

CONSTRUCTIONAL PROJECTS
P.E. POWER SLAVES by B. Reeson
A family of dual-channel high power audio amplifiers ..... 590
RANDOM LIGHT DISPLAY by K. L. Spence
A simple lighting unit capable of producing an endessly varying and unpredictable pattern of colours ..... 607
P.E. RONDO QUADRAPHONIC SOUND SYSTEM-8 by R. A. Cole Introduction to the f.m. tuner and decoder with decoder construction details ..... 610
CAR SYSTEMS MONITOR by J. P. Perry
Safeguard yourself against the silent faults; add audible indication to water, oil and charging circuits ..... 614
NIM MACHINE by R. D. Mount
An unbeatable opponent for the old chinese stick game ..... 627
GENERAL FEATURES
FIRST STEPS IN CIRCUIT DESIGN-4 by A. P. Stephenson
Biasing gain and the emitter follower ..... 596
INGENUITY UNLIMITED
Synthesiser patchboard ..... 603
SOLAR POWER AND ITS APPLICATIONS FOR TODAY by P. S. Woodcock
A look at the utilisation of solar energy and its effects ..... 618
NEWS AND COMMENT
EDITORIAL-SOUND POWER ..... 589
SPACEWATCH by Frank W. Hyde
The Sun by Skylab ..... 595
ELECTROMUSE by Malcolm Pointon
A musician discusses the application of electronic techniques to composition and performance ..... 600
BOOK REVIEWS
Selected new books we have received ..... 604, 616
NEWS BRIEFS
Marconi Centenary Exhibition-Obituary ..... 616, 625
TUNING IN TO ESP by Peter Verwig A report from a recent IEEE conference in America on parapsychology ..... 617
INDUSTRY NOTEBOOK by Nexus
What's happening inside industry ..... 622
PATENTS REVIEW
Reminders on general British Patent procedures ..... 631
READOUT
A selection of readers' letters ..... 634
SOUND SYNTHESIS FOR THE AMATEURA special offer to Clubs, Schools and Universities to hear the P.E. Lecture on"Sound Synthesis" using the P.E. Synthesiser635

Our August issue will be published on Friday, July 12, 1974

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$4 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{p} .0 .22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 5 \mathrm{p} .0 .3 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 6 \mathrm{p}, 0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 7 \frac{3}{2} \mathrm{D} .0 .68 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 11 \mathrm{p}, 10 \mathrm{~F}, 13 \mathrm{p}$ $4 \frac{4}{4}$ p. $0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 5 \mathrm{p} .0 .33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 6 \mathrm{p} .0 .47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 7 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{p}, 0.68 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 11 \mathrm{p} .1 .0 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 13 \mathrm{p}$. MULLARD POLYESTER CAPACITORS C280 SERIES 250 V P.C. mounting: $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.015 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 3 \mathrm{p}, 0.033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}$,
 20p. $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 24 \mathrm{p}$.

MYLAR FILM
$0.001 \mu F, 0.002 \mu F, 0.005 \mu F, 0.01 \mu F, 0.02 \mu F$, $\begin{array}{ll}0.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.002 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.005 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.02 \mu \mathrm{~F}, & \text { TORS } 100 \mathrm{pF} \text { to } 10.000 \mathrm{pF}, 2 \mathrm{p} \\ \mathbf{3 p .} 0.04 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 4 \mathrm{p} .\end{array}$

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$15 / 63,22 / 10.22 / 25,22 / 63,33 / 6 \cdot 3,33 / 16,33 / 40,47 / 4,47 / 1044 / 25,47 / 40,68 / 6.3$
 $47 / 63,100 / 40,150 / 25,220 / 25,330 / 10,470 / 6 \cdot 3,7 \mathrm{p}, 68 / 63,150 / 40,220 / 40,330 / 16$, $1,000 / 4,10 \mathrm{p}, 470 / 10,680 / 6 \cdot 3,11 \mathrm{p} .100 / 63,150 / 63,220 / 63,1,000 / 10,12 \mathrm{p} .470 / 25$ $680 / 16,1,500 / 6 \cdot 3,13$ p. $470 / 40,680 / 25,1,000 / 16,1,500 / 10,2,200 / 6 \cdot 3,18 \mathrm{p} .330 / 63$, 680/40, 1,000/25, 1,500/16, 2,200/10, 3,300/6.3, 4,700/4, 2lp.

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0.15
20p
28p
28p
32p
67p
$108 p$
52p
41p
12p
11p
62p
52p
20p

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| 18 mm |  |  | Stereo screened $40 \mathrm{p} \quad 3.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ screened 12 p $\begin{array}{llll}\text { Standard socket } & 20 \mathrm{p} & 2.5 \mathrm{~mm} \text { socket } & 10 \mathrm{p} \\ \text { Stereo socket } & 30 \mathrm{p} & 3.5 \mathrm{~mm} \text { socket } & 11 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$ D.I.N.PLUGS AND SOCKETS 2 pin. 3 pin, 5 pin $180^{\circ} .5$ pin $240^{\circ}, 6$ pin, 7 pin 4 way $12 p$. Socket $8 p$. 4 way screened cable, 25 p/metre 6 way screened cable 30 p/metre.

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Two speakers with cabinets
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SA50 55
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7 transistors: 7 diodes
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120 watt module complete with builtin supply-extra heavy duty $£ 19.75 \begin{gathered}\text { carr. } \\ \text { 60pp }\end{gathered}$


THE SAIOO MODULE

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STABILISED

| PS45 |  | 63.50 |  |
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| MT45 | Transiormer for above | ¢3.50 | ${ }_{\substack{\text { carriaze } \\ 308}}$ |
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Mk II STEREO DISCO MIXER $£ 19.75$ This well tried unit mixes two decks, handies any ceramic cartridge, and features mic over-ride plus separate full range bass and treble controls on both mic and deck inputs. Ample headphone power is
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Thousands sold of this extremely popular mono version. A mic input may be fitted using the VA30 (see below). Low consumption from a 9 V battery. Features the same high standards of reproduction as the Stereo version.
Controls: H/phone select, vol, Left deck vol, Right deck vol, bass, treble, Controls: H/phone select, vol, Left deck vol, Right deck vol, bass, treble, master vol. Size 12 in $\times 3$ in $\times 2$ in deep.


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Only SAXON can supply such incredible value for money. This unit features 3 kW power handling, full-wave control, bass, middie, treble AND master controls. Twin loudspeaker jacks for "through " connections. It may be used free standing or will for extra wide rangeresponse. Size 12 in $\times 3$ in $\times 2 \frac{1}{2}$ in deeg. Professional standards at a price you can afford!
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M6HL
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VA30 CHANNEL $\$ 3.50$ Carr.
This is the basic channel module in the above mixers and may also be used for extra inputs on either the
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F. M. Multiplex Stereo Decoder

MC1310P each

Four Channel SQ Decoder
MC1312P
1.75

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## SOUND POWER

AUDIo power amplifiers find their way into a very extensive and diverse range of equipments and systems, quite apart from the domestic entertainment area. The exuberant folk music of today, whether originated "live" or recreated from discs, is borne along on hundreds of watts. Public Address systems reach out as never before to cajole or inform captive audiences or, just as probably, innocent passers by. Just two of the more blatant uses of sound power.

No one can avoid the fact that amplified sound is very much part of the contemporary scene. The propriety of its widespread use can be argued about but its presence is real and, presumably, permanent.

Those concerned with technical matters can, at any rate, do their best to ensure that the amplifying medium, for its part, is beyond reproach and does not introduce gratuitously any (further) distortion. In fact, it is generally agreed that this branch of the technology has made impressive progress and audio engineering has reached almost the ultimate in the quest for faultless performance. The evidence lies among the huge variety of amplifier designs which have been developed.

Yet the question could well be posed: are there not too many designs?

The need for off-the-shelf designs to meet the constantly occurring demands for certain basic units (such as audio power amplifiers and power supply units) which form indispensable sections of many electronic systems, has been a theme of discussion among electronics people over the years. The logic behind this thought is undeniable, but the ideal general purpose design has never materialised, save in certain rather limited areas. So designs for standard routine functions still proliferate.

The continual up-dating of the technology through the introduction of new components is the stumbling block. Electronics is synonymous with change. A well proven standard device, equipment, or system is likely to have a limited life before the inevitable innovation or improvement happens.

Yet even within this volatile field there has perhaps been a rather excessive outpouring of amplifier designs than is altogether warranted.

There is still a reasonable life expectancy for many designs; and when considering a widely used item such as an a.f. amplifier there is good sense in stabilising the position as long as possible by fully exploiting one single design. If the design is capable of being produced in a number of different "sizes" so catering for the majority of power-requirements commonly called for through the simple expedient of changing component values, the attractiveness of this policy is unquestionable.
This idea materialises in our pages with the introduction of a family of audio power amplifiers. The P.E. Power Slaves comprise a family of four amplifiers having outputs of 20, 40, 65 and 100 watts respectively, suitable for use with hi fi pre-amplifiers. Furthermore any unit can easily be built in a two-channel form with a doubling of output power. Good performance, with low harmonic distortion and good signal to noise ratio, justify the claim that the P.E. Power Slaves are a step towards that goal of a universal power amplification block for embodiment in all kinds of sound reinforcement systems.
F.E.B.

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THE purpose of any audio chain is the accurate reproduction of live or recorded information, be it speech, music or just plain "sound".

Due to the low efficiency of transducers generally, with the possible exception of horn loaded systems, considerable power must be expended in order to produce sounds at an acceptable level; this level will obviously be different for different transducers in different applications. As the basic function is the same, it was felt that, rather than produce a flood of designs for specific purposes, a better approach was to produce a single basic design to fulfil all requirements.

From this article four amplifiers can be built all of them being based on a single circuit configuration. To realise the range of outputs of $20 \mathrm{~W}, 40 \mathrm{~W}$, 65 W and 100 W component changes should be made according to the relevant parts lists.

Although a single amplifier is described the prototype units were designed as double channel, that is, where two amplifiers are contained on a single chassis. This, of course, means a doubling of output capability to $20+20 \mathrm{~W}, 40+40 \mathrm{~W}, 65+65 \mathrm{~W}$ and $100+100 \mathrm{~W}$ in each case.

## DESIGN CRITERIA

Where a low power system is required, there is little to be gained, and much to be lost in producing a power amplifier with an output capability of less than twenty watts into eight ohms, as cost and
physical size will not be significantly affected, and performance criteria such as transient handling capability, signal to noise ratio and distortion are not likely to improve.

Turning to the upper end of the power scale, choice of maximum power can be arrived at by examination of the transducers to be driven. Modern composite high power speakers, and individual drive units, will accept continuous sine wave outputs of between 10 and 50 watts r.m.s. Unfortunately audio signals are rarely as predictable as sine waves, but it can be assumed that twice the continuous power can be handled on transients of short duration, thus a power capability of 80 to 100 watts will be required.

When two or more speakers are connected in series, or series-parallel to maintain impedance, then the power requirement can be greatly increased. No allowance has been made for this method of use, as the damping effect of the amplifier is lost, except when units are connected by separate leads to the amplifier terminals, and thus it is felt to be a bad policy.

A further problem arises when two speakers in parallel are driven to a peak level of 100 watts each, that is, a current handling capability of at least 10 amps is required, both in the amplifier and power supply unit, and this is dangerously close to the maximum current of a TO3 transistor (generally 15 amps).

Thus a high quality amplifier should be capable of driving up to 100 watts into a single 8 ohm load, and, to satisfy the requirements of all applications, must have very low harmonic and intermodulation distortion figures, be overload protected, have a high damping factor, and a very high signal to noise ratio.

This final parameter is often neglected, and in most designs a figure of 80 dB is considered good. However, a better figure to aim for is 100 dB .

Power amplifiers can be functionally split into two sections, namely a voltage amplifier with low current gain, followed by a current amplifier with unity voltage gain, and at this stage the two sections will be considered separately.

## Specification

Power bandwidth
Total harmonic distortion
Intermodulation distortion
Signal/Noise ratio
Input sensitivity into 200k $\Omega$
Input matched to $600 \Omega$ line
Overload protected
May be d.c. coupled throughout for use as a servo amplifier
Full bridge output to eliminate "turn-on plop"
-6dB from 8 Hz to 45 kHz
0.02\%
$0.04 \%$
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## VOLTAGE AMPLIFIER

The basic voltage amplifier configuration used for the power amplifiers is shown in Fig. 1. It has the advantage of providing adequate performance without undue complexity and requires no setting up.

The input resistor R1 provides bias current for TR1 and defines the slave amplifier input impedance.

R12, R2 and C2 form an attenuator which determines the proportion of the output fed back to TR2 and hence defines the gain of the amplifier. C2 allows full d.c. feedback to stabilise the output at, or close to 0 volts. Transistors TR1 and TR2 form a differential amplifier, as do TR3 and TR4, the output of this second stage being fed to a common emitter amplifier TR5.

The overall combination will have a very high open loop gain, and will be non-inverting, as a positive going input tends to increase current in TR1 at the expense of TR2, so that TR4 turns on and

TR3 off. This reduces the current drawn by TR 5 base and gives a positive going output at TR5 collector. Resistors R4, R5, R7, R8 and R9 enable a sensible standing current to be established in each stage, and eliminate any chance of leakage currents unbalancing the amplifier.
The problem of non-linearity in TR5 is overcome by operating this transistor at a constant collector current by bootstrapping the junction of R10 and R11 to the output by means of C3, providing an almost constant current in R11.

## COMPOUND TRANSISTORS

The output stage is basically a Class AB compound amplifier using quasi-complementary transistors being made up of groups of three as seen in Fig. 3.

These triplet configurations have a number of advantages chief of which are (a) high current gain, (b) the inputs are presented through a single base


Fig. 2. Showing how current
Fig. 1. Basic circuit arrangement for voltage amplifier limiting is achieved


Fig. 3. Compound triplet arrangement for current amplifier
emitter junction which means that the output transistor junction temperature will not affect stability and (c) mpn output transistors are relatively cheap and readily available.

In the quiescent condition the driver transistor TRI is biased to provide a mid-rail voltage at the
output. With a signal applied the collector applies alternate drive conditions to the compound triplets so that first one group is conducting and then the other.

A "two stage" resistor is used to link the triplets to the output terminal, consisting of a fairly high value resistor shunted by a power diode and resistor.

The high value of resistance gives good quiescent stability, and the diodes limit the voltage drop under full drive conditions. To ensure reliable operation of the overload protection, a low value resistor is connected in series with each diode, and maximum current can be adjusted by means of this resistor.

## OVERLOAD PROTECTION

Overload protection is provided by limiting the output current supplied by either compound triplet. The circuitry that achieves this is shown in Fig. 2 for one triplet only, a complementary circuit being used on the other.

The current supplied to the output terminal generates a voltage across the combination of R3, R 2 and D2 which is related to the current flowing. When the current rises to a level sufficient to provide approximately .1 .5 V , base current is directed through TRI and D1. Conduction of this transistor means that bias is removed from the triplet so that the output current is limited.

The peak current available before limiting must be higher than the peak current to be supplied to the load, and as this may be 5A, a dissipation of 225 W can occur with a short circuit at the output. Because of this, a fuse circuit must be inserted ( FS 1 ) to give protection.

The complete circuit configuration for the basic amplifiers is given in Fig. 4.


Fig. 4. Basic single channel (right) configuration common to all slave amplifiers. For component value variations, see components lists. The inset shows wiring for a 180 degree, 5 pin socket for two channel. When connecting a remote preamplifier the screen is connected to earth ( 0 V ) only at the slave to obviate hum loops

## POWER SUPPLIES

Power supplies in a design such as this must provide a fairly steady supply voltage, with a high current capacity when required. As an example, 100 watts into 8 ohms will require a peak current of 5 amps per channel. This implies that for a stereo amplifier with a common power supply a peak requirement of 10 amps is necessary. The mean current drain will be $1 / 2.8$ of this value, or 3.5 amps , and so a transformer rated at 4 amps continuous current would be suitable.

Decoupling should maintain the supply within about two volts of nominal, at full power, for one half cycle of mains current so that

$$
C=\frac{I T}{V} \text { at peak output }
$$

where $I$ is in amps, $T$ in seconds and $V$ volts. The equation then is:

$$
C=\frac{10 \times 0.01}{2} \text { Farads }=50,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}
$$

A composite musical signal can be shown to have a short term mean level at least 12 dB below maximum output. Occasional transients will reach maximum output, but these will generally be of short duration, two milliseconds or less being typical

From similar calculations as above the decoupling requirement for music at -12 dB is $5,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and for a 2 mS transient, $6,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$.

## DESIGN CHOICE

If the amplifier is intended for home entertainment (domestic) reservoir capacitors of $6,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ are

## COMPONENTS . . .




Fig. 5. Circuit for p.s.u. For the domestic version of amplifier the power rails are pins 1,2 and 3 . The monitoring version takes its supply from pins 4,5 and 6 . The current sensor R7 is made up from 26 s.w.g. Constantan resistance wire ( $0.03 \mathrm{ohm} / \mathrm{cm}$ ). The tapping resistances are as follows: A to $\mathbf{B} \boldsymbol{\beta} 0.02$ ohms; $\mathbf{B}$ to $C=0.07$ ohms ; C to $D<0.02$ ohms. Supply voltages for the 20, 40, 65 and 100 W versions are approximately $\pm 25 \mathrm{~V}, \pm 32 \mathrm{~V}, \pm 36 \mathrm{~V}$ and $\pm 46 \mathrm{~V}$ respectively
adequate assuming that neither transients nor very loud passages coincide exactly in time if two channels are being used.
For "monitoring" quality, a higher value capacity, possibly 10 or $15,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ should be used, or alternatively a stabilised supply particularly when used for stereo to reduce cross talk.

A composite circuit diagram for the domestic and monitoring versions of the p.s.u. is shown in Fig. 5.


Fig. 6. Showing how speaker impedance changes with frequency

For the former points 1,2 and 3 are connected to the amplifier. For the latter points 1 and 2 connect to the stabiliser circuit; no connection is made to 2.

The output mid-point in this case is derived using resistor and capacitors.

## OPTIMUM LOAD

Optimum load impedance for all versions is 8 ohms but any load can be accommodated at reduced power, bearing in mind the peak voltage and current limitations.
Fig. 6 shows typical impedance curves for high quality domestic speakers demonstrating that the impedance is anything but constant. Indeed, it is not unusual to find dips of impedance as low as 1.5 or 2 ohms, causing severe current overload at critical frequencies.

## IMPORTANT

Two BA148 diode suppressors MUST be added to Fig. 4 as follows-Cathode and anode to $\div \mathrm{V}$ and SK2 and SK2 and - V respectively. In Components List for all versions TR 7 and TR 10 should be MPSU57 and MPS-U07; for the p.s.u. TR2, TR3 should be MPS-U07 and TR4, MPS-U57. (See next month.)

Next month constructional details for the amplifiers will be given

## THE SUN, BY SKYLAB

From the last of the experiments aboard Skylab has come new knowledge and exciting data. There is no doubt that a new era has opened for astronomers and as a result of what has been noted many programmes will be instituted in solar physics.
Much of the success is due to the (ATM) Apollo Telescope Mounting. It enabled a new view of the solar system, the galaxy and, most important, the Sun itself

Free of the atmospheric absorp tion the telescope showed that the Sun. far from being "quiet" at the near sunspot minimum was extremely active. This alone has justified the mission and also confirmed the need for man in space.

Practical Electronics received an invitation from the Institution of Radio and Electronic Engineers to attend the Clerk-Maxwell Lecture, "Man in Space" by Werhner von Braun. More than twice the number of persons attended than the seats available. Before the lecture began the writer had a conversation with Werhner vorr Braun and certain definite conclusions regarding the progress of physics emerged. In his words $\qquad$ the time has come for another Maxwell to reorder our thoughts and set in their proper place the ever increasing number of particles, the black holes and the quasars." He also gave some information based on the early examination of some of the data.

The medical evidence is now clear and it is accepted that man could live in space indefinitely. The adaptability is not confined to man for the spider which was taken aboard Skylab was able to spin a perfect web. The pictures of the first attempts were not only comic but extremely interesting. It needed only a short while of accommodation before things were under control. The peculiar zigzag of the circles and the cross ties soon assumed the familiar shape and life went on.

The astronauts also attempted to move round the walls at a high rate to set up artificial gravity. In this they were not successful.

## GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

One of the most spectacular events was a pulsing stream of plasma from the Sun which had a regular rhythm. More than forty of such events were recorded. An unexpected bonus was the ability to observe with the coronagraph these great blobs, as large as the


BY FRANK W. HYDE

Sun itself, as they moved up through the corona at a speed of 400 km per second.

The variation of the intensity of the corona over the two hemispheres of the Sun were not anticipated. One section of the Sun seemed to be in the nature of a hole at a lower temperature than the rest of the surface. This was borne out by the X-ray pictures. It also appears that the corona is composed of closed loops which fit the magnetic line structure. In both the X-ray measurements and the white light coronagraph pictures this appears.

There were a number of instances, where the conditions for sunspot appearance appeared outside the normally observed belts. Some of the "holes" indicate the source of disturbances of the solar wind which effect terrestrial conditions.

There have been tens of thousands of frames taken of the coronal conditions, more than has been observed in a thousand years of eclipses. Continuous observations with the facility to select and also combine different types of telescope, made the Skylab control console a sort of astronomical organ on which the melody of the heavens could be produced. Nothing like this success was expected and now the knowledge of what can be done in this field must ensure that the next decade will add an unprecedented amount of data for study.

More than 600 pictures a day were recorded and the number of bits in each picture amounted to 108. Among the many and continuous hours of study covering everything in the vicinity of the Sun there were two solar eclipses,
many eruptions and flares on the Sun itself, the perihelion of Kohoutek and a transit of Mercury.

The combination of control from the Johnson Spaceflight Centre and the astronauts aboard Skylab resulted in a magnificent scientific achievement. It is worth noting that the planned tasks for the crew were restricted to the pointing of the telescopes, target control and to collect and replace cameras and film. But, in fact, the crew did much more than that and it was their resource that made possible the full speed running of the observations. Despite some early difficulties. which were overcome, the crew settled down to do a job for which posterity must ever be grateful.

The cost of this mission was high and many thought wasteful. None would say this now and indeed, there is in this very extensive period of man in space, the certainty that money for the future missions will be forthcoming.

## MORE OF VENUS

The Venus fly-by of Mariner 10 has been a successful mission. But some of the data obtained will need months to extract the information sought

The spacecraft approached Venus from the dark side and the first pictures showed the cusps which appear extended far beyond the normal. This is thought to be due to the atmospheric refraction. The scattering of light beyond the terminator will help to an understanding of the upper atmosphere. Haze shells were observed and these will reveal more data after computer processing.

One important aspect is the layering observed in the atmosphere. This is not yet understood nor is the material of the cloud strata.

There was great penetration of the atmosphere by the two radio probe signals. Though physical occultation began at about $10.17 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. radio signals were still being received up to 17 minutes later. The aerial on Mariner 10 was designed to change its pointing direction in order to compensate for the bending of the radio waves which takes place when travelling through the Venus atmosphere.
Much is expected of this technique in the observation of the density of the atmosphere and it is hoped also to resolve the differences of temperature given by earlier Mariner missions and by the USSR spacecraft Venera. Helium is known to be a constituent but it would have to be at least 3 per cent to account for the differences of temperature found.


This series, specially written for the beginnet, tahes ycu step-by step through transistor circuit design in a simple, nonmathematical way.

Design of a small signal amplifier will be followed by a Class $B$ amplifier and the series will conclude whth constructional project so that jour theoretical knowledge san be put into practice.

So FAR we have only looked at the voltage divider method of biasing a transistor stage. This month we will look at another method waich is simple and economical. These advantages are, however, at the expense of oiner parameters.

Once we are satisfied with a single stage amplifier, the
problem then arises of how to connect this into the system so that it does not disturb the driving or driven circuits. Sometimes direct coupling is possible but often we must make use of a d.c. blocking capacitor. The value of this component must be such as to maintain the required bandwidth of the system.

### 4.1. ALTERNATIVEBIASING ARRANGEMENT

There is an alfernative to the $\mathrm{R} 1, \mathrm{R} 2$ divider (Part 3) known as "collector to base feedback bias". Only one resistor is needed instead of two and some bias stability is possible even without the inclusion of $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ (see Fig. 4.1).

The resistor $R_{\mathrm{B}}$ provides bias and also some negative feedback which tends 10 stabilise the collector current against changes in $h_{\text {FE }}$.

Suppose that $h_{\text {FE }}$ is higher than predicted: this would tend to increase $I \mathrm{c}$ which in turn would cause the output voltage to fall. This fall would be passed via $\mathcal{R}_{\mathrm{E}}$ to the base causing a decrease in $/ \mathrm{c}$. The base bias conditions are therefore stabilised.

## HIDDEN FEATURES

Although the method appears delightfully simple and economic, there are certain hidden features which the designer must understand.


Fig. 4.1 Simple circuit illustrating collector to base feedback (left)

Fig. 4.2 The source resistance can be seen to be an important parameter in the calculation of the circuit gain (right)
(a) The feedback is in parallel with the input signal and therefore requires extra current drive from the signal input to the stage. In other words, the stage input resistance $R_{\text {IN }}$ is lowered. In fact, the input resistance consists of two resistors in parallel, one of them being the normal $r_{\text {IN }}=h_{\mathrm{fe}} \times r_{\mathrm{e}}$ and the other equal to $R_{\mathrm{B}}$ divided by the gain $A$. This is easily understood when it is realised that the signal voltage is at one end of the $R_{\mathrm{B}}$ and the output voltage ( $A$ times the input signal) is at the other.
Thus $A$ times as much current must be provided by the signal, which is equivalent to saying that $R_{\mathrm{B}}$ behaves as if it were $\boldsymbol{A}+1$ times smaller and across the signal input.
(b) There is no actual reduction in voltage gain, as far as the gain from base-in to collector-out is concerned. The voltage gain is still

$$
A=R_{\mathrm{C}} / r_{\mathrm{e}} \quad \text { or } \quad R_{\mathrm{C}} /\left(r_{\mathrm{e}}+R_{\mathrm{E}}\right)
$$

(If $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ is present).

However the lower input resistance has the effect of lowering the gain measured from signal e.m.f. to collector output. The source resistance of the signal ( $R_{\mathrm{S}}$ ) in conjunction with $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ forms a kind of operational amplifier configuration (see Fig. 4.2).
If $A$ was very high, the total gain from $V_{s}$ to $V_{\text {out }}$ wiculd be approximately

$$
A^{\prime}=R_{\mathrm{B}} / R_{\mathrm{s}}
$$

where $A^{\prime}$ is defined as the gain with feedback. Thus the gan is independent of the transistor.
This, however, is a gross oversimplification of the situation because the transistor gain $A$ in such a simple single stage amplifier would not be "very high" and $A^{*}=R_{\mathrm{B}} / R_{\mathrm{S}}$ would be greatly incorrect.

This analogy with the operaticnal amplifier was only given as an aid to comprehension. It is always good practice to view circuit ideas from widely differing angles.

### 4.2. AN ALTERNATIVE EQUATION FOR GANN

The previous circuit had no emitter resistor $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ which was the reason why the gain $A$ was so high. Although a high gain may often be a desirable feature, there are two main reasons against achieving it by the omission of $R_{\mathrm{E}}$.
(a) The gain is not too predictable because of its absolute dependency on $r_{e}$. The equation $r_{e}=$ $25 / I_{\mathrm{c}}(\mathrm{mA})$ is very useful as a rough guide but it is well to remember that the equation is only approximate. The incliusion of $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ in the gain formula, although lowering the gain increases the accuracy of the equation (particularly if $R_{\mathrm{E}} \gg r_{\mathrm{e}}$ ).
(b) A more important reason is the rather remarkable twist of the gain equation when the bias is set to allow the collector to rest at half the supply voltage.

If $V_{\text {out }}=\frac{1}{2} V_{\text {ce }}$ then $R_{\mathrm{C}}=\frac{1}{2} V_{\mathrm{cc}} / \mathrm{IC}$. Now $A=R_{\mathrm{c}} / r_{\mathrm{e}}=\frac{\frac{1}{2} V_{\mathrm{cc}}}{I_{\mathrm{C}}} \div \frac{25}{I_{\mathrm{C}}}=V_{\mathrm{cc}} / 50$.

But remembering that the figure " 25 " is millivolts, we must multiply by 1,000 , giving

$$
A=\frac{V_{\mathrm{cc}} \times 1,000}{50} \text { thus } A=20 V_{\mathrm{vc}}
$$

This means that the gain of any grounded emitter stage operating without an emitter resistor is simply 20 times the supply voltage (assuming the collector is at half the supply voltage).

This applies whatever collector current we use, so it is impossible to set the gain at any other value than 20 Vee (unless of course we use negative feedback).
It is easy to see why $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ is almost always present in grounded emitter amplifiers.

### 4.3. GOUPLING CAPACITORS

It is often required to connect two stages together by allowing the output signal of one stage to become the input signal of the next.
Sometimes the coupling can be achieved without disturbing the d.c. bias conditions, but this is sometimes unavoidable.
This problem can be overcome with the use of a "coupling capacito:" which enables the signal to pass relatively easily but blocks any d.c. from affecting the next stage.

## CAPACITOR VALUE

The question is how big must the capacitor be. The answer depends on two pieces of informationthe lowest frequency that the signal is likely to be, and the input resistance of the stage which the capacitor is to feed.
The skeletal circnit is shown in Fig. 4.3.
The capacitive reactance ( $X_{\mathrm{C}}$ ) and $R_{\mathrm{IV}}$ form a voltage divider, so it is clear that $X_{C}$ should be considerably less than $R_{\text {IN }}$ at the lowest frequency which it is desired to pass.


Fig. 4.3 The calculation of the coupling capacitor value is determined by the input resistance Rin of the following stage

The simplest way is to find the value of $C$ which makes $X_{\mathrm{C}}=R_{\text {IN }}$ and then use the next highest preferred value.
Suppose the lowest frequency to be passed is 100 Hz and $R_{\text {IN }}=1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.
Then if $X_{\mathrm{C}}=R_{\mathrm{IN}}$, then $1 / 2 \pi f C=R_{\mathrm{IN}}$ which gives $C=1 / 2 \pi f R_{\text {IN }}$.
Inserting values gives $C=1.59 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ so the next highest preferred value, $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ would be used.

## RULE OF THUMB

A neat little rule of thumb to save a lot of fiddling with powers of ten is

$$
C=0.2 / j \times R_{\mathrm{IN}}
$$

where $f$ is in $\mathrm{kHz}, R_{\text {IN }}$ in kilohms and $C$ in $\mu \mathrm{F}$.
The value for $C$ is in no way critical, providing it is at least the value calculated by the method above. Twice or even ten times larger will not matter apart from the cost.

### 4.4. USE OF THE EMITTER FOLLOWER STAGE

An emiter follower stage provides an easy solution to the problem of matching from a high resistance signal source to a low resistance load.

Unlike the normal grounded emitter stage, the emitter follower has no voltage gain, in fact, there is a slight voltage loss. There is, however, a substantial current gain as a signal is passed through, because of the apparent change in source resistance.
Treating the emitter follower as a black box, the effect on the input signal is as shown in Fig. 4.4.
The figures showr in the figure are purely arbitrary and are chosen crily to illustrate how the source


Fig. 4.4 An emitter follower transforms a high input impedance into a low output impedance
resistance can be substantially lowered by passing through the stage.

## CURRENT GAIN

The concept of current gain can be appreciated by calculating the two short circuit currents.

If the original circuit was shorted out the current would be

$$
i=1 \mathrm{~V} / 100 \mathrm{k} \Omega=0.01 \mathrm{~mA}
$$

If the output was shorted, the current would be

$$
i=1 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{Ik} \Omega=1 \mathrm{~mA}
$$

This shows that a theoretical current gain of $100: 1$ has been achieved. (The short circuit current dodge is used on paper only-don't take it literally and start sticking screwdrivers across the terminals.)

It must not be supposed that an actual emitter follower would provide a magical solution. The successful design of such a stage requires quite a bit of fiddling with values to get the input resistance as high as possible.

For example, Fig. 4.4 presupposes that the input resistance of the emitter follower stage is much higher than the $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ signal resistance. Unless this is 30 , it is clear that the signal would be attenuated by voltage divider action between the $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $R_{\text {IN }}$ of the emitter follower.

### 4.5. TYPICAL CIRCUIT AND EQUATIONS OF THE EMITTER FOLLOWER

An emitter follower circuit using voltage divider feed for base bias is shown in Fig. 4.5.

We are not concerned with the design factors for setting up the correct d.c. conditions, this problem is dealt with elsewhere. Instead, we state some important equations which decide the voltage gain, input resistance and output resistance.

## 1. VOLTAGE GAIN

For most practical purposes, the voltage gain is nearly unity, though it is as well to know the following formula in case some badly chosen values for $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ lower the gain to a small fraction.
Voltage gain from $V_{\text {in }}$ to $V_{\text {out }}=R_{\mathrm{E}} /\left(r_{\mathrm{e}}+R_{\mathrm{E}}\right)$.
Since $r_{e}$ is the internal emitter resistance and will seldom be in excess of $100 \Omega$ or sa, it it easily seen that the gain will be about 1 , providing $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ is in excess of $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

## 2. INPUT RESISTANCE (RIW)

This is the same basic formula which has already appeared in connection with the grounded emitter stage
$R_{1 \mathrm{~N}}=\mathrm{R} 1, \mathrm{R} 2$ and $r_{\text {in }}$ in parallel
(remember that $r_{\mathrm{in}}=h_{\mathrm{ite}}\left(r_{\mathrm{c}}+R_{\mathrm{E}}\right)$ ).

## 3. OUTPUT RESISTANCE (R ${ }_{\text {cut }}$ )

This is a bit complicated unless dealt with in two parts.

$$
R_{\mathrm{OUT}}=R_{\mathrm{s}} / h_{\mathrm{fe}} \text { in parallel with } R_{\mathrm{E}}
$$ where $R_{\mathbf{s}}=$ R1, R2 and $r_{\mathrm{s}}$ in paralle.

If this is too wearisome to calculate and a very rough equation is all that is needed, then use
$R_{\text {OUT }}=r_{\mathrm{s}} / h_{\mathrm{te}}$.


Fig. 4.5 Typical emitter follower with voltage divider for base bias

### 4.6. D.C. COUPLING

Two stages may be coupled iogether directly only if the d.c. voltage output of the first stage is compatible with the d.c. bias requirements of the secard stage.

A typical example which serves :0 llustrate the system is the circuit of Fig. 4.6 which shows a normal grounded emitter amplifier feeding an emitter follower stage.

Transistor TR provides the voltage gain and TR2 provides a low resistance (high current) output

The gain of the first stage $=\boldsymbol{F}_{\mathrm{c}}{ }^{\prime} \boldsymbol{r}_{\mathrm{e}}+\mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{E}}=(84 \mathrm{k} \Omega /$ $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega+250 \Omega)=67$.
The second stage contributes no further voltage gain.

## STAGE INPUT RESISTANCE

The stage input resistance is $r_{i n}, R 1$ and $R 2$ in parallel, although it is reasonable to ignore R1

Now, $\quad r_{\text {in }}=h_{\text {te }}\left(r_{\mathrm{e}}+R_{\mathrm{E}}\right)=1 \mathrm{CO}(250 \Omega+1 \mathrm{k} \Omega)=$ $125 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, which, in parallel with $\mathbb{R} 1$ gives a value for $R_{\text {IN }}$ of about $45 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

Currents through TR2 would be determined first. 1 mA is chosea for collector current, so assuming a pessimistic $h_{\text {FE }}$ of 100 , the base curcent of TR2 would be $10 \mu \mathrm{~A}$.

The divider eed for the bias of TR2 is the chain $R_{\mathrm{C}}$, TR1 and $R_{\mathrm{E}}$ of the first stage which is passing 0.1 mA (which is ten times the base curreat of TR2).

Again taking an hre of 100 for TR1, the base current would be $1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$. which is fed by a divider chain taking $10 \mu \mathrm{~A}$.

The "rule of ten" has thus been used ihroughout.

## OUTPUT RESISTANCE

The outfut resistance of the emitter follower is a bit tricky. The equation, as stated previously, is $\boldsymbol{K}_{\mathrm{Cu}}=$ $R_{\mathrm{s}} / h_{1 \mathrm{e}}$ in parallel with Re. The term $F$ s is the source resistance of the signal feeding the base. which, in this case, is the output resistance of the first stage.

Tc a rough approximation this may be taken as the collector resistance, $R \mathrm{c}$, which is $84 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Thus Rout $=$ $84 \mathrm{k} \Omega / 100=840 \Omega$. (The $9 \mathrm{k} \Omega R_{\mathrm{E}}$ which strictly is in parallel may be disregarded.)


Fig. 4.6 A twe stage d.c. coupled amplifier showing typica component values

### 4.7. D.C. FEEDBACK LOOPS

Leaving the emitter resistor uncypassed has so far bsen the only example of negative feedback. A more obvious example is frequently used in direct-coupled stages and, to illustrate such a system, the circuit previously discussed will be mocified to include a d.c. feedback loop (see Fig. 4.7).

The circuit, inoluding the voltages and currents are exactly the same, apart from the enethod of biasing the first stage.

Instead of the customary divider across the supply rail, the bias feed is taken from across the output resistor.


Fig. 4.7 Negat ve feedback stabilises the output voltage bui reduces gain

This is not such a violent change as appears at first sight. After ail, there are nine volis availatle so why not use them and obtain the added advantage of a d.c. feedback loop?

In choosing the values for R1 and R2 we must be careful not to disturb the output circuit too much. It is drawing 1 mA so it will hardly be aware of the theft if we diver: say $10 \mu A$ from $R_{E}$ to feed a divider.

Since R2 must drep 0.7 V , R1 must drop the remaining 8.3 V which mears that if $10 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ is flowing the values of R1 and R2 are calculated as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{F} 1=8.3 \mathrm{~V} / 10 \mu \mathrm{~A}=830 \mathrm{k} \Omega \\
& \mathrm{R} 2=0.7 \mathrm{~V} / 10 \mu \mathrm{~A}=70 \mathrm{k} \Omega
\end{aligned}
$$

## STABILITY

Such a crrcuit has very good stability in spite of wide tolerances in the resistors R1 and R2. In fact, it is astonishing how the oulput appears to lock at 9 V

Suppose that the output tends to dift downwards: this will pull the base of TR1 down which causes the collector of TR 1 and base of TR. 2 to rise. The output tendency is the efore to rise which, due to the feed back loop is providing a correcting influence on :he tendency for the input to fall.

The origina gain beiore feedback is, of conrse, reduced from its previous value. This is cne of the penalties to be paid for the benefits $c$ ! negative feedback.

Continued next month

THERE must be many PE readers who would never call themselves musicians but who have an interest in music, be it as listeners or as vamping-left-hand pianists. Some of them are no doubt in the throes of building the units which go to make up Mr. Shaw's Synthesiser and are wondering what on earth to do with it when it's completed. Others may not want to begin any musical project because they feel that their creative or recreative talent is nil.
Yet others may be musicians like myself who have a smattering of electronic theory and practice up their sleeves but are afraid to launch any large-scale project because they fear they may never get the finished article to function. I hope this feature may allay the fears of all these people and, indeed, offer some constructive help.

## Facilities In the U.K.

Until quite recently the musician, particularly the composer and/or arranger has had to sit on the periphery of technological progress, using a small amount of electronic equipment in a limited kind of way, unable, through lack of know-how, to extend his innate creativity.
In this country it is not just knowhow that has been lacking, but the facilities needed to acquire expertise. Although there has been a tremendous surge of interest in electronically produced or processed sound over the past decade or so we still have not managed to produce a chain of national studios where the musician can work with first-rate equipment and expert technical assistance.
It is true that we have the BBC Radiophonic Workshop, wellequipped and staffed by experts, but, alas, Auntie Beeb tends to hog the show by restricting its output to broadcast material in the shape of incidental music and sound effects and a few (all too rare) commissions from composers outside the Corporation.
Numerous private studios exist too - those of Tristram Cary, Daphne Oram and Peter Zinovieff immediately spring to mind, along with such institutions as the University of York and Goldsmith's Colllege, London-yet most of us cannot hope to experience this kind of Utopian dream. Those of us who live and work away from the metropolis are, as in many things, particularly poorly off.

## A studlo at home

However, having said that, there is not too much cause for gloom. Magazines like PE have made it abundantly clear that the imaginative person can build quite a sizeable and versatile studio at thome, quite apart from the commercial market.


Over the past lew years PE has included in its pages features dealing with some of the efectronic equipment available to the musician. More frequently there have appeared constructional projects specifically geared to the amateur musician: Waa Waa, Fuzz, Phase, and Sound Bender effects units; and complete instruments such as the Electronic Organ, Electronic Piano, and the Voltage Controlled Synthesiser.

The time is ripe, then, for the musician to join in and help bring the electronics engineer or experi. menter and the creative artis together. As a professional musician whose creative work calls increasingly for more and more electronic equipment, I welcome the appearance of this page as a meeting place for the exchange of information, ideas, and ventilating of nagging questions.

Until projects such as the PE Synthesiser appeared (as far as I know the first design to be published for the home constructor to build from scratch) most of us tended to sink further into the slough of despond in the belief that only a fabulous win on the pools could get us reasonably wellequipped.
By beginning in a modest way, building our equipment module by module, we can now keep pace with our pockets whilst steadily increasing our versatility in the creative music sense.

## Getting started

I am often asked, particularly by secondary school music teachers who (quite rightly) feel that there is an honourable place for electronic music in the curriculum, what is necessary by way of basic equipment in order to get started.

Assuming that "canned" rather that "live" electronic music is envisaged, then I would suggest a decent half-track stereo tape machine with three or more speeds, sound-on-sound facilities and a couple (maybe only one. at first) of reasonable quality microphones; this should keep you going for quite some time.

You may be wondering why 1 recommend a half-track tape machine when the present-day quality of quarter-track machines is very high indeed. It's not a matter of quality in this instance. Amongst the tricks used in the manipulation of recorded sound one of the simplest is reverse playback, and on a standard quarter-track machine, stereo or mono, or a hallftrack mono machine, reversal of the tape direction merely gives playback of the recorded material on the new channel(s) in a forward direction. On a half-track stereo machine turning the tape over reverses the material on both channels, incidentally reversing the stereo direction too.

## Tape manipulation

Strictly speaking, using only microphones, you are not going to produce electronic music, since the microphone will only pick up air-borne sounds, most of which may well be "natural" in origindried peas in a can, hand claps, vocal sounds, or the jangle of kevs, and maybe acoustic musical instruments. But by varying the tape speeds in recording, superimposition and reverse playback an amaz ing variety of sounds can be achieved. For the price of an editing block and a reel of splicing tape the sounds can be linked together to form a satisfactory sequence.

Anyone who has persevered with this kind of tape manipulationand it is, believe me, a time consuming activity-will tell you that the results can be miraculously electronic in effect.

In case you think this approach to creative sound a bit limiting, then I suggest you go out and buy a recording of "Variations for a door and a sigh' by Pierre Henry (Philips 4 FE 8504). Henry is one of the leading lights in the French movement which began in the early postwar years and produces so-called "musique concrète".
What can be more limiting than the creakings of an old barn door? Yet Pierre Henry manages, through careful handling of the granary door and a bit of superimposition back at the studio, to produce an incred ibly wide range of sounds which are as musical as they are amusing.

There is a little paperback, too, by Terence Dwyer entitled "Composing with Tape Recorders" which offers invaluable advice.

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|  | 14 | IA | 4. | fis | 5 | 1.5 | 25 | 50.4 |
| 50 | 0－24 | 0.38 | 0.60 | 0.82 | 2.22 | 2.84 | 3－38 | 12.30 |
| 100 | 0.36 | 0.37 | 0.70 | 0.75 | 2.24 | 3.00 | $3 \cdot 60$ | 12.36 |
| 20 | $0-30$ | 0.41 | 0－75 | 0.80 | 2.82 | 3.78 | 4.32 | 14.40 |
| 40 | 0.36 | 0.45 | 0.85 | 1.10 | $3 \cdot$ | 4 |  | 16.38 |
| 68 | 0.40 | 0.52 | 0.85 | 1.25 |  |  |  |  |

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switchel（Log and Inear）21p．Douhhra（logand dinear） 38 p ． Slider sype 58：singles（Lisg alal linear）30p．Houblem （Log and linear） 50 p ．
Presets： $0 \cdot 1$ watt $6 \mathrm{p}, 0$ ， $\mathbf{2}$ watt $6 \mathrm{p}, 0.3$ watt 71p．Please
specify rertical or horizontal．

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1 \cdot 5$ | 8p | 9p | 10p | 11p | 12p | 150 | 20p |
| 3 | 16p | 17p | 20p | 22p | 25p | 27p | 30p |
| 10 |  | 35 D | 40p | 470 | 58p |  |  |
| 6 | 84p | 92 p | 21.18 | 22.15 | 42．52 | 23．85 | 4.20 |

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| INGIT | 7p | BA142 | 17p | 13YZ10 | 35 p | OA81 | 8p |
| 1N916 | 7 D | BAl44 | 12p | 13YZ11 | 32p | OA85 | 10． |
| AA119 | 7p | 1sAlti | 17p | В「Z12 | 30p | OA90 | 7 p |
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J. A. Knife, Dagenham, Essex.


Fig. 2. Wiring details for a programme card


Fig. 3. Typical arrangement of connectors mounted on panel of synthesiser

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THIS is a new (third) edition of a book which was first published in 1953 and forms the first volume of a three volume set dealing with Instrument Technology. The coverage of this volume is restricted to the measurement of pressure. level, flow and temperature and the treatment uses S.I. units throughout. The presentation is lucid and the mathematics have been kept as simple as possible. Together with the other two volumes of the set, this book should provide a good coverage of much of the material normally found in technician and craftsman level courses dealing with process control and instrument technology and should also prove useful as a reference text for engineers and other personnel who are not experienced in this field.

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## mishair

By K.L. SPENCE

THIS article describes a Random Light Display which unlike most light displays, is not driver: by an audio signal.

The uni- consists of nine or more coloured lamps positioned behind a semi-transparent screen. Each lamp flashes on and off in an apparently random manner, without an overall fixed sequence: The resulting cffect is to fill the screen with a blaze of mixing and changing colours forming a fascinating display,


Fig. 1. Elock diagram showing the arrangement of the multivibrators and AND gates

## METHOD OF OPERATION

The apparent random effect is achieved by using four slow--unning multivibrators each with different frequencies and mark-space ratios.

Each lamp is driven by gating together the outputs of two or more multivibrators using a logic And gate. The system is illustrated in Fig. 1, which shows the oterall artangement of the multivibrators and AND gates.

It can be seen that lamp LP! will only light when maltivibrator outputs B and $\overline{\mathrm{D}}$ are high. i.c. logic 1: Enp LP2 requires outputs B and C high. and lamp LP9 requires A, B and D high.

## CIRCUIT DETAILS

The circuit diagram of a multivibrator is shown in Fig. 2. Four of these are required, the values of the timing capacitors C1 and C2 being given in the table.

The and gate and lamp driver circuit is shown in Fig. 3

The gate may have two, three or four diode inputs. If any of the inputs is taken to 0 V by a multivibrator output then current will flow down resistor

## COMPONETIS . . .

MULTIVIBRATORS-4 OFF REQUIRED
Resistors
$\left.\begin{array}{lll}\text { R1, R4 } & 5.6 \mathrm{k} \Omega(2 \mathrm{off}) \\ \text { R2, R3 } & 33 \mathrm{k} \Omega(2 \mathrm{off})\end{array}\right\} \quad 1 \mathrm{~W} 10 \%$ carbon
Capacitors
C1, C2 see table
Transistors
TR1, TR2 2N708 (2 off)


Fig. 2. Circuit diagram of a single multivibrator circuit. The table shows the values of the timing capacitors for the four multivibrators required


Photograph showing a front view of the completed unit with the cover removed

R1 and the voltage at TR1 base will not be sufficient to switch on transistors TR1 and TR2 which need about 1.4 V to be forward biased.
However, if all inputs are at 6 V then the diodes will be reverse biased and the current through R1 will flow into the base of TR1 causing it and TR2 to conduct and the lamp to light.

## COMPONENTS . . .

## AND GATE/LAMP DRIVERS-9 OFF

 REQUIRED
## Resistors

R1 8.2k $\Omega \nmid W 10 \%$ carbon
Diodes
D1-D4 OA200 (4 off, or as required)
Transistors
TR1 2N708
TR2 BFY52

## Lamps

LP1 6V 0.3A m.e.s. with lampholder


Fig. 3. Circuit diagram of a single AND gate/ lamp driver circuit. Nine of these are required. The number of diode inputs may be two, three or four

## COMPONENTS



Fig. 4. Circuit diagram of the power supply. This provides a smoothed supply for the multivibrators and unsmoothed supply for the lamps

## POWER SUPPLY

The power supply is shown in Fig. 4. It has two 6 V outputs, one is smoothed for the multivibrators and the other is unsmoothed for the lamps.
The components specified are widely available, though discrete diodes instead of a bridge may be used if desired.

## CONSTRUCTION

Component layout is not at all critical and the circuits may be built on any type of wiring board.

The author used a large piece of $0 \cdot 1$ in Veroboard, the general arrangement being seen in the photograph. Fig. 5 shows the multivibrator circuits and the lamp driver circuits in more detail. Four of the multivibrators and nine lamp drivers are required.

It is useful to provide a wiring pin for every multivibrator output and gate input as this greatly simplifies the cross-connections.

It is advisable to first construct and test all the multivibrators and gates' and then make the connections between them.

The constructor is free to choose for himself which outputs to connect to each gate, the only restriction being that both the outputs of a particular


Photograph showing the general arrangement of the components at the rear of the box. The power supply Zener diode, resistor R1 and capacitor C2 are mounted on the Veroboard which carries four multivibrators (MVA to MVD) and nine AND gate/lamp drivers
multivibrator must not be connected to the same gate, as this would mean the lamp would never light.

Fig. 5. Suggested Veroboard layout


The gates may have two, three or four inputs but it should be remembered that gates with four inputs will only be enabled very infrequently compared with the two-input gates.

Photographs illustrate the general manner of construction with lamps in the front of the box and the circuits behind.

The overall size is governed by the number of lamps the constructor decides to use. The prototype measured 15 in $\times 15 \mathrm{in} \times 6$ in and had nine lamps.

## FRONT SCREEN

The front screen consists of a wooden frame covered with thin white cloth or tracing paper. A sheet of Perspex is then fixed on the front for protection.

The lamps may be any 6 V types and they may be covered with coloured Cellophane or painted.

## MODIFICATIONS

The unit described in this article may be extended to many more lamps and multivibrators providing the transformer can handle the power output.

Higher wattage lamps could be used by incorporating thyristors in the lamp driver circuits. It could also be interesting to have a mixture of AND and OR gates instead of only AND gates.

The values of the timing capacitors can be changed to give more rapid or slower changes as the constructor desires.


BY R.A.COLE

The Rondo system is designed specifically to accept a variety of inputs to suit individual constructor's tastes. However, the initial design concept included the basic idea of providing as many facilities as possible within the one unit. One of the most important to many constructors will of course be the stereo turner and associated decoder and Part 8 will initiate the discussion of these two items.

## GENERAL CIRCUIT

The basic system for an f.m. tuner and decoder is shown in block form in the accompanying Fig. 8.1 and the complete circuit in Fig. 8.2. A varicap-tuned head feeds its output to a wide-band amplifier, a ceramic filter, a further i.f. amplifier and finally to the stereo decoder. Movement of the varicap potentiometer VRI is indicated on a suitable tuning dial and a tuning meter indicates signal level.


Fig. 8.1. Block diagram of the f.m. stereo tuner/ decoder arrangement for the Rondo system


Fig. 8.2. Full circuit diagram of the tuner and decoder with the decoder board shown shaded


Fig. 8.3. Detail circuit of the Larsholt tuner head as used in the Rondo system

The tuning head used in the Rondo is a Larsholt unit, pre-built in Denmark, which makes use of j.u.g.f.e.t., m.o.s.f.e.t and bipolar devices to give a high standard of performance

The head 'feeds via a ceramic filter FI, amplifier CC 1 and filter F2 into the i.f. section. This latter is the monolithic amplifier TDA1200 or the equivalent CA3089E.

## I.F. AMPLIFIER

In the i.f. amplifier there are three stages of amplification and associated level detectors that feed both delayed a.g.c. for the r.f. amplifier in the tuner, and the tuning meter. The amplification stages then feed the detector section.

The detector, a quadrature detector, requires tuning using one or two external coils and in practice this involves only peaking for maximum audio output. In fact, the use of one or two inductors is optional. A single tuned inductor LI (a) gives distortion levels around 0.5 per cent whilst the use of a double inductor configuration $\mathrm{L} 1(\mathrm{a}+\mathrm{b})$ allows levels as low as 01 per cent to be reached.

Audio output from the detector is fed to a further stage of amplification whilst, at the same time, a signal is fed to a level detector which in turn controls the mute drive circuits. This latter is connected externally of the chip to a muting sensitivity control and fed back to an audio mute control amplifier which is coupled to the audio output amplifier.

The quadrature detector also feeds an a.f.c. drive amplifier.

Finally, the output of the tuner is fed to a stereo decoder which in the present case uses the wellknown Motorola MC1310P or the RCA CA1310E phase-locked loop monolithic integrated circuit.

The circuit of the whole system is shown in Fig. 8.2 , the i.c.s and tuner head being shown in outline only.

## TUNER HEAD

The tuner head circuit is shown for interest in Fig. 8.3. This Larsholt product was chosen for its sensitivity and the quality of output. Heads of this type are of course pre-aligned by the manufacturer and require no further attention from the user apart from perhaps some peaking of the output by tuning to suit the external circuitry. In the present instance this is limited to peaking of the output inductor connected to terminals E and F of the head.
The head and most of the associated circuitry are mounted on one circuit board which is located within the trough assembly of the Rondo directly beneath the pre-amplifier board but orientated parallel to the bottom of the trough.

The stereo decoder i.c., IC3 in Fig. 8.2, and associated components are mounted on a further board which is suspended under the fascia and master tone board to the top right of the assembly when viewed from the front.

## STEREO DECODER

For ease of description we will consider one of the two alternative decoders as they are virtually identical.
The MC1310P is a phase-locked loop decoder with typical channel separation figures of 40 dB and total harmonic distortion typically 0.3 per cent. It is carried in a 14 -pin di.l. package.

This decoder does not require any inductors and in fact the only adjustment it might require in practice is the setting of the voltage controlled oscillator (v.c.o.). This is achieved by adjustment of VR5.

The chip automatically detects the presence or absence of stereo by detecting the presence of the 19 kHz pilot tone at the input. The input dircuit includes a threshold circuit which sets the detection of the pilot tone at about 16 mV so as to stop the

## STEREO DEGODER



Fig. 8.4. Component layout on p.c.b. for the stereo decoder


Fig. 8.5. Master p.c.b. copper layout for the decoder board

Fig. 8.6. (a) Rear right-hand corner of fascia panel (see Fig. 4.1). (b) Details for the mounting of the decoder board edge connector and associated carrying brackets, their location in the main assembly, and the positioning of some off-board components


| Resistors |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R1 | $15 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R13 | $390 \Omega$ |
| R2 | $3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R14 | 100S |
| R3 | $1.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R15 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R4 | $470 \Omega$ | R16 | $3.3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R5 | $3.9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R17 | $330 \Omega$ |
| R6 | $100 \Omega$ | R18 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R7 | $100 \Omega$ | R19 | $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R8 | 8.2k $\Omega$ | R20 | $3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R9 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R21 | $470 \Omega$ |
| R10 | $3.9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R22 | 16k $\Omega, \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}, 2 \%$ |
| R11 | $390 \Omega$ | R23 | $120 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R12 | 2.2k $\Omega$ | R24 | $220 \Omega$ |
| All $\frac{1}{4}$ W, 5\% except where stated |  |  |  |
| Capacitors |  |  |  |
| C1 | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C18 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C2 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V}$ | C19 | $0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C3 | 100pF Polystyrene | C20 | $0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C4 | 1,000 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | C21 | $0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C5 | $0.018 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C22 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C6 | 100pF Polystyrene | C23 | $0.015 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, |
| C7 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}$ |  | De-emphasis |
| C8 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C24 | $0.33 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C9 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C25 | $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ or greater. |
| C10 | 100pF | Tantalum | bead preferrea |
| C11 | $0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C26 | $0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C12 | $0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C27 | 470 pF . |
| C13 | $0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |  | 2\% Polystyrene |
| C14 | $0.018 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C28 | $0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C15 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mathrm{~V}$ | C29 | $0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C16 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C30 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C17 | $0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |  |  |
| Potentiometers |  |  |  |
| VR1 | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega \mathrm{Lin}$ |  |  |
| VR2 | $25 \mathrm{k} \Omega \mathrm{Lin}$ preset |  |  |
| VR3 | $25 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ Lin preset |  |  |
| VR4 | $470 \mathrm{k} \Omega \mathrm{Lin}$. preset |  |  |
| VR5 | $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{k} \Omega \mathrm{Lin}$. preset |  |  |
| Diodes |  |  |  |
| D1 | AA119 |  |  |
| D2 | AA119 |  |  |
| D3 | BZY88, 15 V Zener | , 400 mW |  |
| D4 | BZY88, 13 V Zener | , 400 mW |  |
| LED1 | Light emitting dio |  |  |

Integrated Circuits

| IC1 | CA 3053 |
| :--- | :--- |
| IC2 | CA $3089 E$ or TDA 1200 |
| IC3 | MC1310P or CA1310E |

Inductors
L1 Single quadrature, KACS K586 HM or Double quadrature TKACS 34343 AVO and TKACS 34342 AVO from Toko U.K.
L2 R.F. Choke, $22 \mu \mathrm{H}$

Miscellaneous
Head
Larsholt 8317-501 stereo tuner head, f.m.
Tuning meter MEI $\quad 0-150 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ Full-View panel meter
Ceramic Filters F1, F2 CFS 107M (Toko)
Assorted wire, co-axial cable, p.c.b., 14 -way edge connector, metalwork brackets, nuts and screws etc.
decoder switching to stereo mode when the audio is too weak to give good signal-to-noise ratio.

Indication of stereo presence is given by the light emitting diode LED 1 which is wired in series with a $1.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor. This latter drops the voltage across the diode to around 16 V at 20 mA . As most diodes give adequate light emission at this current this seems sensible even though the i.c. is capable of driving up to 100 mA if necessary.

The decoder and associated de-emphasis components are mounted on one board as shown in Fig. 8.4. The master negative for this board is shown in Fig. 8.5 and two combined scrap views show the orientation of the board in its edge connector and the mounting of this latter under the master tone control board in Fig. 8.6.

Assembly of the decoder board follows normal p.c.b. assembly procedure although it will be noted that several components from the decoder and tuner-associated circuitry are in fact mounted in the wiring, as it were. Thus R3 and R4, C4 and D4 are all mounted on the edge connector carrying the decoder board. The l.e.d. is mounted in the tuner fascia just above the tuning meter. C28 and C29 can be mounted on the pre-amplifier board.

Wiring from the decoder board is passed down the side of the fascia to the fanning-strip/switch assembly described in the last part for interconnection to the remainder of the looming.

## OSCILLATOR ALIGNMENT

When the tuner/decoder system has been completed it is necessary to set the decoder oscillator. This is a simple procedure requiring that one tunes to a known broadcast and then adjusts VR5 until the pilot light illuminates. This of course assumes a stereo broadcast is taking place.

Stereo output should now be heard from the loudspeakers.

If an oscilloscope is to hand the adjustment can be made perhaps more accurately by connecting the scope to the v.c.o. test point TP1 (pin 10 of the i.c.) and adjusting VR5 until a 19 kHz waveform ( $55 \mu$ s cycle time) appears. Equally, a counter/timer could be used to register 19 kHz .

Tolerance of this value is $\pm 3$ per cent or 580 Hz either side of 19 kHz .

## I.C. HOLDERS

An important point is the use of i.c. holders with these types of i.c.s. It is always advisable to use holders since this gives the obvious advantage of being able to remove the i.c. later and in any case some manufacturers revoke their guarantee if their particular products have been soldered in position as there is always the risk of thermal damage occurring.

It will be appreciated that each additional item of equipment inserted in the Rondo is an extra load applied to the power supply. In general terms this is no problem since the p.s.u. is well able to deal with the demand placed on it. However, the problem is easily overcome if it does arise by simply turning TR6 of Fig. 3.1 in Part 3 "on" a little more. This can be achieved by simply lowering the value of R32 in the same figure to 470 S.

Next month : Construction details for the tuner board
and mechanical assembly


EVEN in this day and age it is not unusual to find cars stranded at the side of a motorway after having suffered boiling perhaps through loss of a fan belt or a burst hose.

Remembering that most vehicles are fitted with some form of temperature indicator for water temperature this sort of event only serves to indicate just how little attention is paid to the various dials by a driver, particularly when coping with things like motorways.

Oil, water and indeed battery charge, are all indicated visually and their loss, which can occur quietly and seemingly unnoticed, can have very damaging results including seized engine bearings or the like. So clearly what is needed is some form of audible indication in the event of failure of these parameters.

The present circuit was designed to give an instantaneous audible alarm if water temperature, oil pressure or generator output assume a fault condition.

The circuit is fairly simple and would probably cost in the region of $£ 3$ which is cheap in comparison with the cost of replacing a damaged engine or even carrying out a minor repair with labour costs in the $£ 3$ per hour region.

## PRACTICAL CIRCUIT

A circuit is shown in Fig. 1. Three inputs can be connected to detect the presence or absence of voltage at for example the car temperature gauge, the ignition warning light and the oil pressure switch. In each case if the respective point is connected to chassis (earth) an alarm condition can be said to exist.

If this occurs current is taken by the associated one of the three diodes D1, D2 or D4. TR3 becomes saturated and 12 V is applied to the astable TR4/ TR5. Protection diodes D6 and D7 prevent the breakdown of the base/emitter junctions of these latter devices.


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of Monitor

The astable is connected to a final transistor TR6 to drive a loudspeaker which may be any 2 to 3 inch 3 to 30 ohm device. The level of output is variable by choice of a suitable value for $\mathrm{R} 13,1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ being a suitable value to start with.

## LAYOUT

Veroboard is used for the layout and cutting pattern and component locations are shown in Fig. 2.

No particular problems exist as far as the board is concerned except perhaps with the diodes with which care should be taken when bending the leads to avoid cracking the glass bead.

Whilst the circuit is shown for negative earth vehicles, the positive earth version can be catered for quite simply. It only requires that the $n p n$ transistors be replaced with $p n p$ and the $p n p$ with npn, that the diodes be reversed and the electrolytic capacitors similarly turned round.

Whilst BC184's are specified together with 2N3702's and 1N914's almost any small signal transistors and diodes can be used.

## TESTING

Before wiring in to a vehicle it is best to check that all is functioning properly. Simply apply the 12 to 15 V supply and temporarily connect input 1 , the water temperature gauge input, to +12 V . There should be no output.

If now any one of the inputs are connected to ground, an output should be obtained at the loudspeaker.

The volume of this buzz can be varied by selecting R13 to suit requirements.

## CASE

Thus far we have only discussed a Veroboard assembly which, for use in a vehicle, should obviously


Fig. 2. Component layout on Veroboard, the copper track cuts being shown as white cut-outs

## COMPONENTS . . .




Interior view of Systems Monitor showing completed unit
be cased in some form of protective box. In the prototype this took the form of a simple aluminium case and lid, with the Veroboard mounted on support pillars in the lid.

Wiring access to and from the circuit is provided via a 6 -pin DIN socket SKI mounted in the lid. As the whole assembly of lid and board is only a matter of an inch deep clearly the box can be quite shallow but it is best to use a box which can be screwed up and properly sealed against ingress of moisture from the engine compartment or wherever it is located on the vehicle.

## INSTALLATION

It is probably wisest when installing any equipment in a vehicle to first of all disconnect the battery so as to avoid any damage from inadvertent shorts. Power supply to the unit is connected from the ignition switch, switched side and the inputs 1 , 2 and 3 are connected respectively to the water temperature warning light or thermometer, the oil pressure warning light or block switch and the
generator output terminal or terminal " $A$ " on the ignition light.

The battery may now be reconnected and no output should be obtained.

If the constructor has wired in the extra components S1, FS1 and LP1, then when the ignition is switched on LP1 should come on but there should still be no output. Switching SI to the "on" position should extinguish LP1 and the unit is now "armed" for operation. In fact an ouput should be obtained because of course there is no oil pressure or generator output.

Starting the car should silence the output but if this fails it may be necessary to adjust VRI.

The vehicle should now be driven round for a while till engine temperature reaches its normal level and VRI is again adjusted till the output buzz is just extinguished. This is all the setting up required with the possible exception of small adjustment to make up for the difference between summer and winter temperatures.

## H2 BOUK <br> I.E.E. REGULATIONS FOR THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR BUILDINGS 224 pages. Price $£ 1 \cdot 50$

N Great Britain, the Institute of Electrical Engineers has, since 1882 , issued rules and regulations relating to electrical installations in general.

The regulations delineate the essential requirements for inspection, installation, testing and maintenance of consumers installations.

From time to time these are revised and amended, and this reprint incorporates all those amendments up to May 1974.

They are completely accepted by the Electricity Board, Local Authorities, Insurance Companies and consulting engineers as standard practice in the industry.

Issues are available from I.E.E., P.O. Box 8, Southgate House, Stevenage.

## NEWS BRIEFS

 OBITUARYTHE name Bulgin must be one of the best-known in the electronics field in Britain. Certainly every follower must have used plugs, sockets and so on bearing this name.

Thus it is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Arthur F. Bulgin, O.B.E. the founder of the company bearing his name. He has served our industry for 51 years and, indeed, his country as well, and it is a mark of his astute judgement that the A. F. Bulgin company is the only one in the industry to show a steady rate of growth since the last war.

Chairmanship of the company continues in Mr BuIgin's son, Mr Ronald Bulgin, M.A., C.Eng., M.I.E.E., who also shares joint managing directorship with A.F.B.'s brother, Mr Stanley Bulgin.

# ".n-tuning in to ESp 





The chairman of the technical programme committee, Jack Raper, was one of the doubters on the advisability of including a parapsychology session in the International Convention and Exposition of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers in New York. In the end, the session went ahead and, if not exactly a sensation, it certainly caused a stir among the coolly-calculating, logically-minded scientists and engineers who formed the audience.

## LECTURERS

The one aspect in favour of the session was that though the speakers may have had odd ideas, some of which might be classified as kinky, they did at least have the credibility of being engineers with normal levels of engineering objectivity and were clearly not the crankier type of mystic living on emotion rather than scientific fact.
Two of the speakers. E. Douglas Dean and John Mihalasky were from the Newark College of Engineering and the third, James B. Beal, hails from NASA, Huntsville, though he was careful to point out that he was speaking as a private person and NASA was in no way involved.

All three speakers were firmly convinced that such phenomena as extrasensory perception (ESP), precognition and telepathy were not only possible but also capable of detection and measurement in the scientific sense although much remains to be done.

## TELEPATHY

The main practical work of $E$. Douglas Dean has been in telepathy. For his experiments he uses the plethysmograph, an instrument used in medicine for over a hundred years. It records a change in volume with correlation against blood circulation in the extremities of the body, for example the finger tip.

In the ordinary way a person has no control over any variations, but it has been shown that what we might loosely term "emotion" causes involuntary vaso-constriction leading to a lowering of blood volume in the measured part of the body. Dean's apparatus is considerably more sensitive than the old medical
plethysmograph and incorporates a pressure capacitance diaphragm pick-up and a continuous chart recorder which records the normal pulse of the heartbeat and any vaso-constriction as a pronounced dip below the average baseline.

The "subject" lies on a couch with a finger connected to the instrument and in an adjacent room the "agent" picks up a card on which is inscribed a name which may or may not have significance for the subject. Some cards are blank. The subject doesn't know what is on the cards, or the order in which they are shuffled.
The agent looks at each card for twenty seconds. Blank cards showed no response and cards with names only showed subject response on the recording pen when they had some emotional significance, for example a close relative, and the pen deflection was most pronounced when there had been recent anxiety or other strong emotion in connection with the name.

In one test the subject's two-day old new-born baby's name was on the card and the resulting vasoconstriction was so severe it took over a minute for the recorder to return to baseline.

The experiments were repeated with the agent enclosed in a fully electrically screened room and this had no effect, indicating that whatever the communication medium between agent and subject it was not affected by screening. Long distance tests have been completed north to south from New York to Florida, a distance of 1,200 miles, and east-to-west from Newark, New Jersey, to Bordeaux, France. Amazingly, the effect was also recorded with the agent 35 ft under water in Florida and the subject 4,000 miles away in Zurich, Switzerland.
The underwater test opens up the possibility of communicating with submarines submerged at great depth, of greatest potential value in the event of disabling disaster. The technique would involve the use of pre-arranged time slots and the Morse code with stimulus, for example, representing a dot and nonstimulus being a dash. The data rate would be very slow but over a period of hours it is thought that comprehensible communication could be possible.

An important finding by Dean is that using electronic equipment to establish emotional response shows scientifically that one person in every four has some level of ESP ability.

## FIELD EFFECTS

James B. Beal maintains that electric fields have important effects on the body. He has gone as far as to fit a 500 V positive field generator in his car to alleviate fatigue. He has also reared beans in a $2,000 \mathrm{~V}$ positive electrostatic field and recorded a four-day earlier germination compared with a control group outside the field.

The same apparatus was used on a badly asthmatic child with beneficial results. Tests on typists showed an enormously lowered error-rate if they sat in a strong field.
Beal recalls that the ancient Chinese knew, perhaps instinctively, that beneficial health, mental and spiritual qualities could be obtained by proper geophysical orientation of homes and religious shrines in relation to the earth's magnetic poles, subterranean streams, geology and topology. It is even suggested that many mental patients are not ill but merely hypersensitive to field effects and, of course, it is well established that natural phenomena such as hot winds containing an excess of positive ions, especially in the Middle East, induce both physical and mental maladies in the population.

It was also suggested by Beal that ESP can be developed in suitable subjects by teaching machines. One such is commercially available.

## SEEING THE FUTURE

Working on precognition (seeing into the future), especially in the realm of creative ideas in engineering and business has been studied for many years by Dr. John Mihalasky.

The successful engineer or businessman is often said to have intuition or insight in addition to ordinary levels of logical thought. The brilliant solution to a problem is often conceived "in a flash" from the unconscious mind spontaneously and frequently at very odd times and in peculiar circumstances.

# solar power <br> and its applications for TODAY 

By P.S.WOODCOCK*

The oldest known power source is the sun and there have been many ways devised to use its energy. Until very recently none have withstood the march of technological progress. Modern technology is now able to provide ways of making use of a very small fraction of that power that is always available.
The utilisation of solar energy has also been limited by economic reasons; the techniques for many applications have been known and fully proven but the cost of using them has made it totally uneconomic.

## PHOTOCELLS AND SATELLITES

The basic component for the conversion of solar power into electrical power is the photocell and this was introduced, as a production device, in 1957.
This cell, in the form of a silicon photovoltaic semiconductor diode, has been the prime power source on earth orbiting satellites since the first was launched in 1957. It is therefore not surprising that industry is now using this well established, fully proven space technology as a source of pollutionless terrestrial power.

## GROWING SILICON CRYSTALS

The photovoltaic cell is produced from silicon, the second most abundant element on earth.

A seed of pure single crystal silicon is dipped into a bath of molten silicon and rotated and slowly withdrawn, in an inert atmosphere, producing a bar of almost pure single crystal silicon.

The silicon is required to be doped with small quantities of impurities to control its conductivity. These impurities are introduced into the bath of molten silicon so that the withdrawn bar contains the correct level of dopants.

Early technology imposed a limit on the diameter of bar that could be pulled of about one inch, but recent developments have seen this increased very significantly, and it is now usual for 2 if diameter bars to be used.

The bar of silicon is then cut so that circular slices of defined thickness are produced. The majority of cells produced for satellite applications have used silicon slices 300 micron (one micron $=10^{-6}$ metre) thick but a new generation requires cells of 200 micron thick. The thickness of silicon used does not affect production processing.

Almost all silicon produced for cell applications is boron doped so that it will conduct by means of positive charges or holes, and for this reason is called $p$-type.

## PHOTOCELL PRODUCTION

The production of a photocell involves several basic steps and these may be listed as follows:

1. Diffusion of $p n$ junction
2. Contact formation
3. Coating

The creation of the $p n$ junction is achieved by the controlled diffusion of an impurity into the $p$ type silicon slice. The impurity used is phosphorus which is introduced into the diffusion furnace as a vapour, the depth of the diffusion being a function of time and temperature.

The basis of operation of the photocell is such that when photons (light particles) strike the cell surface, close to the $p n$ junction, positive charges (holes) and negative charges (electrons) are produced. The electrons will tend to travel towards the $n$-type silicon and the holes. towards the $p$-type silicon. If connections are made to the $n$ - and $p$-regions electric current can flow into an external load.

## METALLISED COMTACTS

The next vital production stage is thus the deposition of a metallised contact structure. The p-contact, on the rear face of the cell, can cover the total cell area, but the design of the $n$-contact, on the front or active surface, is critical to the performance of the cell.

[^3]

Fig. 2. Drawing of a flexlble fold-up solar array. Each paddle is about one metre wide by five metres long

The requirements are many and varied and, in some cases, conflicting. For maximum cell output the contact must mask minimum cell area but must have sufficient cross-sectional area to handle the photen generated current.

Thick metallisation must be avoided as severe stresses can be set up on thermal cycling and, in the extreme, this streas could be sufficient to break the silicon. The metallisation must have good electrical and thermal conductivity, must be easily contactable, and should not degrade or cause degradation in any encountered environment.

The process by which the metallisation pattern is defined must also be of sufficient accuracy that overal pattern tolerances are maintained. Pattern definituon is achieved by a photographic mask and the metalisisation used on the satellite cell is a composite structure of nickel, copper and gold.
The rickel gives the ohmic contact to the cell, the copper gives the electrical conductivity and the gold prevents contact tarnishing.

The pattern defined on the satellite cell is a narrow top contact bar and then 24 narrow fingers running down the length of the cell. These fingers are typically 25 mictons wide and five microns thick. The multiplicity of these fingers optimises the collection efficiency of the photon generated electric current.


## OPTIMISING CELL PERFORMANCE

On bare silicon, light striking the active cell surface will be partially absorbed but a certain percentage will be lost due to reflection. This percentage can be significantly reduced if a quarter wavelength thick transparent dielectric layer is deposited on the cell surface.

The refractive index of this layer is chosen to optimise cell performance. Early cells used either silicon monoxide or dioxide but the latest technology uses titanium oxide.

The almost universally used cell size for satellite applications has been 2 cm sq and the output power from a cell of this type is typically 62 mW at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ when illuminated with air mass zero sunlight at $140 \mathrm{~mW} / \mathrm{cm}^{2}$. This gives an overall power conversion efficiency of 11 per cent.

Fig. 1 shows the output characteristics of a typical solar cell.

The power requirements for a satellite have always demanded a cell of maximum power, from minimum area, at minimum weight and this has dictated that the cell produced to satisfy this requirement is of the highest possible performance.

## SATELLITE SOLAR ARRAYS

Satellite solar array design has followed two distinct channels, both of which offer advantages and disadvantages in the satisfying of an overall system requirement.

In one case the cells are mounted on a cylindrical body which spins with its axis perpendicular to the sun. In the other case the cells are mounted on deployed paddles which are sun orientated.

To give some idea of sizes involved, the recently launched communications satellites designated Intelsat 4, each carry 50,000 cells mounted on a cylindrical body, nine feet in diameter and ten feet high.

This initially will provide almost 900 W of power and will provide power for 5,000 simultaneous telephone channels or ten colour television transmissions. To provide 1 kW of power from a deployable array would require approximately 17,000 cells and, using two paddles, each paddle being typically one metre wide and five metres long (see Fig. 2).

## THE ADVANTAGES OF SILICON

The justification for the choice of silicon is simple. As previously stated it is the second most abundant element and it has been the foundation of the semiconductor industry. As such it has seen an investment in its technology many orders greater than all other basic semiconductor materials.

The basis of using the experience gained from developing and producing solar cells for satellite


Fig. 3. A terrestrial solar panel as used for marine applications
applications is that the silicon voltaic cell has been the prime power service in over 700 American and some 500 Russian spacecraft of varying type.

Fiom this background the selection of a silicon photovoltaic cell as a design start point for terrestrial power applications was inevitabie and inarguable.

## POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO SILICON

It should not be thought that silicon is the only material suitable, and some effort has been devoted 10 other semiconductors.

The most notable of these have been gallium arsenide and cadmium sulphide. The former is able to withstand high temperatures and thus is able to generate at intensities 1,000 times greater than sunlight The problems of heat dissipation must still be solved, however, before it can be considered to be technically competitive, but on cost it must be extremely doubtful if it can ever be considered to be an economic alternative.

Cadmium sulphide offers a cheap means of producing a photocell of considerable area in a flexible sheet form. It does, however, suffer the disadvantage of much lower conversion efficiency, and hence will cnly ever be able to be suitable for that market segment that can accept no restrictions on area.

## TERRESTRIAL SOLAR POWER

The initial choice of cell for terrestrial use was dictated by availability, and $2 \Varangle 2 \mathrm{~cm}$ reject satellite cells were used. These were cells that failed to fully satisfy the most stringent electrical and physical requirements of a space satellite specification but
which would work quite happily when mounted on a terrestrial panel.

The panel was designed to provide 400 mA at 15 V in the equivalent of bright sunlight, and required for this output 156 cells interconnected as 39 cells in series with four cell strings in parallel.

## MARINE ELECTRONICS

The design and construction of this panel, ideal for off-shore repeater or navigation aids, is not really suitable for the larger volume commercial business. A fast expanding market is that of marine power generation. The use of instrumentation and electronics on yachts and power bcats is ever increasing with very little regard for the state of the onboard battery.

A small solar panel permanently mounted on the boat is extremely attractive from an economical and environmental standpoint. The use of solar panels in marine applications will, however, be limited by price considerations and only when a panel can be produced at a low enongh price will full market penetration be achieved.

## LARGER SLICES

The techniques for the production of refined single crystal silicon have not stayed stationary and manufacturers now have readily available large area slices. This realises a slice diameter of typically 6 cm and allows the use of ceils of this size and proportional power rating.

Based upon expected conversion efficiencies the output from a circular cell of diameter 6 cm should be 500 mA at 470 mV when measured under $100 \mathrm{~mW} / \mathrm{cm}^{2}$ simulated sumlight at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

The front active cell surface will have a simple metallised contact pattern and the back face will be fully metallised. The interconnection of celts must be performed simply, easily and reliably, to permit the building of the basic power modules.

Based upon the major market requirement for recharging nominal 12 V batteries the voltage capability of the module is defined as greater than 13.8 V . Thus a basic power module can be defined as 30 cells interconnected in series.
The expected output from the package under simulated bright sunlight conditions will be 500 mA at 12 V . The calculation for overall charging rate must be subject to some hypothesis as to expected weekly hours of sunlight and at what illumination intensity.

## AVERAGE SUNLIGHT

The average daily hours of daylight during summer can be considered to be 15 hours. The Meteorological Office estimate for hours of sunshine on the South coast of England is a daily average of 7 hours. Asssming this to be at 75 per cent intensity, this is equivalent to $5 \cdot 25$ hours at full sun.

Thus the daily output charge from the panel will be $2 \cdot 6 \mathrm{amp}$-hours. Based upon a five-day week for charging and the boat teing in use the other two days this gives an average weekly charging capability of 13 amp -hours, neglecting any charging that can still take place during the time the boat is in use.

The expected current drain, based upon estimated usage of electronics and ancillary electrical equipment, is of this same order, 10 to 15 amp -hours, so the projected panel size would seem suitable for this market.

## OTHER APPLICATIONS

Usage of this type of panel is by no means limited to matine applications. A similar application, and one that is being studied closely, is for use with caravan tailers.

The pouer output requirements for a solar panel in this application are almost the same as on board a boall and hence the market can, hopefully, be catered for with an identically produced product.
Remote or unmanned automatic operation of road signs is receiving great attention, especially in the use of danger signs for such hazards as road works. The of ten seen flashing amber lights denoting road repairs could be easily solar powered.

Built-in rechargeable batteries could be charged during daylight hours for operation at night. The use of this twpe of power source could easily be extended to cover motorway hazard lights, emergency telephone sustems and many monitoring devices.

Solar power gives to these applications the advantage of freedom from main power links and must improve thei: suitability for utilisation in many more wide rarging areas.

## FORESTRY AND METEOROLOGY

These applications are ones that are commonly encountered by a wide cross section of the public but extensite markets exist in less well known areas. Forestry requires extensive use of remote automatic equipment ior such applications as fiewarning and Fortable or remote communications. The use of this type of power source is also available for weather monitoring, rain gauges, flood warning, seismic detection. The list can be almost endless.

Two app!ication areas that will demand a high reliabild factor are those of remote area repeater links for communications and off-shore navigation aids.

## REPEATER STATIONS

Microwave relay stations and telephone repeater stations are often situated in some of the remotest parts of the world and are required to remain in unattemded trouble-free operation for periods of a year or longer. It can cost a great deall of money to transpert people and spares to these sites for servicing and repair and it is therefore essential that frequency of visits is as low as possible.

Photograph of a satellite built by the Hughes Aircraft Company for NASA arid launched in 1966



Photograph taken from Skylab is showing the deployed solar arrays

## POWER PRODUCTION

The present major energy crisis has spurred even greater discussion and thought towards ways of producing, economically, consumer electrical p.ower, such that it can be considered a realistic alternative to power produced from fossil fuels.

Two ideas, once considered close to science fiction, are being discussed. One involves a large solar farm in a flat desert region and the other a large solar array in synchronous orbit above the earth beaming r.f. power to a terrestal station.

Power would be taken away on a National Grid type system. The problems of maintaining the solar blankets can be imagined and no acceptable solution has been found.

## ORBITING SOLAR ARRAYS

The orbital power station having two large arrays, totalling $7.3 \times 2.7$ miles, is the current design thought and these would flank a microwave transmitting antenna that would be 0.63 miles in diameter.

It is intended to try and fly a prototype satellite in 1990 and a commercial version could be flying at the end of the century.

## THE SOLAR POWER AGE

The world markets for small commercial systems currently demand a high technology product in Jarge volume at low cost but this is only the smallest tip of some vast technological iceberg. A technological miracle is in the making and it is one that could revolutionise our outlooks.

The photovoltaic cell and the solar array will become everyday commodities known to all. They offer a method of saving our precious and dwindling stocks of fossil fuels for processes that require these and they will provide an economic pollution free energy solution based upon a natural power source that will never be diminished.

We have seen the Stone Age, the Iron Age, the Industrial Revolution, the Space Age. The possibility of a Solar Power Age must not be dismissed or taken lightly.


## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We are all certain to be subjected during the next few months to growlings, grumblings, even open hostility directed towards the so-called multinational companies. In fact the very word multinational has now joined other political jargon words like racist, fascist, red, speculator, capitalist, terrorist in a fully emotive sense.

Multinational, in short, has become a word of abuse. Nothing to do with injection of capital and creating employment and wealth in underdeveloped or otherwise needy areas, and everything to do with faceless (indeed, probably heartless as well) exploiters counting their gold in plush offices thousands of miles away. No wonder some of the great multinational companies are keeping a low profile and, for one or two of them, with very good reasons.

Most of the outcry is directed against US-based multinationals but it has to be remembered that nearly all the great British companies operate multinationally, as do those of France, Germany and Italy.
rather liked the argument put forward recently by the German Siemens group to an American audience in defence of their penetration of the US market by acquisition of U'S companies as well as direct sales from Germany. Siemens, said their spokesman Bernard Mayer, is a World Company and this has been true ever since the company was founded by Werner von Siemens, 126 years ago. He quoted the installation by Siemens of the 7,000 mile London to Calcutta telegraph completed in 1870 as an example of operating on a world scale. And he pointed
out that Siemens' advanced technology products, which demand two million dollars $R$ and $D$ expenditure alone every working day, could not be supported by domestic sales alone.
In the United States, Siemens has now grown from a handful of market research men 20 years ago to a sales and production force of 2,000 . Steady, rather than dynamic growth, and still only a drop in the vast ocean of the US electronics and telecommunications industry.

My own rough guide lines for goodness factor in multinationals operating in Britain are that they should be British-managed, have good export potential, have some element of in-house $R$ and $D$ (i.e. not be iust an overseas production unit), and make a genuine contribution to the economic and social life of the country. Fortunately, there are more companies like this than of any other sort.
I suppose Mullard (Dutchowned) is the most notable example and of the more recently established companies, HewlettPackard (US-owned) has an imDeccable record. But there are many others and it will do us all good when confronted with mindless political slogans to pause and think.

## CUTTING THE COST

Electronics, because of its steady advance in solid-state technology, is uniquely running against the tide of rising world prices. You get more value per unit cost every year. The electronic watch which last year cost $£ 100$ will cost you £30 by 1978 according to industry forecasts.

It's all to do with volume. Last year solid-state watch sales were 250,000 in a world market of 185 million watches, only 0.14 per cent. But by 1978, say the pundits, in a projected market of 227 million watches, the solid state watch will have 51 million sales or $22 \cdot 46$ per cent of the total market. By that time the cost of the C/MOS LSI chip will have dropped from 10 US dollars to 2.50 dollars, the digital display from 9 US dollars to 2 dollars, the quartz crystal from 3 US dollars to 2 dollars and even labour (presumably through automation) from 5 US dollars to 2 dollars.

Take a single-chip electronic calculator. In 1970 the semi-conductor manufacturers made an "introductory offer" at 30 US dollars per chip. Last year, the price of the chip had plummeted to 5 dollars. This year the price is 4.50 dollars and the l.e.d. display is now 50 cents a digit instead of a dollar. The complete handheld calculator, albeit of the simplest type, is expected to fall
in cost to 20 US dollars by 1975 , well under $£ 10$ at UK prices, the limiting factor being promotional costs because intense competition encourages heavy expenditure on advertising.

The cost of a single planar transistor in 1959 was 50 US dollars. By 1976, when it should be possible to buy the cheapest calculator chip of some 3,000 transistors for 3 US dollars, the cost per transistor will work out at 0.001 of a US dollar. That's not the end of the story because if all these transistors were discrete and had to be hand-wired with external wiring at a cost, say, of 10 US cents a wire installed, then the total cost would be astronomical.

The big question now is whether the semiconductor wizards can achieve the same order of cost reductions in solar cells for commercial and domestic use to alleviate the energy crisis? One line of research is to fabricate the cells in continuous ribbons instead of individuallv. but even the optimists concede that it may be another ten years before a hundredfold reduction in cost is achieved. This is the order of cost reduction needed to make economic the direct conversion from solar to electrical energy.

## INSPIRATION

We could atl kick ourselves at times for not spotting the obvious. The trembler bell in a telephone has been around ever since the telephone was patented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. If ever a mechanism needed up-dating it's that "oldy" in the base of your phone.
Mitel Canada Ltd. have come across with the answer, and it's an answer with enormous market potential. A replacement panel incorporating a 2 -inch loudspeaker, amplifier and control circuits.

The all-electronic bell gives a pleasant ringing tone, as good or better than any electro-mechanical bell, and it has the advantage that it can also be used for ordinary loud-speaking messages. On a PABX system in a hotel, for example, the operator can make an emergency announcement to all rooms simultaneously or individual announcements to selected guests without the receiver beina off its rest. If you are usina the phone at the time, then the announcement automatically breaks into your conversation.
It is claimed that the Mitel "Mitone" signalling system can be manufactured to sell at the same cost as the old-fashioned singlepurpose bell. Another advantage is that drive voltage is much lower and more in line with the requirements of modern electronic switchboards.

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# NEWS BRIEFS 

## MARCONI CENTENARY EXHIBITION

To mark the centenary of Guglielmo Marconi's birth. the Science Museum in Exhibition Road, London. is holding a special exhibition which will run throughout the summer to about October.

The exhibition consists of a large selection of documents, and a display of early apparatus together with many of Marconi's personalia and commemorative material

Experiments with radio waves were carried out in 1888 by Hertz and were extended by various physicists in following years. It was not until 1894 when Hertz died. that the young Marconi, 20 years of age, appeared on the scene.

After reading a commemorative article on Hertz he began experimenting in the attic of his parents'. large villa near Bologna, Italy. By the summer of 1895 he had transmitted a signal over a few yards using a simple spark gap transmitter, and coherer type detector

By August 1895 Marconi had achieved transmission over $1 \frac{3}{4}$ miles. The Italian government remained unimpressed and so Marconi set sail for England

Following preliminary demonstrations in his laboratory the chief engineer of the Post Office. William Preece, to whom Marconi had been introduced by his cousin, arranged formal demonstrations to Post Office officials.

Observers were suitably impressed and in a second demonstration six months later the range was extended to seven kilometres. An historic lecture at Toynbee Hall followed this and Marconi soon became a celebrity

The scientific community was, however, less enthusiastic suspecting Marconi of plagarism. In particular, Professor Oliver Lodge, who first developed the coherer and had in fact transmitted Morse signals over 60 metres before Marconi began his experiments, was deeply offended.

In 1897 Marconi established "The Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company Limited" much to the disgust of the Post Office who did not favour experiments being carried out without their involvement.
In 1899 cross-channel transmissions were successfully achieved and the possibility of transatlantic radio was soon realised.

On the 12th December, 1901 the first transatlantic message. a single Morse letter S, was transmitted from England to Newfoundland giving Marconi success against all the odds.

Photograph of Marconi in London in 1896, showing the original apparatus brought by him from Italy. (Marconi Company Ltd.)


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## for playing the game of nim

NIm is a game for two players. At each move a player may take any number of sticks from one, and only one, of several piles. He must remove at least one stick and the winner is the person to take the last stick. In an alternative form of the game it is the loser who is forced to take the last stick.

The game reputedly comes from ancient China, but was first analysed at the beginning of this century at Harvard, U.S.A. Clearly one or other of the players must win-there can be no draw-and it transpires that the winning strategy is closely related to the binary representation of the number of sticks in the piles.

Various designs for Nim playing machines have appeared over the years since the development of the digital computer and this article presents a contemporary one using readily available TTL digital integrated circuits.

## WINNING STRATEGY

The prescription for winning at Nim relies on the fact that any arrangement of piles may be categorised as either a winning or a losing position. Further, if the arrangement represents a winning position the next move is certain to create a losing position, whilst it is always possible to play so that a losing combination is converted to a winning one again.

Thus if player A starts with a winning position, player $B$ is bound to leave a losing one after his move. At this point A is able to convert the position to a winning one by making the correct move. The game is now back where we started and will continue to cycle in this way until A finally wins.

Should A make a wrong move at any stage the way is open for $B$ to take over the winning strategy. As there are many more losing combinations than winning ones it is unlikely that even a player who commences with a winning position in his favour should make all the moves appropriate to his being sure of winning.

## BINARY REPRESENTATION

To discover whether a given arrangement represents a winning position or not we must first write down the numbers in the piles in the binary notation. For example, suppose that there are three piles containing 3, 6 and 7 sticks then we can write these numbers in binary form as three columns

| 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  | 2 | 3 | 2 |

Each column of this binary set should now be summed so that in this case we find the numbers 2, 3, 2, as shown. Now, a winning combination is one in which each power of two is represented an even number of times. Hence our example is a losing position because the second column, indicating the number of times that $2^{1}$ occurs, adds up to 3 which is an odd number.

To convert such a losing position to a winning one a player must remove sticks from any pile containing the highest unpaired power of 2 . In this example the highest unpaired power is $2^{1}$, the middle column. and as each pile contains this power it is possible to produce a winning combination by taking sticks from any pile. In fact the combinations 1.6,7 $3,4,7$ and $3,6,5$ are all winning positions.

Should the players choose the alternative game in which the last player loses, then the above strategy follows through unchanged until no pile contains more than one stick. In this case a winning position is one in which there is an odd number of piles of one match each. It will be seen that this is the opposite condition to that imposed by the normal game in this case.

## BASIC DESIGN

Fig. 1 presents a block diagram for a machine which will implement the principles outlined. Rotary wafer switches represent the numbers of sticks in
four piles 1 to 4, containing up to seven sticks each. These switches give outputs in binary coded form, so that, for example, if switch $S 1$ is set to 5 then $A_{0}$ will be a logical 1 representing $2^{\circ}, A_{1}$ will be a logical 0 representing $2^{1}$ and $A_{2}$ will be a logical 1 representing $2^{2}$. For each power of 2 the four outputs from the four switches are taken to a Summer which produces an output equal to logical 0 if the sum is even and logical 1 it it is odd.

The Analyser takes these outputs and decides whether a winning or a losing position is set. In the former case the win output goes low and the 'Your Move' indicator lights. In the latter case the 'My Move' indicator lights and the Analyser initiates a search of the switches to find one which has the highest unpaired power of two present at its output. When this switch is found the appropriate lamp indicator lights.

The last-to-play (L.T.P.) circuitry simply tests for the simultaneous occurrence of no pile containing more than one stick and 55 being set to 'Loser'. In such a situation the control line L goes to logical 1 and the quantity NOT $\Sigma_{o}$ is presented to the Analyser in place of $\Sigma_{0}$. A little thought will show that this fits the prescription outlined above.

## METHOD OF PLAY

The challenger is free to set any initial combination on the switches Sl to S4. The machine should now be switched on and one of the move indicators


Fig. 2. Wiring detail for one of the decimal to binary switch encoders. Four such arrangements are needed
will immediately light. If 'Your Move' lights the challenger should make some legal Nim move. If the 'My Move' indicator lights then one of the lamps will also be lit and the player should turn the corresponding switch back until the 'Your Move' lamp lights. This represents the machine"s move. By continuing in this way, the challenger will invariably lose.

Fig. 2 shows the suggested arrangements of one of the four Encoders S1 to S4, all of which are wired in the same way.


Fig. 1. Block diagram of NIM machine. For detailed wiring of sub-assemblies, see foliowing figures


Fig. 3. Three exclusive OR gates make up each Summer. Three such circuits are required


Fig. 4. Arrangement for last-to-play (L.T.P.) circuitry. See Fig. 1 for interwiring detail


Fig. 5. Circuit diagram of Analyser gates


(a)


Fig. 6. The Search circuit. Three of these are required

## SUMMER

It will be seen from Fig. 3 that the Summer is a very simple circuit block. Each gate employed here is the exclusive OR gate, or half adder. Whenever the inputs are identical, the output is 0 but when the inputs differ the output is 1 . That this is the function we need may be seen by realising that for our purposes all even numbers are equivalent to 0 and all odd numbers to 1 .

Repeated application of the truth table to this arrangement of three gates will show that the final ouput is 1 if the power of 2 is represented an odd number of times and 0 otherwise.

## L.T.P. CIRCUITRY

The control line output, L, of the L.T.P. circuit comes from IC5 which is wired as a five input AND gate (Fig. 4) needs only to invert $\Sigma_{o}$ when no pile contains more than one stick and the last person to play is deemed the loser. IC4 recognises the former condition by testing the $2^{2}$ and $2^{1}$ outputs from each switch. Only if these are simultaneously zero can that switch be displaying nought or one, and in this case the NOR output is a logical 1.

When the output from each of the NOR gates is 1 and the selector is set to "Loser" a control level I is produced which causes IC1d (Fig. 1) to invert the $\Sigma_{\text {o }}$ output.

Fig. 7. Switch Indicator circuit (a) output lamp logic (b) lamp driver circuit

## ANALYSER

The purpose of the Analyser circuit (Fig. 5) is to find the highest unpaired power of 2 . If all powers are paired then the game is set in a winning position, and the Analyser indicates accordingly.

Working from the top we see that if $\Sigma_{2}$ is high then the $2^{2}$ enable line is high also, but IC6b inverts this devel which forces both the other enable lines to stay low and forces the 'Win' output high. Similarly if $\Sigma_{2}$ is low but $\Sigma_{1}$ is high the $2^{1}$ enable line is high but the $2^{2}$ and $2^{\circ}$ enable lines are low and the 'Win' output is high. Only if $\Sigma_{2}, \Sigma_{1}$ and $\Sigma_{0}$ are all low does the 'Win' output go low and, in this case, all the enable lines are also low. Thus a logical 0 at the 'Win' output corresponds to a winning arrangement.

The Win output controls the Move Indicator directly.

## SEARCH CIRCUITS

Suppose that the $2^{1}$ enable line is high (this explanation follows in the same way for both of the other enable lines) then one of the three search circuits in Fig. 1 will be activated. These work in much the same way as the Analyser circuit once they are enabled.

Consider one search circuit in Fig. 6. If the $\mathrm{A}_{1}$ level is high then El goes low and the other gates in the circuit are disabled forcing a high condition

COMPONENTS

Resistors

| R1-R17 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R18 | 17 | off $)$ | R20 |
| $6.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $68 \Omega$ |  |  |
| R21 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |  |

R18 $\quad 6.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R19 $2.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
Capacitors
C1-C3 $\quad 0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ (line supply decoupling capacitors for every five i.c.s)
$\mathrm{C} 43,300 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 16 V
Potentiometer
VR1 $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ preset
Diodes
D1-D8 OA81 (8 off)
D9-D12 W005 full wave rectifier ( 50 p.i.v., 1A)
D13 ZL3.3, 3.3V, 1.5W Zener
Transistors
TR1-TR7 BC108 (7 off) TR8 |2N3054 TR9 BC109
Integrated Circuits

| IC1-IC3 | SN7486 (3 off) | IC8 | SN7400 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| IC4 | SN7402 | IC9 | SN7410 |
| IC5 | SN7408 | IC10-IC14 | SN7420 |
| IC6. | SN7400 |  | (5 off) |
| IC7 | SN7410 |  |  |

## Switches

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { S1-S4 } & 2 \text { pole, } 8 \text { way rotary wafer switches (4 off) } \\
\text { S5 } & \text { Single pole change-over } \\
\text { S6 } & \text { Double pole mains on/off toggle }
\end{array}
$$

Transformer
T1 Mains transformer-primary 240 V ; secondary $6.3 \mathrm{~V}, 1 \mathrm{~A}$
Lamps
LP1-LP6 6V, 0.04A filament lamps (6 off)
Miscellaneous
Contil Case No. 975-West Hyde Developments
at each of the other outputs $\mathrm{F} 1, \mathrm{G} 1$ and H1. This will cause lamp LP1 to light. Similarly, if $\mathrm{B}_{1}$ is high then F1 goes low and the other outputs are forced to stay high so that only LP2 will light.

If $A_{1}, B_{1}$ and $C_{1}$ are all low then Hl goes low and LP4 lights, since the enable line tells us that one of the switches must be presenting a $2^{1}$ contribution.

## SWITCH INDICATORS

Each Switch Indicator comprises a NAND gate coupled to a lamp driver and lamp as in Fig. 7. When all three inputs are high the output of the NAND gate is low and the lamp stays off. When a low condition is received from one of the search circuits the output of the NAND gate goes high, and so the lamp lights up. So long as no fault exists, only one lamp can be lit at any one time.

The driver transistors should have a current gain of at least 50 -the higher the better-and should be capable of passing up to 100 mA . The power dissipation is very small, however, since each transistor is either fully conducting or completely off.

## MOVE INDICATOR

The Move Indicator (Fig. 8) consists of two lamp driver circuits coupled by an inverter. The philosophy here is that if it isn't your go, it must be mine!

A discrete circuit is used for the inverter in the prototype, but one of the odd unused gates from the main circuit would work just as well.

The same comments as above apply to the characteristics of the driver transistors used here.


Fig. 8. The Move Indicator consists of two lamp drivers coupled by an inverter


Fig. 9. Pin diagrams for the i.c.s used


Fig. 10. Suitable power supply for the NIM machine CONSTRUCTION

Providing all interconnecting leads are kept below 10in component layout is not critical. The subassemblies given in the figures should be individually assembled and checked electrically before interwiring the complete machine according to Fig. 1:

The pin wiring for the i.c.s is given in Fig. 9 and a suitable power supply in Fig. 10.

The normal i.c. practice of decoupling every 5 to 10 packages with a capacitor of about 0.1 microfarads should be followed.

The use of i.c. holders is not recommended on grounds of cost. The simple gates used in these circuits are available very cheaply, often at prices comparable with the cost of holders.

## PATENTS LIBRARY

Some remarks and reminders on general patent matters bear making As most readers will understand the British Patents reported in these columns are selected from the latest batches published (at the rate of around 4,000 a month) by the British Patent Office.

Once a week a new issue of patent specifications is laid out for public inspection in the library attached to the British Patent Office in Southampton Buildings, just off London's Chancery Lane. Similarly, issues are laid out at other libraries round the country. At the same time copies of the specifications are made available for purchase from the Patent Office Sales Branch by any member of the public at 25 p each, post free.

At first sight this publishing of orotected ideas seems a contradiction in terms. A patent application is made by an inventor who wishes to protect or monopolise his idea for a number of years. While the application is examined by the British Patent Office it is kept rigidly secret from the public; only the title, name and application date are listed in the public card indexes kept in the library. But when the application has been accepted and is published, its content is there for all to read. So what protection is a patent providing for the inventor? And would it not have been hetter for them simply to keep the r-tails of his invention secret and not involve himself in the expense of securing a patent (likelv to be at least $£ 100$ if handled by a Patent Agent)?

## PATENT CONTENTS

A patent specification is worded in a language which many people regard as an incomprehensible mixture of legal and technical jargon. After a legally worded preamble, every specification launches into a general description of the invention and then moves on to a specific description (usually with drawings) which explains in detail how one or more practical embodiments of the invention actually work.

Every patent specification ends with a set of claims which are the
most important part when monopoly d infringement are considered. The claims define the scope of monopoly which the Patent Office has agreed to allow the inventor, having carried out searches through previously published patents.

If a claim is too broad, it may "catch" a large number of "infringing" articles, but it may also embrace articles that are known to be old. So the claim is in practice invalid. And anyone concerned and believing that the claims of a fresthly qublished patent are obviously invalid can either ignore them or legally oppose them at a Patent Office Hearing.

## ADVaNTAGES OF PUBLLSHHG

Publishing patents also serves to enhance the richness of human knowledge and once a patent has expired (even if the full $£ 300$ worth of annual renewal fees are paid, a British patent can only last 16 years) all that it discloses and claims becomes part of the public domain. The basic reasoning is that the inventor is granted a limited monopoly in return for disclosing his idea rather than keeping it secret. Incidentally, laying open the details of an invention to the public also serves as something of an advertisement for the owner of the patent, who may be approached by manufacturers who wish to make what he claims under a licence.

It is a basic canon of patent law throughout the world that (subject to a verv few exceptions) no one san patent an invention once it has been disclosed to the public. Thus, usually, once an invention has been published (e.g. in a book or magazine, or offered for sale) no one, the inventor included, can subsequently patent it. But it is perfectly safe for an inventor to lodge an application (even if it is accompanied only by a Provisional Specification, which simply lies fallow at the Patent Office for a year) and then immediately publish his invention. Making the patent application generates a priority date which safeguards subsequent disclosure.

Where details of a circuit or construction are given in a magazine with d-i-y slant, e.g. Practical Electronics or Everyday Electronics, it would not normally be possible for anyone to apply for a patent,
for anything disclosed, after publication. However, if a contributor had already applied for a patent before the appearance of the article describing his design, then the appearance of that article would not in itself invalidate any patent subsequently granted.

## LEGAL ACTION

Because the long arm of patent law moves slowly, there is often a gap of several years between original application and final acceptance and grant. Thus it is perfectly possible that a circuit or design published in a magazine such as this could already be the subject of a pending patent application which will not come into legal force until months or even years after the appearance of the relevant magazine issue.

Usually no action for infringement can ever be taken on a pending patent application (remember, they are kept secret so it would be grossly unreasonable if such action could be taken) this could under certain circumstances mean that designs to be found in some back numbers are only now protected by patents.

In practice these circumstances have never presented problems and are unlikely ever to do so, largely because the law is not often an ass. For instance, it is so unikely as to be inconccivable that the owner of a patent would ever be in a position to know who was making a "onenff' model of his design in the privacy of his own home or garden shed.

But anyone considering an expensive production run of any construction should always try and discover whether or not patent rights (perhaps owned by some completely different third party) are involved before embarking on such a project. For this reason it would seem in the interests of everyone if contributors with d-i-y projects included a reference by number to any relevant patents or patent applications.

Finally, readers believing that thev have a patent problem on their hands should seek advice from a Patent Agent; no one on Practical Electronics can enter into correspondence on such matters.

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# Repardart A SEEETON RHOM OUR POSTAAG 

## Good olde days !

For over twenty years, I have been an inveterate constructor. In my early days they were the designs of people more clever than myself. Then, with increasing knowledge and experience. I began to try my hand at designing my "own" circuits.
An essential part of my apprenticeship was acquiring the expertise essential if one was to become a skilful "chassis basher", out of aluminium, mild steel or tin plate. A chassis was an essential prerequisite for use with valves, which were, for the benefit of those who haven't seen one, made of glass with bits of metal inside them. The valves usually glowed dull red (that's the filament, son), sometimes got very hot, and sometimes "bit" hard if one got careless. I ended up in hospital once when I got careless whilst working on high power transmitters.
A well laid out, and carefully constructed chassis, imbued its constructor with a feeling of euphoria, whilst he sniffed at the delicate aroma of hot valves, warm Bakelite and warm transformer impregnant, occasionally enlivened by over heated resistors.-What joy! What contentment!
Then along came the transistor I had to discard most of my painfully acquired wisdom and start learning again. Early results were most discouraging, but I persevered, and, slowly, success came my way. But some of the pleasure had gone. A tag board here, a turret tag there. The resulting rat's nest on an s.r.b.p. board possibly worked, but it looked ghastly and meant that one less skill to be exercised.

To cap it all, along came i.c.s, and, again, less skill was required on the part of the constructor. A few i.c.s, and sundry components mounted on a bit of "holey" s.r.b.p. board (Veroboard) and there it was. It may have worked, but did it really take much "constructing"? I personally don't think so.

Over the period of time since I first entered the world of electronics. the individual constructor has had to exercise less and less skill, more and more is done for him. In this world of "instant" instants, who has the time to learn a new set of skills to really build or construct something different, something unique? amplifier you built. were the days. Motorway

It is a chastening thought, and, I think, a saddening one, to reflect on the electronics constructors lot in. say, ten years' time. You want to "build" a radio, son? You'd like to build a 50 W stereo amplifier? Here are three "cubular modules". press the top of that one, there's the radio you built. Plug the other two into the mains, plug in your sound source and there's the stereo

Where's the fun? Where's the pleasure of actually constructing something with your own hands? Fun? Pleasure? I for one, mourn the passing of the valve; the passing of the early transistor days.-Those
H. T. Kitchen,

Bulkington, Warks

## Fog warning system

Sir,-With the perennial concern for Motorway safety I feel you should know about a fog warning system I have devised after a con siderable period of experimentation.

In principle it monitors the whole of the Motorway, is automatically triggered by fog or smoke and provides advance warning to motorists 300 m prior to the affected area.
The basic system is as follows (See Fig. 1). A light beam is directed along the Motorway verge in the direction of oncoming traffic to an optical receiver 300 m away. While the beam is maintained a relay controls another signal lamp directed to a receiver a further 300 m along the Motorway verge and so on. Such a chain is optically possible since Motorways are practically


Fig. 1. Basic receiver/transmitter unit for controlling fog warning lamps on the

# Psycho-sensitive semiconductors? 

Sir-With reference to Mr. Brian Baily's article in P.E. April '74 about ESP I should like to propose the following explanation of the results he obtained from his experiments on plants. I wish to point out that this is merely a hypothesis and that I have no evidence other than that which I state:

In one of the programmes in the recent BBC T.V. series "Young Scientist of the Year!" the results of a group of boys' experiments on growing plants in magnetic fields, were presented. They found that plants grown in a magnetic field bent and grew along the lines of force. Could this not be something to do with the fact that there is an atom of iron at the core of the chlorophyll molecule, which may render it magnetically sensitive?

It is possible that the molecules align themselves along the lines of force, presenting a coherent chain of electrically resistive molecules, whereas normally they would be in an amorphous distribution. This migration of the vital chlorophyll towards one point would explain the tropic response of the plants in the magnetic fields.

Is it not possible then, that if a large, strong field is enough to cause the plant to change its direction of growth, the weak field surrounding an electrically active brain would be sufficient to align one or two
chains of molecules and thus cause a change in the cells' resistance?

The shrimps' nervous system on contact with the boiling water would radiate a field of far greater strength than normal, this would be selected by the plant and the appropriate change in resistance would occur. I propose that a concentrating mind, regardless of the subject of that concentration, produces a field strong enough for the plant to detect.

Assuming this theory to be correct, there must be other chemicals possessing the same property, in which case it is not hard to imagine, in the not-too-distant future, the invention of a psycho-sensitive semiconductor device. This would be a boon for handicapped people who would be able to turn on equipment merely by thinking about it, no physical help required.

> P. Watson,
> Bedfordshire.

## Hot line

Sir-A short while ago, my wife and I decided to change the position of the furniture in our lounge. The arrangement we chose meant that the colour television would not plug directly into the socket, so I decided to use an extension cable. The only one which was available was a 150 ft cable which I use with the electric lawn mower,

Being the cautious type I checked that the television would not overload the cable and as the cable
was rated at 5A and the television consumption 245 W , which is just over 1 A at 240 V , I decided that it would be safe. As you can imagine, 150 ft of cable across a lounge leaves quite a lot to spare so I coiled it neatly and put it behind the television.

I offered a neighbour of mine the use of my lawn mower as he was having trouble coping with a thick growth. As the cable on the machine was not long enough 1 also offered the extension cable, this was when I found to my horror that the neatly coiled cable had welded itself together, it had apparently acted as a heating coil with IA being sufficient to create enough heat to ruin all but 15 ft of the cable. During this time the cable has not short circuited or failed but it has left a nasty burn mark on the carpet.

I had wondered why the cat had taken to sleeping under the television, she usually finds the warmest position to curl up.
R. F. Burgin, Witham,
Essex.

According to I.E.E. regulations current ratings for cable are based on a fixed amblent air temperature. Any heat arising from the cable caused through coiling must derate this figure. The combination of heat generated in a long cable magnified by coiling and the cat probably contributed to the thermoplastic insulation deteriorating.-Ed

## SOUND STWTHESIS FOOR THE AMATELR



Due to the unprecedented number of letters we have received from readers stating their disappointment at not being abie to attend the P.E. Audio Fair lectures, and more recently the lecture given at Essex University, we have decided to make available (at a small fee) to Clubs, Schools and Universities a taped recording and colour slides of the lecture.

Entitied "SOUND SYNTHESIS FOR THE AMATEUR" the tape runs for approximately 45 minutes at $7 \frac{1}{2}$ l.p.s. and was recorded on a Philips N4450 domestic recorder. The colour slides contain waveforms, block diagrams and circuits on the various sections of the P.E. Synthesiser. Only two sets of tapes and slldes are available and requests will be dealt with in strict rotation of receipt.

It is regretted that this service can only be offered to CLUBS, SCHOOLS, and UNIVERSITIES. The charge is $£ 1$ to cover handling and postal charges. A refundable deposit of $£ 5$, to cover any damage to tapes or slides, is also required.

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 $\begin{array}{cccccccc}\text { No. (Wates) } & \text { ib oz } & & & \\ 07 & 20 & 1 & 8 & 7.0 \times & 6.0 \times & 6.0 & 2.55 \\ 149 & 60 & 3 & 12 & 9.9 \times 7.7 \times 8.6 & 3.79 & 36\end{array}$ 1 150
151
152
153
154
155
156
158 $\begin{array}{rr}1 & 200 \\ 2 & 250 \\ 350 \\ 5 & 500 \\ 750 \\ & 1000 \\ & 200\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{rrrrr}12 & 9.9 \times 7.7 \times 8.6 & 3.79 & 36 \\ 0 & 12.9 \times 8.9 \times 8.6 & 4.17 & 52 \\ 2 & 12.1 \times 11.8 \times 10.2 & 7.09 & 52 \\ 0 & 14.0 \times 10.8 \times 11.8 & 9.25 & 67 \\ 8 & 14.0 \times 13.4 \times 11.8 & 17.82 & * 2 \\ 0 & 17.2 \times 14.0 \times 14.0 & 24.31 & * \\ 0 & 17.2 \times 16.6 \times 14.0 & 29.87 & : \\ 0 & 21.6 \times 15.3 \times 18.1 & 49.25 & \end{array}$


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115500 W enclosed transformer, with mains lead and swo 115 V outiet socket

PRIMARY $200-250$ VOLTS 12 AND (ISOLATED 24 YOLT
Ref. Amps. Weight Size cm. Secondory Windings $P$ \& $P$

 $\begin{array}{ll}18 & 4 \\ 0 & 6 \\ 08 & 8 \\ 72 \\ 16 \\ 17 \\ 115 \\ 187 \\ 226\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{cccc} & 2 & 12 \\ 2 & 12 \\ 3 & 8 \\ & 5 & 8 \\ 6 & 6 & 4 \\ & 6 & 12 \\ & 8 & 12 \\ & 11 & \\ 30 & 15 & 15 & 30\end{array}$
 $9 \times 8.0 \times 7.70 .12 \mathrm{~V}$ at $3 \mathrm{~A} \times 2$
$9 \times 8.9 \times 8.60 .12 \mathrm{~V}$ at $4 \mathrm{~A} \times 2$ $9.9 \times 10$ $9.1 \times 9$

$4.0 \times 9$ | $.6 \times$ |
| :--- |
| $9 \times 8$ |
| $9 \times 1$ |
| $9 \times$ |
| 1 |

$0-12 V$
0.12 V
f. Amps Weight Size cm. 10 VOLT RANGE


Ref. Amps. Weight Size cm. 50 VOLT RAMGE $P$
$p$
30
36
42
52
52
67
97
Ref. Amps. Weight Size cm. 60 VOLT RANGE Secondary Tops $P$
$\begin{array}{lllllll}\text { Ref. Amps. Weight Size cm. Secondory Tops } \\ \text { No. } & 16 \mathrm{Oz} & & \\ 124 & 0.5 & 2 & 4 & 7.0 \times & 6.7 \times & 6.1 \\ 126 & 1.0 & 3 & 0.24-30-40-46-60 \mathrm{~V}\end{array}$

| 124 | 0.5 | 24 | $7.0 \times 6.7 \times 6.1$ | 0.24-30 | 48-60V | $2 \cdot 12$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 126 | 1.0 | 34 | $8.9 \times 7.7 \times 7.7$ | , | ., | 2.97 |
| 127 | 2.0 | 64 | $9.9 \times 9.6 \times 8.6$ |  |  | $4 \cdot 67$ |
| 125 | 3.0 | 812 | $12.1 \times 9.9 \times 10.2$ | ., | ' | 7.11 |
| 123 | 4.0 | 1312 | $12.1 \times 11.8 \times 10.2$ | .', | $\cdots$ | 9.20 |
| 40 | 5.0 | 1200 | $14.0 \times 10.2 \times 11.8$ | ", | ", | 10.83 |
| 120 | 6.0 | 158 | $14.0 \times 12.1 \times 11.8$ | ,. | ", | 13.35 |
| 121 | 8.0 | 2500 | $14.0 \times 14.7 \times 11.8$ | , |  | 15.01 |
| 122 | 10.0 | 250 | $17.2 \times 12.7 \times 140$ | ., |  | $22 \cdot 10$ |
| 189 | 12.0 | 2900 | $17.2 \times 14.0 \times 14.0$ | " | " | 24.74 |

$4 P$
$p$
36
36
42
52
67
67
82
4
4

| Ref. No. | MINIATURE TR | Pre Th | ANSFORMER Size cm. | S WITH SCREENS |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Weight |  | Volts |  |  |
| 238 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 212 | 14 | 12 | 2.8 $6 \times$ | 3-0 | 4 |  |
| 13 | 100 | 4 | 1.1 3.9 | $0-6,0-6$ | . 67 | 2 |
| 235 | 330, 330 | 4 | $4.8 \times 2.9 \times 3.5$ | 0-9, 0.9 | 1.67 | 0 |
| 207 | 500, 500 | 100 | $6.1 \times 5.4 \times 4.8$ | 0-8-9, 0-8-9 | 2.23 | 22 |
| 208 | IA, IA | 112 | $7.0 \times 6.4 \times 6.1$ | 0-8-9, 0-8-9 | 3.00 | 0 |
| 236 | 200,200 | 4 | $4.8 \times 2.9 \times 3.5$ | $0.15,0.15$ | 1.67 | 10 |
| 214 | 300, 300 | 4 | $6.1 \times 5.8 \times 4.8$ | $0.20,0.20$ | 1.76 | 22 |
| 221 | 700 (d.c.) | 18 | $7.0 \times 6.1 \times 6.1$ | 20-12-0-12-20 | 1.55 | 30 |
| 206 | 1A. IA | 212 | $8.3 \times 7.7 \times 7.0$ | 0-15-20, 0-15-20 | 4.05 |  |
| 203 | 500,500 | 24 | $8.3 \times 7.0 \times 7.0$ | 0-15-27, 0-15-27 | 3.10 |  |
| 204 | IA, IA | 3 | $8.9 \times 7.7 \times 7.7$ | 0-15-27.0-15-27 | 3.15 | 38 |

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{ACl}^{2} 26$ | 14p | OC44 | 16p |  |  |
| AC127 | 16p | OC45 | 10p | 1 Amp |  |
| AC128 | 15p | OC71 | 11 p | 100 V | 22p |
| AC141K | 26p | OCX1 | 12p | 200 V | 24p |
| ACl42K | 26p | 2N706 | 14p | 600 V | ${ }^{27} \mathrm{p}$ |
| AC176 | 18p | 2N1131 | 24 p | THYRIS |  |
| AC187 | 24 p | 2 N 1132 | 28p | TORS |  |
| AC188 | 241 | -N2904 | 20p | 1 Amp |  |
| AC187K | 23. | -N2926 | 11p | 50 V | ${ }^{29} \mathrm{p}$ |
| AC188K | 23p | 2N3053 | 26p | 100 V | 32p |
| ADI49 | 49p | 2N3054 | 55p | 200 V | 34 p |
| ADI61 | 33p | 2N3055 | 49p | 400 V | 44p |
| AD162 | 40p | 2N3702 | 14p | 1 Amp |  |
| AF114 | 20p | 2N3703 | 13p | 50 V | ${ }^{39} \mathrm{p}$ |
| AF\|15 | 20p | 2N3704 | 14p | 100 V | ${ }^{44} \mathrm{p}$ |
| AF116 | 20p | 2N3705 | 13p | 200 V | 48 p |
| AF117 | 20p | 2N3706 | 12p | 400 V | 66p |
| BC107 | 13p | 2N3707 | 13p | 5 Amp |  |
| BC108 | 12p | 2N3708 | $11 p$ | 50 V | 46p |
| BC109 | ${ }^{13} \mathrm{p}$ | 2N3709 | 12p | 100 V | 57p |
| BC147 | $13 p$ | 2N3710 | 12p | 200 V | 66p |
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| BC182 | 13p | 40361 | 55p | 2 Amp |  |
| BC183 | 11p | 40362 | 55p | 100 V | 33p |
| BC184 | 14p | 40636 | 69p | 200 V | 59p |
| BC212 | 13p | IN914 | 8 p | 400 V | 77p |
| BC213 | 13p | IN916 | 8 p | 6 Amp |  |
| BC214 | 13p | IN4001 | 7p | 100 V | 66p |
| BDI31 | 68p | IN4002 | 8 p | 200 V | ${ }^{\text {a }} \mathrm{p}$ |
| BD 132 | ${ }^{90} \mathrm{p}$ | 1N4003 | 10p | 400 V | 99p |
| BF 194 | 16p | IN4004 | 10p | 10 Amp |  |
| BF 195 | 17p | IN4006 | 15p | 100 V | 99p |
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|  | VEROBOARD |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Resistors |  | 0.1 | 0.15 |
| t watt $5 \%$ carbon .......... 1p | 24 $2+$ $\times 3$ | $24 p$ $27 p$ | 19p |
| \$ watt 5\% carbon .......... 1p | $34 \times 34$ | 27p | 23p |
| I watt $10 \%$ carbon .......... 3p |  | 31 p | 31p $\mathbf{6 3 p}$ |
| range 10 ohms to 4.7 megohms. | 17× 37 | ¢ $1 \cdot 10$ | 87 p |
| \& watt m/o $2 \% \ldots . . . . . .$. | $17 \times 5$ (Plain) |  | 90 p |
| range 10 ohms to 1 megohms. | Pin insertion tool Spot face cutter | 57p | 57p $46 p$ |
|  | Pk. 36 Pins | 20p | 20p |

## Electrolytic Capacitors

| 5.3 VOLT |  | $\begin{aligned} & 220 \mu F \\ & 680 \mu F \end{aligned}$ | 9p | 40 VOLT |  | Single 13p. Dual pang pstereo) 44 p . Single- type with D.P. switch 13p extra. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $68 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6+p |  | 17p | $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6 \ddagger p$ |  |
| $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6+p$ | $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 17p | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 9 p |  |
| 1704 F | 11p | ${ }^{15000 \mu} \mathrm{~F}$ | ${ }^{25 p}$ | 68.4 F | 10p | CARBON SKELETON |
| $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 13p | $2000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 43p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 11 p | PRESETS |
| $1500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 18p | 25 VOLT |  | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | ${ }^{19}$ | Small high quality type (linear |
| $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 18p |  |  | $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25p | only). All valves 100.5 meg ohms. |
| $3300 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 26p | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6 tp | $1000 \mu_{\mu} \mathrm{F}$ $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25p 44 p | -1 watt 6 p each <br> -2.5 watt $6+\mathrm{peach}$ |
| 10 VOLT |  | $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6 \pm p$ | $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |  |  |
| $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6+p$ | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $\mathbf{8 p}^{\text {p }}$ | 63 VOLT |  |  |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6+\mathrm{p}$ | $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 8 p | $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6 \pm p$ | VISIT OUR RETAIL |
| $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 8 p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10p | $2.2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | ${ }^{6+p}$ | SHOP AT BUSH FATR |
| $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10p | 470 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | 13p | $4.7 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6+p$ | Monday to Saturday 9 to 5.3 |
| $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10p | $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 20 p | $6.8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6+p$ |  |
| $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 11p | $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 22p | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6+p$ |  |
| ${ }_{2}^{15000 \mu F}$ | 20p | $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 39p | ${ }^{22 \mu \mathrm{~F}}$ | $6+p$ $10 p$ | SPST 11p each D.P.D.T. 13p each. |
| $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 24p | $5000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 68 p | $\begin{aligned} & 68 \mu F \\ & 100 \mu F \end{aligned}$ | $10 p$ $11 p$ | SPST 11p each D.P.D.T. App each. |
| 16 VOLT |  | J VOL |  | $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 13p | MINIATURE NEON LAMPS |
| $15 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6 tp | 40 VOLT |  | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 19p |  |
| $33 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6+\mathrm{p}$ | $6.8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6tp | $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 22p |  |
| $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6+p | ${ }^{15} 4 \mathrm{~F}$ | $6 \pm \mathrm{p}$ | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 1000 F | 26p | each. |
| $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 8 p | $33 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6+\mathrm{p}$ | 1000 uF | 4 p |  |

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 0.15 .0 .22 Stp. 0.33 7p. 0.47 94p. 0.68 12p. $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 14p. $1.5 \mu \mathrm{~F} \quad 22 \mathrm{p}$. $2.2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 27p.

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$400 \mathrm{~V}=0.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.0015 .0 .0022 .0 .0033 .0 .00473 \mathrm{pp} .0 .0068 .0 \cdot 01.0 \cdot 015,0 \cdot 022.0 .033 \mathrm{Hp}$ $0.047 .0 .068 .0 .14+\mathrm{p} .0 .1564 \mathrm{p} \cdot 0.22$ 8tp. 0. $3312 \mathrm{p} \cdot 0.4714 \mathrm{fp}$.



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$$
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\times$ | 万1＂ | $\times$ | $\because$ |  |
| やず？ | $1{ }^{\text {－}}$ | $\times$ | $6^{\circ}$ | $\times$ | $3{ }^{*}$ | \＄1．20 |
| ALUMINIUM |  |  | BOXES |  |  |  |
| 13．a！ | $33^{\circ}$ | $\times$ | 2＂ | $\times$ | $1{ }^{-1}$ | 42p |
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| Ha3 | 4 | $\times$ | $2{ }^{3}$ | $\times$ | 1 | 410 |
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| B4\％ | $i^{-}$ | $\times$ | 5 | $\times$ | 210 | 66p |
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Ref．P．Hi－Fi Cleaner 31p Ref．32A．Stylue falance $\mathbf{2 1 . 3 6}$ Ref．J．Tape Head Cleaning Kit $\$ 1 \mathrm{p}$ Hef．34．Cassette Care $\mathbf{2 1 . 2 7}$ Ref．34．Cassette Case $\mathbf{1 1 \cdot 2 7}$
Ref．56．Hi．Fi Stereo Hints \＆Tips 38p

PLUGS AND SOCKETS SOCKETS
PS 35 DIN 2 Pin（Speaker） $\begin{array}{lll}\text { PS } 36 \text { DIN } & 3 \text { Pin } \\ \text { PS } 37 & \text { DIN } & 5 \mathrm{Pin} 180^{\circ}\end{array}$
PS 38 DIN J Pin 240
PS 39 Jack 2 wimm Suitched PS 41 Jack $3 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~mm}$ \＆wite PG 42 Jack Stereo Switched

PS $4 \overline{3}$
PS 46 Phono Single Phono Double Car Aerial Co－Axial Surface

## INLINE SOCKETS <br> Pg al 1）IN a Pin（speaker

PS 22 D．IN． 3 Pln
PG 23 D．I．N． 5 Pin $180^{\circ}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { PS } 24 & \text { I．I．N．} 5 \text { Pin } 240 \\ \text { PS } 2 \overline{5} & \text { Jack } 2 \text {－smm Platic }\end{array}$
PS 26 Jack 3.5 mm Plantic
PS 27 Jack ：＊Plastic
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { PS } 28 & \text { Jack ：Bcreened } \\ \text { PS } 29 & \text { Jack Stereo Plastic }\end{array}$
PS 30 Jack Stereo Icreened
PY 31 Phono Screenell
PS 3：2 Car Aerial

## PLUGS

| Ps 1 | D．I．N． 2 Pin（speaker） | 0.11 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PS $\because$ | D．IN． 3 Pin | $0 \cdot 12$ |
| P8 3 | D．IN．+ Pin | 0.15 |
| P8 4 | 1．I．N． $5 \mathrm{Pin} 180^{\circ}$ | 0.14 |
| Ps 5 | D．I．N． 5 Pia $2400^{\circ}$ | 0.15 |
| PS $\quad 1$ | D．I．N． 6 Pin | 0.15 |
| P8 7 | D．I．N． 7 Pin | 0.15 |
| PS 8 | Jack 9 －Jhm Screeneal | 0.10 |
| PR | Jack 3.5 mm Plantic | 0.09 |
| PS 10 | Jack 3－5mni Screened | 0.12 |
| P8 11 | Jack ！＊Plastic | 0.13 |
| PS 122 | Jack t＂Screened | 0.18 |
| PS 13 | Jack Stereo Hereessel | 0.29 |
| P8 14 | Phono | 0.08 |
| PS 15 | Car Aerial | 0.15 |
| PS 16 | Co－Axial | $0 \cdot 10$ |
| CABLES |  |  |
| CP | Single Lapped Screen | 0.06 |
| Cr | Twin Comumon Screen | 0.08 |
| CP 3 | Steren Screened | 0.08 |
| $\mathrm{Cl}^{+} 4$ | Four Core Common Screen | 0.23 |
| P（ ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | Four Core Indisidually Acreene | 0.30 |
| Cl 6 | Microphone Fully Braided Catile | 0－10 |
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| C1） 8 | Twin Oval Maina Cable | 0.06 |
| CF 9 | Speaker Cable | 0.04 |
| CP 10 | Low Losk Co．Axial | 0.10 |

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VC：single D．P．Switch
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$14 \mathrm{~V}, 10 \mathrm{~V}, 17 \mathrm{~V}, 19 \mathrm{~V}, 21 \mathrm{~V}, 25 \mathrm{~V}, 31 \mathrm{~V}, 33 \mathrm{~V}$ 40，50 and $5 \mathrm{~V}, 0-\mathrm{y}$

| Trpe | Amps | Price | P．\＆ |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: |
| MT50／s | 21.08 | 80 p |  |
| MT50／1 | 1 | 28.48 | 86 p |
| MT50／2 | 2 | 28.30 | 40 p |

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 ACO8（ $\mathrm{GP93}-1.280 \mathrm{~m} V$ at $1 \mathrm{~cm} / \mathrm{sec} \quad \$ 1.85$ ACO8 GP96．1． $100 \mathrm{~m} V$ at $1 \mathrm{~cm} / \mathrm{sec} \quad 22.65$ TTC J－200J．Crystal／Hi Ontput 950 TTC J－20 10c：Cryatal／H1 Output Coupatible $\begin{array}{ll}\text { TTC J．} 200 \mathrm{CS} \text { Stereo／Hi Output } & \mathbf{2 1 . 6 0} \\ \text { TTC J．} 210.5 \text { Ceranic／Med．Output } & \mathbf{2 1 . 8 4}\end{array}$
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## AL10/AL20/AL30 AUDIO AMPLIFIER MODULES

The ALIO, AL20 and AL30 units are similar in their appearance and in their general specitication. Howeser. careful selection of the plastle power devices has resulted in a range of output powera from 3 to 10 watts R.M. 8
The veratility of their design makes them ideal for use in record players, tape recorders, stereo amplifers and cassette and cartridge tape players in the car and at home.

| Parameter | Conditions | Performance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HARMONIC DISTORTION | Po $=3$ WATTS $\mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ | 0.25\% |
| LOAD IMPEDANCE | - | 8-16ת |
| INPUT IMPEDANCE | $\mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| ¢REQUENCY RESPONSE-3dB | PO $=2 \mathrm{WATTS}$ | $50 \mathrm{~Hz}-25 \mathrm{KHz}$ |
| SENBITIVITY for Rated O/P | $\mathrm{V} \mathrm{s}=\overline{\mathrm{a}} \mathrm{V}, \mathrm{Rl}=8 \mathrm{\Omega} \quad \mathrm{t}=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ | 75 mV . M M |
| DIMENSIONS | - | $3^{\circ} \times 21^{\prime \prime}=1^{\prime \prime}$ |

The above table relates to the AL10, AL20 and AL30
modules. The following table outlines the differences in their working conditions.

| Parametor | AL10 | AL20 | AL30 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Maximum *upply Voltage | 25 | 30 | 30 |
| Power out for $2 \%$ T.H.D. ( $\mathrm{RL}=\pi \Omega \mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ ) | 3 watta RMS Min. | 5) watts RM8 Min | 10 watts RMB Min |

## AUDIC AMPLIFIER

 MODU_ES 4LI0. a watte $\begin{array}{lll}1 \mathrm{~L} 20 . & 5 \text { Watts } \\ \text { 1L } 30 . & 10 \text { watts }\end{array}$82.19 22.69
83.01

## POWER SUPPLIES

PR 12. (UTge with AL10 of AL20) 88p
FRONT PANELS PA 12 with Knobs 83

## PA12 PRE-AMPLIFIER SPECIFICATION

The PA12 preamplifier has been designed to riatch into
noat budget stereo systems. It is compatitle with the nost budget stereo systems. It is compatible with the
iL 10 , AL 20 and AL 30 aulio power ampliflers and it :an be supplied from their associated power supplies. There are rwo stereo inputs, one has been designed for ure with *Cerumic cartridges while the auxiliary input will wit most $\dagger$ Magnetic cartridges. Full detaila are given in he specification table. The four controls are, from left to ight: $\begin{aligned} & \text { olume and on/of switct } \\ & \text { lize } 1 \overline{5} 2 \mathrm{mrs}\end{aligned} \times 84 \mathrm{~mm} \times 3 \overline{\mathrm{~m} m}$.

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na a one-plece chasia measuring $20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 14 \mathrm{~cm} \times 5.5 \mathrm{~cm}$.
Chis compenet unit comes complete with on/off switch colume conisol, bslance, bass and treble controls, ransformer, Power aupply and Power ampa. ittractivelw printed front panel and matchng control knobs. The "Stereo 20 " has been lesigned ta it into most turntable plinths pithout Interfering with the mechanism or, Iternatively, into a separate cabinet. lutput power 20w peak. Input 1 (Cer.) 00mV into 1 M . Freq. res. $25 \mathrm{~Hz}-25 \mathrm{kHz}$. nput 2 (hax.) 4 mV into 30 K . Harmonic
Histortion. Bass control $\pm 12 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 60 H . ypically $0.25 \%$ at 1 wott. Treble con 144 B at 14 kHz .
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- Distortion better than $1 \%$ at 1 KHz
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## STABILISED POWER MODULE SPM80

AP80 is especially designed to power 2 of the AL50 Apso if expecially dedige to 15 watt ( $r$ power 2 of the AL50 taneously. This module embodies the lateat components and circuit techniques incorporating complete short circuit protection. With the addition of the Mains Transformer MT80, the unlt will provide outputs of up to 1.5 arnps at 35 volts. Size: $63 \mathrm{~mm} \times 10 \mathrm{mmm} \times 30 \mathrm{~mm}$. These units enable you to build Audio Bystems of the highest quality at a hitherto unobtainable price. Also udeai for many other applications including:-Dinco systerns, Public Address, , etc. Handbook available 10p PRICE £3.25
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## STEREO PRE-AMPLIFIER TYPE PA100

Built to a specincation and NOT a price, and yet atill the greatest value on the marke Designed for use with the ALint power annplifler system, this quallty made unit inchniques. no less than eight silicon planar transistors, two of these are specially selected low noise XPN devices for use in the input stages.
Three switched stereo inputs, and rumble and scratch fiters are features of the PA100,
which alao has a STEREO/MONO suitch, which alao has a ATEREO/MONO switch, volume, balance and continuously varlable
bass and treble controls.

> SPECIFICATION


$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Frequency Response } & 20 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB} \\
\text { Harmonic Distortion } & \text { better than } 0.1 \% \\
\text { Inputs: 1. Tape Head } & 1 \cdot 25 \mathrm{mV} \text { into } 50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \\
\text { 1. Radio, Tuner } & 35 \mathrm{mV} \text { into } 50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \\
\text { 3. Mesnetic P.U. } & 1.5 \mathrm{mV} \text { into } 50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega
\end{array}
$$

1.5 mV into $50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$

All input voltages are for an output of 250 mV . Tape and P.U. input
equalised to RIAA curve within $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ from 20 Hz to 20 KHz .
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5 sin 3 ohm El -25. P. \& Y. $15 \mathrm{p} .7 \times 4 \mathrm{in} 3 \mathrm{ohm}$ 21-40, P. \& $8 \times \mathrm{p}$. $10 \times$ w. w F.M.I. $13 \ddagger \times 8$ in with bigh magnet ell.70, P. \& P. 20p. parasitic tweeter 3, 8, or 15 ohm £3.50. P. \& P. 30p:
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Fully sbrouded section wound output tranaformer to Fully sbrouded section wound oulput tranaformer to
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| 6 M | $60 \mathrm{p}^{*}$ |
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| 6M | 60 p * |
| 4 cjo | 75p* |
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| $1 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{oHD}$ | 70 p " |
| 6 clo | 50p* |
| $2 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{OHO}$ | 60p* |
| 6 M | ${ }^{60} p^{*}$ |
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 $\checkmark$ DC. $0.5 / 2.5 / 10 / 25 / 50 / 100 / 250 /$
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$500 / 1000 \mathrm{DC}$. curtent $10 / 100 \mathrm{~A} \mathrm{~A} / 10 / 1$
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 $0.6 / 2 / 6 / 20160 / 200 \mathrm{k}$ ohms/2 Mohms. Batiory operated. Sup sted carving
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Transistor tester measures Alpha, Bote
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| 5 MHz pass band. |  |
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Stereo decoder


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## Typical Project 80 applications

| System | The Units to use | Units cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Simple battery record player | 2.40 | $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{£ 5} \mathbf{4 5} \\ & +54 p \vee A . T \end{aligned}$ |
| Mains powered record player | Z.40, PZ. 5 | $\begin{aligned} & £ 10.43 \\ & +£ 1.04 \text { V.A.T. } \end{aligned}$ |
| 30W. RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp. | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times \mathbf{Z . 4 0} \text { s, Stereo } \\ & 80 ; \text { PZ. } 6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & £ 30.83 \\ & +£ 3.08 \text { V A.T } \end{aligned}$ |
| 50W ( $8 \Omega$ ) RMS continuous sine wave de luxe stereo amp | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.60 \mathrm{~s}, \text { Stereo } \\ & 80 ; P Z .8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{£ 3 3 . 8 3} \\ & +£ 3.38 \mathrm{~V} . \mathrm{A} . \mathrm{T} \end{aligned}$ |
| Indoor P. A. | Z.60, PZ.8 | $\begin{aligned} & £ 14.93 \\ & +£ 1.49 \text { V.A.T. } \end{aligned}$ |

Project 80 FM tuner. decoder, and A.F.U. may be added as required


Mount Project 80 on a bookshelf a loudspeaker, a lampshade base a false wall with two 0.16 loudspeakers... almost anywhere.

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 and control unit

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Siza $-260 \times 50 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}$ ( $10 \frac{1}{4} \times 2 \times$ 柔ns)
Finish - Black with white indicators and transparent Sliders
Inputs - Magnetic pick-up 3 mV RIAA corrected: Ceramic pick-up 300 mV Racio 300 mV : Tape 30 mV
Signal/noise ratio - 60 dL
Frequency range -20 Hz to 15 KHz 上 1 dB .10 Hz to 25 KHz t. 3 dB
Power requirements -20 to 35 volts
Outputs $-100 \mathrm{mV}+\mathrm{AB}$ monitoring for tape
Conirols - Press button for tape radio and P.U Sliders for volume.
bass ( +12 dB to -14 dB at 100 Hz ) treble ( +11 dB to -12 dB at 10 KHz )

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## Project 80 FM tuner

## 11 and stereo decoder



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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF TUNER
Size $-85 \times 50 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}\left(3 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times \frac{3}{3} \mathrm{~ns}\right)$
Tunimgrange -87.5 to 108 MHz
Detector-I.C balanced coincidence for good A.M. rejection
Onel C . equal to 26 transistors
Distortion $-0.2 \%$ at 1 KHz for $30 \%$ madulation
4 pole ceramic filter in I.F. section
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Sensitivity - 4 microvolts for 30 dB queting
Output - 300 mV for $30 \%$ modulation
Power requirements -23 to 33 volts
decoder
Size $-47 \times 50 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}\left(1 \frac{7}{8} \times 2 \times \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{~ns}\right)$ One 19 transistor I.C.
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Z.40 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Size $-55 \times 80 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}\left(2 \mathbf{4} \times 3 \mathbf{4} \times \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{~ms}\right) 9$ transistors
Input sensitivity -100 mV
Output - 15 watts RMS continuous into $8 \Omega$ ( 35 v )
Frequency response $-10 \mathrm{~Hz}-100 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$
Signal/noise ratio-64dB
Distortion -at 10 watts into $8 \Omega$ less than $01 \%$
Power requirements - 12 to 35 volts
Z. 60 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Size $-55 \times 98 \times 15 \mathrm{~mm}\left(2 \mathrm{t} \times 3 \frac{3}{2} \times \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{lns}\right) 12$ transistors
Input sensitivity -100.250 mV
Output -25 watts RMS continuous into $8 \Omega(45 \mathrm{~V})$.
Distortion - typically 0.03\%
Frequency response -10 Hz to more than $200 \mathrm{KHz} \perp 1 \mathrm{~dB}$
Signal/noise ratio - better than 70 dB
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