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 Line Assembly A precision instrument-supplied with standard $3 / 16^{\prime \prime}$ ( 4.75 mm ) diameter, detachable copper chisel-face bit*Standard temp. $360^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ at 23 watts.
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## the world'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 Zener 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 mostimportant 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 as part of the process of producing monolithic I.Cs are expensive but once made, the circuits can be produced with complete uniformity and at very low cost. This enables us to cover every IC-10 with the Sinclair guarantee of reliability.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Output 10 Watts peak, 5 Watts R.M.S. continuous. Frequency response $\quad 5 \mathrm{~Hz}$ to $100 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$. Total harmonic distortion Less than $1 \%$ at full output. Load impedance 3 to 15 ohms. Power gain $110 \mathrm{~dB}(100,000,000,000$ times) total. Supply voltage 8 to 18 volts.

Sensitivity
Input impedance
$1 \times 0.4 \times 0.2$ inches
Adjustable externally up to
2.5 M ohms.

## C CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The first three transistors are used in the pre-amp and the remaining 10 in the power amplifier. Class $A B$ 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


## Project 60 an exciting alternative

The buyer of an amplifier today has a remarkably wide variety to choose from. It is unlikely that a purchaser would have real difficulty in finding a unit that met all his requirements, although the price might not be as low as could be wished. The only snags are that one's needs can change and that the technically correct amplifier may be physically inconvenient. If you are confident that there is an amplifier available, of the right size and price, which will meet all your needs for the forseeable future, then that is your best buy. If not, however, we can offer you another possibility which we believe to be an exciting alternative approach. That alternative is Project 60.
Project 60 is a range of modules which connect together simply to form a complete stereo amplifier with really excellent performance. So good, in fact, that only 2 or 3 amplifiers in the world can compare with it in overall performance.
The modules are: $\mathbf{1}$. The $\mathbf{Z}-30$ high gain power amplifier, which is an immensely flexible unit in its own right. 2. The Stereo 60 preamplifier and control unit. 3. The PZ.5 and PZ. 6 power supplies. A complete system comprises two Z-30's, one Stereo-60 and a PZ-5 or PZ-6. The power supplies differ in that the PZ-6 is stabilised whilst the $\mathrm{PZ}-5$ is not. This means that the former should be used where the highest possible continuous sine wave rating is required. In a normal domestic application there will not be a significant difference between using either power unit unless loudspeakers of very low
efficiency are being used.
In view of the very high performance of an amplifier system built with Project 60 modules, the cost may seem surprisingly low. There are two reasons for this: Firstly, we are the largest producers of this type of module in Europe and we are able therefore to use highly efficient production methods. Secondly, you are not paying for a cabinet which you may not require anyway.
All you need to assemble your system is a screwdriver and a soldering iron. No technical skill or knowledge whatsoever is required and, in the unlikely event of you hitting a problem, our customer service and advice department will put the matter right promptly and willingly. Project 60 modules have been carefully designed to fit easily into virtually every type of plinth or cabinet to provide a complete unit of great compactness. Only holes have to be drilled into the wood of the plinth and any slight slips here will be covered completely by the aluminium front panel of the Stereo 60. The Project 60 manual gives all the instructions you can possibly want clearly and concisely.
Perhaps the greatest beauty of the system is that it is not only flexible now but will remain so in the future. We shall shortly be introducing additional modules which will include a comprehensive filter unit, a stereo F.M. tuner and an even more powerful amplifier for very large systems. These and all other modules we introduce will be compatible with those shown here and may be added to your system at any time.


# z. 30 TWENTY WATT R.M.S. (40 WATT PEAK) HIGH FIDELITY POWER AMPLIFIER 

The $Z .30$ is a complete power amplifier of very advanced design employing 9 silicon epitaxial planar transistors. Total harmonic distortion is incredibly low being only $0.02 \%$ at full output and all lower outputs. As far as we know, no other high fidelity amplifier made can match this specification, no matter what the price. Thus you can be utterly certain that your Project 60 system will do full justice to your other equipment however good it may be. The $Z .30$ is unique in that it will operate perfectly, without adjustment, from any power supply from 8 to 35 volts. It also has sufficient gain to operate directly from a crystal pickup. So in addition to its use in a high fidelity system you can use a 2.30 to advantage in your car or a battery operated gramophone for your children, for example. These, and many other applications of the $Z .30$ are covered in the manual of circuits and instructions supplied with every $Z .30$ high fidelity power amplifier.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Power output -15 wats R.M.S. into 8 ohms using a 35 volt supply: 20 watts R.M.S. into 3 ohms using a 30 volt supply.
Output-Class AB.
Frequency response: $\quad 30$ to $300.000 \mathrm{~Hz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$.
Distortion:
$0.02 \%$ total harmonic distortion at full output into 8 ohms and at all lower output levels. better than 70 dB unweighted.
Input sensitivity: $\quad 250 \mathrm{mV}$ into 100 Kohms . $>500$.
nput sensitivity
Damping factor:
Loudspeaker impedances Power requirements: Size:

3 to 15 ohms.
From 8 to 35 V. d.c. (The $Z .30$ will operate ideally from batteries if required.) $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inches

## 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 2.30 .


## STEREO SIXTY preamplifier and control unit

The Stereo 60 is a stereo preamplifier and control unit designed for the Project 60 rarge but suitable tor use with any high quanty power amplifier. Again silicon epitaxial planar transistors are used throughout and great attention has been paid to achieving a really high signal-to-noise ratio and excellent tracking between the two channels. Input selection is by means of push buttons and accurate equalisation is provided for all the usual inputs. The tone controls are also very carefully designed and tested.

## SPECIFICATIONS

- Input sensitivities-Radio-up to 3 mV Magnetic Pickup-3mV: correct to R.I.A.A. curve $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}: 20$ to $25,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. Ceramic Pickup-up to 3 mV : Auxiliaryup to 3 mV .
- Output-250mV
- Signal-to-noise ratio-better than 70d8.

Channel matching-within 1dB. - Tone Controls-TREBLE +15 to - 15 dB . at $10 \mathrm{KHz}:$ BASS -15 to -15 dB at 100 Hz .

- Power consumption 5 mA .
- Front panel-brusted aluminium with
black knobs and controls.
- Size $8 \frac{1}{4} \times 1 \frac{1}{2} \times 4$ ins.


Ready for immediate installation
£9. 19s. 6d.

## SINCLAIR POWER SUPPLIES



30 volts unstabilised-sufficient to drive two Z 30 's and a Stereo 60 for the majority of domestic applications.

Price: $£ 4.19 \mathrm{~s} . \mathbf{6 d}$.
PZ-6
35 volts stabilised-idealfor drivinatwo Z.30's and a Stereo 60 when very low efficiency speakers are employed.

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## GUARANTEE

If at any time within 3 months of purchasing Project 60 modules from us, you are dissatisfied with them, we will refund your money at once. Each module is guaranteed to work perfectly and should any defect arise in normal use we will s.rvice it at once and without any cost to you whatsoever provided that it is returned to us within 2 years of the ever provided that it is returned to us within 2 years of the purchase date. There will be a small charge for service
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## SINCLAIR Q. 16 <br> 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 successfuldeparture 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 give.


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 $16,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. with exceptional smoothness. A specially designed driver system is used in a sealed and contoured pressure chamber to ensure good transient response at all frequencies. Size: $9 \frac{3}{4}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ square $\times 4 \frac{3}{4}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ deep from front to back.

## £8.19.6

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## Q N C A P M P P A M A C C The world's most successful miniature radio



Specifications
Size:

Weight incl. batteries:
1 oz , ( 28.35 gm ) approx.
Tuning:
Medium wave band with bandspread at
Earpiece.
Earpiece.
Cagse:
Black plastic with anodized aluminium front panel, spun aluminium dial.

Complete kit incl. earpiece, cose, solder and instructions in fitted pack.

49/6
Inc. P/Tox
59/6

USE THIS COUPON FOR MICROMAT


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

Should you not be completely satisfied with your purchase when you receive it from us, return the goods without delay and your money will be refunded in full, including cost of return postage, at once and without question. Full service facilities are available to all Sinclair customers.



Is complete with ample connecting wire and batter
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8 obni impedance, cotuplete with plug and 5 ft lead. A very confortable phone ret. Lieten to stereo without nolse interrupting the pleasure Woaderful value 59/6

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For stereo amplifers without stereo jack sucket 22/6 Plus $1 / 6$ P. \& P
 SOLID STATE BLOCK MODULES Phono pre-amp E1311: input, 100 K ; gain, $28 d b$; max. out, 3 volt; max. in, $50 \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{S}$; power Tape pre-amp E1312, as above. Mic. pre-amp E1313, as above.
Power amplifer E1314: input, 1,000 ohms; Power amplifer E1314: input, 1,000 ohms;
gain, $20 \mathrm{db}, 300 \mathrm{~m} / \mathbf{W}$; power, $9 . \mathbf{v i o l}^{2}$ d.c. gain, $20 \mathrm{hb}, 300 \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{W}$; porer, 9.301 d . $200-1 \mathrm{kHz}$; output, $80 \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{W}$; fower, 9 V ; current, $15 \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{A}$ Dual farker E1318: fisaher time. 1/4 secs: power, iv: current, $150 \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{A}$ lamp, $6 \mathrm{~V} 160 \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{A}$
We also atock the morse code practice modules in this range
ALL AT 25/- Plus $2 /-\mathrm{P}$ \& P
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65/- Pius $7 / 6 \mathrm{P} . \times \mathrm{P}$.
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Prolect to is arange of modules which connect together to form complete stereo amplifler. The modules are: 1. Z-30 high gain power amp. 2. Stereo-40 pre-amp aystem comprises two $2-30$ b, ont Stereo-s0 and a PZ-5 or PZ-4.
STEREO 10 SPECIFICATION
input sensitivities: Radio up to 3 mV . Magnetic Pick-up
$\pm 1 \mathrm{~B}, 20$ to 25.000 Hz Ceramic Pick-up up to 3 mV
 with black knobs and controls Size $81 / 4 \times 1 / 2 \times 4$ in

## 2-30 8PECIMCATIOM

Power outpul: 15 w. R.M.S into 8 ohms using a 35 voli supply Frequency response 30 to $300.000 \mathrm{~Hz}=1 \mathrm{~dB}$ Distortion $0.02 \%$ Signal to noise better than 70 dB Input sensitivity 250 mV into 100 K ohms
3 to 15 ohms Power requirements. from 8 to 35 VDC
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Another high quality bookshelf system from Foster The "Criterion" Mk. It is a sealed infinite baffe type rolled cloth edge and a 2 tin. HF cone type tweeter The compact cabinet is constructed of $\ddagger$ in, laminate with handsome oiled walnut veneer finish and black woven acoustic gauze-front panel with satio $90-20,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. Power Handling io watts. Impedance 8 ohms. HF crossover. Screw Tag connections at rear. Size $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 7 \frac{64}{} \times 6 \mathrm{in}$. The performance of the "Criterion" is superior to many Jarger and more expensive units and at Lasky's exclusive price

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| 5mA . . . . . . . $27 / 6$ | $300 \mathrm{~mA} \mathrm{}. \mathrm{}. \mathrm{}. \mathrm{}. \mathrm{}. \mathrm{27/6}$ | 15 V . A.C... . 27 |
| 10mA . . . . . . $27 / 6$ | 500mA . . . . . . 27/6 | 50 V . A. |
| 750mA .......27/6 | (1) | 150 V . A.C |
| $1 \mathrm{amp} . . . . . . .27 / 6$ | 10V. J), ('.. . . $27 / 6$ | 300 V A.C. |
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| 5 amp . . . . . . 2718 | 20V. D.C., . . $27 / 6$ | ${ }^{\text {N m meter } 1 \mathrm{~m}}$ |
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Directly calibrited variable R.F. at tenuator. Operation Brand new with in Braction. 25.15 .0 .
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| C | dW | 10\% | $4.7 \Omega-10 M \Omega$ | E12 | 2.5 d | 2 d | 1.75d |
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| MO | $\frac{1}{W}$ | 2\% | 18 n -1Mn | E24 | 9 d | 8 d | 7 d |
| $C$ | iw | 10\% | $4.7 \Omega-10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | E12 | 6 d | 5 d | 4 d |
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## INDUSTRY's BEST INVESTMENT

Despite all those interesting developments in computerised design, the electronics industry is far from the stage of being able fully to automate itself in all processes, from conceptual design, through development, to final production and testing of its products. If that day ever comes, it certainly will not be in this decade.

According to the report just published by the Economic Development Committee for the Electronics Industry, on the Economic Assessment to 1972, the U.K. electronics industry will be facing a serious shortage of skilled labour after that year. Any further expansion of the industry will then depend almost solely upon the availability of the right kind of trained and qualified manpower.

Having identified the major problem of the future, the Report makes a number of suggestions relating to education. The most perceptive and important point it makes in this connection is that the industry can do much more to help itself. The Report states that the industry should make greater efforts to improve its image with school leavers; and that more practical assistance is required by schools in order for them to undertake building projects.

Regarding this last point, presumably the EDC is referring to the supply of components, since there is no shortage of design information for projects to suit a wide range of students of various age groups and levels of intelligence. The Schools Council, for example, disseminates information amongst educational establishments, notably in their publication "Project Technology" which lists abstracts of suitable scientific and technological projects selected from a hundred or more different sources, including Practical Electronics. But many schools, especially those at the lower end of the education spectrum, have a limited budget for expenditure on technical pursuits. The electronics industry could afford to act as Mr. Bountiful to a greater degree than at present.

We suspect another obstacle is one frequently encountered by the private constructor-the non-availability through normal distributive channels of some of the more important recently developed circuit devices.

What better recruitment pool can industry wish for than one composed of thousands of youngsters and teenagers who have acquired familiarity with electronic components and have built projects which demonstrate the truth of their text book theory. If the electronics industry is blind to this latent enthusiasm and interest among the younger generation, or refuses to make the special effort required to allow its products to reach these eager hands, it will have no right to complain five or ten years hence of a shortage of skilled manpower. Its future is in its own hands, right now.

## THIS MONTH

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Our June issue will be published on Friday, May 15

[^0]

By C. Cartlidge

THE simple instrument to be described was devised to provide children with an elementary teaching aid for an awareness of musical intervals in the treble stave.

Eight notes, with an appealing harmonic content, are available to the user by simply touching electric contacts with a baton. This eight note, diatonic scale, has syllable, or sol-fa identification so that melodies picked out can be easily sung.

With an overall frequency coverage from 200 Hz to 2 kHz , this instrument can be tuned within the piano range from middle $C$ to nearly three octaves above.

Of course, only eight notes of a diatonic scale can be selected in this range but they can be chosen to suit a voice which means that a key note or commencing note doh, can be any one contained in the first two octaves from middle $C$.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The tone generator circuit is given in Fig. 1. It is a simple astable multivibrator where frequency variation is made possible by linking different resistance values at the points $x-x$.

The chain of pre-set resistors which make up this arm, is given in Fig. 2. Note selection consists of shorting out resistances by applying a probe or baton, at the
appropriate sol-fa annotated contacts. The frequency of the note so selected can be approximately calculated by the equation:-

$$
f=\frac{1}{0 \cdot 7\left(C_{1} \cdot R_{\mathrm{T}}+C_{2} \cdot R_{3}\right)} \mathrm{Hz}
$$

where $R_{T}$ is the total resistance between the base of TR2 and the negative line.

The output is taken from the emitter of TR2 to reduce the effect of loading by the following amplifier which would cause frequency changes.

A suitable amplifier for the output square waves is given in Fig. 3. Here the driver transformer has two secondaries, working in antiphase, two single-ended class B amplifiers. The bias resistor chain R12-R15 are chosen to offset crossover distortion of the output signal, an effect which would be apparent if ideal class B operation is worked.

## POWER OUTPUT

The maximum power produced can easily be estimated in an output stage of this kind, for the output transistors can be considered as causing point $A$ in the Fig. 3 to swing between plus and minus 9 volts. This swing is sinusoidal so that the r.m.s. output voltage is


Fig. I. Circuit of tone generator
$9 / \sqrt{ } 2$. With a 35 ohm speaker load this means that the power available is approximately 1 watt which in practice is more than adequate.

## CONSTRUCTION

The tone generator, with the exception of the trimmers, and the amplifiers are mounted on a single perforated s.r.b.p. board. Wiring pins are used to fix these components and serve as wiring junctions. Fig. 4 shows the component and wiring layout which is entirely on one side of the board.

The exploded view of Fig. 5 shows how the board and associated components are mounted on a 10 in by 5 in by 6 in plywood box. As can be seen, the back panel accommodates the eight note preset controls VR1-VR8; the front panel carries the touch plates for the baton, the amplifier volume control, and combined on/off switch.


Fig. 2. Resistor chain used for varying frequency of tone generator

## TOUCH PLATES

The eight touch plates are made up from 0B.A. nuts, bolts and washers with solder tags to make the connections to the wipers of the preset controls.
The bolts and washers face the panel arranged in a symmetrically spaced diagonal line with the nuts and solder tags completing the assemblies on the opposite face.

For the baton wire a $\frac{1}{4}$ in hole should be drilled and a $\frac{1}{4}$ in by $\frac{5}{32}$ in rubber grommet fitted.

## LOUDSPEAKER

Before fitting the 35 ohm , $3 \frac{3}{8}$ in round loudspeaker, a 3 in hole should be drilled in the end panel and this covered with a piece of plastics grille or fabric.

The s.r.b.p. board should now be mounted, using stand-off bushes and screws, and all flying leads connected.



Fig. 4. Component layout and wiring of the s.r.b.p. board

## BATON

The common contact, or baton, may be made up from a 6 in length of $6 \mathrm{~B} . \mathrm{A}$. brass rod and a 2 ft length of stranded insulated wire connected and soldered to its end. A piece of sleeving is then pushed over the rod so as to cover the connection and leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ in of the rod tip exposed. The free end of the wire should now be connected to the main chassis board.

In the prototype a proprietary test probe terminating on a coaxial plug and socket were used. Whilst this is more expensive it does facilitate easy removal when transporting.

The case panels can now be glued together using triangular wooden fillets at the corners for strength.

TUNING
Initial tuning is as follows. The stave is switched on and the volume control turned up. The baton is applied to the lowest touch plate (low doh in fact) when a note should be heard. This note should fall within the compass of the first three octaves from middle $C$.

Any tonic, or first note, of the chosen scale should now be sounded on a piano within the first two octaves from middle $C$. When this keynote is decided upon,

## COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors

| Resistors |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R1 | $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R9 |
| R2 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R3 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R10 |
| R4 | $260 \Omega$ |  |
| R5 $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R11 | $820 \Omega$ |
| All $\frac{1}{2}$ watt, $10 \%$ carbon | R12 | $2.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| RI3 | $100 \Omega$ |  |

Capacitors

| Capacitors |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{C1}$ | $0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ polyester | C6 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 16 V |
| C 2 | $0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ polyester | C 7 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 16 V |
| C 3 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 16 V |  |  |
| C 4 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 16 V |  |  |

Transistors

| TR1 | OC71 | TR3 | OC8ID |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| TR2 | OC71 | TR4 | OC8I | OR5 | OC8I |

## Loudspeaker

LSI $35 \Omega$ 3in loudspeaker
Potentiometers
VRI-VR8 $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ presets
VR9 $5 k \Omega \log$

## Transformer

TI Transformer T/T5 (Radiospares)

## Miscellaneous

OB.A. bolt, nut, washers and solder tags, plywood, wire, s.r.b.p. board (Lektrokit LK-141), push fit solder pins (Lektrokit LK-301I), 6B.A. brass rod, knob


Fig. 5. Exploded view of the completed musical stave
potentiometer VR1 is carefully adjusted to provide an identical note with the one on the piano.

When this first note has been tuned the baton is held to the touch plate (ray), the second one up, and tuning to the second note of the chosen key on the piano continued.

This procedure is continued for the remaining six notes of the stave.

It should be mentioned here that skeleton presets should not be substituted for the potentiometers VR1-VR8 as the reduced track diameter makes accurate tuning difficult.

Whilst battery deterioration will change the frequency of the tonic, or commencing note of the scale, the drift from original tuning is not important as the intervals between notes will remain the same.

## USING THE STAVE

Anyone who wishes to develop skill in singing from staff notation will find the sol-fa syllables the best mnemonics to the related sounds.

To use this instrument, the simple written melody to be sung should be placed in front of the pupil. Suppose the tune was "Three Blind Mice" in the key of "C Major". Here the tonic is low doh.

With the instrument tuned to this key the baton is applied to the touch plate at low doh. The pupil should sing this tonic $C$ which establishes the key.

The sol-fa pattern is now as follows
Me, ray, doh; me, ray, doh
Soh, fah, me, soh: soh fah, fah, me
Soh, doh', doh', te, lah, te, doh, soh, soh
Soh, doh', doh', doh'. te, lah, te, doh', soh, soh Soh, doh', doh', doh, te, lah, te, doh', soh, soh, soh Fah, me, ray, doh.

After practice in whis key with other simple nursery rhymes, the pupil will have established the link between "solfa-ing", which gives the sounds, and the tune's staff notation, which gives the musical symbols.

Other keys can be tried if the stave is retuned. Here, of course, low doh will be the tonic of the new scale.


# MARINE TACHOMETER 

By C. M. Dance and D. W. Nelson

Boating is an increasingly popular pastime and is now within the financial reach of almost everyone. The tachometer described in this article is designed to aid the small boat owner particularly when using an outboard motor.
This tachometer can also be used with almost any engine, including motorcycle and car engines

APart from the normal safety precautions one takes while "riding the waves" it is worth sparing a thought for the boat's engine; after all a motor car engine is well monitored by instruments so why not a marine engine. To monitor the engine revs is a very useful thing when dealing with a high revving outboard motor, not only for the obvious reasons as regards fuel economy and engine life but also with respect to "cavitation". This is the phenomenon whereby air gets trapped in and around the propeller blades giving rise to very poor engine performance. By employing a tachometer, cavitation may be easily spotted and corrected-a sharp increase in engine revs would indicate that cavitation is taking place.
The unit described is ideal for a one or two cylinder two-stroke outboard engine of either the magneto or battery type.

## TACHOMETER CIRCUIT

The tachometer circuit is shown in Fig. 1. A simple monostable multivibrator is used (TR1 and TR2); TR1 is normally non-conducting (this being the stable state), its base being held at three volts positive by the bias battery. C2 and R3 form a differentiating network giving one positive and one negative pulse for each input square wave from the contact breakers. Diode D1 is employed to eliminate the positive going spike and ensures reliable triggering. The average current in the collector of TR1 is monitored by a 500 microamp moving coil meter which acts as a simple pulse integrator. Since the collector current will be directly proportional to the triggering frequency, determined by
the engine revolutions, the meter may be directly calibrated in terms of revs per minute. The accuracy of the reading is determined essentially by the accuracy of the meter used. The meter used was the edgewise type and could be either a Sew or a Taylor type. Of course the larger the meter used the better, but any $0-500$ microammeter may be used with reasonable accuracy.


Fig. I. Circuit diagram of the marine tachometer

The meter scale can be altered to read directly in engine revs per minute, the relevant maximum revs as quoted by the engine manufacturer being marked directly on the new scale.

Practically any transistors may be used in the circuit without affecting performance. Good quality silicon transistors will decrease the effect of temperature on circuit operating conditions.

## TACHOMETER CONSTRUCTION

Tag board may be used to accommodate the components if desired although in the original unit a printed circuit board was employed to give greater reliability. The circuit board is shown actual size in Fig. 2 together with component layout and wiring details. When making the board it is best to trace around the diagram shown and use this as a pattern.

## COMPONENTS . . .

```
Resistors
    RI lk\Omega
    R2 560!2
    R3 lk\Omega
    R5 4.7k\Omega
    R6 560\Omega
```

    R4 \(39 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad\) All \(10^{\circ} \frac{1}{4}\) watt carbon
    Capacitors
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { C1 } & 0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F} 200 \mathrm{~V} \\ \text { C2 } & 0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 200 \mathrm{~V}\end{array}$
C3 100pF

## Semiconductors

TRI, 2 OC44 or equivalent (2 off) DI OA8I

## Miscellaneous

MI $500 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ moving coil meter (edgewise type)
VRI IkS skeleton preset potentiometer
SI D.P.S.T. toggle switch
BYI, 2 3V battery ( 2 off)
Copper laminate board $2 \frac{5}{8}$ in $\times 2 \frac{1}{2}$ in Case (see text)
Clips and 6B.A. fixings


After etching away the excess copper the respective holes are drilled using a 0.8 mm drill It is advisable to use a heat sink such as a pair of long nosed pliers when soldering the transistors and diodes into place. To fix the variable resistor VRI in place it will be necessary to enlarge the two drilled holes slightly I cut off one of the connecting pins. To facilitate manting the board. three holes are provided, the copper being etched away around the hole in the -3 V segment. Screws and spacers are used to mount the panel.

The entire unit plus batteries is best housed in a plastic or Duraloy box to minimise temperature effects and protect the unit against the elements. In the prototype a 4 in $\times 3$ in $\times 4$ in case was used to house the meter, batteries and circuit board, the batteries being firmly located in the case using spring clips which are insulated from the case with fibre washers and nylon screws.


Fig. 2. Circuit board layout and wiring diagram

Completed tachometer housed in a water resistant case, showing the linear meter scale for a maximum r.p.m. reading of 8,000


Table I. TACHOMETER CALIBRATION FREQUENCY CORRESPONDING TO 1,000 r.p.m.

|  | Frequency |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No. of cylinders | 2 stroke | stroke |
| 1 | 16.7 Hz | 8.4 Hz |
| 2 | 33.4 Hz | 16.7 Hz |
| 3 | 50 Hz | 33.4 Hz |
| 4 | - | 50 Hz |
| 6 | - | 67 Hz |
| 8 |  |  |

The connection marked $O V(B)$ in Fig. 2 is taken to the centre connection of BY1 and BY2, to earth on the tachometer case and to earth on the engine.

In the case of multi-cylinder engines, triggering pulses may be obtained by connecting the zero rail (B) to the engine chassis, and one end of Rl(A) to the contact breakers. For a single cylinder engine, pulses may be obtained either as above or by using a ten turn pick up coil of $24 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. enamelled copper wire wound around the spark plug h.t. lead and connected to (A).

## CALIBRATION

Once the device has been completed, it is ready for calibration. Before the actual calibration is carried out the full scale reading of M1 must be decided upon, this will depend on the engine with which the tachometer is to be used but will probably be in the region of 6,000 to 8,000 r.p.m. Once the full scale reading has been decided the meter scale can be divided up into equal 1,000 r.p.m. segments. The meter can then be adjusted for zero using the set screw on the meter case.

Calibration is best carried out using a low frequency square wave generator giving an output of between 6 and 10 volts. The frequency settings to give a reading corresponding to 1,000 r.p.m. are shown in Table 1.

These frequencies are given for both two stroke and four stroke engines, enabling the tachometer to be used with almost any engine.

To calibrate the tachometer the required frequency is selected and VRI adjusted so that the meter indicates 1,000 r.p.m.

The device may also be calibrated by direct comparison with another, tachometer if desired. By this method both tachometers are placed in parallel, the engine throttled up to a suitable speed and VR1 adjusted so that both tachometer readings are the same.

Once calibration has been carried out the resistance of VRI may be determined and a high quality wire wound resistor used in its place if desired, thus minimising temperature effects.

One last point is worth mentioning; unless the unit is to be fitted inside a car it should be waterproofed to protect the components from the elements.

## PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS

## INDEX

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THe bistable multivibrator described last month can be extended to provide some useful switching functions. A gated alarm system described below uses a bistable, whereby trigger pulses set the circuit to switch on an oscillator.

Further modification to the basic bistable circuit can convert it to perform binary division, as described later.

## GATED ALARM

The $\mu$-Dec circuit shown in Fig. 6.1 illustrates the 5 mA bistable, considered previously, coupled to an audio frequency relaxation oscillator. Except for TR3, the oscillator is exactly the same as that described in last month's article. The circuit is set initially so that TR2 is on. This can be done by momentarily shorting the base and emitter leads of TR1.

When TR2 is on, its collector voltage is approximately zero, so there will be no base current path for TR3. This transistor is therefore off, so TR4 is also off, for TR3 and TR4 are connected in series.
If the trigger link of Cl is in socket $2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{Cl}$ will be charged to the supply voltage. On swinging the trigger link to socket $1 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{Cl}$ will discharge, then on swinging
back to 2C, the circuit will trigger. TR2 turns off on triggering, and its collector voltage rises to that of the supply. R7 is now able to pass base current into TR3 which switches on; this in turn allows the relaxation oscillator to operate and produce an audible alarm note. The alarm is reset by a similar operation of the trigger link of capacitor C2. The base current resistor R7 is easily calculated.

The on collector current of TR4 is chosen as 2 mA , so assuming a minimum $h_{\text {Fe }}$ of 20 , the maximum base current which must be supplied will be 0.1 mA . Thus $R_{7}=6 / 0 \cdot 1=60$ kilohms ( $68 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ can be used). The circuit can be assembled on a pair of S-Decs or one $\mu$-Dec as shown in the photograph.

## SPEED-UP OR COMMUTATING CAPACITORS

The presence of stray base-emitter capacitances has been ignored in the paragraphs above. Although these strays are small, they are not necessarily unimportant, for it must be noted that they must be charged by the applied trigger voltage before the base voltages reach their triggering values.


Fig. 6.1. Gated alarm circuit with $\mu-\mathrm{DeC}$ connections. The bistable TR1 and TR2 triggers a relaxation oscillator TR4 and TR5 via TR3. The sound is amplified by TR6 and TRT and fed to an 80 ohm loudspeaker. Positive and negative trigger pulses are supplied by the connection of Cl or C2 to either supply rail


The strays reduce the rates at which the base voltages change, and if the rates are so slow that the trigger pulse has been removed before any appreciable change can take place in a base voltage, triggering may not occur. This possibility can be eliminated by connecting speedup or commutating capacitors between the collector of each transistor and the base of the other as shown in Fig. 6.2a.
With the speed-up capacitor in the circuit, any change in voltage at the collector of, say, TR2 will be coupled rapidly to the base of TRI provided that the speed-up capacitor is large enough to swamp the effect of the stray at the base of TRI. We are in effect, converting an integrating circuit comprising the coupling resistor R2, in series with the input impedance of the transistor, into a differentiating circuit, comprising C and the

(a)

Fig. 6.2a. Speed-up capacitors marked $C$ are connected across the coupling resistors to ensure triggering


Fig. 6.3a. Bistable used as a binary divider
input impedance of the transistor. The effects are illustrated in Fig. 6.2b.

The calculation of suitable values for speed-up capacitors is difficult, the equations requiring a knowledge of the physical processes which take place within a transistor when it is switched from a state of saturation to cut-off. The usual procedure is to find by trial and error a value which ensures reliable switching at the highest operational trigger frequency.

## BINARY DIVIDER

We saw in the previous article how the bistable multivibrator could be switched by the application of SET and RESET trigger pulses. The circuit acted as a "gate", being "opened" by the SET pulse and "closed" by the reset pulse. A useful modification is achieved by connecting both the input terminals together in such a way that triggering takes place on receipt of any of a train of input pulses.

A bistable multi operated in this way is called a "binary divider". A circuit is shown in Fig. 6.3a. Note that this circuit is the same as that shown in Fig. 5.5 of the previous article except that the SET and RESET terminals have been strapped together as a single trigger input.

The important voltage waveforms of the circuit are shown in Fig. 6.3b. Note that since we are assuming that $n p n$ transistors are used, triggering occurs on the negative-going edges of the input pulses (see last month's article).


Fig. 6.2b. The effect of applying commutating capacitors to overcome the stray capacitors $C_{s}$


Fig. 6.3b. Waveforms for the binary divider

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Fig. 6.4. Circuit of practical square wave generator and $\div \mathbf{2}$ divider with $T$-Dec connections

## BINARY DIVISION

Suppose that the link S in Fig. 6.3a is momentarily closed to ensure that TR1 is off. The collector voltage $V_{c_{1}}$ of this transistor will therefore be at the supply voltage $V_{\mathrm{CC}}$. The collector voltage of TR2 will be approximately zero. Now if a train of trigger pulses is applied to the trigger input $T$, the circuit will switch on receipt of each member of the train, and voltage changes, such as those illustrated in Fig. 6.3b, will occur. Examination of these waveforms immediately shows up an important property of the circuit: for every two input pulses, there will be one output pulse. The circuit acts as a "divide by two" or binary divider.

## CIRCUIT EXAMPLE

A demonstration circuit is shown in Fig. 6.4. It consists of a low frequency astable multivibrator (TR 1 and TR2), a binary divider (TR3 and TR4), and lamp driver stages TR5 and TR6. The outputs from the astable multi and the binary are made visible simultaneously. Component values for the circuit are calculated according to the design procedures outlined in previous articles in this series.

An alternative demonstration circuit can be made up by increasing the frequency of the astable multi to about 2 kHz and replacing the lamp driver stages by simple amplifiers each driving a small loudspeaker. The circuit shown earlier in connection with the gated alarm would be suitable.

## BINARY COUNTER

If a number of binaries are connected in cascade, division of a train of input pulses by $2,4,8,16$, and so on, occurs at each output. However, in addition to this property of frequency division, the circuit can also be used to count the number of trigger pulses applied.


Square wave generator and $\div \mathbf{2}$ divider made up on $T$-Dec
To see how this is achieved, first let us label the collectors of TR1 and TR2 in Fig. 6.4 by $\overline{\text { Q }} 1$ and Q1 respectively. Now suppose that four binaries are connected in cascade; the Q output of binary 1 is connected to the T input of binary 2; the Q 2 output of binary 2 is connected to the T input of binary 3 , and so on. This is illustrated in Fig. 6.5.

Further, suppose that each of the binaries is first set so that TR1 is off and TR2 is on. This could be done by means of a trigger link such as S shown in Fig. 6.3a.


Fig. 6.5. Block diagram of a binary counter chain of dividers with trigger inputs T2, T3, T4 switchable to either preceding binary output

## Table 6.I. LOGIC OUTPUT FROM EACH STAGE

| Input |  |  |  |  | $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{1} \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{2} \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{3} \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{4}$ |  |  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{Q}_{1} \mathbf{Q}_{2} \mathbf{Q}_{3} \mathbf{Q}_{4}$ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Initial condition Just after pulse no. |  |  |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | I | 1 |
|  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 1 |  | I | 1 |
| ,' | ," | , | , | 2 | 0 |  | 1 | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 | 1 |
| " | ," | , | , | 3 | 1 |  | 1 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 | 1 |
| " | $\infty$ | , | , | 4 | 0 |  | 0 | 1 |  | 0 | 1 | 1 |  | 0 | 1 |
| , | , | ", | , | 5 | 1 |  | 0 | 1 |  |  | 0 | 1 |  | 0 | I |
| " | , | " | " | 6 | 0 |  | 1 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 | 0 |  | 0 | 1 |
| " | " | , | " | 7 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 1 |
| " | " | " | " | 8 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  | I | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 0 |
| " | " |  | , | 9 | 1 |  | 0 | 0 |  |  | 0 | 1 |  | 1 | 0 |
|  | " |  |  | 10 | 0 |  | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 0 |  | 1 | 0 |
|  | " |  |  | 11 | 1 |  | 1 | 0 |  |  | 0 | 0 |  | 1 | 0 |
|  | , |  | , | 12 | 0 |  | 0 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 0 | 0 |

The collector voltage of each TRI transistor is now equal to the supply voltage $V$ (cc, while each TR2 collector voltage is almost zero.

Label these collector voltages by means of a " 0 " or a " 1 ". Let $V_{\text {cC }}$ be donated by " 0 ", and zero voltage be denoted by " 1 ". (This uses a system known as negative logic.) Thus at the start, all the $\overline{\mathrm{Q}}$ outputs are at " 0 " and all the Q outputs are at "l". This situation is shown in the first row of Table 6.1.

## LOGIC SWITCHING

Now let a negative-going pulse be applied to the input T1. Because it is negative-going, it causes the first binary to switch so the collector of TRI drops from $V \mathrm{cc}$ to almost zero voltage while the collector of TR2 rises from almost zero voltage to $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{cr}}$. In other words, $\bar{Q} 1$ changes from " 0 " to " 1 " while Q1 changes from " 1 " to " 0 ".
The Q1 change is coupled to input T2 of the second binary, but because it is a rising voltage (i.e. positivegoing) it has no effect on this second binary. Now apply a second trigger to the first binary.

It switches again, but this time $\overline{\mathrm{Q}} 1$ changes from "1" to " 0 " while Q1 changes from " 0 " to " 1 ". This change in Q1 is negative-going, so it causes the second binary to switch. Thus $\bar{Q} 2$ changes from " 0 " to "I" while Q 2 changes from " 1 " to " 0 ". The change in Q 2 is positive-going so has no effect on binary 3 .


Fig. 6.6. Collector voltage waveforms of the binary counter

If we allow more and more input pulses to trigger binary 1, Q1 causes binary 2 to trigger whenever it changes from " 0 " to " I "; Q3 causes binary 3 to switch whenever it changes from " 0 " to " 1 ", and so on. The successive states of the outputs are shown in Table 6.1 and also in Fig. 6.6 which shows the collector voltage waveforms.

## DECIMAL TO BINARY

Now consider something quite different. Taking a decimal number such as 5 , we can write this number as the sum of a succession of powers of 2 as follows: $5=1 \times 2^{0}+0 \times 2^{1}+1 \times 2^{2}+0 \times 2^{3}$. (Note that any number raised to the power zero equals 1.)

Similarly, the decimal number 6 can be written as:

$$
6=0 \times 2^{0}+1 \times 2^{1}+1 \times 2^{2}+0 \times 2^{3}
$$

For each row of " 0 "s and "1"s in Table 6.1, the decimal number is given in the left-hand column. They are read in the same way as the " 0 "s and " 1 "s which precede the multiplication signs in the two examples above.

Thus the states of the output terminals $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$ immediately tell us how many input trigger pulses have been applied. up to a maximum determined by the number of binaries in the cascade. The number appears however in binary notation rather than in decimal notation.

Part 7 next month is the final article in this series, in which the binary divider circuit is further expanded to make a decade divider.

## CORRECTION

In the article on the "Monostable Multi" in the February issue, the following line should be inserted immediately after equation 1 (page 151): "which shows the change in voltage that takes place following triggering".

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Time Division Multiplex Slide Display

Atri-picture colour slide display, in which any combination of three adjacent screens can show one, two, or three pictures at once, is being used with an exhibition touring the designated area of new Milton Keynes city development in Buckinghamshire

The fully automatic display, produced by Viscon Ltd., employs time division multiplex pulsed tape recordings, with sound track, and nine 35 mm Kodak projectors. The electronic control equipment is being provided by Electrosonic Ltd. A similar type of display for the Irish Government will be used at the Osaka World Fair in Japan.

## Post Office Progress

THE first few months of 1970 have seen more than one jump ahead, in technical methods, by the Post Office. A fully automatic telephone service for every telephone customer in the United Kingdom came a step nearer recently when the Post Office's North-East Region became the first region in the country to have all its telephones working through automatic exchanges.

This milestone was reached with the opening of a new electronic telephone exchange at Corbridge, Northumberland. It was the last manually operated exchange in the region to be converted to automatic working.

The Post Office-space aerial at Goonhilly in Cornwall recently handled the first television broadcasts between this country and the new Australian aerial at Ceduna in South Australia. This is the beginning of regularly available direct television service with Australia.

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$T^{\circ}$THE man in the street, the "BBC Radiophonic Workshop" conjures up all sorts of pictures. The immediate association is with radio and television programmes like "Dr. Who", with its science fiction sound effects, which the Radiophonic Workshop provides, as well as the electronic signature tune. How are these sounds and music made?

THE BBC Radiophonic Workshop was formed in 1958, after experimental work in the field of radio drama had developed a need for special sound montages and sound treatments. A prime factor in the development of this form of creative art, was the increasing use of magnetic tape in the production studio itself, as opposed to the recording channel where the whole production was finally recorded.

Any sound effects used in programmes were usuatly from pre-recorded discs, played in at the right moment and mixed with the microphone output. The use of tape machines in the studio control cubicle meant that complete scenes could be pre-mixed; more complex sound backgrounds could be built up than would have been possible with a limited number of disc playing machines for live performances.

Most of the experimental work had to be done in spare time when studios and, more important, tape machines were freely available. These tape machines were normally used to record rehearsal work in drama studios, and were half track, $7 \frac{1}{2}$ and $15 \mathrm{in} /$ second record/replay machines, no separate monitoring head being fitted.

Producers soon became aware of the new aspect that imaginative sound could give to radio productions, and many writers, including Louis MacNeice, Frederick Bradnum and Giles Cooper, were inspired to write with the idea of special creative sound treatment in mind.
Since its inauguration, the BBC Radiophonic Workshop has expanded both physically in size and in output, from the initial concept and dentand for use in radio drama to the entire broadcasting spectrum. It now contributes material for television, the BBC World Service (sound), British sound radio programmes, including religious broadcasting, and political broadcasts.

All the sound pictures, no matter how simple or complicated, are made up using ordinary tape machines, signal generators, filters, sticky tape, razor blades and a lot of imagination.

## BASIC EQUIPMENT

The tape machines used now are single track, $\frac{1}{1} \mathrm{in}$, $7 \frac{1}{2}$ and $15 \mathrm{in} /$ second, with separate record and replay heads. The majority are Philips EL 3566, three of these being in each of the three workshop areas. This uniformity is desirable so that flexibility and interchangeability can be maintained, and so that at least three tracks can be played simultaneously and stay in synchronisation with each other. This is the most important facility at the Workshop's disposal.
There is also another facility that is extremely useful: the ability to play tapes at speeds other than twice or half the recorded speed. This facility is provided by variable speed Leevers-Rich tape recorders, which are used to "tune" basic sounds. The tape speed can be continuously varied from $0-40 \mathrm{in} / \mathrm{sccond}$, or in fixed steps corresponding to musical intervals. These machines are capable of being used for stereo work, having stacked record and replay heads.
Two Ampex recorders, an EMl TR90 and a BTR/2 and a number of Ferrographs complete the tape machine line up.


Fig. 1. Typical block diagram of a sound effects set-up for adding effects to a programme

## SOUND SOURCES

The signal generators produce both sine and square waveforms over a frequency range 10 Hz to 100 Hz . Two other signal generators produce sine waves only, but with continuous frequency sweep. Modulated output is also available. These are used in conjunction with an accurate master oscillator that is used as a reference when tuning.

The electronic sound sources are completed with a "white noise" generator, which produces a sound like escaping steam. This can be filtered to give different "shades" of sound, "pink noise", "brown noise", and so on.

All electronic signal generators produce no noise in themselves, and the "note" is only heard when converted into sound energy by the loudspeaker. One
virtue of this is that, as these sounds are recorded directly, they*are not marred by extraneous noises, and can be treated "on the way" to the recording machine.

## FILTERS

The filters used are of two types, passive and active. In the first type, the sound is attenuated at certain frequencies, i.e. $3,200,1,600,800,400,200 \mathrm{~Hz}$ top cut, and $220,440,880$, and $1,760 \mathrm{~Hz}$ bass cut. Being passive filters, there is no compensating amplification and the sound level or volume is decreased with increasing filtering.

The active filters consist mainly of BBC designed equipment which give top cut and boost, bass cut and boost, and a peak at certain selectable frequencies around $1-5 \mathrm{kHz}$, to give "presence" effect.


General view of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop. In the background is a bank of signal generators, keying unit and oscilloscope. The EMI BTR/2 tope recorder is in the centre. Behind this are the jackfields associated with the mixing desk (behind TR90 recorder on left)

Both types of filters have bypass switches fitted, which progressively insert or remove the effect of the filter, so that certain prerecorded sounds can be filtered if necessary without affecting adjacent passages. A new sound quality can also be created gradually for dramatic effect, and equally gradually removed, without any sudden audible step which might disturb and break continuity of mood.

Other filters available are octave and one third octave filters for more specialist work.

These are the tools of the trade, and with one other important item, the microphone, the scene is set for work. Every sound that can be recorded is our basic material, and anything that gives the required sound is pressed into service, including the human voice.

## WORKSHOP LAYOUT

As each of the three "Workshop" areas is similarly equipped, a description of the basic pattern of equipment may not come amiss.
another for treatment such as "feedback", and the third for recording the final result.

It should be understood that in all references to sound treatment by means of tape machines, the machines are of the three head type, i.e. with separate record and replay heads.

A word about "feedback", a phenomenon quite common these days. If a tape machine is set to "record" and the machine's replay fader is left open on the desk, a "howl-round" or feedback path is established.

If this feedback is controlled, a repetitive echo is obtainable, the repetition rate of which is dependent upon the distance between the recording and replay heads and tape speed. Reference to Fig. 2 will clarify and also be useful in understanding an extension of this phenomenon.

If a second tape machine is used, and the tape laced up as shown, a longer delay will be obtained; this is
tape machine 2 set to 'recoro'


Fig. 2. Obtaining feedback effects with a sound repetition rate based on the distance between replay and record heads

Dominating the studio, is the control panel or mixing desk. This has a number of channels or faders (usually 12 or more); to each fader is connected a sound source which can be one of two types: high or low level. High level sources are tape machines, signal generators and disk players; low level sources, microphones and electronic pick-ups fitted to guitars and other instruments. See Fig. 1.

It is from the mixing panel that the recording chain is fed. This panel also houses the filters, echo mixture facilities and things like remote start circuits, cue lights, line-up reference tone and talkback circuits.

A minimum of three tape machines, a bank of signal generators, a disc playing desk, a jackfield (of terrifying appearance) and a loudspeaker complete the scene. Various other items of local development are available as "optional extras", but are not part of the basic equipment nor present in every studio.

## SOUND TREATMENT

For sound treatment or manipulation, a basis of three tape machines is needed; unless a sound is to be treated "live", one machine is used for playback,
because the record head to replay head distance has increased to $d_{2}$ instead of $d_{1}$. By moving the machines apart according to the time required, a pattern can be created in sympathy with the original sound pattern.

This technique, with a pre-recorded track played from another machine, makes use of three identical machines, but the final recording is safely recorded on machine 2 and wound up on machine 3 .

Exponents of the art will be quick to see many possibilities in this. Two delayed echoes (why not use both machines' outputs?) can be filtered on their respective channels, and reverberation can be added. In fact, the original sound can be removed altogether, and a new sound formed which contains a flavour of the original. If a mistake is made and a restart is necessary, all faders are closed down to let the system clear itself, otherwise the piece of sound on the tape between the machines will start the montage off on a wrong note.

## ECHO

Echo, or reverberation, has been mentioned as a facility for treating sound. The Radiophonic Workshop has, over the past 12 years, used four types of


This photograph shows the mixing desk with quadrant type faders. Immediately above those on the right are preset level controls, echo select, echo mixture and group switches. Above those on the left are four passive filters. The centre section contains remote start facilities, cue light, talkback and line-up tone keys, and a peak programme meter
reverberation: the echo room, a magnetically coated revolving drum, a steel plate, and springs.

The echo room is a sound proof room, with bare walls to assist sound reflections. At one end is a loudspeaker fed from the echo mixture switches on the control panel, and at the other end a microphone picks up the reflected sounds.

The revolving drum system has a magnetic coating around the circumference, and erase, recording and up to eight replay heads are placed around the periphery. These heads are all set at about one "thou" away from the coating. The sound is fed to the record head, and picked off, by either a single replay head or all eight, to give "echo". This tends to be noisy and, because of the necessary gap between head and revolving drum, gives rather inferior quality compared with that of the input.

The plate system consists of a steel plate suspended on edge; a contact transducer feeds the sounds on to the plate while a contact microphone picks up the reflected sounds.

The echo spring technique is often found in electronic organs, and consists of a single or double row of springs fitted to a transducer, which converts the sounds fed to the device into mechanical vibrations. These are transmitted along the springs, re-converted into electrical energy by another transducer, and fed back to the control desk.

The reverberation times of the spring device and echo room are fixed, although variations can be achieved by moving the microphone nearer or further away from the loudspeaker in the echo room. The drum type echo time could be varied by choosing a replay head a different distance from the record head. The reverberation time of the plate is dependent upon the amount of damping applied.
Echo is derived from the sound source by splitting the sound into two separate paths, "direct" and "echo". The "direct" sound continues through the control desk to the output, where it is mixed with the
echoed sound from the echo device. A proportional switch is used to feed the echo signal to the echo device. Up to the halfway position more direct sound is audible; past this point more echo is obtained.

Whilst on the subject of echo, tape can be used to modify the reverberation times, if only a fixed time is available on the device.

Echo added to a tape played at double speed will be twice as long when recorded at double speed and replayed at normal speed. Hence, a fixed reverberation time factor of $\times 2$ is applied. Conversely, adding echo to a tape played at half-speed and recording at halfspeed, will result in the echo being sharper and brighter when played at normal speed again. This facility is one in which a two speed machine is essential.

## SPEED CHANGE

Speed change plays an important part in sound treatment, not only for comic effect. Whilst it is a useful tool, often a change in speed is required without a change in pitch, or conversely, a change in pitch is required without alteration in the time scale. At first sight these two seem inseparable, but by means of a special piece of equipment this paradoxical problem can be overcome.

This equipment makes use of a head that rotates either in the direction of the tape movement or against it, at different selectable speeds.

With constant tape speed, and the head stationary, it behaves as a normal replay head and no pitch change is evident. Rotation in the same direction as tape movement causes a lowering of pitch, and in the opposite direction, of higher pitch. The tape can be driven at higher or lower speeds to decrease or increase time scales. The rotating head is used to maintain original tape/head speed ratio, and keeps the pitch constant.

Next month, special techniques in editing and obtaining sound effects and electronic music effects will be described.


## ORBITING OBSERVATORY

The second orbiting astronomical observatory, which is making its first survey of the sky in the ultra violet region, has discovered that there is a hydrogen cloud round the nucleous of the new comet designated Tag-Sato-Kosaka. The first signals in the ultra violet region were picked up on January 14, and the observatory spent about ten minutes a day till the end of February locked on to the comet.

The team from Wisconsin University under the leadership of $\operatorname{Dr} \mathrm{A}$. Code is responsible for this work and, as this is the first time that the ionised hydrogen has been detected, it represents an important "first". Previously it had not been possible to detect this phenomena from ground based detectors and it is an indication of the vastness of the field opened up by space observatories. In this particular experiment it is hoped that more will be learned about the mass loss from the comet.

Comets in their journey round the sun at perihelion are subject to solar heating which drives off dust and gases. The characteristic tail is produced which can stretch for over one hundred million miles and up to ten million miles wide. The hydrogen cloud is suspected to be as large as the sun itself.

## MANNED ORBITING OBSERYATORY

In 1972 three men will be launched in the first of the manned observatories. The Apollo telescope mount will be one component of a vehicle which will consist of an Apollo command module and service module together with a Saturn workshop. The first flight will last 28 days and then the crew will return to earth to be replaced by another crew who will spend twice this period in orbit.
The vehicle, which will be the forerunner of the projected orbiting space station, will carry a number of instruments including a coronagraph designed by the staff of the high altitude laboratory at Boulder, Colorado. Two models have been made and delivered for testing; one will be tested in a 100 ft vacuum tunnel with an artificial sun, and the other will be tested later at a height of 118,000 feet suspended from a helium balloon.

The coronagraph is an instrument designed by Lyot to produce artificial eclipses of the sun. The instrument is pointed at the sun and a disc in the tube adjusted to be equal to the image of the sun, allowing the corona to be studied.

When used as earth based instruments serious disadvantages are caused by the absorption and scattering of the sunlight by the earth's atmosphere. It is hoped that the spaceborne instruments will be able to photograph the corona out to a much greater distance from the sun. Dr G . Newkirk is hoping that it will be possible to study the corona out to a distance of six solar radii as compared to one to two solar radii with the best earth based instruments.

## X-RAY STAR

Centaurus XR4 appeared in an area of sky in 1969 where no object had been seen before, and it is predicted by a group at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, who have studied it during its lifetime, that it will flare up again in the near future. This prediction is based on the knowledge of the behaviour of a $D Q$ Hucilis type of Nova which has a double peaked light curve, and the behaviour of Cen XR-4 which appears by observation to be similar.
If this prediction should prove to be true the way to the better understanding of one type of nova will be open.

## EARTH BULGE

The gravitational pull of the moon on the earth produces the ocean tides which are easily measured. Also, there is a corresponding tide of the earth's crust but this is very difficult to measure. The large errors which arise are because of wide changes in temperature and also the change of gravity brought about by the effects of the large bodies of water which are displaced by the tides.

A team from the Lamont-Doherty geological observatory have set up an array of 13 sensitive gravimeters on the 40th parallel and with the help of other colleges and universities have been able to continuously monitor changes for six months. The accuracy of the measurements are such that the changes in the radius of the earth can be assessed within one centimetre. The average change is about 30 cm every 12 hours corres-
ponding with the tidal changes due to the pull of the moon.

It has been noted that the effects of the oceanic movements acts much farther inland that was thought to be the case. There is also the possibility that the movements in the crust are a contributory factor in earthquake outbreaks.

## INFRA-RED TELESCOPE READY

The 40 in infra-red telescope built by the staff of Imperial College under the leadership of Prof. J. Ring, will shortly go into service at Silwood Park, Ascot, where the outstation of the group is situated.

The infra-red telescope is a flux collector and in technical jargon often referred to as a "light bucket". The 40 in paraboloid is of novel design and the collector is a 60in flat which directs the infra-red light to the paraboloid.

Because there are difficulties in the production of a 60 in flat in one piece it is made up of a circle of six hexagons with a hole in the middle where the seventh would be. It is through this that the rays are directed on to the detectors. Plans are already under way for a 60 in paraboloid and the glass bank is being polished by Grubb Parsons.

Design studies are under way for an eventual 120 in flux collector and the sites for the larger ones will need to be in areas where the water vapour problem is least. Two possible sites are one at Tenerife and another in the Sierra Mountains of Spain.
The improvement of the 60in over the 40 in is considerable. While the 40 in will have an image size of about thirty seconds of arc the 60 in will be reduced to an image size one second of arc.

## REDUCTION OF FIRE RISK

Another spin off benefit from the space programme is the development of a chemical which is so resistant to flame and so versatile in use that it can be applied in industry, the home and transport. The material can be sprayed onto surfaces which will then resist temperatures up to twice the level at which they would normally catch fire.

This development arises out of the investigations into the fire in the Apollo spacecraft in which Grissom, White and Chaffee lost their lives.

The new product has the trade name of Fluorel, is a copolymer containing two fluorides whose action is to increase in resistance to heat as the temperature rises. It can be used as a solid, paint or foam and will fireproof materials up to a temperature of 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit in an atmosphere of 100 per cent oxygen.

Some idea of this breakthrough can be gained by comparing the ignition point of paper 800 degrees Fahrenheit, plywood at 900 degrees Fahrenheit and canvas at 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit in an atmosphere of 20 per cent oxygen.


$\mathrm{A}^{4}$ll matter is made up of atoms，which are bonded together by electrical forces．An atom consists of a positively charged central core or nucleus，with negatively charged electrons circling around it in fixed orbits．An atom of a particular element is charac－ terised by a specific number of orbital electrons－copper has 29－and the total electron charge cancels out the positive charge of the nucleus．
In certain circumstances，atoms can be encouraged to release or capture electrons，as well as share them with neighbouring atoms，and these exchanges deter－ mine the basic operating principle of any electronic device．

We are concerned here with only three classes of matter，conductors，insulators，and semiconductors． When copper atoms are united to form，say，a wire conductor，the binding force between the outermost electrons and the parent nuclei is weakened，and some electrons are freed to wander at random among the atoms．
In the case of an insulator，the electrons remain tightly bound to the nuclei and are not available to act as carriers of an electric charge，except when released by high temperatures or high voltages．
Semiconductors can be explained，in a simplified way， by considering them as insulators which have been modified by the addition of impurity atoms to become a special type of conductor．

## METALLIC CONDUCTORS

Atoms are arranged in a regular pattern or lattice in a solid metallic conductor，with free electrons distributed between the atoms．At absolute zero temperature，the atoms and free electrons are stationary，but room temperatures will cause the electrons to move about at random，and the atoms to vibrate within the confines of the lattice．

The most important consequence of thermal motion is that it increases the likelihood of collisions between free electrons and atoms．The resistance of a con－ ductor depends on the number of free electrons available to act as carriers，and on the number of collisions．


Fig．2．I．Conduction in a liquid solution

期要要


Certain atoms or groups of atoms take on an excess of electrons, while others lose electrons. In other words, the atoms become electrically charged and are termed ions.

The ionisation is purely a result of the acid going into solution, and has nothing to do with any external or internal electric current. Ions in a solution move very slowly under the action of an electric current, just a few thousandths of a centimetre per second.

If a battery is connected to two platinum electrodes which are immersed in acidulated water to form a cell, as in Fig. 2.1, electron's will flow into the negative electrode and attract positively charged hydrogen ions from the solution.
The electrons combine with the hydrogen ions to create hydrogen atoms, which are then given off in the
form of gas bubbles. At the same time, negatively charged hydroxyl ions are attracted from the solution to the positive electrode, where they liberate electrons and are converted into oxygen and water.

The oxygen bubbles off and the water is returned to the solution. The above description is simplified, but it does serve to show that so-called conduction in a solution really consists of an electro-chemical conversion process.

## CONDUCTION IN GASES

Ionisation also occurs in gases. In the absence of an e.m.f. between two electrodes in a gas, a trace of naturally occurring radioactivity will cause a few electrons to be knocked out of gas atoms, thus giving rise to positive ions.

## WAY TO EIECTRONICS 2

 CONDUCTION


Fig. 2.2. Conduction in a gas
If a small voltage is applied to the electrodes, see Fig. 2.2, the positive ions will be attracted towards the negatively charged electrode, where they combine with electrons from the battery and are converted back into gas atoms. The few free electrons liberated by ionisation will move towards the positive electrode.

This very small migration of electrons and ions does form a minute current, but the gas can be regarded as a near perfect insulator.

Something happens when the voltage across the electrodes in a gas is increased to a threshold value. The few free electrons are accelerated to high velocities and they knock other electrons from gas atoms, thus causing further ionisation to occur. It is an avalanche effect, the more free electrons there are, the greater will be the number of electrons knocked out of gas atoms, and so on until a considerable number of electrons are arriving at the positive electrode.

## INSULATORS

There are hardly any free electrons in an insulator to carry electrical charges through the inaterial, so an insulator offers a very high resistance. When enough heat is applied to an insulator, however, the point will be reached where the vigorously vibrating atoms will "throw off" electrons, which then become free to drift and act as current carriers.

So, the resistance of an insulator tends to decrease with a rise in temperature. A good example is glass, which has a fairly low resistance when red hot.

## SEMICONDUCTORS

Semiconductors are certain solids which combine the properties of conductors and insulators. Examples are silicon and its carbide, germanium, copper oxide and sulphide, selenium, lead sulphide and telluride, cadmium sulphide, and zinc sulphide.

The resistance of a pure semiconductor decreases with a rise in temperature, like an insulator, but is low enough at room temperatures for the material to be classified as a conductor. The implications are that heat causes electrons to be "thrown off" by vibrating semiconductor atoms at a much lower temperature than

(d) Free flow of electrons when forward biased

Fig. 2.3. Semiconductor dioje principle


Fig. 2.4. Current flow and voltage/current characteristic of a diode
insulator atoms, thus providing a source of free electrons to carry a current.

An atom which has an abnormal number of electrons is an ion and, in solutions or gases, these ions are free to move around and carry charges to electrodes. The atoms of a semiconductor are fixed in position, so all they can do is to "trade" electrons.

When an electron breaks free from its parent atom it leaves behind a space or "hole" which can be filled by another electron. In a semiconductor there will be some thermally generated free electrons and the same number of holes.

Suppose now that atoms of an impurity such as phosphorus are added to a pure silicon semiconductor, this will result in the existing holes being filled by donated electrons from the phosphorus, but will leave the number of free electrons virtually unchanged.

Alternatively, if boron is added to silicon, the free electrons will be accepted by the impurity to leave only holes.

## TWO DISTINCT TYPES

There are therefore two distinct types of modified semiconductor, the $n$ or negative type with an excess of free electrons, and the $p$ or positive type with an excess of holes. The addition of donor or acceptor impurity atoms does not cause a piece of semiconductor material to become electrically charged, as might be expected, because the charge on the impurity nuclei exactly cancels the charge, due to a surplus or deficiency of electrons in the material.

A $p$ type semiconductor with a surplus of holes will conduct a current just as well as an $n$ type, because holes like free electrons are a form of carrier.

If all free electrons and holes are removed from a semiconductor material, it would be transformed into a perfect insulator. One method of achieving this transformation is to encourage free electrons to combine with holes.

## PN JUNCTION OR DIODE

If $p$ and $n$ type semiconductors are joined together, in such a way that both form part of one continuous crystal structure, electrons can only flow across the resulting junction in one direction; this forms the basis of an important device called a diode or rectifier.

To see how the pn combination works, refer to Fig. 2.3. When the two blocks of semiconductor material (Fig. 2.3a) are joined together in a special way, free electrons and holes will. drift a short distance across the junction and will then disappear as they combine, shown in Fig. 2.3b.

There will exist on each side of the junction a narrow region without free electrons or holes, which is therefore an insulator. The interesting property of such a semiconductor insulator is that it can be varied by applying an e.m.f.

When a battery is connected to the diode as in Fig. 2.3c, free electrons will be attracted towards the positive battery terminal, and holes towards the negative terminal, and they will move away from the insulator region, thus increasing its effective width. As long as the insulator exists, a current cannot flow.

Now look at Fig. 2.3d. If the battery connections are reversed, free electrons and holes will be attracted towards the junction, thus tending to reduce the thickness of the insulator region. If the battery e.m.f. is more than, say, $\frac{1}{2}$ volt, the insulator region disappears altogether, and electrons begin to flow through the diode.

## DIRECTION OF FLOW

Before J. J. Thompson discovered the electron in 1897, it was generally assumed that an electric current flowed from positive to negative. Even then it would have meant a major upheaval to correct all existing books, circuit diagrams, and graphs, so the problem was shelved.
At the present time, "conventional flow" from positive to negative is still applied to the majority of circuit diagrams and general descriptions of circuits, while "actual flow" from negative to positive is mainly used in discussions of basic electron theory.
The diode circuit symbol naturally suggests that the direction of flow is pointed by the arrowhead shape, but this is conventional flow from positive to negative. Confusion can be avoided if the following rule is memorised. A diode will conduct a current when the arrowhead (anode) is more positive than the bar (cathode), see Fig. 2.4a.
The graph in Fig. 2.4b shows that a diode has not got a perfect characteristic; it will offer some resistance to a forward current, and will "leak" a small current when a reverse e.m.f. is applied.

## ALTERNATING CURRENT

All the circuits given thus far have made use of a unidirectional flow of electrons, or a direct current (d.c.) from batteries. But there are many applications in electronics where an oscillatory, or to and fro motion of electrons is encountered, called alternating current (a.c.).

If the value of an alternating current is plotted against time on a graph, it might look something like Fig. 2.5a, rising from zero to a maximum or peak positive value, then falling through zero to a similar but negative peak value. So, an alternating current is continuously changing and reversing, usually many times a second.

How then can a.c. be measured if it is never steady? One way is to feed the a.c. to a resistance and see how much heat it produces; then compare this with the heat generated by a direct current.

It is found that a direct current gives 1.4 times the heat output of an alternating current of the same peak value. Therefore, to achieve parity, and to allow Ohm's and Joule's Laws to be applied to a.c. calculations, it is necessary to divide peak values by $1 \cdot 4$, to give what is called the root mean square or r.m.s. value. An alternating current of 1 amp r.m.s. has the same heating effect as a direct current of 1 amp .

Most a.c. measuring instruments are already calibrated.for r.m.s. values, thus eliminating the need for conversion. It is usually taken for granted that any quoted a.c. voltage or current (for example, the 240 volt mains supply) is an r.m.s. value, unless otherwise stated.

## DIODE RECTIFYING CIRCUITS

Now let us see what effect a diode has on an alternating current.
Diodes are often used as rectifiers, to convert an alternating current into a direct current, by inverting or suppressing alternate half waves of a.c., see Fig. 2.5b.

The half-wave rectifier circuits in Fig. 2.6 work by charging the capacitor with unidirectional pulses of current, which are only allowed to pass during alternate half-cycles. The capacitor stores energy, and acts as an electrical reservoir when the alternating current input has fallen temporarily to zero. The full wave circuits of Fig. 2.6 make use of both half cycles of the alternating current, and are therefore more efficient.

## 


(a) Peak and r.m.s. values of an a.c. sine wave. $1 \frac{1}{2}$ cycles are shown

(b) Half-wave rectification suppresses alternate half-cycles
full wave rectification
(c) Full-wave rectification inverts olternate half-cycles

Fig. 2.5. Sine wave a.c. waveform and rectification

(b) Full-wave with two diodes


VOLTS D.C. $=2 \times$ PEAK VOLTS A.C.
(d) Voltage doubler

Fig. 2.6. Vorious types of rectification
(e) Voltage quadrupler

VOLTS D.C. $=4 \times$ PEAK VOLTS A.C.


VOLTS D.C. $=P E A K$ VOLTS A.C.
(c) Full-wave rectifier bridge with four diodes


Fig. 2.7. Two examples of other uses of the diode
It is possible to obtain very large d.c. voltages from a.c. supplies by adding on or cascading extra rectifier circuits, rather like placing a number of batteries in series. The quadrupler circuit of Fig. 2.6 is really two voltage doublers placed end to end.

## OTHER USES

There are many other uses for diodes, apart from rectification. The selective telephone circuit of Fig. 2.7 uses diodes to prevent speech signals from reaching both receiving stations (earphones) at the same time, even though the signals travel along a single line (shown dotted). When the switch is in the "talk to A" position, the diode in series with earphone A is forward connected, and introduces very little resistance into the circuit, but the diode of earphone $B$ is reverse biased by the battery polarity, so that it acts as an insulator and prevents the passage of speech signals.

The diode matrix of Fig. 2.7 will give pre-selected combinations of three coloured lamps without the need for a complicated multi-way switch. The diodes serve to "route" currents from the battery to appropriate lamps, depending on where they are placed inside the matrix. The diode matrix principle can be extended to cover very complicated arrangements of lamps for giving alphabetical or numerical readouts and moving news message displays.
Next month we shall be looking at extensions of the diode principle, where two diodes formed on a single common semiconductor material can control currents.

## CORRECTION

In Part I last month the drawings for Fig. I.3c and Fig 1.4c should be transposed.


## TRANSISTORISED MULTIMETER

A highly useful and reliable piece of test equipment for the home constructor. The multimeter employs a
 solid state amplifier to drive a moving coil meter, thus increasing the sensitivity of the meter by up to 100,000 times and at the same time protecting it against overload.
The testmeter covers the d.c. voltage range 2 mV to 500 V f.s.d. and the d.c. current range 200 mA to 500 mA . An external adapter for a.c. measurements can be added.

## Also: SOUND TRIGGER FOR PHOTO FLASH

Opens up new fields to the amateur and professional photographer. Record in vivid detail the agony of a bursting balloon, the complex patterns of smashing glass, in fact almost any impact phenomena which can be set up under controlled conditions.
This compact self-contained synchroniser unit, for connection to an electronic flash gun, uses few components and is inexpensive to build.

## PRACTICAL <br> ELECTRONICS

JUNE ISSUE ON SALE MAY 15


## USING SEMICONDUCTORS

By J. Hughes, B.Sc. and T. M. Johnston, B.Sc. Published by Heinemann Educational Books Ltd. 124 pages, 9 in $\times 6$ in. Price 25s.

Some beginners in electronics tend to start construction of fairly simple (or even complex) projects without really knowing what each component is used for or how it functions. Simple do-it-yourself experiments are given in this book to illustrate the functions of semiconductor diodes and transistors, followed progressively by more complex circuits.

Whilst this is an excellent practical book, the authors admit in the Preface that any shortcomings are their own. Of these, explanations of certain terms used are lacking and, for the likes of teenage students, this may be a drawback.

Attempts have been made to over-simplify some descriptions, and yet the physics of semiconducting plunges the reader into the deep end as early as Chapter 3. Experimenters in elementary circuitry could pass over the Hall Effect for the time being and go on to rectification. However, this section fails to explain why the peak inverse voltage is 1.4 times the r.m.s. voltage and does not say what r.m.s. means.

Chapter 4 introduces transmitter theory and demonstrates amplification in d.c. terms. Calculus knowledge is assumed; the delta symbols are used with no explanation.

These are just examples of some shortcomings that are not confined to this book alone. On setting out to write for beginners, a distinction between theory and practice should be obvious; theory should be basic and in line with the purposes of the practical projects.

Since the practical parts of this book are highly commendable, it would be a pity for beginners to be deterred by the theoretical approach. Readers are recommended to browse through the pages before buying.

Chapters 1 and 2 deal with the apparatus, tools, and components required and describe the construction method suggested. Later chapters race on to amplifiers, oscillators, radio reception and specialised semiconductors, the latter in brief terms with no circuit applications.

Three appendices are included, giving lists of apparatus, components, suppliers, and construction templates.
M.A.C.

## ITV 1970

Published by the Independent Television Authority 240 pages, 9 in $\times 7 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}$. Price 10 s 6 d .

1969was probably the most important year for the Independent Television Authority since its birth fifteen years previous. On November 15, the
confidence of the ITV companies, to convince Parliament of the need for colour on 625 lines along with BBC-1, burst into the realisation of a fully prepared colour service. By the beginning of 1970 almost half the population in the fourteen programme company areas were within reach of colour reception.

The I.T.A. further predict that almost four-fifths of the population would be covered by 1972 .

The Authority also announces that ten million pounds is being spent on the change in line standards equipment to 625 -lines. Programme Companies are equalling this expenditure on their studio needs. The first new u.h.f. transmitter for I.T.V. was switched on at Crystal Palace, London, on September 5, 1969. Standards converters were also installed to maintain the 405 -line service.

What with all this innovation, plus the new Emley Moor tower and additional advertising levies in excess of $£ 25$ million, one cannot help asking what the financial status of the Authority is now in 1970. But, like all well organised companies, the I.T.A. and its subsidiary programme companies have a powerful conviction of their abilities; indeed they must have to compete with the equally mighty BBC .

The appropriation of revenue is a complicated affair which is briefly described, but one can assess that the public purse is well fed and still leaves the Authority with considerable assets of more than $£ 18$ million.

A word on programmes, which are adequately described and lavishly illustrated; the scope and quality of programmes continues to improve. Perhaps this is largely due to the tremendous efforts of JICTAR and TOP (Television Opinion Panel Ltd.), the latter being a newly set up audience research unit to complement JICTAR on programme reaction.

Particularly commendable are the documentaries and the ITN programmes, which consistently appear in the Top Ten ratings.
M.A.C.

## DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES ON TAPE

By P. Bastin<br>Published by Print and Press Services Ltd. 47 pages, 7 in $\times 43$ in. Price 5 s .

AUSEFUL pocket book describing how to get the best out of recording documentaries with full sound effects. Hints and tips are given on planning a programme, setting up equipment, narration, and adding other sound tracks. The style of writing is friendly but elementary.

## TAPE RECORDERS A-Z

Published by A.P.A. Publishing (Catalogues) Ltd. 164 pages, 12 in $\times 81 \mathrm{in}$. Price 20 s .

THIS is a detailed list of video, professional, domestic and high fidelity tape recorders currently available on the U.K. market. Photographs and manufacturers' specifications are given.

## AUDIO ANNUAL 1970

Published by Link House Publications Ltd.
138 pages, $1 l i n \times 8 \frac{1}{i n}$. Price 7s 6 d .

THIS is virtually an enlarged version of Hi Fi News containing 30 pages of feature articles and 52 pages of equipment reviews, taken from issues previously published.

# ELECTRONDRAMA 



## Talking to a Computer

ONE of the current trends in the use of computers is the degree of interaction between the user and the computer. Since man uses speech to communicate, why shouldn't the computer do likewise. Work has been carried out to persuade the computer to talk, using synthetic speech, but if it is to understand man, it must learn to recognise forms of speech sound.

One way of doing this is to split the speech signal into several parallel signals that indicate the presence or absence of particular formants. Relative energy contents of voiced sounds and unvoiced sounds can be recognised by a computer.
The voiced sound is a vowel-like sound produced by vibrating vocal chords. Unvoiced sounds are those produced by air passing through shaped orifices in the mouth or throat.

There are other types of sound that are recognised; these are classified into four frequency levels determined by measurement of the lowest formant frequencies. Another circuit will detect high frequency sounds, such as "s".

Thus, by using a simple language, the computer can be made to recognise certain words. In the demonstration, a sound analyser was coupled to a telephone and a computer. A pre-arranged programme of conversation and questions was "written" on a screen by the computer. The answers and interjections, based on the words "yes", "no", "stop", and "wrong" were spoken by the visitor into the telephone.

On receipt of an answer, the computer can comment or proceed to the next topic, depending on the answer received. The block diagram (top right) shows the system of speech analysis used with an ICL 4120 computer, similar to that shown below.


## Writing Detection and Display

ANEW system of "writing" display using a pressure operated co-ordinate generator is based on the variable pressure applied to a pencil by the writer. No wires are attached to the pencil since the detector is under the pencil tip.

The device consists of two resistive strips separated by air. Writing pressure on the upper strip, which is flexible, deforms it into contact with the lower strip. Shorting electrodes are connected across the strip ends so that, when a current pulse is passed through one strip a uniform voltage gradient is developed along its length. The

voltage at the point of contact is proportional to the distance from the ends.

An electrical analogue is processed to a storage tube unit fed with $X$ and $Y$ signals derived from a pair of binary counters as shown in the block diagram above. The pad and display are shown in the photograph on the right.

## VISITS

PHYSIGS ExHIBITION


Demonstration Digital Computer

THERE are several courses available to teach computer programming, but when it comes to demonstrating the functions and working of a digital computer in schools, colleges, and universities, commercial models tend to be too expensive or too fast, with no visual display of processing.

A new simplified computer, with a core storage capacity of 128 words ( 12 bits per word), has been designed and developed by two lecturers from the University of Durham and Darlington College of Technology. This development, which is being supported by N.R.D.C., has a visual display panel which indicates the flow of information and the contents of the registers. The panel layout is designed so that the functions of individual parts can be learnt before tackling the complete machine, shown above

Five modes of operation are demonstrated: these are manual, one-shot, automatic instruction slow, automatic instruction fast and automatic programme.

Although the output is in the visual display form it is expected that a tape punch or printer could be coupled to it. Other likely additions include magnetic tape store, tape or teleprinter input/output, enlarged core store.


## Light Modulation Crystals

A method of growing KTN Crystals has been developed at Mullard Research Laboratories by R. W. Whipps. KTN, a mixture of the ferro-electric compounds, potassium tantalate and potassium niobate, is a transparent solid having optical properties that can be changed by the application of a voltage; this effect can be used for the electrical deflection or modulation of a beam of light. KTN is much more sensitive than materials previously used and thus lower voltages can be used to achieve a useful electro-optic effect.

Crystals of KTN are, however, very difficult to prepare in useful sizes since the material decomposes below its melting point (approximately $1,300^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and must be grown from solution.

KTN optical modulators and switching devices can be used for laser-beam communication systems and are of potential use for flat-screen televisions and in high-speed computers. A photograph of Mullard KTN crystals is shown below. A division equal to 1 centimetre is shown for size comparison.


## British Equipment for German Police

The police forces of three of the states of the Federal Republic of Germany have recently installed fingerprint facsimile transmission equipment manufactured by Muirhead Limited of Beckenham, Kent.

Fingerprint photographs can now be transmitted within minutes between the Bundeskriminalamt in Wiesbaden and the Landeskriminalaemter in Dusseldorf (Nordrhine/ Westphalia), Stuttgart (Wuttenburg), and Hannover (Niedersachsen) over normal telephone lines.

With this equipment a fingerprint picture 8 inches square can be transmitted with extremely high definition in 14 minutes. The picture received is fully processed inside the receiver, so there is no need for dark-room facilities.

The picture below shows one of the fingerprint picture transmitters.

# HIIG POWER amplifile 

PART THREE

| N THIS, the concluding article, modifications are provided to extend the input capability of the amplifier. A fault finding table is also given to assist those constructors who might experience difficulties in getting a satisfactory performance.
Whilst this table is not intended to be exhaustive it should provide enough information to locate the most likely faults and provide guidelines to their rectification.
The item of test gear required is a 50,000 ohm per volt multimeter.

## EXTENDING THE INPUTS

If more than two inputs per channel are required the circuit terminating at pins $\mathrm{N}^{\prime} 7$ and $\mathrm{N}^{\prime} \mathrm{I}$ in Fig. 6 should be substituted with that given in Fig. 19. Here three inputs are given but in fact this can be extended to any number, the limiting factor being a reduced sensitivity with serial additions. For example, with five of the input circuits added the sensitivity of each one will be about 10 mV with an input impedance of 1 megohm. As more circuits are added, this input figure for the rated output will have to be increased.

## FAULT FINDING TABLE

Table 1 gives a number of common faults, and their diagnoses. To use it, take, for example, the overall symptom of no output from both channels when signals are applied to the inputs.
Since this is most likely to be a power supply fault we refer to the column under the heading of "Local Symptom" in the power supply block.

The first symptom " 56 V rail zero" points the way to our first voltage check with the multimeter. If in fact, the supply voltage does read zero then proceed on to the column listing the possible fault conditions.

By R. D. PALMER

Here are given a number of items of circuitry which are likely to be faulty. If the fuse FSI has blown, the mains transformer should be checked for shortcircuited windings. If this proves to be all right, next check the bridge rectifiers D7-D10 for short circuits.

By following through the fault list we narrow down the search for the' offending component or components. To assist in this a number of static voltage check lists are included. Unless otherwise stated, all of these have been measured with respect to earth. It should be emphasised that when a fuse has blown, no attempt should be made to replace it until the fault has been located. With the exception of TR7 and TR8 all the transistors can be expected to have a $V_{\text {be }}$ (base to emitter voltage) of approximately 0.65 volts. This can be measured with a 50,000 ohms per volt meter without greatly upsetting the biasing.

Finally, in the amplifier circuit (Fig. 6), TR6, TR9, and TR12 can be type BFY51.

## COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors
R53-R55 IOMS (3 off)
All $10 \%$, $\frac{1}{2}$ watt carbon
Potentiometers
VR8-VRIO IMS carbon log (3 off)
Capacitors
C23-C25 $\quad 0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ polyester (3 off)

## Sockets

JK3-JK5 Standard jack socket (3 off)


Fig. 19. Extension circuit for more than two inputs



# car canversion FOR TOWIIG 

By J.J.A.TENNANT

THOUSANDS of motorists today tow a boat, caravan or some form of trailer. In order to do this, their cars have been fitted with a towing bracket that strengthens the vehicle and takes the universal 50 mm tow-ball.

The cars have also been converted to provide outputs for the rear brake and direction indicator lights of the towed vehicle. It is normal practice and legally necessary, for vehicles registered after 1965, to operate all direction indicator lamps-that is, front and back on the vehicle as well as the tow and this normally means the provision of a special heavy duty flasher unit.
This article describes a simple method of electrical conversion for tow indicators that can be completed in a few hours, using a minimum of components and giving warning lights.

## WIRING OF TOWED VEHICLE

In general, the tow will be acquired with all lights and wiring fitted and, if modern, will be wired as Fig. 1 to the international standard with a seven pin plug (PLI). If the tow has no lights, approved patterns must be obtained from most garages and, although any wiring system could be adopted, it is strongly advised that the standard system is followed.

## CAR CONVERSION

The standard seven pin socket (SK 1) should be fitted to the car as close to the tow point as practicable and wired as Fig. 2, the main earth wire (white-pin 31) being taken to a good clean chassis connection. The car wiring cable form should be examined at the branch point to find the red wire to the side lights and a
wire connected from this lead (preferably to the snap connectors at the lights themselves) to pins 58 and 58C. Also find the green/purple trace lead to the brake stop lights and connect this to pin 54.

## DIRECTION INDICATOR WARNING LAMPS

Reference to the car wiring diagram will indicate a point at which a heavy duty connection can be made after the ignition switch (Fig. 3). A lead is taken from this point through fuse FS3 to pin 54G, SKI (internal lighting auxiliary supply) and also to the warning lamp unit fitted to the dash or on a small panel.

## AUXILIARY WARNING LAMP UNIT

The resistors R3 and R4 (Fig. 3) are chosen to drop approximately 1 volt when carrying the full indicator lamp current, i.e. $1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{amps}$ for 18 W lamps on a 12 volt supply. The value of approximately 3 ohm is made up of a 0.68 ohm I watt wire wound resistor. Transistors TR1 and TR2 are npn types capable of carrying the full switch on warning lamp current of 800 mA and are bottomed by the voltage across R3, R4 and so operate the warning lamps LP1 and LP2 which are $12 \mathrm{~V} 2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~W}$ types. These are placed in series with resistors R1 and R2 to limit the lamp current to approx. $\frac{3}{3}$ normal rating to increase lamp life.

## SWITCHING UNIT

The main tow indicator lamps are switched with transistors TR3 and TR4 which are pnp power types. Since the lamp switch on current is several times greater than the normal current, it is necessary to select a transistor of adequate current rating, i.e. 6 amps.

TR3 and TR4 are bottomed by a signal current taken from the standard wiring of the car and do not require large heat sinks: the base current is the lamp current, i.e. $1 \frac{1}{2}$ amps, divided by the gain of the transistor; if this is of the order of 30 , the additional load of 50 milliamps on the car flasher unit does not materially affect its performance.

If only low gain transistors are available then two Darlington pair configurations can be employed in
place of TR3 and TR4. Transistors TR3 and TR4 should be totally insulated from the car chassis, mounted in a small box equipped with fuses and fitted close to SK1.

The base leads are taken to the car wiring cable form (at the rear indicator lamps), the left or nearside indicator being green/red trace and right or offside indicator being green/white trace.


Fig. I. Wiring diagram for the tow. All wiring should be carried out using heavy duty insulated connecting wire


Fig. 2. Connections between SKI and the car wiring loom. As in Fig. I heavy duty wire must be used


Fig. 3. Complete circuit diagram of the car conversion for towing. This circuit is for positive earth 12 V car systems


Fig. 4. Warning lamp circuit, layout and wiring diagram


Fig. 5. Switch unit circuit, layout and wiring diagram

## COMPONENTS . . .

## Resistors

| R1 | $15 \Omega=\frac{1}{4} W=10 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| R2 | $15 \Omega \frac{1}{4} W \pm 10 \%$ |
| R3 | $0.68 \Omega \mathrm{IW}$ |
| R4 | $0.68 \Omega \mathrm{~W}$ |

Transistors
TRI 2N3704
TR2 2N3704
TR3 OC28 or equivalent
TR4 OC28 or equivalent

Fuses
FSI Miniature fuse holder and 5A fuse
FS2 Miniature fuse holder and 5A fuse
FS3 Miniature fuse holder and 2A fuse

## Miscellaneous

LPI, 212 V 2.2 W bulbs and holders
SKI/PLI seven way plug and socket (standard tow connecting type)
Seven way tagboard
Transistor insulating kit for OC28 (2 off)
Die cast case $4.25 \mathrm{in} \times 2.25 \mathrm{in} \times \operatorname{lin}$ (2 off)
4B.A. fixings
Heavy duty insulated connecting wire
害in grommets (2 off)

## CONSTRUCTION

Both the warning lamp unit and the switch unit can be housed in small die cast cases. It is important that the warning lamp unit is earthed to the car chassis and that TR3 and TR4 are completely insulated from the chassis and die cast case.

The warning lamp circuit is constructed on a seven way tagboard as shown in Fig. 4. The wiring between the ignition switch, the switch unit, FS3 and SK1 should be made with wire capable of carrying 7 amps .


Fig. 6. Circuit for negative earth 12 V car systems to be used when alternative transistors are not available

The tagboard is fixed inside the die cast case, by two 4B.A. fixings, on $\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{in}$. spacers. The complete unit must be mounted in view of the driver so that LPI and LP2 are visible.

The switch unit is also housed in a small die cast case to which TR3 and TR4 are mounted via insulating washers (Fig. 5). Wiring from TR3,TR4, FSI and FS2 must be of heavy duty wire as indicated previously. When complete the case should be mounted near SK 1 and the rear indicator lamps in a position such as that FSI and FS2 can be easily replaced.

The cases (collectors) of TR3 and TR4 must never be shorted to earth and this should be remembered when siting the switch unit; stray tools inside the car boot could easily short the unit if TR3 and TR4 are exposed.

## CARS WITH NEGATIVE EARTH

In general the wiring system for negative earth cars is identical with the above and if suitable inverse type transistors can be obtained (ACY19 for TR1 and TR2, 2N3055 for TR3 and TR4) the system can be copied. However, only pnp type power transistors may be available, in which case the wiring to the switch transistors must be as shown in Fig. 6. The base of TR3 is connected to earth ( -ve ) via R6 by the action of TR5 which is turned on by the voltage across the car direction indicator lamp when on. R5 is adjusted to allow TR3 to bottom. TR4 must be connected up in a similar manner.

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A selection of readers' suggested circuits. It should be emphasised that thete designs have not been proven by us. They will at any rate stimulate further thought.
This is YOUR page and any idea published will be awarded payment accord. ing to its merit.

## SPARK PLUG MONITOR

ANYONE who has ever ventured out in a small craft with a two stroke outboard engine, will know that one of the most common annoyances occurs if the spark plugs oil up or break down, possibly leaving one "stranded" in an awkward location; it is, however, a simple matter to monitor the plugs whilst the engine is running and can save considerable time, as well as increasing safety to have such a device on board.

By using a spark plug monitor on any multi cylinder engine, considerable time can be saved if ignition troubles occur, the guilty cylinder showing itself immediately.

Let us assume that the engine to be monitored has four spark plugs (e.g. ordinary motor car). If we wish to monitor all four plugs we will require four low

voltage neons (NT2's) and several feet of four-core cable. The neons are first soldered into standard type holders as shown in Fig. I and the four holders located on a suitable panel. The neons are marked 1 to 4 to correspond to the cylinder being monitored.

One side of each neon is grounded to the car chassis either via the mounting panel or directly (a good earth connection must be made). The other side of each neon is connected to one of the cores of the four-core cable. About 12 in of the outer casing of the cable at the engine is stripped off and each individual wire is wound around one of the spark plug h.t. leads. About ten turns are required on each cylinder but this may vary with different cars and the exact number is best found by experiment.

When the engine is running the neons will glow steadily but in the event of failure to spark of one or more of the plugs the neon corresponding to the plug at fault will flicker erratically.

> D. W. Nelson, Merstham, Surrey.

## TREMOLO UNIT

ENCLOSE details of a tremolo unit which I have designed and which your readers may be interested in. In the circuit, Fig. 1, transistors TR1 and TR2 form an astable multivibrator whose frequency can be varied by VR1, between approximately 5 Hz and 0.2 Hz . The resulting square wave appearing at the collector of TR2 is fed to VR2. The output from VR2 (depth control) is fed to TR3 base which switches the transistor on and off.

The collector emitter junction of TR3 acts as a variable resistor in the potential divider circuit between

input and output thus varying the output, the output signal being proportional to the base emitter voltage of TR3. Capacitors C3 and C4 remove the harmonics from the square wave which would otherwise cause clicks in the output.

This circuit has three main advantages over other tremolo units. Firstly, the unpleasant "thump" often heard in tremolo units is supressed by C3 and C4 without the necessity for complex filtering circuits.
When the power supply is disconnected, the signal passes through the unit unaffected and hence if $\$ 1$ is a foot switch operated by the instrumentalist, the tremolo can be switched in and out at will.

Finally, the power supply requirements are very modest, and at 9 V the current drain is approximately 1 mA . The unit works reliably down to about 4 V .

Transistors
TR1-TR3 were BCl 08 's in the prototype, but any general purpose $n p n$ silicon transistors should work satisfactorily.
A. T. Barker, Sheffield.

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The price of $12 / 6$ applies only to catalogues purchased by customers residing in the U.K.

# marhet PLACE 

Items mentioned in chis feature are usually available from electronic equipment and component retailers advertising in this magazine. However, where a full address is given, enquiries and orders shpuld then be made direct to the firm concerned.

## LOW-COST UTRASONIC CLEANER

Virtually unknown only ten years ago, ultrasonic cleaning is now widely used in industry because of its effectiveness in removing even the most tenacious dirt from complex components in a matter of minutes.

Until recently ultrasonic cleaning equipment has only been a viable proposition to industry due to its prohibitive costs and involved filtration units required. But now Dawe


Sonicleaner type 6442A marketed by Dawe Instruments

Instruments have marketed a range of cleaning units which, at less than $£ 100$, are within the reach of some workshops, hobbyists, collectors of coins and antiques, jewellers or anyone wishing to clean delicate components.
Known as the Sonicleaner type 6442 A it contains a transistorised generator, special transducers and a stainless steel tark of 5 pints (approx. 3 litres) capacity, all housed in a case measuring $7 \frac{1}{2}$ in $\times 12 \mathrm{in} \times 9 \mathrm{in}$. The generator incorporates automatic tuning circuits and apart from the 240 V mains on/off switch there are no other controls.

Ultrasonic frequencies are used for cleaning because, when applied
to a liquid, they give rise to the continuous creation and collapse of millions of microscopic vapour bubbles. This so-called cavitation results in very intense although hardly visible agitation of the liquid, which "scrubs" all dirt off any object dipped into it. Because cavitation affects all surfaces which the liquid can wet. ultrasonics can clean components and assemblies too delicate even for the finest brush.
Ordinary water is adequate for many cleaning jobs and a little household detergent can cope with most stains or grease. Other types of unwanted particles can be removed with any appropriate liquid solvent.

Full details and cost of the Sonicleaner type 6442 A can be obtained from Dawe Instruments Ltd., Concord Road, Western Avenue, London, W. 3 .

## BEGINNERS' EXPERIMEN- <br> TAL CONSTRUCTION KIT

A new experimentation course in basic electronics for beginners has just been introduced by Heathkit.
schematic symbol, so that the experimenter can learn how to read circuit diagrams. The manual also includes a dictionary of common electronic terms, and the international morse code.

The Heathkit JK-18 is available at most component shops or direct from Daystrom Ltd., Heathkit Division, Gloucester, price $£ 13$ 18s, plus 5s carriage charge.

## LOW VOLTAGE IRON

Of particular interest to our seafaring and motoring readers is the new Adcola Model L107 low voltage soldering iron.

Ideal for temporary electrical repairs on the boat and when the car breaks down miles from anywhere, low voltage irons have in the past suffered from lack of sufficient power output. However, the model L107 is rated at 27 watts, which we found ideal when tested in our workshop.

The L107 iron is fitted with 12 ft of cable with suitable large battery clips attached and operates from a 12 V car battery. The recommended retail price is 49 s 6 d .


Heathkit JK-18 junior experimenter's constructional kit

Designated the Heathkit JK-18, it features 35 experiments using the "learn-by-doing" technique, ranging from a transistor tester to a simple electronic organ.

All parts are mounted on a "breadboard" and then various circuits are constructed according to instructions by connecting them with ordinary wire, provided in the kit. For speed and easy circuit assembly, solderless spring-clip connectors are used throughout.

Supplied with the kit is an illustrated manual which describes the operation of the circuit for each experiment. All parts used in any experiment are identified by both a pictorial diagram and the standard


> Miniature 12 V 27 W soldering iron from Adcola

If readers have any difficulty in obtaining the iron, details of local stockists can be obtained from Adcola Products Ltd., Adcola House, Gauden Road, London, S.W.4.

## TAPE SPLICER

With the increasing popularity of cassette tape recorders Multicore Solders have introduced the Bib Model 24 tape splicing kit. The kit is contained in a plastics wallet; the block has a fin channel and is fitted with chromium plated clamps for holding the tape when making diagonal or butt splices. Also included in the kit is a razor cutter,


Bib Model 24 cassette tape splicer kit by Multicore Solders


Selection of audio components
marketed by Ré-An Products


Alarm equipment manufactured by Digitation
tape marker, a device for withdrawing the tape from the cassette and of course, a reel of splicing tape.

Believed to be the first marketed for tin tape, the kit is intended for use in joining tape, editing, and is particularly useful when the recording has been made to be synchronised with cine films or slides. The playing time of pre-recorded cassettes can be extended.

The recommended retail price of the Bib Model 24 tape splicer kit is 29s.

Adding still further to their range of Bib tape accessories, Multicore have also introduced the Bib "Five" Tape Cassette Case, designed for easy storage of tape cassettes.

The case holds five cassettes and is a convenient size for keeping in the car, and for storing in the home. Made from p.v.c. it has a clear hinged top, through which cassette titles can easily be read.

Available from audio dealers and music shops the cassette case costs 5s IId, including purchase tax.

## AUDIO COMPONENTS

Readers who are building their own electric guitars and audio equipment may be interested in the range of miniature components available from Ré-An Products.

Among their range of components are special "off-set" switches, ideal for solid body guitars where the amount of depth is limited. Other products include miniature jack plugs and sockets, control knobs, trimmers and slide switches, etc.

Full particulars can be obtained from Ré-An Products Ltd., Burnham Road, Dartford, Kent.

## BURGLAR ALARM

A new range of burglar alarms for the home has just been announced by Digitation Ltd. Three basic models are available and various other versions which operate from a "standby" battery supply, including a car alarm version.

The basic kits contain a control box housing a printed circuit board and associated circuitry, a 3 in alarm bell and bell transformer, miniature magnetic detector switches, sufficient cable to connect all units and a comprehensive booklet covering the installation and operation of the system.

Kits are available for use with both magnetic switches (magnet and reed switch) and pressure pads, and for use with infra-red bean units: Extra magnetic switches, complete with mounting accessories, and a 6 in alarm bell can be supplied at an additional cost.

The price of the basic kits vary from $£ 19$ 10s to $£ 30$. Details can be obtained from Digitation Ltd.. 117 Church Lane, Rickmansworth, Herts. Callers can view the alarms at

Digitation's Installation Del dr". zat, Page and Girling Works, 111 Midhurst Road, West Ealing, London, W. 13 .

## LITERATURE

The new 464-page edition of the 1970 Electroniques Constructor's Catalogue is now available from Electroniques, Edinburgh Way, Harlow, Essex, price 10 s plus 3 s postage and packing, or from local components dealers.

Apart from the exhaustive range of S.T.C. components and numerous other manufacturers' items, the section on educational kits should be of interest to readers. These kits are known as Knight Mini-Kits, and range from a 2 -pole motor kit to a telegraph key, buzzer and bell kit. Also available is a 100 -in-l Electronic Science Lab kit.

The fourth edition of the Motorola Semiconductor Data Book is now available through the Modern Book Co., 19 Praed Street, London, W.2.

This latest 2,160 -page edition has been re-designed and given a better layout, making it far easier to locate particular devices. Instead of a number of product categories, discrete device specifications are presented in alpha-numeric sequence in three major sections, namely: 1 N ; 2 N and 3 N prefixed devices; and Motorola's own numbered types. A short form specification is given with all devices listed.
To enable particular application requirements to be directly related to semiconductor device numbers, a 50 -page selection guide is included.

The Motorola Semiconductor Data Book costs $£ 3$, plus 6 s postage.

## CHEAP TRANSISTORS

WEL Components Ltd. have recently. reduced their price of 2N2926 transistors.
The device is colour coded to achieve tight gain spread with five gain selections:

| $h_{\text {hes }}:$ | $35-70$ | $55-110$ | $90-180$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Colour | Brown | Red | Orange |
|  | $150-300$ | $235-470$ |  |
|  | Yellow | Green |  |

Further data and information is obtainable from WEL Components Ltd., 5 Lovelock Road. Reading, Berks.

## P.E. ANALOGUE COMPUTER KIT

Readers and educational establishments who have begun or are contemplating the construction of the PEAC computer, and are having difficulty in obtaining components, might contact Linstead Electronics, who will be pleased to quote for complete kits. They emphasise that they will only undertake this service if there is sufficient demand. Enquiries should be made in writing, to Linstead Electronics at Roslyn Road, Braemar Road, London, N. 15.

## Complete stereo system - £29.10.0

The new Dứo general-purpōsa 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:
Impedance 3, 8 or 15 ohms (state requirement), high flux $6^{\prime \prime} \times 4^{\prime \prime}$ speaker and $24^{\prime \prime}$ tweeter. Teak finish $12^{\prime \prime} \times 67 \times 5$ 2 " $^{\prime \prime} 4$ guineas each. 7/6d. p. \& p. Type 2 as type 1. Size $17 \frac{1}{" \prime}^{\circ} \times 102^{\prime \prime} \times 6 z^{\prime \prime}$. Incorporating $10 \frac{t^{\prime \prime}}{2} \times 6 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{4}$ bass unit and $2 \frac{1}{1 "}^{\prime \prime}$ tweeter. 3 ohms impedance $\mathbf{E 6 . 6 . 0}$ plus $\mathbf{1 5} / \sim$ D. \& p
Garrard Changers from E7.19.6d. p. \& p. 7/6d
Cover and Teak finish Plinth 4.15 .0 d . 7/6d. p. 6 p.

£9.10.0
Intégratéa Transistor Sterco Amplifier plus $7 / 6 d . p .6 p$

The Dusto is a good quality amplifier, attractively styled and finished. It gives superb reproduction proviously associated with amplifiers costing far more.
SPECIFICATION:
R.M.S. power output: 3 watts per channel into 10 ohms speakers

INPUT SENSITIVITY: Suitable for medium or high ouiput crysta cartridges and tuners. Cross-talk better than 30 dB at $1 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}$.
CONTROLS: 4-position selector switch (2 pos. mono and 2 pos, stereo)
dual ganged volume control.
TONE CONTROL: Treble lift and cut. Separate on/off $s$ vitch. Av preset TONE CONTROL
balance control.


The Classic
Teak finished case $€ 9$

Plus P. \& P. 7/6
SPECIFICATION 1 KHz Sensitivities for 10 watt output at 1 KHz into 3 ohms. Tape Head: 3 mV (at $3 t$
o.s.) Mag. P.U.: 2 mV . Cer.P.U. : 80 mV . Tuner: 100 mV . I.P.s.) Mag. P.U.: 2 mV . Cer.P.U. 80 mV . Tuner: 100 mV .
Aux. 100 mV . Tape/Rec. Output. Equalisation for each
 ortion: (for 10 watt outpus) $<1.5 \%$. Signal Noise: $<-60 \mathrm{~dB}$. A.C. Mains $200-250 \mathrm{~V}$. Size latin long, $4 \frac{1}{2}$ in deep, 2 tin high. Built and tested.


THE RELIANT Mk. II solid state GENERAL PURPOSE AMPLIFIER £6.16.0 Plus P. \& P. $7 / 6$ In teak finished case SPECIFICATION: Output: 10 (1) for mike ( 10 mv ). Input (2) for

 case.


## THE ELEGANT SEVEN <br> Mk. III (350mW Output)

7-transistor fully tunable M.W.-L.W. Superhet portable. Set of parts. Complete with all components, including ready etched and drilled printed circuit board-back printed for foolproof construct
Price 65.5 .0 Plus P. 8 P.76.
Circuit 2/6. Free with parts
THE DORSET ( 600 mW Output) 7-Eransistor fully tunable M.W.-L.W. Super The portable with baby alarm facility. Set of park niques makes this simple to build. Sizes $12 \times 8 \times$ Jin.
MAINS POWER PACK KIT: $9 / 6$ extra.

${ }^{4}$ CTON $^{\text {TON LIMITE }}$


〔5.5.0 plus P. \& P. $7 / 6$. Circuit 2/6. Free with parts


SPECIFICATION: OutDut: 10 watts per channel into 3 to 4 ohms speakers ( 20 watts monoral). Input: 6-position rotary selector switch ( 3 pos. mono and 3 pos. stereo). PU., Tuner, Frequency Response: $40 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{KHz}$ tivities: All inputs 100 mV into 1.8 M and treble controls. Treble 13 dB lift and cut [at $15 \mathrm{KHz}^{2}$ ]. Bass: 15 dB lift and 25 dB cut [at 60 Hz ]. Volume Conirols Separate for each channel. A.C. Mains input: $200-240 \mathrm{~V}, 50-60 \mathrm{~Hz}$. Size: $12 \frac{1}{5} \times 6 \mathrm{in}$ $\times 2$ in teak-finished case. Built and tested, P, \& P. $7 / 6$.
Viscount Mark 11 for use with magnetic pick ups specification as above. Fully equalised for magnetic pick ups. Suitable for careridges with minimum outputs

## SPECIAL OFFER

Complete stereo systems comprising BALFQUR 4 speed auro player with stereo head, 2 DUO speaker systems size $12 \times 6 \neq 5 \frac{1}{2}$ in. Plinth (less cover) and the DUETTO stereo amplifier. All above items

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£ 25 \text { Plus P. \& P. } £ 2
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## NEW COMPLETE HI-FI STEREO SYSTEM £41

stereo Cartridge or 202S TC, Vis count amplifier Mk. I, Two type 2 speakers. Plinthand cover. $\mathbf{C 4 1}$ plus P. \& P. $\mathbf{C 2} .10$
50 WATT AMPLIFIER A.C. Mains 200-250V


Price $\mathbf{£ 2 8 . 1 0 . 0}$ Plus 201 - P. \& P.

An extremely reliable general purpose valve amplifier. Its rugged construction yet space age styling and design makes it by flar the best value for money.
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS 3 electronically mixed channets, with 2 separase instruments at the same time. The volume controls for each channel are located directly above the corresponding input sockets. SENSITIVIT. IES AND INPUT IMPEDANCES. Channels $1 \& 24 \mathrm{mV}$ at 470 K . These 2 channels ( 4 inputs) are suitable for microphone or euitars. Channels
4300 mV at 1 m . Suitable for most high output instruments (gram, tuner, organ etc.) Input sensitivity relative Ow output. TONE CON

 speech and music 50 watts rms. 100 watts peak. For sustained music 45 watts rms. 90 watts peak. For sinc wave 38.5 watts rms. Nearly 80 watts peak. Total distortion at rated output $3.2 \%$ at $\mid \mathrm{KHz} / \mathrm{s}$. Total distortion at 20 watts $0.15 \%$ at $1 \mathrm{KHz} / \mathrm{s}$. NEGATIVE FEEDBACK 20dB at IKHz/s. SIGNAL TO NOISERATIO 60dB. MAINS VOLTAGES. Adjustable from $200-250 \mathrm{~V}$. A.C. $50-60 \mathrm{~Hz} / \mathrm{s}$. A protective fuse is located at the rear of unit. Output impedance 3,8 and 15 ohms .

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FLUORESCENT CONTROL KITS Hach klt comprisee seven Htems Choke, 2 tube ends, atarter, starter holder and 2 tube cllps, with wir ing lastructions. Suitable for mormal fuoremcent tubes or the new "Grolux"
tubes for fish tanks and indoor plants. tubes for fish tanks and indoor plants.
Chokes are supersilent, moetly resin filled. Chites are super-silent, mostly resin filled.
 MPI is for 6 in ., 9 in . and 12 in . miniature tubes, 19/8. Postage on Kits $A$ and $B, 4 / 6$ for one or two kits then $4 / 6$ for each two kite ordered. Kits $C, D$ and $E 4 / 6$ on first kit then $3 / 6$ for each kit ordered. Kit MFI $3 / 6$ on first klt then $3 / 6$ on each two kitt ordered.

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Glase encased, awitches operated by external magnet-gold welded contacts. We can now offer Mindetn
meter. Will make and break up to $\times$ lity in. dia volth. Price $8 / 6$ each. $84 /-d$ up to $\frac{1}{A}$ up to 300 gtandard. 2 in long $\times 3 / 16 \mathrm{in}$. djameter. This will break currents of up to 1 A , voltages up to 250 volts. Price $8 /$ e each. $18 /$ - per dozed.
Fiat. Fiat type, 2 in . long, Just over $1 / 16 \mathrm{in}$, thick, approximately 1 ln . Wide. The Standard Type flatteped out, so that it can be fitted into a amaller apace or a larger quantity may be packed into a square olenoid. Rating 1 amp 200 volts. Small ceramic magnets to witches $1 / 8$ each. $18 /=$ dozen. TELESCOPIC

## AERIAL <br> $\rightarrow$

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7t to 47 in . Hole in bottom for 8 BA F.M. $9 / 6$. $\quad$. $7 / 6$. KNUCKLED MODEL FOB

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As used with imported packet radion. 1/6 each.
ISOLATION SWITCH 20 armp. D.P. 250 V. Ideal to con. appltance. Neon indicator ehows when current is on, $4 / 6$. $48 /-\mathrm{per}$ dozen.

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 13 AMP FUSED SWITCH Made by G.E.C. For connecting water heater etc., into 13 amp ring main. Fluah type 8/8 each 30/-
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 CONDENSER TCC $0 \cdot 1 \mathrm{nid} .250 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. working metal cased with fix ing lug. $1 / 9$ each $18 /-$iloz.

REED RELAY 3ify
Glass encapaulated reed switch in 24 -volt solenoid, neatly enclosed in neat metal case, size $2 \sharp i n . \times$
 or from A.C. mains using rectifier, resiator nad
condenser ( $8 / 6$ extra).

SHEET PAXOLIN
Ideal for transistor projects, panels 12in. * 6in.,

## G.E.C. MULTIPLE

 SWITCHES888
Metal boxes (with cable knockouts) aprayed Bilver with cover' and witches $8 /-, 6_{6}$ 日witches $5 /$
G.E.C. Clipper Switches For the above boxes, 5 amp A.C. rating, oue-way 1/8, 2 2mp one-way $2 / 6$.

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Continuously variable $30^{\circ}$ $90^{\circ}$ C. Has sensor bulb contublog. On operation a 15 amp 250 volt switch is opened and in addition a plunger moves through approx. in. This could be used to open valve on venti-
lator, etc. $89 / 6$ plus $4 / 6 \mathrm{p}$. and lator, etc. 29/6 plus $4 / 6 \mathrm{p}$. and

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FULL F1 12 IMCH LOUDSPEAKER. This is uadoubted!y one of the finest loudspeakers that we have ever offered, pro je-rust nuetal frame and is strongly recommended for Hi-F load and Rhythm Guitar and pubile address.
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Just what you need for work bench or lab. neou warning light in netai box. Takes standard 13 amp fused plugs. Supplied complete with 7 feet of heavy cable. $39 / 6$ wired up. ready to work plus $4 / 6$ post and insurance.

| Standard size linin. wafer-sllver-plated 5 -amp contact, standard in. spindle 2 in. long-with locking washer and nut. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| No. of Poles | 2 way | 3 way | 4 way | 5 way | 6 way | 8 way | 10 way | 12 way |
| 1 pole | 8/8 | 0/6 | 8/6 | 8/8 | 9/6 | 8/6 | 6/8 | 6/6 |
| 2 poles | 6/6 | $0 / 0$ | $8 / 6$ | 6/6 | 6/6 | 6/6 | 10/6 | 10/8 |
| 3 poles | 8/8 | 0/8 | $8 / 8$ | 10/6 | 10/8 | 10/6 | 14/6 | 14/8 |
| 4 poles | 6/6 | 6/8 | $8 / 8$ | 10/6 | 10/8 | $10 / 8$ | 18/6 | 18/6 |
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$\begin{aligned} & \text { receive a list of } 50 \text { different } 1 \mathrm{Ca} \text { available at bargaln prices } 8 /-\mathrm{upwarde} \\ & \text { with circuita and technical data of each. Complete parcel only } 21 \text { post }\end{aligned}$
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1 WATT AMPLIFIER \& PREAMP
5 transistors-highly efficient, made for use
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With these you can vary the voltage applied to your circuit rom ing. We offer a ringe of these ex-equipment but litt used and in every way as good as new. Any not 80 , will be exchanged or cash refunded, 2 amp 84.19 .6 . 5 , wmp 87.19.6. 8 amp 812.19.6. 10 amp 215.19.6. Carr. extra Note some of these are panel mounting types.

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If you wish to know how long your equipment has been awitched on then this is what you need. Counts running time up to 999 hours. $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ manas opera-
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## THE PECTRON HEATING/VENTILATING CONTROL

This neat unit contains all the controls needed for
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(a) A clock switch giving 2 on/off periode per 24 hours.
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voltage necesaary to operate solenold of gas valve. (e) A changeover switch to bypass the clock.
(f) Changeover fwiteh to cut of heat so allowing cold air to be blown for summer ventllation. (g) Neon indicator and fuses. The unit has a circuit diagram and five leads labelled " Mains,"' "Fan," "Thermosta
$\cdots$ Thermoatat $2, "$ Gas valve." 25.19 .8 plus $4 / 6$ postage and insurance.

See in the dark
INFRA-RED MONOSCOPE
This equipruent is complete and portable. Basically it consists of an infra-red image converter tube with optical lenses for focusing the image and a Zambini pile to provide the necessary E.F.T. The monoscope is housed in a hide case size $9 \times 6 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$, approx made originally for the army for night observations, practical applications; a limited quantity only is avail
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there ls plenty of room.


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WAFER SWITCHES
2 pole, 2 way- 4 pole, 2 way-
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CONTROLLER Electronically change peed from approxi maximum. Full power at all speeds by fingerip control. Kit includes all parta, caane,
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MAINS MOTOR Precision made - as used in record decka and tape recordersdeal alao for extractor an, blower, heatert Snip at $9 / 6$. Postage 3/- for first one then 1/- for each one orer post iree.
ELECTRIC CLOCK WITH 25 AMP SWITCH Made by smith's, these unita are as fitted to many top quality cookers to control the oven. The clock is majns driven aqd irequency controlled so it is ex dals enable switch on and of times to be accurately set. Ideal
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This is as the clockewitch described sbove but with addltional panel Whlch
incorporates
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Acts aiso as earphone, size only $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{n}$. $\times \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in} . \times \mathrm{iln}$. Regular price probably $\mathbf{2 3}$ or more. Our price $19 / 8$. working order they will be exchanged.
MAINS TRANSISTOR POWER PACK
Designed to operate tranaistor sets and amplifiers. Adjustable output 6 F., 9 v ., 12 volts for up to 500 mA (clasa B working). Taken the place of any of the following batteries: PP1, PP3, PP4, PP6, PP7, PP9, and others. Kit comprises: mains transformer rectifier, smoothing and load reaistor, condensers and instructions. Real enip at only 16/6 plue $3 / 6$ postage
PP3 BATTERY ELIMINATORS Run your small transistor radio from up ready to wire into your set and adjuatable high or low current.
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> Where postage is not stated then orders oyer 83 are poat free. Below $\mathbf{8 3}$ add $2 / 9$. Semiconductors add $1 /-$ post. Over 81 post iree. S.A.E. with enquiriea please

THE modules described in the following paragraphs form the Local Oscillator Unit for the Main Receiver. This unit is basically a stable signal generator tuning over the frequency range 36 to 64 MHz ; however, the tuning dial is calibrated from 2 MHz to 30 MHz indicating the aerial frequency at which the receiver is tuned. This can be readily appreciated by referring to the block schematic of Fig. 8.1. Some constructors may have a variable oscillator of the required frequency range and this can be used, instead of the local oscillator unit, to supply the main receiver.

The local oscillator unit comprises three modules and a main chassis. The modules are:
(a) Variable oscillator module, 2 to 30 MHz , split into five ranges (A to E ).
(b) Crystal oscillator, 34 MHz .
(c) A combined mixer and high pass filter.


# pe wivezano  

By R.HIRST s.t.c. tro.

LOCAL OSCILLATOR

## VARIABLE OSCILLATOR MODULE

A two stage emitter coupled L.C. oscillator circuit forms the basis of the variable oscillator module (Fig. 8.2) using TR1 and TR2. The collector load comprises the tuning coils L1 to L5 and a variable


Fig. 8.I. Block schematic diagram of the local oscillator unit
capacitor, VC1. Each range is tuned in approximately a 1.6 to 1 ratio by VCl but this ratio varies slightly due to the effect of stray capacity. The output tunes over the range 2 to 30 MHz and is fed into the mixer module via SK 1 to the base of TR7 (Fig. 8.4).


Variable Oscillator Module


Fig. 8.3. Crystal oscillator module circuit diagram

## MIXER AND FILTER



# Mainline set the NEW standard in amplifiers 



## Mainline 70ABD

The 70ABD is a fully integrated Preamplifier and Power Amplifier to the specifications of the Pre-4 and 70AB. Size $6 \frac{34^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 15 \frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 4 \frac{34^{\prime \prime}}{}$.

Recommended Retail Price 664.0 .0 .

## Mainline 70AB power amplifier

The MAINLINE 7OAB is à high fidelity power amplifier, which is in every respect one of the finest units available on the market today, regardless of price. One of the main features of this remarkable amplifier is its elaborate protection against short and open circuit, and we can guarantee that it is virtually indestructible. Allied to this is the very high power output ( 70 watts RMS) a frequency range that is superb, and distortion well below $1 \%$ even at full output. The unit is suitable for use in discotheques, groups, P.A., etc., or anywhere that high quality, high output is required. Coupled to our Pre-4 Control Unit the results are quite remarkable. The Mainline 70 AB main amplifier can be used with any other good quality control unit.

Specification
POWER OUTPUT 70 watts RMS $\pm 1 \mathrm{db}$ at
8 OHMS.


FREQUENCY RESPONSE 20-20.000 HZ $\pm 1 \mathrm{db}$.
SIGNAL/NOISE RATIO- 70 db at full output.
HARMONIC OISTORTION less than $5 \%$ at full output

INPUT SENSITIVITY 700 mV at 20-30 K
OHMS.

A.C. FUSE 1.5 amps (Britısh Standard).

Recommended Rerail Price f35.0.0.

## Mainline Pre-4 mixer pre-amp control unit

The MAINLINE Pre-4 is a high quality control unit, which has been designed specifically for use where mixing facilities are essential, and features many facilities not normally found on control units of this type,
The unit has four individual inputs each with its own gain control, plus separate bass, treble and master volume controls, for versatility in use. Inputs 3 and 4 are duplicated on the back panel so that if the unit is panel mounted the two auxiliary inputs (which are suitable for P.U. Tuners, Tape-recorders, etc.) may be connected from the rear. As the Pre-4 is self-powered it can be used with any other Power Amplifier, but has been designed basically as the control unit for our MAINLINE 70AB Amplifier Module.

## Specification

INPUIS VOL. 18 mV at 50 K OHMS (mic). VOL. 28 mV at 50 OK OHMS (mic). VOL. 350 mV at 500 K OHMS (aux). VOL. 450 mV at 500 K OHMS (aux). 50 OHM and 600 OHM Mic inputs may be ordered at E2.0.0. extra per Input.
1 or 2 meg OHM aux inputs may be ordered at 1 or 2 meg OH
no extia cost.
no extra cost.
FREQUENCY RESPONSE $30-20,000 ~$
$H Z \pm 3 \mathrm{db}$.

SIGNAL/NOTSE RATIO Better than - 65 db . HARMONIC DISTORTION Less than $5 \%$ at 1 volt.
BASS Continuously variable 20 db at 100 HZ . TREELE Continuously variable 30 db at 10 KHZ .

CUT OUT REQUIRED 11衣" - 5*
FUSE 60 ma internally mounted.
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## As described in Practical Electronics

Integrated Circuit (Dual in Line Package) Audio Amplifier incorporating its own Pre-Amplifier. A Class A-B Power Amplifier stage capable of delivering up to 3.5 Watts RMS. The SL403A can be used to form the basis of a simple Audio Amplifier using a minimum of external components. Complete with Data Sheet. 44/-each.




Fig. 8.5. Variable oscillator module layout and wiring

## VARIABLE OSCILLATOR



Fig. 8.6. Module case drilling details

## COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors
RI $8.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R2 $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R3 $560 \Omega$
R4 $1.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R5 $1.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R6 $390 \Omega$
R7 390
All $\frac{1}{3} \mathrm{~W}, 5 \%$ high stability, carbon film

## Capacitors

Cl $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper or foil
C2 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ceramic
C3 10pF mica $\pm \mathbf{2 . 5 \%}$
C4 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ceramic
C5 $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper or foil
VCl 6-60pF twin ganged 3-30pF variable capacitor (wired in parallel)

## Transistors

TRI, 2 2N918 (2 off)

## Miscellaneous

LI-5 inductors, see Fig. 8.11 (5 off)
SKl coaxial output socket
PLI/a-f lead through connectors (6 off)
Veroboard $3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in} \times 3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}, 0 \cdot 1 \mathrm{in}$ grid

## CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR



## CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR MODULE

The crystal oscillator module is very similar to the second oscillator module described earlier in this series where the output frequency was 36 MHz . However, in this instance the output frequency is 34 MHz which is produced by the basic oscillator, TR3 and associated components (Fig. 8.3).

The following stage TR4 and TR5 forms a directly coupled amplifier giving an output of approximately 0.5 volts at 34 MHz to switch the mixer module.

## MIXER MODULE

The mixer module can be broken down into three separate circuit configurations, these are as follows:
(a) Mixer.
(b) High Pass Filter.
(c) Output Amplifier.

The mixer section comprises TR6 and TR7 (Fig. 8.4) functioning in the following manner. The 2 to 30 MHz signal from the variable oscillator module is fed into the base of TR7 via C12 and is mixed, in TR7, with

34 MHz from the crystal oscillator module which is injected into the emitter of TR7. Due to the very low impedance at the emitter of TR7, a further stage, TR6 is introduced which current feeds TR7 via C16. Capacitor C14 is adjusted so that the signal level across R20 is at the level stipulated in the setting up instructions given later.

The output at the collector of TR7 is made up of a number of frequencies depending upon the output of the variable oscillator module. If the frequency of the variable oscillator module is 2 MHz the following frequencies are present in the collector circuit:
(a) Direct signal ( 34 MHz )
(b) $34 \mathrm{MHz}+2 \mathrm{MHz}(36 \mathrm{MHz})$
(c) Direct signal ( 2 M Hz )
(d) $34 \mathrm{MHz}-2 \mathrm{MHz}(32 \mathrm{MHz})$

If the output frequency of the variable oscillator module is changed to 30 MHz the frequencies present in the collector circuit of TR7 will now be:
(a) Direct signal $(34 \mathrm{MHz})$
(b) $34 \mathrm{MHz}+30 \mathrm{MHz}(64 \mathrm{MHz})$

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 | DT3 | $31^{\circ}$ | $600^{\circ}$ | POLYESTER | $11 / 6$ | TT6 | $5:$ | $2400^{\prime}$ | POLYESTER |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| SP5 | $5^{*}$ | 600 | P.V.C. | $8 / 6$ | SP7 | $7^{*}$ | $1200^{\prime}$ | P.V.C. | $\begin{array}{llllllll}\text { SPS } & 5^{*} & 600 & \text { P.V.C. } & 8 / 6 & \text { SP7 } & 7^{\prime \prime} & 1200^{\prime} \\ \text { P.V.C. } & 126 \\ \text { LPS } & 5 & 900^{\prime} & \text { P.V.C. } & 10 & \text { LP7 } & 7^{\prime \prime} & 1800^{\prime} \\ \text { DTS } & \text { P } & 1200 & \text { POLYESTER } & 15 & \text { DT } & 7^{\prime \prime} & 2400^{\prime} \\ \text { POLYESTER } & 15 & 25 /-\end{array}$

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$160 \mathrm{~V}: 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.015 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, $6 \mathrm{~d} . \quad 0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.15 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 8 \mathrm{~d} . \quad 0.33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, \mathrm{I} /-. \quad 0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 1 / 4$. $0.68 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 2 /-\quad 1.0 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 2 / 6$.
250V: P.C. mounting miniature $\pm 20 \%: 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.015 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, $0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}, .6 \mathrm{~d}$. $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.15 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, $0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 7 \mathrm{~d} . \quad 0.33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 1 /-$
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Selection of ceramic and polyester capacitors 100 pF to $1 \cdot 0 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. Total 100 capacitors, E2.18.0.
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6 V | $16 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10V | 200 12 F | Iov | $6.4 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 16\%F | 40 V |
| 200 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | 6 V | 20ıF | 10V | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $12 V$ | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 50 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | 40 V |
| 320 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | 6 V | $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10V | $16 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 15V | 16\%F | 25 V | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 64V |
| $6 \cdot 4 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | 64 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | 10V | $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 15V | $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | $2 \cdot 5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 64V |

$250 \mu \mathrm{~F} 12 \mathrm{~V}, 100 \mu \mathrm{~F} 40 \mathrm{~V}$ I/6. $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25$ volt $6 /-.2500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ $25 \mathrm{~V} 9 /-. \quad 500 \mu \mathrm{~F} 50$ volts $5 /-. \quad 1000 \mu \mathrm{~F} 50$ volt $8 /-$.

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| $3 \frac{3}{4} \times 5$ | 5/3 | 5/3 |
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| Pin insertion tool | $9 / 6$ | $9 / 6$ |
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## MIXER AND FILTER



Fig. 8.9. Mixer and filter module layout and wiring

## COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors

| R18 | $100 \Omega$ | $R 31$ | $I k \Omega$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R19 | see text | $R 32$ | $I k \Omega$ |
| R20 | $100 \Omega$ | $R 33$ | $1.5 k \Omega$ |
| R21 | $10 k \Omega$ | $R 34$ | $220 \Omega$ |
| R22 | $4.7 k \Omega$ | $R 35$ | $.47 \Omega$ |
| R23 | $1 k \Omega$ | $R 36$ | $180 \Omega$ |
| R24 | $820 \Omega$ | $R 37$ | $110 \Omega$ |
| R25 | $10 k \Omega$ | $R 38$ | $180 \Omega$ |
| R26 | $10 k \Omega$ | $R 39$ | $27 k \Omega$ |
| R27 | $I k \Omega$ | $R 40$ | $330 \Omega$ |
| R28 | $100 \Omega$ | $R 41$ | $130 \Omega$ |
| R29 | $27 k \Omega$ | $R 42$ | $150 \Omega$ |
| R30 | $I k \Omega$ |  |  |

All resistors $\frac{1}{3} \mathrm{~W}, 5 \%$ high stability, carbon film

## Capacitors

CI2 470pF polystyrene $\pm 2.5 \%$
C13 1,000pF polystyrene $\pm 10 \%$
C14 10pF polystyrene or mica $\pm \mathbf{2 . 5} \%$
CIS $0.01{ }_{\mu} \mathrm{F}$ ceramic
CI6 12pF mica $\pm 2.5 \%$
CI7 12 pF mica $\pm 2.5 \%$
CI8 $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper or foil
C19 51pF mica $\pm 2.5 \%$
C20 $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ mica $\pm \mathbf{2 . 5} \%$

| C 21 | 51 pF mica $\pm 2.5{ }^{\circ}{ }^{\prime}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| C22 | 4.7 pF ceramic or mica |
| C23 | 4.7 pF ceramic or mica |
| C24 | 4.7 pF ceramic or mica |
| C25 | 4.7 pF ceramic or mica |
| C26 | 4.7 pF ceramic or mica |
| C27 | 4.7 pF ceramic or mica |
| C28 | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper or foil |
| C29 | $3,000 \mathrm{pF}$ ceramic |
| C30 | $2,000 \mathrm{pF}$ ceramic |
| C31 | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper or foil |
| C32 | see text |
| C33 | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper or foil |
| C34 | 0.01 ceramic |

## Transistors

TR6-9 2N918 (4 off)
TRIO 2N3866

## Inductors

L7, 8 see Fig. 8.11 (2 off)
L9-13 $\quad 2 \cdot 2 \mu \mathrm{H}$ Cambion chokes (5 off)

## Miscellaneous

SK3 coaxial output socket
Veroboard $6 \frac{3}{4}$ in $\times, 1 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}, 0 \cdot 1 \mathrm{in}$ matrix


Mixer and Filter Module
(c) Direct signal $(30 \mathrm{MHz})$
(d) $34 \mathrm{MHz}-30 \mathrm{MHz}(4 \mathrm{MHz})$

In both the instances the required frequency is shown in bold letters and is above all the other frequencies therefore, a high pass filter, set to the correct frequency range, will accept the required frequencies above 36 MHz and reject those below. As the 34 MHz signal is of a considerable level, required for switching, and is relatively close to the wanted frequency at the lower end of the band, the rejection at 34 MHz achieved by the high pass filter is not sufficient. To reduce the level of the 34 MHz signal, two rejector circuits, L7, C19 and L8, C21 are included, effectively, in the collector load of TR7. These two rejectors, when correctly tuned, give a rejection of approximately 46 dB at 34 MHz and coupled with the rejection of the high pass filter, the overall rejection is in the order of 54 dB at 34 MHz .

The high pass filter, L9 to L13 and C22 to C26, starts to cut off below 36 MHz and takes the shape of the curve shown in Fig. 8.10.


Fig. 8.10. High pass filter characteristic


Fig. 8.11. Coil winding details

The output amplifier is directly coupled comprising three stages, TR8, TR9 and TR10, giving an output of 0.7 volts in the frequency range 34 MHz to 64 MHz . The input base of TR8 accepts the signal from the high pass filter via C27 and the signal is amplified in TR8 and TR9. The amplifier is terminated in an emitter follower TR10, to reduce the output impedance to something in the order of 10 ohms. The output at C34 is fed into the first mixer in the main receiver (via SK2), as shown in Fig. 8.1.

## POWER SUPPLY

A separate 24 volt supply could be used to power the local oscillator unit; however the 24 volts already provided in the main receiver has sufficient current capacity to drive both the local oscillator unit and the main receiver and hence this can be used.

## MECHANICAL AND WIRING DETAILS

It is essential that all the circuit wiring is kept as near to the layout diagrams as possible, as any extra capacity introduced due to lengthy leads will alter the tuning range of the overall unit. This is especially applicable to the variable oscillator module as the high frequency end of the band does include a certain percentage of stray capacity by necessity.

Both the variable oscillator unit and the crystal oscillator are built in module cases of the type detailed in Fig. 2.1. The only details that differ from the module cases described earlier are the number and spacing of the pin connectors and the drilling of mounting holes, in the variable oscillator module, for VCI; these details are shown in Figs. 8.6 and 8.8.

Before commencing construction of the variable oscillator module the five inductors should be wound to the details shown in Fig. 8.11 and the perforated board should be cut away to clear VCl which is mounted on the back panel of the module. The components can then be positioned and wired up as shown in Fig. 8.5; note the use of six connecting pins-the pin letters $a$ to $e$ correspond to the ranges of the receiver.

As mentioned previously the crystal oscillator module is a copy of the 2 nd oscillator module in every detail except the pin connectors and XI (now 34 MHz ); construction details for this module are given in Fig. 8.7.

The mixer and filter unit is constructed on a piece of plain perforated Veroboard that is mounted on the chassis by three $\frac{1}{2}$ in mounting pillars. As before inductors L7 and L8 should be wound before commencing construction, to the details given in Fig. 8.11. The layout and wiring of the mixer and filter unit is straightforward and is shown in Fig. 8.9. Capacitor C32 and Resistor R19 may need to be fitted when the unit is set up; details will be given next month.
Next month: chassis and wiring details

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