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SYNTHESISE
(P.E. Oct 78)
(P.E. Oct 78)
This unit allo

This unit allows extemal inputs, such as guitars, micro-
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Basic comp
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隹 decay. sustath and release functions. and in addition it also provides a Repeat Ellect enabling a synthesiser to be programmed to imitate such insiruments as a mandalin or banio

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17.38

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a a allable. Details in our itsts.


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| 7404 | 60.09 | 7433 | E0. 28 | 7476 | 60.22 | 74119 | ¢1.10 | 74175 | c0.60 |
| 7405 | £0.09 | 7437 | ¢0. 20 | 7480 | 60.40 | 74121 | c0. 22 | 74176 | c0. 55 |
| 7406 | c0. 22 | 7438 | f0. 20 | 7481 | ¢0.80 | 74122 | f0. 35 | 74177 | c0.55 |
| 7407 | ¢0.22 | 7440 | ¢0.10 | 7482 | ¢0.65 | 74123 | c0. 38 | 74180 | ¢0.80 |
| 7408 | f0.12 | 7441 | f0.45 | 7483 | ¢0.55 | 74136 | ¢0.50 | 74181 | ع1.25 |
| 7409 | ¢0.12 | 7442 | ¢0.38 | 7484 | ¢0.82 | 74141 | ¢0.50 | 74182 | ¢0.55 |
| 7410 | f0.09 | 7443 | c0.68 | 7485 | C0.65 | 74145 | f0.54 | 74184 | E1.00 |
| 7411 | ¢0.15 | 7444 | ¢0.68 | 7486 | f0. 22 | 74150 | ¢0.65 | 74190 | ¢0.68 |
| 7412 | E0.14 | 7445 | f0.64 | 7489 | £1.60 | 74151 | c0.45 | 74191 | c0.68 |
| 7413 | ¢0. 22 | 7446 | c0.60 | 7490 | f0.30 | 74153 | c0.45 | 74192 | ¢0.65 |
| 7414 | ¢0.45 | 7447 | f0. 45 | 7491 | ¢0.60 | 74154 | 60.80 | 74193 | c0.60 |
| 7416 | f0. 22 | 7448 | f0.52 | 7492 | c0. 32 | 74155 | C0.48 | 74194 | ¢0.55 |
| 7417 | c0.22 | 7450 | f0.09 | 7493 | ¢0.28 | 74156 | f0.48 | 74195 | C0.55 |
| 7420 | C0.09 | 7451 | ¢0.09 | 7494 | 60.70 | 74157 | c0.48 | 74196 | ¢0.60 |
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$\begin{array}{ll}\text { No. } 16139 & 25 \text { NPN trans. like } 2 \text { N697/ } 40 p *\end{array}$
 No. 16141 NPN trans. like 2N2905 TO39 40p No. 16143 NO NTans. like 2N706 TO18 40p No. 16144 NPN Plastic trans. like 2 N3 306 40p No. 16144 30 PNP Plastic rans like 2 N3 3905 40p No. 1614710 NPN to 3 Power trans. like 2N3055.

## I.C. SOCKET PAKS

| No. S66 | $11 \times 8$ pin DIL Sockets |
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| No. 667 | $10 \times 14$ pin DILSockets |
| No. S68 | $9 \times 16$ pin DIL Sockers |
| No. S69 | $4 \times 24$ pin DIL Sockets |
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D.T.L. Many coded devices, but some unmarked-you
Order No. 16223
€1.00

| MATCHED PAIRS OF PNP GERMANIUM MED. POWERTRANS <br> 2 amp <br> 750 mW |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | VCE | vci | HFE |  |
| NKT301 | 40 |  | 30-100 | 35p per pa |
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| From U.S.A. by DINDY SCREW CASED LOW NOISE CASSETTES <br> C90 |  |  |  |  |
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Amplifier is offered at the re-introductory price of
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$\times 2.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ Plastic Jack Plugs
$2 \times$ Stereo Jack Plugs $5 \times 5$ Pin $180^{\circ}$ DIN PI $8 \times 2$ Pin Loudspeaker Plugs $6 \times$ Phono Plugs Plastlc
$\begin{array}{ll} & 50 p \\ 5 \times 3.5 \mathrm{~mm} \text { Chassis Sockets (Switct } & 50 p \\ 50 p \\ 50 p \\ 502\end{array}$ $5 \times 2.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ Chassis Sockets (Switched) ${ }^{25 p}$
S11 $2 \times$ Stereo Jack Sockets with instruction
$5125 \times 5$ Pin $180^{\circ}$ OIN Chassis Socke
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## VPS30 Variable Regulated Stabilised

Power Supply Module
Incorporating a short circuit protection and current limiting:
Voltage Regulation
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Eliminstes the use of
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| Single-Sided Fibre Glass Board |  |
| $12 \times 3 \frac{1}{2}$ approx. 2 pcs |  |
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S110 P.C.BOARD $\begin{gathered}\text { Mixed Bundle. P.C.B., Fibre- } \\ \text { glass/paper, single and }\end{gathered}$
glass/paper, single and
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## 

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COMPONENT PAKS
Order No.
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16169 2 pieces Tuning gangs MW/LW

3 Micro switches
1617
16179
16180
15 Assorted control knobs $\begin{array}{ll}16188 & 60 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W} \text { resistors mixed values } \\ 16187 & 30\end{array}$ 30 metres stranded w
assorted colours
120 t watt resistors
1978 Prod. Our mix
$120 \frac{1}{1}$ watt resistors. Pre-formed.
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1978 Prod. Mixed values $250 \frac{1}{4}$ watt resistors.
Range 100 ohms $220 \frac{1}{2}$ watt resistors. 1.8 meg .
Range 100 ohms -10 meg
60 Low ohms iwat resistors.
$10-100$ ofms
0 Low ohms $\frac{1}{2}$ watt reslstors. 25 Mixed wirewoun 20 Tantaium bead caps 0.22-100 mF Our mix 500 mF voltage range $15-50$ Our mix. 40 for $£ 1.00^{\circ}$ foil caps Contains 50 metal $£ 1,00^{*}$

## POTENTIOMETERS

## Slider 40 mm TRAVEL

Order No
16191
1824
S 25
16
16
16
S 27
S 28
S 29
S

LIN Single
$61936 \times 22 \mathrm{~K}$ LIN Single
16195
16194
$\begin{array}{lll}6194 & 6 \times 47 \mathrm{~K} & \text { LOG Single } \\ 27 & 6 \times 100 \mathrm{~K} & \text { LiN Single } \\ \text { LIN Single }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lll}28 & 6 \times 100 \mathrm{~K} & \text { LOG Single } \\ 39 & 6 \times 500 \mathrm{~K} & \text { LOG Single }\end{array}$
Slider 60 mm TRAVEL
$3306 \times 25 \mathrm{~K}$ LOG
LOG Single
LOG Dusi $4 \times 100 \mathrm{~K}$ LOG Dual $\times 1,3 \mathrm{MEG}$ LOG Dual $\times 220 \mathrm{~K}$ LIN Single $6 \times 100 \mathrm{~K}$ LOG Single $6 \times 500 \mathrm{~K}$ LIN Single
Mixed slider pots-various
Mixed slider pots-various values
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90 rating. Mixed useful values. 5 for $£ 1.00$

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591 Car Radio type. Dual Switched Pot 100 KL Lin switched 2.5 K Lin

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15 Rotary Pot Assorted

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S55

SILICON POWER TRANS. N.P.N.
$597 \quad 8 \mathrm{D} 3712 \mathrm{Amp} 1.2 \mathrm{w} .60 \mathrm{Vceo}$
Hfe 40-40, Case T092
2 N 5293 R.C.A. 36 w 4 Amps

| Crystal Ear Pieces |
| :--- |
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| Plugs for above |  |
| :--- | :--- |
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S140

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$51.00^{\circ}$
$\mathrm{F} 1.000^{\circ}$
4

STA35 25 wattsper channel
amplifier kit. Consists
$2 \times A L 60$ - $1 \times P A 100-$
$1 \times S P M 120 / 45$
$1 \times 2040$ Transformer
$-1 \times 1 \times$ reservoir cap $\mathbf{4 5} \mathbf{i n c}$ VAT

amplifier kit. consists:
$2 \times 4$ 180-1 $1 \times$ PA $100-$
$1 \times$ SPM $120.1 \times 2041$
transformar-- 1 re
ervoir capacitor
$2 \times$ coupling capacitors $\begin{gathered}\text { e48.45inc VAT } \\ +£ \uparrow .16 p p \& p\end{gathered}$
50 watts per channel
amplifier kit. Consists:
$2 \times A L 120-1 \times P A 200$ -
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| AC107 AC126 | ${ }_{14 \mathrm{p}}^{25}$ |  | ${ }_{12 \mathrm{p}}^{12 \mathrm{p}}$ | BF194 | 9 p | TIP328 | 34p | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~N} 161311$ | ${ }^{15 p}$ |
| AC127 | 16 p | BC179 | 12 p | BF196 | -12p | Tip32C | 36p | 2 N 1893 | $28 p$ |
| AC128 | 16 p | BC182 | 9 | BF197 | $\cdot 12$ | Tip41A | 34p | 2N2218 | 15p |
| AC128K | 24 p | BC182L | 9 p | BF200 | 25 p | TTP418 | 35p | 2N2218A | 18p |
| AC176 | 16p | BC183 | $\bigcirc$ | BFX29 | 22 p | TIP41C | 36p | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~N} 2229$ | ${ }^{15 p}$ |
| AC176K | 24 p | ${ }^{\text {BC1 }} 183 \mathrm{~L}$ | -9p | 8 8×84 | 18 p | TIP42A | 36p | 2N2219A | $18 p$ |
| AC187 | ${ }^{16 p}$ | ${ }^{\mathrm{BC} 184}$ | $\bigcirc 9$ | BF50 | 12 p | TIP4 | 37 p | 2 N 2221 | $15 p$ |
| ${ }_{\text {A }}{ }^{\text {AC1 }}$ C188 | ${ }_{16 p}^{26 p}$ | ${ }^{8} \mathrm{BC} 212{ }^{\text {P }}$ | $\cdot 100$ | 8FY5 ${ }_{\text {BF }}$ | 12p | TIP429 | 38p | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~N} 2222224$ | 16p |
| AC188K | 26p | BC21 | -10p |  |  | TIP3055 | 42p | 2 N 2222 A | 16p |
| AD161 |  |  | -10p |  | -22p | 2T107 | ${ }^{6} 6$ | ${ }_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{2}$ | 10p |
| ${ }_{\text {AF }}^{\text {AF139 }}$ | ${ }^{80 p}$ | ${ }^{\text {BC2 }}$ 81314 | -10p | MPSA55 | -22p | 2T108 | -7p |  | 14p |
| AF239 | 30 p | ${ }_{8 C 214 L}$ | -10p | MPSA5B | -22p | 2TX300 | ${ }^{7}$ | 2N2905 | $14 p$ |
| 8 C 10 | 6 | ${ }^{8 C 251}$ | ${ }^{10} 10$ | OC44 | 12p | 2T3301 | 7p | 2 N 29054 | $15 p$ |
| C108 | ${ }_{6 p}^{6 p}$ | ${ }^{8 \mathrm{Cry}} 1$ | 12 p | OC45 | 12p | $\frac{2 T \times 302}{21 \times 500}$ | -9p | 2 N 2 | ${ }^{12 p}$ |
| $8 \mathrm{Cl118}$ | -10p | $8{ }_{8}$ | 12 p | 0 C 71 | 9 p | $\underline{1 \times 500}$ | -100 | 2 N 2 | ${ }_{12 \mathrm{p}}^{14}$ |
| $8 \mathrm{8C147}$ | ${ }^{8} \mathrm{p}$ | 80115 | -40p | OC75 | 12 p | 2T×502 | -12p | 2N2907A | 13p |
| 8C148 | -8p | B0131 | -35p | OC81 | 14p | ${ }_{2} \mathbf{N} \mathbf{N} 696$ | 100 | ${ }_{2} \mathrm{~N} 29296 \mathrm{G}$ | 号 |
| ${ }_{8 C 154}$ | -16p | ${ }_{8 F 115}^{8 F}$ | 17 p | TIP29A | 35p | 2N706 | 7 p | 2 N 3053 | 12 p |
| 8 C 1 | -9p | $8 F 167$ | 19p | TIP298 | 36p | 2N706A | 8 p | 2N3055 | 35p |
| $8 \mathrm{8C158}$ | 9 Pp | $8 F 173$ | 20 p | TiP2 | 38p | 2N70 | 80 | 2N3702 |  |
| ${ }_{8 C 16}$ | -10p | BF180 |  |  |  | $\mathrm{2N}^{\mathrm{N} 13}$ | 12 p |  |  |
|  | -6p | 85182 | 25 p | TiP30C | 38p | 2 N 1304 | 15p | 2 N 3903 | -11p |
| $8 \mathrm{8C171}$ | $\bullet_{6 p}$ | 8F183 | 250 | T1P31A | ${ }_{33} 32$ | 2N1307 | 18p | ${ }_{2}^{2 N 3904}$ | p |
| 8 C 173 | -7p | 8F185 | $25 p$ | TIP31C | 34p | 2N1309 | 22 p | 2N3906 | -11p |

## DIODES

| Price | Type | Price | Trpe | Price | Tyoe |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $8 Y 216$ | 30p | 0485 | 7p | IS44 |
| 5p | 8 Y 217 | 28p | OA90 | 6 p |  |
|  | 8 8218 | 28p | OA91 | 7p | IN5400 |
| 15p | 8YZ19 | 28p | 0A95 | 7 p | IN5401 |
| -10p |  |  |  |  | IN5402 |
| 32p | 0447 | 5p | IN34 | 5p | IN5404 |
| 32p | OA70 | 5p | 1N60 | 6 p | IN5406 |
| 32p | OA79 | 7p | IN914 | 4 p | IN5407 |
| 30p | OA81 | 7p | 'N4148 | $4 p$ | IN5408 |

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| LINEARI.C.'s |  |  |  |  |  |
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| LM380 | c0.80 ${ }^{\circ}$ | 72741 | c0.20 | 76115 | E7.25 |
| LM381 | ¢1.25* | UA741C | c0. 20 | NE555 | 80.22 |
| 72709 <br> 4709 | c0.20 | ${ }^{72747}{ }^{7489}$ | c0.55 | SL414A | £1.80 |
| UA709 | co. 20 | 748 P | c0.28* |  |  |


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$(250 \times 167.5 \times 68.5 \mathrm{~mm})$ £14.58

MINI DESK BIMCONSOLES
Orange, Blue, Black or Grey ABS body incorporates 1.8 mm pcb guides, stand of f bosses in base with 4 BIMFEET supplied. 1 mm Grey A luminium panel sits recessed with fixing screws into integral brass bushes.
BIM $1005(161 \times 96 \times 58 \mathrm{~mm}) \quad £ 2.18$
BIM $1006(215 \times 130 \times 75 \mathrm{~mm}) £ 3.05$

## ALL METAL BIMCONSOLES

| All aluminium, 2 piece desk consoles with | Colour Code | Top Panel | Base |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| either $15^{\circ}$ or $30^{\circ}$ sloping fronts, sit on | A | Off White | Bhe |
| 4 self-adhesive non-slip rubber feet. | B | Sand | Green |
| Ventilation slots in base and rear | C | Satin Black | Gold |
| panel for excellent cooling. |  |  |  |

$15^{\circ}$ Sloping Panel
$30^{\circ}$ Sloping Panel BIM 7151 ( $102 \times 140 \times 51[28] \mathrm{mm}$ ) BIM 7301 ( $102 \times 140 \times 76[28) \mathrm{mm})$ BIM 7152 ( $165 \times 140 \times 51[28) \mathrm{mm}$ ) BIM 7302 ( $165 \times 140 \times 76[28) \mathrm{mm})$ BIM $7153(165 \times 216 \times 51[28] \mathrm{mm})$ B 1 M $7303(165 \times 183 \times 102(28) \mathrm{mm})$ BIM 7154 ( $165 \times 211 \times 76[33] \mathrm{mm}$ ) BIM $7304(254 \times 140 \times 76[28] \mathrm{mm})$ BIM $7155(254 \times 211 \times 76[33) \mathrm{mm})$ BIM $7305(254 \times 183 \times 102(28) \mathrm{mm})$ BIM $7156(254 \times 287 \times 76[33) \mathrm{mm})$ B B M $7306(254 \times 259 \times 102[28] \mathrm{mm})$ BIM7157 ( $356 \times 211 \times 76\{33$ ) mm) BIM7307 $(356 \times 183 \times 102[28) \mathrm{mm})$ ( 1 BIM $7158(356 \times 287 \times 76(33) \mathrm{mm})$ BIM $7308(356 \times 259 \times 102[28] \mathrm{mm}) \mathrm{f} 18.55$

## ABS \& DIECAST BIMBOXES

6 sizes in ABS or Diecast Aluminium. ABS moulded in Orange, Blue, Black or Grey. Diecast Aluminium in Grey Hammertone or Natural. All boxes incorporate 1.8 mm pcb guides, stand off supports in base and have close fitting flanged lids held by screws into integral brass bushes (ABS) or tapped holes (Diecast).

| ABS |  | Diecast | Hammertone | Natural |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N/A |  | BIM5001/11 | TBA | TBA |
| BIM2002/12 | $£ 0.96$ | BIM5002/12 | $£ 1.46$ | $£ 1.19$ |
| BIM2003/13 | $£ 1.13$ | BIM5003/13 | $£ 1.78$ | $£ 1.46$ |
| BIM2004/14 | $£ 1.35$ | BIM5004/14 | $£ 2.24$ | $£ 1.82$ |
| BIM2005/15 | $£ 1.52$ | BIM5005/15 | $£ 2.84$ | $£ 2.28$ |
| BIM2006/16 | $£ 2.37$ | BIM5006/16 | $£ 3.94$ | $£ 3.33$ |

$(50 \times 60 \times 31 \mathrm{~mm})$
$(100 \times 50 \times 25 \mathrm{~mm})$ $(112 \times 62 \times 31 \mathrm{~mm})$ $(120 \times 65 \times 40 \mathrm{~mm})$ $(150 \times 80 \times 50 \mathrm{~mm})$ (190×110×60mm)
N/A BIM2002/12 E0.96 BIM2003/14 E .13 BIM2005/15 E1.52 BIM2006/16 E2.37

Diecast BIM5002/12 BIM5003/13 BIM5005/15 BIM5006/16

TBA
$£ 1.46$
$£ 1.78$
$£ 2.24$
$£ 2.84$
$£ 3.94$

Natural
E1.19
£ 1.46
£1.82
$£ 3.33$

Also available in Grev Polystyrene with no slots and self-tapping screws BIM 2007/17 (112×61×31mm) £ 1.00

MULTI PURPOSE BIMBOXES
Orange, Blue, Black or Grey ABS with 1 mm Grey Aluminium recessed front cover held by screws into integral brass bushes. 1.8 mm pcb guides incorparated and 4 BIMFEET supplied.

BIM $4003(85 \times 56 \times 28.5 \mathrm{~mm}) \quad$ £ r .18 BIM $4004(111 \times 71 \times 41.5 \mathrm{~mm}) \quad £ 1.62$ BIM $4005(161 \times 96 \times 52.5 \mathrm{~mm}) \quad £ 2.19$

LOW PROFILE BIMCONSOLES
Orange, Blue, Black or Grev ABS body has ventilation slots as well as 1.8 mm pcb guides and stand-off bosses in base. Double angle recessed front panel with 4 fixing screws into integral brass bushes. 4 BIMFEET supplied.

BIM $6005(143 \times 105 \times 55.5(31.5) \mathrm{mm}) £ 2.37$ BIM $6006(143 \times 170 \times 55.5(31.5) \mathrm{mm}) £ 3.08$ BIM $6007(214 \times 170 \times 82.0(31.5) \mathrm{mm}) £ 4.12$

## 2. EUROCARD BIMCONSOLES

Orange, Blue, Black or Grey ABS body accepts full or $1 / 2$ size Eurocards, with bosses in the base for direct fixing. 1.8 mm wide pcb guides incorporated and 4 BIMFEET supplied. 1 mm Grev aluminium lid sits flush with body top and held by 4 screws into integral brass bushes.

BIM 8005 ( $169 \times 127 \times 70$ [45] mm) £4.12 BIM 8007 (to be announced shortly)

## BIMTOOLS



## MAINS BIMDRILLS

Small, powerful 240 V hand drill complete with 2 metres of cable and 2 pin DIN plug. Accepts all tools with $1 \mathrm{~mm}, 2 \mathrm{~mm}$ or $.125^{\prime \prime}$ dia. shanks. Drills brass, steel, aluminium and pcb's. Under 250 g , off load speed 7500 rpm . Orange ABS, high impact, fully insulated body with spring return on/off switch $£ 10.53$
Mains Accessory Kit 1 includes $1 \mathrm{~mm}, 2 \mathrm{~mm}, .125^{\prime \prime}$ twist drills, 5 burrs and 2.4 mm collet $£ 2.48$
Mains Kit 2 includes Mains BIMDRILL as above, 20 assorted drills, mops, burrs, grinding wheels and mounted points, $1 \mathrm{~mm}, 2 \mathrm{~mm}, 2.4 \mathrm{~mm}$ and . $125^{\prime}$ collets. Complete in transparent case measuring $230 \times 130 \times 58 \mathrm{~mm} £ 22.14$

Min Major

## 12 VOLT BIMDRILLS

2 small, powerful drills easily hand held or used with lathe/stand adaptor. Integral on/off switch and 1 metre cable.
Mini BIMDRILL with 3 collets up to 2.4 mm dia $£ 8.10$ Major BIMDRILL with 4 collets up to 3 mm dia $£ 13.60$

A ccessory Kits 1 have appropriate drills and collets as above plus 20 assorted tools. Mini Kit 1 - $£ 15.12$, Major Kit 1 - $£ 19.44$. Accessory Kits 2 have appropriate drills, collets plus 40 tools and mains 12 V de adaptor. Mini Kit $2-£ 34.02$, Major Kit 2 - $£ 39.42$.

Accessory Kits 3 as appropriate Kits 2 plus stand/lathe unit. Mini Kit 3 - £ 45.36, Major Kit 3 - £50.76.

## BIMDIPS



Rapidly inserts and withdraws any 4-18 pin, . 3" pitch DIL package without beding the legs. Adjustable metal jaws for MOS type devices grip the bottom of the leg for minimum strain. Will pick up IC's from a bench, a carrier or a pcb. £13.77.


Precision made side cutters, spring action, ground steel fine pointed blades for intricate work.

5 $1 / /^{\prime \prime}$ tong £ 3.34

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Type 30 General Purpose 27 watt iron with long life, rapid change element screw on tip, stainless steel shaft and clip on hook. Styled handle with neon. $£ 4.05$
Type M3 Precision 17 watt iron, quick change tip, long life element, styled handle with clip $£ 4.43$

## BIMPUMPS

2 all metal desoldering tools provide high suction power and have easily replaceable screw, in Teflon tips. Primed and released by thumboperation with in-built safety guard and anti-recoil system.

BIMPUMP Major ( 180 mm long)
BIMPUMP Minor ( 150 mm long $) £ 6.80$


## BIMSTATION

Type PSU6 Soldering Iron Station complete with 6V, 6 Watt miniature iron having stainless steel shaft, quick change slide on tip and long life element.

Station contains $240 \mathrm{~V} / 6 \mathrm{~V}$ transformer, neon, coiled iron support and sponge iron tip cleaning pad.

## BIMDICATORS

ECONOMY QUALITY LED's


Mixed bags of .125" and .2" dia. Iens in various colours 50 for $£ 5.67,100$ for $£ 10.00$

## FULL SPECIFICATION LED's

$.125^{\prime \prime}$ or.$^{\prime \prime}$ with mounting clips and data
Red - £ 1.67/pack of 5, Green - £2.48/pack of 5, Yellow/Amber - £3.18/pack of 5


## 33 and 34 SERIES

Front viewing ( $30^{\circ}$ angle) LED indicators
BIM 33 is nickel plated, uses 3.2 mm dia LED and needs 6.5 mm dia. fixing hole.
BIM 34 is chromium plated, uses 5 mm dia. LED and needs 8 mm dia. fixing hole.
Red - $£ 2.80$ /pack of 5 , Green/Yellow - $£ 3.24 /$ pack of 5
ASERIES
240 V Neon with integral resistor.
held in 8 mm hole by plastic bezel.

Red, Amber, Clear or Opal lens $£ 2 /$ pack of 5 , Green lens $£ 3 /$ pack of 5
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$B$ LES and Midget Flanged lampholder with 13 mm dia. (A) and 18 mm dia $(B)$ lens. Solder tags. $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ dia. hole fixing llamps not supplied) plus chrome bezel with $A$ lens. Aed, Amber, Clear, Green, Opal $£ 0.66$ each


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## MICRO MONEY

AS WE go to press the Government has announced a further $£ 100$ million investment in microelectronics. This makes the total investment something in the order of $£ 400$ million which exceeds the involvement of both the French and German governments. The extra money will be split with $£ 60$ million going to education and $£ 40$ million to encourage industry to employ microelectronics in products, in the automation of manufacturing equipment and in updating office equipment and practices.

The Prime Minister stated that the use of microelectronics would bring "some crucial job losses" but it was also pointed out that in the past the introduction of new technology had eventually given rise to an increase in jobs in particular industries. The Government Think Tank has also commented on "the contrast between the vehemence of those who claim that microelectronics will have a catastrophic effect on unemployment and the inadequacy of the analysis underlying the certainty of that prediction."

It is indeed heartening to hear such phrases as "dominant technology of the next decade" and to find ministers urging Britain to compete-fast and, what's
more, putting our money where their mouth is!

The point that saddens us is that $£ 15$ million has to be spent in making direct presentations to industry to encourage the use of microelectronics. Perhaps we are too conservative to have believed any of the predictions made a few years ago, but surely more of them should have been investigated without companies having to be pushed.

It is often said that the car mechanic is the man slowing down the introduction of electronics to our every day transport, but he will have to accept the computer controlled engine eventually so let's get on with it. Training is what is needed-or retraining as the case may be-and the injection of money has been welcomed by both the CBI and TUC.

## HOME COMPUTERS

One area where the microprocessor has found a ready market is in the home computer and now that a significant number of systems and peripherals are available we are taking another in-depth look at the subject. The interest being shown in the P.E. VDU System (published recently) and the P.E. Microprinter shows a demand for
peripherals at the right price and both these projects meet that need admirably. We hope to bring you more projects like these in future. We are now finding a number of hobbyists and engineers that did not follow the microprocessor teachins the first time around and it is our intention to publish a simple microprocessor system and describe the first steps in programming in the near future. So all those that want to learn the subject, and it appears to be of growing importance in many areas, watch out for further announcements.

## DON'T MISS OUT

Whilst looking at forthcoming subjects, we would urge you not to miss any issues and one way of ensuring your copy is to place a regular order with your newsagent. Often we find readers unable to get copies because of heavy demand and since our next issue will carry a 108 page Tandy catalogue (U.K. mainland sales only) and subsequent issues another catalogue and a free gift worth at least $£ 1$, demand is likely to be extra heavy-you have been warned.

Mike Kenward

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# By MICHAEL TOOLEY в.a. and DAVID WHITFIELD в.я. 



EECTRONICS is a subject which is largely concerned with the generation and processing of a wide variety of electrical signals. While sine waves are still the most commonly generated waveforms, pulse waveforms are continuing to find ever-widening applications in communications and digital systems. The advent of cheap, readily available digital integrated circuits has brought with it the need for suitable test equipment which will allow the constructor to troubleshoot such digital systems under known conditions. This logic pulse generator is capable of providing waveforms of known characteristics over a wide range of frequencies and pulse widths and has the ability to slow down the operation of circuits to sub-Hertz frequencies to allow tests to be done at speeds low enough to enable functions to be verified with a conventional multimeter.

This instrument also features independent control over both pulse width and pulse frequency.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The wave generation system used in the pulse generator features an astable multivibrator to control the pulse repetition frequency and a monostable to determine the output pulse width. The complete circuit diagram of the pulse generator is shown in Fig. 1.

The control circuit uses a 555 timer (IC1), to produce a wavetrain of the required pulse repetition frequency. The actual frequency is determined by the values of the fixed resistors, R $1 /$ R2, the setting of the potentiometer, VR1, and the value of capacitor selected, C3 to C8. The resistors set the ratio of the maximum-to-minimum frequency coverage in the ranges, while the capacitor selected determines the actual frequency coverage. The circuit allows modest values of timing components to be used in generating very low frequency signals, without requiring values for the higher ranges which are so low as to make stray capacitances unduly significant. The performance of the astable is independent of supply voltage fluctuations and the output is a stable wavetrain with a well-defined repetition rate and an arbitrary pulse width.

The monostable circuit (IC2) uses a 74121 to set the output pulse width. The astable output drives the monostable active-high input, the active-low inputs being disabled. This configuration causes an output pulse to be produced each time. a low-to-high transistion occurs at the input. The width of the pulse produced is determined by the timing components, VR2, R5 and C11 to C17. The circuit thus produces two complementary outputs whose repetition frequency is set by the astable and whose pulse width is set by the timing components of IC2. A single-shot facility is provided by using S3, to disable the output of the astable. The momentary switch action may then be used to generate a trigger pulse for the monostable whenever an output pulse is required.

The two monostable outputs are used directly to provide the normal and inverted TTL output signals. Each output will drive up to 10 normalised TTL loads. In addition, the inverted TTL output is used to produce the $0-10$ volt variable output. The level translator, TR1, produces 180 degrees of phase shift and drives the emitter follower, TR2. The output signal is taken from a variable tapping on the emitter load resistance, VR3. The Zener diode, D1, serves to set the maximum output level and stabilise the collector potential of TR2.

Some typical operational waveforms are illustrated in the oscillograms in (Fig. 2, 3 and 4).




Fig. 2 Upper trace-Non inverted TTL output (IC2 pin 6) Lower trace-Output from the astable (IC1 pin 3) Oscilloscope setting $1 \mu \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$ and $2 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{cm}$


Fig. 3 Upper trace-Non inverted TTL output (IC2 pin 6) Lower trace-Inverted TTL output (IC2 pin 1) Oscilloscope setting $10 \mu \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$ and $2 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{cm}$. Pulse Generator set to $\mathbf{1 0 k H z}$


Fig. 4 Upper trace-Non inverted TTL output (IC2 pin 6) Lower trace-Inverted TTL output (IC2 pin 1) Oscilloscope setting $10 \mu \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$ and $2 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{cm}(10: 1$ pulse at 10 kHz )

## WAVEFORM MONITORING CIRCUIT

When using any form of pulse generator featuring independent control over both pulse width and repetition frequency, it is usually possible to select combinations which, between them, represent an unrealistic waveform. In practical terms this means that, whatever the front panel controls may say, it is impossible to repeat a 1 ms pulse at a frequency greater than 1 kHz . İndeed, in order to produce a square wave at 1 kHz , a pulse width of $500 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ is required. In practical situations it was therefore felt that some form of advance warning of this condition would be a useful reminder to the user of the instrument, especially if it could be incorporated with little additional circuitry.

The circuit of Fig. 5 illuminates the l.e.d. when the duty cycle (the proportion of the cycle during which the normal output is "high") exceeds 50 per cent, a mark space ratio of $1: 1$. Thus, for a pulse repetition frequency of 1 kHz , the l.e.d. will be illuminated when the pulse width exceeds $500 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.

## SPECIFICATION

## OUTPUTS

Non-inverted TTL
Inverted TL

High level output

Output impedance ("high" level) $=70$ ohms
Output impedance, ("low" level) $=12 \mathrm{ohms}$
Each output will drive up to 10 normalised TTL loads, i.e. sink up to 16 mA ("low") or source up to $400 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ ("high"). Rise and fall times better than 10 ns unloaded. Output impedance $\$ 1$ kilohms Output continuously variable from 0 to 10 V peak.

## RANGES

| Pulse frequency | Pulse width |
| :--- | :--- |
| $0 \cdot 1 \mathrm{~Hz}-1 \mathrm{~Hz}$ | $100 \mathrm{~ns}-2 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $1 \mathrm{~Hz}-10 \mathrm{~Hz}$ | $1 \mu \mathrm{~s}-20 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-100 \mathrm{~Hz}$ | $10 \mu \mathrm{~s}-200 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $100 \mathrm{~Hz}-1 \mathrm{kHz}$ | $100 \mu \mathrm{~s}-2 \mathrm{~ms}$ |
| $1 \mathrm{kHz}-10 \mathrm{kHz}$ | $1 \mathrm{~ms}-20 \mathrm{~ms}$ |
| $10 \mathrm{kHz}-100 \mathrm{kHz}$ | $10 \mathrm{~ms}-200 \mathrm{~ms}$ |
|  | $100 \mathrm{~ms}-2 \mathrm{~s}$ |

All ranges overlap by approximately 15 per cent of the maximum nominal range value at either end of the range in order to ensure both total coverage and simplicity of use.

The operational amplifier, IC3, acts as a low pass filter and comparator. The integrating components, R10 and C18, set the time constant of the filter and the mean level of the output from IC2 is compared with the potential at the junction


Fig. 5 Circuit diagram to illuminate the duty cycle l.e.d. when an unrealistic waveform has been selected
of R11 and R12. When the mean signal level exceeds this potential, the l.e.d. is illuminated. Making the values of R11 and R12 equal causes the l.e.d. to be illuminated at a duty cycle of 50 per cent. At very low frequencies the l.e.d. provides a direct visual indication of the waveform duty cycle.

## POWER SUPPLY

The circuit of Fig. 6 provides the necessary supply voltages for operating the pulse generator from the mains
supply. A centre-tapped transformer (T1), is used with a fullwave rectifier, D2 and D3, to build up a d.c. voltage across the reservoir capacitor, C19. This voltage is used directly to

provide the supply for the operational amplifier, IC3, and the variable-output buffer amplifier stages.

An integrated circuit regulator (IC4), is used to provide the 5 V supply for the logic circuits. The output voltage of the regulator is set by the values of R14 and R15, with R16 selected to minimise temperature drift. The circuit has a line regulation of 0.5 mV for a change of input voltage of 3 V , and a load regulation of 1.5 mV for a change in load current of 50 mA . Frequency compensation is provided by C2 1 .

For portable operation, the transformer and rectifier components may be omitted, and the d.c. supply (in the range 12 to 18 volts) connected across the reservoir capacitor, C19.

## CONSTRUCTION

The unit was constructed on a p.c.b. the layout of which is shown in Fig. 7 with the component overlay shown in Fig. 8. A careful check should be made that the semiconductors and integrated circuits are correctly orientated. The use of


Fig. 7 P.c.b. layout for the Pulse Generator

## COMPONENTS . . .

| Resistors |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| R1 | 680 |
| R2,R16 | 1 k 5 (2 off) |
| R3 | 1 k |
| R4 | 22k |
| R5 | 1 k 2 |
| R6, R8 | 10k (2 off) |
| R7, R15 | 4 k 7 (2 off) |
| R9 | 100 |
| R10 | 220k |
| R11,R12, R14 | 2 k 2 (3 off) |
| R13 | 220 |
| All resistors $\frac{1}{\text { W W }}$ W\% carbon |  |
| Capacitors |  |
| C1 | $47 \mu$ elect |
| C2, C10, C14, C18 | 100 n (4 off) |
| C3 | 3 n polystyrene |
| C4 | 33 n polystyrene |
| C5 | 330 n |
| C6 | $3 \mu 3$ elect |
| C7 | $33 \mu$ elect |
| C8 | $330 \mu$ elect |
| C9, C15 | 10 n (2 off) |
| C11 | $100 \mu 10 \mathrm{~V}$ elect |
| C12 | $10 \mu$ elect |
| C13 | $1 \mu$ elect |
| C16 | 1 n polystyrene |
| C17, C21 | 100p polystyrene |
| C19 | $470 \mu 25 \mathrm{~V}$ elect |
| C20 | $10 \mu 16 \mathrm{~V}$ elect |

## Potentiometers

| VR1 | $47 k \log$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| VR2 | $22 k \operatorname{lin}$. |
| VR3 | $1 k \operatorname{lin}$ with d.p.s.t. switch |

## Switches

S1
S2
S3

## Semiconductors

| D1 | BZY88 C10V 400 mW Zener |
| :--- | :--- |
| D2, D3 | 1N4001 (2 off) |
| D4 | TIL209 I.e.d. |
| TR1, TR2 | 2N3904 (2 off) |
| IC1 | NE555 |
| IC2 | SN74121P |
| IC3 | $741 P$ |
| IC4 | HA723C |

## Miscellaneous

```
T1 12-0-12V 50mA transformer
FS1 250mA
SK1 B.N.C. round socket
SK2,3,4 RS type 444-703
Control knobs
Case
```



Fig. 8 Component overlay for p.c.b.
integrated circuit holders is also recommended.
The pulse generator is housed in a small aluminium case fitted with a detachable cover. The mains transformer is secured to the printed circuit board using two 4BA nuts and bolts and the board itself is supported by means of two pillars attached to the base of the case. Interconnecting


Fig. 9 Wiring diagram for front panel
wires, from the printed circuit board to the front panel, should be kept as short and as neat as possible. The use of colour coded wires is recommended as this further simplifies construction. The layout of the front panel is shown in the photograph with the corresponding internal wiring shown in Fig. 9. Capacitors C3 to C8 and C11 to C17 are mounted directly on S1 and S2 respectively. The common connection in each case consisting of a short length of $18 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. tinned copper wire formed into a circle of approximate diameter 22 mm . The resulting capacitor assembly being selfsupporting.
The front panel should be labelled using dry transfers and then given a light coating of clear protective lacquer.


THIS environmental thermometer which is capable of measuring temperatures from $-15^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ uses a moving coil meter that can be switched over three ranges $\left(-15^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ to $10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $\left.50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ to display the temperature reading.

The thermometer is easy to calibrate since the zero setting and range controls are independent of each other. This means that once the range is set for one scale, only one calibration point is required for each of the other ranges.

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

One of the problems to overcome when designing stable electronic circuits is the unwanted effect that changes in temperature have on the characteristics of the semiconductors being used. This effect is exploited in the thermistor although this is an unsuitable device for an electronic thermometer since the marked non-linearity of its resistance/ temperature characteristics needs to be compensated for before a linear display on a meter can be obtained.

Since an ordinary silicon transistor is temperature sensitive, with the forward voltage drop of the pn junction varying linearly with the temperature (provided the current flowing through this semiconductor junction is maintained constant) it is ideal for use in a thermometer probe.

All three elements of the thermometer have linear characteristics, the pn junction temperature sensor produces a voltage which is directly proportional to temperature, the voltage amplifier has a linear transfer characteristic and the display element produces a visual reading which is proportional to the voltage fed to it from the amplifier.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The complete circuit diagram of the Environmental Thermometer is shown in Fig. 1. There are two main aspects of
this circuit. One is the constant current generator provided by IC2a and the other is the highly stabilised power supply provided by IC1. Once the latter is achieved, the former is automatically obtained. An integrated circuit regulator, IC1, is used for obtaining a split voltage stabilised supply for the operational amplifiers, IC2a and IC2b. The regulator i.c. is wired up to give a $\pm 7 \mathrm{~V}$ dual supply from a single ended input voltage in the range 18 V to 27 V . The current drawn by the circuit is only a few milliamps which the regulator can supply without the need for current buffer transistors. Thus two or three small PP3 batteries connected in series can operate the circuit for long periods. The advantage of relying on the internal reference diodes in the regulator i.c. is that they are internally temperature compensated.

The transducer pn junction (D3) may either be a silicon diode or the base-emitter junction of a silicon transistor. In the prototype probe a plastic packaged ZTX300 transistor was used to good effect since it is both small and resistant to the corrosive effects of any liquids into which it might be immersed.

In order to keep circuit interconnections as simple as possible, a dual op amp integrated circuit was used for IC2. Op amp IC2a is wired as a constant current generator with its non-inverting input placed at ground potential through R6. Due to the high gain of the op amp, the output voltage always moves sufficiently positive to maintain the inverting input at ground voltage as well. Thus the current through R5 is set at about $7 \mathrm{~V} / 120 \mathrm{k}$ or $60 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ by the ground to -ve rail stabilised voltage. Since the current into pin 1 of the op amp is very small and can be neglected, all the constant current which flows through the pn junction is small enough not to cause self-heating of the junction.

The second op amp IC2b offsets the diode voltage to whatever range is selected and the second provides


Fig. 1. Complete circuit diagram of the Environmental Thermometer
amplification of this voltage so that a deflection on the moving coil meter can be obtained. The offset is provided by the setting of the variable resistors VR1, VR2 and VR3 to give the three ranges as previously specified, and variable resistor VR4 sets the gain of the circuit to give the span of $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ chosen for each range. The voltage gain is the ratio of VR4 to R7. Since the change of input voltage produced by the required range of $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ is $25 \times 2.2 \mathrm{mV}$ or 55 mV , to produce an output voltage change of 2 V requires a gain of $2 \mathrm{~V} / 55 \mathrm{mV}$ or about 37. This value of gain is within the ratio of 500 k (max value of VR4) to R7, (i.e. 50.) Note that since the forward voltage across D3 falls with rising temperature, IC2b is connected as an inverting amplifier. The value of the series resistor R10 is chosen so that, with a maximum output at pin 10 of the op amp (i.e. 2 V ), only enough voltage is applied across the meter to produce full scale deflection. As the resistance and the full scale deflection current of the meter is known it is possible to work out the value of R10 using the equation

$$
R 10=(2 / 1)-R m(k \Omega)
$$

where $I$ is the f.s.d. current for the meter in milliamps and $R \mathrm{~m}$ is its resistance in ohms. The value of Rm can usually be


Internal layout of the Environmental Thermometer
neglected since it is small and the approximation $\mathrm{R} 10=(2 / 1)$ $k \Omega$ can be used. Note that the gain of the amplifier IC2b can be adjusted, so that the value of R10 is by no means critical. However, to avoid the possibility of saturating the amplifier, the maximum output voltage should be measured with a voltmeter so that it is in the range 2 to 4 V .

Switch S1 is a three-pole four-way rotary switch wired so that one position is off and the other three positions select one of the three range resistors VR1, VR2 or VR3. Should more ranges be required this switch can be changed to a two-pole six-way version to accommodate two extra ranges (e.g. $45^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $65^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ).

Incidentally, if the current driving the meter is different from the setting of the range switch the movement of the meter could be damaged. Therefore, diodes D1 and D2 are connected back to back across the meter to provide protection (since the diodes only conduct when the full scale deflection voltage across the meter rises above 0.6 V ). Most meters will tolerate two or three times their f.s.d current.

## CONSTRUCTION

As Fig. 2 shows, all the components can be mounted on a piece of 0.1 in . matrix Veroboard. Check that solder does not bridge between the tracks unintentionally and that the tracks are drilled cleanly at the points indicated. Use holders for the i.c.s since this will make replacement of faulty devices easier, and then check the layout carefully against the circuit diagram.

External connections are required to the switch S 1, the meter, the sensor and the batteries. Note that in order to keep the wiring neat, the two common leads to the batteries are connected together via a spare track on the board. A miniature jack socket was used in the prototype for connecting the pn junction sensor to the circuit.

An aluminium battery clamp is used to hold the PP3 batteries firmly in the case. Once the Veroboard has been fitted to the base of the case and the leads taken to the switch and the meter, four small holes should be drilled carefully through the side of the box so that a screwdriver can reach the variable resistors VR1, VR2, VR3 and VR4 to set the gain and the zero offset of the ranges.


## THE SENSOR

Carefully remove the collector lead from the ZTX300 transistor. Flexible insulated wire should be soldered to the base and emitter leads using sleeving to ensure that they cannot be shorted together. The wires should be passed down the body of a felt pen so that the transistor sits firmly in place at one end. The transistor should be sealed in place using Araldite to ensure that no water or other liquids can penetrate the probe.

| COMPONENTS . |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Resistors |  |
| R1 | 2k2 |
| R2 | 33 |
| R3, R4 | 5 k 6 (2 off) |
| R5, R6 | 120 k (2 off) |
| R7 | 10k |
| R8, R9 | 47 k (2 off) |
| R10 | 1k2 |

Potentiometers

## VR1, VR2, VR3 <br> VR4 <br> 100k 20 turn preset (3 off) 500 k 20 turn preset

## Capacitors

| C1 | $47 \mu$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| C2 | $100 p$ |

## Semiconductors

| D1, D2 | 1N4148 (2 off) |
| :--- | :--- |
| D3 | ZTX300 |
| IC1 | MA 723 |
| IC2 | 747 |

## Miscellaneous

| S1 | 3 pole 4 way rotary switch |
| :--- | :--- |
| SK1 | Min jack socket |
| PL1 | Min jack plug |
| ME1 | 1 mA meter |
| B1 | PP3 battery (2 off) |
| Battery clips | (2 off) |
| Case | $100 \times 120 \times 40 \mathrm{~mm}$ |
| Veroboard |  |

## CALIBRATION

This is fairly straightforward since the range and offset adjustments are independent of each other. The top range $\left(25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ to $\left.50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ is best set first using two cups of water at these two temperatures. A helper is needed here to ensure that these two quantities of water are well stirred and with occasional topping up, are maintained at these temperatures. An accurate ( $\pm 0.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) thermometer should be used. With the sensor at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ adjust VR1 to bring the meter to the $\left(25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ mark on the scale.

With the sensor at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ adjust VR4 to bring the reading to the upper end of the scale. Repeat these two adjustments until the needle swings between the upper and lower scale markings. The range is now set at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the lower point of one scale determined. Now switch the thermometer to the next lower scale $\left(5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ to $\left.30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ and put the probe in the $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ water. Adjust VR4 until the scale reading is $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ which is four fifths of f.s.d. on the meter. This range is now set up, since the gain of the amplifier has already been determined in the first calibration, so that the lower end of this second scale corresponds to $5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Finally, for the lowest scale, stir some crushed ice in water and wait for the temperature to fall to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Adjust VR3 so that the needle reaches two fifths of f.s.d. The lower point of $-15^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ could be reached during a very cold spell in this country but check your deep freeze on this scale for starters.

## SCALE READINGS

It should be obvious from the foregoing that the range chosen for the meter is entirely your own choice, subject to the gain of the op amp being sufficiently high. For example a range of $5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ not $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ would require a gain of $5 \times 37$ or about 200 . Since the maximum gain with the components shown in the circuit is about 50, four times this gain requires VR4 to have a value of about 2 megohms. To a large extent the range chosen is determined by the graduations on the meter ( 25 divisions in steps of 5 for the meter was used in the prototype.)

## IMPROVED STABILITY

If greater stability against ambient temperature changes is required 748 op amps can be used in place of the 741's specified. However, these op amps require external frequency compensation by the connection of a 100 p capacitor between pins 1 and 8 . Otherwise the component values remain the same as in the circuit described.


## LOGIC ANALYSIS TEST KITS

The 20 page professional products catalogue of Continental Specialties Corporation (CSC) has specifications on their following products: 550 MHz Counter, 100 MHz Counter, 50 MHz Counter, 500 MHz Prescaler; Function Generator, Pulse Generator; Digital Pulser, Logic Monitors, Logic Probes, Logical Analysis Test Kits; Breadboarding Equipment-Quick Test Sockets and Bus Strips, "Experimentor" Sockets and Bus Strips, Proto-Boards, Powered Proto-Boards, and i.c. Test Clips.


The Logical Analysis Test Kits comprise a Logic Probe, Digital Pulser, Logic Monitor, Probe Tips, Leads and Adapters, Manuals and Application Guides, all in rugged custom moulded cases. The kits are $£ 127$ and $£ 143$ plus VAT.
Catalogue, price list, order form from CSC UK Ltd, Shire Hill Ind. Est., Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AQ (0799 21682).

## LOGIC INTERPRETER

Introduced by the United States manufacturer Kurz-Kasch Inc. the L1-1000 Logic Interpreter automatically displays static and dynamic states of digital i.c.s in circuit. Logic high, low and transitions are accurate to plus or minus five per cent. All logic levels are current is drawn from the board under test as a fully isolated, regulated power supply accompanies the interpreter.


Singer Products are the exclusive export representatives of Kurz-Kasch and further information can be obtained from-Gil Williams, Electronic Division, Singer Products Company Inc., One World Trade Center, Suite 2365, New York, N.Y. 10048.

## OIGITAL PHOTO TACHOMETER

From Power Instruments of the USA is a touchless, digital photo tachometer, for measuring the r.p.m. of rotating objects from distances of between $\frac{1}{4}$ in and 30 in .

A piece of reflective tape is fixed on the surface of an object, and when the object is rotated a beam of light from the probe is focused on the tape path. A "target eye" lights up on the tachometer, showing when contact is made, and an r.p.m. readout is given on five $\frac{3}{8}$ in l.e.d.s. A memory holds the reading indefinitely.


Being touchless, the tachometer can be used in places awkward to reach, and there is a 24 in cord attached to the probe. The readout is quartz crystal controlled, with an accuracy of $\pm 1$ digit up to 0.03 per cent. There is direct reading up to 30,000 r.p.m.

Powered by ordinary batteries, the model 1891 is provided with an aluminium carrying case, reflective tape and other accessories. It measures $8 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in} \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in} \times 2 \mathrm{in}$ and weighs $1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{lbs}$.

Optional extra accessories include measuring wheels, hand-held or permanent surface mounted to measure linear speed.

Price is $£ 155$, plus VAT and carriage, and it is available from the sole UK importers, Electronic Brokers Lid, 49/53 Pancras Road, London NW1 2QB (01-8377781).


Price of the KIM 1 single board microcomputer was reduced to $£ \mathbf{£ 9} 95$ +VAT in December. Full details from GR Electronics Ltd., Fairoak House, Church Road, Newport, Gwent.


## PRINTOUT CALCULATOR

A new hand-held calculator incorporating its own thermal printer has been introduced by Texas Instruments.

The TI- 5025 operates from a rechargeable battery and has a large vacuum fluorescent display which can be used without the printer to conserve paper.

Functions provided are addition, subtraction, multiplication and division-plus percentage key and a 4-key memory.

It operates with the simple number-entry system used with other hand-held calculators in the Texas Instruments range.

The thermal printer is quiet in operation, has few moving parts and requires no ribbons; thermal-paper rolls are available in packs of three.

The TI-5025 measures $6.7 \times 3.4 \times 1.8$ in $(170 \times 86 \times 46 \mathrm{~mm})$, and is supplied complete with a charger/adaptor, thermal paper and carrying case. VAT inclusive price is $£ 64.95$.

Details from Texas Instruments Limited, European Consumer Division, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK417PA.


## CAR CLOCK

This car clock from Speedograph is connected through the ignition system and when the ignition is off the l.e.d. display is also off, thus preventing undue battery drain. The time keeping circuit remains on. The readout which automatically dims at night reads hours and minutes with a flashing second indicator.

The unit can be mounted using either an adjustable bracket or a self adhesive pad both of which are supplied.

The clock is priced at $£ 27.55$ plus VAT and is available from many accessory shops.

## A-TO-D CONVERTORS

National Semiconductor has added two microprocessor-oriented analogue-to-digital convertor devices to its product range.

Available in both a $3 \frac{1}{2}$ digit version designated ADC 3511, and in a $3 \frac{3}{4}$ digit version designated ADC 3711, the new devices are complementary CMOS circuits that provide addressed binary coded decimal output for digital systems.

Operating from a single isolated 5 V supply, the devices are designed to convert input voltages from -2.00 to +2.00 V . The sign of the input voltage is automatically determined and indicated on the sign output pin, and overflow is indicated by a Hex EEEE output reading as well as by an overflow output pin. Unipolar input voltages do not require the use of isolated supplies.

The ADC 3511 and 3711 have their conversion rates set by an internal oscillator whose frequency may be determined by an external RC network, or can be driven from an external frequency source. The timing of conversions may be controlled and monitored via the Start Conversion input and Conversion Complete output which have been included on both devices.

## STEREO MIXER

This portable four channel mic/line mixer by Soundex Limited was designed for stereo recording and features true PPM or VU metering, stereo gain control for a crossed pair of microphones and two "pan" controls for two spot microphones.


Frequency' response is 20 Hz to 20 kHz , signal to noise ratio is 11 db with $180 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ from 150-600 ohms.

Optional variations are internal rechargeable cells, and XLR or jack connectors.

For further information contact Tony Barnes, Bulgin Electronics Soundex Limited, Park Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire EN 10 7NQ (099 24 64455).

## ALL THE PROJECTS IN EPI

The Libraries and Arts Department of North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council have published an Electronics Projects Index (EPI). This descriptive guide covers over 2,500 projects published by (in alphabetical order) Electronics Today International, Elektor, Everyday Electronics, Practical Electronics, Practical Wireless, Radio and Electronics Constructor, Television, and Wireless World.

Most of the coverage is from January 72 to December 77, and all amendments to October 78 are included. Price is $£ 1.50$ inc. p\&p. Postal Orders and cheques should be made payable to North Tyneside M.B.C.

Copies of the index are available from: $\mathbf{M}$. L. Scaife, Central Library, Northumberland Square, North Shields, Tyne \& Wear NE30 1QU. Enquiries (08945 82811 ).

## FREQUENCY COUNTERS

Davis Electronics announce the introduction of their frequency counters. The basis of the design is an LSI chip which is a seven decade counter. This is extended to a full 8 digits by feeding the processed signal to a single decade counter, that is then decoded and fed to the least significant digit for display. The LSI then counts, decodes and feeds the digit drivers for the other seven digits. A further chip performs the functions of Xtal oscillator, gating dividers and driver, multiplexing signal generator, etc. Other discrete circuitry provides for signal conditioning, shaping, amplification and protection.


A pre-scaler and amplifier provide facilities for extending the 8 digit counter block to 600 Mhz . This is switched in from the front panel. Also provided is switching for gate time and power. A "gate open" l.e.d. indicates when the count is active. A special Xtal in a proportionally controlled Xtal oven is also available.

Full specification and prices from distributors Crael UK Ltd. 7 Hughendon Road, Hastings, Sussex TN34 3TG. (0424 428131).

## ARE YOU BEING CHARGED?

Coinciding with the change of name from Ever Ready (Special Batteries) Limited, Berec (Special Batteries) Limited introduce a range of rechargeable batteries and chargers for the consumer market.

equivalents of HP2, HP11, HP7 and PP3, and three chargers, two for specific batteries and one to take the three cylindrical batteries so that it is possible to charge different sizes at the same time. The chargers will recharge a fully discharged battery in 14-16 hours.

We are sorry $t o$ have to report a devastating fire at the Talk of The Town, Cambridge, 16 businesses were affected including that of Tempus. They are doing all they can to continue their normal service but apologise to anyone experiencing delay.

## VERO ON VIEW

In the interests of their products being in first class condition when they reach the home constructor, Vero are skin packaging Veroboards, Veropins and other accessories.

The full range of newly designed packs can be seen on floor standing displays which will also contain a range of boxes. Component

shops with little floor space are offered a simple wall stand with a limited range of Vero products.

All this, at no extra cost, say Vero.

## MEMORIES THAT LAST

The latest scientific calculator from Casio has seven non-volatile memories which are powered by separate batteries that can hold stored figures when power is switched offovernight, or for days or weeks at a time, even while exhausted main cells are being changed.

A powerful machine with 59 built-in functions, the FX-360 also offers a choice of power supplies: normal penlight batteries, rechargeable NiCad power pack, or a.c. mains via an adaptor.

Calculation capacity is 10 digits, plus two in the exponent. Trig functions and their inverses are handled in three types of measure, in degrees, radians or gradient. Statistical scope includes standard deviations, linear regression, or fitting logarithmic curves, exponential curves or power curves.

All the usual log, trig and hyberbolic functions are provided, plus permutations/combinations, rectangular/polar conversion, and factorials. The unit also handles fractions and many types of problems involving percentages. It copes with parentheses up to eight levels, and features a random number generator.


There is one independent accumulating memory plus six constant memories. Their contents are fully protected by two silver oxide batteries when main power is switched off.

The recommended retail price of the FX360 is $£ 59.95$ including VAT. For further information contact Casio Electronics Co Ltd, 28 Scrutton Street, London EC2A 4TY.


# Micrapracessor Miracle! 



## The Micros $\mathbf{Z 8 0}$ based system

enthusiasts, but to anyone who is prepared to spend a few days learning the rudiments of BASIC language. The homecomputer has arrived!

Already small-business men, doctors, dentists, and hotel owners, computer programmers and of course, electronics enthusiasts, are rushing to buy one of the few systems already on the market, even though a home-computer system worth the name will cost $£ 500$ or more!

Five hundred pounds may seem like a great deal of money, but thanks to the microprocessor, you will get a computer which would have cost $£ 10,000$ and filled a fair sized room, ten years ago.

Not surprisingly, the home-computer concept originated in the United States, and its proliferation there has been extremely rapid, catching even the manufacturers off guard to begin with. In the United Kingdom, economic constraints will probably result in a slower build up, but already that build up has begun!

## WHAT IS A HOME-COMPUTER?

A home-computer (also called micro-computer or personal-computer) has no universally accepted definition. Some manufacturers may wish you to believe that their small machine-code micro with a hexadecimal keyboard is a home computer, when in my view it certainly is not. I have also heard of avant garde computer hobbyists with old IBM systems installed in their garage, and this too falls outside my definition, which is as follows:

A home-computer is a small, low cost, general purpose digital computing system which uses an LSI microprocessor chip as its CPU (Central Processor Unit) and which is capable of storing and executing programs written in a high level language such as BASIC or PASCAL.

To get a clearer idea of what I mean, let's take as an example one of the more popular home-computers currently available, the Commodore PET (left). As you can see, the


The Tandy TRS 80 which is supplied complete with a video monitor, mains transformer and cassette recorder
PET is a fully integrated system which requires only a mains socket for instant use. Inputs are entered via a typewriter style keyboard, and outputs are displayed on a built-in 9 in CRT screen which is arranged as 25 lines of 40 characters each. To the left of the keyboard is a built-in cassette recorder.

Using standard audio cassettes, programs or data entered via the keyboard may be recorded for later use, and commercial software such as business programs or games can be entered in cassette form without recourse to any tedious typing. Inside PET there lives a 65008 bit microprocessor surrounded by 8 K bytes of RAM, 14 K bytes of ROM, cassette, keyboard, and screen interface logic, and a bidirectional input/output port which can be used for a variety of external peripherals. The 8 K of RAM forms a read/ write memory area into which programs or data may be entered from the keyboard or cassette. Data is retained by this memory only while the power is "ON" of course, so it is normal for PET users to save any useful RAM data as a cassette tape data-file before the end of a programming session. The 14 K of ROM appears to the microprocessor very much like the RAM, but in this case programs are stored in the mask programmed ROM chips during manufacture, programs which cannot be lost or modified and which form the all important firmware operating system and BASIC language interpreter. Putting all the system software in ROM is a technique pioneered by the PET and it confers several advantages over other machines which


The Research Machines $\mathbf{3 8 0 Z}$ system


## The Apple II system

require these facilities to be loaded into RAM from a cassette or paper tape:
(1) ROM is cheaper than RAM. This means the economics are better because RAM is traded for ROM.
(2) No load-delay is incurred while cassettes or paper tape are read.
(3) The software is more reliable because ROMs, unlike cassette tapes, do not wear out. The main disadvantage is, of course, that you are stuck with the BASIC language which PET is born with, and if your fancy should later turn to PASCAL or Assembly language, there is not much you can do!

## WHAT DO THEY DO?

The PET then, is a typical home-computer, but there are many variations on the theme. Some home computers require a separate VDU and keyboard but display their outputs on an ordinary television via a UHF modulator; some provide a graphics, or picture-forming facility; still others have full-colour graphics, and so on. If there is one thing that they all have in common, it is their ability to run programs written in a high level language, usually BASIC.

## BASIC

BASIC (Beginners All Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) has been around for a long time and was originally conceived as an aid to teaching computer science and


The Nascom I is supplied in kit form and requires a power supply and VDU for operation
programming subjects. BASIC is an interpretive language, unlike for example FORTRAN which is compiled. Next month we will be examining home computer software in more detail and the distinction between interpreters and compilers will be discussed. For the moment all you need to remember is that interpretive languages are very easy to use, but quite slow in operation. In computer science terms this makes BASIC a less "powerful" language than say FORTRAN, but this is perhaps misleading because BASIC contains all the math, trig, and data handling functions you are likely to need, and most versions provide an arithmetic precision which is as good as, or better than, your trusty pocket calculator. For most home computer applications, the


## S100 Bus board

slowness of BASIC programs is no real disadvantage, and anyway entering and debugging programs is actually much faster with BASIC because there is no wait while a compiler is used to process the newly entered program.

If you know anything at all about microprocessors and their instruction sets, just spend a few seconds considering the problem of producing a machine code program which will accept keyboard inputs, carry out decimal division, and print an answer. The keyboard input routine alone might take as many as 100 program lines, depending on the hardware, and a similar number might be needed to control a VDU or printer. The decimal arithmetic routine could be very tricky indeed and may need as many as 500 lines of code!


## S100 Bus board

Now see how easy it is in BASIC. All you need to type in order to load the program is:

10 INPUT A, B
20 PRINT A/B
30 END
and to set it running you type: RUN
followed by a pair of decimal numbers in response to the ? prompts printed by BASIC. Improving this simple program is easy. Adding another line:

5 PRINT "ENTER TWO DECIMAL NUMBERS A, B"
provides a better prompt, and changing line 20 to:
20 PRINT " $A / B=" ; A / B$
gives an answer which is self explanatory. Changing line 30 to:

30 GOTO 5
removes the need to type RUN for each new pair of numbers, and of course, other enhancements can be added just as easily!

## TRANSPARENT

In home-computers then, the microprocessor chip together with its registers and instruction set is more or less transparent to the programmer. I say "more or less" because most home computers will allow you to dabble in machine language programming if you really must, and in fact this facility is very useful for anyone who wishes to hook their computer up to gadgets in the outside world, as many electronics hobbyists undoubtedly will.

Using a high level language, doing useful or entertaining things with a microprocessor is easy. Within a few hours of picking up a BASIC manual, you will be able to write small programs which sort lists of numbers into ascending or descending order, write amusing messages on the VDU, or calculate the surface area of a sphere given its diameter. After a few weeks of practice you will be writing programs which plot graphs or balance the household accounts or play games such as NIM with you. If your home computer has an interface port or ports, you will be able to attach all sorts of


A Universal S100 prototyping board designed by Vero Electronics for breadboarding microprocessor systems
external hardware to your system and control it via a program. In most cases you can still use BASIC to talk to your hardware. Home computer BASIC interpreters often have facilities to link you with peripherals, either by direct reference to memory locations using instructions such as PEEK and POKE, or by the ability to call complete machine code subroutines which you can write yourself.

## S100 BUS SYSTEM

Home-computers of the sort typified by PET are certainly the cheapest way into computing. You can learn and enjoy BASIC programming, make your system work for a living, and perhaps even connect it up to some of your own hardware. Unfortunately, there is a snag! After a few months or years, many users will want to squeeze more from their system than it can easily provide. At this point many people will wish that their system was a little more flexible and expandable, and this is where an extra investment at the start could pay dividends.

For a few hundred pounds more, it is possible to buy a home computer based on the S 100 bus which will allow the later addition of all sorts of extra hardware and software so that one need never feel cramped. The S100 bus was actually introduced by the very first home-computer, the MITS Altair 8800 which appeared way back in 1975 . Since then, many other home-computer designs have been
introduced which use the S100 bus, and many firms (well over 100, world-wide) manufacture circuit boards using the S100 format. The S100 bus was designed around the 8080 microprocessor chip, but since its introduction several other microprocessors, including the $Z 80$, the 6800 and the 6500 have been built into S100 systems. In addition to microprocessor CPU cards, it is also possible to buy a bewildering variety of static and dynamic read/write memory cards, serial and parallel interface cards, floppy disc controller cards, cassette interface cards, logic analyser cards, PROM programmer cards, floating point arithmetic cards, and even speech recogniser and synthesiser cards!

I am sure from the foregoing, you will agree that the S 100 bus makes for a versatile home-computer, but what is the bus and why is it so versatile?

## BUS ORGANISED

Many large computers are "bus organised". which means that all circuit cards connect to a comprehensive back-plane where all signal paths are common to each card. This means,

Fig. 1.1. The $\mathbf{S 1 0 0}$ Bus connections

| pin 1 | +8 Volts | pin 51 | +8 Volts |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| pin 2 | +16 Volts | pin 52 | -16 Volts |
| pin 3 | XRDY | pin 53 | SSW DSB |
| pin 4 | V10 | pin 54 | EXT CLR |
| pin 5 | V11 | pin 55 |  |
| pin 6 | V12 | pin 56 |  |
| pin 7 | V13 | pin 57 |  |
| pin 8 | V14 | pin 58 |  |
| pin 9 | V15 | pin 59 |  |
| pin 10 | V16 | pin 60 |  |
| pin 11 | V17 | pin 61 |  |
| pin 12 |  | pin 62 |  |
| pin 13 |  | pin 63 |  |
| pin 14 |  | pin 64 |  |
| pin 15 |  | pin 65 |  |
| pin 16 |  | pin 66 |  |
| pin 17 |  | pin 67 |  |
| pin 18 | STATUS DSBL | pin 68 | MWRITE |
| pin 19 | C/CDSBL | pin 69 | PS |
| pin 20 | UNPROTECT | pin 70 | PROTECT |
| pin 21 | SS | pin 71 | RUN |
| pin 22 | ADDR DSBL | pin 72 | PRDY |
| pin 23 | DO DSBL | pin 73 | PINT |
| pin 24 | $\bigcirc_{2}$ | pin 74 | PHOLD |
| pin 25 | $\theta_{1}$ | pin 75 | PRESET |
| pin 26 | PHLDA | pin 76 | PSYNC |
| pin 27 | PWAIT | pin 77 | PWR |
| pin 28 | PINTE | pin 78 | PDBIN |
| pin 29 | A5 | pin 79 | A0 |
| pin 30 | A4 | pin 80 | A1 |
| pin 31 | A3 | pin 81 | A2 |
| pin 32 | A15 | pin 82 | A6 |
| pin 33 | A12 | pin 83 | A7 |
| pin 34 | A9 | pin 84 | A8 |
| pin 35 | D01 | pin 85 | A13 |
| pin 36 | DO0 | pin 86 | A14 |
| pin 37 | A10 | pin 87 | A11 |
| pin 38 | D04 | pin 88 | DO2 |
| pin 39 | D05 | pin 89 | DO3 |
| pin 40 | D06 | pin 90 | D07 |
| pin 41 | D12 | pin 91 | D14 |
| pin 42 | D13 | pin 92 | D15 |
| pin 43 | D17 | pin 93 | D16 |
| pin 44 | SMI | pin 94 | D11 |
| pin 45 | SOUT | pin 95 | D10 |
| pin 46 | SINP | pin 96 | SINTA |
| pin 47 | SMEMR | pin 97 | SWO |
| pin 48 | SHLTA | pin 98 | SSTACK |
| pin 49 | CLOCK | pin 99 | POC |
| pin 50 | GND | pin 100 | GND |

for example, that pin 1 or pin $N$ on one edge connector is connected to pin 1 or pin $N$ on every other edge connector on the back-plane. The bus contains address, data, control and power lines and, in general, boards may be plugged into the bus in any slot, regardless of their function. In some ways this method of interconnection is very wasteful. Not all boards need all the facilities available on the bus; some need very few, and yet every board must connect to the bus via a multi-contact (and therefore expensive) edge connector. This inefficiency is more than made up for by the resulting versatility though, and bus organised systems are the norm for large computers.

The S100 bus (Fig. 1.1) is a very successful attempt to bring the large computer bus concept into the homecomputer arena, and although there are one or two minor problems with it, its very popularity shows the vision and skill of the original'MITS designers. Configured around a one hundred pin edge connector, the S100 bus has a 16 bit address bus, two unidirectional 8 bit data buses, 8 status lines, 5 control lines and a host of miscellaneous functions. Power is supplied to the bus in unregulated form so that individual board regulators can be used to reduce power line noise and distribute heat throughout the case.

## BUILDING A HOME-COMPUTER

Using the S100 bus concept, you can literally design and build your own home-computer system.

To get started you need (at least) an S100 back-plane, a CPU board, a memory board, and a terminal interface board. The CPU board usually has a ROM or PROM included which contains simple monitor software to allow you to enter, modify, and run machine code programs in hexadecimal, so this minimum system is on a par with the (much cheaper)


A suitable rack system for use with an S100 backplane. (Vero Electronics)
evaluation cards. System expansion can begin with a cassette interface board. This provides the ability to save programs and also the ability to load commercial software such as BASIC. This four board system is at about the same level as a PET, but of course it is much more flexible. Unfortunately, when you add in the price of a power supply, a VDU, a cassette recorder and the necessary commercial software, it is also likely to be more expensive. It really depends on how much you make up yourself from kits. S100 memory board kits are particularly common, allowing electronics hobbyists to save some money and enjoy themselves at the same timel Power supplies can also be made up inexpensively by those who know how, unregulated supplies of plus 8 , plus 16 and minus 16 volts are required, but beware-the current requirements of a large system can be a surprise!

## WINNER

The basic S100 system then, is only competitive with non-bus home computers under special circumstances, but from this point on, the S100 wins all the way. Want more RAM? Just plug in extra S100 boards up to the 64 K maximum. Want to program PROMs? Plug in a Bytesaver board which provides sockets for, and programs, your 2708 PROMs. With a large RAM memory, you can use any software you like, BASIC, PASCAL, ASSEMBLER, all are possible. The cassette interface board probably handles more than one recorder anyway, so you can add the ability to copy tapes and sort files for only the cost of an extra cassette recorder. When it comes to serial or parallel interfaces for your "homemade" peripherals, there is a huge choice of S100 boards to help, and there are even S100 matrix boards so that you can wire up your own "special" interfaces and plug them into your system.

Finally, when you even outgrow all of these facilities, you can take the giant step and add a floppy disc controller and a drive or two to your system, and thus gain the ability to keep hundreds of kilobytes of data available for instant access. With floppy discs in your system you can swop from BASIC to ASSEMBLER in a few seconds, and keep all your programs and data in the form of easily edited, named files. We shall be returning to the subject of floppy discs later, but a final word on "buses" is now appropriate.

While the S 100 bus is by far the most popular home computer bus, it is not the only one, and by being a "no compromise" design it is expensive. Another useful bus is championed by SWTPC (South West Technical Products Corporation) in their 6800 based system. The SWTPC bus has become known as the SS50, and it is inherently less expensive to use than the S100. Several firms in the U.S.A. now produce SS50 compatible boards. Other bus systems may be encountered occasionally. Intel have a very popular series of professional computer boards known as the SBC series for example, and these do turn up in the hobby market under the name of SBC-bus boards. No doubt there will be


A typical SBC board designed by Intel
many other contenders, for the rewards of becoming a "standard" are high. A European bus standard will be particularly useful, when it finally becomes established.

## HOME-COMPUTER PERIPHERALS

A comprehensive list of possible home computer peripherals would be a very long one, but fortunately there is a short list of useful peripherals which have universal appeal, and a treatment of home-computers would not be complete without a look at these. In order of priority, these are as follows:
(1) ASCll keyboard
(2) VDU
(3) Cassette system
(4) Printer
(5) Floppy disc system.

A practical home computer system will normally have at least the first two items on this list.

## KEYBOARDS

An ASCII keyboard is the minimum input device needed for a home computer because high level languages depend on the use of the full ASCII alphabet with punctuation and control characters (Fig. 1.2). ASCII keyboards, in the form of a full set of keys mounted on a printed circuit card, along with an encoder chip and debounce circuitry, are widely available at low cost. These keyboards usually produce a parallel 8 bit code ( 7 bit ASCII +1 parity bit), and this data format can be interfaced directly with a parallel

| LSD MSD |  | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ 000 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ 001 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \\ 010 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3 \\ 011 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4 \\ 100 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5 \\ 101 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 6 \\ 110 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7 \\ 111 \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 0000 | NUL | DLE | SP | 0 | @ | P | 1 | p |
| 1 | 0001 | SOH | DC1 | ! | 1 | A | 0 | a | q |
| 2 | 0010 | STX | DC2 | " | 2 | B | R | b | 1 |
| 3 | 0011 | ETX | DC3 | \# | 3 | C | S | c | s |
| 4 | 0100 | EOT | OC4 | \$ | 4 | D | T | $d$ | $t$ |
| 5 | 0101 | ENG | NAK | \% | 5 | E | $U$ | - | U |
| 6 | 0110 | ACK | SYN | \& | 6 | F | V | 1 | $v$ |
| 7 | 0111 | BEL | ETB | , | 7 | G | W | 9 | w |
| 8 | 1000 | BS | CAN | 1 | 8 | H | $X$ | h | x |
| 9 | 1001 | HT | EM | , | 9 | 1 | Y | i | Y |
| A | 1010 | LF | SUB | - |  | $J$ | $z$ | , | 2 |
| $B$ | 1011 | $V T$ | ESC | + | ; | K | [ | k | t |
| C | 1100 | FF | FS |  | $<$ | L | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| D | 1101 | CR | GS | - | = | M | 1 | m | F |
| E | 1110 | SO | RS | - | $>$ | N | $\uparrow$ | $\pi$ | $\sim$ |
| F | 1111 | SI | VS | 1 | ? | $\square$ | $\leftarrow$ | 0 | DEL |

Fig. 1.2. Full ASCII alphabet with punctuation and control characters
microprocessor port if you write your own (simple) driver software. Most home computer operating systems already have driver software for a serial interface, and to make the cheap keyboards interface to this, it will be necessary to add a UART (Universal, Asynchronous, Receiver, Transmitter)


## Keyboard layout

chip to the basic keyboard encoder. Home computer serial interface ports are typically of the RS232N24 type, an international standard based on a 25 way D type connector which represents a logic one as -12 volts, and a logic zero as +12 volts. S 100 serial interface cards can be programmed to operate at a range of speeds from about 10 characters per second, up to about 960 characters per second, to suit the peripheral to which they are to be connected. Fig. 1.3 shows the range of standard serial
interface speeds, along with their associated "baud rates". For a keyboard alone, there is no point in using anything faster than 110 baud, because you can't type any faster, but

BAUD SPEED

| 110 | 10 |
| ---: | ---: |
| 300 | 30 |
| 600 | 60 |
| 1,200 | 120 |
| 2,400 | 240 |
| 4,800 | 480 |
| 9,600 | 960 |
| 19,200 | 1,920 |

Fig. 1.3. Standard serial interface speeds and their associated "baud rates"
keyboards are nearly always used with a printer or a VDU, and in the case of the VDU anyway, the higher baud rates can be useful.

## VDU SYSTEMS

VDU systems are the cheapest way to display home computer generated outputs, and it is possible to buy, for around $£ 500$ or less, a complete "glass-teletype" which has a keyboard and a display screen. "Glass teletypes" such as the Lyme 4000 series, are ideal for use with home computers of the S100 type. They can operate over a wide range of baud speeds, and are easily hooked up to any RS232/V24 serial port to provide full two-way communication facilities. An even cheaper alternative is to


## A Lyme 4000 VDU system

use a simple ASCII keyboard for input, and use a standard TV set or monitor for output. In this case the home computer itself has to provide the screen refresh memory and character generator functions and, of course, there are S100 boards which can do just that. Using a TV as a VDU is alṣo a popular ploy for the cheaper home-computer designs because it saves the cost of a special display monitor and does away with the need for UARTS and serial interface cards. Some designs have been published which describe the production of television based VDUs for less than $£ 100$, such as the PE VDU, but in general these have been parallelload, non-keyboard designs which are only to be recommended to those who can produce their own driver software and interface arrangements.

## CASSETTE SYSTEMS

While you run your home computer programs you keep them in RAM, but when you hit the OFF switch, they're gone for good unless you can save them on some permanent storage medium. By changing your RAM data into serial form, and sending out one audio tone for a logic "zero" and another for a logic "one", you can store all those precious data and programs on an audio cassette recorder, and load them back into RAM whenever you choose. There is no need to modify the cassette recorder, and the interface circuitry is fairly simple, so simple in fact that many cassette recording standards have appeared which are unfortunately not compatible. The closest thing yet to a universal cassette recording protocol is the 300 baud "Kansas City" or C.U.T.S. standard which uses 2.4 kHz for a logic "one" and 1.2 kHz for a logic "zero". This has proved to be usable with a wide range of cassette recorders and has shown itself to be very reliable. By no means everyone uses this standard, however, and it is unwise to buy software in cassette form without making sure it is in a format compatible with one's own system!

The use of two cassette recorders is a great improvement to any system because it allows cassette copying and file sorting. It is, for example, possible to add a second (external) cassette unit to the PET, and most S100 cassette interface cards can control more than one as supplied. If you build up your own S100 home-computer, a cassette interface will allow you to buy and use BASIC interpreters, assemblers, and other software from the wide range now advertised in cassette form.

## PRINTERS

Although I would recommend the use of a VDU rather than a bulky, noisy and unreliable teletypewriter for use with a home computer, there are always occasions when the ability to print-out a program or graph is very desirable. You can of course use a teletypewriter to provide this function, but a neater solution is to use a small stand-alone printer of the type which is now becoming available at low cost, and to only turn it on when you really need a printed copy. These


The Tandy TRS 80 printer uses 4 in wide electrostatic paper small new printers can be purchased with either a parallel interface (which is cheaper), or with a standard RS232/V24 serial interface (which will plug straight in to most systems). The printers use a variety of print-head designs, but to me the type which use electro-sensitive aluminiumised paper shows the most promise. Often containing a microprocessor of their own, these useful peripherals can operate much faster than a traditional teletype and some can also be used as a plotter for graphics output. The PET also has its own special add-on printer, known as the 2020, which plugs straight in to the parallel port provided.
Next month: Software.



PART 1 covered the principle of electrosensitive printing, character formation, and gave the circuit diagram with a description of how the interface works.

In this part the driver circuits and power supply are described, along with the software necessary to run the printer with a microcomputer system.

## ELECTRODE DRIVER

To melt the aluminium coating and produce a dot on the paper will, as you can imagine, take a fair amount of current, albeit for a short space of time. The driver circuit shown in Fig. 2.1 amplifies the output from the character generator chip sufficiently to achieve this. It operates in the following way.

When an output from the character generator chip pulses active low the BC2 12 level changing transistor is turned on, supplying base drive current to the BD189.

When the BD189 turns on it throws 24 V across the electrode which burns the dot on the paper. Obviously not a circuit to leave with its input stuck low!

## THE MOTOR DRIVER

The motor driver has a similar "front end" (Fig. 2.2). The motor flip-flop $\overline{\mathrm{Q}}$ going active low, turns on the BC2 12. This causes a positive voltage to be switched tolthe bases of the complementary power transistors. The 2N3053 turns on, supplying power to the motor, which will hopefully run.

When the motor flip-flop $\overline{\mathrm{Q}}$ output returns high and the BC2 12 is turned off, the power transistor bases will revert to a large negative voltage. The 2N3053 will turn off and the motor will develop a large back e.m.f. This will turn on the 2 N 4037 which dissipates the stored energy.

## POWER SUPPLIES

The voltages required for the system are, $+5 \mathrm{~V},-12 \mathrm{~V}$ and -24 V . The +5 volts is required for the interface logic. As this is all MOS, the current requirement is low (typically 70 mA ) and so the host microcomputer system should have the capacity to supply this. The printer motor and electrodes work off a -24 V rail and require quite high values of current for short durations of time. This seems to average out at around 130 mA during printing. A good transformer preferably screened, of 5VA minimum and an output of 25 V or greater will be required (see Fig. 2.3). The -12 V supply is required solely to produce a bias voltage ( Vgg ) to the character generator chip. The tolerance here is not particularly tight, so a Zener diode is used to pick the requisite voltage from the -24 V rail. The actual circuit was built up on Veroboard and mounted on the transformer (Fig. 2.4).

To avoid component damage the supplies must be switched in the following sequence:
on-First +5 V , and -12 V , then -24 V
off-First -24 V , and then -12 V and +5 V
This action can be realised by a 4-pole 3-way lever switch (PO 1000 type), or rotary wafer switch, the wiring of which is shown in Fig. 2.5.

## CIRCUIT LAYOUT

With relatively large current pulses and motor starter currents so prevalent in this circuit, protecting noise prone logic circuitry is very important. Circuit layout is obviously crucial (see Figs. 2.5 and 2.6).

The first requirement is that the larger current carrying elements of the circuit, be grouped together and kept away from the more noise prone logic devices. Inputs and outputs must be kept separate. On the layout diagram the pickup coil, reed, and other inputs enter on one side of the circuit board. Whilst the motor driver output and electrode driver outputs leave at the other end of the board. The separation of these parts of the circuit even extends to supplies. The 5 V line is brought in, via capacitors, to the logic at one end of the board. The 5 V supply for the drivers, comes via another wire and enters the circuit at the driver end of the board. The OV line is also separated; in fact a low value resistor, R (10 Ohms), is inserted between the logic and driver OV lines to enhance noise immunity.

The final anti-noise measure is to place 100 n capacitors across the $O V$ and 5 V lines about the circuit. These are shown on Fig. 2.6, which gives pin-out information for all the integrated circuits and transistors used.


EG25
Fig. 2.1. Print electrode/head drivers



E627
Fig. 2.5. System wiring. The supply line to which the OV relates is shown in brackets. The two OV systems are linked by a low value resistor

## BOXING

The main box used to house the prototype was chosen primarily because it happened to be lying about at the time of building! The circuit board was fixed to one side leaving the majority of the space free for the power supply and the cable runs. (Fig. 2.7 shows dimensions and internal layout.) The printer, its connector and its paper holder were mounted on top of the box (see Fig. 2.8).

During development lengthy printing runs were achieved
using no paper holder at all. Long lengths of printing paper were simply pulled off the roll and allowed to run through the printer. Although this worked well, it was thought that a more business-like approach was needed. Therefore the paper roll was placed on a mandrel with grooves notched at each end (Fig. 2.9). This assembly then sits in the roll holder which is screwed to the top of the box behind the printer. The paper roll holder was made from 16 gauge brass strip.


$V_{D O}=$ PIN $1 / 4$
VSS $^{2}=$ PIN 7
MC 16011 CP
圆


बффф申ф $V_{D D}=$ PIN 14
$V_{S S}=$ PIN 7

MM 74C14
 $V_{D O}=P I N 1$
$V_{S S}=P I N 8$
IN 13816 N. MC14050 CP

## CONSTRUCTORS NOTE

The Matsushita electrosensitive printer is available from Datac Ltd., Tudor Road, Broadheath, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 5TN. (Telephone 061-941 2361). Although type $245 / \mathrm{L} / 40$ is specified, type $245 / \mathrm{L} / 20$ may be supplied, preset for 40 colurnns.

An alternative supplier for this and most other components is Technomatic Ltd.

It was not mentioned in Part 1 that construction requires the use of a 15 -way edge connector to link the Matsushita printer to the main control unit. This is Amphenol type 143-015-01, available from Celdis for $£ 2.74$ inclusive of handling charge. Celdis Ltd, 37/39 Loverock Road, Reading, Berks, RG3 1 ED.


Fig. 2.7. Internal layout


Fig. 2.8. Printer mounting. Fig. 1.1. last month showed the paper at -24 V and the electrode energised at 0 V . The reverse is of course true, otherwise the printer casing would need to be insulated from the control box cabinet. However, some mechanical insulation from vibration is still advisable, and this can be done by sleeving the printer mounting lugs with rubber grommets

## SOFTWARE

The purpose of the software is to present data to the interface for conversion to printing pulses, whilst monitoring the status of the printer. The DUMP routine will also allow the printing of memory contents along with address information.

Although the system only uses six of the seven bits used in the Standard ASCII code, it will print all capital letters, numbers and symbols from the character set.

The only control characters required are Carriage Return, and End of Text, both of which are recognised by the software. For Carriage Return the ASCII code ODH is retained. For the End of Text character a non-standard code is used, FFH. In fact the software will terminate printing if it endounters any character byte with bit 7 set. Therefore it is important to remember that if.printing text, the byte after the

PRINTER TO MAIN UNIT CONNECTIONS

| Pin No. | Signal |
| :---: | :--- |
| A | Reed |
| B | Pick-up coil |
| C | OV for P/U coil \& Reed |
| D | Motor + |
| E | Motor - |
| F | Head \& Pinch Roller Common |
| H | N.C. |
| J | 1st Dot |
| K | 2nd Dot |
| L | 3rd Dot |
| M | 4th Dot |
| N | 5th Dot |
| P | 6th Dot |
| R | 7th Dot |
| S | N.C. |

## EXTERNAL CONNECTOR TO $\mu$ COMPUTER

| Pin No. | Signal |
| :---: | :--- |
| A | DO |
| B | D1 |
| C | D2 |
| D | D3 |
| E | D4 |
| F | D5 |
| H | Print command $(\overline{P C})$ |
| J $\& X$ | Data Request |
| W \& | $+5 V$ supply |
| M | OV |

[E624]
ALL DIMS IN mm
Fig. 2.9. Paper roll holder. The holder can be made of alloy sheeting. In the prototype the bobbin was made from brass rod, but a simpler solution would be to use wooden dowel, and insert screws in each end to key into the roller slots
last character should contain FFH.
The software for the prototype is written in $\mathrm{Z80}$ assembler code and the peripheral chip used is the $Z 80 \mathrm{PIO}$. Conversion to other microprocessor instruction sets and peripheral chips should not present too much difficulty, especially as fairly detailed flow charts are included in the article.

## INPUT OUTPUT REQUIREMENTS

The I/O requirements of the system are as follows:
5 outputs, latched, for DO-D5
1 output, latched, for PRINT COMMAND ( $\overline{\mathrm{PC}}$ )
1 input, unlatched, for DATA REQUEST (DATA REQ)

In the prototype system the PIO was programmed to operate in Mode 3, the bit mode. Bit 0 to bit 6 were programmed as outputs and Bit 7 was programmed as an input (see Fig. 2.10). It may be cheaper in some cases to use two separate ports, one for input and one for output. A latched I/O device such as the Intel 8212 could be used for the outputs, and a separate simple tristate buffer part could be used for the DATA REQ input. This would require only slight alteration to the software.

## SYSTEM SOFTWARE

The majority of the software is involved with the DUMP routine. The actual PRINT routine itself is relatively small. We shall look at this routine firstand then see how it fits into the DUMP programme.

## PRINT

The PRINT routine's function is to set the printer in motion and to sequentially present data to the interface at the required time. It also detects the carriage return and end of text codes and actually performs these control functions.
There are only 2 rules for its use:
(a) The Start address of the text buffer must be in the HL register pair on entry.
(b) That the end of text code (FFH) must be in the first memory location, after the text to be printed.
For example, say we want to print the word "HELLO", the ASCII code of which starts at memory location 2000 H . B, efore entry to the print routine HL must be set to 2000 H , and the text buffer should appear as in Fig. 2.12.

The flowchart for the PRINT routine is as Fig. 2.11 and its operation is as follows:

The peripheral chip (if used) is programmed. A downcounter (the character per line counter) is preset. This enables the processor to determine when it has filled the line.

The system activates the printer by generating a "low" to $\overline{P C}$. It waits for DATA REQ to go active then moves the first character byte to the accumulator. Before outputting the character, bit 7 is tested. If set it is interpreted as an end of text character. If not set, it is then compared with ODH to check if it is a carriage return. If not, then the routine decides it is a valid character and outputs it for printing. The character per line counter is decremented and checked for 0 at this time to see if a line has been filled. After printing, the text buffer pointer ( HL ), is incremented to point to the next character and the process is repeated.

If a carriage return code is detected the routine calls the subroutine SPACES, which repeatedly outputs the SPACE code to the interface until the end of the current line. (When the character per line counter $=0$.) A delay routine is then called to give the print-head time to return to the beginning of the next line, the routine then proceeds as before.

When the end of text character is detected the subroutine SPACES is again called, but after its completion a return code is loaded into the accumulator and PRINT is exited.

The subroutines used by PRINT are detailed in Figs. 2.13 and 2.14.

The printer system will run with the PRINT routine alone, for printing text and program listings. All the rest of the system software is used for the memory DUMP function, PRINT is called by the DUMP program as a subroutine. PRINT and its subroutines appear towards the end of the system software listing. It actually starts on line 143.

Fig. 2.10. PIO allocation

| 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1/P | D/P | 0/P | $0 / \mathrm{P}$ | $0 / \mathrm{P}$ | 018 | $0 / \mathrm{P}$ | $0 / \mathrm{P}$ |
| OATA | $\overline{P C}$ | D5 | 06 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00 |

## DUMP

As previously mentioned the DUMP routine enables the user to print out the contents of areas of memory.

Firstly the hexadecimal memory address is printed, then the contents of that location and the following seven locations are printed, also in hexadecimal. The next line begins with the start address +8 , followed by the contents of the next eight locations, and so on until the specified finish address is reached. Carriage return and end of text control characters are inserted automatically by the software.

The organisation of the software is as Fig. 2.15. DUMP is the controlling routine, which calls the conversion routine, the compare routine and the print line routine. This in turn calls PRINT and its associated routines, which have already been described.


| location | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HEX contents | 08 | 05 | OA | OA | OF | FF |
|  | H | E | ᄂ | L | 0 | EOT |

Fig. 2.12. Text buffer example
Fig. 2.13. PRNT flowchart (PRINT subroutine)
Fig. 2.14. SPACES flowehart (PRINT subroutine)

Fig. 2.15. Software organisation
DELAY
DELAY
$E 630$

Fig. 2.16. Line buffer organisation


## OPERATION

DUMP operates by creating a line buffer in RAM, where it inserts the address, the spaces and the contents of the eight locations (see Fig. 2.16).

It then calls the PRINT routine to print that line. Each location and its spaces are referred to as a "frame" of four bytes. The line buffer consists of four address bytes and eight frames. It is filled in the following way:

The Start address is loaded into HL to serve as an indirect pointer (see Fig. 2.17). It is also loaded into DE where the subroutine CON16B converts it to hexadecimal and then to ASCII. The resulting four ASCII characters are placed at the beginning of the line buffer by CON 16B. The line buffer pointer (IX) and the frame counter (B) are initialised. IX and C are used to place the first two spaces into the line buffer (see Fig. 2.16).


## SOFTWARE LISTING FOR Z80 WORKING




The first DUMP byte is then "fetched" from the start address by use of HL . It is then converted to ASCII characters using BTOHEX and placed in the line buffer using DE and IX. The first frame is now complete.

HL is now incremented to point at the next DUMP byte, but before being used it is compared with the DUMP finish address using the COMP routine. On returning from COMP the Accumulator is tested for the equality code OOH , if $\mathrm{A}=$ FFH there is no equality and the routine loops back to fill the next frame.

When all eight frames have been filled and the frame counter is at zero, the routine PRLN is called. PRLN inserts the end of text code at the end of the line buffer and causes the Processor to exchange register banks. It then calls the previously described PRINT routine to print the line buffer contents.

On returning from PRLN the next DUMP address is copied from HL to DE. The routine then loops back and starts converting the new address in DE and creating a new line of data.

DUMP is exited only when the current DUMP address held in HL and the DUMP finish address are found to be equal by the COMP routine. On return from COMP the accumulator contains OOH (equality code), when this is detected PRLN is called to print out the last line after which the program is exited (or halted).

The flowchart of subroutines PRLN, BTOHEX, CON16B and COMP are described in Figs. 2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 2.21, respectivaly. The full system software is listed.

This software section completes the description of the system. All that is now required are a few pointers along the stoney path of testing, and a few do's and don'ts about the printer itself. These will appear in Part 3 next month.



FRANK W. HYDE

## HEAO-2

The second High Energy Astronomical Observatory was successfully launched on November 13 1978. Its primary task is to investigate X -ray sources. This is a wide area for it includes stellar objects such as Pulsars, Quasars, Super Novae and Radio galaxies. The large glancing incidence X-ray telescope is the largest telescope that has so far orbited the Earth.

HEAO-1 which was launched in August 1977 was designed to be operational for six months. This period has been exceeded by many months and it is still active. During the time up to the launch of HEAO-2 it had added upwards of a thousand more X-ray sources to the 200 or so known at that date.

It must be remembered that the pioneer work on X-ray sources have been done by Ariel-1 and Ariel-5 and the teams working in the British Isles were responsible for this important branch of astronomy getting into the "big time".

The progress that follows such pioneer work does appear sometimes to overshadow what has gone before. The benefits however are the best tribute to the right thinking of the pioneers. HEAO- 2 is to add to the extensive search; the sensitivity of the experiments means that it will be possible to look still deeper into space for data to help solve some of the problems facing astrophysicists.

One of the problems of HEAO-2 is that it is necessary to lock on to an object for a long period in order to obtain positive results, consequently the attitude control has had to be improved. The gas jet system has been supplemented with reaction wheels. This will give a pointing accuracy of about one arc-second.
The mirrors employed vary in diameter from 30 mm to 560 mm . There are three star dissectors used as star trackers which update the gyros during the pointing action. The total length of the telescope is $\mathbf{4 . 7}$ metres. A high resolution imager digitally records the central
field of the telescope which is about 25 arcminutes at the central portion. This operates on the photo-multiplier principle. An incident X-ray photon triggers the emission of an electron and after successive impinging on other plates, its charge is detected. The detected result provides information as to position and features of the object. It is arranged that the imager can work in conjunction with two types of spectrometer.

## PROPORTIONAL COUNTER

Another experiment is a proportional counter. This is co-aligned with the telescope but independent of it. The counter covers a wider range of energies received from $\mathbf{X}$-ray sources. In this case the range is 0.2 to 20 keV and the instrument will scan much the same area as the main telescope.

There are three other focal plane experiments. One of these, the crystal spectrometer, will be used to provide spacial as well as spectral information about extended X-ray sources. In this category would come supernovae remnants. The mode of operation can be controlled to variable resolution. Four different apertures can be used and this instrument has its own proportional counters. It is possible with this instrument to obtain information on the chemical composition of the source.

## WIDE FIELD IMAGER

Another instrument is the wide field imager using a pair of counters. Each counter is divided into small regions which observe a portion of the source. The final image resolution is about one arc-minute. There is a further instrument which is a solid state spectrometer. This is capable of observing the whole spectrum over a range of 0.4 to 4 KeV . The important part of this instrument is the silicongermanium crystal. This is cooled by solid methane and ammonia.

The Telescope is orbiting at 537 km with an inclination of 23.5 degrees. The vehicle is 6.7 m long and 2.4 m in diameter with a weight of $3,175 \mathrm{~kg}$. The designed life is for 12 months, though no doubt it will follow previous histories and be operational for much longer. To keep up the continuity of observations another vehicle HEAO-3 is planned.

## ANOTHER GOONHILLY

Goonhilly 4 is the first part of the United Kingdom's contribution to Eutelsat. In 1977 the U.K. became a participant in the 17 country Eutelsat. The system is based on the $11 / 14 \mathrm{GHz}$ communication satellite which is called ECS. At present there is a test satellite in orbit which is called OTS 2 . Since May 1978 it has been in a geo-stationary orbit at 10 degrees above Gabon. The degree is a line of longitude passing near Oslo through middle Europe by Hamburg, Lake Constance, Milan, Sardinia and Tunis.

The terminal is a joint venture of the Post Office, The Department of Industry and Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. The station was designed and built by Marconi's at a cost of some 3.5 m and has already been in operation sending 14 GHz signals to the satellite and receiving them back at 11 GHz .

The aerial is a 19 metre dish with a Cassegrain feed a gain of 66 dB at $14 \cdot 14 \mathrm{GHz}$ and a gain of 65 dB at a frequency of 10.95 to 11.8 GHz . A special feature of the aerial system is that it allows identical frequencies to be transmitted at the same time one polarised horizontally and the other polarised vertically. There is therefore a saving of spectrum space. Part of the preliminary tests are to discover if meteorological conditions will adversely affect performance of those two modes.

The 14 GHz transmitter is installed in a building below the dish and feeds the aerial through a waveguide system and horn. The r.f. amplifier consists of a five cavity klystron and gives a power of 1.6 kW with a gain of 32 dB at a bandwidth of 90 MHz . This is fed from 14 GHz signals. The convertor can operate on two modes 140 MHz which can carry 120 Mb bits of digital information or 70 MHz carrying 60 M bits of digital or f.m. video information.

In addition to dual polarisation further economies are to be obtained by means of digital speech interpolation. This equipment has been designed by Cambridge Consultants. It is a distributed microprocessor system which employs seven Texas Instruments TMS9900S devices. This was such an advanced design that a special simulator had to be built to test it. Simulation of activity in speech is equivalent to 240 terrestrial channels.

The EUTELSAT system is developing to handle European telephony and television programmes during the decade of 1980/90.

## GENERAL DESIGN

The general design of the satellite will be similar to the OTS2. The main differences are that ECS will have twelve 80 MHz transponders instead of six different band widths. It will not have attitude control. It will therefore be seen from Earth moving daily in a figure of eight path between 3.5 degrees north and 3.5 degrees south. It will have three spot beam aerials instead of the five on OTS2 and is designed for a 7 year life. The satellite will carry sufficient batteries to power five transponders during an eclipse and is now expected to be launched by the ARIANE launcher instead of the U.S. Thor Delta.

The twelve transponders are accommodated within the frequency band of 500 MHz . Six of these are vertically polarised and six are horizontally polarised. The output of the solar panels is capable of powering 9 of the transponders. Each of these transponders terminates in a travelling-wave-tube amplifier output of 20 watts. By the mid 80 's it is expected that 15 earth stations will be operational.

## ICE SHEETS SLOW UP MOON

Christopher Doake of the British Antarctic Survey suggests that the ice sheets floating in the Arctic are resposible for slowing down the Moon and thus cause it to recede. The bending of the ice sheets by about one metre must dissipate something like $2 \times 10^{12}$ watts over the $26,000 \mathrm{~km}$ "hinge line" where the ice is 500 metres thick. Doake says that extensive glaciation occurs in the periods that precede turning points, that is, when the Earth increases its spin velocity.


A selection of readers original circuit ideas. It should be emphasised that these designs have not been proven by us. They will at any rate stimulate further thought. Why not submit your idea? Any idea published will'be awarded payment according to its merits.

Articles submitted for publication should conform to the usual practices of this journal, e.g. with regard to abbreviations and circuit symbols. Diagrams should be on separate sheets, not inserted in the text.

Each idea submitted must be accompanied by a declaratlon to the effect that it is the original work of the undersigned, and that it has not been accepted for publication elsewhere.

## VERSATILE TIMER

THIS timer was designed for a full scale range of 60 minutes but by using an output of a lower order than $2^{14}$, of the divider, a shorter time can be more accurately achieved. Alternately Cl could be changed for a different range altogether.

ICIC and ICld form a timing oscillator feeding a fourteen stage binary divider IC2. The output of the divider gates a 1 kHz oscillator, ICla and IC 1 b , which in turn powers a crystal mike insert as a bleeper. With the VRI potentiometer of
the timing oscillator on maximum and output Q14 of the IC2 feeding the 1 kHz oscillator, the bleeper comes on 60 minutes after closing the switch (R3 and C4 form an initialising circuit resetting the divider at the instant of turn on).

The current consumption is in the order of $500 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ when timing and 1 mA when bleeping.

VR1 should be calibrated to suit the timing range chosen. Comparing the inset with the full scale time, it can be seen that
if Q14 is chosen the maximum time is 60 minutes, if Q13 is chosen the maximum time is 30 minutes and if Q12 is chosen the maximum time is 15 minutes etc. By changing C2/C3 to suit the application, the timer has many uses. Examples are as a parking meter, egg timer etc.
D. P. Burton,

Warrington,
Cheshire.


MANY imported cars used to have a 6 volt electrical system. Unfortunately, most British car accessories, notably, radio/cassette recorders, require a 12 volt power supply, which makes it impossible to use them in one of the older imported vehicles.

The unit described overcomes this problem by producing a 12 volt supply from a 6 volt battery, at an output current rating of about 0.5 amps , which should be adequate for most car accessories.

The complete circuit diagram. It consists of two main parts-an oscillator which drives a step-up transformer, then a rectifier and regulator circuit.

Transistor TR1 and its associated components form and audio frequency oscillator which operates at about 15 kHz , although the exact frequency depends upon the load current. Resistor R1 provides d.c. bias to the transistor base and oscillation is achieved by positive feedback derived from winding L2 on the transformer. The output waveform is almost a square wave, which is stepped up to about 32 volts peak-to-peak in the transformer secondary before being rectified by diodes DI-D4. This produces a voltage of about 15 volts d.c. before the regulator circuit, with less than 0.1 volt peak-to-peak ripple. The transformer inductors should be pile wound on an FX2243 bobbin and enclosed in the pot core.

A simple series regulator circuit is all

## ENVELOPE SHAPER

Asimple modification to the Autowah circuit (PE March '77) will add an envelope shaping facility and a more interesting Wah-Wah sound. This requires the replacement of the ramp generator (C7, VR2, VR3, R9 and R10) with a trapezoid waveform generator.

A pulse at the base of TR2, due to a signal at the input, causes TR 3 to conduct and the voltage at pins 4 and 2 of the 555 to fall to the -ve rail. This resets and retriggers the 555 monostable. The output of the 555-pin 3-goes high-toward 0 V -and Cl 102 charges through D102 and VR103 at a rate dependent on the setting of VR 103.

After a period of time, dependent on VR101, pin 3 goes low-and C102 discharges through D101 and VR102 at a rate dependent on VR 102.

Thus at the beginning of each note a trapezoid waveform will appear at point "A" with attack, delay and decay lines fully controllable. This voltage controls the VCA/VCF built around IC11 via VR104 and TRI.

that is required to produce a constant 12 volt output. The base voltage of the series transistor TR 3 is controlled by the 12 volt Zener diode D7. Transistor TR3 base current and the Zener current are supplied from transistor TR2, which together with D5, D6, R4 and R5 form a constant current source. This was used in place of the conventional resistor in this position since it prevents the Zener current from rising excessively in the "no load" condition. It also allows a smaller rating Zener diode to be used. The inclusion of R3 limits the rectifier output to about 35 volts when the regulator is not supplying any current.

Inductors L1 and LS eliminate r.f. interference from the 6 and 12 volt supplies and should be wound on ferrite rod.

The connections shown are for a car with a 6 volt, negative earth system. The diecast box can be bolted directly onto the chassis and the internal connection made between the box and the 6 volt negative supply. If a +12 volt supply is required, the negative output lead may also be connected directly to chassis.

For a 6 volt positive earth system, the only change is that the internal chassis connection must be connected to the 6 volt positive supply.

Because the output is electrically isolated from the input, either one of the output leads may be connected to chassis so providing either a positive or negative 12 volt supply.
D. Turner,

Plymouth,
Devon.


VR104 should be adjusted for flat compromise between no signal at the output when the control voltage is low (-ve rail) and maximum signal when the control voltage is high-with the circuit in the VCA mode. D101 and D102 can be any g.p. silicon diodes.

The timing components (C101, VR101, VR102, VR103, C102) can be altered for those used in the prototype if desired. If
the control pulse breaks through onto the output this can be cured with $0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor across the output. Finally, a piece of advice about usage; the delay period must be long enough to allow the attack phase to occur, otherwise no control voltage will be generated.
A. N. Oliver, Brentwood,

Essex.

## HEADS ORTAILS?

HIS is a variation on "heads or tails". By using I.e.d.s instead of small bulbs, the whole circuit can be constructed from a single integrated circuit, without the need for a separate transistor clock.

The circuit is shown where IC la and IClb form an astable or free-running multivibrator, which clocks the bistable or memory made up of IC1c and ICld. When $\mathbf{S} 1$ is closed, the coin is in the "spinning" mode, in which the square wave output from the multivibrator switches the bistable, and hence the two l.e.d.s, alternately. When S1 is opened, the coin has "landed" and the bistable remains in the state it was last in, and the corresponding l.e.d. will light up indicating the visible side of the coin (heads or tails).

The whole can be constructed inside a tin, provided that a small enough battery is used (PP3 or similar), the "Spin" switch being a miniature push-to-make switch.
D. J. Taylor, Maidenhead, Berks.


## NOVELTY DOOR-BELL

THis simple novelty doorbell produces an adjustable range of sounds which will surprise even the most travelled doorbell ringer.

The circuit shown below comprises a number of distinct sections: TR2 forms the on/off controller; TR3 and TR4 form a ramp generator; TR5 to TR8 form a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) and TR9 and TR 10 form an audio amplifier.
When the pushbutton S 1 is pressed, Cl charges via R1. The voltage across C1 is
followed by the emitter of TR1. As this voltage rises, TR2 turns on which energises the remainder of the circuit. The ramp generator, running at about 20 Hz modulates the VCO on one input, while the voltage on TR1 emitter controls the other input. The VCO output is amplified and passed to the loudspeaker.

When S 1 is released, the circuit remains active for a few seconds while C1 discharges through R2. VR2 adjusts the ramp modulation, while VR1 adjusts the
rise and fall of frequency as the button is pressed and released. The range of frequencies produced is quite wide, hence the sound of the bell is difficult to mask (or ignore).

The standby current is infinitely small, and with normal use a PP9 battery will last several years.

P. R. Williams,<br>Stevenage, Herts.



# Semicondurtor UPDATIT FEATNRNR :MC68488, mC3448, ICL8211, ICL8212 

## ON THE BUSES

Wouldn't it be nice to gather together an ad hoc collection of test equipment such as voltmeters, counters and signal generators, to connect them all together, daisy-chain fashion, and then be able to control the whole collection with the aid of, say, a microcomputer so that the result is a tightly controlled measuring system.

Imagine it, to test a radio receiver, the microcomputer sends out commands to set the frequency and output level of the signal generator, the voltage range of the voltmeter, and the timebase of the counter. While moving automatically through a measuring sequence, the microcomputer accepts output data from the measuring instruments and prints it out in the form of a fully formatted test report. Pipe dream? No, if you like you can do all of this right now, provided that your test instruments are fitted with IEEE488 bus interfaces.

The IEEE488 bus started life at Hewlett Packard as the HP-IB, and it turned out to be such a sound, well engineered design that it has now become accepted as an international standard, adopted by many instrument makers.

In essence the IEEE488 bus consists of an 8 bit wide bi-directional data bus and a further 8 bits of control and handshake data. Instruments connected to the bus are allocated individual addresses, and they may act as "talkers" or "listeners" as determined by the bus controller which could be a programmable calculator or a microcomputer.
Data transfer on the bus can be from any device activated as a talker to any (reasonable) number of devices activated as listeners, and data can be moved at up to two megabytes per second!

Individual instruments can act as talkers and listeners (to receive range commands and transmit measured data for example) and the bus controller can carry out "polling" operations to determine which devices need service.

Not that the bus is restricted only to sophisticated measuring systems, you can connect together a voltmeter talker and a printer listener to form a simple and controllerless system, and if further proof of the usefulness of the IEEE488 is necessary, the Commodore PET microcomputer comes equipped with an interface as a standard feature.

## BUS CHIP

Now, to get to the point of my story, Motorola have introduced an IEEE488 bus interface in a single 40 pin package, coded MC68488.

The new chip is a version of the GPIA (General Purpose Interface Adapter), and is a member of the MC6800 microprocessor family.

One side of the interface hooks up to the microprocessor data bus and control lines such as RNW and RESET, and the other side drives the IEEE488 bus via bi-directional Tri-state drivers such as the MC3448 (which is designed for the job).

The MC68488 handles many of the complex bus protocol functions automatically, but some others do require extra effort from the microprocessor, under software control.

With a little imagination, you can use the MC68488 with other microprocessors, so come on, if you want to transfer data at a rapid rate, send it by bus!

## POSITIVE REGULATOR -

## THYRISTOR BOOST

## MICRO-POWER

No, not another microprocessor news item (sighs of reliefl), but a pair of new low consumption voltage regulator building blocks which are optimised for use at very low voltages and/or currents where their fixed voltage (e.g. LM309) cousins fear to tread.

The new devices are made by Intersil and are coded ICL8211 and ICL8212. Both are bipolar monolithic integrated circuits in 8 pin mini-d.i.p. packages, and both can be used in.some interesting and diverse applications such as positive and negative voltage regulators, constant current sources, overvoltage crowbar circuits and power failure detectors.

The ICL8211 contains a low voltage (1.15 Volt) reference circuit, a differential error amplifier with a feedback reference input, a current limited common emitter output amplifier, and p.n.p. hysteresis transistor.

The ICL8212 is similar except that the common emitter stage is not current limited.

The new devices are really intended for the unusual, rather than the run-of-the mill, applications, particularly those where low consumption is essential.

## APPLICATIONS

One application which caught my eye was the use of the ICL8212 as a programmable "Zener". This circuit uses two resistors and a capacitor in addition to the i.c., but by varying the ratio of the resistors, any "Zener" voltage from 2 to 30 V can be selected. and a particular advantage is the extremely low "knee" current of less than 300 micro-amps.


Another application using an 8211 , and shown here, is interesting for its use of an external thyristor as an n.p.n.-p.n.p. transistor structure, operating in a linear mode and providing increased output current in a positive voltage regulator círcuit.

A unique feature of this circuit is that the cathode of the thyristor is acting as the control terminal, and the gate as the output terminal!

The only problem with this circuit is that manufacturers' data sheets for thyristors do not cover this strange mode of operation, and no gain figures will be given for the p.n.p. portion of the structure which is utilised here. This of course, need not hinder the experimenter!

##  <br> MULTIPROC

## Mark A.Sawicki m.sc.(Eng) Alex. Kowalewski

|N part two we dealt with the clock system and the input and output filters. In this the VU driver, power supply board and the pushbutton switch control module will be described together with chassis design details and enclosure.

## PUSHBUTTON CONTROL MODULE

In the stacked pushbutton control module there are three boards, the top being the input filter, the second is the clock board, and the third is the output filter (see photos Part 2). The boards are separated from each other by means of eight 2.5 cm p.v.c. spacers and from the bottom plate by four 1 cm p.v.c. spacers. The whole module is fastened to the bottom plate by means of four 85 mm steel wires threaded for 6BA self-locking nuts. The front panel is fastened to the bottom plate by the necks of the five jack sockets.

The centres of the pushbuttons are about 30 mm apart in both horizontal and vertical directions.

## OPTIONAL VU DRIVER

Fig. 14 shows the complete VU driver circuit. The 748 is an op-amp packaged into a TO99 round metal can, with leads bent into an 8 pin d.i.l. configuration. C75 is provided to damp the movement of the meter.

The 748 is a similar device to the 741 op-amp except it has external frequency compensation for improved high frequency gain.

The power for this circuit is taken from the 0 and +.15 V d.c. rails only. Input is taken directly from the output of the first low pass filter.

Calibration is achieved by means of VR11.
Due to the simplicity of this optional unit it was constructed on a piece of 0.1 in matrix Veroboard ( $45 \mathrm{~mm} \times 25 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) and fastened to the main board as can be seen in the photograph (page 1251 -Part One).

## LED STATUS INDICATOR SYSTEM

Fig. 15 shows the complete circuit diagram of the l.e.d. status indicator system. The spare connections on the main front panel slider switches are used for this purpose. Note that the l.e.d. status indicators are independent of the remote control.


Fig. 14. VU driver circuit



Fig. 15. L.e.d. status indicator



Fig. 16. Wiring for optional remote control jacks
The l.e.d.s are very useful if the processor is used in a live performance situation where the ambient light is often very low. Here the upper switch positions are denoted by green and the bottom by red l.e.d.s. The fuzz effect however has a yellow l.e.d. for the on position.

## REMOTE CONTROL

Fig. 16 shows a complete circuit diagram of the remote control system. It employs three, two and three pole chassis mounting $\frac{1}{4}$ in jack sockets. Consequently when a jack plug is inserted into the socket it automatically bypasses the slider switch on the front panel, thus preparing the unit for optional footswitch operation.


Fig. 17. Circuit of power supply unit


Fig. 18. P.s.u. printed circuit board


Fig. 19. P.s.u. board layout


Prototype board based entirely on RS components

This feature will prove to be essential for guitar work. These footswitches are available from:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Re-An Products Ltd., } \\
& \text { Burnham Road, } \\
& \text { Dartford, } \\
& \text { Kent, DA1 5BN. }
\end{aligned}
$$

## POWER SUPPLY

The complete circuit diagram of the power supply board is shown in Fig. 17. This employs a RS transformer, and monolithic voltage regulator. The prototype multiprocessor included an RS board; however an alternative p.c. layout is given in Fig. 18 with component and wiring details in Fig. 19.

The power supply is stabilised and regulated providing $+15 \mathrm{~V}, 0 \mathrm{~V},-15 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. The whole p.c.b. is mounted on four 1 cm p.v.c. spacers on the right-hand side of the base plate as can be seen. The mains is switched on and off by means of an illuminated rocker switch.

Power is fed to the unit via a Euroconnector and then a 200 mA fuse, both auxiliary devices are mounted on the rear panel.

## CHASSIS AND CASE CONSTRUCTION

Fig. 20 shows the dimensions of the individual metal plates required to construct the chassis unit for the guitar sound multiprocessor. All the aluminium used was 1.5 mm thick. Basically all that is required is the main base plate ( $C$ ), rear panel $(B)$ and front panel $(A)$ which has been bent to cater for the sloping front panel design. All the metal surfaces were sprayed with gloss paint and the artwork was carried out in Letraset which was later sprayed with lacquer in order to protect it.


Fig. 20. Exploded diagram of chassis and case


Fig. 21. Cutting details of front panel

## Switch positions and o'clock settings of potentiometers for sounds indicated

| Control | Rotary | Fuzz | Flanging | Phaser/Vibrato | Reverb | Computer Voice | Repeat Echo | Vibrato/Reverb |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 9 | Min | 9 | Min | Min |  | 10 |  |
| 2 | 5 | Min | 1 | Min | 6 | Min | Min | Min |
| 3 | Down | Down | Up | Up | Down | Up | Up | Min |
| 4 | 12 | Min | Min | Min | 11.30 | 12 | Min | 12 |
| 5 | 12 (delay 4 mS ) | Min (delay 4 mS ) | 12 (delay 4 mS ) | 12 (delay 4 mS ) | Min (delay 43 mS ) | 12 (delay 9mS) | 9 (delay 43 mS ) | 4 (delay 4mS) |
| 6 | 9 | Min | 10 | 6 | Min | 5.30 | 9 | 9 |
| 7 | Down | Down | Down | Up | Down | Up | Up | Up |
| 8 | Min | 5.30 | Min | Min | Min | 12 | Min | Min |
| 9 | Up | Down | Up | Up | Up | Up | Up | Up |



Table 2 and numbered related controls

Drilling details for the front panel are given in Fig. 21 but these should be modified as component sizes dictate.

Fig. 20 shows the dimensions of the case components which were comprised of $\frac{1}{2}$ in plywood covered in plastic Vinyl Rexine. When gluing on the plastic use "Evostick" because it allows you to move the plastic into position before it sets.

It's a good idea to attach a carrying handle to the case for safety and ease in transportation.

## SETTING UP

This instrument is experimental in nature so when using it let your imagination be your guide. However, Table 2 gives you a rough idea of what can be achieved with the processor.

Some component changes have been made and are correct as shown in the circuit diagrams.



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## International

Electronics has always been an international industry. But never on such a vast scale as we are witnessing today or over such a variety of electronic products. Countries who had little or no capability in electronics are now becoming substantial producers.

At first, these "backward" countries were being used as low-cost labour areas. for assembly work. They are now climbing the learning curve. Soon they, too, will. be designing.
The process is being accelerated by technology transfer, especially in defence electronics. Few countries today, when procuring defence equipment, are content to let an overseas supplier provide everything. They want a share of the work themselves.

If they need, say, 1,000 military radios they will take the first 100 from the supplying country and set up a local assembly plant to build the balance of 900 radios, largely from kits but embodying as much as possible that can be built or acquired locally. This is very true of the Middle East.

But for commercial or other reasons it is also happening in the advanced electronics countries. Who could have imagined only a few years ago that one day the chairman of a substantial UK operation would be a Mr. Kenichero Hiyama, overseeing the production of radio and TV equipment carrying famous brand names such as Bush and Murphy. Mr. Hiyama is the Japanese chairman of Rank-Toshiba, the first joint AngloJapanese company of which 70 per cent is owned by the Rank Organisation, 30 per cent by Toshiba.

The company will plough in an extra $£ 3$ million investment to strengthen the existing Rank plants at Plymouth and Redruth with the target of a production rate of 350,000 colour sets and 100,000 monochromes a year.

We can expect further Japanese penetration in the years ahead. The advantage of a joint company is clear. At least, from the British viewpoint, production is maintained, even increased, in the UK and products will be exported under the Toshiba brand name to other European countries.

Thorn Consumer Electronics is expressing a willingness to learn from others. Half a dozen union men and four senior managers have been to Japan to see for themselves the conditions and work methods of their main competitors.

## Technology Transfer

Technology transfer has also been in the news. The biggest single new outlet for UK expertise looks like being China. At the time of writing no substantial new orders had been announced as definite but there were high hopes of substantial contracts for defence and other equipment. It is almost certain that China will want to build, for example, Harrier jump-jets and aero engines under a technology transfer agreement. Defence electronics will follow.

Nearer home, Racal has done a deal with. Spain in which the Spaniards will build Racal-designed VHF military manpack radios in a factory near Madrid. A condition of tender was that bulk manufacture would take place in Spain. Refusal means no business. Acceptance of the condition still brings in Racal some $£ 6$ million, well worth having and, as there was plenty of competition for the contract, if Racal didn't win someone else would.

Discussing this type of deal with industry leaders I was told that high technology companies are confident they have the inventive muscle to stay ahead of the game. That by the time a technologically retarded country had mastered the present generation of equipment the advanced companies would already be in production of the next generation. As for example, in the giant Togliattigrad car assembly plant in the Soviet Union, designed by Italian Fiat but behind in technolgoy compared with Fiat's present developments at Turin, or the production of ITT connectors in Poland which are technologically a generation behind those produced by ITT in Western Europe or the United States.

Nonetheless, the gap is bound to narrow and there are plenty of examples of intelligent pupils who have outclassed their masters, prime example being the Japanese who were non-starters in many fields a short 30 years ago but are now fearsome competitors, not least in electronics.

## Single Chip

The single-chip revolution is now well under way. I have quoted several examples in recent months and almost daily some complicated function or other is revealed as not only technically feasible on a single -piece of silicon but with production samples available.

I remember the mixed feelings I had
when I looked into the guts of the first Racal 99 Series frequency counters, based on a Ferranti chip, when they appeared some three years ago. There was the box with practically nothing in it. Of course they worked beautifully but when you are laying out a few hundred pounds you expect to see something substantial inside for your hard-earned cash.

I was reminded of this early experience, almost shocked disbelief, when HewlettPackard announced their new 100 MHz 5315A countertimer which includes computing facilities from a microprocessor.

Only nine years ago the equivalent H-P product of that era had a dozen p.c.b.s packed with TLL circuits to perform the logic functions alone. The same work is now done by a couple of chips. In all, the new instrument contains just nine i.c.s. The 5315 A, selling at about $£ 500$ and a low-cost sister instrument at about $£ 230$ have been introduced to meet fierce competition in the counter market.

Look to Philips, too, for intensification of competition in the instrument market. Philips was anything but a leader even five years ago.

Since catching the instrument bug Philips has made considerable inroads, especially with oscilloscopes. The 1978 sales of instrument products in the UK were 50 per cent higher than in 1977 and in the instrument business this is indeed fast growth.

## Prestel

The Post Office Prestel viewdata service is proving an exciting prospect for overseas administrations as well as at home. It could be a big export hit. West Germany, the Netherlands, Hong Kong and the USA (in agreement with a US company) have already signed, or are in process of doing so. The seventeenth country in which live demonstrations have been given is the Soviet Union with a presentation in Moscow.

Post Office researchers are now busy devising new ways of getting viewdata on the screen in different alphabets such as Arabic, Greek, Hebrew and the phonetic Japanese script known as Katakana.

There are great hopes that the British system will be adopted as the world standard, thus enharicing further export prospects.

## GEC/Fairchild

The GEC/Fairchild joint venture in the UK for the production of VLSI circuits appears to be on schedule with production still forecast for 1980. INMOS, a possible competitor backed by the National Enterprise Board, will pose no threat according to Fairchild chairman Wilf Corrigan who has gone so far as to forecast INMOS as "doomed" and "too late".

Well, time will tell, but as regular readers will remember I tend to agree that INMOS chances are slim if only because it has no established marketing outlets and no previous track record of its own.


BP 1520625 , from Harold Barkan of New York, describes a simple idea in lengthy prose which is characteristic of patents originating from the USA. The interest value of the simple idea does however justify the effort of cutting through the verbiage. The object is to modify a touch control switch so that it is actuated by touching a living plant!

Barkan has made the simple, but apparently novel, observation that if the touch sensitive element of an electrical touch switch (e.g. of the type used to control domestic lighting) is electrically connected

## ORGANIC TOUCH SWITCH


to the roots of a pot plant, then the plant itself will serve as the touch sensitive element.

Bearing in mind the high fluid content of a living plant, this is readily understandable. Barkan maintains that even cut flowers or fruit and vegetables in a bowl are sufficiently electrically conductive to function in the same manner.

The simplest approach recommended is merely to extend the touch sensitive element of an off-the-shelf touch sensitive switch. A length of wire connects with an electrode buried under the earth in which the plant grows. According to the inventor, a light or other load connected to the switch terminals can then be switched on and off merely by gently stroking the plant leaves or flowers.

## PIEZOELECTRIC TRANSDUCER

Audio designers are turning towards piezo-electric powered loudspeakers and several modern high fidelity speakers now incorporate piezo horns as their HF units or "tweeters". In BP1 489 351, Philips patent a loudspeaker which is based on a diaphragm formed entirely from piezoelectric material and, in principle, appears adaptable to larger and wider bandwidth units than previously.

The Philips transducer has a circular diaphragm formed from a foil of polyvinylidene fluoride, a material which has piezo-electric properties. The diaphragm foil has metal electrodes vacuum deposited on each major surface and is circularly corrugated, so that its surface is covered with concentric rings of $V$ shaped cross-section. The opposite walls or flanks of each ring are oppositely polarised. Thus in Fig. 1 the flanks 2, 4 and 6 are
polarised in one direction (arrows A) and the flanks 3 and 5 are polarised in the opposite direction (arrows B). In Fig. 2 the flanks 20,22 and 24 are polarised in the direction of the arrows P and flanks 21 and 23 in the direction of arrows $Q$. The diaphragm is polarised by electrodes 30 and 31 of the polarising device (Fig. 3).

When an alternating voltage audio signal is applied to the surface electrodes (not shown in the diagrams), all the flanks of the diaphragm behave in characteristic piezo-

electric manner and change in length. But as the flank pairs are oppositely polarised the action of all the flanks is concerted, and the diaphragm as a whole moves in an axial direction. It thus behaves in the manner of a conventional loudspeaker cone driven electromagnetically by a moving coil. So, the applied audio signal is converted directly into mechanical energy. This suggests that the unit will have high efficiency in terms of sound level transduced from audio signal input.


Fig. 2


Fig. 3

# The Sinclair PDM35. A personal digital multimeter for only $£ 29.95$ <br> <br> Technical specification 

 <br> <br> Technical specification}


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## MICFO-EUS <br> Compiled by DJD


#### Abstract

Appearing every two months, Micro-Bus will present ideas, applications, and programs for the most popular microprocessors; ones that you are unlikely to find in the manufacturers' data books. The most original ideas will probably come from readers working on their own microcomputer systems, and payment will be made for any contribution featured here. This is also the place to air your views, in general, on this new technology, so let's be hearing from you!


## ADDING TO SC/MP INSTRUCTION SET

THE CIRCUIT to be described takes advantage of unassigned op-codes in the SC/MP instruction set and uses them to provide 16 one-byte subroutine calls so that effectively 16 one-byte user-defined instructions are added to the instruction set. This feat ure is especially useful for SC/MP systems since normally seven bytes are needed to set up a subroutine call and this overhead tends to discourage their liberal use.

The existing SC/MP instruction set is shown in Table 1; the first hex digit of each instruction appears down the left-hand edge of the table, and the second hex digit along the top. The circuit, shown in Fig. 1, takes advantage of the fact that the whole of row 2 is blank. When one of these codes is encountered as an instruction the circuit generates an interrupt; an interrupt service routine then determines which of the codes caused the interrupt and jumps to a different section of program for each one.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

Operation of the circuit is as follows: the SC/MP micro signals when an instruction will be on the data bus by preceding it with a high level on DB5 during the NADS signal. This status signal, called IFLAG, is latched into the D-type latch whose Q output consequently goes high. If during the following instructionfetch an instruction $X^{\prime} 20-X^{\prime} 2 F$ appears on the data bus, the upper four data lines DB7-DB4 will be at '0010' and the output of the 8 -input NAND gate will go low.

This output will thus go low when an instruction $X^{\prime} 20-X^{\prime} 2 F$ occurs, and not if one of these bytes occurs as an operand to another instruction. This low signal is clocked into a second D-type latch by the NRDS pulse, thus taking SC/MP's SENSE-A input high. Provided that interrupts are enabled in the micro this will generate an interrupt before the next instruction. The net effect of this circuit is that all the op-codes $X^{\prime} 20-X^{\prime} 2 F$ behave as if they were the XPPC 3 instruction (X'3F). With more complicated decoding circuitry other gaps in the instruction-set table could be utilized for user-defined instructions.

The circuit was used with a Science of Cambridge MK 14; the earlier MK 14 kits do


Table 1. Assignment of the 256 possible codes to instructions in the SC/MP instruction set
not disable the ROMs during NADS so there is a conflict between the contents of the ROMs and status signals such as IFLAG. Fortunately the remedy is simple, and can be implemented using two spare gates in the circuit. It involves breaking a track on the underside of the MK 14 circuit board, as shown in Fig. 2(a), and inserting the circuit shown in Fig. 2(b) between the points labelled A and B. MK 14 boards which are issue III or later incorporate this modification. In the prototype the circuit, which comprises four packages, was built on a small square of veroboard con-
nected to the underside of the MK 14 circuit board by a length of ribbon cable.

## NEW INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Obviously the assignment of operations to the new op-codes depends on the user's particular application. The program of Fig. 3 shows how the codes can be assigned to different functions: $\mathrm{X}^{\prime} 20$ changes the state of the three flag outputs and $X^{\prime} 21$ writes a segment pattern to the display, where $P 1$ is assumed to point to the display; the segment pattern to be


Fig. 1. Circuit which generates an interrupt when one of the codes $X^{\prime} 20$ $X^{\prime} \mathrm{F}$ occurs as an instruction
displayed is taken from the subsequent byte. The remaining codes, $X^{\prime} 22-X^{\prime} 2 F$, are undefined in this example and they behave as NOPs.

The program operates as follows: the address of the user's program minus one is stored at OF1E (high byte) and OF1F (low byte). Instead of starting execution at the beginning of the user's program, one enters at SETUP. This then points P3 to the user's program, enables interrupts, and jumps to the user's program with an XPPC 3. When one of the codes $X^{\prime} 20-X^{\prime} 2 F$ is encountered in the user's program an interrupt is generated and this causes a jump to the interrupt service routine, ISR, with the address of the code saved in P3. Thus the value of the code that caused the interrupt can be discovered by loading it using P3-relative addressing. In this example X'20 causes a jump to SRO which inverts the three flag outputs. The code X'21 picks up the second byte and stores it using PI-relative auto-indexed addressing. The user's program at OF80 demonstrates the use of the two new op-codes. It loops around loading P1 with the display address, displaying 'HO' in the rightmost two display positions with two $X^{\prime} 21$ instructions, and toggling the flags with an $\mathbf{X}^{\prime} 20$ instruction.

|  |  | ; ADD USER-DEFTNED INSTRUCTIONS TO sc/mp instruction set. |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0000 |  | ; | - -orid |  |  |
| orid OFIE |  | asave: | - $0 .+1$ |  | YPOR A-REGISTER |
|  | OP7 | P3, | . DBYTE | upros-1 | ,FOR JEMP |
|  | copd | SETUP: | LD | P3 | , gEt ADDRESE OF |
| OF20 | 37 |  | хРА只 |  | ; USER'S PROCRAM. |
| OP23 | cofa |  | Lo | P3+1 |  |
|  | 33 |  | XPAL |  |  |
| OP26 <br> 0 O28 | cop 6 | RETURN: | LD | ASAV | ; RESTORE A-REG. |
|  | 05 |  | IEN |  | IENGBLE ITTERRUPTS |
| OF28 | 3P |  | xpPC | 3 | fuymp to user's Prog. |
| -0729 | C8F2 | ISR, | st | Asave | ; SAVE A-REG |
| OF2C | C300 |  | $\mathrm{L}^{\mathrm{D}}$ | (3) | ,GET 'OP-CODE' |
|  | E420 |  | XRI | $\mathrm{X}^{\prime 20}$ | IIS IT 207 |
| Or2E | 9806 |  | J2 | SRO |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { or } 30 \\ & \text { of } 32 \end{aligned}$ | E401 |  | XRI | $\mathrm{x}^{\text {'01 }}$ | H5 17 217 |
| OF 34 <br> OP36 | ${ }^{3808}$ |  | J8 | SR1 |  |
|  | 90EE |  | JMP | return | \% IGMORE OTHERS |
| OF38 |  | 3 $\times 20$ | Changes | Fut |  |
|  | 06 | SRO: | CSA |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { of } 39 \\ & \text { or } 38 \end{aligned}$ | 2407 |  | XRI | 7 | InNERT FLAG bits |
|  | 07 |  | CAS |  |  |
| $\stackrel{9}{\text { or } 3 \mathrm{C}}$ | 90e女 |  | smp | RETURN |  |
| OF $3 E$ OF40 or 42 |  | ; X'21 | displays | segment code | In next ayte |
|  | c701 | SR1: | LD | 91(3) | 1BUMP P3 |
|  | c300 |  | ${ }_{2}$ | (3) | ; SEt segment code |
|  | cDol |  | ST | 91(1) | jDISPLAY It |
|  | 9004 |  | JMP | RETURN |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | fest | Program | TO ILlustr | use |
|  | ODOO | bisp |  | ODOO | dilsplay address |
| OF46 |  |  | -OFP80 |  |  |
| Or80 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { C400 } \\ & 35 \end{aligned}$ | UPROG: | LDPA |  | INT P1 TO <br> DISPLAY ADDRESS. |
| Or83 | C400 |  | LDI | L(DISP) |  |
| OF85 | 31 |  | xpaL |  |  |
|  | ${ }_{213 F}$ |  | - BYTE | $\mathrm{X}^{1} 21, \mathrm{X}^{\mathbf{4}} \mathrm{s}$ | 'DISPLAY 'O' |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { OFBB } \\ & \text { OFR } \end{aligned}$ | 2176 |  | .byTE | $\mathrm{X}^{\prime} 21, \mathrm{x}$, 76 | ;DISPLAY 'H' |
|  | 20 |  | . BYTE | X'20 | jTOGGLE flacs |
| OFB ${ }^{\text {P }}$ | 9053 |  | JMP | UProg | ILOOP AROUND |
|  | 0000 |  | . END |  |  |

Fig. 3. Program for SC/MP which with the circuit of Fig. 1 extends the instruction set

(a) The track lying between IC8 and IC3 on the underside of the board should be cut as shown

## SC/MP XPAL O INSTRUCTION

A program in the Micro-Bus August 1978 demonstrated how a computed goto could be achieved with the M6800 by making use of the great variety of branch-on-condition instructions provided. The following letter, received from N. Feilden of Suffolk, shows how to take advantage of an undocumented SC/MP instruction to achieve a similar effect.
"Hands up all those SC/MP users who have used the instruction XPAL O (X'30). For those who have not, it exchanges the accumulator value with the lower half of the program counter. It thus effects a jump to the location $\mathrm{AC}+1$ with the address from which it came in the accumulator. A subroutine call is thus available anywhere within a 256 -byte page without having to set up one of the other pointers. XPAL O can also be used to achieve a computed goto, which makes up for not being able to use the extension register as a displacement in jump instructions. Of course all sorts of wonderful things can be done by writing programs which rewrite themselves, but not in ROM."
The program segment in Fig. 4 shows how a computed goto can be implemented; it jumps to one of four possible addresses for values in the accumulator of 0 to 3 .
The corresponding higher-byte instruction XPAH O ( $\mathrm{X}^{\prime} 34$ ) also works but is less useful for obvious reasons. In a larger system it might be useful as a page selector.

|  |  | : COMPUTED co to <br> 1. Index in accumulator |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OF3 | 01 | , | XAE |  |  |
|  | 02 |  | cer |  |  |
| OF36 | 40 |  | LDE |  |  |
| OF33 |  |  | ADE |  | doutale jwiex |
| OF38 | ${ }^{84} 3$ A |  | ${ }_{\text {API }}$ | $\underline{\text { furfe })}$ | PRDE TO PC |
| OP38 | 30 | beras: | XPAL |  | dput in pe |
| $\bigcirc \mathrm{OF} 38$ | 900 C |  | JMP | 50 |  |
| OF3D | 9014 |  | JMP | L1 |  |
| Or3F | 9028 |  | JMP | L2 |  |
| OF41 |  | L4: |  |  | , ROUTINES |

Fig. 4. Program segment for SC/MP jumps to one of four different labels depending on the value in the accumulator

## ANALOGUE INFORMATION

If the properties of our environment such as temperature, pressure, light intensity, sound level, frequency, and position, are to be made accessible to a microprocessor system, they must first be converted into the digital form it understands. A new multi-input Analogue-toDigital (or A/D) conversion chip known as the Data Acquisition System has recently become available, and its incorporation into a microprocessor system would make possible such applications as temperature sensing for household and industrial heating control, interfacing to joysticks for micro-based games and simulations, digitisation of speech waveforms for computer speech recognition and reproduction, and, in general, many machine control and interface applications.

(b) Two gates should be wired between the points shown

Fig. 2 (above). Modification needed to MK14 kits

## ADCO817 DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM

National Semiconductor's ADCO817 Data Acquisition System or DAS is a single 40 -pin chip incorporating an 8 -bit successive approximation A/D converter and a 16 -channel analogue multiplexer. It is thus ideal for applications where information must be coordinated from a number of different analogue sources. It was originally designed for the automotive market and is currently being used in the instrument panel circuitry of General Motors' latest Cadillac. The ADCO817 has an accuracy of $\pm 1$ bit; the ADCO816 is a prime version of the same part with an accuracy of $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ bit. The multiplexer section is separate from the A/D conversion stage so that it is possible to insert circuitry, such as sample-and-hold, between the two. The ADCO817 is available from Marshall's for $£ 15.63$ (inc. VAT).

## INTERFACE CIRCUIT

The DAS can be interfaced directly to an M6800 microprocessor system bus as shown in Fig. 5; it is addressed as a single memory location ( $\$ 4000$ in this case) and selected by the SELECT input. The required input channel is chosen by writing the channel number to the DAS; the lower four data lines are latched into the multiplexer on the rising edge of the WRITE pulse at the ALE (Address Latch Enable) input. The conversion is begun when the rising edge of the WRITE pulse occurs at the START input. When the conversion is complete EOC is taken high by the DAS and this generates an interrupt on the M6800's IRQ line. Note that EOC is also high for 1-8 clock periods after the rising edge of the START pulse, but this will be ignored. If there are other peripherals generating interrupts in the microprocessor system the EOC flag will have to be taken to the data bus via a tri-state buffer, enabled by a separate address from the DAS, so that it can be interrogated by the micro to determine the source of the interrupt.

The data outputs from the DAS are normally in a high-impedance state, but reading from the DAS takes TSC (Tri-State Control) high and puts the result of the A/D conversion on to the micro's data bus. The DAS is clocked by the M6800's $\emptyset_{2}$ signal; the maximum clock rate permitted is 1.2 MHz , giving a conversion time of about 60 microseconds. The circuit should work equally well with micros such as SC/MP and the 8080 which provide NRDS and NWDS signals; these should be inverted to give the READ and WRITE signals in the circuit of Fig. 5.


## Fig. 5. Interface between a Data Acquisition System chip and an M6800 system

## DAS PROGRAMS

A complete program for the M6800 to drive the DAS circuit just described is given in Fig. 6. The program was developed on a Motorola D2 kit, and gives continuouslyupdated hexadecimal display of the conversion value, reading from 00 to FF for input voltages of from 0 V to +5 V . The program
makes use of two display routines in the D2 kit's JBUG monitor and these will have to be provided if the program is to be used with other systems. The first part of the program from $\$ 0000$ to $\$ 000 \mathrm{E}$ puts the address of the interrupt service routine ISR at $\$ \mathrm{~A} 000$; on interrupts the monitor uses this as a jump address. The first conversion is started by

- data agouisition system chip inteaface


| ORG | O |
| :--- | :--- |
| LDX | CISA |
| STZ | IROVEC |
| LDA | IRNPT |
| STA | IINYT |
| CLI | DAS |
| JMP | DISPLA |

select input hait por interrupt Lat INPUT IN HEX (00-FP)
' 10010
DAS

```
CE 0010 MAIN
CE 0010 MAIN
F% 2000
F% 2000
EOFE
EOFE


Fig. 6. Program using interrupts to give a continuous display determined by the voltage at one input of the Data Acquisition System chip
writing the required channel number, O in this case, to the DAS; the program then jumps to the display loop in the monitor. This continuously displays the contents of the display buffer \(\$ A 00 \mathrm{C}\) - \(\$ A 011\). On interrupts the ISR changes the contents of this buffer so that the latest \(\mathrm{A} / \mathrm{D}\) conversion result is displayed.

The interrupt service routine in Fig. 6 picks up the result of the conversion in accumulator A and the jumps to the subroutine REGST5 in the monitor which separates this into two 4-bit nibbles and puts them into the display buffer for display.

\section*{News Briefs}

\section*{'78 AUDIO WRITER IS PE CONTRIBUTOR}

THE 1978 Audio Writer Award, sponsored by BASF United Kingdom, has been made to Barry Fox who writes under the pen name of Adrian Hope. Barry's pen name may be known to regular readers but if we tell you that since March 1974 Barry has regularly contributed to P.E. with his column Patents Review, he will then be known to all. We have also published a number of special features by him and our next issue carries his article Binaural Stereo Patents.

The presentation of a silver tuning fork on mahogany base and a cheque for \(£ 300\) was made by Charles Mackerras the international conductor. We are sure readers will join us in thanking Barry for his valuable contributions; he is shown below with the award, flanked by Henry Pattinson of BASF (left) and Charles Mackerras.


NEW OLDE MAGAZINE
|F THE days when you could buy little "lozenge" tins containing cat's whiskers and crystals does more for your imagination than today's conductive foam packs containing l.s.i. chips, then this is the journal for you.

For the first time a magazine is to be launched exclusively for the vintage enthusiast. Sounds Vintage will be published bi-monthly, to cater for those interested in a wide field of subjects relating to the sounds of yesterday.

Among the areas covered will be vintage wireless equipment, gramophones and cylinder machines, records and cylinders, vintage amplifiers, pre-war literature. There will also be stories of the pioneers and of companies involved in the manufacture of the hardware and software since the early days.

Other reader attractions will include practical hints on the care, maintenance and restoration of vintage equipment, news from the major auction rooms, news of clubs and societies, reviews of books associated with vintage sound, readers letters and wants, reproduction of vintage advertisements, and anything which will be of value or interest to the collector, dealer or casual enthusiasts of the various aspects of sound reproduction in the days before it became too "electronic".

Sounds Vintage will start off as a 32 -page A4 presentation, and will be available on subscription only. Top names are lined up for many leading articles and features.

No. 1 was scheduled for publication in mid-January 1979. The annual subscription will be \(£ 5.80\) inland, \(£ 6.80\) overseas, postage paid. A special offer is being made for No. 1 only, a sample copy at 65 p post paid. An illustrated subscription form is available from: Sounds Vintage, 28 Chestwood Close, Billericay, Essex.

\title{

}

\section*{Will mix line and dynamic microphone inputs for a stereo image}

MANY readers must possess a hi-fi cassette or reel to reel tape recorder which is not used to it's full creative capacity for want of a good mixer. With a mixer one can produce one's own jingles or mix the output from several microphones to better capture the sound of a live performance. Alternatively announcements can be recorded onto a music tape without the tell tale clicks and pops that result from the microphone being plugged in and out.

\section*{CIRCUIT}

The circuit of a simple but effective mixer is shown in Fig. 1. Here the input signals are fed into a virtual earth amplifier which will accept both line and dynamic microphone inputs.

Line inputs enter the circuit via the resistors R1, R2 and R3. These form an attenuator with the input pots, VR1, VR2 and VR3.

Microphone inputs are fed directly to the "live" ends of the input pots and the sensitivity here for full output is some 3.5 mV . The signals at the slider of the pots is fed to the virtual earth via the resistors R4, R5 and R6.

C1 both isolates the virtual earth amplifier from any d.c. present at the input and defines the -3 dB point in the bass region at 10 Hz . The virtual earth amplifier employs two transistors in what might be, to some readers, a novel circuit.
TR1 operates in the common emitter mode with a low collector current of about \(100 \mu \mathrm{~A}\) to minimise noise. The collector of load resistor R9 however is bootstrapped to the emitter of TR2, a p.n.p. device. Due to this bootstrapping the voltage gain open loop is around 1,000 times and independent of line variations.

Minimum noise is produced when the base of TR1 sees an input impedance of 600 ohms. This can be conveniently arranged by judicious selection of feedback resistor, R7, so that the virtual earth impedance between the base of TR 1 and earth approaches that figure.

R7 and R8 provide overall feedback at both a.c. and d.c. and of course the bias current required by TR1. The gain of this stage has purposely been kept down to 20 dB to provide the low noise conditions already described and a reasonable input impedance. In consequence further amplification is required to bring the signal up to a usable level, 350 mV .

\section*{SECOND STAGE}

This is done by the next stage built around TR3. Again the virtual earth mode is used to define the gain of the stage.

Feedback is applied, and base bias, by the potential
divider R12, R13. The gain is defined by the ratio of R12 to R11. C4 blocks the d.c. from the emitter of TR2.

To maintain stability hefty decoupling is applied to both stages by R15, R16, C3 and C5.
The signal from the collector of TR3 is fed to the master volume control VR4 and from thence to the record input of the tape recorder, via R20. Headphone monitoring is provided on a large number of tape recorders although one can only listen to the actual recording as it is being made on three head machines.

Those that do provide a headphone monitoring facility are usually of inadequate volume to properly hear all the nuances of the recording. This is the reason for the inclusion of such a facility in this mixer. A separate board is used for this part of the circuit and those who would rather rely on the built-in monitoring provided by their recorders can omit this altogether without detriment to the performance of the mixer.

\section*{POWER OUTPUT STAGE}

A dual audio amplifier i.c. is used, National Semiconductor's LM377. In this application a heatsink is not required, a relief to anybody that has struggled to solder small pieces of tinplate to the pins of the i.c. whilst praying that the device is not overheating!

Reference to Fig. 1 will show that this stage is again operated in the virtual earth mode. The signal being applied to the inverting input via the d.c. blocking capacitor C8 and R17. Overall feedback is provided by R18.

The bias pin of the i.c. is connected to the non inverting inputs and tied to a.c. earth by C7. (The numbers in brackets refer to the corresponding pins on the other channel.)

\section*{Specification}

S/N Ratio -76 dB unweighted. 350 mV output at master volume control.

Max. output bofore clipping, 3.6 V r.m.s.
Harmonic distortion-none audible up to max. output \(\}\)
Frequency response \(-3 \mathrm{~dB} 10 \mathrm{~Hz}-30 \mathrm{kHz}\).
Line sensitivity \(\mathbf{1 0 0} \mathbf{m V}\).


Fig. 1. Circuit of one channel of mixer

The output signal is fed to the headphones by both C9 and R19. One of the design considerations was portability. To enable the unit to be used in difficult locations, that is when only one mains socket is available, the unit is battery operated. This is no hardship however since the current consumption is quite low, the prototype takes only 12 mA under quiescent conditions and around 30 mA when the headphones are being driven hard. Two PP9s provide many hours of continuous use. Larger capacity batteries can be easily accommodated in the chassis space available.

\section*{CONSTRUCTION}

Construction begins with the wiring of the boards. The layout of both is shown (Figs. 2-3). Little comment is required on this although care must be exercised to ensure that the semiconductors and electrolytics are correctly orientated.
The boards are lifted clear of the case by means of 6BA screws and nuts and the constructor must ensure that the breaks in the Veroboard tracks near these are properly made or the circuit will not function.

\section*{COMPONENTS}

Resistors (2 required except where asterisked)
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline R1, R101 & \(2 \mathrm{M7}\) \\
\hline R2, R102 & 2M7 \\
\hline R3, R103 & 2 M 7 \\
\hline R4, R104 & 68k \\
\hline R5, R 105 & 68k \\
\hline R6, R 106 & 68k \\
\hline R7, R107 & 680k \\
\hline R8, R108 & 75k \\
\hline R9, R109 & 7 k 5 \\
\hline R10,R110 & 2 k 7 \\
\hline R11,R111 & 33k \\
\hline R12,R112 & 330k \\
\hline R13, R113 & 47k \\
\hline R14, R114 & 6k2 \\
\hline *R15 & 1 k 5 \\
\hline *R16 & 2 k 7 \\
\hline R17,R117 & 22k \\
\hline R18, R118 & 1 M \\
\hline R19, R119 & 22 \\
\hline R20, R120 & 47k \\
\hline \multicolumn{2}{|l|}{All \(\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}\) carbon \(10 \%\)} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline Potentiometers & \\
\hline VR1, VR101 & 100k lin. dual gang \\
\hline VR2, VR102 & 100k lin. dual gang \\
\hline VR3, VR103 & 100k lin. dual gang \\
\hline VR4, VR104 & 47k log. + d.p. switch \\
\hline Samiconductors & \\
\hline TR1, TR 101 & BC149 \\
\hline TR2, TR 102 & BC251 \\
\hline TR3, TR103 & BC149 \\
\hline *IC1 & LM377 \\
\hline * D1 & TIL209 \\
\hline Capacitors & \\
\hline C1, C101 & \(100 \mu\) elect. 10 V \\
\hline C2, C102 & 8 p 2 silver mica \\
\hline C3, C103 & \(1,000 \mu\) elect. 25 V \\
\hline C4, C104 & \(10 \mu\) elect. 25 V \\
\hline C5, C105 & \(100 \mu\) elect. 16 V \\
\hline C6, C106 & \(10 \mu\) elect. 16 V \\
\hline C7, C107 & \(220 \mu\) elect. 16 V \\
\hline C8, C108 & \(10 \mu\) elect. 16 V \\
\hline C9, C109 & \(1,000 \mu 25 \mathrm{~V}\) \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Miscellaneous
Stereo headphone jack socket, 14 phone sockets Aluminium case \(11 \times 7 \frac{1}{2} \times 3 \frac{1}{2}\) in 4 knobs, \(5 \times 2 \frac{1}{2}\) in Veroboard, \(1 \frac{3}{4} \times 2\) in Veroboard


Fig. 2. Main board showing two channel transistor assembly



Fig. 3. I.c. power stage

(Left). Chassis interior showing board placement (Below). Wiring to control panel components. All lettered flying leads refer to the main board and the headphone amplifier board



\begin{abstract}
Showing phono socket assembly at rear panel for line and microphone inputs and mixer output. Note that the attenuator resistors are wired directly at the input sockets for all channels
\end{abstract}

\section*{CASE}

No case drilling details are shown as photographs make this quite straight forward. Readers will notice that rotary pots are used instead of the more usual slide types. The reason for this is that the latter tend to be more prone to the ingress of dirt and in consequence become sticky and noisy in use.

Needless to say, dual slide pots could be used but the layout of the case must be altered to suit. In practise, rotary controls are as simple and accurate as the linear slide type.

Linear pots are used at the input because they are better matched than logarithmic types, usually to within 1 dB . Due to the inherently close tolerance between tracks of the input pots, overall balance is obtained by the manipulation of the master volume controls.

\section*{LEGENDS}

Legends are applied to the case with Letraset "magic lettering". These are clearly indicated for the front and rear panels in the photographs.

This should be fixed with either a proprietary varnish spray or alternatively clear nail varnish. The choice of control knob is, of course, a matter of personal choice although experience shows that a knob with a large diameter, say 1 in , with a pointer is best. Push on types are less bothersome than the grub screw fitting types, and tend to be les expensive.

Once the case has been drilled the boards should have the necessary flying leads soldered in place and then mounted in

their respective positions. The pots, l.e.d. and sockets are then mounted. Finally the flying leads are connected to their destinations. At this point the wiring should be thoroughly checked. When satisfied that all is well connect the batteries, headphones and signal sources. Switch on and check the action of the controls. A final check that the voltages shown in Fig. 1 are present \(\pm 1 \mathrm{~V}\) and the mixer is ready for use.

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Hy

THE problem with books about microprocessors is that the author either concentrates on one specific device and loses readers not interested in it, or else, as in many books on the subject currently available, devotes part of the book to a discussion of different devices being manufactured; this usually turns out to be a very expensive way of buying the manufacturers' data.

In this book Mr Graham overcomes this problem by giving programming examples in a high-level language, namely PL/M, and one section is devoted to describing its features. The routines given to illustrate the techniques presented in the remainder of the book can thus be converted from PL/M to any specific assembly language.

\section*{MICROPROCESSOR PROGRAMMING FOR COMPUTER HOBBYISTS}

\author{
By Neill Graham \\ Published by Tab Books \\ Available from W. Foulsham, 837 Yeovil Rd., Slough, Bucks. \\ 378 pages. Price \(£ 6.50\)
}

The subjects covered include: floating-point arithmetic, input, and output; pseudo-random number generators; manipulation and use of data structures including arrays, strings, stacks, queues, deques, chains, and trees; and finally, searching, hashing, indexing, and sorting methods. Within these sections the book covers the topics clearly, if a little briefly, and the use of data structures is illustrated with a number of clear diagrams.

Though prior familiarity with a high-level language like PL/1, on which PL/M is based, might be an advantage in understanding the examples, the book should be a valuable source for the microprocessor programmer.
D.J.D.

\section*{COMPETITION}

THE free entry competition we ran at Breadboard attracted a large entry and guesses at the number of projects published in P.E. from the December 1976 isşue to December 1978 inclusive ranged from 2 to 2,000 . The correct answer was 94 . No one guessed this figure correctly but we had many with 93 and 95 .

The winner eventually selected was Mr B Wallington of Chatham. He receives a P.E. VDU System (presented by Technomatic), and a year's supply of P.E.

The ten runners up were: A. C. Walkland (Liverpool), J. Green (London W. 14), J. D. Parker (Buckhurst Hill), M. Davis (Nuneaton), P. D. Bond (South Godstone), J. Jones (Birmingham), Yan Lee (Tipton), M. Browne (Fleet), M. W. Keen (Bridgend), J. N. Jones (Basingstoke), each will receive a year's supply of P.E.

Two extra runners up prizes have been awarded to Mr. C Wysocki (London W9) and Dr. R. D. Bailey for their original "slogans". These were: "I think P.E. is to electronics magazines what St Michael is to underwear", and "I think P.E. is worth your trouble and my money". Well Dr. Bailey you can save your money for the next year, your copies will be sent by us. Our thanks to all those who participated, especially the staff of other magazines for their constructive comments!

\section*{BREADBOARD EXHIBITION}

TO all our readers who visited our stand at Breadboard, we are sorry that our technical staff were prevented from being there to demonstrate equipment and answer queries. This was due to an N.U.J. dispute within the I.P.C. Magazines Group. Thankfully the dispute has not affected P.E.s publication dates and is now over.

\section*{Polints nilisinc}
R.C. MOTOR CONTROL (DECEMBER 1978)

The left hand side of Link-2 shown on the component overlay should connect to the junction of R13 and D5. This requires an extra p.c.b. pad at R13, and a longer link to clear the track running underneath.


Readers requiring a reply to any letter must Include a stamped addressed envelope.
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\section*{Of Bees And Keys}

Sir-Congratulations to you and the authors on the CHAMP project. This ranks as perhaps the most exciting project to have been published in "Practical Electronics" for years. I have just had a very absorbing time in programming CHAMP to play the "Flight Of The Bumble Bee" (over 800 notes) using less than 512 program instructions, and look forward to other equally challenging problems.

The only criticism I have is that the authors use a keyboard which is apparently not readily obtainable. Readers may be interested to know that a good, robust, cheap hex keyboard can be obtained from Chiltmead Ltd, Arthur Rd, Reading. It is, however, somewhat too large to fit into the space allocated, but can nevertheless be accommodated by repositioning a few of the switches. The keyboard encoder and digit drivers can be mounted on a piece of Veroboard under the sloping panel at its top. The ground and 5 V leads can then run to the terminals at the
front, and the ribbon cable to the main board need only be 16 wires, which is more convenient than 18 . This cable can run through a rectangular hole in the chassis symmetrically placed with respect to the other cable hole. This arrangement seems to me to be neater than that described in the original article.
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\(0.06 \mathrm{~B}, 0.1,0.15,0.22 .0-33,0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 110\) altogether for £4.75 K004 Mylar capacitors, min 100 V ivpe 10 each all values from 1000 pF to \(10,000 \mathrm{pF}\).
Total 130 for \(£ 3.75\) K005 Polystyrene capacitors, 10 each value from 10 pF to \(10,000 \mathrm{pF}\). E 12 series \(5 \%\) 160V. Total 370 for E12.30 K006 Tantalum bead capacitors. 10 each of
the following: \(0.1,0.15,0.22,0.33,0.47\) the following: \(0.1,0.15,0.22,0.33,0.4\) \(0.68,1,2.2,3.3,4.7,6 \cdot 8\) all 35V: \(10 / 25\)
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