

AND PRE-AMP

The first two units of a complete hi-fi, switch-tuned radiogram

Ton Rand Transmitter

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Transistor Portable

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963

ADCOLA

SOLDERING INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

DESIGNED FOR THE AMATEUR'S RADIO STATION

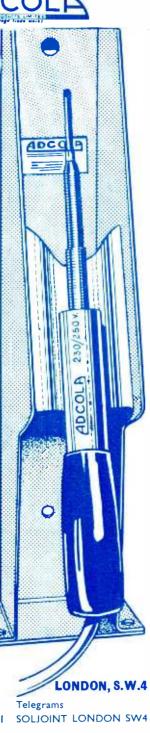
ILLUSTRATED

List No. 70. 1/8 BIT IN PROTECTIVE SHIELD List No. 68

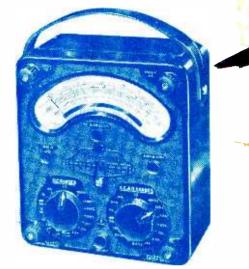
APPLY DIRECT FOR CATALOGUE TO Sales and Service Dept.

ADCOLA PRODUCTS LTD ADCOLA HOUSE GAUDEN ROAD,

Telephones MACaulay 4272 & 3101



Model 8 Universal



Designed for Dependability

The Model 8 Universal Avo Meter is a high sensitivity multi-range a.c./d.c. electrical testing instrument providing thirty ranges of readings on a 5-inch hand calibrated scale. Range selection is effected by two rotary switches for a.c. and d.c. respectively.

The instrument has a sensitivity of 20,000 ohms per volt on d.c. voltage ranges and 1,000 ohms per volt on a.c. from the 100-volt range upwards, and meets the accuracy requirements of B.S.S.89/1954 for 5-inch scale length portable industrial instruments. It is robust, compact, and simple to operate, and is protected by an automatic cut-out against damage through inadvertent electrical overload.

| VOLTAGE | | CURF | IENT | RESISTANCE | | |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| D.C. | A.C. | D.C. | A.C. | First indication 0.5 | | |
| | | | | Maximum indication 20MΩ | | |
| 2.5∨ | 2.5∨ | 50µA | 100mA | 0—2,000Ω [using | | |
| 107 | 107 | 250µA | IA | $0-200,000\Omega < internal$ | | |
| 25∨ | 25∨ | ImA | 2.5A | 020mΩ (batteries | | |
| 100V | 1007 | 10mA | 10A | Gusing | | |
| 250V | 250V | 100mA | _ | $0-200M\Omega$ \langle external | | |
| 500∨ | | 1A | — | batteries | | |
| 1.000V | 1,000∨ | 10A | _ | | | |
| 2.500 | 2.500 | | | DECIBELS | | |
| -, | | | | 15 dB to + 15 dB | | |

Various external accessories are available for extending the above ranges of measurement. Leather carrying cases are also available if required. Dimensions: $8\frac{1}{4}$ " x $7\frac{1}{4}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ ". Weight: $6\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Write for fully descriptive Folder or for complete Catalogue of AVO Instruments.

AVOCET HOUSE, 92-96 VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1

ii

| + V. | ALVI | es ★ |
|---|---|--|
| <i>b</i>) | return of po | ost 🔨 |
| | IST IN THE C | COMPETITIVE OUNTRY |
| 10% DISCOUNT SPECIAL OFFER TO | LUEN FOM | FREE TRANSIT IN- SURANCE. All valves are new or of fully |
| PURCHASERS of any SIX VALVES marked in | PRICES GUARAN- | guaranteed ex-Govern- ment or ex-equipment origin. Satisfaction or |
| black type (15% in dozen). Post: 1 valve, od., 2-11, 1/ | TEED 3 MONTHS | Money back Guarantee on Goods if returned un- |
| 0Z4 5/- 6J5GT 4/- 1A5GT 5/- 6J6 4/- | 12K8GT 9/6 DET19 2/8 12Q7GT 5/- DF33 9/9 129447 7/- DF91 8/6 | EM80 7/9 SP41 2/6 |
| 1C5GT 9/- 6J7G 4/9 1D5 8/- 6J7GT 7/6 | 12807 5/- DF96 7/3 12817 3/6 DF97 8/6 | BEM85 10/- BU2150 4/6 |
| 1H3GT 9/9 6K6GT 6/6 | 128J7 5/6 DH63 6/- 128K7 4/9 DH76 5/- 128N7GT7/9 DK32 11/- | - EN31 16/- T41 7/6 - EY51 7/9 TDD4 7/6 - EY86 7/6 U14 8/- |
| 1LD5 3/6 6K7G 2/3 1LN5 4/9 6K7GT 4/6 | 13D3 9/- DK91 5/6 1487 14/9 DK92 7/- 19AQ5 7/6 DK96 7/3 | EZ35 6/6 U18 8/- EZ86 6/6 U22 6/9 EZ40 6/6 U24 16/- |
| 1R5 5/6 6K25 7/6 184 8/- 6L1 12/6 | 19BG6 19/- DL33 8/- 20D1 9/6 DL35 9/- 20F2 9/6 DL63 6/- | - EZ41 7/- U25 11/6 EZ80 6/- U26 9/9 |
| 1T4 3/6 6L18 9/- 2A3 6/6 6L19 11/- 2A7 9/6 6LD3 8/- | 20L1 16/- DL75 6/- 20P1 8/9 DL82 9/- 20P3 12/6 DL91 8/- | FW4/500 8/- U33 14/- FW4/800 8/- U35 12/6 OTIC 7/- U37 26/- |
| 3A4 4/9 6LD12 6/9 3A5 9/- 6LD20 7/9 | 20P4 18/- DL92 6/- 20P5 15/- DL94 6/9 25A6G 8/- DL96 7/3 | GZ32 8/9 U50 5/9 GZ34 12/6 U52 4/9 |
| 3Q4 7/- 6P1 7/6 305GT 8/- 6P25 8/6 | 25L6G 6/9 EABC80 6/9 25L6GT 7/9 EAC91 8/6 25Y5G 8/- EAF42 8/- | 8/3 U78 5/- 3 HN309 19/- U191 12/6 |
| 3V4 6/9 6Q7G 6/- 5R4GY 12/6 6Q7GT 8/6 | 25Z4G 7/- EB41 7/- 25Z5 8/- EB91 3/- 25Z6G 8/- EBC33 4/8 | - 1W4/350 7/6 U282 15/- 1W4/500 7/6 U301 15/- |
| 5U4G 4/9 6SA7 5/6 5V4G 7/9 6SG7 4/9 | 30C1 7/- EBC41 8/- 30C15 11/8 EBC81 7/9 | KT32 6/9 U329 6/9 KT33C 4/6 U339 11/- |
| 5Y3GT 5/9 65K7 5/- 5Y4G 11/- 68L7GT 5/9 | 30F5 6/- EBF80 7/9 30FL1 9/6 EBF83 9/6 30L1 6/9 EBF83 8/6 30L15 9/6 EBL21 12/6 | KT44 7/6 UABC80 8/- KT45 8/6 UAF42 7/9 |
| 5Z4G 7/6 68Q7 5/9 5Z4GT 11/- 68S7 3/6 | 30P4 9/6 EBL31 17/6 30P12 7/6 EC91 4/4 30P16 6/6 ECC31 7/6 | KT63 5/9 UBC41 7/9 KT76 8/6 UBC81 9/6 |
| 6A6 4/9 6V6G 5/- 6A7 10/- 6V6GT 6/- | 30P19 17/6 ECC32 4/- 30P1.1 9/6 ECC33 4/6 30P1.13 13/- ECC34 9/- | KTW62 5/9 UBF89 7/6 KTW63 5/9 UBL21 14/6 |
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| 6AG5 3/-6Y6G 7/6 6AG7 7/6 7A7 8/6 | 35Z4GT 5/6 ECC82 6/- 35Z5GT 8/- ECC83 6/6 | N37 11/- UCH42 7/3 N78 13/- UCH81 8/- |
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| 6AT6 5/9 7H7 7/3 6AU6 7/6 7K7 9/6 | 50L6GT 8/6 ECF80 8/6 52KU 10/6 ECF82 8/6 | PABC80 UF80 7/- 11/6 UF85 7/6 |
| 6B8G 3/- 7R7 10/6 6BA6 5/9 787 9/- | 618PT 11/- ECH35 7/6 62BT 13/6 ECH42 8/6 | PCC85 8/9 UF89 7/- PCC88 14/- UL41 7/- |
| 6BG6G 15/- 7Y4 6/9 6BH6 6/- 7Z4 7/- | 78 6/6 ECH83 8/3 80 5/9 ECL80 7/- | PCC189 13/6 UL46 9/9 PCF80 7/- UL84 7/- |
| 6BR7 9/6 10C1 11/6 6BW6 7/6 10C2 14/6 | 185BT 19/6 ECL83 11/7 803 19/- ECL86 10/6 | PCF84 16/- URIC 8/- PCF86 12/6 UU6 12/6 |
| 6BX6 4/9 10F1 5/9 6C4 3/6 10F9 10/6 | 808 7/6 EF36 3/3 813 55/- EF39 4/6 | PCL83 10/6 UU8 17/- PCL84 7/6 UY1N 11/- |
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| TECHNIC | al trai | DING CO. |
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769

RETAIL SHOP 350-352 FRATTON ROAD, PORTSMOUTH PARK CRESCENT & LACE, BRIGHTON 7, SUSSEX

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

770

January, 1963







stylishly finished monaural ampli-A stylishiy tinished monaural ampli-fler with an output of 14 watts from 2 EL84s in push-pull. Super repro-duction of both music and speech, with negligible hum. Separate in-puts for mike and gram allow records puts for mike and gram allow records and announcements to follow each other. Fully shrouded ultra output transformer (to match 3-15 speaker) and 2 independent volume controls, and separate bass and treble controls are provided giving good lift and cut. Valve line-up 2 EL84s, ECC83, EF86 and FZ80 recriftor and EZ80 rectifier. Simple instruction booklet 1/6. (Free

with parts.) All parts sold separately.

ONLY £6.19.6 P. & P. 6/6.

LOUDSPEAKERS

| All 3 ohm impedance. | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| 21/2 in. | 12/6 |
| 5in. | 12/6 |
| 61/2in. | 15/- |
| 12in. | 27/6 |
| Goodmans 5in. tweeter | 10/6 |
| E.M.I. 24in. tweeter | 10/6 |
| Goodmans 8in. x 5in. middle regis- | 10.0 |
| ter speaker | 10/6 |
| E.M.I. 13 in. x 8 in. high flux | 32/6 |
| Rola Celestion, approx. 9in. x 6in., | 31'0 |
| middle register speaker | 10/6 |
| middle register speaker | 10/6 |
| D P D I/C Cline | |

P. & P. 1/6 per Speaker.

TAPE DECKS

B.S.R. Monardeck (Single speed) 3‡in. per sec., simple control, uses 5‡in. spools, £6.15.0, plus 5/6 carr. and ins. (Tapes extra.) COLLARO STUDIO DECK £10.10.0, plus 5/6 carr. and ins. (Tapes extra).

SPECIAL OFFER!

6 Watt Push-Pull Amplifier

2 ECL82 metal rec., separate bass and treble cont. on aux. panel. Made for one of the largest manufacturers of record players. Used in 30 gn. unit. Size 7 x 4in. panel, 6 x $l \pm in$. 3 ohm output, trans. included.

Our Price £4.9.6 Post 4/-



6 TRANSISTOR AND DIODE SUPERHET A first class 2 waveband

A first class 2 waveband transistor superhet in kit form. Printed circuit panel (size 8½ x 22;in.) 3 pre-aligned. I.F. transformers. High-gain Ferrite rod aerial. Ferrite rod aerial. First-grade G.E.C. tran-sistors. Car aerial winding. Push-pull out-put. All parts down to the minutest item with

2±in. 35 ohm speaker, 10/6; 3±in. 35 ohms speaker 16/6; 35 ohm 5in. P.M. 18/6; 7 x 4in. 35 ohms speaker 21/-. P. & P. 1/6

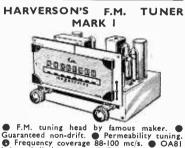


PORTABLE CABINET

Size approx. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{2}{3} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ in. Suitable for above using $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. speaker. 25/-. P. & P. 2/-.

TRANSFORMER TRANSISTOR SUPERHET

3 I.F. transformers, one oscillator coil, one driver transformer and wound Ferrite aerial (med., long and aerial coupling), 28'6 com-plete, post 1/-, 6 transistor printed circuit, board to match, 8'6, post 9d. Circuit diagram



Frequency coverage 88-100 mc/s. OA81
 balanced diode output. Two I,F. stages and discriminator. Attractive marcon and gold dial (7 x 3in. glass). Self powered. using a good quality mains transformer and valve rectifier. Valves used ECC85, two EF80s, and EZ80 (rectifier). Fully drilled chassis.
 Size of completed tuner 8 x 6 x 54in.
 All parts sold separately. £5.19.6, plus 816 /P. And ins. Circuit diagram and illustrations 1/6 P. free.

Mark II Version as above but complete with magic eye, front panel and brackets. £6.12.6. P. & P. 8/6.

Mark III Version as Mark I but with output stage (ECL82) and tone control. £7.7.0. P. & P. 8/6. Handsome Metal Cabinets. Choice of Grey, Black or Green. To fit Mark I 25'-, P. & P. 2'6. To fit Mark II 17'6, P. & P. 2'6.



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DENTIEV ACQUISTIC CODDODATION ITD

January, 1963

| DENILE THE VALVE SPECI | AUUU | ALCOT ROAL | D, LONDON, | N.W.I Tele | phone: PRIMROSE 9090 |
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| EXPRESS POSTAL SE PHONE FOR THAT | ERVICE! ALL ORDER URGENT ORDER T | S DESPATCHED | SAME DAY AS RE TED IMMEDIATEL | ECEIVED, FOR ON | ILY 2/6 EXTRA TELE- IAL C.O.D. SERVICE |
| * INDICATES V/ OA2 17/6 6BQ7A 15/- OB2 17/6 6BQ7A 15/- CO 16/- 08/7 10/6 CO 16/- 08/- CO 17/- 06/- CO 16/- 08/- CO 16/- 08/- CO 17/- CO 16/- 08/- CO 16/- CO 17/- CO 16/- CO | 6U3GT 12/6 20 U3GT 12/6 6U3G 7.0 23 YS 10/6 6X4 4.6 22 ZS 10/6 6X5 5/- 27 HU 25/11 7B6 200(2) 200(2) 7B6 200(2) 200(2) 7D7 8/- 200(2) 7D7 8/- 200(1) 7D7 13/- 200(1) 9D7 13/- 200(1) 9D7 13/- 200(1) 9D7 13/- 200(1) 9D7 13/- 200(1) 10012 11/3/7 201(1) 10013 11/3/7 201(1) 10014 11/3/7 201/4 10013 11/5/7 201/4 10014 11/5/7 201/4 | AC/PEN(7) EABC3 AC/SG 15/S EAP1 AC/SG 15/S EAP1 AC/SG 22/S EAP1 AC/SG 15/S EAP1 AC/SG 15/S EAP1 AC/FT 32/A EB91 AC/TF 32/A EB03 AC/VP122/3 EBC31 AC/VP122/3 EBC31 AP1 5/- EHC30 AZ1 12/- EBF80 AZ1 12/- EBF80 AZ41* 13/- EBF80 AZ41* 13/- EBF80 AZ41* 13/- EBC3 CH 13/3 EC4 CH 13/3 EC4 CH 13/3 EC4 CH 3/4 EC4 CV3 10/6 EC91 CV3 10/6 EC92 CV1 14/2 ECC3 CV3 10/6 EC93 CV4 2/4 EC4 AC4 10/3 EC4 | 0 9/- EK32 8/6 KT 4/- EL22 10/6 KT 4/- EL32 15/6 KT 3/6 EL33 15/6 KT 3/6 EL33 15/6 KT 3/6 EL33 15/6 KT 3/7 EL34 16/6 KT 3/7 EL34 10/- EL3 5/- EL38 13/6 KT 8/- EL38 13/5 KT 1/4 EL38 13/7 KT 1/4 EK38 13/7 KT 1/4 KT | 12/6 PY88 3/. 12/6 PY800 13/. 108 7/. PY800 13/. 108 17/. PY800 13/. 108 15/. PY800 13/. 108 15/. PY800 13/. 108 15/. PY800 13/. 108 16/. 12/. 13/. 109 16/. 16/. 16/. 16/. 100 12/. 8/. Rio 15/. 110.0 12/.6 Ris 14/. 16/.6 16/.6 111.0 12/.6 Ris 14/.7 16/.6 16/.4 111.0 12/.6 Ris 13/.6 17/.7 17/.6 111.0 13/.7 H13/.6 13/.6 17/.7 13/.6 111.0 13/.7 H13/.6 13/.6 17/.7 13/.7 111.0 13/.7 Th2/.8 3/.7 13/.7 13/.7 111.0 <td< td=""><td>UD RELIABILITY UJ9 45/6 Transistors U21 15/- and diols U22 8/- GDS 5/6 U24 8/- GDS 5/6 U24 8/- GDS 5/6 U24 8/- GDS 5/6 U20- 17/6 GDI 6/6 U31- 11/6 GDB 4/- U33- 89/1 GDD 4/- U37- 83/4 GD12 4/- U37- 83/4 GD12 4/- U37- 83/4 GD12 4/- U37- 84/6 GETT14 8/6 U50 4/6 GETT47 8/6 U78 4/6 GETA15 8/6 U78 4/6 GETA15 8/6 U201 10/2 GEXA51.16/6 10/2 U201 10/2 GEXA51.16/6 10/2 U201- 10/2 GEXA51.16/6 10/2</td></td<> | UD RELIABILITY UJ9 45/6 Transistors U21 15/- and diols U22 8/- GDS 5/6 U24 8/- GDS 5/6 U24 8/- GDS 5/6 U24 8/- GDS 5/6 U20- 17/6 GDI 6/6 U31- 11/6 GDB 4/- U33- 89/1 GDD 4/- U37- 83/4 GD12 4/- U37- 83/4 GD12 4/- U37- 83/4 GD12 4/- U37- 84/6 GETT14 8/6 U50 4/6 GETT47 8/6 U78 4/6 GETA15 8/6 U78 4/6 GETA15 8/6 U201 10/2 GEXA51.16/6 10/2 U201 10/2 GEXA51.16/6 10/2 U201- 10/2 GEXA51.16/6 10/2 |

METAL RECTIFIERS, DRM1B 13/-, DRM2B and DRM3B 15/6, LW7 21/-, LW15 26/-, RMO 7/11, RM1 5/3, RM2 7/6, RM3 7/9, RM4 14/-, RM5 19/6, 14A86 17/6, 14A97 26/-, 14A100 27/-, 14A124 28/-, 14A183 38/-, 15B130 35/-, 14B281 11/6, FC101 17/6, 16RC.1.1.16.16/6, FC31 £1/-, 16RD.2.2.6.1 12/-, 16RE.2.1.8.1 5/6, 15RA.1.1.8.1 4/6, 15RA.1.2.M.11/-, FC110 6/6, FC121 15/-, ELECTROLYTICS, Can types: 28 x 32/450v, 5/9, 50 x 50/350v, 7/-, 64 x 120/350v, 8/3, 00 x 250/275v, 9/6, 100 x 400/275v, 12/6, 100/275v, 3/2, 2010 x 200/275v, 9/6, Thubiar types: 82 x 32/450v, 5/9, 50 x 30/350v, 7/-, 64 x 120/350v, 8/3, 00 x 250/275v, 9/6, 100 x 400/275v, 12/6, 100/275v, 3/2, 2010 x 200/275v, 9/6, Thubiar types: 83 x 32/450v, 3/9, 82/450v, 3/9, 8 x 8/450v, 3/-, 16 x 11/450v, 4/-, 52 x 32/350v, 4/-, 50 x 10/275v, 3/2, P.M. SPEAKERS, 3 nhm types: 3/11, 17/-, 51n, 15/6, 6/[in, 17/-, 7 x 4in, 15/-, 100 kryc, thon a which without a types: 8/11, 17/-, 51n, 15/6, 6/[in, 17/-, 7 x 4in, 15/-, 100 kryc, thon a which without a types: 17/0, 17/0, 17/0, 100/18, 100/000, 100 kryc, 17/0, 8/-, 52 x 32/30v, 4/-, 50 x 32/30v, 4/-, 50 x 32/30v, 4/-, 50 x 32/30v, 4/-

Terms of business:--Cash with order or C.O.D. only. Post 8d. per liem except where stated. Orders over £3 post free, C.O.D. 2/6 extra. All orders cleared same day. Any parcel insured against damage in transit for 6d, extra. We are open for personal shonpers 5.30-5.30 p.m. Rats. 8--1 p.m. Complete fist of modern and obsolete values, resistors, condensers, transformers ric, with terms of business 6d. Please enquire for and time not listed with 8.A.E.



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PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963





TABLE MODEL TRANSISTOR SET £9.10.0 (carr. paid)

6 transistors and diode, 5in. circular speaker, superhet circuit. Cabinet 13 x 7⁴ x 4¹/₂in., battery included. Fully tunable LW and MW. Polished walnut front.

MAINS OPERATED RADIO CHASSIS AND AMPLIFIER OF FAMOUS MANUFACTURE

Chassis 10 x 53 x 4in. front to back. Valves: UBC41, UCH41, UF89, UL84 with metal rectifier. Sin. speaker. Ferrite rod aerial. Tone, vol. and gram, position. Covers L. and M waves. Limited quantity at only 26 (5/- carr.) complete with small dial. Unused and in working order.



TELEFUNKEN

German made F.M. front end. 22/6 (post 2/6), with ECC85 valve. Per-meability tuned, 88-99 Mc/s. 4 x 1² x 2in. high plus valve 2in. Circuit 2/-

MULLARD

Permeability tuned F.M. front end 22/6 (post 2/6), with ECC85. 4 x 3 x 31 in. 88.95 Mc/s.

TRANSISTOR BABY ALARMS

Two attractive moulded units with connecting lead, Just plug the units together. FULLY BUILT, not a kit. Battery included, last months. Is excellent intercom. ONLY 25, carr. paid.

BRAYHEAD "TRANSTRONIC" TRANSISTOR CONSTRUCTION KIT

Two Mullard transistors and diode. Seven circuits can be built inc. trans-mitter and receiver. 13-page instruction hook. Incluides all necessary componentia. Just the gift for a beginner. Originally over 25. Our price 42/6 (post 2/6).

MINIATURE EARPHONES FOR TRANSISTOR RADIOS

3 foot cord. Miniature Jack and Socket. Crystal 8/-, magnetic 7/6.



4 TRANSISTOR MINIATURE PUSH-PULL AUDIO AMPLIFIER

For 3 ohm speaker, 200mW output suitable for intercoms. Portable radios, etc., with free instruction sheet and diagram. For mike or radio input 4 x 14 x 1. Printed circuit 47(6, post paid.

TRANSISTORS POST FREE

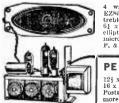
Set of 6 Mullard transistors OC44, 2-OC45, OC81D, 2-OC81 (matched) and OA70 diode 30/-; set of G.E.C. transistors 874, 2-873, 3-82 or 83, 17/6

TEST LEAD KIT Leads, prods, terminals clips in case, 10/-, post paid.

PANEL OF 7 POTS. 10 x 1 jin.-4 x 1M and 3 x 2M. 4/- (post 1/-).



THREE-VALVE AMPLIFIER AND RECTIFIER



watts. Valves ECC83, EL84 and 4 watts. Valves ErCe33, EL84 and EZ80, Controls, volume, bass and treble. On/oft switch. (Chassis size $6^{\frac{1}{2}} \times 3 \times 2^{\frac{1}{2}} \ln 3$ 6 m cm of 7×4 m, ciliptical speaker. Not suitable for microphone input. A.C. only. 67/-, P. & P. 3/-, Volume, bass Tob. (Chassis

PERSPEX

121 x 98 x 11n. clear, 5/-. 16 x 14 x $^3/_{16}$ in. clear, 7/6. Postage on one sheet 2/-, on two or more 3/-.

TRANSISTOR COMPONENTS

M.W. and L.W. ferrite rod aerial, with car coupling coil. For 208pF condenser, 8/r; Osc. coil: 1st, 2nd and 3rd I.F's, all 5/6 ea.; Driver trans, 7/6, ruin, 0.4nr, 107; 100 F 16y; 30 mF f 4 176pl 8/8; post 9d. on all orders.

NEW 5 WATT AMPLIFIER

By famous manufacturers made to sell at 26.10. Our price ONLY 45/-(post 4/-): a few hundred only; valves EF91 and ELS4 with metal rectifier; $6 \times 4 \times 1$ [10, high (51., over ELS4). Mains trans, and o.p. with vol, and tone controls; on-off; co-ax input.

100 RESISTORS

100 resistors 6/** 100 condensers inc. ceramic and silver mica, 9/6.

A FEW EX-RENTAL 4-WATT AMPLIFIERS

With 10P14, U404, and 10F3 valves; used but in fair condition. Sin-speaker; useful for record player, baby alarm, general amplifier, etc., $15 \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$ ns. Mains operated, 18/6 (6/- carr.). Some wood and som moulded cabinets.

SPECIAL OFFER OF RECORDER CABINET

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Employing two EF86 valves, and designed to operate with the MULLARD MAIN AMPLIFIERS, but also per-fectly suitable for other makes.

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KIT OF £11.10.0 OR ASSEMBLED £13.10.0

Dep. £2.6.0, 12 months at 17/0. Dep. £2.14.0, 12 months at 19/10 ABOVE incorporating PARTRIDGE OUTPUT TRANS. £1.6.0 extra.



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RECORD PLAYERS

THE





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FOR THIS WE SUPPLY Deposit 27.0.0 and 12 months of 22.11.4. * Complete Kit of Parts to Build * The Latest Collaro "Studio" * Portable Carrying Case (as the HF/TR3 Tape Amplifier. Tape Deck. * Illustrated). * Rola/Celestion 10 x 6in. p.m. * ACOS Crystal Microphone and ★ ACOS Crystal Microphone and 1.200 ft. Spool E.M.I. Tape. Loudspeaker ALTERNATIVELY WE SUPPLY THE COMPLETELY ASSEMBLED £39.10.0 and GUARANTEED TAPE RECORDER FOR H.P. Terms: Deposit £7.18.0 and 12 months of £2.17.11 ADD "HI-FI" TAPE RECORDING TO YOUR **HF/TR3MKII TAPE AMPLIFIER** EXISTING AUDIO INSTALLATION WITH MULLARD TYPE "C" TAPE PRE-AMPLIPIER-ERASE UNIT (Mullard Type "A" design) ERASE UNIT The "Hi-Fi" link to add full tape recording facilities to High Fidelity home installations. In-corporates FEROXCUBE POT CORE PUSH-PULL OSCILLATOR and 3-speed treble equalisation by FEROXCUBE POT CORE INDUCTOR FOR WEARITE-COLLARO-TRUVOX OR BRENELL TAPE DECKS. Includes sep-arate power Supply Unit. KIT OF PARTS OR ASSEMBLED OT AD Dervsit 22 16 0 OR ASSEMBLED ASSEMBLED and TESTED £17.0.0 Deposit £3.8.0. 12 months at £1.4.11 Deposit £3.8.0. 12 months at £1.4.11. £17.0.0

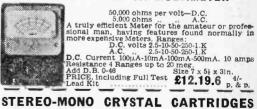
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 12 months at £1.4
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THE 'ADD-A-DECK'

- (h)
- (c)(d)
- The COLLARO "Studio" Deck with the Model £29.10.0 "C" Preamplifier and POWER SUPPLY UNIT ASSEMBLED AND TESTED Deposit £5.18.0. 12 monthly payments of £2.3.3 As above but the TYPE "C" Unit and POWER UNIT supplied as COMPLETE KIT OF PARTS Deposit £5.6.0. 12 monthly payments of £1.18.10 The BRENELL Mk. V Deck with the Model "C" PREAMPLIFIER and POWER UNIT. AS-SEMBLED and TESTED Deposit £6.4.0 and 12 months at £3.7.6 As above but the Model "C" PREAMPLIFIER and POWER UNIT supplied as a COMPLETE KIT Deposit £6.12. 12 monthly payments of £3.3.1 The WERAITE MODEL "4" DECK with AS-SEMBLED and TESTED Model "C" PIES AMPLIFIER and POWER UNIT Incorporating WEARITE MODEL "4" DECK with AS-SEMBLED and TESTED Model "C" PIES (Carriage and Insurance on above is 10/- extra.) (e)

Incorporating **GARRARD TAPE DECK and** MODEL HE/G2P PRE-AMPLIFIER Supplied on ONE CHASSIS(as ill-ustrated/RRADY 18 Gns. POR USE (Arr. & Ins. des Gard. H.P. Deposit £31.60. and 12 months of £1.7.8. Provides complete tape recording facilities and designed to operate through the pick-up sockets of the standard type of RADIO RECEIVER, or an AMPLIFIER, the standard type of RADIO RECEI PRE-AMPLIFIER The JEMCO MODEL MT-955 MULTIMETER



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| RONETTE Model "OV" Output 110m/Volts | 29/6 |
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| All above are "TURNOVER" type Cartridges. | |

A very high quality Amplifier incorporating 3-speed treble equalisation, by the latest FEROXCUBE POT CORE INDUCTOR, FOR COLLARO-TR U VOX - B R E N E L L WEARITE Tape Decks, has GILSEN Output Trans-former. Includes separate Power Supply Unit. FARTS **£13.13.0** Deposite 29, 15.0

Deposit £2.15.0 12 months at £1.0.0.

SPECIAL "COMBINED ORDER" PRICES SPECIAL "COMBINED ORDER"
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- £29.10.0
- £42.0.0
- £45.10.0 (e)



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HFG/2R

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Small enough to fit in your pocket-Small enough to fit in your pocket-of a big set performance at home by sliding the transistor set into the speaker enclosure Ferrite Rod Dir-ectional Aerial, Med. Wave Coverage 185-580M. Size 4 x 21 x 1 in. Speaker Enclosure size 91 x 31 x 1 in. Speaker guaranteed.





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A complete set of parts for the construction of a stereo-phonic amplifier giving 5 watts high quality output on each channel (total 10 watts), Sonsitivity is 50 milli-volts, suitable for all orystal stereo heads. Canged Bass and Treble Control give equal variation of "lift" and "cut". Provision is made for use as stuaitht (monaural) IOwatt amplifier. Valve line-up ECC83, ECC80, EL84, EL84, EZ81. Outputs for 2-3ohm speakers. Point to Point wiring diagrams and in. 8 Gns. Full constructional details and price list 2/6. Carr. 10/-use \$966 evtre use 59/6 extra

Kit can be assembled, ready to

R.S.C. BATTERY CHARGING EQUIPMENT HEAVY DUTY CHARGER KIT 6/12 v. 6 amps. variable output. Consisting of Mains Transformer 0:200-230-230 v. F.W. (Bridge) Selenium Rectifier: Ammeter. Variable Charge Rate Selector Panels. Pluss. Fuses. Fuseholder and circuit. 50/9. Carr. 4/8. CHARGER KIT. 12v. 14 AMP or 24v. 7 amp. Consisting of mains trans. 200-230-250 v. F.W. (Bridge) selenium Rectifier, F Ammeter, Fuses. Vari-able Resistor and Circuit. Only 4 gms. Carr. 15/v. Please state in 12v. or 24v. kit required. 201 DEFING HOAN 200-250 v. 30

SOLDERING IRONS. 230-250 v. 30 watts. First quality. For Radio work. 19/9. Spare elements and bits available.

| R.S | .C. | M | AI | NS | T | 'RA | N | SF | 0 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------|------------|------|----|
| Inter | leave | ed a | and | Im | pres | mate | d. | Prin | n- |
| aries | | | | | | | | | |
| TOP | | | | | | | | | |
| 250-0- | 250v. | -70r | nA. | 6.3v. | 28. | 0-5-6. | 3v. 2 | a 17 | /9 |
| 350-0- | 350v. | 801 | nA. | 6.3v. | 28. | 5v / 2a | ι. | . 18 | /9 |
| 250-0- | 250v. | 100n | nA. | 6.3v. | 28, | 6.3v. | 1a . | . 21 | /9 |
| 250-0- | 250v. | 100r | nA. | 6.3v. | 3.58 | . C.I | <u>.</u> . | . 19 | /9 |
| 230-0- | 250v. | 100r | nA. | 6.3v. | 48. | 0-5-6. | 3v. 3 | a 25 | 19 |
| 300-0- | 300v. | 130r | nA. | 6.3v. | 48.6 | 3v. 1 | a. fc | r | |
| Mu | llard | 610. | Am | plifie | r | | | . 29 | /9 |
| 300-0- | | | | | | | | | |
| 350-0- | | | | | | | | | |
| 350-0- | 350v. | 150r | nA. | 6.3v. | 4a, 1 | 0-5-6. | 3v. 3 | a 29 | /9 |
| 425-0- | 425v. | 200n | nA. | 6.3V | ia. 5 | v. 3a | | . 49 | /9 |
| FUL | 61. | SI | IRC | UD | ED | U | PR | IGH | Т |
| 250-0- | 250v. | 60m | A. 6 | .3v. : | 28, 0 | -5-6.3 | v. 26 | ł | |
| MIC | let t | ype | 21-3 | -31n. | 2.4 | | | 17/1 | 1 |
| 250-0- | 200V. | 1001 | nĄ. | 6.3v. | 48.1 | 0-5-6. | 3v. 3 | a 27 | /9 |
| 300-0- | 300v. | 100r | nA. | 6.37. | 48. | 5v. 38 | 1 | 27/1 | .1 |
| 300-0- | 300V. | 1307 | nA. | 6.3V. | 48. | C.T. | 0.31 | | |
| 18. | 0. N | IVIIS | ira a | ומתיר | 17101 | | | . 33 | /9 |
| 350-0- | | | | | | | | 27/1 | |
| 350-0- | 3704. | 130n | nA. | 0.37. | 48, | ov. 3a | à. | . 35 | /9 |



Assembled 4-5 amps. 6/12v. 6/12v. Fitted Ammeter and variable charge rate selector. Also selector plug for 6 v. or 12 v. charging. Louved steel hammer finished. Fused big for 6 v. or 12 v. charging. Louved steel hammer finished. Fused with stoved blue hammer finished. Fused big for 6 v. or 13 v. charging. Louved steel hammer finished. Fused hammer

Assembled 4-5 amps. ASSEMBLED 6/12 v. 2 amps. Fitted Ammeter and selsctor plug for 6 v. or 12 v. Louvred metal case fin-ished attractive harmer blue ished attractive hammer blue. Fused, ready for use with mains and putput leads **49/9** Carr. 3/9 6/12v.1amp.27/9

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A.C. Plains 200-250v, 50c/3. teed 12 months. BATTERY CHARGER KITS Consisting of Mains Trans-former. F.W. Bridge. Metal Rootifier, well ventiated steel case. Fuses. Fuse-holders. Grommets. panels. Heavy Duty Clips. oirouit. Carr. 3/8 extra. 6v. or 12v. 1 amp. 22/9 As above. with Ammeter 26/9 6v. or 12v. 2 amps. 27/9 6v. or 12v. 2 amps. 45/9 6v. or 12v. 4 amps. 45/9 CHARGER AMMETERS 0-15 a. 0-3 a. 0-4 a. 0-7 a. 0-25 a. 0-60 a. 8/9.

ASSEMBLED 12V. 10 Ami, with variable charge rate adjust-ment, ammeter and strong louvred, stove enamelied case. Ready for use, Only 7 gns, Carr. 10- or in Kit Form 5 gns.



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8/6

January, 1963

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TOOL KITS! F.M. TRANS/RECEIVERS BC620 MINIATURE *** 6 Piece Screw Driver Set, Model 3360, Consisting of mechanics, eloctricians. Phillips, midget and stubby types. Magnetised blades of tempered, hardened tool steel. Un-breakable, flameproof and shock-proof plastic handles, Dis-play bagged. PHICE, 8/-



Frequency range 20-27.9 Mc/s. Crystal controlled, operating on any two of 80 different channels in 100 Kc/s. steps. Average range 5-10 miles. Contains 14 valves, niament plate, alignment meter, volume control, mike and 'phone inputs. 6 and 12 volt supply unit and dry battery case. Complete Station offered for

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Model P.V.C.-105. Model P.V.C.-105. The most popular type of miniature sized single plastic variable condenser for 2 transistor sets. Especially insulated plastic films make smallest loss of high frequency and keep super performance on electrical characteristics. Capa-otty 200pF, frequency 530-1680 Kc/s. PRICE 5/- D.A.D.1/ The most

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mitting tilting for multi-angle use. Supplied complete with 7 ft. of shielded cable, lavalier cord. Brand new Floor Stand and Base, suitable for above. 65/-. Carriage Paid.



Consists of 4jin. long x lin. dia, red and black plastic handle pin prods with heavy duty 37in. rubber leads with 5000v. breakdown insulation runder leads with 5000v. breakdown insulation terminating 2in long x 4in. dia. plastic grip banana plugs. 3 sets of interchangeable termi-nals are included (spade lugs, phone tips, aliga-tor clips), all slip directly on to banana succession on to banana 9/6. Post Paid.

> MODEL May be hand-heid. stand mounted (either floor stand) or desk stand) or suspended by lavalier cord. Response 60-10,000 cps. 60-10,000 cps. Built in on/off switch. Output level-52db. Omni-direc-Clips on or off standard stand adaptor per-Satin chrome finish. ONLY 39/6

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15 Amp Thermostat

You can make yourself a thermostat similar to the above using a "Sunvic" unit which we can offer at 9/6. This is adjustable over the same range as the Pullin and will control the same amount of heating. We can also offer a crackle finished calibrated case which can be used for containing the Sunvic, Price two items together 14/6, plus 1/- Postage.

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Hi-Fi Speakers

HI-FI Speakers E.M.I. Coramic marnet 12,000 lines, size 13 x 8in. (roughly equivalent to 12in. round speaker). Handles up to 10 watts, Price 33/6, plus 5/- carriage and insurance. State whether 15 ohm or 3 ohm. Similar model but specially designed and hand made ior very low irequencies (40 to 55 cycles). Price **£7.10.0**.

******** Miniature Transistor Sets Cheaper than you can possibly make them, we are able to offer these made up, ready to work, complete with lea-ther carrying case and compone 阆 ther carrying case and earphone. Astra 7 uses 7 transistors, covers 535-1065 kc/s, sensi tivity 300 micro vots/M, output 150 mW, ferrite slab aerial. Size app-roximately 41 x 21 x lins, Price £6,19.6, Post & Ins. 3/-Yerphy F, very similar specification to the above but only 6 transistors, Price £5.19.6, with leather case and earphone, plus Post & Ins. 3/-



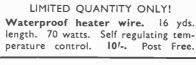
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THIS MONTH'S SNIP ! !

Silent running mains motor by very famous maker. Ideal for gramophone, tape recorder, fan. etc., etc., 200-250 volts, A.C., shaded pull start. Size approximately 21 x 21 x 11in. 2,750 r.p.m. Spindle diameter 5/32in. Spindle length lin. Brand new guarantee. Price 12/6, plus 1/- post.



"Starlux 208"

Solderless '3' TRANSISTOR. Ideal for home and holidays as no Aerial





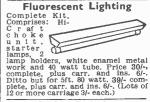
3in. oscilloscope tube, American made type No. 3FP7, 6.3 v. 0.6 amp. heater, electrostatic deflection, brand new and guaranteed with circuit diagram of scope. 15/- each. plus 2/6 post and insurance.

Tape Recorders



Industrious Japanese nave really gone to town on tape recorders this year and many bargains are on offer. It is the writer's opinion that there is bound to be a big demand for them as Christmas presents so there is a good reason why you should buy your tape recorder immediately. Prices range as follows:

cost.



| Yaxley | Switches |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| | class condition. |
| 1 pole, 2 way 1/6 | ; 1 pole, 3 way 1/6 |
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| 4 pole, 4 way 3/6 | |
| 4 pole, 6 way 5/6 | |
| 4 pole, 12 way 11/6 | |
| 5 pole, 6 way 7/6 | |
| 6 pole, 2 way 2/6 | |
| 6 pole, 6 way 8/6 | |
| 6 Pole, 12 way 17/6 | |
| 6 pole, 4 way 4/6 | |
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FFW ONIY IFFT Cabinet & Pick-up Made for a famous Company intending to make a Battery Record Player but changed their minds. This is an extremely fine looking cabinet, must have cost at least £2 to make. It is complete with handle and fasteners as illustrated. Also included in the parcel is a Cosmocord pick-up with crystal cartridge and sapphire stylus. Both items new and perfect. Price 19/6, plus 4/6 Post & Ins.

ETER BARGAINS!

ALL METERS BRAND NEW AND FULLY **GUARANTEED**

MODEL ITI/2 (illus. on right). 20,000 ohms per volt, 20 ranges comprising A.C. volts, 5 ranges up to 1,000; D.C. volts, 6 ranges up to 2.5kV; C.C. current, 3 ranges up to 26 ohms; resistance, 2 ranges up to 6 meg; capacity 2 ranges up to 0.1; decibels—20 to + 22. Scale cornerwise to the equivalent of decideds—20 to \pm 22. Scale cornerwise to the equivalent of 4 in. movement is a pocket size instrument measuring 44 x 34 x lin. Complete with test prods, battery and operating instructions, price **E5.50**, post free. **MODEL EP10K**. Similar in size and appearance to IT1/2 except that this is 10,000 ohms per volt and maximum D.C. volts 1,200 instead of 2.5kV, also no capacity range. Price

£4.19.6. Post free.



Transistor Set Cabinets

Very modern cream cabinet. size 5i x 3 x 1fin. with chrome handle. tuning knob and scale. Price 7/6. plus1/6 post & packing. Special quotations for quantities.





LAST OF THESE! **Tabby Equipment**

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MODEL TPSS. (Illus. on left). 20,000 ohms per volt; D.C. volts, 5 ranges up to 1,000; A.C. volts, 5 ranges up to 1,000; resistance, 2 ranges up to 10 meg.; capacity 2 ranges up to 0.1; decibels -20 to +26. One switch control, really beautifully on declocity -20 to +26. One switch control, really beautifully made precision instrument, size only $3\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ in., price only 45.19.6. Post free. MODEL TP10. Similar in size and appearance to TP55, but sensitivity 2,000 ohms per volt, price 43.19.6. Post free.

MODEL 500. 30,000 o.p.v. Reads voltages up to 1,000 D.C. at 30,000 o.p.v., and A.C. at 15,000 o.p.v.; D.C. current to 12 amps.; Resistance to 60 Megs.; Decibels from −20 to +56. Size 3⁺/₃ x 6+ x 22in. £8.19.6. Post free.



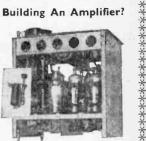
Power Unit

A useful source of D.C. for experi-menting, energising instruments, electroplating, reactivating batteries etc. This Power unit can be made in a few hours and due to the availability of the rectifier valve at a very low price, we can supply the complete kit of parts with AEC instructions, fits into any box for 9/6, plus 1/- post and insurance









Here is a buy for you! Modulator Unit Type 20. Contains parts ideal for building a large output templifier and already set out in metal case. To any part of the set of the set of the weight of the set of the set of the weight of the set of the set of the weight of the set of the set of the weight of the set of the set of the templifier of the set of the weight of the set of the set of the weight of the set of the set of the weight of the set of the transformer the set of the set of the transformer 230 to 6.3 or 230 to 12.6 volts. 2. Miniature Circuit Breaker. For breaking 10 amps A.C. reset by pushing knob. 3. Sieel Case. With heavy gauge chassis, already out out and fitted with valve holders, etc. Price for complete unit is 19/6. carriage 5/-



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PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963

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The Social Side

HE amateur radio enthusiast is singularly well served in the various outside activities arranged for his interest and

entertainment. Perhaps this is often taken for granted but it is interesting to reflect that there are probably more public exhibitions relating to radio, audio and electronics than for any comparable subject.

There are exhibitions galore, from the brash, brassily commercial glitter of the National Radio Show to the more sedate specialist affairs such as the Physical Society's Exhibition. There is the Radio Communications Exhibition, the International Audio Fair and many others either directly associated or closely linked with the radio enthusiast's field of activity or of borderline interest.

The radio enthusiast is, by and large, a gregarious being, though he retains a sturdy individuality, so that apart from keeping him up-to-date on new developments these exhibitions provide an opportunity to relax with fellow enthusiasts and to discuss ideas, problems and to formulate new plans.

The big shows, however, are concentrated in the large cities (mainly London). But there is another source of entertainment and instruction of a more parochial nature and perhaps because it is purely altruistic gets closer to the heart of things-the local radio club.

There are dozens of them all over the country: big ones and small ones, ambitious ones and modest ones. But they all serve the same useful purpose-entertainment and instruction, social contact and practical activity.

Local radio clubs offer so many advantages that it is surprising they are not all overwhelmed with prospective members. Beginners and experts alike find many added hours of enjoyment to their hobby in the local club. Social, economic and educational barriers rarely exist, if at all, in such clubs. The beginners can obtain guidance and the advanced enthusiasts have the incentive of friendly competition.

And if you have no local radio club, remember that it only needs one or two keen sponsors to get one going; many of the established clubs began in very humble circumstances.

Seasonal Greetings to all our readers from the Editor and Staff of Practical Wireless

Our next issue dated February will be published on January 4th.





NEWS AT HOME AND ABROAD

THE following statement shows the approximate number of Broadcast Receiving Licences in force at the end of September, 1962, 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.

| Region | | | Total | |
|---|---------|------|---|--|
| London Home Counties Midland North Eastern North Western South Western Wales and Border (| Countie | ••• | 634.290 589.969 425.631 450.548 395.556 346.938 196.242 | |
| Total England and Sootland Northern Ireland | Wales | | 3,029.074 322,523 108,843 | |
| Grand Total | | • #1 | 3.460.440 | |

Commemoration for Morse

SAMUEL MORSE, the originator of the Morse code, is commemorated by an L.C.C. plaque at 141 Cleveland Street. St. Marylebone. It was unveiled recently in the presence of G.P.O. employees and representatives of the Royal Institute of Electrical Engineers.

When he was 20, Morse came to London to study art. His first contribution to the science of communication was discovering a method of making a permanent record of electro - magnetic impulses which were already being used to transmit messages by swinging a needle from letter to letter on a dial. He also made experiments in submarine telegraphy.

Radio in a Pair of Sunglasses

A N ingenious idea for housing a radio receiver has been produced recently by an American firm, the parts being built into the side pieces of a pair of sunglasses.

Burton Transistor Radio Sunglasses, as they are called, are complete with a tuning control and earphone, with an aerial which does not always have to be used.

Worn as ordinary sunglasses, the radio is tuned by a dial on the left earpiece. The glasses can be fitted with lens to any prescription,

This latest radio novelty comes from Precision Electronics, of California, U.S.A.

New Outside Broadcasts Base at Bristol

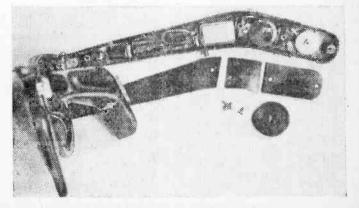
WORK has begun on the BBC's new West Region sound and television outside broadcasts base to be built on a site in Belgrave Road, Bristol. The new base will consist of a garage 200ft by 72ft for the outside broadcast vehicles, workshops and test rooms for the maintenance of the vehicles and their technical equipment and stores. Demolition work to clear the site of the existing buildings has begun and will be followed by the building, which is expected to take about 18 months.

The new base will replace the existing sound outside broadcast base at Whiteladies Road and the television base at Whitchurch Airport; it will be the headquarters of the BBC teams which cover the whole of the west and south west of England.

The vehicles used for sound broadcasts consist of recording cars for news and topicality programmes and a mobile control room for live contributions to the sound services.

Fifth Jamboree on the Air

FROM 00.01 hours G.M.T. on October 20th until 23.59



The latest radio novelty from America; a receiver in a pair of sunglasses.

hours G.M.T. on October 21st Scout radio enthusiasts all over the world were once again trying to contact each other during this year's two-day Jamboree-on-the-Air.

Stations were set up in many parts of the country with the help of local amateur radio clubs, one of the biggest being at Baden-Powell House in South Kensington, where, under the call sign GB3BPH. five separate transmitters were sending out the international call sign for the event, "CO Jamboree".

For radio-minded visitors to Baden-Powell House during the event, communication receivers enabled them to "listen in". Other items of interest were on show, with licensed radio amateurs available to answer questions.

Change of Third Programme Frequency

ON November 1st the fre-quency of the Third Third Programme / Network Three Platons transmitter at Les (Channel Islands) was changed from 94.45Mc/s to 94.75Mc/s in accordance with international agreement (the revised Stockholm Plan of 1961). This means that the station appears at a slightly different position on the tuning dial, probably between kin. and kin. from the old one.

Listeners who have v.h.f. receivers on which the three sound programmes are selected by a switch or push-button (such as some combined television and v.h.f. receivers) need to have the pre-set tuning adjusted inside the receiver for reception of the Third Programme and Network Three. This is a simple matter which a radio dealer can deal with in a few minutes.

Improving Acoustics of a Large Church

A SOUND reinforcement system has been supplied and installed in the Church of St. Peter, Rugby, by the Sound Equipment group of the AEI Electronic Apparatus Division to overcome the poor acoustics in the building.

Members of the congregation seated between the middle and



Dr. Kenzo Nagai and Dr. Shun-Ichi Iwasaki of Tokyo University, Japan, inspecting a tape recorder during their recent visit to an EMI factory.

back of the lofty nave have found it very difficult to hear clearly because of reverberation and echo. AEI engineers have now overcome the problem by siting six reinforcement loudspeakers at a number of points down the length of the church.

Microphones are mounted on both pulpit and lectern, ribbon types being selected for pick-up sensibility and sensitivity. Signals from the microphones are amplified by means of a two-way transistorised mixer unit and a conventional dual-channel power amplifier, each channel providing 10W of audio power to feed the loudspeaker units.

Radio Telecommunications Project Nearing Completion in Angola

NOW nearing completion in Angola is an extensive multichannel network of trunk radiotelephone and telegraph channels connecting all the main centres of population in the territory.

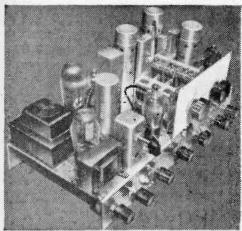
The initial contract was awarded to the Marconi Co. and Automatic Telephone and Electric Co. Ltd. in late 1957 and subsequent contracts for the entire scheme were also placed with these companies. The main artery of the system connects Luanda, the capital, with Lobito, a main port, whilst other spur connections link Villa Marechal, Carmona, Malange, Benguela and Sa Da Bandeira.

All the links with one exception use Marconi v.h.f. terminal and repeater stations in duplicate, with automatic changeover to standby in the event of failure of an operational unit. The exception is the connection from Lobito to Benguela, for which a higher traffic capacity was demanded and which uses u.h.f. equipment.

Japanese Visitors

D.R. KENZO NAGAI, professor at Tokyo University, where he is director of the Research Institute of Electrical Communication. was accompanied by Dr. Shun-Ichi Iwasaki, of the same institute, when he recently visited the Hayes plant of EMI Electronics Ltd.

Demonstrations were given of the company's range of professional tape recorders and the visitors were able to inspect experimental sound recording equipment in the EMI development laboratories.



General Purpose COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER

by R. F. Graham

HIS is a 10-valve receiver (including rectifier) and covers approximately 19Mc/s to 550kc/s (16 to 550m) in four wavebands. A long-wave band may readily be added, if required. Bandspread tuning is included, and is very useful on the congested short wave frequencies. There are also noiselimiter, beat-frequency oscillator, and frequency marker stages as these features are often of aid in a communications type receiver.

It is recommended that the inexperienced constructor should test the receiver with coils installed for one band only. It is then easy to add the other coils, and this system avoids errors in band switch wiring.

The receiver uses octal valves, because of their low cost. easy availability, and general robustness. Building costs can be much reduced by using cheap, surplus components, and this is in order, for such items as capacitors, resistors, valveholders, mains transformer and choke, and similar parts. Doubtful components should, of course, be tested before use.

Complete Circuit

This is shown in Fig 2. V1 is an r.f. amplifier, and V2 the frequency changer. VC1A, VC2A and VC3A are the usual 3-gang tuning capacitor, which is operated by a ball drive. It is employed for general tuning, and also for band-setting. VC1B, VC2B and VC3B are a low-capacity 3-gang capacitor, used for band-spreading, and also operated by a ball drive. Accurate tuning over a narrow band of frequencies is possible with this capacitor. VC1C is a panel mounted aerial trimmer, and VC2 is a similar frequency changer trimmer, the oscillator circuit using the fixed trimmer TC1. This arrangement avoids the need for the twelve preset capacitors, which would otherwise be necessary, and also assures maximum efficiency on all parts of each band. In practice it is extremely difficult to obtain exact ganging throughout a band with fixed trimmers, so the use of panel trimmers avoids inefficiency from this reason and also allows the aerial circuit to be trimmed to suit any aerial which may be connected. Separate oscillator and mixer stages were not

Separate oscillator and mixer stages were not found to be justified in this circuit. The r.f. stage helps to increase sensitivity and reduces 2nd channel interference.

Two i.f.t.'s are used as an i.f. filter between valves V2 and V3, and this circuit gives good selectivity. Two further i.f.t.'s are used in the following stages and a tuning meter can be plugged into the anode circuit of V4 if required. The screen grid of V4 is fed from the potential divider R14 and R15 in order to secure a greater change in anode current for a given a.v.c. voltage, to increase meter readings.

V5 provides a.v.c. and audio amplification, a small a.v.c. delay voltage being obtained across R22. V6 acts as detector and noise limiter. The noise limiter is very effective in reducing static type noise, but causes a slight deterioration in audio quality, so this stage can be cut out by means of the noise limiter switch S2. The limiter itself is of the type which automatically adjusts to carrier level.

V6 is the output stage, and V10 is the rectifier. A standby switch is provided. With the receiver in the standby position, all valve heaters are on, but h.t. is removed, R35 and R36 acting as a bleeder. This allows instant switching on and off (without waiting for heaters to warm up) and is also useful when working the receiver in conjunction with a transmitter.

V8 is the beat frequency oscillator, which is switched in when c.w. morse is to be received. It will be appreciated that if there is no interest whatever in c.w. morse, then this stage can be omitted. The b.f.o. is not required for ordinary reception of speech and music, so its h.t. supply is interrupted by the b.f.o. switch.

Crystal Marker

V7 is a crystal marker, using a similar circuit to those found in the more expensive communica-

tions receivers. When the marker is switched on, h.t. is applied to V7, and the marker signal is taken to the aerial circuit through C34. This allows exact calibration of the bandspreading and bandsetting capacitors, and also allows a narrow band of frequencies to be tuned with great accuracy, by adjusting the bandsetter knob to the marker signal.

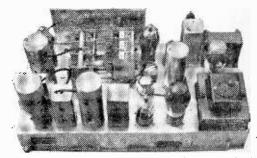
VR1 is a manual control of sensitivity, connected to the cathode circuits of V1, V3 and V4, and the a.v.c. switch S3 allows the a.v.c. system to be rendered inoperative, so that gain may be controlled manually by VR1. This is sometimes necessary for c.w. reception, or in other circumstances. VR2 is the usual audio gain control.

In addition to the a.v.c. switch and mains on/off switch S5, two combined function switches are provided. The switch for the marker and noise limiter (S2) has three positions: (1) marker on, (2) noise limiter in, (3) noise limiter out; the marker being off in positions (2) and (3). The remaining switch (S4) also has three positions: (1) receiver on and b.f.o. off. (2) standby, (3) receiver and b.f.o. on. Position (1) is for "Phone" (speech and music) reception, and position (3) is for "c.w.".

Chassis

This should be of stout gauge aluminium, and can be about $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 16in. x $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. The layout of the major components is shown in Fig. 1, and all large holes for valveholders and other parts should be drilled before mounting any components.

The two 3-gang variable capacitors are mounted so that their spindles are at the same height. An aluminium plate 7in. x 5in. is bolted to the front runner of the chassis, and has two holes to clear the ball drives. The lugs of these drives are bolted to this plate. The capacitor sections are wired in parallel, as in Fig. 1. These leads are taken to the



General view of the receiver top viewed from the back.

lower tags of the capacitors, but are clear of the chassis. The trimmer TC1 is soldered to a tag bolted to the capacitor frame. Leads from VC1A, VC2A and VC3A pass directly from the lower tags, through the chassis, to the band switch.

The 3-gang bandspreading capacitor is of about 20pF to 30pF maximum capacity. This can be made by removing plates from an ordinary 3-gang capacitor, as these are available cheaply. Low capacity 3-gang components are also sometimes available as surplus. Three small capacitors with extended spindles, ganged with couplers, could also be used. A 2-gang bandspreading capacitor, wired to VC2A and VC3A is also feasible, the panel trimmer VC1C then being used for adjustment of the aerial circuit, which does not tune sharply. A new gang capacitor of low value is relatively expensive.

Positions of the controls under the chassis will be seen from Fig. 3. A piece of aluminium about $2\frac{1}{3}$ in. x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. is bent to form the screen which also supports the frequency changer (V2) trimmer VC2C, and band switch S1. Both panel operated

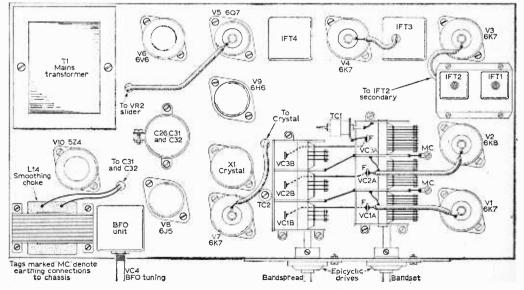


Fig. 1: Top of chassis layout showing location of components.

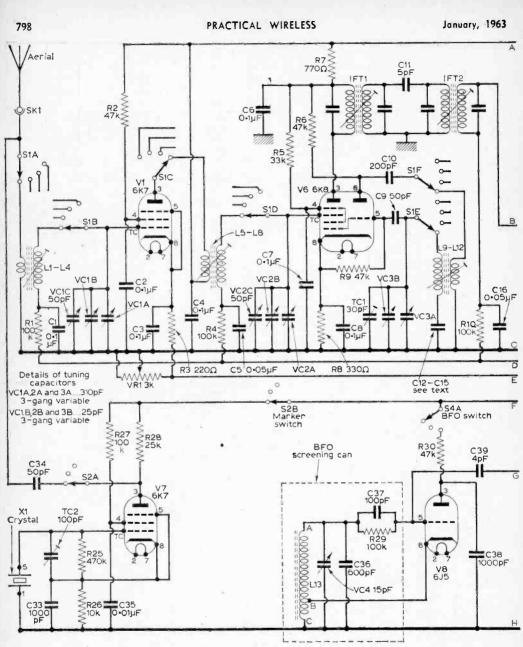


Fig.-2.

trimmers are miniature air-spaced variable capacitors, and about 40pF to 60pF will be suitable. The frequency changer stage trimmer requires an extension spindle, coupling, and bush.

Band Switch

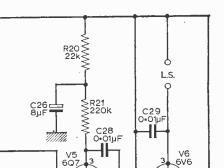
The band switch S1 can best have an individual wafer for each circuit, that is, six wafers in all. These items will also be found from time to time in surplus lists, as a new switch of this kind is relatively expensive. Only 4-ways are required, for the four bands. If long waves are to be added, each wafer should be 5-way. Surplus 6-way and similar switches are suitable, unused contacts being ignored. The switch is dismantled so as to pass its spindle and rods through holes in the screen mentioned. This screen is bolted to the chassis, and makes the switch rigid.

In order that actual wiring can be as straight-

IFT3

Ā

9 Tuning meter



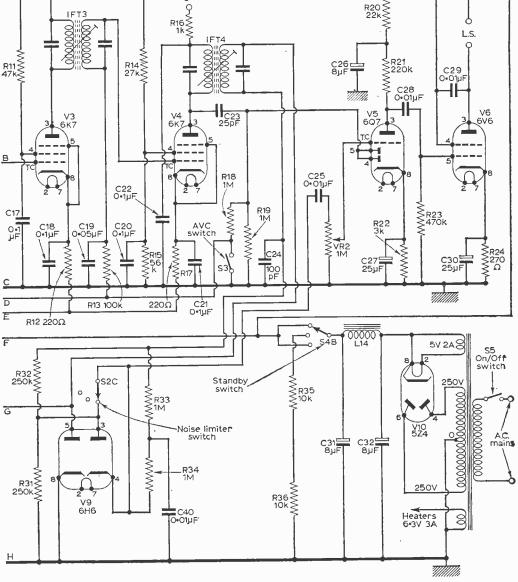


Fig. 2: The drawings on these two pages show the complete circuit diagram of the general purpose communications receiver. A complete parts list is given overleaf on page 800.

forward as possible, it will be found convenient to deal with one stage at a time. The more to deal with one stage at a time. The more experienced constructor may, of course, prefer to wire the whole receiver, before testing it. If not, work may proceed in the order described.

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Power Circuit

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The mains transformer, rectifier (V10) and smoothing circuit (choke L1 and C31 and C32) may be wired first. At the same time, all the heater wiring can be completed, because these leads should

be run close in contact with the chassis. Heater circuits are completed through the chassis. A tag should be secured under each nut, when mounting the valveholders, to form earthing points, marked MC. Keep heater wires clear of tags 3, 4 and 5 of V9. to avoid hum.

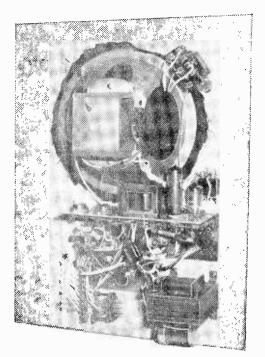
The h.t. section of the standby switch may be wired at this stage, if preferred. Connections to this switch are shown in Fig. 4. If a check is to be made, test that $6\cdot3V$ a.c. is available at tags 2 and 7 of each valveholder, and that a d.c. h.t. voltage of roughly 250 is obtained across C31, with the switch in the standby position.

Frequency Changer

V2 is the frequency changer. Wafer 4 of S1 is used to select the coil primaries, and wafer 3 is wired to VC2A fixed plates, and to the frequency changer trimmer. The switch is turned to the appropiate position, and the M.W. coil L8 is connected. Wafers 5 and 6 are used for the oscillator coils, and L12 is the M.W. oscillator coil, with 470pF padder C15. A lead passes from wafer 5 to VC3A.

The description of the circuit will be continued in the next issue.

| COMPONENTS LIST | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| COMPONI Resistors R1 100kΩ R13 100kΩ R25 470k R2 47kΩ R14 27k 1W R26 10k R3 220Ω R15 56kΩ R27 100k R4 100kΩ R16 1kΩ R28 25k k5 33kΩ R17 220Ω R29 100k R6 47kΩ R18 IMΩ R30 47k R7 770Ω R19 IMΩ R31 250k R8 330Ω R20 22kΩ R32 250k R9 47kΩ R21 220kΩ R32 250k R9 47kΩ R21 220kΩ R33 IM R10 100kΩ R23 470kΩ R35 10k 2W R11 7KΩ R24 270Ω 1W R36 10k 2W All 10%, $\frac{1}{2}W$ except where otherwise stated. VR1 3k wire-wound potentiometer. <th< td=""><td>Aerial Coils: L1 Band 1 16 to 35m QA2 L2 Band 2 33 to 85m QA3 L3 Band 3 75 to 210m QA4 L4 Band 4 200 to 550m QA8 Mixer Coils: Image: Coils: Image: Coils: Image: Coils: L5 Band 1 QHF2 QHF3 L7 Band 3 QHF4 Osmor L8 Band 4 QHF8 Osmor L9 Band 1 Q04 Q04 L10 Band 2 Q03 Osmor L11 Band 3 Q04 Osmor</td></th<> | Aerial Coils: L1 Band 1 16 to 35m QA2 L2 Band 2 33 to 85m QA3 L3 Band 3 75 to 210m QA4 L4 Band 4 200 to 550m QA8 Mixer Coils: Image: Coils: Image: Coils: Image: Coils: L5 Band 1 QHF2 QHF3 L7 Band 3 QHF4 Osmor L8 Band 4 QHF8 Osmor L9 Band 1 Q04 Q04 L10 Band 2 Q03 Osmor L11 Band 3 Q04 Osmor | | | | |
| Capacitors: C1 0-1 μ F 150V C13 4500pF mica C2 0-1 μ F 350V C14 2500pF mica C3 0-1 μ F 150V C15 470pF mica C4 0-1 μ F 350V C16 0-05 μ F 150V C5 0-05 μ F 150V C17 0-1 μ F 350V C6 0-1 μ F 350V C18 0-1 μ F 150V C7 0-1 μ F 350V C19 0-05 μ F 150V C8 0-1 μ F 150V C20 0-1 μ F 350V C8 0-1 μ F 150V C20 0-1 μ F 350V C9 50pF mica C21 0-1 μ F 350V C10 200pF mica C22 0-1 μ F 350V C11 200pF mica C23 25pF mica C12 4700pF mica C24 100pF mica C25 0-01 μ F tubular paper C26 8 μ F 350V C27 25 μ F 12V C28 0-01 μ F mica C29 0-01 μ F tubular paper C30 25 μ F 25V C35 0-01 μ F 350V C31 8 μ F 350V C37 100pF mica C32 8 μ F 350V C37 100pF mica C33 1000pF mica C38 1000pF mica C34 50pF mica C39 4pF ceramic (see text) C40 0-01 μ F tubular paper VC1A, VC2A and VC3A: 310pF or 500pF 3-gang variable VC1C 50pF miniature variable VC2C 50pF miniature variable VC4 15pF miniature variable VC4 15pF miniature variable VC4 15pF miniature variable | L13 B.F.O. coil—see text L14 L.F. smoothing choke 5H 100mA 1.F. Transformers: IFT1 Miniature I.F. transformers, 470 kc/s. IFT2 IFT3 Standard I.F. transformer, 470 kc/s. IFT4 Standard I.F. transformer, 470 kc/s. IF74 Standard I.F. transformer: Tapped Primary. Secondaries: 250-0-250V 100mA; 6-3V 3A; 5V 2A. Switches: Si 6-wafer switch. Each wafer I pole, 4-way S2 3-pole, 3-way miniature rotary switch S3 On/off toggle switch S4 2-pole, 3-way wafer switch S5 On/off toggle switch (combined with VRI) SK1 coaxial socket X1 100 kc/s crystal (see text) Valves: V1 6K7 V6 6V6 V2 6K8 V7 6K7 V3 6K7 V8 6J5 V4 6K7 V9 6H6 V5 6Q7 V10 5Z4 Miscellaneous: Eleven octal valveholders. Extension coupling. Knobs. Two ball-drives. Two 2-way socket strips. Loudspeaker with output transformer to match 5,000Ω. Valve screens, and cap clips. | | | | |



Central Control Amplifier

By E. McLoughlin

A MASTER CONTROL UNIT FOR AN AUDIO INSTALLATION

(Continued from page 705 of the December issue)

S already mentioned, this stage is not intended to give further voltage gain except for a very slight increase of final output voltage to compensate for line losses on the way to the distant loudspeakers in the other rooms. The output voltage is designed to be, apart from this last consideration, a true replica of the voltage at the speech-coil of the internal loudspeaker. But the line voltage is designed to be largely maintained, regardless of the exact number of loudspeakers switched on to the line. Thus, the transistor stage gives a *power-gain* of amount according to the number of loudspeakers operated on the line at any given time. Power gain without voltage change represents impedance step-down function, which is thus the ultimate function of this stage, in common with all circuits of the "cathodefollower" class, to which this circuit belongs.

Looking at the theoretical circuit of this stage in Fig. 2 it is apparently very simple indeed, needing few parts in all, and one might think that con-struction would be quite non-critical. But, upon experimenting in the course of designing this circuit in the author's workshop, a number of rather critical factors were discovered. These are basically threefold. Firstly, the setting of a suitable operating point for the transistors was very critical, and as the transistors are designed to run very hot (quite normal for this kind of transistor) during operation measures must be taken to counteract thermal-drift of the operating point as well as to ensure adequate cooling of the transisformers T4 and T5 was found to be highly critical and some considerable experimenting, involving repeated re-winds and comparative measurements, was needed until the factors involved were clearly understood and a fully satisfactory final design could be wound. Fig. 6 gives summarised details on this work on T4 and T5. The third critical point is connected with obtaining sufficient l.t. supply voltage at the required current and sufficient audio shunting of all internal impedances of the power supply and the biasing arrangements, even at the lowest frequency to be passed (nominally 35c/s). This involved the ultimate necessity for quite large capacities for C4, 5, 6, 7. Most particularly is C7 important and this has the largest capacity of all $-5.000\,\mu$ F. This is because here the working impedance is lowest of all and insufficient capacity for C7 causes considerable loss of low-frequency power across R1 and the internal impedance of the power supply. For this reason, too, C6 and C7 have been returned to chassis and not placed directly in parallel with the operative bias resistors VRI and RI, so that effective capacities are not reduced by virtue of C6 and C7 otherwise being in series with C5 of the power supply for audio purposes. This arrangement has the added advantage that a greater total D_{C_1} voltage exists across C6 and C7. enabling the dielectric to form itself easily and properly.

It must be *stressed* that C7 *must* have at least the specified capacity. Use a greater capacity by all means if available—this is likely to give even better low-frequency performance when *many* loudspeakers are on the output line, but the specified value of 5.000μ F was found to be the best compromise between satisfactory performance and tolerable price. It would, at a pinch, be possible to use 9V working capacitors to save expense, but these might under certain circumstances break down.

If C7 has insufficient capacity the internal source impedance of the output will rise so much that most of the constant-voltage benefits may be lost and performance then be little better than feeding the line direct from the EL84 output. The same great fall in performance results if T4 and T5 are not of optimum characteristics and therefore **a** discussion follows now on these items. Reckoning a nominal output power of some 10W from a stage, and a nominal differential current gain of 50 for the particular type of transistors specified, some 200mW drive are required to be supplied through T4. If the presence or absence of T4 is, therefore, not to affect matching at the EL84 to any appreciable extent, then T4 must never demand more than about 10% of the total power delivered by the EL84.

The primary inductance of T4 must be just large enough not to consume too much current from the EL84 at the design low-cut-off frequency (35c/s). The 10% maximum condition would

(35c/s). The 10% maximum condition would demand an effective load of about 40 to 50 Ω , which may be halved at the low-cut-off frequency. Consequently the primary of T4 should have an impedance of some 20 to 30 Ω at 35c/s, which is satisfied by an inductance of about a tenth of a Henry.

It is then necessary to find out how many turns will give this inductance on the core of an old loudspeaker transformer stripped of all original windings. As no nett d.c. now flows. the E/I stampings should be stacked on *alternate* sides in the new design, giving higher inductance per turn.

Wind on roughly some 200 turns of about 0.5mm diameter wire and insert the stampings. Then connect the windings to a 6-3V a.c. supply, measure the current drawn with an a.c. animeter in series, and calculate the effective impedance at 50c/s through Ohm's Law. Neglecting the d.c. resistance, and dividing the impedance value thus obtained by 300, we get the inductance value in Henrys for the trial winding.

Divide value by the desired inductance value (one tenth of a Henry), and take the square-root of the result. Multiply this factor by the number of turns on the trial-winding to obtain the correct number of turns on the proposed core for the sible wire diameter should be primary of 74. The largest posused: 0.3 to 0.4mm diameter

enamelled copper should be satisfactory. The choice of turns-ratio is now governed by the requirement to make simultaneous maximum use of the full linear range of the characteristic of the EL84 and the transistors under the given -operating conditions.

Linear Range

A steady 1V is dropped across R1 under the specified conditions. The minimum collector to

emitter voltage for maintenance of "pentode" characteristics in the earthed-collector circuit for the 2N257 is stated at 1.5 to 2V (called "kneevoltage"). Thus, with 7.5V supply voltage, some 4.5V peak linear swing at the emitter-loads are realisable, representing some 3V r.m.s. requiring a drive of 3.25V r.m.s. at the bases.

The EL84 delivers some 3W into 4Ω , thus, developing an r.m.s. voltage of 3.5V. Consequently T4 must have a step-down ratio of 3.5 to 3.25. Thus each half of the secondary must have 13/14 of the number of turns of the primary.

Use the same diameter wire throughout. The primary comes first on to the bobbin, in neat

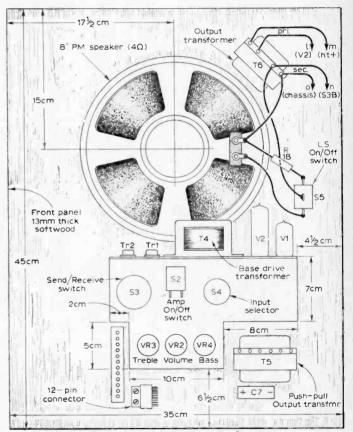


Fig. 4: The component layout diagram of the lid-unit.

layers. Then the secondary, wound right through in the same direction, and accurately centretapped. If a mistake is made in the precise total number of turns, that does not matter much as long as the error is not more than one or two turns, but if the centre-tap is not at the exact numerical centre, consequences could be serious.

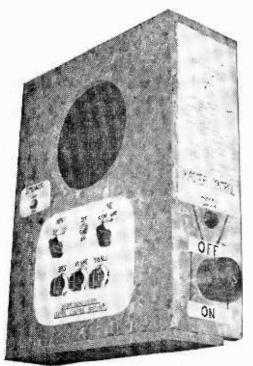
The performance would not be affected up to some 4W total output from the stage, for which the stage remains in class A (neither transistor cuts off on peaks), but at greater drive, when transition to Class AB takes place, with transistors cutting off on alternate peaks, severe distortion can start if the drive is asymmetric due to a falsely-positioned centre-tap on T4 (or T5, for that matter!). For the same reason, a matched pair of transistors should be purchased.

The present unit is designed for a reasonable compromise of 1A standing current per transistor, giving Class A operation up to quite considerable volume, going over to AB only for the final drive up to high volume, where "lower-bend distortion " plays less of a role in comparison to the alreadypresent large undistorted signal level. The final tone quality of the unit is very fine indeed though, of course, true high-fidelity in every respect would be got only with pure Class-A operation, requiring even higher standing transistor current.

The Output Transformer, T5

Design considerations are here as follows: On account of the, roughly, 1:1 ratios throughout the source impedance at T5 (neglecting the additional component from the bias and power supply circuits) will be roughly the EL84 output 4Ω divided by the differential current gain of the 2N257, representing roughly a tenth of an ohm.

This value is the correct one on which to base a design for T5 primary, even though almost the same impedance again adds in series from the other named sources to give the final source impedance seen by the line, which is then about a quarter of an ohm.

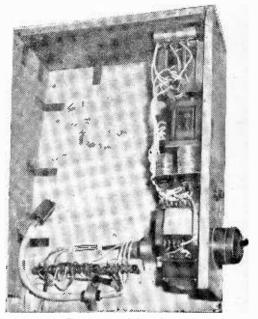


The finished amplifier.

We want the primary to have just sufficient inductance on each half so that it presents ten times the source impedance at least—i.e., at least an ohm. A very generous safety margin at the low-frequency cut-off of T4 is obtained by making the primary inductance of each half on T5 equal to about a hundredth of a Henry.

The exact number of turns needed are experimentally determinable as described for T4. A substantial core is needed on account of the higher power.

Regarding the turns ratio, this is fixed in the



The interior of the cabinet.

following manner: We see that we get a maximum swing of 3V r.m.s. from the emitter loads. We want, however, the same 3.5V back again which prevailed at the internal speaker direct from the EL84, plus about half a volt extra to compensate line losses.

Thus we want to step up the 3V to to 4V and the secondary of T5 must be given 4/3 as many turns as are found to be required for one half of the primary. Use very substantial enamelled copper wire as large as can be accommodated on the bobbin. As all windings taken together will require normally less than a total of 100 turns, wire of 1^{-5} -0mm diameter should be able to be accommodated.

Really careful and thorough experimenters may like to go one stage of perfection further. They can wind an experimental version of T5 first, having taps on both primaries and secondary at 10% and 20% above and below the calculated number of turns. An experimental version of T4 can be wound similarly.

Feeding a pure sinewave into the Mullard amplifier from an audio signal generator and monitoring the EL84 output and the T5 output

LIST COMPONENTS

Resistance

| Carar | 013. | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------|-------------------------|
| RI | +Ω 5W | w.w. (see t | ext) | |
| R2 | 25 Ω | R | 10 | 2·2MΩ |
| R3 | 100KΩ | R | 11 | 560K Ω |
| R4 | 100K Ω | R | 12 | 10KΩ 2W |
| R5 | 25Ω | R | 13 | ΙΚΩ |
| R6 | 25 \ | R | 14 | 150Ω |
| R7 | 100K Ω | R | 15 | ΙΜΩ |
| R8 | 4.7MΩ | R | 16 | $680 \Omega 2W \pm 5\%$ |
| R9 | 100Ω | R | 17 | 4·7KΩ±5% |
| R18 | 4Ω 5W | w.w. +50 | % | |
| Cart | on +200 | 6 IW (unle | ss ir | dividual details |
| ot | herwise s | tated) | | |

- VRI 60Ω 5W w.w. Lin. Preset

- VR4 50KΩ Log. Potentiometer Transformers, Chokes: TI Mains Transformer 6·3V 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ A & 260V 60mA T2 Mains Transformer 7 $\frac{1}{2}/0.7\frac{1}{2}$ V 2 x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ A

 - Mains Isolation Transformer 1 : 1 250 watt Т3
 - **T4** Base-Driver
 - **T5 PP-Output**
 - EL84/40 Output Transformer **T6**
 - Mains r.f. Choke LI
 - H.T. Choke 10 Henry 60mA L2
 - L3 L.T. Choke 1/10 Henry 0.15Ω
- Switches:
 - Mains Lighting Toggle Switch 1-pole On/Off QMB Toggle Switch SI
 - **S2**
 - \$3 Rotary Ceramic Switch, 4 pole 2 way
 - **S4** Rotary Ceramic Switch, I pole 2 way
 - **S**5 Single-Pole Double-Throw QMB Toggle Switch

Capacitors:

- 500pF 1000V.W. Super-Insulation ĊI
- C2 Electrolytic 32µF 450V.W. (Can-type)

with an oscilloscope (to show onset of distortion). as well as observing power with a d.c. voltmeter across known load resistors, a judicious selection of tappings can be found experimentally to give optimum performance consisting of:

- (a) Onset of distortion simultaneously in the EL84 and the transistor output at the same drive maximum. This should be checked for load resistors simulating 1, 2. 3, 4 and 5 loudspeakers in parallel on the output line and at at least the following three
- frequencies: 50c/s, 1kc/s and 7.5kc/s. Line output voltage off-load some 10 to 20% higher than the voltage on the EL84 **(b)** load, both equal when a line load equivalent to about three loudspeakers is connected.

Operating-Point Stabilisation

It is just in the emitter-follower arrangement of transistors that operating-point stabilisation can be particularly elegantly achieved, making use of the inherent total negative-feedback characteristic of any "cathode-follower" device. We choose R1 such that a suitable voltage drop appears across it at the desired standing current and set VR1 such that the voltage across its upper section is just above this design-voltage drop on R1. Provided the resistance of VR1 is not too high ~

- Electrolytic 32µF 450V.W. (Can-type) C3
- Electrolytic 2500µF 12V.W. (Can-type) C4
- C5 Electrolytic 2500µF 12V.W. (Can-type)
- Roll-Electrolytic 1000µF 12V.W. C6
- C7 Electrolytic 5000µF 12V.W. (Large Roll and Clip)
- C8 250pF 500V.W. Ceramic
- C9 0.027 #F 500V.W. Paper
- C10 0.15µF 500V.W. Paper
- CII 0.1µF 500V.W. Paper
- Roll-Electrolytic 50µF 80V.W. C12 C13
- Roll-Electrolytic 8µF 450V.W.
- C14 1000pF 500V.W. Ceramic
- C15 0.1µF 500V.W. Paper

Valves, Diodes, Transistors:

- EF86 and Ceramic Noval Holder VI
- V2 EL84 and Ceramic Noval Holder
- TRI TR2 Matched Pair 2N257 Power Transistors
- DI Selenium Bridge Rectifier 260V a.c./60mA d.c.
- D2 Fullwave Copper-Oxide Pair for 6V 3A d.c. output (approx.)

Sundries:

- I Panel Fuse Unit (insulated)
- 1 12-pole RAF-Connector Pair
- l 8in. Speaker, 4 Ω
- Aluminium, Wood, Bolts, Screws, Tagstrips, etc.
- yd. 14-core Cable
- Connecting Wire
- Screened (Coaxiai) Cable, low capacity, approx. I yd. 3-core Power Cable
- 4-core Power Cable to T3
- Mains Plug
- 5 Pointer Knobs

this gives a very high measure of stabilisation of the total standing collector-emitter current through R1 regardless of whether the transistors are still cold or have warmed up. If R1 were omitted it would certainly be possible to set any desired operating point at a suitable different setting of VR1, but this would then be rather critical and unstable and subject to large drift. Adjust VR1 for IV drop measured across R1.

Cooling

Finally a word about the measures to be adopted for adequate cooling of the transistors. The substantial cast-casings of the 2N257 form the collector connections and are ideally clamped hard against the chassis surface. To allow this in the present circuit and still maintain correct polarity it was necessary to earth the negative pole of the l.t. supply, having the positive insulated from chassis.

Also note in Fig. 4 that the transistors are mounted at the opposite end of the chassis from the EL84, with the transformer T4 as heat screen in between. This avoids unnecessary radiation heating of the transistors from the valves.

Note that the 2N257 are each rated at a total maximum dissipation of 12 watts when clamped to the chassis and will tolerate a temperature rise up to about 110deg F. to dissipate this heat power.

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

805



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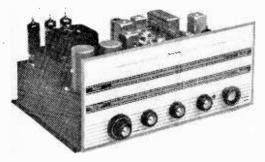
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| 1T5GT | 6/-6A86 | 5/- osl7GT | 6/6 7/6 5651 | 8/- EBF89 | 0/- 12/200 | 6/- US01 20/- | tors: 2N410 (O(45) 5/-; 2N 412 (OC44) 5/-; White Spot |
| 1U4 | 7/- 6A87G | | 4/6 128N7GT 5654 | 10/- EBL1 | **/** | 7/- UABUS0 8/6 | |
| 1U5 | 7/- 6AT6 | 5/-68Q7 | 6/- 7/6 3670 | 10/- EBL21 | LA/UL (CON) | 12/- UAF42 8/- | |
| 2A3 | 5/- 6AU6 | 7/- 6887 6/- 6T8 | 3/- 128R7 5/- 5672 6/- 128Y7 6/- 5678 | 7/- EC91 8/- ECC32 | 3/- GZ34 | 12/- UBC41 7/- | |
| 2C26 2C34 | 3/- 6AV6 4/- 6B8 | 5/-608 | 6/-128Y7 6/-5678 9/-12Y4 2/65691 | 25/- ECC40 | 9/- KTSU | 25/- UBC81 8/- | POST OFFICE RELAYS |
| 2C34 2C40 | 60/- 6B8G | 2/6 6V6 | 9/-1487 14/6 5696 | 8/- ECC84 | SI_KT33C | 6/- UBF80 8/6 | 2 C.O., 500mA, 10k Ω Coil, sec, hand |
| 2040 | 25/-6BA6 | 6/- 6V6GT | 7/-20D1 9/-3726 | 7/- ECC85 | 8) h T + + | 12/- UBF89 8/6 | [M 1 Amp, 6500 Ω Coil, new |
| 2046 | 30/- 6BE6 | 6/- 6X4 | 5/- 20 P4 17/6 5749 | | | 7/-UBL21 13/- | $3M \pm 1B$, 1 Amp, 8800 Ω Coll, new 12/6 |
| 2D21 | 6/- 6BH6 | 8/- 6X5G | 4/6 251.5GT 8/- 5751 | 11/- ECF80 | 10/6 K T63 | 6/- UCC84 9/- | 2B, 500mA, 2000 Ω Coil, new |
| 2X2 | 3/- 6BJ6 | 10/~ 6Y6G | 6/-23Z4G 9/63763 | 10/-[ECFS2 | 9/- 12 10 10 | 15/- UCC83 8/- 1 7/- UCF80 11/- | 4 C.O., 500mA, 2000 Ω Coil, new |
| 2X2A | 7/-6BR7 | 12/6 6Z4 | 5/- 25250 8/- 5787 | 10/- ECH35 | 10/-1 07/07/11 | 6/-UCH42 8/- | 2M + 2B, 6000 Ω Uoil, new |
| 3A4 | 4/-6BR8 | 5/- 7A8 | 5/-30FL1 9/6 5814 | 9/- ECHSU | //9/×3/04 | 25/-UCHSI 9/- | 3 C.O., 500mA, 500 Ω Coil, new |
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| 3B24 | 5/-6BW7 | | 12/- 30PL1 10/6 6073 | 7/6 ECL*2 | 0/0 0/002 | 8/- UF41 9/- | |
| 3D6 3Q4 | 4/-604 7/-605G | 2/6 7C7 5/- 7E5 | 5/- 35Z4GT 7/- 6080 5/- 35Z5GT 7/- 6146 | 30/- ECL86 27/6 EF37A | 11/- PCC85 8/- PCC85 | 13/- UF80 7/6 | TRANSFORMERS |
| 384 | 6/- 606 | · 4/- 7F8 | 7/- 41 5/- 9001 | 4/- EF40 | 10/- PCC89 | 11/- UF85 8/- | INANSFORMERS |
| 384 3V4 | 6/6 6CB6 | 5/- 7H7 | 8/- 42 5/- 9002 | 5/6 EF41 | g/_PCFS0 | 9/6 UF*9 8/6 | Charger Transformers, 200-250 v. input: |
| 4-65A | 60/- 6CD6G | | 7/- 50 B5 8/- 9003 | 7/- EF42 | PCF82 | 9/9 UL41 9/6 | MT3AT. output 0-12-15-20-24-30 v. at 2 Amps. 25/6 |
| 4X150A | | 10/-7R7 | 8/- 5005 7/- 9004 | 2/6 EF55 | PCF86 | 14/- ULS4 8/- | MT21AT, as above at 4 amps |
| 1 | 50/- 6D6 | 3/- 7.77 | 8/- 50L6GT 7/- 9006 | 2/6 EF80 | 61 IPULNI | 9/- UY41 8/- | MT16AT, output 24 v. at 5 Amps |
| 5R4GY | 9/- 6F5 | 6/- 7W7 | 6/- 75 5/6 A1820 | 20/- EF85 | 6/6 PCL 82 | 10/- UY85 7/- | Step-Down Transformers, auto wound, MT4/AT, 0-115-200-230-250 v., 150 watts 25/6 |
| 5T4 | 8/- 6F6G | 5/-724 | 4/- 76 5/- AC/P4 | 7/6 EF86 | 40 0/01 04 | 10/- VR53 4/- 10/- W81M 6/- | 0-115-200-230-250 v., 150 watts |
| 5V4G | 8/-6F7 | 6/- 10F1 | 7/-80 6/-AC6/PE | EN EF89 | 17 100105 | 10/- W81M 6/- | r.r. 0/- eacn. |
| 5Y3G | 4/- 6F8G | 6/6 12A6 | 3/- 83 8/- | 6/- EF185 | | | |
| 5Y3GT | 6/-6F32 | 5/-12A8GT | | 3/- EF184 | | C.R. TUBES | Unless specified otherwise, please add 2/6 in £ for |
| 5X4G | 10/- 6F33 | 4/- 12AH7G | | | 10/- New | | packing and postage, subject to a minimum of 1/6. |
| 5Z3 | 6/- 6G6G | 2/6 | 5/- 814 20/- ARTH: | 210/-IEL34 | 12/- Base | s 3/6 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
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PRACTICAL WIRELESS

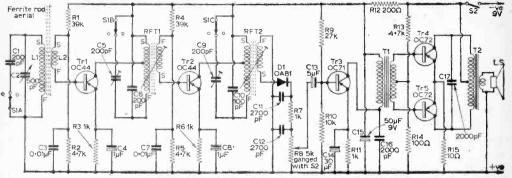


Fig. 1: The circuit.

TRANSISTOR

PORTABLE

A FIVE TRANSISTOR RECEIVER

HE unit to be described is a five transistor portable radio receiver of high sensitivity which, compared with some other types of transistor portable, gives above-average quality of reproduction. Reaction is not employed, and two or three stations are pre-tuned and selected by means of a switch. Selectivity is good and there is a marked absence of background noise and interference.

The aerial coil is externally tuned and one section of the station selector switch merely shunts extra capacity across it, bringing it approximately to the frequency of the station selected. The external tuner is then used for final trimming, and is extremely useful for making adjustments under conditions of poor signal reception or when surrounding objects have a damping effect upon the aerial.

In the original receiver a 7in, by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in, elliptical speaker was used in order to take full advantage of the reproduction available. H.T. is derived from 9V battery and total current consumption of the unit from 5 to 6mA under "no signal" conditions.

The R.F. Amplifier and Detector

The R.F. section comprises two r.f. amplifiers and a diode detector. The diode used in the prototype was an OA81 but other types such as the OA71 are suitable. The transistors used were By G. G. TURTON

807

OC44s but here again equivalents are suitable.

In order to provide tuning of the entire mediumwave band, the value of the variable capacitor or trimmer C2 must be 500pF and is adjusted externally. The values of the fixed capacitors C6 and C10 are 100pF and with S1 position one make it possible to tune the r.f. transformers, by adjusting their dust-cores, to the frequency of any station between 200 and 270m. With S1 in position two the trimmers C5 and C9 will extend the range to about 350m. The switch in this position also shunts the aerial coil with a fixed

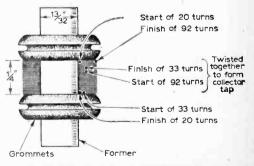


Fig. 2: Details of one of the r.f. transformers.



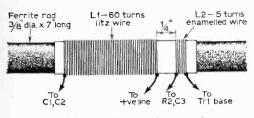


Fig. 3 (above): Details of the aerial.

capacitor C1. The values of these capacitors are 200pF.

With S1 in position three a further trimmer may be switched across each R.F. transformer primary and a fixed capacitor across the aerial coil in order to select a third station.

The A.F. Amplifier

The A.F. amplifier is a standard 200mW type using an OC71 as driver and a matched pair of OC72's in push-pull for output. The constructor may wish to use another amplifier more suitable to the components he has available or in order to obtain greater output.

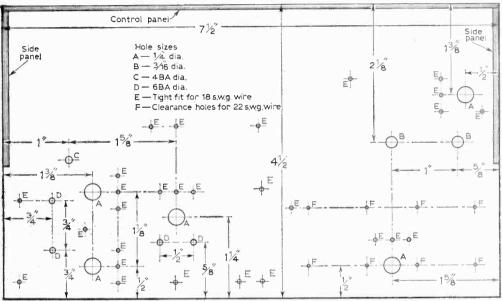
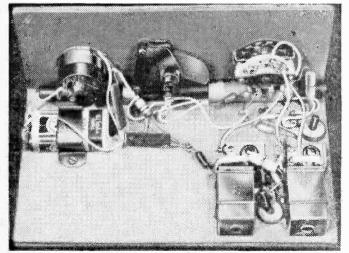


Fig. 4: The chassis drilling dimensions.



A rear view of the receiver.

There are several sets of matched driver and output the market. transformers on and supplied with some of these sets is a suggested circuit for their use. It is well to point out here that not all of the output transformers in suitable for these sets are standard 3Ω matching to a speaker and it is advisable to enquire on this matter when making any purchase.

If headphones or an earpiece is used, the output stage may be omitted entirely, the three remaining transistors will provide more than adequate power. The r.f. stages alone make an admirable tuner unit for feeding into a high quality amplifier.

The values of coupling and decoupling capacitors in this

section are not critical. The decoupling capacitor across the h.t., that is, from the primary of the driver transformer to earth must be at least 50μ F. In general it is best to keep the value of all these capacitors as high as possible.

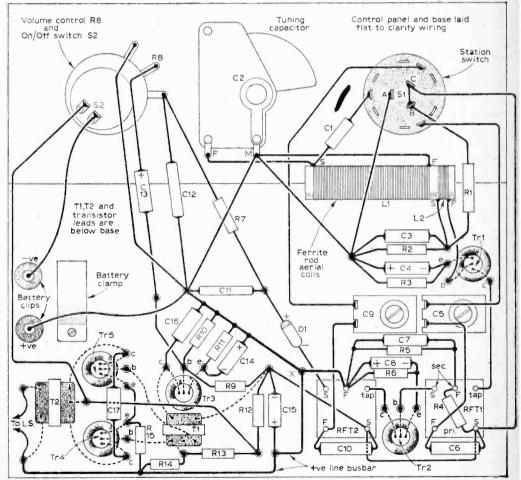
R.F. Transformers

The r.f. transformer coils are home-wound on $\frac{1}{2}$ in dia, formers using 7/45 Litz wire. They must be fitted with variable dust-cores and screening cans. Standard i,f. formers and cans are ideal.

cans. Standard i.f. formers and cans are ideal. First a single layer of 20 turns is wound on to the former. This should be about 4in. in length and spaced by grommets or other suitable spacers. Mark the ends of all windings "start" and "finish". Now wind on top of this first layer a further 33 turns forming another layer and the commencement of a third. Finally 92 turns are added in single layers remembering to wind all coils in the same sense. The "finish" of the second coil of 33 turns and the "start" of the third coil of 92 turns must be twisted together to form the collector tap.

The entire operation requires less time than one may imagine and is quite simple to carry out, the only difficulty being the removal of the enamel insulation from the Litz wire. The following method, although not the speediest, is certain to ensure that all the strands are clean and undamaged.

The cotton or silk is removed from the wire and the strands played out fan shape. They are then drawn along fine flour paper until the copper appears through the enamel. The wire is then turned over and the treatment repeated until all the strands are clean. Finally the strands are counted to ensure all seven are intact, twisted together and tinned.



Transistors are secured through grommets mounted on base

Fig. 5: The wiring diagram.

All the coil ends are then soldered to the wire pillars fitted in the transformers, remembering to note pin connections before finally closing the screening can. The coils may be waxed or doped on completion to prevent damp entering.

Coils on Ferrite Rod

The aerial and coupling coils L1 and L2 are wound on to a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 7in. ferrite rod using 7/45 Litz wire for L1 and 40s.w.g. enamel covered wire for L2.

A paper tube is made to fit freely over the rod and on to this is wound 60 turns of Litz wire to form L1. The coupling coil L2 is five turns of 40s.w.g. spaced {in. from the aerial coil. Both windings are close-wound, and must slide easily on the paper tube along the ferrite rod in order to allow adjustment during alignment.

Before winding the coils it is advisable to insert two straight lengths of wire between the paper tube and the rod opposite each other. On completion of the coil these are removed and the coil will slide freely. For the wiring details of L1 and L2 see diagram.

Construction Suggestions

The chassis used in the prototype consisted of a paxolin base with an upright panel at one side for the mounting of controls. Holes are drilled where pins are required and small lengths of 16s.w.g. tinned copper wire are pushed through. Owing to the close proximity of the ferrite rod aerial to the upright panel, the material used for its construction must not be metal.

In order to reduce the overall thickness of the receiver case, the r.f.t. cans are laid on their sides and held secure to the chassis by lengths of 22s.w.g. wire which is passed through holes in the paxolin base and soldered. The thickness of the

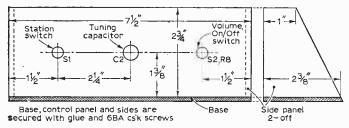


Fig. 6: The front and side panel dimensions.

finished case is finally decided upon by the depth of the loudspeaker magnet and the size of battery decided upon.

C6 and C10 are mounted directly on to the pins of the r.f. transformers and S1 is located at the r.f. end of the chassis in order to prevent instability due to r.f. leads being too long.

With the receiver standing on its base the controls appear at the top panel of the case.

Alignment

Firstly the stations required to be selected by S1 must be decided upon by the constructor. Of the stations required, the one situated at the lowest end of the medium-wave band should be

January, 1963

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| | | | | | | | | | | |

| Resistors (All $\frac{1}{8}$ W, 10%): | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| RI | $39\hat{k}\Omega$ R3 $\hat{k}\Omega$ R5 $4\cdot7k\Omega$ | | | | | | | |
| R2 | 4·7kΩ R4 39kΩ R6 lkΩ | | | | | | | |
| R7 | Ik Ω R8 5k Ω potentiometer with S2 | | | | | | | |
| R9 | | | | | | | | |
| R10 | 10kΩ R13 4·7kΩ | | | | | | | |
| RH | 1kΩ R14 100Ω | | | | | | | |
| Capaci | tors: | | | | | | | |
| ĊI | 200pF | | | | | | | |
| C2 | | | | | | | | |
| C3 | | | | | | | | |
| C5 | | | | | | | | |
| C7 | | | | | | | | |
| | 200pF trimmer CI0 100pF | | | | | | | |
| | 2700pF CI5 50µF 9V | | | | | | | |
| | 2700pF C16 0.002μF | | | | | | | |
| C13 | | | | | | | | |
| CI4 | 30µF | | | | | | | |
| Transi | stors: | | | | | | | |
| Trl | OC44 Tr4 OC72 Matched | | | | | | | |
| Tr2 | OC44 Tr5 OC72∫ pair | | | | | | | |
| Tr3 | OC71 | | | | | | | |
| | Coils and transformers: see text. Diode, D1, | | | | | | | |
| OA81 or equivalent. Switch, S1, 3-pole, 3-way. | | | | | | | | |
| Ferr | ite rod, ∄in. x 7in. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

aligned first. In the case of the original receiver this station was the BBC Light Programme.

A length of wire to form a temporary aerial is connected via a capacitor to the top end of the aerial coil L1 and C2 is set to near its minimum capacitance, or to approximately 100pF. With S1 switched to position one and the r.f.t. dust-core

at mid-position, it may be possible to receive the Light Programme.

The coils L1 and L2 must be situated near one end of the ferrite rod with the base coupling coil L2 on the inside. They may now require some adjustment by sliding them along the ferrite rod. If the station is not yet audible or the gain is low, slowly turn the core of RFT2 until results are achieved. RFT1 is then adjusted and C2 turned for maximum gain.

The whole process is repeated with the temporary aerial removed, until further improvement is not possible. Owing to the directional quality of ferrite rod aerials the receiver must be rotated for best results, on each station tuned.

S1 is then switched to position two and the trimmers C5 and C9 treated in a similar manner to that of the RFT cores in order to select the second station required. C2 is permanently variable and may need some adjustment but the cores of the r.f. transformers must not be moved after selection of the first station. Coils L1 and L2 are finally adjusted for best results on both stations and then permanently fixed.

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

An Advanced GEIGER HEAD

By E. DEXTER

(Continued from page 730 of the December issue)

HE radioactivity of substances present in rainfall is principally of a completely different kind, because much lighter elements are involved. The emission again contains gamma-rays, the second component being mainly beta-rays, which are simply electrons hurled out of the atoms with an effective energy of several million volts.

The MX124/01 probably responds to both these components, so one would expect a much higher sensitivity in theory. But in practice this is not so, because of a number of other complicated factors. so that the effective sensitivity for this type of radioactive substance is much less.

Using a test-sample prepared from London snow, and making comparative measurements with this in the MX124/01 and in the author's calibrated standard Geiger-Head, it was found that one count per minute with the head described in this article corresponded to some 50 to 100pC of rainfall-type substances present in the 8 c.c. contents, representing a sensitivity some five to ten times poorer than for thorium and uranium types.

As a matter of interest, the test sample mentioned was prepared from $\frac{2}{3}$ of a pint of melted London snow from the fall in the winter of 1961/2, using the procedure described in the "Digital Counter" articles, and making the final volume 8 c.c. to suit the MX124/01.

The counting-rate increase observed was about nine per minute, representing an absolute activity in the region of 1.000pC per pint in the original snow, which is quite high! On the other hand, measurements on rainfall on the Continent some days later showed only about a quarter of this activity, whereas even higher values were observed in rainfall early in December 1961.

Conditions fluctuate greatly, therefore, and can be studied in detail with the head described here. If samples are prepared from a quart or two of original water, large signals are easily obtained, needing only some 30 to 60 minutes counting for an accuracy of 10%. Even tap water gives appreciable signals when treated in this way, values of 100 or 200pC per quart having been measured in some samples.

Rapid Counting

The head here described can be operated up to many hundreds of counts per second. For such cases the output may be connected direct to the "Direct-Reading Audio Frequency-Meter" (March, 1962) adjusting the preamplifier gain for maximum and stable reading on the meter (which will still fluctuate at the statistical distribution rate of the pulses).

A solution of thorium nitrate containing some 3 to 4 grams of the substance in 8 c.c. gave a reading of about 200c/s on the 0 to 500c/s range. Multiplication of the meter reading in c/s by about 80 will give the activity in pC contained in the fill of the Geiger-Tube. A solution of uranium nitrate containing 1 gram of the substance in the 8 c.c. fill gave a meter reading of about 300c/s.

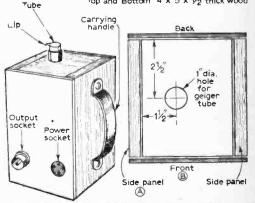
Curiously enough, if these pulses are amplified and passed to a loudspeaker, no 300c/s note is distinguishable, the sound is merely a crackling hiss, because of the random sequence of the pulses in spite of a more or less definite average frequency.

It this unit is intended for anything but very occasional rapid counting, it would be advisable. in the interests of good tube life, to pay further attention still to keeping the stray tube capacities, and consequently C1, down to the smallest possible values.

Decontamination

After completing rapid-counting experiments with the prototype, and rinsing three times as usual, the count refused to return to the normal

Cabinet dimensions : Sides 8[°]x 5[°]x 1/2[°] thick wood Front and Back 8[°]x 5[°]x 3/16[°] plywood Top and Bottom 4[°]x 5[°]x 1/2[°] thick wood



Fix cabinet together with brass countersunk screws, then rasp and sandpaper flush. Re-open cabinet, insert geiger tube and build up wiring on base and panels (A) and (B). Do not make cabinet smaller, in spite of ample room, to avoid internal build-up of heat from EC92 which could damage geiger tube

Fig. 3 (a): The construction of the cabinet.

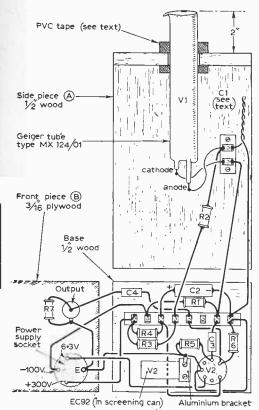


Fig. 3 (b): The component layout and wiring diagram.

(approx.) 40 per minute background, remaining at over 100 per minute, however much washing or soaking with pure water was undertaken.

A cure was effected by using dilute nitric acid as cleansing agent (one part acid to four of water). After three separate quarter-hour soaks with a fill of this acid, with threefold-rinsing in between each, the count returned to the normal background of about 40 per minute.

This form of contamination was clearly due to small precipitates of basic oxides, etc. forming a film on the inner tube, insoluble in water but soluble in nitric acid. To avoid such contamination right from the start, all liquids to be tested should be made strongly acid with at least 25% of the above-mentioned dilute nitric acid.

After completion of measurements, particularly if these involved rapid counting, a check should be made of the background count. If this is not normal, the above decontamination-procedure should be used. If this is not done immediately, and the contaminated tube is left standing even overnight, the deposits may harden and become impossible to remove even by the procedure outlined.

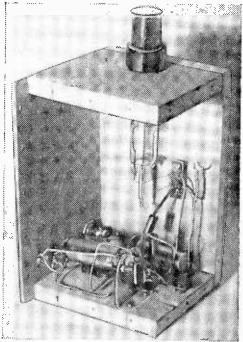
Whilst not rendering the tube fully useless, this will nevertheless reduce accuracy greatly, on account of the permanent worsening of the signalto-noise ratio.

It is desirable to purchase the nitric acid ready-

diluted with four parts of water, as this is then much less dangerous than the concentrated acid. Nevertheless, due respect and care is needed, as even the dilute acid is highly corrosive.

Prolonged experiments with this apparatus revealed the extreme importance of these considerations, which the author feels to be of far greater impact, for the purposes here intended, than the electronic error-sources connected with dead-time, plateau-slope, capacitive loading, etc. Whilst never having had any trouble from such electronic questions, over thousands of operating hours, the contamination question needed repeated attention, even for normal slow counting experiments, as progressing experiments soon revealed.

Some prolonged experiments were undertaken regarding the initial very high activity levels of fresh rain, lasting only a few hours or much less, so that no time was available for concentrating a sample or suitably acidifying it. The average



Inside the completed instrument.

count-increases thus measured from these effects, by filling the untreated rain direct into the head, amounted to some 10% or more increase of the background-count or more at the initial peak, and often remained unchanged present if the water was any appreciable length of time in the Geiger-Tube and then poured out.

This meant that virtually all the active material in the rain was absorbed out on to the glass of the tube. There it remained, and no amount of swilling with distilled water would remove it appreciably, yet a fill of dilute nitric acid removed it entirely within a few minutes in all cases.

Furthermore, samples acidified strongly with nitric acid in the manner described have never as (Continued on page 815) THIS BOOK WILL

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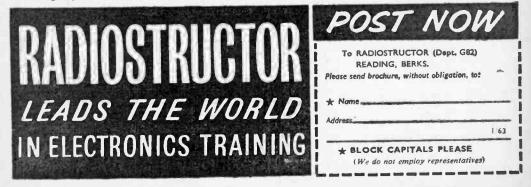
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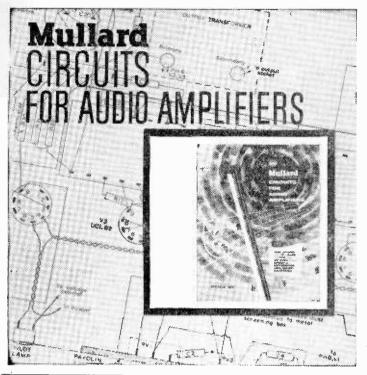
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(Continued from page 812)

yet been observed to give rise to this contamination effect. The basic principle behind this demand for the generous use of nitric acid is that virtually all nitrates are highly soluble bodies in water, and thus nitric acid strongly hinders mineral deposits on glass.

Regarding the cource of these short-life peaks of activity, they are connected with natural radium and thorium emanation present in normal air, rain washing down portions of this or products thereof. The effect probably has nothing to do with atomic bombs or any other man-made devices, being a purely natural phenomenon.

Out of numerous experiments conducted by the author in past months, none failed to show an initial high activity peak in rains, snows, etc. This always seems to be present, whatever time of day rail fell, whatever the quantity of rain, etc. Peaks, some 20-100 times as powerful as the strongest atomic bomb fallout recorded at the author's station are always present in the initial half hour after rainfall, in the water.

Registration

The output of this Geiger-Head Unit is designed for use with author's Digital Counter described in February. This combination is suitable for counting rates up to at least 100 or 200 per minute, which is adequate for measurements with rainfall samples.

Much faster counting rates are achieved when solutions of thorium or uranium salts are filled into the Geiger-Tube, and in such cases the Direct-Reading Audio-Frequency Meter (PRACTICAL WIRELESS March 1962) forms an excellent registration-unit. The meter on this unit, reading cycles/second, gives pulses-per-second direct. It will be found that, for stable triggering, the preamplifier gain on the unit should be set about midway.

Amateur constructors will almost certainly be unable to obtain, or have difficulty in obtaining. uranium and thorium salts, and may indeed have difficulty in obtaining a Geiger-Tube of the specified type. But schools, clubs and institutions snould normally have no difficulty, so that there is certain to be a sufficiently large circle of people actually able to put the subject of this article into practice.

The possibilities of educational work in radioactive tracer-chemistry analysis, using thorium and uranium salts in the apparatus described, are suggested to keen Sixth Forms and their teachers. Some quantitative details of the signals obtained in such experiments with the author's prototype are given below, as well as other relevant data on the sensitivity and use of the unit.

Construction and Layout

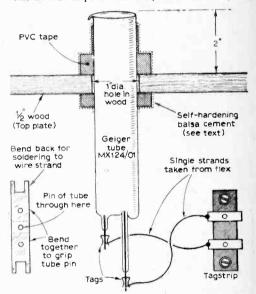
Fig. 3b shows the wiring and layout diagram. It is advisable to keep strictly to this arrangement which gives good results in the prototype. The whole unit is about the size and shape of a tall coffee-pot.

A handle is fixed at one side, and the protruding spout of the Geiger-Tube is arranged to be at the top front, so that pouring-operations are possible in the same way as with a coffee-pot. It is merely necessary to remove the power and output plugs from the side to free the unit for filling and emptying of test-liquids. Note particularly the arrangement of C1 in Fig. 3b.

Geiger-Tube Mounting

The Geiger-Tube is extremely fragile, and must have a resilient but firm mounting. The author found the arrangement sketched in Fig. 4 to be very satisfactory. A hole of 1in. diameter is drilled in the front of the top-piece of the case, as shown, and the Geiger-Tube then fixed in a position such that about 2in, protrude at the top, using a pile of P.V.C.-adhesive tape wound on to the tube each side of the hole through the case, to a greater diameter than the hole.

The P.V.C.-Tape is smooth plastic one side, and



Solder wires to tags before pushing on to geiger tube pins

Fig. 4: The Geiger-Tube mounting details and connections.

adhesive on the other, making a neat job with very high insulation. Ordinary insulating tape could be used, but is likely to be messy. The wound-on P.V.C.-Tape piles alone would creep with time and the Geiger Tube gradually falls into the case. To avoid this, and to make a really neat finish, the tape-windings are coated with a self-hardening transparent mass of the "Uhu-Plus" type. This is purchasable in packages containing two tubes, a binder and a hardener.

Equal quantities are mixed before use, and painted on with a nail or matchstick. The mass runs smoothly within a few minutes and dries hard in about 10 to 30 hours. The coating should run from the glass of the tube, over the P.V.C.-Tape, and on to the wood of the case.

Connections to Tube

The normal method of connection intended by the manufacturers for industrial use of the tube is to arrange for the two protruding pins to dip

(Continued on page 819)

Crystal controlled Top band 'phone Transmitter

By F. G. RAYER

N the 1.8-2Mc/s band, transmitter power is limited to 10W, so the equipment used is quite small, and no large or high voltage power pack is required. Many top band transmitters can, in fact, be run from a receiver type power pack.

If crystal control is employed, the circuits are even more simplified, and working with one or two crystals is feasible. Crystal control does, of course, provide excellent frequency stability, and avoids the difficulties associated with a variable frequency oscillator. The main disadvantage of crystal control lies in the fact that the transmitter can only be used on frequencies for which crystals are available. It is, however, possible to build a V.F.O., to replace the crystal, at a later date.

The circuits described here have been found to give good results, and are intended for speech transmission. They may be used for C.W. by keying the R.F. section in any usual way. The range obtained naturally depends upon conditions, type of aerial, etc., and is about usual for this type of equipment. That is, generally up to a range of several hundred miles, with 10W. Very much longer distances are sometimes covered.

Modulated Oscillator

A crystal controlled oscillator can be modulated

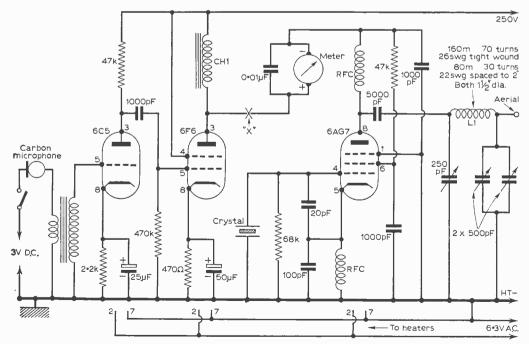


Fig. 1: Circuit diagram of the three-valve speech transmitter.



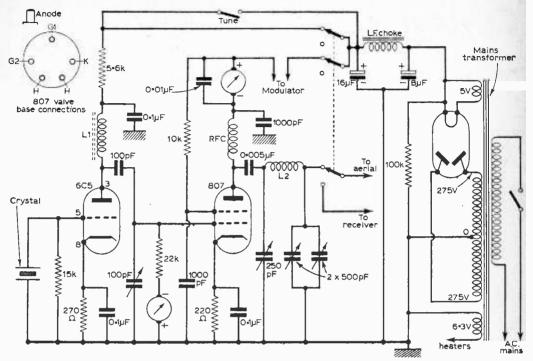


Fig. 2: Two-stage transmitter with switching and power pack.

quite deeply, and the circuit in Fig. 1 shows a complete speech transmitter using only three valves. The 6C5 and 6F6 form the speech amplifier, and many other valves of somewhat similar type may be used here. Surplus carbon microphones vary considerably in sensitivity and if this is too great the microphone battery voltage can be reduced. If a crystal type is preferred, the double-triode stage in Fig. 4 may replace the 6C5.

The 6AG7 is the crystal oscillator, with a pi output circuit to permit loading into almost any aerial. The anode tuning capacitor may be 150pF to 300pF, while the aerial loading capacitor is a two-gang or three-gang 500pF component, with sections in parallel.

The aerial loading capacitor is initially closed, and the anode tuning capacitor is adjusted until the meter shows a dip in current. If the current shown by the meter is too low, the aerial loading capacitor is opened, the anode tuning meanwhile being re-adjusted for minimum current, This is continued until the meter shows the

This is continued until the meter shows the required current. The crystal oscillator should not be too heavily loaded. With a 250V anode voltage, 20mA will be 5W input, which is about the maximum recommended for this circuit.

The transmitter can be tested by wiring a lamp from the aerial terminal to chassis, and loading into this, as if into an aerial. Speech should sound clear and reasonably modulated. A carbon microphone and transformer of efficient type may easily overload the modulator, so the microphone should be kept at a reasonable distance. Gain can be reduced, if necessary, by removing the 25μ F bias capacitor, or fitting a 500k Ω volume control.

Two-stage Transmitter

The two-stage transmitter in Fig. 2 will easily load up to the full 10W input, and can be fully modulated. The 6C5 is a simple crystal oscillator. A small medium wave coil with adjustable core can be arranged to cover 1.8-2Mc/s, the 100pF capacitor being used for tuning.

Tuning with this capacitor is adjusted until the grid meter shows between 2-4mA, corresponding to 40-80V bias developed across the $20k\Omega$ grid resistor. Tuning should be slightly off resonance in the usual way, so that the crystal oscillator starts when switched on.

For aerial loading and tuning, the pi output circuit is the same as in Fig. 1. The actual anode voltage of the 807 will depend on voltage drop ir the power pack smoothing choke, etc., but should be around 250V. At this voltage, loading the 807 until it draws 40mA will give an input of 10W.

In practice, signal strength reports are about the same if loading is to only 8W or 9W so exact adjustment is not needed. The input must not exceed 10W, unless the transmitter is used on the 3.5Mc/s or other bands, as mentioned later.

Cathode Blas

Some cathode bias is provided for each stage and this keeps the H.T. current to a safe level if the crystal stage does not oscillate, due to wrong tuning or any other fault. Initially, the "Tune', switch is closed, and the grid circuit tuned to produce 2mA to 4mA grid current. as described This also allows the frequency to be found on a

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January, 1963

receiver before transmitting. The "Tune" switch is left open when operating.

Send/Receive switching is incorporated. With the switch in one position, both stages are on, and the transmitter output is taken to the aerial. With the switch in the receive position, the aerial is taken to the receiver, and the transmitter is switched off. No external relay or similar arrangement need be used.

The circuit will give reasonable results with the modulator in Fig. 1, but near 100% modulation cannot be obtained with this modulator. Quite good modulation will be achieved if the 807 is loaded to some 5W or 6W input.

The advantage of the Class A modulator, in Fig. 1, is its simplicity, and the fact that overmodulation is practically impossible when using it. Attempts to increase modulation too far will simply cause speech distortion.

To secure deep modulation with the simple Class A modulator, a capacitor and resistor may be wired in parallel, and included at the point "X" in Fig. 1. (This should not be done when modulating the crystal oscillator.) The capacitor can be 1μ F to 4μ F and the resistor may be about $1k\Omega$ 2W or such a value as will permit nearly 100% modulation, with the 807 loaded to the required input.

Harmonic Oscillator

If the 6C5 is replaced by a harmonic type oscillator, output may be obtained at multiples of the crystal frequency. The transmitter can then be used on other bands.

An oscillator of this type is shown in Fig. 3. The anode circuit can be tuned to the same frequency as the crystal, or to multiples of this frequency. In Fig. 3, a two-way switch allows working on 160 or 80m bands, with crystals having a fundamental frequency in the 160m band.

When doubling frequency, the crystals must be chosen to allow operation in the higher frequency band. For example, a 1850kc/s crystal would give operating frequencies of 1850kc/s and 3.7Mc/s. But a 1950kc/s crystal would do for top band only, as its harmonic would be 3.9Mc/s, which is outside the 3.5-3.8Mc/s band.

Small, dust cored coils may conveniently be used, as they can easily be adjusted to give coverage of the required bands, with the 100pF tuning capacitor. It is also possible to use a trimmer across one or both coils, setting this when first testing the equipment. The 807 grid current meter will show correct tuning, and indicate whether the 6AG7 anode coils are satisfactory for the bands required.

If preferred, the 20pF capacitor can be replaced by a 30pF trimmer. This allows adjustment of the oscillator, which may be helpful with doubtful surplus crystals, or crystals which have been ground by hand. The remainder of the circuit is the same as shown in Fig. 2.

When working in the $\overline{80m}$ band, the 10W limit does not apply, so the anode current can be increased. An input of 20W or 30W can easily be achieved, with a higher H.T. voltage, but with the lower voltage supply the anode current is best kept down to about 70mA. or about 17W input. At this input, R.F. output should be sufficient to light a 15W domestic lamp well. Input may be increased

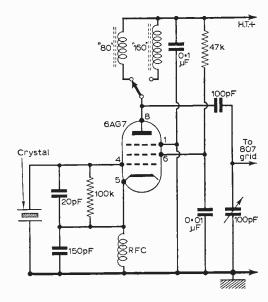


Fig. 3: Oscillator with output on fundamental and harmonics.

slightly by omitting the 220Ω resistor and 0.1μ F by-pass capacitor, taking the cathode of the 807 to chassis.

It is then essential to obtain some 2mA or so grid current, before switching on the 807 anode and screen grid circuit. The pi circuit should also be tuned quickly to resonance, as very heavy anode current will soon damage the valve.

Push-Pull Modulator

For 100% modulation, the modulator must deliver about one-half the power input of the 807. For example, if the 807 is loaded to 10W input, a 5W modulator will suffice. This means that many quite small amplifiers can be used successfully as modulators. A 10W amplifier. for example, would do well for P.A. inputs of up to 20W or so.

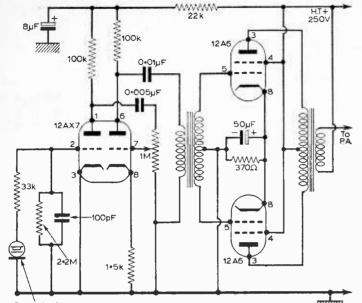
Fig. 4 shows a suitable modulator of straightforward design, and intended for top band use, or where the P.A. input is not much over 10W. If the crystal microphone does not give much output, and a little more gain is required, a 25μ F bias capacitor may be shunted across the $1.5k\Omega$ resistor.

There is no particular reason for choosing 12A6 valves for the output stage, except that these are available cheaply in some surplus equipment, with transformers to suit. They require a 12.6V heater supply. Other valves are perfectly satisfactory, such as the 6V6, 6BW6, etc.

Audio amplifiers intended for other purposes will generally have a phase-splitter valve, instead of the centre-tapped driver transformer. The use of such a stage, instead of the transformer, is perfectly satisfactory.

For maximum efficiency, the modulation transformer ratio is chosen to suit the push-pull output stage, and P.A. input. The ratio is chosen in exactly the same way as for a speaker matching

www.americanradiohistory.com



Crystal microphone

Fig. 4: Circuit of Class B modulator.

transformer, except that the P.A. will offer a much higher impedance load than does a speaker.

The modulating impedance of the P.A. can be found from:

P.A. H.T. voltage $Z = ---- \times 1000.$

P.A. current (mA)

Assuming that the P.A. draws 40mA at 250V, the impedance will be approximately 6200Ω .

The optimum load of the output stage of the modulator depends on the valves and H.T. voltage. The figure is listed by valve makers. For example, it is 8.000Ω , for a pair of 6V6's, in Class AB1, with 285V. The transformer ratio is found in the usual way:

Ratio: <u>Optimum load</u> Impedance of load

The ratio is thus approximately 1.14:1, in the example. Multi-tap modulation transformers can be obtained, and will allow matching between modulator and P.A. to be easily adjusted. Good results can be obtained without the exact ratio, and results are usually satisfactory even if the P.A. is not loaded to exactly the input for which the modulation transformer ratio was intended. This allows surplus transformers be be used with success, if the matching is reasonably good.

Power Pack

If a receiver has a generously designed power pack, this can supply enough current for a top band transmitter and modulator. It would then be necessary to switch the power pack from receiver to transmitter by disconnecting the circuit at the smoothing choke. Heater current for the transmitter should be obtained from a small separate heater transformer, as the heaters are left on.

If a power pack is to be constructed, the circuit can be as shown in Fig. 2. A 5Z4 will provide up to 125mA. This valve has a 5V 2A heater. The 5V4 and 5U4 will supply 175mA and 225mA, if needed. and the latter has a 5V 3A heater. A bleeder resistor (100k Ω in Fig. 2) should be fitted, to discharge the capacitors.

The voltage obtained from the power pack is not very important for top band, and a 250V or 350V secondary can be used. But if a larger input is required, for other bands, a 350V or 450V h.t. supply may be used.

AN ADVANCED GEIGER HEAD

(Continued from page 815)

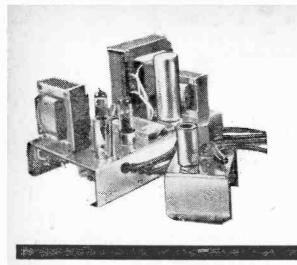
into suitably-placed mercury cups in the industrial holder. The author considers this arrangement to be unsuitable for general amateur and school use, for several reasons.

Firstly, it would mean removal of the bare tube alone each time for filling and emptying or cleaning, with consequent increased repeated danger of breakage each time. A permanent fixture arrangement, where the delicate parts of the tube are exposed only during initial construction of the unit, is considered to be more suitable for amateur use, and has been adopted here.

Secondly, mercury is far more dangerous than many people believe, and thus undesirable for amateur use. Small balls of spilled mercury lodged in crevices in floorboards of a badly ventilated room can cause mental defects, blindness, etc., over a period of many years to a constant occupier of such a room.

The method of making connections to the tube shown in Fig. 4, should be adopted. The author used solder-tag inserts from the type of tagstrip with removable inserts. These, when bent together, form very secure clips for pushing on to the tube wires, the central holes being of the correct diameter.

Prior to pushing these clips on to the tube wires. a single thin strand of bare wire from a piece of flex is soldered on to each clip. and wired to the nearby tagstrip. from which then ordinary connecting wires proceed to the rest of the circuitry. This arrangement very effectively removes all strain from the tube which would otherwise result from the connecting wires.





COMPLETE HI-FI SWITCH-TUN

This series of articles will describe a switch-tuned a.m.-f.m. sensitivity and stability, high-fidelity reproduction and large reserv If required, the audio-amplifier can provide sufficient power to o speakers distributed throughout a small dance-hall, at high volum

HE equipment incorporates a power pack and audio-amplifier chassis together with its "flying-panel" containing all controls and connections. Apart from constituting a three-stage SW push-pull amplifier (200mV r.m.s. sensitivity for full output) with all power supplies, this chassis also provides three independent and highlysmoothed h.t. outputs of 150 to 200V on 25mA loading each. and a heater output at 6.3V 4A. These outputs can feed tuner, tapedeck circuits and/or preamplifiers. The Radio/Gram switch on the flying-panel switches all these h.t. and l.t. supplies "on" in the "radio" position and "off" in the "gram" position. On the same switch another wafer switches a mains supply for a gramophone or tapedeck motor. The unit may thus certainly be used in conjunction with other apparatus than the particular tuner and recordreproducer to be described and can be built hy itself as a general-purpose amplifier and power pack.

The four-station switch-tuned M.W.-L.W. tuner is of very high sensitivity and also has a continuously-tunable v.h.f.-f.m. band with automatic frequency regulation. Emphasis on the a.m. section is on high gain, permitting powerful a.g.c. This tuner may if required be built alone for use in conjunction with other existing apparatus. While the gain of the amplifier alone is certainly ample for high-level pick-ups, such as crystal types, it is not quite sufficient for most high-class types which give a much lower output voltage under true high-fidelity conditions. Thus the final stage of the tuner chassis is also used as audio-preamplifier for the specified record reproducer chassis (Collaro Studio TX88). This pick-up gives an output of some 100 to 125mV, which would only load the amplifier to some 3 to 5W output without a preamplifier. While this would be ample for normal room listening it does not exploit the full capabilities of the amplifier. Thus, constructors building the amplifier and power pack chassis alone should provide a suitable preamplifier, or use a slightly lower quality pick-up unit of at least 250mV output.

Final Assembly of Radiogram

There are some excellent reasons for separating the equipment into two chassis, instead of using a single larger chassis. The least important (technically speaking), yet mechanically very useful, is the benefit of greater latitude in disposition of components, which gives a greater choice of cabinet type and shape.

A high power audio amplifier and a power pack both produce heavy surges of current at low frequency, contain large iron-cored components with stray magnetic fields, and components which

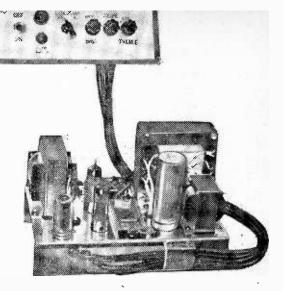
| Load | Max. power | Corresponding to | | | | | |
|--|------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2-5Ω | 10·5 W | A pair of $S\Omega$ speakers in parallel, receiving about S W each | | | | | |
| 5Ω | 13·2 VV | A single 5Ω speaker receiving about 13 W | | | | | |
| 7 ·5Ω | I4·2 ₩ | A pair of 15Ω speakers in parallel receiving about 7 W each (Optimum) | | | | | |
| 15Ω | 10-1 W | A single 15Ω speaker re- ceiving about 10 W | | | | | |
| Measurements made at 50 c/s, 1 kc/s and 5 kc/s showed no significant differences. Saturation current into a.c. ammeter across output transformer secondary, amplifier over- driven hard at 50 c/s mains frequency: 2 amps. | | | | | | | |

Table 1: Power output for 1.5% distortion, measured with an oscilloscope on the prototype, using load resistances of stated values on specified output transformer secondary.



RADIOGRAM

iogram of high f output power. te several loud-



by A. Cole

get very hot indeed. Also, such equipment is very heavy.

The best position for such equipment is with the chassis standing horizontally on the floor of a much larger cabinet. The weight is then properly carried, and heat can be dissipated by strong upward convection currents. Valves can be mounted upright, which is always the best orientation of valves which get very hot during operation.

A tuner is concerned with low-current highfrequency signals, normally produces only moderate or little heat in its components, and is mechanically quite light. It is thus of advantage to mount a tuner chassis upright, with the valves horizontal and accessible through the rear of the cabinet, thus enabling controls to be situated inside the top of the cabinet, where they are more conveniently operated than at the front bottom of the cabinet.

The weight of a tuner chassis, once the power supply and audio-amplifier is removed, is small enough for hanging the chassis in this fashion, wheras this would give considerable mechanical complications if the heavy transformers were on the same chassis. For an audio-amplifier it is easy to mount all controls on a small "flying-panel" connected to the main amplifier chassis by almost any reasonable length of cables required.

It is thus ideal to build a high-quality radiogram in four portions. Firstly, the main amplifier and power pack chassis, standing well clear and secure on the floor of the large cabinet space. This can be immediately below the gramophone mechanism forming the second item. The third item is the flying control panel for the amplifier and power pack, which can be mounted at any convenient position on the horizontal inside-top panel of the cabinet. Finally, the tuner chassis, slung vertically with the controls projecting upwards through the inside-top panel of the cabinet.

Loudspeakers

Measurements made on the completed proto-

type amplifier chassis, given in Table 1, show that the output is reasonably tolerant of loudspeaker impedances, giving reasonable performance with virtually any speaker combination. The optimum load specified is 7.5Ω , yet available power losses are less than a third, even when using gross mismatches.

It is recommended that a pair of WB Stentorian HF1016 units be obtained, and connected to the two pairs of output terminals provided, which automatically place the two loudspeakers in parallel. The Stentorian has a universal speech coil, which should be wired for 15Ω on both units. Take care to phase both loudspeakers correctly relative to each other, so that the cones move in sympathy. This is achieved in identical speakers simply by wiring them in a precisely identical fashion.

Purpose of two loudspeakers

The purpose of designing for two loudspeakers is to obtain a greater "dimension and body" for the reproduction. One loudspeaker is mounted in the main cabinet, and the other in a separate housing placed a good distance away within the same room. The listener should have both loudspeakers in front of him, the relative positions being roughly those of a good stereo installation.

It is advantageous to make the acoustic characteristics of the main cabinet and the second loudspeaker cabinet rather different. The same cabinet air volumes should be used, but completely different dimensions: i.e., the second loudspeaker cabinet is of the bass reflex type, but the main radiogram cabinet is conventional.

Such a two-loudspeaker installation on a mono channel is able to run at much higher volume without discomfort to the listener, giving a great dimension to the sound, more in keeping with the

Continued over page

true characteristics of an orchestra. Furthermore, for a given power fed into such a system, the apparent subjective volume observed by the listener is considerably greater than for the same total power fed into a single loudspeaker—when properly dimensioned and adjusted.

Under good conditions, such an installation can give a performance on a mono channel closely approaching the performance of a cheap stereo outfit, as far as the "dimension" is concerned. The musical expert, of course, will not be fooled by this but it will certainly separate instruments which have different character, and many musical laymen will be unable to tell the difference between this and true stereo. Furthermore, the constructor can later duplicate the amplifier and run true stereo.

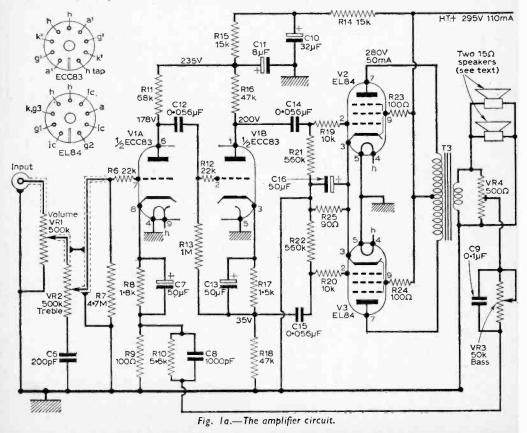
Power Pack and A.F. Chassis

Fig. 1 shows the complete theoretical circuit of this chassis and its flying control panel. The circuit is reasonably conventional apart from some unusual features in the power supply.

Amplifier Circuit

V1a, half an ECC83, is used as a simple straightforward voltage amplifier with a gain of some This circuit gives no gain of voltage, in common with all cathode-followers, but that is a reasonable price to pay for simplicity and reliability ove long periods. The use of the normal bias resistor R17, to the bottom end of which the gridleal R13 is returned, ensures true class-A operation, so that both polarities of signal half-cycles an passed on without distortion. Correct value of R17 is important to avoid dis

Correct value of R17 is important to avoid dis tortion at high output power which can originate in this stage before the output stage itself start overloading. The correct value of R8 is equally important. R16 and R18 should be a pair of equa resistors. C13 prevents unbalance at the cathod of the phase-splitter results, although such un balance is not as serious in this design as in man similar amplifiers running the output stage ii Class AB or Class B because here strict Class-4 is employed throughout. This is unusual for thi kind of amplifier, and places heavy demands of the power supply, as the no-signal standing current is well over 100mA in the output stage



current, to be certain of tolerating the high surges, and the smoothing electrolytics are in the form of a large chassis mounting can of ample voltage-rating and surge-rating. It is undesirable to use small tubular electrolytics in this position, as these will probably sooner or later overheat and fail, on account of the surges.

A strict Class-A push-pull stage is very tolerant to mains ripple left on the h.t. However, V1 would most certainly not tolerate such ripple, hence the large amount of extra smoothing there obtained by means of R14, R15, C10, C11.

Grid-stoppers

It cannot be over-stressed how important gridstoppers are with modern high-gain' miniature valves, and it is probably true to say that the

shifts in a poor type of output transformer can give supersonic instability in the whole negative feedback loop with the same disastrous effects on the output valves. Such shifts in T3 are capable of being compensated by the arrangement of R10 and C8, which are adequate for a good quality transformer. If the anode-voltages on V2 and V3 show any tendency to unbalance as VR4 is adjusted, the effect of increasing or decreasing C8 could be tried, but if serious modifications are necessary, it is better to obtain a better output transformer. The "makeshift" practice of using a heater transformer for 110-220V mains as primary, and 6.3V as secondary, as a push-pull output transformer, is most strongly discouraged. Such heater transformers give very poor performance other than at mains frequency and may lead to incurable instability of the types discussed.

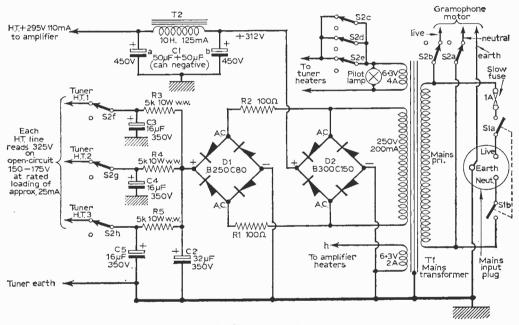


Fig. 1b-The power pack circuit.

great majority of failures in amplifier designs nowadays are the result of insufficient attention having been paid to the direct or indirect effects of parasitic oscillations.

If some or all of the grid-stoppers R19, R20, R23, R24 are omitted, or incorrectly wired (gridconnection too long). the whole amplifier can go unstable, and V2 or V3, or both, can suddenly run bright red-hot and burn out. This could also lead to the destruction of components in the power supply. If an output stage goes into parasitic oscillation on account of improperly wired gridcircuits, the resulting grid-current often produces a monostable multivibrator action between the two valves as a by-product. This results in one of the EL84 valves being cut off, and the other running up to huge anode current, which rapidly destroys it.

Even with grid-stoppers it is possible that phase-

The need for a really good item of reliable manu-

facture for T3 cannot be over-emphasised. Even V1, in spite of its low slope, is provided with very substantial grid-stoppers. All six gridstoppers in this amplifier must be wired very close to the grid-pin they are to protect, and nothing else must then be connected direct to this grid-pin.

Tone Controls

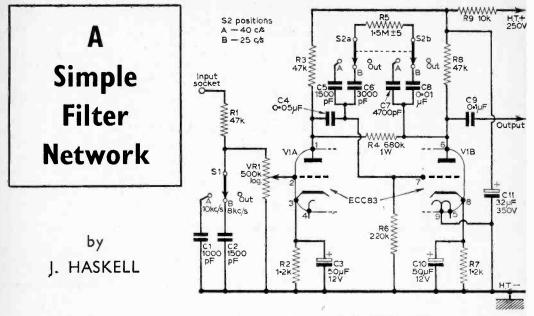
This circuit uses a popular form of tone control which does not waste available power, nor give rise to dangers of overloading.

One of the poorest methods of tone control, from design points of view, is to connect a $10-50k\Omega$ potentiometer and 0.1μ F capacitor in series from the anode of the output valve to chassis.

(To be continued)

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963



AVE for treble, bass, volume and equalizer controls, scratch and rumble filters are rarely, if ever, found on average amplification equipment. These controls are necessary for the modern hi-fi amplifier, which has a good frequency response and is thus likely to reproduce record scratch and turntable rumble frequencies.

824

A scratch filter is also useful when playing records with a high transient content, and whose

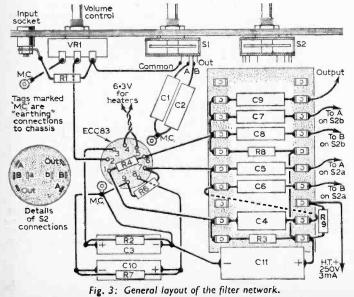


Fig. 1: Circuit of the filter network.

centre hole is essentric. With the former, tracing distortion would be more predominant and a high frequency cut is necessary. The scratch filter is also useful for A.M. broadcasts where 10kc/ whistles and side-band interference are also present.

Rumble filters are useful for cutting out the low frequency rumble present in record changers, and for eliminating the modulating tone of a medium wave broadcast.

For real high quality reproduction, filter "out" positions are given; and a good frequency response is maintained at low distortion.

Scratch Filter

The scratch filter shown in Fig. 1, is nothing but a simple treble-cut circuit comprising the resistors R1 and capacitors C1 and C2. Due to the attenuation arising from a network of this type, some amplification is necessary, and thi is provided by the first section o the double-triode ECC83.

A low anode load and negativ feedback provided by R4 give good stability and adequate hig frequency response. The two positions A and B (Fig. 1) of th switch SW1 give a 10dB cu beginning from 10kc/s and 8kc/ respectively. Although the net work is simple, nevertheless it is still very effective.

An alternative circuit for a scratch filter is given in Fig. 2. This is the cascade type, giving different degrees of cut at a fixed frequency. Both the networks have a filter "out" position when the signal is fed direct to the volume control VR1 through R1.

Rumble Filter

The rumble filter is based on the negative feedback principle. There are two advantages to this method -firstly it is very effective and secondly it improves the quality of the output of this stage.

Application of feedback from the anode of the second stage, back to the grid of the same stage,

effectively lowers the imput impedance, resulting in a low frequency cut. The values calculated are for cut at 40c/s and at 25c/s. There is also a filter out " position.

If rumble still remains, even in the "A" position of the switch SW2, then C10 may be

COMPONENTS LIST

Resistors

(All fixed resistors 10%, $\frac{1}{2}W$, unless otherwise

| spe | cified) | | |
|-----|----------------------|------|---------------|
| RL | 47kΩ | R7 | 1 •2k Ω |
| R2 | l• 2 kΩ | R8 | $47 k \Omega$ |
| R3 | 47 kΩ | R9 | l0kΩ |
| R4 | 680kΩ, IW | R10† | $22k\Omega$ |
| R5 | 1.5MΩ, 5% | RIIT | $22k\Omega$ |
| R6 | 220kΩ | R12† | $22k\Omega$ |
| VRI | 500k Ω , log. | | |
| | | | |

Capacitors

| C1* C2* C3 | 1000pF ceramic or mica 1500pF ceramic or mica |
|------------------|---|
| C4 | 50μ F, 12V electrolytic 0·05 μ F 350V paper |
| C5 | 1500pF ceramic or mica |
| C6 | 3000pF ceramic or mica |
| C7 | 47000pF ceramic or mica |
| C8 C9 | 0.01 µF, 350V paper |
| CIO | 0.1μ F, 350V paper 50 μ F, 12V, electrolytic |
| ČIĬ | 32μ F, 350V, electrolytic |
| ČI2 | 750pF ceramic or mica |
| C13 | 750pF cermic or mica |
| C14 | 750pF ceramic or mica |
| Switch | es |
| S1* | I pole, 2 way |
| S2 | 2 pole, 3 way |
| S3† | I pole, 4 way |
| Valve | |
| VI | ECC83 |
| *These c | components are used only in the circuit of Fig. 1. |

†These components are used only in the circuit of Fig. 2.

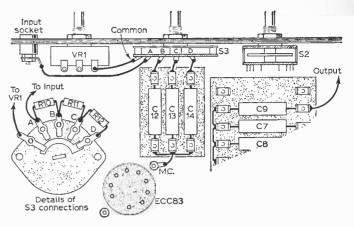


Fig. 4: Alternative arrangement when using the scratch filter of Fig. 2.

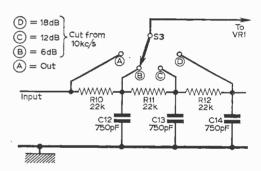


Fig. 2: Alternative circuit for scratch filter of the cascade type giving different degrees of cut at a fixed frequency.

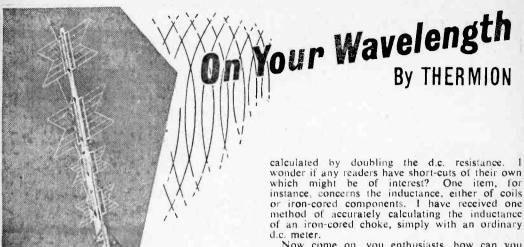
removed. This provides a gradual low frequency roll-off as well as current feedback to the second section of the valve. The high frequency response. however, will also suffer, so this should be tried only in extreme cases.

Requirements

The circuit requires approximately 3mA of current at 250V, and is adequately decoupled by R9 and C1. An input voltage of 100mV results in an output of 600mV. The valve requires l.t. of 6.3V at 300mA.

Layout

The layout is by no means critical. Usual good wiring practice should be employed. Heater wiring should be tightly twisted and tucked close to the chassis. All signal leads should be kept away from a.e. wiring. Either a tag-board or separate tag-strips may be employed. The layout for tag-boards is given in Fig. 3. The circuit is very stable, and will give satisfaction to even the most critical of listeners.



Now come on, you enthusiasts, how can you arrive at this? It seems quite an interesting idea, and I am sure there must be many such dodges in more or less common use in experimental labs, or workshops.

Ribbon Speakers

Some years ago the ribbon (or velocity) microphone was very popular, and quite a number of constructional articles appeared in many papers and magazines on how to make these. Usually the large magnets were obtained from ex-Government apparatus, and ordinary wrapping foil was crinkled for the essential element.

I have been experimenting with a similar idea for a ribbon loudspeaker, but I am afraid without much success. Either the instrument was too delicate and would only carry a very weak signal, or it was too robust and did not give much output above 12,000 or so cycles. I cannot remember seeing any articles in any magazines on the construction of this type of loudspeaker, and can only find a single one on the English market.

Of course, the efficiency is rather low, and there appears to be only one commercially made loudspeaker which incorporates one of these with a standard moving coil unit to give the complete frequency range. I have also been looking through complete receiver specifications and can only find one really high-quality radiogram which has this type of loudspeaker incorporated in its output, and this, I understand, is now being discontinued. Why is this, I wonder? Modern tweeters are

Why is this. I wonder? Modern tweeters are certainly very efficient, but one would have thought that the ribbon instrument, could have been developed to form a very strong competitor for these.



21- Every Month

A FTER all that has been said about the electronic games business in past issues, I have now received from a Mr. Massey of the Planet Instrument Co. of Leeds some most interesting data of a machine designed to play the game of Noughts and Crosses.

These details have been duplicated and apart from a very precise description of how the machine functions, there is a complete list of parts needed (with prices) and it would appear that here, at last, there is a really good electronic game available to those who are interested in this country.

Among the many details sent to me by readers were dozens of cuttings from American magazines showing that this hobby is apparently much more developed in the U.S.A. than over here, and Icannot imagine whether this is due to the Americans being more technically minded, or that conmerce is more able to sell anything as long as it has a selling point or gimmick. But this little noughts and crosses game appears

But this little noughts and crosses game appears to have most interesting possibilities and when I get time I must make one up. There are no complications so far as I can see, and no expensive relays—merely switches, bulbs and a little mechanical work for the casing or box. Thank you Mr. Massey for letting me see these details.

Short Cuts

I am often asked how such and such details can be calculated with only a single meter—the details required being those normally only found by using expensive or complicated bridges. There are, of course, well-known short cuts which are often employed by servicemen in their work, and which for all practical purposes are sufficiently accurate to enable a fault to be diagnosed, but not sufficiently accurate to enable one to say that a particular part is outside the normal working tolerance.

For instance, the impedance is often roughly



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PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963



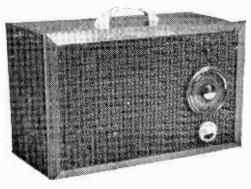
MIDGET MAINS PORTABLE

(Continued from page 746 of the December issue)

HE aerial is mounted in an aluminium bracket, details of which are given in Fig. 4. Rubber grommets should be inserted in the two kin. holes and the ferrite rod passed through them. The metal can then be closed up to obtain a good tight grip. Take care in closing up that the edges of the metal do not meet or the equivalent of a shorted turn will be formed around the rod and its inductance will be reduced.

The second tuned circuit, L3, L4, is mounted above chassis in a screening can. Some manufacturers supply coils in aluminium containers which can be used for this purpose but any seamless container of suitable shape and size will do. Do not forget to remove any paint, paper labels, etc., from the lid before bolting it to the chassis.

The coil used in the prototype was designed to plug into a B9A valve base which was fitted below the chassis on the 6B.A. bolts used to secure the lid of the can above.



The author's completed receiver.

Components and Wiring

No special components are needed but it is advisable to use good quality mica capacitors for C2 and C5 because their insulation is important. Resistors can be mostly $\frac{1}{2}$ W or $\frac{1}{4}$ W; where higher ratings are required they are specified in the list of components. Capacitors should be 350V working for C12 for which 25V will suffice.

A complete wiring diagram for the two-stage receiver is given in Fig. 3 (last month). In order to make the connections clear, the positions of the components are only approximate and the wiring has been opened out. In construction, components should be fitted in the most convenient positions and wiring should be no longer than necessary.

Tinned copper wire of 22s.w.g., covered with sleeving is suitable for all the wiring. The "earthy" end of L2 is taken to chassis on the

aerial supporting bracket and is consequently not shown in Fig. 2.

Testing

When construction is complete, test with a meter between C14 and chassis to see that there are no shorts in the H.T. wiring. All being well, switch on and check that voltage is present at the anodes and screens of the valves. Measure the H.T. line voltage. It should be between 200 and 220V and if it is not, it must be brought within this range by altering the value of R16.

Alignment

Set the tuning capacitor near the fully open position, switch to Medium-wave and fix the aerial coil L1 temporarily in position about 4in. from the end of the ferrite rod. Tune in a station at the high frequency end of the band and peak it with the trimmers TC1 and TC2.

If a high resistance voltmeter or a "magic eye" tuning indicator is available, connect it across VR1. positive to chassis: it will give a more accurate indication of optimum response than can be obtained by ear.

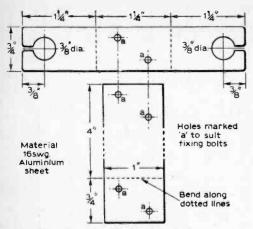
The next operation is to match the inductances of the two tuned circuits. Tune in a station at the low frequency end of the band and adjust the position of L1, at the same time moving the gang capacitor back and forth a little till the optimum combination of settings is found. Adjust the core of L3 for maximum signal. Repeat the adjustments at each end of the band, after which L1 can be fixed in position with a little beeswax. The final adjustment should be to the triminers at the high frequency end of the band.

Now turn the switch to the long wave position and adjust the position of L2 and the setting of the tuning capacitor for optimum reception of the Light Programme on 200kc/s. Fix L2 in position. Do not make any alteration to the trimmers.

Tuning Arrangements

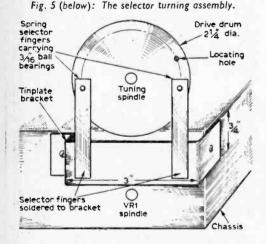
The conventional slow motion drive and tuning scale are dispensed with in favour of a direct drive on the tuning capacitor, using a $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. transparent "knob" with a rudimentary circular scale behind it, as fitted in some transistor sets. This gives adequate control but requires a little care to obtain accurate tuning. It is therefore supplemented by a simple selector assembly which enables the commonly used programmes to be found easily and accurately.

The spindle of the tuning capacitor carries a $2\frac{1}{2}$ in, drive drum, fitted back to front, Below it, bolted to the chassis, is a tinplate bracket carrying the desired number of phosphor bronze selector fingers, each carrying at the the upper end a $\frac{3}{16}$ in, ball bearing which bears firmly on the surface of the drive drum.



830

Fig. 4 (above): The ferrite aerial mount.



As the drum is rotated, the balls locate in holes drilled for the purpose in the drum and spaced radially so that each can be engaged by only one selector. Fig. 5 shows the arrangement in detail with two selectors in position: up to four could be accommodated. For a $\frac{1}{3}$ in. ball bearing, holes in the drum made with a 6B.A. clearance drill will be satisfactory; the holes in the selectors in which the balls are carried should be of a size just too small to allow the ball to pass through. It is important for accurate location that the holes should be round and sharp drills should be used.

To set up and align the assembly, place the drive drum on the capacitor spindle and fit the tinplate bracket to the chassis below it as in Fig. 5. Set the first selector in a convenient position on the bracket and mark and drill the locating hole in the drum. The selector with its ball located in the hole should then be held firmly in position on the bracket and soldered to it. With the drum stationary, rotate the tuning capacitor till the desired transmission is accurately tuned and then tighten the drum on the spindle. For the second and subsequent selectors, tune in the desired transmission, mark and drill the locating hole and solder the selector to the bracket as before. This should be done with the set working and preferably with a meter connected across VR1 so that any inadvertent movement of the drum during the operation can be detected. This assembly gives very accurate location without requiring great precision in construction.

Cabinet

The cabinet is made very simply from four pieces of $\frac{1}{6}$ in. plywood having an oak, walnut or other suitable facing. To obtain a symmetrical appearance, the height must be adjusted to suit the spacing of the volume and tuning controls and the pilot light.

In the prototype, the tuning control was $3\frac{1}{2}$ in above the bottom of the chassis so the cabinet was made $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. high internally, which, with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. ply requires an overall height of $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. Rebates, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide are required at the top and bottom of each side. The depth of the original cabinet is $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. but this may need some adjustment depending on the shape and size of the loudspeaker.

When the four pieces are ready, make a trial assembly, using two or three panel pins driven half-way home at each corner. Square it up and fit temporarily on the front a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ in, ply or hardboard, cut to size.

A satisfactory fit having been obtained, mark all the joints for indentification, and dismantle; then coat the mating surfaces with glue and reassemble, driving the panel pins right home and punching the heads below the surface. Fill in the resulting indentations and any other blemishes with plastic wood of the colour in which the cabinet is to be finished. When the glue is hard, mark and cut apertures for the controls, pilot light and loudspeaker, not forgetting the wavechange switch in the right-hand side.

The loudspeaker should be sited at the top of the cabinet in any convenient position clear of the receiver. Half a dozen $\frac{1}{2}$ in holes should be made in the bottom of the cabinet for ventilation.

Finishing

The top and sides of the cabinet should now be given a good rub down with glasspaper and french polished, painting or stained and varnished according to reference. Fit the loudspeaker with 4B.A. countersunk bolts, putting a little impact adhesive under the heads so that they will not rotate if it should be necessary to remove the speaker at a later date.

The front must then be completely covered with fabric secured with adhesive. It is not necessary to spread the adhesive over the whole surface but special attention should be paid to the edges and surrounds of the apertures. The front is finished off by fitting picture moulding round the edges. again using impact adhesive. The moulding can be of any desired shape so long as it is wide enough to hide the edge of the hardboard front. Appearance is improved if it is finished in a shade considerably lighter than that of the cabinet.

Four rubber buffers should be fitted to the bottom so as to raise the cabinet from the surface (Continued on page 842)

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PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963

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A Transistorised

Audio Oscillator

A SIMPLE MORSE PRACTICE OSCILLATOR

By K. Berry

HIS circuit was developed to meet a requirement for a simple low-level audio oscillator for the purpose of Morse practice. The design employs a halanced armature earpiece as a combined loudspeaker and inductance. It can also be used as a fixed frequency audio tone source for testing audio equipment.

Circuit Description

The circuit of the oscillator is shown in Fig. 1. It is a simple common-base oscillator. The tuned circuit comprises the inductance of the earpiece L1 and the capacitors C1 and C2. These capacitors form an impedance tap on the tuned circuit and

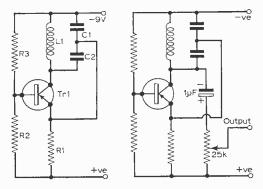


Fig. 1 (left): The circuit of the oscillator. Fig. 2 (right): A circuit modification to use the oscillator as a tone source.

the voltage from this tap is fed back to the emitter of the transistor.

The base is supplied from the potentiometer formed by R2 and R3. It will be seen that the base supply is not decoupled by a capacitor as is usual. This was found to be unnecessary with the transistors which were tried in the circuit and was accordingly omitted.

If it is desired to use the oscillator as a tone source for testing audio equipment an output may be taken from the collector circuit as shown in Fig. 2. The maximum output voltage from this circuit is 1 volt R.M.S. into a load of $10k\Omega$. If the oscillator is used as a Morse practice oscillator the output waveform is unimportant, but for other purposes where an electrical rather than acoustic output is wanted a pure sine-wave may be desired. A sine-wave of low distortion (though reduced in level) may be obtained by replacing R3 with a variable resistor (about $50k\Omega$) and reducing its resistance until oscillation just commences. The resultant output will then be completely undistorted.

Construction and Operation

No difficulties should be encountered in making this unit. The capacitors C1 and C2 should, as shown in the components list, be paper capacitors. Although a Mullard OC71 is specified for X1, most types of transistors, including "surplus" ones, should prove suitable.

The supply voltage is not critical—any voltage from 3 to 12 volts will operate the device, though a supply of 9 volts is recommended. The current consumption is 4mA at 9 volts. The oscillator frequency with the component values given is 1,250c/s.

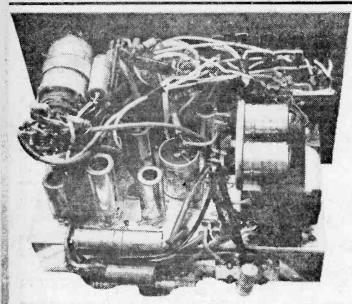
The actual earpiece used was an Insert, Telephone, Balanced Armature No. 5, marked ITBA No. 5. These are low-resistance (30Ω D.C.) earpieces and are readily obtainable on the Government surplus market either singly or in pairs as headphones.

The original unit was mounted in a small Eddystone die-cast box of size $4\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{2}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$ approximately, the battery being mounted externally. If a larger box is used the battery could be incorporated.

The oscillator should work as soon as the supply is connected. If it fails to oscillate the transistor may have a rather low gain. In this case a capacitor of 0.5μ F connected across R2 should right matters. The original circuit operated with a transistor the gain of which was 35, so it is unlikely that any transistor, other than a defective one, should fail to oscillate.

| C1, C2 | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|---|
| XI LI | OC71 Balanced Armature Earpiece | |
| | 1 | 1 |

THE AUDITRON



(Continued from page 715 of the December issue)

HE use of normal germanium diodes of the r.f. or low-voltage types, is not permissible in the Auditron, and likewise, it is not permissible to use normal silicon rectifiers, even though these will stand the voltage, because their capacity is too high. The specified type of diode is rated for a cut-off frequency of 0.5Mc/s, and has about 10pF capacity. Current rating is not important and 5-10mA forward current is ample rating.

Flyback Tailing

Only at the last small portion of the highest speed range is a *part* of the flyback faintly visible. This is caused by the actually slightly exponential nature of the sharp downward-kick of the screen voltage at V6 at the end of the timebase-run, due to the very short time constant of stray capacities and the screen-impedance of V6.

This very short time constant means that the negative stroke of the blanking wave at the CRTgrid arrives about 5 microseconds late after the end of the timebase-run, and thus 5 microseconds of flyback are always visible.

However, if the effect is found to be excessive, the stray capacities in the region of V6 pin 1 are probably too high, which can most likely have resulted from an unsuitable switch S5. It should be observed that a *small* switch, with small spoon

By M. L. Michaelis, M.A.

contacts and adequate spacing, be obtained for S5, i.e., a type wellestablished for successful use in timebase circuits, etc.

Function Switching

It is seen that the timebase circuits are completely dead in the position 1 of the function switch, giving "Signal Tracer" operation alone, i.e. allowing only the signal amplifier and valve-voltmeter to operate. SId breaks h.t., and SIa the heaters to the timebase-circuit, in this setting. Postion 2 gives normal operation of the oscilloscope function and timebase. Postion 3 is the "Bridge" setting, where the phaseshifted 50c/s mains sinewave is used as timebase.

Here only h.t. is switched off for the proper timebase, and the heaters left operating, giving

"standby" operation for the timebase. The reason for this is that normal use of the Auditron will often require repeated switching between "scope" and "bridge" functions, during experimental work.

The resulting repeated switching of the heaters of the timebase valves is neither good for the valves, nor good for working, as it would repeatedly waste time waiting for the valves to warm up, and would cause drifts in the timebasecalibrations, as the valves never then reach the proper stable operating conditions.

Callbrating the Timebase

The Auditron should be switched on once everything is complete and working properly, and left running for at least 10 minutes on "scope" function before any attempt is made to calibrate the timebase. This allows the valves to reach the final operating state.

Now for the calibration procedure with normally available equipment. A preliminary is to be certain that the capacities of C25, C26, C27 are as closely as possible in the ratios 1:10:100. If necessary, trim with suitable parallel capacitors across those which are "low" in value. The actual capacities are far less important than the ratios, and the simple method for getting the ratios exact as required is described below.

Having satisfied the above, switch to the fastest range, maximum sync.. and feed in a signal at (Continued on page 837)

PRACTICAL WIRELESS



PRACTICAL WIRFLESS



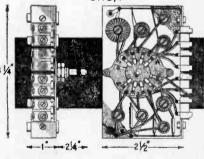
total 41/4.

See Technical Bulletin DTB.9 for details of all Coil Packs, 1/6.

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DENCO (Clacton) LTD. (Dept. P.W.) 357/9 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex STOP PRESS: Stereo Broadcast Decoder Transformers, 26/- each.

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(Continued from page 834)

100kc/s from signal an r.f. generator on the long wave range. One complete cycle of this fre-quency is 10 microseconds in duration. It should be possible to syncronise such that about one cycle appears stationary on the trace, and note its length against the centimetre lines engraved on the perspex-window to be placed in front of the c.r.t.-screen.

Thus calculate, in direct proportion, what time is represented by one centimetre of trace, and make the appropriate mark against the setting of the timebase fine-speed control.

Now slow-down the timebase speed by means of operating the fine control, until two waves

appear stationary on the screen. Each cycle is 10 microseconds, thus the new time per centimetre can be read off in proportion. Carry on in this way, for increasing numbers of complete cycles stationary on the trace, until the slow-end of travel of the fine speed control is reached, when about 25 cycles should be visible.

From the 25 calibration marks prepare a properly-divided scaleplate, and affix to the finespeed control. This will carry markings from about 12 to 25°, labelled "microseconds per centimetre", and should hold true, multiplied by 10 or 100 respectively, in the two slower settings of the coarse control S5, provided the ratios of C25 and C27 have been properly trimmed.

Check against the mains on the lowest speed range. One cycle of the mains frequency should occupy 20 milliseconds. If this is not observed. then something is wrong either with the accuracy of the 100k/c from the signal generator, or with the ratio-trimming of C25-C27.

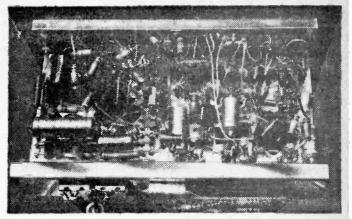
The signal-generator should be checked initially by feeding the output into the aerial terminal of a radio receiver switched to long waves and tuned to the BBC Light Programme on 200kc/s. The generator should be tuned around the 100kc/s mark on its scale until zero-beat is heard between the second-harmonic and the Light-Programme carrier. This assures an accurate 100kc/s input to the Miniscope for the calibration.

Ratios of C25 to C27

The circuit of Fig. 2b should be connected up neatly in experimental form. Ra should be about 100 Ω , and Rb about 1k Ω . Whatever the exact values, they should be exactly 1:10 ratio in nominal values, and \pm 1% tolerance. Alternatively, lengths of resistance wire may be used, the one for Rb cut off exactly ten times as long as the one for Ra, from the same reel of wire. Using a thin resistance wire having at least 100 Ω per yd. reasonable lengths suffice.

Various small capacitors are tried in parallel with either Ca or Cb until minimum sound is heard in the headphones, representing true 1:10 ratio of the final combinations for Ca and Cb. Use # full mains voltage. Apart from the dangers of

PRACTICAL WIRELESS



A view of the underside showing the wiring.

good-quality capacitors for C25 and C27 and any trimmers for these, of reputable make and stability.

It is well worth while to take some trouble to perform all steps of the timebase-calibration very carefully and methodically, as the final result will be a frequency-meter of surprising accuracy, for any frequency from about 25c/s to several hundred kc/s. Any waveform can be dealt with. but irregular sequences, such as a Geiger-Counter output, cannot have their frequencies measured in this way.

Power Supplies

A 6.3V heater supply at about 3A is required. and two h.t. lines, the one at about 240V 40mA and the other at about 600V 1mA (e.h.t, for the c.r.t.). A normal heater winding, and a 250V 50mA a.c. winding, feeding a conventional voltage-doubler circuit using the two contact-cooled metal rectifiers D1 and D2, supply these needs from an ordinary mains transformer.

In addition, a fully isolated 110V winding is required. The exact voltage is not critical, any-thing between 80 and 150V will do, though R1 will have to be altered in the same ratio as the available transformer voltage differs from 110. Also, R17 and R18 will have to be altered to give a trace of convenient length if the transformer voltage differs from 110. If it is not possible to obtain a transformer with such an extra isolated winding a small heater transformer giving 6.6V from a 110V supply should be run in reverse from the heater line of the Auditron. This heater transformet can be mounted at any convenient position within the instrument, but far enough from the c.r.t. so as not to influence it with any stray magnetic field it may have.

Although electrically suitable, the procedure of connecting the mains neutral to chassis and using the 110V tap on the mains primary for the 110V line is to be strongly discouraged for reasons of safety. If such an arrangement were used, and the mains plug connected the wrong way round, the chassis and all coaxial sockets would go live at

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shock, this could lead to *serious* short-circuits across equipment connected to such a universal instrument as the Auditron, and possible destruction of valuable equipment.

The H.T. and E.H.T. Supplies

Note the smoothing arrangements of R5. R6. R7 and C1-5 in Fig. 4. These are arranged to give maximum smoothing with the specified normal components, for simultaneous loading as required at the single and the doubled voltage. C6. being a good metallised-paper capacitor, gives an additional measure of stabilisation against small "flimmerings" of electrolytics on the e.h.t. line, thereby making the trace on the c.r.t. more steady. If the electrolytics used are very good, it can be the mains frequency is locked or not, if not removed.

Choice of Cathode Ray Tube

The tube used in the prototype is the Telefunken DG3-12A, a medium persistence miniature $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. electrostatic tube for about 500V e.h.t. operation and 6-3V heater, for connection into a normal heater circuit. This is a fine precision tube, and should be readily obtainable in Britain from Telefunken representatives.

Any surplus tube, or tube of other origin, having similar electrical characteristics is directly usable in the Auditron.

The tube used must have a sensitivity such that 100 to 150V peak-to-peak is sufficient to deflect the spot right across the usable region of the

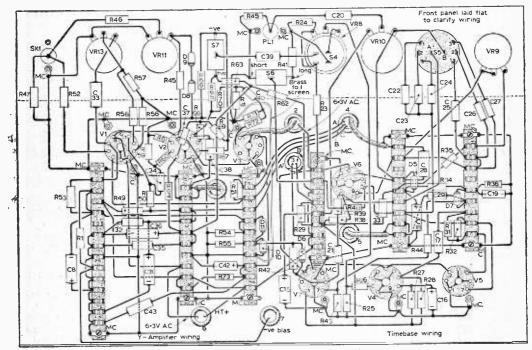


Fig. 11-The Y-amplifier and timebase wiring diagram.

omitted. Also, placing it in parallel with C11 instead of in the position shown could be tried. R8 serves as load for the e.h.t. line in the "tracer only" function, where the "scope" is off, thus preventing unnecessary peaking of the voltage. Most of the e.h.t. current consumed in the "scope" and "bridge" settings flows through the bleeder R14 down to VR1, which is operative immediately upon switching on, before the c.r.t. is warm. Thus initial switching-peaks are avoided. Note the inclusion of C11, a high voltage

Note the inclusion of C11. a high voltage electrolytic from final anode of the c.r.t. to chassis, This was found to be absolutely essential, connected in this way, to remove distribution hum between the e.h.t. line and the signal feeds from the Y-amplifier and the timebase. Such hum would give a widened or-wiggly trace, depending whether screen, and if this condition is satisfied (see data for the tube it is proposed to use), the timebase and signal amplifier outputs for the here-published form are ample. If the sensitivity is greater, then outputs may be reduced by decreasing R65 suitably for the signal amplifier, and tapping the anodeload of the timebase by using a fixed resistor and potentiometer in series in place of VR10, but keeping to $100k\Omega$ total resistance. One end of the potentiometer should still be connected to h.t., and the X-deflection fed from the other end.

Other E.H.T. Voltages

If the tube it is proposed to use satisfies these specifications in every way except that it needs a somewhat higher e.h.t. than 500V, then proceed (Continued on page 841)

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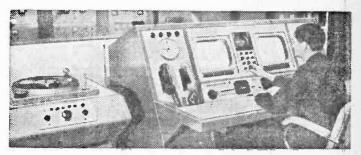
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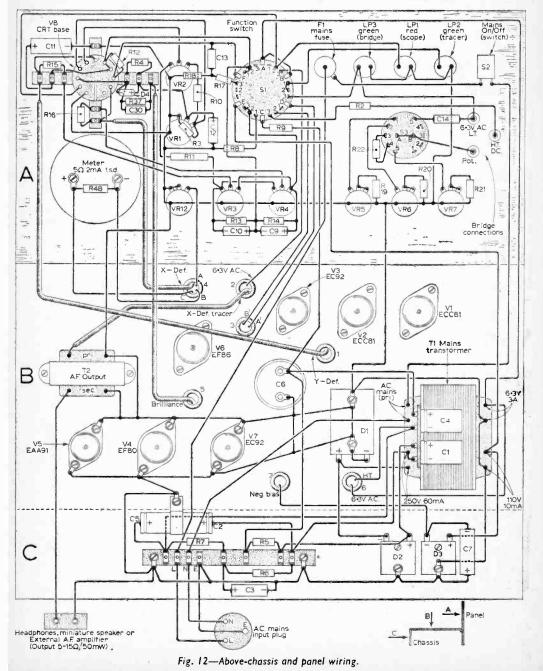
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PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963



(Continued from page 838) as follows. Obtain a transformer with a 300, 350 or 400V a.c. winding, tapped at 250V. The end "0" still goes to C2. and D1 is unchanged, and fed from the 250V tap. Use a 1,000V a.c. input rating e.h.t. metal rectifier, of 2 to 5mA, in place of D2, and feed from the full voltage end of the traits-former winding. The required full winding voltage will be about half the desired e.h.t. voltage, and is not critical. Remember that it is nearly always possible to run a c.r.t. at less than the rated e.h.t.. at a slight sacrifice of focus and brilliance, but



increased deflection sensitivity, which latter may be very useful in adopting an available tube for use in the Auditron.

Remember to modify the voltage ratings of C1, C4, C6, C11 and possibly C12. C9, C10 if using other e.h.t. voltages. Use a pair of well insulated electrolytics in series, with a $1M\Omega$ 2W resistor in parallel with each, in each position where a single electrolytic of the required rating is unobtainable. All resistances in the e.h.t. bleeder network. including potentiometers, will need modification if other voltages are used. The values of potentiometers should not be changed, but additional fixed resistors added, one on each side, for VR2, each equal to 125 times the e.h.t. increase ratio, in $k\Omega$. If the resulting bleeder does not give the correct settings quite in the centres of the ranges of the controls, final adjustments should be made by trial and error, using common sense to determine the necessary direction of corrections from observation of the effects.

C.R.T. Mounting

If the proper mumetal screen and fixtures for the proposed tube are not to hand, and cannot be procured, then the following method of screening and fixture should be adopted. The tube should be enclosed by winding strips of sponge-rubber, or similar material, round all parts of it except the screen and base. This should be held in place by slipping a suitably shaped screen made of galvanised iron sheeting over it (a simple tube in the case of the Telefunken DG3-12A, a tube with conical end in the case of the VCR139A, etc.). A suitable angle-bracket is fixed to panel on the inside, and the tube the assembly clamped down on to this by means of a metal strap round the screen and fixed by means of two bolts to the bracket. Any other method of fixture giving rigidity and not straining the tube mechanically is equally suitable. The tube should be able to be rotated slightly. by slackening the strap bolts, to facilitate final mechanical alignment to get the timebase trace horizontal.

Deflection Connections

It is seen that asymmetric deflection is used on X and on Y plates. The slight astigmatism thereby produced is well tolerable, so that the trouble and expense of introducing push-pull amplifiers for symmetric deflection was not considered to be worth while. Thus one X plate and one Y plate is normally connected to the final anode (at earth potential for a.c.), and deflection voltages are applied to the other plates.

To avoid unnecessary capacitive loading of the timebase anode circuit due to switching. etc., the sinewave voltage for "bridge" X deflection is applied to the other X plate, normally "earthed" on "scope" function. This has the added advantage of enabling frequency comparison to be made against the mains frequency.

Elliptical Frequency Comparison

For this purpose, the function switch is turned to "bridge", and the Y calibration signal turned up on VR11, to obtain a suitably-sized oblique ellipse on the screen. Any external waveform to be examined may now be fed in at P2, the timebase output in "scope" use, and will "corrugate" the ellipse. The corrugations will rotate if the input waveform is no exact harmonic of the mains frequency, the number of rotations per second giving the number of c/s above or below the closest mains harmonic. For each exact harmonic relation the corrugated ellipse comes to rest, and the number of times the input frequency is greater than the mains frequency.

This arrangement can be very useful for a quick check whether or not some circuit or other is locked to the mains or a harmonic thereof, which is required in some advanced experimental work. On the other hand, a very simple use of this arrangement is to check a fullwave h.t. rectifier. Feeding the ripple from the reservoir capacitor in, this should give two corrugations, stationary, and symmetrical in size and position. If asymmetry is noted, or only one corrugation, then one diode of the fullwave rectifier is not operating properly. Excessive ripple, caused by an open-circuited reservoir capacitor, can cause the ellipse to doubleup into a distorted figure-of-eight. If this is symmetrical, it is proof that the fault is not in the rectifier valves, or not likely to be there.

(To be continued)

MIDGET MAINS PORTABLE

(Continued from page 830)

on which it stands sufficiently to allow the moulding to clear the surface. A plastic carrying handle on top is a useful addition.

Fitting the Receiver

Reduce the length of the wave change switch spindle to about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and cut away the fabric from the front control apertures. Connect the loudspeaker and place the receiver in position, securing it with wood screws through the end flanges of the chassis. It is advisable to earth the metal frame of the loudspeaker or it may be found to affect the aerial inductance. This may be done by connecting it to the "earthy" side of the speech coil.

Fit a brass coupler to the wave change switch and use the sawn-off portion of the spindle to extend the control to the outside of the cabinet. The circular tuning scale can be secured direct to the fabric on the front of the cabinet but it is more convenient to operate if the scale and the "knob" which fits over it are made to stand out about kin. This can be done by interposing a circular piece of hardboard or ply between the scale and the fabric.

Since the receiver is portable, it is desirable to fit a back to the cabinet. This may be of $\frac{1}{3}$ in. ply or hardboard with plently of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. holes for ventilation. Drive a couple of panel pins into the bottom edge till they project to about $\frac{1}{3}$ in. and file the heads to points which can be pressed into the bottom of the cabinet. The top can be secured to triangular wooden fillets glued into the tor corners of the cabinet. January, 1963.

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

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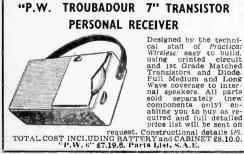
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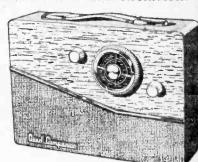
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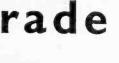
PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963



PRACTICAL WIRELESS



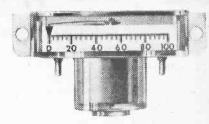


MINIATURE TRANSISTOR AMPLIFIER

A NEW miniature transistor amplifier has recently come on to the market which has been designed for general use in intercom sets and portable record players and similar equipment. Its actual dimensions are 2in. x 1in. x 1in. and it uses for power a standard 9V battery in a threetransistor circuit.

A feature of this amplifier is that it does not incorporate a transformer although one may be used if a high impedance input needs to be used.

The price of the amplifier (type 125) is 45s. and it is made by *Technical Suppliers Ltd.*, *Hudson House*, 63 Goldhawk Road, London W12.

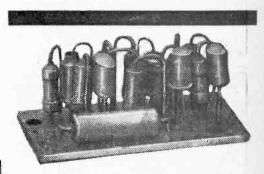


A Taylor model II Edgewise meter.

MINIATURE METER

THE model II Edgewise Meter is a Taylor instrument designed for special applications. Its very small dimensions give it obvious advantages over meters of more conventional size, the length of the scale being only $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. The meter is built into a transparent case and a wide range of sensitivities is available, commencing at 50 μ A.

The model II is made by Taylor Electrical Instruments Ltd., Montrose Avenue, Slough, Buckinghamshire.



A miniature transistor amplifier from Technical Suppliers Ltd.

NEW TWIN-TRACK TAPE RECORDER

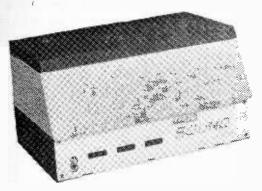
ONE of the latest model tape recorders from Grundig (Great Britain) Limited, is the TK41. This is basically the twin-track version of their model TK40, but is equipped in addition, with a 7W output stage with separate bass and treble controls. The loudspeaker is fed with a reduced output power to prevent damage to the loudspeaker when the volume control is at maximum.

Inputs are provided for microphone, telephone adaptor, radio extension loudspeaker/gramophone pick-up and radio diode. There are also facilities for the connection of a remote control which can be fitted as an accessory.

The TK41 costs 75 guineas, including the microphone, and is made by Grundig (Great Britain) Limited, 40 Newlands Park, Sydenham, S.E.26.

The new twin-track Grundig tape recorder,

www.americanradiohistory.com



The Sound Stereo Addon Unit.

STEREO UNIT

A USEFUL extra for owners of 1963 Sound tape recorders, models 42, 44, 38A and 40A, is the Sound Stereo Addon Unit. This unit is connected to any of these recorders by a special lead and enables pre-recorded stereo (four track) tapes to be reproduced.

The Addon unit is an amplifier matched to the tape recorder, and is capable of giving over 3W output. The printed circuit uses one ECC83 and one ECL86 valves. The cabinet has been designed to harmonise with the style of the tape recorders.

The cost of the unit is £14 14s. and it is made by Sound Tape Recorders (Electronics) Ltd., 784-788 High Road, Tottenham, London N17.



POCKET SIZED INSTRUMENTS

TWO radio servicing instruments made by Don Bosco, an American firm. can now be obtained in this country. They are both pocket sized and are carried as a pen, being less than 6in. long and only $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter and being fitted with a pen clip.

The "Mosquito" signal injector, one of the instruments, provides a signal source (1kc/s with harmonics to 30Mc/s) for various applications. It

generates a signal covering the audio i.f. and r.f. spectrum in any circuit under test.

The "Stethotracer" is a multipurpose instrument to be used alone or with a range of accessories as a complete signal tracer.

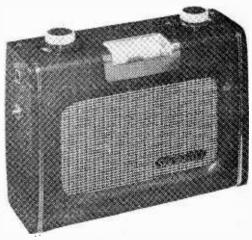
Both these instruments use a self contained $1\frac{1}{2}V$ battery for power. The cost of the "Mosquito" is £5 15s. and the "Stethotracer" is £12 15s. The U.K. suppliers of all Don Bosco equipment are Unitec, 57 Longfield Road, Harpenden, Hertford-shire.

The second s

NEW PORTABLE RECEIVER

THE latest transistor receiver to come from the Ever Ready Co. Ltd., is the Sky Master. This is a six-transistor model covering Long and Medium wave bands. It is available in either blue or tan and it operates from a PP7 battery. The price is £17 17s, which includes purchase tax and battery.

Ever Ready Co. (G.B.) Ltd., Hercules Place, London N7.



Ever Ready's latest portable receiver.

International Conference on Satellite Communication

About 500 satellite communication experts, from several countries, gathered at the Institution of Electrical Engineers in London for the International Conference on Satellite Communication held in November, this year.

The Conference, organised by the Electronics Division of the I.E.E. was opened by Sir Ronald German, Director General of the Post Office. Others taking part were Captain C. F. Booth, Mr. F. J. D. Taylor and Mr. W. J. Bray (the British Post Office team responsible for engineering the Goonhilly project) and Mr. E. F. O'Neal. in charge of the Telstar project from the United States side, who was accompanied by other leading U.S. engineers from the Bell Telephone Laboratories and elsewhere. More than 60 papers were presented and discussed, the object of the Conference being to bring together a representative cross-section of those actively concerned with furthering the science and technology of communications satellites and associated ground stations.

The Conference was divided into 11 sessions. Three dealt with aspects of complete satellite communications systems, and a further three with ground station aerials.

Projects Telstar and Relay, the first experimental systems involving active civil communications satellites, occupied two sessions devoted to the satellites themselves and the associated ground station equipments.

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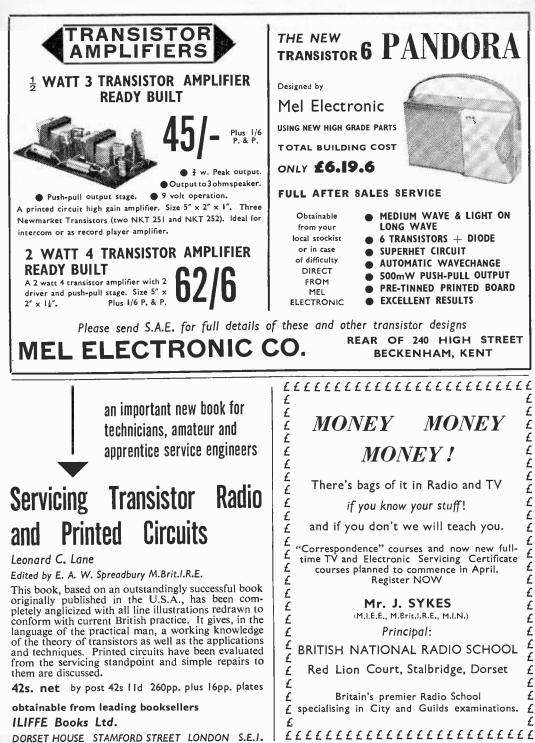


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PRACTICAL WIRELESS

January, 1963



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some further notes on the <u>Regency</u>

SOME OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE AUTHOR OF THIS POPULAR P.W. RECEIVER, FOR THOSE WISHING TO BUILD IT.

DINCE the publication of the *Regency* in the April 1962 issue of PRACTICAL WIRELESS, a fair amount of correspondence has taken place with readers, and it is the purpose of this article to summarise the main points raised.

Among readers who experienced difficulties with the receiver, there were three main complaints: (1) insensitivity (2) difficulty in following the "adjustment" procedure (p.1129) (3) instability. These three subjects will be dealt with in order, the last mentioned at some length.

Owing to the exigencies of printing, the writer did not have an opportunity of reviewing proofs prior to publication and a few small changes passed uncorrected.

Insensitivity

(1) The Regency was designed around two SB305 transistors (surface barrier type) and two OC72 transistors. Since SB type transistors are manufactured by only one company (Semicon-ductors Ltd.) and are not very widely retailed at present (though generally available by post) OC45 transistors were editorially substituted in the blue-print.

Ordinary junction type R.F. transistors such as the OC45 and OC44 are very widely retailed and the Editor felt that these would be likely to give reasonably satisfactory reception in most areas.

Correspondence since this date has revealed that many readers are *not* able to obtain sufficient volume in this way, and the writer therefore strongly recommends the use of the surface barrier types employed in the prototype. The SH078 transistor is, incidentally, a perfectly good substitute for the SB305 in this circuit.

This does not mean that only surface barrier transistors may be used for Tr1 and Tr2 to give good sensitivity. Any of the new diffused-base types (OC169, OC170, OC171 and equivalent type transistors) may be used in principle, especially for Tr1, but owing to the very high gain of these transistors, it may be found necessary to include a resistor in the *emitter* lead, especially of Tr2, in order to obtain stable performance. The value of such resistors can best be found by experiment, other component values not being affected. By D. B. Pitt

Adjustment Difficulties

(2) The writer's semi-profile drawings of the volume controls appeared on the blueprint in "plan" view. Since the controls are symmetrical in form, the "plan" view is capable of two interpretations and some beginners to radio construction unfortunately chose the wrong sense. This error resulted in the reversal of the terms "clockwise" and "anti-clockwise" in the portion of text headed "Adjustments" and caused some confusion.

Looking at the front of the receiver, full *clock-wise* rotation of the sensitivity control should be arranged, of course, to produce *maximum* resistance between points 26 and 27.

Instability

(3) During the two months following publication of the *Regency*, a number of readers reported instability in the receiver and these have been carefully analysed.

Instability often occurs in receivers through irregular coupling of the stages by reason of a shared battery resistance. This is most common at high supply voltages. Since the *Regency* uses $4\frac{1}{2}$ V instead of the more usual 9V, and the battery is by-passed by a 100μ F capacitor, instability from this cause is hardly likely to occur and may safely be ignored.

Reflex receivers run the risk, however, of a special type of instability peculiar to their design. This arises from the presence of inductive elements in both collector and base circuits.

For efficient performance, the R.F. choke inductance must be kept high, especially if reception on the long wave band is required. The impedance presented by the choke at the higher frequencies (200-300m) may now be so great as to react with the inductance of the medium wave coupling coil so as to set up an audible oscillation. The inductance of this coupling coil must therefore be kept as low as possible consistent with reasonable transfer of signal.

The aerial rod assembly specified (Repanco FR2) has medium-wave coupling within the required limit. Likewise, the hand-wound coil and frame-aerial described (p.1129) are "tapped" at a point well within the limit of safety.

The Editor was kind enough to allow the writer to examine a *Regency* receiver submitted by a reader who complained of unstable performance.

Of the five inductors used, *none* were of the specified type, so that instability could have arisen in a number of ways. Nevertheless, the receiver functioned perfectly as soon as a suitable medium-wave coil was substituted.

The aerial assembly employed by this reader, although a near enough substitute for use in a superhet receiver (for which most of such commercially supplied "aerials" are intended) was not a near enough substitute for use in a reflex receiver of high R.F. gain such as the Regency.

The inductance of the coupling coil rises with increased rod diameter, with increased number of turns, and with increased wire diameter. In the case of the receiver examined by the writer, the increase was due to *all three causes* together.

This defect can, of course, be readily cured by simply removing a few turns from the medium-wave coupling-coil.

To a few readers who had purchased an unsuitable aerial assembly and who did not care to tinker with an expensive component, the writer suggested placing a small resistor (typically 100Ω) across the medium-wave coupling-coil so as to shunt part of the signal. This has the desired effect at the cost of some slight loss in sensitivity.

A resistor (typically 1.000Ω) placed across the R.F. choke, gives a similar effect but, of course, needlessly reduces the efficiency of the long-wave band.

Loudspeaker

Details of the loudspeaker were unfortunately omitted from the blueprint. The speaker used by the writer was an Elac 7in. x 4in. and this, or a similar type, is recommended. The *Regency* circuit will drive *any* large-diameter, high-flux speaker of from 2 to 5Ω impedance.

Short-wave Reception

The frame-aerial described on p.1129 is for the medium-wave band. If the Surface-Barrier transistors preferred by the writer are used, reception up to at least 5Mc/s may readily be obtained by simply reducing the number of turns on the frame aerial. The tapping, as before, should be after the first turn.

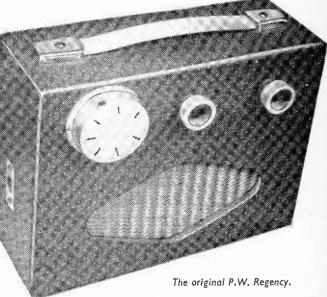
The hand-wound ferrite-rod aerial described does not offer quite such good possibilities owing to losses within the ferrite at high frequencies. Nevertheless, good "top band" and trawler band at least may be expected by reducing the number of turns.

Car Aerial

A number of readers have requested details of how to make the *Regency* work inside a car, using a standard "whip" type rod aerial. For this, a length of co-axial cable is required. The outer braid is attached at one end to the frame of the car (preferably at the whip aerial's fixing screw). The other end of the outer braid goes to point "Y" in the receiver. The inner conductor of the cable is attached at one end to the metal of the "whip" itself and at the other end *either* directly to point 29 of the receiver or via a 47pF capacitor to the side-tag of the tuning condenser.

S.B. Transistors

The S.B. transistors used by the writer in the



prototype receiver may be obtained from many advertisers in this magazine.

In case of difficulty they may be ordered directly from "Semiconductors Ltd.", Cheyney Manor, Swindon, Wilts. Types SB305 and SB078 are about equally suitable.

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Club News UI III III III 80 III

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Hon. Sec.: P. Carbutt, G2AFV, 19 Warner Road, Barnsley, Yorkshire

An illustrated tape-recorded lecture provided entertainment for members at the meeting on November 9th, the subject of the lecture being an expedition to St. Pierre. On November 23rd members had a chance to compare notes on their transmitting/ receiving apparatus at a display of equipment organised by the Club. Future Event:

December 14th-"Receiver Construction", by Mr. W. W. Williams.

CHILTERN AMATEUR RADIO LUB Hon. Sec.: H. D. Coltman, G3PV J, 301 Micklefield Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

The only meeting of this Club in November was held on Thursday, 29th, and was devoted to a lecture on "Amateur Closed-circuit TV".

CLIFTON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: C. Godsmark, G3IWL, 211 Manwood Road, London, S.E.4.

The subject under discussion at the meeting on November 2nd' was the club contests held from time to time for members.

DERBY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: F. C. Ward, G2CVV, 5 Uplands, Avenue, Little-

Hon. Sec.: F. C. Ward, GZCVV, 5 Uplands, Avenue, Little-over, Derby. November proved to be a busy month for members of this Society, beginning with the annual trip to London for the R.S.G.B.'s exhibition, on Saturday, 3rd. On November 7th a surplus sale was held and on the 10th some members took part in the second R.S.G.B. 18Mc/s contest. R. Cullen gave a talk entitled "Radio Controlled Models" on November 14th and the last official meeting for that month was devoted to a film show.

The first meeting for December was taken up by another surplus sale.

Future Event:

December 12th-"The Club in Retrospect".

LEICESTER RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: R. E. Hill, 28 Fayrhurst Road, Leicester.

At the recent A.G.M. of this Society the following officers were elected: Mr. M. Harrison, chairman; Mr. R. E. Hill, secretary; and Mr. H. A. Gray, treasurer.

Activity during the winter months will be confined to erecting the Society's operating room to be equipped with a 120W trans mitter for the h.f. bands.

MELTON MOWBRAY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: D. W. Lilley, G3FDF, 23 Melton Road, Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray, Leicester.

The informative lecture on "Crystal Grinding" given by G3FDF at the November meeting, was enjoyed by all those members who attended.

Future Event:

December 20th-""Transistors", by J. L. Bowley.

MITCHAM AND DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: B. Blandford, I Biggin Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

Planning and organisation for the Society's participation in N.F.D. were under discussion at the meeting on November 2nd. On November 16th, G8TB gave a talk entitled "Why be afraid of Transitoreut". Transistors?

NORTHERN HEIGHTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: A. Robinson, G3MDW, Candy Cabin, Ogden, Halifax, Yorkshire.

This society ended November informally with a ragchew meeting on the 21st. On December 5th members enjoyed a film show.

Future Event:

December 12th-The Annual Dinner.

PURLEY AND DISTRICT RADIO CLUB Hon. Sec.: E. R. Honeywood, G3GKF, 105 Whytecliffe Road, Purley, Surrey.

REPORTS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Mr. J. Vaughan, G3DQY, gave an interesting talk and demon-stration on November 2nd, dealing with "Pocket Paging Systems". At the second meeting of the month, Mr. R. Sykes, G3NFV, talked about the "Ham Hop Club".

READING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Hon. Sec.: R. G. Nash, G3EJA, Peacehaven, 9 Holybrook

Road, Reading, Berkshire.

G3NNG gave an interesting lecture to members on November 24th; his lecture was called "Transistors v.h.f. and u.h.f.". Future Event:

December 29th-"Transistor Tx and Rx".

SLADE RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: D. D. S. Williams, 117 The Boulevard, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

The lecture given on November 16th, entitled "Construction of Printed Circuits", was by member D. Wilson, who was followed by G. C. Simmonds, also a member of the society, and whose talk was called "An Analytical Review of D/F 1962". The most important meeting for November was the Annual Consul Meeting And as the 20th

General Meeting, held on the 30th.

WIRRAL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: A.'Seed, G3FOO, 31 Withert Avenue, Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire.

At the recent A.G.M., N. Kendrick was elected chairman, A. J. G. Keiller, treasurer, and A. Seed, secretary. On November 7th, the second lecture on s.s.b. was given by G3FOS, and on the 16th members attended the local R.S.G.B. lecture given by Dr. Jennison.

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Short-wave Listeners' Log

NTERFERENCE can often be troublesome on the short-wave bands, and any method of reducing it is generally well worth while, especially when receiving weak, distant stations. Interference can be of several kinds, and may reach the receiver in various ways, thus the appropriate cure must be chosen.

Interference is seldom troublesome when powerful transmissions are tuned in. The strong signals reduce receiver sensitivity due to the AVC circuit, and in any case help to over-ride interference. But with weak signals and maximum receiver sensitivity. trouble from static, electrical equipment, etc., may be severe.

A general background of clicks and similar noise. from electrical equipment, may be introduced through the mains, and in such a case, a mains suppressor will help considerably. Readymade plug-in suppressors are available, but quite often a single by-pass capacitor, across the mains circuit at the receiver, will reduce such noise. Alternatively, one capacitor may be wired from each mains lead to earth, or receiver chassis. In A.C./D.C. circuits, a capacitor from rectifier anode to chassis may be needed. Capacitors of 0.05μ F to 0.01μ F, 500V rating are suitable suppressor components.

Suppressor Chokes

In severe cases, suppressor chokes may be used in series with the mains leads. For the average receiver, solenoid windings of about 200 turns of 28s.w.g. wire, on $\frac{1}{3}$ in. diameter or similar formers, will do.

The complete suppressor is best enclosed in an earthed metal case.

Aerial Filters

If modulation hum and similar noises are evident, an aerial filter consisting of two 100pF capacitors and an H.F. choke will probably be needed to clear this trouble. The capacitors are wired in series with the choke joined from their junction to chassis. One capacitor is then taken to the aerial, and the other to the receiver aerial socket. This filter is particularly successful with A.C./D.C. receivers, which should in any case be so connected to the mains plug that receiver chassis goes to mains neutral (black, or "N").

If interference ceases with the aerial disconnected, this indicates that it is not carried on the mains, and that the aerial, down-lead, earth and aerial coupling system may need modification.

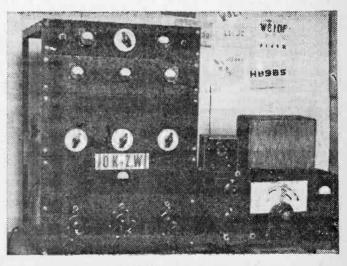
The aerial is best kept clear of sources of local interference—that is, away from roads, mains wiring, telephone wires, etc. Fitting an aerial up unnecessarily near to such interference sources is unwise. In some the aerial can be well clear, but any trouble taken to improve the aerial is always worth while.

With end-connected aerials, the down-lead may also pick up interference, so it must be clear of house wiring, etc. If this is impossible, a simple wire dipole, with coaxial or twin feeder, will greatly reduce interference.

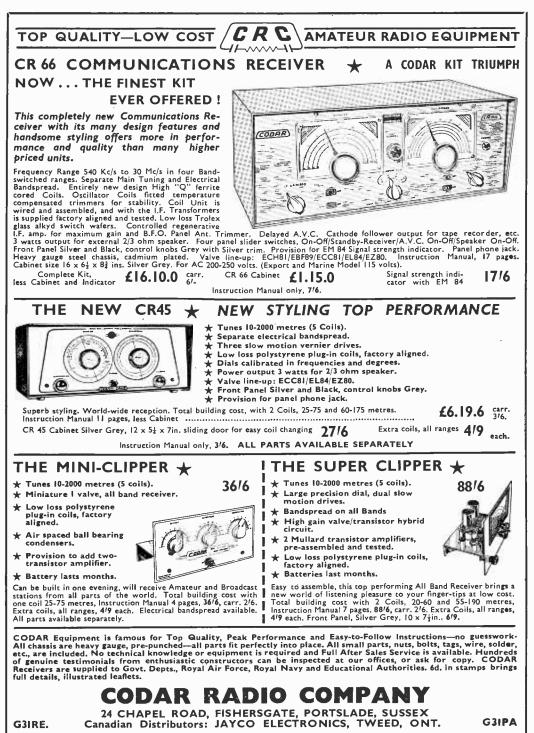
Faraday Shield

A coupling transformer incorporating a Faraday shield may be used between aerial and receiver. This provides normal electromagnetic coupling, but due to the presence of the shield reduces electrostatic coupling. For general short-wave use, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter former can be employed, with 28s.w.g. wire. The primary may be 14 turns spaced to occupy about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.

For a balanced twin aerial feeder, take one lead to each end of the primary, and solder on a centretap, which is earthed. With a single aerial lead,, take this to one end of the primary, and earth the other end. A layer of insulating material is placed over the primary. The shield is aluminium foil a little wider than the coil, and long enough to form a single turn. Insulation is placed so that the end of the shield is not electrically in contact with the beginning, and the shield is earthed. A layer of insulation is placed on the shield and the secondary, 14 turns, is wound on this. For a receiver with a single aerial terminal, wire the secondary to the aerial terminal and chassis (earth). For a receiver with balanced or dipole input, connect each end of the secondary winding to one input socket.



This photograph shows the ISW home-made station of a member of the Central Radio Club, Prague, Czechoslovakia.



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REVIEWS OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

THE TECHNIQUE OF THE SOUND STUDIO

By Alec Nisbett; published by Focal Press Ltd. 288 pages, $S\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Price 42s.

W RITING from his experience as a BBC studio manager and producer, the author has given us a comprehensive and informative account of the apparatus and techniques of recording sound based on methods employed at the BBC.

He covers a wide ground, taking in the basic design of a studio to the latest production techniques. Typical chapters are on microphone techniques for speech and music, checking quality, editing, fades and mixes, sound effects, echo techniques. One chapter deals specifically with *Radiophonics*, a study of the techniques used and the theoretical background to the building of tailor-made new sounds and the creative distortion of conventional sound. The relationship is shown between radiophonics and electronic music.

This authoritative book avoids unnecessary scientific and technological phraseology and is written in an easy style which keeps the reader interested—the facts are digested effortlessly. It will appeal to professionals and amateurs alike, for although the subject matter is initially based on the highest grade commercial equipment it also shows how the best results can be obtained with the simplest inexpensive microphone and tape recorder. For those interested in amateur recording, amateur dramatics, etc., this book contains a wealth of practical advice and will answer many of those hitherto difficult problems.—W.N.S.

RADIO SERVICING POCKET BOOK

Edited by J. P. Hawker; published by George Newnes Ltd. 198 pages, $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7$ ins. Price 12s.6d.

MANY readers will already be familiar with the original edition of this useful book, which now appears as a fully revised second edition.

A good deal of new material is now included and of particular interest is the section on the servicing of transistor receivers and the repair of printed wiring panels. The sections on servicing and alignment of v.h.f.-f.m. receivers has been expanded and the chapters dealing with car radio receivers, the suppression of car electrical interference, and record players (including stereo) are all enlarged. Apart from basic details of modern radio circuitry, the book contains useful information on servicing instruments, fault finding and alignment, aerials, gram mechanisms and pick-ups. There is also a 35-page section of tabulated reference data including valve base connections, transistors and diodes, valve equivalents. BBC and European broadcasting stations, battery equivalents, wavelength-frequency conversion and so on.

To sum up, this useful pocket manual provides in a compact form much of the essential information needed in servicing both a.m. and f.m., valve and transistor, radios and should repay the initial outlay many times over. It forms a valuable companion volume to the Television Engineers' Pocket Book.—D.C.

HIGH FIDELITY POCKET BOOK

By W. E. Pannett, A.M.I.E.E.; published by George Newnes Ltd.

314 pages, 4ª x 7¼ ins. Price 40s.

HIS new addition to the Newnes Pocket Book Scries has been compiled to bring together information on all aspects of high quality sound reproduction in the home.

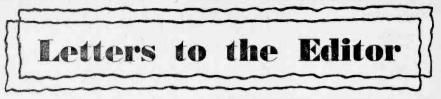
Introductory chapters on the nature of sound and its reproduction are followed by sections giving basic information, with circuits, on preamplifiers, tone control systems, power amplifiers, etc. This is followed by chapters on a.m. and f.m. radio tuners (again with full circuits), loudspeakers and loudspeaker enclosures.

Three chapters deal with disc and tape recording and reproduction. The book concludes with a section on power supply units, a collection of useful data and a glossary of terms used in sound reproduction.

This book is intended to appeal to the practising engineer, technician or to the home constructor enthusiast. The aim is to bring about a better understanding of the design and functioning of sound equipment. There is certainly a considerable amount of useful information packed into the 314 pages of this instructive book.—J.S.







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

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 GUERIES OVER THE TELE-PHONE. If a postal reply is required a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed with the coupon from page iii of the cover.

LOCAL COMMERCIAL RADIO

SIR.—I feel I cannot agree with the sympathies expressed by R. Robinson in the November issue of PRACTICAL WIRELESS. He, especially, as an amateur, should be aware of the seriousness of shortage of bandspace. That this should be cluttered up with multitudinous stations advertising each town seems to me to be against the ideas expressed by those who drew up the frequency allocations at Geneva.—N. J. H. DENT (Godalming).

TEST TRANSMISSIONS

S1R.—In answer to Mr. A. J. Richards in the August issue of PRACTICAL WIRELESS. The test transmissions he hears are, as he says, transmitted by many countries. They are transmitted by government stations solely for communications purposes. The reason for these, in my country anyway, is to provide a test signal for ships entering and leaving the country, to tune in on. These tapes are played for a considerable time until the transmitting station considers the ship is tuned in. It then calls the ship several times and waits for an answer—on another frequency. Meanwhile the test transmissions continue.—K. R. MOON (Te Awamut, New Zealand).

FREAK M.W. SIGNAL ON TV RECEIVER

SIR,—It may interest readers to note that I have a 13 channel Pye VT4 TV receiver, here in far-away Malaya (where, by the way, there are no TV transmissions, as yet) with which I am surprised to note that I am able to pick up the focal radio broadcast from apparently the nearby M.W. radio broadcast relay station (operating around 800kc/s), or alternatively from the main transmission of the same programme on approximately 8Mc/s, S.W. I receive the signal on channel five only—at one end of the fine tuning adjustment.

The aerial used is an indoor telescopic "V" type and although the reception is distorted it is quite audible. I have checked that this is not a radiated signal from a neighbour's radio set.

After having read of other freak receptions on radio and tape recorders in these columns, I wonder whether any other reader has experienced similar receptions to mine and whether an explanation can be offered?—E. R. SUNDARAJ (Kaha, Bharu, Kelentan, Malaya).

BROADCAST BREAKTHROUGH

SIR -With reference to those letters which have D been appearing concerning "Broadcast Breakthrough"—I should like to say I have experience of a case up here in Ayrshire of reception of Luxembourg with no apparatus other than a pair of 50^Ω headphones which are plugged into aerial and earth. Usually one requires a tuning circuit to select the carrier and some sort of a demodulation system before the modulation becomes audible; but *not* in this case. One simply connects the earphones to aerial and earth and listens. Readability is R4 and there is no sign of the usual Luxembourg fading experienced in these parts. What intrigues me, however, are the facts any that no capacitors, resistors, coils. or an apparatus of any kind, other than a 54ft "Z type aerial and earth connected to 'phones, are employed. That the local station, located at a distance of 35 miles is not heard: only Luxembourg some 600 miles away. Changing to a 2,000Ω set of 'phones only alters the volume: (We thought it was the coils in the head-set which were resonant at that frequency, leaving the inertia of the diaphram to iron out the modulation) and lastly the introduction of an aerial trimmer makes very little difference either in series or parallel.-J. M. J. HARRING (Altonhill, Kilmarnock).

CAN YOU HELP?

SIR,—I would be much obliged if any reader would lend or sell me certain copies of PRACTICAL WIRELESS, which I require for completing the information on certain circuits.

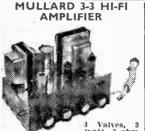
They are: November and December 1957. September 1958 and November 1960.—J. D. HILLS-HARROP (85 Hamlet Gardens, Hammersmith, London W6).

S1R,-I should like to know of any reader who would let me buy or borrow a copy of February 1961 PRACTICAL WIRELESS. I need this issue for the article on the Combined Radio and Table Lamp.-F. G. LAWRENCE (6 Essex Street, Forest Gate, E7).

SIR,—I wonder if any of your readers could supply me with an address from where I could obtain circuit diagrams and information for my 4660 receiver.—H. G. BROWN (4 Midcroft Avenue, Glasgow S4).

SIR,—I would be grateful if one of your readers would sell or loan me the circuit diagram of the R107 Communications Receiver, failing that, the valve line-up,—I. L. MCCALLUM (Elderslie Hotel, Largs, Ayrshire).

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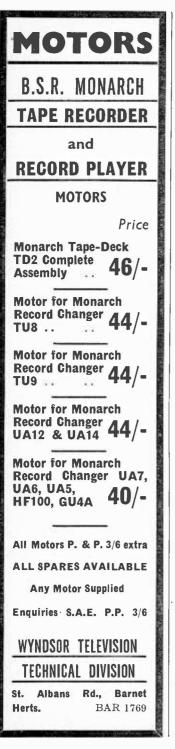
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January, 1963

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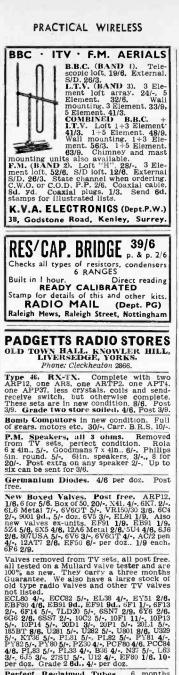
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