## JANUARY 1962 <br> Practical 2'

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COMPLETE KIT AS SPECIFIED．Stages $1-4,65 /-$ ，plus $2 /-\mathrm{P} . \&$ P．All parts available separately．Send intansp for tist．
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whole will be supplied at a special
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MPROVED APPEARANCE ANI） PERFORMANCE
A new three valve plus miniature contact－cooled rectifier，mains T．R．F． Receiver is now available．New De Luxe Cabinet polished walnut finish． cream trim．attractive horizontal dial （as illustrated）Quality 5in．P．M． speaker．Specially wound high gain super－sensitive Denco colls．Medium and Long Wavebands Excellent Continental reception！Overall dim－ ensions： 12 in ．$x$ 6in．$x$ sin．A．C． 201 250 v Simple construction with guaranteed results．Easy to follow practical and theoretical diagrams supplied．All necessary components， down to the last nut and bolt．are offered at a speciAl incicsint plick of £5．5．0．plus $3 / 6$ p．\＆p． instruction book avalable separately 1／6．post tree The same circuit is Brown Bakelite Cabinet with rect－ Brown Bakelite on ont rect angular dial at $97 / 6$ ONL plus $3 / 6$ SEPARATELY．
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OUTSTANDING METER IMPORT：
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500, and 1000 volts （10，000 ohms per
volt）D．C．Vol tate：5－25．50． 250. 500 ． 20.000 hms 25 k ． （20．000 ohms per
volt）． DC Cur． rent： $0-50$ micro $\operatorname{amps}_{0-250} \quad 0-2.5 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$ ． 0－250 m／a．Resis． meg．（ 300 ohm and 30 k scale）at centre scale）${ }^{\text {tance }} 10 \mathrm{Capaci} \cdot$ tance：${ }^{10} \mathrm{pF}$ to
$.001 \mathrm{mid} . ~$
001
intd． to 1 mid Deci－ $\begin{array}{ll}\text { bels } \\ \text { dB } & -20 \text { to }+22\end{array}$
A fully guaranteed pocket size meter（actual size：4！＂x 3 ！＂x $1^{\prime \prime}$ ）knife edge pointer． top quality supplied complete with test prods and full operating instructions at £6．19．6 ONLI．Post Free Optional extra． Attractive carrying case $15 /-$ oniy．（Bona－ fide trade enquiries invited．Leafet available． HEST ARHIVI：1）！MODEL TE10．Identical in appearance and size with rotary type switch but $10.000 \Omega / \mathrm{v}$ ．Ranges：D．C．Voltage $0-6-30-120-600-1200$ volts（ 10.000 ohms ver volt） A．C．voltage： $0-6-30-120-600-1200$ volts（ 10,000 ohms per volt）．D C．Current： $0-120$ microamp． $0-3-300 \mathrm{~mA}$ Resistance： $0-30 \mathrm{k}$ ． $0-3 \mathrm{Meg}$ ． 150 ohm and $15 k$ at centre scale，Capacitance 50 pF to 0.01 mtd .0 .001 mid to 0.15 mld Decibels：-20 to +63 dB in 5 ranges PRICE £5：19．6．Post Free．

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Our Sensitive 5Stageditran－ diodel pocket transistor
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$\star$ Completely self－contained－No external aerial or earth required $\Rightarrow$ Genuine 2 inn． liigh Flux P．M．Speaker．$\star$ Push－pull Output -250 millwatis $\star$ Genuine Mullard tran－ sistors．$\star$ Socket provided for personal listenint．$\star$ Socket provided for connection to Car Aerial．$\star$ Volume Control with on／otl switch－Condenser tunlng．${ }^{*}$ Easy assembly on pre－tagged circuit board．$\star$ Attractive red polystyrene cabinet measures 5 ！$\times 3 \times 1$ inn． chrome handle，attractive dial．All required components including full instructions． solder，etc．．and battery at special inclusive price of only 85／－．（Yes．Nighty－Fire Shillings Only！）Plus $2 / 6$ P．\＆P．Nothing more to spend． Suitable crystal deal－aid type minlature earpiece fitted with mintature jack plug at 7／6 extra only！if rea All parts available separately－itemised list and full assembly instructions，sent for $1 / 6$ post iree．hear this amazing hittle receiver working，at any of our branches．


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$300-0-300$ v. $100 \mathrm{~mA} .6 .3 \mathrm{v}, 4 \mathrm{a}, 5$ v. $3 \mathrm{a} . .28 / 8$ $350-0-350 \mathrm{v} .100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ च. 4 a, 5 च. 3 a... $28 / 9$ $0-4$ - v .3 a. ma, 3.3 v. 4 v. $4 \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{T}$ 26/9 $350-0-350$ v. 150 mA .6 .3 ₹. $4 \mathrm{a}, 5$ v. 3 a.. $29 / 9$ FULLY SHIROUDED UPRIGHT $250-0-250$ v. 60 mA .6 .3 v. 2 a, 5 v. 2 a. Midget type $2 t-3-3 i n$, . $17 / 11$ $250-0-250 \mathrm{v} .100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6,3$ v. $4 \mathrm{a}, 5 \mathrm{~F} .3 \mathrm{a} . .27 / 9$ $300-300$ v. $100 \mathrm{~mA}, .3$ v. 4 a, 5 v. 3 a a $27 / 11$ $350-0-350 \mathrm{v} .150 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 4 a, $5 \mathrm{\nabla} .3$ a.. $35 / 9$ $\$ 25-0-425$ จ. $200 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ จ. 4 a , С.T. 6.3 จ. 4 \&, С.T.. 5 จ. 3 \&


Assembled 6 v. ASSEMBLED or 12 v. 4 amps. Fitted Ammeter and variable charge rate selector. Also selector plug for 6 v. or 12 v , charging, Louvred steel case with stoved blue hammer finished. Fused 69/6 and ready for use with $5 /$ use with Carr. $5 /-$
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$100 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{H} 200 \mathrm{ohms}$... .. 11/9
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| $120 \mathrm{~mA}, 30 \mathrm{H} 200 \mathrm{ohms}$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
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 A complete set of parts to constructa good quality Stereo amplifier with Outputs for matched $2-30 \mathrm{hm}$ speakers. Sensitivity 130 m , Vol. and Tone Controls. Preset balance control. Full instructionsCarr. and pkg. 5/- and point-to-point wiring diagrams supplied.

Jason FatTI V.H.F/FM Radio Tuner design. Total cost of parts including valves, Tuning dial, Escutcheon, etc. £6.19.6.

INEAR LA5 MINATURE 4/5 WATT WUALITY AMPLIFIEIS. Suitable for use with any recold playing unit, and most microphones. Negative feed-back 12 db Separate Bass and Treble Controls. For A.C. mains input of $200-250$ v. $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{cs}$. Output for $2-3$ ohm speaker. Three miniature Mullard Guarant used. Size of unit only 7-5-5in. high. Guarant'd for 12 months. Only e5.19.8. Send $22 / 6$ and 5 monthly payments of $22 / 6$.


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A highly-sensitive 4 -valve quality amplifer ror the home, smatl clut, etc, omy 50 milivoits input is re ghired for full output so that it is suitable for use with the latest hifh itdelity pick-up heads, in adidition to all other ispes of pich-ups and practically ail 'mikes'. Sebarate bass ant Treble Controls are provided. These kive full tonk-playlag recorid dqualisution, lium level ls
 is used. 11. T. or 300 p. 25 mA . and L.T. or 6.3 v. 1.5 g . is Tvailatip for the sppply of a Rmilo Fueder Unit, or Tape-Deck bre-amplitier. For A.C. mains Input of $200^{-}$ $230-250 \mathrm{v}, 50 \mathrm{e} / \mathrm{s}$. Output for $2-3$ ohmi speaker. Chasisla is mot atlve. Kit is complete inevery detafand inciudes fuliy minched chassis (with base plate) with blue hammer onishand porito-point wiring dhagrans andinsiructions. Exceptonal value ut only e4.15.0, or assembled ready for ise $25 /-$ extr
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R.S.C. PGRTABLE GUITAR AMPIIFIERS. (For 200-250v. A.C. Mains) Junior 5 watts Ifigh Quality output Separate Bass and Treble "Cut" and "Boost" controls. Sensitivity $15 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{V}$.
Twin inputs. High Flux 8in. Loudsperker TWun inputs. High Flux 8in. Loudsperker Cabinet (size Happrox $14 \times 14 \times 7 \mathrm{~m}$.) made in attractive and durable policrome and fittedcarrying Deposit el and monthly payment
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Senior 10 watts High Carr. 10/Separate Bass and Treble "Cut" and "Boost" controls. Twin separately controlled high gain inputs so thet two instruments such as Guitar and Strins Bass can be used at the same time. Two loudspeakers are incorporated. $7 \times 4 \mathrm{~m}$ Flux 12 in . for Bass notes and a $7 \times 4 \mathrm{~m}$. elliptical for Treble, Cabinet is
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Super $111-F i 15$ Wats. All fachlities as 10 watt. Cabinet size $18 \times 18 \times$ lolns. Terms: Deposit $£ 2.11 .6$, and nine monthly payments of $51 / 6$. Cash 22 Ens. Carr. 12/6. supplied for 19/9. The with EL34 output valves and 12 months guarancee, for 14 Gns TER MS: DEPOSIT $33 / 9$ and 9 monthly payments of $33 / 9$. Suitable microphones and speakers available at competiblue prices
FULI RANGE OF LINEAR AMPLIFIERS ALWAYS IN WHOCK,
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| ¢0 | $9 / 9$ | GAM6 | 1 | 6.56 | 4/- | 6x.54 | 51- | 12 KH | 11/- | 42 | $7 / 6$ | DAF'96 | $7 / 3$ | ECC81 | 5/6 | EL84 | 71 | P61 | $2 / 8$ | U14 | 81. | UF86 | 1416 |
| 1 L 4 | 3/6 | 6av3 | - | ti. 57 | 219 | 6X5uT | 5/6 | 12847 | 61- | 43 | $7 / 6$ | DF'33 | 919 | WCO8\% | 6/- | EL91 | 4/6 | PA BC8 |  | U1s | $81-$ | U188 | 71 |
| $1 \mathrm{Lb5}$ | $3 / 6$ | 6A [ ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 5)- | 6570 | 5/- | 1YYt | 718 | 12479T | T 5/- | 50C5 | $7 / 6$ | DF91 | $8 / 6$ | ECO83 | $6 / 9$ | EM34 | 816 | PCC84 | $71-$ | U22 | $8 / 9$ | UL41 | 7- |
| L. Y 3 | 4/8 | oiav6 | 716 | 6.57G'L | 7/6 | $7 \mathrm{B6}$ | 9/- | 12.2367 | 81. | 50L6GT | 9/- | DF98 | $7 / 3$ | ECO8 | 71. | EM80 | 719 | PCC85 | $7 / 3$ | U24 | 18/- | ULA4 | 11/- |
| 1N3GT | 9/9 | 9H7 | $8 / 6$ | 6.18 | 8/8 | 787 | 713 | 12557 | $5 / 6$ | 52 KU | $10 / 6$ | DH88 | 8/3 | ECC85 | $7 / 9$ | M81 | $8 / 9$ | PCC88 | 19/- | U25 | 12/6 | UL46 | $9 / 8$ |
| 1 RS | B1- | ${ }^{4} \mathrm{~B} 3 \mathrm{G}$ | $3 / 6$ | iK6GT | 8/6 | 705 | $7 /$ | 128K7 | 4/- | 53 KU | 1018 | DH76 | 51- | EcFs0 | $8 / 6$ | EM84 | $8 / 9$ | PCC89 | 13/6 | U23 | $9 / 9$ | UL84 | $7 / 6$ |
| $18 t$ | 81 | 6BA6 | 6/- | НK7 | $5 / 9$ | 7 CH | $7 / 3$ | $12 S N 7 \mathrm{C}$ |  | 54 KU | 819 | DK゙32 | 11/3 | ELF'82 | 816 | EM85 | 10/6 | PCFVU | $71-$ | U31 | $7 / 19$ | UM | 9/6 |
| 1.38 | $4 / 9$ |  | $5 / 9$ | UK7G | 2/3 | 7117 | 713 |  | 8/6 | 6uspr | 11/- | i)K91 | 6/6 | ECH21 | $12 / 6$ | EN31 | 16/- | PCF8\% | $7 / 3$ | U35 | 11/- | U6 | 19/- |
| 1 | $3 / 9$ | discioa | $12 / 6$ | bK7G'T | 4/8 | 7K7 | $9 / 6$ | 1275 | 91- | 75 | 8/- | DK92 | $7 / 6$ | ECH35 | $9 / 6$ | EY51 |  | PCLSA | $7 / 3$ | U37 | 261- | UU7 | $9 / 8$ |
| 24.8 | 718 | B8H8 | 8/- | bKdGT | $8 / 8$ | 7Q7 | $7 / 6$ | 1487 | $22 / 6$ | 77 | 6/8 | K93 | $7 / 3$ | EC1142 | $7 / 9$ | sruad | 81 | PCL83 | 1016 | U43 | $81-$ | UU8 | 171- |
| 21 | $4 / 8$ | 3BJ6 | 8)- | 6L1 | $12 / 6$ | $7 \pm 7$ | 91- | 19AQ5 | 7) 6 | 8 | 8/6 | 19 L33 | $8 / 6$ | ECH81 | 7/8 | EY46 | 8/- | PCL84 | $7 / 8$ | U50 | $5 / 8$ | UY1N | 11/- |
| 3 A 4 | $4 / 9$ | 63127 | $9 / 3$ | ${ }^{\text {d L }}{ }^{\text {d }}$ | 9/9 | 7 V 7 | $81-$ | 19B46G | 15/- | ${ }^{2}$ | $5 / 9$ | 1) L3.3 | 9/6 | ECLHO | 71 | EZ35 | 6)- | PEN25 | $4 /$ | 052 | $4 / 8$ | UY21 | 11/- |
| 3A5 | 81. | 6BW6 | 719 | 6L6G | 6/9 | 7 Y 4 | 813 | 20 Dl | 8/6 | 83 | 9/6 | 1 LS 2 | 81- | ECL82 | $8 / 9$ | FZ40 | $6 / 6$ | PEN45 | $7 / 3$ | U78 | 518 | UY41 | 6/- |
| 6 | 4/6 | iBW | $5 / 9$ | 6 L 18 | 816 | 7\%4 | 616 | 2082 | 816 | 185BT | 181- | DL91 | 8/- | ECL83 | 12/- | EZ41 | $7 /$ | PEN48 | 5/8 | U73 | 5/- | UY86 | 6/6 |
| 304 | 71- | 68X | $4 / 9$ | iL19 | $12 / 6$ | 8D3 | 3/- | 20 LL | 16/- | 807(A) | 516 | ${ }^{\text {DLG2 }}$ | $61-$ | EF22 | 71 | F:Z80 | 81. | PLA8 | 818 | U191 | 11/= | V | 0 |
| 3 QJGT | 8/B | $8 \mathrm{C4}$ | $3 / 6$ | 6LD3 | $81-$ | 10 Cl | 11/- | 20 Pl | $9 / 9$ | 807(E) | $3 / 9$ | DLO4 | 61. | EF:6 | $3 / 3$ | E781 | 6/6 | PL36 | 1016 | U281 | $9 / 6$ |  | 6/3 |
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| 5 V 4 a | $8 / 9$ | (51) 1 | 9d. | 6723 | $12 / 6$ | 10 LP12 | 816 | $25 \mathrm{L6GT}$ | $91=$ | 9801 | $4 /-$ | E834 | 1/6 |  | 2/- | K2380 | 4/9 | PM84 | 11/- | U801 | 23/6 | X X +1M | 11/* |
| $5 \mathrm{Y} \mathrm{S}^{\text {d }}$ | $5 / 8$ | 6D2 | 3/6 | 6876 | 6/- | 10P13 | 9/- | 25) 50 | $91-$ | 4002 | 4/9 | E841 | $7 /$ | 50 | A | KT88 | $91-$ | PX25 | 11/8 | UABC80 | 8/6 | x 68 | 9/6 |
| YSGT | 8/- | 6D3 | 12/6 | 4Q76T | $8 / 9$ | 10P14 | 9/- | 23Z4G | \%/8 | 9003 | 41- | EB91 | $3 / 6$ |  | 8/- | KT44 | 6/3 | P ${ }^{\text {P31 }}$ | 719 | UAF42 | 81- | X65 | 11/- |
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 bakelite, solder terminal PLUG and STURDY standard SOCKET $5 / 6$ ver bair. Post Paid. Panel mounting, neat finish.
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 A miniature Hi-F speaker that outperformsallothers. oday's require ments for translstor. miniature and sub-miniature applications. Size 211n. sq, x lin. deep. Voice coil impedance: 8 ohms. Freq. range: $150-5000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. Power: 200 mw w, 16/6.


No. ${ }^{\text {F MOVING COIL MICRO- }}$ PHONE INSEKTS. Ultra sensitive As used in many Govt. Microphones! Size 1\&in. dia. K
11" deep. Brand new and guaran$11^{\circ}$ deep. Erand new and guaranteed. $6 / 6$ each.

## All Transistor 2-STATION INTERCOM and Baby Alarm



Here is an Intercom system for both calling and conversing which uses the highest quality transistors and is operated irom a single battery. May be used for multh-purpose applications especially where there is no local electrical supply and also where voltage fluctuations are severe. Specially sulted for use in offices manufacturlng plants, hotels, restaurants, residences and wherever conversation is required between two or more locations. Ideal Baby Alarm. Brief Spec: 3 transistors, 200 mW output, 9 v . battery, built-in 21 m . speakers. The Master station incorporates individual volume control to ensure perfect speech reproduction. The Sub-station incorporates a unique "buzzing" call system which ensures maximum efficiency. S.A.E. for further details.

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P.C.R.2. Medium and long waves and $6-23 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Less speaker. P.C.R. Medium and long waves and $6-18 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. With speaker. (AlI the above P.C.R. Receivers have been completely reconditioned).

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Mounts vertically-mounts horizontally-mounts on wall-sits on desk! Designed for use with transistor radios, valve radios, car radios, amplifiers, auxillary speakers in $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ and numerous other applications where quality reproduction of sound is required.
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D.C. VOLTAGE: $0-6-30-120-600-$ 1200 v . (10.000 0.p.v.). 0-30-120-600 A.C. VOLTAGE: 0-6-30-120-6001200v. ( 10.000 o.p.v.). 10 D.C. CURRENT: 0-120 UA, 0-12

RESISTANCE: 0-20K, 0-2 Meg. (150 ohm. 15 K at centre scale). CAPACITANCE: 0.005 to 0.15 uF at A.C. 6v.).
DECIBELS:-20 to +63 ab . $\quad(600$ ohm. 1 mW . $0 \mathrm{dbm}-0.755 \mathrm{v}$.).
ACCURACY: D.C. Voltage and Current $12 \%$ i.s. A.C. Voltage $\pm 4 \%$ f.s. Resistance $\pm 3 \%$ of total scale length.

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4 transistors including two in push-pull-input for crystal or masnetic microphone for pick-up-feed back loops-sensitivity $5 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{v}$-output 1 watt peak into 35 ohm speaker-
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Miniature motor 21 n . long $\delta$ $1 \frac{1}{i n}$. diameter, laminated poles and armature, separate winding for reversing. Operates of $20-30 \mathrm{v}$.
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2 a．or 4 Fi， 2 an，22／6；ditto， $350-0-350$ ．． $29 / 6$
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Radio Valve Gudde．Books 1．2， 3
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ORYSTAL DIODE G．E．C．，8／－．GEX84，4／
HIGH RESISTANGE PHONER 4,000 ohme， $1 / / \mathrm{pr}$ MIKE TRANBF． $50: 1,8 / 9$ ea． $100: 1$ ，Potted， $10 / 8$ ， SWITCH CLBANER．Fluid equirt spout， $4 / 8$ than TWIN GANG TUKING OONBENEERS． 368 pP．
 SINGLE， $30 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 2 / 6 ; 75 \mathrm{pF}, 100 \mathrm{pF}, 100 \mu \mathrm{~F}, \mathrm{6} / 8$, Solld dielectrio $100,800,500 \mathrm{pF}, 8 / \mathrm{S}$
CONDENSERS．New Btock 0.001 mid． 7 kV ；
 Tubular 500 F． 0.001 to 0.05 mind．， $8 d, 0.1,1 /-1$ $0.1 / 1,000$ F．，1／8： 0.1 toiden 2,000 volte， $2 / 8$ CERAMIC CONDS． $500 F_{0}, 0.8 \mathrm{PF}$ to 0.01 mfd ，ת SLVER MICA DONDENSERS． $10 \%$ © PF to 600 PF ， $1 /-800 \mathrm{pF}$ to $8,000 \mathrm{pF}, 1 / 8$ ．Clowe tolerance to $815 \mathrm{pF}, 1 / 9 ; 1,000 \mathrm{pF}$ to $5,000 \mathrm{pF}, 8 /-$
$465 \mathrm{KC} / \mathrm{S}$ SIGNAL GENERATOR Total cost 15i－．Uses B．F．O．Unit ZA 30038 ready made． required，full instructions supplied． Battery $7 / 6$ extra $89 \mathrm{~V}+14 \mathrm{~V}$ ．Details S．A．E．

Wavechange Switches． 2 o．2－way． 3 p．2－way．short spindle，2／6； 8 p．4－way waier，long spindie．6／6： 2 D．6－way D． 2 －way， 4 p．3－way，long spindle．3／6； 6 D．4－way， 1 p．2－way，long spladle，3／6； Waveehange＂MAKITS＂．Wafers avall－ able： 1 p． 12 wafer， 2 D． 6 wafer， 3 p． 4 wafer， 4 p． 3 wafer． 6 p． 2 wafer 1 wafer $8 / 6$ wafers up to $14,3 / 6$ each extra．
 d．p．d．t．，4／＝．

JASON FM TUNER COLL SET， 29／－H．F．coll．aerial coll，oscillator coil，two 1．f．transiormers $10.7 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ detector transformer and heater choke． Circuit and component book using four 6AM6，2／6．Comptete Jason FMT． components and 4 valves． 86.5 .0 ．

Valveholders．Pax．int．oct．．．4d．EAS0， 6d．B12A．CRT， $1 / 3$ ．Eng \＆nd Amer． 4 5，6．and 7 pln．1／－．MOULDED Mazda and int．oct．61．：B7G．B8A．B8G，B9A，9d． B7G with can，1／,$~ B 9 A ~ w i t h ~ c a n . ~$
Ceramic， $1 / 550$, Ceramic，EF50，B7G，
TBG．B9A caps， $1 /$ each．

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 hIGH STABLLTY. $\frac{1}{}$ w., $1 \%, 2 \%$. Preferred values. $10 \Omega$ to 10 weg. Ditto $5 \%, 100 \Omega$ to 5 meg., 9 . 10 watt $\{$ WIRE-WOUND RESISTORS 15 watt
12.5 K to búK 10 m

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| Double Play 7it. reel, 2,400ft | 7in. reel, 2,400ft 60/- Spare |
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Ahrminium Chassis, 18 s.w.g. Plain. undrilled, 4 sides, riveted corners, lattice fixing holes, 2 in. sides, $7 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$. 4/6: $9 \times 7 \mathrm{in} ., 5 / 9 ; 11 \times 7 \mathrm{in} ., 8 / 9 ; 13 \times 9 \mathrm{in}$. .;
8/6: $14 \times 11 \mathrm{in}, 10 / 6 ; 15 \times 141 \mathrm{n}$., $12 / 6$; $8 / 6: 14 \times 11 \ln , 10$
$18 \times 16 \times 31 n .16 / 6$.
Aluminium Punels, 18 s.w.g.. $12 \times 121 \mathrm{n}$. 4/6: $14 \times 91 \mathrm{n}$, , $4 /-; 12 \times 81 \mathrm{n}$., $3 /-$; $10 \times 7 \mathrm{in}$., 2/3.

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0.3in. FORMEIKS 5937 or 8 and cans TVI or 2 , in. Sq. $\times 2{ }^{2} \mathrm{in}$. or 1 in . sq. x 1tin., $2 /-$ SLOW MOTION DHIVES. Ep1cyclic ratio 6-1,2,3. Epicyclic SOLON $1 \mathrm{LON}, 25 \mathrm{~W}, 200 \mathrm{~V}$ or $230 \mathrm{~V}, 24 /-$ MANS DKOPPEIR. ${ }^{3} x$ lif1n. With gdjustable sliders. $0.3 \mathrm{~A}, 1,000 \mathrm{ohms}, 4 / 3$; LINi: CORD. 03 A
LINE CORD. 0.3 A 60 ohms per foot, 0.2 A 100 ohms per foot. 2 -way, $1 /$ - per foot: 3-way $1 /$ per foot.
P.V.C. Conns. 50-1. 3/8; $100: 1$, potted, $10 / 6$ stranded. $2 d$. yd 8 colours, single or $4 \mathrm{~mm} .31 \mathrm{t}: 6 \mathrm{~mm}$, 5 d . yd. Speaker Fret. Gold
$25 \times 35 i n ., 10 /-$ Tygan $17 \times 251 \mathrm{n} ., 5 /$ 26in. wide, $5 \% / \mathrm{lt}$. Samples, 52 in, wide. 10/-; Expanded Metal, Gold. $12 \times 12 \mathrm{in}$, $6 /$-.
I.F. TRANSFOKMLRS 7/6 pair $465 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ slug tuning miniature can if $x: x$ in. High $Q$ and good band width. Data sheet suppled.


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Type VC1545, 5 K with switch, dia. $0.9 \mathrm{in} ., 8 /-$ Type VC1760, 5 K with switch, dia. 0.7 in ., $10 / 6$ Deaf ald ear plece xtal or magnetic $7 / 6$.

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Long and Medlum Wave Aerlal-RA2W On 6 in . rod, $7 / 16 \mathrm{in}$. diameter, 208 pF . On 6in. rod,
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Oscillator Coll P50/1AC. Medium wave. For 176 pF tuning. 5/4.
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These components are approved by transistor makers and performance is guaranteed.
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NEW NIILLARD TRANSISTORS Audio OC71 6/- R.F. OC44 10/6 Sub-miniature Fitectrolytios (15V). $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 2 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 4 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 5 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 8 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 50 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 100 F . 2/6. Diodes OÁ71, OA81, 3/-. GEX 34, 4/-.
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Model RSW-I Extending aerial, leather case, four band ( 2 short-wave, Trawler and Medium). $\quad £ 22.10 .0$

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Pre-aligned I.F. transformers printed circuit, $7 \times 4 i n$. high-flux speaker. Real hide case.
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HI-FI F.M. TUNER Tuning range $88-108 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. For your convenience this is avaitable in two units sold separately: Tuning Unit (FMT-4U) with $10.7 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. I.F. output $€ 3.5 .0$ (inc. P.T.). I.F. Amplifier (FMA-4U) complete with cabinet and valves £14.16.0 (EII,II.0),
HI-FI 16W STEREO AMPLIFIER Model S-88 20 mV . basic sensitivity ( 4 mV . available, 716 extra.) Ganged controls. Stereo-Monaural gram. radio and tape recorder input. Push-button selec- $£ 26.12 .6$ tion. Two-tone grey metal cabinet.
6W STEREO AMPLIFIER Model S. 333 watts per channel, $0.3 \%$ distortion at $2.5 \mathrm{w} / \mathrm{chn} 20 \mathrm{~dB}$ N.F.B. Inputs for Radio (or Tapa) and Gram. Stereo or Monaural, ganged controls. Sensitivity 200 mV .
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Dueted-port bass reflex cabinet "in the white". Twin speakers. With legs, Ell.IE.6. "COTSWOLD" HI-FI SPEAKER SYSTEM KIT Acoustically designed enclosure "in the white" $26 \times 23 \times 15$ in., housing a 12 in , bass speaker with 2 in . speech coil, elliptical middle speaker and pressure unit to cover the full frequency range of $30-20,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. Complete with speakers, cross-over unit, level control, etc.
COMPLETE MATCHED STEREO OUTFIT includes record player, amplifier and twin speaker systems (pedestal speaker legs optional €2.2.0 extra).
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Portable $23 / 4 \mathrm{in}$. SER VICE 'Scope Model OS-1 Compact portable scope idea! for servieing and general work. $Y$ amplifier sensitivity $10 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{cm}$; response $\pm 3 \mathrm{~dB} 10 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}-2.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Time base $15 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}-150 \mathrm{ke} / \mathrm{s}$. Printed circuit. Case $7 \mathrm{t} \times 4 \times 12 \mathrm{tin} . \quad £ 19.10 .0$
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SINGLE CHANNEL AMPLIFIER, MA-12 1012 watt Hi-Fi amplifier, low distortion $£ 10.19 .6$ and wide frequency range.
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## TAPE RECORDING/PLAYBACK <br> AMPLIFIER Model TA-1 Monaural

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Vol. XXXYII No. 659 JANUARY, 1962.


## RADIO AS A HOBBY

IT is not so many years ago that the man who had a radio set was regarded by his neighbours as a "scientific genius", and was able to entertain, as well as mystify, by demonstrating his apparatus. Many converts were made for the hobby and, when broadcasting started, the number of radio hobbyists grew until it assumed such proportions that it almost rivalled photography. As it grew, periodicals appeared devoted to the hobby and at one time there were a dozen of these, and it was noteworthy that the majority of constructors were middle-aged. Youth at the time was unable to take part in view of the expense and lack of knowledge or interest and the subject appeared too technical to follow. As time went on, the hobby began to die, and one by one the periodicals and magazines disappeared from the market, whilst the number of stores dealing in radio components also gradually reduced. After the war, however, there was a marked revival, not only on account of the many radio "experts", who left the armed forces, but because of the many valuable items of ex-government equipment which were released for general sale. The hobby again took on a healthy outlook and, although the technique was more involved, schools began to devote classes and instruction to certain aspects and thus the younger generation became interested.

Today, radio construction as a hobby is probably in as good a position as it was before the decrease just prior to the war. Transistors have come into such wide use that many schoolboys now have their own pocket portables which they have made up and carry about with them, and on the Christmas market will be found constructional toys which embrace not only simple transistor equipment but also various types of electronic equipment. The attendance at the recent Radio Hobbies Exhibition last month (November) showed an interest even greater than before, and it was interesting to note the age-groups and how they have changed from pre-war days.

Our recent "Tutor" series has been started up in a number of schools and the many letters which we have received show that there is a very great development of interest in radio and its associated fields. Broadcasting and television are no longer regarded as scientific marvels but are part of everyday life, and the forthcoming year should see even greater developments, as the growing field of enthusiasts must lead to new ideas.

## A FILM SHOW

ANOTHER film show has been arranged in collaboration with Mullard Ltd. It will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, and readers are invited to send for their free tickets which are now available from these offices. The films will be shown on Friday, February 2nd, 1962, and the programme will begin at 7.30 p.m. When applying for tickets, enclose a stamped and addressed envelope (at least $3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. x 6in.). Mark your envelope "Caxton Hall" in the top left-hand corner.

The films to be shown are Special Quality Valves, which deals with valves made to withstand vibration and shock, and Transistors, which deals with the "everyday" uses of transistors.
 Our next issue dated February, will be published on Jantary 5 th

## Round the Worlal of Wireless

## POTENTIAL AND CURRENT NEWS

## Broadcast Receiving Licences

THE following statement shows the approximate number of Broadcast Receiving Licences in force at the end of September, 1961, in respect of wireless receiving stations situated within the various Postal Regions of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The numbers include Licences issued to blind persons without payment.

| Recton |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| London ${ }^{\text {Leme }}$. ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 640,703 |
| Midiand .. |  |
| North Eastern | 430.808 |
| South Westera | 378.659 |
| Wales and Border Counties* | 221.640 |
| Total Ingland and Wales | -. 3.33383 .393 |
| Northern İelaid | 361,644 115,449 |
| Grand Total |  |

## The Indian Industries Fair

THE Indian Industries Fair which opened in New Delhi on 14th November will last for six weeks.

AEI'S contribution both to the Indian industrial revolution and to power developments throughout the world form the main theme of their stand which takes up 2,000sq. ft.

Working models, photographs, films and other devices will be used to show some of the 3.500 types of equipment which AEI makes and supplies to all parts of the world. Dominating the central section, which deals with the part AEI is playing in the Indian industrial revolution, is a large map giving the location of eight main projects with which the company has been concerned. One of these is the giant heavy electrical plant being built in Bhopal bythe Indian Government. Stress here is laid on the special training scheme which AEI is establishing for this project, which enables 3,000 men to be trained at a time. Other important schemes are the Durgapur Steel Works, where AEI as a member of the British Consortium known as ISCON has supplied five 90 MW generator sets; and electric railway and traction developments including those in Bombay and Calcutta.

Surrounding the Indian section is a perimeter display giving a


This new radio telescope is in New South Wales, Australia. Although slightly smaller than the Jodrell Bank telescope, it is'expected to give better performance.
comprehensive guide to AEI aclivities throughout the world. An illuminated map pin-points the company's 70 factories and four research laboratories in the United Kingdom and a rotating drum, with the flags of the nations to which equipment has been supplied, gives details of work in five continents. Turbogenerator sets up to 550 MW supplied for British power stations; electric units for British Railways and London's Underground; turbo-electric propulsion for British ships and power stations for Spain are some European examples.

Asian work shown includes generating equipment and electric trains for India; a gas turbine power station for Iran; synchronous condensers for Ceylon and generator sets for Burma, Singapore and Hong Kong. African work is represented by electric locomotives and mine winders for South Africa; water wheel alternators for Uganda, and generating and distribution equipment for the Kariba Dam in Rhodesia. Work carried out in Australasia which will be shown are circuit breakers, power transformers and electric locomotives supplied to New South Wales and New Zealand. For the Americas
there are switchgear, transformers and generators for the Argentine, turbo-generators and telephone cables for Canada and railway electrification and electric trains for Brazil.

## Radio Telescope in Australia

I'HE new Radio Telescope at Parkes, New South Wales, 240 miles West of Sydney, Australia, was opened on 31st October. The picture "on this page shows the "dish" in the parked position $w^{2} . .: c h$ will be necessary when winds are over $25 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. The " dish" is 210 ft in diameter and although this is 4Uft less than the Jodrell Bank telescope, the Australian telescope is expected to give a better performance, as the "hydrogen line" had not been discovered at the time the British instrument was being designed. It cannot therefore, like the Australian one. be used at full aperture down to a wavelength of 21 cm ., but the new telescope is designed to have a surface accuracy of $\pm \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} \mathrm{in}$. under all temperature variations and winds up to $10 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. It can be steered to an accuracy of one minute of arc. The tower is 39 ft in diameter, 42 ft high and the total weight on the foundations is 1,750 tons. The actual reflec-
tive surface is made of 1,300 small mesh panels on the face of the " dish". The cost of the telescope was shared between the Australian Government, the Carnegie Corporation, the Rockefeller Foundation of New York and private Australian subscribers.

## Multichannel Radio System for Ghana

A CONTRACT by the Ghana
Posts and Telegraphs authorities for the supply and installation of a twin-path VHF multichannel radio telephone system to link the Volta River dam area with Accra, the capital, has been awarded to Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company Ltd.

The route, which was surveyed by Marconi's under a separate contract, will run from Accra to Tema and then to Akosombo, where the dam is being built.

Between Accra and Tema a super-high-frequency ( $7,000 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ ) link will be built which will have a maximum telephone capacity of 300 channels. The route from Tema to Akosombo will be via a repeater station at Ningo Hill and will have a maximum capacity of 48 telephone channels, although initially 12 channels will be used along the whole route, with full facilities for telephone, telegraph and teleprinter services. The Ningo Hill repeater will be unattended, with duplicate diesel-electric power supplies and automatic changeover in the event of failure.

At Akosombo a mobile radio system is to be provided under the, contract to enable engineers working on the dam to effect communication into the radio link. In addition a telephone subscriber network is to be supplied and installed in the Akosombo area and this will be connected to the main radio link and also the mobile radio system. Full channel access will be provided at Tema and telephone exchanges are to be supplied for this station and also for the Accra terminal.

## Also in Ghana

$\mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{N}}$ October 27th, President Nkrumah performed the ceremonial opening of Ghana's new external broadcasting station -the most modern short wave broadcasting system on the African Continent-which with its four 100 kW transmitters, is capable of world coverage.
The entire project-the spec-
ially-designed station buildings, the transmitters and ancillary equipment, the masts, aerial and feecier systems and the complete studio link equipment-was the responsibility of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company l.td., whe were awarded the contract by the Ghana Government.
The station, which is at Tema, near Accra, is built in the form of a hollow square, with a spacious rectangular courtyard occupying the enclosed area. The buildings have been specially designed to cope with earthquake shocks and the effects of solar heat and saltladen air. A microwave radio link connects the studios at Accra with the transmitters at Tema.

Marconi's are also supplying technical staff for the supervision and maintenance of the station for a period of four years and
are also training personnel of the Ghana Broadcasting System both at the station and at the Company's Chelmsford Works.

## Electronic Telephone Exchange for Hull Dacks

A ${ }^{20-l i n e ~ e l e c t r o n i c ~ e x c h a n g e ~}$ for the British Transport Dock Department in their graim silo at Hull is to be installed by Pye Telecommunications.
The exchange is to be installed in a location where high dust levels make electronic switching particularly suitable. Special T.M.C. heavy-duty telephones will also be used in the silo to minimise the effect of dust.

Pye mobile radio equipment has also been supplied for communication between the grain silo office and the floating elevators at work discharging ships.


On October 27th President Nkrumah officially opened Ghana's new high power short wave broadcasting station, at Tema, near Accra.

The station, which comprises four 100 kW tronsmitters, is the most mrodern broadcasting system in Africa and capable of world-wide coverage. This picture shows o view of port of the Transmitting Hall.

A TRF
POCKET PORTABLE RECEIVER
WITH

## FOUR TRANSISTORS



$\mathcal{J}$HE TRF type of receiver is much easier to construct than a superhet, and does not require any form of trimming or alignment whatsoever. It is thus particularly suitable for use when a straightforward circuit giving reception of local stations only is required. The circuit shown in Fig. 1 has four transistors, and gives very good speaker results, in these circumstances.

## Circuit

The first transistor operates as detector, with regeneration, which considerably increases sensitivity. It is followed by a driver and push-pull output stages, with $2 \frac{1}{2}$ in. speaker. It was found that sufficient volume was of ten obtained with the ferrite slab internal aerial only. However, to permit more distant reception, a telescopic chrome aerial is incorporated. This is about 6in. long when closed, and extends to about 36in. The receiver is so made that it can stand upright, with the aerial vertical.

When the extended aerial is not in use, the receiver can be placed flat, or upright, and should be turned for maximum signal pick-up in the usual way. If preferred. the extending aerial may be omitted. It is also in order to use a few feet of thin insulated flex for an aerial instead, when the ferrite slab gives insufficient volume. It should generally be possible to obtain sufficient volume without extending the rod, or using an external aerial, except in areas where signal strength is poor.

## Ferrite Slab

This is shown in Fig. 2, and is approximately $3 \mathrm{in} . x \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{in}$. $x \frac{1}{8} \mathrm{in}$. The larger winding has 52 turns, with tapping 2 made 11 turns from end 3. A space of $\frac{1}{8} i n$. is left, and six further turns are wound on in the same direction. Both windings are of 28 s.w.g. DCC wire, which is easy to use. The tapping is made by baring the wire, and soldering on a lead. A small piece of insulating material under this joint will prevent any possible shorts to adjacent turns. The ends of the windings can be secured with adhesive, or tape. The windings should not be painted, waxed, or covered with adhesive.

A ferrite rod or slab with a ready-made Litz medium wave winding could be used instead. The small additional winding can be of any wire of about $32 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . g$. to $24 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . g$. Enamelled wire should be wound on a layer of paper.

Two mounts are cut from ebonite or similar material, and slotted to take the slab. These


Fig. 1-The circuit of the receiver.
mounts are secured to the panel with countersunk screws, which can be self-tapping into holes in the mounts. Adhesive is placed on the slab and mounts, and the slab inserted in the slots.

## Receiver Case

This is easily obtainable and is a popular plastic "lunch box" approximately $4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. x $6 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}$. x $1 \frac{5}{8} \mathrm{in}$.


All coils wound with 28 s.w.g. D.C.C. copper wire
Fig. 2 (above)-The construction of the ferrite slab aerial.

There is enough free space to make construction easy, and to allow alternative components to be used.

The case is drilled to form a speaker fret, as shown in Fig. 3. Two circles are drawn, one of $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. radius. and one of lin . radius. The small circle is divided into six, and the large circle into twelve. This can be done with compasses. Small pilot holes are then drilled, being positioned as accurately as possible. Six holes about $\frac{5}{16} \mathrm{in}$. in diameter are then drilled, and thirteen boles about $\frac{3}{8}$ in, in diameter.

Fig. 3 (right)-The drilling details of the case.

The case should be supported upon a block of wood while drilling. The drills should be sharp, and only light pressure should be used. Holes about $\frac{3}{8} \mathrm{in}$. in diameter are then drilled for the controls, and the slot is made for the switch. This can be done by drilling one or two small holes, and squaring up with a small file.

After removing any fragments, paint the case on the inside with the desired colour. A quick.

drying enamel or paint will be most suitable.
When the receiver is finished the back is held on by a single screw, near the centre, which enters a threaded bush screwed to the receiver panel. Removing this single screw allows the back to be taken off to change the battery.

## Receiver Panel

The receiver is constructed on a paxolin panel $4 \frac{1}{4}$ in. $\times 6 \frac{1}{2}$ in., and can be tested complete, with speaker, before inserting it in the case. When inserted, it is held in by the nut on the bush of the 50 k potentiometer, and by a small bolt near the tuning condenser spindle hole.

Fig. 4 shows the receiver panel inside the case. It is, of course, only inserted when finished and tested.
The tuning condenser is a 2 gang air-spaced miniature type, as this is readily available for transistor receivers. Both sections are in parallel, making a total of about 384 pF . This condenser is held to the panel by three short 4B.A. countersunk screws. Subsequently, one screw is removed, and passes through a hole in the case, to hold the receiver, as described. Care is necessary that these screws are not too long, or they will short circuit the condenser, or bend its plates. A 500 pF solid dielectric may be used instead, with a small reduction in efficiency. If so, the fixing nuts of the 50 k potentiometer and 500 pF condenser will secure the receiver in its case.

The speaker is secured with countersunk 6B.A. bolts. Extra nuts, or spacing sleeves, are used with two bolts, so that the 5 -tag strip shown in Fig. 4 can be fixed in position.
(To be continued)


Fig. 4-The internal layout of components.

## COMPONENT LIST

Resistors

| RI | 5.6 k |
| :--- | :--- |
| R2 | 100 k |
| R3 | 10 k |
| R4 | 33 k |
| R5 | 10 k |
| Capacitors |  |
| CI | 500 pF trimmer |
| C2 | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |

R6 $470 \Omega$
R7 $470 \Omega$
R8 6.8 k
R9 $220 \Omega$
RIO $5 \Omega$
C3 384pF tuning
C4 $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elec.

C7 $50 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ olec.
C8 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elec.

C5 $\quad 0.25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
$\begin{array}{ll}C 6 & 30 \mu \mu \text { elec. }\end{array}$
VRI 50k
TrI OC44 Tr2 OC7I Tr3, 4 OC72
TI Driver transformer PW/DT (Osmor)
T2 Output transformer PW/OT (Osmor)
On/off switch, $2 \frac{1}{2}$ in. loudspeaker, whip aerlal, case, knobs, etc.

C3 is a 2-gang condenser ( J.B.)

## A CIRCUIT WITH AMPLIFIED NULL INDICATOR

By M. A. Harris

## (Continued from page 737 of the December issue)

For $20 \Omega$, the balance point will be

$$
\frac{20}{20+100} \quad \theta=\frac{1}{3} \theta
$$

For $30 \Omega$, the balance point will be
 graduations every half degree. A $360^{\circ}$ protractor is advantageous, although a $180^{\circ}$ type will do.
The slide rule is for division and multiplication. Log. tables will suffice although this will take a longer time. If the constructor possesses neither of these, the required calculations can be carried out by hand, and it is here where the most patience is required.

The first thing to do is to find the total angle of travel of the pointer on the balance knob. In the prototype this was $310^{\circ}$ (see Fig. 7). This angle will be designated $\theta$ (theta) since different potentiometers have different total angles of travel. When the resistance (or capacitance) to be measured is equal to the standard employed, the balance point will be when the pointer is at an angle of $\theta / 2$ from the zero or datum line (in a clockwise direction). If the test resistance is $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the standard, the balance point will be when the angle is

$$
(1 / 10) /(1+1 / 10) \times \theta^{\circ}
$$

Similarly when the test resistance is 10 times that of the standard the balance will be $10 / 11 \theta^{\circ}$. Cut out a piece of paper 10 in . in diameter, and mark on it the datum line, $1 / 11 \theta, \theta / 2,10 / 11 \theta$ and $\theta$. The calculations can be done by slide rule (the quickest), log tables or by long-hand.
Let, for sake of argument, the standard be $100 \Omega$. Then the balance point when $10 \Omega$ is across the test terminals will be $1 / 11 \theta$.


Fig. 5-The layout of the front panel.

For $200 \Omega$, the balance point will be

$$
-\frac{200}{200+100} \quad \theta=\frac{2}{3} \theta
$$

For $300 \Omega$, the balance point will be 300

$$
\overline{300+100}^{\theta} \text { and so on. }
$$

The values at which these calculations are made are as follows:-
\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\begin{array}{c}\text { are }\end{array}
$$ <br>
8 \Omega <br>

9 \Omega 2\end{array}\right\}\) overlap. | $60 \Omega$ |
| :---: |
| $10 \Omega$ |
| $10 \Omega$ |
| $15 \Omega$ |
| $20 \Omega$ |
| $30 \Omega$ |
| $40 \Omega$ |
| $50 \Omega$ |

The other resistance ranges will be $1 \mathrm{k}-100 \mathrm{k}$ and $100 \mathrm{k}-10 \mathrm{M}$.
The overlap is provided at each end to facilitate readings of resistance at the extreme ends of the scale. When all these angles have been worked out, they are then transferred to the scale. The scale markings should, if reasonable care has been taken, be accurate, and for greater accuracy, intermediate values can be worked out and drawn in.

## Reciprocal Scale

For the capacitance ranges, the values of C are the exact reciprocals of $R$.
e.g. if balance with a standard R of $100 \Omega$ were $10 \Omega$, the same balance with a standard C of 100 pF would be 1000 pF . In other words, if, with a standard R a balance point R1 were obtained, with a. standard $C$, the same balance point would represent a capacity of $\mathrm{C} \times \mathrm{R} / \mathrm{R} 1$.


Fig. 6-The dimensions of the cursor.
So for all the values of R plotted, the values of C are equal to $1 / R$. A good idea is to mark the $C$ scale in a different colour from the R scale. The scale card should be carefully placed over the balance potentiometer spindle, and glued into position. A coat of clear varnish will prevent dirty fingermarks appearing.

## To obtain an accurate $I \mu$ F capacitor

Switch to the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ range. Select any $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condenser and measure its value on the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ range (near the right-hand end). Switch to the 10.000 pF range and measure its value again (near the lefthand end). This answer will be the accurate one. Consequently the actual value of the nominal $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condenser can be calculated.
Let the true value of the $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor (as measured on $10,000 \mathrm{pF}$ range) $=\mathrm{C}$.
Let the apparent value of the $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor, as measured on the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ range be C 1 .
Then the true value of the nominally $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condenser is

$$
(\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{C} 1 \times 1) \mu \mathrm{F}
$$

If the true value of this nominally $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condenser is under $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, all very well and good, otherwise


Fig. 7-The method of marking the scale.
continue trying different $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condensers until one is obtained that is under $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. From simple subtraction, the value of the condenser to be placed in parallel with it is obtained, so making the value exactly $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. (Condensers in parallel add up.) If desired, the balance point can be set (i.e., what it should be) and a trimmer placed across the nominally $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condenser, and this trimmer adjusted until the magic eye shows a balance (i.e., eye fully open).
The instrument is now complete and ready for use. It is a good idea to use a 3 ft piece of twin flex with crocodile clips on the end, so that rapid measurements are obtained: One word of warning, however, on the low capacitance range, the selfcapacitance of the flex will have to be taken into account. This is easily done by leaving the crocodile clips unconnected and taking a balance reading. Then from whatever value of balance is obtained when measuring a condenser, this value obtained for the self-capacitance is simply subtracted.

## Conclusion

This instrument has been in use for the last six months and has proved reliable, and repaid for itself many times over, in the time saved by its use.


# All about CATHODE- 

# FOLLOWER 

By E. McLoughlin

## PRINCIPLES AND USES OF THIS TYPE OF CIRCUIT

$\forall$LMOST every experimenter who is not a complete newcomer to radio will have heard of, and doubtless even used, cathode-follower circuits. He will have some idea of their purpose and their principle. He will probably know that a cathodefollower circuit delivers an output voltage approximately equal to the input voltage, but at a much lower impedance level, so that more current and power can be drawn at the output without the voltage collapsing. He will very likely have heard that "the output impedance is the "reciprocal of the mutual conductance of the valve ", yet he may have been puzzled by the fact that output cathode resistors used (see Fig. 1, a typical basic cathode-follower) normally need to be several thousand ohms, which is much greater than the reciprocal of the mutual conductance of a modern valve which is about $5 \mathrm{~mA} / \mathrm{V}$ for a triode, giving only $200 \Omega$ as the reciprocal; naturally, we must express the reciprocal in Volts/Amps, not $\mathrm{V} / \mathrm{mA}$, to obtain a result in Ohms! Now all these facts mentioned are perfectly true: the difficulty lies in their proper understanding, i.e. exactly what is meant, how the facts fit in with each other, and how practical use may be made of them.
The author must apologise now for having to use some mathematics at this stage, but it will be kept as brief and simple as possible. It is absolutely necessary to understand the processes involved in a cathode-follower clearly, before being able to grasp its practical applications to full advantage.

## Basic Circuit and Principles

We will, for the moment, ignore the question of the correct D.C. conditions for maintaining the proper or desired operating point. We assume that somehow this is realised, and leave its discussion for later in this article. The voltages Vin (input at the grid, between grid and chassis, as usuat) and Vout (between chassis and cathode. output voltage) in Fig. 1 are supposed to be r.m.s. A.C. voltages applied, which represent the active signal interesting us. For the purposes of the following simple mathematics, they may be treated as if they were D.C. voltage differences, and thus the familiar versions of Ohm's Law may be used freely.

If Vin is made more positive (taking now a small part of a cycle of the A.C. waveform). valve current will increase, and thus the cathode voltage, i.e. Vout, will also follow in that it goes more positive, too, and, vice versa, on the negative half
cycles. Thus, the input and output voltages are in phase; they follow each other; hence the name. As far as grid and cathode are concerned, it is the difference of the input and output voltages which is actually operative as the input signal to the valve. It is quite obvious from a glance at Fig. 1, that input and output voltages are in series opposition between grid and cathode of the valve.
We thus have the signal (Vin-Vout) as input to the valve between grid and cathode.
Let gm be the mutual conductance of the valve.
Then, by the definition of mutual conductance, this input signal will cause an anode current signal equal to,

> (Vin-Vout) gm
which must flow through the cathode resistor Rk, across which it thus causes a signal voltage drop, given simply by Ohm's Law, as

> Rk(Vin-Vout)gm


Fig. I (left)—The basic cathode-follower dralt.
Fig. 2 (right)-A diagram to explain the internal impedance of the cathode-follower.

But this voltage drop is the output signal, Vout, to which we may equate it, and thus arrive at tho fundamental cathode-follower equation:-

$$
\text { Vout }=\text { Rk.gm } \quad(\text { Vin }- \text { Vout })
$$

Simply rearranging this to a more usefol form, we obtain

$$
\text { Vout }=\operatorname{Vin}\left\{\frac{\operatorname{gm} \cdot R \mathbf{R}}{1+\mathrm{gm} \cdot \mathrm{RK}_{\mathbf{K}}}\right\}
$$

Now Rk is typically 10 k , and gm is typically $5 \mathrm{~mA} / \mathrm{V}$. This makes the factor
$\frac{\mathrm{gm} \cdot \mathrm{Rk}}{1+\mathrm{gm} \cdot \mathrm{Rz}}=\frac{50}{51}$
which is virtually one. Thus, under these conditions, to all intents and purposes,

Vout $=$ Vin
which is the already mentioned basic property of the cathode-follower.

## The Question of the Output Impedance

Fig. 2 shows a simple battery (within the dottedline box) connected to an external load, the resistor $\mathbf{R}$. The EMF of the battery is represented by Ve, and the internal resistance of the battery itself is represented by Re within the dotted box, and may be called the output impedance of the battery. It is responsible for the fall of output terminal voltage of the battery (measured across A B) with increasing external load current drawn, because the greater this load current the greater will be the voltage drop lost across the internal Re.
In particular, when the load current drawn has been increased so that the external load resistance has been reduced to equal the internal Re of the battery, then half the EMF is lost inside the battery, and half is present externally across the load. It can be shown that, under these conditions, the maximum possible power is being obtained externally from the battery. For this reason, the condition is called "matched". Matching is a question of extracting maximum power, and has nothing directly to do with voltage or current maxima.

## Other Sources

Now so far this discussion has been for a simple battery as example, to avoid all confusion. But the same principles obviously hold for any source of voltage, current, or power. We will call such sources, be they batteries, accumulators, valves, dynamos, etc. simply "generators". Every generator has a certain fixed EMF, and a certain internal resistance, Re, which may be called its -output impedance", or "internal impedance".

As one more example of a practical nature, before applying this discussion to the cathodefollower, we may consider the process of matching a loudspeaker to an output valve. We are interested in obtaining the maximum power into the speaker, because the power determines the ultimate loudness of the sound produced. Power is

(a)


Fig. 3 (a)-High-amplitude cathode-follower circuit. Fig. 3 (b)-An infinite impedance detector.
the product of voltage and current: the individual values are only of secondary importance as long as the product is as large as possible. The output valve is here functioning as generator, and has a definite internal resistance (the anode resistance of the valve). If we now make the external load resistance (the loudspeaker) too small, then a large amount of total power is certainly generated, but almost all of it will be uselessly dissipated in the larger internal resistance of the valve. On the other hand, if the external load resistance is too large, it will certain'y receive most of the power generated, because now the valve's internal resistance is that much smaller in proportion, but the power generated will be small, because of the high total resistance. In between is the optimum position, where the external load receives the maximum possible power, and, as already said, simple mathematics shows that this condition is invariably achieved when the external load is equal to the internal resistance of the generator; the condition called "matched". As is familiar to all constructors, if the actual coil impedance of the speaker is not of the required value dictated by the valve, a suitable transformer must be used. On this subject, a detailed article appeared recently in these pages and thus it is not necessary to go into this question again here (see "About Loudspeakers" in the October 1961 issue).

## Output Impedance of the Cathode-Follower

For the purposes of defining the Output Impedance or Internal Impedance of a cathodefollower, we must treat it as a "generator" with an EMF equal to the input voltage Vin (Fig. 1) with which we are supplying it. We have seen that the output voltage, Vout (Fig. 1) is very slightly less than the input voltage. This slight loss is due to the effective internal impedance of the cathode-follower for which we are looking, and as usual, we can define or measure the internal impedance on the basis of this internal voltagedrop loss.

The very simplest way of all, for determining the internal impedance of the cathode-follower, is to


Fig. 4—A timebase sync former with cathode-follower outut
consider the matched condition. As explained above, the load voltage is then half of the EMF, i.e. Vout is then only equal to half of Vin, because the value of $\mathrm{RK}_{\mathrm{K}}$ has been reduced drastically until it is equal to the internal impedance $\mathbf{Z}$.

Taking again the basic cathode follower equation which we found,
we now find for the present condition, putting RK $=Z$ and putting Vout $=$ half of Vin:-

$$
\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Vin}=\operatorname{Vin}\left\{\frac{\mathrm{gm} \cdot Z}{1+\mathrm{gm} \cdot Z}\right\}, \begin{aligned}
& \text { giving } \begin{array}{l}
1+\mathrm{gm} \cdot Z=2 \mathrm{gm} \cdot Z \\
\text { i.e. } \mathrm{gm} . Z=1 \\
\text { i.e. } Z=1 / \mathrm{gm}
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$

It is thus apparent now exactly what is meant by the familiar statement that " the output impedance


Fig. 5-Waveforms of the circuit in Fig. 4.
of a cathode-follower is equal to the reciprocal of the mutual conductance of the valve used." It means that we can reduce the value of the cathode resistance $\mathrm{RK}_{\mathrm{K}}$ in Fig. 1, which represents the external output load, down to the reciprocal of the mutual conductance of the valve used before $50 \%$ of the input voltage is lost. Naturally, if we are interested in maintaining as near $100 \%$ of the voltage as possible, the load resistor Rk must be very much larger, as it normally is. This is the usual application of the cathode-follower. But if we are interested in obtaining as much power output as possible, then the very much smaller value for Rk, equal to the reciprocal of the mutual conductance of the valve, must be used.

It is thus necessary to divide the following survey of the practical applications of the cathodefollower into two distinct categories:-
(1) $1: 1$ voltage transfer: $\mathbf{R K}$ much greater

Under these conditions the benefit derived from the circuit is simply that the output voltage is to a large degree independent of the load, i.e. the output voltage remains virtually constant and equal to the input voltage, regardless of large fluctuations in the load resistance. The power output is very small, and not of interest for such applications.
(2) Maximum power output at low impedance without the use of a transformer:

Rk equal to $1 / \mathrm{gm}$
It must be mentioned that, in case (1), by making the value of $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{k}}$ suitably large, and using a sufficiently high H.T. voltage, the signal amplitude which can be handled is very great indeed. This is because the input and output voltages are almost equal, the difference being very small, yet this alone represents the actual signal reaching the grid-cathode path of the valve. It is a good "rule-of-thumb " that the maximum peak-to-peak signal
amplitude capable of being handled is equal to half the H.T. voltage used, provided that the output load resistance is not less than some 50 times the reciprocal of the mutual conductance of the valve used.

## High Amplitude Signal Cathode-Followers

We will now consider typical uses of highamplitude cathode-followers, handling signal inputs of some 150 V . (Note that it is necessary to ensure operation within the heater-cathode voltage rating of the valve used, when building such a circuit.) Fig. 3a shows a typical circuit, with component values. The D.C. operation point must now be considered. In the circuit shown, this is quite close to cut-off, because only a small anode current can flow before a high effective bias is developed across $\mathrm{Rk}_{\mathrm{k}}$ functioning in the usual way as cathode bias resistor. With this circuit as it stands, a negligibly small negative-going input signal suffices to cut the valve off, giving a negative output signal equal at the most to the grid-base of the valve. However, a positive-going input signal gives correspondingly great positive output signals. The circuit is thus selective of polarity, which simply means that it rectifies, and it may be familiar as the "infinite impedance detector". An infinite impedance detector circuit can handle very large signal amplitudes if necessary, yet causes virtually no damping on the tuned circuit from which it receives its input because it does not run into grid-current. Hence the name "infinite impedance", this referring to the input. The output impedance is, of course, of the usual low nature typical of the cathode-follower.

## Triggering

Apart from use as an R.F. detector in radios and tuners, the infinite impedance detector circuit of Fig. 3(b) has other uses which emphasize its signal-handling capabilities more strongly. In television timebases, oscilloscope timebases, radar timebases, and a host of other pulsecircuits, it is often required to trigger off a sawtooth oscillator, or other pulse - circuit at definite times. For this, voltage "kicks" of high amplitude (some 100 V or more), usually positive, are required for the synchronisation process. Very of ten these kicks are obtained from the mains frequency or from the sync pulses from a television video waveform. Let us suppose, for example, that they originate from the mains sine wave of $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. The sine wave is first squared, by driving a pentode very hard with it (see Fig. 4), and then "differentiated" by
(Cohtinued on page 808)

# POWER for Transistors <br> By J. Anderson 

## A WORKSHOP POWER PACK OR MAINS CONVERTER FOR TRANSISTORISED EQUIPMENT

mANY constructors must at times, like the author, feel a pang of despair when looking at the many batteries and mercury cells which have been used in order to supply experimental transistor units for short periods. The unit about to be described was made to give any voltage from 0 to 12 , or 0 to 20 . depending on the transformer used, at up to 100 mA , free from hum, and it was


Fig. I-This circuit is suitable for running a transistor portable receiver from the mains supply (see text).
designed to be sufficiently fiexible to be used in the workshop or used as a mains converter when a portable set was being used at home for any length of time.

## Power Source

The power for the unit can be derived from the mains supply, or from some suitable source of


Fig. 2-A workshop supply unit with variable outputs.
power such as the relay-operating circuits in many transmitters, these giving a steady 12 V at high current: alternatively, although it will limit the power of the unit somewhat, as well as its range, the unit can be supplied from the heater circuit of an existing set, providing that the circuit is able to supply the current needed.

The main component in the unit is the trans-formet-if a small heater transformer is all that is available, then it can be used, but this will probably limit the maximum output of the supply unit to 6.3 V for to the output of the transformer). The serious constructor may well consider it worth while to wind his own $20 \mathrm{~V}-0-20 \mathrm{~V}$ centretapped transformer, but in the author's case a small domestic electric bell transformer was found, giving about 24 V output from the secondary with a good current rating, and, incidentally, it was inexpensive.

Rectification of the output from the transformer is accomplished by two diodes, the type used in this case being GJ-7M, although any small rectifier rated at about 30 V 250 mA will fulfil the purpose admirably.

## Size

Owing to the low voltage of the output, miniature transistor components can be used for R1, C1 and C2. The majority of the
(Continued on page 824)

## COMPONENTS LIST

## Resistors:

$R 1 \quad 330 \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$
R2 $19 \Omega$ for 20 V transformer $6.5 \Omega$ for 12 V transformer
R3 $21 \Omega$ for 20 V transformer $33.5 \Omega$ for $12 V$ transformer VRI $10 \mathrm{k} \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$
Capacitors:
CI $0.25 \mu \mathrm{~F} 20 \mathrm{VW}$ (minimum)
C2 $200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ I2VW electrolytic

## Rectifiers:

D1 and D2 GJ-7M
Meter:
$V 25 V$ FSD DC meter
Switch:
SI DPST, mains on/off switch
Transformer:
Mains primary; secondary centre-tapped (20V-0-20V etc.-see text)


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A "SENTRY" UNIT

$\mathcal{J}^{\prime}$HIS small unit was primarily designed for R.F. indication. For field strength indication it is usual to have a circuit similar to Fig. 1, but this becomes more of a hindrance than a help to the enthusiast with a multiband transmitter, as coils have to be changed for each band.

## The Choke Method

After various experiments, it was found that a normal 2.5 uH choke of the R.F. type would suffice for all bands. This meant that a readable indication was obtainable without having to change any coils, etc., or even having to tune for the maximum reading.

The purpose of this unit is not to obtain actual measurement of R.F., only to give some indication. It was found that the choke method was sufficient for 160 m to $30 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$; to achieve a higher reading it is only necessary to couple the unit more tightly to the source of R.F., or have a longer pick-up wire connected to the junction of RFC1/DI (Fig. 5).
With this arrangement any changes in R.F. were made visible e.g. increase or decrease of the R.F. could be seen when any component or valve changes were made. Also the effect of the drive to the final P.A. was obvious, and exact tuning was possible when using a $\pi$ output. Beam and other aerials could also be adjusted for maximum output.

A further modification of this instrument was to use a pair of headphones in place of the meter, thus making the unit a "phone monitor ". A switch arrangement was used to change from meter to audio (Fig. 3). On trial it was found the audio was very pronounced and so a carbon potentiometer was added to control the amount of rectified R.F. ti either the phones or the meter.
This was a very useful addition as faults in the modulator/speech amplifier, such as hum, etc., could be found very simply, and even effects of component changes could be heard.

This unit was found of great use when TVI (audio breakthrough) was experienced. It was found to be mains-borne, by investigation with the pick-up wire on the monitor unit (running it along the electrical system of the house). The transmitter was set up for normal use, the modulator switched on with the microphone connected and stood near a clock. The R.F. was then modulated by the ticking. When the pick-up wire of the unit was placed near the house wiring, the ticking was heard, so, obviôusly, the TVI was mains-borne. Chokes with their associated condensers (ceramic type) in the modulator and the P.A. mains transformer leads removed the TVI.
Another version of the unit is given in Fig. 4. This is very useful for many purposes, Parasitic oscillations can be found: these appear on the (Continued on page 854)

By J. Brown


Fig. I (above left)-A field strength indicator circuit. Fig. 2 (above right)-A modified circuit.


Fig. 4 (above)-Another version of the unit this is useful for picking up parasitic oscillations.
Fig. 5 (below)-The circuit of the final design.
At point " $X$ "an 8 " length of wire is enough for monitoring, otherwise use a piece of flex (sufficient to obtain reading on meter)


# Short-wave Listeners' Log 

IIOST interest on the short wave bands is probably in Dx (long distance) reception. For best results, it is necessary to keep in mind which bands are most likely to provide signals from various remote parts of the world, or to listen on wavelengths which have been chosen according to the time of day.

It will be found that it is almost always possible to tune in some Dx signals of interest, at nearly any hour. But if reception of very distant stations in some particular area is in view, it will usually be necessary to choose a time and band to suit.

Enthusiastic S.W. listeners who intend to receive as many countries as possible make a point of switching on to certain bands, so as to make the best use of conditions. An example is the reception of Australian stations. In the early morning, some will generally be audible, and when conditions are good, even a one- or two-valver can be sufficient to pick them up. But at other times of day reception from this area will generally be impossible.

As the list of times to be given covers 24 hours, it is worth noting that amateur band activity is usually at its highest at weekends. and some listening periods should often be possible then.

The times given are GMT, and there is easily a latitude of half an hour to an hour either way, according to conditions. But, on the whole, it will usually be most satisfactory to tune to the bands indicated, at the times given. The choice of bands is for Dx reception, not for European and other near stations.
06.00-08.30: $1.8 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ and $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ bands: North America and Canada (unusual for these bands). $7 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ band: North America to Pocific coost. $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ band: world wide, including Australia, New Zealand and remote Pacific Dx. $21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ band: Australia, Far East, South Africa.
08.00-10.30: $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Pacific islonds, but Australian areo probably fading out. $21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Panama area, South America, South Africa, and still possibly world wide reception.
10.00-Noon: $21 / 14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Still active, with Pacific area and For East when conditions are good. Also Africa and occasional Central and South Americas.

Noon-14.30: $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Relatively inactive, but North America may begin coming in towards the end of the period. $21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : North America, Canada, Greenland, and occasional South Africa and other Dx.
14.00-18.00: $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Near East beginning to fode out, or completely gone. Many stations from North American orea beginning to come up. $21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Occosional good reception from many parts of the world, but American stotions most likely.
17.30-20.00: $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Good for world wide reception, but often congested with American transmissions, which make reception of more remote stations difficult. Should easily provide dozens of new countries for beginning a log. $21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ band: Interesting scattered Dx sometimes, but often high noise level.
20.00-Midnight: $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ band: Central and South America, and beginning to extend into the Pacific area.
$21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : similor, but often less trouble from North American interference.

Midnight-04-00: $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Beginning to open out for world wide reception, and giving improved reception from South America, and South Pocific area, extending out towards the New Zealand area. South America may become audible on $7 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$, while towards the end of this period North America may become audible on the $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ band.
04.00-06.30: $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Reception extending to include Australia and New Zealand, but world wide reception passible. $21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ : Australia and Far East areas beginning to come in, and accasional long distance reception on $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ and even $1.8 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ beginning to arise.

It will be seen that for general Dx listening, the $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ and $21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ bands will usually be of interest. When Dx stations are to be logged on the broadcast bands, somewhat similar results will be obtained. For example, the 19 m and 17 m bands are very near the 20 m ( $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ ) amateur band, and propagation is similar. The 25 m band is also very useful for long distance results. The 31 m and 41 m bands will become very active towards nightfall, and during the hours of darkness until midnight, and the 25 m band will begin to open out towards the Australian region with early morning.

## All about CATHODE-FOLLOWER circuils

(Continued from page 803)
using a very small coupling condenser to the next stage. The result is a series of negative and positive kicks, alternately, one pair for each original sine wave cycle. We do not want the negative ones, and these are automatically rejected by the cathode-follower (see Fig. 5) as explained above. The positive ones appear at the cathode output with full amplitude, and can trigger the timebase, as desired. The very low output impedance of the cathode-follower effectively decouples the subsequent proceedings in the timebase from the foregoing circuitry.

If we desire to pass on both negative and positive signals through the cathode-follower, giving preference to neither, being interested solely in the high signal amplitude handling capacity and low output impedance, then we must use a D.C. operating point of the circuit which lies more positive than in Fig. 3a. The necessary modification is shown in Fig. 6. Here the grid leak of the cathode-follower is taken on to an H.T. bleeder to a point positive with respect to chassis by an amount somewhat greater than the maximum amplitude of negative signals with which it is desired to cope. The positive signals will then take care of themselves automatically, provided the sum of maximum positive and negative amplitudes does not exceed about half the H.T. voltage. If it does exceed this, then a higher H.T. voltage must be used, if the valve is rated to withstand it.
(To be continued)

## How

# Transistors Work 

By B. N. Rolfe

## A BASIC, NON-MATHEMATICAL EXPLANATION

$\checkmark$HERE is no reason whatsoever why a transistor circuit should cause confusion. Theoretically, a transistor is considerably less complex than a valve. Indeed, it has only three elements while even the simplest of valves-the triode-has four elements, namely, the anode, grid, cathode and heater. A transistor has no heater, but it has elements (or electrodes) which are much related to the triode valve. It has a base instead of a grid, an emitter instead of a cathode, and a collector instead of an anode. There are transistors which have four elements, rather like the four cssential elements of a tetrode valve, but to date these are few and far between and need not be considered.


Fig. I-How a series of ohmmeter tests indicates that a transistor contains two diodes connected in series opposition. (Test 6 is the same as Test 5, but with the ohmmeter leads transposed.)

## Theory

We are left, therefore, with the semiconductor equivalent of a triode valve, so, no matter how technical the circuit, it always revolves around a simple three-element device. It is not intended in this series of articles to delve into the basic theory of transistors. The conception of positive and negative current carriers and the like is adequately dealt with in other literature, and there
are many good books on the theory of semiconductors.

## Two Diodes

If we had no previous knowledge of transistors and were given a three-wire device and told that it was a transistor, and we were also handed an ohmmeter and told to find out as much as possible about the transistor by making resistance checks, it would not take us very long to discover that within a transistor exist two diodes, or rectifiers. We would also eventually discover that the diodes are connected in series opposition. If we were to draw a diagram of our findings it would look like Fig. 1.

We know, of course, that an ohmmeter is nothing more than a voltmeter connected in series with a battery, and that when the two terminals are connected together the voltmeter is effectively connected across the battery. Full deflection is given on a dial scaled in "ohms" by adjusting a variable resistor labelled "set zero". Thus. when a resistor is connected across the terminals, the pointer reads something less than full-scale (because of the voltage dropped across the resistor) which is read off the "ohms" calibration as some definite value.

## Polarity of Terminals

The ohmmeter terminals are polarised by the battery (positive and negative), so the ohmmeter therefore provides a source of voltage as well as resistance measurement. This is exactly what is required for examining semiconductors, which are designed to have a low resistance to current passing in the "forward" direction and a high resistance to current passing in the "reverse" direction. It should be noted, however, that the "positive", or red, terminal on some multimeters when set to "ohms" may not be connected to the positive side of the internal battery. It is as well to check this before becoming involved in resistance checks on semiconductors.

To return to Fig. 1. With the positive terminal of the ohmmeter connected to wire $A$ and the negative terminal to wire B there is a "low resistance" reading, as shown by Test 1. This indicates that current from the ohmmeter battery is flowing through the diode in the forward direction, and this is indicated by the direction of the "arrow" on the diode (or rectifier) symbol. Current in this context is the conventional flow from positive to negative and not electron flow, which is from negative to positive.

## Diodes

When the ohmmeter connections are reversed, then we obtain a high resistance reading, as showa
by Test 2. This indicates that current from the ohmmeter battery is flowing through the diode in the reverse direction, where it comes up against opposition. (Of course, in a perfect diode or rectifier there would be zero resistance to current in the forward direction and infinite resistance to current in the reverse direction, but as no diode is perfect, there will always be a low, but definite resistance to forward current and a large, but not infinite, resistance to reverse current. depending on the type of semiconductor. The ratio of reverse to forward resistance can be used as a measure to assess the quality of a semiconductor-as we shall see later.)




Fig. 2 (left)-Although there are two junctions in a transistor, it has one element which is common to both of them (shown at B).
Fig. 3 (centre)-The conventional transistor symbol using " $A$ ", " $B$ " and " $C$ ", as in Figs. I and 2.
Fig. 4 (right)-The conventional symbol with the elements identified.

We discover the other diode section by connecting the ohmmeter between wires B and C, first to give the resistance to forward current (Test 3) and then to give the resistance to the reverse current (Test 4). We see from the forward current tests (Tests 1 and 3 ) that there is no need to remove the negative ohmmeter connection from wire $B$, and that forward resistance is given on each diode section simply by changing the ohmmeter positive from wire A to wire C. This in itself reveals that the two diodes must be connected in opposition.

Further proof of this is given, however, by Tests 5 and 6 , for whichever way round the ohmmeter is connected across wires A and C there is always a high resistance, indicating that reverse current flows when the battery is connected in both polarities. This could only happen with diodes connected in opposition.

## Transistor Make-up

We have so far proved that a transistor contains two diode sections, and it is unlikely whether we would find out much more about a transistor given just a transistor and an ohmmeter. It is possible to find out more with this simple instrument, but assuming that we knew nothing at all about a transistor when we started, additional information would be found more by luck than by technical ability.

## Common Electrode

It is true that a transistor has two diode sections connected in opposition, but one "electrode" is common to both diodes, and the common electrode is that connected to wire B, as would be expected. We may thus redraw the circuit of Fig. 1 as shown in Fig. 2, which shows clearly the common electrode on wire B .

For reasons unknown to the author, the transistor symbol took on a slightly different form from that in Fig. 2, and this is shown in Fig. 3. Here the common element is at B and the two "outside" elements at $A$ and $C$. One of the "outside" elements is given an arrow head simply to distinguish it from the other one. To be symbolically accurate, of course, each outside element should be given an arrow-head to conform with the build-up from the symbol in Fig. 2, but, since each "diode junction" has a different function, it is essential to be able to differentiate one from the other, and the use of a single arrow-head permit. this.

## Transistor Elements

We must now abandon our earlier A B identification and instead use the correct terms fo the transistor elements. We have done this in Fig. 4, which reveals that the common element is called the "base", the element with the arrowhead the "emitter" and the element without the arrow-head the "collector".

## Transistor Biasing Arrangements

In practical transistor circuits, the base is biased negatively with respect to the emitter, as shown in Fig. 5. It will be seen, therefore, that the baseemitter diode junction is polarised for forward current. This means that the circuit is now equivalent to a low resistance and. as a consequence, passes a current (from the battery) of a value limited by the base-emitter junction resistance, any resistance in the external circuit and the battery voltage.


Fig. 5 (left)-The action of forward current in the base-emitter circuit gives a reduction in the apparent resistance between the collector and emitter.

Fig. 6 (right)-When the base current in Fig. 5 is switched off, the resistonce between the collector and emitter increases. (This was also shown in Test 5 of Fig. 1).

Furthermore, the collector is also connected to a negative voltage with respect to the emitter. It will be recalled that our previous ohmmeter tests between the two "outside" elements (now called collector and emitter) showed that no matter which way round the voltage source was connected there was always a high resistance between them. However, owing to the forward current in the baseemitter circuit, the conditions between the collector and emitter are now severely modified, for instead of there being a high resistance between them, an
ohmmeter connected negative to collector and positive to emitter would register a relatively low resistance, as shown in Fig. 5.

## Change in Resistance

By keeping the ohmmeter connected and switching off the base-emitter forward current, the ohmmeter would change from a low to a high reading, as shown in Fig. 6. Indeed, the apparent resistance as registered on the ohmmeter would alter depending on the actual base-emitter current. Within limits, the greater the current the smaller the apparent resistance-maximum base voltage gives maximum collector current and zero base voltage gives zero collector current (or nearly so as there is always some leakage in semiconductors).

In a transistor, therefore, a change in collector current is promoted by a change in base current (or voltage, since a voltage change gives a current change in the base circuit). This is rather like a valve, where a change in control grid voltage causes a change in anode current. It is because of this similarity that the base of a transistor is sometimes likened to the grid of a triode valve and the collector to the anode. Similarly, the emitter corresponds to the cathode.


Fig. 7-The basic physical construction of (a) a pnp transistor, and (b) an npn transistor. In (c) is given the symbol for an npn transistor-the emitter arrow points in the opposite direction to the arrow in the symbol for a pnp transistor.

## Basic Concept

A good book on semiconductor theory will reveal why collector current is promoted by the current in the base-emitter junction. One would learn that "holes" flowing from emitter to base diffuse through the base, and when they arrive in proximity to the collector are attracted into the collector by its negative voltage, thereby giving collector current.


Fig. 8 (left)-Transistor leakage test.
Fig. 9 (right)-Using an ohmmeter and a resistor to check effective D.C. gain.

The term "hole" is a convenient way of expressing a positive charge as distinct from the negative charge of an electron. A "hole" is said to be produced when an atom of the semiconducting material is short of a "free" electron, and this
condition is purposely arranged in p-type semiconducting materials. The "hole" or positive charge is then available for conduction.

This happens when the "hole" is filled by a "free" electron from an adjacent atom which, when it fills the hole, leaves another hole behind it. This hole in turn is filled by another electron from another atom, again leaving a corresponding hole, and so the process continues.

It will be understood from this brief description that the series of holes appears to be moving in a direction opposite to that of the electrons. Transistors are made of two types of semiconducting material, a material which uses holes to give a mobile positive flow called " $p$ " (for positive) type, and a material which uses electrons for negative conduction called " $n$ ". (for negative type). Either a wafer of $n$-type material in sandwiched between two pieces of $p$-type material to make a pnp transistor or a wafer of $p$-type material is sandwiched between two pieces of $n$-type material to make an npn transistor as shown in Fig. 7.

The majority of transistors used at present in this country are of the pnp variety. Transistors of the npn variety are used in certain switching applications, though there is reason to believe that they may also be used more extensively in domestic equipment in the future, as they are already used in America.

## How npn Transistors Differ in Circuit

Transistors of the npn type differ basically from pnp types by being connected to the supply voltages the other way round, with the base and collector being connected to a positive source with respect to emitter, instead of a negative source, as is required with $p n p$ types.

Transistors of the npn type are symbolised by the arrow on the emitter pointing away from the base, as shown in Fig. 7(c).

## A Further Ohmmeter Test

If we reproduce Test 5 of Fig. 1 on a transistor, as shown in Fig. 8, we would again prove that a high resistance exists between collector and emitter whichever way round the meter is connected, though we may find that the resistance is slightly greater when the negative of the meter is connected to the collector than when the positive of the meter is connected to it. However, if we set the arrangement with the negative of the meter to the collector and the positive to the emitter the resistance should be very high.

Now, if we connect a resistor between the collector and base, as shown in Fig. 9, the resistance should fall to a relatively low value, provided the transistor is in good order. Indeed, this represents a very good transistor test since, in effect, the ratio of resistance change corresponds to the D.C. gain of the transistor. The resistor effectively applies a negative bias to the base with respect to the emitter and thus causes conduction to take place between the emitter and collector. For most small transistors a resistor of about $33,000 \Omega$ ( 33 k ) is suitable, but it is not desirable for this or other transistor resistance measurements to be undertaken if the ohmmeter contains a battery in excess of 1.5 V . A higher voltage may result in excessive current through the diode junctions which could cause a breakdown.
(To be continued)

his spares box and only three were fit to use! He says he had also found that the colour code on resistors appears to be what he calls "a practical joke" ${ }^{\text {" }}$

He instances a case where he bought six 47 k components (with a silver band) which. when bridged, measured between 62 k and 80 k . He says he has lost all faith in colour codes. I do not feel that this is general and it is certainly not my experience, and I do test all such items before I make up experimental lay-outs. But I do agree that if you want to be sure of success when making experimental equipment, it is best to make sure that every item is sound and its value is as marked, before using it. In this way, you save disappointment and limit the amount of checking which has to be done if the item fails to function as specified or as one desires.

## Peculiar Faults

I have before mentioned some of the weird faults which are experienced from time-to-time in both radio and television equipment, but I was very interested to hear the other day of a new one一 experienced in a service laboratory by a skilled engineer. He was actually servicing a television receiver at the time and noted that he was repeatedly feeling the effects of a mild electric shock, although not using any screwdriver etc., at the time. When he approached the C.R. tube the usual symptoms of entering a strong electrostatic field were noted, and although he kept his hands in his pockets the trouble still persisted. I had heard previously where a bunch of keys in a pocket had been sufficient to pick up a stray field and in this case a very similar arrangement was responsible for the symptoms which were experienced. The engineer was wearing a tie which had a metallic thread running through it as part of the pattern and when he leant towards the set, these threads became charged and produced the effects which he had noticed. Had he been wearing rubber soled shoes no doubt nothing would have been noted, but in this particular case the usual unforeseen chain of circumstances came into play. He was not wearing rubber soles, and the lino in the workshop had been taken up for replacement; as a friend said, when told of the occurrence, with radio "You never can tell"! I should be glad to hear of similar unexplained or unexplainable instances.

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Fig. 20-General dimensions of the cabinet.

# A cabinet for the CITIZEN 

(Continued from page 720 of the December issue)

7
HE two sections of the "Citizen"-the I.F. amplifier and the oscillator-when correctly connected, form a superhet tuner which may be used with any suitable amplifier as a superhet receiver. Such an amplifier is the "Mini-Amp", a unit constructed on the same lines as the two "Citizen" units, and described in the November issue of P.W. [Details for connecting the three units will be given next month.-Ed.]

When the constructor has all three units built, one thing further remains to be done before he may congratulate himself on his success with this new receiver. A cabinet must be built to house the "Citizen", the amplifier, loudspeaker, the batteries and all the other various switches and controls.

Sone readers may be individualists and will thercfore want to make a cabinet to suit their own tastes and requirements. But for those to whom originality in design comes with difficulty, we
recommend them to follow the instructions given in this article, which will result in each becoming the proud possessor of a cabinet, which although simple in construction is, we consider, modern in appearance.

The reader will note that our design incorporates a record deck, which is connected to the audio amplifier section of the receiver. This feature alters the title of the complete set from "radio" to "portable radiogram", which is an instrument not met with very often, even on the commercial market.

## Construction

Most of the material to be used in the construction of the cabinet is tin. thick softwood; which is readily obtainable from any wood merchant. It is sold in standard widths, but as there is no piece of exactly the same dimensions as any other, there is little point in demanding wood of any particular width. Indeed it will be


Fig. 21 -Dimensions of the softwood sections of the cobinet. (Note: the lid requires only three sides-see Fig. 20.)
found less troublesome and less expensive to ask for off-cuts of softwood.

Fig. 20 is fairly self-explanatory so far as the dimensions of the parts are concerned. The control panel will have to be cut from a piece $19 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. $x 6 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}$. It will be seen from the diagram that part of this is cut away to allow the motor board to drop below the level of the loudspeaker, and that this cut-away portion measures 14 in . $x$ $3 \frac{1}{4}$. This part need not be discarded as waste, as it only needs an $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to be planed off for it to be used as the front portion of the lid. (The $\frac{1}{8} i n$. is the allowance required by th: thickness of the motor board.) When cutting the back-which has similar, but not identical dimensions to the control panel-the cut-away portion may be used for the back of the lid in a similar fashion to that used when making the front of the lid.

Fig. 20 only gives general dimensions of the complete cabinet and so the reader should refer to Fig. 21 where diagrams of all the individual pieces of softwood needed are given with their exact measurements. It must be noted, that the upper and lower edges of the control panel and the front part of the lid, have to be planed to an angle of $60^{\circ}$ to the vertical to allow for the slope of the front panel.

The "divider", which is shown in detail in Fig. 21, separates the section of the cabinet which contains the loudspeaker from the record-deck section, and it also gives added strength to the whole construction as it will, at a later stage, be joined to the back, front and base of the cabinet. The divider is shown in Fig. 20 by dotted lines. and is labelled 'A' and referred to as " $\frac{3}{8} \mathrm{in}$. softwood batten". To this divider, a batten of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. square wood is glued to support the motor board (' $\mathbf{B}$ ' in Fig. 20; this runs the complete length of " $A$ ' in the position shown. It will be seen from the diagram, that ' $A$ ' is not sawn to follow the slope of the control panel: this is to allow room for the component group-board which will eventually be positioned there (see Fig. 22).

The motor board is a rectangular piece of $\frac{1}{8} \mathrm{in}$. hardboard, 14 in . x $13 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. A hole will have to be cut to suit the motor and speed control of the record deck. A smaller hole will also have to be drilled to take the support of the pick-up (Fig. 23).

The loudspeaker baffle is also of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. hardboard and measures $11 \frac{7}{8} \mathrm{in}$. x $5 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$., and has an aperture cut to suit the loudspeaker (we suggest that for best performance with consideration to the design of the cabinet, an elliptical speaker is to be preferred). Expanded aluminium may be used to cover the aperture, and a convenient method of mounting the loudspeaker, is to sandwich the aluminium between the baffle and speaker when bolting the latter piece of equipment to the hardboard. It is also advisable to insert a strip of foam rubber or similar substance betwcen the loudspeaker and the aluminium and to tighten the nuts and bolts holding it as far as possible. This will prevent cabinet vibration and acoustic feedback from becoming annoying. The reader will appreciate, from inspection of Fig. 23, that the motor board and loudspeaker baffle may be conveniently cut from one piece, of hardboard.

The top of the lid and the base are cut from the same thickness of hardboard as the preceding two parts, and measure 14 in . $x 11 \frac{7}{8} \mathrm{in}$. and $19 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. $\mathbf{x}$ $15 \frac{3}{3}$ in. respectively.

All parts of the cabinet should now be planed and sandpapered so that, when they are assembled and held with a few panel pins, they meet one another without any overlapping.

The sides, front and back of the cabinet may at this point, be finally assembled. A satisfactory way of joining the parts, is to glue them with one of the modern contact adhesives now on the market. A few panel pins may be used as well to give added strength, if the constructor thinks it necessary. The divider may now be "dropped " into position between the control panel and the back and glued there.

The lid is assembled in a similar fashion to the main cabinet, but it is at this point that the question of hinging the lid must be dealt with. A "hidden" hinge is the obvious solution, but if the constructor considers this beyond his ability, a hinge, simply screwed on to the back of the cabinet and the back of the lid, will not necessarily spoil the appearance of the finished case, being to the rear of the instrument.


Fig. 22-The method of mounting the oscillator group board on the front panel of the cabinet.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

Approximately 7 ft . of softwood, 7in. wide (or an equivalent length in off-cuts).
Four pieces of $\frac{1}{6} \mathrm{In}$. hardboard:-191 $\mathrm{In} . x 15 \frac{3}{2} \mathrm{In} .$, 14 in . $\times 13 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$., $14 \mathrm{in} . x \left\lvert\, 1 \frac{7}{8} \mathrm{in}\right.$. and $11 \frac{7}{B} \mathrm{in} . \times 5 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. EMI 985 record player deck (battery operated version) and pick-up to match.
Elliptical Loudspeaker
PP9 batteries.
Control knobs, hinges, loudspeaker grille, etc.


Fig. 23-Dimensions of the motor board and its cut-outs.
Three wood screws secure the motor unit to the motor board and the pick-up is held by a nut which is supplied with-it, to suit the thread on the supporting column. The "arm rest", which is also supplied with the pick-up, is fixed to the motor board in any convenient position. It is not necessary, at this juncture, to place the turntable on its spindle, and as it is easier to handle the motor board without it, it is best secured at a later stage. The motor board should now be glued in position.

The speaker baffle, with the loudspeaker and the grille already in place, is now pinned and glued to the cabinet.
The lid should be fitted at this stage so that it will protect the motor and pick-up when the whole cabinet is turned over when wiring begins.
(To be continued)

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The films to be shown are listed on the Editorial page (793).

The demand for tickets will be great; order yours NOW.

# Improving the All-band TRF 

ADDING AN R.F. STAGE

By J. L. Wain
(Continued from page 715 of the December issue)

$l$NSTRUCTIONS on mounting C8 to the front panel concluded the article last month. The bandspread condenser (C8) is fitted with a slow-motion drive and, for appearance sake, the pointer is placed behind the panel and viewed through an aperture. A piece of $\frac{1}{8} \mathrm{in}$. Perspex is used to cover the aperture in the front panel. This was marked,

## COMPONENTS LIST

Resistors ( $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}, 10 \%$ )

| RI | 22k | R2 | 2.2M |
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| R5, R6 | 100k | R7 | 22k |
| R8, R9 | 47k | RIO | 270k |
| RII | $270 \Omega$ | RI2 | 3.3k |
| VRI | 100k pot |  |  |
| VR2 | 50k pot. |  |  |
| VR3 | 500k pot |  |  |
| VR4 | 25k pot. |  |  |

## Condensers:

CI 50pF variable condenser (with isolated spindle if an aluminlum panel is being used)
C2 300 pF variable condenser
C3, C4, C5 $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
C7 100pF
C8 10pF
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { C6 } & 50 \mathrm{pF} \\ \text { C9 } & 500 \mathrm{pF}\end{array}$
$\mathrm{ClO}, \mathrm{Cl} 3 \quad 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
CII $16 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{VW}$
CI2 $8 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{VW}$
CI4, C15 $25 \mu$ F, 25 VW
Cl6 2000pF
CI7 $0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
C18 $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
C19 $16 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{VW}$
C20 $8 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{VW}$
C21 $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{VW}$

## LF smoothing choke

Output transformer to suit loudspeaker
Mains transformer 5V 2A, 6.3V 2A, 250V 60 mA
SIA, SIB 2-pole, 5-way wave-change switch
S2 3-pole, 4-way wave-change switch
S3 S.P.S.T. switch (mains off-on)
S4, S5 S.P.S.T. switches
Volves EF39, 6J7, 655, 6V6, 5Z4
out with a scriber and compasses and cut out with the aid of a coping saw, but a fret saw will probably do the job just as well. The edges can be bevelled with a file and draw-filed, then finished with fine emery paper, to give a professional effect.
Another piece of aluminium $7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. $x 6 \mathrm{in}$. was next cut to shape and fitted behind the aperture so that a suitable dial could be affixed. A short length of heavy gauge wire is painted red to act as a pointer. It should be suitably bent so it can be fixed to the slow-motion drive, and have a clearance of about $\frac{1}{10} \mathrm{in}$. from the front panel.

## Coils

The detector coil switching is straightforward (see Fig. 1). Three short-wave coils were used and one medium.
The detector coils are wound on $1+\mathrm{in}$. formers and are as follows: for 18 m to $30 \mathrm{~m}, 11$ turns of 22 s. w.g. enamelled copper wire occupying $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in. with the cathode tap half a turn from the earthed end, and six turns for the primary.
The 30 m to 60 m coil is wound with 20 turns of 22 s .w.g. wire occupying $1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. with the tapping three-quarters of a turn from earthed end and with 16 turns for the primary.
For 60 m to $100 \mathrm{~m}, 35$ turns of 24 s. w.g. are used, with the tap $1 \frac{1}{2}$ turns from the earthed end, and with 20 turns for the primary.
The medium wave coil is wound with 93 turns of 32 s.w.g. wire with the tap three turns from the earthed end and with 50 turns for the primary.

The primaries of all the coils can be wound with $26-30$ s.w.g. wire, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. should be left between this winding and the earthed end of the tuned section.

The short-wave aerial coils are wound on $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. formers with dust cores: for 18 m to $30 \mathrm{~m}, 20$ turns of $24 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g} . ; 30 \mathrm{~m}$ to $60 \mathrm{~m}, 30$ turns of 26 s .w.g.; 60 m to 100 m , 50 turns of $26 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$.

The medium wave aerial coil was made from a small I.F. transformer.

## Finishing the Set

The front panel was given a black crackle finish and transfers were used to put the necessary wording under each control. Ordinary clear Perspex protractors, with a piece of white paper behind them were used as dials, for the band-set and aerial coil tuning. The completed receiver was installed in an aluminium case with power pack, L.S. and amplifier sockets mounted at the side. If desired, there is ample room to instal a small speaker at the side of the receiver.

To operate the set, turn the aerial switch to R3 position, and advance the reaction control so that the set is just on the point of oscillation. Tuning is carried out by the 15 pF condenser and the 100 pF bandset condenser can be moved ten degrees at a time, brcaking each waveband into smaller wavebands, which are covered with the 10 pF condenser.

# RECORDING level 

 indicatorsBy J. Smith

MONITORING MODULATION DEPTH

## $C$

 HE most̄ well-known type of recording level indicator is the " magic eye" which makes use of a cathode ray tuning indicator. The magic eye will close or open with an increase of grid voltage; some of the modern types open with an increase in voltage whilst others, of the older variety, close. Amongst those most often used are the 6E5, 6U5/6G5, EM34 and the more recently developed EM80, EM81, UM80 and the DM70. The latter has a 1.4 V filament and lends itself to use in battery-operated recorders.In the magic eye system, two types of circuit are probably the most common. Fig. 1 shows the circuit where the grid of the magic eye is connected to an audio connection in the


Fig. I-In this circuit, the grid of the magic eye is connected to an audio connection in the recorder.


Fig. 2-This circuit is usually connected to the recording output.
recorder. The circuit of Fig. 2 is generally found connected to the recording output valve; the diode (OA80) is to remove the H.F. bias supply and give a slight delay to the magic eye shadow. The audio passes to the grid of the eye and the effect of the audio (without the bias) is seen on the magic eye. The values given are to be taken as approximate - they depend on the type of circuits used in the recorder. The diode used should have a high reverse resis-


Fig. 3-A simple indicator circuit using a neon. Fig. 4-A neon indicator circuit with bias.
tance. It should also be noted that the fluctuations in modulation shown with the circuit of Fig. 2 will not be so obvious as with the circuit of Fig. 1. The valve shown is the 6E5 or equivalent; other valves will work excellently, but the EM34 would require more components than the 6E5 since it is a "clover


Fig. 5-A circuit using two neons; one for record and one for over-record.
leaf " type having more segments to the indication. Another type of level indicator uses neons. Here, a simple neon is connected in the eircuit and flashes according to the audio level. Fig. 3 shows a simple circuit. This is connected to the audio valve feeding the recording head and the neon chosen has a much lower extinction voltage than firing voltage. If the audio is not sufficient to ignite the neon, bias can be introduced by a D.C. voltage (see Fig. 4). Another version uses two neons, one for record and one for "over-record". Sometimes, these are known as "Record" and "Distort" neons, one neon lighting on peaks corresponding to correct modulation level and the other lighting on levels which would result in over-recording. In Fig. 5, N1 is the "record neon ", which flashes only on "peaks, and N 2 is the "overrecord" or "distort"" neon. In this circuit, N2 requires a much higher audio voltage than N 1 before it flashes.


The author's unit

$\checkmark$HIS design uses, as a starting point, the excellent stabilised power supply described in the August 1961 issue by J. W. Adams.

## Modifications and Additions to Basic Circuit

The stabilised H.T. power supply in the August 1961 issue contains all the essentials for an effective and efficient unit, but no more than that. In a more advanced unit, which is the subject of this article, the following points should receive con-sideration:-
(a) The power supply will be used for experimental work, to feed power to "breadboard" circuits under test. Under such circumstances shortcircuits can often occur, and some measure of protection against these is desirable.
Upon shorting the output of Mr Adams's circuit, several hundred milliamperes were found to flow, which could rapidly damage the valves. Fuses in the output would give some measure of protection, but the difference between rated current and immediate fusing current is too great, so that a fuse does not give sufficient protection against partial short-circuits. Apart from this, there is the trouble and expense of repeatedly renewing blown fuses.
The author's aim in the present circuit was to make the unit electronically self-limiting, so that

## A UNIT FOR THE ADVANCED C CONSTRUCTION IS TO BE DESCI OF THE THEORETICAL DEVELOP

the short-circuit output current is little more than the maximum rated current, and thus shorting the output terminals for even considerable periods can do no damage. This aim has been achieved.
(b) The present circuit has been devised for using only a single series valve, an EL34, instead of two 6L6 valves in parallel. The valve rectifier has been replaced by small flat metal rectifiers. These measures reduce heating and save considerable space, so that the new circuit items could be added, and their heat-dissipation tolerated, without undue increase in size of the whole apparatus.
(c) The circuit has been trimmed to give adequate voltage and current output for all normal purposes, yet use a normal $350-0-350 \mathrm{~V}$ H.T. winding on the transformer, which is easily obtainable.
(d) A stabilised negative gridbias output of approximately 100 V has been added.
(e) A separate extra H.T. output of approximately 300 V at 50 mA has also been added. This is not stabilised, and serves to feed all parts of apparatus not requiring stabilised H.T. The stabilised output is therefore fully decoupled from other parts of the circuit, and is not loaded higher than is really necessary. This makes the whole power supply even more versatile for the experimental workshop.
(f) Not only have A.C. 6.3 V heaters been catered for, but A.C. outputs of a number of other common heater voltages are provided. Also a smoothed D.C. heater output is supplied.

## Modified Stabilised H.T. Supply

The circuit of Fig. 1 was connected up experimentally. The two 6 L 6 valves of Mr. Adams have been replaced by a single EL34, and his EF80 is replaced by one half of an ECC83, the other half of which is to be used later for the short-circuit limiting function. In this circuit, the stabilisation is good up to 75 mA to 100 mA at all output voltages from 150 to 300 . The internal impedance of $1150 \Omega$, which the transformer, rectifier and smoothing alone had, has been reduced to about $50 \Omega$, representing a stabilisation factor of about 23 (ratio of internal impedance of power supply before stabilisation to that after stabilisation). This is adequate for the normal experimenter.

# ACK 

ISTRUCTOR-NOT ONLY THE sED, BUT ALSO THE DETAILS ENT.

The short-circuit current was found to be dangerously excessive. Attempt to add Short-Circuit Current Limiter

In Fig. 2 is shown the first and simple attenpt made to give the circuit self-limiting properties for short-circuits. This attempt failed, for reasons shortly to be explained. Nevertheless, the theoretical idea was as follows:-

The cathode of the left-hand half of the ECC83 is 7 V positive relative to chassis due to the zener diode, ZD, and the grid is returned to earth (chassis). This suffices to cut off this half of the valve, and it does not affect the circuit at all, until the output current has risen sufficiently to give a voltage drop across R1 sufficient to cut on the left-hand part of the ECC83. Anode current then flows through R2 as well, to give extra bias to the EL34, to limit the excessive output current.

Now this circuit functioned partially, in that the current into partially shorted output loads was not as great as previously. but it completely failed to reduce the full-short-circuit current at all. The reason for this is now obvious. When the output is completely shorted, the EL34 cathode is shorted to chassis, so that the ECC83 has no H.T. voltage,


The baseboard construction employed in the unit
and thus cannot perform. In order to provide bias for the EL34 when the output is shorted, the left-hand anode of the ECC83 will necessarily have to go negative to chassis, and this it can do only if the cathode is made still more negative. Thus the short-circuit limiter circuit requires a supply of about 100 V negative, and this had to be added. The extra expense of doing this was negligible, because this negative 100 V supply was intended anyway as an additional output.

## Final, Effective, Short-Circuit Limiter

The resulting circuit, after final adjustment of circuit values to their optimum, is shown in Fig. 3.


Fig. I-The basic stabilising circuit without any form of current limiting device.


Fig. 2-The basic circuit with the addition of a current limiting device (which proved unsuccessful-see text).

The performance of this circuit is shown in Fig. 4, and is very pleasing indeed. Within the rated output current range for all voltages from 150 to 300 the stabilisation is good, representing an internal impedance of about $40 \Omega$. As soon as the rated current of 100 mA is exceeded, the internal impedance rises to $12,500 \Omega$, and limits the shortcircuit current to a mere 120 mA under all circumstances, which is still within the peak rating of all components.

The two neons N2 and N3 supply two voltages negative to chassis, of about 90 and 108 volts respectively. The smaller is fed to the cathode and the larger to the grid of the limiter-half of the ECC83, thus normally cutting it off.

The output current flows through R1, causing a voltage drop across it which raises the grid voltage of the limiter-half of the ECC83. The value of R1 is so chosen that at about 100 mA output current the limiter valve just reaches cut-on.


Fig. 3-The advanced stabilising circuit with the addition of on effective current limiting circuit.

At 120 mA output current, the limiter valve anode current has risen sufficiently to drive the anode about 14 V negative to chassis, which is the bias required to limit the EL34 to 120 mA . This represents the short-circuit current, which can never be exceeded.

The very large value for R 2 was found to be essential for two reasons. Firstly, the voltage at the anode of the limiter triode section in the limiting condition is very low and thus only small anode current can flow. But this small anode current must cause a drop across R 2 right from plus 350 V down to minus 14 V . Thus, R2 must be very large. Secondly, for the lower output voltages, the right-hand anode of the ECC83 must go down below such output voltages, and this is

A separate small mains transformer is used in the final circuit, to be given next month, and contributes to the high decoupling, so that really sensitive apparatus may be fed from the two supplies simultaneously without interference. The assortment of heater windings present on the two transformers enables the provision of the already mentioned generous range of heater voltages to be made.

Some slight tendency to indefinite instability was present until R3 was inserted. There remained a definite oscillation at $10 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ over certain ranges of output current, and this was traced with the oscilloscope, and found to be a sawtooth of small amplitude between R4, the neon, N1, and the stray capacities. It was found that C2 shunted across R 4 removed all inclination for such oscillation. It was not found necessary to shunt such condensers across the feed resistors of the other neons, but in the final circuit to be described in the second part of this article, they will be included for safety.

## Measurement of Characteristics of Final Circuit

Fig. 4 shows the static D.C. performance of the final circuit graphically. There are, however, other features apart from the static D.C. performance, which are of vital importance in deciding the ultimate value of a power supply. The chief of these is the dynamic internal impedance, which determines the r.m.s. output voltage ripple caused when fluctuating (A.C.) current is drawn, e.g. the anode current of a valve heavily driven with a sine wave at the grid. This just mentioned example provides the simplest way of measuring this dynamic internal impedance of a power supply, as shown in Fig. 5. R5 is chosen to be approximately equal to the expected dynamic impedance, R. The 6V6 valve is fed with a sine wave from required to be achieved for small anode current, so that the right-hand grid of the ECC83 may still be sufficiently negative to prevent grid current, which would otherwise disturb the voltagecomparison, and thus destroy the voltage-regulation at the lower voltages. Again, the requirement is that $R 2$ be large. The value of 1 M , shown in Fig. 3, was found to be optimum.

## Independent Supply

It is seen that the already mentioned further output, the unstabilised 300 V H.T. output, has been used to feed the ECC83 as well. This ensures that the ECC83 always has a high and independent H.T. supply, cven when the stabilised H.T. output is low; thus the ECC83 can always amplify well, which very considerably improved the stabilisation of the lower stabilised output voltages.
a signal generator, of amplitude within the undistorted range of amplification. Via a suitable condenser, an oscilloscope is connected first between A and chassis, then between $B$ and chassis, and the ratio of the heights of the two waveforms is observed. The ratio A divided by $B$ is clearly equal to the ratio ( $R$ plus $R 5$ ) divided by $R$, so that the dynamic internal impedance of the power supply, $R$, is easily calculated to be

$$
\text { R5 divided by } \frac{A}{B}-1 \text { ohms. }
$$

The dynamic impedance is not necessarily equal to the static D.C. internal impedance, since the power supply contains not only resistors but also condensers and inductances, which make the A.C. behaviour in general different from the D.C. behaviour. Too large a value for C3 in Fig. 3
can give the voltage-stabilisation too large a timeconstant, so that in fact the low-frequency performance may suffer. On the other hand, too small a value of C 3 will block even the higher frequencies inadequately. Thus there is a definite optimum value for C 3 , which one may consider that one has reached when the low-frequency dynamic impedance is equal approximately to the static D.C. internal impedance, and when this dynamic impedance falls steadily, without a maximum at any frequency, as the frequency is increased. The value shown for $\mathrm{C} 3,8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, was found to be optimum with the components used. If there is a maximum in the dynamic impedance at a certain frequency, due to incorrect choice of C3, then it is under certain circumstances possible


Fig. 5-Method of measuring dynamic internal impedance.
that instability could be caused at that frequency. This instability could manifest itself merely as undue distortion of waves containing that frequency, in an amplifier fed from the power supply, which could prove very puzzling if one were not aware of this point.

## Variation of conditions

The circuit of Fig. 3 was found to have the same value of about $40 \Omega$, for the dynamic internal impedance, as was found for the D.C. static internal impedance, for all frequencies up to about $1 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$, and for all frequencies above $2 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ it was /well under $20 \Omega$.

It is the dynamic internal impedance which is finally decisive for the degree of non-interference of various items of apparatus fed simultaneously from the power supply. It represents the remaining common coupling resistance between the various circuits fed. Thus it is desirable that it be made as small as possible.

The static D.C. internal impedance is simply given at all times for any range of output current as voltage fall over the range (volts) divided by length of the range (mA), multiplied by a thousand. The result is in ohms.

A further characteristic of importance is the
extent of stabilisation against mains voltage fluctuation. With the circuit of Fig. 3 it was found that $25 \%$ fluctuation of mains voltage, even rapidly, or very slowly, produced no output fluctuations exceeding about $2 \%$, for any set output voltage or current within the rated ranges. There is thus a stabilisation factor of 25 divided by 2, i.e. about 12 , present with respect to mains voltage fluctuation. For smaller mains voltage fluctuations, the output fluctuations were even smaller. A $10 \%$ mains voltage fluctuation produced only $\frac{1}{3} \%$ output fluctuation in most cases, representing a stabilisation factor of 30 .

## Ripple

A final important characteristic is the remaining mains ripple. It is not possible to make measurements here on a breadboard lash-up, as hum is there introduced on to the grids of the ECC83 regulator valve, which could well be less in a final layout. But, as a matter of interest, the r.m.s. ripple in the experimental circuit was found to be $0.25 \%$ at all output voltages and currents. This is easily measured with a calibrated oscilloscope connected in parallel with the output terminals.

## (To be continued)

## POWER FOR TRANSISTORS

(Continued from page 804)
components, therefore, are small, and, as the unit will not have to handle any excessive current, it may be fitted into a small box without much fear of overheating. In the original, the unit was housed in a small metal box obtained from a tobacconist (it was originally a lighter fuel tube container which was not only small but had sufficient strength to withstand the average workshop accident, and would fit into the battery space in most portable receivers with little trouble). The container should be metal, otherwise if it were placed in a receiver, the hum from the transformer would be collected by the receiver and appear in the A.F. output. If it is wished to make an existing transistor portable receiver into a mains-operated set, then the circuit shown in Fig. 1 is advisable, but if the unit is to be used for experimental purposes, then the circuit of Fig. 2 is advisable, and a voltmeter can be connected into it, as well as a milliammeter if desired, either in the case or by means of wander-plug sockets.

The output of the unit can be derived through a potential divider network, as shown, or through a suitable variable resistance, but it is advisable to connect either a current-operated fuse or a meter overload-trip into the unit so that only the current needed and no more can be drawn, in order to protect the transistors.

The output allows for permanent sockets for 1.5 V and 10.5 V , as these are needed by several of the currently ponular transistor testers.
It is most important that the output voltage of the unit should be adjusted to suit the transistor set with which it is to be used. It would be as well to monitor the output voltage on load with a suitable meter.

# FAULTS IN VHF/F.M. RECEIVERS 3-The Final Stages 

By G. J. King

(Continued from page. 729 of the December issue)

I- N last month's instalment we considered the 1.F. stages. We now come to the final stages of the combined A.M./F.M. receiver, namely the detector, A.F. amplifier, output and rectifier. These stages are given in the circuit in Fig. 9. Valve V4 (EABC80) is a multi-electrode device developed specially for combined A.M./F.M. receivers. As in the circuit, it is usually employed as A.M. detector AGC ratio detector for F.M. and A.F. amplifier for both services.

The EL84, V5, is a high-slope output valve, the EZ80, V7, is the H.T. rectifier and the EM34, V6, is the magic-eye tuning indicator.

## Two I.F. Transformers

The second I.F. transformer (IFT2) is a composite component which carries both the ratio detector windings for F.M. and the ordinary A.M. windings for feeding the diode detector. When the set is switched to A.M. the ratio detector primary (L27) offers a low impedance to the A.M. I.F. signals which are thus developed across
the primary of the A.M. I.F. transformer (L25) and induced into the secondary (L26). The A.M. I.F. signals thus arrive at the A.M. detector diode, which is on pin 6 of V4.

The A.M. detector load is R27 and the associated reservoir capacitor is C56. It is across this load that the A.M. A.F. is developed, and this is conveyed via switch S1b, the bass control and the volume control to the grid of the triode section of V4. The signals are amplified by that valve and reappear across the anode load 24.

## A.M. AGC

Some of the I.F. signal at the primary of the A.M. I.F. transformer (L25) is fed through C50 to the rectifier WX6. A D.C. voltage is developed across the rectifier load R19, the value of which is proportional to the signal strength. This voltage is negative with respect to chassis and is filtered by R18 and applied as a control bias to the AGC controlled valves.

Moreover, the D.C. component of the detected signal across the detector load R27 is conveyed to the grid of the magic-eye through R29 and R40. This causes the "eye" to close when the set is properly on tune. C66 is simply a decoupling or filter capacitor to remove any I.F. signal that may be present at the grid of the "eyc."


Fig. 9-The circuit diagram of the detector, AGC, A.F., output and rectifier stages of a combined A.M./F.M. receiver.

## The Ratio Detector

When the set is switched to F.M., the A.M. I.F. transformer primary (L25) offers a low impedance to the F.M. I.F. signal which is thus developed across the ratio detector transformer primary (L27) and induced into L28 and L29. The F.M. I.F. signal is applied across the cathode and anode of two separate diode sections in accordance with normal ratio detector practice, and to facilitate the description of this section of the circuit the ratio detector has been extracted from Fig. 9 and redrawn in Fig. 10 with the same component references.

From this it is easy to see how the ratio detector is derived. L28 is the ordinary tertiary winding in the ratio detector transformer, while R26 is the ratio detector D.C. load. C55 is the timeconstant capacitor, while C54 in parallel eliminates unwanted I.F. signal. The detected F.M. signal is developed across C51, in series with the tertiary winding, and this is fed through the filter R22, switch Slb, the bass control and the volume control to the grid of the triode section in V4, the same as with the detected A.M. signal. Switch Slb is ganged with the A.M./F.M. changeover switch, of course, and simply selects the output from the detector which is in use. The required de-emphasis is given by the time-constant of C5I and R22 in the A.F. feed circuit.

## F.M. AGC

The voltage across the ratio detector D.C. load resistor R26 is used, relative to chassis, as an F.M. AGC potential. This voltage is negative with respect to chassis and is at a maximum when the F.M. signal is correctly tuned.

A fraction of the same voltage is taken through R25, R29 and R40 to operate the magic-eye tuning indicator on F.M.

## A.F. Clircults

From the foregoing description it will be understood that so far as the triode A.F. amplifier stage is concerned this receives the detected audio whether it be A.M. or F.M. derived. The amplified A.F. is developed across the triode anode load R24 in each case and from there is fed to the control grid of the output valve through C58, R30 and R32.
A small amount of negative feedback is provided by the anode to grid coupling capacitor C60. As this feedback occurs mostly at high audio frequencies, the arrangement gives a degree of tone compensation. The high-frequency speaker is energised from the anode of the output valve through C63 and the power here is controlled by VR3 which is in fact the treble control. A full negative feedback loop is also provided from the secondary of the speaker transforme? to the grid of the A.F. triode via R36, R37 and C62.

## Power Supply

In this particular set, a double-wound mains transformer provides complete mains isolation and full-wave rectification is employed. C65 is the rectifier reservoir capacitor and smoothirg is accomplished by the choke CH2 and the smoothing electrolytic C64. To remove all traces of hum and
to provide the required H.T. distribution, additional filter circuits are incorporated, such as R33 and C57 and R28 and C53.

The heaters of all the valves, including the rectifier, are energised from a 6.3 V winding on the mains transformer. One side of this power source is connected to chassis while the other side is common to all heaters.

## No Signals

Complete failure of both services is sometimes caused by trouble in the EL84. This is immediately indicated by the magic-eye tuning indicator operating normally when the set is tuned over either A.M. or F.M. stations. Such a symptom. would, of course, indicate that all stages prior to the A.F. amplifier, including the detectors, are working correctly. Since the detectors are working it is unusual for the triode A.F. amplifier to be at fault, so the most likely cause of the trouble is the output.valve or associated components, such as the speaker transformer.


Fig. 10-The ratio detector section from the receiver shown in Fig. 9 with the same component references.

## Low Sensitivity

One receiver brought in for service with "low sensitivity" was subjected to the usual tẹsts and very little could be found wrong. The emission of the valves was slightly below normal, but replacements did not help matters. It was later observed that the I.F. valve appeared to be hotter than normal. The bias was checked and the control grid was found to be slightly positive with respect to the cathode. A check on the AGC line eventually brought to light a leak in the capacitor coupling the AGC rectifier to the I.F. signal source. In Fig. 9 this would be C50, and as it is connected to a point of H.T. positive, as well as signal, a leak would reffect a positive voltage on the AGC line and thus on to the control grids of the controlled valves. The action of the rectifier prevented a high rise in positive voltage, but that which found its way to the valve grids was sufficient to destroy the normal sensitivity.
(To be continued)

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7OR reasons of economy, pre-mixer R.F. amplifying stages are often omitted from superhets of comparatively simple design. TRF receivers often have only one such stage preceding the detector and because of this sensitivity is frequently of a low order.

## Effects

The benefits that result from the inclusion of a tuned R.F. stage are well known, the addition being particularly desirable in the case of a superheterodyne where the first valve operates as a frequency changer, since not only is sensitivity increased enormously but also interference forms common to this type of receiver are minimised.

Many constructors and SWL's acknowledge the need for a tuned R.F. stage in their equipment but realise that, from a practical viewpoint, the
inclusion is not easy since a complete rebuild might be necessitated.

A simpler method of obtaining the R.F. gain desired is to use a pre-selector, the additional controls of which add little complication to tuning.

## Requirements

The following features are desirable in a preselector:
(1) It should be capable of providing adequate R.F. gain.
(2) The gain it provides should be controllable.
(3) It should be stable in operation.
(4) Differing aerial constants should not affect the calibration of its scale.
(5) The output impedance should be of a value suitable for feeding into the aerial/earth sockets of the receiver with which it is to be used.


Fig. I-The complete circuit.
(6) It should be entirely independent of the main receiver and facilities for completely switching it out of circuit should be included.
A unit meeting the above requirements is presented here and the circuit may be seen in Fig. 1.

Fig. 2a-The above-chassis layout.

The heart of the pre-selector is V2A and its associated circuitry which is sandwiched between an input and an output stage. The input stage, V1, provides a certain small amount of gain, but its main function it to act as a buffer in addition to providing variable gain facilities. Tuned circuits are associated with the grid circuit of V2A, C6 tuning the particular coil selected by $S 2 . \quad V 2 B$ is merely a cathode-follower stage that makes available an output impedance suitable for feeding to

The pre-selector unit

the receiver with which the unit is to be used.

## Band Selection

For band selection purposes a 2-pole, 4-way rotary switch, S1, $\mathbf{S 2}$, is fitted, this being built from a "Makit" assembly comprising wafer, spacers, shafting etc. A less expensive method, but one (Continued on page 833)

## COMPONENTS LIST

| Resistors: $\frac{1}{2}$ W except where stated |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R2 | 10k | R9 | 3.3k IW |
| R3 | IM | R10 | IM |
| R4 | $190 \Omega$ | RII | 1 k |
| R5 | 33k | R12 | 390 S |
| R6 | 2.2k | VRI | 5k pot |
| R7 | 18k |  |  |
| Condensers |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & C l \\ & C 2 \end{aligned}$ | 50pF mica <br> C7, C8 $0.01 \mu F$ ceramic or paper |  |  |
| C3 | 200pF mica |  |  |
| C4 | $0.01 \mu F$ ceramic or paper |  |  |
| C5 | $0.01 \mu F$ ceramic or paper |  |  |
| C6) | 500pF (nominal) |  |  |
| C9 | $8 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~W}$ electrolytic |  |  |
| Clo | $8 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{VW}$ electrolytic |  |  |
| CII | $2 \mu \mathrm{~F} 275 \mathrm{VW}$ electrolytic |  |  |
| Cl2 | 150 pF ceramic or mica |  |  |
| Cl3 | $0.01 \mu F$ ceramic or paper |  |  |
| C14 | 1.000 pf ceramic |  |  |

## Coils

LI Osmor QAI
$L 2$ Osmor QA3
L3 Osmor QA4
Volves
VI EBF89 - V2 ECF80 • V3 EZ80
Mains Transformer: Mains input. Output: $0-250 \mathrm{~V} 25 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{A}$
R.F. Choke: QCI (Osmor)

Wavechange switch: SI and S2 (see text)
Chassis: $8 \mathrm{in} \times 4 \mathrm{in} . \times 2 \mathrm{in}$.
Miscellaneous:
Lens and bush-I hole fixing, $\frac{3}{6}$ in. dia. (Bulgin D190)
Panel light holder and bulb-6.3V, 0.15A
Valve bases (3) B9A
Dial and drive-see text
Aerial/earth socket strip
Coaxial plug and flush mounting socket
Aerial/earth plugs; Spire clips (3)
Material for cabinet, solder, tags, wire, etc. Tag strips-one 8-way, one 3-way

## CHECK <br> Bargains



2


4


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Fig. 2b-The under-chassis layout and wiring diagram.
(Continued from page 830)
that limits the number of "ways" available is to use a minature rotary switch and the manner in which a conventional 3 -pole, 4-way type of this pattern can be used is shown in Fig. 3. In the prototype, $\mathbf{S} 2$ selects from three coils in the short wavebands, the fourth position being used in conjunction with Sito mute the unit and simultaneously connect the aerial direct to the main receiver.

Suitable coils of the type used in the prototype may be selected to suit individual requirements. Alternatively, home-wound coils may be used since no ganging problems arise. More than three coils may be accommodated by using a switch with sufficient "ways" after allowing for one to be used for muting, etc.

## Tuning Mechanism

A slow motion drive is used to facilitate ease of tuning and no bandspread condenser is fitted. The tuning mechanism used in the prototype was taken from an RF27 unit of ex-Service origin, but a Jackson 4489 or Eddystone 843 could also be employed, these having reduction ratios of approximately $6: 1$ and $10: 1$ respectively. A twin gang tuning condenser is fitted, one section being left disconnected.

## The Power Supply Section

This is quite simple, V3 being used as a halfwave rectifier in association with a mains isolating transformer T1, which makes the chassis safe to handle. No fuses are fitted to the prototype, but it might be beneficial to wire a 2.5 V torch bulb in series with the secondary winding of T1 at the "earthy" end to protect the apparatus somewhat should a fault occur such as a heater/caihode short circuit in V3 which would cause an excessive current flow. Filtering and smoothing are given by R9, C9 and C10.

## Layout

Both above and below chassis layout are given in Figs. 2a and $b$ respectively, and as may be


Fig. 3-Utilising a 3-pole, 4-way, rotary switch for band selection.
seen the amount of above-chassis wring is very small. To minimise self pick-up the coils and switching are contained beneath the chassis where they are automatically screened by the chassis "box".

## Constructional Notes

In the wiring diagrams, the positions of minor components might be seen to differ slightly from those shown in the illustrations, the reason being that it would not otherwise be possible to show the precise location with the wiring on a single diagram. Slight rearrangements are not important provided that leads associated with the anode circuit of V2A are not allowed to come too close to those of the grid circuit or unwanted oscillations might result.
(To be continued)

# universal <br> SHUNTS 

A SIMPLE UNIT WHICH MAY BE USED TO<br>EXTEND THE RANGE OF MULTIMETERS<br>By R. Traynor

mANY articles have been published recently on the construction of multimeters, all of which require the purchase or construction of shunts. If the constructor wishes to use a meter having a resistance or full scale deflection other than that specified, then new values must be calculated, and ance these shunts are often of very low value and each one must be calculated with a fair degree of accuracy, this can become quite tedious.


Fig. I-A circuit of a switched universal shunt. The figures in brackets are preferred values of components which may be used if extreme accuracy is not essential.

A simple method of avoiding these calculations and of cutting the cost by using standard components is by means of the universal shunt, an arrangement used in many commercial multimeters.

This shunt consists of a number of fixed resistors of different value joined in series and the whole connected across the meter terminals. By means of a selector switch any value of resistance can be selected, thus varying the multiplying power. One of the advantages of this arrangement is that there need be no relationship between the values of the resistors and the meter resistance. The multiplying power of a shunt is given by
(Meter resistance + Shunt resistance)
플
Shunt resistance
With the universal shunt the sum $(M+S)$ is a constant, therefore the multiplying power of the shunt is inversely proportional to the shunt resistance and

$$
\mathrm{n}=\left(\frac{\text { Shunt resistance }}{\text { Multiplying resistance }}\right)+1
$$

The connections are shown in Fig. 1, which shows the values of typical resistors and the multiplying power at each switch position. In the example shown, the total resistance across the meter is $10.000 \Omega$, which has negligible shunting effect. If we assume a meter having an f.s.d. of $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$, then, in switch position 1, with no shunting effect, the meter reads $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$. In switch position 10 the meter is out of circuit. The other switch positions will read as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

| Switch Position | Multiplying Factor | f.s.d. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ |
| 2 | 5 | $500 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ |
| 3 | 10 | 1 mA |
| 4 | 50 | 5 mA |
| 5 | 100 | 10 mA |
| 6 | 500 | 50 mA |
| 7 | 1000 | 100 mA |
| 8 | 5000 | 0.5 A |
| 9 | 10,000 | 1 A |

If extreme accuracy is not required, the constructor may use preferred value components of say $5 \%$ as shown in Fig. 1. This will still give an accuracy of better than $1 \%$, which is quite good enough for most applications.

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# Improving Broadcast Receivers <br> By K. Berry 

## A SMALL INVESTMENT IN A FEW NEW COMPONENTS WILL REJUVENATE AN OLD SET

IIANY radio enthusiasts use standard broadcast receivers for their own or their families' entertainment. The purpose of this article is to show a few simple ways in which the performance of ordinary broadcast receivers can easily be improved. Some or all of these ideas can save money, since they will enable an old and "tired" set to give a performance comparable with that of a new receiver.

The application of one or more of these modifications will give you a receiver that is better than anything you could buy these days for $£ 20$ or so. If you decide to incorporate one or more of these ideas, do not stop there; when you have completed your electrical improvements, spend a little time (and perhaps money!) on cleaning and renovating

| Fig. I-A typical receiver input circuit.
the appearance of the set. If one or more dial lights are defective, then replace them. If the loudspeaker aperture covering material is soiled, replace it-perhaps with gilt anodised aluminium. Do consider fitting a fresh set of knobs-the addition of a modern style of knob can do wonders to the appearance of a set. Finally give the case a good clean and polish it. Attentions such as these will
give the family visible evidence that the radio really is better! But seriously, do not spend three or four hours working on the inside of the receiver and then completely neglect the external appearance.

## Increased Șensitivity

A frequently felt need is the desire for a more sensitive receiver. There are two ways of achieving this. One is to add gain before the frequency changer (R.F. gain) by means of an R.F. stage, the other is to add gain after the frequency changer (I.F. gain) by means of an additional I.F. amplifier


Fig. 2-The circuit of Fig. I with an R.F. stage added.?
stage. There are advantages and disadvantages to each method, and these are tabulated on page 838. The best compromise is, perhaps, to add both. It should be noted that the added R.F. stage will be of the "aperoidic" or untuned variety. This is of necessity since the addition of a tuned R.F. stage would involve replacement of the existing tuning capacitor by one with an extra section and fitting extra coils and their associated bandswitchingaltogether too complicated a job.

It is probably worthwhile to amplify the comments in the table regarding the selectivity question. The I.F. selectivity of receivers varies from make to make and model to model. Some receivers have, by design, a fairly wide I.F., whilst others are designed to have as narrow an I.F. as can be tolerated. Furthermore, some listeners live

Fig. 3 (right)-Another improvement to the circuit; this time the R.F. stage is before the original tuning coils.
in areas of good reception where there is little adjacent channel interference to BBC stations, thus permitting the use of a wide l.F. passband, whereas other, less fortunate listeners live in areas wherein reception of BBC stations is spoilt by strong adjacent signals, or they often listen to foreign broadcasting stations, in which case a narrow I.F. passband is essential. Thus, for some people, a decrease in I.F. passband would be an advantage-whilst for others it could be a little disadvantageous (Continued on page 853)


Fig. 4 (above)-A typical receiver input circuit which does not employ an aerial coupling coil.



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Famous American Columbia（Cis）premier quality Tape at NEW REDUCED PrRICES．A genulne recommended Quality Tap－TRY IT！Brand new，boxed and fully guaranteed Fitted with leader and stop foils．

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| 5 sin ． |  | 900it．18／6 | 1．200 |
| n． | 1.200 tt ． $21 /-$ | 1，8800ft． 3216 | 2．400ft．${ }^{\text {d }}$ |

Post and Packing，per reel， $1 /$ ，plus 6 d ，each for additional reels． SPECIAL OFFER－31n．mirs，surplus tape 225ft．5／8．P．\＆P． per reel 6d．Plastic Tape Reels， 31 n ．2／6， 51 in ． $3 /-; 51 \mathrm{in}$ ． $3 / 3$ ， 7 in ． $3 / 6$ ．

Vohume Controts－ $5 \mathrm{~K}-2 \mathrm{Meg}$ ohmsi 3in．Spindles Morgan－ ite Midget Type．lidn．diam， Guar． 1 year．LOG or LIN ratios less Sw．3／－．DP．Sw． 6／6．D．P．Sw．8／－．

COAX 80 OIIM CABLE High grade low loss Cellular air spaced Poivene－in． dameter．Stranded cond． per yard．Bargain Prices－ Special lencths－ 20 yds． $81-$ P．\＆P． $1 / 6$.

 Couplers 1／3．Outlet Boxes 4／6


TAPE RECOIRDER KIT Spectal Offer．Latest 5 valve design．Masic eye and tone controls．Printed circuit alo ready wired．A sensitive quality recorder A．S．R．Amp Kit 85／－．B．E．R．Tape Deck \＆8．5．0．Collaro Tamp Deek 212.10 .0 ．Set of 5 valves $45 /$ Special Unit Kit Prices－ Send stamp for detalled list Construction and circuit de tails 8／G．Bargain Complete

Condensers－SIlver Mica．All values， 2 pF to $1,000 \mathrm{pF}$ ，6d．each． Ditto．Ceramics ！d，Tub． 450 V T．C．C．${ }_{0}$ etc． 0.001 mfd ．
 $0.1 / 500 \mathrm{~V}$ 1／－． 0.25 Hunts $1 / 6$.
0.5 T．C．C． $1 / 8$ ，etc．etc． 0.5 T．C．C． $1 / 9$, etc．etc．（ilose Tol． $5 / \mathrm{Mitas}-10 \% \quad 5 \mathrm{pF}-500 \mathrm{pF}$ $\begin{array}{ll}801 . & 800-5,000 \mathrm{pF} \\ 100 \mathrm{pF} & 9 \mathrm{~d} . \\ 100 \mathrm{pF} & -500 \mathrm{pF} \\ 2 \mathrm{pF} & 114 .\end{array}$ $575 \mathrm{pF}-5.000 \mathrm{pF}$ 1／6．Resistors－ full Range 10 ohms－10 meg－ hms $20 \%$ zand $1 W 3$ ．．．$t W$ sd． MWdget type modern rating） aW 5d，iw 7 d ． $5 \%$ \＆W 9 d 。， W／W resigtors 25 ohms to $10 \mathrm{~K}, 5 \mathrm{~W} 1 / 3,10 \mathrm{~W} 1 / 6$ ， 15 W 2／w Preset T／TPots．W／W 25 ohms ． － 50 K $3 /-$－ $50 \mathrm{~K}-2$ Meg．（Carbon） 3／－．

JASON FM TUNEIR UNITS Designer－approved kits of parts：
FMT1， 5 gns． 4 valves，20／－ FMTw．\＆7． 5 valves． $37 / 6$ ． JTV MEIRCURY 10 Ens． 32／6． NEW．JASON FM HAND－ B00K，2／6． 48 hr Allgnment
Service 7／6．P．\＆P． $2 / 6$ ．

Speakers P．M．-3 ohms 21 nn Elac 17／6．3in．Goodmans 18／6． 6in．Rola 17／6．Gin．Elac 18／6． 7 x 4 in ．Goodmans 18／6．8in． Rola $20 /$－ 1010 ．R． X A． $25 /$ $10 x 61 n . ~ G o o d$
Tweeter $28 / 6$ ．

KNOBS－Modern Continental types：Brown or Ivory with Gold RIng．11n．dia．，9d．each； ilin．， 1 －each；Brown or Ivory with Gold Centre，lin dia． 10d．each； 1 inn． $1 / 3$ each． LARGE SELECTION avallable． TYGANFRET（contemp．pat．）
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## TRANSISTOR COMPONENTS

## Midget 1．F．＇s－465 Kc／s．

9／161n．dia． Oc W， $9 / 16 \mathrm{in}$ ．dia． $5 / 8$ Osc．Coill－M／W， $9 / 16 \mathrm{in}$ ．dia．5／3
Osc．Coil－M．
 Midget Drive Trans， $3.5: 1$ © $6 / 9$ 3 ohms $8 / 9$ ．
Ferrite Aerial M．\＆L．W．Car aerial coil， $8 / 3$ ．
rect．Condensers－Midget Type ${ }^{3}$ mid－50mid，en 1／8－ Condensers $6 \mathrm{~V} / 12 \mathrm{~V}$ Wheg． 03 mfa 8d．：． 05 mld ， $1 \mathrm{mf} \mathrm{d}_{\text {，}} 1 /$－；． 25 mfd ， $1 / 3: .5 \mathrm{mfd} 1 / 6$
Vol．Controls－Midget Type with edge Control Knob．
7 K .1 Mohm，ea
Speakers 1＇．M．－2 2 in ．E．M．I． 3 ohms 17／6． $7 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$ ．Plessey 5 ohms $23 / 6$ ．
Ear Plag Phones－Min．Con－ tinental type，3ft．lead，jack plug and socket．High Jmp．8／\％， Low Imp．7／6．
TRANSISTOR BARGAINS Brand New－BVA 1st Grade $\begin{array}{llll}0 \mathrm{C} 44 & 10 / 6 & 873 & 8 /- \\ 0 \mathrm{C} 45 & \text { 日／6 } & \text {（2）}\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}\text { OC45 } & \text { O／6 } & \text { GET114 } & \text { 6／8 } \\ \text { OC81 } & 7 / 6 & \text { OC72 } & 7 / 8\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}0 \mathrm{CB1} & 7 / 6 & \mathrm{OCl}^{2} & 7 / 6 \\ 2 / \mathrm{OC81} & 15 / 6 & \text { OC70 } & 5 / 6 \\ \mathrm{XA102} & 10 /- & \text { OC71 } & 8 /-\end{array}$

| XA102 | $10 /-$ | OC71 | $8 /-$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| XA101 | $9 / 6$ | GEX34 | $2 / 9$ |
| $\times B 103$ | $7 / 6$ | OA70 | $2 / 9$ |
| XC101 | $8 / 6$ | $0 A 81$ | $2 / 9$ |

SB305 Surface GD1 2／9 All Post Freet

TURIRET TUNEIL－BAND 1／BAND 3．Ex．mirs．current production offer－std．type 13－channel unit．$\quad 35-38 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ I．F．Complete with PCCA and PCF＇80 Valves and colls for channels 1－3－9．No knobs or circuit diagram，but connection data supplied． Clearance Bargain Only
－
Speaker Fret－Expanded bronze anodised metal $8 \times 81 \mathrm{n}$ ． $2 / 3,12 \times 8 \ln .3 /-, 12 \times 121 \mathrm{n} .4 / 6$, $36 \times 12 \mathrm{tn}$ ． $13 / 6$ ，etc．etc．
Electrolytioa Aul Types Naw Stoak TUBULAR

 SLEEVING－Various Colours $1 \mathrm{~mm}, 2 \mathrm{~mm}, 2 \mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{yd}, 3 \mathrm{~mm}, 4 \mathrm{~mm}$ ． 3d．yd．， 6 mm ．51．yd．
CRT IITIR ISOLATION New improved types，low cape－ clity small size and tag termi－ nated a．c． $200 / 250 \mathrm{~V}$ ．Secondaries $\mathrm{nil}+25 \%+50 \%$ B00 OT for 2 V $4 \mathrm{~V}, 6.3 \mathrm{~V}, 10.5 \mathrm{~V}, 12 \mathrm{~V}$ or 13 V tubes．Each type $12 / 6$ each． P．\＆P．1／6．
Trinmiers，Ceramic（Com－ pression Type）－ 30 pF ． 70 pF ． 16 d．： 1000 pF ． 150 pF ． $1 / 3$ ； 280 pF ． 16：600pF， $1 / 9^{2}$
Phllil＇s，Hee Hive Type （Conc．A1r Spaced）－2－8pF． $\mathcal{X}$－； $3-30 \mathrm{pF}, 1 /-$
TUNING COND．－Twin Gang by J．B．．etc．365pF Midget，8／8； sistor Type，J．Bros．00．Mraget Twh Gang $208 \mathrm{pF}+176 \mathrm{pF}$ ， $\mathrm{Q} / \mathrm{F}$ SINGLE TUNING COND－ Reaction Type，Mica Dlelectrio， $0.0001 \mathrm{mfd} .0 .0003 \mathrm{mfd}, 0.006$ mfd．， $3 / 6$ each．
Wavechange SWITCHES Midget Type－ 2 pole 2 way． 1 pole 6 way． $2 / 8$ each； 1 pole 12 4 pole 2 way． 4 pole 3 waw， $3 / 6$ each．
SINGLE SCRIEENED LEAD： Standard size 8d．yd．：Ditto L1ghtweight for Pick－up，to． FVic sheathed，8d．Fd．Thin screened sheathed， $\mathbf{1}=\mathbf{y d}$


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Type PCR. Has self-contained speaker. Covers 850-2000. $200-550$ and $16-50$ metres.
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pocket radio, which has the same 5 in. x 3 in. speaker and maximum audio output of $200 \Omega \mathrm{~mW}$. It is available in several colours and costs $£ 288 \mathrm{~s} .10 \mathrm{~d}$., plus $£ 819 \mathrm{~s}$. 6d. purchase tax.

Another newcomer, the Royal 710LG, has 500 mW of undistorted audio output. Using seven transistors, it is powered with torch batteries, providing up to 350 hours of operation. It has a 4 in . loudspeaker and costs $£ 3213 \mathrm{~s}$. 8 d ., plus $£ 1110 \mathrm{~s} .9 \mathrm{~d}$. purchase tax.
These and other Zenith radios are distributed in this country by United Mercantile Co. Lid., 13-14 Queen Street, Mayfair, London.

## RADIO SIGNAL PROBE

A NEW 'Lab-Craft' radio signal has been designed
for fault tracing and functions as a wideband modulated signal generator.

## ews

NEW RADIO FOR THE U.K.
SIX new models have been added recently to the $1961 / 62$ range of Zenith radios now available in this country.

The Royal 500 H de Luxe pocket transistor has eight plug-in transistors and employs a 5 in . $x$ 3in. speaker, powered by a new ceramic magnet.

The Royal 500 H is housed in a nylon case of modern design with a gold front. It is available in three colours-ebony, white and two-tone grey-and costs $£ 33$ 13s. 6d., plus $£ 11$ 17s. 9d. purchase tax.

Another new addition is the Royal 400, a seven transistor

## (Above)-The Lab-Craft radio signal probe-Model 704.

Two outputs are provided; a direct output at the sockets and a radiated signal from a plug-in ferrite rod aerial.

The amplitude of the direct output is controlled by a attenuator so that relative stage gains can be determined.

The model 704 is one of the range of service equipment manufactured by Lab-Craft Lid., 38 Ilford Lane, Ilford, Essex.

## RECHARGEABLE BATTERY

A NEW rechargeable battery, manufactured by Electronics and Automation (London) Lid., is being marketed. It is the size of two U2 standard cells, is charged by removing a cap, which

One of the new Zeaith radios evailable in this coumtry.
simultaneously switches in the internal rectifier and also completely isolates the battery electrically. The two 5A pins revealed are then plugged directly into a mains socket.

Being completely self-contained, no connections, wires, trickle-chargers or other equipment are requared. The battery is guaranteed by the makers for one year.

The Etromat is encased in a very robust plastic. It may be left for months in a torch-case. There is no corrosion, because the storage section is completely, hermetically sealed and contains no chemicals to corrode the metal contact base.

Since the battery is constructed for recharging from 110 V to 250 V supplies, it may be used anywhere. The life of one recharge is the same as that of the replaceable type of battery. The charging time at 250 V is 14 hours and at 110 V 20 hours.

No matter the voltage (from 2.5 V to 6 V ) or the type, the battery is always the same size. Electronics and Automation (London) Lid., Maxwell House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.2.


[^1]

This is one of the latest Perdio transistor receivers. Presented in a two-tone plastic case, it covers long and medium wavebands. The "Mini Six", as this receiver is known, uses a 9 V battery and as an audio output 200 mW . It is completely portable and employs six transistors.
The model number is PR24, and the set is made by Perdio Ltd., Perdio House, Bonhill Street, London, E.C.2.

## A NEW TRANSISTOR RECEIVER

'[HE "Sky Prince" receiver employs six transistors, and an 8 in . $\times 5 \mathrm{in}$. elliptical speaker gives one watt output. Up to 400 service hours can be expected from the one battery.

An important feature of the Sky Prince is that it can be carried easily from room to room as there are no leads and plugs to disconnect.

Full coverage of long and medium waves is afforded, plus external aerial socket and external speaker socket. The Sky Prince cost $18 \frac{1}{2}$ guineas and is made by The Ever Ready Company Limited, Hercules Place, Holloway, London, N.7.

## NEW RANGE OF MINIATURE SOLDERING INSTRUMENTS

 HE Oryx range of soldering instruments has recently been extended to include instruments with voltages up to 230/250. A variety of tips are available with 6 to 20 W output. Replaceable tips are available and the heavy duty elements quickly provide a tip temperature up to $932^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, depending on the model.
The sole distributors of Oryx products are $W$. Greenwood Electronics Limited, of 667 Finchley Road, London, N.W.2.

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|  | Hire purchaee deposit 21.11.6 |  |
| Ficte | With power. Complete kit | 29.15.0 |
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| H1T8 | 70 miles from the tranamitter. Bupplied complete with is |  |
|  | $\mathrm{val}^{\text {ralvem }}$ | 89.12.6 |
|  | Hire purchase deposit 81.18 .6 and 6 month | 9.0 |
|  | With power. Complete kit | 212.0.0 |
|  | Tha instruction book io included in ail kits, but otherwis |  |

## READY BUILT TUNER

F. Thin Trnor Aligued and assembled, nsing Philips tuning head with ECOOS, EF85, EF8S, EZ81 nnd EM81, with 2 diodos BELP POWERED. In emamelled metal cose.

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> We are able to offer tor the firet time, a proprietary range of Recorders in kit or assembled form. This enablea you to take advantage of maen produotion techniques and prices, ahould you with to assemble yourself. The components used are the ginest avaliable, with BVA vaives, and the decks are the hatat haring sil the improvementa B.B.R. and Collaro make from time to time, hemds, etc.: The smplifiers are packed in special cartons with lastractiona Fhich enable anyone to bulld. We are conident you will flad these Recorders very good value, they bave been built up to astandard and not down to a prioes
> BER. TD8 Monarineof, laleat model 51 in , apools...........CASH
> Tupe Amplifer for B.S.K. deck, printed clrcuit ready wired, with ECO83, ECL82, EM85 and EZ81. Complete with all plugs mocirets, paneli, knobs, etc. The whole anplliter mountu on to the deck, making a self contained unt... CABH PRICA Hire purchase deposit $21.14,0$ and 6 monthly..............
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> Total bit as above. .................................................. Hira purchave deposit 24.10 .0 and 12 monthly ............ The above recorder can be suppiled complete with Mic: tape assembled and tented for............CASH I'RICE $\begin{aligned} & \text { Hire purchase deposit } 85.0 .0 \text { and } 12 \text { monthly } \\ & \text { Stadio Deak. Very latest model } 3 \text { speeds..... }\end{aligned}$
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> tape Amplifer for studio Deck, with ready mired printed circuit. oontrol and input panels, maina and output trans., oom plete With krobs, plans, acrewn, etc., EF86, ECC83, EM84, Kzz81, OA81 and '2 EL84, 3 watts output. Magic eye, hadio and Mlc. inputa EX L/S sucket, Tone control. Can be
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in two-tone Grey "Vynair" With $9 x$ 5in. high flux speaker ...................................................
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OSMOR printed citcuit version. Osmor Rod Aerial 10/-. L.F.Tas and Owa Coils, 22/6. Osmor Driver, 11/6, Osmor Output, 10/6. Bet MULLARD transistors, 53/6. OA81 Diode, $3 /$. J.B. Gang, $11 /$-. Trimmers, $8 / 8$ pr. Bot Condensers, 15/. Set Resistors, B/6. Ardente Vol. Control, 8/-. Ardente W/C, 3/6, Speaker, 10/10. Hardware, 4/8. Printed Circult, $9 /=$. Cose and Knob, 76 . Dial, 8 d . Battery PP4, 2/. Leatlet giving full illustrated detalls, 19. All the above components if purchased at one time 49.9 .0 . 08M0R

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By J. B. Dance

ONE of the most difficult problems encountered in the design of " $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ " equipment is that of obtaining a level and undistorted bass response. For this reason the design of the loudspeaker cabinet should be undertaken most carefully.

## Unmounted Loudspeaker

The vibrating cone of a moving coil loudspeaker is small compared with the wavelength of low frequency sounds in air. If a loudspeaker is used at low frequencies without any baffle whatsoever, the air which is pushed forward by the loudspeaker cone will merely pass around the outside of the loudspeaker to fill the partial vacuum created at the rear of the cone. Similarly when the cone moves backwards, air will pass from the rear to the front of the loudspeaker.

The loudspeaker cone is intended to set the whole of the air in the room in vibration, but if no baffle is used, the air slips around the edges of the loudspeaker at low frequencies and the effect on the air in the room is very small indeed. The air currents (i.e. the sounds) are thus short circuited. The use of a baffle will prevent this short circuiting of the air currents provided that the baffle is not so small that the air can pass casily around the outside of it from the front to the back of the loudspeaker and vice-versa at the frequency in question.

## High Frequencies

At high frequencies, however, the movements of the cone are so rapid that there is not enough time for the air to move between the back and front of the loudspeaker and so to equalise completely the pressures before the direction of movement of the loudspeaker cone has been reversed.

One has only to compare the sound from an unmounted loudspeaker with the sound from a properly mounted loudspeaker to appreciate that the unmounted loudspeaker produces almost negligible sound when the input frequency is low. The volume of the middle frequencies is also much less than that from a correctly mounted loudspeaker. This effect is very prominent with a large unmounted loudspeaker, but is even worse with a small unmounted loudspeaker, as the air can pass from the back to the front of the cone much more easily and quickly than in the case of a large loudspeaker.

## Loudspeaker Resonance

The resonance curve of a typical loudspeaker of nominal impedance $15 \Omega$ is shown in Fig. 1. In this
graph the actual impedance of the loudsneaker in ohms is plotted against the input frequency. The graph covers only bass frequencies; the impedance rises somewhat at high frequencies. The peak. in the case shown at $65 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$, is at the natural resonant frequency of the loudspeaker: that is. at the feequency at which the loudspeaker cone vibrates if the cone is gently tapped with the finger. The loudspeaker cone will vibrate with a very large amplitude if quite a small input of this particular frequency is applied to the loudspeaker terminals.

## Bass Reflex

A simple system which gives an equally satisfactory performance consists of a plain. closed, cabinet with an opening at the front: the volume of the cabinet and opening are so calculated that the air inside the cabinet resonates with the air in the vent at the same frequency as that of the fundamental resonance of the loudspeaker used. The sound emerging from the vent is in phase with that from the loudspeaker cone. Hence the bass reflex cabinet is also known as the acoustical phase inverter.

The size of the loudspeaker cabinet required for this arrangement can be appreciably reduced by fitting a pipe or wooden column which projects back into the cabinet from the opening at the front as shown in Fig. 2. The opening below the loudspeaker opening is known as the vent.

## Design

The first problem one meets when designing a bass reflex cabinet is that of calculating the size of the enclosure and vent which will enable the cabinet to resonate at the same frer ency as the loudspeaker. In order to do this, one must know the fundamental resonant frequency of the loudspeaker. The manufacturers of all good loudspeakers supply a nominal value for the resonant frequency. However, this frequency usually decreases by about $10 \%$ to $15 \%$ after the loudspeaker has been in use for some hours. This decrease occurs because the suspension becomes weaker after a few hours of use.

It is therefore best to measure the resonant frequency of the loudspeaker experimentally if possible, not when the loudspeaker is quite new, but when it has been used for about twenty hours or so fastened to a temporary mounting and used at reasonably high power. The value obtained can then be used in the calculation. If for any reason the frequency is not measured experimentally, the manufacturer's figure may be used, but it is wise to reduce this figure by up to $10 \%$ to allow for the suspension becoming slightly weaker with use.

## Experimental Determination

The fundamental resonant frequency of the loudspeaker may be determined experimentally in the following way. An audio signal generator should be used to feed' an audio power amplifier connected to the unmounted loudspeaker under test. An A.C. ammeter should be placed in one of the leads to the loudspeaker as shown in Fig. 3. The input power from the amplifier to the loudspeaker should not exceed a small fraction of a watt and therefore a reasonably sensitive ammeter should be used, say $0-\frac{1}{2} A$. The amplitude of the cone movement should be checked (by touching the cone) to make sure that it is not too large.
As the signal generator is tuned and its output kept fairly constant, the current passing through the loudspeaker and indicated by the ammeter will be found to have a definite minimum value at the loudspeaker resonant frequency. This frequency can then be read from the scale of the audio generator.

## The Helmholtz Resonator

The cabinet resonates in the same way as a Helmholtz resonator. (If one blows across the top of a suitable bottle, a similar resonance effect can be noticed.) The theory of the Helmholtz resonator has been worked out in detail and it can be shown that the resonant frequency is determined by the volume of the enclosure itself and by the dimensions of the opening or vent. The air in the enclosure acts in a way similar to that of a condenser in an electrical resonant circuit and the air in the vent resembles an inductance. In the same way that various combinations of inductance and capacitance can resonate at the same frequency, it is found that Helmholtz resonators or loudspeaker cabinets can be designed to operate at the


Aig. 1-A typical resonance curve for a $15 \Omega$ speaker with a $65 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ resonance.
same frequency and yet have different vent sizes and internal volumes. Once the vent size is chosen, however, there is only one particular volume which the interior of the cabinet can have if it is to resonate at the same frequency as that of the loudspeaker cone.

## Formula

According to Rayleigh, the resonant frequency of a Helmholtz resonator is

$$
f=\frac{v}{2 \pi} \quad \sqrt{ }\left\{\frac{\mathrm{~A}}{\mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{~L}+\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{ }[\pi \mathrm{~A}]\right)}\right\}
$$

where $v=$ the speed of sound in inches per second. $\pi=3.142$.
$A=$ Cross sectional area of vent in square inches.
$\mathrm{C}=$ Volume of air in the cabinet in cubic inches.
$\mathrm{L}=$ Length of vent in inches (including thickness of front panel).
This equation can be squared all through and transposed to enable us to obtain the cabinet volume.

$$
\mathrm{C}=\frac{\mathrm{V}^{2} \cdot \mathrm{~A}}{4 \pi^{2} f^{2}\left(\mathrm{~L}+\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{ }[\pi \cdot \mathrm{~A}]\right)}
$$

Substituting for the value for the velocity of sound ( 13,500 inches per sec.) and for $\pi$

$$
\mathrm{C}=\frac{4,614,000 \mathrm{~A}}{f^{2}(\mathrm{~L}+0.886 \sqrt{ } \mathrm{~A})}
$$

## The Vent

Before the calculation can be continued, the dimensions of the vent must be decided. Opinions differ somewhat as to the most satisfactory values for these. It is generally agreed that the vent should not extend too far into the cabinet, and that the length of the vent tunnel should not be greater than about one twelfth of the wavelength of the resonant frequency of the loudspeaker cone; neither should the length of the vent be so great that it extends more than half way between the front and back of the loudspeaker. It is not even necessary to make a vent tunnel at all, for if one merely cuts a hole in the front panel, one will have a vent of a length equal to the thickness of the front panel. If this course is adopted, however, the cabinet will have to be considerably larger than is necessary if it is to resonate at the desired frequency. Wood is expensive and space in a room is scarce, so a vent tunnel is usually employed. It can be seen from the equations that a long vent will enable a smaller cabinet to be used.

The size of the vent hole is also important; i.e. its cross sectional area, A. Some experts advise that the area of the vent should be equal to the area of the effective part of the loudspeaker cone at low frequencies, whilst others think that any reasonable area (say between one half and double the effective loudspeaker cone area) will give satisfactory results. The effective cone area is the area of the sides of the cone (not including the corrugated suspension at the edge) projected on to an imaginary circle at the front of the loudspeaker.
The area of the vent appears in both the numerator and denominator of the above equations, but the term in the numerator is most important; the use of a small vent area will therefore
(Continued on page 849)

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## (Continued from page 846)

enable
a smaller cabinet to be used than the use of a large vent, other things being equal. The vent can be of any shape, but will normally be of rectangular cross section to simplify construction of the tunnel. Circular vents are sometimes used.

## Design Example

Let us suppose that we wish to design a bass reflex cabinet for use with a loudspeaker of a nominal diameter of 10 in . which has a fundamental resonant frequency, measured as described, of $65 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$.

It is first necessary to insert values for the length and cross sectional area of the vent in the equation in order to try to design a cabinet of suitable dimensions.

Let us assume that the vent is to be 5in. long and that the cross sectional area of the vent opening is to be equal to the area of the effective part of the loudspeaker cone. The average 10 in . loudspeaker will have an effective cone diameter of about $8 \cdot 5 \mathrm{in}$. and an effective cone radius of half this value, i.e. $4 \cdot 25 i n$. The area of the vent will equal $\pi r^{2}$; where $\mathrm{r}=4.25$ and $\pi=3.142$; the area $=56.75 \mathrm{sq}$. in.

## Calculation

Putting these values into the last equation:-

$$
\begin{aligned}
& C=\frac{4,614,000 \times 56.75}{\left.(65)^{2}(5+0.886 \sqrt{2} 56.75]\right)} \\
& C=\frac{61,980}{(5+6.67)}=5311 \mathrm{cu} . \text { in. }
\end{aligned}
$$

This is the volume of air which should be enclosed in the cabinet and does not include the volume of air and wood in the vent. In order to obtain a value for the total volume of the inside of the cabinet, it is necessary to add to the above figure the following quantities: -
(1) The volume of the vent (i.e. the external volume of the vent as seen from inside the cabinet including the volume of air and the wood from which the vent is made).
(2) The volume of the loudspeaker. The presence of the loudspeaker reduces the volume of air in the cabinet. If the volume of the loudspeaker is quoted by the makers, this figure should be used. Otherwise the approximate volume of the loudspeaker can be obtained from the data given in Table $\|$.
(3) The estimated volume of any wooden struts which are to be used to strengthen the cabinet.

About 100 cu . in. may be allowed for a fairly small cabinet and more for a large one.
(4) As it is much easier to reduce the volume of the completed cabinet by fastening a block of wood in it than it is to raise the frequency by extending the vent inwards, it is wise to add an additional hundred cubic inches or so which can be kept in reserve. In the design being considered, the volume of air in the vent tunnel is $56.75 \times 4.25$ which is about 241 cu. in. if the wood is to be $\frac{3}{2} \mathrm{in}$. thick. About 80 cu in. may be allowed for the wood of the vent tunnel. From Table 1, the volume of the 10 in . loudspeaker will be approximately 400 cu in.

Adding these quantities to the 5311cu.in. obtained above, we find that the total internal volume of the cabinet should be approximately 6232cu.in.

## Possible Shapes

A number of different shapes of cabinet can be used to satisfy the condition that the total internal volume must be approximately 6232 cu in. The vertical height of the cabinet must be great enough to accommodate the loudspeaker and vent above one another. It is therefore wise to start by estimating the approximate minimum height. For this surpose let us assume that the vent area of 56.75 sq .in. is to be obtained by making a hole 6in. in vertical height and $9 \cdot 46 \mathrm{in}$. in length in the front of the cabinet. Allow minimum dimensions of:top of the cabinet to top of the loudspeaker lin. distance across loudspeaker, allowing space for fixing

11 in. distance from the bottom of the loudspeaker to the top of the vent ... ... ... ... ... 2 in. distance across vent ... ... ... ... ... 6in. distance between bottom of vent and bottom of cabinet

2 in.
Therefore, the total minimum height of the cabinet is
$22 i n$.

| Nominal <br> Diameter of <br> Loudspeaker <br> (Inches) | Approximate volume <br> of air displaced <br> by speaker <br> (Cubic Inches) |
| :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 150 |
| 8 | 250 |
| 10 | 400 |
| 12 | 630 |
| 15 | 1350 |
| 18 | 2400 |

Table I-The average volume of air displaced by typlcal loudspeakers of various sizes.
The vertical height must therefore be at least 22 in . Similarly the breadth should be at least 12 in . to accommodate the loudspeaker and vent easily. The depth of the cabinet must be at least 10 in . or the requirement that the vent tunnel length must
not exceed half the length of the cabinet will not be met.

Three lengths must now be chosen which are possible values for the length, width and height. These values must be compatible with the foregoing requirements and when all three lengths, expressed in inches, are multiplied together the result must be approximately 6232 cu in. Some examples of the possible dimensions are:-

$$
\begin{array}{rllll}
29 \frac{1}{2} & \times & 15 & \times & 14=6205 \mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{in} . \\
26 & \times & 16 & \times & 15=6240 \mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{in.} \\
24 & \mathrm{x} & 20 & \mathrm{x} & 13=6240 \mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{in} . \\
25 & \times & 18 & x & 14=6300 \mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{in} .
\end{array}
$$

$32.5 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ and all other factors were as stated in the previous example a typical size for the cabinet would be 40 in . x 30 in . $x 21 \mathrm{in}$. with a 5 in . tunnel fitted to the vent. At this stage, it would be well worth while performing the calculation again with a longer tunnel in order to reduce the size of the cabinet. One cannot choose a suitable value for the vent until the calculation has been completed and one knows the cabinet depth; it is therefore necessary to insert an estimate for the length of the vent in order to find the approximate cabinet dimensions. The calculation can then be repeated when the exact vent length has been chosen.

There are, of course, many other possibilities and the constructor must now make his own choice from the possible dimensions. As the tunnel will not extend half way through the cabinet, the calculation could be carried out again with a longer tunnel length to obtain the smallest possible cabinet size.


Fig. 3-Determining the fundamental resonant frequency of a loudspeaker.

## Without Tunnel

It is interesting to compare the above results with the dimensions which would have been necessary if no tunnel had been employed. The length of the vent would then have been equal to the thickness of the wood used for the front panel, say $\frac{3}{4}$ in. The equation would then be:-

$$
\mathrm{C}=\frac{61,980}{(0.75+6.67)}=8354 \mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{in}
$$

The volume of the vent is now zero. Adding the volume of the loudspeaker, the estimated volume of the supporting struts and the reserve volume to the 8354 cu in. obtained above, we find the total internal cabinet volume to be 8954 cu.in.

Thus, the omission of the internal vent tunnel requires the volume to be increased from some 6200 cu .in. to some 8954 cu .in. One of the sets of possible cabinet dimensions with a Sin. vent tunnel was $29 \frac{1}{2}$ in. $x 15 \mathrm{in}$. $x$ 14in.; without the tunnel this would have to be increased to $42 \frac{3}{3} \mathrm{in}$. $x 15 \mathrm{in}$. $x 14 \mathrm{in}$. or to some similar dimensions. Thus much more wood would be required and the cost of the cabinet might easily be increased by $50 \%$.

It must be emphasised that the dimensions quoted above are all internal dimensions. The external dimensions of the cabinet will be larger than the internal dimensions by the thickness of the wood used.

## Other Loudspeakers

The results obtained above apply to a loudspeaker with a resonant frequency of $65 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. If a loudspeaker with a fundamental resonant frequency of half this value were used, namely one resonating at $32 \cdot 5 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$, the volume of air enclosed in the cabinet should be four times as great. Thus the cabinet will be very much larger; it will also require much more support or the use of thicker wood if undesirable vibrations are not going to take place. Thus the cost of the cabinet is increased enormously, but a much better bass response should be obtained.

If the loudspeaker had a resonant frequency of

## Construction

Cabinets are normally made of wood, but brick and concrete can be used very successfully. Assuming wood is to be used, it should be quite thickat least half an inch for the smaller cabinets, but a thickness of an inch is desirable for the larger ones. Cabinets are made in which the walls consist of a double thickness of wood, the space between the inner and outer walls being filled with sand. Such cabinets are extremely heavy but comparatively cheap to build and certainly very effective.

It is desirable to fix adjoining pieces of wood together with glue and also with screws placed three or four inches apart. A hundred or so screws at least will be required. Countersunk screws should be employed, as they can then be fitted with their heads below the surface of the wood. Plastic wood can be used to cover the heads of the screws. The plastic wood used should be chosen to match the colour of the other wood as closely as possible and it should be applied layer by layer, allowing each layer to set before the next one is applied. The plastic wood should finally protrude slightly above the level of the cabinet before it is rubbed down with fine sandpaper. The back of the cabinet should be screwed in position using sufficient screws, but it should not be glued or it will not be easy to make any necessary adjustments.

## Strengthening

It is most important that the panels be strengthened with an adequate number of supporting strips of thick wood. Many poorly constructed cabinets are almost useless owing to wall vibration at large inputs. The amount of supporting struts required varies greatly with the size of the cabinet, thickness of the wood used, etc. and no definite guide can be given.
(To be continued)

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The Editor does not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed by his correspondents


#### Abstract

Whilst we are always pleased to assist readers with their technical difficulties, we regret that we are unable to supply diagrams or provide instructions for modifying commercial or surplus equipment. We cannot supply alternative details for receivers described in these pages. WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO ANSWER QUERIES OVER THE TELEPHONE. If a postal reply is required a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed with the coupon from page lii of cover.


## F. M. QUALITY

SIR,-I wonder if any of your readers feel, as I do, that the quality of the received VHF/F.M. transmissions of the BBC is somewhat lacking? It seems to me that the lower frequencies are thinned out in some way so that the roundness of tone is missing. I had the opportunity of checking a good Continental receiver the other day, which had the facilities of separate A.M. and F.M. tuners, with a piano-key type switch, so that, for instance, the Home Service could be set up on both M.W. A.M. and VHF/F.M. and the switch could select either almost instantancously. As might be expected, the direct comparison gave a much extended clean top on the VHF section, but when this good top was reduced (with a top-cutting tone control) to about the level of the A.M. response, the thinness of the lower frequencies was very marked. BBC TV A.M. sound does not seem to suffer in this way, so I have a feeling that the ratio detector system in common use is falling down on the job somewhere -what do other readers think?-B. D. VAN DER Syde (Parkstone).

## METAL CABINETS

$\mathrm{S}^{1}$R, - I am an ardent reader of your excellent magazine, as like many amateurs I have constructed various pieces of test equipment as described in your pages. However, I find in the trade sections a distinct lack of any metal cabinets-an essential for signal oscillators, etc-and month after month I scan through the adverts hoping to see a selection of these cabinets being offered in various shapes, sizes and finishes, but to no avail. Isn't it apparent to the suppliers, that a real need is set up by every amateur who strongly desires to build equipment equivalent or sometimes superior in performance to that of commercial offerings and yet still posessing a professional finish?-T. H. Hughes (Rhondda).

## SEMI-CONDUCTOR RATING

S1 R ,-Owing to the increasing use of semiconductor rectifiers in power supply units. I feel that the warning should again be sounded concerning PIV (peak inverse voltage) ratings. A very common mistake is to reckon that, under "surge" conditions, i.e. should the load be accidentally disconnected the PIV across the rectifier would only rise to 1.414 times the r.m.s. out-
put of the secondary (or, in the case of a full-wave rectifier, of the half-secondary) of the mains transformer. Actually, of course, reckoning the negative peak voltage the PIV rises to 2.828 times the output of the transformer so that in practice the minimum PIV rating to be chosen would be for safety three times the output of the secondary (or half secondary as the case may be) of the mains transformer. To give an example, using two rectifiers in a full wave circuit and a transformer secondary giving $350-0-350 \mathrm{~V}$, the PIV across each rectifier could rise to no less than $50 \times 2.828=989.8 \mathrm{~V}$ and in the half-wave condition using a small 250 V transformer the PIV could, if the load were momentarily disconnected, rise to the high figure of $250 \times 2.828=707 \mathrm{~V}$. I feel that this warning should be kept in mind to avoid expensive breakdowns and even, under certain circumstances, serious danger, - A. T. Farrer (Newcastle-upon-Tyne).

## IMPROVING BROADCAST RECEIVERS

(Continued from page 838)
in that it would lead to a reduction in the highest audio (modulation) frequency which can be received. This little exposition on I.F. passband may be a little confusing to some, so it is best summarised by saying that for most purposes any reduction in I.F. passband is very acceptable these days in view of the overcrowded state of the medium waveband whilst additional gain is always welcome.

## Increased R.F. Gain by Untuned R.F. Amplifier

A typical receiver input circuit is shown in Fig. 1. This is shown again in Fig. 2 with the addition of an R.F. stage between the original signal tuned circuit and the mixer, whilst in Fig. 3, the R.F. stage is placed before the original tuning coils, the former aerial coupling coil now being connected into the anode circuit of the R.F. amplifier. There is little to choose between the two methods. The first method is perhaps neater, but the second method may be easier to achieve-particularly from the layout point of view.

## R.C. Amplifier

In Fig. 4 is shown a receiver input circuit which does not employ an aerial coupling coil; for this type of circuit the additional amplifier must be added as in Figs. 2 or 5. Note that the method shown in Fig. 5 may equally well be used with a receiver which does have an aerial coupling coil. It is in fact just a R.C. amplifier with a low load resistor to give a good H.F. response, i.e. it is virtually a video amplifier.
(To be continued)

#  Club N ews  

## REPORTS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Future Event:
December 13th-OOpen Night.
MITCHAM AND DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: M. Pharaoh, G3LCH, I Madeira Road, Mitcham.
The society's transmitter, which took part in the Boy Scouts' International Jamboree-on-the-Air, was operated from the headquarters of the 3 rd Mitcham, Woodland Way, Mitcham.
"The manufacture and development of capacitors" was the title of the talk given by A. E. Lesse, on October 20th, and on Friday, November 3rd, R. C. Hills talked on "Aerials".
PETERBOROUGH AND DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: D. Byrne, G3KPO, Jersey House, Eye, Peterborough.

At the first meeting of the winter session, Mr. R. Houltby spoke on direction finding, and the construction of special top-band portable receivers for competing in D.F. contests.

The annual general meeting was held on November 3rd, and the Christmas party on December Ist.

Future Event:
January 5th-A talk on aerials.

## ROTHERHAM RADIO CLUB

Hon. Sec.: S. J. Scarbrough, 25 Crawshaw Avenue, Sheffield 8
The winter programme began on October 4th, with an interesting and informative talk given by R. Moore, on transistors and transistorised equipment.
SLADE RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: C. N. Smart, 110 Woolmore Road, Erdington, Birmingham 23.

Recently, members have enjoyed two demonstrations of highfidelity stereophonic sound, one in October and the other in November. Mr. K. Gunary gave a talk on October 20th, called "Rectifier locomotives for industrial frequency A.C. railway traction".

The annual general meeting was held on November 17th, and on December ist members heard a lecture on D.F: developments.

## SPEN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: N. Pride, 100 Raikes Lane, Birstall, Nr. Leeds.
"Amateur radio receiver alignment" was discussed by H. A. Mathias at the meeting on October Ilth. On November 8th members met the zonal representative of the R.S.G.B. "Inter= ference problems" was the subject of J. C. Belcher's lecture on November 22nd.

Future Events:
December 20th-Brains Trust.
January 3 rd-Rag Chew.

## TRANSMITTING TOPICS

## (Continued from page 807)

meter as small readings and sometimes the needle kicks up and down. The effects of neutralising a P.A. stage can also be seen simply by slipping the loop over the P.A. valve (with the H.T. off, of course), and tuning the P.A. The oscillations will show up on the meter and the neutralising can be carried out in the usual way-adding a capacity from anode to grid (to overcome the "Miller" effect). Although neutralising is usually carried out by watching the grid drive meter, a finer degree of control can be obtained by using the simple unit in Fig. 4.

If the loop coil is applied to a circuit which is in an oscillatory state, the meter will read, providing it is not coupled so as to stop the actual oscillation. The final design (see Fig. 5) was built up in a Bakelite case, but could be well built up in a "tin". Fig. 5 gives the final circuit which is simple to construct, requires no calibration and no tuning. The circuit is simple and untuned (RFCI and D1); CI removes any R.F. content in the rectified R.F. and the output is fed to VR1, a carbon
potentiometer which controls the output to both meter and to the phones (this was found a great asset and can be adjusted to a particular reading on the scale, for adjustment changes to be seen easily).

To use for R.F. indications it is only necessary to place the pick-up wire near the feeder systemeven inches away-until a favourable reading is obtained on the meter scale, adjusting VR1 if necessary. Any change in the actual R.F. output is clearly seen by a change in the reading. To use the unit as a monitor for 'phone working, set it up as above and adjust VRI with the switch set to the audio position and the gain adjusted for comfortable listening. For use as a field strength comparator, sometimes the pick-wire has to be replaced by a longer wire or even by a short aerial.

For the meter, a 1 mA movement is preferred but other meters of lower or higher sensitivities may be used. Obviously, the lower the f.s.d. of the meter, the further away from the R.F. source can it be used. R.F. meters with the thermocouple removed would be suitable, but the sensitivity would be less as these generally have an f.s.d. of about 2 mA .

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# Understanding POWER Supplies <br> THE FULL-WAVE <br> RECTIFIER CIRCUIT 

By A. Foord

should not touch, or the screen will consist of a shorted turn, and the transformer will overheat.

## The Full Wave Bridge Circuit

The full wave bridge circuit is shown in Fig. 12. Although valves can be used in this circuit, metal rectifiers are normally employed, thus overcoming the difficulty of separate heater supplies. Figs. 13a and $b$ show that whatever the polarity of the supply the voltage across the load is always the same. In the absence of any reservoir capacitor the average output voltage is 0.636 of the peak input voltage. This circuit is commonly used for instruments as well as for H.T. supplies, as it gives full wave rectification without the use of a centre-tapped transformer, and therefore saves turns and space on the transformer.

## The Voltage Doubler Circuit

The action is again evident by considering the paths of alternate half waves. It can be seen that both capacitors are being charged in the same direction to the full peak voltage of the supply. (This is shown in Fig. 14.) It will also be seen that the capacitors are connected in series with the load.


Fig. 10-This represents the output voltoge from a full-wave supply, without a reservoir copocitor or smoothing components.

To indicate the advantage of the voltage doubler circuit, an A.C. input of 125 V would probably give a D.C. output of 300 V on load. With a bridge circuit, the input voltage would have to be about 300 V root mean square (r.m.s) while for the same output ( 300 V ), a full wave C.T. circuit would have to provide about 600 V r.m.s. overall. (Of course, the power taken from the supply would be the same, it is only the current that alters.)

When using the voltage doubler, the transformer windings must be thicker to carry the extra current,
but this would be more than compensated by the reduced number of turns.

## Metal Rectifiers

Metal rectifiers can be used instead of valves in all the circuits shown here. Indeed, their use is almost essential in some of the circuits. They have several advantages, of which the most important is that they have no heater supply. They can therefore be connected anywhere in a circuit without heater insulation difficultics. In addition they have an infinite life unless overloaded. They can be manufactured in very small sizes and have a high efficiency (about $80 \%$ ). Metal rectifiers

thave an oxide coating, and it is this oxide that has a high resistance one way and a low one the other. In this way they rectify; but their action is not perfect, since they have a small reverse current. The rectifier has a maximum reverse voltage which it will withstand, but if this is exceeded the oxide film breaks down; but a number of elements can be connected in series to withstand any high voltage.

There are three types of metal rectifiers used in power supplies, copper, selenium and silicon.

## The Copper Oxide Rectifier

This type has a disc of copper as the element. One side only has an oxide coating and contact is made with this oxide by means of a lead disc. Electrons flow best from the copper into the oxide.

## The Selenium Rectifier

The metal used in this type, instead of copper, is an aluminium or nickel-plated steel disc, which is plated on one side with a thin layer of selenium. In this case the current flows easily from the aluminium or steel into the selenium.

## The Silicon Rectifier

This is a development of the study of semiconductors, and uses silicon in its construction. Because of the nature of its construction it has a very low forward resistance. It is therefore able to rectify a large current without dissipating much heat, or dropping much voltage. This forms an extremely efficient and compact rectifier, and uplike the other types of rectifier no cooling fins are required.

## Conclusions

It is possible, when working out power supply voltages, to make accurate calculations for the effects of reservoir and smoothing components on output voltage and hum; but it is usually better for the home constructor to work more by trial and error. By increasing the reservoir capacitor, the H.T. is raised, while by increasing the inductance or the smoothing capacitor, the hum is reduced. If the reservoir capacitor is increased in value, make sure that it is not more than the


Fig. 13 (above)-These diagrams. represent the actions of the bridge circuit of Fig. 12. Whatever the supply polarity, the load current is always in the same direction.
maximum permitted by the valve or rectifier manufacturer and that an adequate series resistance is in circuit with the rectifier. (This is to prevent large surges which could damage the valve or rectifier.)

In general, for a given r.m.s. input of $x \mathrm{~V}$, the bridge fullwave and halfwave circuits, give about $x \mathrm{~V}$ D.C. output; while the voltage doubler gives about $2 x \mathrm{~V}$ D.C. output. This is only approximate, but gives an approximation of the output which may be expected from power supply.


Fig. 14 (a)—The complete voltage doubler sircuit. (b)-When the supply voltage is as shown in the diagram, C2 is charged.
(c) -When the supply is reversed, Cl is charged as shown.
(d)-This shows that the charges on C1 and C2 are in series and discharge through the load resistor $R$.


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Gale Pedrick, the B.B.C.'s first Script Editor, has put all his vast knowledge and experience at the service of the would be television and radio script writer in this encouraging book. Much of the "know-how" he gives had to be learned the hard way but those who follow his advice and guidance on the techniques involved will soon acquire a solid background to this fascinating and important subject. The market for good script-writers is growing daily, particularly with the expansion of television-Gale Pedrick, a real professional, shows you how to meet this demand and make a profit.

## CONTENTS

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