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AMPLIFIER HAB4 MK II. Designed for Hi-Fi reproduction of records. A.C. Malns plated heary gauge matal chassis, size $71^{\prime \prime}$. $\times 4^{\prime \prime} d . \times$ 4 ${ }^{\prime \prime}$ h. Incorporstes ECC8S, EL84, EZ80 valves. Heaty
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Bass Control $\pm 12 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 40 Hz . Treble Control $\pm 12 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 14 KHz . Sensitivlties Mag. P.U. $3.5 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{v}$. Into 47 K ohm R.I.A.A. Ceramic P.U. $35 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{v}$. into 100 K ohm. Tape Amp. $100 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{v}$. into 100 K . Radio Tuner $400 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{v}$. Into 400 K ohm , Crosstalk 53 dB.
Hum and Noise-75 dB min. vol. -65 dB max. vol. Total Harmonic Distortion $0.1 \%$ at 1 watt into 150 hms .
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Slze 21 <br>
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$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Single: } & \operatorname{lin} 1 \mathrm{~K} \text { to } 2 \mathrm{M} 2 \\
& \log 4 \mathrm{K7} 702 \mathrm{M} 2 \\
\text { Dual: } & \lim \text { or } \log 4 \mathrm{~K} 7 \text { to } 2 \mathrm{M} 2 \\
\text { Bolance: } & \operatorname{loK} \log / \mathrm{A} \log \\
\text { Switched: } & \log \text { single } 10 \mathrm{~K}, 100 \mathrm{~K} \\
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| BP46 $=8 \pm 7446$ | -697 | 0.94 | 0.88 | $\mathrm{BPl53}=\mathbf{8 N 7 4 1 5 3}$ | 1.20 | $1 \cdot 10$ | 0.95 |
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[^1]

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GSR MP60
Goldring GL7
Goldring GL72
Goldrin GL75
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Leak Delta 75
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Philips RH781
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Teleton 2100
Goodmans One Ten
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| SCOTCH DYN | TAPES |  |
| $52^{*}$ L.P. 1200 | 2-11 | 1.40 |
| $7^{\prime \prime}$ L.P. 1800 | 2.99 | 1.95 |
| Postage-Tape, cassettes and 8T cartridges 1-9 |  |  |
| HI-FI STEREO SYSTEMS COM PLETE |  |  |
| ALBA UA552 | $47 \cdot 75$ | 34-65 |
| AMSTRAD Stereo 1000 | 48.00 | 33.95 |
| BUSH A1005 | 69.89 | $53 \cdot 25$ |
| DANSETTE Con | 34.43 | 24-95 |
| DECCA Sound 613 .......... Spe | at Price | 49.95 |
| DECCA Sound $614 . . .$. | ial Price | 52.95 |
| DECCA Sound 1204.......... Spe | ial Price | 70.95 |
| DECCA Compact 2 .......... Sp | ial Pri | 76.95 |
| DECCA Compact 3 ........ Spe | al Price | 102-35 |
| DECCA 403.................. . Sp | al Pric | $44 \cdot 75$ |
| ELIZABETHAN LZ101 | 58-33 | 41.85 |
| FERGUSON 3425 | 136.35 | 102-75 |
| FERGUSON 3450 with Radio | $70 \cdot 45$ | 52.95 |
| FERGUSON 3451 with Radio | 06.80 | 75.85 |
| FIDELITY UAZ Music Master | 43-50 | 30.95 |
| UA1 Music Master with Radio. | $100 \cdot 23$ | 69.95 |
| Stereo Nine | 38.50 | 23-00 |
| GOODMANS Module 80 compact system $F M / 35$ watts. RMS (Less |  |  |
| L/S) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 165.00 | 125.75 |
| HMV 2404/5/6 with Radto | 194.40 | $145 \cdot 00$ |
| HMV 2451 | 115.95 | 89.95 |
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|  |  |  |
| cartridge, Amstrad 2000 MP |  |  |
| amplifler. 2 Wharfedale Denton |  |  |
| speakers | 113.96 | 4. 25 |
| MURPHY 802 Studio 1, AM/VHF |  |  |
| Radio | $84 \cdot 50$ | $65 \cdot 95$ |
| MURPHY | 84.42 | $65 \cdot 95$ |
| PHILCO FORD M1500 | $97 \cdot 96$ | 6.75 |
| PHILIPS 808 | $93 \cdot 50$ | $71 \cdot 95$ |
| PHILIPS GF824PHILIPS 825 | $65 \cdot 30$ | $49 \cdot 65$ |
|  | 49.50 | $3 \mathrm{t} \cdot 95$ |
| PHILIPS 826. | 75.00 | 52.95 |
| PHILIPS 835 | $69 \cdot 50$ | $49 \cdot 55$ |
| PHILIPS 836 | $95 \cdot 00$ | 50. 95 |
| PYE Black Box unit stereo 1022 | $90 \cdot 93$ | 68.95 |
| RIGONDA Party Time . STEEPLETONE stereo s | $27 \cdot 50$ | 21.95 |
|  | $41 \cdot 75$ | $29 \cdot 95$ |



| Rec. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Rowail } \\ & \text { Price } \end{aligned}$ | Comet |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TAPE RECORDERS-continued |  |  |
| 4407 4-track stereo record | 108.50 |  |
| 4418 4-track stereo | 189.75 | 139.95 |
| 4450 4-track stereo | $272 \cdot 50$ | 199.95 |
| 4500 4-track stereo tape deck | $124 \cdot 30$ | $91 \cdot 65$ |
| TANDBERG 2000 | 125.61 | 103.95 |
| TANDEERG 1841 4-track stereo |  |  |
| tape deck | 66.09 | 4迷 75 |
| TANDEERG 3021X iwin track stereo | 104.00 | $80 \cdot 85$ |
| TANDBERG 3041X 4-track stereo. | 104.00 | $80 \cdot 85$ |
| TANDBERG 4021X twin track stereo | 169-12 | 135-50 |
| TANDBERG $4041 \times 4$-track tereo. | $169 \cdot 12$ | 135.54 |
| ANDEERG $6041 \times 4$-track stereo. | 182.73 | 145.25 |
| TANDBERG 6021X twin track atereo | 182.73 | $145 \cdot 25$ |
| TAPE RECORDERS (CASSETTES) |  |  |
| AKAI GXC 40D Tape Deck...... | 92-26 | $68 \cdot 25$ |
| AKAl GXC 40 Recorder | 111.75 | 83.85 |
| APCO Batt./Mains with |  |  |
| Radio | 35.00 | 22.95 |
| BUSH Discassette DC70 | $20 \cdot 62$ | $15 \cdot 95$ |
| BUSH TP60 | $28 \cdot 18$ | $15 \cdot 95$ |
| BUSH TP 66 Batt./Mains | 25-18 | 21.95 |
| BUSH TP 70 battery/main | $28 \cdot 13$ | 21.95 |
| CARLTONE LCR500. | Price | $11 \cdot 95$ |
| ANSETTE DCT10 | $20 \cdot 62$ | 14.98 |
| DECCA 2000 (batt./mains)...........Sp. Price 22.95 DECCA CR1000 Cassette Recorder |  | 22-95 |
| DECCA CR1000 Cassette Recorder with VHF Radio | Price | $32 \cdot 95$ |
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| EKCO 351 Battery/Main | 23.23 | 18.45 |
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| FERGUSON 3253 | $43 \cdot 55$ | $31 \cdot 95$ |
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| GRUNDIG C210 batt./ma | $46 \cdot 90$ | 34.95 |
| GRUNDIG C410 | 39-95 | 29-95 |
| HARVARD Elite with AM/FM radio |  |  |
|  | 61.45 | 23.95 |
| PHILIPS R.R. 692 with MW/VHF |  |  |
| Radio and Recorder | 49-95 | 36.55 |
| 2202 | 22.85 | 17.95 |
| 2204 battery/mains | 29-10 | 23.85 |
| 3302 | $20 \cdot 35$ | 15.54 |
| 2400 stereo less L/S | 66-10 | 51.95 |
| YE 9100 | $20 \cdot 37$ | 15.95 |
| PYE 9116 Stereo | 66-10 | $51 \cdot 60$ |
| PYE 9118 | 29-11 | 22.95 |
| TELETON TRC 130 with VHF/AM |  |  |
| radlo battery/mains | $42 \cdot 50$ | $28 \cdot 00$ |
| TCi10 battery/mains | 27-50 | 18.50 |

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## Anyone for Going Back?

0N looking at our front cover this month, readers may be forgiven for thinking that due to shortage of material we are having to ransack the archives! We hope the following words of explanation will dispel any such unworthy and infamous notions.

First of all, the response to our Going Back feature is large enough to indicate a real interest in the adolescence of electronics. Perhaps some people are becoming blasé about modern technological progress; perhaps the erstwhile mystery and romance has fled the scene; perhaps the pioneer days are now sufficiently remote in time to give an aura of the unknown; perhaps-but why go on?

Secondly, wireless, radio, electronics (call it what you will) is in danger of becoming taken far too seriously by the amateur, when it should be a relaxation. It should be fun.

We recently visited the Southampton plant of Mullard and saw how the integrated circuit designer, having determined the basic performance requirements and circuit elements, then enlists the aid of a computer with disc stores and a graphics unit. He can simulate circuits on the computer and obtain a readout of predicted performance.

Having found the optimum circuit elements, he then calls on the computer to provide cost and performance comparisons using different technologies of manufacture. The computer then takes the designer's rough IC layout and feeds in his information, using a special 'language' calls out transistor types from the computer memory store. The drawing for the mask is then generated by the computer.

To check that the circuit is correct, the engineer feeds his circuit programme into the computer, which examines the circuit and its geometry. The engineer then asks the computer to generate a control tape to reproduce the circuit on a photographically-treated glass plate reticle ten times up on final circuit size.

As a parallel operation, the computer examines the logic design of the circuit and is programmed to determine which test procedures and stimuli are wanted for the computer-testing of the complete circuit. Chips incorporating up to 6,000 transistors and all their interconnections can be designed without making a single error.

For those who boggle at such marvels, we thought it would be therapeutic to dip into the past and publish something from the days when wireless was young and unabashed. Hence the 'reproduction' crystal set. It should even please the transistor men who have been lambasting the valve lovers-after all, it is solidstate!

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[^3]
# NEWS... 

 and f.m. wavebands. Decoder and stereo signal lamp are built-in as is a.f.c. Wavebands are selected by recessed push buttons located Philips announce the RH811, a tuner/amplifier/cassette recorder with built-in DNL-the first to include this feature.

The amplifier is rated at $2 \times 10$ watts (music) into 4 ohms, with a signal to noise ratio of better than 50 dB . Inputs are provided for gram, microphone and external recorder. The tuner in-
beneath the fascia. Stations are selected through a large diameter control to the right of the fascia.

Push buttons on the top of the cabinet control the stereo cassette recorder which is linked internally for trouble-free direct recording in stereo or mono. The cassette unit incorporates automatic recording level, pause con-

## Audio Modules



A new middle of the road range of audio preamplifier and mixer modules have been produced by Partridge Electronics, who until recently specialised in the manufacture of audio mixers to customers own individual requirements. They have now produced a range of units to provide a flexible and economical method of constructing small or large mixers. The majority of these are available in kit form, or fully assembled and tested. Most items use a standard panel of 16
gauge anodised aluminium, with black lettering, size $50 \times 150 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m}$. A free fourteen page catalogue is available on receipt of 5 p for posting and packing, on application to Partridge Electronics, 21/ 25 Hart Road, Benfleet, Essex.

## Figure it out

West Hyde Developments Limited introduce a new, small $7 \times 9^{1}{ }_{2} \times$ $3^{1}{ }_{4} \mathrm{in} . \quad 3^{1}{ }_{2} \mathrm{Ib}$. calculator which multiplies and divides. The arithmetic can be mixed, i.e. $2+6-3$ $\times 5-6 \div 2+4 \cdot 5=14$. The decimal place can be set with 0 to 7 digits


trol, cassette eject control and 3 digit counter. The RH811 is finished in walnut and matt chrome and will be supplied with matching RH411 speakers. Retail price is $£ 125$.

Also announced is the N2506: a sophisticated high specification mains stereo cassette deck with built in Dynamic Noise Limiter. The DNL is Philips special electronic circuit for reducing the hiss content of a signal-especially noticeable in soft passages of music. The DNL facility is switchable. Recommended retail price £60.
to the right and the machine automatically clears after the equals sign is pressed. Price is $£ 99$ for 1 off dropping to 2 at $£ 89$ and $£ 75$ for 10 off.

Features include 16 digits and a constant factor, 6 months guarantee, Pandicon display tubes (Mullard), 6 LSI chips, 1 I.C., Plug in printed circuit board, Plug in keyboard (gold plated connectors), Tobicons available on sale or return, West Hyde Developments Ltd., Ryefield Crescent, Northwood Hills, Middlesex, HA6 1NN.

## Tape $Q$ and $A$

The second edition of Heinz Ritter's 120-page book, "Tape Questions \& Tape Answers" is now available from the Audio/ Video Tapes Division of BASF UK Ltd.

The book contains useful hints and tips on all aspects of tape recording and costs only 40 p.
P.O. Box 473, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightbridge, London, S.W.7.


## Amiron kits

Amtron, the Italian electronics company recently sent us some samples of their range of construction kits. As yet, the company have not appointed a sole agent and all enquiries should be made to Box 102, Advertisement Dept., Practical Wireless, Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, EC4A 4AD.

The kits are packed in "bubble packs" and contain all the components right down to the last nut and bolt and in many cases a printed circuit board.

The Twilight Switch (shown) circuit contains a photo-electric cell, two transistors, two diodes and can switch up to 1 kW using a relay. The unit is activated by a wide range of light intensities and the action is reversible. It can be set to operate at pre-determined light intensities as light falls or increases, making it ideal for switching on a household light at dusk when the owners are out or away on holiday.

Power source is $220-240 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c.
The other unit illustrated is a 27 MHz Radio Control Receiver, designated UK 345. This is a superhet employing four highgain, low-noise transistors and one detector diode. The oscillator is crystal controlled. Supply voltage is 6 V and current consumption 5 mA .


## Primaxa gun

S. Kempner Ltd. announce their Primax and Primaxa soldering guns. Full heating is obtained six seconds after the "on" switch is depressed and twin spotlights mounted in the gun enable the user to get "a bit of light on the subjeot". The special alloy tip never needs retinning and the unit is guaranteed for 12 months (except tips and bulbs). Replacement tips are available for different soldering jobs and two models of gun are available: the 60 W model which retails at $£ 5 \cdot 40$ and the 100 W model priced at £7. Postage and packing on each solder gun is 25 p. Further details and soldering guns are available from S. Kempner Limited, 421 High Road, London, N.12. Tel. 01-346 6222.

## Zeta windings

Zeta Windings Ltd. inform us that they can undertake to manufacture and design iron/ferrite cored transformers for any application that constructors may require for the development of their circuitry. They will also make them for P.W. projects and they are available by type number via: Tidman Mail Order, 236 Sandycombe Road, Richmond; H. L. Smith, 287 Edgware Road, London, W. 2 or (callers only) Zeta Windings Ltd., 26 All Saints Road, London, W.11.

Other services provided by Zeta Windings are their rewinding of one-off prototype facilities on all kinds of transformers, and thear rewind and prototype service which takes about 3 to 5 days.


Amtron Kits


IN the early days of radio crystal sets were used in many homes, and this project is a reproduction of such a receiver. Variable capacitors were available for tuning, but their cost often resulted in some other means of tuning such as tapped coils, coils with sliding contacts bearing on the turns and swinging coils where mutual coupling (and hence the inductance and resonant frequency) could be adjusted.
In addition to the headphones, such receivers required only a few components such as terminals, a detector crystal and "catswhisker", wire to wind the coils, an insulated board or panel and a few small parts such as bolts and brackets to make a detector assembly.
The receiver shown here is something of a novelty, and sure to arouse interest when it is seen.

## COILS

These are a flat type quite popular in the early days, and wound with 26 s.w.g. cotton-covered wire. Actuaily, any silk covered or enamelled wire, from 30 s.w.g. to 24 s.w.g., is suitable. If heavier wire is used then larger discs will be required.
Each disc is about 4in. in diameter, and can be stout cardboard or thin paxolin sheet. Seven slots, each about ${ }_{8}{ }_{8}$ in. wide, are cut about lin. deep.
Pass the wire through two small holes, and wind in and out of each slot in turn, as winding progresses. This results in half the turns lying on one face of the disc, and half on the other face, crossing over in the slots. Each coil has about 40 turns, the wire being finally anchored through two small holes, leaving the ends long enough to reach to the terminals.

With such a circuit, the parallel capacitance is mainly due to that of the aerial and earth. As a matter of interest, "tuning" coverage was tested with a signal generator, and was $1300-1700 \mathrm{kHz}$ with a 25 pF aerial/earth system, $850-1100 \mathrm{kHz}$ with 100 pF ,
and $550-750 \mathrm{kHz}$ with the aerial/earth placing about 250 pF across the receiver.

With such a receiver it was quite usual to adjust the number of turns to suit the aerial, or wavelength of local stations.
One coil is fixed on a small bracket. The other is bolted to a strip of material about lin. long, secured to a threaded rod by lock-nuts. The rod runs in two brackets, and is rotated by a large terminal head or small knob. "Tuning" is accomplished by swinging one coil over the other thus varying the effective inductance.
The base is varnished plywood or ebonite or paxolin about $6 \times 6$ in. Strips raise it about $3_{4}$ in. to clear the terminals projecting underneath.

## DETECTOR

A strip of brass about $1 \times{ }^{3}$ in. (from an old lamp battery) is bolted to hold the crystal firmly, a corner or point on the latter projecting up through a hole in the strip.


[^4]A $1^{1} 2$ in. bolt with spacers holds a similar strip about $1^{1}{ }_{4} \mathrm{in}$. long to which the catswhisker is soldered. Above this strip is a stouter strip of metal, and a screw or terminal head runs through a threaded hole in this, or through a nut soldered to it. Turning this screw or terminal adjusts pressure of the catswhisker on the crystal.


This drawing, showing the constructional details of the crystal set, should not be difficult to follow.

The catswhisker is made by winding about $11_{2}$ in. of copper, tinned-copper or brass wire, about 34 s.w.g., on a small drill about ${ }^{1}{ }_{8}$ in. diameter, and then stretching the winding slightly. These bygone detectors used wonderful combinations of crystals and even gold-tipped whiskers, all of which appeared to give about the same result. There is great room for experiment here, using various kinds of wire, or soldering the crystal (use Woods metal) or packing it with metal foil. All these trials will probably give a detector of about equal efficiency to that shown, which is about the same as a modern crystal-diode, when a sensitive spot on the crystal has been found.

## AERIAL AND EARTH

The aerial ought to be at least 25 ft long, and preferably over 50 ft . Maximum range is usually considered to be about 25 to 150 miles from a major transmitter, anything over about 50 miles generally needing some $50-100 \mathrm{ft}$ or so of outside aerial, 20 ft or more high.

The earth lead runs to a metal spike or other earth rod in damp soil. With a 180 ft aerial ample volume was obtained by the author some 25 miles from a transmitter. No earth was used but the earth is usually desirable.

The headphones ought to be good-quality, sensitive headsets of about $500 \Omega$ to $2,000 \Omega$ resistance, so as to give best volume with the rather limited output of the crystal set. Strictly speaking, a capacitor of about $1,000 \mathrm{pF}$ should be connected across the headphones but it was not always fitted in the early days. A description of how to make such a "telephone condenser" appeared in "Amateur Wireless" in 1922.
"The telephone condenser is made up of twentyfive small sheets of tinfoil measuring $1^{1} 2 \mathrm{in}$. by $3_{4} \mathrm{in}$. with a small strip left at one corner to make a lug. It is built up by placing the strips of tinfoil, with strips of waxed paper in between, with the lugs alternately at one end and then at the other. When the condenser has been built up the ends of the tinfoil should be carefully soldered together by means of a blob of solder, two pieces of cardboard being placed either side of the condenser and a length of linen tape wound round to keep the whole together. The condenser should then be immersed in molten paraffin and allowed to set in a solid block."

The "components list" is short and sweet! One galena crystal (ref. X6), four 4BA brass terminals, 202. reel of 26 s.w.g. enamelled wire and a length of 4BA brass studding, all of which are obtainable from Home Radio (Mitcham) as a "kit" for 96p which includes post and packing.

## TELEVISION

## SEPTEMBER ISSUE

## SIMPLE CROSSHATCH AND DOT GENERATOR

Constructional details for this essential item of colour TV servicing equipment. The instrument is cheap enough to be of interest to enthusiasts for do-it-yourself convergence adjustments. Notable features of the new design are: a choice of four patterns; miniature size made possible by the use of TTL MSI integrated circuits; sync amplifier for stability; suitability for use with any 625-line set with only two easy connections.

## TV NOISE FIGURES

Noise factor, signal-to-noise ratio, front-end noise, aerial noise, valve and transistor noise-are you sure of yourself in this important area? If not read Gordon J. King's clear presentation of the subject this month. The usable sensitivity of a television receiver is dictated by its noise performance so this is a subject of practical importance-especially for fringe area reception. The article shows how a decision can be made on the type of aerial required and the improvement that can be expected by using an aerial preamplifier.

## COLOUR RECEIVER

This month the timebase board-complete sync, field timebase and line oscillator circuits plus the line output stage with the exception of the line output transformer assembly. With board layout.

## SERVICE NOTEBOOK

More items from G. R. Wilding's day-to-day experiences of TV fault conditions.

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# TRAMSMIITTER for 2 metres PART1 F.G.RAYER G30GR 



THERE is quite a lot of interest in 144 MHz equipment, especially among the Amateur Class B licencees who are permitted to transmit on 144 MHz and above. Apart from this, some of the advantages of the use of this band may be noted. There is considerable frequency space, the 2 -metre band being 2 MHz wide, from 144 to 146 MHz . A large space for an aerial is not necessary, aerials for 144 MHz usually being single-mast affairs resembling those used for TV purposes. Many stations use low power, in the 10 to 15 watt region, and crystal control of the transnitter is quite usual, which makes the equipment relatively simple to build and operate. There is also a very good chance of clear, solid QSO's, free of all the interference that makes 160 m or 80 m so uncomfortable.

The transmitter described here runs about 10 watts input, so it can be run from a power supply and modulator such as may already be in use on a 160 m transmitter. If the inductors are made and adjusted as described, it will be found virtually impossible to make the transmitter operate outside the permitted band.

## CIRCUIT

Fig. 1 shows the complete transmitter circuit which uses four valves. Operation of the various stages will probably be more clearly understood if they are dealt with separately.

V1 Oscillator. This is a simple crystal oscillator using a 6C4 in which L1 is tuned to the same frequency as the crystal, approximately 8 MHz , and V1 cannot be made to work on any other frequency. The test point TP1 allows the grid current of V2, produced by grid rectification of r.f. from V1, to be measured, to facilitate the initial tuning of L1.

V2 Tripler. The 6BH6 receives input at 8 MHz , and triples this to 24 MHz , to which L2 is tuned. Point TP2 allows a meter to indicate grid current of the following stage, as an aid to the initial tuning of L 2 . The wrong multiple, if selected by $L 2$, would be 16 MHz or 32 MHz , and these frequencies, which would result in incorrect operation cannot be tuned by L2.

V3 Tripler-Driver. This is a double beam tetrode QQVO3-10. The first section receives drive at 24 MHz and triples to 72 MHz , to which frequency L 3 and L4 are tuned. Grid current of the following section of this valve can be monitored at TP3. L3/L4 cannot be tuned to a wrong harmonic.

The second half of V3 receives drive at 72 MHz from L4, and doubles to 144 MHz , to which L 5 is tuned. Trimmer TCl aids in balancing the centretapped circuit L5.

V4 Power Amplifier. L6 is tuned to 144 MHz and grid current of the QQVO3-10 develops about $30-60 \mathrm{~V}$ bias across R14. The switch Sla/b allows grid current
to be monitored, which is essential. For grid current indications, the 5 mA meter reads directly.

Cathode current for V4 flows through R19. With the meter switch in the second position, R20 is in series, and the meter reads $0-0.5 \mathrm{~V}$, which corresponds to a full-scale deflection of 50 mA , so that the cathode current of V4 can be measured.

A separate h.t. connection is provided for V4, so that modulation can be applied for speech transmission. This type of valve does not need neutralising although acting as a straight-through 144 MHz amplifier. L7 is tuned to 144 MHz , and output is from the link coupling L8, TC2 allowing adjustment of loading. The transmitter will work directly into a co-axial feeder to a dipole or similar aerial.

With a 280 V supply for the early stages, it was found quite easy to obtain more grid drive than was required. Running the p.a. with about 10 watts d.c. input will light a 6 watt lamp used as a dummy load very well, so a good level of efficiency is obtained.

## INDUCTORS

L1 and L2 are wound on $1_{8}^{7} \times{ }^{1}$ in. dia. formers and L3 and L4 on a single $2^{3}{ }_{8} \times{ }^{1}{ }_{4}$ dia. former. The formers fit in $3_{4}$ in. square screening cans and are mounted by 6BA bolts which pass through lugs on the cans and into tapped holes provided on the square bases of the formers. Fig. 2 shows winding details. To make L1, bare and solder 32 s.w.g. enamelled wire in the tag used for h.t. Leave ${ }_{1}$ in. clear space, then wind on 50 turns close wound. Secure the ends with polystyrene cement or similar adhesive, clean the wire end and solder it in the A (anode) tag. The wire ends should slope down clear of the windings, and clear of the screening can.

If surplus or other formers or cans are used, these need to be long enough to avoid having the windings near the chassis or top of the can. It might also be necessary to make sure that the cores of surplus coils are suitable for the frequencies involved.

L2 is wound in the same way, and has 15 turns of 24 s.w.g. enamelled wire, close wound.

L3 and L4 each have $5^{3}{ }_{4}$ turns of 24 s.w.g. enamelled wire, close wound. A gap of $1_{8}$ in. is left between the two coils. Begin winding at G, Fig. 2, and finish this coil at the bias circuit lead, R11. Then begin L3 at the h.t. positive end, continuing to wind in the same direction as for L4, and terminate this at end A (anode). The long former listed has soldering eyelets, and the wire ends pass down through these and soldered but not cut off. The leads emerge as in Fig. 5. They are cleaned and left long enough to reach the required points. To avoid possible short circuits pieces of sleeving are put on the pins of L1 and L2, and the wire ends of L3 and L4. For easy identification, the wire ends of the latter can


Fig. 1: Circuit of the 2-metre transmitter which uses 8 MHz range crystals in the oscillator stage.
have coloured sleeving, as follows: Black-grid; Green-bias resistor; Red-h.t.; Yellow-anode.

Place each former in its can with the threaded holes matching the lugs, which are bent over. To prevent the cores moving, a piece of a thin elastic band can be put into each former, before screwing in the core.

The windings for L3 and L4 may be tuned to resonance with the cores only using stray circuit capacitances. If cores are employed, the core material must be good for 72 MHz .

The 144 MHz inductors are shown in Fig. 3. L5 and L6 are wound with 18 s.w.g. wire, and L7 with 16 s.w.g. wire. Sleeving should be put on the wire for $L 5$ before winding to prevent possible contact with L6.

L5 has five turns wound on a suitable object, such as a pencil, so that its outside diameter is 0.4 in . and turns are spaced to occupy $0 \cdot 6 \mathrm{in}$.

L6 has six turns, $0 \cdot 3 \mathrm{in}$. outside diameter, and is $0 \cdot 7 \mathrm{in}$. long. L7 is four turns, spaced to occupy 0.5 in ., and its outside diameter is $0 \cdot 6 \mathrm{in}$. L5 has a centre tap soldered on the top of the central turn, while L6 and L7 have taps on the bottom of the centre turn. The loop L8 is a single turn of 16 s.w.g. or similar wire, placed in sleeving, and with ends shaped to reach the coaxial socket and loading capacitor.

## CHASSIS ASSEMBLY

The chassis and screen across V4 valveholder consists of six "universal chassis" flanged members. The top, $10 \times 4$ in., is prepared for the valveholders etc. as in Fig. 4. The screened coils need four holes to clear the pins. two holes for 6BA bolts, and a central hole under L3/L4 to reach the bottom core.


Former $2 \frac{3^{\prime \prime}}{8} \times \frac{1 "}{4}$ dia
with cores


Fig. 2: Winding details of the coils for the oscillator and multiplier stages.


Fig. 3: Construction of the coils for the power amplifier. Put sleeving on $L 5$ before winding.
A $4 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. member is bolted inside each end flange of the top. The third $4 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. member is cut so that it can be placed across the holder for V4 as in Fig. 5, clearing tags 4 and 5 (heater). It is bolted to the top at the valveholder.

The $10 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. front member has the top flange cut off, and takes the meter and 2 -way switch in the positions shown in Fig. 5. It is bolted to the chassis


Fig. 4: Marking-out detalls on top of the chassis. Holes for the single tag stand-offs can be drilled as construc. tlon proceeds.
top, both ends, and the screen. The back is fitted in the same way.

It is best to prepare the front and back but leave them off until most of the wiring is completed.

## WIRING

Fig. 5 shows wiring and other details. All by-pass capacitors, and particularly Cl0 to C19, should be connected from the various tags to adjacent chassis tags with the shortest possible leads. Resistors R13, R14 and R18 are soldered with very short leads from resistors to centre-taps, and R17 is wired directly to pin 7 of V4.

Capacitors VCl, VC2, VC3 and TC2 may be fixed by the spindle bushes, or by bolts. In either case the rotors are grounded by stout leads to near-by chassis tags. All r.f. leads in the 144 MHz circuits must be stout and no longer than necessary.

Single tag stand-offs were used to provide anchor points for R2, R6, R10, etc., and also for the grid current test points TP1, TP2 and TP3.

A 4-way tag strip is bolted as shown, for flexible supply leads or a 4 way cord. This provides $6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$, chassis or common return, h.t. positive, and modulated h.t. connections to the power supply and modulator.

## CIRCUIT ADJUSTMENTS

When an indication of grid current has been obtained on the meter this can be used for all tuning adjustments. However, it is not very likely that this indication will be obtained immediately, so it is generally necessary to adjust the stages one at a time, as described below.

A $6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V} 2 \mathrm{~A}$ supply is necessary for the heaters. A $250-300 \mathrm{~V}$ supply at about 60 mA is required for the h.t. for V1, V2 and V3, actual current depending on the voltage and adjustments. Temporarily leave h.t. to V4 (Mod.) disconnected.

Crystal. Multiplication is $3 \times 3 \times 2$, or 18 times. Crystals in the region of 8 MHz are thus necessary. To


Fig. 5: Wiring underneath the chassis. Stand-off insulators are used for the test points TP1, 2, 3 and to support resistors R2, 6 and 10.

## Resistors

| R1 | $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R8 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R15 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{1} \mathrm{~W}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R2 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R9 | $82 \mathrm{k} \Omega_{\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}}$ | R16 | 39ks 1W |
| R3 | 100k $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R10 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R17 | 47 $\Omega$ - $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ |
| R4 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R11 | 82k $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R18 | 47 $\Omega \frac{1}{2} W$ |
| R5 | 120k $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R12 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R19 | $10 \mathrm{n} \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ |
| R6 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R13 | $330 \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R20 | 100 $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ |
| R7 | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ | R14 | $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ |  |  |

## Capacitors

| C1 | 1000 pF 350 V disc | C10 1000pF 350V disc |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C2 | 22pF SM | C11 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$ disc |
| C3 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 12 \mathrm{~V}$ disc | C12 0.01 $\mu \mathrm{F} 12 \mathrm{~V}$ disc |
| C4 | 100 pF SM | C13 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$ disc |
| C5 | 1000 pF 350V disc | C14 1000pF 350V disc |
| C6 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$ disc | C15 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 12 \mathrm{~V}$ disc |
| C7 | 22pF SM | C16 1800pF 1kV disc |
| C8 | 22 pF SM | C17 1800pF 1kV.disc |
| C9 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 12 \mathrm{~V}$ disc | C18 2000pF 350V disc |

VC1-VC2 $25+25 p F$ butterfly capacitor (Jackson type C713 (0.015" gap)
VC3 $12+12 \mathrm{pF}$ butterfly capacitor (Jackson type C713 ( $0.045^{\prime \prime}$ gap)
TC1 6pF tubular trimmer (Home Radio VC88B)
TC2 35pF pre-set air spaced

Valves
V1 6C4
V3 QQVO3-10
V2 6BH6
V4 QQVO3-10

## Chassis

"Universal chassis" flanged members. $10 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$. type CU58A (1), $10 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. type CU139 (2), $4 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. type CU133 (3) (Home Radio)

## Miscellaneous

M1, 5 mA miniature panel meter. Valveholders B7G, skirted with screening cans (2) B9A (2). S1a-b, 2 pole 2 way slide switch. Crystal 8 MHz (see text) and holder. Coil formers type CR14 (2), CR16 (1), screening cans CR15 (2), CR17 (1). Cores type CR19 (4) (Home Radio). Tag strip, stand-off insulators etc.
find the output frequency with a given crystal, multiply the crystal frequency by 18. Alternatively, to obtain a crystal to operate on a particular frequency, divide the wanted frequency by 18.

Oscillator. A suitable tool to adjust the coil cores can be made by filing fiats on the end of a plastic knitting needle. Clip a multi-range meter or other suitable instrument from tag TP1 to chassis. A 5 mA or similar range is suitable. Or if a voltage range is used, 1 V will indicate about 1 mA , and so on.

Rotate the core of L1 for nearly maximum grid current at TP1. Do not tune Ll exactly for peak current, or it will be found that the crystal oscillator will not start, when switched on. This is usual with this type of oscillator.

Tripler V2. Transfer the meter to TP2 and adjust the core of $L 2$ for best grid current.

Tripler-Driver V3. Transfer the negative meter lead to TP3 and rotate the cores of L3 and L4 for best grid current. These are quite critical, and interact to some extent.

Power Amplifier. Sla/S1b should be set to read grid current. Slowly rotate VC1 and VC2 for best grid current. When a reading is obtained, the test-


View underneath the chassls. The vertical screen isolates the input and output circuits of the p.a.
meter can be unclipped, and cores L1 to L4 can be touched up, as necessary.

Should a peak in grid current arise with VC2 fully open, slightly stretch L6, and re-adjust VC2. On the other hand, if VC2 is fully closed, press the turns of L6 a little closer together. This also applies to L5 and L7.

Unscrew TCl, and peak grid current with VCl. Slowly screw down TC1 meanwhile re-adjusting VC1 for best grid current. This will give a peak somewhere the middle setting of TC1, but is not critical.

Final grid current can be adjusted by varying the spacing between L5 and L6, and anything around about 1.5 mA is suitable.

It is best to make the first output test into a lamp load. This can be a 12 V 6 W bulb, connected to a co-axial plug to connect to the output socket.

Open TC2 to minimum capacity and switch the meter to read cathode current. Provide about 300 V or so at the "Mod" connection. Rotate VC3 for a dip in cathode current, which should cause the bulb to light. The meter can then be returned to "Grid" and VC2 readjusted (also possibly VCl).

## LOADING

The loading of $V 4$, and thus the final current drawn when VC3 is tuned to resonance, is adjusted by rotating TC2, and if necessary moving L8 in or out of the coil L7.

Maximum listed ratings for the QQVO3-10 are 300 V for anode and 175 V for the screen grid, with an anode current of 76 mA (d.c. input 22 W ), 3 mA grid current, resulting in an output of about 14 W . The power supply and modulator used was more suitable for about 40 mA at $280-290 \mathrm{~V}$ or an input of about 12 W . Screen-grid current is about 3 mA , and the meter fitted shows the total cathode current, anode current alone being a little less. If the meter is to read 0.100 mA , for larger inputs, R20 should be $200 \Omega$.

The modulator should be able to furnish at least one half of the input to V4 in watts-say 5 W for 10W input to V4. A 12AX7 followed by a single 6BW6, as a Class-A modulator (as used for a 160 m transmitter) was found to work well with an input of up to about 10 watts to V4.

Next month we shall describe a power supply and modulator for use with this transmitter. It can also be used as a conventional audio amplifier or as a power supply for a higher powered transmitter.


ALTHOUGH the regulations regarding the lighting of cars after dark have recently been relaxed, there are many areas and situations where parking lights are still required. If your car has to display lights regularly, it is a chore having to go out to turn them on-and there is always the risk of forgetting to do this.

For quite a small cost (only about $£ 1 \cdot 25$ ), it is a simple matter to arrange for a parking light to come on automatically when the light level falls below a certain level and to switch itself off at daybreak. This obviously conserves the battery, especially during the winter (with the long nights), the time when the battery needs to be in peak condition. Such a device is especially useful when the car is used only occasionally.


Fig. 1: The circuit for both positive and negative chassis cars. Where there is a variation, +ve details are in a squared box, - ve details in an oblong box.
changes over this range, the transistor is switched from completely off to fully on, causing the bulb in the collector to light.

The purpose of the positive feedback aotion of R5 is to prevent possible oscillation and to ensure that the switching action is fast enough to prevent destruotion of the transistor which can only handle the current in fully on or fully off states.

The negative earth circuit functions in exactly the same way but the transistor type needs to be changed and the voltages reversed

## THE CIRCUIT

The circuit shown in Fig. 1 is suitable for cars with either a negative or positive chassis with appropriate modifications. The circuit makes use of an LDR (light dependent resistor) and the type 741 operational amplifier IC. The latter is an extremely useful and well protected differential amplifier which is available for as little as 34p-low enough to promote serious consideration in simple circuits such as this. The main features of the circuit are the low cost, already mentioned, and the low current drain in the standby position; in daylight the current drain is only about 2.5 mA .

The positive earth circuit functions as follows: R3 and R4 fix the non-inverting input of the IC to a potential of about -6 V . This is slightly modified by the positive feedback action of R5, but only by a fraction of a volt. VR1 is set so that at lighting-up time the potential of the inverting input, going negative with falling light levels, is just passing through -6 V . This causes the inverting input to become negative with respect to the non-inverting input, which in turn causes the output potential to change from about -10 V to about -2 V . The values of R6 and R7 are selected so that when the output


Fig. 2: Component layout on Veroboard. Note that for negative chassis cars R2 and R3 reverse notation but, as they are of the same value, no circuit changes are necessary. transistors and integrated circuits, when soldering? Use Antex low-leakage soldering irons

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| 1 T 4 | - 16 | 30 Cl 8 | - 58 | EBC33 | . 40 | EM84 | . 32 | PCL83 | . 57 | UAF43 | . 50 |
| 384 | $\cdot 26$ | 30 F 5 | . 64 | EBC41 | .54 | EM87 | -50 | PCL84 | . 84 | UBC41 | . 45 |
| $3 \nabla 4$ | -47 | 30 FLLI | -65 | EBC81 | - 30 | EY51 | -36 | PCL85 | -28 | UBF80 | . 84 |
| 5U4G | $\cdot 31$ | 30 FL 12 | - 88 | EBC90 | . 22 | FY88 | . 89 | PCL86 | . 88 | U BF89 | . 88 |
| 5V4G -Y3GT | -35 | 30 FL 14 | - 68 | EBP80 | . 32 | EY87 | -29 | PCL88 | -65 | UCC84 | . 32 |
|  | -34 | 30 Ll 1 | -29 | ERF83 | -39 | EZ40 | 48 | PCL 800 | $\cdot 75$ | UCC85 | - 85 |
| $8 / 30 \mathrm{L2}$ | - 54 | 30 L 17 | - 67 | ERF89 | -29 | E241 | . 48 | POL805 | -38 | UCF80 | -88 |
| 6ALS | -11 | 30 P 4 | . 65 | ECC89 | . 20 | E281 | +28 | PENA4 | . 70 | UCH42 UCH81 | . 88 |
| 6AM6 | -13 | 30 P 12 | -69 | ECC83 | -35 | E290 | -23 | ${ }^{\text {PEL200 }}$ | . 80 | UCL82 | -38 |
| 6AQ5 | . 22 | 30 P 19 | -65 | ECC85 | . 84 | GZ30 | .84 | ${ }^{\text {PL36 }}$ | . 49 | UCL83 | - 55 |
| 6AT6 | . 20 | $30 \mathrm{PL1}$ | . 60 | ECCs04 | .54 | GZ32 | .40 | $\mathrm{P}^{\text {P } 81}$ | .44 | UF41 | -52 |
| 6AU6 | -20 | 30 PL 13 | -89 | ECF30 | . 31 | (+234 | . 48 | PL81A | . 47 | UF89 | - 30 |
| 6BA6 | . 20 | $30 \mathrm{PL14}$ | . 85 | ECF82 | .26 | KT41 | .77 | PL82 | .31 | UL41 | . 63 |
| 6BE6 | -21 | $35 \mathrm{L6GT}$ | . 45 | ECH35 | . 55 | KT61 | -55 | PL83 | .318 | UL84 | -30 |
| $6 \mathrm{BJ6}$ | . 41 | 35 W 4 | . 25 | ECH42 | . 50 | KT66 | - 78 | PL84 | . 80 | UM84 | -22 |
| 6BW7 | -52 | 35Z4GT | . 25 | ECH81 | . 29 | LN319 | -83 | PL500 | . 63 | UY41 | $\cdot 89$ |
| $6 \mathrm{Flis}^{6}$ | -40 | 500D60 | . 88 | ECH83 | . 40 | L N329 | . 72 | PL504 | . 68 | UY85 | . 25 |
| $6 \mathrm{~F}^{2} 23$ 6 F 25 | -68 | AC/VP2 | -77 | ECH84 | .36 | LN339 | -63 | PM84 | . 33 | VP4B | .77 |
| 6F25 6.579 | . 53 | B349 B729 | . 65 | ECL80 | +35 | N78 | -87 | PX25 | . 95 | W77 | -48 |
| 6 KTG | . 12 | CCH35 | -62 | ${ }_{\text {ECL86 }}$ | . 81 | PABC80 | . 40 | PY32 | . 55 | 277 | -28 |
| 6 K 8 G | . 17 | CY31 | . 30 | EF39 | .38 | PABC80 PC86 | . 47 | PY83 | . 85 | $\mathrm{Tranginto}^{\text {ACl07 }}$ |  |
| 6Q7G | . 85 | DAF91 | -22 | EF41 | . 60 | PC88 | - 47 | PY82 | . 25 | ${ }_{\text {AC127 }}$ | -17 |
| 68N7GT | . 30 | DAF96 | - 38 | EP80 | . 23 | PC96 | . 42 | PY83 | . 26 | AD140 | - 87 |
| 6 V 6 G | - 28 | DF91 | . 16 | EF85 | - 28 | PC97 | . 36 | PY88 | - 38 | AFlis | -20 |
| 6V6GT | . 28 | DF96 | . 36 | EF86 | -30 | PC900 | . 31 | PY800 | .84 | AFl16 | -20 |
| $6 \times 4$ | -28 | DH77 | . 20 | EF89 | . 28 | PCC84 | . 29 | PY801 | - 84 | AF117 | -20 |
| 6X5GT | -28 | DK32 | . 38 | EF91 | .13 | PCC85 | . 28 | R19 | - 30 | AF125 | $\cdot 17$ |
| 10P13 12AH8 | . 68 | DK91 | . 28 | EF92 | -30 | PCC88 | . 38 | R20 | . 56 | ${ }_{\text {AF127 }}$ | $\cdot 17$ |
| 12AH8 | 2.95 | DK92 | . 50 | EF98 | -65 | PCC89 | . 45 | U25 | . 64 | OC26 | . 26 |
| 12AT7 | . 27 | DK. 96 | . 45 | EF183 | - 28 | PCC189 | . 48 | U26 | . 68 | OC44 | . 12 |
| 12AX 7 | . 22 | DL92 | . 28 | EF184 | -31 | ${ }_{\text {PCC805 }}$ | . 58 | U47 U49 | -64 | OC45 | -18 |
| 19 BGGG | . 80 | DL94 | -47 | EL33 | . 65 | PCF882 | . 88 | U59 | - 81 | 0 C 71 0 C 72 | . 18 |
| 20 F 2 | . 87 | DL96 | . 38 | EL34 | . 46 | PCF86 | . 48 | U78 | -24 | OC75 | 12 |
| 20P3 | .75 | DY86 | . 24 | EL41 | - 54 | PCF800 | - 58 | U191 | . 59 | $0 \mathrm{C81}$ | . 12 |
| 25L6GT | . 18 | DY87 | . 24 | EL84 | . 28 | PCF801 | . 28 | U193 | . 42 | OC81D | . 12 |
| 25U4GT | . 57 | DY802 | .33 | EL90 | .28 | PCF802 | . 40 | U251 | -64 | $0 \mathrm{C82}$ | - 12 |
| 30 Cl | . 28 | EABC80 | . 32 | EL500 | . 88 | PCF8806 | .58 | U329 | - 68 | ${ }_{\text {OC822 }}^{0}$ | 8 |

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## A good turn

With reference to the insertion in your CQ? Column June ' 72 you will be very pleased to know I have received a copy of the book I was looking for, "Simple Radio Circuits."

The reader who sent me this is in search of some detail concerning "Modification details of any ex-military receiver" if you could help him in this matter through your column I shall be very grateful.

The name of the writer whose request $I$ mention is Alan Salisbury, 28 Dyke Street, Brymbo, Wrexham, N. Wales LL11-5 AH.J. Wheelton (Staffs).

## Greek notes

With reference to W. D. Logan's letter in the May editorial; I wouldn't try to disappoint him, since I am too a vintage radio enthusiast and collector but I think that the early days of Radiotelegraphy were not so romantic and sentimental as he often dreams.

Until high frequency communications were developed, signals were pushed long distances by brute force. To generate the necessary power, great sparks buzzed, molten arcs sizzled, and mechanical alternators revved up madly to as high as 20,000 r.p.m. their rotators yearning to fly apart.

To make these rock-crushers work, an early operator had to be electrician, steeple jack, rigger, mechanic and oiler.

To turn on some arc transmitters he also had to be something of an acrobat. Trouble was when the arc chamber was filled with hydrocarbon gas-if there also was the right amount of air in the chamber, the gas blew up and the carbon was fired back to the operator.

Because receivers had little or no amplification, the operator had to develop sensitive hearing. According to the expression, a man had to crawl into the headphones in order to copy weak signals!

Stations ordinarily were hundreds of miles apart and sending had to be slow. A distant spark
signal, for example, sounded like a gnat sighing through a screen and the burbly signal of a far away transmitter might be weaker than the noise, the methodically taped dihs and dahs audible only through holes in the static.

So all important was an individual's adeptness that every operator struggled to avoid ending up with the tnade's own brand of punch-drunkenness, a tin ear and a glass arm.-Chris Petsikopoulos (44 Atlantos str. P. Falirom, Athens, Greece).

## CQ! G. Saunders

While reading through the C.Q. section of June Practical Wireless I came across a book wanted by a Mr. George W. Saunders with no address given. Could you please ask him to write to me if he is still looking for this book. The book I have is "Mullard", Circuits for Audio Amplifiers; reprinted June, 1966. Please ask him to write to the address below for details.-E8097840 SAC Lim Hangar 91, RAF Brize Norton, Oxford, OX8 $3 L X$.

## Cassette decks

With reference to the letters of V. S. Watts and A. R. Knight, I have a source of Philips type cassette mechanisms in about three different models. They are expensive (nominally $£ 25$ each) and if Mr . Watts and Mr. Knight or any others contact me I will endeavour to help them.-S. R. Beeching (Consortium Engineer) (Bishop Grosseteste College Lincoln).

## Egg-shapped

I have just recently invested in' a Henry's Radio catalogue, and I note that on page 274 it says at the bottom, "Note, deliveries of speakers, particularly elliptical tapes, can sometimes be difficult." Is this a new type of tape? and are these tapes supplied on elliptical reels?

I should be interested in your comments.-F. G. Jennings (Sussex).
[This appears to be a type error! -Editor]

## Bang!!

Although it is too late to enter for the competition for the most interesting find made by the $P W$ Treasure Tracer Mk I, I thought you might be interested to know that I found a bomb in my garden recently. The police think it is some kind of mortar bomb which has been fired but has not exploded. When I think how roughly I handled it compared with the way that the three policemen handled it I nearly died of fright.

The bomb is made by ICI and is about 9 inches long and has corroded terribly. It was buried about 2 inches in the ground and just to think that I walked over it many times a day. Apart from the mortar bomb and tail fin I also found a spent cartridge about three feet away from it.

If I had dropped this long cylindrical bomb I dread to think what would have have happened to me and my neighbour who was watching.-N. Moyes, (Croydon, Surrey).

## Equipment

Mrs. V. E. Whetstone has informed us that she has a large amount of radio and television equipment that belonged to her late husband. Items include Radio and Television Servicing volumes 1-8, numerous issues of Practical Wireless and Television dating back to the 1940 s, loudspeakers, oscilloscopes, valves, tubes, transformers etc. and many items of test equipment including meters. There are many line output and e.hit. transformers, resistors, capacitors, coils, valveholders and television i.f. panels. There is a sound measuring device together with time switches, turntable and many other items of useful equipment, including CME 2301 and CRM 172 television tubes to name but two.

If any readers are interested in making offers for any of these items (and Mrs. Whetstone has expressed a wish that she would like radio clubs to have some of the equipment) would they please phone 01-500-1513.

# 'Project Autumn' presentation 

AT a presentation luncheon in London recently John Thornton Lawrence was presented with the PW Designers Trophy for 1971 by Editor Norman Stevens. The winning article "A Digital Frequency Counter/Timer" was published in $P W$ from September to December 1971 and was considered by a panel of judges to be the best entry in the $P W$ "Project Autumn" competition.

John's interest in radio began at school. An apprenticeship in radio engineering at an electronics factory on the inspection side gave him a good insight into multiband short wave receivers. In 1947 he switched to the radio trade as the service manager for a company specialising in radio, sound systems, disc recording and TV. At home, he designed and built a 12in. TV set together with an oscilloscope and pulse generator to align the set before regular BBC transmissions started.

In 1953 he became GW3JGA operating mainly on Top Band and 2 metres, but in 1958 as GW3JGA/T made the first GW two way television contact, with GW3FDZ/T, at a distance of 18 miles. He was a founder member of the Flintshire Radio Society and was the RSGB's Region 11 representative for a period. In 1960 he joined the Electronic Engineering Department of the University College of North Wales where he now holds the post of Senior Scientific Officer, and incidentally, founded the UCNW Amateur Radio Society whose station GW3UCB is frequently heard in contests on all bands.
John's interest in amateur TV expanded and in 1962 he completed a sequential colour system and transmitted what are believed to be the first amateur colour TV pictures in this country. With later transistorised equipment he achieved a two way TV contact with the Isle of Man at a range of 79 miles. Among other qualifications John is a Fellow of the Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians and a member of the Royal Television Society.

The pay-off! JTL (left) gets his award from WNS.


## Practical Wireless

## Designer's Traphy

## 1972

To encourage new authors, entries for the 1972 Trophy will be restricted to readers who have not previously had an article published in PW. This leaves the field wide open for those wanting to try their hand at writing technical constructional articles. Contestants will not be in competition with well-known authors, only with other newcomers, so the cup can only be won by a new writer. It Could Be You.

## TURN YOUR CONSTRUCTIONAL PROJECT INTO CASH-AND MAYBE WIN THE CUP! RULES

1. The winning entry will be chosen by a panel of judges from among articles published in issues of PW dated September 1972 to August 1973 inclusive. The Editor's decision on all matters arising will be final.
2. The winner of the competition will receive and retain outright the PW Designer's Trophy 1972. Other prizes will be awarded to the best runners-up. Articles will be paid for shortly after publication.
3. The competition is open only to authors who have not previously had any work published in PW.
4. Articles submitted for the competition should conform to the general style of material published in PW and must describe the operation and construction of a piece of radio, audio or test equipment that has been designed and built by the author.
5. Articles should, preferably, be typed using double spacing, leaving wide margins, on one side only of each sheet. Circuit diagrams and any other drawings must be separate and numbered to agree with the text. Author's roughs must be clear enough to permit re-drawing. Components list must also be separate and laid out to the standard PW format.
6. Photographs of the equipment are desirable and should be in black and white, sharp and clear. Photographs may be identified by sticking a label on the reverse instead of writing on the back of the photograph itself.
7. Components used in the design must be readily available from retail sources.
8. Articles should be sent to the Editor, Practical Wireless, Old Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4. Authors will be advised as soon as possible of the acceptance or rejection of their articles. Equipment, the subject of an article, must not be sent to the Editor until advised to do so.
9. Employees and staff of PW are not eligible for entry to this competition.

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| EF85 | 12p | PCL83 | 12p | 604 | 10 p |
| EBF80 | 12p | PCL84 | 12p | 20PI | 20p |
| EBF89 | 12p | PL36 | 20 p | 20 P 3 | 10p |
| ECC81 | 10p | PLB1 | 17p | 20D1 | 10 p |
| ECC82 | 12p | PY81 | \% | 30 P 4 | 20p |
| ECC83 | 12p | PY33 | 17p | $30 \mathrm{F5}$ | 10p |
| ECL80 | 8 p |  | P |  | 10p |
| EF91 | 4p | PY82 | ep | 30 P 12 | 20p |
| EY86 | 20p | PL82 | ep | 30 FL 1 | 20D |
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M0st electronic enlarger times utilize the principle that a capacitor, when connected to a supply voltage by way of a series resistor, takes a certain time to reach a predetermined voltage. Some form of voltage level detector is then used to indicate when this level has been reached and then the capacitor is discharged in readiness for a further timing cycle. The voltage level detector can take various forms but nowadays most enlarger timers are designed around the unijunction transistor. These timers are reliable but they suffer from one or two disadvantages.

Due to the fact that the UJT requires a minimum amount of emitter current to trigger it, a limitation is imposed on the amount of resistance that can be used in the timing circuit. In order, then, to get a reasonably long time interval a large value capacitor has to be used and this is invariably of the electrolytic type which is not the most stable of components. The variable element is usually a potentiometer and this requires a hand-calibrated scale which is a drawback to those of us who lack that particular drawing skill! Even should we possess this skill there remains the difficulty of reading the scale in the subdued light of the darkroom. It was this last factor, more than any, which was mainly responsible for the present design.

Any time interval, within the range of the instrument, can be set on two decade switches by feel; a simple matter, akin to stopping down a lens by the feel of the click stops. Indeed the operation of the instrument has proved to be so simple that no panel marking has been considered necessary.

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The use of decade switches imposes certain restrictions upon the design of the instrument. If a high degree of accuracy is to be achieved, there must be no leakage in the timing capacitor. This rules out the use of a capacitor of the electrolytic type, although a tantalum type should be better in this respect. Since a fairly large value capacitor will still be required, a low voltage polycarbonate type seems to be indicated and in the prototype a $6.8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ component is used. This particular value was largely dictated by size and cost.

In order to obtain fairly long time intervals even
with a capacitance value of this order, the resistive component of the time constant amounts to several megohms. This, as previously stated, rules out the use of a UJT and in the present design a Schmitt trigger is employed as the voltage level detector. Since this, too, would present a low resistance load to the timing circuit an f.e.t., connected as a source follower, is interprosed between the timing circuit and the Schmitt trigger.


A rear view of the completed prototype.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The circuit diagram, Fig. 1, shows the state of the push-button switch and the relay contacts immediately before the timing cycle. The timing capacitor, Cl , is fully discharged by relay contacts RLA/1 and the gate of Trl is at zero potential. Only a small voltage appears at the source due to the self-biasing effect of the small amount of drain current which flows through the resistor chain R22, VR1, R23. As a

Fig. 1: Above is the complete circuit of the timer with the power supply circuit shown below.
consequence, $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ is off, $\operatorname{Tr} 3$ is on and $\operatorname{Tr} 4$, which is a PNP transistor, would also be on were it not for the fact that the relay contacts RLA/2 and the pushbutton switch S3 are both open. When the pushbutton switch is actuated, $\operatorname{Tr} 4$ conducts, the relay coil is energized, relay contacts RLA/2 close and the relay is held on by these contacts.

Simultaneously, relay contacts RLA/l open and allow the timing capacitor to start charging up through the series of resistors selected by the decade switches. The voltage on the gate of Trl then rises in an exponential manner and the voltage on the source follows in sympathy. When this voltage reaches a certain value, Tr2 goes into conduction and $\operatorname{Tr} 3$ switches off smartly due to the regenerative action which is a characteristic of the Schmitt trigger. $\operatorname{Tr} 4$ is also switched off and the relay falls out thus completing the timing cycle. During this timing cycle, relay contacts RLA/3 close, thus applying the mains supply voltage to the enlarger lamp.

In order that the timer should give consistent accuracy it is necessary that the supply voltage be held constant. Transistors $\operatorname{Tr} 5, \operatorname{Tr} 6, \operatorname{Tr} 7$ and their associated components form a fairly conventional stabilised power supply and the instrument is proof against mains voltage fluctuations over the range of 220 to 260 V . Although $\operatorname{Tr} 5$ (2N1507) is operating within its rating, a small TO5 heat-sink is mounted on it for added security.

## CONSTRUCTION

There is nothing critical about the layout and the constuctor is left to use his own ideas on this subject. Several prototypes have been constructed utilising various layouts and no spurious results have been encountered. The photographs show one neat layout which has become the writer's final choice. The

## Specification

## RANGE

ACCURACY
"SET-ABILITY" STABILITY

REPEAT. ABILITY

0-110 seconds, in 1 second steps, selected by two decade switches.
5 per cent of set time or better (see text).
By feel.
Unaffected by mains voltage variations between 220 and 260 V .
Of a very high order as there is no possibility of disturbing a moving scale.
circuit has been conveniently split into two portions and each part has been constructed on a small piece of Veroboard. The one above the chassis, along with the miniature mains transformer, comprises the regulated power supply. The one below the chassis accommodates all the components, with the exception of the relay, which go to make up the timer unit itself. These boards are fixed to the chassis by means of small angle brackets fabricated from short strips of light-guage aluminium.

The decade switches, push-button switch, focus switch (which by-passes the relay contacts RLA/3 during the composing and focussing procedure), mains on/off switch and pilot lamp are mounted on the front panel. The whole is housed in a Contil 755 instrument case which comes complete with non-slip plastic feet. As its type number suggests, this case has dimensions of $7 \mathrm{in} x 5 \mathrm{in} \times 5$ in and completes a very neat instrument which occupies little space. The decade switches, as shown on the circuit diagram, are single-pole 11-position types but in the final prototype 2 -pole 2 -wafer switches are used and the decade resistors are conveniently mounted between the two wafers resulting in a neat assembly.

The relay is mounted by means of its 11-pin valveholder type base. Some comment on this relay is called for. An incandescent lamp is a very non-

## * components list




A top view of the prototype enlarger timer.
linear resistor and it exhibits a relatively low resistance when it is cold. Thus, when it is switched on, there is a comparatively high "in-rush" current and the contacts of the relay should be such as to cope with this heavy load. This is the reason for specifying the particular Radiospares (now R.S. Components Ltd.) heavy duty relay. The mains transformer is also Radiospares type. Before leaving the subject of the relay, however, it might be as well to remark that its rating is quoted for some hundred million operations. This would amount to an awful lot of enlargements! A lighter duty relay could be, and has been, used successfully but it is not considered to be good engineering practice.

## SETTING UP

The accuracy of the instrument will depend upon two factors; the tolerance of the decade resistors and the care with which VR1 is adjusted. The 5 per cent tolerance resistors should be good enough for photographic purposes but if one's pocket is deep enough or if the timer is to be used for a more exacting purpose, 2 per cent or even 1 per cent resistors could be used to improve the accuracy. The writer selected the resistors from a batch of 5 per cent carbon film resistors, using a highly accurate bridge for matching purposes.

Once the construction has been completed and the wiring checked, the instrument should be switched on. VRl should be set with its slider at the end connected to $\mathrm{R} 22(8 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega)$. If it is set to its other extremity the voltage at this point may never rise high enough to switch the Schmitt trigger. With the decade switches set for 1 second (x10 at 0 and x1 at 1) the push-button should be actuated and, if all is well, the relay will close and fall out again after approximately one second.

The decade switches should then be set for a period of 30 seconds ( $x 10$ at 3 and $x 1$ at 0 ), the pushbutton should be actuated and the timing period should be measured and found to be something less than 30 seconds. If this is so, indicating correct operation, the slider of VR1 should then be moved away gradually from its end stop until a position is found where the contact closure is as near to 30 seconds as possible. Once this position has been found, the potentiometer should be left undisturbed and all the other timing periods as set on the decade switches should fall into place.


MOST readers will have seen and tried one of those games where you have to pass a small metal loop over a bent wire, trying to avoid touching it. When the two touch, a bell rings.

Our Buzz-Bar is similar in many ways but it has extra facilities which make it much more fun to use. The level of skill, unlike the simple version, can be varied so that children stand an equal chance with their elders. A lot of fun can be had from a project of this type and it makes an attractive sideshow at a fete or bazaar-especially as it is a bit out of the ordinary.

The main difference between ours and the more conventional set-up is that the "wand" (the small metal loop) can touch the bar for a limited period or number of times. This allows the shape of the wire to be bent into really weird and wonderful shapes and it can be made so that a mistake-free run is virtually impossible.

We have said a limited number of times. Each time contact is made, the electronics part of the circuit adds up the total time that the two have been touching and only causes the bell to ring when a certain level has been reached. In the prototype, using the component values shown, the total time that the two are allowed to touch can be varied from about 0.1 to 1.5 secs. This time range matches pretty closely average skills encountered by the author.

Most people, including children, can manage on the 1.5 sec setting (assuming that they try hard) but, as yet, no one has managed the shape used in the prototype on the shortest time.

The skill control is infinitely variable over the whole range, from 0.1 to 1.5 secs and this control is calibrated so you can even compete against your-
self, trying for a "best" result. On a sideshow, the control can be set to "easy" for children and to a shorter delay for adults, giving everyone a fair go. If you give a prize to anyone managing it and you find out you are giving too much away, the setting can be altered.

## The circuit

Obviously no one would want to build in this extra sophistication if the cost was high but as you can


Fig. 1: The circuit of the Buzz-Bar.
see from the circuit in Fig. 1, it is very simple. Even assuming that you have to buy all the components brand new, this should set you back no more than £1. This is of course in addition to the cost of the simple unit; the costs of this with a bell, battery and a framework may come to another $£ 1$ or so.

The bar itself is connected to the positive supply line with the "wand" connected via R1 and a variable part of VR1 to Cl.

When the wand is touching the bar, Cl charges up through R1 and VR1. When the two are apart, C1 still holds the voltage. This is the main part of the circuit and controls the operation. When the voltage across Cl reaches a certain level, it is arranged that the bell should ring.

It is vital that we take only a tiny current from
such a small current that it can be considered unimportant.

C1 must be a first class quality component, able to hold its charge properly. Electrolytics vary enormously in their leakage and a decent one must be used. All British electrolytics tried have been found to be good, something which cannot be said for many imported types.

The emitter of $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ is connected to the gate of an SCR. As the voltage builds up on C1, this also raises the voltage at the gate until the point is reached when the SCR switches on, causing the battery voltage to be applied across the bell. Two circuits are incorporated in conjunction with the SCR. It was found that the continual ringing of the bell was very annoying-especially indoors and for those

A underside view of the prototype. The various controls can be seen on the front panel. The circuit board is viewed from directly overhead. Compare this with Fig. 3.


Cl otherwise it would be discharging in between "touches." In other words we want to make sure that C1 holds its charge for a reasonably long time. For this reason we connect Cl to a high impedance stage, two emitter followers connected in series. This presents a very high impedance and draws

## components list

## Resistors

R1 $3 \cdot 3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R2 $3 \cdot 3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R3 $3 \cdot 3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
All resistors $\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W}, 5 \%$ types.
R4 $39 \Omega$
VR1 $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ lin. pot.

## Semiconductors

Tr1 BC107-see text
Tr2 BC107-see text
SCR CRS1/05 (1amp,50V)
D1 OA91

## Miscellaneous

C1 $80 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 10 \mathrm{~V}$ or similar, value is not critical; $6 \mathrm{~V}, 60 \mathrm{~mA}$ bulb; bulb holder; double pole toggle switch; battery clip; PP6 battery; planed timber; wire coat hanger; Veroboard; Aluminium chassis available from H. L. Smith Ltd, 287 Edgware Road, London W.2. Size: $6 \frac{3}{3} \times 2 \frac{3}{4} \times 1 \frac{17}{6}$, price 60 p including postage.
not actually doing the test. For this reason two indicators are used-a bulb as well as the bell; the latter can be disconnected. The bulb lights up when the "error" limit has been exceeded. If this facility is not required a resistor should still be wired in its place- $100 \Omega$ is about right. Since the bell is a make-and-break device the SCR will switch itself off as soon as the gate voltage falls, unless current is drawn all the time. Including this parallel resistor prevents premature switch off.

The diode across the bell prevents the build up of large back e.m.f. voltages which might otherwise damage the SCR.

SW1 is a double pole switch. In the off position Cl is short circuited, ensuring that when the cycle starts that it is completely discharged; this short is broken when the unit is switched on.

The transistors shown are type BC107 but pretty well any silicon NPN types are suitable. In the unit shown these were later replaced by surplus devices, so salvaging good types for other uses.

## Construction

There is nothing at all critical about the construction. In the prototype the electronic components were mounted on a small piece of Veroboard-the layout is shown in Fig. 2. No breaks are necessary in the conductor strip other than those around the mounting screw. This provides a neat and compact layout for the major components.

--TOL- Indicates break in copper strip
Fig. 2: The component layout on a small piece of Veroboard.


Fig. 3: The wiring diagram. The sides of the chassis have been bent out for clarity.

The prototype was built into an aluminium chassis available from the suppliers mentioned in the components list, but once again all sorts of arrangements may be used. Fig. 3 shows the wiring of the components not on the Veroboard; the wires to the board are marked A to E, matching up with the same letters in Fig. 2.
Two large holes are drilled in the top of the chassis to provide access to the bar itself. A piece of planed timber, $\operatorname{lin} \times$ lin, is mounted on top of the chassis by means of two wood screws which also serve to hold the Veroboard mounting bracket and a battery retainer bracket.
The bell is mounted separately and the leads to this are connected via a plug. A DIN speaker plug and socket were used in the prototype but other types will do just as well.

One other hole is needed in the chassis; to bring the wand wire outside. This hole should be protected by a rubber grommet.

## The bar

The bar itself is mounted by pushing each end through small holes drilled through the piece of timber. The holes should be quite small to make the fit tight.

Any firm wire can be used for the bar but a good source is a wire coat hanger; these are cheap and are often given away by dry cleaners. The part just below the hook, where the wires are twisted can be cut, these twisted wires will then fit nicely as a push fit into the body of a "Bic" ball-point pen


Fig. 4: Front view of the Buzz-Bar.
making a good wand. The wire should then be bent to form a tight loop.
Bands of insulating tape can be wound around the bases of both ends of the bar to prevent it ringing at the beginning and end.
Part of the fun will be bending the wire into shape. As we have said, the shape can be made virtually impossible and bends can be in three dimensions.
When someone does cause the bell to ring, the unit should be switched off. This will discharge the capacitor and allow another run to be tried. Many hours have been spent with the unit described here and although originally designed with children in mind, adults seem to monopolise it. It is only for fun but competitions and all sorts of games can be built up around it.



## 4-band receiver WITH VARIABLE SELECTIVITY

F. G.RAYER

The chassis itself consists of two $12 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. and two $8 \times 2$ in. flanged "universal chassis" members with a $12 \times 8 \mathrm{in}$. flat plate. The same screws which hold the 2 in . wide members to the plate also secure two $12 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$. and two $8 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$. flanged members on top, thus forming a complete chassis/cabinet $12 \times 8 \times$ 6in. high. The final appearance of this cabinet, with the top closed by a hinged $12 \times 8 \mathrm{in}$. plate, is quite reasonable, and is obtained with the minimum amount of work.

In the receiver shown, it was decided to cover the front with a sheet of $\frac{1}{16} \mathrm{in}$. paxolin, held in place with component fixing nuts. Sides are cut from 3-ply wood and varnished. These are $8 \mathbf{1}_{4} \times 6^{1}{ }_{2} \mathrm{in}$. to give a little overlap at top, bottom and front. The sides are held with chrome headed 4BA screws run through the holes which will be found in the flanged
members. A lid to match is also cut from plywood.
The best way to facilitate construction is first to bolt together the $12 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. and $8 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. members, placing the end flanges of the $12 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. members outside the $8 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. members. Check for squareness, put the $12 \times 8 \mathrm{in}$. plate on, and drill three holes along each 12in. edge, and two on each 8in. edge, about $1_{2}$ in. from the corners.

Drill through the chassis flanges to match, so that these can be bolted to the $12 \times 8 i n$. flat plate. Assemble the $12 \times 4$ in. and $8 \times 4$ in. members to match, put the plate on these, and drill the flanges. The whole can then be bolted together, though construction is easier if the $12 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$. back member is left off until later. In any case, drill and punch holes for the components as in Fig. 2 before assembly, and punch holes for the panel controls, as in Fig. 3.

before screwing on the $12 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. front runner.
Mark out and drill the $12 \times 4 i n$. front member before finally screwing it in place.

If an overall panel of thin paxolin or other material is to be fitted, mark it now by holding it in position and scribing through the existing holes with a sharply pointed tool. Holes will then match up correctly.

## Above the chassis

Holes are drilled near T1 and T2 so that adequately insulated leads can pass down through the chassis. Fit valve and coil holders with tags as in Fig. 3, including soldering tags under the nuts. Drilling positions for L4 and the i.f.t.s can be found by pressing paper on the pins, holding this on the chassis, and marking through with a sharp point. A central hole is necessary to allow adjustment of the cores. It is as well to put pieces of insulated sleeving on the pins.

The front is carefuly marked with the height of the ganged capacitor spindle, so that the drive can be fitted, and the spindle should line up exactly with this. Solder insulated leads to the tags of VC1, VC2 and VC3 and pass them down through holes, before bolting the capacitor in place.

There is some latitude in the choice of VC6, and a component with a maximum value between 4 pF and 10 pF is most suitable. If VC6 is too small, it may give adequate tuning near the h.f. end of a band, but not near the l.f. band end. The capacitor should be smooth and electrically silent in action. Cheap surplus capacitors in good condition may be used by removing some plates.

In a similar way, though 15 pF is shown for VC7, values of from about 10 pF to 25 pF are possible.

## Below the chassis

All connections etc. are shown in Fig. 3. Capacitors VC4 and VC5 need not be 50 pF , but values of about 25 pF to 50 pF are most suitable. VC4 is on a bracket cut from scrap metal, and operated by a ${ }_{4}{ }_{4}$ in. insulated or metal shaft and coupling.

The aerial socket is an insulated type and the adjacent terminal on the back runner is for earth.

The contact-cooled rectifier is bolted flat on the chassis side, and all burrs should be removed from the associated holes after drilling. Capacitors C22 and C23 are a double unit in Fig. 3, but separate capacitors give the same result. Tag strips are used to support various items and connections.

In general, run heater and h.t. leads against the chassis. Leads to r.f. and other circuits should be clear of the metal chassis. It is useful to employ differently coloured wires or sleeving, such as red for h.t. positive, blue for heaters, etc.

The leads to VR2 run along the side of the chassis as shown. All leads should be reasonably short and direct, especially those of grid and anode circuits, which should be well separated from each other. Leads run from the primary of the output transformer T1 to C22 positive, and pin 1 of V5. Leads from the secondary run against the chassis to the miniature output jack. The transformer is intended for a 3 ohm or similar speaker, which should be in a cabinet or fixed to a baffle board. Put extra sleeving over the primary leads of the mains transformer and bring them down to the "neutral" tag N, and to S3. Connect S3 back to the tag $L$ of the tag strip.. Run a 3 -core flexible cord from the tag strip, brown to L ,


View into top of cabinet. Compare with Fig. 2, right.
blue to $N$, and green-yellow to $E$ (metal chassis). Connect the cores correctly to a 3-pin plug fitted with a 3A fuse.

The $6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$ secondary leads pass through a hole, and are taken to MC and pin 4 of V1, Fig. 3. The h.t. leads go to MC and rectifier negative.

## Modifying IFT 1

If wished, the receiver can be tested by fitting i.f.t. 1 as supplied, omitting TC1 and the crystal, and wiring pin 4 to pin 2 on V4. However, i.f.t. has to be modified, to secure a balanced output circuit, when fitting the crystal.

Straighten the screening can tags and remove the can. 100 pF capacitors are internally fitted between pins 1 and 3 , and between pins 4 and 6 . Cut the leads of the capacitor between pins 4 and 6 , and remove it. Replace the can and bend over the tags.

The i.f.t. is fitted as in Fig. 3, and C9 and C10 (each 200 pF ) are soldered from MC to pins 4 and 6 , as shown. The receiver can be tested in this form without TCl and the crystal.

## Crystal filter

The i.f.t.s are intended for $1 \cdot 6 \mathrm{MHz}$, but have some range of adjustment, so that it is not essential that


This view may help when wiring underneath the chassis from Fig. 3, right.


A Fig. 2: Layout of components mounted on top of the chassis.
Fig. 3: All wiring is shown in this under chassis diagram.

the crystal be exactly this frequency. But to avoid the possibility that the i.f.t.'s cannot be adjusted to the crystal frequency, the latter ought if possible to be in the $1575-1625 \mathrm{kHz}$ range. In some commercial equipment, where an interfering transmission may fall around $1 \cdot 6 \mathrm{MHz}$, it is usual to fit a $1 \cdot 6 \mathrm{MHz}$ wavetrap in the aerial circuit. In the receiver described, no trouble of this kind was encountered.
Adjustments to the crystal filter are best carried out with a signal generator, or, if this is not available, by tuning in a strong, stable signal, such as a BBC transmission on medium waves.
With Sl open and TCl about half closed tune slowly through a strong signal, to locate the crystal resonance. It will probably be found thrat the response of the i.f.t.'s gives strong reception over a few degrees of the tuning scale. Near this, one side or the other, the crystal resonance point should be heard. This may be quite weak if far from the i.f.t.'s in frequency, but should be very sharp, having a peak covering only a small part of a degree on the scale.
If this peak is not found, close Sl , move all the i.f. cores a little one way, and search for it again. If it is still not found, repeat, moving the cores the other way.
When a signal can be tuned in on the crystal resonant point, adjust all the i.f.t. cores to this, using a proper core adjusting tool. This should give an enormous increase in sensitivity and signal input should be reduced, or VR1 turned back. A high resistance voltmeter may be clipped across C 14 (negative to chassis) and adjustments made to secure maximum voltage, as this is more accurate than adjusting by ear.
TCl should then be adjusted to balance stray capacitance. This is easy with a signal generator, but can be done without it.

Tune slowly through a stable transmission, carefully noting volume (or preferably the voltmeter reading). It will probably be found that there is a dip in volume one side the signal, and a less selective response the other side. Adjust TCl a little at a time, noting how this changes. When TCl is adjusted too far, the dip or notch will move to the other side of the signal, and the less selective response will appear on the opposite side of the signal to that originally. The best setting for TCl is midway between these two situations. Tuning should then be extremely sharp, while music will sound very muffled, due to sideband clipping.
This type of crystal filter can be used with a variable capacitor instead of TCl, with panel control, but this has to be completely insulated from the chassis and panel. A variable control allows the filter rejeotion notch mentioned to be moved across the pass-band of the i.f. amplifier, reducing or eliminating an interfering carrier.

With VC7 half open tune in accurately an a.m. transmission, close S2, and rotate the core of L4 until a strong heterodyne is heard. Set the core in the zero beat position and seal. Moving the core either way from this position causes a tone which rises in frequency. Rotating VC7 from the central position has the same result.
Cx is an extremely small coupling capacitance, and it may be found that the lead from R11 to pin $2, ~ V 4$, is near enough to Cll to provide this. If not, run an insulated wire from pin 5, V3, near this lead.
If the coupling of V 3 is too great, weak signals will be lost. If, on the other hand, coupling is very small,

## Resistors

R1 $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ W
R2 330ks. 1 W
R3 $100 \Omega \frac{1}{2} W$
R4 $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega \mathrm{1W}$
R5 $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega \div \mathrm{W}$
R6 $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega \mathrm{W} \mathrm{W}$
R7 $27 \mathrm{k} \Omega 1 \mathrm{~W}$

R8 $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega \underset{4}{1} \mathrm{~W}$
R9 $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega 1 \mathrm{~W}$ R10 $68 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ R11 $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega \underset{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ R12 1M $\Omega$ iW R13 470k $\Omega \underset{ }{2} W$ R14 27k ${ }^{\text {な }} \mathbf{W}$

R15 2. $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ R16 $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{3} \mathrm{~W}$
R17 180k $\Omega \frac{1}{2} W$ R181kS 1W R19 1M $\Omega \neq W$
R20 $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega 2 \mathrm{~W}$
R21 100 21 W

VR1 $25 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ pot. linear. VR2 $500 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ pot. log.
Capacitors

| C1 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$ | C13 100pF SM |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C2 | $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 150 \mathrm{~V}$ | C14 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| C3 | $0.25 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$ | C15 $0.25 \mu \mathrm{~F} 150 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| C4 | 100 pF SM | C16 200pF |
| C5 | 0.01 pF 350 V | C17 100pF |
| C6 | 18pF SM | C180.01 $\mu \mathrm{F} 150 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| C7 | 100pF SM | C19 8 $\mu \mathrm{F} 450 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| C8 | 39pF SM | C20 100 $\mu \mathrm{F} 6 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| C9 | 200pF 5\%SM | C21 100 $\mu \mathrm{F} 6 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| C10 | 200pF 5\% SM | C22 $16 \mu \mathrm{~F} 450 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 100 pF SM | C23 $16 \mu \mathrm{~F} 450 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 100pF SM | C24 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$ |

Padding capacitors: Range 2, 100pF SM: Range 3, 330pF SM: Range 4، 1000 pF SM.

VC1-2-3 $3 \times 310 \mathrm{pF}$ gang (Jackson-E type)
VC4 50pF variable (type C804)
VC5 50pF variable (type C804)
VC6 5pF variable (type C804)
VC7 15pF variable (type C804)
TC1 30pF compression trimmer

Valves
V1 6BH6
V4 EBF89
V5 12AT7
V3 6C4
Inductors
Li Miniature plug-in, valve type (Denco "Blue").
L2 Miniature plug-in, valve type (Denco "Yellow").
L3 Miniature plug-in, valve type (Denco "White").
(Frequency ranges as in text)
L4 BFO coil (Denco BFO2/1-6)
IFT1/2 IF Transformers (Denco IFT16)
Metalwork
"Universal chassis" flanged sides: $12 \times 4 i n$. (2), $12 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. (2), $8 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$. (2), $8 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. (2), panels $12 \times 8 \mathrm{in}$. (2) (Home Radio).

## Miscellaneous

T1, Valve output transformer (Home Radio TO43). T2, Mains transformer, $250 \mathrm{~V} 40 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{~V} 1.5 \mathrm{~A}$. (Home Radio TM24A). X1, crystal 1.6 MHz , type HC6U, and holder (Senator Crystals). D1, contact cooled rectifier, 250 V 50 mA . Valveholders, B7G (2, with screening cans), B9A (3). Dial and drive (Jackson 4103/A), coupling (Jackson 5610). On/off toggle switches (3). Headphone socket. Polystyrene rod and panel bush. Knobs.
s.s.b. signals, even when resolved, will sound like very much over-modulated a.m. However, VR1 allows signals to be reduced, so Cx is not critical.

When receiving s.s.b., turn VC7 one way or the other, as needed to resolve the signal. The a.f. gain (VR2) should usually be well advanced, while strong
signals have to be reduced at the demodulator diode by turning back VRl. With correct adjustment, the circuit gives very good results in s.s.b.

CW is dealt with in a similar manner, VC7 adjusting the beat-frequency note. Switch S 2 is off for a.m. reception, and VC7 is inoperative.

It will be seen that strong injection from V3 will create an a.g.c. voltage, reducing gain, but this was not found too important, using minimum coupling, as explained. This effect can if wished be overcome by switching the a.g.c. out for c.w. and s.s.b. reception.

## Band coverage

Coils are inserted in a set of three for each band, and the ranges are approximately as follows:

Range 2. $515-1545 \mathrm{kHz}$.
Range 3. $1 \cdot 67-5 \cdot 3 \mathrm{MHz}$.
Range 4. $5 \cdot 0 \cdot 15 \cdot 0 \mathrm{MHz}$.
Range 5. $11 \cdot 0 \cdot 30 \cdot 0 \mathrm{MHz}$.
Range 2 gives m.w. coverage, and may not be required. Range 3 includes the two l.f. amateur bands 80 and 160 m , and many other transmissions. Range 4 covers most general s.w. broadcasts, with Range 5 taking over for the h.f. bands.

Coverage is adjusted by closing VCl-3, and adjusting the core of L3 for the l.f. band end. To simplify adjustment, C6 is fixed, and no adjustment is made at the h.f. end of the bands. If this is required, replace C 6 by a 30 pF trimmer.


This not very inspiring view of the back of the receiver shows how the flanged "universal chassis" members are bolted together with a flat plate in between, forming the top of the chassis.

Tune in a signal near the h.f. end of the band (VCl-3 open) and peak VC4 and VC5 for best volume. Tune towards the l.f. end of the band, adjusting the cores of Ll and L 2 to give best volume. When the cores of L1 and L2 are correctly adjusted, little movement of VC4 and VC5 will be required. However, some adjustment of these controls will improve weak signals. No efficiency is lost if both VC4 and VC5 can be peaked with any set of coils, and are not then fully open or fully closed. The core adjustments are thus not too critical.

L1 and L2 are separated and partially screened by the can on V1, and by the ganged capacitor. With some aerials it may be found that VCl becomes regenerative at maximum setting of VR1 at some frequencies, and this effect can be used to boost sensitivity.

PROPAGATION over the long sea path between the UK and the northern part of South America is often good during the late summer. From midnighx until sunrise is the time to search for medium wave stations from this area and many Latin Americans can be heard, Venezuelans being particularly prominent. Listen for Radio Giradot, Maracay on 650 kHz ; Radio Rumbos, Caracas on 670 kHz ; Radio Caracas 750 kHz ; Radio Puerto la Cruz 760 kHz ; Radio Margarita, La Asuncion 1020 kHz ; Radio Zulia, Maracaibo 1080 kHz ; Radio Carupano 1110 kHz ; Ordas del Lago, Maracaibo 1120 kHz ; Radio Tiempo, Caracas 1200 kHz ; Radio Valera 1230 kHz .

Medium wave broadcasters in the Caribbean area are capable of being logged in the UK at this time of year. The most conspicuous is PJB on 800 kHz which is a 525 kW outlet of Trans World Radio, located on the island of Bonaire in the Netherlands West Indies. This station broadcasts religious programmes in English and other languages and it also relays Radio Nederland. Other English speaking transmissions to look for are from Georgetown, Guyana on 760 kHz ; Radio Belize on 834 kHz ; Radio Caribbean in St Lucia in the Windward Islands 840 kHz ; Radio Victoria, Arubia, NWI on 925 kHz ; ZDK St Johns, Antigua on 1100 kHz .

DX'ers generally find it useful to have a list of known broadcasting stations arranged in order of frequency. J. S. Smith of Enfield, Middlesex; S. F. Hannaford, Plymouth and David Cotterall, Helensburgh, Scotland have enquired about published lists of medium wave stations. "Guide to Broadcasting Stations" Butterworth Press is on sale in many bookshops at 50 p . It covers all medium wave stations in the European area and North Africa plus a number of the more powerful ones from North and South America and it should be of value to the newcomer to the band. For the serious DX'er there is the World Radio-TV Handbook published in Denmark and distributed in this country by Fountain Press. It costs $£ 2 \cdot 80$ but in addition to comprehensive lists of the medium wave stations in the different continents it contains detailed information, by country, of radio stations and broadcasting organisations in every country in the world. For the specialist there is "Broadcasting Stations of the World, Part 2" produced by the Foreign Broadcasting Information Service of the United States Government. All known stations outside the United States in the range 150 kHz to 26 MHz are listed. The current edition, can be obtained for $\$ 2$, post paid, by writing to the Superintendant of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, USA quoting catalogue number PX EX 7.9.971 Part 2.

[^5]

IN AN AGE of semiconductors, the continued and increasing use of valves may seem curious, the use of gas-filled valves even more so. The facts are that semiconductors have by no means completely conquered the electronics market; there are still useful jobs for which valves are either more suitable or considerably cheaper, and there are some jobs for which only gas-filled valves are suitable at all.

The conventional hard (meaning evacuated) valve uses a cathode, heated by a wire filament, as its source of electrons which will then travel from the cathode to any positive electrode in the valve. The current which can be drawn depends on the rate at which the cathode can emit electrons and the field which the anode can create to attract them. There is little difficulty in creating high fields, an anode at a higher voltage or placed nearer the cathode will ensure higher fields, but there is a limit to the current which can be taken from a cathode of any given area, and there is also a limit to the field strength which can be applied to the usual oxide cathode without pulling the coating off the nickel tube which supports it.

## The effect of gas

Before we can understand the effect of gas in a valve, we have to understand the way in which a gas behaves at low pressure. Gases, like other materials, are made up of atoms which are usually grouped together as molecules. Air, for example, is mainly a mixture of two gases, oxygen and nitrogen, and each of these gases consists of molecules of two atoms each. Carbon dioxide, another gas present
in air, consists of molecules containing three atoms, one of carbon and two of oxygen. The important difference which distinguishes gases from liquids and solids is that gas molecules are spaced well apart; the average spacing at normal pressure is about 300 times the diameter of the molecules, so that the molecules are fairly free to move about and exert force (noticeable as pressure) on the walls of the container. If a small amount of gas is allowed to enter a large evacuated container, the distance between the molecules increases and the gas fills the container; we say that the gas has expanded. If we compress a gas to fill a small container, the spacing between the molecules decreases; we can decrease it so much for some gases that they turn into liquids. The laws connecting the pressure and volume of a gas were discovered by Boyle some 300 years ago, but it was only in the middle of the last century that it was discovered that gases at low pressures conducted electricity.

Electricity is conducted when charged particles move in a substance. In metals, the free electrons are the charged particles, in liquids, mainly solutions of certain materials in water, conduction takes place by positive and negative particles together. These particles are termed Ions; they are charged fragments of atoms which have been split by the action of dissolving the solid in water. In gases, we have molecules moving at high speeds around 500 m per second at normal room pressure and temperature) and colliding with each other violently, but all this movement does not cause conduction because the particles are not charged. We can make charged particles of the molecules only by the violent means of splitting the molecules into atoms and the atoms into charged ions, as in the case of liquid conductors. We can do this by hitting the molecules so hard that they separate into atoms and the atoms lose one or more of the electrons which surround the central portion. We are then left with large positive ions and negative electrons. Note that these positive ions have a real independent existence, and can be collected, they must not be confused with semiconductor holes, which, though just as "real" in the sense of having measurable mass, velocity and charge, cannot be separated from the crystal lattice of the semiconductor.

## Ionisation

The splitting up, or ionisation, of the atoms of a gas can be carried out by any form of energy sufficient in size. Early workers with static electricity had noticed their capacitors rapidly discharging when they were held near a flame; the heat was producing some ions which were then attracted to the negative end of the capacitor while electrons, usually attached to atoms, arrived at the positive end. Ultra-violet light is another source of the energy needed to ionise a gas; Heinrich Hertz had noticed in his pioneer work on radio transmission and reception that a spark passed more easily between two electrodes at a given voltage if they were illuminated. The application of heat also causes ionisation; a hot ionised gas is called a "plasma" and conducts well enough to be used as a conductor at temperatures where metals would melt. Since heating a gas is simply a method of making the molecules move faster, we might expect that any method of making the molecules move faster might also cause the gas to become ionised if we apply enough energy.

If gases are so easily ionised, why do they not conduct electricity well? The answer is that ions in a gas cannot move easily to the anode or cathode, whichever is attracting them. Imagine a gas confined between two electrodes (Fig. 1) and one atom ionised. Clearly the positive ion will be attracted directly to the negative electrode and the negative ion to the


Fig. 1 : The electrodes attract the ions but other atoms hinder this movement. The shape, size and spacing of atoms can be measured to a considerable degree of accuracy.
positive electrode; the forces act in straight lines from electrode to ion. It is, however, impossible for the ions to move in straight lines without colliding with other atoms, and it is the process of making collisions which accounts for the odd behaviour of gases. If the forces acting on the ions in our example are not very great, then the ions may rebound into each other and recombine, or they may slowly make their way, with many collisions, to the electrodes. The current in the second case will be so small that only electrostatic instruments will detect it. If we increase the voltage between the electrodes, still keeping the gas at normal pressure, then the forces on the ions will be greater and so the collisions will be more violent. Eventually, as we raise the voltage, the collisions may become so violent that new ions are created on each collision. When this happens, the number of ions available to carry the current increases enormously, and the current is large. We see a spark pass when this happens. If the voltage supply is well regulated, a continuous spark will pass; if, as is usually the case, the voltage drops when the spark passes, the ions are collected by the electrodes leaving no more available until the voltage rises high enough again to start more ionisation by collision, so that sparking is intermittent.

## Reducing pressure

When we reduce the pressure of a gas, we are separating the atoms so that there are fewer collisions. Note that "fewer" still means many millions of collisions per second, even for currents of a few nanoamps. If we create a pair of ions in a gas at low pressure (about one ten thousandths of the normal atmospheric pressure) they will move very much further before colliding with atoms. Since a steady force of attraction between ion and electrode causes the ion to accelerate steadily, the ion can be travelling at a very high speed when it eventually hits another atom and it is very much more likely that it will cause the atom to ionise. If the pressure is low enough, each ion is capable of creating another ion pair at each collision, so that the number of ions
formed rises extremely rapidly. This sort of thing is called a "chain reaction" (Fig. 2) and it causes the gas to become a good conductor very rapidly. There are several important points about this chain reaction. It takes place only in a range of pressures; at high pressures the molecules are too close to allow the ions to reach a speed fast enough for ionisation by collision. Only if the voltage is made very high, about 30 kV per inch gap between the electrodes, will ionisation take place to allow sparking. If the pressure is very low it may be possible for an ion to travel, on average, all the way from one electrode to the other without hitting another particle, in which case the current is only that carried by the original ions and is very low. Only in the range of pressures between these extremes can ionisation be reliably produced with low voltages (of the order of $150-300 \mathrm{~V}$ ) but high currents.


Fig. 2: A chain reaction occurs when ions can move far enough to accelerate to h/gh speeds; when collision occurs more ions are produced.
The voltage used is also critical. Below a voltage called the "striking voltage," no ionisation takes place to a sufficient extent to cause noticeable currents because the voltage cannot give any ions which are formed enough speed to ionise other atoms by collision. The value of this striking voltage depends on the gas used, its pressure, and the materials used for the anode and cathode.

When current is flowing and the gas is already ionised, the voltage drop between anode and cathode is smaller than the striking voltage, and is called the "running voltage." Most of the voltage drop takes place near the cathode, as this is where most of the collisions take place due to electrons leaving the cathode. This region is visible because the excess ions recombine, causing light to be emitted. The value of the running voltage is also dependent on the gas used, its pressure and on the anode and cathode materials. In the running condition, the gas discharge behaves as a negative resistor, meaning


Fig. 3: A gas discharge appears around the cathode at fairly low pressures (about one millionth of atmospheric pressure). On the right is shown the characteristic for a gas tube.
that the voltage between the electrodes decreases as the current increases see Fig. 3. Contrast the behaviour of a normal resistor, where the voltage
drop increases as the current through it is increased.
Armed now with some knowledge of the complex processes which take place in a gas at low pressure, let us now see how these processes can be used.

## Gas filled rectifiers

An ideal rectifier should have a very small forward voltage drop when conducting, a very high reverse resistance, the ability to withstand high reverse voltages and the ability to pass high forward currents. For low voltages, semiconductors which answer this specification fairly well have been available for some time and have superceded the diode valves formerly used. Problems arise, however, when voltages of several kV and currents of several amps are required, as they often are in a transmitter. Connecting semiconductor rectifiers in series is not always suitable (it is difficult to ensure that the same voltage appears across each rectifier) and can be expensive when really high voltages are used. Valve rectifiers using oxide cathodes can be used up to a few kV , but the high electric field causes the oxide to peel off at higher voltages. Valves using thoriated tungsten filaments can be used, but the currents available are restricted, since these filaments are not such efficient producers of electrons as oxide cathodes. The solution, which has been used for many years, is the gas-filled rectifier.
If a rectifier contains some gas, then the electrons which are emitted cause ionisation of this gas, and a low anode-to-cathode voltage will be able to cause conduction. The resistance of the valve is very low, a combination of the resistance of the leads and the resistance of the gas, and the slope resistance is negative, as previously explained.

Since electrons are provided in large numbers by the cathode the running voltage is very low, but when the voltage reverses, electrons are no longer emitted from the cathode and the gas will ionise only if the voltage between the anode and the cathode exceeds the striking voltage. By making the pressure of the gas low enough, this striking voltage can be made almost as high as we like so that a gas rectifier can be used up to very large values of peak reverse voltage, several hundred kV . The valve-makers' problem is to make the pressure of gas constant despite the absorption of gas by the anode and the emission of other gases by the cathode. If the design of the rectifier is such that these problems are overcome, then the gas rectifier is reliable and long-lived. Note the difference between this case and that of the hard valve rectifier which has become gassy through leakage or overheating. Here there is no control of gas type or pressure, and the valve fails whell llir striking voltage is less than the back Hvere voltage. In commercially made gas rectifiers, Ha" pats's commonly used are Mercury-Vapour for Har sumallor types, and Xenon for the larger varieties.

Some precautions are needed when using gas rectifiers. When mercury vapour rectifiers are in use, the temperature of the valve must be allowed to come u1) 10 full operating temperature before high voltages are applied. This is because the mercury is in the liguids state at room temperatures and has a very low prosime at such temperature. If high voltages are applied in these conditions, there is a risk of sparking belween anode and cathode, or at least of a very high resistance discharge. Either way, the resulting dissipation can be very destructive to the cathode, and dangerous to the operator if the valve should
fracture, as mercury-vapour is poisonous. Most mercury-vapour rectifier circuits incorporate some sort of automatic delayed switching to ensure that the heaters have been on for at least one minute before the anode volts are switched on. Such a circuit is shown in Fig. 4.


Fig. 4 : A delayed switching circuit for gas filled rectiflers. The thermal relay in the heater circuit ensures that there is a delay before the h.t. is applied.

## Voltage stabilisers

Another use of gas-filled valves is bound up with the stability of the running voltage. We have said earlier that, as current through a gas-filled rectifier increases, the voltage across the valve decreases. This change of voltage with current is small, and, with suitable choice of materials for anode, cathode, and gas, can be made very small. This is the essence of a voltage stabiliser, that a voltage should be unchanged while current varies.
The circuit of Fig. 5 is a simple stabiliser. When


Fig. 5: A simple voltage stablliser clrcuit.
voltage is applied at point A and raised until it equals the striking voltage of the gas, current will flow in the valve, and the voltage at $B$ will be the running voltage. As the voltage at A is raised, the current through the resistor and the valve increases, but the voltage at B remains almost constant. If current is taken from $B$, it is taken at the expense of the current in the valve. If the current taken at B is greater than the current which was flowing in the valve, then the gas discharge will cease and the voltage at B will no longer be stabilised. The actual value of the running voltage, as said before, depends on the gas, and the materials used for anode and cathode; standard values obtainable with well-tried combinations of materials are $45 \mathrm{~V}, 70 \mathrm{~V}$, $85 \mathrm{~V}, 105 \mathrm{~V}$, and 150 V . By more careful choice of materials, the change of voltage for a given change of current can be made smaller than normal, and the change of running voltage with temperature change can also be made very small. Such carefully designed
valves are known as voltage reference valves, and can be used, not in the simple circuit of Fig. 5, but in more complex stabiliser circuits such as that of Fig. 6, where the current through the reference valve is fairly constant.

Normally, the voltage difference between striking and running is fairly large, so that a 105 V stabiliser needs about 150 V to strike, and the voltage required for striking becomes higher when the valve is in darkness. The reason for this is that light provides enough energy to cause some ionisation in the gas, and so provide the conditions for easier striking. When light is excluded, the voltage must be raised to help start ionisation off from the very few ion


Fig. 6: A complex stabilised power supply.
pairs produced solely as a result of the temperature of the gas. To avoid the difference in striking voltages with light, which can be troublesome in reference tubes, the gas in the valve is often made slightly radioactive. The ions produced by radioactive disintegration then start off the ionisation in the valve, so that the striking voltage is much less dependent on the effect of light.

## Neon lamps

Small neon lamps are commonly used as indicators of voltages greater than their striking voltage. Such lamps are used with a large resistance, in the order of $500 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, in series so that the running current is extremely low. There are, however, other uses. Since a neon is a gas-filled tube, the running voltage is fairly constant, and neons can be used as stabilisers for circuits which take low currents and for which a large degree of stabilisation is not necessary. For this purpose, neons have to be separated from the

series resistor which is built into the base of many types, or neons without a resistor purchased.

There is usually a large voltage gap between strik. ing voltage and running voltage, and this can be


Fig. 8: A random flasher circuit. R can be between $220 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $2.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ and $C$ between $0.1 \mu F$ and $1 \mu F$ (low leakage types must be used).
used in sawtooth circuits of the type in Fig. 7. Such signals are used as wide-range frequency sources, or as time delays where high accuracy is not needed. One amusing circuit based on neons is the random flasher of Fig. 8. When the supply is connected, one neon will inevitably strike before any other. The drop in voltage caused by the change from striking voltage to running voltage is communicated to all the others by the capacitors, and delays the rise of volts across all the other neons. The next neon to strike will have the effect of extinguishing the first and also of delaying the firing of the others yet again. The neons will then wink in random order as long as voltage is applied. This can be used as a decoration, but has serious uses when a large number of neons are used, as it can generate random numbers-the ERNIE principle is based on such a scheme for selecting Premium Bond winning numbers.

## TO BE CONTINUED

## CO! CQ! CO! CO! CQ!

## ISSUES WANTED

.. The issue containing detalls of the 6V car radio.-P. J. Day, 43 HIghgate Lane, Farnborough, Hants.
G...The Issue containing details of the Treasure Tracer.-C. Weaver, 30 Cherry Garden Road, Canterbury, Kent.
...The June issue containing the Electronic Ignition System-S. Bennion, 312 Warrington Road, Galzenbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.
...Jan., June, Aug. and Sept. 1970.-P. D. Willams, 52 Acacla Road, Sutherland, N.S.W. 2232, Australia.
P. M. Bontomme, 26 Green Parts 1 and 2 of Transistor Circultry for Beginners.———?
...The issue containing the Treasure Jracer.-M. A. Branford, Flat "C", The Clint,
4 Parade, Chudlelgh, South Devon.
...October and November 1971 P.W.-R. Burke, 62 Garner Road, Walthamstow, London, E.17.
...The is sues of P.W. containing the three transistor amplifler Take 20 project.P. Mieszkowsk, 25 Kingsway, Wembley, Middlesex.

June 1964 P.W.-H. Hallybone, 7 Sauncy Avenue, Harpenden, Herts.
September-December 1961 issues of P.W.-R. B. Howard, 3 St. George's Place, Maccles field, Cheshire.

July 1971.-D. C. Dick, 97 Curtis Avenue, Kings Park, Glasgow, S.4.-
July 1968 P.W.-P. J. Chapman, 90 Melody Road, Wandsworth, London, S.W. 18. ...Fault-finding chart No. 1 issued April 1968,-H. Symonds, 16 Newhaven Street, Piallea 4655, Queensland, Australia.
. April 1969 and subsequent coples of the P.W. Double-12 amplifler.-K. Stean, 101 Atherley Road, Shirley, Southampton. Hants.

The issue of P,W. containing the 7 MHz Transceiver,-P. Matiock, 60 Downes Avenue, Whitstable, Kent.
.February 1971 issue of P.W.-Mrs. M. M. Buckner, 13 Tankerton Road, Tankerto Whitstable, Kent.
... The issue containing the Treasure Tracer.-R. Birkby, 1 Gloucester Place, Haughton Road, Darlington, Co. Durham.

farads. I sometimes have nightmares about poor Messrs. Henry, Faraday, Volta and all the others, wandering around in that maze of liquorice-allsort components.

In my own shack I am faced with nothing more frightening than a typewriter, a small sheaf of completed manuscript on the right, and a whacking great pile of unsullied, virginal white paper on the left. I have only one problem: that of intelligently and successfully transferring the reams of paper from left to right via the typewriter. My husband maintains that the simple and logical solution would be to shift it straight into the wastepaper basket.

I really can't imagine why Wireless Widows let themselves get into such a situation in the first place. They don't know what they're missing. Listening to shortwave radio can be, among other things, very entertaining, but even more so is watching one's husband listening to shortwave radio.
Having finished my "scribbling" for the evening, I make the cocoa, which comes very shortly after the coffee. I hand his mug to him, then retreat to a safe distance, that is, a distance at which I can watch yet not be seen to be watching.

There he sits with the earphones on his head, and the oddest expressions darting across his face. His lips purse, his beard wiggles, his eyebrows flit up and down like a couple of frenzied pussmoths. A calm swig of cocoa erupts into an unexplained gale of choking laughter, he scribbles something on a pad and mumbles a few indistinguishable words. I say, "Yes, dear," just in case they were intended for me. When he stands up suddenly to reach for his list of call signs he unknowingly pulls the jack-plug out and has a silent fit, trying to discover what has gone wrong with his beloved B40. Finally he finds the plug dangling around his knees, thrusts it back in, and performs a magnificent impromptu Indian war-dance because, during his frantic fiddling with the controls, he turned the volume full on and now doesn't know which to do first-turn down the volume, tear the headset off, pull the jack-plug out again, or simply collapse in a twitching heap on the floor!

Oh, yes, ladies. Shortwave radio can be fun.
Then there's the "helving husband in the shack" act. Anv XYL can do this, no previous experience required.

When he has spent half an hour searching for a certain component which he "had in his hand not two minutes ago", and it's the only one of that kind that he has, and the shops are closed so he can't get another till Monday; that is the moment at which the loving, devoted and heloful XYL enters the hallowed precincts and retrieves said component from floor/tobacco tin/inside of radio chassis/shirt pocket/hip pocket/coffee mug. The XYL then places the component quietly, unobtrusively and without comment, on the bench and beats a strategic retreat.

She is also handy for testing electrolytic capacitors. to see if they are safe or not. "Just touch this, darling, and tell me what you feel." Or for holding a tinv part in a restricted space while the expert solders blindly. And heaven helv her if she is weakwilled enough to allow the "slight warmth" at her finger-tips to force her to relinquish her grip, thereby breaking the delicate joint.

Painful? I wouldn't ever want to do away with the radio shack. It keeps him quiet for hours, so what are a few burnt fingers?


# TRANSISTOR CIRCUITRY Torneginerg PART 10 H.W. HELLYER \& MICHAEL HOLLIER 

## Matching

It is no great hardship to answer letters that begin: "Thank you for your series of articles . . ." and go on to pose a query. More difficult, if only because one is obliged to clench one's teeth and answer as objectively as possible, when someone with an opinion to air uses a criticism of the previous text as an excuse to ride his own hobbyhorse. But, answered they must be, so let's begin with the pleasant task of selecting a letter from Mr. Edward Tarrant of Rochester, as representative of one body of readers, who ask questions on matching.

It has been said that audio engineers would be out of a job if their customers understood the simple rules of matching. They have been expounded before in these pages. In Part 4, for example, dealing with Buffer Amplifiers, I took some trouble to explain some of the difficulties and expound the basic "rule of ten".

To come back to our correspondent: he says that his trouble is one of adding together 'bits of circuits.' He has made up the Fig. 4 complementary pair of the 'Experimenter's Circuit Supplement' of PW January, 1972 and obtained highly satisfactory results and now wants to add the active tone control circuit, Fig. 102, Page 131 of the Mullard 'Transistor Audio and Radio Circuits', but is worried because the output impedance of the latter is only $180 \Omega$. 'Can one follow it with a common-base stage?' he asks.

Well, yes, one can-but why should we go to that trouble? Input impedances of the PW circuits are in the region of $30,000 \Omega$ and over. Just as the amplifiers we have described, and have built for this article, sport a low output and high input impedance. That, Mr.T. is the whole point. Basically, one can match a low impedance output into a high impedance input of the succeeding section of equipment without too much bother.

There are exceptions, true; no use sticking the very low $Z$ of the mains supply into the very high $Z$ of your crystal microphone socket unless you want your tape recorder to go up in smoke. But, if it is
millivolts to millivolts, i.e., small signal handling devices, then the 'rule of ten' can be invoked more often than not. This is to say that an output will safely match into an input which has an impedance of ten times or more than itself. So our $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ output wants to 'see' at least $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. And, in Mr. Tarrant's case, $180 \Omega$ is very well catered for by upwards of $30 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

It is not, repeat NOT, a matching rule that like equals like-that a $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ output has to be matched into a $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ input. If you stop and think about it, those conditions will cut the available voltage exactly in half. And, as one of the ideas behind this series was to produce those handy buffer-links that allow us to squeeze the utmost from a source that may be delivering barely enough output, then you can see what a mistake such 'exact' matching would be.
To take a practical example: loudspeaker matching. An amplifier is rated at X watts into $8 \Omega$. So it wants to 'see' an $8 \Omega$ nominal load to produce that power. But take a close look at an output circuit and you will see that its actual impedance is more like a fraction of an ohm. In fact, one of the designer's aims is to get it as low as possible to derive the greatest power and efficiency.

So to repeat: match up! And if, like Mr. Tarrant, you are 72 years old, then I salute you, and hope that I shall still be enjoying the thrills of construction when my three-score years and ten have been rung up!

## Adding stages

So, for that matter, does Mike, who has been sweating away over a tepid soldering iron, producing a direct-coupled circuit to illustrate this month's argument. He has a little farther to go to reach the Biblical milestone, but, wise beyond his years, suggests we explain at this stage what we are getting at. 'You know, I know, and perhaps the Editor may know,' he says, but the series of articles has entered its decade and we are still scratching around at fundamentals, so let's explain why!

It is possible to take someone else's evolved circuit and build around it, taking for granted the basic design work, and come up with a beautiful piece of electronic wizardry that all your friends will admire.
This is, fundamentally, what our other typical correspondent, Mr. E. F. Good, from Malvern, has complained about. In Part 7 of this series we described the Darlington Pair transistor, and gave some of the calculations from which it was derived. This, we thought, was a legitimate demonstration of the evolution of transistor circuitry, from which the beginner could see where the application of the rules we had laid down might be leading him. The insertion was a legitimate 'leader'-but Mr. Good took exception to it.
'You do let your enthusiasm carry you away,' he complained. The only place where he would be likely to use it would be as part of the triples of a power amplifier. In other positions, a pair of opposite conductivity would be more suitable and would cost only a little more. 'A manufacturer's economics are different.'
Well, of course, Mr. G., but give us credit for some insight: we are coming to the complementary pair. All in good time. This series is for the beginner, which your letter shows you not to be. Palpably, for you complain that our circuit that was intended to get the best from a crystal microphone could have been better served by a j.f.e.t.
That is true, but, I beg leave to argue, irrelevant. Until we have got the hang of simple circuitry, there is no point in progressing to more sophisticated devices. Much of the rest of this long letter, picking out points from preceding articles-in no sequential manner, either-has been dealt with in Part 9. Some wrongly captioned drawings have been explained. Some omitted references (for simplicity) have been taken up, and there is one formula in which no account was taken of $r_{0}$, because we did not at that point want to confuse beginners: we have since dealt with that subject.

Mr. Good ends his letter with the statement: -. . . instructing beginners is the most responsible job one can undertake, and should be performed with the greatest possible care.'

Agreed, Sir, so without more ado we shall go on to discuss the biasing of BC109 transistors, with particular reference to the modifications necessary in our thinking when we add two stages together.

## Coupling up

It is possible, in theory, to cascade similar circuits like erected chains of dominoes. But if we do, taking no account of voltage swings, etc., our amplifying edifice is likely to fall down. When this series was being discussed, the Editor wanted us to call it 'Building Bricks', and this example is a case in point. We must consider the composite circuit, the two transistor unit, when we add one stage to another.

Take Fig. 52. Here, we have Trl operating as a collector follower, capacitively coupled via $\mathrm{C}_{0}$ to the second transistor, Tr2, working as an emitter follower. Bias for Trl is provided by a conventional potential divider, R1 and R2.

The input signal is coupled to base of Trl by $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{in}}$. A measure of gain may be expected from this stage in its collector follower mode. The emitter resistance $\mathbf{R}_{e 1}$ is bypassed by $\mathrm{C}_{e}$ and the amplified signal at the
collector of $\operatorname{Tr} 1$ is capacitively coupled to the base of the following stage. All very good, except that, as some of our corespondents have been quick to point out, the output impedance is higher than would be desirable. So, adopting Mr. Tarrant's suggestion, almost, we use another stage between our Trl and whatever we are feeding.

This time, we are not interested so much in the gain-we've got that-but must preserve what we have got and present a low output impedance. So the second stage is operating at slightly less than unity gain in its emitter follower mode, but it does give us a low output impedance. The output voltage is developed across $\mathrm{R}_{92}$ and is coupled to the following stages via $\mathrm{C}_{\text {out }}$. The snag? The circuit, as given, is wasteful of components. It is a general rule that extra components in any circuit are extra possible sources of trouble: noise, instability, excessive current drain. So we shall proceed to whittle down the circuit.

To begin with, there is an alternative way of biasing Tr2. Readers of the previous articles will have no trouble in following the train of thought. We have already dealt with the collector follower and the emitter follower circuits. From the information given in past articles, the 'circuit' of Fig. 52 could be derived without much trouble.


Fig. 52 : Two stages already considered, a common emitter (collector follower) stage with an emitter follower stage added to it. The object being to produce a low impedance output while preserving the gain. This method of adding stages is wastefu/ of components.

Our alternative method is to remove bias resistors R3 and R4 and the coupling capacitor, $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{c}}$. We now couple direct: that is to say, the collector of the first stage is taken directly to the base of the second. The result is that the base bias for $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ can now be derived from the collector of Trl. Hence the term 'directly coupled.'

## Operating conditions

Calculating the operating conditions is a matter of logical progression, as before. We start with Tr2. We know the transistor characteristics-we have dealt with the BC109 before. We know the supply voltage and the 'rail' voltage, $\mathrm{V}_{\text {cc }}$, which we shall adjust to 8 volts by manipulation of the series resistor. $\mathbf{R}_{\text {dec }}$, through which all the current in the circuit flows, Fig. 53.

The things we do not yet know, and which we shall have to define, are the load at the output and the drive voltage at the input.
Remembering what we have said about matching already, we shall define the 'worst case' load. If we decide that the maximum r.m.s. output voltage we
require is, say, $200 \mathrm{mV}(0 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~V})$, and that the minimum impedance into which our circuit can feed is $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, we have some more guidelines to follow. Next thing we want to know is the peak voltage-remember, it is the voltage swing that gives us the operating voltages, i.e., defines our limits.
Here, we have $0.2 \mathrm{~V} \times 1.414($ Peak $=$ r.m.s. $\times \sqrt{ } 2)=$ 0.2828 V peak.

For a 300 mV r.m.s. output, we shall need $0.3 \times$ $1.414=0.4242 \mathrm{~V}$ peak, and this is the value we shall choose.
To calculate the current which will be driven into our minimum load of $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, we divide our peak voltage by the load impedance,

$$
\frac{0.4242}{5000}=\frac{4242}{50} \bumpeq 82 \mu \mathrm{~A}
$$

To allow for a safe margin, we should operate Tr2 at an emitter current of five times or more than this. A convenient emitter current to use in calculations would be $\operatorname{lmA}$.


Fig. 53: A practical direct-coupled circuit. Linearity is good and distortion very low.
Operating $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ at an emitter current of 1 mA and with an emitter voltage of 4 V (half $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{co}}$, which is 8 V ), giving us a swing of 8 V , peak-to-peak, again a good margin of safety is obtained.

Using Ohms Law, we calculate the value of $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{e} 2}$.

$$
\mathrm{R}=\frac{\mathrm{V}}{\mathrm{l}} \text { or } \frac{4 \mathrm{~V}}{1 \mathrm{~mA}}=\frac{4000}{1}=4,000 \Omega
$$

The nearest preferred value of resistor will be $3 \cdot 9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

## From the graphs

Turning now to the base conditions of Tr2. We have already said that bias is derived from the collector of $\operatorname{Trl}$ (see Fig. 53). We know that a silicon transistor such as the BCl 09 , when forward biased, will have a voltage of 0.6 V developed across the base-emitter junction. If we add this to the emitter voltage of $\operatorname{Tr} 2$, we get an expected base voltage of 4.6 V , and so can say that the collector voltage of Trl will be the same, since the two transistors are directly coupled.

To calculate the base current of Tr 2 , we need to refer to the graphs which have previously been published, remembering that $I_{b}=\frac{I_{c}}{h_{F E}}$

We know that, for a BCl 109 , the $\mathrm{h}_{\mathrm{FE}}$ (d.c. current gain) at a collector current of 1 mA is 380 . We know the collector current, and can now say:

$$
\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{b}}=\frac{1 \mathrm{~mA}}{380}=\frac{100 \mu \mathrm{~A}}{38}=2 \cdot 6 \mu \mathrm{~A}
$$

The collector current of Trl should be four or five times greater than this. To get a more satisfactory $\mathrm{h}_{\mathrm{te}}$ (a.c. current gain), we shall choose a collector current for the first transistor of $200 \mu \mathrm{~A}$. Again, plenty in hand. In comparison with the base current of $\operatorname{Tr} 2$, this collector current of Tr 1 is very large, and the effect of $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{b} 2}$ on the load of Tr can be ignored in our calculations.

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { This load, } R_{c}=\frac{V_{c c}-V_{c l},}{I_{c 1}} \text { or } \\
R_{c}=\frac{8-4 \cdot 6 \mathrm{~V}}{200(\mu \mathrm{~A})}=\frac{3 \cdot 4}{200(\mu \mathrm{~A})}=\frac{34,000}{2}=17,000 \Omega
\end{gathered}
$$

The nearest preferred value is $18 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

## Emitter voltage

Referring back to Part 9, a table was given to show the effects of a spread of emitter current, resulting from changes in $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{FE}}$ and $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{BE}}$, for alternative supply voltages. From this, we can say that to get good stability with our given circuit we need an emitter voltage somewhere around 3 V for Trl , if we use potential divider biasing, as here.

If $\operatorname{Trl}$ is to operate with an $I_{c}$ of $200 \mu \mathrm{~A}$, we know that the emitter current will only be a little less than this. We shall ignore the effect of the relatively small base current for this calculation. (This is no trick of convenience, as one accusing reader expressed it! Simply that if we wasted our time calculating to the minutest figure, the resultant resistor values would not be available. The variations due to these current differences come within the preferred value 'spread' of resistors we propose to use.)
So, if you will grant us this much dispensation, ignoring $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{bl}}$, we will calculate $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{el}}$ as

$$
\frac{V_{c 1}}{I_{c}}=\frac{3 \mathrm{~V}}{200 \mu \mathrm{~A}}=\frac{3 \times 10^{6}}{200}=15 \mathrm{k} \Omega
$$

a preferred value of resistor.

## Voltage gain

The d.c. voltage gain, $\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{v}}$, of Tr , ignoring the effect of re, the internal emitter resistance (if Mr. Good will allow us to do so!), can be calculated from the collector load resistance divided by the unbypassed emitter resistance. That is,

$$
A_{v}=\frac{18,000}{15,000}=1 \cdot 2
$$

From a knowledge of the d.c. current gain of Trl , which is operating at a collector current of $200 \mu \mathrm{~A}$, we can calculate the true base current of the transistor. $\mathrm{h}_{\mathrm{FE}}$ of a BCl 09 at a collector current of $200 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ is typically 280.

$$
\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{b} 1}=\frac{\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{c} 1}}{\mathrm{~h}_{\mathrm{FE} 1}}=\frac{200 \mu \mathrm{~A}}{280}
$$

which works out to approximately $0 \cdot 7 \mu \mathrm{~A}$.
The emitter voltage of Trl has already been
worked out: the base-emitter voltage will be 0.6 V , as explained before; we shall aim at a current through the potential divider network, R1, R2, of five times the base current of Tr .

Calculating R1, the lower resistor, this equals:

$$
\frac{V_{b 1}}{5 \times I_{b 1}}=\frac{3.6 \mathrm{v}}{3 \cdot 5 \mu \mathrm{~A}}=\frac{36 \times 10^{6}}{35}=1.03 \mathrm{M} \Omega
$$

And again, the nearest preferred value will be chosen, $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$.

The current flowing through R2 is the base current of Tr 1 as well as this base current multiplied by five, which we decided as our desirable current through the potential divider. In other words, $6 \times \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{b}}$.

$$
\text { So, } R 2=\frac{V_{c c}-V_{b 1}}{6 \times I_{b 1}}=\frac{8-3.6 \mathrm{~V}}{4.2 \mu \mathrm{~A}}
$$

again working out approximately to $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$.

## Input resistance

In this context, we refer to transistor input resistance, which, in the case of the input resistance to the base of Trl is the effective emitter resistance of the transistor plus the effect of the unbypassed resistor.

Calculating first the internal emitter resistance of Trl, we have the formula:

$$
\mathrm{re}=\frac{25}{\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{c}}(\mathrm{~mA})}=\frac{25}{0 \cdot 2}=125 \Omega
$$

$R_{\text {in }}$, ignoring R1 and R2, is equal to the effective emitter resistance plus the internal emitter resistance, multiplied by the a.c. current gain, $\left(R_{e f f}+r_{e}\right) \times$ $h_{f 0}$.

Let's backtrack. Referring to Fig. 53, we bypass $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{ei}}$ with a whacking great capacitor. Now, the stage gain is going to be determined by $\frac{R_{c}}{\text { re }}$ We can't do much about $R_{e}$ without mucking up the d.c. conditions (to quote verbatim from Mike's notes). If we want to modify the stage gain, therefore, we have to find an alternative way of doing it, and the solution is as shown in the drawing, a resistor, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}$, in series with a large value of capacitor, $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{e}}$, both across the emitter resistor, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{e} 1}$.

Now we find that $R_{f}$ cannot affect the d.c. conditions. The amount of feedback in the circuit will depend on the sum of the feedback resistor, $R_{f}$, and the internal emitter resistance of the transistor, $r_{\theta}$. We have already agreed that re is $125 \Omega$. If we make $R_{t} 82 \Omega$, the total emitter resistance (as far as a.c. is concerned) will be $82+125=207 \Omega$.

Our stage gain will be controlled by the formula:

$$
A v=\frac{\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{c}}}{\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{f}}+\mathrm{re}}=\frac{18,000}{207}=87
$$

Reverting to the point where we backtracked and putting in our value of feedback resistor for the effective emitter resistance, we get an input resistance of $\mathrm{R}_{\text {in }}=207 \times 360$ (the $\mathrm{h}_{\mathrm{fe}}$ from the curves for the $\mathrm{BC109}$ ) $=74520$.

Having got the input resistance of the transistor settled. we can calculate the input resistance of the stage, which, you may remember, is obtained from the following formula:
$\frac{1}{\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{IN}}}=\frac{1}{\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{in}}}+\frac{1}{\mathrm{R} 1}+\frac{1}{\mathrm{R} 2}=\frac{1}{74 \cdot 5 \mathrm{k} \Omega}+\frac{1}{1 \mathrm{M} \Omega}+\frac{1}{1 \mathrm{M} \Omega}=65 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$

## Gain control

We can see that the gain of the circuit is obtained by altering the feedback resistor but this also affects the input resistance. Work out a few alternatives for yourself. When you do so, one fact will strike you: that is the major controlling factor of R1 and R2. We have already seen that there are decided limits to the amount of juggling that can be done, so in the next article we shall dispense with this pair of resistors altogether and show how the bias for the base of the first transistor can be derived from a single resistor fed from another part of the circuit.

## Results

The final circuit, built up on $0 \cdot 15 \mathrm{in}$. matrix Veroboard gave us a measured gain of 90 (calculated 87), the input resistance was higher than calculated, and the output resistance when the circuit was fed from a low impedance source was approximately $522 \Omega$. The output, measured and viewed on the oscilloscope, was 300 mV .


Fig. 54: Suggested layout of Fig. 53, on a 0.15 in . matrix Veroboard.
Power supply details are as before, calculating $\mathbf{R}_{\text {dec }}$ to drop 1V from the sum of the various currents we have already considered, and decoupling with a large electrolytic to prevent the audio signals from modulating the supply. Coupling components are chosen from experience rather than calculated in exact detail. An input coupling capacitor could be $0 \cdot 2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and for an output coupling capacitor, $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ might be chosen.

## TO BE CONTINUED

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| c | 1/4W | 10\% | 4.7-103 | E12 | 1 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
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| C | 1W | $5 \%$ | 4.7.10M | E12 | $2 \cdot 5$ | 2 | 1.7 |
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| WW | 1 W | $\begin{aligned} & 10 \% \\ & +1 / 20 \Omega \end{aligned}$ | 0.22-3.9 | E12 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| WW | 3 W | $5 \%$ | $1 \Omega \cdot 10 \mathrm{~K}$ | E12 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
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250 V Pe. morintmat $01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0 \mathrm{p} 15 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 3 \mathrm{p} .0 .033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 84 \mathrm{p} .0 .1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 4 \mathrm{p}$. $0.15 \mu(0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 5 \mathrm{p}) 0.33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 61 \mathrm{~g} 0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 81 \mathrm{p} .0 .68 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 11 \mathrm{p} .1 \cdot 0 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 18 \mathrm{p} .1 \cdot 3 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 29 \mathrm{p} \cdot 22 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 24 \mathrm{~F}$ MULLARTO POLYESTER CAPACITORS C296 SERIES
$400 \mathrm{~V}: 0.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.0015 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.0022 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.0033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.0047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 24 \mathrm{p} \cdot 0.0068, \mathrm{~F}, 0-01 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.015 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, $0.022 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 8 \mathrm{p} .0 .047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 4 \mathrm{p} .0 .15 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 6 \mathrm{p} .0 .22 \mu \mathrm{~F} .7$ рр. $0.33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 11 \mathrm{p}$, $0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 18 \mathrm{p}$.
$0.015 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.002 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.033 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.047 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.068 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 3 \mathrm{p} .0 .1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 31 \mathrm{p} .0 .15 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{p}$. $62 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 5 \mathrm{p}, 0.33 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 6 \mathrm{p} \cdot 0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 71 \mathrm{p} \cdot 0.68 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 11 \mathrm{p} \cdot 1 \cdot 0 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 13 \mathrm{p}$
ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS-MULLARD C426 SERIES 6p each
$(\mu \mathbf{F} / \mathbf{V}) 10 / 2 \cdot 5,20 / 2 \cdot 5,80 / 2 \cdot 5,160 / 2 \cdot 5,320 / 2 \cdot 5,500 / 2 \cdot 5.8 / 4,32 / 4,64 / 4,125 / 4,250 / 4,400 / 4$, $6 \cdot 4 / 6 \cdot 4,25 / 6-4,50 / 6-4,100 / 6 \cdot 4,200 / 6 \cdot 4,320 / 6.4,4 / 10,16 / 10,32 / 10,64 / 10,125 / 10,200 / 10$, 2.5/16. 10/16. 20/16, 40/16, 80/16, 125/16. 1-8/25, 6.4/25, 12-5/25. 25/25, 50/25, 80/25, 1/40, $4 / 40, \dot{8} / 40,16 / 40,32 / 40,50 / 40,0 \cdot 64 / 64.2-5 / 64,5 / 64.10 / 64.20 / 64,32 / 64$.
MULLARD C437 SERIES
$100 / 40,180 / 25,250 / 16,400 / 10,640 / 6 \cdot 4,800 / 4,1000 / 2 \cdot 5,9 \mathrm{p} .100 / 64,160 / 40,250 / 25,400 / 16$, $640 / 10,1250 / 4,1000 / 6 \cdot 4,1000 / 2 \cdot 5,12 \mathrm{p} .160 / 64.250 / 40,400 / 2.5,640 / 16,2000 / 4,1000 / 10$, $\begin{array}{ll}1600 / 6 \cdot 4, & 2500 / 2 \cdot 5,15 p(250 / 64, \\ 4000 / 2.5 & 100 / 40,640 / 25,3200 / 4,1000 / 1631600 / 10,2500 / 6.4\end{array}$ 4000/2:5, 18\%
Ministure Fixed Ceramic Plate 21 p each.
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1 watt $10 \%$ carbon $\begin{array}{ll}\text { \# watt } 10 \% \text { carbion } & 1 p \text { each } \\ \text { range } & 1 \mathrm{peach}\end{array}$ range $2.7 \Omega$ to $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ type TRS triple rated $-\frac{1}{4}$, tin oxide $\times 2 \%$ SLIDE SWITCH

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Small high quality, type PR, linear onlg: $100 \mathrm{~K}, 22 \mathrm{~K}, 47 \mathrm{~K}, 100 \mathrm{~K}, 220 \mathrm{~K}, 470 \mathrm{~K}, 1 \mathrm{~K}$, $2 \mathrm{M2}, 4 \mathrm{M} 7,10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. Vertical or horizontal mounting, 5p each.

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## PART 2

THE main source of engine interference is, as we have said before, the distributor. Suppression is achieved by inserting resistance in the central high-tension lead from the coil. Modern British cars already have this fitted, often it takes the form of a resistive carbon brush for the rotor contact. No additional suppression should be fitted. In the case of older cars, and some of foreign manufacture, a suppressor should be fitted as a routine job when installing the car radio. A value of $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ is suitable which can be of the screw-in or cut-lead type, whichever is the most convenient.

## The coil

The next point to consider is the ignition coil. This can generate interference which can be suppressed by fitting a $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor. This should be of the metal-cased type, the case being secured to the car bodywork as near to the coil as possible. The capacitor lead, which must be kept as short as possible, must be connected to the low-tension lead coming from the ignition switch.

One type of capacitor-suppressor which is specially suited for this application, is the co-axial type. This is similar to the lead-through capacitors often found in television tuner-units. The metal case is clamped to the car bodywork, or better still the metal case of the coil, one connection is taken to the ignition switch-lead and the other to the coil. Thus the lowtension supply to the coil passes through the capacitor casing which thereby forms an effective barrier to interference pulses. The two capacitor leads must be kept as far apart as possible to prevent any inductive coupling to bypass the capacitor.

## Dynamo suppression

Next, comes the dynamo. Again, interference can arise from this component, and a metal-cased ordinary or co-axial capacitor suppressor of $0.5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ should be used. What has been said about earthing the case and keeping leads short applies here too. Two leads come from the dynamo, one is the fieldcoil connection and the other is the output lead. On no account should the suppressor be connected to the field terminal as actual damage could result. One method of identification as to which is which, is that the field coils carry much less current than the output lead from the armature and so is wired with much thinner wire. The suppressor then, must be wired to the thick-wire connection.

We have described the three suppression points which should be attended to as a matter of routine on every car-radio installation. In most cases it will be found that interference is down to a very low level and the installation can be considered success. fully completed. There are though the stubborn cases, and we will now see what can be done to silence these.

## Stubborn cases

It may be that you are fitting a radio in a secondhand car that previously had a radio which was removed by the previous owner. Do not assume that the three points we have described were properly suppressed, check each one. Some garage mechanics have a habit of disconnecting or removing suppressors when looking for faults. In most cases the aerial will have been left on the car and of course this will be used in the new installation. As the majority of faults are attributable to the aerial, always check it in case of persistent interference. Check that the circuit from the aerial-rod to the radio-plug is continuous with a meter or other type of circuit tester. Check that the screening goes all the way and that there is no break or badly made join. Check that there is no leakage between the aerial and screen, and that the screen is a dead short to the bodywork.


Fig. 2: Three routine suppression points for all radio installations.

Check that the part of the body that the aerial is mounted on and therefore the part that the screen is earthed to, is in fact in good electrical contact with the main bodywork. Sometimes new wings are fitted that are primed with undercoat before being bolted into place, and therefore make poor electrical contact. Lastly, check that all sections of a telescopic
aerial are in good contact with each other. Oxidiza tion sometimes prevents this and the bottom section is 'on its own' with poor, if any, contact with those above it, thus resulting in a short aerial length, poor signal pickup and degraded signal/noise ratio.
If interference persists we must look elsewhere for the trouble. Cases have been known where after the most careful and extensive suppression the trouble has remained, and the cause has been traced to a burnt and pitted rotor-arm. It is worth replacing it if in doubt. Similarly the high-tension terminals in the rotor head may be worth checking and cleaning up.
If all is in order here, the plug leads may be radiating. A set of $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistive suppressors can be fitted, one in each plug lead, as near to the distributor as possible. It may even need a second set wired close to the plugs. Some makers use resistance wire for the plug leads and if this is the case (as can be checked with the meter) no further resistance will be of much help. Actually these resistive leads are better than wired-in suppressors, because the resistance is distributed along the complete length. Special h.f. filters may prove the answer.
It is assumed that the plugs themselves are in good condition, and of course these should be replaced at the stipulated intervals in the interests of petrol economy and engine performance. Old and worn plugs can cause interference, so if yours are due for a change, try a new set before getting too involved in suppression methods.

## Other interference

Any interference that yet remains will very likely be due to causes other than the high-tension ignition circuit, if all the measures here described have been taken.

This can be ascertained by revving up the engine and then switching off the ignition. Any interference arising from the ignition circuits whether low or hightension will immediately cease. Any noise that continues as the engine slows down and stops must therefore be due to the dynamo or voltage-regulator. If it is still the ignition circuit that is giving the trouble, about the only thing left is inductive coupling between the l.t. ignition circuit and radio leads. One possibility that has been known, is coupling between the car wiring to the ignition-switch and the radio loudspeaker leads. Moving the latter may improve things, but in stubborn cases it sometimes pays to rewire the speaker with screened-cable. Some radios already have screened loudspeaker wire fitted by the makers, but often the screening is earthed to some point inside the metal case of the radio. Thus if any r.f. interference pulses are picked up by the screen they will be conducted inside the radio, and possibly affect the r.f. circuits. A worthwhile move is to disconnect the internal earth and to earth the screening to some external point on the case.

If in fact, the engine rev test eliminates the ignition circuits, we can absolve the dynamo if it is properly suppressed as we have described. This leaves the voltage regulator. It is usually easy to tell if interference is coming from this source because the sound has quite a distinctive character. It has what can best be described as a chattering sound, and it .seems to affect the long-waves more than the medium waves.

Suppression will usually be effected by the connec-


Fig. 3: All possible suppression points. Rarely necessary except in stubborn cases or FM radios.
tion of a $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor to the regulator terminal that goes to the battery. Do not connect it to the one that goes to the dynamo field coil.
If the main engine interference has been suppressed, as indeed it should be after the measures we have described, there may be a residual noise, especially with installations that have the aerial mounted at the front of the car. We have seen that this is more probable than those with rear mounted aerials, but in some cases the level may be higher than it should be. One possible reason for this is that the bonnet is not earthed electrically to the rest of the car. Thus its shielding effect is poor and the aerial is exposed to direct radiation from the engine. A couple of jumpers of copper braiding should be connected across the hinges to provide a low-resistance earth-path.
There are other causes of radio interference besides the engine and its necessary subsidiaries. A common one is the ticking of the electric-clock and the whine of windscreen-wipers. Fortunately, the cause is self-evident, and all that needs to be done is to fit a suppressor to the offending item. A metalcased $0 \cdot 5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ should suffice as long as it is fitted as close to the accessory as possible with the shortest leads to it and to earth.
There is one final source of interference which has nothing to do with the car's electrical system, and this is static. It is easily identified because it is not present when the car is stationary, even though the engine is running, and it is present when the car is coasting with the engine switched off.

Although thus easy to recognise, it is not so easy to find the precise cause and effect a cure. It is generated by some part that is in poor electrical contact with the rest of the bodywork, and the problem is to find out which one. A common cause is the tyres; friction builds up an appreciable charge which then leaks through various paths producing the interference.
One possible cure, is the dangling-chain which a


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$1 / 850 \mathrm{~F}$ \&.. \& 14 \& $500 / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ \& $\cdots$ <br>
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$1 / 850 \mathrm{~F}$ \& 14p \& $500 / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ \&.. \& 80 p
\end{tabular} $8 / 4507 .$.

$10 / 440 V^{\circ}$ $2 / 450 \mathrm{~V} 20$ $\begin{array}{lllll}15 / 25 V & 8+8 / 450 \mathrm{~F} & 150 \\ 8+16 / 450 \mathrm{~V} & 20 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$ | $60 / 00 \%$ |  |  |  |
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10 ohma to $100 \mathrm{~K}, 10 \mathrm{p}$ oach; $2 \ddagger$ watt, 1 ohm to 8.8 ohm 10 p

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few years ago was widely used to prevent travel sickness. It discharges to ground any static that may be built up by the tyres or by the movement of the car body. This can be quite effective in the latter case but not so much in the former because of the rather long path from tyres to the chain. The most effective cure for tyre static is to provide a conductive path from the tyre tread to the car body. Painting the inside wall of the tyres with a conductive paint such as lead paint, or a rubber conductive paint, should do the trick. It is not necessary to paint the whole of the wall, several wide strips will do, providing they are taken from the wheel rims to the tread

It may be that the wheels themselves are not in good contact with the body due to the wheel bearings. Packing them with graphite grease should make them conductive. Alternatively, special springs that are made for the purpose can be fitted inside the hubcaps. These form a bridge between hub-cap and axle.

In the case of the rear wheels it could be found that the back axle is not in electrical contact with the body, and if this is so it will be necessary to fit a copper-braid jumper from axle to body; the top bolts of the differential housing should prove a convenient anchoring point.

Other parts of the body or engine components can cause static through poor earthing, although it is usually the larger parts. Exhaust systems are a possibility and also the steering column.

From all this it may well be assumed that installing a car radio and suppressing all interference is a major job and one that is not to be lightly undertaken. This is not actually so, rarely will all the measures here described be found necessary, in the majority of cases the three routine suppressors we have before described will be sufficient. However, the stubborn ones do sometimes crop up, and it is hoped that in such an eventuality these tips will prove helpful.

It should be noted though, that f.m. car radios are more troublesome in the matter of car interference than a.m. All the suppression measures here described, except for static, should be carried out as routine when installing one. In addition to these an extra $0 \cdot 5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ suppressor should be connected to the voltage-regulator, this time to the D terminal, and also a special non-capacitive suppressor to the F or DF terminals. As stated before, an ordinary capacitive suppressor must not be connected to the fieldcoil circuit.
The resistive suppressors used for plug suppression will probably not be sufficient, and special h.f. filters machave fo be used iprstead

TUTI 7 UT:
保 $\longrightarrow$


TOA BAND CONVERTER. August 1972
Figure 1. Pin 8 on L2 should be connected to chassis and not to the junction of C2/C3. The wiring in Fig. 2 should be amended accordingly.

TAKE 20. August 1072
NA is-given as $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ in the circuit and $10 k \Omega$ in the components list. Either will work but the circuit is corrdct and in preference VR1 should be $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

S. GINSBERG

ONE of the problems (in certain applications) of using a standard typewriter keyboard to put characters or letters into a computer, is that you are stuck with exactly those characters. Thus a capital letter $A$ is always exactly the same shape, thickness, height etc. It will be the same no matter who presses the key. It would be very useful if one could write, just as with an "ordinary" pen, and have the resultant "shapes" stored. These could be called up onto a visual display unit (v.d.u.) at will and could be transmitted to remote v.d.u.'s at another location. No longer would we be restricted to characters and numbers, and we could, if we wished, send a circuit diagram. It would be possible to send a signature which could be checked and verified by, say, a bank or security personnel.

Well, it can be done. As far as the "sender" is concerned he/she merely writes on a special tablet with an electronic pen. The method has : devcloped by the Siemens laboratoi ies in Municn. Any handwritten marks may be displayed immediately on a large cathode ray tube or stored in the computer, or transmitted to another computer or v.d.u.

The special writing tablet is a sheet of piezoceramic material. Ultrasonic pulses at about 500 Hz are applied to two edges of the plate which are at right angles to each other. The result is that a wave front is generated from each of the two edges. These fronts travel across the plate but remain parallel to their edge of origin.

The pen doesn't write by pressure. It acts as a capacitive probe which reacts with these voltage fronts travelling across the piezoceramic at constant speed. Electronic circuitry interprets the pen's position in relation to the $x$-y axis formed by the wave fronts. The position of the pen is converted into signals used for the v.d.u. and computer.

Lasers are back in the news again. RCA has built a laser beam image reproducer. It is reckoned to produce film copies of TV pictures with a sharpness improvement of some forty times. The system has a line resolution of something like 20,000 lines. This is a considerable improvement over earlier RCA systems which had resolutions of 6,000 lines.

The other laser story comes from the Mecca of electronic innovation-Bell Laboratories in the U.S. Here, miniature gas lasers have been made which are only two inches long and $0 \cdot 02 \mathrm{in}$. in diameter. Operating at 6328 Angstroms, the first successful model employed helium-neon discharge. Using glass capillary tubing with a $430 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ bore, gains of $2 \cdot 7 \mathrm{dBm}$ were obtained.

## JULIAN ANDERSON

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

THERE is nothing much wrong with crystal microphones that a decent preamp will not cure. They are not as good as decent moving coil or ribbon types but it needs a discerning listener to notice the difference with one proviso: that the mike is properly matched to a high impedance source. Crystal microphones have got a bad name mostly because they are more often than not fed directly into a simple transistor amplifier with an input impedance of perhaps $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ providing a very bad mismatch. To get the best out of these inexpensive mikes, they must be connected to a really high impedance-at least half a megohm.
Figure 1 shows the circuit which comprises two sections. Trl and the associated components give the high input impedance as they are connected as a common-collector (or emitter-follower) stage. The input impedance to such a stage is roughly equal to the emitter resistor multiplied by the gain of the transistor and so we shall find that the input impedance is about $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ which will provide a very decent match to the crystal. Since we are dealing in high impedances we only require a low value coupling capacitor to d.c. block the input, in the circuit this is Cl , a $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor. The base bias for this stage is provided by R 1 .

The output of this stage will show no voltage amplification, in fact as far as voltage is concerned the output will be marginally less than the input. The transistor has used up its gain in converting the impedance, not in amplifying the signal in the conventional sense. The output from a crystal mike will vary with the type but for our purposes we shall take it as being lmV. So we shall still be get ting only a small output across the emitter resistor R2. To bring this up to a usable level to feed an amplifier we have to amplify the signal further. C2 d.c. blocks the output from Tr and this feeds to a series resistor. The function of this resistor is fairly complex but if it is omitted the signal will become distorted, the value is not critical but it will be found to lie around the level of that shown, $3 \cdot 3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

This resistor connects directly to the base of the conventional common-emitter amplifier Tr2 which, like Tr , is a BCl09. If this has a gain of 300 the output will be about 300 mV , enough to drive pretty well any transistor amplifier. R4 provides the base bias and R5 acts as the collector load and the output is taken from the collector via the capacitor C3. C4 decouples the supply line. The version shown is for a negative earth type circuit but, if it is needed for a positive earth amplifier, all that is necessary is to change the transistors to 2N3702 types and reverse the polarity of the electrolytics. The gain may be slightly less but it should still be more than adequate.

As the input is a high impedance it is important that the input is screened. Crystal microphones are usually provided with a screened wire lead, the

No. 40 CRYSTAL MIKE PREAMP


Fig. 1: The circuit of the crystal mike preamp.

## * components list

| R1 | $180 \mathrm{k} \Omega \mathrm{5} \%$, tW | $\times 1 p$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R2 | 3.3kת $5 \%$ tW | 1 p |
| R3 | 3.3k $5 \%$, W W | ${ }^{1 p}$ |
| R4 | 470kת 5\% , ${ }^{\text {W }}$ | ${ }^{1 p}$ |
| R5 | $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega 5 \%$ t W | 1 p |
| C1 | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ mylar or ceramic | 4 p |
| C2 | $5 \mu \mathrm{~F} 10 \mathrm{~V}$ minimum | 4 p |
| ${ }^{\text {c3 }}$ | $5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 10V minimum | 4 p |
| C4 | $50 \mu \mathrm{~F} 10 \mathrm{~V}$ minimum | 4 p |
| Tr1 | BC109 | 10 p |
| SW1 | ${ }^{\text {BC109 }}$ - | 10p |
|  | On-off switch | 7 p |
|  |  | 48p |
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Fig. 2: A suggested component layout.
screening itself should go to the negative line (or positive line if that version is built). The output impedance is about $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and although this is much lower than the input, a screened wire should still be used between it and the amplifier if it is more than a few inches long.

A suggested layout on a small piece of Veroboard is shown in Fig. 2 but building the circuit up on tagboard is just as good.

## 

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8N7422
$8 N 7422$
SN7423
SN7425
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { SN7427 } \\ \text { SN7428 } & 0 \\ \text { SN7430 }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll} & 0.50 & 0.45 & 0.45 \\ \text { SN7430 } & 0.20 & 0.18 & 0.16\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll} & 0.42 & 0.39 & 0.35 \\ \text { BN7433 } & 0.70 & 0.61 & 0.44 \\ \text { BN7437 } & 0.85 & 0.60 & 0.50\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllll} & 0.85 & 0.60 & 0.50 & 8 \\ \text { SN7438 } & 0.85 & 0.60 & 0.50 & 8 \\ \text { SN7440 } & \text { O. } 20 & 0.18 & 0.16\end{array}$

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| AAZ13 | 100 | BC182 | 10 D | BY126 150 | 0 C 57 | 50 p | ZTX10 | 12p | 2N3442 | 21.25 |
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| AC128 | 25 p | BCY 39 | 1.00 | GET111 55D | $0 \mathrm{C81}$ | 25p | ZTX 341 | 20p | 2N3702 |  |
| ACl76 | 250 | RCY 42 | 30p | GET115 55p | $0 \mathrm{C83}$ | 25p | ZTX500 | 15p | 2N3704 | 4 10p |
| AC187 | 250 | BCY43 | 25p | GET880 45p | OC140 | 55p | ZTX503 | 17p | 2N3705 | 10p |
| AC188 | 25p | BCY55 | 250 | LM309K | OC170 | 25p | 2 G 301 | 30p | 2N3714 | 4180 |
| ACY 17 | 80 刀 | BCY 70 | 150 | (T03) 1.87 | 0 Cl 17 | 30 D | 2 N 404 | 20p | 2N3771 | 1176 |
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| AF117 | 20p | BF115 |  | 75p | P346. | 20p | 2N1132 | 25p | 2N4061 | 12p |
| AF118 | 50 p | BF167 | 5 | MPF105 40p | R AS310 | AF | 2N1302 | 18p | 2N4062 | 12p |
| AF124 | 25p | BF173 | 25p | NKT214 20p |  | 45p | 2N1304 | 22p | 2N4126 | 15p |
| AF139 | 30p | BF179 | 30p | NKT21640p | RA8508 |  | 2N 1305 | 22p | 2N4871 | 35p |
| AF186 | 40 p | BF180 | 30p | NKT 21740 p |  | 55p | 2N1307 | 25p | 2N5457 | 30D |
| AF230 | 40D | BF194 | 15p | NKT403 70p | TAA263 | 75p | 2N1308 | 25p | 2N5\%77 | 55p |
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| RC107 | 10 p | BFY50 | 20 D | OC16 75p | TIP34A |  |  | 25p | 40250 | 50 D |
| BCl08 | 100 | BFY51 | 20 p | OC20 95p |  | 1.50 | 2N2369A |  | 40360 | 40p |
| BC109 | 10p | BFY5 2 | 20 D | $00^{0} 23$ 80 | TIP35A |  |  | 15p | 40361 | 40p |
| BC109C | 18p | BFY64 | 50p | 0 O 25 400 |  | $2 \cdot 50$ | 2N2906 | 20p | 40362 | 50p |
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MONTHLY

## NEWS FOR DX LISTENERS

ONE of the many problems faced by the newcomer to the hobby of Shortwave Listening is the bewildering number of abbreviations which are used by more experienced listeners. Contrary to rumour these abbreviations are not used solely to confuse the uninitiated. Every branch of science and technology has its own set of abbreviations and jargon and Shortwave Listening is no exception to this.

To assist the uninitiated I will explain the meanings of some of the more common abbreviations which may be used on this page from time to time.

## anncr Announcer.

Ant Antenna, aerial
BC Broadcast or Broadcasting.
condx Conditions (propagation).
DX Long distance reception.
GMT Greenwich Mean Time. -
hrd heard
$\mathrm{Hz} \quad \mathrm{Hertz}$, measurement of frequency equiva-
lent to one cycle per second.
ID, Ident Identification.
IRC International Reply Coupon, sent to help a station with return postage.
$\mathrm{kHz} \quad 1,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$.
LA Latin American.
$\mathrm{MHz} \quad 1,000,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$.
Mx Music. -
NA North America.
Nx News.
QSL Card sent by a station verifying reception.
rcvd Received.
Rx Receiver.
SA South America.
Sce Service (Home Sce., Overseas Sce., etc.).
Sched Schedule.-
s/off Sign off.-
s/on Sign on. -
SW Shortwave.
SWL Shortwave Listener. -
TNX Thanks.
Tx Transmitter. -
Wrp Weather report.
Wx Weather.
Xmsn Transmicsion.
Xtal Crystal.
// Parallel transmission.

## THE BROADCAST BANDS Malcolm Connah

 Frequencies in kHz - Times in GMT Stations:| kHz. | m. | kHz. | m. |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9690 | $30 \cdot 96$ | 15335 | $19 \cdot 56$ |
| 11620 | $25 \cdot 82$ | 15520 | $19 \cdot 32$ |
| 11650 | $25 \cdot 75$ | 17925 | $16 \cdot 74$ |

Programmes in English (Overseas Service):<br>0230 - 0300 GMT on 9690 and 15520 kHz .<br>$1230 \cdot 1300$ GMT on 11620 and 17925 kHz . 1715 - 1800 GMT on 11650 kHz .<br>Listeners' Letterbox: Saturday at 1230, Sunday at 1715, Wednesday at 1230 and 1715.

Adrian also sent in the following $\log$ using his VEF 204 receiver:
7210 ICRC, Geneva via SBC at 1705.
9745 R. Baghdad, Iraq, s/on at 1930.
11650 R. Bangladesh at 1740.
11930 VOA, Okinawa, s/on at 2200.
11955 FEBA, Seychelles at 1730.
15335 R. Bangladesh in Bengali at 1430.
15520 R. Pakistan at 2050.
17705 VOA Monrovia, s/off at 0830.
Ian Howes of Lowestoft has used his R209 Mk. Il receiver and TV antenna to log the following stations:
3265 R.TV Congolaise, local Mx. at 2015.
3380 Malawi BC, local language at 2020.
4800 R. Lara, Venezuela, Spanish at 2345.
4880 Kinshasa, Congo local Mx. at 2315.
4940 Abidjan, Ivory Coast, local Mx. at 2320.
15245 R. Australia, ID in English at 2100.
15300 HCJB, Quito, Ecuador at 2030.
15345 TWR, Bonaire in Spanish at 2328.
R. Cooper of Foulden, near Thetford used his Philips 6 valve domestic recevier and a Bush 4 valve domestic to log the following stations:
11750 HCJB, Quito, Ecuador, English at 0830.
11915 BBC, Cyprus relay in English at 1645.
15020 R. Hanoi with Nx. in French at 1830.
15620 WINB, Red Lion at 2120.
15795 R. Nacional, Brazil, Mx. at 2010.
21500 RSA, South Africa, Nx. in English at 1000.
Richard Witney of Braintree is only 14 years old and is to be congratulated for sending in the following log:
6185 Radio Norway, Oslo at 1825.
7135 TWR, Monte Carlo at 1930.
9625 Radio Sweden in English at 1100.
9915 AIR, Delhi in English at 2100.
11725 Radio Bucharest, Rumania at 1515.
11910 Bangkok, Thailand at 1150.

Reports should arrive by the 15 th of the month and be addressed to me at 5 Ranelagh Gärdens, Cranbrook, Ilford, Essex.

Adrian R. Pell has compiled the schedule of Radio Bangladesh which reads as follows:-

Address: Broadcasting House, 20 Green Road, Dacca.


# THE AMATEUR BANDS David Gibson, G3JDG 

## Frequencies in kHz - Times in GMT

NOT a very good month for listening between 1.8 and 30 MHz , especially up the h.f. end. It seems that the summer evenings haven't lost their knack of making 20 metres the main dx band and logs indicate that most s.w.l's. appreciated this fact.

David Knott (Middlesborough) enquires about DD3FK. Anyone know if DD works wonders in any other country?

Hands up if you live anywhere near Newtown in Montgomeryshire. Now hands down and get a pen! Seems that there's a newly-formed Amateur Radio Club which welcomes prospective members. All queries to: R. Litten, 512 Maesyrhandir, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

Hot tip from Ian Hotchkiss (Hatfield) that there is an interesting net on Sundays on about 14300 kHz (his dial not very accurate) at 1600 hrs. How's about a quick QRX next Sunday?

Sam Elsdon (Halesowen) has been doing strange things with a $500 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ meter, diode and l.s. output terminals. (Never mind, the wounds will soon heal). Sam describes his antenna as " 310 ft . wire arranged in a sort of tapered square spiral in the loft". He asks, "Is there a name for that?" Well is there? Anyone care to suggest something? Gear, besides the above mentioned "thing" in the loft is, a CR70A and PR40. The $21 \mathrm{MHz} \log$ for s.s.b. reads: CR3MD, CT1EAL, CT2AZ, F6VAA, FL8MM, JA1LCG, JW7FD, LU5AJ, OD5BA, PY2BC, PY7BF, TN8AU, VP8MM, W7GRH, YV4AGP, 4X4NX, 6W8AL, 9Q5DF.

Big round of applause for Stephen Worral (Stafford). He dared to listen on four metres. Two receivers are in use (anyone tried ham stereo transmissions yet?)-a B44 and FR-DX-400, the latter covering all amateur bands from 160 to 2 metres inclusive. (Cor! Think of winding the front-end coils by hand). Antenna for 70 MHz is a four-over-four in the loft. Signals on 4 metres heard from G2FOS, G3LR, G3OJ, G3ANH, G3AOO, G3CDM/P, G3FBW/P, G3JFO, G3JHM/A, G3JUB, G3JXN, G3KSU/P, G3KTH/P, G3LUP/P, G3MWQ, G3NAS, G3NEO, G3OCC, G30HC, G3OHH, G3OQT, G3OWW, G3PXP, G3RCQ/P, G3TQF, G3TVW, G3UGN, G3VPF/P, G3VPS/P, G3WCS, G3WXI, G3YBY, G4AGO, G4ALE, G4AYU, G5DF, GI3GLT, GW3ABR/P, GW3ITZ/P, GW3NWR/P, GW30XD/P, GW3UCB/P, GW3XFY/M So who says there's nothing on 4 metres?

Up (or should that be down?) on 14MHz, Steve's log reads: CP1KRT, HP9AHD, JA1AEA, JA1AGH, JA3BQF, JA6LAE, KP9AID, KR6DO, 44 VK stations (Wow!), VQ9R, XT2AF, ZL1AFO, ZL1BER, ZL1BHB, all s.s.b. with the same gear except antenna; 75ft. end fed at 20 ft .

Alan Smith (Nelson) says he will continue to burn the midnight oil. Also committed to this awful pledge is a 680 X and a 100 ft . length of wire in the loft. Late night oil burnings to date raised 20 metre smoke signals from: CN8HD, CR4BS, CT1QN, EA3JE, EA6BH, EL2CB, EP2TW, HK4BNC, HK5AZA, HP9JW, IT9SPI, JA6GBB, JX2HK, JY9VO, KZ5SD,

PY8ZAA, PZ1DR, VE1YW, VK2AVA, VK3BCM, VK4SD, VP1BH, YS1MAX, YV5AK, ZD3M, 4X4VB, 5B4CDN, 5W1AU, 6Y5SR, 9K2AL, 9X5VA, 9Y4T. A quick singe on 15 metres brought in: AP2DU, EA7GF, JA6WAS, JH1DBU, JH1LZW, KV4FY, K9QFR, OD5CS, SV0WZ, SV0WP, VQ9R, VQ9MC, W9MEL, ZD8FM, ZB2A, ZD3M, 4X4BL, 9K2AL, 9X5VA all s.s.b.

Roger Hunt lives in a road I can't pronounce in Carmarthen. Listening utensil is a CR70A plus PR30. Antenna is a l90ft. long wire, end fed. Happenings on 28 MHz include: CR6OZ, PY2DVM, ZS6UR, 9J2DT, 9Q5SF. Down on the dreaded forty, where brave receivers cringe, signals were logged from: PY7BBD, PY8YT, TR8VE, ZD8TS, 4U1ITU, 5Z4LW, 9G1DY. I wouldn't mind living in a road I couldn't pronounce just to hear things like that on 7 MHz .

A self-confessed agent of Charles Molloy has written in! (Gad, these Medium wave devils are everywhere!) Gorgeous gear includes a FR-DX-400 with an 80 metre inverted V (wot, no dx loop wound on broom handles?). Said agent has purged his soul by listening on $3 \cdot 5 \mathrm{MHz}$ to: CP1DN, CP6FG, CR4BS, CX2AX, KP4AST, KP4AN, KV4FZ, OY7JO, OY9LV, PY1HA, PY2ERS, PY3ABH, PY5CDZ, PY6SL, PY7BFN, VE1WV, VE2AL, VE3PT, VOICQ, ZD8CS, ZD8RR, ZL4KF, 4X4UF, 3A2EE, 5R8AZ. Even 7MHz produced: ZL4KF, VK2AVA, YN9MQ and 9Q5BG. On two metres using a 6 -ele homebrew and the same receiver: G4ART, G8AVH/P, G4BBH, G4BEL, G8BXX, G8CGG, G8CKC, G8DYX, G8FAB, G3ZVC. Name of the convert is W. Waldron (Cwmbran). Welcome home, brother Bill.
Alan Harper (Manchester) has a VEF204 receiver (I thought it was a new prefix for Rockall). Being b.f.o.-less, he uses a second receiver to get a beat note. Careful adjustment gave readable s.s.b. signals from CR6EM, EA5KR, HClJB, HPlGS, KV4AD, PY2FCD, W8GL, ZF1WE, 4X4HT, 5N2ABG, 8P6DV, 9H1CV.
Ian Leslie (Mold) says that there are probably better logs about than his. Well, how does the one you didn't send in compare? Gear is an R107 and an end fed of unspecified length which bagged: CO2FA, CT1ZE, EA5IW, EP2MJ, JA2PJC, JX2AK, KV4AV, KZ5NG, M1B, OD5FA, PY4BSX, PY8BX, PZ1AX, TI2GI, VE0NEC/MM, VE1KG, VE2ACP, VE6BB, VK2SG, VK5SV, VK6FP, VK7TR, VK9KA, WA1NGK/ P/TF, YN1FI, YN1RSJ, YV1OJ, ZD3D, ZD7CE, ZP5KA, ZD3HT, 4S7AB, 4U1ITU, 4X4HT, 5Z4GG.

August is one of the busiest months in amateur radio. Six mobile rallies and three contests with another two early in September. Contests are: August 5-6, WAE c.w.; 12, 4 metre contest (worth a listen); 20, two metre s.s.b. contest; September 2-3, v.h.f. NFD; 2-3, IARU v.h.f. event; 3, qualifying round of the DF contest at Rugby.

Logs, in alphabetical order please, to arrive by the 15th of the month to:
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## FULL WAVE POWER CONTROL CIRCUIT L. MacNAMARA

ANUMBER of designs have been featured in past issues of Practical Wireless illustrating how s.c.r's (silicon controlled rectifiers) may be used to control such things as the speed of an electric motor and, although these devices worked perfectly well for their intended use, their versatility was limited when applied to light dimming control. In this particular application the s.c.r. has an obvious drawback in that it conducts only on one half cycle of the mains a.c. and the resulting 25 Hz frequency appears as a flickering on the bulb, especially when run at low intensities. The obvious method to overcome this difficulty is to use a related device, the TRIAC, which conducts in both directions and the present article illustrates how a very simple and inexpensive power control unit may be assembled from a mere handful of components.


Fig. 1: Full wave power control circult using a minimum of components.

At the heart of the unit is a G.E. D45D TRIAC (SC40D) which can effectively handle up to 6A at 240 V . Basically it can be considered as consisting of two SCR's connected in inverse parallel either of


Fig. 2 : The same circuit with r.f. suppression. 14 must be capable of handlling 5A.
which can be triggered by a pulse applied at the gate. If the time at which this pulse is applied can be varied complete control of the power entering the TRIAC can be effected and this can be realised by a simple resistance/capacity variable phase shift network. An ST2 DIAC, which conducts when the voltage across it reaches about 20 V of either polarity, acts as the trigger link between the TRIAC and the phase shift circuit. Fig. 1 shows how such a circuit can be designed using a minimum of components. However due to the sudden switching of the TRIAC from the "off" to the "on" state r.f. interference is produced and this can be a nuisance if the device is operated in the vicinity of radio or TV set. A simple inductance/capacity circuit was therefore incorporated to reduce the interference to a minimum and the prototype was constructed along the lines of Fig. 2. The complete unit was mounted in a plastic box with an ordinary 13A 3-pin socket attached. In addition a 5A fuse was incorporated in the plug to prevent the TRIAC being damaged should excessive current be drawn.

## 'SCOPE TRIGGER UNIT

## P. ROUSE

MANY government surplus oscilloscopes are of extremely high quality and well worth preserving, but sometimes they require an external trigger signal to produce a visible time base. The unit described below produces such a signal and also synchronises the oscilloscope input waveforms to the timebase frequency thus providing a very stable display for accurate measurements. It consists
of an astable multivibrator or square wave generator which is coupled to the trigger input on the oscilloscope by a small step-up pulse transformer. The circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 1 and its operation is briefly described.

The multivibrator produces square waves of either polarity at either collector but $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ is used because the frequency can be varied over a small range by

adjusting VR1. With the components specified, this range is from 5300 Hz to 6500 Hz which is quite adequate for synchronisation purposes. The waveform at this collector is shown in Fig. 2. The amplitude is only 8 volts and this must be increased to about 16 volts to trigger most of these old oscilloscopes. Furthermore, a fast pulse rise time is also required. In order to satisfy these two requirements a step-up differentiating pulse transformer must be used. This has the added advantage of producing both positive and negative voltage spikes thus allowing positive and negative triggering. The waveform between C4 and earth is shown in Fig. 3.

Differentiating pulse transformers should have very low leakage inductance and high permeability at their operating frequency. Consequently, a miniature ferrite i.f. transformer is ideally suitable but a Mullard ferrite pot core can be used. The i.f. transformer must be rewound in order to give the correct turns ratio and a diagram of the type used is shown in Fig. 4.

The i.f. transformer must be carefully dismantled and its windings removed. It is then rewound as follows. Firstly 100 turns of fine enamelled wire are wound onto the ferrite bobbin and the ends are soldered on to the lead-through pins in the plastic base. With thin enamel wire such as this, the heat of the soldering iron is sufficient to remove the enamel for easy tinning. Secondly 200 turns of the same gauge wire are wound on to the bobbin and the ends are soldered to the pins as before. The i.f. trans-

## components list

Fig. 4: Construction of the pulse transformer.

former is then reassembled.

Fig. 2 : (left) Waveform at the collector of Tr2.
Fig. 3 ; (right) Waveform at C4.


Fig. 5: A suggested component layout.


The circuit is wired up on a small piece of tag strip and mounted in an old tobacco tin for screening purposes. The switch on the back of the variable resistor VR1 is used as SW1 and the whole unit is small enough to be mounted inside the oscilloscope if required, in which case a hole of diameter $3_{\text {bin }}$ should be drilled in the front panel to hold VR1 and SW1. A 9 volt battery is used to provide power supplies and this voltage ensures that the transistors operate well within their limits thus providing good operational reliability. A diagram of the assembly is shown in Fig. 5.


MR W. W. Pickard from Lowestoft, Suffolk, tells us he still has an "Osram Music Magnet" with 2 volt valves and the old springy "Benjamin" bakelite valve holders, the set is in near perfect condition. He also has quite a lot of 2 -volt valves, all sorts, given to him recently by a local dealer, and two old sets, one of which is a Gecophone, and the other he thinks a "Marconi". He says if any readers happen to be in Lowestoft at any time, they are welcome to see this ancient equipment and valves, if they will call at his business address, 192 London Road South, Lowestoft-an outfitters shop. Phone 5675 (closed Thursday).

He can go back to 1923, and had a 3 -valve wireless set with plug-in coils then, and remembers well the first broadcast from 5XX Daventry. He remembers he had at that time an Amplion "Dragon" oak-horn loudspeaker-the price was 5 guineas in those days!

Mr. S. D. Smith, 292 Whitton Avenue East, Greenford writes "The article "Going Back" prompts me to write down a few memories of my first home built wireless receiving sets. I used a similar device to the buzzer "thing" shown recently in "Going Back" to find a sensitive spot on the galena crystal. My buzzer was coupled inductively however and had no A or E terminals. Bypassing the galena, bornite Zincite etc., etc., we come to my first valve set. This was built on the bottom of a cut down wooden box from the grocers. A, E and phone terminals were P.O. type with steel wood screws for fixing. The valve holders were bought as separate sockets which were screwed separately into the box. The coils were 45 and 30 turns hank wound round the first three fingers and tied with thread. The aerial coil was clamped between two strips of wood by a centre screw which fixed it to the box. The reaction coil was tied to the end of a lath about 15in. long. The pivot screw (with washers) passing through a cotton reel fixed the assembly to the box above the aerial coil. A similar piece of wood was attached to the condenser. thus providing both slow motion and anticapacity control. One needed to be quite a good oarsman to avoid catching a crab! The condenser was straight line capacity and bunched the stations at the bottom end.
The phones were Sterling from the first World War for which I paid $2 / 6 \mathrm{~d}$. The valve I remember best had a horizontal assembly. It started to go blue above about 20 V h.t. and was at that time treasured and only brought out for special occasions! My only
measuring instrument was an old Post Office galvo and a few resistances (resistors had not been invented). This was "calibrated" against new h.t. and g.b. batteries. All readings were strictly comparative. This instrument was almost indestructible and could be reversed on overload without ill effect. Once it was connected momentarily to the a.c. mains when on the 120 V d.c. range. The only result was a slight demagnetisation, easily corrected by moving the paper "calibrations". The original variable grid leak consisted of a short length of glass tube, two corks, a bit of brass wire and burnt sugar. The degree of burning determined the resistance range-more or less. As I had no megohm meter I had to "suck it and see"!
I heard KDKA New York on two successive mornings at about $1.30 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. (My mother gave me a tongue lashing for my bleary eyes and threatened to smash up the gear.) It was many years before I heard America again and never since on medium wave. This experience made me very cynical about the "low loss" components which proliferated later and the degradation of the once honourable term High Fidelity. This was commented upon in the Marconi Book of Wireless (1936).

Memory ranges over unit sets, the Popular Wireless Combination Set which, after various mods. finished up with more SP and DP knife switches than a power house. It was more effective as an exercise in ingenuity and oneupmanship than a wireless set, but fun for all that. The Transatlantic Five with plug in McMichael r.f. transformers which never crossed the Atlantic for me, but which did give me a little ephemoral notoriety when I broadcast to all who cared to listen the results of the first election won by Labour. An early three gang neutrodyne I never did succeed in aligning and reverted to a separate aerial condenser, the old Transatlantic Five arrangement.
Later things became much more commercial and stereotyped so I will conclude with a two valve circuit which gave me a lot of fun for several years. In its final form it had a Ferranti choke and transformer and a BTH moving coil speaker, the latter replacing the Amplion horn, simple moving iron and the Blue Spot balanced armature speakers which served in turn. No screening was used and with all those fields and triode valves you may be able to imagine the stabilising devices that were tried out! Just before it was scrapped I found that reaction was very smooth and the set quite sensitive
if r．f．instability was induced over the whole wave band and the reaction coil used back to front．I did not recognise the possibilities of N．F．B．and thought no more about it for years．Hilversum and Paris came in well on L．S．，i．e．speech clearly readable in any part of a normally quiet room．Brussels was somewhat weaker but it was only about 100 watts at that time，if my memory is not at fault．It wasn＇t one of the giants anyway．

I wonder how it would work now？Pentodes， ferrite aerials screened coils and valves，reaction to the first anode and three tuned circuits．Perhaps I＇ll try it one day if I can find a parafeed 3－1 valve transformer．The AF 5 was a bit bulky．

As an after thought－how many remember the very formal announcement－－＂Hallo，Hallo，Hallo， this is 2LO calling；this is the London Station of the British Broadcasting Company calling．You will now hear the news，copyright by Reuter，Press Associa－ tion，Exchange Telegraph and Central News＂？

## \＆flarconí 通emp Samp

On September 13th the Post Office will issue a set of four commemorative stamps．One of these，valued $7^{1}{ }_{2}$ p，commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the first wireless transmissions across water．These tests were carried out by Marconi and Kemp from Lavernock Point，near Barry，to Flatholm Island in the Bristol Channel and Brean Down in Somerset．

The Barry College of Further Education Radio Society commemorates these tests annually by opera－ ting amateur radio stations from these historic locations．The Society was responsible for suggesting to the Post Office the issue of this stamp，and are justifiably proud of their association with its issue．

In connection with this issue，they are making available a special commemorative first day cover service from Flatholm Island．For the first time the


The design on the envelope in blue and red．

Post Office has granted a postmark from Flatholm Island．The special postmark will include their call－ sign GB3BCT（Bristol Channel Tests）—the callsign to be used by their station operating from the island on the 13th September．The first day cover is an embossed design showing the location of the three historic sites．

This unique combination should be of great in－ terest to radio enthusiasts and philatelists alike and the Society will provide the special commemorative envelope，the $7^{1}{ }_{2} p$ Marconi stamp，address and post from Flatholm Island on the first day of issue for ．．．20p．

Remittance should be made by crossed postal order or cheque．All monies should be made payable to BARRY COLLEGE F．E．R．S．

Names and addresses should be printed clearly， and orders should be forwarded to：
The Secretary，
Barry College of Further Education Radio Society，
Colcot Road，
Barry，Glamorgan．
to arrive not later than 11th September， 1972

## Fintage lietorids

Once again we ask readers to let us know the titles and labels of any pre－1930 78＇s they may have as we have received a number of queries asking the where－ abouts of such records．

In addition，if anyone has any gen or pictures of ＂talking machines＂cylinder or disc，we would be glad to hear from them as we are considering writing a feature on this subject in a future＂Going Back．＂

## Gintage COCOCOC

## EQUIPMENT FOR DISPOSAL

photographs and constructional detaile of the＂All Concert de luxe＂recelver by Percy W．Harrit，about 1924 also two Scott－Taggart books．Offers to－A．E， Roblnson， 34 Haddon Way，Carlyon Bay，St．Autell，Cornwall
.3 volumes of Hapmsworth Wireless Encyclopedla In good clean condition Together with other Items．Sae
Ashford，Middesex，TW15 3is． wirewound，pancake and plug－in coils by Igranic and others，Ferranti and Formo intervalve transformers and chokes，flament rheostate，ebonite panels etc．and several examples of aingle and multiple varlable condensers by Ormond and Newey． These later belng mechancal curlositles In thelr own rlght－and mostly brand new， 1 think there are a couple of complete（？）recelvers somewhere In the attlce but have not yet come acrote them．Any offere－J．C．Prlest， 21 Levens Grove，Blackpool， Lance．FY1 5LA．
．．＂＂Wiraleas Telegraphy and Telephony；Charlee R，Gibson：Seeley Service，1014， ＂The Armetrong Super Regenerator Clrcuit；George J，ELT2．Radio Directory and Publlehing Co．New York， 1922 ＂The Art and Sclence of the Gramophone＂Gaydon 1928．－V，C．Calver， 11 Robln Dene，Manor Road，Brlghton，BN2 5EX．

## INFORMATION WANTED

．．．any gen on Marconlphone V2 recelver type R，B，I．A．M3 Inet，No．S／A 1725，Inslde the lid la Post Office stamp reading＂Type approved by the Post Master General PO．Regd．No．2001＂－A．P．LIneell， 7 Canewdon Hall Close，Canewdon，Roch－ ford，Esesex．
．Into on Gecophone 3 valve（Det \＆ 2 l．f．）．Thla le a finely made aet with ebonlte covered colla loading coll and reacilon．Loading coll marked 1250，BC1347 other coll 300，BCo slld in and out presumably for adjustment of reaction．Lovely rheostafs controliling valve fliamente，also neat little cylindrical aerial coupling condenser，made In brate． Marconi 2 valve eet．Good slow motion condeneer gear．This recelver is marked
＂Marconlphone Recelver Type 22 Inat．No．S．C．2661＂．Unfortunately 1 have only one coll，longwave， $1000-2200$ metres．Thls is a black ebonte cylinder enciosing coll and beautiful little reactlon coll（adjustabie from dial on front）marked Aerial reaction unlt，Marconlphone Pat．No． 217048 ， would be very pleased to hear of a medium wave coll， $200-500$ metres．it cilp on to a base $W$ W Wrys． 323 iwo valves fit Into one holder mounted on spenge rubber，－W，W，Plekerd， 333 Long Road，Lowestott，Suffolk．

## EQUIPMENT WANTED

…recelver，separate peaker or valvas from the 1920＇s or earlier，－Gunnar Carl－ trom，S－540 50 Moholm，Sweden，（Radlo Amateur SM6KT）． diaphragm－type speaker，and pre－1920 componente．－P．Beckley， 14 Beechdale Road， Now port，Monmouthshire，NPT 8AE．

## ＂I．匀． $\mathbb{T}$ ．＂

[^6]TTL. LOGIC I.C. NEW PRICES

| 8N7400 | 1-24 $25+$ |  |  |  |  |  | -1-24 | $25+$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 8.20 | 0.18 | 8N7428 | $\begin{array}{r} x_{0} \\ 0.71 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2_{0} \\ & 0.62 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |
| SN7401 |  | 0.18 | SN7430 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 8N7470 | 0.80 | 0.18 |
| BN7402 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 8N7432 | 0.48 | 0.42 | 8N7472 | ${ }_{0} .88$ | 0.81 |
| 8N7403 | $0 \cdot 20$ | 0.18 | 8N7433 | 0.71 | 0.68 | 8N7473 | 0.45 | 0.89 |
| 8N7404 | 0.22 | 0.20 | 8N7437 | 0.62 | 0.45 | 8N7474 | 0.45 | 0.89 |
| 8N7405 | 0.22 | 0-20 | EN7438 | 0.52 | 0.45 | SN7475 | 0.60 | 0.65 |
| 8N7406 | 0.56 | 0.60 | 8N7439 | 0.52 | 0.45 | 8N7476 | 0.47 | 0.4 |
| 8N7407 | 0.58 | 0.50 | 8N7440 |  | $0 \cdot 18$ | SN7480 | 0.70 | 0.6 |
| SN7408 | 0.22 | 0.20 | 8N7441A | 0.89 | 0.77 | SN7481 | $1 \cdot 45$ | 1.87 |
| SN7409 | 0.22 | 0.20 | SN7442 | 1 | 0.88 | BN7482 | 1.26 | 1.00 |
| 8N7410 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 8N7443 | 1.04 | 0.88 | 8N7483 | 1 1-80 | 1.05 |
| SN7411 | 0.22 | 0.20 | sN7444 | 1.04 | 0.88 | SN7484 | 1.10 | 1.00 |
| 8N7412 | 0.48 | 0-42 | 8N7445 | 1.85 | 1.70 | 8N7485 | e-50 | 8.80 |
| SN7413 | 0.35 | 0.38 | 8N7446 | 1.80 | 120 | 8N7486 | 0.45 | 0.40 |
| 8N7416 | 0.45 | 0.40 | 8N7447 | 1.80 | 1.20 | SN7488 | 18.40 | 1.80 |
| SN7417 | 0.45 | 0.40 | 8N7448 | 1.04 | 0.98 | 8N7489 | 4-89 | 4.40 |
| 8N7420 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 8N7449 | Price | to be | 8N7490 |  | 0.75 |
| SN7421 | 0.22 | 0.20 | anno |  |  | 8N7491 | 1 | 1.00 |
| 8N7422 | 0.48 | 0.42 | 8N7450 | 0.80 | 0.18 | 8N7492 | 0.80 | 0.75 |
| SN7423 | 0.62 | 0.45 | 8N7451 | $0 \cdot 20$ | 0.18 | 8N7493 | 0.80 | 0.75 |
| 8N7425 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 8N7452 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 8N7494 |  | 0.79 |
| 8N7426 | 0-32 | 0.28 | 8N7453 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 8N7495 | 0.85 | 0.78 |
| 8N7427 | 0.4 | 0.48 | 8N7454 | 0.80 | 0.18 | 8N7496 | 1.00 | 0.00 |

## SUB-MIN ELECTROLYTIC

## Arial lead

 6.4/6.4; 6-4/25; 10/64; 12-5/25; 16/40; 20/16; 20/64; 25/8.4; $25 / 25 ; 32 / 10 ; 32 / 40 ; 40 / 16 ; 50 / 6 \cdot 4 ; 50 / 25 ; 50 / 40 ; 64 / 10 ; 80 / 16 ; 80 / 25 ;$
$100 / 6 \cdot 4 ; 125 / 10 ; 125 / 16 ; 200 / 10$. 100/6.4; 125/10; 125/16; 200/10.

## SILICON RECTIFIERS



## DIODES \& RECTIFIERS



## Sinclair Project 60



## Active

 Filter Unit(A.F.U.)

The value of an efficient filtering system cannot be over emphasized in these days of very high quality reproduction since there are so often occasions where its use can mean the difference between comfortable and uncomfortable listening. On the low pass side the Sinclair A.F.U. will effectively reduce hiss from radio or tape, cut out heterodyne whistles on A.M. reception, greatly reduce record surface noise and other imperfections ; on the high-pass side it will cut out motor rumble and other spurious low frequency intrusion. The unit is for use between pre-amp (including tape pre-amps) and power amplifiers, and operates in two sections, both stereo. The cut-off frequencies are continuously variable, and since attenuation in the rejection band is rapid (12dB/octave) there is less loss of the wanted signal than has previously been possible. Amplitude and phase distortion are negligible. The A.F.U. is as easy to mount as the stereo 60 pre-amp/control unit which it matches in styling, along with the Stereo FM Tuner.

SPECIFICATIONS
The A.F.U. employs two Sallen and Key type active filter stages, one rumble (high pass) and one scratch (low pass). The two stages use complementary transistors to minimise distortion
Supply voltage: 15 to 35 volts Current 3 mA maximum.
Gain at $1 \mathbf{k H z}$ : Filters flat $0.98(-0.2 \mathrm{~dB})$ HF cut off: $(-3 \mathrm{~dB})$ variable from 28 kHz to 5 kHz at 12 dB /octave.
LF cut off: ( -3 dB ) variable from 25 Hz to 100 Hz at 12 dB /octave.
Distortion: at 1 kHz ( 35 volt supply) $0.02 \%$ at rated output.

## Super IC. 12 <br> Integrated circuit <br> high fidelity amplifier



Having introduced Integrated Circuits 10 h 1 -fi constructors with the IC. 10 , the first time an IC had ever been made available for such purposes. we have followed it with an even more efficient version the Super IC 12 a most exciting advance version, the Super IC. 12. a most exciting advance over our original unit. This needs very few external resistors and capacitors to make an astonishingly good high fidelity amplifies for use with pick-up. F.M. radio or small P.A. set up. etc The free 40 page manual supplied, details many other applications which this remarkable IC. make possible. It is the equivatent of a 22 tran
sistor circuit contained within a 16 lead DIL package, and the finned heat sink is sufficient for all requirements. The Super 1 C .12 is compatible with Project 60 modules which would be used with Profect 60 modules which with the $Z .50$ and $Z .30$ a mplifiers. Complete with
wither with the $Z .50$ and $Z .30$ a mplifers. Cornp
free manual and printed circuit board

## SPECIFICATIONS

Output power: 6 watts RMS continuous (12 wat1s peak). 6-8 . Frequency Response: 5 Hz $100 \mathrm{KHz}+1 \mathrm{~dB}$ Total Harmonic Distortion: to $100 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$. Total Harmonic Distortion. Less than $1 \%$. (Typical $0.1 \%$ ) at all output
powers and frequencies in the audio band ( 28 V ). powers and frequencies in the audio band ( $2 B V$ ).
Load Impedance: 3 to 15 ohms. Input ImLoad Impedance: 3 to 15 ohms. Input Impedance: 250 Kohms nominal. Power Gain: 90 dB ( $1.000,000,000$ times) after feedback.
Supply Voltage: 6 to 28 V . Quiescent curSupply Voltage: 6 to 28 V . $2 \times 45 \times 28 \mathrm{~mm}$ including pins and heat sink.
Manualavailable separately 15 p post free,
With FREE printed circuit board and 40 page manual.
£2.98

Sinclalr Radionics Lid, London Road, St. Ives, Huntingdonshire PE17 4HJ. Tel: St. Ives 64311

## the world's most advanced high fidelity modules

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

The $Z .30$ and $Z .50$ are of advanced design using silicon epitaxial planar transistors to provide unsur passed standards of performance Total harmonic distortion is an incredibly low $0.02 \%$ at $15 \mathrm{w}(8 \Omega)$ and all lower outputs. Whether you use $Z .30$ or $Z .50$ amplifiers in your Project 60 system will depend on personal preference, but they are the same size and are intended for use principally with other units in the Project 60 range. Ther performance and design are such, however, that $Z .50$ s and $Z .30$ may be used in a far wider range of applications.
SPECIFICATIONS ( $Z .50$ units are interchangeable with $Z .30$ s in all applications).- Power Outputs: 2.3015 waits R.M.S. into 8 ohms using 35 volts: 20 watts R.M.S. into 3 ohms using 30 volts
2.5040 watts R.M S. into 30 hms using 40 volts 30 watts R.M.S. Into 8 ohms using 50 volts

Frequency response: 30 to $300.000 \mathrm{~Hz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$. Distortion: $0 . \mathrm{C} 2 \%$ into 8 ohms. Signal to noise ratio: better than 70 dB unweighted. Input sensitivity: 250 mV into 100 Kohms (for 15 w into $8 \Omega$ ). For speakers from 3 to 15 ohms impedance. Size: $14 \times 80 \times 57 \mathrm{~mm}$.

## Stereo 60 Pre-amp/control unit

Designed specifically for use on Project 60 systems, the Stereo 60 is equally suitable for use with any high quality power amplifier. Since silicon epitaxial planar transistors are used throughout. a really high signal-to-noise ratio and excellent tracking between channels is achieved. Input selection is by means of press buttons. with accurate equalisation on all input channels. The Stereo 60 is particularly easy to mount.
SPECIFICATIONS-Input sensitivities: Radio - up to 3 mV . Mag. p.u 3 mV correct to R/A.A. curve


E 1 dB 20 to $25,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. Ceramic $p u$-up to 3 mV Aux - up to 3 mV . Output: 250 mV . Signal to noise ratio: better than 70 dB . Channel matching: withon 1 dB . Tone controls: TREBLE +12 to -12 dB at 10 KHz BASS +12 to -12 dB at 100 Hz Front panel: brushed aluminium with black knobs and controls. Size: $66 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$.


## Project 60 Stereo F.M. Tuner

The phase lock loop principle was used for receiving signals from space craft because of its vastly improved signal to noise ratio. Now. Sinclair have applied the principle to an F.M tuner with fantastically good results Other advanced features include varicap diode tuning, printed circuit colls, an I.C. in the specially designed stero decoder and switchable squelch circuit for stlent tuning between stations. In terms of high fidelity this tuner has a lower level of distortion than any other tuner we know. Stereo broadcasts are received automatically, a panel indicator lighting up as the stereo signal is tuned in. This tuner can also be used to advantage with most other high fidelity systems.
 SPECIFICATIONS—Number of transistors: 16 plus 20 in I.C Tuning range: 875 to 108 MHz Sensitivity: $7 \mu \vee$ for lock-in over full deviation Squelch level: Tvpically $20 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ Signal to noise ratio: $>65 \mathrm{~dB}$. Audio frequency response: $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-15 \mathrm{KHz}$ ( $£ 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ ) Total harmonic distortion: $015 \%$ for $30 \%$ modulation Stereo decoder operating level: $2 \mu \vee$ Cross talk: 40 dB . Output voltage: $2 \times 150 \mathrm{mV}$ R.M S. maximum Operating voltage: 25-30VDC. Indicators: Stereo on: tuning Size: $93 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$

## Power Supply Units

Designed specifically for use with the Project 60 system of your choice. Use PZ. 5 for normal $Z .30$ assemblies and PZ. 6 or $P Z .8$ where a stabilised supply is essential
Typical Project 60 applications

| System | The Units to use | together with | Units cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Simple battery record plaver | 2.30 | Crystal P.U., 12 V battery volume control, etc. | £4.48 |
| Maıns powered record player | Z.30, PZ.5 | Crystal or ceramic P.U. volume control, etc | ¢9.45 |
| 12W RMS contınuous sine wave stereo amp for average needs | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.30 \text { s, Stereo } \\ & 60 ; \text { PZ. } 5 \end{aligned}$ | Crystal, ceramic or mag. P.U.F.M. Tuner, etc. | £23.90 |
| 25 W. RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp. using low efficiency (high performance) speakers | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.30 \text { s, Stereo } \\ & 60 ; \text { PZ. } 6 \end{aligned}$ | High quality ceramic or magnetic P.U.F.M. Tuner, Tape Deck, etc. | £26.90 |
| 80W. ( 3 ohms) RMS <br> continuous sine wave de luxe stereo amplifier. (60W . RMS into 80 mms ) | $2 \times 2.50$ s, Stereo 60; PZ.8, mains transformer | As above | ¢34.88 |
| Indoor P.A. | Z.50, PZ.8, mains transformer | Mic., guitar, speakers. etc. controls | £19.43 |
| F.M. Stereo Tuner ( $\mathbf{( 2 5 )}$ \& A.F.U. (£5.98) may be added as required. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

PZ.5 30 volts unstabi/ised $£ 4.98$ PZ.635 volls stabilised $\mathbf{£ 7 . 9 8}$ PZ. 845 volis spabilised (lessmainstransformer) $£ 7.98$ PZ.8 mainstransformer £5.98

## Guarantee

If. within 3 months of purchasing any product direct from Sinclarr Radionics Ltd.. you are dissatisfied with it. your money will be refunded at once. Many Sinclair appointed Stockists also offer this same guarantee in co-operation with Sinclair Radionics Ltd.
Each Project 60 module is tested before leaving our factory and is guaranteed to work perfectly. Should any defect arise in normal use. We wifi service it at onre and without any charge to you. If it is returned wilhin two years from the date of purchase. Outside this period of guarantee a small charge (typically f 1.00 ) will be made. No charge is made for postage by surface mail. Air Mail is charged at cost.

[^7]Address
PW 972


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s. Africa, Canada and U.S.A. S. Africa, Canada and U.S.A.
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Everything needed (except plywood) for building: 1 Invisible-Beam Profector and 1 Photocell Receiver (as illustratel). Suitable for all Photoelectric lurglar Alarms Counters, Door Openers, etc.
CONTENTS: 2 lenses, 2 mirrors, 245 -degree wooden blocks. Infra-red filter, projector lamp holder, building plans, etc. Price $\mathbf{E 1 . 2 5}$ Postage and Pack. 10p (U.K.)
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Versatile Invisible-beam, Relay-less, Steady-light Photo-switch, Burglar Alarm, Door Opener, Counter, etc., for the Experimenter.
CONTENT8: Infra-Red Sensitive Phototransistor, 3 Transistors, Chassis, Plastic Case Resistors, Screws, etc. Full Size Plans, Instructions, Data Sheet " 10 Advanced Photoelectric Designs
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Price 75 p . Post. and Pack. 10p (U.K.), Commonwealth: Surface Mail 20p; Air Mail 50 p .
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Send S.A.E. for full details, a brief description of all Kits and Projecta

## TEXAN 20+20 WATT. STEREO AMPLIFIER

Electro. Spares can now supply all the components to build the "Texan" Amplifier, fearured in Practical Wireless May/June 1972. All components are brand new with fibre giass p.c. board, all metalwork, knobs, finished silver trim front panel, ete. ete.

TOTAL COST OF COMPLETE COMPONENTS ONLY E27-85-POST FREE!
All components are available separately, to enable the constructor to obtain just what parts he requires at any one time. Please send S.A.E. for free list.
SPECIAL CONTEMPORY STYLE SLIMLINE METAL CASE WITH WOODEN END CHEEKS IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THIS AMPLIFIER-DETAILS INCLUDED WITH
RECEIPT OF S.A.E.

## P. E. 'GEMINI' STEREO AMPLIFIER

30 Watts (R.M.S.) per Channel into 8 Ohms !! Total Harmonic Distortion $0.02 \%$ i:
Frequency Response ( -3 dB ) $20 \mathrm{~Hz}-100 \mathrm{kHz}$ : : This high quality Stereo Amplifier for the Home Constructor was described in a series of articles in "Practical Electronics", from November 1970 to March 1971 . It is now recognised as practically the ultimate in High Fidelity and is certainly equal to anything the ultimate in High Fidelity and is certainly equal to anything one can buy, no matter what the cost, but
We can now supply a reprint of the artictes in booklet form, price 55 p plus 4 p postage, with free complete component price list.
for free price list only, or a complete free specification, please send a foolscaD size S.A.E
All parts available separately.

## COILS \& TRANSFORMERS FOR CONSTRUCTORS

Special versions of our P50 Series are now available for AF117 or OC45 Transistors. They can be used in the standard superhet circuit with slight changes in component values.


## I.F. TRANSFORMERS FOR "PRACTICAL WIRELESS" CIRCUITS

Components for several receivers are available, including the following for the "Clubman".

| T41/1E | 1 |
| :---: | :---: |
| T41/2E | 2nd I.F. Transformer |
| T41/3T | 3rd I.F. Transformer |
| T41/3T | B.F.O. Coil |

Details of these and our other components are given in an illustrated folder which will be supplied on request with postage please.

## WEYRAD (ELECTRONICS) LIMITED SCHOOL STREET, WEYMOUTH, DORSET



## GEIGER COUNTERS

(\%OR MaITS OR PORTABLE BATTERE OBE)
1ateat Home Office release and probably the last, of this well known Contamination Meter No. 1 , this of Radio-Activity. Indicated on the measurement scaled $0 \cdot 1$ to 10 milh Roatgens/Hour, s socket ig also provided for additional sound Monitoring on Headphones. This Instrument is housed in a 玉trong light Alloy Case, placed in a carrying Havernack with shoulder strap. Containing Cable and Hand held Probe, Instruction Card, plus the lateat plug in Vibrator Power Unit, which uses current small Transistor Radio Batteriea (4 Mallory Long Life RM12 or 4 EverReady H.P. 7 or equivalent makes). each). Supplied Brand New in Garton approx. 270 carr. 50p. An additional plug in Power Unit for Laboratory use, operating from $100-120$ volts or $200-$ 250 volts A. © Mains is avallable. Supplied Brand New jp Curtunk only $48-50$ post 25p. Headphones (not necessary) if required 21.50 A tomplolger Coliters as above but not boxed in cardboard cartons, availabie at onfy $£ 4 \cdot 50$.

Meter Dose Rato Portable Trainer 1. 0.1
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