

# Spairline

We don't claim that **ml** actually runs its own airline, of course. But we do claim to be strategically sited for delivery to a remarkably large number of airports. Which is handy for getting those spares airborne in double-quick time. In fact most of our orders are shipped the day they're received.

Then, too, our servicing and spares set-up is unusually large. In fact, our three B.C.S.-approved laboratories in the U.K. issue more calibration certificates for electrical measurement than any other organisation in the country. And our Service Division at Luton Airport is the first organisation of

its kind to be registered on the M.a.D. defence contractors' list. We run our own sizeable fleet of vans to ensure the minimum of delay in collection and delivery.

Abroad, there are **mī** service operations in, among other places, France, Germany, Australia, U.S.A., Canada and South America.

Put all those facts together and you get what is probably the surest and speediest servicing operation in the business. And that holds good whether you're in Manchester or Marseilles, Sydney or São Paulo.



MARCONI INSTRUMENTS LIMITED

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A GEC - Marconi Electronics company.

WW-001 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

# LOW COST VOLTMETERS



### PORTABLE INSTRUMENTS









These highly accurate instruments incorporate many useful features, including long battery life. All A type models have  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " scale meters, and case sizes 5" x 7" x 5". B types have 5" mirror scale meters and case sizes 7" x 10" x 6".

### A.C. MICROVOLTMETERS

VOLTAGE & db RANGES:  $15\mu V$ ,  $50\,\mu V$ ,  $150\,\mu V$ ... 500V f.s.d. Acc.  $\pm\,1\%\pm\,1\%$  f.s.d.  $\pm\,1\,\mu V$  at 1 kHz.  $=\,100$ ,  $=\,90\ldots\pm\,50$ dB, scale  $=\,20$ dB/+ 6dB rel. to 1mW/600  $\Omega$ . RESPONSE:  $\pm\,3$ dB from 1 Hz to 3MHz,  $\pm\,0$ ·3dB from 4Hz to 1 MHz above  $500\,\mu V$ . Type TM3B can be set to a restricted B.W. of 10Hz to 10 kHz or 100 kHz. INPUT IMPEDANCE: Above 50mV:  $>\,4\cdot3$ m  $\Omega<$  20pf. On  $50\,\mu V$  to 50mV:  $>\,5$  M $\Omega<$   $<\,5$ 0pf. AMPLIFIER OUTPUT: 150mV at f.s.d.

type **£62** type **£77** 

### **BROADBAND VOLTMETERS**

H.F. VOLTAGE & dB RANGES: 1 mV, 3 mV, 10 mV ... 3 V f.s.d. Acc.  $\pm$  4%  $\pm$  1% of f.s.d. at 30 MHz. - 50 dB, - 40 dB, - 30 dB to + 20 dB. Scale - 10 dB/+ 3 dB rel. to 1 mW/50  $\Omega$ .  $\pm$  0-7 dB from 1 MHz to 50 MHz.  $\pm$  3 dB from 300 kHz to 400 MHz.

L.F. RANGES: As TM3 except for the omission of  $15\mu V$  and  $150\mu V$ . AMPLIFIER OUTPUT: Square wave at 20Hz on H.F. with amplitude proportional to square of input. As TM3 on L.F.

type f105 type f120

### D.C. MICROVOLTMETERS

VOLTAGE RANGES:  $30\,\mu\text{V}$ ,  $100\,\mu\text{V}$ ,  $300\,\mu\text{V}\dots300\,\text{V}$ . Acc.  $\pm\,1\%$ ,  $\pm\,2\%$  f.s.d.,  $\pm\,1\,\mu\text{V}$ . CZ scale. CURRENT RANGES:  $30\,\text{pA}$ ,  $100\,\text{pA}$ ,  $300\,\text{pA}$ ,  $300\,\text{mA}$ . Acc.  $\pm\,2\%$ ,  $\pm\,2\%$  f.s.d.,  $\pm\,2\,\text{pA}$ . CZ scale. LOGARITHMIC RANGE:  $\pm\,5\mu\text{V}$  at  $\pm\,10\%$  f.s.d.,  $\pm\,5\,\text{mV}$  at  $\pm\,50\%$  f.s.d.,  $\pm\,500\,\text{mV}$  at f.s.d. RECORDER OUTPUT:  $\pm\,1\text{V}$  at f.s.d. into  $>\,1\,\text{k}\,\Omega$ 

type **£65** 

### D.C. MULTIMETERS

VOLTAGE RANGES:  $3\,\mu\text{V}$ ,  $10\,\mu\text{V}$ ,  $30\,\mu\text{V}\dots 1\,\text{kV}$ . Acc.  $\pm$   $1\% \pm 1\%$  f.s.d.  $\pm$   $0.1\,\mu\text{V}$ . LZ & CZ scales. CURRENT RANGES:  $3\,\text{pA}$ ,  $10\,\text{pA}$ ,  $30\,\text{pA}\dots 1\,\text{mA}$  (1A for TM9BP) Acc.  $\pm$   $2\% \pm 1\%$  f.s.d.  $\pm$   $0.3\,\text{pA}$ . LZ & CZ scales. RESISTANCE RANGES:  $3\,\Omega$ ,  $10\,\Omega$ ,  $30\,\Omega$ ...  $1\,\text{kM}$   $\Omega$  linear. Acc.  $\pm$  1%,  $\pm$  1% f.s.d. up to  $100\,\text{M}$   $\Omega$ . RECORDER OUTPUT:  $1\,\text{V}$  at f.s.d. into >  $1\,\text{k}$   $\Omega$  on LZ ranges.

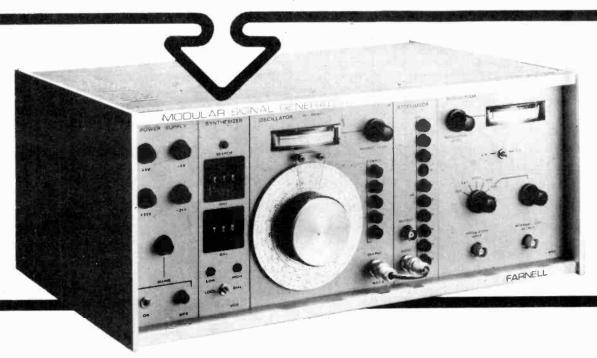
type f 105 type f 110 type f 110

### LEVELL ELECTRONICS LTD.

Moxon Street, High Barnet, Herts. EN5 5SD Tel: 01-449 5028/440 8686

Prices include batteries and U.K. delivery, V.A.T. extra. Optional extras are leather cases and mains power units. Send for data covering our range of portable instruments.

# Thanks to this new module . . .



... we can offer an accurate

### and drift-free phase-lock synthesized signal generator

# for around £800

The Farnell range of modular signal generators now includes synthesized models, M1/ADM and M2/ADM, to cover frequency ranges of 100kHz to 12MHz and 10MHz to 108MHz respectively.

Frequency is controlled by a six decade bank of thumbwheel switches to an accuracy of  $\pm$  5PPM. The oscillator automatically chooses the correct range and seeks the required frequency, a search lamp extinguishing when it has found it. And there the frequency will stay with crystal accuracy and stability until an alternative is selected. A 1kHz frequency change takes only milliseconds and a change as wide as 10MHz to 100MHz (which involves four range changes) is completed in about five seconds.

FARNELL INSTRUMENTS LIMITED, TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION, SANDBECK WAY, WETHERBY, LS22 4DH. YORKSHIRE. TEL: 0937 3541, TELEX 557294

LONDON OFFICE TEL: 01-802 5359

Like all Farnell r.f. signal generators and sweepers, there is facility for remote programming via TTL compatible BCD 1248 inputs through a rear connector.

Narrowband sweep application.

The M1/ADM is an excellent narrowband sweeper ideal for setting up receiver filters or discriminator circuits on an individual or production line basis.

Centre frequency is controlled with crystal accuracy and stability by the digital synthesizer module while the frequency modulator unit is used to provide sweep. Full a.m./f.m. modulation facilities are available after alignment tests.

For details of all Farnell r.f. test equipment contact:-



# The one you -can't ignore!-





It's a demanding job, viewing a monitor or data display screen, hour after hour. There's the responsibility. And there is the discomfort and fatigue..... so often the result of intense concentration at the display terminal.

Brimar have developed a range of data display tubes with many refinements. The current range now incorporates tubes with bonded, tinted and etched faceplates giving an improved contrast performance and considerably reduced specular reflection, and which are ideal for close range working.

The wide range of Brimar phosphors with varying fluorescent colours and persistence allows manufacturers to select phosphor screens which are most suitable for their particular data terminal applications. The range extends from 7 inch to 24 inch with an exceptionally comprehensive selection of 15 inch tubes.

### 28mm neck diameter

M38-100.. 90° deflection Rimguard
M38-101.. 90° deflection Rimguard
M38-102.. 90° deflection Bonded
M38-104.. 90° deflection Bonded
M38-120.. 110° deflection Monopanel

M38-122.. 1100 deflection Bonded

M38-121.. 110<sup>0</sup> deflection Rimguard

38mm neck diameter

M38-110.. 90° deflection Rimguard
M38-111. 90° deflection Bonded

M38-112.. 90° deflection Rimguard M38-113.. 90° deflection Rimguard

M38-140..  $110^{0}$  deflection Monopanel (with high voltage focus gun)

You'd like the complete picture?

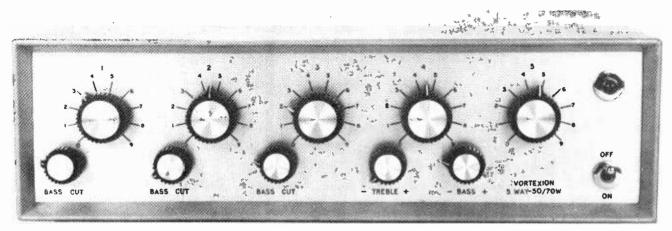
Drop us a line or telephone 01-804 1201.



Thorn Radio Valves & Tubes Ltd., Mollison Avenue, Brimsdown, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 7NS Tel: 01-804 1201

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### **NEW NELSON-JONES FM**



### **USH-BUTTON VARICAP DIODE**

(6 Position)

('WW' JUNE '73)

**Exclusive Designer Approved Kits** 

What are the important features to look for in an FM tuner kit? Naturally it must have an attractive appearance when built, but it must also embody the latest and best in circuit design such as:-

MOSFET front end for excellent cross modulation performance and low noise.
3 GANG tuning for high selectivity.
VARICAP tuning diodes in back to back configuration for low distortion.
CERAMIC filters for defined IF response.
INTEGRATED circuit Famplifiers for reliability and excellent limiting/AM rejection.

PHASE LOCKED Stereo decoder with Stereo mute, see below LED fine tuning indicators.
PUSH BUTTON tuning (with AFC disable) over the FM band (88-104).
IC STABILISED and S/C protected power supply.
CABINET double veneered against warp. The Nelson-Jones Tuner has all of these features and many more, and more importantly the design is fully proven not just with a few prototypes but with many thousands

of working tuners spread across the world. Typ. Specn: 20 dB quieting 0.75uV. Image rejection -70dB.I.F. Rejection -85 dB

Basic tuner module prices start as low as £11.40, with complete kits starting at £24.95 (mono) + PP 60p. and of course all components are available separately.

Our low cost alignment service is available to customers without access to a signal generator. Please send large SAE for our latest price lists which detail all of the many options and special low prices for complete kits. All our other products remain available.

PORTUS AND HAYWOOD PHASE LOCKED DECODER (W.W. Sept. '70). Still the lowest

distortion P.L. decoder available. THD typically 0.05% (at Nelson-Jones Tuner O/P level)! Supplied complete with Red LED.

Price £6.50 when bought with a complete N-J tuner kit or £7.68 if bought separately

PLEASE NOTE. Existing tuners are readily convertible and kits/parts are available for this

TEXAN AMPLIFIER. We have designed the tuner case and metalwork to match the Texan amplifier (see photograph). Complete designer approved Texan kits are available at £28-50 plus p.p 50p including Teak Sleeve.





You can order these goods by Telephone on Access. Simply quote your Access Number.

### **NEW LOW COST** STEREO

PLEASE PHONE OR WRITE FOR FULL DETAILS

No alignment required. Mullard LP1186 front end module used with Ceramic IF and IC amplifier. Push button tuning (6 position) with Interstation Mute, restricted range AFC, single LED tuning indicator, phase locked IC decoder, and complete metalwork and veneered cabinet. Complete with IC regulated PSU and full assembly instructions. (Mechanically identical to N. L. Tunos.) instructions. (Mechanically identical to N-J Tuner.

Image rejection 40dB IF rejection 65dB Complete Stereo kit £26.32 p.p. 60p.

TYP. SPECIFICATION 2uV for 30dB S/N

PRICE: Complete Mono kit £22.40 V.A.T. Please add V.A.T. at 10% to all prices for U.K. orders.

INTEGREX LIMITED, P.O. Box 45, Derby, DE1 1TW

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FOULSHAM-TAB LTD. EOVIL ROAD. SLOUGH. BUCKS.

£1.70

### ELECTRONIC ORGAN KITS



There are 5 superb models in kit-form specially designed for the D-I-Y enthusiast. With our free and generous after sales service you can build in sections, and the whole project can be extended over several months. All specialised components can be purchased separately.

We also stock keyboards, volume pedals. MOS master oscillators. ICs., transistors. ETC, for W/W synthesiser and W/W electronic piano. Send 50p for catalogue and vouchers worth 50p or send own parts list, enclosing SAE for quotation

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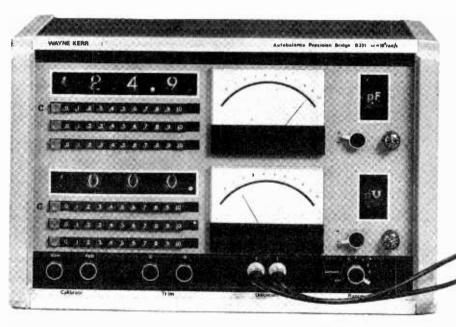
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### Six figures in six seconds

# A precision bridge that balances itself the Wayne Kerr B331



For more information, either Telephone Bognor Regis (02433) 25811 or write to the address below:

### **WAYNE KERR**

Durban Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex PO22 9RL. Telex: 36120.

A member of the Wilmot Breeden group

This bridge was designed for use in Standards Laboratories, but ease of operation combined with an in-line readout giving up to 6 figure discrimination has enabled many other applications to be covered.

The B331 measures directly a wide range of capacitance and conductance values to 0.01% accuracy. The three terminal facility enables small values of capacitance and high values of resistance to be measured at the end of long cables.

Automatic compensation for the series impedance of the measurement leads is given by an advanced design of Kelvin clip, and a low impedance range directly calibrated in resistance and inductance permits four terminal measurements to be made.

Up to four significant figures can be set on each measurement term with push buttons.

The bridge automatically balances itself, the meters indicating the remainder of the measurement value on linear scales. As each pair of decades is introduced with these buttons, the meter sensitivity is increased by a factor of 10 giving an indication of the next figures required in the digital setting sequence. Analog output of both terms permit recording of changing values.

Precision standards are incorporated in the B331. A nitrogen filled capacitor with a temperature coefficient of less than 5 p.p.m. forms the reactive standard and loose wire wound resistors with temperature coefficients of 5 p.p.m. are connected to each set of conductance decades.

SPECIFICATION

Range (for 0 01% accuracy)

1pF to 10μF 10n강 to 100m강

derived reciprocal values

1 mH to 10 kH  $10 \Omega$  to  $100 \text{M} \Omega$ 

Low Impedance Range\_

 $100\mu\Omega$  to  $10\Omega$  10nH to 1mH

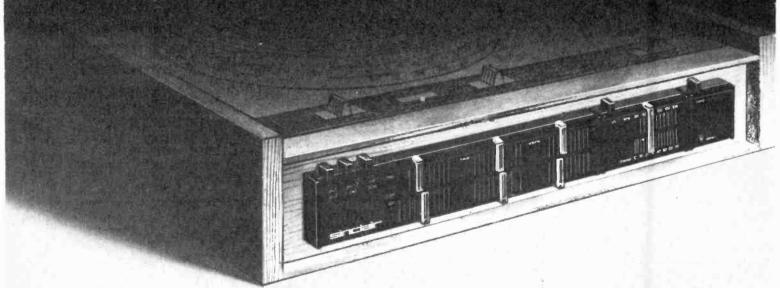
derived reciprocal values

10μF to 1F

Frequency (internal) 1591-55 Hz ± 0.5 Hz (1000 00 Hz to special order) (external) 200Hz to 20kHz

# Project 80

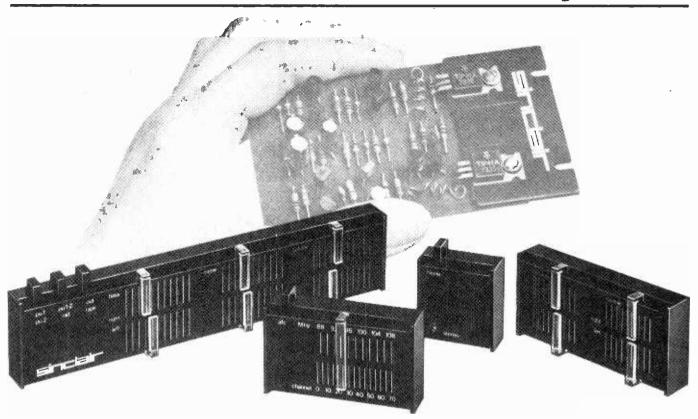
a brilliant new concept in modular hi fi



Project 80 is going to be the ultimate in modular hi-fi construction for a very long time to come. It combines the qualities most demanded of any modern domestic system – good circuitry, reliability and fine performance – with other features to be found nowhere else in the world. For example, compactness – Project 80 control units are \(\frac{3}{4}\)" deep \times 2\" high, and each one is completely self-contained. Elegance – all of Sinclair's design leadership has been concentrated on producing designs of outstanding functional elegance unsurpassed for styling and simplicity. Flexibility – the size and styling of Project 80 modules makes them the most versatile units ever. Combine them how you will, where you will, the Project 80 System of your choice gives you the best.



## **Sinclair Project 80**



# technically the world's most advanced

Project 80 gives you choice from a range of 9 different modules for combining in a variety of ways to suit your requirements. The Stereo 80 is a versatile pre-amp control unit designed to meet all domestic hi-fi requirements including tape monitoring, high sensitivity magnetic cartridge input, and of course, individual slide controls on each channel for precise output matching. By separating the F.M. tuner and stereo decoder, useful economies can be effected where stereo radio reception is not needed. Two power amplifiers – Z.40 (18 watts RMS continuous into 4 ohms using 35V) and Z.60 (25 watts RMS continuous into 8 ohms using 50V) are available with choice of 3 different power supply units. The PZ.8 with its virtually indestructible circuitry is particularly recommended. For the final word in system building, the Active Filter Unit puts the finishing touch of quality to what are easily the world's most technically advanced hi-fi modules. Any further units likely to be added to Project 80 range will be compatible with those already available.

### Guarantee

If, within 3 months of purchasing any product direct from us, you are dissatisfied with it, your money will be refunded on production of receipt of payment. Many Sinclair appointed stockists also offer this guarantee. Should any defect arise in normal use, we will service it without charge.



Sinclair Radionics Ltd London Rd., St. Ives Huntingdon PE17 4HJ Telephone St. Ives (0480) 64646 Stereo 80 Control Unit Size – 260 × 50 × 20mm (10½ × 2 × ½ins) Finish – Black with white indicators and transparent sliders Inputs – Magnetic pick-up 3mV RIAA corrected: Ceramic pick-up 350mV Radio 100mV: Tape 30mV Signal/noise ratio – 60db Frequency range – 20Hz to 15KHz ±1dB; 10Hz to 25KHz±3dB Power requirements – 20 to 35 volts Outputs – 100mV+AB mon:toring for tape Controls – Press button tape radio and P.U. Sliders on each channel for volume bass treble R.R.P. £11.95

Project 80 FM Tuner Size  $-85\times50\times20$ mm  $(3\frac{1}{2}\times2\times\frac{1}{2}ins)$  Tuning range Dual varicap  $-87\cdot5$  to 108MHz Detector -1.C. balanced coincidence One I.C. equal to 26 transistors Distortion  $-0\cdot2\%$  at 1KHz for 30% modulation 4 pole ceramic filter in I.F. section Aerial impedance  $-75\,\Omega$  or  $240\cdot300\,\Omega$  Sensitivity -5 microvolts for 30dB S/N ratio Output -300mV for 30% modulation Power requirements -25 to 35 volts 6.1.9 S.R.P. (add £1:19 V.A.T.)

Project 80 Stereo Decoder Size  $-47\times50\times20$ mm (17 $\times2\times$  31ns) One 19 transistor I.C. Channel separation greater than 30dB Power requirements -25V Output 150mV per channel R.R.P. £7.45

Active Filter Unit Separate controls on each channel. Size  $-108\times50\times20$ mm ( $4\frac{1}{4}\times2\times\frac{3}{4}$ ins) Voltage gain - minus  $0\cdot2$ dB Frequency response - 40Hz to 22KHz controls minimum Distortion - at 1KHz - 0·03% using 30V supply H.F. cut off (scratch) - 22 KHz to 5·5KHz, 12dB/oct. slope L.F. cut off (rumble) - 28dB at 20Hz, 9dB/oct, slope R.R.P. £6.95

Z.40 Power Amplifier size – 55 × 80 × 20mm ( $2\frac{1}{8}$  ×  $3\frac{1}{8}$  ×  $\frac{3}{8}$  in x) 9 transistors Input sensitivity – 100mV Output 18 watts RMS continuous into 4  $\Omega$  (35V) Frequency response – 30Hz-100KHz±3dB S/N ratio – 64dB Distortion – at 10 watts into 8  $\Omega$  less than 0·1% Power requirements – 12 to 35 volts; built-in protection against overload. R.R.P. £5.40

Z.60 Power Amplifier size – 55 × 98 × 15mm ( $2\frac{1}{8}$  ×  $3\frac{1}{8}$  ×  $3\frac{1}{8}$  ins) 12 transistors Input sensitivity – 100-250mV Output – 25 watts RMS continuous into 8 Ω (50V). Distortion – typically 0-03% Frequency response – 15Hz to more than 200KHz±3dB S/N ratio – better than 70dB Built-in protection against transient overload and short circuiting Load impedance – 4 Ω min. safe on open circuit R.R.P. (add 69p V.A.T.) £6.95

Power Supply Units Pz.8 Stabilised. Re-entrant current limiting makes damage from overload or even direct shorting impossible. Normal working voltage (adjustable) 50V. R.R.P. £7.98+79p V.A.T. Without mains transformer Pz.6 35V. stabilised R.R.P. £7.98+79p V.A.T. Pz.5 30V unstabilised R.R.P. £4.98+49p V.A.T.

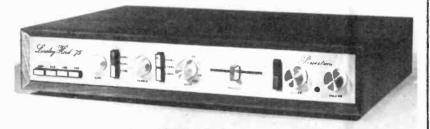
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for which I enclose Cash/Cheque for £	including V.A.T
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Address	

## AMPLIFIER KITS OF Distinction

### **DESIGNER-APPROVED KIT**

In Hi-Fi News there was published by Mr Linsley-Hood a series of four articles (November 1972–February 1973) and a subsequent follow-up article (April 1974) on a design for an amplifier of exceptional performance which has as its principal feature an ability to supply from a direct coupled fully protected output stage, power in excess of 75 watts whilst maintaining distortion at less than 0.01% even at very low power levels. The power amplifier is complemented by a pre-amplifier based on a discrete component operational amplifier referred to as the Liniac which is employed in the two most critical points of the system, namely the equalization stage and tone control stage, positions where most conventional designs control stage. positions where most conventional designs run out of gain at the extremes of the frequency spectrum. Unusual features of the design are the variable transition frequencies of the tone controls and the variable slope of the scratch filter. There is a choice of four inputs, two equalized and two linear, each having independently adjustable signal level. The attractive slimline unit pictured has been made practical by highly compact PCBs and a preciable designed. Togoidal transformer. specially designed Toroidal transformer

Hi-Fi News Linsley-Hood 75 W Amplifier Mk III Version (modifications as per Hi-Fi News April 1974)



Full circuit description in handbook

(pack 15-price 30p)

FREE TEAK CASE WITH FULL KITS

KIT PRICE only **£62.40** post free (U.K.)

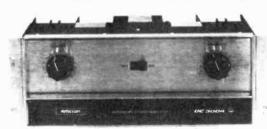
Pack		Price
1	Fibreglass printed-circuit board for power amp.	£0.85
2	Set of resistors, capacitors, pre-sets for power amp.	£1.70
3	Set of semiconductors for power amp. (now using BDY56.	
	BD529. BD530)	£6.50
4	Pair of 2 drilled, finned heat sinks	£0.80
5	Fibreglass printed-circuit board	
	for pre-amp.	£1.30
6	Set of low noise resistors, capacitors.	
~	pre-sets for pre-amp.	£2.70
7	Set of low noise, high gain semicon-	
,	ductors for pre-amp.	£2.40
8	Set of potentiometers (including	
0	mains switch)	£2.05
		L2.00
9	Set of 4 push-button switches.	£3.70
	rotary mode switch	L3.70
10	Toroidal transformer complete	
	with magnetic screen/housing primary:	
	0-117-234 V, secondaries:	
	33-0-33 V, 25-0-25 V.	£9.15

11	Fibreglass printed-circuit board
	for power supply
12	Set of resistors, capacitors,
	secondary fuses, semicon-
	ductors for power supply
13	Set of miscellaneous parts
13	including DIN skts, mains
	input skt, fuse holder, inter-
	connecting cable, control
	knobs
14	Set of metalwork parts including
	silk screen printed fascia
	panel and all brackets, fixing
	parts, etc.
15	Handbook
16	Teak cabinet
10	
	2 each of packs 1-7 inclusive
	are required for complete
	stereo system
	Total cost of individually
	purchased packs
	t

£0.65	V.A.T. Please add 10%*
£3.50	to all U.K. orders
	(*or at current rate if changed)
£4.25	
	for further information
£6.30 £0.30 £7.35	please write for FREE LIST

# POWERT

### HIGH POWER DC-COUPLED AMPLIFIER



- **★ UP TO 500 WATTS RMS FROM ONE CHANNEL**
- **★ DC-COUPLED THROUGHOUT**
- **OPERATES INTO LOADS AS LOW AS 1 OHM**
- **FULLY PROTECTED AGAINST SHORT CCT,** MISMATCH, ETC.
- **★ 3 YEAR WARRANTY ON PARTS AND LABOUR**

The DC300A Power Amplifier is the successor to the world famous DC300 which is so widely used in Industrial, and Research applications in this country. It is DC-coupled throughout so providing a power bandwidth from DC to over 20,000Hz. The ability of the DC300A to operate without fuss into totally reactive loads while delivering its full power, and maintaining its faithful reproduction of Pulse or complex waveforms has established the DC300A as the world's leading power amplifier. Each of the two channels will operate into loads as low as 1 ohm, and the amplifier can be rapidly connected as a single ended amplifier providing over 650 watts RMS into a 4 ohms load, and still providing a bandwidth down to DC. Below is a brief specification of the DC300A, but if you require a data sheet, or a demonstration of this fine equipment please let us know.

Power Bandwidth Power at clip point (1 chan) Phase Response Harmonic Distortion Intermod. Distortion Damping Factor Hum & Noise (20-20kHz) Other models in the range: D60 - 60 watts per channel

DC-20kHz @ 150 watts + 1db, - 0db. 500 watts rms into 2.5 ohms +0, -15' DC to 20kHz, 1 watt  $8\Omega$ Below 0.05% DC to 20kHz Below 0.05% 0.01 watt to 150 watts Greater than 200 DC to 1kHz at 8Ω At least 110db below 150 watts

Slewing Rate Load impedance Input sensitivity Input Impedance Protection Power supply Dimensions

8 volts per microsecond 1 ohm to infinity 1.75 V for 150 watts into 8Ω 10K ohms to 100K ohms Short, mismatch & open cct. protection 120-256V, 50-400Hz 19" Rackmount, 7" High, 9¾" Deep D150 -- 150 watts per channel



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Pk. 2 Resistors, capacitors, pots	£2.15	Pk. 2 Resistors, capacitors, pre-sets,	
Pk. 3 Semiconductor set	£5.60	transistors	£4.95
20W LINSLEY-HOOD		Pk. 3R Rotary potentiometer set	£1.60
Pk. 1 F/Glass PCB	£0.85	Pk. 35 Slider potentiometer set	
Pk. 2 Resistors, capacitors, pots	£2.40	(with knobs)	£2.70
Pk. 3 Semiconductor set	£3.35		

### STUART TAPE RECORDER

A set of three printed-circuit boards has been prepared for the stereo integrated circuit version of this highperformance Wireless World published design.

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DESIGNS

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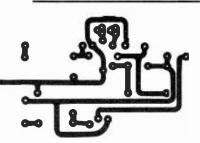
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**Trigonometric Functions**\*Sine (Sin) \*Cosine (Cos) \*Tangent (Tan) \*Arc sine (Sin-1) -1\*Arc cosine (Cos-1) \*Arc tangent (Tan-1) \*Exponential Function (Ex) \*Natural logarithm (LN) \*Log (Log) \*Reciprocal ( $\frac{1}{X}$ ) \*Square root ( $\frac{X}{X}$ ) \*Tangent (YV) \*P:  $\frac{1}{X}$ ) \*Tangent facility of page in radian or degrees \*Power (XY) \*Pi  $(\pi)$  \*Trig facility of answers in radian or degrees. General

Display: 9-digit light emitting diodes. Capacity: 8 digits for all factors and results in operation. Decimal Point: Full floating system. Negative Numbers: True value indication with minus sign at ninth digit. Overflow and Error Indicator: sign at ninth digit, indicating the result of operation is over 8 digits, or the argument of operation is out of range. Function Mode Indicator: (decimal point) at ninth digit indicating the scientific function mode is activated. **Battery—low indicator:** sign at ninth digit. **Operating Temperature:** 0°C–40°C. **Power Supply:** 4 × 1.5 volt batteries (SP7); 6 volt AC adaptor. **Power Consumption:** DC 0.30 watts. **Size:** 145mm × 77mm × 32.5mm. **Weight:** 207 grms. (7.29 ozs) with batteries.

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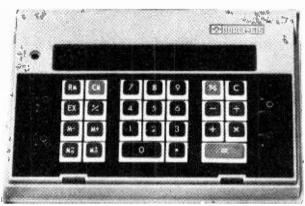


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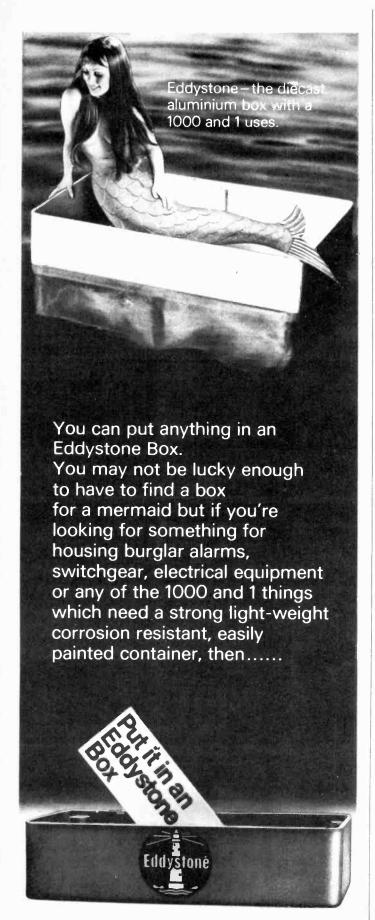
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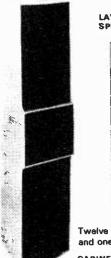
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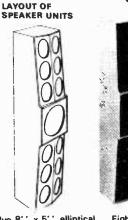
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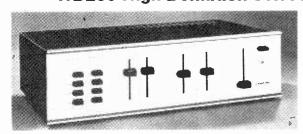
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Maximum:

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Pre-amplifier:

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Power amplifier.

at rated output: at 25w output: Less than 0.02% (typically 0.01% at 1kHz).

Typically 0.006%.

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Disc input 40 dB min.

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Disc:

-83dBV Measured flat with noise band-

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-88dBV Measured with 'A' weighted

characteristic
—85dBV Measured flat.

Line:

-88dBV 'A' weighted. 17 inches  $\times$  4 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches  $\times$  11 inches deep

overall.

Weight: 21 lb

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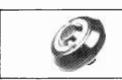
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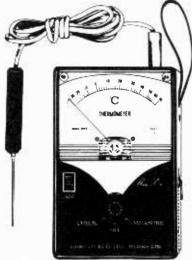
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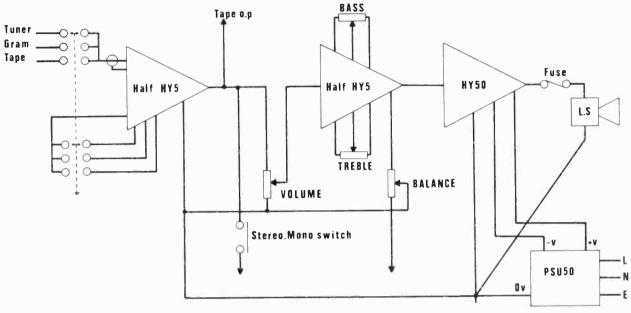
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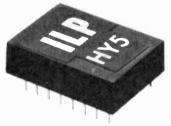
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### SHEER SIMPLICITY!



Mono electrical circuit diagram with interconnections for stereo shown



The HY5 is a complete mono hybrid preamplifier, ideally suited for both mono and stereo applications. Internally the device consists of two high quality amplifiers—the first contains frequency equalisation and gain correction, while the second caters for tone control and balance. balance

balance.
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
Inputs

Magnetic Pick-up
Ceramic Pick-up
Microphone
Tuner
Auxiliary
Input impedance

Magnetic Pick-up
10mV
10mV
110mV
3-100m'
1-100mV
47Ω at 1 3mV.RIAA 30mV 10mV 100mV

3-100mV 47Ω at 1kHz. Outputs

Tape 100 mV
Main output Odb (0.775 volts RMS)
Active Tone Controls

Main Joseph Active Tone Controls Trepte ± 12db at 10kHz Bass ± 12db at 100Hz Distortion 0.05% at 1kHz Signal/Noise Ratio 68db Overload Capability 40db on most sensitive input ± 16-25 voits.

PRICE £4.50+0.45 V.A.T. P & P free.

The HY50 is a complete solid state hybrid Hi-Fi amplifier incorporating its own high conductivity heatsink hermetically sealed in black epoxy resin. Only five connections are provided: Input, output, power lines and earth.

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

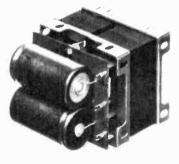
Output Power -25 watts RMS into  $8\,\Omega$  Load Impedance  $-4-16\,\Omega$ 

Input Sensitivity Odb (0.775 volts RMS) Input Impedance 47 \(\Omega\)

Distortion Less than 0.1% at 25 watts typically 0.05%

Signal/Noise Ratio Better than 75db Frequency Response 10Hz-50kHz ± 3db Supply Voltage ± 25 volts Size 105 x 50 x 25 mm

PRICE £5.98 + 0.59 V.A.T. P & P free.



The PSU50 can be used for either mono

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Output voltage 25 volts

Input voltage 210-240 volts

L. 70. D. 90, H. 60 mm. Size

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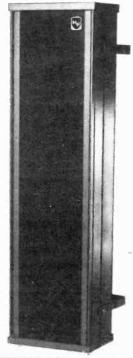
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- 4. All diamond grains are rigidly calibrated to ensure a perfectly uniform grain size of either 200, 300 or 400.
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- relays and switching equipment, etc.

  Grain size 300, thickness 55/100 mm., both faces diamonded. For quick cleaning of industrelays and switching equipment, etc.

  Grain size 300, thickness 55/100 mm., both faces diamonded. For smaller equipments, like telephone relays, computer relays, etc.

  Grain size 400, thickness 25/100 mm., one face diamonded. For sensitive relays and tiny contacts. Two close contacts facing each other can be individually cleaned, because only one face of the spatula is abrasive.

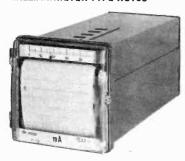
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As supplied to the M.O.D., U.K.A.E.A., C.E.G.B. British Rail and other Public Authorities; also major industrial and electronic users throughout the United Kingdom.

WW-011 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

### STRIP CHART RECORDERS

MINIATURE SINGLE-PEN SWITCHBOARD PATTERN RECORDING **MILLIAMMETER TYPE H3100** 



SPECIAL FEATURES Rectilinear recording. Large capacity ink-well. Provision of separate time marker pen energized from a 24V D.C. source. High/low speed switch for selecting high or low chart speed for each set of change

Full scale deflection 1mA D.C. D.C. resistance  $18100\Omega$ Chart drive 220/250V AC

Chart width 80mm. Chart length 40ft. Chart speeds: 20-60-180-600-1800-5400mm/hour. Overall dimensions: 120x120x285mm. Price £44.00

### **TEN-CHANNEL EVENT RECORDER TYPE H30**

Ten individually energized pens providing time analysis of switching and sequence of separate operations.

6 chart speeds from 20 to 5400mm/hour. Chart 110mm wide 50ft long PRICE complete with 10 charts

and accessories £62.00



### SINGLE CHANNEL MULTI-RANGE UNIVERSAL PORTABLE RECORDING VOLTAMMETER **TYPE H390**

Voltage ranges: 5 to 500V AC/DC. Current ranges: 5mA to 5A AC/DC. 6 chart speeds: 20-5400mm/hour.

Chart width: 100mm. Chart length: 50ft.

PRICE, complete with 10 charts and accessories £78.00



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# for quick service!

## NSFORMER

### **CASED TRANSFORMERS**

Housed in smart resiniciated steel cases, with 3-power cable and outlet socket, fused primary wini isolation types are fitted with 3-pin outlet sockets, are available with 110 volt or 240 volt output, state! Auto types are fitted with 2-pin flat style soc up to 500 VA 3-pin sockets from 750 to 3000 See Auto and Isolation sections for prices.



SAFETY ISOLATI	Ν	G
----------------	---	---

Prlm.	120/240V				Тар	with	scree	n
VA		REF.	Р	RICE				
(WAT	TS)	No.	Cased	Ope	ก		Pos	s t
,	,		£	£			£	
60		149	_	3.	74		0.3	88
100		150	_	4.	16		0.5	
200		151	9.48	7	48		0.5	52
250		152	12:05	9 -	57		0.6	65
350		153	14:00	11-	44		0.8	30
500		154	15.80	13-	20		1.0	90
1000		156	30.70	27	46		1:2	20
2000		158	60.95	55	44		Q.A	١.
3000		159	79.63	72	49		0.4	٩.

### MINIATURE & EQUIPMENT

Primary	240V wi	th Sc	reen			
VOLT			IAMPS 1	TYPE	PRICE	Post
Sec. 1	Sec. 2	Sec. 1	Sec. 2	No.	£	£
3-0-3	_	200		238	1.23	0.10
0-6	0-6	500	500	234	1 30	0-10
0-6	0-6	100L	1000	212	1:68	0.22
9-0-9		100		13	1-23	0.10
0-9	0-9	330	330	235	1-43	0.10
0-8-9	0-8-9	500	500	207	2 28	0.22
0-8-9	0-8-9	1000	1000	208	3.03	0.30
15-0-15		40	_	240	1.23	0.10
0-15	0-15	200	200	236	1:30	0.10
20-0-20	_	30	_	241	1.23	0.10
0-20	0-20	150	150	237	1:30	0.10
0-15-20	0-15-20	500	500	205	2 97	0.38
0-20	0-20	300	300	214	1:76	0.22
0-20	_	3500	No Screen	1116	3.00	0.40
20-12-0-	_	700	_	221	1.55	0.30
12-20		(D.C.)	)			
0-15-20	0-15-20	1000	1000	206	3.80	0.38
0-15-27	0-15-27	500	500	203	3.08	0.38
0-15-27	0-15-27	1000	1000	204	3 24	0.38
0 .0 E	0 10 21					

## 12 and 24 VOLTS PRIMARY 200-240 Volts.

	AMPS	TYPE	PRICE	rus
12V	24 V	No.	£	£
0.3	0:15	242	1.34	£
0.5	0.25	111	1.34	0.2
1	0.5	213	1-59	0.2
2		71	2.09	0.2
4	1 2	18	2.75	0.3
	3	70	3.56	0-4
6 8	4	108	3.96	0-5
10	5	72	4.67	0.5
12	6	116	5.67	0.5
16	8	17	6.64	0.5
20	10	115	10.23	0.6
30	15	187	13.75	0-9
	20	232	18-26	1.0
40 60	30	226	22.52	1:1

### 30 VOLTS PRIMARY 200/240V. SECONDARY 12, 15, 20, 24,

30V		,	
AM		Price	Post
	No.	£	£
0.5	112	1.58	0.22
1	79	2 20	0.38
2	3	3.19	0.38
2	20	3.96	0.42
4	21	4.68	0.52
5	51	5.80	0.52
6	117	6.93	0.52
8	88	9.00	0.67
10	89	10.00	0.67
EO	VOLTO	•	

# 50 VOLTS PRIMARY 200/240V. SECONDARY 24, 30, 48, 60V.

AMPS	Ref.	Price	Pos
	No.	£	£
0.5	124	2.10	0.38
1	126	2.97	0.38
2	127	5.77	0.42
2 3 4 5	125	7.15	0.52
4	123	9.35	0.67
5	40	11-55	0.67
6	120	13.57	0.82
8	121	16:00	1.00
10	122	19:40	1 00
12	189	21 - 62	1:10

### 60 VOLTS PRIMARY 200/240V. SECONDARY 19, 25, 33, 40, 50V.

AMPS	Ret.	Price	Posi
	No.	£	£
0.5	102	2:11	0 30
1	103	3.08	0.38
2	104	4.29	0.42
3	105	5.77	0.52
4	106	7.48	0.52
6	107	11.00	0.67
8	118	14:19	0.97
10	119	17-60	0.97

### **TRANSFORMERS**

	Price	Post	
	£	£	
2 Amp 2-6-12 Volts	2.45	-35	
4 Amp 2-6-12 Volts	3.29	-35	
6 Amp 6-12 Volts	4.95	-50	
12-5 Amp 2-6-12 Volts	7-80	-68	
RECTIFIERS NOT INCLUDED			

### NFW **PRODUCTS!**

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"SPLASH PROOF" SAFETY

**TRANSFORMER** 750 VA Isolation Unit (Interwinding Screen)

Housed in a tough Fibreglass case with carrying handle. Complete with heavy duly 3-core power cable, splash proof outlet plug and socket, internal fuse, 110 Volt and 240 Volt version ∼railable.

PRICE £26-20 CARRIAGE £1-30

### **AUTO TRANSFORMERS**

VA (Watts)	Ref. No.	PRICE CASED	PRICE OPEN	POST
Tapped at 115	, 220. 240 Vol			
20 75 Tapped at 115 150 200 300 500	113 64 , 200 220 24 65 66 67 84	0 Volts. 5-56 9-50 15-92	3.29 3.96 4.64 8.03 13.50	0.22

### BRIDGE RECTIFIERS



### 4 WATT CARBON FILM RESISTORS

‡ watt at 70°C E 12 range 10Ω-1MΩ. 5% tol. above 470 KΩ 10% tol. at 95p per 100.

### **POWER UNIT TYPE A125**



Supplying 6 or 9 Volt DC at 200 mA. 200 mA."
In moulded case forming a 2 pin 5 A mains plug 2 metre output lead with 4-way multiplug giving 2-1 and 2-5 mm sockets and 3-5 mm plugs. Price £2-25, Post 10p

### POWER UNIT Type CC12-05



Output switched 3.
4.5, 6. 7-5, 9 and
12 Volts at 500 mA
D.C. Operates from
240 V mains. suitable for Radios.
Tape Recorders.
Record Players etc
Size 7-5 X 5-0 X
14-0 cm. Price 14:0 cm. Pr £3:95, Post 25p

Tel: Canterbury (0227) 52436

### 2" AND 4" PANEL **METERS**



2"		4"	
45mm High X	ide X 40mm	SIZE: 110mm V 82mm High X 0eeu.	
Deep.	I.R.	Movement	I.R.
Movement	Ohms		Ohms
0-50 micro A.	1250	0-50 micro A	1400
0-100 micro A.	580	0-100 micro A	730
0-500 micro A.	170	0-500 micro A	200
0-1 mA	170	0-1 mA	
0-5 mA 0-10 mA	170	0-5 mA 0-10 mA	200
0-50 mA	0·5	0-50 mA	0·5
0-100 mA	0·5	0-100 mA	0·5
0-500 mA	0·5	0-500 mA	0.5
0-1 AMP	0·5	0-1 AMP	
0-2 AMP	0.5	0-2 AMP	0·5
0-25 Volt	15K	0-25 Volt	15K
0-50 Volt 0-300 Volt	50K 300K 170	0-50 Volt 0-300 Volt "g" Meter	50K 300K 200
"g" Meter VU Meter	5250	VÜ Meter	5250

VU Meters are complete with detectors. Modern wide Price 2" £2-95 Post 10p. Price 4" £3-95 Post 10p. Lamps 55p per set

C1C00 MULTI-METER
Special Offer AUGUST ONLY
Compact General Purpose Mini Multimeter
Input Resistance 1000 ohms per volt.
Ranges AC Volts 0-15 50 250 1000 Volts
DC Gurrant 0-15 mA 0-100 mA
Resistance 0-1500 ohms
Size 60 × 24 × 90 mm
Camplate with. Batterias. Test Pods. Instructions
Special price £3.20 Post 20p.

### MINIATURE NEONS

8 mm dia., 12 mm length, leads length approx. 20 mm. Recommended ballast resistor 150K ohms for 240 Volt operation, Price: Packet of 10 for 50p. Postage 10p

**ELECTRONIC MAINS TIMER** A reliable unit ideal for timing Bathroom/ Toilet Ventilators, Stainway/Cloakroom Lighting Total definitions. Samway.cooknoom. Cyrining etc. Gives up to 30 minis delay before switching off. Odlay: 1–30 minis adjustable. Max Load: 40 VA or 1000. Watts resistive. Ivory Case: 33 in. x 3 in. Fitting Instructions included. Trade Price: £5-80. Post 20p.



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The safe, quick, connector for electrical appliances. 13 Amp rating, fused will connect a number of appliances quickly and safely to the mains, ideal for testing, demonstrating, window displays, etc. Warning Light, interlocked to prevent connections when live. connecting when live. Trade Price: £2-95. Post 25p.



### QUALITY INSTRUMENT CASE

Strongly moulded in High Gloss Grey Plastic (Flame Retardant ABS). Two interlocking halves secured by four corner holts (supplied).

Interior Size:  $6\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $5\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $2\frac{3}{4}$ " Wall Thickness:  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Weight 11 pzs. Price £1-50, Post 15p.



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Type Number	Output Voltage	Output Current Amps	Short Circuit Current mA (Typical)	% Regulation Line and Load (Typical)
PU01 PU02 PU03 PU04 PU05	5±0.1 5±0.1 15-0-15±0.2 15-0-15±0.2 12-0-12±0.2	0.20	370 770 37 84 45	0.3 0.5 0.1 0.1 0.1
PU06	12-0-12 ± 0.2	0.24	120	0.2

Input voltage ranges 103 - 126V, 200 - 240V. 210 - 250V. Frequency 50 - 400 Hz all types.

Comprehensive specification given in brochure GT 29b which is available on request.

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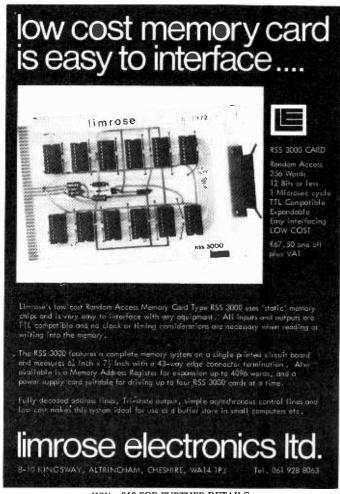
R12DXH. One of a range of six superb Power speakers.

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\* EXTREMELY ECONOMICAL PRICE. \* Ready-built, tested and fully guaranteed. DMO2T (with tremulant) ONLY 114.25.

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DMO2 (without tremulant) £12.25.

SAJ110 7-stage frequency dividers in one 14-pin DIL package. Sine or square wave input allows operation from almost any type of master oscillator including the DMO2 (when 97 notes are available). Square wave outputs may be modified to saw-tooth by the addition of a few components. SAJ110: £2.63 each OR special price for pack of 12: £25.00. S.a.e. please for data sheet.



Model 120

### Centurion

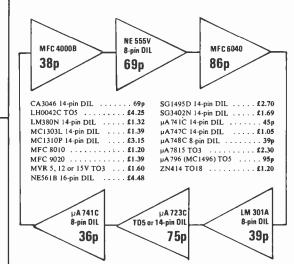
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### 4 Models

Model 120 all-aluminium two-part construction. Top and sides, blue hammer finish, front, rear and base: white. Others: mild steel three-part construction. Top, base, sides and detachable rear panel, blue hammer. Detachable aluminium front panel finished in white.

Dimensions in inches.							
Model	W	H	D	Price			
120	8	24	6	£2.87			
220	8	6*	34	£3.78			
221	8	6	6	£4.07			
320	120	8	12	£8.42			
Chassis for model 320 £2.34 extra.							
Please send s.a.e. for free illustrated leaflet.							

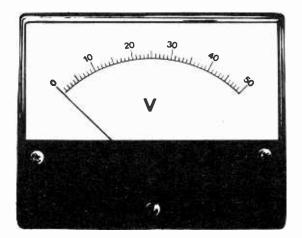


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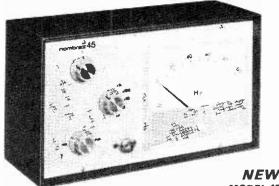
Full Information from:

### HARRIS ELECTRONICS (London)

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# ombrex



MODEL 45

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- MEASURES FREQUENCY FROM 10 Hz TO 100 kHz.
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- ACCEPTS INPUT LEVELS FROM 10mV TO 5V.
- **FOUR DECADE SWITCH RANGES.**
- SENSITIVITY CONTROL
- **CALIBRATION CONTROL.**
- POWERED BY 9 VOLT BATTERY.

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# Top quality plus kit building satisfaction

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IB-1100 30MHz counter with 5 digit readout, 8 digit capability; 100mV sensitivity: time-base stability ± 3 ppm. K/IB-1100 kit £74.80

IB-1101 100MHz counter with 5 digit resolution. 8 digit capability; 50-100mV sensitivity; wide range input. K/IB-1101 kit £93.50

IB-1102 120MHz counter with 8 digit readout; 45-125mV sensitivity; time-base stability better than  $\pm$  1 ppm. K/IB-1102 kit £167.20

IB-1103 180MHz counter with phase-locked frequency multiplier;  $8\frac{1}{2}$  digit display plus over-range: 50–100mV sensitivity: time-base stability better than  $\pm$  1 ppm. K/IB-1103 kit £222.20

(Above kits are also available assembled and calibrated)

The SM-118 and SM-128 have full autoranging capability. The SM-118 gives guaranteed performance to 30MHz and the SM-128 to 110MHz with typical performances considerably better. A front panel sensitivity control gives adjustment of the input amplifier trigger level from 10mV, and the two preset gate intervals of 1 sec. or 10mS are switch selectable.
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£215.00 (Not available in kit form)

Kit prices include VAT and carriage and packing. Assembled prices include carriage and packing but do not include VAT.

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VIDEO TAPE RECORDERS	List Price Ex. VAT	Sale Price Ex. VAT
ITC 3113E 1" (Demo Soiled)	£1350.00	£750.00
ITC 321E $\frac{1}{2}$ " EIAJ Std. (New)	£420.00	£320.00
ITC 321E ½ EIAJ Colour (New)	£595.00	£450.00
NATIONAL 3020F 1" FIAL Std (New)	£385.00	£265.00
NATIONAL 3020E $\frac{1}{2}$ " EIAJ Std. (New) NATIONAL 3030E $\frac{1}{2}$ " EIAJ Std. Edit.	£588.00	£430.00
NATIONAL NV 1079 Time Lapse ½"	£649.00	£445.00
VIDEO CAMERAS		
ITC CTC 6000	£410.00	£300.00
ITC CTC 5000	£175.00	£130.00
ITC CTC 2002	£215.00	£165.00
ITC CTC 8000 15 MzH Band Width	£875.00	£650.00
MIRAGE HD 800	£215.00	£165.00
NATIONAL 341 N with 5" V/Finder	£320.00	£225.00
ITC CTC 4000	£110.00	£90.00
ITC OD520 Camera in Out Door Housing	£215.00	£170.00
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ITC PM 52T 5" Monitor	£105.00	£78.00
ITC PM 900 9" Monitor	£90.00	£75.00
ITC PM 96T 9" Monitor	£95.00	£80.00
ITC PM 171T 17" Monitor	£140.00	£112.00
ITC PM 171TS 17" Monitor with Sound	£160.00	£128.00
ITC PM 201T 20" Monitor	£160.00	£128.00
ITC PM 201TS 20" Monitor with Sound	£175,00	£140.00
NATIONAL TN 63 6" Monitor	£92.00	£65.00
NATIONAL TN 303 Bank of 3 × 6" Monitors	£265.70	£190.00
NATIONAL TN 95E 9" Monitor with Sound	£108.90	£80.00
NATIONAL TN 952E Bank of $2 \times 9''$ Monitors		
with Sound	£208.00	£170.00
NATIONAL TN 93E 9" Monitor	£95.00	£76.00
NATIONAL TN 932E Bank of $2 \times 9''$ Monitors	£195.00	£152.00
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AKAI VT110 Kit ¼" Tape	£595.00	£500.00
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50 HZ. Mint condition	£280.00	£175.00
GAUMONT/KALEE Single Sound for ARRIFLEX		
Standard Complete (Used)	£175.00	£100.00
ARRIFLEX Std Matte Box, Gel Holder	2170.00	
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25mm TAYLOR HOBSON in ARRIFLEX Mount	£40.00	£25.00
Set Leather Clamps for Tripod	£18.00	£9.00
ARRIFLEX Std. Pistol Grip	£29.35	£14.00
ARRIFLEX BL Shoulder Brace B Type	£91.50	£80.00
ARRIFLEX BL Friction Head with Wedge Plate		
and ROMFORD Legs	£198.00	£150.00
JENSON Synchroniser 205 S and Case	£175.00	£90.00
COLLUX III Colour Temperature Meter with		
Lens Hood Case and Set of Filters	£300.00	£250.00
PREMIER 16mm Footage Counter	£47.00	£20.00
Filters Assorted 3" for ARRIFLEX Std.		
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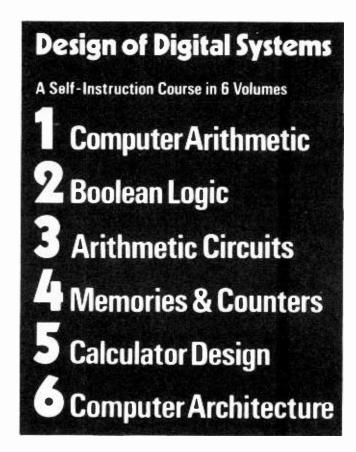
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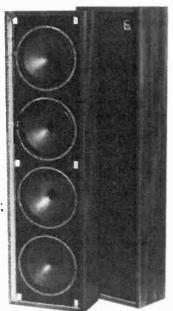


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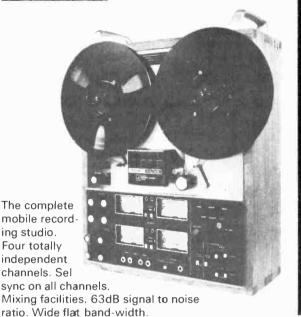
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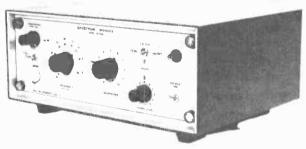
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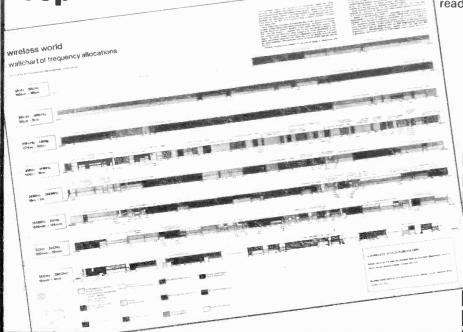
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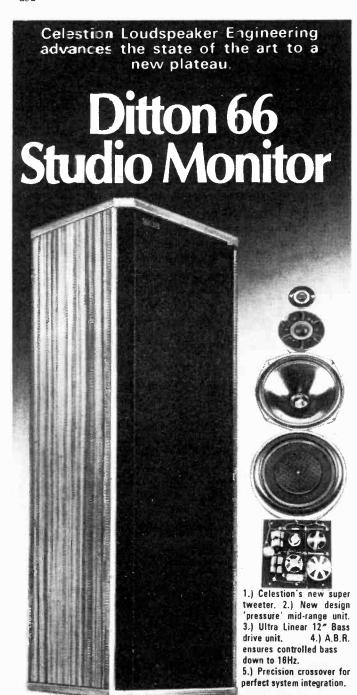
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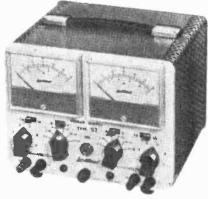
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# wireless world

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AUGUST 1974 Vol 80 No 1464

SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

This month's cover picture shows part of a Tektronix equipment for dynamic testing of digital and linear i.cs and modules. Device in test socket is an active audio notch filter, having its response curve automatically plotted.

(Photographer Paul Brierley)

### IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

(published September 4)

Electronic speedometer and average speed indicator. Device with digital display and operated from electronics transducer attached to back of existing car speedometer.

Dummy heads. A potted history of artificial head recording for stereo and "surround-sound" effects.

Thyristor speed control for shunt-wound d.c. motors. A design with circuitry for avoiding the speed instability common in the control of shunt motors.



I.P.C. Electrical-Electronic Press Ltd Managing Director: George Fowkes Administration Director: George H. Mansell Publisher: Gordon Henderson

### O I.P.C. Business Press Ltd, 1974

Brief extracts or comments are allowed provided acknowledgement to the journal is given

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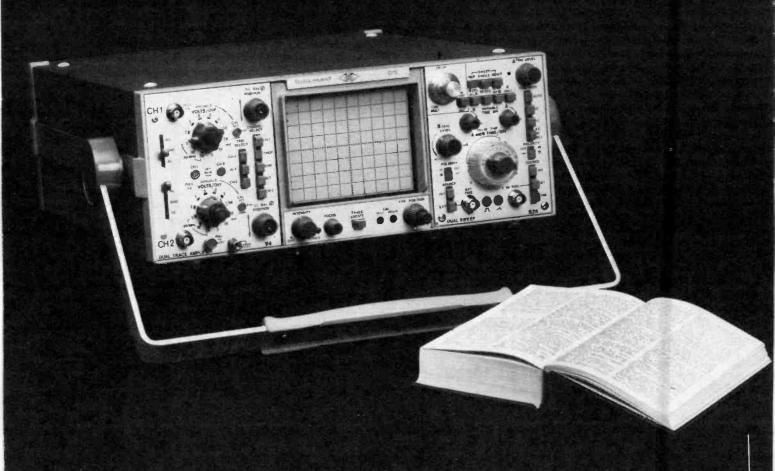
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Price 25p (Back numbers 40p) Editorial & Advertising offices: Dorset House, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LU. Telephones: Editorial 01-261 8620; Advertising 01-261 8339.

Telegrams/Telex, Wiworld Bisnespres 25137 London. Cables, "Ethaworld, London S.E.1."

Subscription rates: 1 year, £5 UK and overseas (\$13 USA and Canada), 3 years, £14 UK and overseas (\$36 USA and Canada). Student rates: 1 year, £2.50 UK and overseas (\$6.50 USA and Canada), 3 years, £7 UK and overseas (\$18.20 USA and Canada).

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# wireless world

### Using channels efficiently

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JOHN GIBBON (Make-up and copy) Phone 01-261 8353 An article in this issue referring to the forthcoming re-planning of the m.f. and l.f. broadcasting bands draws attention, once again, to the permanent problem of finding enough space in the frequency spectrum for all the radio systems we would like to set up. We tend to be so preoccupied with the frequency spectrum, thinking up ways of making the most efficient use of what bandwidth is available to us, that perhaps we do not pay enough attention to the other constituents of every communications system—time and signal-to-noise ratio. Do we in fact make the most efficient use of these also?

There is not much we can do with signal-to-noise ratio except to trade it for more information in a given channel, as in the stereo broadcasting system, but time seems to offer more possibilities. It is a sobering thought that every night we switch off for several hours hundreds of megahertz of broadcasting bandwidth and numerous communications channels. However, to make use of all this for day-time purposes we would have to devise systems with storage or recording facilities. But there are plenty of opportunities of making more efficient use of time during day-time operations, particularly in mobile communications where channels are not continuously loaded but tend to be used intermittently for separate messages. Of course with mobile radio the time gaps between messages are already utilized to some extent in systems where different users time-share a single channel—radio taxis, for example. But this is a haphazard process and does not make the best use of the available channel capacity.

One systematic method of utilizing a group of channels efficiently, called dynamic channel assignment, was proposed by J. F. Craine at the recent Communications 74 conference at Brighton. In this the use of a number of channels is controlled automatically by an exchange, rather as in the trunk telephone system. When a call is made from a station the exchange assigns it to a free channel in the same manner as an automatic line exchange would find a free trunk route. The receiving station must then be informed that a call is being made and that its equipment has to be tuned to the appropriate channel.

Another possible system, suggested by S. R. McConoughey of the American FCC, is based on the principle of trading signal-to-noise ratio for more information, as mentioned above. Each user has access to multiple channels and the system simultaneously shares the same radio spectrum with other users. Instead of experiencing channel blocking, a user would observe only a gradual degradation of signal-to-noise ratio as the loading increased.

Undoubtedly such systems would be very complicated, but should certainly be feasible with the present technology of digital processing and large-scale integrated circuits at our disposal. This complication is the price we would have to pay for more efficient utilization of channel capacity.

# The future of medium- and long-wave broadcasting

### Problems facing the forthcoming planning conference

by J. G. Spencer

BBC Research Department

The organization of broadcasting, in respect of transmitter frequencies and powers, requires a high degree of international co-operation if optimum coverage with minimum mutual interference is to be achieved. This applies particularly in the medium-frequency band, in which a transmitter having a service area radius of, say, 50km can produce interference by skywave propagation during the hours of darkness at fifty times that distance to other transmissions sharing its frequency channel. This co-operation is organized by International Telecommunications Union and Fig. 1 shows the three regions into which the world is divided for radio planning purposes.

The present situation in Region 1 is based on the European Broadcasting Convention, concluded at Copenhagen in 1948, and the regional agreement for the African broadcasting area, drawn up in Geneva in 1966. However, the number of transmitters actually operating at the present time in the European area is some three times greater than the number for which provision was made in the plan. Region 3 has currently more than 1800 transmitters in operation but no overall formal plan. By common consent, comprehensive re-planning is well overdue. This conclusion will be endorsed by any-

one in Britain that tunes a m.f. receiver, after dark, across the m.f. band.

It has now been agreed that a Regional Administrative Broadcasting Conference will convene this year in Geneva to commence the re-planning of frequency assignments in the m.f. and l.f. bands for Regions I and 3. The first session of this conference is scheduled for October 7th to 25th, 1974, and will, it is hoped, determine such technical parameters as the channel spacing, modulation system, protection ratios and propagation data to be used in the second session of the conference that will produce the final plan. The date for this second session will be some time in 1975 or 1976.

#### Propagation

Among the important factors in determining the optimum utilization of the m.f. and l.f. bands are the propagation characteristics of the medium. These are illustrated, for the range of distances of interest for a ground-wave service, in Fig. 2, which shows field strength as a function of distance for a base-fed vertical-mast radiator of the type commonly used at m.f. and l.f. transmitters. The curves labelled with frequency values represent the ground wave, while those labelled with values of mast height, h, represent the

sky wave. Some features of this figure will bear explanation for readers unfamiliar with the subject.

(i) The curves are drawn for a constant cymomotive force of 300 volts. The cymomotive force is numerically the limiting value of the product of the field strength and the distance from the transmitter as this distance is reduced towards zero. This extrapolation ignores effects in very close proximity to the aerial (within about one wavelength). The product has the dimensions of voltage  $(\frac{E}{d} \times d)$  and the term is usually abbreviated to c.m.f. or alternatively written as  $E_{o}d_{o}$ . The c.m.f. of 300V in these curves corresponds to a radiated power of 1 kW for a short aerial  $(h \ll \lambda)$ , reducing to about 0.5 kW for h = $0.575\lambda$ . The magnitude of the radiated signal can alternatively be expressed in terms of the effective monopole radiated power (e.m.r.p.). This can be regarded as the signal produced when the stated power is fed into a perfect, lossless, vertical radiator of height much less than one quarter wavelength. As implied above, a c.m.f. of 300V corresponds to an e.m.r.p. of 1kW.

(ii) The level and shape of the sky-wave curve depends on the vertical radiation pattern (v.r.p.) of the transmitting aerial and hence on the radiator height. For values of h approaching zero, the v.r.p. follows a cosine law relative to the angle of elevation above the horizontal. This produces the sky-wave curve for  $h \ll \lambda$ and holds with reasonable accuracy up to about  $h=0.2\lambda$ . As h is further increased, the radiation becomes more concentrated in the horizontal plane, and the high angle radiation illuminating the ionosphere is correspondingly reduced, until a value of  $h=0.475\lambda$  is reached. The corresponding sky-wave curves are omitted from Fig. 2 for the sake of clarity. Had they been shown, they would be of similar shape to those for  $h \ll \lambda$  and  $h = 0.475 \lambda$  and would fall between them. As h is increased beyond  $0.475\lambda$ , the main-lobe radiation above the horizontal is further reduced but a side lobe appears in the v.r.p. that produces a relatively rapid increase in high-angle radiation. This is manifested in the sky-wave curves by the characteristic double-humped shape. The progressive increase in the near-field sky-wave at

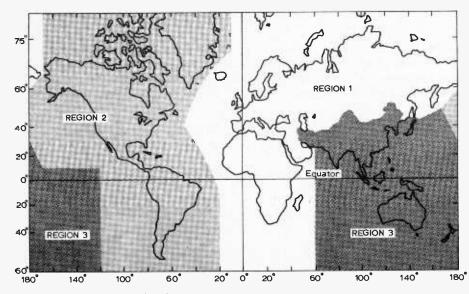


Fig. 1. ITU regions for radio planning purposes.

distances up to some 100 to 200km is caused by the high-angle side-lobe radiation while the progressive fall in the sky-wave at greater distances results from the continuing reduction in the illumination of the ionosphere by the main lobe. With simple base-fed mast radiators, if h is increased beyond  $0.575\lambda$  the proportion of the input power that is radiated in the horizontal plane falls and the proportion radiated at high angles increases. Both of these features are undesirable for a groundwave service. Also, if h is reduced much below about  $0.15\lambda$ , the radiation resistance falls sharply and the reactive component of the impedance rises. As a result, the losses in the earth resistance rise with consequent loss of efficiency and it may become difficult, particularly at 1.f., to secure correct matching between transmitter and aerial over the required bandwidth.

(iii) Fig. 2 should not be regarded as universally valid. It represents one specific set of conditions. For example, the curves are drawn for good ground conductivity typical of that found over much of the U.K. If the propagation path were all over the sea, the ground-wave field strength at 1500kHz would be about an order higher and if it were over ground of poor conductivity it could be an order lower. The sky-wave field strength also depends to some extent on the ground conductivity in the vicinity of the aerial.

Fig. 2 illustrates very clearly one fundamental restriction on ground-wave services. A limit to the satisfactory service range at night is set by the minimum acceptable ratio of ground-wave to skywave. The sky-wave curves are plotted assuming unity reflection coefficient in the ionosphere. In fact, over the range of distances and diurnal periods of interest in planning, the sky-wave will suffer about 10dB ionospheric attenuation at m.f. and about 15dB at 1.f. Thus, if we assume that a 10dB ratio of ground to sky-wave is the minimum to give a service acceptably free from fading and differential sideband distortion, the maximum service range is given in Fig. 2 for m.f. by the distance at which the sky-wave and ground-wave curves intersect, or, for 1.f., at which the sky-wave is 5dB greater than the ground-wave. This limit is independent of transmitter power but is very dependent on transmitter frequency.

One of the main factors limiting the total number of transmitters that can be accommodated in a given area and a given band is the interference between co-channel, and to a lesser extent adjacentchannel, transmitters that occurs after dark as a result of long-distance sky-wave propagation. Fig. 3 shows a sky-wave propagation curve applicable to the m.f. band. The level of the sky-wave signal can only be predicted statistically. It is subject to continuous fluctuation, varying from minute to minute due to turbulence in the ionosphere, with additional longerterm changes over periods of hours, days, seasons and years, the causes of which are not all fully understood. As a result, sky-wave propagation information

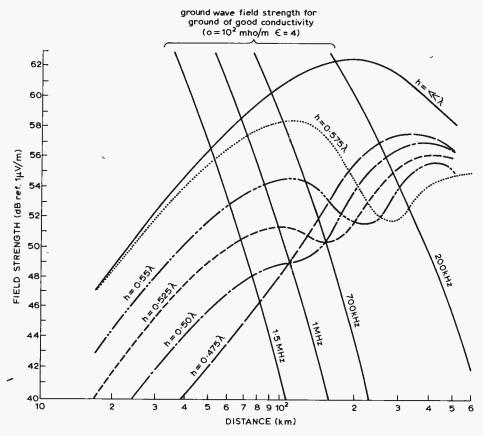


Fig. 2. Field strength from base-fed vertical aerial on ground of good conductivity. Layer height 100km, with unity reflection coefficient; c.m.f. = 300V; transmitting aerial velocity factor = 0.9, physical height = h; ground reflection factor = 1.9; loop receiving aerial.

available to the planners is continually being up-dated as more measurement data are collected. Fig. 3 is a recently-proposed curve based on the continuing studies in this field carried out by the members of the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). It shows the median field strength as a function of distance for a c.m.f. of 300V.

Co-channel and adjacent-channel interference and basic planning lattices
The essence of the planning problem is

how to give listeners the maximum number of programmes consistent with an acceptable level of interference from other transmitters. The two important sources of interference are transmitters sharing the same channel and those in the two adjacent channels; transmissions at greater frequency spacings can be ignored in this context. It is first necessary to determine the channel frequency spacing. In Europe,

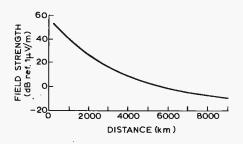


Fig. 3. Sky-wave propagation curve.

this is at present 9kHz over most of the bands in question but this is not necessarily the optimum.

The protection ratio, i.e. the ratio of wanted to interfering signal for a given degree of impairment, is shown in Fig. 4 as a function of channel spacing. This is the curve recently adopted by the CCIR and is based on the performance of current receivers. It is plotted in terms of the relative protection ratio, that is the protection ratio at the stated frequency spacing, relative to that for co-channel interference, to give the same level of impairment of reception.

Suppose that we have to accommodate, in a fixed frequency band, a given number of transmitters within a finite area. If we adopt a large channel spacing, say 15kHz, adjacent-channel interference will be negligible but the number of channels available will be reduced; as a result the geographical separation between cochannel transmitters will have to be reduced, and co-channel interference will be greatly increased. On the other hand, if we reduce the channel spacing to, say, 5kHz, giving many more channels, cochannel interference will be reduced at the expense of a large increase in adjacent-channel interference. Somewhere between these limits there will be an optimum spacing, and this has been calculated on the basis of idealized transmitter location plans in the form of a regular geometrical lattice. The simplest form of elementary lattice is shown in Fig. 5. The transmitters sharing channel n

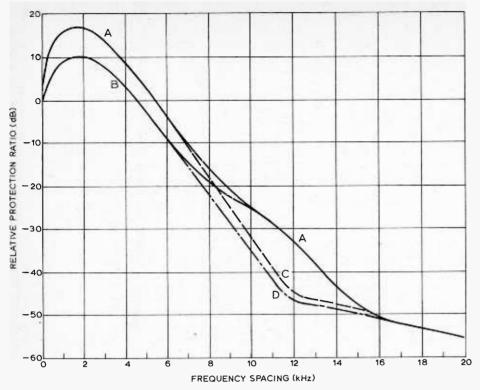


Fig. 4. Relative protection ratio. Curve A: limited degree of modulation compression at transmitter. Curve B: high degree of modulation compression at transmitter. Curve C: as Curve A but with a.f. bandwidth restricted to about 4.5kHz at transmitter. Curve D: as Curve B but with a.f. bandwidth restricted to about 4.5kHz at transmitter.

are disposed at the corners of an equilateral triangle of side D, which is repeated as necessary to fill the area being planned. Transmitters sharing channel n+1 and n-1 are similarly arranged, with the three individual channel lattices meshed so that each triangle of co-channel stations has one adjacent-channel station at its centre. With this arrangement, assuming that the layout of Fig. 5 is continuously repeated, each transmitter is surrounded by a ring of six co-channel transmitters at a distance d and six adjacent-channel transmitters at a distance  $D/\sqrt{3}$ .

This elementary model is obviously over-simplified, for example it gives us nowhere to locate the transmitters on channels n+2, so the next step is to distort the lattice to provide for a practicable number of channels. An example is illustrated in Fig. 6; the elementary cell of the lattice has become a rhomb, which again can be repeated as required to cover the area, with provision for 26 channels. The lattice gives the ratio of co-channel to adjacent-channel distance. From the sky-wave propagation curve, of which Fig. 3 is an example, this ratio of distances can be translated into a ratio of interfering signal levels. The relative impairment produced by co- and adjacentchannel interference is then obtained from Fig. 4. From studies of this type, based both on idealized lattice models and on actual transmitter site plans, it appears that the optimum channel spacing is very close to 8kHz and many broadcasting authorities, including the BBC, will urge that 8kHz should be adopted as the standard m.f./l.f. channel spacing in the forthcoming plan.

This lattice model is useful not only for channel spacing calculations, it is a powerful general-purpose tool for planning. It is quite feasible to construct a lattice for a hundred or more channels, the total number available in the m.f. band, but this would be of little practical use since in any one lattice it is assumed that all transmitters are of substantially identical powers, and we would not wish to be limited only to one size of transmitter. A practicable method, of planning an area the size of an ITU region would be to decide how many categories of transmitter power are needed. Let us assume we require three, low power for purely local coverage, medium power for large conurbations and high power for regional areas. These three categories of transmitter could then each be allocated its own section of the m.f. band. Fig. 2 shows that the lower

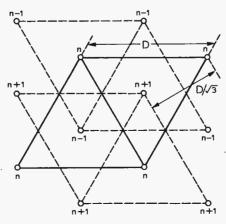


Fig. 5. Elementary planning lattice.

frequency channels are more suitable for large-area coverage and the higher frequencies for small areas. A separate lattice could then be prepared for each transmitter category, the co-channel distance (D in Fig. 6) being adjusted to suit the power, from about 1000km for the low-power lattice to about 4000km for the high power one. To avoid awkward adjacent-channel problems at the junction points in the spectrum where differing power bands adjoin, one or two channels could be allocated at each junction as common-wave channels. international These could be used by very-low-power transmitters on an unplanned basis but perhaps subject to an upper limit on the total power radiated by any one country on any one channel. Such a limit could be adjusted according to the area of the country concerned.

adherence to a lattice-plan Strict geographical distribution of transmitters would give, in an ideal situation, optimum area coverage. However, what we usually require is not optimum area coverage but optimum population coverage. Furthermore, we have also to take account of local terrain. Who wants a m.f. transmitter on top of a granite mountain of low ground conductivity in the middle of a desert where nobody lives? These factors can be allowed for. If a transmitter were required to be at a given specific location, it could be assigned the channel frequency appropriate to the nearest available lattice position but its permitted radiated power would be reduced by an amount sufficient to ensure that the interference caused to its co-channel and adjacent-channel neighbours would not exceed that produced by strict adherence to the theoretical lattice plan. It has been calculated that a displacement of 10% of the co-channel distance would entail a power reduction of between 2dB and 4dB but a higher. power could be permitted if the displaced transmitter employed a directional aerial system.

One of the planning parameters that the Geneva conference will have to decide is the acceptable co-channel protection ratio. The EBU is recommending that this shall be 30dB. Nobody pretends that interference at this level is negligible but it should be remembered that it will, in the great majority of cases, occur only at night and will be suffered only by listeners at the fringe of a transmitter service area.

The value of this protection ratio determines the ratio of the radius of the transmitter service area to the co-channel distance. Thus, if the approach to planning is that a stipulated, fixed number of transmitters must be accommodated in a fixed number of channels in a given area, this determines the co-channel distance and the co-channel protection ratio then determines the interference-limited service area.

On the other hand, if the approach is that a given service area per transmitter is required with a given co-channel protection ratio àt its limit, then the value of that protection ratio determines the cochannel distance, and hence the number of transmitters that can be accommodated in each channel.

## The options: ground-wave or sky-wave, alternative modulation systems

Two assumptions have been implicit in the foregoing discussion, first that m.f. broadcasting, in Europe at least, will be planned mainly on the basis of groundwave services and, second, that the modulation system used will continue to be double sideband a.m., as in the past. In the course of the wide-ranging discussions that have been going on among broadcasters during the run-up period to the forthcoming conference, both of these assumptions have been called into question. Let us consider first the question of ground-wave versus sky-wave.

There are three possible approaches to the planning of the m.f. band.

(i) To plan for two separate transmitter networks, one for sky-wave coverage at night, the other for groundwave coverage by day.

(ii) To plan for maximum ground-wave coverage in daylight, considering only ground-wave interference and ignoring the incidence of sky-wave-propagated interference during dark hours.

(iii) To plan for maximum coverage by ground-wave services at night, regarding the increased coverage during daylight as a welcome bonus.

It has been argued that system (i), above, is technically the most efficient since it would give the listener the greatest choice of programmes both by day and by night, and this is undoubtedly true. However, it is subject to a number of disadvantages. Firstly, a sky-wave service is subject to fading and to the distortion resulting from selective sideband fading. Recent developments in technology may permit the production of inexpensive synchronous-detector receivers that eliminate the non-linear distortion produced by fading signals but no such receivers that are reasonable in price and easy to tune have yet appeared on the market. In any case the linear spectrum distortion will remain and, certainly with the envelopedetector receivers that are in universal use at present, sky-wave signals can only be regarded as providing a low-grade service. Secondly, sky-wave propagation is efficient because the signal attenuates only slowly with distance and a highpower transmitter can serve a very large area. The sky-wave network would therefore consist of relatively few high-power transmitters, spaced very widely apart. In Europe, where most countries are small compared to a sky-wave service area, this means that most if not all of the programmes available to listeners would originate outside their own countries. Language difficulties would severely limit the choice of programme material; indeed it is difficult to imagine what the programme could consist of apart from music, and this is not likely to have a wide appeal in view of the poor quality obtained from a sky-wave channel. In many countries also, the idea of providing access

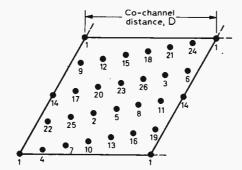


Fig. 6. A 26-channel lattice.

to extra-territorial broadcasting services may be politically unacceptable. Thirdly, we must consider the confusion produced in the minds of listeners by the twice-daily switchover from ground-wave to sky-wave network. These switching times would not be fixed but would cycle throughout the year with the changing seasons. The result would probably be that only the most dedicated radio enthusiasts would know what programmes to expect on what channels. To those lacking that degree of interest, the m.f. band would have all the characteristics of a lucky dip. Also, the performance of both networks would be sub-standard for a period around the switching time because the transition from day to night propagation conditions is gradual and not instantaneous. To summarize, although this proposal has features that appeal to engineers in so far as it is technically elegant and efficient, it does not appear on balance to have much to offer to the average listener that he would find of value.

System (ii) is not really practicable. Sky-wave interference would be so heavy after dark that the services would be virtually unusable. In winter months in high latitudes, this condition would apply over most of every day.

We are thus left with alternative (iii), to base our planning on ground-wave services taking into account the night-time level of sky-wave interference, and this will probably be the decision of the conference for planning the greater part of the m.f. band. There are two important applications, however, for which a section of the m.f. band might be set aside for skywave services. One is for domestic broadcasting in countries covering very large areas (the USSR is an obvious example in Region 1). The other is if it is decided to permit part of the band to be used specifically for external or international services.

Turning now to the question of alternative modulation systems, the possibility of using some form of single-sideband (s.s.b) transmission system for broadcasting in the l.f. and m.f. bands has been extensively canvassed during the last few years. The advantage to be gained by such a system, compared to double-sideband (d.s.b.) modulation, is either a reduction of interference with the existing number of transmitters or an increase in the number of transmitters that could be

accommodated with existing interference levels. The disadvantages are the heavy cost to the public of re-equipping with new and probably substantially more expensive receivers, and the difficulty of maintaining adequate broadcasting services during the interim period while the changeover is taking place. A further advantage frequently claimed for s.s.b. is that it reduces the non-linear distortion produced by selective-sideband fading in sky-wave propagation conditions. This is not strictly true; the reduction of this form of distortion is primarily due to the use of synchronous detection which is necessary in s.s.b. receivers, not to the modulation system itself.

Compatible single-sideband (c.s.s.b.) preserves the correct modulation envelope but confines the transmitted energy very largely to the carrier and one sideband. It is designed for receivers with conventional envelope detectors. As with the other s.s.b. systems discussed below, any overall improvement in the planning situation would rely on the use of new receivers with the appropriate narrower i.f. bandwidth. Recent international discussions have, however, tended to reject c.s.s.b. on the grounds of distortion in receivers with reasonably simple i.f. filters that are not phase corrected. Also, it would rule out the option of using synchronous-detector receivers to reduce non-linear distortion on fading signals.

Vestigial-sideband (v.s.b.) can be regarded as derived from a d.s.b. transmission by the use of an asymmetrical filter with 6dB attenuation at the carrier frequency. It gives full transmission of one sideband and full suppression of the other sideband beyond a certain distance from the carrier (e.g., 1kHz). Provided that the modulation depth is restricted to 70% or 80%, i.e., the carrier component has an amplitude 2dB or 3dB greater than the peak sum of the sidebands, this system has a substantial degree of compatibility with existing receivers. For a given carrierto-sideband ratio the compatibility is slightly better than with s.s.b.-pluscarrier.

Single-sideband (s.s.b.) with no carrier transmitted is widely used in commercial point-to-point communication networks. It has the advantages that it eliminates the carrier-beat component that is a significant part of adjacent-channel interference and also reduces the level of ionospheric intermodulation ("Luxembourg effect"). It has the disadvantages that there is no means for operating a satisfactory a.g.c. system and also that the receiver must synthesize the demodulating carrier with an accuracy of about 10-6 without a reference component in the transmission to assist it. It is also not compatible with existing receivers.

SSB with carrier component overcomes the two major drawbacks of the system referred to above by radiating a carrier component. If the peak sideband level were restricted to about 70% of the carrier amplitude, this system would have a reasonable measure of compatibility with existing envelope-detector receivers.

Independent-sideband (i.s.b.) with no carrier transmitted is similar to s.s.b. but uses the upper and lower sidebands to carry two different programmes. It has the same advantages and disadvantages as s.s.b. and, in addition, it makes very stringent demands on the receiver design if adequate rejection of the unwanted sideband is to be achieved. This latter point is considered further below.

ISB with carrier component is similar to i.s.b. but with the addition of a carrier component to provide a.g.c. and assist in the regeneration of the demodulating carrier. Two different methods of operating this system may be distinguished. In the first method, the two sideband signals are radiated from the same transmitter. In this case the field strengths and fading characteristics of the two signals are sensibly identical at the receiving site, the common carrier component provides adequate a.g.c. information for both, but the receiver is required to achieve a high degree of unwanted sideband suppression. With this method of operation, the system is not compatible. In the second method, the upper and lower sideband signals are radiated from two transmitting stations which are geographically separated. In this case the two signals would require protection ratios of about 20dB against mutual interference in order to prevent confusion of the receiver a.g.c. system by the carrier of the unwanted transmission. This method would require a lower degree of unwanted sideband suppression in the receiver and would also have a measure of compatibility with existing receivers if the carrier component were sufficiently large, say 3dB greater than the peak sideband.

CSSB is not regarded as a serious contender for the reasons outlined above. SSB and i.s.b. without carrier are thought to be impracticable, primarily because of the difficulty in providing satisfactory a.g.c. in the receiver. VSB is receiving support in some quarters in Europe but is not generally a preferred system. It offers, in comparison to s.s.b.-plus-carrier, slightly better compatibility but requires a larger channel spacing. Also, being a s.s.b. system at high modulation frequencies, it requires a synchronous-detector receiver for distortionless detection but, being d.s.b. at low modulation frequencies, the regenerated carrier must be phase-locked to the carrier component of the incoming signal. This phase-locking represents a further complication in the receiver that is not required for s.s.b. or i.s.b.

SSB and i.s.b., in both cases with a carrier component, are the two alternatives to d.s.b. that are currently receiving most attention in Europe.

Part of the argument in favour of s.s.b., in all its forms, is that the relatively complex receivers required will not prove to be unduly expensive in view of the rapid

developments now taking place in technology. This may be true but, in the U.K. at least, the great majority of sound radio listening on the m.f. and l.f. bands is with battery portable receivers. It is therefore necessary, in order to make the new receivers acceptable to the public, that not only must the initial cost be reasonable but the battery drain must also not be excessive. This latter requirement may well be difficult to satisfy. One prime requirement in receivers for either v.s.b., s.s.b. or i.s.b. is to re-generate a demodulating carrier. For s.s.b. or i.s.b. this need not be phase-locked to the incoming carrier and can have a frequency error of up to 2Hz. It can therefore be produced either from the incoming carrier component by filtering and amplitude limiting or by locking a free-running oscillator, or by generating it locally in a synthesiser of high accuracy without reference to the incoming signal. For v.s.b. the demodulating carrier must be phase-locked to the incoming carrier and the option of using a locally-synthesised frequency without reference to the incoming signal is not practicable.

Of the various methods proposed, the local-synthesis method is the one most likely to give reasonable ease of tuning. In any method deriving the demodulating carrier directly from the received signal or locking a free-running oscillator to it, there is difficulty in reconciling the conflicting requirements of ease of tuning with those of immunity to fading and spurious locking to adjacent-channel signals or to sidebands of the wanted signal.

Receivers for i.s.b. would need to provide adequate rejection of the unwanted sideband. If the two separate sideband signals associated with each carrier were radiated from the same transmitter, a rejection of at least 40dB would be required. This would be impracticable by i.f. selectivity alone and would require the use of post-detector quadrature networks giving a constant 90° phase shift over the whole modulation-frequency band. For broadcasting use this bandwidth extends from, say, 50Hz to 5kHz and the problems of production of such networks to the required tolerances and at an economic price may be very difficult to solve. If the two sideband signals were radiated from geographically separated transmitters they would require protection, in their respective service areas, against mutual interference as discussed above. Assuming a protection ratio of about 20dB, this would ease the requirement for unwanted-sideband suppression. The quadrature-filter technique would still be necessary but the tolerances in the filters could be considerably relaxed.

Receivers for any new modulation system would need to be compatible with d.s.b. transmissions, which would still be radiated during the changeover period. VSB receivers, and i.s.b. receivers with 40dB unwanted-sideband suppression, would be automatically compatible since they would in effect treat an incoming d.s.b. signal as v.s.b. or i.s.b. and demodulate it normally. SSB receivers, and

i.s.b. receivers with a lower order of unwanted-sideband suppression would require some additional circuit features in order to cope with d.s.b. The simplest method would probably be to provide a conventional envelope detector, with an appropriate adjustment of the i.f. bandwidth if necessary, brought into circuit by a manually-operated or automatic switch. If it were decided to change the system of modulation to v.s.b. or s.s.b.plus-carrier, it is difficult to foresee precisely how the process of conversion would be organized. Two alternative methods might be possible. One would be to set aside a portion of the m.f. band for use by transmitters operating on the new system and expand this in successive stages as suitable receivers were purchased by an increasing proportion of the public. The alternative would be to convert transmitters, a few at a time, initially to a more-or-less compatible form of s.s.b. with an enhanced carrier component and preserving the original d.s.b. channel spacing and later, in the final stages of the transition, convert to full non-compatible s.s.b. with closer-spaced channels.

With either method, the successive stages of conversion would need to be implemented by all countries in the planned area proceeding in unison. Eventual completion of the changeover could only be realized when virtually all listeners had acquired receivers suitable for the new system. Unless the receivers were fully acceptable to the public in terms of first cost, running costs and operational convenience, there would be a danger of the conversion plan remaining in its interim stages for an indefinite period. During this period, owners of old-type receivers would suffer increased distortion, increased interference and possibly a restriction in their choice of programmes, with no compensating advantages.

If the new system were i.s.b.-pluscarrier, conversion would still have to be on a stage-by-stage basis as the new receivers came into use but international planning would be far simpler. It could be left to individual countries to convert their own channel assignments to i.s.b. operation with two programmes per channel, if and when they wished, or to continue indefinitely with d.s.b.

Thus, even if the decision of the Geneva conference is to aim for the ultimate conversion of the m.f. and l.f. bands to operation with some novel modulation system, this conversion would have to be spread over a considerable period of time. The immediate plan will have to be based on d.s.b. operation, at least over the greater part of the bands in question.

One cautionary note. Although the present situation on the m.f. and l.f. bands in Europe owes little to formal planning, it is the result of a great deal of empirical cut-and-try experience. It is, therefore, not to be expected that the outcome of the planning conference will be a staggering reduction in interference levels all round. The most we can hope for is a moderate improvement.

#### Channel frequencies and bandwidth

Apart from the fundamental requirements of good planning, i.e. ensuring that transmitters are put in the right places and on the right channels and that there are not too many of them, there are some other measures that can be adopted in order to minimize interference. If all transmitter carrier frequencies of receivers were made integral multiples of the channel spacing (i.e., with 8kHZ spacing, all carrier frequencies and i.fs would be on 8n kHz with n integral), the interference resulting from spurious responses in receivers (image channel and the like) would produce carrier beats either at zero frequency or at the channel spacing frequency. This would be much less troublesome than the present situation where such interference can produce whistles anywhere in the audio-frequency range. With present-day receiver designs this proposal would not give any great benefit because of the tolerances in i.f. values. With future improvements in receiver manufacturing techniques, particularly if simple types of frequency synthesizer are used as local oscillators, the potential benefit may be realizable. The conference may well decide that the proposal is worth implementing as far as frequencies are concerned.

Another operational measure that is being adopted by a number of broadcasters, including the BBC, is the limitation of the modulation-frequency bandwidth of m.f. and l.f. transmitters. The principle of this is that the sidebands corresponding to modulation frequencies above about 5kHz are so heavily attenuated in present-day receivers that they do not contribute significantly to the quality of the received programme but do contribute significantly to the interference produced in the adjacent channels. It has been suggested that the audio frequency bandwidth transmitted should be limited to no more than one half the channel frequency separation. Then, if the receiver i.f. bandwidth were similarly limited, adjacentchannel interference would not occur. If this suggestion were adopted, it would mean that the quality of reproduction for all listeners, at all times, would be limited for a benefit needed by only fringe area listeners after dark. The preferred BBC practice is to equip l.f. and m.f. transmitters with low-pass filters at the modulation input that have a slightly rising response between 1kHz and 4.5kHz and then a fairly rapid cut above 5kHz. This has been found to give a modest benefit in adjacent-channel interference with no perceptible degradation of quality on average receivers.

## How do we make the best use of the m.f./l.f. bands?

When the Geneva conference has completed its task, the broadcasters have to decide how to make best use of the channels they have got.

In the U.K. we have hitherto tried as far as possible to duplicate our main programmes in the m.f./l.f. and the v.h.f. bands but, with Radio 1 and 2 sharing one v.h.f. channel and the Open University

and schools transmissions taking over the Radio 3 and Radio 4 v.h.f. networks from time to time, this policy has become progressively harder to implement. With increasing demands for specialist programmes for language minorities, road information to motorists and so on, it may well be that duplication is a luxury that we shall have to abandon. Should this be so, it is obviously desirable that the allocation of services between the m.f./l.f. and v.h.f. bands should take account of the characteristics of the channel and the requirements of the programme and its audience.

Some types of specialist audience are easy to distinguish, for example motorists. The m.f. and l.f. bands offer many advantages for a programme intended primarily for car radio reception. The area of coverage of transmitters is greater, particularly at the lower carrier frequencies, than with v.h.f., hence the receiver requires less frequent re-tuning and the motorist is less frequently distracted from his primary duty of keeping himself and other road users alive. The signal level is more consistent and less liable to the extreme variations that occur close to ground level at v.h.f. The superior quality and signal-to-noise ratio possible with v.h.f. are less important in the unfavourable acoustic environment of a car and even the dynamic compression that we are compelled to use on the m.f. and l.f. bands, to improve the signal-to-noise ratio, can be a positive advantage for car reception where soft passages tend to become inaudible against the high acoustic noise

Another listening situation in which m.f./ l.f. would often be preferred to v.h.f. is for what might be termed the mobile audience: the housewife carrying a portable receiver round the house to provide a background to the daily chores or the picnicker with a portable receiver on the beach. The standingwave pattern existing at v.h.f. inside houses can produce a situation in which either a v.h.f. portable will not work satisfactorily in some positions or the signal will fluctuate and periodically drop below a usable level as the listener moves about. In the open air, the receiver is usually standing on the ground, and the field strength at ground level of a v.h.f. signal horizontally polarized, as the great majority of Band II transmissions are, is theoretically zero and in practice often nearly so.

The audience to whom the characteristics of v.h.f. would appear to be most suitable are those listening at home on a fixed receiver, particularly those to whom sound radio is a major contributor to their home entertainment and who are prepared to acquire a receiver giving high-quality reproduction. Perhaps one could attempt a generalization, that m.f. and l.f. are better suited to casual listening and v.h.f. to serious listening. Having done this, we are not much further forward unless we can classify programmes into those intended for casual and for serious listening. That is a rather more difficult problem, bearing in mind that what is memorable to one listener is trivial to another. Perhaps we should be thankful that some problems in broadcasting do not fall to us, the engineers, to solve.

Acknowledgements. The author wishes to thank the Director of Engineering of the BBC for permission to publish this article and his colleagues in the BBC Research Department for assistance in preparing it.

# **Sixty Years Ago**

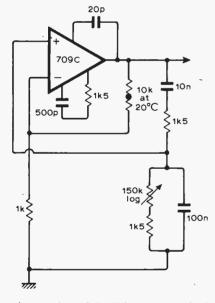
From our August, 1914 issue . . .

"The efforts to solve for the vision the problem or problems of space which the telephone has solved for the ear bears a close enough resemblance to some of the problems in the wireless field to permit us to follow with sympathetic interest the endeavours which scientists are making to reach a practical solution. Hopeful results were foreshadowed in a communication made during the past month to the Academy of Sciences in Paris by Professor Lippmann on behalf of M. Georges Rignoux, who has devoted himself to this subject for many years. M. Rignoux has now devised an improved apparatus to which he has given the name of Telephote, and which is just a scale of shade and light. There is a transmitting and receiving apparatus connected by two wires. At the transmitting station a concave mirror throws the rays of a 200 candle-power Nernst lamp upon the object which is to be reproduced at the other end of the wire. Each point thus illuminated is shown through a magnifying glass upon a screen composed of cells of selenium metal, of which the electric resistance varies in accordance with the intensity of the light thrown upon it. An electric current is passed through this screen, and, thanks to the peculiar properties of selenium, is transmitted in varying strength according to the amount of light on each portion of the screen. The currents are transmitted over a wire to the receiver, which emits through a Nicol prism rays of light corresponding in intensity with the current received. These rays are cast through a lens upon a revolving mirror, which reflects upon a screen a picture of the light and shade of the object at the other end of the wire, drawn in small rays of light. M. Rignoux claims to have succeeded in his laboratory in thus producing letters of the alphabet, and he is hopeful of further progress."

# Circuit Ideas

# Wien oscillator with single component frequency control

Unlike the conventional Wien bridge oscillator, this circuit uses a single-gang potentiometer to control the frequency of oscillation. This is achieved by making the components in the two arms of the bridge in a large ratio to one another, in such a way that the attenuation of the network alters only slightly as one of the resistors is varied. Such a change of attenuation can then be compensated for by the usual thermistor in the negative feedback path of the maintaining amplifier.



Attenuation of the Wien network in the circuit, at zero phase shift, varies from 12 to 11.01 as the potentiometer is varied from zero to  $150k\Omega$ ; the frequency of oscillation varies by 10:1.

The circuit shown has been built and operates from 340Hz to 3.4kHz; it gives a constant output over the range. A log-law variable resistor is essential to achieve an even distribution of frequencies as the spindle is rotated. A 709C op-amp was used as one was to hand, but a 741 op-amp could be used without the need to include external frequency compensation components in the circuit.

P. C. F. Healy, RAF Medmenham, Bucks.

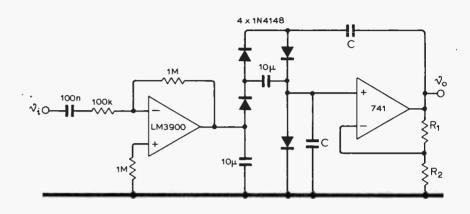
#### Oscillator with currentcontrolled frequency

The principle of this circuit is based on the current-controlled Wien bridge built up by four diodes of the type 1N4148 and by two capacitors of the same capacitance, C. Current is fed to the bridge by means of the current-mode amplifier of the National Semiconductor LM3900.

For an amplifier of this type, which can be taken as a "super" transistor with a  $\beta$  of 106, small variations of input voltage  $\nu_i$  result in frequency changes over a wide frequency range.

The resonant frequency of the oscillator is directly proportional to the control current. The circuit designed can operate in the frequency range from about 10Hz to 50kHz in which the proportionality between current and frequency holds. In this range the changes in frequency are caused by current variations from about 1 to  $10^4 \, \mu A$ . The recommended value of C is 700pF. Assuming an ideal operational amplifier, the voltage gain needed is  $R_2/(R_1+R_2)>3$ .

Kamil Kraus, Czechoslovakia.



#### Gated oscillator with rapid start

The transistor is used as a conventional phase-shift oscillator, with its operating frequency determined by  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$ ,  $C_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_3$ , and the input impedance of the transistor. With the components shown the frequency of operation is about 1 kHz.

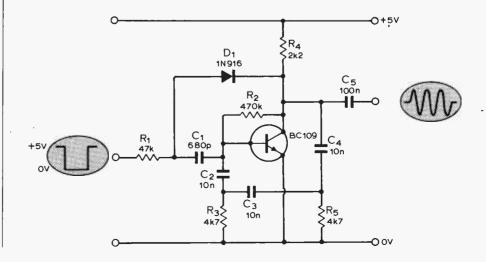
With +5V present at the input, diode  $D_1$  is forward biased via  $R_1$ , thus almost 100% negative feedback is applied to the oscillator via  $D_1$  and  $C_1$  preventing oscillation. When the input signal goes to 0V, diode  $D_1$  is reverse biased, removing the

negative feedback. At the same time, the edge of the input pulse is applied to the transistor base, thus "kicking-off" the oscillator on its first half-cycle.

The value of  $C_I$  is chosen so that the oscillator starts rapidly, but with no overshoot on the first half-cycle.

The first half-cycle is always in phase with the falling edge of the input signal.
G. F. Butcher,

Cheltenham, Glos.



# Photographic flashmeter

## Measures incident light and indicates directly in f-numbers

by Ralph Lewis

A flashmeter is a type of photographic lightmeter which measures the light produced by electronic flashlamps, prior to taking a picture, and enables the camera's lens aperture to be set to the appropriate f-number for the light measured. It differs from a conventional exposure-meter in that it is required to include, in the actual measurement, the effect of the duration of the light as well as its intensity. Also, because of the difficulty of preventing some portion of ambient light energy being measured with the flashlight (it's not usually convenient to have to make measurements in a darkened room), the lower sensitivity of an instrument designed for incident light measurements is generally preferable to that of one designed to measure reflected light—although this is by no means meant to imply that all flashmeters measure only incident light.

To take some of the apprehension out of estimating exposures when using

electronic flash lighting, the use of a meter is a great aid. It can be almost essential when shooting colour transparencies where the allowable latitude in exposure is small, especially when more than one lamp illuminates the subject, each from a different position, Bracketing half a stop either way as a safeguard may get you by with a still subject, but with a live one the best shot usually turns out to be the one that's over exposed.

In the instrument described (see photo) incident light is measured and indicated on a meter directly calibrated in f-numbers from f2 to f64 in three ranges. The film speed selector enables films of 12 ASA to 650 ASA to be set and the sensing element is contained in a probe attached to the meter by a short lead. This allows readings to be taken in situations where placing the body of the instrument in a similar position would disturb the subject.

The duration of light pulses likely to be

encountered will vary between one or two microseconds for a high-speed unit and about three and a half milliseconds for a low voltage studio flash, with probably something in the region of one millisecond being the most common.

Although the author did not have access to a high-speed lamp, tests were made with a light-emitting diode fed from a low impedance sinewave source of constant amplitude over a frequency range of 50Hz to 500kHz. Placing the l.e.d. half an inch from the photocell enabled the integration of a train of light pulses of constant mark/space ratio to be timed. The time required for the voltage on the integrating capacitor to reach a set value was the same at all frequencies (RLA2 in Fig. 1 was bridged for this test), and it is fairly safe to assume that the instrument will cope with the fast rise and short duration of a high-speed unit.

The complete circuit of the flashmeter

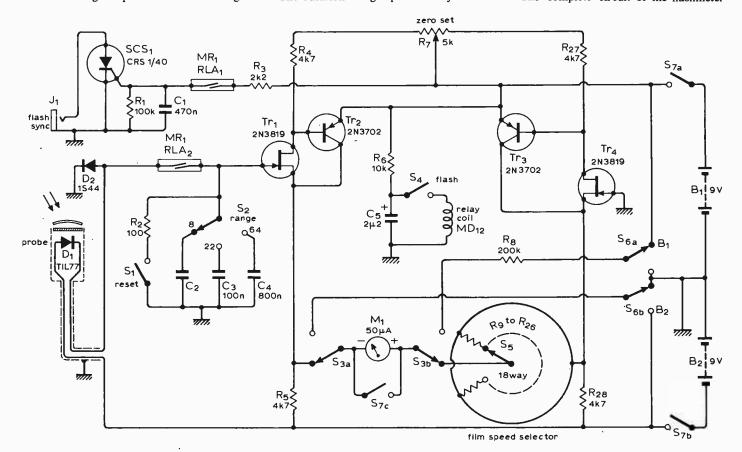


Fig. 1. Complete circuit diagram of the flashmeter.

is shown in Fig. 1. The light sensing element is a silicon photodiode operating in the photoconductive mode, which is connected in series with a battery and a capacitor for the duration of the flash. The photocurrent is integrated over the period by charging the capacitor to a potential directly proportional to the duration and intensity of the illumination, and inversely proportional to the magnitude of the capacitance. That is,

$$V_C = \frac{1}{C} \int_{t_I}^{t^2} i \, \mathrm{d}t$$

Where  $t_1$  and  $t^2$  are the times of the beginning and end of the flash pulse. The capacitor voltage is measured by an f.e.t. voltmeter which has an input resistance in excess of ten thousand megohms, so that the charge is not appreciably reduced by the measuring instrument before it can be read.

The purpose of the diode  $D_2$  is to prevent photocurrent produced by ambient lighting being integrated at the same time as the flashlight current. If a reverse biased junction diode is connected to a current source (very high resistance) and the reverse current is below the saturation level, the p.d. across the diode is, for practical purposes, zero and it is not until the current closely approaches the saturation limit that the p.d. begins to rise. Once saturation is reached, the p.d. is independent of the diode and is dependent solely upon other factors in the circuit.

By choosing a diode with a suitable value of reverse current, one can ensure that the cathode of  $D_1$  is clamped to chassis potential until the current in it exceeds the

reverse current requirements of  $D_2$ , thus preventing the photocurrent caused by a reasonable amount of room lighting being passed to the integrating capacitor.

A Texas Instruments TIL77 was chosen as the photodiode because its spectral response is very similar to that of the human eye. Normally, silicon photodiodes are most sensitive in the infra-red region, and filtering is necessary to prevent the heat radiation which accompanies xenon flash discharges from overriding the effect of the visible emission.

To increase the sensitivity of the TIL77 (reduced by internal filtering) a large chip has been used and its self-capacitance is rather high—nominally 750pF at -3 volts. Such a high value of self capacitance could cause difficulties if one were to use it to measure the instantaneous intensity of a high-speed flash, as would the capacitance of the screened probe lead—some 400pF. However, in this circuit, all the capacitances are, in a sense, in parallel and charge concurrently; so that the effect of the self capacitances is not to ruin the pulse response but to waste some of the charge that would be passed to the integrating capacitor if they were not present.

A factor of the diode capacitance to be considered is its variation with any change in value of the reverse voltage applied. At the beginning of the integration the voltage across  $D_1$  is 9 volts, while at the end, it is 9 volts minus the potential on the integrating capacitor. This varies from 12.5mV ( $\frac{1}{8}$  full scale with a 650 ASA film) to 5.09 volts (f.s.d. with a 12 ASA film), and represents a change of approximately 4 volts in the diode voltage.

The diode used by the author measured

The complete flashmeter.

380pF at 9 volts and 500pF at 3 volts, so that, allowing for a 1 volt fall in battery voltage during a period of use, a variation of something in the region of 25% is possible. The effect of this must be made insignificant by the choice of a suitable minimum value for the integrating capacit

A reed relay has been used to connect the photodiode to the integrating capacitor for the duration of the flash. Without this switching the intensity of the room lighting would have to be very precisely controlled because, if it did not cause saturation in  $D_2$ , the capacitor would choose this path to discharge, and if it provided more current than was required by  $D_2$  the difference would charge up the capacitor and, in quite a short time, make nonsense of the flash reading.

Another reed switch is utilized to trigger the flash unit while the gating reeds are closed. To prevent the contacts being welded by the current in the flash unit's own trigger circuit, a thyristor has been interposed to isolate them from it.

The reeds  $RLA_1$  and  $RLA_2$  are activated by a common coil  $MD_{12}$ . When the "flash" switch  $S_4$  is closed the charge on  $C_5$  momentarily energizes the coil and causes the contacts to close for approximately 5 milliseconds.

Of the two reed switches used the one chosen for RLA2 must be the one that closes at the lower energizing current in the coil. (One can easily ascertain this by connecting the coil in series with a 9-volt battery and a variable resistor and slowly reducing the resistance while transferring the leads of an ohmmeter from one set of contacts to the other, until one closes.) This more or less ensures the flash is not triggered before RLA2 is closed. To make certain, a 0.5ms delay is introduced into the gate circuit of the thyristor  $SCS_1$ . After the flash trigger pulse has been initiated by conduction in the thyristor, RLA, remains closed for about 4.5ms to allow the complete flash to be integrated. The times are very approximate and may need to be increased slightly to suit individual reeds but should be kept as short as possible consistent with reliable operation. A slight increase in the values of  $C_1$  or  $C_5$  may therefore be required.

The f.e.t. voltmeter makes use of a unity-gain differential amplifier utilizing source followers with complementary bipolar transistors in the c.s.-c.e. configuration. The output resistance is considerably reduced with this arrangement because any shunting of the source-collector load resistance, tending to lower the voltage across it, will tend to raise the f.e.t. gate potential and increase the drain current which flows mainly into the base of the bipolar transistor. This would cause an increase in the collector current and correct the voltage across the load.

The lowering of the output resistance is necessary to prevent its adding significantly to the values of the multiplier resistances, especially on the higher film-speed ranges. The output resistance "seen" by the meter circuit in Fig. 1 is in the teens of ohms and is inversely proportional

to the product of  $g_m$  and beta in each f.e.t. bipolar pair. It will not, however, be constant because  $g_m$  is very dependent on drain current which varies due to the wide range of potentials seen by the gate of  $Tr_1$ . But, with good bipolar transistors, beta will be the major factor and the resistance will be small enough to be ignored throughout the range of gate potentials occurring with the higher film speeds.

Another important advantage of this combination is that the voltage gain becomes very close to unity, which is not possible with an f.e.t. alone unless a very high load resistance can be used.

The ratio of the values of the fixed components  $R_4$  and  $R_{27}$  to the variable component  $R_7$  in the resistor network used to balance the source potentials of  $Tr_1$ and Tr<sub>4</sub> is much less than usually specified in similar circuits. This is to enable unmatched transistors to be used; but even with this value some adjustment of the values of either  $R_4$  or  $R_{27}$  may be required to obtain balance because of the spread in the characteristics of available f.e.ts. The aim should be to increase the value of one rather than reduce the value of the other so as to cause as much as possible of the drain currents to flow into the bases of  $Tr_2$  and  $Tr_3$ . However, it may be necessary to do both.

I suggest that constructors set a lower limit of  $3k\Omega$  for  $R_4$  and  $R_{27}$  and, if still unable to set zero, they should try another  $10-15k\Omega$  if necessary. The main thing is to achieve balance while providing the highest possible degree of feedback. (No difficulty in setting zero has been experienced despite the large variable component.)

Variation of exposure in a camera follows a geometric progression and, as the sensing circuit is linear, the meter must be scaled geometrically if it is to be read directly in f stops. A limit is therefore set to the number of stops that can be included between zero and full-scale. Because each stop occupies twice the scale length of the one preceding it, the divisions become progressively more cramped towards the lower end of the scale, and for the sake of clarity and accuracy, four stops is really the limit, while three is to be preferred. If one opts for three, an overall range of f2.8 to f64 can be encompassed in three overlapping ranges-f2.8 to f8, f8 to f22 and f22 to f64. An additional f2 calibration point can be inserted between "0" and f2.8 for good measure if desired.

I suggest that each stop be divided into thirds, as this is generally considered to be the limit of accuracy that it is possible to work to in practical photography. (For instance: Kodak issue speed correction sheets accurate to one-third of a stop for "Ektachrome E3" sheet and roll film.) A scale designed along these lines will look like the one in Fig. 2. The f2 point is at  $\frac{1}{16}$  f.s.d., the f2.8 at  $\frac{1}{8}$  f.s.d., the f4 point at  $\frac{1}{4}$  f.s.d., the f5.6 point at  $\frac{1}{2}$  f.s.d. and the f8 point at full scale.

The third and two-third stop calibration points are found by noting the number of



Fig 2. Direct reading scale designed to fit a SEW SW100 meter.

degrees encompassed by the preceding whole stops divisions and multiplying it by 1.26 and 1.59 respectively. For example, if the original scale is divided into 90 degrees, then 22.5 degrees are included between f4 and f5.6. So  $22.5 \times 1.26$  or 28.35 degrees from the f4 mark is the position for the f5.6 plus one-third stop mark, and  $22.5 \times 1.59$  or 35.8 degrees from the f4 mark is the position for the f5.6 plus two-thirds stop mark.

There are two obvious methods available to expand the scale by six stops in two ranges. The first is by introducing neutral density filters of 0.9 and 1.8 density between the photocell and the illumination. The second is to increase the value of the integrating capacitance by eight times and sixty four times respectively. The advantage of the first is that the range of illumination falling on the cell is the same on each range and makes the linearity requirements of the photocellover a very wide range of illumination considerably less stringent. The advantage of the second is that it is simpler mechanically because suitable switches are readily available, whereas a filter switch would have to be fabricated specially, and would add considerably to the complexity of the probe housing.

A disadvantage of the second method would be if the photocell were unable to respond linearly to the range of illumination entailed. The range of film speeds catered for is 12 ASA to 650 ASA, which represents a change in illumination equal to five and two-thirds stops, or just over 50:1. Adding the complete scale of the meter, which is ten stops, gives an

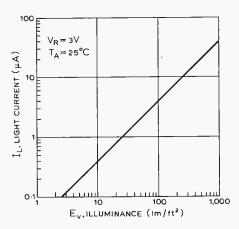


Fig. 3: Graph of light current vs. illuminance for the TIL77.

overall change of fifteen and two-thirds stops, or over 50,000:1.

Texas Instruments do not supply data covering such a range and only give a graph covering 2.5 to 1,000 lm/ft2 for the TIL77, as it was originally intended for use at the low light levels encountered with ordinary exposure meters (see Fig. 3). Mullard publish a graph for their BPY13 over the range  $10^2$  to  $10^5$  lux  $(1 \text{ lm/ft}^2 =$ 10.76 lux) but even if the two are taken together, the total range is less than 4000:1. However, both graphs display an extraordinary degree of linearity and give the impression that they might continue indefinitely, and it was on the assumption that the TIL77 would maintain linearity throughout the range-required that the second method was tried. After comparing readings with a 0.9 density filter in front of the probe on the f8-f22 range with those on the f22-f64 range without a filter, they were found to be identical, so the second method was the one adopted.

Adjustment for different film speeds is accomplished by switching the resistors  $R_9$  to  $R_{27}$  in series with the meter  $M_1$  so that the voltage required for full scale deflection is increased by  $2^{\frac{1}{7}}$  for each decrease in the ASA index table.

A table illustrating the method of calculation of the resistor values is overleaf. The minimum f.s.d. of 0.1 volt was decided upon as it allows a reasonable portion of the multiplier resistance to be external to the meter, and means that on the highest voltage range there is sufficient potential across the photodiode—even with some fall in battery voltage—to ensure its correct operation.

The choice of values for the three integrating capacitances is affected by a number of considerations. They should not be so large that the correct exposure is indicated without any neutral density between the cell and the illumination, because the inclusion of a filter here is a convenient way of compensating for the different sensitivities of individual diodes during calibration. Large capacitances also require large peak currents to produce the necessary p.d. and require high levels of cell illumination to produce them. Looked at from the other point of view, the smallest capacitance  $C_2$  must not be so small that it is easily discharged by the input resistance of  $Tr_I$ , or leakage in the "range" switch  $S_2$  and the "reset" switch  $S_1$ . The combination of  $C_2$ , the cell capacitance and the capacitance of the probe lead must also be large enough to sufficiently swamp any change in the cell capacitance mentioned previously.

If a value of  $0.1\mu F$  is adopted for  $C_3$ , the diode and probe lead capacitances make up little more than 1% of it and can be neglected initially to simplify calculations.  $C_4$  then becomes  $0.8\mu F$  and  $C_2$ plus the diode and lead capacitances become 12.5nF. A 25% variation in the nominal capacitance of the photodiode is 750pF divided by four, or 187.5pF. As that represents only 1.5% of 12.5nF, it will not introduce any noticeable error into the results. Also the value of  $C_4$  will not place any strain on the current capabilities of either components or battery because the peak current with a 1ms flash duration will only be about 10mA.

This can be calculated from basic principles on the assumption that the peak current is likely to be between two and three times the mean value and the maximum voltage is practically 5 volts.

$$I_{mean} = \frac{VC}{t} = \frac{5 \times 8 \times 10^{-7}}{10^{-3}} = 4 \text{ mA}.$$

$$I_{peak} \simeq 4 \times 2.5$$
 or 10mA.

Having obtained the current, one can, as a matter of interest, obtain a figure for the probable peak illumination falling on the photocell. A glance at Fig. 3 shows the sensitivity to be  $2\mu A$  per 50 lm/ft². Therefore, the peak illuminance would be

$$\frac{10^{-2}}{2 \times 10^{-6}} \times 50 \text{ or } 2.5 \times 10^{5} \text{ lm/ft}^2.$$

Taking the average value of the diode capacitance as 656pF, adding the probe lead's 400pF and subtracting the sum from 12.5nF, one is left with 11,444pF as the value of  $C_2$ . (This value is calculated merely to illustrate the next point. The actual value required is most easily found by trial and error during the calibration so that variations from the nominal values are automatically taken care of.)

Of three 2N3819s tested by the author none had an input resistance of less than

 $5\times10^{11}$  ohms. With a figure like that and an 11.44nF capacitance, the time taken for a fall of 10% from the full scale reading is approximately nine minutes with a 650 ASA film. With slower films it is proportionately longer, and even if the resistance were no larger than  $10^{10}$  ohms it would still take at worst about 11 seconds.

Leakage in the switches can be kept very low by suitable choice of insulation and modern capacitors can have extremely high leakage resistances so that stability of indication can be more than adequate if care is taken in the construction.

Before going on to the construction, it would be as well to refer briefly again to  $D_2$ . A suitable value for its reverse saturation current was found to be 10nA. This value allows a fair amount of room lighting in which to take the readings, while at the same time being too small a percentage of the mean current required to charge  $C_2$  to the f2.8 point with a 650 ASA film to matter whether or not the 10nA is wholely provided by ambient lighting or part of it by the flashlight. In other words, any current bypassing  $C_2$  to bring  $D_2$  to saturation will not be missed.

#### Construction

A view of the component layout is shown in Fig. 4. Everything is attached to the front panel with the exception of the "flash sync" jack socket  $J_I$  which is secured to the side of the case alongside the probe lead. The transistor circuitry is laid out on the piece of Veroboard shown at the top of the panel and the relay circuitry on the piece in the centre, between the meter and  $S_5$ . The integrating capacitors are shown at the bottom, wired directly to the "range" switch  $S_2$ ; and the thyristor,  $R_I$  and  $C_I$  connect directly to the tags of  $J_I$ .

To realise the extremely high input resistance of the f.e.t. when it is connected into circuit, certain precautions must be taken. The gate wire of  $Tr_1$  should not be connected to the Veroboard but bent around, a wire joined to it and taken to the pole of  $S_2$ , which should have ceramic

insulation. Paxolin is definitely not a suitable insulating material for this switch. The "reset" switch  $S_1$  must have similarly low leakage. Being unable to procure a ceramic push-switch, I tried an Eagle miniature push-switch and found it to be quite satisfactory. The gate side of RLA, must also be kept off the circuit board and connected directly to the pole of  $S_2$ . In this most sensitive part of the circuit—as far as leakage is concerned all wiring should be self-supporting, and even when insulated should be prevented where possible from touching anything not directly connected to it. If all these precautions are taken meter indications will remain stable for a considerable period of time in a dry room. In humid conditions however, it may be necessary to moistureseal the case and include a bag of desiccant inside.

A convenient way of measuring the reverse current while testing the suitability of diodes for the  $D_2$  position is by making use of the high input resistance of the f.e.t. voltmeter. By temporarily replacing one of the integrating capacitors with a 10megohm resistor, and connecting the diode under test between the 9-volt negative rail and the gate of  $Tr_I$ , the value of its reverse current can be obtained from the reading on the meter in conjunction with the table of multiplier resistances. Start with  $S_5$  in the 12 ASA position and increase the film speed setting until the meter reads full scale or thereabouts. Obtain the voltage that this represents from Fig. 4 and divide it by 10<sup>7</sup> to obtain the diode current. For example, the 650 ASA setting is represented by 0.1 volt at full scale. Dividing this by 107 gives 10nA. The exact current is not critical but should be a little higher rather than lower than 10nA.

Any ordinary silicon diode may be used in this position and any you have in your possession should be tried first. If not successful in finding one to suit among them, you will probably have to purchase five or six to find one suitable. A word of caution: if connecting them for test with solder, allow plenty of time for them to cool to room temperature before taking a reading, and shield them from the light and heat of any bench lamps. Even the ones in black containers are sensitive to the effect of radiant heat on reverse current.

The probe housing is made from a Bulgin D105/white lampholder which is first stripped down and the screwhole in the plastic end-cap enlarged to take a Bulgin cable sleeve No. 8819 tightly. The probe lead is a yard of screened-twin 7/0.1mm p.v.c. which is a good fit for the sleeve. If sufficient length of braid is splayed out, it can be clamped between the end-cap and the metal barrel when assembled. The photodiode is secured to the ends of the twin-lead by beads of solder so that when assembled the lens lies just below the end of the barrel. After assembly the diode can be centralized either by packing glass wool around it or by making a polythene washer with a hole which just allows the cell case to

Table of resistor values for the "film speed" switch S4

film speed	volts f.s.d.	total multiplier resistance for 50-μA meter.	circuit ref.	nearest preferred value after subtracting meter resistance of 1,000 $\Omega$ . $k\Omega$	% error
650	$0.1 \times 1 = 0.100$	2.00	R <sub>9</sub>	1.0	0
500	$0.1 \times 2^{1/3} = 0.126$	2.52	R <sub>10</sub>	1.5	-1.4
400	$0.1 \times 2^{2/3} = 0.159$	3.18	R <sub>11</sub>	2.2	+0.9
320	$0.1 \times 2 = 0.200$	4.00	R 12	3.0	0
250	$0.1 \times 2 \times 1.26 = 0.252$	5.04	R 13	4.0	-1.0
200	$0.1 \times 2 \times 1.59 = 0.318$	6.36	R <sub>14</sub>	5.6	+4.5
160	$0.1 \times 2^2 = 0.400$	8.00	R 15	6.8	-2.9
125	$0.1 \times 2^2 \times 1.26 = 0.504$	10.00	R 16	9.1	+1.1
100	$0.1 \times 2^2 \times 1.59 = 0.636$	12.70	R 17	12.0	+2.6
80	$0.1 \times 2^3 = 0.800$	16.00	R 18	15.0	0
64	$0.1 \times 2^3 \times 1.26 = 1.00$	20.10	R 19	20.0	+4.7
50	$0.1 \times 2^3 \times 1.59 = 1.27$	25.40	R 20	24.0	-1.6
40	$0.1 \times 2^4 = 1.60$	32.00	R <sub>21</sub>	30.0	-3.2
32	$0.1 \times 2^4 \times 1.26 = 2.01$	40.20	R 22	39.0	-0.5
25	$0.1 \times 2^4 \times 1.59 = 2.54$	50.90	R 23	51.0	+2.2
20	$0.1 \times 2^5 = 3.20$	64.00	R 24	62.0	-1.6
16	$0.1 \times 2^5 \times 1.26 = 4.02$	80.40	R 25	82.0	+3.3
12	$0.1 \times 2^5 \times 1.59 = 5.09$	102.00	R 26	100.00	-1.0

slide through, and which is a friction fit in the barrel.

Constructors using the SEW meter could if they wished photocopy the scale in Fig. 2 and make a single weight print of it to the size required. The print could then be fixed to the reverse side of the original metal scale with dry mounting tissue or some other suitable adhesive. Precise sizing is not possible with bromide paper because of its stretching during processing, but, with care, the error in the length of the scale would be too small to be important with regard to the needle swing and would automatically be allowed for in the calibration.

#### Calibration

The calibration procedure described is not meant as a precise scientific method but it does enable the instrument to be adjusted to produce the results that any individual photographer will expect from his own meter.

It will be necessary to have, already made up, a flash sync lead of about 20ft in length, terminated with plugs to suit J' and the flash unit in use.

Before proceeding further, constructors would be wise to check the linearity of the film-speed settings. Do this by connecting a suitable potential divider between the 9-volt negative rail and chassis, so that by connecting  $Tr_i$  gate to the slider its potential can be varied from zero to minus  $5\frac{1}{2}$  6 volts. Set  $S_5$  to 650 ASA and the pot. to give f.s.d. Then reduce the "film-speed" switch settings by one-third stop intervals, noting the accuracy with which they correspond with the meter calibration marks. It will be necessary, from time to time, to adjust the gate voltage in order to cover the full range. Any deviation from the marks, in excess of that expected due to the errors listed in the table plus the tolerance of the resistors used, can be noted and either corrected or an allowance made during the calibration.

A neutral density of approximately 0.9 should be fitted to the probe at the beginning otherwise you will be unable to make a sensible assessment of the amount of ambient lighting in which to carry out the calibration.

To start with, both the probe and the flash-head should be fixed to stands 10 feet apart. (There is no magic in the distance but it makes guide-number computation simple and is probably the average flash-to-subject distance used in flash photography.) The flash unit should preferably be mains powered so that the capacitor is charged to a fixed voltage (assuming a stable mains supply) throughout the tests, and does not vary as some battery powered units with battery-saving circuitry do. If a unit without mains facilities must be used, always trigger the flash immediately the charge cycle is completed, by waiting for the audible oscillation to just cease—that is when the charge is at its peak. The light output between recycling limits may vary by as much as one-third of a stop.

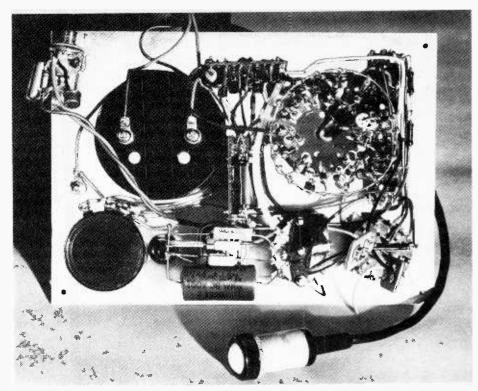


Fig. 4. Layout of components, showing the probe in front.

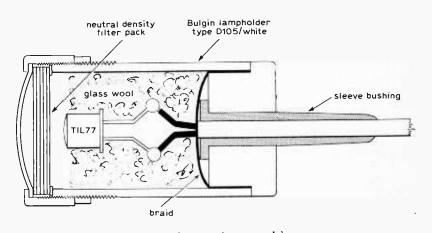


Fig. 5. Sectional diagram of the probe housing (not to scale).

Switch the meter on, set the "film speed" switch to 650 ASA and pressing the "reset" button, adjust "zero set". With the flash disconnected, turn the "range" switch to select  $C_3$  and operate the "flash" switch  $S_4$ . If the meter needle moves more than its own thickness, keep operating  $S_4$  while reducing the room lighting until it doesn't.

Switch on the flash and connect the sync lead. Turn  $S_5$  to a film speed that you know requires a stop between f8 and f22 with this flash at 10ft in this particular room. Press  $S_4$  and note the reading. Reset and repeat several times to satisfy yourself the reading is consistent. When satisfied, add or remove neutral density to or from the amount in the probe housing until the meter indicates the precise stop anticipated.

Having satisfied yourself that the readings are consistently accurate, turn  $S_3$  until the meter reads exactly full scale. If unable to position the meter needle exactly on the mark with  $S_3$ , vary the

position of the flash-head relative to the probe while taking readings at each position until a precise full scale indication is achieved.

Next, turn to the  $C_4$  position of the "range" switch and connect capacitors in parallel to the approximate value of  $0.8\mu\text{F}$  to the switch tag. Adjust the exact capacitance until flash readings are precisely three stops less than the one obtained in the previous paragraph.

Switch back to  $C_3$  and ascertain whether or not the "film speed" switch is in such a position that its setting can be reduced by three stops. That is, it must be set to a higher speed than 80 ASA. If it is not, set it now to 100 or 125 ASA and adjust the lamp-to-probe distance for exactly f.s.d.

Set  $S_5$  nine exposure indices lower—which will be 12 or 16 ASA and set the "range" switch to the  $C_2$  position. Starting with a value of 12nF for  $C_2$ , gradually adjust the value until you obtain precisely f.s.d.—taking into account any

deviation in the linearity noted in the ranges of  $S_5$  earlier. Check before accepting these readings that they are not being unduly influenced by room lighting, because its effect will be more noticeable on this range than either of the others.

Any inconsistency in the results (that cannot be attributed to the light source) may be caused by failure of the relays to synchronize properly. It may be necessary to increase the value of the timing capacitors as mentioned previously.

To test the functional accuracy of the original meter, a set of test exposures were made of a grey card placed a fixed distance from the camera. The camera lens was set to the 10ft engraving on the lens mount to minimize any error caused by lens extension and a one-dioptre supplementary lens added to enlarge the image. The probe was clamped in the centre of the image field—at the point of focus—with the card resting centrally against it for each exposure. A flash unit was positioned one side of the camera and its distance and power varied to give exact f-stop readings from f4 to f32 with a 125 ASA film. Exposures were made at the appropriate stops and a contact print made on a common sheet of paper. (The central portion of the card from each exposure is shown side by side in Fig. 6.) The difference in density between the negatives was less than one-third of a stop in the central area of the card and if one can take the mean density as correct any error is within onesixth of a stop—10% approximately. (Theoretically, one could make a fractional adjustment to the value of neutral density in the probe to place the mean density "on the button", but as one could not be certain of the speed of the film used—to the necessary degree of precision—it is not very practical.)

Compared with some modern commercial instruments, the one constructed by the writer may be larger  $(7\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4})$ in) than many would like—due to the use of many standard sized components and the large meter employed—but there is no reason why it could not be reduced in size if miniature parts are used throughout.

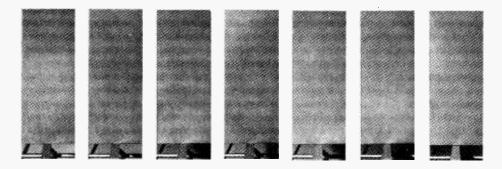


Fig. 6. A series of exposures taken of a grey card at various lens stops with a 125 ASA film. The exact stop was indicated by the flashmeter. Left to right: f4, f5.6, f8, f11, f16, f22 and f32 (see text).

#### **Components list**

#### Semiconductors

 $D_I$  TIL77  $D_2$  1S44 (see text)  $Tr_1$ ,  $Tr_4$  2N3819  $Tr_2 Tr_3 2N3702$  or similar

SCS<sub>1</sub> CRS 1/40 or similar

#### Capacitors

 $C_1$  0.47 µF polyester  $C_2$  12.5 nF nominal less the lead and photodiode capacitance.

Adjust during calibration. See text.

 $C_3$  0.1  $\mu$ F polyester

C<sub>4</sub> 0.8 μF nominal. Adjust during calibration. See text.

 $C_5$  2.2  $\mu$ F electrolytic, 10V.

#### Resistors

 $R_I 100 \text{ k}\Omega$ 

 $R_2 100\Omega$ 

 $R_3 2.2 \text{ k}\Omega$ 

 $R_4$  4.7 k $\Omega$ , may require adjustment. See text.

 $R_5 4.7 \text{ k}\Omega$ 

 $R_6 10 k\Omega$  $R_7$  5 k $\Omega$  linear

 $R_8$  200 k $\Omega$ , h.s. 1%.

 $R_9$  to  $R_{26}$  h.s. 1%. See table for values.  $R_{27}$  4.7 k $\Omega$ . May require adjustment.

 $R_{28}$  4.7 k $\Omega$ 

All resistors may be 5% tolerance except where stated.

#### **Switches**

- $S_I$ Extremely low leakage push switch. See text.
- $S_2$ Single-pole, 3-way ceramic rotary switch.
- d.p.c.o. push-switch. Bulgin SM419/2 or similar.  $S_{3a,b}$
- $S_4$ s.p.m.b. push-switch. Bulgin SM365
- Single-pole, 18-way rotary switch.  $S_5$ Bulgin S435 or similar.
- $S_{6a,b}$ d.p.c.o. slide switch. Bulgin SM596/2 or similar.
- $S_7$ 3-pole, 2-way rotary on-off switch. Third pole short circuits meter for

#### Relays

RLA1, RLA2 Miniature reed relays MD<sub>12</sub> 12-volt, 120 a.t. coil. Obtainable from Electrovalue Ltd. Meter

M<sub>1</sub> SEW SW100 50μA f.s.d.

Probe housing 1 Bulgin D105/white MES lampholder.

2 Bulgin sleeve bushings. P/No. 8037. 1 yard twin screened 7/0. 1mm p.v.c. or

similar.  $J_I$  Jack socket or similar.

 $B_1, B_2$  PP3 batteries with connectors.

Neutral density filters in 5cm gelatin squares are available (through photographic retailers) from Kodak Ltd, and one each of 0.9, 0.3 and 0.1 density should enable a suitable pack to be built up. (Note: the density of an undyed gelatin is approximately 0.05 or 1/6th stop.)

### **Coming events**

Two courses to be held at Norwood Technical College, Knight's Hill, London SE27 0TX are: Modern Colour TV Receivers covering recent circuit techniques and development of 110° colour television receivers, lasting nine weeks from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. each Tuesday evening commencing October 8, fee £3; Optoelectronics covering optoelectronic and liquid crystal technology, systems and applications, lasting nine weeks from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. each Thursday evening, commencing October 10, fee £3.

Two courses at The Polytechnic, Queensgate, Huddersfield HD1 3DH are: Large and Medium Scale Integration-applications in circuit design, a two-day residential course on September 18, 19; also an introductory course on the principles of integration and on basic ideas in digital and linear systems. Further details are available from the above address.

The Systems Reliability Service of the UK Atomic Energy Authority is running in collaboration with Liverpool University a course on An Introduction to Reliability Assessment, Theory and Practice, to be held at the University from September 16 to 17. It includes the mathematics of probability and its application to testing and maintenance of equipment. Applications at a fee of £160 (£135 for associate members of SRS) exclusive of v.a.t. and accommodation should be sent to Mr A. C. Wilson, Systems Reliability Service, U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 6AT.

Integrated Circuit Design Workshop is a weekly afternoon laboratory design course of ten weeks duration beginning on November 13 at the Barking Precinct of North East London Polytechnic, Department of Engineering, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2AS. The course extends over two academic terms and the fee is £7.50 for each part.

Harlow and District Amateur Radio Society, Mark Hall, Essex will be holding their annual Mobile Rally on Sunday, September 22 at Netteswell Comprehensive School, Harlow. There will be trade stands, bring and buy, free entrance and car park etc. Contact for the rally is B. W. Nappey, G3YD1 QTHR.

# Letters to the Editor

#### Tuning electronic pianos

Readers who are tempted to construct the novel design of electronic piano by G. Cowie, and who try to use the tuning method outlined in the third part of his article (May), will find themselves faced with a very difficult task. Tuning any instrument to equal temperament is not easy, but the job is straightforward, if a little arduous, if the method used by professional piano- and organ-tuners is employed.

The main difficulty arises because the major third is such an imprecise interval. An instrumentalist who can vary the pitch of his instrument (a violinist, for example) will say that he varies the interval of his major thirds (and minor ones, for that matter) according to the mood and tension of the music; yet the interval still sounds in tune. The same cannot be said of the mathematically defined intervals of an octave, fifth or fourth. I put these intervals in that order deliberately, because we can tolerate mis-tuning least in the octave, more so in the fifth, and most in intervals like the third, sixth, second and seventh.

This suggests that we should tune a scale by means of the intervals to which the ear is most acutely sensitive, the octave (I am neglecting the unison, since it is not relevant to laying a scale) and fifths and fourths. This sounds simple enough, but this is where the arduous part comes in. Because in the Western world we are used to music in dodecaphonic scales (containing twelve intervals) we like to be able to use these intervals freely to construct scales starting on any key-note. It is also convenient to be able to modulate from key to key at will without losing proper tuning, and herein lies the problem. A scale of C major, for example, constructed mathematically by using the exact ratios of the octave (1:2) and the fifth (2:3) has twelve intervals which are not all equal, and when these are used in other keys, the different sized intervals occur in the wrong places, making the scale out of tune. In equal temperament, all intervals are theoretically made equal. Like George Orwell's animals, some turn out, in practice, to be more equal than others, but as an ideal to aim for, it is satisfactory.

In order to make the intervals equal,

the intervals are "bent" slightly, the fifths being made slightly flat and the fourths slightly sharp. Octaves are of course tuned exactly. Around middle C, the amount of this flattening or sharpening is a little less than one beat per second on average, and takes a careful ear to hear and quantify it. It is easiest to notice if the interval is first tuned exactly (no beats apparent) and then narrowed or widened slightly accordingly.

The method, then, is as follows: tune A (440Hz) exactly with a fork; take the A below middle C (which the divider circuits have tuned for you) tune up to E, up to B, down to F sharp, down to C sharp, up to G sharp, down to D sharp, up to A sharp (B flat), down to F, down to C, up to G, down to D, and if you are lucky, up to A. The first time round, you will probably find you have overdone the interval "bending", but work back in the opposite direction and adjust slightly until you have laid a perfect, equally tempered scale, then celebrate by playing the entire 48 Preludes and Fugues by J. S. Bach, written for just such a keyboard instrument.

Interested readers can find an excellent article on tuning and temperament in Percy Scholes' Oxford Companion to Music, which gives more details than I can.

David K. Taylor, Charlbury, Oxford.

#### FM tuning indication

I have been following the articles on the f.m. tuner in *Wireless World* with some interest, as some of the principles involved resolve long standing difficulties inherent in most other units. I must, however, make a number of points with respect to the single lamp tuning indicator described by Mr Skingley in the June issue.

Firstly, I do not agree that adjustment for a maximum response is essential for the understanding of the layman. If one regards, in a more general sense, a human being and a machine as a part of a control loop, there are many instances in which the layman has to make some adjustment to achieve a particular setting, rather than a maximum. When driving a car in a built-up area, for example, the driver adjusts the accelerator to maintain a speedometer reading of 30 m.p.h., which, if safe, is the optimum speed at which to travel.

Secondly, I maintain that the output of an f.m. tuner contains more information than that of an a.m. tuner to assist tuning. The a.m. tuner output can only show that a tuning error exists, i.e. output less than maximum, whereas an f.m. tuner output can show whether the tuning is set to too high a frequency or too low. The output of the f.m. tuner is thus bidirectional, in common with most analogue transducers used in control, whereas the output of the a.m. tuner is only proportional to the modulus of the tuning accuracy. It is for this reason that a.f.c. is more easily accomplished on f.m. tuners than on a.m. tuners.

Thirdly, on psychophysical grounds, because of the logarithmic nature of human senses, it is easier to detect when two quantities are the same, or which of the two is greater, than it is to make an absolute estimation of a single quantity. In addition, absolute estimation is highly dependent on ambient conditions, which is why, for instance, street lights look very dim if they are on in broad daylight.

If one plots Mr Skingley's graph of diode current versus input voltage on a logarithmic vertical axis, to obtain eye response, the peak is less pronounced and, more important, in the area of correct tuning, it is very flat.

Fourthly, in an unnecessary attempt to condescend to the layman, Mr Skingley's circuit literally throws away half of the information provided by the tuner, in as much as the "long tailed triple" is a modulus circuit, which effectively lowers the tuning information to that of an a.m. tuner.

The non-technical user can establish from a single light system that an error exists but he cannot tell which way to turn the knob, so that there is no longer a fifty-fifty chance of making the tuning worse before it gets better.

In one commercial tuner I have seen, two lights were incorporated, whose lenses were in the form of arrows, so that one was in no doubt as to which way to tune. A colleague has pointed out that when tape recording from a distant station with a.f.c. out, the two-light system would be the only one usable, as with a single light it is necessary to make an exploratory movement of the tuning to find out which side of the maximum one is, which could spoil the recording.

Finally, I humbly submit that a maximum reading "magic-eye" valve, as found on some old f.m. tuners, with its linearly sensed display (displacement rather than brightness), is theoretically superior to a single logarithmic l.e.d. I do of course intend this last remark to be philosophical rather than sardonic!

J. R. Watkinson,

Institute of Sound and Vibration Research,
Southampton.

#### Plug-in p.c. boards

It was refreshing to read the letter from Mr R. N. Goodman of The Decca Record Company in your April issue. Too often the emphasis during the design stages of a p.c.b. based product is to "cost reduce" without true consideration of the longer term cost improvement which can be gained by a slightly higher first buy price.

Mr Goodman underlines the very major advantages of the two part connector; the type he mentions in his letter, the ISEP male, is probably the most reliable connector of its type in service in its various versions worldwide.

The misfortune of dropping a board utilizing this connector type does not necessarily mean replacement; the profile

of the insulating section ensures exact alignment of contacts before electrical connection is made. This same profile gives considerable protection against accidental damage.

Increasingly other manufacturers are realizing the very real advantages of the two part connector, a trend we are confident will continue.

M. A. Tebbutt,

ITT Components Group Europe,

Milford Haven.

Pembrokeshire.

#### **Electrostatic forces** on pickups

The electrostatic forces on Mr Hide's pickup (Letters, June) have been in the reverse direction to those on mine.

I recently purchased a Goldring GL78P/C deck fitted with a G820E cartridge incorporating an elliptical stylus. I found that the reproduction occasionally suffered from momentary breaks as if there was a bad connection in the circuit. An alternative, more robust, G800 cartridge was free from the failing.

While re-checking the playing weight (1.5gm) and balance of the arm with a record on the turntable I found that the arm appeared to be well out of balance. On removing the record to make the appropriate adjustment the arm was found to be perfectly balanced.

A telephone call to the makers revealed that a very small addition to their quoted maximum playing weight of 2.0gm can cause the moving magnetic element to "bottom" on its protecting surround. The electrostatic force added to the intended playing weight was causing the excessive stylus pressure.

I have overcome the effect by reducing the playing weight position to a little under 1gm, but the actual playing weight must be a very variable quantity depending on the state of charge of the record. In fact it is possible to play a record using the electrostatic attraction alone. May I add that I always brush my records with the simple Watts Parostatik Disk Preener (with a moistened inner wick) before use.

I have not tried to measure the added effective weight as something more sophisticated than a simple stylus balance seems to be needed to avoid discharging the record.

Can any reader offer a more satisfactory approach to ensure constant, known stylus pressure?

R. G. Holder, Moordown,

Bournemouth.

My own gramophone equipment does not suffer from Mr Hide's problem (Letters, June) but I can suggest two remedies which I used successfully in a different situation. Both involve spraying the affected area with a stream of ionized particles, and are in widespread use in industry where electro-

static fields would otherwise be troublesome or dangerous. Besides reducing any undesired forces on the pickup, static elimination may be expected to help to keep records clean.

The first, and much the superior method consists of a radioisotope of polonium, suitably encapsulated, which emits alphaparticles. These particles are harmless to life, since they cannot penetrate the skin, but are extraordinarily effective in neutralizing e.s. fields. Packaged emitters are available on annual lease from the 3M Company, though their issue is restricted for obvious reasons, and might exclude domestic users. The annual cost is also quite high, roughly equal to that of Mr Hide's equipment.

An alternative is to ionize the air in the vicinity of the field. This may be done by applying a high alternating voltage between suitable electrodes; a commercially available assembly consists of a pointed cone surrounded by a coaxial annulus, and insulated by p.t.f.e. I used about 5kV, from an ignition transformer advertised in Wireless World. It is essential to limit the secondary current by inserting a resistor in the primary circuit, otherwise the electrode could kill even Mr Hide's friend's cat, if his friend has not already done so.

S. J. Pardoe, Datac Ltd. Altrincham, Cheshire

#### Amateur computer society

AFACO (French society amateur computer builders) has just been created. Coming after the US Amateur Computer Society and the English Amateur Computer Club, its purpose is to establish a link between people interested in building their own e.d.p. machines. A newsletter will be published every two months and sent to all members. To the best of my knowledge, it is the first French association of this kind. Right now we are about thirty members and I would like to be able to increase this number.

Membership of AFACO for the year July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975 costs 30 French francs (35 for overseas members) and includes all copies of the "Bulletin de l'AFACO".

Michel Dreyfus, Association Française des Amateurs Constructeurs d'Ordinateurs, 42 Rue de la Barre, Villa No. 3, 95880 Enghien, France.

#### **Doppler** in loudspeakers

Mr J. Moir, in his article "Doppler distortion in loudspeakers" (April issue), must explain his second paragraph more precisely. The concept of a loudspeaker cone vibrating at two or more sinusoidal frequencies involves a mental mathematical (Fourier) transform. At a particular instance in time, an element of the cone can only be in one spatial position. If we try to draw graphically the combined effect of several sinusoidal coil currents on the cone, we make the same transformation as the transducer to arrive at a single complex waveform. This is the actual wave performed by the cone (apart from distortion). Physically the cone cannot move in any other way than that determined by the transformation.

Without disagreeing with Mr Moir's mathematical analysis, the Doppler effect is also physical and must be explained by physical movement. Unless this is seen to be the case, some of us will still contend that Doppler effect in loudspeakers does not exist.

David H. Edgar, Ascension Island, South Atlantic.

#### Electronic piano design

I was pleased to read Mr Cowie's series of articles "Electronic piano design", which should appeal to a great many readers. However, I feel that many will not part with the £70 required to construct this instrument without a critical review of the circuits, especially since there is considerable circuit duplication.

I consider that this particular design can be improved in both technique and cost, and I would suggest that the serious constructor consults recent literature before starting this project. The booklet Integrated Circuits for Electronic Musical Instruments, 1973 from ITT Semiconductors, Foots Cray, Sidcup, Kent, is one such example. This is a useful, practical booklet, giving background information and alternative approaches to that described in Mr Cowie's article but using modern electronic techniques, and it also describes some purpose-built integrated circuits intended for electronic musical instruments.

On the scheme of cost reduction the 12 tone oscillators could be replaced by simpler circuits. One alternative is to use the dual op-amp type 747 instead of the 741, thus reducing the number of i.cs by six. A more cost effective solution would be to employ just two t.t.l. 74137 hex Schmitt trigger packages. Since these will directly drive the 7493 dividers used in the design, a total of ten integrated circuits, 12 transistors, and 36 resistors would be eliminated.

Not only are simpler designs possible than the one described so far in the article. but more complex designs can be easily built with the available i.cs at about the same cost and employing techniques such as those for the formation of sound by tuned filters or by sound synthesis.

Keith Mitchell, Maidstone, Kent.

# Flat colour television display

Experimental device uses gas discharge to excite colour phosphors

An experimental flat colour television display device, using colour phosphor elements excited by electrical discharges in gas, has been developed in Japan at the research laboratories of Hitachi (see News of the Month, July issue). Measuring 160mm wide and 120mm high, the panel is constructed as a "sandwich" of front and rear glass covers with, in the middle, flat strip electrodes running vertically and horizontally to form gas discharge cells where they intersect. Details of the construction can be seen from Fig. 1. The cathode strips, running horizontally, have circular holes etched in them, exposing the surface of a glass insulating layer, and within each hole a washer-shaped ring of phosphor is deposited on the glass. In the centre of the phosphor ring the glass insulating layer has a hole in it which exposes the surface of an anode strip electrode, running vertically. The cells so formed are filled with a xenon gas mixture, and the electrical discharge in each cell takes place between the wall of the cathode hole and the central anode, passing across the phosphor ring and exciting it into fluorescence.

There are 19,200 of these cells, arranged into horizontal rows of 160 cells and vertical columns of 120 cells, with a spacing of 1mm between cell centres. Along a row the colour phosphors are deposited in a red, green, blue, red, green blue sequence, and each column has the same phosphor colour in all its cells. In each cell the gas discharge takes place when a voltage is applied across the anode and cathode electrodes intersecting at that point, and the brightness of the cell fluorescence is determined by the current in the discharge. The area of the cathode (wall of the hole) is sufficient to allow a discharge current of more than 2mA. Peak luminance for the red phosphor is 9,300 cd/m<sup>2</sup>, for the green phosphor 37,800 cd/m<sup>2</sup> and for the blue phosphor  $4,800 \text{ cd/m}^2$ .

To display a television picture on this structure the information in the television signal must be converted into appropriate patterns of direct currents to be applied to the anode-cathode matrix of electrodes. The method of doing this is shown in the block schematic Fig. 2. Red, green and blue colour signals derived from a con-

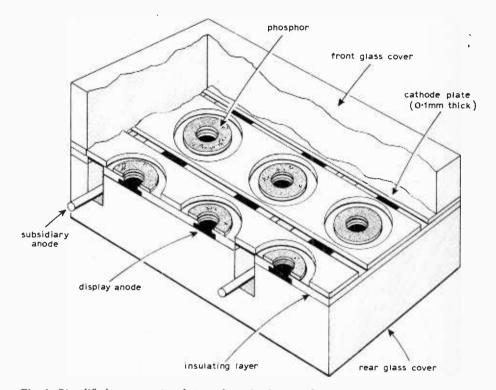
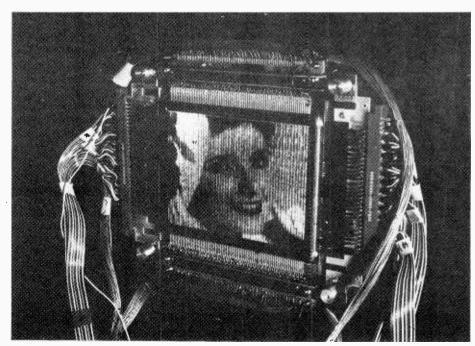


Fig. 1. Simplified cross-sectional view of the display panel.



The display panel with a television test picture.

ventional television receiver are digitized into six bits by an analogue-to-digital converter and the digital information is fed into memories sequentially. The information corresponding to one row of the display (160 cells) is read out of the memories and converted into two sets of three-bit pulse-width-modulated (p.w.m.) signals. These p.w.m. signals are made up of different combinations of three pulse lengths, 5µs, 9µs and 20µs. This allows eight combinations altogether and each combination represents a particular level of an eight-level grey scale.

The drive circuits of the display anodes are composed of two constant current sources of two magnitudes. The two sets of p.w.m. signals are connected to these sources so that modulation of the luminance can be obtained by the addition of two magnitudes of p.w.m. currents. Since the display panel has only 120 rows, half of the television picture is displayed without interlacing. A full television image is obtained by using signals of alternate horizontal lines of a field. The luminance of the display has a linear relationship to the input levels, i.e. to the total current pulse width.

In Fig. 1 the "subsidiary anode" wires produce subsidiary discharges in the grooves in the rear glass cover. Charged particles, metastables and photons generated in a subsidiary discharge diffuse throught a channel cut in the cathode electrode (not shown) into the main discharge space of each display cell. The

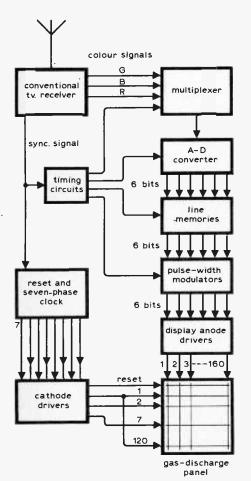


Fig. 2. Driving system for the display panel.

purpose of this is to decrease the breakdown voltage and shorten the build-up time of the display discharges.

The resolution of the display is 1mm, while the area luminance (white) is  $17 \text{ cd/m}^2$ . Power consumption is 14 watts and the efficiency (white) is 0.05 Im/W (although a luminous efficiency of 0.5 Im/W has been obtained in a test cell using a green phosphor). The contrast ratio obtainable (between the highest and lowest display discharge light levels) is 8:1. The chromaticity co-ordinates of the colour phosphors are: red, x=0.56, y=0.31; green, x=0.22, y=0.68; and blue, x=0.17, y=0.14.

The information presented here has been supplied by Masakazu Fukushima of the Central Research Laboratory of Hitachi in Tokyo.

## **Books Received**

Electrical and Electronic Equipment for Yachts, by John French, is suitable for people concerned with the performance, reliability and future development of marine electrical and electronic equipment. The book is written in "layman's" language with many photographs and illustrations including maps of all the main coastal waters throughout the world which show the positions of direction finding beacons with the frequency and type of transmission from each one. There are fifteen chapters in the book each dealing with a separate topic, covering virtually every aspect of marine equipment. Price £5.50. Pp. 238. Adlard Coles, Granada Publishing, 3 Upper James Street, Golden Square, London WIR 4BP.

Integrated Circuits and Transistor Gadgets Construction Handbook, Radio Receiver Construction using ICs and Transistors, both by B. B. Babani and priced at 60p each. Pp. 96. Babani Press, The Publishing Division, Babani Trading and Finance Co Ltd, The Grampians, Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NF.

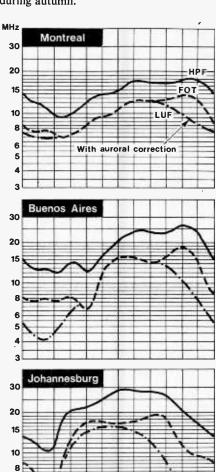
Electronics—A Handbook for Engineers and Scientists, by G. H. Olsen, is intended for non-specialists and those who find formal texts unsuitable. The opening chapters introduce passive components and their response to changing voltage and current. A further chapter deals with semiconductor devices. The book then goes on to explain indicating instruments, power supplies, amplifiers and oscillators. Final chapters provide an introduction to logic and digital circuits, and miscellaneous measuring instruments. Price £7. Pp. 482. The Butterworth Group, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8PH.

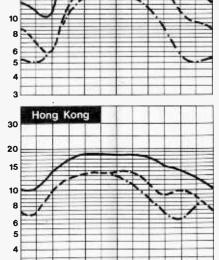
Six pocket data books entitled Transistors—data table Europe band 1, USA band 3, Japan band 5, Diodes comparison tables, Thyristor Triac Diac UJT and PJT data table, and Transistor comparison table, are split into four sections, each section being written in a different language (English, French, Italian and German). The books are priced from £1.25 to £1.50. Electro-Replacement Ltd, 30 Rushgrove Avenue, Colindale, London NW9 6QR.

# HF predictions for August

It should be noted that whilst HPF and FOT curves are applicable for routes to and from the U.K. the LUFs shown are for reception in the U.K. only. This is because atmospheric noise level at a given GMT is not the same at all receiver locations. They are also dependent on transmitter power and aerial gain. The curves shown are for point-to-point services. They would be about the same for domestic reception of high power broadcasts but a few megahertz higher for the amateur service.

Generally poor conditions experienced during the past few months should improve during autumn.





G.M.T.

# Digital meter for the blind

#### A three-decade instrument with audible balance indication

by T. C. R. S. Fowler, B.Sc.

University of Bristol

A combined recording level indicator and d.c. voltmeter built in 1972 for a blind man was the forerunner of the instrument to be described here. In the voltmeter mode the original instrument indicates the magnitude of the voltage by the frequency of an audible output note, and a 12-way switch enables any one of twelve reference voltages to be switched in for comparison. The reference voltages rise in constant-ratio ("3dB") increments from 50mV to 2.26V, an external attenuator being used at the input to provide higher voltage ranges as required.

At a later stage, the requirement arose for a wider range of reference voltages and it was decided to select the references by means of rocker switches in a binary-coded decimal array. Resistance measurement is now made possible, the complete instrument becoming a 3-digit voltohmmeter costing around £15.

Instead of giving a continuously-variable output frequency controlled directly by the input voltage, the digital instrument includes a comparator which causes the audible output frequency to change abruptly, generally from a steady high note to a steady low note, as soon as the reference voltage is made to exceed the voltage being measured; only if the two voltages are very nearly equal does the output frequency "dither" in the intermediate range. All three types of output sound are clearly identifiable, even by the non-musical!

The 12 rocker switches are arranged in three columns of four, with weightings of 4, 2, 2 and 1 in each column, most significant digit column on the left. In addition, a lever bar like the spacer bar on a typewriter actuates a microswitch and enables one further least significant digit to be added and removed repeatedly and easily. Thus the full-scale reading is "10.00" rather than "9.99", and the stabilized voltage is set to 10.000V when calibration is carried out.

To take a measurement, all rocker switches are initially set to "off" (left-hand side down); a high note output should result. The switches are then operated in order, starting with the most significant "4", each being left on if the note does not change, but switched off again if the note changes. Finally a stage is reached

when operating the lever bar causes the note to change. The state of the rocker switches, representing the numerical value of the quantity being measured in 3-digit decimal form, is then read by touch by the operator.

#### **Circuit description**

Fig. 2 is the circuit diagram of the instrument with the reference voltage generator network shown in block form; the circuit of this network is given in Fig. 3, in which  $S_4$  to  $S_{15}$  inclusive are the 12 rocker switches, and  $S_{16}$  the microswitch actuated via the lever bar.

An equivalent circuit for a reference voltage generator of this type comprises a direct voltage generator variable in steps between the terminal voltages of the stabilized power supply used and of a constant output resistance  $R_0$  equal to that of all the digital-to-analogue network resistors in parallel. Here the equivalent generator is variable in 10mV steps from 0 to + 10 volts, and  $R_0 = 0.4R$ , where R is the resistor associated with the most significant "4", viz.  $R_1$  in Fig. 3. (It may be of interest to note that where the extra leastsignificant-digit facility is provided, as by  $R_{13}$  and  $S_{16}$  here, the relationship  $R_0 =$ 0.1nR holds for any number of decades, where R is the "most significant" (lowest) resistor of the network and n is the

numerical value associated with it.) To keep power consumption reasonably low yet the values of  $R_0$  and the highest resistors  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  not unduly high, a value of approximately 5000 ohms was chosen for R. In practice, a  $4.7k\Omega$  (nominal value) high-stability resistor, measured and found to be of 4720 ohms, was used in the prototype for  $R_1$  and as the basis for all the other resistors in the reference voltage network, giving  $R_0 = 1888\Omega$  and  $R_{12}$ ,  $R_{13} = 1.888$  M $\Omega$ . In the prototype, a "main" resistor close to the required value was used in combination with one or more "auxiliary" resistors, in parallel, in series, or in series-parallel configurations; for example, for  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  a high-stability resistor of nominal value  $10k\Omega$  was used as the "main" resistor; shunting it with two resistors, nominally  $470k\Omega$  and  $10M\Omega$  respectively, gave the required value in both cases. Where, as in this example, the parallel resistors were of relatively high value, carbon film types were considered adequate.

On the 10V and 100/1000V settings, switch  $S_{24}$  connects the output of the reference voltage generator directly to the inverting input of the comparator  $IC_I$  (a "741" operational amplifier). On the other ranges, resistive attenuators are used, the constant output resistance  $R_0$  of the reference generator giving attenuation.

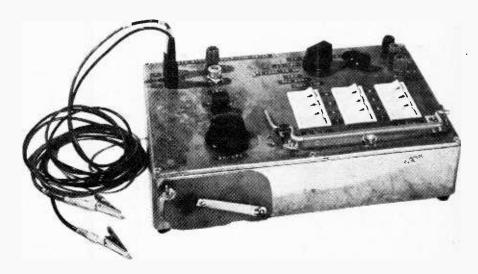


Fig. 1. The complete instrument. The multiplier lead may be substituted for one of the crocodile clip leads.

The voltage present between the input terminals is applied, virtually unattenuated on the 1V, 5V and 10V ranges, and attenuated by a factor of ten on the higher ranges, between the "OV" line and the non-inverting input of the comparator  $IC_{I}$ , switch  $S_{2R}$  being used to make the necessary connections. On the former group of ranges the  $10k\Omega$  resistor  $R_{18}$  and diodes  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$  and  $D_3$  give overload protection, and  $R_{18}$  with  $C_2$  provide smoothing; on the higher ranges  $R_{18}$  is replaced by the 1:10 attenuator network  $R_{17}$ ,  $R_{19}$ ,  $R_{20}$ ,  $R_{21}$  and  $R_{22}$ , the last two resistors providing a small positive bias voltage which compensates for the effect due to the input current of IC, and the rather high output resistance (about 200kΩ) of the attenuator network.

The input resistance on the 50V and 100V ranges is very approximately that of  $R_{17}$  and  $R_{19}$  in series; viz. 2.22 M $\Omega$ . For the 500V and 1000V ranges the multiplier lead is used, adding approximately 20 megohms. Thus the instrument has a resistance of approximately 22,000 ohms per volt on the 100V and 1000V ranges, and 44,000 ohms per volt on the 50V and 500V ranges.

The output state of the comparator  $IC_1$  is indicated by the audible output of the instrument, which is generated by  $Tr_1$ ,  $Tr_2$  and associated components forming an astable circuit, the emitter follower  $Tr_3$ , and the loudspeaker. Generally, of course, the output voltage of the comparator is "hard over" at either the upper or the lower limit, and the values shown for  $R_{23}$ ,

 $R_{24}$ ,  $R_{35}$  and  $R_{36}$  were chosen to give a very distinct, though not extreme, frequency change when the comparator switches. The values of the capacitors  $C_4$  and  $C_5$  in the astable circuit were made unequal for power economy. The tonal quality of the output sound is considered not unpleasant, although the provision of a jack socket for headphone operation as an alternative to the loudspeaker might nevertheless be a worthwhile addition.

The connection of  $R_{23}$  to the "B+" line is used to give a rough audible indication of the positive battery voltage—if this is low, both frequencies from the astable circuit are appreciably lower than with the nominal 18 volts, though still remaining clearly distinguishable from each other. If the "B—" voltage is very low, the astable

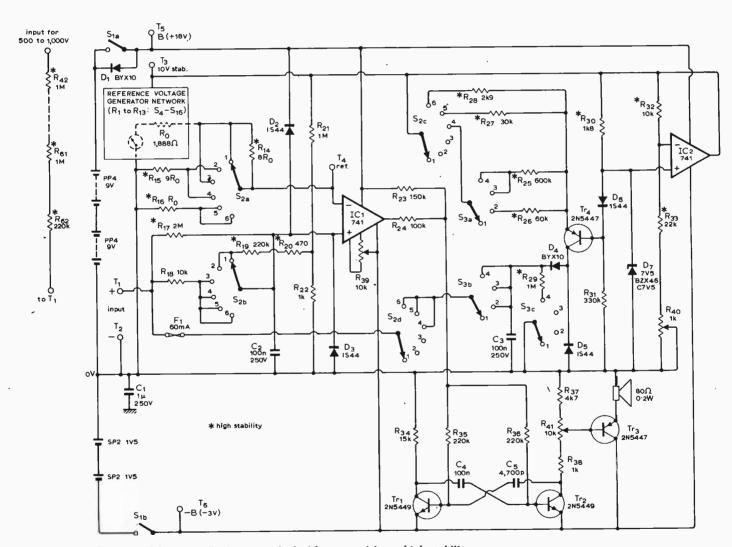


Fig. 2. Circuit diagram of the meter. Resistors marked with an asterisk are high-stability.

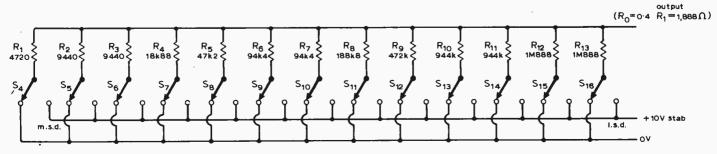


Fig. 3. Reference voltage generator network.

circuit will not operate. A further case of non-operation of the astable circuit should be mentioned here; it will not start if the B— voltage is switched on after the B+ voltage; this trouble can be obviated by the use, as in the prototype, of a two-position rotary wafer switch for S<sub>1</sub>, the wafer contact being filed if necessary to ensure that the B— supply is always switched on first. No such filing proved to be necessary in the prototype, and non-starting has not been a problem.

The comparator offset adjustment potentiometer  $R_{39}$  is set so that on all the voltage ranges, with all the rocker switches set at "off", and the input leads shortcircuited, the high output note results, but pressing the bar to add one least significant digit produces the low output note. (Once set,  $R_{39}$  should seldom need to be readjusted, so this trimmer is mounted on a circuit board rather than on the control panel.) The relevant reading is thus that obtained from the rocker switches when these have been set so that pressing the bar causes the output frequency to change; the extra least significant digit added by pressing the bar should not be included in the reading.

The necessary 10-volt stabilized supply is generated by means of a second 741 operational amplifier  $IC_2$ . Reference diode  $D_7$  is nominally a 7.5V type, but in the interest of power economy it is run in this circuit at under 2mA and gives a reference of about 6.9V. The accuracy and stability of the "10-volt" line are nevertheless reasonably satisfactory, variations being typically less than  $\pm$  5 mV after an initial settling period. If a suitable digital voltmeter is available, the monitoring terminal  $T_3$  and fine adjustment facility provided by  $R_{40}$  on the control panel make it easy for a sighted person to check and if necessary readjust the line to 10.000V.

The reference diode voltage also controls, via temperature compensator  $D_6$ , the base voltage of  $TR_4$  which provides at its collector the selection of "constant" currents required for the various resistance ranges. These currents are 1mA,  $100\mu\text{A}$  and  $50\mu\text{A}$ , respectively, for the  $1\text{k}\Omega$ ,  $10\text{k}\Omega$ , and  $100\text{k}\Omega$  ranges, and  $5\mu\text{A}$  for both the  $1\text{M}\Omega$  and the "HR" range. Thus the full-scale voltage is 1V on the first two of these ranges (switch  $S_2$  at positions 6 and 5 respectively,  $S_3$  at "R"), and 5V on the other three ( $S_2$  at position 4,  $S_3$  at "R", "IM" and "HR" respectively).

Since the current from  $Tr_4$  on each range is not completely independent of collector voltage, it is best to trim resistors  $R_{25}$  to  $R_{28}$ inclusive to give the correct current when the maximum resistance for the particular range is being measured, viz.  $1M\Omega$ ,  $100k\Omega$ ,  $10k\Omega$  and  $1k\Omega$  respectively, using a digital current meter between the resistor and the negative ("0-volt") input terminal. Once the correct current has been set up, the current meter should be removed from the circuit (or short-circuited) to eliminate the voltage drop introduced by it; accurate measurements of resistance should then be possible. The high-stability resistor  $R_{29}$  is switched in on the "HR" range; when  $R_{25}$ has been trimmed to give the requisite 5µA

on the  $1M\Omega$  range, switching to the "HR" range should give a full-scale reading with no external resistor connected, i.e. with input terminals open-circuited. In the prototype it was preferred to set the current marginally on the low side, giving an open-circuit reading on the "HR" range of 0.995, so that the open-circuit reading would remain measurable even if there were a slight upward drift subsequently; using this method the quantity x, the reading obtained as a fraction of full-scale, referred to later, is strictly the reading divided by 0.995, but a good approximation for x when close to unity is obtained by subtracting the reading from 0.995, and subtracting the result from unity, e.g. a reading of 0.975, giving a difference of 0.02, would give x = 0.98. (If the open-circuit reading changes after a time, say to 0.997, this new value should of course be substituted for 0.995 in calculating x.) It might be worthwhile to add a front-panel trimmer for  $R_{25}$ , to enable the open-circuit reading to be set to full-scale each time the "HR" range was used, enabling x to be read directly.

Diodes  $D_4$  and  $D_5$  and the 60mA fuse are included to protect  $Tr_4$  in the event of voltages being applied when the instrument is set to measure resistance; a high positive voltage will be "isolated" by the resulting high-resistance state of  $D_4$ , while if a negative voltage is applied  $D_5$  clamps the collector of  $Tr_4$  to the "0-volt" line, the fuse blowing if the current through the diodes is excessive. The current-generating circuit is disconnected from the input terminals in all cases except those in which the two selector switches,  $S_2$  and  $S_3$ , are correctly set for a resistance measurement.

#### Choice of code

The 4,2,2,1 code was selected for use in this instrument in preference to the binary 8,4,2,1 code to make it impossible to set up a number greater than 9 in any decade, as this might be confusing. The digits 2 to 7 inclusive in each decade can thus each be set up in two different ways, which fact can be used for occasional "cross-checks", and for short cuts in getting a reading, e.g. if the first "2" has been found too large, the "1" in the same decade should next be tried, "by-passing" the second "2" switch, to save time in getting the reading.

It would appear that a 4,3,1,1 code and a 3,3,2,1 code would offer similar advantages, and there may be little to choose between these three codes from either mathematical or "hardware" considerations, but perhaps some "human factor" reason why one of the three codes is to be preferred. If it has not already been done, it would seem desirable to resolve this choice as soon as possible, so that an optimum standard code for this type of instrument can be made widely known.

#### Mains power supplies

Mains-derived d.c. supplies of similar voltage, viz. nominally +18V and -3V, may be used in place of the batteries; as mentioned above, there is considerable latitude on these values, +12V and -2V being adequate. The "B+", "B-" and "-" input terminal may conveniently be

used for the connections, and as long as the on/off switch  $S_I$  is left at "off" the batteries need not be removed; but if the positive supply voltage to be used exceeds the battery voltage the positive battery lead should be unclipped to prevent unwanted conduction through diode  $D_I$ ; diode  $D_2$  will of course continue to give overload protection as long as the positive rail remains connected to a low-impedance voltage source.

#### Construction

Fig. 1 is a photograph of the instrument, for which a die-cast box approximately  $10.75 \times 6.75 \times 2.25$  in. has been used.

All the signal terminals, switches and controls are mounted on the lid of the box, with labelling as shown for the benefit of sighted users or helpers. On the underside of the lid are the two electronic circuit boards—one carrying the d—a resistor network, the other all the active devices and associated components—most of the interconnecting wiring, and the fuseholder. The two boards have flexible lead connections and may be pivoted away from the underside of the lid for servicing, if necessary.

Only the battery housing and the loudspeaker are fitted to the lower part of the box. These are connected by flexible leads to the relevant points on the underside of the lid, so that the instrument can be operated with the lid removed and inverted for servicing, as shown in Fig. 4. A pivoted flap locked by a single knurled nut gives access to both battery housing tubes, one of which houses two PP4's for the positive supply, the other two SP2's for the negative supply. The loudspeaker is mounted facing downwards, a number of holes drilled in the base of the box, and the rubber feet which support the unit, providing an adequate air path for the sound; the speaker thus occupies no top panel space, and should also remain relatively dust-free.

For all external connections 4mm socket terminals are used. The two terminals on the left in Fig. 1 are the signal input terminals. For these two plain crocodile clip leads are provided, together with a third lead (not shown in Fig. 1) with an insulated probe clip and a multiplier box a few inches from the 4mm plug end, containing a series resistor chain which gives the multiplier lead a resistance of approximately 20 megohms. This multiplier lead is used, in either the positive (upper terminal) line or negative (lower terminal) line, as appropriate, in the measurement of positive and negative voltages in excess of 100 volts: it converts the 50-volt and 100-volt ranges to 500-volt and 1000-volt ranges. (Neither input terminal is connected to the case. Either can be so connected, as required.)

A little to the right of the input terminals are a monitoring terminal and screwdriver adjustment potentiometer for the 10-volt stabilized supply, while a fourth terminal, in the upper right-hand corner, enables the reference voltage present at the comparator to be monitored or connected to other equipment.

The two remaining terminals, also on the right-hand side of the panel, monitor the positive and negative battery voltages respectively. The instrument can be used to

measure its own battery voltages, the positive one directly; the negative voltage can be measured by connecting to it the negative terminal of a 4.5-volt battery, measuring the net positive voltage and subtracting it from the external battery voltage.

#### Operation

The rocker switch array and l.s.d. microswitch bar are clearly shown in Fig. 1. To the left of them are the on/off switch and volume control, and above them (i.e. further from the operator) are the two range selection switches. The right-hand range selection switch is set to the most anti-clockwise position ("V") for all voltage readings, and to the next position ("R") for all resistance ranges except "1M" (1 megohm), for which the third position of the switch is used, and "HR" (high resistance), for which the fourth, most clockwise, switch position is used.

With the right-hand switch set at "V", the left-hand range selection switch gives voltage ranges of 100V, 50V, 10V, 5V, 1V, and 1V (again), starting at the anti-clockwise limit. The first two of these ranges are converted to 1000V and 500V respectively by using the multiplier lead in place of one of the two direct input leads, as described above. On the 500V, 50V and 5V ranges the numerical value obtained from the rocker switches must be divided by two (or the switch weightings thought of as  $2,1,1,\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 4,2,2,1), so that the other ranges, on which the numerical value obtained is directly relevant, seem likely to be preferred except where maximum resolution is required.

With the right-hand range selection switch set at "R", resistance ranges of 1000 ohms, 10,000 ohms and 100,000 ohms are obtained from the left-hand switch set at positions 6 (most clockwise), 5 and 4 respectively. For the 1 megohm and high resistance ranges the left-hand switch is set at position 4 and the right-hand switch at "1M" or "HR" as required.

Measurement of resistance is straightforward on all but the "HR" range, i.e. the rocker switches having been set and read, and the position of the decimal point

x	0.50	0.667	0.75	0.80	0.833	0.875	0.90	0.95	0.98	0.99
R (megohms)	1	2	3	4	` 5	7	9	19	49	99

determined according to the range in use (as in voltage measurements), the numerical value obtained is a reading in ohms of the resistance connected between the input terminals. On the "HR" range the same constant current supply is used as on the 1 megohm range but, as  $R_{29}$  is included in the circuit, the reading obtained represents the resistance of this and the external resistor in parallel, from which the value of the latter can be calculated (R=x/(1-x)) megohms, where R is the external resistor being measured and x the reading obtained as a fraction of full-scale). This method is used to avoid the necessity for an even lower constant current supply on the "HR" range than the 5 microamps required on the 1 megohm range, as ideally the current used should be large compared with possible variations in comparator input current for the latter to cause negligible inaccuracy.

Using the expression  $\frac{1}{1-x}-1$  megohms for R may be found to simplify the mental arithmetic; the "-1" may be ignored with little error at very high resistance values. Where only a rough measurement of a high resistance is required, it may be found expedient to do a rough interpolation between a few memorized spot values on the "HR" range as shown in the table.

For the blind user wishing to avoid mental arithmetic completely, a comprehensive conversion table in braille for the "HR" range could be prepared, and might be worthwhile if many high resistance measurements to maximum accuracy were required. The "HR" range is the one rather complicated range to use on this instrument, but the facility it gives was considered worthy of inclusion.

In setting up the rocker switches according to the frequency (high or low) of the audible output, the operator performs manually a sequence of a type which is carried out electronically in certain a-d

converters; this may sound laborious, but in practice proves quite quick and acceptable. A blind user has reported, after only a few days' use, that setting the switches takes very little time indeed, and has pointed out that when using his moving-coil multimeter he must allow a little time for the needle to settle before clamping it; and he considers the few seconds involved in setting the switches a small price to pay for the accuracy of the voltage and resistance measurements, which was just not available to him previously.

The readout from the rocker switches is of course of a clear and positive nature, requiring no braille labelling, and is hence readily usable also by blind people not familiar with braille, as well as by sighted people.

## About people

J. Stuart Sansom, O.B.E., F.I.E.R.E., has been appointed director of studios and engineering at Thames Television. Mr Sansom began his career in television in 1953 with a firm working on the development of high-quality telerecording systems, joining Television Wales and West in 1957 to become head of maintenance. He later went to ABC Television as head of development, in which capacity he was involved in the investigations into colour television systems prior to the final choice of PAL. He became chief engineer of Thames in 1966, and was appointed technical controller in 1970. Mr Sansom has served on many committees, including the EBU Technical Committee.



J. Stuart Sansom

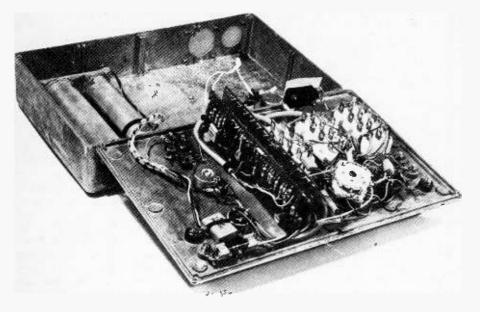


Fig. 4. The unit can be operated when opened for servicing.



Five years ago came the now legendary message of July 20, 1969, 4.17.40 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed". Less than seven hours later, Neil Armstrong cautiously placed his foot on the moon and was joined after a few minutes by Edwin Aldrin. More than two hours were spent on the lunar surface, taking photographs, collecting rock and soil samples and deploying scientific instruments. Forty-six pounds of the moon were collected for return to Earth.

Six Mercury flights between 1961 and 1963 proved man could survive in space; ten Earth-orbiting Gemini flights in 1965 and 1966 proved man could work in space, that he could control spacecraft to rendezvous and dock with another, that he could stay in space for up to two weeks and that he could work outside the spacecraft and do meaningful work on these "space walks". Also conducted were three unmanned flights, testing the Saturn 1B rocket and Apollo command and service modules. The price for this development has been high: \$392 million for Mercury, \$1.28 billion for Gemini and \$21.349 billion for Apollo up to the first manned lunar landing. Three astronauts-Grissom, White and Chaffeedied in the Apollo 204 fire while testing their spacecraft on the launch pad less than a month before their scheduled Earthorbit flight. Their deaths, the highest cost so far, delayed the programme but resulted in improvements in the spacecraft which made it a safer and more reliable vehicle.

Two lunar landings, and the four that followed in the early 1970s, gave scientists around the world a variety of sample material, photographs and electronic data that will keep them busy for years. Five of the six scientific stations left on the surface of the moon were still transmitting data when the Apollo follow-on manned flight programme, Skylab, was launched.

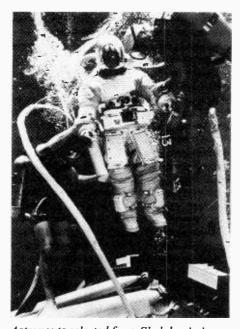
The 12 Americans who left their footprints in the lunar dust totalled 166 manhours of surface exploration. They traversed almost 60 miles and brought about 850 pounds of rock and soil samples back to Earth. They left 60 major scientific experiments on the moon and conducted 34 more in lunar orbit. Apollo, in early planning, was scheduled for ten landing attempts, but one and then two more were cancelled because of cuts in NASA funding. Apollo's final cost—\$25 billion. Some of the preliminary findings from Apollo were as follows:

- a definite and reliable lunar history time scale;
- general agreement that the dark "sea" regions are extensive lava flows and that most of the craters are projectile impacts;
- a variable magnetic field much stronger than expected and an interior also hotter than expected;
- distinct differentiation between the chemical composition of the moon and that of the Earth, a significant constraint on the theory that the moon was originally a part of the Earth. Data did not rule out, however, any of the three major theories on the moon's origin—separation, capture from circumsolar orbit, or formation from a dust cloud surrounding the Earth.

Withdrawal of funds from the Apollo programme has switched the emphasis of space exploration to deep space probes and the Earth-orbiting Skylab project, so developments are still coming thick and fast.

Apollo-Soyuz test project

The first co-operative space venture between Russia and the United States will include in-orbit docking of a US Apollo Command Module with a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft in the summer of 1975. This will be accomplished using a docking module designed to accommodate the two spacecraft and provide a passageway from one to the other. After the docking phase of the mission, the two spacecraft and the docking module will separate. Equipment consisting of a transmitter mounted in the docking module and a receiver mounted in the Apollo Service Module utilizes two-frequency v.h.f. Doppler tracking, de-



Astronauts selected for a Skylab mission are assisted by scuba divers during a neutral buoyancy test to simulate extravehicular activities.

veloped by Raytheon. The link will measure extremely small variations in separation velocities between the two modules as they gradually drift apart out to 500 kilometres. This technique, known as low-low satellite tracking, will enable small anomalies in the Earth's gravitational field to be identified.

As part of a long-term National Aeronautics and Space Administration-sponsored programme aimed at earth-quake hazard assessment, these measurements will supplement other studies of the tectonic plate structure of the Earth. Movement of these plates is associated with continental drift and fault systems such as the well-known San Andreas Fault in California.

Although previous space communications have been relayed between ground stations using communications satellites, the Apollo-Soyuz project will make the first use of a satellite to relay television and other communications from spacecraft to Earth stations. The Applications Technology Satellite (ATS-F) will provide the link and will permit communications during approximately 50% of the mission and will greatly increase the amount of real-time data available to investigators on the ground as well as television coverage of the flight.

The 1,270kg ATS-F, measuring 15.7m from tip to tip of its solar panels and 8.4m in height, will carry a nine-metre parabolic steerable antenna through which Apollo-Soyuz transmissions will be relayed. Orbiting at 35,900km, ATS-F will point its antenna toward the edge of the Earth as seen from that altitude, waiting for the spacecraft to appear over the western horizon and generate a signal for the manned spacecraft to lock-on to. Apollo, using a wide-band antenna, will transmit telemetry, voice communications and live TV to the satellite. Signals will then be relayed to a ground station near Madrid, Spain, and the ground station will then relay them via other satellites to the Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

**Exploring the outer planets** 

The traditional approach in exploring a new planet has been to begin with a fly-by mission, then an orbiter mission, and then send a spacecraft to fly into its atmosphere. However, with the experience gained by trips like Pioneer 10's safe passage through Jupiter's enormous radiation belts, as well as advances in atmosphere probe technology, scientists are now thinking about plunging directly into the atmospheres of planets like Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus. Relatively small and cheap atmosphere probe spacecraft would make it possible to take the somewhat increased risks.

The cold outer planets are believed to be made of the primordial material from which the solar system was formed. Mainly because of the low temperatures that prevail in that part of the solar system, objects can still be found where the evolution has been so slow that conditions today are not so very different from what they were at the time of their formation. By combining studies of several planets, scientists can compare and learn more about the formation of the individual planets, the formation of the solar system and the evolution of Earth.

Two spacecraft are destined for Venus in 1978. A detailed investigation of Venus's atmosphere and clouds will be conducted which could provide information leading to a better understanding of our own atmosphere. Experiments will deal with the composition and structure of the Venus atmosphere down to the surface, the nature and composition of the clouds, the circulation pattern of the atmosphere and the radiation field in the lower atmosphere. The upper atmosphere and the magnetic and radiation environment of the planet will also be studied.

NASA will use two Pioneer-class space-craft for the mission. One of these will launch four scientific probes toward the surface of Venus and then enter the atmosphere itself, transmitting additional data to Earth until it burns up. The sister ship will have been placed in orbit around the cloud-shrouded planet about a week earlier to study the planetary conditions before entry of the probes.

The probe portion of the mission will be a bus, a large probe and three small probes. The spacecraft will be spinstabilized, use solar power, and will weigh, including probes, about 832kg at launch. The trip from Earth to Venus will take 125 days and will include two or three mid-course manoeuvres. Like its sister craft, the Venus orbiter will be spinstabilized, use solar cells for power and weigh about 517kg at launch. The trip from Earth will take about 190 days. The spacecraft for the atmosphere probe is scheduled to be launched in May, 1978, about three months prior to the launch of the orbiter. Both will arrive in the vicinity of Venus within a few weeks of each other in December, 1978.

By comparing the atmospheres of Venus, Mars and Earth, it is hoped to be able to construct a better model of the Earth's atmosphere for use in predicting long-term changes in climate as well as short-term effects caused by environmental pollution.

Understanding weather patterns

Study of terrestrial weather patterns does not depend purely on probes to the outer planets. The first Synchronous Meteorological Satellite, SMS-A, was launched from the Kennedy Space Center during May. From its initial position 34,781km over the equator, just off the coast of Brazil, the satellite will transmit electronic data to produce day and night pictures of the Western Hemisphere every 30 minutes; receive and transmit environmental information from up to 10,000 manned and unmanned data-collection platforms; transmit and relay weather data and pictures to hundreds of small receiving stations; and monitor solar flare activity for future manned spacecraft and supersonic aircraft flights.

The basic payload of the spacecraft consists of a telescope/radiometer, called the Visible Infrared Spin-Scan Radiometer (VISSR), providing both infrared and high-resolution visible photography, a communications system for data collection and distribution and a space environment monitoring subsystem. Nine channels of VISSR data are transmitted from SMS over a 25MHz bandwidth r.f. link to a command and data acquisition station during the 18 to 20 degrees of satellite rotation that the radiometer views the Earth, or during 30ms of the total 600ms satellite spin period.

The received data is fed to a synchronizer/data buffer, which stores the data during the 30ms Earth-viewing time for stretching or reducing the bandwidth for simplification of handling. The Earthviewing and 480ms stretched datatransmission times are synchronized to ensure completion of both transmissions within the nominal spin period. Telemetry and command transfer is on v.h.f. during orbit transfer and S-band on station. The VISSR operates 1.7GHz downlink and 2.0GHz uplink.

The tropics receive half of the sunshine that strikes Earth and fuels the atmosphere's circulation. Much of this solar heat is first stored in the tropical oceans and then transferred from sea to air, carried upward and transported from the tropics by high-velocity winds. These inadequately understood processes affect weather conditions all over the Earth.

Infrared heat detection photographs measure atmospheric temperatures and show colder areas as lighter shades and warm areas as darker portions of the picture. The signal is transmitted from the spacecraft and is transformed to a visual photograph by a laser which is modulated by the video signal. The film is a dry silver type, developed by heat instead of the usual liquid, and the pictures have a resolution of about half a nautical mile, compared with about two to four miles for the Automatic Picture Transmission units now in use throughout the world.

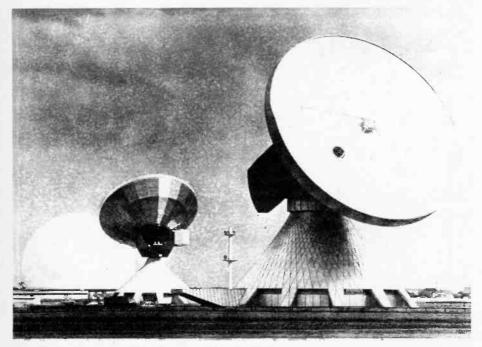
Communications and data-handling subsystems for atmosphere exploration consist of four distinct areas: telemetry, tracking, command and control and the antennas. Telemetering of the instrument and spacecraft data can be accomplished using encoders employing redundancy techniques for reliability, spacecraft clocks, tape recorders and S-band and v.h.f. transmitter.

Redundant v.h.f. transmitters telemeter data in real time and operate in the 137MHz band, employ p.c.m./p.m. and radiate a minimum power of 1W.

The p.c.m. telemetry for the Atmosphere Explorer Satellite (AE-C) was as follows: telemetry—p.c.m. 16,384 b.p.s. real time and tape record, p.c.m. 131,072 b.p.s. playback; transmitter — v.h.f. 137.23MHz, S-band 2289.50MHz, p.c.m./p.m.; encoder—main frame channels at 16 eight-bit samples per second, subcommunication channels at one eight-bit sample per four seconds and one eight-bit sample per eight seconds.

#### Spin-off

It is cheaper to search for some kinds of weeds from 65,000 feet in the air than from the ground. A case in point is the "Dudaim melon", considered one of the worst weeds in California. It is an annual inedible variety of cantaloup introduced from India in 1953. In asparagus, Dudaim melon plants quickly grow to the tops of the 20-metre-high ferns to spread out to 100m diameter. The weed effectively smothers the asparagus to decrease yield by 60%, with a reported loss of up to \$3 million annually. In one 80-acre field, interpretation of infrared photographs from a NASA Earth Resources Aircraft flight revealed a probable Dudaim melon infestation that had not been detected after 100 man hours of ground survey.



Satellite tracking station in Raisting, West Germany.

# News of the Month

#### Ceefax news

The BBC is seeking Government approval to carry "real" news in its experimental Ceefax transmissions. Using the unified "system 3" Ceefax format, distilled from the original BBC and IBA proposals (see May News, page 115), the number of pages will be increased to reach 100 in the autumn. Up-to-date information such as news headlines, sports results, weather forecasts, travel news, TV and radio programmes, stock market reports, best selling records, shopping news, recipes, and a host of others including information for specialized audiences (by transmitting at arranged times) will be possible if the "pilot" transmissions are given the goahead. This phase of Ceefax transmissions will enable demand to be assessed for different kinds of information. Anyone who can obtain a Ceefax decoder will be able to receive the information, to be transmitted initially on all BBC1 transmitters.

Decoders using conventional t.t.l. circuits and taking advantage of all the facilities available will be expensive. But it is expected that l.s.i. chips will be available in the near future that will bring cost down by an order of magnitude. Simplifications in the decoder are possible, for example by displaying only upper or lower case characters, or by displaying just one line at a time. The pilot run should also provide manufacturers with information about what options or compromises are appropriate and possibly a whole range of decoders will become available as well as being built in to receivers.

#### Pick-up in permanent magnets

New applications for permanent magnets are being developed in the applications laboratory at Mullard's Crossens magnetic materials plant in Southport. Electromagnets requiring high continuous alternating fields have until recently provided the only means of switching a magnetic field, by taking advantage of the non-permanent magnetic properties of certain materials. It is possible however to use magnetic "keepers" through which

the fields of a permanent magnet can be switched by comparatively low currents lasting only a few milliseconds. The field can be concentrated through the keeper or directed through the lower surface of the magnet so that ferrous objects can be picked up or dropped at will using very low, short duration current pulses.

Of the types of magnetic components manufactured at Crossens, all are processed from basic raw materials with the exception of nickel-zinc high frequency soft ferrites where the powder is preprocessed before arrival at the plant. All ferrites are based on iron oxide with additives. The three basic magnetic materials manufactured are: Ferroxcube, a versatile soft ferrite ceramic material; Magnadur, a hard ferrite ceramic material for permanent magnets and Ticonal, the classic metal permanent magnet.

#### IBA container station opens

The first of a new type of u.h.f. television relay station has recently been opened by the Independent Broadcasting Authority at Morpeth, Northumberland.

This low-power relay station on Channel 25 should improve reception on Tyne Tees Television programmes for about 9,000 people in those parts around Morpeth where reception of the high-power transmitters at Pontop Pike has been unsatisfactory.

All the transmitting equipment at Morpeth, for both ITV and BBC channels, is installed within a "steel container". This method enables much of the technical equipment to be assembled before transportation of the complete container

on a special purpose-built vehicle to the site. All equipment used in these new stations relies entirely on semiconductors

Viewers should use Group A aerials with the aerial rods vertical and carefully positioned to receive good signals from the direction of the transmitter which is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-east of Morpeth.

Viewers who can receive the recently started BBC transmission from the Morpeth relay should find their aerials equally suitable for the reception of Tyne Tees programmes.

#### Flight simulation developments

Four XY recorders form part of a sophisticated flight simulation system for the training of Lockheed Tristar and BAC1-11 pilots and flight engineers operated by Court Line Aviation. As the trainees sit in a detailed simulation of the aircraft cockpit, every movement of their aircraft is plotted through take-off, flight and landing.

To plot each stage of the simulated flight, the recorders can be operated in a number of modes as selected by a central computer. At the start of a flight, the console operator selects a large scale mode and the recorder plots the location of major ground features, radio beacons etc. When this is completed, the operator selects the "track" mode and the recorder is ready to plot the computerized data on aircraft movement, up to take-off. Meanwhile, a second recorder has been set to the smaller scale and plots ground features of the flight itself. Every moment of the flight is plotted on this recorder



Engineer seen operating the remote unit of a Tellurometer microwave measuring system during winch-out of "Graythorp One", the world's largest oil rig, on the first stage of its 250-mile journey to BP's Forties Field.

until the trainee pilot reaches his landing approach. Then the first recorder comes in again to record landing at the larger scale and the second recorder changes over to plot his glide-slope down to the runway also at the larger scale. In the de-briefing room, four charts are available for discussion, showing all aircraft movements including its actual position in a simulated crisis situation compared to the theoretically correct position. The system was manufactured by Redifon and uses Bryans Southern recorders.

#### **Design Council competition**

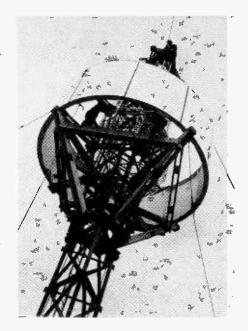
An annual competition to encourage the art, science and practice of engineering design in mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering in universities, colleges and polytechnics has been announced by the Design Council. Called the "Molins" prize, the scheme has been sponsored by Molins Ltd, precision engineers, and will be administered by the Design Council in association with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. Prizes will be given annually and the competition will be open to students (excluding postgraduates) following diploma or degree courses in engineering, engineering related disciplines at a science or university college or polytechnic in Great Britain. Each college will be allowed only one submission per year and three principal prizes of £500, £250 and £100 will be given. Full details and submission forms for the competition can be obtained from Anthony H. L. Key, The Design Council, 28 Haymarket, London SW1.

#### Audio exhibitions merger?

It has been decided at an open meeting held by British Audio Promotions Ltd, to set up a committee to organize a united representative audio show next spring. This year's spring show near London Airport was split into rival factions, Sonex and a new group known as Hi-Fidelity '74. It was agreed at the meeting that dissension did not serve the needs of the manufacturers, importers or, least of all, those of the consumer.

#### **Bus monitoring system**

It takes more than a time-table to run 900 buses and transport 560,000 passengers daily. Dublin, like any other large city, has a traffic problem and, although the existing radio control system has improved traffic communications in vehicles that have it fitted, a greater degree of vehicle control is required to improve traffic-flow and maintain running costs at a reasonable level. The radio control system could not be extended because of the limited radio frequencies available so, because of the large number of vehicles involved, an automatic vehicle monitoring system has been



Riggers at work positioning the antenna elements in the first ring of a v.h.f. array which EMI is building for the third-of-a-mile high communications tower in Toronto, Canada. When completed, the antenna complex will radiate most of Toronto's f.m. and TV broadcasts.

developed by a consortium comprising Storno Ltd, Digital Systems Ltd, Leasco Ltd and Digital Equipment Co.

The main problem is providing high speed "polling" of individual buses. This has been overcome by a data transmission system capable of handling high-speed information. A base computer automatically interrogates each bus in service every two minutes via a radio link. A data store in the bus automatically responds with the vehicle's location and other relevant information. This is then stored in a second computer and, on request from a human traffic controller, the information is transmitted over telephone lines to a visual display unit at each garage. The visual display unit shows a map of the route requested, together with the scheduled and actual position of each bus on that route. The controller thus obtains instant warning of buses running too close, those running behind schedule, traffic jams, breakdowns and so on, and remedial action can be taken through the two-way radio telephone link direct with individual buses.

The automatic vehicle monitoring system is now being installed and a pilot scheme will be in operation by April 1975. By 1976 it is expected that the entire Dublin bus fleet will be equipped.

#### IBC 1974 breaks new ground

The organizers of the International Broadcasting Convention feel that the event this year is even more international than ever before. Describing it as an industry event organized by the broadcasting industry, they announce that 40% of the papers given will be by overseas authors. This year's Convention has a higher-than-usual proportion of papers on sound broadcasting (25%), with E. M. Tingley's paper on the work of the EIA National Quadraphonic Radio Committee (USA) in assessing multichannel broadcast systems promising to be one of the most interesting.

Session topics include studio operations (includes dummy-head stereo), signal origination (includes Ceefax/Oracle), satellite broadcasting, recording and storage, service planning, transmitter monitoring and testing, transmitter and transposer design, and maintenance philosophy. As well as these "formal" sessions, there are less formal specialist ones on Ceefax/Oracle, service planning and quadraphony. The Convention will be held at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, September 23 to 27. The display area has 57 exhibitors. IBC Secretariat is at the IEE, Savoy Place, London WC2R OBL.

#### Doram dedicated to amateurs

The Electrocomponents Group, of which RS Components is a member, has established a new subsidiary company named Doram Electronics Ltd, dedicated to the needs of amateur radio, electronics and hi-fi enthusiasts. The Doram range will be described in a 64-page catalogue which, priced at 25p including postage, is available from PO Box TR 8, Wellington Road Industrial Estate, Leeds LS12 2UF. The catalogue will incorporate full particulars of each product including, where applicable, circuit diagrams, operating parameters, photographs and dimensional diagrams, in addition to the price of each individual item.

#### Briefly

New ITU member. By its accession to the International Telecommunication Convention (Montreux, 1965), registered on May 27, 1974, by the General Secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union, the Republic of the Gambia became the 147th member country of the ITU.

Voltage drop. A Hewlett-Packard vector voltmeter fell (accidentally) 180 feet from a BBC aerial mast. When it was plugged in and switched on, it was found to be working perfectly.

Crystal ball. Readers may have noticed the APRS (Association of Professional Recording Studios) exhibition reported in the July issue was labelled 1975. We are not really clairvoyant as this took place in June.

Yo yo-ing egg prices. R. Whittaker, secretary of Thames Valley Eggs, was outright winner of the accountants' Dial a Computer competition for his plan to help stabilize egg prices by using a computer terminal to accurately forecast egg production.

## What is e.m.f.?

### Can it be distinguished from p.d.?

by M. G. Scroggie

A curious thing about the subject of electricity (and magnetism), on which most of what appears in this journal depends, is that the more elementary and fundamental the aspects of it the less likely are you (and I mean you) to be able to give a clear account of them. This is hardly surprising, because so many teachers and textbooks are hazy and contradictory in this area. In part this is because education is, as someone has pointed out, a process of diminishing deception. One does not simply begin at the beginning, go on to the end, and then stop. The way two-yearolds are taught English at home lacks some of the finer points that will be included when they go over the ground again and again at school and university. Some of the grammatical usages that were accepted from us in infancy would have been blue-pencilled if they had appeared on our exam papers. What distinguishes the subject of electricity is that by the time students get on to practical applications they are so often too involved in them to go back to the beginning and learn the basics properly.

This line of thought was stimulated by the discovery that someone whose name is a respected household word in Wireless World and beyond, and who has made world-famous contributions to circuit design, was baffled by my description of what happened in a circuit consisting of a coil in a steadily changing magnetic field connected to a resistor (Fig. 1). He saw it in Phasor Diagrams, Appendix 1, where I had tried to justify my assertion that no generally accepted distinguishing line between electromotive force (e.m.f.) and potential difference (p.d.) existed. (Incidentally, in the eight years since the book appeared no one has ventured to refute this claim.)

To enable you to amuse yourselves with the game of "Beat the Expert" I quote in full the passage that puzzled him:

"Looking at Fig. 1 let us suppose that a magnetic field linked with the turns of the coil L is steadily growing at such a rate that the electric field strength it creates in the wire, multiplied by the length of the wire, is equal to 10 volts, positive at the A end. Electrons in the wire are consequently attracted towards that end, causing a surplus there and a deficiency at B. In other words B becomes positively charged with respect to A. The surplus electrons find their way through R to B, constituting a positive current

from B to A. This increases until the p.d. across R falls short of the 10 volts of field generated by L by only enough to leave a surplus capable of driving the current from A to B through the resistance of L. For simplicity we shall assume this is zero. There is then no resultant electric field in L. The field due to B being positively charged with respect to A is equal and opposite to that due to the varying magnetic field linking L."

What confused my friend, of course, was my saying that what was generated in L was + at the A end whereas a voltmeter would show that L was + at the B end. The "electricity made easy" books, and even some quite serious textbooks, make no attempt to describe in electrical terms what happens in a generator of electricity but instead liken it to a pump which can make water flow upwards, against its natural downward tendency due to gravity. Or, evading explanations altogether, they simply state as a fact to be accepted that certain things such as dynamos and batteries have this almost magical capability called, for want of a better word, electromotive force, which makes an electric current flow from - to + (inside the dynamo or battery) instead of from + to - as happens everywhere else.

The less superficial books then go on to deal with energy and power in this context. If current is found to flow into the negative terminal of a device and out at the positive (I am accepting the conventional direction of current flow as that of positive charges and opposite to that of electrons) then the device is (or contains) a generator of electrical energy. The current through a motor or resistor, on the contrary, goes in at the positive end, a fact which can be taken to show that it is receiving electrical energy and converting it into some other form such as mechanical energy or heat. Of course a bit more explanation is needed to cover the situation where a battery is being charged and the current is going in at the positive end, notwithstanding the continued presence there of an e.m.f.

This is the point at which an explanation of the difference between e.m.f. and p.d. (both reckoned in volts) is in order. It is also the point at which the books fall into hopeless disorder. If they are not inconsistent with themselves in their later chapters (and there is a strong possibility that they will be) they will certainly be inconsistent with one another.

In saying this I am not being so arrogantly critical and know-all as I may sound. The

teaching of that celebrated mathematician Lewis Carroll, through the mouth of his spokesman Humpty Dumpty, governs the teaching of electrical theory: "When I use a word it means just what I choose it to mean." So if someone chooses to make "e.m.f." mean something different from another person, or even from what he himself says elsewhere, that is his privilege. But in practice it is enormously convenient if technical terms, such as this, can always be relied upon to mean exactly the same thing. We should never forget, however, that even when one standard meaning has been established, that meaning is what everyone collectively concerned chooses to make it mean; it is not something imposed on man by nature.

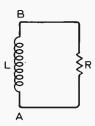


Fig. 1 Even such a simple circuit as this can generate doubt and discussion.

Not only are technical terms arbitrary; so are concepts. Fields, for example. We find them a very convenient concept for discussing certain observed natural phenomena. But I am sure that if there was another planet inhabited by beings having a knowledge of electricity and magnetism roughly at the same stage as our own they could well be found to account for the same facts in terms of basically different concepts.

Be that as it may, even on our earth the fact that people have different explanations for the action of basic electric circuits doesn't mean that some of them are bound to be wrong. Some people find one way of looking at a thing clearer and more helpful than another.

All this adds up to saying that I make no claim that the paragraph quoted from Phasor Diagrams is the one true revelation on the subject and all others are dangerous heresies. I am not at all sure that if I were coaching some simple soul having no high ambitions in the realms of electrical science I would not decide he would find the simpler and more conventional treatment adequate for his purpose, and less likely to confuse him. In that case, being free from the obligation of going into detail about the action of an e.m.f., I would undoubtedly find it expedient to follow the simplified books and show a battery rather than L. It looks simpler and more practical, being familiar to all in such things as electric torches. (But it would be the very devil to explain from first principles.)

Right now, however, I am addressing people who may be wizards at using integrated circuits but sometimes find themselves in trouble because of a hazy and half-forgotten understanding of those first principles; or anyone who finds the mere statement that an e.m.f. makes possible the

reversal of the "natural" direction of current inadequate when he is forced back to those principles by an unusual problem, and who finds my quoted paragraph raises more questions than it answers.

First of all, bowing respectfully to Humpty Dumpty, I must state the facts and conventions I intend to use.

Electric charges come in two opposite kinds or polarities, conventionally called positive and negative. It is a physical fact, not a convention, that charges of the same polarity ("like charges") repel one another, and unlike charges attract. The space between opposite charges is in a peculiar state distinguished by the fact that it exerts a force on any charge therein. The name given to this state is electric field. The direction of the force on a charge in it is deemed to be the direction of the field, and is indicated in diagrams (such as Fig. 2) by lines, called lines of force. But of course these lines must not be taken to imply that the force itself has a line structure. Conventionally the direction (sense) of the field is that in which a positive charge (+Q in Fig. 2) is urged by the force, and therefore (because of the like-charge fact) is from positive to negative of the charges creating the field. The strength of the field is suggested in diagrams by the closeness together with which the lines of force are drawn, and in SI units is reckoned in volts per metre. In a uniform field the p.d. between two points on the same line of force is equal to the field strength multiplied by the distance. But in general one has to integrate the product along the distance between the two points, taking account of its angle with the force.

A movement of charges in any direction is known as an electric current.  $6.24 \times 10^{18}$  electrons per second passing any point on the path of flow is a current of one ampere.

There is another way of creating an electric field, without using any charges. A variation of magnetic field strength, or the movement of a magnetic field, will do. In Fig. 3 the shaded area is a cross-section of space (occupied, perhaps, but not necessarily, by an iron core) through which a magnetic field passes at right angles. As long as the magnetic field is constant, no electric field is created by it. But suppose now that the magnetic field, of the polarity conventionally regarded as directed away from you through the paper, increases at a constant rate. At once an electric field appears anticlockwise around the magnetic field. It is strongest at the circumference of the shaded area, and decreases directly with the radial distance from it because that is how the length of the circular lines of force increases, spreading the fixed number of volts generated by the variation of the magnetic field over a greater distance. (It also decreases as the path shrinks, inside the core, because there the amount of magnetic field enclosed decreases as the square of the radial distance from the centre.)

Note that with this kind of electric field the well-known rule that each line of force begins from a positive charge and ends on a negative charge, as in Fig. 2, does not hold.

If, in an electric field, charges are more or less free to move because the space is electrically conducting, an electric current is caused. In Fig. 2, if the charges creating the field are not replenished from outside they will cross the field space as currents until they have neutralized one another, bringing field and current to an end. Usually only the electrons will so move, since positive charges are bound to the structure of the material, but the end result is the same. In Fig. 3, if the arrow-headed circle represents a wire ring, current will flow around it in the direction shown. (We know this because Lenz's law tells us that the magnetic field created by this induced current will tend to counteract the change in magnetic field causing it. If the magnetic field is indeed localized by a ferromagnetic core, current will flow in this core with the same effect, which is why magnetic cores are laminated to break up conducting paths.)

What happens energywise when a charge moves in an electric field (however created) is important. If it is allowed to move as a result of the field force, it receives energy from the field. In empty space (as in a cathode-ray tube) this energy gives it increasing velocity (kinetic energy), but along a uniform wire the velocity due to a constant field is constant, and the energy is given off as heat. If by any means the charge is made to move against the field force, energy has to be given to it. In SI units, if a charge equal to one coulomb moves through a p.d. of one volt, the energy received or given is one joule. Current is the amount of charge moved per second, so a current of one

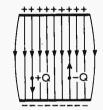


Fig 2 The usual electric field conventions.

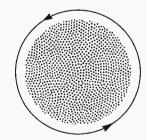


Fig. 3 Induction of an electric field around a varying magnetic field.

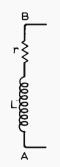


Fig. 4 The usual way in which the resistance  $\tau$  distributed through L is shown in this equivalent diagram.

ampere flowing through a p.d. of one volt means that energy is received or given at the rate of one joule per second. Energy per second is better known as power, and so is its SI unit, the watt. Nearly everyone knows what follows from all this, namely that volts  $\times$  amps = watts, but not so many could say why.

Now at last we can look back at Fig. 1. L is a length of wire situated in a uniformly changing magnetic field. It is shown as a coil because a convenient method in practice would be by means of a high-permeability core through the coil and also through another coil in which current was made to grow at such a rate as to produce the prescribed result, namely a steady ten volts between A and B, positive at B, as easily checked by a voltmeter. We can say, then, that there is 10V p.d. between the horizontal leads, and therefore an electric field between them, with the upper (B) lead positively charged relative to the lower (A). L being ignored for the moment, the only route the surplus electrons in A can take under the influence of the field to neutralize the positive surplus in B is via R. So a current flows through R, conventionally from B to A. Without L it would be very short-lived and the p.d. would disappear.

With L connected, but without the varying magnetic field, and assuming L to have no resistance, the charge would have passed instantaneously through it in preference to the resistance of R. Electrons already in the L wire would be situated in the electric field created by the charges on A and B and would respond very smartly to it. The fact that when the magnetic field through L varies they do not do so, but on the contrary B remains positive to A in spite of a continuous flow of charges through R is very remarkable indeed and should lead us to consider it carefully.

A first impulse might be to say that of course there is an induced e.m.f. in L, positive at B. But further thought should convince us that is nonsense. Our voltmeter has shown that B is charged positive to A, so there must be an electric field between them, conventionally directed towards A. But in spite of this no electrons are being caused by it to take the easy route through L. The only possible explanation is that the electric field towards A due to the charges must be neutralized by an equal and opposite field due to the varying magnetic field. The induced field must, therefore, total ten volts, positive at A. The two electric fields cancel out, in L only, since that only is influenced by the varying magnetic field.

One of the things that puzzled my friend was my mention of electric fields in the L wire, since one of his recollections of electricity and magnetism was the impossibility of an electric field inside a perfect conductor. But only the theory of opposing fields (which paradoxically had also puzzled him) explains this fact.

Attentive readers will have noticed that my approach just now was slightly different from the book; in fact, exactly the opposite. This was not accidental. Teachers will probably agree that where one approach fails another may succeed. It may be that my assumption this time that B and A were

already oppositely charged by some unexplained agency, however unpractical, will to some readers make the establishing of the polarity of the induced field needed to explain the observed facts somewhat clearer. The book began more realistically with the induced field, positive at A and so directed upwards. By the law of attraction between unlike charges it attracts electrons to that end and away from B until the electric field set up by them, positive at B, exactly balances the induced field in L. It does not balance it anywhere else. In particular it drives current through R, which would speedily dissipate the charges if it were not for the continued existence of the induced field in L. Even an infinitesimal drop in the charge field results in a net field in L and therefore a flow of electrons downward through it, which in a steady state will be exactly equal to that upward through R. In other words, a current around the circuit.

To clinch our understanding of this state of affairs it is instructive to consider it energywise. Suppose we have in our hand a positive test charge, Q. If we carry it by any air route from the A to the B lead we find we

have to exert a force ("like charges repel") over that distance, and therefore impart to it a certain amount of energy. If we take the trouble to measure that energy we find it is equal to QV, V in this case being 10. If we now let go of Q it will fly back to A and hit it with the release of the energy we gave it. Alternatively, if we slip it in at the top end of R it will flow through it steadily, releasing the energy as heat, until it reaches A. When it gets to the foot of L it is able to go right up to B without our giving it any energy at all. How so? Because, of course, there is no net electric field in L. Is this then a way of beating the law of conservation of energy? Not at all; the energy comes from whatever is keeping the magnetic field steadily growing.

The basic principles having, I hope, by now been made clear to all, we can proceed to do away with one unrealistic assumption, namely, that L has no resistance. (Actually in these days it is not altogether unrealistic, as superconductivity is being introduced into practical electrical engineering, but most of us expect some internal resistance in our sources of electricity.) The modification is quite simple. We can treat L as a

resistanceless source in series with a resistor r (Fig. 4). Although L still generates its full 10V, this is divided between r and R, so the p.d. between A and B is less than 10V.

Actually, of course, r is distributed along L, but the principle is the same. We have already seen the extreme case of this, in Fig. 3, if the ring is a uniform wire. Throughout its length there is a uniform anticlockwise induced field, which makes the electrons in the wire go round and round clockwise. But there is never any net redistribution of charges, so no charge electric field, so no p.d. between any two points on the wire. We have an e.m.f. without a p.d. If on the other hand R and L were removed from Fig. 1 leaving the leads charged we would have a p.d. without an e.m.f.

If all this makes you think that the distinction between e.m.f. and p.d. should be quite clear and give no scope for disagreement, consult any two or three dozen textbooks on this point. And finish up with the latter part of Appendix 1 in *Phasor Diagrams*. That book as a whole shows that for practical purposes there is no need to bother about making the distinction.

# A pocket v.h.f. transceiver

## 2. Construction and setting up

by D. A. Tong, B.Sc., Ph.D. (G8ENN)

Because of the relatively few wound coils in the transceiver its construction should be reasonably straightforward provided that full miniaturization is not attempted, and provided some previous experience of r.f. circuitry is available. Interaction between circuits in the receiver is only likely in the sections associated with  $Tr_{21,22,23}$ , and this is the section which requires the greatest care in layout. The same applies to the r.f. section of the transmitter. Other potential trouble areas are in the treatment of the earth returns around IC<sub>8</sub> and in the prevention of rectification of transmitter output in Tr, or  $IC_I$ .

Intending constructors are advised to obtain manufacturers' data sheets for all the i.cs used in the circuit, and in particular the application notes published for the SL630 and SL612 $^7$ . The earth layout shown in Fig. 3 for the SL612 should be followed. Concerning the second point above, one needs to bear in mind that rectification cannot occur in a device unless r.f. voltages reach the junctions and that resistors make adequate r.f. stoppers but only if the leads between the resisive element and the transistor are very short. In Fig. 1 the connections from  $Tr_1$ , should be no longer than say 6mm. It

is also good sense to construct the r.f. output section as far as possible from the modulator input. Capacitor  $C_{17}$  was used in the originals to shunt away any r.f. voltage picked up on the microphone wires. These were only 3in long and inside the metal case of the transceiver. If

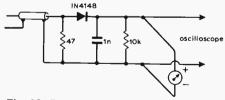


Fig. 10. Dummy load and output level tester for the transceiver.

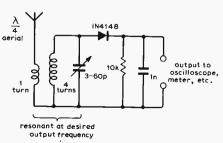


Fig. 11. Field strength meter for setting up the helical aerial.

an external microphone wire is used, further filtering may be required.

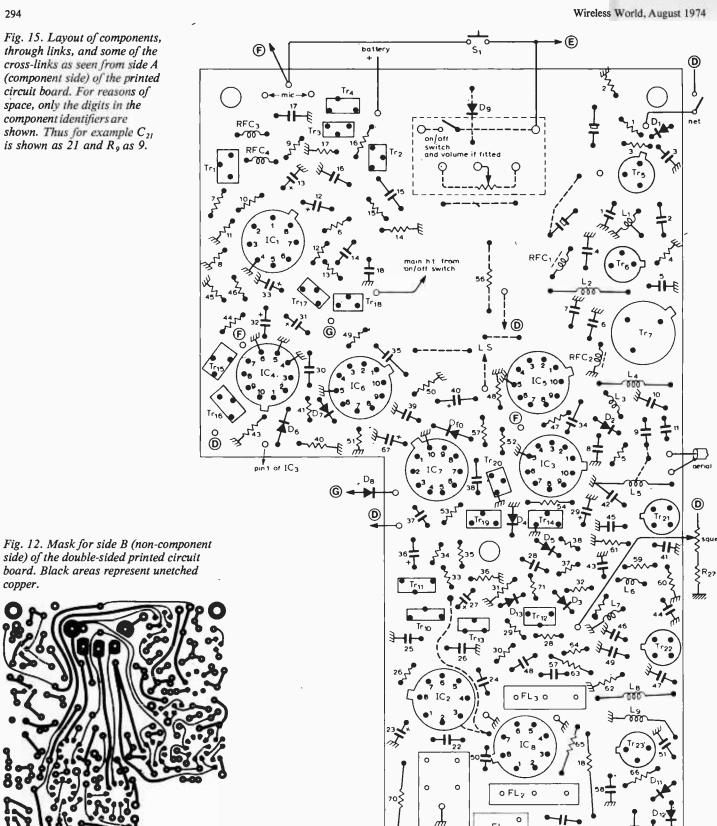
The circuitry diagrams (Figs. 1 and 3) may appear to show some redundant components, or rather, some whose functions are not immediately obvious. It is emphasized that the circuit is the result of several months of careful experimentation with a breadboarded system and over one year of daily operational use. Every component has at least one function and any alterations or omissions should not be undertaken lightly and preferably not at all.

#### Testing and alignment

Assuming that a version of the transceiver has been constructed, the following procedure should be adopted.

(1) Do not connect the battery until testing is complete and the transceiver is working properly, because its internal resistance is low enough to cause serious damage in the event of a wiring error or accidental short-circuit. Connect the transceiver to a variable supply with variable current limit. (2) Begin with the current limit set to 30mA and slowly increase the supply voltage from zero while depressing the transmit switch repetitively.  $VR_1$  should be at the  $R_{27}$  end of its rotation and  $R_{27}$  should be shorted out. This ensures that

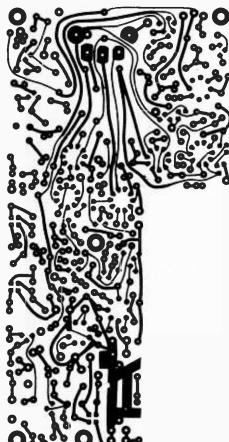
Fig. 15. Layout of components, through links, and some of the cross-links as seen from side A (component side) of the printed circuit board. For reasons of space, only the digits in the component identifiers are shown. Thus for example  $C_{21}$  is shown as 21 and  $R_9$  as 9.



0 o

> **(D)** vfo (if fitted)

R<sub>x</sub> vfo



the "normal" receiver mode is selected and that the receiver is not squelched. If everything is in order the receiver current will be about 25mA at 9.6 volts and the transmit current will be anything between 2 and 100mA depending on whether or not  $Tr_5$  is oscillating. Hiss should be audible in the loudspeaker.

(3) Monitor the receiver's switched h.t. line (e.g., at one terminal of  $VR_1$ ) using a voltmeter and mute the receiver by rotating  $VR_1$ . (If muting is impossible, reduce  $R_{28}$ ; see step 15.) After about ten seconds the voltage should drop rapidly to zero, and then "blip" on for about 200ms, every three seconds. This oscillation should also be visible on the light emitting diode.

(4) Rotate  $VR_1$  to its other extremity (i.e., unmute the receiver). At the next receiver "on-period" the receiver should latch on, the h.t. should remain high, and the receiver should bleep until the transmit button is pressed momentarily. After this the receiver will still remain on but instead of the "bleep", background noise will be audible and will be affected by the setting of the volume control.

Assuming that everything so far is working correctly, the receiver r.f. sections should next be aligned as follows.

(5) Adjust  $L_{10}$  until oscillation occurs as detected by an external receiver, or by a sensitive absorption wavemeter lightly coupled to  $L_{10}$ , or by a sudden change in the receiver noise level. (If  $L_{5,6,7,8,9}$  are far from the correct tuning point, the change in noise level may not be perceptible.) The setting is quite critical.

(6) Adjust  $L_9$  for maximum local oscillator injection (i.e., maximum receiver output with a modulated input signal).

(7) Adjust  $L_8$  as for  $L_9$ . The tuning is much sharper since  $L_9$  is heavily damped by  $Tr_{23}$  collector.

(8) Peak  $L_7$ ,  $L_6$ , and  $L_5$  at the desired operating frequency.

(9) The physical separation between  $L_6$  and  $L_7$  should be just greater than that which gives maximum output signal from the receiver (the a.g.c. voltage at pin 7 of  $IC_2$  gives a useful indication of signal strength).

(10) The separation of  $L_8$  from  $L_9$  affects the receiver gain and should be set so that front-end noise in a fully aligned receiver just fails to initiate a.g.c. action.

(11) After each alteration to the separation of  $L_{6,7}$  and  $L_{8,9}$  their tuning should be reset. The process is iterative.

(12) If the r.f. tuning has been carried out correctly the receiver output noise level will be high and will vary markedly as  $L_{6,7,8}$  are tuned and to a lesser extent as  $L_5$  and  $L_6$  are tuned.

(13) Final precise setting of the local oscillator frequency is carried out by fine adjustment of  $L_{10}$ .

(14) Remove the short from  $R_{27}$  and check the range of control of  $VR_1$ . Normally the squelch threshold will be at about midrotation of  $VR_1$ . Reduce  $R_{27}$  to mute earlier, reduce  $R_{28}$  to mute later.

(15) It is likely that the threshold for the first i.f. a.g.c. line is not correct due to tolerances in  $D_4$ ,  $IC_2$  and  $IC_8$ . The thresh-

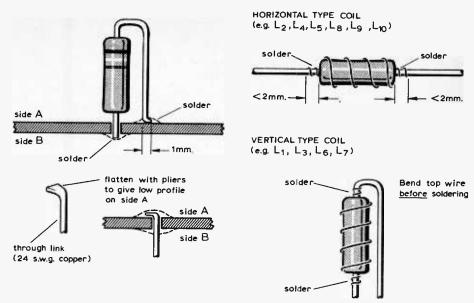


Fig. 14. Details of soldering technique and r.f. coil construction.

old can be altered by changing either  $R_{35}$  or  $R_{36}$ . If miniaturization is not important, they could with advantage be replaced by a potentiometer. The correct threshold is the one that gives the best compromise between signal-to-noise ratio for medium strength signals and overload on very strong signals. Monitor pin 7 of  $IC_8$  while testing.

(16) The squelch control alters two thresholds; that for audio muting and that for holding "on" the receiver when a signal is detected during sampling. If the two thresholds differ noticeably, the former can be adjusted separately by altering  $R_{55}$ .

(17) The value of  $R_{38}$  determines the extent to which the squelch threshold is un-

affected by interference pulses. If over-compensation occurs its value should be increased. Conversely, if the receiver "bleeps" on interference  $R_{38}$  should be reduced.

## Transmitter adjustment proceeds as follows

(18) Set current limit on the power supply to 100mA. Connect a temporary jumper lead across the transmit switch. Monitor the transmitter frequency on a receiver and adjust  $L_1$  until  $Tr_5$  oscillates. This should cause the power supply current to increase considerably.

(19) Connect a monitoring circuit such as that shown in Fig. 10 to the transmitter

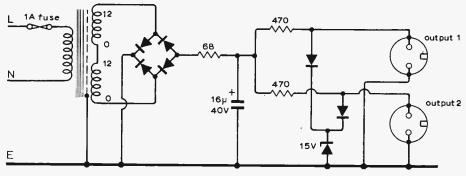


Fig. 16. A battery charger which can fully charge two transceivers (at the correct charging rate of 20mA) in 14 hours. The zener diode ensures that the voltage applied to the set never exceeds a safe value even if the battery should accidentally become disconnected while the radio is on charge and in use.

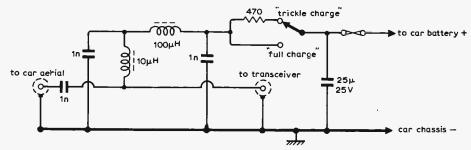


Fig. 17. A "terminal" which allows a transceiver to recharge from a car battery via the feeder from the car aerial.

output and if possible connect an oscilloscope to the detector output as shown. Initially tune  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  $L_3$ ,  $L_4$  for maximum output with no modulation then tune for best modulation linearity consistent with an output near to the maximum while whistling near the microphone.

(20) Adjust  $L_{II}$  until the output frequency

is exactly right.

(22) Connect the transceiver to the helical whip aerial and readjust  $L_3$  and  $L_4$  for best results using a field strength meter (e.g., as shown in Fig. 11).

#### Miniaturization

The following details of the printed circuit layout used for the two prototypes are intended only as a guide to those interested in making miniaturized versions of the device. Such a project should definitely only be attempted by those possessed of a high degree of skill and experience. Success depends on extreme attention to detail and on rigorous checking at all stages, bearing in mind that the removal of a component from the completed board is not easy. The reliability of the finished product depends very much on the care taken in the construction of the p.c. board.

The wiring plan for the printed circuit is shown in Fig. 12 and refers to the "B-side", that is, the opposite side to that bearing the components. The component side of the board (hereafter ealled the "A-side") is covered by a copper earth plane which is continuous except for discs about 2mm in diameter around each component hole. These discs are removed after etching and drilling by using a large drill (e.g., number 5) as countersink. Notice that not all holes should be treated in this way; the ones that should not are shown in Fig. 13.

The printed circuit board (which should be made from epoxy/fibre-glass laminate with copper on both sides) represents a lot of work after it has been etched and drilled, and it is important that it is not damaged in subsequent soldering operations. It is therefore well worth checking every transistor, resistor, and capacitor with an ohmmeter before soldering them in. If any component does have to be removed, a desoldering tool of the suction type is invaluable.

Most earthy component leads are soldered directly to the earth plane on side A, but in the region around  $IC_8$  an earthy section of copper on side B is used as an earth return. It is necessary to first solder in all the earthy components because there is not enough room to do so when all the other components are mounted. The earthy components are marked with an asterisk in the components list. Each component should be ticked off on this list immediately after it is fitted. There are also a number of links used to connect a copper band on side B to the earth plane on side A. These should be fitted at an early stage and are shown in Fig. 15. Mounting and soldering details are shown in Fig. 14 and the detailed component layout in Fig. 15.

It is advisable to connect resistors 28, 36, 38, and 55 temporarily on to short flying leads until their final values are

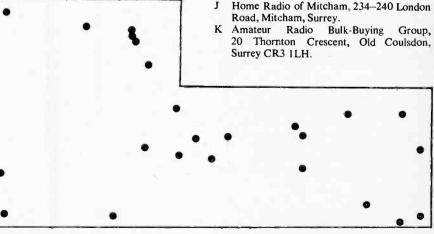
	Compo	onents List		
Capac		ments List		
$*C_1$	47 pF	polystyrene	$R_{7}$	3.9 kΩ
$C_2$	10 pF	polystyrene	*R <sub>8</sub>	27 kΩ
$*C_3$	470 pF	ceramic	$R_g^{\circ}$	6.8 kΩ
*C.	470 pF	ceramic	$R_{10}$	12 kΩ
*C5	470 pF	ceramic	*R <sub>11</sub>	15 kΩ
$C_{\star}$	10 pF	polystyrene	$R_{12}$	470 kΩ
$*C_7$	10 pF	polystyrene	$R_{13}$	27 kΩ
$*C_8^{'}$	470 pF	ceramic	*R <sub>14</sub>	12 kΩ
$C_{o}$	470 pF	ceramic	$R_{15}$	22 kΩ 4.7 kΩ
*C10	22 pF	polystyrene	R <sub>16</sub>	4.7 kΩ 1.8 kΩ
$C_{II}$	22 pF	polystyrene	*R <sub>17</sub>	220 Ω
$C_{12}$	1.0 µF	35V tantalum 35V tantalum	*R <sub>18</sub>	2.2 kΩ
*C <sub>13</sub>	1.0 µF 100 pF	polystyrene	R <sub>20</sub>	68 kΩ
$C_{14}$	4700 pF	polystyrene	*R <sub>21</sub>	33 kΩ
$C_{15} * C_{16}$	2000 pF	polystyrene	*R <sub>22</sub>	470 kΩ
*C <sub>17</sub>	470 pF	ceramic	$R_{23}^{22}$	270 kΩ
*C <sub>18</sub>	50 nF	ceramic	*R <sub>24</sub>	330 Ω
C18		polystyrene	$R_{25}$	2.2 kΩ
$*C_{20}$	68 pF	polystyrene	$R_{26}$	100 Ω
$C_{2I}^{20}$	10 pF	polystyrene	$R_{27}$	68 kΩ
C22	10 nF	ceramic		(sets range of squelch
*C23	1.0 µF	35V tantalum		potentiometer)
*C1.	1.0 µF	35V tantalum	R 28	220 kΩ
*C25	20 nF	ceramic		(sets range of squelch
$*C_{26}$	10 nF		_	potentiometer)
$C_{27}$	1.0 µF	35V tantalum	$R_{29}$	39 kΩ
$C_{28}$	1 nF		$R_{30}$	27 kΩ
*C29	$0.47  \mu F$	35V tantalum	*R <sub>31</sub>	1 kΩ 47 kΩ
$C_{30}$			$R_{32}$	12 kΩ
$C_{31}$	1.0 µF	35V tantalum	$R_{33}$	12 kΩ 12 kΩ
$C_{32}$	1.0 µF	35V tantalum	$R_{34}$ $R_{35}$	6.8 kΩ
*C33	1.0 µF	35V tantalum	*R <sub>36</sub>	12 kΩ
$C_{34}$	10 nF		1.30	(adjust for best r.f.
$C_{35}$	10 nF 1.0 µF	• • •		a.g.c.)
C 36			R 37	470 kΩ
$C_{37}$ $C_{38}$			R <sub>38</sub>	39 kΩ
*C38	10 nF		- 30	(sets noise compen-
$C_{40}$	32 µF			sation)
*C41	470 pF		$R_{39}$	820 kΩ
*C42	10 pF		*R <sub>40</sub>	150 kΩ
*C43	10 nF		$R_{41}$	4.7 ΜΩ
$*C_{44}$	10 pF	polystyrene		(sets off-time)
*C.	470 pF		$R_{42}$	zero
*C46	10 pF	polystyrene		(sets on-time)
*C47	10 pr		*R <sub>43</sub>	150 kΩ 5.6 kΩ
*C <sub>48</sub>	50 nF		$R_{44}$	680 Ω
*C49	10 nF		*R <sub>45</sub>	100 kΩ
*C 50	10 nF		$R_{46}$ $R_{47}$	470 kΩ
*C51	10 pF 1 nF		*R <sub>48</sub>	150 kΩ
$*C_{52} *C_{53}$	68 pF		R <sub>48</sub>	10 ΜΩ
*C	4.7 nF		*R <sub>50</sub>	68 kΩ
*C <sub>54</sub> *C <sub>55</sub>	4.7 nF		*R <sub>51</sub>	18 kΩ
*C 56	1.0 µF		$R_{52}$	820 kΩ
C <sub>57</sub>	1 nF		$R_{53}^{32}$	6.8 kΩ
*C 58	1 nF		R <sub>54</sub>	150 kΩ
C 59	10 nF		*R <sub>55</sub>	22 kΩ
C 60		ceramic (underneath p.c.		(affects squelch
		board)		threshold)
C61	1.0 µF		$R_{56}$	12 kΩ 150 kΩ
C <sub>62</sub>	1.0 µF		$R_{57}$	330 Ω
C <sub>63</sub>		polystyrene	R 58	150 kΩ
C <sub>64</sub>			*R <sub>60</sub>	150 kΩ
C <sub>65</sub>			*R <sub>61</sub>	270 Ω
C <sub>66</sub>	10 nF	leads under p.c. board)	*R <sub>62</sub>	330 Ω
			$R_{63}^{62}$	1.8 kΩ
		nents marked with an asterisk	R <sub>64</sub>	680 Ω
		nore leads soldered to the earth	R <sub>65</sub>	1 kΩ
plan	e.		R <sub>66</sub>	22 kΩ
			00	(4.7K in 2-channel
	$R_{J}$	1.5 kΩ		version)
	*R2		R <sub>67</sub>	5.6 kΩ
1	$R_{\rm 3}$		R <sub>68</sub>	5.6 kΩ
	*R,	68 Ω 100 kg	R <sub>69</sub>	680 Ω
	$R_{s}$		$R_{70}$	220 Ω
	$R_{\delta}$	,	$R_{71}$	.470 Ω
		(determines mic.	R <sub>72</sub>	82 Ω 47 kΩ
(		sensitivity)	*R <sub>73</sub>	47 kΩ

Diodes		$L_1$ 8 turns, centre-tapped $L_6$ $6\frac{1}{2}$ turns	Microphone: Low-impedance ex-hearing aid
$D_I$	1N4148	$L_2$ 8 turns $L_7$ 7 turns	magnetic type.
$D_2$	IN4148	$L_3$ 6 turns $L_8$ $9\frac{1}{2}$ turns	Loudspeaker: 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in diameter moving coil. An
$D_3$	IN4148	$L_4$ $3\frac{1}{2}$ turns $L_9$ 8 turns	impedance of 35 ohms would
$*D_4$	BZY88 C4V7	$L_5$ 6 turns tapped at 1.5 $L_{10}$ 11 turns	give a better match to the SL630
$D_5$	1N4148	turns from the earthy $L_{II}$ 10 turns on	output but in the two original
$D_6$	1N4148	end FX1886 toroid	transceivers, 8-ohm loudspeakers are used.
$D_7$	1N4148	RF chokes	Sources of components
$D_8$	l.e.d.	RFC <sub>1</sub> 2 turns on FX1115 ferrite bead	D .
$D_g$	1N4148	RFC <sub>2</sub> 2 turns on FX1115 ferrite bead	
$D_{10}$	1N4148	RFC <sub>3</sub> 3 turns on FX1115 ferrite bead	Tantalum electrolytic capacitors: A,B
$D_{II}^{IO}$	1N4148	RFC <sub>4</sub> 3 turns on FX1115 ferrite bead	Ceramic capacitors: A,C Resistors ISKRA type IIPM 033 (0.2W).
$D_{12}^{\prime\prime}$	1N4148	RFC <sub>5</sub> A commercial 10µH choke was	Resistors, ISKRA type UPM 033 (0.2W): B Diodes: B
		originally used here but a duplicate of	Diodes: B Transistors
$D_{I3}$	1N4148	RFC₄ should be equally effective.	
$D_{14}^{13}$	1N4148		Ferranti types (all ZTX and BFS97): D
$\widetilde{D}_{15}^{14}$	1N4148	Quartz crystals	BFX44 (Mullard), 2N4427, V405A: E
$D_{16}^{13}$	1N4148	$X_1$ 5th overtone type at one-half the trans-	40673 (RCA), 40823 (RCA): G
$\widetilde{D}_{17}^{16}$	1N4148	mitter frequency.	2N5460, 2N5457 (Motorola) F
- 1/		$X_2$ Fundamental type, frequency 10.245MHz.	Integrated circuits;
Transisto	Ore	$X_3$ 5th overtone type at a frequency equal to	TBA221 (Mullard), LM372 (National) E
$Tr_I$	ZTX530	½(receiving frequency—10.700)MHz.	MP102B, MP104B, SL630, SL612 E,H
$Tr_2$		All three crystals should be in the wire ended	Quartz crystals:
$Tr_3$	ZTX109 ZTX502	miniature holder type HC18/U.	Filters
$Tr_4$	BFS97	minutare neither type 110.10, 0.	Vernitron FM-4 J
$Tr_5$	V405A	Controls	Murata CFS 4551, BFB-455A K
$Tr_6$		$VR_1$ 100 k $\Omega$ preset linear potentiometer.	(Note: although CFS455I was used in the
*Tr <sub>7</sub>	BFX44 2N4427	"SQUELCH".	prototypes, the 4kHz bandwidth is a bit
Tr <sub>8</sub>	ZTX109	$VR_2$ 5 k $\Omega$ linear potentiometer (edge-type).	too narrow and the CFS 455H (b.w. 6kHz)
		"VOLUME".	would be better. Also the smaller and cheaper CFR 455H would give a performance
$Tr_{g}$	40823	$S_1$ push-to-make switch. "TRANSMIT". $S_2$ double-pole changeover, with centre-off.	adequate for most purposes. The p.c. board
$Tr_{10}$	ZTX109	2	layout is designed to take any of these filters.)
$Tr_{II}$	ZTX500	miniature toggle switch. "ON (NORMAL)	No specific suppliers can be quoted for the
$Tr_{12}$	ZTX109	/OFF/ON (NO BLEEP)". In position A	remaining components but most should be
$Tr_{I3}$	ZTX109	the receiver is held permanently in the	obtainable through advertisers in Wireless
*Tr <sub>14</sub>	ZTX500	"bleep-disabled" mode.	World or Radio Communication. This also
$Tr_{I5}$	ZTX109	Miscellaneous	applies to the other components. Farnell and
Tr <sub>16</sub>	ZTX502		R.S. Components will only supply components
		P <sub>1</sub> Miniature two-pin polarized socket (RS	against an official order from registered
$Tr_{17}$	ZTX109	Components) used for battery charging.	companies.
$Tr_{18}$	ZTX500	P <sub>2</sub> Belling Lee miniature coaxial socket type	companies.
$Tr_{19}$ .	2N5460	L1465 used for the aerial feed and also for	Key:
$*Tr_{20}$	ZTX109	battery charging.	A Doram Electronics Ltd, P.O. Box Tr8,
$Tr_{2I}$	40673	Battery: 9.6-volt, 200 mAH, nickel	Wellington Road Estate, Leeds LS12 2UF.
$Tr_{22}$	40673	cadmium accumulator type	B G.S.P.K. Ltd., Hookstone Park, Harrogate
$Tr_{23}$	V405A	8VB18, SAFT (U.K.) Ltd.,	HG2 7BU.
$Tr_{24}$	2N5457	Castle Works, Station Rd.,	C J. Birkett, 25 The Strait, Lincoln LN2 1JF.
		Hampton, Middlesex.	D Swift-Hardmans Electronic and Automation
Integrated	d circuits		Distributors, Hardale House, Baillie
*IC1	TBA221 (Mullard TO-5 version o		Street, Rochdale.
*IC2	LM 372 (National Semiconductor		E Farnell Electronic Components Ltd., Canal
*IC3	MP102B (Plessey Microelectronic		Road, Leeds LS12 2TU.
*IC4	MP102B (Plessey Microelectronic		F A. M. Lock, Neville Street, Middleton Road,
*IC5	MP104B (Plessey Microelectronic		Oldham, Lancs.
*IC6	MP102B (Plessey Microelectronic	es)	G R.E.L. Equipment and Components Ltd.,
* <i>IC</i> <sub>7</sub>	SL630 (Plessey Microelectronics)	Fig. 13. The black marks show	Croft House, Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts SG5
$IC_8^{'}$	SL612 (Plessey Microelectronics)		1BU
		countersunk into the copper	H S.D.S.—WEL Components Ltd., Hilsea
Filters		foil on side A (component side)	Industrial Estate, Portsmouth PO3 5JW.
$FL_I$	Murata CFS-455I (Ceramic ladde	of the printed circuit board.	I Senator Crystals, 36 Valleyfield Road,
. 21	455kHz)	a met, of the printed circuit board.	London SW16 2HR.
$FL_2$	Vernitron FM-4 (Monolithic cerar	mio	J Home Radio of Mitcham, 234–240 London
	bandpass filter, 10.7MHz)	inc	Road, Mitcham, Surrey.
$FL_3$	Vernitron FM-4 (Monolithic cerar	mio •	K Amateur Radio Bulk-Buying Group,
- 25	bandpass filter, 10.7MHz)	inc .	20 Thornton Crescent, Old Coulsdon,
$FL_4$	Murata BFB-455A (455kHz single		Surrey CR3 1LH.
	ceramic resonator)	•	
	eer annie resonatory		

Coils

All coils except  $L_{II}$  are made by winding s.w.g. self-stripping enamelled copper wire on to ISKRA 1/5-watt carbon film resistors type UPM033. The resistance value is unimportant provided it is greater than say  $200 k\Omega.\ These$ resistors have dimensions 6 × 2.3 mm.

The wire is soldered as close to the body of the resistor as possible and should be close wound initially. Tuning is carried out by stretching the coil during testing and alignment.



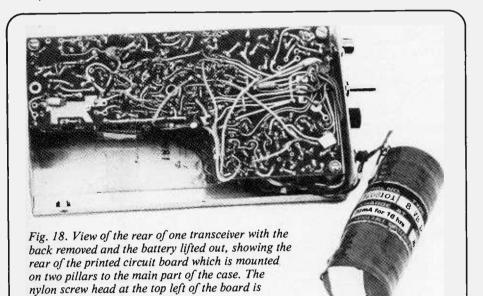
determined during testing. The horizontally mounted coils should be spaced about 6mm from the earth plane. Components which have no mounting holes and which are soldered on to the back or at the side of the board after everything else is fitted are  $D_9$ ,  $Tr_{34}$ ,  $D_{15}$ ,  $R_{56}$ ,  $C_{60}$ ,  $C_{62}$ ,  $C_{63}$ ,  $C_{64}$ ,  $C_{66}$ ,  $C_{17}$ . Capacitors 25 and 61 share one mounting hole. Certain linking wires are also required on side B or A (whichever is most convenient). Some are shown dotted on Fig. 15 and the rest of the necessary external connections, also on Fig. 15.

Note that the layout drawing and p.c. master include the version of the local oscillator shown in Fig. 4, except that no provision is made for the two trimmer capacitors. Resistors 67 and 68 each have only one mounting hole on the board and capacitors 54 and 55 are intended to mount on the A side and are not shown in Fig. 15.

used only as a spacer.

Space is also allowed on the p.c. layout for two transmitter crystals which were to be switched as shown in Fig. 15. Both of the prototypes eventually used only one channel for receive and transmit. The netting switch was also not used. Neither was the combined edge-type volume control and on/off switch which the p.c. board was originally designed to accept.

The author wishes to emphasize that the printed circuit layout is published purely for the guidance of skilled constructors. No responsibility can be accepted for anyone who gets into difficulties with such an intricate piece of construction, and if one has the slightest doubt about one's ability to complete the project successfully using the information given in this article and bearing in mind that a full understanding of the circuitry may be essential during trouble-shooting, it should not be attempted.



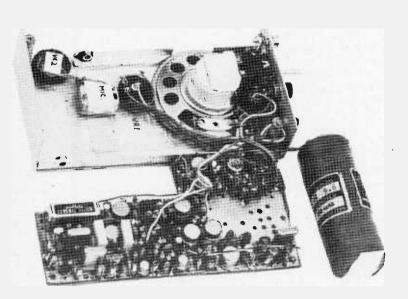


Fig. 19. This shows the transceiver opened to give full access to both sides of the printed circuit board. It is fully operational in this condition.

## Appendix 1. Performance figures

Transmitter

Average r.f. output: greater than 100mW.

Modulation: greater than 90% amplitude modulation capability.

Speech processing: symmetrical a.f. clipper with subsequent low-pass filter.

Crystal frequency:  $f_{out}/2$ .

Receiver

Modulation: a.m. only.

Intermediate frequencies: 10.7MHz and 455kHz.

First i.f. bandwidth:  $\leq 200 \text{kHz}$  at -3 db.

Second i.f. bandwidth: 4kHz at -6db, 10kHz at -70db.

A.g.c. range: 100db approximately.

Squelch: Triggers reliably on signals which are too weak to be readable ( $<0.2\mu V$ ). Compensated against impulsive interference. A rotation of the squelch control through 90° from the noise threshold setting changes the threshold to  $0.6\mu V$ .

Noise limiter: post-detection active system mutes the receiver during noise pulses.

Battery economiser: On-time 200ms approx.; off-time 3 seconds. Begin sampling about 10 seconds after last squelch opening. Receiver locks "on" with inputs greater than or equal to 0.2µV. Receiver "bleeps" at full volume when a signal is received after the sampling mode has been regained.

Spurious responses: see following table. The first crystal frequency is 67.075MHz, and the second is 10.245MHz.

		_		_		
Į		dB				
i			211.01		10.70	-80dB
1	190.52	-64	189.61	_	9.79	
	144.85	0	143.94	-62	0.455	not
ļ	123.45	-42	122.54	—		detectable
i			76.86			
	56.37	-90	55.46	_		

Frequencies in the middle column represent the image response of the second mixer. They will be 62dB below the corresponding figure in the left-hand column.

Appendix 2. Battery charging

The circuit of a battery charger which charges two of these transceivers simultaneously in 14 hours is shown in Fig. 16. It was built inside the shell of a 13-amp two-way mains adaptor and is shown in the photograph in Part 1 (July).

In a car the transceiver can be charged from the car battery via the feeder from the car aerial. The circuit of the adaptor to be fitted into the car is shown in Fig. 17. There is no adverse effect on the performance of the transceiver.

#### References

1. "Hand-portable transceiver", D. A. Tong, Wireless World, April 1972, 154–160.

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3. "Impulsive noise reduction in radio receivers", W. Gosling, *The Radio and Electronic Engineer*, 43, No. 5, May 1973, 341–347.

4. "A battery-saving circuit for portable communication receivers", D. A. Tong, Wireless World, March 1972, 124-125.

5. Antennas, Kraus, McGraw-Hill, 1950.

6. "Wide-frequency-range tuned antennas and circuits", A. G. Kandoian and W. Sichak, I.R.E. National Convention Record, Part 2, Antennas and Components, 1953, 42–47.

7. SL600 Series Application Manual, The Plessey Company Ltd., Plessey Semiconductors, Cheney Manor, Wiltshire.

# Choose the right f.e.t.

Blind use of any old f.e.t. can result in disastrous circuit performance and possibly catastrophic failure of a device. These notes should help you select an appropriate device for the six applications illustrated.

by T. Jones

Siliconix Ltd

#### **Constant current source**

In one of the lesser-used applications, the f.e.t. approaches the ideal current source. Operation in the pinch-off (see Fig. 1) region results in virtually-constant  $I_D$  for large variations in  $V_{DS}$  and constant  $V_{GS}$ . This is due to the low output conductance  $(g_{OSS})$  of the f.e.t. defined by  $\Delta I_D/\Delta V_{DS}$ . It is related to the more commonly used term "dynamic impedance"  $(Z_D)$  of a current source by  $Z_D = 1/g_{OSS}$ . For good regulation  $g_{OSS}$  should be as low as possible.

Fig. 2 shows a basic current source. Resistor  $R_S$  is used to set the value of  $V_{GS}$  and thus the value of constant  $I_D$ . For a given  $I_D$ , the required value of  $V_{GS}$  is

$$V_{GS} \approx V_p \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{I_D}{I_{DSS}}}\right)$$

which enables  $R_S$  to be calculated from  $R_S = V_{GS}/I_D$ .

If  $R_S$  is made variable, a wide range of  $V_p$  and  $I_{DSS}$  values can be accommodated provided  $I_{DSS} 
leq I_D$ . However, if a nominal  $I_D$  is required and trimming of  $R_S$  is not practical, choose an f.e.t. with small "data sheet" spreads of  $V_S$  and  $I_{DSS}$ 

spreads of  $V_p$  and  $I_{DSS}$ . The resultant dynamic impedance of Fig. 2 is

$$Z_D = \frac{1 + R_S G_{fs}}{g_{oss}}$$

and therefore high goss devices are desirable.

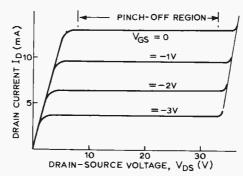


Figure 1

Rs

Figure 2

Another requirement for good regulation is that the drain-to-source voltage  $V_{DS}$  is maintained above the pinch-off voltage, otherwise  $g_{OSS}$  will be greatly increased (and dynamic impedance reduced). Ideally  $V_{DS}$  should be at least twice the value of  $V_p$ . Therefore, for correct operation the total voltage across the f.e.t. and  $R_S$  should be a minimum of  $2V_p + V_{GS}$ .

In certain circumstances the permitted voltage drop across the current source may be limited. If so, choose an f.e.t. with a low

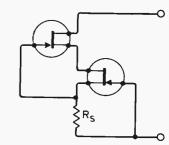


Figure 3

Fig. 3 shows an improved current source using two cascaded f.e.ts. The resulting dynamic impedance is

$$Z_D = \frac{g_{fs}(1 + R_S g_{fs})}{g_{OSS1}g_{OSS2}}$$

#### **Analogue switch**

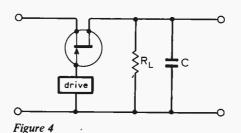
Figure shows an n-channel junction f.e.t. in a basic analogue switch configuration. The on-resistance  $r_{DS}$  should be as low as possible if a significant error in the sampled voltage is to be avoided. The error due to  $r_{DS}$  (at low frequency) is

$$e_{in.} \frac{R_S + r_{DS}}{R_S + R_L + r_{DS}},$$

where  $R_S$  is the signal source impedance and  $R_L$  the load impedance.

In the off condition, the f.e.t. exhibits a certain amount of drain-to-source leakage

current  $(I_{Doff})$  which gives rise to an error voltage developed across  $R_L$ . The error due to  $I_{Doff}$  at low frequency is  $I_{Doff}$ .  $R_L$ . For this reason,  $I_{Doff}$  must be correctly specified.



To turn the f.e.t. off, the gate must be driven negative with respect to the source by at least the value of  $V_p$ . Thus the required drive voltage is

$$V_{G(min)} = V_p + V_{analogue(pk)}$$

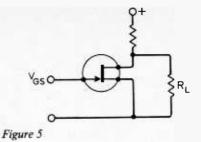
If the available drive voltage is limited, use low  $V_p$  devices.

#### Voltage-controlled resistor

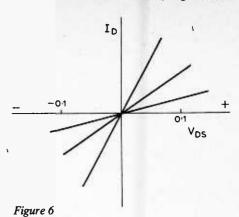
Where operated with very low values of  $V_{DS}$ , f.e.ts exhibit predictable changes in  $R_{DS}$  for given changes in  $V_{GS}$ . Under such conditions, f.e.ts can be considered as a resistor whose value is determined by the value of the applied  $V_{GS}$ . Hence the term voltage-controlled resistor.

This characteristic makes the f.e.t. an ideal candidate for potential divider, attenuator and a.g.c. applications. Circuit shows an n-channel junction device used in a basic potential divider. Here, the  $R_{DS}$  should be significantly lower than  $R_L$ . The  $R_{DS}$  can be defined as  $R_{DS\,0}/(1-V_{GS}/V_p)$ , where  $R_{DS\,0}=R_{DS}$  at  $V_{GS}=0$ .

As can be seen in the graph, the output characteristics are extremely linear in the



region  $|V_{DS}| \ll |V_p|$ . This bilateral characteristic can be used to advantage for the a.g.c. of low-level a.c. signals. If, however,  $V_{DS}$  exceeds 0.1  $V_p$ , the output characteristics becomes markedly non-linear.



#### Low frequency amplifier

Under normal amplifier operation, the gate/source junction is a reverse-biased diode which presents a high impedance to the input signal. It is this high input impedance which makes the f.e.t. superior to its bipolar counterpart if loading of the input signal is to be avoided. The input impedance can be characterized by the gate current  $I_G$  which should be specified at the  $V_{DG}$  and  $I_D$  required for normal operation.

Circuit shows the basic common-source amplifier. The gain is

$$\frac{g_{fs}.R_L}{1+g_{fs}.R_S}$$

and if  $R_S$  is decoupled at the frequencies in question by a suitable capacitor, it becomes  $\approx g_{fs}R_L$ .

Graph shows a typical transfer characteristic. As  $g_{fs}$  is the slope of the characteristic at any given point,  $g_{fs}$  is a maximum when  $V_{GS} = 0$ . The  $g_{fs}$  at any other point on the curve can be found from  $g_{fs} = g_{fs0}(1 - V_{gs}/V_p)$  or  $g_{fs0}/\sqrt{I_{DSS}/I_D}$ , where  $g_{fs0} = g_{fs}$  at  $V_{gs} = 0$  and  $I_{DSS} = I_D$  at  $V_{gs} = 0$ .

Drain current decreases with increasing temperature by approximately 0.7% degC. This phenomenon can result in undesirable

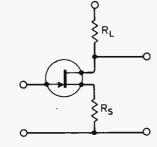


Figure 7

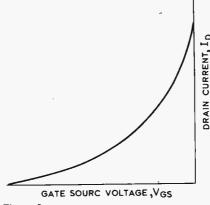


Figure 8

variations in stage gain. Fortunately, this drift can be minimized by another effect which causes the effective  $V_{GS}$  to decrease by approximately 2.2mV/degC. This latter phenomenon causes  $I_D$  to increase with increasing temperature. Minimal d.c. drift will occur at the point where the two effects cancel each other. This point can be defined as  $I_{DZ} = I_{DSS}(0.63/V_p)^2$ , where  $I_{DZ} = I_D$  for zero d.c. drift. High- $V_p$  devices must be biased to low values of  $I_D$ , with a resultant drop in  $g_{fs}$ .

For low-noise applications, care should be taken in specifying the noise performance of the device. The major contribution of noise is from 1/f noise. This is normally characterized by manufacturers as "en" (short-circuit equivalent noise voltage in  $nV/\sqrt{Hz}$ ) at various spot frequencies. However, for high signal-source impedances, the effect of noise current  $(i_n)$  becomes significant; since, at low frequencies,  $i_n$  is a function of gate leakage current, low  $I_G$  is desirable. Both  $i_n$  and  $I_G$  should be specified at the operating values of  $V_{DS} + I_{D+}$ 

#### **Electrometer circuit**

The high input impedance of the f.e.t. makes it the ideal choice for electrometer applications. The basic electrometer circuit shown uses two and an inexpensive operational amplifier. Transistor  $Tr_1$  is a source follower with  $Tr_2$  acting as a dynamic source impedance. Resistor  $R_f$  sets the measuring range and  $R_1$  through  $R_3$  provide intermediate scaling. Choose  $Tr_1$  to have low  $I_{GSS}$ , and the  $I_{DSS}$  of  $Tr_1$  and  $Tr_2$  to be matched as closely as possible; although  $R_4$  will null some mismatch in addition to nulling the offset of the op-amp. Typically,  $Tr_1$  and  $Tr_2$  would be a dual f.e.t.

The value of the feedback resistor  $(R_f)$  is the reciprocal of the measuring range, with a scaling factor of unity.

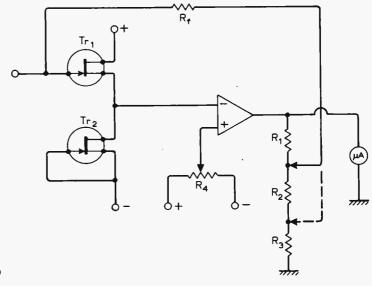


Figure 9

# **Differential amplifier**

The circuit below uses three junction devices in a differential amplifier configuration. The  $I_{DSS}$ ,  $g_{JS}$  and  $V_{GS}$  of  $Tr_1$  and  $Tr_2$  should be matched as closely as possible; the  $V_{GS}$  match should be specified at the operating value of  $I_D$ . If good matching is ensured, the gain is

$$\frac{g_{fs}R_L}{1+g_{os}R_L}$$

Using low  $g_{os}$  devices, this approximates to  $g_{fs}R_L$ .

In practice,  $Tr_1$  and  $Tr_2$  may be either a matched pair of discrete devices or a dual f.e.t. Dual f.e.ts tend to be cheaper than their matched-pair equivalent and, with the increasing use of monolithic duals, are inherently more reliable. Also, with the two semiconductor elements in close proximity in the same package, either two-chip or monolithic, thermal behaviour is more predictable.

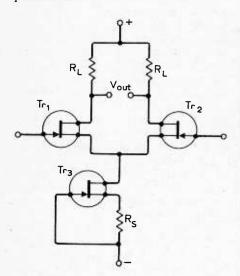


Figure 10

The common-mode gain of the differential stage is approximately

$$\frac{g_{fs}R_L}{1+2Z_Sg_{fs}}$$

assuming perfect matching of the f.e.ts and load resistors, and where  $Z_s$  is the source impedance.

Therefore inclusion of  $Tr_3$  as a current source presenting a high dynamic source impedance greatly reduces the common-mode gain. The minimum  $I_{DSS}$  of  $Tr_3$  must be the sum of  $Tr_1$  and  $Tr_2$  bias currents.

# Further reading

Siliconix application notes Field Effect Transistor Current Source, by J. S. Sherwin FETs As Analogue Switches, by Shelby Givens Biasing FETs For Zero D.C. Drift, by Lee L. Evans

# Salvation for city traffic

"New eyes, new ears and a new voice for drivers" is the claim for a communication system developed by Toyota known as Multifunctional Automobile Communication (MAC) which consists of four subsystems: two to transmit danger signals to the driver, one designed to reduce congestion by helping him to choose the most traffic-free route through a crowded city area, and one offering a personal radiotelephone service.

Already tested on two prototype vehicles in Tokyo, one of the world's most congested cities, the MAC installation consists of a telephone handset (or microphone and speaker), a push-button keyboard and a visual display panel mounted near the driver's line of sight. An integrated system of high- and low-power radio transmissions links it continuously with a central control centre which acts as a "funnel", channelling routine and emergency information to the driver as well as connecting him to other telephone users, either fixed or mobile.

Warnings of fog, accidents, severe congestion or other emergencies are broadcast from a traffic control centre, from low-powered "leak" cables laid beside busy roads and motorways, and direct from emergency vehicles such as police cars, ensuring complete coverage of vehicles in the area. A receiving unit in the car continuously monitors emergency broadcasts from central and roadside transmitters, and automatically tunes and adjusts the volume of the normal car radio to relay them to the driver.

Information normally conveyed by road signs—speed limits, pedestrian crossings, banned right or left turns, etc.—is reinforced by a visual display and audible warning signal inside the car. The display unit on the two Toyota prototypes is an illuminated panel on top of the facia which can present up to 34 different messages; simultaneously a warning bell indicates the degree of danger by sounding at varying frequencies.

The signals are transmitted by loop aerials embedded in the road surface, and received by an unobtrusive pick-up coil mounted under the rear bumper.

A computerized traffic information centre collects data from several hundred key road junctions. Using his telephone keyboard the driver can simply select the code number of any intersection on his intended route, and receive a visual display of the density of traffic approaching that point from all directions. Instant information allows him to choose the best route even more effectively than regular traffic broadcasts without the interruption of other programmes.

Outgoing calls using the telephone system are made by "dialling" the number required on the push-button selector. Instead of each car having a fixed telephone number, the numbers are allocated

to individual *drivers*, who can use the equipment in any car by inserting a plastic card. Incoming calls are routed to the vehicle in which the subscriber is travelling, and his outgoing calls are automatically charged to his account.

The transmission network of the MAC system, a joint project between Toyota, the Nippon Denso Company and the Japanese Industrial Technology Agency, makes maximum use of limited available channels. Two types of channel, voice and pulse-code, are used, with combinations of channels designed to cover a complete city area without mutual interference. Broadcast stations may transmit to an area, by leaky cable to a particular stretch of road, or to a single point near a traffic hazard. The system automatically switches channels when a vehicle moves from one zone to another, maintaining constant radio contact.

With attention currently being focused on alternative means of city transport, Toyota makes a final point, "The MAC system is a valuable tool for solving urban transport problems, but it need not be limited to the automobile. It can be modified and applied to many of the new transport systems now being developed around the world".

# High-fidelity Designs

One of the most popular subjects with both professional engineers and amateur electronics enthusiasts is the high-quality reproduction of sound. One of the ways in which we are constantly made aware of this is in a stream of requests for photocopies of articles which have become standards in the field. Issues of the journal become unobtainable within weeks and, while photo-copies are useful, they are not very presentable, particularly in the way photographic illustrations are reproduced.

In an effort to ensure that these articles are available more easily, we have collected a number of them together in a new book, entitled "High-fidelity Designs". The designs we have reprinted cover the whole range of equipment needed for a comprehensive system, including tape, disciplaying equipment, radio, amplifiers, speakers and headphones. The articles treat both the design of the units and practical aspects of construction and form, in effect, a course on the design of high-fidelity systems.

The book is now available at a price of £1.00 from booksellers, or £1.35 by post from General Sales Dept, IPC Electrical-Electronic Press, Room 11, Dorset House, Stamford St, London SE1 9LU.

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# World of Amateur Radio

# Speech processing

Although the benefits bestowed by effective processing of audio signals for s.s.b., a.m. and n.f.b.m. transmissions have been known to amateurs for many years-and the technique of speech clipping of an s.s.b. signal on its r.f. waveform to avoid in-band harmonics advocated since 1964 -it is only in the past two or three years that this system has been at all widely used. Yet with careful engineering and adequate power capability of the transmitter. effective gains equivalent to about a 10dB power increase can be achieved, provided that some of the benefits of clipping (plus the disadvantages of non-linear operation) are not already being obtained by "flattopping". A 400-watt p.e.p. transmitter (the legal limit in the UK) can be given the "talk power" of a 4kW p.e.p. rig. Good speech clipping can thus be as effective as the addition of a high-power linear amplifier.

A number of add-on systems using r.f. clipping for use with existing transmitters have been appearing on the market, several of them based on an a.f./s.s.b.-at-v.l.f./a.f. closed-loop system that allows the unit to be directly inserted between the microphone and an unmodified transmitter. A system of this type, for broadcast applications, was described at IBC70 by engineers of "Radio Liberty". For amateurs a pioneer system of this type was the very successful Comdel CSP-11 made in the United States. A recent British unit is the Datong Electronics "universal r.f. clipper" based on c.m.o.s. and op-amp integrated circuits with phasing-type 60kHz s.s.b. generation and digital r.f. phase shifter. Other r.f. clippers include a G3LLL unit specifically for the Yaesu FT101 transceiver and the RF Magnum

This is a trend that provides amateurs with at least part of the benefits of the infinitely-clipped Lincompex signals of professional communicators.

# Microwave progress

The increased amateur activity on the microwave bands is significantly raising the standards of achievement. During May, members of the Barry Radio Society

(GW4BRS) and George Birt (GM30XX) extended the British 10GHz distance record with a contact between Snowdon and the Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, a distance of 151.4 miles (243.6km). Both stations used 10mW Gunn diodes and 3ft dish aerials.

A few weeks later George Birt carried some 70lb of equipment almost 2,000ft up Snaefell in the Isle of Man and was rewarded with 10GHz contacts with G8BKE, St Bee's Head, England; GM3DXJ at both Abbey Head and the Mull of Galloway in Scotland; and GW4BRS again on Snowdon: four countries linked on microwaves in the same day.

Similar enthusiasm is reported from Australia where early this year Des Clift, VK2AHC (formerly G3BAK), Dave Ralph, VK2SB, and Norman Champion, VK2ZND, set up a new Australian record for the 5.8GHz band with a 59-km contact, using home-made horn aerials having gains of about 23dB. The same path was also spanned on 3.4GHz and 10GHz.

# Bandwidth compression experiments

An interesting series of experiments in bandwidth compression has been taking place in Australia where J. A. Adcock, VK3ACA, of Preston, Victoria has been successfully developing a technique long recognized as feasible but extremely difficult to achieve in practice: compression of the audio baseband by broadband frequency division before transmission, with compensating frequency multiplication within the receiver. Experiments using an ingenious mechanical technique for frequency division were carried out some 30 years ago by Dr D. Gabor, but J. A. Adcock has succeeded in halving the audio baseband electronically, using analogue computing elements. Although there remain certain forms of distortion which he believes stem from inaccuracies in the low-cost analogue integrated circuits (795), he has reached the stage where individual voices are quite recognizable and intelligible through the system: "The results are good enough to be exciting," he reports. He feels that with further development it might even be possible to contemplate such a system as a potential means of reducing the shortage of medium-wave broadcast channels in Europe—no easy matter owing to the susceptibility of music to distortion in frequency compression.

# Moonbounce and satellites

During one of the 144MHz moonbounce (E-M-E) tests by WA6LET using the 150-ft dish aerial at Stanford Research Institute, California, 37 contacts were made with 25 amateur stations in 13 States and two Canadian provinces. Most contacts were made using c.w. but VE2DFO, W6PO and K8III were contacted on s.s.b.

Lowest power was 150 watts to a 40element colinear array used by WA6GUY.

Among recent British amateurs to gain the Satellite DX Achievement Award are F. V. Kershaw, G3GKI, and W. A. Scarr, G2WS, a former president of the RSGB. An American station, K4TI, who has already "worked all states" through Oscar 6, is the first to work and achieve confirmation from stations in five out of the six continents: he now needs only Asia for an Oscar WAC.

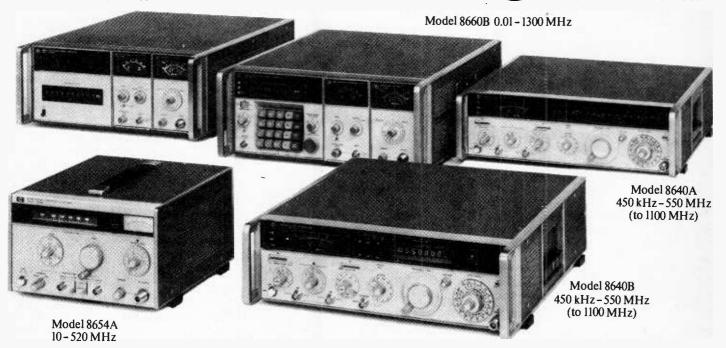
# In brief

An American amateur, Bill Parker, W8DMR, is using an all-solid-state imaging device, based on a Fairchild 100 by 100 element charge-coupled device, to transmit his amateur television test pattern. . . . Noel B. Eaton, VE3CJ, has been formally elected the seventh president of the International Amateur Radio Union, formed in Paris in 1925. . . . News bulletins in Morse code (18 w.p.m.) are transmitted on the ARRL headquarters station, W1AW, several times each week: a convenient time for British listeners is 2030 GMT on Tuesdays and Thursdays (frequencies include 3580, 7080, 14080 and 21080kHz); for "night owls" the bulletins also go out Mondays to Fridays at 0000 GMT. . . . Top scoring stations in the 6th Giant r.t.t.y. flash contest were I6NO, I1BAY and W3EKT; the only British entrant in the transmitting section was G3RDG who finished 38th, reports Professor Franco Fanti. . . . He also reports that the winner of the 4th Worldwide ssTV contest was W9NTP: again only one British entrant, G3IAD, who finished eleventh. . . . The GB3PI Mark 2 repeater station is now in operation at Barkway. . . . Tibet and Zanzibar have been deleted from the ARRL list of countries. . . . The death has been reported of Bill Pope, G3HT, who was first licensed as PZX in 1911. . . . A Radio Amateurs Old-Timers Association net is planned for the first Thursday of each month at 1100 local time on 3740kHz with G2DX as net control. . . . It is proposed to start a Radio Society at the University of Durham and anyone interested should get in touch with Peter Whittle, G4BBU, 1 Blinco Road, Urmston, Manchester or during term at Chad's College, South Bailey, Durham.... Sixty years ago, in July 1924, amateurs staged an early demonstration of mobile radio when a special coach, containing a 440-metre amateur station 6ZZ, was attached to a north-bound LNER express train and showed the feasibility of telephony to and from a moving train. . . . A v.h.f. convention is to be held in Dundee on September 28. . . The special call GB3BIJ will be used on h.f. bands from the Scout and Guide Jamboree on Brownsea Island from August 20 to September 1 (G8FFG/P on 144 MHz). . . . GB3RN will be operational from HMS Belfast from August 3 to 10 and during Portsmouth Navy Days August 24 to 26. PAT HAWKER, G3VA

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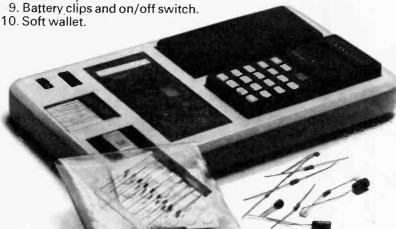


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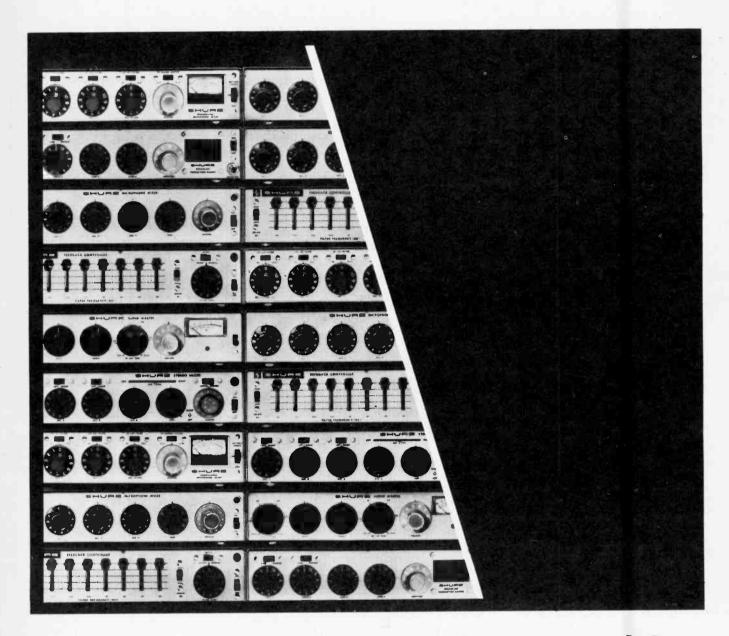
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# **Bridge oscillators**

by F. Arthur, Ph.D.

City of Birmingham Polytechnic

A bridge oscillator is one employing both positive and negative feedback at the inputs of an operational amplifier. By this means it is possible to imitate, using only resistors and capacitors, a high-Q LC oscillator which manifestly behaves in the same way, i.e. with high frequency stability and low harmonic distortion; although neither of these properties can be associated with the often misnamed Wien bridge circuit shown in Fig. 1. The latter does not possess a bridge structure and only shows the properties described when modified to include negative feedback via a resistive arm as in Fig. 5. Nevertheless, it is the most common form and such oscillators are commercially available with a 10/1 variation in frequency per dial turn and overall coverage of 106/1 from, say, 1Hz to 1MHz. They possess two major advantages over LC oscillators, viz.;

(1) They have a wideband tuning capability. Thus, whereas in an LC oscillator a 10/1 variation in L or C produces a  $3\cdot16/1$  variation in frequency, a 10/1 change in the R or C of a Wien bridge network produces a 10/1 change in the oscillation frequency. (2) At frequencies below several kilohertz

(2) At frequencies below several kilohertz the linear inductors required for an LC oscillator become unwieldy and expensive.

The two other common forms of RC bridge circuit, the balanced form of the symmetrical twin T, Fig. 2, and the bridged T, Fig. 3, possess similar advantages over LC networks. Furthermore, with the proviso that when used in an oscillator the same amplifier is used in all three RC configurations, they produce an output with lower harmonic distortion and better frequency stability than the Wien bridge.

Bridge oscillators are not, however, exclusively of the RC type. Another form in common use is the Meacham bridge shown in Fig. 4, which employs a crystal instead of an RC network in the frequency selective arm. The existence of feedback via  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  increases the frequency stability and decreases the harmonic distortion compared to that of an oscillator in which the frequency is controlled by a crystal alone. The factor of improvement is of the order of the amplifier gain.

Since the behaviour of each of the three RC bridge networks is very similar the earlier sections of the ensuing discussion will give a comparison (from the standpoint of harmonic distortion and frequency stability) of oscillators in which they are incorporated.

This will be followed by an examination of the Meacham bridge. The final section will deal with the problem of amplitude stabilization.

### Harmonic distortion

In a self-starting oscillator the amplitude of oscillation increases until the amplifier gain × feedback fraction is unity. In the process, the active device will, for any real output swing, be operating over a large portion of its characteristics and consequently non-linearity distortion will be introduced. The harmonics thus produced may be treated as additional signals within the feedback loop and each harmonic will be acted upon by the factor

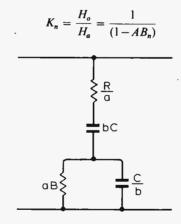


Fig. 1. Wien network, which becomes a bridge when completed by a resistive arm.

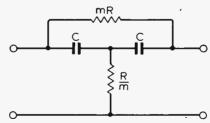


Fig. 3. Two forms of bridged T network, giving identical results.

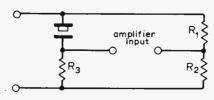


Fig. 4. Meacham bridge crystal network.

where  $H_o$  is the harmonic distortion in the oscillator,  $H_a$  the harmonic distortion in the amplifier, A the amplifier gain and  $B_n$  the feedback fraction for the *n*th harmonic. At the frequency of oscillation,  $f_a$ ,

$$AB_o = 1 \text{ and } K_n = \frac{1}{A(B_o - B_n)},$$
  
i.e.  $|K_n| = \frac{1}{|A||(B_o - B_n)|}$  (1)

Since it is desirable to produce an almost sinusoidal output then the harmonic distortion should be small. Each of the harmonics produced in the amplifier is modified by the factor  $|K_n|$  and for a well designed network this factor should be as small as possible. For a given amplifier this will occur when  $B_o - B_n$  is large.

The more selective the feedback network

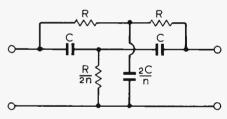


Fig. 2. Twin T RC network.

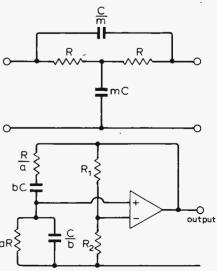


Fig. 5. General form of Wien oscillator.

the greater is the value of  $|B_o - B_n|$  and, for a given degree of amplifier distortion, the more pure will be the output wave. From this point of view, therefore, the relative quality of two oscillators can be obtained by comparing their respective  $|K_n|$  factors. Such a comparison will now be made for oscillators employing the feedback networks shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 5.

Wien bridge. To incorporate the Wien bridge into an oscillator, the amplifier must have both an inverting and non-inverting input terminal. Since the frequency selective arm of the bridge has a maximum transmission at resonance then it is connected to the non-inverting terminal and negative feedback is applied via the resistive arm to the inverting input.

Assuming the amplifier input resistance is large compared to aR and  $R_2$  the feedback fraction is given by Appendix 1 as

$$B = \frac{1}{(x+ju/ab)} - B_r \qquad (2)$$
where
$$x = 1 + \frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2},$$

$$u = (\omega/\omega_o - \omega_o/\omega),$$

$$B_r = \frac{R_2}{(R_2 + R_1)}.$$

Substituting for  $B_o$  and  $B_n$  in Eq. (1) gives  $|K_n| = xab/A\{(x^2/u^2 + (1/ab)^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}\}$  and this takes the values shown in Table 1 for the second and third harmonics.

Table 1

·	K <sub>2</sub>	K <sub>3</sub>
$a=b=1$ $a=b=\sqrt{3}/2$	6.69/ <i>A</i> 3.39/ <i>A</i>	4.5/ <i>A</i> 2.53/ <i>A</i>

Obviously the larger is the value of A the smaller are the factors  $K_2$  and  $K_3$ . Thus for the completely unbalanced bridge where there is no resistive feedback and the amplifier gain = x then  $K_2 = 6.69/x$ . Using an amplifier gain of 100x reduces this factor a hundredfold but requires the introduction of resistive feedback in which the feedback ratio is controllable to within 1% of 1/x.

Twin T. The twin T, being a minimum transmission network, is connected in the negative feedback loop when employed in oscillator circuits. The transfer response of the unloaded network is given by references 1, 2 and 3 as

$$\frac{v_o}{v_{in}} = \frac{1}{1 - 4j/u}$$

where  $u = \omega/\omega_o - \omega_o/\omega$  and  $\omega_o = n^{\frac{1}{2}}CR$ . The sensitivity<sup>3</sup> of this function with respect to n, i.e.  $d|(v_o/v_{in})|/dn$  is a maximum for n=1 and this accounts for the fact that in oscillator circuits it is more generally seen in the form shown in Fig. 6. For this reason attention will be restricted to this type of network in which

$$B_{tt} = B_r - \frac{1}{1 - 4i/u}$$

where  $B_r = R_2/(R_1 + R_2)$ . Making the rel-

evant substitutions in Eq. 1 gives the results shown in Table 2.

Table 2

K	2	<i>K</i> <sub>3</sub>	
8.88	5/A	1.81/A	

From a comparison of Tables 1 and 2 it would seem, therefore, that the twin T oscillator shows lower harmonic distortion. Unfortunately, variation of the oscillator frequency requires that three elements be altered simultaneously. In general, therefore, twin T oscillators are only used in cases of fixed frequency operation.

Bridged T. The bridged T network may take either of the forms shown in Fig. 3, there being no difference in their behaviour. Since the circuit is a minimum transmission network it is used in the negative feedback arm as in Fig. 7 to provide the frequency selectivity necessary in an oscillator.

The feedback fraction  $B_{bi}$  is given by:

$$B_{bt} = B_r - \frac{(m-2j/u)}{(m-j(m^2+2)/u)}$$

where  $B_r = R_2/(R_1 + R_2)$  and  $u = (\omega/\omega_o - \omega_o/\omega)$ . Substituting for  $B_o$  and  $B_n$  in Eq. 1 gives:

$$|K_n| = \frac{1}{m^3 A} (2 + m^2) \left( m^2 + \frac{(m^2 + 2)^2}{u^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

which leads to the results shown in Table 3, where the factors m = 2.5 and m = 3, since they approximately correspond to the values for m where  $|K_2|$  (m = 2.5) and  $|K_3|$  (m = 3) are at their minimum.

Table 3

m	K <sub>2</sub>	<i>K</i> <sub>3</sub>
1	6.69/A	6.3/ <i>A</i>
2.5	2.55/A	2.14/ <i>A</i>
3	3.22/A	2.08/ <i>A</i>

# Frequency stabilization

The frequency of oscillation is identically that for which the phase shift round the loop is zero. If some parameter of the amplifier should change and produce a phase shift then the oscillation frequency will change to re-establish the zero phase condition. For example, if the change in the amplifier produces a phase shift of, say, 1° and if the phase shift of the bridge network in the neighbourhood of the oscillation frequency is  $-10^{\circ}$  per 1000Hz then there will be an increase in the oscillation frequency of 100Hz. Obviously the greater the rate of change of phase with frequency of the bridge the greater will be its frequency stability.

The 100Hz change in oscillator frequency due to the parameter change in the amplifier was calculated on the basis that

$$\Delta f = \frac{\Delta \phi}{S_{t'}}$$

where  $\Delta f = 100$ Hz,  $\Delta \phi = 1^{\circ} =$ phase shift

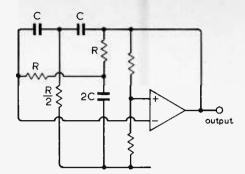


Fig. 6. Twin T oscillator.

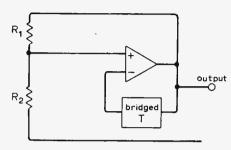


Fig. 7. Bridged T oscillator.

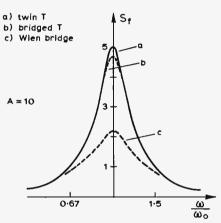


Fig. 8. Variation of frequency stability factor with frequency.

in amplifier, and  $S_f'=\mathrm{d}\phi/\mathrm{d}f=0.01^\circ/\mathrm{Hz}$ , which is the rate of change of phase with frequency of the frequency-determining network. From a practical point of view it is much more important to know the fractional change in frequency i.e.  $\Delta f/f_o$ . Consequently, in making a comparison of the frequency stability of oscillation it is usual to use a stability factor  $S_f=f_oS_f'$  of the frequency selective network as the basis of the comparison. A phase shift of  $\Delta\phi$  in the amplifier then produces a fractional change of  $\Delta f/\Delta f_o=\Delta\phi/S_f$ .

As shown in Appendix 2,  $S_f$  for each of the three networks so far considered has a maximum value of 0.5A for the twin T, 0.47A for the bridged T and 0.22A for the Wien bridge. When  $S_f$  is plotted as a function of  $f/f_o$ , for A = constant = 10, the curves take on the form shown in Fig. 8. Increasing A produces curves with a similar shape but with a higher peak value and a faster rate of fall off. It can be seen from these curves that, again, the twin T, inherently, gives the best oscillator.

Meacham bridge. The Meacham bridge oscillator shown in Fig. 9 combines the

properties of a high-Q LC circuit and an almost balanced bridge network to effect an extremely precise frequency standard, with the highest stability of any cricuit yet devised. The positive feedback is frequency dependent attaining a maximum at the series resonant frequency of the crystal. Assuming there is no phase shift in the amplifier, oscillation takes place at this frequency.

Using the equivalent series model of the crystal the feedback fraction  $B_{mb}$  is given by:

$$B_{mb} = \frac{R_3}{(R_3 + r + j\omega L + 1/j\omega C)} - B_r$$

where  $B_r = R_2/(R_1 + R_2)$ . Substituting  $N = r/R_3 = 1/(LC)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and Q = L/r this becomes

$$B_{mb} = \frac{1}{(N+1)+jNQu} - B_r.$$

This equation is of the same form as Eq. (2) for the Wien bridge, the factors N+1 and QN being analogous to x and 1/ab respectively. By analogy it follows that the factor  $K_n$  for the Meacham bridge may be obtained using the earlier results and replacing x and ab by their analogies. Hence

$$K_n = \frac{(N+1)}{AQN} \left\{ \frac{(N+1)^2}{u^2} + Q^2 N^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

For all harmonics  $u = (\omega/\omega_o - \omega_o/\omega) > 1$  so that  $(N+1)/u^2 > (N+1)$ . Furthermore, since Q is very large (typically 20,000) and providing N is not too much smaller than unity this approximates to

$$K_n = \frac{(N+1)}{NA}$$

which is completely independent of the resistive side of the bridge.

In a similar manner by substituting for x = (N+1) and QN = 1/ab the expression for the frequency stability factor  $S_f$  at the frequency of oscillation is (Appendix 2)

$$S_f = -\frac{(2QNA)}{(N+1)^2}$$

This function is geometrically symmetrical about N=1 and has a maximum value of -QA/2 at this point.

# Amplitude stabilization

The amplitude stability of an oscillator is the sensitivity of the oscillation amplitude  $V_o$  to variations in temperature, supply voltage etc. In particular, the amplitude stability factor is defined as

$$S\mu = \frac{\Delta V_o/V_o}{\Delta \mu/\mu}$$

where  $\mu$  is the parameter within the oscillator which is subject to variation. Obviously, the lower the value of  $S\mu$  the more stable will be the output amplitude and frequently amplitude control elements are used to provide the necessary stabilization.

To demonstrate the function of these control elements imagine that the feedback resistor  $R_2$  of the Wien bridge network increases with the voltage across it. If the output amplitude should increase then  $R_2$  and hence the feedback fraction  $R_2/(R_1+R_2)$  will increase. This reduces the voltage fed back and causes a decrease in output.

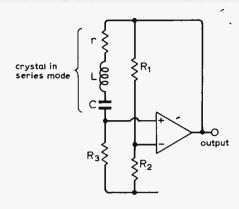


Fig. 9. Meacham bridge oscillator, showing the crystal as a tuned circuit:

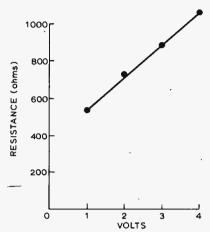


Fig. 10. Characteristics of a 6V, 0.36W tungsten-filament bulb.

One form the stabilization element may take is a tungsten filament lamp. Typically these lamps have a characteristic of the form shown in Fig. 10 in which case over a wide voltage range the resistance  $R_2$  is given by:

$$R_2 = R_o + KV_r$$
;  $V_r = \text{volts across lamp.}$   
Under oscillatory conditions

$$B_r = \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} = \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{A}\right)$$
 and  $B_r V_o = V_r$ 

therefore

$$dB_r = \frac{KR_1}{(R_0 + KV_r + R_1)^2} dV_r = \frac{dA}{A^2}$$

But

$$\frac{R_1}{R_o + KV_r + R_1} = 1 - B_r = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{A}$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} \text{ for large } A.$$

Hence

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}A}{A} \simeq \frac{2KA}{3(R_o + R_1 + KV_r)^2} \,\mathrm{d}V_r$$

and

$$S_A = \frac{\mathrm{d}A/A}{\mathrm{d}V_o/V_o} = \frac{2K}{3A(R_1 + R_o + KV_r)} \frac{\mathrm{d}V_o}{\mathrm{d}V_r} \, V_o.$$

Since  $V_r = 1/3V_c$  then  $dV_r = 1/3dV_a$  and

$$S_A = \frac{2KV_o}{9A(R_1 + R + K/3V_o)}.$$

In the limit as K tends to infinity then  $S_A$  tends to a maximum of 2/3A.

The amplitude control element may take many different forms. In the Meacham bridge circuit the resistor  $R_2$  needs to increase as  $V_0$  increases. Practically this may be accomplished using an f.e.t. <sup>4,5</sup>. The output voltage is rectified and used to control the drain-source resistance of the f.e.t. Quantitively the stabilization factor may be assessed in a manner similar to that used for the Wien bridge.

# Appendix 1

For the Wien bridge the voltage,  $v_f$ , fed back is given by:

$$v_{f} = \frac{\frac{aR}{(aR+b/j\omega C)} \cdot \frac{b}{j\omega C}}{\frac{1}{j\omega bC} + \frac{R}{a} + \frac{aR}{(aR+b/j\omega C)} \frac{b}{j\omega C}} - B_{r}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{abR}{(a/b)R + (b/a)R + abR + 1/j\omega C + j\omega CR^{2}}}{\frac{-B_{r}}{(1+1/a^{2}+1/b^{2} + \frac{j\omega CR - j/\omega CR}{ab})} - B_{r}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{x + ju/ab} - B_{r}. \tag{A1}$$

where  $x = 1 + 1/a^2 + 1/b^2$ ,  $u = (\omega/\omega_o - \omega_o/\omega)$  and  $\omega_o = 1/CR$ .

### Appendix 2

From Appendix 1 it follows that at the frequency of oscillation

$$B_{wb} = \frac{1}{x} - B_r.$$

Also, at this frequency the loop gain— $AB_{wb} = 1$  so that  $B_{wb} = 1/A$ . It follows that  $B_r = 1/x - 1/A$ . Substituting for this factor in Eq. A1 gives

$$B_{wb} = \frac{\frac{x}{A} + \frac{ju}{ab} (1/A - 1/x)}{x + ju/ab}$$
 (A2)

The loop gain  $AB_{wb} = |AB_{wb}| \phi$  where  $\phi$  = phase shift. Assuming there is no phase shift in the amplifier,  $\phi = \phi_{wb}$  (phase shift of  $B_{wb}$ ). Hence from Eq. A2

$$\phi_{wb} = \tan^{-1} \frac{Au}{xab} (1/A - 1/x) - \tan^{-1} (u/xab)$$

$$S_{f} = f_{o} \frac{d\phi}{d\omega} = \left[ \frac{A}{xab} \left\{ \frac{1}{A} - \frac{1}{x} \right\} \right]$$

$$\times \left\{ \frac{1}{1 + \left\{ Au/xab(1/A - 1/x) \right\}^{2}} \right\}$$

$$- \left( \frac{1}{xab} \right) \left( \frac{1}{1 + u^{2}/x^{2}a^{2}b^{2}} \right) \right]$$

$$\times \left[ 1 + \omega_{o}^{2}/\omega^{2} \right]. \tag{A3}$$

When plotted as a function of  $\omega/\omega_o$ ,  $S_f$  takes a maximum value when this ratio is unity. Under this condition Eq. A3 simplifies to

$$S_f = \frac{2}{xab} (-A/x)$$
$$= -0.22A \text{ when } a = b = 1.$$

Similarly for the twin T

$$B_r = 1/A$$

$$B_{tt} = \frac{(1/A - 1) - 4j/Au}{(1 - 4j/u)}$$

$$\phi_{tt} = \tan^{-1}(4/u(A - 1)) + \tan^{-1}(4/u)$$

$$S_f = \left\{1 + \omega_o^2/\omega^2\right\} \left\{\frac{-4}{u^2(A - 1) + 16/(A - 1)}\right\}$$

$$-\frac{4}{u^2 + 16}.$$
At  $\omega = \omega_o$ ,  $u = 0$  and  $S_f = -A/2$ .
Finally, for the bridged T

$$B_r = 1/A + 2/(m^2 + 2)$$

$$\mathcal{B}_{bi} = \frac{\{m/A - m^3/(m^2 + 2)\} - j(m^2 + 2)/Au}{m - j(m^2 + 2)/u}$$

$$\phi_{bt} = \tan^{-1}(m^2 + 2)/Au\alpha + \tan^{-1}(m^2 + 2)/mu;$$

$$\alpha = m/A - m^3/(m^2 + 2)$$

$$S_f = \left\{1 + \omega_o^2/\omega^2\right\} \left\{\frac{(m^2 + 2)}{A\alpha}\right\}$$

$$\times \left\{ \frac{1}{u^2 + (m^2 + 2)^2 / A^2 \alpha^2} \right\}$$

$$-\frac{(m^2+2)/m}{u^2+\{(m^2+2)/m\}^2}.$$

Substituting m = 2.5 and  $\omega = \omega_o$  (i.e. u = 0) gives  $S_f = -0.47A$ .

### References

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3. Valley, G. E. and H. Wallman, "Vacuum

Tube Amplifiers", McGraw-Hill, New York (1948), Chapter 10.

4. Strauss, L., "Wave Generation and Shaping", Second Ed., McGraw-Hill (1970), Chapter 16. 5. Clarke, K. K. and D. T. Hess, "Communication Circuits", Addison-Wesley, 1971, Chapter 6.

# **Books Received**

Radio Wave Propagation, by Armel Picquerand, is suitable for radio engineers who want a better understanding of the phenomena. The initial chapters of the book summarize the present state of our knowledge of wave propagation as far as it concerns the telecommunications engineer. Following chapters give graphs which can be used for the calculation of the principal parameters of communication circuits. An appendix gives a brief review of those concepts of mathematical physics required for the comprehension of the theoretical discussions in this book. Price £10. Pp. 343. 4 Little Essex Street, London Macmillan, WC2 RLF.

Electrotechnology Basic Theory and Circuit Calculations for Electrical Engineers, by M. G. Say, starts with a chapter on units and physical quantities. A second chapter deals with the physical nature of electric charge and conduction and then explains the effects in practical terms. A third chapter deals with network analysis, starting with basic circuit parameters and outlining some of the short-cut techniques devised to solve particular groups of problems. The book concludes with a chapter on special techniques of circuit analysis. Price £1.70. Pp. 176. Newnes-Butterworths Ltd, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8PH.

Electronic Circuit Analysis, by Wade, Edwards and Clark, has been designed for technical college students. An engineering approximation approach is used to provide an understanding of practical electronic circuits. The basic circuit theories required are Ohm's law, Kirchhoff's laws, Thévenin's and Norton's theorems. Numerous diagrams and worked examples are included to illustrate the analytical techniques employed. Price £12 (£8.25 paper back). Pp. 640. John Wiley and Sons Ltd, Baffins Lane, Chichester, Sussex.

Slow Scan Television Handbook is suitable for the amateur interested in s.s.t.v. After a brief historical introduction the book explains the basic principles involved together with some popular circuits used in s.s.t.v. A chapter on monitors gives several full circuit diagrams and parts lists. Subsequent chapters deal with flying spot scanners, live vidicon cameras, colour equipment and applications of audio filters. The book concludes with chapters on test gear and commercial equipment. Price £2 plus 20p postage and packing. Pp. 248. British Amateur Television Club, c/o "White Orchard", 64 Showell Lane, Penn, Wolverhampton, Staffs WV4 4TT.

Questions and Answers Integrated Circuits, by R. G. Hibberd, is a pocket book aimed at helping students or technicians understand i.cs. The sections in the book are: basic aspects of i.cs., i.c. technology, digital, linear and m.o.s. i.cs., m.s.i. and l.s.i. and applications. Price 75p. Pp. 96. Butterworth & Co Ltd, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8PH.

The Bruneval Raid, by George Millar, is not a technical book, but a well-researched description of the events leading up to the decision to capture an intact German radar ground station in 1941. British and German scientists had reached a comparable state of knowledge in the development of radar, but the German ground systems were beginning to constitute a probler for Bomber Command. It became known that station existed near Le Havre at Brunevs and Combined Operations pulled off the rai which was useful not only in the acquisition of the relevant information, but in supplying a very necessary boost to morale at a particularly dismal period of the war. Price £2.50. Pp. 208. Bodley Head Ltd, 9 Bow Street, London WC2.

Now available from RCA is the 74 series of data books which comprise COS/MOS Digital Integrated Circuits—SSD-203B, Thyristors, Rectifiers and Diacs—SSD-206B, Power Transistors and Power Hybrid Circuits-SSD-204B. RF Power Devices-SSD-205B, Linear Integrated Circuits and MOS Devices application notes-SSD-202B, and Linear Integrated Circuits and MOS Devices Selection Guide—SSD-207B. All the volumes are priced at £1.50 or £6 for the set of six. RCA Ltd, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx TW16 7HW.

Logical Design of Switching Circuits, by Douglas Lewin, is a tutorially-written book intended as a text for courses on logical design with an engineering approach rather than the more usual mathematical treatment being adopted. The book initially explains the principles of switching and the design of combinational switching circuits and sequential circuits. Subsequent chapters deal with circuit implementation, automatic design, and logic design with complex integrated circuits. A final chapter gives an introduction to computers and computer programming. Throughout the book problems with worked solutions are provided to aid private study. All the logic symbols in the book follow the American MILSPEC system. Price £4.75. Pp. 404. Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd, 36 Park Street, London W1Y 4DE.

Basic Audio Systems, by Norman H. Crowhurst, Mobile Radio Handbook, by Leo G. Sands, and Rapid Radio Repair, by G. Warren Heath, priced at £1.60 (£1.50 Mobile Radio Handbook) are the latest additions to the Foulsham-Tab series. Foulsham-Tab & Co Ltd, Yeovil Road, Slough, Bucks.

Pioneer of Science and Discovery: Michael Faraday and Electricity, by Brian Bowers, is the story of Faraday from early life to retirement. Although it is not a technical book, many of Faraday's experiments are explained together with photographs and diagrams. Price £2.25. Pp. 96. Priory Press Ltd, 101 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8TX.

Electrical Indicating Instruments, by G. F. Tagg, is suitable for engineers concerned with the design and manufacture of instruments. This book describes general instruments as well as providing information on components and the overall performance. After a chapter on general principles, the suspension and control systems are discussed followed by a chapter on damping and response times. Subsequent chapters deal with permanent magnets and the book concludes with chapters on dynamometer, thermal and electrostatic instruments. Price £6. Pp. 227. Butterworth & Co Ltd, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN 15 8PH.

# Research Notes

# New encapsulation for thick film circuits

Work on the visual prosthesis for blind people at the Institute of Psychiatry, London (see WW, May 1971, pp. 214–217) has brought to light a promising method of encapsulating integrated and hybrid circuits. The prosthesis will make use of four-layer thick film hybrid circuits implanted beneath the scalp and wired through a hole in the skull to the visual cortex of the brain. Coupling to photo-electric units (a crude television camera) outside the body will be inductive, eliminating lead-outs through the skin which might be entry points for infection.

The problem is to make the fairly complex circuits fit into the small available space. Although integrated circuits are themselves small the usual kinds of encapsulation increase the volume perhaps several hundred times. Mr P. E. K. Donaldson, the electronic engineer on the project, has established that a thin covering of a silicone compound may provide adequate protection. He has been testing circuits encapsulated in this way immersed in a warm saline solution to simulate conditions in the body, with good results. Silicone seems at first sight to be an unsuitable encapsulant because it allows water vapour to pass. However, water vapour as such is not harmful and the silicone does not allow enough to pass to form liquid water on the circuitry.

# Radio spectrometry on the fringe of the universe

According to one familiar system of cosmology the velocity away from the Earth of distant stars and galaxies is proportional to their distance from us. The velocity can be detected by optical spectrometry because it causes light to be Doppler-shifted to a lower frequency. This is the "redshift" and it causes the characteristic emissions of light from hot elements in the stars to be shifted to longer wavelengths.

Two compact radio galaxies of the "quasar" type (quasi-stellar objects) with enormous redshifts were recently identified by optical telescopes. They are presumably among the most distant objects in the visible universe. The radio astronomers

have now taken a more careful look at them. Ten observatories in different parts of the world (including Cambridge) have collaborated to make measurements of the strength of the radio emissions on different frequencies and so compile a radio spectrum of the emission.

Both quasars have a low-frequency cut-off at a few hundred MHz but are still transmitting at full strength at the highest frequency measured (85GHz). Both show a peak at about 1GHz. One has a dip at 20GHz. There is some evidence (not conclusive) that one is fluctuating in strength over periods of a few weeks. If confirmed this will give an indication of the size of the object since there is good reason to believe that fluctuations do not occur at rates shorter than the time it takes light to traverse the source. On this basis the evidence suggests a diameter of about one light month for the fluctuating quasar. Compare this with the diameter of around 100,000 light years for a galaxy like our own and it is clear that quasars emit astonishingly large amounts of power for their size. The two quasars in question are around 8000 million light years away and therefore represent the universe at a primitive stage. Perhaps contemporary galaxies emit so much less energy because most of the available fuel has been used up in the meantime.

Nature, June 21, 1974, p. 743

# Transistor absolute thermometers

Most semiconductor thermometers operate by sensing either a change in bulk resistance (as in a thermistor) or a change in the forward voltage drop of a p-n junction with temperature. A variation on the theme has been explored at Manchester University. It uses the change of short-circuit collectorbase leakage current with temperature. This leakage depends on the Boltzmann factor q/kT and is therefore a measure of temperature. If the transistor thermometer is calibrated at one known temperature it becomes an absolute thermometer for other temperatures. Comparisons with other forms of thermometer such as mercury-in-glass and copper-Constantan thermocouples show agreement within 0.5°K over the range 100-400°K.

Physics Bulletin, June 1974, p. 225

# Ultrasonic tumour detection

Careful engineering at the Royal Marsden Hospital has produced an ultrasonic detection system capable of finding very small tumours in the liver and other organs. The system works by preserving information which is usually discarded. This is the scatter by very small irregularities such as tiny blood vessels, whose presence in unusual places can indicate abnormal tissue. To avoid losing these small signals in the presence of much larger ones it is necessary to amplify the received signals in low noise amplifiers which compress the

strong signals while preserving the weak ones. Objects down to about 2mm diameter are then detectable at the frequency and pulse length used.

# Primary cell

A new primary cell with good power-toweight ratio was discovered by accident during laser research in the U.S.A. The cell is based on lithium and carbon with liquid compounds of chlorine as electrolyte—all relatively cheap materials. It has a power-to-weight ratio eight times that of a dry Leclanché cell and better shelf life.

The laser research involved dissolving rare-earth compounds in liquid chlorine compounds such as phosphorus oxychloride and seeing if the passage of a current caused emission of light. It did, but the research workers also noted that the rare-earth metal was being plated out on the anode while the cathode released chlorine gas. They correctly interpreted this as a sign that they had the makings of a primary cell—without the rare earth compounds, of course.

Science, May 3, 1974, p. 554

# Laser superhets at work

Radio operators are familiar with the effect of switching on the b.f.o. of a receiver when there is no signal present. "Mush" appears in the audio output. This arises in part because the b.f.o. beats with i.f. noise, down-converting it to audio frequencies.

A similar effect is put to good use in a laser device for monitoring air pollution designed at the Jet Propulsion Lab. at Cal. Tech., U.S.A. The "laser heterodyne radiometer" detects the infra-red radiation which is emitted by pollutants on characteristic wavelengths.

A fast germanium photoconductor is illuminated simultaneously by the infra-red emission of the gas and by a tunable laser (the "b.f.o.") on approximately the same wavelength. The beat-noise output of the photocell is amplified in a wide band (600MHz) i.f. amplifier and detected. The researchers calculate from their laboratory tests that the system should detect ozone in a layer of air about 1km thick at concentrations down to 2 parts in 109.

Lasers are also potentially useful in astronomy, but this time as up-converters where the "i.f." is higher than the signal frequency. The point is that the photomultipliers which are used to measure the light from stars are not sensitive at long wavelengths. If long-wavelength "light" is up-converted the sensitivity improves. In experiments at Arizona University a crystal of lithium iodate was used as the frequency changer. The crystal was pumped with a high peak output ruby laser which generated TEM-00 mode oscillations. At the high power the crystal is optically nonlinear and frequency changing takes place when light from the telescope is introduced along with the laser light.

Science, May 3, 1974, p. 570 (monitor) Nature, June 14, 1974, p. 638 (conv.)

# **Current-differencing amplifiers**

# 1—signal processing circuits

by J. Carruthers, J. H. Evans, J. Kinsler and P. Williams

Three sets of Circards cover current-differencing amplifiers of the LM3900 kind. This article introduces the first, dealing with signal processing, and two subsequent ones will discuss generation and measurement and detection applications.

In the process of improving on previous designs a stage is reached where further advances are won only with great difficulty. At that point the problem has to be changed if it is to be solved. Conventional operational amplifiers have reached a very high level of performance but the demands from industry were for still lower cost and for more functions in a given space. This could be met by packing four amplifiers into a standard 14-pin dual in-line package, using two pins for the power supplies and two inputs/one output for each amplifier. Unfortunately the chip size then increases to a level where yields fall off and the costsaving in the packaging is partially neutralized.

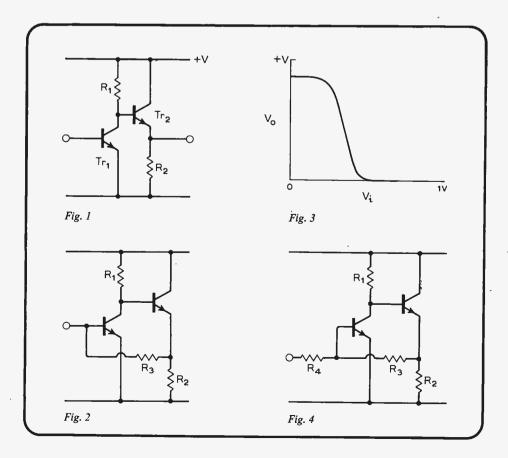
When this conclusion was set alongside the continuing demand for amplifiers capable of operating from a single supply such as car batteries, a discontinuity appeared in the design process—an integrated-circuit amplifier was designed that depended on the difference between two input currents for its performance rather than the voltage differencing action of the conventional operational amplifier with its input long-tailed pair. The resulting design is brilliant, simple in concept but very subtly implemented.

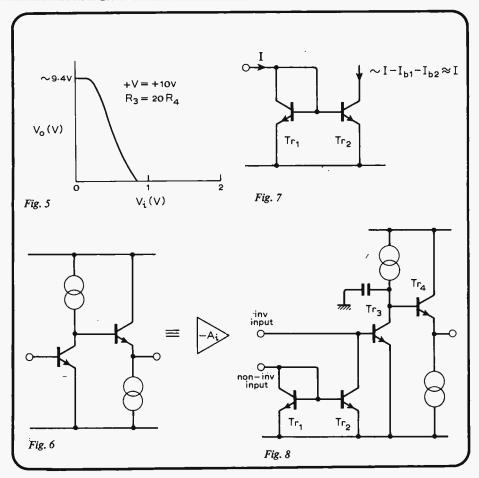
To take advantage of its novel characteristic the user must re-think his philosophy. Most functions that can be carried out with operational amplifiers can be carried out with current-differencing amplifiers; the configurations may look similar; the component values may be comparable. This surface conformity can obscure the underlying differences, and the user should be chary of attempting a direct transposition of familiar circuits. The problems are similar to those faced by valve designers when transistors first appeared transistors could be forced to operate in the known valve circuits but alternative arrangements were soon found to exploit the unique properties of these cold and fragile new devices that lacked the warming glow of the familiar friends.

It is to be assumed that what we are now seeing is but the first generation of current-

differencing amplifiers, devices that seek to capture the largest possible market by accepting compromises in many areas. Before this article is published there may be high frequency/low noise/high power current-differencing amplifiers on sale, but the basic design techniques should be applicable to these just as users of the 709 can transfer their skills to the super- $\beta$ , infinite bandwidth, zero drift op-amps that every self-respecting manufacturer now seems able to offer. In this article two subcircuits are discussed which when combined give the prototypical form of the current-differencing amplifier now available as a quad amplifier in 14-pin dual in-line

One of these sub-circuits is a very old friend. Fig. 1 shows a common-emitter amplifier driving a common-collector or emitter follower stage. The current in the input stage is low enough, while a high current gain minimizes the output impedance. If overall feedback is applied as in Fig. 2, the transimpedance of the circuit is reasonably well-defined by R, i.e., for an input current i, the output voltage swing is close to  $-iR_3$ . This is assuming high enough gains that the input behaves as a virtual earth to signals. The quiescent  $V_{be}$  of  $\approx 0.6 \text{V}$  prevents accurate low-level d.c. amplification, and this is a limitation shared by the monolithic i.c. based on this concept.





The voltage transfer function is nonlinear with a steep slope corresponding to a fairly high voltage gain, from a few tens to a few hundreds depending on supply voltage, resistance values, etc. An input resistor can be added to produce an elementary see-saw amplifier and the resulting voltage transfer function as shown in Fig. 5 is linearized by the negative feedback. Use of a voltage source shortcircuits the negative feedback in the circuit of Fig. 2 which is intended as a current in/voltage out or transimpedance stage.

The circuit is the d.c. feedback pair and is already one of the most versatile problemsolvers for the hard-pressed designer. In monolithic i.c. form the ready availability of constant-current sources allows them to replace  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , as in Fig. 6. Two benefits accrue. First, the increased dynamic resistance boosts the gain, and secondly the transistor currents can be tightly controlled against wide variations in supply voltage and temperature. This latter effect ensures that the voltage gain is stabilized as well as being increased.

A second sub-circuit which is also well known is now added. Fig. 7 shows the current-mirror which plays the dual role in these amplifiers, to that played by the long-tailed pair in operational amplifiers. For well-matched transistors operated at equal  $V_{be}$ , the collector currents are comparable. The differences arise partly from inevitable imbalance in the transistors, partly because as shown the base currents contribute an error and partly because the collector-emitter voltages may differ. When

a current-mirror is added to the d.c. feedback pair from Fig. 6 then a complete, albeit limited performance, currentdifferencing amplifier results (Fig. 8).

With negative feedback added the third source of error listed above is removed, because the collector potential of  $Tr_2$  is constrained to equal that of Tr<sub>3</sub> base, i.e.,  $Tr_1$  and  $Tr_2$  have comparable  $V_{ce}$  values as well as identical  $V_{be}$  values. With resistive feedback the output voltage is controlled by the difference between the two input currents. That at the inverting input would normally flow on through the feedback path (provided Tr<sub>3</sub> base current is small) while that at the non-inverting input is mirrored in the current drawn by Tr, collector, reducing the net input. Both currents are normally positive. Transistors  $Tr_1$ ,  $Tr_2$  are inoperative for negative currents while that in the inverting input may have either polarity. As a main advantage of the amplifier is that it can perform complex functions while requiring only a single-polarity supply, negative currents are not normally present except for some a.c./pulse circuits. Additional networks are provided in the practical amplifiers to clamp the inputs on negative voltage swings.

A more detailed description of the practical circuit will be given in a following article. This set of Circards (no. 16) is concerned with signal amplifying and processing, which will be followed by a series on the generation of signals and waveforms. In each of these areas novel solutions can be found, and we can only hope as users to match the ingenuity of the designers of these new amplifiers.

# Titles of cards in set 16 of Circards are

- 1 Current differencing amplifiers
- 2 Basic amplifiers 1
- 3 Basic amplifiers 2
- 4 Logic gates
- 5 High voltage amplifiers
- 6 Power amplifiers
- 7 Bandpass amplifiers
- 8 Notch filters
- 9 Low-pass/high-pass filters
- 10 Gain-controlled amplifiers

# What are Circards?

Circards are a new method of collating and presenting data about circuits in a compact and easily retrievable way. The sets of  $203 \times 127$  mm ( $8 \times 5$ -in) double-sided cards are designed for easy filing in standard boxes and for easy access at the desk or at the bench, where transparent plastics wallets keep the cards in good condition.

Each card normally describes operation of a selected circuit, gives measured performance data and graphs, component values and ranges, circuit limitations and modifications to alter performance. Suggestions for further reading are included together with cross references to related circuits on other cards. The Circard concept was outlined more fully in the October 1972 issue of Wireless World.

# How to get Circards

Order a subscription by sending £13.50 for a series of ten sets to

Circards

IPC Electrical-Electronic Press Ltd General Sales Department, Room 11 Dorset House

Stamford Street London SE1 9LU

Specify which set your order should start with, if not the current one. One set costs £1.50, postage included (all countries). Make cheques payable to IPC Business Press Ltd.

Topics covered so far in Circards are

- 1 active filters
- 2 switching circuits (comparator and Schmitt circuits)
- 3 waveform generators
- 4 a.c. measurement
- 5 audio circuits (equalizers, tone controls, filters)
- 6 constant-current circuits
- 7 power amplifiers (classes A, B, C & D)
- 8 astable multivibrator circuits
- 9 optoelectronics: devices and uses
- 10 micropower circuits
- 11 basic logic gates
- 12 wideband amplifiers
- 13 alarm circuits
- 14 digital circuits
- 15 pulse modulators

Three sets deal with the uses of current differencing amplifiers—the first, set 16, being available shortly. Further sets will cover two-transistor circuits, multipliers and dividers, code converters, d.c. amplifiers and choppers, amplitude modulation and detection, transistor arrays, a.f. oscillators and voltage-to-frequency converters.

# New Products

# Power source

A power source capable of delivering 250VA single-phase output over the frequency range 45Hz to 20kHz is available from Wessex. Known as the model 251T, two or three can be combined with the appropriate oscillator to provide a 500 or 750VA three-phase supply. The unit employs overload protection by means of sensing both the magnitude and phase of the load current. Instantaneous reset occurs when the overload condition is corrected. Wessex Electronics Ltd, Stover Trading Estate, Yate, Bristol BS17 5QP. WW311 for further details

# Portable oscilloscope

Telequipment have introduced the D32, a portable, dual trace, 10MHz oscilloscope with a provisional price of £250 inc. batteries. It will operate continuously for four hours on its internal batteries which are trickle-charged, from a built-in charging unit, when the instrument is powered from the mains supply. The

D32 measures  $105 \times 235 \times 288$ mm and facilitates a  $70 \times 56$ cm c.r.t. which uses a 3kV accelerating potential. A maximum sensitivity of 10mV/division is offered by both vertical amplifiers with the full bandwidth response. Television triggering facilities are incorporated and the dual-trace display is automatically switched from chopped sweep to alternate mode at sweep speeds above 0.1ms/division. Tektronix UK Ltd, Beaverton House, PO Box 69, Harpenden, Herts.

WW313 for further details

# Fan-top heat sinks

Clip on, fan-top heat dissipators for TO-5 transistor cases are claimed to more than double the allowable dissipation in free air. The TXBF-032-025B type dissipators employ beryllium copper spring fingers finished in black cadmium, and measure ¼in high by ¾in diameter. GDS Sales Ltd, Michaelmas House, Salt Hill, Bath Road, Slough, Bucks.

WW314 for further details

# RF speech clipper

A self-contained speech clipper which plugs in series with a microphone will effectively give ten times the peak power from a transmitter. The speech input signal is translated to a 60kHz s.s. suppressedcarrier signal and then amplified and "clipped". The signal is then filtered and demodulated to give an audio output with a greatly increased average-to-peak voltage ratio and greatly reduced harmonic distortion. The circuit, which uses c.m.o.s. and operational amplifiers, has an input sensitivity at 1kHz (at clipping threshold) of 8mV pk-to-pk and an input impedance of 60kΩ. The s/n ratio at clipping threshold is 45dB and the degree of r.f. clipping obtainable before the input stage begins to limit is 26dB. The unit, which uses a PP9 battery, costs £45 + v.a.t. Datong Electronics Ltd, 11 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT.

WW300 for further details

# Insulated heat pipes

An electrically-insulated, thermally-conductive range of heat pipes is now available from Jermyn. The pipes, which are constructed from copper or stainless steel, have a ceramic insert along part of the tube and a wick material composed of continuous amorphous silica fibres which will withstand temperatures of up to 1,000°C. Multi-input assemblies can be manufactured with electrical isolation but thermally coupled to provide central cooling and thermal equalization. Jermyn Manufacturing, Sevenoaks, Kent.

WW302 for further details

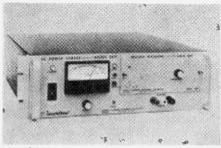
# Flameproof resistors

A range of self-extinguishing resistors named Flameproof act as fuses when overloaded instead of igniting as is the case with standard types. The resistors, which exist in ranges from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 10W, are available in values from  $10\Omega$  to  $1.5M\Omega$  (depending on rating) and with tolerances of 2 or 5%. Electrosil Ltd, Corning Electronics Europe, PO Box 37, Pallion, Sunderland, Durham SR4 6SU.

WW301 for further details

# Display screens

A series of 25 × 18cm display screens housed in modular cases have input terminals connected directly to the scan coils and have a transistorized e.h.t.



WW311



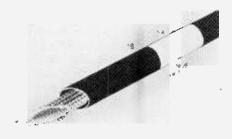
WW313



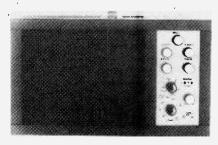
WW314



WW300



WW302



WW309

system fitted. A special blanked-off section is incorporated in the design for installing additional circuitry as required. The blanked-off sections are a similar size in each module but these sections can be sized to customer requirements. The photograph shows a wobbulator module, a complete instrument available from Chiltmead Ltd, 7/9 Arthur Road, Reading, Berks.

WW309 for further details

# Record brush

A record brush from Decca utilises over a million synthetic, electrically conductive fibres each with a diameter of nine microns. These fibres are small enough to penetrate the grooves of a record and remove any dust that may be present. The brush also has an aluminium top that allows static present on the disc to be discharged through the bristles into the body of the user. The record brush comes complete with its own cleaner/stand and costs £4.95 inc. v.a.t. Decca Special Products, Ingate Place, Queenstown Road, London SW8 3NT.

WW315 for further details

# Print-out calculator

The Centex 330 calculator features a silent print-out based on a thermal printing system developed by Contex Research. This system is completely solid state and will print at a speed of 45 digits per second. The calculator incorporates memory storage, overflow/underflow, percent operation with discount/nett feature, floating/fixed decimal point, and buffered keyboard. The buffer function stores all the information entered and automatically prints it in the correct sequence during calculation. The calculator, which is manufactured in Denmark, weighs approximately 4lb and costs £169 plus v.a.t.

Broughton & Co Ltd, 6 Priory Road, Clifton, Bristol.

WW316 for further details

# L.e.d. dual sockets

Augat Inc. have introduced a new range of l.e.d. (or filament) display sockets suitable for mounting on p.c. boards. The sockets, which can be ganged up to ten units by means of a special extension, have gold-over-nickel-plated beryllium copper contacts which will accept round or flat leads. The range of sockets include models with 7 and 16 pins, as well as inclined sockets at 45°, 60° and 90°. Rastra Electronics Ltd, 275–281 King Street, London W6 9NF.

WW305 for further details

# **Breadboards**

A range of breadboards and bus strips with a 0.1in grid allows discrete components and i.cs to be plugged in and removed without soldering. Each terminal consists of five inter-connected tie points formed from prestressed, spring-loaded nickel/silver alloy giving secure mechanical and low-resistance electrical connections. The components plug in the breadboard and are interconnected with 24 s.w.g. hook-up wires. Bus strip is used to connect to a power supply. Jermyn Manufacturing, Sevenoaks, Kent.

WW310 for further details

# U.h.f. power amplifier

The latest addition to the MPD range of class A amplifiers is the model LWA 510-20. This unit will deliver 20W saturated power over the frequency range 500 to 1000MHz. The amplifier requires a d.c. supply of 24V at 5.5A to provide a

gain of 48dB with a noise figure of 10dB and harmonics of -20dB minimum at 1dB compression. Microwave and Electronics Division, REL Equipment and Components Ltd, Croft House, Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1BU.

WW312 for further details

# Gain/phase meter

The model 305-PA-3009 gain/phase meter will give a direct digital readout of phase angle from  $-180^{\circ}$  to  $+360^{\circ}$  with input signals from 2Hz to 500kHz at levels from 1mV to 150V. An accuracy of  $\pm 0.1^{\circ}$  in the frequency range 50Hz to 50kHz and  $\pm 0.25^{\circ}$  from 2Hz to 500kHzis quoted for the meter. The instrument, which will also measure signal gain, has a switch to select reference voltage, signal voltage, signal/reference voltage ratio or signal/reference phase angle. These four quantities are also available simultaneously as proportional analogue voltages. A warning lamp is incorporated, indicating where the reference or signal levels exceed or fall below the permitted ratings of the input channel. Euro Electronic Instruments Ltd, Shirley House, 27 Camden Road, London NW1.

WW317 for further details

# **Multiway connectors**

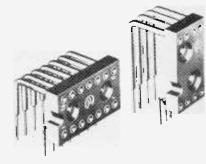
The 30600 series of plug and socket connectors is designed to provide multiway patchboard programming on automatic test and computer equipment. The units feature a screw-operated insert/extract mechanism together with polarising pins. A variety of configurations up to 300 ways are available with each 1mm diameter, gold-on-silver plated pin having a rating of 7A at 250V r.m.s. The plug is fitted with a removable metal cover for access and the socket has drilled flanges for mounting on







WW316



WW305

equipment. Channel Electric Equipment Ltd, 18 Cross Street, Reading, Berks RG1 1BR.

WW319 for further details

# Hand-held multimeter

This multimeter is based on the Chinaglia  $80\mu A$  moving coil unit. Range selection is by means of test lead sockets, and indication is on six coloured scales. The full-scale ranges are 100mV to 1.0kV d.c., and 5.0V to 1.5kV a.c.,  $100\mu A$  to 1.0A d.c., and 5.0mA to 0.5A a.c.,  $10k\Omega$  to  $1.0M\Omega$ , and decibels from -10 to +65dB. The instrument's sensitivity is  $10k\Omega/V$  d.c. and  $2k\Omega/V$  a.c. with an accuracy of  $\pm 2.5\%$  d.c. and ohms,  $\pm 3.5\%$  a.c. The meter, which is powered by  $2\times1.5V$  batteries, measures  $90\times90\times28mm$  and weighs 165 grams. Chinaglia, 19 Mulberry Walk, London SW3.

WW304 for further details

# Differential a.c. amplifier

The type 9454 differential amplifier exhibits a common mode rejection of 130dB at 1kHz and intermodulation products of 0.003% typical. The bandwidth of the 9454 is 0.1Hz to 2MHz at the -3dB point. The gain may be set to within 1% over the range 100 to 19dB. The controls for the instrument include bandwidth selection, high and low pass filters switchable in decade steps, line reject and external filter facilities, which may be switched in or out. L.e.ds are provided to indicate prefilter overload, and gain uncalibrated. The physical dimensions of the unit are  $18 \times 87 \times 285$  mm. Brookdeal Electronics Ltd, Market Street. Bracknell RG12 1JU, Berks.

WW303 for further details

# Miniature axial fan

The 126LF is a 50/60Hz axial fan with a rotational speed of 2700r.p.m. at 50Hz and a corresponding maximum delivery of 13 litres/second. To obtain this delivery the motor requires 11W at 240V and will rise in temperature by 35°C. The fan has a fivebladed, glass-filled, flame-retardant impeller mounted in a diecast aluminium alloy housing. The motor is a two-pole, shadedpole induction type with built-in impedance protection. A life expectancy of five years is claimed under normal generating conditions and in a temperature range from -10 to +70°C. The assembly is mounted by two square flanges containing fixing holes. Amphenol Ltd, Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3JF.

WW308 for further details

# Video delay unit

A variable video delay unit type UN3/9 can be inserted into  $75\Omega$  coaxial cable via BNC connectors to provide a delay from 3ns to 9ns, which is the equivalent of two to six feet of cable. The device is also useful in situations where temperature variations cause a delay change, in which case the unit is simply readjusted. Matthey Printed Products Ltd, William Clowes Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent.

WW325 for further details

# **Instrument cases**

Two series of small instrument cases have now been added to Imhof-Bedco's range of enclosures. Series A cases are available in three sizes and have a single extrusion on each side with the top and bottom covers being formed to meet the side extrusions. The B series, available in four sizes, have extrusions at both the top and bottom of the sides which are joined by protruding handles. Adequate ventilation is provided on all models and an adjustable tilt foot is available as an optional extra. Imhof-Bedco Ltd, Ashley Works, Ashley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2SQ.

WW307 for further details

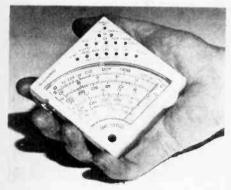
# High-power op-amp

The IS741H150 is a high-power op-amp capable of driving loads as low as one ohm. The manufactures claim that the unit will deliver nearly 200W continuously into four ohms making it suitable for servo, switching and audio applications. The device is a hybrid type with thermal compensation, and an electrically-isolated heat sink. The amplifier, which plugs into a nine-pin socket, features 0.01% harmonic distortion at 1kHz, 30dB gain at 150W, and a unity-gain bandwidth of 2MHz. Application notes are available on request. Integral Systems, 500 Waltham Street, North Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887.

WW326 for further details

# Ferrite cores

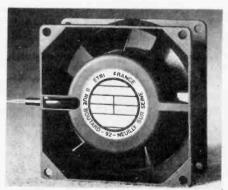
Mullard have announced a new series of four ferrite transformer cores. The cores have been developed for use in high frequency (25kHz), switched-mode power supplies from 50 to 500W. The improved ferrite material used in the construction maintains its magnetic characteristics at temperatures greater than 100°C. The cores are E-shaped and by means of bolts







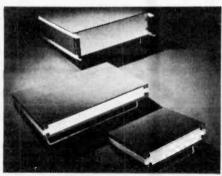
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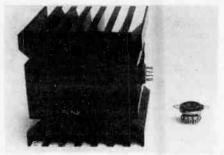
WW308



WW325



WW307



WW326

through grooves in the outer arms, two can be clamped together to make a transformer core assembly. For further information a booklet is available. Requests for copies, quoting reference TP1450, should be made on company-headed paper to: Instruand Control Electronics mentation Division, Mullard Ltd, Mullard House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HD.

WW306 for further details

# Variable oscillator

Ampex have introduced the VS-10 variable speed oscillator for professional audio recording applications. The unit is specifically designed for use with the Ampex MM-1100 and AG-440 series of recorders and is available with a four-digit electronic display. A range of ± 1 full tone in quartertone steps is offered with a coarse/fine variable speed adjustment. The device, which will drive up to three recorders, weighs 2.5lb. Ampex Ltd, Acre Road, Reading, Berks.

WW320 for further details

# Multiturn potentiometer

A carbon-track multiturn preset potentiometer suitable for fine tuning applications is available with a rotation of either 25 or 40 turns. Designated the 197, the potentiometer offers a standard resistance of 100kΩ linear and diode law, with "specials" in the range  $100\Omega$  to  $4.7M\Omega$  linear, and  $1k\Omega$  to  $2.2M\Omega \log$ . The device has a slipping clutch stop and has a life of 100 traverses in both directions within the temperature range of -30 to +60°C. AB Electronic Components Ltd, Abercynon, Glamorgan CF45 4SF.

WW318 for further details

# Miniature cut-out switch

A cut-out switch designed to prevent overload damage to motors and transformers is actuated by an overcurrent conditions only. In the "off" position a button projects which can only be reset manually. The switch mechanism incorporates a trip-free release, and three mounting options are available for central, slip-in or flange-withmap fixing. The overall size of the switch is  $40 \times 15 \times 11$ mm and the maximum, ratings are 15A at 24V a.c./d.c., 6A at 240V a.c. with a breaking capacity of 10× input current. Swiss Instruments & Components Ltd, Swissinco House, Roebuck Road, Chessington, Surrey. WW327 for further details

# **Proximity switch**

The model 8-210 solid-state proximity switch from Elliot Relays has a sensing distance, for ferrous metals, of 0.25  $\pm 0.05$ in, and 0.10  $\pm 0.01$ in for a

precision version. These distances are approximately 50% less for non-ferrous metals. The switch, which weighs 1.5 oz, is housed in moulded epoxy resin with solder/push-on terminals. The device features a response time of 3ms for rapid and repetitive operation, together with different output options. Reverse polarity and momentary (60s) short-circuit protection is incorporated in the unit, which will supply 100mA at 20-30V d.c. into a resistive or inductive load. Elliott Relays, 70 Dudden Hill Lane, London NW10 1DJ. WW328 for further details.

# Etch-resistant transfers

A transfer set comprising ten cards has been introduced by PCB Transfer Systems. Each card has a different set of shapes such as d.i.l. i.cs, edge connectors, bands, etc., with board No. 1 being a mixed collection of symbols. The method of using these transfers is to rub down the p.c.b. with abrasive paper in order to clean it. Place the tacky side of the symbol down on the p.c.b. and rub the reverse side with a ball pen, lift off the film and smooth over by rubbing with the released paper to ensure that there is no "lift off" at the edges. The p.c.b. now only requires etching. The transfers can be rubbed away with wire wool to reveal the copper shape required. A complete set of ten cards costs £2; individual cards can be purchased for 22p each. E. R. Nicholls, 46 Lowfield Road, Stockport, Cheshire.

WW329 for further details

# **Solid State Devices**

The names of suppliers of devices in this section are given in abbreviation after each entry and in full at the end of the section.

# Photodiode array

A two-dimensional self-scanned array of photodiodes called the IPL2D1 has been announced by IPL. The device consists

of a matrix of 64 × 64 sensors and is intended for measurement of width/area, particle counting, character recognition or similar applications. Scanning speeds are up to 5MHz giving over 1,000 frames per second. The device is on a silicon chip in square encapsulated in a 24-lead d.i.l. package with a glass window. Customer "specials" can be produced with arrays from 5  $\times$  20 up to 200  $\times$  200 sensors using m.o.s. techniques. The price of the standard device is £200 each for 100 up quantities.

WW 350 for further details

# Dual gate f.e.t.

Two new dual gate f.e.t.s from Motorola offer a common source power gain of 10dB and a noise figure of 6dB maximum at 500MHz. The 3N209 TO-27, and 3N210 micro-H package feature a low reverse transfer capacitance of 0.03pF maximum and built-in input protection zener diodes. The devices have a maximum drain-source voltage of 25V and maximum power dissipation of 300mW. WW 351 for further details Motorola

# Silicon power transistors

The 2N6469, 2N6246, 47 and 48 are epitaxial base p-n-p power transistors featuring high gain at high current. Another series called the 2N6470, 71 and 72 are n-p-n types and may be used as complements to the above types. All of the transistors are in the TO-3 package and have a power dissipation rating of 125W at case temperatures up to 25°C. They differ in voltage ratings and in the currents at which the parameters are controlled.

WW 352 for further details

**RCA** 

# Clamper/damper diodes

A series of silicon diodes called CD-1 and DG-1 are designed for clamping circuits in horizontal deflection systems and damper applications. The diodes have a glass passivated construction and are hermetically sealed. The peak forward surge current at 75°C is 50A with an average forward current at 50°C of 1.5A. The typical forward recovery voltage is 30V for CG-1 and 25V for DG-1.

WW 353 for further details

General Instrument

# **Suppliers**

Integrated Photomatrix Ltd, The Grove Trading Estate, Dorchester, Dorset.

Motorola Semiconductors, PO Box 8, 16 Chemin de la Voie-Creuse, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

RCA Ltd, Solid State-Europe, Sunburyon-Thames, Middlesex.

General Instrument Europe S.p.A., 20149 Milano, P.zza Amendola 9, Italy.

# Real and Imaginary

by "Vector"

# Just drop me a line . . ?

Of all the sacred cows which ruminate at our expense over this sceptr'd isle, none are more permanent features of the landscape than the Post Office and the two broadcasting authorities. There's a curious love/hatred relationship between them and us; we heave a brick at one or the other now and again but it never occurs to us to have them put down and to replace them with an improved breed. The landscape without them would be rather like The Stag at Bay without the stag.

One reason for this, I suppose, is that they were there before we were born; institutions which always have been and always will be and which, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, alter not. Which is by no means the case, of course. The Post Office's monopoly in matters of telegraphic and telephonic communication dates back to less than a century; the BBC as a corporation is not yet 50 years old, while the IBA has chalked up a mere 20 years. So while it may be heresy to consider their destruction, it's by no means treasonable to question where the arm-lock they collectively exercise upon communications is justified.

Let's look at the Post Office first. Seemingly inviolate by reason of its monopolistic powers, it goes on losing millions every year while it fights a losing battle against events. Its parcel- and letter-carrying service is demonstrably much inferior to what it was 50 years ago; so also is its telegram service, which has been priced almost out of existence. On the credit side, it's making strenuous efforts to improve the telephone service although, perhaps inevitably, there's a school of thought that doesn't agree with the approach.

To return for a moment to letter-carrying, the reasons for the deterioration are plain to see. One is the sheer bulk of correspondence which now has to be handled and another is the high cost of labour necessary to move what is literally a mountain of paper around the country every day. Faced with such a situation, it's characteristic of a Civil Service-orientated monopoly to put a perfunctory patch on the creaking structure in the

pious hope that the mechanism will continue to grind along until retirement, when the buck will pass to somebody else. As for the general public, they can lump it; they have to, because there isn't an alternative carrier.

It only needs a little touch of the Jules Verne to see that the letter, as we know it, is an archaic method of communication. I see that a recent estimate of the average cost of producing a business letter puts the figure at £3, which doesn't get us off to a promising start. Surely, in view of the electronics technology now available or in early prospect, the rational approach would be to dictate a communication to an office machine for automatic transference to a reciprocal device at destination, where a permanent record could be made if required? Private correspondence could be similarly dealt with; it could easily be arranged that no outside access to the message was possible.

I'll come back to this shortly but for the moment let's digress on to radio communication and broadcasting in particular, which is another thing we tend to accept without question.

Now, in terms of keeping in touch with mobile objects such as ships, aircraft and land vehicles, radio is the only feasible method, but for entertainment dissemination it could be a very different story. True, a case for the continuance of sound broadcasting can be advanced on the basis of its use by motorists; privately, I've an uneasy feeling that car radios, by diverting concentration, may be the cause of more accidents than is generally admitted, but we won't argue that one. Instead, let's put television broadcasting under the spotlight.

As a system it wastes power. In order that the signals should reach the places we want them to, they must also dissipate themselves unprofitably in all sorts of useless ways-in girderwork, building and even (as recent correspondence in Wireless World has pointed out) in trees. With the quasi-optical ranges obtainable at v.h.f. and u.h.f. we have to have a proliferation of stations in order to cover such a small area as the UK and even then with a degeneration in sig./noise ratio all the way. The video component takes up a lot of bandwidth in relation to the amount of information it carries, while further sizeable sections of the band have to lie fallow in the cause of station separation; this is serious because r.f. bandwidth is an inelastic commodity and in acutely short supply.

As you'll have gathered by now, over in the blue corner, sparring away busily with all digitals, is radio's traditional enemy the cable. If, instead of broadcasting the TV signals, you transfer them from analogue to digital form and pipe them to destination, all sorts of advantages accrue. En-route signal distortion is considerably reduced; there are no fringe areas of reception because the signals can conveniently be boosted at intervals; a far more efficient use is made of the power input (you're not wasting kilowatts any more) and a greater choice of pro-

grammes becomes possib e. Whereas, under the broadcast system, four services are the maximum for the foreseeable future, line communication by coaxial cable, waveguide or possibly the fibre-optics approach, can provide as many as you want.

The advantages by no means end there; the receiver itself becomes simpler; the unsightly assortment of fishbone arrays which clutter our rooftops could be turned into scrap and re-cycled, while the picture itself would be freed from the vagaries of the ionosphere and troposphere, with co-station interference a thing of the past. With plenty of bandwidth to play with, something approaching realism in colour reproduction could be achieved, either by transmitting full R-G-B information or even, perhaps, by moving to sevencolour reproduction! Over and above all this, the radio frequencies now allocated to television broadcasting would be freed for other and more vital services where radio communication is essential.

Unfortunately, there's just one leetle snag in these proposals, namely that neither industry in its factories and offices, nor Joe Bloggs in his semi-detached, has anything more wideband than a nineteenth-century telephone line connecting him with the outside world. Nor, as far as I can see, have they any prospect of getting a wideband service in the reasonably near future. Which brings us back to the Post Office and its monopoly. Presumably their standpoint is that they've neither the money nor the effort.

Fair enough. But we're no longer in the nineteenth century; we're almost in the twenty-first, and our information is still being humped around by the ton instead of by weightless electrical signals. So why not remove the Post Office monopoly on installing cable for money and let private enterprise see what it can do? If broadcasting as we know it founders in the process, what does it matter if it's replaced by something better?

In the USA they order things differently and—let's admit it—not always for the best. But over there, cable systems seem to be making significant headway after only a relatively short period, and although at the moment they don't offer any real threat to the "off-air" broadcasts there are already over 90,000 installations in New York. Other cities are following suit.

To conform with the requirements of the Federal Communications Commission, four kinds of access channels are provided, namely, public, educational, government and leased. Of these, the public access channel is a new phenomenon: the cable company provides a minimal amount of equipment-cameras, v.t.rs and so onand anyone who fancied his or her chance with entertainment or a message can have five minutes' free time, or longer if it's paid for at cost. This "do-it-yourself" local broadcasting tramples across the mystique-laden fields of professional programme production. It might catch on; it might die the death; but at any rate one can never accuse the USA of reluctance to have a go.

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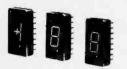
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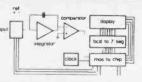
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Model HT100B4 MULTIMETER

P&P30p

Model HT10UB4 MULTIMETER
Overload protected,
shock proof circuits.
9,5uA Meter with
mirror scale. Sensitivity.
100k. PloJarity change
switch. Ranges: 0.5/2.5/
1/50/250/500/1,000
Voits DC. 2.5/10/50/
250/1,000 Voits AC.
DC resistence' 0-200
CC current:— 10/250uA/2.5/25/250
mA/10A. AC current:—0-10A.—20
to +62dB. Operates from 2 x 1.5V
batteries. Size: 180 x 134 x 79mm.
DIBR PRIEF £17.50
PRP 400

OUR PRICE £17.50 P&P 40p

MODEL AS 100D VOM

MODEL AS:100D 100,000 opv, Mirror scale. Built-in meter protection. 0/3/ 12/60/120/300/ 600/1200/ DC. 0/6/30/120/300/ 600/ AC. 0/10µA/ 6/60/300mA/ 12 Amp. 0/2K/ 200K/2 M/200 Meg Ohm. - 20to 17 dB

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KAMODEN TT35 TRANSISTOR TESTER

THANSISTUM High quality instrument to test reverse leak current and DC current. Amplification factor of NPN, PNP, diodas, transistors, SCR's etc. 4" square clear scale meter. Operates from internal batteries. Complete with instructions, leads carrying handle.



T

KAMODEN 360 MULTIMETER

KAMODEN 360 MULTIMETER
High sensitivity.
DC 100kohm/V
AC 10kohm/V
5" mirror scale,
overload protected. Ranges: 0.5/
2.5/10/50/250/
1000V DC. 5/10/
50/250/1000V
AC. Current:
0.01mA/0,5/5/50/
500mA/10A.
Resistance: 0.1/
1/10/100k ohms/
1/10/100k ohms/
1/10/100k ohms/
1/10/100k ohms/
1/10/100k ohms/
10/100M ohms.
Decibels - 20 to
62dB. Battery operated. Size: 180 x
140 x 80mm. Supplied complete with,
test leads etc.

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Battery operated.
11 Meg input, 26
ranges. Large 4½"
mirror scale. Size:
149x 117x60mm.
0.3-1200V DC.
3-300V RMS AC.
8-800V P.P.
DC current 0.1212mA, Resistence
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TMK 100K LAB TESTER

TMK 100K LAB TESTER
100,000opv. 6½"
scale, Buzzer
short circuit check.
Sensitivity 100,000
opv DC. 5k/V AC
DC Volts: 0.5/2.5/
10/50/250/1000V
AC. 3/10/50/250/
500/1000V DC.
current 10/100u A/10/
10/100/500mA/2.5/10A. Resistence:
1k/10k/100k/10 Meg/100 Meg ohms.
Decibels: -10 to +494B. Plastic case
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KAMODEN 72.20
High sensitivity
tester. 200,000 opv
Overload protected.
Mirror scale.
Ranges: -0/.06/.3
3/30/120/.600/
1200V DC. 0/3
12/60/300/11200
V AC. 0/6uA/
12mA/120mA/
600mA/12A DC
0/12A AC. -20 to
63dB, 0/2k/200k/
2 Meg/200 Megohms
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MODEL U4311 Sub-standard Multi-range Volt-Ammeter Sensitivity 330 Ohms/Volt AC and DC.

and DC. Accurecy 0.5% DC. 1% AC. Scale length: 165mm. 0/300/750u A/ 1.5/3/7.5/15/ 30/75/150/300/

30/75/150/300/ 750mA/1.5/3/ 7.54 DC. 0/3/ 7.5/15/30/75/ 150/300/750mA/ 1.5/3/7.54 AC. 0/75/150/300/750V DC. 0/750mV/ 1.5/3 /7.5/150/300/750V DC. 0/750mV/ AC. Automatic cut out device. Supplied complete with test leads, manual and test certificates.

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12 Amp. 0/10K/
1m/10m/100
Meg Ohms. - 20 to 17 dB.

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S100TR MULTIMETER

S100TR MULTIMETER
TRANSISTOR TESTER
100,000opv. Mirror
scale, Overload
protection, 0/0.12/
0.6/3/12/30/120/
0.60V DC. 0/6/30/
120/600V AC.
0/12/600v.A/12/
300mA/6/12A DC.
0/10k/1 Meg/
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0.01—0.2 MFD.
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Megohms, 500V
Battery operated.
Wide range clear
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Complete with
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3



MODEL TE15 GRID DIP METER

Transistorised, Ope ates as Grid Dip, ates as Grid Dip, Oscillator, Absorb-tion Wave Meter and Oscillating Detecto Frequency range 440KHz—280MHz in six coils, 500uA meter. 9V battery operation. Size: 180 x 80 x 40mm.

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chm-11.1 megohm ± 1% Inductance: 6 ranges: 1 microhenry-111 henries ± 2% Capacity: 6 ranges: 1.11/1000-1:11100 ± 1% Bridge Voltage at 1,000cps. Operated from 9-volt battery. 100 microamp meter indication. Size 7%" x 2" nilla PRICE 725 00 page 200

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Sine 20cps to 200kHz on 4 bands. Square 20 cps to 30 kHz. Output impedence 5000 Ohms. 200/250V AC operation



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Thisnew exclusive compact

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Light weight head-phones with padded ear pieces. 4/16 ohms 20-20,000Hz. Complete with 6' lead and plug.



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Moving coil. Ideal for language teaching, communi-

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Mediumand FM wave-bands. Stider volume and



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Earphone socket. Battery/Main operation

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Double tuned discriminator. Ample output to feed most amplifiers. Operates on 9V battery. Covers 88–108MHz. Ready built, ready for use. Fantastic value for money. OUR PRICE £8.95 P&P 20p

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Excellent selectivity and sensi-tivity. Twin dual-varicap tuning 4 pole ceramic filter. 19 transistor stereo demodulator giving 40 dB separation. Distortion 0:2% output. Fantastic Value.

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Self contained, transistorised, battery operated. Simply plug in microphone, guitar etc. and output to your amplifier. Volume control and depth of reverberation control. Beauwalnut cabinet. 184 x 77 x 108mm.

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inputs each with
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controls enabling
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facilities. Battery operated. Size: 235
x 127 x 76mm. Inputs: Mics. 3 x 3mV
50k; 2 x 3mV 600 ohms. Phono. Mag.
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All silicon, transistor amplifler operates from magnetic, ceramic or tuner inputs with inputs with

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200u A			£3.70
500u A			£3.65
50-0-50u			£3.75
100-0-10	Ou /	١	£3.70
1mA			£3.65
5m A			£3.65
10mA			£3.65
50mA			£3.85
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50V DC			£3.65
300V DC	••		£3.65
15V AC		٠.	£3.75
300V AC	••	**	£3.75
VU Meter		**	£3.90

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50uA			£4.60
100u A			£4.50
500u A	••		£4.30
50-0-50u	Α		£4.50
100-0-10	Ou A	۱	£4.45
1mA			£4.30
1A DC			£4.30
5A DC			£4.30
20V DC			£4.30
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			£3.90
50-0-50u/			£4.10
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A range of high quality moving coil instruments ideal for school experiments and other bench applications. 3" mirror scale. The mêter movement is easily accessible to demonstrate internal working.



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mA		£7.60	20V DC 50V DC	£7.60 £7.60
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		£7.60	500mA/5A DC	£8.60
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100u A 200u A			£5.40
200u A			£5.35
500u A			£5.25
50-0-50u/	A.		£5.40
100-0-100	ĴuΑ		£5.35
500-0-500	λuΑ		£5.20
1mA			£5.20
1-0-1mA			£5.20
5mA			£5.20
10mA			£5.20
50mA			£5.20
100mA	••		£5.20
500mA			£5.20
1A DC	**		
5A DC	••	••	£5.20
	**	**	£5.20
15A DC		••	£5.20
30A DC	••	**	£5.40
10V DC			£5.20
20V DC		**	£5.20
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150V DC	**	••	£5.20



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	VU Meter		£5.55
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	5A AC		
,			*£5.20
)	10A AC .		*£5.20
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)	30A AC .		* £5.20

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Size: 110	) x {	33m	m
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100u A			£4.25
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500u A			£4.15
50-0-50u			£4.25
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1mA			£4.10
5mA			£4.10
10mA			£4.10
50mA			£4.10



iŏ	0.5	200
10		
10	10V DC ,, .	. £4.10
10	20V DC	£4.10
10	50V DC	£4.10
10	300V DC	
10	15V AC	. £4.20
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ı	400 4			£3.15
ı	200u A			£3.10
ı				£3.00
ı	50-0-50 <sub>0</sub>			£3.15
ı	100-0-100			£3.10
ı	500-0-500			£2.95
ı	1mA	,u M	••	
ı		**	**	£2.95
ı	5mA		••	£2.95
ı	10m A			£2.95
i	50mA			£2.95
ı	100m A			£2.95
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I	5A DC			£2.95
ı	10V DC			£2.95
ı	20V DC			£2.95
ı	50V DC			£2.95
ı	300V DC	••		£2.95
ı				
ı	15V AC			£3.05



	300V AC			£3.05
	S Meter 1		١	£2.95
	VU Mete	r		£3.40
	1A AC			* £2.95
	5A AC			* £2.95
	10A AC			* £2.95
	20A AC			* £2.95
	30A AC			* £2.95
_			_	

# CLEAR PLASTIC MODEL MR 38P

3120. 7	- ~	74.		
50uA			 £3.1	ı
100u A	١.		 £3.0	)
200u A	١.		 £3.0	)
500u A			 £2.8	3
50-0-5	Ou A	١.	 £3.0	)
100-0-	100	uΑ	 £3.0	)
500-0-		'nΑ	 £2.8	3
1mA			 £2.8	3
1-0-1n	3A		 £2.8	3
2mA			 £2.8	3
5mA			 £2.8	3
10mA			 £2.8	3
20mA			 £2.8	Ì
50mA			 £2.8	3
100m	A.		 £2.8	3
150m	A.		 £2.8	ţ
200m/			 £2.8	3
300m			 £2.8	Ì
500m			 £2.8	
750m/			 £.28	
1A DS			 £2.8	
2A DO			 £2.8	
5A D0			 £2.8	
10A D			 £2.8	3
3V D0	•		52 5	2



	£2.80	Comme		
	£2.80	-		
	£2.80			
	£2.80	20V DC	٠.	£2.80
	£2.80	50V DC		£2.80
	£2.80	100V DC		£2.80
	£2.80	150V DC		£2.80
	£2.80	300V DC		£2.85
	£2.80	500V DC		£2.85
	£.280	750V DC	1.	£2.90
	£2.80	15V AC		£2.90
	£2.80	50V AC		£2.90
	£2.80	150V AC		£2.90
••	£2.80	300V AC		£2.90
	£2.80	500V AC		£3.00
	£2.80	S Meter 1m/	۸	£2.80
	£2.80	VU Meter		£3.20

# **CLEAR PLASTIC MODEL SD460**

Size: 59 )	46	nmõ	1
50uA			£3.50
100LA			£3.45
			£3.40
			£3.35
50-0-50u			£3.45
100-0-10	Qu/	١	£3.40
1mA			£3.30
5mA			£3.30
10mA			£3.30
50mA			£3.30
100mA			£3.30
500mA			£3.30
1A DC	**	••	£3.30
5A DC		**	£3.30
10A DC		**	£3.30
5V DC	**	**	£3.30



Sec. 10.	10		
10V DC			£3.30
20V DC			£3.30
50V DC			£3.30
300V DC		**	£3.30
15V AC 300V AC	••	••	£3.45
VU Meter			£3.45 £3.65
A O MISTER		••	13.05

# POSTAGE & PACKING 15p

Signature .

# CLEAR PLASTIC MODEL MR 65P

50u A

JOUR	23.33	[
100uA	£3.85	
200uA	£3.80	A CHILD
500uA	£3.75	A W
50-0-50uA	£3.85	T.A.
100-0-100uA	£3.80	
500-0-500 A.,	£3.70	THE RESERVE AND LINES.
1mA	£3.70	Hillion and the second
1-0-1mA	£3.70	111111
5mA	£3.70	CHILITING
10mA	£3.70	300V DC £3.70
50mA	£3.70	15V AC £3.80
100mA	£3.70	50V AC £3.80
500mA	£3.70	150V AC £3.80
1A DC	£3.70	300V AC £3.90
5A DC	£3.70	500V AC £3.80
10A DC	£3.70	S Meter 1mA., £4.10
15A DC	£3.70	VU Meter £3.70
20A DC	£3.80	1A AC * £3.70
30A DC	£3.85	5A AC * £3.70
50A DC	£4.05	10A AC, * £3.70
5V DC	£3.70	20A AC * £3.70
10V DC	£3.70	30A AC * £3.70
15V DC	£3.70	50mA AC * £3.70
20V DC	£3.70	100mA AC * £3.70
50V DC	£3.70	200mA AC # £3.70
150V DC	£3.70	500mA AC * £3.70

# BAKELITE MODEL S80 Enlarged Window

50uA	 	£4.50
100u A	 	£4.45
	 	£4.20
50-0-50u		£4.45
100-0-100		£4.40
1mA		£4.20
		£4.20
5A DC		£4.20
20V DC	 	£4.20
50V DC	 	£4.20
	 	£4.20
300V AC		£4.30
VU Meter		£4.70



# CLEAR PLASTIC MODEL MR 52P

3128. 00 A	OUN	11111	
50uA		. £3.70	
100uA		£3.50	6-
500uA		£3.35	ŀ
50-0-50u		£3.50	110
100-0-100			1.
1mA		£3.30	
5mA			
10mA			lin
50mA			188
100mA			1919
500mA			Gii
1A DC			_
5A DC			S Me
10V DC			VUI
20V DC		£3.30	1A A
50V DC			5A A
300V DC			10A
15V AC		£3.40	20A
300V AC		£3.40	30A
000 F AC		. 13.40	



í				
í	S Meter 1		۸	£3.30
)	VU Mete	r		£3.80
)	1A AC			* £3.30
)	5A AC			* £3.30
)	10A AC			* £3.30
)	20A AC			* £3.30
)	30A AC		-	* £3.30
_				

# BAKELITE MODEL MR 65 Size: 80 x 80mm

DULLE		1010		10111 00	012	,, 0	~
25uA			£5.25	-			41
50uA			£4.00	- 100			-
100uA	,.		£3.95	-	0.48	1	
500u A			£3.65	- 8	. /	-	-
50-0-50u	A		£3.95	-	1	-04	
100-0-100	Du A		£3.90				
500-0-500	Du A		£3.60	-			
1mA			£3.60	- 10			
1-0-1mA			£3.60	- 10			
5mA			£3.60	- 80			
10mA			£3.60	- 6			
50mA			£3.60	3001	/ DC		
100mA			£3.60	30V		••	••
500mA	••	••				**	••
1A DC	••	••	£3.60		AC	**	••
	**	••	£3.60		V AC	**	••
2A DC	**	**	£3.60		V AC	**	••
5A DC	**	**	£3.60		V AC	**	
10A DC			£3.60		Meter		
15A DC			£3.60				
30A DC			£3.60	5A /	٩C		
50A DC			£3.80	10A	AC		
5V DC			£3.60	20A	AC		
10V DC		_	£3.60	30A	AC		
15V DC			£3.60	50A	AC		
20V DC			£3.60		mA A		
50V DC			£3.60		V DC		
150V DC			£3.60		mV D		
	-		20.00	,,,,,			

Du A		£3.90		4	-
Du A		£3.60	State of the last		- 0
		£3.60	The same		
	٠.	£3.60	53 m 5 m		
		£3.60	OFFICE AND ADDRESS.		0.00
		£3.60	Owner, where		
		£3.60	300V DC		£3.60
		£3.60	30V AC		£3.60
		£3.60	50V AC	1	£3.60
		£3.60	150V AC	'	£3.60
		£3.60	300V AC	'	£3.60
		£3.60	500V AC		£3.60
		£3.60	VU Meter		£4.10
		£3.60	1A AC	· '	£3.60
		£3.60	5A AC	'	£3.60
		£3.80	10A AC	·	£3.60
		£3.60	20A AC	4	£3.60
	_	£3.60	30A AC	1	£3.60
		£3.60	50A AC	- 1	. 43 60



30V AC		°£3.60
50V AC	1	£3.60
150V AC		£3.60
300V AC		£3.60
500V AC		£3.60
VU Meter		£4.10
1A AC	'	£3.60
5A AC	'	£3.60
10A AC	٠ '	£3.60
20A AC	1	£3.60
30A AC		£3.60
50A AC		£3.60
500mA AC		£3.60
50mV DC		
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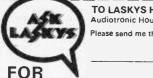


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ower	•	•	Values	Pı	rice
watts	Tolerance	Range	available	1-99	100+
+	5%	4.7Ω-2.2ΜΩ	E24	1.3p	l-lp
Ī	10%	3·3MΩ−10MΩ	E12	1.3p	l·lp
Ī	2%	10Ω-ΙΜΩ	E24	3-5p	3p
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NOTE The battery operated kits incorporate our potented circuit to minimise battery drain. Typically 120mA for 12v. These kits contain all parts required with the exception of case. Suitable case mains operated kit £1.60. Battery operated kits £5.

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100pF to 10,000pF, 2p each.

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**VEROBOARO** 0·1 0·15
26p 22p
28p 28p 28p
28p 34p 34p
95p 77p
130p 108p
86p 72p
— 51p
— 18p
— 15p
42p 62p 2½ x 3½ 2½ x 5 3½ x 5 3½ x 3½ 17 x 2½ 17 x 3½ 17 x 3½ 17 x 3½ (plain) 12½ x 5 (plain) 2½ x 5 (plain) Pin insertion tool Spot face cutter Spot face cutter Pkt. 50 pins

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Draw the planned circuit on to a copper laminate board with the P.C. Pen, allow to dry, and immerse the board in the etchant. On removal the circuit remains in high relief.

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Amps. Weight Size cm. Secondary Windings
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1-0 0-5 1 4 6-1 × 5-8 × 4-8 0-12V at 0-25 A × 2
2 1 1 12 7-0 × 6-4 × 5-1 0-12V at 1-A × 2

71	2 1	1 12	7.0× 6.4× 6.1	0-12V at 1A x 2	2.09 22
18	4 2	2 12	8·3× 7·7× #·0	0-12V at 2A x2	2.95 36
70 108	6 3	3 8	8.9× 8.0× 7.7	0-12V at 3A x2	3.52 42
72	8 4 10 5	5 8	9.9× 8.9× 3.6	0-12V at 4A x2	3.96 52
116	10 5 12 6	6 4	9.9× 9.6× 3.6	0-12V at 5A x 2	4.67 52
17	16 8	8 12	9·9×10·2×8·6 12·1× 9·9×10·2	0-12V at 5A x 2	5.61 52
115	20 10	18 8	14-0× 9-6×11-8	0-12V at 8A x 2	7·22 52 9·20 67
187	30 15	15 8	14·0×12·1×11·8	0-12V at 10A x 2 0-12V at 15A x 2	9·20 67 16·94 82
226	60 30	32 0	17-2×15-3×*4-0	0-12V at 30A x2	22.50
		- ·	17 2 X 10 0 X 4 0	30 VOLT RANGE	22 30
Ref	Amps.	Weight	Size cm.	Secondary Taps	P&P
No.	2111,000	Ib oz	Dize cin.	Secondary raps	
112	0.5	1 4	6·1 x 5·8 x 4·8	0-12-15-20-24-30V	£ p
79	1.0	2 4	7.0 x 6.7 x 6.1	11 11	2-11 36
3	2.0	3 4	8.9 x 7.7 x 7.7	11 11	3-18 36
20	3.0	4 8	9.9× 8.3× 8.6		3.96 42
21	4.0	6 4	9.9× 9.6× 8.6	11 11:	4-67 52
51	5.0	6 12	12·1× 8·6×10·2	11 11	5.83 52
117	6.0	8 0	12·1× 9·3×10·2	11 11	6.94 52
88 89	8.0	12 0	12·1×11·8×10·2	11 - 11	9.00 67
89	10.0	13 12	14·0×10·2×11·8	0 0	11:36 67
				50 VOLT RANGE	
Ref.	Amps.	Weight	Size cm.	Secondary Taps	P&P
No. 102	0.5	Ib oz			£ p 2.09 30
103	0·5 1·0	1 12 2 12	7.0× 6.4× 6.1	0-19-25-33-40-50V	
104	2.0	2 12 5 8	8·3× 7·4× 7·0 9·9× 8·9× 8·6	100 11	3.08 36
105	3.0	6 12	9·9× 8·9× 8·6 9·9×10·2× 8·6	11 11	4.26 42
106	4.0	10 0	12·1 × 10·5 × 10·2	31 15	5.79 52
107	6.0	12 0	14·0×10·2×11·8	0 0	7·69 52 11·38 67
118	8.0	18 0	14·0×12·7×11·8	** **	12:40 97
119	10.0	25 0	17.2 × 12.7 > 14.0	11	18-62
Ref.	Amps.	Weight	Size cm.	60 VOLT RANGE	P&P
No.	Anips.	Ib oz	Size Chi.	80 AOF! KWHOE	
124	0.5	2 4	7.0× 6.7× 6.1	0-24-30-40-48-60V	2·12 36
126	1.0	3 4	8.9× 7.7× 7.7	0 24 30-40-40-004	2-97 36
127	2.0	6 4	9.9× 9.6× 8.6	11 11	4-67 42
125	3.0	8 12	12·1 × 9·9×10·2	11 11	7-11 52
123	4.0	13 12	12·1 x 11·8 = 10·2	21 17	9.20 67
40	5.0	12 00	14·0×10·2×11·8	10 10	10.83 67
120	6.0	15 8	14 0 × 12 1 × 11 8		13-35 82
121	8.0	25 00	14·0×14·7×11·8	11 11	15.01 *
122	10.0	25 0	17·2×12·7:K14·0	11 11	19.60 *
189	12.0	29 00	17-2×14-0×14-0	11 11	21 60 *
0.6		IATURE			
Ref. No.	MA	Welght Ib oz	Size cm.	VOLTS	P&P
238	200	1D OZ	2.8×2.6×2.0	202	£ p
212	1A 1A	1 4	6-1 × 5-8 × 4-8	3-0-3 0-6 0-6	1·44 10 1·67 22
13	100	' 4	3.9×2.6×2.9	9-0-9	1.23 10
235	330, 330	4	4·8×2·9×2·5	0-9, 0-9	1.67 10
207	500, 500	1 00	6-1×5-4×8	0-8-9, 0-8-9	2.23 22
208	1A, 1A	1 12	7-0×6-4×6-1	0-8-9, 0-8-9	3.00 30
236	200, 200	4	4·8×2·9×3·5	0-15, 0-15	1.67 10
214	300, 300	1 4	6·1 x 5·8 x 4·8	0-20, 0-20	1.76 22
221	700 (D.C		7·0×6·1×3·1	20-12-0-12-20	1.55 30
206	1A, 1A	2 12	8·3×7·7×1·0	0-15-20, 0-15-20	4.05 38
203	500, 500	2 4	8-3×7-0×7-0	0-15-27, 0-15-27	3.10 38
204	1A, 1A	3 4	8.9×7.7×7.7	0-15-27, 0-15-27 0-15-27, 0-15-27	3.15 38
		B/	ATTERY CHARG	ER TYPES	
PRIM	ARY 200-250	VOLT	(Secondary 2V, 6	V, 12V)	
Ref.	Amps.	Weight	Size cm.		P&P
No.	4.5	Ib oz	70		£ p
45 5	1·5 4·0	1 8	7.0× 6.1× 6.1	DI 1. 1	1 61 30
86	6.0	3 4 6 4	8.9× 7.7× 7.7	Please note, these	2.93 42
146	8.0	6 12	9-9× 9-6× 8-6 9-9×10-2× 8-6	units do not in-	4.40 52
50	12.5	12 0	14·0×10·2×11·8	clude rectifiers	5·02 52 7·53 67
			14 04 10 = 411.0 3		1.33 01
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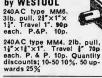
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 ea. 14p

 0.1, 0.22, 0.47, 1.0 mr/35V, 1.0/6.3V
 ea. 14p

 2.2/16V, 2.2/35V, 4.7/16V, 1.0/6.3V
 eb. 18p

 0/25V, 22/16V, 47/6.3V, 1.00/3V, 6.8/25V, 15/25V
 ea. 18p

 0/25V, 22/16V, 47/6.3V, 1.00/3V, 6.8/25V, 15/25V
 ea. 20p

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Type 832540 Working Voltage—250V d.c.
Values in mF: 0-0047: 0-0068: 0-0082: 0-1: 0-012-0-018: 0-022: 0-027: 0-033: 0-039: 0-047: 0-056: 0-068: 0-082: 0-1
0-082: 0-1

Working voltage 100V d.c. 0.1; 0,12; 0,15 4p; 0.18 5p; 0.22 0.27 7p; 0.33 8p; 0.39; 0.47 0.56 12p; 0.68

# SILVERED MICA

 SILVERED MICA

 Working voltage 500V d.c.

 Values in pFs—2.2 to 820 in 32 stages

 1000. 1500 7p: 1800 8p. 2200 10p: 2700. 3600 12p:

 4700. 5000 15p: 6800 20p: 8200. 10,000 25p

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PLUGS

2 circuit screened top entry P1
side entry SEP1
36p
Line socket mono 231
Line socket stereo 244
36r
2 circuit unscreened, black/grey/white P4
2 circuit, unscreened, black/white/red/black/green/grey P2
3 circuit screen top entry P3
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10p

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T1 8 203713 OC7
T2 8 D1374 OC75
T3 8 D1216 OC81D
T4 8 20381T OC81
T5 8 20;83T OC82
T6 8 20;43E OC45
T7 8 20;44B OC45
T7 8 20;45B OC45
T8 8 20;378 OC75
T9 8 20;398 2 N1302
T10 8 20;417 API1
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SN7407	0.39	0.34	0.31	SN7475	0.60	0.58	0.56	8N74162	£1.73	£1.70	£1 65
8N7408	0.25	0.24	0.23	8N7476	0.44	0.43	0.42	SN74163	£1.73	£1.70	£1 65
SN7409	0.25	0.24	0.23	SN7480	0.74	0.71	0.64	SN74164	£2.20	£2·10	£2.00
SN7410	0.18	0.17	0.16	8N7481	£1.30	£1 25	£1-20	8N74165	£2·20	£2:10	£2 00
8N7411	0.28	0.27	0.26	8N7482	0.90	0.85	0.80	SN74166	£2 35	£2 30	£2 25
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SN7416	0.40	0 39	0.38	SN7485	£2 00	£1.90	£1.80				
SN7417	0.40	0.39	0.38	8N7486	0.35	0.34	0.33	SN74176	£1 60	£1.55	£1.50
BN7420	0.18	0.17	0.16	8N7489	£4.00	£3:75	£3.50	8N74177	£1 60	£1.55	£1.50
SN7422	0.30	0.29	0.28	SN7490	0 74	0.71	0.64	SN74180	£1.60	£1 55	£1.50
8N7423	0.40	0.39	0.38	8N7491	£1:10	£1 05	£1.00	SN74181	£5-00	£4.50	£4 00
SN7425	0.40	0.39	0.38	SN7492	0.74	0.71	0.64	8N74182	£1.50	£1.45	£1.40
SN7426	0.40	0.38	0.36	SN7493	0.74	0.71	0.64				£2.20
SN7427	0.40	0.38	0.36	8N7494	0.85	0.82	0.75	SN74184	£2·40	£2.30	
BN7428	0.45	0.42	0.40	8N7495	0.85	0.82	0.75	SN74190	£2-15	£2 10	£2.00
SN7430	0.18	0.17	0.16	SN7496	0.96	0 93	0.86	8N74191	£2·15	£2-10	£2.00
SN7432	0.40	0.38	0.36	SN74100	£1.50	£1 45	£1.40	8N74192	£2·15	£2·10	£2-00
SN7433	0.42	0.40	0.38	8N74104	0.70	0.68	0.66	BN74193	£2·15	£2·10	£2.00
BN7437	0.45	0.42	0.40	8N74105	0.70	0.68	0.66	8N74194	£1.90	£1.80	£1.70
8N7438	0.45	0.42	0.40	8N74107	0.44	0.42	0.40				
SN7440	0.18	0.17	0 16	8N74110	0.60	0.55	0.50	8N74195	£1 60	£1 50	£1.40
8N7441	0.74	0.71	0.64	8N74111	0.95	0.92	0.90	SN74196	21 73	£1.70	£1·65
SN7442	0.74	0.71	0.64	SN74118	£1 · 10	£1.05	£1 00	8N74197	£1.73	£1.70	£1 65
SN7443	£1 20	£1·15	£1 10	SN74119	£1.50	£1 · 40	£1 30	8N74198	£3.45	£3:35	£3-20
SN7444	£1 20	£1·15	£1 10	8N74121	0.50	0.48	0.45			£3.00	£2.90
SN7445	£1.98	£1 95	£1.90	8N74122	0.88	0.86	0.84	8N74199	£3·10		
8N7446	£1 20	£1 15	£1·10	SN74123	£1.58	£1.54	£1.50	Devices n	tay be n	nixed to	quantry
SN7447	£1 10	£1.07	£1 05	8N74141	0.85	0.82	0.79	for quanti	ty price.	(TTL 7	Series
SN7448	£1 10	£1 07	£1 05	8N74148	£1.58	£1.54	£1 50	only) dat	a is av	ailable	for the
SN7450	0.18	0 17	0.16	8N74150	£2 50	£2.40	£2 30	above ser		.C.'s in	honklet
SN7451	0.18	0.17	0.16	BN74151	£1 · I O	£1:05	£1.00	form Prin	a 25n		

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 Frequency Response 20Hz to 100KHz

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   at 1KHz at 1KHz
  Supply voltage 10-35 volts
- Thermal Feedback
- Latest Design Improvements
- Load—3, 4, 8 or 16 ohms Signal to noise ratio 80dB

Overall size 6

Especially designed to a strict specification. Only the finest components have been used and the latest solid state circuitry incorporated in this powerful little amplifier which should satisfy the most critical A.F. enthusiast.

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£3.25



# STABILISED POWER **MODULE SPM80**

AP80 is especially designed to power 2 of the AL50 Amplifiers, up to 15 watt (r.m.s.) per channel simultaneously. This module embodies the latest components and circuit techniques incorporating complete short circuit protection. With the addition of the Mains Transformer MT80, the unit will provide outputs of up to 1-5 amps at 35 volts. Size: 63 mm × 105 mm × 20 mm. These units enable you to build Andio Systems of the highest quality at a hitherto unobtainable price. Also ideal for many other applications including: Disco Systems. Public Address, Intercon Units, etc. Handbook available, 10p.

TRANSFORMER BMT80 £2.15 p. & p. 25p

# STEREO PRE-AMPLIFIER **TYPE PA100**

Built to a specification and NOT a price, and yet still the greatest value on the market, the PA100 stereo pre-amplifier has been conceived from the latest circuit techniques. Designed for use with the AL50 power amplifier system, this quality made unit incorporates no less than eight silicon planar transistors, two of these are specially selected low noise NPN devices for use in the input stages.

Three switched stereo inputs, and rumble and scratch filters are (catures of the PA100, which also has a STEREO\_MONO switch, volume, balance and continuously variable bass and treble controls.



### SPECIFICATION:

 $\begin{array}{lll} \textbf{STEUFILATION:} \\ \textbf{Frequency response} \\ \textbf{Harmonic distortion} \\ \textbf{Inputs: 1. Tape head} \\ \textbf{2. Radio. Tuner} \\ \textbf{3. Magnetic P.U.} \\ \textbf{3. Magnetic P.U.} \\ \textbf{3. Mingut voltages are for an output of 250mV.} \\ \textbf{Tape and P.U. inputs equalised to RIAA curve} \\ \textbf{within \pm 1dB from 20Hz to 20kHz.} \end{array}$ 

Bass control
Treble control
Filters: Runble (high pass)
Scratch (low pass)
Signal/noise ratio
Input overload
Supply
Dimensions

±154B at 20Hz ±15dB at 20kHz 100 Hz 8kHz better than +65dB +25dB +35 volts at 20mA 292×82×35 mm

only £13.15



prising:  $2 \times ALi\theta$ ,  $1 \times 8PM80$ ,  $1 \times BTM80$ ,  $1 \times PA$  100, 1 front panel, 1 kit of parts to include on-off switch, Indicator, stereo headphone sockets plus instruction booklets. Complete Prices: £28-75 plus 30p postage.

# TEAK 60 AUDIO KIT

# Comprising: Teak veneered cabinet size $16\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{\pi}{8} \times 3\frac{\pi}{4}$ , other parts include aluminium chassis, heatsink and front panel bracket, plus back panel and appropriate sockets etc. Kit price: 29-95 plus 30p postage. | 14 & 16 Lead Sockets for use with DUAL-IN-JINE I C's. TWO Ranges PROFESSIONAL & NEW LOW COST. PROF. TYPE No. 1-24 25-99 100up TSO 14 pin type | 33p 30p 27p TSO 15 ... 38p 35p 32p LOW COST No. |



ALIO/AL20/AL30 AUDIO AMPLIFIER **MODULES** 

The Al.10. Al.20 and Al.30 units are similar in their appearance and in their general specification. However, careful selection of the plastic power device has resulted in a range of output powers from 3-to-10 watts K.M.S.

The versatility of their design makes them ideal for use in record players, tape recorders, stereo amplifiers and cassette and cartridge tape players in the car and at home.

	The state of the s	
Parameter	Conditions	Performance
HARMONIC DISTORTION	Po=3 WATTS f=1KHz	0.25%
LOAD IMPEDANCE	_	8-16Ω
INPUT IMPEDANCE	f=1KHz	100 kΩ
FREQUENCY RESPONSE ± 3dB	Po=2 WATTS	50 Hz-25 K Hz
SENSITIVITY for RATED O/P	$V_8 = 25V$ . $R1 = 8\Omega$ $f = 1 \text{ KHz}$	75mrV. RMS
DIMENSIONS		3"×24"×1"

The above table relates to the AL10, AL20 and AL30 modules. The following table autilines the differences in their working conditions.

Parameter	ALIU	AL20	AL30
Maximum Supply Voltage	25	30	30
Power output for $2\%$ T.H.D. (RL - $8\Omega$ f = 1 KHz)	3 watts RMS Min.	5 watts RMS Min.	10 watts RMS Min.
PRICE	£2·20	£2·59	£3·3

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT PAKS

Manufacturers "Fall Outs" which include Functional and Part-Functional Units. These are classed as 'out-of spec' from the maker's very rigid specifications, but are ideal for learning about LC's and experimental work

Pak No. Contents	Price	Pak No. Contents	Price	Pak No. Contents	File
UIC00 = 12 + 7400	0.55	UIC46 = 5 × 7446	0.55	UIC90 = 5 × 7490	0.55
UIC01 = 12 × 7401	0.55	U1C48=5×7448	0.55	$U1C91 = 5 \times 7491$	0.55
$UIC02 = 12 \times 7402$	0.55	UIC50 = 12 × 7450	D·55	UIC92=5×7492	0.55
U1C03 = 12 × 7403	0.55	$111351 = 12 \times 7451$	0.55	UIC93 = 5 × 7493	0.55
UIC04 - 12 × 7404	0.55	UIC53 = $12 \times 7453$	0.55	$U1C94 = 5 \times 7494$	0.55
$UIC05 = 12 \times 7405$	0.55	UIC54 = 12 × 7454	0.55	$U1C95 = 5 \times 7495$	0.55
$U1C06 = 8 \times 7406$	0.55	UIC60 = 12 × 7460	0 55	$UIC96 = 5 \times 7496$	0.55
UIC07 = 8 × 7407	0.55	UIC70=8×7470	0.55	U1C100 = 5 × 74100	0.55
UIC10-12×7410	0.55	U1C72=8×7472	0.55	$UIC   2I = 5 \times 74121$	0.55
$UIC20 = 12 \times 7420$	0.55	U1C73=8×7473	0.55	UIC141=5×74141	0.55
$U1C30 = 12 \times 7430$	0.55	UIC74=8×7474	0.55	UIC151=5×74151	0.55
UIC40 = 12 × 7440	0.55	UIC76 = 8 × 7476	0.55	UIC154=5 x 74154	0.55
UIC41 = 5 × 7441	0.55	U1C80 = 5 × 7480	0.55	UIC193 = 5 × 74193	0.55
$UIC42 = 5 \times 7442$	0.55	UIC81 = 5 × 7481	0.55	$U1C199 = 5 \times 74199$	0.55
$UIC43 = 5 \times 7443$	0.55	$UIC82 = 5 \times 7482$	0.55	UICXI = 25 Assorted	74's 1.55
UIC44=5×7444	0.55	UIC83 = 5 × 7483	0.55	Packs cannot be split	, but 25
$UIC45 = 5 \times 7445$	0.55	$UIC86 = 5 \times 7486$	0.55	assorted pieces (our	
				available as PAK UIC	

# LINEAR I.C.'s—FULL SPEC.

72702	DIL	14	0.50	0.48	0.45	LOGIC		ES	1	i		_ 1		sing: Tea
72709P 72709	DIL DIL	14	0·33 0·35	0.31	0.29	Type		25	100+	SOCK	L-IN-LIN			nel brac
72710	DIL	14	0.45	0.43	0.40	BP930	0.15	0.14	0.13		6 Lead Sc			141
72741	DIL	14	0 40	0.38	0.35	BP932	0.16	0.15	0.14	DUAL	IN-LINE I	C's '	TOT US	Ranges
72741C	TO 5	- 8	0.45	0.43	0.40	BP933	0.16	0.15	0.14	PROFE	SSIONAL	NEW	LOW	COST.
72741P 72748P	DIL	8	0.38	0.36	0.34	BP935 BP936	0.16	0·15 0·15	0·14 0·14	PROF.	TYPE No.	1-24	25-99	100up
8L201C	TO-5	8	0.50	0·36 0·45	0.34	BP944	0·16 0·16	0.15	0.14	TSO 14	pin type	33p	30p	27p
SL701C	TO-5	- 8	0.50	0.45	0.40	BP945	0.30	0.28	0.25	T80 16		38p	35 p	32p
SL702C	TO-5	- 8	0.50	0.45	0.40	BP946	0.15	0.14	0.13	BPS 14	08T No.	10-		10-
TAA263	TO-72	14	0.80	0.70	0.60	BP948	0.30	0.28	0.25	BPS 16	FF 15	16p 17p	14p 15p	12p 13p
TAA293	TO-74	10		0.95	0.90	BP951	0.70	0 65	0.60	BP8 8 p	in type	15p	13p	llp
TAA350A	TO-5	10	£1:85	21.80	£1.70	BP962 BP9693	0.15	0.14	0.13	-				11,0
TAA350A μA703C μA709C	TO-5 TO-5 TO-5	10 6 8	£1 85 0 28 0 35	0.26	£1.70 0.24 0.30	BP962 BP9093 BP9094	0.45	0.43	0.40		NUM	RIC	AL	No. of
μΑ703C μΑ709C μΑ711	TO-5 TO-5 TO-5	6 8 10	0 28 0 35 0 45		0.24	BP9093 BP9094 BP9097	0 45 0 45 0 45			IN	NUMI	RIC.	AL	No. of
μΑ703C μΑ709C μΑ711 ΖΝ414	TO-5 TO-5 TO-18	6 8 10 4	0 28 0 35 0 45 £1 20	0.26 0.33	0·24 0·30	BP9093 BP9094	0·45 0·45	0 43 0 43	0·40 0·40	Туре	NUMI IDICATO Description	RIC.	AL UBE	No. of
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μΑ703C μΑ709C μΑ711 ΖΝ414	TO-5 TO-5 TO-18 DIL	6 8 10 4 14	0 28 0 35 0 45 £1 20 £1 50	0·26 0·33 0·43	0·24 0·30	BP9093 BP9094 BP9097 BP9099	0·45 0·45 0·45 0·45	0 43 0 43 0 43 0 43	0·40 0·40 0·40	Type 3015F	NUME IDICATO Description Minitron Indiest L.E.D. 7	OR T on 7 Segme or Segme	AL UBE rent	No. of
μΑ703C μΑ709C μΑ711 ΖΝ414 ΤΒΑ800	TO-5 TO-5 TO-18 DIL	6 8 10 4 14	0 28 0 35 0 45 £1 20 £1 50	0·26 0·33 0·43	0·24 0·30	BP9093 BP9094 BP9097 BP9099	0·45 0·45 0·45 0·45	0 43 0 43 0 43 0 43	0·40 0·40 0·40	Type 3015F	NUME IDICATO Description Minitron Indiest I.E.D. 7 Display 9,	RIC. OR T on 7 Segme or Segme .127" F	AL UBE rent	<b>S</b> £1·50
μΑ703C μΑ709C μΑ711 ΖΝ414 ΤΒΑ800 3 TERMI VOLTAC TO.3 Plastic	TO-5 TO-5 TO-18 DIL NAL I SE REC	6 8 10 4 14 209 ulati	0.28 0.35 0.45 £1.20 £1.50 SITIV	0.26 0.33 0.43 EDRS	0·24 0·30	BP9093 BP9094 BP9097 BP9099	0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45	0.43 0.43 0.43 0.43	0·40 0·40 0·40 0·40	Type 3015F MAN 3M	NUME IDICATO Description Minitron Indiest I.E.D. 7 Display 0, Charact	RIC. OR T on 7 Segme or Segme 127" I	AL UBE nent nt ligh	s
µА703С µА709С µА711 ZN414 TBA800 3 TERMI VOLTAC TO.3 Plastic µA7805 LI2	TO-5 TO-5 TO-18 DIL NAL I SE REC 2 Encaps	6 8 10 4 14 14 Oulati	0.28 0.35 0.45 £1.20 £1.50 SITIV LATO	0.26 0.33 0.43 EDRS	0.24 0.30 0.40	BP9093 BP9094 BP9097 BP9099	0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45	0.43 0.43 0.43 0.43	0·40 0·40 0·40 0·40	Type 3015F	NUME Description Minitron Indiest (L.E.D. 7 Display 0, Charact Side View	OR TON 7 Segme Or Segme 127" It ters	AL UBE nent nt ligh	£1.50 £1.90
μΑ703C μΑ709C μΑ711 ZN414 TBA800 3 TERMI VOLTAC TO.3 Plastic μΑ7805 L12 μΑ7812/L13	TO-5 TO-5 TO-18 DIL NAL I GE REC © Encaps 29 5V (E	6 8 10 4 14 POS ulati quv	0.28 0.35 0.45 £1.20 £1.50 SITIV LATO	0.26 0.33 0.43 EDRS	0.24 0.30 0.40 	BP9093 BP9094 BP9097 BP9099	0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45	0.43 0.43 0.43 0.43	0·40 0·40 0·40 0·40	Type 3015F MAN 3M	NUME DESCRIPTION Description Minitron Indiest L.E.D. 7 Display 0, Charact Side View Type' 7	OR TON 7 Segme or Segme 127" Feers ring 'N	AL UBE nent nt ligh ixie 6 num.	<b>S</b> £1·50
µА703С µА709С µА711 ZN414 TBA800 3 TERMI VOLTAC TO.3 Plastic µA7805 LI2	TO-5 TO-5 TO-18 DIL NAL I GE REC © Encaps 29 5V (E 30 12V (E 31 15V (F	6 8 10 4 14 14 POS ulati quv quv	0.28 0.35 0.45 £1.20 £1.50 SITIV LATO on to MV	0.26 0.33 0.43 	0.24 0.30 0.40 	BP9093 BP9094 BP9097 BP9099	0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45 0.45	0.43 0.43 0.43 0.43	0·40 0·40 0·40 0·40	Type 3015F MAN 33	NUME Description Minitron Indiest (L.E.D. 7 Display 0, Charact Side View	PRIC. OR TON 7 Segme 127" Fters	AL UBE nent It ligh ixie 6 num ixie	£1.50 £1.90 £1.87

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# The STEREO 20

The Stereo 20' amplifier is mounted, ready wired and tested on a one-piece chassis measuring 20 cm. x 14 cm. x 5-5 cm. This compact unit comes complete with on/off switch volume control, balance, bass and treble controls, Transformer, Power supply and Power amps. Attractively printed front panel and matching control knobs. The 'Stereo 20 has been designed to fit into most turntable plinths without interfering with the mechanism or, alternatively, into a separate cabinet. Output power 20w peak. Input 1 (Ger.) 300mV into 1M. Freq. res. 25112-25kHz. Input 2 (Aux.) 4mV into 30K. Harmonic distortion. Bass control ±120B at 60Hz typically 0-25°, at 1 wait. Treble con. £14-45



# SHP80 STEREO HEADPHONES, 4-16 ohms impedance. Frequency response 20 to 20,000 Hz Stereo/mono switch and volume controls £4.95

TRANSFORMERS T461 (Use with AL10) £1.60 P. & P. 15p. T538 (Use with AL20) £2:30 P. & P. 15p. BMT80 (Use with AL30 & AL50) £2.75 P. & P. 25p

### **POWER SUPPLIES**

PS 12. (Use with AL10 & AL20) 88p SPM 80. (Use with also AL30 & AL50) £3-25

# PA 12. PRE-AMPLIFIER SPECIFICATION

PA 12. PRE-AMPLIFIER DEC.

The PA 12 pre-amplifier has been designed to match into most buiset stereo systems. It is compatible with the AL 10, AL 20 and AL 30 audio power amplifiers and it can be supplied from their associated power supplies. There are two stereo inputs. one has been designed for use with "Ceramic cartridge while the auxiliary input will suit most †Magnetic cartridges. Pult details are given in the specification table. The four controls are, from left to right:

Volume and on/off switch, halance, bass and treble. Size 152mm x

84mm x 35mm

FRONT PANELS FP12.

Frequency response—
20 Hz-50 KHz (-3dB
Bass control—
± 12dB at 60 H
Treble control—

Treble control—
± 14dB at 14KHz
\*Input 1. Impedance
1 Big, ohm
Sensitivity 300mV
†Input 2. Impedance
30 K ohms
Sensitivity 4mV

FRONT PANELS FP12 50p

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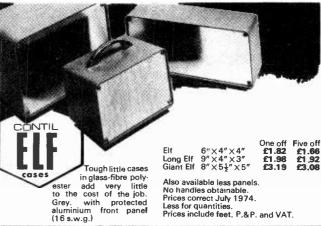
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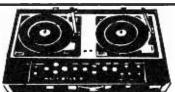
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Ohms=6 ranges from one tenth of
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75 p

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CRS I/10AF	100v	30 p
CRS 1/20AF	200v	35 p
CRS 1/40AF	400v	45p
CRS 1/60AF	600v	55p
THREE AMP (T	764e)	
CRS 3/05AF	50v	48p
CRS 3/10AF	100v	40p
CRS 3/20AF	200v	45p
CRS 3/40AF	400v	55p
CRS 3/60AF	600v	65p
FIVE AMP		
CRS 5/400	400v	66p
SEVEN AMP (T	TOUR)	
CRS 7/100	100v	60p
CRS 7/200	200v	67p
CRS 7/400	400v	65p
CRS 7/600	600v	₩5p
SIXTEEN AMP	(T043)	
CRS 16/100	100v	78p
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: 250M/A	QUARTE	CAMP	ZAMPS	P.I.V.	
B025/05	50 PIV	16p	B2/05	50v	35 p
B025/10		18p	B2/10	100v	40p
1 × 1 × 1			B2/20	200v	45p
	1-11 Prici	n Ø	B2/60	600v	50p
Type	P.I.V. Pr	ico es	B2/100	1000v	55p
B05/05	50v	20p	HX LX		336
	100v	22 <sub>D</sub>	ALL VAREY	er uia.	
B05/10			4 4 4 4 4 4 4	B 1 1/	
B05/20	200∨	23p	4 AMPS		
B05/40	400v	25p	B4/100	100v	55 p
B05/60	600v	27p	B4/200	200v	59p
H x LL	x -ta" dia.		B4/400	400v	65p
1 AMP	P.I.V.		B4/600	600v	75 p
B1/05	50v	25 p	B4/800	800v	£1:00
B1/10	100v	25 p	HX Lx	A" dia.	
B1/20	200v	28p	1		
B1/60	600v	30p	0 AMPS	P.I.V.	
131/00		34b	B6/05	50v	65 p
1111 X 11	x 🛧 "dia.		B6/10	100v	70p
1 AMP			B6/20	200v	88p
W005	50v	29p	B6/40	400v	
W01	100v	30p			96p
W02	200v	32p	B6/6x0	600v	£1:00
W06	600v	35 p	∦H x ∤L x ₁	o dia.	
∦ x #" Tu	bular				

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1101. 110.	Copacity	ronago				Ü		071 15332 16	<b>47</b> 00	3.9 amps	1oz	17p
H8/2A	3.3µF	25V	4p	H7/5	80µF	16V	4p	071 15682 16	6800	5·8 amps	1 łoz	22p
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H8/4	4.7μF	25V	4p	H7/8A	100μF	35V	6р	071 16472 25	4700	5·4 amps	1 ∮oz	22p
, .				H7/9	100µF	63V	6р	072 16502 25	5000 + 5000	9.6 amps	3∮oz	37p
H8/5	5μF	10V	4p	H7/9A	125µF	4V	4p	072 16302 25	7500 + 7500	12.6 amps	4 ∮oz	49p
, .	٠,,,			H7/10	125µF	25V	6р	071 18681 63	680	2·1 amps	1oz	15p
H8/6A	10uF	10V	4р	H7/10A	160μF	265V	3p	07110001 00	000			•
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H8/13A	32µF	50V	4p	H6/4A	330µF	16V	5p		count on lots of 100			
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H8/15A	40µF	35V	4p	H6/8A	470µF	35V	20p	2lb	23p	14lb		58p
,		-	•		•			4lb	30p	16lb		63
H7/1A	50µF	10V	4p					6lb	36p	18lb		68
H7/2A	64µF	2·5V	2p					8lb	42p	20lb		73
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н	DM94	Omni Directional Dynamic Microphone with	l <u>_</u>	systems up to 40 watts RMS£6-20		uitable for most Pa		
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1		metres Cable, 600 ohms	1 513	over freqs. 1000 and 5000 HZ. Suitable up to		MICROPHON	JE MIXERS	
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2N2222A	0.50	AC128 AC151V	0-25 0-14	BCY30	0-19 0-43	MC1310 MC1458CP1	2-92 0-79
2N2368 2N2369	0·31 0·37	AC152V AC153	0·17 0·25	BCY31 BCY32	0-52 1-15	MJ480 MJ481	0-90 1-14
2N2369 2N2646	0-41 0-77	AC153K AC154	0-25 0-20	BCY33 BCY34	0-34 0-37	MJ490 MJ491	0-98 1-38
2N2647 2N2904	1·12 0·55	AC176 AC176K	D-18 D-25	BCY38 BCY39	0-53 1-05	MJE340 MJE2955	0-42 1-12
2N2904A 2N2905	0-70 0-48	AC187K AC188K ACY18	0·23 0·34	BCY40 BCY42	0-87 0-15	MJE3055 MP8111	0-68 0-32
2N2905A 2N2906	0 31	ACY19	0-24	BCY58 BCY59	0-21 0-22	MP8112 MP8113	0-40 0-47
2N2906A 2N2907 2N2907A	0-37 0-40 0-45	ACY20 ACY21 ACY28	0-22 0-26 0-20	BCY70 BCY71	0-17 0-22	MPF102 MPSA05	0-39 0-25
2N2926 2N3053		ACY30 AD142	0-42 0-50	BCY72 BCY87 BCY88	0-13 3-54 2-42	MPSA56 MPSA56	0-26 0-26
2N3054 2N3055	0-60 0-75	AD143 AD149V	0-45 0-66	8CY89 8D115	0-97 0-75	NE555V NE560	0-27 0-90 4-48
2N3390 2N3391	0·26 0·23	AD150 AD161	0-63 0-45	B0116 B0121	0-75 0-75	NESGS NESGSA	448 448
2N3391A 2N3392	0.29	AD162 AD161	0-45	80123 80124	0-32 0-67	0C23	0-56 0-76
2N3393 2N3394	0-13	A0162 J AF109R	1-05 0-40	BD131 BD132	0-40 0-50	0C28 0C35 0C42	0-60 0-35
2N3402 2N3403	0-18 0-19	AF115 AF116	0-24 0-25	BD135 BD136	0-43 0-49	0C45- 0C71	0-32
2N3440 2N3441	0-59	AF117 AF118	0-20 0-50	80137 80138	0-55 0-63	0C72 0C81	0-13 0-20
2N3442 2N3414	0.10	AF124 AF125	0·24 0·20	BD139 BD140	0-71 0-87	0C83 DRP12	0-20 0-50
2N3415 2N3416	0.10	AF126 AF127 AF139	0-19 0-20	BDY20 BF115 BF116	1·05 0·25	SC350 SC360	1-68 1-46
2N3417 2N3638	0-15	AF170	0-25	BF117	0-Z3 0-43	SC400 SC410	1-89
2N3638A 2N3639	0-27	AF172 AF178	0-55	BF119 BF121	0-58 0-25	SC45D SC46D	1-89
2N3641 2N3702	0-11	AF179 AF180	0-50	BF123 BF125	0-27 0-25	SC500 SC510	2·60 2·39
2N3703 2N3704	0-14	AF186 AF200		BF152 BF153	0-20 0-21	SL414A SL623	1·80 4·59
2N3705 2N3706	0-09	AF239 AF240	0-72	BF154 BF158	0-16 8-23	TAA263 TAA350	0-70 2-10
2N3707 2N3708	0.70	AF279 AF280	0-54	BF159 BF160	0-27 0-23	TAA621 TAA661B	2:03 1:32 1:50
2N3709 2N3710	0-12	AL102 AL103 BC107	0-70	BF161 BF163	0-42 0-32	TAD100 Filter	0-70
2N3711 2N3712	0.96	BC108 BC109	0-15	BF166 BF167	0-32 0-21	TBA271 TBA6418	0-64 2-25
2N3713 2N3714	1-33	BC113 BC115	0-13	BF173 BF177	0-24 0-29	TBA800 TBA810	1·50 1·50
2N3715 2N3716	1-80	BC116 BC116A	0·15 0·15	BF178 BF179 BF180 BF181	0-35 0-43	TIL2D9 TIP29A	0-35 0-49
2N3771 2N3772	1-80	BC117	0-18 0-21 0-11	BF180 BF181	0-35 0-34	TIP30A TIP31A	0-58 0-62
2N3773 2N3779	3-15	BC118 BC119 BC121	0-29 0-23	BF182 BF183 BF184	0-40 0-40	TIP32A TIP33A	0·74 1·01
2N3790 2N3791 2N3792	2.35	BC125 BC126	0-15	BF185 BF194	0·30 0·17	TIP34A TIP35A TIP36A	1·51 2·90
2N3794 2N3819	0-10	BC132 BC134	0-30	BF195 BF196	0-16 0-17 0-15	TIP41A TIP42A	3·70 0·79 0·90
2N3819 2N3820 2N3823	0.38	BC135 BC136	0-11	BF197 BF198	0-15 0-18	TIP42A TIP2955 TIP3055	0-90 0-93 0-60
2N3900 2N3901	0-21	BC137 BC138	D-15 D-24	BF199 BF200	0-18 0-40	ZTX300 ZTX302	0·12 0·20
2N3903 2N3904	0-24 0-27	BC140 BC141	0-34 0-29	8F225J BF237	0-19 0-22	ZTX500 ZTX502	0-15 0-17
2N3905	0-24   E	BC142		BF238	0-22	ZTX503	0-21

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rgest st	ockist	-	
Сор	per	Plain	
-15	-1	-1	-15
20	28	-	14
- 30	30		14
30	30		
35	34		24
67	89		49
95	1-21	76	69
	Cop •15 20 30 30 35 67	20 28 30 30 30 30 35 34 67 89	Copper Plai 15 1 1 20 28 + 30 30 - 30 30 - 35 34 - 67 89 -

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100

1.5	0.06	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.15	0.20			
3	0-15	0-17	0.20	0.22	0.25	0.27	0.20			
10	-	0.35	0.40	0.47	0.56	_	_			
35	0.84	9 92	1 18	2-15	2.52	3-65	4-20			
CATHODE STUD ONLY										
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IN34A	0.10	BA141	0.17	BY237	0.12	OA79	0.07			
IN914	0.07	BA142	0.17	BYZ10	0.35	O A 81	0.08			
IN916	<b>●</b> -07	BA144	0:12	BYZ14	0-32	O A 85	0-10			
A A 119	0 07	BA145	0.17	BYZ12	0-30	O A 90	0.07			
A A 129	0.15	BA154	0-12	OA9	0-10	OA91	0.07			
BA100	0.15	BY100	0.15	OA10	0.23	OA95	0.07			
BA102	0.25	BY126	0.15	OA47	0.074	O A 200	0.07			
BA110	0.25	BY127	0.174	OA70	0.07	O A202	0-10			
BA115	0.07	BY140	1.00	OA73	0.10	OA210	0 27			

400

600

800

1000

200

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50	0.24	0.32	0 60	0.62	2.22	2-64	3-36	12:30
100	0.36	0.37	0.70	0.75	2 24	3.00	3-60	12:36
200	0.30	0.41	0.75	0.80	2.82	3.78	4-32	14:40
400	0.36	0.45	0.85	1-10	3.72	4.20	5:40	16:38
600	0.40	0.52	0.95	1.25				

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Single switched (Log and linear) 21 pence
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Singles (Log and linear) 30 pence
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F84 F86 F200 F201 F801 F802 F806 F806 F808 H200 L81 L82 L83 L84 L805 L200 36 38 81 82 83	0:60 0:75 0:75 0:55 0:50 0:85 0:85 0:40 0:65 0:60 0:60 0:60 0:50 0:60 0:45 0:45	AC113 AC126 AC127 AC127 AC176 ACY19 ACY28 ACY40 ACY40 ACY40 AD161 AD161 AD161 AD161 AD161 AD112 AD211 AF115 AF116 AF117 AF118 AF124 AF127 AF139

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PY82	0.35	UBC41
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GET116 GEX86 NKT222 OA5 OA47 OA71 OA73 OA99 OA91 OA202 OA222 OC22 OC22 OC28 OC28 OC29 OC39

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0·70 0·35 0·40 0·40 0·75

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Z801U Z803U Z900T 1A3 1L4 1R5 1S4 1S5

BF167 BF185 BFY51 BFY52 BFY90 BSY27 BSY38 BSY95A BY216 CRS1/30 CRS1/40 CRS1/40 CRS3/20 CRS3/30 CRS3/30 CRS3/30 CRS3/30

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2N1305 2N1305 2N1307 2N1309

5Z3 5Z4GT 6AB7 6AC7 6AK5 6AK5 6AK5 6AK5 6AK5 6AK6 6AX6 6AX6 6AX6 6AX6 6AX6 6AX6 6AX4GT 6BA6 6BS6 6BS6 

6BQ7A 6BR7 6BW6 6BW7 6C4 6C6 6CB6 6CH6 6CH6 6EA8 6F73 6F32 6F33 6H3 6H3 6J3 6H3 6J3 6H3 6J5 6J6 8J6 8J7 8J6 8J7 8J7 8J7 8J7 8J7 8J7

2N2062 2N2147 2N2411 2N2989 2N3053 2N3054 2N3055 2N3390 2N3391 2N3730 2N3731 2N3819

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65N/G 6SQ7 6V6G 8V6GT 6X4 6X5G 6X5GT 6Y6G

6Y6G 6Z4 6-30L2 7B7 7Y4 9D6 11E2 11E3

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1.30 | 0.40 | 0.45 | 0.20 | 0.45 | 0.20 | 0.30 | 19G3 | 19G3 | 19G3 | 19G4 | 0.30 | 19G4 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 19G4 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 19G4 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0. 1 - 10 5 - 80 0 - 50 0 - 40 0 - 40 0 - 40 0 - 80 0 - 80 0 - 80 0 - 70 2 - 20 4 - 90 0 - 50 0 2 00 6 60 7 00 6 75 1 00 0 60 1 00 0 90 1 00 0 80 866 A 931 A 954 955 956 957 1629 2051 5933 6057 6060 6064 6065 6080 6146 8020

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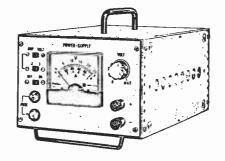
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Brush-Clevite 2 Channel Recorder, 4" sprocketless chart. Push-button gearbox 1, 5, 25, 125 mm/min. Twin intnl. amps. Giving 10mV-10V range, variable sens. elect. zeroing, twin event markers, 13" × 13" × 12", 115v, 60Hz input. £82-59 (inc. carr. & VAT).

N.E.P. Mod. 1050 6 Channel U/V Recorder. Fitted 5 galvos. With P.S.U. for 230v. A.C. 14" × 10" × 12" (recorder) and 14" × 10" × 8" (P.S.U.). £225-60 (inc. carr. & VAT).

# ALL PRICES INCLUDE 10% V.A.T.

# DRY REED INSERTS

Overall length 1-85in. (Body length 1-1in.) Dlameter 0-14in. to switch up to 500mA at up to 250v. D.C. Gold clad contacts 70p per doz.; £415 per 100; £30-25 per 1,000; £275 per 10,000. All carriage paid U.K.

Heavy duty type (body length 2in.) diameter 0:22in. to switch up to 1A. at up to 280V. A.C. Gold clad contacts, £1-49 per doz.; £4-89 per 100; £52-25 per 1,000; Changeover type £2-75 per doz. All carriage paid U.K.

Operating Magnets 65p per doz.; £4:59 per 100; £38:56 per 1000. All carriage paid U.K. Operating Coils for 12v supply to accept up to four standard reds £2:20 per doz.; £12:30 per 100. All carriage paid U.K.

# Cambridge Audio need more of the best people to build more of the best audio products

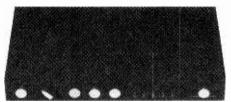














In the past eighteen months we've introduced many new products. Firstly, an advanced stereo tuner employing new techniques and the latest integrated circuits. Next was a mark two version of the well reviewed and widely acclaimed P50 amplifier. For higher power requirements we built the P110 amplifier currently regarded by many as the finest British amplifier available at any price. On the export side the T75x, P70x and P140x have proved remarkably successful and have already established the Cambridge. name for outstanding performance,

quality and good looks in many new overseas markets. This April we showed the all-new Cambridge Audio P60 Stereo Amplifier. This unit incorporates many features not found on any amplifier built anywhere in the world. Audio enthusiasts and music lovers alike appreciated all the new features that we had engineered and we are certain this amplifier will soon become our most popular product, possibly even a world classic. And there's a lot more to come from Cambridge Audio - new products, new ideas. But to speed our programme we need more really good people - you perhaps.

Vacancies exist for technically capable personnel in many areas of the company. Applicants should be audio enthusiasts above all else and as highly qualified as possible. Work may be based in London or St. Ives. Apply to the Chief Engineer, Cambridge Audio at the address below giving full personal particulars.



for people who listen to music

Idon't need a job but I would like details of your pro

Cambridge Audio Limited The River Mill St. Ives Huntingdon PE17 4EP Telephone St. Ives 62901

# **APPOINTMENTS VACANT**

DISPLAYED APPOINTMENTS VACANT: £4.68 per single col. centimetre (min. 3cm). LINE advertisements (run-on): 66p per line (approx. 7 words), minimum two lines. BOX NUMBERS: 30p extra. (Replies should be addressed to the Box number in the advertisement, c/o Wireless World, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, S.E.1.) PHONE: Allan Petters on 01-261 8508 or 01-261 8423. Classified Advertisement Rates are currently zero rated for the purpose of V.A.T.

Advertisements accepted up to 12 noon Tuesday, August 20th for the September issue subject to space being available.

# Opportunities in Electronics

# Train to be an Electronics Technician

If you are 16-20 years old and would like a career in Electronics, our special 3 year training scheme provides the opportunity you are looking for.

We are offering you the opportunity to become an Electronics Technician in a fast expanding industry with an ever increasing demand for those with the ability to

understand the practical workings of complex electronic equipment. Our scheme includes well paid employment whilst training and day release to attend college to study for the City and Guilds Electronics Technician Certificate. In addition to a practical interest in electronics you will require 'O' levels or CSE Grades in

Maths, Physics and English. Telephone, or write to the Training Officer, G & E Bradley Ltd., Electral House, Neasden Lane, N.W.10. 01-450 7811.

BRADLEY electronics

A LUCAS COMPANY 3970

# Senior audio visual technician

Kodak Limited has a vacancy for a Senior Audio Visual Technician in the presentation section of the  $A\!N\!V$  Production Unit which is based at Ruislip.

He will be primarily responsible for the assessment and organisation of equipment servicing, and participate in testing, servicing and developing special items. He will be involved in the design of A/V presentation areas and the judgment of presentation standards both technically and aesthetically.

Aged between 25 and 40, he must have a sound practical knowledge of relevant electronics and mechanics and have experience of workshop practice and organisation. He must have the ability to work on his own initiative with imagination. A background knowledge of photography and sound reproduction would be an advantage. A current driving licence is essential as the job entails occasional travel within the U.K., sometimes at short notice. In return we offer a good starting salary and excellent employee benefits.

Please write giving details of experience and salary to:

Personnel Manager, Kodak Limited, Victoria Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0QJ.



# **ELECTRONIC VACANCIES**

Engineers

Draughtsmen Designers

Service and Test Engineers

Technicians • Technical Authors

Sales Engineers

£1,600-£5,000 pa

**Permanent or Contract** 



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334 Euston Rd., London NW1 3BG

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# RADIO OPERATORS JOIN THE POST OFFICE FROM AGE 19

A job in the Post Office Maritime Service is the key to an interesting career, whether you have recently qualified and are looking for a shore-based job, or are seagoing and wish to swallow the anchor. A progressive future in the Post Office could be yours if you hold a General Certificate in Radiocommunications, issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, or an equivalent certificate issued by a Commonwealth Administration or the Irish Republic.

Starting pay at age 19 is £1,567 a year, including contributions to a compulsory pension scheme, with an additional allowance averaging £300 for shift duties. After two years' satisfactory service your pay becomes £2,054, rising to a maximum of £2,622 at age 25 years. If you are over 19 years of age your salary is dependent upon age at entry.

There are opportunities for further promotion to positions with a basic salary of £3,475 and prospects for advancement into Senior Management.

For further information, write to the Inspector of Wireless Telegraphy (L526), MRSD/ET17, Room 643, Armour House, St. Martin's-le-Grand, London ECIA IAR.

Post Office
Telecommunications

# Communications Instructors and Supervisors

# Saudi Arabia (Jeddah)

Saudi Arabian Airlines, a member of IATA, is a fast expanding corporation and now requires the following men:

# INSTRUCTORS Telephone

to train Saudi students in theoretical and practical maintenance of telephone exchanges, equipment and circuitry. Other duties will include on-the-job training, planning courses, instructing pupils from initial to final stages, assisting the Communications Maintenance Department in their overall activities, particularly in the area of circuit and system planning and budgeting for future training needs in conjunction with other Course Instructors.

Applicants should have at least 5 years' experience in the practice and instruction of telephone technical communications.

# **Teleprinter**

to train Saudi students in theoretical and practical maintenance of teleprinter equipment and circuitry. Other duties, qualifications and experience will be as above, but in the field of teleprinters. In addition, applicants will be required to set up procedures for routine maintenance, also major check procedures and to set acceptable standards of criteria for equipment used.

# Radio

To train local students in the practical and theoretical maintenance of radio equipment. He will teach basic electronics, physics, chemistry and the repair of KHV, VHF, single side band, public address systems, etc.

Applicants should have a good standard of education at least 5 years' experience in the practice and instruction of radio technical telecommunications.

# SUPERVISORS Technical Services

To supervise the installation, maintenance and repair of Saudia radio trans-ceiving, video and public address systems and associated equipment and circuitry. He will also assist the Staff Manager in the planning, engineering and cost estimating of new equipment and prepare provisioning recommendations for spares, etc.

Applicants should have certified training and 4–6 years' shop experience in the maintenance and overhaul of a wide variety of electronic communications equipment (i.e. HF, VHF, UHF).

# **Teleprinter**

To supervise the installation, maintenance and repair of Saudia teleprinter equipment and associated circuitry. He will also assist the Staff Manager in the planning, engineering and cost estimating of new facilities and prepare provisioning recommendations for spares, etc. He will conduct on-the-job training of Saudi nationals.

Applicants should have certified training and 4–6 years' experience in the shop repair and overhaul of a wide variety of teleprinter equipment.

Commencing Salaries will be £5,622 per annum and benefits include free and reduced rate air travel, and relocation expenses.

Please apply with full personal and career details to Mr. A. Dannenberg, Manager of Employment, Saudi Arabian Airlines, c/o TWA Inc., 101 Champs-Elysées, 75008, Paris, France.



[3930

# **NEW HEBRIDES**

# **SENIOR RADIO TECHNICIAN**

Required by the Condominium Radio Department to maintain transmitting and receiving equipment for postal, interisland and domestic services, local and overseas shipping, aircraft, and broadcasting studios-housed in the Radio Station and at our stations.

Candidates must have HNC plus at least five years experience of maintaining telecommunications equipment including side band telephone/teleprinter circuits and telex equipment. Candidates with ONC or City and Guilds with appropriate experience may also be considered. The ability to speak and read French is desirable but not essential. Initial tour 3 yrs. Some touring involved. Salary in the Scale £3,269 to £4,024 p.a. Gratuity 20% total salary drawn. There is no local income tax in New Hebrides

Other Benefits include: Free return air passages, subsidised housing, generous leave on full pay, free medical attention, education allowances and holiday visit passages.

For further particulars you should apply, giving brief details of experience to:

# - own

M Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number M2K/730852/WF.

[3932

# Field service **Engineers**

Ansamatic Ltd require men with an electronics background and experience of bench or field service.

Vacancies exist in Leeds and several S.E. England territories

We offer a satisfying career with your own personal company vehicle and responsibility for vour area.

Commencing salaries are up to £2,250 depending upon qualifications and experience and for ambitious men, there are prospects of fast promotion to supervisory grades.

To find out more contact:

J. N. Ground Ansamatic Ltd Viatron House 928 High Road London N12 9SL Tel: 01-446 2451

telephone answering systems

#### 3974

# RADIO AND TELEVISION **ENGINEERING**

# SOUTH AFRICA

A major television manufacturer is extending its activity in South Africa to take advantage of the introduction of colour television due to occur next year, and wishes to strengthen its team by the addition of:---

# CHIEF TEST EQUIPMENT **ENGINEER (TELEVISION)**

who will head up a small department developing and maintaining test equipment for colour TV production. Salary c. £5,000.

# **DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER** (RADIO)

responsible to the Chief Engineer, but able to work on his own initiative, on radio development work. Salary c. £4,000.

Qualifications, although desirable, are not essential, the requirement being for practical engineers with both the ability and experience to make a genuine contribution to the engineering

Write in the first instance, giving full details of experience and background to:

Box number: WW 3937

# IRELAND

# TECHNICAL OFFICERS

(VHF Radio/Radar)

required in the Radio Service of the Department of Transport and Power

Salary: £1,945-£3,035. Entry up to £2,484 possible. Non-contributory pension. Widows and Orphans pension scheme.

Maximum age-limit: 50 years

#### Essential:

(a) Technician Engineering Diploma Course in Telecommunications and Electronics of Kevin Street College of Technology, or equivalent,

(b) City and Guilds Course 271 (formerly 300). Advanced Studies in Telecommunications and Electronics, or equivalent,

(c) Maintenance experience in one or more of: Radio Communications, Radio Navigational Aids, Radar Digi-

All candidates will be expected to display a sound theoretical and practical knowledge of electronics.

Candidates other than those eligible under (c) above, must have adequate practical experience in the maintenance of electronic equipment.

It is intended to make at least 10 appointments from this : competition.

# CLOSING DATE: 5th SEPTEMBER 1974

For application forms and more details write to the Secretary (1/B), Civil Service Commission, 45 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.

[3939

# QUALITY ASSURANCE

Due to expansion of our Quality Assurance Department we now have vacancies for experienced inspectors and testers.

We are also seeking two experienced and ambitious Engineers to join our Test Methods Department to organise cost effective production of a wide range of advanced state-of-the-art products. Salary negotiable dependant on experience and qualifications and subject to regular review.

Working conditions are excellent including a subsidised canteen and staff social club.

Telephone or write to:

David Stiles

Redifon Telecommunications Limited

Broomhill Road

Wandsworth

London SW18 4JQ

Telephone: 01-874 7281

3972



# If you want a better job, apply yourself.

Even if you scour the Sits Vac columns you won't find all the good jobs to fit your qualifications. Because the best jobs aren't always advertised.

More and more companies are using the Electronics Appointments Register to find qualified men and women.

Join one of our Registers and soon you could be on a short list for a better job. Our confidential service costs you nothing.

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Please send me details of how to enrol on one of your Appointment Registers:

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Address

WW11

Age limits 20-45.

Post to G.A.R. 76 Dean Street London W.1. 01-734 6536

[3940]

# Medical Electronics Technician

for

# **Brompton Hospital**

to undertake the design, construction and maintenance of electronic equipment used in the hospital e.g. instrumentation, amplifiers, transducers, oscilloscopes, optical recorders, mass spectrometer, analogue computers and T.V. systems.

Applicants should have a good working knowledge of electronics and be qualified to O.N.C. standard or equivalent.

Day release will be provided for further approved education.

Salary will be on the scale of £1,656-£2,337 per annum according to experience (plus cost of living allowance).

Applications to Personnel Manager, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP.

[3975

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON TELEVISION SERVICE

requires

# TELEVISION ENGINEERS

1. A Senior Engineer is required to supervise the installation of a new studio for the Institute of Education, and subsequently to be responsible for day-to-day operation and maintenance of the unit in association with the University's Audio-Visual Centre.

Experience in broadcast or educational studio operations is required, together with a sound knowledge of helical-scan recording techniques.

Starting salary (after authorised increase in October 1974) in the range £3,636-£3,990, rising by annual increments averaging £180 to £4,896

2. A Television Engineer is required primarily to maintain and operate a growing videotape copying service, and also to work with studio staff on television production when required.

Detailed knowledge of a wide range of helical-scan videorecorders is required, and preferably some knowledge of videotape transfer problems.

Salary either as Post I above or in the scale £2,580 rising by 8 annual increments to £3,990, according to qualifications and experience.

Interviews for these posts will be held in early October. Applications, with a statement of educational and technical qualifications and relevant experience, and the names of two referees, should be sent by 31st August to:

The Director
University of London Audio-Visual Centre
11 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3RA

13944

# **Electronic Development Engineers**

# E. London £2,000-£3,000

The Submarine Systems Division of STC is the world's largest supplier of submarine cable systems. We are also the technological leaders of this field and our business is growing rapidly.

Repeaters are placed every few miles in a submarine cable system to boost the signals. Once laid they must work continuously for at least 25 years without maintenance. To achieve this reliability they must be designed and manufactured to the highest standards.

We are now developing a new generation of cable systems capable of handling television signals and telecommunications traffic. For this we require experienced engineers to develop wideband (analogue) amplifiers, filter networks and supervisory circuits, to specify and design special testing methods and apparatus, and for performance planning.

Opportunities exist for them to assist in the overseas commissioning and laying of new systems.

We are looking for graduate or similarly qualified electronic engineers with at least two years experience in the design and development of advanced analogue circuits or similar equipment.

Starting salaries will be between £2,000 and £3,000, depending on qualifications and experience, and the Company offers good fringe benefits.

For an information pack on the work of our Submarine Systems Division, conditions of service, and an application form, please phone David Stenhouse on 01-476 1401, or write to him at: Standard Telephones and Cables Limited, (WW 15/8) Henley Rd., N. Woolwich, London E16.



**Standard Telephones and Cables Limited** 

A British Company of ITT



# BBC

# Equipment Department

have vacancies for Senior Laboratory Technicians to work on the test and commissioning of newly manufactured equipment and systems to BBC design. The equipment employs both digital and analogue techniques over the frequency range d.c. to 1000 MHz. Applicants should preferably be qualified to HNC or C & G. Full Technological Certificate level in appropriate subjects.

Starting salary will be in the range £2,040 to £2,250 and rise by annual increments of £105 to £2565, plus cost of living Threshold Payments currently £104 p.a.

Suitably qualified Senior Technicians progress to Engineering Technician whose salary maximum is £2,940. The posts are pensionable, based at Chiswick, within easy reach by tube (Gunnersbury or Acton Town Station) and road (M4, North and South Circular).

For Application Forms please write to the Engineering Recruitment Officer, British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA quoting reference 74.E.4056/WW. Closing date for completed application forms 14 days after publication.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

# Electronics Technician

required by Physics Department to assist in a programme of balloon borne X and gamma ray astronomy. The work involves development of electronic systems for long duration flights at very high altitudes.

The appointment requires a versatile man able to take responsibility for the operation of equipment on field trials and prepared to undertake a limited amount of foreign travel. Candidates should have broad experience with the construction or maintenance of radio communication systems or be able to show a high standard of up-to-date constructional ability. HNC or equivalent qualification desirable, but considerable relevant experience with a minimum qualification at ONC would be considered.

The appointment, which is initially for two years, will be made at Grade 5 (non-established) on the salary scale £2,007—£2.382 per annum.

Applications, giving details of age, qualifications and experience and the names of two referees should be sent by 30 August 1974 to the Deputy Secretary's Section, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH, quoting reference WW 264/T.

# DATEK SYSTEMS LIMITED

The company has vacancies at Senior, Junior and Trainee levels in its Test Department to work on small digital systems used in phototypesetting. The man for the senior position will probably be HNC or degree level, but more importantly will have at least 5 years experience in electronics with emphasis on digital leadership systems. Potential ability in the test environment would be valuable. The Junior and Trainee will ideally be capable of achieving O.N.C. level but above all must have an active interest in electronics.

> Telephone: Mr. PIYASENA 01-904 0061

[3961

# Making a career in Electronics is a fine time to think about Graphic Art

Mention Crosfield Electronics to anyone in the graphic arts or printing industry and you're liable to hear some pretty interesting stories. Like the one about our electronic scanners in colour reproduction, our industrial cameras/enlargers, our computers, electro mechanical systems, and the fact that our Magnascan was the first digital enlarging colour scanner to be marketed in the world.

And that's just a beginning.

If you'd like to join the electronic leaders in the graphic arts and printing field, are interested in the potential of perhaps living and working abroad, see if one of these positions fits your ambitions.

# Installation Service Engineers

For experienced electronic engineers capable of applying their experience to a wide range of industrial applications, there are quite a few interesting positions open.

There's the chance to travel abroad extensively providing a complete installation and back-up service for complex colour scanner/separators in trade houses. Young men at least 22 years old with experience in computers, radar/fixed/variable pulse techniques will also be considered.

# **Test Engineers**

Practical electronic engineers with experience on systems testing and finite equipment will be interested in these positions. A minimum of HNC electrical engineering and practical interest in constantly changing technology is essential. A knowledge of analogue and digital techniques is desirable.

These positions would suit engineers between 22 and 35 years old with at least 3–5 years industrial experience.

# **Technicians**

Successful technicians with ONC or equivalent qualifications will get a tremendous amount of experience at the bench testing electronic sub assemblies, and repairing, modifying and testing relevant design specifications. Excellent opportunities for College or University graduates, or young technicians with some industrial experience behind them.

Salaries will be according to qualifications and experience, and we offer excellent company benefits.

If you're interested in any of these positions phone or write to: J. Phillips, Crosfield Electronics Ltd., 766 Holloway Road, London N.19. Tel: 01-272 7766.

# CROSFIELD ELECTRONICS LIMITED







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LBC have vacancies for Audio Maintenance Engineers. Applicants should have experience in the maintenance and testing of broadcast equipment.

The positions will involve shift work. Salaries in accordance with ACTT/ ABS agreement.

LBC, Communications House, Gough Square, London, EC4

3958

# Coláiste na hollscoile Gaillimh

(University College, Galway)

Department of Physiology

# PHYSIOLOGY TECHNICIAN

to maintain physiological apparatus. The post requires some Electronics, Metalwork & Telecommunications. City & Guilds qualification in Physics, Electronics or Telecommunications required or equivalent.

Salary Scale-£1,851-£2,163 (4 x £78)

Applications to Professor of Physiology from whom further particulars may be obtained.

[3951

# ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

# Wireless Operator Mechanics

required immediately for British stations in Antarctica.

Applicants, preferably single and aged 22-30, should have experience of maintaining and operating SSB transmitters, and receivers. Teleprinter experience desirable.

Salary from £1,688 per annum, all found overseas. Low income tax. Bonus for satisfactory service.

Applications to:

BRITISH
ANTARCTIC SURVEY,
30 Gillingham Street,
London, SW1V 1HY.

Tel: (01) 834 3687.

[3947

# NORTHAMPTON COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

**Department of Engineering** 

# LECTURER I TELECOMMUNICATIONS

To teach Telecommunication Technician course students, with specialist knowledge in Telephony. Applicants should possess appropriate qualifications and have suitable industrial experience. Applicants will be expected to commence duties on 1st September, 1974, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Salary Scale £1.800—£2.874, according to experience and qualifications.

Forms of application and further particulars may be obtained from the Chief Administrative Officer, Northampton College of Technology, St. George's Avenue, Northampton, NN2 6JB, telephone 34286, to whom completed applications should be returned by the 26 August.

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THE LONDON HOSPITAL (WHITECHAPEL)
LONDON, E1 1BB

# Electronics Technician

required for the Department of Medical Physics. Duties will include routine maintenance of electronic equipment, including the SL-75 10 Mev Linear Accelerator, and participation in research and development. Minimum qualification ONC or equivalent. Some experience in electronics essential. Day release for further study will be allowed.

Further information may be obtained from Mr. P. Bennett, Chief Physics Technician, at the above address, tlephone 01-247 5454 ext. 158. Please write or telephone David High, at the above address, telephone 01-247 5454 ext. 388 for application form.

[3973

# TECHNICIAN

Up to £2,103\*

A Technician/Engineer in Television and Sound is required for a post in the Film and Television Department. Duties will include the technical operation and routine maintenance of a C.C.T.V. Studio requiring electronic and mechanical skills and knowledge in the television field. Relevant City and Guilds or H.N.C. Qualifications are desirable and further in service training will be considered.

\*Plus threshold payment

Application forms from the Harrow College of Technology and Art, Northwick Park, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 3TT. Telephone 01-864 4411 Ext. 31.

[3977

# TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS FOR ST. ALBANS AND LUTON

# **QUALIFIED OR NOT!**

**OPPORTUNITIES** for challenging work on testing and calibrating valve and solid-state electronic measuring equipments embracing all frequencies up to u.h.f. in Production, Service and Calibration departments.

**APPLICATIONS** are invited from people of all ages with experience or formal training in electronics and from Ex-Services technicians.

**HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SALARIES**, negotiable and backed by valuable fringe benefits. Overtime normally available.

**GENEROUS RE-LOCATION EXPENSES** available in most instances.

**CONDITIONS** excellent; free life assurance, pension schemes, canteen, social club.  $37\frac{1}{2}$  hour, 5-day, working week.

WRITE or phone for application forms quoting reference WW



MARCONI INSTRUMENTS LTD, Longacres, St. Albans, Herts Tel: St. Albans 59292 Luton Airport, Luton, Beds

Tel: Luton 33866

A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company





# **CHILTERNS GROUP**

# Second Engineer (Telecommunications)

Applications are invited for the position of Second Engineer in the Telecommunications Section of the Group Engineer's Department, based at Bedford, to lead a team of engineers engaged on installation, preventive maintenance and fault location on a wide range of telecommunications apparatus.

Applicants should preferably be qualified to at least HNC standard and must have had experience with VHF, fixed and mobile radio equipment and automatic telephone exchanges. Experience with digital alarm and telemetry systems would be an added advantage.

Salary: £2,775 to £4,000 per annum plus £90 per annum allowance. In accordance with the NJB Threshold Agreement a further £104—£125 is also payable as a supplement to salary.

Applications in writing should be sent to The Manager, Chilterns Group, Eastern Electricity, Prebend Street, Bedford, so as to be received by 22nd August, 1974.

# SERVICE ENGINEER EXTRAORDINARY NEEDED

Experience of digital pulse techniques very valuable. Post relates to field service of advanced pulse height analysis systems. Exciting challenge, good prospects and pay.

Please reply in confidence to:-

Managing Director, INTERTECHNIQUE LIMITED Cottrell House. 53-56 Wembley Hill Road Wembley, HA9 8BE.

[3948

# SOUND TECHNIQUES

require a

# TECHNICAL ENGINEER

to look after the day to day running of the equipment at their Chelsea Recording Studio.

The successful applicant will be part of a closely knit professional team and be expected to work without supervision and use his own initiative.

Salary is by negotiation and after a probationary period will include a profit sharing bonus and non-contributory pension scheme.

Applicants, who should preferably be working in a multi-track recording studio environment at present, should send a full resume of their career to date to

JOHN WOOD SOUND TECHNIQUES LIMITED 46A OLD CHURCH STREET LONDON S.W.3.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

[3959

# **TECHNICIAN**

with electronics experience, for interesting and varied work connected with children's heart disease. Grading according to experience and qualifications.

Write with details to:

Consultant-in-Charge,
Department of Clinical Physiology,
The Hospital for Sick Children,
Great Ormond Street,
London, W.C.1.

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# MARCONI INSTRUMENTS LIMITED

# **ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS**

are required to work on calibration, fault-finding and testing of telecommunications measuring instruments. The work is varied and will enable technicians with experience of r.f. circuits to broaden their knowledge of the latest techniques employed in the electronics and telecommunications industries by bringing them into contact with a wide range of the most advanced measuring instruments embracing all frequencies up to u.h.f.

Entrants may be graded as Test Technicians, Senior Test Technicians or Technician Engineers according to experience and qualifications. Our production and servicing programme, geared to our recognised export achievement, provides employment combined with prospects of advancement, not only within these grades, but into other technical and supervisory posts within the Company at St. Albans and Luton.

Salaries are attractive and conditions excellent. A Pension Scheme includes substantial life assurance cover provided by the Company. Assistance with removal may also be given in appropriate cases. Please write or telephone, quoting reference WW748, for application form to:



Mr. P. Elsip, Personnel Officer, Marconi Instruments Ltd, Longacres, St. Albans, Herts. Tel: St. Albans 59292



Member of GEC-Marconi Electronics

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# **Avery-Hardoll**

Manufacturers of Meter Pumps for Petrol and Fuelling Equipment for Aircraft, require two

# **TECHNICAL SERVICE ENGINEERS**

One to be resident in Wiltshire and the other in West Yorkshire. The successful candidates will have reached ONC in electrics or electronics and preferably have had experience in electromechanical servicing.

The duties are concerned with the commissioning, diagnosis of faults, and rectification of electronic equipment associated with liquid flow measuring devices, mainly on readout and control.

Permanent staff position with a Company car, four weeks' holiday after one year of service, contributory pension scheme, etc.

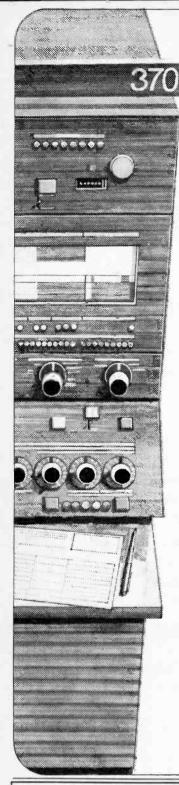
Please apply in writing, giving brief details of experience to date, to:

Personnel Manager, Avery-Hardoll Ltd., Downley Road, Havant, Hants.



A member of the Avery Group

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# Customer Engineers

# Even computers need a little understanding

Computers may make life more simple, but they're pretty complex themselves, and sometimes they need the understanding of a trained Customer Engineer to sort out their problems.

IBM's expanding sales and the continuous development of new, more sophisticated systems means that we need more Customer Engineers. Men like you who already have a knowledge of electronics and are looking for a place in the front line of computer technology.

We'll give you the sort of training it takes to service and maintain our medium and large-scale systems. An on-going training matched to IBM's evolving range of computer products, to keep your expertise right up to the minute.

In addition to electronics knowledge, to ONC/HNC qualification level (or equivalent), you'll need a logical approach to mechanical problems and the ability to get on well with people at all levels in a wide range of businesses.

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Kingdom Limited, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL, quoting ref: WW/92275.

IBM

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# TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER HIGH VACUUM TECHNOLOGY

A Physics Graduate, aged about 40, is required to head a technical group engaged in high voltage, high vacuum technology.

The Group will evaluate developments and, as appropriate, will introduce innovations to manufacturing processes which have, in part being current for some 25 years. The Manager may initially secure a detailed appreciation of the problem areas through secondment for a period of six months to an associated U.S. Company.

This is a challenging appointment, and there are opportunities for further advancement within the organisation. Location is North West London.

Please reply giving full personal and career details to Position Number AKT 4495, Austin Knight Limited, London, W1A 1DS.

Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, therefore companies in which you are not interested should be listed in a covering letter to the Position Number Supervisor. [3945]

# UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWARTERSRAND,

# Johannesburg, South Africa EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The Unit is building a broadcast colour television complex. The following vacancies exist:

# (a) Head of Television Engineering

Senior Engineers currently involved in colour broadcasting and who hold appropriate qualifications are invited to apply. Experience with all forms of studio equipment and operational procedures is necessary and some proven organized ability could be advantageous.

# (b) Assistant to the Head of Television Engineering

Applications are invited from people who have had several years experience in broadcast colour television. The successful applicant would probably be of assistant engineer or engineer grade in the UK broadcast industry.

Salary for both posts will depend on qualifications and experience.

Interested persons should obtain the information sheet relating to these posts from Miss J. Lloyd, London Representative, University of the Witwatersrand, London Office, Chichester House, 278 High Holborn London WC1, England with whom applications should be lodged not later than 30th August, 1974. An airmail copy should be sent to the Registrar, University of the Witwatersrand, Jan Smuts Avenue, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Interviews will be conducted in mid-September.

[396]

LEWISHAM HEALTH DISTRICT

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[393]

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(Technician Grade V)

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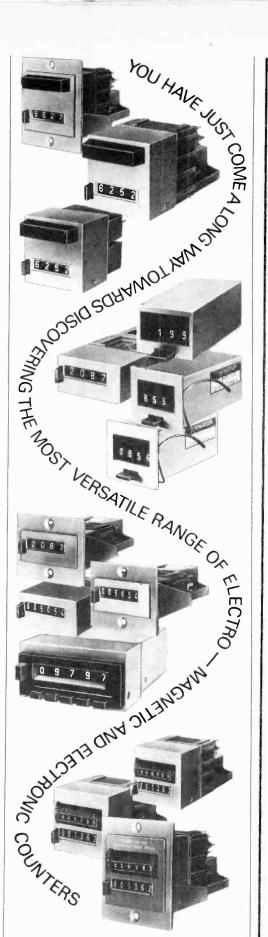
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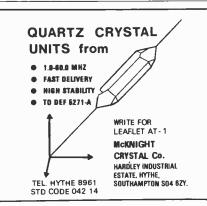
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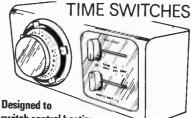
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# Classifieds continued from p,82 Articles for Sale Continued

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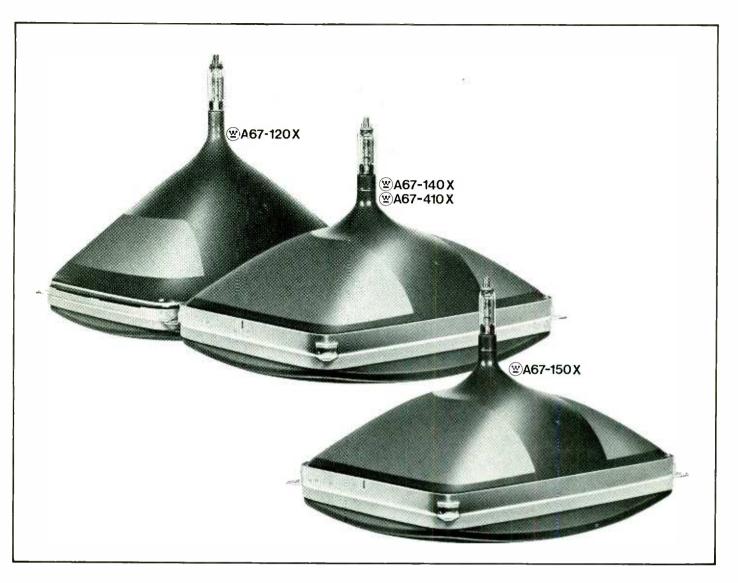
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