Digital mulfineter project

## Think of what you'd pay for a Digital Frequency Counterand a Modulation Meter capable of testing mobile radio both in the field. Fsand on $\because \because \cdot$ the bench <br> 

## now halve it!

Our new TF2424 Frequency Counter is light, compact and portable designed for field and workshop maintenance of mobile radio installations. Measures frequencies directly in the v.h.f. and u.h.f. bands with a 4 -decade solid state numeric display.
The provision of $x \mid$ and $\times 1000$ ranges allows measurements up to seven digits to 512 MHz . In addition a $\times 10$ facility increases the resolution to 10 Hz . Crystal stability is $\pm 1$ $\times 10^{-7}$. Battery operated with a built-in charger. Weight: $6 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{lb}$. Supplied with detachable mains lead
and various optional extras. Price £425 (inc. batt.).

The TF2303 narrow band Modulation Meter is also very compact and portable - designed for use on FM and AM mobile radios. Noise level is low: better than -40 dB relative to 5 kHz deviation. Measures narrow band f.m. deviation up to 15 kHz at carrier frequencies up to 520 MHz , a.m. depths up to $95 \%$ at carrier frequencies up to 225 MHz . Battery or mains operated - built-in charger. Weight 13 lb . Supplied with mains lead and various optional extras.

Price: $£ 305$ (plus $£ 25$ for optional re-chargeable battery).

Which means you could buy the pair for just over $£ 750$ - or about half the price of two equivalent competitive models. Full details by return.


MARCONI INSTRUMENTS LIMITED Longacres, St. Albans, Herts, England. Tel: St. Albans 59292 Telex: 23350 A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company

## LOW COST VOLTMETERS <br> 

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$\mathbf{~} 75$ TM9A
£89 ${ }_{\text {т上, }}^{\text {тй }}$
$\mathbf{f 9}^{\text {wima }}$

## BROADBAND VOLTMETERS

H.F. VOLTAGE \& dB RANGES: $1 \mathrm{mV}, 3 \mathrm{mV}, 10 \mathrm{mV}$... 3 V f.s.d Acc. $\pm 4 \% \pm 1 \%$ of f.s.d. at $30 \mathrm{MHz}-50 \mathrm{~dB},-40 \mathrm{~dB},-30 \mathrm{~dB}$ to +20 dB . Scale $-10 \mathrm{~dB} /+3 \mathrm{~dB}$ rel to $1 \mathrm{~mW} / 50 \Omega \pm 0.7 \mathrm{~dB}$ from 1 MHz to 50 MHz . $\pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$ from 300 kHz to 400 MHz .
L.F.RANGES: As TM3 except for the omission of $15 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ and $150 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. AMPLIFIER OUTPUT: Square wave at 20 Hz on H.F. with amplitude proportional to square of input. As TM3 on L.F.

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The technical specification includes a wide power measuring range from 30 mW to 100 W and a frequency range of from DC to 500 MHz . 'True' power is measured, regardless of harmonic or sideband content, by a UHF thermocouple Large linearscales in 1-3-10 sequence make for easy accurate reading, VSWR is $1: 1.3$ at 500 MHZ and accuracy is $5 \%$ of fsd to 200 MHz and $10 \%$ to 500 MHz .

With performance like that, the 1581. like many other Dymar instruments, will turn up, too, in a good many laboratories. Not to mention on the premises of some of our rival RT manufacturers.
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Or at sea in marine radar installations. Or in industry ... or in any situation where a superior tube, quality engineered to the highest specs (BS 9000, CV and MIL) is essential.

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A brief selection from the data display \& Avionic tube range

| TYPE | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SCREEN SIZE } \\ & \text { aMD ShIPE } \end{aligned}$ cm | fimal anode voltage kV | DEFLECTIOM AMGLE degrees | $\underset{\mathrm{mm}}{\text { SPOT SIZE }}$ | $\underset{\mathrm{mm}}{\substack{\text { LENGTH }}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 700H | (7) | 30 | 35 | 0.10 | 259 |
| 700J | (7.5) | 15 | 45 | 0.15 | 195 |
| A17-20 | 17 | 12 | 45 | 0.25 | 345.5 |
| T9017 | 21 | 14 | 60 | 0.25 | 290 |
| 2800B* | 28.5 | 8 | 50 | 0.30 | 506 |
| A36-48 | 35 | 14 | 70 | 1.0 | 455 |
| T994* | 42.5 | 15 | 70 | 0.25 | 608 |

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# 50/70 WATT ALL SILICON AMPLIFIER WITH BUILT-IN 5-WAY MIXER USING F.E.T.s. 



This is a high fidelity amplifier with bass cut controls on each of the three low impedance balanced line microphone stages and a high impedance ( 1.5 meg .) gram stage with bass and treble controls, plus the usual line or tape input. All the input stages are protected against overload by back to back low self capacity diodes and all use F.E.Ts for low noise, low intermodulation distortion and freedom from radio breakthrough.
A voltage stabilised supply is used for the pre-amplifiers
making it independent of mains supply fluctuations and another stabilised supply for the driver stages is arranged to cut off when the output is overloaded or over temperature. The output is $75 \%$ efficient and 100 V balanced line or $8-16$ ohms output are selected by means of a rear panel switch which has a locking plate indicating the output impedance selected. The mixer section has an additional emitter follower output for driving a slave amplifier, phones or tape recorder, output .3 V out on 600 ohms upwards.

## 50/70 WATT ALL SILICON AMPLIFIER WITH BUILT-IN 4-WAY MIXER

( $0.3 \%$ intermodulation distortion) using the circuit of our $100 \%$ reliable 100 Watt Amplifier with its elaborate protection against short and overload, etc. To this is allied our latest development of F.E.T. Mixer Amplifier, again fully protected against overload and completely free from radio breakthrough. The mixer is arranged for $2-30 / 60 \Omega$ balanced line microphones, $1-\mathrm{HiZ}$ gram input and 1 -auxiliary input followed by bass and treble controls. 100 volt balanced line output or $5 / 15 \Omega$ and 100 volt line.

## 100 WATT ALL SILICON AMPLIFIER

A high quality amplifier with 8 ohms- 15 ohms or 100 volt line output for A.C. Mains. Protection is given for short and open circuit output over driving and over temperature. Input 0.4 V on 100 K ohms.

## THE 100 WATT MIXER AMPLIFIER

With specification as above is here combined with a 4 channel F.E.T. Mixer, 2-30/60S balanced microphone inputs, 1-HiZ gram input and 1-auxiliary input with tone controls and mounted in a standard robust stove enamelled steel case. A stabilised voltage supply feeds the tone controls and pre amps, compensating for a mains voltage drop of over $25 \%$ and the output transistor biasing compensates for a wide range of voltage and temperature. Also available in rack panel form.

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An all silcon transistor 50 watt amplifier for mains and 12 volt battery operation, charging its own battery and automatically going to battery if mains fail. Protected inputs, and overload and short circuit protected outputs for 8 ohms- 15 ohms and 100 volt line. Bass and treble controls fitted. Models available with 1 gram and 2 low mic. inputs, 1 gram and 3 low mic. inputs or 4 low mic. inputs.

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## 200 WATT AMPLIFIER

Can deliver its full audio power at any frequency in the range of $30 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ $20 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$. Less than $0.2 \%$ distortion at $1 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}$. Can be used to drive mechanical devices for which power is over 120 watt on continuous sine wave. Input 1 mW 600 ohms. Output $100-120 \mathrm{~V}$ or $200-240 \mathrm{~V}$. Additional matching transformers for other impedances are available.

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## Standard shields

Telcon Metals offer an extensive standard range of high efficiency Mumetal shields, which fit most cathode ray, photo multiplier and radar tubes, together with a selection of boxes and cans for microphones pick-ups, transistors and transformers These are normally supplied stove enamelled in hammer grey externally and matt black internally. Other finishes can be supplied by arrangement.

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## In our next issue (publication date March 19)

Digital multimeter project. The series continues with an article describing in detail the circuit operation of the instrument. All circuit diagrams are included.
Magnetic tape survey demonstrates compatibility between different makes of tape, enabling recorder users to change brands without loss of quality and without having to try the tapes in their machines.

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We apologize for any indistinctness of printing in parts of this issue. This is due to lack of gas drying during the dispute in the gas industry.

## ibpa


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## Wireless World

## The transistor and the future

During the week of February 12-16 the I.E.E. (in collaboration with the I.E.R.E.) has marked the 25th anniversary of the discovery of the transistor by a series of lectures. It included one by Dr. Walter Shockley who, with his two colleagues Drs. Bardeen and Brattain, jointly invented the device which has had such a profound effect on electronics technology and indeed on the everyday life of us all. The lecture was noteworthy for various reasons; never before has a lecturer in the hallowed walls of the Institution's lecture theatre entertained his hearers with one or two conjuring tricks during his talk and rarely has such documented detail of the day-to-day experiments which led up to the production of a particular device been presented. It was a memorable occasion but one felt that had it not been for the personal anecdotes it had all been said many times before.

Dr. Shockley, who is now professor of engineering science at Stanford University and executive consultant to Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, where he carried out his early research work on the transistor, rightly dealt with the early history and left the present and the future to be covered by other speakers in the series of lectures. However, during a pre-lecture interview he was asked if he would speculate on the likelihood of a further major reduction in the size of transistors. To which he replied that he foresaw an increase in compactness by a factor of $10^{9}$. He stated, in answer to a question, that the transistor's most significant contribution to his own life was his portable tape-recorder (Japanese, incidentally), which certainly appeared to be his vade-mecum.

The impact of the transistor on current technology is well known and it was, therefore, those papers among the commemoration series which looked into the future which were of particular interest.

As Professor W. E. J. Farvis, of Edinburgh University, said in his lecture "The influence of the transistor in our society and economy" the transistor has enabled us to effect circuit functions and operations in computing or control too complex to have been contemplated even a decade ago. It has also brought an increasing use of digital methods for achieving system functions and perhaps of even greater significance the building in of redundancy in equipment.

Germanium and silicon were the semiconductors from which the first and second generation of transistors came, but who can foretell what lies ahead with use of other materials as yet untried. Dr. Farvis pointed to the newer areas of opto-electronics and acousto-electronics adding "the scope of ingenuity in exploiting the electronic and physical properties of materials for the service of man seems boundless".

At the discussion meeting on "What next in semiconductors?" emphasis was laid upon materials and the various methods of processing them. R. A. Hilbourne (Mullard, Southampton) posed the question "where is l.s.i. leading us?". In the course of his contribution, having pointed out that the majority of l.s.i. circuits which have replaced non-electronics equipment have been designed by the i.c. maker, he asked "will the conventional electronic equipment makers wish to retain, in house, their circuit system design?". This brings us back to the question asked so many times before as to the role of the circuit designer of the future. Will he be, in fact, a systems engineer using l.s.i. circuit blocks?

# 1. Introduction and design criteria 

by D. E. O'N. Waddington, mi.I.E.R.E.



The $3_{2}^{1}$-digit electronic multimeter described in this and succeeding articles contains provisions for the measurement of voltage (alternating or direct, with polarity and a.c. indication), resistance, capacitance, frequency, period and time. The design has been kept as simple as possible and is so arranged that the constructor can build the complete instrument or include only the facilities he needs. Nevertheless, it must be pointed out that a large number of connections must be made and that the project is not suitable as a first exercise in construction.

A few years ago, a project such as building a digital multimeter would have been unthinkable for the home constructor, on the grounds of both cost and complexity. However, these objections have been reduced if not completely overcome by the availability of reasonably priced integrated circuits, which provide major building blocks and simplify the physical task of wiring the instrument.
The main problems to be resolved before this design could be started were what features to include and which of the many available techniques to use. In order to do this, it was necessary to examine desirable measuring capability, accuracy and display.

## Desirable measuring capability

The difficulty here is not what to put in but what to leave out! The best plan is to list the measurements and then to delete those which are neither practical nor essential. Possible measurements are (a) voltagealternating and direct, (b) current-alternating and direct, (c) resistance, (d) capacitance, (e) inductance, (f) frequency, (g) period, and (h) time.
For most users, voltage measurement is of prime importance and justifies its place at the top of the list. Given a sensitive high impedance voltmeter, it is relatively simple 10 measure current by the use of suitable shunt resistors. However, current measurements frequently require that both the input terminals should be isolated from ground. For d.c. measurement this does not impose insuperable difficulties but, unless battery operation or sophisticated design techniques are employed, the isolation as far as alternating currents are concerned is likely to be very poor. For this reason, regretfully, current measurement was not provided. Passive components are not "naturals" for digital methods of measurement but, as a high input impedance voltmeter is available, it is easy to measure resistance with the aid of a constant-current source. Capacitance can also be measured relatively easily by
measuring the time required for the voltage across a capacitor, fed from a current source, to reach a predetermined value. Inductance is not so easy to measure and, as it is so seldom required, it was not considered essential.

Digital measuring instruments were originally developed for the measurement of frequency and time, so that it would be a pity to leave these out of a design of this sort, although their omission would/ not impair the performance of the voltmeter section. Having a particular interest in time measurement, 1 decided to include the counter/timer features in this instrument.

## Accuracy, display

These are treated together as, for most people, "digital displays" is synonymous with "accurate displays". This is not necessarily true. Digital displays can give better resolution than their analogue counterparts but the accuracy of the measurement is limited by both the accuracy of the techniques used and the accuracy of the standards within the instrument. Furthermore, it is all too easy to specify an accuracy which is very much greater than is necessary simply because it can be obtained. A typical example of this is the operator who measures the gain of an audio amplifier at a frequency of $1000 \mathrm{~Hz} \pm 0.1 \mathrm{~Hz}$ simply because he has a frequency counter with a ten second gate!
Having these points in mind and adding to them the limitations of the home laboratory, I decided on a frequency, period and time measuring accuracy of the order of 1 part in $10^{5}$, which can be obtained using a readily-available crystal, with no necessity for temperature control, as the frequency standard. Accurate voltage measurement is far more difficult so that it is likely that the accuracy achieved will lie between 5 parts in $10^{3}$ and 1 part in $10^{2}$. With this sort of accuracy, the question of the display can be settled fairly easily. The use of a display with three significant digits will give a reso-
lution of $0.1 \%$ of full scale. While this is sufficient for most purposes, in practice it is uncomfortable because there will be no over lap between successive decade ranges. Thus I decided to include a fourth digit which is either one or zero, adding very little to the complexity. A display of this type is commonly known as a $3 \frac{1}{2}$ digit display, and does not prevent the full accuracy of the frequency counter from being realized as the count period can be switched to display whatever significant figures are required. For example, with an input frequency of $1,256,345 \mathrm{~Hz}$, a count period of one second will give a display of 0345 , while a count period of 1 millisecond will give a display of 1256. The ambiguity caused by the overlap i.e., the "zero" in 0345 and the "six" in the 1256 can be resolved by switching to an intermediate count period.

A further decision needed was on the type of presentation to use. Many digital counters use a display method which permits the figures to "roll" between successive readings. This is very tiring to use so 1 decided on a "non-blinking" display which uses a memory to store the answer between successive readings. This adds marginally to the cost but it gives a bonus in that it permits the use of the "dual ramp" technique for voltage measurement.
Having decided what features to include the next stage was to choose the configurations for the various measurements. In order to do this several building blocks are needed. These are:

1. Counter/display. This consists of the $3 \frac{1}{2}$ decade counter, memory, decoder and the display devices. It has three inputs: count, transfer and rese1. It also gives an output from the counter section to control the analogue measuring functions.
2. Control logic. This section includes the gating and pulse generating circuits necessary to route the inputs to the counter and to control the counter functions.
3. Master clock. This consists of a crystal oscillator and a frequency divider chain to provide the main timing for all the measurements.
4. Input wave shaper. This circuit is used, during frequency and period measurement, to convert the input signal into a form suitable for connecting to logic circuitry.
5. Timer control. This unit is used to start and stop the counter for time measurement.
6. Voltmeter. This unit consists of the high input impedance stage, the rectifier and the dual-ramp voltage-to-time converter used for voltage and resistance measurement.
7. Resistance and capacitance unit. This contains the current source used for resistance and capacitance measurement and the circuitry necessary to obtain a capacitance-to-time conversion.

This selection of sections is convenient as it is very easy to vary the function of the instrument by selecting the appropriate modules. For example, if only a frequency counter is wanted, Blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4 are the only ones which need be built. However, if a voltmeter only is required, it is a simple matter to choose the appropriate blocks.

## Specification

The performance which can be achieved with this instrument will, of necessity, depend upon the accuracy of the components used rather than the techniques employed. The following specification should be regarded as a target for the performance.

## Direct voltage :

Input resistance $11.1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$
Range $\quad 199.9 \mathrm{mV}$ to 199.9 V in 4 ranges.
Accuracy $\quad \pm 0.1 \%$ f.s.d. $\pm 0.2 \%$ of reading.
Automatic polarity indication.

## Alternating voltage:

Input impedance $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ in parallel with 25 pF .
Ranges As d.v.
Measurement Average, calibrated r.m.s.

Accuracy $\quad \pm 0.1 \%$ f.s.d. $\pm 0.5 \%$ of reading.
Frequency range $50 \mathrm{~Hz}-10 \mathrm{kHz}$ $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-50 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 5 \%$
Automatic indication that the input is a.v.

## Resistance:

Range $\quad 1.999 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $1.999 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ in 4 ranges.
Accuracy $\quad \pm 0.1 \%$ f.s.d. $\pm 0.5 \%$ of reading.
Capacitance:
Range
1999 pF to $1.999 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ in 4 ranges.
Accuracy $\quad \pm 0.1 \%$ f.s.d. $\pm 0.5 \%$ of reading.

## Counter/Timer:

Frequency range 0 to 5 MHz
Period/Time
interval $\quad 20 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ minimum.
Accuracy $\quad$ Frequency $\pm 1$ part in $10^{5} \pm 1$ count.
Period $\pm 1 \% \pm 1$ count. Time interval $\pm 1$ part in $10^{5} \pm 1$ count.
Input level Frequency/period 10 mV to 10 V .
Time interval d.t.l. input.
Impedance
frequency/period. $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ in parallel with 10 pF .
Gate times
$10 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ to 1 second.

Fig. 1. Frequency measuring system.


- M M WWWWYWOWV
(A)
(B)
(C)
(D)
(E)
(F)


Fig. 2. Period measuing system.

## Frequency measurement

The signal whose frequency is to be measured is applied to the input of the wave shaping module in Fig. 1. This either amplifies and/or limits the input signal, depending on its amplitude, and then converts it into a rectangular wave form (A) having a peak-to-peak amplitude of 5 V .

The master clock frequency (B) has a period equal to the desired count duration. For example, if the count duration is to be 10 milliseconds, a frequency of 100 Hz will be selected. In order to open the count gate for the correct time, this clock frequency is divided by two (C) before it is applied to the count gate and also to the control pulse
circuit which generates the "store" ( E ) and "reset" (F) commands.
Assuming that the counter has been set to zero, the sequence of operation is as follows. The count gate is enabled for one clock period by the output of the divide-bytwo. This connects the shaped input waveform to the input of the counter so that it counts the number of cycles during one clock period. At the end of this period, the negative going edge of the timing signal (C) causes the pulse generator to generate two successive pulses. The first of these ( E ) commands the counter unit to "store" and display the state of the count section. The second ( $F$ ) "resets" the count section to zero ready for the next cycle of operation. This process will then restart when the timing signal (C) goes positive once more. Thus the unit counts and updates the display on alternate clock periods and, with a constant input frequency, produces a steady reading.

## Period measurement

The major difference between period and frequency measurement is that the roles of the clock generator and input wave-shaper are reversed as in Fig. 2. Instead of counting the number of input cycles during one clock period, the number of clock pulses during one input cycle is counted. As with frequency measurement, the input waveform is "squared up" (A) by the input wave shaper. It is then divided by two (B) and fed to the count gate and to the control pulse generator. The output from the clock generator is also fed to this gate so that, when it is enabled by the input, clock pulses (C) are fed to the counter. The "store", "display" and "reset" functions are the same as for frequency measurement. This period measurement facility has its main application at low frequencies where the normal counter would be very inaccurate. For example a frequency of 5 Hz measured using a one second count period could only be measured to an accuracy of $\pm 1$ cycle or $\pm 20 \%$. By measuring period ( 200 ms ), however, the accuracy could be very much improved. In practice the accuracy could be better than $0.1 \%$ provided that there was no noise present on the waveform to be measured. The main disadvantage of period measurement is that the result is the reciprocal of the required answer.

## Time interval measurement

The only difference between the period and time measuring functions is that, whereas period is measured continuously on a cyclic basis, time is measured as the interval between two separately applied impulses, as shown by Fig. 3. To prevent the time information from being upset by contact bounce or other spurious inputs, the timer control circuit is arranged to work on a "one shot" basis so that it needs priming before each measurement.

## Voltage measurement

The method of voltage measurement to be adopted occasioned considerable thought. Potentiometric methods were examined and rejected on several counts. They are not real:y compatible with frequency counters, for in addition to a reference voltage they

Fig. 3. Time interval measuring system.


Fig. 4. Dual-ramp voltmeter system.

require an accurate resistor chain together with accurate switches. In addition, unless a suitable low pass filter is included in series with the input, potentiometric methods tend to be noisy and to give erratic readings in the presence of 50 Hz interference. For these reasons, an integrating method was selected. Both voltage-to-frequency and voltage-totime conversion methods were examined and finally I decided to adopt the wellknown "dual ramp" voltmeter principle. ${ }^{1}$ This method has the advantage that the accuracy of the basic range theoretically depends only on the accuracy of the reference voltage. Actually this is not strictly true in practice as several other design points affect the accuracy. ${ }^{2}$ However, for a meter of this type, the reference accuracy is the major fàctor. Thē system works as follows:

At the beginning of the measurement cycle the capacitor $C$ in Fig. 4 is fully discharged. The input to the integrator is connected to the unknown voltage so that the capacitor $C$ begins to charge at a rate determined by this voltage and the resistor $R$. The charging is continued until the counter has counted 2000 (that is, for 20 milliseconds). At the end of this period, the voltage, $V_{x}$, across this capacitor will be

$$
\frac{1}{R C} \int_{0}^{t_{i}} V_{i n} d t \text { or } V_{x}=\frac{V_{\text {in }} T_{1}}{R C}
$$

The input to the integrator is then switched to the reference voltage $V_{\text {ref }}$ so that the capacitor discharges at a rate determined by the reference voltage and the resistor $R$. As this voltage is larger than the voltage to be measured, the charge on the capacitor de-
creases more rapidly than it built up and at a time $T_{2}$ it will be zero

$$
\text { i.e. } \quad \begin{aligned}
0 & =V_{x}-\frac{1}{R C} \int_{i_{1}}^{t_{2}} V_{r e f} d t \\
& =V_{x}-\frac{V_{r e f} T_{2}}{R C}=\frac{V_{i n} T_{1}}{R C}-\frac{V_{r e f} T_{2}}{R C}
\end{aligned}
$$

thus

$$
\begin{aligned}
V_{\text {in }} T_{1} & =V_{\text {ref }} T_{2} \\
V_{\text {in }} & =\frac{T_{2}}{T_{1}} V_{\text {ref }} .
\end{aligned}
$$

The zero voltage condition is sensed by the comparator which causes the control logic to switch the input of the integrator to zero volts thus preventing any further change in the charge on the capacitor. At the same time, the control logic commands the counter to store the count. As has been shown above, the time displayed gives a direct measure of the input voltage in terms of the reference voltage. Thus, the reference voltage can be chosen to give a suitable basic range for the voltmeter. For example, with a reference voltage of 2 volts, the basic range will be 2 volts although it will only be possible to display 1.999 volts. The counter continues counting until it reaches the all zero state, when the measurement cycle is repeated. An incidental advantage of this method of measurement is that the choice of a measuring period of 20 milliseconds gives good rejection of 50 Hz interference (see Fig. 5).

## Resistance measurement

The methods of measurement used in conventional moving coil multimeters are of no use here as the scale shape which results is non-linear and thus very inconvenient for digital display. Instead the method, shown in Fig. 6, is to pass a known current through the unknown resistor and to measure the voltage drop across it. In theory this method is ideal and I have no doubt that Georg Simon Ohm would approve. However, it does present some practical difficulties. Low resistances would need very high currents to develop sufficient voltage. It is difficult to establish the low currents necessary for high resistance measurement and high resistance measurements are necessarily made inaccurate by shunt resistance paths. Luckily, the majority of resistances to be measured in most electronics work lie in the range from 100 ohms to $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. This is the best range for this method of measurement and adequate accuracies can be obtained easily.

## Capacitance measurement

Conventionally, capacitance is measured by bridge methods. While it is possible to arrange an auto-balance bridge system so that it can give an output suitable for applying to a digital readout, the circuits are likely to be complicated. An approach which, at first sight, appeared hopeful was the use of resonance techniques. Unfortunately they normally give an output frequency which is proportional to the reciprocal of the square root of the capacitance. This is a non-linear function and not easily applicable to a simple digital meter. In view of these diffi-
culties I decided to exploit the relationship:
or

$$
\begin{aligned}
Q=C V & =i t \\
C & =\frac{i t}{V} \\
C & =t(i \text { and } V \text { constant }) .
\end{aligned}
$$

This suggests that it is possible to measure capacitance in terms of the time required for the voltage drop across the capacitor, charged from a constant current source, to


Fig. 5. Integrator output when measuring a direct voltage with a superimposed 50 Hz signal. The area " $A$ " cancels the area " $B$ " so that the interfering signal is effectively rejected. This rejection also occurs at the other frequencies which have an integral number of cycles in 20 milliseconds.


Fig. 6. Resistance measuring system.
reach a predetermined level. The method of implementing this technique is illustrated in Fig. 7.

At the beginning of the measurement cycle, the capacitor under test is completely discharged. The shorting switch across the capacitor is then opened allowing the current from the constant current source to flow into the capacitor. This, in turn, causes the voltage across the capacitor to rise linearly with time. The comparator detects when the voltage across the capacitor equals the reference voltage and causes the control logic to send a "store" command to the counter thus displaying the time taken and, hence, the capacitance value. At the halfway point during the cycle, the switch is closed once more so that the capacitor is discharged ready for the next measurement cycle.
This method of measurement has two main shortcomings, both of which produce similar effects. Firstly, it cannot resolve the effects of leakage resistance. As leakage generally occurs in electrolytic capacitors, this method is not really suitable for measuring them. Accordingly the top range has been limited to $1.999 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. Secondly, very low currents, or very short periods are needed when measuring low values of capacitance. As a result, the lowest range was chosen to be 1999 picofarads giving a possibility of resolving one picofarad.
In the next section of this article, I will describe the circuits used to perform the measurements which I have discussed above.

## REFERENCES

I. Schmid, H., "Digital meters for under $\$ 100$ " Electronics, November 28, 1966, p. 88.
2. Wheable, D., "Optimization of the Dual Ramp Voltmeter". The Radio and Electronic Engincer, Vol. 40. No. 2, August 1970, p. 59.


## News of the Month

## Electronic telephone exchanges for U.K.

The first equipment of Britain's initial 18 large electronic telephone exchanges is now being installed at the Rectory Exchange, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire. This follows the Post Office's decision that, in the modernization of the telephone network now proceeding, large electronic exchanges should be used alongside modern crossbar (electromechanical) equipment already being supplied to replace the old Strowger step-by-step equipment. The electronic exchange chosen is the TXE4 - an electronically controlled reed relay switching system - which has been developed by Standard Telephones and Cables for the Post Office as the design authority. By means of this, exchanges with initial capacities of 2000 lines can be extended in stages to a maximum of 40,000 lines. S.T.C. is now working on a $£ 15$ million contract to develop and supply 18 TXE4 exchanges, but later it is expected that other companies will also be brought in as manufacturers. Altogether the Post Office will spend about $£ 100$ million over a seven-year period on the introduction of this type of exchange.

The TXE4 is not fully electronic, in that the essential connections between the speech wire pairs of subscribers are made by reed relays arranged in a matrix switching system. The operation of these relays, however, is automatically controlled by electronic, solid-state, computer-like equipment working under programme control. Consider the analogy of a human switchboard operator using eyes, brain and hands in a manual exchange. The hands of the operator making connections are equivalent to the reed relay switching apparatus; the eyes of
the operator looking at indicators are equivalent to electronic scanning and storage equipment examining the state of the incoming lines to see whether calls are being made on them; while the brain of the operator is equivalent to electronic "control units" which identify calling subscribers, determine the connections required, select suitable routes through the network and finally operate the reed relays.

Programme control for the "brain" part - an ordered sequence of instructions which must be followed to set up each connection - is provided physically by a permanent wired programme. This consists of energizing wires running in various paths through an array of small ferrite cores carrying sensing windings. Each wire is energized in turn by having a current pulse passed through it, and this causes a particular combination of the cores to be magnetized - forming an instruction. Whichever pattern of cores is magnetized (the instruction) is read out by means of the sensing windings. In later electronic exchanges this wired programme wi!! be replaced by an alterable stored programme as used in digital computers.

## Bipolar i.c. "Process III" in production

Plessey bipolar "Process III" for silicon integrated circuits is now in large scale production at the main Plessey Semiconductors plant at Cheney Manor, Swindon. The line of development taken has been thickness reduction of the epitaxial " layer and of the subsequent diffusions, to obtain the best possible performance and improved packing density, even though the complexity of the


One electronics unit of the TXE4 telephone exchange removed from its rack for inspection. In the case of failure a unit may be removed and replaced with no interruption of subscriber service.
process increases. Using Process III, the epitaxial layer is only four microns thick, while the emitter-base and base-collector junctions are, respectively, about $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ micron deep. This has resulted in transistors with $f_{\mathrm{T}}$ greater than 2 GHz , the sort of performance normally associated with discrete microwave transistors. In previous bipolar processes, the limits of both packing density and performance have been set by the depth of the diffusions. In the new Plessey process the limits are set by the process of photoengraving, i.e. by the wavelength of light used. Future improvements in packing density and performance will depend on developments such as the replacement of light in engraving by another agent. e.g. electrons, and by the replacement of diffusion for isolation by an improved technique. Reduction of the surface geometry will bring the necessity to reduce the junction depths and this may involve the application of ion implantation.

Initial application of the process has been for a range of counter and divider circuits which can operate at up to 1.2 GHz input. The divider range includes programmable dividers and b.c.d. output devices. Linear circuits have been produced including a $300 \mathrm{~V} / \mu \mathrm{s}$ slew rate operational amplifier and a squaring circuit which has a $0-200 \mathrm{MHz}$ operating bandwidth.

## Microcircuit telephone coin mechanism

Long-distance calls from public telephone boxes could be made with much greater ease using an electronic coin operated mechanism developed by Associated Automation in collaboration with General Instrument Microelectronics. Key to the mechanism is a single m.o.s. microcircuit chip onto which has been packed all the logic, computing and signalling functions for the instrument. The logic unit, which has been designed and manufactured by General Instrument Microelectronics, calculates the charge as the call progresses and automatically debits this sum from a pre-charged coin store. On completion of the call unused coins are automatically refunded. By this method of operation, frantic meter feeding which can occur on long-distance or high-tariff calls is thus eliminated. Instead, a user can empty his pocket of any small change and insert the money into a single coin slot before dialling. The mechanism accepts coins of three specified denominations. These are mechanically sorted into storage chutes and unsuitable coins are automatically ejected.

Once the coins have entered the storage chutes the progress of the call is controlled entirely by the 24 -pin m.o.s. 1.s.i. microcircuit. This chip marshals over 16 input signals and controls the call through eight output pins. It has over 600 logic gates in three major logic blocks, a three register memory, an arithmetic unit, and a control logic circuit block which also incorporates a tone generator together with its associated timing circuitry.

Each chute is controlled by solenoid operated pins so that money held in store can be taken coin by coin. On entering the storage chute, coins roll over a microswitch, producing a signal which is routed to the equivalent storage register on the chip. An arithmetic unit then translates the numbers held in the three storage registers into a total credit amount. To accommodate different currencies the ratio between the three specified denominations can be altered and the tariff rate adjusted. In the U.K., for example, the Series 7000 could be set to accept $1 \mathrm{p}, 5 \mathrm{p}$ and 10 p coins and the coin ratio of $1: 5: 10$ selected from the eight available.

## Time control for recorded speech

"Varispeech" is a machine, marketed by F.W.O. Bauch Ltd, which can produce time compression or expansion of recorded speech without the frequency distortion which occurs if the recording and play-back speeds of normal tape recorders are altered. The operating principle is to convert the voice signal, which is recorded in analogue form on a cassette, to a digital equivalent. This signal is then converted to a second digital format with or without time compression or expansion. Re-conversion to analogue form restores the origin speech without loss of intelligibility or speaker identification. The recording medium is a standard audio tape cassette operating at $1 \frac{7}{8}$ i.p.s. and playback speed is variable from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2 \frac{1}{2}$ times the original.

## Visual image processing robot

A team of researchers at the University of Nottingham has developed a robot intended to carry out assembly functions in manufacturing industries. Following up the news item on a Hitachi image processing robot (December 1972), British development in this field is not lacking at all. Referring to the accompanying photograph, parts are presented on a back-illuminated platform (A) which is capable of being scanned by a vidicon system (B) through an aperture in the gripper turret (C). There are three linear axes $X, Y$ and $Z$ operated by stepping motors at speeds of up to 4000 steps per second. Two rotational axes are also operated by stepping motors, one of these being associated with the angular position of the image as presented to the TV camera. The actuator is mechanically coupled to three gripping mechanisms mounted on the turret which will assume the same angular mechanical displacement as the image, so that the device can sense the random orientation of any image placed on the viewing platform.

The image of the part to be handled is transmitted through the viewing station in the turret to the television camera tube. The video signal from the camera is then processed by a Honeywell DDP516


Visual image processing robot which has been developed at Nottingham University. Refer to the text for explanation of symbols and operation.
computer, which is programmed to the shape and angular disposition of the image in numerical form. The machine can be "taught" to recognize any basic shape by allowing it to view the part and then initiating a learning procedure. Thereafter, if a part is recognized, the machine is programmed to select the appropriate gripper and move towards the part which has been selected for manipulation to any pre-determined angular and linear position.

The Nottingham University development team will exhibit this machine at a conference on Industrial Robot Technology organized by the Universities of Nottingham and Birmingham and to be held at the University of Nottingham in the Department of Production Engineering and Production Management on 27th to 29th March.

## Arabian telecommunications

A telecommunication complex, which will include a satellite earth station, is to be installed by Cable and Wireless Ltd in the United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf. The earth station, which will be the tenth to be owned and operated by Cable and Wireless and its associates, will be built in Dubai, close to the border with Abu Dhabi. Cable and Wireless engineers will be responsible for the design, overall project control and acceptance testing of the installation. They will also operate and maintain it when it is in service. As well as the earth station, there will also be a modern international telephone switching centre and an automatic telex service is to be provided. The new earth station in

Dubai, which is due to be completed by the end of next year, will provide all forms of international telecommunication, including telephony, telegraph, telex, and facsimile transmission. High-speed data transmission facilities will also be available for the international interconnection of computer systems.

## "Molniya" satellite launched

Another Molniya communication satellite has been launched in the Soviet Union. It is to be used in a long-range telegraphic radio communications system and for broadcasting Soviet Central Television programmes to points of the "Orbita" network in the Far North, Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia. The satellite was put into an elliptical orbit with a perigee of 470 km in the southern hemisphere and an apogee of $39,200 \mathrm{~km}$ in the northern hemisphere. Its period of revolution is 11 h 43 min , and the orbital inclination is 65 degrees. Apart from apparatus for transmitting television programmes and long-range multi-channel radio communications, the satellite is also carrying instruments of a control and measurement complex and systems of orientation and orbit correction.

## Distance measuring equipment errors

A circular letter from the Civil Aviation Authority states that on infrequent occasions reports have been received from pilots that they have experienced faulty D.M.E. operation. These reports have
been received only from aircraft flying at low altitudes, generally below $1,000 \mathrm{ft}$, and at ranges of less than 20 miles from the D.M.E. beacon. The fault has taken the form of the indicated range being too high, or a failure to "lock-on" to the beacon. It seems possible that the reported errors may be caused by multi-path reflections due to surrounding terrain, but only in combination with certain aircraft attitudes and altitudes and, possibly, with some types of airborne equipment.

## Physics Exhibition

The 57th annual Physics Exhibition will this year be held at Earls Court, which should make access easier for potential visitors who were discouraged by the trek out to Alexandra Palace in previous years. The exhibition will be open from 9-13th April, from 10.00 to 18.00 each day except on the 13 th when it will close at 17.00. Tickets of admission to the Physics Exhibition will also secure admission to Labex International, which is being held simultaneously on the ground floor of Earls Court. Further information about the Physics Exhibition is available from The Exhibitions Officer, The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1 8QX.

## Philip Berkeley Award

The British Kinematograph Sound and Television Society is proposing to make an annual award to mark the memory of a late vice-president, Philip R. Berkeley (see obituary notice, February issue, p.90). This award will be known as the "Philip Berkeley Award" and will be given for the most outstanding technical contribution in the field of television production in the United Kingdom. Final details will be announced in the BKS\&T Journal published in March.

## Briefly

## New 'speaker

Rumour has it that Quad are working on a new loudspeaker.

## Last valves

The last of Eddystone Radio's valve receivers is being phased out of production in favour of a solid-state range of general purpose receivers.

## Science fiction factory

This is an example of the state of the art in computer written science fiction epics, the author being a giant computer in Cleveland, Ohio. "The fury of the motors rocked the hill. The moon stared coldly down. Jackie Lukar spoke as the 'copter started. Matches; torches; all were needed. 'Switch on the disintegrator!' Vilma expostulated. Then screamed Oriath the immortal patriarch: 'Let there today be war within these planets" ". Brian Aldiss need not worry for a little while.

Surround-sound Circuits

# Build your own matrix circuits using i.es 

by Geoffrey Shorter

Whichever proposal is adopted for allround sound recording and reproduction, if indeed any one system is, it is a fact that in the U.K. the SQQ system is the one for which most records are presently available. And there are many people who are anxious to try them out, some of whom, with limited resources, may not wish to buy commercial SQ decoders for fear that the SQ system may not be standardized and with the consequence that a different decoder would be required.

Two circuits are given to enable constructors to build SQ decoders, one using all discrete components and the other including integrated circuits. If you wish to try out a simple matrix circuit for getting a surround-sound effect from stereo records a simple set-up is possible using a Toshiba integrated circuit. No doubt further i.cs will become available for other systems. One, made by Texas Instruments for Electro-Voice, is compatible with SQ and claimed to be compatible with discs encoded to other systems, but is still not made available outside the U.S.A.

The basis of the SQ system has been covered before in these pages but a resumé is not out of place. Sounds from a pairwise mixed four-channel master tape are coded into the left and right channels of a stereo disc according to

$$
\begin{aligned}
& L=L_{F}-0.707 j L_{B}+0.707 R_{B} \\
& R=R_{F}-0.707 L_{B}+0.707 i R_{B}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $j$ indicates a phase difference of $90^{\circ}$ between channels. These two signals are basically the inputs to the front speakers in playback and the two rear signals are derived from $j 0.707 L-0.707 R$ for the left back speaker and $0.707 L-j 0.707 R$ for the right back speaker.

These equations give rise to unique crosstalk properties (shown on page 56 February 1972 issue of $W . W$. for the four corners), with the feature of little or no crosstalk between the two front "channels" but with the particular penalty of infinite crosstalk for centre front and centre back positions with a "straight" SQ decoder. This makes localization of a centre front sound imprecise. (The simple diagrams of page 56 do not convey how accurately sounds are localized at the corners or other points around the compass.)

The essence of an $S Q$ decoder is shown in the block diagram of Fig. 1. As the $j$ operator shown in the above equations indicates a relative phase difference of $90^{\circ}$, on playback the coded left and right


Fig.1. Basic decoder scheme for use with $S Q$ records.
channels are first passed through networks in which phase is an approximately linear function of frequency over most of the audio band. These same signals also pass through similar networks which give a linear phase-frequency response, but shifted in phase by $90^{\circ}$.

With such a decoder a sound intended to appear at centre front produces equal outputs from all four speakers. And although the rear sounds are in antiphase, they are going to interfere with centre front localization. To alleviate this situation, a certain amount of blending is arranged in some $S Q$ decoders between the two front outputs and the two rear outputs. This has the effect of cancelling some of the antiphase components of the signals, thus reducing the outputs from the rear speakers in the case of a centre front sound. The most common amounts of blend are $10 \%$ between front outputs and $40 \%$ between rear outputs. In such a decoder the gain of the back channels is reduced by ldB, giving a total front to back crosstalk of 7 dB . Front "channel" crosstalk is increased to 20 dB and back channel crosstalk increased to 8 dB .

A circuit of a $10-40$ blend decoder is shown in Fig. 2, which follows the scheme of Fig. 1. The $90^{\circ}$ phase difference provided by these networks is accurate to within $\pm 10^{\circ}$ from 100 Hz to 10 kHz . The 68 and $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistors provide the relative gain of 0.7 between front and back, signal paths, and two transistors in the second stages of the phase difference networks provide inversion. (This circuit is used in many commercial SQ decoder units. Better phase difference networks are provided in some decoders, like the Lasky's Audiotronics decoder which gives a deviation of $\pm 10 \%$ over 20 Hz to 18 kHz .)

In constructing the circuit of Fig. 2,
resistor values should be $\frac{1}{4}$-watt, $5 \%$ tolerance types, and the eight capacitors in the phase-shift networks should be $10 \%$ tolerance. Recommended transistors are 2N3393, except for the output transistors which should be 2 N 3390 . (Both types are made by G-E and Siemens. Motorola have similar devices: MPS 3393 and MPS 6521 respectively.) Input impedance is $20 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, output impedance $1.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and nominal input level 500 mV r.m.s., the circuit having unity gain. To convert to a high input impedance the upper and lower bias resistors can be changed to 3 and $1.8 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ respectively, using 2 N 5308 (G-E) input transistors.

Integrated circuits are now available from Motorola for this circuit at $£ 1.65$. Components need to be added, as indicated in Fig 3, and these should be within $5 \%$ tolerance to give a $\pm 8.5 \%$ deviation from the $90^{\circ}$ norm between 100 Hz and 10 kHz . With a 20 V supply rail (maximum 30 V ) consumption is 16 mA . For a nominal input of 500 mV distortion is $0.1 \%$, clipping occurring at 2 V . Input impedance is $3 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. The blend resistors, shown in broken lines, should be $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ between the two front outputs and $7.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ between the two rear outputs for the 10-40 blend.

Another way of reducing unwanted
outputs from speakers is the gain control circuit given on page 597 of the December 1972 issue of $W$.W. Here a discrete component circuit was shown that provides automatic blend and consequent cancellation of antiphase components in the rear signals when a source appears at front centre. When $L+R>L-R$ some cancellation will occur and this also applies in the front "channels" when $L+R<L-R$. Whether this additional complexity is justified depends largely on the programme material. It is very effective for single sources, but multiple sources will defeat the circuit, suppress secondary sources, or cause odd time-varying effects.


Fig.2. Circuit of $S Q$ decoder used on some inexpensive decoders in which front outputs are blended by $10 \%$ and pack by $40 \%$.


Fig.3. Integrated circuit for $S Q$ decoder. Add resistors of $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ for front pair and $7.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ for rear pair of outputs for '10-40' blend.


Fig.4. Circuit using i.cs to reduce crosstalk for simple sound sources.

If you wish to try it out chips will be shortly available from Motorola for this and a circuit is shown in Fig. 4, which feeds directly from Fig. 3 with the omission of the two blend resistors. The MC1314 includes the voltage-controlled amplifiers and the MC1315 provides the control voltages. As well as improving centre sounds at front the MC1315 includes circuitry to detect and attenuate unwanted outputs for corner signals.

Components in this circuit should be $5 \%$ tolerance in the phase shift networks (around pins 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13 on MC1312) and $10 \%$ otherwise, excepting electrolytic capacitors. The $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ volume control should have a semi-log law, and the balance controls, which give a 12 dB constant-power variation, should be linear. Front and rear balance controls can be "ganged" by connecting pins 1 and 15 on MC1314 and omitting one potentiometer.

If you want to omit volume and balance controls, connect pin 8 of MC1314 to a potential divider giving +6 V , and leave pins 1, 7 and 15 open-circuit.

The automatic action can be varied with the linear 10k $\Omega$ "dimension" control, which CBS recommend setting at $50 \%$, giving a front-to-back crosstalk of 15 dB typically. Signal handling capability of the circuit is reduced at maximum setting unless $V_{C C}=30 \mathrm{~V}$ on the MC1314.

## Surround-sound from stereo records

The other readily available i.c. is the Toshiba TA7117P. Phase difference circuits are not a part of this i.c., so the chip contains merely differential amplifiers, matrix circuit and output amplifiers. as indicated in Fig. 5. This chip is fine for getting surround-sound from ordinary stereo records. The two inputs are added and subtracted in varying proportions depending on choice of external resistors. The two added signals, $L+a R$ and $R+$ $b L$, feed two front amplifiers and speakers and the two subtracted signals, $L-C R$ and $R-d L$, feed the two rear amplifiers


Fig.5. Scheme of Toshiba matrix i.c.


Fig.6. Circuit for getting surround-sound from ordinary records and certain coded records.
and speakers. With such an arrangement the amount of front and rear crosstalk can be experimentally varied, keeping $a=b$ and $c=d$. With $a=b=0$ and $c=d=1$, this gives the equivalent of the simple speaker matrix (obtained with only two power amplifiers by connecting the two rear speakers in antiphase and across the "live" terminals of the two amplifiers, used frequently to enhance the ambience of stereo programmes).

This is not entirely satisfactory, one effect being an increase in apparent width of the stereophonic field. Considering a left-only signal, for instance, sound will emerge from the left front, the left back and right back (in antiphase) speakers, tending to pull the image round anticlockwise from left front. This is counteracted by blending the two front outputs (and in the interests of symmetry the back two). A good starting point is by choosing $a=b=c=d=0.414$, experimenting by varying $a=b$ and $c=d$. The circuit of Fig. 6 has resistor values chosen according to this value. The $18 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistors can be altered to a value of 7.3 divided by the crosstalk fraction required for the front speakers and 7.3 multiplied by the crosstalk fraction required for the rear speakers.

The circuit might give acceptable results for certain coded recordings like the early American Dynaco and Electro-Voice-encoded discs and some Japanese records. Coded QS/RM/Pye records should give acceptable results, but with all records there will be no precise back images and any sounds intended to come from the back speakers will be shifted round toward the nearest front speaker.

With the Toshiba i.c. current consumption is typically 16 mA at 15 V or 10 mA at 8 V . Input impedance is $3 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ With an input of 100 mV r.m.s. harmonic distortion is $0.1 \%$ (rising to $0.3 \%$ for 300 mV and $1 \%$ at IV). Price is $£ 1.67 *$ from Eric Electronics Ltd, South Denes, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

The Toshiba i.c. should give better results for the Pye QS/RM records than an SQ decoder. An SQ record played through the Toshiba i.c. would not reproduce intended sound directions from the rear speakers.
Quadraphonic two-channel records availatle in the U.K. total about 100 with around 70 SQ discs from CBS, 15 from EMI and $12 \mathrm{QS} / \mathrm{RM}$ discs from Pye. (Total for U.S.A. and Japan is at least 500.)
*Prior to any revaluation of the Yen.

## Communications of the future

The core of a system which, when fully implemented, will transmit 300,000 telephone conversations or 200 colour television signals simultaneously through a 50 mm diameter waveguide "pipe", is now in operation at the Great Baddow Research Laboratories of GEC-Marconi Electronics.

The demand for U.K. communications capacity is rising at a rate of well over $10 \%$ each year, not only as a result of the increased use of telephone and telex services, but also because of the rapidly
increasing traffic in computer-derived data. The new circular waveguide offers the basis of a practical solution to the problem of high capacity communications for the future. It is capable of transmitting signals throughout the frequency band from about 32 to 110 GHz . For the field trials, transmitter and receiver equipment is being installed to provide several complete channels, each of $500 \mathrm{Mbit} / \mathrm{s}$ capacity and operating below 50 GHz , to carry either simulated or genuine pulse code modulation communication traffic.

## Conferences and Exhibitions

Further details are obtainable from the addresses in parentheses

## LONDON

Feb. 26-Mar. 2
Bloomsbury Centre

## Seminex

(Evan Steadman and Partners, 4 Lyewood Common, Withyham, Hartfield, Sussex)

Mar. 13-15
Savoy Place
Satellite Systems for Mobile Communications and Surveillance
(I.E.E., Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL)

Mar. 13-15
Bloomsbury Centre Hotel
Sound 73
(Assoc. of Public Address Engineers, 6 Conduit St, London WIR 9TG)

Mar. 22 \& 23
Royal Garden Hotel Man Made Memories
(Mrs. Rosemary Willson, Mercury House, Waterloo Road, London SE1)

Mar. 27-29
Imperial College
Ultrasonics International
(Ultrasonics, 32 High Street, Guildford, Surrey)
Mar. 28-Apr. I
Excelsior Hotel
Sonex Audio Exhibition
(Federation of British Audio, 31 Soho Sq., London wIV 5DG)

## CARDIFF

Mar. 26-30 Sophia Gardens
Aimex 1973 (industrial measurement and control)
(Exhibitions Wales \& West Ltd, Holly House, Rhiwderin, Nr. Newport, Mon.)

## OVERSEAS

Mar. 6-10 Basle
Medical Electronics and Bio-engineering
(Sekretariat MEDEX 73, CH-402 : Basel)
Mar. 6-10
Basle
INEL 73 - Industrial Electronics
(Sek.retariat INEL 73, CH-4021 Basel)
Mar. 19-23
San Francisco
Avionics Maintenance Conference
(Aeronautical Radio Inc., 2551 Riva Road. Annapolis. Maryland 21401 , U.S.A.)

Mar. 20-Apr. 5
Peking
British Industrial Technology Exhibition
(Tek Translation \& International Print, 11 Uxbridge Rd, London W 12 8LH)

Mar. 27-29
Chicago
International Coil-winding Convention and Exhibition (Electromation Exhibitions Ltd, Cleveland House, 344a Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth. England.)

Apr. 2-7
Paris
Audiovisual and Communication Exhibition
Socrété pour la Diffusion des Sciences et des Arts, 14. rue de Presles, 75740 Paris)

## Letters to the Editor

The Editor does not necessarily endorse opinions expressed by his correspondents

## Quadraphonic controversy

So far, your excellent letters column appears to have avoided the great "discrete versus matrix quadraphonics" controversy. I would have thought that after the two highly informative articles by Geoffrey Shorter appearing last year on this subject (Jan. and Feb. 1972), everybody would appreciate the differences between the two systems, and nobody would be in any doubt as to which one produces genuine four-channel stereo. Furthermore, those who like myself were able to visit the London Audio Fair and compare demonstrations by all the fourchannel equipment manufacturers could make their own subjective evaluation of the two systems. As an electronics engineer, it seems to me that the discrete 4 -channel approach, as pioneered by JVC Nivico, is the truly elegant "engineering approach", whilst the matrix systems offered by other manufacturers are very second rate technical compromises. I am not alone in holding these opinions as well known quadra phonics experts, like Walter Carlos, have previously pointed out in depth the inadequacies of the matrix systems ("Moog Soundings", letter to Billboard, Aug. 1972).

Consequently, I was amazed to find, whilst reading the December 1972 "London Audio Fair Review", that under the section headed "Four-channel progress" not a mention was made of JVC's CD-4 equipment range. How can the reviewer justify a full seven paragraphs describing the products of no less than ten different inanufacturers of matrix equipment only, and claim to represent a fair assessment of progress in the four-channel field?

This would appear to be a somewhat biased view and could mislead those entering the world of quadraphonics into thinking that the matrix is the best solution when informed and unbiased opinion most definitely says otherwise.

## H. B. Kendler,

London, W.I.

## Our reporter writes:

The CD-4 four-channel disc system developed by the Victor Company of Japan was first reported by $W . W$. on page 487 of the October 1971 issue. The 1971 Audio Fair review referred readers back to the October report, no additional information being available. Developments were reported in the 1972 Sonex review and in "Letter from America" (both in May 1972) and in more detail in the September issue, page 424.

To reiterate our own words then, "the technical achievement is remarkable" and
the fact that we have devoted 1200 words to CD-4 and much more to matrix systems should not of course be taken to imply any comment as to the relative merits of the two! It is true that the 1972 Audio Fair report did not mention CD-4 but neither did it mention a host of other products that were not new. (The current CD-4 package was announced in the 1972 Sonex report.) The National demodulator in use was new, but there was no information available and to this day circuit diagrams have not been supplied (though we do now have half the circuit!)

Matrix systems for encoding pair-wise mixed four-channel master tapes onto two-channel discs have been dealt with in more detail for various reasons. Mixing four inputs into two and getting four outputs back leads to compromises in the commercial matrix systems, the particular compromises varying from system to system. And of course there is the great attraction of being able to use the existing stereo broadcasting system, record players and cheaper decoders. Hence more attention.

Then there is the question of whether four full-bandwidth audio channels are really needed for surround sound. Discs can be produced for three or four audio channels with the carrier channels having reduced bandwidth, with consequent improvement in noise and distortion and generally less stringent requirements in recording and playback. There is, for instance, a prototype carrier disc, called QMX, an augmentation of the two-channel BMX phasor matrix due to Duane Cooper and being developed by Nippon Columbia, that might make the future of CD-4 less certain.

## Why praise horn loudspeakers?

Gilbert Telfer's letter in the February 1973 issue probably puzzles many readers readers who consider themselves to possess equipment of monitoring quality (having impeccable technical credentials), or possibly those who scorn allusions to extremely vibrant resounding "reedy quality" and a "glitter and gloss" effect as being laughably irrelevant to the field of modern loudspeaker technology.

However, over the last three years my experience has been such that I can only endorse Telfer's enthusiasm for horn loading. It can give a series of unique benefits throughout the audio frequency range. I suggest that what he calls "motor slip" may well be responsible for the unreal bass and mid-range that can still be heard even from systems employing specially
designed plastic cones; even though toneburst tests show delays and storage in the cone to be at a very low level. The correction afforded by even modest horn loading over a range in which the driver cone operates as a single piston is such that the transient response judged subjectively is markedly enhanced.

I also agree that "electronic crossovers" - by which I presume Telfer means standard electrical crossover networks are less than ideal. However they can be very carefully designed, and provided crossover regions do not lie in the mid-band region where the human ear is acutely sensitive to phase changes (so I believe) they may be a necessary expedient in producing a commercial system.

Finally I would like to say that I believe we may soon see the conventional steadystate interpretation of audio phenomena which gives a very imperfect definition of perfection - gradually give way to a less arrogant treatmen. Then perhaps our notions of musical realism will for the first time be properly ascounted for in engineering terms.
John Greenbank,
Lecson Audio Ltd,
St Ives,
Hunts.

## Seeing in the dark

In reply to Mr Whitehead's letter in the January issue in which he asks for com ments, may I put forward some further considerations?

Mr Whitehead has correctly pointed out some of the changes in performance of the human eye and brain which occur at low light levels. As he says, the principal effects which occur without any conscious realization on our part are a reduction of acuity and a gradual change from normal colour vision to a monochrome or luminance-only appreciation of the scene. Both these effects occur subconsciously as the observer dark-adapts and he is therefore hardly aware that they are happening.

The situation in television is very different for two basic reasons. First, the average viewer watches television in a welllit room and therefore never dark-adapts; thus he retains normal acuity and colour vision regardless of the pictures presented by the television set. Secondly, the viewer is not usually interested in the fact that the scene the television camera is viewing may be poorly lit. A common case in point is a football match which may start in full daylight and end after dark in artificial lighting which may not be adequate to permit good pictures to be provided. The viewer expects to see good pictures in full detail and colour at all times and should not be expected to appreciate or allow for any deterioration in lighting. If he was actually at the football ground then it would be quite a different matter.

Under low-light conditions, the broadcaster may be forced to strike a compromise in which he partially sacrifices resolution, colour accuracy and contrast range in order
to maintain acceptable pictures with sufficient freedom from noise and cameratube lag effects. He avoids doing this, however, as much as possible, as the pictures so produced are easily recognized by the viewer as being below the normal standard.
J. R. Sanders,

## B.B.C. Research Dept.,

Kingswood Warren,
Surrey.

## Modular i.c. audio mixer

In their article in the December 1972 issue (p.564) J. H. Evans and P. Williams have pointed out that the main objections to using 741 operational amplifiers in low level audio circuits are the high noise level of the 741 compared to that of discrete transistors, and the cross-over distortion of the class-B output stage.

In the same issue (Letters p.575) D. R. S. Hedgeland describes an elegant solution to the noise problem by adding a discrete transistor input stage to the 741 .

The cross-over distortion can be eliminated by connecting a resistor, $R$, between the 741 output and one of the power supply rails. Then, for small signal voltages, the output current is always of the same sign, only half of the output stage is conducting, and so the 741 output stage behaves like a class- $A$ emitter follower. The current through $R$ should be considerably larger than the $60 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ quiescent current of the output transistors.

The diagram shows Mr Hedgeland's circuit with $R$ added. The $15 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor gives an offset current of $1 / \mu \mathrm{m} A$ which ensures class-A operation for outputs up to 2 V p-p into a load impedance (including the feedback network) of greater than 1 $\mathrm{k} \Omega$. For larger signals than this the percentage cross-over distortion is probably no longer significant. The low closed-loop output impedance of the operational amplifier prevents any power supply ripple voltage being transferred to the output by the added resistor.

The diagram also includes two further modifications to Mr Hedgeland's circuit.

First, a $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor in series with the $\operatorname{lnF}$ frequency compensation capacitor
improves the stability by increasing the phase margin at frequencies above 160 kHz .

Secondly, the feedback components have been changed to give frequency break points of 51,480 and 2080 Hz which are closer to the recommended R.I.A.A. values of 50,500 and 2120 Hz than the 34,365 and 1870 Hz frequencies given by the original circuit.
M. L. G. Oldfield,

Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford.

## Loudspeaker parameters

I found the article "Loudspeaker Survey" by Mr Stanley Kelly in the November 1972 issue very useful. The chart relating reverberation time, room volume and acoustic power, at a sound pressure level of 104 dB , is particularly useful as a design aid. However, there are several points that I think merit clarification.

First, the graph in question refers to a sound pressure level of 104 dB in the reverberant field, i.e. beyond the critical distance, given by
$D_{c}=0.14 \sqrt{Q S \bar{a}}$
where $D_{c}$ is the critical distance in feet, $Q$ is the directivity factor of the speaker involved, and $S \vec{a}$ is the total absorption, in sabins, of the room surfaces. Between $D_{c}$ and the speaker the sound level increases according to the inverse square law; +6 dB per halving of distance.

In a domestic living room $D_{c}$ is typically a couple of feet, and so the point is somewhat academic. However, in an auditorium $D_{c}$ is usually significant and must be allowed for in estimating the distribution of sound.

Second, the graph relating radiation angle and ratio of wavelength to piston diameter is only useful for cone loudspeakers if one knows how the effective diameter of the cone changes with frequency. It would be most helpful if one knew this, not only for estimating polar distribution but for the design of crossover networks.

Third, I am surprised that, with all the development work and consumer interest in high fidelity speaker systems, there has
been so little interest in the use of active crossover networks and separate power amplifiers for each speaker. (Altec Lansing in the United States - who refers to this as the Biamplifier approach - is the only manufacturer presently using this/system, to my knowledge.)

Several authors, writing in the Journal of the Audio Engineering Society, have pointed out that active crossover networks improve transient response. One would also expect - and the subjective results I obtained on my own system bear this out - that intermodulation distortion would also be reduced.

Finally, may I make a plea for more complete data from speaker manufacturers, particularly with respect to transducer efficiency? That the power handling capability of a speaker in an enclosure is 20 watts is of no use if one has no idea how much of that energy is converted into sound.

## Peter D. Hiscocks,

Ryerson Polytechnical Institute,
Toronto.

## The well-heeled amateur

Pat Hawker's tirade against those radio amateurs who like to buy the best radio equipment they can afford, many after spending years building their own, in January's "World of Amateur Radio" smacks of sour-grapes, as he writes that "some of us continue to find much interest in what are virtually 'junk box' stations". Let them so continue but don't try to condemn those who think differently. Surely this idea of his springs from recent letters in the Radio Society of Great Britain's monthly membership magazine Radio Communication when new and younger (?) members were told how they should enter and continue this absorbing hobby, as if they were old-time schoolshildren. Grandparents, let alone parents, know only too well how differently the younger generation view present-day prices and financial commitments generally with disdain - and go their own sweet way; that is what we amateurs who like to spend our money on our hobby will continue to do despite the preachers against it.

But what also troubles me is that this may now be the policy of the R.S.G.B., remembering that Pat Hawker is one of the three members of the Editorial Panel of Radio Communication and that one of our past presidents, Edward Ingram, GM6IZ, told "Peterborough" of the Daily Telegraph at our Diamond Jubilee Year Presidential Installation in London that "the most extravagant" of radio hams "have equipment costing as much as £6,000". Remember also that both Mr Hawker and Mr Ingram are or were professional radio engineers, and they must know only too well what their employers and their customers have to pay for commercial services and equipment, commencing prices that make the prices quoted against certain amateurs look like chicken feed.

I now await with dismay what to me will be the natural adverse reaction of the main advertisers in our magazine surely a goodly source of income - of the imported and, very little, U.K. manufactured equipment now so strongly decried.

Maybe my reaction is at fault, but I also await the reaction of the Editorial of the rival magazines.
R. F. G. Thurlow,

Wimblington,
Cambs.

## Pat Hawker replies:

Come off it Richard, you are tilting at windmills! Wherever you may have read a tirade against buying the best equipment you can afford it was not in World of Amateur Radio or anything else I have ever written. The item "Hobby for the well-heeled?" reported the present position with some examples of prices, stated this was a matter that aroused strong feelings (evidently!) and contrasted it with the position some decades ago. It did not attack amateurs who buy equipment indeed this would be absurd since amateurs have been doing this to a greater or lesser extent since the hobby began.

So far as I am concerned if anyone wants to spend $£ 6000$ or $£ 60,000$ on a station - or hire a maintenance team to keep it in trim - that is his or her own affair. But it is my affair, in World of Amateur Radio, to report such trends.

I am puzzled (flattered?) to find myself somehow credited with representing or even forming "the policy of the R.S.G.B." My influence, if any, on the policy makers of Doughty Street hardly runs so high! As to advertisers, I feel they have more respect for the integrity of technical journals and journalists than Richard Thurlow suggests. Certainly over many years I have never consciously refrained from reporting matters of fact for fear of offending them - I hope I never will.

Personally I believe that an element of home-construction is an important part of the hobby and should be encouraged after all it is one of the best forms of "self-training" which is included in the international definition of Amateur Radio. Similarly I do not want youngsters put off from joining our ranks because of any feeling that only high-cost equipment produces worth-while results - do you Richard?

## Audio pre-amplifiers

May I join in the discussion between Messrs Walker and Linsley Hood on the subject of distortion in low-noise amplifiers?

Mr Linsley Hood claims that series feedback can give more distortion than shunt feedback. He gives results from some experiments with a 741 operational amplifier which prove his point - where 741 s are concerned. The discussion is concerned with the behaviour of low-noise


## Fig. 1

pre-amplifiers, and in particular the case where series feedback is applied to the emitter of the input transistor. A 741 has four transistors in the signal path between the two inputs, so the situation with this is not comparable. One doesn't use a 741 if one wants minimum noise, so experiments with a 741 are hardly relevant. The subject, in fact, seems to have become diverted somewhat. However, Mr Linsley Hood's results are certainly a warning to anyone using 741s in audio circuits.
Now Mr Linsley Hood has recently published a design (Hi-Fi News, November 1972) for a very low distortion amplifier and a pre-amplifier to go along with it (January 1973). The input stage of the pre-amplifier uses his "Liniac" circuit with shunt feedback. However, in the power amplifier (for which he gives the distortion as $<0.01 \%$ ) he uses series feedback. Surely this is good evidence that in the normal type of audio circuit with series feedback the effect he found with the 741 will be quite insignificant? My vote, I think, goes to Mr Walker's preamplifier circuit rather than Mr Linsley Hood's.
I would now like to change the subject to that of the pickup compensation which one should use. Mr Linsley Hood has observed (W.W., July 1969, p.310) that the pickup inductance will produce a top cut which has to be compensated somewhere. Compensation may possitly be provided to a greater or lesser degree by the manufacturer, but just what the
user should provide seems to be a bit hazy. However, the appropriate feedback network for compensating for the top cut is shown in Fig.1. I have a Shure V15-II, which is stated to have a resistance of $630 \Omega$ and an inductance of 720 mH . When loaded with the recommended $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ the inductance will produce a top cut with a break point of about 10 kHz . The network values to compensate for this are given for two cases: (A) assuming R.I.A.A. characteristic and (B) giving extended bass down to 25 Hz (as per Linsley Hood). I offer these as a suggestion: I haven't tried them. If there is any compensation already present, the result will be overcompensation. An advantage of this network will be reduction of high frequency loop gain, which will improve stability, and I observe that Mr Walker's circuit includes an extra resistor in the feedback network for just this purpose. The values I have given result in an impedance of $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ at 1 kHZ . They may be scaled to give any other impedance required and rounded off to convenient preferred values. Series and shunt arrangements using the network are shown in Fig.2. In the shunt arrangement, $R_{3}$ is $R_{4}$ plus the parallel combination of $R_{5}$ and $R_{6}$. In the series arrangement it is $R_{7}$ plus $R_{g}$. Stage gains are of course readily calculated.
J. E. A. Fison,

Harrogate,
Yorks.

|  | Component values |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | A (R.I.A.A.) | B (extended bass) |
| $R_{1}$ | $24.0 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $23.4 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $R_{2}$ | $352 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $727 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $R_{3}$ | $7.73 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $7.64 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $C_{1}$ | 3.13 nF | 3.21 nF |
| $C_{2}$ | 9.04 nF | 8.75 nF |



Fig. 2

# Hybrid Thick-film Circuits <br> Their design, application and manufacture 

by G. Brooke,* Grad.I.E.R.E. and W. E. B. Baldwin,** M.I.E.E., M.I.E.R.E.

Thick-film circuits were first produced commercially about eight years ago, at a time when the range of monolithic integrated circuits was not so extensive as it is today and their power handling capabilities were smaller. Although today, monolithic circuits have been greatly extended in range and capabilities, there are many potential applications where the thick-film technique is more economic, quicker to produce and lechnically better if the circuits are designed to be compatible with the technology.

Some helpful notes on the criteria for choosing a circuit fabrication technique are given in Morton Topfer's book, ${ }^{1}$ but the actual technique adopted depends on the quantities involved. It can be said here that the thick-film technique incurs very low tooling costs relative to monolithic circuits and hence even sample quantities are not expensive; in quantity the price per unit is even lower and will generally level off at about the 2000 mark.
Other positive reasons for choosing thickfilm circuits are:
(a) they can cater for a wide range of $C$ and $R$, and higher voltages.
(b) they are able to dissipate high powers without damaging the performance of the lower-power parts of the circuit.
(c) they are particularly suitable for analogue circuits where the range of monolithic integrated circuits does not match up to the demands of the great diversity of applications.
(d) they can be designed to fit exactly the customer's circuit without the necessity of trying to adapt standard circuits to produce the desired performance.
Conversely, as more designs are made, some standard circuits will become available in thick-film form, for example amplifiers and resistor networks.

All this is not to say that only one technique should be used for any given circuit to get the best all-round results. It is essential to keep an open mind and, if necessary, combine techniques; hence hybrid thickfilm microelectronics.

## General construction

A hybrid thick-film module consists of a ceramic substrate on which is screen-printed conductor, resistor and dielectric inks

[^1]which, when fired at a very high temperature, form an almost indestructible electronic circuit. Various sizes of ceramics are used up to about 10 cm square, but the most common practical circuits are printed on standard sizes from 1 cm to 5 cm square. Resistors can easily be adjusted to give the required value and tolerance and hence the manufacturing yield can be very high. Even without trimming, a yield of better than $90 \%$ is achievable for a tolerance of less than $\pm 15 \%$; similar resistors will track within $\pm 2 \%$.
One of the big attractions of thick-film circuits is in their ease of handling: conformal coating or dipping, shown in Fig. 1, often gives sufficient protection for even a very stringent requirement, while the printed conductors accept soft solder very easily so that tinned leads or pins are attached without much difficulty. Figure 2 shows one such moulded assembly-one section of a radio paging device. In special cases more protection is necessary and then hermeti-cally-sealed cans are used as in Fig. 3.
Attached to the thick-film circuits will be the discrete components, such as transistors, silicon integrated circuits, high or special performance capacitors and miniature coils. These will either be in "chip" form or microminiature protected packages, and the range of these is continually increasing. The use of silicon transistors is essential because of the subsequent processing temperatures.

## Hybrid module design

The manufacturing designer of a hybrid thick-film module will have a wide knowledge of the many different technologies that are used in their construction, covering electronics, mechanics and chemical processes, but the potential customer may be unaware of the many practical details that have to be clearly defined before even a preliminary design can be outlined. Therefore each of the component parts and technologies will be described.

The component that forms the basis of the module is the thick-film circuit. This consists of a flat slice of high-alumina ceramic, either 0.6 mm or 1 mm thick, on which is screen-printed the patterns forming the conductors, resistors and capacitors. The actual pattern that is applied to the fire-mesh stainless steel screen has first been drawn many times full size and then


Fig. 1. Typical examples of conformal (dipped) coating applied to single-line edge-pin packages.


Fig. 2. A moulded package, in three stages of construction.


Fig. 3. A thick-film circuit before encapsulation in a hermetically-sealed can.
reduced photographically. Each layer of ink will have its own screen but all have to be reproduced carefully so that the final printed patterns will match and register with one another.

For each screen, a special ink will be specified: for conductors a palladium silver ink together with an organic binder can be used and will give a typical fired resistance of about 0.03 ohm per square. For a lower conductor resistance an ink consisting of gold or gold alloy is available and this gives a conductor resistance of about $0.005 \mathrm{ohm} /$ square. There are many other metal combinations on the market and their use will depend on particular circuit requirements. Solder coating is often used to reduce conductor resistance.

After the conductor is printed and fired, the second screen may be a resistor pattern. Once again a specially-formulated ink is used that will produce a sheet resistance from about $10 \mathrm{ohms} / \mathrm{sq}$ to at least 10 megohms/sq, depending on the particular composition and firing temperature as in Table 1. It is from a knowledge of the precise sheet resistance for a given ink, printer and firing furnace that the length and width of the resistor elements can be determined.

Similarly, other inks can be used to produce dielectrics for capacitors, insulators for crossovers and protection glazes (Fig. 4). The range of inks available is now very extensive but each ink may have a special characteristic, such as temperature coefficient, noise factor, stability, etc., The potential user will be advised by the particular thick-film manufacturer that he approaches on the sort of characteristics that he can be offered. Generally speaking, each manufacturer adopts one or, at the most, two ranges of inks: this is because the cost of stocking say 200 g of ink is about $£ 300$ and there may be at least 12 inks required in each range. Of course, this would be sufficient to produce at least 20,000 one-inch square circuits. Figure 5 shows a typical resistor test pattern and a customer can often obtain such a sample from the manufacturer on which he can carry out evaluation tests.
After all the layers of inks have been printed and fired, the next process is usually the trimming of the resistors. Normally the resistors will be within $\pm 15 \%$ of their designed value despite the very many variables in the printing and firing processes. To bring each resistor to a closer tolerance, a trimming process is carried out which usually consists of cutting away the width of the resistor by an abrasive powder, thereby increasing its value. The process is now an automatic one and an adjustment to better than $\pm 1 \%$ can easily be made at little extra cost.

## Attached components

To make a complete functional circuit, other components will be required and these will have to be attached to the thickfilm circuit. Transistors and, quite often, capacitors, particularly large values, are now produced specially for this type of module construction. Transistors may be in the micro-package form shown in Fig. 6, but more manufacturers are now attaching


Fig. 4. The layout of a resistor, conductors and capacitor.

TABLE 1
Characteristics of resistor inks.

| Resistor element characteristics |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Parameter | Value |
| Standard range | $0.5 \Omega$ to $50 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ |
| Tolerance | Initially $\pm 5 \% / \pm 15 \%$ |
|  | dependent on size and |
|  | $\pm 0.1 \%$ by individual |
|  | adjustment |
|  | Within the range -100 to |
| Temperature | +330 p.p.m. $/{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| coefficient | $0.4 \%$ to $2 \%$ at $150^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Stability | 2.000 hours test |
|  | 4 W per in $\mathrm{in}^{2}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Substrate dissipation |  |
|  | $\left(600 \mathrm{~mW}\right.$ per $\mathrm{cm} \mathrm{m}^{2}$ at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) |
|  | in free air substrate |
|  | temperature $165^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
|  | $30 \mathrm{~mW} /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ per in |
| Derating factor | $\left(5 \mathrm{~mW} / /^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ per $\left.\mathrm{cm}^{2}\right)$ |
|  | $60 \mathrm{~W} / \mathrm{in}^{2}\left(9 \mathrm{~W} / \mathrm{cm}^{2}\right)$ |
| Resistor dissipation |  |
| (in free air) |  |
|  |  |



Fig. 5. Resistor test pattern.


All dimensions in mm
Fig. 6. Micro-package transistor.

TABLE 2
Typical microminiature devices for hybrid thick-film circuits, packaged as in Fig. 6.

| Type no. | Construction Technique |  |  | Maximum Ratings |  |  |  | $h_{\text {FE }}$ at |  | $I_{C}$ | $\boldsymbol{f}_{T}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | $V_{\text {cbo }}$ | $V_{\text {CEO }}$ | $l_{\text {Clav) }}$ | $T_{j}$ | $P_{t o t}$ | $\min$. | max |  | min. |
|  |  |  | (V) | (V) | (mA) | $\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | (mW) |  |  | (mA) | ( MHz ) |
| BCW31R |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 110 | 220 |  |  |
| BCW32R | Y1 | PE | 30 | 20 | 50 | 125 | 150 | 200 | 450 | 2.0 | 300 |
| BCW33R |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 420 | 800 |  |  |
| BCW71R | Y1 | PE | 50 | 45 | 50 | 125 | 150 | 110 | 220 | 2.0 |  |
| BCW72R | Y | PE | 50 | 45 | 50 | 125 | 150 | 200 | 450 | 2.0 | 300 |
| BFS97R | Y1 | PE | 30 | 15 | 25 | 125 | 150 | 25 | 150 | 2.0 | 1200 |
| BFS20R | Y1 | PE | 30 | 20 | 25 | 125 | 150 | 40 | - | 7.0 | 250 |
| BSV52R | Y1 | PE | 20 | 12 | 50 | 125 | 150 | 40 | 120 | 10 | 400 |

the basic silicon chip directly to the circuit. The advantage of the former is that a completely tested transistor can be put on to the circuit whereas the full test cannot be carried out on a chip transistor until after it has been bonded and sealed to the circuit. The range of micro-package transistors is relatively limited at the moment (Table 2) but more or less any silicon chip transistor, diode or s.c.r. can be bonded directly to the circuit.

The attachment of silicon integrated devices to a thick-film circuit is possible but a similar problem to that of transistors exists when it comes to testing. The use of a chip i.c. means that the complete function of the i.c. cannot be fully checked prior to attachment and bonding of the wires, and the resultant yield of good thick-film circuits will be lower. For many applications it is usually better to use a standard dual-in-line package i.c. and mount it alongside the associated thick-film circuit that contains
the remainder of the components. For initial evaluation of a circuit, this is the most economic way and it would only be necessary to include the device within the thick-film substrate if space was a critical factor.

Chip capacitors can be obtained in either a general purpose characteristic from about 200 pF to $100,000 \mathrm{pF}$ or as an NP0 type from 1 pF to about 400 pF . A typical set of characteristics from one manufacturer is shown in Table 3. If printed capacitors are used, general purpose and NP0 types are available and the area required can be calculated from a typical $20,000 \mathrm{pF} / \mathrm{sq}$. inch and $2,000 \mathrm{pF} / \mathrm{sq}$. inch respectively. The breakdown voltage is usually more than 200 volts but unlike chip capacitors this cannot be determined until the whole circuit is fired and sealed.
Very large values of capacitance can only be obtained by using tantalum components, but these are, at the moment, rather expen-
sive compared with standard lypes, and it is advisable to mount these outside the module if possible.

For a quick production turn-round, a manufacturer would have to carry a very large stock of transistors and capacitors in order to accommodate all the different characteristics and tolerances that a customer may require. It is therefore very important that, where possible, standard types and values are specified with the widest possible tolerance. With closetolerance resistors easily achievable, it is often possible to widen the associated capacitance tolerance

## Ceramic substrate

The actual material used for the ceramic substrate is $96 \%$ alumina and is suitable for most general applications. It may be necessary to use a special grade where applications in the u.h.f. and microwave regions are considered. There are many standard sizes of ceramics available and usually each thick-film circuit manufacturer has had special tooling made to give him a further standard size. It is once again important for economic reasons to design a circuit around one of the standards which in turn usually determines the method of the pin or leadframe attachment.

For specially-shaped substrates a tooling cost of $£ 300-£ 400$ is usual with a delay of 12 to 16 weeks. A special shape may require new assembly jigs which will add to the total cost. For very small sample quantities, it is possible to diamond cut standard substrates to the special size but this is not easy and should be avoided il possible.

The power dissipation depends primarily on the thermal conductivity of the ceramic and to a lesser extent on the overall package configuration. A typical figure for this is 3 watts/sq. inch, although the dissipation of the resistive elements may be as much as 60 watts/sq. inch. For most applications, if care is taken with the encapsulation and package design, 3 watts/sq. inch is adequate. The use of a higher thermal conductivity ceramic such as beryllia is possible but the advantages are small compared with the extra cost and the very severe health hazard that ensues if abrasive trimming of resistors is adopted

## Package design

The packaging and encapsulation of hybrid circuits usually presents the most difficult problems of all which, unfortunately, are often only considered when the electronic circuit has been designed. The method of lead termination, the materials for the encapsulation and the general construction of the package requires a considerable development time. Each manufacturer will have carried out these tests and will be able to offer a fully proven package. Two basic forms have evolved: the multi-pin, dual-inline arrangement (Fig. 7) and the single-line edge pin arrangement (Fig. 1).

In either case, the pins may be round or rectangular in section, soldered to the conductor pads in the form of a lead frame (Fig. 8) or round pins inserted through holes in the ceramic and bonded to the pads (Fig. 9). Whichever method is adopted it is

TABLE 3 Characteristics of chip capacitors.
General capacitor specifications
Capacitance range: 1.0 to $470,000 \mathrm{pF}$
Tempersture range: $-55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
Temperature characteristics: A (NPO) $0 \pm 30$ p.p.m. $/{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ at 0 and rated valtage
$X$ (Gen. Purpose) : $\pm 15 \%$ at OV d.c. and $+15 \%-25 \%$ at rated voltage
Voltage ratings: 50 V d.c. at $125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
100 V d.c at $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
(other voltage ratings available on request)
Capacitance tolerances: $\mathrm{D}= \pm 0.5 \mathrm{pF}$ (1.0-9.1pF only) $K= \pm 10 \% M= \pm 20 \%$

Dissipation factor: at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ at $1 \mathrm{Vrm.s}$. at 1 kHz NPO: $0.1 \%($ Typical $Q$ value $=2000)$ Gen. Purpose: 2.5\%
Insulation resistance at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and rated voltage: $1000 \mathrm{M} \Omega \mu \mathrm{F}$ or $100,000 \mathrm{M} \Omega$, whichever is less
Note: Other capacitance values can be obtained.
important that the final encapsulation should provide a further mechanical support to the pin.

The cheaper form of encapsulation is where the completely assembled and tested circuit is dip coated in an epoxy resin, giving it a conformal coat, and is perfectly adequate for most commercial applications. For the most exacting environmental requirements, the welded metal can incorporating glass-to-metal seals may have to be used, but the cost of this can be many times the actual value of the complete hybrid thick-film circuit that will be inside.

## Design guide

Most manufacturers now produce their own brief design guides giving the characteristics of the inks, transistors and capacitors that they can supply. But in order to get the best possible design and cost the potential user must be familiar with all the parameters that need to be given to the manufacturer and should have designed the circuit with these in mind. To translate many conventional circuits to thick-film on a 1 to 1 basis is not easy and often creates severe problems such as crossovers and the subsequent stray capacitances. One particular factor that is often overlooked is the thick-film conductor resistance which in conventional wiring or copper p.c.b. Wiring can be ignored. The length and width of the conductor becomes just as important as the actual resistors and exact information on the peak currents must be specified. The thick-film conductors are capable of carrying about 0.7 A per millimetre width ol track.

The manufacturer will require all the circuit parameters in exact values from which he can make necessary calculations and then add safety factors. Such parameters are: value, tolerance, temperature coefficient, noise factor, power (peak and mean), current (peak and mean), voltage, tracking tolerances, temperature range and, most important, the driving and load circuits. The mechanical parameters such as package size, pin arrangements and connections have to be specified before the design can start. Obviously the customer should give as much freedom in layout arrangement as possible so that the simplest construction can be achieved. Fig. 10 shows typical dimensions for the thick-film circuit that one must comply with to ensure satis-


Fig. 7. A typical dual-in-line nackage before encapsulation.


Fig. 8. Dual-in-line flat pins soldered to the thick-film conductors.


Fig. 9. Round-section pins inserted through holes in the substrate and conductor pattern.
factory registration, insulation and power dissipation.

An important factor that is unique to any particular circuit is the testing requirements. This information is broken down to give the specification for the intermediate stage testing, which means that the manufacturing designer musi know in delail how the


Fig. 11. A switch wafer with thick-film circuit.


Fig. 12. A typical industrial circuit. The small slots in the resistors are the result of trimming.


Fig. 13. Circuit incorporating cross-overs.
customer's circuit really works. This often means that a lot of confidential information has to be handed over by the customer.

A further factor that affects the manufacturing cost is the test gear that is required for the final as well as the stage by stage testing. Some sort of plug-in programmecard system is often adopted which means that the circuit layout will have to conform with certain standards. It is only when the more critical aspects of circuits are considered, such as high frequency and low signal level, that special test gear will have to be made and hence add to the cost of the final circuit.

It will be apparent that, because of the many details that have to be specified by the customer to the manufacturer, a very good working relationship must be established between them, for the latter can often give immediate solutions to some of the customer's problems and so make a great saving in cost. There are now more than a dozen hybrid thick-film module manufacturers in Britain who are well established and can offer a well-designed and reliable product. Generally they also tend to specialize in a particular type of application or quantity and hence have special tooling available. But by the very nature of the hybrid technology, most manufacturers can make and supply sample quantities or many thousands of a given circuit at a very competitive price.

There are currently three forms of hybrid circuit manufacturing technique available for incorporation in equipment, and their relative performance is summarized in Table 4.

## Applications

In a short article, it is only possible to mention a few of the many applications that this technology is most suited to. They range from television line-scan circuits and high power audio stages to large computers such as the IBM 360. In the automobile industry this technique is most suited to applications such as alternator regulators, and there will in the future be a need for fuel and ignition systems, road warning sensors, collision avoidance, pollution control, speed and braking control.

Some designers become over-concerned with the need for smallness: the continuing need for controls which can be operated by human beings means that rotary switches are still common and it is sometimes possible to use the substrate as the wafer switch and print the other components around the edge, as in Fig. 11.

There are many diverse applications in industrial control and communications equipment and Fig. 12 shows an industrial circuit with a good resistor layout pcrmitting easy trimming. A more complicated circuit incorporating insulated cross-overs, is shown in Fig. 13. Note the good registration of the conductors printed adjacent to the lead-pin holes. The hard-wearing and low noise properties of some of the modern fired-resistor inks make them suitable for potentiometer tracks: Fig. 14 shows the variable element used as part of a resistive network in a focus control module for colour television. Because of the high dissipation properties of fired-resistor inks,


Fig. 14. The thick-film track of a potentiometer.


Fig. 15. Thick-film bi-metal heating elements.
use can be made of them to produce a heating element for bimetal switch control used in domestic cookers, street lighting control and "White" electricity meter timeswitches (Fig. 15). Fig. 16 shows a capacitor matrix code substrate.

Today it is quite practical to consider the use of this technology for high-frequency applications and some manufacturers will gladly accept designs for frequencies up to about 150 MHz , as illustrated by the v.h.f. amplifier in Fig. 17. U.h.f. and microwave applications are possible but these are, at the moment, still in the development stage and can be rather too expensive for all but military projects. This is not the area of application that the new customer for the thick-film technology should contemplate.

## Conclusion

The brief description of the hybrid thickfilm technology that we have given is intended to give encouragement and help to the equipment builders who have yet to adopt this form of component and circuit construction. There have been many years of experience gained in its use, and the resultant reliability and exciting new applications of it that are only now being investigated mean that the future is assured for this technology. We are convinced that this will be still essential and popular well after the turn of the century.

The change-over by an equipment builder from the use of conventional circuit component construction to an integrated form such as the thick-film technique is a very serious and critical move and could mean ultimately considerable changes in space, staff and technical control, but the overall advantages will certainly give an economic. advantage over his more reluctant competitor.


Fig. 16. Matrix of capacitors, using the substrate as dielectric. Counter-electrodes are on the reverse side.


Fig. 17. A thick-film v.h.f. amplifier.

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M.C.P. Electronics Ltd.

Mullard Ltd.
Newmarket Ltd
Vitramon Lid

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## Sixty Years Ago

While discussing the intended use of wireless telegraphy on Captain Roald Amundsen's Polar Expedition in 1913, The Marconigraph mused in its March "Monthly Misceilany" column that such equipment would, perhaps, have saved the members of Captain Scott's ill-fated Antarctic Expedition. It went on to say: "In Polar exploration, of course, the minimum of weight is essential. One of the lightest types of wireless equipment made is of the "Knapsack" type for conveyance by hand. The total gross weight of the complete "station" is only 861 bs . It can be erected in six minutes by four men, and has an approximate maximum range of twelve miles. It will be highly interesting to note from Captain Amundsen's experience with his wireless equipped sledges what future radiotelegraphy has in Polar exploration."

# Audio Magnetic Recorder Heads 

# Modern design and production technologies 

by Basil Lane*


#### Abstract

Magnetic recording has now become an important part of broadcasting and the communications industry, as well as forming a component of increasing popularity in the home high-fidelity system. The electroacoustic performance of the tape recorder is governed by a complex relationship between the record/ playback heads on the one hand and the tape on the other. This article explores those design parameters in tape heads which govern this final performance, and gives some details of the interesting new production techniques employed, leaving the subject of tape to a survey to be published next month.


The essential features of magnetic heads for tape recorders have not changed from the early days of recording, and consist in elemental form of a circuit of high permeability "soft" magnetic material with one or two gaps and wound with one or more coils. Typical of the various commercial realizations of this basic form are the heads illustrated in Fig. 1, which could be either recording or replay heads. In general a magnetic head for audio applications requires an operational bandwidth on record from about 15 Hz to 300 kHz and on replay from the same low frequency point to at least 20 kHz . The design and construction of heads for the two functions are similar, any small differences being incorporated to improve the efficiency of either the record or

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playback functions. Naturally, where the head combines both record and replay functions, there is some conflict which requires a compromise solution and the nature of these will vary from manufacturer to manufacturer.

To appreciate some of the diversification in manufacturing technique a brief examination of the fundamental principles is necessary. The prime function in the recording process is to produce a remanent magnetization in the tape which is a linear representation of the signal current flowing in the coil. Since remanent flux is an inherently nonlinear representation of the magnetizing flux, h.f. bias is used to minimize the distortion and improve the sensitivity of the tape. Obviously the conversion of the signal currents into a magnetizing field must also be a linear process and in any
recording head design this factor needs to be taken into account.

## Design fundamentals

Taking the basic structure of the record head (Fig.2), the magnetic circuit consists of a core and pole pieces sometimes made in one, the permeability of which needs to be high over the whole bandwidth mentioned. It also includes a front gap of high reluctance designed to produce not only the maximum magnetic field gradient, but also a flux distribution normal to the tape surface that ensures adequate penetration of the coating thick ness. Linearity within the head itself is ensured by two factors, first the selection of a core and pole piece material with a high saturation intensity of magnetization, and second by the introduction of a second, rear, gap in the magnetic circuit. Using such a feature is less desirable, since it obviously reduces the magnetizing field at the front gap and, in fact, the rear gap rarely appears as a feature of modern recording heads. The design of the front gap and pole pieces is of fundamental importance and Daniel ${ }^{1}$ outlines the laws governing these physical parameters. The length of the gap, $l$, has to be chosen as something of a compromise between the rule of thumb that requires it to be

(b)


Fig. 1. (a) Bogen metal laminated head. (b) Transverse laminations used in a head bv Woelke Magnetobandtechnik. (c) Ferrite head as made bv Sonv.


Fig. 2. Typical magnetic circuit for a tape head.
at least equal to the depth of oxide coating on the tape, and the need to keep the total reluctance of the magnetic circuit within reasonable bounds thus avoiding high magnetizing currents in the head coils. Figs. 3 and 4 show the differences in electroacoustic performance for two record gap lengths, first $10 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ and in Fig. 4, $20 \mu \mathrm{~m}$.

Since one of the objectives in the design of a record head is to ensure that the largest part of the reluctance of the magnetic circuit appears at the record gap, the gap depth, $g$, can also be of great importance. In general, the smaller the gap depth, the greater is the sensitivity of the head. However, too small a gap depth can give rise to a secondary difficulty, that of pole tip saturation.

During the record process, any one element of the tape is subjected to a finite number of cycles of magnetization and the final remanent flux is determined largely by the field strength distribution at a critical point beyond the trailing edge of the gap. The exact location of this point is determined as being where the intensity of the magnetizing field has fallen below the coercivity of the tape. Since, as has been pointed out by Westmijze ${ }^{2}$, the individual particles forming the tape coating have a distribution of coercivities, then the critical point where the final remanent field is established in the tape is spread over a finite length. Ideally, if the recording field can be made to drop to below the critical strength over a very short distance, then the demagnetizing effect of the decremental field would be reduced to zero. This means therefore that the shape of the recording field needs to be carefully determined, this largely being effected by gap edge definition. Part of the problem is the selection of bias current, since increasing the bias current extends the radius of the field distribution so that the tape takes longer to pass through the critical gradient (Fig. 5). Pole tip shape can influence the field distribution to a degree, this being one of the reasons for the frequent selection of an almost hyperbolic curve for the pole piece faces.

In some respects the design problems with replay heads are rather smaller than for record heads. To reproduce the small magnetic signals on the tape, the permeability of the core needs to be high,
the core reluctance low and the gap reluctance high. Since the core reluctance needs to be minimal the inclusion of a rear gap is highly undesirable and this does present some problem in the case of certain types of constructional method. The impedance of playback head coils is also often higher than for record, due to the increased number of coil turns used to maximize the output voltage. Finally the gap length of the head needs to be as small as possible to resolve the short recorded wavelengths found at high frequencies and low tape speeds.

## Construction - materials

The selection of magnetic materials for use in the manufacture of tape heads is dictated by the following parameters. First the highest permeability is required, commensurate with low coercivity and ease of mechanical working. Second, the permeability must be optimal over the operating bandwidth of the head. Third, losses due to hysteresis or eddy currents must be kept low to optimize the sensitivity over the bandwidth and to keep noise levels low. Finally the hardness value should be as high as possible to reduce wear to a minimum. Several materials have emerged as being suitable for tape recorder heads, though none of them is ideal. Early heads were made from Mu-metal* ${ }^{*}$, an iron-nickel alloy with a maximum initial permeability of the order of $15 \times 10^{3}$ at $0.4 \mathrm{~A} / \mathrm{m}$ for frequencies up to about 1 kHz . At higher frequencies the permeability drops fairly sharply as shown in Fig. 6. There are a number of other problems associated with Mu-metal, the most important of which is the need to laminate the material to reduce eddy current losses, thus also reducing the initial permeability and making some compromise necessary. The normal thickness selected for many heads is of the order of 100 microns. A secondary problem is that mechanical working of the material destroys its permeability and thus during the manufacture of heads using Mu-metal there is sometimes the need to anneal three times to restore either the malleability or in the final case to restore the magnetic properties. A modern technique which considerably reduces the need for annealing is to etch the laminations through a photo resist, the remaining resist acting as a bond and insulant when the lamination pack is pressed together. Considerable accuracy and improved magnetic performance can be attained by this production technique, this being a principal reason for the continuing popularity of this type of head. Hardness is about 118 on the Vickers HV 5 scale. Where higher values of hardness are required Permalloy or Vacudor $\dagger$ may be selected. Vacudor is similar to Alfenol, both being an ironaluminium alloy with a very low initial permeability at about 50 Hz and $0.4 \mathrm{~A} / \mathrm{m}$ of 25 to $27 \times 10^{3}$. Permalloy is some-

[^2]

Fig. 3. Tape/head characteristics, 10 m gap (Rogen).


Fig. 4. Tape/head characteristics $20 \mu m$ gap (Bogen).


Fig. 5. Location of critical bias field with current.
( $\mu$ )

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { A mu-metál } t=0.1 \mathrm{~mm} & \text { B \& C Ferrite } \\ \text { D permalloy } t=0.1 \mathrm{~mm} & E \text { permalloy } t=0.2 \mathrm{~mm}\end{array}$
Fig. 6. Initial permeability of various magnetic materials.


Fig. 7. Poorly machined ferrite head.


Fig. 8. Dainaged gap edges on ferrite head.


Fig. 9. Gap definition of Sony F\&F head ( $\times 1000$ ).
what better with an initial permeability of $50 \times 10^{3}$ under similar conditions. Both these materials are metal alloys and the constructional techniques used for Mu-metal are equally applicable. Hardness values are 132 for Permalloy and 220-350 for Vacudor.

Finally there is a range of ferrites which in recent years has become popular for tape heads. The composition can vary, but recent types seem to be mostly based on a mixture of ferric oxide $\left(\mathrm{Fe}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\right)$, manganese oxide ( MnO ), and zinc oxide ( ZnO ). This particular composition is specified by Sony, but a variant can be found in the Philips heads ${ }^{3}$ where niobium oxide ( NiO ) is also included in the mix and MnO has been left out. The permeability of ferrites at low frequencies is considerably poorer than the metal alloys; however, it is maintained over a far greater range of frequencies, the resulting high $Q$ improving the high-frequency noise performance of the head. The real advantages of high dimensional accuracy have only recently been realized, since ferrites are brittle and gap edges tended to chip and crumble under the mechanical pressure applied when assembling. However, the use of a glass gapping material which can be melted into place not only bonds the head components together but improves the mechanical strength of the gap.

Ferrite components can be produced in a variety of ways, the most popular being hot pressing. Here the raw ferrite powders are mixed and sintered under pressure. The sintering reduces the powders to a semi-plastic state and ensures that due to pressure the porosity is kept low. A second method, popular for video heads, is to grow a single ferrite crystal using the Verneuil technique to be seen operated by the semiconductor industry. This is a difficult and expensive process often resulting in a ferrite with high thermal noise and coefficient of friction (an important factor in tape heads). Only one manufacturer, Akai, appears to make use of this type of head for audio machines, and they seem to have overcome these disadvantages with specialized techniques.

Gap edge definition can, as has been mentioned, vary with manufacturing method and Fig. 7 shows how porosity spoils the smooth finish and in Fig. 8 leads to gap edge chipping. Selection of glass with an identical coefficient of expansion eliminates any final difficulties (Fig. 9) and the lapping process used to contour the head considerably reduces the porosity partly as a result of plastic flow of the debris from the lapping. Duinker ${ }^{3}$ has shown that accuracy of forming the gap length ( $l$ in Fig. 2) is simplified using glass spacers since, with a knowledge of the original shim thickness and taking into account bonding pressure, shim area and viscosity at the bonding temperature, final dimension can be precisely predicted.

Recently, an all ferrite construction ${ }^{4}$ has become popular where screens and mounting block are also made of ferrite. The advantage to be gained is that a uniform wear characteristic is preserved


Fig. 10. Temperature characteristics of two ferrite heads: (1) Sony $F \& F$, (2) poor ferrite formulation.


Fig. 11. Temperature cycling of ferrite heads; key as above.


Fig. 12. Surface wear characteristics of several types of head.
over the area of tape contact. The importance of this is emphasized in a series of surface contours shown in Fig. 12. Temperature stability of permeability with ferries can be controlled (Figs. 10 and 11) this often being achieved with the addition of small amounts of cobalt ${ }^{3}$.
There are few U.K. head manufacturers but Marriott Magnetics Ltd have refined a technique, for producing metal cassette and cartridge recorder heads to the extent that they claim to beat the Japanese and Americans on their own ground for price
and quality. Their success is not so much in new design, but rather in the rapid adoption of automated manufacture which reduces production time to a minimum. A much smaller company, Phi Magnetronics has developed an elegantly simple method of constructing tape heads that enables small quantities of special designs in almost any track configuration to be produced at low cost. These heads are of the metal type and consist of etched laminations fitted into two slotted metal shells which are then clamped together after inserting a metal gap foil. Transverse laminations are used in heads made by several companies, but Woelke Magnetobandtechnik, of Germany, have evolved this technique to bond pole piece shanks into the body and slot the core around the shanks. The result is a more linear gap uninterrupted by laminar interfaces.

As for ferrite heads, the form used by Sony is shown in Fig. 1(c) and is typical of modern trends. The manufacturing advantages to be accrued are that the pole pieces can be made as a large block which can then be sliced to the appropriate track widths. Similar methods are used by most manufacturers.

Unfortunately this article can only skim the surface and there is still the complex aspect of the tape to head interrelationship to be studied and aspects of this will be presented in the audio tape survey to appear next month.

## Acknowledgements

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## Announcements

Two new correspondence courses - "Modern control theory" and "Colour television" - have been added to the "Individual Study Service" of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R OBL. Information available from the Education Officer.

Minicomputers in Industrial Process Control is a three-day course at the Polytechnic of Central London, 115 New Cavendish Street, London WIM 8 JS from 21st to 23 rd March.

British Radio Corporation Ltd, a member of Thorn Group, Thorn House, Upper Saint Martin's Lane, London W.C.2, has announced that on 1st April it will change the name of the company to Thorn Consumer Electronics Lid. It will continue to manufacture and market TV and audio products under the Ferguson, Ultra, HMV and Marconiphone brand names.

Jermyn Distribution, Vestry Estate, Sevenoaks, Kent, have signed a franchise agreement with the Swedish company Aktiebolaget Rifa under which Jermyn are Rifa's exclusive U.K. distributors. Initial stocks purchased from Rifa are capacitors, transient voltage protectors, potted $R C$ networks and radio interference suppressors.

As an accessory to its lower priced oscilloscopes, S.E. Laboratories (Engineering) Ltd, North Feltham Trading Estate, Feltham, Middlesex, are marketing a dual-channel oscilloscope adaptor to convert single beam instruments to dual-channel operation. The unit, designated HZ36, can be attached by simple cable connections to any S.E. or other single beam oscilloscope.

Vero Electronics Ltd, Industrial Estate, Chandlers Ford, Hants, SO5 3ZR, has been appointed U.K. agent and distributor for the American E. F. Johnson Company range of components (hardware and devices).

A London base of Mackarl Electronics, who have three factories in Taiwan and one under construction in the Philippines, has been established at Albany House, Petty France, London SWIH 9EA. Mackarl

Electronics (London) offers a range of audio equipment in chassis form or completely assembled for manufacturers or under private label for retail organizations.

British Aircraft Corporation Electronic and Space Systems Group, Brooklands Road, Weybridge, Surrey, have been awarded a contract by the Ministry of Defence for the design and development of a low gain L-band aerial system, suitable for aircraft-to-satellite communication. The contract is part of an Aerosat experimentation programme on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority.

A contract worth $£ \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{M}$, to improve the performance and reliability of the 50 cm radars which form the major part of the U.K. Airways en-route radar coverage, has been awarded by the Civil Aviation Authority to Marconi Radar Systems Lid, Marconi House, Chelmsford, Essex, CMI IPL.

GEC Telecommunications Ltd., P.O. Box No. 53, Coventry CV3 1 HJ , has received contracts from the Government of the Republic of Zambia for equipment to expand the telecommunications system which the company installed and commissioned six years ago in conjunction with the Zambian General Post Office. Carrier-multiplex equipment will expand the number of telephone circuits on a 400 km microwave-radio link.

APT Electronic Industries, Byfleet, Surrey, the radar division of Bonochord Ltd, has received from the Ministry of Defence a contract worth more than $£ 100,000$ involving three of the company's precision automatic tracking radars.

Martron Associates, 81 Station Road, Marlow, Bucks, has been appointed U.K. distributor for Dynapar Corporation, Gurnee, Illinois, U.S.A., manufacturers of digital industrial process control equipment.

Thomson-CSF United Kingdom Ltd have appointed Transonics Lid, 303 Edgware Road, London W.2, to handle their range of semiconductor and passive components.

## Circards - future series

We regret the delay in the distribution of Circards series 4 and 5. This has been largely due to production difficulties. It is expected that orders for series 5 will be dispatched during the week March 5-9. In general readers should allow a delivery time of at least two weeks from the date of ordering.

After the trial period the hopes for Circards expressed in the editorial and introductory article in the October 1972 issue are fully justified. The scheme will be continued and extended. The authors and editors are concerned that user reaction should be taken into account as fully as possible. To allow time for this, and the resulting preparation of further series, the next set of cards (series 6 ) will not be announced until the next issue of Wireless World.

Also in the next issue we shall outline the plans for forthcoming sets of Circards. Readers' comments on series presented so far, and suggestions for future Circard topics, are welcomed.

## About People

Peter Mothersole, F.I.E.E., F.I.E.R.E., has rejoined Mullard Ltd as chief commercial engineer. Mr Mothersole originally joined Mullard in 1953 and became section leader of the television group at Mullard's research laboratories. He later moved to the central application laboratory as head of the consumer application division and in 1969 became engineering manager and a member of the executive management team of Pye TVT (both Mullard \& Pye are members of the Philips group). He is a member of the I.E.E. Electronics Divisional Board and chairman of the Professional Group (E14) Television and Sound. Mr. Mothersole succeeds T. Aspin, who was recently appointed a member of Mullard's executive board.

David R. Hall, Solartron's U.K. sales manager since 1963, has been appointed to head a U.K. sales and service division of Schlumberger Instruments \& Systems. Mr Hall will further develop a field sales team backed by technically and commercially trained sales office staff, and after-sales service units for the marketing of Schlumberger instrumentation in the U.K.

John S. Halliday, B.Sc., Ph.D. F.Inst.P., has been appointed to the board of AEI Scientific Apparatus Ltd as technical director. Dr Halliday went to the University of Reading from Sir William Borlase's School, Marlow, in 1944 with a state bursary in radio. In 1946, at just over nineteen years of age, he had passed the B.Sc. General Honours with first class honours and a year later also graduated with a B.Sc. Special Honours in Physics. After research in the University"s physics department he obtained a Ph.D. in 1951. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 1961. He joined the staff of the Research Laboratory, AEI Aldermaston, on leaving university and from 1957 onwards was responsible for advanced research concerned with electron microscopes. After transferring to the mass spectrometry team at AEI Scientific Apparatus,

Barton Works, in 1963, Dr Halliday became responsible for all the engineering and development work on these products in 1964.

The Electrocomponents Associated Group has appointed Arthur Crouch as director and general manager of the newly acquired Radio Resistor Company. Recently Mr Crouch started Pact International, the marketing company formed to introduce specialized instrumentation from European manufacturers. Before that he was marketing director of Spectrol Reliance, part of the U.S.A.-based Carrier Corporation. Earlier management posts were held with A.B. Electronic Components and the E.M.I. Group. He has travelled extensively during his career, visiting all the major European countries, the U.S.A. and Middle East. Of special interest among several appointments are his past chairmanship of the R.E.C.M.F. "Resistor Group" and membership of the R.E.C.M.F. Council.

Welwyn Electric announce the promotion of their managing director, J. E. Herrin, M.I.E.E., to the board of the parent company Royal Worcester Ltd. John Herrin joined Welwyn last November from the Federal Pacific Electric Company, New Jersey, U.S.A., where he had been general manager of the switchgear division.

The award of the Faraday Medal to Sir Nevill Mott, F.R.S., emeritus professor of physics in the University of Cambridge, has been announced by the Institution of Electrical Engineers. This was the 51 st award of the medal and was made to Sir Nevill for his distinguished contributions to quantum mechanics and solid-state physics which have provided a theoretical foundation for the development of solid-state electronic devices.

Gerard White, B.Sc., Ph.D.. has been asked by the Post Office to head the newly created Advanced Technology Studies division of its research department. He is to "explore possibilities for the
creation and utilization of advanced technology and its application in new telecommunication systems". Dr White gained his degrees at the University of Wales, Bangor, where he obtained first-class honours in electronics, control engineering and materials technology, and a doctorate in electronics; later he undertook part-time post-graduate studies in communication theory at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, New York. He has held short-term appointments with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Research Establishment. Harwell, and the Royal Aircraft Establishment. Farnborough and, on telecommunication assignments, with the National Telephone Company of Spain and the Ohio Bell Telephone Company.
T. A. L. Paton, C.M.G., F.R.S., has succeeded Sir Arnold Lindley, D.Sc., as chairman of the Council of Engineering Institutions. Mr Paton is a former president of the Institution of Civil Engineers. The new vice-chairman of the C.E.I. is Major-General Sir Leonard Atkinson, K.B.E., B.Sc., F.I.E.E., F.I.E.R.E., who was educated at Wellington College and University College, London. After first being commissioned into the R.A.O.C., he transferred to the R.E.M.E. in 1942, and saw service in Europe, India and the Far East. After a varied career in R.E.M.E., he became Colonel Commandant in 1967. On retirement, he was appointed a director of Harland Engineering, of Alloa, and of Simon Electronics, Bletchley, later becoming managing director of Harland Simon, and a director of Weir Engineering Industries, Glasgow. He is a past president of the I.E.R.E.

Tempatron Ltd have announced the appointment of $\mathbf{W}$. Gaiger as their production manager. Mr Gaiger joined Tempatron Ltd from Data Recording Ltd, where he has been production supervisor for $2 \frac{1}{2}$ years. Previously, he was with Ampex Electronics Lid.
A. Martin Shaw, Ph.D., has joined Irvin Great Britain Ltd as chief engineer of their Electronics Division at Letchworth, Hertfordshire. He will be responsible for all engincering activities in the division. Dr Shaw, aged 28 , took a first class honours ciegree in physics at Cambridge and did research for his Ph.D. at the Cavendish Laboratory. Cam bridge, and the Department of Metallurgy in Oxford. From 1969-72 he worked for Interna tional Computers Ltd as a project leader in the design of computer memories and peripherals.
W. D. Akister, Ph.D., F.I.E.E., has recently joined Cambridge Consultants Ltd, the technical consultancy operation based at Bar Hill,
near Cambridge. He has special responsibility for the production engincering and production control aspects of all electronics projects and will also be involved in the handling and management of large inter-disciplinary projects. Before joining the company, Dr Akister spent six years as engineering consultant to the chief executives of Redifon Flight Simulation Ltd, where he was responsible for the standardization and rationalization of equipment, systems and methods between separate units producing similar equipment. Dr Akister was previously chief electronics engineer and project manager of large flight simulator and trainer projects for Air Trainers Ltd.
Wing Commander J. A. F. Morgan (R.A.F. Ret'd) has joined Wayne Kerr as Services liaison representative. He will handle the company's growing range of automatic test equipment as well as their established series of laboratory instruments. John Morgan studied at Glasgow University and was commissioned as Signal Officer in 1942. For some years prior to his retirement he was responsible for air traffic control and aircraft radio/radar facilities at Mintech (now Ministry of Defence) research and development establishments.

The Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians has recently appointed as its first vice-president Sir Cyril English, B.Sc.(Eng.), director general of the City \& Guilds of London Institute. Sir Cyril is a member of many important national committees concerned with education and training, including the James Committee of Enquiry into the training of teachers, and for the last two years he has been chairman of the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education (BACIE).

At a dinner given at the beginning of February in the House of Lords. the Society of Electronic and Radio Technicians presented certificates of honorary fellowship to three of the Society's leading figures. Lord Orr-Ewing, O.B.E., M.A., F.I.E.E., the first S.E.R.T. president, is chairman of Ultra Electronics and has had many years' experience with E.M.l., the B.B.C., the R.A.F. and Cossor. He was a Conservative M.P. and was appointed a life peer in 1970. E. A. W. Spreadbury, F.I.E.R.E., formerly editor of our associated publication Electrical and Electronic Trader was involved in the formation of the Radio Trades Examination Board, and during his chairmanship of this organization helped to found S.E.R.T. He has been described as the "Father of S.E.R.T." Kenneth Tempest is closely associated with the teaching of technicians. During his term as chairman of S.E.R.T., membership reached 5000 .

# The Realm of Microwaves 

## 2. Microwave transmission lines

by M. W. Hosking,* M.Sc.

Over the last five years in particular, the microwave industry has devoted time to reducing the size of its circuits. Although the basic concepts involved have been known for over 20 years, recent improvements to the theory and the technical advances made in the semiconductor, thick-film and thinfilm fields have enabled extremely compact circuits to be built. Attention has concentrated on the microstrip form of transmission line, with the inclusion of suitablypackaged semiconductor devices to form hybrid devices, and also on lumped-clement circuit design. This article gives a general practical review of the standard forms of microwave transmission line, leading up to a review in a following article of microwave i.c.s and lumped-element design.

## Microwave transmission lines

Those readers for whom microwave engineering is not the source of their daily bread I must ask to temporarily forget the para-
*British Aircraft Corporation.
meters of voltage and current. These do not have practical significance and for example, in a hollow waveguide there is no unique value for either term. Instead, energy is carried by sinusoidally-varying electric and magnetic fields which propagate along the transmission line and have instantaneous values which are functions of both position and time. The practically-measured quantities are always power, variations in power and impedance, either absolute or normalized.

## The waveguide

Although all transmission lines are waveguides, the term has come to apply specifically to the dielectric-filled conducting tube; the dielectric usually being air. When an electromagnetic field is confined in this way, its propagation characteristics are changed from their free-space value. The conducting boundaries force the enclosed field to conform to specific patterns for it to exist and the properties of the overall arrangement are directly related to the shape
and size of the waveguide. In addition, the presence of any discontinuity within the guide influences its properties as a transmission line. This is most important and enables reactive effects, either inductive or capacitive, to be realised; hence the design of microwave components.

A particular combination of electric and magnetic field patterns which can propagate within the guide is called a mode and there is an infinity of such modes. However, the waveguide behaves as a high-pass filter: attenuating energy at frequencies below a cut-off frequency. Also, it is standard practice to operate within a limited frequency range near cut-off where only one mode can exist. This is termed the dominant mode for the guide and is the one with the lowest cutoff fiequency. If operation at higher or lower frequencies is required, then a differ-ent-sized waveguide must be used. Rectangular, Fig. 1(a), and circular, Fig. 1(b), guides thus come in assorted sizes, roughly spanning the range 400 MHz to 400 GHz . With few exceptions, the rectangular aspect


Fig. 1. Common forms of microwave transmission line with field pattern of the dominant mode. Solid tines are electric field, broken lines are magnetic field.
ratio is fixed at $2: 1$; this being a compromise between power handling, loss and overmoding.

The longest wavelength which can propagate down the guide, i.e. that of the dominant mode, is equal to twice the width of the guide: $2 a$. In practice, the centre fiequency of rectangular guide is made about 1.5 times the cut-off frequency and operalion is restricted to within about $\pm 20 \%$ of this. For a circular guide the derivation of the cut-off wavelength is a little more complicated and is given by the ratio of circumference to one of the Bessel function roots. Which root it is depends on the particular mode in question but, for the dominant mode, the cut-off wavelength is equal to $3.42 r$.
The reason why waveguides are restricted to the higher frequencies is now obvious: that of size. For example, to cover the f.m. broadcast band from 88 MHz , the necessary size of rectangular guide could serve as a garage for two Minis side by side.

Enclosing an e.m. field within conducting boundaries alters the wavelength of propagation from that in free space; it is made longer and becomes a function of the guide dimensions. The general expression for any shape of guide is

$$
\frac{1}{\lambda_{g}{ }^{2}}=\frac{\delta_{r}}{\lambda_{o}^{2}}-\frac{1}{\lambda_{c}{ }^{2}}
$$

where the wavelengths are $\lambda_{g}$ in the guide, $\lambda_{o}$ in free space and $\lambda_{c}$ at cut-off, and $\varepsilon_{r}$ is the relative dielectric constant of the medium filling the guide, usually air for which $\varepsilon_{r} \approx 1$.

As with any other transmission line, the waveguide has an impedance, but unlike other types it is not possible to say exactly what this is. Due to the field patterns within the guide, there is no unique value of impedance because there is no single value of voltage or current. In practice, the situation is not too bad as one very rarely needs an absolute impedance and most design work can use relative values, i.e. the comparison with an effect at one point with a similar effect at another. The basic impedance does, though, depend on the waveguide mode and for a given mode is also a function of frequency.

An instance of when a value of impedance is needed is in the estimation of the power handling capacity of a guide. Metal waveguides can handle large amounts of power, the exact quantity depending on surface roughness, humidity, pressure, allowable temperature rise and frequency. The maximum power density can be defined as the ratio of maximum electric field squared to impedance. Under normal sea-level conditions the breakdown field for air is taken as $30 \mathrm{kV} / \mathrm{cm}$, and over the most commonly used portion of the microwave spectrum, say 4 to 40 GHz , waveguides at the lower end will handle 10 MW of power and at the higher end 100 kW . These are maximum peak powers and are usually reduced by a safety factor of four and still further if there are discontinuities within the guide.

Waveguides are mainly used for high power carrying and/or long transmission line runs and thus attenuation is important. This attenuation is caused by losses in the


Fig. 2. Some properties of air-filled coaxial line showing the dependence on the diameter ratio: (a) characteristic impedance,
(b) attenuation, (c) breakdown voltage, (d) power handling capacity.
metal conductor and is a function of frequency, conductor material, surface finish and the particular mode within the guide. For the range of waveguides previously quoted, typical losses with copper walls are $0.01 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{ft}$ at 4 GHz to $0.24 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{ft}$ at 40 GHz .

## Coaxial line

Unlike waveguides, coaxial lines have no cut-off frequency and propagate energy at frequencies from d.c. to infinity. There is, however, still a dominant mode of propagation and higher order modes can be generated under certain conditions. The dominant mode is termed a transverse electromagnetic one (TEM) as both the electric and magnetic field components are always at right angles (transverse) to the direction of propagation. This mode requires at least two separate conductors and therefore cannot exist in waveguides. Higher-order modes, having different field patterns can exist and for these the coaxial line behaves as a high-pass filter.

Using the nomenclature of Fig. 1(c), the first of the higher modes appears when the frequency is high enough such that the mean circumference approaches one wavelength. The wavelength itself in coaxial line is simply that which would exist in a free-space medium of the same dielectric constant as that filling the line, i.e. $\lambda_{g}=\lambda_{o} / \sqrt{\varepsilon_{r}}$.

Unlike the waveguide, it is possible to define an exact impedance for the TEM mode in coaxial line. Basically, the characteristic impedance $Z_{o}$ of a transmission line can be defined as:

$$
Z_{o}=\left(\frac{R+j \omega L}{G+j \omega C}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}
$$

where $R, G, L$ and $C$ are the per unit length resistance, conductance, inductance and capacitance of the line, $\omega$ being the radial frequency. Neglecting losses, $Z_{o}=(L / C)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ from which it is relatively simple to calculate $L$ and $C$ for a coaxial line. On evaluation, $Z_{o}$ is found to be a function of the ratio $b / a$ and $\varepsilon_{r}$.

Sidetracking slightly, this definition also enables a free-space wave impedance to be calculated. The inductance per unit length of free space is the absolute permeability $\mu_{o}$ and the capacitance per unit length is the absolute permittivity $\varepsilon_{0}$. Thus with $L=$ $\mu_{0}=4 \pi \times 10^{-7} \mathrm{H} / \mathrm{m}$ and $C=\varepsilon_{0}=1 / 36 \pi \times$ $10^{-9} \mathrm{~F} / \mathrm{m}$, the free-space impedance results as $120 \pi$ or $377 \Omega$.

Coaxial lines of the same material have higher conductor losses than waveguides and usually have dielectric losses as well. The latter stem from the fact that, apart from short lengths of line for special applications or components, the centre conductor needs supporting concentrically. Again, apart from short lengths when carefully spaced beads can be inserted, this support is provided by completely filling the line with a solid dielectric. Attenuation due to conductor loss is proportional to the square root of frequency while that due to dielectric loss is directly proportional. This means that at frequencies within the microwave band, dielectric losses are the most significant and are prohibitively large for long lengths of line.

The maximum peak power handling of coaxial line is limited by the breakdown voltage of the dielectric ( $30 \mathrm{kV} / \mathrm{cm}$ for air) and by the ratio of inner and outer diameters. In general, for commonly used coaxial cable sizes, the peak and mean power handling capacity is two to three orders of magnitude less than that for corresponding waveguide sizes

The above parameters are a function of the coaxial diameter ratio $b / a$ and there is an optimum but different ratio for each parameter. It is interesting to compare this dependence on $b / a$, (Fig. 2). Attenuation is a minimum for $b / a$ of 3.6 corresponding to the characteristic impedance $Z_{o}=77 \Omega$. Maximum breakdown voltage occurs when $b / a$ is 2.718 , giving $Z_{o}=60 \Omega$ and maximum power handling when $b / a$ has the value 1.65 , giving $Z_{o}=30 \Omega$. These figures apply to air-spaced line for which $\varepsilon_{r}=1$.

For a different dielectric, the ratio of $b / a$ remains the same, but the corresponding impedance will be the above values divided by $\sqrt{\varepsilon_{r}}$. Freedom of design thus exists to optimize the dimensions for a particular application. Widely varying impedances are found within coaxial components. Commonly available cable comes with two standard impedances : 50 and $75 \Omega$. The former is a reasonable compromise of the factors in Fig. 2, $b / a$ being 2.3 for $\varepsilon_{r}=1$; while the latter, as well as being low loss, is close to the impedance of some aerials: the halfwave dipole, for example, has an impedance of $73.1 \Omega$.

## Stripline

This form of transmission line is shown in Fig. 1(d). It can be considered as rectangu-lar-section coaxial line with the side walls removed and, provided the open edges are not too close to the centre strip, its properties are similar to those of coaxial line. The dielectric can be air, but is more commonly a solid material and in this form is marketed in a large rarge of materials and sizes as copper-clad sheet. In this respect it is like printed-circuit board and the same pro-
cessing techniques can be used to produce circuits. Three of the most common dielectric materials available are irradiated polyolefin, cross-linked polystyrene and p.t.f.e-impregnated glass fibre. Between them, these probably cover the full range of materials properties and enable trade-offs to be made between such things as loss, temperature and chemical resistance, solderability and toughness.

Circuits are produced by etching the required conductor geemetry on one side of a double-clad sheet, the other copper layer being left as a ground plane. On top of this is then placed a second sheet, copper clad on only one side, to give the sandwich of Fig. 1(d). The two pieces are then clamped together. Although any required thickness can be used, there are standard sheet sizes ranging from $1 / 32$ to $1 / 4-\mathrm{in}$, the overall strip-line thickness being twice these values.

The principal advantage of the stripline form of circuit is that the normal range of components and sub-systems can be constructed without any change in thickness. All designs are realized by variations in the shape and size of the centre strip. Thus the circuit is essentially a two-dimensional one, unlike coaxial line and waveguide, which results in a considerable saving in volume especially at the lower end of the microwave spectrum. Transmission properties of stripline are very similar to coaxial line, the main difference being that not having a closed boundary nor an infinite ground plane an exact determination of the characteristic impedance has not been possible. However, the years have witnessed the emergence of increasingly more accurate formulae and it is now possible to relate theory and practice to within experimental error. The main cause of this uncertainty has been in establishing the value of the strip fringing fields.

It is interesting to make use of some very fundamental relationships to arrive at the characteristic impedance. Remembering from before that the impedance of a medium can be defined in terms of its inductance and capacitance per unit length, one can say $Z_{o}=(L / C)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ : The velocity of propagation $v$ can also be expressed in terms of $L$ and $C$ as: $x=(L C)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. This velocity is equal to the speed of light $c$ in the medium and the fundamental definition of the speed of light is $\left(\mu_{c} \mu_{r} \varepsilon_{0} \varepsilon_{r}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$. For instance, in vacuo, $\mu_{r}$ and $\varepsilon_{r}$ are unity and, with $\mu_{o}=$ $4 \pi \times 10^{-7} \mathrm{H} / \mathrm{m}$ and $\varepsilon_{o}=1 / 36 \pi \times 10^{-9} \mathrm{~F} / \mathrm{m}$ then $v_{c}=3 \times 10^{8} \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}$. Making use of these relationships $Z_{o}=L / C=1 / v c=\mu_{r} \varepsilon_{r} / 3 \times$ $10^{8} c$ ohm.

Thus if the capacitance per unit length can be determined the characteristic impedance is known. For wide strips of negligible thickness, $C$ is simply the parallelplate capacitance indicated in Fig. 1(d) and the impedance can be obtained quite accurately. However, as the strip thickness increases and the width decreases, then the fringing fields become important and the calculation of $C$ becomes more difficult. This is especially true in the case of a variant of stripline, sometimes called slabline, where to obtain low losses, the dielectric is air and the centre conductor is made very thick ( $\frac{1}{2}$ in or more). The dependence of $Z_{o}$ on the variables $\varepsilon_{r}, \omega, t$ and $h$ is shown


Fig. 3. Variation of stripline impedance with strip width, showing strong dependence on strip thickness. Commercially available laminate usually has $t=0.0014 \mathrm{in}$ and $t / h<0.02$.
graphically in Fig. 3. The centre strip thickness has a significant effect and the impedance increases as the strip width decreases.
Like coaxial line, the mode of propagation can be assumed to be TEM, though not exactly because of the open sides, and thus stripline will pass all frequencies. Again, if the frequency is high enough, higher order modes can also propagate. This situation is reached when the ground plane spacing $h$ is approximately half the dielectric wavelength. For instance, if operation at 15 GHz was required using irradiated polyolefin with $\varepsilon_{r}=2.32$, the dielectric wavelength $\lambda_{o} / \sqrt{\varepsilon_{r}}=1.31 \mathrm{~cm}$ and so $h$ must not be greater than 0.65 cm ( 0.256 in ).
Quarter-inch stripline could thus be used, made from two $\frac{1}{8}$-in sheets. If this were coated with standard 1-oz copper, which is 0.0014 in thick, then $t / h=0.0056$ and consultation of Fig. 3 would reveal that for a 50 -ohm system a line width of about 0.2 -in is required. Attenuation and power handling is similar to that of coaxial line filled with the same material. But unlike coaxial line there is no well-defined optimum for these and other parameters. Continuing the example from before, the material has a low loss factor of $5 \times 10^{-4}$ and the resulting attenuation due to dielectric loss is $0.01 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{m}$ and to conductor loss is $0.64 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{m}$.

## Microstrip

There is a fair amount of inconvenience with stripline when it comes to incorporating solid-state devices into the circuit and it is impractical to use with semiconductors in chip form. Also, as indicated by Fig. 3, for a given impedance the higher the dielectric constant, the smaller the linewidth and suitable high-dielectric constant materials tend to be hard, brittle and unsuitable for sandwich-type construction. For these reasons, the microstrip circuit form of Fig. 1(e) is used for hybrid systems, usually as a high-dielectric constant substrate.

To take full advantage of this type of circuit, two conditions must exist: accurate enough design equations and a high definition technology for producing the conductor patterns. It is really only within the last five years that sufficient advance has
been made in these two areas to ensure that high-dielectric constant microstrip is a very attractive commercial competitor for most microwave sub-systems.

Of the many materials available for use as substrates, the three most popular are alumina, sapphire and ferrite, with alumina topping the bill. This material is a very hard and brittle ceramic of aluminium oxide usually supplied with a purity of between $96 \%$ and $99.9 \%$. The latter has a loss tangent of 0.0002 and dielectric constant of 9.7 at 10 GHz . Conductor material is usually gold and is invariably produced by vacuum deposition, the desired pattern being either photo-etched from a completely coated substrate or directly deposited through a mask.
A popular thickness for the alumina is 0.025 in with about a $\pm 1 \%$ tolerance and a surface finish might typically be less than $10 \mu \mathrm{in}$. The latter is important with respect to line definition and conductor loss. For example, the loss (in $\mathrm{dB} /$ unit length) for a $2-\mu$ in finish has been shown to be about $35 \%$ less than that for a $24-\mu$ in finish and the smallest obtainable line width to vary from 0.001 to 0.006 in between the two finishes.

With regard to the main transmission parameters, an exact computation of the velocity of propagation, hence impedance, has not yet been made. The difficulty lies in defining the boundary conditions and the exact mode of transmission. However, within the range of impedances and frequencies generally used, the existing mathematics is sufficiently accurate in predicting the performance of microwave circuits.

Because not all of the electromagnetic field is confined within the dielectric, resulting in parts of the wave travelling through the air, there exists an effective dielectric constant, $\varepsilon_{e f f}$, instead of the substrate value of $\varepsilon_{r}$. This new constant is less than $\varepsilon_{r}$ and is a function of both $\varepsilon_{r}$ and $w / h$, as plotted in Fig. 4. $\varepsilon_{e f f}$ gradually approaches $\varepsilon_{r}$ as the dielectric constant of the material approaches the free space value of unity and also as $w$ becomes large thereby enclosing the material, or as $h$ becomes small, causing most of the field to travel in air. Thus, using pure alumina with a typical $w / h$ value of 1 , the effective dielectric con-


Fig. 4. Showing the effective dielectric constant for microstrip and how it caries with swip width. Differcnce berween $\varepsilon_{c f f}$ and $\varepsilon_{r}$ is because the field is not completely. confined within the diclectric.
sfant is only $69 \%$ of the value of the material. Once $\varepsilon_{e f f}$ for a particular $w / h$ value has been obtained, the characteristic impedance is well on the way to being determined While no exact design equations have yet been formulated, several versions exist with acceptable accuracy. The most widely accepted impedance equations are due to Wheeler* and are shown graphically in Fig. 5. Taking the previous example of the commonly used $99.5 \%$ pure alumina with $\varepsilon_{r}=9.7$ and 0.025 -in thick, then Fig. 5 indicates that a $w / h$ ratio of 1 is required for a 50 -ohm impedance. That is, the line itsclf will be $0.025-$ in wide. Doubling this impedance to a not-unreasonable 100 ohms, decreases the linewidth to just under 0.004 in . Thus, it can be appreciated why a highdefinition technology is required if full advantage is to be taken of the microstrip form of transmission line. Even so, impedances much above 100 ohms are not really practical on alumina and in these cases it is best to go to a lower dielectric constant
*Whecler. H. A. "Transmissiontine properties of paral ICl wide strips separated by a dielectric sheet". I, E.E.E. Trans vol MTI-13, 1965, pp 172-85
material such as fused quartz for which $\varepsilon_{r}=3.78$. If this is still not sufficient, Fig. 5 indicating about a $50 \%$ impedance increase for the same width, then other microstrip structures can be used.

Increasing the substrate thickness could be another way of achieving attainable linewidths at high impedance levels, but this can be done to a certain extent before higher order modes start to propagate. The first of these modes exists as a surface wave: highly undesirable in a carefully tuned circuit and can propagate when the substrate is approximately $\lambda_{0} / 4 \varepsilon_{r}$ thick. Thus, a circuit operating at 10 GHz must not be more than 0.095 -in thick. Loss in microstrip is composed of diclectric and conductor loss and is a function of frequency and impedance. For 50-ohm at 10 GHz on alumina, both types of loss on a per unit length basis are about 10 times those given in the stripline example. However, comparison is really only fair on a loss per wavelength basis and in this case the difference is not so great. Conductor loss in microstrip is generally higher than in stripline because the conductor dimensions are usually smaller


Fig. 5. Impedance of microstrip with $\varepsilon_{r}$ as a parameter; $\varepsilon_{r}=1$ for air, 3.78 for quart= and 9.7 for alumina

## H.F. Predictions March

The monthly mean sunspot number has dropped to the low thirties for the first time since 1966. This month's charts were drawn for a sunspot value of 40 so the curves will probably prove to be around 1 MHz too high particularly at the end of the month.

The pattern of frequency usage established over sunspot maximum is just beginning to change. Daytime frequencies above 20 MHz continue in use but are fading out earlier in the afternoon. Some commercial circuits are finding a need for frequencies down to 3 MHz for the pre-dawn period. Apart from the unavoidable increase in absorption loss, highgain aerials are not common at these lower frequencies due to size and cost, so circuit reliability decreases and poor aerial directivity and reduced channel space give rise to serious interference problems.





## 1. The new industrial revolution

by Richard Graham


#### Abstract

In this series, the author examines in each article a particular electronic technique used in industry. Transducers and circuitry will be discussed, and applications of the equipment are described. The second part, in the April issue, will be devoted to the measurement of displacement and will be followed by articles on electronic weighing, object counting, flow, pressure and the like.


The art of electronics has almost completely taken over the mantle of alchemy, at least as far as the average, nonscientific person is concerned. The only difference is concerned with the somewhat differing aims of the two arts; in place of elemental transmutation, the avowed intention of applied electronics may appear to be the complete elimination of all human intervention in any tedious, unpleasant, difficult or otherwise undesirable activity.

While such an object is laudable indeed, it is, perhaps, a touch impracticable. The efforts of most engineers working in industrial electronics are directed into two main channels; to perform tasks which were previously entirely impossible and to assist people to work at an efficiency far higher than by their unaided efforts.

The elimination of the human element is hardly ever as complete as initially envisaged. We have all heard stories of how a computer was installed in an organization "to reduce staff", and before sufficient time has elapsed to allow the chief programmer to say "Cobol", the staff has increased two-fold. This apparently fundamental failure in planning is conc + with the phrase in quotes above. is very rare that a computer is used for that purpose alone, and the installation is justified by the fact that, with a two id staff increase, per haps eight times as much work is done. Whether the extra work is always worth doing is another matter.

Most work in industrial electronics is aimed at improving the results obtained by earlier mechanical equipment. Relatively infrequently, the electronic development is able to do something not possible with earlier devices. For example, it is possible to detect, measure and record the stresses inflicted on the blades of a gas turbine, while it is rotating at speed. Or to relay to the ground masses of information about rocket behaviour. Still more infrequently, it is found that electronic methods have trouble beating,
or even matching, the traditional mechanical ways of working. It is only fairly recently that electronic weighing equipment has been able to put up much of a fight against ordinary knife-edge weigh-bridges, and even now, the electronic variety has to rely largely on a headstart from its read-out and data processing advantages,

If it is possible to make a general statement in such a situation, it can be said that modern, solid-state electronics has improved on processes in use a few years ago by virtue of its incredible speed, reliability, low power consumption, small size and, in most cases, improved accuracy.

## Reliability

On the subject of reliability, many early users of electronics in an industrial environment would quite probably emit a concerted, hollow laugh, the hollowness depending to some extent on the amount it cost them to be in the fashion. It must be admitted, with a brave smile and a stiff upper lip, that some of the early gear was a shade ethereal for the clobbering that your average shop-floor salt of the earth can mete out.

It is not the slightest bit of good building equiprnent which works in the lab., as long as the zero pot. can be tweaked before anyone wants to use it, or which, when the meter hammers the end stop, only needs a new BC108. But it was some time before engineers came to realize that the industrial scene is a bostile one, and that the "belt and braces" approach is essential, and by then. the early users had had their fingers burnt and weren't going to be the first next time. All that said, however, it has to be pointed out that electronic equipment has now become respectable and can often be a good deal tougher than the older devices it replaces.

The life expectancy of electronic equipment, disregarding replacement for reasons of improvement, is usually much
longer than its mechanical equivalent, simply because there is nothing to "wear out". In the case of equipment using thermionic devices, periodic replacement keeps the equipment up to scratch, and of course, solid-state instrumentation requires no maintenance whatever, Ambient atmosphere conditions is one area where badly designed electronics can, on occasion, let the side down.

Equipment which employs analogue circuitry is particularly prone to drifts caused by temperature variations unless great care is taken to overcome them. At extremes of temperature, both analogue and digital circuitry begins to flag, but at these extremes $\left(-50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, \quad+70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ even mechanical equipment can be difficult.

Humidity is probably a greater enemy to delicate mechanics than to electronics, although most electronic devices contain a degree of mechanical construction in the form of switches, plugs, and sockets and the like, which are also vulnerable to humidity.

Vibration is not the threat it once was; the use of electronics in missile and aviation applications taught engineers how to avoid its effects, and the relative vulnerabilities are now about even, depending on the application. In addition, the emergence of integrated circuitry has improved matters beyond recognition in this respect, as in all aspects of relability

## Applications

An example of one of the categories of equipment, namely the performing of work not possible before the adoption of electronic techniques, is radio telemetry. The same could be said of most of the "action at a distance" systems employing radio, but the methods of transducing and modulation are especially worthy of note.

Telemetry was introduced largely to aid the designers of guided weaponry, and is capable of the transmission to a ground station of data on virtually any aspect of missile performance and structural behaviour. Mechanical-to-electrical transducers of many types modulate a f.m. subcarrier which amplitude modulates a v.h.f. carrier. Time-division multiplexing allows a large number of information channels to be used, the individual channel sampling rate being at least 120 Hz . This was one typical system in brief outline, and we will return to the subject in a later article.

In the area of improvement on traditional machinery, the numerically controlled machine tool, used properly, is an industrial engine of awesome capabilities. These machines come in all varieties irom the simplest drilling machine to a contour milling machine capable of machining an aircraft wing entirely without human intervention, apart from the little job of programming the machine to start with! If one considers the cost of a mistake by the equivalent human being towards the end of machining a wing from a lump of
titanium, one begins to see the point. Not all numerically controlled machines are on this scale, of course, but the sophistication of these processes is finding its way into lower and lower levels of industry and is returning very well worthwhile results in lowering costs and improving outputs.

Instances of electronics lending assistance to human operators are legion, and one can think of inspection equipment, non-destructive testing gear, process controllers, recorders, weighing equipment, and others. Even farms are well used to the occasional black box lurking in anonymous obscurity, and battery chicken-houses would be difficult indeed to run properly without their automatic electronic ventilation systems. Then again, the difficulty of assessing the amount of fat on a pig's back, without assaulting the luckless beast with a sharp instrument, is alleviated by a device which does this without even causing the pig to breathe heavily.

Most of the industrial applications need, at some stage, a mechanical-toelectrical transducer, or vice versa, or both. Indeed, in some equipment, it is the transducer which is the clever bit, the rest of the device consisting prosaically of amplifiers, displays, power units, and the like. For example, numerically controlled machine tools use an extremely precise mechanical-to-electrical transducer to determine the position of the tool or work piece. Some of them use diffraction gratings which produce interference fringes as the moving parts of the machine-tool move, these being detected photo-electrically and passed to the electronics. The manufacture of these gratings and the detection and processing of the fringes is a story in itself, while the electronic part of the machine is more-or-less standard digital computer practice.

Another example of the importance of the transducer is the electronic weighing machine. The transducer here is the strain-gauge load cell, which relies basically on the fact that the resistance of a piece of metal depends on its length and thickness (and on its resistivity, but that is relatively constant). If the piece of metal is fixed to a metal billet, which bears the weight of the object being weighed, it will deform when the billet deforms, so changing its resistance. The minute change is measured and processed and is displayed as weight by a selection of amplifiers. displays, comparators, etc., in themselves not particularly noteworthy.

In each article of this series, it is the intention to take each time a particular type of industrial electronic equipment, to discuss the transducers and circuitry peculiar to the device, and to illustrate the discussion with examples. It is not intended to go deeply into design, but to exemplify the possibilities of electronics. in industry to engineers or students who are forced to specialize in other types of work, and who may be surprised to learn that electronics is becoming respectable in industry.

## Books Received

Engineering Electromagnetics by David T. Thomas has been prepared for undergraduate electrical engineering students. In contrast to the traditional presentation of physical laws in the chronological order of their discovery, Maxwell's equations are adopted in the beginning as the fundamental laws. The use of Maxwell's equation provides a basis of general applicability. Real life problems are presented and then reduced to an appropriate model or facsimile which is solved by the laws of electromagnetics. Emphasis is placed on understanding fundamental physical laws and boundary conditions. Topics of interest include: computer solutions in electromagnetics, transmission lines including wave transients, boundary value problems and properties of materials. Other areas covered are radiation and aerials, a brief history of electromagnetics and a reference chapter on vectors and co-ordinates. Pp.453. Price $£ 8.50$. Pergamon Press Ltd, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 0BW.
Broadcasting technology - past, present and future is a publication from the Institution of Electrical Engineers and is a record of the lectures delivered to the IEE commemorating the recent fiftieth anniversary of the commencement of broadcasting. The lecture topics range from the B.B.C. in the 1980s and the future of broadcasting from an engineer's point of view to a survey of the British domestic receiver starting in 1922. Other topics cover the development of the television camera tube, transmitter outputvalve developments above and below 30 MHz , television and sound signal orientation, studiotransmitter links and terrestrial, satellite and cable broadcasting systems. This valuable record is well illustrated with photographs and relevant diagrams and circuits. Pp.104. Price £5. The Institution of Electrical Engineers, P.O. Box 8, Southgate House, Stevenage, Herts. SG 1 IHQ.
Making and using Electronic Oscillators, by W. Oliver, provides typical examples of the most popular and useful oscillator circuits for a wide variety of applications. The theoretical working principles are discussed as briefly as possible so that maximum space can be devoted to the practical aspects of the subject. Readymade as well as home-built equipment is covered and sources of supply are suggested. Some valve circuits are included but the accent is on transistors and allied semiconductor devices. The circuit diagrams are intended mainly to illustrate the typical basic features of the various circuits discussed and are not necessarily meant to be used as designs for practical interpretation. Chapter headings include classification, crystal, variable and audio oscillators, oscillators in receivers, test equipment and electronic musical instruments, components for oscillators, troubleshooting and finally sources of supply and information. Pp.120. Price £2.00. W. Foulsham \& Co. Ltd., Yeovil Road, Slough, SL1 4JH.
Colour TV Servicing Manual Vol. 1, by Gordon J. King, provides a study of the circuits of nine basic colour television chassis and covers the normal operation of the sets with a view to enabling the engineer and the student to understand the working of the complex circuitry. while a certain amount of theory is present, the emphasis is on normal operation, so that it will be readily apparent when a circuit is not functioning correctly. Each chapter con-
cludes with detailed servicing notes, the accent being on the colour sections of receivers in terms of alignment, adjustments, fault symptoms and corrections. The book is illustrated with circuit diagrams, chassis layouts and normal oscilloscope traces. The sets covered include a selection of models marketed under the Bang \& Olufsen, Bush, Decca, Dynatron, Ekco, Ferguson, GEC, HMV, Invicta, ITT/KB, Marconiphone, Masteradio, Murphy, Pye, Sobell and Ultra brand names. Also studied is the decoder principle used in the Sony KV-1320UB. Pp.232. Price £4.90. Butterworth \& Co. Ltd, 88 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AB. Electrical Who's Who 1972/1973, compiled by Electrical Review, contains many new names in this revised edition. The directory contains an index to the personnel of companies, boards and associations compiled from lists supplied by the organizations themselves. Firms, electrical contractors and technical colleges are grouped under separate headings. Pp. 440 . Price $£ 3.75$ (by post £4). IPC ElectricalElectronic Year Books Ltd, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London SEI 9LU.
1973 RCA Solid State Data Books is a series of six volumes providing data on all RCA's solid-state comporents with application notes in many cases. Data on new devices introduced in 1972 has been added to this current series with many data sheets revised and updated. Eighteen new application notes have also been added. The subjects covered by the six volumes are: linear i.cs and m.o.s. devices (2 volumes), power transistors and power hybrid circuits, c.o.s./m.o.s. digital i.cs, r.f. power devices and finally thyristors, rectifiers and diacs. Price $£ 5.40$ ( 6 vols.). RCA Ltd. Lincoln Way, Windmill Road, Sunbury-onThames, Middlesex TW 16 7HW.

## Educational film-strips

Mullard's latest additions to their educational 35 mm film-strips are six colour tutorials, all available in either single- or double-frame film-strip or double-frame slides. Briefly, they are: The transistor (ref: E144) which deals with the operational aspects of these devices and includes illustrations of alloy-junction, diffused and planar constructions. Magnetism, part (ref: E145) which discusses the physical effects of magnetic fields, including the Hall effect, and part 2 (ref: E146) describing interaction effects such as moving-coil instrumentation, B and H relationships, and consideration is given to differentiating between diamagnetism, paramagnetism and ferromagnetism. Semiconductor photocells (ref: E147) classifies optoelectronic devices and explains the action of light quanta on atomic structure. Photo sensitive diode and transistor theory and applications are considered and a brief mention of photo f.e.ts and thyristors is included. Conduction in solids (ref: E148) is the fifth topic which demonstrates the dependence of electrical conductivity on material lattice structures. Some of the factors governing electron mobility, work function and material contact potentials are also covered. Conduction in gases (ref: E149) in which the mechanism of gas conduction is explained, deals with molecular motion. ionization, work function, electron and ion collision and finally illustrates glow and arc discharges at high and low pressure.

Prices are between $£ 2.00$ and $£ 2.50$ for singleframe film-strip, $£ 2.25$ and $£ 2.75$ for double frame film-strip and $£ 2.75$ and $£ 3.25$ for doubleframe slides. The price includes a teacher's booklet. Further information can be obtained from The SLide Centre Ltd, Portman House. 17 Brodrick Road, London SW17 7DZ.

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| BW1184 | YD1202 | 80 | 120 | 14.4 | 30 | 12.2 | 255 |
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# The Semiconductor Story 

## 3: Solid circuits - a new concept

by K. J. Dean*, M.Sc., Ph.D. and G. White $\dagger$, M.Phil., B.Sc.

The development of the transistor, described last month in part 2 of this series, had been a strange mixture of chance and directed scientific research, of skill with difficult processes and of commercial brinksmanship in which some went too near the abyss and never recovered or withdrew from competing. However, there were occasions when someone intimately involved in the struggle was able to look beyond the immediate technical difficulties and point to an idea not then matched by technological skill, but for which the technology would one day be available. Remarkably enough there are two instances of this happening in the same year, 1952, only four years after the discovery of the transistor effect by Bardeen and Brattain. In both cases the prophesies, for that is what they were, came true in the years to come. W. Shockley, writing in the Proceedings of the American Institute of Radio Engineers (now the I.E.E.E.) laid down the theory of the field effect transistor, fourteen years before it was to become a commercial proposition. G. W. A. Dummer of the Royal Radar Establishment (now at Malvern) speaking at a transistor conference in Washington pointed out that semiconductors could be used to make resistors, capacitors. diodes and transistors so that the possibility of putting a number of all these elements on a single piece of semiconductor existed - in fact that it was possible to make an integrated circuit. It was however to be seven years or so before this idea reached any sort of fruition and about sixtcen years before these two, the integrated circuit and the field effect device, came together as a complex commercial product.

Of course the germanium technology of 1952 was quite inadequate to put Dummer's idea into practice and it was five years before the Plessey Company, who were by then more interested in precise photo-chemical processes, were given a contract in association with the R.R.E. to investigate the possibility of a solid circuit. In 1957 an international symposium on electronic components was held in Malvern at which, reported Wireless

[^3]World in November, the solid circuit was little more than an idea to be discussed in the same breath as ferrite blocks and resin-potted circuits. But there was one point which was significant - the solid circuits being proposed in 1957 were silicon, not germanium.

## Technology available

By this time a number of other companies both in the U.S.A. and in Europe were interested in solid circuits, amongst them Texas Instruments (in Bedford as well as


Early Texas mesa integrated circuit showing the vitreous enamel package, from the underside of which the connecting leads protrude.


Multi-chip integrated circuit by S.T.C. mounted in a TO5 header on a printed circuit board on which the interconnection pattern has been etched. The circuit, sold in 1964, is that of a d.t.l. gate.
in the U.S.A.) and Fairchild. Not only were silicon transistors available but the mesa process had also been recently developed, largely by Texas Instruments. Now this process has the important advantage of requiring diffusion from only one face of the silicon slice. Hence it was thought possible to place various active and passive components side by side on a single slice and then inter-connect them. In 1958 this is what Texas were able to show they could do. As was the case with transistors where increasing skill with technology and governmental patronage produced a variety of transistor types, changes in solid state techniques had a vital impact on the development of integrated circuits. The key technology was the development by Fairchild of the planar process, so that even by 1960 it was clear that planar devices would most easily lend themselves to interconnection as solid circuits. In fact it can be argued that two of the major efforts since that time have been to minimize the profile contours of silicon chips and reduce the size of transistors within the chip. These have been brought about using modifications of the planar process.

The patronage which proved decisive and turned, alas once more, a British idea into a foreign product, came from the U.S. Government. The Minuteman project was at the end of the '50s the American contribution to the U.S./U.S.S.R. arms race and represented the ultimate then possible in electronic sophistication. It was funds from this project, principally to Fairchild but also to Texas which prowided the immediate incentive to devise high component-density circuits of great reliability for use in the limited space and very difficult environment of a missile. Thus the early integrated circuits were born. Although by this time a technology to make a form of integrated circuit was available on a laboratory basis, it had a number of limitations, both of cost and as a production method. Failure to produce a reliable isolation technique meant that multi-chip circuits were the best that many companies could do. One chip might carry a single transistor, another might have a resistive network and a third might consist of diodes. The chips were at first mounted on a suitable sub-divided printed
circuit board or a ceramic button which was in turn mounted on a TO5 header. Another area of difficulty lay in the interconnections. Contact pads were provided on the silicon chips by depositing an aluminium pattern. This metal had low resistance and was found to give good adhesion to the surface of both p-type and n-type silicon. The interconnection leads were gold wire. A reaction may take place between these two metals at the fairly high temperatures used in bonding. This results in high resistance purple or black coloured compounds known as purple plague and black death respectively. These are intermetallic compounds which arise in the presence of silicon. Whilst purple plague for example could and did exist with discrete devices, it was with early integrated circuits, particularly multi-chip circuits, that it became widely known. For instance some of the i.cs used in Minuteman missiles had a gold/aluminium interconnection system and so suffered from purple plague.

The development of integrated circuit technology was almost rocket-like with the U.S. Government support it attracted. The 1962 Minuteman II project might be regarded as the second stage of the rocket. In this project Texas had a contract to supply 300,000 i.cs thus setting the scene for later large scale production. At this time the U.K. Government was abandoning its independent nuclear deterrent; for example, the Black Knizht programme was cancelled. There was therefore relatively little incentive in Britain to develop British i.cs for the world-wide defence market which undoubtedly existed. The state of the art here can be seen in a report from S.T.C., "Report on commercial valve developments - solid state circuit techniques" which showed separate resistors, capacitors, transistors and diodes on a single chip wire bonded to give an r.c.t.l. gate and stated that the first circuits were made in March 1962. Similar gates had been available in limited quantities in the U.S.A. for at least 12 months before that and in 1962 the first commercial planar circuits were already being advertised in British journals by Fairchild. These were r.t.l. (resistor-transistor logic) gates and were capable of operation at 1 MHz . The chips were typically 1 mm square - one hundredth of the surface area of the $\frac{3}{8}$ in square chips proposed by Dummer ten years earlier.

## Why logic gates as i.cs?

The first integrated circuits were almost exclusively logic circuits. This was because the electronic control of missiles was very largely of a digital nature and because it was much easier to design switching circuits which had only two states of operation than it was to produce linear amplifiers. Silicon technology made it possibie to design circuits in which the tolerance was relatively tight between components in a circuit but it was unable at that time to yield circuits in which the absolute tolerance of any one component could be kept small. This suited the design of switching circuits.


Multi-chip low noise cascode amplifier for use at frequencies up to 100 MHz produced by Marconi Microelectronics in 1965. The chips are mounted on a ceramic button fixed to the header, and are wire bonded; the button has been divided into four "lands".


One of the transistors from a low noise 100 MHz cascode amplifier. The transistor was made by an early form of planar process and the chip size is 0.46 mm square.

Perhaps stage 3 of the "i.c. rocket" was fired when it was realized that the limited market of defence requirements could be replaced by the much larger market of the growing computer industry which also used logic circuits and already had very definite views about their modular nature. Thus from the start the need for switching circuits rather than linear amplifiers was paramount. Integrated circuits were therefore gold doped and this method of obtaining a speed advantage was almost always followed until the advent of Shottky diodes in about 1970. By the end of 1963 work in the U.K. was catching up and a report on a C.V.D. project by C. P. Sandbank describes the manufacture of circuits which include isolation lands, just as are used in the epitaxial circuits we have to-day, with buried layers to eliminate parasitic p-n-p transistors, and of course with gold doping. These circuits were a form of transistor-capacitor logic with 35 ns propagation delay through each gate. This at least was an improvement.

## Industrial pressures

The effect of all this was a scramble for a place in the market, and a highly competitive market it turned out to be. Fairchild linked up in Europe with the Italian company, S.G.S., later to separate again. Elliott set up a production line at Boreham Wood and Marconi at Witham near Chelmsford and at Glenrothes in Scotland. These companies later merged with G.E.C. who had been in semiconductors from the start, and with A.E.I. who had already withdrawn from making small junction transistors. Eventually the manufacturing plants at Glenrothes and Witham were closed although not until near the end of the sixties. Meanwhile Plessey's semiconductor plant was turned over almost exclusively to i.c. manufacture at the expense of transistors. What brought about these traumatic changes?

In 1960 integrated circuits cost $£ 20$ per package and were available for military purposes only. Ten years later they had fallen to one per cent of their original cost and were incorporated in a wide range of industrial equipment and were even making a substantial impression on the traditionally cost-conscious domestic market. To understand how this came about one must know something of the factors which influenced industrial growth and falling price. Circuit development costs are substantial when only a small number of devices is required. It was commonly stated in the middle sixties that the price of the design work for a set of masks to diffuse an integrated circuit was $£ 10,000$, but frequently all this cost had been covered by, defence contracts and it did not recur so long as the same device was manufactured for the industrial market. Labour costs are high when production lines have to be staffed with costly graduates, but as the technology becomes better understood less skilled labour is employed, so that eventually plants were set up in low labour cost areas such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, New Guinea and Portugal - often referred to as "off-shore" plants. Due to the small size of i.cs air transport charges are very small and slices could be diffused centrally under excellent supervision and góod environmental conditions and then flown to an off-shore plant for encapsulation and testing.

The cost of the material used in making an i.c. is directly related to the yield of good devices which can be obtained.
The resistivity of slice material affects the tolerance of components from one chip to another. It is now possible to hold this to less than $15 \%$ instead of $25 \%$ formerly from the centre to the edge of the slice. The number of dislocations in the material was typically 30,000 per sq. cm . It is now only 500 per sq. cm .
Circuit designers soon realized that active elements took up less space than the passive elements which they could replace. The space occupied by a $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor was at least equal to that taken up by four transistors and in some cases more. If a large value resistor could be eliminated or its resistance drastically
reduced by using a few transistors this could well result in a smaller surface area for the circuit. Hence a new circuit design philosophy developed in which active elements were to be preferred to passive ones and resistors were restricted to values between about $30 \Omega$ and $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

The first commercial integrated circuits which were monolithic, i.e. on a single chip, were produced using one inch silicon slices. To-day 2 in slices are typical. So not only did percentage yields rise, but device sizes became less and four times the number of devices were provided on each processed slice. The high percentage yields and the greater throughput per slice meant that the manufacturing plants which had been set up with U.S. Government money were in an extremely strong position to compete not only with the U.S. manufacturers but with manufacturers in Europe, in Japan and even in the U.S.S.R. In the Soviet Union the effect of the large American output was to concentrate effort on thick film and hybrid circuits, for silicon circuits could always be imported, for example, through Austria and Hungary. Thus, by 1970 there was only the barest token U.S.S.R. export market for integrated circuits and then only in specialized circuits with only a very small market potential.

## High speed circuits

As the computer industry became more and more the main customer for integrated circuits, so "he who pays the piper" began to call the tune. Computer manufacturers wanted two things: reliable high speed circuits and the availability of the same package from a number of sources. The i.c. suppliers felt bound to comply and so with "second sourcing" available a new twist was given to competition and price cutting.

In late 1963 the American Motorola company started to make emitter-coupled logic gates. A typical dual two-input NOR gate in an eight-lead TO5 can consisted of a single 1 mm square chip. These Motorola e.c.l. gates had propagation times which were less than 5 ns , but they were potentially even faster and by 1971 types called MECL3 with less than 1 ns delays were amongst the fastest circuits on the market. One of the problems of the Motorola eic.l. which delayed acceptance of these gates was that the switching potentials were less than 1 V apart and neither of them was at the potential of either supply line. This necessitated the use of special reference voltage i.cs in addition to the gates of which a system might be composed.

In 1965 both S.T.C. and Marconi made agreements to second source Fairchild diode-transistor logic and Plessey started to make i.cs at Swindon on a production line basis - a year later they were producing 300,000 circuits per annum. Though Plessey had started in r.t.l. they were now second sourcing the Motorola MECL series. Well separated logic levels and under 20 ns propagation time were provided by d.t.l. gates. Their competition in 1965 was from r.t.l., the
natural successor of modular circuits such as Norbit and Minilog. They had been developed early and their design costs amortized, hence they were cheaper then than other i.cs. But r.t.l. gates were not fast enough for the computer manufacturers, so production quantities fell and prices no longer fell. Principally developed by Texas, t.t.l. soon took over with under 10 ns propagation time and in due course were second sourced also, by Mullard, Siemens, and (in 1968) by I.T.T. (formerly S.T.C.).

## Dual-in-line packages

The first Texas mesa solid circuits were encapsulated in vitreous enamel and subsequent circuits used standard transistor packages, principally TO5, whilst military buyers insisted on more expensive flat-packs. However, these became less acceptable as more complex circuits were devised which required more connecting leads. Hence dual-in-line plastic and other hermetic packages were progressively introduced from 1966 until eventually this type of package became exclusively accepted for industrial and commercial applications and for many military purposes also. In fact, once adopted, it has been used for a number of other nonsemiconductor electronic components.

## Linear circuits

As familiarity with the technology grew it was certain that at some stage linear circuits would be tackled by leading manufacturers. In the U.S.A. Fairchild introduced the 700 series of operational amplifiers and in the U.K. Plessey was working along similar lines. One of their SL500 series, for example, designed in 1967, had a current gain of 26 dB at 30 MHz with a response from 5 MHz to 100 MHz . The amplifier circuit elements consisted of three transistors, a diode, seven resistors and three capacitors on a
single chip 1.5 mm square. The advantages of excluding capacitors, which were wasteful of surface area, were quickly realized. Gain and frequency response were then controlled by external reactive shunts and by internal feedback. Thus one amplifier circuit could be used for a wide range of applications with consequent sales benefit to the manufacturer. For example, the Fairchild $\mu \mathrm{A} 730$ was a differential amplifier which consisted of seven resistors and five transistors whilst the $\mu$ A 709 high gain amplifier which used external feedback to control gain consisted of 15 resistors and 15 transistors. Neither of these circuits included areas specifically devoted to capacitance. Of course, capacitance is always present, limiting frequency response.

By 1968 a number of manufacturers were experimenting with special purpose i.cs hoping to break into new markets, such as radio, television, automobile electronics and the "white goods" trade (fridges, washing machines, etc.). One company produced a car radio chip basically a superhet with reflex i.f. and a.f. amplifiers though they found a market for it very difficult to obtain, and in 1969 Plessey had a single chip colour demodulator for Rank-Bush-Murphy colour television receivers.

## A goal is reached

It was in 1968 when those two great ideas, mentioned earlier, of the solid circuit and the field effect transistor came together, and none too happy a union it was at first. Field effect transistors had been in production since about 1963, first with junction gates and later with metal oxide insulating gates. However their reputation for reliabilify was very poor.

Small silicon area, fewer diffusions than for bipolar transistors, high input resistance and a high fan-in when used as switches are all properties of m.o.s. devices. They depend however on surface effects and so are liable to surface con-

Motorola MC910. A 1 mm square chip containing four transistors and six resistors, Designed in late 1963, this is an r.t.l. dual twoinput NOR gate which has a 40ns turn-off time. The four input resistors are $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ each

tamination, and in some cases suffer from poor surface stability. Catastrophic failures were not at all uncommon due not only to contamination but to electrostatic pick-up. Also silicon dioxide decomposes in the presence of aluminium resulting in pin-holes in the insulation layer which are fatal to the device. Contamination is particularly likely when an m.o.s. circuit is encapsulated in plastic, such as the dual-in-line packages then becoming popular. The solution to this problem was found to be to use not only an oxide layer but also a nitride layer to give passivation of the surface since silicon nitride is not affected in the same way by aluminium as is silicon dioxide. These m.n.o.s. gates were introduced by a number of companies, among them Ferranti. A few months later Plessey set up a production line for m.o.s. circuits at Swindon and by $197230 \%$ of their output of 1.2 million chips per annum consisted of m.o.s. circuits.

## Finding their feet

Soaring yields, even with integrated circuits, due to familiarity with processing technology, and the lure of even larger bipolar and m.o.s. circuits all enticed manufacturers to do better and build bigger, while growing competition and the dramatic failure of some and ever falling prices were never far from their thoughts. Of course chips have got bigger. A typical maximum chip size in production now is 4 mm square with the occasional 6 mm square "special" but m.o.s. has been something of a disappointment with the larger chip sizes. There has been steady progress towards m.s.i. (medium scale integration) and l.s.i. (large scale integration) except for agreement on exactly where a function on a chip becomes large enough to warrant the term m.s.i. or even I.s.i. (more about this in part 4). However, there have been some interesting ideas floated by engineers

p-type

Collector diffusion isolation (c.d.i.) process involves diffusion of an $n^{+}$layer into a p-type silicon slice. Subsequent growth of a p-type epitaxial over the now buried $n^{+}$layer is used to hold emitter diffusion and collector diffusions which link up with the buried laver. This results in the isolation of each transistor so formed.
about methods for making larger circuits without yields becoming vanishingly small and it may be that among them are those who have had a glimpse of what the future really holds.

As long ago as 1966 the theory was being proposed that circuit yield depended on the density of the interconnection pattern of the aluminium on the surface of the chip. It was claimed that devices on the chip could be made smaller and the separation between devices less so that the limiting factor in the technology was the resolution of the aluminium pattern. Hence ways were sought to reduce the number of conductors on the chip. Some diffused layers were conveniently available as underpasses, but generally an underpass takes up more space than the corresponding conductor on the surface. It was suggested that a number of interconnection layers would reduce the density of conductors in any one layer so much that yields would rise. But more layers mean more masks and yield is proportional to the power of the number of masks, so yields fell when this was attempted. Some, like Fairchild, had a special slant on this problem: the


British-designed linear amplifier chip which shows the area of surface taken up by capacitors, compared with the much smaller areas taken up bv transistors and resistors. The circuit is that of a capacitor-coupled r.f. amplifier.
chip consisted of say, 32 gates, and the first layer of metallization connected the circuit elements on the chip into gates. The customer was then asked to design the pattern which interconnected the gates to form the functions he wanted. The idea foundered, both due to the low yields which meant that prices were high, and because customers did not see why they should do part of the i.c. manufacturer's work for him. It is interesting that those manufacturers who either do not use two-layer metallization or who have tried and failed point to the contour of the silicon surface as the core of the problem. Although one might imagine the planar surface to be flat its profile is far from this with windows in the oxide layer making contact with the various diffusions and aluminium contacts as well.

## Beam leads and flip chips

High on the list of advantages of solid state devices is reliability. It has long been recognized that the weakest link in transistor technology is the bonding of the chips to the posts on the header, or directly to a printed circuit board or other components. Two alternatives to wire bonding are available. Flip chips have thickened bonding pads so that the device can be bonded face to face by contact between these pads and another surface. Although some work has been done with flip chip i.cs, automatic assembly of chips is seldom used so that it is chiefly with discrete transistors that they have been used. The main exception is the I.B.M. solid logic modules where flip chips have been used in assembling random access memories.

Beam leads are produced by multiple deposition, usually of platinum and gold to extend the conductors beyond the edge of the chip, so that when the silicon is etched away from the edges of the chip, the beam leads protude. Beam leads have been found more appropriate for i.cs, the circuits being separated either by a lap and etch technique or by air abrasion. Beam lead technology is of some signifi cance in the U.S. but once again there have been no significant contracts in the U.K.

## What next?

An early Texas project had been called "A computer on a chip". At the time it seemed this was just American "talk" but l.s.i. has now turned this into a potential reality. Part 4 of this series will look at the development of I.s.i. and make some sober guesses about the future. Some cynics might wonder whether there is a future, for the last five years have certainly brought over-production and shown the perils of being tied to a pace-making industry like computing. But the fainthearted don't work in semiconductors. If the cost of a small domestic car like the Vauxhall Viva had fallen as dramatically as that of integrated circuits over the last ten years, its cost today would be comparable to that of a secondhand bicycle.

# Experiments with Operational Amplifiers 

# 8. Comparators - simple types and regenerative comparators with hysteresis 

by G. B. Clayton, B.Sc., F.Inst.P

When an operational amplifier is used without feedback a small input signal causes the amplifier output to switch between its saturation limits. There is a range of applications for this switching characteristic, one of which is the comparator.

A comparator is basically a device which compares two signals and indicates which of the two is the larger. There is a variety of ways in which a differential input operational amplifier can be used to perform the comparator function.
A simple experimental circuit for demonstrating comparator action is shown in Fig. 8.1. Input and reference signals can be interchanged in order to obtain an output transition of reverse polarity.

A second comparator circuit in which the output transition occurs when the sum of two voltages reaches a defined level is given in Fig. 8.2. The action of the circuits can be investigated by applying measured d.c. input signals, with a d.c. voltmeter connected to the amplifier output to indicate the state of the comparator. Alternatively, a low frequency sinusoid can be used as an input signal and the comparator transfer curve can be displayed by an oscilloscope.

## Regenerative comparators

When the input signal to a simple comparator varies very slowly the comparator switching time becomes dependent upon the rate of change of the input signal. In such circumstances comparator switching time can be reduced to a limiting value set by amplifier slewing rate by applying positive feedback. Comparators which employ positive feedback are called regenerative comparators. A regenerative comparator has a transfer curve which exhibits hysteresis. An experimental circuit for investigating the action of such a comparator is shown in Fig. 8.3.

Typical transfer curves which illustrate the action of the circuit are shown by the oscillograms in Fig. 8.4. In the lower trace a value for $R_{2}$ of $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ was used, resulting in a greater amount of hysteresis. The upper and lower transition level values for the input signal are determined by the relationships

$$
\begin{aligned}
\underset{\text { upper }}{e_{i}} & =\underset{\text { +velimit }}{V_{u}} \cdot \frac{R_{1}}{R_{1}+R_{2}} \\
\underset{\text { lower }}{e_{i}} & ={\underset{-v e l i m i t}{V_{u}}}_{V_{1}+\frac{R_{1}}{R_{1}+R_{2}}}
\end{aligned}
$$

The effect of applying a reference voltage (other than zero) to point $B$ should be observed, also the effect of interchanging input and reference signals.

Note that the 1741 CG op-amp used in the experiments is quite suitable for demonstrating comparator action but an amplifier type with a faster slewing rate should be used for practical comparator applications which require a rapid transition.


Fig. 8.1. (a) Simple comparator; (b) comparator transfer curve.


Fig. 8.3. Regenerative comparator.


Fig. 8.4. Two transfer curves, showing hysteresis, obtained with the regenerative comparator in Fig. 8.3. Horizontal scale (2V/div.) is input voltage, and vertical scale ( $10 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{div}$.$) is output voltage. For the$ lower trace a value of $47 k \Omega$ was used for $R_{2}$.


Output transition when

$$
\frac{e_{1}}{R_{1}}+\frac{e_{2}}{R_{2}}+\frac{E_{\text {ret }}}{R}=0
$$

Fig. 8.2. Circuit comparing the sum of two input voltages with a defined level.

## Circuit Ideas

## Triggered ramp generator

A simple triggered linear ramp generator can be made with a p-channel enhancement m.o.s.f.e.t. and a unijunction transistor. When the m.o.s.f.e.t. is turned off by a positive pulse to the gate the capacitor is unable to charge and is kept discharged by the unijunction leakage. A negative pulse to the f.e.t. gate turns it on and the capacitor charges linearly through the f.e.t. acting as a constant-current source. A triggered sweep for an

oscilloscope can be made easily with the addition of a bistable circuit which is switched into one state by the triggering signal and switched back again by a pulse from base 1 or 2 of the unijunction transistor. For a linear sweep the bistable switch must give a sharp pulse to switch on the f.e.t. quickly. I used a surplus unmarked m.o.s.f.e.t. but I imagine any type would be suitable.
S. P. Jarman,

University of Sussex.

## Simple frequency doubler with unbalanced input

Known aperiodic frequency-doubler circuits require a push-pull balanced infut, or have internal push-pull circuit arrangements. The circuit shown in the next column is a simpler solution to the problem, and gives excellent doubling action, as shown in the photograph, provided $R_{1}=R_{2}$. Input voltage was 2.5 V

pk-pk. If the source of $V_{\text {in }}$ has appreciable internal resistance, $R_{1}$ should be reduced accordingly.

The input impedance of the circuit is higher when $V_{\text {in }}$ goes positive than when it goes negative, and this leads to unsymmetrical operation if $V_{\text {in }}$ is supplied via a coupling capacitor. This trouble may be cured by adding a "transdiode" and resistor as shown in broken-line, the resistor value being the same as that of $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$. (An ordinary silicon diode may be used, but gives a less perfectly symmetrical input impedance.) With this modification, the internal resistance of the $V_{\text {in }}$ source is no longer critical.


Resistors $R_{1}$ or $R_{2}$ may, of course, be made adjustable, and set for total elimination of fundamental-frequency output, though this will not usually be necessary. The gains of the circuit to positive and negative inputs are well controlled by negative-feedback action.

If the collector load resistor is replaced by a tuned circuit of only moderate $Q$-value, say 10 , a clean double-frequency sinewave output may be obtained.
Peter J. Baxandall
Malvern
Worcs.

## T.T.L. monostable maintains pulse width

Addition of a single diode allows a monostable circuit to be used with much shorter input pulses. Introduction of an $R C$ delay is a useful means of producing short pulses at the leading and trailing edges of an input pulse (e.g. H.A. Cole, $W W$ January 1972 pp. 31-2.) The delay introduced by $R C$ limits the minimum usable input pulse width; for an input pulse of duration around $R C$ the width of the output pulse is reduced. Addition of the diode restores the pulse width, as shown dashed.


The general principle of using an $R C$ delay in this way is acceptable only if adequate rise and fall times are maintained. For ordinary t.t.l. a rate of change of voltage at the logic threshold equivalent to a rise or fall time of more than about a microsecond may give rise to spurious oscillation.
J. V. Yelland,

Didcot,
Berks.

## Low-voltage source

To provide a portable source of multiples of approximately 0.2 V , for example for tunnel diode circuits, without use of a power-wasting voltage divider, this circuit

is offered, using a Lechlanché cell and a mercury cell. The 1.35 V mercury cell should offer shelf life or better, as the circuit current demand value is a charging current for the mercury cell.
David R. Schaller,
Milwaukee,
Wisconsin.

## Audio dynamic range compressor

This circuit was designed for use with tape recorders to reduce distortion occurring during transients and unforeseen crescendos, and to allow a higher average recording level, hence improving signal-to-noise ratios. It also gives interesting effects if fed excess signals, especially with pop music, as the recovery time of the a.g.c. mechanism appears as a modulation of the signal. It uses a readily available operational amplifier to provide a high input impedance and a well-defined gain. The low output impedance is used to drive the envelope detector $D$ and its associated reservoir capacitor, $C$, thus giving fast reaction to spikes. The recovery time depends on $C$, (I have found $40-50 \mathrm{~ms}$ reasonable) and its minimum value must be comparable with the period of the lowest frequency encountered. The voltage at $T r_{2}$ collector should be between -2 V and -2.3 V , and is fairly critical as it defines the working point of the f.e.t. The sensitivity control $R_{1}$ adjusts the point at which limiting commences. If a stereo version is attempted, it is wise to equalize the operation of the two channels by adjustment of the collector voltage via $R_{2}$, as $R_{1}$ is a fine control.

Gain of the circuit is around unity at low levels, reducing as the input signal

approaches 350 mV . The output voltage remains a fairly constant 400 mV for input signals in the range 450 mV to 4 V . There may be some room for adjustment in the circuit values, but I have found that a higher value of gain in the op-amp stage slightly improves limiting, but reduces the
upper limit at which the limiting action ceases. Reducing the gain just causes the amplitude to "hunt" in response to large input signals. Consumption of a stereo version is around 6 mA .
P. Hanson,

University of Kent.

## Light level indicator

When making optical experimehts, testing or calibrating photocells, it may be necessary to set a known light level each time before the experiment is performed. The following circuit provides a simple way of setting a light level to a particular value. A silicon planar photodiode, generates a photo-current proportional to the incident illumination, which is fed to the input of an op-amp connected as a current amplifier. The output is thus the equivalent photo-current developed across a 2-M resistor. Two comparators are used to compare the output voltage with a fixed reference set by a potential divider
chain. Comparator 2 is set at nominally 1 V and comparator 1 at 1.1 V . The amplifier output is fed via $R_{3}$ to the non-inverting input of comparator 1 and the inverting input of comparator 2. When the output is below 1V, the output of comparator 2 is positive, which enables the current in $R_{5}$ to turn on $T r_{2}$, lighting the "low" lamp. When the output of the amplifier is above 1.1 V the output of comparator 1 will be positive, enabling $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ to turn on and lighting the "high" lamp. If the amplifier output is between the two thresholds, both comparator outputs will be low and both lamps off, and the green "correct" lamp lights.

Changing the values of $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$ alters the basic sensitivity of the system. Capacitors $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ provide decoupling of noise pick-up for remote detection or small content of a.c. lighting. Components $R_{3}, C_{3}$ and $C_{4}$ minimize instability in the comparators as they pass through their linear region.

Values in the diagram shown give an acceptance band of $10 \%$. Reducing the value of $R_{+}$to $50 \Omega$ reduces the pass band to $5 \%$. For closer bands, higher gain comparators may be used (e.g. $\mu$ A734).
David C. Porter,
Poole,
Dorset.


# The Evolution of the A.C. Mains Radio Valve 

by J. H. Ludlow, A.C.C.I, M.I.E.E.

The advent in the late 1920s of the first receiving valves which could be satisfactorily fed from an a.c. supply is rightly regarded as an important phase of thermionic history. Nevertheless in these days of compact and easily carried radio receivers of good performance for which a mains lead would be an unwelcome restriction, the advantages of such a facility may not be at all clear. Through this brief account of the mains valve's evolution and development, it may be possible to see which, if any, of the more important inventions may be said to have contributed the essential element which brought success to the design eventually adopted by all the main valve manufacturers, and which is still in use in the fast dwindling production of today.

## Bright emitters

It is generally accepted that the radio valve first established itself as an important element in communications during the first world war: the extreme pressures of military urgency created an extensive technology which could never have grown up in the restrictive circle of pre-war "wireless". When peace came, not only were there many thousands of Allied ex-servicemen who had personal experience of what radio could do, but additionally there were tens of thousands of "war-surplus" valves, mainly of the Army "R" type, available for experimentation. Out of the resulting body of amateur radio enthusiasts there grew up the beginnings of broadcasting, first in America and then in Europe, and this was destined to become the next force to promote and direct valve development. However, whereas war had left a legacy of valves and equipment suited to its aims of reliable message-sending with portable apparatus in the field of battle, broadcasting required radiotelephony to be adapted to the social and commercial functions of providing a maximum of entertainment and edification for its public with a minimum of expense and inconvenience to them.

The plentiful supply of valves which had helped to launch broadcasting could not satisfy the demand for very long-the life expectancy of the " $R$ " valve was 100 hours only-and it was replenished promptly enough by the wartime makers, who were happy to promote this new market. Even so, a typical receiver of the time was a modest
matter of one or two valves feeding a pair ol headphones, and requiring an outside aerial of considerable size. Each "R"-type filament needed a supply of 0.7 A from a 4 V accumulator, so that a pair took a continuous power of nearly six watts from this and the bulky high-tension battery, in order to give a signal of a few milliwatts. The fact that the valves were bright enough to illuminate a signal-pad was poor compensa-tion-even in an era of gas-light and candles-for the constant drudgery and expense of taking the battery to be charged, often at the local cycle-shop, and for the periodic replacement of the high-tension unit.

## Dull emission

As long as "listening-in" involved wearing headphones, most of those within a few miles of a broadcasting transmitter understandably preferred the cheaper and simpler, though sometimes tantalizing, crystal receiver. The poor performance of the "bright" tungsten filament was highlighted by demands for multivalve sets to give greater range, and for power valves to drive the new loudspeakers which made family listening so much more comfortable. The first response to this pressure for improved efficiency was the thoriated-tungsten filament, which was developed from an effect which had been observed in certain " $R$ " type valves some years before. These "dull-emitters" became generally available in 1922-23, and reduced the capacity of the necessary accumulator to about one quarter of that previously needed. A year or so later the oxide-coated filament, derived from Wehnelt's discovery of 1902, still further reduced demands on the low-tension battery, and domestic receivers using four or more valves and a loudspeaker became practicable.

## Filaments on a.c.

In the meantime a disquieting fact had become apparent to manufacturers and users alike. Centrally generated electric supplies were bringing the convenience of lighting by incandescent filament lamps to more and more homes, and yet the occupants had to put up with wireless sets which had all the inconveniences of a battery-fed reading lamp. Clearly, means had to be devised whereby the power needed by the

receiver was derived from the supply mains. Designers found little difficulty in replacing the h.t. battery with a rectifier unit and smoothing filter, and it is perhaps significant that when they were marketed they were universally called "battery-eliminators", indicating the freedom from toil they would confer on the purchaser. But the elimination of the even more irksome l.t. accumulator was much less simple. Heating the filament of any of the available valves with raw a.c. from a suitable transformer resulted in an entirely unacceptable modulation of the output signal, mainly because a part of the heating voltage appeared at the input, and because the temperature and hence the emission of the fine wire varied at twice the supply frequency.

One of the earliest attempts to overcome this problem was made in 1922 by the French Mazda Company, who marketed a special form of " $R$ " valve for this application. This was their Type "RS", RadioSecteur (mains-radio) valve, and its filament was designed to minimize the effects of the a.c. heating voltage by making it low, and those of temperature variation by using a thick wire. This consumed 2.0 A at 2.3 V , and with the aid of a rectifier with a similar filament made an early type of mains receiver practicable. It should be remembered that the output of such a set would have been fed into headphones with a poor low-frequency response, and that in those days the signal would be judged by its intelligibility rather than its realistic quality. The production of these valves presumably ceased with that of the " $R$ " type on which they were based.

## Using d.c. mains

The incentive to find a satisfactory solution increased with the growth of broadcasting and the contemporaneous spread of domestic electric lighting. But it was to be some
years before the first acceptable examples of mains-fed valves appeared, and in the meantime equipment was marketed which would heat the filaments of available types of battery valves from the electric supply. In some districts in England this was direct current, and battery-eliminators took the form of well-ventilated boxes of wire resistors which provided both high and low tension current for the new low-consumption $(0.060 \mathrm{~A})$ filament valves. This basically simple arrangement presented the designer with a number of difficulties resulting from the direct connection of the radio circuits to the supply, the characteristics of which varied from place to place. One trouble was the ingress of mains-borne "noise" which was very difficult to eliminate on some systems. Another was hazard from electric shock, which was increased by the general use of separate direct-connected loudspeakers. Again, in addition to the radio noise already mentioned, d.c. mains frequently carried pronounced ripples at frequencies in the mid-audio range: these were well reproduced by the moving-iron speakers of the period, and were difficult to remove from the filament supply as highvalue capacitors for low voltages were not yet on the market.

## Need for a separate heater

Manufacturers were more interested in the a.c. mains, since they were scheduled to supplant the d.c. systems in due course. Many of the above difficulties could be avoided by the use of a transformer in an h.t. eliminator. Moreover, it was found that the heavier filament of an output valve could be heated with raw a.c. by using a centre-tapped transformer winding, but heating the filaments of the earlier-stage valves remained an intractable problem. One of the earliest a.c. receivers, marketed in 1926, fed battery-type filaments in series from the smoothed output of an h.t. unit; but the scheme did not survive the introduction of satisfactory a.c. valves, for reasons which will become apparent later.

It had been realized several years before that the short, thick filament of the type pioneered by the French Mazda Company could only lessen the effects of a.c. heating: it could never eliminate them altogether. The heating voltage could only be reduced usefully to the point at which the magnetic field due to the necessarily increased current contributed equally to the noise in the output from the valve. What was required was a cathode which carried none of the heating current, but which was maintained at temperature by an electrically independent heater.

## Ceramic insulators for heaters

One of the first designs for an indirectlyheated receiving valve cathode to be developed commercially was patented in 1923 by Freeman and Wade of the Westinghouse Company of America. They describe how the anode current of a valve with a.c. heating its filament is subject to alternating variations due to the electric and magnetic fields so set up, and to the fluctuating filament temperature, and propose to avoid these effects by providing a tubular equi-


Detaits of the electrode assembly of a "Micromesh" a.c. valve: left to right, the cathode, the grid and its cooling fin, the complete assembly: the heater, cathode and magnesia insulator (above), and finally the construction of the grid. (Reproduced from Wireless World 5th Aug. 1932.)
potential cathode, within which is mounted a slim cylinder of refractory ceramic with two longitudinal perforations through which is threaded a hairpin-shaped heating filament. The magnetic field of this filament is prelerably made small by arranging the perforations close together. The inventors claimed that valves made with cathodes of this type are free from the taults mentioned, and they also found that they gave a better performance than previous valves.

One of the valuable features of this development was that it showed for the first time that the presence of ceramic insulation held at high temperature did not affect the thermionic performance of small receiving valves made in quantity. During the next few years several designs of cathode were evolved which used such ceramic parts in one way or another. including the function of supporting coiled heaters for


Fig. 1."The grid volts anode current characteristics show the K.L.I to be a good general purpose valve or with 100 volts on the plate it is suitable as a moderate power amplifier." (Wireless World 26thJJan. 1927.)
high voltages. Although the new technology led to the production of several types of a.c. valve in both the U.S.A. and Germany, a number of troubles prevented the realization of unqualified success. One of these was an undesirably long warm-up time of over a minute; more important was a high incidence of early failure, caused in some cases by the development of emission from the control-grid, by heater failure due to thermochemical action with the ceramic, or by the deterioration of insulation between other electrodes.

The slow heating may well have been accepted as a small price to pay for the convenience of mains operation, and indeed was quoted as evidence that the bugbear of temperature variation had been thoroughly eradicated. Short life, however, was unacceptable, and a great deal of effort was made to identify and eliminate the causes. Grid emission was caused by the evaporation of oxide from the unprecedentedly large cathode surface on to the surrounding control grid, the temperature of which was raised to emitting level by the considerable radiation from it. Means were sought to inhibit this unwanted activation, which rendered the valve useless in service, but a Western Electric method indicates some of the difficulties. They had demonstrated that a thin layer of oxidation on the nickel of the grid would prevent the development of this unwanted emission at any temperature. But their patent does not claim primarily the use of such a layer, but covers a triode in which the anode is made of decarbonised metal. They had found that if carbon was not removed from the anode metal, it combined during exhaust with water vapour and oxygen remaining in the bulb, to form carbon monoxide, and this later reduced the pre-oxidized grid surface to a clean condition which activated readily under a deposit of cathode coating, and so ended the useful life of the valve.

Problems connected with the ceramic tubes proved to be more intractable. The first ones to be used by American valvemakers were of porcelaineous material, and these proved to be insufficiently refractory to stand the temperature of the heater, which failed through chemical attack. A change was made to magnesia, a material also used in Germany, but this led to insulation troubles in other parts of the valve: the magnesia was reduced by the hot tungsten and the resulting magnesium metal vaporized and condensed on cooler parts of the assembly, producing conducting films between parts normally insulated from each other. There was evidence that alumina would provide the required stability, but fine tubes of that material could not be made commercially at that time.
By the middle of 1926 the position was sufficiently unresolved for two British firms to initiate their own proposais for indirectlyheated cathodes, and in both cases ceramic components were eliminated. On 25th June, C. W. Stopford of the M-O.V. Company patented a novel design which stemmed from H. J. Round's idea of 1914, in that it used no insulation between the heater and the cathode tube. The specification describes a helically coiled hairpin heater which is supported by its centre-point on an axial silica-insulated rod, within an enclosing thimble-shaped cathode tube. This assembly is mounted with suitable grid and anode on the usual "pinch" seal, but with the electrode axis at about $45^{\circ}$, so as to reduce the heat which would otherwise radiate on the supporting glass. A heater voltage as high as 100 V is mentioned.

## Marconi K.L. 1

Seven months later, in January 1927, a valve of this type, the "K.L.1" (Fig. 1), was described in Wireless World as having been newly added to the Osram and Marconi ranges. Figures quoted from the journal's own tests show that the 3.5 V heater brought the cathode to emitting temperature in about 15 seconds, that the amplification factor was 7 , and that the average anode impedance was $5300 \Omega$. The article refers to the American version of the indirectly-heated cathode as not having "attained a wide popularity", and concludes that: "In the hands of the amateur the utility of this valve will probably develop, and it is a great advance towards the production of receiving sets working entirely off the mains". Whilst the verdict was only cautiously favourable, it must be remembered that the valve was developed and brought to production at a time when several designs employing ceramic tube insulation were being tried out commercially. The new design might well have pointed the way to a successful solution, in spite of its high heater power (7W) and its somewhat unstable characteristics.

## Slip-coated heaters

The second British design for an a.c. cathode was disclosed in a patent which was lodged on 7th July 1926, twelve days after the Stopford-M-O.V. application, by E. Y. Robinson of Metrovick. He based his invention for the improvement of cera-


These two phorographs show clearly the difference between the slip-coated filament (left) of a Mazda type AC/Pen and the ceramic insulated filament (right) of the DeForest Audion type 451. The valves are examples from the Fowler Collection recently acquired by the North-Western Museum of Science and Industry. (Photographs by courtesy of British Science Museum.)
mic insulated heaters, not on the use of insulation of better quality which could withstand the high temperature of the heater, but on a simplified construction which reduced it, and so avoided the snags which beset previous arrangements. The patent was an important one in the series with which he introduced his novel and efficient "Cosmos" short-path valves into a somewhat conservative market, beginning in 1925. He had already shown that closespaced electrodes could be made and held with precision, and that compact grids and anodes could be kept cool. These techniques opened the way to an a.c. valve with exceptionally good characteristics without resorting to a unipotential cathode of large area, and hence high wattage.
To suit his design of electrodes, a cathode ube of a millimetre or less in outside diameter and about 40 mm long was needed. Also, if means could be provided whereby a heater of suitable wattage could be insulated and inserted in such a tube, the temperature of the former would be beneficially lowered, since it depended on the ratio of the heater surface to that of the cathode: the higher the ratio, the cooler the heater.
The manufacture of such ceramic tubes of small cross-section was at that time commercially impracticable, and the essence of Robinson's invention was to omit such components altogether. Instead, the heater was first coated, by any convenient method, with a paint or sludge made up from an insulating substance mixed with a vehicle. This layer was then baked on the heater, and the process repeated until the insulation was sufficiently thick, after which the insulated assembly was inserted in the cathode tube. This process is for convenience referred to throughout as "slip-coating" and includes any process in which a heater is covered with a suitable paint or paste subsequently
baked in situ, as distinct from enclosure in preformed insulating components. With this process the diameter of the tube could be made very small, and the specification states that a tungsten heater of 0.1 mm diameter wire in the form of a hairpin could be so insulated and mounted in a tube 40 mm in length and 2.0 mm in periphery $(0.64 \mathrm{~mm}$ in diameter). The cathode structure so formed had been found to give a long life at an input of 1.0 A at 4.0 V . These values were adopted as the standard rating for Cosmos a.c. valves, and it is pertinent to record that one of these completed a life of over 200,000 hours between the years 1935 and 1961.

## Cosmos a.c. valves

Metrovick introduced the first valves with cathodes of this pattern, as types $\mathrm{AC} / \mathrm{R}$ and $\mathrm{AC} / \mathrm{G}$, in the autumn of 1927 , at about the same time as the M-O.V. Company added their high-frequency amplifier type K.H. 1 to the low-frequency type K.L. 1 already mentioned. Thus appeared the first two British designs for a.c. valves, each of which differed in concept from the other and from those being tried out abroad. Of the two, the initial advantage seemed to lie with the cosmos types. Their heater consumption was 4 W against the 7 W of the " K " type, and they gave an amplification of about twice that of the latter. The good performance of both valves, which was many times better than most current battery types, must have been welcome to British set designers, dedicated as they were to a maximum gain from every stage, to offset the effect of the Marconi royalty, which was calculated on the number of valves in a receiver. The Cosmos valves in particular were commended by several writers for their high efficiency.

Apart from the electrode differences between the Marconi-Osram and the Cosmos a.c. valves, the styles of their base
connections were dissimilar. The " $K$ " type base was a standard 4 -pin, in which the heater connections were taken to the normal filament pins, and the extra lead required for the cathode was taken to a terminal on the side of the base. On the other hand the Cosmos valves were given a special base in which one of the standard filament pins served for the cathode, and the other was replaced by a pair of short pins for the heater supply. These, of course, required special sockets (which Cosmos marketed) in new sets. But there were in Britain a very large number of battery receivers, and plenty of enthusiasts, both amateur and professional, ready to convert to mains operation sets in houses enjoying electric light. With an eye on this market, Cosmos produced a cheap adaptor in the form of a thin disc, through which a valve could be plugged into an existing standard valveholder, and this connected the heater pins with a flex lead which emerged from its side. With this provision they could also interest the many British zealots whose pride, sometimes doubtless born of necessity, was in their ability to "get America on one valve", as distinct from their opposite numbers in the U.S. who were more likely to rate an amateur listener's prestige by the number of "tubes" his receiver used.

## 1928: Trials in Europe and the U.S.

Throughout the world of broadcasting, public demand for reliable mains-fed receivers had become acute, and manufacturers were forced to take urgent steps to provide suitable valves before a satisfactory design for an a.c. cathode had been proved. Not surprisingly, the methods they adopted showed very little unanimity
We have noted that German designers had been following the American technique of insulating heaters with ceramic tubes. But in 1928 they had decided to explore an alternative approach: this was a revival of the short, thick filament such as had been used in the French "Radiosecteur" valve of 1922, except, of course, that the new one had an oxide coating. A report on the Berlin Radio Show of 1928 finds ". . . well represented both the older indirectly-heated type and the new lowvoltage type in which the emitting surface is heated directly". Screen-grid valves, which in battery form had brought about a transformation in high-frequency amplification in receivers the previous year, were available with either sort of cathode.

Valve makers in England also appreciated the importance of developing an a.c. type screen-grid valve. It had been remarked in the auturnn of 1927 that whereas highfrequency amplification had previously been the prerogative of the few who could handle the neutralized triode, the screen-grid valve had made it available to all. Even highly efficient triodes like the K.H. 1 and the AC/G would be immediately supplanted by an a.c. version for this service.

Accordingly the M-O.V. Company, whilst continuing the " K " type valves for their 1928-29 season, also introduced a series of valves with thick, low-voltage filaments for direct a.c. heating, as had been done in Germany, and this included a


Fig. 2. "Curves connccing anode current and grid volts for "Micromesh" HLAI valve." (Wireless World 5th Aug. 1932.)
screen-grid type. They consumed 0.8 A at 0.8 V , and were accordingly called the "Point 8 " range. A tetrode version of the "K" type was probably too complex to be commercially successful, and did not appear. The K.L.1, however, had an important part to play: as in Germany, customers were warned against using a "Point 8 " triode as a detector, as it was almost impossible to avoid an unacceptable hum in its output in this position. An indirectly-heated type was recommended for this duty. As a result, receivers such as the G.E.C. "All-Electric Three" used a mixture of valve-types: a K.L. 1 as detector, an HL Point 8 as l.f. amplifier, and a P625A as a directly-heated super-power output valve. Later on, an effort to regularize matters was made by the introduction of a special "D Point 8 " for detection. This had an even heavier filament, taking I.6A at 0.8 V .

The marketing of these valves with thick, low-voltage filaments both here and in Germany indicates that the indirectlyheated types they superseded had not enjoyed unqualified commercial success. Indeed, some considered them to be preferable to the more complicated heater-cathode assemblies

Yet another method of heater insulation was adopted by the Ediswan Company, who marketed a pair of a.c. triodes, types MI41LF and M141RC in 1928. These were based on a design developed the year before by T. W. Price, who used fine silica tubing to cover the heater wire. To encourage their use in the conversion of battery sets, and as an alternative to the Cosmos adaptor disc, these valves were fitted with a standard 4 -pin base, and in addition, with a 2 -way connector on the top of the bulb for the heater supply. This made it simpler to keep the alternating current leads away from the existing set wiring, and so to minimize induced hum. A similar double-ended construction was adopted by the Cossor Company for their range of five type M. 41 valves. Neither company produced a screen-grid version at this time, and it is to be noted that they both followed
the Cosmos lead by using a heater rating of 1.0 A at 4.0 V

## Philips All-mains 3-1 Receiver

In 1927 the N. V. Philips Company had acquired full control of the Mullard Company, and the latter offered no a.c. valives in their 1928 programme. But during the year the parent company marketed a 3 -valve mains receiver of particularly progressive design, and many were sold in England. Unlike contemporary but more traditional models, such as the Metrovick 5 -valve set, with its base-plate construction and separate eliminators, this new receiver was compactly enclosed in a functional metal case which also housed the power-unit, with its full-wave rectifier. The circuit employed a screen-grid h.f. amplifier, a triode detector and a pentode output valve, all of which were indirectly-heated, as was the rectifier. The cathodes of these valves were rather larger in diameter than the Cosmos design, and were connected to side terminals on the 4 -pin bases. They are of special interest because their appearance indicates that they had been insulated by a slip-coating technique, so that their makers were among the first to follow Cosmos practice.

Another novel feature of the ser was the output valve, which was the first indirectlyheated pentode to be marketed in England, and probably in Europe. This presumably followed from the fact that the output pentode, as such, had originated in the Philips Company shortly before. However, we have already noted that hum-free operation had been obtained from filamented output triodes for some time, and the new battery-type pentodes were being used in the same way. Indeed. the 1929 successor to this set, the Type 2514, used a Mullard PM24A directly-heated pentode as output valve. Nevertheless, the use of a cathode with a slip-coated heater ultimately resulted in the development of a pentode of great sensitivity, the Mazda AC/2Pen of 1934.

## Ediswan-Cosmos-Mazda

This reference to the brand name of "Mazda" makes it desirable to explain briefly the effect of the formation of Associated Electrical Industries, which embraced the three valve-making firms of Metrovick. B.T.H. and Edison Swan, in 1928. In the following year the brand names Cosmos and Ediswan were dropped, and valvemaking was taken over by the Edison Swan Electric Company, who concentrated it at the Cosmos Works (Brimsdown), using and expanding the facility which had previously made the Cosmos valve for Metrovick, and marketing the product under the Mazda brand name. Thus, from the technological point of view, the $A C / 2$ Pen mentioned above was a lineal descendent of the Olympia award-winning Mazda AC/Pen of 1930, the similarly honoured Mazda AC/SG of 1929, and the Cosmos AC/S of 1928.

## Slip-coating accepted by British valve-makers

An event which marked the year 1929 as a turning-point in our story was the official adoption by British valve manufacturers of the 5 -pin valve base, with its extra central
pin for the cathode. This signalled acceptance of the fact that the a.c. valve of the future would be an indirectly-heated type, and paved the way for its general manufacture. So plentiful were a.c. valves and receivers at the Radio Show in September, that 1929 was called "All-Mains Year", even though a contemporary survey counted only 39 a.c. sets out of a total of 300 different models. All the four main British valve-makers announced a.c. types, including screen-grid amplifiers, in their programmes, and in each case they were using indirectly-heated cathodes, with heaters rated at $4 \mathrm{~V}, \mid \mathrm{A}$, and the new 5 -pin base. The Ediswan silica-insulated heater had been discarded in favour of the original Cosmos (now Mazda) design, and the M-O.V. Company had dropped the " $K$ " type triodes. On the other hand the valves of the "Point 8 " series were continued through 1930, although it was said of them, during the previous year, that ". . . there appears to be no directly-heated model which has not got an indirectly-heated counterpart with substantially bettercharacteristics, and there is no advantage in price". It was the slip-insulated cathode, which had given Cosmos a.c. valves their exceptionally high performance in 1927, that was being adopted universally in Britain two years later.

In making this point, a Wireless World article of October 1929 outlined the process of making such a cathode, and ascribed its development to the Metrovick Research Department, where a cure for grid-emission the bane of other types-had also been devised. This was true in so far that the Cosmos electrode design kept the grid cool enough to allow low-temperature inhibitors, such as copper or silver, to remain effective during life. Cosmos grids were given a thin flash of silver.

## Progress abroad

During this period the position on the Continent was changing in a somewhat similar pattern. After their brief resort to heavy directly-heated filaments, German manufacturers returned to heater-type cathodes of the new style in 1929 for all except power valves which, as in England, were directly heated. For their new designs they had the advantage of the lead given by the Philips Company.
Circumstances in France, however, were exceptional: the radio industry there had been isolated from the effects of foreign competition by high tariffs, and receiver development had followed a notably different course from that in the outside world. Thus in 1928 the Paris Radio Show offered practically no "battery-eliminators", let alone any a.c. valves. The French choice was, and had been for some years, the battery-operated superheterodyne, ostensibly to provide reliable reception of foreign stations on a small aerial, the outdoor type being considered unsightly. With the benefit of hindsight we may read with some interest that a British reporter at this show regarded the French preference as almost pitifully obsolescent, as the superhet system had been tried out, and discarded, years before by radio men in England.

During the following year, however, the first indirectly-heated valves appeared. Amongst others, the Métal brand cathodes followed American practice, using short twin-bored ceramic tubes for the 2V, 1.75A heaters. The range included a screen-grid type, and development continued through 1930 with an h.f. pentode and various multiple valves.

This importing of American technology followed the successful culmination of the Freeman and Wade cathode development, which had given the U.S. commercially acceptable a.c. valves by 1928. These, with the corresponding screen-grid model, were of considerable help to the set designer in meeting his aims of mainsoperation, simple tuning, and maximum sensitivity with selectivity to cope with the congested broadcast waveband. A typical receiver at the New York Radio Show of 1929 exploited high-frequency amplification to the full: three screen-grid stages were used, with the variable capacitors for all the circuits "ganged" on a single shaft. This provided the required single-knob control, but inaccuracies in tuning, due to unavoidable tracking errors resulted in a poor stage-gain. As two correctly tuned stages would have given all the amplification that could be used, the losses due to the simplified tuning were made up by adding an extra amplifier. Such a solution would have been quite unacceptable to a royalty-conscious British designer.
In spite of the success of these a.c. valves, the difficulties which beset the ceramic-tube cathode seem to have persisted, for within a few years U.S. valvemakers had relinquished it in favour of the slip-coating technique which was proving so successful in Britain. One element in this transition was dated in this country when the American-owned firm of Standard Telephones \& Cables introduced their "Micromesh" range of a.c. valves in 1932. On the 5th August the construction and performance of some advance specimens were described in Wireless World as having heaters insulated with twin-bored magnesia tubes, and a heating-time of about 50 seconds. Six weeks later a letter from the company was published, pointing out that several improvements had been made in the interim, and these included a refractorycoated heater which reduced the warm-up time to 25 seconds. (Fig. 2.)
Finally, the technique which had originated in England in 1927 was passed in 1933 from the U.S. to France, where the first popular receiving valves had originated, and where the first attempt at a commercial a.c. valve had been made some eleven years before.
Thus by the early 1930 s most of the valvemakers in the broadcasting world had adopted the type a.c. cathode construction which, with sundry variations and improvements, is still used throughout the industry today, and the development may be said to have been complete by then. Over the previous decade, attempts had been made by many workers to devise a satisfactory solution to the problem, and the more important results have been described.
Much useful information has been de-
rived from patent specifications, which epitomize the efforts of the inventors so conveniently. But these give no indication of the importance of the inventions they record, nor of the benefit they brought to the public. Indeed, the ownership of patents has from time to time been used to inhibit technical progress.
The early days of the thermionic valve can provide an outstanding example of such obstruction to free development. The Marconi Company brought a patent suit, claiming that the "Audion" infringed their own Fleming diode, against De Forest, who immediately filed a countersuit. Eventually the U.S. Court decided that both patents were valid, and that each company had infringed the other's. As a result, neither company could legally manufacture the triode. It took a world war to break the deadlock, and to demonstrate the great potential of the invention the litigation had sought to stifle.

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## Sonex 73

## Exhibitors and a preview of their new equipment

The fourth Sonex audio show is to be held in the Excelsior Hotel, Bath Road, West Drayton, from Friday 30th March to Sunday 1st April. Times of opening are 11.00-21.00 (Friday and Saturday) and 11.00-18.00 (Sunday). Free tickets are available from Sonex 73, 20th Century House, 31 Soho Square, London WIV 5DG and from individual exhibitors.

## Exhibition briefs

New from Acoustic Research will be the AR4xa, an improved version of the AR4x which uses the same woofer and cabinet but has a new tweeter and crossover network with the aim of improving high frequency response and dispersion.

Sennheiser will display two versions of their Elektret microphones - the MKE201 (omnidirectional) and MKE401 (supercardioid). Each microphone incorporates a miniature battery and i.c. in the microphone housing, providing components for amplification, equalization and impedance transformation of the sound signal.

Among the magnetic cartridges new to Sonex, the 820 series by Goldring will be demonstrated on the current range of Goldring/Lenco turntables.

Two new Sonab products will be on display. First, two headphones, the HS 10 and HS20. Second, a Mark II version of the R4000 tuner-amplifier which outwardly looks like the Mark I but incor porates some new circuit design.


One of two new loudspeaker systems from Jordan-Wutts, the Jupiter TLS, a transmission line speaker. Panel resonances are said to be minimized by lining the enclosure with sheet lead.


Successor to the Tandberg 3000X is the stereo tape deck $3300 X$ shown left. Features include easy to read peak-equalized recording meters, separate record and replay heads and the cross-field recording technique.

## Brand names at the show

Acoustic Research
Acoustico
Agfa Gevaert
Amstrad
Antiference
Armstrong
B.A.S.F.
J. Beam

Bib
Britex
B \& W
Condor
Connoisseur
Cosmocord
Fisher Radio
Gabraphone
Gale Electronics
Goldring
Ha:man-Kardon
Hisound
IMF
Jordan-Watts
KEF
JVC Nivico
Klinger
J.B.L.

Lecson
Lowther
Lustraphone
Memorex
Metrosound
Keith Monks
Mordaunt-Short
Musitapes
Nagra
Onkyo
Philips
Precision Tapes
Quad
Richard Allan
Rogers
Rola Celestion
SABA
Sennheiser
Sinclair
Siemens
Sonab
Spendor
Tandberg
Tape Recorder Spares
Teac
Vemitron
Cecil E. Watts

## World of Amateur Radio

## Transistor transmitters

The "all solid-state" transmitter has been heard on the amateur bands almost since the first practical transistors capable of oscillating at h.f. appeared - providing contacts with a few milliwatts of power. For a long time now devices have been available capable of providing watts and even tens of watts output but, for the amateur, these have often proved terribly easy to destroy accidentally by parasitic oscillation, mismatches and the like. As a result, apart from the dedicated experimenters, most amateur solid-state stations have been confined to 1.8 MHz mobile or portable units where a few watts can prove very effective. Recently however, there has been growing interest in extending the use of transistors in low-power exciters and also in the final amplifiers - a trend encouraged by the appearance of h.f. transceivers in which the receiver section uses direct-conversion techniques. Very effective miniature "stations" have been developed by Ten Tec and more recently by Heathkit. The "Mini-Ring" HW7 transceiver provides about 3 W output on $7 \mathrm{MHz}, 2.5 \mathrm{~W}$ on 14 MHz and 2 W on 21 MHz . Edgar Janes, G2FWA, who has been using an HW7 for several weeks, says that "several of us in the Cheltenham Group have been fascinated by this little 9 by 8 by 4 inch box - average reports seem to be RST 569 whether from Europe or North America. The limiting factor is often interference at the distant end since $2-3 \mathrm{~W}$ doesn't punch much of a hole . . . but how nice it is to get back on the morse key with a purpose. $\qquad$ this type of low-power operation is attracting quite a following... it's a pity the transceiver does not also cover 3.5 MHz since 21 and 14 MHz are not so good in the evenings at this time of the year . . . direct conversion "breakthrough" can be considerably reduced by an attenuator in the receiver input . . . a wonderful little unit".

Ten Tec with its range of similar low-power transceivers recently introduced a 50 W solid-state linear amplifier, while another well-known amateur supplier, Swan, is introducing an all solid-state transceiver capable of 200 W p.e.p. So at least it looks as though the all transistor approach (often combined with sufficient broad-band response to allow tuning of
the power amplifier to be eliminated) may at last spread fairly rapidly in many categories of amateur transmitters, even though as a power amplifier the valve retains many useful features.

## Phasing out a.m. on 1.8

## and 3.5 MHz ?

In what may well prove a controversial move, the R.S.G.B. Council has stated that it will "encourage its members to use s.s.b. rather than amplitude modulation (A3) on the 1.8 and 3.5 MHz (shared) bands" to conform with the International - Telecommunication Union requirements for maritime mobile stations in these bands from 1975. Short-wave Magazine states that it is "in entire agreement that sideband telephony is the only acceptable mode for the future". In the American journal CQ Paul Abbott, WA2RJV says "s.s.b. is the superior method just as jet engines outperform piston types . . . the need to conserve spectrum space is sufficient justification to phase out 'broadcasting' in the amateur bands". But by no means all amateurs agree that there is no place left for a.m. operation (particularly on 1.8 MHz where at present it is the dominant telephony mode) or that s.s.b. will prove the ultimate mode -double-sideband suppressed carrier transmission has many advantages especially where there is no fixed channelling arrangements, as J. P. Costas pointed out many years ago. In his classic article "Poisson, Shannon and the Radio Amateur" (Proc I.R.E., December 1959) he showed that in a congested band, broader bandwidths and the ability to move frequency can be expected to provide better communications reliability. But in the face of so many advocates of s.s.b. it may seem heresy to quote Costas!

## From all quarters

A.R.R.L. have introduced a special Oscar 6 satellite DX Achievement Award " 1000 ". To claim the new award, amateurs must accumulate 1000 points on "via-satellite" contacts: each contact with a new station scores 10 points; each new country 50 points; each new continent 250 points. QSL cards must confirm Oscar 6 contacts
after December 15, 1972. A French amateur, F 8 VN , should have little difficulty in claiming the new award - he has already made more than 200 contacts with amateurs in 26 countries via Oscar 6. The limiting factor with Oscar 6 contacts is usually 29.5 MHz reception rather than gaining access on 145.95 MHz .

In 1973, the golden jubilee year of the City of Belfast Y.M.C.A. Radio Club (GI6YM), a number of special activities are being planned for this and also for the 75th anniversary of the tests carried out by Marconi and Kemp, between Ballycastle and Rathlin Island, which led to the establishment of public service maritime radio in 1898. The Belfast club is to issue a special award between July 1, 1973 and June 30, 1974, and activity from GI6YM will be at high level throughout the period. The Ballymena Amateur Radio Club will operate a special station on all h.f. bands during the first week in July.

An unusual "wanted" notice was published recently in the A.R.R.L's journal QST - the official photographs of one Benjamin Hoskins Paddock who the F.B.I. are seeking for band robbery and escape and who is listed as one of the ten most wanted American fugitives. Reason for publication? He was licensed as K7JIH in Tuscan, Arizona from 1959 to 1964.

Quote from Syd Griffith, VK 2ZYD, in "Tuned Lines": "I would say to those who would be a little intolerant to the modified commercial rig user the old adage 'to each his own' is just as applicable in this modern, solid-state integrated-circuit state-of-the-art age, as it ever was. The amateur who experiments with modifications to commercial gear is doing as much to further his knowledge as that amateur who has a complete laboratory set-up to perform more complicated and expensive experiments".

## In Brief

The International Amateur Radio Club is conducting a special study of the unusual solar events of August 1972 and would welcome details of long-distance h.f. contacts between July 26 and August 14, 1972 (I.A.R.C., P.O. Box 6, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland) . . . Edward P. Tilton, W1 HDQ, recently retired after many years as v.h.f. Editor of QST - one of his many contributions was being the United States end of the first transatlantic v.h.f. $(50 \mathrm{MHz})$ contact on November 24, 1946 with Denis Heightman, G6DH . . . The death has occurred of Leslie Knight, G5LK, for many years a well-known blind amateur of Mitcham, Surrey, and more recently Waterlooville, Hants
B.O.A.C. is donating special prizes for the R.S.G.B. Diamond Jubilee h.f. contests including (for winners of the c.w. and phone sections) return tickets to a choice of Bermuda, Hong Kong, Seychelles, St Lucia, Antigua or Nassau . . . French stations F5MI, FIVL and F9ON are now equipped for 1296 MHz operation.

Pat Hawker, G3VA

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Address
Tel no
tion (typically $0.02 \%$ ) from 0.01 W to 150 W . Hum, and noise is 110 dB below 150W.
When converted for mono operation, which is now effected by means of a simple internal plug-in, the DC300A will deliver 650 W r.m.s. into $4 \Omega$ or $8 \Omega$ loads.

The number of output transistors has been doubled and the safety margin greatly increased. The input circuitry now employs i.cs, and the DC300A has undergone a complete chassis redesign with a new front panel to match the IC150/D150 models. Price £380. Macinnes Laboratories Ltd., Stonham, Stowmarket, IP14 5LB.
WW303 for further details

## Digital multimeter

Solartron-Schlumberger have developed a new technique of analogue-to-digital conversion for their 7040 miniature digital multimeter, which is about the same size as a portable cassette recorder. As in the dual-slope technique, developed by the same company, mains-frequency interference is greatly reduced (less than -60 dB ) without the use of filters. Tripleslope integration has the additional advantage of a much greater conversion rate, while retaining a six-digit resolution, although only four "full" digits are displayed.
During the second negative going ramp of the normal dual-slope process, the 7040 counts in units which are 100 times coarser than those displayed, while the ramp slope is made 100 times faster than normal. As it crosses the base-line it is allowed to continue for a short time, when a $\times 100$ attenuator is switched in and the count rate increased by a factor of 100 . The counter reverses and counts back until the base line is again reached, thereby interpolating the coarser counting units.
The instrument is notable in that no range switching is needed, the full six digits always being used; the relevant four displayed digits are automatically selected. Light-emitting diodes indicate the units of measurement and quantity being determined, which may be alternating or direct voltage up to 1000 V with a maximum resolution of $10 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ on the 100 mV range, direct current up to 1 mA or resistance up to $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$.

The 7040 is claimed to be suitable for

very rough usage by unskilled operators and prototypes have undergone "tests" such as being dropped from several feet on to concrete floors without damage, apart from dents in the polycarbonate case. Weight is 1.14 kg ., price $£ 195$. Electroplan Ltd., P.O. Box 19, Orchard Road, Royston, Herts., SG8 5HH.
WW306 for further details

## Low profile keyboard switch

Designed for low profile applications in calculator, data entry, communications and instrumentation equipment, this unit has an overall height of 0.415 in and is available in 0.625 in and 0.75 in sizes as single or double widths. An option of five standard colours with hot stamped characters is offered. Unit cost, depending on specification and quantity, is approximately 7p. Diamond H Controls Ltd, Vulcan Road North, Norwich, Norfolk NOR 85 N .
WW 313 for further details

## Audio power amplifier

Crown International/Amcron have announced a new version of their DC300 power amplifier. The DC300A, as the new model is known, will now operate into $1 \Omega$ loads and, it is claimed, will drive any load including totally reactive loads without fuss, and without the previously incorporated "hysteresis/normal" switch. The d.c. protection fuses have also been eliminated as a new sophisticated protection circuit has been developed which, it is claimed, exhibits no flyback pulses, thumps, or shutdown.

The DC300A will now deliver 425 W r.m.s. into $2 \Omega, 500 \mathrm{~W}$ r.m.s. into $2.5 \Omega$, 350 W r.m.s. into $4 \Omega, 200 \mathrm{~W}$ r.m.s. into $8 \Omega$, and 110 W r.m.s. into $16 \Omega$ from each of its two channels. It will also provide 100 W r.m.s. into a $1 \Omega$ load, which will be welcomed by vibration engineers.
Harmonic distortion is now specified as being below $0.05 \%$ from d.c. to $20,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$, and below $0.05 \%$ i.m. distor-

## Plug-in time delay units

The range of low cost, solid state, plug-in TM and TD time delay modules by Keyswitch Relays is designed for use in either a.c. or d.c. circuits and provides for accurately timed delay periods of between 2.5 seconds and 300 seconds.

The TM timer incorporates a Keyswitch MS relay with changeover contacts rated at 2 A . The delay period, between 2.5 seconds to 300 seconds, is set by adjustment of a potentiometer which may be mounted on the timer unit or wired to it from a remote control position. At the end of the timed interval, which is initiated by the supply connection, the timer will deliver an output.

The TD version is designed for use with an external relay and operates in a similar manner to the TM timer and also provides a time delay period of between 2.5 seconds to 300 seconds. At the end of the timed interval the TD timer output is supplied via an integral s.c.r. circuit. The solid state switch output is rated at $300 \mathrm{~V}, 10-800 \mathrm{~mA}$.

Both timers have a reset time of 120 ms and are housed in small moulded polypropylene casings, $1.3 \times 1.3 \times 2.025$ in (above

socket) and can be supplied with or without adjustment potentiometers. Keyswitch Relays Ltd, Bendon Valley, Garratt Lane, Wandsworth, London SW 18 4LZ.

## WW301 for further details

## Selective level and voltage meter

A selective level and voltage measuring set, capable of investigating acoustic phenomena below the normal audible range has been developed by Siemens. Normally the lowest frequency at which measurements are made in electrical instrumentation engineering is 16.67 Hz - the frequency of the fundamental component of a traction current. Now, with the Siemens D2040, a frequency range starting at 10 Hz is offered to provide adequate measurement capability at 16.67 Hz , and frequencies extending to 60 kHz , can also be analysed. The D2040 is tunable throughout this frequency range to 60 kHz without band switching, and all functions of the instrument can be remotely controlled. It is a superheterodyne receiver, the frequency resolution of which is 1 Hz throughout the measuring range, the frequency being read with this resolution and accuracy by a built-in digital frequency meter. The attenuation of signals which lie only 25 Hz above or below the centre frequency of the filter is 60 dB , so that, for instance, a 15.05 kHz signal can be distinguished from a 15 kHz signal of similar level. The high selectivity of this narrow-band filter permits the analyser to be used for Fourier analysis as well as for level and voltage measurement. The dB bandwidth of the receiver can then be switched from 8 to 80 Hz , which also applies to the analyser when it is used as an active, continuously tunable filter. Of special interest is the wide dynamic range offered, -120 dB to +20 dB or 1 V to -10 V , with a measuring error of less than 0.1 dB . The instrument is also designed for determining the spectral density of complex waveforms and for measuring distortion and modulation products. If the input frequency here has to be measured with greater accuracy than the filter width permits, the analyser can be switched to automatic frequency control. When this is done, the local oscillator is automatically synchronized to the incoming signal. All the switch functions, such as level, input impedance and filter bandwidth, can be remotely controlled, and it is also possible to control externally the frequency setting.
The range of application of the analyser D2040 can be extended by using a standard microphone, for space and sound analysis or a vibration pick-up, which converts mechanical vibrations into electrical value. As the measuring range extends down to 10 Hz it permits investigation of physical vibrations for stability test and similar applications. Siemens Ltd, Great West House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middx. WW312 for further details

## Wideband coaxial attenuator

Bird Electronics have introduced a $50 \Omega$ coaxial attenuator - the Model 8343060 - which has a continuous rating of 100 watts in free air without the need for an additional heat sink.

Nominal attenuation of the standard model is 6 dB from d.c. to 1000 MHz and maximum deviation is $\pm \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~dB}$ from d.c. to 500 MHz and $\pm 0.75 \mathrm{~dB}$ from 500 to 1000 MHz . Input v.s.w.r. for these ranges is 1.10 and 1.15 respectively and since the unit is symmetrical, output v.s.w.r. is similarly low. This is also obtained by the use of Bird QC quick-change connectors which permit mating with most standard male or female connectors without the need for performance degrading adaptors. In addition to the standard 6 dB attenuator

versions nominal attenuation values of 10 and 20 dB can also be supplied. Price of the Model $8343-060$ is $£ 90$ duty paid. Bird Electronics Ltd., 18a High Street. Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 IBN. WW338 for further details

## Oscilloscopes with built-in multiplication

The first oscilloscopes in the world to provide a built-in, high-frequency multiplication facility is Philips claim for the latest additions to the company's oscilloscope range. This feature permits the product of the two input signals to be displayed simultaneously with one of the original signals.

Known as the PM 3252 and 3253, these new instruments not only offer a simple-to-operate multiplication facility but one that extends over a much broader bandwidth than is at present possible with conventional building-block type multiplier units.

While the PM 3252 is a standard 50 MHz portable or laboratory instrument, its sister instrument, the PM 3253, employs a storage c.r.t. Another feature of these oscilloscopes is the special output provided on the instruments' rear panels which can be switched so that either the instantaneous or average value of the displayed product can be shown on an indicating device or used for processing. For example, any d.c. voltmeter connected
to this output can be used as a wattmeter. The output, which is derived from the multiplier, is calibrated in terms of the oscilloscope screen display ( $100 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{div}$ ), and for power measurements (product of $i$ $X v$ ) the voltmeter will clearly indicate average power while the instantaneous power is displayed on the oscilloscope's screen.

It is possible, by adjustment of front panel controls, to change both oscilloscope-display and meter sensitivity from the low microwatt to the kilowatt range.

Apart from their multiplier applications, the PM 3252 and 3253 can also be employed as standard 50 MHz dual-trace oscilloscopes with delayed timebase facility. As such they have a 2 mV input sensitivity over their entire 50 MHz bandwidth, and 200 V over a reduced bandwidth of 5 MHz . They also feature a drift-compensation circuit on both $Y$ amplifiers. Pye Unicam Ltd., York Street, Cambridge.
WW333 for further details


## R.F. power meter

The Sanders Division of Marconi Instruments has announced a low cost power meter, the f.o.b. U.K. price of which is $£ 140$. The meter, designated Type 6555, is for use with "tft" (thin film thermoelectric) power heads such as the present Sanders range of Series 6420 power heads.

Power measurement by this method is claimed to be extremely stable and the 6555 meter provides repeatable r.f. power measurement over wide frequency and power ranges. Four power ranges cover $30 \mathrm{nW}(-15 \mathrm{dBm})$ to $3 \mathrm{~W}(+35 \mathrm{dBm})$ and the range of Sanders t.f.t. heads accommodates frequencies from 10 kHz to 40 GHz . Noise is less than $0.03 \%$ of full scale per deg. C on the least sensitive
range. Meter indication with power and dBm scales is provided, as well as a calibrated analogue output ( 0 to -1 V f.s.d.) so that an external recorder or digital voltmeter can be used. Meter accuracy is $\pm 2 \%$ f.s.d. or $\pm 1 \%$ f.s.d. analogue. The heads cost from $£ 111$ f.o.b. U.K. to $£ 284$ f.o.b. U.K. according to frequency and power specification.
Note: The abbreviation " ft " for thin film thermoelectric is a registered term, the property of General Microwave Corporation (USA) from whom the power heads are manufactured under licence. Marconi Instruments Ltd - Sanders Division, P.O. Box 10, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2AU. WW305 for further details


## Digital multimeter

Features of the Model 171 a.c./d.c. digital multimeter by Keithley Instruments include $4 \frac{1}{2}$ digit display, guaranteed 90 -day accuracies on all functions, and floating capability to 500 V off ground.

The Model 171 gives a broad selection of full scale ranges from $\pm 10 \mathrm{mV}$ to $\pm 1000 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c., 100 mV to 1000 V a.c. r.m.s., $1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to 1 A a.c. ord.c. and $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $1000 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. In addition pushbutton function selection, automatic decimal position, automatic polarity, and a front-panel link for selection of either grounded or floating operation are provided.

A full $100 \%$ overranging to 19999 is provided on all ranges except the 1000 V range. When overloaded, the 171 shows only the polarity of the overload and the digit " 1 ". The remaining four digits are blanked so that no misleading information is displayed. An analogue recorder output located on the read panel furnishes a 1 V output for continuous monitoring on a real-time basis.
Range scales: $1 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ to 1000 V d.c., $10 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ to 1000 V a.c. r.m.s., $0 . \ln \mathrm{A}$ to 2 A a.c. or d.c., $0.1 \Omega$ to $2000 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. Keithley Instruments Ltd., 1 Boulton Road, Reading RG2 0NL.
WW310 for further details


## Video tape

A new video tape now available from Memorex U.K., called Vidichrome is claimed to have a drop-out rate of less than ten per minute on Ampex VR 5000 and 7000 series machines, as well as a high signal-to-noise ratio of over 42 dB . The possibility of static charge build-up which attracts foreign particles and causes drop-out is reduced with a back coating.

The tape is aiso claimed to have an extremely high resistance to the detrimental effects of heat and humidity due to a new and unique binder formulation: this reduces head-wear and cinching, and extends tape life to more than 500 passes.

Capable of recording both colour and monochrome values, Vidichrome is available in lengths of either 1500 feet or 3000 feet giving $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and 1 hour running time respectively. It is packed in a functional plastics shelf box with carrying handle. Price of the new tape depends on quantity ordered and will be quoted on request. Memorex U.K. Ltd., Memorex House, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berks. WW327 for further details

## High grade capacitors

A new range of professional computer grade capacitors has been introduced by Advance Filmcap Ltd. The Prosec 85E devices offer extended ranges over the Prosec 85 without any reduction of essential safety margins on forming voltages for long life and high reliability. This is achieved through the selection of high gain etched foils.

Capacitance values range from $2,200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $220,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ with e.s.r. values as low as $0.01 \Omega$ (at 100 Hz ).

Prosec 85 E range offers greatly increased CV/volume over the standard range. In many cases, the $C V$ rating is at least $50 \%$ greater for the same can size compared to a "standard" component of equivalent electrical characteristics.

Units currently available cover the most popular voltage ranges from 10 V d.c. to 63 V d.c. Present development work is aimed at extending the Prosec 85 E capability to cover from 6.3 V d.c. to 500 V d.c. Advance Filmcap Ltd, Rhosymedre, Near Wrexham, Denbighshire.
WW331 for further details

## Ten-turn potentiometer

Pyror Electric S.A. have introduced a basic 10 -turn wire-wound (3- or 5 -turn optional) potentiometer, the model PH10, having a power rating of 2 watts at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The resistance range offered is $100 \Omega 10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, with resolutions of $0.056 \%-0.010 \%$ respectively. Standard linearity tolerance is $\pm 5 \%$ and the overall temperature range for the devices is $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

Particular attention has been paid to the contacts to ensure reliability. All sur-

faces are of precious metal (with the exception of the wire element) and the case is thermoplastic material, which has been specially selected for both strength and compatibility with the wire element. The dimensions of the device are 20 mm diameter $\times 29 \mathrm{~mm}$ length, and it has a weight of only 20 grams. Price $£ 1.78$ each at the 100 -piece level. Electrautom Ltd., Etom House, Queens Road, Maidstone, Kent.
WW340 for further details

## 100 MHz oscilloscope

The model 200, wideband, low-cost oscilloscope is the latest equipment product from G. \& E. Bradley Ltd. It is claimed that the new design philosophy adopted, allowing every feature to be designed to a price without sacrificing electrical specification, has achieved a no-compromise performance at the cost of medium priced instruments. It comprises a mainframe and plug-in module technique allowing maximum flexibility and economy of instrumentation. The mainframe features an $8 \times 10 \mathrm{~cm}$ cathode-ray tube with provision for standard camera fittings, a trace finder, internal calibration with $0.5 \%$ amplitude accuracy, a mode selector providing Y1 and Y2 only, alternative, chopped and added displays, also switches to select internal trigger source from Y1 or Y2 separately or true alternative triggering when operating in dual display modes. Additional facilities such as variable trigger hold-off, Z modulation, ramp and gate signals, are available as standard. The first two plug-in modules available are: Model 211, twin timebase unit providing intensified and delayed modes of operation

additional to which $\mathbf{A}$ and B mixed is available, allowing the B timebase to be run immediately after the A timebase delay period; Model 210, dual channel Y amplifier featuring a 3 dB bandwidth of d.c. to 100 MHz on all input sensitivities down to $5 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{cm}$, a pre-set d.c. balance (not affected by sensitivity settings) and a Y2 pre-amplifier output enabling Y1 and Y2 channels to be cascaded for an ultimate sensitivity of $500 \mu \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{cm}$ (d.c. to 50 MHz bandwidth) or fully controlled $X Y$ plotting by linking the Y 2 output to the X deflection input. G. \& E. Bradley Ltd., Electral House, Neasden Lane, London N.W.10.

WW327 for further details

## $1-300 \mathrm{MHz}$ spectrum analyser

Texscan announce the addition of a lowcost, sensitive spectrum analyser to their range. This analyser, the Model AL-40, covers the frequency range with dispersion continuously variable from 10 kHz to 300 MHz and i.f. resolution of 500 Hz or 200 kHz , selectable by a front panel switch. Amplitude measurements from -113 dBm

to +30 dBm can be made with a maximum dynamic range of 80 dB displayed on the 9 in screen. A feature of the instrument is the incorporation of crystal controlled harmonic frequency markers, enabling accurate frequency measurements to be made with signal levels down to -113 dBm . Texscan Instruments Ltd., I North Bridge Road, Berkhamsted, Herts.
WW309 for further details

## Alpha-numeric displays

A range of incandescent alpha-numeric displays from Chicago Miniature Lamp Works is announced by Magnus Electronics Ltd. Incorporating the advantages of solid state digital readouts, they are compatible with standard i.cs, featuring wide viewing angle, shock and vibration resistance and carrying all numbers plus 9 distinct letters. These displays have a field proven life history (in excess of 100,000 hours) and have been incorporated in military programmes for which full test data is available. They exceed the requirements of MIL-STD 202C on shock and vibration and have the advantage of stable operation at thermal extremes of $-55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $+125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $27,800 \mathrm{~cd} / \mathrm{m}^{2}$ brightness. They withstand high transient

voltages and are readable in direct sunlight. Available in a wide range of colours. Magnus Electronics Ltd., 23-31 King Street, London W. 3 .
WW304 for further details

## Electrolytic capacitors

A professional grade electrolytic capacitor, the LMT 018, has been introduced by ITT Components Group Europe. With rated voltages available from 6.3 to 500 V , the LMT 018 offers capacitances in the range $10,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $150,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ at 6.3 V to $68 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to 1,000 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ at 500 V . Capacitance tolerance is $-10 \%+50 \%$. These devices are intended for use where applications demand large capacitance and long life. ITT Components Group Europe, Capacitor Product Division, Brixham Road, Paignton, Devon.
WW311 for further details

## Vertical heatsink resistors

The Ashburton Resistance Company has recently introduced its HSV range of heatsink resistors designed for vertical mounting direct to chassis. These ARCOL HSV resistors are available in $10 \mathrm{~W}, 15 \mathrm{~W}$, 25 W and 50 W sizes within a resistance range of $0.01 \Omega$ to $86 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Ashburton Resistance Co. Ltd., 40 Bavaria Road, London N19 4ET.
WW302 for further details

## Stereo signal generator

The Rohde \& Schwarz Stereo Signal Generator Type SMSF is designed to check the performance of f.m. receivers and demodulators in the v.h.f. broadcast range 87 to 108 MHz and at their i.f. of 10.7 MHz . Type SMSF continuously covers the entire v.h.f. range and the frequency of the i.f. range can also be continuously varied within $\pm 500 \mathrm{kHz}$, facilitating either selectivity measurements or determination of discriminator characteristics as required. In conjunction with the Rohde \& Schwarz Stereocoder Type MSC, the generator affords all facilities for measurements on stereo receiving systems. With the aid of one or more tunable amplifiers, e.g.

R \& S Type ASV, the output signal of Type SMSF can be amplified or made available at several work benches without circuit loading. The use of Type ASV offers, moreover, the advantage of highprecision amplitude modulation of the output signal of Type SMSF. The Types MSC SMSF and ASV can be combined to form a central signal generator system in a plant.
Aveley Electric Ltd., Roebuck Road, Chessington, Surrey.
WW307 for further details


## Solid State Devices

Bourns (Trimpot) act as U.K. representatives for Precision Monolithics, who announce a series of low input current operational amplifiers called SSS 108A. These amplifiers are directly interchangeable with the existing 108/108A types but offer an improved input noise voltage. Bourns also announce the availability of a series of d.c.-d.c. converters by Ohmic S.A. (a Bourns affiliate). Designated the HCC25/2 $\times 15$ the basic unit has an output voltage rating of $2 \times 15 \mathrm{~V}$ at 250 mA for a $25 \mathrm{~V} \pm 3 \mathrm{~V}$ input. Also from Ohmic is a pair of voltage regulators, models HAC 50 and HAC 51. These are complementary devices in as much as the HAC 50 provides a regulated voltage range from +10 to +30 V and the HAC 51 from -10 to -30 V .

Finally Semmech, also represented by Bourns, have produced a series of radiation resistant silicon rectifiers designated R1-4 featuring a p.i.v. of $100-400 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. and a forward current of 1.0 A , together with a series of low current fast recovery rectifiers, series F1-5. Bourns (Trimpot) Ltd., Hodford House, 17/27 High Street, Hounslow. Middx.

## WW 318 operational amplifiers

## WW 319 d.c.-d.c. converters

WW 320 voltage regulators
WW 321 R1-4 rectifiers
WW 322 F 1-5 rectifiers

Diodes feature strongly in the list of new semiconductors from Mullard and include three new Gunn effect families. These are Types CXY16, CXY 17 and CXY 18 developed to cover bands from 4 to 18 GHz when mounted in suitable cavities.

A zener diode family with a dissipation of 15 W is available, designated type BZV 15. The diodes have been produced in a logarithmic series of preferred values from 10 to $75 \mathrm{~V} \pm 5 \%$ and are encapsulated in a new rectangular form with a metal plate on one side to aid dissipation.

A diode array for thick or thin film circuits consists of two series-connected devices with a third pin connection to a
common anode (BAW56), a common cathode (BAV70) or, in the BAV99, at the anode/cathode point of the series circuit.

Four Darlington transistors with a maximum current rating of 1 A are announced by Mullard. Types BSS50, BSS51 and BSS52 have high gains and short turn-off times. Minimum $h F E$ is 1500 at 500 mA . The fourth, type BCX21 has a minimum $h F E$ of 2000 at 150 mA . All these devices are encapsulated in a metal TO-39 (short lead TO-5) can. Mullard Ltd, Mullard House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HD.
WW 323 Gunn effect diodes
WW 324 Zener diodes
WW 325 Film diode array
WW 326 Darlington transistors

Among the Teledyne Philbrick new products is a low cost, fast settling operational amplifier, Model 1324, with a bandwidth of 10 MHz and packaged in a TO-100 case. An expansion of the 1400 series of f.e.t. operational amplifiers is also announced, based on the existing 1421 general purpose device. Nineteen devices in all have been added.

Complementing the 1400 series are two f.e.t. instrumentation amplifiers, models 4253 and $4253 / 01$. The former has single resistor gain selection and an inbuilt output offset capability of $\pm 10 \mathrm{~V}$. Also from Teledyne is the 4702 F -to- V which is a modular frequency to voltage converter complementing the function of the 4701 V-to-F, a voltage to frequency converter. Teledyne Philbrick, Chandler House, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2NP.

## WW 3141324 op-amp

WW 3151400 f.e.t. op-amp series WW 316 instrumentation amplifiers WW 317 frequency/voltage converter

Among this month's crop of devices from Motorola Semiconductors are four additions to the high threshold logic family (MHTL). These are the MC686, a four-bit shift register; MC684, a decade counter;

MC685, a binary counter and the MC688, a dual J-K flip-flop. Also among the digital products are the MC10165 high speed 8 -input, priority encoder which is an addition to the MECL 10000 family.

A fast response PIN diode, the MRD500 has been made available. Sensitive throughout the visible and near infra-red spectral range it has a minimum radiation sensitivity of $1.2 \mathrm{~A} / \mathrm{mW} / \mathrm{cm}^{2}$.

Three high-current triac ranges with current capacity from 235 to 470 A and voltage ratings from 100 to 1500 V are now available. These are the MCR235 series with a current rating of 235A r.m.s. over the quoted voltage rating, the MCR380, accepting 380A, and the MR470 which will carry 470A over a voltage range from 200 to 1300 V . Motorola Semiconductors Ltd, York House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middx.

## WW 328 shift register

WW329 decade counter
WW 330 dual J-K flip-flop
WW 332 priority encoder

## WW 333 pin diode

WW 334 triacs

Burr-Brown have introduced three devices. The first is an i.c. multiplier/divider giving a guaranteed accuracy of $1 \%$ without external components being required. This device is designated the 4203 K and is one of a family offering slightly differing facilities. The second is a 16 -bit d.a.c., the DAC45. This converter is designed primarily for use in high resolution servo mechanism controllers, programmable instruments and automatic measurement equipment and has low drift characteristics. The final device is a low cost f.e.t. operational amplifier series designated 3522 packaged in a TO99 case. Principal features include internal frequency compensation, output short circuit protection and input protection up to the supply voltage. Burr-Brown International Ltd, 25A King Street, Watford WD1 8BY.
WW 335 multiplier/divider
WW336 d.a.c.
WW 337 f.e.t. operational amplifier

## March Meetings

Tickets are required for some meetings: readers are advised therefore to communicate with the society concerned

## LONDON

1st. RTS - "Philips LDK5 colour camera" by M. Cosgrove at 19.00 at I.B.A., 70 Brompton Rd., SW3.
5th. IEE - Colloquium on "Digital and distributed filters" at 10.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
7th. IERE - Colloquium on "Optical communications" at 14.30 at 9 Bedford Sq ., WC 1 .

7th. BKSTS - "A survey of TV reproducing systems" by W. Kemp at 20.30 at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, Waterloo, SEI
8th IEE - "Electronic aids in archaeology". by Dr. E. T. Hall at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
8th. RTS - "More digits for television communications" by Peter Michael at 19.00 at I.B.A., 70 Brompton Rd.. SW3.

8th. IEE Grads - "Some novel semiconductor photo-detectors and their application to the measurement of temperature" by M. J. Hampshire at 18.00 at Thames Polytechnic, School of Electrical \& Electronic Engineering, Riverside House Annexe, Beresford St., SE18.

8th. IERE - "The feedback classroom" by K. Holling at 18.00 at 9 Bedford $\mathrm{Sq}_{\mathrm{q}}$. WC 1 .
9th. IEE - Colloquium on "Thin-film optical waveguides" at 10.30 at Savoy PI.. WC2

12th. IEETE - "Air navigation, radar and radio approach aids: aerodrome ground lighting and control systems" by R. G. Barnard and A. M. S. Hurrell at 18.00 at the IEE, Savoy PI., WC2.

13th. AES - "Microphones and sound control equipment in television" by John Tasker at 19.15 at the IEE. Savoy PI., WC2.

14th. IEE/IERE -- Colloquium on "Image techniques in medicine and biology" at 10.00 at 9 Bedford Sq.. WC 1 .

14th. SEE - Symposium on "Packaging test instrumentation and measurement" at 15.00 at Imperial College, SW7.

16th. IEE/I.Phys. - Colloquium on "Solid state microwave amplifiers" at 10.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.

19th. IEE - "The 60 MHz FDM system" by L. J. Bolton, J. M. Weller and H. L. Bakker at 17.30 al Savoy PI., WC2.

21 st. R.I.Navigation - "Developments in aircraft equipment which affect accuracy, reliability and integrity" by S. S. D. Jones at 17.00 at Royal Inst. of Naval Architects, 10 Upper Belgrave St. SW 1.

21st. IEE - "Opto-electronics" by Prof. E. A. Ash at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
21st. IEE/I.Phys. - "Electron beam/semiconduc tor devices" at 17.30 at Imperial College.

22nd. IEE - "Uncertainties and confidence in measurement" by F. L. N. Samuels at 17.30 at Savoy P1., WC2.
22nd. SERT - "Magnetic recording" by Dr. B. Speedy at 19.00 at 9 Bedford Sq ., WC 1 .

23rd. IEE - "Microwave landing guidance system using the Doppler technique" by J. M. Jones and F. G. Overbury at 17.30 at Savoy P1., WC2.
26th. IEE - Discussion on "The stability of microwave oscillators" at Savoy PI., WC2.
27th. IEE/IERE - Colloquium on "Arrhythmia recognition and detection" at 14.30 at 9 Bedford Sq ., WCI.
28th. IERE - Colloquium on "Secondary radar in maritime applications" at 14.30 at 9 Bedford Sq.. WCI.

29th. IEE - "Up to, and onwards from, TXE1 (Leighton Buzzard): the evolution of a telephone system" by J. B. Warman at 17.30 at Savoy Pl.. WC2.

## ABERDEEN

6th. IEE/IERE -. "Seismological measurements" by Dr. P. L. Willmore at 19.30 at Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, St. Andrews St.

## BATH

7th IEE / IERE - "Sound in syncs" by Dr. C. J. Dalton at 19.00 at the University, Room 2E.3.1.

14th IERE - "Modern dynamic measurement techniques" by Dr. J. D. Lamb and Dr. P. A. Payne at 19.00 at the University, Room 2E.3.1.

## BEDFORD

21st. IEE - "Artificial organs - an introduction to bio-medical engineering" by J. A. S. Crawford at 19.45 at County Hotel.

## BIRMINGHAM

26th. IEE/IERE - "Sonar and underwater acoustic communications" by V. G. Welsby at 18.00 at MEB Offices, Summer Lane.

## BRIGHTON

6th. IEE - "Data collection systems" by V. Cornelius at 18.30 at the Polytechnic.
6th. IERE - - "Advances in MOS technology" by Dr. D. R. Lamb at 18.30 at the Technical College.

## CAMBRIDGE

8th. IEE - "Photocathodes" by Prof. A. H. W. Beck at 18.30 at University Engineering Dept., Trumpington St

22nd. 1FE - "Millimetric waveguides for tomorrow's telecommunications" by R. H. White at 18.30 at the University Engineering Dept., Trumpington St.

## CARDIFF

7th. SERT - "Television studio techniques" by R. Stinton at 19.15 at Llandaff College of Technology, Western Avenue.

19th. IEE/IERE - "Modern measurement techniques in control engineering" by Dr. J. D. Lamb and Dr. P. A. Payne at 18.00 at UWIST.

## CHATHAM

Ist. IERE - "Opto-electronics" by D. A. Bonham at 19.00 at the Medway College of Technology.

## CHELTENHAM

21st. IEE/RAeS - "Navigation systems" by C. Fowler at 19.30 at St. Mary's Lecture Hall, The Park.

## CLEETHORPES

21st. IEE/G.Inst.SE - "Radio astronomy" by R S. Booth at 19.30 at the Floral Hall.

## COLCHESTER

14th. IERE - "Acoustic surface waves - the prospects for device applications" by Prof. E. A. Ash at 18.30 at Dept. of Electrical Engineering, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park.

28th. IEE - "A trip in telecommunications" by H. B. Law at 18.30 at the University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park.

## EDINBURGH

7h. IEE/IERE - "Scismological measurements" by Dr. P. L. Willmore at 19.00 at Napier College of Science and Technology, Colinton Road.

## EXETER

22nd. IEE - Faraday lecture on "Navigation - land, sea, air and space" by Dr. A. Stratton at 19.00 at the University.

## FAREHAM

12th. IERE - "Modern dynamic measurement techniques" by Dr. J. D. Lamb and Dr. P. A. Payne at 18.30 at HMS Collingwood.

## FARNBOROUGH, Hants.

29th. IERE - "Aspects of stereo broadcasting" by J. H. Brookes at 19.00 at the Technical College.

## GLASGOW

8th. IEE/IERE - "Seismological measurements" by Dr. P. L. Willmore at 19.00 at the College of Technology, North Hanover Street.

21 st. IEE - " 50 years of broadcasting" by J Redmond at 19.00 at the Boyd Orr Buidding, the University.

28th. IEE - "The induction and development training of engineer graduates in the Post Office" by M. Mitchell at 18.00 at Rankine House, 183 Bath St.

## HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Ist. IEE - "Integrated circuits for leisure and pleasure" by I. J. A. Brown at 19.30 at Dacorum College.

## HULL

2 Ist. SERT - "Rediffusion colour television" by M. C. Mahony at 19.30 at E. H. Bullock Lecture Theatre, College of Technology, Queens Gardens.

## IPSWICH

2lst. IEE/IERE - "The transistor: its history and consequences" by E. Wadham at 18.30 at Lecture Theatre 2, The Civic College.

## l.EEDS

6th. IEE - "Electronics in crime detection" by A.
T. Torlesse at 18.30 at the University.

13th. IEE Grads - "Hi-fi today" by G. T. Hathaway at 19.00 at the University.
29th. IERE - "Radio communication within the North Eastern Gas Board" by R. Grant at 19.30 at N.E. Gas Board, New York Road.

## LEE-ON-SOLENT

19th. IEE - "Training avionics technicians" at 18.30 at HMS Daedalus.

## LEICESTER

20th. IERE - "Application of digital logic" by I. D. Brown and S. L. Norman at 18.45 at Lecture Theatre A, Physics Block, the University.

## LINCOLN

15th. SERT - "Stereophonic sound" by P. Harvey at 19.30 at Forge Restaurant, I West Parade.

## LIVERPOOL

7th. IERE - "Systems control in the electricity supply industry" by Dr. J. T. Boardman at 19.00 at Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Electronics, the University.

19th. IEE - "New concepts in computer process control" by A. L. Stott at 18.30 at Electrical Engineering Dept., the University, Brownlow Hill.
LOWESTOFT
27th. BAS/SUT - "Sonar in fisheries" at Fisheries Research Lab.

## MALVERN

13th. IERE - "Telecommunications in the year 2001" by A. G. Hare at 19,30 at Abhey Hotel.
15th. 1.Phys. - "Photon correlation methods" at 13.45 at the Royal Radar Establishment, St Andrews Rd.

## MANCHESTER

13th. IEE - "Nickel cadmium alkaline battery" by D. Fraser at 18.15 at Lancs County Cricket Club, Talbot Rd., Old Trafford.

28th. IEE/IERE - "Satellite communication systems" by Lt. Cdr. B. E. Collins, at 18.15 at Lecture Theatre RG7, Renold Building, UMIST.
29th. SERT - "Integrated circuits for motor vehicles" by B. Shepherd at 19.30 at Room D7, Renold Building, UMIST.

## MIDDLESBROUGH

27th. SERT - "Electronic ignition" by $W$. Norrie at 19.30 at the Cleveland Scientific Institution. Corporation Rd.

## NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

5th. IEE - "Conversations with computers" by C. R. Evans at 18.30 at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Room M421.

14th. IERE - "A communication and control system for motorways" by E. H. Walker at 18.00 at Main Lecture Theatre, Ellison Building, the Polytechnic.

19th. IEE Grads. - "Making electronic music" by G. Rodgers at 18.30 at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

## NORWICH

7th. IEE/IERE - "Video recording" by D. M. Bowd at 19.30 at The Audio Visual Centre. University of East Anglia.

## NOTTINGHAM

13th. IEE Grads. - "How to see in the dark" by R. Hodgson at 19.30 at Tower Block Lecture Theatre, the University.

## PLYMOUTH

13th. IEETE - "Satellite communications" by V. C. Meller at 19.30 at the Post Office.

## READING

13th. IERE - "Modern dynamic measurement techniques" by Dr. J. D. Lamb and Dr. P. A. Payne at 19.30 at The J. J. Thomson Physical Laboratory, University of Reading, Whiteknights Park.

## ROTHERHAM

6th. SERT - "Thyristors and their application in adjustable speed drives and power controllers" by $\mathbf{P}$. A. Bennett at 19.15 at the College of Technology, Howard St .

## RUGBY

20th. IEE Grads. - "Artificial organs" (biomedical) by R. N. Mornsey at 18.15 at Lanchester Polytechnic.

281h. IEE - "Instrumentation in vehicle research and development" by T. R. Aston at 18.15 at Lanchester Polytechnic.

## SHEFFIELD

27th. IEE - Faraday lecture on "Navigation land, sea. air and space" by A. Stratton at 19.00 at the City Hall.

## SOUTHAMPTON

14th. IEE/IERE - "Communication UHF modules" by P. Tunbridge at 18.30 at Lanchester Theatre the University.

21st. IEE/IERE/IEETE - "Application of control to artificial limbs" by Prof. J. M. Nightingale at 18.30 at Lanchester Theatre, the University.

## WEYMOUTH

22nd. IEE - "Numerical control of machine tools" hy T. E. Zombory-Moldovan at S. Dorset Technical College.

## Portable Oscilloscopes

## Additions to last month's review

The following information became available too late for inclusion in the main review, published in our February issue. We have selected five instruments from the large Telequipment range, referring, where possible, to the missing types. " $Y$ extension", which was referred to in the February article, is a measure of the horizontal distance over which the $y$ amplifier rise-time is extended at maximum sweep speed.

## TELEQUIPMENT

Serviscope Minor (single-trace): bandwidth $0-30 \mathrm{kHz}$; sensitivity $100 \mathrm{mV} /$ div; timebase $10 \mathrm{~ms} / \mathrm{div}-100 \mu \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{div} ; \quad y$ ext. 0.5 mm ; trigger automatic; e.h.t. 600 V ; display $10 \times 10$ divs (each 4.2 mm ); power a.c.; dimensions $14.5 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{W}$, $16.2 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{H}, 24.8 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{D}$; weight 2.25 kg ; price $£ 30$.

A very small, light instrument primarily intended for teaching. It has simplified controls, triggering being completely automatic. The display is fairly small and the timebase is slow. It is capable, however, of displaying most phenomena encountered in the initial teaching of electrical theory. It is the cheapest instrument we have found.

S54U (single-trace): bandwidth 10 MHz ; sensitivity $10 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{cm}$; timebase $5 \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$ $200 \mathrm{~ns} / \mathrm{cm}$; mag $\times 5 ; y$ ext. 8.75 mm ; trigger source, slope, level, auto, t.v.; e.h.t. 4 kV ; display $10 \times 6 \mathrm{~cm}$; power a.c. or d.c. ( $11.5-30 \mathrm{~V}$ ) or int. batteries (3 hours); dimensions $17 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{W}, 24 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{H}, 45 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{D}$; weight 11.3 kg ; price $£ 190$ with batteries.

An instrument for general use. possessing a fast, expanded, sweep. F.e.t. input circuitry is used for rapid availability from cold. Mains-powered and rack-mounted versions are available at $£ 125$ and $£ 140$, and the D54 is a dual-trace version at $£ 160$.

DM64 (dual-trace storage): bandwidth 10 MHz ; sensitivity $10 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{cm}$; mag. $\times 10$; modes single, alt. chopped, summed, ch. 2 inverted, $x-y ;$ timebase $5 \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$ to $100 \mathrm{~ns} / \mathrm{cm} ;$ mag $\times 5 ; \boldsymbol{y}$ ext. 1.75 cm ; trigger source, slope, coupling, level. single-shot, t.v.; e.h.t. 3.5 kV ; display $10 \times 8 \mathrm{~cm}$; bistable storage tube; power a.c.; dimensions $21 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{W}, 24 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{H}, 37 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{D}$; weight 12.5 kg ; price $£ 320$.

One of the two storage oscilloscopes in the survey, with a choice of storage modes. A very fast expanded sweep is provided, and
the $x-y$ facility, selected by the timebase switch, operates with less than $1^{\circ}$ phase error at 100 kHz .

D66 (dual-trace): bandwidth 25 MHz ; sensitivity $10 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{cm} \quad(1 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{cm}$ at 15 MHz ; sig.delay 200 ns ; modes single, alt. chopped, summed, ch. 2 inverted, $x-y$; timebase $5 \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$ to $100 \mathrm{~ns} / \mathrm{cm} ;$ mag $\times 5 ; \boldsymbol{y}$ ext. 7 mm ; trigger source, coupling, slope, level, single-shot, t.v.; e.h.t. 10 kV ; display $10 \times 8 \mathrm{~cm}$; power a.c.; dimensions $21 \mathrm{~cm} . W, 24 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{H}, 37 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{D}$; weight 11.5 kg . price $£ 225$.

A high-performance oscilloscope for wide general use on most types of equipment. The signal delay makes possible the investigation of fast pulses. A similar instrument is the D65, which has a bandwidth of 15 MHz at $10 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{cm}$ and a c.r.t. accelerating voltage of 4 kV . The price is $£ 195$.

D67 (dual-trace): bandwidth 25 MHz ; sensitivity $10 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{cm}$; sig.delay 200 ns ; modes single, alt, chopped, summed, ch. 2 inverted; timebase $\mathbf{A}$ (main delaying) $5 \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$ to $200 \mathrm{~ns} / \mathrm{cm}$; trigger auto, single-shot plus usual facilities; timebase B (delayed) $5 \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$ to $200 \mathrm{~ns} / \mathrm{cm}$.; mag (both) $\times 5$; trigger $B$ trig.by $A, B$ trig.gated by $A$; modes A, A intensified by B, B del. by A; $\boldsymbol{y}$ ext 3.5 mm ; e.h.t. 10 kV mesh; display $10 \times 8 \mathrm{~cm}$; power a.c.; dimensions $21 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{W}, 24 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{H}, 44 \mathrm{~cm} . \mathrm{D}$; weight 11.5 kg ; price $£ 295$.


A similar instrument to the D66, but with the added facility of a delaying sweep. The timebase is slower, but still adequate, and the instrument is suitable for work on all types of digital and analogue circuitry. The use of push-buttons for timebase and $y$ amplifier mode selection in this and other instruments has reduced the front-panel clutter considerably.

Errata. One or two small errors crept into the review, for which we apologize.
The Tektronix 485 has a bandwidth of 350 MHz , not 300 MHz .
The Hewlett-Packard 1206 should be included with the single-trace models, and the range of prices of the 1200 series is £392-565.

## Literature Received

## For further information on any item include the WW number on the reader reply card

## ACTIVE DEVICES

The 534-page "Integrated Circuits Manual 1973 containing details and specifications of the range of t.t.l., e.c.l. and m.o.s. digital i.cs, also commercial and industrial analogue i.cs currently available from Siemens (U.K.) Lid. Great West House. Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex $\qquad$ ..WW401

Two data sheets describing a range of "Unitunnel" tunnel diodes with characteristics claimed 'o be ideal for low-power industrial and military application such as computer logic, modulators, detectors, tunnel diode amplifiers and oscillators. clamping and limiting circuits are:
700-4, device type $1 \mathrm{~N} 3539-3543$ inc (TO-18) WW402
700-6, device type U1001-1010 inc (DU-17) WW402
Joseph Lucas (Electrical) Ltd, Electronics Product Group, Mere Green, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

A short-form catalogue listing the range and prices of transistors, diodes, power supply modules, a.f. amplifier modules and digital i.c. test equipment received from Semiconductor Supplies (Croydon) Ltd, 55 Whitehorse Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 2JG

WW404
A condensed catalogue of silicon rectifiers manufactured by Semtech giving brief details of the range of "Metoxilite" rectifiers and voltage regulators, high voltage, high current and power diodes. bridges and multipliers is available from Bourns (Trimpot) Ltd. Hodford House. 17-27 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex .WW405

Details of semiconductor products manufactured by Solid State Scientific Inc. of America are available in three data brochures:
"Quick reference r.f. power-frequency chart" describing transistor power amplifier perfor mance for devices designed to operate over the range 100 MHz to 1000 MHz with output power from IW to 50 W . Device physical characteristics are also shown ..............WW406
"Data book of c.m.o.s. integrated circuits" gives electrical characteristics for digital i.cs in the SCL4000A, SCL4400A and SCL5000 series of elements ..........................................WW407
"C.M.O.S.", a quick reference brochure to the above $m$ terms of the most commontypes, shows basic logic functions generated by devices of different type number

WW408
mpectron Ltd, Impectron House, 23-3I King Street, London W. 3.

A comprehensive short-form catalogue details the range of products available from both English Electric Valve Co. and the M-O Valve Co. covering, in one publication, the range of transmitting. receiving, microwave and cathode ray tuhes, power control and electro-optical devices, microwave components and other special products. The G.E.C. Electronic Tube Co. Lid, Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2QU

WW409

## PASSIVE DEVICES

Radio frequency filters covering tubular and lumped element low pass ( $5 \mathrm{MHz}-5 \mathrm{GHz}$ ), tubular, lumped element. cavity and waveguide bandpass ( $5 \mathrm{MHz}-18 \mathrm{GHz}$ ), mechanically and electrically tunable bandpass ( $50 \mathrm{MHz}-4 \mathrm{GHz}$ ) filter character istics, is the subject of a brochure from Texscan Instruments Ltd, 1 Northbridge Road, Berkham sted, Hertfordshire
..WW4 10
A 20 -page catalogue describing the complete range of electromagnetic delay lines includes dual-in-line, continuously variable, low profile and standard p.c. mounting, subminiature nanosecond, tapped.
lumped constant and extended delay/rise time types and a discussion on custom-designed delay lines G.E. Electronics (London) Ltd, Eardlcy House 182-184 Campden Hill Road. Kensington London W8 7AS
..WW411
Subminiature and miniature coaxial connectors is the subject of a catalogue giving mechanical dimensions and some r.f. characteristics o Microclic. Subvis, Subclic, SMA, BNC. TNC, u.h.f., N, C. HN and LC types of connector. Some detail of coaxial cables is also included. Radiall, 101 rue Philibert Hoffman, Zone Ind, 93-Rosny s/bois, France
..WW4 12
The "Venture" range of high speed electromagnetic impulse counters covers resettable and non-resettable types with three, four, five or six figures, counting rates of up to 3000 per minuie, a.c. or d.c. working, multigroup assemblies and plug-in module types. Smiths Industrics Ltd, Industrial Instruments Division, Waterloo Road, Cricklewood, London NW2 7UR

WW413
"Connections and Connection Systems" is the title of the 1973 catalogue giving mechanical and electrical specification of the range of multiway edge, wire wrapping, low force and a claimed "unique" flat cable connecting system utilizing a standard one-inch wide flat cable. Ferranti Ltd Dunsinane Avenue, Dundee, Scotland ...........WW414
"Hybrex" silicon dioxide chip capacitors for microcircuit use. providing low temperature coefficient and dissipation factor, single or five electrode geometries and configurations which are compatible with silicon diodes. transistors and integrated circuits are the subject of a brochure from Burr-Brown International, 25A King Street, Watford, Herts WDI 8BY .............................WW415

Bulletin 1058 gives technical details for the use of "Radiax TM" slotted coaxial cable in communications systems employing the controlled leakage of r.f. from concealed transmission line. Consideration is given to the system design problem and specifications are given for six different types of cable covering a wide range of possible installations. Andrew Antenna Systems, Lochgelly, Fife Scotland WW416

The Maury MT7119A, liquid nitrogen cooled, cryogenic termination which may be used for carrying out noise temperature measurements in a variety of applications including radio receiver and aerial system calibration, maser and parametric amplifier noise evaluation over the frequency range d.c. to 8.5 GHz , is the subject of a data sheet from Tony Chapman Electronics Ltd, 3 Cecil Court. London Road, Enfield, Middlesex $\qquad$ ..WW417

## EQUIPMENT

A data sheet is concerned with broadband isotropic radiation detection equipment for the monitoring of near and far field power densities over the frequency range of 300 MHz to 18 GHz with a maximum full scale deflection of $20 \mathrm{~W} / \mathrm{cm}^{2}$ and a dynamic range of 23 dB . Aveley Electronic Ltd. Roebuck Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1LP

Two short-form catalogues dealing with data processing equipment and instrumentation are from:
Ithaco, manufacturers of hydrophones, lock-in amplifiers, instrumentation amplifiers and preamplifiers, filters and automatic data acquisition systems ..............................WW4 19
M.F.E. Corporation, who deal with display and data translating equipment such as strip chart recorders, digital printers, $X / Y$ recorders, torque motors. angular transducers, galvano-
meters, Teletype projectors, graphic translator
and linear actuators ............................WW420 Techmation Ltd, 58 Edgware Way, Edgware, Middx.

A brochure describing plug-in disc, fixed head mass memory systems having an average access time of 16.7 milliseconds and a capacity range of 32.000 to $1,000,000$ words, was received from Data Disc Inc, 686 West Maude Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086
..WW42
A descriptive leaflet about a special series of five sound selector units which select or direct connections for a number of stereo headphones, aspeakers or amplifiers in suitable combinations, is available from Tape Recorder Spares Ltd, 206-210 Ilderton Road, London SEIS INS
.WW422
A 28 -page catalogue describing the manufactured range of power supplies, covering hybrid thick film regulators, preset, variable, programmable and high current units. also carriers for multiple assemblies in standard 19 -inch rack mounting Lambda Electronics, Marshlands Road, Farlington, Portsmouth PO6 IST
..WW423
The TK28 telecine camera in which three tubes are used (vidicon or lead-oxide) and containing automatic colour balance, one of several camera devices for improving the quality of reproduced cine film, is the subject of a brochure from R.C.A., Communications System Division, Camden, New Jersey, 08102 , U.S.A.

WW424
A leaflet has been received describing the PMI phasemeter, an instrument with a meter readout registering differential phase of between 0 and $180^{\circ}$ (lead or lag shown on front panet lamps) for input voltages of between 20 mV and 250 V r.m.s. over a frequency range of 10 Hz to 100 kHz . Farnell Instruments, Sandbeck Way, Wetherby, Yorkshire LS22 4DH

## APPLICATION NOTES

An application note showing that if the significant differences between photometric and radiometric terms. as related to light sources and photodetectors, are understood, meaningful measurement of major optical parameters can be obtained by a relatively simple approach using a calibrated transfer standard and other readily available electronic test equipment. Joseph Lucas (Electrical) Ltd, Electronics Product Group, Mere Green Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire ...............................WW426

A model control application of integrated circuit type ZN403E providing a high performance proportional control servo amplifier which is adaptable to almost any digital decoding system is described in brochure ESA440172 from Ferranti Ltd, Gem Hill, Chadderton. Oldham ............WW427

## GENERAL INFORMATION

A leaflet detailing a printed circuit manufacturing service covering printed circuit artwork, the latest technique for producing stencils in screen printing, profile cutting, drilling, inspection and assembly was received from K. J. Bentley and Partners Ltd, 18 Greenacres Road, Oldham. Lancs. ............WW428

The 1973 catalogue of electronic components including additions such as high power voltage regulators. light emitting diodes, contact fluid pens, audible warning devices. dual-in-line switches and crossover networks can be obtained from R. S. Components Ltd. P.O. Box 427, 13-17 Epworth Street. London EC2P 2HA $\qquad$
Single copies of the "Bulletin of Special Courses 1973" Part 2 contain information about full and part time courses held in the spring and summer educational terms at colleges and other institutions in the London and Home Counties region, and can be obtained for 60 p (post free U.K. only) from The Secretary, Regional Advisory Council, Tavistock House South, London WC I 9LR.

A wide range of gas torches for soldering, brazing, welding and cutting manufactured by Allanter Instruments Ltd, is illustrated in a brochure showing the five basic torch units and numerous other attachments from Microflame (U.K.) Lid, Abbots Hall, Ricking Hall, Diss, Norfolk .....WW430


## Straight talk about a stylus



Listen carefully and you will hear someone call a stylus . . "the needle." We would like to go on record, so to speak, as observing that the Shure stylus of today bears no more resemblance to a needle than it does to a six-inch nail. In fact, it is probably the most vitally important, skillfully assembled, and critically tested component in any high fidelity system. It must maintain flawless contact with the undulating walls of the record groove-at the whisperlight tracking forces required to preserve the fidelity of your recordings with repeated playings. Our new High Fidelity Products catalogue abounds with helpful stylus information, and of course, describes the superb line of Shure pickups for your consideration. For your copy, posi the coupon. Write:

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## NAME

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## Sinclair Project 60

## Now-the Z.50 Mk. 2

 with built-in automatictransient overload protection

When originally introduced, the Sinclair $Z .50$ proved how it was possible to design and produce a popularly priced modular power amplifier having characteristics to challenge the world's costliest amplifiers. Many thousands of $Z .50$ 's are now giving excellent service day in, day out. But we have also learned that constructors do not always use their 2.50 's ideally. That is why we have introduced modifications whereby risk of damage through mis-use is greatiy reduced and performance further enhanced. The Z.50 Mk. 2 has improved thermal stability. more accurately regulated D.C. limiting to ensure more symetrical output voltage swing and clipping and still less distortion at lower power. Z.50 Mk. 2 is compatible with all other Project 60 modules, and may be incorporated to advantage in existing systems. Eleven silicon epitaxial planar transistors are now used, two more than in the original 2.50 . circuitry has been re-designed, making this versatile high performance amplifier better than ever.


The Z.30 provides excellent facilities for the constructor requiring a high fidelity audio system of less power than that available from Z.50's. Using a power supply of 35 volts, $Z .30$ wil! deliver 15

## Brilliant new <br> technical specifications

Input impedance 100 Ks
Input (for 30 w into $8 \Omega$ ) 400 mV
Signal to noise ratio, referred to full $0 / \mathrm{p}$ at 30 v HT 80dB or better
Distortion $0.02 \%$ up to 20 W at $8 \Omega$. See curve Frequency response 10 Hz to more than $200 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$
Max. supply voltage $45 v$ ( $4 \Omega$ to $8 \Omega$ speakers)
( $50 \vee 15 \Omega$ speakers only)
Min. supply voltage 9 v
Load impedance - minimum : $4 \Omega$ at 45 v HT Load impedance - maximum: safe on open circuit

## Typical Project 60 applications

 watts RMS into 8 ohms, or 20 watts RMS into 3 ohms using 30 volts. Total harmonic distortion is a fantastically low $0.02 \%$ at 15 watts into 8 ohms with signal to noise ratio better than 70 dB unweighted. Input sensitivity 250 mV into 100 K ohms. Slize $80 \times 57 \times 13 \mathrm{~mm}\left(3 \frac{1}{8} \times 2 \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}\right) Z .30,2.50$ and Z.50 MK. 2 modules are compatible and interchangeable
## Guarantee

If, within 3 months of purchasing any product direct from Sinclair Radionics Ltd., you are dissatisfied with it, you money will be refunded at once. Many Sinclair appointed Sinclair Radionics Lta.
Each project 60 module is tested before leaving our factory and is guapanteed to work perfectly. Should any defect arise in normal use, we will service it at once and without any charge to you, if it is returned within two vears from the date of purchase. Ousside this period of guarantee a small charge (typically $£ 1.00$ ) will be made. No charge is made fo postage by surface mail. Air Mail is charged at cost

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

# the world's most advanced high fidelity modules 

## 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 chennels 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.I.A.A. curve $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}: 20$ to 25.000 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: within 1 dB . Tone controls: TREBLE +12 to -12 dB at 10 KHz : BASS -12 to -12 dB at 100 Hz . Front panal : brushed aluminium with black $k$ nobs and controls. Size: $66 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$.

Built, tested and guaranteed
£9.98

## 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. iuner with fantastically good results. Other advanced features include varicap diode tuning, printed circuit coils, an I.C. in the specially designed stero decoder and switchable squelch circuit for silent tuning between stations. In terms of a high fidelity this tuner has a lower level of distortion than any other tuner we know. Stereo broadcasts are received automatically, 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 inI I. C. Tuning range: 87.5 to 108 MHz . Sensitivity: $7 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ for lock-in over full deviation. Squelch level: Typically $20 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Signal to noise ratio: $>65 \mathrm{~dB}$. Audio frequency response: $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-15 \mathrm{KHz}$ ( $I \mathrm{~dB}$ ). Total harmonic distortion: $0.15 \%$ for $30 \%$ modulation Stereo decoder operating level: $2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Crass talk: 40 dB . Output voltage: $2 \times 150 \mathrm{mV}$ R.M.S. maximum Operating voltage: : $25-30 \mathrm{VDC}$. Indicators: Stereo on: tuning. Size: $93 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$.

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free manual and printed circuit board.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Output power: 6 watts RMS continuous (12 watts peak). $6-8 \Omega$. Frequency Response: 5 Hz to $100 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$. Total Harmonic Distortion: Less than $1 \%$. (Typical $0.1 \%$ ) at alf output powers and frequencies in the audio band ( 28 V ) Load Impedance: 3 to 15 ohms . Input Impedance: 250 Kohms nominal Power Gain: pedance: 250 Kohms nominal Power Gain: 90 dB (1,000.000.000 times) after feedback Supply Voltage: 6 to 28 V . Quiescent cur rent: 8 mA at 28 V . Size: $22 \times 45 \times 28 \mathrm{~mm}$ in cluding pins and heat sink.
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1.5 MHZ Input imp. $\begin{array}{ll}-1.5 & \text { MHZ. } \\ 2 \mathrm{meg} \\ \Omega . & \text { In PF } \\ \text { PF } \\ \text { imp. } \\ \text { smp }\end{array}$
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corverage
$150-400$ $\mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{k}$,

$550 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. $\underset{\text { FET Iront }}{\substack{30 \text { mols. } \\ \hline}}$ | $\substack{\text { endi, } 2 \\ \text { mech. }}$ |
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variable B.F.O., noike lliniter, \& Meter, Band







Can be panel or bench mounted. Basic meter measures 1 volt $D C$, but can be used to measure a
wide range of $A C$ and DC volt, current and ohms with optional plug in cards. Specitication: Accuracs: $\pm 0 \cdot 2$, $\pm 1$ digit. Resolution: 1 iuV. Number of digits: 3 pins fourth overrange digit.
Overrauge: $100 \%$ (up 201 l.999). Iuput impedane verrauge: $100 \%$ (up to 1 -999). Input impedance:
1000 Meg ohm. Measuring cycle: 1 per second. Adjust ment: Automatic zeroing, full scale adfustment against an internal reference voltage. Overloant: to 100y. D.C. Input: Fulty Hoating
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$9 \times x \times 3$. Inputs ties. Battery operated $2 \times 3 \mathrm{my} 600$ ohm. Phono meg. 4 my 50 K . Phono ceramic 100 mV V 1 meg. Output 250 mV 100 K.

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HEADLIFIER AMPLIFIER istor anplifier oper
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TUNER SIZE
ONLY 6 in. $\times 4$ in. ONLY 6 in. $\times 4$ in. $\times$
$2 \ddagger$ In. 3 I.. . stagea.
Double tuned dia. Double tuned dis.
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 0.38
0.33
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$250-0-250 \mathrm{v} .60 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v} .2 \mathrm{a}, 0-5-6.3 \mathrm{v} .2 \mathrm{a}$.

$250-0-250 \mathrm{v} .100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6$ | $300-0.300 \mathrm{v} .100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v} .4 \mathrm{a}$, , $0-5.6 .3 \mathrm{~V} .3 \mathrm{a}$ |
| :--- |
| $3000-300 \mathrm{v}$ | For Mulard 510 A mpplifer.

 $25-0-425 \mathrm{v} .200 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 v, 4 \mathrm{a}$, c.t TOP SHROUDED DROP-THROUGH TYPE $250-0-250 \mathrm{v} 70 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{~b}$ $250-0.250 \mathrm{v}, 100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v} .3 .5 \mathrm{a}$.
$250-0-250 \mathrm{v} .100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v}, 2 \mathrm{a} .6 .3 \mathrm{v} .1 \mathrm{a}$ $50.0-350 \mathrm{v} 80 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v}, 2 \mathrm{a}, 0-5-6.3 \mathrm{v}$. . $300-0-300 \mathrm{v}, 10 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v} .4 \mathrm{a} .0$ 0-5-6.3vuitalle for Mullard 510 amp.
 FILAMENT or TRANSISTOR POWER PACK
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 $0.110 / 120 \mathrm{v} ., \quad 200-230-250 \mathrm{v}, \quad 50-80$ sformers 150w., $190 \mathrm{p} ; 250 \mathrm{~F}, 275 \mathrm{~F} ; 500 \mathrm{wa}, 575 \mathrm{p}$. OUTPUT TRANSFORMERS
Pandard Pentode $5,000 \Omega$ to $7,000 \Omega$ to $3 \Omega$ Puhh-Pull 10 watte 6 VO ECL8c to $3,5,8$
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 MODEL $803 \mathrm{~T} 8^{\prime \prime} 15 w$, with parasitic Twecter.
Response 25 Hz to 15 KF . Gavss $\mathbf{~ ( 4 . 9 5}$
$\frac{13,0001 \mathrm{mp} 3 \text { or } 8.15 \text { ohms. ONLY }}{\text { FANE MODE ONE }}$ HI-FI SPEAKER KIT
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Offcut pack（smalliest $4 \times 2$ in．） 50 p 300 sq

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 $\left(2 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}.\right) \mathrm{E} 1,12,000 \mu \mathrm{f} .40 \mathrm{v} .(2 \times 4 \mathrm{in}) 75 \mathrm{p} .16,.000 \mu \mathrm{f}$ ．
$16 \mathrm{v} .(2 \times 4 \mathrm{in}) 60 \mathrm{p} .21,.000 \mu \mathrm{f} .40 \mathrm{v} .\left(2 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \mathrm{in}.\right) \mathrm{f} 1$ ．Post and 16 v ．（ $2 \times 4 \mathrm{in}$ ．

LIGHT DIMMERS（ 2000 watt）Triac Controlled． $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 1 \frac{1}{4}$ in．$£ 5.75$ aa．P．P． 25 p．

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SIGNAL GENERATOR TS-403B/U) or URM-61A): (Hewlett Packard), A portable, self-contained, general-purpose test equipment designed for use with radio and radar receivers and for other applications requiring small amounts of RF power such as measuring standing-wave ratios, antenna and transmission line characteristics, conversion gain, etc. Both the output freq. and power are indicated on direct-reading dials. $115 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{AC}, 50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. Freq. $-1800-4000 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. CW, FM, Modulated Pulse- $40-4000$ pulses per sec. Pulse Width- $0.5-10$ microsecs. Timing O/put-1 milliwatt max., 0 to -127 db variable. O/put Impedance-50』. Price $£ 120$ used, excellent condition. Unused as new condition $£ 150+$ carr. $£ 2$.
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TS-419/URM 64 SIGNAL GENERATOR: Freq. $900-2100 \mathrm{MHz}$. CW or pulse emission. Power o/put Zero dbm-120dbm continuously adjustable to 2 uv into 50 . O/put impedance 50 ohms with VSWR of $2: 1.115 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. As new condition $\mathbf{f} 150 \cdot 00+$ F2100 carr.
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in. wide $\times 19 \mathrm{in}$. deep, with rear door. $£ 8 \cdot 50$ each, $£ 2$ Carr.
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WW-096 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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| 52 | 4-6 | 6 M | ${ }_{63 \text { p }}$ | 700 | 12-24 | 2 clo | $63 \mathrm{p}^{\text {. }}$ |
| 52 | 4-6 | $4 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{O}$ | 78 p | 700 | 15-35 | $2 \mathrm{c} / 0 \mathrm{HD}$ | 73 p |
| 150 | 6-12 | $4 \mathrm{c} / 0$ | 78 p | 700 |  |  |  |
|  | $8-12$ | 6 M | ${ }^{63}$ p | 700 | - |  | ${ }^{635} p^{\text {P }}$ |
| 280 | 9-12 | 2 co | 73 p * | 1250 | 24-36 | ${ }^{6} \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{l}^{\circ}$ | * |
|  | 10-18 | 4 clo | 73 p | 2500 | 36-45 | ${ }_{6} \mathrm{M}^{\text {c/ }}$ | 63p <br> 63 |
|  | 9-18 | $2 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{o}$ |  | 2400 |  | $4 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{o}$ |  |
|  | 16-24 | 4 M 2 B |  | 9000 | 40.70 | 2 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 VOLT D.C. RELAY - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Simitar to lllustration below) <br> Type 2: One set c/o contacts $60_{p}$ incl. P. \& P <br> Type 3: $4-8$ volt $3 \mathrm{c} / 0$ HD, 67 ohm coil. 78 p . incl. $P$ \& $P$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 'DIAMOND H' 230 VOLT A.C. RELAYS <br> (Unused) <br> Three sets c/o contacts rated at 5 amps. Price 60p. incl. P. \& P. ( 100 lots $£ 40.00$ incl. P. \& P.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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$$
\begin{aligned}
& 230 \text { VOLT A.C. RELAYS M.t.g. 'Keyswiteh' } \\
& \text { One set c/o contacts rated at } 7.5 \text { anips. Boxed. Price 45p. } \\
& \text { incl. P. \& P. (100 lots } \mathbf{8 3 2} \mathbf{4 0} \text {. }
\end{aligned}
$$ ine set c/o contacts rated at 7.5 amips. Boxed. Price 45 p .

incl. P. ( 100 lots $£ 32.00$ inci. P. \&P.) MINIATURE RELAYS
$9-12$ volt D.C. operation. 2 c/0 $500 \mathrm{M} . \mathrm{A}$, contacts. Size only
1 in. $X \geq 1 \times \frac{1}{2}$ in. Price 58 p incl. P. \& P.
 Coil. Size only $1 \times \frac{.}{1+} \times \frac{12}{15}$ in. 43 p incl.
MINIATURE LATCHING RELAY Mig. by Clare-Ellott Ltd. (Type F) 2 clo permanent latching
In either direction. Coil 1150 ohm. $15-30$

 $\mathrm{cw}=$ Clockwise. $\mathrm{A} / \mathrm{cw}=$ Anti-clockwise $\quad \begin{gathered}\text { All at 75p } \\ \text { incl. } \mathrm{P} . \& \mathrm{P}\end{gathered}$ REVERSIBLE SPLIT PHASE MOTOR 250 r.p.m. $100-115 / 210-240 \mathrm{~V}$ AC. 2 in. $\times 1$ in. Ideal for size 75p. incl. P. \& P. (including small capacitor.)

## PARVALUX

## Type: SDI.S/86896/0J

$230 / 250 \mathrm{v}$, A.C. 50 r.p.m. 7 Iblins.
Continuously rated. Less base $\mathbf{f 6 . 3 0}$ TYPE: SDI.S/89400/OM
 230/250v. A.C. 50 F.p.m. $22 \mathrm{Ib} / \mathrm{ins}$.
Continuously rated. Incl., base $£ 7.30 \mathrm{inct}$
The above motors are new and unused.
PARVALUX TYPES SDI9 $230 / 250$ VOLT AC REVERSIBLE
GEARED MOTORS GEARED MOTORS 30 r.p.m. 40 lb . ins. Position of
drive spindle adjustable to 3 different angles. Mounted on substantial cast aluminium base. Ex-equipment. Tested and really powerful motor offered at a raction of maker's price. $£ 6.80$,



600 WATT DIMMER SWITCH
(1) Easily fitted. Fully guaranteed by makers except fluorescent at mains voltage. Complete

# SAMESON's 

9 \& 10 CHAPEL ST., LONDON, N.W. 01-723-7851

OI-262-5125 ISOLATION TRANSFORMERS
GARDNERS. Pr. $110-200-220-240$. Sec. 240 v . 3 amps,
CORServatively rated. Fully tropicalised. Enclosed in steel Conservatively rated. Fully tropicalised. Enclosed in steel
case. Size $9 \times 6{ }^{2} \times 6$ ins. Brand new. Fraction of maker's Price E8.75. carr, 75 p . $00-110-200-220-230-240-250 \mathrm{v}$. Sec. 115 v .
PARMEKO. Prl.
13.5 amps. Conservatively rated. Fully shrouded table top 13.5 amps. Conservatively rated. Fully shrouded table top
connections. Size $13 \times 10 \times 8 \mathbf{i}$ ins. $£ 32.50$. carr. $£ 2.00$. Pri. connections. Size
$200-210-220-230-240-250 \mathrm{v}$ Sec. ${ }^{20-100-110-120 \mathrm{v}}$. 7.5 amps. Conservatively rated Table top connections. Size $9 \times 8 \times$ 8 ins. $\mathbf{E 2 2}^{250 .}$ cart. $£ 1.50$. WT. 750 Watts. $£ 8.50$. carr. $£ 1.00$.
DRAKE. Pri. $200-220-240 \mathrm{~V}$. Sec.
25p.



## NEWMARK SYNCHRONOUS MOTORS




G.P.O. 20-WAY JACK STRIPS Type 320 BN. Ex-equipment. Perfect
condition. 75 p. P.P. 10 p .
S.T.C. SELENIUM FW BRIDGE RECTIFIERS
A. C. input 36 v . D.C. output 24 v ., $5 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{\Sigma} \mathbf{1} 50$. P.P. 25 p

DIAMOND H RELAYS
Type ER 115 BIT-9C 4 CO COntacts, 150 ohms. 26v., 250v. 15a,$~$
Enclosed in metal case. Size $1 \frac{1}{2} \times 1$ In. dia. 75 p incl. post.
H.T. TRANSFORMERS BY

FAMOUS MANUFACTURERS PARMEKD. All primarles $220-240 \mathrm{v}$.
Type 1. Scc. $630-0-620 \mathrm{v}$. $105 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a} 5 \mathrm{v} .4 \mathrm{~A}$ Type 1. Stec. $630-0-6200$. $105 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a} 5 \mathrm{v}$. 4 AA,
5 v .2 A . Potted lype $£ 3.00$. Carr. 50 D . Type 2.

 200v. $20 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a},{ }^{6.3 \mathrm{v} .1 \mathrm{~A} .6 .3 \mathrm{v}, 1 \mathrm{~A} \text {. Pottled }}$


WODEN, All primaries $220-240 \mathrm{v}$. Type 1 . Sec. $890-710-0-710-890 \mathrm{v}$. $120 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$.
 calised £2.50. P.P. 50 p . Type 2. Sec. 150 V
$60 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a} .6 .3 \mathrm{v} .3 \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{Es} .25 . \mathrm{P} . \mathrm{P} 25 \mathrm{p}$. Type 3
 table top connectlons $£ 3.75$. P.P. T'55,
Type 4 . Sec. $130.450 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$. three timeet,
 and $6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{Jv}$ 1a. unshrouded table top cion
nections $£ 2 \cdot 50$. Carr. 50 p .

GARDNERS. Ail primaries $220-240 \mathrm{~V}$



 6. 3 V . 3a. " C " core $£ 1.50$. P.P. 30 p .

G.E.C. L.T. TRANSFORMERS All prlmaries. $220-240 \mathrm{v}$. Type 1. Tap pe
$63-68-7 \mathrm{vv}$. 3a. and 6 v . 4 a. . terminal block connections, unshrouded £2.50. P.P. 50p connections, unshrouded £2.50. P.P. Tapped $59-61-65-67-69 \mathrm{~g}$. 10 a .
Type 2. To
block connections. unstrouded block connections, unstrouded, it pi-
calised $£ 5.50$. Carr. 75p. Type 3. Tap ped
 shrouded, tropicalised £2.75. P.P. 450 p .
Type 4. $100-0-100 \mathrm{v}$. $65 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$ and $61-64.67 \mathrm{v}$. Type 4. $100-0-100 \mathrm{v}$. $65 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$. and $61-64.67 \mathrm{v}$.
$150 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$. and 6 v .1 a . Type 5 . Tapped $3 \mathrm{il}-40-$





RES.T. SMOOTHING CHOKES GRESHAM 'C' core swinging type

 | $10 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h} .4 \mathrm{a}-100 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{n} 0.5 \mathrm{a}$. $£ 3.00$ carr. 50 p |
| :--- |
| G.E.C. $150 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h}$. |
| . | $\frac{\text { troplcallsed } £ 2 \cdot 75 \text { P.P. 35p. }}{\text { REDCLIFFE. Oilifiled types } 100 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h} .2 \mathrm{a}}$ £2. 50 P.P. $45 \mathrm{p} .130 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h} .1 .5 \mathrm{a} .11 .50$ P.P. 25 p

Mains filter chokes $10 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h} .2 \mathrm{a}$. $50 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{P} . \mathrm{P}$ Mains filter chokes $10 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h}$. 2a. Sop.
20p. All above chokes $\frac{t}{2}-1$ ohm res.

 $\frac{15 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h} .3 \cdot 8 \mathrm{a} \cdot \text { E1 } \cdot 50 \text { P.P. } 25 \mathrm{p} \text {. }}{\text { H.T. SMOOTHING CHOKES }}$ H.T. SK. Potted Type. 10 h . $180 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$
PARMEK
£ 1.50 P. P. $25 \mathrm{p} .15 \mathrm{~h} .300 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{E} 2.50 \mathrm{P} . \mathrm{P} .50 \mathrm{p}$ $10 \mathrm{~h} .120 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a} .60 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{P} . \mathrm{P} .20 \mathrm{p} .15 \mathrm{~h} .75 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$.
$10 \mathrm{~h} .75 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}, 50 \mathrm{~h} .25 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$. $50 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{P} . \mathrm{P} .20 \mathrm{p}$ Swinging Type. $34 \mathrm{~h} .50 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a} . / 70 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{P} .35 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$
2.8 KV D.C. wkg. 35 p . P.P 35 p .
H.T. TRANSFORMERS PARMEKO. Pri. 240v, Sec. $250-0$ -
$250 \mathrm{v} .50 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a} .6 .3 \mathrm{v} .1 \mathrm{a}$. E1.25. P.P. 35 p .1 Size $4 \times 3 \times 27$
GARDNERS GARDNERS. 'C' C ' core. PrI. 240 v .
Sec. $300-0.30 \mathrm{v}$. $66 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{e}$. 6.3 v . 4 a .
$\mathrm{E} 1.50 \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{P}$
 15v. 1.2a. 6.3 v .4 .5 a . E1.25. P.P. 35p. open type table top
Size $4 \times 3 i \times 3$ ins.

ADVANCE L.V. CIV TRANSFORMERS Sec. 28 v . 8 a , open frame type. $£ 4.75 \mathrm{carr}$.
 75 natts £2. 25 P.P. ${ }^{40 \mathrm{p} .6 \mathrm{v} .25 \text { watts open }}$ $190-260 \mathrm{v}$. enclosed type. output 240 v .


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { G.P.O. RELAYS } \\
& 3000 \text { Type. } 100 \Omega 125 \text { amp make } \\
& \text { contact } 60 \mathrm{p} .2000+10 \Omega 1 \text { normal } \\
& \text { CO } 40 \mathrm{p} .75 \Omega \text {. } 3 \mathrm{M} \text {. } 1 \mathrm{~B}, \mathrm{CO} \text { normal } \\
& \text { contacts } 40 \mathrm{p} \text {. P.P. on all relays } 10 \mathrm{p} \text {. }
\end{aligned}
$$

$200 \Omega 10$ BERCO INST POTS $\frac{200 \Omega 10 \text { watts } 3 \frac{1}{2} \text { ins. dia. SOp. P.P. } 10 \text {. }}{\text { TCC. BLOCK CAPACITORS }}$ 4 mfd. 4.5 Kv DC wkg . Size $13 \times 11 \times$
5 m ins. $£ 3.00$. Cark. 75 p . 0.5 mfd . 10 Kv

 P.P. 15p.
 SCOTCH MAGNETIC COMPUTER Type 3M459 $\frac{1}{3}$ in. 3,600 feet. Supplied new Type 3 M 459 in. 3,600 teet. Supplied new
in maker's cartons. At a fraction of
maker's price, $£ 3$.75. P.P. 25p.

SPECIAL OFFER OF MULTI TAPPED
C.T. TRANSFORMERS VERY

CONSERVATIVELY RATED

 times. 'C' Core.
$\mathbf{E 6 . 5 0 .}$ carr. 75 p .



Pri. 200-220-240v. Sec. 20-21-22-23-24-25v.
 $100-0-100 \mathrm{v}$. $150 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$ ' C ' Core. T. Top conPri. 200-220-240v. Sec. tapped 63-68-74v 3a. and 6 v . 4 a . Open frame lerminal bloc $\frac{\text { connections } £ 2.50 \text { P.P. } 50 \mathrm{p} \text {. }}{\text { PrI. } 200-220-240 \mathrm{v} \text {. Sec. } 37-40-43 \mathrm{v} . \quad 5 \mathrm{a} .}$ PrI. $200-220-240 \mathrm{v}$. Sec.

105 v . $300 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{a}$. twice. Oll fl - potted type Pri. 200-220-240v. Sec. 39v. ${ }^{8.6 \mathrm{a} .,} 38 \mathrm{v}$ 2.6a. Oilfiled potted type. $£ 8 \cdot 50$. carr. 75 p | Pri. | 200-220-240v. Sec. tapped $30-57.5$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 115 v | 0.5 C | 115 v

$\mathbf{\varepsilon 2 . 0 0}$ P. 5 a . 'C' 25 p . LTP Pri. $200-220-240 \mathrm{v}$. Sec. ${ }^{6.3 \mathrm{v} .} 8 \mathrm{a}$ three times.
type $T$. top connections $£ 3.75$ carr. 75 p Woden Pri $220-240 \mathrm{v} . \mathrm{Sec} .10 \mathrm{v}$. 2a. fully shrouded £1.50 P.P. 25D.
Prl. 220-240v. Sec. tapped 6-12v. 2a. Tully
shrouded. £1.75 P.P. 25p. shrouded. £1 75 P.P. 25D.
Pri. 200-220-240v. Sec. tapped 3-10-13v. 7a
Open frame. T. top connections $£ 2.00$
P. P. 35 . Pri- $220-240 \mathrm{v}$. Sec, $24 \cdot 5-0-24 \cdot 5 \mathrm{v}$. 0.75 a ${ }^{\prime} \mathrm{C}$ ' Core. T. top connections £1-50 PP 25p ${ }^{\text {' }}{ }^{\prime}$ ' core, T. top connections 75p. P.P. 25p PARMEKO HT TRANSFORMERS
NEPTUNE OLL FILLED TYPE PR

$\frac{50 \mathrm{p} .}{\text { Pri. } 220-240 \mathrm{v} . \text { Sec. } 24 \mathrm{v.} 3 \mathrm{a}} \mathrm{C}^{\mathrm{C}}$ ' core T. top connections 22.00 P.P. 35D. ${ }^{\prime}$ ' C cor
 Pri. 200-220.240v. Sec. $25-0-25 \mathrm{v} .154 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}$ 7 V .1 .35 a . ${ }^{\text {E }} \mathrm{C}$ ' core T . top connections
E1.25 P.P. 25p. Prl. 240v. Sec. 14v. 6a. open frame. T. top Pri. 110-240-440v. Sec. tapped $24-26 \mathrm{v}$. 8 a Pri. 1 a . open frame type $£ 3.50$ carr. 50 p .
6 G. 6v. 1a. open frame G.E.C. PrI. 200-240-240v. Sec. tapped $59-$ 61-63-64-67-69v. 10 a . Fully tropicallsed Open frame terminal block connections.
6550 carr. 50 p. $\frac{25 i .}{\text { Pri. 200-220-240v. Sec. tapped } 56-58-60 \mathrm{v} .3 \mathrm{z}}$ open frame. ${ }^{\text {Te }}$
£2.75 P.P. 50 p.



* DUST COVERS
* QUICK DELIVERY
* KEEN PRICES
\& QUOTATIONS BY RETURN
HOME \& OVERSEAS HOME \& OVERSEAS
SWITCHES. Double Pole On/Off 3 amp 250 volt hone ole fixing £1. 50 per ten. rack mounting assembly with Glass Fibre Air Filter and directional Duct. Capacitor Fan Motor
$1 / 501 \mathrm{~h} h \mathrm{~h} .200 / 250$ volts or 100,125 volts 2,800
MEGGERS. 5 no volts, range $0-1,000$ Meg. ohms-minfinity, metal case, in good working order
E15 each. Post 40p. $\quad$ BRIDGE MEGGERS, SERIES $1,1,000$ volts, range $0 / 100 \mathrm{M}$ ohms-infinity, with resistance Box $0 / 9999$ ohms. Brand new. 565.00 each. Carriage 75 p .
FREQUENCY METERS, $45 / 55 \mathrm{c} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{s}$. . 230 V . A C. 6 in . dia. flush round es. Post 70 .
GALVANOMETERS. Uniplvot type $50-0-50$ Micramp. scaled $35-0-35$, Knife pointer, Mirror GALVANOMETERS. Unlplvot type $50-0-50 \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{croamp}$, scaled $35-0-35$, Knife pointer, Mirror
Scale, 4 in. dia. in leather carrying case 10 each. Post 10 p .
GEA post 20p, can be operated from 230 V . wh our $k 120$.
MICROSWITCHES ROLLER TYPE. Honeywell S.P.C.O. $15 \mathrm{amp} .125-250$ and 460 volts A.C
40peach, post pald. Quantlty discounts.
MICROSWITCHES special offer at 30 p ea. Burgess K5 Series 2 circuit double break type, with
provith


LONGLEYRD. CROYDON, CRO 3LH. Phone 01-684 0236 Grams


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## ATTRACTIVE

 DISCOUNTS
## ON VERY MANY ITEMS WHEN YOU BUY FROM <br> US

# Electrovilive Eectronic Component Speciclists 

RESISTORS- $10 \%, 5 \%, 2 \%$

| Code | Power | Tolerance | Range | Values available | $1 \text { to } 9$ | $\begin{array}{r} 10 \mathrm{t} \\ \text { (see note } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 100 \text { up } \\ & v) . \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| c | 1/20W | $5 \%$ | $82 \Omega-220 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ | E12 | 9 | 8 | 0.7 |
| C | 1/8W | 5\% | $4.7 \Omega-470 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | E12 |  | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| C | l/1W | $10 \%$ | $4.78 \Omega-10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | E24 |  | 2 | 0.9 |
| C | is | $10 \%$ | $4.7 \Omega-10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | E12 | 2.5 | 5 | 1.9 |
| MO | 1/2W | 2\% | $10 \Omega-1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | E24 | 4 | 3 | 2 nett |
| WW | iw | 10\%土1/20 | $0.22 \Omega^{-3.9} \Omega$ | E12 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| WW | $3 W$ |  |  | E12 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Codes: $\mathrm{C}=$ carbon film, high stability, low noise. MO = metal oxide, Electrosil TR5, ultra low noise. WW = wire wound, Plessey. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Values: <br> $E \mid 2$ denotes series: $10,12,15,18,22,27,33,39,47,56$, mixed values. (Ignore frac68,82 and their decades. tions on total value of resistor as at $\mathrm{E} \mid 2$ plus $11,13,16,20,24,30,36$, order.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

TEIANSISTORS BY SIEMENS AND NEWMARKET



| DIN CONNECTURS by birsmman | COVERS \& | TOGGLE SWITCHES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | HEATSINKS | 1011 Cspst corze |
|  | ${ }_{\text {a }}^{\text {a }}$ | cose |
|  |  |  |

POTENTIOMETER carbon type long spindles. Double wipers for low noise. R20
SINGLE GANG linear $100 \Omega$ to $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{M} \Omega, 12 \mathrm{p}$. JP20 Log, $4.7 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$, to $2.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ ${ }^{12 P}{ }^{2}$ DUAL GANG linear $4.7 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ to $2.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega, 42 \mathrm{p}$; Dual gang log, $4.7 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ to $2.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$, 42p; Log/antilog, $10 \mathrm{~K}, 22 \mathrm{~K}$
47 K i $\mathrm{M} \Omega$ only 42 p ; Dual antilog, 10 K only, 42p. Any antiog, $\begin{aligned} & \text { type with 2A D. P. mains }\end{aligned}$ type with $2 A$
switch 12 pexra switch, , 2 e extra.
Only decades of $10,22 \& 47$ available in ranges quoted. DUAL CONCENTRIC P20 values, 60p; with SWitch, 72 P . Small high quality, type PR linear only: 400 K2, 70 , 10 K . $470 \Omega, 1 \mathrm{~K}, 2 \mathrm{~K} 2,4 \mathrm{~K}, 10 \mathrm{~K}$ $2 \mathrm{M2} 2,5 \mathrm{M}$, $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. Vertical or horizontal mounting, 5 p
SLIDER POTS. In values
from $4 \mathrm{~K} 7 \Omega$ to $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$, linear
or log, 26p each. Escut
cheon, light grey, 10 p .
Knobs, flat, grip type, in


ELECTROLYTICS

| ${ }^{4} \mathrm{~F}$ | 3 V | 6.3 V | 10 V | 16. | 25 V | 40V | 63 V | 100V |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.47 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 | 7 |
| 1.0 |  |  |  |  |  | 7 |  | 7 |
| 2.2 |  |  |  |  | 7 |  | 7 | 7 |
| 4.7 |  |  |  | 7 |  | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 10 |  |  | 7 |  | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 22 |  |  | 7 |  | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 47 | 7 |  | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 12 |
| 100 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 18 |
| 220 | 7 | 7 | 7 | $\overline{8}$ | 9 | 10 | 17 | 26 |
| 470 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 17 | 24 | 41 |
| 1000 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 17 | 20 | 23 | 40 |  |
| 2200 | 14 | 16 | 22 | 25. | 36 | 40 |  |  |
| 4700 | 23 | 26 | 37 | 40 |  |  |  |  |
| 10,000 | 37 | 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Smal'est size $3.7 \mathrm{~mm} \times 12 \mathrm{~mm}$. Largest size $25.5 \mathrm{~mm} \times 41 \mathrm{~mm}$. Full ranges of many othe types of capacitors stocked. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ROTARY SWITCHES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Radiospares switch (in a Shaft 48p. Wafers, MB BBMIPI2W $4 P 3 W, 6 P 2$ | iatu <br> y ki <br> 5W <br> 6W <br> ch 6p | Maka m). IIW P4W | Wavechangeswitches IPI2W, 2P6W, 3P4W, 4P3W, each 24p. |  |  |  |  |  |



TTL ICs

|  | TTL | Nett Prize |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FLHIOI | (7400) | 20p |
| FLH2OI | (7401) | 20p |
| FLHI91 | (7402) | 20p |
| FLH291 | (7403) | 20p |
| FLH211 | (7404) | 25p |
| FLH271 | (7405) | 25p |
| FLH38I | (7408) | 25 p |
| FLH391 | (7409) | 25p |
| FLHIII | (7410) | 20p |
| FLH351 | (7413) | 35p |
| FLHI2I | (7420) | 20p |
| FLH\|31 | (7430) | 20p |
| FLHI4I | (7440) | 24P |
| FLLIOI | (74141) | (16) $£ 1.22$ |
| FLH28। | (7442) | (16) $£ 1 \cdot 16$ |
| FLH361 | (7443) | (16) $¢ 1.45$ |
| FLH371 | (7444) | (16) $¢ 1.45$ |
| FLH15I | (7450) | 20p |
| FLHI61 | (7451) | 20p |
| FLHI7I | (7453) | 20p |
| FLHIBI | (7454) | 20p |
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Required to teach in Radio, T.V. and Electronics Mechanics and Technician Courses. Applicants should hold CGLI Radio \& T.V. Servicing Certificate and have had good indusServicing Certificate and have had good indus-
trial experience. Teaching experience desirable trial experience.
Salary on Burnham Technical Scale, viz. £1,500- \(£ 2,524\) plus additions for qualifications and training. Removal expenses up to t15 may be paid in approved cases.
Further particulars and application forms obtainable from the Vice Principal, Slough College of Technology. Wellington Street. Slough SLI IYG, to whom completed forms should be returned within 14 days of the
appearance of this advertisement.

\section*{ANTENNA DESIGN \\ and \\ DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER}

Electronic design and development engineers are required to join an expanding company engaged in the design and development of antenna systems and R.F. feeder line components. The work covers siting assessment, the design and manufacture of antennae and associated components and systems, function testing in the H.F., V.H.F., U.H.F. and Microwave spectrums.
We design, develop and manufacture antennae for use on aircraft in addition to ground and seaborne systems and applicants with some aircraft experience would receive early consideration. Applicants of all levels of qualifications and experience are required.
Salaries will be negotiable and commensurate with experience.
The company is situated in a delightful rural setting, one mile from Witney Oxfordshire.

Apply by letter:

\section*{H. R. Smith (Technical Developments) Limited, New Mill, Crawley Road,} Witney, Oxfordshre.

\section*{INDIVIDUAL}

To take an active part in expanding my small London based outfit. This is an excellent opportunity for a person who has a thorough technical background in audio. Must be willing to contribute in accordance with the demand manufacturing professional quality high power manufacturing professional quality high power sound systems.
person.
Write giving full background to:
martin audio ltd JUBILEE STUDIOS COVENT GARDEN LONDON WC2 E8BE

\section*{MEDICAL ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN}
(preferably graduate with industrial experience)
To work in new Teaching Hospital and Medical School as part of team evaluating drugs in man under laboratory and clinical conditions. Successful applicant to operate and maintain a wide range of electronic monitoring equipment and will be encouraged to pursue research interests in the design field. Interest in computer techniques an advantage. Starting salary \(£ 1,752\) plus London allowance.
Apply: The Secretary, Dept. of Pharmacology, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School (Fulham), Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8RF.

\title{
Electronics Test Engineers
}

Pye Telecommunications of Cambridge and Haverhill have immediate vacancies for Production Test Engineers. The work entails checking to an exacting specification VHF UHF radio-telephone equipment before customer delivery : applicants must therefore have experience of fault finding and testing electronic equipment, preferably conmunications equipment. Formal qualifications while desirable, are not as important as practical proficiency Armed service experience of such work would be perfectly acceptable. Pye Telecommunications is the world's largest exporter of radio-telephone equipment and is engaged in a major expansion programme designed to double present turnover during the next five years. There are, therefore, excellent opportunities for promotion within the company. Pye also encourages its staff to take higher technical and professional qualifications.

These are genuine career opportunities in an expansionist company, so write or telephone without delay for an application form to:
Mrs A E Darkin at
Cambridge Works, Elizabeth Way, Cambridge CB4 1DW
Telephone: Cambridge 51351.
or Mrs C Dawe at
Colne Valley Road, Haverhill, Suffolk
Telephone: Haverhill 4422.

\section*{SEMICONDUCTOR APPLICATIONS}

FERRANTI

\section*{have vacancies in their}

\section*{APPLICATIONS LABORATORY}
for engineers to assist in the development and applications of descrete semiconductor devices.
AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:
Engineering Service to Marketing
Technical Liaison with Device Development
Circuit Design
Preparation of Application Reports
New Product Evaluation
Application Service to Customers
Qualifications required are a degree or HNC in Electronics or Applied Physics and a good knowledge of basic transistor circuitry.

Application forms may be obtained from T. J. Lunt,
Staff Manager, Ferranti Ltd., Hollinwood, Lancs.
Please quote reference ES/JAW/W2414

\section*{Field \\ Service Engineers Hayes,Middlesex}

EMI Service, the Installation and Maintenance Division for EMI Sound and Vision Ltd., requires experienced field service engineers for their Hayes based factory.

The positions require a sound electronics background and relevant experience in one of the following fields:-
\(\square\) Marine Navigational aids including marine radar.
\(\square\) Instrumentation tape recording system.
\(\square\) Digital tape recording systems.
\(\square\) Numerical control of machine tools.
Salaries are realistic and in each case will be related to individual capability and potential.

Please write or telephone for an application form, quoting "EMI Service" to: R. N. L. Black, Personnel Department, EMI Limited, 135, Blyth Road, Hayes, Middlesex. Tel. OI-573 3888 Ext. 2887

\section*{Medicovision}

We require the services of a young man to join a small team of television experts who are based at Welwyn Garden City and who spend some of their time giving educational demonstrations to members of the medical profession in varipus parts of the country.

We look for candidates with sound knowledge of black and white television and some experience with colour. They must be able to drive.

Pay and allowances will be in accordance with those expected from a major pharmaceutical company.

For further particulars and an application form please apply quoting reference \(M T V / H\) to the Personnel Officer

\section*{ROCHE}

Roche Products Limited Welwyn Garden City Hertfordshire

\section*{TEST ENGINEERS}

Electronics - Hampshire \(£ 1200\) to \(£ 2000\) per annum

We are part of one of the world's largest and fastest growing instrumentation groups.

We wish to recruit a number of technician engineers to test precision electronic instruments. Our products include digital voltmeters, oscilloscopes, data loggers, dynamic analysis instruments, high frequency synthesisers and radar systems.

Applicants should have an appreciation of electronics equivalent to an H.N.C. or Final C and G education and it is essential that they have a minimum of two years industrial experience, testing similar equipment to that outlined above.
Application forms should be obtained from the Personne Services Manager. The Solartron Electronic Group Limited, Victoria Road. Farnborough. Hampshire. Tel: Farnborough 44433


\section*{CRANFIELD}

\section*{Short Course}

\section*{on}

\section*{MICROWAVE LABORATORY PRACTICE}

\section*{7th-11th May 1973}

A predominantly practical course of instruction in coaxial line, waveguide and mircostrip methods for scientists and engineers whose work is being influenced by the wider application of microwaves.

Past experience shows that the course is ideally suited to the needs of the non-electrical specialist as well as the electrical or electronic engineer about to enter the microwave field.

To ensure personal tuition and practice the number admitted to the course will be restricted to 16 .

Fees covering tuition and full board and accommodation \(£ 50\).
Further information from:
THE REGISTRAR (SHORT COURSES),
CRANFIELD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, CRANFIELD, BEDFORD, MK43 OAL.
Telephone: Bedford 51551 (0234-51551), Ext. 284. Telex: 825072.

\section*{CITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC}

\section*{TECHNICIAN}

A vacancy now exists for a Technician in the Department of Physics. Applicants must passess appropriate qualifications in the repair and maintenance of electronic equipment and should preferably have laboratory experience.

Salary (subject to review)
Within the range \(£ 1,137\) (age 21) to £1,557 plus \(£ 174\) London Weighting Allowance, according to age and qualifications.

Please write to the Head of the Department of Physics, City of London Polytechnic, 31 Jewry Street, London, EC3N 2EY, stating full details and enclosing the names of two referees.
[2389

\section*{ELECTRONIC SERVICE}

Office Machine Company has the following vacancies:
- Senior Service Engineer to assist Workshop Manager. must have experience of repairing digital printed circuit boards. preferably electronic calculators, good electronic knowledge and experience in a Service Department. Salary \(\mathbf{~} 2.000\) plus and L.V.'s.
Workshop Service Engineers to repair calculator printed circuit boards. Good basic electronic knowledge required and experience in
a Service Department. Salary \(\mathbf{£ 1 . 7 5 0}\) plus and
L.V.'s.
- \(=\)

\section*{Apply to:- Mr. V. Knight,}

Automatic Business Machines Ltd. Wyfold Road, Fulham, S.W.6. Tel: 3853311

\section*{Communications} Associates Limited
have vacancies in our Internal Service Department and Test Department for qualified and experienced

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS
Please telephone Mr. Donaldson, Technical Manager, at Exeter 70333 for an appointment.
| 2401

\section*{Electronics Engineer \({ }_{\text {canounate }}\)}

A graduate electronics engineer is required to join a small team in the BioEngineering and Medical Physics Unit (University of Liverpool and United Liverpool Hospitals) dealiffg with most aspects of medical electronics instrumentation in The United Liverpool Hospitals.

A successful applicant with suitable academic qualifications will be made an Honorary Research Assistant in the University and have the opportunity to undertake work leading to a higher degree.
Salary will be on the Whitley Council Scale for Medical Physicists (Basic Grade): \(£ 1278\) ( \(£ 1566\) with 1st or 2 nd class honours degree) rising to \(£ 2370\) by annual increments.
Further information and application form obtainable from The Secretary, The United Liverpool Hospitals, 80 Rodney Street, Liverpool L1 9AP to be returned by 16th March, 1973.

\section*{BENCH SERVICE ENGINEERS Feltham - Ascot Road Bedfont}

We require Bench Service Engineers with previous experience of TV (Monochrome and Colour), Radio, Hi-fi and Tape Recorders for our Central Service Division. Preference will be given to holders of City \& Guilds qualifications, though sound practical experience may outweigh formal qualifications.
Earnings will be in the range \(£ 1,600-£ 2,200\) depending on qualifications and experience. In addition there are L.Vs, a Staff Purchase Scheme and a Contributory Pension Plan Hours are 9 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
We would be interested to hear from experienced Engineers, who wish to work with products that are renowned for quality and reliability
Write with details of past experience and current salary to
Personnel Manager.
SONY (UK) LIMITED, Pyrene House, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.


\section*{ALLOTROPE LIMITED}

Audio Equipment Specialists

\section*{REPRESENTATIVE}

Applicants should be fully conversant with studio mixing desks, microphones, and studio techniques.
Based London, W.1. Salary to match experience and qualifications.
Apply in writing-to :
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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, GALWAY

\section*{ELECTRONICS SENIOR TECHNICIAN}
required for Department of Physics. Duties include the construction and maintenance of electronic equipment and assisting in laboratories. Minimum qualification equivalent of Advanced City and Guilds Certificate and 3 years experience as a technician.

Salary: \(£ 1,737\) to \(£ 2.013\) with noncontributory pension scheme and 4 weeks holidays.

Written applications stating age, qualifications, experience and references should be sent to the Secretary, Department of Experimental Physics, University College, Galway, Ireland, before 15th March.

12390

Multi-National Advertising Agency requires a

\section*{Technical Assistant or Assistant Engineer}
to operate and maintain colour telecine and V.T.R. equipment.
Candidates should be between the ages of 22-30 and should have "C" and "G" Telecomms, or equivalent and preferably with experience on this type of equipment. Salary is negotiable.

Write to:
Mr. R. Martin, J. Walter Thompson Co. Ltd., 40 Berkeley Square,
London, W1X 6AD.
Telephone: 01-6299496

\section*{SPANISH COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER} Applications are invited from qualified design engineers specialized on:
a) Ground/Air Communications
b) TV Colour Transmitters
c) Side Band Transmitters

At least 5 years experience desirable. Company located in Madrid. Salary open.

Send resumé to:

\section*{NORTRON}

Fernando el Católico, 63
Madrid 15
SPAIN

\section*{TECHNICALTRAINING OFFICER (COMMUNICATIONS)}

\section*{The Company}

We are an expanding company within the Pye of Cambridge Group and offer a wide range of products including public and private address systems, telephone equipment, time control, fire alarm and CCTV. Our field service engineers and technical salesmen are provided with an extensive support service which includes product training in a market of rapidly changing technology.

\section*{The Job}

This is a new position to assist the Personnel and Training Department in the analysis of product training needs, and the development of means of meeting those needs including off the job instruction. The Training Officer will specialise in intercom and telephone systems.

\section*{The Man}

Preferably with previous experience as a training officer or instructor
Will have an extensive knowledge of electronics
Preferably will have experience in the communications industry
Willing to spend time away from home
Age 28+
He will report to the Personnel Manager
Please write giving brief details of your career and background to John Bell, Personnel Manager,
Pye Business Communications Limited,
Cromwell Road, Cambridge CB1 3HE.
Tel: Cambridge 45191 (Ext. 293/4).

A well established British Company has an immediate requirement for SUPERVISORY staff in the Republic of South Africa, and invite applications from suitably qualified personnel with experience in the maintenance of short-wave broadcasting transmitters of up to 250 KW and associated equipment.
These appointments offer:
* Staff positions
* Attractive salaries
* Prospects of permanent employment in South Africa
* Free travel for families
* Settling in allowances
* Medical aid insurance scheme

Write giving brief details to Box Number WW 2436

\section*{PETERBOROUGH AND STAMFORD HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE \\ Appointment of X-RAY EMGIIEER}

To be based at Peterborough Hospital and become a member of a small team engaged upon the commissioning. maintenance and repair of a wide range of Diagnostic \(X\)-ray Apparatus.
Candidates should possess H.N.C. (Electronics) H.N.D. or equivalent but consideration will be given to suitable candidates with O.N.C. who are proceeding to a higher qualification.

Salary scale offered is:-
£1911-£2508
Possession of a car is essential, travelling expenses being payable in accordance with the agreed scales
for Health Services staffs.
Application forms and job description obtainable from the Group Engineer, Peterborough District Hospital. Thorpe Road, Peterborough, to be returned completed within fourteen days of the appearance of this advertisement.

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New, vigorous and successful television systems company very urgently requires dynamic sales and installation engineers. Successful applicants will join excellent team offering unlimited opportunities. Senior and middle grade men needed. Wide experience vital. Write or ring:

Technical Director,
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Pay prospects? \(£ 2500+\) p.a.
After training. our exclusive appointments bureau - one of the world's leaders of its kind - introduces you FREE to world-wide opportunities. Write or 'phone TODAY, without obligation.

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P. 15 Oxfocd House. \(9-15\). Oxford Street. W. 1 Telephone: 01-734 2874

Dept. P15. Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester Telaphone: 061.2362935

\section*{REPAIR/CALIBRATION ENGINEERS £1850 to \(\mathbf{£ 2 0 0 0}\)}

\section*{If you are an enthusiastic Elec} tronics Test or Service Engineer in a rut come and talk to Jerry Cook about the wide range of Test Equipment you could help us repair and calibrate.
Contact:

\section*{I. D. COOK}

CALIBRATION SYSTEMS LTD.,
CAMBERLEY, SURREY
Tel: Camberley 28121
[2435
APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 99

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look at these prices and make yourself pounds more profit
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\hline DY. 802 & 22.0 & 6.5 & 28.5 & PCL. 82 & 30.0 & 8.5 & 38.5 \\
\hline E8.91 & 14.5 & 4.0 & 18.5 & PCL. 84 & 26.5 & 7.5 & 34.0 \\
\hline ECC. 82 & 24.0 & 7.0 & 31.0 & PCL. 85 & 30.5 & 8.5 & 39.0 \\
\hline EF. 80 & 25.0 & 7.0 & 32.0 & PCL. 86 & 30.0 & 8.5 & 38.5 \\
\hline EF. 183 & 29.5 & 8.5 & 38.0 & PFL. 200 & 41.5 & 12.0 & 53,5 \\
\hline EF. 184 & 29.5 & 8.5 & 38.0 & PL. 36 & 45.5 & 13.0 & 58.5 \\
\hline EH. 90 & 27.0 & 7.5 & 34.5 & PL. 84 & 22.0 & 6.5 & 28.5 \\
\hline PC. 900 & 22.5 & \(6 \cdot 5\) & 29.0 & PL. 504 & 45.0 & 13.0 & 58.0 \\
\hline PCC. 89 & 31.5 & 9.0 & 40.5 & PL. 508 & 50.0 & 14.5 & 64.5 \\
\hline PCC. 189 & 33.5 & 9.5 & 43.0 & PL. 509 & 80.0 & 23.0 & 103.0 \\
\hline PCF. 80 & 27.0 & 7.5 & 34.5 & PY. 88 & 25.5 & 7.5 & 33.0 \\
\hline PCF. 86 & 33.0 & 9.5 & 42.5 & PY.500A & 50.0 & 14.5 & 64.5 \\
\hline PCF. 801 & 34.5 & 10.0 & 44.5 & PY. 800 & 23.0 & 6.5 & 29.5 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\section*{SEMI-CONDUCTORS}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Type & Price t & Type & Price c & Type & Price E \\
\hline AC. 127 & 0.15 & BC. 109 & 0.11 & BF. 173 & 0.20 \\
\hline AC. 128 & 0.12 & BC. 113 & 0.22 & BF. 178 & 0.35 \\
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\hline AC. 155 & 0.16 & BC. 135 & 0.20 & * BF. 194 & 0.08 \\
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\hline AC. 176 & 0.19 & BC. 138 & 0.40 & BF. 197 & 0.17 \\
\hline AC. 187 & 0.17 & BC. 142 & 0.26 & BF. 200 & 0.25 \\
\hline AC.187K & 0.20 & BC. 143 & 0.30 & BF. 218 & 0.35 \\
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\hline AF. 118 & 0.42 & BC. 173 & 0.18 & -1N. 60 & 0.04 \\
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\hline AF. 178 & 0.43 & BC. 182 L & 0.12 & -OA. 95 & 0.05 \\
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\hline AF. 181 & 0.40 & BC. 214 L & 0.15 & OC. 71 & 0.15 \\
\hline AF. 239 & 0.45 & BD. 124 & 0.70 & OC. 72 & 0.15 \\
\hline BA. 145 & 0.14 & BD. 131 & 0.45 & BU.105/02 & 9.70 \\
\hline *BC. 107 & 0.10 & BF. 160 & 0.20 & 2SC. 1172 B & 2.00 \\
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New Price List from 11th Oct., 1972.


Gencral Price List, January, 1973
CPC,
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Telephone: Preston (0772) 56347.
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350 carbon resistors \(60 p\) (15p); \(2005 \%\) hi-stab 60p (12p); 1001 and \(2 \% 60 \mathrm{p}(8 \mathrm{p}) ; 150\) mica, poly, ceramic. caps. 60 p (8p); 75 electrolytic 60 p (15p); 150 foil, paper, polyester 60p (15p). Any 5 packs \(£ 2.50\) ( 25 p ). CASED AMPLIFIERS: \(2 \times\) ECC83 EL84, EZ80 on \(12 \times 5 \times 3 \mathrm{in}\). chassis in oak-faced cabinet \(14 \times 13 \times 9 \mathrm{in}\). with \(7 \times 4 \mathrm{in}\). \(3 \Omega\) speaker and single motor solenoid operated non-standard tape deck. \(20 \mu \mathrm{Vi} / \mathrm{p}\) for \(2 \mathrm{Wo} 0 / \mathrm{p}\). Mains operated, tested with circuit in good condition. \(£ 3\) ( \(£ 1\) ). Computer panels, loads of transistors inc. power types. diodes. R's, C's, pot cores etc. Some boards broken but good value at 31b. £1 (25p), 7lb. £2 (40p). CROFON 1610 light guide, 64 filament in sheath E 1 per metre, \(5+80 \mathrm{p} .10+70 \mathrm{p} .8\) assorted panel metors \(£ 2.60\) ( 40 p ). Ferric Chioride 1lb. 40p (15p). 101b. \(£ 3.50\) ( 50 p ). Capacitors. listed in \(\mu \mathrm{F} / \mathrm{v}: 8 / 12,8 / 150\). \(75 / 6,0.5 / 150,4 / 200,0.5 / 250,0.25 / 350\), all \(4 \mathrm{p}: 0.4 / 100\) 550/6. 0.1/350 3p; 2/150. 25/25, 40/100 5p; 8/350, 300/150, \(20+20 / 300+50 / 50 \quad 8 p ; 8 / 450, \quad 80+80+20 / 350 \quad 10 \mathrm{p} .7 \mathrm{lb}\). bargain parcels, contain R's, C's, diodes, transistors, pots. switches, \(x\) tals, PC boards, atc., atc. Amazing variety \(£ 2\) ( cp ) REED UNITS: 31 reeds mountad round drum, mganet inside. also plugs. R's etc. \(\mathbf{£ 1}(\mathbf{2 5 p}\) ). 2 for \(\mathbf{£ 1 . 6 5}\) (35p). 10X Crystals, 1000 's from \(2-9 \mathrm{MHz}\). 15 p sach or 8 for £1. TEST GEAR: TF144G Sig. gen. \(85 \mathrm{kHz}-25 \mathrm{MHz}\) from f 12 . TF1168 High discrimination oscillator \(£ 30\). Lots of odd units at shop for callers, inc. scopes. PSU's, sig. gens, AVO's etc. SAE list. enquiries. Post in brackets. small parts 3p.

GREENWELD ELECTRONICS (W12)
24 Goodhart Way, Wesl WIckham. Kent. 01-777 2001
Shop at 21 Deptford Broadway SE8. Tel 01-692 2009.



\section*{matipus alaatronin}

All Brana
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DIGTTAL INDICATDRS 5 V type, 7 segment 0.9 OP. socker. \& red filtar fi.39 LED type f 3. CALCULATOR batt/mains 8 digit 4 function f3s.50.
LIGHT EMIT DIODE with pañel clip \& data 35 p ULSTRASONIC TRANSDUCERS tramsmitírceive t2.

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QUAD AUDOD: 4 chan from 2 chan matixing iC (not xoverl) E 2.87 .

 complete 4 digit kit with case \(£ 21\).
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AVO Valve testers portable CT160 £45. Cossor 1035 Oscilloscopes \(£ 30\). Triodiac (Variac) oil cooled 0-270v 35 amp e28. 500 watt constant voltage transformers \(\mathbf{£ 1 8}\) Ditto 125 watt £8. \(240 / 110\) volt \(3 \mathrm{KVA} £ 15\) Untested bargains all clean units. TF144/G £15. CT53 £10. TF428B/1 £6. CT54 £10. BC221 £12. TF886Q Meter \(£ 30\)
all carriage extra. Loads of surplus to clear large S.A.E.
Portable Gieger Counters (Contamination meter No 1 )

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233-237 Boundary Road,
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24 volf, 10 position, 3 bank, c/w suppressing condenser and supplied c/w base plug in lacks. Uniselector only Ditto, as above, 12 position, 3 bank. Uniselector only £1.35, p. \& p. 25p. C/w base plug in jack, £175, p. \& p 25p.
Ditto, as atove, 25 position, 6 bank. This uniselector is fitted to a front panel and has a distribution board fitted in the rear and is wired from the uniselector to the distribution panel. Limlted number only. £275 each, p. \& p. 50 p.

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New Numerlcal 0.9 indicator tubes, c/w data, £1 35 each, D. \& p. 6p.
Plastic Holders designed to hold the above tube and will fix to the PCB as above, \(8 p\) each, D. \& p. 4 p .

\section*{G. T. F. ELECTRONICS}

\section*{9 Ernle Road, Calne, Wilts. SN11 9BT.}

Phone: Calne 3360. 2392

\section*{RANK-KALEE \\ WOW \& FLUTTER METERS}

One or Excellent condition
BURGESS LANE \& CO. LTDD.
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Corbett, Ivy Cottage, Barham Green, Ipswich. \\
\hline 2319
\end{tabular} ENGINEER that has developed a precision digital Elock, that is interfacable with computers, desires either a sales agent, or a firm to manufacture and sell the unit under a licensing agreement. Write in
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