# PRACTICAL <br> ELECTRONICE <br> APRIL 1979 

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Component set (inct. PC8)
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Component set. PCB, special foot switches
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4 Octave ( 49 notes)
$\mathbf{E 2 5 . 5 0}$
5 Octave ( 61 notes)
Contact Assemblies (gold-clad wirel for use with the above KBDS (1 for each note)

Type GB: 2 pairs of contacts, each pair normally open
Type GC: 3 pairs of contacts, each pair normally open
Type GH: 5 pairs of contacts, each pair normally open
Type 4PS: 3 pairs of contacts plus single-pole changeover
Printed Circuit Boards for use with most contacts (thus eliminating much interwiringl are available. Details in our lists.
P.E. TUNING FORK (P.E. NOV. 75)

Produces 84 switch-selected frequency-accurate tones. A LED montor clearly displays all beat note adjustments. Ideal for tuning acoustic or electronic musical instruments. Main component set (incl. PCB)
Power supply set (incl. PCB)
£14.93
$\mathbf{f 6 . 2 8}$
SVNTHESISER TUNING INDICATOR (P.E. July 77)
A simple 4-octave trequency comparator for use with synthesisers and other instruments where the full versatility of the P.E. Tuning Fork is not required.
Component and PCB (but excl sw.)
£7.45

CONSTANT DISPLAY FREQUENCY METER \{PE AUG 78\}
A 5 -digit frequency counter for 1 Hz to 99999 Hz with a 1 Hz sampling rate. Readout does not count visibly or flicker due to display blanking.
Printed circuit board

- This kit \& PCB are at 8\% VAT (all others are $12 \frac{1}{2} \%$ )
£3.03*

TAPE NOISE LIMITER
Very effective circuit for reducing the hiss found in most tape recordings. All kits include PCBs
Standard tolerance set of components
Regulated power supply (will drive 2 sets)

DYNAMIC RANGE LIMITER (P.E. Apr. 77)
Automatically controls sound output to within a preset C

Component set (incl. PCB)

DISCOSTROBE (P.E. Nov. 76)
4 -channel light-show controller giving a choice of sequential random, or full strobe mode of operation.
Basic component set
Printed circuit board

BIOLDGICAL AMPLIFIER (P.E. Jan./Feb. 73)
Multi-function clrcuits that, with the use of other external equipment. can serve as lie-detector, alphaphone, cardiophone

Pre-Amp Module Components set lincl. PCBI £3.95 Basic Output Circuits-combined component set with PCBs. for alphaphone, cardiophone, frequency meter and visual feed-back lampdriver circuits. $\mathbf{£ 6 . 5 9}$ Audio Amplifier Module Type PC7

SOUND BENDER (P.E. May 74)
A multi-purpose sound controller, the functions of which anclude envelope shaper. tremolo. voice-operated fader automatic fader and frequency-doubler.
Details in lists.
SOPHISTICATED POWER SUPPLIES
A wide range of highly stabilised low noise power supply kits s avallable-details in our lisis.
 ,

## NEW PCB SERVICE

 PCBS FOR ALL NEW P.E. \& E.E. PROJECTS FOR WHICH PCB LAY. DUTS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED AND FOR WHICH FULL COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE IS AVAILABLE. LIMITED QUANTITIES ONLY FOR AN EXPERIMENTAL PERIOD.LET US KNOW YOUR NEEDS AND WE WILL ADVISE YOU OF AVAILABILITY AND PRICES.

INTEGRATED CIRCUITS 3018 -pin DIL 480 $\begin{array}{r}324 \\ 341 \\ .709 \\ \hline 723\end{array}$ -

PRICES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PRESS.
E. O. E. OELIVERY SUBJECT TO AVAILABLITY

## The Ratost kit innoraton from Sporithite parite-

the quickest fitting CLIP ON
capacitive discharge electronic ignition in KIT FORM

## - Smoother running

8
Instant all-weather starting
Continual peak performance
Longer coil/battery/plug life
Improved acceleration/top speeds
Optimum fuel consumption
Sparkrite $X_{4}$ is a high performance, high quality capacitive discharge, electronic ignition system in kit form. Tried, tested, proven, reliable and complete. It can be assembled in two or three hours and fitted in $1 / 3$ mins.
Because of the superb design of the Sparkrite circult it completely eliminates problems of the contact breaker. There is no misfire due to contact breaker bounce which is eliminated electronically by a pulse suppression circuit which prevents the unit firing if the points bounce open at high R.P.M. Contact breaker buen is eliminated by reducing the current to about $1 / 50$ th of the norm. It will perform equally well with new, old, or even badly pitted points and is not dependent upon the dwell sime of the contact breakers for recharging the systern Sparkrite incorporates a short circuit protected inverter which eliminates the problerns of SCR lock on and, therefore, eliminates the possibility of blowing the transistors or the SCR. (Most capacitive discharge ignitions are not completely (oolproof in this respect). The circuit incorporates a voltage regulated output for greatly improved cold starting. The circuit includes built in static timing light, systems function light, and security changeover switch. All kits fit vehicles with coil/distributor ignition up 108 cylinders.
THE KIT COMPRISES EVERYTHING NEEDED
Die pressed epoxy coated case. Ready drilled, aluminium extruded base and heat sink, coil mounting clips, and accessories. Top quality 5 year guaranteed transformer and components, cables, connectors, P.C.B., nuts, bolts and silicon grease. Full instructions to assemble kit neg. or pos. earth and fully illustrated installation instructions.
NOTE - Vehicles with current impulse tachometers (Smlths code on dial RV1) will - equire a tachometer pulse slave unit. Price $£ 3.85$ inc. VAT. post \& packing UK only.

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| TACHOPULSE SLAVE UNIT E3.85 |  |

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£
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Please state polarity pos or neg earth.
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| SOCKETS |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 18918 8 pln DIL | ¢0. |
| 169214 pin DIL | ¢0.12 |
| 161316 pin DIL | ¢0.13 |
| 161424 pln DIL | ¢0.25 |
| $1615{ }^{28} \mathrm{pin}$ DIL | ¢0.30 |
| 1616 TO18 Transistor | c0. 12 |
| 1617 TU3 Transistor | ¢0.35 |
| 18117 TO5 Transistor | ¢0.12 |
| VOLTAGE REGULATORS |  |
| Positive |  |
| MVR7805 v.a. 7805 TO220 | c0.70 |
| MVR7812 v.a. 7812 TO220 | c0.70 |
| MVR7815 v.a. 7815 TO220 | ¢0. |
| MVR7824 v.a. 7824 TO220 | ¢0.7 |
| Negative |  |
| MVR7905 v.a. 7905 TO220 | c0.80 |
| MVR7912 v.a. 7912 TO220 | ¢0.80 |
| MVR7915 v.a. 7915 TO220 | ¢0.8 |
| MVR7924 v.a. 7924 TO220 | c0.80 |
| v.a. 723 C TO99 | ¢0.45 |
| 7272314 pln DN | ¢0.45 |
| L.M309k то3 | ¢1.50 |

## ZENER DIODES

400 mw (Bzy88) DOY Glass encapsulated range of voltages avail-

 No. $\mathbf{2 4} 8 \mathrm{p}$ ea. 1w.1.5 P/astlc and metal encap-
sulated Range of voltages



10w Metal slud tyoe SO10 case.
Range of voltages avallable, $1: 3 v$,

 $91 \mathrm{v}, 100$

SILICON
RECTIFIERS

| 200 mA <br> 592050 v | £0.06 |
| :---: | :---: |
| is921 toov | $\underset{80.07}{20.06}$ |
| IS922 150v | E0.08 |
| 15923 200\% | c0.09 |
| iS924 300v | ¢0.90 |
| 1 Amp |  |
| ${ }^{1} \mathbf{N} 400150 \mathrm{y}$ | co. 041 |
| IN4002 100v |  |
| 1 N4003 200v | c0.06 |
| iN4004 400v | c0. 07 |
| IN4005 600v | ¢0. 08 |
| IN4006800v | c0. 09 |
| 1N4007 1000v | c. $0 \cdot 10$ |
| 1.5 Amp |  |
| 15015 50\% | c0. 09 |
| IS020 100v | E. 10 |
| 15021200 v | c. 0.11 |
| IS023 400 | c0. 13 |
| 15025 600v | E0. 14 |
| 15027800 v | c0. 16 |
| 15029 1000v | E0. 20 |
| 15031 1200v | E0. 25 |
| 3 Amp |  |
| IN5400 50\% | c0. 14 |
| in5401 100v | co. 15 |
| in5402 200v | c. 0.16 |
| IN5404 400V | E0. 17 |
| IN5406 600 | c.0. 21 |
| IN5407 800v | ع0. 25 |
| IN5408 1000v | c0. 30 |
| 10 Amp |  |
| $1510 / 5050 \mathrm{v}$ | E0. 19 |
| IS10/100 100v | E0. 21 |
| IS10/200 200\% | E.0.23 |
| IS10/400 400v | co. 35 |
| 1510/600 600 | E0.42 |
| IS10/800 800V | £0. 51 |
| IS10/1000 1000v | E.0.60 |
| IS $10 / 12001200 \mathrm{~V}$ | ¢0.69 |
| 30 Amp |  |
| 1530/50 50v | 80.56 |
| $1530 / 100$ Y00v | £0. 69 |
| IS30/200 200\% | E0.93 |
| 1530/400 400v | E1. 25 |
| 1530/600 600v | E1.76 |
| IS300800 800\% | ع1. 94 |
| IS30/1000 1000v | E2.31 |
| IS30/1200 1280v | £2. 88 |
| 60 A mp |  |
| $1570 / 5050 \mathrm{v}$ | 80.75 |
| 1570100 100v | £0. 84 |
| 15701200200 v | 11:20 |
| 1570/400 400v | c1. 75 |
| 1570/600 600v | E2. 25 |
| 15701800 800\% | c2.50 |
| 157010001000 v | E.3.00 |
| BYx38/300 64 300v | E0.45 |
| BYX38/600 6A 600v | ¢0.60 |
| BYX $38 / 300 \mathrm{Rev} 6 \mathrm{~A} 300 \mathrm{~V}$ | E0.45 |
| BYX38/600 Rev 6A 600v | ¢0.60 |

## POTENTIOMETERS

CARBON POTS (Linear Trach)
Single gang with wire end terminations, supplied with shake prool washer \& nut. Tolerance $\pm 20 \%$ of resislance.
1831 1k ohms $£ 0.26^{\circ} 183647 \mathrm{hohms}$ £0.26" 1832 2h2ohms $£ 0.26^{\circ} 1837$ 100hohms $£ 0.26^{\circ}$.
 1835 22kohms $£ 0.26^{*} 18401$ Meg
$\mathbf{£ 0 . 2 6}$ $18412 \mathrm{M} 2 £ 0.26^{\circ}$

CARBON POTS (Log Track)
1842 4kTohms $£ 0.26^{\circ} 1846$ 100hohms $£ 0.26^{\circ}$ 1843 10kohms $£ 026^{*} 1847220 \mathrm{kohms} £ 0.26^{\circ}$.
$184422 \mathrm{kohms} £ 0.26^{\circ} 1848470 \mathrm{kohms} £ 0.26^{\circ}$
 $18502 \mathrm{M} 2 \mathrm{£0} \cdot 26^{\circ}$

DUAL CAREON POTS (Lin Track) These high qualitydual gang pots are fitted with wire end terminations and 6 mm र 50 mm plastic shaft 10 mm , bush ind supplled with shake prool washer \& nut track 2 db of each other. VC3 ${ }^{2}$
18514 k 7




DUAL CARBON POTS (Log Law)
 188110 kohrms $\quad$ to. $86^{\circ}$. $1865220 \mathrm{kahms} \mathrm{f0.86}{ }^{\circ}$



SINGLE GANG SWITCHED (LIn Law) These potentlometers are fitted with double pole on-off switches. Thy switch is
Incorporated withtn the rotary action of the pot. Specifleatlon of pot Is as VC1.
Switeh rating 1.5 amps at 250 V AC.
$18704 \mathrm{kTahms} \quad$ C0.65* 1874100 kghms C0.65*




SWITCHED POT (Log Track)
Specification as VC2 but rack having (log) law.




DUAL GANG LOG-ANTI-LOG POT 1888 Track specification as dual gang pots action but tracks mounted to log-anti-log
100kohms $80.75^{\circ}$

SPECIAL VOLUME CONTROLS
A miniature 16 mm type replacement on-off switch. Resistance value 5kohms. Tolerance $\pm 20 \% 1 / 8 w a t 1$ rating.
1889
$\Sigma 0.27$
VC8

## MINIATURE ROTARY VOL

## CONTROL

$5 k o h m s$ log law with on $/ 0 f f$ swltch. 20 mm grooved spindle. Tag connections 17 mm dia. Supplied with fixing nut. Used malnly $\begin{array}{ll}\text { for replacement. } \\ 1890 & \text { E. } 54^{*} \\ \text { VC9 }\end{array}$

## WIRE WOUND POTS

A range of wire wound single gang pots with linear tracks of watt raing, fitted with 10 mm bush and supplied with shake-
VC6
1891 10ohms $£ 080 \quad 1895$ 2200hms $£ 0.80$ 1892 220hms $£ 0.80 \quad 18964700 \mathrm{hms}$ £0.80 1893 47ohms $£ 0.80 \quad 18971 \mathrm{kohms} £ 0.80$


## PRE-SET POTS

HURIZONTAL MOUNTING
Minlature type for Iransistor circulis. The
wiper of the preset is provided with a slo wiper of the preset is provided with a slot
for screw driver adjustment. The fags of the preset wlll fit printed wiring boards with a pitch of 2.54 mm . All tracks are linear law.
1801100 ohms $E 0.09^{\circ} 180822$ kohms $E 0-09^{*}$ 1802220 ohms $50.09^{\circ}, 180947 \mathrm{kohms} \mathrm{E} 0.09^{\circ}$.


 1807 1Okohms $\begin{array}{r}50.09^{\circ} \quad 18142 \mathrm{M} 2 \\ 18154 \mathrm{M} 7 \text { ahms } £ 0.09^{\circ}\end{array}$

## PRE-SET POTS VERTICAL MOUNTING

Minlature type for translstor circults. Wiper adjusiment is made by a screw
dilver siot. Desloned to fit 2.54 mm olich board. All tracks are linear law. $\begin{array}{lllll}1816100 \text { ahms } & \text { f0.09** } & 182322 \text { kohms } & \text { £0.09** } \\ 1817220 \text { ohnms } & \text { £0.09* } & 182447 \text { kohms } & £ 0.09^{*}\end{array}$ 1818470 ohms $\quad$ f0.09* 1825100 kohms f0.09*




## ANTEX IRONS

O/No. 1943. 15 watt high quallty soldering $\mid \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{N}$ o. 1931. Highly popular $\times 2525$ watt iron totally enclosed element in a ceramic shaft fitted with $3 / 32^{\prime \prime}$ bit. $\quad \mathbf{E 3 . 8 0}$ O/No. 1947. Replacement element for 1943 O/No. 1944. Iron coated bit 3/32" for 1943 co. 46 O/No. 1945. Iron coated bit $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ for 1943
fron. 80.46 O/No. 1946. Iron coated bit $3 / 16^{N}$ for 1943
Jron.
IO. 0.46 $\mathrm{O} / \mathrm{No}$. 1948. General purpose 18 watt iron fitted with Iron coated blt.

O/No. 1931. Highly popular $\times 2525$ watt quality soldering iron ceramic shatts to voltage of 1500 volts AC and a leakage current of only 3-5uA and another shaft of stainless sieel to ensure strength. $£ 3.60$ O/No. 1935. Replacement element for 1939
iron.
E1-60 O/No. 1932. Iron coated bit $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ for 1931 O/No. 1933. Iron coated blt $3 / 16^{\prime \prime}$ for 1931
iron. $\mathbf{E O} 50$ O/No. 1934. Iron coated bif $3 / 32^{\prime \prime}$ for 1931
iron. $\mathbf{c 0 . 5 0}$ O/No. 1953. SK1 soldering kit-this kit contains 15 watt soldering iron titied whe solder, heat-sink and a booklet 'how to solder'. In presentation display box. ©5.55 O/No. 1939. ST3 soldering iron stand.
Stand made from high grade bakelite materlal chromium plated strong steel
spring, sultable for all models. Includes spring, suitable for all models, sponges which serve to keep the soldering iron bits clean.

i-50 O/No. 1949. Iron coated bit $3 / 32^{\prime \prime}$ for 1948 | O/No. 1950. Iron coated bit $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ for 1948 |
| :--- |
| iron |
| fo. | O/No. 1951. Iron coated bit $3 / 16^{\prime \prime}$ for 1948

## PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD TRANSFERS

## B080 0000808 00800080 e080 0808000 08000880 <br>  <br> PAK etch-resist transfers. Lay the symbols on the board, rub over with a soft pencil. The transfer will adhere to the board. Then complete the circuit with your BI-PAK

## OPTOELECTRONICS <br> NEW INCREASED RANGE - ALL IST QUALITY

LED'S Idittus
O/no. Type
1501
1501 ARL2091TIL2091 1501 ARL209(1L209)
1502
M1L2323(112 111
1503
$1504331(1) P L 212 A)$
1504
ARL4850(FLV17)
1504 ARL4850(FLV117)
1505 MIL5251(TIL222)
1506 MIL5351 (MV53531
1509 FLV111
SUPER 'Hi-Brite' Type
$\begin{array}{ll}1521 & \text { MIL32 } \\ 1522 & \text { MIL52 }\end{array}$
1514 ORP 12 Light dependen
1520 OCP 71 Photo transisto


LED CLIPS
$\begin{array}{ll}\begin{array}{ll}1508 / 125 & \text { pack of } 5\end{array} & 125 \text { clips } \\ 1508 / 2 & \text { pack of } 5 \\ 2 \text { clips } \\ & \text { ALL @ } 8 \% \text { V.A.T. }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}3 \mathrm{~mm}(.125) & \text { RED } \\ .5 \mathrm{~mm}(.2) & \text { RED }\end{array}$
.
$\mathbf{c} 0.10$
$\mathbf{E} 0.10$ 60.10
60.55
$\mathbf{5 0 . 3 5}$
60.15
60.18

## DISPLAYS



## OPTO-ISOLATORS

Isolation Breakdown - Voltage 1500 - continuous fwd current
100 mA
CIL74 Single-Channel 6 pin DIP standard type - optically coupled pair with Infra-red LED Emitter and NPN CILD74 Multi-Channel 8 pin DIP Two Isolated Channels. CILQ74 Multi-Channel 16 pin DIP Four Isolated Channels.
$\qquad$
2nd GRADE LED PACK
A pack of 10 standard slzes and colours which fall to pertorm
to their very riold specifiction, but which are ideal for amateurs who do not require the full spec.
O/NO $107 £ 1.50$


CABLES

| DESCRIPTION | O/NO | PRICE/ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Microphone Cable | 3126 | co. 10 |
| Twin Microphone | 3127 | c0.20 |
| Twin Stereo Screened Cable | 3128 | ¢0.15 |
| Multicore Standard 4-Core Screened | 3129 | ¢0.30 |
| 4-Core Individually screened | 3130 | ¢0.22 |
| Heavy Microphone Cable | 3131 | c0.18 |
| Light 3-Core mains | 3132 | ¢0.10 |
| Twin Oval Mains | 3133 | ¢0.09 |
| Speaker Cable | 3134 | ¢0.07 |
| Low Loss Co-axial Cable | 3136 | ¢0.22 |
| 15 Way Multi Coloured Ribbon Cable | 3136 | ¢0.40 |

## TRANSISTORS



# SAXON ENTERTAINMENTS THE PIONEERS OF MODULAR DISCO/P.A. EQUIPMENT NOW OFFER PACKAGE DEALS AT INCOMPARABLE PRICES 

## CENTAUR STEREO DISCOS

 TWIN SPEAKERS \& LEADS

## Standard 100W

C? 10 + carr. 115 + VAT $\mathcal{L} \angle 4$ or Deposit E57.12 12 Months @ $£ 22.23$ or 24 Manths @ $£ 12.73$

## Super 200W

£299 or depositit 68.12 12 Months @ £26.41 or 24 Months @ £15.11
GXL 200W ( C389 : £389 or Deosifi 88732
12 Months @ £ 34.02 or 24 Moriths @ £ 19.47
3SR Decks - 17,000 Line Laudspeakers - Rugged Aluminium Trimmed Cabiners - Cue Light And Phanes Output - Slave Output - Deck Lights/Mator Starts (GXL)
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£35
SA 308
8 ohms 30 W 45 V SA604
4 ohms 50 V
8 chms 60 W 65 V
SA1204
SA1208
SOUND-TO-LIGHT UNITS

## 3 CHANNEL - 3kW

$\square$ Bass/middie/treble/master
£29.50 $\begin{gathered}\text { + £ } 1 \text { carr } \\ \text { complete }\end{gathered}$
Module only £ 19.75 Panel $£ 2.95$
$\square$ Dimmer on each channel
$\square$ Logic circuitry throughout
$£ 39.50$ Carr $£$
Module only $£ 26.75$ Panel $£ 2.95$
100W SPOTS

HEAVY DUTY SPOT BANKS - MATCHES LOUDSPEAKERS
3 way $600 \mathrm{~W} £ 35.504$ way $800 \mathrm{~W} £ 39.50{ }_{\text {£ } 2}^{\text {Corr }}$

## COMPLETE STEREO ROADSHOWS - BUILT IN SOUND TO LIGHT/SEQUENCER \& DISPLAY

 TWO YEAR GUARANTEE
illustratian shows GXL Centaur System
These systems feature full mixing for twa decks tape \& mic with manitaring facilifies - averride and are supplied camplete with sound ta light + sequencer, display, speaker leads etc.

## JUST PLUG IN AND GO


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## FOUR

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UK Police - Déstroyer - US Police - Hawaii Five-O All the effects you need in one package
£ 17.50
Corr free
£7.50

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S
AL
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wit
ius
'SMASH'
ALI VOICE SIMULATOR
Add a new dimension to your disco
with this press bution effee iust insert between mic and amplifier
£7.50 Carr free
SAXON 'SCINTILLITE'
Rope light controller with outo reverse $£ 24.75 \begin{gathered}\text { Corr } \\ \text { free }\end{gathered}$
SAXON Rope Lights multicolour
25 feet long
Easy to change lamps $£ \mathbf{\$ 3 . 5 0} \begin{aligned} & \text { Carr } \\ & £ 1\end{aligned} \begin{gathered}\text { Spare bulbs } \\ 10 p \text { ea. }\end{gathered}$

| FUZZ LIGHTS | Red, Blue <br> Yellow, Green | $£ 22.80$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

DISCO MIXERS - COMPLETE OR MODULAR

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Availoble complete and ready to plug in or as on easy lo connect module with oll controis except monitor switch clreody fitted - full instructions supplied.

## FEATURES INCIUDE:

Twin Deck - Mic \& Tope Inputs - Wide range monitoring reble controts - Full headphone
dord performance.

MONO OR STEREO
WITH AUTOFADE
MODULES
Mono module $£ 27.50$ Stereo module $£ 37.50$ Ponel $£ 3.95$ Kit of knobs/ Kit of knobs
sockets etc COMPLETE MIXERS (with cose)
Monomoins £45.75
Stereo moins £63.75

## MINI DISCO 100 WATT MONO SYSTEM

 f17950 therf Ils vat+ carr. $£ 15+$ VAT
eposit $£ 42.06$
12 Months @ $£ 16.43$ or 24 Months @ £9.43

Similar in appearance ta the Centaur and complete with loudspeakers and leads.

Headphanes ta suit any system EM507 Electret Mic
£ 15.00
DI 501 Electret Mic
Baam Siand
£18.50
Corriage on all disco and PA systems
£ 15.50
£ 10.00 (Included in H.P. Prices)

## 20\% Deposit Terms 12 to 24 Months <br> - Low Interest

## CABINET FITTINGS

ICI Vynide $50^{\prime \prime}$ wide $£ 3.50 \mathrm{~m}$ Kick-res grille $50^{\prime \prime}$ wide $£ 3.50 \mathrm{~m}$ Netlon kick proof $24^{\prime \prime}$ wide $£ 3.50 \mathrm{~m}$
Corners/feet/recess plates 15 p ea. Recess handie 45 p
Bar handles $£ 2.50$ Jack plugs/sockets 25p
LOUDSPEAKER CABINETS -
COMPLETE WITH LEADS
$\square$ Fitred with 100W 17,000 Gauss drivers
$\square$ Rugged cobinets with aluminium trim - black vynide eis
$\square$ Lifetime guarontee on main drive unit
Stondard $100 \mathrm{~W} 1 \times 12(48 \times 4) \times 24) £ 39.00$ Corr $£ 3$ Deposit $£ 9.36$
Large $100 \mathrm{~W} 1 \times 12(65 \times 48 \times 24) \quad £ 49.50 \begin{aligned} & \text { Carr } £ 3 \\ & \text { Deposit } £ 12.70\end{aligned}$ P.A. $1 \times 12(+2$ Piezos) $\{80 \times 38 \times 24\}$ £66.50 Carr $£ 3$ Deposit $£ 15.82$
P.A. $2 \times 12200 \mathrm{~W}(100 \times 38 \times 24) \quad £ 99.00 \begin{aligned} & \text { Corr } £ 3 \\ & \text { Deposit } £ 20.92\end{aligned}$

Disco $2 \times 12200 \mathrm{~W}(80 \times 63 \times 24)$ $\mathbf{£ 8 5 . 0 0} \begin{gathered}\text { Carr } £ 3 \\ \text { Deposit } £ 19.80\end{gathered}$
PDF reflex bin $(80 \times 40 \times 41)$ £95.00 Carr $\begin{gathered}\text { L̂3 } \\ \text { Deposit } \\ \text { E20.60 }\end{gathered}$

## PDF100 Reflex Bin - Twin Horns - Integrated Slave

 Amplifier - Accepts mono or sterea signalsUse with all types of mixer
Pan and volume controls Send for details

ع 130 Carr $£ 3$

## PLUTO PROJECTORS \& WHEELS

P140 150 Watt fungsten
£37.50 Carr $£ 1.00$
P5000 $\begin{aligned} & 250 \text { Watt Q.I. }+ \text { fan } \\ & \text { Intachange fitting }\end{aligned}$
£87.50 Corr $£ 1.00$


Picture wheels from $£ 4.75$ - a wide range of wheels \& effects available - send for leaflet

MOTOROLA PIEZO HORNS
£4.50. YES!!

## Manchester PACKAGE DEAL P.A. SYSTEMS <br> 2 YEAR GUARANTEE <br> 100 WATT £159.90 <br> +Corr DEPOSIT <br> £15 +VAT <br> 12 mlh @ $£ 14.77$ or 24 mlh @ £8.48 $£ 13.99$ <br> AP100 4 INPUT AMPLIFIER (see below) <br> TWIN PIEZO HORN 100 W COLUMNS \& LEADS <br> 200 WATT £249.00 <br> + Corr DEPOSIT £15 +VAT £57.12 <br> $12 \mathrm{mth} @ £ 22.23$ or $24 \mathrm{mth} @ £ 12.73$ £21.12 <br> 4 USES NEW AP200 SIX INPUT AMPLIFIER (below) t PAIR OF TWIN 200W PIEZO HORN COLUMNS <br> AP100 AMPLIFIER $£ 49.50$ <br> * 4 mixing units <br> Bass, Ireble, moster controls <br> t Twin outputs vynide cose <br> + 11.50 Corr <br> Depasit <br> £10.22 <br> £89.50 $+£ 2.50$ Carr t 6 mixing inputs - 3 set of bass/Ireble controls <br> - Master \& Prescence controls <br> VAT £4.08



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 your own mixelMonol Stereo
up to 20
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inputs
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## BLOWING THE TRUMPET

$\mid$T'S NICE to know you are number one, and P.E. has over the last six months consolidated its position as the leading electronic hobby magazine published in Britain. By this we don't mean that we consider ourselves to be a better magazine, better features, better presentation, more interesting reading etc., we should not judge ourselves! We simply mean that you buy more copies per month of P.E. than any other similar magazine* and that, of course, pleases us. More copies sold is the start of a spiral, in addition to enabling us to improve the product, or at least restrict price rises, it also means that our advertisers can sell more and that helps to increase the number of adverts we carry. This in turn leads to bigger issues which, hopefully, will encourage even more people to buy and so, if we continue to "get it right", it goes on.

We hope, of course, that "more copies sold" means that you like us better than the others. It does not mean that we are perfect or that we can please all the people all the time, but we hope it shows we are going in the right direction! We will not now sit back and let the grass grow, as is so easy when things are going well, in-
deed we would like you to tell us how we can go on getting better-or perhaps you think we ought to start to Improve?

We have scored some notable firsts over the last few months, our VDU and Microprinter projects for instance; we feel that the Bubble Memories feature this month is a significant, up to the minute, article on this "new" technology.

## EXCLUSIVE

We have been able to design and manufacture a very useful tool which will be exclusive to P.E. and, although it is worth at least $£ 1$ (many similar tools are sold to industry for much more) we will be giving one away with each of our May issues. After that a limited quantity will be available for sale by writing to the editorial offices.

We have brought you a number of catalogues over the last year or so, and this issue carries-not a full catalogue-but at least a sample of what Maplin, the largest mail order component suppliers in this country, can offer. We are sure these catalogues are of interest to most readers and, judging by the way you respond by ofdering components, they have been
helpful in the search for the right part at the right price.

We have some exciting projects under development and maybe we can score some more firsts with one or two of them! We will continue to strive to improve the quality of our projects but that does not mean that they will be getting bigger to get better. There is, and will undoubtedly continue to be, a demand for the smaller well designed project.

It is not our intention to leave behind those without a pocket deep enough for the synthesiser or computer etc. However, this hobby can significantly reduce the cost of many items of equipment and we are sure that such benefits will continue for those of us that follow the hobby as constructors.

Having blown our trumpet, and thankfully you are still reading-even if you totally disagree with everything above-we will give you a chance to reply. Comments to the editor pleasenot too blue as it affects the nerves (and my secretary)-and hopefully we can let you have your say in Readers' Letters in a couple of months!

Mike Kenward

[^2]
## EDITOR

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## Technical Queries

We are unable to offer any advice on the use or purchase of commercial equipment or the incorporation or modification of designs published in Practical Electronics.

All letters requiring a reply should be accompanied by a stamped, self addressed envelope and each letter should relate to one published project only.

Components are usually available from advertisers; where we anticipate supply difficulties a source will be suggested.

## Back Numbers

Copies of most of our recent issues are available from: Post Sales Department, IPC Magazines Ltd., Lavington House, 25 Lavington Street, London SE1 OPF, at $75 p$ each including Inland/Overseas $p \& p$.

## Binders

Binders for PE are available from the same
 UK addresses, $£ 3.45$ overseas, including postage and packing, and VAT where ap-
propriate. Orders should state the year and volume required.

## Subscriptions

Copies of PE are available by post, inland or overseas, for $£ 10.60$ per 12 issues, from: Practical Electronics, Subscription Department, Oakfield House, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3DH.

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## SMALLIS BEAUTIFUL

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The base, which has non slip feet, measures only $120 \times 65 \times 50 \mathrm{~mm}$, has a burnproof aluminium cover which solder will not adhere to and an indicator lamp to show correct operation.

The sub-miniature 6 V 6 W two-wire iron has a stainless steel shaft, longlife element and a slide on nickel plated tip only 2.4 mm in diameter.

Price is $£ 9.95+$ VAT.
Available, ex-stock, from Toolrange Ltd., Upton Road, Reading RG3 4JA (0734 29446).

## SALE SALE SALE SALE

If you live in or around the London area and are interested in buying components at sale prices then go along to Home Radio between March 24th and 31 st, shop hours are 9.00 to 5.00 and 1.00 on Wednesdays.

They are in the process of moving premises-though all mail should continue to be sent to their present address-and have decided to sell off the ex catalogue stock.

They tell us that this consists mainly of current items but also includes some valve transformers etc. It is all new and is available to callers only, during "sale week".

Once they have moved, at the end of March, they will no longer be able to serve callers and their business will then be mail order only.

Home Radio (Components) Ltd., 240 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3HD. (01648 8422).

## ELECTRONIC BASEBALL

An electronic baseball game which simulates all the functions of the real game in a self-contained, battery-operated unit has been introduced by Micro Electronics Ltd.

The microprocessor-controlled game, which uses l.e.d. displays to simulate the movements of players and ball and to keep score, allows players to use their own offensive and defensive skills and strategy to influence the result.

In operation, a player chooses the desired speed of pitch (slow, normal or fast) and then presses the "pitch" button, which starts a scoreboard display cycling through all possible events at the desired speed. When the "bat" button is pressed, the cycling of events stops, and a crowd cheer (for a "hit") or a buzz (for an "out") is heard.

In addition, players can introduce offensive or defensive options in the form of "pinch hitters" or "relief pitchers", respectively. The control circuitry is designed so that the three pinch hitters have a higher "batting average" ( 400 against 270 for the normal team players), and the two relief pitchers, although more "powerful" to start with, are designed to "tire" to the original pitcher's effectiveness after five batters.

There are several ways in which players can use their skill: the pitcher has three choices of speeds, giving him the opportunity to analyse the batter to see whether he hits fast or slow balls, and the batter can time his pressing of the "bat" button (with practice) to obtain more and better hits.


An alphanumeric display scoreboard provides a continual display of home and visitor score, number of relief pitchers and pinch hitters remaining, event counter (showing score of present batter), inning counter, "at bat" indicator (showing which side is in), number of "outs", and indicators to show when pinch hitters or relief pitchers are introduced.

The game is mounted in a sturdy plastic case with a representation of a baseball dia mond, with individual lights showing the location of the base runners. An input is provided for an external 9 V d.c. supply

Micro Electronics Limited, Consumer Products Division, 766 Finchley Road, London, NW 11 7TH (01-458 8944).

## INTEL TECHNICAL LIBRARY

Intel have just updated and reprinted their leaflet which lists all the technical publications available from them. These include users' and operators' manuals, brochures, application notes, reliability reports, article reprints and data sheets.

The larger manuals can be purchased from Intel and purchasers are allowed to select up to five additional publications free of charge with each order.

The Intel technical library is now extensive and covers most aspects of microcomputer and minor system design and application.

Intel Corporation (UK) Lid., 4 Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 3NB (0865 771431).

## SINCLAIR DMMs

To complement their two existing low cost meters, Sinclair Radionics have announced two new digital multimeters. (The DM450 and DM350). The DM450 is a $4 \frac{1}{2}$ digit, 5 function multimeter with a basic accuracy of 0.05 per cent of the reading and the DM350 is a $3 \frac{1}{2}$ digit instrument with 34 ranges and a basic accuracy of 0.1 per cent of the reading. Both units can handle currents up to 10 A , and resistances to 20 M , are protected against overloads and have high brightness, 8 mm l.e.d. displays.


The units are powered from four C size cells and an optional a.c. adaptor is available where continuous use is required. Additional accessories include a rechargeable battery pack, 30 kV high voltage probe and an "eveready" carrying case with a neck strap.

The DM450 is priced at $£ 99$ plus VAT and the DM350 is $£ 69$ plus VAT. For further details contact Sinclair Radionics Ltd., London Road, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE17 4HJ. Telephone (0480 64646).

## LIGHTWEIGHT SOLDERINGIRONS

Tele-Production Tools Ltd. announces the availability of the TELPRO FR range of soldering irons.

These irons operate from $220 / 240 \mathrm{~V}$ but are also available for $12,24,48$ or 110 V operation, with an option of three power ratings; 18,24 or 30 W .


The standard F35 type high purity ironclad tip is supplied with the irons; these are detachable and may be interchanged with any of twelve other iron-clad tips which are made in various shapes and sizes.

These tips reduce migration of copper molecules during soldering, thereby greatly extending the tip life and eliminating frequent re-dressing of the soldering tip.

For further information contact: TeleProduction Tools Ltd., Stiron House, Electric Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SSO 9NW (0702 352719).

## MOD-1

The latest enclosures from West Hyde Developments are in three distinct series.

The MOD-1 type A series is a 19 in rack mounting chassis with panel heights from 2 to $6 \mathrm{U}\left(3 \frac{1}{2}\right.$ to $\left.10 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}\right)$.

The type $\mathbf{C}$ series contains cases which can be either free standing or rack mounting. Heights are from 2 to 6 U and various widths and depths are available.


The type E series are 19 in housings made to take "type A" racks and "type C" cases or any 19 in front panels.

For full details including price contact West Hyde Developments Ltd., Unit 9, Park Street Industrial Estate, Aylesbury, Bucks., HP20 1ET. (0296 20441).

## DISPLAY BEZEL

Newly-available from Vero Electronics is a moulded display bezel in two sizes to frame and highlight a display and at the same time cover possible tool marks around a panel cutout.


Designed to fit into a single rectangular cutout, the bezel is positioned in the cut-out by four removable location pegs, and firmly secured by two moulded in screwed studs which also secure the display mounting board on spacers provided.

A choice of lenses is offered-neutral, red and clear, polarised or un-polarised and a full range of compatible mounting boards for both l.e.d. and l.c.d. displays is available.

Prices range from $£ 1.50$ for a 4 -digit bezel with clear lens, to $£ 2.65$ for a 6 -digit with coloured lens.

Vero Electronics Limited, Industrial Estate, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO5 3ZR. (042-15 69911).

## MINIATURE TIMERS

ELREMCO announce the introduction of a new range of miniature electronic timers.

The units are all of the plug-in module variety and are housed in the same size enclosure, which measures 36 mm square $x$ 50.5 mm high, excluding plug. A full range of Delay, Interval, Delay to Off and variable On/Off cycling are available, with time ranges up to 180 seconds. All have a single change over contact rated up to 5 A at 240 V resistive, depending on type.


The timers are manufactured by Gruner of West Germany and ELREMCO have the sole U.K. agency.

For details contact Electrical Remote Control Co. Ltd, P.O. Box 10, Bush Fair, Harlow, Essex CM18 6LZ (0279 24285)

## MICRO DE-SOLDERING TOOL

Less than 7 in long, only $\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter and weighing only loz, the MICRO desoldering tool is certainly small.


It has an all metal body, high suction power and easily replaceable screw in Teflon tips. It is primed and released by thumb operation, with a built in safety guard and an anti-recoil system.

Ideal for use with subminiature soldering irons on the smallest electronic circuitry, the 3 mm dia. nozzle can remove solder from even the most tightly packed double sided printed circuit boards.

This MICRO costs $£ 5.95$ + VAT.
Available, ex-stock, from Toolrange Ltd., Upton Road, Reading RG3 4JA (0734 29446).

## HAPPY TTL TESTING

Useful birthday presents generally turn out to be socks but I was more lucky with this one, an Amtron logic probe kit.

There are not many components: a 7404 i.c., a BC107B transistor, a couple of resistors, a p.c.b., two w.e.l.s (white emitting lamps), a piece of red and a piece of green celluloid, probe body, a metre of screened lead and two insulated croc clips.

Putting the components on the board was easy, although one i.c. hole had not been drilled. Getting the assembly of board, celluloid pieces, probe body and end caps together was a bit of a struggle. One end cap had to be scraped to fit and the body and the pieces of coloured celluloid annoyingly twisted themselves out of position as the probe tip was screwed on. When the cursing was over the device proved to be a goer first time, for use on TTL only.

Our May issue will have the first part of a TTL project, a small microcomputer using the General Instrument CP1610 16 bit microprocessor.
A.T.

## belzer electronic tools

Belzer tools from West Germany are certainly not cheap but meet high standards of quality and finish. The range includes special pliers made from vanadium extra steel. nickel coated, chromium plated and highly polished with spring loaded plastic handles.


Also listed are pliers, cutters and screwdrivers; tweezers, adjustable tools and complete tool kits.

A free 32 page colour catalogue and price list is available from Toolrange Ltd., Upton Road, Reading RG3 4JA (0734 29446).

## A CAREER IN ELECTRONICS

A new careers leaflet has been issued by The Institution of Electrical and Electronics Technician Engineers (IEETE) entitled "Engineering a career in the electrical and electronics industry":

The booklet avoids excessive detail, concentrating rather on giving a general picture of the profession of electrical and electronic engineering and the qualifications required to become a Technician Engineer, a Technician or a Chartered Engineer.

The leaflet will be useful not only to young people considering their career, but also to those engaged in offering careers advice and guidance.

Copies are available on request from The Secretary, IEETE, 2 Savoy Hill, London WC2R OBS (01-836 3357).

## INSTANT HEAT IRON

The Engel $\mathbf{S} 50$ is a mains operated iron which has a 35 watt power consumption and can heat up to an operating temperature of $350^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in under 10 seconds.


The joint to be soldered is illuminated by a built-in lighting unit and an indicator lamp is fitted to show when the iron is on.

The price of the $\mathbf{S} 50$ is $£ 9.50$ and further information can be obtained from Kelgray Products Limited, Kelgray House, Sandy Lane, Crawley Down, West Sussex RH10 4HS (0342 715066).

## WATFORD CATALOGUE

Watford Electronics have replaced their stock list with an illustrated catalogue which covers a wide range of components, tools, kits, test and audio equipment, and news of Watford's own business and home computer system based on the Zilog $\mathbf{Z} 80 \mu \mathrm{P}$.

The price of the catalogue, which has now been available for a few months, is 50 p plus $25 p$ for $p \& p$.

Watford Electronics, 33/35 Cardiff Road, Watford, Herts. WDI 8ED (0923 40588).

## STACKABLE I.e.d.s

The standard range of Mullard l.e.d.s has recently been extended to include a series of stackable red, green and yellow devices.

The flattened outline of these devices enables them to be mounted with a centre-tocentre distance of only 0 . lin.

These new l.e.d.s have the same high brightness levels normally associated with filament type lamps ( 0.8 mcd at 20 mA ) and will allow bar graphs to be easily constructed.

Type numbers for the devices are; CQX10 (red), CQX 11 (green) and CQX 12 (yellow).

For further information including price contact Mullard Ltd., Mullard House, Torrington Place, London.

## DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS

Now available, off-the-shelf, from Distronic are two microprocessor development systems for the RCA CDP1800 COSMAC microprocessor family. Costing $£ 100$ (plus VAT), the CDP18S020 evaluation kit is a complete kit of components for building an evaluation board for the CDP 1802 COSMAC microprocessor, while the CDP18S021 Microterminal, which costs $£ 70$ (plus VAT), is a hand-held, non-hard-copy alternative to a teletypewriter data terminal.

The evaluation kit represents a valuable first step in the development of COSMAC programs and prototype systems, and incorporates on-board utility read-only memory for terminal control.

The Microterminal provides a convenient means of controlling a COSMAC system, reading and modifying memory, and providing hexadecimal input/output capability.

The two systems are ideally suited to combined operation.

Distronic Limited, 50-51 Burnt Mill, Elizabeth Way, Harlow, Essex (0279 32947)

## ASCII ENCODED TOUCH KEYBOARD

The capacitive touch keyboard manufactured by Star Devices is a low cost terminal for use with microprocessor systems.

The standard unit includes, 7 bit parallel ASCII encoded output with positive and negative strobe edges, full ASCII character set, auto repeat, audio feedback which can be adjusted by means of a volume control and a sensitivity control which allows the touch pads to be adjusted to suit the user.

When the character is selected the seven l.e.d.s mounted above the keypad will display the ASCII code for that particular character.

The keyboard, which requires a 5 V 200 mA power supply, is priced at $£ 37.50$ including VAT, p\&p and a comprehensive handbook.

For information contact Star Devices Ltd., Box 21, Newbury, Berks. (0635 68020).


# Semiconductor UPDATIE FEATURING: s 2600 S2601 2758 

## REMOTECHIPS

The possibilities of electronic remote control systems have always fascinated me. I did once dabble in the subject when I became hooked on the radio control of model aircraft using a 27 MHz radio link. Building the electronics was fun, but range problems and the vagaries of aerodynamics finally caused my interest to wane.

These days my only contact with the subject is a quick drool over the latest, and consequently far too expensive, quad proportional systems which appear in the window of our local model shop.

Just recently, however, a new data sheet from A.M.I. has had me thinking up all kinds of new remote control schemes for things like TV games, garage doors, model cars, and burglar alarms. The object of my new found affection is a two chip remote control set coded $\mathbf{S 2 6 0 0}$ and $\mathbf{S 2 6 0 1}$.

The S2600 is a complete CMOS encoder intended for use with ultrasonic, l.e.d., r.f., or hardwired transmitter circuits. It can transmit any one of 31 commands under the control of a simple keyboard, and it uses a bit-synchronised encoding scheme which pulse code modulates a 40 KHz carrier.

The use of sychronisation pulses transmitted with every data bit results in a link very tolerant to frequency variations between transmitter and receiver clock oscillators, and message integrity is further assured by a coded preamble message and the use of redundant transmissions so that

Circuit Application S2600/S2601
at least two identical message frames are sent for each command.

The 40 KHz carrier frequency is ideal for the direct drive of a piezoelectric ultrasonic transducer, and the fact that the S2600 is fabricated in CMOS means that a low cost 9 volt battery can be used as a power source.

The S 2601 is a PMOS decoder circuit which recognises valid commands from the S2600 and outputs a five bit binary word in response to the key pressed at the transmit end.

Some of the 31 codes are assigned special significance by being recognised within the S2601 and used to control additional outputs.

Five special function outputs are provided, a pulse train, or stepper, output which pulses at 2.44 Hz while the appropriate button is depressed, an ON/OFF function which toggles on the receipt of its own special code, and three analogue outputs, A, B and C in the form of 10 kHz pulse trains with a variable mark to space ratio.

The analogue outputs can give, after low pass filtering, 64 discrete voltage levels and they can be made to increase in response to one transmitted code and decrease in response to another.

The chips were designed in the first place for the remote control of television sets, but they can be used for any other purpose you can dream up. The S 2600 is in a 16 pin d.i.l. package, and the S 2601 in a 22 pin package, so they are easy to accommodate in miniature systems. Just think what you could do with a pair of these chips and one of those motorised plastic car kitsl


## 5 VOLT EPROM

Microprocessor nuts will no doubt be familiar with the 2708 Erasable, Programmable, Read Only, Memory (EPROM), which has become something of an industry standard in the past couple of years. The 2708 is used to hold programs during software development, when the fact that it can be erased with Ultra Violet (UV) light and reprogrammed is a great asset.

Volume manufacturers go on to replace their 2708s with cheaper mask programmed ROMs when the software has been finalised for mass production. But for small quantity manufacture and for hobby use, the 2708 is the only form of ROM most people consider.

With a capacity of 1 K 8 bit words, the 2708 is a handy size for most purposes, but unfortunately it has the drawback of needing three power supply rails, and has a data sheet restriction which forbids single word programming.

The ability to program a PROM a few words at a time can be very useful for those inevitable patches which are needed to get a program running, and having to wait for up to an hour for an erase cycle can mean that you need to have four or five PROMs in circulation for every socket on the board. An expensive overhead!

To overcome those 2708 problems, and a few more besides, Intel have introduced the 2758 which has the same capacity as the older device but which operates from a single 5 volt supply.

Single address programming is standard, and only a single 25 volt supply is needed for programming, with all inputs and outputs TTL compatible during read and program. With programming now so easy, it is a very simple matter to design a PROM programmer.

If you like, you can even program the PROMs in the sockets in which they will be used. All you need to do is pipe a switchable 25 volt supply to the $V_{c c}$ pin on each PROM, set up the address and data under software control, and bang in a 50 ms pulse on the PD/PGM pin. Every microprocessor system could contain its own programmer software-a nice thought. Oh, and the PD in PD/PGM stands for Power Down. The 2758 has a low power standby mode which cuts power consumption by 75 per cent when deselected by a logic high on the PD/PGM input.

Nice one, Intell


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 declaration to the effect that it is the original work of the undersigned, and that it has not been accepted for publication elsewhere.

## CAR INTRUDER ALARM

THIS circuit provides protection by sensing the voltage drop in the wire to the interior courtesy light fitted to most cars.

On sensing the voltage drop, when one of the doors are opened, the alarm will trigger and 5 seconds later the horn will give an intermittent blast if the circuit is not reset.

R1 and R2 bias the inputs of the operational amplifier at approximately 10 V with a 12 V supply.
The inverting input however is biased at 0.7 V below this (forward voltage drop of D1) which means that the output is at the positive supply rail.

If the supply voltage should drop slightly, the non-inverting input will drop also, but the inverting input will not due to the charge on Cl and the diode D1 reverse biases preventing Cl from discharging. The output from IC1 will drop and flip the latch formed by one half of a CMOS quad two input NAND package. The output of this latch then charges up C4 in 5 seconds activating the 0.5 Hz oscillator which pulses the car's horn.

R5/C2 time-constant is provided to filter any unwanted noise. R6/C3 ensure correct start up for the latch and R7, C4 give an approximate 5 second delay to
allow the alarm to be deactivated on entering the car via hidden switch $\$ 1$.
To arm the circuit you just open the car door and switch on the alarm. The alarm will not be activated when the door is closed as the circuit responds only to a drop in supply voltage, not a rise.
The relay should be any 12 V type capable of handling the horn current. Potentiometer VR1 is provided as a sensitivity control:
C. J. Nother,

Portsmouth,
Hants.


## SIGNAL INJECTOR

THIS design is based on the SN7400N TTL integrated circuit.
The basic oscillator runs at approximately 200 kHz , and produces a square wave with fast rising edges, and hence is rich in harmonics. For this signal to be heard, it is modulated at 2 kHz by another oscillator.

Each oscillator consists of two NAND gates connected as an astable multivibrator with two capacitors and two resistors. The lower frequency oscillator, ICI(c) and IC1(d), has its output fed to the spare input of IC 1 (b).

Thus the higher frequency oscillator is switched on and off at 2 kHz . The composite signal is fed to the probe tip via a $22 n$ isolating capacitor.

D. P. Akerman,<br>Coventry.



## SOUND-TO-LIGHT PREAMP

WITH many circuits for sound-tolight converters using valve output transformers to isolate the audio source, the sound level has to be unacceptably high (in domestic systems certainly) to produce a reasonable display.

This can be overcome by the use of a simple field effect transistor pre-amp between the transformer and the frequency selective network. The f.e.t. is better suited to this situation than its bipolar brother as any variations of voltage appearing at the gate will be amplified irrespective of the current available.

The value of components is by no means critical in this particular circuit and virtually any $n$ type f.e.t. will work. This basic configuration can, in fact, be used where ever a high input impedance and medium output impedance are required. The calculations are very simple, since, as no gate current flows, the input impedance is effectively the same value as the resistor R1, while that of the output is equal to R2.
J. Little,

Parkstone,
Dorset.


## ELECTRONIC DOOR BELL

T
His door bell circuit has the op-amps ICI-1C4 arranged to form a second order differential network.

The output of the circuit to a step input is therefore damped simple harmonic motion, or the wave form from a plucked string with no harmonics. The step input is provided by the bell push button, and the ringing decay rate is adjusted by potentiometer VR1.

The output is buffered through IC5 the volume being controlled by potentiometer VR2. The speaker provides the sound but if this is not loud enough a further amplifier can be provided.
P. R. Williams,
Stevenage,
Herts


## PROGRAMMABLE DIVIDER

THis circuit is extremely useful for the digital experimenter, and can divide the incoming digital signal by any whole number between two and ten.

The eight input NAND gate (four of the inputs are connected to positive via a 10 kilohm resistor or left floating) is controlled by the b.c.d. output of the 7490 via the switches.

When all inputs at are a logic " 1 " the output becomes " 0 ", is. inverted and becomes the output pulse and resets the counter to zero.

To operate, for example if division by six is required $(6=0110$ in b.c.d.), switches B and C are closed. The A and D inputs are floating, i.e. at a logic " 1 ", and when the B and C outputs become logic " 1 ", the counter is reset.
J. Hogarth,
Guiseley.

## ORGAN RHYTHM GENERATOR



$A^{s}$many readers will be aware, particular rhythms required are programmed by addressing the Signetic M252 chip with a 4 -bit binary code. This may be implemented simply by using four single pole changeover switches but this involves learning the codes which represent each pattern and presents difficulties switching from one rhythm to another. An alternative solution would be to decode the outputs of a 15 -way pushbutton bank into a binary code. However, these units appear to be a difficult item to procure and even when available the cost is usually prohibitive especially when one considers the low cost of the unit thus far. Owing to their availability and low price, calculator keyboards would seem to provide the obvious answer.

First of all a decoder is required which will give a 4 -bit binary code from the fifteen switch contacts.

The circuit shows such a decoder, the operation of which is self evident, using the fewest number of diodes possible. The diodes may be any small signal general purpose devices. The outputs are then inverted with CMOS inverting gates ICIa-ICld which may be CD4001, CD4011 or similar.

As the keyboard switches are push to make, release to break, it is apparent that a memory element is required.

This is implemented using eight 2 -input CMOS NAND gates, IC2a-IC3d.

When one button is depressed the rest of the rhythms must be cancelled so it is necessary to reset all the latches initially. This is accomplished by deriving a logical "l" from the decoded lines, via D31-D34 and R5, when any button is depressed and using this to trigger the one-shot multivibrator made up of $\mathrm{IC} 4 \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{IC} 4 \mathrm{~b}, \mathrm{Cl}$ and R6.

IC4a and IC4b must be CMOS NOR gates, CD4001 or similar. With the component values given the output pulse duration will be approximately 10 milliseconds which will reset the latches momentarily.

The reset pulse is made short in relation to the time which the particular keyboard switch is held down so that when the reset goes low the binary code is committed to the latches.

The code may then be input to the appropriate address pins on the M252.
P. Gladdish,

Affestree,
Derby.


#  <br> Revien <br> A.A.BERK b.sc. ph.D. 


#### Abstract

Four versions of the TRS80 Microcomputer have now been available in this country for some time. Our contributor has recently been able to put the most expensive version ( $£ 807$ including VAT) through its paces.

The equipment is only available as a ready to use system, complete with 12 inch video monitor and cassette recorder.


THE TRS80, from Tandy, comes packaged in one impact protected cardboard box which splits into three separate packages containing:
(a) CPU/keyboard, plus power pack and cassette tapes, with interconnection leads (all beautifully packed in foam rubber).
(b) A Realistic CTR-41 cassette tape recorder.
(c) A video monitor.

Also included is a manual appropriate to the level of the machine. I shall describe the above components first and then concentrate on the complete system.

## MONITOR

The video monitor is just a normal TV without the r.f. and audio side. Brightness (labelled B) and contrast (labelled C) are mounted on the front, and horizontal and vertical hold brought out to the back. The volume control (conveniently labelled V ) is replaced by a plastic grommet through which passes the video lead terminated by a DIN plug for insertion into the CPU/keyboard housing. The monitor is, of course, set up to accept a 240 volt 50 Hz mains supply and not 120 volt $/ 60 \mathrm{~Hz}$ as suggested in the manual.

Here, in my opinion, lies the most irritating aspect of the video display. The VDU frame control in the computer is based on a 60 Hz frame frequency, and a frame beating effect on the screen with the 50 Hz mains is constantly apparent. By wandering into various Tandy stores, I have noted this effect to some extent on every display encountered-this varies from barely noticeable to really eye-catching!

The screen brightness, on my specimen, also varied from dark to bright quite spontaneously and randomly, with or without the CPU connected-indicating a faulty component in the TV. The focusing and definition, though reasonable, is also not of the highest nature and all in all this component is the weakest of the system.

## RECORDER

The cassette recorder is of the normal piano-key type with remote control and built-in condenser mic. which is left switched off by a plastic plug, supplied, for insertion into the mic. socket. One prime facility offered by this machine is its tape-counter-a truly enlightened addition making tapes usable throughout their entire length with fast access to the contents-very thoughtful, Tandy!

The comment I must make, however, concerns the wisdom of supplying tape machines apparently unchecked for head azimuth set-up. I had heard, some time previously, a criticism by a user to the effect that Tandy pre-recorded tapes were very difficult to load successfully (while his own tapes were reliable). Sure enough, I plugged the units together and tried to load the supplied "Black Jack" game-without success. I had similar trouble recording tapes myself.

In desperation, I tried listening to the tape to see if I could hear any unwanted blips, etc. The sound seemed a little muffled so I took the machine to pieces and replayed the tape while adjusting the (sealed!) head positioning screw for the clearest sound. The unit never gave another moment's trouble. Both loading and dumping is reliable, fast and easy to use, once the critical volume setting has been found ( $7 \frac{1}{2}$ on mine with my own recordings and $6 \frac{1}{2}$ for Tandy's--tone switched to low).

The computer names each tape file dumped to tape, and can search for and load any particular file-even under program control. One could imagine a small business application running on two or three such tape systems very cheaply indeed-if very slowly!

## CPU

The CPU is the most compact (and expensive) part of the system and houses the Z80 based microcomputer plus a full typewriter keyboard. There are two removable plastic covers at the back of the case. One of these houses the RESET switch and an expansion edge connector which plugs, via a ribbon cable, into the Expansion Interface, available from Tandy. This edge connector also contains almost everything the home computer man could want for expansions, etc., of his own. The second cover contains a power switch and DIN sockets for video monitor, cassette and power. The power supply unit is a small black box mostly containing iron and copper.

The system comes in several levels starting with Level I BASIC and 4 K of RAM for $£ 499$. It seems generally agreed that this price is rather on the high side-but one does have a complete "front parlour" type of set-up to amaze and thrill one's friends without the usual wire-bestrewn heap of naked, loosely connected chips! At a further cost of $£ 229$ (including installation) your 4 K version may be uprated to 16 K .

This process is one of removing the eight 4 K dynamic RAM chips (which Tandy keep!) and replacing them by the pin compatible 16 K versions (with one or two small changes). For this service, $£ 229$ is, in my opinion, well overpriced and I have noticed firms springing up with offers of such conversion at considerably less. A conversion which is more than worthwhile, however, is the one to Level II BASIC for £79. In fact I would highly recommend bypassing the Level I version altogether for the difference in price. However-make sure you buy the Level I manual if you do not know anything about computers, its explanations are very full and easy to understand.

The machine used for the preparation of this article was the Level II with 16K RAM.

Level II BASIC is an extremely powerful programming language and even a small experience of Level I quickly leads the user to hanker after Level II-a fact which I suspect Tandy have realised from the design stage.

## COMMAND MODE

With the four components plugged into each other via the three interconnection leads, and into the mains by three more, the complete effect is very swish-if slightly cable-bound! The video monitor may now be switched on and the CPU's power switch pressed. This causes the CPU's red I.e.d. power indicator to glow and the words MEMORY SIZE? to appear on the screen. At this time, you can reserve a block of memory in the
core to be used for running machine code routines-even callable by a BASIC program.

Hitting the ENTER key (as the Americans say) then causes display of the advert:

RADIO SHACK LEVEL II BASIC
followed by:
This last is an indication that the machine is now ready to accept a command-it is said to be in the "Command mode". In this mode, the keyboard may be used, for instance, to write program statements in the BASIC computer language for immediate execution.

The 16 display lines of the VDU may each contain 64 characters, and the cursor position may be shifted down, left or right by " $v$ ", " $\leftarrow$ " or the SPACE bar. In addition, " $\rightarrow$ " allows movement of the cursor to the next "tab" position, at intervals of eight spaces; "SHIFT $\rightarrow$ " changes the screen contents to 32 doublewidth characters per line for greater readability; and the "CLEAR" key may be used to clear the contents of the screen and home the cursor to top left. This all allows great flexibility in the use of the machine and is very much to be commended.

While using the keyboard, one very soon discovers that the keys are not properly debounced - doubling of characters is not an uncommon occurrence-and the keys are acoustically noisy, probably because the CPU casing is acting as a large sounding board. These are very minor criticisms, and all in all, the n-key rollover and special keys built into the keyboard make it easy and pleasant to use.

An example of a BASIC program statement which may be written from the keyboard, following the characters ">_", would be:

## PRINT (389*14.761)(^8.7)* ${ }^{*} \operatorname{SIN}(0.87)$

This set of characters is displayed on the screen as shown, but is not "looked at" by the computer until the ENTER key is pressed. This allows you to correct any mistakes on the line by backspacing using the " $\leftarrow$ " key which moves a cursor (" $\rightarrow$ ") back along the line obliterating the characters it meets one by one.

When you are satisfied with the statement you have built up, "ENTER" causes the computer to execute the statement. The above tells it to multiply (symbol "*") two numbers, then raise the result to the power 8.7 (" $\uparrow$ " symbol), and finally multiply by


The complete system, showing Level II manual and all interconnection leads.
the SINE of 0.87 (radians). The answer: " $3.86502 \mathrm{E}+32$ ", which is 3.86502 times 10 to the power 32, appears on the next line. The machine is acting as a super calculator and will accept complex programs, with many statements-all on one lineand execute them immediately.
This is fine as long as you don't make an error near the beginning and have to backspace the full 250 characters allowed on a program line deleting as you go for correction. The whole line, in fact, may be deleted by "SHIFT $\leftarrow-$ ".

A program for execution at a later time (or for saving on tape) may be written using line numbers at the beginning of each line of program statements. This is the most usual method for program development, and allows a set of statements to be written without the computer executing them individually. New lines may be inserted between two existing ones simply by giving them line numbers between those of the old lines.

## COMMANDS

In the command mode, 14 commands are available to the user. These allow: listing of all or some of the existing program lines, automatic line numbering with any increment (to allow plenty of space for insertions), cassette loading and filing, saving memory blocks for strings, line deletions, program erasure, continuation from a breakpoint, running the current BASIC program or machine code program blocks, setting or resetting trace and program line editing.

This last is particularly powerful on the TRS80. It allows insertions, deletions or amendments to any character or block of characters in a line of program text. The editor can save a tremendous amount of time in program writing and debugging, and practice with this facility in the beginning is a worthwhile investment of one's effort. In addition, most of the above commands may themşelves be used as part of a program.

The full floating point package, with its 16 arithmetic functions from standard trigonometry and exponential, to Random number and integer functions may be used in a single precision (six figures and one guarding) or double precision (16 figures plus one). Conversion between integer precision (numbers between -32769 and +32768 ), single and double precision is easy and, in addition, any variable may be inherently defined as taking one of these precisions by the use of the DEF statement or simply by one of the special declaration characters-e.g. A\% is automatically in integer form. The appendix (section $F / 1$ ) conveniently gives a table of more complex trig. and hyperbolic functions derived from those available. There is a fairly obvious error in HYPERBOLIC COSINE-which I've decided to leave as an exercise for the reader!

## OTHER FUNCTIONS

Many other functions exist in Level II including the INKEY function for inputting a character from the keyboard during program execution-very useful for TV type games. There are graphic and screen management functions, logical operators "AND", "OR" and "NOT" as well as a single machine code subroutine call "USR" (there are ten of these calls on the Disk version of BASIC). PEEK and POKE are also available to set any memory location as the user wishes.

Graphics on the TRS80 are adequate but simplistic, being of low resolution. The screen is divided into 128 horizontal by 48 vertical boxes-each of these graphic squares may be set to white or black by its $X$ and $Y$ co-ordinates. Point $(0,0)$ is at top left (irritatingly enough). There are also 63 graphic characters which may be printed in any character slot on the screen-each of these is made up from the single graphic squares in a $3 \times 2$ matrix. The manual gives a small program which flashes the 63 characters down the screen too quickly to see. A better one to examine the full set is as follows.

```
10 CLS
20 FOR X = TO 191
30 PRINT X; " "; CHR$ (X),
4 0 ~ I F ~ I N T ~ ( X - 1 2 8 ) / 9 ) = ( X - 1 2 8 ) / 9 ~ T H E N ~ P R I N T : ~ P R I N T ~
50 NEXT
```

Each character slot on the screen is, of course, a memory location (one of 1024) and each of these has eight bits. Six of them are used to set the six squares in that slot to black (0) or white (1). Thus any graphic character may be POKED into the correct character slot. This speeds up the graphics by six times! It is in the use of graphics that one really appreciates the speed of one machine against another and it is clear that the TRS80 is slightly on the slow side.

## STRING HANDLING

The string handling functions on Level II are quite sophisticated and any string may be adequately hacked about, merged, changed and compared in almost any way you can think of. There are hundreds of string variables, and numeric variables available and, with the PRINT USING statement, any screen formating or program output for commercial or any other application seems possible.

Numeric and string arrays to any practical dimension can also be used, and with the few subroutines for matrix handling given in the manual, could form the basis of complex linear programming routines.

The monitor program which controls the TRS80 is able to print one of 23 error codes plus the number of the line in which the error has occurred during execution. There is even a facility for "simulating" any specified error during execution. This is mainly for testing the "ON ERROR GOTO" statement which branches to any given line if an error occurs.

## MANUAL

I found the Level II manual excellent in almost every respect-although an index would be useful. It steps in detail through the available Command and BASIC routines, and ends with a description of the Expansion Interface ( $£ 229$ without extra memory). This device can handle a further cassette, a line printer, four mini disks and 48 K of extra RAM. Also included, at the end of the manual, is some advice on saving time and memory on program execution-e.g., using POKE graphics.

The appendix has a summary of the whole manual; error code definitions; notes on graphics and screen management, and a full memory map of the machine (showing, for instance, the Level II BASIC ROM in 12 K of memory from 0000 to 2 FFF ).

Three tapes are included for conversion of taped material from Level I to Level II and playing Blackjack and Backgammon. No rules are given for the games though they are decipherable to a playable level (some of the rules in Blackjack still elude me, however!). A few pieces of software are also included in the manual and though limited, give a taste of what is possible.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the expansions to the basic machine seem out of the general hobbyists pocket. These are more supportable by a small to medium firm who would find the "plug-in" ability and neatness of the product very attractive. The effect of the system is one of power (except perhaps the graphics) and excellent ergonomic design.

I imagine that the straight computer-cum-electronic hobbyist will be happier with a system where he can be more involved with the hardware in order to learn more and save money. It is perhaps a pity that the marketing philosophy, on the part of Tandy, does not include the sale of the CPU separatelyperhaps even without case-in a form suitable for 50 Hz TV. Undoubtedly, the lower cost would attract considerably higher sales.

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## PART TWO...LYNDSAY ROBINSON

cONSTRUCTION of the sequencer on a p.c.b. is fairly straightforward and partial testing is possible before all the front panel controls are permanently wired in.

The use of i.c. sockets for the CMOS devices is recommended and these i.c.s are not placed in their sockets until that section of the circuit is to be tested. The clock is the first part of the sequencer to be tested (Figs. 7-9).

Temporarily wire in VR2 and check that pin 6 of IC1 can vary between approximately 6 V and 12 V . This is the control voltage for the voltage controlled clock, and ensuring that the power is off, insert IC2, IC3. By observing the clock output from pin 4 of IC2 on an oscilloscope and varying the control voltage, the correct operation of the clock can be checked.

Note that the clock waveform will not necessarily be a 50 per cent square wave and is more likely to be a pulse wave due to the varying transfer voltage of the MOSFETS.

IC4 can now be connected, together with VR4 and operation of the monostable can be checked. It may be useful to connect IC8 as well at this stage to observe the l.e.d. unless a d.c.-coupled 'scope is used or a voltmeter.

At this stage it is most convenient to wire up the remainder of the sequencer. The p.c.b. is mounted on 2 in mounting pillars at the back of the front panel, previously having mounted all the panel controls. Note that D8-D23 are mounted directly on their corresponding control pot, also R18-R33 are connected directly to their l.e.d.

It is much more convenient to use ribbon cable to wire together the controls to the p.c.b., even considering the extra expense, as lacing dozens of separate wires together in a confined space would be very difficult.

Switches, S4-S5 are connected directly to the control pots behind the front panel. Wiring of the sequencer's controls is most conveniently done from the circuit diagram than from a point to point wiring diagram because of the complexity. For ease of fault finding, the ribbon cable is directed to the p.c.b. from one side only so that the board can be turned over easily.

## OBSERVING COUNTERS

Once the sequencer has been wired up in this way, the correct operation of the counters can be observed on an oscilloscope. Check that clock pulses are reaching pin 14 of IC6-IC7 and that the counter enable pin (pin 13) is low, and that the reset (pin 15) is low.

Checking any one of the sequence output pins from the counter will show the waveform, a pulse wave that is high one period out of ten (with no reset connected); this corresponds to one count out of ten for the decade counter.

## USING THE SEQUENCER

The sequential voltage output of the sequencer is usually used to control the frequency of a VCO, and short repeating melodies can be programmed into the sequencer by adjusting the tuning pots. The "Sequence Length" switch is initially switched to " 1 " and the initial pitch tuned up in the synthesiser and then the second note of the sequence is programmed in, etc. until the sequence is completed. The envelope shaper can now be connected and a suitable envelope shape set up. A sequence with from one to sixteen notes can be programmed in this way.

## PARALLEL CHANNEL

In the parallel channel position, it is possible to construct an eight note sequential melody and use the other channel to control another of the synthesiser's voltage controlled functions such as the voltage controlled filter. In this case each note will be able to have its own individual timbre, and this is particularly useful when constructing percussive drum rhythms.

One channel can be used to control the clock frequency and the other channel to control the VCO as before. This results in each note having a different time period and adds considerable musical content to the repeating melody.

A number of jack leads can be made up for patching within the sequencer and for the use just described, the analogue output of one sequence channel is patched into the voltage control jack socket of the sequencer's clock. An interesting rhythm can be composed when one channel is programmed to produce a long and short note and controls the clock and the melody formed as before from the other channel.

## LENGTHENED SEQUENCE

It is possible to produce a sequence of a form, containing up to sixty-four notes. This is achieved by allowing one counter to trigger the other. In this case a jack lead is connected from the "Pos. 1 Out" of Channel $A$ and into the "External Clock" input of Channel B. When Channel A starts each new run it triggers Channel B along one position.


Fig. 7. Conductor side of main p.c.b. (Actual size)


Fig. 8. Component side (Actual size)


Fig. 9. Component layout on double sided board


Fig. 10. P.c.b. and component layout for p.s.u.

The two voltages can now be summed if desired and the sequence programmed directed to a VCO. The sequence programmed on Channel A will change its key after each run, up to a maximum of eight times and so the sequence will run for sixty-four notes before repeating.

For normal use, the sequencer will be in the repeating mode, but it is possible to make the sequence stop after it has run through its sequence once, by connecting the "End Out" of one channel into the clock gate jack socket. On pressing the counter reset switch, the sequence will then run through its pattern again. This single run feature is of limited use but can imitate a musical doorbell that plays a pre-fixed tune on command.

## BEAT INITIATION

The "Pos. 1 Out" of Channel A can be used as a trigger pulse for an additional envelope shaper that produces a tone at the beginning of the sequence. This is useful for initiating a drum beat from other synthesiser modules, at the beginning of the sequential melody.

The "Pos. 1 Out" jack socket is also used for very long sequences as previously described.

A diagram of a synthesiser's keyboard, hold and VCO circuit is shown (Fig. 13), By applying the sequential voltage in parallel with the keyboard voltage, it can be seen that the sequencer is, in fact, modulating the hold voltage. This means that the keyboard can also be used at the same time


Fig. 11. Basic arrangement for using sequencer with a synthesiser


Fig. 12. Arrangement for rhythmic drum patterns


Fig. 13. Synthesiser keyboard and sequencer arranged to produce sequential chords
to vary the voltage to the VCO and this enables the composer to change the musical key of the sequence at will, adding much versatility to the sequencer's performance. Further observation of the same diagram will show that the synthesiser's portamento control is usually inserted directly before the hold circuit and the portamento will result in a slow, smooth change in pitch of the VCO when different keys are played. If the synthesiser's portamento causes this to occur when different keys are played, then with a sequential voltage, the sequential tune will slowly increase or decrease in pitch, but the individual notes of the sequence will not have any slew superimposed. Therefore the sequencer has its own portamento control with slew time up to about two seconds available; this is a factor of VR2 1/C8 and can be changed as desired.


Fig. 14. Envelope trigger interface


Fig. 15. Two channel mixer

## ACCOMPANIMENT PATTERNS

The repeating sequential pattern produced in the various ways previously described, can be used as a bass accompaniment or background rhythm, since in conventional music these are often repeating patterns.

It is also possible to use the sequencer as a lead instrument quite effectively. For example, a fast six note sequence can be set up as a melody and then the synthesiser filter controls continually adjusted to vary the tonal quality. By various key changes and envelope time period changes, interesting musical sound patterns can be composed.


Prototype main p.c.b.


Drum patterns are also useful when controlled by the sequencer as it leaves the keyboard free for conventional playing of the synthesiser. By using the sequencer to control the voltage controlled amplifier on the synthesiser dynamic percussive patterns can be produced, with a suitable short envelope shape (Fig.12).

Other interface circuits that may be necessary for the sequencer/synthesiser union are shown in Figs. 14-15. The sequencer as it stands produces +9 V as an envelope shaper trigger which may not be suitable for all synthesisers so a simple op-amp adaptor is shown. Also seen is a two channel mixer for combining the two channels of the sequencer for extended sequences (up to sixty-four notes).

By using all the oscillators on the synthesiser, it is possible to tune up sequential chords which would otherwise be difficult to play. If one channel of the sequencer controls one VCO, the other channel can control another and duets can be played.

It is possible to program breaks in the sequence, and when using the VCO with the sequencer, this is done by


Fig. 16. (Left) Staircase waveform of up to sixteen bits. (Above) Triangular waveform synthesis. Here 'slew' control should be used to smooth the waveform
programming a very high pitch in the $\mathrm{VCO}(>20 \mathrm{kHz})$ so that it appears that a gap has been formed. Similarly with the filter, a very low cut-off frequency is set for when the gap is required.

Further use of the sequencer is as a waveform synthesiser. The sequencer can be tuned up by referring to the sequential output on an oscilliscope and the individual steps adjusted until the required waveform has been created. By causing the clock to oscillate at a much higher frequency (by changing C1), the whole sequencer can be used as a variable waveform VCO. By adding a small amount of slew, the waveform can be smoothed off and a more realistic waveform achieved. Some diagrams are shown of digitally synthesised waveforms such as a triangular wave.

Note: The envelope shaper pulse time can be extended from $10 \mathrm{~ms}-8 \mathrm{~S}$ by changing VR4 to $\mathbf{2 M 2}$ and R10 to 4 k 7 .
In Fig. 2 pin 4 of IC1 should go to -12V.

## Showing front panel legending




D.J.FOLWELL

MANY door chimes or bells are not always audible in the home above the background noise of TV and radio, etc. whereas the bleeper circuit to be described here is easily heard and provides a novelty to the caller.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The complete circuit diagram of the doorbell is shown in Fig. 1. The basis of the circuit is a dual Schmitt trigger i.c. (SN7413) which is used to form two oscillators. Gate "a" with capacitor C2 and resistor R4 is a low frequency oscillator, and gate " $b$ " with C3 and R5 is a higher frequency oscillator. With the values shown the frequencies are approximately 5 Hz and 2 kHz respectively. Oscillator " $b$ " drives the loudspeaker via amplifier T3 but is only enabled


Fig. 1. The complete circuit diagram of the Bleeper Doorbell
during the positive half cycle of oscillator " $a$ " and therefore gives a bleeping effect. The capacitors C2 and C3 can be altered to change the bleep tone as required.

The circuit only operates for a short period after the bell push has been operated: when the switch is pressed,

## COMPONENTS . . .

| Resistors |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| R1 | 470 k |
| R2 | 22 k |
| R3 | 3 k 9 |
| R4, R5 | 330 (2 off) |
| R6 | 2 k 2 |

## Capacitors

| C1 | $25 \mu$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| C2 | $470 \mu$ |
| C3 | $1 \mu$ |

Semiconductors
D1
1N4001
IC1
SN7413

## Miscellaneous

Battery HP1 1 (4 off)<br>Battery holder<br>Terminal block<br>Diecast box (170×120×57mm)<br>Speaker 80 ohms 0.25 W


capacitor C1 is charged up, transistors TR 1 and TR2 conduct and a voltage is applied to IC1 allowing oscillation to take place. When the switch is released, C1 discharges through
the base of TR1 keeping both transistors on until the current drops sufficiently for both transistors to switch off when oscillation ceases. With the value shown for C1 the circuit is active for approximately four seconds.

Diode D1 is included in the circuit to ensure a Vcc on IC1 of less than 5.5 volts.

## CONSTRUCTION

The components for the doorbell were mounted on a piece of 0.1 inch Veroboard as shown in Fig. 2.

The prototype unit was fitted in a diecast box $(170 \times 120$ $\times 57 \mathrm{~mm}$ ).

Holes were drilled in the lid of the box as a loudspeaker aperture and the speaker glued in the corresponding position on the back. The battery holder was then screwed to the base of the box.

A small piece of terminal block was mounted inside the box and an adjacent slot filed through the side of the case for the external bell push connections.


by Mike Abbott

## CHIP RECORDS

AN AMAZING and promising new device has been produced at the Greerson Adams and Gough research laboratories in the U.S.A. Capable of storing analogue signals of up to 36 minutes by a completely new technique, an i.c. called the "Analogue Programmable Resistance Infra-Loaded" device, stored a half hour lecture by one of the company's applications engineers, and could be the tape recorder of the future.


Photograph shows the first working Analogue Programmable Resistance Infra-Loaded device (APRIL 1)

In the recording it was explained during the first public demonstration that this "truly analogue" device does not use the charge coupled principle. Comprising a Hall effect semiconductor embedded in a complex microcircuit inductor which mobilises the electrons of a voltage dependent resistor, the precise nature of this hybrid package is a closely guarded secret, but the application techniques would appear to be child's play!
The i.c. has only two terminals (the third is used for programming and would be cut off after manufacture). One terminal is grounded.

To the remaining lead is applied a linear ramp, and at any given voltage the device will have a "prerecorded" resistance, hence for an optimum ramp source resistance the ramp will be modulated to the
recorded signal. Simple a.c. coupling to an amplifier completes the system.

The recording time depends upon the voltage slope, but there is a trade-off between bandwidth and time. Speech recordings can be stretched to 50 minutes. At present, recording is a specialised business involving weightiessness, and hence the rental of satellite space, but in the near future we may well be buying records which look like the little capsule shown in the photograph with the lid off.

## COUNTDOWN

The Harrogate International Festival of Sound, held at the Exhibition Centre and four leading hotels, will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, 18th and 19th August respectively, from 11.00 to 20.00 hrs.

Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st August will be for trade only, between the hours of 10.00 and 18.00 .

The exhibition is organised by Stan Smith and Peter Hainsworth of Exhibition and Conference Services Ltd., Claremont House, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
The Great British Electronics Bazaar is coming! It is for the hobbyist and small professional buyer, and will be held at Alexandra Palace on the 28th-29th June 1979. This exhibition will incorporate teach-ins and surprises which promise to make the event a colourful one.
The bazaar is being organised by the Evan Steadman Communication Group, 34-36 High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex.
The success of Breadboard '78 had been described as overwheiming, necessitating a change of venue for Breadboard '79. This will be held at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Westminster, London, December 4-8.

In response to requests from last year's exhibitors and other concerns, there will also be a Midlands Breadboard '79, which will be held at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, on May 23-26.
Details: Trident International Exhibitions Ltd. Tel: 0822-4671.
June 19-21 for Transducer ' 79 to be held at the Wembley Conference Centre. This venue will be shared with Testmex '79, and conferences will run concurrently. Transducer is organised by Trident International Exhibitions Ltd., Abbey Mead House, 23a Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8AU.
Intel Fair-June 11, 1979. Wembley Conference Centre. Registration details to be announced.
Third International Symposium and Technical Exhibition of Electromagnetic Compatibility-May 1-3, 1979, Rotterdam. Contact: (symposium Dr. T. Dvorak (01) 326-211. (Exhibition) Mr. R. E. Gerritson (070) 906-800.
Labex International '79-March 12-16. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Details: 021-705 6707.
Electronics '79-November 20-23. Olympia, London. Details: 021 7056707.


EVER since men first began to collect ard analyse information from the world around them, they holve needed methods of recording that information Altheugh the human memory appears to have an unlimited apactiy and possesses remarkable powers of associative recall, i has considerable limitations when called upon to store large amqunts of cumilar data, such as that found in a telephone directory. Funthermote, direct access to the human memory is possible only for its owner!

Although men have recorded in ormation in pictorial form (as in the cave paintings of Lascaur in France) since the beginning of history, the first artificial mmory could be said to have appeared with the invention of writing, about five thousand years before Christ. Writing, oflnting, and then photography remained virtually the only methods of recording information until the invention of first mechanical and then electronic machines, capable of manipulating numbers at high speed. The existence of such machines has led to the development of methods of storing numeric information using a binary or two state code. The simplest example of this is the mechanical switch where OFF is equated to " 0 " and ON to " 1 ". The number of switches will determine the range of numbers that can be stored; for example, 4 switches can store any decimal number from 0 to 15 in binary code. The number of switches, or bits, varies according to the size of number you wish to store, but 8 and 16 bits are commonly used. The 8 or 16 bit number is known collectively as a "byte". A 64 K 8 bit memory can hold $2^{16}$ numbers between 0 and 511 and may be referred to as having a 64 kilobyte capacity.

The first electronic two state switch was the valve flip-flop circuit as used in the first computing machines constructed for code breaking towards the end of World War II. However, this type of two state store was bulky and consumed large amounts of power. The information is also lost if the power is removed. Recently, metal oxide semiconductor, or MOS technology has made this type of circuit possible with very low power consumption, using tens of thousands of integrated transistors on a single silicon chip. However, the problem of volatility of information under zero-power conditions still remains to be solved satisfactorily.

## Plessey Microsystems

In order to realise non-volatile storage, memory designers have almost always turned to magnetism. The only real alternatives are the slow and bulky punched cards and paper tapes. For the last twenty years two types of magnetic memory have remained supreme, viz, magnetic cores, able to be switched into one of two states of magnetisation, and the moving magnetic media memories such as digital tape recorders and magnetic discs and drums. Core memories, which are written to, and read from by a matrix of sense wires, give random access to each memory bit location. The moving media memories give sequential or serial access to each memory bit location as the storage medium moves past the sensing device, which detects the state of magnetisation of the tape or disc coating as a " 1 " or a " 0 ".

Until recently, magnetic memories have relied on permanent magnet materials which give a two state system by discontinuous switching of the magnetisation when it is perturbed above a certain threshold. In the last few years, however, the first real challenge to these magnetic memories has appeared in the form of magnetic bubble technology. Since they were first described in 1967 by Bell Telephone Laboratories in the USA, bubble domain memories have been one of the fastest growing areas of computer memory development, and today we see them entering commercial production with a number of companies in the USA, UK and Japan.

## MAGNETIC DOMAINS

In ferromagnetic materials the quantum mechanical Pauli exclusion principle can give rise to an effective quantum mechanical exchange interaction which may make it energetically favourable for neighbouring electrons to align their spins. At sufficiently high temperatures this tendency is offset by thermal disordering but below a certain temperature (the Curie temperature) the system acquires a spontaneous magnetisation. The most familiar material to show this effect is, of course, iron. For a sample of finite size, it is energetically favourable for the magnetisation to change direction on a scale many orders of magnitude greater than the atomic spins to give a zero net magnetisation for the sample as a whole.

These areas, in which the spins are aligned, are known as magnetic domains and the region between these domains over which the spin alignment direction changes, is known as the domain wall. Materials for use in magnetic bubble memories are chosen to have a single preferred magnetisation direction. Such materials are said to have a "uniaxial magnetic anisotropy" and the magnetisation will be either "up" or "down" this direction.


Fig. 1. (a) In zero applied field the domains have a stripelike structure
(b) When a field Hz is applied, the antiparallel domains shrink, some forming "island" domains
(c) As He increases, the island domains become cylindrical-or bubble domains
(d) As $\mathrm{HB}_{\mathrm{i}}$ increases still further, the bubble domains shrink and eventually collapse

In the absence of any external magnetic field, the domain structure of a thin film of magnetically uniaxial material will be as shown in Fig. 1a. Here the domain structure has a stripe pattern arranged, for minimum energy, to give zero net magnetisation. If a bias field $H_{B}$, is applied perpendicular to the plane of the film it becomes energetically favourable for the antiparallel domains to shrink as shown in Fig. 1b. Some may become irregularly shaped islands of "up" magnetisation in a sea of "down" magnetisation. When the field is increased still further, as in Fig. 1c, these islands contract under pressure from the applied field to form cylindrical domains. These cylindrical domains are the bubbles which are used to store information.

The diameter of the bubble domains depends on the material used and on the bias field. If the field is increased still further, as shown in Fig. Id, the bubbles will collapse leaving a magnetically saturated sample. If it is reduced much below the value of Fig. lc, the bubbles will become unstable and "stripout" returning to a structure similar to figure 1 b . However, between the collapse and strip-out values of bias field, the bubble domains are stable and capable of storing binary data denoted simply by the presence or absence of a bubble domain. The bubble domains are very mobile and can be moved about within the film using a magnetised needle, since each one behaves like a cylindrical bar magnet. No physical movement of material is involved in bubble displacement; the apparent movement is due to the reordering of the subatomic spins. Their movement is similar to that of water waves, where the wave envelope moves horizontally while the water itself merely moves vertically with no net horizontal displacement.


Fig. 2. Section through a bubble domain wall
A section through the bubble domain wall is shown in Fig. 2. As yet, the bubble domains have no controlled pattern as needed for information storage. The provision of this control allows the domains to be used to store information.

## BUBBLE MATERIALS

Several classes of materials with strong uniaxial magnetic properties are known to support bubble domains. They range from the orthoferrites with bubble diameters of around $100 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ to metallic cobalt with bubbles of about $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ diameter. However, the domains are too large for efficient storage in orthoferrites, while in cobalt they are very difficult to move. The majority of present devices use a family of iron oxide materials known as the rare earth garnets as the magnetic medium. They have the general formula $\mathrm{X}_{3} \mathrm{Fe}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{12}$ where X represents Yttrium or a rare earth from Samarium to Lutetium. These materials are very adaptable and a wide range of properties can be obtained by mixing various "rare earths" and by diluting the ferromagnetic iron component with non-magnetic elements.


Platinum Control Thermocouple
Pot
Fig. 3. Magnetic garnet film growth

These synthetic garnets can easily be tailored to give bubble domains between 1 and $5 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ in diameter which are highly mobile and exhibit good temperature characteristics.

The magnetic garnet films are grown on thin substrates of single crystal non-magnetic garnet. The usual substrate material is gadolinium gallium garnet (GGG). This is chosen because it is of the same crystal class and has very similar lattice spacing and thermal co-efficient of expansion to the magnetic garnet film. It can be prepared as highly pure boules two or three inches in diameter, which can be sawn and polished into slices about 0.5 mm thick.

The process of film growth is illustrated in Fig. 3. The substrates are dipped into a melt which consists of oxides of the elements required in the garnet film, dissolved in a lead oxide flux at about $1,000^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. By rotation of the substrate and careful control of the melt temperature very reproducible single crystal films can be made with extremely low defect levels ( $<1$ defect $/ \mathrm{cm}^{2}$ ). Densities of around $10^{6}$ bubbles per square inch are possible, and the energy to move a bubble domain in garnet a distance of four diameters is about $4 \times 10^{-4}$ joules (more than 100 times less than the best switching transistors).


Fig. 4. Magnetic garnet film growth area


Following growth, the film's magnetic properties are measured by optical techniques which make the "up" and "down" domains visible in polarised light. Part of the garnet film growth area in the Plessey bubble memory production unit is shown in Fig. 4.

## BUBBLE DEVICE STRUCTURE

To use the bubble domain for data storage, the position of the bubbles within the film needs to be controlled, and a method of entering and reading out information must be provided.

The position of the bubbles within the film is controlled by a periodic pattern of magnetically soft nickel-iron elements on the surface of the film. Various patterns are possible, but the easiest to understand is an array of T and I shaped elements as shown in Fig. Sa. In the presence of an inplane field in the direction of arrow 1, the nickel-iron elements will magnetise. Because it is much easier to magnetise a bar along its length than across its width, the top of the T elements will magnetise much more strongly than the vertical elements. If the magnetisation within



(4)

t-gar profagation pattern

$\underset{\substack{\text { (b) } \\ \gamma-\text { bat }}}{()^{2}}$
(c)
ASSTMETRIC CHEVRON
Ial
ASSYME: RIC MALF-
OISC

Fig. 5. Propagation elements
the cylindrical domain is such as to put a negative pole on the top surface of the cylinder the bubble will sit under the positive pole on the T element because, as every schoolboy knows, unlike poles attract!

If the orientation of the field now changes to position 2 the vertical elements will be the strongly magnetised ones and the bubble will move to the position shown. Hence, as the inplane field rotates through $360^{\circ}$, each bubble will move one period along the propagation pattern. This gives a shift register store with a capacity equal to the number of periodic cells and a clock-rate defined by the frequency of the rotating field. Fig. 5a shows the pattern 0010110 propagating from left to right. Several alternative elements to the T-bar arrangement are possible and some are shown in Figs. 5b-d. The asymmetric structures are currently favoured as they allow wider tolerances in the circuit design.


Data is entered into the chip by means of a thin conductor loop placed under an appropriate part of the propagation track. When a current pulse is applied to this loop the local bias field in the garnet film will be modified, and bubble generation or annihilation will occur depending upon the polarity. A scanning electron microscope view of a "nucleator hairpin", as it is called, in a typical bubble device is shown in Fig. 6.

Detection of bubbles has been achieved by various methods including optical and semiconductor effect, or Hall effect detectors, but currently the magnetoresistive detector is favoured. This uses the magnetoresistive effect which is the change of resistance of a conductor when exposed to a magnetic field. The bubble passes under a special section of track consisting of lines of chevron elements. These cause the bubble to form a strip domain along the chevron stack increasing the stray field of the domain many times. This expanded bubble passes under an electrically linked line of chevrons through which a current of a few milliamps is passed. The presence of a bubble will cause a resistance change which appears as a voltage change at the output terminals. The active detector is usually arranged in a bridge network with an identical dummy detector, to cancel common mode noise induced by the drive field, which usually rotates at about 100 kHz .

A chip layout for a 16 kilobit single loop shift register device is shown in Fig. 7. The additional element shown is a bubble replicator to give non-destructive readout of data. This chip is an old design compared with the current 64 to 256 kilobit chips, but the comparatively large scale of the elements allows them to be photographed more easily than denser modern designs.

Fig. 6. (left) Scanning Electron Micrograph of a Nucleator Hairpin

Fig. 7. (below) 16 K bit bubble memory device showing: Nucleator Mairpin, Erase Mairpin, Replicator, Detector


The single loop organisation for bubble devices can be considered as a serial shift register of very large capacity. However, the large capacity possible with bubble chips means that for single loop organisations the access time is rather slow. For example, if one considers a 64 K bit chip operating at a 100 kHz shift rate, the worst case access would be 640 ms , if data had to circulate the whole chip to reach the required position. The average access time would be 320 ms , or half the maximum value. Slow as this is, it is suitable for sequential data storage in applications such as spaceborne flight recorders. For applications requiring shorter access time the multiloop or major-minor loop organisation can be used. Both organisations are shown schematically in Fig. 8. In the multiloop organisation, the 64 K bit storage in the previous example is distributed in a number of minor loops. For example, 128 minor loops, each containing 513 bits, gives the required capacity. Data is read in sequentially via the major write line, and when this is full, a control pulse is applied to the transfer-in conductor which parallel loads the data into the minor loops. At the other end of the minor loop, the data may be parallel unloaded into the major read line and propagate sequentially to the detector. The unloading into the read line may be done destructively by transferring out, leaving all zeros in the minor loops or, using a different shaped control pulse, the data can be replicated out to give non-destructive readout. The effect on access time of this change in organisation is dramatic. No storage location is now more than 512 bits away (plus the major read line length), and the average access time of 320 ms for the serial 64 K bit chip reduces to 2.5 ms for a major-minor loop organisation of the same capacity. The improvement factor is roughly equal to the number of minor loops. This reduction in access time is, of course, achieved at the expense of supplying additional control pulses to the device to provide the transfer and replicate functions.


Fig. 8. (a) Single loop organisation. (b) Multiloop organisation

## BUBBLE DEVICE FABRICATION

The fabrication of bubble chips on garnet films involves an ion-implantation, followed by the evaporation on sputtering of four precisely controlled layers. The process is illustrated in Fig. 9. The ion-implantation stage is necessary to avoid complex domain wall structures in the bubble which could lead to uncontrolled bubble movement. This is followed by deposition of silica $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right)$ to act as a spacer layer between the conductor and the garnet film to avoid unwanted stress effects. On top of the silica, a layer of either aluminium-copper or gold is deposited, and the conductor pattern is defined using a photomask and photoresist exposed with ultraviolet light to obtain good resolution. The conductor pattern is produced by etching away the areas not protected by exposed photoresist, using a beam of neutralised argon ions. Fig. 10 shows slices being loaded into the ion milling equipment.


Fig. 9. (a) Magnetic film growth. (b) Conductor fabrication. (c) Shift register fabrication


Fig. 10. Ion-milling equipment used to etch conductor and propagation patterns

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## ELECTRONIC ORGAN

A series of constructional leaflets each of which builds a complete organ which can then be expanded using all or part of the next leaflet with very little wastage. At every stage we use the very latest technology available to give you a really high quality instrument that is not only on a par with, but probably in advance of most commercially available organs.

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## Model 51 Basic Organ

In this leaflet MES 51 the first in the MES 50 series, we deal with the basic theory of electronic organs and go on to describe the construction of a simple polyphonic (i.e, all notes may be played simultaneously) 49 -note instrument, having a single keyboard and a limited number of stops.
Specification:

| Single keyboard: | 49 note C to C. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Frequency range: | C $_{3}$ to C |
| Stops: | Flute and String |
| Output: | 1 Vrms (max) |

Frequency range
Stops:
Output:
1 Vrms (max)

When you have built this simple organ you will own the ideal instrument on which to learn to play or teach your family to play. and as your skill increases and you want more out of the organ, it can be expanded to meet your requirements as far as you want to go with hardly any wastage.

## Model 52 2-Keyboard Organ

In this leaflet (MES 52) is described the extension of the organ to two keyboards each having five voices. The voicing section is considerably improved and the range of the organ is extended by a further octave.
Specification:
Two keyboard both 49 -note $C$ to $C$.
Frequency range: $\quad$ Solo $\mathrm{C}_{3}$ to $\mathrm{C}_{7}$
Accompaniment $\mathrm{C}_{2}$ to $\mathrm{C}_{6}$
Stops: Solo manual - Flute, String, Horn, Diapason, Vox Angelica.
Accompaniment manual - Flute, String; Clarinet, Diapason, Vox Humana.

## Balance control

Provision for 61-note keyboard (frequency range of both $C_{2}$ to $C_{7}$ !.
Output: 1 V rms (max).

## Model 53 Stage One Full Scale Organ

This leaflet MES 53 marks a major step forward in the development of the organ since it introduces solid state switching
which facilitates the extension of the number of footages to seven on both keyboards with up to 38 preset stops. A novel solid state switching system is introduced which allows the organist to accurately control the attack and decay rates for any stop. A stub pedalboard is incorporated and this includes a sustain facility. In addition to the wide range of preset stops, a drawbar controlling each footage linked to the flute stops may be fitted. Specification:

Two keyboards 49 or 61 -note $C$ to $C$
Pedalboard 13 -note C to C.
Frequency compass of organ $\mathrm{C}_{1}$ to $\mathrm{C}_{9}$.
Solo manual - Stops: Flute $1^{\prime}{ }^{\prime}$, Cello $16^{\prime}$, Tuba $16^{\prime}$, Saxophoné 16', Flute 8', French Horn 8', Oboe 8', Trumpet 8', String $8^{\prime}$, Clarinet $8^{\prime}$, Diapason $8^{\prime}$, Vox Humana $8^{\prime}$, Flute $51 / 3^{\prime}$, Flute $4^{\prime}$. Octave $4^{\prime}$, String $4^{\prime}$, Clarion $4^{\prime}$, Flute $23^{\prime}$, Flute $2^{\prime}$, Flute $1^{\prime}$.
7 drawbars on flutes, variable attack control, variable decay control, delayed tremulant.
Accompaniment manual -
Stops: Flute 16', Flute $8^{\prime}$, String $8^{\prime}$, Horn $8^{\prime}$, Diapason $8^{\prime}$, Vox Angelica 8', Dulciana 8', Salicional 8', Flute $51^{\prime} 3^{\prime}$, Flute $4^{\prime}$, String $4^{\prime}$, Octave $4^{\prime}$, Salicet $4^{\prime}$, Flute $2^{2} / 3^{\prime}$. Flute 2', Flute 1'.
7 drawbars on flutes, variable attack control, variable decay control, delayed tremulant.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Pedal Manual - Stops: } \begin{array}{l}
\text { Sub Bass } 16^{\prime}, \text { Gedeckt } 8^{\prime} . \\
\text { Sustain. }
\end{array} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Other facilities: Tremulant with variable rate and depth, reverberation with variable balance, solo to accompaniment variable balance, variable pedal level, foot swell pedal, variable maximum volume control.
Output: 1V rms (max).

## Model 54 32-Note Pedalboard

This leaflet (MES 54) describes the construction of a full range 32 -note polyphonic pedalboard that can be added to MES53 or any organ, since it is a complete unit with its own tone generation system etc. This is essential since the keyboard tones would at some times have tremulant in operation and this could not be tolerated on the pedalboard. The electronic parts of this design could be added to an existing pedalboard by the addition of one extra contact under each key to give free phase bass - the "church" sound.
Specification:
Pedalboard:
Frequency range:
Stops:
32-note C to G
$C_{1}$ to $G_{5}$
Sub-Bass $16^{\circ}$, Diapason $16^{\circ}$, Gedeckt $16^{\prime}$, Mixture $16^{\circ}$, Flute $8^{\prime}$, Gedeckt $8^{\prime}$, Flute $4^{\prime}$, Reed $\mathbf{4}^{\prime}$.
Output: $\quad 1 \vee \mathrm{rms}$ (max).
Model 55 Auto-Organ Rhythm Generator
This leaflet, MES 55, describes a complete rhythm generator and auto-organ which can play the whole accompaniment section providing you tell it, by depressing the appropriate key on the keyboard, which key you are playing in. Thus with one finger of the left hand and one finger of the right hand playing the tune, you can sound like a real professional. The auto-organ will add the trills to the right hand and chord and vamp the left hand in time with the rhythm generator.
The unit has eight rhythms, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Beat, Bossa Nova, Samba, Rumba and Slow Rock and drives five instruments. The rhythms can be mixed to achieve further variations and tempo control is included. There is a rhythm start/stop switch and the rhythm always starts on the downbeat. The instruments sound extremely realistic and considerable care has been taken to make them sound natural.
The chording section is turned on separately by its own on/off switch and has a standard or percussive sound which can be switched on by pressing the "harmonic attack" button. The auto-organ has its own tone generator and divider network, so that fitting the unit to any organ is very simple. The chording section has three different modes of operation: automatic, semi-automatic and manual.

## Automatic

This mode is suitable for the beginner as the auto-organ plays the entire accompaniment controlled by one finger of the left hand. Simply play the tune with one or more fingers of your right hand and it sounds as though you've been playing for years. Play one note from the bottom two octaves on the keyboard and the major chord relating to that note will be generated (i.e. play ' C ' and chord of ' C ' will soundl. Switches are fitted to change from major to minor or 6 th, 7 th, 5 th and dim. 5 th. These switches can be the black notes on the bottom octave, some of the notes on the pedalboard or front panel switches - the choice is yours when you build the unit. (The leaflet explains in more detail.)
When the note is released, chord or rhythm continue until a new note is pressed and then the chord changes. An auto-reset button is provided if you want to stop the chord sounding. The rhythm will continue and to restart the chord after the rest simply press a new note.

## Semi-automatic

This mode can be used if you want to make your own chord shapes on the keyboard and this can be done on any notes in the lowest two octaves. As in the automatic mode the chord will be vamped by the rhythm unit, but in this case it will play the notes you have selected. If chord is released, the notes you had selected are memorised and carry on playing until a new chord is played or until the auto-reset button is pressed and this works in the same way as it did in the automatic mode.

## Manual

This mode is the same as the semi-automatic mode except that when the chord is released, it stops playing. The rhythm however will continue as before (see auto-stop timer below).

## All Modes

The following additional features are available in all modes:

## Walking/Alternating Bass

This feature may be switched on at any time and generates a walking or alternating bass depending on position of switch, on its own or in addition to the chord section.

## Arpeggio

This feature may be switched on at any time and will generate arpeggio runs in time with the selected rhythm and in tune with the chord being played. Three different runs are available and these are selected by a switch. Auto-stop Delay Timer
This feature enables rhythm or chord and rhythm to be stopped after a preset time. The period is set by a variable control on the front panel and will be found very useful in all modes.

## Other Features

In addition there is an overall volume control and a phy thm volume control. The auto-organ is very simple to add to any organ. It need not be electrically connected to the organ at all. All that is required is one single-pole make contact under each of the 24 lowest keys on the lowest keyboard wired to the auto-organ. These must be additional or spare contacts of course, not ones already in use. Alternatively a separate keyboard or pedalboard could be wired up. A guitarist for instance could, supply himself with a complete accompaniment section with one foot on a 13 -note pedalboard. The possibilities with this fascinating design are endless.

## Construction Details

Full construction details are given in our leaflets:
MES51 Order As XH00A 15p
MES52 Order As XH02C 15p
MES53 Order As XH04E 35p
MES54 Order As XH31J 30p
MES55 Order As XH33L 30p

## THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SYNTHESISERS

A range of synthesisers based around the circuitry of the 4600 synthesiser originally designed by "Electronics Today International" and now extensively redesigned and re-named the 56005 synthesiser. The 4600 synthesiser parts and its book of construction details are still available and will continue to be so for some time. The 3600 synthesiser originally designed by "Electronics Today International" has also been extensively redesigned and re-named the $\mathbf{3 8 0 0}$ synthesiser. The 3600 Front Panel and 3600 Aux Board are discontinued.

## INTERNATIONAL 5600S STEREO SYNTHESISER

A superb stereophonic music synthesiser with more features than virtually any other ready-made synthesiser costing up to, at the very least, more than four times the cost of the parts for this synthesiser. Its excellent styling and finished appearance make it look as good as any ready-made synthesiser. Equally at home in the studio or on the stage it is available with a teak-veneered cabinet or in a hard wearing plasticised-cloth covered cabinet with lid and carrying handie.
Just some of its outstanding features are listed below:

* Fully digital keyboard which may be directly controlled by a microprocessor
* Last note played always sounds regard less of number of other keys held.
* Four oscillators each with five different shape outputs and one low oscillator with sine and square wave output.
* Fully stereophonic output with voltage controlled panning.
* 900 socket patchboard, making the output sound possibilities virtually fimitless.
* Voltage controlled solid state phase and reverb (not simultaneously).


## Specification:

## Keyboard

48-note $F$ to $E$ monophonic (could use a kevboard of up to 63 notes, but not in our cabinets.) Each note generates its own specific 6-bit digital code which is decoded in the keyboard controller. Thus notes may be generated directly by a microprocessor or other digital input. The code being used is displayed by six LED's.
Outputs to patchboard
Trigger:
-7 V to +7 V transition at each new key press. A new trigger pulse is initiated every time a now key is pressed and that key will sound whether or not any other keys are pressed.

Analogue (direct): 0 to +5 V
Analogue
(modulated): 0 to +12 V
Output to
microprocessor: 6 data lines plus strobe
Inputs:

Controls:
Glide:
Modulation
selection:
Modulation:
Tune:
Pitch bend:
Computer:
Low oscillator
Patchboard
Computer switch. oscillator or from patchboard. maximum of $\pm 1$ octave.
Tunes keyboard $\pm 2$ semitones.
See Joystick.

Adjustable rate 0 to 10 seconds. With on/off

Selects direct modulation on keyboard by low
Allows input to modulate keyboard to a

Switches data socket from input to output. Keyboard is operative in both positions. A microprocessor could be used directly as a sequencer giving up to 62 notes or rests of any length up to $81 / 2$ seconds based on approx. $1 / 60$ th second intervals, for each kilobit of random access memory or other digital memory. (Notes or rests use 16 bits of memory per $81 / 2$ seconds and notes or rests of any length in $1 / 60$ th second multiples can be generated). The sequence recorded in the RAM can be edited from the keyboard. A complete design for this sequencer will be available during the life of this catalogue.

## Oscillators

Four voltage controlled oscillators plus one low oscillator (described separately). Overall range: 0.1 Hz to $\mathbf{> 2 0 k H z}$. per oscillator.
Output to mixers 1, 2 and 3.
Controls
Range:
Switchable in seven ranges from $1 z^{\prime}$ to $32^{\prime}$ plus low frequency $(0.1 \mathrm{~Hz})$ special effects source.
Tune:
Free run: Internal voltage source manually adjusts ascillator over full range. Oscillators 2,3 and 4 can be synchronlsed with oscillator 1 lie. every time
oscillator 1 starts a new cycle so does any other oscillator with free run operative. A'sync off' position is provided on oscillators 2,3 and 4. $V$ aries mark/space ratio of square wave output, plus switch to enable shape to be voltage controllsd from either of two control lines on patchboard or off. Selects sine, triangular, sawtooth, Inverted saw tooth
Stability: $\begin{aligned} & \text { or square wave as output. } \\ & \text { Frequency change with change in temperature: }\end{aligned}$ $<0.015 \% /^{\circ}$ C typical.
Frequency change with constant temperature over one weak: $< \pm 0.05 \%$ typical.
Low Oscillator
Range: $\quad 0.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$ to 20 Hz
Outputs: Sine wave to patchboard vla level control, and square wave at fixed 5 V to patchboard simultaneously.

## Noise

A pseudo-random noise generator with colour control to allow
noise spectrum to be continuously variable between white arid
pink. Output to patchboard via level control.
Sample And Hold
Samples incoming waveforms and stores the voltage.
Controls:
Sample rate input: Switchable between low oscillator and external input module.
Level: Sets the range of output voltage.
input: From patchboard
Output: To patchboard.
Mixers 1, 2 and 3
Inputs:
Level:
Overload:
Output:
Mixers 4 and 5
Inputs:
Level:
Overload:
Output:
Four (one from each oscillator) each with independent level controls.
Adjusts level of output from each mixer.
LED lights to indicate overload.
To patchboard.
Two each, from patchboard with level individually adjustable.
Adjusts level of output from each mixer.
LED lights to indicate overload
TO patchboard.
Filters 1 and 2
Two active voltage controlled filters (VCF).
Inputs: From patchboard
Cut-off rate: $24 d B$ per octave
Control range: $>2$ decades
Controls Tune:
Tunes filter to control source
High/Low: Selects tuning range
Resonance: Adjusts $Q$ of filter
Level: Adjusts level of output to patchboard.
Amplifiers 1 and 2
Two voltage controlled amps (VCA) which may be AC or DC coupled.
Input signal: Via patchboara Input control: Via patchboard
Mode switch
Amp: In this position VCA is DC coupled and functions as a voltage controlled amplifier
RM: In this position VCA is AC coupled and functions as a ring modulator.
Output:
Envelope
Input trigger:
Attack, Decay 1 and Decay 2: All adjustable from 5 m sec to 5 sec Hold level:
Delay:

Control Mode:
Signal input: Signal output:
Control output:
Transient ' $A$ '
Trigger input:
Levels:
Delay 1, Slopes 1 and 2:
Hold delay:
Re-trigger:

From keyboard or external input
All adjustable from 5 m sec to 5 sec Adjustable 0 to 5 volts.
Adjustable 5 msec to 5 sec or duration of key contact closure as selected by switch.
Linear or exponential voltage controlled amplifier with a range of 60 dB
From patchboard
To patchboard
Trapezoid output to patchboard
From keyboard or external input Start, hold and final adjustable from 0 to 5 V .
Adjustable 5 msec to 5 sec . Adjustable 5 msec to 5 sec or for duration of key contact closure. Allows transient to re-trigger itself at the end of each sequence, but this can be interrupted from the keyboard,
then restarted agaln by a momentary tap on any key
LED indicators: LED 1 lights when trigger pulse occurs and extinguishes at the end of Delay 1; LED 2 then lights and extinguishes at the end of Hold delay; then LED 3 lights and extinguishes at the end of Slope 2. To patchboard.

## Output: <br> Transient ' $B$ '

Identical to Transient ' $A$ ' except it has no internal re-trigger facility. However, it can be independently triggered from a push switch on the front panel.
Exponential Converter
Converts a linear input to an exponential output.
Input: From patchboard Output: To patchboard

## Joystick

Gives 2-axis control of any two functlons.
Range: Variable range on horizontal axis.
Switch to select patchboard or pitch bend.

## External Signals

Inputs: Two inputs having a sensitivity of 50 mV to 2 V at $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
Sensitivity: Input level control with high/low switch making it suitable for most signal sources.
External input 1 only, also has a trigger level control. This trigger pulse may be switched to patchboard or (in external input position) to any module switched to external.

## Foot Pedal

A control voltage to patchboard may be gener ated by an external swell pedal. Range is controlled from front panel.

## Foot Switch

Glide may be switched on and off or a trigger pulse may be generated from an external foot switch. Switched on front panel.

## Echo

An external echo chamber may be connected and control on front panel adjusts balance between straight through and returned signal. Output to output channel 1.
External Control Voltage Inputs 1 and 2 .
Up to two control voltages from external sources (e.g. another synthesiser) may be connected and the voltages will appear separately on two patchboard lines. The inputs are protected against overload and should the voltage go more negative than OV the voltage at the patchboard will remain at OV. Similarly, if the voltage exceeds 5 V the patchboard voltage will remain at 5 V . Inverter
When input is at 5 V , output will be at $O V$ and vice versa
intermediate voltages are similarly reversed.
Input: From patchboard Output: To patchboard

## Reverberation

Not available when switched to Phase
Multistage reverberation using a 3060 bit CCD solid state reverb.
Level control adjusts between no reverb and full reverb, or when switched to patch, may be voltage controlled from patchboard.
Input: From patchboard Output: To patchboard

## Phase

Not available when switched to Reverb.
The control angle is fully variable through $360^{\circ}$, and more to give a delay to the signal, the length of which depends on the frequency. This control may be used in conjunction with the voltage controlled input from the patchboard.
Input: From patchboard Output: To patchboard

## Output Stages

There are two separate outpur channels: 1 and 2 and two separate outputs: left and right. Both channels are fed from the patchboard (or echo chamber: channel 1 only). Both left and right output can be fed from either or both output channel, or any mixture of the two. This panning facility may be controlled manually or by voltage control from Transient ' $A$ ' for right output and patchboard for left output. Note that it is the outputs that are panned between the two channels and not vice versa.
Output level: $\quad 0$ to 1 V rms approx.
Load impedance: $2 k \Omega$
On/off switch provided
Phones Output
A stereo output for stereo headphones. $>2 \mathrm{Wrms} 8 \Omega$
Construction Book
A book is available giving full construction details of this and the 3800 synthesiser.
Order As XF11M (5600S Stereo Synthesiser Book) $£ 2.00$


## INTERNATIONAL 3800 SYNTHESISER

A low-cost version of our superb 5600 s synthesiser. The 3800 is a truly remarkable small synthesiser. No ready-bullt synthesiser at even double the cost of the parts for the 3800 even begins to compare with this unit for versatility and excellence of specification. It is equally at home on the stage or in the studio and when mounted in its cabinet looks as good as any ready-made synthesiser.
Just some of its outstanding features are listed below:

- Fully digital keyboard which may be directly controlled by a microprocessor.
* Last note played always sounds regardless of number of other keys held.
* Two oscillators each with five different shape outputs and one low oscillator with sine and square wave outputs.
* Switchable Interconnections allowing fast set-up times, making it ideal for live performance work.


## Specification

## Keyboard

48 -note $F$ to $E$ monophonic. (Could use a keyboard of up to 63 notes, but not in our cablnets). Each note generates its own specific 6 -bit digital code which is decoded in the keyboard controller. Thus notes may be generated directly by a microprocessor or other digital input. The codebeing used is displayed on the front panel.
Controls:
Tune: Tunes keyboard $\pm 2$ semitones
Glide: Adjustable rate 0 to 10 secs with on/off switch
Computer Switches data socket from input to output
(see 5600 for details)

## Modulation

Provides a source of modulation for oscillators other than from the keyboard.
Controls
Low oscillator: Selects low oscillator as source
Transient:
Sample and
Hold: Selects transient as source

Oscillators
Two voltage controlled oscillators plus one low oscillator (described separately). Overall range: 0.1 Hz to $>20 \mathrm{kHz}$ per oscillator.


## "ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL" 4600 SYNTHESISER

All the parts for this synthesiser and the construction book are still avallable, but for new constructors it hasteen largely superceded by the 5600 S Stereo Synthesiser. Full specification and construction details are given in the 4600 Synthesiser book.

Order As XF00A ( 4600 Synthesiser Book) £1.50

## Controls

Input: Selects keyboard or modulation unit as source of control. Off position provided.
Range: Switchable in seven ranges from $11_{2}^{\prime}$ to $32^{\prime}$ plus low frequency ( 0.1 Hz ) special effects source.
Tune: Tuning range of $\pm 1 / 2$ octave.
Free run: Internal voltage source manually adjusts oscillator over full range. Oscillator 2 can be synchronised with oscillator 1, i.e. every time oscillator 1 starts a new cycle so does oscillator 2 with free run operative. A 'sync off' position Is provided on oscillator 2 .

Shape: Varies mark/space ratio of square wave output plus switch to enable shape to be voltage controlled from either low oscillator or transient or off.
Waveform Selects sine, triangular, sawtooth, inverted sawtooth or square wave as output.
Output Routes signal to filter, envelope, signal input of VCA
switch: or direct to output stage.
Output level: Adjusts level of output.
Stability: Frequency change with change in temperature:
$<0.015 \% /^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ typical.
Frequency change with constant temperature over one week: $< \pm 0.05 \%$ typlcal.
Low Oscillator
Range: 0.2 Hz to 20 Hz Outputs: Sine wave.
Noise
A pseudo-random noise generator with colour control to allow spectrum to be continusouly variable between white and pink.
Level control adjusts level fed to VCF.
Sample And Hoid
Samples incoming waveforms and stores the voltage.
Input switch: Switches between oscillator 1, oscillator 2 and nolse. Filter
An active voltage controlled filter (VCF).
Inputs: Mixed signals from oscillators, noise and external inputs.
Cut-off rate: $\quad 24 \mathrm{~dB}$ per octave
Control range: $>2$ decades
Controls
Control source: Keyboard, modulation, transient, modulated keyboard or off by front panel switch
Tune: Tunes filter to control source
High/low: Selects tuning range
Resonance: Adjusts Q of filter
VCA
A voltage controlled amplifier (VCA) in addition to the envelope.
Allows ring modulation.
Controls:
Control input: From oscillator 1, oscillator 2 or transient.
Function switch: VCA or Ring modulation.
Output: Switches output between filter, envelope or output direct. Envelope Input trigger:

See "Triggers"
Attack, Decay 1 and Decay 2:
Hold level:
Delay:

All adjustable from 5 msec to $\mathbf{5 s e c}$. Adjustable 0 to 5 volts. Adjustable 5 msec to 5 sec or duration of key contact closure_ as selected by switch.

'PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS' STRING ENSEMBLE
A string ensemble with brass and woodwind voices in addition. The construction detalls were published in "Practical Electronics" March to July 1978. Brief Specification 49 -note $C$ to $C$ keyboard split into 16 -note lower and 33 -note upper section.
Range: $60 \mathrm{~Hz}-2 \mathrm{kHz}$ (fundamental) up to 8.2 kHz harmonic generation. Transposable pitches: C, B, Bb, Eb.
Upper voices:
Lower voices:
Envelope controls:
Fine tune.
Upper level balance
Output:
String $16^{\prime}$, String $8^{\prime}$, Woodwind $16^{\prime}$, Brass $16^{\circ}$ String $16^{\prime}$, String $8^{\prime}$, String $4^{\prime}$, Couple strings. Attack rate; Sustain length.

Component Schedule
A component schedule is avaliable free of charge to assist in ordering.
Order As XH17T (Leaflet MES 14)

## Control mode:

Signal input:
Output:

## Transient

Trigger inpur:
Levels:
Delay 1. Slopes 1 and 2: Hold delay:

Output:

## External Input

Allows external signals to be matched to the synthesiser and also generates a trigger pulse.
Sensitivity: $\quad 50 \mathrm{mV}$ to 2 V at $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Variable from front panel.
Trigger level: Decides at what voltage amplitude, trigger pulse occurs. Variable from front panel.

## Triggers

Switches trigger puises to envelope and transient.
Envelope: Selects trigger to control envelope from low oscillator, keyboard or external input.
Transient: Selects trigger to control transient from low oscillator, keyboard, external input or repeat.
Output Equaliser
Number of stages:
Centre frequencies:
Type:
Five
$60 \mathrm{~Hz}, 240 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{kHz}, 3.4 \mathrm{k} \mathrm{Hz}$ and 10 kHz .
Active filter
Range of adjustment: $\quad> \pm 10 \mathrm{~dB}$.
Reverberation
Type: Multi-spring
Output: Adjustable mix-fader from full reverb to original sound with no reverb.
Signal Output
Level control: 0 to 1 V rms approx.
Load impedance: $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
Phones Output
Power output:
1Wrms (mono)
Load impedance: $8 \Omega$ Output level control provided.
Construction Book
Full construction details of this synthesiser are to be found in the 5600 Stareo Synthesiser Book (XF11M). £2.00

## 'ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL' TOUCH ORGAN

A really novel project that is very easily made on one pcb, and will give endless enjoyment. No fiddly stylus to mess about with, you simply play it with your fingers, as you would an ordinary organbut you haven't the expense of a full keyboard. Instead the 'keyboard' is printed on the printed circuit board.
The instrument has two voices and covers a full two octave range from $F_{3}$ to $F_{5}$. A variable tremolo with on/off touch pads is provided as well as a battery on/off switch and volume to miniature speaker which can be glued to the pcb.
Construction Details
Full construction details are to be found in the "Electronics Today International" publication "Top Projects No. 5".
Order As XF10L (ETI Top Project No. 5) £1.25


## TOUCH-SENSITIVE ELECTRONIC PIANO

A very high quality electronic piano with highly realistic voicing and touch-sensitive keys that automatically make the notes louder, the harder you hit them. Conslderable care was taken in the design to ensure that the tone of the piano was a very close approximation to the sound of an acoustic piano. In additlon, there are two extra voices.

## Specification

## 61 -note $C$ to $\mathbf{C k e y b o a r d}$

Voices: Piano, Clavichord, Honky-tonk

Dynamic Range: $\quad>30 \mathrm{~dB}$<br>Volume Control: Loud and Soft Pedals

This superb design costs far less to build than almost any ready-bullt electronic paino let alone one with such a quality performance as this one.
Construction Details
All the construction detalls are given in our leaflet MES22.
Order As XH18U (Leaflet MES 22) 25p

'PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS' RADIO CONTROL SYSTEM
A really comprehensive model control system, featuring up to nine independent fully proportional channels achieved by a design using incredibly few components, thus keeping the cost to a minimum. The system operates at 27 MHz and has the option of either proportional control or on/off type switched control on any channel. Full construction details are given in our booklet.
Order As XF03D ('PE' Radio Control Book) $£ 1.20$

HIGH QUALITY
OPTO PRODUCTS AT LOW PRICES

| LED's Sub-miniature | Red | 18p | (WL32K) |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Green | $22 p$ | (WL33L) |
|  | Orange | $32 p$ | (WL34M) |
| Standard | Red | $15 p$ | (WL27E) |
|  | Green | $19 p$ | (WL28F) |
|  | Orange | $31 p$ | (WL29G) |
|  | Yellow | $31 p$ | (WL30H) |
| Rectangular |  | $59 p$ | (OW96E) |

Seven Segment Displays common anode
0.6 in high 2-digits (8.8) £1.60 (BY66w) ( $\pm 1.8$ ) £1.60 (BY67X) common cathode (8.8) f1.60 (BY68Y) ( $\pm 1.8$ ) £1.60 (BY69A)
Liquid Crystal Display
0.5 in high $31 / 2$ digits $\quad £ 8.35$ (FY89W)

Opto-Isolators
Standard 79p (WL35O)
Darlington £1.40 (WO70M) Photo-Darlington Transistor 36p (HO61R) Fibre-Optic Light Guide $£ 1.34$ per metre (XR56L)
Plus much much more. See catalogue pages 258 to 262 for details.


## RHYTHM GENERATOR, THE "DRUMSETTE"

The Drumsette is a very high quality rhythm generator which has been designed with the musician in mind. There are no fiddly switches to complicate the instrument, the organist has only to lightly brush the sensitive touch-pads to select a rhythm. He may stop and start the rhythm during a piece simply by touching one of the large stop/start touch-pads and the rhythm will automatically re-start on the down-beat. The controls are also designed to help the musician set-up quickly for the piece he proposes to play. The balance control adjusts the volume of the brush sounds compared to the drum sounds and the tempo control is scaled so that the sheet-music may be notated with the speed you prafer to play at. It is therefore unnecessary to run the rhythm before playing a piece in order to set the speed every time you play.
The superbly finished back-screened perspex front panel and the chromed touch-pads give the unit an air of distinction and quality; a quality that extends right through the instrument with close approximations of the sounds of the actual instrument being generated. The Drumsette will grace the finest organs, pianos of whatever you want to add a drum set to.
*When amplified through a high quality amplifier and loudspeaker.

## Specification

Output impedance: $\quad 3 \mathrm{k} \uparrow$
Output voltage (max): 100 mV rms
Overall size: $\quad 434 \times 110 \times 186 \mathrm{~mm}(w \times h \times d)$
Standard phono socket output.
Fifteen touch-selected rhythms:
Waltz; Jazz Waltz; Tango; March; Swing; Fox Trot; Slow Rock;
Rock Pop; Shuffle; Mambo; Beguine; Cha Cha; Bajon; Samba;
Bossa Nova.
LED indicator shows rhythm selected. Indicator LED extinguishes to indicate down-beat.
Nine instrument drum set:
Snare Drum; Bass Drum; Conga Drum; Low Bongo; High Bongo;
Short Cymbal; Long Cymbal; Claves; Maracas.
Volume control.
Tempo control with scale marked on front panel.
Balance control adjusts comparative volume of brush and drum sounds.
Two linked stop/start touch pads so that rhythm may be stopped whilst playing and re-started on the same rhythm without searching through the rhythm-select pads. The phythm always re-starts on the down-beat.
240 V Mains operated.
$t$ Thus it mav be connected to any amplifier or organ, tape, radio or aux. input.

## Construction Details

A leaflet is available giving full construction details and written in such a way that someone with no prior knowledge of electronics could build this project.
Order As XH19V (Leaflet MES 49) 30p


## ORG AN AND BASS GUITAR PEDAL UNIT

A very high quality add on pedal unit for organs. A special feature is the bass guitar stop whose high realism is achieved by no less than four individual envelope controls which makes this pedal unit into an ideal accompaniment instrument for the solo guitarist. Specification:

Four organ stops: Sub-Bass $16^{\prime}$
Diapason 16'
Gedeckt 8' $^{\prime}$
Bourdon 8'
Sustain (having an accurate exponential characteristic)
Sustain cancel (automatic)
Bass guitar stop (pitched at $8^{\prime}$ )
Mains powered ( $240 \mathrm{VAC} \mathrm{)}$
Output suitable for feeding directly into a power amp.
(i.e. into 'line' or 'guitar' or 'tape' or 'aux' input)

13-note pedalboard $C$ to $C$.
Frequency range: $\mathrm{C}_{1}(=32 \mathrm{~Hz})$ to $\mathrm{C}_{3}(\approx 128 \mathrm{~Hz})(25$ notes) Whole unit tuned with one control
Highly stable, temperature compensated, voltage stabilised master oscillator.

Construction Oetails
A leaflet giving full construction details is available.
Order As XH2OW (Leaflet MES 25) 15p


## HIGH FIDELITY STEREO AMPLIFIER

A superb 40W rms per channel high fidelity stereo amplifier with a very high quality double-anodised front panel to make it look as good as it sounds. There are dozens of features including two tape inputs and outputs plus tape monitoring facilities designed so that you can tape record from any source including another tape recorder and monitor the recorded signal without interfering with the recording. There is a three position high cut fitter with variable slope, and bass and treble controls with a choice of operating range; a two-position rumble filter, and lots more. For full specification and construction details turn to the project section at the back of our catalogue.

## HIGH FIDELITY STEREO TUNER

A sdperb high fidelity stereo tuner with a very high quality double-anodised front panel designed to match the 40W hi-fi amplifier to which it makes an ideal partner. The tuner covers four wavebands: long wave, medium wave, VHF and the UHF TV band. The VHF band gives you excellent ster eophonic reproduction of all BBC and local radio transmissions in your area, whilst a unique feature is the ability to receive the high quality sound, broadcast by the TV stations and usually considerably degraded by the poor quality sound reproduction systems in most TV sets. It will also give stereo sound if the TV stations ever start to broadcast in stereo. For full specification and construction details turn to the project section at the back of our catalogue.


## TEN CHANNEL STEREO GRAPHIC EQUALISER

A really superior quality Graphic Equaliser with ten controls per channel making a total of twenty plus two overall volume controls. The design avoids the need for coils and also makes use of a special op-amp designed for use in audio circuits and featuring a very low noise input specification that puts this unit solidly into the top-flight hi-fi class.

## Specification

Control centre frequencies:

Frequency response:
Range of filter controls:
Distortion ( 2 V out controls
flat:
Signal to noise ratio:
$31.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 62.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 125 \mathrm{~Hz}, 250 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $500 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{kHz}, 2 \mathrm{kHz}, 4 \mathrm{kHz}, 8 \mathrm{kHz}$, 16 kHz
(Controls flat): 10 Hz to $20 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 1 / 2 \mathrm{~dB}$
$\pm 13 \mathrm{~dB}$
0.02\% typical
( 2 V out controls flat): 82 dB

## Construction Details

Full construction details are given in our leaflet MES 37 complete with component schedule.
Order As XH21X (Leaflet MES37) 25p

## DYNAMIC NOISE FILTER

A dynamic noise filter which does not need specially encoded material to function correctly, (as does the "Dolby" noise reduction system) but will reduce the noise present in any signal.

Our six page leaflet MES 32 describes the noise limiter and how it works and shows you the full construction details, component list etc.

## Construction Details

Order As XH07H (Leaflet MES 32) 20p

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74 LS Series from
CMOS from
$12 p$ including VAT
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Best quality at the best prices always at Maplin


PROF ESSIONAL EXTRA HIGH FIDELITY STEREO MIXER
Designed by Peter Cole
Fully modular for flexibility.
Two separate group mix̌ing sections both fully stereophonic and switchable to any input module.
Pre-fade listen IPF LI'on inputs and group mix modutes
PPM or paak VU metering
PPM or paak
Foldback (FB).
Talliback.
Any number up to 16 input modules Imono or stereo).
Selection of inout modules to cater for all iypes of input equipment, including protessional
microphones.
Tone eontrols on all chennels.
Specitication of Prototype:
Man Frame (fully assembled with PFL and FB)
Frequency response: Better than $-3 \mathrm{~dB}(20 \mathrm{~Hz} 1020 \mathrm{kHz}$ with 16 input modules. The fall-off in the frequency response is mainly a function of the numbers and lengths of interconnecting cables and buses. The individual mixing
amplifier boards have a virtually flat response over the audio spectrum
Signal to noise ratio
Distortion:
Output level:
Input Amplifiers:
Mic. Amp.

## Balanced inpur:

Sensitivity:
Signal to nolse ratio:
Diner parameters:
Cartridge Amp
Switchabie inputs:
Sensitivities:

Other parameters: Better than 90dB
<0.01\%
OV to 4 V (adjustable)

20 to 50n or 200 to 600 ת
$121020 \mu \mathrm{~V} .251030 \mu \mathrm{~V}, 8010100 \mu \mathrm{~V}$
Better than 100d日
Better than Main Frame
Magnetic Cartridge. Ceramic Cartidge. High Impedance Microphone Magnetic Cartridge: $\quad 4 \mathrm{mV}$ at 50 k Ceramic Cartridge: $\quad 80 \mathrm{mV}$ at 100 k $\mathrm{Hi}-2 \mathrm{Z}$ Mic. 10 mV at 50 k
Better than Main Frame.

General Purpose Pre.Amp:
Sensitivliy, variable from 30 mV at 33 k
Oiner parameters: Better than Main Frame
Tone Control:
Bass response: $\quad 218 \mathrm{~dB}$
Treble response: $: 16 \mathrm{~d} 1 \mathrm{~B}$
Filter Unit:
Switeh in "OUT" position: Flat
With roll-off control at minimum, the response will fall-off at $6 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{octave}$ from the selected frequency $(5,7,10$ or 15 kHz ).
Roll-off control may be adjusted to give any roll-off between $6 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{octave}$ and $1 \mathrm{BdB} / \mathrm{octave}$.

## MAKE YOUR OWN PCB's

LIKE THE PROFESSIONALS DO

Ultraviolet Exposure Box
Photo-Etch PCB
Etch-Resist Tapes
Etch-Resist Pads
IC Pads
Drafting Template
(See cat. pages 96 \& 97)
£38.80 (XY10L)
£2.20 (BW19V)
from 48 p per 16 m
from 82p per 250
from $£ 1.70$ per 100
68p (BW41U)

## Gaval

The mixer to be described has been designed to meet the requirements of professional recording studios, FM radio stations, concert halls and the arres. vet is equally suited for home use. It offers a performance which matches that of the very best tape recorders and high fidefty
 ble P S.U.Im mix mole orp mix modutel ber parts may be included or left-out as desired

The input modules should be selecied to sult the equipment that will be used with the mixer. Tone controls may be fitted to each input module as required. The block diagram Fig. 1, shows the interconnections between the boards in a modute and between the modules. Each input module has apeak overload detection circuit so that immediate visual indication is given if an input signal becomes too loud. Pan pots are provided on mono channels which enable the monophonic source to be positioned on the overall stereophonic sound stage. Pre-fade listen (PFL) is provided. The operator can listen to an input which at that time is not included in the main output mix, and adjust the presel level control by switching PFL to the meters. When that input is required in the main mix the operator can simply push the channel faders fully open and that channel will enter the main mix at the preset level. The tone controls and on stereo channels the balance control may also be set in advance. The output of each input module may be switched to elther group mix module as required, so that a selection of inputs e.g. all instruments may be mixed in one group, whilst another selection e.g. all vocalists may be mixed in the other group. Group mix modules may also be fitted with PFL. The outputs of the group mix modules are further mixed in the main mix module to give an overall stereo output.

Foldtack is provided to allow mixed groups of signals to be fed back into an inpui module so that it may be remixed with other signals, and be further processed as a block of signals. It mav be desirable to insert an ectro effect at this point and the Echo Chamber shown on page 152 is tueal for this purpose.

Any input module except General Purpose types can also be wired with talkback facitities This allows an input module to feed signals to the PFL line and thence to the monitor amps which may be temporarlly connected to the performers' headphones. When this facility is wutched on, the input module is automatically isolated so that it cannot accidentally be connected into the mix. A front panel lamp lights to give evisual indication that that modure cannot be used for mixing.

## Construction Details

Full construction details are givan in our leaflet MES 38. (A component mehedule is also availatide MES38B free of chargo).
Order As XH22Y (Leaflet MES 38) 40p

## MICROPROCESSORS

LOOK AT THESE AMAZING PRICES

| Z80 CPU | $£ 10.80$ | incl. VAT | (OW00A) |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| $8080 A$ | $£ 5.45$ | incl. VAT | (YH40T) |
| MC6800 | $£ 8.45$ | incl. VAT | (WQ43W) |
| 2102 | $£ 1.65$ | incl. VAT | (OW11M) |
| 2112 | $£ 2.38$ | incl. VAT | (WH17T) |

Plus dozens more


## 150W STEREO DISCO

A superb fully stereophonic discothèque capable of delivering 150 W rms continuous sine wave power per channel simultaneously into $4 \Omega$ loads. The unit features an automatic voice operated fader, extensive monitor facilities and the light show described below.

Specification
Output power:

|  | $4 \Omega$ | $8 \Omega$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| One channel driven | 225W | 146W |
| Both channels driven (per channel) | 160W | 112 |
| Frequency response: | $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}(30 \mathrm{~Hz}$ to 20 kHz$)$ |  |
| Total harmonic distortion |  |  |


at 150W:
$>0.1 \%$ at 1 kHz .
Construction Details
Full construction details are given in our leaflet MES 41.
Order As XF04E (Leaflet MES 41) 25p

## LIGHT MODULATOR

A high quality light modulator with 3 channels each capable of driving loads in excess of 1 kW each. The unit has automatic gain control and very steep filters to ensure that signals proper to one channel do not operate the bulbs of another channel.

## Construction Details

Full construction details are given in our leaflet MES42.
Order As XH23A (Leaflet MES42) 25p

## AMPLIFIER MODULES

Turn to the project section of our catalogue for details of our high fidelity $8 \mathrm{~W}, 50 \mathrm{~W}$, and 100 W amplifier modules for you to bulld. Our picture shows the 8 W and 50 W amplifiers after construction.

## BURGLAR ALARM

A high quality burglar alarm based on a balanced bridge system that gives the ultimate in security. As well as allowing you to use as many simple contact type detectors, pressure mats etc as you require, the design allows the use of up to four ultrasonic movement detectors as well.
The ultrasonic detector simply stick s on to a wall and guards the whole room. It produces a very high frequency sound pattern in the room, way above audio frequencies so that you con't hear it. If the sound pattern is disturbed by a movement the detector will signal to the main control box and the alarm will go off. The ultrasonic detector has a variable sensitivity control to suit room size etc. so that very small movements are not detected.
The main control box can differentiate between a contact type detector operating, an ultrasonic detector being triggered and the line to an ultrasonic detector being interfered with. In each case a different combination of lamps light on the main control box. In addition if an ultrasonic detector is the cause of the alarm going off a lamp lights on the triggered unit.
Full construction details of the main control box and the ultrasonic unit are given in the project section towards the end of our catalogue.


## MODEL TRAIN CONTROLLER

A pulse width speed controller which delivers full voltage to the model train even at very slow speeds to achleve smooth train movements at all speeds. Added features are the acceleration and deceleration controls which allow smooth acceleration and braking to and from the speed set by the main speed control.
An emargency brake is provided which stops the train Instantly at the press of a button, and another press button is provided to momentarily apply full power to the track to help to overcome any inertia or resistance due to dirt and dust which is stopping an engine from moving off.
The controller is fully protected against short circuits on the output and an overload lamp lights if a short clrcuit is present. The controller will deliver up to 1.6 A at 12 V DC; powerful enough to drive even the biggest locomotives.
For full construction details turn to the project section towards the end of our catalogue.

## TOP QUALITY COMPONENTS AT MARVELLOUS PRICES

| Jack plugs $(1 / 4$ inch $)$ | from | $16 p$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jack sockets | from | $15 p$ |
| Phono plugs | from | $81 / 2 p$ |
| Co-ax plugs | from | $9 p$ |
| DIN plugs $\&$ sockets | from | $10 p$ |

Plus many more types

## MICHRON MK II

A digital alarm clock kit complete with a beautifully finished silver and white case that will look very attractive in any room in the house. The clock features a big $0.7 \mathrm{in} .(17.75 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) bright red display wlth automatic dimming as night falls. In addition the clock has battery back-up. If the mains fails the clock will continue to function on the battery until the mains returns. Also there are all the usual functions: flashing seconds indicator, seconds display, loud audible alarm with 'set' indicator, snooze timer, sleep timer, no radio frequency interference, will switch your radio or other appliance on or off, time-set security switch to stop "little fingers" interfering with the displayed time plus all the usual features. We are offering these superb clock kits at a really low price, so turn to the project section of our catalogue, now, to see how simple it is to make one.


## MONITOR TIMER

A very accurate timer that will switch mains appliances on and off again at preset times. An attractive case is available, fully punched and printed to which fits a double 13 A socket so that appliances up to 1 kW total ( 5 A ) may be transferred from normal mains outlets directly to the timer. Simply plug them into the timer and they will switch on and off at the times you have pre-set. In addition the timer functions as a normal 24 -hour clock, with alarm on and off set indicators, flashing seconds indicator, high brightness $1 / 2 \mathrm{in},(12.7 \mathrm{~mm})$ red display, test button to check that appliance connected will operate correctly at 'on' time, very simple 'one-finger' setting of time and on-off times with security to stop "Ilttle fingers" interfering with displayed times. For full construction details turn to the projects section in our catalogue.

## VERY LOW DISTORTION AUDIO OSCILLATOR

An audio oscillator is an essential piece of test equipment for anyone building audio equipment, hi-fi gear etc. Because of its very low distortion sine wave output this oscillator is suitable for use with even the most sophisticated hi-fi equipment.
Range: $\quad 20 \mathrm{~Hz}$ to 26 kHz in three ranges.
Distortion: Better than $0.01 \%$ (sine wave 1 kHz )
Outputs: Sine or square wave variable voltage up to 1 V .
Output voltage: 0 to 10 mV
0 to 100 mV
0 to 1 V
All continuously variable
Supply voltage: 9V PP6 battery

## Construction details

All the construction details are given in our leaflet MES 15 Order As XH24B (Leaflet MES 15) 15p


## CAR BATTERY/MAINS VOLTAGE CONVERTER

A valtage converter with fully stabilised outputs, short circuit protection (followed by immediate recovery). input of battery version protected against polarity reversal, and a maximum output of 400 mA . Details of two versions ape available, one for mains operation and output is switchable between three output voltages:
$6 \mathrm{~V}, 7.5 \mathrm{~V}$ and 9 V . Max ripple current with output at 9 V is 150 mV , at 7.5 V is 80 mV and at 6 V is 70 mV .

## Construction details

All the construction details are given in our leaflet MES 17.

Order As XH25C (Leaflet MES 17) 15p


## 


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## ASCII KEYBOARD AND TV DISPLAY INTERFACE

A 63-key keyboard generating an ASCII encoded output with 96 character codes and 32 control codes, 9 of which are available directly to control cursor position on the TV set. The keyboard has a repeat facility and a 2 -key rollover which ensures that only one code is generated however many keys are pressed. The keyboard generates capitals and lower case characters (although the VDU only displays capitals regardless of whether capitals or lower case codes are input to it), but can be strapped to generate capitals only for microprocessors that will not recognise lower case codes. Provision is made on the keyboard for direct connection to microprocessor and via interface boards to a standard home cassette tape-recorder and to a standard 625 -line colour or monochrome television set. The VDU interface allows the TV to display 16 lines of 64 characters per line. Full cursor control is available in all four directions from the keyboard. The VDU
controller will also store up to 4 pages (with extra memory boards) with automatic scrolling through the pages, and forward and backward stepping through the pages.
The cassette interface functions via a modem which can be used to transmit via telephone lines or amateur radio transmissions. The whole unit can easily be built into our Verocase Type 502 and a front panel ready-cut to sult our keyboard is avallable to fit this box. The unit can be built in stages since each section is a separate pcb which simply solders on to a mother board for complete flexibllity.

Construction Details
A leaflet giving full construction details is available, MES71, the first of a series describing microprocessor projects.
Order As XH260 (Leaflet MES 71) 30p

## CAR IGNITION/DETECTOR/CASES



CAR ELECTRONIC IGNITION SYSTEM
A high performance electronic ignition system for negative earth cars. The unit is very easily connected and the conventional ignition system can be returned to at any time simply by transferring the input plug on the box to the second socket.
The electronic ignition system has many advantages over conventional systems, for example, fuel saving, quick starting on very low battery voltages, more power at high revs, points wear reduced.
Construction Details
Full construction details are given in our leaflet MES 16.
Order As XH27E (Leaflet MES 16) 15p

## 'ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL’ INDUCTION BALANCE METAL DETECTOR

A really superior metal detector using the really sensitive induction balance system. It will detect a man's gold ring at 8 in and a 6 in. square of copper at 22 in . Full construction details are given in ETI's "Top Projects No. 5" described on page vii.
(Note: For a meter, use our Level Meter)


## BOXES, CABINETS \& CASES

A vast range of boxes, cabinets and cases to suit just about every application. From low-cost plastic (MB range) and low cost metal boxes ( $A B$ range) to the high quality Vero plastic boxes and Centurion metal boxes. We've got diecast boxes, potting boxes and even boxes with battery compartments.

There's a range of boxes in black vinyl finish and a similar range with a teak-effect finish.
There are sloping front boxes and boxes for use with foot switches. In fact well over a hundred different boxes. You'll find them all described on pages 52 to 57 of our catalogue.


## CASES / COMPONENTS



## KNOBS \& DRIVES

Our range of highly attractive $k$ nobs gives you a really big choice to finish off your project the way you want. From the universal plastic pointer to large all shinv metal knobs we've got the lot. We also stock a range of dials, slow motion drives and cord drive parts. We've got collet knobs with different coloured caps, and slide $k$ nobs in five different colours. See pages 76 to 80 in our catalogue for full details


## WIRES AND CABLES

An excellent range of wires and cables to cover many of the most common needs in electronics and home electrical work.

We also stock a range of accessories to help you when cabling such as lacing cord, tie wraps, Hiatts etc.


GENERAL COMPONENTS
We stock a very wide range indeed of all the most popular electronic components and they're all fully described in this catalogue. Resistors from precision $1 \%$ types up to 25 W high power types. Capacitors from 1.8 pF to $10,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ in lots of different voltages, tolerances and dielectrics. Our transistor and IC range is very large, covering TTL, CMOS, op-amps, linears, microprocessors, memories etc. etc.
 lamp with its hundreds of pin-pricks of light creates a very relaxed atmosphere. For full details turn to page 83 of our catalogue.

## CHECK OUR PRICES <br> FOR

VOLTAGE REGULATORS

Positive 100 mA
Positive 500 mA
Positive 1 A
Positive 1.5A
Negative 500 mA
Negative 1 A
at $5 \mathrm{~V}, 12 \mathrm{~V}$ and 15 V

30p including VAT
49p including VAT
$62 p$ including VAT
95p including VAT
$58 p$ including VAT $69 p$ including VAT

We also stock variable voltage regulators positive and negative at $1 / 2 A, 1 A$ and $5 A$. See $\mu A 78$ and $\mu A 79$.
Series on catalogue page 206.


## LAMPHOLDERS / SWITCHES



## LAMPHOLDERS

A range of highly attractive lampholders to suit LES and MES bulbs. There are also some mains neons and a really unusual item, little covers that clip over LED's to give them a very neat appearance. As usual Maplin provide you with the maximum choice to help you give your projects the perfect finished look.

## SWITCHES

We stock a very large range of switches and relays. Push-button, rocker, toggle, rotary and slide switches with lots of different types in each category. Our modular rotary and latch switches are excellent value for money and allow many combinations of different switch actions to be made up. See pages 84 to 89 in catalogue.


## AERIALS

A completely new section in this catalogue is the section covering TV and radio aerials. Our range covers standard TV aerials and very high gain types as well as a range - of FM stereo radio aerials from a simple dipole and reflector right up to the giant Mushkiller 8 -element for long range reception. And they're all high quality aerials made by one of Britain's biggest and most

- respected names in aerials: Antiference.
- We also stock their brackets and lashing kits to give long-lasting support to your aerial in even the fiercest weather conditions. In addition we stock their range of co-axial outlets, splitters and dividers and an aerial amplifier. Also shown in the picture is our very high quality aerial rotator so that with a wideband TV aerial you can pull in lots of stations or with an FM aerial pick up good stereo from several local radio stations, As usual there's a massive range to choose from and everything's at excellent prices.



## MOBILE RADIO ANTENNAE

We are major stockists of one of the finest ranges of mobile radio antennae in the world. Our range covers 66 MHz to 470 MHz with an excellent range of mounts.
Our picture shows an amateur with two of our aerials in use (the 3 dB gain whip and the 5 dB gain collinear) just about to pull away after visiting our busy shop in Southend. For full details of our mobile radio antennae turn to pages 105 and 106 of our catalogue.


## CONNECTORS

We have a truly superb range of connectors, all at marvellous prices. There are fifteen pages in this catalogue devoted solely to connectors commencing on page 114 New this time are lockable DIN connectors, XLR "Cannon"'type connectors, some extra mains plugs and sockets, a range of 'UHF' connectors and adaptors to complement our range of mobile radio antennae, jack sockets with chromed bezels and an extended range of phono sockets. Also we've re-introduced our excellent low-cost range of edge connectors.
So if you're looking for a connector to suit your special application turn to pages 114 to 129 of our catalogue and the chances are you'll find something there that will fit the bill.

## ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES

Another completely new section in this catalogue is the section devoted to electrical accessories. Virtually everything you need for electrical jobs at home from putting in a new socket to rewiring the entire house. And if you've never done anything like it before, our books, "Home Electrics" by Geoffrey Burdett or "Practical Electrical Rewiring and Repairs" by Charles Miller explain everything you need to know in simple, practical terms. Turn to pages 43 and 44 for cables and pages 130 to $\$ 33$ of our catalogue for a wide range of quality British made electrical accessories all at excellent prices. You can be completely confident about the quality and safety of your work if you follow the instructions in the books using our high quality components.


## SPEAKERS

Our excellent range of speakers covers tiny miniature speakers less than two inches diameter up to the mighty McKenzie 15 inch bass speaker. In between we've got some beautiful speakers all at marvellous prices.

We must be the cheapest in the country for the new Piezo tweeters, and if you've never tried them, you should. They've got a sharp crystal clarity that has to be heard to be believed and at our prices they're a spectacular bargain.

For the more conventionally minded we've got a range of crossover networks, a midrange speaker and a selection of tweeters.

For the power men we've got a good range of 12 inch speakers at 50 W and 80 W and the big 15 inch speaker that will deliver a massive 150 W rms.

In addition we stock a portable megaphone with a dual microphone connected in antiphase to help to avoid feedback, and two types of car-top public address horns that are extremely reasonably priced. Also there are three very nice pairs of stereo headphones at prices you'll find hard to beat.

So if you're looking for speakers, tweeters, woofers, crossovers, headphones, megaphone or PA horns turn to pages 137 to 141 and pick something from our range at our low, low prices.


## SPEAKER CABINETS AND ACCESSORIES

Our picture shows our two high power speaker cabinets. One to house our 15 inch McKenzie and one to house two of our 12 inch units. This latter cabinet also has cut-outs which are normally blocked off for fitting two of our 3 inch piezo tweeters.
We also stock the special acoustic wadding you will need to cover the insides of the cabinet. You will be surprised how dramatically different and improved the sound is when this is done. If you prefer to make your own cabinets we sell speaker grille material in black and brown and a hardwearing plasticised cloth for covering the outsides of the cabinet. Coupled with our sealing strip, Velcromounts, cabinet corners and carrying handles you'll see that we've got just about everything you need (except the wood, of course) to put together your own speaker cabinets.


## DISCO EFFECTS

The pages in our catalogue devoted to disco lighting effects cover projectors with a wide range of accessories , a mirror bali which rotates to create some beautiful effects, fuzz lights, strobes, and sound to light units; one with a whole range of stunning visual effects.

## MUSICAL EFFECTS UNITS

These ready-built units offer a wide range of effects for professional musicians or the amateur. From simple fuzz pedals to sophisticated echo chambers, we're certain you'll be hard-pressed to beat our prices for any of these units. They all offer excellent value for money.


## BOOKS

We stock over 200 titles of books on or relating to electronics. The book section in this catalogue is just like having a superb technical bookshop in your home. There are plenty of new books in this catalogue including a whole new section of superb books about microprocessors and programming, in fact even a book and tape-cassette home study course on programming.

For the absolute beginner try our superb set of "Basic Electronics" books that teach you while you experiment with the actual components. And once you've mastered that, there's an absolutely massive selection of books with projects to build in them. And don't forget that there are new titles coming on to the market all the time. You'll find details of all the best ones in our newsletters which are published about once every two months.

LEAFLETS (Prices shown under pages 35 and 36 on price list).
The following books and leaflets are published by Maplin. Those marked 'Free' are not shown on our price list and will be sent to you on request. An s.a.e. would be appreciated. However, please note that when you order any book or leaflet, its component schedule is automatically included.

4600 Synthesiser Book
MES 11 B 4600 Component Schedule
MES 11 S 4600 Synthesiser Specification
MES 12 5600S/3800 Synthesiser Book
MES12B 5600S/3800 Component Schedule
MES 14 String Ensemble Component Schedule
MES 15 Audio Oscillator Leaflet
MES15B Audio Osc. Component Schedule MES16 Car Ignition Leaflet
MES16B Car Ign. Component Schedule
MES17 Voltage Converter Leaflet
MES178 Voltage Conv. Component Schedule
MES18 Semiconductor Data Book Vol. 1
MESD19 MC1496 Data Sheet
MES 22 Touch-Sensitive Piano Leaflet
MES22B Piano Component Schedule
MES24 Spring Lines and Driver Module Details
MES25 Bass Pedal Unit Leaflet
MES25 B Pedal Unit Component Schedule MES26 'PE' Radio Control Book MES26B Radio Control Component Schedule MES27 DM02T Data Sheet
MES32 Dynamic Noise Filter Leaflet
MES32B Noise Filter Component Schedule
MES33B 40W Stereo Amp Component Schedule MES34B Stereo Tuner Component Schedule MES35B 50W Amp Component Schedule

XFOOA
XH15R (Free)
XHO9K (Free)
XF11M
XF13P (Free) XH17T (Free) $\times \mathrm{H}_{2} 4 \mathrm{~B}$
XF14Q (Free)
XH27E
XF15R (Free) $X \mathrm{H}_{2} 5 \mathrm{C}$
XF16S (Free) XF17T
XH11M (Free) XH18U XF18U (Free) XH06G (Free) XH2OW XF2OW (Free) XFO3D XF24B (Free) XH13P (Free) XHOTH XH28F (Free) XF21X (Free) XF22Y (Free) XF25C (Free)

MES36B
MES37
MES37B
MES38
MES38B
MES41
MES41B
MES42
MES42B
MES46B
MES47B
MES48B
MES49 MES49B MES51 MES51B MES52 MES52B MES53 MES53B MES54 MES54B MES55 MES55B MES56 MES56B MES57 MES57B MES71 MES71B MES92 MES93B MES98 MES99

Touch Organ Component Schedule 10 Channel Graphic Equaliser Leaflet 10.Chan G.E. Component Schedule Audio Mixer Leaflet Mixer Component Schedule 150w Stereo Disco Leaflet Disco Component Schedule Light Modulator Leaflet Light Mod Component Schedule Train Controller Component Schedule Burglar Alarm Component Schedule ETI's Metal Detector Component Schedule Drumsette Leaflet Drumsette Component Schedule Basic Organ Leaflet Basic Organ Component Schedule Two-Keyboard Organ Leaflet Two-Kbd Organ Component Schedule Full Scale Organ Stage 1 Leaflet Stage 1 Organ Component Schedule 32-Note Pedalboard
Pedalboard Component Schedule Auto-Organ Leaflet Auto-Organ Component Schedule Full Scale Organ Stage 2 Leaflet Stage 2 Organ Component Schedule String and Brass Symphoniser Leaflet Symphoniser Component Schedule ASC II Keyboard and VDU Leaflet TV Display Component Schedule Michron Mk II Leaflet
Monitor Timer Component Schedule Current Newsletter Current Catalogue

XF27E (Free) XH21X XF06G (Free) $\times \mathrm{H} 22 \mathrm{Y}$
XH08J (Free) XFO4E
$\times$ FO5F (Free XH23A
XF23A (Free) XF28F (Free) XF29G (Free)

XH29G (Free) XH19V
XF19V (Free) XHOOA
XH01B (Free) XHO2C XH03D (Free) XH04E
XH05F (Free) XH31J
XH32K (Free) XH33L
XH34M (Free)

## XH350

XH36P (Free) $\times \mathrm{H} 37 \mathrm{~S}$
XH38R (Free) $\times \mathrm{H} 26 \mathrm{D}$
XF26D (Free) XF31J (Free) XF32K (Free) XFO8J (Free) XF07H

## MICROPHONES/HI-FI CARE

## MICROPHONES

A superb range of microphones and accessories with everything at really low prices. In particular our range of electret microphones is almost unbeatable at the price. For small projects we stock a crystal insert microphone and for the professional vocalist or musician the superb Unisound dynamic microphone. In addition we've got microphone stands, mixers and input matching transformers.

## RECORD-PLAYER \& TAPE ACCESSORIES

An excellent selection of hi-fi care kits for record-players and cassette and reel-to-reel tape-recorders. The range covers cleaning cloths, anti-static devices, stylus balance, tape splicers, spare cassette boxes, demagnetisers for tape heads and lots, lots more as well as a very attractive range of
 cassette storage cabinets.



## CAR ACCESSORIES

We've greatly extended our range of parts for the car owner in this catalogue. Lots of the new lines are shown in the picture above. Our telescopic car radio aerial is one of the longest of its type that we've ever come across and at our price its a bargain. Inside the car we've got three types of stereo speakers including a superb sounding 20 W per channel pair.

There are lots of spare parts for the electrical side of the car and we even stock a few non-electrical parts that we couldn't resist because the price we can offer them to you is so low. They include foot pumps, tow-rope, luggage elastic, even an ice scraper, and a really useful "Keep Clean Kit" that includes gauntlets, a long apron and a pre-moisturised towelette sachet, all for just a few pence, but worth its weight in gold if your car breaks down when you've got your best suit on.

## MAPLIN POSTER

This beautiful colour picture, an original water-colour painting by famous artist Rod Brown was specially commissioned by Maplin Electronic Supplies. Full size reproductions of the painting are available. They measure a massive 36 in $\times 25 \mathrm{in}$., the size of the original. They have been carefully printed in full colour onto glossy art paper and are available to you for just $£ 1$ including postage and packing (or 75 p in our shop). A stunning picture to hang in your office or at home. Your children will love it. Order your copy now.
Order As XF12N (Maplin Poster)



## TOOLS AND SERVICE.AIDS

We stock a superb range of tools offering you a tremendous choice from low-cost to precision. There's a big selection of screwdrivers, wiring pliers, cutters, wire-strippers, spanners and small wrenches.

There are some beautiful little precision miniature screwdriver and spanner sets as well as miniature drills and needle files. In the heavy duty department we've got a big torque wrench at a really low price.
Our miniature electric drills are tremendous value for money and the ideal thing for making pcb's or model making. Our range of
soldering irons covers almost every application and we stock exclusively the superb 'Antex' range, because we've used all types and we think 'Antex' are quite simply the best.

In addition we have a good range of service aids including spray cleaners, silicone grease etc., adhesives, conductive paint, and two types of solder to cover most requirements.
For full details turn to the tool section towards the end of our catalogue.


## TEST EQUIPMENT

Our range of multimeters goes from our neat little Pocket Multimeter which must be just about the lowest priced multimeter you'll find anywhere, to our superb digital multimeter module that for the quality breaks new price barriers. On the way there are the three precision ICE meters with some 80 ranges on the biggest one and with accuracies as high as $1 \%$ !
In addition to multimeters we've got a very high quality frequency counter whose top-class specification is hard to believe at the price, an LCR bridge, audio oscillator, logic probe, transistor tester and two oscilloscopes designed especially for home constructors, small laboratories and service engineers. See catalogue pages 183 to 188.
Also especially for the amateur radio enthusiast we stock a grid-dip meter, SWR meter, transmitted power meter and relative field strength meter all described on page 106 of catalogue.


## ELECTRONIC MUSIC COMPONENTS

 Maplin are renowned for their range of components for electronic organs, synthesisers and other musical equipment. In this catal ogue the range is extended even further to encompass some beautiful new marbled-effect stop tabs in several lovely colours, a new stop tab switch and a massive 32 -note pedalboard in addition to all the components we've stocked before.Like keyboards at unbeatable prices our Moulded keyboard, for instance, is about half the price of the only other equivalent keyboard being sold by other retailers in this country, whilst our top quality keyboards are still cheaper than our competitors' Moulded keyboards. The same goes for our pedalboard, excellent quality, but at a price which is unbelievable.

Our master oscillator board the DM02T has been available for over four years now yet is still a very low cost solution to tone generation for organs, and with thousands sold you'll know you won't be wrong to join the bandwaggon. Another massive seller has been our reverberation module and the spring lines that go with it.


In addition we stock engraved and unengraved stop tabs, drawbars, contact blocks, rotating baffles for use in "Lesley" type speaker units, swell pedals, piano pedals, effects lever and even gold wire and palladium earth bar for making your own contacts. Like the rest of our catalogue the organ component section is a fascinating treasure-trove of unusual and everyday components.

HOW TO ORDER
Please use our order code to help us deal with your order quickly and efficiently. Each item has its own code number - two letters, two numbers and a letter e.g. BB23A. To order resistors use just the code letter followed by the value you require.
Payment may be made by cheque or Postal Order. These should be made payable to "Maplin Electronic Supplies Ltd." In your own interest cross all cheques or postal orders sent in the post with two straight lines across the centre. Do not send cash unless the envelope is registered at the Post Office.

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An insulator layer of silica is now added to separate the conductor and nickel-iron layers. Nickel-iron alloy follows, and in this layer the propagation pattern is defined, again using photolithography. This is the most critical step as the propagation pattern must be aligned closely with the conductor pattern. Again, high resolution pattern definition is obtained using ion milling to remove unwanted nickel-iron. The last deposition is a third silica layer which acts as a passivation protecting the chip from the outside world. Finally, the silica over the contact pads of the first conductor layer must be removed. This is done using a non-critical mask, with the unwanted silica being etched away using hydrofluoric acid. The wafer is now ready for testing by a piece of equipment called a probe-tester.

The wafer is mounted onto a stage and probe needles move from chip to chip on the wafer, making electrical contact between the chip and the test electronics. The test head contains coils to provide the rotating inplane drive field, and the static bias field perpendicular to the wafer. At this stage, chips which work over a range of bias fields greater than about 100e are accepted. Those which do not meet this criterion are marked with an identifying inkspot and the wafer is sawn into individual chips.

Compared with semiconductor processing, the fabrication of bubble devices appears less demanding. The formation of the film overlays is a purely additive and subtractive process with no diffusion steps involved. The number of critical masking steps is only two, compared with twelve or more for semiconductors. However, much greater control of the element geometry is necessary in bubble devices with features as small as $1-2 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ needing to be controllably defined over relatively large areas. This is many times more demanding than for semiconductor devices.

## BUBBLE DEVICE PACKAGES

The design of packages to house bubble chips is complicated by the magnetic environment they need for correct operation. The package must provide an inplane drive field, usually $40-500 e$ in amplitude, which rotates at $100-300 \mathrm{kHz}$ in the chip plane. There are several coil configurations which can achieve this, but the most commonly used is an arrangement of orthogonal solenoid coils as shown in Fig. 11. By feeding both coils with sine-wave currents $90^{\circ}$ out of phase with each other, a field of constant amplitude is achieved which rotates in the chip plane. This is like the circular lissajous figures obtained when quadrature sine waves are applied to the horizontal and vertical amplifiers of an oscilloscope. The bias field needed to stabilise the bubble domains is usually provided by a permanent magnet system to ensure that the data remains intact under zero power conditions. Two plates of barium ferrite ceramic permanent magnet material positioned above and below the chip are commonly used. Ferrite magnets are chosen as their temperature coefficient of magnetism matches that of the garnet


Fig. 11. Schematic of bubble package components. The coils produce the rotating magnetic field which makes the bubbles hop along the chevrons
films, allowing the bias field requirements of the bubble domains to be matched over a range of temperatures. Fig. 12 shows a package in exploded form currently in production at our company. It is designed to house chips 5 mm square and is currently used for both 64 K single loop ( 12 pin ) and multiloop ( 14 pin ) devices. The chip is glued to the E-shaped carrier board and the chip is electrically connected to the substrate tracks by 0.001 inch thick gold wire, bonded using an ultrasonic or thermocompression wirebonder, similar to those developed for silicon chips. Precisely formed self-supporting coils are slipped on and connected to the pads on the outer arms of the substrate.


Fig. 12. Exploded view of 64 K package
The lead frame is attached using a reflow solder operation, and the bias magnets are positioned above and below the outer coil. The assembly is slid inside the magnetic shield and filled with an epoxy-resin potting compound. The package iegs are bent downwards to give the dual-in-line format, and the package identification is printed on the top surface.

The technology of connecting the bubble chip to the lead frame and the encapsulation of the component parts is based on that already existing within the microelectronics component industry. To produce a bubble memory package, however, the additional expertise of the coil winding, permanent magnet and magnetic shielding industries is needed.

The final stage in the device production is to set the bias magnets to the required field and to perform parametric and function tests over the operating temperature range. Each bubble chip, even from the safe wafer, will have a slightly different range of bias field over which the bubbles are stable. The magnets are first saturated by applying a field of about $12,000 \mathrm{oe}$. The field level is then successively reduced by reverse field pulses of increasing amplitude until the centre of the bias field margin is reached. This is done in a computer-controlled test station which automatically monitors the performance as the bias field is reduced, and then tests the device at high and low temperature over the full range of operating conditions.

## USING BUBBLE MEMORIES

Interfacing with a bubble device involves the use of some novel circuitry to produce the drive currents in the coils. Periodic currents are needed of up to two amps peak to peak into some tens of microhenries at $100-300 \mathrm{kHz}$. They must be controlled to run for a defined number of complete cycles and stop and start in a well behaved manner without overshoot or ringing of the currents. The choice of drive circuit lies between resonant drive, giving sinusoidal currents, and direct drive which usuąly results in triangular currents. Resonant drive is more
difficult to use because the timing control is too complex to achieve correct waveforms at the required frequency for a number of packages on the same circuit board. A schematic of this type of drive is shown in Fig. 13a. Nowadays most systems use a triangular driver in which a voltage is simply switched across a non-resonant coil.

A simple form of this circuit is shown in Fig 13b. Currents build up during the first half of each triangular pulse through the switching transistors and decay through the diodes when the transistors are turned off.

As previously mentioned, sensing of bubble signals is usually done using the dummy and detector in a bridge circuit. The actual signal will have an I/O separation of $10-20 \mathrm{mV}$ for about $0.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$. A simple circuit for bubbles sensing is shown in Fig. 13c.

## WHERE WILL BUBBLES APPEAR?

The very rapid advances in bubble memory technology during the past few years have been fuelled by the attractive features offered by this device. Bubble devices fall between semiconductor RAMS and moving media memories, such as discs, in both access time and cost per bit. Compared with magnetic disc memories bubbles have higher reliability and a lower error rate since they have no moving parts. Their access time is faster than that of a disc; they consume less power, and are physically smaller. A comparison with semiconductor MOS memories is rather unfair, as their access times are two or three orders of magnitude faster than bubbles. Their interfacing is also somewhat simpler. Semiconductor RAMS will undoubtedly remain as the main memory for computers, but they may well be found transferring data in and out of a bubble memory mass storage device in the near future.

The first areas where bubbles can be expected to appear are those currently served by floppy disc or cassette stores. Bubble memories offer 100 times faster access, using multiloop devices, than a floppy disc, and because of their inherently solid state nature are more reliable. Like a disc (or its slower brother the data cassette) bubbles offer non-volatile storage and serial access at about the same cost per bit. However, bubbles, unlike discs and cassettes, are not a readily exchangeable storage medium. Since in moving media memories most of the cost is in the mechanical aspects, this may not be a serious drawback in most applications. For this type of storage, bubbles can be expected to appear fairly shortly in point of sale equipment, word processing systems, industrial process control, desk top computers and telecommunication applications. These uses will probably involve the bubble memory as a backing store to a microprocessor.

The second area where bubbles are likely to appear is that in which reliability is of prime importance. These include harsh environments encountered in military and some industrial uses. The high reliability, solid state, low power and weight characteristics of bubbles should find a ready market for such applications.

## THE FUTURE

The furious pace of development throughout the microelectronic industry makes any prediction about future progress difficult. Already, the 64 kilobit device has been passed in the laboratory by a 256 kilobit device which should enter production before 1980. In the USA chips as large as 1 Megabit have been made and operated, and chips of four times this capacity have been projected for the early 1980s. The hunt is on for better materials to support smaller bubbles and also different ways of manipulating bubbles to store information. Among ideas being actively pursued are contiguous disc devices, in which the bubble propagation is controlled by ion-implanted


Fig. 13. Bubble device interfacing. (a) Resonant drive. (b) Direct drive. (c) Bubbles sensing
patterns in the garnet film. This pattern replaces the nickel-iron propagation patterns with ion-implanted areas which are much less critical to produce, and so can be made much smaller. Another idea, still at the development stage, is the bubble lattice file in which the binary information is stored as one of two possible spin configurations in the bubble domain wall. A closepacked array of bubbles is used here, increasing the storage density almost five times over a conventional device.

Advances in fabrication with the introduction of electronbeam techniques should also yield improvements in current designs, certainly allowing considerable increases in storage densities. New packaging techniques will give lower power, smaller devices operating at higher frequencies. Also, it is expected that families of support devices to perform the coil drive, sensing and control timing for bubble devices will be developed as soon as a measure of standardisation is arrived at between manufacturers. It is therefore hoped that over the next few years circuit designers will come to regard magnetic bubble devices as just another integrated circuit package.



#### 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!


## SOFTWARE ANALOGUE-TODIGITAL CONVERSION

The following system uses a low-cost digital-to-analogue converter together with a comparator to perform A/D conversion by successive approximation. It was sent in by Phillip L. Watson who developed it for use with a Motorola D2 kit, and what follows is based on his description.
"The design, shown in Fig. 1, uses around $£ 6$ of external components and gives conversions to 8 -bit accuracy. The successive approximation program, Fig. 2, is entered at $\$ 0000$ and the first section configures the user PIA which is at $\$ 8004$ to $\$ 8007$ in the D2 kit. Side A lines are all outputs and bit 7 of side B is an input.


Fig. 2. Successive approximation analogue-to-digital conversion program for the M6800 micro


Fig. 1. Analogue-to-digital converter using a comparator and a low-cost D/A converter

The conversion routine starts at $\$ 0011$ and works as follows: accumulator B bit 7 is set and this is added into $\mathbf{A}$. The contents of accumulator $A$ are then used to drive the ZN425E D/A chip through the PIA to produce a voltage determined by the value. The comparator compares this with the input voltage and, dependent on the result, conditionally resets the bit in accumulator A . The ' 1 ' in accumulator $\mathbf{B}$ is passed serially down all eight bits; consequently each bit of accumulator $\mathbf{A}$ is tried in turn. The last iteration causes the ' 1 ' to pass into the carry flag and this gives an exit from the loop. At this point the 8 -bit result is in accumulator A.
"In the prototype a display routine was used to give a continuous reading of the result in hex on the display. The conversion takes about 300 microseconds with the 614.4 kHz clock in the D2 kit; however the speeds of the CA3100S and LM311P are such that it could easily run on much faster systems. If the conversion rate is not fast enough, using software, for your particular application then the unit can be used in conjunction with an MC14459 successive approximation register chip; with direct clocking by 02 this would bring the conversion time down to a few microseconds."

In less critical applications the two op-amps could probably be omitted from Mr Watson's circuit; the ZN425E gives a direct voltage output and can therefore drive the comparator directly, giving a range of 0 to 2.56 volts.

## BASIC LEARNING PROGRAM

Science of Cambridge, who market the popular MK 14 microprocessor system, have kindly supplied details of an interesting computer program which could enable engineers without much experience to mend kits returned with faults. The program, a variant of the well-known "Animals" game, is a simple illustration of how computers can be made to learn how to solve tasks; a sample dialogue between the program and the engineer is shown in Fig. 3 with the engineer's entries shown underlined.

The program asks the engineer to carry out a series of tests on the kit by supplying the answer to a yes/no question. Finally, on the basis of the replies the program suggests what must be wrong. If this does not succeed in
$\rightarrow$ KUN
-IS THERE AN MKIA TI REPAIR? YES D.7ES TMF DISPLAY LIGMT UP? YES

DJES THE DISPLAY SHDW 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8.? N1
mes THE DISPLAY FLASH ERRATICALLY? NI]
MES THE DISPLAY FLASH ERRATICALLY? NI
CHECK FUR A BAD SCMP. OK NITW? YES

IS THFRF. AN MKIA TH REPAIRT Y
DIJES TME DISPLAY LIGHT UP? Y
DDES THE DISPLAY SHIJW 8.R.g.R.8.8.8.8.? N
DIES THE DISPLAY FLASH ERRATICALLY Y Y
CHECK FIJR PAD CRYSTAL CONNECTIUNS. UK NUW I N
WHAT IS WRONG? REGULATITR IVERMEATING
WHAT QUESTIITN DISTINGUISHES REGULATJR JVERHEATING
FRITM BAD CKYSTAL CIJNNECTIUNS? DIJES TUUCHING SCMP AFFECT UISPLAY DMES RAD CRYSTAL CUNNECTIUNS CAUSE THIS SYMPTOM? $\mathcal{L}$

IS THERE AN MKIA TITREPAIR? Y
THES THE DISPLAY LIGHT UP? Y
DIJES THE DISPLAY SHIJW 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.R.? N
DOES THE DISPLAY FLASH ERRATICALLY? Y
DIJES TUUCHING SCMP AFFECT DISPLAY? Y
CHECK FIJR BAD CRYSTAL CITNNECTIJNS. OK NDW? Y
IS THEARE AN NKIA TI REPAIR? N
GJTDRYE.

Fig. 3. Example of a dialogue between the kit-repair program of Fig. 4 and an engineer
getting the kit working the program asks the
engineer what the fault turned out to be, and requests him to type in a question that should requests him to type in a question that should
have been asked by the program at that point. Next time a faulty kit shows the same symptoms the program will know what is wrong.

## NIBL

The program, shown in Fig. 4, was written by Nick Toop of Science of Cambridge in the

BASIC-like language for SC/MP, National's Industrial BASIC Language known as NIBL. This is an integer-only BASIC and although there are no arrays or string variables, these can be implemented with the operators "@" and " $\$$ ". Table 1 explains these and some other non-standard features of the language, and this should enable you to convert the program into other dialects of BASIC if necessary. Note that the program listing was produced on a British teletype, and " $\$$ " appears as " $£$ "; "PR" is used as an abbrevia-



$120 \mathrm{~K}=\mathrm{M}: 5 K=\cdots A$ RAD SCMP品: GOSIIB 500: $Q P=L / 256$ : $P(P+1)=L$
13n $e(P+2)=k / 256$ : $\quad e(P+3)=K$

$210 \mathrm{~N}=\mathrm{THP:} \mathrm{PR}$
210 JF OM=ी GOTI 700


320 P=N+WM: $N= \pm P+256+(P+1)$ : GTTO 300

3AN PR "WHAT IS WRING"': INPUT IM: L=m: GOSUB 500
350 PR "WHAT QUESTION DISTINGUISHES ". IL
355 PR "FRTM ", IN: © $\mathrm{EN}=3 \mathrm{~F}$
360 (NPUT $(M+1): ~ e P=M / 2568$ e $(P+1)=M:$ GISUB 500: $K=m$
37n $M=M+4$ : PR "DUES ", IN," CAUSE THIS SYMPTOM";: GOSUB 600
$380(K+e M)=N / 256: \quad e\left(K+1+e M_{1}\right)=N_{1} \quad(K+2-e m)=L / 256: \quad e\left(K+3-e M_{1}\right)=L$
$390 \mathrm{M}=\mathrm{r}+\mathrm{A}$ : GOTO 20 O

51 In $M=M+1$ : RETURN
GIn JNPIT IN: IF M $=059$ M $=2$ : RETURN
610 IF $日 M=A E$ OM=O: RETURN

G3O PR "PLEASE ANSWER YES OR ND. WELL' ' : GITTO 600
TAN PR "GOUUGYE."
*

Fig. 4. NIBL-language program which learns how to repair faulty microprocessor kits

## Table 1. Examples of statements in the NIBL language, a small BASIC interpreter for the SC/MP micro

## Expressions

All expressions are 16 -bit, twos-complement values.
26 variable names: $A$ through $Z$.
Relational Operators $<,>,=,<=,>=,<>$
Arithmetic Operations,,+- , /.
Logical Operators AND, OR, NOT,
Decimal Constants in the range -32767 to 32767.

Hexadecimal Constants denoted by \# followed by hex digits.
Expressions can be on individual lines or several can be inserted on the same line if they are separated with a colon (i.e., 100 PRINT "HOW MANY":: INPUTX).

## Functions

RND ( $a, b)$ returns the random number in the range a through $b$.
MOD ( $a, b$ ) returns the remainder of $a / b$.
STAT returns the value of the INS8060 Status Register.
PAGE returns the number of the current Page. TOP returns the highest address of NIBL program in the current Page.

Input/Output Statements
INPUTX
INPUT $X, Y, Z$
PRINT "A STRING"
PRINT " $F=$ ", $M^{*} A$
PRINT "TAKE", $X$, "PILLS BEFORE';
NOTE
The semicolon suppresses an otherwise automatic carriage return after any PRINT statement.

Assignment Statements
LET $X=7$
$\mathrm{E}=1$ * R
STAT $=\# 70$
PAGE $=$ PAGE +1
LET @A=255
(0) $(T+36)=F$
$B=@(T O P+5)$

## Control Statements

GO TO 15 or GOTO 15
GOTO $X+5$
GO SUB 100 or GOSUB 100
RETURN
IF $X+Y<$ \#IA GOTO 15
IF $A=B$ LET $A=B-C$
FOR I $=10$ TO 0 STEP -2
NEXTI
FOR $K=1$ TO 5
DO: $X=X+1$ : UNTIL $(X=10)$ OR $(@ X=13)$

## Indirect Operator

If the value of $V$ is $\# 2000$, then "LET @V= $100^{\prime \prime}$ stores 10010 at memory location $2000_{16}$ and "LET $W=$ ©V" sets $W$ to the contents of the location specified by $V$. NOTE
The values that can be stored at any one specified memory location range from 0 to 25510.

## String Handling

\$T="THIS IS A STRING"
PRINT \$T, \$ (TOP + 72)
INPUT \$ $(U+20)$
$\$ U=\$(T O P+2 * 36)$
question at each node, then turning left or right depending on the reply. When the program reaches the end of a branch it gives the diagnosis of the fault. If this does not get the kit working another node is added to the tree at this point; the question supplied by the engineer is put at this new node, and his diagnosis is put at the end of the appropriate branch.

The tree is constructed in the computer's memory by storing two addresses after each question; these are pointers to the strings at the end of each branch. Questions are distinguished from diagnoses by being prefixed by a question-mark (3F in hex). The first time the program is run it is entered at line 100 to initialise the tree. On subsequent runs the program is entered at line 50 . The variable " M " is used to point to the next free memory location for strings, and the subroutine at 500 sets it to point after a string that has been entered. The subroutine at 600 checks replies for "Y" or " $N$ ".

## OTHER APPLICATIONS

The program can be used in most applications where binary decisions are used to solve problems. For example, a computer chef program might ask whether certain items are in the store-cupboard, and then suggest a recipe; if the human replies "I can't make that because I've no pepper," the computer would ask, "What can you make?" Next time the human gave the same series of replies, the computer would ask, "Have you any pepper?" and if not it would suggest the recipe previously supplied by the human.


Fig. 5. Representation of the way that questions and diagnoses are bulf into a tree by the kit-repair program


0F all the electronic effects used by today's guitarists there are two outstanding favourites, the sustain unit and the phaser. The phaser to be described here is to complement the sustain unit featured in the October 1977 issue of P.E. Most people will be familiar with the "science fiction" sound of a phaser, which is fortunate because it is very difficult to describe. For those who are not familiar with the sound it could be described as "atmospheric whooshing" or "skying", but it really has to be heard to be appreciated and once heard it is easily recognisable. The best effect is obtained with signals having a high harmonic content, such as a guitar after a treble booster or fuzz unit. The effect described is normally obtained with the speed control set to a slow sweep. At higher sweep speeds the effect is altogether different and is comparable to the "rotating Leslie speaker" sound used for electronic organs, or a superior tremolo.

What may not be generally realised is that the depth and intensity of the phasing effect depends on the number of stages of phase shift employed. A phaser works by shifting the phase of the input signal without altering its amplitude. The phase shifted output signal is then added to the input with the result that at certain frequencies - where the output signal is in antiphase with the input-the two signals cancel to give zero output, whilst at other frequencies where the two signals are in phase with each other the output is doubled. The frequency response thus consists of a series of peaks and troughs, the number depending on the number of stages of phase shift in the circuit. To give the effect a dynamic component the phase shift networks are voltage controlled so that the phase shift-and hence the notchescan be swept up and down the audio band by means of a low frequency sweep voltage.

## SIMPLE PHASERS

The simplest phaser would consist of two stages of phase shift and would give a.single notch. There have been a number of circuits of this type and whilst it gives one a taste of what phasing is all about, it is inadequate for the serious musician. The general effect is in fact more like turning the treble and bass controls up and down than phasing.

A two notch phaser is better, but the minimum for a really convincing sound is three notches. This requires six stages of phase shift.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The fuill circuit diagram of the phaser is shown in Fig. 2 and at first sight it probably looks rather daunting. However, it is in fact quite simple and consists of three basic stages: the input, the sweep oscillator, and a phase shift network (Fig. 1). The latter circuit is repeated six times and it is this which gives the circuit its apparent complexity. The i.c.s. used are Texas TLO62 dual FET input operational amplifiers and were chosen because of their low noise and very low power consumption. The total current drain of the unit is only about 5 mA , ensuring a long life from a PP3 battery.

[060]
Fig. 1. Block diagram of the Phaser

## INPUT STAGE

IC1a acts as an input buffer. It provides a high input impedance so as not to load the guitar and a low output impedance to drive the phase shift networks. The circuit gives a gain of two, which helps to reduce the noise contribution from the phase shift networks.

## SWEEP OSCILLATOR

The other half of IC1 is used to generate a low frequency triangle waveform. This is applied to the gates of the FETs to vary the phase shift, as described later. Assume that the output of IC1b has just switched from its low voltage state (about 1.5 volts on pin 7 ) to its high voltage state (about 7.5 volts on pin 7). Capacitor C18 starts charging up via VR2 and R45 until the voltage on pin 6 of the i.c. rises above that on pin 5 (about 6 volts). When this happens IC1b switches to its low voltage state and the voltage on pin 5 is reduced to about 3 volts. C18 now discharges through VR2 and R45 until the voltage on pin 6 drops below the voltage on pin 5 .

Fig. 2. Complete circuit diagram of the Phaser

When this happens IC1b switches to its high voltage state again and the cycle repeats. The circuit thus generates a triangle wave on C18 and a square wave at the output of the i.c.

The square wave output is not required, but the triangle wave is taken off via emitter follower TR7. The amount of sweep voltage applied to the FETs is governed by the ratio of R39 to R40 and the bias by the setting of VR1. VR2 controls the speed of the sweep generator and covers a range of about 1 cycle in 5 seconds to 5 Hz .


Front panel annotation and internal layout of the Phaser unit

Capacitors C19 and C20 slow up the switching speed of the i.c. so that the transitions of the square wave are relatively slow. If this is not done the oscillator can generate spikes when it switches which appear as annoying clicks in the output.

## PHASE SHIFT NETWORK

A simplified diagram of the phase shift network is shown in Fig. 3. At low frequencies, where the impedance of C 4 is very high, the circuit becomes simply a virtual earth amplifier with a gain of -1 . At high frequencies, where the reactance of C4 is negligible, the whole of the input signal is applied to the non-inverting input of the amplifier and the circuit provides a gain of +1 . Between these two extremes, at the point where the reactance of C4 equals the resistance


Fig. 3. Simpllfied diagram of a phase shift network
presented by the FET the circuit gives a phase shift of 90 degrees but the gain still remains at 1 . Thus as the frequency is increased the phase shift varies from 180 degrees to zero but the gain of the circuit is always unity.

One stage by itself would not be very much use, but suppose we connect two stages in series and add the output to the input. At low frequencies both stages would give 180 degrees phase shift, i.e. 360 degrees total-which is the same as zero and thus the output adds to the input. At high frequencies both stages give zero phase shift and again the
output adds to the input. At the mid point where the phase shift of each stage is 90 degrees the output is 180 degrees out of phase with the input and so the two signals cancel, producing a notch in the frequency response.

A simple single notch phaser is inadequate for the professional musician and so this design has six phase shift networks producing three notches. The total phase shift range is $0-1,080$ degrees and notches are produced whenever the output is in antiphase with the input. This happens at 180,540 and 900 degrees, corresponding to phase shifts for the individual stages of 30,90 and 150 degrees. One could, of course, extend the chain of phase shift networks even further and produce more and more notches, but there is a snag. Every operational amplifier generates a small amount of noise and every FET generates a small amount of distortion which slowly degrade the input signal as it passes down the chain. The optimum point is a matter of opinion but we feel that a six stage circuit gives the best compromise between performance cost and complexity.

The phase shift is made voltage dependent by using FETs as voltage controlled resistors. The characteristics of these FETs are important and only the recommended type should be used as these are selected to a very narrow spread of gate voltage. The FET by itself is a rather non-linear resistor and would generate a certain amount of distortion but the performance can be greatly improved if the gate voltage is given a component at signal frequency. Best results are obtained if the signal voltage on the gate is made about half that on the drain and this is provided by the resistor and capacitor between drain and gate of each FET.


Fig. 4. Overall frequency response of the Phaser

## CONSTRUCTION

The unit was constructed in an ITT diecast box $(121 \times 95$ $\times 25 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) as this provides an enclosure which is sufficiently strong to withstand being dropped, stood on, and generally knocked around. The holes for the speed pot., jack sockets and footswitch should be drilled first. The components can then be temporarily fixed in place and the holes for the printed circuit board marked out on the inside of the box, using the actual p.c.b. as a template. The p.c.b. has to be mounted right up against the side of the box or there will not be sufficient room for the battery.

Most of the components are mounted on the small printed circuit board as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. There is very little room to spare and it is recommended that only the specified components are used. If desired, Texas low profile 8 lead sockets can be used for the i.c.s. but standard sockets tend to take up too much room. The use of a soldering iron with a fine bit and 22 swg solder is essential and the board should be carefully inspected for shorts between tracks, etc. Make sure that the soldering iron is earthed or damage may be caused to the FETs and the i.c. amplifiers, and take care that all the semiconductor devices and the tantalum capacitors are mounted the right way round. Lastly, clip off
all component leads as close to the board as possible or they may short against the bottom of the box.

The p.c.b. should be mounted on four screws with nuts used as spacers. Metal nuts should be used on the two screws nearest the side of the box, but nylon nuts (or a metal nut with an insulating washer on top) should be used at the other side or there may be a short between the +9 volt rail and earth.

Miniature screened lead should be used between the input jack and the p.c.b., and the leads to the speed pot.


Fig. 5. Printed circuit board design


Fig. 6. Component layout
should be twisted together and kept well away from the input. The terminals of the footswitch need to be bent down flat or they may short against the lid of the box. The footswitch is a double pole type and both sides are connected together for greater reliability. The input jack is a special type which has a front contact (nearest the nut) which is normally open and a rear contact which is normally closed. The negative lead from the battery is wired to the normally open contact so that when the jack plug is inserted this contact closes and automatically switches the unit on. At the same time the shorting rear contact opens and allows the input signal to reach the circuit.

## COMPONENTS

```
Resistors 
        R2, R3
        R4, R5, R6, R7, R10, R11, R12
        R15, R16, R17, R20, R21, R22, 
        R25, R26, R27, R30, R31, R32,
        R35, R37, R39, R41, R42, R43,
        R8,R9,R13,R14,R18,R19,R23,} 100k (13 off)
\begin{tabular}{ll} 
R38 & 2 k 2 \\
R44 & 15 k \\
R45 & 2 k 7
\end{tabular}
    All resistors 0.33W 5% min. carbon film
Potentiometers
    VR1 
Capacitors
    C1,C3, C16, C19, C20 0.1\mu 250V polvester (5 off)
        C4,C6,C8, C10, C12, C14 33n 250V polyester (6 off)
        C2 1,000p min. ceramic
        C5,C7,C9,C11,C13} 47n min. ceramic (7 off)
        C15,C22
        C17.C18, C21
        C23
Semiconductors
\begin{tabular}{ll} 
D1 & 5 V 1400 mW Zener \\
TR1-TR6 & BF245B \\
TR7 & ZTX 384 \\
IC1, IC2, IC3, IC4 & TL062CP
\end{tabular}
```


## Miscellaneous

```
JK1 Jack socket front contact normally open rear contact normally closed.
JK2 Standard jack socket non switching
S1 D.p.d.t. push to make/push to break footswitch
Case ITT Diecast box type 46R CSOO.043. A00
Control knob, PP3 battery, battery clip, rubber feet
```


## Constructor's Note

```
Only BF245B or BF244B FETs should be used. BF245A and C devices have a different spread of gate voltage and are not suitable. A complete kit of parts including the p.c.b. can be obtained from Davian Electronics, 13 Deepdale Avenue, Royton, Oldham, Lancs, OL2 6XD. (Mail order only).
```


## TESTING

To test the unit connect a 9 volt PP3 battery and plug the guitar into the input jack to switch the unit on; then connect the output to the amplifier and listen to the background noise from the phaser. With the speed control set to its slowest setting you should be able to hear a "whooshing" sound as the notches generated by the phaser sweep up and down the audio band. Adjust VR1 so that the "whooshing" is continuous without any dead spots. These occur when the FETs are cut off for part of the sweep. Finally, play the guitar through the phaser and re-adjust VR1 if necessary for the most pleasing overall effect.

The judgement of a pleasing phasing effect is a matter of personal opinion and some constructors may prefer a wider or narrower sweep than is provided by this instrument. The sweep range can be increased by increasing the sweep voltage fed to the FETs. This is done by increasing R39 and reducing R40. For a smaller sweep range reduce R39 and increase R40.


FRANK W. HYDE

## SATURN WATCH

In 1966 the Earth passed through the plane of Saturn's ring system. At this time Professor A. C. Dollfuss of the Pic du Midi Observatory discovered the tenth satellite of the planet. It is an inner moon and quite small being only 175 km in diameter. It was given the name Janus (first and the last). Now the period has arrived for a similar condition of the ring system and this will extend from 1979 to 1980. Since the situations with the rings edgewise provides an excellent opportunity for the observation of possible satellites, plans are already afoot for such a search.

One such proposal has come from J. W. Fountain and S. M. Larson who are at the Lunar and Planetary Observatory, Arizona. In a paper published in Icarus they give details of an examination that they have carried out on existing plates of the outer ring system. They suggest that it is possible that there may be another satellite close to the outer limits of the system.

Also in the same issue of Icarus vol. 36 p. 107, are details of the investigation of K. Aksnes and F. A. Franklin of The Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics, into the data which might provide some clue to new moons. They suggest that it is possible that there are two more satellites to be found in the region that lies between ring $A$ and the second closest satellite Mimas. There clearly will be a great deal of activity from Earth based observers and perhaps a review of the probes likely to be in the vicinity of Saturn during 1979 and 1980.

## THE RINGS OF URANUS

Last year the first picture of the newly discovered rings of Uranus were made by K. Matthews, G. Neugbauer and P. Nichilson using the 200 inch Mount Palomar Telescope. The team, who are from the California Institute of Technology, made extensive observations. The technique used was infrared scanning at two different frequencies.

It was found that at one frequency the rings appeared darker than when the other frequency was used. By subtracting the scans, the image of the planet itself was made to disappear. The rings were narrow in the final picture. After spectral analysis it was clear that the rings were made up of darkish material consistent with a stony composition. No ice, water or ammonia was found. This is interesting because the present thinking about the subject seemed to expect the presence of one or both conditions.
Naturally the event led to much speculation. The feature that the rings were well defined and narrow with clear sharp edges, indicates that there must be considerable constraint due to gravitational forces to hold the particles or rocks so rigidly. Two schools of thought have made public their ideas on the subject. Thomas Gold and Stan Dermott of Cornell University and Andrew Sinclair of the Royal Greenwich Observatory consider that the particles are moving on horse-shoe shaped orbits around Uranus. Details of this theory were published in the New Scientist vol. 80 p. 607. The second school is that of P. Goodreich of Caltech and S. Tremaine of the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge. They suggest that the gravitational force is provided by one or perhaps two satellites. The main ring which has been given the name Epsilon could be confined by a pair of satellites. These would have a mass of $10^{13}$ tonnes. They would be about 500 km on each side of the ring.
They think that these minor satellites could be trapped in resonance conditions with the existing satellites or Uranus. This is of course very ingenious but there still remains the problem that this theory or suggestion is strictly speaking only compatible with absolutely cifcular rings whereas in fact the rings are known to be elliptical. The team do not attempt to speculate on the composition of the particles or bodies composing the rings.

Once again there is a reminder that astronomy has not yet exhausted the details of the solar family nor yet disclosed why of all the planets Uranus is the oddest.

## NEPTUNE AND PLUTO

Pluto the so-called outermost planet, which has been demoted to the status of a "minor planet" by reason of its size, follows its customary orbit which will bring it to perihelion in September 1989. From now until 1999 Neptune is promoted to the position of the farthest planet. There is no chance that the two bodies will be in a position of proximity. However, since Pluto was discovered by Tombaugh in 1930 it has come steadily closer to the sun. The decrease in distance will be of the order of 9-10 astronomical units. This will afford better opportunities it is hoped for a better observation of the possible satellite of Pluto. The details of this discovery were reported in Spacewatch.

## SOLAR ACTIVITY

Data is continually being added to the already immense store of observations of the Sun. Many modifications of thinking have naturally resulted from the study and sifting of the data. Recently another view has appeared with regard to the electrical currents involved in atmospheric electricity. The existing view
was what could be described as the global theory. This contended that the current flowing between the atmosphere and the surface of the Earth during thunderstorms was balanced during fine periods by very scattered weak currents from the air to Earth.

In November 1978 at the onset of a solar flare a large number of balloons were released. After a lapse of about two days it was observed that the air to ground current increased so much that the radiosondes were saturated at heights of $25-30 \mathrm{~km}$. The rise was later followed by a fall to what is expected as normal. It is to be supposed that the fast particles from the solar flare produced the "kick". It would seem therefore that the earlier view has to be revised and replaced with the new mechanism in which solar flares are, via thunderstorms, the energy source that controls the atmospheric current.

## NORMA

Norma is an 18th magnitude star. It is blue and a candidate for a pulsed X-ray source discovered in 1967. This was established by the pulsation period measured to be 7.6809 seconds. The study by S. A. Ilovaisky, C. Chevalier and Ch. Motch of the Paris Observatory at Meudon was carried out using a microprocessor controlled EMI detector sensitive in the blue region. The telescope used was the 316 metre reflector of the European Southern Observatory in Chile.

A short period of observation was all that was needed to establish that the pulsation was real and not due to possible doppler effects in the orbital motion of a binary system. It is thought that the scurce may have a period of less than eight hours or its orbital plane may be perpendicular to the line of sight. Further observations now taking place will correlate the optical and the X-ray pulses and perhaps suggest a model that fits the observed data.

## REMINDER NEW COMPONENT STANDARD FOR P.E.

To illustrate this some typical component changes are given:

|  | Now | Before |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Resistance | 3 k 9 | $3.9 \mathrm{k} \Omega \Omega$ |
|  | 1 M 5 | $1.5 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ |
|  | 470 | $470 \Omega$ |
|  | $2 \Omega 2$ | $2.2 \Omega$ |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | $680 \mu$ | $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
|  | $4 \mu 7$ | $4.7 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
|  | 470 n | $0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
|  | 47 n | $0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
|  | 4 p 7 | 4.7 pF |
|  |  |  |
|  | 3 H 4 | 3.4 H |
|  | 800 m | 800 mH |
|  | 2 m 6 | 2.6 mH |
|  | 1 m | 1 mH |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

## TRTM 四000with our MAY issue <br> Constructors Aid worth at least <br> 

##  H|A| I A M M

This unit, which is programmed via toggle switches and uses l.e.d.s for the output display, is designed around the General Instrument (CP1610) 16 bit microprocessor.


## VEHILE IISTRUMENT DISPRIMS

The car market is acknowledged to be difficult for electronic systems to penetrate. However, present technologies will make solid state displays a reality in the early $\mathbf{1 9 8 0}^{\prime} \mathrm{s}$. We examine the state of the art.


PRACTICAL


[^3]

THE AUTORANGING Digital Bench Multimeter presented here was designed with standard mains operated multimeter applications in mind, for both professional/amateur users. The component board and mechanical construction is quite straightforward, and all the components are easily available. Over the past few years, several digital multimeter plans have appeared in open electronic literature. This particular conception combines many of the functions of high standard professional multimeters with design features including true autoranging, auto-zero,
and autopolarity, with adequate resolution level and accuracy. Also with good protection, and large l.e.d. display.

The most obvious benefit of autoranging is the fact that much less attention has to be paid to the multimeter by the user in order to get the best possible results. Automatic selection of the range will give the best resolution, and all the user has to do is to select the measurement mode required. As you will find described later on, manual multimeter operations are also possible, and auto-manual modes are indicated by a specially provided I.e.d.

Autoranging as applied to this design also makes the instrument more tolerant to most types of overloads,
even on the most sensitive multimeter ranges. This type of operational state, when the instrument is in the lowest range ( $\mathrm{mV}, \mu \mathrm{A}$, ohms) is specially indicated by an additional warning l.e.d.

Last but certainly not least, the beauty of this autoranging instrument is also the much less expensive conventional multimeter instrument hardware, and therefore the front panel layout is extremely easy to understand and use. This project will run in two complete parts, covering the whole of the electronic design, principles of operations, p.c.b. details and constructional tips, etc.

## SPECIFICATION

Five function autoranging multimeter with $3 \frac{1}{2}$ digit l.e.d. display. Manual option. Meter is based on the Intersil ICL 7107 chip which features auto-zero and autopolarity.

## Functions

Resistance $200 \Omega$ to $2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$
Current $200 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to 2 A (a.c. and d.c.)
Voltage 200 mV to $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ (d.c.); 200 mV to 600 V (a.c.)

## Accuracy

$1 \%$ of reading (determined by precision resistors used).

## Resolution

$\pm 1$ digit ( $0.05 \%$ ).

## Ranging

(a) resistance. Automatic with manual option. Manual operation uses a pushbutton to step down (one range per push).
(b) current. As resistance, but 2 A range must be manually selected and uses a separate socket. Setties in $200 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ range with no input.
(c) voltage. As resistance but settles in 200 mV range with no input. Range indicated by decimal point. Manual option indicated by l.e.d. $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ range, via separate socket, manually selected.

## Inputs

(a) voltage $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ input impedance, standard ( 4 mm ) sockets.
(b) current 200 mV maximum voltage burden.
(c) resistance test current is maximum 6 mA ; maximum open circuit voltage 600 mV .

## Protection

(a) power supply $200 \mathrm{~mA} / 250 \mathrm{~V}, 20 \mathrm{~mm}$ glass type "Slo-Blo".
(b) ICL 7107 chip protected by $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ series resistance and low leakage clamp diodes (BAV 47).
(c) voltage overrange on highest range causes all reed relays to drop out. Meter zeros and tries top range again.
(d) current as voltage, but also fuse protected ( $200 \mathrm{~mA} / 2 \mathrm{~A}$ ).
(e) resistance only fuse protected (1A).

Physical
Dimensions: $91 \times 204 \times 153 \mathrm{~mm}$.
Weight: Approx. 1,875 grams.
Power
Voltage 220-240V.
Frequency 50 Hz .
Consumption $\bumpeq 6 \mathrm{VA}$.
On MANUAL the meter stays in the inactive state until DOWN is pressed, putting the meter back in top range.

## BLOCK DIAGRAM

As shown in the block diagram of Fig. 1.1, the complete autoranging bench multimeter circuit can be divided as follows:

## (1) Three Precision Resistor Networks

(a) voltage divider (V1-V4) with compensation capacitors.
(b) current shunts ( $11-15$ ).
(c) reference resistors for ohms $(\Omega 1-\Omega 5)$.

## (2) Relay Board

Selects correct range, controlled by signals from the logic board "Range In" bus.
Also drives corresponding decimal points on display board via the "DP Out" bus.

## (3) Display Board

Contains displays (two off LITRONIX DL 727 dual 7 -segment, d.p.-right). Segments driven via 23 line "Drive Bus" from Main Board. Contains interface for under and overrange detection, "Range Sense" outputs.

## (4) Logic Board

Using signals at "Range Sense" the board produces the correct output at "Range Out". Also provides "Reset" output for Main Board (used for fast overrange recovery).
(5) Main Board

Contains ICL7107 A/D converter, a.c./d.c. converter (CA 3140) op-amp, part of the divider for $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ input and Quad Analogue CD4016 switches (driven from $\mathrm{AC}, \overline{\mathrm{AC}}, \mathrm{Ohm}, \overline{\mathrm{OHM}}$ ) for selecting a.c. and ohms ranges.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

Special grounding arrangements are necessary in order to reduce errors due to voltage drops. All boards have their own power supply connections going directly to the PSU to minimise crosstalk via the supply lines.

## MAIN BOARD

The complete schematic diagram of the Main Board is shown in Fig. 1.3. The ICL7107 chip is protected by a 1 M series resistance and low leakage clamp diodes.
The normal range of inputs during measurement is -300 mV to +400 mV , so both BAV47 diodes are reverse biased. If the input is larger than $\pm 1.2 \mathrm{~V}$, the diodes conduct and clamp point "*" to $\pm 1 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~V}$. The 1 M resistor limits the current to only 1 mA even for $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ input.

The analogue switches as shown in Fig. 1.3 marked $A C$ are closed in a.c. ranges, and those marked $\overline{A C}$ are closed in d.c. ranges, inserting the converter into the signal path as required. For those who have not come across any of these devices, a few words about analogue switches. The CD4016 CMOS Quad Analogue Switch is a single chip monolithic silicon i.c. containing eight $n$ channel and eight $p$ channel enhancement mode MOS transistors, connected to form four independent bilateral signal switches. Each switch consists of both $p$ and $n$ channel devices with common source and drain connections. Each switch of the CD4016 device requires a single control signal and both $p$ and $n$ elements in a given switch are biased on or off by the mentioned control signal. The pin diagram and logic diagram for the CD4016 device is presented in Fig. 1.2.

The converter produces a partially rectified signal whose mean value for sine waves is the r.m.s. value of the signal. The factor 3.2214 must be set during a.c. calibration, which is explained in Part 2.

## A.C./D.C.CONVERSION

The operational principle of the a.c./d.c. conversion is fully explained in Fig. 1.4. The fundamental element of this circuit is a MOS FET input, high performance op-amp, type 3140. The TO99 metal can leads are spread to 8 -pin di.i. form. The $3140 \mathrm{op}-\mathrm{amp}$ features reasonably high input resistance, internal frequency compensation, and also short-circuit protection. As shown, the whole circuit can be divided into two parts: (a) rectification and high impedance, and (b), smoothing. A simple method for calibration of this circuit will be described later on.

## THE ICL7107

The ICL7107 AD Converter requires some external nonactive components. Basically they form the three external sections shown adjacent.
(1) Clock Oscillator components (Pins 40, 39, 38).
(2) Integration and Auto/Zero components (Pins 29, 28, 27).
(3) External capacitance (Pins 34, 33).

The 7107 chip has auto-zero, auto-polarity and fully decoded constant current drive direct to the l.e.d. segment display. Overrange is indicated by turning off all digits except the most significant one.

The analogue switch "RESET" shorts the inputs after an overrange to give fast recovery.

Let's now concentrate on the main inputs to the 7107 integrated circuit.

Basic arrangements of these inputs are also shown adjacent, i.e. Input High/Low ( $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{i}}$ ). Common terminal and Reference Voltage (VRef), Ref High/Low. As you may have noticed on the Main Board schematic (see Fig. 1.3), we use the external REF - 02 precision voltage reference chip by PMI (Precision Monolithics) in order to improve the overall instrument accuracy, and temperature stability, etc. The REF -02 provides a stable +5 volt output which can then be adjusted over a $\pm 6$ per cent range with minimal effect on temperature stability. PMI have designed the REF -02 specially for $D / A$ and $A / D$ applications in portable instruments and in high quality digital instrumentation.


EGB7


## A LOOK INSIDE THE MULTIMETER



Fig. 1.1. Block diagram of Auto-Ranging DMM

## SIMPLIFIED CIRCUIT FOR VOLTS/AMPS

Fig. 1.5 shows both simplified arrangements functionally valid for Volts/Amps measurements and the external reference circuit.

In order to calibrate the external reference circuit:
(1) Measure point " $A$ " (approx. zero volts) by attaching the $200 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{OHM}$ input to point " $A$ " in d.c. volts mode.
(2) Adjust Set Ref until the difference between the readings for points $A$ and $B$ is 5.00 volts.

## SIMPLIFIED CIRCUIT FOR OHMS

This is selected by the closure of the "OHM" analogue switches. In order to measure the resistance, the autoranging multimeter uses a simple and accurate ratiometric principle, explained in Fig: 1.6.

Fig. 1.2. The CD4016 Quad Analogiue Switch



Fig. 1.3. Main Board circuit diagram

This gives true ratiometric resistance measurement since $1,000 \frac{V_{i}}{\text { Vref }}=\frac{R x}{R} 1,000=$ Reading.

## NOTE

(1) Max Test volts $(0.6 \mathrm{~V})$ will not test semiconductor junctions.
(2) A pair of diodes clamp Ref Hi to $\pm 0.6$ volts as a protection feature.
(3) Max. test current, inputs shorted, $200 \Omega$ range is 6 mA .

## $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ DIVIDER SUBSYSTEM

Because of the electrical safety required, $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ rated input is provided via separate socket, marked on the panel as " $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. $/ 600 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c."

The schematic arrangement (see Fig. 1.7) shows the main high voltage dropper elements, the three $3 \mathrm{M} 3 / 0.5 \mathrm{~W}$ resistors, blocked by a high voltage 22 p compensatory capacitor. It is absolutely necessary to select a high quality disc ceramic capacitor for this application. In our prototype, we used the RS 22 p disc ceramic (RS 124-465) rated at 8 kV d.c. working. This subsystem is shown on the Main Board schematic.


Fig. 1.4. Conversion from a.c. to d.c.


Fig. 1.5. Reference voltage circuit, selected by closure of OHM analogue switches. The REF-02 i.c. has a voltage/temperature relationship of $2.1 \mathrm{mV} /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, can drive a 20 mA load, and has infinite short circuit protection


Fig. 1.6. Ratiometric resistance measurement configuration


Fig. 1.7. 1,000V divider subsystem. d.c. blocking capacitor for $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. range


E071

Fig. 1.8. Construction of the current shunt resistor. The enamelled copper wire should be "doubled up" before winding, in order to minimise its specific inductance. A coat of lacquer will hold the wire in place

The $0 \Omega 1$ resistor (current shunt 15 ) can be made by winding 342 mm of 30 gauge enamelled copper wire noninductively on a $6 \mathrm{M} 8 / 1 \mathrm{~W} / 10$ per cent resistor, as shown in Fig. 1.8.

## LOGIC BOARD

As described earlier the brain work of the instrument and the co-ordination of various logic functions is done by the logic system in the self-contained Logic Board. Nearly all active devices on this board are complementary MOS (CMOS) devices, simply because any logic function capable of being constructed with ideal switches can be implemented in CMOS technology. A major feature of the MOS devices is the very high input resistance resulting from the dielectric oxide isolation between the channel and corresponding gate. In practice, change of the polarity of the gate bias can hardly affect the input resistance. In instrumentation techniques another point is extremely important, that of temperature stability. Whether leakage current does exist (for example between gate and source) this is reasonably independent of the ambient temperature changes. The basic logic job in our instrument is done by four CMOS gates: CD4001 (Quad 2 input NOR gate), CD4011 (Quad 2 input NAND gate), CD4025 (Triple 3 input NOR gate), CD4075 (Triple 3 input OR gate).

Also one CMOS CD4022 Octal Counter/Divider is employed. The complete schematic diagram of the Logic Board is presented in Fig. 1.9.

Gates IC3(a), (b), and IC3(c), (d), as shown in Fig. 1.9 form flip-flops to debounce the Auto/Manual and Range Down


Fig. 1.9. Circuit diagram of Logic Board


Fig. 1.10. Simple timing diagram
pushbuttons, and transistor BC159 drives the front panel I.e.d. Auto / Manual indicator.

## BASIC AUTO RANGE ACTION

Assume there is no input to the meter (or shorted inputs in Ohms range). The counter is stopped with only Range Out 1 high, since this output disables the clock via gate IC4(c). The meter is well protected in the most sensitive range since this selects the highest resistance shunt in Amps.

Now assume 6.00 volts is applied. The 7107 chip detects overrange and digit 2 blanks, Range Sense Inputs 3 and 1 go "low" and gate IC2(a) output goes high, resetting the counter via IC5(b). IC5(c) output is high, disabling the clock oscillator (IC4(a), (b)), since the meter is not in underrange.


Fig. 1.11. Relay Board circuit diagram. Diodes D1 to D5 suppress back e.m.f.

Gates IC2(b), (c), (d) and IC5(c) decode the underrange condition using the signals from the logic interface on the display board. The counter is held with its Reset output high, so no relays are closed (protection) and the mainboard is reset. The 7107 chip comes out of overrange and when its display falls below 200, IC5 (c) goes low enabling the clock, the counter advances to range 5 then 4 , etc. Underrange ceases in range 3 with the reading 6.00, when IC5(c) goes high again.

The resistor/capacitor smoothing network between IC5(c) and IC4(a) stops false clock pulses during the 7 to 8 transitions in digit 2.


From the above, it is clear that with open circuit in Ohms, the meter display will continuously jump between reset and overrange. Again the meter is well protected since range 5 only is tested, and this has the largest reference resistor.

## MANUAL

Depressing the Auto/Manual pushbutton (latching type) puts one input of IC4(c) "high" disabling the internal clock and thus the underrange sensing logic. The counter can now advance by pushing Range Down the required number of times. Pulses from IC3(c), (d), are differentiated and fed to the counter clock input via IC5(a).

When the counter tries to count above Range 1, the next decoded output feeds back to its reset input via IC5(b) since the reset pulse is so short, a spurious clock is generated on the chip and the counter skips to Range 5.

All the overrange circuitry is still effective so an overrange puts the meter in its completely protected Reset state with no decimal points lit. Pushing the Range Down switch returns the meter to Range 5.

## Important note:

For 2 A and $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. $/ 600 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. manual selection is necessary.

The simplified example of the Auto Range timing diagram is shown in Fig. 1.10.

## RELAY BOARD

Amongst one of the most important sub-assemblies of our meter is the Relay Board, of which a complete schematic diagram is presented in Fig. 1.11. Five of the BC107 drivers buffer the low current output from the Logic Board.

Transistor Drivers 2-5 are arranged as shown (simplified) in Fig. 1.12.


Fig. 1.12. Reed relay drivers

## MAIN BOARD AND GENERAL

| Resistors |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| R1, R2 | 3M9 $\frac{1}{2}$ W 1\% (2 off) |
| R3 | $1 \mathrm{M} 3 \frac{1}{2}$ W 1\% |
| R4 | 910k $\frac{1}{4}$ W 1\% |
| R5 | 91k $\frac{1}{4}$ W 1\% |
| R6 | 10k $\frac{1}{4}$ W 1\% |
| R7, R11, R17 | $100 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W}$ 1\% (3 off) |
| R8 | $0.1 \frac{1}{4}$ W 1\% |
| R9 | $1 \frac{1}{4}$ W $1 \%$ |
| R10 | $10 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W}$ 1\% |
| R12,R16 | $1 \mathrm{k} \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W} 1 \%$ (2 off) |
| R13 | $1 \mathrm{M} \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W}$ 1\% |
| R14 | 100k +W 1\% |
| R15 | 10k $\frac{1}{4}$ W $1 \%$ |
| R18, R19, R20 | $3 \mathrm{M} 3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ (3 off) |
| R21, R22, R36, |  |
| R37, R39, R40 | 10 k (6 off) |
| R23 | 4M7 |
| R24 | 43k |
| R25 | 18k |
| R26, R31 | 470k (2 off) |
| R27, R38, R42 | 1 M (3 off) |
| R28 | 43k |
| R29 | 82 |
| R30 | 810 |
| R32 | 27k |
| R33 | 510 |
| R34 | 100k |
| R35 | 47k |

All $5 \% \frac{1}{1} \mathrm{~W}$ resistors except where stated.

## Potentiometers

| VR1 | $1 k$ preset |
| :--- | :--- |
| VR2 | $5 k$ preset |

## Capacitors

| C1 | $10 \mathrm{n} / 1250 \mathrm{~V}$ polypropylene |
| :--- | :--- |
| C2 | 220 p mica |
| C3 | 2 n 2 polyester |
| C4 | 22 n polyester |
| C5 | $22 \mathrm{p} / 2000 \mathrm{~V}$ disc ceramic |

## Diodes

| D1 | l.e.d. 0.2 inch |
| :--- | :--- |
| D2, D3 | BAV47 (low leakage 10pA) (2 off) |
| D4, D5, D6, D7 | 1N4148 (4 off) |
| D8, D9 | 1 N4001 (2 off) |

Integrated Circuits

| IC1, IC2, IC3 | CD4016 (3 off) |
| :--- | :--- |
| IC4 | REF-02 by Precision Monolithics |
| IC5 | CA3140 |
| IC6 | ICL7107 (Intersil) |

Miscellaneous

| FS1 | 1A fuse plus holder |
| :--- | :--- |
| FS2 | 2A fuse plus holder |
| FS3 | 200mA plus holder |
| S1 | 9-pole, 6-way rotary switch |
| S2 | 2-pole, 1-way |
| S3 | 1-pole, 2-way momentary push |
| S4 | 1-pole, 2-way latching push |

Fig. 1.13. Part of Relay Board


Fig. 1.14. Driver number 1 is an exception since the lowest range cannot be displayed as above left, so it is shown as above right bottom range indicator

## COMPONENTS . . .



## NEXT MONTH: Display Board, p.c.b. construction and final setting up

COMPONENTS . . .

\section*{Relay Board <br> Resistors <br> | R1-R5 | $68 \mathrm{k}(5$ off $)$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| R6 | 510 |}

## Transistors and Diodes

```
TR1-TR5 BC107 (5 off)
D1-D6 1N4148 (6 off)
```


## Relays

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { RLA-RLE } & \text { RS348 } 986 \text { ( } 5 \text { off) } \\
& \text { reed type (or equivalent) }
\end{array}
$$

Note: The RS Components reed relays are $9-12 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. operating, with 1 k coil resistance. Ace Mailtronix should be able to supply these if equivalents are unobtainable.


## politis diasine

## STEREO MIXER (February 1979)

Due to a printing error the Veroboard track flayout was omitted from this article. Constructors can obtain a correct copy of the layout diagram from the editorial offices at Poole.

FUEL CONSUMPTION METER (OCTOBER 1978)
Some corrections to Fig. 3(b) are necessary, and are as follows: IC10 output to STROBE should be pin 8, and the input, pin 9. Also on IC10, the gate marked input pin 10, output pin 9 , should read: pin 11 and 10 respectively. The input pins on IC7 should read 1,2,4 and 5; i.e. that marked pin 10 should read pin 4.

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Brlef specifications:
Frequency Range: 20 Hz to 100 MHz guaranteed, ( 10 Hz to 130 MHz typical) - Sensitivity: 10 mV RMS,

20 Hz to 50 MHz ( 5 mV typical); 15 mV RMS, 50 MHz 10100 MHz ( 10 mV typical) - Selectable impedance: $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega / 25 \mathrm{pF}$ or 50 n - Attenuation: $\mathrm{X} 1, \mathrm{X} 10$ or $\times 100-$ Accuracy: $\pm 1 \mathrm{~Hz}$ plus time base accuracy - Aging Rate: $\pm 5 \mathrm{ppm} / \mathrm{yr}-$ Temperature Stability; $\pm 10 \mathrm{ppm}$, $0^{\circ}$ to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$-Resolution: $0.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 10 \mathrm{~Hz}$ selectable - Display: 8 -digit LED, floating DP, overflow indicator - Overload Protection - Power Requirement: 9-15 VDC
Optional prescaler will be available from around March 1979.

The DMM Madel 2000
The model 2000 is all solid-state, incorporating a single LSI circuit and high quality components. It has five functions and a total of 28 ranges. Input overload protection, auto polarity and auto zero are provided on all ranges and a basic DCV accuracy of $0.1 \% \pm 1$ digit.

Brief specifications:
$O C$ volts in 5 ranges: $100 \mu V$ to $1 \mathrm{kV}-A C$ volts in 5 ranges: $100 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ to $1 \mathrm{kV}-\mathrm{DC}$ current in 6 ranges: 100 nA to $2 \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{AC}$ current in 6 ranges: 100 nA to $2 \mathrm{~A}-$ Resistance: $0.1 \Omega$ to $20 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ in 6 ranges -
AC frequency response: 40 Hz to 50 kHz - Display: $0.36^{\prime \prime}(9,1 \mathrm{~mm}) 7$-segment LED - Input impedance: $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$-Size: $8^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 6.5^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D} \times 3^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H}(203 \times 165 \times 76 \mathrm{~mm})$ - Power requirement: $4^{~ " ~} \mathrm{C}$ " cells (not included).

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## Strain

Electronic companies in all the major industrial countries are struggling with the problems posed by the new technologies now available. The new age of the microprocessor is bringing a challenge to designers and engineers as traumatic as that of the great changeover from valves to the transistor twenty years ago.

The technical problem is containable because it is in-house in each company. Older engineers can be re-trained to think "software" just as their predecessors reared on valves re-trained themselves to think "solid-state". The level of investment for re-training and $R$ and $D$ on the new technologies can be planned on the spot and reasonable decisions can be made.
A greater strain comes from external political and economic events beyond company control. Profitable markets, once considered secure, can virtually disappear overnight. Iran is the prime current example where trading has virtually ceased and even optimists see little or no market revival for a year or so. The great oil crisis of 1973 rocked every industry throughout the world.

It is little consolation that, elsewhere in the world, other companies are also in difficulties. For instance, the soaring price of the yen is having an effect on Japanese exports in general and the recent bonanza in CB radio sales to the USA has now slumped to the point of bankruptcy for some leading Japanese suppliers.

The great hope for the 1980's is China, a potentially enormous new market with seemingly endless possibilities. But no sooner had Britain got away to a good start with orders of $£ 1$ billion or so for starters than political lobbyists started raising objections.

For the forseeable future the world will remain in turmoil both politically and economically. While most of our interest may be focused on fascinating technical developments let us spare a thought for
company market strategists struggling with forward programmes in a world environment in which the only certainty is that it will change. I recently spoke to a top professional market forecaster who sells his reports for a stiff fee. I asked him what confidence he had. He replied, "My guess is as good as anyone else's".

## INMOS

I was going to give INMOS a rest this month but the enterprise is of such importance that, for the record, the struggle on siting for the technical centre has been resolved as Bristol with the proposed production units still planned for development areas with a well-known management consultancy currently canvassing regional authorities with the possibility of an announcement in the Spring of this year.

## Integration

We have been so overwhelmed with publicity on VLSI in recent months that it is easy to overlook the progress that is still being made on another form of circuit integration technology, that of the thick film hybrid circuit.

Perhaps the most exciting development is a new form of substrate, the base on which the circuit is built. Traditionally this has always been a ceramic. There could now be a swing towards porcelainized steel. Two U.S. companies, Erie Ceramic Arts and Alpha Metals, are making porcelainized steel substrates, and chemical companies, Du Pont is one, are supplying appropriate resistive and conductive inks for use with them.

The big advantages claimed for porcelainized steel apart from low cost is that the substrate can be more flexible than ceramic in the sense that it can be large, of irregular form and even be shaped. The porcelainized steel could, for example, actually form part of the metal case of an equipment, saving space and doubling as a heat sink at the same time. Proponents of the steel substrate suggest that whole new possibilites of creative design are now opening up and the costs are claimed to be low enough for consumer electronic applications.

## GEC's Buys

At the time of writing GEC's bid for Avery, the weighing machine giant, is still in the balance as it were, with Avery rejecting an $£ 83$ million bid. White waiting for the scales to tip one way or the other, GEC has again been looking across the Atlantic and has setted on Boonton Electronics of New Jersey as a desirable acquisition. Boonton is an instrument company with a range complementary to Marconi Instruments and with a US marketing and international sales network. Purchase price is, by GEC's standards, a modest $£ 4.65$ million. A comparable deal was made by Racal with the acquisition of the Dana Corporation to form the multinational Racal-Dana. We could be buying Marconi-Boonton instruments in the80s.

On the joint venture front, GEC-Fairchild is to be headed by David Marriott, a British engineer who has been with Fairchild in the USA for 14 years rising to vice-president managing a plant and directing European operations. GEC-Hitachi, which officially came into being on January 1, plans to produce 300,000 colour TV's a year, double the present output at GEC's South Wales plant, over a period of five years.

## Laser Gyros

The Ministry of Defence has placed development contracts with Ferranti and Sperry for the development of laser gyroscopes for the next generation of inertial navigation systems. The concept of a laser gyroscope has been around for years. It uses three light beams in a triangular formation and has the virtue of having no moving parts and therefore less in-service maintenance. It has taken a long while for people to tumble to the fact that "cost of ownership" is more important than first cost. The laser gyroscope could be a bargain, whatever the initial cost, if aircraft are still flying rather than grounded waiting maintenance. Boeing is reported to have ordered laser gyro systems for their new generation of 757 and 767 airliners so there is every reason for the UK' to press ahead in what is clearly going to be an important technological change.

## Plessey Sheds ICL

Plessey has sold its share in ICL and will use its $£ 33.6$ million realised for the sale for internal development and acquisitions in data communications, office equipment and telecommunications. Plessey regards all these areas as "converging", which indeed they are. The recently introduced System 90 and Financial Transaction Terminal System are examples where the technologies are linked to provide instant banking and the cashless society, a new venture for Plessey in what is sure to be a growth area.

But Plessey Semiconductors, bravely borne by Plessey through the years still awaits a buyer. GEC is reported as interested, one of a number of possible purchasers, not excluding some of the British-based US semiconductor companies.

## Comms 80

Communications 80 , to be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, next April will have no defence communications exhibits or conference papers. The restructuring, say the organisers, reflects the growing importance of data and business communications. Quite true, but equally true is that defence visitors were conspicuously thin on the ground at the last event and seem to prefer their own purely military, naval and air force events. One such is scheduled for April 79 at Brighton's Metropole conference centre with well over 100 exhibitors showing defence components and services with a strong contingent of electronics companies.


## PATENT NOTE

Under the patent laws that existed in the UK up until June 1978, all patent applications were secret throughout all their pending stages. Past patent reports in these pages have therefore been based on granted patents published several, often three or four, years after initial filing of the patent application.

Under the new patent laws, which came into force in June 1978, all this changes. Pending patent applications will now be published and thereafter reported in these pages eighteen months after first filing anywhere in the world. In some cases this will mean the publication of the "secrets" of a patent application just six months after filing in the United Kingdom! For several years there will be an overlap between the old and new laws. This will inevitably mean
that some of the patents we report will be already granted under the old laws and some will still be in the pending application stage under the new laws.

We will in each case clearly identify whether a reported invention is culled from a granted patent or a pending patent application. We will also state clearly the filing date(s) on which the inventor stakes his claim.

Under the new. streamlined laws, readers can now complain direct to the Patent Office if they are able to prove that the invention covered by a new pending patent application is old hat. The object of this streamlined provision is of course to cut down on the number of new patents granted on rediscovered old ideas.

If an invention reported in these pages is identified as originating from a patent granted under the old laws there is little to be gained from complaining to the Patent Office if it appears old hat. But in the interests of wider general knowledge of the fact, readers with proof that the idea is old can write us a letter for publication.

If the invention is identified as originating from a pending patent application under the new laws, any reader with proof that the invention is old should write direct to the Comptroller of Patents, The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London WC2A 1AY, identifying the patent application by number and enclosing whatever hard factual evidence they have to dispute the inventor's claim to originality.

No fee is payable. No form need be filled in and any member of the public inclined to object is free to do so. But note well that the Comptroller of Patents will not generally be swayed by vague personal recollections and will usually require dated proof (for instance a page from a magazine or text book) to substantiate the complaint.

By reporting pending applications on electronic inventions and thereby affording readers the opportunity to block the grant of new patents on old ideas we can perhaps help the new laws fulfil their purpose and encourage inventors and firms to research the past more carefully before making wild claims to patent monopoly on the future.

## TV CODING SYSTEM

Readers have been quick to point out their belief that a previously reported patent from Indesit of Turin, Italy, claimed an old idea. It will be interesting therefore to hear readers reactions to another recent British patent from the same source, BP 1533 148, which was filed in mid 1975 under the old laws and covers a "reception-transmission signal for radioelectrical signals", especially colour TV.

Is the Indesit research laboratory an ivory tower cut off from the world or are their patented ideas an original approach to an old problem?

Indesit recap on existing colour television coding and decoding systems, and suggest that although the Pal and Secam systems have obvious advantages over NTSC, the European systems suffer because the receiver requires at least one changeover switch which operates at line frequency and must be phase identified.

Indesit propose a coding circuit at the transmitter as shown in Fig. 1. Colour difference signal B-Y is fed to amplitude modulator 3, and colour difference signal $\mathrm{R}-\mathrm{Y}$ is fed to amplitude modulator 4. A first


FIG. 2
sub-carrier of frequency $f_{1}$ is also fed to modulator 3 and a second sub-carrier of frequency of $f_{2}$ is fed to modulator 4 . Both modulators suppress the carriers so sidebands only are fed to adder 7 to provide the output chromanance signal. This is combined in conventional fashion with the luminance signal $Y$ and the sync signals.

Where $f_{1}$ is 4433618.75 Hz (for the $P$ al system) $f_{2}$ is chosen to equal $f_{1} \pm f H / 2$ where fH is the line frequency i.e. $\mathrm{f}_{2}=$ 4441431.25 Hz or 4425806.25 Hz .

Input 10 of a receiver decoder (Fig, 2) routes the chromanance signal to delay line 11 , subtractor 12 , adder .13 and colour burst gate 14 which is controlled by an input of line frequency pulses at 15 .

Delay line 11 outputs to second inputs of subtractor 12 and adder 13 which in turn output to synchronous demodulators 16 and 17.

Gate 14 outputs to sub-carrier regenerators 18, 19 which are tuned respectively to frequencies f 1 and f 2 .

Regenerator $18(f 1)$ is connected to a reference input of demodulator 16, and regenerator 19 (f2) is connected to a reference input of demodulator 17 .

The demodulated signals $B-Y$ and $R-Y$ appear at decoder outputs 20, 21 .

According to Indesit the circuit elements 11, 12, 13 function as two complementary comb filters. The element 11 delays by one line and the chromanance components differ in frequency by half line frequency, so the number of cycles of $\mathrm{f1}$ engaged by delay 11 is always a whole number plus one half cycle whereas the number of cycles of f 2 is always a whole number.
$14433618.75 \times 63.943 \times 10^{-8}=$ 283.5 and $4441431.25 \times 63.943 \times 10^{-6}$
$=284$ ). As a result the component of $\ddagger 1$ is cancelled at 13 while the component of f 2 is cancelled at 12 .

Indesit claim that this system enables the design of a colour TV receiver without electronic phase changeover and obviates the need for phase identification circuitry. Indesit also suggest that their comb filter idea may be adapted to the multiple transmission of 3D images for TV. A simple formula is given for adoption of the basic
idea to the transmission of more than two carriers.

Note in the context of the introductory paragraphs that this Indesit patent has already been granted under the old patent laws and is thus, along with all other patents granted under the old laws, not open to simple objection along the lines described above as applicable to pending applications published under the new laws.

# ... a selection from our postbag <br> Readers requiring'a reply to any letter must include a stamped addressed envelope. 

Opinlons expressed in Readout are not necessarily endorsed by the publishers of Practical Electronics.

## Strictly Instrumental

Sir-Re. the most interesting article in the September issue of P.E. concerning the TDA 1008. Now this i.c. requires a Master Tone Generator to provide the top octave $8 \mathrm{kHz}-16 \mathrm{kHz}$ approx. to give output footages ranging from $16^{\prime}$ to $1^{\prime}$. Whilst the maximum frequencies desirable from AY-1-0212 is an octave lower using the maximum input frequency of $\xlongequal{\boldsymbol{-}} \mathbf{2} \mathrm{MHz}$.
I would be most interested therefore if Mr Lenton Smith could provide a design suitable for this application in the near future (I am sure other readers would agree) since this i.c. appears to offer advantages over other systems.
Incidentally, pin 14 was shown as N/C whereas I believe that it supplies an ungated output corresponding to the lowest $\div 2$ stage and could be used to provide pedal notes. For this purpose it should be connected to pin 13 $(6 \mathrm{~V})$ via a $300 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor (minimum).
J. J. Fuzzard,

Chapel-en-le-Frith, Stockport.

The Truth Table on page 988 of the September 1978 issue shows that, if $1^{\prime}, 2^{\prime}, 4^{\prime}, 8^{\prime}$ and
$16^{\prime}$ pitches are required, the top $C$ frequency from the TOS will need to be $16,740 \mathrm{~Hz}$. This is a higher figure than most constructors have been used to in the past and they have usually solved the problem by "breaking back" the top octave at 1' pitch. However, the TDA1008 ideally requires this extra octave of master frequencies but the A Y-1-0212 will not provide it.

The choice must pe between $A Y-3-0214$, A Y-3-0215 and A Y-3.0216. All of these chips produce the required frequencies, but my choice would be AY-3-0214 on grounds of musical accuracy. Tuning errors compared with the equal temperament scale are tinywell below 0.1 per cent-whereas the errors are larger with the other devices, including AY-1-0212A. Unfortunately, increasing the master oscillator frequency to the latter device is not the answer as its dissipation will rise and may destroy it: on the other hand, the master oscillator frequency to the AY-3 series can be reduced from approximately 4 MHz to 100 kHz if so desired.

Regarding the master oscillator, a Hartley followed by a Schmilt Trigger can be used. As a stabilised 12 V supply is required for the set of TDA 1008 s, a simpler solution is to employ a 4011 4-Nand gate i.c., as shown below. This will provide a square wave signal of the correct amplitude and slew rate at the

$V_{D D}=12 \mathrm{~V}$
required frequency of approximately 4.25 MHz .

Even though "Strictly Instrumental" was expanded last September, it was not possible to cover all the facets of the TDA 1008 in that article. Pin 14 was shown as " $N / C$ ", though carries the ungated signal from the lowest divider. It is used as a factory test point, though equally the constructor could feed the keying of a 12 note pedal board from this pin. If so used, a 330 k resistor should be connected between pins 14 and 13 (to draw $20 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ from the 6 V supply).
I am glad that you found the article concerned interesting. Signetics are updating their application notes on the TDA 1008 and I would not be surprised to see developments of this device announced in the near future.
K. Lenton-Smith.

## No to boxes

Sir-I feel that the mooted idea of substituting boxes for the more readily understood symbols for capacitors and resistors is without any merit whatsoever. The present symbols do suggest the function of the components, and in my opinion were well chosen in the first place.

Consider how adaptable the variations on capacitors have worked out over the years, how would one distinguish between tifferential, split stator, ordinary variable, varicap and maybe others yet to come, when drawing a box?

Substituting boxes is just another example of change for the hell of it. Personally I wouldn't be interested in reading a technical magazine which was deliberately less than clear.
H. Burtenshaw, Godalming, Surrey.

A GUIDE TO AMATEUR RADIO By Pat Hawker, G3VA Published by Radio Society of Great Britain 35 Doughty Street, London WC1 N 2AE 120 pages, $180 \times 245 \mathrm{~mm}$. Price $£ 1.71$ post paid (UK)

GUIDANCE for the newcomer to the hobby, help in obtaining a transmitting licence, technical information, operating data; these are the aims and content of this comprehensive enthusiasts' handbook.

You can get started with a transmitter and receiver for about $£ 40$ if you build them yourself, and less if you start by just listening, which is the best way to start. Even the short waveband of a domestic receiver will enable some initial listening to be done at no outlay.

The main difference between a domestic set and a communications receiver is that the latter has a beat frequency oscillator (b.f.o.) to allow reception of single sideband (s.s.b.) and continuous wave (c.w.) telegraphy. You will have to learn a lot of new abbreviations if you are to understand amateur radio, and if you learned morse with the scouts or in the services then brush up on it as c.w. (morse) is a regular part of listening with a communications receiver.
For someone considering purchasing a second hand piece of equipment there is a comprehensive list of manufacturers' models past and present, with a brief specification on each. Alternatively, the build-it-yourselfer is given plenty of advice and for those not even familiar with receiver principles there is a good introduction to "all band" superhets, double superhets, and homodynes. Transmitters are similarly well documented, as is that most important field of aerial design and construction. There is also a section of workshop practice which should be skim reading for PE readers, and details of licence examinations.
A.T.

## THE WHICH? GUIDE TO TUNER/AMPLIFIERS Published by The Consumers' Association Caxton Hill, Hertford SG13 7LZ 128 pages, $207 \times 196 \mathrm{~mm}$. $£ 3.45$ on bookstalls or post free from above address

WHICH? have made this guide available to non-subscribers, and at $£ 3.45$ it could save ten times that amount; prices of sets reviewed range from $£ 85$ for the Alpha FR- 5000 to $£ 600$ for the Telefunken TR 1200.

Best buy for Which? is the Pioneer SX-750, putting out 50 W and costing $£ 240$. For power hungry types who listen partly with the stomach there are the "good but pricey" Rotel RX-1203, 120W, £450, and the Yamaha CR2020, $100 \mathrm{~W}, £ 490$.

Four other sets at around the $£ 300$ mark are "worth thinking about" and there are ten sets under $£ 100$ that get special mentions.
Each of the one hundred sets tested has a full page report coveringappearance and finish; specification; controls; control markings and scales; performance of the amp. and the tuner; and a listening test by professional audio consultants, student musicians, hi-fi enthusiasts, student audio technicians, etc.

Like other Which? publications there are several pages of thoughtful discussion, question and answer style, on stereo, hi-fi, combined tuner and amplifier, how much power, which wavebands, how many knobs and switches, connecting sockets and leads, aerials, tuner performance, amplifier performance.

The introduction to the summaries runs for a dozen pages and gives detailed information on probably every aspect which could affect a choice of equipment.

Should be compulsory reading for every hi-fi retailing assistant who is not familiar with RIAA equalisation.

TELEVISION INTERFERENCE MANUAL
By B. Priestley Published by Radio Soclety of Great Britain 35 Doughty Street, London WC1 N 2AE 78 pages, $148 \times 210 \mathrm{~mm}$. Price $£ 1.35$ (UK)

T"Here I was struggling to maintain a fading DX on ' 20 ' with Ian in Panama when this chap from Mimosa Avenue came banging on the door insisting that I'm breaking through onto his television and ruining his viewing of Sportsnight, and if I don't do something about it immediately he'll have the Post Office shut me off the air."

That may be unlikely to happen to you but it is a fact that the Post Office can shut down an amateur transmitter if there is reason to believe it may be causing interference to a domestic receiver. What is worse is that if it turns out that the transmitter is clear but the TV has a fault the Post Office may still close the transmitter down for 30 days to allow the modification to be made to the TV.

The introduction of the interference officer of the Post Office's Radio Interference Service is obviously to be avoided if amicable testing and fault finding can be carried on between radio amateur and television viewer.

If the matter cannot be resolved in a neighbourly way there may be a local television interference group who can mediate. For many amateurs there is no such group and although the RAE covers interference, this book is intended to provide more detailed guidance, especially for the amateur new to radio.

The author states that at least 90 per cent of all television interference ( TV ) is due to harmonic radiation or television overload, and although other possible causes are covered the main chapters are concerned with-TV channels, systems, spurious radiation TVi, strong signal TVi, transmitter design, and breakthrough onto audio amplifiers and tape recorders.

There is also a comprehensive data and reference section including much filter information, and finally a scenario of the general investigation taken by the Post Office if you can't patch things up with the chap from Mimosa Avenue.
A.T.

10-4, Newsletter of the Citizens' Band Association, 16 Church Road, St. Marks, Cheltenham, Glos. GL51 7AN

C.Bor Citizens' Band is alive and well and being publicised from . Cheltenham. Officially C.B. is not yet alive in Britain but hundreds of enthusiasts are campaigning for Home Office approval by writing to their MP's, newspapers, magazines; calling phone-in programmes; distributing leaflets, posters and car stickers; even publicity T-shirts are available.

Some adverse publicity from radio amateurs was experienced when C.B. started in America, mainly because 27 MHz was originally an amateur band. This opposition is not general as half the founders of the Citizens' Band Association (C.B.A.) are radio amateurs and the C.B.A. has many radio amateurs in its membership.

The C.B.A. has proposed that a VHF/FM system be started up for a British C.B. and a submission has been made to the Radio Regulatory Department at the Home Office for consideration at the 1979 Geneva conference on frequency allocations. Prices of VHF/FM sets are expected to be just over $£ 100$ initially, dropping to around $£ 65$.

The above information is just part of the news from pages of C.B.A. newsletters. They have in the past published the American "Ten" code and a C.B. users' dictionary. The "Ten" code was developed to enable a number of standard messages to be sent quickly even when radio conditions are poor. $10-4$ is the well known "OK" or "affirmative"; $10-9$ is "please repeat"; $10-53$ is "road blocked". Words which are apparently in general use include "break"-please may I interrupt (hence "breaker 14" on the record "Convoy"); "convoy"-group of vehicles travelling together linked by C.B.; "eighteen wheeler"-any large articulated vehicle; "mixing bowl"--interchange of roads.

A survey of the C.B.A. membership showed that there is some feeling against the "pop" image of C.B. and the "truckers slang" but the association organisers think the British transport system needs C.B. British lorry drivers will soon develop their own argot.

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## Acorn Microcomputer

## Acorn technical specification

The Acorn consists of two single
Eurocards

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2. Keyboard card 25 click-keys ( 16 hex, 9 control)
8 digit, 7 segment display CUTS standard crystal controlled tape interface circuitry
Keyboard Instructions: M Memory Inspect/ Change (remembers last address used)
[] Stepping up through memory Stepping down through memory [P Set or clear break point [日 Restore from break [. Load from tape s. Store on tape Go (recalls last address used) [RST Reset

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| 20FE12 | $12+12$ $12+12$ | O.8A EACH 2A EACH | $\begin{aligned} & 3.10 \\ & 3.60 \end{aligned}$ | ${ }^{70 p}$ | 60FE36 | $\left\|\begin{array}{c\|cc\|} 0 & 12-15 \\ 24-30 \end{array}\right\|$ | 2A | 70 | 85p |
| 60FE12 | $12+12$ | 2.5A EACH |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 80FE12 | $12+12$ | 3A EACH | 4.50 | 100 p | 80FE36 | $\begin{gathered} 0-12-15 \\ 24-30 \end{gathered}$ | 3 A | 4.50 | 100p |
| 06FE1 | 15+15 | 0.2A EACH | 1.50 |  | 100FE40 | 0-12-15 |  | 5.6 |  |
| O8FE15 | $15+15$ | 0.25A EACH | 1.80 | 50p |  |  |  |  |  |
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| FE03 | 0.3 mH |
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