - 25 - 125 - 500V$ at 25K/OPV. $0 - 1 \cdot 5 - 25 \cdot 125 - 500V$ at 250mA. 250mA at 125mA: 0 - 50mA at 125mA at 125mV; $0 - 10 - 50 - 50 \cdot 500mA$ at 250mV. DC Amps: 0 - 5A at 125mV; 0 - 10 A at 250mV. Resistance: 0 - 10M/ohms. Output: Capacitor $(0 \cdot 10F, 400V)$ in series with ACV ranges. 0 - 15V batts. Black bakelite cabinct, size $\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$



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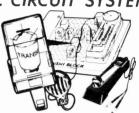
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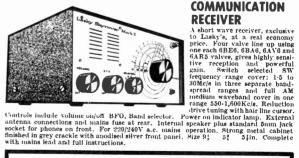
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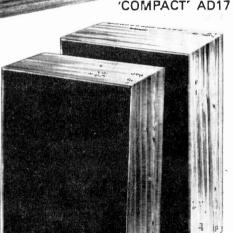
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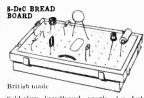
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12lb 13lb

161b

28lb 9oz 31lb 40lb 45lb 8oz

120z 11b 21b 40z 31b 120z 61b 30z 111b 130z 161b 120z 12oz

11b 7oz 31b 6oz 51b 12oz 71b 8oz 111b 13oz

11b 40z 21b 41), 602 6lb 8oz 9lb 6oz 12lb 2oz

> 11b 11oz 51h 91b 4oz

18lb 9oz 19lb 12oz

2lb 4oz 5lb 6oz 10lb 6oz

23lb 207

11b 14oz 41b 61b

702

Soz

4oz

Size
21×14×13in
22×23×28in
32×42×3in
31×42×3in
42×43×34in
42×44×41n
44×51×51in
51×61×61in
52×61 61in
52×61 7×61×61in
52×61 81in
52×61 81in
52×61 81in
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52×61 81in
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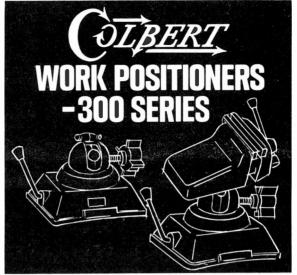
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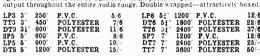
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VNI R January

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DISPELLING THE MYSTIQUE

URRENT affairs commentators make free with colourful phrases concerning "this age of electronics." These evocative declamations are apt, and correct. Yet there are signs that some of the original lustre has worn off the image this well exposed branch of contemporary technology conjures up in the public's mind. While without a doubt a mystical aura still surrounds the subject, following upon many demonstrations of its efficiency and versatility in providing all manner of services in everyday life, electronics seems to have become accepted as the modern marvel-with an answer to most of the problems encountered in this increasingly complicated and highly organised world. News of further striking technical advances tends to be received passively, as though the public has been conditioned to expect these as perfectly natural happenings—though the manner in which they are achieved is not understood. The wonderment of the early days has given way to quiet respect.

This general deference to a rather mysterious power contrasts with the easy familiarity which has been developed by technically inclined individuals towards electronics. To the uninitiated it may seem hard to believe, but without question electronics is an ideal and convenient subject for private study and experimentation. It is certainly not a subject to shrink from in fear and bewilderment—despite its formidable attributes. The swing over to solid state and the ensuing miniaturisation are, of course, factors of immense practical advantage and have been quickly recognised by enthusiasts from all walks of life. The component supply situation, apart from occasional difficulties with particular "special" items, is good and many of the latest circuit devices soon emerge onto the retail market.

Thus while electronics has been making phenomenal progress and extending its influence into all areas of modern life, the know-how has not remained a closed book to all except the professionals. It is open for any private person to explore and so experience at first hand much of the evolution in components and circuit design which is a continuing process in the industry.

From active home work develops a new and fuller appreciation of the potentialities of electronics. The informed amateur is not likely to be bamboozled by mere words and phrases. He knows the universality of electronics and sees the future even more dominated by this technology. But with knowledge based upon personal involvement he can also cut the "monster" down to size; to flip-flops, gates, linear amplifiers, phase inverters, and all—the very circuit "bricks" he makes and uses himself.

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Our February issue will be published on Thursday, January 15

READOUT

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THYRISTORS AND THE EXPERIMENTER



By J.N.WATT





Of all the semiconductor devices which have become generally available to the home experimenter, surely the silicon controlled rectifier (s.c.r.), or thyristor, is one of the most useful, and, at the same time, least appreciated. Transistors of course have wide application, but what follows will show that thyristors are capable of a multitude of uses, often at currents and voltages—and hence power levels—well out of reach of transistor circuitry.

FIRST a mention of how one of the names for these devices, the *thyristor*, is derived. It comes from THYRatron transISTOR, and those readers who are familiar with the thyratron or gas filled valve will recognise much of the properties of the thyristor. A proper understanding of these properties is vital to a full appreciation of the circuits which follow, and it is worthwhile to set down here three basic characteristics.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. A thyristor will conduct in only one direction, and when doing so behaves very much as an ordinary silicon diode; that is, it exhibits a low resistance and hence dissipates little power.

2. However, in order to conduct it is not sufficient that the anode be made positive. For conduction to take place, a third electrode, the "gate" (corresponding to the grid of a thyratron) must be made slightly positive with respect to the cathode. The power needed to do this is only a small fraction, a very small fraction, of the power it is possible to control, and it is this property that can be exploited so well in thyristor circuitry.

3. Even with this positive voltage removed from the gate, the thyristor continues to pass current (as

mentioned in 1 above) provided the value of this current does not fall below a certain, small, value, known as the holding current. A typical holding current for a 3A thyristor is 30mA. Should this fall in current take place, the thyristor will "block", the current will fall to zero and the re-application of a positive gate voltage will be required for conduction to start again.

PHYSICAL DETAILS

Thyristors are available with voltage ratings up to 1,200 volts and current ratings up to 250A—although it is not suggested that home experimenters should use such high power types! Devices of 400V rating will be suitable for mains use and lower voltage ratings such as 50V to 100V are satisfactory for battery driven equipment.

The physical construction of a thyristor varies of course with the voltage and current it is able to handle, and the more usual outlines and connections are as shown in Fig. 1. Also depicted is the circuit symbol for this device.

Construction (a) is used for lower current devices, say up to 2A, while higher ratings usually employ one of the other forms. Most popular is perhaps stud

mounting (b), since it requires only a single hole to be made; (d) is of more recent origin, with thyristors of plastic encapsulation now being made.

TWO MAIN GROUPS OF CIRCUITS

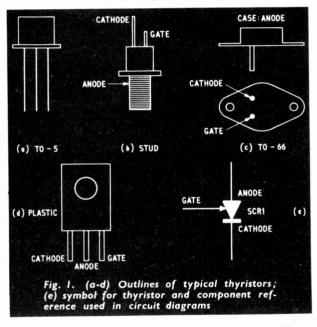
The three important properties mentioned earlier lead to an abundance of thyristor circuits, and it will be convenient to classify these circuits into two broad groups:

1. Circuits using d.c. supplies, such as a solid state

relay, flashers, and battery chargers.

2. Circuits using a.c. supplies, such as lamp dimmers, motor speed controllers (already described in PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS), temperature control, and mains lamp flashers.

In all the circuits which follow component values given are not necessarily optimum, but have been selected to show the principles involved.



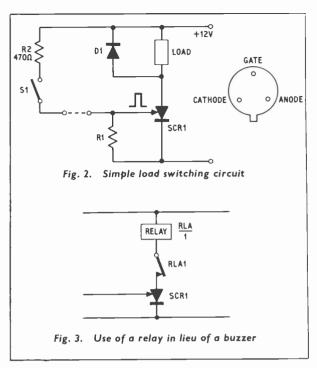
Thyristors have large spreads in their detailed characteristics, notably gate current required for turn on, which varies with temperature, and it may be found that slight alterations in some resistor values will be required.

However, unmarked devices, advertised in PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS, as well as manufacturers' type numbered products should all work well and experimenters can proceed with confidence. Thyristors are tolerant devices (provided ratings are not exceeded of course) and will be found to be easy to use in the circuits to be given.

A SIMPLE THYRISTOR CIRCUIT

The simplest circuit which finds practical use is shown in Fig. 2. The load can be a lamp or a relay; nothing sophisticated is needed for the positive pulse shown at the gate, indeed a resistor momentarily connected to the positive supply will switch on the thyristor.

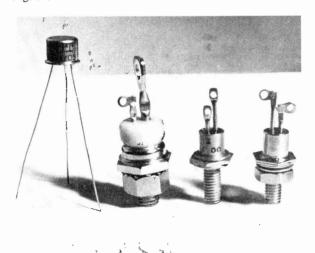
Uses for this simplest of all circuits are remote operation of a lamp where switch-on at a distance is needed and voltage drop in the lamp cable could be troublesome, for only the small gate current will be required to flow to the remote switching point, and then



only for a few milliseconds or less. The resistor R1, which should be about 1 kilohm, is required to ensure that the thyristor does not switch on spuriously, especially at higher temperatures.

Typical connections for a 100V thyristor are as shown, and almost any device of that rating capable of carrying 1A will work well, controlling, say, a 12 watt lamp. The diode D1 across the load removes any high voltage transients present when the current changes, which could damage the thyristor.

The load in Fig. 2 could be a buzzer or bell, and the self-interrupted nature of the current through it will ensure that when the gate circuit is opened, buzzer operation ceases. Should operation of a buzzer be required from a distance, this will enable a lighter gauge cable to be used to the operating push or switch, so recouping the cost of the thyristor. If desired, a relay with a normally closed contact wired as shown in Fig. 3 can be substituted for the buzzer.

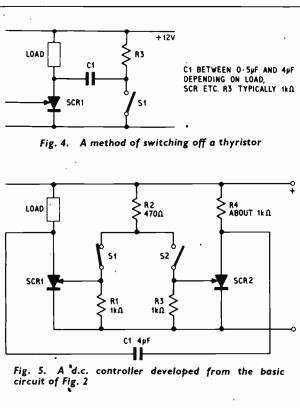


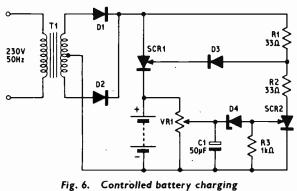
SWITCHING OFF ARRANGEMENT

To switch off the current in the load of Fig. 2 it is easiest to break the supply; however a useful alternative is given in Fig. 4. With the thyristor conducting and hence with its anode at only a volt or so positive, C1 charges to almost 12 volts. Closure of the switch earths the right-hand side of C1, and since the charge on C1 is unable to change instantaneously, the left-hand side of C1, and hence the thyristor anode, will be at about. -11V; this switches off the thyristor.

A drawback of this circuit is that if the switch is left closed, C1 charges through the load with the opposite polarity, and hence an ordinary electrolytic cannot be used.

It is possible to use a second thyristor in place of the switch, and since it is called upon to pass only the current through R3 it can be a low current rating device, which will be both more sensitive and cheaper.





EFFICIENT MOTOR CONTROLLER

An application of this circuit which should be of interest to model control enthusiasts is given in Fig. 5.

The load is energised when S1 is closed and S2 opened, and de-energised when S1 is opened and S2 closed. If S1 and S2 are the contacts of a pair of reed relays in the collectors of a multivibrator running at, say, 200Hz, variation of the mark-space ratio will alter the mean current in the load, which could be a drive motor.

This is a very efficient controller for d.c. to run motors, lamps, etc.—there is little power wasted in dropper resistors and the use of lightly loaded reed relays ensures long life and reliability.

The control of high current d.c. supplies is thus possible where the use of a series transistor would be difficult or expensive. This circuit forms the basis of control used in fork lift trucks and in experimental electric cars.

BATTERY CHARGERS

The very name "silicon controlled rectifiers" would lead one to believe that such units as battery chargers could have their charging rate controlled, and such is the case. It is possible to arrange for the charger to be cut-off when a pre-set battery voltage is reached, so that over-charging is impossible. A typical circuit is given in Fig. 6, and is admittedly somewhat complex in appearance, although straightforward in operation.

With a discharged battery, each half-cycle of mains input delivers current to the battery via SCR1 since it is turned on at its gate via R1 and the diode. As charging proceeds, battery voltage rises until the potential at VR1 slider exceeds the Zener voltage of D4, so causing it to conduct. Its anode therefore goes positive, so switching on SCR2 (this latter thyristor is not required to carry charging current and can thus have a low current rating, which implies that its gate triggering will be more sensitive—an advantage here as it was in connection with the circuit of Fig. 4.)

Further charging, giving rising battery voltage, means that the point in the half-cycle at which SCR2 conducts will become earlier and earlier, until eventually it takes place before SCR1 has had a chance to turn on. With SCR2 conducting, the junction R1/R2 is only just above earth, so that SCR1 is unable to switch on; thus charging ceases. The battery voltage at which this occurs is set by VR1.

Should battery voltage fall, charging will re-start, so making the circuit suitable for those uses where a battery is called upon to provide high rate, intermittent, short discharges and is left across the charger continuously. Use of the circuit of Fig. 6 will permit a smaller battery to be employed (overcharging would be more harmful to a small battery).

CONTROL OF A.C. SUPPLIES

All the circuits mentioned up to this point have controlled d.c. supplies, but it is in the field of a.c. control that thyristors are perhaps most attractive.

There are two different methods for operating a thyristor in a.c. circuits, these are known as "phase shift" and "burst fire" operation.

In phase shift the thyristor conducts for a certain period during every positive half cycle. The point on the positive-going waveform at which conduction commences is the controllable factor, and the amount of power passed through the load is varied accordingly.

In burst-fire control the thyristor switching cycle is longer, and trains of "whole" pulses are passed. The

mark-space ratio determines the length of these trains of pulses, and so the amount of power consumed in the load.

Phase shift is the easier method so far as the circuitry is concerned; it does, however, have certain disadvantages, as will be pointed out in due course. Its use is therefore best confined to low power functions, such as light control.

LAMP DIMMING

Starting with domestic lamp dimming; perhaps the only advantage of the gaslight of former decades over present electric lamps was the ease with which the intensity could be readily adjusted! Now, the availability of cheap thyristors has changed the picture dramatically.

If only slight dimming of, say, a 100 watt lamp to the equivalent of a 60 watt lamp is required, then the circuit could hardly be simpler—see Fig. 7.

HALF WAVE CONTROL

When the line is more negative than the neutral, diode D1 conducts and supplies current to the lamp. On the other half-cycle, with line more positive than neutral, the thyristor conducts, starting at a time depending on the setting of VR1. This resistor and capacitor C1 give a retarded phase shift to the gate voltage, so that as VR1 increases, the shift increases, so delaying turn on of SCR1 in alternate half-cycles. The diode D2 prevents the thyristor gate from going more

negative than the cathode during the half-cycles when D1 conducts. As the waveforms in Fig. 8 show, delayed turn on of the thyristor gives reduced power in the load.

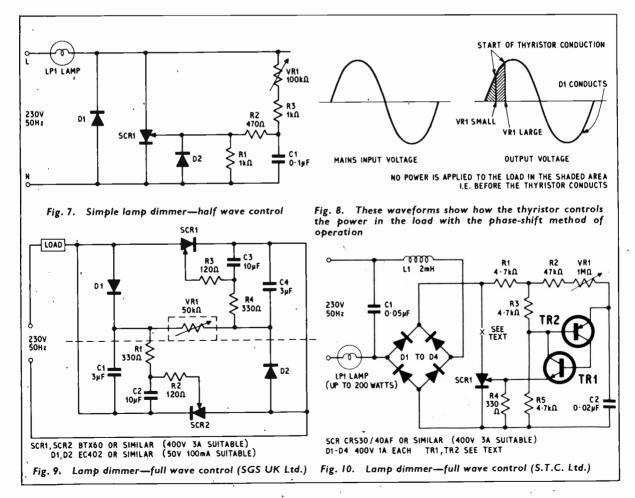
The circuit is not critical of the type of thyristors and diodes used. Unmarked devices of 400V rating as well as Mullard BTY 79-400R have worked well; D1 should be rated at 400V p.i.v. and be capable of carrying 0.5A for lamps up to 200 watts, though D2 need only be of 100V working and of lower current capacity, say 100mA.

With the circuit shown a useful reduction in light output is obtained with VRI at maximum resistance, but of course no more than a 90 degree phase shift can be provided by a simple RC network. If DI is switched out, control down to lower lamp brilliance is possible, but since only alternate half-cycles of the 50Hz mains are thereby being used, there is an annoying flicker from the lamp.

FULL WAVE CONTROL

With slightly more complexity and expense, full smooth control from full brilliance down to zero output is possible and two circuits for this are given. Each shows a different approach to the problem, which is not perhaps surprising since one circuit is that due to Messrs. SGS UK Ltd. while the other originated with S.T.C. Ltd.

Basically, what is required is a means of controlling both half-cycles of the 50Hz mains together, in one



smooth operation. This is done in one case by using two thyristors, each exercising control on alternate half-cycles, while in the other a full wave bridge rectifier is used to enable one thyristor to control both half-cycles.

Circuits are given in Fig. 9 and Fig. 10.

TWO-THYRISTOR CIRCUIT

Dealing with the SGS circuit first, consider that part above the dotted line and including the variable resistor VR1. Positive going half-cycles at D1 anode are shifted in phase by VR1 and C4, but here extra phase shift is added by R4 and C3, so giving control of SCR1 gate firing over the whole half-cycle instead of a maximum of 90 degrees as previously described.

On the other half-cycle the remainder of the circuit behaves in a similar manner, using VR1 as phase shift control, and smooth variation of lamp brilliance is given from full brilliance to zero output.

SINGLE-THYRISTOR CIRCUIT

Turning now to the circuit from S.T.C. (Fig. 10), it will be seen that only one thyristor is used, together with a full wave bridge rectifier to supply only positive voltages to the anode.

If we imagine the thyristor already to be conducting, the output of the bridge will be short circuited, but with the lamp in series with the mains input it will drop nearly all the applied voltage and be at full brilliance. Variable delay of thyristor conduction in each half-cycle will give control of lamp brilliance; this control is achieved by charging C2 through R2 and VR1.

When the voltage across C2 and hence at TR2 emitter exceeds that at its base by more than about 0.6V, TR2 conducts, so passing current to TR1 base and this complementary pair of transistors rapidly turns to a state of conduction. Thus the positive voltage on C2 is suddenly applied to the thyristor gate, so switching it on. The point in the half-cycle at which it does so is set by the time taken for C2 to charge to the required voltage, through VR1. Once again, very smooth control of lamp brilliance is given.

DUPLICATE CIRCUITS

A variation of this particular circuit (Fig. 10) is to put the lamp at X, in the anode of the thyristor and apply the mains direct to the bridge. This will give d.c. in the lamp, but this is of no consequence. However, what is interesting is that duplicate thyristors, each with their own control circuits, can be run from the same bridge rectifier, each thyristor having a lamp (or other load) in its anode circuit.

By this means a multitude of lamps, for theatrical work, shop window displays and so on can very easily be controlled, *independently*. The bridge must of course be of adequate rating, that is, be capable of carrying the total lamp current with all lamps at maximum brilliance.

Besides the thyristors quoted in the circuits, unmarked devices have proved successful in both cases, although some slight adjustment of resistor or capacitor values may be called for to obtain full control.

The transistors used should be silicon for low leakage, and a variety of types will function well—BSY95A, 2N929, 2N3704, BSY27 for the *npn*; the OC200 series and 2N3702 for the *pnp* have all proved suitable.

RADIO INTERFERENCE

One important point which should be mentioned here is the question of radio interference. Since thyristors by their very nature switch on rapidly, many harmonics are produced and these may give rise to interference, especially if a controller is run from the same mains socket outlet as a television or radio, on which a pronounced 50 or 100Hz buzz will be heard.

Some form of suppression is required, and that depicted in Fig. 10 is typical, where L1 and C1 act as a filter, is an example of what could be used.

The construction of controllers and similar devices using circuits such as described here is best carried out in metal boxes which can be earthed, thereby reducing the radiation of interference, as well as giving greater safety.

AUTOMATIC LIGHTING CONTROL

Continuous control of lamp output has a multitude of uses—porch lights can be run dimmed, to be turned up when needed, lights can be turned down for watching television, or for parties, and photographers will be able to control studio lighting and enlarger lamps. Extra lamp life is a useful by-product of under running of course.

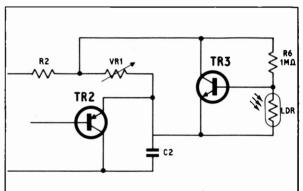


Fig. 11. Automatic Light control modification to circuit given in Fig. $10\,$

Automatic control of lamp brilliance, depending on the level of ambient lighting, so that lights come on at dusk for example, is a desirable feature, and a modification to the circuit of Fig. 10 to carry this out is given in Fig. 11.

With VR1 set for low light output and the light dependent resistor (LDR) at minimum resistance, say 10 kilohm, the transistor TR3 will be cut off, that is it will present a high resistance between collector and emitter and hence it will hardly shunt VR1. As the LDR resistance increases up to about 300 kilohm or more with reduction in light level, the transistor conducts and shunts VR1, hence switching on the thyristor earlier in each half-cycle and turning up the lights. A suitable LDR would be cadmium sulphide (CdS) type; the transistor can be any ordinary silicon npn type, such as a BSY 95A.

Circuits for switching on lights as the ambient light level falls have appeared in PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS before, but that given above has the twin advantages of gradual turn on as daylight falls and of being contactless—previous circuits have usually used relays.

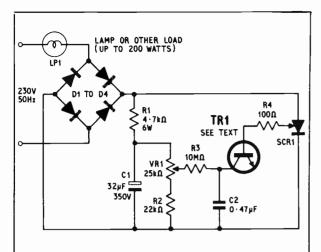


Fig. 12. Lamp flasher circuit using the burst-fire method of control

HEATING CONTROL

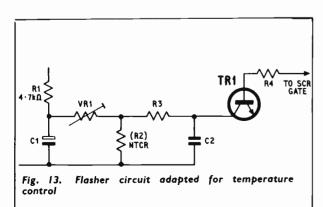
Similarly, the LDR could be replaced by a temperature dependent resistor, or thermistor; the temperature of aquaria, chemical solutions and so on will then be governed very efficiently. With a suitable thyristor and diodes, control of electric room heating is possible.

Remember that each kilowatt to be controlled will pass just over 4A through the thyristor and half that amount through each bridge diode; adequate surge rating is called for when switching on cold heating elements. The higher power thyristors, say 10A and upwards, may require larger gate currents than that given by the circuits here.

The circuits so far described use the "phase-shift" method of thyristor operation. The next circuit introduces a form of "burst-fire" control.

FLASHING CIRCUITS

Continuing with a.c. circuits, that of Fig. 12 will provide flashes lasting about a quarter of a second, with a repetition rate determined by the setting of the $25k\Omega$ potentiometer VR1. With the values and thyristor shown, this can be varied from one flash every second



to one every five seconds. A lower value for R3, say 4.7 megohms will quicken the rate of flashing; an increase in the value of C2, say to 1μ F, will slow the rate to about one flash every nine seconds.

Flashes lasting longer than the quarter-second noted above will be obtained if C1 is increased, say to 64μ F. With the potentiometer slider at the lower end a flash of about 0.6 second alternating with a space of 0.5 second gives an effective display, useful for warning lights and so on.

The use of a transistor TR1 in the gate lead of the thyristor is worthy of a mention. Connected as shown (Fig. 12), with its emitter left disconnected, very little current, certainly less than $10\mu A$, will flow to the thyristor gate as long as the voltage across the collectorbase junction is fairly small. This low level of current is insufficient to switch on the thyristor.

As C2 charges, this collector-base voltage rises until avalanche breakdown occurs, at around an applied voltage of 30 to 35 volts, when the transistor conducts suddenly and connects C2, charged to that potential, to the thyristor gate. The thyristor immediately conducts, discharging C2 for the cycle to repeat. The 100 ohm resistor R4 limits the current through the transistor.

No damage or change of important characteristic has been noted in this transistor, which may, in any case, be an inexpensive silicon *npn* such as a BSY 95A. The thyristor quoted is a BTY 79400R; an unmarked 400V 3A device worked also but various samples gave slightly varying repetition rates.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

A use for this circuit, besides the obvious one of a flashing light for display purposes and so on—without moving parts and exposed contacts of course—is the possibility of close temperature control; see Fig. 13.

Replace the 22 kilohm (R2) resistor by a suitable negative temperature coefficient resistor, placed in the environment to be controlled, say an aquarium. With the water cold, the NTC resistor will have a large resistance, and the repetition rate of the thyristor firing will be high. The thyristor load is, of course, the aquarium heater. As the water warms, the NTC resistor will decrease in value and the repetition rate will accordingly fall, so passing, averaged over some seconds, less heat to the water.

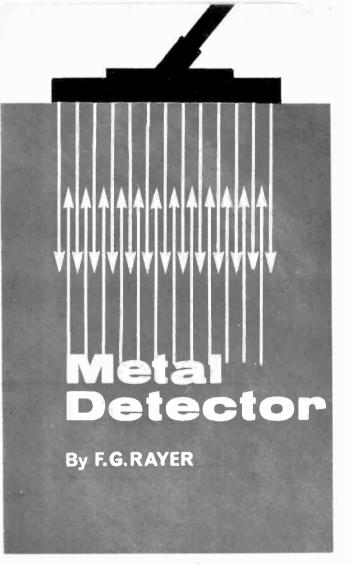
Control of water temperature is thus close and perhaps more important, rapid, since the set-up responds to NTC resistor changes immediately and continuous control is maintained. These are important improvements over an ordinary on-off thermostat, in aquaria, plating baths, photographic processing solutions and so on

A disadvantage is that since the duty cycle of heating is no greater than say, 50 per cent, even at maximum heat output, a larger heating element is needed. In the author's opinion, it is worth while to gain the advantages mentioned; a by-pass switch could put continuous heating on if required for rapid warm up from cold.

PHASE-SHIFT v. BURST-FIRE

The phase-shift method, as described in connection with circuits for lamp dimming, can give a certain amount of r.f. interference due to the rapid turn on of the thyristor sometime during each half-cycle of mains input, that is, at a rate of 100Hz. The steps necessary continued on page 31

miinuea on page 31



The device described in this article can help to locate concealed metal, under paving or the earth, under floors, or behind walls. The search coil and detector are attached to a wooden handle, so can be moved about over the ground. The maximum distance to which a metal object can be located depends on the adjustment of the circuit, and also circumstances, such as the presence of other metal objects, size of the metal to be located, and to some extent on materials which may lie between the metal and search coil.

RANGE

The range at which detection could be secured was up to about 6in from a small metal item such as a coin, extending to about 1ft 6in for a metal object having an area of about \(\frac{1}{2}\) so ft or larger. Long items of small width, such as small pipes or wires, can only be detected at short range. The kind of metal, and the ability of the user to note a small change in tone, also influences the maximum possible range.

Moving the search coil near a large mass of wet earth changes the tone, but a manual control allows adjustment for this. In such circumstances the search coil should be moved at a uniform distance from the ground, or regularly in contact with it.

DETECTOR CIRCUIT

Two r.f. transistors are used in a heterodyne circuit (Fig. 1) with a further transistor as an audio amplifier. L1 is the search coil, with collector and base tappings, and tuned by the fixed capacitor C4.

The second oscillator is built around a cored coil L2. The frequency is initially set by adjusting the core and trimmer VC1. The circuit can then be tuned over a

narrow band by the manual control VC2.

The r.f. output from TR1 and TR2 is coupled to the detector D1 by small capacitances C2 and C7. TR3 provides audio amplification, with base bias secured by

the rectified signal through D1.

The coils L1 and L2 are each tuned to about 550kHz. When L1 and L2 are operating at the same frequency, no beat note is produced or heard in the phones. The presence of metal near the large search coil L1 detunes its frequency, producing a heterodyne beat heard in the phones. The change of frequency increases as the metal object is approaching the coil, and falls as the distance between coil and object grows larger again.

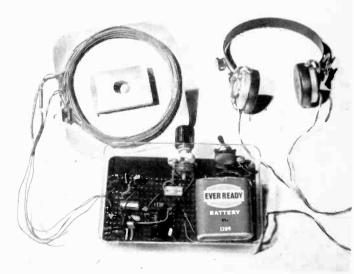
SENSITIVITY

For most sensitive results, VC2 is tuned so that a low audio tone is heard with no metal near L1. The tone then changes when metal is approached. If both tuned circuits are set to exactly the same frequency to begin with, "pulling" of one circuit by the other reduces sensitivity. This effect can be made less serious by reducing the values of C2 and C7, but volume then becomes rather low. It is thus better to work with a constant tone.

The gain of the audio amplifier has no bearing on the range of detection, but boosts detector output to a suitable level. The single audio stage was found sufficient, using 4,000 ohm headphones.

ASSEMBLY

The detector is wired on an s.r.b.p. panel which should fit in a plastics box (Fig. 2), $7\text{in} \times 4\frac{1}{2}\text{in} \times 1\frac{1}{2}\text{in}$ deep.



Top left—the search coil; top right—the headphones; bottom—the electronic detector





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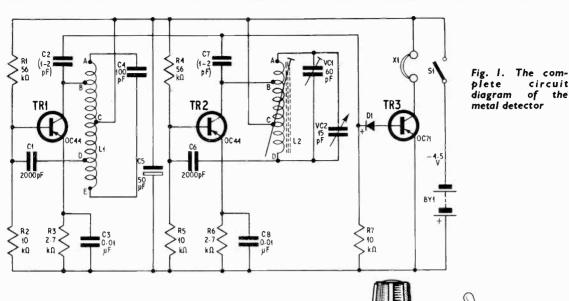
Dart Electronics has been appointed by General Avionics Limited as their U.K. distributor for their FM Tuner kit, the first to use integrated circuits with pulse counting techniques developed by Marconi-Elliott Microelectronics.

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All components are available BY POST ONLY from Dart Electronics at a special kit price of £9 19s 6d plus 5/- post and packaging.(U.K. & N. Ireland) which includes selector switch and double-sided p.c. board ready drilled and tinned. The kit is complete with all necessary circuits and instructions.

Full assembly details, circuit diagram and parts list are also available separately from Dart Electronics at 2/6 per copy and an article appeared in the June issue of the WIRELESS WORLD magazine.

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C2 2pF ceramic

C3 0.01μF 100pF mica C4

50μF elect. 12V C5

2,000pF C6

C7 2pF ceramic

C8 0.01 µF

Variable capacitors

VC1 60pF compression trimmer VC2 15pF air space variable control

Inductors

LI uses p.v.c. covered single core bell wire, about 20 yards (see text)

L2 uses 32 s.w.g. enam. copper wire, about 10 yards and a $\frac{1}{2}$ in or 10mm coil former with dust iron core (see text)

Transistors and Diode

TRI, 2 OC44 or NKT152 (2 off) TR3 OC71 or NKT251

DI OA79, OA81, or similar

Miscellaneous

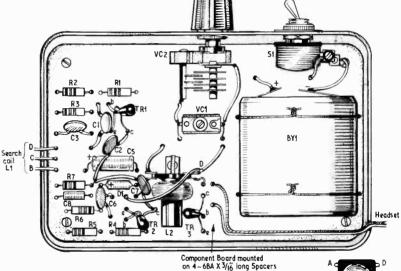
SI Single-pole, on-off toggle switch

XI Headphones, $4,000\Omega$ type BYI Battery 4 5V type 1289

Plastics box, perforated s.r.b.p. $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ Tinned copper wire and p.v.c. covered

flexible wire Wood for detector sensor and handle

(see text)



circuit

27

of the

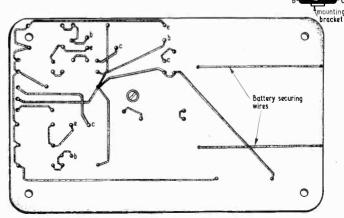


Fig. 2. The electronic unit is mounted in a plastics box. The component side and underside wiring of the board are shown above

The wire ends of the components pass through small holes, and are soldered underneath to 24 s.w.g. wire connections. Insulation is placed on leads where necessary.

The 4.5V battery is secured with cord or wire passed through holes in the component board. Leads are

soldered on. Polarity must be correct.

The switch and VC2 are fitted after placing the wired panel in the box. Long leads for the search coil pass through a hole in the box end and are taped to the handle down to the search coil at the bottom.

The capacitors C2 and C7 can be 2pF fixed ceramic types, or be made from thin insulated wire about 1½in

long and twisted together.

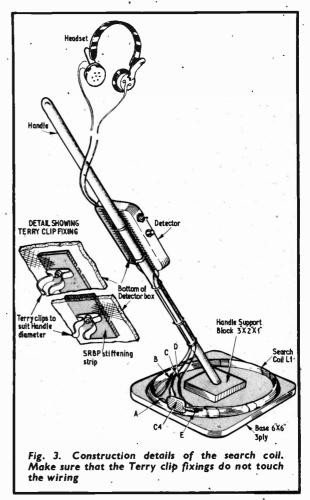
COIL WINDING

The oscillator coil L2 is wound from 32 s.w.g. enamelled wire on a 1 in or 10mm diameter former with an adjustable core. The winding begins at A, Fig. 2. This end will go to VC1 and VC2, Fig. 2, after the coil is wound and mounted. For the first section, A to B, wind on 125 turns, in a compact pile. Make a loop of the wire about 3 in long at B. Continue winding in a pile in the same direction for a further 45 turns, and make another loop at C (battery negative). A further 15 turns in the same direction finishes the coil; this end (point D) goes to VC1, VC2 and C6.

Do not let the loops cause the coil windings to come loose. Turns are held with a little adhesive or wax. When firmly set the loops at A, B, C, and D are bared for about \(\frac{1}{2}\)in and soldered to the appropriate junctions on the component board, or via the tags on the former if

fitted.





SEARCH COIL

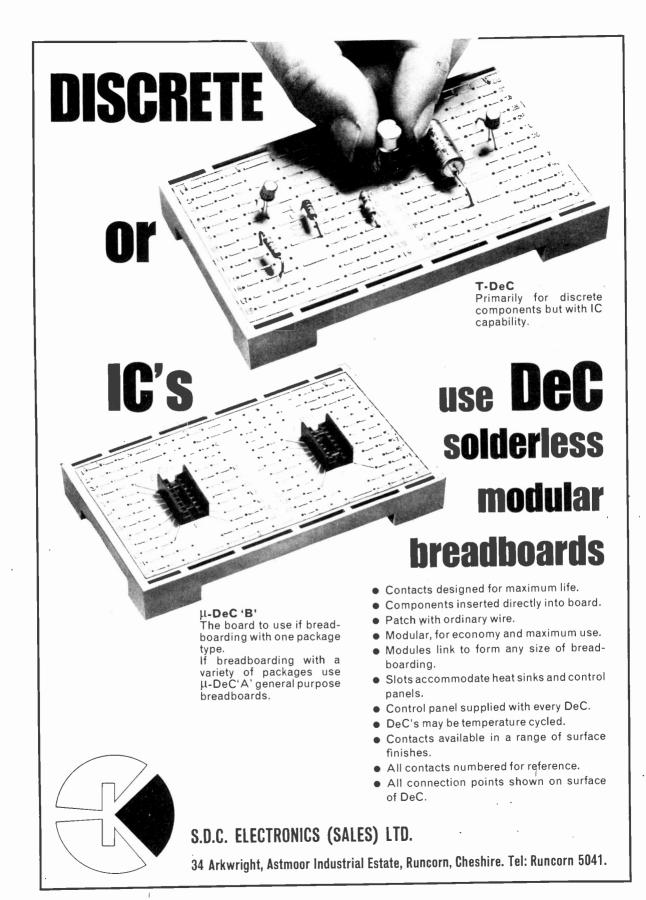
The search coil L1 is wound with thin single core bell wire and is 5in in diameter. A temporary former of near this diameter is used to wind the coil, winding 10 turns from A to B. A loop is made at B and winding continues for another 12 turns to loop C. Wind four turns more, make loop D, then wind 15 turns more, and end at E. The ends and loops should be identified by coloured sleeving or other means. The insulation is removed for about ½in for connection to the long leads from the box.

The coil is removed from its temporary former, and bound with adhesive tape. It is attached by adhesive to a piece of 3-ply wood about $6in \times 6in$, Fig. 3. C4 is soldered to the ends of the coil at points A and E.

ASSEMBLY OF SEARCH COIL

A block of 1in thick wood about $2in \times 3in$ is drilled at an angle to take a thick dowel or broom handle, Fig. 3. This is glued in place, and the block is glued to the centre of the plywood plate.

The detector can be fitted to the handle about 1ft up the handle by means of two Terry clips bolted to the box. The search coil leads B, C and D (Fig. 2) are arranged to run down to the tappings, and are secured with tape or thread to the handle.



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ADJUSTMENTS FOR CORRECT OPERATION

No results can be obtained until the two tuned circuits are operating on a near frequency. Adjusting VC1, VC2 and the core of L2 throughout their full range should produce a heterodyne whistle in the phones. If so, adjust VC1 so that zero beat arises with VC2 about half closed. Rotating VC2 from this position, in either direction, should cause the tone to rise in pitch.

If no tone can be heard switch off and temporarily disconnect TR3, and use a meter to check battery current. This should change if C4 is shorted, or if VC2 is shorted. If there is no change in current when either of these tests is made, the appropriate oscillator is not working, and connections should be checked. When

all is satisfactory reconnect TR3.

If both TR1 and TR2 are oscillating, but no tone is obtained, their frequencies are probably too far apart. One way of checking this is to take a 300pF variable capacitor, and temporarily connect it across L1 (A to E). If closing this capacitor enables a heterodyne to be produced, then the frequency of L1 is too high for L2 to match. This is corrected by increasing C4, or by reducing VC1, or having fewer turns or L2, or withdrawing the core, until VC1 and VC2 can be adjusted as described.

Should a heterodyne only be possible with extra capacitance across L2, then L2 is at too high a frequency. This can be overcome by reducing C4, or increasing the value of VC1, or screwing the core of L2

further in

VC2 is best adjusted to give a low frequency tone in the headphones, and so that the frequency rises when L1 approaches the metal sought. If the tone falls, passes through zero, then begins to rise, VC2 can be retuned to the other side of zero beat when no metal is near L1.

THYRISTORS AND THE EXPERIMENTER

continued from page 23

to reduce radiation have been noted earlier and should be followed for minimum interference on radio and television.

The burst-fire control method, however, switches power to the load at a much lower rate, say every second for ½ second at a time, and hence the thyristor is required to switch on-load current that much less often. If additional circuitry is employed—rather too complex to include in the present article—then it is possible to arrange for the load to be both switched on and off at zero mains voltage, i.e. at almost zero load current, and in that case no interference can be generated.

OBJECTIONAL FLICKER

Although the potential interference level is much less using burst-fire, there is (of course!) a disadvantage. If used for lamp control there is a very pronounced, objectional flicker, although when used for the control of heaters this factor does not apply. Since heaters are generally of higher wattage, and so take more current than lamps, higher levels of interference would be generated using phase-shift control with them—hence the recommendation to use burst-fire when possible.

There is another objection to the use of the phase-

shift method for high power control.

The phase-shift method introduces some distortion into the waveform of the electricity supply. If a number of high power devices were operating simultaneously in the same electricity supply area, this distortion could assume serious proportions, and affect other equipment connected to this area. For this reason, the Electricity Council recommends the use of the burst-fire method, except for low power devices such as light dimmers.

THE TRIAC

Before concluding, mention must be made of the Triac, which is equivalent to two thyristors in back-to-back parallel. Control of a.c. is possible using a single Triac and no rectifiers, but such devices are dearer than the equivalent thyristors at present. However, they will obviously make their bow in the home construction field before long, and will lead to simplification of circuitry.

SCOPE FOR EXPERIMENT

Since such a variety of circuits have been quoted in this review (most of which have either been tested, or actually evolved, by the author) it has not been possible to give here constructional details for the building of units making use of them. Rather it is hoped that experimenters will be encouraged to try some of the circuits in the applications mentioned, and to think of many more uses besides—the "Ingenuity Unlimited" pages are open to all! Thyristors are very easy to use once their principles are understood.

It would be as well to conclude by re-stating three

important points:

- 1. Do not exceed the rating of the device in use—remember switch on surges, etc.
- 2. Provide adequate r.f. interference suppression such as an earthed metal case and/or a LC filter.
- 3. Remember that in applications involving mains, switch off before touching any of the exposed circuitry.



ESRO PROGRAMME

The satellite programme now finalised by the European Space Research Organisation consists of seven vehicles for the period 1969 to 1975. These are all scientific satellites. In addition to these there are several feasibility studies which will be undertaken by both the European Space Research and Technology Centre and industry through ESRO contracts.

These include a combined pure research and operational meteorological satellite for data collection and distribution. The pure research would be devoted to investigation of the lower atmosphere properties of winds and temperatures; the meteorological data would be collected and distributed in the usual way. The satellite would have a three-axis stabilisation, one pointing to the

detect the emission of galactic and extra-galactic sources, two others will be sun pointing, and there will be a cosmic ray telescope to observe primary particles.

VACUUM TELESCOPE

At Sunspot in New Mexico a solar telescope of revolutionary design came into operation in October 1969. The telescope of the tower type was designed and built by the United States Air Force Cambridge Research Observatory at Sacremento Peak. Built at a cost of \$3.2 million it is hoped that it will enable more precise measurements of solar activity and accurate forecasts of possible harmful radiations to be made. Thus astronauts' wellbeing will be safeguarded. It will also enable an assessment to be made regarding communications and allowances

turbulent envelope thousands of kilometres deep from which there are eruptions of plasma and the ejections of matter and radiations which affect communications.

THE DENSITY OF PLUTO

It is only now that a more accurate estimate of the density of the most distant planet known in the solar system has been made, that the orbit of Neptune can be more accurately computed. Neptune was discovered in 1846 and has only completed about three-quarters of its orbit up till now.

The theories have all been based on an assumed value for density of Pluto. These have been based on the amount of the orbit of Neptune that has been observed. The two variables which are dependent on each other for their assessment are now again the subject of study.

Hitherto the mass of Pluto has been taken to be about 0.9 that of the earth. American astronomers at the United States Naval Observatory in Washington have suggested that it would be less complicated to assess the correct values if the mass of Pluto was adjusted to what is known now of Neptune's orbit. Accordingly they suggest that mass should be taken as 0.2 as this is the value that best fits the known facts.

The interesting thing about this suggestion is that whereas the earlier figure for the mass implies an extremely high density, the new suggestion requires a density of only 1.5 times that of the earth. This is much more plausible. Of course the whole problem will be solved in the year 2,000 when Neptune will have completed its orbit round the sun. This however may well be after probes have been in that vicinity and sent back direct information.

made for the effect on the signals to and from spacecraft at great distances.

By Frank W. Hyde

The tower is 39 meters in height and surrounds the tube of the telescope itself. The tube of the telescope is 98 metres in length, and the upper portion rotates to follow the sun's path. The optics are simplified by this method and are also out of reach of most of the turbulence arising from the ground.

MERCURY BEARING

The tube which weighs about 250 tons is three metres across at its widest point and floats on a mercury bearing near the top of the tower. The sun's rays enter through a quartz window 76cm across and are reflected down the tower to the mirror (which is 45 metres below ground), then up to ground level to three spectroscopes. One of these is a new universal spectroscope specially to serve this telescope.

The unique feature of this telescope is the fact that the whole system is in a vacuum. The tube is kept free of air turbulence and dust by this method. In addition the tower itself is refrigerated to minimise the possible dancing of the image of the sun.

The observatory has a special interest in the study of the chromosphere of the sun. This is the highly

centre of the earth and another along the flight path in addition to normal.

the flight path in addition to normal. Two versions may be made, one of 225kg using Europa I for launch and a smaller version for Scout launch weighing 115kg.

The research for these projects is being undertaken by Elliot Bross, with Eokker and Dornier. The equipment

Fokker and Dornier. The equipment will include a basic radiometer, a scanning radiometer/photometer, an ultra-violet solar monitor, and a balloon interrogation system. The solar paddles for power supply will be moveable.

moveable.

ULTRA-VIOLET

The Mercury fly-past probe has already been described. An ultraviolet astronomy satellite *UVAS* may be part of the next major project. This vehicle is intended to be complementary to the NASA Orbiting Astronomical Observatories. One version is by the Culham Laboratory at Abingdon covering U-V spectroscopy and another by Fiat using U-V mapping in place of spectroscopy.

TD-I which is scheduled to be launched by a Delta N in 1972 weighs about 450kg. It is an astrophysics laboratory which will measure and analyse electromagnetic radion from the sun and other celestial objects. There are to be seven experiments. Four of these will scan the sky at a number of wavelengths to

MORE PULSARS

Professor J. G. Davies has announced that two more pulsars have been found. As the Mark I telescope at Jodrell Bank is undergoing some modifications, it required to be pointed to the zenith without azimuth movement for about two months. The whole of this period was taken up with the study of pulsars.

In October the two mentioned were discovered by a technique developed by Professor Davies. This technique is to look for individual dispersed pulses rather than for pulses over a period. The two frequencies used are a few MHz separation at a frequency nominally 480MHz. One advantage of the method is that it is sensitive to the many pulsars that do not show continuous trains of pulses. The two new ones found were more sporadic in their pulsations than the earlier pulsars found. At the date of the October discovery the total number of pulsars catalogued was 43.

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By M. J. Gay Chief Circuit Engineer (Linear), Plessey Microelectronics

Last month we completed the description of the two main amplifiers and their construction. Now we will describe the pre-amplifier circuit used to feed the amplifiers.

PRE-AMPLIFIERS

The pre-amplifier design uses two Plessey SL702C integrated circuit operational amplifiers per channel. The first amplifier provides amplification and equalisation for the various signal sources. The second amplifier provides further amplification and tone controls. Programme sources covered are crystal or ceramic pick-up, magnetic pick-up, tape replay and radio. The circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 11.

OPERATIONAL AMPLIFIER BIASING

Operational amplifiers, having differential input stages, normally need two supply lines. In the arrangement used here the SL702C generates its own "earth" reference at half supply voltage by means of decoupled d.c. feedback from the normal earth point. Fig. 10 shows the circuit diagram of the SL702C plus biasing arrangements. The amplifiers are operated on a 12V supply.

EQUALISATION SECTION

For radio, tape and magnetic pick-up inputs the amplifier is used with series feedback but for crystal or ceramic pick-up inputs it is used with capacitive shunt feedback. The feedback network is selected by switch S1c and the appropriate input to the integrated circuit by switches S1a and S1b. The "tape" feedback network consists of R11 and C11. Resistor R11 must be chosen to suit the playback speeds as in Table 2. Magnetic pick-up compensation is obtained from the network R10, C9 and C10; C11 provides shunt feedback for use with ceramic pick-ups. For radio inputs the amplifier gain is reduced to just over unity.

Table 2. TAPE EQUALISATION

Speed (inches per second)	RII
3.75	22 kΩ
7.5	I0kΩ
15	6·8kΩ

The use of capacitive shunt feedback when the amplifier is fed from a ceramic pick-up obviates the requirement for a very high input impedance. The pick-up capacitance and the feedback capacitor act as a see-saw about the amplifier's virtual earth input giving a constant gain down to very low frequencies. Furthermore the amplifier can readily handle the possibly very high outputs from ceramic or crystal pick-ups, when connected in this manner. With a 6.8nF feedback capacitor (C11) the amplifier output will be typically seven times lower than the pick-up output. This brings the output near that obtained with other programme sources and ensures that good overload capability is maintained.

RUMBLE FILTER

A simple rumble filter is incorporated in the equalisation circuit by the inclusion of the network R7, R8, R9 and C7 across the feedback components. At low frequencies as C7 impedance rises, the transfer impedance of this network falls causing the amplifier gain to fall (R8 damps the bridged T network resonance between R7, R9, C7 and C11 or C9 plus C10). With radio inputs, when the amplifier gain is set to a much lower level, the rumble filter is inoperative.

With radio, tape and magnetic pick-up inputs the input impedance of the amplifier is set at 47 kilohms by R3. A small (47pF) capacitor (C3) is added to reduce the possibility of h.f. oscillation due to stray capacitance feedback into this impedance when the input is open circuit.

The operational amplifier is stabilised by capacitors C4 and C5 connected to its two compensation points.

TONE CONTROL SECTION

The main amplifier requires a low impedance drive to avoid upsetting the active filter characteristics. Therefore it is not possible to place an attenuator type tone control after the pre-amplifier. Noise considerations make it equally undesirable to place one after the equalisation stage. The tone controls are therefore incorporated into a feedback network around the second operational amplifier. The "Baxandall" arrangement is used since this has the considerable advantage of using linear potentiometers (other



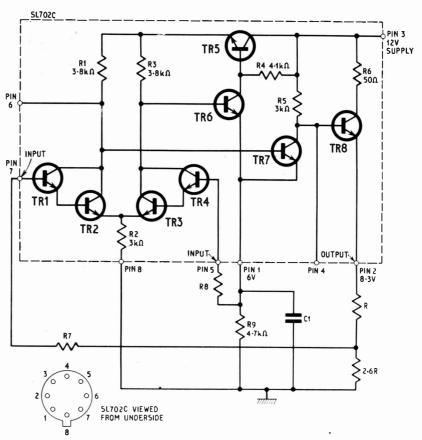


Fig. 10. Biasing arrangements for the SL702C integrated circuit—voltages are nominal values

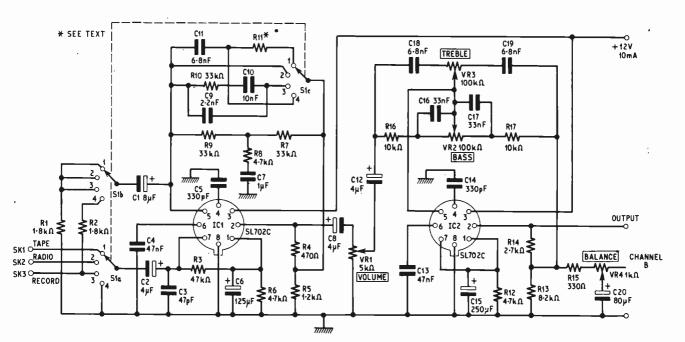


Fig. 11. Circuit diagram and one channel of the pre-amplifier section of the hi fi stereo amplifier. S1 positions are: I Tape, 2 Radio, 3 Magnetic pick-up, 4 Ceramic pick-up

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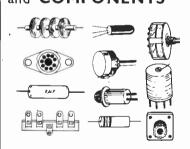
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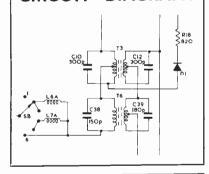
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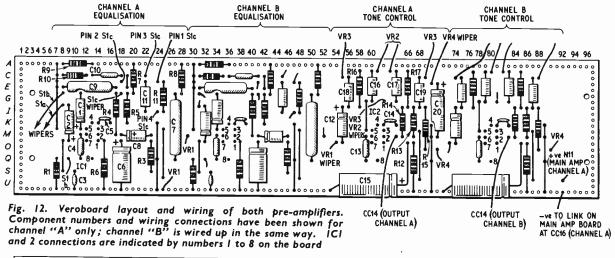
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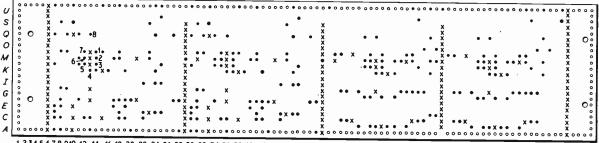
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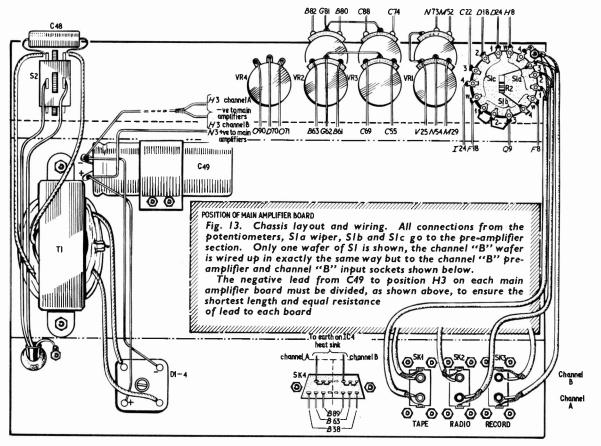
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arrangements require antilogarithmic potentiometers). The standard Baxandall see-saw gives a mid-band gain of unity which is too low for our requirements. An attenuator is therefore placed between the amplifier output and the feedback network to increase the overall mid-band gain to approximately five times.

The attenuation is varied by means of the potentiometer VR4 (Fig. 11) which provides the balance adjustment, and is connected between the two channels. This control gives a gain adjustment range of -3dB to +6dB for each channel and thus compensates for balance errors up to 9dB. The operational amplifier is stabilised by capacitors C13 and C14.

PRE-AMPLIFIER CONSTRUCTION

The two pre-amplifiers were built on a 0·1in. matrix Veroboard shown in Fig. 12. Because the potentiometers used had bushes too short to enable the controls to be affixed to the Veroboard and a chassis, they were attached by floating leads. The constructional points made previously in this article should also be considered when building the pre-amplifier section.

The crosses shown on the underside of the Veroboard represent breaks in the copper strip and should be made before affixing the components; this also applies to Fig. 5 last month.

MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION

The main amplifier boards and pre-amplifier board have been bracketed together as shown in Fig. 14. The assembly is mounted in a simple chassis which carries the controls and power supply components (Fig. 13). To allow adjustment of the speaker sensitivity balancing potentiometers, access holes are drilled in the chassis, Fig. 15.

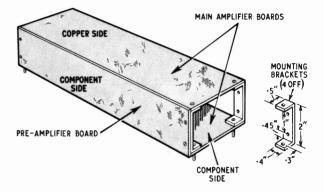


Fig. 14. Circuit board assembly details

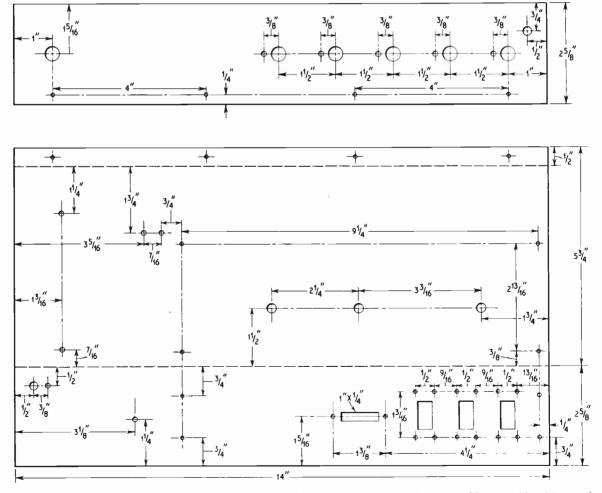
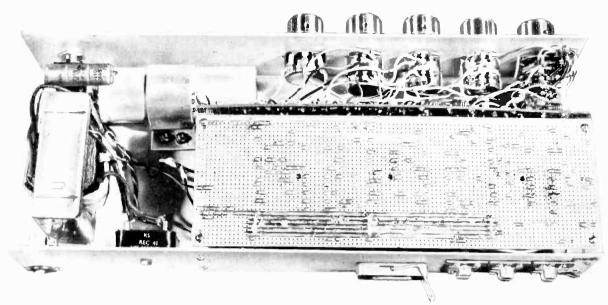


Fig. 15. Chassis details for the hi fi stereo amplifier. The front panel has been made removeable to enable wiring to the controls



Underside view of the completed amplifier ready for use

PRE-AMPLIFIER PERFORMANCE

The response curves for the equalisation section are shown in Fig. 16. Fig. 17 shows the tone control characteristics. The sensitivities at the different settings are given in Table 3 (these are inputs required for 300mV r.m.s. output with volume control at maximum.)

Table 3. INPUT SENSITIVITIES

Input	Radio	Ceramic p.u. Magnetic p.u. Tape (3-75in
Sensitivity	35mV r.m.s.	400mV r.m.s. 2.5mV r.m.s. 2.5mV r.m.s. at 1kHz at 1kHz

The amplifier input impedance allows operation from tape heads of up to one Henry inductance. Typically half track heads of 100mH generate around 2.5mV at 1kHz. If lower output heads are used then higher gain will be required. Referring to Fig. 11 this may be obtained by reducing R15 and VR4 (halving their value

doubles the gain). To maintain the l.f. response C15 and C20 must be proportionately increased. The other sensitivities are more than adequate; that quoted for ceramic p.u. is for units of 800pF capacitance. The overload margin of the equalisation section is 30dB at all settings.

DISTORTION

Distortion was measured for the equalisation section at 60mV r.m.s. output (corresponding to full drive into the main amplifier) and at 600mV r.m.s. output, and for the tone control section at 300mV r.m.s. output (full drive into the main amplifier). Since the SL702C is an essentially linear amplifier and we have up to 40dB negative feedback around it, we expect very low distortion; this is the case. The equalisation section generates less than 0.01 per cent distortion (even at

COMPONENTS. . .

PRE-AMPLIFIER and CHASSIS All components except the potentiometers, C20, SI and Veroboard must be duplicated for channel B Resistors **Capacitors** CI9 6.8nF polyester C20 80μF elect. 16V RΙ 1.8k \O carbon СI 8μF elect. 16V I·8kΩ carbon R₂ C2 4μF elect. 16V **Potentiometers** C3 C4 R3 47kΩ film 47pF silver mica 470Ω film $5k\Omega$ tandem log **R4** VR! 47nF polyester 330pF ceramic R5 $1.2k\Omega$ film C5 VR₂ 100kΩ tandem lin R6 4·7kΩ carbon C6 125µF elect. 16V VR3 100kΩ tandem lin $33k\Omega$ film $I\mu F$ polyester $4\mu F$ elect. 16VVR4 $lk\Omega$ lin **R**7 C7 R8 C8 4·7kΩ carbon Integrated circuits R9 $33k\Omega$ film C9 2.2nF polystyrene T and IC2 SL702C Plessey (2 off) (available from S.D.S. Ltd., Hillsea RIO 10nF polyester 6-8nF polyester $33k\Omega$ carbon C10 ICI and IC2 ČH RH see text, film **R12** 4.7k Ω carbon CI2 4μF elect. 16V Industrial Estate, Portsmouth) CI3 CI4 **RI3** 8·2kΩ film 47nF polyester **R14** 2.7kΩ film Miscellaneous 330pF ceramic **R15** 330Ω carbon C15 250μF elect. 16V SI 6-pole 4-way wafer switch **R16** l0kΩ film C16 33nF polyester Veroboard 0-1 inch matrix 9-8in × 2-3in $10k\Omega$ film 33nF polyester 6-8nF polyester R 17 CI7 SKI, 2 and 3 double phono sockets (3 off) All $\pm 10\%$, $\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ watt. CI8 16 s.w.g. aluminium 141 in × 12in

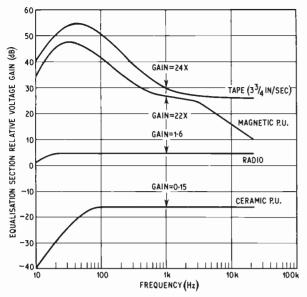
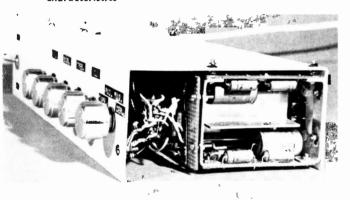


Fig. 16. Input equalisation characteristics of the preamplifier. These correspond to RIAA (BS 1928) characteristics



This shows the method of assembling the three component boards inside the chassis. The upper main amplifier board is separated from the chassis by four small spacers

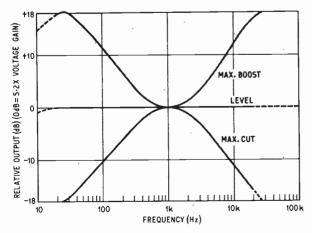


Fig. 17. Tone control characteristics

600mV r.m.s. output) except at very low frequencies in the "magnetic pick-up" and "tape" positions where the feedback is much reduced. At 40Hz for these settings, distortion reaches 0·1 per cent at 600mV r.m.s. output. With tone controls level the tone control section generates less than 0·02 per cent distortion at 300mV r.m.s. output.

NOISE

Noise measurement presents some problems as the noise spectrum is of course shaped according to the equalisation characteristics. For this reason a perceived signal to noise ratio was determined in this case. This is obtained by measuring the noise over the audio frequency band, then weighting the results according to the ear's sensitivity, before integrating to obtain the total effective noise power. Noise was measured with a 10 kilohm source for "radio", an 800pF source for "ceramic p.u." and a 110mH source for "magnetic p.u." and "tape"; these corresponding to real conditions. The results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. NOISE LEVELS

Input Perceived	Radio	Ceramic p.u.	Mag- netic p.u.	Tape
Noise Reference Input		—85dB 400mV		—62dB 2∙5mV

The noise levels shown in Table 4 are relative to the reference levels given which are the minimum required for 300mV r.m.s. output (full drive to main amplifier). In most cases, the source output will be substantially larger than these levels, particularly in the case of magnetic pick-ups which typically give 20mV r.m.s. peak music output (the high sensitivity is a by-product of the compensation required). In practice perceived noise levels will be around -90dB for radio and ceramic p.u. inputs, around -80dB for magnetic p.u. input and around -60dB for tape input.

SETTING UP

Caution: the wipers of the speaker sensitivity balancing potentiometers connect to the SL403 main amplifier input and must not be shorted to earth; use only a non-metallic tool for adjustment.

To gain access for adjustment of the bias correction potentiometers, the lower main amplifier board is freed from the assembly; this is a once only adjustment. Again take care not to short the potentiometer wipers to earth.

Listening tests are very satisfactory; the performance of the equipment was found to be significantly better than the author's valve based high fidelity amplifier (a 0·1 per cent distortion 10W system) which it now replaces.

Note: In the first part of this article the value of R21 was incorrectly given as $22k\Omega$, this should have been $12k\Omega$. Socket SK4 is not duplicated and R1, in Table 1, for the middle channel (250Hz crossover) should be $39k\Omega$.

Also the equation referring to Fig. 1b should have read:

$$\frac{V_{o}}{V_{i}} = \frac{-C_{1}}{C_{3}} \left[\frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{j\omega} \left(\frac{C_{1} + C_{2} + C_{3}}{C_{1} C_{3} R_{2}} \right) - \frac{1}{\omega^{2}} \left(\frac{1}{C_{2} C_{3} R_{1} R_{2}} \right)} \right]$$

DEMO SWITCHING CIRCUITS

SCHMITT TRIGGER By B. Pounder

THE Schmitt trigger is an important circuit that appears frequently in electronic switching systems. The basic circuit (Fig. 2.1) consists of a two-stage directly coupled "amplifier" with positive feedback across the common emitter resistor R3.

To see how it works, consider first that the base of TR1 is connected to the common negative line so that TR1 is non-conducting. TR2 conducts, its base current being supplied by means of the potential divider network R1, R2, and R4. The voltage dropped across R3 by the emitter current of TR2 causes the emitter of TR1 to be positive with respect to the common line. The base-emitter junction of TR1 is therefore reverse biased, so TR1 is held off.

Now if the base voltage of TR1 is gradually raised from its initial value of zero, a stage will be reached at which its value is just greater than the emitter voltage. TR1 will then begin to conduct, and as it does so, the increasing voltage drop across R1 will cause the collector voltage of TR1 to fall. The collector of TR1 is connected to the base of TR2 via a voltage divider network, therefore the base voltage on TR2 will drop and TR2 will conduct less heavily.

When the collector current of TR2 begins to fall, the voltage on the emitter falls (emitter follower action) increasing the potential difference between the base and emitter of TR1. Therefore, TR1 conducts while TR2 current is reduced to cut-off.

REGENERATIVE ACTION

The circuit can be made regenerative; that is, it will react to an initial change (the increase in V_{b1} beyond the threshold value in this case) in such a way as to increase continuously the effects of that change. The process stops when no further change is possible; in this circuit, when TR1 is hard on and TR2 is off.

The reverse situation is also true. If V_{b1} is lowered from a value in excess of the threshold, a second threshold will be reached at which the circuit will revert to its initial condition. These two switching processes are exceedingly fast.

The property of the Schmitt trigger to react very rapidly to values of V_{b_1} equal to two threshold values suggests two obvious applications:

(a) as a threshold sensitive switch or "level detector";

(b) as a shaping circuit to "square-off" an input voltage waveform of arbitrary shape.

These two applications are evident from an examination of typical input and output waveforms (Fig. 2.2.)

DESIGN CALCULATIONS

The Schmitt circuit design procedure is by no means as simple as it may appear at first sight and a full algebraic derivation of formulae from which design can be carried out is quite complex. However, it is possible to make some simplifying approximations from which useful results can be obtained.

Let us use the formulae to design a circuit which will provide a 6V swing across R5 on switching and a current of 10mA in TR2 when it is conducting. Let $V_1 = 4$ volts and $V_2 = 3$ volts (Fig. 2.2). (step 1)

$$R_5 = 6 \times \frac{1,000}{10} = 600 \text{ ohms}$$
 (step 2)

(A preferred value resistor of 560 ohms can be used.)

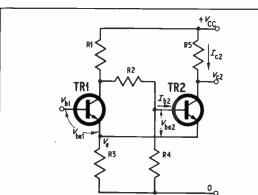


Fig. 2.1. Basic theoretical circuit of the Schmitt trigger

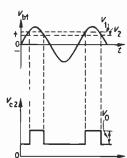


Fig. 2.2 Input and output waveforms for the Schmitt trigger showing the trigger voltages V_1 and V_2

DESIGN STEPS

I. Decide upon values of the upper and lower thresholds V_1 and V_2 respectively, the output voltage swing V_0 and the collector current $I_{\rm c2}$ of

2. Calculate $R_{\delta} = V_0/I_{c_2}$

3. Choose a value for VCC. (This must be greater

4. Calculate $R_1 + R_2 + R_4 = h_{FE}V_{CC}/10 \times l_{c_2}$. 5. Calculate $R_4 = h_{FE}V_1/10 \times l_{c_2}$. $(V_1$ is higher threshold.)

6. Calculate $R_3 = (V_1 - V_{\text{be}2})/I_{c_2}$. 7. Calculate $I_{c_1} = (V_2 - V_{\text{be}1})/R_3$. $(V_2$ is lower thres-

8. Calculate $R_1 = V_{CC} \left(1 - \frac{V_2}{V_1} \right) / l_{C1}$.

9. Calculate $R_2 = (R_1 + R_2 + R_4) - (R_1 + R_4)$. 10. Check that $h_{\text{FE}}R_3 > R_4(R_1 + R_2)/(R_1 + R_2 + R_4)$.

Let $V_{\rm CC}=9V$ (step 3); this will be sufficient to supply an output voltage (V_0) of 6 volts and allow for a voltage drop across R3 which will be calculated later.

$$R_1 + R_2 + R_4 = h_{\text{FE}} V_{\text{CC}} / 10 \times I_{\text{c2}}$$

= $20 \times 9 / 10 \times \frac{10}{1,000}$
= 1.800 ohms (step 4)

assuming a worst case value for $h_{\rm FE}$ of 20.

$$R_4 = h_{\text{FE}} V_1 / 10 \times I_{\text{c}_2}$$

= 20 × 4/10 × $\frac{10}{1,000}$
= 800 ohms

(A preferred value resistor of 820 ohms can be used.)

$$R_3 = (V_1 - V_{\text{be}_2})/I_{c_2}$$

= $(4 - 0.6) / \frac{10}{1,000}$
= 340 ohms (step 6)

(step 5)

(A preferred value resistor of 330 ohms can be used.)

The value of $V_{\text{be}_2} = 0.6$ is based on the use of a silicon transistor for TR2.

$$I_{c_1} = (V_2 - V_{\text{be1}})/R_3$$

= $(3 - 0.8)/330$
= 6.67mA (step 7)
 $R_1 = V_{\text{CC}} \left(1 - \frac{V_2}{V_1}\right) / I_{c_1}$
= $9(1 - \frac{3}{4}) / \frac{6.67}{1,000}$
= 337.5 ohms (step 8)

(A preferred value resistor of 330 ohms can be used.)

$$R_2 = (R_1 + R_2 + R_4) - (R_1 + R_4)$$

= 1,800 - (340 + 800)
= 660 ohms (step 9

(A preferred value resistor of 680 ohms can be used.) The condition of step 10 (i.e. $h_{\text{FE}}R_3$) is fulfilled.

ASSEMBLY AND OBSERVATIONS

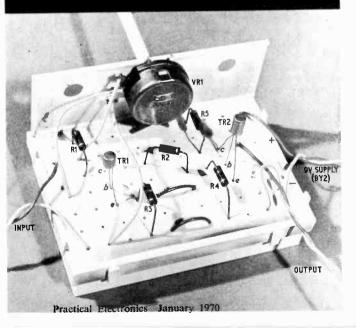
The circuit can be assembled on S-Dec using the connections shown in Fig. 2.3; the switching operation can be observed with the aid of voltmeters. Note that unless the voltmeters have high resistances, their presence will affect the d.c. conditions of the circuit.

Several transistor types can be used; those suggested are the silicon *npn* 2N706 or ZTX300. The numbering in Fig. 2.3 applies for npn transistors with a lead sequence e-b-c. Devices such as the TIS50 or 2N2926 which have a b-c-e sequence may need a slightly different layout if the wires are not to be bent across each other.

Dynamic operation of the circuit can be observed if a signal generator is used to provide the input signal, while the output voltage waveform is observed on an oscilloscope. A 6V mains transformer could be used to provide the input if required.

When applying a sinusoidal input, it is easy to cause reverse bias breakdown of the base-emitter junction of a silicon transistor. Just a few volts will often suffice.

Schmitt Trigger



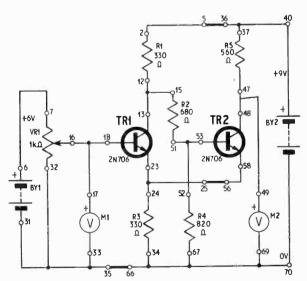
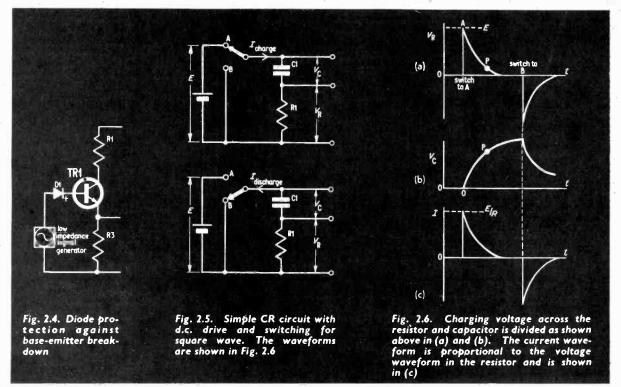


Fig. 2.3. Schmitt trigger circuit with S-Dec hole numbers for npn transistors and other components



To safeguard against this breakdown, a safety diode should be connected in the input lead as shown in Fig. 2.4. Any small diode will be suitable.

The effect of the difference between the thresholds V_1 and V_2 is easy to observe if the output is connected to an oscilloscope.

CR CIRCUIT TRANSIENTS

Series CR circuits are frequently used to perform timing functions in switching circuits and are also to be found in the couplings between individual switching circuits. It is important to understand how they react to rectangular voltage waveforms.

A simple circuit for obtaining a close approximation to a rectangular voltage waveform is shown in Fig. 2.5. If the switch can be made to operate alternately between positions A and B, the voltage applied to the series combination of C1 and R1 has alternate values of E and zero volts.

When the switch is at A, C1 and R1 share the total voltage E supplied from the battery. Thus $E = V_C + V_R$. The battery charges capacitor C1 through resistor R1. As the capacitor becomes fully charged, the charging voltage reduces to near zero.

The initial value of the charging current is approximately E/R_1 from Ohm's Law, but reduces as the voltage charge on the capacitor opposes the applied voltage.

Now the voltage across R1 (V_R) is always equal to $I \times R_1$ from Ohm's Law. Hence V_R has an initial value equal to E and a final value of zero some time after switching to A. It is easily shown that the relation between V_R and time t is

$$V_{\rm R} = E.e^{-t/CR}$$

This is illustrated by the section of the curve marked AP in Fig. 2.6.

Now because V_R and V_C must always add up to E,

the capacitor voltage $V_{\mathbb{C}}$ must be as shown. Its equation is

$$V_{\rm C} = E - V_{\rm R} = E(1 - e^{-t/CR})$$

If the switch connection is made to B when C1 has become fully charged, C1 will discharge through R1, the current now flowing in the reverse direction.

As more and more energy is dissipated in R1, the current (and therefore $V_{\rm R}$) falls. $V_{\rm R}$ and $V_{\rm C}$ are now as shown on the sections of the curves beyond the point P, and are given mathematically by

$$V_{\mathrm{R}} = - E e^{-t/CR}$$

 $V_{\mathrm{C}} = + E e^{-t/CR}$

The quantity CR, which appears in these formulae, is called the time constant of the circuit. Its significance is found by considering what happens after a time equal to CR has elapsed after switching to either A or B. Substitution of t = CR in the above formulae shows that 66 per cent of the total possible voltage changes occur during this time. Thus on first switching to A, the capacitor can be considered to be almost completely charged after a time interval equal to the time constant.

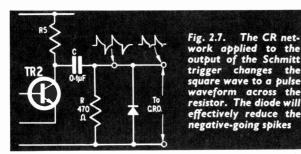
Note that if CR is required in seconds, R must be in ohms and C in farads. Alternatively, R can be in megohms if C is in microfarads; for example,

if
$$C = 1\mu$$
F, $R = 1$ M Ω , $CR = 1$ sec.
if $C = 0.001\mu$ F, $R = 10$ k Ω , $CR = 10\mu$ sec.

EXPERIMENTS

1. To demonstrate the above results using simple equipment it is easier to use a circuit with a long time constant. The resistance R will therefore be large, so it will be difficult to observe $V_{\rm R}$ using a moving coil voltmeter, the relatively low resistance of which will shunt R. The value of C will also be large.

If the voltmeter is connected across the capacitor to measure $V_{\mathbf{C}}$, the meter resistance and R together form a voltage divider across E so the circuit is altered sig-



nificantly. However, if a high resistance (say $20,000\Omega$ per volt) voltmeter is available, it will be possible to demonstrate the voltages V_C and V_R if C is equal to 100μ F, and R is equal to about 10 kilohms.

Note that the damping factor of the meter movement will mask a large part of the instantaneous changes indicated on Fig. 2.6. The meter should also be able to measure current to demonstrate the current-time relationship, if it is connected in series with the C and R. The circuit shown in Fig. 2.5 is easily assembled on an S-Dec "breadboard", a jumper lead being used in place of the switch.

2. The Schmitt circuit can be used as a source of a rectangular voltage waveform which can be applied to the CR circuit; the voltages V_C and V_R can be observed on an oscilloscope. A sine wave signal generator is

required for the input to the Schmitt.

Apply a 1kHz signal to the Schmitt, of sufficient amplitude to cause the circuit to trigger, and observe the output voltage waveform on an oscilloscope. Now note the effect of connecting the CR circuit across the output as shown in Fig. 2.7. The time constant of this network is short, about 0.05ms, so a series of positive and negative-going spikes will be observed on the

If a diode is connected across the resistor, either the positive or the negative-going spikes can be suppressed, the diode acting as an effective low resistance shunt to a spike of the appropriate polarity. The Schmitt is now being used as a source of trigger spikes which occur at well defined intervals synchronised to the frequency of

the input waveform. The triggering point on the input waveform is

determined by the value of the trigger level voltage V_1 . If the voltage spikes are carefully examined, it will be noticed that the positive and negative-going time constants are not the same. Neither are the amplitudes To be continued of the spikes equal.

In Part 1 last month the following corrections should be noted:

"Calculate the 1. Page 921, third para. to read: voltage drop along R_3 at saturation using Ohm's Law 2. Page 921, under "Transistor operated as a switch", to

read: Thus

 $V_{\rm CC} = V_{\rm L} + V_{\rm CE}$

 $V_{\rm L} = I_{\rm C} R_{\rm L}$

But

3. Page 922, Fig. 1.9: Diode D1 to be reversed.4. Page 922, Fig. 1.10a: Diode D1 to be reversed; TR1 is on holes 52, 57, 62; TR2 on holes 24, 29, 34; TR3 on

is on noies 32, 37, 57, holes 39, 44, 48.

5. Page 922, Fig. 1.10b: $I_{\rm B_3} = 0$ should read $I_{\rm B_3}$.

6. Page 923, under "Light operated AND circuit", fourth nara, should read: "Typical voltage values are fourth para. should read: "Typical voltage values are shown in Fig. 1.10b and c".
7. Page 923, eleven lines further down, should read:

"Then $R_3 = (6 - 0.4)/5 = 1,100$ ohms."

Practical Electronics January 1970



Possible applications are unlimited. They range from entertaining and amusing to serious, objective functions such as monitoring the occurence of some characteristic sound. A sensitivity threshold control is included.



Accurate measurement of rainfall with convenlence of indoor monitoring. Flow of water is "digitised" and electrical pulses produced which actuate a remotely sited metering unit.

PRACTICA RONICS

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P.E. WIDEBAND H.F. GOMMUNIGATIONS RECEIVER

By R. HIRST S.T.C. LTD. PART FOUR OSCILLATOR MODULES

This part of the "Communications Receiver" will describe the construction of two modules; the 2nd Oscillator and the 3rd Oscillator units (see Fig. 1.4). Both these modules were briefly described in part one of this series.

The 2nd oscillator provides the switching signal for the second mixer. The crystal used is of the overtone variety and as indicated earlier in this series is incorporated in an emitter circuit. The small value of output capacity (C42, 4·7pF) avoids damping the tuned circuit or introducing frequency pulling by the following stage (TR11).

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

Transistors TR11 and TR12 (Fig. 4.1) form a directly coupled amplifier which is inherently very temperature stable as the circuit tends to compensate for changes. This works in the following manner; assume that the base current of TR11 increases as a result of a temperature rise, therefore the collector current of TR11 will increase, causing the collector voltage to fall. As TR12 is an emitter follower the emitter voltage of TR12 will fall by a similar amount to the decrease in the collector voltage of TR11. This reduction in voltage consequently reduces the base current of TR11, via R48, and the collector voltage of TR11 starts to rise to offset the original fall. This obviously will apply in reverse if the temperature falls.

CRYSTAL TUNING

From the circuit diagram (Fig. 4.1) it is apparent that either a coil or a capacitor may be used in series with X1, both of which would be adjustable. If the correct

crystal is purchased, which will be a few cycles low in frequency, a 6 to 24pF variable capacitor can be inserted and the frequency pulled up to precisely the correct value of 36MHz. However, if the crystal is high in frequency it becomes necessary to introduce a coil to pull the frequency down to the required value.

The coil used will depend upon the amount by which the crystal is high in frequency however, if the crystal is nominally 36MHz a coil of approximately 1.5 microhenries can be tried as a starting point. A coil similar to L5 in the r.f. unit can be used if approximately 12 turns are removed. The final assembly will be adjustable but it may be necessary to add or remove turns to suit the crystal. It must be pointed out that if the correct crystal is obtained it will not be necessary to do anything other than to insert a 6 to 24pF capacitor and adjust until the frequency is exactly 36MHz plus or minus 1Hz.

The setting up instructions indicate that the crystal should be removed and a 39 ohm resistor with a 470pF capacitor in series, should be inserted into the circuit at this point before adjusting L9. The reason for this is that it would be difficult to set the coil accurately with the crystal in circuit as the crystal would tend to indicate a constant frequency. If the coil is adjusted so that the free running frequency of the oscillator is accurate, the final circuit after the crystal has been re-inserted will be far more stable.

2ND OSCILLATOR CONSTRUCTION

The construction of this module should be undertaken in exactly the same way as has been described for previous modules. Points a and b shown on the

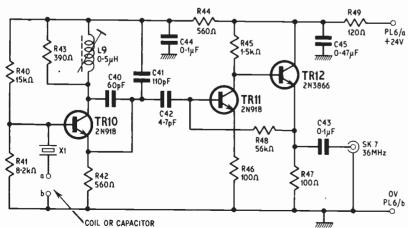
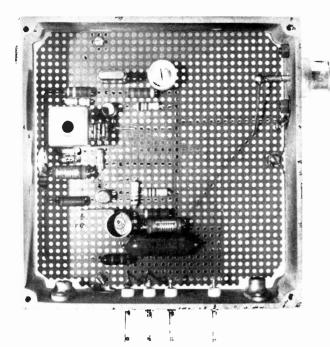


Fig. 4.1. Complete circuit diagram of the 2nd oscillator module

2nd C	Table 4.1. DSCILLATOR VOLTAGES
0.	2.5

Sta	ge	Voltage
TRIO	Vc	12V
	VЬ	4·5V
	Ve	3.9∨
TRII	Vc	6·7V
	Vb	1·25V
	Ve	0·55V
TR12	Vc	15V
	Vb	6·7V
	Ve	6V



Second Oscillator Unit (36MHz) module

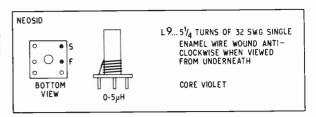


Fig. 4.3. Coil winding details

circuit diagram (Fig. 4.1) and on the construction diagram (Fig. 4.2) should be shorted temporarily during construction to facilitate initial d.c. checks on the circuit. The crystal X1 should be wired up in such a way that it is easily removed for setting up purposes. Coil winding details for L9 are given in Fig. 4.3.

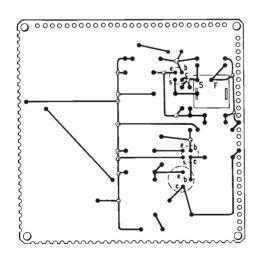
SETTING UP INSTRUCTIONS

Equipment required:

- (a) Power Supply, 24V 50mA.
- (b) Valve Voltmeter capable of measuring 1 volt at 36MHz
- (c) Counter capable of measuring 36MHz plus or minus 250Hz.

COMPONENTS.

2nd Oscillator	C44 0·1 µF polyester or foil
Resistors	C45 0.47μ F polyester or foil
R40 $15k\Omega$ R45 $1.5k\Omega$	
R41 8-2k Ω R46 100 Ω	Transistors
R42 560 Ω R47 100Ω	TRI0 2N918
R43 390 Ω R48 56k Ω	TR11 2N918
R44 560 Ω R49 120 Ω	TR12 2N3866
All $\frac{1}{4}$ W to $\frac{1}{3}$ W high stability, carbon film	1112 2143000
Capacitors	Miscellaneous
C40 60pF polystyrene $\pm 2.5\%$ (39pF and 22pF in parallel)	XI Overtone crystal (60Hz to 160Hz below 36MHz)
C41 110pF polystyrene ±2.5% (100pF and 10pF	SK7 Coaxial chassis mounted socket
in parallel)	TO5 Heatsink
C42 4.7pF polystyrene ± 2.5°	PL6/a, b, c, d Lead through connectors (4 off)
C43 0·1 µF polyester or foil	Veroboard $3\frac{1}{2}$ in \times $3\frac{1}{2}$ in, 0 lin grid



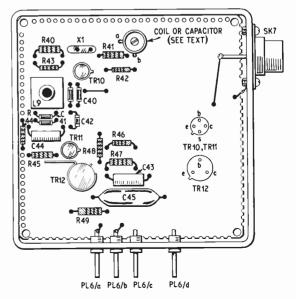


Fig. 4.2. Component layout and wiring of the 2nd oscillator module

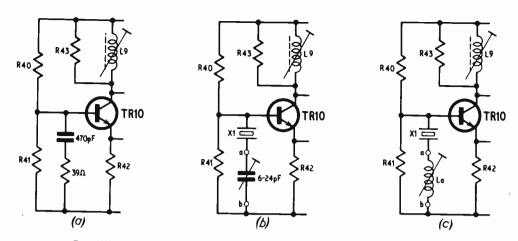


Fig. 4.4. Circuit alterations for setting up: (a) to set up L9, (b) connection for the correct crystal, (c) connection for a crystal which is high in frequency

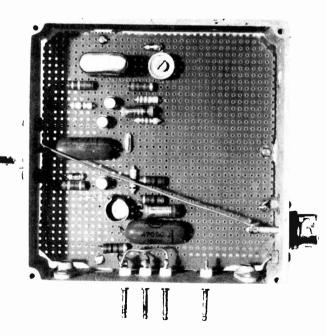
PROCEDURE

Apply a positive voltage of 24V to the correct terminal (PL6/a) and the negative of the power supply to the earth terminal (PL6/b). Check all the potentials at the base, collector and emitter of all the transistors to ensure that they correspond with the levels given in Table 4.1. If these voltages are correct, replace the crystal with the resistor capacitor network shown in Fig. 4.4a. Connect the counter to output SK7 and adjust the frequency with L9 to read 36MHz as near as possible. Re-connect the crystal (removing the resistor capacitor network) and check the output frequency. If the frequency is lower than 36MHz, connect a capacitor,

variable from 6 to 24pF between points a and b as shown in Fig. 4.4b. Adjust this capacitor until the output frequency is as near 36MHz as possible. If the frequency is too high then in place of the variable capacitor insert a coil similar to that described earlier in the text and adjust the coil until the frequency is 36MHz (see Fig. 4.4c). As previously mentioned, if the correct crystal is purchased then it should only be necessary to insert the capacitor and adjust as indicated.

Finally the output voltage at SK7 should be checked with a valve voltmeter to ensure that the output is approximately 0.8 volts when terminated in a 50 ohm load.

THIRD OSCILLATOR



Third Oscillator Unit (2MHz) module

The Third Oscillator Unit (2MHz), which was briefly described in part 1, provides the switching frequency for the last stage of frequency conversion. This oscillator uses two transistors with a 2.0MHz fundamental crystal in series connection.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

Two transistors have been used in this particular circuit (see Fig. 4.5) so that the loading effect of the crystal and its series network is not placed directly across the collector of TR23 (thus reducing the gain to such an extent as to damp the ability of the circuit to oscillate). Transistor TR23A presents a relatively high impedance to the collector of TR23, thus promoting gain in the first stage, and at the same time provides a low output impedance to feed the crystal network.

The crystal is used in its series mode whereby the short circuit characteristic of the crystal in this type of connection provides a short circuit to the positive feedback signal at the required frequency of 2.0MHz. At either side of the operating frequency the crystal rapidly goes into a high impedance state thus effectively blocking the return path for positive feedback.

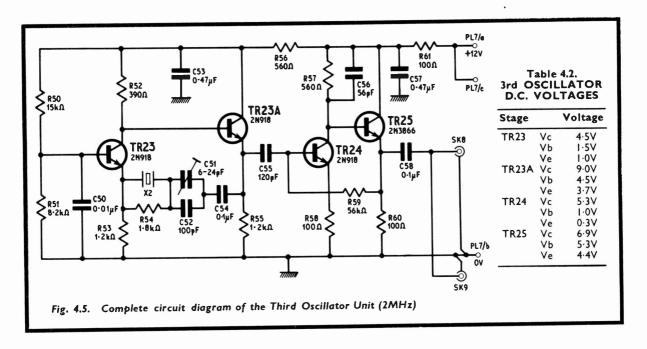
Transistor TR23 is operating in a grounded base configuration and the bias for both the transistors is developed by the potential divider comprising, R50 and R51. Capacitor C50 decouples the base to a.c. and has been placed on the underside of the board to keep the leads as short as possible. The crystal is pulled onto frequency by C51 which is in parallel with the larger fixed capacitor, C52.

The following pair of transistors, TR24 and TR25 form a directly coupled amplifier giving an output of approximately 1 volt at 2.0MHz into a 50 ohm load. Transistor TR25 is run at rather a high emitter current to keep the distortion to within a reasonable level.

CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS

Once again this module is constructed on plain Veroboard (see Fig. 4.6) and, where possible the component leads are used for wiring connections. There are no inductors in this module so construction can commence once all the components have been obtained. Capacitor C50 should be connected in such a way that it can be removed easily, if this proves necessary, during the setting up of this module.

An extra output socket (SK9) has been provided to enable the constructor to more easily set up the final receiver once the whole equipment has been built.



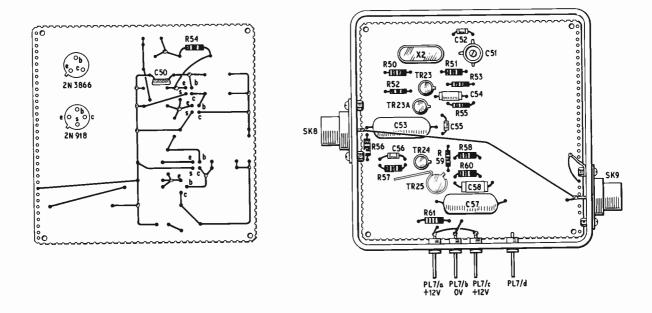


Fig. 4.6. Component layout and wiring of the Third Oscillator module

COMPONENTS . . .

Resisto	r	s
R 50	1	5

R51 R52	15kΩ 8·2kΩ 390Ω 1·2kΩ	R55 R56	I-8kΩ I-2kΩ 560Ω	R59 R60	100 Ω 56k Ω 100 Ω
R53	I∙ 2 kΩ	R57	560Ω	R61	100Ω

All $\frac{1}{4}$ W to $\frac{1}{3}$ W high stability, carbon

Capacitors

C50	0·01μF ceramic
C51	6-24pF ceramic trimmer
C52	100pF polystyrene 2%
C53	0·47μF polystyrene
C54	0·IμF polyester
C55	120pF polystyrene 2%

C56 56pF polystyrene 2% C57 0.47μF polyester C58 0.1μF polyester

Transistors

TR23	2N918
TR23A	2N918
TR24	2N918
TR25	2N3866

Miscellaneous

X2 2.0MHz series resonant crystal
SK8, 9 Coaxial output sockets (2 off)
PL7/a, b, c, d Insulated lead through connectors
(4 off)
TO5 Heatsink
Veroboard $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ in, 0·lin grid

SETTING UP INSTRUCTIONS

Equipment required:

(a) Power Supply, 12V at 60mA.

- (b) Valve voltmeter capable of measuring 1 volt at 2MHz
- (c) Counter capable of measuring 2.0MHz plus or minus 100Hz.

PROCEDURE

Apply the correct potential across PL7/a and b, switch on and check that the voltages at the base, collector and emitter of all the transistors correspond to the levels indicated in Table 4.2. If these voltages are correct to within 10 per cent a 50 ohm resistor should be connected across SK8 and a valve voltmeter connected at this point to ensure that there is some output.

A counter can now be connected to SK9 and the frequency adjusted to 2.0MHz, plus or minus 1Hz, by C51. It may be necessary to slightly change the value of C50 if the crystal cannot be pulled up to the required frequency. This could happen if the correct crystal has not been used. It is not essential to use the crystal specified but if an unknown device is used it may well present problems and the values of C52 and R54 may have to be experimented with.

Once the circuit is oscillating at the required frequency the output voltage should be checked with the valve voltmeter to see that the level lies between 0.6 volts and 1.0 volt r.m.s.

Note: the panel sizes given under "You Will Need" in Fig. 2.1 should be used, not those given in the diagram. In Fig. 2.4, R7 should be joined to TR3 emitter.

Next month: Details of the Sideband Filter Unit and the A.F. Unit

NEWS BRIEFS

Computerised Power

WHEN Hunterston "B", the 1,250 megawatt nuclear power station being built for the South of Scotland Electricity Board, becomes operational in 1973, over 6,000 different points in its dual advanced gas cooled reactor (AGR) system will be monitored continuously by two Honeywell 316 computers working hand in hand.

The £300,000 Data Logging and Monitoring System, developed by Honeywell in conjunction with The Nuclear Power Group Ltd., will provide the station's operating staff with regular logs of all plant conditions and will instantly bring to their attention deviations from certain

normal plant conditions.

The two computers of the system, using predetermined priority lists, will continually scan the gas outlets and thermocouples connected to each of the two reactors as well as a wide range of other parameters associated with the complete reactor/boiler/turbine system. As the reactor data is collected the computers will compare it with preset alarm limits and then, at the completion of each scan, print details on logging typewriters located in the station's control complex. If the values of particular monitoring points fall outside the corresponding alarm limits, the system will indicate the alarm condition by printing the relevant data in red.

Radar Alarm System

SHORROCK Security Systems Ltd., Blackburn, Lancashire, a subsidiary of Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, have introduced a new range of burglar and intruder detection devices using microwave Doppler radar. Until recently the cost of generating microwaves made radar too expensive for most intruder detection systems. But recent research by the Royal Radar Establishment, and in Shorrock's own laboratories, has now developed a technique of using a Gunn Diode to produce microwaves from a six volt torch battery.

Using this system Shorrock's have produced a complete range of portable and fixed radar-operated equipment which can detect intruders at distances of up to 50 yards.

An important feature of these devices is that they can be programmed to differentiate between a human intruder and accidental happenings, such as the falling of packing cases or the blowing about of leaves or paper, and so prevent false alarms. Jamming devices only cause the equipment to give an alarm as does the wearing of antiradar clothing.



DOUBLE SIX (December 1969)

Resistor R15 was incorrectly marked in Fig. 1. Its value should be $56k\Omega$. Also the polarity of C6 was shown incorrectly in all relevant diagrams—the negative side should be connected to the OV line. Plug Connections (all plugs) shown in Fig. 4 should be reversed in order.



THE HI-FI AND TAPE RECORDER HANDBOOK By Gordon J. King Published by Newnes-Butterworth 304 pages, 9in × 6in. Price 40s.

Since the author's earlier book *The Practical Hi Fi Handbook* went out of print, several of the chapters therein were extensively revised and up-dated for inclusion in this new volume. Much additional material is added to make this a valuable addition to the bookshelf.

The increased popularity of tape recording, from bird song to video recording, justifies fully the treatment given to the subject in this work; it must therefore include information on audio theory and circuitry

generally used in hi fi equipment.

Some of the common problems in setting up, operating and fault finding in audio equipment are given extensive treatment to enable the tape recorder user to get the best from his equipment. Technical terms are explained and associated equipment, such as turntables and pick-ups, microphones, f.m. radio, and video are also covered, since the good tape recordist frequently has to rely on the efficiency of these ancillary items for first-class results.

Two useful appendices are given to explain amplifier performance specifications and list a wide range of test

tapes and discs.

Readers with some knowledge of audio techniques and circuitry will find this book easy to follow; it is not intended as a tutorial text book but rather to help those already familiar with basic fundamentals who wish to graduate to quality recording.

M.A.C.

SERVICING WITH THE OSCILLOSCOPE

By Gordon J. King Published by Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 176 pages, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. $^{\circ}\times$ $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. Price 38s. 0d.

PROBABLY one of the most neglected instruments in the workshop, the oscilloscope, has now assumed a potent role as a servicing tool since the advent of colour television. With this renaissance has come the need for scopes with a laboratory specification specially tailored to encompass the broad video bandwidth and short pulse rise times found in modern television servicing.

In introducing the oscilloscope Mr King succinctly describes its function as "it takes a whole series of instantaneous' changes—a slice of time—and lays it

before us as a diagram".

The concern with diagrams, or oscillograms to give them their correct term, is made apparent in the succeeding pages. From introductory chapters familiarising the reader with the fundamental features and applications of the 'scope we are led into fault diagnoses by oscillogram analysis of video, synchronising and timebase waveforms. Typical circuit stages showing Y amplifier test points facilitate the rapid practical reproduction of those traces where servicing is intended.

It is in company with the sine/square wave signal generator and wobbulator that the oscilloscope assumes its most comprehensive service capability. With these, hum, distortion and response tests for both video and audio equipment can be carried out in addition to visual sweep alignment of i.f. stages.

Chapters embracing the use of these auxiliary instruments and the interpretation of the display

patterns formed are adequately covered.

Whilst many of the waveforms found in monochrome television are present in colour sets, the latter do include circuits designed to process colour signals and control the unique three-gun tube. For a fuller understanding of the waveforms involved there is a chapter on the basic colour principles.

The final two chapters are concerned with stereo radio waveforms and the testing of audio equipment. In the latter we are shown how to use the "magic eye" to make meaningful—or should it be meaningless—the

hi fi specification.

For anyone owning, or intending to purchase a 'scope, this book should prove a useful investment.

G.G.

TRANSISTOR AUDIO AND RADIO CIRCUITS Edited by A. Peters Published by Mullard Limited 203 pages, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in \times 6in. Price 30s.

A UTHORITATIVE books of this kind giving basic design features and proven circuits are a valuable asset to any experimenter. One often finds Mullard circuits reproduced in technical books that are treated with respect and adopted in many practical projects.

In this book we have it all "from the horse's mouth", together with background details of the designs and the results of laboratory tests. It follows a similar style to Mullard's red paperback produced several years ago.

The important difference here is that fundamental transistor characteristics are excluded, since these are available from a multitude of other publications. The space is better used on the design criteria.

Since the publishers have got down to the business of printing complete circuit designs, one really wonders if the manufacturing techniques of transistors given in

Chapter 1 is really appropriate.

The remainder is intended to help circuit designers and constructors who have some background knowledge of the subject and are able to adopt their own layout methods and know how to use test equipment.

A complete list of the designs shown would fill this page, so it will suffice to mention them in broad terms under audio amplifiers, i.f. and r.f. stages, a.m. and f.m., tape recorder circuits, mono and stereo control circuits, test equipment, charts, graphs, and nomograms. Components lists are provided with current manufacturers' names. Mullard have gone to some lengths to provide such a comprehensive book, the like of which will be hard to find elsewhere. To those interested in domestic equipment construction this will be money well spent.

M.A.C.

EORGAN

By Alan Douglas, Sen. Mem. I.E.E.E.

THIS MONTH we are concerned with the wiring of the pedalboard and the carpentry of the organ stool.

PEDALBOARD TYPE

The pedalboard used with the organ is the 30 note type D from Kimber-Allen Ltd. This model has full width concave and radiating short length pedals, curved toe and heel board and heel springing. It has the advantage of being a condensed form of full-sized pedalboard; here the reduction being in area, not in note compass.

PEDAL KEYING

As we key the pedal signals from the dividers directly with the foot, the 16ft and 8ft circuits are made up of simple single pole switches. The two are combined in one Kimber-Allen contact block type GB, there being one block to each key.

Fig. 9.1 shows how the depression of a pedal actuates the switches. The gold contacts are made with wipers which can also be bought from Kimber-Allen. These are type C.W.K.S. to suit the 1 in contact assemblies.

Since a metallic contact must not be made, the turned over edge of the wiper has a 1 in of plastic sleeving slotted and slipped over the end. This is then secured by a drop of Bostik or similar cement. Note in Fig. 9.1 the use of a No. 3 woodscrew to adjust the stroke of the wiper.

Fig. 9.2 shows the wiring of the contact blocks. Here the signal inputs originate from the 100 kilohm pedal resistors. These are then routed from the 16ft and 8ft sockets as described in Part Four, thence to the contact blocks via additional plugs and sockets.

The plain wires of the blocks are connected to the 16ft and 8ft busbars. The bent wires connect to the signal sources. When the contacts are individually keyed the signals are routed back by way of pins 31 and 32 of a pedal socket to the related tone forming circuits. These pins are shown in Fig. 4.1.

ADDITIONAL PLUGS AND SOCKETS

Before getting involved in the pedalboard wiring it is a good idea to first make up the cableforms for mating the pedalboard to the organ console. For this two 32-way plugs and two 32-way sockets are required, these being identical to those called up in Fig. 4.1. Each plug and socket is wired with 3 ft lengths of p.v.c. stranded wire, the order of connection given as in Fig. 4.1. When this is completed you should have two terminated looms for 16ft and 8ft pitches, one being shown in the photograph.

MOUNTING THE BLOCKS AND WIPERS

As our pedalboard is a proper radiating and concave one, the contacts when fixed must describe an arc of a circle. This means that some rigid form of backing must be provided beneath the keys. To achieve this three lin by lin hardwood battens are fixed to the frame as shown in Fig. 9.3. Single screw fixing is possible at the toe end, but brackets are necessary at the heel.

To carry the contact blocks a strip of \(\frac{1}{2}\) in ply is screwed to the battens, this being supported at the frame side by small screwed wooden blocks. In the figure two strips are shown. Here, the lower one will provide a platform for sustain contacts if these are used. However, more about this aspect later.

The main blocks are cemented on with Bostik. When those are fixed we can attach the contact wipers, these being held to the keys by §in No. 3 woodscrews. Of course, the adjustment screw shown in Fig. 9.1 should also be included.

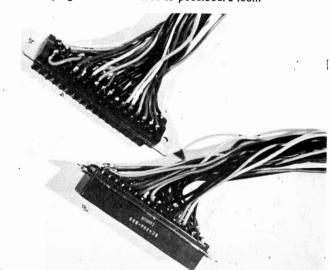
Prior to any wiring the tails of the blocks should be splayed out as this will facilitate later soldering.

WIRING THE BLOCKS

We are now in a position to connect wires to the contact tails. In the accompanying photograph of the pedalboard underside, the extreme left-hand pedal will produce the highest note; the extreme right that of the lowest note. Using the colour code of Fig. 4.1 and the specimen wiring diagram of Fig. 9.2 we can wire from the block tails for the 16ft pitch moving from left to right at the pedal contacts. As the loom forms it should be supported at the ply strip with thin nylon cord.

With the 30 connections made and the loom gathered, holes can be drilled midway along the frame side for taking the wires through. Now the free ends are bared and connected to one of the 32-wav plugs called up in the components list of Fig. 4.1. This figure also gives the wiring order for the plug pin connections.

Cannon plug and socket wired to pedalboard loom



PEDALBOARD & STOOL

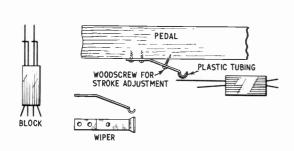


Fig. 9.1. Contact block and wiper used in pedal note switching. Note the inclusion of the stroke adjusting woodscrew which makes for switching precision

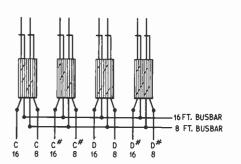


Fig. 9.2. Four representative contact blocks with their tails wired. All 30 blocks should be wired in this fashion

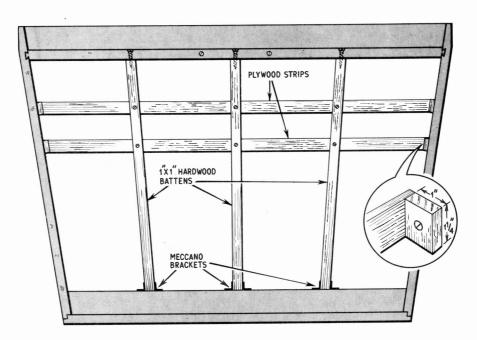
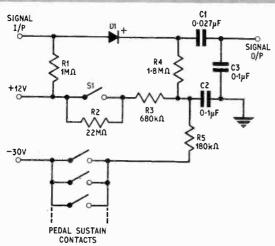


Fig. 9.3. Underside of pedalboard, with keys removed, showing batten and strip frame in position. The upper transverse strip will carry the GB contact blocks, the lower strip the GJ blocks if sustain is required

PEDAL SUSTAIN CIRCUIT



COMPONENTS . . .

PEDAL SUSTAIN GATE (2 required)

Resistors

RI IM Ω R2 22M Ω

R3 680kΩ

R4 $1.8M\Omega$ R5 $180k\Omega$

All 10%, ½ watt carbon

Capacitors

CI 0.022µF polyester

C2 0·I μF polyester C3 0·I μF polyester

Diode

DI OA210 (Mullard)

Fig. 9.4. Circuit for pedal sustain. All the pedalboard contacts of the GJ blocks are connected in parallel

8FT CONTACT WIRING

For the 8ft contact wiring the procedure is the same and when completed this loom can be also attached to the strip. Again these 30 wires terminate at a separate 32-way plug.

The two plugs can now be fixed to the frame sides with wood screws and stand-off bushes, making sure that the contacts are clear from the wood.

PEDAL SUSTAIN

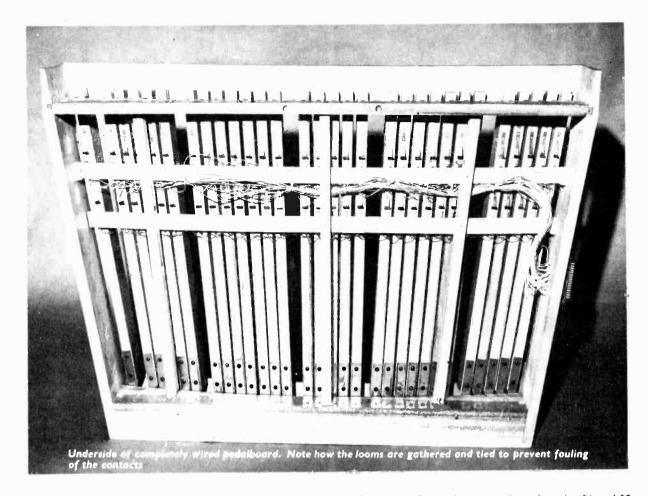
It is quite easy to apply sustain because we are assuming that only one note at a time will be played;

hence only one sustain circuit for each pitch is required. The fact that only one note at a time is played means that we can have an electrical sustain with the advantage that the sustain time can be altered at will or removed altogether.

In using auxiliary circuits of this kind, it is usual to close one contact before the other. The normal 16ft and 8ft pair of contacts are closed, which applies the bias to the sustain device.

There is no convenient single pole organ contact on the market, but one side of the Kimber-Allen changeover contact type GJ is suitable. All we need is a





simple single pole switch, but it is an advantage to use the K-A parts because the point at which closure is made is so easily and accurately adjusted by the stroke setting screw of the wiper.

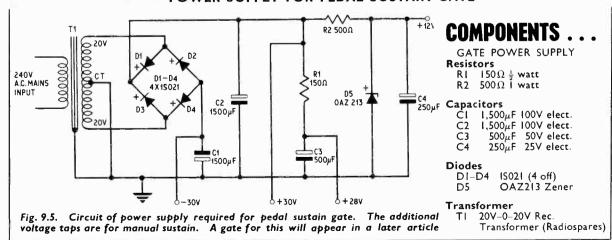
If we intend incorporating sustain then the GJ contacts and wipers should be attached, the former being cemented to the lower transverse ply strip. The sustain switches are wired in parallel. This is made clear in Fig. 9.4. When all solder connections are

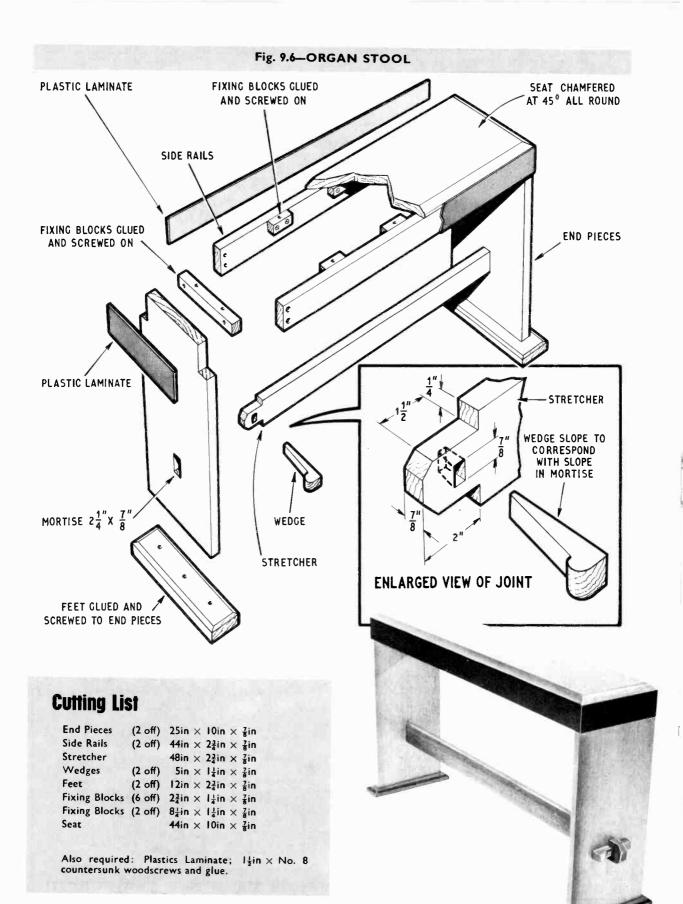
made, the two free ends are terminated at pins 31 and 32 of the plug that has these pins vacant.

SUSTAIN CIRCUIT

In Fig. 9.4 is shown the sustain circuit. Two of these are required, one for the 16ft pitch and one for the 8ft. Since this is basically a gate it can be inserted before the pedal pre-amplifiers.

POWER SUPPLY FOR PEDAL SUSTAIN GATE





Practical Electronics January 1970

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RESISTORS, 5% EXC Tick the values required 13 ohms 220 ohms 22 ohms 470 ohms 36 ohms 560 ohms 47 ohms 750 ohms 91 ohms Ik Ω or our selection (mixed) SILVER MICA/CERAN		3·6k Ω 4·3k Ω 4·7k Ω 5·6k Ω 6·8k Ω	7-5k Ω 10k Ω 16k Ω 18k Ω	22k Ω 24k Ω 27k Ω 30k Ω	39k Ω 43k Ω 47k Ω 51k Ω	62k Ω 75k Ω 82k Ω 91k Ω	i 30k Ω 360k Ω 430k Ω 470k Ω	62 1	0k Ω 0k Ω 2M Ω SM Ω	I-8M Ω 3-6M Ω 5-1M Ω 6-2M Ω Total:	7·5M Ω 8·2M Ω 9·1M Ω 10M Ω	
Available in following va 2pF SpF 3-9pF 6pF 4pF 8pF 4-7pF 10pF	lues. Tick tho 12pF 15pF 18pF 22pF	se required 25pF 27pF 30pF 39pF	50pF 58pF 62pF 72pF	80pF 82pF 100pF 125pF	135pF 140pF 158pF 170pF	180pF 190pF 200pF 240pF	250pF 330pF 420pF 600pF	8	80pF 00pF 20pF 00pF	I,000pF 1,100pF I,500pF 2,200pF	2,500pF 2,700pF 3,000pF 6,200pF	

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ALL USABLE,
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The circuit functions as follows. A blocking voltage of +12V charges the sustain capacitor C2 through R3. With this charged it reverse biases the diode D1 through R2. The pedal signal can now pass.

When a pedal is depressed, -30 volts is applied to C2 through R5, charging it negatively. This voltage then passes through R5 to the diode D1, forward biasing it and allowing the signal to pass. When the key is released, the +12 volt input again charges C2 and blocks the signal off. If the sustain switch S1 is opened, the resistor R2 is introduced between the +12 volt input and C2 resulting in a long charging time, which in turn results in delayed reverse-biasing of the diode.

By selection of R2 we can get a sustain of up to about four seconds, and by shorting it out, we get instantaneous "speech". This is a very useful feature, especially if one's pedalling technique is lacking.

A small additional power supply is required to provide the necessary voltages and this is given in Fig. 9.5. For the sustain switch SI, one of the spare step units can be used as

stop units can be used.

ORGAN STOOL

The most important requirement for an organ stool is absolute rigidity. To ensure this wedges were used to fix the stretcher as shown in Fig. 9.6. If the wedges were to work loose they can easily be tapped back tight with a mallet.

First the end pieces are cut to size from mahogany, the dimensions being given in the cutting list. Shoulders are then cut in the top corners of each piece, these being $2\frac{\pi}{4}$ in by $\frac{\pi}{4}$ in. These eventually contain the ends of the side rails.

A 2\frac{1}{2}\text{in by }\frac{2}{8}\text{in mortise is then cut at the centre of the width and 6\frac{1}{2}\text{in up from the bottom of both end pieces.} This last dimension is most important as the stretcher when in position in the mortise must be clear of the

pedalboard. Next the t

Next the two side rails are cut to length. Then two are drilled in from each end through the thickness of the timber. With these rails completed, the third rail or stretcher is tackled. This is longer than the other rail as its tenons will have to protrude through the end pieces. Dimensions for making the tenons are shown in Fig. 9.6.

The feet and the seat can now be cut to size. In completing these a 3 in chamfer at 45 degrees was made

at the edges.

To hold the seat in position, screw blocks are cut, glued and then screwed in position. With the seat glued and the feet attached the stool can be finally rubbed down with glass paper.

FINISHING

As a decorative surround, black plastic laminate can be glued at the stool side.

The feet are painted black and the remaining wood surface is given two coats of matt polyurethane varnish.

CORRECTIONS PART—7 (November 1969)

Note: In Fig. 7.2, page 832, the resistor at 27B/27D should read R3; the resistor at 29B/29C is R5; the resistor at 29D/29H should read R4. In Fig. 7.3 there should be a break in the copper strip at hole 16F.

Next month we will commence construction of the loudspeaker enclosure and final organ tuning.

NEWS BRIEFS

Faraday Lectures

THE forty-first in the series of Faraday Lectures arranged by the Institution of Electrical Engineers are being given by Mr J. H. Merriman on the subject "People, Communications and Engineering". Mr Merriman is the Senior Director (Development) with the Post Office and is also member for technology on the board of the Post Office Corporation. Deputy lecturer is Mr C. A. May, Staff Engineer in Post Office Telecommunications Development Department.

The Lecture is being given in 13 towns in the British Isles; the first was at Rugby, followed by Southampton and Bristol. Other venues will be as listed below.

The Faraday Lecture series spotlights various aspects of modern electrical and electronic science and technology in straightforward language for the general public. Special presentations for students are being arranged at all towns on the tour. Members of the public are admitted by ticket, free of charge, to these lectures.

Venue

Nottingham, Albert Hall; January 13
Stoke-on-Trent, Victoria Hall, Hanley; January 15
Liverpool, Philharmonic Hall; January 29
Sheffield, City Hall; February 10
Cardiff, Sophia Gardens; February 17
London, Central Hall, Westminster, February 19-20
Newcastle, City Hall; March 17
Edinburgh, Usher Hall; March 19
Dublin, Royal Dublin Society Hall; April 15
Belfast, William Whitla Hall; April 17

Tickets are available from various area organisers; the names of these organisers can be obtained from the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C.2.

Flying Laboratories

Two "flying laboratories" went into service recently with the Board of Trade Civil Aviation Flying Unit. They are HS748 aircraft which have been fitted with the latest flight inspection equipment. This equipment will be used to check to high standards of accuracy the ground navigational aids used by civil aircraft. The use of these aids is a major contribution to safety in the air, particularly in poor weather conditions. The growth of air traffic demands more aids to navigation, to ensure that aircraft maintain regularity and correct separation.

Accepting the aircraft from Hawker Siddeley Aviation at Stansted Airport, Mr Goronwy Roberts, M.P., Minister of State, Board of Trade, said the work of the Unit was vital in the cause of air safety. The new aircraft will be used to commission and periodically check, radar and radio aids to air navigation. He instanced the increasing number of instrument landing systems being installed at United Kingdom airports to meet the latest developments in automatic approach and landing, in which Britain probably led the world.

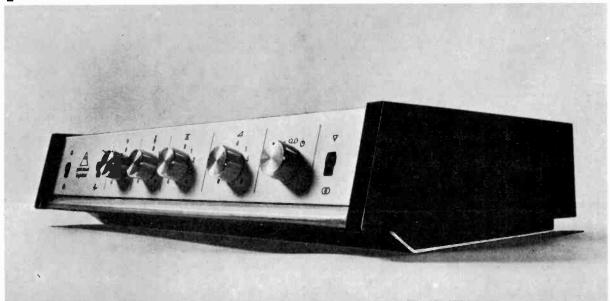
Microcircuit Film

"Something Big in Microcircuits" to their library (available to interested persons from Mullard Film Library, 269 Kingston Road, Merton Park, London, S.W.19).

The film begins with a look at a typical integrated circuit and goes on to show the basic processes of manufacture of the I.C. A detailed account of actual manufacture is then shown and the film finishes with a reminder that microelectronic design and manufacture is a constantly and rapidly changing process, and although the film shows the basis of microcircuit manufacture, the actual processes used may soon be out-dated.

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Matching F.M. Tuners will be available very shortly.

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Peak Sound guarantee that their equipment meets all specifications as published by them and that these are written in the same terms as used in equipment reviews appearing in this and other leading British hi-fi journals. Audio output powers are quoted at continuous sine wave power in terms of Root Mean Square values (R.M.S.) into stated loads at stated frequencies.



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1/6 r.p.m., \(\text{R}\) and \(\text{L}, \frac{1}{1}/10 r.p.m., \\
1/15 r.p.m., \(\text{L}\) also \(120\) 20c/s \(\text{2}, \frac{1}{1}/6\)
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Report from AMERICA

BY L.HUGGARD B.Sc.

... HAMFEST ... AND VARACTORS ...

A "HAMFEST" in the United States is a get together of radio amateurs to trade equipment and parts, and of course to consume beer. The Cincinnati "Hamfest" is a traditional happening which has been growing successfully for over 30 years, as the 20 year holder of the presidency happily assured me. By mid afternoon the previous year's gate of just over 2,000 had been comfortably exceeded.

It is organised by the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association who charge five dollars admission, extracted under a large sign saying "Flea Market!" The admission ticket is a passport to unlimited free beer, two substantial picnic meals and various other snacks, and the ticket number is entered in the hourly prize draws

throughout the day.

OPEN MARKET

The wheeling and dealing is conducted by the amateurs round the open boots of their cars packed into a picnic ground taken over for the day, on the outskirts of the city. Here the unwanted junk of the previous year, bearing a hoped for price with occasionally an exhortation to "Fight Poverty, Buy Something" competes with the somewhat more professionally displayed wares of the Government surplus and surplus components dealers, whilst some new equipment manufacturers trade from the grandeur of the bad weather shelter.

The goodies on display defy cataloguing, and ranged in price from thousand dollar brand new transmitter receivers with digit frequency readout to new transistors at two cents each. There were amateur built pieces of equipment. There were old scopes with indignant spiders busily repairing their disturbed webs amongst the tubes. There were early post World War One service radio equipment

and even older devices.

There were cameras, lenses, air-compressors, clarinets, trumpets, and all sorts of pickings with knobs and without. Best of all were the boxes of pure junk, fitting accompaniment to another paper carton of free beer.

No matter what one wanted, in the dark corner under the spare wheel of some car, there it would be.

FUN AND GAMES

For the more frivolous there were "hunt the transmitter" games, but to play it was best to have remembered to bring a 440MHz receiver; the lazy alternative was to go and lie in the sun and watch the demonstration radio controlled model planes shave the trees.

The man in the flamingo pink cap just had to be an Englishman. He was. Now after nine years in this country a company vice president and operator of station WA8QXU, which he assured me could be heard in

Britain.

The prize draw in the late afternoon was the final adrenalin raiser, after which for many inexperienced salesmen came the awful decision, to dump it or try and sneak it back past the wife's eagle eye to the basement for another year.

VARIABLE CAPACITANCE DIODES

For many applications the mechanical variable capacitor is doomed to extinction. Those splendid rows of shining plates on ball bearing spindles, so much a part of radio, will disappear, to be replaced by the Variable Capacitance Diode or "Varactor".

Plastic encapsulated varactors are now being introduced at consumer prices. High capacitance devices which could be substituted for a couple of hundred puffs tuning capacitor are still relatively more costly. Prices are coming down and this state is unlikely to last.

The capacitance effect in the diode is due to the depletion layer formed at the junction of the p and n type materials forming it. The depletion layer can be looked upon as an electrically neutral area, exhibiting a high resistance

because of the lack of conduction carriers.

The diode thus resembles a simple parallel plate capacitor, the p type material being one plate and the n type the other, separated by the dielectric, the depletion layer. The width of the depletion layer, and thus the distance apart of the "plates" can be varied by varying a reverse bias voltage applied across the junction.

Varactors can be obtained with nominal capacitances of up to 250pF and a tuning range of ten-to-one. These are more expensive than lower values with reduced range.

TUNING RATIO

The tuning ratio is the ratio of the capacitance at the lower reverse bias voltage to that at the upper reverse bias voltage.

TR (tuning ratio)
$$=\frac{C_2}{C_{10}}$$

where C_2 = Capacitance at 2V reverse bias. and C_{10} = Capacitance at 10V reverse bias.

The reverse voltage cannot be increased indefinitely or the junction will break down at too high a value.

A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

A typical tuning application is shown in Fig. 1. Note that the inductor L is in parallel with the series combination of C and C_d , where C_d is the varactor capacitance.

C is made very much larger than C_0 so that its effect on the resonant frequency of the circuit is negligible and that frequency is given by

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC_d}}$$

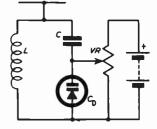


Fig. I. Note that diode is reverse biased by potentiometer VR

C blocks the bias voltage from the coil, which would otherwise provide a low resistance path for bias currents, reducing the voltage across the varactor. VR can be large, about 470 kilohms, so that the bias circuit loading of the tuned circuit is small.

The reverse resistance of the diode is large and virtually the whole of the voltage picked off the potentiometer VR appears across the tuning diode. The circuit is thus tuned by varying the setting of the potentiometer. There is one snag, the maximum signal appearing across the tuned circuit must be much smaller than the minimum bias voltage applied to the diode or serious intermodulation distortion will result.

An obvious use for such a circuit is to permit tuning by remote control, and the ingenious can carry on from there.





This article is an extension of the EMMA project published in the March and April 1969 PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS. It is expected that readers wishing to add EMMA's new capability will be familiar with the previous

Since the formative weeks following EMMA's rather difficult birth back in March she has, as we would have expected, already come of age. Indeed, she now exhibits a kind of self-preservation awareness which encourages her to perform simple work tasks for a living. More accurately, given the right situation EMMA really "wants" to work because to do so is now part of her make-up and she can learn that quite often this will pay-off.

In order to embody this new faculty EMMA's shape has filled out just a little with an additional circuit board. However, the modifications to her existing systems are not unduly complicated and the keen Bionics constructor will probably be overjoyed to know that at last he can have a semi-intelligent "animal".

ANATOMICAL CHANGES

To encourage EMMA to work in return for reward requires a few extra circuit blocks and if the reader refers to Fig. 1, a clear impression of the technique will be gained.

The philosophy behind the original scheme for EMMA has not been changed drastically, but there are now included such items as a Schmitt trigger which monitors the supply voltage level and of course the inevitable learning circuit with which by now we must all be familiar. This embodies a pair of monostables, one (the extension monostable) having a duration of 20 seconds and the other (the differential monostable) a period of 1 second.

articles; the component numbering is carried on from the earlier circuits and reference is made to diagrams in the March and April 1969 issues. We regret that we are no longer able to supply copies of these issues.

As usual there are also included an AND gate and a summer with its attendant learnt threshold Schmitt which triggers upon the summer level reaching some pre-determined value.

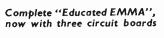
DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

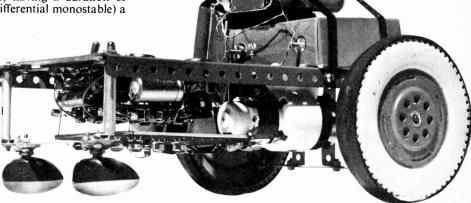
Now it is intended that EMMA should learn to work, so this implies that she must additionally have a need to work in the first place. If a situation is made sufficiently attractive she will be prepared to do some simple chore provided she has a previous memory of being rewarded.

These requirements are largely accommodated by deliberately reducing EMMA's muscle control supply for short periods. This makes her hypersensitive to loads during which she is encouraged to carry a heavy book or similar object.

Periodically we may give her some "reward" by returning the supply to normal so that she realises that we intend to pay her when the work has been done.

We achieve all this in a somewhat synthetic way by switching out one of the cells forming part of the forward drive supply battery. Thus during conditioning her supply for the forward mode is a little less than 3 volts unless we provide a reward, in which case it rises to about 4.5V.





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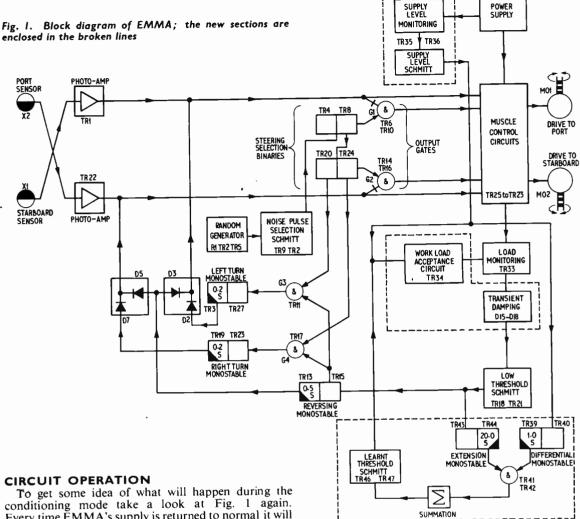
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conditioning mode take a look at Fig. 1 again. Every time EMMA's supply is returned to normal it will trigger the supply level Schmitt thereby causing the differential monostable to fire.

Assuming just prior to this that a physical load has been applied then the load monitoring section will have previously fired the extension monostable. As a result, and provided the differential monostable fires during the time the extension monostable is in the quasi-stable condition, the AND gate will be enabled and consequently the summer output level will begin to rise.

If we repeat the process a number of times the existence of the reward can obviously become significant because the increasing level from the summer will ultimately reach a point where the learnt threshold Schmitt fires.

Immediately this occurs the work-load acceptance circuit will raise the threshold of the load monitoring system allowing EMMA to tolerate greater loads, indeed, the very same kind of loads she would accept were her supply to be at a normal level. However, she has at this stage learnt to understand that her supply will return to normal and so she "soldiers on" in the knowledge that all will be well.

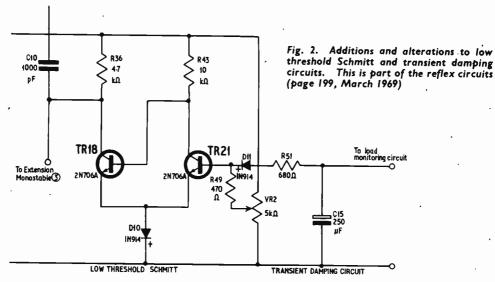
Nevertheless, if we decide to stop rewarding EMMA her memory for the "good life" will gradually diminish as the summer level falls, until a point is reached where the load will no longer be tolerated. At such times she will "twist and turn", being thoroughly intractable as her normal reflexes take over and the avoidance system goes into operation.

Like any real creature EMMA, given the opportunity, can improve her chances for continued existence by taking advantage of certain situations. Thus she can adapt herself to doing a small task if it promises some form of payment and just as easily give the job up if not adequately reimbursed.

CIRCUIT IMPROVEMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS

In her existing form EMMA will normally function quite satisfactorily and so if it is not intended to add the new circuitry her "neurology" can be left as it is. Nevertheless, there are certain improvements that can be made and certain modifications that must be attended to before adding the learning system.

The changes are all extremely simple and so will be indicated in relation to the existing circuit diagrams for the reflex and muscle control sections discussed in the March and April issues of P.E. The relevant areas of discussion are in Figs. 2 and 5, in the March and April 1969 issues respectively.



TRANSIENT DAMPING CIRCUIT

In this circuit (Fig. 2, March 1969) a diode must be added (cathode end to base of TR21) in series with R51 to ensure that the voltage across C15 is entirely attributable to the output from the load monitoring system. Otherwise C15 can charge via VR2 and R49. Resistor R49 must be reduced to 470 ohms. Fig. 2 (above) shows the relevant section of the circuit.

LOW THRESHOLD SCHMITT

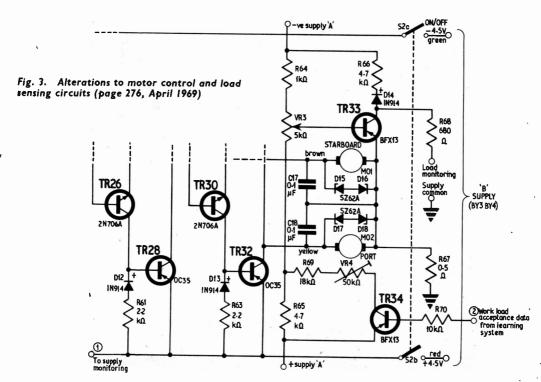
The resistor R40 must be removed and replaced with a diode (Fig. 2), its cathode being taken to the -4.5V rail of the "A" power supply. This modification results in there being an almost constant potential between TR18 and TR21 emitters and the negative rail. As a consequence the backlash of the Schmitt is

effectively reduced to zero with the result that it comes on and goes off almost at the same point.

A connection from the low threshold circuit must also be taken from the collector of TR18; this can take the form of a short piece of insulated wire and may be coiled back out of the way until it is called upon to connect the reflex circuitry with the extension monostable discussed later.

MUSCLE CONTROL SYSTEM

In earlier articles we discussed the problem of motor noise; the "hash" was reduced using a pair of capacitors C17 and C18, across the motors (Fig. 5, April 1969). An improvement has now been embodied which really minimises the problem. This involves using a pair of 6V Zener diodes connected back-to-back (as shown in



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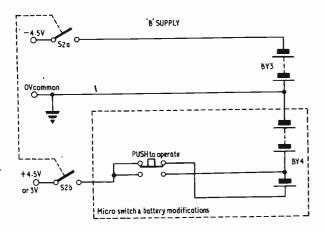


Fig. 4. Circuit diagram of the new "B" power supply and switch wiring

Fig. 3) across each motor. Noise spikes of either polarity and in excess of the Zener voltage of one diode and the forward voltage drop of the other are thus suppressed.

Additional diodes (D12 and D13) are connected in series with R61 and R63 (cathodes to the bases of TR28 and TR32 respectively) and also D14 in series with R66 (anode to collector of TR33). These are included to prevent any paths between the supply being monitored (the "forward" half of this supply) and the supply which feeds the monitoring circuit ("A" supply).

For similar reasons the load monitoring circuit is now not run from the "A" supply and suitable arrangements must be made to reconnect R64 and R66 to the negative rail of the "A" supply. The resistor R65 must go to the positive rail of the "A" supply and is shunted with the series combination R69, VR4, and TR34 (Fig. 3) which constitutes the work load acceptance circuit.

"B" POWER SUPPLY

The forward-mode battery (type 126) of the "B" supply requires a small modification so that either 3V or 4.5V may be obtained. This entails carefully opening the paper flap at the top of the battery with a razor blade and taking a connection from the 3V tapping (i.e. one cell down from the positive side of the battery). The 4.5V and 3V outputs thus obtained are then taken to a double pole changeover microswitch (Fig. 4) so that in use EMMA's forward operation can be obtained from either normal or reduced supplies.

This completes the various modifications to the existing hardware and we are now in a position to concentrate on the learning system, also to the way in which it interconnects with the rest of EMMA's person (see Fig. 5).

SUPPLY LEVEL MONITORING

This circuit comprises a Schmitt trigger which is similar in form to the type mentioned earlier (i.e. it has extremely little backlash) and has its input connected via R71 to VR5 which goes to the positive rail of the "B" supply. Adjustment of VR5 sets the threshold at which the Schmitt fires; generally this need only be just at the "B" supply level and no lower.

The capacitor between TR35 base and the negative rail of the "A" supply prevents transients switching the Schmitt.

Once set-up the Schmitt trigger will switch whenever the voltage at the positive rail of the "B" supply falls below normal (influenced by operation of the microswitch). Hence TR35 will turn off and TR36 will come on with the result that TR37 will cease to conduct. With TR37 collector positive TR34 will turn off and consequently EMMA will be extra sensitive to loads.

When the supply is returned to normal TR35 will again turn on and TR36 will turn off. At this time the positive voltage at TR36 collector will be passed to the differential monostable causing it to fire. Simultaneously, TR37 will turn on again thereby raising the load threshold.

DIFFERENTIAL AND EXTENSION MONOSTABLES

Both monostables are a little unconventional in that they each use extra transistors forming the Darlington pairs TR38, TR39 and TR44, TR45. These provide higher gain and hence permit larger timing resistors to be used.

Diodes D22 and D23 provide a fair degree of noise immunity and so prevent the monostables from triggering prematurely if any short-term voltage drop occurs on the "A" supply. Under such conditions D22 and D23 are reverse biased and the associated capacitor (C21 or C22) effectively bridges the interval during a voltage drop "holding-up" the collector of the transistor that is turned off.

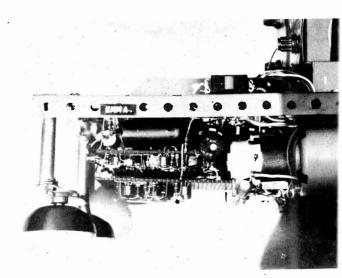
The extension monostable is triggered from the load threshold Schmitt and fires whenever the load exceeds a certain level. As mentioned earlier the differential monostable triggers whenever the positive end of the "B" supply is returned to normal.

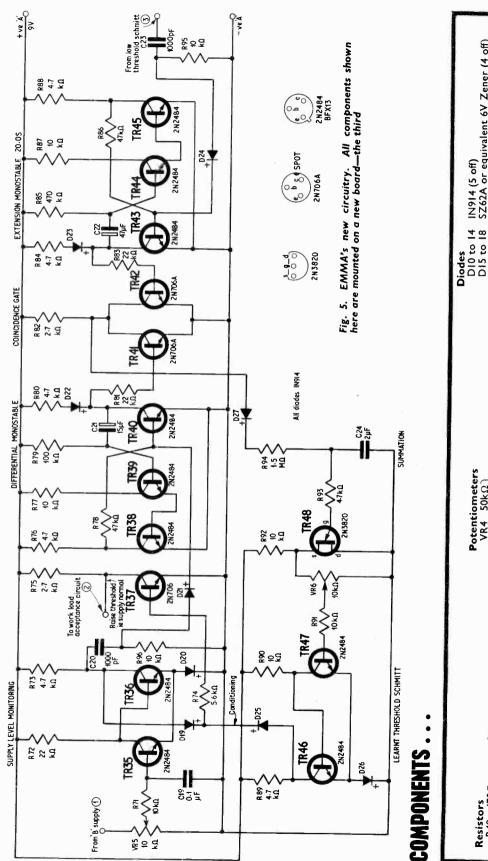
COINCIDENCE GATE

The coincidence (AND) gate comprises TR41 and TR42. Assuming a sufficiently heavy load has been applied to EMMA then the extension monostable will have fired hence turning off TR42.

If during the 20 second period of the extension monostable the positive rail of the "B" supply has been returned from low to normal then the differential monostable will be triggered.

View of "Educated EMMA" showing the position of the new circuit board





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Potentiometers	VR6 10kΩ Skeleton preset	Capacitors C19 0·14F	C20 1,000pF C21 15,,F elect 12V	C22 47µF elect. 12V C23 1.000pF	
	R89 4.7kΩ R90 ΙοκΩ				
	R79 100kΩ R80 4.7kΩ		• • •	•	
Resistors R49 470Ω	R69 18kΩ R70 10kΩ	R72 22kΩ	K/3 4·/kΩ R74 5·6kΩ	R75 2·7kΩ R76 4·7kΩ	K// 10kΩ

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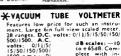
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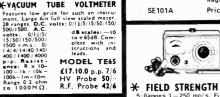
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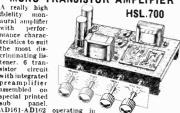
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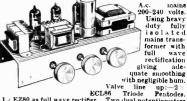
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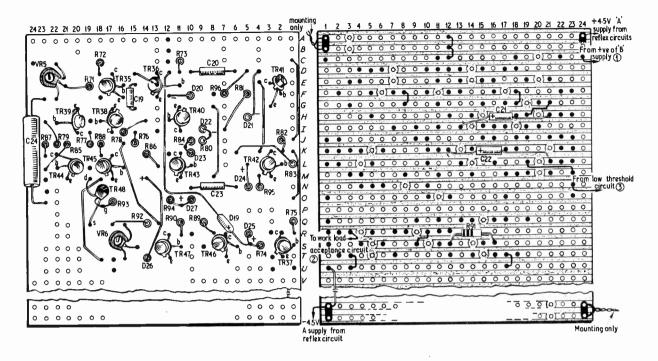


Fig. 6. Component layout and wiring for the new board: (a) component side, (b) copper side showing breaks in the copper strips

Transistor TR41 will also turn off, and the common collector point of TR41, TR42 will go positive for a time, essentially determined by the period of the differential monostable, i.e. one second or less if the extension monostable is close to the end of its quasi stable state. The output from the coincidence gate is taken to the summation circuit.

SUMMATION CIRCUIT AND "LEARNT" THRESHOLD

As implied by its designation, the summation circuit adds or integrates the output pulses from the coincidence gate and comprises TR48 and its associated components. Capacitor C24 and R94 provide a time-constant sufficiently long to ensure that the maximum summation limit extends to accepting greater than 15 input pulses.

Unwanted discharge of the capacitor is minimised by inclusion of D27 and by the very high input impedance presented by TR48 which is an f.e.t. Initially TR48 will be conducting, but as pulses from the coincidence gate gradually charge C24 so the voltage at TR48 source will climb towards the positive rail.

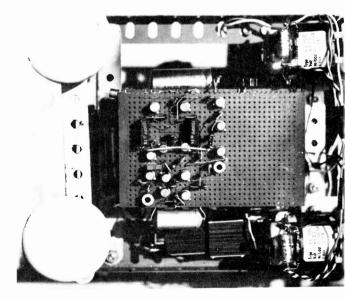
At some level of summation, dependent upon where VR6 has been set, the learnt threshold Schmitt will switch causing TR37 to turn on. This condition will remain until the level on C24 drops below the point necessary to maintain the Schmitt in the triggered state.

However, due to the reasons discussed earlier this will take a fair time and consequently TR37 will remain on to ensure that EMMA accepts higher loads at low supply levels. Of course, if this state of affairs is not reinforced periodically by giving EMMA a short rise in her "B" supply level then the voltage across C24 will gradually decay to a point where the load threshold drops again.

CIRCUIT BOARD CONSTRUCTION

The method for layout and wiring of the learning system circuit board is shown in Figs. 6a and 6b. Depending on the potentiometers used the Veroboard may require some drilling, however, all other components are mounted by way of their individual leads. The board itself is attached to the existing reflex board by 18 s.w.g. wire soldered to its four corners.

Underside view of EMMA showing the new circuit board



It is important to note that all necessary breaks in the copper strip should be made prior to mounting the various components.. Care should be taken to ensure that the complete width of the copper has been removed at each break.

Always mount transistors and diodes last and be sure not to keep them in contact with the soldering iron longer than necessary.

CHECKOUT

When the work on the circuit board has been completed it should be carefully examined to make sure that no dry joints or solder bridge-overs exist and that all components are carefully connected. It can now be inter-connected with the remainder of EMMA's anatomy.

Set EMMA's muscle control and the reflex system switches on. Connect a meter between the zero point of the supply batteries and the positive rail of the "B" supply to ensure that the level is approximately 4-5V. Operate the microswitch and check that this level falls to 3V. Release the microswitch and disconnect the meter. Inhibit EMMA's random generator circuit by turning the associated Schmitt permanently on through the use of VR1. Ensure that both motors are running.

SUPPLY LEVEL SCHMITT

Place EMMA on the ground and adjust VR2 so that she will carry a relatively heavy load, but goes into the avoidance reaction upon bumping into an obstacle.

Return EMMA to the work bench and with the meter connected between the collector of TR36 and the negative rail of the "A" supply, adjust VR5 until the supply level Schmitt just triggers, evidenced by the meter reading almost rail potential. Operate the microswitch and ensure that the meter reading drops to near zero level; if not, re-adjust the Schmitt. Disconnect the meter.

Now place EMMA back on the ground and replace the load. Ensure that, as before, the avoidance reaction does not occur unless she meets with an obstruction. Operate the microswitch and check that both EMMA's speed is reduced and that she immediately goes into the avoidance mode. If she is functioning correctly return EMMA once more to the table.

DIFFERENTIAL AND EXTENSION MONOSTABLE

Connect the meter between the common collector point of TR41, TR42 and the negative rail of the "A" supply; there should be an almost zero reading.

Now simulate a load by stalling the road wheels and, shortly following this, operate the microswitch. There should be a reading of almost rail potential. If not, check that the differential and extension monostables are functioning—the meter connected to either TR40 or TR43 collector will establish this following triggering.

Transfer the meter to the source of TR48. Momentarily short out C24 when the meter reading should be approximately 1V. Trigger the extension monostable, as before, and operate the microswitch every couple of seconds or so. Ensure that there is a gradual increase in the meter reading.

Note that it may be necessary to re-trigger the extension monostable because its time period could have elapsed during this check. Momentarily short out C24 again and check that the meter reading falls once more to about 1V.

LEARNT THRESHOLD SCHMITT

Connect the meter now to the collector of TR46 and set VR6 wiper about midway. The reading on the meter should be near zero. Operate the microswitch occasionally and apply a simulated load from time to time. Ultimately the meter will indicate that the learnt threshold Schmitt has triggered.

Naturally, it is a matter of choice as to the point in the summation curve where one wants this Schmitt to trigger, but a sensible arrangement would be to have the summer integrate about ten or eleven pulses before this occurs. It is simple to control this factor by varying the setting of VR6.

FINAL CHECK

If everything checks out remove the meter and short out C24 again to make sure EMMA forgets all about our unbridled inquisition of her internal parts. Set EMMA down on the floor once more and make this final check!

Place a fairly heavy book on EMMA's back and operate the microswitch periodically. After a time (that will probably seem like an eternity) EMMA will carry the load under reduced power supply conditions. The easiest way to maintain the low supply state for a while is to clip a clothes peg across the microswitch and so hold the operating button depressed.

Remember that EMMA's batteries don't last forever, so do start off with fresh ones. A heavily loaded supply on its "last legs" may make it virtually impossible to set up the monitoring circuits for reliable operation.

FINAL EMMA

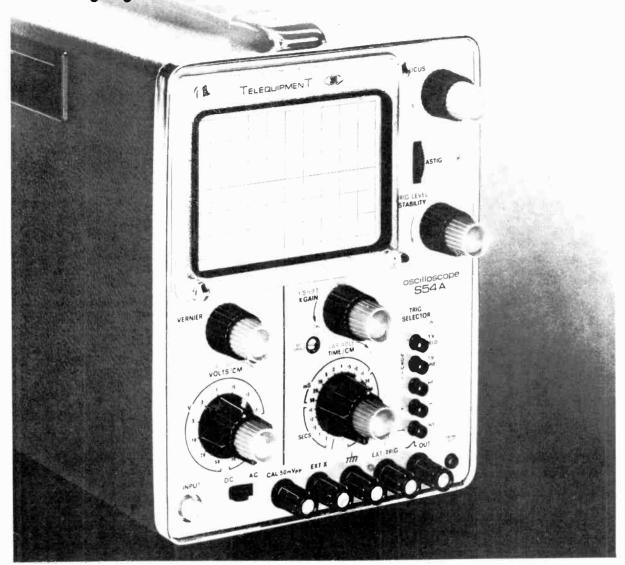
You may have every reason to say "All this just to have a heap of electronics and metalwork behave in this odd fashion." But that is the very point, it is just a heap of electronics and metalwork—not a living creature! Crude though she may be EMMA definitely shows certain preferences and can learn that some actions are worth the trouble while others are not.

To demonstrate that a machine can have a kind of self preservation awareness, we have cheated a little by playing around with the power supplies used. The reason though is valid because had we employed, say, re-chargeable nickel cadmium cells it would have been virtually impossible to see EMMA exhibit this new ability.

However, there is no reason why a keen Bionics man should not attempt an even more ambitious scheme—after all there is a machine in existence which can go and plug itself into the nearest 13 amp socket when it feels peckish!



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NARKE'

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.

TURNTABLE KIT

Something new for the audio fan is the Connoisseur BD1 belt drive turntable kit from A. R. Sugden & Co. (Engineering) Ltd., Market Street, Brighouse, Yorkshire.

It is claimed the kit can be assembled by the constructor within the hour and the only tools required are a small screwdriver, a pair of pliers and a spanner. No soldering

is necessary.

The turntable operates at 331 and 45 r.p.m. and the use of a belt drive system is claimed to reduce vibration and transmission noise to a minimum. The turntable is of non-ferrous aluminium casting and speed change

Multi-Mini Twin from Coventry Movement

is carried out manually by shifting the belt on the pulley, eliminating

mechanical linkages.

The turntable works from the mains, 200/240V a.c., and the rumble is claimed at -60dB when referred to a velocity of 70cm/sec at 1kHz. Hum level is -80dB and wow and flutter is less than 0.1 per cent. The motor used is a slow speed synchronous type running at 375 r.p.m. at 50Hz.

The price of the BD1 kit is £9 9s

plus tax. A plinth, dust cover lid and a SAU2 pick-up arm is available

as extras.

UNIVERSAL VICE

Recently we mentioned a workshop base and workholder; now we have received brief details of a universal two-in-one vice and base.

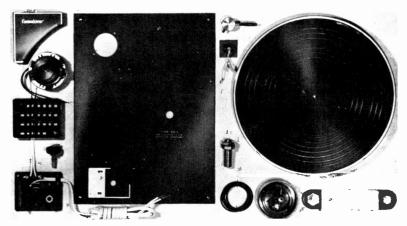
Called the Multi-Mini Twin, it features two sets of adjustable jaws, which can be set to any angle up to 360 degrees. The advantage of this arrangement is that any two separate components can be held in any desired position. It should be invaluable for the home workshop as a drilling jig, clamp for gluing or soldering, or as a table-top camera tripod.

Full details of the Multi-Mini Twin (price £5 18s) and a standard

tors, transistors, lamp, and light dependent resistor are mounted on a plastics base with threaded brass fixing pillars. Also included is an earphone, ferrite cored coil, nuts, bolts, washers and box spanner.

All experiments when completed are working models and projects include a transistor radio, burglar alarm, morse code practice oscillator, etc.

The Radionic X30 retails for £7 19s 6d, including tax, and is available from electrical shops and some toy departments of large stores.



Connoisseur BDI turntable kit marketed by A. R. Sugden & Co.

Multi-Mini can be obtained from The Coventry Movement Co., Ltd., Burnsall Road, Coventry.

CONSTRUCTION KIT

A series of 30 experiments aimed at gradually increasing the beginner's understanding of radio and electronic circuits is contained in the Radionic X30 constructional kit from Radionic Products.

The kit consists of a special printed circuit board and a complete instructional manual for all projects; plus a section on fundamentals of electricity and electronics. The resistors, capaci-

PRINTED CIRCUITS

Many readers may be interested to learn that P.H. Electronics are now producing printed circuit boards of some of the past constructional articles published in PRACTICAL ELEC-TRONICS.

The board is drilled and roller tinned and an instruction sheet is also The instruction sheet included. contains only minimum information and purchasers of boards are referred to the relevant issue of the magazine.

Further details of the boards available and prices can be obtained from P.H. Electronics, Sandwich Industrial Estate, Sandwich, Kent.



Radionic Products X30 construction kit

RECTION FROM OUR POSTBAG

Correspondents wishing to have a reply must enclose a stamped addressed envelope. We regret we are unable to guarantee a reply on matters not relating to articles published in the magazine. Technical queries cannot be dealt with on the telephone.

Component supermarket

Sir—As many readers will have noticed, the Mecca of London based enthusiasts, Tottenham Court Road, has recently become the home of showrooms for expensive ready-made gear, several cinemas showing "adult" films and an avant-garde theatre. While not wishing to decry these innovations, the inevitable long term result of Tottenham Court Road becoming a part of "swinging" London will be a rise in property values, which will drive away and disperse the component shops.

This is a threat, but also a challenge. After all, is there any real reason why an electronics supermarket, with stands from all the main suppliers, couldn't be established? Maybe under the trilateral leadership of the electronics magazines, the learned societies and commercial

interests.

It may sound like an impossible dream now, but if such a venture could be established, not only would it prove highly lucrative but, by encouraging our vital hobby, the electronics industry and also the whole nation would gain through an

S. H. Hertz, London, N.3.

We suspect there will be some disagreement concerning the actual location of the component seekers' "mecca". Some enthusiasts might plump for Lisle street!—Ed.

increased awareness of electronics.

Liquid etchant

Sir—Several younger constructors have asked me from time to time what the liquid is that is used to etch printed circuits; often they have bought a printed circuit kit, and the etchant is used up first.

A recent article described an excellent solution made up of several fluids, one of which was dilute hydrochloric acid. This solution was in fact the classical circuit etchant, but I now find that in some areas chemists will not sell dilute acid to younger persons, or do not stock it in any case.

I feel, therefore, that it may be of

value to tell them through your columns that there is a very good etchant available through any chemist, under the pharmacist's name of Liquor Ferri Perchloridi. The British Drug House sells this in convenient 500ml bottles, for a few shillings.

There are two points to watch, however; the first is that it makes an excellent dye for clothing. The second is that, diluted with water, it is sometimes used as an "iron tonic", and the buyer must therefore be careful to obtain the concentrated variety (ask for "fort"), and to keep it well away from any medicine cupboards.

The compound formed with copper is a heavy black precipitate, and it is therefore necessary to agitate the circuit panel in the solution for up to 10 minutes to ensure even etching.

J. Anderson, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

There is another point that should be remembered: this solution contains an appreciable amount of acid and so should be handled with care. In particular, it must NOT be poured down the sink, especially if the plumbing is copper.—Ed.

Too ambitious?

Sir—Since the August issue of PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS was published I have felt that your magazine has been catering for the more ambitious of your readers, and is paying little attention to the man with a limited amount of time and money. This has been verified by the list of constructional projects in the November 1969 issue. All these projects (except perhaps the I.C. Basic Amplifier) are costly and time consuming.

Bring back ones like the *Homecom*, the *Electronic Stockmarket* or the beginner's projects!

E. W. Lawson, Glasgow.

We have a very wide readership, and interests vary considerably. Certainly you can expect to see more basic projects in the future, and article specially designed for the beginner will be featured from time to time.—Ed.

Nematic crystals

Sir—I was pleased to find an article on Conductive Glass by F. J. Stone in your November issue. It must be very many years since I came across a really constructive project such as this (do-it-yourself is so cut and dried these days), and it is quite a thrill to get back to something requiring dexterity and luck for a sense of achievement.

The Variable Transparency window is particularly interesting, and I should like to construct one as a project with a group of the Merton Science Society. Unfortunately, Mr Stone does not tell us how to make a nematic liquid or how high a potential must be applied across a \$\frac{1}{4}\$ in thickness of liquid. Perhaps you could get him to pass on this vital information.

By the way, according to the precautions which he quite rightly warns us about, he says that tin is poisonous, but surely tin is harmless otherwise how is it that all our food is kept in tin cans?

George E. Dunning, Morden, Surrey.

The only nematic liquid crystal known to me is one referred to in the October 31, 1968 edition of the New Scientist, page 260, "Trends and Discoveries", "Lining up Dye Molecules to Switch Light Colours", which effect I referred to in my article. This uses methyl red dye in a 0-1 to 1-0 per cent (by weight) solution in the host liquid crystal, P-N Butoxy Benzoic Acid, with the glass plates about 12 micrometres apart.

The above named liquid is, as I expect most others are, not so readily available. It is one thing to know the name of a substance, but it is another thing altogether to obtain it. There are more liquids in this general group which exhibit this or similar effects. I am sorry I cannot provide any further information regarding the availability of nematic liquid crystals.—F.J.S.

Glass centre

Sir—I was most interested to read F. J. Stone's article on *Conductive Glass* in November 1969 PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS, but do not feel I can cope with the experiment of making my own.

Do you think if I advertised in your miscellaneous column a supplier could be found?

When I enquired at the "glass centre" at the Building Exhibition, noone appeared to have a clue. According to Stone's article, the Russians appear to have it, so where are we in this research?

Perhaps I have not done enough reading outside electronics and Pilkington and Triplex have the answer.

Leslie D. E. Light, G3KDL, Wembley, Middlesex.



2½kW FAN HEATER

Three position switching to suit changes in the weather. Switch up for full heater (2! kW), switch down for half heat (1!kW), switch central blows cold for summer cooling -adjustable thermostat act as auto control and safety cut-out. Complete kit \$3.15.0. Post and ins. 7/6 or made up model \$4.15.0. Post & ins. 7/6.

FLUORESCENT CONTROL KITS

Each kit comprises seven items—Choke, 2 tube ends, starter, starter holder and 2 tube clips with wiring instructions. Suitable for normal with wiring instructions. Suitable for normal fluorescent tubes or the new "Grolux" tubes for fish tanks and indoor plants. Chokes are supersilent, mostly resin filled. Kit A-15-20w. 19/6. Kit B-30-40w. 19/6. Kit C-80w. 19/6. Kit E-65w. 19/6. Kit B-30-60w. 19/6. Kit E-65w. 19/6. Kit MF1 is for 6in., 9in. and 12in. miniature tubes, 19/6. Postage on Kits A and B 4/6 for one or two kits then 4/6 for each two kits ordered. Kit Kit C, D and E 4/6 on first kit then 3/6 for each kit ordered. Kit MF1 3/6 on first kit then 3/6 for each kwo kits ordered. Kit MF1 3/6 on first kit then 3/6 on each two kits ordered. kit then 3/6 on each two kits ordered

BECKASTAT

This is an instant ther-mostat, simply plug your appliance into it and its lead into wali s lead into wali Adjustable setplug. Acting for normal air ting for normal air temperatures. 13A loading. Will save its cost in a season. 19/6. Post and insurance 2/9.



REED SWITCHES

Glass encased, switches operated by external magnet—gold welted contacts. We can now offer

3 types.

**Emiature, lin, long a approximately jin, diameter. Will make and break up to j amp up to 300 volts. Price 2/6 each. 24/4 odzen.

**Standard 2in, long a 3/16in, diameter. This will break currents of up to 1 amp, voltages up to 250 volts. Price 2/e each. 18/- per dozen.

**Plat, Flat type, 2in, long, just over 1/16in, thick, approximately jin, wide. The Standard Type flattened out, so that it can be fitted into a smaller space or a larger quantity may be packed into a square solenoid. Rating 1 amp, 200 volts. Price 8/each.

**Standard 2 may 1 amp, 200 volts. Price 8/each.

**Standard 3 may 2 may

Small ceramic magnets to operate these reed switches 1/3 each. 12/- dozen.



15 Amp FOOT SWITCH

Suitable for Sewing Machine Motor, Drilling Machine or in fact to switch any job where

both hands are to be left free. Rated at 13 amps

3 DIGIT COUNTER For Tape Recorder or other application, re-settable by depressing button. Price 8/6.

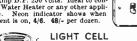


TRANSDUCER

Made by Acos, reference No. 1.D.1001. For measuring vibration, etc., to be used in conjunction with "G" Meter. Regular price £5. Our price 49/6, Brand new and unused.



20 Amp D.P. 250 volts. Ideal to control Water Heater or any other appliance. Neon indicator shows when current is on, 4/8. 48/- per dozen.





Almost zero resistant in sunlight increases to 10 K. Ohms in dark or dull light, epoxy resin sealed. Size approx. lin. dia. by jin. thick. Rated at 500MW, wire ended. 8/6 with circuit.

FLEX BARGAINS

Screened 3 Core Flex. Each core 14'0076 Copper PVC insulated and coloured, the 3 cores laid together and metal braided overall. Price \$3.15,

together and metal braided overall. Price 28,15, per 100 yds. coil.

15 Amp 3 Core Mon-kink Flex. 70/6076 insulated coloured cores, protected by tough rubber sheath, then black cotton braided with white tracer. A normal domestic flex as fitted to 3 kw. fires. Regular price 3/6 per yd. 50 yd. coil 24,10,0, or cut to your length 2/6 per yad.

10 Amp 3 Core Mon-kink Flex. As above but cores are 28/6076 Copper. Normal price 2/6 per yd. 100 yd. coil 37,10,0, or cut to your length 1/9 yd. 26 Amp 2 Core Flex. As above, but 2 Cores each 23/6076 as used for Vacuum Cleaners, Electric Blankets, etc. 38/6 100 yd. coil.

23/6076 Triple Core F.V.C. covered, circular, normally soid at 1/6 yd. Our price 100 yd. coil \$3,10.6. Post and Insurance 6/6.



12 VOLT SOLENOID

For energizing Reed Switches, etc., size approx. in. long by lin. diameter. Hole through Solenoid approx. in. 8/6 each.

'GLADIATOR' 2 WAVE BAND TRANSISTOR RADIO

7 transistor, 2 wave band (medium and long) pocket radio with carrying handle and earplug. These radios use a ferrite slab aerial and plug. These radios use a territe siab aerial and a conventional superhet circuit with built in moving coil speaker. Completely built up, ready to play. Offered at less than importers price due to bankrupt purchase. A remarkable bargain. 39/6 plus 3/6 post and insurance.



MINIATURE EXTRACTOR FAN

Beautifully made by famous German Company. PAPST System, 230/240 A.C. Mains operated, size 3\(\frac{1}{4}\)in. \times 3\(\frac{1}{4}\)in. \times 2\(\frac{1}{4}\)in. \times 2\(\frac{1}{4}\)in. \times 2\(\frac{1}{4}\)in incorporate in a cooker hood, etc. \(\frac{6}{5}\)/-.

BUY TIME SLOT METERS

If you hire out equipment such as TV sets by the hour then these slot meters are what you require. We have 3 types, 8d. an hour, 1/- an hour and 1/6 an hour. Brand new. Made by the famous Weston Company. Price \$3.19.6, postage and insurance 6/6.



DISTRIBUTION PANELS

Just what you need for work bench or lab.

4×13 amp sockets in metal box to take
standard 13 amp plugs. Simplier advertised at £5. Our price 39/6 in kit form + 4/6 P. & I. 13 amp plug. Similar advertise or 45/- + 4/6 P. & I. wired up.

THIS MONTH'S SNIP '

24 HOUR TIME SWITCH

Mains operated. Adjustable Contacts give on/off per 24 hours. Contacts rated 20 amps, repeating mechanism so ideal for shop window control, or to switch hall lights (arti-burglar precaution) while you are on holiday. Made by the famous Smiths Company. This month only 38/6 plus 3/6 postage and insurance, a real snip which should not be missed

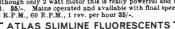


DOUBLE ENDED MAINS MOTOR

On feet with holes for screw-down fixing. To drive models, oven, blower heater, etc. 10/- each, plus 3/6 post and insurance. 6 or more post free.

INSTRUMENT MOTOR WITH GEAR BOX Made by the famous Smiths Company. This motor operates from 20-26 volts 50 c.p.s. or from higher voltages through transformers or resistors: It has an 8-gear train in perspex gear box final shaft speed is

orgest train in perspex gear now final states spect is a level to four. Approximate dimensions, motor 14 in. × 14 in. diameter, gear box \$1 in. × 14 in. diameter. However, the special specia





economical. If left on all the time costs only one penny per day (uses i unit). Measures 2ft. long. Is ideal in Kitchen, Bedroom, Hallway, Porch, Loft, etc. Don't miss this amazing offer, 39/8 with tube. Assembled ready to install. 4ft. twin model 59/8, Postage and insurance 6/6 extra.

WATT AMPLIFIER & PREAMP

5 transistors—highly efficient, made for use with tapehead G4 but equally suitable for microphone or pick up—limited quantity 29/6. Full circuit diag. also shows tape controls 5/-.



VARYLITE

Will dim incandescent lighting up to 600 watts from full brilliance to out. Fitted on M.K. flush plate, same size and fixing as standard wall switch so may be fitted in place of this, or mount on surface. Price complete in heavy plastic box with control knob 83.18.6.

HI-FI BARGAIN

HI-FI BARGAIN

FULL F1 12 INCH LOUDSPEAKER. This is undoubtedly one of the finest loudspeakers that we have ever offered, produced by one of the country's most famous makers. It has a die-cast netal frame and is strongly recommended for Hi-Fi load and Rhythm Guitar and public address.

Flux Density 11,000 gauss—Total Flux 44,000 Maxwells—Power Handling 15 watts R.M.S. Cone Moulded fibre—Freq. response 30.10,000 c.p.s.—specify 3 for 15 ohms—Mains resonance 60 c.p.s.—Chaesis Diam. 12in. 12jin. over mounting lugs—Baffle hole 11in. Diam.—Mounting holes 4, holes—jin. diam. on pitch circle 11 jin. diam. Overall height 5 jin. A 68 speaker offered for only \$28.6 plus 7/6 p. & p. Don't miss this offer. 15in. 30 watt \$27.19.6. 18in. 100 watt \$24.10.0

5 kW PORTABLE HEATER

For workshop.—stores—greenhouse, etc. Uses twin balanced motors for silent operation and reliability, three position switch gives "max. heat," "half heat", and "blow cold". A really fine heater. Price \$\$9.16, plus 10/6 post and insurance.

Where postage is not stated then orders over £3 are post free. Below £3 add 2/9. Semiconductors add 1/- post. Over £1 post free. S.A.E. with enquiries please.



MINIATURE

WAFER SWITCHES

2 pole, 2 way—4 pole, 2 way—3 pole, 3 way—4 pole, 3 way—2 pole, 4 way—2 pole 6 way—1 pole, 12 way. All at 8/6 each. 36/- dozen, your assortment

WATERPROOF HEATING

ELEMENT 26 yards length 70W. Self-regulating temperature control. 10/- post free.

AC FAN

Small but very power-ful mains motor with 5½in. blades. Ideal for cooling equipment or as extractor. Silent but very efficient. 17/6, post 4/6. Mounts from back or front with 4BA



MAINS MOTOR

Precision made — as used in record decks and tape recordersideal also for extractor fan, blower, heaters etc. New and perfect. Snip at 9/6. Postage 3/- for first one then 1/- for each one ordered. 12 and over post free.

RADIO STETHOSCOPE

20

Easiest way to fault find—traces signal from aerial to speaker—when signal stops you've found the fault. Use it on Radio, TV,

amplifier, anything—com-plete kit comprises two special transistors and all parts including probe tube and crystal earpiece. 29/8—twin stethoset instead of earpiece 11/extra—post and ins. 2/9.



MAINS TRANSISTOR POWER PACK

MAINS TRANSISTOR POWER PACK Designed to operate transistor sets and amplifiers. Adjustable output 6v., 9v., 12 volts for up to 500m A (Class B working). Takes the place of any of the following batteries: PPI, PP3, PP4, PP6, PP7, PP9, and others. Kit comprises: mains transformer rectifier, smoothing and load resistor, condensers and instructions. Real snip at only 16/6, plus 3/6 postage.

PHILIPS TRIMMER

0-30pF an old design but one which has never been bettered. 1/- each, 10/- doz., \$4.0.0 per 100.





INSTRUMENT BUZZER

6-12V, adjustable tone, a very neat metal cased U.S.A. made unit, approx. 1½in. × 1in. × 1in. 8/6 each.



230 VOLT SOLENOID #in. stroke. Size 2#in. >
2in. × 1#in. 14/6, postage
2/9.

PP3 BATTERY ELIMINATOR

Run your small transistor radio from the mains—full wave circuit—made up ready to wire into your set and adjustable high or low current.



SPRING COIL LEADS as fitted to telephones, 4 core 2/6 each, 3 core 2/-



PANEL LAMPS

r ANUL LAMFO
In neat plastic cases, available in several voltages as follows: 4v, 6v, 12v, 24v, 36v, 46v, 60v, 110v, 220v, 380v, Note all below 110v are fitted with lamps. 110v, and above are neons. Price 3/- each. 30/- dozen.

APPLIANCE THERMOSTAT

This is a skeleton Type control intended for building into oven, for baking, curing, pottery, etc. 2 models, one preset for screwdriver control. The other has a shaft for knob control. Approximate operating temperature. Note only temperature insulation used in these temperature in Price 12/6 each

ELECTRONICS (CROYDON) LTD

Dept. PE, 266 London Road, Croydon CRO 2TH Also 102/3 Tamworth Road, Croydon

79

CAR LIGHT FLASHERS



Heavy duty light flasher employs a condenser discharge principle operating on electro mechani-

on electro mechanical relay. (As inset.)
on Maximum load 6 amps. Size 2 11/16
to dir. 4. Supplied brand new at a fraction of original cost. 6/6 each. P. x P. 2/6.
(3 ter 17/6, P. & P. 4/6.)

R209 MK II COMMUNICATION RECEIVER 11 valve high grade communication receiver suitable for tropical use. 1-20 Mc/s on 4 bands. AM/CW/FM operation. Incorporsuitaine for tropical use. 1:20 Me/s on 4
bands. AM/CW/FM operation. Incorporates precision vernier driver, BFO. Aerial
trimmer, internal speaker and
12 V d.e. internal power



power supply. Sup-plied in excel-lent condition, fully tested and £15

Care. 907

DOUBLE BEAM OSCILLOSCOPES



An excellent general purpose D/B oscilloscope.
T.B. 2 c/8-750 kc/s.
Sensitivity 33 mV/CM.
Operating voltage 0/110/
200/250 V. a.e. Supplied in excellent working condition. 222.10.0 or complete with all accessories, probe, leads, lid, etc. 225. Carriage 30,-.



MARCONI CT44 TF956 AF ABSORPTION WATTMETER

u/watt to 6 watts. 220. Carr. 90/-

SOLARTRON CD. 1016 OSCILLOSCOPE Double beam. d.e. To 5 Mc/s. Excellent condition. 255 cach. Carr. 20/-.

CLASS D WAVEMETERS



A crystal controlled hetero-dyne frequency meter covering 1.7-8 Mc/s. Operation on 6V d.c. Ideal for amateur use. Ideal for amateur use. Available in good used condition. 25.19.6. Carr. 7/6, or brand new with accessories. 27.19.6. Carr. 7/6.

CLASS D WAVEMETERS No. 2 Crystal controlled. 1:2-19 Mc/s. Mains or 12V d.c. operation. Complets with calibration charts. Excellent condition. \$12.10.0. Carr. 30/-.

TO-2 PORTABLE OSCILLOSCOPE

A general purpose cost economy oscillo-cost economy oscillo-scope for everyday use. Y amp. Bandwidth 2 CPS-1 MHZ. Input inp. 2 megΩ 25 P.F. Illuminated scale. 2in-tube. 115 180 tube. 115 180 230mm. Weight 8lb. 220/240 V a.c. Supplied brand new with hand-book. \$22,10,0. Carr. 10/-.



SOLARTRON CD. 7118.2 OSCILLOSCOPES Double beam, D.C. order, 265, Carr. 50/-

TRANSISTORISED L.C.R. A.C. MEASURING BRIDGE



A new portable bridge offering excellent range and accuracy at low cost. Ranges: R. $10-11\cdot1$ meg Ω cost. Ra 1Ω-11·1

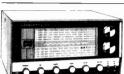
cost. Ranges: R. 10-11:1 meg \(\text{n} \) 1 \(\text{l} \) 1 \(\text{l}

UNR-30 4-BAND COMMUNICATION RECEIVER

RECEIVER
Covering 550 Kc/s-30 Mc/s. Incorporates BFO. Built-in speaker and phone jack. Metal cabinet. Operation 220/240V. a.c. Supplied brand new, guaranteed with instructions.

Carr. 7/6 13 Gns. 13 gns.

TRIO JR-310 NEW AMATEUR BAND 10-80 METRE RECEIVER. In stock.



LAFAYETTE SOLID STATE HAGOO RECEIVER S BAND AM/CW/SSB AMATEUR AND SHORT WAVE 150 kc/s-400 kc/s and 550 kc/s-30 Mc/s FET front end © 2 mechanical filters © Hage FET front end © 2 mechanical filters © Hnge diai © Froduct detector © Variable BFO © Noise limiter © 8 meter © 24in Bandspread © 230V a.c./12V d.c. neg. earth operation © RF gain control. Size 15in × 9jin × 8jin. Weight 18ib. EXCEPTIONAL VALUE. 245. Carr. 10/-. S.A.E. for full details.

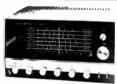


TRIO JR-5008E 10-80 Metre AMATEUR RECEIVER \$69.10.0

TRIO TS 510 AMATEUR TRANSCEIVER with speaker and mains P.S.U. £212

AFAYETTE HA.800 SOLID STATE AMATEUR COMMUNICATION RECEIVER SIX BANDS 3.5-4, 7-7.3, 14-14.35, 21-45, 28-29. 7, 50-54 Mc/s.

Dual conversion en all bands. 2 445 Kc/s mechanical filters. Product detector. Variable B.F.O. 100 Kc/s crystal calibrator. The Huge slide rule dial. Operation 230v AC or 12v DC. Size 15° 94° 84°. Complete with instruc-tion manual. \$57,100, Carr. paid.



GEARED MAINS MOTORS

Paralux type SD19 230/250V a.c. Re-230/250V a.c. Reversible 30 RPM.
40 lb in. Complete with with capacitor.
Excellent condition. 99/6. Carr. 10/-

CRYSTAL CALIBRATORS No. . IBRATORS No. 10 Small portable crystal controlled wavemeter. Size 7" × 7" × 4". Fre-quency range 500 Kc/s. 10 Mc/s (up to 30 Mc/s on harmonies). Cali-brated dial. Power re-quirements 300 V.D.C. 15mA and 12 V.D.C. 0.3A. Excellent con-dition. 89/6. Carr, 7/6. dition. 89/6, Carr. 7/6.



RCA COMMUNICATION

RECEIVER AR88D

Latest release by ministry BRAND NEW in original cases. 110-250V a.c. operation. Frequency in 6 Bands. 535Kc/s-32Mc/g-continuous. Output impedance 2-5-600 ohms. Incorporating crystal filter, noise limiter, variable BFO, variable selectivity, etc. Price \$87,10.0. Carr. £2.

LAFAYETTE PF-60 SOLID STATE VHF FM RECEIVER

A completely new transistorised receiver covering 152-174 Mc/s. Fully tuneable or crystal controlled (not supplied) for fixed frequency operation. In-corporates 4 INTEGRATED CIRCUITS. Built in speaker and illuminated dial. Squelch and volume controls. Tape recorder output. 75 \(\text{n} \) earli input. Healthphone jack. Operation 230\(\text{V}. A.C./ \) 12V. D.C. Neg. earth. \$37,10.0, Carr. 10/-.



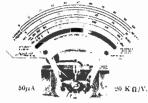


100aA 100μA 100-0-100μA. 200μA 500μA

	CLEAR F	PLASTIC PANE	L METERS
	First grade quality	Moving Coil panel	meters.
	Type MR 38P. 121	oin square fronts.	
	500~0-500μA 27/6	50mA27/6	150V. D.C27/6
	1mA27/6	100mA27/6	300V. D.C27/6
	1-0-1mA27/6	150mA 27/6	500V. D.C27/6
	2mA 27/6	200mA 27/8	750V. D.C27/6
	5mA27/6	300mA27/6	15V. A.C27/6
	10mA 27/6	500mA27/6	50V. A.C 27/6
-	750mA 27/6		150V. A.C 27/6
6	1 amp 27/6	3V. D.C27/6	300 V. A.C 27/6
8	2 amp 27/6	10V. D.C27/6	500V. A.C27/6
-	5 amp 27/6	20V. D.C27/6	8 meter 1mA.32/-
_	20mA27/6	100V. D.C27/8	VU meter42/-
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High quality ceramic construction. Windings embedded in vitreous enamel. Heavy duty brush wiper. Continuous rating. Wide range ex-stock Single hole fixing, Iin. dia. shafts. Bulk quantities available. 25 WATT. 10/25/50/100/250/500/1.000/1.500/2.500 or 5.000 ohms, 14/8. P. 50 WATT. 10/25/50/100/250/500/1.000(2.500 or 5.000 ohms, 21/-. P. & P. 1/6. 100 WATT. 1/5/10/25/50/100/250/500/1.000 or 5.000 ohms, 21/-. P. & P. 1/6. & P. 1/6.

AVOMETER MOVEMENTS



Spare movements for Model 8 or 9. (Fitted with Model 9 scale) or basis for any multimeter. Brand New and Boxed 69/6 P. & P. 3/6.

AVO 48A. Perfect order with set of shunts and resistances. £12,10.0. P. & P. 7/6.

T.E.40 HIGH SENSITIVITY

HIGH SENSITIVITY
A.C. VOLTMETER
10 meg. input 10 ranges:
-01 -003 -1 0 -3 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 3 / 1 / 2 Mc/s. -12 Mc/s.
-12 Mc/s. -12 Mc/s.
-1 230V a.c. Carr. 5/-.



LELAND MODEL 27 BEAT FREQUENCY OSCILLATORS
Frequency 0.20 Kc/s on 2 ranges, Output 500 Ω or 5kΩ. Operation 200/250V. A.C. Supplied in perfect order, £12.10,0. Carr. 10/-.



TE-65 VALVE VOLTMETER

High quality instrument with 28 ranges, D.c. volts 1-5-1,500°V. Ac. volts 1-5-1,500°V. Resistance up to 1,000 megohms. 220/240°V. ac. operation. Complete with probe and instructions. #17,10.0

P. & P. & P. & Additional instructions. £17.10.0. P. & P. 6/-. Additional Probes available: R.F. 35/-. H.V. 42/6.

COSSOR 1049 DOUBLE BEAM OSCILLOSCOPES

D.c. coupled. Band width Ikc/s. Perfect order. 225. Carr. 30/-.



AM/FM SIGNAL GENERATORS
Oscillator Test No.
2. A high quality precision instrument made into the for the ministry by Airmec. Frequency coverporates precision dial, level meter, precision attenuator 1µV-100mV. Operation from 12V d.c. or 0/110/200250V a.c. Size 12 × 8 ½ × 9 in. Supplied in brand new condition complete with all connectors fully leasted. 245. Carr. 20/-

HAMMARLUND SP600J COMMUNICATION RECEIVER, 540 Kc/s-54 Mc/s in 6 bands. FEW ONLY! \$100.

EDDYSTONE VHF RECEIVERS MODEL 770R, 19-165 Mc/s. Excellent condition. \$150.



TE-16A Transitorised Signal Generator. 5 ranges 400 kHz-30 mHz. An inexpensive instrument for the handyman. Operates on 9 battery. Wide, easy to read scale. 500 kHz modulation. 5 the structions and leads. 37,19,6, P.AP. 4/-

FIELD TELEPHONES TYPE L
Generator ringing, metal cases. Operates
from two 1-5v. batteries (not supplied).
Excellent condition. \$4.10.0 per pair.
Carr. 10/-.

AUTO TRANSFORMERS 0/115/230v. Step up or step down. Fully shrouded.

150	W.	£2,2,6,	P. &	P. 3/6
300		\$2.19.6,	P. &	P. 4/6
500		24.10.0,	P. &	P. 6/6
1,000			P. &	P. 7/6
1,500				
7.500	w.	#15 10 O	PL	P 20/-

G. W. SMITH & CO (RADIO) LTD. Also see oppos, page

ARF-100 COMBINED AF-RF SIGNAL GENERATOR



A.F. SINE WAVE 20-200,000 c/s. c/s. 20wave O/P 30,000 c/s. U/r. HIGH IMP. 21V P/P600 Ω 3·8 V. P/P.

attenuation int/ext. modulation. Incorporates dual purpose meter to monitor AF output and 0, mod. on R.F. 220/240 V a.c. put and % mod. \$30.0.0. Carr. 7/6.

TE-20RF SIGNAL GENERATOR



AL GENERALOR

signal generator covering 120 kc/s-260
Mc/s on 6 bands.

Directly calibrated
variable R.F. attenuator, Operation
200/240V ac.
Brand new with instruction. \$5,150,
P. & P. 7/16. S A.E.
for details. for details.

WAVE TE22 SINE SQUARE AUDIO GENERATORS



Sine: 20c/s to 200 kc/s on 4 bands. Square: 20c/s to 30 kc/s. Output imped ance 5,000 ohms. 200/250V. A.C. Supplied brand new and guaran-teed with instruc-£16.10.0. Carr. 7/6.

manual and leads. MARCONI TF142E DISTORTION FACTOR
METERS. Excellent condition. METERS. Excellent condition. Fully tested. 220. Carr. 15/-.

LAFAYETTE TE46 RESISTANCE CAPACITY ANALYSER

2pF-2,000 mfd ohms-200 ms. Also impeinegohins. dance. turns ratio. insula 200/250V tion. Brand New £17.10.0.



ADVANCE TEST EQUIPMENT Brand new and boxed in original sealed cartons VM.76 VALVE VOLTMETER R.F. measure-VALUE VOLTMETER R.F. measure-ments in excess of 100Mc/s and d.c. measurements up to 100V with accuracy of ±2% d.c. range 300 MV to 1kV a.c. range 300MV to 300V RMS. Resistance 0-02-500M O. Price \$7%. UHF MILLIVOLT METER. Tran-sistorised. A.c. range 10MV-SV.

sistorised. A.c. range 10MV-3V. D.c. current range 0.01µ/A-0.3MA. Resistance 1 ohm-10 megohms. Price \$125.

Price \$125.
AUDIO SIGNAL GENERATOR.
15c/s-50kc/s. sine or square wave.
Price \$30.
AUDIO SIGNAL GENERATOR.

JIB 15c/s-50kc/s. Price 230. TRANSISTOR TESTER. 237.10.0. Carriage 10/- per item.

MODEL ZOM TRANSISTOR CHECKER It has the fullest capacity for checking on A. B and Ico Equally adaptable for checking Spec.: A: diodes, etc. : 0.7-0.9967. checking
Spec.: A: 0.7-0.990..
B: 5-200. Ico: 0-50
microamps 0-5 mA
Resistance for diode
200 \(\Omega - 1 \) M\(\Omega \). Supplied
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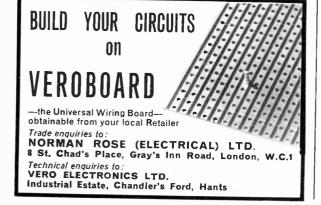
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RESISTORS

				values			
Code	Power	Tolerance	Range	available	l to 9	10 to 99	100 up
С	21 W	5%	100 Ω -220k Ω	E12	16d	Hd	13d
C	žw	5%	4-7 Ω – IM Ω	E24	2-5d	2d	1.75d
č	ŧw	10%	4:7 Ω=10M Ω	E12	2-5d	1·75d	I ⋅5d
č	ŧŵ	5%	4·7 Ω = 10M Ω	E24	3d	2-25d	2d
MO	ŧw	2%	18Ω-IMΩ	E24	9d	8d	7 d
Ċ	ÌŴ	10%	4-7 Ω = 10 Μ Ω	EI2	4d	3-25d	3d
ww	iŵ	10% ± 2 Ω	0.22 Ω = 3.3 Ω	E12	15d all	quantities	
ww	3W	5%	12 Ω = 10k Ω	E12		quantities	
ww	700	50/2	12Ω = 10kΩ	E12	15d all	quantities	

CODES: C = carbon film, high stability, low noise. MO = metal oxide, Electrosil TR5, ultra low noise. WW = wire wound, Plessey. VALUES: E12 denotes series: 1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.8, 2.2, 2.7, 3.3, 3.9, 4.7, 5.6, 6.8, 8.2 and their decades. E24 denotes series: as E12 plus 1-1, 1.3, 1.6, 2, 2.4, 3, 3.6, 4.3, 5.1, 6.2, 7.5, 9.1 and their decades. Prices are in pence each for each ohmic value and power rating. (Ignore fractions of one penny on total resistor order.)

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0·1 0·15 0·22	9d 11d 1/-	6/8 7/6 8/2	14/3 16/6 17/9	48/9 47/7 57/8	AF117 BC107 BC108	2/6 3/6 3/-	18/9 26/3 22/6	45/- 63/- 54/-	- 166/3 - 232/9 - 199/6
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0.001, 0.0015, 0.0022 0.0033, 0.0047	each 6d 8d	10 off 4/6 4/6	25 off 9/9 9/10	100 off 38/4 33/6	BYZ10 BYZ11 BYZ12	6/- 5/4 4/8	45/- 40/- 35/-	108/- 96/- 84/-	
0·0068, 0·01 0·015 0·022	7d 7d 7d	5/1 5/2 5/8	10/11 11/10 12/-	36/5 37/6 37/9	BYZ13 OA5 OA81	4/- 2/- 2/-	30/- 15/- 15/-	72/- 36/- 36/-	- 266/-
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0·1 0·15 0·22	11d 1/2 1/6	8/~ 10/3 14/3	17/2 22/- 28/5	57/4 74/- 95/10	OC28 OC35 OC44	9/ 6/ 3/	67/6 45/- 22/6	162/- 108/- 54/-	598/6 - 399/- - 199/6
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Prices per Capacitance va 0.01, 0.015	each	10 off 5/2	25 on 11/8	100 off	0C75 0C81 0C81D	2/4 2/- 2/4	17/6 15/- 17/6	42/- 36/- 42/-	155/4 133/4 155/4
0-022 0-033, 0-047 0-068	7d 8d 9d	5/4 5/11 6/7	11/9 12/10	38/7 41/8 43/9	OC82D OC139 OC170	2/4 3/4 2/6	17/6 25/- 18/9	42/- 60/- 45/-	155/4 221/8 166/3
0·1 0·15 0·22	9d 11d 1/-	6/9 8/2	14/1 14/9 18/-	47/1 51/- 62/6	OC171 2N2926 (Green)	2/6 2/8	18/9 20/-	45/- 48/-	166/3 177/4
0-33 0-47 0-6×	1/5 1/8 2/3	8/9 12/6 14/8	18/11 27/- 31/9	63/6 91/8 107/10		 Stud mounting Loff 	r. 10 oft	25 of	r 100 or
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0·01, 0·02 0·05 0·1	6d 8d 10d	4/3 6/- 7/1	8/4 12/6 15/6	30/- 41/8 51/-	21in 37in 21in 5in 37in 37in		3/3 3/11 3/11	35/10 35/10	0 80/9
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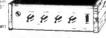


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