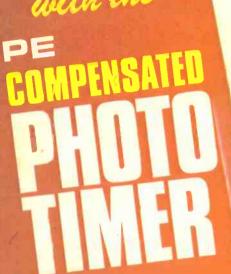
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# ELECTRONICS

VOLUME 11 No. 4 APRIL 1975

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SAXON

Carr. 30p Cramic cartridge, and features mic over-ride plus separate full range bass and treble controls on both mic and deck inputs. Ample headphone power is available for P.F.L. May be used for mono and is mains operated. Fitted with sturdy screening case. Controls: Micvol, bass, treble. Left/Right fade, deck volume, bass, treble, h/phone select, vol, Mains. Size 17<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in × 3in × 4in deep.

DISCO MODULE £9.50 Carr. 20p Thousands sold of this extremely popular mono Pre-Amp. A mic input may be fitted using the VA30 (see below). Low consumption from a 9V battery. Features the same high standards of reproduction as the Stereo version. Controls: H/phone select, vol, Left deck vol, Right deck vol, bass, treble, master vol. Size 12g/in × 31n × 31 in dep.

#### 3-CHANNEL SOUND-LITE £22.50 Carr.

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

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#### **MULTI-PURPOSE MIXERS** M4HL M6HL

M4HL M6HL £19:50 Carr. Featuring multiples of our VA30 module, the M4HL and M6HL/fulfilthe requirements of all clubs, groups, etc. where a high quality mixer is required. Each channel has one high and one low impedance input, plus volume, treble and bass controls. Input impedances may, if required, be easily changed, The M4HL has four channels, and one output, and the M6HL six channels (12 inputs) and a master control and two outputs. Either unit may be used free-standing or panel mounted. These mixers will feed all types of amplifier. Recommended for their versatility and high performance, and excellent value for money. VA30 CHANNEL C2.C0 Carr.

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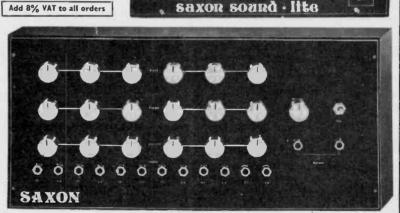
VA30 CHANNEL £3.50 Carr. This is the basic channel module in the above mixers and may also be used for extra inputs on either the mono or stereo mixers. Fitted with volume, bass and treble controls, requires just a jack and supply (9-100V) 100W of speech and music—Two separately controlled inputs. Wide range bass and treble controls. Stundy and attractive vynide case. Twin outputs. Ideal for groups.

case. Twin outpu Ideal for groups, discos, etc. Fully tested and

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LAXON disco-module

### NEW!! SAXON MULTIMIX 100 £57 CARR.

100W RMS SLIDER controls PLUS master slider. Wide range bass and treble controls-fantastic value. Ideal for complete Disco's, Groups, Clubs, etc.

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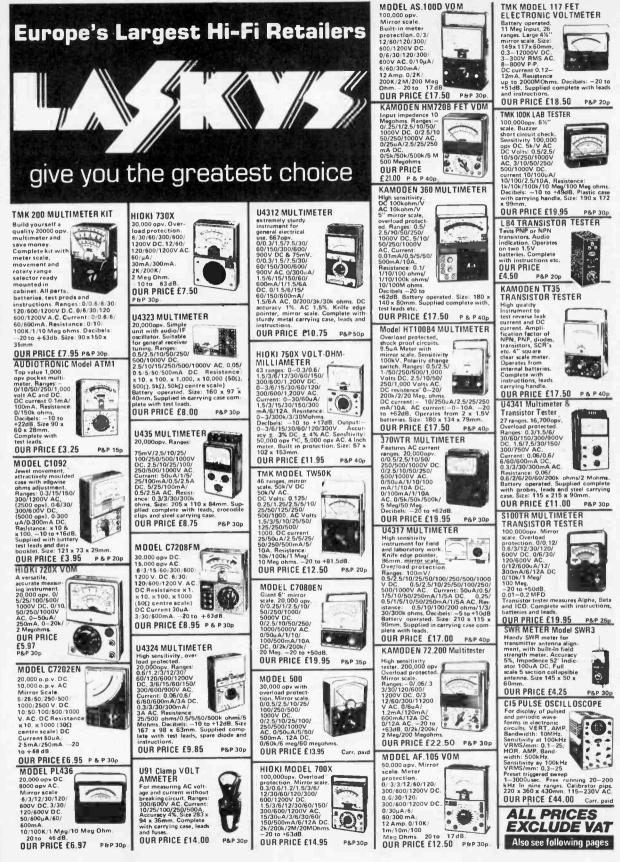
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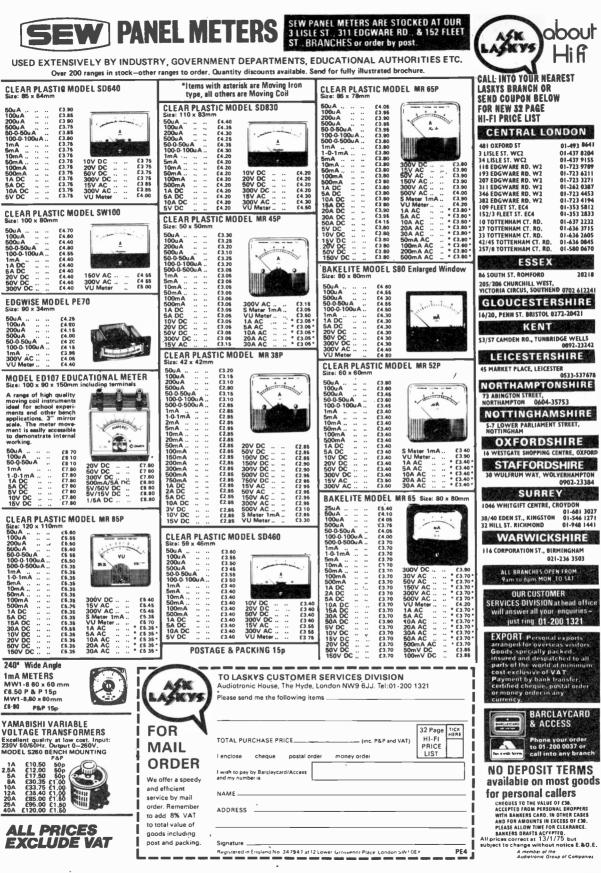
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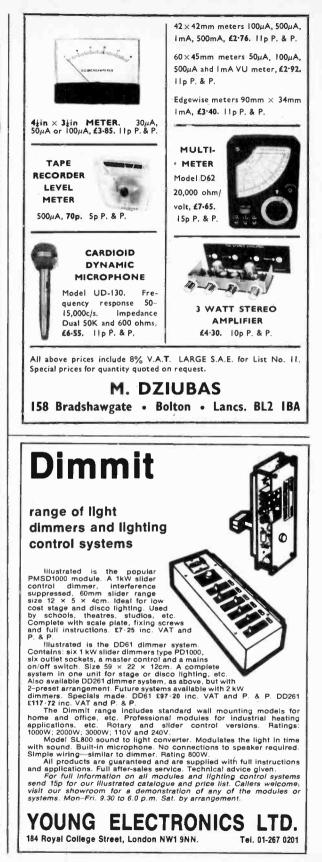


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Subject to manufacturers' increase and availability







# For elegant, versatile, stereo hi-fi systems designed and built by <u>you!</u>

Until recently, if you wanted a first-class hi-fi system you had two ways to get it.

You could buy the individual electronic components and build a system from scratch. If you were an electronics genius – fine.

Or you had to buy ready-made units. Expensive – and dull. About the only creative pleasure you'd get would be matching your amp and your speakers, or making your speaker enclosures.

So what's new?

A comprehensive hi-fi system, combining the enjoyment and satisfaction of build-it-yourself (without too much struggle) ... a real value-for-money feeling ... and results of the highest quality.

It's the new Sinclair Project 80.

#### How does Sinclair Project 80 work?

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

No need to buy everything at once for your eventual set-up. All the modules are designed so that you can add to them as your system grows – whether or not it's based on Project 80.

This applies to refinements, like filters...to up-grading, adding a second set of amps, say, for greater output...or to real innovation, like quad. (Add a Project 80 quad decoder, a power supply, a pair of amps, and a pair of speakers – and your stereo's gone quad.)

#### is it difficult to build?

Not at all. The modules are complete in themselves. All you do is connect them to your turntable... your speakers... or to each other. It's absorbing, but if you can solder wires to a 5-pin DIN plug, you can build a complete system with Project 80. And if you're not so hot with a soldering iron? Use Project 805. Project 805 uses Project 80 modules, but provides special clip-on tagged wire connections – absolutely *no* soldering required.

And, of course, both Project 80 and Project 805 come complete with instructions for easy, step-by-step assembly. But if you do run into problems, just call our Consumer Advisory Service who are always happy to help.

#### OK. Where do I go from here?

Over the page! There you'll see'for yourself the exacting specifications to which Sinclair Project 80 modules are made, and you'll see some suggested systems.

As you skim the suggestions, remember all Project 80 modules are backed by the remarkable no-quibble Sinclair

guarantee. Should any defect arise from normal use within a year, we'll service the modules free of charge. What could be fairer

than that?

Practical Electronics April 1975

# Choose the Project 80 modules that are right for you.



#### Project 80 pre-amp/control unit

The control centre of Project 80 With its distinctive white-onmatt-black styling and plastic control sliders, it's a pleasure to look at, as well as to use

#### Specification

(9) - in x 2 in x 🗤 in.) Separate slider controls on each channel for treble, bass and volume. Inputs: PU magnetic - 3 mV (RIAA corrected), ceramic - 350 mV



#### **Project 80 FM tuner**

Excellent reception from a tuner only 31/2 in long x 3/4 in deep! Styled to match Project 80 control unit

#### Specification

(31) in x 2 in x 14 in ) Tunes 87 5 MHz to 108 MHz, Detector: IC balanced



#### Project 80 stereo decoder

Designed for use with Project 80 FM tuner. Sold separately to



coincidence (IC equivalent to 26 transistors) Distortion: 0 3% at 1 kHz for 30% modulation Sensitivity: 5 µV for 30 dB signal to noise. Output: 100 mV for 30% modulation. Aerial imp: 75 Ω or

240-300 Ω. Features: dual Varicap

tuning, 4-pole ceramic filter,

Operating voltage: 23 V - 30 V

switchable AFC

Price: £13.95 + VAT

Price. £13,95 + VAT



#### **Project 80 power amplifiers**

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

Z40 Specification (21/4 in x 3 in x 3/4 in.) 8 transistors. Input sensitivity: 100 mV Output: 12 W RM5 continuous into 8 Ω (35 V). Frequency response: 30 Hz - 100 kHz ± 3 dB. S/Nratio: 64 dB, Distortion: 0.1%



#### **Power supply units**

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

PZ5 Specification Unstabilised, 30 Voutput, Including mains transformer.

Price: £5.95 + VAT

at 10 W into 8  $\Omega$  at 1 kHz. Voltage requirements: 12 V - 35 V. Load imp: 4  $\Omega$  – 15  $\Omega$ ; safe on open circuit. Protected against short circuit

#### Price: £5.95 + VAT

**Z60** Specification (21/4 in x 34/5 in x 3/4 in.) 12 transistors. Input sensitivity: 100 mV - 250 mV. Output: 25 W RMS continuous into 8 Ω (50 V), Frequency response: 10 Hz to more than 200 kHz ± 3 dB. \$/N ratio; better than 70 dB. Distortion: 0.02% at 10 Winto 8 Ωat 1 kHz. Voltage requirements: 12 V - 50 V. Load imp:  $4\Omega$  min; max safe on open circuit. Protected against short circuit

Price: £7.45 + VAT

PZ6 Specification Stabilised, 35 Voutput. Including mains transformer.

Price: £8.95 + VAT

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

Price: £8.45 + VAT





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

Specification (9½ in x 2 in x34 in.) Connects with tape socket on Project 80

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



Project 80 active filter unit Eliminates scratch and rumble (high and low-frequency noise),

keep down the price of a mono FM system, but also to make the stereo decoder available for use with existing mono FM tuners.

(11a in x 2 in x 3a in.) 1 IC equivalent to 19 transistors. LED stereo indicator glows red. Price: £8.95 + VAT

(41/4 in x 2 in x 3/4 in.) Voltage gain:

-0.2 dB. Frequency response:

filter at zero: 36 Hz - 22 kHz; HF

(scratch) out: variable 22 kHz to

5.5 kHz, 12 dB/octave slope; LF

(rumble) out: -28 dB at 28 Hz,

9 dB/octave slope.

Price: £7.45 + VAT



Specification

Specification

# Some system suggestions from Sinclair





#### Project 805 amplifier kit

Contains following Project 80 units:

Project 80 control unit 2 x 240 power amplifier modules 1 x P25 power supply unit Masterlink unit On/off switch plus pre-cut wiring loom with clip-on tagged wire connections, nuts and bolts, instruction manual.

Price: £39.95'+ VAT

# Project 8050 quadraphonic add-on kit

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

Contains following Project 80 units:

Project 80 SQ guad decoder/rear channel pre-amp and control unit

2 x 240 power amps P25 power supply unit Masterlink unit On/off switch plus pre-cut wiring loom with Clip-on tagged wire connections, nuts and bolts, instruction manual.

Price: £44.95 + VAT

1. Quadraphonic system: 25 W per channel RMS Pre-amp/control unit + quadraphonic decoder + 4 x Z60 amps + 2 x PZ8 mains power supplies + (2 x mains transformers) + (4 x equivalent speakers) + (turntable). Total Project 80 cost: £79.60 + VAT.

2. Stereo amplifier: 12 W per channel RMS Pre-amp/control unit + 2 x Z40 amps + PZ6 power supply + + 2 x Q16 speakers. Total Project 80 cost: £52.70 + VAT.

3. Stereo tuner/amplifier: 12 W per channel RMS Pre-amp/control unit + FM tuner + stereo decoder + 2 x Z40 amps + PZ6 power supply + 2 x Q16 speakers. Total Project 80 cost: £75.60 + VAT.

#### **Other applications**

#### 4. PA system

(Mic) + pre-amp/control unit + Z40 amp + PZ6 power supply + 2 x Q16 speakers. Total Project 80 cost: £46.75 + VAT.

5. Convert existing mono record-player to stereo Pre-amp/control unit + Z40 amp + Q16 speaker. Total Project 80 cost:  $\pounds$ 28.25 + VAT.

#### What more can we tell you?

The basic facts are covered on these two pages. And you'll find Project 80 at stores like Laskys and Henry's.

But before you look, why not get really detailed information? Clip the FREEPOST coupon for the fully-illustrated Project 80 folder – today!

#### Sinclair Radionics Ltd,

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



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Specification

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Price: £8.95 + VAT



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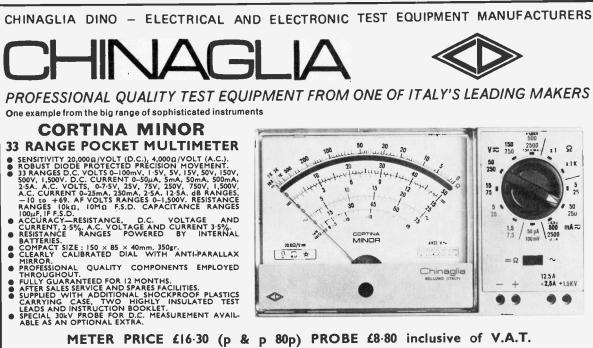
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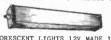
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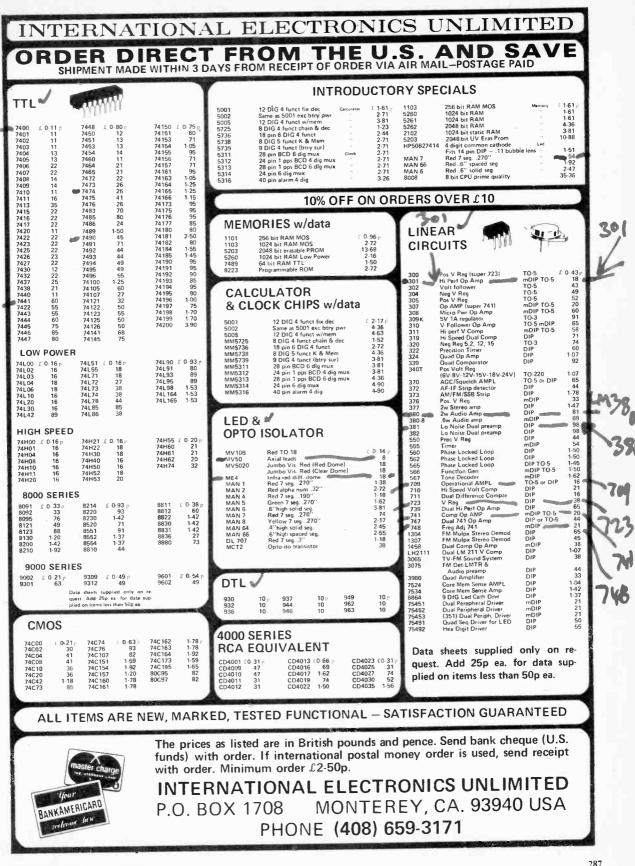
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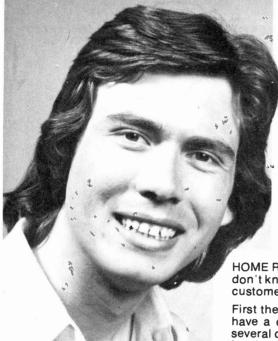
AC107	22 AD161 and		20 BD131 55		33 MAT120 2	21 . T/843 3		0N0002D 11	- BMalog
AC113 AC115 AC117K AC125 AC125 AC125 AC125 AC125 AC125 AC125 AC127 AC128 AC132 AC132 AC132 AC137 AC137 AC137 AC137 AC141K AC141K AC141K AC144 AC144 AC146 AC146 AC16 AC1	20         AD102107           22         AD1140           31         AF1140           32         AF1140           33         AF115           39         AF115           30         AF115           30         AF116           30         AF117           20         AF118           20         AF118           20         AF125           21         AF117           20         AF124           21         AF130           22         AF180         S           20         AF178         E           21         AF181         S           22         AF180         S           23         AF180         S           24         AF181         S           25         AF180         S           26         AF180         S           27         AL102         T           27         ABY29         S           28         ABY50         S           29         ABY54         S           21         ABY54         S           22         ASY57	75         BC151           65         BC152           87         BC153           87         BC154           87         BC154           87         BC153           87         BC154           87         BC153           88         BC159           89         BC151           81         BC161           81         BC161           81         BC161           81         BC171           85         BC172           86         BC172           86         BC172           81         BC174           80         BC172           81         BC172           81         BC173           81         BC174           82         BC173           81         BC184           81         BC208           81         BC208 <th>20         BJ131         55           22         BJ132         66           19         BD133         72           31         BD135         44           33         BD136         44           33         BD137         50           13         BD138         61           50         BD140         66           55         BD176         66           13         BD176         66           13         BD176         66           13         BD176         66           13         BD176         62           14         BD177         72           16         BD180         77           16         BD186         72           14         BD187         72           15         BD188         83           21         BD189         83           21         BD189         83           21         BD196         94           25         BD206         84           31         BD206         81           32         BD206         81           33         BD206         81</th> <th><math display="block">\begin{array}{l} \mathrm{BF}181\\ \mathrm{BF}182\\ \mathrm{BF}182\\ \mathrm{BF}183\\ \mathrm{BF}184\\ \mathrm{BF}185\\ \mathrm{BF}187\\ \mathrm{BF}187\\ \mathrm{BF}195\\ \mathrm{BF}197\\ \mathrm{BF}197\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}2222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222</math></th> <th>33         MAT121         44         MAT2015         44           44         MJE2055         64         MJE2055         64           44         MJE2055         68         MJE2055         68           43         MFP102         44         MPF102         44           44         MPF102         44         60         12         5           13         OC22         5         0         C24         6           50         OC24         6         0         C26         3           61         OC35         6         0         C28         5           61         OC35         6         0         C24         2           80         OC42         2         2         0         6         1           10         OC70         1         1         0         0         1         1           14         OC76         1         1         0         0</th> <th><math display="block">\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc</math></th> <th><math display="block">\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc</math></th> <th>2N2926B 11 2N3010 77 2N3011 16 2N3053 19 2N3054 51 2N3055 45 2N3395 16 2N3395 16 2N3399 16 2N3399 16 2N3399 16 2N3399 16 2N3399 16 2N3394 16 2N3395 19 2N3403 20 2N3403 20 2N3403 20 2N3403 41 2N3405 46 2N3417 31 2N3416 31 2N3417 31 2N3417 31 2N3417 31 2N3614 74 2N3616 82 2N3616 82 2N3616 82 2N3616 18 2N3702 13 2N3704 14 2N3706 13 2N3706 13 2N3706 13 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3708 09 2N3707 14 2N3708 09 2N3707 14 2N3708 00 2N3710 10 2N3710 10 2N371</th> <th>2N3906 33 2N4058 12 2N4059 11 2N4060 12 2N4061 12 2N4061 12 2N4281 12 2N4281 12 2N4281 12 2N4282 12 2N5456 44 2N5458 44 2N5458 44 2N5458 12 2N5458 44 2N5458 12 2N5458 12 2N5488 12 2N5488 12 2N5488 12 2N5488 12 2N5488</th>	20         BJ131         55           22         BJ132         66           19         BD133         72           31         BD135         44           33         BD136         44           33         BD137         50           13         BD138         61           50         BD140         66           55         BD176         66           13         BD176         66           13         BD176         66           13         BD176         66           13         BD176         62           14         BD177         72           16         BD180         77           16         BD186         72           14         BD187         72           15         BD188         83           21         BD189         83           21         BD189         83           21         BD196         94           25         BD206         84           31         BD206         81           32         BD206         81           33         BD206         81	$\begin{array}{l} \mathrm{BF}181\\ \mathrm{BF}182\\ \mathrm{BF}182\\ \mathrm{BF}183\\ \mathrm{BF}184\\ \mathrm{BF}185\\ \mathrm{BF}187\\ \mathrm{BF}187\\ \mathrm{BF}195\\ \mathrm{BF}197\\ \mathrm{BF}197\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}2222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222\\ \mathrm{BF}222$	33         MAT121         44         MAT2015         44           44         MJE2055         64         MJE2055         64           44         MJE2055         68         MJE2055         68           43         MFP102         44         MPF102         44           44         MPF102         44         60         12         5           13         OC22         5         0         C24         6           50         OC24         6         0         C26         3           61         OC35         6         0         C28         5           61         OC35         6         0         C24         2           80         OC42         2         2         0         6         1           10         OC70         1         1         0         0         1         1           14         OC76         1         1         0         0	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	2N2926B 11 2N3010 77 2N3011 16 2N3053 19 2N3054 51 2N3055 45 2N3395 16 2N3395 16 2N3399 16 2N3399 16 2N3399 16 2N3399 16 2N3399 16 2N3394 16 2N3395 19 2N3403 20 2N3403 20 2N3403 20 2N3403 41 2N3405 46 2N3417 31 2N3416 31 2N3417 31 2N3417 31 2N3417 31 2N3614 74 2N3616 82 2N3616 82 2N3616 82 2N3616 18 2N3702 13 2N3704 14 2N3706 13 2N3706 13 2N3706 13 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3706 10 2N3707 14 2N3708 09 2N3707 14 2N3708 09 2N3707 14 2N3708 00 2N3710 10 2N3710 10 2N371	2N3906 33 2N4058 12 2N4059 11 2N4060 12 2N4061 12 2N4061 12 2N4281 12 2N4281 12 2N4281 12 2N4282 12 2N5456 44 2N5458 44 2N5458 44 2N5458 12 2N5458 44 2N5458 12 2N5458 12 2N5488 12 2N5488 12 2N5488 12 2N5488 12 2N5488
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LIN EAR Type No. 72702 72709 7270919 72710 727110 72741 72741 72741 72741 72748 81201C 81701C 81701C 81701C 81701C 81701C	I.C's 1 25 0-50 048 0-25 0-28 0-35 0-38 0-30 0-29 0-28 0-29 0-38 0-29 0-45 0-45 0-29 0-27 0-20 0-27	100 + LC 0.45 0.18 Tpp 0.28 Tpp 0.28 Bp 0.28 Bp 0.28 Bp 0.28 Bp 0.40 Bp 0.40 Bp	TL 930 SERIES OGIC I.C's Price	100+ BI 13p GU	-PAK STILL LOW           ARANTEED. ALI           ype         Quanti           £ p £ p           1         25           0         0.15         0.14           01         0.15         0.14           02         0.15         0.14           03         0.15         0.14           03         0.15         0.14           03         0.15         0.14           03         0.15         0.14	EST IN PRICE. 1         Type           L PAMOUP MANU         Type           100 +         0.13           0.13         7480           0-13         7480           0-13         7453           0-13         7450           0-13         7450           0-13         7450           0-13         7450	BB104 Varicap	DN Tupe Tupe 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	25 100- 0 0-68 0-6 0 0-73 0-7 0 0-82 0-7 0 £1-25 £1-2 0 £1-40 £1-3 0 £1-05 £1-0

131/2010	0.28	0.45	0.40	BP946 1	15p	1.4-	10-	7403	0.15	0.14	0.13	7450	0.97		0 10		0.00	0.00	
SL701C	0.50	0.45	0-40			14p	13p	7404	0-15	0.14		7453	0.15	0.14	0.13	74145	£1.30	£1-25	21-20
8L702C	0.20	0-45	0.40		30p	28p	25p	7404			0.13	7454	0.12	0.14	0.13	74150	£1-50	£1.40	£1.30
TAA263	0.80	0.70	0.60		70p	65 p	60p		0-15	0.14	0.13	7460	0.15	0.14	0.13	74151	£1.10	£1-05	£1.00
TAA293	£1.00	0.95	0.90		L5p	14p	13p	7406	0.39	0.34	0.31	7470	0.32	0.29	0.27	74153	£1.00	0.95	0.90
TAA350A	£1-85	£1-80	£1.70		15p	43p	40p	7407	0.39	0-34	0.31	7472	0.32	0.29	0.27	74154	£1-70	£1-65	£1.60
4A703C	0-28	0.26	0-24		5p	43p	40p	7408	0.25	0.24	0.23	7473	0.41	0.39	0.35	74155	£1.20	£1-15	21.10
4A709C	0.20	0.19	0.18		15p	43p	40p	7409	0.25	0.24	0.23	7474	0.41	0-39	0-35	74156	£1-20	£1-15	£1-10
µA711	0.35	0.33	0-30		15p	43 p	40p	7410	0.15	0.14	0.13	7475	0.60	0-58	0.56	74157	£1.00	0.95	0.90
µA712	0.35	0.33		Devices may b	e mix-	ed to a	alify	7411	0.25	0.24	0.23	7476	0.44	0.43	0.42	74160	£1.40	£1.35	£1.30
TBA800	0.50		0.30	for quantity pri	ce. La	rgeroua	ntity	7412	0.28	0.27	0.26	7480	0.80	0.58	0.55	74161	£1-40	£1.35	£1.30
76003		£1.45	£1-40	price on applic	cation.	(DTI		7413	0-32	0.31	0.30	7481	£1-10	£1.05	£1.00	74162	£1-40	£1-35	£1.30
7 6023	£1.50	\$1.45	£1-40	Series only.)		(		7416	0.30	0.29	0.28	7482	0.90	0.85	0.80	74163	£1-40	£1.35	£1-30
76660	£1.50	£1-45	£1-40	Number of Concession, Name	-		-	7417	0.30	0.29	0.28	7483	£1.20	£1.15	£1.05	74164	£1-80	\$1.75	£1.70
LM380	0.95	0.93	0.90	VOLTAGE REC	CITL AT	TODE		7420	0.15	0.14	0.13	7484	£1.00	0.97	0.95	74165	£1-80	£1.75	£1.70
N E555	£1.00	0.97	0.95	TO3 Plastic 1-5	JULAI	IORS		7422	0.30	0.29	0.28	7485	£1-60	£1.55	£1-50	74166	£1.60	£1.55	£1-55
	0.65	0.63	0.60					7423	0.40	0.39	0.38	7486	0.35	0.34	0.33	74174	£1.60	£1.55	£1.50
NE556	0.95	0.93	0.90	µA 7805/L12	9 5V			7425	0-40	0-39	0.38	7489	£4-00	£3.75	£3.50	74175	£1.10	£1.05	£1.00
ZN414		£1-:	20 each	MVR5V)		1	£1-35	7426	0.40	0.38	0.36	7489	0.65	23.75	£3·50 0-60				£1.00 £1.15
INCOME		and the state	COLUMN IN COLUMN	µA 7812/L13	012V	(Equiv.	to	7427	0.40	0.38	0.36	7490				74176	£1.25	£1.20	£1-15
INDIC	ATOR	TUBE	S I	MVR15V)		1	£1-35	7428	0.45	0.42	0.40		£1.10	£1.05	£1-00	74177	£1-25	£1.20	
3015F Minitre			£1-50	µA 7815/L13	1.15V/	(Equiv. )	to	7430	0.15	0.42	0.13	7492	0.74	0.71	0.64	74180	£1.25	£1-20	£1-15
MAN 3M. L.E	5. D. 7-seg:	nent 0-12	7"	MVR15V)		1	£1-35	7430	0-10	0.14		7493	0.74	0.71	0.64	74181	£3-95	£3-85	£3.75
	0		£1.90	47818 IBV		1	£1.35	7433			0.36	7494	0.85	0.82	0.75	74182	£1.25	£1.20	£1.15
In the second second		A COLUMN TWO IS NOT	-	No. of Concession, Name					0.42	0.40	0.38	7495	0.85	0.82	0.75	74184	£1.80	£1.75	£1.70
			DE	T THE T THE AGE			_	7437	0.35	0.32	0.30	7496	0.96	0.93	0.86	74190	£1-95	£1-90	£1-85
TRIPLE 66-b	IL DYNAM	aic shift		L-IN-LINE SOC				7438	0-35	0.32	0.30	74100	£1.50	£1-45	£1-40	74191	£1.95	£1.90	£1-85
REGISTER E				k 16 Lead Soc	kets f	or use	with	7440	0.15	0.14	0.13	74104	0.60	0.58	0-55	74192	£1-95	£1-90	£1-85
Comprises thr	ee 66-bit :	20 dynam		L-IN-LINE L.C	. T's. T'	WO Ra	nges	7441	0.74	0.71	0.64	74105	0.60	0.58	0.55	74193	£1-95	£1-90	£1.85
shift register.	s with in	depender	nt PRC	FESSIONAL &	NEW	LOW CO	DST.	7442	0.74	0.71	0-64	74107	0.44	0.42	0.40	74194	£1-30	£1-25	£1.20
inputs and o	outputs. "	TTL con	- PRC	F. TYPE No.	1.94	25-99 10	10.un	7443	£1-20	£1.15	£1-10	74110	0.60	0.55	0.50	74195	21-10	£1.05	£1-00
patibility and	buffered	clock line	es TSO		33p			7444	£1-20	£1-15	£1-10	74111	0.90	0.88	0.85	74198	£1.20	£1-15	\$1.10
to reduce the					380		27p	7445	£1-60	£1.55	£1-50	74118	£1.00	0.95	0.90	74197	£1.20	£1.15	£1-10
sented at the	clock pip	a A how	t- BP8		16p		32p	7446	£1.20	£1-15	£1-10	74119	21.50	£1.40	£1-30	74198	22.75	£2.70	£2.65
strapped buffe	Tensures .	a full logi	in Bro	(low cust)	100	14p	12p	7447	£1.10	£1.07	£1.05	74121	0.50	0.48	0.45	74199	£2.50	£2-40	£2-30
swing at the o	utnut 4		BPS		17-	15-	10.												
	V ONLY	EACI			17p	15p	13p	Device	s may be	mixed t	o qualify	7 for qua	ntity prie	e. (TTI	74 serie	es only) d	ata is av	ailable f	or the
	0.111	EAU		(low cost)				above	series of .	LC.s in l	booklet f	orm. Prie	ce 35p.						

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BRAND NEW TEXAS GERM. TRANSISTORS	GENERAL PURPOSE NPN SILICON SWITCH-	QUALITY TESTED SEMICONDUCTORS Pak No. Price	KIN OF THE PAKS Unequalled Value and Quality
Coded and Guaranteed Pak No. EQVT	ING TRANS. TO-18 SIM. TO 2N706/8. BSY-	Q 1 20 Red spot transistors pnp	SUPER PAKS NEW BI-PAK UNTESTED
T1 8 2G3713 OC71 T2 8 D1374 OC75 T3 8 D1216 OC81D	27/28/95A. All usable devices no open or short circuits. ALSO AVAIL-	Q 3 4 0C77 type transistors	OUFEN FAND SEMICONDUCTORS
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T6 8 2G378 OC78 T9 8 2G399A 2N1302	20 For 0.54	Q 9 7 OC81 type transistors 0.54 Q10 7 OC71 type transistors 0.54	U 1 120 Glass Sub-Min. General Purpose Germanium Diodes
T10 8 20417 AF117 All 54p each pak	50 For 1-08 100 For 1-92 500 For 8-25	Q11 2 AC127/128 Complementary pairs pnp/npn 0.54 Q12 3 AP116 type transistors 0.54	U 3 75 Germanium Gold Bonded Sub-Min. like OA5, OA47 . 0.54 U 4 40 Germanium Transistors like OC81, AC128 0.54
	500 For 8-25 1000 For 14-30	Q12         3 A F116 type transistors         0.54           Q13         3 A F117 type transistors         0.54           Q14         3 OC171 H.F. type transistors         0.54	U 5 60 200mA Sub-Min. Silicon Dlodes
ND120 NIXIE DRIVER TRANSISTOR. Suitable replacement for	SIL. G.P. DIODES 2p 300mW 30 0.55	Q15 7 2N2926 Sil. Epoxy transistors mixed colours 0.54	U 6 39 Sil. Planar Trans. NPN like BSV95A. 2N706
Suitable replacement for BSX21, C407, 2N1893 120veb.	40PIV(Mln.) 100 1.65 Sub-Min. 500 5.50	Q17 5 npn 2 × ST.141 & 3 × ST.140 0.54 Q18 4 MADT'S 2 × MAT 100 & 2 × MAT	U 8 50 Sil. Planar Diodes DO-7 Glass 250mA like OA200/202 0-54
1 25 100+ 0-19 0-17 0-16	Full Tested 1,000 9-90 Ideal for Organ Builders.	120. 0-54 Q19 3 MADT'S 2 × MAT 101 & 1 × MAT	U 9 20 Mixed Voltages, 1 Watt Zener Diodes
	AD161/162	121. 0-54 Q20 4 OC44 Germanium transistors A.F. 0-54	U11         25         PNP 8il. Planar Trans. TO-5 like 2N1132, 2N2904         0-54           U13         30         PNP-NPN Sil. Transistors OC200 & 2S 104         0-54
Sil. trans. suitable for	M/P COMP. GERM.	Q21 4 AC127 npn Germanium transistors 0.54 Q22 20 NKT transistors A.F. R.F. coded. 0.54	U14 150 Mixed Silicon and Germanium Diodes
P.E. Organ. Metal TO-18 Eqvt. ZTX300 6p each.	TRANS. OUR LOW- EST PRICE OF 75p	Q23 10 OA202 Silicon diodes sub-min. 0-54 Q24 8 OA81 diodes. 0-54	U15         25         NPN Sil. Planar Trans. TO-5 like BFY51, 2N697         .         0-54           U16         10         3 Amp Silicon Rectifiers Stud Type up to 1000PIV         .         0-54
Any Quantity.	PER PAIR.	Q25 15 IN914 Silicon diodes 75PIV 75mA 0-54 Q28 8 0A95 Germanium diodes sub-min IN69 0-54	U17 30 Germanium PNP AF Transistors TO-5 like ACY 17-22 0-54 U18 8 6 Amp Silicon Rectifiers BYZ13 Type up to 600 PIV 0-54
GP100 TO3 METAL CASE GERMANIUM		Q27 2 10A 600 PIV Silicon rectifiers IS425R 0.54	U19 25 Silicon NPN Transistors like BC108
Vebo=80V. Vceo=50V. I.C.=10 amps. Ptot=		Q23 2 Silicon power rectifiers BYZ13 0-54 Q29 4 Silicon transistors 2 × 2N696, 1 ×	U20         12         1.5 Amp Silicon Rectifiers Top Hat up to 1000 PIV         0.54           U21         30 AF. Germanium Alloy Transistors 2G300 Series & OC71         0.54
30W, hfe = $30-170$ . Replaces the majority of	AUDIO AND	2N697, 1 × 2N698 0-54 Q30 7 Silicon switch transistors 2N706	U23 30 MADT's like MHz Series PNP Transistors
Germanium power tran- sistors in the OC, AD	ELECTRONIC Components	0.54 Q31 6 Silicon switch transistors 2N708,	U24         20         Germanium 1 Amp Rectifiers (JM Series up to 300 PIV 0.54           U25         25         300MHz NPN Sillcon Transistors 2N708, BSY27         0.54
and NKT range. 1 25 100+	ADVERTISEMENTS	pn 0.54 Q32 3 $pnp$ Silicon transistors $2 \times 2N1131$ ,	U26         30         Fast Switching Sillcon Diodes like 1N914 Micro-Mln.         0.54           U29         10         1 Amp SCR's TO-5 can, up to 600 PIV CR81/25-600         1-08
0-48 0-44 0-40	PRACTICAL WIRELESS	1 x 2N1132         0.54           Q33 3 Silleon npn transistors 2N1711         0.54	U32 25 Zener Dlodes 400mW DO-7 case 3-18 volts mixed 0-54
GP300 TOS METAL	EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS AND	Q34 7 Sillcon npn transistors 2N2369,	U33     15     Plastic Case 1 Amp Silicon Rectifiers IN4000 Series     0.54       U34     30     Silicon PNP Alloy Trans. TO-5     BCY26 28302/4     0.54
CASE SILICON Vebo=100V. Veco=60V	RADIO CONSTRUCTOR	Q35 3 Silicon pnp TO-5. 2 × 2N2904 & 1 × 2N2905	U35 25 Silicon Planar Transistors PNP TO-18 2N2906 0-54 U36 25 Silicon Planar NPN Transistors TO-5 BFY50/51/52 0-54
I.C. = 15 amps. $Ptot = 115W.hfe = 20.100fT. =$	FULL RANGE OF ZENER DIODES	Q36         7 $2N3646$ TO-18         plastic $300M$ llz $npn$ $0.54$ $Q37$ $3$ $2N3053$ $npn$ $8ilicon$ $transistors$ $0.54$ $0.54$ $0.38$ $5$ $pnp$ $transistors$ $3 \times 2N3703$ $2N3703$ $0.54$ 0.54         0.54         0.54	U37 30 Silicon Alloy Transistors 80-2 PNP OC200, 28322
1MHz. Suitable replace- ment for 2N3055,	VOLTAGE RANGE 2-33V. 400niV (DO-7	2 × 2N3702 0-54	U38         20         Fast Switching Sillcon Trans. NPN 400MHz 2N3011         0-54           U39         30         RF. Germ. PNP Transistors 2N1303/5 TO-5         0-54
BDY11 or BDY20. 1 25 100+	Case) 9p ea. 11W (Top- Hat) 18p ea. 10W (SO-10	555IC 65p each	U40 10 Dual Transistors 6 lead TO-5 2N2060
0.55 0.53 0.51	Stud) 32p ca.	sssie osp caen	U43         25         Sil. Trans. Plastic TO-18         A.F. BC113/114         0.54           U44         20         Sil. Trans. Plastic TO-5         BC115/NPN         0.54
NEW 9th EDITION	ALL PRI	CES INCLUDE V.A.T.	U45         7         3A SCR. TO66 up to 600PIV         1-08           U46         20         Unijunction translstors similar to TIS43          0-54
over 300 pages	MAM	MOTH I.C. PAK	U47         10         TO220AB plastic triacs 50V 6A         1.08           U48         9         NPN Sil. power transistors like 2N3055         1.08
TRANSISTOR EQUIVA- LENTS BOOK. A com-		TELY 200 PIECES ASSORTED	U49 12 NPN Sil. plastic power trans. 60W like 2N5294/5296 1-08
plete cross reference and equivalents book for			Code Nos. mentioned above are given as a guide to the type of device in
European American and	I MANUFACI		
European, American and Japanese Transistors. Erclusive to BL-PAK	GRATED CIR	CUITS INCLUDING LOGIC	the pak. The devices themselves are normally unmarked.
European, American and Japanese Transistors. Exclusive to BI-PAK, \$2:30 each.	GRATED CIR 74 SERIES L	CUITS INCLUDING LOGIC INEAR and AUDIO AMPLI-	FREE SIL. RECTS. TESTED
Japanese Transistors. Exclusive to BI-PAK, \$2:30 each.	GRATED CIR 74 SERIES L FIERS. MA	CUITS INCLUDING LOGIC INEAR and AUDIO AMPLI- ANY CODED also SOME	FREE         SIL. RECTS. TESTED           One 55p Pak of your own choice free with (D07)(8016) Plastic (8016)(8010)(8010)(T048)
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#### VITAL LINKS

**T** HE very successful infiltration by electronics into miscellaneous and apparently unrelated fields is based upon the ready ability to transform different forms of energy into electrical energy, and vice versa. Without those devices embraced by the term "transducers" electronic circuitry would be limited to purely electrical or electronic functions.

Many energy transforming devices used for industrial or scientific measuring and control purposes fall clearly into the class of precision instruments. They are usually designed for specific applications in association with hydraulic, pneumatic, or mechanical systems. These kind of applications are seldom encountered by the amateur. Apart from such highly specialised transducers, there are more commonplace devices and some—like the microphone and loudspeaker—have been around for a very long time and indeed antedate the introduction of the now generally used term transducer. There are also those simple home made devices which, in comparison with their elegant commercial counterparts, seem hardly to qualify for the rather impressive title of transducer. Yet they ably perform essential energy conversion roles in some electronic system or another.

The touch plate and the moisture sensor are examples of transducers of the most rudimentary form which can be fashioned from commonplace materials and work very successfully with standard electronic circuitry. Of course far more complex and intricate devices can also be made by the amateur who is adept in mechanical matters. For example, the electrodynamic type of instrument used in the Marine Speedometer (February issue).

There is also a good variety of semiconductor devices which are used for sensing or transducing purposes. The developments in this area have been of particular value and importance to amateurs, for they have opened up additional useful applications for circuitry without introducing undue mechanical problems. One of the more recent and noteable innovations in solid state transducers is the gas or vapour detector. This device has now joined the ranks of other semiconductor devices which can sense atomic radiations, heat, light, sound and pressure. (Only taste appears to be lacking at present, but surely it can only be a matter of time before this sense is covered as well?)

As a matter of fact, this marked paralleling of human senses tempts us to indulge in a little whimsical speculation. Can we expect one day the arrival of the thought-responsive transducer, a device that will permit the control of electronic apparatus without the necessity of physical contact of any kind? Some extra-sensory perception devotees believe they really are on the track of this esoteric solution to some of life's little problems. And there has actually been a suggestion that the humble Zener diode could be a possible candidate for this post. Who knows, maybe some readers are currently engaged in pitting their wits against the undisciplined host of particles within that tiny component following the recent Probability Anomaly Detector article.

Frankly, though, we confess having doubts that any redundancy amongst orthodox transducers will result from this battle of mind over matter. So we return to wholly substantial and materialistic matters by drawing attention to the new series starting this month dealing with those important intermediaries—transducers. F.E.B. Editor F. E. BENNETT

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# PE COMPENSATED DHOTO THE BY K. LENTON-SMITH

THE majority of photographic interval timers lack essential refinements where precision printing is concerned. The present design was specifically evolved for advanced photography students interested in colour printing and accurate monochrome work.

Layout of the controls takes into account the probability of working in total darkness, or something closely approaching this, due to the safelighting required with panchromatic papers. Exposure intervals may be continuously adjusted between 0.1 and 121 seconds, and these may either be exact or compensated for fluctuations in the a.c. mains voltage supplying the lamp. Controls which start reset or a low focusing are conveniently placed on a bar at the front of the instrument, for easy location in darkness. A light emitting diode plot may be switched or or off according to whether zelour blind or colour sensitive material is being used. A foot switch may be run in parallel with the start switch so that both hands are available for "dodging" the print.

The circuitry is not particularly complicated, the basic timer being quite convertional. To obtain consistent exposures it is normally necessary to use a voltage stabiliser and, if both timer and stabiliser are commercially made, the parcel can be expensive. The present design dispenses with the voltage stabiliser by altering truing periods in inverse proportion to mains supply voltage. Constructors are warmed that this involves mixing low tension d.c. supply for the timing circuit with armains potentials, thus more than usual care in construction is called for.

Enlarger by courresy of Distons of Fleet Street

#### RECIPROCITY LAW

Experienced photographers will be aware of the reciprocity law, on which all exposure measuring devices are based

$$T \times I \cong K$$

It expresses the fact that the product of time (T)and intensity (1) must be constant (K) for a given sensitised material (intensity being itself the product of subject brightness and the f stop used). Although it is well known that this law breaks down at extremes of shutter speeds and low light levels, it holds good over the normal ranges encountered in camera exposure. The photographer carefully measures light intensity and, with film speed (K) set, the (Reciprocity Law) calculator on the meter will compute the aperture/speed combinations for the material in question.

Having carefully measured camera exposure and accurately developed or reversed the material, the printing stage arrives. Here is where the Law goes out of the window!

Readers appreciate that there are small variations in mains voltage taking place the whole time, especially if a hospital or factory is nearby. More important, however, is that photographic high intensity enlarging lamps are slightly over-run, operating on a similar principle to the photoflood lamp. This means that their reaction to fluctuations is more highly-geared than with household lamps. When voltage alters, so does intensity (1) and, if the timer gives precise intervals, "K" is meaningless.

To compensate for intensity changes, exposure time must be reciprocal. If the intensity falls, exposure time must be extended—and vice versa. Fig. 1 shows the percentage changes in the light output from an 150W enlarging lamp as voltage is decreased, the 75W lamp following much the same

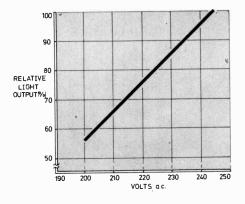


Fig. 1. Effect of mains voltage on enlarging lamps

pattern. A 10 per cent error in the exposure of papers such as Ektacolor 37RC will be most noticeable and really demand a reprint. Ideally, all mains supply fluctuations require compensation so that repeatable results are possible. When switched to the "Compensated" mode, this timer will give the same light dosage for a given setting of the interval switches, despite any unevenness in supply voltage.

#### CIRCUIT

The complete circuit is shown in Fig. 2. Pin 5 of IC1 is normally supplied with about half the rail voltage, this potential altering all intervals pro rata. When S6 is switched to "Exact", pin 5 is connected in this manner. With S6 set to "Compensated", pin 5 is supplied with an amplified version of small changes in a.c. mains voltage and thus makes the timed interval reciprocate. S3 and S2 are simple make switches, but the circuit is otherwise solid state.

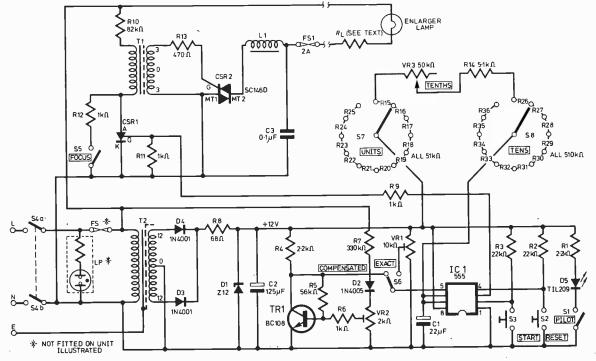
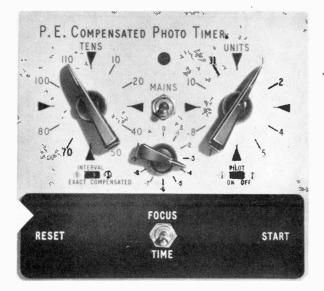


Fig. 2. Complete circuit of the timer



# The completed front panel showing positioning of controls

Output from the timer i.c. is used to switch a thyristor in series with the primary winding of the transformer, whose secondary controls the gate of a triac and hence the lamp itself. Though a little more expensive than pure relay operation, this method is positive and reliable in obviating problems associated with relay points.

Supply voltage is nominally 12V, with 15V a safe upper limit. R8 may be adjusted upwards if D1 passes too much current. Reset switch S2 is connected to pin 4 of the i.c., and the start switch to pin 2. Both are held at positive potential by R3 and R2 to avoid spurious operation and are triggered by a negative going pulse when either switch is closed. The neutral side of the a.c. mains supply is ground with respect to the i.c. and its power supply. Threshold and discharge pins 6 and 7 are connected together in this application. From this point the charge on the timing capacitor C1, being fed through the timing chain, is sensed and the i.c. output switches off when the charge on C1 reaches two-thirds of the positive rail voltage. This capacitor should be either a bead tantalum or the closer tolerance tantalum specified.

#### **RESISTOR CHAIN**

Using the formula t = 1.1RC, any combination of resistor and capacitor may be used to arrive at the basic 1 second unit. However, it is best to keep the value of R as low as possible to avoid the risk of leakage currents. Mathematically, these produce just over 1 second, but capacitor tolerance and the ability to adjust VR1 and VR2 make these values ideal.

As the accuracy of the finished timer depends almost entirely on C1 and the timing chain, good quality components are essential—and the extra cost not exorbitant. Resistors should not be overheated when being fitted to S7 and S8 and the associated wiring must be kept clear of other components. New switches have better contacts than old ones. Any "stops" should be removed from rotary switches S7 and S8 so that the pointers may be turned in any direction. Timing resistors must be used in the 11 o'clock positions (though R25 may be considered superfluous) to avoid an open circuit and consequent waste of expensive material. Though it would be simple to select a set of ordinary 20 per cent resistors using a bridge or meter, 2 per cent metal oxide types are more stable in use and are thus recommended.

# COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors         R1 $2\cdot 2k\Omega$ R2, R3 $22k\Omega$ (2 off)           R4 $2\cdot 2k\Omega$ 5%           R5 $56k\Omega$ R6 $1k\Omega$ R7 $330k\Omega$ 5%           R8 $68\Omega$ 1W wirewound           R9 $1k\Omega$ R10 $82k\Omega$ 1W           R11 $1k\Omega$ R12 $1k\Omega$ R13 $470\Omega$ R14 $5\cdot 1k\Omega$ 5%           R15-R25 $51k\Omega$ (11 off). All metal oxide 2%           R26-R36 $510k\Omega$ (11 off). All metal oxide 2%           All $\frac{1}{2}$ W 10% carbon except where stated           Capacitors	
C1 22 $\mu$ F tantalum elect. 16V C2 125 $\mu$ F elec. 16V C3 0·1 $\mu$ F 900V	
Semiconductors           TR1         BC108           IC1         NE555V           CSR1         400V 1A Thyristor           CSR2         400V 10A Triac (Type SC146D)           D1         Z12 12V Zener diode, 600mW           D2         IN4005           D3, D4         IN4001 (2 off)           D5         TIL 209 I.e.d.	
Potentiometers VR1 10kΩ sub-minature preset VR2 2kΩ sub-miniature preset VR3 50kΩ !inear	
SwitchesS1Miniature d.p.d.t. slide switchesS2, S3Press-to-make switches (2 off) (see text)S4D.p.d.t. toggle 250VS5S.p.s.t. toggle 250VS6D.p.d.t. slide switchS7-S812 way rotary (2 off)	
Transformers T1 Douglas type MT238C5. Pri. 240V, Sec. 3–0–3V, 200mA T2 Brazenose 12012/1. Pri. 240V, Sec. 12–0–12V, 100mA	
Wiscellaneous 1 Pointer knob 1‡in, 2 long pointer knobs 2‡in, 4 way terminal block, 16 s.w.g. aluminium for small heat sink; Case (see text), 4 rubber feet, FS1 2A fuse and bolder, 14 (see text)	

fuse and holder, L1 (see text)

# PHOTOGRAPHIC TIMER WIRING

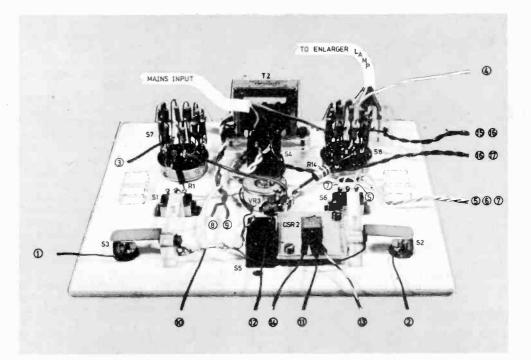


Fig. 3. Underside of control panel. Flying leads terminate at Veroboard sub-chassis (Fig. 4)

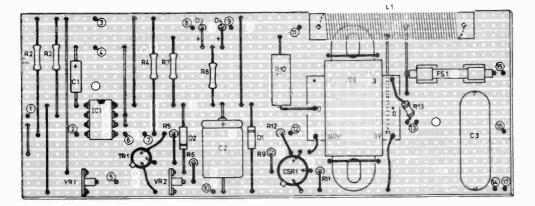
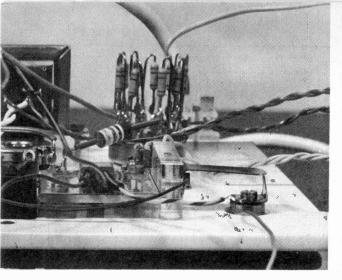


Fig. 4. Veroboard sub-chassis showing assembly and wiring



A close-up of the reset switch assembly and the  $1\frac{1}{2}in \times 1\frac{1}{4}in$  aluminium heat sink for CSR2

With S6 in the "Compensated" position, operation of the chip will be affected by mains voltage. R7 and VR2 form a potential divider, half rectified by D2. A small portion of this voltage is fed to the base of TR1 through R6. R5 provides automatic transistor stabilisation and the collector of TR1 reflects changes in mains voltage. A rise in voltage at the slider of VR2 will reduce collector voltage and shorten the interval, the opposite applying when voltage falls.

#### LAMP SWITCHING

Output from pin 3 of IC1 is fed to the gate of CSR1 through R9. The thyristor, primary winding of T1 and R10 are connected across the mains supply so that the transformer is energised by a positive signal on pin 3. The 6V secondary winding of T1 produces an a.c. signal, which is fed through R13 to the gate of the triac CSR2. The enlarger lamp is connected in series with the triac across the mains supply.

L1 and C3 form a transient suppression network which is necessary as triacs may easily be destroyed by high level pulses in the supply. In addition to fitting a 2A fuse in series with the lamp, it is advisable always to use a low resistance series limiter because the triac could be destroyed before the fuse blows in the event of short-circuit lamp failure. It is suggested that a 5 ohm 100W wire-wound resistor ( $R_L$ ) be fitted externally between timer and enlarger. As this resistor gets hot, it is inadvisable to include it in the timer in view of the accuracy required of the timing components.

Focus switch S5 by-passes the thyristor so that the lamp may be turned on for an unlimited period.

#### CONSTRUCTION

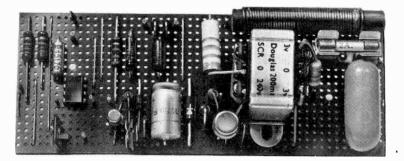
This should commence with the Veroboard subchassis, cutting details being shown in Fig. 4. Because some copper strips carry mains voltage and others the 12V circuits, it is necessary to be even more careful than usual that the track is cut correctly and that solder bridges are not formed inadvertently. Veropins are best used where connections are made with inflexible flying leads.

Ll consists of 50 turns of 22 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire on a short piece of  $\frac{1}{16}$  in ferrite rod, but anything fairly similar will suffice. After winding the coil should be warmed up with a hair-dryer and Araldite applied. This will cut down any tendency to buzz when the timer is operating.

T1 is small enough to mount with an adhesive, reinforced by copper wire loops passed over the mounting tags and soldered into the track. Some versions of the Douglas MT238 CS transformer have the tappings emerging from the underside of the coil (in the present case, they are brought out from the top) and could then be soldered into the board directly, with appropriate changes in the cutting pattern.

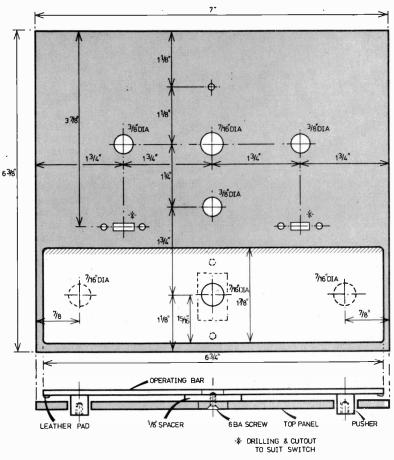
Timing resistors R15-R25 should be soldered round S7, bearing in mind that they progress anticlockwise when viewed from below. Even though 2 per cent resistors are being used, it is a wise precaution to measure the total value of R15-R24by setting S7 to junction R24/R25. R26 should be chosen to match this value and VR3 and R14 must obviously be excluded in making this match. R14 itself is a limiting resistor (which adds 1/10 second to all timing intervals) and is included to prevent damage to the i.c. if the start switch is operated with all pointers set at zero.

S7, S8, VR3 and R14 wired in series form the timing resistor chain. These may be temporarily connected to the sub-chassis by thin, flexible wires to test the basic timer circuit. With S6 bridged to the "Exact" position and 12V applied to the i.c. supply rail, the constructor can ascertain that CSR1's gate is being supplied from pin 3 of the timer. S3 and S2 will have to be jury rigged for this test and the 12V may be supplied from a battery or from T2 alone connected to mains supply.



The Veroboard sub-chassis with all components mounted in position

Fig. 5. Top panel dimensions and drilling details. The black Perspex operating bar shown unshaded stands proud of the panel by means of a spacer placed under the focus switch S5



#### CASEWORK

Fig. 5 gives top panel dimensions and drilling data, whilst Fig. 3 shows the underside of this panel and connections of its components to the sub-chassis. The majority of the hardware is attached to the underside of the panel, the sub-chassis being slung on supports which ensure that it clears the switching associated with the operating bar. The Veroboard supports are tapped with 8 B.A. threads and two paxolin washers should be placed between board and supports before finally screwing down. A large hole must be drilled in the block used to mount T2 so that the light emitting diode pilot can be fitted through the panel underneath the transformer.

Where timers are concerned, a control panel of insulating material is to be preferred as it minimises the possibility of leakage between switches. Formica or Paxolin are suitable, but Perspex ( $\frac{1}{16}$  in opaque white) has been used for this timer. Apart from being a fairly good insulator, Perspex is easy to work and neat in appearance. It may be sawn with a hacksaw, roughly finished with a metal file and finally finished with wet emery and metal polish. Screwholes in the top of the panel may be minimised by attaching components T2 and the terminal block to pieces of tapped Perspex, then cementing to the underside. Holes may be tapped in the usual way, using white spirit as the lubricant and ensuring that the taper/plug is not allowed to clog.

The box covering the timer has also been made of Perspex, clear in this case, secured by screwing into

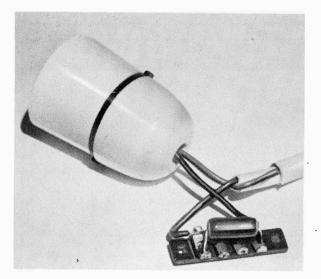
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tapped blocks cemented to the underside of the panel. By rubbing down sawn edges on wet emery placed on a sheet of glass, good mating of the parts of the box can be achieved when cementing together.

The panel should overlap the box itself so that the timer may be free standing on four rubber feet or flush mounted into a darkroom control panel.

#### OPERATING BAR

The black Perspex operating bar (tin thick) stands proud of the panel by means of a spacer placed under the focus switch S5. This bar is intended to flex so that pressure on either end will operate the associated switches. As one side of both S3 and S2 is at mains potential—and photographic workers are handling wet processes-these two switches are inside the timer, rather than simple contacts under the bar. "Pushers" cemented to the underside of each end of the bar protrude through holes in the panel to operate simple switches. Strips of phosphor-bronze have been used, though old relay contacts would probably be equally suitable. The spacer in the middle of the bar is cemented to it and the assembly held in place by countersunk screws through the underside of the panel. Focus switch \$5 will probably have to be recessed into the panel to ensure that it clears the underside of the sub-chassis and that its retaining collar can be attached. Two small, thin leather pads on the underside of the extreme ends of the bar will prevent a click as S3 or S2 are operated.



A tag-board mounted resistor (RL) is used as a series limiter

Triac CSR2 is mounted on a small heatsink attached to the panel by small tapped blocks. As the load will not normally exceed 150W, the size is not critical; 10 or 16 s.w.g. aluminium should be used as large as will conveniently fit between S2 and sub-chassis mounting pillar. Main terminal 2 is electrically common to the heatsink, so the triacs connections should be sleeved and the sink should not touch other components.

A short busbar connects together one side of S2 and S3, one side of S5, centre tap of the secondary winding of T2 and one lead for the pilot. When finally assembled, this busbar is connected to the common neutral line at point 10 on the Veroboard. The four-way output terminal block has provision for an earth connection, though many enlargers only require two-wire connection. Earthing the column is worthwhile as static in the enlarger head is reduced and dust in the negative carrier made less problematical.

#### SETTING UP

Assuming the basic timer has already been tested as described, the rest of the wiring should be completed and a 75W or 150W bulb connected to the terminal block with its limiting resistor. On test, the lamp should be of normal brilliance if the stated components have been adhered to. If not, R10 or R13 may have to be reduced slightly until full-wave operation is achieved.

Preset VRI should first be accurately set, with S6 in the "Exact" position. Set the controls to 60 seconds (VR3 and S7 being at zero) and adjust VR1 until an interval as close to this as possible results. With S6 in this mode, the timer can be used, with an audible alarm, for developing prints for the usual  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 minute period.

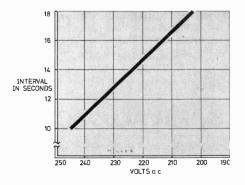
Preset VR2 is next adjusted, with S6 in the "Compensated" position. This setting should always be used for enlarging. This preset will need to be set somewhere near the "earthy" end of its track, the final setting being very critical. If the mains voltage is near to 245V, set the controls to 10 seconds and adjust VR2 minutely until this time is attained. If the mains voltage moves from this point, the timing will alter slightly—as it should. With a "Variac" transformer, it is possible to check time against voltage: the characteristic, when properly adjusted, will follow the pattern shown in Fig. 6.

#### USING THE TIMER

With monochrome materials, the pilot light may be switched on. The colour of the emission and value of R'l combine to produce a "safelight". As it will affect panchromatic materials, it should be switched off when using colour papers, which now have speeds comparable to bromide paper.

S6 should always be in the "Compensated" position unless the timer is used for purposes other than controlling the enlarger. Small triangles of  $\tau_{c}$  in Perspex cemented at the 0, 3, 6 and 9 position of

Rear view of completed front panel showing the range resistors



#### Fig. 6. Variations of a 10 second setting with changes in supply voltage produced by the timer with S6 in the compensating mode. This is close to the ideal implied in Fig. 1

S7 and S8 make it easy to set these in the dark by feel, whereas the less critical setting of VR3 can be closely estimated. In practice, the timer will be set immediately the test strip has been assessed, filtration changes made and before the lights are turned off ready for the next print to be made. It is reassuring to be able to check the setting in darkness to avoid wasting an expensive sheet of colour material!

The operating bar, carrying the most used controls, are nearest to the worker and easily operated in darkness. Positions of S3 and S2 may need to be reversed depending on the timer's position relative to the enlarger, dry bench layout and whether the user is left-handed. S3 nearest to the enlarger seems to be a natural choice. Any or all of the operating bar controls could be paralleled for foot operation, thus freeing the hands for shading and other manual control.

The timer will work comfortably at 210V or below, the author's own darkroom version having been in use during the power crisis. It will make for more consistent exposure, particularly where colour emulsions are concerned. Whilst falling mains voltage affects the colour temperature of the lamp to a small degree, the average variation will not have any practical effect, nor call for filtration changes of more than about 025Y—which can safely be ignored. Used with a filter Nomogram, this timer should enable the user to produce consistent prints of high quality with the minimum of wastage.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Speakers In The Sun

How better to announce a new range of speakers than at a conference held in Malta? This clearly, is the view of the newly recreated Marsden Hall International company who recently held demonstrations in a luxury hotel in Malta of their latest range of quality loudspeakers.

Extending from a shelf-mounting 10W capacity unit up to a free standing 50W studio module, the range is split into two sections called respectively Annexe for powers up to 30W r.m.s. and Symphony for the two upper capacity modules of 35 and 50W rating.

The units are attractively styled in either Teak or Walnut, with detachable fronts either fabric or filter foam covered. Indeed, the foam-covered versions can be supplied in any of 26 different colours.

Of course, the critical test of a loudspeaker is not really the appearance, although this counts for a great deal in some circles, but the audio performance. Here, Marsden Hall went to some lengths to present their equipment as completely as possible.

They organised an audio demonstration of the various units in stereo pairs with the ability to switch from one pair to another at will. This allowed the listener to compare the six models one with another at ease. A selection of styles of music and types of orchestration was presented to show the ability of the equipments to cope with transients, bass and treble response, and so on.

Predictably, the larger studio units came out on top in all sections, but after all, the demonstration was given in a fairly large suite and it is under such circumstances that the full bass response can really benefit. However, all the units, including the smallest Annexe XL10 pair performed as well as one would expect, if not better.

It is quite educational to switch from a triple-driver system of 50W capacity to the smallest shelf-mounting model which uses only a six-inch base unit and a single three-inch tweeter. There is bound to be some colouration of response and a step-by-step run through the range shows this up as fairly minimal, often appearing with switching in one direction and not the other.

Prices are well in line with current ranges, running from £44.50 per pair for the smallest shelf-mounting model to £172.50 per pair for the Symphony 4522 studio units. The two smallest units are both shelf-mounting, the largest of the Annexe range can be used as a shelfmounted or a freestanding unit whilst both the Symphony units are freestanding and can be optionally supplied with castor stands.

The prices mentioned are the recommended retail values and we understand that the units are to be available from specialist Hi-Fi dealers throughout the U.K.



1

# FIRANSDUCERSeed For Loapart 1d INTRODUCTION ance Heat Light Speed Force Load Sound By P.R. ALLCOCK istance Force Load Sound Frequency Distance Heat

#### INTRODUCTION TO SERIES -

This series of articles is intended as an introduction to the vast range of transducers that exists today. Instrumentation engineers are constantly challenged to satisfy the increasing demands made by their colleagues in other areas of specialisation and may be called upon to measure an almost infinite variety of physical phenomena.

Broadly defined, a transducer is any device by means of which energy, available in one form, may be changed to energy in another form. Energy can exist in various forms such as electrical, mechanical, acoustical and thermal and often the output energy of a transducer is in the electrical form. Devices which convert electrical power into, say, mechanical force also come within our broad definition but are often classified into a separate group known as electrical machines. Some of these devices are very important to the electronic engineer and small rotary motors, stepping motors and related devices crop up very frequently, as, for example, in equipment using tape or paper as a recording medium. Often the input energy will be in mechanical form and the first section of the transducer may then perform a conversion from say applied force to displacement.

The subsequent conversion of displacement to electrical energy would take place in a second section and could employ one of the many principles available such as: piezo electric effect, differential transformer, capacitance resistance or inductance variation, photo electric effect, magnetostriction, etc. The nature of the electrical output from the transducer depends on the principle involved in the design and may be analogue, digital, frequency modulated or some form of pulse train. In fact a transducer may be based on almost any combination of the various mechanical and electrical arrangements available.

Some examples of commonplace transducers are listed below and these will be covered in the series.

Measurement Required Shaft rotation or position	Possible Transducer Coded optical disc
Linear displacement	Variable resistance element
Temperature	Thermistor or variable resistance devices
Ultrasonic sound waves	Piezo-electrical material
Mechanical strain	Resistive or semiconductor strain gauge
Liquid flow	Turbine type flow-meter

IN GENERAL terms a transducer is a device which converts (or transduces) energy from one form to another. This definition is rather all-embracing since it includes devices such as electric motors, car engines and turbines whereas, at least through common usage, the term normally refers to devices of a somewhat more specialised nature.

In one category we have devices that can convert an electrical input stimulus into a mechanical output response, such as occurs in the moving coil loudspeaker, whilst in a second category we can group those devices that convert some physical quantity, property or condition to an electrical output signal as occurs for example with a pick-up cartridge.

It should be noted that transducers are not restricted to the use of an electrical signal at the input or output but such devices are by far the most common today due to the widespread use of electrical and electronic techniques in control, instrumentation, automation and measurement and the relative ease of processing or modifying such signals. For example, in many industrial processes the electrical output of a transducer is used, either directly or after processing, as a feedback signal in a servo-loop to control the output of the system in a specific manner.

In other applications a transducer might be connected to a readout device, such as a counter, tape printer or digital meter, and used to provide quantitative measurement information to an operator. Since it is not possible to control a process without measurement of one or more variables it is clear that transducers play an important part in a wide variety of modern engineering systems and measurement processes.

#### **OPERATING PRINCIPLES**

The operating principles of the majority of transducers in common use are straightforward, but in practice the utilization of these principles often involves very careful design and precision engineering in order that defects, which might otherwise limit the device accuracy, are kept to a low level. Even with careful manufacture, environmental factors such as temperature, vibration, shock and stray magnetic or electric fields, must be taken into account if the best accuracy is to be obtained.

Often several basic principles are used together to achieve the required output. The term measurand is often used to denote the quantity, condition or property which the transducer translates into the required output signal and in some cases the transducer does not respond directly to the measurand but to a related variable.

For example, transducers designed to measure acceleration are often activated by a displacement or force which is related in a known way to the acceleration.

#### \* North Staffordshire Polytechnic

The "two-stage" principle is illustrated in Fig. 1.1. The first section translates the measurand into a displacement or stress and this in turn acts as the stimulus for the second stage which produces the requisite output. The second stage may generate the electrical output directly from the output energy of the mechanical transduction stage in which case it is known as self generating. The alternative form, which requires an external power source for excitation, is usually called a passive transducer.

#### TRANSDUCER CLASSIFICATION

It is an almost impossible task to classify the whole range of transducers now in use. However it is feasible to group them on the basis of their fundamental operating principles as in Table 1.1, even though they may be used in, or have evolved from, widely different applications.

Even with such grouping it may be difficult to classify a particular transducer uniquely because of overlap in the various selection parameters used. For example a thermistor might be classed as a variable resistance device or alternatively as a thermal device. Strictly speaking the thermal energy input is the measurand which can be related to temperature but two distinct modes of operation are possible.

If the electrical currents are kept sufficiently small the resistance will be dependent only on the heat input whereas if larger currents are permitted some selfheating will occur and the temperature will depend on two sources of heat.

#### VARIABLE RESISTANCE TRANSDUCERS

In the moving contact type, the measurand, either directly or indirectly, causes a change in the resistance of an electrical element. This change is usually caused by either a moving contact system or some physical or chemical action. The basic principle of a moving contact system is illustrated in Fig. 1.2 and here changes in liquid level are used to move a sliding contact along the resistance element BC.

BLE 1.1
PHENOMENA THAT CAN ANSDUCER OPERATION
Electromagnetic Thermo Electric (Voltaic)
Ionisation
Electrolytic
Potentiometric Magneto Resistive

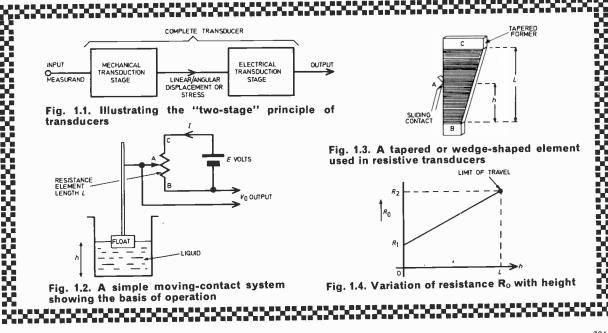
If we assume that the resistance between A and B is zero when the tank is empty the resistance  $R_{AB}$  for a liquid level of h will be  $R_0 \cdot h$  where  $R_0$  is the resistance change per unit height of liquid. If we assume also that  $R_0$  is constant i.e. the resistance element is perfectly uniform over its whole length L we can express the

output voltage as  $V_0 = E\left(\frac{h}{L}\right)$  volts providing no

current is drawn via the output terminals (Fig. 1.4). In some application it may be desirable to use a resistance element that is not uniformly wound in which case the output voltage is no longer given by the above equation but by

$$V_{\rm o} = E\left(\frac{R_{\rm AB}}{R_{\rm BC}}\right).$$

The way in which  $R_{AB}$  varies with height *h* determines the characteristic law of the transducer since *E* and  $R_{BC}$  are fixed. For example the resistance element  $R_{BC}$  could be wound on a thin wedge shaped sheet of insulating material as shown in Fig. 1.3. The resistance per unit length,  $R_0$ , is not constant for this case and will in fact increase uniformly as the slider moves from B to C as long as the resistance wire is sufficiently fine



and the element carefully wound so that the turns cannot move as the contact passes over their surface.

For the wedge profile shown in Fig. 1.3 the variation of  $R_0$  with height *h* will be as indicated in Fig. 1.5. The resistance per unit length is obviously a function of *h* since as the slider moves along the resistance element the length of each turn of the resistance wire increases slightly. The variation of  $R_0$  can be written as

$$R_{\rm o} = R_1 + \frac{h}{L} (R_2 - R_1).$$

If we put h = 0 we find  $R_0 = R_1$  and for h = L (the limit of slider travel) we find  $R_0 = R_2$ .

To determine the resistance between AB or BC we need to add together the resistance of all the turns of wire between the two points of interest. This is achieved mathematically by integration and for the section between A and B we have

$$R_{AB} = \frac{h}{o} \int R_0 dh$$
$$= hR_1 + \frac{h^2}{2L} (R_2 - R_1).$$

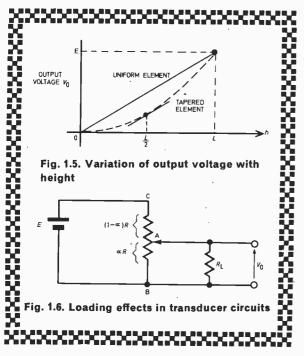
At full height h = L and substitution in the above equation then gives  $R_{\rm BC} = L \cdot \left(\frac{R_1 + R_2}{2}\right)$  which is simply the length of the element multiplied by the average resistance per unit length.

The variation of output voltage with height for this type of element is illustrated in Fig. 1.5 which also shows, for comparison, the output of a uniformly wound element operating from the same supply voltage.

The wedge element gives the greater rate of change of output voltage providing the tank is at least half full

 $\left(h > \frac{L}{2}\right)$  whereas the uniform element gives the larger

output voltage for all heights except h = L at which level both types give the same output voltage.



#### LAWS

The details discussed so far have shown that it is possible to control the characteristic law of the transducer by suitable choice of resistance variation with length of travel. In some applications it is the angular rotation of a shaft that activates the moving contact and in this case also it is possible, by choice of shape for the resistance wire former, to produce a given characteristic such as a sine or cosine variation of resistance against angular position.

Tapered resistance elements are sometimes used in bridge circuits to open out an otherwise cramped scale at the extremes of angular travel. The log and reverselog audio volume controls use graded regions on the track with different resistance values per unit angle of rotation in an attempt to give a straight line piecewise approximation to the specified law.

Obviously mechanical friction has to be kept to a minimum in devices that have to operate with low forces and wear of contact and wire can limit the useful life. The wire used in some precision potentiometers is very fine to give good resolution and excessive currents can easily destroy the element, especially when the sliding contact is near to one end of the range of adjustment, due to the concentration of heat over a small region.

#### OUTPUT LOADING EFFECTS

No mention has been made of the loading that will occur if the transducer output is fed to a resistance which is not large relative to the element resistance. This form of loading is illustrated in Fig. 1.6 where the load on the output is represented by the inclusion of  $R_{\rm L}$ . If  $\alpha$  represents the fraction of the resistance element between A and B and 'R represents the total resistance of the element the circuit is simply that of a potentiometer having an upper portion of  $(1 - \alpha)R$  and a lower portion of  $\alpha R$  in parallel with  $R_{\rm L}$ .

Analysis of the circuit gives the output voltage  $V_0$  as:—

$$\frac{\alpha E}{1 + \alpha R (1 - \alpha)} = \frac{\alpha E}{\frac{1 + \alpha R (1 - \alpha)}{R_L}} = \frac{(\text{Ideal Unloaded Output Voltage})}{1 + \alpha K (1 - \alpha)}$$

where K is the ratio of transducer element-resistance to loading resistance.

For a given value of K we see that the output voltage is correct for  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\alpha = 1$  (i.e.  $V_0 = 0$  and  $V_0 = E$ at the limits of travel) but at intermediate settings of  $\alpha$ the output is in error and will always be less than the (ideal) true output.

In any reasonable system K should be considerably less than unity in which case the output is lower than the true value by approximately  $[100\alpha (1 - \alpha) K]$  per cent. The maximum error for a given K value occurs, as might be expected, when  $\alpha = 0.5$  and is of the order 25 K per cent low providing K is small. For K = 0.1(i.e.  $R_L = 10R$ ) the maximum error at mid-travel would be about 2.5 per cent low.

#### THERMISTORS

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A thermistor is a heat-sensitive semiconductor resistor with a relatively large negative temperature coefficient of resistance, although thermistors having positive temperature coefficients are also available. A typical device will exhibit a resistance drop of about 4 per cent per degree temperature rise.

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Unlike the p-n junction of a semiconductor diode or transistor, the thermistor does not depend on the effects that occur at a p-n interface and is not manufactured by doping silicon or germanium with impurities. Instead, a thermistor is made, using a sintering process, from mixtures of the oxides of metals such as manganese, nickel, cobalt, iron, copper, titanium and magnesium. Leads are attached to metallised areas on the thermistor body or connected during the controlled heating processes.

A very wide variety of shapes and sizes are now available ranging from small beads to large plates or rods.

A protective coating of epoxy or fused glass is often provided and some types are available in glass envelopes, either evacuated or gas filled. Resistance values at 25°C range from about  $1\Omega$  to several M $\Omega$ .

Early devices were very variable in characteristic and it was difficult to match the characteristics of two similar thermistors. Fortunately improvements in manufacturing techniques have virtually eliminated the shortcomings of the early devices and thermistors are now available which are stable with time, matched and interchangeable to within a fraction of a degree over wide temperature ranges.

Thermistors now rival thermocouples in many applications since stable amplification is invariably required with thermocouples due to their low output voltage (typically of the order of 50  $\mu$ V/deg C). The main advantage of the thermistor over the thermocouple is sensitivity. The output of the thermocouple is determined by the choice of the two metals and cannot be changed.

Typical thermistor bridge or potentiometer circuits can give output voltage changes of 100 mV/deg C which is some 2,000 times that of an equivalent thermocouple. The useful temperature range of thermistors is considerably less than for the thermocouple, being limited to about  $-100^{\circ}$ C to  $+400^{\circ}$ C whereas thermocouples can operate over a range of thousands of degrees. The thermocouple also has a more linear output since its output voltage per unit temperature change is more nearly constant.

#### THERMISTOR POTENTIOMETER

A simple potentiometer using a thermistor is shown in Fig. 1.7. Obviously the same current flows through both the thermistor and the fixed resistor. If the current is sufficiently small the self-heating of the thermistor will be negligible and its resistance will therefore depend on the ambient temperature. If this temperature rises the thermistor resistance will fall (assuming a negative temperature coefficient) and the current will increase. The resulting increase in voltage across the fixed resistor can be used as an indication voltage-temperature temperature but the of characteristic will not be linear.

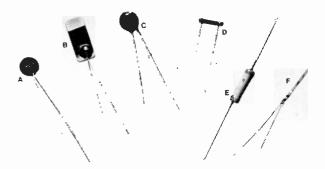
The resistance-temperature relationship for a thermistor is usually approximated by the equation

$$R = A e^{\beta}/T$$

where R is the resistance at temp. T<sup>0</sup> Kelvin, A and  $\beta$ are constants for the particular thermistor, T is the absolute temperature in Kelvin, and e is the base of natural logarithms, 2.7183. By taking logarithms of

both sides of this equation we see that  $\text{Log}_e\left(\frac{R}{A}\right) = \frac{\beta}{T}$ .

This inverse relationship is sketched in Fig. 1.8. For two temperatures  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  and corresponding



A selection of Mullard thermistors, (a) Diac NTC type, (b) Plate NTC type, (c) PTC type, (d) Rod NTC type, (e) Rod VDR type, (f) Bead in glass type

resistance values of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  respectively we can write:

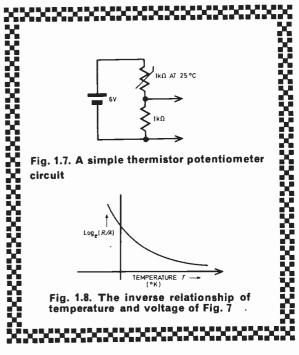
$$\frac{R_1}{R_2} = \frac{A \ e^{\ \beta}/T_1}{A \ e^{\ \beta}/T_2} = e^{\ \beta} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2}\right)$$

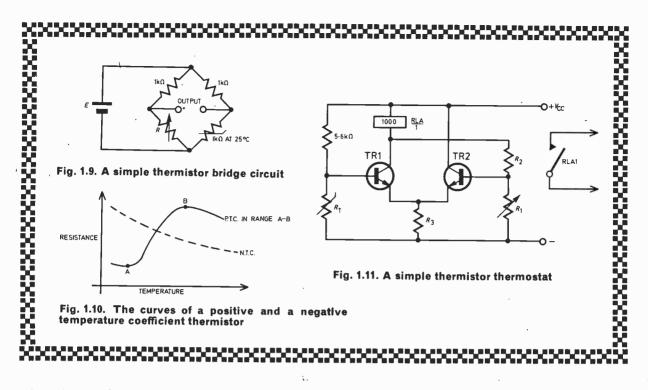
which shows that the ratio of the two resistances depends only on  $\beta$  for given values of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ . The value of  $\beta$  usually lies in the range 2,000° to 5,500° Kelvin and is specified by the manufacturer. Also it is usual to quote a typical resistance value at some specific temperature, often 25°C. If the variables with subscript 2 are taken as the given 25°C values, then

$$R_1 = R_{25} e \beta \left( \frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{298} \right)$$

which allows  $R_1$ , the resistance at  $T_1$  Kelvin, to be evaluated in terms of the resistance value at 25°C. For example if a particular thermistor has  $R_{25} = 1k\Omega$  and  $\beta = 5,000$  the resistance at 0°C will be

$$R = 1,000 \left( e \ 5,000 \left( \frac{1}{273} - \frac{1}{298} \right) \right) \Omega = 4,660 \,\Omega.$$





The resistance has changed by nearly five times for a temperature change of 25 deg C.

One disadvantage of the simple circuit of Fig. 1.7 is that the output voltage (across the fixed  $1k(\Omega)$  will vary with battery voltage which renders any calibration useless. This can be avoided by using a null method as shown in Fig. 1.9.

#### **BRIDGE CIRCUITS**

The bridge is balanced, by adjustment of R, to give zero output voltage. For this condition the resistance R and that of the thermistor must be equal and hence the temperature can be determined. Since the bridge circuit is always balanced when a reading is taken changes in the battery voltage have no effect on the null point providing current levels are sufficiently low to prevent self-heating.

When used at low current levels the thermistor responds to the ambient temperature as the measurand. However in some applications the most significant heating effect is due to power dissipated in the thermistor itself. As the current through the thermistor rises, from some initial low value, the voltage drop across the device rises. The onset of self heating eventually .occurs and at a certain temperature the voltage stops increasing since the current increase is offset by the falling resistance.

Further increase in current (and power) causes the voltage to fall below this maximum value which is typically in the range 40° to 90°C. The temperature for maximum voltage drop depends on the  $\beta$  factor and ambient temperature. Another feature which is important in some applications is that of thermal time constant. An abrupt change of ambient temperature or power dissipation causes an exponential type change in the thermistor body temperature.

As mentioned earlier the temperature coefficient is large and can be shown to be equal to  $-B/T^2$  per degree for negative temperature coefficient devices.

For positive temperature coefficient devices the coefficient is only positive over a finite temperature range as illustrated in Fig. 1.10 and it is usually difficult to express the resistance-temperature variation by a simple equation.

An interesting application of an n.t.c. thermistor is shown in Fig. 1.11 where the circuit behaves as a thermostat by operating the relay when the temperature falls to a predetermined level, say  $t_0$ . Resistor  $R_1$  is set equal to the resistance of the thermistor at the specified  $t_0$ . At temperatures above  $t_0$  the differential action of TRI and TR2 is such that TR2 is passing current whilst TRI is off due to the fact that the voltage across  $R_1$  is greater than that across  $R_T$ .

As the temperature falls these two voltages become more nearly equal and eventually current starts to flow in TR1 at the expense of that in TR2. The current in TR1 flows via the relay coil and the resulting increase in voltage drop causes the base voltage of TR2 to fall. This further increases the current in TR1 and due to the regenerative action TR1 turns fully on and TR2 turns off.

The relay operates due to the flow of collector current in TR1 which aids the existing relay current that flows via  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ . Due to the positive feedback effect the turn-on is rapid but the temperature will have to rise well above  $t_0$  before the circuit resets itself. This effect is known as hysteresis.

Ideally  $R_2$  should be made 4.6k  $\Omega$  so that the bridge formed by the four "resistance arms" is balanced at the trigger temperature. Under these conditions the circuit is relatively insensitive to variation of supply voltage  $V_{CC}$ .  $R_3$  determines the current levels for TR1 and TR2 once  $V_{CC}$  and  $R_T$  are fixed. A thermistor, relay and battery in series can act in the same way but operation will be very dependent on supply voltage and the switch-on instant will be less well defined.

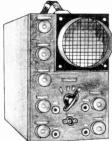
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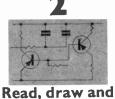
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# PHOBOS THE POTATO MOON

During the mission of Mariner 9 to make a photographic survey of Mars, some 32 high resolution pictures were obtained of Phobos, the small Martian moon. These pictures were fortunately able to cover some 80 per cent of the satellite's surface and the first atlas of this small moon has now been published. These have been "cleaned up" using the special computer technique. The atlas was compiled by a group of scientists from Cornell, Stanford, Caltech and NASA, four very active establishments.

It is common practice, in setting up an atlas, to use a sphere on which the pictures can be placed and oriented. However, Phobos presents a special problem of its own for it is irregular in shape, more like a potato. It is thought that as the satellite has such a very small gravitational field it has not been pulled into a harmonious shape as it cooled. It is perhaps a quirk of cosmological humour that it so closely resembles the familiar potato.

Many models were tried out and T. Duxbury at Caltech finally arrived at a solution. The satellite radii are found to be 11.5, 15.5 and 9.5 kilometres. Duxbury settled on a triaxial ellipsoidal system of co-ordinates.

This reference grid was computerfitted with the information and the results suggest that Probos is in synchronous rotation around Mars. It keeps the same face to Mars and therefore behaves as the Earth's own satellite. The longest axis points toward Mars and the intermediate one of 11.5 kilometres is in the orbital plane, the shortest axis being normal to the plane. Phobos is very heavily cratered and the surface density is close to saturation. The initial mapping reveals some 50 craters. Seven have been given names though one is only a partial crater. This is the Kepler Ridge. Others are named Roche, Wendell, Sharpless. D'Arrest, Todd and the largest complete one, Stickney. The variations of the high to low points of the craters are as much as 20 per cent of the radius.

When compared with the Earth's Moon the feeling is that Phobos was formed as an independent unit very early in the life of the Solar System. Extensive fracturing seems to have taken place as a result of meteoritic impacts. The landscape appearance has been the result of meteor impacts. No doubt also the smallness of the body renders it liable to considerable geological change.

The structure generally suggests that Phobos is solid rock and the evidence is the manner of the cracks that can be seen. There is too little gravitation for it to be conglomerate. It is possible that the satellite is only part of a larger body that disintegrated a very long time ago.

As with all these "guestimations" alternatives are also offered. Whatever the conjectures may be there is now a good case to include a special programme to be set in operation at the time of the Mars Viking missions already planned.

# HELIOS

In a past "Spacewatch" issue some details of a planned space probe were given. This or rather the first of two probes called *Helios* has been launched on behalf of West Germany by NASA.

The project was given the goahead in 1969. The probes weigh some 357 kilogrammes and will operate with a 192 day orbit. They will, at the apogee point, be within 45,000,000km of the sun, about onethird of an astronomical unit. Special thermal control will come into operation on these missions.

The first probe will steer into the ecliptic, the plane of the Earth's orbit, between Mercury and the Sun. Its final distance from the Earth will be some 300,000,000km. The primary mission will last 120 days. However, the life of the probes will be at least 18 to 20 months.

These two probes will also be supplementary, in the sense of data gathering, to that being obtained by *Explorer 47* and 50 and also that from *Pioneers 10* and 11. The actual orbit of the probes will have a perihelion of 0.3 of an Astronomical Unit and a aphelion of about 1.0 Astronomical Unit with respect to the Sun.

The tasks set are very extensive, the instruments will investigate the magnetic field, density, speed and direction of the Solar Wind particles (electrons, alpha particles and protons). It will be possible to evaluate the spatial gradients involved in those quantities. The study of the electron plasma oscillations will be made by radio which exhibits the characteristic Type III outbursts.

Other experiments will look at the interplanetary dust, its gradients, density and direction and its exact composition. X-ray examination of the surface of the Sun will be undertaken.

### ODD BODY

*Helios* is an unusual shape for a probe with a 16-sided central body and truncated cones top and bottom, each with 16 facets. The solar cells are disposed over the surface of the probe.

Because of the extreme temperatures involved, some  $370^{\circ}$ C, nearly 90 per cent of the Sun's radiation must be reflected. This makes very stringent demands on the probe's thermal regulation system. The solar cells may not be subjected to a greater temperature than  $+165^{\circ}$ C. The interior temperature must be kept within the limits of  $-10^{\circ}$ C to  $+20^{\circ}$ C.

This problem is partially solved by using special SSMs, second surface mirrors, developed by NASA. They are made from fused silica and covered on the underside by a thin film of silver which is further covered by a dielectric. These cells have a high emissivity and will prevent the central body from heating up to 800°C. This is the sort of temperature to which the aerial will be subjected when extended even though the probe is revolving at 60 r.p.m.

However, the mirrors alone are not sufficient to hold off the Sun's radiation which amounts to some 22,400 watts/sq.m. A special thermal insulation system consisting of layers of spaced metallised foil is also used. The foil is held apart by nylon mesh to avoid heat bridges. Other ingenious controls consist of bimetal levers which operate the louvres to allow the experiments to be carried out. They are also used to control the inside temperature.

Control of the mission is being carried out at the Command Station at Weilheim, Germany, with a 30 metre dish built specially for these missions. Also in use for transmission of commands and the reception of data is the Planck Institute 100 metere radio telescope at Eifel.

Strictly by K. Lenton-Smith

N AN earlier article in this series, we mentioned that the roots of electronic music went back some 150 years. Two Americans, C. G. Page and C. E. L. Delezenne experimented with rotary generators and their findings were published in scientific journals of the time. However, it is probably more accurate to assume that 40 years is the life-span of electronic music as both L. E. A. Bourn and Laurens Hammond perfected their respective electrostatic and electromagnetic generators in 1935.

Among other inventions in this era, the Compton Electrone and the Hammond organ were soon to make the public aware that electronic musical instruments were a practical proposition and here to stay. Dr Robert Moog's voltage-controlled circuitry (circa 1960) gave this field a new fillip: it offered another method of musical self-expression, albeit the player had to be technically inclined, patient and equipped with special recording apparatus.

# IMPERSONAL

Compared with this relatively short life, conventional musical instruments have been developed over the centuries by ingenious craftsmen: they have been improved to the point of near-perfection and in the main are capable of extreme expressiveness in the hands of a skilled performer.

I was recently asked to give a lecture on "Electronic Music" to students of an eminent classical pianist. Various forms of electronic music, previously edited on stereo tape, were played to the audience, including music concrete, the classical organ and light music. A bench demonstration was carried out to show various methods of tone-generation, waveforms, tone-forming, keying and synthesiser operation. Finally, this orthodox audience was asked to express views.

"You hug a cello", commented the eminent pianist, "kiss a flute and stroke a piano. You have a quasierotic relationship with your instrument. Can this be so with electronic instruments? They sound too precise."

My reply was that, if you build your own instrument, you often go to bed with it! This remark was made with conviction, having built four organs over the years and burnt considerable midnight oil. Although it is literally true to say that electronic instruments certainly are "alive", his point was a valid one, as the reader will appreciate. Even so, the player can become equally attached or infatuated with his electronic instrument.

Perhaps we had invited the comment by playing tapes of both the "William Tell Overture" and part of the second movement of "Beethoven's Ninth," first by an orchestra then the Moog's imitation of it. The complexity of imitating an orchestral score on a synthesiser using multirecording techniques is enormous. but the same performer adding line after line to his recording should be able to get timing closer than the many individual players of the concert orchestra. Indeed, the tape is often run at half speed and the parts played an octave lower than usual: when replayed at normal speed, the somewhat objectionable effect of mechanical precision is heightened.

### ONE NOTE

The polyphonic synthesiser (the ability to play chords rather than single notes) is still rare, so perhaps the main objection to the instrument at present is that painstaking time and effort are involved in using it. Any solo acoustic instrument could be re-recorded in four-part harmony, provided its compass was great enough: a laborious process, but Les Paul was doing this 20 years ago with his guitar "orchestra". In its imitative capacity, at least eight tracks would be used with the synthesiser, the registration changing every few bars.

Until the polyphonic variety becomes commonplace and the cost economic, the majority of serious, non-technical musicians will give the synthesiser a wide berth. Musical readers of P.E. are probably not typical as their interests will be technical: lets face it—the constructional articles by Douglas Shaw and Alan Boothman call for a high standard of technical ability and understanding if the correct results are to be obtained.

# THE TREND

Our educational system should ensure that music has full rein in years to come. At the same time, the rising number of flat-dwellers makes the ordinary piano something of a problem in their homes. So the electric piano might well become more common, albeit the 5-octave manual imposes its limitations (an 8-octave instrument would present no technical problems, but would defeat the object by taking up the same space as an upright). The harassed parent could provide budding pianists with headphones through the five-finger exercise stage-surely a selling point!

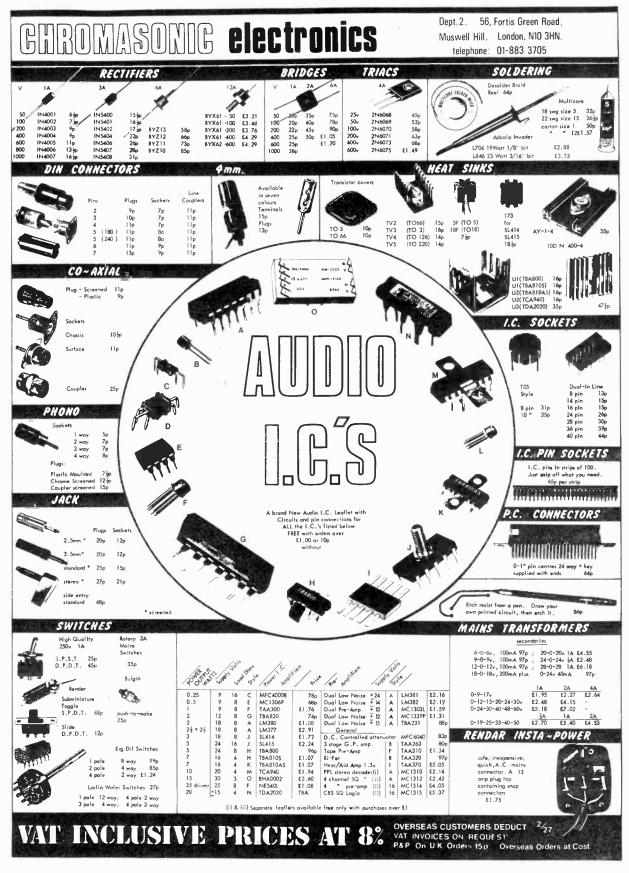
Craftsmanship is rapidly becoming scarce. The special skills required in making violins, for instance, may become both expensive and hard to find as time passes. Woodwind, brass, pianos—indeed all acoustic instruments — are craftsman-made and inflation could make these difficult to afford for future generations.

# CONTROL

Although electronic components are currently in short supply, they ought to remain relatively cheap in this age of technology. So there is a strong possibility that electronic musical instruments will progressively supplement—or even supplant—acoustic instruments in classical music.

Where money is to be earned in music, it is certainly not in the serious field. Pop groups have proved that they have money (and even instruments) to burn! Many of them use synthesisers and other sophisticated equipment, but the end-product is often hideous!

If the serious music fraternity looks with trepidation to the future, it will have to come to terms with electronics and start to lay down guidelines to manufacturers for the types of electronic instrument it would like to see made. Failing this, pop groups will continue to give the impression that cacophony is the only end-result, to the detriment of electronics and good musical taste.



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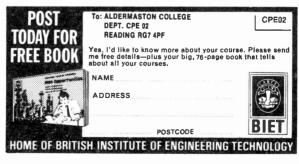
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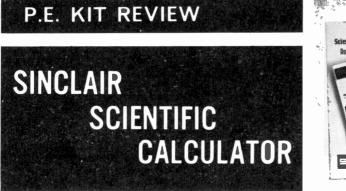
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# BUILDING THAT COUNTS

The pocket calculator is now firmly entrenched as a part of our way of life. It appears in almost every shop window alongside stationery, toys, cassette recorders and sweets. It comes in various forms extending from the simple four-function up to the sophisticated multi-function accountant's and engineer's dream, and can be acquired in the ready-made or even the kit style.

Recently just such an instrument became available, the Sinclair Scientific, which utilises Polish notation and logarithmic and trig functions to carry out calculations currently only available in far more complex machines.

# THE KIT

The Scientific kit comes carefully wrapped and packaged in a compartmented foam plastic moulding complete with all parts, very comprehensive instructions and a variety of guarantee conditions suited to those who either fail or meet problems at the constructional stage.

Assembly is certainly simple if one has had prior experience with i.c.s, soldering and plastic models, but it should be stated that the job is not one for the totally inexperienced if they also have no tools. For example, a quality miniature soldering iron is a must and miniature sidecutters and snipe-nosed pliers a very useful adjunct.

The writer found a need for a model-maker's scalpel at one stage in gaining a tight fit of the keyboard assembly in the very nicely designed outer case. A small amount of mould flash was intruding on the area to be occupied by the keyboard.

In fact assembly went ahead smoothly and without any real hitch thanks to the clear and precise instructions. Indeed these are directed to all possible purchasers and take the uninitiated right through the various problems to be met such as tools, handling calculator chips, cleanliness and so on in a very helpful manner. The only part of the assembly which might pose problems to some concerns the keyboard and here it would be wise for any first-timer to follow the instructions very carefully. Its not that one damages the unit in the process, more that one has to do the job several times to get it right.

In fact, the case and mechanical assembly tend to appear to be somewhat flimsy on first inspection but the design is quite interesting, making use of the inherent flexibility and strength of the plastic material to give at one and the same time a strong and attractive case. The external appearance is not marred by fixings of any sort and yet it is a simple matter to take apart and reassemble the case.

The only point of serious criticism which came to light concerns the battery connectors. In the Scientific as in most of the Sinclair range made to the same standard, use is made of small plated spring clips which are soldered to the circuit board. These at one and the same time form the connectors and retainer clips for the batteries. Whilst each clip has a projection which engages in a hole in the board, this effects location rather than mechanical retention, so only the soldered joint provides the necessary strength.

Under normal desk use this is no problem, but the vagaries of pocket use over a period of three months have caused one terminal to come loose twice. The first time the soldering was questionable and the second occurred within a few days of first use anyway, so the problem appears to be removed with due attention to one's soldering.

# **OPERATION**

In use the Scientific takes some time to acclimatise to. Unlike its four-function associates such as the Cambridge, it makes use of so-called Polish notation for the normal four-function mathematics. Thus to add A and B one enters A+ and then B+. Take B from A one enters A+ and then B+.

Equally, it requires "programming" by way of pushing one of two extra buttons in order to carry out the extra functions such as providing logs and trignometric functions.

However, this is little hardship for the results obtained. The machine is sufficiently small to fit into the palm of the hand and be operable by the thumb of that hand if one wishes to show off just a little.

Clearly, at such a low cost and in such a small package, one cannot expect to get all the refinements of a £400 equipment or even, for that matter, of an £80 item. However, the Scientific gives results well in keeping with the job it is supposed to do. For example, taking the value of logs it gives. All those tried by the writer have matched four figures tables and, indeed, six figure tables most of the time. Of course, the machine only indicates to five figures, and to some this might be a disadvantage.

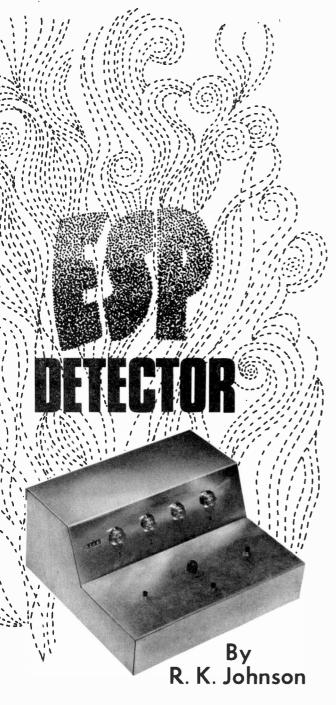
One or two simple tests indicate the value of the machine. Take  $2^{64}$ up to that value and then back down again to 2, The result is 2.0001. Not bad.

Some of the Trig functions seem, in the face of accurate tables, to leave something to be desired, and it is wisest to learn just when one ought to bring a calculation out of the machine and make suitable notes in this area.

So far any errors of note on the Scientific have been clearly traceable to the user and not the equipment and the more one uses it the easier it becomes to replace the slide rule.



Rear view of the calculator showing the l.s.i. main chip and display driver



**E XPERIMENTS** to detect the existence of Extra Sensory Perception (ESP) normally involve two people: the subject being tested and an operator to turn over cards and record their symbol or value. A common problem in these experiments is a gradual reduction in performance due to boredom and lack of interest.

The electronic apparatus described here was developed so that the subject alone could test himself and so that interest could be maintained by introducing a game element into the testing by using "biofeedback".

# CONTROL LAYOUT

The layout of the detector and its controls are shown in the photographs. When the SPIN button is pressed the circuitry oscillates until the button is released when the circuit freezes at either "left" or "right".

The CHOOSE lamp lights to indicate that a choice must be made between left and right. The subject then presses either the LEFT button or the RIGHT button. If he has chosen correctly, lamp LP1 lights, the CORRECT counter counts on by one digit and the TOTALS counter (at the rear) also counts on by one digit.

If he guesses wrongly, only the TOTALS counter is activated. The SPIN button is used again to spin left or right and the subject chooses again and so on. If the subject makes two successive correct guesses, then lamp LP2 lights as well as lamp LP1 (and both counters count on one).

As long as he makes more correct guesses, more lamps light until all four are illuminated and these stay illuminated so long as he guesses correctly. If he chooses the wrong button, all the lamps go out and he must begin again, trying to build up a row of lights. If required, the counters provide information for statistical analysis.

# THE SYSTEM

The circuit is largely composed of cheap 74-series TTL integrated circuits. The block diagram is shown in Fig. 1 and the detailed logic in Fig. 2.

Block MV1 is an astable multivibrator which alternates high and low or "left" and "right" at about five thousand times per second.

It may be made to oscillate at a higher frequency if required by reducing the values of two capacitors C1 and C2. In any case these capacitors should have equal capacitance so that the multivibrator spends equal lengths of time in its "left" and "right" positions.

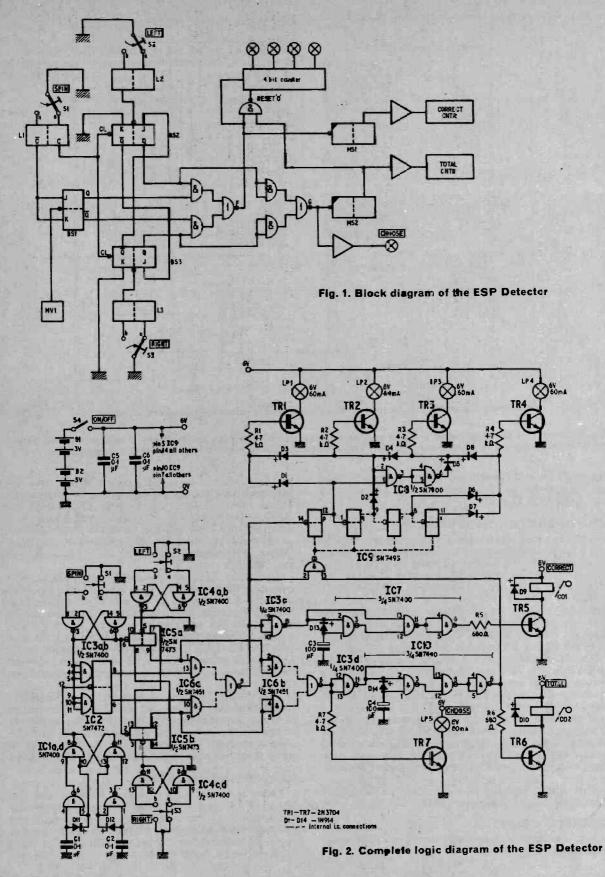
There is no possibility of the operator guessing the state of the circuit by the length of time he presses the SPIN button because the multivibrator is spinning all the time, not just when the SPIN button is pressed.

The output from the multivibrator is fed to the clock pulse input of a 7472 gated J-K flip-flop (BS1), which will not accept the pulses from MV1 unless all J and K inputs are at logic 1. (Positive logic is used throughout, i.e. logic 0 equals zero volts and logic 1 equals about +4 volts). These J, K inputs are controlled by SPIN switch S1 coupled to a "bistable latch" (L1).

The bistable latch is required to overcome problems of switch contact bounce and is formed from two of the NAND gates in a 7400 pack.

When S1 (whose wiper is earthed) is in position "a" so that input "a" is at logic 0, input "b" is at logic 1. Output C is then at logic 1 and output  $\overline{C}$ , at logic 0, is connected to the J, K inputs of BS1 (see Fig. 2). If SPIN switch S1 is pushed so that contact "b" is earthed, the outputs C and  $\overline{C}$  of the bistable latch reverse, the J, K inputs of BS1 are then at logic 1 and the output from multivibrator MV1 is accepted into flip-flop BS1, causing the outputs (Q and  $\overline{Q}$ ) to alternate at 5kHz.

If S1 is released so that contact "a" is earthed, output  $\vec{C}$  goes to logic 0, thereby freezing flip-flop BS1 in either a "left" (Q = 1, Q = 0) or "right"



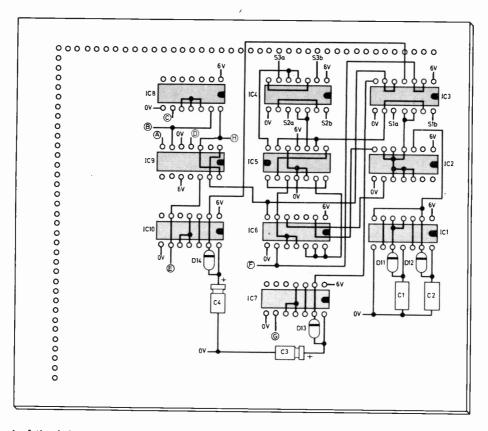


Fig. 3. Layout of the integrated circuits and associated components on the perforated board. Circled letters indicate connections to Veroboard (Fig. 4). This shows the board viewed from below (i.e. wiring side)

 $(Q = 0, \overline{Q} = 1)$  condition. This condition is then to be guessed by the operator and his response compared with Q or  $\overline{Q}$ .

# THE OPERATOR RESPONSE

The LEFT and RIGHT operator-response switches S2 and S3 are each connected to a bistable latch formed from each half of a 7400 quad NAND pack (IC4). The output from each bistable latch is fed to the clock pulse input of a JK flip-flop (BS2 or BS3), contained in pack IC5 which is a 7473 dual J-K flip-flop. Initially the Q outputs of both BS2 and BS3 are at logic 0, but 'after the operator's input from L1 with S2 or from L2 with S3, the Q output of either BS2 or BS3 will change to logic 1.

The Q output of BS2 with the Q output of BS1 is fed into one AND gate of one half of a 7451 dual 2-wide 2-input AND/OR/INVERT pack IC6, while the Q output of flip-flop BS3 with the Q output of BS1 is fed into the other AND gate of IC6a.

If the operator has guessed correctly (i.e. if the Q output of BS1 and the Q output of BS2 are both at logic 1, or if the Q output of BS3 and the Q output of BS1 are both at logic 1), then, and only then, will the output F change from logic 1 to logic 0.

This output F is fed to an inverter whose output is connected to a monostable (MS1).

### CORRECT COUNTER

The monostable was built using a 7400 quad NAND pack.

When (after a correct guess) the signal from the inverter goes from logic 0 to logic 1, the monostable output rises to logic 1 for about 0-1 seconds. Passed through base resistor R5, this signal drives TR5 into an "on" condition for an equal length of time so that the CORRECT counter counts on one digit. Diode D9 protects TR5 from the back e.m.f. of the counter's coil.

The other half of AND/OR/INVERT pack IC6 is used to detect whether either BS2 or BS3 has been activated by switch S2 or S3 and if so, it then activates monostable MS2 (through an inverter), which drives TR6 to energise the TOTALS counter. The output G (changing from logic 1 to logic 0) also switches off TR7, to switch off the CHOOSE lamp. This lamp remains off until the circuit is reset through switch S1 when the output G again rises to logic 1.

The resetting of the activated flip-flop BS2 or BS3 (depending on whether S2 or S3 was pressed) is obtained at the same time that the SPIN switch S1 is pressed, by connecting the output from latch L1 (which changes from logic 1 to logic 0 as S1 is pressed) to the CLEAR inputs of both BS2 and BS3.

# PREVENTING CHEATING

There is a further connection between the two flip-flops BS2 and BS3: the  $\overline{Q}$  output of each half is connected to the J input of the other half and each K input is earthed to logic 0. This ensures that once either S2 or S3 has activated one of these flip-flops, then both flip-flops are locked and are

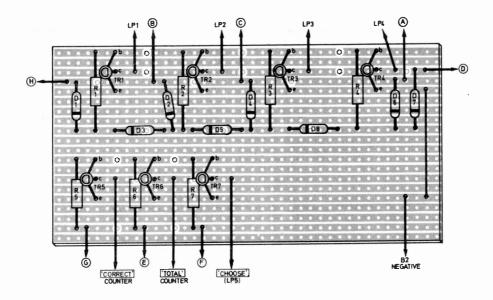


Fig. 4. Layout of the transistor circuits on the Veroboard panel

not affected by further operations of S2 and S3. This prevents the operator from trying one switch and then the other and from pressing one switch repeatedly to increase his score.

### LAMP DECODING AND DRIVING

The remainder of the circuit consists of IC9 and IC8, the row of lamps LP1 to LP4 and their drivers (Fig. 2). Pack IC9 is a 7493 4-bit binary counter containing four flip-flops p, q, r, s and a NAND gated reset. The F output (which indicates correct guesses) is fed to the input of IC9. If only one pulse is fed into IC9, the output of p is at logic 1 while q, r, s are at logic 0. The p output is routed via diode D1 and R1 to TR1 which switches on lamp LP1.

If another pulse is received, p goes to logic 0 and q goes to logic 1 which is routed via diodes D2 and D3 to both TR1 and TR2 so that both lamps LP1 and LP2 light. Similarly for three pulses, both p and q are at logic 1 and their outputs are combined by gates (two of the NAND gates in 7400 pack IC8; the other two gates are not required).

Diodes D4, D5 and D3 ensure that three lamps light. For higher numbers of correct guesses (up to fifteen), the logic 1 outputs of r and s are routed via diodes D6, D7, D8, etc. so that all the lamps light. These lamps remain on so long as the two inputs to the reset are not both at logic 1. However, if the operator guesses wrongly, the output F will remain at logic 1 and the output of MS2 will rise to logic 1, thus operating the NAND reset and switching off the lamps.

While all this may seem rather complicated, the actual construction is straightforward.

### CONSTRUCTION

In the prototype, the ten i.c.'s IC1 to IC10, the capacitors and the diodes D11 to D14 were mounted on 0-1in matrix plain s.r.b.p. board. See Fig. 3 and the photographs. Alternatively, 0-1 matrix Veroboard may be used providing the strips are cut away so that each i.c. is isolated from the others.

The connections for each of the i.c.'s (viewed from underneath) are also shown in Fig. 3.

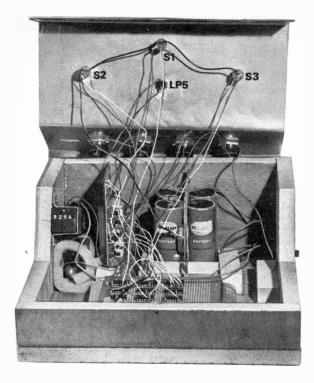
The suggested order of construction is:

- 1. After labelling each i.c. from beneath the board, make the common connections between pins on the same i.c., working from Fig. 3. Use a soldering iron with a small bit and low power, touching the pins on the i.c. for the least possible length of time.
- 2. Make the interconnections between the i.c. soldering as before and working methodically. These connections are most easily made with colour coded wire and as each connection is made, it should be ticked off on Fig. 3.
- Connect diodes D11 and D12 to pack IC1. Connecting pins inserted in the matrix holes are useful here.
   Similarly with diode D13 to pack IC7 and D14 to pack IC10, capacitors C1 and C2 to pack IC1, C3 to pack IC7 and C4 to pack IC10.
- 4. Connect the common earthed (negative) line to all the i.c.'s. This should go round all the i.c.'s like a ring main circuit.
- 5. Connect the common positive line round all the i.c.'s.
- 6. It is recommended that the supply line is decoupled every five packs by connecting capacitors C5, C6 between the positive and negative lines at two points on the board (see photograph).

All the lamp drivers and counter drivers are mounted on Veroboard. Fig. 4 shows the gaps to be cut in the copper strips and the component layout.

Rewind the coils of the two counters if they are not already six volt operating. In the prototype the counters were standard PO 4-digit non-resettable with an operating voltage of about 24V. These were dismantled to gain access to the solenoids from which all the turns of 40 s.w.g. wire were removed. The coils were then rewound with as many turns as possible (as neatly as possible) of 32 s.w.g. enamelled should operate easily and firmly on 5V or less (drawing 150 to 200mA).

315



Photograph showing the internal layout of the ESP Detector

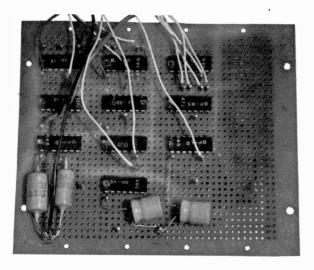
# COMPONENTS . . .

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32 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire	0.1in matrix Veroboard 4in × 2in
32 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire	0.1in matrix perforated board 12cm × 10cm
Case to suit	32 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire
	Case to suit

# THE CASE

The prototype was housed in a box made from chipboard with an aluminium fascia. The counters may be held by aluminium straps to the walls of the case. Since we are using the principle of biofeedback to reinforce learning, the TOTALS counter should be wrapped in foam rubber to reduce noise while the CORRECT counter should be held firmly against the side of the box so as to give a satisfying clunk on each correct occasion.

The i.c. board was mounted horizontally on wooden blocks while the Veroboard was mounted vertically adjacent to the batteries which were held in place by wooden blocks and an elastic band (see photograph). Rub-on lettering for CHOOSE, SPIN, etc. improves the apearance of the completed detector.



Photograph of the integrated circuit board

# TESTING

On first switching on, it may happen that all five lamps light. If so, press the switches until they all go off. On then pressing the SPIN switch, the CHOOSE lamp should light and remain on when the SPIN switch is released.

Pressing the left or the right switch should have no effect but releasing it should cause the TOTALS counter to be activated. Check that this is absolutely reliable, always counting on one digit when either the left or the right switch is pressed and released after the CHOOSE lamp is lit. Releasing the left or right switch may also have the effect of activating the CORRECT counter and lamp LP1.

Check that this counter is also reliable and always counts when another lamp lights or when the completed row remains on.

If the detector has been built for interest only, no further testing is necessary. However, any statistical analysis will rely on a 50/50 chance of the spinning circuit freezing in the left or the right condition. This can be tested in two ways:

(a) by taking the output of the astable multivibrator MV1 (pin 8, IC1) to the Y-plates of a cathode ray oscilloscope and running the X-timebase at about 5kHz. The trace should show a square

Practical Electronics April 1975

			٦	able 1:	Confide	ence Lev	rels			
-	Excess over the mean (in standard deviations)									
	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	4.0	5.0
Odds (1in) Confidence Level (%)	20 95·5	40 97·2	60 98·4	100 99·1	200 99·5	400 99·7	800 99·9	2,000 99-9	10,000 100	2,000,000 100

wave with an equal mark/space ratio. If not, it implies that the capacitors C1, C2 are not equal in value and should be changed or modified (by adding smaller capacitors in parallel with the lesser of C1 or C2) until the mark/space ratio is 1:1).

- (b) by pressing the SPIN and (say) the RIGHT button repeatedly for a large number of times (without touching the other button) and noting the scores on the CORRECT and TOTALS counters. Over a large number of results, the CORRECT number should tend towards one half of the total number of tries. Since we are testing a random process, the CORRECT number will not be exactly one half the TOTAL number even if the probability of left/right is exactly 50/50. However, almost all runs of 100 guesses should have 50  $\pm$  10 correct results.
  - If, after repeating this several times, there is a clear bias, the value of one of the capacitors should be adjusted to reduce the bias. A small remaining bias will not affect the statistics providing the subject believes there is no bias.

### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

In deciding whether a result is due to ESP or purely to random chance, it is usual to calculate the odds against the event occurring by chance.

The odds against a run of x correct answers occurring by random chance is easily calculated by For example, the record run in the prototype  $\frac{1}{2x}$ was 14 correct in a row, which by pure chance would occur  $\frac{1}{2^{14}} = \frac{1}{16,384}$  i.e. once in 16,384 guesses.

However, calculating the odds against getting x correct answers in a session of n guesses is rather n!

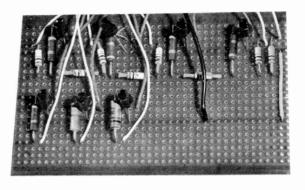
more complex. The formula is  $\frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!2^n}$  where n! (pronounced "factorial n") is calculated by multiplying n by all the whole numbers less than n. For example:  $10! = 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$ = 3,628,800. For small values of *n*, with a lot of cancelling, this is straightforward. For large values of n, the calculation becomes tedious, although using Stirling's approximation the formula becomes

$$\frac{(n/2)^n}{(n-x)^{n-x}x^x} \times \sqrt{\frac{n}{6x(n-x)}}$$

which, although it looks more complicated, is easier to evaluate (using logs to calculate the powers).

A simpler and sufficiently accurate way to decide whether a result is sufficiently unusual to be accepted as proof of ESP is to calculate the "standard deviation" of the results from the formula:

standard deviation 
$$=\frac{\sqrt{n}}{2}$$



Photograph of the transistor panel

### CONFIDENCE LEVEL

Table 1 can then be used to determine the "confidence level" of the experiment. In psychology and biology experiments where similar methods are used, odds of 1 in 20 (5 per cent) are normally accepted as proof, providing similar or greater odds are indicated whenever the experiment is repeated. These 5 per cent odds are usually quoted as a "95 per cent confidence level". Naturally all results (for a particular individual) must be included for these calculations, not just good results or sessions with high scores.

# EXAMPLE

A particular subject, in nine sessions (each of 100 guesses) obtained the following scores: 49, 52, 48, 54, 57, 55, 60, 56, 52.

(a) The total number of guesses, n = 900.  $\therefore$  The standard deviation  $= \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{900}}{2} = \frac{30}{2} = 15$ 

(b) The number of correct responses, x = 483.

The "mean" of the 900 guesses =  $900 \times \frac{1}{2} = 450$ 

... The number of correct responses exceeds the mean by 483 -450.

$$= 33$$
 responses

 $=\frac{33}{15}$  standard deviations

= 2.2 standard deviations

From Table 1, an excess of 2.2 standard deviations represents a 97.2 per cent confidence level (or odds of about 1 in 40) and, if repeatable, indicates the presence of ESP in the individual who is being tested. \*

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THE requirement for a compact, lightweight and versatile logic tester for use with the current range of integrated circuits has long been recognised by many electronics hobbyists, particularly those who are not fortunate enough to possess an oscilloscope. The Logic Probe to be described not only fulfills this need, but has the added advantage of providing a facility for use in the field. It can be quickly assembled and the components purchased at relatively low cost.

# CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The Logic Probe is basically comprised of two readily available integrated circuits which are the SN7413 dual 4-input NAND gate (Schmitt Trigger), and the 9601 retriggerable monostable multivibrator; the various logic outputs of the integrated circuits being fed, via suitable series resistors, to light emitting diodes to provide visual indication of the logic states of the circuit under test.

The two 4-input NAND gates are connected in series as shown at Fig. 1. A steady logic 1 at the probe will produce a logic 0 at the output of the first gate, a potential difference will exist between points 'C' and 'D' on the circuit diagram and LP2 will be illuminated. A steady logie '0' at the probe will produce logic '1' at the output of the gate and a logic '0' at the output of the second gate, a potential difference will now exist between points 'A' and 'B' and LP1 will be lit.

# THREE L.E.D.s LIT

In the case where the logic under test consists of a stream of d.c. pulses having an equal mark/space

# COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors

Resistors	
R1 470Ω	
R2 470Ω	
R3 33k $\Omega$	
R4 470Ω	
All 10% 🖥 wa	itt carbon
Capacitor C1 2·2µF el	ect. 10V
Semiconduct	ors
IC1 S	SN7413
IC2 9	601 (Fairchild)
D1 1	N4001
D2 (	)A200
LP1—LP3	FIL209 I.e.d.s (3 off)
Miscellaneou	S

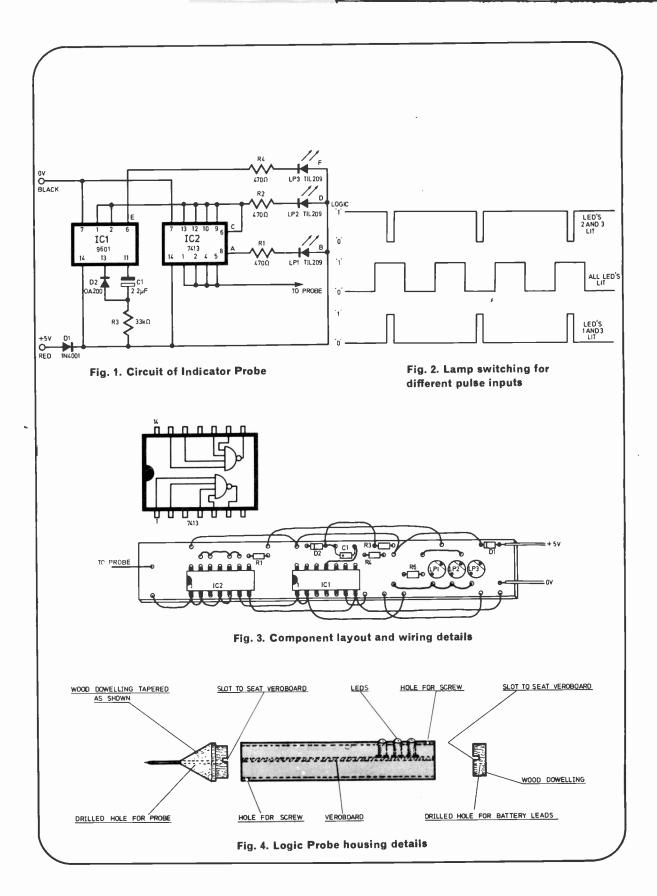
Veroboard (see text) and Veropins, plastic tubing, wooden dowels, wire, miniature crocodile clips

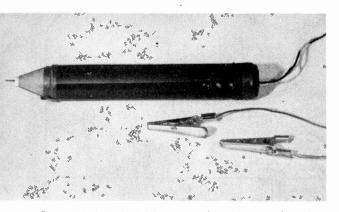
ratio, the monostable will trigger on the negative edge of the first pulse and LP3 will be illuminated and will remain lit for the period determined by the time constant provided by C1 and R3. Should further pulses occur during this period IC2 will retrigger. In addition LP1 and LP2 will follow the positive and negative logic, thus with a square wave all three l.e.d.s will be lit.

Consider now input logic which consists of negative going pulses where the pulse width is narrow (Fig. 2). As the d.c. state at the probe is predominantly positive (or logic '1') a predominant logic '0' will exist at the output of the first gate causing LP2 to light, also the monostable will trigger on the first negative edge and cause LP3 to light; thus, with a stream of negative going narrow pulses, LP2 and LP3 will be lit.

rore

By W.H. DAVIES





Completed logic indicator probe showing the three light emitting diodes and the supply leads with crocodile clips attached

In the reverse case (e.g. positive going pulses) LP1 and LP3 will be lit.

In either case, where the pulse repetition rate is low—say in the order of a few hertz—all three l.e.d.'s will flash on and off.

# CHOICE OF I.C.s

The 7413 was chosen because it has a defined hysteresis and is capable of responding to input pulses having slow rising edges. The Fairchild 9601 is a reliable 'one shot' and will generate a wider pulse from a narrow input pulse when used in the manner described. The probe will detect pulse widths of fractions of a micro-second. The diodes D1 and D2 are merely safety devices, D1 prevents damage to the i.c.s should the battery leads be inadvertently reversed, whilst D2 prevents a reversal of voltage reaching pin 13 of the monostable during the discharge of the electrolytic capacitor.

# MATERIALS

The basic materials, excluding the electronic components, required for the construction are as follows—

- (a) One 4½ in length of plastic tubing having an inside diameter of ½ in (the author used plastic water piping purchased from the local building suppliers).
- (b) One piece of Veroboard (0.1in matrix) 4½in in length and  $\frac{1}{2}$ in wide.
- (c) One suitable length of wooden dowelling having a diameter of in for the probe ends, an alternative would be to use suitable corks.
- (d) One metal probe. This can be made from a length of 16 swg wire or a pin.

# CONSTRUCTION

Layout of the components on the Veroboard is given in Fig. 3. The Veroboard should be drilled where indicated—to break continuity of the copper strips, and the i.c.s and the probe soldered to the appropriate strips. Fig. 4 shows the Logic Probe housing.



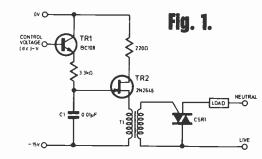
# VOLTAGE CONTROLLED DIMMER

THE circuit of Fig. 1 uses TR1 as a constant current source to charge the timing capacitor C1 at a rate determined by the applied control voltage at the base of TR1. At the correct level the charge voltage fires the unijunction TR2 to trigger CSR1 in turn via the trigger transformer T1. A selection of readers' suggested circuits. It should be emphasised that these designs have not been proven by us. They will at any rate stimulate further thought. Any idea published will be awarded payment according to its merits. Why not submit YOUR IDEA? In fact the timing of the circuit can be synchronised to mains waveform by using unsmoothed 15V power.

On the prototype a 0V control voltage gives full power and reduction to zero occurs at about -12V. A smaller value of control voltage could be used by increasing the value of C1.

The transformer T1 was made up from two 40-turn windings of 30 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire on a length of ferrite rod. The CSR1 can be a triac or thyristor; in the prototype it was a SC45D.

> M. Lawrance, Helston, Cornwall



# STARTING IN NEXT NONTH'S ISSUE...

State-of-the-art piano design with additional choice of harpsichord or honky-tonk voicing. Keyboard is fully touch sensitive. Piano effect is further heightened with soft and sustain pedals. Other features include easy tuning, two speed vibrato and stool-integrated amplifier.

# I.C. PULSE GENERATOR

A handy test instrument for analysing TTL circuits. Wide operating speeds covering 0.1Hz to 100kHz in six switched ranges. Pulse width is also variable from 1s to 1us. An output reed relay enables it to be used with electromechanical systems.

# ELECTRONIC DIRECTION INDICATOR

Electronic substitute for conventional thermal flasher. Advantages are: immediate indication when switched, long term reliability and an emergency flashing facility.





N the previous article (February) we described the Ceefax and Oracle system in fairly general terms. This month we are going to examine some of the more detailed provisions of the system. A complete working unit is of little interest at this stage owing to the fact that the present system is still rather tentative and experimental.

# SPECIFICATION

The main technical features given in the joint BBC, IBA, BREMA specification are as follows:

- 1. Data pulses are transmitted during the television field-blanking interval using a bit-rate of 6.9375 megabits per second.
- Each page consists of 24 rows of 40 characters using both upper and lower-case characters, coded using the ISO-7 code. A special top row called the page-header carries information for control and display purposes.
- 3. All data-words are eight bits in length; parity protection is used for the character data words while Hamming Codes are used for addressing and control purposes.
- 4. News flashes and sub titles are provided.
- Every page-header will carry clock-time information to provide a display and to permit the automatic time-selection of certain pages.
- 6. Control characters are used to provide colouring and flashing of selected words.
- 7. A simple graphics facility is provided.

This list is taken from the specification which goes into considerably more detail regarding the definition of terms like "page", "magazine", etc. Readers interested in a full understanding of the system are recommended to read this publication\*. In this article we shall confine our attention to the more interesting technical features of the system.

# LINE ALLOCATION

Lines 17 and 18 are already allocated; they are in fact used internationally for insertion test signals. However, providing their use is restricted to this country they are available for data transmission.

Lines 13 and 14 are free, but research studies have shown that some receivers frame flyback times creep into this region. For this reason data pulses on lines 13 and 14 would be visible to some people. It is anticipated that, as the system develops, manufacturers will reduce flyback times to release these and possibly other lines to allow a better service.

# **RUN-IN AND FRAMING CODE**

Fig. 2.1 shows how the data is fitted onto the television line scan. The clock run-in period of 16 bits is to synchronise the internal clock which determines the position of the data.

The clock run-in starts 1010... for sixteen bits ending with a "0". This is followed by a framing (starting) code which identifies the start of the message. The clock run-in and starting code are the same on every line 101010101010101011100100.

\* Information transmission by digitally coded signals in the field-blanking interval of 625-line television systems. BBC, IBA, BREMA. Price 50p.

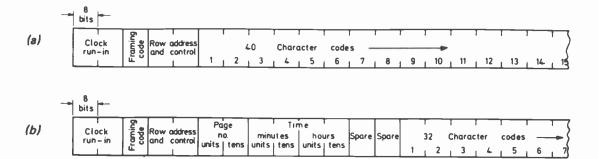


Fig. 2.1. Arrangement of data on TV lines. (a) shows a normal data line and (b) the page header line

This code has been carefully chosen for ease of recognition as it signifies the start of the data signal. From this point on, the clock, which has been previously synchronised determines the position of any eight bit character along the line scan period.

This clock is also vital when it comes to reading the data onto the TV screen because characters must be displayed in their *correct* positions along the line scan.

# **ROW ADDRESS GROUP**

The framing or start code is followed by the row address group. It is very important to recognise the row address correctly, errors here could not only put a row in an incorrect position, but also interfere with another row. Consequently the row address is heavily protected by the Hamming Code, discussed later.

On most lines the framing code is immediately followed by the data bits, the exception being the occasional page-header line. Page-headers only occur on lines 18 or 331, but manufacturers are advised to organise receivers on a basis of code recognition, rather than line recognition, to allow for future developments.

Page-headers only occur on row 0 which must be recognised in order to deal with the page-header line correctly. The page numbers, tens and units, are also protected with the Hamming Code and must be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

# PARITY CODE

The data are transmitted in blocks of eight, seven bits for the character; the eighth is a parity bit. The eight bits are transmitted in sequence the first bit being the least significant bit in binary encoded signals. Thus in binary notation we have;

Signal		ł	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Binary	weight	20	21	$2^{2}$	23	24	25	26	0
	0			Μ					

where M are the message bits and P is the parity bit.

The parity bit is "1" or "0" dependent upon odd or even message bits. The parity bit always makes an odd number of 1's. If an even number of 1's occurs, an extra (noise) pulse has been received and the signal is in error.

It is obvious that if two noise pulses occur the parity check will not reveal an error; however, some errors on the message signals can be tolerated.

### HAMMING CODE

Signals protected by the Hamming Code are less liable to give errors because the Hamming Code employs four parity bits.

> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 P M P M P M P M

Again the bits are transmitted in numerical order beginning with number 1, the least significant bit. The four parity checks are carred out as follows:

Parity check A is carried out over bits 1268 Parity check B is carried out over bits 2348 Parity check C is carried out over bits 2456 Parity check D is carried out over all bits. Table 2.1 shows the Hamming Code. A few minutes study of this code shows how the four parity checks can lead to information showing which bit is in error.

Table 2.2 shows how the various checks are used to correct some of the errors which may occur. Although Table 2.2 shows how parity bits may be complemented (1's changed to 0 or 0's changed to 1) it is only necessary to correct bits 2,4,6,8, the message bits.

Because the Hamming Code reduces the number of message bits available, four bits giving the sixteen different states shown on Table 2.1, *two blocks* of eight bits are allocated for control and row address as shown in Fig. 2.1. This arrangement gives a total of 16<sup>2</sup> (256) combinations of data which are protected by the Hamming Code.

Table 2.1: Hamming Code

Decimal Message		Е	Bit P	ositi	on N	lumi	ber	
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
3	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
4	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
5	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
6	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
7	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
9	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
10	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
11	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
12	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
13	Ó	1	1	Ō	1	1	0	1
14	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
15	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

Bits 1, 3, 5, 7 = Protection bits Bits 2, 4, 6, 8 = Message bits

Table 2.2: Error Correction Table

Action	k A		Ć	D
Error free recept	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0
	0	1	0	0
	1	1	0	0
Reject, even ord	0	0	1	0
error	1	0	1	0
	0	1	1	0
	1	1	1	0
Complement Bit 7	0	0	0	1
Complement Bit 1	1	0	0	1
Complement Bit 3	0	1	0	1
Complement Bit 8	1	1	0	1
Complement Bit 5	0	0	1	1
Complement Bit 6	1	0	1	1
Complement Bit 4	0	1	1	1
Complement Bit 2	1	1	1	1

# NEW LOW PRICES! Sinclair Scientific kit

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It offers logs, trig, and true scientific notation over a 200-decade range – features normally found only on calculators costing around £100 or more.

Yet even ready-built, the Sinclair Scientific costs a mere £21.55 (including VAT).

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With the functions available on the Scientific keyboard, you can handle *directly* 

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tan and arctan,

automatic squaring and doubling,

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- 1. Coil
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- 3. Interface chips
- 4. Case mouldings, with buttons, windows and light-up display in position
- 5. Printed circuit board
- 6. Keyboard panel
- Electronic components pack (diodes, resistors, capacitors, etc)
- 8. Battery assembly and on/off switch
- 9. Soft carrying wallet
- 10. Comprehensive instructions for use

Assembly time is about 3 hours.

# Features of the Sinclair Scientific

8.66i	. 9 -	
<b>simclair</b> ientific	îrad In 10 е т	57-2958° 2-30259 2-71828 3-14159
		off
7 8	9	log
4 5	6	¥ antilog ▲ tan
1 2	3	▼ arctan ▲ sin
-	-E.	

• 12 functions on simple keyboard Basic logs and trig functions (and their inverses), all from a keyboard as simple as a normal arithmetic calculator's. 'Upper and lower case' operation means basic arithmetic keys each have two extra functions.

(INC. VAT)

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200-decade range 10<sup>-99</sup> to 10<sup>+99</sup>

Reverse Polish logic Post-fixed operators allow chain calculations of unlimited length – eliminate need for an = button.

• 25-hour battery life 4 AAA manganese alkaline batteries (e.g. MN2400) give 25 hours continuous use. Complete independence from external power.

Genuinely pocketable 4 1/3" x 2" x 11/16". Weight 4 oz. Attractively styled in grey, blue and white.

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  - 6. Printed circuit board
- Keyboard panel
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Assembly time is about 3 hours.

# Features of the Sinclair Cambridge

	Uniquely handy package. 41/3" x 2" x 11/16", weight 3 1/2 oz.
3.1415927	Standard keyboard. All you need for complex calculations.
	• Clear-last-entry feature.
	Fully-floating decimal point.
	Algebraic logic.
Sinclair- Cambridge	• Four operators ( $+$ , $-$ , $\times$ , $\div$ ), with constant on all four.
<b>Sinclair</b> Cambridge	Powerful constant with separate 'K' button.
	Constant and algebraic logic combine to act as a limited memory, allowing complex calculations on a calculator costing less than £10.
7 8 9 ÷	Calculates to 8 significant digits.
	Clear, bright 8-digit display.
4 5 6 x	Operates for weeks on four AAA batteries.

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Please send me Sinclair Scientific kit at £14.95 Sinclair Scientific built at £21.55 Sinclair Cambridge kit at £9.95 Sinclair Cambridge built at £13.99									
All prices include 8% VAT.									
*I enclose a cheque for £ made out to Sinclair Radionics Ltd, and crossed.									
*Please debit my *Barclaycard/ Access account, Account number									
*Delete as required.									
Signed									
Name									
Please print. FREEPOST – no stamp needed. PE/4/75									
Huntingdon, Cambs. PE174BR.									

Reg. No: 699483 England. VAT Reg. No: 213 8170 88.

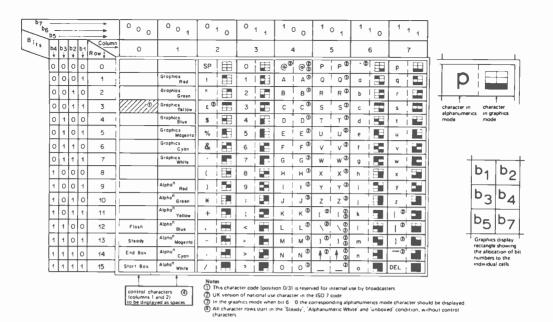


Fig. 2.2. Character code for data broadcasting. This table shows both alphanumeric and graphics information, the latter being selected by the appropriate control code in columns 1 and 2. (*Reproduced from Joint Specification*)

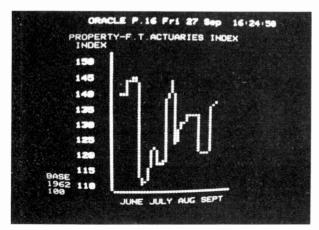
# CHARACTER INFORMATION

The character information employs seven bits, 128 (27) different combinations. Fig. 2.2 shows how these 128 combinations are used. A matrix of  $8 \times 16$  is used to produce 128 different characters.

Rows are identified by bits 1, 2, 3, 4, whilst columns are identified by bits 5, 6, 7. Thus if we wish to display the " $\pounds$ " sign we will have a code 11000100. Similarily the "&" sign would be 0110010, the parity bit being "0" in each case to give odd parity. A "?" sign on the other hand would be coded 11111101, where the parity bit is "1".

The control instructions located in columns. 0 and 1 (000 and 100) are reproduced as a blank space, but following characters are produced according to the instruction given. For example, a white number 1 coded 10001100 would be *preceded* by an instruction-space code 11111000. However, if the number was to be reproduced in red it would be preceded by the instruction-space code 1001 1000. In each case the last bit is the parity bit.

### An example of an ORACLE page using the graphics facility



### **GRAPHIC SYMBOLS**

As the system has a graphics facility there are alternative graphic symbols given in each location which must be generated when called for. If instead of a red 1 the red graphic symbol was required the graphics space signal would be given. For example:

start	12345678			12345678			
	10011000	followed	by	10001100	gives a	red	1

10001001 followed by 10001100 gives red spots.

Thus the specification virtually dictates the design of the ROM unit discussed in last month's article. Before discussing the ROM organisation in more detail it will pay to re-examine how the RAM stores the transmitted data.

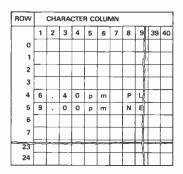
# RAM ORGANISATION

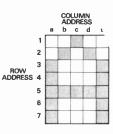
The RAM can be organised in a variety of ways by receiver manufacturers, but from an operational point of view it is best to visualise a matrix  $40 \times 24$ , giving 960 locations, where each location can store seven bits of information. This then corresponds to the 40 characters and 24 rows of each page in the system.

Each row is identified by its row number (0 to 23), derived from the control and row-address group. The columns are numbered 1 to 40 and are derived from the synchronous clock.

The clock starts its division (by 40) on receipt of the framing (start) signal. Fig. 2.3 illustrates this arrangement. The row information is processed by the Hamming decoder logic which also determines if the row is "0" or not (i.e. the page header). If the row is "0", further Hamming logic is used on the next 16 characters which give the page numbers.

The synchronous clock ensures that the whole row is filled. After this nothing more happens until





### Fig. 2.3. (left) Diagram showing RAM visualisation. Each of the squares represents seven bits of data

# Fig. 2.4. (right) A typical cell matrix. This particular character would be produced by the code 1000 001

another line of data appears complete with its clock run-in signals, framing code and row coding, then the next row in the RAM is filled with data.

Each row of the memory may be filled at random. The transmission of each row need not be sequential and in all probability will not be. Read, write, inhibit and reset logic is also required in association with the RAM in order to fully control its function.

When filled the RAM can be visualised as the representing page of information to be written on the television screen. This idea is shown in Fig. 2.3, line 4 illustrating a programme timetable: 6.40 pm PLAY, followed by line 5, 9 pm NEWS. Of course these characters are actually stored in a seven bit binary store.

# ROM ORGANISATION

The ROM unit is rather more complicated than it appears from our preliminary examination. The character must be generated over 14 lines, so each line reproduces only a small part of the character. In addition, each line reproduces a small part of **each** of the 40 characters which appear along any particular row.

The ROM unit converts the parallel coded information from the RAM board to a serial output of dot information which modulates the CRT during scan. The ROM's themselves contain character information on a  $7 \times 5$  dot matrix

Fig. 2.4 shows cell 1000001 (capitalA) as given by the character codes in Fig. 2.2.

The sequence of operations is as follows:

- 1. The clock counter (synchronised with the clock run-in pulses) access the first letter stored in the RAM, in this case a capital A.
- 2. The ROM is addressed so that the cell containing A is activated. (Cell 1000001, Fig. 2.4.)
- 3. A television line scan counter has already activated the first line address input to every part of the ROM. (Line 1, Fig. 2.4.)
- 4. The contents of the ROM are transferred to a shift register of six bits. (The sixth bit is the space between characters.)
- 5. In this example the contents from line 1 of the ROM transferred to a shift register are white, white, black, white, white. (Line 1, Fig. 2.4.)
- 6. A 6MHz phase-locked counter shifts the information serially out of the shift register to



An operator entering data into the ORACLE system

modulate the CRT with a dot representing the top of the "A"

- 7 The clock counter addresses the RAM to find the next character, "B" for example.
- The ROM cell containing "B" is addressed by the RAM (1000010 in Fig. 2.2). This cell already has its line 1 input activated.
- 9. The top of the "B" is transferred to the shift register and modulates the tube as described for the "A".

Proceeding thus, scan 1 moves from character to character of the row stored in the RAM, addressing the appropriate coordinates of the ROM for each character in the row. The ROM modulates the scan line with the top of each character in the row.

At the end of the row, scan line 2 on the ROM is activated to modulate the CRT with the dots required on the second line scan. The seven scan lines of character are reproduced by this means and followed by four blank lines of inter-row scan.

# ADDITIONAL FEATURES

In the most simple systems reproduction of alphanumeric characters will be all there is to the ROM, but in more advanced receivers there will be provision for graphics and character rounding. These additional features will increase the complexity of the system considerably as will some of the other provisions of the specification.

To summarise the various systems in terms of increasing complexity, we have:

- 1. Alphanumeric display.
- 2. Upper and lower case alphanumeric characters.
- 3. Graphics display.
- 4. Flashing display.
- 5. News flash and sub titles superimposed on the picture.
- 6. Coloured displays. Red, green, yellow, blue, magenta, cyan and white.
- 7. Timed displays. Some data may only be transmitted once during the day. A time clock system can be incorporated to capture this signal.

We can look forward to the time when manufacturers put receivers onto the market and we can see the various ways in which they overcome the complexities of the system to provide the maximum of facilities at a minimum cost.



**T** HE Electronic Doorbell was designed to replace any normal door-bell (other than the illuminated door-push type). It produces a novel sound with ample volume for an average house and a life of several months between battery changes with normal use.

# **OPERATION**

The circuit, Fig. 1, uses an oscillator, ICI, capable of producing five different tones. The tune played includes up to fifteen time-slots of equal length, and during each of these time-slots the appropriate tone is selected, from IC1, using the pre-programmed diode matrix shown in detail in Fig. 2.

The oscillator's output is fed via a simple transistor amplifier to a loudspeaker LS1.

The time-slots are generated by a second oscillator, IC2, feeding a divide-by-sixteen binary counter, IC3, which in turn addresses a 4 to 16 line de-multiplexer. IC4.

IC4's seventeenth output is used to turn a latching relay RLA off, thereby removing power at the end of the tune.

# TONE GENERATION

By now the reader should be familiar with the '555'' timer and its use as an astable multi-vibrator. The frequency of IC1 may be changed by altering any of the timing components identified in Fig. 1 as R1 to 5, R11 and C1. Here the five different tones are generated by switching in one of the pre-set resistors VR1 to VR5 via the transistors TR1 to TR5. This is achieved by switching the associated transistor base towards ground (0V) potential using a diode matrix.

# AUDIO AMPLIFICATION

The amplifier is a very simple class A design which in fact introduces a great deal of distortion, but as the output waveform is unimportant this is ignored. Preset VR6 acts as a volume control.

Any small loudspeaker should suffice  $(3\Omega \text{ to } 50\Omega)$ ; the prototype used a 24in. speaker of unknown impedance removed from an old transistor radio.

# CLOCK AND DE-MULTIPLEXING

This section of the circuit makes use of a second 555 timer IC2, running at about 4Hz to drive a binary counter IC3 (SN7493). The components C6 and R19 connected to IC3 set-zero input ensure that the counter is always started in the set-zero state such that the tune played starts from the chosen beginning.

The four output lines from IC3 (A, B, C and D) are then fed to a de-multiplexer IC4, which decodes the binary information into a selection of one of sixteen; that is, each of the sixteen outputs 1 to 16 is sequentially taken from logic 1 level to logic 0 for about 0.25s, only one output being at 0 at any one time.

The value for  $V_{\text{out}}$  in the logic 1 state of an SN74154 can be as low as 2.4V. As it was felt that the transistors TR1 to TR5 would not be held fully off by these voltages, the values of resistors R1 to R10 were made lower than would appear necessary to act as pull-up resistors for the IC4 outputs, thus avoiding problems of leakage currents through the transistors.

# DIODE MATRIX

As the outputs from the SN74154 are so-called "totem-pole", each has to be diode or-gated and isolated from the others. Hence the use of a diode matrix.

If desired IC4 can be replaced with the pin-compatible, open-collector output version SN74159. This removes the need for the diodes which would then be replaced with wire links. The saving in cost of the diodes, however, does not offset the extra cost of the SN74159 and for this reason it was not used in the prototype.

The matrix of Fig. 2 is for a facsimile of the beginning of the Beethoven 9th symphony. Pauses may be introduced into the music by leaving the appropriate input to the matrix open circuit. This is demonstrated in Fig. 3 which gives the matrix for playing part of "Colonel Bogey".

# LATCHING RELAY

As noted, the seventeenth output from IC4 goes to logic 1 on starting the machine. This holds TR8,

MUSICAL DOORBELL CIRCUIT DETAILS

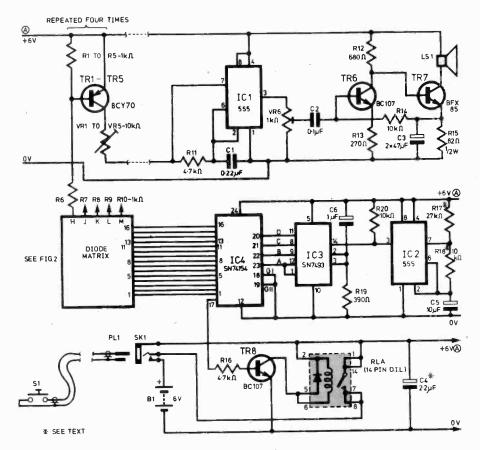


Fig. 1. General circuit diagram of the electronic doorbell

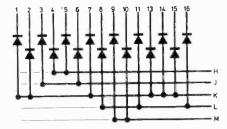
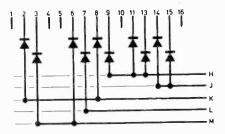


Fig. 2. The diode matrix used in the prototype to produce the first bars of the Beethoven 9th







and hence the relay RLA on. Thus if the relay contacts are momentarily shorted (by the door-push) the circuit will latch and stay in that state until the tune has finished and the output of IC4 goes low, turning TR8 and the relay off. If the SN74159 is used for IC4 a  $2.2k\Omega$  resistor must be connected between this output and the +6V rail.

# CONSTRUCTION

All the components, with the exception of batteries, loudspeaker and switch are soldered onto one piece of Veroboard, the size used being that made especially for mounting in a Lektrokit box. However, any piece of 0-1 in Veroboard of  $39 \times 41$  or more holes will do.

The component layout for the Beethoven's Ninth version is given in Fig. 4, whilst the alterations necessary for playing Colonel Bogey are shown in Fig. 5.

The choice of box for mounting the circuit is left to the constructor. The prototype was built in a die-cast box  $6\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 2in$  which also contains the speaker and four HP11 batteries required to power the machine.

If this method is used it is worthwhile cutting the Veroboard to fit in the box before mounting the components as shown in the photographs and Fig. 4. Make sure none of the copper strips short to any of the many protrusions in these boxes. As can be seen from the photographs, a miniature 3½mm jackplug and socket were used to accept the wires from the door-push; the socket used was the type with a switch on the back, bent in such a manner that it closed when the plug was inserted. This switch turns the power to the electronics off when the plug is removed.

Holes, for mounting the board on pillars, if required, may be drilled in several places if some thought is given to not breaking any used strips and care is taken not to short any strips together or to earth. Further removal of copper with a spot face cutter may be needed.

The relay RLA used is a d.i.l. packaged device with its own protection diode. Fig. 8 shows how the batteries are mounted in the prototype but constructors may wish to use different batteries or a suitable holder for their particular requirements.

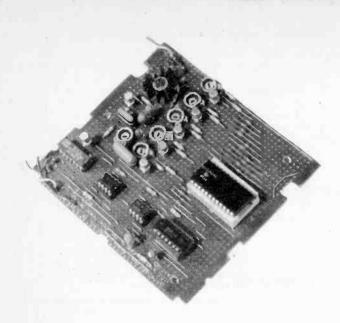
# **TESTING AND SETTING-UP**

The tone adjusting pre-sets are, for convenience, numbered in ascending order of frequency: VR1 the lowest tone used and VR5 the highest. First of all remove IC4 from its socket, set VR6 to about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of its travel clockwise, solder one end of a length of wire to earth (0V) and solder a temporary link across the terminals to the push switch. Touching the free end of the earthed wire to either end of any of the diodes should produce a tone from the speaker. By running the wire along the diodes corresponding to pins 1 to 16 respectively on IC4, the tune should be produced if the pre-sets have been correctly set. With a bit of practice and a good ear for pitch, the correct positions can soon be found.

If IC4 has been soldered in place then remove the end of the diode going to pin 1 on IC4, short

# COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors           R1 to 10 $1k\Omega$ , 10 off           R11, 16 $4.7k\Omega$ , 2 off           R12 $680\Omega$ R13 $270\Omega$ R14, 18*, 20 $10k\Omega$ (see text ref. R18)           R15 $82\Omega \frac{1}{2}W$ R17* $27k\Omega$ (see text)           R19 $390\Omega$ All resistors $\frac{1}{4}W$ , 10% or better except where specified
Potentiometers VR1 to VR5 10kΩ miniature preset (see text ret. VR4, VR5) VR6 1kΩ miniature reset
Capacitors C1* $0.22\mu$ F, 100VW polyester (see text) C1 $0.1\mu$ F 100VW polyester C3 $2 \times 47\mu$ F, 63VW Tant bead C4 $2.2\mu$ F, 35VW Tant bead C5 $10\mu$ F, 25VW Tant bead C6 $1\mu$ F, 35VW Tant bead
Transistors TR1 to 5 BCY70 TR6, 8 BC107 TR7 BFX85
Diodes D2 et al Any general-purpose miniature silicon device such as OA200, 1N914, IS914, etc. (15 or 32 if required)
Integrated Circuits IC1, 2 NE555, MC1455G etc. (555 chip), 2 off IC3 SN7493 IC4 SN74154, (A. Marshall) IC5 SN7472 (if needed, see text) IC6 SN74154 (if needed, see text)
Relay RLA D.I.L. mounting reed relay, Chromasonic Electronics
Miscellaneous Veroboard; suitable case; heat sink for TR7; i.c. sockets, particularly IC4 and IC6; loudspeaker, batteries or battery; wire; bell-push, etc.
* See text



out C5 to positive 6V. Now proceed with the steps from "set VR6" as above, making sure not to touch the wire on those ends of the diodes going directly to IC4 as this may be damaged. Always connect to the negative diode ends.

Remove the shorting link from the push (door) switch connections and either replace IC4, or remove the short from the capacitor and re-solder

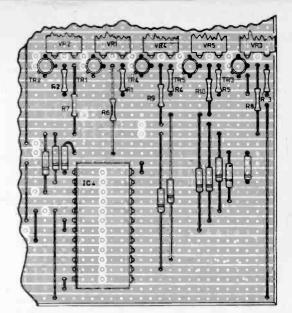


Fig. 5. Veroboard modifications for the Colonel Bogey version

the diode. On wiring in a door switch and pressing it the doorbell should now function properly.

If the tune is played too fast or too slow this can be remedied by increasing or decreasing the value of R18. If, however, it is made to run too fast the device will not turn itself off, in which case the smoothing capacitor C4 should be reduced in value.

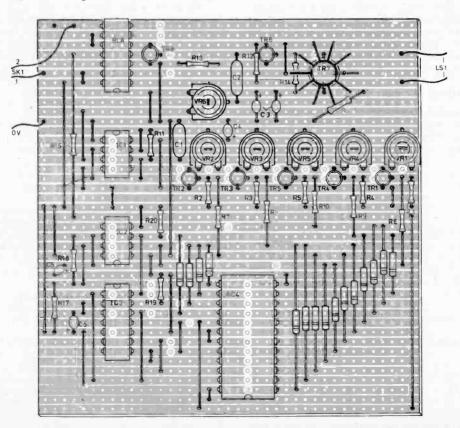


Fig. 4. Veroboard component layout and cutting details for the prototype electronic doorbell

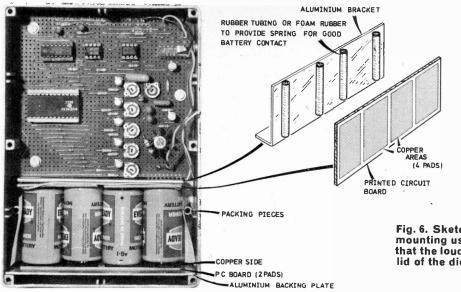


Fig. 6. Sketch of the board and battery mounting used in the prototype. Note that the loudspeaker is mounted on the lid of the diecast box.

## WARNING

Do not allow any of the potentiometers VR1 to VR5 to be set fully anti-clockwise as this could damage IC1. If the Colonel Bogey version is built, note the changes marked with an asterisk in component values given in the parts list.

When the batteries start to run low the first part of the circuit to fail will be the counter IC3. This causes the device to emit a single tone that can only be stopped by removing the batteries. If you are at all tone-deaf get someone else to set the tones for you as even if it is set slightly off key it will sound very unpleasant, and can send connoisseurs of classical music mad at 100 yards.

### ALTERNATIVES

The matrix could be wired on to a separate board which plugs into the main board via an edge-connector. Using this method a whole library of tunes could be built; one for each day of the week perhaps? The tunes would, of course, have to be made up of the

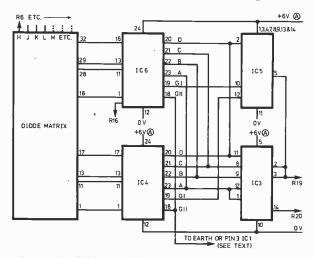


Fig. 7. Doubling the time-slot capacity to produce a longer melody requires this circuit

same five notes otherwise the pre-sets would have to be altered each time.

If this is done it becomes economical to use the SN74159 for IC4 as diodes would thus be saved.

The circuit can, if wished, be expanded to play thirty-one beats, as shown in Fig. 7. Here IC5 (SN7472) is used as a divide-by-two counter with complementary outputs such that, on starting the machine Q is low, enabling IC4 to decode the first sixteen time-slots, whilst the high  $\overline{Q}$  on the second strobe input of IC6 (SN74154) dis-enables this. On IC3's sixteenth count IC5 is toggled into its other state turning off IC4 and enabling IC6 to decode the second sixteen beats.

This modification will obviously necessitate the use of a larger diode matrix, but as this can be drawn to resemble a musical scale, working out the circuit is an easy matter.

It may be found that with or without the previous modification, more than five notes are required. This can be readily achieved by the addition of an extra output line in the matrix plus an extra transistorswitched pre-set resistor for each additional note.

Both these modifications will need a larger board and a re-designed layout for their construction.

As this circuit stands, each note follows on immediately from the preceding note. To make the tune sound more realistic short pauses between notes can be introduced by gating the output of the demultiplexer with the clock pulse such that notes are produced only when the clock's output is in the "low" state.

To do this, the output of IC1 (pin 3) should be taken to one of the strobe inputs of IC6 and/or IC4 (pin 18), the latter having first been disconnected from ground.

A sensible value for the pause-to-note ratio (mark:space ratio of the clock) is 1/10. To achieve this the clock circuit must be modified by the addition of a diode between pins 6 and 7, anode to pin 7, and suitable alteration of R17 and R18. These then become  $3.6k\Omega$  and  $33k\Omega$  respectively for the Beethoven 9th tune and  $4.7k\Omega$  respectively for the Colonel Bogey version. Other melodies would obviously require experimentation.



# **DICE** Conversion

A N AGREEMENT, signed in February, gives Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. exclusive worldwide manufacturing and marketing rights of the Digital Intercontinental Conversion Equipment (DICE) developed by engineers of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The latest version of DICE can convert 525-line NTSC colour pictures, as used in the U.S.A. and Japan, into the 625-line PAL or SECAM pictures used in most other parts of the world, and vice-versa. DICE is, by a comfortable margin, the world's fastest computer.

Standards conversion is essential, not only for "live" relays via satellite, but also when programme material on video tape is exchanged between countries working to different television picture standards.

A number of different types of standards converters have been developed over the years, but IBA engineers were the first to develop a unit based on digital techniques to eliminate the need for careful alignment and adjustment and to provide conversion without perceptible picture impairment.

It is claimed that DICE solves the technically complex process of conversion between systems using 30 pictures a second, as in North America and Japan, and those using 25 pictures a second, as in Europe, entirely electronically and with negligible distortion and is capable of satisfying a global demand for high quality pictures by satellite. It also allows programme companies making quality pictures no matter which standard was used during production.

# oints Arisi

# MARINE SPEEDOMETER (February 1975)

The last paragraph on page 121 should read: "Ranges of 0 to 10 and 0 to 20 knots are obtained by selecting either VR2 alone or VR3 and R17 in series to replace VR2. Selection can be by S1 (VR3, R17 and S1 are not shown) or S1 can be part of S2 which thus becomes a three-pole three-way switch with 'Range 1', 'Range 2' and 'off' positions.'' The Zener diodes D1 and D2 in Figs. 1 and 3

should be reversed.

Further, the co-ax outer should be connected to the battery common line in Fig. 2.

### P.E. MINISONIC (January 1975)

In Fig. 3.12 pin 4 of IC1, MIXER 2 should be shown connected to -9V line by means of connection at column 104, tenth strip down.

In Fig. 4.6, R14 should be disconnected from pin 6 and connected to TR5 emitter. Pins 2 and 6 should be bridged with a 100pF polystyrene capacitor.

# GAS DETECTOR (September 1974)

Some readers have experienced trouble over the starting of oscillation after setting up has been carried out. It is suggested that the setting-up

procedure be altered as follows. Connect the "dummy" load as described but set VR1 to the fully anti-clockwise position and not the opposite as originally described. This places it in the position for producing the shortest mark-space ratio.

Now adjust VR1 till the load resistors are hot but not burning to the touch. Switch off and then on again to confirm the oscillator is indeed operating.

# Another Component Source?

A NOTHER American component distributor has decided to enter the U.K. market. Cramer Electronics of Newton, Mass., is one of the largest distributors of com-ponents in the U.S. They are "broad-line" distributors offering very wide range of components with particular emphasis on the less glamorous but vitally essential nonactive components and hardware items, right down to the humble grommet.

The U.K. distribution centre to be set up in the London area will be under the control of David Griffin who has been appointed Managing Director of U.K. operations and also Marketing Manager/Europe for the Newton, Mass. (U.S.) based firm.

Although Cramer Electronics is an industrial distributor, the possibility of offering a "one-off" service to individuals is not entirely ruled out. David Griffin is aware of the needs of the constructor market and has indicated his willingness to examine this particular area.

# Portable Heart Monitor

N CLOSE co-operation with Danish doctors, Simonsen & Weel have developed a new portable, battery operated combined defibrillator/memory/scope. This unit is especially designed for the resuscitation of patients suffering from acute heart diseases.

The cardio-aid is very useful to on-the-spot ambulance staff. A feature of the unit is its capability to be linked to hospital staff from the ambulance by radio link. This enables the ECG, the heart activity of a patient in electrical form, to be sent to a qualified doctor at the hospital. The doctor can then instruct the ambulance staff, via the radio link, of any emergency treatment that needs to be carried out during the journey to the hospital.

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Popular         Semiconduct           2N456         0.80         2N2907         0.22         2N4062           2N457A         1.20         2N2924         0.14         2N4562           2N457A         1.20         2N2924         0.14         2N4562           2N491         3.58         2N2925         0.17         2N4289           2N491         3.58         2N2926         0.17         2N4289           2N493         4.20         Yellow 0.11         2N4920         2N4920           2N696         0.22         Yengeo 1.12         2N4920         2N4920           2N696         0.40         2N3054         0.60         2N5172           2N706A         0.11         2N3931         0.23         2N5176           2N706         0.11         2N3931         0.23         2N5176           2N706         0.11         2N3931         0.13         2N5192           2N718         0.23         2N314         0.59         2N5130           2N718         0.23         2N3391         0.13         2N5192           2N110         0.22         2N3441         0.59         2N5458           2N1710         0.50         2N3400	Cors         BD 135           0-11         AD150         1-15         BC172         0-13         BD136           0-11         AD162         0-50         BC172         0-11         BD136           0-20         AD162         0-50         BC172         0-11         BD137           0-20         AD162         1-20         BC182         0-12         BD139           0-34         AD162         1-20         BC183         0-12         BD139           0-44         AD162         1-20         BC183         0-12         BD140           0-99         AF116         0-24         BC184         0-13         BF115           0-44         AF116         0-24         BC184         0-13         BF115           0-44         AF116         0-25         BF117         D-22         AF126         0-30         BC218         0-14         BF125           0-22         AF127         0-28         BC212         0-14         BF153         BF154           0-32         AF127         0-25         BC238         0-13         BF156           0-45         AF120         0-25         BC239         0-13         BF156           <	0.43         BFY19         0.42         MJE2955         1.12           0.44         BFY20         0.40         MJE3059         0.43           0.55         BFY50         0.23         MJE3059         0.43           0.71         BFY51         0.23         MP8111         0.47           0.65         BFY50         0.21         MP8113         0.47           0.71         BFY51         0.23         MP8113         0.47           0.73         BFY39         0.44         MP8105         0.25           0.43         BU104         2.00         MPSA05         0.25           0.43         BU104         2.00         MPSA05         0.26           0.55         BU105         2.25         MPSA55         0.70           0.25         C106D         0.45         ME555V         0.70           0.26         C106D         0.45         ME555V         0.70           0.27         C106D         0.45         ME555V         0.70           0.26         C106D         0.45         ME561         4.40           0.21         CA3020A         1.80         CC35         0.60           0.22         CA3020A	$\begin{array}{c} 10\% \ Discount to \\ Saturday and you will get \\ 10\% \ discount on our \\ source our shops on a \\ saturday and you will get \\ 10\% \ discount on our \\ goods. \\ This offer does not apply to \\ tits. \\ \hline \\ $
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	0         1000         Fed. green and yellow         p           9         30p         0.16         diameter 31p         50           p         30p         0.20         diameter 33p         50           —         DL207 f2:35 or 4 for 58         11           55         4:20         Minitron £1:55         44           BY237 12ip         OA47         7ip         OA50         7p           BY210         35p         OA70         7ip         OA51         7p         55           BY211         32p         OA73         7p         OA51         7p         10           BY211         30p         OA79         7p         OA200         7p         10           OA9         10p         OA51         60         0A200         7p         10	Stridge Rectifiers           imatic         1A         2A         4A         6A           0         0-24         0-32         0-60         0-62           00         0-26         0-32         0-60         0-62           00         0-26         0-32         0-70         0-75           00         0-30         0-41         0-75         0-80           00         0-36         0-45         0-55         1-10           00         0-40         0-52         0-95         1-25           SCR's         100V         200V         400V         600V           A         0-43         0-44         —         —           A         0-43         0-42         0-53         0-75           A         0-43         0-42         0-33         0-75           A         0-43         0-42         0-53         0-75           A         0-43         0-42         0-53         0-56           A         0-47         0-53         0-60         0-90           A         0-50         0-55         0-85         —	Construction Kits         AV7 Aerial Amps       52:04         UHS70 Transmitter       52:79         MUE7 Receiver for above       53:22         EW18 Electronics dice       56:53         EX20 Electronic Dice + Sensor       57:79         Mall Order       VAT All prices exclusive P. & P. 20p         TRY OUR NEW GLASGOW       SHOP

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

# ARITHMETIC TUTOR

To complement their range of computer educational aids, Limrose Electronics Ltd. have recently introduced a Digital Arithmetic Tutor.

This advanced logic trainer has been designed for teaching the principles of binary arithmetic and fourbit data word manipulation to senior students who have completed a basic course in combinational and sequential logic circuits.

The tutor consists of three general purpose 4-bit shift registers, two 4-bit synchronous binary counters, one 4-bit comparator, one 4-bit adder, a carry store, one J-K master-slave flip-flop, four 2-input NAND gates, four 2-input AND gates and three logic inverters. Two manual single pulse generators and one continuous clock pulse generator are also available.

Logic states are displayed on the front panel by means of red light emitting diodes and interconnections are made using a 1mm gold-plated terminal pin and patch lead system.

The equipment is accompanied by an illustrated instruction book containing numerous computer circuits which can be constructed on the equipment. These circuits include loading and shifting of registers, 1's and 2's complements, addition and subtraction of 4-bit numbers by serial and parallel methods and multiplication and division by the shift-and-add-method. The instruction book also deals with the Octal Number System, binary fractional notation and overflow conditions in fixed point arithmetic.

Ideally suited for Universities and schools, prices of the tutor vary (approximately £150) and further information can be obtained from Limrose Electronics Ltd., 8-10 Kingsway, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1PJ.

## POCKET MULTIMETER

No bigger than a packet of cigarettes, the new ICE Microtest 80 multimeter combines several unique features in one compact and accurate instrument.

Covering 8 fields of measurement and 40 ranges, the meter has a 20,000 ohm per volt sensitivity, with 2 per cent accuracy on the a.c. and d.c. scales.

The design of the meter incorporates automatic electronic regulation for zero ohms, and the movement is protected against an overload of 1,000 times in the ohmic ranges before automatic cut-out.

The mirror scale of the meter enables clear and accurate reading. Each meter is supplied with a comprehensive instruction manual, a protective case and test leads.

A brief technical specification for the meter is as follows: volts d.c., in 6 switched ranges, 100mV to 1,000V (20k $\Omega/V$ ); volts a.c., in 5 switched ranges, 1.5V to 1,000V (4k $\Omega/V$ ). Current d.c., in 6 switched ranges, 50 $\mu$ A to 5A; current a.c., in 5 switched ranges, 250 $\mu$ A to 2.5A. Resistance, in 4 switched ranges, low ohms to ohms × 100. Capacitance measurements are available from 25 $\mu$ F to 25,000 $\mu$ F.

The meter is powered by a 135V mercury battery which. in normal usage, will last up to 3 years, and a complete range of extra accessories is available. Amongst the accessories are a temperature probe (-50 to +200°C), gaussmeter and a luxmeter probe.

The Microtest 80 multimeter is priced at £11-95 ex. VAT, with special terms for quantity purchase, and is available direct from Electronic Brokers Ltd., 49 Pancras Road, London, NW1 2QB.

# PROFESSIONAL MICROPHONE

A professional moving coil microphone with an excellent specification and features is announced by Beyer Dynamic (GB) Ltd.

Designated type M88, it has a hypercardioid polar pattern, a frequency response of 30Hz to 20,000Hz  $\pm 2.5$ dB, a high output, and is manufactured to a standard setting transient response and frontto-back ratio. This means that any two random units can be used as a stereo matched pair. Side attenuation at 120 degrees is approximately 23dB and the EIA sensitivity rating is -144dB/m.

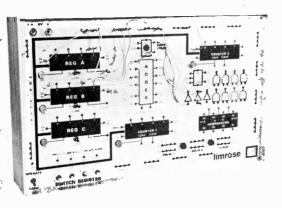
The design and features of the M88 make it ideal for both indoor and outdoor applications and it will withstand the rigours of professional usage, being completely unaffected by humidity and extreme temperatures. The rated load of the microphone is greater than 1,000 ohms and the 200 ohm low impedance balanced output is at a level of -51dB/m at 1kHz.

The microphone is available in two versions: the M88N with standard DIN connector at £81.05 plus VAT and the M88N(C) with Cannon connector at £83.35 plus VAT. Each microphone is supplied with a protective carrying case. Optional extras include windscreen, stands and cable transformer.

Further information and nearest stockists can be obtained from Beyer Dynamic (GB) Ltd., 1 Clair Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH16 3DP.

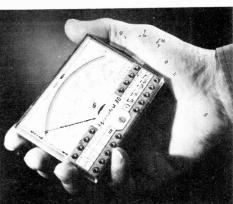
## NOTE

The SEAS loudspeaker kits, mentioned last month, are only available in 8 ohm versions.

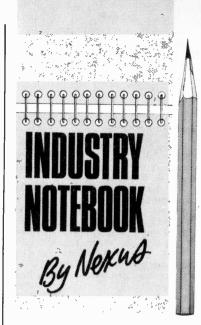


**Limrose Electronics Digital Tutor** 

M88 Professional Microphone from Beyer Dynamic



Microtest 80 multimeter from Electronic Brokers



# EXPORTS HOLDING

Few in the electronics industry regretted the passing of 1974 with its succession of elections, budgets, industrial unrest, inflation and general economic stress. At least 1975 promises a higher level of stability and now we are well into the first quarter of the year there are already signs that whatever the depression in the home market, mainly in entertainments products, the world is still Britain's market and that trade remains at a substantial level.

The New Year saw a flurry of activity starting with confirmation from the British Overseas Trade Board that support for exhibitions at overseas trade fairs and for outward sales missions would be greater than ever before.

Few of these exhibitions, however, were specifically for electronics companies. Their turn comes a little later in the year with a major participation in a Communications Exhibition in Moscow at the end of May as just one of the highlights in a full programme.

Quick off the mark in 1975 were Marconi-Elliott Avionics with a £1.25 million order for automatic test equipment for the US Navy and US Air Force. The equipment is for checking out head-up displays for A-7D and A-7E Corsair 2 aircraft. At the same time, sister company Marconi Communication Systems was announcing a £3 million contract for colour TV studio and OB equipment for switchover from monochrome to colour in the Egyptian TV service.

A few days later a contract worth £200,000 was announced for Marconi Mark 8 colour TV cameras for use in America. But it's not only the truly exotic equipment that sells well. Few people are aware that Plessey, as well as being big in radar, electronic telephone exchanges and sophisticated sonar systems, have a thriving business in electronic igniters for gas stoves and boilers. In January, Plessey Windings expanded European activities by signing a contract with S.I.T., France, who will beef up markets in France, Belgium and Luxembourg.

This new agreement supplements existing arrangements in the Far East and North America. The North American breakthrough is regarded as significant because gas igniters is a cut-throat business over there. Plessey Windings is a major supplier to Caloric Corp., Pennsylvania, a principal cooker manufacturer.

Racal Group looks as vigorous as ever with Racal-Milgo high speed modems being ordered from Poland, Racal-Thermionic selling 2220,000 worth of data recording equipment to French airports, and Redac Software selling computeraided design software packages to Finland, bringing Redac customers in Scandinavia up to eight including names like Saab, Asea and Tandberg. These orders all came in early January.

Muirhead celebrated the New Year with a nice little order for 23 weather chart recorders for Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. This brought Muirhead's export orders for this type of equipment to £325,000 in three months. Chairman Sir Raymond Brown commented that Muirhead will continue aggressive exploitation of the export potential of its products.

Smaller companies are also doing well. Membrain, for example, has installed an automatic tester for computer back-planes in West Germany. It will test over 2,000 points in less than a minute. The order was taken just before Christmas. The installation was operational by January 17. Nice work!

A heartening aspect of this brief survey is that so many of the orders, and they are only a short selection, are from countries such as the United States, France and West Germany which are themselves fully developed in the electronics industry. Another is the wide geographical spread.

# WHIZZ KIDS

Gordon Pope, who led the Advance Electronics expansion programme from £800,000 turnover when he joined Advance as general manager in 1963 to today's £11 million, now rejoices in the title of Vice-President, Gould Instruments and Electronics, Europe. This follows the acquisition of Advance by Gould last October. We may expect to hear of further vigorous developments in the months ahead.

You've got to move fast to keep up with Tom Jermyn who started making transistor pads in his garage as a part-time hobby and built up Jermyn Industries to a mini-multinational operating in the USA and Europe as well as the UK. But Peter Smitham, who has become the top man in the Group, second only to Tom Jermyn, is no slouch. He leapfrogged into the top spot only a little over a year after joining Jermyn to set up Mogul Electronics as Jermyn's second component distributor company. He came to Jermyn with a fine record behind him. He was the youngest divisional manager in ITT, Europe, and has a fine academic as well as business record.

Present plans are to expand Jermyn to £20 million turnover by 1980. Latest Jermyn company is Solek Ltd., manufacturing heat pipes, a product which Jermyn Industries has been pioneering in the UK for the past two years.

And how about Clive Sinclair, well known to our hobbyist readers through his electronic kits and, more recently, through pocket calculators? Predictions in some quarters that he would overtax his capacity last year were not realised and he bounced into 1975 with yet another round of price cuts on his established calculators, some new models, and a new electronic multimeter.

On February 1 the standard Cambridge calculator came down to £12.95 (very near the £10 I was predicting in this column a year or so ago) and the Scientific came down to £19.95. His new range, announced at the same time, are equivalent to desk-top models though Sinclair prefers to call them "hand-held" indicating they will go in a brief-case, if not in the pocket. He claims to hold some 30 per cent of the calculator market in the UK. plus considerable exports with a production of some 70,000 units a month.

While majoring on calculators he is not neglecting his other product lines. His original electronic multimeter, despite its low price, was a flop. It didn't sell at all well. Nobody liked the Nixie indicators. This year's model is very superior and has an 8mm 7-segment LED readout on a front panel that looks and is highly professional although, at under £60, the instrument is at the low end of the price range. The old DM1 was not for me. But I'm now using the new DM2 very happily in mv own workshop.

This year should also see Sinclair's long-awaited pocket TV set coming to the market place as well as an electronic digital watch.

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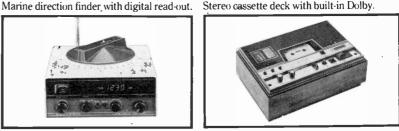
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In BP1 364 669, STC Ltd. suggest some simple improvements to moving-iron transducers of the type used in some loudspeakers and telephone handsets. The basis of the technique described could be of interest to the experimenter.

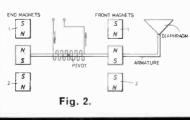
Fig. 1 shows a conventional, rocking armature transducer (either a microphone or loudspeaker). A permanent magnet has pole piece members between which an armature is pivoted. The armature is coupled to a diaphragm and speech coils are wound on the pole pieces.

The passage of speech currents through the coils causes the armature to rock, or rocking of the armature induces currents through the coils. The arrangement works well until the armature is deflected too far and sticks or "freezes" against one pole of the magnet.

Diaphragm Fig. 2 shows the patented arrangement for preventing such freezing. The armature carries small magnets, one each side of its pivot point. The armature magnets lie between two end magnets and two front magnets. The polarity of the magnets is such that the armature floats freely in the central position as shown.

If currents are passed through the coil wound round the armature in such a direction as to make the left hand end of south polarity, then that end moves upwards towards the end magnet 1. Reversing the current direction causes an opposite movement, and the

BP 1 364 669



passage of an alternating current through the coil produces a corresponding vibration of the diaphragm. Similarly, movement of diaphragm induces currents in the coil.

D

Because of the repulsive forces between the magnets there can be no freezing of the armature and relatively rough-and-ready constructional techniques will provide a floating armature of low stiffness.

# SPARK-FREE SUPPLY OF A.C.

In BP 1 366 134, Victor Products (Wallsend) Ltd., of Northumberland, claim a simple electromagnetic coupling system for supplying a.c. supplies to loads in hazardous environments, such as inflammable gas atmospheres.

The obvious risk under such situations is that a spark will be generated when a connection is made or broken. It is not new to suggest using two separable halves of a transformer to provide sparkfree connection and disconnection. The primary of a transformer is provided in a wall socket and the secondary is included in a plug. When the plug is pushed into the socket the flux from the primary induces current in the secondary. The problem is ensuring that the primary does not drain current and overheat when the plug is disconnected.

The inventors show in their patent a socket with a primary winding and a plug with a secondary winding. To prevent current drain from the primary when the secondary is removed, an inductor is connected in series with the primary and a capacitor is connected in parallel with the inductor and primary. This parallel circuit is in series with a further inductor.

When the plug (sec) is coupled with the socket (pri) the circuit is tuned to the supply frequency. When the secondary is separated the inductance of the circuit decreases to cause detuning. Thus the current flowing through the primary also decreases.

As an example of component values, where the effective inductance of the primary decreases from 100mH to 10mH on removal of the secondary, a  $0.16_{\rm H}$ F capacitor and a 8mH inductance was used to provide effective limiting for a supply frequency of 1kHz.

# SPOT WELDING

In BP1 370 003, the Grumman Aerospace Corporation of Long Island, New York, explains how it is possible to spot weld by using a massive magnetic field. This creates a pressure on a metal workpiece and deforms it.

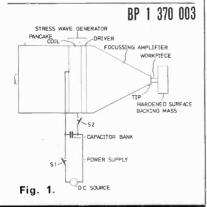
The Americans now suggest generating stress waves electromagnetically, to render the metal momentarily plastic. This they claim to have achieved with a device and circuit as shown in Fig. 1.

The power supply comprises a d.c. source, switch S1 and a capacitor bank. The capacitors are charged by the d.c. source when S1 is closed.

When charging is complete, switch S2 is closed to feed a high amperage current pulse of short duration to a pancake coil. The coil produces a high intensity magnetic field pulse which intersects a driver of aluminium or hardened copper. The driver acts as a one turn secondary winding of a transformer and the massive current which is induced in the driver sets up a high intensity magnetic field around it.

The electromagnetic repulsion created by the interaction of the two high intensity fields generates a stress wave in the driver, which is propagated through a focussing cone towards a tip. The combined effect of the backing mass and the stress from the tip deforms the workpiece and causes a spot weld.

The inventors claim success with voltages of between 4 and 7 kV, focusing cones of hardened steel, and a pancake coil of 18 turns of rectangular copper wire.



Copies of Patents can be obtained from the Patent Office Sales, St. Mary Cray, Orpington, Kenf. Price 25p each



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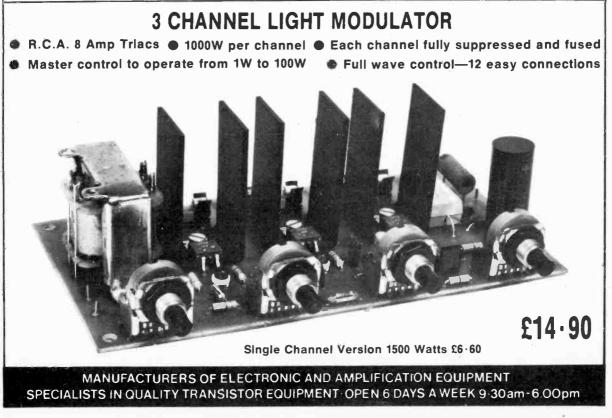
2mV into 10kQ; Mic Tone Control-Total Variation Treble 15dB, Total Variation Bass 10dB; Tape Input -30mV into 47kΩ; Power Requirements-30-45 volts at 100mA

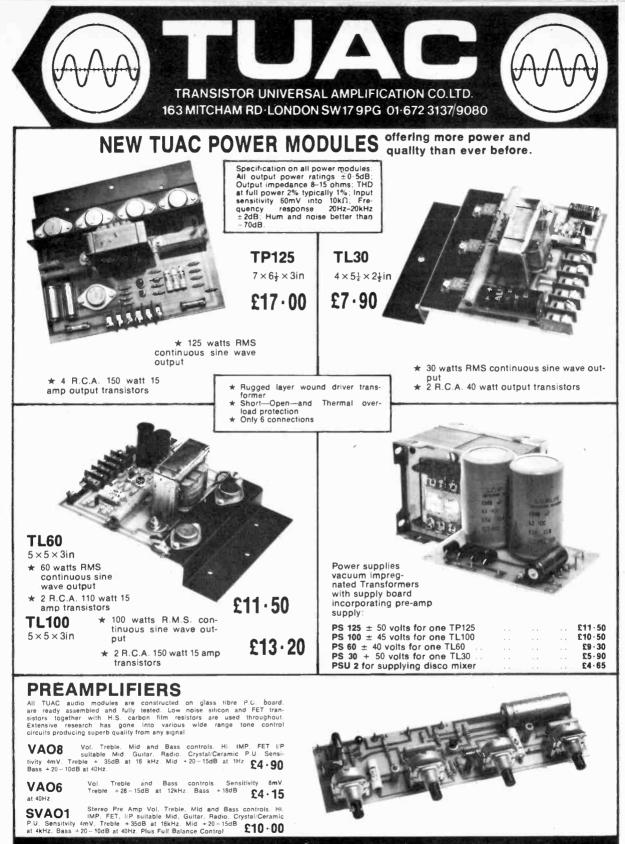
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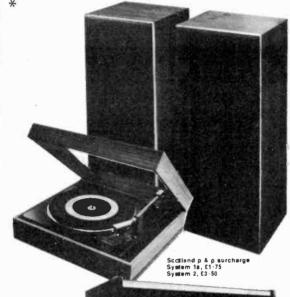
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System Lincludes:

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

20 watts per channel into 8 ohms. Total distortion @ 10W @ 1kHz 0.1%. P.U.1 (for ceramic 20 wards per channel into 5 anms. Total distortion @ 10W @ 1RH20-1%, P.U.7 (for ceramic cartridges) 150mV into 3 Meg. P.U.2 (for magnetic cartridges) 4mV @ 1RHz into 47K. equalised within —1dB R.L.A.R. Radio 150mV into 220K. (Sensitivities given at full power). Tape out facilities : headphone socket, power out 250mW per channel. Tane controls and filter Adaracteristics. Bass: + 1208 to -1708 @ 60Hz, Bass filter: 6dB per octave cut, Treble control: treble + 12dB to -12dB @ 15kHz, Treble filter: 12dB per octave. *Signal to noise retio*: (all controls at max.) - 58dB. Crosstalk better than 35dB on all inputs. Overload characteristics better than 26dB on all inputs. Size approx.  $13\frac{3}{4}^{*} \times 9^{*} \times 3\frac{3}{4}^{*}$ . Garrard SP 25 deck with magnetic cartridge, de luxe plinth and cover

Two Duo Type IIe matched speakers-Enclosure size approx.  $19\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times 9\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times 7\frac{1}{2}$ " in simulated teak. Drive unit 13"  $\times 8$ " with 3" tweeter. 15 watts handling.

Complete System £62.00 + £5.50 p & p.

### System 2. £82.00

Viscount III amplifier (As system ia). Garrard SP 25 deck (As system la). Two Duo Type III matched speakers-Enclosure size approx. 27" × 13" × 11#". Finished in teak simulate. Drive units 13" × 6" bass driver, and two 3" (approx.) tweeters. 20 watts R.M.S., 8 phms frequency range-20 Hz to 18,000 Hz.

### Complete System £82.00 + £6.50 p & p.

PRICES: SYSTEM	1a
Viscount III R102 amplifier	£27-00 + £1 p & p
2 Duo Type Ila speakers	£26-00 + £5-50 p & p
Garrard SP 25 with Mag de luxe plinth	. cartridge
and cover	£21.00 + £1.75 p & p
lotal:	

	PRICES : SYSTEM	2
P	Viscount III R102 amplifier	£27-00+£1 p & p
åp	2 Duo Type III speakers	£39.00 + £4.00 p & p
_	Garrard SP 25 with Mag. de luxe plinth	cartridge
å p	and cover	£21.00 + £1.75 p & p
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Stereo 21, easy to assemble audio system kit. No soldering required. The unit is finished in white P.V.C. and the acrylic top presents an unusually interesting variation on the modern deck plinth. Includes :- BSR 3 speed deck, automatic, manual facilities together with stereo cartridge, Two speakers with cabinets.

Amplifier module. Ready built with control panel, speaker leads and full, easy to follow assembly instructions. Specifications : For the technically minded :

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Elegant self selector push button player for use with your stereo system. Compatible with Viscount III system, Unisound module and the Stereo 21. Technical specification Mains input. 240V. Dutput sensitivity 125mV Comparable unit sold eleswhere at £24.00 approx. Yours for only £12.95 + £1.45 p & p.

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**NO SOLDERING REQUIRED!** 

### NOW BUILD YOUR OWN PUSH BUTTON CAR RADIO

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

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION: (1) **Output 4** watts R.M.S. output. For 12 volt operation on negative or positive earth. (2) **Integrated circuit** output stage, pre-built three stage IF Module. **Controls volume** manual tuning and five push buttons for station selection, illuminated tuning scale covering full, medium and long wave bands.

Size chassis 7" wide, 2" high and  $4\frac{3}{2}$ " deep approx £8.00 + 90p, p & p. **Speaker** including baffle and fixing strip £1.65 + 37p, p & p. **Car Aerial** Recommended—fully retractable £1.37 + 32p, p & p.

The Tourist I Kit For the experienced constructor If you can solder on a printed circuit

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Price £7.00 + 90p. p & p.

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### 20 WATT SPEAKER SYSTEM\*

System consists of a 13" x8" (approx) eliptical woofer unit with a 8" x5" (approx.) mid range unit incorporating parasitic tweeter and crossover components. Circuit diagram. Technical Specification: Bass Unit

bass Unit Flux density-100 K, speech coil-1 Flux density-100 K, speech coil-1 One. Triple laminated paper with P V.C. surround. Mid Range Unit Flux density-33K, speech coil-1" with parasitic tweeter.

Power Handling 20 watts R.M.S., impedance-8 ohms, frequency response-20 Hz to 18 000 Hz

OUR PRICE £7·50. Complete + £1·35 p & p.



Reliant Mk IV Mono Amplifier, ideal for the small disco or house parties. Output 20 watts R.M.S. into 8 ohms (suitable for 15 ohms). Inputs \*4 electrically mixed inputs. \*3 individual mixing controls. \*Separate bass and treble controls common to all 4 inputs. \*Mixer employing F.E.T. (Field Effect Transistors) \*Solid State circuitry. \*Attractive styling.

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION:** 

Auxiliary inputs – 200mV and 750mV into 1 meg. Mic input – 6mV into 100K. 240 volt operation. Turntables capacity – 7", 10" or 12" records.

Rumble Better than -35dB. Wow Better than 0.2%. Flutter Better than 0.06% (Gaumont kalee meter). Finish - Satin black mainplate with black turntable mat inlaid with brushed laluminium trim. Tonearm and controls in black and brushed aluminium.

Unit Closed - 17 3"×13 3"×8 3" (approx.)

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This disco console is ideally matched for the

Reliant IV and Disco 50 or any other quality amplifier.

The unit is finished in black PVC with contrasting

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simulated teak edging, diamond spun control knobs

Pre-amp - Output - 200mV

Rumble, wow and flutter

Console size





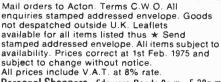
INCORPORATES: Pre-Amp with full mixing facilities, including switched input for mic with volume control, switched input for auxiliary with volume control, bass and treble controls, volume control and blend control for turntables.

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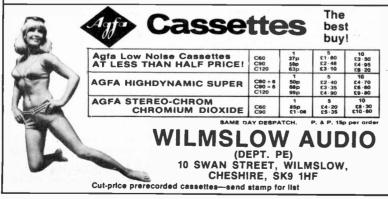
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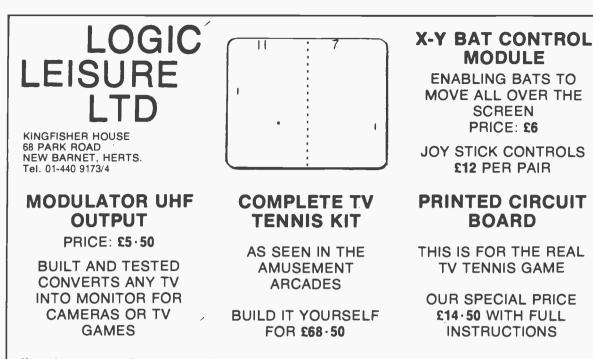
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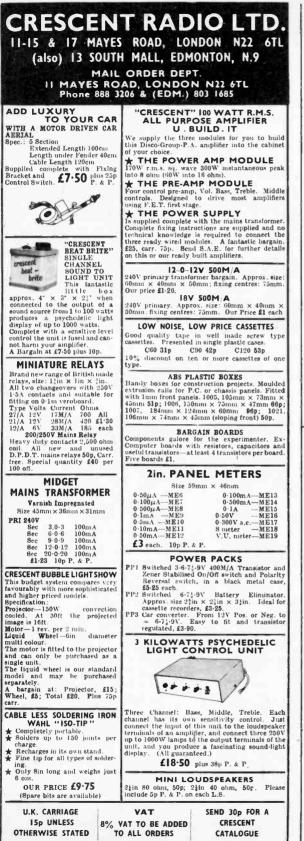
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 0.33in
 DIL

 LIT 747
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		Component set	(incl. PCB)		£2 · 20	Deta	ails in l	list	
P.E. SYNTHESIZEI Details in List	<b>२</b>	PHASING CO	NTROL UNIT (	P.E. Oct. 74)		(inc.	discou	ints)	
VOICE OPERATED FADER (P.E. Dec. 73) For automatically reducing music volume 'talk-over'particularly useful for Disco work	during	The well-acciai	SYNTHESISER med and highly Feb. 1973 to Feb	versatile Synti	£3·50 hesiser	8W AMPLIFIER (P. A moderately powere performance. (While s	d amplifier o		verage
home-movie shows. Component set, incl. PCB	£2·95		and printed circ		shows	Main Amplifier Mono component set Stereo component set			£4 - 18 £8 - 36
P.E. GEMINI 30W STEREO AMPLIFIER An exceptionally high quality Stereo Amplifier	svetem	VOLTAGE CO	NTROLLED FI	LTER (P.E. Oc	:t. 74) £3∙41	Pre-Amplifier Mono component set Stereo component set			£2.50 £8.46
specifications for which are shown in detail in together with semiconductor requirements. While last.	our list,	Printed circuit b	oard IERATOR (P.E.	Mar (Apr. 74)	£1-10	Power Supply Component set			£3-90
Main Amplifier: Set of resistors, capacitors and presets Stereo printed circuit board Pre-Amplifier:	£5-96 £1-28	Programmable f circuits (high ar long and short	or 64,000 rhythm Id low bongos, b brushes, blocks natures. See list fo	patterns from 8 bass and snare ( and cymbal), an	effects drums.	BIOLOGICAL AMP Multi-function circuits equipment, can serv cardiophone, etc.	that, with the	use of other ex	ternal
Sets of resistors, capacitors, potentiometers and switches— Standard Tolerance Set	£10·57	Tempo, Timing a Component set ( Double-sided PC			£17-25 £2-30	Pre-Amplifier Module			
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Regulated Power Supply: Set of resistors, capacitors and preset Printed circuit board	£4-58 72p	Printed circuit be Power Supply			£2 · 67	Combined component phone, cardiophone, fi	requency met	3s. for alpha- er and visual	
	7 A.P	Component set a			£5·65	feed-back lamp driver of Audio Amplifier Module Type PC7	circults P		£4-96 £5-50
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Semiconductors BFY50 22p 2N3702 12p 2N3702 12p 2N3702 12p	Interes	ated Circuite	Zeners			her countries 20p.	Balvastas	Testatu	
C128         CP + 52         CP + 52         CP + 52         CP + 53         CP + 54         C	709 8- 709 TC 723 TC 741 8- 747 14 748 TC 748 8- 748 14 7400 7402 7410 7402 7410 7420 7420 7427	pin DiL 40p -pin DiL 115p 35 63p pin DiL 63p -pin DiL 63p 20p 20p 20p 20p 20p 20p 44p	3 39 400mW 12p 39 400mW 15p 4 77 1W 25p 5 11 400mW 15p 5 68 400mW 15p 5 68 400mW 15p 6 27 400mW 15p 8 11 400mW 15p 8 11 400mW 15p 12V 400mW 15p 12V 400mW 15p 12V 400mW 15p 18V 14W 20p 20V 400mW 15p 20V 413W 20p	Electrolytic Cap 0-47/63V 8p 1-0/63V 8p 2-2/63V 8p 4-7/63 8p 6-8/40 8p 10/25 8p 15/40 8p 15/40 8p 22/10 8p 22/10 8p 22/25 8p 33/6_3 8p	47/63 100/4 100/10 100/25 100/40 100/63 150/16 150/63 220/10 220/16 220/25 220/40	7p         470.40         20p           6p         500.64         46p           6p         680.25         20p           7p         680.25         20p           13p         1000.10         14p           6p         100.116         25p           7p         200.016         25p           13p         1000.012         30p           6p         200.40         45p           7p         2200.40         45p	Polyester           (μF)           0.01           0.015           0.022           0.033           0.047           0.068           0.15           0.222           0.33           0.47           0.22           0.33           0.47           0.47           0.47           0.47           0.47           0.47	Tantalum (µF/V)           3p         0.1/35           3p         0.22/35           3p         0.47/35           3p         1.5/35           3p         1.5/35           3p         1.5/35           3p         1.0/35           3p         1.5/35           3p         1.0/35           3p         1.0/35           3p         1.0/35           3p         1.0/35           3p         1.0/35           3p         1.0/35           3p         1.0/16           3p         1.1/16V	12p 12p 12p 12p 16p 12p 12p 16p 16p
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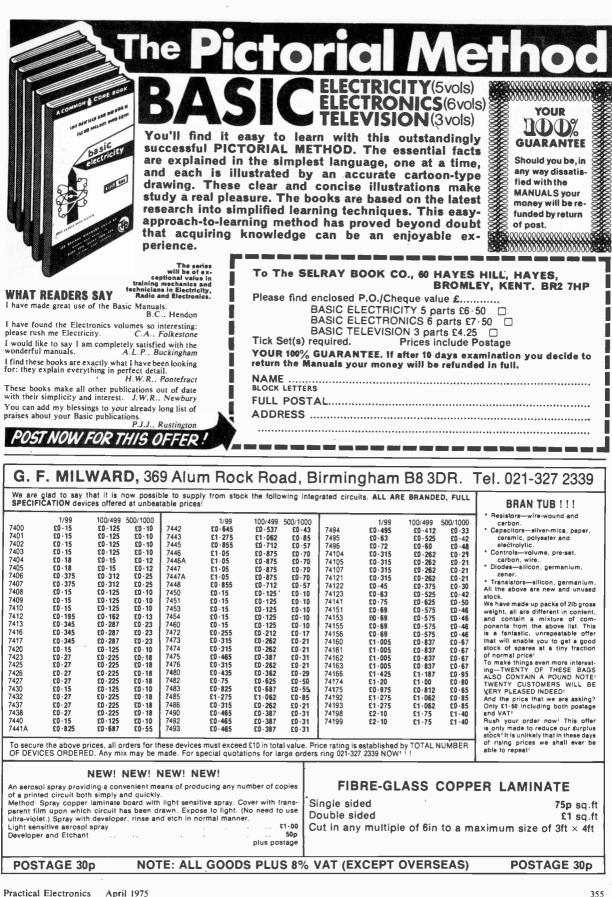
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Practical Electronics April 1975

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INANSI	310n3				
General Purpose	NPN (N) PNP (P)	One off price in	VCE	HFE Min.	mA
FRB 771	Р	pence 7-5	*50	100	1
E5368A	N	7	25	100	1
E5368B	N	7.5	25	150	1
E5368C E5369	N P	8 7 · 5	25 20	250 70	1
Low Level					
E5401	P	7.5	*30	50	1µA
E5403	P	7.5	*30	100	10µA
E5404 E5405	N	7.5	*30	100	100µA
				100	100µA
Drivers and FRB772	Switching	(tested f	or low V 40	ce (sat) 40	)
E5370	N	5	20	{ 15	500
E5398	P	8	40	1100 40	10
E5398	P	8	20	100	60 100
		-	20	100	100
High Freque					
E5399 E5400	NN	7.5	30	20	3
XK6116	N	8	20	10	1
			20	10	
High Voltag		1.1			
E5407 E5408	PN	7.5	65 65	50 50	10 10
Quantity Di	scounts (p	rices in p			
Single 10 5 4-5		.000	Single		100 1,000
5 4.5		-0	8		5-7 4-9
7.5 7.2		- 6	9	0	0.3 3.2
			anteed t	out almo	st all would
pass for hig	her voltag	e operatio	n as ind	licated. I	Most can he

selected for higher voltage working at an extra charge of in per device

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