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| N914 4 | Range: 2 V 7 V to | $\begin{aligned} & 6 \times 4 \times 2,110 \\ & 7 \times 5,21 \end{aligned}$ | . $\pm 1.3^{\prime \prime}$ Red or Green |  |  |
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| 4006/7 | 15p onct | 26 | 6 Digit | CD 950 |  |
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| 400V 20 | MVAM115140 | $2+\times 34^{\circ}$ 66p | er clad) |  |  |
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| 000V 30 | $\begin{array}{ll}881058 & 40 \\ 88106 & 40\end{array}$ | 3) |  |  |  |
|  |  | $3 \times 5$ | $\begin{array}{r} 92 p \\ 260 p \end{array}$ | 63p |  |
| Yr | 25J 180 | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \% \times 17 \\ & 4 \frac{17}{\prime \prime} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{array}{ll} 10 p & 178 p \\ & 280 p \end{array}$ |  |
| 0.8430 V 28 |  | Pkt of 36 pins | $\begin{gathered} 20 p \\ 107 p \end{gathered}$ | Q board |  |
| $0.8 A 100 V$ $0.8 A 200 V$ 05 | cs |  |  |  |  |
| $0.8 A 200 V$ <br> $1 \times 100 \mathrm{~V}$ <br> 12 | $\begin{array}{ll}3 N 100 V & 48 \\ 3 \text { A/400V } & 50\end{array}$ | Pin insertiontcol 147p |  | oblock 32 |  |
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| oov 70 | 8A/400V 64 | Spare Wire (Spooll 80p; Combs 7p ea. |  |  |  |
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| 1 MHz | 323p |
| 1.6 MHz | 395p |
| 1.008 MHz | 383p |
| 1.80 MHz | 385p |
| 1.8432 MHz | 362p |
| 2.4576 MHz | 362p |
| 3.2768 MHz | 323p |
| 3.57954 M | 195p |
| 4 MHz | 290p |
| 4.032 MHz | 323p |
| 4.433619M | 135p |
| 5.0MHz | $355 p$ |
| 5.24288 | 425p |
| 6.0 MHz | 392p |
| 6.5536 MHZ | 200p |
| 7.680 MHz | 323p |
| 8.0833 N | 362p |
| 8867 MHz | 323p |
| 9.375 MHz | 323p |
| 10 MHz | 323p |
| 10.7 MHz | 323p |
| 12 MHz | 392p |
| 14.318118M | 300 p |
| 18 MHz | 323p |
| 18.432 M | 392p |
| 20 MHz | 362p |
| 26.69 MHz | 390p |
| 27.648 MHz | 350p |
| 38.6667 M | 250p |
| 48 MHz | 323p |
| 100 MHz | 323p |

## CRYSTALS

 455 kHz 1.6 MHz1.008 MHz 1.008 MHz
1.80 MHz
1.8432 MH 2.4576 MHz 8 MHz 4 MHz 4.032 MHz
4.433619 M 5.0 MHz
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 allics; case; leads for direct connection to a cassette recorder and television (black and white or colour); everything!Yet the ZX80 really is a complete. powerful, full-facility computer, matching or surpassing other personal computers at several times the price.

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The Sinclair $Z \times 80$ is not just another personal computer. Quite apart from its exceptionally low price, the $\mathrm{ZX80}$ has two uniquely advanced components: the Sinclair BASIC interpreter; and the Sinclair teachyourself BASIC manual.

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- Unique 'one-touch' key word entry: the ZX80 eliminates a great deal of tiresome typing. Key words (RUN, PRINT, LIST, etc.) have their own single-key entry.
- Unique syntax check. Only lines with correct syntax are accepted into programs. A cursor identifies errors immediately. This prevents entry of long and complicated programs with faults only discovered when you try to run them.
- Excellent string-handling capability-takes up to 26 string variables of any length. All strings can undergo all relational tests (e.g. comparison). The $\mathrm{ZX80}$ also has string inputto request a line of text when necessary. Strings do not need to be dimensioned.
- Up to 26 single dimension arrays.
- FOR/NEXT loops nested up to 26.
- Variable names of any length.
- BASIC language also handles fullBoolean arithmetic, conditional expressions, etc.
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PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS OCTOBER ISSUE

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## CB-OPEN CHANNEL.

AT LAST we have the Government's proposals on CB and we are pleased to see that they propose to allow the use of this facility in the UK. But wait, what are they really giving us? A very short range system for which equipment will be expensive, a system which we believe will be of little use or value to anyone-users or manufacturers.

Some manufacturers have indicated that they consider the use of a 928 MHz system would be so small that it would not be worth producing equipment. What use is a range of about 10 miles maximum considerably less in cities-when the equipment will be very expensive.

We believe the Government is simply paying lip service to public pressure for a system. They may have been misled by the Home Office who have always been against any service and who must realise that, if instigated, these proposals will mean little or no extra work for them or anyone else. Alternatively, they may have 'misguidedly taken a lead from West Germany. The Government there has recently announced the proposed introduction of a 900 MHz service in the
future, but West Germany already has 27 MHz CB and the 900 MHz service will be an addition to that, which is a different kettle of fish.

The Government is now planning to clamp down on illegal use of 27 MHz there have been a number of convictions and proposed laws to ban the advertising and sale of any 27 MHz systems will at least ensure that transceivers are no longer openly available in this country. This is a move with which we approve, anything that can be done to prevent further illegal use of this frequency is sensible, but the Government-having said it is in favour of Open Channel (as they call it)—must now make proposals for a usable alternative. They must provide a system which will meet the needs of the general public, not a system that is designed to silence the voice of the CB associations without giving anything away.

We suggest that they think again, that they seek some more informed, less biased, opinion and that they try to act in the public interest and not just appear to do this.

Of course, some may say that any service is better than none. We do not concur, if 928 MHz is introduced it, will
be virtually useless to the general public and will prevent any usable service ever being introduced-as indeed it may well be intended to do. The Government have stated that only a small increase in the Home Office staff will be needed to control the serviceeven with all the, civil service red tape-so perhaps they do realise it will be of little use.

We do not want to follow the Australians, with all the problems they have found with 27 MHz , but we feel that this useless sop will only tend to encourage illegal use of 27 MHz .

Let's stop pussyfooting around and get a viable system off the ground. $A$ system that will ensure a good service and not encourage the cowboys.

It's not too late (hopefully); in a reply to a written question from Mr. Patrick Wall MP, Mr. William Whitelaw made the following statement ". . I intend to publish a discussion document on Open Channel within the next few weeks, and I shall take the public reaction to this into account in reaching final decisions." Incidentally it would appear that "the next few weeks" in Government terms is in fact 13 weeks so things could move slowly.

Mike Kenward

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## Mike Kenward

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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 lette! 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 (Practical Electronics), IPC Magazines Ltd., Lavington House, 25 Lavington Street, London SE1 OPF, at 75 p each including $\ln$ land/Overseas p\&p.

## Binders

Binders-for PE are available from the same address as back numbers at $£ 4.30$ each to UK or overseas addresses, including
postage and packing, and VAT where appropriate. 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 RH 16 3DH. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to IPC Magazines Limited.

designers went on to make mechanical integration into a system simple too, by linking the display to the p.c.b. with a flexible cable. Power consumption is less than 2 watts.

Details: Amber Controls Ltd., Central, Way, Walworth Ind. Estate, Andover, Hants. (0264 65951).

## NEAT AND TIDY

Here at last is an answer to the prayers of many constructors who are looking for a compact yet spacious means of storing tools and components-the Rolykit, from the Dutch Hagemeyer group.

Looking at the ingenious yet somehow obvious design of the Rolykit, it is surprising that something similar was not invented long ago.


When closed, it can be shaken, even thrown in the air and then opened to reveal everything still neatly in its place, conveniently laid out and ready for work. Some of the compartments are large enough to accommodate
pliers. cutters, and reels of wire, while others are divided into smaller units. ideal for components.

The Rolykit comes in two sizes priced at around $£ 12$ and $£ 15$, and should be available from leading retail outlets and chain stores.

## SPACE-AGE STATION

The new version of the Antex TCSU1 soldering station, meets the latest requirements for temperature-controlled soldering of delicate circuits and semi-conductors. The station is moulded in one of the toughest and most durable moulding materials available.

A significant addition is the anti-static earth connection to protect MOS devices from the damage, often unnoticed until too late, caused by static electricity. By inserting the jack with the special earthing cable in the socket at the side of the unit, a connection can be made to a specially made "earth" to eliminate any static electricity charges.


The soldering station is supplied with either the miniature CTC 40 watt iron or the XTC 50 watt model. Both models are fitted with 5 conductor silicone burn-free cable and 5 pin DIN sockets to connect with the 24 volt supply from the station. Thermocouples, fitted at the front of the irons, sense the temperature which is kept at a pre-set level anywhere between 65 and $420^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with an accuracy of 2 per cent. A range of 3 long-lasting bits, heavily coated with iron, is included with each iron for micro, miniature or ordinary soldering work. These bits slide easily on or off the stainless steel shafts of the irons; screws which may cause oxidation or "freezing" of bits to shafts and damage to the irons, have been carefully avoided.

Avoided also are such evils as magnetic fields, arcing transients or spikes; switching is done electronically at zero voltage.

The separate sponge tray which is supplied with each station, can be taken to a tap; this avoids spilling of water over the station.

The price for the TCSU1 (including either the CTC40 or the XTC50) is $£ 38$ plus VAT. Further information is available from: Antex Lid., Mayflower House, Plymouth, Devon (0752 67377).

## KEYBOARD CASE

A robust ABS case for self-contained alpha-numeric keyboards is now available from West Hyde Developments Ltd.

Known as the Princess Keyboard, the enclosure is vacuum formed in two halves which are clipped and then screwed together for rigidity in final assembly. The ABS plastic is

easy to drill. punch and clean and the base incorporates a series of ribs for simple mounting of many proprietary keyboard assemblies.

The price for the Princess Keyboard is $£ 10.75$, and it is available direct from:

West Hyde Developments Ltd., Unit 8, Park Street Industrial Estate, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 IET.

## ELCB

The two main problems associated with conventional fuses is that they are too slow to protect equipment from serious damage and that they offer little protection against serious electrical shock since their ratings and slow operation may allow fatal currents to flow.

The earth leakage circuit breaker overcomes these problems by sensing any small earth leakage current flowing in a circuit or any equipment connected to it. This is achieved by comparing the currents in the live and neutral conductors and detecting any small imbalances. Because of its high sensitivity the ELCB can isolate the circuit or equipment before any serious damage can result.

A comprehensive range of ELCBs have now bcen introduced by B \& R Relays. Called the HO6 Mainsafe series, they feature a wide range of ratings from 25 to 80 amps . with trip

ratings from 30 mA up to 500 mA . This new range together with the existing HO4 13 Amp portable ELCB gives B \& R full coverage of all ELCB applications.
The wide range of models available make it possible to protect an installation in a simple cost effective manner. For instance. overall house or building protection can be provided by fitting say a 63 or $80 \mathrm{Amp} \mathrm{HO6} \mathrm{Mainsafe}$ to give a 100 to 300 mA trip sensitivitysufficient to guard against fire or equipment damage. If further protection against electrocution is required, a more sensitive HO6 Mainsafe with, say, a 30 mA sensitivity can be fitted to give protection on specific circuits or socket outlets. Alternatively, individual socket or appliance protection. eg. in a garage or damp location can be obtained using the HO4 13 Amp portable ELCB into which the appliance is plugged via a standard 13 Amp socket.

For further information contact B\&R Relays Limited Templefields, Harlow, Essex CM20 2BG.

## INTRODUCING RISCOMP

A new component shop supplying a wide range of components, test equipment and books to the hobbyist has been opened by Riscomp Lid. The hours of opening are 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday, closed all day on Wednesdays.

Coinciding with the opening of their shop, Riscomp have introduced a low cost digital voltmeter known as the DVM 314. This module features a full 3 -digit display with 10.9 mm digits, and has a display sensitivity of
-99 mV to +999 mV with an accuracy of 0.1 per cent $\pm 1$ digit. A single d.c. supply of between $7-12 \mathrm{~V}$ capable of providing 220 mA max. is required to power the unit, thus allowing the module to be operated by either a battery such as the PP9 or a suitable mains operated power supply.

The basic IV maximum reading may be easily extended by the use of simple resistive attenuators with the required decimal point being selected by grounding the appropriate pad on the module.


Measuring $41 \times 95 \times 10 \mathrm{~mm}$ the unit is supplied with a full instruction sheet which includes suggested values for resistive attenuators. together with instructions for measuring a.c. voltage, current, resistance. and temperature.

Priced at $£ 11.95$ plus VAT, the DVM 314 is available to personal callers or by mail order from Riscomp's new shop at the following address: Riscomp Ltd., 21 Duke Street, Princes Risborough, Bucks. (084 44 6326).

## SERVICE CASE

A new combined tool case and component cabinet has just been introduced by LinkHampson.

The outer case is made of black simulated leather with a moulded carrying handle. Extra strength is given to the case by incorporating reinforcing side straps. The external dimensions of the case are $380 \mathrm{~mm} \times 317 \mathrm{~mm} \times$ 203 mm .


A lift up top gives access to a tool carrying tray whilst the component storage drawers are accessible by folding down the front panel.

The price of the case, model 2501 E , is $£ 29.95 \mathrm{ex}$. VAT and p\&p.

Link-Hampson Ltd., 5 Bone Lane, Newbury, Berkshire (0635 44796).

## VERO CASES

To complement their existing range of grey cases Vễo have introduced two models in two-tone brown.

The first type model 75/1713F ( $154 \times 85 \times$ 60 mm ) has a unique clip together design which requires no fixing screws. The front and rear panels are retained in position when the two halves are assembled.


The second type model 75/1714A (205 x $140 \times 75 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) is the usual two section case held together by four screws. Front and rear panels are included as well as fixing points for horizontally mounted p.c.b.s.

The cases are priced at $£ 3.58$ (model 75/1713F) and $£ 2.45$ (model 75/P714A) excluding VAT and $p \& p$.

Vero Electronics Limited, Industrial Estate, Chandiers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants.

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## around you. <br> DIGITAL COMPUTER LOGIC AND ELECTRONICS $£ 7.00$ This course is designed as an introduction to digital electronics and is written at a pace that suits the raw beginner. No mathematical knowledge is assumed other than the use of simple arithmetic and decimals and no electronic knowledge is expected at all. The course moves painstakingly through all the basic concepts of digital electronics in a simple and concise fashion: questions and answers on every page make sure that the points are understood.

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Book 4 Flip flops; shift registers; asynchronous and synchronous counters; ring, Johnson and exclusive-OR feedback counters; random access memories (RAMs) and read only memories (ROMs).
Book 5 Structure of calculators; keyboard encoding; decoding display data; register systems; control unit; program ROM; address decoding: instruction sets; instruction decoding; control programme structure.
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## Recession

The in-word this year is recession. We hear it morning, noon and night, presented generally in terms of utter disaster and catastrophe. Such pessimism is entirely misplaced. Surely we should be optimistic because the recession has precipitated a shake-out in industry that is long overdue by a good 20 years, perhaps even longer. Everyone knew that it had to come and that when it did the process would be painful. And in the older industries, more painiful than most.

But when we look at the young industries, of which electonics is the most striking example, quite a different picture emerges. GEC's recently announced results show the group cracking through the $£ 3$ billion turnover 'barrier' despite unfavourable trading conditions further complicated by industrial disputes. About one third of the total business is now in electronics, automation and telecommunications which showed a 21 percent increase in turnover and a 33 percent increase in pre-tax profit. And you only have to look at the advertisements in the national and trade press to see that GEC's main worry is how to recruit enough engineers.

The strength of the pound sterling is supposed to be 'killing' exports. GEC's exports were up to $£ 805$ million. Killing means extinction, quite different from the actuality that the high value of the pound merely makes exporting more difficult and that the converse of a weak pound would make every import of raw materials more expensive. A case of swings and roundabouts.

I have picked out GEC as an example only because their year-end results are the most recent to hand. But the same applies to the lesser giants of the professional electronics industry, such as Racal Group, Plessey and ICL, and smaller groups such as Unitech and companies like Farnell.

If we believe that a measure of performance is seen in the gross returns to shareholders in dividends and capital gains in the past ten years, and the profits must have come from somewhere, it is instructive to examine a recent league table of the 50 top business performers in the UK published in 'Management Today' last June. Racal emerges as the clear winner with a percentage gain of 2,008 percent. Electrocomponents was fourth, Farnell sixth, ICL eleventh and Unitech thirteenth. In these terms, Plessey, GEC and Ferranti are nowhere in the top 50, only steady successful plodders rather than get-up-andgoers.

To show how misleading the media can be in spreading gloom we only have to look at the headline 'Racal Disappoint with $£ 63$ millión'. That was last year's profits as reported by a business editor. It is so easy to overlook the fact that only a decade ago Racal's total group turnover was only £17.1 million and this was the group's 25th consecutive year of record turnover and profit growth.

The other side of the coin must not be overlooked. Decca and EMI, both failing in performance and now under new management with Racal and Thorn respectively, should start prospering again. Plessey now revitalised, only achieved this through shedding dead wood with painful and massive redundancies. Nasty but necessary medicine.

Well, there are ups and downs in all businesses, some winners, some losers, and in a world recession it is tough going for everyone.

As far as electronics is concerned there is certainly no need for despair except in one single aspect. It is not the sort of industry which creates mass employment. In fact the industry needs relatively less labour per unit of income year after year. Printed and integrated cicruits have transformed the manufacturing side of the business. On the other hand the enormous increase of usage has generated a demand for an increasing army of installation and maintenance engineers.

One of the paradoxes of the present situation is the number of complaints of overtime being cut in factories. Whatever happened to the sustained campaign for shorter hours and longer holidays?

## The Chip Scene

As I write there is still no decision on INMOS, an ominous sign reflecting lack of enthusiasm for, if not imminent abandonment of, Government (i.e. taxpayers) support. But at least'one aspect of the tangled saga of the chips has been resolved. The GEC-Fairchild joint project has been abandoned through lack of agreement with Fairchild's new owners, Schlumberger. GEC has now-acquired the original Fairchild share in the new factory at Neston, Cheshire. But instead of making chips the Newton plant will produce the Sting Ray lightweight anti-submarine torpedo for which Marconi Space and Defence Systems have an initial $£ 200$ million con-
tract for final development and first production.

Sting Ray is potentially one of the UK's brightest export projects. It is perhaps as much as five years ahead of the competition, certainly three years, and has built-in 'intelligence' in both the search and terminal homing phases of operation. Sales are expected to exceed $£ 1$ billion in the years ahead.

## Energy

Before recession snatched the headlines from the chip the fashionable topic was energy. The problem hasn't gone away, only faded into the background in headline appeal. And so, almost ignored, was the world's largest ever commercial contract for solar energy won by Lucas Energy Systems Ltd in the British-based Lucas engineering group. Under the contract 2,550 solar-power units are being built to power a radio-telephone network linking hundreds of villages in the mountains and equatorial forests in the interior of Columbia. Together the power units will generate a peak power of 100 kW from solar energy to charge batteries to a total of $2,400 \mathrm{kWh}$.

But that's not the end of the good news. It is fashionable today, at least in the UK, to regard with scorn, if not outright contempt, the EEC. And yet the European Commission has recently voted $£ 530$ million to energy research, some 50 percent increase in funding and now comparing well with similar programmes in the United States, the Soviet Union and Japan.

A substantial sum will be spent on fusion research, the cornerstone of which is the Joint European Torus (JET) which is under construction in the UK at Culham and due to be completed and ready for the first vital experiments in 1983.

Those still fearful of the consequences of nuclear energy should be reassured by big spending on reactor safety projects, and in protecting the environment. And enthusiasts for alternative energy systems should be pleased with a doubling of research funds in solar energy to $£ 14$ million with an element of technical support for third-world countries who, in any case, in their sunnier climates are likely to be the main beneficiaries.

I note too, that Gulf and Western Industries in New York has a prototype Volkswagen 'Golf' modified for electric traction with a range of 155 miles at $55 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p.h}$., and it goes further at lower speeds. The zinc chloride battery is one third of the weight of a lead-acid battery of the same capacity. G \& W hope to be in production with electric traction units by the mid-80s.

## Monopolies

Debate will be at furious level on the even very limited weakening of monopoly power in posts and telegraphs in the UK. But optimists like myself believe that the threat of modest competition will have a galvanising effect on efficiency--and that can't be bad.

# MICRO-EUS 

## Compiled by DJD.


#### Abstract

Appearing ever, two months, Micro-Bus presents 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 often come from readers working on their own systems, and payment will be made for any contribution featured.


THIS month's Micro-Bus examines the Acorn Teletext VDU, an unusual memory-mapped VDU with the ability to display Prestel and Teletext pictures. The VDU card can be used with the low-cost System One microcomputer, and several programs are presented to demonstrate the use of the VDU with the System One for graphics.

## BLOCK DIAGRAM

A block diagram of the Acorn Teletext VDU is shown in Fig. 2. It consists of three main parts: the VDU memory, the controller chip, and the teletext character generator. The VDU displays the contents of the 1 K of memory, which is switched between the VDU and the processor for half of each memory cycle; in other words, access to the VDU is transparent so that the processor can read from or write to the screen memory without affecting the display. The VDU is normally configured for a format of 25 lines of 40 characters, thus using 1000 bytes of the 1024 RAM locations. This format includes an extra line over the teletext format, which is $24 \times 40$. The memory is normally addressed as locations \#0400 to \#07FF.


Fig. 1. The Acorn Teletext VDU card


Fig. 2. Block diagram of the teletext VDU card; it interfaces to the computer's address and data lines

## SCREEN FORMAT

The format of characters on the screen is controlled by the 6845 CRT controller chip, and the format can, to a certain extent, be reprogrammed simply by altering constants stored in the 6845 's registers. The 6845 is addressed as two memory locations; an address register and a data register. In fact the 6845
contains a total of 18 registers; the number loaded into the address register determines which of the other registers is selected as the data register. A drawback of using the CRTC is that it must be programmed before any display will be obtained. The routine of Fig. 3 illustrates how to do this using the 6502 micro. The routine writes the sixteen values from a table after the program to registers \#00 to \#0F respectively, and sets the display up in 25 $\times 40$ format with a flashing-underline cursor.


Fig. 3. Program for the $\mathbf{6 5 0 2}$ micro sets up the VDU card for a $25 \times 40$ display, and a flashing-underline cursor

Registers \#00 to \#09 determine the screen format. For example, to obtain a format of 16 rows of 32 characters set register \#01 (number of characters per line) to \#20, and register \#06 (number of lines) to \#10. The display can be turned off completely, without affecting the contents of the display memory, by setting register \#06 to \#00.

Registers \#OC and \#OD contain the high and low bytes respectively of the screen start address. The start address can be changed to alter the mapping of memory to the screen; for example, incrementing it by 40 , the number of locations per line, will scroll the display.

The CRTC also provides a cursor, which can be flashing or static, and whose shape can be programmed. The type of cursor is determined by registers \#OA and \#OB. For the normal flashing underline cursor register \#0A has the value \#68; or cursors can be obtained by altering this register as follows:

Function:
Cursor off
Static block
Slow flashing block
Fast flashing block
Value:
\#1F
\#00
\#60
\#40

The position of the cursor on the screen is determined by registers $\# 0 \mathrm{E}$ and $\# 0 \mathrm{~F}$, which contain the high and low bytes of the cursor address.

The CRTC also provides a light-pen strobe input; a logic-level transition on this input will cause the address of the cell currently being displayed to be stored in the light-pen address registers, \#10 and \#11.

## TELETEXT CONTROLLER.

The character generation and display is performed by the SAASOSO Teletext Character Generator, which in addition to being able to display the usual and lower-case character set, has many attractive features such as: doubleheight characters; the ability to flash characters; display of characters in six colours or white against a background of any colour, black, or white; and display of two different types of graphics. Furthermore, most of these options can be used in combination

Most memory-mapped VDUs use spare bits in the display memory to select special options for each character; for example, the top bit of the character could be used to determine whether the character is displayed static or flashing. In the teletext VDU there are too many different options to enable them.to be specified in this way for each character, so a rather cunning method is used instead. Certain control codes, when present in a line, change the state of subsequent characters on that VDU line. Thus a line will normatly be steady, but if a 'flash' çode is put on the VDU, all the remaining characters on that line will flash. It is even possible to make one word in a line flash by preceding the word with a 'flash' code, and following it by a 'steady' code.

The Teletext method of selecting special functions has one drawback: the control code will appear on the VDU as a blank cell, corresponding to the background colour; so, for example, it is not possible to display a line of contiguous characters all in different colours; there has to be a blank between each character.

## GRAPHICS

To provide the facility for plotting graphs and histograms the character cell is divided into six picture elements, or "pixels", each of which can be either set to a colour, or cleared to the background colour. The state of each cell is determined by one bit of the code, as shown in Fig. 4. For the graphics symbols, bit 5 is always set. To display codes as graphics, rather than characters, they are preceded by a code specifying graphics and the required colour.
(a)

| $b 0$ | $b 1$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $b 2$ | $b 3$ |
| $b 4$ | $b 6$ |

(b)

50610
Fig. 4. Diagrams showing how the teletext graphics symbols are constructed for: (a) contiguous graphics, and (b) separated graphics

The usual gi wr: ${ }^{\text {rome mode is called 'con- }}$ tiguous graphics, but there is also an option called 'separated graphics' in which the pixels are separated by a thin border; see Fig. 4 (b).

If the whole VDU screen is to be used for graphics the first character of each line should be a 'graphics colour' code; the overall resolutrion is thus $78 \times 75$. A routine to clear the display and set it up for white graphics is shown in Fig. 5.


Fig. 5. Routine to clear the display, and initialise the display memory for graphics

## EXAMPLES

Some examples of displays generated by the Teletext VDU are shown in Fig. 6. The top line demonstrates the use of colour. The default colour at the start of each line is white; to display the word CYAN in the colour cyan it is preceded by an "alpha cyan" code, and it is followed by an "alpha white" code to return to white characters.

The second line illustrates the use of a different background colour. The background colour can be set to the current colour with the "new background" code; since the default colour at the start of a line is white, a "new background" code at the start of a line will give a white background. It is followed by an "alpha blue" code to cause the subsequent characters to appear in blue, which is dark against the white background. The background is returned to black after the text with a "black background" code.

## UHITE CYAN WHITE CYAN WHITE

## DOUBLE HEIGHT

CONTICUOUS RRAPHICS:
 :-wnrob-2wila= GEPARATED GRAPHICS:


by Peter Mayne of London, who uses the VDU with an Acorn System One microcomputer.
The PLOT routine, in Fig. 7, plots a point, or pixel, on the display at the coordinates specified in the locations XC and YC. The coordinates $(0,0)$ correspond to the bottom left-hand corner of the display, and $(77,74)$ to the top right. Note that XC and YC are modified by the PLOT routine.
The program works by finding, in ADDS, the address of the location that contains the required pixel, and determines a number to
add to that location to set the required pixel. Since there are three pixels per cell in the $Y$ direction, the routine must divide the value of YC by three to find which line contains the required location.

The GRAPH program, Fig. 8, demonstrates how the PLOT routine can be used to plot a graph of an equation. As it stands, the program plots $\mathrm{Y}=\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{X}+16$ for values of $\mathbf{X}$ from 0 to 63. The program also draws axes, and finally labels the graph with the equation; see Fig. 9. A delay is included to slow down the plotting.


Fig. 8. Program for the 6502 micro to plot a graph on the teletext VDU


Fig. 9. Graph produced by the program of Fig. 8
Before running the program, the routines of Fig. 3 and Fig. 5 should be loaded and executed at \#0980 and \#0E80 respectively to initialise the CRTC and clear the screen for graphics.

## NINE PROBLEMS REVISITED

One of the problems posed in the April Micro-Bus asked for a way to reverse the bits in a byte, on the 6800 micro, in under 10 cycles. A solution in hardware was proposed, but John Diamond of Coventry has solved the problem using only software by providing a look-up table in which each byte gives the reverse of that byte's position in the table. The six-byte routine to reverse a byte, shown in Fig. 10, then takes only 9 cycles. It uses selfmodifying code to avoid having to use the index register, thus saving several cycles. A further cycle can be saved by using zero-page memory.

The listing of Fig. 10 also includes an initialisation routine to generate the 256 -byte look-up table. Other functions could be implemented simply by providing a different table.
Another of the problems was to write a programme to find the highest prime factor of a number using a rudimentary machine-code called MINIL. The solution was given without explanation, and readers were asked to provide one. J. Rennie of Somerset wrote:
"Your challenge to provide an explanation of the MINIL program . . . proved to be quite
irresistable, and I found the task most interesting. The program is based on a fairly simple algorithm (see flowchart of Fig. 11). Let $N$ denote the number whose highest prime factor is to be found. Thus $N=\left(P_{0} \times P_{1}\right.$ $\times \ldots \times P_{n}$ ), where $P_{0}$ to $P_{n}$ are the $n$ prime factors of N . The algorithm finds the highest factor of N , working down from $\mathrm{N}-1$, which is $\left(P_{0} \times P_{1} \times \ldots \times P_{n-1}\right)$. This new number is then denoted $N$, and the process is repeated to give the new factor ( $\mathbf{P}_{0} \times \mathbf{P}_{1} \times \ldots \times \mathbf{P}_{n-2}$ ). This is repeated until only $P_{0}$ is left. No more factors can be found and $P_{0}$, the highest prime factor of the original number, can be output.
"In the original MINIL program registers D and A hold the current values of N and X respectively, while steps 4-10 find the factors of N . The two loops NOT and NEW are identical to loops I and 2 of the flowchart."

A similar explanation of the program was received from Doug Letts of London. Readers interested in the MINIL language may like to try writing programs which find the greatest common divisor of two numbers, the integer part of a number's square root, and the factorial of a number. But be warned: one of these problems is impossible, and the other two are not simple!

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { EOE3 } \\ & 0200 \end{aligned}$ | * REVERSE ACC. A INTO ACC. B |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | CONTRL EQU | feoe3 |
|  | TABLE EQU | 10200 |
|  | * main program |  |
| 0100 | ORG | £0100 |
| 0100 B7. 0105 | Start Sta a | START+5 5 CYCLES |
| 0103 F6 0200 | LDA B | table 4 Cycles |
|  | end of reversi | ing routine |
|  | * initialisation | routine |
| 0180 | ORG | £0180 |
| 0180 CE 0200 | LDX | £TABLE |
| 0183 4F | CLR A |  |
| 018436 | LOOP PSH A |  |
| 0185 C6 80 | LDA B | ££80 THESE SIX BYTES |
| 018748 | REVRSE ASL A | REVERSE A INTO B |
| 018856 | ROR B | 1N 66 CYCLES |
| 018924 FC | BCC | REVRSE |
| 018B E7 00 | STA B | . 0 , X |
| 018D 32 | PUL A |  |
| 018E 08 | INX |  |
| 018F 4C | INC A |  |
| 019026 F2 | BNE | LOOP |
| 0192 7E EO E3 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { JMP } \\ & \text { END } \end{aligned}$ | CONTRL |
|  | END | ETART |

Fig. 10. Routine to reverse the bits in a byte on the 6800 micro, together with a program to generate the table used by the routine



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## CONTROL PAIR

We can expect to see large numbers of cheap and capable radio control systems on the market in the near future, thanks to National Semiconductor. I suspect that many of these cheaper systems will fall into the category of "toys", even though these "toys" will be endowed with a digital proportional multi-channel control system which might have cost hundreds of pounds a few years agol

At the heart of the new systems will be a pair of integrated circuits which between them comprise over $90 \%$ of the components required to build a complete 27 MHz remote control transmitter and receiver system with two proportional channels and two on-off channels. The transmitter device is the LM1871, and with the addition of a few passive components an aerial, and a battery of between 5 and 16 volts, this diminutive 18 pin device can deliver a radiated signal sufficient to provide a reliable link to the receiver at ranges of at least 100 metres. The transmit frequency would normally be crystal controlled, and the operator controls can be provided by a couple of 500 k pots (for the proportional channels) and a couple of toggle or pushbutton switches (for the on-off channels). The two pots can of course be linked to a joystick mechanism for the control of model aircraft or similar vehicles.

At the receive end another 18 pin device, the LM1872, is used to implement a sensitive and selective single conversion superhet with digital detection and decoding circuits and a powerful a.g.c. system. The LM1872 runs from a 6 volt battery supply and uses a crystal controlled local oscillator and a 455 kHz i.f. frequency to obtain a sensitivity of better than 15 microvolts. After decoding, the two proportional channel outputs provide variable width pulse streams for direct input to most control servos. The two on-off channels are latched and their outputs can source or sink up to 200 mA , sufficient to operate motor control relays or other actuating circuits directly.

The basic package offered by the chip set from National is undoubtedly aimed at the high volume market where costs need to be held to just a few pounds per system, but by suitable alterations and additions to the basic circuit it is possible to produce a system with additional proportional channels and with increased transmitter power for greater range. In short these devices
should prove of great interest to serious radio control enthusiasts as well as to those of us looking forward to more fun on Christmas Day 1

## MOTHER CHIP

There is a lot of talk about 64 K RAM chips at the moment, and many large advertisements in the professional journals proclaiming the imminent arrival of these devices from Texas, Motorola, and others. These new devices will all be NMOS dynamic parts, as this technology is always in the lead as far as capacity and cost per bit are concerned. Other technologies such as NMOS-static and CMOS-static are always one and two generations behind respectively, as evidenced by the current NMOS-static state of the art, a 16 K device organised as $2 \mathrm{~K} \times 8$ and the equivalent in CMOS-static, a $4 K$ device organised $4 K \times$ 1 or $1 \mathrm{~K} \times 4$.

These lower capacities are related directly to the physical size of the basic storage devices on the chips concerned. Dynamic storage cells are very small and simple, the other technologies use bigger and more complex cells and so we have to make do with fewer of them for the same price.

In an attempt to short circuit the CMOS size disadvantage, Harris have come up with a new and quite unique device coded the HM6564. This new offering to those who need both large memory capacity and the well known advantages of CMOS. low power technology, effectively leap-frogs two generations by being a 64 K CMOSstatic device, no less, and released at the same time or even before the 64 K NMOS dynamics. An amazing breakthrough in CMOS memory technology? Not really. The HM6564 uses a single ceramic dual in line package with 40 pins, but mounted on the package are no less than 16 separate $4 \mathrm{~K} \times$ 1 chips which in themselves are standard devices usually packaged separately.

To the user, the HM6564 appears as two $8 \mathrm{~K} \times 4$ arrays each with independent chip enables and write enables. A likely connection configuration would be to link the two blocks to form an $8 \mathrm{~K} \times 8$ array of static RAM memory with a standby power consumption of only 5 mW .

Because of the labour intensive nature of this type of packaging these devices will never be cost competitive with the NMOS dynamics, but for some applications where the small size of such a large parcel of memory can be put to good use, they will
undoubtedly fill a real need.

## COOL CUSTOMER

National have a new package to compete with TO5s where the older devices are used close to their maximum power dissipation, as they may be in stereo power amplifiers for example. The new package, coded TO237 is about the same size as any other plastic transistor package except that it sports a heat radiator tab on the top and has its leads preformed to fit the TO5 pin circle. The package uses a new patented epoxy plastic and National claim that devices using it can last up to eight times longer than equivalent devices packaged in metal cans, because the transistor chip is kept so much cooler for a given dissipation.

There are already 65 standard transistor types available in the TO237 package, including pnp and npn types and some direct replacements for standard TO5 devices. Prices are about $40 \%$ of the equivalent metal can price.

## MOTOR CONTROLLER

The speed control of series wound a.c. motors is an ideal case for the use of phaseangle control via a triac power switch. Such motors are to be found in power tools, washing machines and fans, and the simplicity of triac speed control has made the technique popular even for low cost appliances.

Speed control can be achieved either open-loop, where no account is taken of load fluctuations, or closed loop where the motor back-EMF is used as feedback to stabilise motor speed even in the face of load changes.

A new circuit from Motorola, the TDA 1085A, is a complete motor control subsystem in a. 16 pin package. Able to be used in both open and closed loop controller schemes, the new device needs only a few passive components and a triac to turn it into a cheap and capable speed controller. For applications requiring only a "slow" "medium" and "fast" speed selection there are programming package pins available to minimise external circuitry. Fully variable speed control is possible by means of an external 100 k pot. To overcome surge currents due to stalled or stopped motors, the TDA 1085A, features a "soft start" circuit and current limiting.
This could be the answer for that drill speed controller you have always promised yourself!

# CINE FRAME COUNTER 

## STEPHEN IBBS

$W^{\text {ta }}$HEN MAKING cine films it is often necessary, e.g. for fades, single-frame sequences etc., to be able to count accurately how many frames have been exposed. Most cine cameras nowadays have a set of flash contacts that close once per frame. The project described here uses this fact to produce a three digit frame counter capable of counting from single frame to full speed. The display can be blanked to save battery power but still retaining the count facilities, or can be set to zero by merely turning the power off briefly. The unit is connected to the cine camera by a flash lead and has proved itself to be of immense value.

## HOW IT WORKS

IC1 $a$ and $b$ are connected as a monostable multivibrator, (See Fig. 1) the purpose of which is to 'debounce' the flash contact switch S2 inside the cine camera. This is necessary otherwise spurious figures would result. The clock pulses are fed into IC2 which is quite a recently developed i.c. This is the 4553, a 3 digit BCD counter/driver. This chip produces a BCD output, which is fed into IC3, a BCD decoder and 7 segment display driver. The output is fed to all three displays at once, but only one is switched on at any one time because the cathodes are connected back to pins 2, 1, and 15 of IC2. The capacitor between pins 3 and 4 of IC2 control how fast the switching takes place between the digits, and the value of 1 n makes the switching so fast that it looks like a continuous display. This technique is called multiplexing and is an ingenious way of saving on interconnecting wires and battery drain.

Normally pin 4 of IC3 is held high by R8, but if S3 is closed, pin 4 is brought low, and this blanks the display, but does not affect the counting process. This is a useful way of saving battery power during long count periods.

Pin 13 of IC2 is a reset pin which makes the display read 000 when it is high. To make sure that the display reads this at switch-on, a brief reset pulse is fed to this pin via C3. Pin 13 is then brought low by R4; and counting can start. This takes but a fraction of a second.

## CONSTRUCTION

Readers are advised to use a p.c.b., and a recommended design is given in Fig. 2. Check that the i.c.s are mounted the right way round. The awkward part about construction is the mounting and wiring of the 3 .digits. The author mounted them in 0.1 in . stripboard, breaking tracks where necessary.


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram. S2 is the flash contact switch inside the cine camera.
The appropriate pins were then wired together with short lengths of insulated wire. A section of the front panel of the Verobox (aluminium) was cut away, and the display mounted using spacers and epoxy resin. The mounting pillars were removed with a hot wire, and the p.c.b. stuck down with double sided sticky pads. The two switches were mounted either side of the display, and a piece of red perspex placed in front of the display to improve the contrast. Constructors may like to add a push-to-make switch, in parallel with C3, to enable the display to be set to zero without switching the power off. Leads were then run from IC3 to the various digit segments, and the three cathodes, which are not wired together(!) are joined to the appropriate pins 2, 1, 15 of IC2.

A small hole was drilled in the back panel, and a long flash lead was purchased, one end cut off and soldered to the p.c.b. in the S2 position, and the other end is then connected to the cine camera.

If constructors find that they are still getting spurious counts (more than they have shot), it means that they have a "noisy" switch, and C2 needs to be increased slightly, to lengthen the monostable pulse.



Fig. 2. Printed circuit layout (actual size)


Fig. 3. Component layout. In the prototype, a piece of stripboard was used to mount the displays behind the front panel window.


The advantage of the new design is that more space is available in the satellite and the propulsion system can be mounted internally. The launch system is called the Frisbee technique because the satellite is thrown clear of the shuttle with the spin motor set for a 2 rpm rate. It is released by a spring catch giving a velocity of $1.5 \mathrm{feet} / \mathrm{sec}$. nd . The satellite is easily clear of the shuttle and then the spin is increased to 30 rpm . The perigee kick motor is fired at 45 minutes after release. The motor kick lasts one minute. The satellite is then injected into the geosychronous orbit and the twin apogee liquid fuel thrusters are fired to circularise the orbit. Meanwhile the apogee motor case is jettisoned.

Once the orbit is attained the folded aerials will be deployed. These consist of two helical arrays, one for transmission and one for reception. They have an allocated frequency in the UHF band. There are also aerials for the SHF band. Station keeping will be carried out using a monopropellant system of hydrazine by stategically placed thrusters also built by Hughes.

## the leasat COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES

The Leasat Communications Satellites are a new generation tailored to the Shuttle era. They will be part of a new network. The network was primarily aimed at ships and submarines and a major part of the leasing will be taken up by the Defence Department of the United States. This means that it will constitute a part of the defence communications of the Navy, Army and Air force.

Production work is already under way at Hughes Aircraft and the operation of the four control stations together with the control centre will be carried out by Hughes Communications Service. The control centre will be at Los Angeles and the four control stations will be Guam, California, Virginia and Hawaii. The service will be leased for 67 million dollars per annum. Initial launch data provides for the first satellite to be put into orbit in January 1984.

The Leasat design is based on the previous successful vehicles Syncom 4. Hughes were responsible for the cost effective spinstabilised satellite concept. The design is directed at shuttle launching and this has made it possible to do a number of useful modifications to the shape of the satellite and also make savings of space. The satellite will be increased in diameter to 14 feet. The space on board the shuttle available for the satellite is 15 feet. The net result is that the satellite can be expanded in diameter and shortened in length thereby saving launch costs. At the moment it means that the launch date is dependent on shuttle progress so that already some delays have put the date back to 1984. However the avoidance of the cost of the expendable launch vehicles has enabled the satellite itself to be modified. Major testing has already begun on the ejection system, aerial interference tests and the firing of the satellites propulsion stages. The satellite weighs about 15,000lbs.

## LANDSAT 2

Landsat 2 which was retired from service at the beginning of the year has been restored to operational status. Engineers decided that it was the flywheel lubrication that was at fault. After several unsuccessful attempts to reactivate the three axis system the matter was left for several months. However during a communication exercise the flywheel responded, with the possibility of normal operation. By this time though the gas for attitude control had become depleted.

Research had been carried out with a view to using magnetic torque to keep the satellite operational. This has been a successful ploy. the satellite has three magnetic coils, one on each axis. By energising the coils at preselected points in orbit, the accumulated momentum which causes the flywheel to saturate, can be dissipated without the use of the gas.

Landsat 2 is now providing better imaging than before. There is still a problem because the four recorders are out of action. Communication therefore has to be direct to the ground.

## COMET CHASER GIOTTO

The European Space Agency Science Programme Committee made the final decision to go it alone with a mission to intercept Halley's Comet. The point of interception will be just after perihelion, the point when it is nearest to the Sun, when for four hours the spacecraft will collect data. The flyby will take place in 1986 and it is hoped that much more will be known of the nature and composition of cometary bodies.

The Ariane will be used as the launcher and the tracking will be carried out by using the Parkes Radio Telescope in Australia and the Weilheim facility in Germany.
It is of the utmost importance to science that this encounter with Halley's Comet should take place not only because this opportunity will not come again for 75 years or so but also because science needs to know as much as possible about the cometary bodies; What is their make up? and how do they fit into the scheme of the Solar System the

Galaxy and the Universe? During that period of 75 years there will be such tremendous strides in space techniques it is important, as soon as possible to have confirmation or perhaps modification of the present cosmological theories.

## SMM, THE SOLAR MAXIMUM MISSION

In February this year the special spacecraft SMM was launched upon a mission to study a star. That star is the nearest one to the Earth. It is the Sun, pouring down upon the surface of the Earth radiation over the full extent of the electromagnetic spectrum, giving life and destroying life for this is raw nature. Like so many items of study by scientists the more that is discovered the more there remains to be studied and understood. It provides the means for communications and is also the cause of preventing those very communications. It causes the atmosphere to become a destroyer while providing the means of subsistence for the flora and fauna of the Earth.

The spacecraft SMM will endeavour by its programmed activities to examine the radiations, the flares, the second to second changes on the surface and from this, the observers will try to make sense from the data. The Sun is in the act of destroying even itself by flinging vast amounts of its substance away every second. What appeared to the naked eye a signpost of stability is now known to be unstable, varying in size, with a temperature in its interior beyond anything that could be developed by man. Mankind by gradually sifting data and learning how to tame this controller of destiny is able in some measure to turn the situation to advantage. Part of this story is the proposal to collect the energy, beam it down to Earth and light up and warm towns and cities.

On board SMM there are seven instrument packages each with its own mission task. They are the gamma-ray spectrometer, the hard Xray imaging spectrometer is an extremely sensitive instrument that can resolve down to 8 minutes of arc and detect X-rays with energies of the order of 3.5 to 30 keV . There is also a hard X-ray burst spectrometer to deal with some of the puzzles of the X-ray burst stars. This instrument has a caesium iodide detector which can operate up to 300 keV with a duration as short as 10 ms .

An X-ray Polychromator which can provide spectra of emission lines at wavelengths between 0.14 and 2.24 nanometres.

An active cavity radiometer with three pyroheliometers will measure the emission of the solar radiation from far infrared to ultraviolet at about 0.1 percent accuracy.

An ultraviolet spectrometer and polarimeter which has a reflecting telescope with a field of view of 4 arc seconds square. The resolution of this instrument is 3 arc seconds. The main purpose of the instrument is to scan the chromosphere and the corona. This is a new instrument not used before.

Finally there is the Coronagraphpolarimeter. It will be possible to take pictures of the corona with a vidicon camera with about 900 by 900 picture elements. This system will work in the wavelength region of 400 to 700 nanometres.

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| Mono slide | er lin or |  | 83p |  |  | Presets lin, horiz, or vert. |  |  | 12p |
| Twin slider | r lin or |  | 136p |  |  | WE ARE STOCKISTS |  |  |  |
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## For mono jack and Cannon connectors

MANY of the problems which occur in PA systems, be they for group or disco use, are the direct result of lead failure. It is worth remembering that a typical small group rig will need upwards of 40 signal leads and the probability of failure of at least one is fairly high. This is not surprising when it is considered that these leads suffer from repeated coiling, stretching, bending and beer. A faulty lead somewhere in the system can be very hard to find, particularly in the semi-darkness with time running out and so a lead tester must be considered as part of any PA setup. Regrettably, many lead testers available fail to check the lead properly, or do not stand up to life on the road, breaking down at the most vital moment.

The design presented here is for a tester that is easy to use, robust, and performs a rigorous test of the lead.

## DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

In formulating a successful design the following conditions were drawn up.
a) Nearly all stage leads are either mono jack or balanced line with Cannon connectors. Other leads are sometimes used, but these tend to be rather diverse, and it is not possible to design an absolute tester for every combination. Accordingly, the tester was designed for jack and Cannon only.
b) The tester must be simple to operate. Once the lead is plugged in pressing a single button must initiate a complete test sequence.
c) Many testers check each core of the lead for open circuit, and then for shorts between signal cores and earth. This is acceptable for mono jack leads but fails when Cannon leads are tested. In such a lead a short between earth and a signal core will cause increased hum and some loss of signal, since the lead is then unbalanced-Fig 1. This will be found by a standard tester, but it will not find a short between the two signal cores which gives rise to total lead failure. The tester must therefore check each core, including the earth for open circuits, and also check for a short between any combination of cores.
d) The lead status should be clearly displayed, and the type of failure indicated. The display must be readable in poor light.
e) The tester must be self contained, robust and reliable.


## THE CIRCUIT

The lead status is displayed on seven l.e.d.s, one green indicating that the lead has passed, the other six red ones corresponding to the possible failure modes. The circuit is designed around CMOS logic; this being compact and not requiring much supply current. It does however have one disadvantage since drive transistors are required for the l.e.d.s. TL logic, although not requiring the transistors would present an unreasonable load on the battery.

The circuit is shown in Fig. 2. It consists of four D-type flip flops through which a ' 1 ' is clocked and used to check each


Fig. 1. Non-fatal short on line
lead core in turn. The three core test circuits are identical. If the core is intact both inputs to the Exclusive-OR remain the same and no output is generated. An open circuit will cause the EX-OR output to go high, lighting the relevent I.e.d. The diode across the EX-OR only enables the transistor drive when the associated flip flop is high to prevent spurious open circuit indications if a short circuit is present. Diodes D2-4 prevent a level clash if a short exists. The cores are pulled down by the 100 k resistors. This value is high enough to allow faults involving the semi-conducting layer found in microphone cable to be detected.

Any short circuits will be detected by the AND gate connected to each pair of cores. Again, the relevent l.e.d. will light up in the event of a failure. If no failures are detected the fourth flip flop will be clocked lighting the 'O.K.' I.e.d.

When an l.e.d. lights the base of TR8 is pulled down, and the inhibit line goes high, stopping the clock. This means that the status of the lead is displayed until the test button is released. The clock is inverted to ensure that the inhibit will only generate a high to low transition, thus not affecting the flip flop states.

The flip flops are initially set and reset by IC1d which holds the relevant inputs high for a brief period after test is

pressed. Diode D1 allows the capacitor to discharge quickly after test is released.

If a mono jack plug is to be tested switch S1 bypasses IC3a so that core B is not tested.

## CONSTRUCTION

The tester was built into a die-cast aluminium box, measuring approximately $150 \times 80 \times 50 \mathrm{~mm}$. The parts are fairly tightly packed, and it suggested that care is taken if a different box is used. Two printed circuit boards were used, the main one holding all the i.c.s and associated components, the other the display l.e.d.s and driver transistors. The details of the p.c.b.s are shown together. It is not possible to use sockets for the i.c.s because of the greater depth of the board.

The main board is fixed into the bottom of the box with three 6 BA bolts, a nut serving to separate the board from the base of the box. The battery pack fits in the missing section of the p.c.b. and was held in place with a single angle bracket.

The l.e.d. display is arranged as a circle with the three cores drawn as spokes. An l.e.d. is placed on the circle between the spokes and on each intersection to correspond to

Fig. 2. Circuit of Lead Tester. The inhibit connection is made between the two boards

$$
\left.\begin{array}{l}
\text { IC }-4093 \\
\text { IC } 2,3-6013 \\
\text { IC } 6-4070 \\
\text { ICS }-6081 \\
\text { TRI }-7 \quad \text { BC 184L }
\end{array}\right\} \begin{aligned}
& \text { VOD PIN 16 } \\
& \text { VSS PIN } 7
\end{aligned}
$$




Fig. 3. Physical layout of I.e.d.s. The six on the circumference are red and the centre one green. The circle diameter should be 1 in

## COMPONENTS

Resistors

| R1-8 | 100 k |
| :--- | :--- |
| R11, 14, 17, 18 | 22 k |
| R9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 | 10 k |
| R19 | $470 \mathrm{R} \frac{1}{2}$ watt |
| R20 | 220 k |
| All $\frac{1}{4}$ watt carbon unless indicated |  |

## Capacitors

| C1 | $1 \mu$ F tant |
| :--- | :--- |
| C2 | $0.1 \mu$ F polyester C280 |
| C3 | $0.47 \mu$ F polyester C280 |

Semiconductors

| D1-4 | 1N4148 |
| :--- | :--- |
| D5-7 | OA90 or OA91 |
| D8-13 | Red 2.9mm |
| D14 | Green 2.9mm |
| TR1-7 | BC184L |
| TR8 | BC214L |
| IC1 | 4093 |
| IC2,3 | 4013 |
| IC4 | 4070 |
| IC5 | 4081 |

## MISCELLANEOUS

Die cast box, approx $150 \times 80 \times 50 \mathrm{~mm}$. Battery holder for four HP7 in cube layout. Battery clip. Miniature double pole double throw switch. Miniature push button. Jack sockets. Male cannon chassis plug. Female cannon chassis socket. P.c.b. pins. 6 BA pillars, 0.375 in and 6 BA nuts and bolts.


Interior layout showing how main and display boards are mounted


TO MAIN BOARD
Fig. 4. Wiring from front panel components to main board
shoit and open circuits. (Fig. 3). The green 'O.K.' I.e.d. is placed at the centre of the circle. The best way to drill the holes for these is to mark the centre position of the circle with a centre punch, and use a pair of compasses to draw a 1 in circle. The top and bottom positions can then be punched in, and the remaining positions found by using the compasses as dividers. A 7/64in drill is exactly right for the 2.9 mm l.e.d.s used.

The display p.c.b. is mounted on the top plate with three 6 BA pillars. These are fixed to the top panel with countersunk screws, the holes being filled and smoothed before spray painting the panel. White Letraset is used to complete the panel. The 'Test' button is placed for a right handed user, so the tester can be held in the left hand, and the thumb used to press the button.

The 'Earth' test is connected to the body of the jack socket and pin 1 of the Cannons. Signal $A$ is connected to the jack tip and pin 2, whereas the signal B is only connected to pin 3. It does not matter which Cannon is connected to which end of the test circuit.

## TESTING

Testing of the unit should present no problems. If any are encountered it is useful to slow the clock down by adding a $47 \mu$ capacitor across C1. Removing the inhibit line should light all the open circuit l.e.d.s in turn followed by the 'O.K.' l.e.d. A set of crocodile clip leads is convenient for checking that each combination generates the correct fail condition.

## USING THE TESTER

The tester is simple to use and the fascia legending is selfexplanatory. No battery check is provided as such, simply pressing 'Test' with no lead connected lights the 'Earth' open l.e.d. providing such a check. Note that a lead that fails might give an 'O.K.' reading after it has been moved about. This is because a fault clearing will allow the test to continue. This is quite deliberate and useful for suspected intermittent leads.


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 has been tried and tested, is the original work that it has not been accepted for publication elsewhere


## ROULETTE WHEEL

THIS circuit was designed for the entertainment of my baby daughter, and is in the form of a row of multi-coloured l.e.d.s lighting in sequence.

However, I discovered by converting the clock circuit into one of a decaying frequency, and by arranging the l.e.d.s in a circle, it could also be used as a roulette wheel by the older members of the family.

It is based on two 4015 shift registers which were chosen for their low power consumption (it draws 30 mA when running but with an increase of 50 ohms or so in the collector resistors it drops to 20 mA ).

Bridging the touch plates applies a negative voltage to the base of TR 16 via R2, causing it to turn hard on, thus supplying the potential IC3 requires, enabling it to clock the shift register at a frequency set by R3, R4, C1.
The clock will continue to pulse when the finger is removed for a time period set

C2, RI, R2 and TR16. C2 slowly drains through $R 2+R 1$ as well as the transistor base, the slow turning off process of TR 16 results in an equally slow drop in the voltage available to the clock circuit, resulting in the clock frequency gradually slowing to a halt.

The shift register circuitry is straightforward and the data input is controlled with the minimum of active components (Pin 15) IC Ia. The data input will be kept low as long as there is a high present on any of the outputs fitted with a diode.

These diodes keep TR17 turned on, pulling (Pin 15) 'low'. A 'high' is only applied when all output 'highs' have been shifted to the final l.e.d. output (Pin 3) IC 2 b in this instance. On the following clock pulse D29 extinguishes and the ‘high' applied to (Pin 15) moves it on one place, illuminating the first output l.e.d., and also resetting TR17 via D1. To pre-
vent any more "highs" being entered. Initial switch on can produce unwanted states on the output but they are eliminated when the run contacts are bridged. The final output (Pin 10) IC2b was not used in the prototype as only 3 I.e.d. colours were available to me. so 15 l.e.d.s was an obvious choice to keep the uniformity of the wheel.
A. J. Kitching.

Esh Winning.
Durham.

THE locks on most old cars are so worn that virtually any key will open and start them, making them easy prey for joyriders or thieves.

My solution to this is the circuit shown right. With the hidden switch in the 'on' position it is possible to start the engine but any attempt to drive the car off results in a series of 'kangeroo' hops, forcing any prospective thief to abandon the car within a few yards. The figure left is for negative earth and the right for positive earth.

The device operates by shorting the contact breaker points for approximately 70 ms in every 100 ms .
The circuit consists of a 555 timer connected as an oscillator running at approximately 10 Hz with its output triggering thyristor CSRI via R3. so that it conducts when the points are open effectively short circuiting them and disabling the ignition.

Alastair Mutch. Aberdeen.

## CAR ANTI- THEFT DEVICE



## SHOOT GAME



N this circuit the transistors and their accompanying resistors and capacitors form a pulse generator (clock) whose frequency can be controlled by adjusting VRI. The output feeds a dual input 'AND' gate the output of which is high .only when both inputs are high. The other input of this gate is initially high so that the output is high only when a clock pulse is generated. Therefore the 7490 received a series of pulses which are counted and a running total supplied in binary, this is converted by the 7442 into a decimal format and this is displayed by the l.e.d.s D1-10. Since only one l.e.d. can be on at any time this means that the light will appear to move across the array of l.e.d.s. The contestant has to try and press the switch at exactly the same instant as the centre l.e.d. is illuminated.

Upon pressing the switch a pulse is sent to the 74121 which sends out a fixed length pulse irrespective of the length of the input pulse. The length of the output pulse is determined by C1 and R1. The output of the 74121 feeds the input of a second 'AND' gate whose output is high when the switch and l.e.d. D5 are on together its output stops the counter and illuminates D 12 indicating a hit. The output of the 74121 also feeds a binary counter which counts how many times the switch has been pressed and displays this value on the seven segment display.

After eight presses of the switch and no hits the DII l.e.d. is illuminated indicating a fail. The circuit can be reset by temporarily disconnecting the power by a suitable switch.
D. Johnson. Worsley.

Lancs.


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# Na MOUTH: 

## FREE

## IC TIMER nOMOGRAPH CHART

## SECURITY SENTINEL

| AREA 1: GARAGE | AREA 4: BEDROOM 1 |
| :--- | :--- |
| AREA 2: KITCHEN/DINING | AREA 5: BEDROOM 2 |
| AREA 3: LOUNGE | AREA 6: BEDROOM 3 |

In many games, a timer adds tension, particularly this timer, because it has a "booby" delay which can strike on any player's turn giving him only a few seconds to make his move.

## SPEECH SYNTHESIS—Theory and hardware. PART 1



## PRACTICAL




Nimbus 6. One of a series of earth-observation satellites, Nimbus 6 was launched in 1975 into a 1100 km sunsynchronous orbit, at an inclination of 100 degrees. The 830 kg spacecraft is 3 -axis controlled so that the instruments may remain earth-pointing. The attitude control system and the solar arrays are mounted as a separate unit linked to the payload assembly by an interconnecting truss. Thermal control louvres can be seen around the sensory ring. (By courtesy of General Electric)

The carliest spacecraft were of necessity very small and experimental, but nowadays it is not unusual for satellites to weigh several tons or to form parts of complex operational systems. Perliaps the best example of this is to be found in communications satellites: these are now a part of our everyday lives and many are operated and owned by commercial concerns. Experimental techniques have now largely been replaced by established design procedures.


TD-1A. A structural model of the 472 kg TD-1A spacecraft in position prior to space simulation tests. TD-1A was launched in 1972 into a 540 km orbit, inclination 98 degrees, and was an ultra-violet astronomy satellite. It was 3 -axis controlled and had a box-type structure. The only deployed appendages were the solar arrays which were flat panels. (By courtesy of European Space Agency)

The designers of spacecraft are constrained by many factors different from those encountered by more earth-bound engineers. We shall be looking at the effects of these factors on the spacecraft subsystems in more detail later, but let's take environmental effects as an obvious example. While terrestrial environmental considerations may include the weather, dust, humidity and possibly even unauthorised tampering, the spacecraft designer is much more concerned by the influence of vacuum, radiation. micrometeoroids and the weightlessness of free-fall.

To the layman then the external appearance of spacecraft may seem diverse and puzzling. There have been spheres large and small, from Vanguard, not much bigger than a grapefruit to the 100 foot diameter Echo balloons. Other spacecraft resemble boxes: TD-1A is illustrated and the OGO series are also examples of this type. Drum-shaped spacecraft are common. Geos, Intelsat and Tiros for example, and there are other strange and exotic shapes.

Why must spacecraft have these different shapes? There are obviously many factors-the purpose of the satellite, its payload, is the principle driving force and this is expressed through demands on the satellite subsystems.

## MISSIONS

On the whole, satellites exist to carry a payload into space (as always, there are exceptions, the British satellite X4, for example. was simply a technology demonstration exercise, with no payload as such). This is the ultimate driver of satellite characteristics. The payload may consist of a single item, or may comprise a collection of instruments, experiments and so on. The categories into which these payloads may be placed are numerous; Table I lists many of the types of mission.

Payloads make demands on the spacecraft. Their properties and requirements which may need to be satisfied are: mass, volume, shape. power, telecommands/control, telemetry, timing and synchronisation. instrument orientation, attitude measurement, attitude control, orbit control and thermal control.

Different payloads exhibit great variation in these properties and requirements. We may compare two examples; one

Table 1.
Types of Space Mission
Scientific/Experimental
Astronomical
Communications
Navigation
Applications
Earth
Observation

(Meteorological<br>Earth Resources<br>Environmental Monitoring Spy Satellites

representative of instruments carried as part of recent earthobservation payloads. the other typical of experiments carried by small scientific satellites in the late 60 s and early 70 s . The first is the Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer, or SMMR. which has been flown on two American satellites. Seasat-I and Nimbus 7, which were both launched in 1978. This instrument measures the microwave radiation emitted from the earth at 5 frequencies, in the range 6.6 to 37 GHz ; the characteristics of the earth's surface and the intervening atmosphere may be deduced from these measurements.

The second instrument is an ELF/VLF receiver which was flown on the British satellite Ariel 4 launched in December 1971. This experiment. which was designed at Sheffield University, also made measurements at 5 frequencies, but this time they were rather lower; ranging from 750 Hz to 16 kHz . These measurements are used in the study of wave-particle interactions in the magnetosphere. The important characteristics of these instruments are given in Table 2. Although there are great differences between the instruments, they do not, by any means, represent extreme cases.

We have pointed out that, in essence, the payload defines the characteristics of the spacecraft. but often the instruments in a payload are themselves constrained by the spacecraft capabilities. This may occur, for example if the agency responsible for a spacecraft announces the availability of limited space, power and mass. so that instruments or experiments must be designed within these limits.

Table 2. Characteristics of two representative payloads

|  | SMMR | ELF/VLF Receiver |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mass | 52 kg | 5 kg |
| Size | 2 boxes $15 \mathrm{~cm} \times$ <br> $20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 33 \mathrm{~cm}$ <br> +1 box $15 \mathrm{~cm} \times$ <br> $20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 16 \mathrm{~cm}$ <br> + antenna <br> 80 cm diameter | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \text { box } 20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 15 \mathrm{~cm} \\ & \times 15 \mathrm{~cm} \\ & + \text { loop antenna } \\ & 3 \mathrm{~m} \text { diameter } \end{aligned}$ |
| Power | 60W | 0.35W |
| Data output | Digital 2000 bits/sec | Analogue, 17 channels sampled once every 27.92 sec . With 10 bit digitisation equivalent to 6 bits/ sec |
| Telecommands/ Control | 12 commands | No commands <br> 10 control pulses |

Table 3.
Correspondence between payload characteristics and spacecraft subsystems.

| Payload <br> Characteristics | Spacecraft Subsystem |
| :--- | :--- |
| Mass |  |
| Volume | Structure |
| Shape |  |
| Instrument orientation |  |
| Attitude measurement | Attitude and Orbit |
| Attiude control | Control System |
| Orbit control |  |
| Telecommands |  |
| Telemetry | Telecommand Telemetry |
| Obbit tracking | and Control System |
| Control and timing |  |
| Synchronisation |  |
| Thermal control | Thermal Control System |
| Power supply and | Power System |
| regulation |  |

The requirements of the payload are met by the various subsystems of the spacecraft. These include such things as the power system and the thermal control system. The correspondence between requirements and subsystems is given in Table 3. Although it is not. strictly speaking, a subsystem itself, the orbit chosen for a spacecraft is also selected in response to payload requirements. and it has. as we shall see, a profound effect on the entire spacecraft.

Ariel 4. Ariel 4 was one of a series of British satellites. It was launched in 1971 into a 550 km orbit at 83 degrees inclination. The 100 kg satellite was used to study the ionosphere and magnetosphere. It was spin-stabilised with four deployable booms. There were many aerials, including the Sheffield VLF experiment loop aerial attached around the ends of the booms, alongside a magnetorque coil. $B_{V}$ courtesy of British Aerospace)



Intelsat 4. Eight Intelsat 4 communications satellites were launched in the period January 1971 to May 1975, for the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium, into geostationary orbit. Each was able to handle 5000 telephone channels (or 12 TV channels). The 595 kg satellites have since been superseded by the Intelsat 4A and Intelsat 5 satellites. Although spin-stabilised the antennas could point continuously at the earth as they were mounted on a despun platform. Note the large area of the solar array required for the communications transmitters. (By courtesy of Hughes Aircraft Company)

## ORBITS

The orbit is the closed path the satellite traverses through space. Most spacecraft orbit the earth, and the orbit is in general eliptical. with the earth at one focus. In many cases these orbits are approximately circular: orbit insertion errors tend to ensure that few satellites orbit in perfect circles.

There are many special orbits. Perhaps the most widely known of these is the geostationary orbit. In this case the orbital altitude is chosen so that the satellite takes 24 hours to make one revolution; it therefore always remains above the same spot on the earth spinning below. This altitude is $35,850 \mathrm{~km}$. This is only strictly true for an orbit in the equatorial plane, for otherwise the spacecraft could move North and South of the equator during each orbit. Geostationary spacecraft are therefore normally stationed in or near the equatorial plane, and must be able to maintain their position there.

Another specialised orbit is the sun-synchronous orbit. Here the spacecraft is in a comparatively low altitude orbit (normally less than about a thousand kilometres) with a near-polar inclination. This inclination is carefully chosen so that the orbital plane precesses, under the influence of the earth's oblateness, at the same rate as the apparent motion of the sun around the earth during the year. In this way the sub-satellite track on the earth is


Starlette. The French Starlette satellite was simply a $\mathbf{2 5 c m}$ diameter sphere, waighing $\mathbf{6 8} \mathbf{k g}$, inset with corner-cube laser reflectors. Laser ranging enabled the orbit to be accurately determined, for geodetic purposes. (By courtesy of CNES)
always at the same local time. This type of orbit is often used for remote sensing satellites, as the observations are more meaningful when made under the same angle of illumination.

We shall see that the circle of orbit often has a great effect on spacecraft design.

## ATTITUDE AND ORBIT CONTROL SYSTEM

Satellites do exist which need no control of attitude or orbit. The Echo balloons were examples, and so are the laser-ranging satellites Lageos and Starlette. In almost every other case though some control of the attitude, and sometimes the orbit as well, is required. There are, essentially, two ways to stabilise the attitude of a spacecraft. It can either be spun about one axis so that it possesses gyroscopic rigidity, or control can be applied to all three axes so that the spacecraft can point in any desired direction for as long as control is maintained.

The type of control used is fundamental to the design, and it often determines what kind of payload can be carried. A spinning satellite enables angular surveys to be carried out, by astronomical instruments and magnetospheric particle detectors. Three axis control is necessary for many earth-observational instruments.

For a spinning satellite to be stable, the spin axis must be the axis of maximum moment of inertia. These satellites tend to be symmetrical about the spin axis so that they are dynamically balanced, and are often drum shaped. Sometimes part of the spacecraft is attached to a motor rotating at the same speed as the spinning spacecraft, but in the opposite direction so that this part remains stationary. This is called a de-spun platform and the satellite is a dual-spin spacecraft. Examples of this technique are the Intelsat 4 and 4A communications satellites where the despun platform enables the antennas to point at the earth though the rest of the spacecraft is spinning.

Power for the spacecraft is normally provided by arrays of solar cells and it is often sufficient to simply cover the sides of the spacecraft, if spin stabilisation is chosen. As the spacecraft spins, most parts of its surface will face the sun at some time. The three-axis controlled spacecraft by contrast, normally carries its solar cells on flat panels which are movable so that they may follow the sun no matter which way the spacecraft is pointing. Already we see the interaction between subsystems, and the effect of this on overall configuration:

Control of the attitude implies that means are available to
measure the spacecraft attitude. This may be an Inertial Reference Unit, containing gyroscopes to provide an "internal" measurement, or "external" measurements by sun-sensors, earth sensors or star-trackers. Usually a combination of these methods is used.

Attitude control also requires some means of moving the spacecraft about each axis, in a controlled way. Thrusters or gas-jets are the obvious method, but fine control is difficult to achieve. Accurately controlled attitude manoeuvres may be performed by using reaction wheels-these are essentially flywheels attached to electric motors. As the motor accelerates the wheel in one direction. the spacecraft as a whole spins in the opposite one, so that the overall angular momentum is conserved. Momentum wheels are similar devices except that they spin in their undisturbed state. so that they possess gyroscopic rigidity: they are momentum bias devices, and are commonly used on 3 axis stabilised spacecraft. Small torques may also be achieved by using a magnetorquer. This is a loop of wire through which an electric current may be passed, to produce a magnetic field. This then interacts with the Earth's magnetic field and can be used to rotate the spacecraft.

Some spacecraft also need to be able to adjust their orbit. Obvious examples are geostationary spacecraft; to maintain their geostationary condition under the perturbing influence of lunar and solar gravitational effects, substantial orbit control ability is required. This always has to be by means of thrusters-devices


SMMR. Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer, flown on the Seasat and Nimbus 7 satellites. The offset paraboloid antenna is 70 cm across, and scans 25 degrees each side, driven by the mechanism which is visible. The central microwave horn is a very advanced 5 -frequency device, and three calibration horns are also visible. The electronics are housed in the three bays beneath. Note the 12 inch ruler attached to the ground handling support. (By courtesy of Jet Propulsion Laboratories)
which merely spin the spacecraft cannot change the orbit. To achieve geostationary orbit an apogee boost motor is required. This is normally a fairly large solid fuel rocket engine. Orbital measurements are not carried out by the spacecraft, but are made on the ground. The on-board equipment which enables this to be done falls into the Telemetry. Tracking and Command System.

## POWER SYSTEM

These days the main source of power for spacecraft is the sun. Occasionally some sort of nuclear power source is used. and the earliest spacecraft tended to use batteries, with no means of charging them up-their lifetimes were consequently rather low. The dominant feature of most spacecraft therefore are the arrays of solar cells. We have already seen that spin-stabilised spacecraft often have solar cells all around their surface, as a result of the constantly changing angle of illumination, while three-axis controlled spacecraft have solar panels which follow the sun.

A little thought will quickly show that the number of rotation axes such panels will require depends on the orbit. For example an equationally orbiting satellite only requires an axis of rotation for its arrays. normal to the plane of the orbit (we can ignore the seasonal variation in the sun's position-at $23 \frac{1}{2}$ degrees each way it is not significant). OTS is such a spacecraft. Similarly a satellite in a sun-synchronous orbit only requires one axis, though the arrays may require to be tilted to this axis, depending on the angle the orbital plane makes to the sun. Sometimes however. two axes are required.

ESRO 4. ESRO 4 was launched in 1972 into an elliptical 245 $\times 1173 \mathrm{~km}$ orbit, inclination 91 degrees. The 130 kg satellite was spin-stabilised, with three deployable booms, and studied the ionosphere. (By courtesy of European Space Agency)



OTS. The Orbital Test Satellite is a forerunner to the European Communications Satellite programme. The $444 \mathrm{~kg}, 3-$ axis controlled spacecraft was placed into geostationary orbit in 1977. This model shows some of the subsystems mentioned in the text. The solar cells are mounted on panels which turn about one axis, normal to the equatorial plane of the orbit to follow the sun as the antennas remain pointed at the earth. These antennas are not for TCC but form part of the payload; an experimental communications relay. The foil-like thermal blanketing and polished reflectors on the satellite's body, which are parts of the thermal control system, are visible; so too are the nozzles of two thrusters. (By.courtesy of European Space Agency)

The amount of power required for a spacecraft, and therefore the area devoted to solar cells, varies greatly. Fig. 1 shows a histogram of the solar array power capability for a representative selection of spacecraft of the late sixties and the seventies. The spacecraft range from small scientific satellites to large communications satellites, and include spin-stabilised and 3 -axis controlled vehicles. Clearly arrays providing a few hundred watts are the commonest size, and with an efficiency of the order of 10 per cent this implies an area of about $1 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$.


Fig. 1. A histogram of the power generated by the solar arrays of a random selection of 51 unmanned spacecraft


Geos. The Geos structure is seen during the installation of the wiring harness. The thrust-tube and platform structure can be clearly seen. The apogee boost motor is placed inside the thrust-tube. (By courtesy of British Aerospace)

Large arrays. delivering in excess of 1 kW will become more common in the 1980's. The extreme case of this is the satellite whose sole purpose is to collect solar power, so that it may be beamed to suitable receivers on the earth in the form of microwave radiation. This is the Solar Power Satellite concept, and here the array will generate about $10,000 \mathrm{MW}$, clearly it will have to be very large-several kilometres square (see Spacewatch PE August 1980).

Sometimes a nuclear power source is used. American spacecraft use a Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator, an RTG. where heat generated in a quantity of radioactive isotope is converted to electricity by thermocouples. The isotope need not be capable of sustaining a chain reaction. When the Russian space-vehicle Cosmos 954 crashed in Canada in 1978 it became clear that here the nuclear energy source was a true reactor, where a critical mass of material which can maintain a chain reaction is used, again to raise heat which can be converted to electricity.

The RTG is characterised by a need to maintain one junction of its thermocouples as cool as possible, and it is therefore covered with radiating surfaces which are normally fins. Such power sources may be used instead of, or in addition to, solar cells. Obviously if nuclear energy replaces solar energy the constraints on configuration due to the solar arrays are removed but new ones are added by the RTG. It must be able to radiate its heat away efficiently, and, on a long mission accumulated radiation damage due to stray radiation from the device must be limited. These factors normally ensure that the RTG must be accommodated on a boom away from the rest of the structure. This of course raises its own problems.


Geos. This view of Geos clearly shows the thermal blanketing applied to the satellite. Geos was a magnetospheric research satellite intended to be placed in geostationary orbit, but a launch malfunction in 1977 put the original Geos in an elliptical $38,498 \times 213 \mathrm{~km}$ orbit. A second vehicle, Geos 2, was launched in 1978 into the correct orbit. The 574 kg satellite (including a 350 kg apogee boost motor) is spin stabilised and has many deployable booms. (By courtesy of European Space Agency)

The power system must contain, in addition to its primary energy source. secondary sources (i.e. rechargeable batteries) and regulating and distributing subsystems. A power dump is also required. This equipment does not have a great impact on the structure and configuration of the spacecraft.

## TELEMETRY, TRACKING AND COMMAND

The name of this system is self-explanatory, and again much of the system is internal equipment; transmitters, receivers, multiplexers. A-to-D converters. tape recorders and so on. The only item which is significantly affected by the configuration is the antenna subsystems. Often spacecraft have a multiplicity of antennas. These include VHF omnidirectional antennas for commands and for low data rate telemetry (though the VHF network is now being phased out), and directional S- and Xband antennas (the latter are not yet common) for high rate telemetry. High resolution imagery from spacecraft may require data transmission rates in excess of $100 \mathrm{Mbs}^{-1}$, so the S- or Xband antenna requires high gain, or a high power transmitter! (In spacecraft terms of course. The RF power output is almost always less than 100W.)

For spacecraft in earth orbit, even fairly distant orbits such as the geostationary orbit, telemetry antennas are small and insignificant. (Note that we are here considering that the large antennas of communications satellites are part of the payload.)

However, planetary probes, which must return data from millions of miles away, normally need a large directional antenna, so that transmitter power can be kept low, and the transmitted data-rate as high as possible. The Pioneer and Voyager probes to Jupiter (and beyond) were completely dominated by their high-gain antennas.

## THERMAL CONTROL SYSTEM

In our British climate we are not always aware of the full heating effect of the sun. Yet we have all heard of eggs being fried on bare rocks in desert regions and should therefore be able to appreciate that in space, depending on their surface finish, ex-

posed surfaces can become very hot. Similarly, the coldest night on earth is positively warm compared to the temperature to which a shadowed object in space can fall.

It is the task of the Thermal Control System to regulate the spacecraft temperature to preset limits. These vary from item to item in the equipment inventory, but may be, typically, $-10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ $10+40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

Solar heat inputs, and heat produced by onboard equipment. must be balanced against radiation losses to space, and the thermal inertia must be such that the temperature does not drop too far while the spacecraft is in shadow. Although some active devices are used, such as heaters and thermal louvres, much of the Thermal Control System lies in the surface finish of the spacecraft. Combinations of aluminised plastic film, polished metal surfaces and paint are used, to achieve the correct thermal properties.

This system therefore governs the final surface finish of the spacecraft: and explains why space vehicles often look as if they have been wrapped in cooking foil!

## STRUCTURE

The mechanical structure of a space-vehicle is normally regarded as a system in its own right, and it really governs the appearance of the spacecraft. It holds all the other parts together and provides rigidity during manoeuvres. and particularly during launch.

The basic core structure may be of two types. These are the internally rigid structure where a central thrust tube supports platforms and other attachments, and the box-type structure with wall rigidity. Examples of each are shown in the accompanying illustrations. The materials used are lightweight and strong, and the commonest material for panels is aluminium honeycomb, a honeycomb structure made from thin aluminium foil with facing sheets.

In addition to providing support for the other systems and the payload, the structure performs a further important function. This is protection against the effects of the radiation belts. It is not always realised that electronic devices are susceptible to radiation damage, but this is so, and it is a cumulative process. like the damage to people. Consequently a compromise has to be reached between the lifetime of the spacecraft, the fraction of its time it spends in the radiation belt and which part of the belts are traversed (these are defined by the orbit) and the protection provided by the structure.

The structure is complicated by the addition of appendages. These appendages include the solar arrays, various antennas, and deployed experiments such as magnetometers.

The structure chosen is the result of configuration studies. Here the requirements of the payload are matched to possible configurations, bearing in mind the constraints we have described, plus any other constraints which may exist.


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## I.C. REMOVAL TOOLS

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Pioneer 10/11. These two spacecraft were precursors to the Voyager missions to the outer planets. Pioneer 11 flew past Saturn in September 1979, following its launch in April 1973 and Jupiter fly-by in 1974. Pioneer 11 was renamed Pioneer Saturn. The spacecraft has a large $\mathbf{( 2 . 7 4 m}$ diameter) antenna to maintain contact with Earth and is spin stabilised about the antenna axis. There are no solar cells, power is provided by two radiosotope thermoelectric generators

## LAUNCH

The launch imposes an inflexible set of constraints which every spacecraft must meet. The space inside launch vehicles is limited. and accelerations, vibrations and acoustic noise levels are high.

The available volume and mass which the launch vehicle allows are a strong design driver. Many spacecraft have obviously been designed to fit the cylindrical space within the launcher. and some even include the upper stage of the launcher as part of the spacecraft. Seasat is an example of this type. As a result of the limited space most appendages have to be deployed after launch. and this has given rise to many fascinating deployment mechanisms.

When the Space-Shuttle comes into service, it's primary purpose will be to launch satellites. It's huge cargo-bay will ease many of the launch constraints, though some new ones related to safety will appear.

Although the spacecraft will spend most of its life in a weightless environment. it must be designed for strength along the longitudinal axis to cope with the launch acceleration, and it must be able to stand strong vibrations in all directions.

The illustrations accompanying this article show a diverse range of spacecraft. The reason for some of this diversity should now be clear. though manned spacecraft and many planetary landers may look as inexplicable as ever. These, though, are a different story altogether.

## Godespesed \#sctronios

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## 125.W AMPLIFER...

THIS 125 W module, which has been designed for high power audio applications is a compact single board unit suitable for pop groups, discos, hi-fi, PA systems, etc.

The module, including a loudspeaker coupling electrolytic can be built for under $£ 12.00$ (see components list).

The complete circuit diagram of the module is shown in Fig. 1. Transistors TR1 and TR2 form a differential input pair, the output of which is d.c. coupled to the pre-driver TR3. It's mid-point voltage is set by the resistors R2 and R3. The level of negative feedback is determined by C3 and R7. Increasing the value of R7 will result in an increase in the negative feedback which improves linearity and distortion. However, C3 should not exceed $50 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ otherwise "clamping" will result. The capacitors C4, C7 and C11 ensure high frequency stability.

The collector load of TR3 is "boot strapped" to the mid point via C8. The output from the input stage is connected to a complimentary driver pair via the diode D4. Under normal conditions D4 is forward biased but in the event of a high voltage occurring at the emitters of the power transistors, due to a short circuit at the loudspeaker terminals, the sensing resistors R28, R29, R30 and R31 will trigger the appropriate protection transistors TR5, TR7, TR4 or TR6. The protection circuit reverse biases D4 and clamps the bases of the drivers, TR9, TR10 to the mid point. When the short is removed normal operating conditions are restored.

The bias condition, which sets the quiescent current of the output transistors is determined by the collector-emitter voltage of TR8. This voltage is set by VR1. A stable quiescent current is maintained throughout the working temperature range of the module by transistor TR8 being in ther-
mal contact with the heatsink. Any rise in temperature reduces the collector-emitter voltage of TR8 thus compensating for the current rise in the drivers and output transistors.

The bias path via TR8 which also carries the a.c. signal to TR10 has the junction of R15 and R16 "bootstrapped" to the mid point. The diode D5 ensures maximum drive at high power levels.

The output transistors TR11, TR13, TR 12 and TR14 are parallel connected with independent emitter resistors. The diodes D2 and D3 limit the mid point swing to the level of the supply voltage as when an inductive load is connected without D2 and D3 the mid point voltage could become higher or lower than the supply voltage.

The output is shunted with a Zobel network (C9 and R14) and connects to the speaker via L1 and R8. This arrangement minimises the effect of the speaker's inductance and presents the speaker with as near a d.c. load as possible. The coil L1 also enables electrostatic speakers to

## SPECIFICATION

## Output Power

Frequency Response
T.H.D. 4 ohm lead
at $\frac{1}{2}$ power 8 ohm lead Signal/noise
Sensitivity for 100 W
Input Impedance

125W r.m.s. Inot continuous sine wave) maximum into 4 ohms 25 Hz to 20 kHz at 100 W $0.1 \%$ typical 0.07\% typical 78 dBs 400 mV 47k

Short and open circuit protection.

A power amplifier module with both open and short circuit protection which only requires a p.s.u. for operation



Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the amplifier
be used. However, the shunt resistor R8 may require some adjustment but it should not be higher than 15 ohms otherwise severe ringing may occur.

## PREMATURE LIMITING

Premature limiting may occur due to the spread in component values, particularly minor variations in the values of R24, R25, R26 and R27. The symptom of premature limiting is the break-up of sound at high power levels. Should this occur the value of R21 and R22 should be changed from 2 k 2 to 1 k 5 .

## COUPLING CAPACITOR

The load coupling capacitor which should be connected with the positive lead to the module must be at least $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 60 V for a $16 \Omega$ load, $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F} 60 \mathrm{~V}$ for an $8 \Omega$ load and $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F} 60 \mathrm{~V}$ for $4 \Omega$ loads. The voltage rating can be reduced with the supply voltage but should never be less than two thirds of the supply voltage.

An unregulated power supply capable of giving 80 V at 2.5A is suitable for use with each module the current rating can be reduced to 0.5 A if a $16 \Omega$ load at 50 V is used. Hum generated as a result of supply line ripple will be the controlling factor in the smoothing of the power supply.

## CONSTRUCTION

The p.c.b. which is supplied with the kit requires drilling. All the holes should be drilled first with the exception of the power transistor holes. Particular care should be taken to drill the two heatsink fixing screws accurately. The p.c.b. can then be fixed to the heatsink and using the heatsink as a template all the power transistor holes can then be drilled. Make sure that all the holes are drilled in the centre of the heatsink holes as no insulation bushes are used. The power transistors should be mounted into position using mica

washers and a silicon compound. The rest of the components can now be soldered. Note that TR9 and TR10 both have heatsinks fitted to them.

Carefully check all the soldered joints and using a multi-


Fig. 2. P.c.b. design
Fig. 3. Component layout for the amplifier
Note: C6 is not required

## COMPONENTS

| Resistors |  | C3 | $1100 \mathrm{p}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R1, R11 | 680 (2 off) | C5 | $140 \mu 70 \mathrm{~V}$ elect |
| R2 | 47k 5\% | C7 | 470p |
| R3 | 68k 5\% | C8, C10 | $47 \mu 35 \mathrm{~V}$ elect (2 off) |
| R4, R9, R17, R18 | 10k 5\% (4 off) | C9, C12 | 100 n (2 off) |
| R5, R28, R29, R30, |  | C11 | $4 \mathrm{n7}$ |
| R31 | 3k9 5\% (5 off) |  |  |
| R6, R15, R16, R32 | 1 k 5 (4 off) | Semiconductors |  |
| R7 | 150 | D1 | Germanium diode |
| R8, R14, R20 | $4 \Omega 7$ (3 off) | D2, D3, D4 | 1 N 4003 (3 off) |
| R10, R13 | $820 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ (2 off) | D5, D6 | Silicon diode (2 off) |
| R12 | 12 | TR1, TR2 | BC212 (2 off) |
| R19 | 22 | TR3 | BDX 77 |
| R21, R22 | 2k2 5\% (2 off) | TR4, TR7 | BC154 (red spot) (2 off) |
| R23, R34 | 39 (2 off) | TR5, TR6 | BC172 (white spot) (2 off) |
| R24, R25, R26, R27 | OS. 25 (4 off) | TR8 | 7637 |
| R33 | 330 | TR9 | TIP29 (white spot TO220) |
| All transistors $\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W} 10 \%$ carbon except where otherwise |  | TR10 | TIP30 (red spot TO220) |
|  |  | TR11, TR12, TR13. | 2N3055 (4 off) |
| Potentiometers |  |  |  |
| VR1 | 1 k 5 preset lin | Miscellaneous |  |
|  |  | P.c.b. |  |
| Capacitors |  | Heatsink |  |
| Cl | 680n | Mica washers (4 off) |  |
| C2 | $1 \mu$ | Inductor |  |
| Constructor's Note |  |  |  |
| High Street, Acton, London W3 6NG. A suitable power supply unit kit for the amplifier is also available from RT-VC. |  |  |  |

meter check there is no continuity between the cases of the output transistors and the heatsink.

The inter wiring should be kept as short as possible with screened leads used for the input connections. Each module should be earthed to a central earthing point only, as should the power supply-ve, mains, earth, etc. The main leads should be capable of carrying a continuous current of 2.5 A . Generally speaking, the heavier the earth lead the better and $24 / 0.2 \mathrm{~mm}$ conductor is recommended.

## OUTPUT POWER

To obtain the maximum output from the module a power
supply of 80 V (the maximum allowable voitage) and a load of 4 ohms must be used. When the module is being operated at full power it should be mounted on an aluminium case or heatsink of at least $16 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. and with a surface area of 950 sq. cms.

With a 50 V supply (minimum voltage) and a load of 16 ohms the output power will be approximately 16 W and if an 8 ohm load is used, 32 W .

With the module connected to a suitable p.s.u. and loudspeaker, and with no input signal applied, VR1 should be adjusted for a total current reading of 50 mA .


## MAGIC ELEMENT

AN ENTIRELY new and intriguing type of heating element with built-in temperature control without the need for any external sensors or cutouts is now available from Salford Electrical Instruments Ltd. Known as PTC Honeycomb heaters, the new elements are available for use from 240 V or 110 V a.c. mains, and are ideally suited to use in domestic appliances and blown air applications in industry.

The heaters depend for their operation on the thermal properties of doped barium titanate, a semiconductor ceramic whose resistance increase sharply above a certain temperature, known as the switching temperature. The elements are available in round or rectangular shapes, with a "honeycomb" structure of hexagonal holes to ensure easy air flow over as large a surface as possible.

The low initial resistance of the elements means that warm-up is achieved very rapidly after switching on, but once the switching temperature is reached equilibrium occurs, with heat losses from the element balancing the input power. Passing air through the heater results in a new, lower equilibrium temperature, which in turn causes the resistance to drop and hence increases the input power. The result is That the overall temperature of the block remains nearly constant at around the switching temperature, and heating power can be varied merely by controlling the flow of air.

An important feature of the elements is their inherent safety; if the air flow stops for any reason, the current flow into the device becomes selflimiting and the heater remains at the switching temperature. Other advantages include minimal temperature fluctuations, with no "dead spots" within the heater block.


Self-regulating heater elements

# TEIETENT with INFRA-RED REMOTE CONTROL David Shortland 

## PART 3... VIDEO SUMMER BOARD \& P.S.U.

THE circuit diagram of the Video Summer Unit is shown in Fig. 3.1. In addition to the R, $G$ and $B$ signals from the character generator, the TEA 1002 requires a number of timing signals. These are all derived from signals available in the teletext decoder. The PAL switch input (pin 12) is a square wave at half line frequency which changes the colour burst phase on alternate lines to provide correct PAL encoding. It is generated by taking the $\overline{G L R}$ signal and dividing it by two with a binary counter. The counter is negative edge triggered to ensure that the timing of the PAL switch is correct. GLR is also used to generate the Colour Burst Flag (CBF) input to the TEA1002. It is gated with F1 in the 4528 monostable (IC16) to provide a $2.2 \mu$ s pulse which enables the colour burst encoder in the TEA1002 at the correct time. AHS is used as the composite sync input to the TEA1002 and also to trigger the second monostable of IC16. This generates a $4.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ pulse which is adjustable to enclose the whole of the colour burst on the TV video signal. This output is then inverted and fed to the burst gate input of IC17. This enables IC17 to frequency lock its 8.8 MHz oscillator to the frequency of the incoming burst. The oscillator output is then buffered and connected to the oscillator input of the TEA 1002. The Picture On input from the teletext board is used to kill the oscillator whenever TV display is selected since there would otherwise be an ambiguity in the colours of the displayed text. This means that news flashes and subtitles are displayed in black and white only.

Pin 11 on the TEA1002 has a chroma band limiting filter connected to it to reduce the harmonics present in the TEA 1002 chroma signals. This considerably improves the quality of the display but necessitates the use of a delay line in the luminance path between pins 6 and 7. A delay of 27Ons effectively compensates for the delays introduced by the filter in the chroma path.

Pin 9 on the TEA1002 is used to select two different
colour bar standards. For teletext use, it is grounded to give colours based on the BBC 95 per cent colour bar standard. If it is taken to the 5 V supply, colours based on the EBU 75 per cent colour bars are produced which are more suitable for TV games.

The remainder of the circuit consists of a black level clamp which clamps the TV video black level to that of the TEA1002 video output, and an analogue switch to select either the TV video information or the encoded teletext display. The output of the switch is buffered and provide a signal suitable for driving the REMO 200 modulator directly.

The composite video output from the TEA 1002 is shifted in d.c. level and reduced in amplitude to give a 1 volt signal on the input to the analogue switch and on one side of the long tailed pair. When the CBF signal is high, current flows in the long tailed pair and the p.n.p. transistor conducts to charge the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ clamping capacitor until the two bases of the pair are at the same potential.

The TV signal which is nominally 2.4 V peak to peak is reduced in amplitude and buffered to provide a 1 V signal at the output of the clamp.

IC19 is an analogue switch and when the blanking signal is low, the $Y_{0}$ input is connected to the output giving a TV picture display. If the blanking signal is high as in teletext mode or during boxed information on news flash and subtitle pages, then the $Y_{1}$ input is connected to the output giving a text display.

## CONSTRUCTION

The Video Summer Circuit, sound amplifier and modulator are all mounted on the p.c.b. shown in Figs. 3.2. and 3.3. The through-board links shown by the square pads in Fig. 3.3. should be soldered first. Before soldering the rest of the components carefully check the links for continuity with a multimeter. It is recommended that i.c. holders are used for


Fig. 3.1. Circuit diagram of the Video Summer Unit

## COMPONENTS


the chips and care should be taken with the orientation of the transistors. Double check the correct types have been used.

## SETTING UP

All the adjustments on the board can be carried out using an oscilloscope, a standard TV receiver and a source of broadcast video including teletext data.

First the CBF pulse on pin 6 of the IC16 should be adjusted to be $2.2 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ wide. Then the pulse at pin 15 of the IC17 should be adjusted to just enclose the colour burst on the incoming TV video signal. Check that it is correct for all channels. It is now necessary to adjust the frequency of the reference oscillator (IC17). For this, it is necessary to display both TV video and coloured teletext simultaneously. To do this, select a newsflash or subtitle page which contains
coloured information, then open-circuit the PON input (TR10 base). This allows the reference oscillator in IC17 to continue oscillating to give a colour display of the newsflash. Now short circuit together pins 7 and 8 of IC17 to allow the oscillator to free run, and adjust the crystal trimmer capacitor for the minimum beat of the colours in the displayed text. The oscillator is now correctly tuned, and the shorting link can be removed and PON reconnected.

Finally, the coil in the chroma filter on pin 11 of the TEA1002 should be adjusted for maximum colour burst amplitude at the TEA1002 output. This should correspond to minimum patterning on the teletext display.

## PEIX MODIFICATION

Supplies of the TEA 1002 are at present very limited. However, the PE1X can be used in place of the TEA1002.


Fig. 3.2. Video Summer p.c.b. design

[9541] 50616
Fig. 3.3. Component layout


Fi. 3.4. Circuit diagram of the p.s.u.


5207
Fig. 3.6. Component layout

The PE1X which is similar to the TEA1002 although it does not have the BBC colour bar option. If the PE1X is used, then additional components are required to simulate the BBC colour bars provided by the TEA1002. This is done by ORing together the R, $G$ and $B$ signals with diodes and using this signal to inject an extra current into the lumminence channel at the delay line input. In addition, the PE1X has a $470 \Omega$ series resistor to pin 9.

The circuit diagram and the p.c.b. are shown for PE1X operation. If a TEA 1002 is to be used then the series resistor R88 should be removed and pin 9 should be linked to OV instead of 5 V and the diodes D14 to D18 and resistor R57 should be removed from the daughter board.

## POWER SUPPLY UNIT

The circuit diagram of the p.s.u. is shown in Fig. 3.4. Three output voltages are required by the decoder; +70 V for the tuning voltage, with +12 V and +5 V for the TL and CMOS.

The p.c.b. design is shown in Fig. 3.5 with the component layout in Fig. 3.6. The two voltage regulators (IC21, IC22) are mounted on the copper side of the board and their leads should be kept as long as possible. The p.c.b. is mounted at the rear of the case with the regulators bolted to the case.

Before connecting the p.s.u. to the system, carefully check the output voltage of each rail.

## 

N this part the circuits of cards 2 and 3 and the assembly of the former will be dealt with.

## CARD 2

Fig. 6 includes the panel mounted components and the interwiring that lies between Cards 1 and 2. The panel mounted components, however. will be dealt with in greater detail later.

S1 and S2 are the source switches, S3 is the monitor PFL selector and VR1 is the crossfader. IC1 raises the disc or line input signal to line level and provides RIAA bass boost. A degree of rumble filtering is provided by C11, which causes the gain of the stage to fall below 20 Hz . The output of IC1 feeds the tone control stage and also the Sound-to-Light output via a mixer. C17 and C23 control the degree of midrange variation; to reduce the midrange boost and cut, a lower value, typically $2 n 7$ should be substituted. C25 provides d.c. isolation thereby ensuring that the tone controls are quiet in action. Instead, the d.c. bias current flows through R25.

C27 provides lead compensation in order to achieve stability even when the wires leading to the tone controls are quite long. The value given is typical, and generally, for good performance it must be as small as possible. The precise value of C27 can only be determined when the completed unit is tested.
When wiring the board, keep the 'MA', 'CEN' and 'MI' tone control connection wires away from each other, and make the wiring as direct as possible. Again, use 16/0.2 wire for the OV connection and screened cable for the inputs.

## CARD 3 CIRCUIT

The microphone input stage shown in Fig. 8 is intended for high output unbalanced capacitor microphones with a typical output of $1.5 \mathrm{mV} / \mu \mathrm{Bar}$. A 47 V line is needed to power the integral preamplifier in most capacitor microphones, and this voltage appears at the input socket. For this reason, the rarely encountered 4 pin XLR is used to lessen the chance of accidental connection of other circuits or microphones to the: 47 V supply.

Fig. 6. Circuit of Cârd 2
ICI-IC6 PIN $7+15 V$ PIN $4-15 v$

CARD 2



SUPPLY RAIL DECOUPLING
MICROPHONE LINE ORIVER

Fig. 8. Circuit of Card 3

## Card 2

## Resistors



## Potentiometers

VR1-25k quad slider pot with log/antilog tracks (Rivlin) VR2-100k lin dual slider pot (Maplin type FX80B)
VR3-22k lin dual slider pot (Maplin type FX78K)

## Capacitors

| C1, 2 | $1 \mu$ polycarbonate |
| :---: | :---: |
| C3, 4 | 10 p ceramic |
| C5, 6 | 150 p ceramic or polystyrene |
| C7. 8 | 12 n polycarbonate |
| C9, 10 | In5 polycarbonate |
| C11, 12 | $10 \mu, 25 \mathrm{~V}$ PC electrolytic |
| C13, 14 | 470 n polyester, C280AE series |
| C15, 16 | $1 \mu$ polycarbonate |
| C17. 18 | 1 On polycarbonate |
| C19, 20 | 47 n polycarbonate |
| C21, 22 | 47 n polycarbonate |
| C23, 24 | 1 On polycarbonate |
| C25,26 | $1 \mu$ polycarbonate |
| C27. 28 | 220p ceramic (see text) |
| C29,30 | 22p ceramic |
| C31, 32 | 680 n polycarbonate |
| C33, 34 | $22 \mu$, 25 V p.c. electrolytic |
| C35, 36 | $100 \mu, 40 \mathrm{~V}$ axial electrolytic |
| C37-42 | 100n polyester, C280AE series |

## Semiconductors

IC1-4

## Miscellaneous

S1-2

S3
S4

## $4 \times 8$ pin d.i.I. sockets

Pointer type collet knobs to suit above switches
Crossfader knob (Maplin type RX27E)
P.c.b.-RS type 434-150

## $4 \times 8$ pin di.i.l. sockets

Kobs to suit slide pots (Maplin type F)
P.c.b.-RS type 434-150

VU meters-Maplin type RX53H (see text)
S1-Push-button illuminated switch, orange lens and shield (RS 339-358, 339-409, 339-415) see text (one each of the above required) 4 -pole wafer (RS components, types 327-311 and 327-377) Min. rotary switch, 4 -way, 3 -pole Pushbutton illuminated switch with red lens and shield (RS 339 -358, 339-409, 339-415), one each of these required

Resistors

| R1—2 | 22 k |
| :--- | :--- |
| R3 | 4 k 7 |
| R4 | 2 k 2 |
| R5 | 3 k 3 |
| R6 | 10 k |
| R7 | 1 k 2 |
| R8 | 100 k |
| R9—R12 | 47 k |
| R13 | 47 k |
| R14-15 | 100 k |
| R16-17 | 68 k |
| R18-19 | 1 M 2 |
| R20-21 | 1 k |
| R22-23 | 12 k |
| R24-25 | 33 k |
| R26-27 | 5 k 6 |
| R28-29 | 82 k |
| R30-31 | 4 k 7 |
| R32-33 | 680 W 1 W |
| R34-35 | 100 R 1 W |

All $\mathfrak{W}$ W, $5 \%$ carbon unless otherwise stated

## Capacitors

NE5534N
C1
C2
C3.
C5, $6 \quad 12 \mathrm{n}$ polycarbonate
C7
C8
C9
C10
C11
C12
C13
C14
C15
C16, 17
C18, 19
C20, 21
C22, 23
C24, 25
C26. 27.
C28-33
Potentiometers
VR1
VR2 22 k lin dual slide pot (Maplin


Fig. 9 shows alternative injput circuit arrangements which will accommodate the vast majority of moving coil and phantom powered capacitor microphones. Phantom powering keeps the polarising voltage out of harm's way and thus the common 3 pin XLR socket can be used. All the circuits shown in Fig. 9 provide similar performance to the input stage in Fig. 8, and the output voltage for the quoted microphone sensitivities is identical.

To achieve a good overload margin, the signal is not brought to line level immediately. Instead, it passes through the equalisation stage (IC2 and associated components) and the gain control (VR3).

The tone control potentiometers are not isolated from the input bias current of IC2, as in Card 2, because they are usually preset before a performance. If this is not the case, then the arrangement shown in Fig. 6 can be applied, i.e., a $1 \mu$ isolating capacitor and an 820 k resistor to derive the bias current from pin 6 on the op.amp.

IC3 is a line driver, providing amplification to line level and a low output impedance. The microphone signal passes to the send-return switch and socket (shown later) and then to the mono mixer (IC4), together with the stereo lines. R8 and R13 prevent switch clicks, etc., by holding the voltage on the output capacitors at ground potential, regardless of any offset voltages that may be present.

Also on Card 3 are the peak indicator l.e.d. and VU meter drivers. The 555 timer (IC5) is powered from the +15 V rail because there are insufficient pins on the edge connector to provide $\mathrm{a}+12 \mathrm{~V}$ rail.

This device can readily introduce noise on the supply rail when switching; C26 and R35 are provided to decouple switching noise generated by this device. IC5 operates in the monostable mode; R15 and R17 are set so that a signal in excess of 500 mV applied to pin 2 causes triggering. Other signal levels can be accommodated by slight adjustments to the values of these resistors. Once triggered, IC5 turns TR 1

## Card 2-Edge connector details

Pin No.

## 1 <br> Connection <br> Right input )

 2 3 4 5 6 7 89 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 Left input ; from crossfader
No connection
No connection
Right output to SLM mixer (8 on card 4) Left output to SLM mixer (7 on card 4)
B.MA (R)
B.MA (L)
B.MI (R)
B.MI (L)
B.CEN (R)
B.CEN (L)
T.CEN (R)
T.CEN (L)
T.MA (R)
T.MA (L)

Tone controls, treble
T.MI (R)
T.MI (L)

Right output to volume control
Left output to volume control
No connection
-ve, 15 V
$+v e, 15 \mathrm{~V}$
To p.s.u busbar

Abbreviations for tone control connection:
CEN-Centre (slider)
MA—Max boost position
MI—Min (cut) position
T-Treble pot
B—Bass pot
and its associated l.e.d. on until C20 has charged (about 300 ms ), whence it returns to its stable state. The time delay provided by C2O allows the shortest transient peaks to be seen clearly.

Like the 555 timer, the peak indicator l.e.d.s can introduce noise on the supply rails, but in this case, because they are panel mounted, they can be fed from the auxiliary 12 volt supply. This supply does not feed any audio circuitry, apart from the monitor amplifier, thus noise levels on this rail are largely immaterial.

Professional VU meters have rigidly defined ballistics, frequency response and impedance and are designed to bridge 600 ohm lines directly. Panel space limitations prevented the use of such a meter, and a miniature meter with a VU scale was used. The genuine article is designed such that OVU occurs at +4 dBm , but the non-standard $\mathrm{OVU}=0 \mathrm{dBm}$ was considered to be more useful. A VU driver was required to bring the level derived from stereo lines up to +4 dBm , and cause OVU deflection in the meter. TR3 provides such amplification and VR4 allows accurate calibration.

Test the circuit as before, connecting all inputs to OV . Also connect pins 15 and 19 together to bias IC2 in the absence of VR1. To test the peak indicator, connect a l.e.d. to the +15 V rail and pin 5 . Although only the +15 V rail is required to test this circuit, both rails must be connected, otherwise the op-amps will saturate and damage may result. Apply a 1 kHz signal to pin 1 on the edge connector and raise the input level until the I.e.d. lights. Trimming of R15 and R17 may be necessary to achieve the desired indication level accurately. The VU driver is tested in a similar manner; in this case, a 776 mV r.m.s. input signal should cause an OVU reading.
Next Month: More circuits and boards.

Copies of Patents can be obtained from: the Patent Office Sales, St. Mary Cray, Orpington, Kent

Price 95p each

## HI-FI FILMING

New British patent application 2031 690 from Polaroid Corporation of Cambridge, Massachusetts (filed under the New Laws and dating back to September 1978) describes a complex, but interesting microphone system for a home movie camera. The aim is to facilitate direct sound recording with an integrated camera, recorder and microphone system. Home movie cameras which record sound direct onto the magnetic stripe of conventional (but pre-striped) Super 8 film are already available and the patent application may mean that Polaroid intends to launch a sound version of the Polaroid instant movie system. This is called Polavision and uses a modified form of Super 8 colour film which is automatically developed in a table-top player with a back projection screen. So far Polavision has been only a silent system.

Home movie cameras produce a considerable amount of noise i.e. motor and claw whirr which spreads from 100 Hz to 6000 Hz with a peak at around 2000 Hz . As this peak is in the centre of the speech frequencies any camera noise recorded on the film soundtrack is a considerable nuisance. Polaroid suggest a microphone system capable of efficiently rejecting sound at a chosen frequency and angle of incidence. Figure 1 shows camera 17 with microphone 13 mounted on a boom and connected to a processing circuit 15 . Figure 2 shows a design for circuit 15 which can be tuned to reject a selected sound spectrum in a solid cone angle marked by chain lines 22 in figure 1.


Microphone 13 is in fact a linear ray of four omni-directional microphone elements M1, M2, M3 and M4, spaced apart (by distances D1, D2). An arriving sound wave thus produces four identical, but mutually phase shifted, output signals. In figure 2 summing channel 40 adds the signals from elements M2, M3 and subtractor 41 differences the signals from M1, M4. The output of subtractor 41 is integrated with respect to time, at 42 and combining means 46 adds the outputs from the sum-

ming and integrated channels. A gain control 44, 45 in each channel allows adjustment of the relative channel levels. The overall output, which appears on line 47, is recorded and can be reduced to zero at any desired frequency and angle of incidence by
sultable selection of the relative gain at 44, 45 and the spacing D1, D2 between the elements. Extensive formulae are given in the patent to enable necessary calculations to be made.

A three microphone stereo system, with filtering to reduce wind noise, is also described, (Figure 3). A means of adding and subtracting microphone inputs by mechanical rather than electrical means is suggested (Fig. 4). Two microphones 126, 128, are arranged with their diaphragm axis mutually at right angles. When the output of microphone 128 is integrated and added to the output of microphone 126, the response pattern obtained is similar to that obtained with the circuit of Figure 2.



## Mountidun

Please check dates before setting out, as we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information presented below.

EMIX (Electronic Measuring Instruments Exhibition) Sept. 30, Oct. 12. Post House Hotel, Southampton. I

BEX (Business Equipment Exhibition) Oct. 1-2. The Guildhall, Plymouth. K
EMIX Oct. 7-8. Centre Hotel, Newcastle. 1
Fire Alarms and Emergency Lighting - Some Modern Developments (IEETE event) Oct. 14. Thompson Arms, Sackville St., Manchester, at 7.15 p.m. B3
D.C. Servo Motors (IEETE event) Oct. 14. SSEB, 75 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, at 7 p.m. B3
EMIX Oct 14-15. Guildhall, Cambridge. I
Drive Electric Oct. 14-17. Wembley Conf. Centre, London. Organiser - 01-834 2333.

Mailing Efficiency Exhibition Oct. 14-17. Cunard International Hotel, London. $\mathbf{Z}$
BEX Oct. 15-16. Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. K
Engineering Ireland Oct. 15-18. Leopardstown Exhibition Centre. V
Testmex (exhibition and conference) Oct. 28-30. Wembley Conf. Centre. $\mathbf{T}$
Viewdata Exhibition for Professional \& Business People Oct. 29-31. West Centre Hotel, London. Z1
Compec Nov. 4-6. Olympia. Z1
BEX Nov. 5-6. Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. K
London Business Equipment Exhibition Nov. 11-14. Cunard International Hotel, London. $\mathbf{Z}$
Semiconductor International 80 Nov. 25-27. Metropole Convention Centre. TI
BEX 80 Nov. 26-27. Exhibition Centre. Bristol. K
Breadboard Nov. 26-30. Royal Horticultural Halls, Westminster. T
BEX 81 Feb. 4-5. Pavilion, Bournemouth. K
Microsystems 81 (exhibition and conference) March. 11-13. Wembley Conf. Centre, London. $\mathbf{Z} 1$
INSPEX 1981 March. 16-20. NEC, Birmingham. Z1
Seminex 81 (seminars only) March 23-27. Imperial College, London, H 1
BEX 81 Mar. 25-26. Metropole, Brighton. K
BEX 81 April 8-9. Centre hotel, Liverpool. K
All Electronics Show 81 April 22-24. Grosvenor Ho., Park Lane, London. F1
Computer Graphics 1981 April 28-30. The Barbican Centre, London. 0

BEX 81 April 29-30. Dragonara Hotel, Leeds. K
Entertainment 81 May $9-17$ (weekday mornings trade only) NEC, Birmingham. B2
The European Consumer Electronics Show 81 May 10-13. Nuremburg Fair Centre, W. Germany. (Trade) I
BEX Train May 11-22. Calling at: Cambridge, Norwich, Leicester, Sheffield. Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Hull, Nottingham, Reading and Portsmouth. K
Defence Components Expo 81 May 12-14. Brighton Metropole. I
Semlab 81 June 2-5. Grand Hall, Olympia, London. The international scientific. educational, medical and industrial laboratory equipment exhibition. (Trade) I
Components 81 (Electronic Components Industry Fair) June 9-12. Earls Court, London. This show will alternate yearly with Electronics, now that the IEA amalgamation with Electrex has ceased. I
International Word Processing Exhibition \& Conf. 81 June 23-26. Wembley Conf. Centre, London. Z
Solar Energy Exhibition Aug. 23-28. 1981. Brighton. M International Business Show 81 Oct. 20-29. NEC, Birmingham. A2 Electronics 82 (Sub-titled International Electronics Control and Instruments Exhibition) May 24-28. 1982. NEC. I

I Industrial Trade Fairs. \& 021-705 6707
K Douglas Temple Studios, 1046 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth
M Montbuild/ 01-486 1951
Online Conferences \& 089539262
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Having served as a thorough introduction to the subject of microcomputers. therefore, the work should continue to serve as a most handy source of reference.


## CLUB NEWS

THE SCOTTISH Amateur Computer Society meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the Claremont Hotel, Claremont Crescent, Edinburgh, at 7.30 pm .
Details of the next meeting, and a copy of the latest newsletter may be obtained from:
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| O6FEO9 | 9+9 | 0.34 EACH | 1.99 | 60p | 20 F | 9-0 | 2A | 3.30 | ${ }^{75}$ |
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| O8FE1 | $15+15$ $15+15$ | O.25A EACH |  | ${ }^{60} 5$ | 80FF56 | 边 $\begin{aligned} & 15-0-15 \\ & 20-0-20\end{aligned}$ | ${ }^{54}$ | 6.15 | 125 p |
| 2OFE15 | $15+15$ | 0.64 EACH | 3.36 | 750 | 8 FEE80 | 28-0-28 | 2.5A | 6.15 | 1250 |
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