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This superb stereo system is a real price break through. It comprises the VISCOUNT F.E.T. Mk I amplifier on which full details are given below, the famous Garrard SP 25 Mk III (including teak veneer base and transparent cover) with diamond cartridge or 2025 TC and the very successful DUO type 2 speakers.
Measuring $17 \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}$ in $\times 10 \frac{3}{4}$ in $\times 6 \frac{3}{4}$ in, the Duo type 2 speakers are teak finished with matching Vynair grills. They incorporate a 3 ohm. $13 \mathrm{in} \times 8$ in drive unit and Parasitic tweeter. Max. power handling 10 watts. Price $£ 13 \cdot 50$ per pair plus p. \& p. $£ 1 \cdot 50$.

Complete stereo system $\mathbf{4 3}$ plus $\mathbf{6 2} 50$ p. \& p. or with Mk 11 Amplifier and Magnetic Cartridge 548 \& $62 \cdot 50$ p. \& p.

High fidelity transistor stereo amplifier employing field effect transistors. With this
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Specification-Output per channel 10 watts r.m.s. into 3 ohms Frequency bandwidth 20 Hz to $20 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{db}$ at 1 watt. Total distortion at 1 kHz at 9 watts $0.5 \%$ Input sensitivities CER. P.U. 100 mV into 3 meg ohms. Tuner 100 mV into 100 K ohms. Tape 100 mV into 100 K ohms. Overload Factor Better than 26 db

## The $\boldsymbol{f}_{25}$

## Stereo system

The Duetto is a good quality stereo amplifier, attractively styled and finished. It gives superb reproduction previously associated with amplifiers costing far more.

## SPECIFICATION-

R.M.S. power output 3 watts per channel into 10 ohms speakers.
INPUT SENSITIVITY, Suitable for medium or high output crystal cartridges and tuners. Cross-talk better than 30 dB at $1 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}$.
CONTROLS: 4-position selector switch (2 pos. mono and 2 pos stereo) dual ganged volume control.

Signal to noise ratio-70db on all inputs (with vol. max). Controls-6 position selector switch (3 pos. stereo and 3 pos. mono) Separate volume controls for left and right channels. Bass $\pm 14 \mathrm{db}$ at 60 Hz . Treble (with D.P.S. on off) $\pm 12 \mathrm{db}$ at 10 KHz . Tape recording output sockets on each channel. Size $12 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{in}$. 6 in . $2 \frac{2}{3} \mathrm{in}$, in simulated teak case. BUILT \& TESTED.

MkII (MAG P.U.) $£ 15 \cdot 75$ plus 75 p. p. \& p. Specification same as Mk. 1, but with the following inputs. Mag. P.U. CER. P.U Tuner. Spec. on Mag. P.U. 3 mV at 1 kHz input impedance 47 K . Fully equalised to within $\pm 1 \mathrm{db}$ RIAA. Signal to noise ratio65 db (vol. max).


## SOUND 50 <br> 50 WATT AMPLIFIER \& SPEAKER SYSTEM



The Sound Fifty valve amplifier and speakers are sturdily constructed with smart housings and thoroughly tested electronics. They are designed to last-to withstand the knocks and bumps of life on the road. Built for the small and medium sized gig, they are easy to handle and quick to set up and can be relied upon to come over with all the quality and power you need.
Output Power: 45 watts R.M.S. (Sine wave drive). Frequency response: -3 dB points 30 Hz at 18 KHz . Total distortion: less than $2 \%$ at rated output. Signal to noise ratio: better than 60 dB .
Speaker Impedance: 3, 8 or 15 ohms. Bass Control Range: $\pm 13 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 60 Hz . Treble Control Range: $\pm 12 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 10 KHz . Inputs: 4 inputs at 5 mV into 470 K . Each pair of inputs controlied by separate volume control. 2 inputs at 200 mV into 470 K .
To protect the output valves, the incorporated fail safe circuit will enable the amplifier to be used at hall power.
SPEAKERS! Size $20^{\prime \prime} \times 20^{\prime \prime} \times 10^{\prime \prime}$ incorporating $12^{\prime \prime}$ heavy duty 25 watt high flux, quality loudspeaker with cast frame. Cabinets attractively finished in two tone colour scheme-Black and grey.

## COMPLETE SYSTEM

Sound 50 amp and 2 speakers
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SPECIFICATIONS
Output 10 watts.
Output impedance- 3 to 4 ohms.
inputs 1. -xtal mic 10 mV Tone Controls-Treble control range $\pm$ 12 dB at 10 KHz . 2. -gram/radio 250 mV . Bass control range $\pm 13 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 100Hz.
Frequency Response-(with tone controls central) Minus 3 dB points at 20 Hz and 40 KHz . Signal to Noise Ratio-better than -60 dB . Transistors 4 silicon Planar type and 3 Germanium type. Mains input- $220 / 250 \mathrm{~V}$. A.C. Size of chassis- $10 \frac{3}{2}$ in. $x 4 \frac{3}{2}$ in. $x 2$ in. For use with Std. or L.P. records, musical instruments, all makes of pick-ups and mikes. Built and tested.

## THE DUO SPEAKER SYSTEM

Similar in design to those on the previous page the 2-way speaker system is beautifully finished in polished teak veneer. It is ideal for wall or shelf mounting either upright or horizontally.
Type 1 SPECIFICATION :-
mpedance 8 or 10 ohms (please state requirement). It incorporates high flux 7 in . x $3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. speaker and $2 \frac{1}{\mathrm{tin}}$. speaker. Teak finish $11 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. x in. x 5 z in . ${ }^{24.20}$ each. 50 p P. \& P.

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See top of previous page for address



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- Compact SC. 18-15 Mkll System, illustrated above.
- The plinth units.
- The loudspeakers.


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 12t p．Many more in list．S．D．R．BY100 800piv 14p． 6 amp series：BYZ13 300piv 20p．BYZ12 600piy 25p．BYZ11 900piv 30p．BYZ10 1200 piv 35p． （Charges 61p．up to 11，paid for 12 and over）．Sub－Min Transformers：OUT－ $2000 \Omega$ per $V \mathrm{O} 4.62 \frac{1}{2}$（ 15 p ）Detap to $66 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{p}$ ．）．MULTIMETER．Our famous $2000 \Omega$ per V $24 \cdot 62 \frac{1}{2}$（15p．）．Details and other in list．SOLDERING IRON． Slim，modern，British high－speed $8{ }^{1 \prime \prime}$ ，all parts replaceable，highest quality， TC8／LP，TC $8 / 8$ ，TC8LP／STEREO：COLLARO＇$O^{\prime}$＇：RONETTE BF GARRARD GC2／LP and GC8／LP：ACOS GP65／67，all at 40p（6p）．ACOS GP73，GP91：BSR ST4（ST3，ST5），ST8（ST9）：SONOTONE 8TA ATA 9TAHC：PHILIPS AG3306， 3060 （3063，3066，3301， 3302,3304 ；Garrard GKS25 all at 75p（ 6 p ）．All are of the very highest quality．DOUBLE DIAMOND： ST4（ST3，ST5）；ST10（ST9，ST8）；9TA，9TAHC．3306，GP91（For GP92， GP93，GP94 cartridges）；GP91SC for all GP91－SC Cartridges：All at $£ 1.50$ each（6p）．PICK－UP CARTRIDGES AIl standard fittings and stylii．MONO GP93 £1．27⿺辶 9TAHC（DIA．）$£ 2 \cdot 37 \frac{1}{2}$ ．GOLDRING G850 $£ 4 \cdot 87 \frac{1}{2}$ ．G800 $£ 8 \cdot 50$ ，G800E $£ 13.50$ G800 SUPER E $£ 19.50$（ $6 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{p}$ all types or Reg．，Post 22 1 p ．）．STYLII FOR ALL ABOVE TYPES，including GOLDRING available．RECORDING TAPE．
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 （state which）37tp（6p）．EMI $13^{\prime \prime} \times 8^{\prime \prime}, 3,8$ or $15 \Omega$（State which） $\mathbf{f 2 . 1 2 \frac { 1 } { 2 }}$ （25p）：with two tweeters and crossover network 8 or 15 （state which）$£ 2.27 \frac{1}{1}$ （25p），VIBRATORS．Genuine Plessey 12 V 4 －pin non－synch．121HD4． 271 p 12V 7－pin Synch．（12SR7）62表D（All types 61p per vibrator）．CONNECTING 16p（7t p）．Super thin for asstd．cols．ea．coil 5yds．Solid core 14p（6p）．Flexible 16p（7t p）．Super thin for transistor wiring 16p（6p）．PICK－UP WIRE．Super TRACTABLE Flex．Leads．（Curlies）6pt．phonoplug to 6 yds．－over free）．RE－ 6 ft ．phono plug／phono socket other end 25 p ． 12 ft ． $42 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{p}$ ．（ 6 p per $22 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{D}$ ． 12 ft 39 p ． BATTERY ELIMINATOR． 240 V AC input 3， $6,7 \frac{1}{2} \& 9 \mathrm{~V}$ ．DC output at $400 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$ ．Two switches，leads，pilot light and universal adaptor for all trans appliances including all makes cassette tape recorders and players £3．15 （24p）．SEND SAE for full free lists．Small 3 W and $7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ trans．amplifiers． panding aerials，Meters，Test prods，all types of Brit，\＆Cont portable ex－ min．plug and sockets，SDR＇s Thyristors，croc．clips（various）terminard and etc．and many＂Special Offer＂lines at lowest possible prices．

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treble boosi and cut. A dual volume control fa used. Balance of the left and right hand ehannels can be adJusted by means of a aeparate 'Balance' control fitted
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## TOPIC OF THE MONTH

## Not so Free!

THE long awaited White Paper on commercial local radio contained few real surprises but, for those viewing the advent of non-BBC local stations with concern, it carries some reassurances. The basic concept-given elsewhere in this issue in greater detail-is for the establishment of a 60 -station network of stations under the aegis of the ITA (to be renamed the Independent Broadcasting Authority) in competition with 20 BBC local stations.

This, no doubt, disappointed the supporters of "free radio", the more extreme of which seemed to envisage a local station in every garden shed, a set-up not so much free as anarchistic. But the facts remain that if standards are to be preserved, the small local station serving up to 100,000 population would be lucky to break even.

The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications wasted little time in presenting his White Paper, following election pledges, but it is obvious that he saw clearly some of the dangers inherent in setting up local commercial radio. He therefore insists that local stations must offer a truly public service, that they must maintain high standards, not least in the provision of news and news commentary programmes, and that the programmes must maintain a wide appeal. It is obvious that he is aware of the lamentable standard of small budget stations in the USA. Consequently the first IBA stations will serve the large conurbations.

The matter of frequency allocation, however, strikes us as reeking of indecision. Transmissions will be on v.h.f./f.m. but with medium wave a.m. support. Ostensibly the reason for this is to permit as many listeners as possible to hear the new stations. Yet, in the White Paper itself, it is admitted that whereas m.w. coverage for the 60 stations would be $70 \%$ in daylight hours, this will drop to $25 \%$ at night! Therefore, for most people without v.h.f. receivers, their local radio station will vanish beneath the mush in the evenings. So, if they want to listen after dark they will still need to buy a v.h.f. receiver. This seems to be analagous to the situation with TV after the war when the decision was made to re-start on the outdated 405 -line system instead of opting for a system more in keeping with the times-a change that had to be made, anyway, before many years.
Paragraph 9 in the White Paper, however, has its feet firmly on the ground. It points out that the IBA stations have a formidable challenge. They must bring in new listeners, yet they will not be able to provide for as broad a range of different audiences as can the BBC with its four national services and its local network. Formidable may be an understatement. We wish the IBA stations the best of luck. They will probably need it !
W. N. STEVENS-Editor.

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[^1]
## ITT Electronic Voltmeter



The VX313B electronic voltohmmeter nanoammeter has been introduced by ITT Metrix and is available from ITT Components Group Europe. The instrument makes extensive use of solid-state circuitry to achieve a compact size.
The VX313B can be used for measuring a.c. voltages up to 300 V from 30 Hz to 1 MHz , d.c. voltages up to 1000 V , d.c. currents up to 10 mA and resistances up to 50 megohm. Equipped with a shockproof taut band suspension centre pole meter movement, the VX313B is very sensitive. With the exception of the 0.1 and 0.3 V
ranges ( 10 megohm input resistance) it features a constant 100 megohm input resistance on all d.c. ranges.

A full range of accessories is available including an r.f. probe for measurement of 0 to 30 V , 10 kHz to 50 MHz a.c. voltages; crystal tees for measurements up to 1000 MHz at 2 V ; and a 30 kV e.h.t. d.c. probe. Current measurements from 5 to 150 A can be made using 100 mV and 300 mV shunts, and 10 kilohm test probe leads are available for d.c. voltage measurements in r.f. circuits. ITT Electronic Services, Edinburgh Way, Harlow, Essex.

## Apollo Postcript

Is the interest in space exploration declining as it is generally believed? Viewing figures for Apollo 14 seem to challenge this. Intelsat, the international consortium whose satellites beamed the TV pictures of the flight around the world, say that an estimated 650 million looked in on the mission. In Britain alone, audiences ranging from 20 to 35 million saw highlights of the Apollo 14 Moon landing mission.

## news...

## "Vinlage" QSE Card

D. H. Adams, Lecturer in charge of the Electrical Department, Barry College of Further Education, recently sent us a special QSL card. It commemorates a unique Vintage Radio occasionthe first transmission over water conducted by Marconi and Kemp.
Kemp's diary and photographs of Post Office technicians together with Marconi and some of his equipment are included on the card.
The Barry College of Further Education Radio Society GW3VKL commemorate the event annually by establishing a special station, GB3FI on Flatholm Island. This year they will be on the Island on Sunday 23 rd. May, operating on all h.f. bands ( $10-160 \mathrm{~m}$ ) and 2 m v.h.f.

For our "Going Back" enthusiasts, in May 1897, Marconi and Kemp conducted experiments in radio communication from Flatholm Island in the Bristol Channel, Lavernock Point (Glamorgan, Wales) and Brean Down (Somerset, England). During these tests, radio signals were transmitted for the first time across water and between two countries.

The station at Lavernock Point will be GW3VKL/P. G3XZW/P (Taunton and District A.R.C.) will be operating from Brean Down.

## R.F.C. Prices

H.A.C. Short Wave Products advise us that they have available a new price list, showing today's decimal prices for all products.

They are pleased to be able to assure readers, however, that they have made no increase whatsoever, and that their prices remain as previously. The two most popular kits, as advertised in our periodical are priced as follows: Model "DX" mark 2. ex works $£ 3 \cdot 30$. Model "K" ex works $£ 5 \cdot 25$.

## Shining Light

If you're interested, the table lamp and shade on this month's cover can be obtained from Gamages Ltd., High Holborn, London.

## WEWS... NEWS... WEWS...

Dynatron have been in negotiation with Olson Electronics of Akron, Ohio, U.S.A., for some time past culminating with a recent visit to the Dynatron Factory at Maidenhead by Mr. Sidney L. Olson, President, and the signing of a contract to supply several hundred of ' 90 ' Series, Model STA90, Tuner/Amplifiers for sale in his branches across the U.S.A.

The demand in many overseas markets is for audio equipment far more powerful than that normally acceptable by the U.K. buyer, output powers of 40 Watts per channel and above are considered normal.
Dynatron ' 90 ' Series fulfils this requirement with its $45 \times 45$ Watts output RMS and highly sophisticated tuner specification designed with both home and overseas markets in mind.
L. H. (Laurie) Skeet, Export Sales Executive for Dynatron, advises that he will be delighted to receive enquiries for both Direct and Personal Export and will ensure these receive his personal attention; he can be contacted on Maidenhead (0628) 23331, Extension 53.

The photograph illustrates the Standard Model STA90 priced at £165.

## A New I.C.

SGS announce the TBA651, a new linear circuit, which has been designed for use in high quality car radios and radio receivers. It combines the functions of an r.f. amplifier, oscillator, mixer and i.f. amplifier. As the device contains an internal voltage regulator, it can be operated with a supply voltage from $4^{1}{ }_{2}-18$ volts. The range of applications for the circuit is considerably increased by its ability to perform at a frequency up to 27 MHz .

A typical S/N ratio of 26 dB can be achieved for an input of $10 \mu \mathrm{~V}$.
This device is supplied in a 16 lead plastic split DIP Package. Technical Bulletin reference 108 is available covering this device. SGS (United Kingdom) Limited, Planar House, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.

## USA Export Order for Dynatron



## Soldering Kit

Antex announce their "SK2" kit which includes the following: 240 volts-15 watt miniature soldering iron fitted with ${ }_{16} \mathrm{in}$. bit, 2 spare bits $5_{32}$ in. and ${ }_{3}{ }_{32}$, coil of cored solder, heat sink, 1A fuse and the booklet "How to Solder."
The new kit is presented in a polystyrene pack, protected by a cardboard sleeve. The booklet "How to Solder" is now printed in three languages and the kit is also available in 220 volts, 115 volts or 100 volts for sale on the European, American and Japanese markets.
The recommended retail price in the U.K. is $£ 2 \cdot 40$. AngloNetherland Technical Exchange Ltd., Mayflower House, Plymouth, Devon.


## Bib's Latest



Two new additions to the BIB range of accessories are a stylus balance and cassette case.

The stylus balance, manufactured from non-magnetic alloy and fitted with a non-scratch base is calibeated to be accurate within $1_{4}$ gram from ${ }^{1}{ }_{4}$ to 5 grams. Price is $£ 1 \cdot 80$.

The cassette case is covered in hide-effect p.v.c. and holds 12 cassettes. The lid is held by a rotary fastener. Price is $£ 1 \cdot 50$. Bib Division, Multicore Solders Limited, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

## Do You Fancy a Bit?

A new design service for special purpose soldering bits has been introduced by Adcola Products Itd. A new division has been formed to design and manufacture soldering bits to meet customers' requirements. Special purpose soldering bits can be manufactured in copper and can be iron-plated to provide long working life.
The service is equally suitable for small or large quantities and is complementary to the range of 70 standard soldering bits-copper and iron plated-produced by Adcola.

THE

# CARITON A MODERN GILICON GUPERHET RECEIVER 

ERIC DOWDESWELL

I$T$ is surprising what good quality the average small portable transistor radio can provide if the output is fed into a speaker a bit larger in size than that in the set. For some time the author has used one of the imported tubular extension speakers which are quite cheap and consist of a 3 in . speaker in a decorative tube with a long lead and plug.

As it was a bit of a bother to carry around the house both the set and the speaker it seemed to be an obvious solution to build a set into the speaker tube itself. The tube can easily accommodate a circuit board, battery and ferrite rod aerial without using up too much of the enclosed space which gives the speaker its pleasant tonal qualities.

Basically the circular plastic grille furthest from the speaker is used as a tuning dial with a wavechange switch and a volume control/on-off switch
brought through the top of the speaker tube.
The resulting complete radio set has proved very satisfactory, the quality usually provoking pleasant surprise from those that hear it.

## THE CIRCUIT

The circuit is a hybrid one using discrete transistors and an integrated circuit. The superhet, Fig. 1, uses three 2 N 2926 G n.p.n silicon transistors in the mixer/oscillator and i.f. stages, the output being detected and fed to an MFC4000P integrated circuit audio amplifier or "gain block."

The MFC4000P was described in "IC of the Month" (PW, Sept. 1970) to which article reference can be made for detailed description of its operation. Briefly it contains six transistors, three diodes and three resistors but its outstanding feature is its small size,


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the 'Carfon' receiver with lead-out connections of thet ransistors and integrated circuit.
being only approximately ${ }^{1}{ }_{4} \times{ }^{1}{ }_{4} \times{ }^{1}$ in., with just four leadout wires.

A ferrite rod aerial Ll covers the medium and long wavebands the input and oscillator L2 circuits of Trl being tuned by the two-gang capacitor VCla-b, the band being selected by Sla-b.
The output of the single-tuned i.f.t. 1 is fed to the first i.f. amplifier $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ the gain of which is controlled by the voltage fed through R4 from the signal diode D1. Tr3 and i.f.t. 3 form the second i.f. amplifying stage. Diode D1 has a small reverse bias applied to it to improve its efficiency at low signal levels. A further reference to this diode will be made later.

The low level audio signal from Dl goes to the volume control VR1 which feeds the integrated circuit ICI. R10 constitutes a feedback path which fixes the frequency response of the audio amplifier. The speaker is fed from the output of the i.c. via the blocking capacitor C12. It will be noticed that no audio transformers are required anywhere in this particular circuit.

## THE CONSTRUCTION

A piece of Veroboard holds the majority of the components, only the wavechange switch and the volume control/on-off switch being mounted on the tube. These are connected to the board with flexible


Fig. 2. Disposition of the circuit board and major components inside the speaker tube.
leads. The width of the board is fairly critical because when it is placed inside the tube the spindle of the tuning capacitor must be central in the tube since the end cap of the tube is used as the tuning dial, see Fig. 2.

The first step is to carefully remove the end cap from the speaker tube by easing it out slowly all round using the blade of a small screwdriver, avoiding any damage to the tube end. A hole ${ }^{1} 4 \mathrm{in}$. in diameter should be drilled in the centre of the cap to take the tuning capacitor spindle.

At this point it is a good idea to clean away any surplus glue or paper from around the inside edge of the tube using a round file and to check that the end cap is an easy fit inside the tube.

Cut a piece of plain Veroboard ( $0.15 \times 0.15 \mathrm{in}$. matrix) slightly wider than the dimensions given in Fig. 3, trim the corners as shown and cut out the rectangular portion to accommodate the tuning capacitor. Attach the capacitor to the board by soldering the two tags on the rear (oscillator) section
to the two Veroboard pins C5 and M5, Fig. 3.
Place the board inside the tube so that the capacitor spindle is just projecting and then slide the end cap over the spindle. When the board is at the right height the end cap will just fit nicely into the tube. If the spindle is too high reduce the width of the board slightly until the cap fits in the tube as described. In practice, if the width given for the board is adhered to and the specified tuning capacitor used the height will be right first time.


The end cap of the extension speaker becomes the tuning dial with appropriate station markings.

The remainder of the Veroboard pins should now be inserted into the board using the proper insertion tool, supporting the board from the back to prevent it cracking, Fig. 3. The clearing holes for the i.f.t. and oscillator coil soldering lugs can be drilled easily, as they are just enlargements of existing holes, using $a^{1}{ }_{8}$ in. diameter drill.


A close-up of the integrated circuit audio 'gain-block'. Its small size can be appreciated by comparing it with the $0.15 \times 0.15$ in matrix Veroboard.
The i.f.t.'s and oscillator coil can be fitted by pushing the lugs through holes in the board and bending over the screening can tags flat against the board. Note that all six lugs are present on the oscillator coil L2 the identifying red spot being between lugs 1 and 6 .
Veroboard pins are used to support the transistors and the i.c., these components being soldered to the
pins only after all the wiring has been completed and checked.

Complete the wiring, Figs. 3 and 4, using bare 22 s.w.g. copper wire. The interconnections are so short and stiff that insulated wire is not necessary except in one or two places where wires cross close to each other. The connections to the ferrite rod aerial coils should be made with flexible wire, coloured as suggested, as it is necessary to move the coils along the rod during the alignment process.

Initially fix the coils at the ends of the rod with plastic tape.

The wires to the waveband switch and the volume control/on-off switch should be left long enough to enable these controls to be fitted to the top of the speaker tube, Fig. 5. Allow a couple of inches extra which can be trimmed off later.
Check and double check the wiring especially that to the bandswitch as the stage has now been reached when the transistors and the i.c. can be soldered into


Fig. 3. Wiring diagram of the underneath of the circuit board with interconnections to the volume control/on-off switch and speaker. Compare this with the photograph below showing the completed board. Note that the tuning capacitor is fixed to the board by soldering the lugs of the two sections to pins in the Veroboard.


Fig. 4. Remainder of the wiring, on top of the circuit board. Connections to the ferrite aerial are made with flexible wire to permit the two coils to be moved along the rod for alignment purposes. The negative side of diode D1 goes to resistor R8. A photograph of this side of the circult board appears on the next page.



Fig. 5, This side view of the extension speaker shows the position of the volume control etc. in the prototype receiver. The flexible wires to the bandswitch should be kept as short as possible. The PP4 battery is not suspended in mid-air, as it would appear, but rests on the curved sides of the tube.
position. With the transistors, grip all three leads with a pair of long-nosed pliers, close to the body of the transistor, then tin the ends of the leads. While still gripping the leads solder the ends to the appropriate pins making absolutely sure that the connections are right. See Fig. 1 for the lead-out connections. A hot soldering iron and speed are the essence of this operation.
With the i.c., tin each lead-out wire as with the transistors, using the pliers as a heat sink, then solder all four to the correct pins. Note that pin 1 is the identifying pin, see Fig. 4.
A 6BA bolt, lin. long, has a flat filed on its head and it is then soldered to the centre earth tag underneath the tuning capacitor, Fig. 2. This bolt

Switch to the m.w. band and adjust the two trimmers on VCla and VClb to their mid-way positions. Set the tuning to the dial position for the local BBC4 station and adjust the core of oscillator coil L2 until the station is heard. Having got a signal tune each of the i.f.t.'s, beginning with i.f.t. 3 and working forward, for best signal strength. Use only the proper trimming tool for these cores or damage will result.
Find a station such as Radio 1 on 247 m . at the low end of the dial and adjust the trimmer on VCla for best volume. Tune to a station at the top end, such as Radio 3, moving the m.w. coil along the ferrite rod for maximum signal.
Return to the low end of the band and adjust the calibration against a station of known wavelength,

fits into a slot in the bottom edge of the speaker tube where, with nuts and washers it retains the circuit board in its correct position in the tube, Fig. 5. The holes for the volume control and the bandswitch are drilled in the top of the tube, using Fig. 5 as a guide.

## THE ALIGNMENT

The existing long lead from the speaker is connected to the circuit board as shown in Fig. 4. Connect the battery terminal clips to the board with short stiff wires, the battery resting on the bottom of the tube, Fig. 5.

To assist in the alignment of the set a temporary dial drawn on stiff paper or card, Fig. 6, should be stuck to the front of the tuning capacitor and a pointer knob put on the spindle ensuring that minimum capacity coincides with left hand end of the dial markings.


Fig.6. Alignment of the finished receiver will be con'siderably facilitated by copying the above dial on to thin card and sticking it temporarily to the front of the tuning capacitor.
using the trimmer on VClb.
Switch to the l.w. band and tune in Radio 2 on 1500 m . and slide the l.w. coil along the ferrite rod for best results.
It is advisable to go over the alignment procedure once more after the set is working properly on both bands only this time use weak but steady signals for the alignment of the i.f. stages and the m.w. and l.w. coils on the ferrite rod. This will reduce any effect the a.g.c. may have on the apparent signal strength. In fact a voltmeter connected to the a.g.c. line will provide a much more precise means of alignment than the ear.

The set is now ready for final fitting to the tube. Remove the temporary dial and pointer. The circuit board can now be slid into the speaker tube, the control spindles manipulated into their respective holes and fitting the retaining nuts. The end grille, now the tuning dial, is fitted over the end of the tuning capacitor and into the end of the tube. The circuit board is adjusted until the end of the spindle is just flush with the dial. Tighten the nuts holding the 6BA bolt but do not overtighten as this will risk cracking the board. Remove the dial and put a small amount of Araldite or similar cement in the depression inside the dial, replace the dial on the spindle and leave overnight for the cement to set hard.

Turn the dial maximum anti-clockwise and mark a line across the edge of the dial and onto the tube

## $\star$ components list


to indicate the high frequency end of the tuning range. Tune in the various BBC stations on m.w. and mark the tube accordingly. Do the same for Radio 2 on l.w. The complete dial markings are shown in the photographs. There is no reason, of course, why the markings should not be in wavelength or frequency or both. The bandswitch is marked to indicate its position for the m.w. and l.w. bands.

## NOTES

Although these tubular extension speakers are no longer imported there are many thousands in use and they can still be obtained in radio shops at around $£ 1$ each. The model used here is the TTC K3001 with plastic end caps but there is another model around that has pressed metal caps. If this model is used make quite sure that the end cap used for the dial is an easy rotating fit on the tube before glueing it to the tuning capacitor spindle.
Reference was made earlier to resistor R7, $39 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ in the diode detector circuit. Its optimum value will depend upon the diode actually used. Once the set is working propertly, switch it off, remove R7 and fit a $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ potentiometer in its place on temporary wires. Switch on and adjust the value of the pot. for best quality of sound. The actual position is quite critical making a significant difference to the overall results. Switch off and remove the pot. from the circuit and measure the resistance of that part which was in circuit. Choose and solder in a fixed resistor as near as possible to that value.
Don't forget that since the set uses a ferrite rod aerial it will be highly directional and should always be turned to provide maximum signal strength.

## JUNE ISSUE

## BASIC TV CIRCUITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTOR

This month we start a new series on basic "building block" circuits for the constructor. A new circuit will be presented each month and the complete series will enable a high-quality monochrome TV receiver to be constructed. As the 405 - and 625 - line circuits are separate either a dual- or single-standard set can be built up. We start off with a three transistor i.f. strip for the 405 -line standard.

## ADDING AFC

Tuning on u.h.f. can drift for a number of reasons. The best answer is to add a.f.c. to your receiver. A practical add-on circuit is presented for controlling a varicap diode in the u.h.f. oscillator tuned circuit, with detailed instructions on setting up.


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## ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS

$4 \mathrm{uF} 150 \mathrm{v} 4 \mathrm{p} ; 8 \mathrm{uF} 500 \mathrm{v} 15 \mathrm{p} ; 8 \mathrm{uF} 12 \mathrm{v} 4 \mathrm{p} ; 8 \mathrm{aF}+$ $8 \mathrm{uF} 450 \mathrm{v} 21 \mathrm{p} ; 10 \mathrm{uF} 150 \mathrm{v} 4 \mathrm{p} ; 12 \mathrm{uF} 25 \mathrm{v} 4 \mathrm{p} ; 16 \mathrm{uF}$ $450 \mathrm{v} 14 \mathrm{p} ; 16 \mathrm{uF}+16 \mathrm{uF} 450 \mathrm{v} 28 \frac{1}{2} ; 30 \mathrm{uF} 10 \mathrm{v} 4 \mathrm{p} ;$ $50 \mathrm{uF} 10 \mathrm{v} 4 \mathrm{p} ; 100 \mathrm{uF} 9 \mathrm{v} 4 \mathrm{p} ; 100 \mathrm{uF} 12 \mathrm{v} 4 \mathrm{p} ; 150 \mathrm{uF}$ $77 \mathrm{p} ; 5000 \mathrm{uF} 25 \mathrm{v} 50 \mathrm{p} ; 10,000 \mathrm{uF} 25 \mathrm{v} 75 \mathrm{p} ; 20,000 \mathrm{uF}$ $7 \mathrm{t} \mathrm{p} ; 5000 \mathrm{u}$
30 v
$\mathbf{5 1} .06$.

MIOROPHONES
Acos Mic 45 El.12t; Acos Mic 60 896p; Planet CM70 21-50; Hand Mike 75y.
valves
PY81 86p; PCL82 09p; DF183 45p; EF184 459.
pleage note change of address
GEOPBE FRANCIS (Dppt PW),
12-14, Middle Gate, Hewark, Eottu.
Folophone: Jowark 4788.


MY soldering iron was a nuisance. It was either too hot or too cold. Too hot if it had been left on, unused, and too cold when I had only just turned it on.

The solution is to leave it on the whole time but to reduce the power when it is standing by; one friend has a Variac specially for this job but who wants to tie up five quids worth of useful Variac in this way?

My solution is to put a silicon rectifier in series with the soldering iron element (Fig. 1). As this cuts one half cycle, the power is halved when the switch is open and full power is produced by closing the

switch. The mains neon shows when the iron is on at half power.

Since the rectifier does not get hot, it can be mounted inside a suitable switch screwed on the back of the soldering iron mains plug. The Bakelite top of the plug is replaced by a block of $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. plywood

drilled to recess the terminal screws of the plug pins. Two wires pass through the plywood block: one goes from the live pin to one side of the switch and the other from the live side of the element to the other side of the switch. The neutral wire of the element is connected to the neutral plug pin. The rectifier and mains neon are connected across the switch. The mains neon is held in a groove filed in the switch housing. The switch is screwed to the wooden block and the plug is screwed to the other side.


Fig. 1: The circuit of the two heat soldering iron.
When switched to "cool", the iron, a 25 watt Henley Solon, will melt solder and is ready for full scale soldering within about 10 seconds of switching to "Hot". The bit life, since the modification, has been much extended and the tip does not become covered in oxide.
The switch is a "VETO" from Woolworth's and, for the rectifier, any component with a 250 mA 350 V p.i.v. (or greater) rating that is small and cheap will do. A BY100 is ideal for this purpose.
Notice that I have not earthed my iron; this may not be strictly safe but I do not have disasters through soldering the "hot" end of a live circuit and, to me, this is worth the small risk.

## PSSST! WANT TO BE AN AUTHOR?

A high proportion of the articles in Practical Wireless are submitted by readers who want their hobby to pay it's way (plus a good bit over). The Editor always welcomes articles from new authors; these should, if possible, be typewritten, double spaced and should conform generally, with regard to length and type, to existing articles. All circuits etc. are redrawn before publication but the originals should be as clear as possible. Photographs of the equipment are helpful but if this is difficult these can be done in our own studios. All components used must be available with the source of unusual items given.
All published material is payed for at attractive rates. Further information is available from the Editor.

## SERVIONG

AN NTROOLCTION TO FAUITFFNONG

## PART 2

## G. J. KING

FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SERIES BY H. W. HELLYER, CO-AUTHOR G. J. KING GUIDES THE READER THROUGH THE CIRCUITRY OF TYPICAL A.M. AND COMBINED A.M./F.M. RECEIVERS AS A NECESSARY PRELUDE TO ACTUAL SERVICING TECHNIQUES BEGINNING NEXT MONTH.

MY thanks to Mr. Hellyer for setting the stage, so to speak, allowing me to launch straight into basic circuitry and servicing techniques.
Radio receiver design has developed essentially into the following:

1. Relatively simple receiver
2. Radiogram
3. Hi-fi receiver or system.

## COMMON FEATURES

All have the common features of (i) the front-end which includes the frequency changer and sometimes an r.f. amplifier in front, (ii) the i.f. channel which feeds into the second detector and (iii) the audio channel which feeds into the speaker. When considering any circuit in electronics it is always desirable to break it up into sections or 'blocks', and this, for the basic radio receiver, is done in Fig.1.

Even the simplest of receivers has this sort of section make-up, with the more expensive ones carrying greater section detail. For example, a cheap a.m. portable has the ferrite rod aerial signal coupled straight into the frequency changer stage, which is commonly a single transistor stage performing the dual functions of mixing and local oscillator generation, while a more expensive f.m. model would be expected to have at least one r.f. amplifier stage and possibly two transistors for frequency changing, one working as the mixer and the other as the local oscillator. Moreover, the r.f. amplifier and possibly the mixer would be designed round field effect transistors (f.e.t.'s) rather than the ordinary type of bipolar transistor, such devices yielding improved linearity over bipolars, with a consequent improvement in the rejection of intermodulation components and hence spurious signals.

## FRONT-END BASICS

The front-end thus accepts the aerial signal and heterodynes this with the local oscillator signal to provide the required intermediate-frequency (i.f.) signal. The i.f. signal can be equal to the sum or difference between the local oscillator and the incoming signal.
The first makes the oscillator frequency higher than the incoming frequency by the i.f. and the second makes the oscillator frequency lower than the incoming frequency by the i.f. Either arrangement works equally well and both are found in practice, but the choice is sometimes based on the required tuning range and frequency band and the possibility of fundamental or harmonic radiation from the local oscillator affecting neighbouring radio and television receivers.
The simplest receiver, therefore, has two variablytuned circuits at the front-end, one to tune the incoming signal and the other to tune the local oscillator so that over the tuning range this remains exactly out of step with the incoming signal tuning to yield the i.f. difference. This is where the front-end alignment comes in.
Receivers with one or more r.f. stages have an extra variably-tuned circuit for each stage. The number of front-end stages can thus be gleaned by counting the number of variable elements in the tuning gang. Simple sets have a two-gang capacitor, and more exotic models capacitors with three or, perhaps, four ganged sections. Sometimes there might be two r.f. stages tuned by a single gang (making three ganged sections in all). This is when the r.f. section consists of one tuned stage and one untuned stage. There are a few models with two r.f.


Fig. 1. The circuit of a basic superheterodyne receiver is broken up into blocks or sections to assist in the discussion of receiver circuitry.


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[^2]
transistors arranged in a cascode circuit which requires only one section of the tuning gang.

## TUNING SYSTEMS

Sometimes the tuning is accomplished not by ordinary capacitor sections but by either variable inductors or varactor capacitors. For tuning, of course, we require a combination of inductance and capacitance and to change the tuned frequency we can alter either the capacitance or the inductance. When the inductance is altered dust-iron cores are arranged to move inside the formers, these being mechanically linked with the tuning system.
Varactor tuning is a recent innovation and it is based on the change in capicitance which occurs between the elements of a semi-conductor diode when the reverse bias across it is altered. When a diode is in forward conduction there is no electronic demarcation between the p and n zones. However, in reverse biasing, a 'barrier' develops at the zone junction and the width of this increases as the reverse bias is increased. This is reflected as an increase in capacitance as the reverse bias is decreased, going into a short-circuit when the biasing changes from reverse to forward. Of course, the design is such that the biasing never goes forward (not normally, anyway; a fault condition resulting in this would put the whole of the front-end out of action).

Each circuit to be tuned (r.f., mixer and local oscillator) has its own varactor, which is the name given to junction diodes designed specifically to exploit the capacitance feature as efficiently as possible, the variable biasing for tuning coming from


Fig. 3. A view of the Sonab R7000 receiver, for f.m. only. All tuning is by varacters, the complete tuning unit being contained in the large screened box at the left.
a potentiometer geared to the tuning system
Owing to the relatively small capacitance swing, varactor tuning is confined essentially to f.m. receivers, f.m. tuners and to the f.m. front-end of a.m./f.m. receivers. The a.m. section is almost always capacitively-tuned, even today.
Modern receivers commonly embody a v.h.f. (f.m.) front-end unit complete, which is often 'imported' in the form of a single unit. The a.m. section is then an integral part of the receiver design, using its own capacitors. To illustrate this, Fig. 2 shows a valvetype receiver with the tuning coupled to the gang on the left for a.m. and the screened unit adjacent, with its tuning mechanism also coupled to the main drive, for v.h.f. f.m.
A more advanced version is shown in Fig. 3, which is the Swedish Sonab R7000 receiver. This is alltransistor, f.m. only and uses varactors for tuning



Fig. 2. In this receiver the main f.m. tuning mechanism is coupled to the gang capacitor at the left, used in the a.m. channel, Fig. 4. (above) shows a simple two-gang capacitor in a home-made v.h.f. tuner.
which are biased simultaneously for the correct capacitance by a potentiometer. The self-contained v.h.f. f.m. section (with varactors) constitutes the screened unit on the left-hand side.

An earlier v.h.f. f.m. tuner is shown in Fig. 4. This home-made set is seen to employ capacitor tuning, one section being for the mixer input and the other for the local oscillator. Nowadays, however, the majority of f.m. receivers and tuners of any consequence carry a variably tuned r.f. stage. In expensive models and portables, though, might well have an untuned r.f. stage, these then showing a tuning capacitor with only two ganged sections. It is just as well to get all these factors sorted out, since successful servicing demands intimate knowledge of the receiver.

The trend is for more receivers, even cheap portables, to carry an f.m. section so that they can tune to the 'local' v.h.f. stations at least. To be up-todate, therefore, a substantial part of this series is bound to delve into f.m. techniques and servicing problems quite extensively. Nevertheless, a.m. is still used either by itself or linked to f.m., the latter constituting the a.m./f.m. receiver.
Whether dual or single system, the i.f. on a.m. is almost exclusively 470 kHz and on f.m. $10 \cdot 7 \mathrm{MHz}$. Such output from the appropriate front-end is then conveyed to the i.f. channel.

## DESIGN VARIATIONS

This is where we can see some variation in detail. An a.m. only receiver has a relatively simple i.f. channel of, perhaps, only two transistor stages, depending on its price category. This would feed into a simple diode a.m. detector and thence, via the volume control, to the audio channel, which commonly carries three transistors.

The a.m./f.m. receiver might be similarly endowed so far as a.m. is concerned; but for f.m. would carry a separate i.f. channel feeding into the f.m. detector, thence via switching and the volume control to the audio channel, as shown in Fig. 5. This is the least complex type of dual receiver to service, for


Fig. 5. (top) One possible arrangement for a combined a.m./f.m. receiver while Fig. 6, (bottom) illustrates the more common configuration using a composite i.f, channel.

The block diagram in Fig. 7 shows the deviation just explained. Switches S1, S2 and S3 tell the story. Sl energises the v.h.f. f.m. front-end on f.m. and removes the supply on a.m.; S2 switches the v.h.f. f.m. front-end i.f. to the a.m. mixer section on f.m., while disconnecting the ferrite rod aerial; and S3 mutes the a.m. local oscillator on f.m., restoring it on a.m. S2 switching implies that the a.m. mixer section must also be loaded with dual i.f. transformers (the primaries at the anode or collector at least) at 470 kHz and $10 \cdot 7 \mathrm{MHz}$. This is, in fact, true, as we shall see later.

Block diagrams in Figs. 5, 6 and 7 show a ferrite rod aerial at the a.m. front-end. Almost all receivers, even very expensive hi-fi species, get their a.m. signals by way of such an aerial; and this applies also to inexpensive, small and large portables. The ferrite rod aerial is a highly efficient device and it can collect more signal with less interference (giving a good signal-to-interference ratio) than long-wire or rod-type outdoor aerials, when it is properly orientated. However, the efficiency diminishes with increasing frequency, so in the short-wave bands and certainly at v.h.f. a 'Iong-wire' or tuned dipole aerial is required (the tuned dipole certainly for v.h.f. f.m. reception).

Some receivers try to make do with a compressed v.h.f. dipole fitted into the wooden or plastic cabinet, while f.m. portables can provide sometimes fair results from local stations by way of a built-in telescopic aerial, but this is definitely not the best way of securing the potential attributes of the f.m. system of broadcasting! Pickup efficiency of such rods is likely to improve marginally with the new 'slant' plane of signal polarisation, but currently only one or two stations of the BBC are so engineered.

Unsuccessful attempts have been made to simulate at v.h.f. the convenience and efficiency of the ferrite rod aerial; but to date we still need a good v.h.f. f.m. aerial to obtain the best results from this service, especially when advantage is to be taken of the stereo information multiplexed on some v.h.f. f.m. signals.

The ferrite rod aerial is a tuned device and it takes the place of the aerial coil of earlier receivers. Two windings provide for long-wave and medium-
wave tuning and sometimes there is a third winding for coupling to an external aerial when the receiver is operated under screened conditions, such as in a metal caravan or motor car.

## AM RECEIVER

The circuit of a six transistor a.m. only receiver is given in Fig. 8. I have divided this into the three sections of the block diagram, Fig. 1. Thus VT1 is the frequency changer transistor whose base receives signals tuned by the ferrite rod aerial. Windings L2 and L4 are for medium and long wave respectively, while windings L3 and L5 couple the tuned signal to the transistor base, the appropriate winding being selected by wavechange switch sections S 3 m and S 41 .

Aerial section of the tuning gang is Cl with trimmer C2 in parallel this combination being connected to L2 or L4 by S1m and S21, also wavechange switch sections. Winding L1 provides for external aerial coupling.
Local oscillator coils are L6, L7 and L8, with tuning provided by C 8 section of the gang and C 9 trimmer in parallel. Wavechange switch section S 51 introduces extra parallel capacitance for long-wave operation. Part of this capacitance is in the form of l.w. trimmer C11, the remainder being provided by C10. Capacitor C7 in series with the oscillator tuning acts as a fixed padder to provide the correct signal/ oscillator tracking (at the i.f. difference) over the bands. The trimmers mentioned and also the cores in the i.f. transformers determine the overall alignment. This subject will be dealt with fully by Mr. Hellyer later.

The i.f. signal is developed across the windings of the first i.f. transformer L9/10, the tapping on the primary providing the correct coupling impedance.
The i.f. channel features the two transistors VT2 and VT3, the second i.f. transformer L11/12 coupling one to the other and the third coupling VT3 to the second detector MR1, via windings L13/14. Primary taps are also provided on these i.f. transformers for impedance matching at the collector circuits. This is fairly common practice to avoid undue damping by
Fig. 8. The operation of this six transistor a.m. receiver is described in the iext.


the relatively low collector impedance.
Detector load consists of R12, R5 and R4 in series, but only R5 is concerned with the resulting audio signal. Residual i.f. signal is bypassed by C21, while Cl2 clamps the bottom of R5 to chassis so far as the audio signal is concerned. Thus the audio appearing across R 5 is applied in parallel to the volume control and thence, via the slider, to the base of the first audio transistor VT4.
The d.c. component of the 'detected' i.f. signal modifies the static current in VT2 base feed resistor R4 in such a way that the gain of this i.f. transistor is caused to fall as the strength of the received signal rises, and vice versa. This provides automatic gain control (a.g.c.). What happens is that as the signal level rises, so the cathode of MR1 reflects a positive potential to VT2 base circuit, thereby making the base go less negative with respect to emitter. Since VT2 is a p-n-p device, this reducing negative base potential automatically reduces the emitter current and hence the gain of the stage. Capacitors C15 and C19 in the circuits of the second and third i.f. transformers provide a small amount of negative feedback to neutralise the intrinsic positive feedback via the transistors which could otherwise cause oscillation.
The audio channel is straightforward. VT4 is the driver transistor which feeds push-pull signals to the bases of the two output transistors VT5/VT6. This pair is biased towards class $B$ working by the poten-tial-divider resistors R19/20 in the base circuit, which means that the collector current is almost zero when there is no signal drive. True class B implies zero collector current, but it is necessary to bias for a small current to avoid discontinuity of the transfer characteristics of the output pair at the point of intersection. If the quiescent current is too small this discontinuity effect is revealed by an unpleasant type of distortion, called crossover distortion, which I shall have more to say about later when I shall be dealing with amplifier fault finding.

## AM/FM RECEIVER

Fig. 9 gives the circuit of the ITT-KB KR612 a.m./f.m. receiver. The v.h.f. f.m. unit is at the top left-hand corner, containing two transistors, TR201 the r.f. amplifier and TR202 the self-oscillating mixer. Before I describe this, let us investigate the signal paths involved in this model.
I.F. output from the v.h.f. front-end comes from i.f. transformer L205/206 and is conveyed to a bandpass coupling L310/311 and from there to TR301 base when switch section Sl is in the f.m. position. TR301 is the a.m. frequency changer, which acts as an extra i.f. amplifier on f.m. (see Fig. 7). The a.m. oscillator circuit is muted on f.m. by switch section S2, while section S3 couples the primary of the f.m. i.f. transformer T312 to TR301 collector circuit. The top of the secondary conveys the signal to the base of the second i.f. transistor (on f.m.) TR302.

This transistor's collector is loaded into the second i.f. transformer T315, which is for f.m., in series with the a.m. i.f. filter L316, this responding only on a.m.
The signal from T315 secondary is passed to the base of TR601, and the collector of this transistor is also loaded into series-connected f.m. and a.m. transformers which feed the appropriate detectors. The top transformer, L601/604/605, feeds the f.m. ratio detector diodes D601/602, while that below, L605/606, feeds the a.m. detector diode D603.




|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |


Fig. 9. (facing page) is the circuit of the KB KR612 a.milf.m. receiver whose operation is discussed
in the text. The above table of component values for this circuit should prove helpful. (Note: $5 K 1$ is $5.1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ etc. 2 K 2 pF is 2200 pF etc.) "

Output from the f.m. detector comes from C607 and gets to the volume control R101 through R324, switch sections S4/S5 and C340 (R102 is the tone control.)

The switch sections so far considered handle the a.m./f.m. changeover and we have explored the f.m. signal paths. Now, on a.m. Sl removes the v.h.f. tuner i.f. output and connects TR301 base to the ferrite rod aerial, S2 removes the a.m. oscillator muting and introduces the oscillator coils, S 3 removes the f.m. i.f. transformer T312 and in place connects the a.m. i.f. transformer L313/314, while S4/S5 change over the detector outputs, the a.m. detector output then being fed to R101 volume control from R322, S5 and C340. Under this condition the receiver is of similar style to that of Fig. 8.

Now to get back to the v.h.f. front-end. This is tuned by variable inductors (permeability tuning); L202 tuning the r.f. transistor output and L204 the v.h.f. local oscillator. This tuning is ganged mechanically, in the same way as tuning capacitors (denoted by the dotted line between the two inductors).
R.f. transistor TR201 is in common base mode, meaning that the input signal is applied to the emitter, the base 'earthed' to signal by C204 and the tuned output being taken from the collector. Incidentally, switch section S 6 supplies signal to the f.m. front-end from the telescopic aerial and transfers the aerial to the ferrite rod circuit on a.m., this giving enhanced signal pick-up under certain conditions.

The emitter circuit of TR201 is broadly tuned over Band II by the pi-network C201/C202 and L201, providing the input coupling. The transistors are p-n-p

Continued on page 153

# TAKE <br> 2 © JULIAN ANDERSON 

## A series of simple transistor projects, each using less than twenty components and costing less than one pound to build.

IN Take 20 No. 11 a "Novelty Light Flasher" was described, operated by a conventional multivibrator. At the time the article was presented mainly as a description of the operation of the multivibrator circuit. You may think that just over a year is rather a small gap to describe yet another light flashing circuit as there can be little demand for them but the circuit produced here has such advantages that I feel its inclusion is justified. It has a considerable number of advantages over other circuits I have seen and is cheaper to build than the previous circuit.

The light output is extremely high-far higher than you would expect from a torch operating with the same type of bulb; the reasons for this are given later.

Deaf people often make use of lights for receiving signals where those with normal hearing use a belltelephones and door bells are the first cases that spring to mind. A flashing light is far, far more noticeable than one many times brighter that stays on continuously-ambulances, police cars and breakdown vans are cases in point.

Warning devices in electronic equipment are often arranged to complete a circuit to a bulb and this little simple circuit can be wired up so that the warning is a series of flashes. Car warning lights can readily be modified to use this circuit.

I use the circuit shown here, built into a simple wooden box and carry it with my car tools so that if there is a breakdown it can be set to flash away beside the car, warning other drivers of the dangers.

So, you can see that there are plenty of uses for such a circuit-no doubt the ingenious constructor will be able to think of many more.

## The Circuit

The circuit makes use of a rather special version of the multivibrator and regular readers may notice a similarity with the rain alarm and the metronome projects described before in this series.

Only two transistors, one resistor and a capacitor are used although for versatility in being able to modify the flashing rate, the resistor is made up from one fixed and one variable.
The circuit produces a series of pulses which have the effect of turning $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ alternatively completely on and completely off so that pulses of very nearly 9 V are applied across the bulb which is normally intended for 3 V operation. The bulb is one of those usually used for torches, they are widely available and all Woolworth stores have them. They have 3.5 V stamped on them just above the thread. Holders for these bulbs are also available and these are inexpensive and save soldering directly on to the base of the

## No. 26

LIGHT FLASHER


Fig. 1: Circuit of the 'Take 20 ' light flasher.
bulb, an operation which is not always easy.
Although 9 V is applied to the bulb, no harm has befallen those used in various prototypes. Light output is very much higher than for normal operation due to the high voltage applied and possibly reaches 10W though this is very hard to measure. However, it is operating not continuously but as a series of pulses and the filament has time to recover before blowing. The same applies to the battery which receives a real caning during the short periods but this, like the bulb, has time to recover before the next demand is made of it.

The larger layer batteries such as the PP9 are best but for operation inside a car, or near it, the 12 V internal battery will be fine.

Neither of the transistors in the circuit are expensive. The BFY51 is a semi-power silicon type and N-P-N while the 2N4289 is one of the cheapest plastic silicon P-N-P types available.

The flashing rate is determined by VR1 and this will vary between several flashes a second to one every five or six seconds. For normal fixed operations Rl can be increased and selected for the required rate. The capacitor can of course be raised in value for longer delays but it's working voltage should be at least 12 V .

Construction for a circuit of this simplicity does not of course matter and should present no problems. If VR1 is left out the wiring can even be done around the bulb holder.

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ALSO:

## ENLARGER TIMER

No relays, high accuracy and wide range are the ideal features 1 you oxpect in a good timing unit. This project has all these, and although specifically designed as an enlarger timer, it is also suitable for other uses: Timing accuracy is better than $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. per minute and timing period can be set between 1 second and 80 seconds. The controlling device is a TRIAC used with four other transistors.

## SIMPLE FET RECEIVER

You've read about t.et's-they're transistors that are a lof like valves-but we bet that many of you haven't tried them yet. Here is a golden opportunity to gef in on the act with a simple project with great potential; three plug in colls give coverage of 20 metres to 580 metres and there are a lot of stations in this part of the spectrum. Low cost, simple construction, high performance and an excellent introduction to the fe.t. is what we offer-full details in the July issue.
Plus all the regular features: 'Take 20 ' for the begtinner, 1.C. of the Monlh' for the experimenter, 'Going Back' for the nostalgic and News' to keep you up to date with developments. All this and more in the July lssue-on sale June 4th-Price 20p.

## ALL FEATURED IN THE JULY ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 4th




THIS is a transistor signal generator operating from an internal 9 V battery, covering 150 kHz to 30 MHz in five bands. An audio output is also available, for the testing of a.f. circuits. The generator uses easily obtainable coils which considerably eases construction.

## CIRCUIT

Fig. 1 is the circuit, $\operatorname{Tr} 1$ being an f.e.t. operating as an r.f. oscillator, with $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ as audio oscillator. The radio frequency signal produced by Tr is modulated by $\operatorname{Tr} 2$, so that it carries an audio tone which can be heard on a receiver.
The band switch has three poles. Sl switches the gate circuit to L1, L2, L3, L4 or L5, which are tuned
by VCl. The small fixed capacitors C4, C5 and C6 are to obtain suitable band coverage on the last three ranges.

Section S2 switches the drain to the feedback windings, drain current being obtained through R4 and one half of the secondary of the audio transformer Tl. C7 is an r.f. by-pass capacitor. S3 shorts out the next-larger inductor to the actual one in use, to avoid possible absorption effects due to the natural frequencies of coils not in circuit.

Tr2 obtains feedback from the transformer T1 generating an audio tone, taken to R4. C8 governs the depth of modulation.

Audio obtained through C11 is taken to VRI and
Fig. 1. Complete circult of the Simple Signal Generator.


is available at the a.f. output socket with Cl 2 isolating external d.c. circuits. VR1 controls audio output, as required when testing various stages in an a.f. amplifier or receiver.

RF output is taken through C3 and R3, to the r.f. output socket. It was decided not to switch VR1 into this circuit, because an ordinary small potentiometer does not perform very well as an attenuator at high frequencies. Instead, in those circumstances where a change in r.f. signal strength is required, the output leads can be moved or changed to alter coupling. For many purposes the output lead can be placed near the receiver aerial lead or ferrite aerial. Or the output lead can be twisted for an inch or so with an insulated wire, which is in turn taken to the aerial socket of the receiver, or r.f. or i.f. circuit points.
The r.f. output is modulated at all times by the audio tone, so can be tuned in on any type of ordinary receiver.

Inductors. The coils listed are of a type intended for valve equipment, and thus suit the high-impedance gate circuit of the f.e.t. Trl. L4 and L5 are positioned for short leads to the switch. The ranges obtained are approximately as follows:-

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Range } 1 & 150-500 \mathrm{kHz} \\
\text { Range } 2 & 550-1800 \mathrm{kHz} \\
\text { Range } 3 & 1 \cdot 8-4 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz} \\
\text { Range } 4 & 4 \cdot 5-11 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz} \\
\text { Range 5 } & 11 \cdot 5-30 \mathrm{MHz}
\end{array}
$$

It was found that the highest-frequency coil L5 was manufactured with an interwound primary to give tighter coupling, and to obtain correct feedback on this range leads to tags 1 and 6 are reversed, compared with the other coils.

## CONSTRUCTION

Most of the components are assembled on a paxolin panel $6^{5} \times 2^{1}{ }_{2}$ in, Fig. 2 which is later attached to the panel by two brackets. There should be about ${ }_{1}$ in. clearance between board and panel, as shown, to
take the flanges of the sides of the case.
Holes for the coils and other items are drilled as in Fig. 2. Most of the small parts are then wired in. When the board is fixed to the panel, it is about $1^{1}{ }_{2} \mathrm{in}$. from the top edge of the panel.

Transistors. A transistor holder was employed for Tr1, which is inserted only after wiring is finished. The holder is a push-fit in a hole in the paxolin but adhesive can be used if necessary. Take care that $\operatorname{Tr} 1$ is so placed that drain, source and gate leads come as in Fig. 2. Tr2 is an n.p.n. audio transistor. Its leads are passed through small holes and soldered as shown.

Panel. This is $7 \times 5 \mathrm{in}$. and VC1 is fixed $2^{1}{ }_{2} \mathrm{in}$. from the top edge by three short countersunk bolts. VR1, the bandswitch, and S4 are placed as shown. Two insulated sockets are provided for a.f. and r.f. output, a lead with plug being inserted in the required


General view of the generator. The paxolin panel carrying the majority of the components is mounted towards the top of the front panel.


Fig. 2. Component layout and wiring of the circuit board from top and bottom. See text with reference to pins 1 and 6 on $L 5$.


#### Abstract

When wiring has been finished and operation and approximate band coverage has been checked, the case can be assembled.' The flanged members are bolted together to form a box $5 \times 7 \mathrm{in}$. to which the panel is secured with self-tapping screws.

A clip to hold a PP3 9V battery is cut from metal strip and bolted to the bottom of the case. Positive and negative clips are soldered to the battery leads.

T1 is an audio driver type transformer. If it is found that the a.f. oscillator does not operate, reverse the leads to the primary. C13 governs the frequency of the tone produced and its value can be changed if necessary. It is as well to leave the top off the case until adjustments have been made to the coil cores. These are then locked with 6BA nuts.


A fairly large knob is most suitable for tuning. It is fitted with a cursor with a hair line and frequencies are read on five semi-circular scales drawn on card. A check should be made that ranges overlap slightly, to give complete coverage. The case top is then fitted and four feet screwed to the case bottom.

## CALIBRATION

If an accurately calibrated all-wave receiver is available, connect a short lead to the aerial socket and place a lead from the generator near this lead. Tune the receiver and generator together to various frequencies, marking these on the scales.
Should a 100 kHz , 1 MHz or other crystal marker be available, this will allow very accurate setting of the receiver.
If a calibrated signal generator can be borrowed, tune its signal in on a receiver, then tune the homeconstructed generator to the same frequency and mark its scale.


A view underneath the circuit board; also showing the major components mounted on the panel.

When no other calibrated equipment is available, fit a $0-100$ scale to the generator. Obtain several calibration points for each range, by tuning in known transmissions, or using harmonics. Mark these on a graph so that readings for $100 \mathrm{kHz}, 1 \mathrm{MHz}$ or other appropriate intervals can be taken from the graph and transferred to the appropriate scale.

## $\star$ components list

| Resistors: |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R1 2.7 kL | R3 | 6800 | R5 | 27k9 |
| R2 1M9 | R4 | 22 kS | R6 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| All FW W $10 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

VR1 $5 k \Omega$ potentiometer, linear

## Capacitors:

C1 00014 F dise C6 22pF SM C11 001 F disc C2 22 pF SM C7 001 F F dise C12 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$

C3 18pF SM C4 22pF SM

$$
\begin{array}{cc}
\mathrm{C} & 0.047 / \mathrm{F} \\
\mathrm{CS} & 0.0474 \mathrm{~F}
\end{array}
$$

C5 22 pF SM
C10 $0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
VCI 365pF air spaced variable (Jackson 0)

## Semiconductors:

Tr1 MPF102
Tr2 AC176
Inductors:
C1 Range 1 Blue
12 Range 2 Blue
L4 Range 4 Blue
43 Range 3 Blue
15 Range 5 Blue
All above for use with valves (Denco Lit)
Cabinet:
Flanged plate, 2 of, CU147, $7 \times$ 3in.
Flanged plate, 2 of, CU145, $5 \times 3 \sin$. Flanged plate, 2 off, CU168, $7 \times 5 \mathrm{in}$.
(Home Radio)

## Miscellaneous:

On-off switch. 3 pole 5 way water switch. Transistor holder (3-wire) for MPF102 T1, audio driver transformer. Knobs. Feet Output Sockets (2)

Reversed connections to any feedback winding, tags 8 and 9, will prevent oscillation on that range. Should oscillation become weak towards the l.f. end of Range 5, the leads to tags 1 and 6 can be reversed as well as tags 8 and 9 . This increases effective coupling and feedback.
The position of the coil cores also has some influence on oscillation, as well as band coverage. Should it prove necessary, the value of R4 can be changed, to adjust the drain voltage.

## USES

To test a.f. circuits, work backwards from the output stage. When the faulty stage is passed, the signal will cease. The usual detailed tests then only need be made to this stage.

When aligning r.f. mixer or oscillator circuits, it is usually best to have the receiver volume control near maximum and to keep signal strength down by placing the generator lead to give suitable coupling to the ferrite aerial or aerial socket, or to a short wire in the socket.

Do not make any connection to any receiver or other equipment operated from the mains in which the chassis or other parts are connected directly to the mains.


I$T$ is a never-ending source of wonder that the makers of integrated circuits seem to be able to get more and more devices on smaller and smaller substrates. The very latest from this wonderland of semiconductorian Lilliput is an m.o.s. (metal oxide silicon) chip or substrate which performs all the digital functions required for a five-digit panel meter.

Packaging is a 30 -lead dual in-line configuration which is hermetically sealed. This chip incorporates five decade counters, four further binary shift registers, 20 shift register stages acting as buffer storage, 13 further shift registers, 12 set-reset bistables and some 70 other gates of various complexities. There are over 1,000 m.o.s.t. devices on the chip which measures an amazing 0.137 inches by 0.117 inches.

Besides the counting logic and buffer storage, this chip also accommodates automatic over-range and under-range indication. Thus, if a meter is clipped onto a piece of equipment which provides, across the test points, say, 500 V , then the auto-ranging circuitry will ensure that the meter is automatically set to the correct range to accommodate this.

To replace this chip with TTL devices, commonly housed in 16 -pin dual in-line packages, you would need around 20 of them. If you now multiply 20 (the number of packages) by 16 (the number of leads which need to be mounted and soldered) you arrive at 320. In terms of production and number of individual joints, compare the 320 with the mere 30 required for the new chip and you will appreciate the advantages of the device.
Do you own a motor car? Where is it now? Are you sure? The safety of a motor car is often a very precarious thing. When you go into the cinema and leave your car outside, there is no real guarantee that it will be there when you come out. Supposing it were stolen or interfered with half way between Peyton Place and Coronation Street while you were watching the Tele. Now you can be sure and take steps to prevent your precious mobile being touched. A company in Britain is making an ingenious device which you can carry, unobtrusively, in your pocket. Directly any one switches on the ignition of your car, a bleeping alarm sounds to let you know. But don't panic. When the bleeping starts, all you have to do is to flick a switch on your receiver. This will immediately make the ignition system in your car inoperative. This could be a winner for preventing crime and shows another application of electronics. It's getting so's an honest crook can't make a decent living anymore.


THE car ignition system is often neglected by the enthusiast who, whilst spending considerable effort to enhance his car's performance with the addition of special carburettors, manifolds, pistons, cam-shafts, etc., often writes off the electrics with perhaps the addition of a sports coil.
The unit described has many advantages over the usual coil ignition system, the principle being the now well-accepted 'capacitor-discharge' system. Although the advantages make this system of particular interest to the competition motorist, the average motorist might well consider its adoption for the advantages of less maintenance, reduced petrol consumption and easier starting in below-zero conditions.

Some of the advantages of capacitor discharge over the normal inductive discharge ignition can be listed as follows:-

1. Easier starting especially in very cold or damp conditions.
2. Increased combustion efficiency resulting in improved performance and economy.
3. Ignition remains 'in tune' over a much wider range of contact breaker and plug gap settings.
4. Erosion of contact breaker and plug electrodes virtually eliminated, resulting in these components having a life of some 4 to 6 times normal expectancy.
5. Misfiring due to contact breaker bounce at high speed eliminated.
6. Rise time of the output high voltage pulse is typically 2 to 5 microseconds in comparison with 100 to 200 microseconds for inductive discharge systems. Leakage losses due to fouled spark plugs, moisture on leads and distributor cap, etc., are therefore much reduced and less energy is absorbed in these losses.
7. Voltage at the contact breaker is reduced from around 300 to 12 volts; failure due to breakdown of capacitor or insulation is therefore virtually eliminated.
8. Coil does not overheat if the ignition is inadvertently left switched on with the engine stopped.
9. The engine can be easily cranked or pushstarted by connecting a 6 volt dry battery in place of the accumulator.
Other less obvious advantages include longer battery life, less strain on dynamo and reduced wear on starter motor and gear brought about by easier starting especially in sub-zero conditions.
The system has been designed around the standard coil and contact breaker to facilitate easy interchange of the two systems.

## DESIGN

Basically the unit consists of a convertor which generates around 450 volts and charges a storage capacitor. A silicon controlled rectifier is then triggered to discharge the stored energy into the ignition coil. Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, it can be seen that, with the s.c.r. triggered, Cl and the coil form an oscillatory circuit and as the current swings to zero,


This photograph, with the heading photograph, shows the general method of construction. Component layout is not critical.
the s.c.r. turns off, current can no longer flow and energy remaining in the circuit is stored in CI. The convertor increases this charge and the cycle is complete.

The use of 'backswing' to partially recharge Cl increases the efficiency and a convertor capable of 30 to 40 watts is adequate for engines of up to twelve cylinders.

In designing the convertor it was decided that the following characteristics were desirable:-

1. Overshoot should be controlled and utilised to charge C 1 to a high value with engine speed low and decreased battery potential on starting.
2. Frequency of operation such that transformer is reasonably small and low priced.
3. Mechanical construction to be simplified by adopting a common collector circuit and
mounting the power transistors directly into the case side, thus overcoming the complication of insulation and improving heat dissipation.
4. Because the s.c.r. imposes an intermittent short on the convertor, some form of protection is necessary. A transformer with moderate leakage reactance fulfills this requirement by causing the convertor to operate at a much higher frequency during short circuit conditions. It was noted that the change from short circuit to normal operation occurred instantly, thus overcoming the disadvantage of many inherently short circuit proof convertors which cease oscillating on short circuit and have a delay before restarting.
Zener diodes ZD1 and ZD2 were chosen to limit the overshoot voltage to a safe level. Omission of


Fig. 1: Circuit of the unit for use with cars having a positive earth system.

Fig. 2: This circuit is intended for use with negative earth systems.

these components would result in $\operatorname{Tr} 1, \mathrm{Tr} 2, \mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{D} 3$ and the s.c.r. being subjected to excessive voltage. Diodes D1 and D2 protect Tr1 and Tr2 from being reverse biased.

## THE TRIGGER CIRCUIT

A major feature of the trigger circuit is that misfiring due to contact breaker bounce is eliminated. Diode D4 transmits the trigger pulse via C2, C2 then discharges through R 6 thus forming a delayed recovery. Fig. 3 shows output from contact breaker when bounce occurs and voltage available to trigger s.c.r.


Fig. 3: The waveforms, upper right, show the spurious pulses due to contact breaker 'bounce' in conventional ignition systems. The waveforms, upper left, indicate the clean triggering pulse obtained with the capacitative-discharge system.

## components list



## Transformer

T1. Type P1/6 (Avallable from Magtor Ltd., 68 Dale Street, Manchester. $\$ 1 \cdot 50$ inc. p/p.)

The prototype was bench tested with a conventional contact breaker, motor driven, and a 10 cm diameter sphere gap used to compare maximum output voltage of capacitor discharge ignition and inductive discharge systems. Fig. 4 shows the result obtained with a battery potential of 14 V . Output was measured at reduced battery potential, and at 7 volts (normal for starting in freezing conditions) spark voltages of approximately 30 kV for c.d.i. and approximately 10 kV for inductive discharge were recorded.
Since the engine requires some 10 to 15 kV minimum on starting this latter figure demonstrates why many cars suffer from grinding paralysis in cold weather.


A Fig. 4: Comparison of coil output against engine speed for standard and sports coils for both systems of ignition.

Fig. 5: This graph illustrates the greatly reduced load on the battery with the c.d. ignition system.


It can be seen from Fig. 5 that the demand on the battery with c.d.i. is very much less at starting. In fact, with c.d.i. the engine can be cranked or pushstarted with a 6 V torch battery in place of the 12 V accumulator, whereas the coil ignition system requires a supply capable of supplying a considerable current.

## CONSTRUCTION

Construction can follow any number of variations, the prototype being constructed in a diecast case $4{ }_{2} \times 31_{2} \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. Points worth noting are that part of
the circuit is low voltage and part operates at up to 450 V , so adequate insulation must therefore be used and care taken to appreciate the shock hazard if the unit is operated with cover removed.
A certain amount of heat is generated especially in the transformer core and it is therefore advisable to mount the completed system away from the exhaust manifold. The addition of cooling fins to the exterior of the case was found to be an advantage if the unit is used on 8 and 12 cylinder cars where the demand on the system is greater.
In use it was found to be advantageous to increase plug gap setting to around $0 \cdot 050 \mathrm{in}$. Starting is definitely improved, so, too, is acceleration and flexibility. The prototype has completed some 8,000 miles and approximately 500 hours of bench testing at a simulated engine speed of $9,000 \mathrm{r} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. (4 cylinder).


1971
This year we shall be sponsoring another Project Autumn competition. The rules have been amended so that the PW "Designer's Trophy 1971" will be awarded to the author of the best constructional article published in PW issues dated July 71 to March 72 inc. This allows submitted articles to be published as soon as possible and for authors to be paid without delay.
Full details and rules in the July issue of PW, on sale 4th June.

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## MAXWELL

by G8DSH


THE
MW column


MAY to July is the season for receiving medium wave stations in East and South Africa. Listen from 0200 hrs GMT until sunrise for Johannesburg 1286 kHz and Bloemfontein 782 kHz . Although never strong, Johannesburg is consistent throughout the summer and has been logged by a number of DXers in the UK. Lourenco Marques 917 kHz in Mozambique is another regular. It broadcasts in English but can only be heard before 0300 hrs when European interference starts to become troublesome. Further north in Zambia, Kitwe on 1070 kHz has been heard signing on at 0255 hrs . Others from this area that sign on at 0300 hrs are Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 656 kHz ; Nairobi, Kenya with 100 kW on 746 kHz and Mbali, Uganda 638 kHz . The BBC Eastern Relay on 1410 kHz is located on Masirah Island in the Arabian Sea to the south of Muscat and Oman. This station broadcasts for most of the night in Arabic, Persian or Urdu and is often heard in this country.
E. Cox of Downpatrick N. Ireland asks for details of books that cover MW DXing. The few on DXing that are available are concerned mainly with the short waves, though "How to Listen to the World," published by the World Radio and TV Handbook Co, Copenhagen, does devote some space to the MW's as well. Practical Wireless occasionally has articles on MW DXing; the most recent was in April 1970 while constructional details of the PW Medium Wave Loop appeared in November 1966. Back issues can usually be obtained by advertising in technical or club magazines. There are also a number of DX programmes that give news and information on the medium waves. The English version of "Sweden Calling DXers" is on 1178 kHz at 2245 hrs GMT every Tuesday and includes news about the MW's and events on international matters. "DX Juke Box," a weekly programme of Radio Nederland has a MW feature on the 4th Thursday of the month. Details are available from Postbus 222, Hilversum, Holland. Deutschlandfunk 1286 kHz carries "DX Circle" at 1800 hrs on alternate Wednesdays. This programme is presented by Alan Thompson, Secretary General of the European DX Council and it covers both medium and short waves.

Brazil is well represented on the medium waves during the summer, stations in Rio de Janerio and Sao Paulo being particularly prominent. Although they can be logged from midnight onwards they are at their best in the half hour before sunrise. Portuguese is the language and the majority are commercially owned, usually by local newspapers who give their name to the station. Callsigns are allocated but seldom used over the air. Look for PRA3 Radio Mundial on 860 kHz ; PRF4 Radio Journal on 940 kHz ; PRE8 R. Nacional 980kHz; PRE3 R. Globo 1180 kHz ; PRG3 R. Tupi 1280 kHz ; all in Rio. From Sao Paulo there are PRB9 R. Record 1000 kHz which has been heard in English; PRG2 R. Tupi 1040 kHz ; PRG9 R. Nacional 1100 kHz . Other cities heard include Belem with ZYE25 R. Dif. Liberal on 1330 kHz and Belo Horizonte with PRH6 R. Guarani 1340 kHz . PRH6 verifies readily with a QSL card and pennant.

Charles Molloy

#  OMmercial L RADIO... 

IN about two years, if Government plans 80 through, the first commercial radio station on the British mainland will take to the air and the BBC monopoly in sound broadcasting will be no longer.
How these stations will develop, what their pro: gramming will consist of, and who will listen to them is a matter of conjecture but a mass of information from overseas is available and from this we can at least make a good guess as to what will happen.

## The White Paper

The Government's White Paper-and remember that it is as yet only a proposal and not legislation -lays down plans for ' $u p$ to sixty' lecal commercial radio stations financed entirely by spot advertising.
The paper makes it quite clear that these stations should be essentially local in character and that the programmes should be concentrated or local interest: Locally produced programmes will fill the majority of the schedule, though it is suggested that the stations could be linked for the networking of 'news, music and other programmes.'
The overall authority over these stations will be vested in a revamped THA which at present operates the transmitters and controls, to a certain degree, the ITV programme companies. This will be renamed the IBA (Independent Brosdcasting Authority) and although other sections of the lay press seemed surprised at this, the original policy statement of the Gevernment, while still in opposition (published in full in Practical Wreetess May 1969) made it quite Clear that this was planned.

The BBC loses a little by the proposals but on the other hand in certain aspects gains quite a lot. The BBC Radio 4 regional progranmes in England would disappear on the medium waveband, being replaced by a single programme: Radio 1 on 1214 kHz has set the pattern and shown that this can operate successfully. Three frequencies would be released for other uses by this, one of which will be allocated to the BBC Overseas Services.

On the other hand, medium wave frequencies would be allocated to all the twenty BBC Local Radio Stations so that, with the 60 proposed commercial ones, about 80 new stations will be fitted into the medium waves. In addition back-up channels on viff will be provided for the new stations and to this end the higher frequency end of Band II will be transferred from mobile services to broadcasting. This is the part of the band which at present is used by the police and other services.


Programme contracts will be granted in much the same way as the present TV contracts. The IBA will select the company who they feel will best serve the particular area and will be responsible for vetting programme schedules and for the actual transmitters; for this the stations would pay a levy and presumably it would operate on the TV principle of charging a levy according to the station revenue, rather than on the cost of providing the, service. Thus, small stations may well be provided with transmitter faclities below cost price, this being offset by beavy charges made on the larger stations.

Commercial stations would only be granted a franchise for a limited period and if they failed to live up to their promises, or another applicant appeared better, the franchise would not be renewed (as was the case in TV with TWW).
The stations would be introduced over a period, but, wulke the BBC Local Stations, the larger cities and conurbations would have the service first.
The Government White Paper also makes provisions limiting ownership of stations and suggests that local newspapers would have 'first refusal' for stations in their area, though outright ownership by local papers would not be allowed.
Massive profits, of the type that the commercial TV stations made in the early 1960 's, are precluded in the White Paper.

## Frequency Allocations

Until recently the Post Office and the BBC had denied that any frequencies at all could be found for further sound broadcasting stations in the medium waveband-this was of course the reason for shutting down the Pirates' rather than giving them frequencies. How is it then that 80 stations can be fitted in?
Two frequencies will be made available by the reorganisation of the Radio 4 wavelengths. In addition there are the two International Common Frequencies, 1484 kII and 1594 kHz . Radio 3 would lose 1546 kHz which is at present used for low power relay stations in certain parts of the country and be confined to 647 kHz . Thus, before anything spectacular takes place, five new frequencles become available. In addition the Goternment intend to invole Article 8 of the Copenhagen Convention (the international European agreement governing allocation of frequencies).
In simple language this allows member corintries to broadcast on frequencies allocated to other countries as long as such transmissions do not cause interference and that the country using that frequency does not object. Far fewer frequencies are made available by this provision than may at first appear because of the chaotic conditions prevailing, but some frequencies at least can be found. Whatever happens, and however the stations are organised, it is certain that several stations will be sharing each frequency
The White Paper suggests that major cities such as london will have more than one station and even puts forward the idea of London having two stations from the outset. 60 stations would allow for a coverage of $70 \%$ of the population of the United King-
dom and, roughly converted into siting, this would mean that most cities of 100,000 or more population would have a station.
By international standards this would make the local stations very large. In the USA there is a radio station for every 30,000 people, in Australia a commercial station for every 100,000 and 60 stations for Britain would mean one for every 900,000 . These are only average figures but it does indicate that stations are not going to find it hard going and are unlikely to be run by the proverbial 'one man and a dog.' New York City alone supports nearly 60 stations and most of them make good profits so it can be seen that London, which is of a similar size, will have no trouble in supporting more than two stations.
Many areas will be served by several stations, even if there is only one station locally, as coverage is bound to overlap to such an extent that an average of three stations would be heard. This in itself is likely to damage the local identity of the stations. How will it be possible for a station in the Luton/ Dunstable area (which will probably have a station) to be kept from aiming it's programmes at the Greater London Area where the audience might be twenty times that which they can obtain locally, enabling the station to charge vastly higher advertising rates? This is not covered in the White Paper and would be almost impossible to legislate against. This is a considerable weakness in the 'local' emphasis of the proposals.

## Programmes

The critics of commercial radio say that the stations will be all "pop and ads", while the supporters say that first of all it doesn't matter and secondly that stations are bound to concentrate on local affairs.
Almost certainly some of the stations will concentrate on little else but pop music and hope to take away audience from Radio 1. They will probably be successful. To judge commercial stations on the "pirates" would be a mistake. Their very location made it almost impossible to put out anything but recorded music and of course the proposed stations will have no such limitations.
The second commercial station in any area may well find the potential audience for pop music very well catered for with Radios 1, 2 and other commercial stations and could well find the largest audience among the more traditional listeners. There is a strong tendency in the USA for stations to move out of the pop field and more and more are concentrating on news, talks and features. Those best at doing pop programmes are staying in the field but they no longer rule the airwaves as they once did. The BBC was very successful at combating ITV by changing their programme patterns and this will almost certainly apply to radio, making the competition for audiences even keener.

There is also the aspect of the BBC Local Stations. At present they are limited to an hour a day each of "needle time", that is the time that they are allowed to put out locally originated recorded music. The commercial stations will not be hampered by such restrictions (the White Paper makes this clear) and almost certainly the same rule will apply to BBC local stations-it would be unfair to expect them to be restricted by conditions not applicable to the new stations.

Local news and events do not seem to be popular features on radio (although the new stations may change this) and so it seems that we can expect almost anything in the way of programming. The audience that the BBC "Dales" programme attracted would be regarded with envious eyes by many commercial concerns. The audience for plays and news programmes is very high and commercial stations may well compete for this audience.
The field is wide open and although we can certainly expect a lot more broadcast music, there will be many other programmes catering for most sections of the community.

## Finance

Commercial contractors will be responsible for selling time for spot commercials and naturally they will charge as much as they can for this. The amount of time that can be sold will probably be limited by the IBA to about six minutes an hour (the same as for TV).
A general guide is that for a 30 second spot, advertisers would be prepared to pay between 10 p and 20 p per thousand listeners (Manx Radio on the Isle of Man rates are about 15p per thousand). Thus stations in large conurbations may attract well over 100,000 listeners and could charge $£ 10$ to $£ 20$ per spot but if programmes were networked a programme attracting the audience that Tony Blackburn does at present could charge $£ 500$ for a 30 second spot (which is very cheap by TV comparison)!

From this it can be deduced that commercial radio will not be a place to sell your car or even for your local store to advertise it's bargains. The same money can be far better used in the local press.

Contrary to the general train of thought it is more likely that the advertisers would be mostly those who at present use TV or the provincial evening papers. Local papers generally rely on very local advertising-and to a large extent on classified adsand these are not applicable to the much wider and less selective medium of radio.

There is little doubt that commercial radio, when it is fully developed, will be very big business and £30 million a year is the sort of figure we can expect.

## Set Design

One can only hope that British industry rises to the occasion and meets the demand for new sets; for many people will have to get new sets. The fact that all the stations will broadcast on v.h.f. will, it can be hoped, give a fillip to this band. This is especially likely as reception after dark of the medium wave stations will be poor and the difference will become very much more apparent than it is at the moment. May we hope that this new market is met by decent and inexpensive v.h.f. sets made in this country rather than imports from the Far East.

All-in-all commercial radio will bring about major changes in many fields-from the nation's listening habits to the content of PW but we have still about two years to wait; the Government are thinking that the first stations will take to the air in the spring of 1973. Much may change in the meantime-Parliament has still to debate it and the Labour Party are opposed to the plans, but this is unlikely to stop it. We can only wait to see what happens.
 NEWS FOR DX LISTENERS

THE postal dispute being over your reports are starting to get through again, the first one coming from new reporter Howard Stephenson of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Howard does not mention what equipment he uses but he must have used more than his ears to hear:

4783 Radio Mali in French at 2145.
4800 Radio Lara, Venezuela, music at 2330.
4807 St. Denis, Reunion, ORTF relay at 2100.
4850 R. Mauritania, news in French followed by Arabic music, close at 2230.
4900 Radio Juventud, Ven., pop music at 0000.
4910 R. Conakry, Guinea, 'La voix de la Revolution' news in French at 2300.
4940 R. Abidjan, Ivory Coast in French at 2250.
4995 R. Brazil Central, music and ads.
5015 Windward Islands B.S., English at 2345.
5035 R. Bangui, Central African Rep., English at 2045.

5047 R. Lome, Togo with African music at 2100.
15105 R. Rural, Brazil, Portuguese talk at 2100.
15225 R. Cultura de Bahia, Brazil, soccer, 2000.
Terry Gibbs of Swindon is a regular reporter to this page and this time his log includes:

4920 R. Progresso, Honduras at 0000.
9705 Mexico in English at 0015.
9655 Thailand using a new frequency and also on 11905.

11920 Bucharest, Rumania in English at 1500.
17820 R. Ankara, Turkey in Turkish every Sunday at 0605.

Nigel Milner of Sutton Coldfield has been tuning his Invicta, 5 -valve superhet through the bands and has come up with the following stations:

9640 R. Kuwait, news in English at 1700.
9710 R. Nederland, Bonaire in English at 0800.
11720 R. Trans Europe in English at 1100.
11840 R. Portugal DX Club in English at 1900.
11880 R. Mexico, XERH with news at 2200.
15230 BBC, Atlantic relay, Ascension Island, 1700.
17885 HCJB, Quito, Ecuador in English at 2000.
J. Childs of Blackheath, London SE3 has had a Skyrover II receiver for one month; connected to a 100 foot long-wire it enabled him to hear:

6130 HCJB, Quito, Ecuador, Religious Service at 0800.

17705 Radio Havana, Cuba with news at 2015.
21590 Radio Canada International at 1835.
25790 Radio South Africa noted at 1000.
F. Wakeman of Basingstoke has a Philips 5-valve domestic superhet and a 100 foot long-wire brought him the following:

4990 Radio Kiev, Ukraine at 1930-2000.
5920 Radio Kiev, Ukraine at 1930-2000.
6095 Radio Baghdad, Iraq at 1800 and at 1930.
6130 HCJB, Quito, Ecuador, 0730-0830.
7120 Radio Kiev, Ukraine at 1930-2000.
7245 Radio Austria at 1000-1030.
9390 Radio Tirana, Albania, 1630-1700.
11755 Radio Finland, in Finnish at 2000-2030.
Graham Close of Diss in Norfolk is still using his "old GEC heap" but he has constructed an a.t.u. which has improved reception:

4823 Hanoi, Vietnam, announcements in English at 2225.<br>5058 Radio Tirana, Albania at 2100.<br>6540 Pyongyang, N. Korea in English at 1850.<br>7065 Radio Tirana, Albania at 1930.<br>9620 Radio Cairo, announcements at 1730.<br>9725 Radio Haiti at 1245.<br>9730 Radio Australia in English at 0800.<br>11735 Radio Morocco, music at 1500.<br>11740 Radio Australia in English at 1000.<br>11820 Radio Trans Europe at 1050.<br>11960 AIR, Delhi at 2030.<br>15250 Radio RSA, South Africa at 1755.<br>15300 NHK, Japan in English at 2130.<br>15345 Radio Kuwait at 1600.<br>15400 Radio Kuwait at 1600.<br>17885 NHK, Japan, Oriental music at 0700.<br>17890 HCJB, Quito, Ecuador at 2320.

## Author's Note

The standard of reports sent to this page has been dropping noticeably over the last few months. I would, therefore, be grateful if all intending reporters bore the following points in mind:-
All reports should be in frequency order and the frequency should be given as accurately as possible. The full name of the station should be given together with the country from which it operates. The next item should either be details of the programme heard or the language used. The final item should be the time at which the broadcast was heard in GMT.

The equipment used is also of interest as it enables readers to make a comparison between their results and those of the reporter.

Reports should arrive by the 15 th of the month and be addressed to the author at 5 Ranelagh Gardens, Cranbrook, Iford, Essex.


## THE AMATEUR BANDS David Gibson, G3JDG Frequencies in kHz - Times in GMT

SUMMERTIME is aerial time, and, I hope, with the better weather, will come a renewed interest in that solitary slither of wire you claim to be the antenna. Funny things aerials, most of them are "suck-it-and-see" affairs, even the ones in the handbooks. A good thing about aerials is that it is seldom possible to do much damage to the receiver by trying out a different type.
How about spending a quiet evening to work out two different types of aerials to try this summer. Try and design your own. How about a short vertical loaded with a coil at the bottom. Try tapping the coil, tuning it in series with a capacitor and again in parallel with the same capacitor. See what difference the new aerial makes to reception. If you are really serious about aerials, and some amateurs make this fascinating field a favourite study, then you should number, amongst your treasured possessions, a grid dip oscillator and if possible, an antenna noise bridge.

One good way to begin is to measure yourself some electrical half wavelengths of coaxial cable at the particular frequencies of interest. Why half a wavelength? Because the impedance at one end of it will be repeated at one half wavelength further down the line. So, if you want to be sure that the impedance your cable sees up in the air at the antenna terminals is the same one your bridge is looking at on the ground, start slicing those halfwaves. Many circuits have appeared in Practical Wireless for grid dippers and both these and antenna noise bridges are sold commercially. Let me know how your wire wonders work.

## From the Post

Letters received have given a few hints and tips on items picked up by the simple art of r.f. eavesdropping (Well done, spies). Stephen Burrell (Gosport) says that a new one to listen for on or around $14 \cdot 25 \mathrm{MHz}$ is AX9YR located on Cocos Keeling Island. Daytime is apparently the best time to QRX. Note from Gordon Mayer (London), that it is not advisable to send a QSL card to TR8VW in Gabon unless it is enclosed in a sealed envelope with no mention of amateur radio or callsigns etc. on the envelope. Anyone hearing TR8VW and sending confirmation please observe this request.
Brian Gibson (Chelmsford-no relation), underlines an item mentioned in the R.S.G.B. publication Radio Communication in January. This concerns GZZGO receiving permission to use slow scan television on 14 MHz and 2 metres. A thought here for those who would like to try their hand at something different.

Two meters only had one pair of faithful earholes tuned to it judging from this month's postbag. J. Roberts (Wigan) Logged these around $144 \cdot 41 \mathrm{MHz}$ on s.s.b.; G3BA, G3EHM, G3JWZ, G3PFR, G3UDA, G3UQH, GW3UCB/P, G3VNQ, G3VKV, G8ASG,

G8BCG, G8CVB. Gear is homebrew using an f.e.t. converter and tunable i.f. Other gear includes equipment for 70 cm . but the only station heard recently is GB3SC on $433 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz}$. How about a squirt of seventy cems from you licensed types?

Nicholas Hingley (Halesowen), uses a T28 and a Unica UNR-30. Antenna is 66ft. end-fed bagged; GD3GMH, GI3WFA, GM3YCM and GM3YRK on Topband all on s.s.b. Eighty metres produced; ON5DO/AP, K4ADY, MP4BLJ, PZ1CU, WA2HNO/TF, WA6EGL/TF, VE1BT, VE1HP, ZB2A, ZC4IK, ZM4KE, 6W8DY, 9H1BL. Nicholas is 15 years old and current plans include the building of a 144 MHz receiver.

Who's bought themselves a 9R-59DS and finding it a "pleasure to operate"? Ten out of ten if you said "Richard Mortimer" (Cardiff). Previous receiver was an H.A.C. model DX. A Mortimer-type meander through the wilds of 3.5 MHz revealed; CM2RX, DL8PC, EA3RF, HB9AVQ/MM, HR2GK, KZ4MU, LAøAD, ON5VT, VP7NS, W/SH, XEIKB, YNIHSM, ZL4KE, ZL4NH. Antenna is a quarter-wave inverted 'Vee' and the transmission mode, I suspect, was phone, probably s.s.b: (Is there any other?-Ed).

Stephen Kaye sends a drawing of his aerial as seen by an ailing wood pigeon. The configuration looks intriguing, somewhat reminiscent of a varicose vein on a Japanese beetroot. The AR88D gets the other end of this 250 ft . affair shoved smartly up its aerial socket and as a result gave the following information of happenings on eighty metres; EA8GZ, MP4BHH, VE1EI, W5/LR/TF, ZB2A, 6W8DY.

The same set up was exposed to 14 MHz (or vice versa) and the following stations heard; CR7IK, CT2AK, FG7XL, HR2WTA, KH6CF/TF, LU3DSS, M1B, PY1NBG, PZ2AC, TR8MC, VE1AIJ/M, VE3DBT, VE6AAV, VE8RCS, VP2VQ, VP7BJ, YV5CKR, ZE4JW, ZP5CF, ZS5XA, ZS6BLA, 4X4BL, $5 Z 4 \mathrm{MO}, 9 \mathrm{H1CD}, 9 \mathrm{~J} 2 \mathrm{PV}, 9 \mathrm{Y} 4 \mathrm{VV}$.
"By the time you receive this log I will have a 15 metre dipole", writes Julian Iredale (Llandudno). Meanwhile, back at the 132 ft . long wire, the CR-70A and PR-30 responded to 14 MHz s.s.b. signals from; CT3AN, EA6AL, JAIMIN, KL7HEU/P, SUIMA, VK5CI, VK6US, VP2MY, W6BH, W6JY, XE1PAY, ZL3FO, ZS4LF, 3A2FL, 4U1ITU.
S. Wainwright (St. Helens), 9R-59DS, PR-30, 100ft. long wire did an audio survey of fifteen metres. Results include; AP2KS, CR4BC, EA8GZ, EL9C, ET3USA, F9VN/P/FC, FG7XLI, HS1ABU, OD5BA, PJ9VR, TA1SK/P/4X, VQ9RK, W6MSM, 4Z4KM, 4X4VB, 5Z4GK, 5N2AAE, 7Q7BC, 9G1WW.
A lean time for contest types because the merry month of May doesn't seem to have a serious contest in it. Never mind, the break can be spent pliching up the receiver ready for National Field Day which takes place this year on June 5-6.

[^3]
## Why Rilif din <br> COMPETITION No. 2

## How to enter

COMPLETE the crossword below and you will have the opportunity to win one of five $£ 10$ vouchers, exchangeable with an advertiser in Practical Wireless. The prizes will be awarded for the first five correct solutions checked on the closing date.

Send the completed form, with your full name and address in block letters, and post it in a sealed envelope to: PRACTICAL WIRELESS CROSSWORD COMPETITION, 1-2 Bear Alley, Farringdon Street, London EC4X 1AJ (Comp.) to arrive not later than the closing date: Tuesday 15th June, 1971.

## Rules

Entry is open to all readers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Channel Isles, except employees (and their families) of IPC Magazines Ltd, and the printers of Practical Wireless. There is no entry fee, but each solution must be completed in ink or ballpoint pen on the proper printed coupon cut from Practical Wireless and bear the entrant's own full name and address. The Editor's decision in all matters is final and binding. No correspondence can be entered into. The winners will be notified and the result announced in the earliest possible issue of Practical Wireless.


Mr./Mrs./Miss $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Post to: PRACTICAL WIRELESS CROSSWORD COMPETITION 1-2 Bear Alley, Farringdon Street, London, EC4X 1AJ (Comp.).

Closing date; 15th June, 1971
Cut out along this line

## Clues Across

2. What a nice girl and a common component do when under current pressures. (7)
3. Well, a penalty or is it's effect only marginal? (4)
4. This may well snare an unwanted frequency. (4)
5. A final one of these is not usually welcome. (6)
6. Old cable covering. (6)
7. Brings a change to it's senses. (6)
8. Put in an active microphone element. (6)
9. A midget's greeting at high frequency. (9)
10. None is disarranged to produce an inert gas (4)
11. Faraday's one was not designed to hold wild beasts. (4)
12. I suppose a transistor junction does this. (5)

## Clues Down

1. A pure wave form familiar in trigonometry. (4)
2. Although they pass on they are still with us. (6)
3. He soldiers on but is left out to make a good join. (6)
4. Sounds very much like a style I used to play records.(6)
5. Instead of wandering off these capacities can be difficult to get rid of. (6)
6. This leads to two types of field. (4)
7. and 16. $\mathrm{N}(4,3)$
8. A tax applied to spirits and tobacco and sometimes used with a cycle. (4)
9. Displayed by a numicator. (6)
10. Basic force. (6)
11. See 8 Down.
12. This part of the loudspeaker is often conically shaped. (4)
13. Spark paths. (4)

## CROSSWORD No. 1 WINNERS and SOLUTION

The Practical Wireless Crossword Competition No. 1 (in the February issue) was badly affected by the postal strike. Because of this entries were accepted until a week after the postal strike had ended. The first five correct entries opened win a $£ 10$ voucher, exchangeable with any advertiser in Practical Wireless.
The winners of competition No. 1 were:

Mr. H. R. W. Thurlow
Gravesend, Kent

Mr. L. Reynolds
Bath, Somerset

Mr. W. Bamford
Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Mrs. G. Rawling
Keighley, Yorkshire

Mr. S. Turner
Warrington, Lancs.

SOLUTION TO COMPETITION No. 1


Servicing-Part 2 continued from page 137
type, which means that the emitters must be returned to a positive source, and this occurs through R201 for TR201 and R203 for TR202. The collectors are returned to negative chassis potential.
Automatic gain control (a.g.c.) is applied to the base of each transistor, via R202 to TR201 and R204 to TR202. The potential for this is picked up from the ratio detector.

## AUTOMATIC FREQUENCY CONTROL

Diode D202 is a varactor for automatic frequency control (a.f.c.). It shunts the v.h.f. oscillator inductor L204, in parallel with the trimmer C212. Reverse bias is obtained from zener diode D303 (bottom right of diagram) and applied through resistive circuits.
The ratio detector is returned to zener cathode through R325, while the varactor cathode is returned to the zener anode through R206, choke CH301, S7 and CH302. Static reverse biasing of the varactor is completed by its anode going to the zener cathode. through S8 and R339.
The ratio detector (R606/R608 junction) is also connected to the varactor anode through R205, R305, S4 and R324.

Now, the two sides of the ratio detector mentioned represent 'points of balance,' so that when a station is tuned correctly the potential between the two sides is essentially zero. However, should the tuning tend to drift or be in initial error, then a positive or negative potential (depending on whether the tuning error is high or low) develops between the two points. This modifies the reverse biasing of the varactor in such a manner as to change its capacitance, providing tuning correction, (a.f.c.).

On a.m. a.f.c. is not required, of course, but a.g.c. is applied to TR302 from the a.m. detector, via R610 and R312. De-emphasis is given to the f.m. audio by R324 and C357, these components being out of circuit on a.m.

Switch sections S9, S10 and S11 are concerned with wavechange (long and medium) switching of the ferrite rod aerial, while S12, S1.3 and S14 change the wavebands of the a.m. local oscillator. This style of receiver thus contains two primary switching modes, for switching over a.m. and f.m. and for switching the a.m. wavebands. Some receivers have short-wave bands in addition to long and medium waves.

The audio section in Fig. 9 differs from that in Fig. 8 in that an n-p-n transistor TR304 is used to drive, from its collector, a pair of complementary output transistors, TR305/TR306. To get push-pull drive the bases of the pair need to be driven in the same polarity. This is because one is $\mathrm{p}-\mathrm{n}-\mathrm{p}$ (TR305) and the other $n-p-n$-hence the term complementary. The first audio transistor is TR303 and the set of four are d.c. coupled, with feedback (to reduce distortion and enhance frequency response) from the emitters of the output pair (where the speaker is connected) to the emitter of TR303. I shall be having more to say later in the series about negative feedback and about audio stages in general.

The Fig. 9 receiver is essentially for 9 V battery operation, but the inset at the top right shows the circuit of a power unit for mains operation. This has a mains transformer with fully isolated primary and secondary windings (essential for safety), a bridge rectifier with a $500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ reservoir capacitor and a series regulator transistor with a base reference potential stabilised by a zener diode.

END OF PART TWO

# practically Wirieless commentary by HENRY 

IWONDER what the world of five thousand years hence will think when they open the time capsule in Osaka Castle Park.

This was a collection of bits and pieces representative of 1970, including a photomask made by IC technology, a microbook and a plutonium timepiece, buried by Matsushita as part of their contribution to EXPO 70, in Japan.

If the whole exhibition, which covered a site of 815 acres near Osaka, gave contemporary visitors a feeling that H. G. Wells had been actively engaged on the overall design, and that the intention was to afford a glimpse of 'things to come', then future historians will scan the records and think us a very peculiar bunch.

One of our peculiarities is the economic value we put on electronic goods. Built-in obsolescence is a taboo phrase. Yet the logic of disposability is inescapable. With all our sophisticated techniques of mass production, it should be possible to make a cheaper version, though less rugged, of practically any piece of radio or electrical equipment. When it breaks, chuck it!

It should be-probably is: but we are not yet, as a society, ready for such techniques. We want our gear to last and last and last...

Henry was tickled to see an interview of Michael Holroyd a while ago in the $\mathrm{S}^{*} \mathrm{ND}^{*} \mathrm{Y} \mathrm{T}^{*} \mathrm{M}^{*} \mathrm{~S}$.


Exploded in a photographer's face.

Philip Oakes had asked this eminent biographer about his electronic aids. Mr. Holroyd admitted that he could not get on with them.
'I have the sort of memory that tells me, eventually, that what I want is in the fourteenth drawer on the left-hand side.'

He was hesitant about photocopying. Someone had once told him that the ink faded in time. '... imagine that! Archives of blank sheets . . .' What if the timebomb explodes in Osaka Castle Park to reveal that the microdot has been overexposed to the plutonium clock and is now a mass of magnified squiggles? What will they think of us?

But the bit that got Henry was the reference to Mr. Holroyd's brief venture into tape recording. '. . . one exploded in a photographer's face and he was almost choked by the escaping tape.'
That wouldn't have happened with a Ferrograph. I've known them smoke a bit-but explode, never!

Some little while ago there was a flurry of panic amid the radio service fraternity, when one manufacturer, bringing out his range of 'packaged circuits', foretold the end of the diagnostic wizard. Armed with his AVOmeter (another item that seems to go on for ever, I may say) and extensive knowiedge of the problems likely to beset wireless equipment, he happily pulled it to pieces on the kitchen table, waved his magic wand ( 25 -watt Solon, not even a Weller, thermostatically controlled!) and departed to the strains of happy music.

In my business, I've had numerous requests to service such disposable items as Philips Popmaster radios, built around their printed circuit, designed neither to be treated roughly nor repaired. They are first-generation disposable items. Some of the IC designs we are seeing now follow along similar lines. You don't try and mend them.


What did Mrs. Henry donate to the jumble sale?

The irony is that many items we would like to see disposableor, at least, dispensable-linger on forever, as unwearoutable as one's old Harris Tweed gardening jacket.*

To quote a Daily Mail leader of last Christmas, 'In spite of Biblical injunctions against possessions, there are some adjuncts to living we grow ridiculously fond of.'

Like a Williamson amplifier, for instance, the 'Premier' TV that actually worked first time, old jazz records, or an F.G. Rayer Shortwave Three. '...there is a range of household goods, the detritus of modern living, which annoys because we'd like to get rid of it but can't.'

Like my old wind-up gramophone, the mains-energised speakers that 'just may come in handy one day' and a few blocks of paper capacitors with screw terminals that would at least add mass to the loudspeaker cabinet if I eventually decided to use them as part of a crossover unit.

I'd dispose of them, sure; like I'd dispose of the Ferro 4A if someone decided to get rid of their Series Seven at a knockdown price. That's what Henry means by disposability.
*That reminds me. What did Mrs. Henry donate to the jumble sale last week?

#  



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## CRYSTAL RAMDOEDCIEMARKER

ALTHOUGH many receivers in use at amateur and s.w.l. locations are fitted with a band-edge marker; many are not, and in these cases it becomes very difficult to locate any amateur band precisely. This is especially true if the receiver in use is of the general-coverage type. Ex-services receivers such as the CR100 for example fulfil the listening needs of many and, although some excellent specimens of this type are in use, their 'drifty' nature offers a further hazard to band-edge finding and retention.
In more sophisticated receivers designed especially for the amateur bands the problem is simplified by incorporating a built-in 'Marker' whilst a further refinement may be provision of limited panel control of the local oscillator frequency. Some receivers fitted with a marker are the Heath RA-1, Eddystone 888A and EAI2 and the Star SR550. In the SR550 receiver, for example, one merely selects the desired amateur band, places the scale pointer at the l.f. band end and switches in the built-in calibrator-which uses a $3 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz}$ crystal. The local oscillator is then made to fall into step with the marker signal by means of a panel-fitted 'Set' control.
The facility for accurate amateur l.f. band edge location, although useful to s.w.l's, is even more important to the c.w. transmitting fraternity and since the amateur c.w. segments are always low of those used for a.m. or s.s.b., precise location of l.f. band ends is essential.
Where no calibrator or marker is in existence, it is an easy matter to provide a self-contained unit that will enable the user to locate all amateur bands ' 80 ' through to ' 10 ' quickly and reliably. A pocketsized, self-powered crystal controlled l.f. band edge marker can in fact be constructed in a single evening and will cost but $£ 2$ approximately after allowing inclusion of a new crystal of accuracy $0.005 \%$.

Since the author usually finds it a chore connecting and disconnecting 'outboard' items it is a good plan to arrange for the Marker to be left permanently in position close to the receiver with which it is to be used. This is easily done and Fig. 1 shows how


Fig. 1.
simple switchery can be employed to select either the aerial or the Marker at the same time permitting no Marker signals to reach the aerial direct. If a further switch section is added the d.c. power supply required by the marker can also be controlled. With these considerations in mind the simple Marker
shown in Fig. 2 was evolved, the end product being found completely satisfactory for the purposes required of it. The device should not of course be confused with a Crystal Calibrator which is a more sophisticated item with extended facilities.


Fig. 2: The circuit of the band-edge marker.

## CIRCUIT

Looking at Fig. 2 it is noted that oscillations are produced at the crystal frequency due to X 1 being connected between base and collector of Trl, output being developed across choke R.F.C. and thereafter inductively coupled for connection to the receiver. Depending upon the potential applied and the type of transistor used the current drain demanded is of the order of 2 mA when the circuit is functioning from 3V. Prohibitively high current will flow if the circuit is in a non-oscillating state so this enables one to make a post-construction test using a testmeter set to read say $0-50 \mathrm{~mA}$ initially.

Switch S1 enables the user to leave the Marker in position near the receiver at all times. When Sl is in the position indicated, the aerial is fed direct through to the receiver and the Marker is 'dead'. Moving the slide switch to its alternative position disconnects the aerial and connects the receiver aerial socket to the Marker outlet at the same time applying battery power to the Marker. In this position a very strong marker signal will be received if the receiver is tuned to $3 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz}$ whilst additional 'harmonic markers' will be tuneable at $7,10 \cdot 5,14$, $17 \cdot 5,21,24 \cdot 5,28 \mathrm{MHz}$ and so on. The markers grow less strong as the receiver is tuned towards higher frequencies but detection is still easy even at 28 MHz and higher. To aid recognition, the receiver b.f.o. and ' $S$ ' meter can be made use of temporarily.

Some of the harmonic markers available, viz: those at $10 \cdot 5,17 \cdot 5$ and 24.5 MHz may be of little practical use to those interested purely in amateur band location and can be disregarded.
-continued on page 161


EDWARD Harrison of Rochdale, Lancashire, writes to tell us that the set in the photograph was manufactured by the Radio Communication Co., 34/35 Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2-their general range of sets being "Polar" Radiophones. Its type is RA33, 34, 35 and has seven valves. There

were originally bright emitters-5 "R" or "ORA" and two "PA3" or "LS3". The present valves are PMX5X (Mullard) R5V, PM5X and two PM6's. The extension speaker on top is an Amplion brass fret and reentrant horn. The three sections of the receiver can clearly be seen. They are h.f., i.f. and a.f. amplifiers. The three white slots shown are three interchangeable coils. The small plate on the bottom is engraved: "Supplied and fitted by Harry Crompton, Radio Engineer, 61 Cateaton Street, Bury". The next lowest compartment shows the Amplion $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ loudspeaker unit with a slender horn reaching into the mahogany slatted sound box. The third and lower compartment contains the 6 V accumulator-an Exide charger-a Philips h.t. only unit with valve rectifier and six h.t. tappings.

The last licence Mr. Harrison has knowledge of was in 1943 but after all these years with new accumulator, external wiring renewed, cleaning of tarnished contacts and terminals, the set works very well. It has, of course, the 9 V grid bias battery.

It is interesting to note, he says, that The Radio Communication Co. was one of the original firms that formed the British Broadcasting Company Limited in 1923. This set must therefore be prior to 1927 .

A few foreign stations can be tuned in after dark with the limited aerial (from window side to guttering).

He only has one complete set of coils-these cover $350-500 \mathrm{~m}$ and means that he is at the moment limited to Radio 1. Also, Mr. Harrison is looking for two sets of coils-either Range 4A ( $1200-1800 \mathrm{~m}$ ) or Range 3 ( $1000-20000 \mathrm{~m}$ ). Can anyone help him?

## Ta. $\mathbb{E}$, Gudio $\mathfrak{A m p}$.

We recently heard from Mr. Alan Douglas (the electric organ expert) that he was interested in the old Western Electric audio amplifier shown in the February "Going Back" article. He informs us that he has had several of these units from time to time.

Alan states that he had one of the first amateur stations in this country in 1912 and did a lot of experimental work on speech modulation of arc transmitters. He was also the designer of the first self-contained commercial portable radio set.

Alan goes on to say, "The Western Electric amplifier shown in the March issue reminds me of several interesting details. This audio circuit was designed


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to drive the Western Electric balanced armature 750 ohm loudspeaker, which appeared in two forms; one to stand on a table with a vertical ebonite horn; and the circular "Kone" instrument, which remained in use for many years. The balanced armature movement operated a circular varnished linen corrugated diaphragm only 2 in . in diameter but it was so effcient that ten of these units, connected to square section wooden horns, covered the whole of the Wembley Exhibition in 1924.
Incidentally the gain of the Western Electric amplifier was varied by tappings on the secondary of the input transformer, and the thoriated ribbon filaments of the 216 A valves, though glowing like indirectly heated cathodes, were in fact extremely low temperature "bright emitter" valves. The vacuum in these was so good that up to 800 volts could be applied, and they were often used as transmitting valves.
I wonder how many readers can recall other audio curiosities before the time of valve amplifiers? Can anyone remember the Brown Frenophone? A slowly rotating metal cylinder was partly encircled by a cord on one end of which was a Brown "A" type earpiece; the other end was attached to a carbon microphone capsule. The idea was that the signals from the " $A$ " type reed pulled the cord, but the friction from the cylinder caused the stretch to be amplified and this made the carbon button give out an enhanced replica of the signal. Much distortion, and not so good as the original Brown microphone
amplifier, in which a larger version of the " $A$ " type reed drove two microphone buttons in push-pull, the output being combined in a transformer. Incredible though it may seem, this device was actually used in aircraft as a speech amplifier in the earlier days of the 1914/18 war. The differential carbon button microphone was later extensively developed by the Western Electric Co., many being used by the BBC. I gave my first broadcasts on these from the Glasgow station 5SC in 1923/4.

Mention of the Cambridge experiments with G9BIB and the earth rods reminds me of the power buzzer, used in the first war. The object of this was to create so much interference that no enemy trench radio set could operate. This it certainly did! The device weighed some 8lbs and rapidly exhausted any accumulator fated to energise it. Two massive polepieces carried windings after the style of an induction coil but capable of giving heavy currents at many hundreds of volts. Two bayonets were inserted into the ground to form a V about $50 / 60 \mathrm{ft}$. in length, then connected by telephone wire to the buzzer. An immense interference field was set up in this primitive directional array. Interference was in fact the order of the day at that time, some observation aircraft actually having spark transmitters.

Other curios I have had from that period included a Newton airship rotary converter, 12 V to 1200 V ; one of the beautiful Newton propeller-driven 300 Hz aircraft alternators; and the 6 valve RAF Mk. 10 receiver with remote control."


Fig. 3: Suggested layout inside a tobacco tin.

## TESTING

Initially a meter should be inserted in a series with the battery and the current drain checked as was mentioned earlier and/or the output may be coupled to a suitable oscilloscope if available. If all is well the aerial may be removed from the receiver and applied to the Marker socket SK1, the leads from the Marker being connected to the receiver aerial and earth sockets.

When the Marker switch is placed at position ' 2 ' strong signals should be locatable on the receiver at the frequency points listed earlier. Moving the Marker switch back to position ' 1 ' will reconnect the aerial to the receiver which will then function as normal.

## CONCLUDING the STATION FOCUS SIX



## Ferrite Aerial

THAT listed has two mounts which clip to the rod, and these are bolted as in Fig. 2. The winding L1 is for medium wave tuning, and L2 consists of six turns of 26 s.w.g. cotton covered or similar insulated wire, wound on top of L1, as in Fig. 2. L1 has wire ends, which are ready tinned and being of Litz wire are best left full length.
Wind excess wire at end 1 round the paxolin former, in the same direction as the winding L1, and secure with tape or adhesive, with a little slack to reach VC3. Wind end 2 in the same way, leaving about ${ }_{2}$ in. free. L2 is then wound on in the same direction as L1, and secured with tape or adhesive. Connect L2 to end 2 as in Fig. 2, and take a connection to the positive line at the frame of $\mathrm{VCl} / 2$. Place sleeving over the other end of L2 (lead 3) and take this to C3.
The bandswitch is 2-pole 2-way with two contacts unused. When it is in the 200 kHz position, A and B close, Figs. 1 and 2, so that TCl with C 2 in parallel is placed across VCl and L1. In this position C and D also close, so that TC2 is across L3 and VC2.

## Alignment

Before first switching on, set R16 to near minimum resistance. Place a meter in one battery lead. Note the current taken, which may be around $6-8 \mathrm{~mA}$. With no signal carefully move the slider of R16 to increase resistance, until current has risen by about 4 mA .

If no meter is available, tune in a signal and slowly move the slider of R16 until reproduction is clear and normal volume is obtained.
Bringing too much of R16 into circuit will increase the current taken by the output pair. With good volume, current peaks will be 30 mA or higher.
When first testing the recciver, leave the collector end of R18 disconnected. With a signal tuned in, bring the free end of R18 into contact with the collector circuit, as in Fig. 3. If volume falls, and quality of reproduction improves, this is the correct phase, and the lead is soldered on.

Should volume increase, or oscillation or distorted
reproduction begin when this connection is made, feedback is positive. To correct this, take the free end of R18 to the other collector of the output pair of transistors.
IF Alignment. IFT1 and i.f.t. 2 each have two cores, while i.f.t. 3 has a single core. These are best adjusted with a proper tool, or with a slip of paxolin carefully shaped to fit. A metal screwdriver is unsuitable, and in any case a wedge-shaped blade may break the cores.
To adjust by ear, tune in a weak signal, with VR1 at maximum volume, and rotate each core for best volume.

A high resistance voltmeter may be clipped across VR1, and the cores can be adjusted for maximum a.g.c. voltage.

Oscillator and Aerial. To adjust medium wave band coverage, set TC3 about half closed, nearly close $\mathrm{VCl} / 2$ and adjust the core of L 3 to bring in 550 kHz from a signal generator. Open VCl/2, and adjust TC3 for 1600 kHz .
If no signal generator is available, adjust the core and TC3 until tuning in known stations shows that coverage is suitable.


Fig. 4. Constructional details of the cabinet.
Tune in a signal with VC1/2 nearly full open, and peak signals with VC3. Then find a transmission with VCl/2 almost closed, and slide L1 along the ferrite rod for best results.
Check that VC3 can be rotated to peak signals on any frequency, with the aerial closed or extended. VC3 should not need to be fully open, or fully closed. If it is, adjust TC3 and the position of L1 until VC3 never needs to be at either minimum or maximum capacitance.

Switch to 200 kHz and set $\mathrm{VCl} / 2$ about half-closed. Rotate TC2 to tune in the BBC on this frequency, and peak the aerial circuit with TCl. VCl $/ 2$ will then tune a narrow band around 200 kHz .

## Cabinet Construction

The cabinet is made in the form of an open-topped case, into which the receiver is lowered, Fig. 4. Internal dimensions must be a little oversize, so that


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TUNING indictors for standard a.m. radios are very simple; the receiver generally incorporates an automatic gain control system, which monitors the mean amplitude of the incoming signal and by means of a voltage bias adjusts the gain of the i.f. stages to avoid overloading the detector. Any device which indicates visually the presence of this a.g.c. bias voltage is an effective tuning indictor. In the old days with valve radios, one simply applied the a.g.c. voltage to the grid of a miniature cathode ray tube; transistor sets may employ a buffer transistor driving an " S " meter or a lamp. A tuning indicator is more useful, but less simple with f.m. systems, such as that used in v.h.f. broadcasting or for the sound channel of 625 line TV, where the difficulty of accurate tuning should by now be evident to every viewer. It is precisely to cope with this problem that Motorola have introduced the MC1335P integrated circuit.

First, an examination of the principle of operation of the unit. It is intended to function in a ratio detector circuit, which demodulates an f.m. signal by producing a voltage output dependent on the deviation of the applied frequency at any instant from the resonant frequency of the circuit. Since the frequency swings above and below the carrier frequency, it
follows that when the circuit is correctly tuned to an incoming signal, the voltage produced by the ratio detector averages to zero, while any detuning produces a standing d.c. potential, whether positive or negative. It follows that a circuit which identifies a null voltage will prove an acceptable f.m. tuning indicator.
The circuitry on the MC1335P chip is illustrated in Fig. 1. It is evidently based on the differential amplifier principle, familiar by now from a number of examples already examined in this series of i.c. notes. It is followed by a Schmitt trigger, a circuit in which the output transistor is either saturated or cut off depending on the input conditions. At any time when the input is zero, the trigger is saturated, and a lamp in the collector circuit of the final transistor pair will light. The potential produced across the ratio detector by even a slight detuning will switch the trigger circuit, cutting off the collector current to the lamp. It must further be remembered that there is another condition in which the ratio detector will produce a null output, and that is when no signal is

Fig. 1. With the transistors encircled, this circuit should help in following the operation of the MC1335P.

being received. Some may prefer to operate the indicator in this mode, in which the lamp is extinguished as a station is approached, lighting again as perfect tuning is achieved. However, the designer of the circuit added a refinement which permits the extinguishing of the lamp under "no signal" conditions also. When no station is tuned in, the 'front end" of the tuner and the i.f. amplifier stages will produce their own device noise, together with the inevitable random aerial noise. Since these effects are random, the effect on the ratio detector must result in a d.c. null output, but an r.m.s. a.c. value can still be applied to the noise level. If applied to pin 4 of the i.c., this a.c. will be rectified by the integral diodes and smoothed by the capacitance at pin 5 , to produce a d.c. bias on the associated transistor. The trigger will be cut off and the lamp extinguished. In many cases, particularly in TV applications, the "no signal" noise level will be sufficiently high to operate the inhibit circuit directly; higher quality audio systems will require a noise amplifier as shown in the practical circuit of Fig. 2. Again, individual experiments may be necessary to determine how elaborate a noise amplifier is required; a single transistor stage may suffice, or alternatively one of the many general purpose integrated amplifiers for small signal applications previously treated in these columns.


Fig. 2. A practical application of the MC1335P tuning indicator.
The circuit will operate on h.t. supplies of up to 20 volts, and the lamp should be chosen to draw a maximum of 40 Ma at the applied d.c. voltage. This is because the saturated condition results in a collector voltage of under 1 volt at pin 8 of the i.c. For operation on battery supplies it is advisable to choose a lamp rated at about the battery voltage but with only that current. rating which renders it effectively visible under operating conditions; when the lamp is extinguished the standby current drawn by the circuit is approximately $5 \cdot 5 \mathrm{Ma}$. Finally, it may be noted that teachers and others interested in instrumentation may find the device a useful null indicator for bridges and other experimental systems. The device is presented in a minature 8 -pin dual in-line plastic package, pin 1 being identified by an index mark. The device is available from Jermyn Industries, Vestry Estate, Sevenoaks, Kent; or other Motorola stockists.

## Station Focus Six-continued from page 162

## the receiver can be fitted in.

Front and back are hardboard, approximately 8 x $65_{8} \mathrm{in}$. With apertures about $3^{1}{ }_{4} \mathrm{in}$. in diameter cut in each piece, about $3_{4}$ in. clear of the bottom. The bottom is three-ply about $8 \times 3 \mathrm{in}$. with sides, also three-ply, $65_{8} \times 3^{1}{ }_{2}$ in. All the pieces should be sandpapered smooth, and the edges checked. Dust them off before fixing them together.
The meeting edges of front, back and bottom are smeared with a quick-setting adhesive and these pieces fixed together with a few small panel pins. When the adhesive is dry, a single piece of fabric about 10 in . wide and 20 in . long is glued on, so as to cover the outer surfaces, and overlap inside. Adhesive should be applied to the edges of the front, bottom and sides. The fabric is cut to suit at the corners, folded over inside, and glued here also.


This view shows the mounting arrangements of the ferrite rod aerial.
The sides are varnished and allowed to dry before fitting them. The edges of the parts already assembled are spread with adhesive and the case placed on one end, with the sides in position, and left with a weight on top until the adhesive is hard. The carrying handle is a simple loop, fixed with screws.

It is a good idea to check that the cabinet dimensions are correct before the final glueing together. Tack the sides and bottom together with panel pins as suggested but do not drive them right in. The completed set can be lowered into the framework and any adjustments made to ensure a good fit.

## Notes

It was found that the brass rod of L3 projected at the front (Fig. 3 side), so a portion was cut off to clear the cabinet. The rod, with core, is completely unscrewed to do this, then replaced and locked with a nut.

The receiver can be operated from a $7_{2} \mathrm{~V}$ battery such as the RD38, or a 9V supply from a PP9. The AD38 battery takes a non-reversible two-pin plug, and the PP9 requires battery clips. If lamp batteries are ever used they must never be connected with the wrong polarity.

In use, it will be found that the "station focus" control is very helpful with m.w. tuning, especially at the h.f. end of this band, where many transmissions can be heard after dark. This control has virtually no effect on 200 kHz , where tuning with $\mathrm{VCl} / 2$ is easy.

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Two years ago Sinclair Radionics announced the World's first monolithic integrated circuit $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ amplifier, the IC.10. Now we are delighted to be able to introduce its successor the Super IC.12. This 22 transistor unit has all the virtues of the original $I C .10$ plus the following advantages:

1. Higher power.
2. Fewer external components.
3. Lower quiescent consumption.
4. Compatible with Project 60 modules.
5. Specially designed built-in heat sink. No other heat sink needed.
6. Full output into $3,4,5$ or 8 ohms.
7. Works on any voltage from 6 to 28 volts without adjustment.
8. NEW 22 transistor circuit.

Output power 6 watts RMS continuous (12 watts peak).
Frequency Response 5 Hz to $100 \mathrm{KHz} \pm$ 1 dB .
Total Harmonic Distortion Less than $1 \%$. (Typical 0.1\%) at all output powers and all frequencies in the audio band.
Load Impedance 3 to 15 ohms.
Power Gain 90 dB ( $1,000,000,000$ times) after feedback.
Supply Voltage 6 to 28 volts (Sinclair PZ-5 or PZ-6 power supplies ideal).
Size $22 \times 45 \times 28 \mathrm{~mm}$ including pins and heat sink.
Input Impedance 250 Kohms nominal. Quiescent current 8 mA at 28 volts.
Price: including FREE printed circuitboard for mounting. $£ 2.98$ Post free

With the addition of only a very few external resistors and capacitors the Super IC. 12 makes a complete high fidelity audio amplifier suitable for use with pick-up, F.M. tuner etc. Alternatively, for more elaborate systems, modules in the Project 60 range such as the Stereo 60 and A.F.U. may be added. The comprehensive manual supplied with each unit gives full circuit and wiring diagrams for a large number of applications in addition to high fidelity. These include car radios, oscillators etc. The very low quiescent consumption makes the Super IC. 12 ideal for battery operation.

## Sinclair Project 60



## the world's most advanced high fidelity modules

Sinclair Project 60 presents high fidelity in such a way that it meets every requirement of performance, design, quality and value and now that the remarkable phase lock loop stereo FM tuner is available, it becomes the most versatile of high fidelity systems. With Project 60, it is possible to start with a
modest mono record reproducer and expand it to a sophisticated stereophonic radio and record reproducing system of fantastically good quality to hold its own with any other equipment, no matter how expensive. Project 60 is a unique high fidelity module system where compactness and ease of assembly are combined with

|  | System | The Units to use | together with | Cost of Units |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | Simple battery record player | 2.30 | Crystal P.U., 12V battery volume control | ¢4.48 |
| B | Mains powered record player | Z.30, PZ. 5 | Crystal or ceramic P.U. volume controletc. | £9.45 |
| C | $20+20$ W. R.M.S. stereo amplifier for most needs | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.30 \text { s, Stereo } 60, \\ & \text { PZ. } 5 \end{aligned}$ | Crystal, ceramic or mag. P.U., most dynamic speakers, F.M. tuner etc. | £23.90 |
| D | $20+20$ W. R.M.S. stereo amplifier with high performance spkrs. | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.30 \text { s, Stereo 60, } \\ & \text { PZ. } 6 \end{aligned}$ | High quality ceramic or magnetic P.U., F.M. Tuner. Tape Deck, etc. | £26.90 |
| E | $40+40$ W. R.M.S. deluxe stereo amplifier | $2 \times 2.50$ s, Stereo 60 PZ.8, mains trsfrmr | As for D | £34.88 |
| F | Outdoor P.A. system | 2.50 | Mic., up to 4 P.A. speakers controls, etc. | f5.48 |
| G | Indoor P.A. | Z.50, PZ.8, mains transformer | Mic., guitar, speakers, etc., controls | f19.43 |
| H | High pass and low pass filters | A.F.U. | C. D or E | £5.98 |
| J | Radio | Stereo F.M. Tuner | C. DorE | £25.00 |

circuitry that is far in advance of any other manufacturer in the world. Thus it is extraordinarily easy to assemble any combination of modules using nothing more complicated than the simplest of tools, and you certainly do not have to be experienced to build with complete confidence. The 48 page manual free with Project 60 єquipment makes everything easy and you can house your assembly in an existing cabinet. motor plinth, free standing cabinet or virtually any arrangement you wish. Once you have completed your assembly you will have superlatively good equipment to give you years of service and enjoyment. You will have obtained superb value for money because Project 60 is the best selling modular system in Europe and can therefore be produced at extremely competitive prices and with excellent quality control.

Sinclair Radionics Ltd., London Road. St. Ives, Huntingdonshire PE17 4HJ.
Tel: St. Ives ( 04806 ) 4311


## Sinclair Project 60

## Z. 30 \& Z. 50 power amplifiers



The $Z .30$ and $Z .50$ are of advanced design using silicon epitaxial planar transistors to achieve unsurpassed standards of performance. Total harmonic distortion is an incredibly low $0.02 \%$ at full output and all lower outputs. Whether you use $Z .30$ or $Z .50$ amplifiers in your Project 60 system will depend on personal Project 60 system will depend on personal
preference, but they are the same size and may preference, but they are the same size and may
be used with other units in the Project 60 be used with othe
range equally well.
SPECIFICATIONS (Z50 units are interchangeable with Z.30s in all applications).
changeable
Power Outputs
Z. 3015 watts R.M.S. into 8 ohms using 35 volts: 20 watts R.MS. in to 3 ohms using 30 volts. Z. 5040 watts R.M S. into 3 ohms using 40 volts: 30 watts R.M.S. into 8 ohms, using 50 volts.
Frequency response: 30 to $300000 \mathrm{~Hz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$.
Distortion: $0.02 \%$ into 8 ohms.
Signal to noise ratio: better than 70 dB unweighted.
Input sensitivity: 250 mV into 100 Kohms . For speakers from 3 to 15 ohms impedance.
Size $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ in.
2.30

Bult tested and guaranteed with circuls and instructions manual £4.48
2.50

Built, tested and guaranteed with circuits and
instructions manuat. $\mathbf{£ 5 . 4 8}$

## Power Supply Units



Designed specially for use with the Praject 60 system of your choice.
Illustration shows PZ. 5 to left and PZ. 8 (for use with 2.50 s ) to the right. Use PZ. 5 for normal Z. 30 assemblies and PZ. 6 where a stablised supply is essential.
$\mathbf{P Z} \mathbf{5} 30$ volts unstabilised $£ 4.98$
PZ-6 35 volts stabulised $\mathbf{£ 7 . 9 8}$
P2-8 45 volts stabilised
PZ-8 mains transformer) $£ 7.98$

## Guarantee

If within 3 months of purchasing Profect 60 modules directly from us, you are dissatisfied with them, we will refund your money at-once. Each
module is quaranteed to work pe fect and should any defect arise in normal use we will service it at once and without any cost to wou whotsoeve provided that it is ceturned cost to you whatsoever purchase date. There will he a small years of the service thereafter No charge for charge for surface mail. Air-mail charged at cost.

## Stereo 60

 pre-amp/control unit

Designed for the Project 60 range but suitable for use with any high quality power amplifier. Again silicon epitaxial planar transistors are used throughout. achieving a really high signal-to-noise ratio and excellent tracking between channels. Input selection is by means between channels. Input selection is by means
of push buttons and accurate equalisation is of push buttons and accurate equalisation is
provided for all the usual inputs. provided for all the usual inputs.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Input sensitivities: Radio-up to 3 mV . Mag. p.u. 3 mV : correct to R.I.A.A. curve $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}: 20$ to $25,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. Ceramic p.u.-up to 3 mV : Aux-up to 3mV.
Output: 250 mV
Signal-to-noise ratio: better than 70 dB .
Channel matching: within 1 dB .
Tone controls: TREBLE +15 to -15 dB at 10 KHz : BASS +15 to -15 dB at 100 Hz Front panel: brushed atuminium with black knobs and controls
Size: $8 \frac{1}{3} \times 1 \frac{1}{2} \times 4$ ins.
Built tested
and'guaranteed. $\quad \mathbf{f 9 . 9 8}$

## Active Filter Unit



For use between Stereo 60 unit and two 2.30 s or $Z .50 \mathrm{~s}$, and is easily mounted. It is unique in that the cut-off frequencies are continuously variable, and as attenuation in the rejected band is rapid (12dB/octave), there is ess loss of the wanted signal than has previously been possible. Amplitude and phase distortion are negligible. The A.F.U. is suitable for use with any other amplifier system. suitable for use with any other amplifier system.
Two stages of filtering are incorporatedTwo stages of fitering are incorporated-
rumble (high pass) and scratch (low pass). rumble (high pass) and scratch (low pass),
Supply voltage -15 to 35 V . Current -3 mA . H.F. cut-off ( -3 dB ) variable from 28 kHz to 5 kHz . L.F cut-off $(-3 \mathrm{~dB})$ variable from 25 Hz to 100 Hz . Distortion at 1 kHz ( 35 V . supply) $0.02 \%$ at rated output.
Bult, tested
and guaranteed
f5.98

## Stereo FM Tuner



## first in the world to use the

phase lock loop principle
Before production of this tuner. the phase lock loop principle was used for receiving signals from space craft because of its vastly improvect signal to noise ratio over other systems. Now, for the first time, the principle has been applied to an FM tuner with fantasticaliy good results. Other original features include varicap diode tuning, printed circuit coils, an I.C. in the specially designed stereo decoder and squelch circuit for silent tuning between stations. Sensitivity is such that good reception becomes possible in difficult areas. Foreign stations can be tuned in suitable conditions and often a few inches of wire are enough for an aerjal. In terms of a high fidelity this tuner has a lower level of distortion than any other tuner we know. Stereo broadcasts are received automatically as the tuning control is rotated, a panel indicator lighting up as the stereo signal is tuned in. This tuner can also be used to advantage with any other high fidelity system.

## SPECIFICATIONS:

Number of transistors: 16 plus 20 in I.C.
Tuning range: 87.5 to 108 MHz
Capture ratio: 1.5 dB
Sensitivity: $2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ for 30 dB quieting: $7 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ for full !imiting.
Squelch level: $20_{\mu} \mathrm{V}$.
A. F.C. range : $\pm 200 \mathrm{KHz}$

Signal to noise ratio: $>65 \mathrm{~dB}$
Audio frequency response: $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-15 \mathrm{KHz}$ ( $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ )
Total harmonic distortion: $0.15 \%$ for $30 \%$ modulation
Stereo decoder operating level: $2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$
Pilot tone suppression: 30 dB
Cross talk: 40dB
.F. frequency: 10.7 MHz
Output voltage: $2 \times 150 \mathrm{mV}$ R.M.S.
Aerialimpedance: 75 Ohms
Operating voltage: Stereo on; tuning indicator
Size: $3.6 \times 4.6 \times 8.15$ ince
Size : $3.6 \times 1.6 \times 8.15$ inches: $91.5 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$


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## Sinclair Q16/Micromatic

## 016 High fidelity loudspeaker

The Q16 employs the well proven acoustic principles specially developed by Sinclair in which a special driver assembly is meticulously matched to the characteristics of the uniquely designed cabinet. In reviewing this excluslve Sinclair design, technical journals have justly compared the $\mathrm{Q1} 6$ with much more expensive loudspeakers. Its shape enables the Q16 to be positioned and matched to its environment to much better effect than is the case with conventionally styled enclosures. A solid teak surround with a special all-over cellular foam front is used as much for appearance as its ability to pass all audio frequencies without loss.

This elegantly designed shelf mounting speaker brings genuine high fidelity within reach of every music lover.

## Specifications:

Construction: Special sealed seamless sound or pressure chamber with internal baffle.
Loading: up to 14 watts RMS
Input Impedance: 8 ohms.
Frequency response: From 60 to 16,000 Hz . confirmed by independently plotted B and K curve.
Driver unit: Special high compliance unit having massive ceramic magnet of 11,000 gauss, aluminium speech coil and special cone suspension for excellent transient response.
Size and styling: $9 \frac{3}{4}$ in. square on face $x$ $4 \frac{3}{4}$ in. deep with neat pedestal base. Black all over cellular foam front with natural solid teak surround.
Price £8.98.


## Specifications:

Size: $36 \times 33 \times 13 \mathrm{~mm}(1.8 \times 1.3 \times 0.5 \mathrm{in}$.) Weight: including batteries, 28.4 gm (1 oz.)
Case: Black plastic with anodised aluminium front panel and spun aluminium dial.

Tuning: medium wave band with bandspread at higher frequencies (550 to $1,600 \mathrm{KHz}$ ).
Earpiece: Magnetic type
On/off switching: By inserting and withdrawing earpiece plug.
Kit in pack with earpiece, case, instructions and solder $£ \mathbf{2 . 4 8}$.

Ready built, tested and guaranteed, with earpiece £2.98.
Two Mallory Mercury batteries type RM675 required from radio shops. chemists, etc.


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| :--- |
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$300-0-300 \mathrm{v}$ $30-0-300 \mathrm{v}-100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v} .4 \mathrm{a} ., 0-5-6.3 \mathrm{v}, 3 \mathrm{a}$,
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w
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Width Depth $4^{\prime \prime}$ Height $6^{\prime \prime}$ Height $7 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Height

| Widh | Depth | 4 Height | 6 Hetght | $7 \frac{1}{2}$ Height |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 64" | 37" | 90p | £1.05 | £1.23 |
| 64" | 47* | $96 p$ | £1.23 | £1-40 |
| 81/ ${ }^{\prime \prime}$ | 37" | £1.05 | ¢1.40 | £1.40 |
| 81" | 67" | £1.40 | £1.74 | £2.00 |
| 104" | 78 \% | £1.88 | £2 28 | £2.45 |
| 124" | 37" | £1.40 | £1.74 | £2.03 |
| 124" | 5 ${ }^{\text {\% }}$ " | £1.85 | £2. 25 | £2.43 |
| 121" | $88^{\prime \prime}$ | £2:30 | £2.74 | £2.93 |
| 144" | 37" | £1.65 | £2. 03 | E2. 25 |
| 144" | 97 " | £2.73 | £3.50 | £3.65 |
| 164" | 67" | £2.45 | £2.93 | £3.24 |
| 164' | 107" | 23.15 | £4.05 | £4.45 |

Discounts available on quantities
CHASSIS in Aluminitum, Standard Sizes, with Gusset Plates
Sizes to fit Cases. All $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Walls $6^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{\prime \prime} \quad 33 \mathrm{p} \quad 10^{\prime \prime} \times 7^{\prime \prime} \quad 51 \mathrm{p} \quad 14^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{\prime \prime} \quad 44 \mathrm{p}$ $\begin{array}{lllllllll}6^{\prime \prime} \times & 4^{\prime \prime} & 33 \mathrm{p} & 10^{\prime \prime} \times \mathrm{l}^{\prime \prime} & 51 \mathrm{p} & 1^{\prime \prime} & \times 4^{\prime \prime} & 3^{\prime \prime} & 44 \mathrm{p} \\ \mathbf{l}^{\prime \prime} & 34 \mathrm{p} & 12^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{\prime \prime} & 40 \mathrm{p} & 14^{\prime \prime} \times & 9^{\prime \prime} & 84 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lllllll}8^{\prime \prime} \times & 3^{\prime \prime} & 39 \mathrm{p} & 12^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{\prime \prime} & 40 \mathrm{p} & 1^{\prime \prime} & 45 \mathrm{p} \\ 16^{\prime \prime} \times & \times 9^{\prime \prime} & 84 \mathrm{p} \\ 6^{\prime \prime} & 64 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$


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|  |  | ${ }_{\text {SL }}^{\text {MEL }}$ (1) |  | 7420 7430 | ${ }_{22 \mathrm{p}}^{22 \mathrm{D}}$ |
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| TRANSISTORS: |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { ME0402 } \\ & \text { ME0412 } \\ & \text { ME4101 } \end{aligned}$ |  | ME4102MTE101MP8111 | $\begin{array}{ll} 12 \mathrm{p} & 2 \mathrm{~N} 172 \\ 15 \mathrm{p} & 2 \mathrm{~N} 305 \\ 36 \mathrm{p} & \mathrm{BFX} \end{array}$ |  | 7 p60 p23 p |
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| 10 poles | 21 | ¢1 | £1.40 | 21.80 | 22-20 | 81.15 | \$1.15 |  |  |
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| EL822 | 0.90 |
| ELL80 | 0.75 |
| EM34 | 0.90 |
| Em71 | 0.75 |
| EM80 | 0.40 |
| EM81 | 0.60 |
| EM84 | 0.35 |
| CM85 | 1.00 |
| EM87 | 0.55 |
| EN91 | 0.85 |
| EY51 | 0.40 |
| EY80 | 0.45 |
| EY81 | 0.40 |
| EY83 | 0.55 |
| EY86 | 0.40 |
| EY87 | 0.48 |


| EY88 | 0.43 |
| :---: | :---: |
| EZ40 | 0.45 |
| EZ41 | 0.45 |
| EZ80 | 0.25 |
| EZ81 | 0.28 |
| GY501 | 0.80 |
| GZ30 | 0.40 |
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| GZ33 | 0.70 |
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| 6K7G | . 12 | AC/VP2 | $\cdot 77$ | ECH84 | . 37 | PC88 | $\cdot 51$ | PY82 | . 27 | AD140 | . 37 |
| 6K8G | . 17 | AZ31 | -55 | ECL80 | . 35 | PC96 | -42 | PY83 | . 28 | AF115 | -20 |
| ${ }^{628} 28$ | . 60 | B349 | -65 | ECL82 | .33 | ${ }^{\text {PC97 }}$ | 40 | PY88 | -35 | AF116 | -20 |
| 68L76G | $\stackrel{.27}{ }$ | B729 | -62 | ECL86 | . 40 | PC900 | $\cdot 37$ | PY800 | -37 | AP117 | . 20 |
| ${ }_{6}^{6 V 69}$ | .20 | ${ }_{\text {CLI3 }}$ | . 67 | EF39 | $\stackrel{.63}{-60}$ | PC084 | . 32 | PY801 | -37 | AFl18 | -48 |
| 6X4 | 23 | CY31 | $\cdot 33$ | EF80 | . 24 | PCC85 | . 45 | R19 | ${ }^{.62}$ | ${ }_{\text {AF125 }}$ | -17 |
| 6 X 5 GT | 28 | DAC32 | . 36 | EF85 | - 31 | PCC89 | . 47 | U25 | . 68 | ${ }_{\text {OC26 }}$ | -25 |
| 10 P 13 | 60 | DAF91 | . 21 | EF86 | . 31 | PCC189 | . 51 | U26 | . 65 | OC44 | . 12 |
| 12AH8 82 | 25 | DAF96 | . 36 | EF89 | -26 | PCC805 | . 65 | U47 | . 68 | $\mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{O} 45}$ | .12 |
| 12AT7 | . 18 | DF33 | -38 | EF91 | -13 | PCF80 | . 30 | U49 | -65 | $0 \mathrm{C71}$ | . 12 |
| $12 \mathrm{AU6}$ | ${ }^{23}$ | ${ }^{\text {DF91 }}$ | .16 | EF183 | -29 | POF82 | $\cdot 32$ | U78 | $\cdot 24$ | 0072 | -12 |
| 12AX 7 | ${ }_{-23}$ | DF96 | . 26 | EF184 | -32 | PCF86 | 47 | U191 | -62 | OC75 | -12 |
| $19 \mathrm{BG6C}$ | $\stackrel{+87}{+87}$ | DK32 | -27 | EH933 | - 42 | ${ }_{\text {PCFP800 }}$ | ${ }^{.67}$ | U193 | . 72 | ${ }_{0}^{0681}$ | . 12 |
| ${ }^{20 \mathrm{~F} 2}$ | . 67 | DK91 | -28 | EL34 | -49 | PCF802 | - 45 | U301 | . 52 | 0082 | . 12 |
| 20 P 3 2084 | . 85 | DK92 | . 42 | EL41 | . 55 | PCF805 | -67 | U329 | . 72 | OC82D | . 12 |
| 20P4 | -92 | DK. 96 | . 38 | EL84 | . 24 | PCE806 | . 60 | 801 | .98 | 170 | . 22 |

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    | TT4 | -16 | DK92 | -41 | EF184 | 30 | PL82 | . 81 |
    | 384 | $\cdot 28$ | DK96 | -37 | EL33 | -54 | PL83 | . 84 |
    | 3 V 4 | - 37 | DL35 | . 23 | EL84 | - 24 | PL84 | 31 |
    | 6/30L2 | . 67 | DL92 | . 28 | EY51 | $\cdot 35$ | PL500 | 84 |
    | $6 \mathrm{AQ5}$ | - 25 | DL94 | -37 | EY86 | -31 | PL504 | 65 |
    | 6BW7 | -57 | DL96 | -37 | EZ80 | -28 | PY32 | 54 |
    | 6 F 23 | $\cdot 70$ | DY86 | -26 | EZ81 | -23 | PY33 | . 54 |
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    | 30 Cl 5 | -82 | EB91 | -11 | N78 | -85 | PY800 | $\cdot 35$ |
    | 30 Cl 8 | -63 | EBC33 | - 88 | PC86 | - 49 | PY801 | . 35 |
    | 30 F 5 | - 22 | EBF89 | - 30 | PC88 | -49 | R19 | 31 |
    | $30 \mathrm{FL1}$ | -62 | ECC81 | -17 | PC97 | -39 | U25 | -68 |
    | 30 FL 14 | . 70 | EC082 | - 20 | PC900 | - 85 | U26 | -59 |
    | $30 \mathrm{L15}$ | - 60 | ECC83 | -28 | PCC84 | . 31 | U191 | . 80 |
    | $30 \mathrm{L17}$ | . 72 | ECF80 | . 28 | PCC89 | -48 | U251 | -70 |
    | 30 P 4 | -60 | ECP82 | . 28 | PCC189 | -50 | U329 | $\cdot 70$ |
    | $30 \mathrm{P19}$ | -60 | ECH35 | -27 | PCF80 | - 29 | UABC80 | . 3 |
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