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# Wireless World 

Electronics, Television, Radio, Audio



This month's cover shows four colour separations of a news picture sent by the colour telephoto system described by J. H. Smith in this issue (page 214).

## In our next issue (publication date May 21)

Varicap f.m. tuner. The variable capacitors in the Nelson-Jones tuner are replaced by varicap diodes to provide voltage controlled tuning. A lower gain modification is also described.
Microphone reflectors - a subject which has received little attention so far. This article examines the effects on frequency and polar response of reflector material, size, focal length and microphone size and position.

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[^1]
## Colour Telephoto System

# News pictures electronically processed and transmitted as colour separations over telephone lines 

by J. H. Smith ${ }^{*}$, M.I.E.R.E.

By means of an extensive network rented from telephone authorities, news picture agencies can transmit pictures to subscribing newspapers. Picture facsimile is normally called "telephoto" and newspaper offices include a "telephoto room" in their communications department. Over the past three years IPC Technical and Information Services has been developing a system for sending colour pictures over the telephone networks and demonstrated the viability of the system by transmitting, in conjunction with the agency United Press International, colour pictures from the 1972 Olympic games in Munich.

Telephoto system. Fig. 1 shows how a photograph to be transmitted is loaded onto a rotating drum in a Muirhead picture transmitter. A synchronous motor supplied with a frequency of 1020 Hz , divided down from a crystal oscillator, drives the drum.
*IPC Services Ltd.

As the drum rotates the picture is scanned. A photocell and light source are mounted behind the drum, and the photocell collects reflected light from the picture as the drum rotates. Stepping the photocell across the picture by 0.01 inch at the end of each line scan provides a frame scan. As pictures are normally 10 inches wide and there are one thousand scanning lines, the resolution of the system is 100 lines per inch. Since the system usually scans at a speed of one line per second a complete picture takes 1000 seconds transmission time-about twenty minutes altogether
The video signal, which occupies a frequency band of 500 Hz , modulates a $1300-\mathrm{Hz}$ carrier, giving a double-sideband amplitudemodulated signal with a frequency range $800-1800 \mathrm{~Hz}$, well suited for transmission over telephone circuits. Since the system achieves synchronization before transmitting the picture, it is not necessary to transmit a synchronization signal along with the picture. In common with the


Fig. 1. Muirhead K270 picture transmitter, showing a photograph wrapped round the drum.
transmitter, the receiver has a motor supplied with a frequency of 1020 Hz driving the drum, but in this case a tuning fork generates the signal.

Immediately before transmitting a picture the operator sends his 1020 Hz oscillator signal down the telephone line. The receiver operator then adjusts his tuning fork so that its frequency exactly coincides with that of the signal being received. The crystal oscillator and fork circuits are designed to keep stable within a fraction of a cycle for several hours. Thus the transmitter and receiver drums will rotate at exactly the same speed, even though the 1020 Hz signal is removed from the line. The transmitter operator then transmits a phasing pulse which triggers a clutch mechanism linking the receiver drum to its drive motor. This pulse is obtained from a pair of contacts in the transmitter which close every time clips holding the picture on to the drum pass the photocell, thus synchronizing the start and finish of the transmitted picture to the receiver drum. After removing the phasing pulse the operator finally sends a white level reference signal, which enables the receiver operator to adjust his gain,'thereby compensating for any attenuation or gain in the telephone circuits. Provided the telephone circuits remain stable the facsimile receiver will reproduce a faithful version of the picture wrapped around the transmitter drum.

Printing by offset lithography. To gain a full understanding of the colour telephoto system we need a basic knowledge of the principles of colour printing. Since at present lithography is the technique the majority of newspapers use for printing in colour, I will concentrate on that process.

Irrespective of the printing process to be used, monoch rome (black and white) photographs have to be processed after being enlarged or reduced into a form suitable for printing. The picture is broken into dots of various sizes - very small ones for the light grey areas of the photograph and much larger for the dark grey areas. Thus, instead of reproducing the black and white through various shades of grey, the picture is constituted by a matrix of dots of varying size. The eye spatially integrates over small areas so that we see various tones of grey. (Examine a newspaper or magazine picture through a magnifying glass.) The process
of breaking the original photograph into a matrix of equally spaced dots is called "screening"
The screened negative is then made into a printing plate (usually aluminium) by etching a positive image of the picture onto the plate. "Image" areas of the plate accept the greasy ink and reject water, while nonprinting areas of the plate accept water and reject ink

In the offset lithographic process the printing plate is inked and the non-printing areas are kept free of ink by applying a watery solution. The printing machine then transfers the image from the plate to a rubber roller, called a blanket, and then from the blanket to the paper.
Colour pictures are reproduced by printing in turn images in four different colours. Thus a coloured newspaper picture usually comprises pictures printed in cyan, magenta, yellow and black. (Examine a coloured picture with a magnifying glass.) Here again spatial integration occurring within the eye, and the three colour receptors of trichromatic colour vision theory, produce sensations of tone and hue when one observes such pictures from a distance.
The colours used in colour printing are complementary to those used in colour television c.r.t. phosphors. This arises because television c.r.t. screen dotsare primary sources of light, while coloured prints rely on reflected (secondary) light. Thus a colour television set generates white by energizing all three colour sources (black is the absence of light). One obtains white in a colour print by an absence of ink, and black by combining all three inks together.
Since cyan ink reflects blue and green light but stops red, while magenta ink reflects red and blue, stopping green, and yellow ink reflects green and red, stopping blue, a combination of two inks reflects only light reflected by both inks, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

|  | red light | green light | blue light |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | stops | + | + |
| cyan ink | + | stops | + |
| mellow ink | + | + | stops |

Thus cyan plus magenta reflects blue, magenta plus yellow reflects red, cyan plus yellow reflects green.
Cyan, magenta and yellow together give black - no reflected light.
A whole gamut of colours is reproduced by printing various proportions of the constituent colours. Black ink is normally needed in colour printing because the three inks together do not produce a very good black.

## Colour telephoto

Since any colour telephoto system must produce a set of four different monochrome pictures for reproduction in colour newspapers, let us consider how this can be achieved with the telephoto equipment currently available. Transmission of photographic separations has been tried experimentally, but is seldom fast enough to meet newspaper deadlines.

Making a colour transparency of a news event, which itself takes about two hours to produce from the time the photographer opens the shutter to the time the process department delivers the finished transparency, is the first step in the colour reproduction process. The next step involves separating the transparency into its red, green and blue components. Onecan achieve this by making negatives from the original by exposing it through red, green and blue filters. One subsequently uses these three negatives to make enlarged positive bromide prints and transmit them one by one over the telephoto network
Unfortunately the colour pictures printed from the red, green and blue separations produced in this time-consuming process are unsatisfactory because of colour imperfections in the inks, transparency and separation filters. One can overcome these defects by introducing an intermediate process to correct the colour separations (and the black overprint). This intermediate stage of colour correction is called "masking", I will discuss it in more detail later when I describe its electronic analogue. Because of the extra stages involved in preparing the components of a colour picture for press (as compared with a conventional black and white photograph) one can easily miss the deadline required by newspapers. Furthermore, an editor who wants to be able to publish colour news pictures must be prepared to finance extensive facilities for colour processing near to all possible news centres. The IPC colour telephoto system is designed to eliminate as many of these process stages as possible.
The foregoing dictates the specification of a colour telephoto machine for newspaper use:

- The machine must be compatible with the existing telephoto network.
- The machine must transmit to existing telephoto receivers.
- The transparency must be scanned directly and automatically enlarged to the standiard $10 \mathrm{in} \times 11$ in telephoto size.
- Colour correction must be automatic, so that the received pictures are ready for processing.
- The machine must reproduce a black printing separation.
- The machine must be simple to operate for a person who will not see the results of his transmission.
- The system used must be capable of further development.
The IPC colour telephoto apparatus satisfies this specification in every respect


## Basic system

Fig. 2 shows the principal components of the facsimile system. Scanning lines are generated on the face of a cathode-ray tube, similar to those generated for a television picture. These scanning lines form a square which in practice does not look like a television raster, because the scanning spot travels much more slowly in the telephoto system. A lens focuses the light output from the raster onto the transparency so that the scanning spot of light traverses it line by line until the spot has scanned the whole picture

A partly-silvered mirror collects a sample of the light from the c.r.t. and feeds it to a photocell, which drives a circuit designed to stabilize the brilliance of the light output. Without this circuit the light output will vary too much to obtain consistent results while scanning the picture.
The scanning spot is very small and is focused accurately on the transparency, so that the light output on the far side of the transparency varies in intensity in accordance with the picture content
A condenser lens collects the light and feeds it to an optical filtering system which separates the red, green and blue components. A dichroic mirror, which reflects red light only, passing green and blue unaffected, feeds the reflected red light through a correcting Wratten filter to a photomultiplier tube. Similarly another dichroic mirror feeds reflected blue light to a second photomultiplier. The green light, minus red and blue, passes to a third photomultiplier.
The signal, occupying a time of one thousand seconds, is an analogue of the complete picture. Having obtained a signal analogue of the colour transparency, one can effect any desired mathematical operation upon it. This follows because electrical signals can be handled more easily and precisely than optical signals. For instance, any number of photographic correction "masks" can be built into the circuits.
The three signals pass from the photomultipliers to variable gain amplifiers, which modify the density range of the original to levels suitable for printing. After compression the three signals are fed to a colour computer, which simulates the photographic colour "masking" system. The colour corrected outputs then pass one by one to a telephoto transmitter.
The signals are transmitted sequentially over a standard telephone line and reconstituted into pictures at the receiver. The received pictures are the cyan, magenta, yellow and black separations required for printing.
Fig. 2 shows that the facsimile transmitter triggers the timebases. The triggering action ensures that the scanning spot traverses the correct part of the picture and is in synchronisation with the distant receiver. The deflection drive, fed by the timebases, is an amplifier driving the deflection coils of the c.r.t.

## Optical system

Fig. 2 also shows a simplified layout of the optical system. Designing this system posed a number of problems because of the necessity to separate colours. The colour spectra of interest are 400-500 nanometres (blue), $500-600 \mathrm{~nm}$ (green) and $600-700 \mathrm{~nm}$ (red).
As the screens of standard cathode-ray tubes are predominantly green, the system must incorporate one with a phosphor containing red and blue components. The phosphor must also give adequate brightness, together with a very small scanning spot. Eventually we chose the " $A$ " type phosphor, because this gives useful light output over the full range of $400-700 \mathrm{~nm}$. One of the better flying spot scanner tubes is used to resolve 1600 lines on 35 mm film.
The main lens proved to be the most
critical component, because it has to resolve the very fine scanning spot equally well in the red, green and blue parts of the spectrum; and it has to give accurate focus over the entire colour range and pass as much light as possible. We had to design a special lens to meet this specification.

Fig. 2 also shows that dichroic filters separate the light output from the transparency. We could have used partly-silvered mirrors instead, but with the limited amount of light available from the c.r.t. phosphors, dichroics proved more suitable. Because dichroics are not selective enough on their own, we used Wratten filters for correcting the light collected by the photomultipliers.

The signal output levels from the photomultipliers differ, so we use variable gain amplifiers for adjusting the red, green and blue signals to the same level. Fig. 3 shows the spectral distribution of each of these three channels.

## Timebases

The facsimile transmitter triggers the timebases to synchronize the scanner with the telephoto system. This triggering system is necessary to merge text, and other data on the telephoto transmitter drum, with the picture being transmitted. The operator loads a caption and general description of the picture onto the telephoto transmitter drum, together with reference densities,
registration marks and colour identification. As each colour is transmitted sequentially, the operator has to change the colour identification before sending the signals representing each separation.

Telephoto is a "thousand line" system with stability requirements well in excess of those acceptable for television. The line timebase must be accurate to within a fraction of one thousandth of an inch from line to line. If not, edges, such as the brim of a hat, become ragged. Similarly, the system must maintain stability from picture to picture, so that when the four separations are printed on top of each other they are accurately in register.

## Level monitoring

Highlight and shadow monitoring comprise an important part of the system. The engineer has to balance the three input photomultipliers using a monochrome picture, so that the grey components of a picture are reproduced grey and not some other colour. Once they are balanced, the operator does not touch the input amplifiers.

When printed the highlight detail of the picture must be correct even though the original may be a normal, dark or light transparency. In consequence the operator must adjust the scanning light output to compensate for various transparency densities. Because picture highlights may be

$=$ photomultipliers
Fig. 2. Principal components of the colour telephoto system.


Fig. 3. Spectral distributions of the three channels.
coloured, the system maintains colour balance by adjusting tube brilliance until one channel gives a peak signal. If the highlight is white all three channels will peak at the same level; but if the highlight is coloured one or two of the channels will generate slightly lower strength signals to signify the need for a small quantity of ink in this highlight area. Similarly, the darkest shadow in a picture must be reproduced with solid ink, but because this shadow is not necessarily black, the operator adjusts the shadow control until one channel gives a minimum signal

The system adjusts for highlight and shadow density with the aid of a strobe consisting of a line scan, a potentiometer control to move it across the picture, and a meter to indicate the position of the strobe line on the transparency. The three monitoring meters, "highlight density", "strobe position", and "shadow density", are visible on the front panel shown in a photograph of the complete equipment on page 219.
The block diagram in Fig. 4 shows the principle used for metering circuits. The need for steady peak signal readings while using a one-second line scan complicated the circuits. Furthermore, the system must respond reasonably rapidly to highlight changes as the strobe line is moved across the transparency.
Fig. 4 shows how the trigger pulses are divided by two and gated to provide a pulse for every alternate line. These pulses discharge the capacitors of two peak detectors. The system employs two peak detectors, so that while one is charging to its peak the other is steady. By this means the peak detectors measure the peak on every alternate line. Outputs from the two peak detectors are combined, so that the meter displays a relatively steady reading.

In practice the system uses two peak detector pairs, one for the highlight and one for the shadow. Switching enables the meters to monitor various parts of the system for setting-up purposes. Field effect transistors employed in the peak detector circuits ensure the greatest possible accuracy of the readings obtained.

## Photographic "masking"

Printing inks are not pure colours: each ink is effectively contaminated by the others. To simplify matters let us consider one error where magenta ink contains some

25 per cent of yellow. This means that wherever yellow and magenta inks are superimposed the resulting print contains an excess of yellow due to the presence of unwanted yellow in the magenta ink. As yellow and magenta reproduce red, the excess yellow will tend to make reds reproduce with an orange hue.

To correct this defect in conventional colour printing the operative makes a colour correcting "mask" by taking the magenta separation and making a lowcontrast negative, 25 per cent of the original in this example. He then places this negative in accurate register over the yellow separation, so that whenever yellow is reproduced in magenta areas the contrast is reduced by 25 per cent. This means that less yellow is printed in those areas where magenta is also printed and the colours are reproduced accurately. The term "mask" comes from the fact that a low contrast negative is fitted over the positive, just like fitting a mask over the picture.

In practice "masking" is more complicated than I have described, because every colour of ink is effectively contaminated by every other colour.

## Video processing

Fig. 5 shows the video processing system. The red, green and blue signals pass from the photomultiplier amplifiers to 2 decade loggers. These loggers form the first compression stage in the system, because this circuit crushes densities greater than 2.0 . As indicated on the diagram, passing through the loggers transforms transmittance into density. Density is defined as:

$$
D=\log _{10} \frac{1}{T}
$$

Density is analogous to decibels in electrical terms. Since by definition clear film has a transmittance of one ( 100 per cent transmission), it consequently has zero density.

These density signals pass to the highlight monitoring circuit (to set the peak highlight level), the black signal extractor and the colour correction masking circuits.


The black signal extractor corrects the black components of the mask signal. It is also used for making the "black printer" separation after that signal has passed through a curve correction amplifier.

After colour correction the signals pass to the shadow density control. This variable gain amplifier adjusts the deepest shadow, so that at least one separation will print solid ink. The press correction curve compensates for gradation errors in the screening and printing process. Like the "black printer" gradation curve correction, an amplifier with a non-linear transfer function provides the press correction : the characteristics of subsequent printing processes determine the shape of this curve.

After leaving the gradation curve correction amplifier, the signals accurately represent corrected colour separations and are then referred to as the cyan, magenta, yellow and black printer signals. They pass sequentially to a range setting amplifier, which introduces further compression. Up to this point the signals have represented a density range of 0 to 2.0 . As the subsequent transmission and printing processes can handle only a density range of 1.7 (equivalent to 34 dB contrast ratio), the signal is
compressed (not crushed as previously) to 1.7 before passing to an anti-logger, which converts the signal back to its transmittance form. Finally, the transmitter signal passes to a matching amplifier which adjusts the signal levels to match the modulator in the facsimile transmitter.

## Loggers and curve correction amplifiers

The circuits used for logging and curve correction employ concave and convex transfer functions or combinations of the two. Figs. 6 and 7 show the basic circuits. For simplicity, the circuits depicted use only two feedback diodes, whereas practical circuits employ more diodes to increase the accuracy of the approximation.

Fig. 6 shows that with small input signals the amplifier functions as a conventional operational amplifier, with gain $G_{1}=R_{f} / R_{0}$. However, as the signal level increases diode $D_{1}$ starts to conduct, so that $R_{1}$ is shunting the input resistor and increasing the gain to $G_{2}$. With even greater signals $D_{2}$ conducts to shunt the input resistor with $R_{2}$ as well and $R_{1}$, thereby increasing the gain further to $G_{3}$.

Fig. 7 shows the convex transfer functions. As in the concave circuit, the opera-

tional amplifier functions as a normal linear amplifier until the signal level rises above the break point. Notice that the break point in this case occurs when the output rises above a certain level as opposed to the input on the previous circuit. Above the break point $D_{1}$ conducts, shunting $R_{f}$ by $R_{1}$ so that the gain decreases.

In practice logger circuit design requires considerable attention to detail. The circuits can operate between zero and positive levels or between zero and negative levels, depending upon the choice of suitable diodes and biasing. The need to use preferred value resistors causes further complications because this leads one to modify break points and slopes to get the best approximation to the curve consistent with practical resistor values.

## Colour correction

The colour masking equations used to compensate for the deficiencies in the colour of inks are well known and are derived from density measurements taken through red, green and blue filters. Thus, if one measures a sample of magenta ink through the three filters, one obtains three density readings. Two of these readings will be low because magenta ink is supposed to reflect red and blue light, stopping green, while the green filter will give a high density reading. One takes a complete set of readings, so that each ink is measured through each filter (see Table 2).

Table 2: ink density readings

|  | cyan ink |  | magenta ink |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | yellow ink |  |  |
| red filter | $C_{G}$ | $M_{B}$ | $Y_{F}$ |
| green fiter | $C_{G}$ | $M_{G}$ | $Y_{G}$ |
| blue filter | $C_{B}$ | $M_{B}$ | $Y_{B}$ |

Dividing these readings by the principal density readings $C_{R}, M_{G}$ and $Y_{B}$ yields the coefficients of a matrix representing the colour correction equations.

$$
\begin{gathered}
\left(\begin{array}{c}
D_{r} \\
D_{g} \\
D_{b}
\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{c}
C_{R} / C_{R}+M_{R} / M_{G}+V_{R} / V_{B} \\
C_{G} / C_{R}+M_{G} / M_{G}+V_{G} / V_{B} \\
C_{b} / C_{R}+M_{b} / M_{G}+V_{B} / Y_{B}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}
C \\
M \\
V
\end{array}\right) \\
\text { i.e. } \quad Y=A X
\end{gathered}
$$

The solution to this matrix is

$$
X=A^{-1} Y
$$

where $A^{-1}$ is an inversion matrix. We chose to use the matrix form: in preference to a simultaneous equation because of the relative ease with which one can solve matrices using computer time sharing services: the computer has a sub-routine which inverts the matrix from the simple instruction

$$
M A T R=I N V(Q)
$$

With a little further programming the computer will dutifully print out that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { cyan }=100 \% \text { red }-15 \% \text { green } \\
& \text { - } 1.5 \% \text { blue } \\
& \text { magenta }=110 \% \text { green }-39 \% \text { red } \\
& \text { yellow }=100 \% \text { blue }-10 \% \text { red } \\
&-60 \% \text { green }
\end{aligned}
$$

This particular solution applies to a specific

(a)


Fig. 6. (a) Circuit for producing a concave transfer function; (b) output/input characteristic of the circuit.

(a)


Fig. 7. (a) Circuit for producing a convex transfer function; (b) output/input characteristic of the circuit.

Fig. 8. Colour correction "masking" circuit.

set of density readings taken from a commonly used set of printing inks.

Thus if one inputs to the computer density readings for the printing inks used in the reproduction process, the computer will print out the required cyan, magenta and yellow mask percentages, which form the basis of the correction circuit design.

We could use the programme further to design the whole circuit, but unlike the nonlinear amplifiers, several of which we had to design, we designed the overall circuit once only. Here, the computer's strength lies in its ability to solve a difficult equation very quickly. The computer programme is also useful for comparing different inks: the
solutions to the equations shows quite clearly if the differences will have a significant effect on the masking amplifier design.

Fig. 8 depicts the circuit of the masking amplifier. The red, green and blue signals enter directly into the summing input of an operational amplifier, while correction signals pass to the non-inverting input of the operational amplifier to subtract from the main signal fed to the summing input.

If a monochrome signal enters a masking amplifier all three inputs will be identical. Adding or subtracting black signals from the black signal extraction amplifier makes the three outputs identical; thus in the cyan channel we have

$$
+100 \% R-15 \% G-15 \% B+30 \% C_{B}
$$

where $C_{B}$ is a clipped black signal. For a monochrome picture this becomes

$$
+100 \% B-15 \% B-15 \% B
$$

$$
+30 \% B=100 \%
$$

Similarly the percentages for the two other channels add up to 100 per cent. The clipped black ( $C_{B}$ ) signal ensures that when all three colours are present, together with black, the amount of coloured ink printed is reduced This technique of printing less coloured ink in very dark areas is called "under colour removal"

In practice, the cyan, magenta and yellow channels are not balanced to 100 per cent because an equal weight of ink does not give a very pure black. The actual weights required depend upon the type of ink used, but I 00 per cent cyan, 90 per cent magenta and 85 per cent yellow are typical percentage ink weights for acceptable grey scale reproduction.

The three output signals from the colour mask pass to the shadow density control (Fig. 5), whose function is to be able to adjust to accommodate a wide range of original transparencies. The control comprises a three-channel switched-gain amplifier, which sets the shadow reading on the shadow meter. The system ensures that solid ink is always printed somewhere
within a picture: this approach avoids producing flat desaturated prints even when the original transparencies have been poorly exposed.

The press correction curve is a non-linear amplifier, which compensates for the distortions which subsequent screening and printing processes introduce. The signals from this stage pass through a channel selector switch to the transmission circuits

## Black printer channel

In this colour system black is defined as the colour generated by equal signals from the red, green and blue channels, the three photomultipliers being set to give equal signal outputs from a monochrome transparency. The black signal extractor gives an output whenever all three channels represent equal quantities of ink, that is, a signal equal to the lowest input. The black signal output can be either clipped or unclipped, and in either form the signals can be used to correct the grey scale response of the colour correction circuits.

## Transmission circuits

Although the cyan, magenta, yellow and black signals are all available simultaneously, the IPC system transmits them sequentially. This mode of operation enables any newspaper office with a conventional telephoto receiver to receive the transmissions and reproduce colour. The four signals are switched one at a time to the range setting amplifier (Fig. 5), which linearly compresses the signals to allow for the limited range of subsequent processes. The screens the newspapers use determine the lower limit, while the modulation depth and detector circuits of the telephoto transmitter/receiver system fix the upper limit. In practice the lower limit is a density range in excess of 1.4 and an upper limit of 34 dB , which is equivalent to a density range of 1.7 . The range may be set anywhere between these two values, so we chose to use the optimum value of 1.55 .

The compressed signal finally passes to an


Complete prototype colour telephoto ransmitıer.
antilogging circuit, which converts density back to transmittance. The modulator matching amplifier ensures that the outgoing signal corresponds to -7 dB for the highlight and -36 dB for the shadow. (The transmitter can modulate down to -41 dB .)

## Test results

After the production prototype of this machine (see photograph) had yielded very satisfactory results in the laboratory, we installed it in the United Press International office at the Olympic Games Press Centre at Munich in 1972. Countries as far apart as France, Sweden, South Africa and Japan received separations daily of colour photographs of sporting events of interest to the particular countries.

The front cover of this issue of Wireless World shows a set of separations transmitted during the Olympic Games, when Mark Spitz had won five of his seven gold medals. For the purposes of the cover illustration the separations are shown reduced in size and in the actual colour components, cyan, magenta, yellow and black, used for printing a colour picture. As received on a telephoto receiver the separations are $10 \mathrm{in} \times 11 \mathrm{in}$ and, of course, in monochrome (black and white).

## Future developments

Following the technical success of the transmissions from Munich we are now considering a number of possible developments of this system. For instance, we could develop a high speed model capable of transmitting on 48 kHz lines. Also, if we used the 48 kHz network, we could transmit all four separations simultaneously to four separate receivers. As the present system uses a bandwidth of only 500 Hz there is sufficient capacity on the normal 3.5 kHz telephone circuits for simultaneous transmission of the three colours if we used single sideband transmissions.

As the present model is very large and must be stationary, its use is restricted to events such as the Olympic Games. We could develop a simple portable scanner, which could relay the signals through the large machine. To ensure that the portable unit was as simple as possible, we could arrange for the large machine to carry out all the colour corrections

However, very few newspapers are currently capable of printing news pictures in colour. Many papers incorporate preprinted colour advertising and colour studio pictures, but they do not have a full-colour printing capability and so cannot use separations received through colour telephoto. Therefore, future developments will depend upon the newspaper industry making wider use of colour.

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## New Audio Products <br> A selection of products introduced at Sonex time


#### Abstract

Audio exhibitions in hotels serve at least two fundamental needs - an opportunity to hear equipment in rooms that approximate domestic surroundings - in terms of size at least and an opportunity to communicate with people in the business. Sonex 73 was successful on these counts. But the fact that the venue is generally not in the public interest in terms of cost and convenience lends weight to the argument we heard from a number of exhibitors, that the trade viewing days should be extended, at the expense of public days. As such an exhibition seems an ideal place for professional engineers to exchange information, we'd like to see this further promoted ty a more formal presentation of recent research and development in audio and acoustics. This should take the form of a conference running parallel with the show and taking the place of the poorly attended panel discussions which were organized at this year's exhibition.


Amplifiers and tuners present relatively little difficulty in assessing what they can or can't do in terms of their performance. Even though ambiguities do exist in specifications - especially with the rated power output of an amplifier - an informed perusal of standardized specifications can yield an accurate guide to the capabilities of an amplifier or tuner circuit. This is not the case, however, with loudspeakers. Amplitude-frequency response and impedance curves give an indication of the performance when the speaker is fed with continuous signals (e.g. sine waves) but this is not representative of the performance under real or transient signal conditions. This suggests that additional information is necessary and indeed research being done by KEF Electronics indicates the importance of the phase-frequency response and the "decaying" frequency response obtained by a Fourier analysis of different time intervals of an input transient (unit impulse) signal. The significance of this information was tentatively realized by Harwood of the B.B.C. during the 1950s, but it is only recently that instrumentation providing digital analysis of transformed signals has become available and made speedy and accurate measurements possible.

In the light of this missing information and in coping with the poor acoustic environment in the hotel demonstration rooms for listening to reproduced music, it is impossible to select the "best" new speakers which appeared at the show. The following is however a cross-section of some of the more interesting designs which appeared.

The Jordan Watts Jupiter TLS is a transmission-line enclosure with two of the Jordan Watts full range modules used as drivers. Energy from the rear of the units is fed down and dissipated in a long folded tunnel which is lined with acoustically
absorbent material. In this case different types of energy absorbents are critically positioned so that the restriction to speaker movement is minimized. The aim of this is to improve the efficiency of the system, inherently low with the transmission line. The main specifications are stated to be frequency response 35 Hz to $22 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 4 \mathrm{~dB}$, distortion $<1 \%$ at 60 Hz and $<0.3 \%$ elsewhere, sensitivity is 10 W pink noise for 95 dB s.p.l. at 1 m , nominal impedance is $8 \Omega$ and the speaker is recommended for use with amplifiers having power outputs from 20 to 50 W continuous. Price of the Jupiter TLS is $£ 86$ each.

An extension to the transmission line principle is employed in the relatively new IMF ALS40 loudspeaker which is an "active line" system. The usual passive part of the transmission line is complemented by an active radiator driven via a suitable crossover network. The result is an extension in bass response and/or increased efficiency around the existing l.f. bandpass, while at other frequencies where a transition is occurring into non radiation from the "port" the system can be regarded as an acoustic dipole. A secondary advantage of the active line system is that below its operating range, the phase relationships are such that the low frequency drivers are acoustically coupled against diaphragm motion, thus acting as a high-pass filter to unwanted sub-sonic signals. The ALS40 measures approximately $13 \frac{1}{2} \times 13 \frac{1}{2} \times 26 \frac{1}{2}$ in, bass unit is an 8 in foam surround, subbass driver is an 8 in roll surround, midrange unit 5 in impregnated cone contained in a separate line, domed tweeter, efficiency measured via 40 W pink noise 1 m on axis produces 100 dB s.p.l., nominal impedance is $8 \Omega$.

Other speakers of interest were the Spendor BCIII: 12 in l.f. unit, 8 in midrange both with plastic cones, crossover points at $700 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3$ and 13 kHz , nominal
impedance $8 \Omega$, power rating 70 W peak programme - the Kmal Elf Major which is a damped reflex system incorporating an internal acoustic filter chamber. The drive units are 8 in rolled surround bass, 5 in mid range and 3 in tweeter, nominal impedance is $8 \Omega$ and power handling capacity is 22 W continuous. All the drivers in this system are standard units from Elac and EMI which have been specially "doctored" to meet the design requirements.

A new name at Sonex was Gale Electronics who introduced the GS401 infinite baffle system. The speaker is priced at $£ 81$ plus v.a.t. although production does not start until about the end of August. Nominal impedance is $4 \Omega$. Two 20 cm bass drivers are employed and are complemented by a 10 cm mid-range unit and a 19 mm dome tweeter. Fundamental resonance of the system is 50 Hz .

Another new loudspeaker is the soft dome speaker, SX-3, from JVC, which features improved directivity at h.f. i.e. with half-power points at $\pm 60^{\circ}$, at least, at 4 kHz . This is due, JVC say, to the soft dome vibrating in a radial way as opposed to the piston-like action of a hard dome. As well, the speaker frames are mounted outside the front panel with punched metal covers giving the unit a distinctive "functional" appearance.

Amplifier and tuner design seems to have reached a pinnacle in performance capabilities - at least for the time being. Circuit innovations are now few with new models being additions to established ranges of equipment rather than being "innovatory". The use of integrated circuits is becoming more widespread although i.cs are still very limited in their application to high performance audio circuits limited that is in their power handling capabilities and noise performance for preamplifiers. The IMF Galactron IC 10 (£298 + v.a.t.) is however a high quality amplifier which has a pre-amp using i.cs. Power output into $8 \Omega$ with both channels driven and switched to mono mode is $75 \mathrm{~W} \pm 0.5 \mathrm{~dB}$. Under the same driving conditions, distortion is less than $0.2 \%$ from $70 \mathrm{~W}-0.1 \mathrm{~W}(20 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{kHz})$. Damping factor with an $8 \Omega$ load is greater than 80 and hum and noise of the power amplifier below 80 W into $8 \Omega$ is better than 90 dB . Incidentally, the leaflet describing the Galactron states that the circuits contain 24 transistors, 34 diodes and "four to eight integrated circuits". Pardon?

The Metrosound ST40 is a new amplifier whose power output circuitry has been redesigned. Although we have no details of the circuitry at the time of going to press, a typical distortion figure of $0.05 \%$ indicates that an improvement has been made. Power output is 20 W continuous per channel into $8 \Omega$. Hum and noise are -65 dB on magnetic phono input. J. E. Sugden has a range of power amplifiers, control units, integrated amplifiers and tuners. Basic improvements have recently been made to the power amplifiers but this amounts to improvement in power ratings by an increase in voltage rail value - and corresponding output devices and bias


Voice-coil protection circuit in KEF speaker, model 5/1AC, uses voltage-controlled attenuator that is actuated when the mean power over 5 seconds reaches an unsafe level, as set by Vref.
arrangements. Noise performance has also been improved. The range includes the P51 power amplifier ( 45 W continuous into $8 \Omega$ per channel $£ 80.00$ ), C 51 control unit ( $£ 50.00$ ) and the A48 integrated amplifier ( 40 W continuous per channel £95.00).

A new model introduced at Sonex to the Goldring range of turntables was the GL78. It is a further development of the GL75, utilizing the same drive mechanism with variable speed adjustment between 30 and 86 r.p.m. Changes which have been made are the introduction of a new lighter headshell - the arm has adjustable stylus pressure from 0.5 to 5 gm -- and a restyling of the lift/lower lever for easier operation. Price is now $£ 69.90+$ v.a.t. and this includes the plinth and cover.
The latest deck from Philips, the GA407, is sold with the Philips GP400 "magneto dynamic" cartridge. It is a two-speed deck using a low-speed, synchronous motor and belt drive with a free-floating sub-chassis for turntable and arm to minimize wow and rumble. Two features not previously seen on Philips decks are automatic arm return to rest position and a stylus force meter which gives a direct reading.
A new name in audio amplifiers is EMI who introduced a 15 -watt per channel amplifier together with a decoder for SQ records. The amplifier, type 1515 , gives an harmonic distortion of $0.2 \%$ at full output ( 1 kHz , single channel), but is not quoted at lower levels, and costs $£ 54$.

The EMI SQ 1500 decoder has six-pole phase difference circuits with a phase difference of $90 \pm 10^{\circ}$ over the band 20 Hz to 18 kHz . The decoder, fitted with a fixed blend option and an "ambience" matrix switch for four-speaker playback of ordinary stereo records, uses a p.c. board announced at about the same time by the relatively new company of Tate Audio Transmission Equipment. They make a range of decoders based on two circuits, the single i.c. circuit, presumably similar to the circuit on page 116, March issue, with its $90 \pm 10^{\circ}$ phase difference over 100 Hz to 10 kHz . The wider band six-pole circuit has a typical distortion of $0.04 \%(0.08 \%$ at clipping) as opposed to $0.1 \%$ ( $1 \%$ at clipping) for the i.c. version. The i.c. version is available in four forms;
ready-built on a p.c. board for $£ 8.95$, with power supply, switches and volume control for $£ 16.95$; with cabinet kit for $£ 24.95$ and fully built for $£ 28.95$. The "high-definition" type is also available in these four versions, priced from $£ 12.95$ to £34.

Other recently announced SQ licensees are Thorn Consumer Electronics and Rogers Developments (making a total of 60 brand names now using SQ circuitry). The last-mentioned having showed their SQDl model at Sonex, incorporating the single-chip circuit power supply and 10-40 blend resistors for $£ 15$.

Sansui took the opportunity of Sonex to announce a licensing arrangement for the QS regular matrix and their Variomatrix technique of enhancing channel separation. Up until now only Sansui has been making QS equipment. The Variomatrix circuit is used now in the latest consumer decoder for four-speaker playback of stereo records in place of the phase modulator circuit previously used. The complete p.c. board for the QS Variomatrix circuit costs around $£ 3$ to manufacturers. It was interesting to see that Sansui have incorporated a "phase matrix" position on their equipment, which it is claimed decodes SQ records using two phase shift circuits, after sum and difference matrixing, instead of four.

There are now 19 recording companies using Sansui equipment, offering over 400 QS records under 24 labels, the latest to go Sansui being a French affiliate of Decca. There were 170 CD-4 records and 240SQ records at the start of 1973, with no doubt many more CD-4 to come now that WEA (Warner-Electra-Atlantic) is adopting the discrete system.

The quadraphonic equipment of Marantz, shown for the first time in the U.K., uses a Vari-matrix technique for playback of coded and uncoded records through four speakers. No doubt this will be similar to the National "acoustic field dimension" with variable blending, but it's not clear what the phase difference is between the rear speakers. On all five models (amplifiers and receivers) provision is also made for adding SQ decoders (type SQA-1 with front-to-back "logic", type SQA-2 with full logic) or any other decoder that may become appropriate in
the eyes of Marantz.
As well as selling SQ decoders, EMI Sound \& Vision Equipment also sell speakers specially built for surroundsound playback of stereo materials from a two-channel amplifier. Called LE3SS, they have double-wound voice coils in the drive units in an impedance ratio of 11:5. The voice coils of four speakers are connected in such a way that the signals $11 L+5 R$ and $11 R+5 L$ are fed to the front pair and $11 L-5 R$ and $11 R-5 L$ to the rear pair. The two voice coils can of course be connected in series giving a 16 -ohm impedance.
A new top-quality pickup cartridge is introduced by Shure. Called the V15III, it supersedes the V15II "Improved" and has improved amplitude-frequency response to the extent that the 2 or 3 dB droop in response at around 10 kHz with the V15II is completely removed. Laminating the magnetic core material and moving the h.f. resonance out from 20 to 23 kHz has meant that the new cartridges have an average deviation of only $\pm \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~dB}$ up to 20 kHz , though individual pickups can vary up to $\pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 20 kHz . Shure will not guarantee performance for CD-4 discs, but the new pickup is clearly much better suited than its predecessor, being 12 dB down at 30 kHz as opposed to 22 dB . The new pickup also features better trackability with lower consequent distortion.

Ortofon announce a new moving-coil cartridge with reduced equivalent stylus tip mass and light-weight cantilever to give a typical response that extends $\pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$ up to 50 kHz . Data for this SL15Q is similar to that of the SL15 MkII, except for the stylus which is a Shibata type.

## Extras

- The H10 and H20 dynamic headphones designed by Sonab of Sweden have respective frequency ranges of $20-14000 \mathrm{~Hz}( \pm 3 \mathrm{~dB})$ and $( \pm 2 \mathrm{~dB})$. Harmonic distortion at 120 dB s.p.l., and $1,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ is less than $1 \%$ for the H10 and less than $0.3 \%$ for the $\mathbf{H} 20$. This sound pressure level is the approximate threshold of pain so normal listening levels would not approach this.
- Five sound selector units are now produced by Tape Recorder Spares Ltd. Four units select either headphones or up to three pairs of loudspeakers. A fifth unit, HZ793, provides the facility to connect any of three signal sources to any three amplifiers.

A completely new range of amplifiers, tuners and receivers is launched by Armstrong. The new Series 600 which is visually very attractive, comprises the stereo amplifier with 40 watts of continuous sine wave power per channel (both channels driven) combined with very low distortion $(0.08 \%$ at 1 kHz all power levels), with electronic switching in the preamplifier eliminating switch clicks ( $£ 76$ ). An f.m. tuner has a sensitivity of 1 $V(30 \mathrm{~dB} \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{n})$, distortion of less than $0.2 \%$, a $38-\mathrm{kHz}$ rejection of 50 dB , and a capture ratio of 1.75 dB .

# TV Information Service 

Signal format for B.B.C. system

The B.B.C. has decided a signal format (see diagram) for Ceefax, its proposed television broadcasting information service announced last year, and field trials of the system will be started this summer. Ceefax will enable television receivers to display on demand information such as weather reports, mororing and other travel news. sports results, stock market prices, ctc., in fact anything which can be shown by the written word. The information - rows of alpha-numeric characters -- will be transmitted by a binary digital code within the normal television signal, and the received data will be processed by a separate unit connected to the television set. In this unit the data will be stored as different "pages" of information which can be up-dated as additional signals are received. A selector will enable the viewer to choose any of 32 stored "pages" for display on the receiver screen at any time he wishes.

Data signals corresponding to the 32 "pages" of information, will be inserted on lines in the television field-blanking period for transmission. The receiver unit will contain data-extracting and decoding circuits as well as data-storage and character-generation circuits which will enable the pages of information to be stored and displayed in alpha-numeric form on the receiver's picture tube. Storage will be necessary at the receiver because the rate of transmission of message data in the system is relatively low ( $11.2 \mathrm{kbits} / \mathrm{sec}$ ), requiring about 15 seconds to transmit 32 "pages". The


Receiver displaving a "page" of information, with the page selector unit on the right.
television display, on the other hand. requires a new television ficld (or "page") every $1 / 50$ th of a second, and storage will be used to accumulate the received data so that it may be read out repeatedly to "refresh" the telcvision display. The data rate is. of course, more than adequate for the transmission of the intelligence itself.

The minimum required storage capacity in the receiver is thus one page of information: this demands a data storage capacity of 5376 bits.

A Ceefax page comprises 24 horizontal rows of characters. each row containing 32 characters and spaces. Twenty picture lines are
allowed for each row including the space between rows.

A new character row will be transmitted every television field. which means that the 32 "pages" will require 15.36 seconds for transmission. The rows of different pages will be transmitted in an interleaved sequence and. whenever a viewer selects a page. data will begin to be "written" into the store of his receiver and he will see the page begin to form, row-byrow, until it is completed after 15.36 seconds.

The signal transmission during each television field-blanking period will use the adjacent television lines numbered 13 and 14 on even fields and the adjacent lines 326 and 327 on odd fields. The signal consists of the characters in coded form, together with coded "addressing", protection and synchronizing data pulses.

Each character is transmitted as a 7 bit code word plus one parity bit for protection, making 8 bits per character. Non-return-to-zero coding is employed. using "raised-cosine" pulses with approximately 4.5 MHz bandwidth. Each television line has a capacity of 235 bits of data and it will be seen from the diagram that the two lines carry between them 32 characters, comprising the transmission of data for one complete character row every television field.

The "clock start" and "address" blocks are also shown, together with blocks for clocktime information to be inserted in slowly changing information "pages",

Signal format for Ceefax: Address words are shown top left. Data pulse at $70 \%$ level corresponds to " 1 "; at $0 \%$ level to " 0 ". Figures in brackets are mumbers of
block


## News of the Month

## P.C.M. for Post Office trunks

As a first step in developing a digital information trunk network, and preparing for new facilities, the Post Office has placed contracts with STC, GEC and Plessey to develop pulse code modulation digital transmission systems. At present the telecommunication "highways" between centres of population carry thousands of messages -- telephone conversations, TV and radio signals, and computer data - as signals in analogue form. They are kept separate by sending them at different frequencies - the technique known as frequency-division multiplexing (f.d.m.). With p.c.m., as is well known, the messages are converted to digital signals and messages transmitted over the same bearer circuit are kept separate by time-division multiplexing slotting the pulses from one source into the intervals between the pulses of others.

Digital systems can provide the same quality of performance as the present analogue systems and may in future do this at greatly reduced cost. They allow much simpler signalling systems to be used for routeing calls through the network, simplify the multiplexing of different signals and, for complicated signals for TV and viewphone for example, permit greater exploitation of the transmission medium. In addition they pave the way for the introduction of cheaper, quicker, switching systems using methods operating directly on the digital information under stored programme control.

The decision to develop a digital system for the U.K. trunk network stems from the results of feasibility studies carried out for the Post Office by GEC and Plessey in 1970-71. These studies confirmed that it is technically possible to introduce a digital system using the standard $1.2 / 4.4 \mathrm{~mm}$ coaxial cable pairs now in use for multichannel f.d.m. transmissions.

Under development contracts, STC, GEC and Plessey will design, develop, manufacture and install systems transmitting information at a rate of 120 M bit/s and compatible with the Post Office's existing 12 MHz analogue system for $1.2 / 4.4 \mathrm{~mm}$ cables, using the same repeater spacing, housing and power feed arrangements. For this purpose, the Post Office has set aside spare coaxial pairs in
its trunk cables between Guildford, Portsmouth and Southampton. Each system will be capable of transmitting up to 1,680 telephone conversations simultaneously by p.c.m./t.d.m. They should be ready for Post Office evaluation early in 1975. The European Committee for Post and Telegraphs has been discussing standards for p.c.m. for a number of years and recently decided that 30 -channel systems should be one of the recommended standards. The British Post Office is now adopting this recommendation.

## Defect inspection device

The Central Research Laboratory of Hitachi. Japan, has developed a recognition device, the "HIVIP, Mk 5", that automatically detects, through optical pattern recognition, defects in complicated patterns such as i.c., l.s.i. and printed circuit boards. Development of this device makes possible an unmanned optical
inspection process and, as a result, a big improvement in the reliability of products. The device is made up of a TV camera, a defect recognition device, and a colour display unit, which indicates the result of the recognition (see photo). When the object to be inspected is placed within view of the TV camera lens, the camera picks up the image and sends it to the defect recognition device which checks the image signal and determines whether there is any defect or not, examines its size and automatically rejects the defective product.
The defect recognition device can also pick out only the defective part from the image and show it on the display unit. One method of automating this process was devised by comparison with a normal pattern (dictionary) that had already been memorized. However, this method requires massive information storage, and positioning problems of input pattern arise in setting it to the normal pattern. Therefore operational costs and difficulties increase. On the other hand, the Hitachi defect inspection device does not memorize the normal pattern but uses a reference-free method of defect recognition. A defect-free normal pattern is generated by real-time mode from the input pattern itself picked up by the TV camera, and defects are detected automatically from the difference between input and generated standard patterns. There is no need for a large memory unit or positioning process, and a special purpose processor that operates on real time ( $1 / 60 \mathrm{sec}$. per image) has been produced as the defect recognition device. With this device, it is possible to automate the old visual inspection method and completely eliminate errors. Also, since there is no process for memorizing a normal pattern, the device starts operating immediately, even with a new pattern.

Automatic defect inspection system developed by Hitachi. The device automatically detects, by optical recognition, defects in complicated patterns. The defective part is displayed on a TV screen.



Receiving and transmitting aerials of telecommunications equipment designed by Page Communications Engineers which links the copper mining operations on the island of Bougainville with the mainland of New Guinea.

## Telephone telemetry

A transmitter and receiver developed by Danica Elektronik of Denmark enable e.c.g. and other physiological and physical data to be transmitted along ordinary telephone lines or by radiotelephones, such as may be used in ambulances.

The two small instruments, mains or battery powered, make up an f.m. carrier system with a carrier frequency of 1700 Hz and a frequency deviation of $\pm 15 \%$. They are directly coupled to the telephone line to reduce noise. When connected, a switch on the front panel selects between normal telephone operation and carrier transmission.

The input e.c.g. amplifier in the transmitter is a balanced high input impedance amplifier with a high common-mode rejection ratio. The amplifier output modulates the frequency of an oscillator, which acts as a carrier fed to the telephone line via a line amplifier and an output transformer. In the receiver the signal from the balanced input amplifier is band-pass filtered, before it is fed to the f.m. discriminator, to reduce noise. The demodulated signal is fed to an oscilloscope, which has provision for direct read-out of the patient's pulse rate, and to the recorder output socket. The timebase is calibrated for pulse rate read-out at 25 mm per second.

## Stereophony pilot tone

With the increasing number of stereophonic programmes, the B.B.C. has been considering its policy in relation to the transmission of the pilot tone which is
part of the stereo signal. Stereophonic receivers are usually designed so that when the pilot tone is present they switch automatically to the stereo mode and indicate that this has taken place.

Certain programmes, particularly those made up of recorded items, contain both stereophonic and monophonic contributions, and with these cases it is not practical to switch the pilot tone on or off between individual items. On the other hand, it is not desirable to transmit the pilot tone when purely monophonic programmes are being transmitted.

The B.B.C. has therefore decided on the following policy: During stereo programmes (or programmes containing stereo items) the pilot tone will be transmitted. Such programmes will normally be shown as "stereo" in the Radio Times. During wholly monophonic programmes of substantial duration the pilot tone will be switched off.

This practice will be applied to Radios 2,3 and 4, as well as to Radio 1 when that programme is transmitted on v.h.f. It will not be possible, however, to apply it immediately to the Radio 3 transmitters serving the Midlands and the North.

## Aircraft tactical simulator

An advanced flight simulator is being "flown" by trainee and experienced Nimrod crews after hand-over of the equipment by the manufacturers, Marconi Space and Defence Systems. Built as the first of a number to be supplied to RAF Strike Command, the simulator will reproduce for twelve trainee crewmen all operational facets of the Nimrod, which is
an anti-submarine and maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

The system is used to simulate comprehensive anti-submarine exercises, with all ship, submarine and aircraft inputs, at a fraction of the cost of the real thing and in secrecy. All operational equipment, including the radar, sonar, electronic counter-measures, tactical navigation and weapon delivery systems, is fitted in a replica Nimrod, to reproduce actual missions, even down to engine noise and low-level buffeting. The same exercise can be repeated indefinitely to fix in the minds of the crew the procedures necessary for what is acknowledged to be a most difficult form of defence.

## Aid in spinal therapy

A miniature version of a Swedishdeveloped force transducer normally used for heavy industrial measurements has been successfully applied to the treatment of lateral curvature of the spine. A tiny version of the ASEA "Pressductor" sensor was implanted in a stainless steel distraction rod used in the surgical treatment of 12 patients with idiopathic scoliosis - abnormal spine curvature at Gothenburg University Hospital, Sweden.

The patients, none of whom reacted unfavourably to the rod's presence, carried out isometric training during the post-operative period. The system allowed the axial load on the distraction rod to be measured during these exercises.

## Police computer aid

Glasgow City Police have on order what is claimed to be the biggest and most advanced computerized information system in Europe. Based on an Argus 500 Computer, it is designed to aid the police in their work in the Glasgow area. As well as providing a control room, it will have a message routeing system and a patrol and traffic car location and status service. The system will be suitable for extension when the Glasgow City Police become part of the Strathclyde Regional Police in 1975. At this stage the Glasgow project is experimental. When it is proved it will be handed over by the Home Office as an operational system.

In the control room each operator will have two visual displays. One will show the resources available to deal with an emergency, and the other, using a display with optical rear projection, will show the location and status of available forces superimposed on a map of the area. This display will be kept up to date by reports from a small push-button control box in each patrol vehicle. An automatic teleprinter message routeing facility will replace the manual procedures of the old teleprinter network. The facility is capable of covering the whole of the Strathclyde police area.

The police computer will provide information to a local authority computer. This information can then be used for statistical surveys and management and resources planning. For immediate access to criminal records, the computer is capable of being interfaced to a police national computer at Hendon.

## Drawing by computer

An experimental computer system controlled by a paper "keyboard" has been developed by IBM at Yorktown Heights, New York, to convert freehand sketches into fully proportioned drawings. Placed at random on an "electronic tablet", a sketch and the paper keyboard are simply touched with an electronic pen to enter graphic or alphanumeric data for processing by the computer.

The experimental system is designed to speed the creation, filing and updating of large volumes of graphic material such as maps and engineering drawings. A rough drawing, no matter how much out of scale, can be automatically turned into a finished product a few moments after the assignment of proper dimensions. The paper keyboard, through which the automated computer functions are controlled, can be shifted from one place on the "tablet" to another to suit the user's working needs.

## European weather forecast centre

Within the framework of co-operation in scientific and technological research, eighteen European countries have agreed to set up in Britain a European

One stage in the manufacture of the new M9 memory units used in Honeywell's series 2000 computers. Dual-in-line i.cs are being assembled to a printed circuit board prior to flow soldering.


Meteorological Computing Centre. The objective of the centre will be to carry out research into forecasting for periods of four to ten days ahead and eventually to produce routine forecasts for these periods for issue to the national meteorological services in Europe and beyond.

The centre will require the use of a very powerful computer and, for this reason, it will be established initially at the Bracknell Met. office and will make use of an IBM $360 / 195$ computer recently acquired by this establishment and recognized to be one of the fastest in the world. The centre will later move to new accommodation to be built at Shinfield Park, Reading, and will be equipped with the most modern computing and communications facilities available. The centre will be manned by an international staff of about 120 scientists, systems analysts and data processing staff.

The Meteorological Office at Bracknell has been carrying out research into medium term weather forecasting for a number of years. To a great extent this effort will be merged into that of the new European centre.

## IEA Exhibition - 1974

The tenth International Instruments, Electronics and Automation Exhibition will be held at Oympia, London, from 13th to 17th May 1974. The exhibition, which takes place biennially, was last held in 1972 when more than 700 companies from 22 countries were represented. The exhibition forms part of a regular cycle of international exhibitions presented in different years in Dusseldorf, Paris and Milan. Exhibits eligible for inclusion will be: all classes of professional and industrial electronics; laboratory, scientific and process control instrumentation; machine tool controls and automation equipment; computers and data handling equipment; electronic and other components, materials, services and ancillary equipment.

## Gramophone golden jubilee

Congratulations to the music and audio monthly magazine Gramophone on reaching its 50th birthday! To commemorate the occasion, the April issue contains - as its front section - a replica of the first edition published in 1923.

## Higher power Gunn diodes

The microwave output power obtainable from Gunn diode oscillators is usually in milliwatts - being limited by low conversion efficiencies of typically a few per cent and by problems of heat removal from the active region of the devices. Now Mullard, in their research laboratories at Salfords, Surrey, have produced experimental devices giving c.w. powers of 1 watt at $3 \%$ efficiency in the 7 GHz region. This performance has been achieved by attention to the quality of the cathode contact and of the heat sink the main factors limiting output power.

A. F. Bulgin are celebrating their golden jubilee, and marking the occasion is the above advertisement for their first product, a battery switch.

For improvement of contact the technique adopted has been to optimize each of the processing stages - GaAs surface preparation, evaporation conditions, metal composition, definition of contact areas and alloying of the contact - in terms of their effect on the saturation current, as determined from the short-pulse currentvoltage characteristic, and on the structure of the metal-GaAs interface. Improvement of heat-sinking has been obtained by alloying the devices to the pin of the package by means of an intermediate alloy layer. Devices made using the metal contacts and alloyed heat sinks are claimed to have manufacturing advantages, to be highly reproducible and to have microwave properties comparing favourably with those of epitaxially contacted devices.

## Briefly

Coals to Newcastle. Bi-Pre-Pak have sold $1,000,000$ transistors to the inscrutable dealers of Hong Kong.
Uhimate in accuracy? The absolute accuracy spec. of the Hewlett-Pack ard 5061 A cesium beam primary frequency standard has been improved from $\pm 1$ part in $100,000,000,000$ to $\pm 7$ parts in 1,000,000,000,000!
Montreux TV symposivm. The eighth biennnial International Television Symposium and associated engineering exhibition to be held in Montreux opens on May 18th for a week. One hundred papers from 12 countries are listed for presentation.
An audio department store is to be officially opened by Lindair in Tottenham Court Road, London, at the beginning of May. An important inclusion is a 2000 sq.ft. studio in the basement for stereo and 4 -channel demonstrations.

# A Digital Multimeter 

## 3 - Construction

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

In the previous parts of this article I have described the various units which go to make the multimeter. In this section I will describe how they are connected together and how to set them up.

The interconnexion of the blocks occasioned a lot of thought as I was torn between the "minimum knobs" philosophy and the desirability of making it possible to subdivide the instrument into its major functions. The latter consideration won so that, in its final form, the instrument has two function switches, one for the Frequency/Time/Period (FTP) section and the other for the Voltage/Resistance/Capacitance (VRC) section, each having a position which transfers control to the other. Similarly there are two range switches. Actually, this decision to split
the instrument into two sections simplified the switches and wiring considerably and, I feel sure, reduced many of the problems which otherwise might have arisen. Not the least of these is ensuring that the wiring is correct.

Table 1 shows how the function switches are arranged. If the FTP function only is required, all that is necessary is to delete the VRC position on $S_{2}$, reducing this to a three position switch, to delete $S_{4}$ and to permanently wire the connexions required for $S_{4}$ position 4. Ĩ practice this will only be $S_{4 \mathrm{a}}$; the other connexions will not be needed as the relevant sections will have been omitted anyway. A similar exercise could be carried out if only the VRC functions were required.

The wiring of $S_{2}$ is not at all critical

## TABLE 1 Function switches

FTP

| Function | VRC <br> Position 1 | Frequency <br> Position 2 | Time Position 3 | Period <br> Position 4 | Wafer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| time base selector | 100kHz(7.1) | Time Range Switch ( $S_{1 \mathrm{a}}$ ) |  |  | $S_{2 a}$ |
| control logic | 5,2 | 5.3 | 5,2 | 5.2 | $S_{z} \mathrm{~b}$. |
| control logic | 5.11 | 5.11 | 5.11 | - | $S_{2} \mathrm{C}$. |
| control logic | 5,10 | - | 5.10 | - | $S_{2} \mathrm{~d}$. |
| control logic | 5.4 | 5,4 | - | 5.4 | $S_{2} \mathrm{e}$. |
| decimal point (FTP) | - | $S_{\text {,b }}$ wiper | $S_{\text {, }}$ wiper | $S_{10}$ wiper | $S_{2}{ }_{\text {f }}$ |
| decimal point (VRC) | $S_{4}{ }^{\text {b }}$ wiper | - | - | - | $S_{2} \mathrm{~g}$. |

Connexion notation - first number in brackets refers to Fig. No. in Part 2 of the article. second number to pin number on this diagram. E.g. $(5,2)$ refers to one input to gate $1 C_{\text {a }}$ is Fig. 5. Part 2.

## VRC

| Function | Voltmeter Position 1 | R Position 2 | C <br> Position 3 | FTP <br> Position 4 | Wafer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| control logic/decimal point FTP | 5.12 | 5.12 | 5.12 | $S_{29}$ wiper | $S_{\text {ta }}$ |
| decimal point VRC | $S_{\text {sa }}$ wiper | - | $S_{s b}$ wiper | - | $S_{4} \mathrm{~b}$ |
| polarity indicators/A.D store | to lamps | - | 9.4 | 9.4 | $S_{4 \mathrm{C}}$ |
| capacitance meter (store) | 10.9 | 10.9 | - | 10.9 | $S_{4 d}$ |
| voltmeter gain | $S_{34}$ wiper | - | - | - | $S_{\text {se }}$ |
| R/C current selector | - | $S_{5 \mathrm{c}}$ wiper | $S_{5 d}$ wiper | - | $S_{4 i}$ |
| C/R input | - | $S_{4}{ }^{(2)}$ | 10.6 | - | $S_{s 9}$ |
| input amplifier (8,5) | $S_{50}$ wiper | $S_{49}(2)$ | E | E | $S_{4 h}$ |

as the leads to it only carry d.c. However, the wires to $S_{4 e, f, g, h}$ are more sensitive. Hum pick up on $S_{4 \mathrm{e}}$ or $S_{4 \mathrm{~h}}$ could be a problem, so it is advisable to keep these away from the power supply section. Stray shunt capacitance or resistance could prove troublesome on $S_{4 \mathrm{ffg}}$, and, to connect the capacitance-measuring circuits, short stiff wires should be used, positioned so that they are not close to any other wires or to the chassis. If possible, use a low-leakage switch wafer.

The functions of the two range switches are shown in Table 2. The wiring of the FTP range switch is non-critical. It will be seen that the first position of this switch, when used for frequency measurement, is called "Test" and is used to check the filaments of the indicators. With the switch in this position, the indicators should all show " 8 ". This position would imply that there is an effective full scale range of 199 MHz , which is well beyond the capabilities of the counter, so it is as well to inhibit its use in this way. Range indication is accomplished almost entirely by decimal point switching. I chose this method as it reduces the sign-writing on the front panel considerably!

The VRC range switch has a noncritical section, $S_{\text {sa,b,c,d, }}$ and a section sensitive to hum pick up and strays, $S_{5}$ e.d. In order to reduce these effects to a minimum, I mounted the input amplifier ( $T r_{1}$, $T r_{2}, I C_{1}$ and associated components (Fig. 8 in Part 2) on the back of $S_{5}$ adjacent to $S_{5 e, d}$, next to the a.v./d.v. switch $S_{6}$, and the input socket. The earth returns for $R_{3}, C_{3}$ and the wiper of $S_{4 \mathrm{e}}$ are taken to the input socket earth to reduce errors which might be caused by earth currents. The attenuator resistors $R_{1}, R_{2}, R_{3}, R_{8}$ and $R_{9}$, determine the range-switching accuracy of the voltmeter, and fortunately, it is the ratios rather than the absolute values which are important. If at all possible, these resistors should be of the metal-film variety to achieve the best stability. Wire-wound resistors could be used but even with "non-inductive" windings the residual inductance would probably limit the upper frequency cut-off to a few kilohertz.

The "Prime" switch is used only for time measurement and should preferably be biased in the "off" position.

In general the interconnexion of the boards within the instrument is not critical but it is as well to observe the following precautions:

1. Wire the supply lines to each board with separate leads from the power supply so that there are no common supply paths. 2. Wire the earths separately to a common point at the junction of the chassis, centre tap of mains transformer, and input smoothing capacitors. The 5 V earth should, of course go to its own stabilizer earth point.
2. Do not screen the FP input lead as this will impair the sensitivity at high frequencies. 4. Keep the lead from the capacitance


Fig 1. Interconnexion diagram.
measuring input terminal as short as pos sible to reduce strays. (My own prototype has a constant error of 24 pF due to strays.)

It is most convenient to build the circuits on matrix board such as "Lektrokit" or "Veroboard". Avoid the types which have copper strips as it is extremely difficult to work out suitable wiring runs! Most of the components used in the instrument are generally available. The polarity indicator, however, had to be home-made as I could not find a suitable incandescent indicator. The construction of this indicator is shown in Fig. 2.

Before finally wiring the power supply to the other parts of the instrument it is as well to check that it is functioning correctly. To do this, connect a $220 \Omega 1 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor from the +12 V rail to earth and another from the -12 V rail to earth. A $10 \Omega 5 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor should be connected from

TABLE 2 Range switches
FTP

| Function | $\begin{gathered} \text { Position } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Position } \\ 2 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Position } \\ 3 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Position } \\ 4 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Position } \\ 5 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Position } \\ 6 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Wafer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| frequency | test |  |  | kHz |  |  |  |
| time |  | milliseconds |  |  | seconds |  |  |
| period |  | milliseconds |  |  | seconds |  |  |
| select time |  | 10 kHz | 1 kHz | 100 Hz | 10 Hz | 1 Hz | Sia |
| base | 100 kHz |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| dec. point frq. | - | 4.15 | 4.14 | 4.16 | 4.15 | 4,14 | Sib |
| dec. point T/P | 4.15 | 4.16 | - | 4.15 | 4.16 | - | $S_{\text {Ic }}$ |

## VRC

| Function | Position 1 | Position 2 | Position 3 | Position 4 | Wafer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| voltage | mV |  | V |  |  |
| resistance |  |  |  |  |  |
| capacitance |  |  |  |  |  |
| dec. point volts | 4.16 | 4.14 | 4.15 | 4.16 | S5a |
| dec. point R/C |  | 4.16 | 4.15 | 4.14 | S5b |
| current source (R) | 10.2(1 $\mu \mathrm{A})$ | $10.3(10 \mu \mathrm{~A})$ | 10,4(100 $\mu \mathrm{A})$ | $10.5(1 \mathrm{~mA})$ | S5c |
| current source (C) | $10.5(1 \mathrm{~mA})$ | $10.4(100 \mu \mathrm{~A})$ | $10.3(10 \mu \mathrm{~A})$ | $10.2(1 \mu \mathrm{~A})$ | S5d |
| voltmeter input att. | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.4 | S5e |
| voltmeter gain | 8.6 | - | 8.6 | - | S5f |

the +5 V rail to earth. These resistors simulate the operational loads on the regulators. Monitor the +12 V rail and set it to be correct $\pm 1 \%$ using $R_{8}$ in Fig. 3 of Part 2. The negative rail should now be $-12 \mathrm{~V} \pm 1 \%$ provided that $R_{10}$ and $R_{11}$ have been selected to be equal. The 100 Hz ripple on these rails should be less than 2 mV p-p. The voltage on the 5 V rail should be correct to within $\pm 5 \%$ and the ripple should be less than 50 mV p-p. Excessive ripple will indicate either that the input voltage to the regulator is too low or that $C_{3}$ is not completely effective. When it is ascertained that the power supply is working correctly, wiring should be completed and the instrument is now ready for setting up.

## Setting up

This is far less difficult than the complexity of the instrument would suggest. The test gear required falls into two categories, setting up and calibration.
The former consists of the following: an oscilloscope (preferably d.c. to 6 MHz ), an Avo or equivalent meter, a signal source, $(1 \mathrm{kHz}, 10 \mathrm{kHz}, 50 \mathrm{kHz})$, and a d.v. source ( 1.5 V -nominal torch battery). Calibration equipment includes: a frequency standard, a known d.v. source, known $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ resistors, and a known capacitor $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. The standards need not necessarily be accurate provided that their values are known accurately

It is most convenient to start by checking the FTP aspects of the instrument as this section should require the least adjustment. Pin numbers, for example 7,2, refer to the Fig. number in Part 2 of the article (7) followed by the pin on that diagram (2).

Master clock This circuit, shown in Part 2, Fig. 7, should be tested first as it provides the timing signals for the rest of the instrument. Set the switches as follows: VRC function switch $S_{4}$ to "FTP".
FTP function switch $S_{2}$ to "Frequency". FTP range switch $S_{1}$ to position 1.

The clock output at 7,7 should be an approximate square wave with an amplitude of 5 V p-p and a frequency of 100 kHz . If standard frequency source is available, the crystal frequency may be set to precisely 100 kHz by adjusting $C_{1}$. The best way to do this is to apply the standard to the $y$ input of the oscilloscope and the crystal oscillator output to the $x$ input and to set the $x$ and $y$ gains to produce a Lissajous figure, adjusting $C_{1}$, to give a stationary picture. The standard need not necessarily be 100 kHz ; any integral multiple or sub-multiple, provided that it is not more than 10 times, can be used. Using this method it is possible to set the frequency to be correct to within less than 0.1 Hz ( 1 part in $10^{6}$ ). If no frequency standard is available, the best approach is to replace $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ by a fixed 50 pF capacitor, when the crystal frequency will be correct to within about $\pm 3 \mathrm{~Hz}$.


Fig 2. Polarity indicator construction.


Fig 3. Counter waveforms.


Fig 4. Timer waveforms.


Fig 5. Period meter waveforms.

Set the FTP range switch successively to its other five positions and check that, at each step, the frequency of the output at 7,7 decreases by a factor of ten.

Input Wave Shaper. Monitor the output at 6,2 on the oscilloscope. Connect a signal of approximately 100 mV to the Counter/ Period input. If possible the signal should have a frequency of the order of 1 MHz but 1 kHz can be used, provided that the oscilloscope has a trigger level control. The output should consist of positivegoing pulses having an amplitude of 5 V and a width of approximately 170 ns . If a low test frequency is used, it will be virtually impossible to see these pulses on the oscilloscope screen because of the small duty cycle. However, by adjusting the trigger level control, it should be possible to detect that the output is present even if it cannot be measured by setting the trigger level so that, when the signal is present, the time-base just triggers. When the signal is disconnected, the time-base should no longer fire.

Decoder/display. There are really no tests which can easily be carried out on this section. The indicators can be checked to ensure that all of the segments are wired to the decoders (SN 7447N) and that they all light by setting the FTP range switch to position 1 and the FTP function switch to "Frequency". All segments should now light except for the most significant digit which may be 1 or 0 . This test, however, only shows that all wires are connected but not that they are necessarily correct. Crossed connexions only show up later when indecipherable digits appear!

Counter, store, control logic and timer control. This should be tested by checking each of the three functions, Frequency, Timer, Period.

Frequency. Set the FTP range switch $S_{1}$ to position 6 and apply a signal of approximately 1 kHz at a level of about 1V to the Counter/Period input. The waveforms should be as shown in Fig. 3 and the display should show the frequency in the form 1.000 kHz . The waveforms at the collectors of $\operatorname{Tr}_{1}, \operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{5}$ will probably not be discernible on the oscilloscope but their presence may be verified by checking that they trigger the time-base as described above.

Timer. Set the FTP function switch to "Time", the FTP range switch to position 4 and depress the "Prime" switch $S_{3}$. The conditions shown at " 1 " in Fig. 4 should then exist. Connect the "Run" input to ground and check that the conditions are as shown at "2" in Fig. 4. Connect the "Stop" input to ground, when the display should show the time interval between earthing the two inputs.

Period. The method of checking this function is similar to that used for checking the frequency counter except that it is advisable to use a low input frequency such as


Fig 6. Setting frequency response using a square wave.

50 Hz and to set the range switch to position 2. The display should show 020.0 . The waveforms are shown in Fig. 5.

As shown above, there is virtually no setting up required for the FTP functions, only checking that it all works! However, if any function does not work, suspect the wiring first of all as this is the main cause of non-working digital circuits. I know that this should be obvious but the wiring here is slightly more complex than usual, mainly because of its quantity and the fact that it is interconnexion between similar "black boxes". If the wiring is correct, however, and things still refuse to work,
the only course is to check waveforms throughout the circuit working methodically from the inputs to the outputs.

The VRC functions of the instrument require a great deal more setting up as they rely on linear rather than digital circuits for their operation.

Voltmeter. Set the controls as follows: FTP function switch $S_{2}$ to "VRC", VRC function switch $S_{4}$ to "V", VRC range switch $S_{5}$ to position 2, and d.v./a.v. selector $S_{6}$ to "a.v.". Short the input connexions, and set $R_{15}$ (Fig. 8, Part 2) to mid-travel.

Monitor the voltage at 8,10 and adjust $R_{5}$ so that the voltage at this point is as near to zero as possible. Short point 8,10 to earth. Monitor point B, (Fig. 9 Part 2) with the oscilloscope and adjust $R_{11}$ so that the amplitude of the triangle waveform seen at this point is as near to zero as possible but still present. (This compensates for the offset voltage of $I C_{4}$.) Remove the short circuit from 8,10 and re-adjust $R_{s}$ so that the triangle amplitude is again as small as possible but still present. Set the a.v./d.v. switch to d.v. and apply a direct voltage of between 1 and 1.9 V to the input. Note the reading on the display ( $x$ ). Reverse the polarity of the input and note the reading on the display ( $-y$ ). Adjust $R_{15}$ (Fig. 8) so that the display shows $(x+y) / 2$. Repeat these two steps until $x=-y$.

Apply a known voltage of between 1 and 1.9 V to the input and set $R_{2}$ Fig. 9 so that the instrument indicates the correct voltage.

The waveforms to be expected in the circuit of Fig. 9 are shown in Fig. 9a.


Fig. 7. Interior of multimeter. The two 'opened-out"' boards are the resistance/ capacitance circuit (left) and the power supply stabilizers. The three boards in the chassis are, left to right, voltmeter, control logic and master clock/input shaper.

| Semiconductors |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Power Supply |  |  |  |
| $T_{\text {d }}$ | BC109 | $T_{r 7}$ | 2N2904 |
| $T_{r 23,5}$ | BCY72 | $D_{14}$ | 1N4001 |
| $T_{r 4}$ | BC108 | $D_{5}$ | BZY886V8 |
| $T_{r 6}$ | 2N2218 | $I C_{1}$ | LM309K |
| Display |  |  |  |
| $T_{\text {rio }}$ | BC108 | $I C_{1}$ | SN7447N |
| Indicator FUJI MINITRON 3015F (supplier |  |  |  |
| Counter, store, control logic, timer control |  |  |  |
| $T_{\text {r4-5 }}$ | BSX20 | $I C_{1,4}$ | SN7403AN |
| $I C_{2,5,6,14}$ | SN7400N | $I C_{3}$ | SN7472N |
| $I C_{7,8,9}$ | SN7490N | $I C_{10}$ | SN7473N |
| $I C_{11-13}$ | SN7475N |  |  |
| Input wave shaper |  |  |  |
| $T_{r_{1,2,3}}$ | BC108 | $T_{r 4,5,6}$ | BSX20 |
| Master clock and divider |  |  |  |
| $T_{r 1,2}$ | BC108 | $T_{r 3}$ | BSX20 |
| $I C_{\text {t-5 }}$ | SN7490N | gates | DTL946 |
| Input amplifier, rectifier and polarity indicator |  |  |  |
| $T_{r 1,2}$ | TIS68 | $I C_{1,3}$ | $\mu \mathrm{A} 741$ |
| $T_{r 3,4,5}$ | BC108 | $I C_{2}$ | N5556 |
| $T_{r 6}$ | BCY72 | $D_{1,2}$ | 1N4148 |
| A.-to-d. converter |  |  |  |
| $T_{r 8,9}$ | BF244B | IC ${ }_{4}$ | $\mu \mathrm{A} 741$ |
| $T_{F T 10,11}$ | BC107 | $I C_{5}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SL702C9 } \\ & \text { (Plessey) } \end{aligned}$ |
| $T_{r 12,15}$ | BSX 20 | IC ${ }_{6}$ | SN7400N |
| $T_{r 13,14}$ | 2N2894 | $I C 7_{7}$ | NS7402 |
| $T_{r 16}$ | BC108 | $D_{3}$ |  |
| $T_{r 17}$ | BCY72 | $D_{4-11}$ | IN4148 |
| Capacitance/resistance measuring circuit |  |  |  |
| $T_{r 1}$ | BC252C | $I C_{1}$ | DTL930 |
| $T_{r 2,3,4}$ | BF244B | $D_{1}$ | BZY88C4V7 |
| $T_{r}{ }^{5}$ | BC107 | $D_{2}$ | 1N4148 |
| $T_{r 6,9}$ | 2N2894 | $D_{3}$ | BZY88C8V2 |
| $T_{r 7,8} \quad$ BSX 20 |  |  |  |
| Semiconductor equivalents |  |  |  |
| BC 107 BC171, BC207, BC237, BC507 |  |  |  |
| BC 108 BC172, BC238, BC508, BC208 |  |  |  |
| BC109 | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{BC} 173, \mathrm{BC} 239, \mathrm{BC} 209, \mathrm{BC} 509, \\ & 2 \mathrm{~N} 2484 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| BCY72 | BC205, BC $308, \mathrm{BC} 405$ |  |  |
| BSX20 | 2N2369 |  |  |
| 2N2218 | 2N2219, 2N4918 |  |  |
| 2N2904 | 2N2905, 2N4921 |  |  |
| TIS68 | FM3958 (National Semiconductors. Connect the substrate to OV) |  |  |
| BZY88C4V7 ZW4.7, Z5B4.7, HS7047 |  |  |  |
| BZY88C6V8 ZW6.8, Z5B6.8, HS7068 |  |  |  |
| BZY88C8V2 ZW8.2, Z5B8.2, HS7082 |  |  |  |
| SN7400N FJH131, FLHI01 |  |  |  |
| SN7402N FJH221, FLH191 |  |  |  |
| SN7403AN FJH301A, DTL946 |  |  |  |
| SN7447N 9317 (Fairchild) |  |  |  |
| SN7472N FJJ111, FLJ111 |  |  |  |
| SN7475N FJJ181, FLJ151 |  |  |  |
| SN749ON FJJ141, FLJ161 |  |  |  |
| DTL946 MC846, (SN7403N, FJH301A |  |  |  |
| N5556 | MC15 |  |  |
| 2N2894 | MPS 3 |  |  |
| 1N4148 | 1 N 91 |  |  |

When the d.v. aspects of the voltmeter have been set, the only aspect of a.v. measurement to be set is the frequency compensation of the input attenuator. This is probably most easily done using a square wave but a sine wave method can be used as an alternative.

Square wave method. Set the a.v./d.v. switch to a.v. Set the VRC range switch to position 3. Apply a 1 kHz square wave with a peak-to-peak amplitude of between 6 and 20 V to the voltmeter input. Look at the output at pin 6 of $I C_{1}$ with the oscilloscope. Adjust $C_{2}$ to obtain the best possible square wave. See Fig. 6.

Sine wave method. This is only valid if the output level of the sine wave can be relied on to remain constant regardless of frequency.

Apply a 1 kHz signal of approximately 10 V r.m.s. to the input and note the reading on the display. Set the frequency to 50 kHz and adjust $\mathrm{C}_{2}$ to restore the reading. Some frustration with this method can be avoided if one takes the precaution of disconnecting $C_{4}$ (Fig. 8) thus speeding the settling time of the instrument.

Resistance measurement. To set up the resistance ranges, some accurate resistors are essential. The preferred values for this test are $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$, and the procedure is as follows: set the VRC function switch $S_{4}$ to "R", set the VRC range switch to $S_{s}$ to position 1, connect the $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ resistor between the $\mathrm{R} / \mathrm{C}$ terminal and earth and adjust $R_{1}$ so that the display shows 1000 .

Set the range switch to position 2 and with the $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor connected between the input terminals set $R_{3}$ so that the display shows 100.0 .

Carry out the same procedure for positions 3 and 4 using the $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistors and setting $R_{5}$ and $R_{7}$ to obtain readings of 10.00 and 1.000 respectively.

Capacitance measurement. Once the resistance meter has been set up there is only one adjustment for setting up all the ranges. I set up the 199.9 nF range because I had access to a $150 \mathrm{nF} \pm$ $0.25 \%$ capacitor, but it should make little difference which range is used for calibration. However as there will be stray capacity across the input terminals, it is probably as well to do the setting up on a high rather than a low range. The procedure is as follows: set the VRC function switch $S_{4}$ to "C", set the VRC range switch $S_{5}$ to suit the standard capacitor being used, and adjust $R_{17}$ (Fig. 10, Part 2) until the display shows the correct value. All of the capacitance ranges are now calibrated.

If this setting up procedure is followed and if the standards are stable, the instrument should now meet its specification.

## Correction

(a) In Fig. 9 of Part 2 of the article, $\mathrm{Tr}_{8}$ and $T r$, were incorrectly shown as BC2 448. They should be, as shown in the component list above, BF244B. (b) Fig. 11
was, we thought, amusing but unhelpful. We apologize for the mirror-image and print it again the right way round.


Fig. 11. Method of driving f.e.t. switches from $5 V$ lines.

## Correction

We regret the introduction of several errors in the article on a "Versatile Triangle Wave Generator" in the February issue. In the third column on p. 87 the numerator in the expression should be "I" not " 1 ". A draughting error in Fig. 4 made nonsense of the author's statement that "the frequency can be read straight from the Helipot dial as shown in Fig. 4". The redrawn figure is reproduced below. In the second paragraph of the constant current generator section (p.88) $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ should read $T r_{12}$, and, in the last line of this page, $R_{2}$ should read $R_{3}$.

The components lists apply to Figs. 2 and 3 and Fig. 7.
The author points out that although he used a 2N4061 any silicon p-n-p transistor could be used.


## Books Received

The following is a selection of books from a new series for those interested in electronics and allied subjects. The first list of books, which originate from America, contains twenty titles and the books are published by a new imprint Foulsham-Tab.
Transistor Circuit Guidebook by Byron Webs contains practical circuits from tuners and amplifiers to test equipment and counter circuits. Pp.219. Price £1.20.
Beginners Guide to TV' Repair by George Zwick provides instruction in the basics of television to help the beginner understand how a TV receiver works, what may go wrong with it and how it should be serviced. Pp.171. Price $£ 1.00$.
Advanced Radio Control by Edward L. Safford Jr, discusses the fundamentals of advanced radio control and describes the basic systems used. Pp.192. Price $£ 1.00$.
How to Read Electronic Circuit Diagrams by Robert M. Brown and Paul Lawrence contains a guide to translating circuit symbols, information on the components they represent and about the circuits in which they are used. Pp. 189. Price $£ 1.30$.

All these books are published by Foulsham-Tab Ltd, Yeovil Road, Slough, SLI 4JH.

Logic and Logic Design by B. Girling and H. G. Moring is an introduction to Boolean algebra and its application to the fields of switching circuits, the solution of logic equations, the logic design of digital circuits, sequential machines and synchronous logic. It covers the computer science requirements for a B.Sc. degree. Using modern mathematics, the authors concentrate on the logical concepts involved rather than their implementation so that no detailed electronic circuitry is included. The book will be of value to science and engineering students whose courses include applied Boolean algebra. Pp.328. Price $£ 5.80$. Intertext Publishing Ltd, 24 Market Square, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Sound with Vision: Sound Techniques for Television and Film by E. G. M. Alkin is concerned with the art and craft of sound operations in association with television picture production. The book is intended primarily for the instruction of television sound operators and in describing technical subjects, a basic knowledge of electronics is assumed. The subjects covered are also of increasing interest to the film-making industry in the light of current trends and developments. The book discusses the problems encountered in the simultaneous production of sound and pictures, giving practical instruction in methods of solving them and examines the philosophy of equipment designed to meet the resulting requirements. This work is intended to be complementary to existing literatúre on sound and to avoid duplication. Where subjects are already fully documented, references are given. Although dealing mainly with sound in television, the subject matter also covers many aspects of film sound technique. The book is split into four parts (1) fundamental considerations (2) microphone technique for continuous take production (3) technical facilities and (4) sound operational practice. Pp.283. Price $\mathbf{E}^{6.00}$. Butterworth \& Co. Ltd. 88 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AB.

## Meterless Transistor Tester

# A portable instrument capable of resolving current gain and leakage 

by J. Lewis, B.Sc.

A need arose in the workshop for a portable, compact and reliable transistor tester which could be used to check all types quickly and also give an accurate value of $h_{\text {FE }}$. In the interests of economy and durability it was thought that perhaps an instrument without a meter would be preferable. Of the many described in the usual literature only one was found which readily fitted the specifi-cation-that described by D. E. O'N. Waddington*. This tester used a meter, though not in the normal current measuring configuration, as it measured the voltage developed across the emitter resistor. Fig. 1(a) shows the usual type of circuit used in which a known base current is injected into the transistor under test and the resulting collector current is measured by a suitably calibrated meter. In Mr Waddington's design Fig. 1(b) the meter is used as a voltmeter the reading of which is proportional to the current flowing through the resistor $R_{E}$.

The theory of this circuit was fully developed in the original article; an alternative approach is used here to describe the operation of this particular instrument.

In the common collector configuration (Fig. 2)
also

$$
\begin{aligned}
& I_{E}=I_{B}\left(h_{F E}+1\right) \\
& I_{E}=\frac{V_{E}}{R_{E}} \\
& I_{B}=\frac{V_{A}-V_{B}}{R_{B}}
\end{aligned}
$$

and
Therefore, combining the above gives:

$$
\frac{V_{E}}{R_{E}}=\frac{V_{A}-V_{B}}{R_{B}}\left(h_{F E}+1\right)
$$

If we neglect $V_{B E}$ for the moment, $V_{B}=V_{E}$ and rearranging we get:

$$
\frac{R_{B}}{R_{E}}=\frac{V_{A}-V_{E}}{V_{E}}\left(h_{F E}+1\right)
$$

$V_{A}$ and $V_{E}$ can be conveniently chosen so that

$$
\frac{V_{A}-V_{E}}{V_{E}}=1
$$

(in the prototype, $V_{E}=2 \mathrm{~V}$ and $V_{A}=4 \mathrm{~V}$ ) Provided

$$
\begin{aligned}
& h_{F E}>20 \\
& h_{F E} \approx \frac{R_{B}}{R_{E}}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Further development

If $R_{B}$ is chosen to be a linear variable resistor of, say, $250 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $R_{E}$ is $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ then the $h_{F E}$ can be measured directly on a scale calibrated from $0-250$ over which a pointer attached to $R_{B}$ rotates. In operation a voltmeter monitors the voltage developed across $R_{E}$ whilst $R_{B}$ is gradually increased in value, the gain being the scale reading when the meter registers 2 V . The meter can be dispensed with and an op-amp used as a voltage comparator connected in its place which then compares the voltage across $R_{E}$ with a suitable reference. The circuit for an op-amp being used as a voltage comparator is given in Fig. 3 and the threshold or triggering voltage $E_{T}$ is determined by the

[^2]
(a)

(b)

Fig. 1. Alternative measuring techniques.
values of $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$ such that

$$
E_{T}=-\left(E_{\text {ref }} \frac{R_{1}}{R_{2}}\right)
$$

The prototype used a mercury cell, e.m.f. 1.4 V , as the reference and since the threshold voltage had already been chosen as 2 V , suitable values for $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$ were $3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $2.1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ respectively. Of course, the reference voltage has to be of opposite polarity to the threshold voltage and a suitable switching circuit has to be used for n-p-n or p-n-p devices.
A breadboard of the simple circuit described above was made and proved excellent and it was then decided to extend the usefulness of the instrument by incorporating various refinements-these are extras of course, and can be omitted. $R_{B}$ was made a variable $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor with a number of


Fig. 2. The common collector configuration.


Fig. 3. Voltage comparator.


Fig. 4. Circuit diagram of tester.
fixed resistors-all multiples of $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ which could be switched in series with the variable one, thus extending the range and giving better resolution. In some cases it is desirable to know $h_{F E}$ at different collector currents and in order to measure this, whilst also providing an indication of leakage, the emitter can be connected to a number of different resistors all providing a different function. Since these vary from the original $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ value, a factor has to be introduced for each one by which the gain reading is multiplied. The values of these extra resistors and their factors are given in Table 1.

The prototype fitted easily into a diecast box, $7 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \times 3 \mathrm{in}$. The layout does not appear critical. The resistors were mounted on tag strip whilst the op-amp was fitted, crudely, onto turret tags. The batteries are held in position by sponge. On the lid were mounted the controls together with two sets of sockets to cater for the different base, collector and emitter lead layouts in both TO-5 and TO-18 sizes. Spring terminal posts cater for the odd devices which won't fit into the sockets.

The calibration of the instrument initially is critical if consistent results are required. It is necessary to set $V_{A}$ accurately and a variable resistor $R_{y}$ is adjusted until the potential is correct. A compromise has to be made here to allow for the $V_{B E}$ of the devices. In the prototype Fig. 4, $V_{A}$ was set at 4.4 V using $R_{24}$ though there is no reason why a switch could not be provided to allow one to choose either the relevant value for germanium or silicon transistors. $V_{s}$ is set at 8 V using $R_{27}$. The markings for switch position number are given in Table 1 for $S_{4}$ and Table 2 for $\bar{S}_{3}$. The test position is calibrated using $R_{26}$ until the voltage across $R_{21}$ is 2 V .

The scale for $h_{F E}$ is marked out using a suitable ohmmeter across $R_{26}$ which is disconnected from the circuit. At $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ mark 0.1 , at $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ mark 0.2 etc. With $S_{4}$ at test, the indicator light should be off if $S_{2}$ is in the p-n-p position. $R_{27}$ is rotated until it comes on and then backed off until it just extinguishes. If one now switches to n-p-n the light should remain out though a slight turn either way should bring it on. If this does not work check that 8 V is available at the collector terminal $C$.

## Operation

To use the tester one first has to set the voltage $V_{s}$ by adjusting $R_{27}$ as outlined above. The transistor is plugged in and $S_{2}$ put to the correct position. $R_{25}$ is then ad-

TABLE 2

| $\mathbf{S}_{3}$ position | Function |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $h_{F E}=0-1$ |
| 2 | $h_{F E}=1-2$ |
| 3 | $h_{F E}=2-3$ |
| 4 | $h_{F E}=3-4$ |
| 5 | $h_{F E}=4-5$ |
| 6 | $h_{F E}=5-6$ |
| 7 | $h_{F E}=6-7$ |
| 8 | $h_{F E}=7-8$ |
| 9 | $h_{F E}=8-9$ |
| 10 | $h_{F E}=9-10$ |
| 11 |  |
|  |  |

justed in conjunction with $S_{3}$ until, with n-p-n devices, the light comes on, or, in the case of $\mathrm{p}-\mathrm{n}-\mathrm{p}$ ones, it goes out. The value of $h_{F E}$ can then be read off using the correct

TABLE 1

| $\mathbf{S}_{4}$ position | Function | $h_{f E}$ Multiplying factor | Resistor value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | TEST |  | connected to $R_{26}$ and $R_{21}$ |
| 2 | $I_{c}=2 \mathrm{~mA}$ | $\times 50$ | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| 3 | $I_{c}=4 \mathrm{~mA}$ | $\times 100$ | $500 \Omega$ |
| 4 | $I_{c}=8 \mathrm{~mA}$ | $\times 200$ | $250 \Omega$ |
| 5 | $I_{c}=20 \mathrm{~mA}$ | $\times 500$ | $100 \Omega$ |
| 6 | $I_{c}=40 \mathrm{~mA}$ | $\times 1000$ | $50 \Omega$ |
| 7 | $l_{\text {c¢ }}=1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ |  | $2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ |
| 8 | $I_{\text {reo }}=10 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ |  | $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| 9 | $l_{\text {cEO }}=100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ |  | $20 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| 10 | $l_{\text {CEO }}=1 \mathrm{~mA}$ |  | $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| 11 | $I_{\text {cEO }}=10 \mathrm{~mA}$ |  | $200 \Omega$ |



A general view of the prototype tester. In the centre is the $h_{F E}$ dial. The range switch is bottom left and emitter current selector, bottom right.
multiplying factors. A faulty transistor is shown by the light either remaining on or off over the full range.
Leakage current can be gauged by switching to $I_{\text {CEO }}$ on $S_{3}$. The light will go off if the leakage is too great for n-p-n or conversely on for p -n-p. By switching to various values of $S_{4}$ an indication of the leakage current can be obtained by noting when the state of the lamp changes. To distinguish between unmarked n-p-n or p-n-p types, $S_{3}$ is turned so that the base is shorted to the emitter with $R_{25}$ at 0 . Switch alternately to p-n-p and $\mathrm{n}-\mathrm{p}-\mathrm{n}$ whilst slowly rotating $R_{25}$. The position of $S_{2}$ which gives a change in
indicator state is the transistor type. Diodes may be checked by connecting them between the $E$ and $C$ terminals with $S_{4}$ in the 2 mA position. When the cathode of the diode is connected to the $C$ terminal the light should remain on when $S_{2}$ is switched from n-p-n to p-n-p, and if the anode is at this terminal the light should remain off when switching.
Once one has gained some familiarity with this tester it is surprisingly easy and quick to use. Transistors can be tested almost as quickly as they are plugged in. Should a simpler tester be required then $S_{3}$ and $S_{4}$ could be omitted making $R_{25} 250 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and leaving just $R_{20}$ in the emitter circuit.

## Components list

| Resistors |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 15$ | 2M $\Omega$ |
| $2100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 16$ | $50 \Omega$ |
| $3150 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | 150 k Q 17 | $100 \Omega$ |
| $4200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 18$ | $250 \Omega$ |
| $5250 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $250 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 19$ | $500 \Omega$ |
| $6300 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $300 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 20$ | $1.0 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $7350 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $350 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 21$ | $100 \Omega$ |
| $8400 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $400 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 22$ | $2.1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $450 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $450 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 23$ | $3.0 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $101.0 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $1.0 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 24$ | $220 \Omega$ miniature skeleton |
| $11200 \Omega$ | $200 \Omega$ | preset |
| $122.0 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $2.0 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 25$ | $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ w.w., standard size |
| $1320 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $20 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 26$ | $470 \Omega$ skeleton preset |
| $14200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega \quad 27$ | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ miniature carbon |
| All resistors should be either $1 \%$ tolerance or selected values. |  |  |
| Switches |  |  |
| 4 pole, 2 way rotary |  |  |
| 4 pole changeover, miniature lever key |  |  |
| 1 pole, 12 way rotary |  |  |
| 2 pole, 12 way rotary |  |  |
| $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |  |  |
| 709 type op-amp, d.i.l. or TO5 package |  |  |
| BFY 50 |  |  |
| $L P_{1} \quad$ an | any suitable panel light with bulb rated at $6 \mathrm{~V}, 60 \mathrm{~mA}$ |  |
| $B_{1}, B_{2}$ suid | $B_{2}$ suitably size | d 9 V battery |
|  | 1.4 V mercur | y cell (RM625H or similar) |

## World-wide Mobile Communications and Surveillance via Satellite

A conference dealing with long-haul aeronautical and maritime telecommunications and the use of such systems for surveillance, and the consequent traffic control ability, was held at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London, on March 13th to 15th.

The conference got off to a sobering start with the opening address by Professor Sir Herman Bondi, Chief Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Defence, who suggested that the biggest gap now existing in communications generally is our "ignorance of ourselves", considering how little is known about how human beings actually influenced each other when communicating. He further considered redundant or peripheral information or, to use his words, "sweet nothings in conversation", as an entirely necessary function forming an adjuster of the "mood faculty", presumably controlling one's receptive ability during discussion. From this, Professor Bondi drew a necessary distinction between communicating on an impersonal, instructional basis and communicating on a more personal, conver-
sational basis. The conclusion was that thought must be given, in this light, to what type of telecommunications link was really required. He further felt that all the expense and interest shown in the sphere of aircraft and shipping surveillance could be justified, on an information/instruction basis anyway, where continuously monitored conditions, in respect of aircraft flight paths and shipping lanes, are not yet normal.

Because of the technological difficulties encountered with airborne and shipborne environments, Professor Bondi viewed mobile communications as a leader in the field of satellite communications. This work was directed towards the least inconvenient and most practical solutions which will eventually affect our social environment.

In all, 33 papers were presented at the conference, many of which provoked lengthy discussion. An attempt to view the world wide interest and activity in perspective, a paper entitled "The institutional bottlenecks affecting mobile sateliite communication", given by D. O.

Fraser of the British Aircraft Corporation, was entirely successful and many of the points brought out ran like tracers throughout the conference.

Theoretical studies of systems were plentiful, although many parameters, at this stage of evolution, are tending to become standardized. These include frequencies to be used, number of usable channels, channel widths and system access capability.

Although satellite frequency allocations have been confirmed at the World Administration Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications in Geneva (1971), studies were presented on the subject of analytical and applied methods of selecting and proposing the range of what may be called optimum frequencies for use in ship or aircraft to satellite communications links.

Results of experimental work carried out using existing geostationary satellite systems such as Intelsat IV and the U.K. Skynet were presented, and these should go a long way in helping system designers and engineers to specify, knowingly, nearer to the optimum range of parameters in Aerosat or Marisat systems.

Details of progress of some institutional programmes and studies were given, firstly by Dr. J. Vandenkerkhove, of the European Space Research Organization, Netherlands, who put forward the findings of the design study for their Aerosat proposal for a satellite covering the Atlantic region. Later G. H. Booth, of the Communications Research Centre, Canada, gave a paper entitled "The Canadian/U.S. high power Communications Technology Satellite" which described a programme devoted to the advancement of technology for future generations of high power satellite systems. The C.T.S. should be launched in 1975 by the National Aeronautics Space Administration, U.S.A., and one significant point in the system is the use of the 11 and 14 GHz band for earth station to satellite and satellite to earth station communication. This was of greater interest later when, further on in the conference, R. A. Bedford and S. R. Temple, both with the Directorate of Radio Technology, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, said it was likely that the Ministry would recommend the 11 and 14 GHz bands for earth station to satellite links.
E. J. Martin, of the Communications Satellite Corporation, U.S.A., announced a Cosmat contractural agreement to provide a working satellite service for the U.S. Navy, from late 1975, which may, at a later date, provide communications in the L-band region (approximately 1550 MHz ) for the merchant services. Two satellites are involved in this system, giving multibeam coverage of the Pacific and Atlantic areas.

Throughout the entire conference questions relating to the whole philosophy of mobile communications were being asked. In an attempt to clarify the system requirement several papers were given, by prospective users of both Aerosat and Marisat systems, who pointed out that although the institutions represented at the conference had gone some way towards providing desirable specifications regarding a usable economic system, significant areas had been missed or glossed over. It was suggested that this was due, in part, to a lack of liaison between the working institution, who would presumably have heavy involvement with future operating agencies, and the aeronautical/maritime user.

The 197 -page I.E.E. Conference Publication, No. 95, is available from Publication Sales Department, Institute of Electrical Engineers, Station House, 70 Nightingale Road, Hitchin Herts. The Price is $£ 5.00$ for members and $£ 7.60$ for non-members.

## Circards - 6

## Constant-current Circuits

# Introducing the constant-voltage dual 

by J. Carruthers, J. H. Evans, J. Kinsler \& P. Williams*

For every circuit using a constant-voltage element or sub-section there is a dual circuit based on constant-current properties. That such circuits are less common and often misunderstood is partly for historical reasons, stemming from the lack of sources of electrical energy having constant-current charac teristics. One cannot draw out of stores a " 5 A 250 mV -hour battery". A battery that will sustain a constant current into an arbitrary load is not physically realizable, since the electro-chemical processes involved define the e.m.f., the current then being inversely proportional to resistance.

Either capacitors or inductors may be used for temporary storage of energy, but the cost and size penalties of the latter are considerable. Capacitors store charge, having a p.d. proportional to the stored charge, and sustain that p.d. to a first order against varying current drain; until the drain results in a significant loss of charge. Even more important is that the generation, transmission and transformation of a.c. by the Electricity Boards are all constant-voltage processes. After rectification, the only form in which d.c. power can be produced efficiently and with freedom from ripple is as a constant voltage.

Thus all common sources of electrical energy approximate to constant-voltage characteristics and the majority of electronic circuits have been designed for this mode of operation. It is a fascinating thought that there should be as many current-operated circuits as voltageoperated ones, though they may be unfamiliar in shape. For example transistors would have to be operated in series, carrying comparable currents in each device but with progressively increasing p.ds moving from input to output in an amplifier, while the interstage coupling might be inductive. Conversely, where constant-voltage supply circuits use inductors to achieve particular effects, the corresponding circuits using capacitors would be attractive alternatives if constant-current supplies were available.

Each type of constant-current circuit seeks to achieve a constant current against variations in supply voltage, load resistance and ambient temperature as


Fig.1. In trying to achieve a current constant against variations in supply voltage, load resistance, ambient temperature, and component parameters an intermediate step is sometimes used where power is switched before reconversion to d.c.


Fig.2. A nother method of controlling load current.


Fig.3. Technique of Fig. 2 can be used with an a.c. signal replaced by a d.c. level.
well as against component parameter changes. This will apply whether the supply is in the form of a direct voltage or an alternating current. In the former case, an intermediate step may be used in which the power is converted into a switched waveform before re-conversion to d.c., the method having high efficiency even when the load voltage is much less than the supply voltage (Fig.1). Alternatively the d.c. may be used to power an amplifier which because of the design of its output stage or by virtue of the feedback employed, delivers a current to the load controlled primarily by some signal voltage or current (Fig. 2).

Purely d.c. systems may also fall into this category with the a.c. signal replaced by a direct voltage/current (Fig.3) which can be fixed or variable depending on the application. (Fixed if a constant current is to be forced in a zener diode to define its operating point, variable where used to plot the characteristics of a transistor.) In addition, current control can be achieved by devising a two-terminal circuit to be interposed between source and load (Fig.4). If the circuit has a high dynamic resistance the current is then stabilized against supply and load changes. To apply such a circuit to a.c. supplies involves a number of difficulties, not least that such constant-current action is achieved only


Fig.4. Current control can also be achieved by using Fig. 3 as a two-terminal circuit between source and load.
for that part of the cycle for which the input amplitude is in excess of some minimum value, typically 2 to 10 V . It becomes particularly important to distinguish the parameter of the output whose constancy is being maintained. The peak value will be held constant by a two-terminal device having infinite slope resistance for amplitudes of input above the minimum. In many cases it may be necessary to rectify the applied voltage so that the ciruit deals with a single polarity.

Two further parameters of interest are the r.m.s. and mean-rectified output currents. For both, the rise in current during the pre-limiting region as the input voltage increases causes a rise in the area under the current graphs, i.e. in the mean/r.m.s. current. If the two-terminal network is arranged to have a negative-resistance characteristic then the current can fall back during input peaks, offsetting the tendency for the mean/r.m.s. currents to rise (Fig.5). A different value of negative resistance is required for the mean and r.m.s. conditions and it is further dependent on the input waveform. The method has the advantage that it operates on the instantaneous value of input, though methods based on thermistors and thermocouples might be used to monitor r.m.s. current via thermal effects. The necessary feedback would be more easily applied via conventional regulator circuitry and would involve thermal time delays that would not cope with input/load transients.

In the majority of these circuits the reference determining the current will be a voltage such as that developed across a zener diode. Where lower stability is adequate the p.d. across a forward-biased silicon p-n junction has advantages.


Fig.5. Negative-resistance causes current to fall back during input peaks, offsetting tendency for mean/r.m.s. currents to rise in the pre-limiting period.


Fig.6. Circuits based on op-amps are generally limited to the case where loads do not require a ground connection.

The voltage, or some function of it, appears across a resistor defining the current in that resistor. If the load is placed in series with that reference resistor, or in some other circuit path carrying a related current, then load current is fixed. Operational amplifiers have one output terminal committed to ground potential. If the generator representing the output has to appear in series with the
reference resistor and load to define the current then a conflict appears (Fig.6). To achieve a current flow to ground the reference resistor (and with it the reference voltage and its associated circuitry) would have to float. As this is inconvenient, circuits based on conventional operational amplifiers may be limited to constant current operation only with those loads not requiring a ground connection.

Circuit configurations are possible in which negative and positive feedback can be combined to raise the output resistance to very high values. Penalties include relatively poor stability of this output resistance and difficulties in achieving high output currents. This last demand is frequently met by adapting existing voltage regulators with a reference resistor at the normal output voltage terminals and the true load in series with it as outlined above.

Finally, the problem of controlling alternating current may be tackled in a different way by means of thyristor switches. These can be fired at appropriate points on the input waveform such that the mean current in the load is controllable. As the thyristor behaves as an almost perfect switch, no control is exercised over the instantaneous value of current. A filter provides a feedback voltage proportional to the mean current and controls the phase angle of the firing circuit. This phase angle control is quite distinct from the frequency/pulse-width modulation methods that are inherent in the switching amplifiers described earlier, and filtering of the output waveform would not normally be applied. The method would be suitable for such applications as battery charging where the current waveform is uncritical.

## Circards - future series

As already announced the trial period of Circards - the Wireless World information service on circuit design - has confirmed our hopes and the scheme is to be continued and extended.
We list below the subjects it is planned to cover in the next 10 sets of cards - although not necessarily in the order listed. The first (no. 6), which is discussed above, will be available on May 1st. The U.K. price per set is $£ 1$ and the overseas price $£ 1.15$ (airmail postage extra).

Many readers have asked if they may order sets of future Circards to be sent as published. We have therefore introduced a subscription rate for the next 10 sets (nos 6-15) which it is hoped to issue monthly. The subscription for the U.K. will be $£ 9$ and for overseas $£ 10.50$. Orders for individual sets or subscriptions should be addressed to J. Rider, IPC Business Press, Sundry Sales, 33-40 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R ONE.

Circards are currently zero rated for the purpose of V.A.T.
Constant Current Circuits: Regulating currents at high and low powers for load and bias purposes.
Power Amplifiers: Power Amplifiers, d.c., audio switching and r.f.
Opto-electronics: Generation, detection and processing of optical signals.
Basic Logic Gate Circuits: Practical gate circuits using m.o.s., t.t.l. and other logic families.
Astables: Generation of repetitive waveforms from low to high frequencies using i.c. and discrete circuits.
Micropower Circuits: Operation of amplifiers, oscillators and measurement circuits at very low voltages and currents.
Wideband Amplifiers: Amplifiers of varying power levels over wide frequency bands.
Alarm Circuits: Detection of fault conditions and control of alarm devices.
Pulse Modulators: Modulation of pulse waveforms for communication and instrumentation systems.
Digital Counters: Binary counters using a variety of logic families.
New readers may also like to know the subjects already covered in Circards:

1. Basic Active Filters; 2. Switching Circuits: Comparators and Schmitts; 3. Waveform Generators; 4. A.C. measurements; and 5 . Audio Circuits: pre-amplifiers, mixers, filters and tone controls. These are still available from the above address at the same individual price quoted above (they are not available at the reduced subscription rate).

## London Electronic Component Show

## Exhibitors and exhibition details

The 23rd international component show to be held at Olympia, London from 22 nd to 25 th May will this year have 450 participant companies with one fifth of these participants coming from overseas. The show will be open daily from 09.30 to 17.30 and admission is 30 p but is free to overseas visitors. Sponsor of the show is the Radio and Electronic Component Manufacturers' Federation and it is organized by Industrial Exhibitions Ltd. The following is a list of the exhibitors at the show.

| A.B. Electronic Components | Cannon |
| :---: | :---: |
| A.B. Engineering | Carr Fastener |
| AEG (G.B.) | Cathodeon Crystals |
| A.E.I Semiconductors | Celdis |
| AMP | Channel Electric Equipment |
| APT Electronics | Cherry |
| Acbars | Clare. C. P. |
| Accumulatorenfabrik Sonnenschein | Coil Winding Equipment |
| Adams \& Westlake | Colvern |
| Advance | Computing Techniques |
| Albol | Concordia |
| Alkaline Batteries | Connollys |
| Alma Components | Control Data Corp. |
| Alston Capacitors | Cornish Sign |
| Amphenol | Counting Instruments |
| Analog Devices | Coutant Electronics |
| Antiference | Crituley |
| Appliance Components | Crouzet |
| Ardente | Culton |
| Ariel |  |
| Associated Automation |  |
| Aston |  |
| Audax |  |
| Avel-Lindberg | D.A.T. Engineering |
| Aviquipo | Danbridge |
|  | Darby Industries |
|  | Data Precision |
|  | Davall. S. |
| B.D.O. | Davu |
| BICC | Deac |
| B \& R Relays | Dial. |
| B.S.I. | Diamond H Controls |
| BSR | Doduco |
| Bailey Stamp | Dubilier |
| Bakelite XVlonite |  |
| J. Beam |  |
| Beckman |  |
| Belling \& Lee |  |
| Benedict \& Jager |  |
| Berec | East Grinstead Electronic Components |
| BICC-Burndy | Edicron |
| Biccotest | Edison |
| Birch-Stolec | Efco-Composants |
| Bird Electronic | Egen Electric |
| Blessing Electronics | Elcometer |
| Bobifil Talleres Tarraso | Electrical Remote Control |
| Bonnella | Electrographic Peripherals |
| Bourns (Trimpoi) | Electroplan |
| Bradley | Electrothermal |
| Brandauer | Electroustic |
| Brandenburg | Elektromodul |
| Breeze | Elektronungtechnika |
| Britimpex | Elettronica |
| British Central Electrical | English Electric Valve |
| British Physical Laboratories | Enthoven |
| Bulgin | Equipment \& Services |
| Burgess | ERG |
| Burr-Brown | Erie |
|  | Erma |
|  | Euro |
|  | Evans |
| C.C.L. | Ever Ready |
| C.G.S. | Evershed \& Vignoles |
| Cambion | Electronic Visuals |

C.G.S.
Cambion

Cannon
Cathodeon Crystals
Celdis
Cherry
Coil Winding Equipment
Colvern
Computing Techniques
Connollys
Contro! Data Corp.
Cornish Sign
Counting Instrument
Critchley
Crouzet
Culton

Danbridge
Darby Industries
Data Precisio
Davu
Dial
Diamond H Controls
Doduco

East Grinstead Electronic Component

Efco-Composants
Egen Electric
Elcometer
Electrical Remote Control
Electrograp
Electrotherma
Elektromodul
Elektronungtechnika
Elettronica
Enthoven
ERG
Erma
Evans
Ever Ready
Electronic Visuals

F.W. Components
F.W.O. Bauch

Fairchild
Ferranti

GDS (Sales)
GEC Electronic Tube
G. E. Electronics Gardners Transformers General Instrument
Globe Union
Goldring
Goodacre \& Davenport
Gordos
Gore
Gould
Gresham Lion
Grimes
Guest
Guildline
H.C.D. Research
Hallam Sleigh \& C
Hamlin
Harwin
Hatfield
Hayden Lahorator
Haydon
Hellermann
Hesto
Heyco
Hi-G D'Italia
Highland Elecironi
Hinchley
Hirschmann
Hirst
Honeywell
Huber. J. J.
Hutson
Hysol Sterling

IDM Electronics
M.O. Precision Controls

Imhof-Bedco
Imperial Metal Industries
Insuloid
Integrated Photomatrix
Interelectric

Jackson
Jahre. Richard
Jermyn
Jones. W. (Engineering)

Kabel-und Metallwerke
Kay Metzeler
Keithley
Kenetic Technology
Kent Insulations
King. J. MacA
Klippon
Kolectric
Krupp. Fried

Lenco
Levell
Lipa \& Isosta
Littelfus
Littex
Livingston Hire
Lloyd, J. J.
Lock. A. M
Londex
London Telephones
Lorlin
Lucas
Lyons. Claude

M-O Valve Co.
McMurdo
Magnetfabrik
Magnetic Devices
Marconi Communication Systems
Marconi Instruments
Markovits
Mashpriborintorg
May Precision Components
M.C.B

Mecanorma
Membrain
Memory Devices
Metway
Micronel
Miles-Platts
Milton Ross
Monsanio
Morganite
Motorola
Mullard
Multicore
N.S.F.

Newport Instruments
Nombrex
Nulectrohms

Oest Electronic Connecteurs
Oliver Pell
Oltronix
Ostby \& Barton

PTA
Pandect
Parmeko
Parsonage
Pedoka
Penny \& Giles
Perdix
Perivale Controls
Permanoid
Piher
Pistor \& Krone
Plasmoulds
Plasmoulds
Plastronics
Plessey
Portescap
Precious Metal Depositors
Pressac
Pye
R.M.T.
R. S. Components

Radiatron
Radio Controle / Monopole
Rathdown
Raytheon
Reading Windings
Record
Redpoint
Research Instruments
Resistances
Reynolds
Riam
Rosenthal China
Ross Courtney
Ruf. Wilhelm
S.S. Semiconducteurs

Saft
Sakae Tsushin Kogvo
Salford
Satchwell-Sunvic
Scientific Packaging
Scopex
Sealectro
Sellotape
Sellotape
Semicomps
Sfernice
Siemens
Siemens (Relay Division)
Sifam
Silec
Smiths Industries
Soldersta
Souriau Lectropon
South London Electrical
Southern Transformer
Spear
Special Products Distributors
Spectrol Reliance
Spinner
Spragu
Standard Pneumatic Motor
Steatite
Straumann. Reinhard
Suhner
Surrey Steel Comps
Switcheraft
Symonds
Systron-Donner

TDK
Tape Recorder Spares
Techna
Techni
Tekdata
Telcon
Telford
Texcan
Thomson-CSF
Thorn
Thousand and One Lamps
3M
Toko
Tokvo Sokki Kenkvujo
Tracor
Transrak
Triden

Ultra
Union Carbide
V.T.M

Venne
itramon

Wallis
Watsons Anodising
Waycom
Wayne Kerr
Weller
Weller
Welwyn
West Hyde Developments
Weyrad
Weyrad
Whiteley
Vilson

Xincom


Digital counter model 7737A manufactured by AMF Venner. This is a seven-digit counter/timer suitable for frequency measurements up to 100 MHz .

New Servoscribe 2s flat-bed recorder to be shown by Smiths Industries. This is available in in, in/log, lin plus integrator and in/log plus integrator forms.


Tekdata p.v.c. flat ribbon cable which uses standard insulated wires specified by the customer. The wires are held in a woven polyester mesh.

# Traffic Information Broadcasting 

Proposals for a European system

One authority has claimed that the density of road vehicles in Britain is $\mathbf{6 2 . 2}$ vehicles per mile giving approximately $85 f t$ of road for each car. Clearly, it is becoming increasingly important for better sources of information to be made available to the driver to enable him to plan and make his journey efficiently with maximum satety. Electronics is playing an increasing part in providing this information and this article is an initial examination of systems of traffic information and hazards warning for road vehicles, based on broadcast announcements

Most of us have experienced the frustration of being the driver of a car stuck in a traffic jam and some of us, the horror of a serious road accident. Solutions to these problems seem a long way off and any improvements which alleviate the situation are clearly welcome. Developments are now in progress which could result in such an improvement in the very near future and since the implications are of importance to communications and electronics engineers we report on the "state of the art" at this moment.

## Two concepts

At the moment, the road vehicle is controlled cars, clearly an improvement in decisions not only on his route but also on speed and a host of other considerations. The success of his efforts, measured in terms of safety and good journey time, depend on the quality of the information available to the driver. If we are to continue to accept the idea of driver controlled cars, clearly an improvement in either of the standards can only be brought about by providing better quality information either visually or aurally.

There is a second concept, that of the automatic road vehicle requiring no driver, and here again the system efficiency must be judged by safety factors and journey time. In the case of both. information is vital to success. Traffic engineers believe that information should be viewed at three separate levels, first long range area information which can provide details of slowly changing hazards like snow, ice, road closures and predictable traffic congestion and offer alternative routing information. The second level of information is more local and could provide data on hazards, etc. within say, one hour's drive, together with route diversions to be taken. Finally there is the extremely localized information on accidents, fog patches or other emergencies ahead requiring immediate reaction from the driver. This article looks at important
proposals which may help at the first two levels.

## The role of the broadcasting station

For some years now, broadcasting stations have been used to provide information in the form of spoken announcements on traffic and weather conditions. In the U.K. this service, although regarded as very valuable, meets only with limited success, first because car radios are fitted to only a small percentage of vehicles and secondly because a nationwide radio service is used to broadcast the information. Local radio is useful, but here again another problem arises - that of the very limited number of v.h.f. car radios in use.

It is quite strongly felt at the B.B.C. that the role of a broadcasting station does not include an extensive traffic information service and, in particular, the cost of co-ordinating and programming such a service should not come from their funds. Needless to say, the capital costs of installation should also be placed elsewhere. However, radio is an established channel of communication at large and car radios are becoming more popular, so it seems logical that there should be some development to provide a better service of announcements to the motorist, preferably without seriously affecting the entertainment value of existing broadcast programmes. Naturally, with our entry into the Common Market, and our strong representation in the European Broadcasting Union, standardization of technique is of great importance, and the E.B.U., through its sub-group K4 of working party K is currently examining three main proposals. Within the E.E.C., working group 30 of the Co-operation Europeanne dans le domaine de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (C.O.S.T.) and the C.E.P.T. (Committee Europeene, Posts and Telegraphie), sub-group R24 are evaluating the wider spectrum of traffic information systems. The three proposals to these committees originate
from the B.B.C., Radio Nederlands, and the German broadcasting authorities in conjunction with their equivalent of the Automobile Association and the electronics company, Blaupunkt.

It would seem that the time for deciding some form of European transmission standard is very close, since considerable activity can be seen in all three camps. Reports have reached this office that the E.B.U. committee is due to sit in a few weeks' time in Spain to discuss the proposals and also that C.O.S.T. Project 30 will be producing a preliminary study report in the summer. From this we can gather that there is no doubt about the future role of the broadcasting station in providing traffic information; it is simply a question now of method.

## Radio Nederlands proposal

This proposal arose from an investigation of techniques for broadcasting surround sound and in fact bears interesting similarities with the Dorren quadrophony system described in the A.E.S. Convention report published last month. Essentially it is an extension of the stereophonic pilot tone system where additional low grade audio channels are modulated on to other suppressed single lower-sideband carriers. A maximum of eight channels is provided for, within a band from 64 kHz to 100 kHz , thus avoiding interference to the existing stereophonic signals which extend to 57 kHz .

The carriers are so arranged within 60 to 72 kHz and 80 to 100 kHz giving a space between 72 and 80 kHz to avoid the risk of the fourth harmonic of the 19 kHz pilot tone interfering with reception of the traffic information channels. An additional advantage to be gained from this idea is that the band with the 72 kHz carrier can be separated using relatively simple filters. The suggested suppressed carriers are at $64,68,72,84,88,92,96$ and 100 kHz with an additional pilot tone at 57 kHz phase locked to the stereo pilot tone and deviating the main carrier by at least 1 kHz . This is used to indicate the presence of traffic information on the secondary carriers and presumably would switch a receiver decoder in the car to one of the additional channels.

Experiments made by Radio Nederlands indicate that for an a.f. modulating bandwidth of 200 Hz to 3.4 kHz , signal tonoise ratios of 35 dB have been obtained, although crosstalk between the additional channels is only 20 dB . Perhaps an advantage of this system is that national transmitters can be used to provide regional information using each of the eight channels to give the appropriate data.

It would seem that the proposal by Radio Nederlands has had a somewhat chequered career since it is a revival of an earlier proposition which receded into the background for a period of time. As was pointed out by Professor Geluk of Radio Nederland, when commenting on the Dorren system at the A.E.S. Convention, this type of transmission brings serious protection ratio, and adjacent channel, problems, and it remains to be seen if he


achieved, the transmitters need to be arranged in the form of a lattice having a spacing of about 50 km and the B.B.C. Research Department has investigated two theoretical lattices for the U.K., one containing nine transmitters in a group and the other 16 in a group. Minimum interference distances are said to be 120 km and 170 km respectively. Since only one transmitter in the group is to operate at any one moment, the announcement duration allocated to each station in a group of nine is one ninth of a complete cycle or one minute in nine.

The B.B.C., in their E.B.U. proposals to be published shortly, suggest that the receiver could be a simple straight design, probably of greater simplicity than the conventional transistor type currently available. With no wavechange or tuning control necessary, the suggestion is made that total retail cost would approximately be $£ 5$ to $£ 7$ excluding the aerial. Adjustment of receiver muting is clearly critical since if it is too low interference from distant stations could occur in some instances and if too high some local information could be lost.

A further suggestion, interesting in its implications, for one of the German proposals is that if an exclusive m.f. channel could not be allocated for traffic information, interference from 'nontraffic" stations could reduce service at night and thus the inclusion of an audio switching signal at the start of each transmission could be used to operate a receiver audio switching device.

The B.B.C. proposal goes on to suggest
techniques for operating this system, but since the system design is so designed on a regional basis, but with potential national control, we leave the reader to draw his own conclusions on how best this could be done. Needless to say, the B.B.C. has offered several different methods to meet a variety of needs. It should be made clear that this is as yet only a theoretical study with no experimental work completed to establish its viability.

## The German proposals

Of the three systems, the German is probably the most advanced, since practical experiments involving broadcasting stations and ordinary motorists have been under way since 1970. Two basic techniques have been evolved, first for the m.f. network based on "Deutschlandfunk" and secondly the later introduction of a more comprehensive system for v.h.f. based on the well developed network of local stations. It would seem that the motivation for the development of both systems came from the A.D.A.C., which is the German equivalent of our Automobile Association who wished to make more complete information available to the motorist.
The m.f. system, called A.-R.I. (Auto-Radio Information) starts with an hourly traffic announcement preceded by a readily recognized signature tune that starts and ends with a pilot tone. At motorway service stations, unattended information desks are provided which contain equipment tuned to Deutschland-
funk, and on receipt of the pilot tone this switches on a recorder which stores the broadcast message.

In a similar fashion, the recorder is turned off by a similar pilot tone included in the terminal melody broadcast by the transmitting station. The pilot tone consists of a start signal of 2.35 kHz frequency modulated by 123 Hz and with a period of one second, and the same tone is used with an 0.5 s duration to terminate the recording activity. Motorists can retrieve the message by pressing a button on a telephone receiver mounted on the desk and thus update on the latest situation.

The same pilot tone can be used to switch an automatic mute in a car radio, and to activate a car-borne cassette recorder if necessary. A third application is to be found in the home where a radio receiver and cassette recorder are switched by a time clock to record all announcements made for a predetermined period before the journey starts. Adapting the m.f. system to include regional station selection, a receiver has been designed to search the m.f. band every 10 seconds for the strongest signal and, on locating it, to re-tune the receiver to that station, thus avoiding the problem of the driver having to re-tune manually and lose driving concentration.

The development of this m.f. system into v.h.f. has been made possible by the well established network of v.h.f. regional stations, most of which already broadcast stereo. The traffic programme introduction is the same as for m.f. and thus muting switches can be used. However, the advent of electronic varicap tuning has made it possible to extend facilities still further. Each station broadcasting traffic information is identified by the presence of a 57 kHz pilot tone, which is obtained by tripling the 19 kHz stereo pilot and is therefore rigidly locked to it in frequency and phase. In this instance a v.h.f. set is fitted with an external decoder which plugs into the tape recorder jack of the radio. As the appropriate station is tuned in, a lamp lights on the decoder, indicating that a "traffic information station" has been selected. However, manual tuning and the need to look for the lamp reduces the attention of the driver and so a push button is included which mutes the audio output of all stations not transmitting 57 kHz . The moment audio appears the driver knows he is tuned to an information station. As signal strength declines the muting operates and re-tuning is thus obviously necessary. Using the A.-R.I. decoder as well, the radio volume control can be set to zero, and when the A.-R.I. pilot tone is received the audio stage of the receiver will be switched on to a preset level during the traffic announcement.

Automatic tuning does of course help to automate many of the manual operations described and using the v.h.f. pilot decoder one receiver in production will search for traffic information stations only, and then re-tune when signal strengths get too low. Alternatively in another radio set any station can be selected for its
entertainment value and a second integral "station finder" within the set meanwhile constantly searches for and tunes to strong traffic information stations. When the A.-R.I. pilot is transmitted the initial programme selection is muted and the announcement switched to the audio output. On receipt of the terminal tone, the receiver reverts to the original programme selection.

Blaupunkt, who have been largely responsible for the system development, say that the decoders cost around $£ 5$ to $£ 7$ each and can be fitted to any radio with a tape recorder jack corresponding to the D.I.N. specification referring to car radios.

An extension to the v.h.f. system is proposed where the 57 kHz pilot is itself modulated with an l.f. tone in the range 20 to 80 Hz . Each region has its own identifying tone, thus making it possible to programme the electronic tuning of car radios to be even more selective in tuning to strong traffic stations. The driver can preselect the region he wants to listen to, even though freak reception of a distant v.h.f. transmitter may have caused the decoder to "lock-on".

The circuitry of one of the A.-R.I. decoders is shown (Fig. 1). When the decoder is switched off the +12 V supply is connected to $\operatorname{Tr}_{13}$ only, and with this device conducting audio is fed from input " $A$ " through $\operatorname{Tr}_{13}$ to point " $B$ ". When the decoder is switched on, +12 V is fed via $\operatorname{Tr}_{14}$ to all stages of the decoder and the cassette recorder if fitted. Since $\operatorname{Tr}_{13}$, in this condition is non-conducting, the audio is muted. On receipt of the 2.35 kHz frequency modulated 123 Hz tone indicating "start", $\operatorname{Tr}_{1}$ and $T r_{2}$ amplify the signal and $D_{1}, D_{2}$ act as limiters. Components $C_{1}, L_{1}$ are tuned to 2.35 k Hz ; $C_{2}, L_{2}$ act as a slope detector for the 123 Hz . This signal is fed via $\operatorname{Tr}_{4}$ to an active filter based on the TAA960. From that point the signal feeds a threshold biased differential amplifier $\boldsymbol{T r}_{5}, \quad \boldsymbol{T r}_{6}$ followed by the voltage doubling combination and rectifier network $D_{6}, D_{7}$. Capacitor $C_{3}$ charges via $R_{1}$ and after about 0.7 s sufficient voltage has been developed to switch the Schmitt trigger $T r_{\mathrm{g}}$, $\operatorname{Tr}_{\mathrm{g}}$. After one second, the tone finishes and the state of the trigger reverts creating a negative going pulse which is applied to $C_{5}, C_{6}$. This pulse trips the bistable pair, $\operatorname{Tr}_{10}, T r_{11}$ to turn on $T r_{10}$ and through ${ }^{2} \operatorname{Tr}_{11}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{12}$, to turn on $\operatorname{Tr}_{13}$ which now passes the audio signal to the output stage of the receiver.

Since $\operatorname{Tr}_{10}$ is now conducting, the base voltage of $\operatorname{Tr}_{7}$ will be zero and hence $C_{3}$, $C_{4}$ will be series connected to reduce the time constant, thus programming the decoder for the 0.5 s duration "stop" pilot tone.

This system is in experimental operation nationally in Germany and the decoders and car radios are currently commercially available.

## European standards

As mentioned earlier, European governments and the E.E.C. believe that for any system of broadcast traffic information to
work successfully some common standard must be agreed upon. To this end, the two committees of the E.B.U. and E.E.C. working parties have established some guidelines. For example, unconfirmed reports indicate that the C.O.S.T. working party has suggested the following principles to be used.
First, any proposal should be capable of being put into operation within five years. Secondly the capital investment should be no more than about $£ 1.2$ million to $£ 1.5$ million. The system to be adopted and called by the working party the "Mark I" will probably represent the first of a generation of more complex or comprehensive systems which will include highly localized information. Such systems are called "road based" and include inductive loops buried in the road (not found very practicable by the U.K. Road Research Laboratory), leaky coaxial lines or even very low power r.f. transmitters covering about 1 mile sections of a motorway.

In addition, there are other considerations; normal programmes ideally should suffer minimum interference and special receiving equipment should be of the lowest cost and available to all. A final regulation is that the patent licence for the system is freely available to all, thus avoiding the possibility of a monopolistic situation arising.

A superficial examination of these requirements together with the more technical limitations placed by restricted availability of frequency allocations within m.f. band, seem to weigh the scales in favour of the German system. Apart from the fact that it is the only working system and is well developed, it also is less likely to cause adjacent channel interference than the Dutch proposals. A final point is that the transmitter modifications are limited and inexpensive.

The alternative m.f. pilot "melody" offers compatibility with British requirements and could be adopted by all stations without problems. The only real difficulty lies in the wide coverage of normal broadcast stations and one can easily see difficulties in Holland and the U.K. where comparatively few transmitters serve the whole country. The B.B.C. proposal is obviously an answer to this but does leave open the question of the capital cost of the 93 transmitters required for coverage.

The Dutch proposal is definitely the most complex and can probably be regarded as an "also-ran" since the transmitter equipment is complex and still to be developed.

It is interesting however to see how each proposal has resulted from very national requirements, and it now remains to be seen how effective the various lobbying attempts are. Here in the U.K. the I.B.A. are known to favour the m.f. pilot "melody" system which, of course, suits their requirements.

This summer may see a rationalization of broadcasting systems for traffic information and the first step towards improving the "driver's lot" since traffic programmes were initiated.

# Experiments with operational amplifiers 

## 9. Multivibrators : free-running, monostable and bistable circuits

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

Operational amplifiers are normally used in negative feedback circuits but when appropriate positive feedback connections are made to them they can be used to generate both sinusoidal and non-sinusoidal waveforms of defined frequency. In this section we investigate the way in which positive feedback may be applied to an operational amplifier in order to give a multivibrator type of circuit.

A circuit suitable for investigating the behaviour of a simple free-running multivibrator is illustrated in Fig. 9.1. Positive feedback is applied to the amplifier by the connection between the output terminal and non-phase-inverting input terminal via the divider $R_{2}, R_{1}$. The divider gives a positive feedback fraction

$$
\beta=\frac{R_{1}}{R_{1}+R_{2}}
$$

The amplifier switches regeneratively and repetitively between saturated states, remaining in alternate states for time periods governed by capacitor charging. The amplifier remains in positive saturation for a time period.

$$
\begin{equation*}
t_{1}=C R \log _{e} \frac{V_{\text {osat }}^{+}-\beta V_{o \text { osat }}^{-}}{V_{\text {osat }}^{+}-\beta V_{\text {osat }}^{+}} \tag{9.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

and in negative saturation for a period

$$
\begin{equation*}
t_{2}=C R \log _{e} \frac{V_{o s a t}^{-}-\beta V_{o s a t}^{+}}{V_{\text {osat }}^{-}-\beta V_{o s a t}^{-}} \tag{9.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

If the positive and negative output saturation limits have the same magnitude the two timing periods are equal and the waveforms produced are symmetrical.

It is suggested that the action of the circuit and the validity of eqns. 9.1 and 9.2 be investigated by observing and recording the waveforms at terminals 6, 3, and 2. Quantitative measurements should be made with the positive and negative swings and time periods of all waveforms recorded.

Typical waveforms for the circuit are illustrated in Fig. 9.2. The upper trace shows the amplifier output voltage as it switches between positive and negative saturation limits. The middle trace shows the signal at the non-phase-inverting input terminal switching between the limits $\beta V_{o s a t}^{+}$ and $\beta V_{o \text { sat }}^{-}$, and the lower trace shows the exponential charging at the phase-inverting

[^3]

Fig. 9.1(a). Free-running multivibrator; (b) alternative timing resistors.


Fig. 9.2. Free-running multivibrator waveforms: upper trace, pin 6; middle trace, pin 3; lower trace, pin 2. Vertical scale, $10 \mathrm{~V} /$ div.; horizontal scale, $0.2 \mathrm{~ms} / \mathrm{div}$.



Fig. 9.4. Waveforms for free-running multivibrator (Fig. 9.3) with pulse width control. Traces show output voltage ( $10 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{div}$.) and voltage at pin $2(0.2 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{div}$.) for $V_{\text {in }}$ of +5 V and -5 V respectively. Horizontal scale, $2 \mathrm{~ms} / \mathrm{div}$.


Fig. 9.5. Monostable multivibrator with timing period controlled by a reference voltage.


Fig. 9.6. Monostable waveforms for reference voltage -0.5 V . Upper trace, pin 6; lower trace, pin 3. Vertical scale, $10 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{div}$. ; horizontal scale, $\mathrm{lms} / \mathrm{div}$.


Fig. 9.7. Monostable waveforms for reference voltage $-5 V$. Upper trace, pin 6 ; lower trace, pin 3. Vertical scale $10 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{div}$.; horizontal scale, $1 \mathrm{~ms} / \mathrm{div}$.
input terminal. The exponential goes up and down between the limits $\beta V_{o \text { sat }}^{+}$and $\beta V_{o s a t}^{-}$.

Components values should be substituted in eqns. 9.1 and 9.2 in order to compare predicted timing periods with those obtained experimentally. Further understanding of circuit action may be gained by changing component values and by making separate changes in the values of the positive and negative power supplies. The effect on the waveforms of each change should be noted and recorded, and the reader should then attempt to explain for himself these effects in terms of the action of the circuit.
A markedly non-symmetrical waveform can be obtained by using alternative timing resistors ( $R_{3}$ and $R_{4}$ ) switched into the circuit by means of the diodes $D_{1}$ and $D_{2}$ as shown in Fig. 9.1(b). Resistor $R$ in (a) should be replaced by this network and the observed waveforms recorded and explained. Note that the upper frequency limit for the action of the multivibrator circuit is set by amplifier slewing rate. This point should be verified.

Control of the pulse width produced by a free running multivibrator can be obtained by injecting an additional current into the phase inverting input terminal of the amplifier. The effect of this current is to increase one timing period and decrease the other. The action may be investigated using the circuit illustrated in Fig. 9.3.

The circuit includes a method for symmetrically clamping the output voltage limits of the amplifier by means of a diode bridge and zener diode. The clamp is not essential to the action of the circuit but is included to illustrate a method of output limiting. Output limiting may be applied to any of the switching circuits described in this section if the application requires it.
Waveforms obtained with the circuit of Fig. 9.3 are shown in Fig. 9.4. The traces show output voltage and voltage at pin 2 for $V_{\text {in }}$ of +5 V and -5 V respectively. Pulse width is not linearly related to the input voltage because capacitor $C$ charges exponentially. Linearity can be improved by reducing the amplitude of the waveform at pin 2 (by reducing $R_{1}$ ).

The circuit for a monostable multivibrator with timing period controlled by the magnitude of a reference voltage is given in Fig. 9.5. The permanently stable state for this circuit is with the amplifier output at its positive saturation limit, this condition being maintained by the negative reference voltage applied to the phase inverting input terminal of the amplifier. A positive triggering voltage applied to the phase inverting input terminal, of sufficient magnitude to bring the amplifier out of saturation, causes the circuit to switch regeneratively to its temporarily stable state. The circuit returns to its permanently stable state when the voltage at the non-phase-inverting terminal, which switches below earth by an amount $\left(V_{o s a t}^{+}-V_{o s a}^{-}\right)$, exponentially rises to the reference voltage level. The timing period for the circuit is given by the equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
T=C R \log _{e} \frac{V_{\text {osal }}^{+a}-V_{\text {osat }}^{-}}{E_{\text {ref }}} \tag{9.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

The action of the circuit may be investigated by applying a square wave of level, say,


Fig. 9.8. Plot of $\log _{10}\left(1 / E_{\text {ref }}\right)$ against $T$.


Fig. 9.9. Bistable multivibrator. Triggering may be applied at $C_{1}$ or $C_{2}$.

6 V and frequency approximately 200 Hz to the phase inverting input terminal via capacitor $C_{1}$. The square wave is differentiated by $C_{1} R_{1}$ and the positive pulses cause the monostable to make transitions. The waveforms appearing at pins 6 and 3 should be observed and recorded for different values of the reference voltage in the range -0.5 V to -5 V . Typical waveforms for reference voltages -0.5 V and -5 V are shown in Figs. 9.6 and 9.7 respectively.
The validity of eqn. 9.3 is most conveniently checked by presenting the results graphically as shown in Fig. 9.8. By expressing logarithms to the base 10 and rearranging eqn. 9.3 , the equation may be written

$$
\log _{10} \frac{1}{E_{\text {ref }}}=\frac{T}{2.3 C R}-\log \left(V_{o s a t}^{+}-V_{o \text { sat }}^{-}\right)
$$

The graph in Fig. 9.8 should thus have a slope of value $1 /(2.3 C R)$ and make an intercept on the vertical axis at a value equal to $-\log _{10}\left(V_{\text {osat }}^{+}-V_{\text {osat }}^{-}\right)$.
A circuit which uses an operational amplifier as a bistable multivibrator is shown in Fig. 9.9. Positive feedback applied via resistors $R_{2}, R_{1}$ causes the amplifier output to remain at either its positive or negative saturation limit.
Triggering pulses may be applied to the circuit at either input terminal via the capacitors $C_{1}, C_{2}$. The pulse polarity required to produce a transition depends upon the state of the circuit; this point should be verified experimentally.

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# A Novel Approach to Power Supply Design 

by Robin Aston*


#### Abstract

A power supply design technique is discussed which employs a switching regulator to achieve low weight, followed by a linear regulator to give laboratory standard performance. A feedback loop from the output of the linear regulator controls the mark-space ratio of the inverter signal in the switching regulator and so minimizes the power dissipated by the series control element of the linear regulator.


The problems encountered when trying to obtain a stabilized d.c. voltage from an a.c. mains supply have always been of interest to circuit designers. In the days of the valve the problems were not perhaps so acute as they are today, the d.c. current requirements usually being quite modest. Modern semiconductors are capable of controlling very large currents and it is now the norm to think in terms of power supplies of several amps rather than the few tens of milliamps of the early days.

Modern power supplies can be divided into three basic families: series linear, shunt linear and switching. These will be discussed in turn.
*APT Electronics Ltd.


Fig. 1. Series regulator block diagram.


Fig. 2. Shunt regulutor block diagram.
bor

## Series linear regulators

Whenever the highest possible performance is required the series linear regulator is the usual choice. Even if a lower performance is needed the flexibility of the series linear regulator, and the huge quantity of design information available, make it the most widely used form of power supply. The basic block diagram is given in Fig. 1.

The output voltage is compared with a precision voltage reference. If the two differ, the comparator either increases or decreases the impedance of the series control element to correct the output voltage. To allow the series control element to do its job, the unregulated d.c. from the transformer and rectifier must always be of a higher voltage than the required output voltage.

For the purposes of comparison we shall imagine that all the power supplies discussed in this article have an output variable from 0 to 50 V at 10A. In Fig. 1 the unregulated d.c. supply must be greater than 50 V , let us say 55 V . At $1 \mathrm{~V}, 10 \mathrm{~A}$ output, 54 V would be dropped across the series control element and 540 W would therefore need to be dissipated by it. This problem is usually overcome by having a range switch. This would vary the output of the unregulated supply so that the power dissipated by the series control element could be limited to a reasonable value.

The basic regulator described would normally have all sorts of frills built in such as constant current, current limit or reentrant short-circuit protection, and overvoltage protection.

## Shunt linear regulators

This form of regulator has never achieved the same wide use as the series regulator, probably because it is not well suited to applications where the output current will vary over a wide range. The basic idea can be seen in Fig. 2. The current path is sensitive to the voltage on the output terminals. If the output voltage tends to rise, the impedance of the current path is made to fall and more current flows in it, reducing the output voltage by increasing the voltage drop across $R$. A voltage reference and voltage comparator similar to that used in the series regulator might be employed to control the current path. The simplest form of shunt regulator is, of course, the zener diode.

Taking the case of the $50 \mathrm{~V}, 10 \mathrm{~A}$ supply; at $50 \mathrm{~V}, 1 \mathrm{~A}$ output, the current path would have to dissipate the additional 9A at 50 V ( 450 W ) and a further 50 W would be dissipated by $R$. Essentially the circuit has a see-saw action. A constant 10 A flows through $R$ which is shared by the current path and the load.

## Switching regulators

The main disadvantages of the series and shunt approaches are, the need to dissipate large amounts of power by the control element (although our examples are at the extreme) and the sheer size and weight of the mains transformer with the associated bulky 50 Hz smoothing components.
The switching regulator overcomes these problems but, at the same time, introduces

## TABLE 1

|  | Linear | Switching | Linear/switching |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Regulation | excellent | good | good |
| Transient response | excellent | poor | fair |
| Ripple and noise | excellent | poor | gairly difficult |

some new difficulties. A block diagram of a typical switching regulator is shown in Fig. 3. A high-frequency oscillator, usually operating just above the a.f. range, is powered from a mains supply and rectifier. The oscillator operates in a switching mode with two transistors switching hard-on and hard-off in turn, alternating the current flow in the primary winding of an h.f. transformer which is followed by a rectifier and filter. The regulator output voltage is measured by the oscillator control module and a correction signal is produced which varies the mark-space ratio of the oscillator. If the output of the power supply tends to fall, the duty cycle of the oscillator is increased, which raises the average value of the power in both primary and secondary windings and, consequently, the rectified output voltage remains constant.

The main advantage of the switching regulator is that the isolating transformer and filter components are operating at high frequency and can be of a very small size as compared with the 50 or 100 Hz counterparts. Unfortunately, the transient response is not very good and inevitably broad-band noise from the oscillator finds its way to the
output. However, in many applications these shortcomings are of no consequence and the switching regulator can offer many users the answer to their problems.

## Switching and linear techniques combined

A number of the disadvantages of both switching and linear regulators can be overcome or minimized by a technique which combines both regulators in a single circuit (Fig. 4).

Operation of the system is best described by imagining that the unit is switched on and is supplying an output, say 40 V , to a load. Point $A$ on the circuit must be at a potential of more than 40 V for the series control element to function. For reasons which will become clear later it will be stated that this point is at 45 V . If the voltage reference source output at point $B$ is deliberately lowered to 30 V the comparator will provide an output which will increase the impedance of the series control element, causing the output voltage at point $C$ to be reduced to 30 V . As this is taking place, the voltage drop across the series control element will rise. The oscillator control module senses this

increase between points $A$ and $C$ and lowers the duty cycle of the oscillator so that the input voltage at point $A$ falls. Circuit values can be such that the voltage across the series element is maintained at 5 V and with 30 V now at the output, point $A$ will be at 35 V .
The application of this technique to the 0 to $50 \mathrm{~V}, 10 \mathrm{~A}$ power supply we are discussing ensures that power dissipation by the series control element is limited to 50 W in the worst case condition of IV output at 10A. In fact, the control element dissipation is now directly proportional to the current drawn from the power supply.

The main advantages of this technique are, therefore, the elimination of the 500 W , 50 Hz transformer and bulky 100 Hz smoothing components, and a considerable reduction in internal power dissipation allowing smaller heat sinks to be used. Such a power supply does not perform as well as a good quality series linear regulator but is much better than a straight switching regulator. For the example of a $50 \mathrm{~V}, 10 \mathrm{~A}$ power supply, the relative advantages of the linear series, switching, and combined linearswitching regulators are summarized in Table 1.

## Functional description

A simplified block diagram of a combined linear/switching power supply appears in Fig. 5. The incoming mains supply is filtered by $F_{1}$ to prevent spurious signals from the high-frequency oscillator or inverter from finding their way into the mains wiring and possibly interfering with other equipment. The supply is then divided into two, feeding a small 50 Hz transformer $T_{1}$ and a high voltage rectifier bridge $R_{1}$. The small mains transformer is intended to power the inverter control module for a very short period of time until the system becomes fully operational. The inverter control module provides pulses which switch the inverter output transistors on and off in turn, driving current through the primary of the highfrequency transformer ${ }^{\circ} T_{2}$. A secondary winding of $T_{2}$ provides a d.c. input at $c-d$ on the inverter control module, supplying the module with power and back-biasing the bridge rectifier diodes $R_{2}$, effectively turning off the small mains transformer $T_{1}$. The output of the high-frequency transformer $T_{2}$ is rectified by $R_{3}$ and applied to the smoothing filter $F_{2}$. The design of this



Fig. 5. Block diagram of the combined switching and series regulator.
low-pass filter is such that during the quiescent periods of the inverter, the main energy requirement of the load is supplied from energy stored in the series choke and not the shunt capacitors. Because the capacitors are topped-up by the induced e.m.f. of the choke the average charge, and therefore the voltage across the capacitors, is independent of load current for a given output voltage.

The linear regulator section of the circuit, functions in the normal way except that the voltage drop across the series control transistor is sensed at $e-f$ by the inverter control module. This module then varies the duty cycle of the inverter to maintain the voltage drop across the series control element at 5 V .

## Inverter control module

The inverter control module has to produce switching waveforms at $g$ and $h$ for the inverter output transistors at a frequency of about 20 kHz . The higher the energy demanded from the power supply, the higher the mark-space ratio of the switching waveform.
The circuitry of the inverter module is shown in block diagram form in Fig. 6. Power from the small mains transformer $T_{1}$ and rectifier bridge $R_{2}$ (Fig. 5) is fed to a small linear voltage regulator which supplies power to the 20 kHz generator. The output of this generator is fed to the bases of the inverter output transistors (Fig. 5) under the control of a gate circuit. Also the gener-


Fig. 6. Block diagram of the inverter control module.

TABLE 2

| Mains voltage | 220 V or $240 \mathrm{~V} \pm 10 \%$. The unit will operate through a continuous range from $198-264 \mathrm{~V}$. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Mains frequency | $48-450 \mathrm{~Hz}$. |
| Constant voltage characteristics |  |
| Output voltage | $0-50 \mathrm{~V}$ (max.) |
| Setting accuracy | $\pm 10 \mathrm{mV}$ |
| Output current | 0-10A (max.) |
| Line regulation | $0.001 \%+1 \mathrm{mV}$ for $\pm 10 \%$ mains variation |
| Load regulation | 0.05\% +10 mV for $10 \%-100 \%$ load variation |
| Ripple and noise | 5 mV pk. |
| Output spike | 40 mV pk. rep. rate 40 kHz (typically 20 mV ). |
| Transient response | 5 ms to recover to within 20 mV for a $10-100 \%$ load change |
| Temperature characteristics |  |
| Coefficient | Less than 0.02\% per ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Range | $0-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Dimensions |  |
| Width | 203mm (8in) |
| Depth | 216 mm ( $8 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$ ) |
| Height | 260 mm ( $10 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{in}$ ) |
| Weight | 7.5 kg (16 $\left.\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{lb}\right)$ |

ator drives a triggered ramp generator producing a sawtooth, synchronized with the inverter which feeds one side of the level detector. The other side of the level detector is fed from a comparator which provides a voltage proportional to the difference between a 5 V reference and the voltage across the series stabilizer transistors (e-f, Fig. 5). Normally the level detector opens the gate when the output of the comparator is less than the ramp voltage. Whenever the voltage across the series stabilizer transistors falls below 5 V , the output of the comparator falls and the level detector opens the gate earlier in the generator's cycle.

To demonstrate the operation of the inverter control module, it is best to consider the complete combined switching/linear regulator, referring to Figs 5 and 6.

Imagine that the power supply is providing a constant output into a load and that the resistance of the load is suddenly reduced. As the output current rises, the output voltage would tend to fall. The linear section of the power supply compensates by reducing the impedance of the series control element and, as a secondary result, the voltage drop across this element also tends to fall. This trend results in a fall in output of comparator 2 in the inverter control module as the voltage across $e$ and $f$ tries to fall below the 5 V reference. The level detector now opens the gate at a lower ramp voltage and the duty cycle of the inverter output transistors is increased. A greater voltage is fed to the series control transistors, increasing the voltage across $e$ and $f$, and the output voltage of the power supply is maintained with a constant 5 V developed across the series linear control element.
Additional components in the inverter control module inhibit the gate at switch-on until the inverter stabilizer and the inverter itself settle down, thus preventing possible damage to the inverter output transistors. If the mains input voltage rises above a predetermined level, a mains monitor circuit closes the gate earlier in each cycle to compensate.

The effectiveness of the combined switching/linear power supply can be judged by the performance achieved by a typical unit which is given in Table 2.

## Letters to the Editor

The Editor does not necessarily endorse opinions expressed by his correspondents

## Marconi's 1907 c.w. transmitter

In his letter in the April issue your correspondent Mr W. L. E. Miller states that "The assertion that Marconi had produced a c.w. system using a spark discharge around 1907 cannot be substantiated although the myth has been perpetuated in Baker's recent 'A History of the Marconi Company' ".

May I refer Mr Miller to a lecture given by G. Marconi and entitled "Transatlantic Wireless Telegraphy" which he delivered at the Royal Institution on 13 March 1908? I enclose copies of two relevant pages of his address for your scrutiny.* From this it will be seen that Marconi, after mentioning the initial tests between his new station at Clifden and Glace Bay in 1907 (using the conventional spark system), goes on to say:
"Simultaneously with these tests others were carried out from Poldhu to Glace Bay with a new system of transmitting apparatus, by means of which continuous or semi-continuous oscillations could be produced.
"Proportionately to the energy employed, the signals from Poldhu were so much better than those from Clifden that I decided at once to adopt this new method of transmission at Glace Bay and Clifden. The apparatus which I have been using for producing continuous or closely adjacent trains of electric oscillations is as follows:-"

## (Here follows a description)

From this wording it might be inferred that Marconi was not sure whether the waves were continuous or semicontinuous! Not so, however. In the text which follows he makes it clear that the original apparatus produced continuous waves and that he deliberately introduced a modification to provide "a regular succession of trains of undamped or slightly damped waves" in order to make the received signal audible on headphones. Oscillations to a maximum of 200 kHz were obtained. The device was patented on 9 September 1907 (pat. appl. No. 20,119).
The extremely high speed at which the discs had to rotate called for ultra-high

[^4]se tegts others were married out from Poldhu to Glace ans of which continuous or semi-continuous oscillations (
rgy employed the signals from Poldhu were so much l this new method of transmission at Clace Bay and Cli continuous or closely adjacent trains of electric oscillatic

precision in their manufacture. The "Timed Spark" system was a logical development of the 1907 device and in 1913 a British government Commission reported more favourably on this than on any other continuous wave system then in use (See Dowsett, H.M. "Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony", Wireless Press Ltd, 1920).
W. J. Baker, Chelmsford, Essex.

## Audio amplifier design

There are several points that we would like to make in connection with recent contributions from Messrs Walker, Linsley Hood, Fison and others on the problem of low noise and low distortion audio amplifier design.
It can be shown ${ }^{1}$ that the noise a transistor may generate (Fig. 1) under set conditions of source resistance, collector current, etc. can be represented by a voltage generator $V_{N Q 1}$ looking into a perfect voltage amplifier of gain $A_{10}$. This voltage generator is in series with the noise voltage generated by the source resistance itself $V_{\text {NRS }}$. These can be considered as representative of the two dominant sources of noise in an amplifying stage. It is clear that at the collector of the first stage there will be a noise voltage derived from the input, of magnitude

$$
A_{10}\left(V_{N Q 1}^{2}+V_{N R S}{ }^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}
$$

If the next stage (second or subsequent stages being treated as one) is again considered in the same way as the first, there will be a noise voltage at the input of the stage of

$$
\begin{aligned}
V_{I N}=\left(A _ { 1 0 } { } ^ { 2 } \left(V_{N Q 1}{ }^{2}\right.\right. & \left.+V_{N R S}{ }^{2}\right) \\
& \left.+V_{N R C 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N Q 2}{ }^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}
\end{aligned}
$$

where $V_{N R C 1}$ is the noise generated by the collector resistor of the first stage and where $V_{N Q 2}$ is the noise generated by $T r_{2}$ referred to the input. Thus the total output noise will be

$$
V_{O}=A_{20} V_{I N}
$$

The above statement applies to the open loop case. If we now close the loop the output noise voltage is $V_{O_{N}}$ and so at the emitter of $T r_{1}$ we have

$$
V_{f}=\frac{V_{o} R_{e 1}}{R_{f}}
$$

where:

$$
\begin{aligned}
V_{O}=A_{20}[ & A_{10}{ }^{2}\left(V_{N Q 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N R S}{ }^{2}\right) \\
& \left.+V_{N R C 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N Q 2}{ }^{2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}+A_{10} V_{f}
\end{aligned}
$$

rearranging:

$$
\begin{aligned}
V_{O}- & \frac{A_{10} A_{20} V_{O} R_{e 1}}{R_{f}} \\
& =A_{20}\left[A_{10}{ }^{2}\left(V_{N Q 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N R S}{ }^{2}\right)\right. \\
& \left.+V_{N R C 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N Q 2}{ }^{2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}
\end{aligned}
$$

therefore

$$
V_{O}=\frac{\begin{array}{c}
A_{20}\left[A_{10}{ }^{2}\left(V_{N Q 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N R S}{ }^{2}\right)\right. \\
\left.+V_{N R C 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N Q 2}{ }^{2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}
\end{array}}{\frac{1+A_{10} A_{20} R_{e}}{R_{f}}}
$$

From this one can see that if the noise contribution of the second stage is to be negligible compared to that of the first then $A_{10}\left(V_{N Q 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N R S}{ }^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ must be greater than $\left(V_{N R C 1}{ }^{2}+V_{N Q 2}{ }^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$. To give an illustration, for a noise contribution of 0.1 dB by the second stage, $A_{10}$ needs to be 20 dB greater than $A_{20}$. This is just another factor in design compromise, but in general, when designing a low noise amplifier, more gain should be obtained from the first stage and a split emitter resistor can be used to reduce the open loop voltage gain of the second stage. The increase in coupling factor will


Fig. 1. (Refer to text.)
in part make up for this loss in the overall open loop voltage gain of the amplifier.
To draw a conclusion, this is the reason why Mr Linsley Hood's Liniac based circuits have as low a noise figure as they do, and Mr Walker's series feedback circuits ( $W . W$. May 1972, p. 234) could be yet quieter, the latter not having the noise contribution of the resistor in series with the input as well as that of the signal source.
Secondly, we have repeated Mr Linsley Hood's experiments with a 741 (W.W. Jan. 1973, p. 11) and when using a signal with a very low distortion we were unable to measure any difference between the shunt and series feedback configurations.

Thirdly, with reference to Mr Fison's statement ( $W . W$. March 1973, p. 120) concerning Mr Linsley Hood's Hi-Fi News power amplifier, we have found that although the design claims justifiably $0.01 \%$ t.h.d. at 1 kHz , the distortion rises with frequency, for example typically $0.06 \%$ at 3 kHz and $0.2 \%$ at 10 kHz . Whether or not this distortion is audible is another matter. However the rise in distortion is largely due to the early falling off of the loop gain with increase in frequency and consequent change in phase of the feedback relative to the input signal; this applies to many designs on the market.

Finally, as has been known for a long time but perhaps not fully appreciated, it doesn't matter how much feedback is applied to reduce distortion, unless it is negative and the phase is correct at all frequencies it will not improve the amplifier's overall performance. ${ }^{2}$ Obviously any design which takes this into consideration will herald a new generation of amplifiers in terms of low distortion and low noise. A. R. Mornington-West, J. Vereker, Salisbury.

[^5]An attempt was made during the development of a linear a.f. power amplifier ${ }^{1}$ in the early. part of 1971 to evolve a design in which the "square wave" response was free from overshoot on a reactive load. To this end, attention was paid to the design to make sure that the phase error of the amplifier was low up to the highest practicable frequency (in practice this is probably limited by the transition frequency of the output transistors chosen), and a single dominant lag was then interposed within the amplifier chain to generate a predictable gain and phase margin.

When this was done, it was found that the harmonic distortion was also lower than had been anticipated, and it was apparent, on consideration, that the reduction in the phase error of the amplifier chain within the frequency range of interest also reduced the ineffective quadrature components in the feedback loop and allowed more effective distortion
cancellation. One might say that negative feedback is indeed an effective way of reducing distortion but only so long as it is negative.

In the particular case of class $B$ push-pull output stages, where the signal is routed alternately through the two halves, the phase characteristics of these may well be different unless externally corrected, and it seems probable in retrospect that the improvement which I found to be given by the addition of a capacitor across Mr Baxandall's series corrector diode in the quasicomplementary pair was due to the matching of the phase lags of the two halves.

It should be remembered when carrying out this exercise that the high frequency phase characteristics are influenced by both circuit stray capacitances and lead impedances, so that if the mechanical layout of the amplifier is changed the phase error may also be changed and the phase trimming may need adjustment.

Once adequate loop stability is assured, the required transient response will be given so long as the rate of change of gain with frequency does not exceed - 6 dB / octave. This is probably most easily achieved in practice by the inclusion on the input of the amplifier of a simple $C R$ integrating circuit. This also protects the amplifier from shock-excitation or transient overload.
J. L. Linsley Hood,

Taunton,
Somerset.

## Reference

1. J. L. Linsley Hood. Hi-Fi News, Nov. 1972.

## Series resonant circuits

The other day a student of mine asked why series resonant circuits were not more widely used in communications equipment because they could be tuned by the capacitor and would then give a constant bandwidth over the tuning range.
This is true of course for simple series circuits whatever the coil $Q$-factor may be, the bandwidth being

## $\frac{R_{t}}{2 \pi L}$,

where $R_{t}$ is the total series resistance in the circuit in which the signal appears.
The same is true if $R_{t}$ and $L$ are placed in parallel with the tuning capacitor, provided that the $Q$-factor is greater than 10 or so. It is only when, in practice, this parallel circuit is fed from a source, or loaded by another system (such as transistor tuned amplifiers), that we get a tuned circuit which can be represented by the duals of $R_{t}$ and $L$, so that the three components, $R_{t}^{\prime}$, the dual of $R_{t}$, $L^{\prime}$, the dual of $L$, and $C$, are placed in parallel, with $L^{\prime}$ assumed to have a high $Q$-factor, as above.
Then the bandwidth is given by

$$
\frac{1}{2 \pi C R_{t}^{\prime}}
$$

and varies with the setting of the tuning capacitor. This, in practice, means that the $Q$-factor will be as much determined by the circuit shunt resistance ( $R_{t}^{\prime}$ ) as by the self resistance of the coil, so that the selectivity will not vary as much as one might think if the ratio of the highest and lowest tuned frequencies is close to unity.

Apart from quickly seeing why series circuits cannot be used in collector circuits, the student was essentially satisfied by the explanation given above. I trust it was sound and practically sensible?
Roger C. Driscoll,
Polytechnic of North London,
London N. 7.

## Solid-state teleprinter demodulator

I was interested to read the article in the February Wireless World on a solid state teleprinter demodulator, since I am in the process of setting up an amateur two-metre RTTY station. Like Mr Addie, I felt that i.cs have much to offer over earlier techniques. In particular I have used a p.l.l. i.c. to discriminate between mark and space frequencies. This has proved exceptionally easy to set up for a.f.s.k. as used by amateurs on v.h.f. The tracking filter, as it is sometimes called, would appear to offer a simpler solution to frequency discrimination than the $L C$ bandpass filters used by Mr Addie. Tuning fixed inductors at low audio frequencies leads to a multitude of fixed capacitors, whereas fine tuning of the p.1.1. is accomplished by a variable resistor. The same device can also readily resolve different shift frequencies.

In the end, performance under operational conditions is the ultimate test, and I confess that I am a raw beginner in this field. I wonder if the p.l.1. can equal the performance of a well tuned filter. It is certainly easier to use.
J. M. Osborne,

Westminister School,
London, S.W.1.

## Reference

"Terminal Unit in Solid State for RTTY". Short Wave Magazine, Nov. and Dec. 1972.

## Dual-ramp d.v.ms

In view of the increasing interest in the dual ramp technique of digital voltage measurement, evidenced by various recent articles in your pages, I hope you will allow me space to comment on the patent position.

Basic patents covering this technique are held by Solartron/Schlumberger in several industrial countries. These include U.K. patents No. 869,262 and No. 1,090,047.
It has been Schlumberger's practice to grant non-exclusive licences under these patents to responsible applicants. We would be glad to consider an approach
from, for example, any firm which is not yet licensed and plans to supply kits or finished equipment using the patented technique.
R. H. Nicholson,

Managing Director,
The Solartron Electron Group Ltd,
Farnborough,
Hampshire.

## Doppler distortion in loudspeakers

I had hoped that my letter in the January issue of Wireless World would end the correspondence on Doppler distortion but the plea by Mr M. G. Scroggie in the February issue, which has just come to my notice, prompts me to pen a brief answer.

The first point he raises is at least partially answered by Stott and Axon. I quote, "Vibrato of either pitch or intensity in a musical instrument tends to mask fluctuations caused by the recording system (e.g. Doppler*). From this point of view the piano with its complete absence of vibrato, is possibly the most pure tonal generator available; its frequent use in the investigations described was based on this consideration. The organ may speak vibrato from the tremulant stops. An example of pitch-fluctuation threshold variation for light theatre-organ music is shown in Fig. 12 which gives the mean results for nine subjects. As far as comparison with curve (b) of Fig. 10 is possible, the threshold is seen to be greater than that for piano programme material except at extreme flutter frequencies".

I doubt whether from the musical aspect a single flute stop organ note would be held very long over a single pedal note, and the moment a chord is introduced the position becomes radically different. This is illustrated by Mr Moir's letter in the same issue, in which he confirms that the very low values of Doppler distortion he quotes not only require continuous pure tones but also the sharp standing wave patterns in a live room to detect them to this degree. This is confirmed by the ubiquitous Stott and Axon article again in their Fig. 8 which shows a minimum audibility figure for pure tones, when using headphones, of as much as $0.15 \%$ peak frequency modulation. The large difference in values indicates the tremendous effect the standing wave system in a room has for steady pure tones on the audibility of Doppler effect. This would largely be negated by the use of chords instead of pure tones as the positions for the peaks and troughs would not coincide for the different frequencies, and again by the short time most chords are sounded in programme. (Stott and Axon used slow sustained piano programme to emphasize the effect.)

Perhaps the proof of the pudding is in the eating. In the article quoted in Jour. Audio Eng. Soc. for November I have

[^6]shown that on the basis of the Stott and Axon findings, Doppler distortion should be inaudible at the maximum rated power on all three of the latest types of B.B.C. monitoring loudspeaker by values ranging from 7 to 12 dB . In practice no complaint of such distortion has ever been made about these loudspeakers on any type of programme whatsoever, whereas if the figures for pure tones were applicable Doppler distortion should be plainly heard.

## H. D. Harwood,

B.B.C. Research Dept.,

Kingswood Warren,
Surrey.

## Open University course

I was particularly interested to read the article on the Open University Post Experience Course as I am one of this year's students - currently up to Unit 5, Semiconductor Devices. I would echo the author's opinions concerning the presentation of the work as anything less like my old text-books is hard to imagine plenty of space for margin notes, colour in the diagrams, photographs of equipment etc.

Prospective students should not be put off by a lack of BBC-2 as the programmes (although desirable, of course) are not essential viewing for continuity.

In conclusion, may I take the opportunity of thanking you for the "back-up" given by the journal - two articles on magnetic topics by Cathode Ray, and a series of four on the development of semiconductors.
P. J. Hunt,

St. Saviour's Hill,
Jersey, C.I.

## Feedback amplifiers

If I might reply briefly to Mr Walker (Letters, April issue) on the particular point of the noise levels in shunt feedback circuits, leaving aside for the moment the case of a frequency dependent feedback loop, the situation can be clarified by reference to the accompanying drawing. If we postulate two zero-output, zeroimpedance, generators, $E_{1}$ and $E_{2}$, connected to the inputs of a notional operational amplifier by means of two

resistors $\left(R_{S}\right)$ of the appropriate value to optimize the input noise characteristics, the output noise of the amplifier will be the same whichever of the two generators we assume to be providing the zero input.

If however, we increase the output from one or other of these, to some suitable (and identical) value, the signal-to-noise ratio will depend on the extent to which the signal is attenuated between source and amplifier. In the case of the series circuit this is normally very little; in the case of the shunt circuit this depends on the input shunt impedance of the amplifier device. With suitable operating parameters this will be in the range $4-6 \mathrm{~dB}$, and this is the intrinsic loss in this arrangement. Moreover, the noise impedance seen by the input in the shunt feedback case is not the input resistor circuit value, but the value of the "virtual earth" impedance, and noise measurements suggest a value of $600-1200$ ohms for this. This is in line with the observed noise values, which can be as low as $0.6 \mu \mathrm{~V}$, whereas the thermal noise of an input $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ would be some $3.9 \mu \mathrm{~V}\left(20 \mathrm{kHz}\right.$ bandwidth, $\left.300^{\circ} \mathrm{K}\right)$.

I agree with Mr Walker that the use of an R.I.A.A. equalized circuit changes this case by altering the special distribution of the noise but this also makes it difficult to specify what the noise figure is in respect of an input signal which also is assumed to increase with frequency.
J. L. Linsley Hood,

Taunton,
Somerset.

## "Biamplifier" loudspeakers

We read with interest Mr Hiscocks' letter in the March issue, commenting on Mr Kelly's article on loudspeakers. We note particularly his comments concerning the use of active crossover networks and the use of separate power amplifiers for each loudspeaker. The Gabraphone 2001-6 Reproducer System employs a highly developed form of exactly this principle.

Following the pre-amplifier stages, the audio frequency range is separated into three bands by filters. A user control is provided for each band to permit individual adjustment of the lower, middle, and upper registers. The separate signals are then passed to individual power amplifiers, 6 in all, each of which drives an associated loudspeaker unit in the specially designed enclosure.

Our observations and measurements confirm the freedom from intermodulation distortion which you anticipate, as well as the elimination of transient distortion introduced by the conventional passive crossover network.

In our view, the additional cost of this system is well justified by the improved quality of results obtained, and evidently the discriminating customers who purchase this equipment agree with us. S. Gabr,

Modern Engineering \& Technology Ltd., Canterbury,
Kent.

## Industrial Electronics

# 3. Inductive and capacitive displacement transducers 

by Richard Graham

The absolute method of displacement and position measurement described in the last article is one of the most accurate and reliable known to man of positioning the workpiece in a machine tool. It must be admitted, though, that it comes expensive. Furthermore, other applications in which position measurement is carried out may not need the ultimate in accuracy, long-term stability, digital read-out and friction-free operation. The engineer must be a practical man, and it makes good sense to provide the required performance at a reasonable cost, and not to saddle whoever is paying the bill with more accuracy, etc. than he can use.

## Inductive transducers

Considerably cheaper, but still accurate and extremely sensitive, is the linear variable differential transformer - a device which is substantially easier to use than to say. Fig. 1(a) is a sketch of the transducer in which are shown a primary and two secondary windings on a common, cylindrical former. The secondaries are wound in phase

(b)

Fig. 1(a) Sectional drawing of l.v.d.t. (b) Output signal from the l.v.d.t. In a phase-sensitive detector the left side would be negative.
opposition, and the three windings are penetrated by a core, which is movable axially. When the core is in the centre position, the magnetic flux linking the primary to the secondaries, via the core, is equally distributed, so that the output difference voltage is zero. As the core moves to favour one secondary, the voltage from that secondary increases at the expense of the other and a difference voltage appears. Moving the core in the opposite direction by the same amount produces a difference voltage of the same amplitude but of opposite phase. The core movement/output voltage characteristic, neglecting phase, is shown in Fig.1(b). Departures from linearity are of the order of $0.25 \%$ of end-to-end output, and at the origin, there is not a perfect null unless steps are taken to provide one by external electrical means.

Unless the core is required to pass the centre position, the output can be indicated directly by an ordinary pointer-type instrument of high impedance or by digital voltmeter. For full-range indication, a phase-sensitive meter is, of course, required. The transducers can be obtained in ranges from 0.05 in to 10 in , full-scale, the output being in the order of 0.02 mV to 2 mV per volt applied per 0.001 in displacement.

This transducer has much to recommend it. Mechanically, it is simplicity itself. There is no friction and the device is invulnerable to hard use and hostile industrial environments. The alignment of the moving core is not critical and there are no rubbing surfaces to wear. Electrically, while not as linear as the digital type of transducer, it is adequately accurate for the majority of applications. It has a continuous characteristic, providing an infinitely small resolution, and it is mechanically and electrically stable.

Applications of the l.v.d.t. are numerous and range from pressure measurement to the determination of acceleration; any parameter, in fact, in which the variable can be turned into a linear movement can be measured by an l.v.d.t. system. An interesting application is that shown in Fig.2, where the static l.v.d.t. is being used to determine the eccentricity of a lorry tyre. The system is by Sturge Automation ${ }^{3}$ and is capable of detecting eccentricities of


Fig. 2 Tyre eccentricity measurement by Sturge Automation. As the tyre turns, the output of the transducer is recorded.
0.002 inch on a 40 -inch tyre. Similar systems. using multiple transducers, are in use to detect variations in the thickness of continuous sheet material during manufacture. The output is presented digitally.
L.v.d.ts can be used to measure acceleration by the arrangement of Fig.3. In this type of instrument, the windings are stationary relative to the body whose acceleration is being measured, the mass of the core and associated spring flexures being free to move. The deflection of the core is proportional to the applied force due to acceleration.

The testing of metallurgical specimens is an application in which the l.v.d.t. excels by virtue of its linearity and stepless output. Fig. 4 shows such a measurement suggested by Schaevitz', in which a tensile test specimen is being extended, the


Fig. 3 The l.v.d.t. in an accelerometer application.

Fig. 4. When used in an extensometer, the core is completely free to move and is not damaged when the specimen breaks.


Fig. 5 The LD5000 inductive half-bridge transducer by Philips.


1. Adapter, stainless steel, 27 mm dia.
2. Special nut, brass
3. Insulating bushing, polystyrene
4. Inner electrode, stainless steel
5. Outer electrode, stainless steel, 20 mm dia.
6. Dielectric tube, polystyrene, 16 mm dia.
7. Threaded insert, $3-\mathrm{mm}$ metric thread
8. Coupling section, aluminum

Fig. 6 The DISA dielectric-change transducer type 51DO5.


Fig. 7 Rank Precision capacitive displacement transducer.
l.v.d.t. being used to measure the extension. The core and windings are, of course, completely separate, so that when the specimen ruptures, no precautions are necessary to prevent damage to the l.v.d.t.

Similar, in some respects, to the l.v.d.t. is the half-bridge inductive transducer. It consists of a tube of non-magnetic material, on which are wound two coils forming two arms of a bridge network. A ferromagnetic core moves in the tube, varying the inductance of the coils differentially and unbalancing the bridge, which is completed by resistive arms. These devices possess the advantages of the l.v.d.t. and are cheaper to make, measuring from $\pm 1$ millimetre to $\pm 150$ millimetres at a maximum non-linearity of less than $2 \%$ of stroke. Philips ${ }^{2}$, in common with other manufacturers, provide a range of signal generation and handling equipment. In conjunction with this equipment, it is possible to obtain full-scale deflection at the indicator for a deflection of one micron.

## Capacitive transducers

As may be expected, the "other" property, capacitance, can also be exploited to obtain displacement measurement. The capacitance of two plates is proportional to $k A / D$, where $A$ is the area of overlap, $k$ is the dielectric constant and $D$ is the distance between the plates. The variation of any one of these parameters will produce a capacitance change, and all three have been used in commercial equipment. To derive a useful output from the capacitance change, the variable capacitor is made a part of the tuning element in an oscillator's tuned circuit, the resulting frequency modulation being detected and used to operate the desired output device. In the case of the transducer working with plate separation as the variable, the distance/capacitance characteristic is hyperbolic and requires an electronic linearizer to give a true indication. Disa ${ }^{4}$ manufacture a range of capacitive displacement transducers, together with signal processing equipment, and Fig. 6 shows their Type 51DO5, which is of the dielectric-change variety. The change in capacitance as the dielectric tube moves axially is linear with displacement. This type is intended to measure large axial movements up to 7 cm and, as the coupling section is hinged, can be used to convert rotary movement into linear displacement. In this way, it is valuable as a piston stroke transducer in the investigation of i.c. engine operation.

The measurement of large displacements is also the function of a system made by Rank Precision ${ }^{5}$ (originally by Reilly Engineering) shown in Fig.7. In this case, a series of cylindrical electrodes are arranged end-to-end in the form of a rod. Sliding over the rod is a cursor cylinder exactly equal in length to one stator segment or a multiple thereof. Each segment is fed from a tap on a voltage-dividing transformer, the voltages increasing arithmetically in amplitude. The cursor is coupled purely capacitively to the stator segments and the voltage output


(b)

Fig. 8 Wayne Kerr capacitive probe system.
from the cursor increases continuously as it moves from the low-signal end to the other. To take account of any errors in length of the stators or inaccuracy in the transformer taps, additional variable voltage sources are connected in series with the taps, the voltages applied to the stators thereby being capable of slight variations. The output of the cursor is measured by nulling a bridge circuit, which gives a degree of immunity to supply voltage variations. Accuracy of measurement is extremely high, the error over a 20 -in transducer amounting to no more than 0.0001 in peak to peak.

Applications include the calibration of automatic machine tools, high-speed measurements on machines where a digital system may be subject to error, and materials testing where long-term stability is required as in the measurement of creep. Short-range transducers are also made, and consist of only two stator segments and a cursor, an arrangement which is effectively a differential capacitor.

The Wayne Kerr ${ }^{6}$ Dimeq TE200 range of equipment is another embodiment of the variable capacitance technique. Fig. 8 shows a sketch of the principle, in which one "plate" of the capacitance in question is the transducer. The other electrode is the metallic structure under examination, which is connected to the instrument ground. The capacitor formed by the probe and structure is made the negative feedback element in a high-gain amplifier, to which is applied a constant-amplitude 16 kHz signal. If it is assumed that the open-loop amplifier gain is very high, there is a virtual earth point at the junction of the fixed $C$ stand and the probe capacitance $C$ probe. The closed-loop gain of the amplifier is proportional to the reactance of the probe capacitance, which is proportional to $d$, the distance between the probe and the earthed structure. The output signal is therefore directly proportional to this distance. The application of the system lies in the measurement of vibration, thickness, bore diameters and eccentricities and is capable of indicating displacements in the range 0.5 mm to 2.5 mm .

The transducers and systems described in these two articles have been selected from a large number of devices currently in use, employing the properties of capacitance, inductance, resistance and ultrasonics to provide the detection and measurement of position, displacement and distance. Many more exist, and it is not intended to imply that the types that are not described are inferior - it is simply that the choice is limited by space.

In the next article, I shall deal with the use of electronics in the weighing industry.

## References

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2. Pye Unicam Ltd., Philips Electronic Instrument Dept., York Street, Cambridge CB12PX.
3. Sturge Automation Ltd., Lifford Lane, Birmingham B30 3JP.
4. DISA, 116 College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1 HQ .
5. Rank Precision Industries Ltd., Leicester House, Lee Circle, Leicester LEI 9JB.
6. The Wayne Kerr Co. Ltd., Durban Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex, PO22 9RL.

## Sixty Years Ago

This was the first issue after the launch of the journal under its new name. Although wireless telegraphy ceased to be our prime concern some time ago, the broad aims of Wireless World appear to have remained substantially the same.
"In presenting the first number of THE WIRELESS WORLD last month, we do not think we were unduly sanguine in thinking that it would occupy a place in periodical literature which has hitherto been left unfilled. Its reception has justified the opinion that the magazine would meet a distinct need, and the cordial welcome which it has received from all quarters and from the technical and general Press encourages us to look for the rapid achievement of our object to make it 'a magazine for everyman'. The first number had an issue of fifty thousand copies, but, large as this quantity may appear, it was by no means too large to cope with the demand. An encouraging feature was the numerous 'repeat' orders from newsagents and booksellers in all parts of the country. These facts are worth mentioning because they illustrate more strikingly than anything else can the great public interest in the subject of wireless telegraphy, and their eagerness to read about it when the subject is presented in such a manner that it will not be beyond their scope."
H.F. Predictions May

These notes are prepared during the first few days of the month prior to publication, which unfortunately precludes basing the ionospheric "weather" forecasts on observations made during the month immediately preceding the forecast month. However, over the few years of a sunspot minimum which is expected at the end of 1974, advance forecasts can meet with moderate success.

There was a prolonged magnetic disturbance at the end of March which will almost certainly recur from the 13th to 20th May with a possible extension to the 25 th. The first part of the month is expected to be quiet, the period 8th to 12th being the most favourable.




## About People

Thames Television has appointed Brian G. Scott, M.I.E.E., to become head of engineering, and A. J. Rickards, M.I.E.R.E., as deputy head of engineering. Mr Scott joined ABC TV in 1961 in technical operations, following design and systems experience on closed circuit television. He was transferred to Engineering Projects in 1964, and made deputy head of engineering for Thames in 1968. He became head of engineering projects in 1970. Mr Rickards joined ABC TV in 1960 from E.M.I. He was head of engineering, planning and installation in 1968 for Thames, and subsequently became head of the development and maintenance department.

Among those recently elected Fellows of the Royal Society are the following:
Professor W. J. G. Beynon, C.B.E., Ph.D., D.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., professor of physics in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. He is distinguished for his work in ionospheric studies and for his rôle in the organization of the International Geophysical Year and the International Years of the Quiet Sun. J. G. Bolton, B.A. (Cantab), is director of the Australian National Radio Astronomy Observatory and is distinguished for his contributions to radio and optical astronomy, the development of instruments and the optical identification of radio sources. Professor H. H. Hopkins, Ph.D., D.Sc. (Hon), who is professor of applied optics at the University of Reading, is known particularly for his work in theoretical and applied optics, especially the wave theory of aberrations, fibre optics and the zoom lens.

Roy Blythen has been appointed to the Board of E.M.I. Sound \& Vision Equipment Ltd, at Hayes. Joining E.M.I's research laboratories in 1934, Mr Blythen became involved with the development work which led to the first high-definition television system in 1936. As part of the E.M.I. television research team, led by Sir Isaac Shoenberg, he was primarily engaged in the design of the transmitting equipment used for broadcasts from Alexandra Palace. During the second world war, he worked on the first form of air-
borne radar which E.M.I. developed and manufactured during this period. In 1945, he returned to research and development work on television transmitters and aerial systems until 1957 when he transferred to the Broadcast Equipment Division. When E.M.I. Sound \& Vision Equipment Ltd was formed in June 1972, he was appointed general manager of the Telecommunications Division.

Sinclair Radionics has appointed Mike Pye, M.A. (Cantab), as research and development controller. Mr Pye was previously consumer branch manager of Texas Instruments, Bedford, where his work included the design and development of linear integrated circuits. He joined T.I. four years ago from Plessey.
L. A. Smulian, B.Sc., previously general manager, Transmission and Electronic Exchanges division, Plessey Telecommunications, has been appointed managing director of the Plessey Microsystems division. Mr Smulian has been with Plessey since 1966 when he joined Plessey Radar as manager, Display and Data division.

Two major appointments within Plessey Memories are also announced. Bernard J. Hadley, F.I.E.E., who for the past five years has been managing director of International Rectifier Company (GB) Ltd, joins Plessey to head the Memories marketing activities. Appointed operations executive (world-wide) to control the Plessey Memories production programme is Alan W. Jones, M.A., who was works director, Keith Blackman Ltd.

The secretary of the Society of Electronic \& Radio Technicians, Anthony J. Kenward, B.Sc., A.M.I.E.R.E., has been appointed a member of the Technician Education Council by the Secretary of State for Education \& Science, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Mr Kenward was educated at Haberdashers Aske's School and Sexey's School, Bruton. He studied physics at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, and obtained an external London degree in 1946. His experience includes 16 years on the staff of the Institution of Electronic \& Radio Engineers as education
officer responsible for all membership, education and examination activities. During this period he was a joint secretary of the Joint Committee for Higher National Certificates \& Diplomas in Electrical \& Electronic Engineering. He has been secretary of S.E.R.T. since its formation in 1965, and of the Radio Television \& Electronics Examination Board since the same date. He is currently chairman of the Technician Engineer section of the Engineer's Registration Board.

The board of British Insulated Callender's Cables has announced that Lord McFadzean has decided to relinquish the chairmanship and retire from the board in May, after almost 41 years' service. The board has accepted his decision with regret and, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the B.I.C.C. group has elected him as Honorary President for life, in which capacity his wide experience will continue to be available to the company for certain special services and for consultation. William Fraser, C.B.E., at present deputy chairman and chief executive, will relinquish these positions and succeed Lord McFadzean.

Hewlett-Packard have announced the appointment of Robert Somerville as the television studio manager in their plant at South Queensferry, West Lothian. Mr Somerville's appointment is unique in Scotland as this is claimed to be the first television studio to be opened by an industrial organization. He will take up his appointment almost immediately and undergo intensive training in the company's German factory, where a studio has already been established, and later at Heriot Watt University

Richard Foxwell, C.B.E., a founder director of Wayne Kerr, and its chairman since 1958 when the company became a member of the Wilmot Breeden group, has retired from the board. Mr Foxwell was appointed C.B.E. in 1967 for services to export. He was president of the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association from 1969 to 1971.

Ian A. Denny, B.Sc (Eng), has been appointed chief executive of BEPI Electronics Ltd., Galashiels, specialist manufacturers of printed circuits, on the retirement of K. G. Mill. Mr Denny joins BEPI from the P. E. Consulting Group Ltd where he was senior consultant for eight years. He was previously with the Plessey Group. He was born in Glasgow and educated at Berwick County Grammar School and Edinburgh University.

UCC Computer Instrumentation Ltd have just announced the appointment of David Sanders as o.e.m. manager for their Digital Equipment division, with responsibility for engineering support
before and after delivery of equipment. Mr Sanders has considerable experience in the solution of o.e.m. problems in the field of computer and d.p. engineering, having completed three years as the senior sales engineer dealing with the division's Southern Region customers. Prior to joining C.I.L. he served in various commercial engineering capacities with Plessey Automation over a period of eight years, where he was involved technically with many forms of computer peripheral equipment.
H. Kenneth Jolly, M.A., has been appointed director of the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers Association and chairman of the executive council of the Association. He succeeds Sydney Allchurch, O.B.E., who, as we announced in the April issue, has retired. Mr Jolly has been secretary of the Association since Sep tember 1966. During that period he has been particularly associated with the promotion of colour television in Great Britain, with the television and radio industry's preparations for entry into Europe and with studies on imports of consumer electronic products.

John Lewis, B.Sc. (Eng), of the B. B.C's en gineering designs department is going to Beaverton, Oregon, U.S.A, for six months to undertake a design exercise in collaboration with Tektronix Inc. Mr Lewis, who is a graduate of London University, has for a considerable time been working on the design of specialized units to be used in connection with oscilloscopes for monitoring broadcast television signals. Mr Lewis will conduct the final stages of his investigations in the Tektronix laboratories.

Among the annual awards presented by the I.E.E.E. in February were the Edison Medal and the Founder's Medal. The former was awarded to Dr B. D. H. Tellegen "for a creative career of significant achievement in electrical circuit theory, including the gyrator". After receiving a degree in electrical engineering from the Technical University of Delft, Holland, he spent his career with Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven. retiring in 1962 after 38 years. The Founder's Medal was presented to W. R. Hewlett and D. Packard "for leadership in the development of electronic instruments, for creative manage ment and for public service". Messrs Hewlett and Packard started their company in 1939 and now employ over 18,000 people internationally. Mr Packard is chairman of the board, and has been U.S. deputy Secretary of Defence. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. Mr Hewlett is president and chief executive officer of HewlettPackard.

## Circuit Ideas


#### Abstract

Concise descriptions of new circuits are invited for Circuit Ideas, for which $£ 5$ is paid on publication. Contributors should say how their circuit is an improvement over existing circuits, preferably in the first sentence.


## Simple tunable notch filter

Most active $R C$ notch filters are difficult to tune because the rejection at the notch frequency depends on the accurate ganging of several potentiometers or variable capacitors (three in the case of the twinT filter). The circuit shown has a notch frequency which can be varied by one potentiometer only, the notch rejection being independent of the setting and the bandwidth between points of 3 dB attenuation on either side of the notch being independent of the frequency to which the filter is tuned. The circuit consists of a bandpass filter tuned by $R_{1}$ followed by a virtual earth summing circuit that adds the output of this filter with the input signal. Notch rejection is set to maximum by adjustment of $R_{2}$. Using the values shown

the filter tunes from 170 Hz to 3 kHz , a bandwidth between 3 dB points of 230 Hz and a notch rejection of better than 40 dB over the complete range. A voltage-tuned notch filter may be realised by replacing
$R_{1}$ with a f.e.t. operated as a voltagevariable resistor.
R. J. Harris,

Wells,
Somerset.

## Bench power supply

The circuit shown provides 0 to 15 V and a current up to 175 mA . Current limiting is provided by the 5.6 -ohm resistance and the diode $D_{1}$. When the voltage across the 5.6 -ohm resistance exceeds about 1.2 V , the current source $\mathrm{Tr}_{1}$ produces less current and the output voltage is reduced.

The $15-\mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor from the emitter of $T r$, provides feedback so as to reduce the current variations through the regulator diode. A $10 \%$ line voltage change there-
fore produces only a $2 \mathrm{mV} \pm 0.01 \%$ change in $V_{\text {out }}$. A full load current change produces a 15 mV output voltage change; and the output voltage recovers in $3 \mu$ s to within 10 mV of $V_{\text {out }}$ after a full load current change. The three-transistor combination $T r_{2}, T r_{3}$ and $T r_{4}$ therefore provides fairly high gain and wide bandwidth. Output impedance at 100 kHz is less than 0.3 ohm . Output voltage temperature coefficient depends on the regulator diode temperature coefficient, the base-emitter junction of
$T r_{4}$ and, at low voltage, the germanium diode. In this respect the circuit is inferior to conventional circuits and a coefficient of $12 \mathrm{mV} \pm 0.1 \% / \mathrm{deg} \mathrm{C}$ is achieved. Out put ripple voltage is greatly dependent on the Early effect in $T r_{4}$. Using the device shown a ripple of less than 1 mV is obtained. Charge storage spikes from the rectifier diodes are removed by the 100 nF capacitor across the transformer secondary.
J. A. Roberts,

Merthyr Tydfil.


## World of Amateur Radio

## New threat to $\mathbf{3 . 5 M H z}$ ?

For many years the world-wide "exclusive" amateur allocation of 7000 to 7100 kHz has been virtually "occupied" for many hours each day by high-power broadcasting stations - including Radio Peking, Radio Cairo and Radio Tirana (Albania) - working in defiance of the I.T.U's Radio Regulations. China has recently acceded to the International Telecommunications Convention of 1965 but in doing so has entered reservations concerning any adoption of the frequency assignments and utilization of the Radio Regulations, so there is now little reason to hope for any sudden departure of Radio Peking from $7-\mathrm{MHz}$ amateur frequencies.

Equally disturbing is that Arthur Cushen, the well-known New Zealand short-wave listener, writing in Electronics Australia, is reporting increasing intrusion by broadcasting stations into the 3.5 3.8 MHz band. Although this band is shared by various services and amateurs, nowhere is it designated for broadcasting. So it is in breach of the Radio Regulations that Radio Peking has been using 3.64 MHz , Radio Pyongyang (North Korea) 3.56 MHz , and a station at Dilh, Timor, after many years of operating within an assigned broadcasting allocation on 3.268 MHz , has recently moved to 3.665 MHz .

## On the DX bands

The first quarter of the year has seen a notable series of re-occurring magnetic storms, spaced at roughly 27 -day intervals and caused by a persistent group of sun spots on successive passes. While they lasted, these storms produced disturbed h.f. conditions and a general absence of DX reception on 21 and 28 MHz . In the initial stages, however, they fortunately tend to produce higher m.u.fs and short spells of good conditions one of which, fortunately, coincided with the A.R.R.L. c.w. contest. Regular fade-outs of this type are generally associated with the declining phase of a sunspot cycle and have reminded many amateurs that we now face further decline in sunspot numbers.

A new $28-\mathrm{MHz}$ beacon, ZC4CY on Cyprus, is now active and has been well received in the U.K.

From September 1, the A.R.R.L. is to cease issuing DXCC awards endorsed for phone only operation - in future this well-known award will be issued without distinction between phone and c.w. operation.

The Russian Antarctic bases now have callsigns with the prefix 4 KI with the particular base indicated by the first letter following the figure 1 (A, Molodezhnaya; B, Mirny; C, Vostok; D, Novolazareskaya; F, Bellinghausen; G, Leningradskaya; and H, Russkaya).

## A question of deviation

The rapid growth in the use of frequency modulation techniques by British amateurs in the $144-\mathrm{MHz}$ band has raised the thorny question of compatibility with a.m. operators who complain that f.m. transmissions occupy excessive bandwidth. The a.m. people feel that only true narrow-band f.m. (maximum deviation less than $\pm 5 \mathrm{kHz}$ ) should be used so that the emissions occupy only the same channel width as a.m. But there appears to be no such restriction written officially into the amateur licence, and many of the new and converted f.m. equipments now being used on 144 MHz are designed for significantly wider deviations and often cannot be operated efficiently on n.b.f.m. For example, it would seem that where a receiver i.f. of 10.7 MHz is used only discriminators based on quartz crystals are really suitable for n.b.f.m. reception and these are still few and far between.

Similar debates have arisen in other countries. Glen Zook, K9STH/5, writing in the American CQ magazine states that in the United States the growth rate of f.m. is levelling off, and the f.m. enthusiasts are beginning to look for better equipment. Some of the problems are due to the adoption or adaption of equipments originally designed for use in 25,30 or even 50 kHz channels. When these are used in crowded amateur bands severe adjacent channel interference may be experienced by the f.m. operator - apart from the annoyance to a.m. operators and the transmitters and receivers often drift excessively in frequency and suffer acutely from intermodulation problems.

Glen Zook believes that the time is
rapidly approaching when some of the "ready-to-go" f.m. equipments will have to undergo a major redirection in design. He also believes that better quality crystals need to be used for higher stability with a minimum tolerance of $0.001 \%$ and preferably $0.0005 \%$ or better, and that equipments suitable for strictly narrowband operation will appear on the market in the near future.

In many countries the growth of "repeater" operation has been a major factor in the adoption of f.m. In the U.K. the site of the first experimental f.m. repeater, GB3PI, which has been operating for several months at Cambridge, is expected to be changed soon to a much higher site at Barkway, Hertfordshire, about 12 miles farther south and potentially within range of London mobile stations. GB3PI accepts signals on 145.15 MHz and retransmits them on 145.75 MHz when triggered by a half-second 1700 Hz tone burst (see "W.o.A.R.," August 1972).

The first European linear repeater, capable of accepting all modes, is now being tested in Czechoslovakia with the call-sign OK0A, accepting signals on 145.1 MHz and retransmitting them on 145.7 MHz .

## In brief

The annual convention of the Northern Radio Societies Association will be held at a new venue - the Forum Halls, Wythenshawe, Manchester - on Sunday, May 6. Member societies will again compete for the G3AYD trophy awarded to the stand giving the best presentation of some aspect of Amateur Radio. There will also be trade stands and talk-in stations and GB2NRS will operate on all h.f. bands (details Peter Taylor, G8BCG, 2 Columbia Avenue, Gorton, Manchester M18 7LG) . . . The South Leicestershire Mobile Rally will be at Westfield Activity Centre, Rosemary Way, Hinckley, Leics, on May 13. . . Islenzkir Radioamatorar, the National amateur radio society of Iceland, has joined the Region 1 division of the International Amateur Radio Union, bringing the division to 41 member-societies. . . . A change of venue for the R.S.G.B. Dinner Club has been announced from May 4 (Royal Westminster Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London). . . Thomas Jenkins (74 Rhos Road, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, North Wales) is writing a book on the exploits of Radio Officers during World War II and would welcome information on personal experiences. His book is being dedicated to the 1500 Radio Officers who lost their lives during the war. . . Address of the Hon. Secretary of the British Amateur Radio Teleprinter Group has changed recently; it is now 2 Orchard Close, Toddington, Dunstable (Tel. Toddington 2470). . . . The world distance record on 144 MHz is an incredible 2540 miles - but it is worth remembering that it was set up as long ago as 1957!

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## New Products

## Waveform monitor

Rohde \& Schwarz have designed the OKF waveform monitor for television measurements. Covering the 0 to 20 MHz range, the OKF has three switch-selected isolated $Y$ inputs, i.e., a low-impedance input ( $Z=75 \Omega$ ), a high-impedance input ( $Z_{\text {in }}=1 \mathrm{M} \Omega / / 20 \mathrm{pF}$ ) and a bridgingfilter input ( $Z=75 \Omega$ ).

The high accuracy claimed for this instrument arises from its vertical magnification and shift facilities: picture signals can be displayed up to an equivalent height of 150 mm , allowing measurement accuracy to within $0.5 \%$. Other features include: d.c. restoration for composite colour video signals: noisevolt age measuring circuit for an equivalent display height of 500 mm , with a wide Y-positioning range (measurement possible down to -60 dB ); linearity measuring circuit for 1 and 4.43 MHz ; individual display of the four PAL-interlaced fields of a composite colour video signal; and H delay for display of line or testline details and double triggering of the main sweep generator for excess-level signals. Aveley Electric Ltd, Roebuck Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1LP.
WW316 for further details

## "Tallboy" oscilloscope

A new, low-cost oscilloscope which has been added to Telequipment's family of lightweight portables is called the D61,
and is a dual-trace 10 MHz instrument developed for general purpose applications including TV servicing. Its all solid-state components, generally rugged construction and upright proportions are claimed to make the instrument ideal for field work.

Triggering, selection for TV line and frame displays, and selection of chopped or alternate modes are all automatically selected on the timebase on the D61, which also switches one vertical channel to the horizontal input for $\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{Y}$ displays. Price £110. Tektronix U.K. Lid, Beaverton House, 36-38 Coldharbour Lane, P.O. Box 69, Harpenden Herts.

## WW321 for further details

## H.F. drilling machine

Adcola Products Ltd has introduced a compact, high frequency p.c.b. drilling machine. Known as the Quick Star, the machine has been designed to fill the gap between expensive automatic p.c.b. machines and slow manually operated machines which often lack the precision of the automatics in control. Basically the Quick Star is intended for rectification of p.c.b. production work, small batch production, design and development laboratories, or as an ancillary machine for watchmakers, jewellers and dental mechanics.

It consists of an electro-mechanical guided, high frequency spindle providing infinitely variable drilling speeds from 10,000 to 50,000 r.p.m. The drilling unit is fed from a separate converter, which means that it can be conveniently positioned in the most suitable location while the converter module can be sited some distance away. The converter controls the drill speed and infinitely variable feed. Operation of the feed can be either by removable hand lever or foot switch.

A special feature of the Quick Star lies in the visual drill positioning system, which includes a cross-wire projection onto a magnified circular viewing screen to provide a high degree of precision in control. This projection system incorporates two different types of light source one built into the optical device and the
other for use with an alternative enlarged magnifier lens. The selection of light source is controlled by a switch on the rear of drill section.

The drill spindle will accept a range of tungsten carbide drills from 0.2 to 2.00 mm and the stroke height is adjustable from 10 mm . The drilling area is 180 sq mm . The total cost of the drilling machine, converter module with accessories is less than $£ 600$. Optional extras include an electronic impulse counter, the enlarged magnifier lens and a larger base to increase the drill stand area to 320 mm $\times 400 \mathrm{~mm}$. Further details of the machine are available from Adcola Products Ltd, Adcola House, Gauden Road, London SW4 6LH.
WW 320 for further details

## Video distribution amplifier

Electrocraft instruments announce a selfcontained video distribution amplifier, providing five or ten independent signal outputs at $75 \Omega$ from one input. The models TVT/4/VDA 5-10 are designed to handle monochrome or colour video signals for a wide range of industrial and

commercial c.c.t.v. applications. Housed in die-cast boxes, the video distribution amplifiers are of rugged construction and designed for continuous operation under arduous conditions.
Price: $\quad 5$ way $£ 38.00$
10 way $£ 58.00$
Dimensions: 5 way $4.75 \times 3.75 \times 2.75$ in
10 way $6.75 \times 4.75 \times 2.75$ in
Electrocraft Instruments Lid, Liss Mill, Mill Road, Liss, Hants.
WW3 10 for further details

## D.I.P. resistor network

The Helipot Series 899-40 Resnet d.i.p. network available from Beckman Instruments has been designed to provide the optimum termination resistance and threshold level for interfacing two Intel l.s.i. chips, the 1103 and the 3208A.

In order to use Intel 1103 - the basic memory element - in a computer it is
necessary to interface the device with t.t.l. logic. This interface chip, the 3208 A , requires a network of eight resistors for every six bits. The Helipot Model 899-40 Resnet d.i.p. provides six resistors of $600 \Omega$ each $\left(R_{3}\right)$, and a voltage divider ( $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$ ) to supply the 150 mV threshold level required for the 3208 A .

For the standard Intel 1103, operating with a minimum read cycle of 480 ns and a minimum write cycle of 580 ns , the $R_{3}$ terminating resistors have the optimum $600 \Omega$ value.

The $R_{2}-R_{1}$ network provides the 150 mV threshold voltage to the 3208A: $R_{1}=$ $2780 \Omega$ and $R_{2}=87.4 \Omega$. Using these resistor values and the $\pm 5 \%$ variation in 5 V power supply regulation, the threshold voltage is $150 \mathrm{mV} \pm 13.0 \mathrm{mV}$.

Among the advantages claimed for the use of the network are: total compatibility with automatic insertion equipment; reduction of p.c. board area; and reduction of assembled board costs. Beckman Instruments L.d (Components International), Glenrothes, Fife.
WW3 14 for further details

## Thick film precision

## resistors

Technograph \& Telegraph are offering precision resistor networks, manufactured by thick film methods, giving a stability better than $0.15 \%$ after 5,000 hours at $125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The temperature coefficients for mid-range resistor values are below 50 p.p.m. $/{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and temperature coefficient of resistance tracking of 15 p.p.m. $/{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ can be achieved. These custom designed networks can be supplied with resistor tolerances of $\pm 0.5 \%$ absolute, or resistors matched to $\pm 0.25 \%$. Packages may be "on edge" or "dual-in-line" as required by the customer. Technograph \& Telegraph Ltd, Easthampstead Road. Bracknell. Berks. RGI2 INW.
WW317 for further details

## High frequency filter

Kinetic Technology announces an extension of the frequency range of the FS30 high frequency filter. Utilization of multiloop negative feedback allows simultaneous highpass, lowpass and bandpass transfer functions. Independent tuning of gain, centre frequency, and $Q$ is accomplished with the addition of external resistors. $Q s$ as high as 1000 can be obtained at frequencies below 100 kHz . The FS-30 is packaged in a 14 -pin d.i.p. configuration measuring 1.5 by 0.5 in . Operating temperature range is 0 to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and power consumption is 156 to 225 mW at $\pm 15$ to $\pm 20 \mathrm{~V}$. F.O.B. price $\$ 40.00$ each in quantities of 100 and delivery is from stock. Kinetic Technology, Inc., 3393 De La Cruz Boulevard, Santa Clara, California 95050, U.S.A.

## 1024-line real time spectrum analyser

A high resolution, real-time digital spectrum analyzer that provides 1024-line spectral analysis over a centre frequency range of d.c. to 40 kHz is available from Sanders Associates for use in radar and sonar signal processing, acoustic spectrum level measurement, and noise and vibration analysis.

Designated DSA-2004, it features all-digital circuitry for translation, filtering, Fourier analysis, post processing and storage. The unit, which has modular construction and built-in self-test
capability, provides resolutions selectable from 0.01 Hz to 40 Hz and an analysis bandwidth of 10 Hz to 40 Hz .

The DSA-2004, with an internal simuitaneous multi-channel processing capability, provides linear and logarithmic outputs for electrographic recorder, X-Y chart recorder, c.r.t. display and oscilloscope. Digital Communications, Sanders Associates, Inc., 95 Canal Street, Nashua, New Hampshire 03060, U.S.A. WW319 for further details


## Programmable distortion analyser

A new distortion analyser/a.c. voltmeter, the Hewlett Packard model $334 \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{H} 25$, has all the capabilities of the standard Model 334 A plus programmability of all functions, ranges and settings. Remote control is by parallel b.c.d. t.t.l. logic. A d.c. output and an interrogation circuit have been added so that an external controller can determine the status of the instrument during measurements. The Model $334 \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{H} 25$ can be manually controlled with back-lighted front panel push-buttons.

As a distortion analyser, the instrument measures total harmonic distortion from $0.1 \%$ to $100 \%$ full scale in seven ranges. The fundamental frequency range for distortion measurements is from 10 Hz to 100 kHz ; harmonics are indicated up to 1 MHz . Frequency resolution is 3 digits over the full frequency range. As an r.m.s.
calibrated voltmeter, the Model 334A-H25 measures input levels from 0.3 mV r.m.s. to 300 V r.m.s. full scale in thirteen meter ranges. The frequency range for voltage measurements is from 10 Hz to 1 MHz . Local or remote operation can be selected. In the "local" mode, the Model $334 \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{H} 25$ is operated as a bench instrument using front panel pushbutton switches. In "remote", it accepts parallel 8-4-2-1 b.c.d. coded instructions applied to the remote control lines. Internal storage is not provided. Remote control lines use standard t.t.l. logic levels. Provision is made for changing from high to low assertion states. A total of 34 lines is required for complete remote control. The Model $334 \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{H} 25$ is priced at $£ 1,732$, excluding duty. Hewlett-Packard Ltd., 224 Bath Road, Slough, Bucks. SL1 4DS.
WW 307 for further details


WW3 11 for further details

## Solid State Devices

Signetics announce three 8 -input digital t.t.l. multiplexers using Schottky technology. The 82S30 incorporates an "inhibit" input which, when low, allows the one-of-eight inputs selected by the address to appear on the " f " output and in complement on the " f " output. The 82 S 31 is a variant of the 82 S 30 that provides open collector output "त् input terms. The 82S32 is similar to the $82 S 30$ except for the effect of the "inhibit" input on the " F " output. With the "inhibit" low, the selected input appears at the " f " output and in complement on the " F " output. With the "inhibit" input high both the " f " and the " $\overline{\mathrm{f}}$ " outputs are unconditionally low.

Also from Signetics is an i.c. f.m. detector and limiter which uses linear gating techniques and is designated type ULN 2111. Only a single coil is required with this device which has a frequency range from 5 kHz to 50 MHz . Outputs of 0.6 V with a total distortion of less than $1 \%$ and a limiting threshold voltage of $400 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ r.m.s. are typical. Price is $£ 0.68$ for 100 -up quantities in the d.i.l. plastic package.

Finally there is a dual amplifier used as an interface between m.o.s. and t.t.l. devices. This amplifier, designated the 8 T 25 , is manufactured in an 8 -pin miniature d.i.l. package. Signetics International Corporation, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, London S.E. 20.

## WW326 digital multiplexer <br> WW327 f.m. detector/limiter WW328 dual amplifier

Feldon Audio, known more for professional sound studio equipment. announce they are to distribute a monolithic operational amplifier, the MCI 2001. This device was made specially for use in the MCI range of mixing consoles and thus has unusual characteristics. The input has a balanced open loop input impedance of better than $250 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, making the device suitable for summing or bridging applications, and a low output impedance capable of driving several $600 \Omega$ loads. Open loop gain is 90 dB and the maximum 20 Hz to 20 kHz closed loop gain is 50 dB . Output capability is +24 dBm into $600 \Omega$ and distortion at a closed loop gain of 20 dB is $0.004 \%$ t.h.d. at 1 kHz and $0.05 \%$ t.h.d. at 20 kHz . These measurements were made at an output level of +23 dBm . Equivalent noise is -112 dB . Feldon Audio Lid, 126 Great Portland Street, London W IN 5PH.

## WW329 for further details

Three devices are announced by Burr Brown International. The first is an i.c., f.e.t. device, type 3542 J , and features a
maximum voltage drift of $\pm 50 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{C}$ and a guaranteed input bias current of -25 pA . Hermetically sealed in a TO-99 package, the unit is pin compatible with 741 type operational amplifiers. Minimum d.c. voltage gain is 88 dB , full power frequency response is 8 kHz and the slew rate is $0.5 \mathrm{~V} / \mu \mathrm{s}$. Both output short circuit and input-to-supply voltage protection are provided. Output is $\pm 10 \mathrm{~V}$ at $\pm 10 \mathrm{~mA}$.

The second device is a pulse modulation analogue multiplier with an accuracy to $0.2 \%(20 \mathrm{mV})$. External trimming will improve the accuracy to $0.1 \%(10 \mathrm{mV})$. The absolute maximum input ratings are $\pm 30 \mathrm{~V}$ and the rated output is $\pm 10 \mathrm{~V}$ at 5 mA minimum. Output noise from d.c. to 10 kHz is 1 mV r.m.s. and the gain error versus temperature is $0.01 \% /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The device is designated model 4200 and can be used for flow rate and power calculations or, by change of pin connection, the 4200 can be used to divide and to take the square root.

Finally, this company introduces a high speed 8 -channel multiplexer with an internal channel address decoder, type MPM-8S. Capable of expansion to 256 channels in a multi-tiered matrix, the device accepts $\pm 10 \mathrm{~V}$ analogue signals and binary coded t.t.l. compatible channel address information. Throughout, speeds of up to 250 kHz are feasible with crosstalk of -115 dB with a 1 kHz full-scale sine wave applied to all the "off" channels. Burr Brown International Ltd, 25A King Street, Watford WD1 8BT, Herts.

## WW330 f.e.t. op-amp

WW331 analogue multiplier WW332 8-channel analogue multiplexer

A high speed r.a.m. (randome access memory) and three monolithic arrays of silicon planar photodiodes are now available from Mullard. The r.a.m., type GYQ131, is a 1024 -bit device functionally equivalent to the GYQ101 r.a.m. as well as the 1103 type of device. It offers, however, greater operating speed and dynamic operation with a supply voltage of 19 V .

The diode arrays F758 and F759 have 12 and 16 photodiodes respectively arranged in a strip with a pitch of 1.25 mm . Each diode has an active area of $2.09 \mathrm{~mm}^{2}$, operates with a reverse voltage of 15 V and has a typical sensitivity of 14 nA / lux. The third array, type F568, contains 12 photodiodes on a pitch of 2.05 mm . Each diode operates with a reverse voltage of IV to give a typical sensitivity of 40nA/lux Mullard Ltd, Mullard House, Torrington Place, London WCIE 7HD.
WW333 high speed r.a.m.
WW334 photodiode arrays

Teledyne Philbrick have introduced the model 1427 f.e.t. operational amplifier and the model 4853 high speed sample-hold amplifier. The performance features of the 1427 include a 7 MHz bandwidth, 900 ns settling time to $0.01 \%$ and an initial offset voltage of $\pm 500 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Offset voltage drift is $50 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{C}$ or a selected version, the 142701, is available with an offset drift of $25 \mu \mathrm{~V} /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.
The 4853 is a high speed $0.01 \%$ sample-hold amplifier with an extremely low aperture time of $\pm \mathrm{Ins}$ and a low feed-through of 1 mV maximum for a 20 V step. Acquisition time is less than $1 \mu$ s to $0.01 \%$. Teledyne Philbrick, Allied Drive at Route 128, Dedham, Massachusetts 02026, U.A.S.

## WW335 f.e.t. operational amplifier WW336 sample-hold amplifier

G.D.S. (Marketing) who supply products from Harris Semiconductor and Motorola, among others, announce the availability of new devices from both these companies. From Harris come two devices, a 1024 -bit p.r.o.m. (programmable read-only memory) and a four-channel operational amplifier.

The memory, which is high speed and fully decoded, is designated the HPROM 1024 A . Access time is typically 50 ns and a maximum of 70 ns . Address time is 20 ns . Supply is from a single 5 V source and the device is t.t.1./d.t.l. compatible. As supplied all bits store a logical " 1 " and can be selectively programmed for a logical " 0 ". The HPROM-1024A has an open collector output, but a second version, the HPROM-1024, has a third high impedance state output which allows the device to work in a "wired-OR" configuration. Both devices are supplied in 16 pin di.i. packages.

The four-channel operational amplifier, type HAO2405, combines the function of an analogue switch and a high performance amplifier. Four pre-amplifier sections, one of which is selected through d.t.1./t.t.1. compatible inputs to be connected to the output, are contained within the 16 pin d.i.l. package. The unusual configuration of this device, which Harris call the PRAM(!) - programmable analogue module - makes it suitable for use as a programmable attenuator, muitivibrator, active filters, four-channel comparator and signal selection/multiplexer.

Also from G.D.S. are the Motorola c.m.o.s. divide by " $n$ " 4 -bit counters. These are the MC14522L and the MC 14526CL, both of which are programmable devices. The first is a b.c.d. counter and the second a binary counter, and both devices can be operated from supply rails from 3 to 16 V . The counters are supplied in 16 pin di.i. packages at a 100-up cost of $£ 3.096$. GDS Sales Ltd, Michaelmas House, Salt Hill, Bath Road, Slough, Bucks.
WW337 1024-bit p.r.o.m.
WW338 4 channel p.r.a.m.
WW339 b.c.d. counter
WW340 binary counter

## May Meetings

## Tickets are required for some meetings: readers are advised

therefore to communicate with the society concerned

## LONDON

1st. IEE - "Lord Kelvin and his measuring instruments" by J. T. Lloyd at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
2nd. IEE - "Seeing in the dark" by Dr. P. Schagen, Dr. A. J. Goss, E. D. Hendry and R. D. Nixon at 16.00 at Savoy PI., WC2.
2nd. IEE/IERE - Colloq inum on "Electro mechanical problems of computer systems" at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.
3rd. IEE - Discussion on "The interface problem: Radio centre to A.F.C.S." at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
3rd. IEE Grads - "Careers in control and automation" by M. G. Shortland at 18.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
4th. IEE - Colloquium on "The automation of railway systems in the ' 70 s" at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2

7th. IEE - "Digital sound recording" by F. A. Bellis at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.
9th. IEE - "A matter of fact: The technical possibility of a broadcast information service" by $P$. Rainger at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
9 th. IERE - "Preparing engineers and managers for design specification" by Prof. D. Pilfold at 18.00 at 9 Bedford Sq., WCI

10th. IEE - Discussion on "Engineering graduates: Great expectations or hard times?" at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.

Ith. IEE/IERE - Colloquium on "Recent developments in self-organising and heuristic computers" at 14.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.
llth. IEE - "Electronic aids in archaeology" by Dr. E. T. Hall at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
Ilth. BAS/1.Phys. - "Developments in high fidelity systems" at I.Mech.E., 1 Birdcage Walk SWI. 14th. IEE -- "Non-linear systems analysis by multi-dimensional transform methods" by Prof. H. A. Barker at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.

14th. IEE Grads. - "Understanding lasers" by M. Kear and "Transmission line impedance measurement at microwave frequencies" by J. W. Gould at 18.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.

15th. IEE/IERE - Colloquium on "Electrical connectors - applications and reliability" at 14.00 at 9 Bedford Sq., WC1.
15th. AES - "Physics and the perception of musical sounds", by Prof. C. A. Taylor at 19.15 at the IEE, Savoy PI., WC2.
16th. IEE - "A 6 GHz radio delay digital transmission system" by E. S. Doe and H. D. Hyamson at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.

16th. IERE - "Meteorological tele communications systems engineering" by C. E. Goodison at 18.00 at 9 Bedford Sq., WC 1:
23rd. R.I. Navigation - "The commercial and political implications of a global satellite navigation system" by T. M. B. Wright at 17.00 at The Royal Institution of Naval Architects, 10 Upper Belgrave St., SW I.
23rd. IERE - "Adaptive equalization" by Dr. A. P. Clark at 18.00 at 9 Redford $\mathrm{Sq} ., \mathrm{WC} 1$

31st. RTS - "Television and satellites for European education - social, political and industrial implications" by Dr J. L. Jankovich at 19.00 at I.B.A., 70 Brompton Road, SW3.

## MANCHESTER

Ist. IEE - "Investment approval in the Post Office" by F. Broadhurst at 18.15 at the Renold Building, U.M.I.S.T
3rd. IERE - "Facsimile - a review" by J Malster and M. J. Bowden at 18.45 at the Renold Building, U.M.I.S.T.

## NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

7th. IEE - "Marine electronics reliability" by M. G. Miller at 18.30 at the University, Room M42 1 .

## SHEFFIELD

2nd. IEE - "New thoughts on sleep and dreams" by Dr. C. R. Evans at 18.30 at Telephone House, Charter Sq.

## STAFFORD

7th. IEE - "Instrumentation \& electrical engineering in vehicle research and development" by T. R. Aston at 19.00 at N. Staffs Polytechnic, Beaconside.

9th. IEE Grads - "Quadraphonics" by Dr. K. Barker at 19.30 at North Staffordshire Polytechnic.

## Announcements

A short course "Modern Instrumentation and Data Systems" is to be held at Lanchester Polytechnic, Priory Street, Coventry CV1 5FB on each Thursday of May. It is expected that those attending will be users of electronic instrumentation systems.

The subject of a residential vacation school to be held at the University of Birmingham from 16th to 21 st September 1974 is "Basic concepts in modern control theory". The school is being organized by the Control \& Automation Division of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and is intended to be of interest to control systems engineers and to teachers in this sector of higher education. Further details from the Secretary, I.E.E., Savoy Place. London WC2R OBL, quoting the reference LS(CA).

A one-week residential vacation school intended for practising engineers, scientists and teachers, who need have no previous knowledge of, but are interested in, the fundamentals of logic circuit design is being organized by the Electronics Division of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. The school "Logic design - for digital systems" will be held at the University of Kent in Canterbury from 23rd to 28th September 1973. Further details available from Senior Divisional Secretary (Electronics), IEE, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL.

The closing date for the receipt of applications for consideration for the award of seholarships in 1973 from the Council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers is Ist May. Awards include grants to deserving students to assist them in obtaining professional qualifications and grants to assist postgraduate students (IEE members only) with advanced study or research. Particulars from the Education and Training Officer. IEE, Savoy Place. London WC2R OBL.

New Industrial Products for Europe -- an E.E.C. trade-boosting product journal - is to be launched inSeptember. by IPC Industrial Press. To be published in each of the six peak European buying months (Sept.-Nov. and Mar.-May) the journal will be circulated to 28,000 senior executives of the
larger companies within the Common Market, excluding the U.K. and Eire. Further information can be obtained from the Publishing Director. IPC Industrial Press Ltd. 33/39 Bowling Green Lane, London EC|R ONE.

Following an agreement concluded with Honeywell Ltd, the company Wayne Kerr, Tolworth Close, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7ER, is now world-wide distributor for "Swift" digital testers. These instruments are complementary to the Wayne Kerr "Testmatic" range of analogue testers.

The computer peripheral company Pertec International is now at 10 Portman Road, Battle Farm Industrial Estate, Reading.

Lyons Instruments Ltd, Hoddesdon, Herts. have announced their appointment as U.K. distributors for Kinetic Technology Inc., Santa Clara, California, manufacturers of a range of standard, universal, hybrid active filters.

Potter Data Products Ltd. Station House, Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, is to market the U.S.A. company Scan-Optics' $20 / 20$ and $20 / 10$ ranges of optical character readers.

The contribution of Plessey Radar, Addlestone, Surrey, to the Eurocontrol Upper Airspace Centre at Karlsruhe, Germany, covers the supply of the complete operator input system and over 140 console operation positions for the centre. The contract is valued at $£ 1.25 \mathrm{M}$.

Studio Electronics, P.O. Box 18, Harlow, Essex CM18 6SH, design, build, claibrate and maintain specialist electronic and communications equipment, and will quote for this service, which includes alignment for the Nelson-Iones f.m. tuner and supply of other kits from $W$. $W$. articles.

Coutant Electronics Ltd, 3 Trafford Road. Reading. RG1 8JR, and APT Electronics are to undergo re-organization and integration of the two companies' production, marketing. financing and other services. Coutant will handle standard power supply products while APT will develop and produce custom units.
Blueline Electronic Component Services, Refuge House, River Front, Enfield. Middlesex, has signed five new franchises for AB Electronic Components, AEl Semiconductors, Airscrew Fans, ERG and Burgess, and has also opened a branch office in Manchester. Rotary and pushbutton switehes and circular connectors from AB Electronic Components, microswitches and pushbutton switches from Burgess and d.i.l. switches from ERG are now included in the Blueline product range.
A new company has been formed to combine the manufacturing facilities of Semra (Electronics) Ltd and Benney Electronics Lid. Trading under the name Semra-Benney (Electronics) Ltd, the company will operate from a factory situated at Chandler's Ford Hampshire SO5 3ZU. Products and services offered by the company include a range of nuclear physics instrumentation and hardware in both the NIM and CAMAC systems. stabilized modular power supplies and specialist design and pack aging facilities.
A new company known as International Aeradio Consultancy Services Ltd. based at Southall, Middlesex, has been formed to segregate International Aeradio's technical consultancy work in aviation and communications fom its operational and other activities. The new company, will undertake a wide range of consultancy work
The Society of Relay Engineers has changed its name to the Society of Cable Television Engineers, 10 Avenue Road, Dorridge, Solihull, Warwickshire. The Society's journal, The Relay Engineer, will now appear as Cable Television Engineering.
Sonax Electronics is now part of the new Chaterville group of companies which incorporates Quadrasonics who produce a range of four-channel audio systems. The group is a CBS SQ licensee. Quadrasonics are situated at Spencer House. Brettenham Road, Edmonton, London N. 18.
Pye TVT Ltd, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge, has received a contract valued at more than $£ 2,100,000$ from the Ministry of Culture and Information of the South Korean Government for a colour television service for the Korean Broadcasting System.

## Literature Received

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

## ACTIVE DEVICES

Two low-power helium-neon encapsulated plasma tube lasers, providing minimum unpolarized power outputs of 1.0 and 2.0 mW at a wavelength of 633 nm in a beam diameter of 0.725 mm , are described in a leaflet from Hughes Electron Dynamics Division, 3100 W. Lomita Blvd. Torrance, California 90509

WW401
"Solid State Converter type Vib $24 \mathrm{~V} / 9 \mathrm{~A}$ ". which is an assembly of the active elements of a d.c. to d.c. power supply unit designed to be a direct replacement for the conventional electromagnetic vibrator units, is the subject of a brochure from Industrial Instruments Ltd, Stanley Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 9JF .
.WW402

A catalogue with specifications of over 600 different types of field effect transistor covering $n$ - and p-channel junction types, $n$ - and $p$-channel enhancement mode types, dual n-channel junction and dual p-channel enhancement mode devices has been received from Tranchant Electronics (U.K.) Lid, Tranchant House, 100a High Street, Hampton, Middlesex TW 12 2ST
..WW403
A data sheet dealing with the 1034 and 103401 general purpose, medium power output, operational amplifiers providing voltage outputs of $\pm 20 \mathrm{~V}$ with peak current output of up to $\pm 22 \mathrm{~mA}$ and an open-loop gain and unity gain bandwidth of 100,000 and IMHz minimum respectively, has been received from Teledyne Philbrick. Allied Drive at Route 128, Dedham, Massachusetts 02026, U.S.A. .......WW404

A range of high current (785A r.m.s.) "Hockey Puk Power Thyristors" capable of single cycle surge currents of over 9.000 A peak at reverse voltages of between 50 and 600 V peak and avaitable in either ceramic case style (500PA series) or plastic encapsulation ( 501 PA series) are detailed in bulletin E2573 from International Rectifier, Hurst Green. Oxted, Surrey
...WW405
Data sheets on photo-sensitive integrated circuits available from Integrated Photomatrix Ltd, The Grove Trading Estate, Dorchester, Dorset, include: PX102 - light level to frequency converter containing a planar light sensor with amplification and triggered pulse generator claiming a typical linearity of $\pm 2 \%$.........................................WW406 PX117-9-channel tape reading array constructed of 0.100 in spaced photo detectors and threshold switches........................................................WW407 PX129 - a family of photo diodes mounted with analogue amplification having a choice of detection bandwidths of up to 400 kHz allowing selection of oplimum response time or optical sensitivity for specific applications WW408

## PASSIVE DEVICES

A colourful leaflet giving a complete technical description of "Series 11 " illuminated and "Series 21 " non-illuminated miniature push buttons, signal lights and accessories is available from Highland Electronics Ltd. 33-41 Dallington Street. London ECIV 0BD

Miniature compression load-cell type C2MI and an adaptor for converting into miniature tension load-cell type U2M1 with standard capacities of 100 , 200. $500,1000,2000$ and 50001 b over a compensated temperature range of $-9^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to
$+46^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ is the subject of a brochure from Guest International Lid. Control and Instrumentation Division, Redlands, Marlpitt Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 24 H
..WW4 10
Data sheets describing multi-octave bandwidth transmission line directional couplers types BD 1040 ( 10 dB coupling. 40 dB directivity. $2-50 \mathrm{MHz}$ ). BD2025 ( 20 dB coupling. 25 dB directivity, $10-250 \mathrm{MHz}$ ). RD 3020 ( 30 dB coupling, 20 dB directivity, $5-500 \mathrm{MHz}$ ), NHP30B four port $180^{\circ}$ hybrid ( 30 dB isolation, $2-32 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) and some similarly specified miniature components mounted in TO-5 packages are available from Tony Chapman Electronics Lid, 3 Cecil Court, London Road, Enfield, Middlesex

WW4II
A wide range of double-ridge waveguide components manufactured by Microwave Research Corporation of America covers waveguide to coaxial transformers in the range 1.0 to 38 GHz , waveguide terminations and double-ridge to rectangular waveguide transitions over the range 3.5 to 16 GHz : these are described in data sheets from Suvicon Ltd. Hagley House. Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham BI6 8QW

Copies of catalogue No. 1470 which deals with the "Surefire" range of compatible and co-firable resistor, conductor and dielectric paste materials for use in the manulacture of hybrid and thick film integrated circuits. are available from Johnson Matthey Metals Ltd, 81 Hatton Garden, London ECIP IAE.

WW4 13
Cyclic timer type TCP2 which comprises an a.c. or d.c motor driven shaft with between 2 and 24 independently adjustable cams. each operating a separate replaceable s.p.d.t. switch rated at 250 V a.c. at 5 A , is the subject of a leaflet from Tempatron Lid, 5 Loverock Road, Battlc Farm Estate, Reading, Berks

WW414
Catalogue $\mathrm{H} / 201$ giving technical details and performance figures of tangential and axial air blowers, induced ventilation units and a range of frilec fans and trays suitable for a variety of cooling applications, has been received from Imhof-Bedco Ltd. Ashley Works, Astiley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2SQ

A range of precision d.c. motors, suitable for servo systems and instrumentation, offering high power-to-volume ratios ( $0.2 \mathrm{~W} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}$ ). high efficiencies ( $57-82 \%$ ), fast response times (mechanical time constant from 19 ms ) and low starting volages ( 100 mV typ.), is described in a brochure from Portescap U.K. Ltd. 204 Elgar Road. Reading. RG2 ODD

WW416
A new range of five base mounting open fuseholders accepting either lin $x \frac{1}{4}$ in or $1 \frac{1}{4}$ in $\times \frac{1}{4}$ in fuses and consisting of a twin-fuse model and two single-fuse models rated at $13 \mathrm{~A}, 250 \mathrm{~V}$, and two single-fuse models rated at $5 \mathrm{~A}, 250 \mathrm{~V}$ is the subject of a leaflet from A. F. Bulgin and Co. Ltd, Bye-pass Road, Barking. Essex

WW417
A catalogue describing the selection of general and speciäl purpose soldering irons, including sophisticated electronic temperature controlled irons, thermal wire strippers and numerous associated tools is available from Light Soldering Developments Led. 28 Sydenham Road, Croydon CR9 2LL........WW4 18

Lists of components and materials useful to the electronics or audio enthusiast for home construction, experiments and servicing are available from Chromasonic Electronics, 56 Fortis Green Road, London N10 3HN

A catalogue with technical information and data on the range of aerials and accessories for telecommunication applications such as point to-point radio links, television links, satellite tracking. communications channel interference elimination. ground-to-air communication, missile tracking and telemetry is available from J. Beam Enginecring Ltd. Rothersthorpe Crescent, Northampton .........WW420

## EQUIPMENT

The "Venture multimeter range" are portable mov-ing-coil instruments. taut ligament suspended. "Multimeter 1 " is primarily designed for electrical engineering where high voltage and high current measurements are needed. "Multimeter 3" is a general purpose instrument with a.c. and d.c. ranges from 1 kV to 100 mV and 10 A to 30 A . "Multimeter $4^{\prime \prime}$. intended for electronic engineering. has sensitivitics of $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega / \mathrm{V}$ on d.c. and $20 \mathrm{k} \Omega / \mathrm{V}$ on a.c. Smith Indusiries Lid, Industrial Instrument Division. Waterloo Road, Cricklewood, London NW2 7UR
....WW42
A 72-page catalogue covering a wide range of electronic measuring and test equipment used in radar, $T V$ and radio transmission and data distribution has been received from Magnetic AB, Box 20036, S-161 20 Bromma 20, Sweden. .... . WW422

Brochure HP7109 is available discussing resonant a.c. dielectric lesting using both series and parallel resonant techniques, together with explanation and comparison with d.c. and v.I.f. methods, using equipment manufactured by Hipotronics Inc., Brewster, N.Y. 10509 , U.S.A.

WW423
A booklet has been received, describing a "Modulator Automated System To Identify Friend from Foe" (MASTIFF). which is an access control system developed to overcome the problem of maintaining security in areas where there is a large volume or considerable movement of personnel, from Lewis Security Svistems Lid, 9 The Crescent, Leatherhead. Surrey.

WW424

## APPLICATION NOTES

A six-page application note, AN-6054 "Triac Power Controls for Three Phase Systems" lists basic design rules, describes an integrated circuit zero voltage triac triggering switch and details methods of isolating the d.c. logic circuitry used in three phase power control systems, is available from RCA Ltd, Solid State Europe, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middesex. WW425
"F.e.ts as Analog Switches" is an application note dealing specifically with the basic factors affecting switch performance and some attention is given 10 switch-driver circuit design, overall switching characteristic and characterization of analogue switches at high frequencies. Siliconix Incorporated, 2201 Laurelwood Road. Santa Clara, California 95054 WW426

## GENERAL INFORMATION

A pamphlet entitled "A simple Adding Machine", which is the latest in a series of educational projects in electronics produced by the Mullard Educational Service. describes a simple circuit using FJ serics integrated circuits for the counter-decoder and gas-filled numerical indicator tubes for the display. Mullard Educational Service, Mullard Lid. New Road. Mitcham. Surrey CR4 4XY ................WW427
"Aveley News" for January/March discusses TV relay-receiving systems in cassette construction. frequency response measurement using a differential method and a range of new electronic equipment from Rohde and Schwarz, Narda Microline, North Atlantic, Pacific Measurements, Eldorado and Lockheed Electronics. Aveley Electric Ltd, Roebuck Road, Chessington. Surrey KT9 ILP

WW428
The 1973 Instrument Society of America's 36-page catalogue. describing over 200 current instrumentation publications and educational aids covering a considerable area of industry, science and technology, is available from Instrument Society of America, 400 Stanwix Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222, U.S.A.

## Real and Imaginary

by "Vector"

## Clunk, Click - and Boomps-a-Daisy!

In a way, it's rather nice to have the U.S.A. around on this planet because of the forthright way in which they jump in feet first and have a go. Like with colour TV for instance. Think of all the money and research effort poured into developing the N.T.S.C. system while we sat on the fence and waited until most of the bugs were out. Then - bingo! In with the PAL improvement and we were home and dry.

In fact, in that brash land of the free we have a ready-made Old Moore's Almanac telling us what's in store for us in five years' time. Naturally, it's not all cakes and ale; there are imports we could well do without.

All this was brought to mind by the news that the U.S. government is compelling all 1974 motor cars - sorry, autos - to be equipped with automatic seat-belt interlocks. This means, I gather, that when you clamber into the driving seat of your new Cadillac, the door has to be closed and your lap and shoulder belts have to be fastened or the starter motor won't operate. And that isn't all; any front-seat passengers (and there could be two in a Caddy) who weigh more than a modest 47 lb must likewise clunk-click before you can urge your horseless carriage forward.

Perhaps it's a sign of the times that the auto industry, which has always been electro-mechanically conscious, has turned to electronics (and integrated circuits in particular) to do this onerous chore. And it is onerous, make no mistake. Switches which will be concealed in (presumably) two doors, three sets of front seat-belts and pressure sensors in the seats all have to integrate to enable the starter switch to operate. Oh, yes -- and there's a further requirement; the drain on the battery must be low - typically about 5 mA - so as to give it a sporting chance during a cold start. The owner of a 1974 auto doing house-to-house calls all day in sub-zero temperatures is going to give his i.cs quite a going-over! I see that one big auto manufacturer is doing a belt-and-braces exercise by providing electro-mechanical back-up and I, for one, don't blame him.
I don't mean to imply by this that i.cs can't do the job. Of course they can. But neither the auto manufacturers nor the electronics people seem to have had much warning of Government intent; at any rate, no form of pilot scheme seems to have been possible, so it looks as if the inevitable bugs
are going to move straight out onto the turnpike. And remembering that the big three - General Motors, Ford and Chrysler - alone reckon to turn out about 10 million autos per annum, that could add up to quite a lot of bugs.

The situation is one which is calculated to make any manufacturer wake up screaming in the night. We all know the feeling of exasperation generated when the car radio goes phut, but at least that circumstance doesn't strand you slap in the middle of the Arizona desert with only flies for company. But are the American i.c. moguls deterred? Not on your life! They've fallen over each other to get the juicy contracts that have been bandied around. Now, we all know from bitter experience something of the cloud-cuckoo-land of i.c. manufacture; promises are one thing; deliveries can be quite another. The American auto industry is well aware of this fact of life but there isn't much it can do about it except stroke its rabbit's foot. For it would seem that the i.c. boys have got it made. They press ahead with their circuits, "optimized for low current drain, high noise immunity and high voltage excursions", and the best of luck. If bugs develop in service, it's the auto manufacturers who will get the kicks from the customers. If deliveries don't materialize on time it's the auto manufacturers who will have to plead with the U.S. government for an extension of the time limit. So hold your noses, lads, and jump in feet first; the water's lovely!
The account I've read doesn't say, but presumably the specification applies also to foreign cars imported into the U.S.A., otherwise it makes rather a nonsense of the whole thing. If that's the case, I wonder what British car manufacturers are doing about it between strikes; and who's supplying the i.cs? As far as the British car home market is concerned, I suppose the Government over here will continue to pin its faith in Jimmy ("Clunk-Click") Saville et. al., exhorting us to play the game and fasten oui seat belts like decent chaps. Then, when the motoring public is decimated, the Department of the Environment will act; if the American scheme works it will use it and thereafter we shall be locked in by relatively fool-proof i.cs. If it doesn't we shall probably have to form a typically British queue for a Traffic Warden to do it manually with another one at our destination to release us. One or the other
will happen in about five years' time.
But back to the i.c. locking system. I only know what I've read but I'm sure there must be more to it than that. For one thing, any system that can be by-passed by a length of wire is suspect; and for another, it's doubly suspect if, as stated, the sequence of interlocks merely permits the starter solenoid to be energized. For, once the engine has been kicked into life the starter motor goes back to sleep, its job done; it would seem, therefore, that once the engine was running the safety belts could be unclicked and the doors opened at will. If you argue that no one's going to be so daft as all that, don't be too sure. It would be a kind of one-up-man-ship against the machine. And in any case what is there to prevent the owner keeping the seatbelts locked but hung up? Or will some additional sensor be incorporated which will discriminate between "full" and "empty"!

My guess - and it's only a guess - is that the interlock will be direct on to the ignition system and that the various bypassing possibilities will have been taken care of by extra circuitry (even more potential bugs?). Otherwise it seems to be a system of considerable complexity, to very little purpose. Perhaps an American correspondent can enlighten us?
There are, of course, two ways of approaching the problem of road safety. One is to go all out to devise a system in which accidents can't happen or, in realistic terms, in which they are rarities. The other approach is to accept that they are going to happen anyway and to devote the main research effort to protecting the vehicle's occupants as far as possible. Seat belts are in category two and undoubtedly do a grand job in instances where the impact isn't too severe; but when two cars, each doing $50 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$., collide head on, I for one wouldn't fancy my chances with the best seat belt ever made.

I respectfully submit that the road accident problem will never be nailed until we face, for the first time, one inescapable fact, namely that the human brain's decision-taking and control capabilities and the human body's relative immunity to physical damage has evolved in relation to the speed at which his legs would carry him. Travel faster than this and your chances of walking away from an involuntary, instantaneous, full-stop become progressively less as the speed increases.

As for the human brain, it's far too sensitive to extraneous stimuli and too sluggish in its reactions when confronted with the unexpected in congested traffic conditions. Humiliating perhaps, but there it is. Sooner or later we shall have to admit it and give up some of our "freedoms". Airlines and railways are both subject to rigid control techniques and amateur drivers are not permitted; that's why accidents are so rare as to be front-page news. In the foreseeable future both systems will be completely automated and safer still. And those are the directions that road safety research should take. It will cost a heap of money and some sacrifice of pride, but to fiddle with anything less is patchwork stuff.


## Sinclair Project 60

# Now-the Z.50 Mk. 2 

## with built-in automatic transient overload protection


#### Abstract

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 Z.50's ideally. That is why we have introduced modifications whereby risk of damage through mis-use is greatly reduced and performance further enhanced. The Z.5C 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 tha available from 2.50 's. Using a powe supply of 35 volts, $Z .30$ will deliver 15 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. Slze $80 \times 57 \times 13 \mathrm{~mm}\left(3 \frac{1}{6} \times 2 \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}\right)$ 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 Lid., you are dissatisfied with it, your money will be refunded at once. Many Sinclair appointed Sockists also offer th
Each Project 60 module is tested berore leaving our factory and is guaranteed 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 iwo vears from the date of purchase. Outside this period of guarantee a small charge postage by sufface mail. Air Mail is charged at cost


## Brilliant new technical specifications

Input impedance $100 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$
Input (for 30 w into 8 s ) 400 mV
Signal to noise ratio, referred to full $0 / p$ at
$30 v$ HT 80 dB 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) (50v 15』 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

| System | The Units to use | together with | Units cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Simple battery record player | 2.30 | Crystal P.U., 12 V 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 | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times \mathrm{Z.30s}, \text { Stereo } \\ & 60 ; \text { PZ. } \end{aligned}$ | Crystal, ceramic or mag. P.U., F.M. Tuner, etc. | £23.90 |
| 25 W. RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp. using low efficiency (high performance) speakers | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.30 \text { s, Stereo } \\ & 60 ; \text { PZ. } 6 \end{aligned}$ | High quality ceramic or magnetic P.U.. F.M. Tuner, Tape Deck, etc. | £26.90 |
| 80 W . (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 ( $\mathbf{£ 2 5}$ ) \& A.F.U. ( $\mathbf{5} \mathbf{5 . 9 8}$ ) 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 channels is achieved. Input selection is by means of press buttons, with accurate equalisation on all input channels. The Stereo 60 is particularly easy to mount.
SPECIFICATIONS-Input sensitivities: Radio - up to 3 mV . Mag. p.u. 3 mV : correct to R.I.A.A. curve $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}: 20$ to $25,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. Ceramic p.u. - up to 3 mV : Aux - up to 3 mV . Output: 250 mV . Signal to noise ratio: better than 70 dB . Channel matching: within 1 dB . Tone controls: TREBLE +12 to -12 dB at 10 KHz : BASS +12 to -12 dB at 100 Hz . Front panel: brushed aluminium with black knobs and controls. Size: $66 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$,

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## Project 60 Stereo F.M. Tuner



The phase lock loop principle was used for receiving signals from space craft because of its vastly improved signal to noise ratio. Now. Sinclair have applied the principle to an F.M. tuner with fantastically good results. Other advanced features include varicap diode tuning. printed circuit 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 in 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: $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-15 \mathrm{KHz}$ ( $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ ). Total harmonic distortion: $0.15 \%$ for $30 \%$ madulation Stereo decoder operating level: $2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Cross 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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## Super IC. 12 <br> Integrated circuit <br> high fidelity amplifier



Having introduced Integrated Circuits to hi-fi constructors with the IC 10 , the first time an IC had ever been made available for such purposes. we have followed it with an even more efficient version. the SuperIC.12. a most exciting advance version. the Superic. 12 , a most exciting advance over our original unit This needs very few ex ernal resistors and capacitors to make an astonishingly good high fidelity amplifier for use with pick-up. F.M. radio or small P.A. set up. etc The free 40 page manual supplied, detals many other applications which this remarkable IC make possible. It is the equivalent of a 22 tran-
sistor circuit contained within a 16 lead DIL package, and the finned heat sink is sufficient for all requirements. The Super IC. 12 is compatible with Project 60 modules which would be used With Project 60 modules which would be used
with the $Z .50$ and $Z .30$ amplifiers. Complete with with the 2.50 and 2.30 amplifiers. Comple circuit board.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Output power: 6 watts RMS continuous (12 watts peak). 6-8 . Frequency Response: 5 Hz to $100 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$. Total Harmonic Distortion: Less than $1 \%$. (Typical $0.1 \%$ ) at all output powers and frequencies in the audio band (28V). Load Impedance: 3 to 15 ohms. Input Impedance: 250 Kohms nominal. Power Gain: 90 dB ( 1.000 .000 .000 times) after feedback. Supply Voltage: 6 to 28 V Quiescent curSupply Voltage: 6 to 28 V . Quiescent current: 8 mA at 28 V . Size: $22 \times 45 \times 28 \mathrm{~mm}$ including pins and heat sink
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PA100，which alao has a STEREO／MONO switch，volume，balance and continuously variable bass and treble controls．

SPECIFICATION： Frequency response
liarmonic distortion Inputs：1．Tatortion $\begin{array}{cc} & \text { better than } 0.1 \% \\ \text { 2．Rape head } & 1.25 \mathrm{mV} \text { into } 50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \\ \text { 2．Radio，Tuner } & 35 \mathrm{mV} \text { into } 50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \\ \text { 3．Magnetic } \mathrm{P}, \mathrm{U} . & 1.5 \mathrm{mV} \text { into } 50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega\end{array}$ All input voltages are for on outplinto $50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ Tape and P．U．inputs equaliged to RIAA curve
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7a. Ail seate windings. Conservatively
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green, orange, pink, sed and brown $7010076^{\prime \prime}$ conductors $\mathbf{E 3 . 2 5}$ per 100 yds (P'Pd.) also with $40 / 0076^{\prime \prime}$ conductors in grey, vioiet white, pink and red at $\mathrm{E2} 50$ per 100 yds (P.Pd.).
GRELCO - WAY CONNECTOR BLOCKS. 10 for E1.25 GRELCO 6-WAY CONNECTOR BLOCKS. 10 for E1.25
(P.Pd.)
AMP PATCHBOARDS. TyDes $695448-3$ and $695365-2 . £ 20$ (PMP PATCHBOARDS. Types 695448-3 and 695365-2. £2 TIME SWITCH, Smiths Type TT10/KD, 0.10 mins., 2-pole
contacts, $250 \mathrm{v}, 50 \mathrm{~Hz}, \ldots 2.25$ (P.Pd.) Contacts, $250 \mathrm{~V} .50 \mathrm{~Hz} . ~ £ 2.25$ (P.PA.) All inputs $190-260 \mathrm{v}$. 50 Hz . Output 230 v .75 w, , £5 (P.Pd.). 240 v .50 w $£ 5.25$ (P.Pd.
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AERIAL DIRECTION INDICATING KIT
This set comprises a pair of Magslips to provide remote indicaThe transmilter is directly comprised to thansmitter and receiver recelver can be mounted at the control point, to provide imme
rection the diate and continuous indication of aerial position. Supply voltage required is 50 y 50 Hz and the price $\mathrm{E5} .75$. (P.Pd.) including a pointer for the receiver. The suggested use of these
items would include a mains operated, geared motor to drive the aerial, controlled from the position to which is ted back position information by the magslip link. Transformers to

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$200 \mathrm{w}, 250 \mathrm{v}$ E.S. $\mathbf{£ 1 . 5 0}$ per $4, \mathbf{5 7 . 5 0}$ per pack of 25 (post paid) Aiso 300w, 240v G.E.S. - $\mathrm{E} 1 \cdot 50$ per 3 . E $\mathrm{E} \cdot 50$ per pack of 12 (pos paid). These lamps are fitted with front silvered bulbs to enthance reflection from the fitting.
RADIO INTERFERENCE MEASURING SETS Type CT535,
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INDUCTIVE POTENTIOMETERS O.C. resistance 60 ohms, A.C. Impedance at 50 Hz . 120,000 ohms. Intended
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A D.C. potentiometer with integral standard cell to measure
imv to 1000 V to $0.2 \%$ or 1 mV with external galvo, or $0.5 \%$ with mV to 1000 V to $0.2 \%$ or 1 mV with external galvo, or $0.5 \%$ with
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$28 \times 10 \times 43 \mathrm{~cm}$ deep. With operating information $£ 25.00$. $28 \times 10 \times$
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A large capacity oven of low thermal mass for use between 35 and $350^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Provides a forced air circulating system yielding
1000 changes of air per min. The oven has forced air cooled 1000 changes of air per min. The oven has torced air cooled
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A somewhat smalier unit than the previous item for use between Internal dimensions $20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 18 \mathrm{~cm}$ high $\times 20 \mathrm{~cm}$ deep. Max nternal dimensions $20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 18 \mathrm{~cm}$ high $\times 20 \mathrm{~cm}$ deep. Max
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MARCONI EQUTPMENT
DERIVATIVE TEST SET OA-1259: This unit has been designed primarily for testing the linearity of modulator/dermodulator equipment used in UHF radio Tube Unit (TF-1261) and associated stabilised pover supplies. Further details on request. Secondhand, excellent cond. $£ 225$ each. Carr. $£^{2}$
TF-1234 UHF RECEIVER: Suitable for testing the RF stages of radio link equipment. A superheterodyne receiver tunable from $1700-2300 \mathrm{MHz}$. Complete with power supply. Secondhand, excellent cond. $£ 175.00$ each. Carr. $£ 2$.
TF-1041B VALVE VOLTMETER: Measures 25 mV to $300 \mathrm{~V}, 20 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ to 1500 $\mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ a.c. Also 10 mV to 1000 V d.c. Resistance 0.02 ohms to 500 Meg . ohms. Power requirements $200-250$ volts a c. Secondhand, excellent con. $\mathbf{6 3 5 . 0 0}$. Carr. £
TM-8098 GRATICULE PROJECTOR: Suitable for TF-1300 and TF-2200 series oscilloscopes and can be adapted for other makes. $£ 2.50$ each. Post 30 p .
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TF-1300
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TF-1303
TF-1350/1
TF-1371
TF-1377
TF-1434 2
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T. 1509 TRANSMITTERS (FOR EXPORT ONLY): General-purpose HF communications transmitter for use in fixed or mobile ground stations. Hand or high-speed keying. Crystal or MO control, with temperature compensated MO O/put impedance: 50 ohms. Audio input: 600 ohms. Valves : Power Amplifiet $2 \times 813$ and Modulator $2 \times 813$. Power requirements $200-250$ volts a.c. 50 cycles. Power out put 300 watts. Dimensions 2 ft . 6 in . W. $\times 2 \mathrm{ft}$. D. 5 ft . H. Weight: 800 lbs . Excellent condition, price $£ 225.00$ each.
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phone. Price $£ \mathbf{2 5 0 . 0 0}$ each secondhand, excellent condition. POW. PR SUPDIY
input. $24 v \mathrm{~d} . \mathrm{c}$. output @ 41 amps fully smoothed. $£ 45.00 \mathrm{each}$.

USM-24C OSCILLOSCOPE: 3 in . oscilloscope with $2 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ to $10 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ vertical response, and $8 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ to $800 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}$ horizontal response. Sensitivity 50 mv rms/inch. Triggered sweep, built-in trigger pulses and markers. Mains input
 6 bands. Internal Mod. 400 or $1000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ per sec. External Mod. 50 to $10,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ 6 per sec. External PM. Percent Mod. $0-30$ for sine wave. Am or Pulse Carrier per sec. External PM. Percent Mod. 0 molts cont. variable. Impedance $50 \Omega$ Price: $£ 85$ each $+£ 1.50$ carr.
PREQUENCY METER TS-74 (same TS-174): Heterodyne crystal controlled. Freq. $20-280 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Accuracy $05 \%$. Sensitivity 20 mV . Internal Mod at $1000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. Power Supply - batteries 6 V and 135 V . Complete with calibration book. (Manufactured for M.O.D. by Telemax. "As new" in cartons.) £75 each. Fully stabilised Power Supply available at extra cost $£ 7.50$ each. Carr $£ 1.50$ CT. 54 VALVE VOLTMETER: Portable battery operated. In strong metal case with full operating instructions. $2.4 \mathrm{~V}-480 \mathrm{~V}$. A.C. Or D.C. in 6 Ranges, 10 to
probe, excelient conditiong. Ei2.50, cIrr. 75 p .
GENERATOR: $85 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}-30 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ CT, response curve indicator with 6in. CRT tube and separate power supply Fully stabilised. Price on request.

POLARAD MSG-3 MICROWAVE SIGNAL GENERATOR: $4.5-8 \mathrm{GHz}$
 5225.00 each, carr 150
(225.00 each, carff 50-60 c/s. 555.00 each, carr. ${ }^{2}$. TS-45[APM and frequency meter): $8 \cdot 7-9 \cdot 5 \mathrm{GHz}$. Accuracy $\pm 2 \mathrm{MHz}$. 115 V a.c pew. 25 each, carr. $f 1$.


MARCONI SIGNAL GENERATOR TYPE TF-144G: Freq. $85 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}-25 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ in 8 ranges. Incremental: $\pm 1 \%$ at $1 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Output: continuously variable 1 micro volt to 1 volt. Output Impedance : 1 microvolt to 100 millivolts, $10 \mathrm{ohms} 100 \mathrm{mV}-1$ volt - 52.5 ohms. Internal Modulation: $400 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ sinewave $75 \%$ depth. Externa Consumption approx. 40 watts. Measurements $29 \times 12 \frac{1}{4} \times 10$ in. Secondhand condition. $£ 27.50$ each, Carr. $£ 1.50$.
SIGNAL GENERATOR TYPE 902: (P.R.D.). A portable, general-purpose broadband, microwave signal generator designed for testing and maintenance of gulated by a variable attenuator calibrated in dbm . The frequercy output level is rein Mc/s. Provision is made for external modulation. Power Supply - is calibrated A.C., $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. Freq- $3650-7300 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Internal Transmission-CW, Pulse, FM . External Transmission-Square Wave, Pulse. Power O/put-0 2 milliwatts. O/pu: Attenuator: -7 to -127 dbm . Load-50 . Price: $£ 135$ each $+£ 2$ carr.
TEST SET TS-147C: Combined signal generator, frequency meter and power meter for $8500-9600 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. CW or FM signals of known freq. and power or measurement of same. Signal Generator: O/put -7 to -85 dbm . Transmission- FM , PM, CW. Sweep Rate-0-6 Mc/s per microsec. Deviation- $-40 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ per sec. Phase Range- $3-50$ microsec. Pulse Repetition Rate- to 4000 pulses per sec. RF Trigger for Sawtooth Sweep-5-500 watts peak. $0.2-6$ microsec. duration, $10-50 \mathrm{~V}$ peak. $0.5-20 \mathrm{microsec}$ duration at $10 \% \mathrm{max}$. amplitude, less than 0.5 microsec rise time between $90 \%$ and $10 \%$ max amplitude points. Frequen than 0.5 Freq. $8470-9360 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Accuracy- $+2.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ per sec. absolute, $+1.0 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ per sec. for freq. increments of less than $60 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ relative, $+1.0 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ per sec. a $9310 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ per sec.calibration point. Accuracy measured at $25^{\circ} \mathbb{C}$ and 60 humidity. Power Meter: Input: +7 to +30 dbm . Output -7 to -85 dbm . Price: $\mathfrak{f 5}$ each +61 carr.
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 n 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 Undelayed or delayed from 3-300 microsecs from external or internal pulse. /put-1 miliwatt max., 0 to -127 db variable. O/put Impedance-50 5 . Price 120 used, excellent condition. Unused as new condition $£ 150+$ carr. $£ 2$
TS-382/U AUDIO OSCILLATOR: 20 to $200,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. in four ranges. Freq. meter check $60 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. and $400 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. Emission CW. O/put voltage: 1 uv to $10 \mathrm{~V} \pm 3 \%$
in seven ranges. Power req. 115 V AC single phase. Price 420 each, used good in seven ranges. Power req. 115 V AC single phase. Price $£ 20$ each, used good
condition. Unused condition $£ 30$ carr. 1.50 . condition. Unused condition $£ 30+$ carr. $£ 1.50$
CT150 Portable valve-tester suitable for testing a wide range of valves. Manufactured by Avo. $£ 55$ each $+£^{2}$ carr
FREQUENCY METER BC-221: $125-20,000 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}$, complete with original calibration charts. Checked out, working order. $£ 18 \cdot 50+\AA 1.00$ carr. $\mathrm{BC}-221$ nused as new condition complete with headset, spare valves, charts. $£ 35 \cdot 00$ C2.00 carr.
TS-452 F.M. SWEEP GENERATOR: Power supply 115V, $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}, 5-100 \mathrm{MHz}$ in 6 bands (rf o/put); $5-102 \mathrm{MHz}$ in 4 bands (freq. meter). Emission: F.M.R.F Displays band pass characteristics on 3in. C.R.T S/hand good condice 00 ohms. $\not{ }^{2} 2.00$ carr.
TS-419/URM 64 SIGNAL GENERATOR: Freq. $900-2100 \mathrm{MHz}$. CW or pulse emission. Power o/put Zero dbm-120dbm continuously adjustable to $\cdot 2 \mathrm{uv}$ condition $£ 150.00+f 2.00 \mathrm{carr}$ with VSWR of $2: 1$. 115 V a.c. $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. As new
TS-622/URM 44 SIGNAL GENERATOR: Freq. range - 7 to 11 GHz Power o/put - 10 to 127 dbm ; Emission CW, FM, Pulse. Direct reading dials for both frequency and power. Operates on 115 volts, $50-1000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. As new condition $£ 175 \cdot 00$
$+f 2 \cdot 00$ carr.

CT. 52 MINIATURE OSCILLOSCOPE: Portable. Operates from 115 V or $250 \mathrm{~V} 5-60 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$; or $180 \mathrm{~V} 500 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. A small compact tropicalised instrument designed to meet requirements of radar and communication engineers and $40 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}$. Y plate sensitivity 40 V per cm . Tube $2 \$ \mathrm{in}$. Frequency compensated amplifier up to 38 dB gain. Bandwidth up to $1 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Single sweep facilities. Complete with test leads, metal transit case. As new $£ 27 \cdot 50$ each. Carr. $£ 1$.

TRANSFORMER HV: 228 V input $19,500-0-19,5004.5 \mathrm{KVA}$, Wt. 220 lbs.
f30 each. Carr. $f 4$.
MODUL.ATOR UNIT: complete with transformer and $2 \times 807$ valves mounted in 19 in. chassis $\times 8 \mathrm{in}$. high $\times 8$ in. deep. $£ 4.50$ secondhand cond., or $£ 6.50$
RF UNIT: suitable for use with the above unit. Complete with $2 \times 3 \mathrm{E} 29$ valves. Ideal for conversion to 4 metres. $\& 5$ secondhand cond., or $£ 7.50$ new cond Carriage s 1.
POWER SUPPLY UNIT PN-12A: 230V a.c. input $50-60 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. 513 V and 1025 V @ 420 mA output. With 2 smoothing chokes $9 \mathrm{H}, 2$ Capacitors, 10 Mfd 1500 V and 10 Mfd 600 V . Filament Transformer 230V a.c. input. 4 Rectifying Valves type $5 \mathrm{Z3}$. $2 \times 5 \mathrm{~V}$ windings @3 Amps each, and $5 \mathrm{~V} @ 6 \mathrm{Amp}$ and $4 \mathrm{~V} @ 0.25 \mathrm{Amp}$. Mounted on steel base $19^{\prime \prime}$ Wx11"Hx14*D. (All connections at the rear.) Excellent condition

AUTO TRANSFORMER: $230-115 \mathrm{~V}, 50-60 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}, 1000$ watts, mounted in a strong steel case $5^{\prime \prime} \times 6 \frac{1}{n}^{\prime \prime} \times 7^{\prime \prime}$. Bitumen impregnated. E 7 each, Carr. 75p. $230-115 \mathrm{~V}$
$50-60 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}, 500$ watts. $7^{\prime \prime} \times 5^{\prime \prime} \times 5^{\prime \prime}$ $50-60 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}, 500$ watts. $7^{\prime \prime} \times 5^{\prime \prime} \times 5^{\prime \prime}$. Mounted in steel ventilated case. $\mathbf{~} 4 \cdot 00$ each Car. 75 p .
MODULATOR UNIT: 50 watt, part of BC-640, complete with $2 \times 811$ valves microphone and modulator transformers etc. $£ 7.50$ each, 75 p carr.
CATHODE RAY TUBE UNIT: With 3in. tube, Type 3EG! (CV1526) colour green, medium persistence complete with nu-metal screen, $\mathbf{8 3} .50$ each, post 50 p APN-1 INDICATOR METER, $270^{\circ}$ Movement. Ideal for making rev. counter ainc part
 DECADE RESISTOR SWITCH: 0.1 ohm per step. 10 positions. 3 Gang, each 0.9 ohms. Tolerance $\pm 1 \%$ £3 each, 25 p post. 90 ohms per step, 10 positions total value 900 ohms. 3 Gang. Tolerance $\pm 1 \% \mathbf{f 3} 50$ each, post 30 p.
CRYSTAL TEST SET TYPE 193: Used for checking crystals in freq. range $3000-10,000 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}$. Mains $230 \mathrm{~V}, 50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. Measures crystal current under oscillatory conditions and the equivalent parallel resistance. Crystal freq. can be tested in conjunction with a freq. meter. $\mathbf{£ 1 2 5 0}$ each, $£ 1$ carr.
VARIAC TRANSFORMERS: Input 115 V , output $0-135 \mathrm{~V}$ at 2 Amps . £ 3 each 75 p post. Input 115 V , output 135 V at 5 Amps. £ 5 each, 75 p post.
RACK CABINETS: (totally enclosed) for Std. 19 in . Panels. Size 6 ft . high $\times 21$ in. wide $\times 16$ in. deep, with rear door. $£ 12$ each, $£ 2.50$ Carr. OR 4 ft . high $\times 23$ INSTRUMENI
INSTRUMENT CABINETS: $19^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} . \times 16^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} . \times 16^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D} . \quad £ 5 \cdot 00+£ 1.25 \mathrm{carr}$
$19^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} . \times 10^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D} . \times 5^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} . \quad £ 2.50+£ 1^{\circ} \cdot 00^{\mathrm{carr}}$. $19^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} . \times 10^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D} . \times 5^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} . \quad \mathrm{E}^{2 \cdot 50}+£ 1 \cdot 00 \mathrm{carr}$.
FUEL INDICATOR Type 113R: 24V complete with 2 magnetic counters $0-9999$, with locking and reset controls mounted in 3 in . diameter case. Price £2 each, 30p post.
TS-418/URM49 SIGNAL GENERATOR: Covers $400-1000 \mathrm{MHz}$ range. CW Pulse or AM emission. Power Range $0-120 \mathrm{dbm}$. $£ 125$ each. Carr. $£ 1.50$.
TN/130/APR. 9 UHF TUNING UNIT: Freq. $4300-7350 \mathrm{MHz}$. IF Output 160 MHz with bandwidth of 20 MHz and is electrically tuned by a d.c. reversible

APR-4 AM RADIO RECEIVER: $90-1000 \mathrm{MHz}$. This receiver is suir monitoring and measuring frequencies as well as relative signal strength. Power Supply 115V 50c/s. £100 each. Carr. £2.
R-361 RECEIVER: $225-400 \mathrm{MHz}$. 1 preset chaninel crystal controlled. Super heterodyne, voice and CW. $230 \mathrm{~V} 50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ input. $\mathbf{£ 3 5}$ each. Carr. $£ 1.50$.
TS-130 TEST SET: Complete with RF Probe type 1019 Freq. $0.9-12.5 \mathrm{KHz}$, and RF Probe type 1020 Freq. $0 \cdot 3-1 \mathrm{KHz}$. Also slotted line attenuator $1 \mathrm{M}-34 / \mathrm{U}$. Freq RF Probe type 1020 Freq. $0.3-1 \mathrm{KHz}$. Also slot
$0.3-4 \mathrm{KHz}$; and connectors. $£ 45$ each. $£ 1$ carr.
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| 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 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 17 | 26 |
| 470 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 17 | 24 | 41 |
| 1000 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 17 | 20 | 23 | 40 |  |
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| $550 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 4p | 400 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ | 4p |
| $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 5p | $800 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 5p |
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| $320 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 4p |  |  |
| $640 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 5p | $250 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 8 p |
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## Electronics Technician

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If you would like to know more, please write to the Inspector of Wireless Telegraphy, Post Office, IMTR/WTS1.1.3, Union House, St. Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1A 1AR. 147

## TEST GEAR ENGINEER

Telefusion Vision Limited is a brand new company in the Colour Television manufacturing industry and we now find that due to expansion we need an engineer to take charge of our testing equipment in conjunction with our Development Laboratory.

The successful applicant will have some experience in the television or a similar industry and be prepared to accept the responsibility for the development and maintenance of the equipment used in the production testing of colour television receivers.

Qualifications will probably be City and Guilds Radio \& Television Servicing, with Colour Certificate, or O.N.C. Electronics.

Please write stating qualifications, age, experience and present salary to:

Miss V. M. Hammond, Personnel Manager, Telefusion Vision Limited,
Cobden Mill,
Gower Street,
Farnworth,
Lancashire.
2556

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Write to:
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They will work on one of more of the following key areas of our operation:
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Small and medium power transformer design Electronics circuitry
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Mechanisms with finely controlled movements Electro-mechanical design Patient handling equipment
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Please write or telephone for an application form to: P.B. Black more, GEC Medical

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## HM PRISON AND BORSTAL SERVICE <br> VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTRUCTORS

## (Civilian Instructional Officer, Grade III)

All applicants should have served a full apprenticeship or have had equivalent recognised training followed by at least five years industrial experience in the Radio and Television and/or Electronics servicing industry. City and Guilds Certificate (or equivalent) is desirable. Teaching or instructing experience are added advantages.
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DUTIES: The successful candidates will train inmates in Radio and Television servicing and prepare them for City and Guilds examinations.
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WRITE FOR APPLICATION FORM TO: The Establishment Officer, Home Office, Personnel and Administration Department, Portland House, R.10/10 (2T). Stag Place, London, SWIE 5BX, stating for which post you apply.
Clasing date for the receipt of completed application forms: 3 May, 1973.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES
THE WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Applications are invited from physicists or electronic engineers who would be or electronic engineers who would be
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Further particulars of this appointment may be obtained from Professor P. N. T . Wells. Department of Medical Physics, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, CF4 4XW (telephone 0222 : 755944 extn. 2005). Applications, giving the names of two referees, should be sent to the Registrar, Welsh National School of Medicine, Heaih Park. Cardiff, CF4 4XN.
[2551

## SENIOR ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN

## in Department of Biological Sciences

required immediately
To be responsible for the construction, maintenance and operation of electronic and other instruments, especially those used in Neurophysiology. The successful candidate must possess
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## ELECTRONIC SERVICE ENGINEERS

Swan's of Manchester are looking for two experienced Electronic Service Engi neers, one for the Manchester area and the other for the Birmingham area.
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## TRANSFORMER DESIGN ENGINEER

This responsible and permanent position will appeal to men with a sound background in transformer design work and practical interest in electronics. We are particularly interested in men who feel that their presentemployment lacks scope and prospects of further advancement.

The minimum academic quatifications acceptable is ONC (Electrical) or equivalent. The working conditions are excellent i.e. $37 \frac{1}{2}$ hours, 5 -day week etc., commencing salary dependent on experience and qualifications will be by negotiation.

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Research studentships will be available for successful candidates.
Please write to Professor Douglas Lewin, Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Electronics. Brune! University, Uxbridge, Middx.
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## ASSISTANT TELEVISION ENGINEER

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## Television Unit for Horseracing

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2 a job that is located in varied surroundings on British racecourses

3 a basic salary of between $£ 1,950-£ 2,075$ plus expenses when on location.

If you are interested please write or telephone for a Company form to Mr. F. T. Dixon, Racecourse Technical Services Limited, 88 Bushey Road, London SW20: Tel. : 01-947 3333.

## SIEMENS

The Company: We are Siemens Limited, the U.K. subsidiary of the world's most diversified electrical and electronics company. We are deeply involved in an advanced range of scientific instruments and require a very special
The Job:
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to install, repair and service analytical $x$-ray and electron microscope equipment in London and South East England.
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will have at least an H.N.C. in electronics or physics and two or three years' experience in this specialised type of work.
Training will be given in the U.K. but a knowledge of German would be an advantage as development-product training may be given in Germany at a later date.
Salary and fringe benefits are both generous as you would expect from a company like Siemens.

Please write in the first instance to:
Roger Kingsley, Personnel Manager, Siemens Limited, Great West House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex, or telephone 01-568 9133.
[2538

Telefusion Vision Limited is a new company in the field of colour television manufacture and offers excellent career opportunities. We are looking for the following men to join our present Development Staff.

## PROJECT LEADER

He will build up a team of Development Engineers to work under his supervision in the design and development of colour television receivers up to the production stage. He will have 3-5 years experience in this field and will hold I.E.R.E., I.E.E. or equivalent qualifications.

## DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER

He will work as one of a project team involved in the design and development of colour television receivers. Experience in the field of circuit design and layout of printed circuit boards is essential.

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Miss V. M. Hammond, Personnel Manager, Telefusion Vision Limited, Cobden Mill,
Gower Street, Farnworth, Lancashire. 2557

## SPANISH COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENI 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:
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## Telecommunications Technicians for 1000-VDU network up to $£ 2665$

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You will be responsible for ensuring the efficient and continuous operation of this vital network.

The level of appointment depends on age and experience but most of the successful candidates will be appointed at the higher level. Salary scales $\mathbf{~} 2365-62665$ and £1605-£2365. Maximum starting salary $£ 2365$. You should be at least 23, and must hold ONC Engineering with a pass in Electrical Engineering "A", or a recognised etquivalent. In addition you should normally have at least 5 years' experience of skilled work on telegraph and data transmission equipment. Prospects of promotion to higher posts. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 10 May, 1973) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Bassingstoke 29222 ext. 500 or London 01-839 1992 ( 24 -hour answering service). Please quote reference $T / 8238 / 1$.

## Home Office

## RADIO ENGINEER

## NEW HEBRIDES $\mathbf{£ 5 1 7 5}$ + Gratuity

Required by the Condominium Radio Department to be responsible to the British and French Resident Commissioners for all radio telecommunications. A good oral and written knowledge of the French language is essential.
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## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, YORK <br> Closed Circuit Television CHIEF TECHNICIAN

Applicants are invited for the post of Chief Technician to take charge of an exceptionally well equipped Educational Television Unit at St. John's College of Education consisting of a studio complex, a mobile recording vehicle and related equipment. Two additional technical assistants are employed.
The successful candidate will be responsible for the general management of the technical area. In addition he will assist the Director of the Television Service with the making of programmes using a one inch helical Scan editing machine.
Suitable applicants should have experience in general technical and studio duties with an educational television unit and be able to offer the minimum qualification of City and Guilds Radio and Television Finals.
Salary will be on the Local Government A.P.T.C. Technicians and Technical Staffs Grade 6/7 ( $£ 2.100$ f2,661) according to experience and qualifications.
Further particulars may be obtained from The Bursar, St. John's College, Lord Mayor's Walk, York, YO3 7EX.
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## TECHNICIAN (GRADE 3)

## £1539-£1794

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A full-time vacancy exists in this rapidly expanding Department. The successful candidate would take a prominent part in the day-to-day running of the Department slanguage laboratories. Technical expert-
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Applications forms may be obtained from the Staff Officer, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey. Tel.: Guildford 71281, Ext. 452, and to whom they should be returned to by: 7 May 1973.
[2526

Stockwell College of Education, The Old Palace, Rochester Avenue, Bromley BRI 3DH.

## SENIOR AUDIO VISUAL AIDS TECHNICIAN

required by mass media department. Ability to operate and service all types of audio Visual Aids, including rape recorders, 8 mm and 16 mm film projectors, Language Laboratories, teaching machines, etc. A knowledge and to give instructions to students groups in the use of Audio Visual equipment is imperative.
Applications forms and particulars available from the Senior Administrative Officer, at the above address.
[2528

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG<br>\section*{Educational Technology Unit (Television Services)}

## TECHNICAL POSTS

The Educational Technology Unit has vacancies for three Television Engineers who would work predominantly in the University's television studio. Successful applicants would be responsible to the Director of the Unit
through the Manager, Television Engineering.
The Duties attached to the posts would inThe Duties attached to the posts would in-
clude-maintenance and operation of the unit's television studio and distribution system, assistance in the building and installation of equipment in the projected new studio, and, in the case of one post, general service and maintenance on electronic and audiovisual teaching equipment within the University.

The Unit's present studio is equipped with 3 Plumbicon cameras, flying-spot telecine, 15 channell vision mixer, and one inch recording equipment. A Rediffusion "Dial-a-programme", distribution system is being installed on the campus. A further two-studio Educational Technolagy Unit Centre is under construction. to be equipped with colour facilities
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The salary will be negotiable and will be determined on the basis of the age. qualifications and experience of the persons appointed.

Fringe benefits include pension and medical aid facilities, a housing subsidy, and an annual vacation savings bonus.

Applications, giving full personal particulars and details, of qualifications and experience, should be lodged with the London Representative, Witwatersrand University Office. Chichester House. 278 High Holborn, London W.C.1., before 11 May 1973.
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Electronic Organ Service Engineer
required for expanding organ business in Sussex. required for expanding Company Car. Good and prospects.
Apply in writing to
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Mr L. J. Simmonds, Personnel Officer, GESTETNER LIMITED, P.O. Box 466. London N17 9LT.

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## ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN REQUIRED FOR FILM PROCESSING DIVISION PERMANENT POSITION

Servicing electronic equipment and carrying out design work for Production departments.
Applicants should be O.N.C. level, should have experience of transistor and integrated circuits.
Salary $£ 2.000$ per annum.
Telephone for interview : 01-542 6262
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20-30 year old General Electronic Design Engineer with some experience in Antenna design required for small expanding Company.
Must be capable of working by himself.
He should be willing to assist on test supervision and occasional visits to customers.
Please apply to:
Mr. D. A. R. Wallace - Managing Director, Antenna Specialists UK Limited,
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Thame, Oxfordshire. Tel: Thame 3621/2

## 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.


One of our clients, a rapidly growing and diversifying company, in the field of television and sound broadcasting, and recording, are interested in speaking to you if you have experience in the following areas.

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Wide experience in television and sound broadcasting and recording systems essential, including experience in technical liaison and interpretation of Customer requirements, preparation of block systems diagrams, etc.
£ $\mathbf{3 , 5 0 0} \mathbf{-} 4,500$ plus Company car and usual fringe benefits. Based West London and Home Counties.

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Experienced in 1-80 KW U.H.F. trasmitters and television studio systems practice, preferably with working knowledge of installations and systems planning, Customer liaison, etc. $£ 2,500-£ \mathbf{3 , 5 0 0}$ plus usual fringe benefits. Based West London and Home Counties.

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Experienced in television and sound broadcasting studio practice, able to train and lead local staff and take responsibility for smooth station on-air performance.
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Has an immediate opening for An experienced Design and Development Engineer for Audio Equipment, including Highly Professionai Mixing Desks, Compressors, Limiters, Audio Monitoring Amplifiers, etc. Systems Experience is desirable.

Send resumé to:
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Fernando el Católico, 63
Madrid 15
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## CHIEF TECHNICIAN

£1908-£2205
GIPSY HILL COLLEGE, KINGSTON

To head a team in the Educational Aids Department which serves the needs of the whole College.
Good knowledge of electronic equipment, including c.c.t.v. servicing, and relevant qualifications, will be expected.

There is considerable responsibility attached to this key appointment. Salary within scale according to qualifications.
Details from Senior Administrative Officer, Gipsy Hill College, Kenry House, Kingston Hill, Kingston upon Thames. Tel. 01-549 1141.

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Application forms and job description can be obtained by either telephoning Ipswich 56481, Ext. 33, or writing to the Group Engineer, Ipswich and District H.M.C., 26 Broughton Road, Ipswich, IPI 3QS. Reference GE/E/2.

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[^2]:    *"Transistor Tester", Wirelesś World, June 1970.

[^3]:    *Department of Physics, Liverpool Polytechnic.

[^4]:    *Held in editorial office. A piece of the document is reproduced with Mr Baker's letter. - ED.

[^5]:    1. Faulkner. "The Design of Low-noise Audiofrequency Amplifiers", The Radio and Electronics Engineer, Vol. 36, No. 1, July 1968.
    2. Linsley Hood, J. L. Private communication. Murphy, R. "Power Semiconductors", Electron, 8 March 1973.
[^6]:    * My addition

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