

... NEWS PROJEC

ESSORS ... AUDIO.

TRANSCENDENT 2000 SINGLE BOARD SYNTHESIZER

LIVE PERFORMANCE SYNTHESIZER DESIGNED BY CONSULTANT TIM ORR (FORMERLY SYNTHESIZER DESIGNER FOR EMS LIMITED) AND FEATURED AS A CONSTRUCTIONAL ARTICLE IN ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL. The TRANSCENDENT 2000 is a 3 octave instrument transposable 2 octaves up or down giving an effective 7 octave range. There is portamento, pitch bending, a VCO with shape and pitch modulation, a VCF with both low and high pass outputs and a separate dynamic sweep control, a noise generator and an ADSR envelope shaper. There is also a slow oscillator, a new pitch detector, ADSR repeat, sample and hold, and special circuitry with precision components to ensure tuning stability amongst its many features.

The kit includes fully finished metàlwork fully assembled solid ieak cabinet filter sweep pedal, professional quality components (all resistors either 2% metal oxide or 1% metal trim) and it really is complete — right down to the last nut and bolt and last piece di weil. There is even a 13A plug in the kit — you need buy absolutely no more parts before plugging in and making great music! Virtually all the components are on the one professional quality thregatas PCB printed with component locations. All the controls mount directly on the main board all connections to the board are made with connector plugs and contructions is so simple in can be built easily in a few evenings by almost anyone capable of neat soldering! When finished you will possess a synthesizer comparable in performance and quality with ready built units selling for between £500 and £700!

COMPLETE KIT ONLY £172.00 + VAT!

Comprehensive handbook supplied with all complete kits! This fully describes construction and tells you how to set up your synthesizer with nothing more elaborate than a multi-meter and a pair of ears!



Cabinet size 24.6"x15.7"x4.8" (rear) 3.4" (front)

PNWFRTRAN

BEING FEATURED THIS MONTH

Another superb design by synthesizer expert Tim Orr!

ПРХ ENDENT

DIGITALLY CONTROLLED, TOUCH SENSITIVE, POLYPHONIC, MULTI-VOICE SYNTHESIZER Like all of our kits the TRANSCENDENT DPX really is complete — fully finished metalwork, solid teak cabinet, professional quality components (all resistors 2% metal oxide), nuts, bolts, etc — even a 13A plug! Being digitally controlled the DPX may be operated by computer and the kit also includes a COMPUTER INTERFACE SOCKET!



Panel size 19.0"x3.5", Depth 7.3"

COMPLETE KIT ONLY £365.00 + VAT! **5 CHANNEL LIGHTING CHROMATHEQUE 5000** EFFECTS SYSTEM



COMPLETE KIT ONLY £49.50 + VAT!

Cabinet size 36.3"x15.0"x5.0" (rear) 3.3" (front)

This versatile system featured as a constructional article in ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL has 5 frequency channels with individual level controls on each channel. Control of the lights is comprehensive to say the least. You can run the unit as a straightforward sound-to-light or have it strobe all the lights at a speed dependent upon music level or front panel control or use the internal digital circuitry which produces some superb random and sequencing effects. Each channel handles up to 500W and as the kit is a single board design wiring is minimal and construction very straightforward

ORDERING INFORMATION

AND MORE KITS ON PAGE 8

Kit includes fully finished metalwork, fibreglass PCB, controls, wire, etc. - Complete right down to the last nut and bolt

All kits also available as separate packs (e.g. P.C.B., component sets, hardware sets, etc.) Prices in FREE CATALOGUE





Four for cars!



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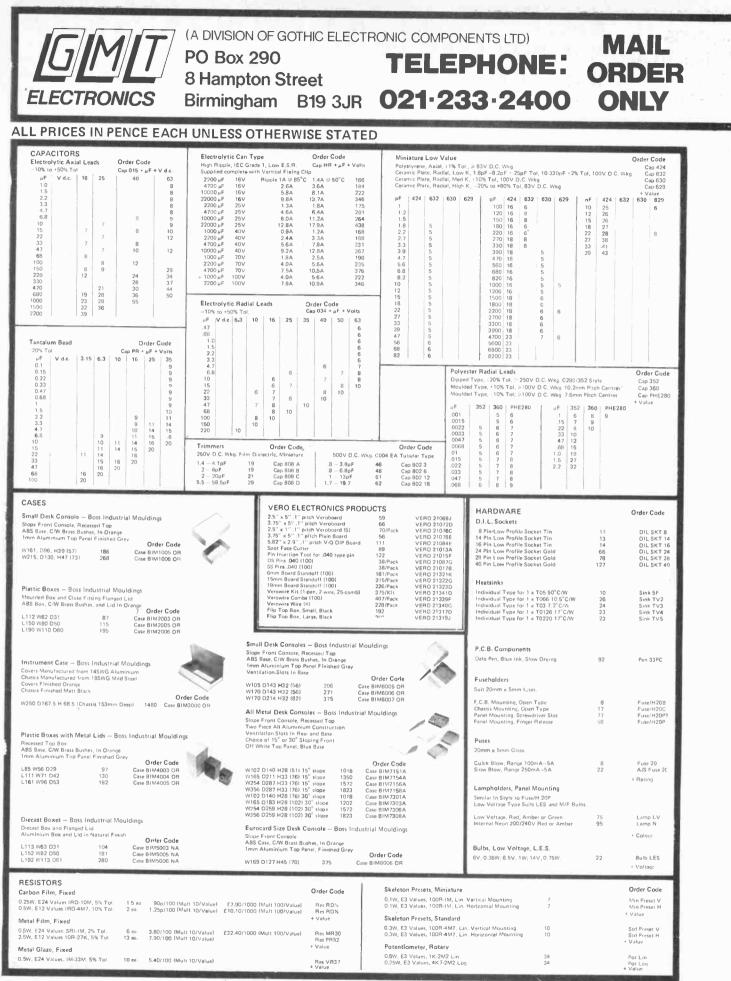
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PANEL BOXES* WITH LID 3x2x1" 54 METERS FED 60x46x 35mm 0-50µA 0-100µA 0-500µA 0-10mA 0-50mA 0-10mA 0-50mA 0-100mA 0-500mA 0-100mA 0-2A 0-250 0-250 0-500 AC 0-3000 AC 54 4x11/3 72 70 88 98 145 185 210 175 215 265 4x4x1½" 4x2%x1½" 4x2%x1½" 5x4x2" 5x4x2" 6x4x2" 7x5x2½" 7x5x2½" 10x7x3" 10x7x3" 10x4¼x3" 12x5x3" 12x8x3" 355 200 323 275 323 323 323 323 5.0MHz 6.5536M .680M .0833**3**M .375M 10.0MHz 10.7MHz 12MHz 14 3181MHz 18MHz 18 432M 392 300 323 323 **VOLTAGE REGULATORS** OPTO S VU 1A 5V 12V 15V 18V T03 7805 7812 7815 7818 T022D 7805 7812 7815 7818 7818 7824 ELECTRONICS 323 323 323 475p each 20.0MHz 27.648M 7905 2200 27.648M 48.0MHz 4¼x3¼x1½ 0-50μA 0-100μA 0-500μA 595p each LEDs with Clips 13 17 18 14 FIL209 Red FIL211 Grn TIL212 Yel ETI Projects: 1A 5V 2V 7905 7912 7915 7918 7924 90p 90p 90p 90p 90p Parts ava for: Click Red Amber Grn LEDs. 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Send SAE plus 5p for list. 4 14 17 95 LCD 31/2 Dig 110 LCD 4 Digit 4543 4549 4553 155 375 398 540 1275 260 220 14 14 14 14 157 14 14 14 52 110 55 372 95 372 95 372 95 372 95 372 95 105 670 670 670 670 5200 2280 428 780 780 54 4070 230 150 144 180 4029 50 150 COMPUTER 4072 4073 4075 4076 4077 4078 403 4450 4451 4452 4490F 4490V 4501 4502 4503 4506 150 46 44 365 105 375 210 490 668 669 670 1Cs 2102-2 2111 211202N 4032 80 182 182 248 4033 4034 4035 4036 4037 95 116 80 100 108 320 51 60 50 46 46 145 66 87 58 225 195 250 1556 58 21124 25134 25108 27008 2108 2108 2116 4027 745262 745287 745262 74527 745475 811595 811595 811595 811597 AX-52376 CP1610 MC1488 MK4118 260 CPU 248 280 CPU 4M 280 CTC 280 PIO 550 650 775 995 408 60 4038 4038 4040 4041 4041 4082 4085 4086 CMOS* 4561 65 375 155 280 26 595 297 130 75 63 4506 4507 4508 4510 2550 4000 12 12 12 408 1050 325 750 185 895 325 325 125 125 125 125 125 920 85 90 325 2099 990 1099 595 660 4093 4094 4 4511 4512 4513 4514 4043 4044 4045 4046 4047 4048 4049 4050 4051 4052 4053 4054 4572 4580 4581 4582 4583 4584 684 155 30 27 18 14 35 55 63 25 60 32 70 52 50 14 40 140 10 35 50 50 4000 4009 4010 4011 4012 4098 4515 4616 4517 4518 4519 4520 4521 4522 4526 4527 4528 4529 4530 4531 4099 4160 4161 4162 4163 4174 4585 10 25 33 45 45 110 99 110 1650 480 40 40 40 40 40 4175 4194 4408 4409 4055 4056 4057 4059 4060 4061 4062 4063 4066 4067 4019 4020 4021 4022 4410 90 1200 995 110 30 4411 4412 4412 4415 4024 4534 44 44 4536 280 14 14 4538 4068

ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL — SEPTEMBER 1979

Here's why you should buy an I.C.E. instead of just any multimeter

* Best Value for money.

- ♣ Used by professional engineers, D.I.Y. enthusiasts, hobbyists, service engineers.
- * World-wide proven reliability.
- * Low servicing costs.
- 20K/volt sensitivity and high accuracy.
- * Large mirror scale meter.
- * Fully protected against overload.
- * Large range of inexpensive accessories.
- * 12 month warranty, backed by a full after sales service at E.B.Sole U.K.Distributors.



news diges

20. 7.8

All Starter

SOCKET TO ME

To simplify fault finding and component replacement for the commercial market, Winslow Component Systems have designed a transistor socket for TO220 and TO 202 power transistors

Available in two versions, the W3416 has staggered contacts to stop it falling over during flow soldering, and the W3416S has in-line contacts.

The body of the socket is moulded in glass-reinforced polyester and the phosphor bronze contacts are available in both gold plated and bright acid tinned finishes.

For further information contact Winslow Component Systems Ltd, Southern House. Edenbridge, Kent.

CASE STUDY

Having problems boxing your goodies? You might find what you want in the new releases from Vero and West Hyde Developments.

Vero's G-Series is a range of small metal instrument cases. which come in three standard sizes with satin anodized aluminium top cover, and front and rear panels and base in matt black PVC-clad steel.

When the case is assembled. there are no visible fixings. The cover can be removed by unscrewing the feet. The cases have a sloping vizor to protect light displays against glare.

The latest additions to the BOCON range from West Hyde are ten, two part cases with loose front and rear panels.

PCBs can be mounted on the bosses, the three middle sizes taking one and the three largest sizes taking two standard

Eurocards on both top and base. Further pillars are also provided as intermediate mounts as are extra chassis. supports.

A useful feature of this range is that the four smallest sizes are available with battery compartments at one end to take IV5 pencells or flat 9V types. The smallest case is intended for use with hand-held, battery instruments.

Further details of Vero's G-Series from Vero Electronics Ltd, Industrial Estate, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Ham-pshire SO5 3ZR.

For information on the BOCON range, contact West Hyde Developments Ltd, Unit 9, Park Street Industrial Estate, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1ET. Happy Boxing Day!

1 Mar Hou SERVO AMP

from Ferranti, the New ZN419CE is a precision IC servo amplifier for use in pulse width position servo mechanisms and motor speed control applications

It features low quiescent current, high output drive capability, low external component count and can operate over a wide range of repetition

Special,

Price change —

CB SPECIAL

from the publishers of Hobby Electronics, will cost 75 pence plus 25 pence postage. Just send a PO/ cheque for £1.00 to CB Special, 145 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H OEE.

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rates and pulse widths.

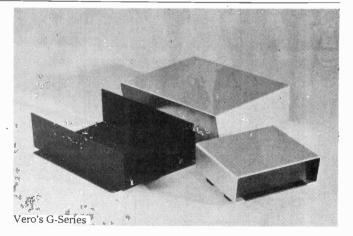
The device operates from a standard 1.5 mS pulse width with Schmitt trigger input shaping. The supply can be an-ything from 3.5 to 6.5V as the ZN419CE incorporates precision internal voltage stabilisation

More information can be obtained from Ferranti Electronics Ltd, Fields New Road, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 8NP,

We've had several inquiries about errors in the System 8000 Tuner-amplifier project, which appeared in the June and July editions of ETI.

Unfortunately, we are unable to answer any technical queries on this project as the design from which Uni-Electric are producing their kit has been changed since we published the proiect.

In view of this, all inquiries on the System 8000 should be addressed to Uni-Electric Ltd. 182-184 Addington Road, South Croydon, Surrey. Tel. 01-657 4136.



New additions to West Hydes BOCON range.

PNWFRTRA

PSI 4002 STUDIO MODEL



cabinet size 17.2" × 17.2" × 6.7'

COMPLETE KIT ONLY £196.90 + VAT

FOR ELECTRONIC KITS OF DISTINCTION

200 + 200 watt AMPI IFI

As featured in Electronics Today International 400W rms continuous — 800W peak! 0.03% THD at FULL power! PLUS all the following features too!

- * Each channel totally independent with its own stabilised power supply driven by custom designed TOROIDAL transformers!
- * Inherent reliability monster heat sinks for cool running at the hottest venues electronic open and short circuit protection!
- ★ Ultra low feedback (an incredible low 14dB overall!), super high slewing rate (20V / µ s), 200W rms. continuous to 4 ohm from EACH channel, input sensitivity 0.775V (0dB).
- * Professional quality components, sturdy 19" rack mounting chassis complete with sleeve and feet for free standing work too.
- Easy to build plenty of working space with ready access to all components, minimal wiring, extensive instruction suitable for both experience constructors and newcomers to electronics.
- * Value for money quality and performance comparable with ready-built amplifiers costing over £600!

MPA 200 100 WATT (rms into 8-) MIXER/AMPLIFIER

COMPLETE KIT ONLY £49.90+ VAT

Featured as a constructional article in ETI, the MPA 200 is an exceptionally low Featured as a constructional article in EII, the MFA 200 is all exceptionally finite priced — but professionally finished — general purpose high power amplifier. It features adaptable input mixer which accepts a wider range of sources such as microphone, guitar, etc. There are wide range tone controls and a master volume control. Mechanically the MPA 200 is simplicity itself with minimal wiring needed making construction very straightforward. The kit includes fully finished metalwork, fibreglass PCBs, controls, wire etc. —

complete down to the last nut and bolt.

MATCHES THE CHROMATHEQUE 5000 LIGHTING EFFECTS SYSTEM PERFECTLY!



T20+20 20W STEREO AMPLIFIER £33.10+VAT

This kit, based upon a design published in Practical Wireless, uses a single printed circuit board and offers at very low cost, ease of construction and all the normal facilities found on quality amplifiers. A 30 watt version of this kit (T30 + 30) is also available for **£38.40** + VAT.

MATCHING TUNERS - SEE OUR FREE CATALOGUE

COMPLETE KITS: Our complete kits really are complete. All of the projects shown on this page are supplied with fully finished metalwork, ready assembled high quality teak veneer cabinet (last 4 kits on this page), cables, nuts, bolts, etc., and full instructions — in fact everything

All of the kits shown on this page are available as separate packs for those customers who wish to spread their purchase or perhaps make their own cabinets or metalwork. Prices are given in our FREE CATALOGUE.

PRICE STABILITY: Order with confidence. Irrespective of any price changes we will honour all prices in this advertisement until October 31st, 1979, if this month's advertisement is mentioned with your order. Errors and VAT rate changes excluded. EXPORT ORDERS: No VAT. Postage charged at actual cost plus 50p handling and

U.K. ORDERS: Subject to 15% surcharge for VAT. No charge is made for carriage. or at current rate if changed. SECURICOR DELIVERY: For this optional service (U.K. mainland only) add £2.50

(VAT inclusive) per kit. SALES COUNTER: If you prefer to collect kit from the factory, call at Sales Counter rear of factory). Open 9 a.m -4.30 p.m. Monday-Thursday



DE LUXE EASY TO BUILD LINSLEY HOOD 75W STEREO AMPLIFIER £99.30 + VAT

This easy to build version of our world-wide acclaimed 75W amplifier kit based upon circuit boards interconnected with gold plated contacts resulting in minimal wiring and construction delightfully straightforward. The design was published in H-Fi News and Record Review and features include rumble filter, variable scratch filter, versatile tone controls and tape monitoring whilst distortion is less than 0.01%.

WIRELESS WORLD FM TUNER £70.20 + VAT

A pre-aligned front-end module makes this Wireless World published design very simple to construct and adjust without special instruments. Features include an excellent a.m. rejection push-button station selection as well as infinitely variable tuning and a phase locked loop stereo decoder, incorporating active filters for "birdy" suppression.

LINSLEY-HOOD CASSETTE DECK £79.60+VAT

This design, published in Wireless World, although straightforward and relatively low cost provides a very high standard of performance. There are separate record and replay amplifiers and switchable equalisation together with a choice of bias levels are also provided. The mechanism is the Goldring-Lenco CRV with electronic speed control.



lemory Bank Calendar Watch nu & Duns Carrow Moonraker he Bond watch from Moonraker is the watch offer they said even ETI could never do. SEIKO at a 40% discount! After all noone discounts Rolls Royce do they? Well here it is. A SEIKÓ Memory Bank Calendar watch which retails everywhere at £138 for only £79.50 inc VAT and Registered Post charges. The watch itself is a different league to other timepieces. It shows day, date, month, hours, minutes and seconds continuously, and switches to display the full calendar, month by month, from December 31st 2009 at the push of a button! January 1st 1930 to Twelve or twenty-four hour display can be selected and changed at will! Up to ELEVEN dates in the forthcoming year can be set as "MEMO" dates in the memory bank, and upon the alloted day the watch keeps the word MENO flashing on the display to remind you of whatever it was you forgot. No more forgetting birthdays, anniversaries or evenings out!

Battery life is a good two years and the watch carries the full SEIKO guarantee. (Although these watches are so reliable chances are you'll never find out how good that is!)

Operating the watch is simple and logical, and you don't need a pin to set it either! Even battery changing is facilitated by the 'hatch back' construction. You'll never see an offer like it again for a long long time, and even now we can't hold this price for long, so now's the time to get yourself the best there is in a watch, get a SEIKO and get it at ETI's prices!

Orders can only be accepted using the coupon below, and then in order to be fair to everyone, only one watch per coupon. Supplies at this price are limited, so forgive us for being so formal!



This

MEMORY-BAN

SEIKO

ARTZL



CALCULATORS SCIENTIFIC * SPECIAL OFFER TEXAS T159 fogether with PC100B (Complete as ma ations £285.00 TEXAS / HP Accessories available #TEXAS T159 (New Card prog 960 prog steps of 100 mem) £156.50 £60.00 €156 ±Et60 ±E £140.00 #TEXAS T157 (Key Prog 8 mem. 150 Keystrokes/ 50 Pro g Step\$) £25.00 TEXAS T133 (New — same spec. as T130, but 3 mem) #TEXAS T145 (New updated version of the Texas T140) #TEXAS 42MBA (10 Oig Fin / Stat Prog 12 mem 32 keyst £42.95 £46.50 *TEXAS TI PROGRAMMER (Hexadecimal Oct) *TEXAS T151/iii (New 8 Dig+Exp 10 mem 32 Prog Ste £26.30 £23.00 £18.50 Sci) TEXAS T150 LCD (Sci/Stat. 2 Con Mema) TEXAS T125 LCD (Sci/Stats) Make more of your Texas 1158 / 59 Calculator MATH/UTLITES MODULE you write your own programs this library is for you! Most rograms in this library are designed to be used either on their own or as subroutines of your programs. programs in this library are designed to be used either on their own or as subroutines of your programs. Applications range from utility programs such as printer formating and large-scale pluting to advanced mathemasical moutines. Module includes Prompter. Alphe Messages. Printer Formatting. Superplotter. Sorting. Data Arrays. Data Packing. Prine Factors. Myperbolic Functions. Gemme Factorial. Rendom Numbers. Normal Distribution. Interpolation. Roots of a Function. Minimax. Romberg Integration. Differential Equations. Discrets Fourier Series. Calculator Status. Varable Arithmetic Module Check.
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 £90.00

 *TEXAS T159 with Maths / Utilities
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 *SUMMER SALE TEXAS T159 Calculator (complete as manufacturer's spec... master module, charger, e.c.). *PLUS* statistics module and extra set of 40 Blank Prog Cards with wallet, etc. ONLY £180
 *CBM 9190R (as 4190R but with 9 memories)
 £27.50

 *CBM Pro 100 (72 Step Prog)
 £29.50

 *HP332 (B mem Pro Sci / Sta)
 64.00

 *HP532 (Advanced Sci with Statistics)
 £50.00

 *HP532 (Advanced Sci with Statistics)
 £50.00

 *HP532 (Advanced Sci with Statistics)
 £25.76

 *HP574 (Fully prog with Printer)
 £257.76

 CASIO A2000 (updated Ad 1000 Cal. 3-Way Stopwatch / Alarm plus Date Calendar)
 £22.00

 CASIO FX3000 (L0D3 cds Id/ DP / Rec.)
 £22.00

 CASIO FX3000 (L0D Sci Sid / DP / Rec.)
 £27.73

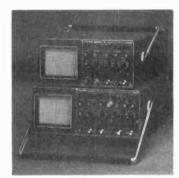
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22 Cowper St., London, EC2

news digest



SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT

Philips have announced two new 35 MHz oscilloscopes to extend the facilities already found in the well-proven 25 MHz range.

In appearance, the new scopes, designated the PM3216 and PM3218, are very similar to their predecessors. Spot the new scopes in our photos. (The new models are below).

The main difference between the two new instruments is that the PM3216 is dual-trace, single timebase and the PM3218 is the dualtrace, dual timebase model. The PM3218 also features an alternate timebase so that both main and delayed timebase signals can be displayed for easy reference. Sensitivity for both of the new models is

Sensitivity for both of the new models is 2mV over the full 35 MHz bandwidth, coupled with a trigger sensitivity of 1 div and an external trigger sensitivity of 200 mV. In addition a 10:1 attenuator on the external trigger provides a very wide dynamic range.

Z-input modulation makes the scopes ideal for logic analyzer applications.

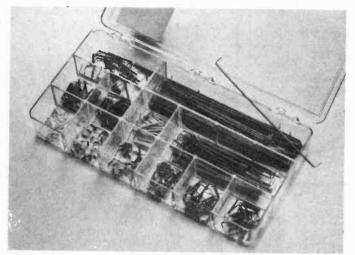
Both accuracy and ease of use are enhanced by means of double insulators which allows the instruments to be operated safely without an earth connection, thereby eliminating earth loop and hum problems.

The new models can be operated almost anywhere, with possible mains supplies of 110, 127, 220 and 240V AC (\pm 10%) in the frequency range 46 to 440 Hz, and also 21 to 27V DC. An optional internal 24V battery supply makes the unit truly portable. Power consumption is 30 W.

Further information from Pye Unicam Ltd, York Street, Cambridge CB1 2PX.

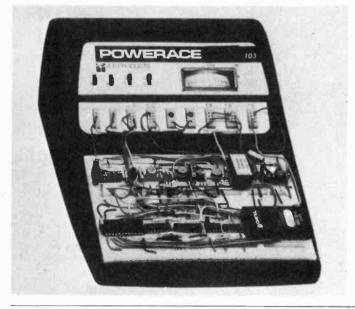


news digest.



BUMPER BUNDLE FROM LEKTROKIT

We suspect that everyone at Lektrokit must be working 26 hours a day, 8 days a week. Every post seems to bring news of more goodies from them. Let's start with the Powerace 103. No, it's not an electronic poker game. Lektrokit describe it as a circuit prototype construction aid. It's a complete, self-contained unit, enabling analogue and/or digital circuitry to be built without using



GIGAMPU COUNTER?

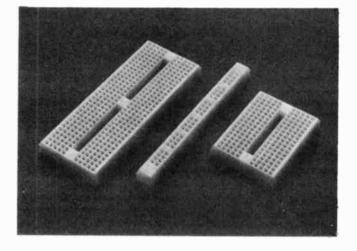
No, it doesn't count Gigampu's. It's an MPU-based frequency counter from Racal with a frequency coverage of 10 Hz to 26.5 Gigahertz. The model 548 extends the

The model 548 extends the standard range of the 54 series to 40 GHz with a resolution of 1Hz. Further options, to extend the range even further, are in the pipeline.

Standard features are high sensitivity to -30 dBm, input protection, easy to operate

keyboard control and keyboard selected test and diagnostic functions. Options include power measurement, GPIB connection, remote programming/BCD output and digital to analogue converter output.

For further details contact Racal-Dana Instruments Ltd, Duke Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 ISB.



one of those nasty, hot soldering irons.

The unit has its own internal power supplies to provide all necessary power rails for the circuitry under construction. DC voltage outputs of +5V(750mA), +15V (250 mA) and -15V (250 mA) are available. All DC supplies are regulated with ripple and noise of less than 10 mV and line and load regulation of less than 1%.

The matrix of 1680 solderless, plug-in tie points will accept all ICs and has the capacity to hold up to 18, 14 pin, DIL packages. A 15-0-15V meter on the front panel has accessible inputs, enabling supplies or circuitry to be monitored.

The front panel also carries two logic switches, two data switches and two buffered LED logic indicators.

Powerace is only $7.5 \times 11.5 \times 4$ in, weighs in at 2.5 lbs and is mains powered.

Lektrokit is also to market three new units that together form a solderless breadboard system.

The 217L and 234L terminal strips and the 206R distribution strip offer 170, 340 and 48 preconnected sockets respectively on a standard 0.1 in matrix. The three units can be fixed together in any configuration. Each has a self-adhesive backing for fixing to any flat surface and screw holes permit more secure fixing (they even give you free screws!).

When you have your breadboard, try to persuade granny to buy you a Lekrokit breadboard jumper wire kit. Each kit contains 350 wires with their ends already stripped and bent at right angles for instant use.

Fourteen different lengths are included, from the smallest pieces with a 0.1 in span, for linking adjacent holes on the 0.1 in matrix, to others with a span of five inches. Each length has its own distinct colour sleeving for easy identification. All the wires are solid, tinned 22 awg with PVC sleeving. The kit is presented in a smart, compartmentalised case.

That little lot should solve some of your Christmas stocking problems. If you want to know more about these Lektrokit products, contact Lektrokit Ltd, Sutton Industrial Park, London Road, Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1AZ.





*EX STOCK DELIVERY (Subject to availability)

THE ULTIMATE IN PERFORMANCE - MEASURES RESISTANCE TO 0.01 OHMS, VOLTAGE TO 100 MICROVOLTS, CURRENT TO 1 MICROAMPS AT LOWEST EVER PRICE!

FEATURES

- 3½ digits 0.56" high LED for easy reading
- $100 \mu V$, $1 \mu A$, 0.01Ω resolution
- High input impedance 10 Megohm
- High accuracy achieved with precision resistors, not unstable trimpots
- Input overload protected to 1000V (except 200mV scale to 600V)
- Auto zeroing, autopolarity
- Mains (with adaptors not supplied) or battery operation-built-in charging circuitry for NiCads
- Overrange indication
- Hi Low power ohms, Lo for resistors in circuit, Hi for diodes

	SPECIFICATIONS:
DC Volts	Range 200mV, 2V, 20V, 200V, 1000V Accuracy 1% \pm 1 digit, Resolution .1mV
	Overload protection 1,000 volts max
AC Volts	Range 200mV, 2V, 20V, 200V, 1000V (Response 45Hz to 5KHz)
	Accuracy 1.5% ± 2 digits, Resolution .1mV
	Overload protection 1000V max, 200mV scale 600V
DC Current	Range 2mA, 20mA, 200mA, 2amp.
	Accuracy 1% ± 1 digit, Resolution 1 Microamp
	Overload protection 2 amp fuse and diodes
AC Current	Range 2mA, 20mA, 200mA, 2 amp
	Accuracy 1.5% ± 2 digits, Resolution 1 Microamp
	Overload protection – 2 amp fuse and diodes
Resistance	Range 20, 200, 2K, 200K, 2 Meg. 20 Meg.
	Accuracy 1% ± 1 digit, Resolution .01 ohms
Environmental	Temp coefficient 0° to 30° C ± .025% °C
	Operating Temp 0° to 50° C Storage -20° to 60° C
General	Mains adaptor: 6 - 9 Volts @ 200mA (not supplied)
	4C size batteries (not supplied)
	Size 8¼ x 5¾ x 2¼ Weight 2½ lbs.

At £55, M1200B is the best buy among DMM's currently available. Its 0.01 ohms resolution allows you to detect shorted windings in coils, transformers or motors. It is also useful in checking low contact resistance in switches, relays or connectors. Poor solder connections can also be spotted. The low power ohms function permits accurate measurements of in circuit resistance without forward biasing semiconductor junctions.

You have been waiting a long time for a digital multimeter with all these features at a price like this. Now its yours.

Also available from retail shops: Audio Electronics,301 Edgware Rd,London W2 Z & I Aero Services, 85 Tottenham Court Road London W.1	To: Maclin-Zand Electronics Ltd 1st Floor, Unit 10, East Block 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X OAP			
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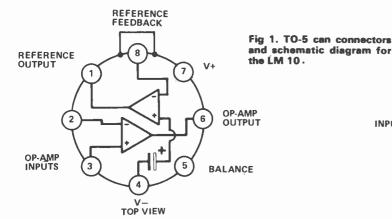
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TRANSISTORS		THYRISTORS
AC126 £0.21 BC148 £0.08 BC549 £0.12 BU105 £1.84 ZTX109 £ AC127 £0.21 DC149 £0.08 BC550 £0.16 BU105/02 £2.24 ZTX300 £ AC128 £0.18 BC157 £0.12 BC556 £0.16 BU204 £1.61 ZTX500 £ AC128 £0.30 BC158 £0.12 BC557 £0.15 BU205 £1.61 ZTX500 £ AC132 £0.23 BC159 £0.12 BC558 £0.14 BU208/02 £2.84 ZN1613 £	0.11 0.13 0.14 0.23 0.23 0.51	Voits No Price Voits No. Price D/no. Size Colour Price £0.11 50 THY1A/50 £0.29 50 THY7A/50 £0.55 1501 125 GREN £0.11 100 THY1A/100 £0.38 200 THY7A/200 £0.48 1502 125 GREN £0.21 200 THY1A/200 £0.36 200 THY7A/200 £0.48 1503 125 RED £0.11 200 THY1A/200 £0.36 200 THY7A/200 £0.48 1503 125 RED £0.21 200 THY1A/400 £0.36 400 THY7A/400 £0.71 1505 2 GREN £0.21 600 THY1A/600 £0.56 800 THY7A/800 £0.56 1505 2 GREN £0.21 800 THY1A/800 £0.56 800 THY7A/800 £1.05 1509 2 CLEAR £0.12
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LM 10-THE BASICS

The LM10 is a startling and exciting new type of op-amp. Ray Marston describes the new device in this first part of a 2-part feature.



THE LM10 IS THE FIRST of a brand new and very exciting generation of highly versatile op-amp devices. It has been specifically designed to have a capability of working from single-ended supplies with voltages as low as 1V1 to as high as 40 V while giving a performance that is vastly superior to that of most of today's 'conventional' dual-supply op-amps.

The LM10 has been designed by Robert J. Widlar, the acknowledged 'Father of the op-amp' (he also designed the uA709, 710, 711, LM101, LM108, etc), and incorporates some brilliant design innovations. The device is being manufactured by National Semiconductors.

Parting With It

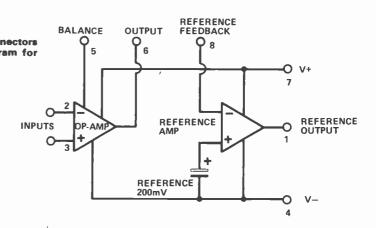
When we at ETI first heard about the device we reckoned it sounded pretty good, so we decided to run a one-part feature on the LM10. Since then, however, we've received actual samples of the IC!

In this month's part of the series we tell you what the device is, and describe some basic ways of using it. In next month's concluding part we'll show you a whole stack of practical applications.

The LM10: An Introduction

THE LM10 is a brand new and revolutionary type of monolithic op-amp. It draws a total quiescent current of only 270 uA over the entire voltage range, is capable of delivering tens of milliamps output current, and can operate from either fixed or fully-floating power supplies.

The op-amp has a PNP differential input stage that can accept input signals down to zero volts, and has a complementary class-B output stage that can swing within 50 mV of the supplies at 50 uA load current, or within 400 mV at 20 mA load current. The input is well protected via integrated current-limiting resistors against damage from excessive voltages and the output is protected by thermal overload and short-circuit detection circuitry.



The LM10 actually comprises three circuits, all housed in a single TO-5 8-pin package (see Fig. 1). The circuits comprise the op-amp, a 200 mV band-gap voltage reference and a reference amplifier. The reference is an ultra-precision device, with a temperature coefficient better than 0.002% /°C, and is externally available at the amplifier output. The reference output value can be adjusted over a wide range (200 mV to 39 volts) by trimming the amplifier feedback.

The LM10 Family

There are five members of the LM10 family. All the characteristics except the unity gain bandwidth (0.3 MHz) and the slew rate (0.15 V/uS) are exceptionally good (the device is clearly not designed for high frequency operation). The five devices in the range are categorised by their operating temperature ranges (LM10, LM10B, or LM10C) and also by their maximum supply voltage ranges of either 7 volts ('L' suffix) or 40 volts. The LM10C is a relaxed-specification 'commercial' version of the 40 volt unit and presently retails at over £6 in one off quantities.

The device is moderately complex (it incorporates 88 transistors, 81 resistors, and 16 capacitors), is fairly pricey, and is initially likely to be used only in unique (and until now 'impossible') applications for which no alternative solution is possible.

Several manufacturers are considering secondsourcing the LM10, however, and when they do the price of the device can be expected to drop significantly. This factor, combined with the certainty of spin-off devices based on the new circuit design techniques of the brilliant Bob Widlar, must mean that the LM10 and its derivatives will become classic IC devices, just like the 741 op-amp and the 555 timer, in the next couple of years. We at ETI vote the LM10 as IC of the year and Robert J. Widlar as design Superman of the decade.

Using The LM10: Power Supplies

The LM10 is a remarkably easy device to use. It can be powered from either fixed or floating single ended or dual supplies, and can use total voltages anywhere in the range 1V1 to 40 V. Figures 2 to 6 show a few ways of powering the device.

Figs. 2 and 3 show methods of powering the unit from dual supplies, for 'conventional' applications in which the inputs are referenced to the zero volts rail and the outputs can swing between the positive and negative supply line voltages. The Fig. 2 circuit uses two independent supply rails and the Fig. 3 circuit uses two rails derived from a single source.

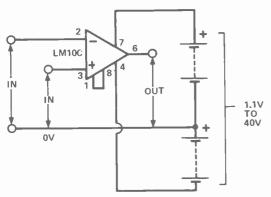


Fig 2 (above). Method of powering the LM 10 for conventional split-supply operation.

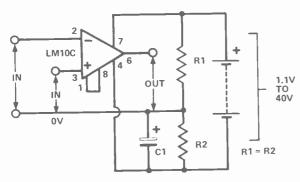
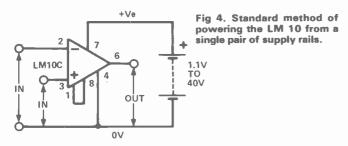


Fig 3. Method of powering the LM 10 for split-supply operation using a single supply source.

The Fig. 2 and 3 supply connections enable the LM10 to be used in all of the standard op-amp configurations, but with the quite remarkable advantages of using total supply voltages down to a mere 1V1 at total quiescent currents of only 270 uA and of having outputs that can swing within a few tens of millivolts of the supply rail voltages.

Fig. 4 shows the standard and self-evident method of powering the LM10 from a single pair of supply rails. The supply can again have any value in the range 1V1 to 40



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V, and the op-amp output can again swing within a few millivolts of the zero and positive supply rails. An additional and rather pleasant surprise is that the op-amp can handle input signals right down to zero volts when used with a single power supply.

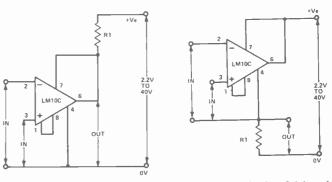


Fig 5 and Fig 6 (above). Two alternative methods of 'shunt' supplying the LM 10.

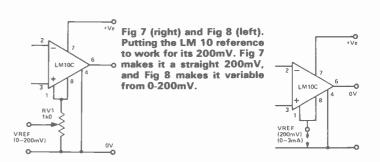
Finally, Figs. 5 and 6 show two quite unique and mind blowing ways of powering the LM10 from a single pair of supply rails. In these configurations the op-amp output terminals are shorted directly to the positive supply terminal of the LM10, so that the output 'shunts' the devices supply and a limiting resistor is wired in series with one of the supply leads.

The LM10 op-amp has an output drive current capability that is a couple of orders of magnitude greater than the device's normal quiescent current. This factor, combined with the device's excellent supply-voltage rejection figure of 96 dB and wide operating voltage range, enables it to operate quite happily in either the linear or the switching mode while at the same time using its own output to modulate its own supply voltage and current!

Thus, this 'shunt' method of operation can be used in two-wire remote-sensor applications, in which the two wires carry both the supply current and the resulting signal information. Note that the minimum supply voltage used in this application must be significantly greater than the normal 1V1 figure, to enable reasonable data amplitudes to be developed across R1 without reducing the LM10 voltage below its minimum working value.

Using The LM10: The Reference Amplifier

If you don't want to use the reference facility in a particular application, or wish to use it simply as a 200 mV reference, strap pins 1 and 8 of the IC together as shown in Fig. 7. That gives the reference amplifier



something useful to do and makes a 200 mV 0-to-3 mA reference available between pins 1 and 4.

If you want a precision reference in the range 0 to 200 mV, wire a fixed or variable potential divider between pins 1 and 4, strap pins 1 and 8 together and take the output from the potential divider junction or slider, as shown in Fig. 8.

If you want a precision reference in the range 200 mV to 39 volts, use the connections shown in Fig. 9. In this configuration the reference amplifier is used as a non-inverting amplifier with an input of 200 mV and a voltage gain of (R1 + R2)/R2.

A useful point to note about the reference amplifier is that it has a typical unity gain bandwidth of about 500 kHz and can be gainfully employed in some special applications as an AC amplifier, if you use a little ingenuity in your circuit design.

A final point to note is that the reference amplifier can also be used as a simple voltage comparator that can be quite useful in some special applications (an ETI discovery). Fig. 10 shows the basic connections.

Using The LM10: The Op-Amp

The op-amp section can be used in a wide variety of basic configurations in the single-supply mode. Some of these configurations are shown in Figs. 11 to 24.

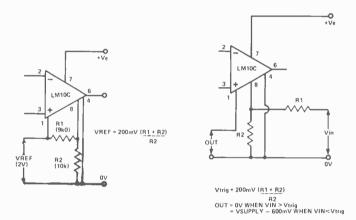


Fig 9 (left) and Fig 10 (right) give a circuit for getting the reference to behave as a 200mV-39V precision output and using the reference as a simple voltage comparator respectively.

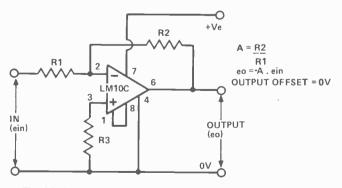
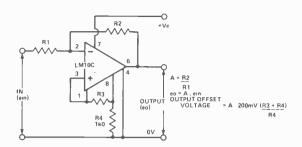
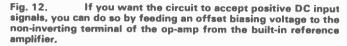
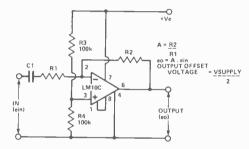
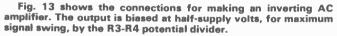


Fig. 11 shows the basic connections for using the op-amp as an inverting DC amplifier. Note here that the circuit can usefully accept input signals that are negative with respect to the 'zero' volts rail only.









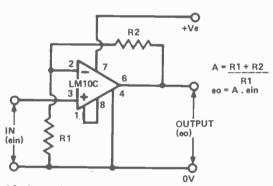
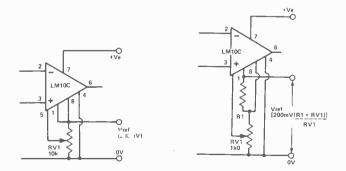


Fig. 14 shows how to use the LM10 as a non-inverting DC amplifier that will accept input signals down to zero volts. The circuit can be used as a unity-gain voltage follower by removing R1 and replacing R2 with a short circuit. The circuit can be used, in conjunction with the built-in voltage reference and amplifier, as a precision voltage regulator in this mode.

Figs. 15 and 16 show standard methods of applying offset adjustment or compensation to the op-amp, using the IC's built-in reference amplifier.



FEATURE: LM 10 Basics

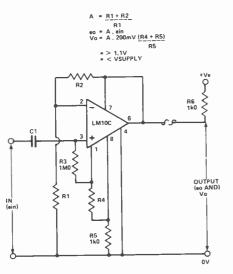


Fig. 17 shows how the LM10 can be used in a 'shunt' mode when connected as a non-inverting AC amplifier. Note that the output must be biased so that the quiescent output voltage (V_0) is part way between the positive supply value and the 1V1 minimum operating potential of the IC. Both the IC supply and signal currents flow through R6 in this mode of operation, thus enabling the IC to be used as a 2-wire (or single-wire if a common earth return is used) sensor or data transmitter.

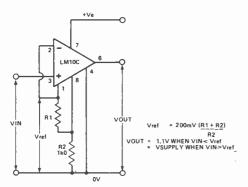


Fig. 18 shows how to use the LM 10 as a precision voltage comparator, using the IC's built-in voltage reference and amplifier. The action of the circuit can be reversed, so that the output goes high when V_{in} falls below V_{ref} by transposing the op-amp pin 2 and pin 3 connections.

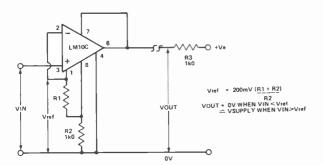


Fig. 19 shows how the voltage comparator can be used in the shunt mode.

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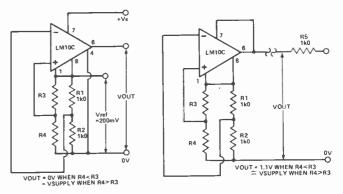
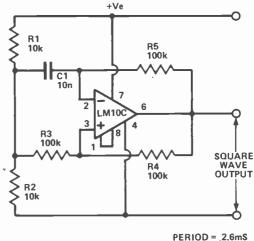


Fig. 20 (left) shows how the LM10 can be used as a resistance comparator, using the 1C's built-in reference to power the test and reference resistors. The sensitivity of the circuit can be improved by raising the reference voltage above the basic 200 mV value. Note that the total output current of the reference must not be allowed to exceed 3 mÅ.

Fig. 21 (right) shows how the resistance comparator can be connected in the shunt mode. Note in this case that the reference voltage value should not exceed 1 V.



PERIOD = 2.6mS RISE TIME = 80uS @ 6V PEAK

Fig. 22 is the basic astable circuit and is a fairly simple development of the standard 'dual supply' op-amp astable, with R1 and R2 acting as a potential divider that sets the 'common' point of the R3-R4 and C1-R5 networks at half-supply volts. Because of the poor slew-rate characteristics of the LM10, the circuit gives a pretty lousy square wave output, with typical rise and fall times of about 80 uS when used with a 6 V supply. The circuit is, nevertheless, very useful in low frequency applications (up to a couple of kHz) as a simple alarm-tone generator or LED flasher, etc.

Coming Soon

We'll show you a whole stack of practical applications in the final part of this series next month. All of these applications will be based on the LM10C version of the device. In the meantime, if you want to play with the LM10C yourself, it should be available from Marshall's, or Watford within a week or so of the publication this issue.

TO BE CONCLUDED

19





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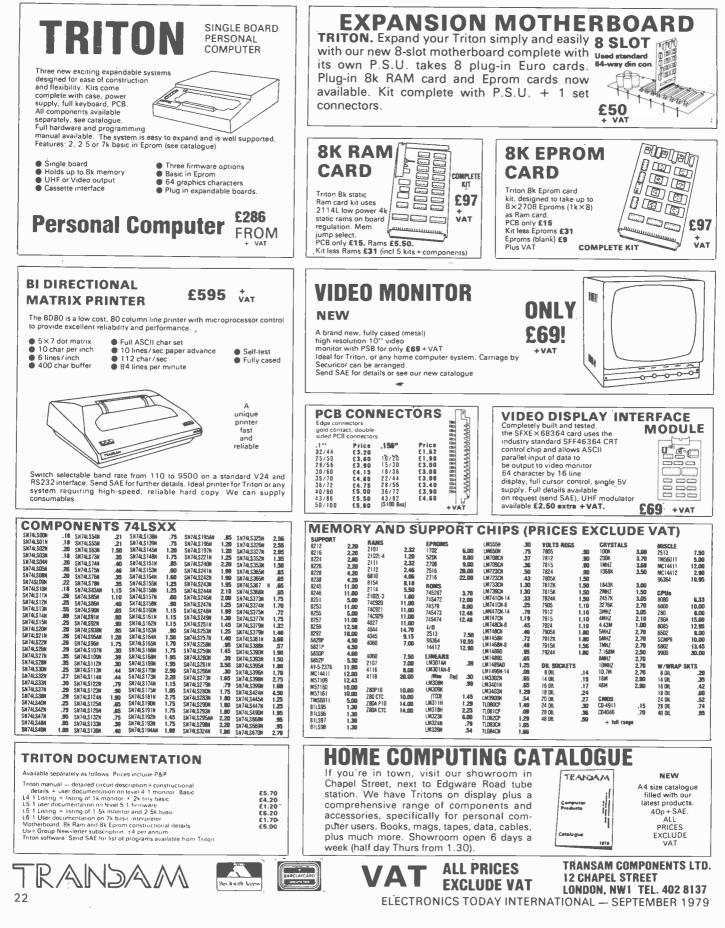
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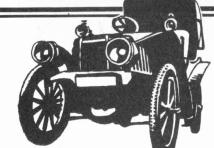
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The real problem is that the audible repeater is required to draw the driver's attention to the fault, but not distract him from his driving or send him and his passengers mad by sounding continuously if he is unable to correct the fault for a long period of time. The system can not be fitted with a manual 'mute' switch, since that would negate the whole purpose of the repeater, which is to prevent the driver from forgetting about the fault. Also, the repeater must not activate when the ignition is first switched on, because the fault lamps always activate at that time anyway.

Warble Alarm

The ETI design team, being a fair bit smarter than the top brains of the motor moguls (we have an average IQ of nearly thirty-five), have come up with a neat solution to these problems. Our repeater sounds instantly when a fault occurs, generating a 30 second pulsed warble-tone signal that immediately attracts the driver's attention. The unit then generates 4-second 'reminder' tone bursts at intervals that initially occur once every 22 seconds, but which slowly expand to one 4-second burst every 2 minutes by the end of a twenty minutes timing period. After 20 minutes the reminder tones cease completely. The unit resets as soon as the vehicle's ignition is turned off, but is disabled for the first sixteen seconds after ignition switch-on, thus ensuring that the alarm doesn't sound at start-up, but does sound shortly afterwards if the fault-warning lights stay on.

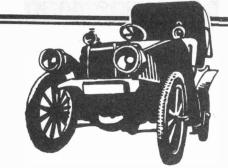
And that's not all that the unit can do. It also acts as an audible repeater for the car's turn-indicators and can accept a wide variety of auxiliary on / off inputs from devices such as low-fuel-level indicators and over-speed detectors, etc.

Cheap and Easy

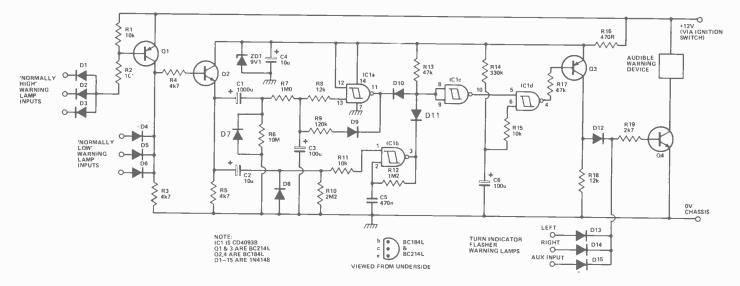
The ETI audible repeater circuit is reasonably inexpensive, and reasonably easy to install in most vehicles. The unit is designed for use in vehicles fitted with 12 volt negative ground electrical systems only.

Construction

All of the circuit (except the audible warning device) is wired up on a single PCB. Note that the PCB holds (amongst other things) fifteen diodes, one zener diode, four transistors and five electrolytic capacitors, so take great care to get the polarities of all these devices correct. When construction is complete, hook the audible warning device into place



Circuit diagram of the Warning Indicator Monitoring System.



and give the unit a full functional check as follows:

(1) Temporarily short the input of D13 to the 12 volt positive supply rail and then connect the unit to the 12 volt supply. The alarm should operate as soon as the supply is connected and cease as soon as the temporary D13-to-supply short is broken. Repeat the test using diodes D14 and D15.

(2) Temporarily short the input of D1 to the zero volts line and connect the unit to the 12 volt supply. The alarm should activate about sixteen seconds after the supply is initially connected, should cease when the D1-to-zero connection is broken and should start again as soon as the D1-to-zero connection is re-made. Repeat the test using diodes D2 and D3.

(3) Temporarily connect the input of D4 to the 12 volt positive line and then connect the unit to the 12 volt supply. The results of the test should be similar to those obtained in test (2) above. Repeat the test using diodes D5 and D6.

(4) Temporarily short the input of D1 to the zero volts line and connect the unit to the 12 volt supply. Check that the alarm activates about 16 seconds after the supply is connected and then gives the full range of operation described earlier in this article, in which the alarm activates intermittently for about 20 minutes and then remains off.

The completed PCB. Note diode and capacitor polarities.

When the above tests are complete, the unit can be installed in the vehicle.

Installation

Before you start work on the installation, make up your mind as to exactly which lamps you want to monitor (usually the voltage generator, oil pressure and turn-indicator lamps) and then check the connections for these lamps.

Usually, you'll find that the voltage and oil indicator lamps have 'normally high' connections (they are activated by switches connected between the lamp and chassis) and the turn indicator lamp or lamps have 'normally low' connections (they are activated by switches connected between the lamp and positive supply line).

Once you've checked your diagram, installation is simply a matter of connecting the unit to the vehicle's battery via the chassis and the ignition switch and then making the appropriate connections between the vehicle's indicator lamps and the unit's input diodes.

When you install the unit (presumably under the dash panel), make sure that it is located away from areas of high local temperature (the vehicle's heating system, etc). Q1 and Q2 function as a simple input conditioning network which converts OFF and ON lamp inputs to D1-to-D6 into zero and 9-volt levels respectively across R5. When the voltage across R5 switches high, time constant network C2-R10 gates on astable multivibrator IC1b for a maximum period of about 30 seconds (unless R5 switches low in the meantime) and the astable then pulses the unit's audible warning device on and off via D11-IC1c-IC1d-Q3-D12 and Q4 for this period.

Simultaneously, as R5 switches high it activates an asymmetrical voltagecontrolled oscillator that is designed around IC1a. and which operates as follows. At the moment that R5 switches high C1 is fully discharged (acting like a short circuit), so C3 immediately starts to

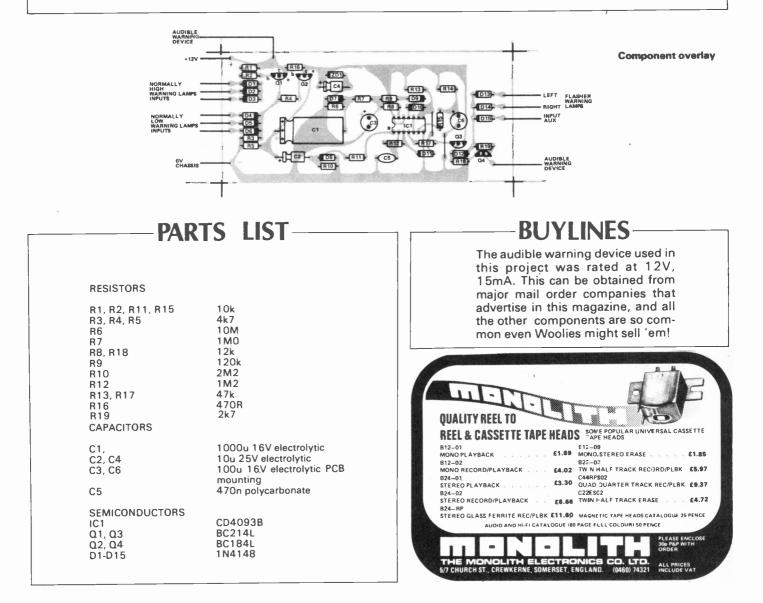
HOW IT WORKS

charge towards the R5 voltage via R7 until, eventually, the R7-C3 junction voltage reaches the upper threshold of the IC1a Schmitt, which then triggers and discharges C3 via R9 and D9 until the R7-C3 junction voltage fails to the lower threshold of the Schmitt, which then reverts to its' original condition and allows C3 to start to recharge via R7.

Initially, when the R5 voltage first goes high, ICla generates a 4-second pulse once every 22 seconds, and this pulse is used to pulse on the unit's audible device via D10-IClc-ICld-Q3-D12 and Q4. As time progresses, however, C1 starts to charge up, with the result that C3 charges towards progressively lower and lower aiming voltages via R7 and thus takes progressively longer to charge in each cycle. These charging times finally expand to about 2 minutes after 20 minutes total operating time, after which the C3 voltage is unable to charge to the upper threshold of the Schmitt and the circuit ceases to oscillate.

The outputs of the ICla and IClb oscillators are used to activate the audible warning device via, amongst other things, transmission gate ICld, which is disabled for the first sixteen seconds after initial power-up via C6 and R14, which ensure that the alarm doesn't sound when the vehicle's ignition is first switched on.

Note that the major part of the electronic circuitry is powered from a 9V1 supply via R16-ZD1-C4, which ensure reliable circuit operation under adverse power supply conditions.



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audiophile

How to begin reviewing a pickup and end up living in a Sony showroom. Ron Harris explains an easy way to turn an article into an epic.

1

A COUPLE OF LITTLE things to begin with. In fact *very* small things. Well actually even smaller than that. Micro in fact.

JVC have ('inevitably' did I hear from that man at the back?) entered the miniature hi-fi market in a big (small?) way. Their T-M1 and A-M1 (tuner and amplifier) measure only $3^{11}/_{16} \times 9^{1}/_{16} \times 10^{7}/^{16}$ — otherwise known as 93 \times 230 \times 259mm. Which means that stacked together they are smaller than this page.

Mini-Spec.

Their performance (on paper) looks very impressive. Fifty RMS watts for the AM-1 at 0.03% THD across 20-20kHz with excellent S/N ratio and overload figures. The T-M1 too has the zeros in all the right places on the spec. — IF rejection 90dB, separation (1kHz) 50dB, frequency response 30-15kHz (—1.0dB; THD 0.08%, sensitivity 0.9uV etc. It has digital tuning too.

All very impressive. I'm hoping to lay a hand — or more appropriately a finger or two — on these £306 matchboxes soon to see if they *sound* that good.

Caption Hold Up

Due to the state the postal services have been in lately, I decided to hold up closing the Audiophile caption competition, and publish the results next month instead. Entries are still coming.

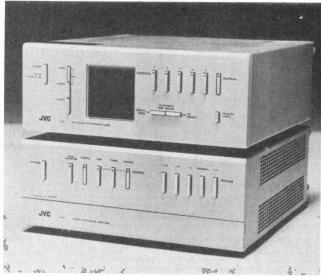
With a bit of luck Felicity Kendal might enter.

Apparently Marantz were at that show, and it was either that they hid when they saw us coming — or much more likely we couldn't see the wood for the trees. Sorry lads. Still, thanks to their press agency and their nice photo we got an amusing competition out of our blindness.

Some Sony Day

It all started out as a simple enough review job on the new XL-55 Pro moving coil cartridge. When the dust settled I'd got THREE moving magnet units, a very good turntable and a head amp to deal with — oh yes, and the XL-55 of course.

The more normal cartridges came about simply out of curiosity. Not having lent an ear to Sony pickups before I was interested to see how they'd compare to the more Western approach.



JVCs matchless matchboxes.

The record deck and head amp are utterly and totally the XL-55's fault. Or rather its designer. Anyone who designs a cartridge for this high a fi and then makes sure it won't fit into an SME, Hadock or Grace pickup arm wants his coils seeing to. Of course it fits Sony arms perfectly.

The connector is a standard SME type, but the cartridge DOES NOT come out of the headshell. It is part of it. Lunacy. Absolute Eastern lunacy. Mind you Sony UK were very nice about it:

Sony UK (being helpful): XL55 Pro for review? Certainly. What arm are you gonna use?

Me (confidently): No problems, SME Series III.

Sony UK (tactful and gently): Oh! That one? Only our XL55 doesn't fit that you see . . .

Me (still confident): But EVERYTHING fits an SME . . . doesn't it?

Sony UK (delivering punchline): Not the XL55. You see it's part of its own headshell. . . .

And so it came to pass that there was delivered unto Audiophile a PSX-60 and yet they knew not its virtue! (Never having heard of it before).

Below: the self sufficient PSX-60.





Four little pickups sitting in a row. On the right the massive $\rm XL55.$

Tables Which Turned

So lets begin there. A paragraph or so on the PSX-60 is undoubtedly in order as it turned out a very satisfying piece of machinery to use. It possesses a deceptively low mass arm with good bearings and nice adjustment for bias and arm height. Both of these parameters simply 'dial on'.

The finish is immaculate (as usual) and the cover beautifully made, with the controls outside once closed. There is a repeat facility included but for the life of me I still can't see anyone ever using it.

My only gripe concerns the turntable itself. It produces a better ring than Bow Bell. The mat provided is very thick and suitably dense, but still contains those curious channels so beloved of manufacturers.

Once the mat is on the platter is reasonably damped but how much better would it have sounded had it not been so resonant in the first place?

To combat those ribs I used the mat upside down all through, and in this admittedly curious manner the whole system turned in a very creditable subjective performance, managing to preserve detail exceptionally well for its price bracket and with a good solid bass. What a shame about that platter.

The arm is good enough to take some excellent cartridges, but the mass is such that I cannot advise using anything with a compliance higher than 30cu else evil may befall you amid the LF!

This of course means the PSX-60 is ideal for movingcoil cartridges which is undoubtedly why Sony sent it to me! Inscrutable these Orientals. Recommended then.

Moving Onto Moving Magnets

A quick glance down the specs table gives you a good idea of where these three cartridges lie in the market. All are low-compliance types to suit the Japanese passion for pickup arms you could dig gardens with no doubt.

In terms of frequency response all three manage 20-20 kHz \pm 3dB, with the 45 being the tightest on a straight line. However all three do possess a 'suck-out' in the region from 3 kHz to about 15 kHz. Curious this, almost old fashioned in as much as most manufacturers eliminated this from their designs in the wake of Shure and their V15 III.

Best tracking performance (SME clad) was obtained at 1.3g (XL45), 1.7g (XL35), 1.7g (XL25). Line contact rules OK? Comparisons were made against the Shure V15 IV and Goldring G900SE II — still the best two moving magnet designs in my opinion.

After individual listening tests, all three were used to make up a tape on the EL7 Elcaset of various pieces of music, so that a long program of comparison was possible. Recording tracks, and alternating cartridges gives a much better 'instant answer' to what differences exist between units than laboriously playing the same piece over and over.

Besides which it is a hell of a lot easier and more pleasant — and I'm an *expert* in being lazy!

Impressions:-

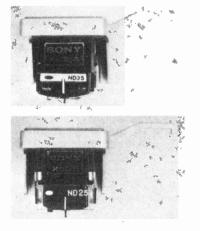
XL 25

Came out sounding rather lifeless, I tend to think that upper-mid droop is showing a little! It is easy to listen to however, and would suit budget system well, maybe taking some of the 'sting' out of over enthusiastic speakers! Good bass.

XL35

Very nice overall really. Caught out by several 'difficult' tracks, suffering some break-up in the process. Well controlled lower octaves, maybe a bit edgy with high level treble, though only appeared so in direct comparisons. Excellent detail and imaging for its price.

Below: specifications for the whole set of Sony pickups. Manufacturers figure



			XL55PRO	XL45	XL35S	XL25
ТҮРЕ		Moving Coil	Moving Magnet			
	STYLUS		Elliptical	Line Contact	Elliptical	Elliptical
	OUTPUT	(1KHz,5cm/sec)	0.2mV	3mV	3mV	4mV
	COMPLIANCE	(x10 ⁻⁶ cm/dyne)	15	20	15	15
	TRACKING FORCE		2 g	1.5g	1.5g	1.5g
	CHANNEL BALANCE	(at 1KHz)	<1dB	<1dB	<1dB	<2dB
	SEPARATION	(at 1KHz)	>30dB	>30dB	≫28 dB	≫20dB
	WEIGHT		22g	5.5g	5.5g	5 .2 g
	APPROX RETAIL PR	ICE	£90 (inc) (headshell)	£42	£35 (inc) (headshell)	£25

TABLE ONE

XL45

Good tracker. Very forward presentation appearing very detailed at first. Could be pushed into over-brightness by the recording very easily. Firm bass. Good if care taken regarding balance of supporting system. Too expensive!

All three are very competent designs, and were they priced some £10-£15 lower would get the Audiophile stamp of recommendation! At their present price though, I feel only the XL35s, complete with its headshell, represents good value. Sony have got the balance between price and performance slightly off centre I feel.

My thanks to Paul Edwards for his assistance with this report.

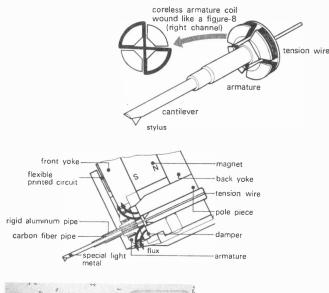
Long And Winding . . .

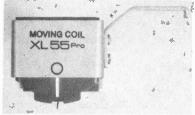
And so to the XL55 Pro itself. Setting this up in the PSX60 couldn't be easier. Literally it just pushes in! Since it weighs an arm-bending 22g including that integral (turtle)shell, Sony provide an extra counterweight to balance out the mass. Skylab had nothing on this. I shudder to think what the *effective* mass of this little lot must be.

That headshell at least ensures a rigid mounting and hence resonance suppression to some extent, and with the compliance down at 15cu the mass is not a real problem in practice except if your records are warped, dished or otherwise liable to start this mass moving in a direction it shouldn't!

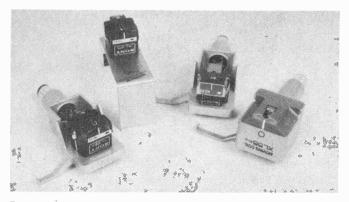
The cantilever itself is composed of beryllium, carbon fibre and aluminium in an attempt to control resonance modes within the structure, and as the drawing shows it is no simple construct.

Witness also the novel coil configuration which Sony claim endows their baby with very low distortion. Interesting to see they've used a flexible PCB in there.





Top: coil configuration is a novel figure of eight. Above: internal details of the cartridge.



Those cartridges again! Note the XL55 is part of its head shell.



Above and right: the excellent HA55. Witness the very high standard of construction.

Up In Arms

Set up in the PSX60 the XL-55 tracked best at 1.9g above which no improvement could be obtained. A fairly high bias setting was required.

None of the moving-coil flock are particularly brilliant trackers anyway, and the XL-55 sets no world records here — albeit a very competent performer which was only caught out once or twice by tortuous modulation levels.

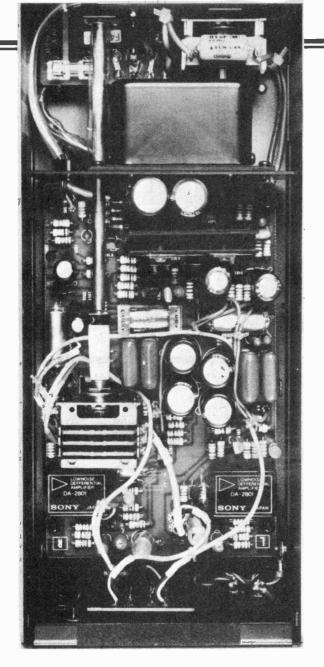
First auditions were carried out with a Lentek head amplifier — and sounded absolutely awful! The image never really existed, bass was loose and ill-defined and there was about as much detail in the sound as there is news in the Sun.

Something somewhere does not match something somewhere else. Accusing fingers surround the Lentek which is promptly banished, and enter the HA-55 (Sony). (By now my living-room looks like a Sony showroom gone berserk.)

Set the HA-55 to 40 ohm input, switch on and — at last — smooth detailed sound from the XL-55 Pro! This is definitely more like it. Being of a naturally warped mind though I couldn't leave it there. If the Sony cartridge doesn't match the Lentek amp, will the Entré 1 cartridge behave with Sony amp?

More changing of leads, screws and cusses proved that it does. So does the Coral 777EX. In fact both these units sounded more open through the Sony than they did with their own step-up devices.

Draw your own conclusions.



Gone Home?

By now I wouldn't blame you for having given up all hope of ever finding out anything about the XL-55. For those brave souls still with me (and awake), however, it sounds very good.

Comparing it to both the G900SE II and the Entré shows it to be excellent in the upper-mid range and good at the top, but to lack an extended bass. The bass that is there is well defined, and nicely controlled, but against the others I felt slightly cheated of that gut-moving last octave.

This didn't seem to bother anyone else who heard it, and it certainly did not spoil my enjoyment of the music. Indeed unless you have excellent loudspeakers of roomdominating dimension, you're not gonna miss much.

Overall I rate the XL-55 one of the best moving-coil units I've heard, and certainly well worth its price. I feel it does not outperform say the Entré for example, but it is well worth shortlisting along with the more publicised names, which it *does* better, if you're shopping in this market.

The HA-55 gets five gold stars and an asterisk all to itself, for an absolutely amazing noise performance and a superbly transparent sound.

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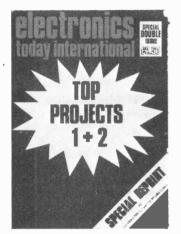
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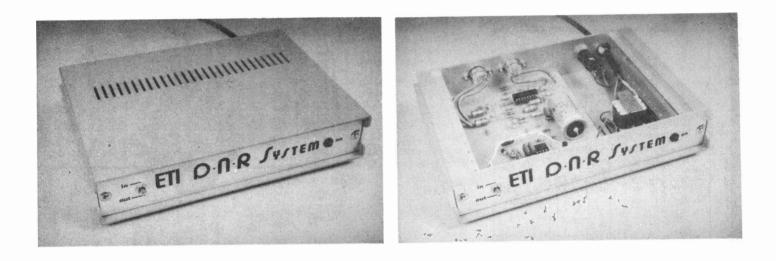
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DYNAMIC NOISE FILTER

Not content with eliminating record clicks as if by magic — the project boys have now found a neat way of reducing tap hiss.



THE HUMAN BRAIN IS a funny thing really! Its connections to the outside world are via the five senses and it relies on these senses to transmit reliable and accurate information about the outside world. However, as you are probably aware, this information can quite often be distorted (think of the countless optical illusions).

Missing Links.

It is not so often that audio illusions are in the news, probably because they are harder to detect, but that doesn't mean they don't exist, eg. The fact that the ear cannot detect small gaps, say 5 mS, in a passage of music allowed us to build the click eliminator. Every time a click (which always have a duration of less than 5 mS) is detected, the sound is automatically cut out for about 5 mS. The final effect being one of apparent continuity of music without the gaps or clicks.

Hissed Up.

Our tape hiss reduction system functions on the principle that on a continuous passage of music the difference between the music and the hiss (signal/noise ratio) is so great that we cannot hear the hiss for the music. All well and good. On a more spasmodic piece of music, where there are gaps of more than say 50 mS between signals, then these gaps have (apparently) a much lower signal/noise ratio, not because the noise level has gone up, but because the signal level has gone down. This means that the hiss is more pronounced.

During these time intervals our device filters out the high frequency tape noise using a current controlled filter (CCF) — immediately allowing high frequency sound through again when a signal comes along. (The illusion of one type of sound covering up another of about the same frequency is called masking.)

Construction

Printed circuit board construction should be relatively straightforward. We suggest a step by step approach be adopted and testing of each stage be undertaken before construction of the following stage. The main reason for this is that the circuit, although having few components, is quite tricky in operation and this makes fault-finding difficult in cases of malfunction.

First, build up the on-board power supply section (D3, D4, C17, C18, IC3, R28 and LED 1). Check with a voltmeter for 12 V DC at its output ie, between the output of IC3 and ground. If the LED lights up it is a good indiciation that the supply is working correctly.

Next the buffer amplifiers and associated components (C1, C2, R1, R2, R3, R4, R20, R21, C11, Q1 and Q2) should be inserted. If a signal source and scope are available put signals at the inputs to the circuit and observe the signals at the emitters of

PROJECT: Dynamic Noise Filter

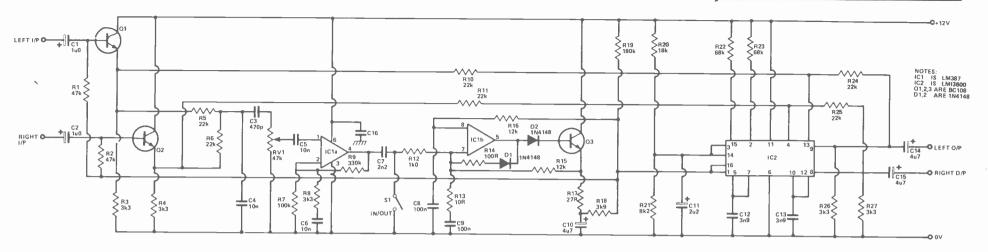
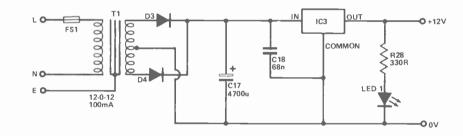


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the dynamic tape noise reduction system.

Fig. 2. The power supply.



Q1 and Q2. They should be the same as the transistors are operating as non-inverting buffers.

Following this, the control circuitry (consisting of R5, R6 through to Q3, R17 and C10 on the circuit diagram) should be soldered in place and this tage now tested. With RV1 at mid-position and a high impedance voltmeter or a scope in DC mode connected across C10, it should be seen that the voltage across the capacitor varies with varying signal input. If an audio waveform from, say, a cassette deck is used as a signal, then the voltage should be seen to increase with the higher frequencies (above about 7 kHz) but stay quite low for frequencies below this. Adjusting RV1 should adjust the overall voltage range across the capacitor.

Finally, IC3 and the rest of the components can be inserted and the complete board tested and set up. The signal at the output should be of tghe same amplitude as that at the input.

HOW IT WORKS

The device consists of two buffer amplifiers, two current controlled lowpass filters and control circuitry to detect the presence of a signal. The current produced by the control circuit is used to vary the bandwidth of the CCF to allow the signal through ie when sufficient signal is present to be able to mask the noise, the lowpass filter frequency range covers the whole audio spectrum however, when there is little or no signal and the noise appears louder then the filter's lowpass range is lowered to a minimum of approximately 1 kHz. The noise is effectively filtered out.

As soon as a signal in the same frequency range as the noise comes along (ie above 7 kHz) the control circuit detects it and applies current to the CCFs thereby increasing the frequency range, allowing the signal through.

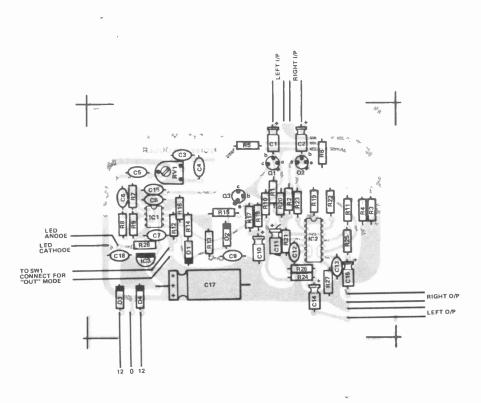
The buffer amps are built around the two emitter follower transistors (high I/P impedance — low O/P impedance) and the CCFs around IC2, the LM 13600 which is a new National chip, a dual operational transconductance amplifier. Resistor R19 applies a fixed current to control pins 3 and 14 of the chip, fixing the minimum bandwidth at 1 kHz. The greater the current into these pins the greater the frequency bandwidth.

The control current itself is obtained from the voltage across C10 by connection via R18. As V_{C10} increases then by Ohm's law the current I_{R19} must also increase. The energy stored on C10 is provided from IC1b and Q3, etc. connected as a peak detector. AC into this part of the circuit gives DC out to C10. The values of R17 and C10 are chosen to allow a fast attack time (something under 1 mS) and a comparatively slow decay time (about 40 mS).

ICla is a mixer, bandpass filter, amplifier. It mixes a sample of signal from both channels via R5 and R6, filtering out frequencies below about 7 kHz, so that only signals with the same general frequencies as that of tape noise will affect the CCFs, and amplifies the signal with a gain of 100.

RV1 adjusts for different noise levels, dependent on a particular tape unit.

36



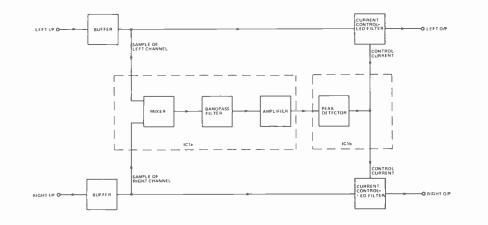


Fig. 3 (left): The component overlay for the Dynamic Noise Filter system.

Note that the power supply circuit as shown in Figure 2 is included on this board, and the input 12-0-12 comes straight from the transformer.

As the system is mainly based on just two IC's sockets are heavily recommended!

Fig. 4 (left): Block Diagram to

the Dynamic Noise Filter pro-

diagram is the in/out (bypass)

switching. This operates by

grounding the output from the

vent the peak detector from operating the filter stage and

thus leave a full bandwidth at

the output regardless of input

Such operation will thus pre-

Not shown on this simplified

ject.

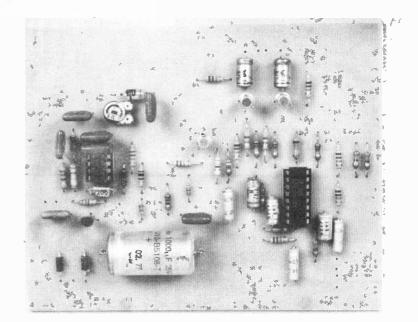
first stage.

level.

RESISTORS 'all 1/4W 5%' R1, 2 47k R3, 4, 8 3k3 R5, 6, 10, 11, 24, 25 22k 100k R7 R9 330k R12 1k 10R R13 R14 100R R15, 16 12k R17 27R R18 3k9 R19 180k R20 18k R21 8k2 R22, 23 68k R26, 27 3k3 R28 330R POTENTIOMETERS 47k RV1 CAPACITORS C1, 2 1u0 electrolytic 470p ceramic C3 C4, 5, 6 10n polyester 2n2 polyester C7 100n polyester C8, 9, 16 4u7 electrolytic C10, 14, 15 2u2 electrolytic C11 3n9 polyester C12, 13 4700u electrolytic C17 68n polyester C18 SEMICONDUCTORS IC1 LM387 IC2 LM13600 78L12 IC3 01, 2, 3 BC108 1N4148 D1, 2 1N4001 D3.4 LED TIL220 MISCELLANEOUS T1 12-0-12 c.t. secondary FS1 + holder, spot toggle switch, case to suit.

PARTS LIST-

PROJECT: Dynamic Noise Filter

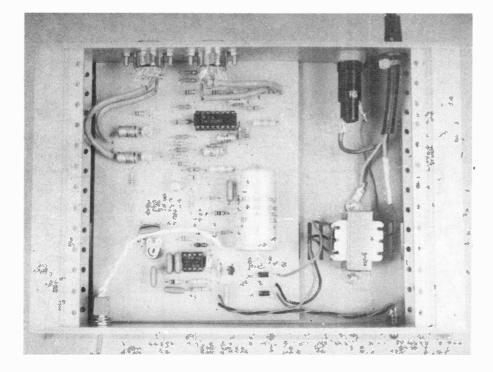


Right: Close-up on the board the only board — for the Filter project.

TI DIAR SYSTEMO

Using this in conjunction with the component overlay shown overleaf should identify all the component positions, and make sure you don't get any polarised components in the wrong way round.

The holes are leadout positions, and if you're left with any over don't call us



BUYLINES

Always on the lookout for new housing products we have come up with a really neat case for this project. Introduced by Lektrokit Ltd, Sutton Industrial Park, London Road, Earley, Reading, Berks, RG6 1AZ, and nicely priced at $\pounds 8.53 + 20\%$ VAT and P&P, type L20 from the Transistek range, this should house your system in style.

The two integrated circuits in the system should be available from any of the larger mail order firms advertised in ETI. Left: Where to put the board once you've assembled it! Note that only the transformer is mounted off board. This may need turning from side to side to obtain that elusive minimum hum orientation! Use screened leads to con-

nect signal sockets to the printed circuit boards.

Setting Up

Once you are sure that everything is working correctly, then setting up is a very simple job. Erase a section of tape and play it back through the unit. Take the output from the unit and amplify it.

Turn RV1 completely anti-clockwise and listen. Slowly turn the preset clockwise until there is a barely perceptible increase in hiss noise. Then, step it back just a fraction, so that the hiss just goes. The device is now set for the tape unit and use with any other tape will require resetting.

A final setup test can be carried out, if necessary, with a signal generator plus an oscilloscope. With an input of about 500 mV, the bandwidth of the device should be up to about 25 or 30 kHz. However, an input of 50 mV should give an output bandwidth of only 6 kHz.

WE'VE MOVED

Special just in full spec. 1702Å (intel) £2.50 each p/p 20p. 2526 character generator 9x9 (dual rail) £3.50 p/p 20p. Mostek 4116 (200ns) 16k. Dynamic £8.50 p/p 20p. 74125 (tri-state buffers) 4 for £1.00. P&P 20p.

IS423 STUD MOUNTING RECTIFIERS 10A 400V. Silly price, 10 for £2 p&p 20p.

MC1303L Dual Stereo Preamp, plus data £1 p&p 20p.

7in NYLON CABLE TIES 100 for £1.50 p&p 20p. Cannon 25 way (d-type) male or female with cover plus 2 metres 25 way cable assembled £2.50 each plus p&p 20p.

ML723 (TO100). Monolithic adjustable voltage regulator. Plus or minus 2v-6v, 6v-8v, 8v-37v to 150mA plus data 55p p&p 20p.

PCB KEYBOARD 65mm x 82mm 18 key clickers less key tops, ideal hexadecimal, 35p each, p/p 20p. Hewitt Packard 4 digit displays 12 pin DLL 0.11" common cathode (LED red) £1.50 p/p 20p (few only).

CANNON D-TYPES. Only ones left: 15 way socket 50p, 37 way plug 80p, 50 way socket £1.20, 50 way wire wrap socket £1.30, 25 way ribbon plugs 90p. Cinch 25-way plastic cover 60p, Metal cover and retainer 80p. P/P 20p.

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SUPERSAVER 3. LM 323K Voltage regulator, 5v at 3-amp, £3.50 each. P&P 20.

MEMORIES 2708 £6.85, Character Generator MM5240 2560 bit, 64 x 8 x 5 plus data £2.95 (full spec.). P&P 20p. 2112 (200ns) £3.00. P&P 20p. 21L02 (250ns) £1.15. P&P 20p.

SUPERSAVER 4. RS338-383 miniature decade thumbwheel switch £1.35 p/p 20p.

9-WAY MALE/FEMALE connector (Elco 8129) 0.1 inch pitch, PCB mounting ideal for bussing two PCBs together 35p/pair p/p 20p.

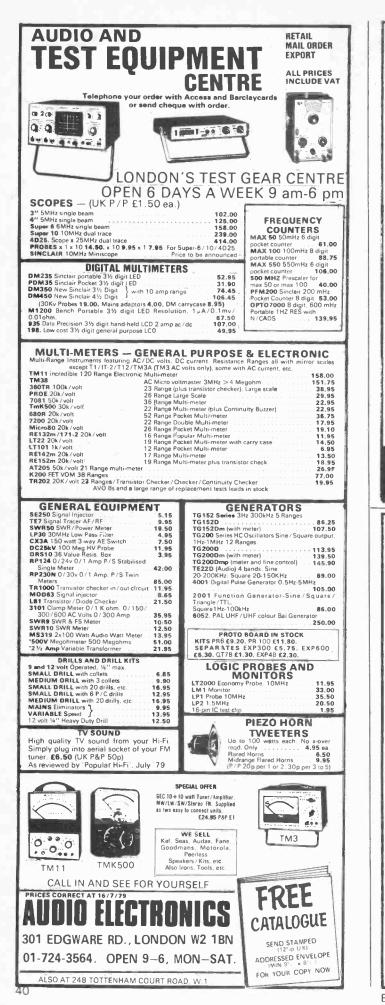
LEDS (red) TiL 209 10p, 0.2 12p, Vernitron Ceramic filters FM-4 10.7MHz 45p, BD 236 40p, 2N3055 (TI) 40p, BC183L 10p, BC213L 10p, BF195 10p, 2521V (Dual 128 bit static shift register 65p), RS 12-0-12 50mA subminiature transformer £1.35, TMS3128NC (static shift reg) £1.25, LM711CH T0-99 (Voltage comparator) 25p, FPE 100 intra red emitter + data 15p, DIL SWTS 4-way 60p. TBA810S + DATA 65p. P/P 20.

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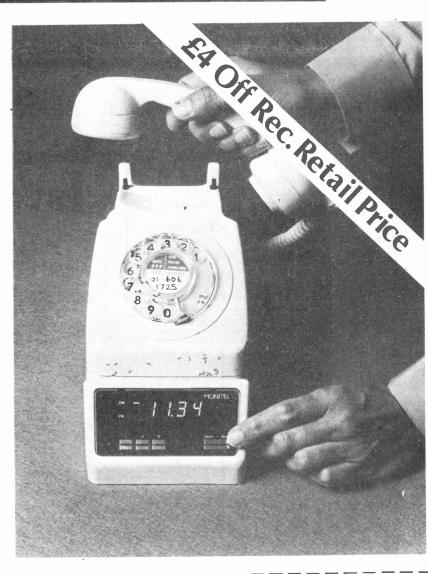
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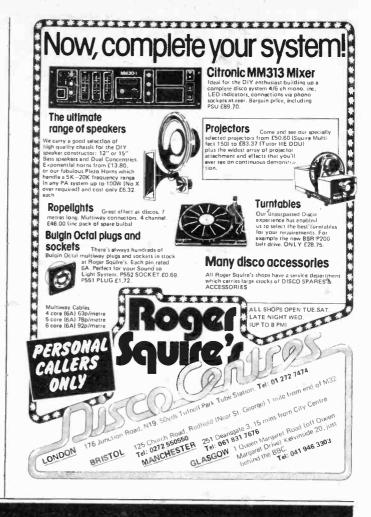
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MICROSENSE

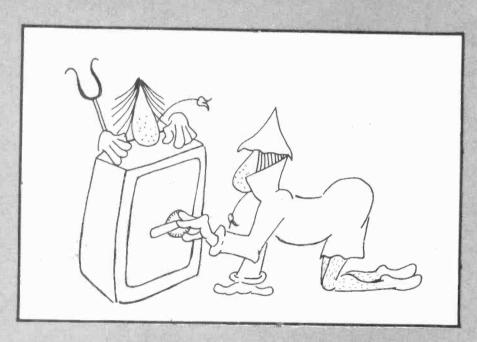
PART TWO: following on from last month's opening episode, John Miller Kirkpatrick's series gets around to programming a cardboard MPU, and begins to take note of the REAL world with a consideration of the SCMP processor. Read on . . .

FOLLOWING ON from last month's invention of the PC/MP — which you've made up by now of course — and the definition of the instruction set for our DIY processor, we can now write a program for the unit.

We will use our previous example of stock controlling overalls in a clothing depot. Instruction addresses and instructions are in Hex.

Address	Inst	What It Does
0001	00	Halt processing.
0002	OB	Load the next sequential address data into MAIN LATCH.
0003	01	Bit pattern 0000 0001, data for pevious instruction.
0004	0A	Exchange this value into DUAL LEFT.
0005	0A	DUAL is used as an address for a READ instruction as DUAL has just been loaded so that its upper byte is 0000 0001 the keyboard will be accessed and the data set
		up there will be copied into MAIN LATCH.
0006	01	Exchange this data into the 2ND LATCH.
0007	OB	Load next to MAIN.
0008	30	Bit pattern 0011 0000.
0009	0C	AND MAIN and 2ND, result to MAIN.
000A	12	IF MAIN is not all zeros jump over the number of instructions at 000B to instruc- tion at 0012. If MAIN is all zeros then go to next instruction at 0000.
000B	06	Number of instructions to ignore.
000C	06	Save old value of MAIN in DUAL RIGHT.
000D	OB	Load next to MAIN.
000E	80	Bit pattern 1000 0000.
000F	0D	OR MAIN and 2ND, result to MAIN.
0010	01	Exchange MAIN and 2ND.
0011	06	Restore old value of MAIN from DUAL RIGHT.
0012	01	Exchange MAIN and 2ND.
0013	03	SHIFT RIGHT MAIN (which now contains old 2ND).
0014	03	Second time.
0015	03	Third.
0016	03	Fourth.
0017	03	Fifth,
0018	03	Sixth
0019	03	Seventh, the Male/Female bit is now at the right hand end of MAIN, all other bits are 0.
001A	05	RÖTATE RIGHT MAIN.
001B	05	Again.
001C	0D	OR MAIN and 2ND, result to MAIN.
001D	03	SHIFT RIGHT MAIN.
001E	03	Second.
001F	03	Third.

03 01 0B	Fourth. Save MAIN in 2ND. Load Next to MAIN.
	Bit value 0000 0010.
	Exchange this value to DUAL LEFT. Restore MAIN from 2ND
09	WRITE MAIN to address in DUAL (Display).
OB	Load next to MAIN.
and the second se	Bit pattern 0000 0000.
	Exchange this value into DUAL LEFT.
	Load next to MAIN. Bit pattern 0000 0000.
06	Exchange this into DUAL RIGHT.
08	Exchange DUAL and ADDRESS LATCH. Thus the ADDRESS LATCH will have the value 0000 0000 0000 0000. It will add 1 to this and fetch the next instruction from that address. The instruction at this address (Hex 0001) is the HALT instruction which is the start of this program. NB the value in the ADDRESS latch is automatically incre- mented by 1 at the end of each instruction.
	01 0B 02 07 01 09 09 08 00 07 07 08 00 00 06



On The Shelf

If you put this program through the PC/MP you should get a correct result (shelf number) being output to the display. The display is a seven segment digit with a decoder, the decoder and display work as follows:

Data Written to Display	Display shows
0000 0000	Digit zero
0000 0001	Digit one
0000 0010	Digit two
0000 0011	Digit three
0000 0100	Digit four
0000 0101	Digit five
0000 0110	Digit six
0000 0111	Digit seven
0000 1000	Digit eight
0000 1001	Digit nine
0000 1010	Letter A (upper case)
0000 1011	
0000 1100	Letter b (lower case)
	Letter C (upper case)
0000 1101	Letter d (lower case)
0000 1110	Letter E (upper case)
0000 1111	Letter F (upper case)

The decoder and display are thus able to show the Hex value of the lower half of the data byte written to it. The example of the overalls and shelves is an over simplification of a typical microprocessor application, such a microprocessor would be able to perform the above program about 2000 times each second.

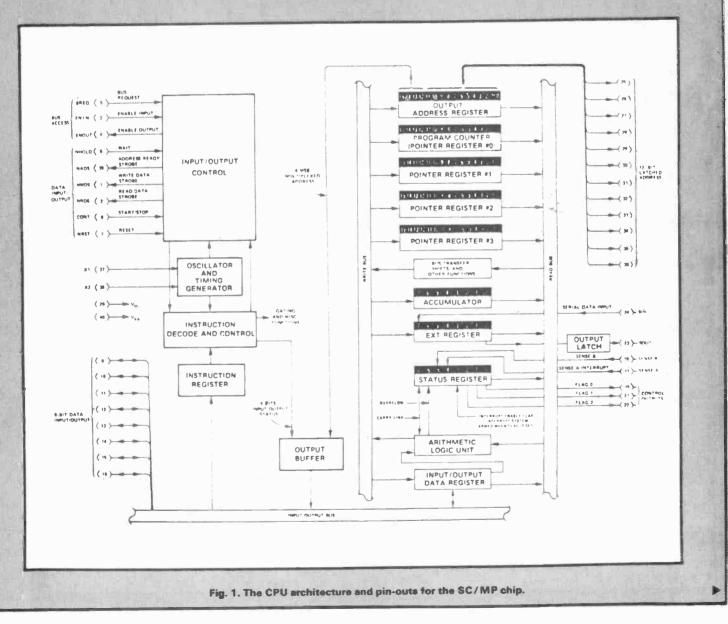
FEATURE: Microsense

To finish your education using PC/MP the more usual names for the 'pigeon holes' are REGISTERS, those in PC/MP should be renamed:

MAIN LATCH	Accumulator Register	AC		
2ND LATCH	Extension Register	EX		
STATUS LATCH	Status Register	ST	D A	
DUAL LATCH	Pointer Register number 1	P1	T A	
ADDRESS LATCH	Pointer Register number 0	PO	B	
	or U	PC Program Co	the second se	

The SC/MP Microprocessor

By now you should be used to mnemonics to understand that they can be used as a short form of identification for long words or complex descriptions. For instance from here onwards the word microprocessor may be replaced with the mnemonic MPU for MicroProcessor Unit. Other mnemonics will creep into the text initially with their meaning in



brackets, or vice-versa. Now that you have grasped the basics of MPUs here is a real one to get to grips with. The SC/MP (Simple Cost effective MicroProcessor) is one of the simplest of all of the MPUs to understand, consider the SC/MP Functional Block Diagram and compare it to that of the PC/MP. You should be able to identify the OUTPUT ADDRESS Register and a separate PROGRAM COUNTER (PC) register and three other DUAL Registers called P1, P2 and P3. Also you should be able to see the INPUT/OUTPUT Register connected to the DATA BUS and the ACCUMULATOR, EXTENSION AND STATUS Registers. The SC/MP has internal units to handle Arithmetic and Logical operations, SHIFT operations, instruction recognition and control. On the left of the SC/MP block diagram you will find the SC/MP Input/Output (I/O) controller. This has NHOLD and CONT for the HOLD and CONTINUE options, RESET, READ line (NRDS), WRITE line (NWDS) and an output to indicate a valid external address (NADS). NADS is required because the SC/MP DATA BUS has a dual function, when NADS is at five volts (logic 1) the DATA BUS carries data, when NADS is at logic 0 the DATA BUS carries the upper four address bits plus some more indicator flags. The data on the DATA BUS at this time can be latched externally to increase the features of the basic SC/MP if required; in most applications they are not required.

The BUS REQUEST (BREQ), ENABLE INPUT (ENIN) and ENABLE OUTPUT (ENOUT) control lines are used in multiprocessor applications and in most basic applications can be ignored. For details of the operation of these signal lines refer to the SC/MP data sheet

SC/MP also has the facility to SHIFT RIGHT the EXTENSION Register so that the value of the bit at the right hand end will appear at an output pin labelled SOUT (Serial OUT). At the same time the value at the SIN (Serial IN) pin will be loaded into the leftmost bit of the EXTENSION Register, this facility allows the SC/MP to handle high speed serial data rather than parallel data bits on the DATA BUS.

SC/MP Instruction Set

The SC/MP can handle something like 122 different instructions most of which are variations of the PC/MP instruction set. They can be broken down into groups of instructions.

EXTENSION REGISTER a set of eight instructions handling various operations concerning the EXTENSION Register and the ACCUMULATOR. Such operations being COPY, Exchange, Arithmetic and Logical.

SHIFT, ROTATE, SERIAL I/O. A set of five instructions that allow various forms of movement of bits RIGHT in the ACCUMULATOR or EXTENSION registers.

MISCELLANEOUS. A set of nine instructions including HALT, copy STATUS to or from ACCUMULATOR, DELAY, Enable and disable the automatic INTERRUPT function.

POINTER REGISTER. A set of instructions which allow the exchange of 16 bit pointer registers P1, P2 and P3 with the Program Counter (PC). The upper and lower bytes of the Pointer registers can also be exchanged with the ACCUMULATOR.

TRANSFER. A set of instructions which allow program logic transfer to an address specified as a number of bytes offset from one of PC, P1, P2 or P3. The Jump may be conditional on the value in ACCUMULATOR or unconditional (Jump Always).

MEMORY REFERENCE. A set of instructions which act on the ACCUMULATOR and the data at a memory location offset from one of the pointer registers or from the program counter. A. subset is similar to the 'Load next to MAIN' instruction on the PC/MP. The subset is the IMMEDIATE instruction subset. The set of memory reference instructions include READ, WRITE AND, OR, XOR, and arithmetic operations.

MEMORY INCREMENT. This is really another subset of the above set. The data at the address being accessed is loaded into the ACCUMULATOR and then has the value 1 either added or subtracted and the new value is then stored back at the original address.

Further details on SC/MP II are available in the manufacturers data sheet.

Next Month: RAM, ROM and the escaped vicar. In other words the stuff that memories are made off

In Computing Today this month: a program to tax James Hunt (retired), an extended basic for Triton, reports from no less than THREE computer shows, an article all about understanding your neighbour (speech recognition) and how to make micro-music!!

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62 NAYLOR ROAD, LONDO All prices VAT inclus SISTORS 220/25V 9p 4 W) 200/35V 14p 0 ohm To 1 Mohm 1000/25V 22p D of 1 value 20p) Dil SOCKETS Bpin 11p 10 0 ohms To 1 Difficit Bpin 12p 0 of T e N 24pin 22pin 22pin 22pin 28pin 14p 10 0 hm To 1 Bpin 14p 10 ohm To 1 Bpin 14p 10 Ohm T o 1 Bpin 12p 0 T E N 24pin 22p 24pin 22p 24pin 24p 10 O T E R S Reactor Reactor Reactor 10 O T E N Str 55 OA OA Str 7 57 × 55'' 65p OA200 6p 75'' x 5'' 65p OA200 6p 70 Mail S P N4001 4p 1000 C 22 033 1N4002 4p 1015 022 033 1N4006	VC VOLTAGE REGULATORS 320H-05 45p 320H-24 45p 7805 70p 7812 70p 7815 70p 7815 70p 7816 70p 7905 90p 7912 90p 7914 90p 7924 90p 0PTO DISPLAY 2N5777 0CPTO DISPLAY 2N5777 0CPTO DISPLAY 70p 0L707 110p 125" & 2' EDS Red 10p 125" dlp 3p 2" clip 3p 2" clip 4p 125" clip 3p 2" clip 4p 125" clip 3p 2" clip 4p 747-14 48p 743018 86p CA3028A 90p CA3036 130p CA3046 70p CA3046 70p	7404 7405 7406 7407 7408 7409 7410 7411 7412 7413 7414 7415 7421 7422 7423 7433 7433 7433 7434 7441 7442 7433 7443 7444 7445 7444 7445 7446 7453 7454 7455 7474 7475 7474 7475 7474 7490 7491 7492 7494 7495 7496	11p 74107 3p 74109 3p 74109 13p 74110 26p 74118 26p 74121 13p 74122 13p 74123 13p 74123 13p 74123 13p 74123 13p 74123 13p 74122 13p 74122 13p 74122 27p 74141 44p 74142 25p 74153 25p 74154 22p 74155 26p 74156 13p 74157 20p 75160 30p 74161 13p 74162 13p 74163 13p 74163 74176 74174 600 74173 64p 74174 74180 74180 74190 74182 74190 74195 26p 75197 26p	20p 207 207 272 272 274 274 274 274 274 27	4014 4015 4016 4017 4018 4019 4020 4021 4022 4022 4022 4022 4022 4022	32p AD162 85p AD162 85p AE114 54p AF126 53p AF126 53p AF126 53p AF126 53p AF126 54p AF127 53p AF126 64p AF239 53p AF239 53p ASY54 14p BC107 14p BC107 14p BC113 54p BC117 72p BC142 58p BC147 78p BC142 58p BC147 78p BC142 58p BC147 72p BC149 85p BC147 72p BC149 85p BC142 77p BC188 38p BC170 13p BC181 44p BC182 77p BC182 65p <th>40p 23p 50p 35p 50p 35p 35p 35p 35p 35p 33p 10p 13p 12p 32p 32p 32p 10p 12p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 10p 12p 10p 10p 12p 10p 10p 12p 10p 10p 12p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10</th> <th>BD124 BD131 BD131 BD135 BD136 BD136 BD136 BD137 BD138 BD139 BD139 BD140 BF115 BF167 BF178 BF178 BF178 BF180 BF181 BF182 BF182 BF183 BF184 BF195 BF197 BF196 BF197 BF258 BF259 BF739 BF720 BF728 BF258 BF259 BF739 BF730 BF728 BF751 BF752 BF751 BF752 BF751 BF752</th> <th>100p TIP33 38p TIP34C 42p TIP36C 42p TIP305E 20p ZTX109 22p ZTX300 26p ZTX500 27p 2N1302 25p 2N1302 25p 2N1302 25p 2N1303 30p 2N1303 32p 2N2119 25p 2N1303 32p 2N2117 32p 2N2219 25p 2N2805 27p 2N2905 27p 2N2905 27p 2N2905 32p 2N3702 25p 2N3055 32p 2N3702 25p 2N3055 22p 2N3702 <</th> <th>$\begin{array}{c} 80\\ 75\\ 200\\ 200\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76$</th>	40p 23p 50p 35p 50p 35p 35p 35p 35p 35p 33p 10p 13p 12p 32p 32p 32p 10p 12p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 12p 10p 10p 12p 10p 10p 12p 10p 10p 12p 10p 10p 12p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10p 10	BD124 BD131 BD131 BD135 BD136 BD136 BD136 BD137 BD138 BD139 BD139 BD140 BF115 BF167 BF178 BF178 BF178 BF180 BF181 BF182 BF182 BF183 BF184 BF195 BF197 BF196 BF197 BF258 BF259 BF739 BF720 BF728 BF258 BF259 BF739 BF730 BF728 BF751 BF752 BF751 BF752 BF751 BF752	100p TIP33 38p TIP34C 42p TIP36C 42p TIP305E 20p ZTX109 22p ZTX300 26p ZTX500 27p 2N1302 25p 2N1302 25p 2N1302 25p 2N1303 30p 2N1303 32p 2N2119 25p 2N1303 32p 2N2117 32p 2N2219 25p 2N2805 27p 2N2905 27p 2N2905 27p 2N2905 32p 2N3702 25p 2N3055 32p 2N3702 25p 2N3055 22p 2N3702 <	$\begin{array}{c} 80\\ 75\\ 200\\ 200\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76\\ 76$

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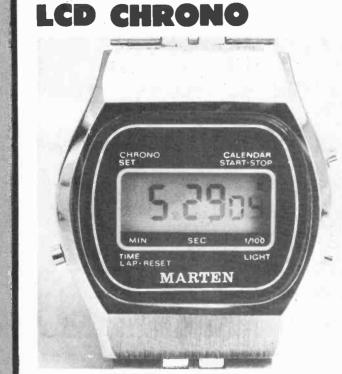
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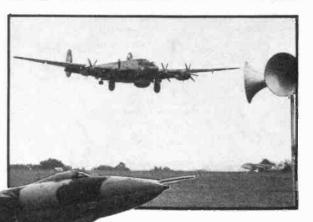
INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO 1979

We sent our wandering processor, Henry Budgett, down to RAF Greenham Common to bring us this photo report on the more interesting aircraft flying around at the Air Tattoo.



Right: an RAF Shackleton AEW3 flies in. This is an 'early warning' electronic warfare craft. The type is being replaced by Nimrods.

Left; a Phantom FRG2. This fighter is still NATO's main combat craft, although the F15s and F16s are growing in numbers rapidly.



Right: Vulcan B2 still in service with the RAF Strike Command.

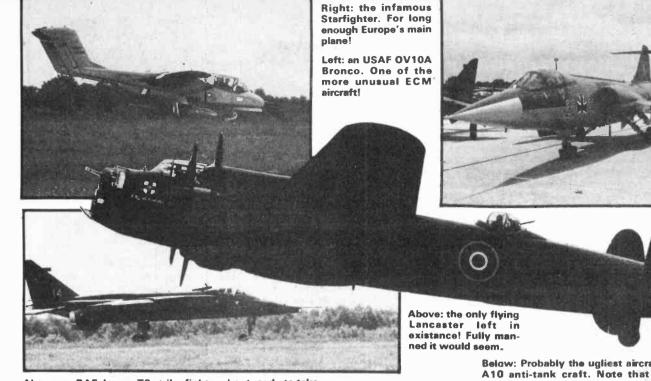
Below: this Spitfire is from the RAF Memorial Flight.



Below: USAF Bell AH-15 Cobra. Better known as the Vietnam 'Gunships.'



FEATURE



Above: an RAF Jaguar T2 strike fighter about ready to take off.

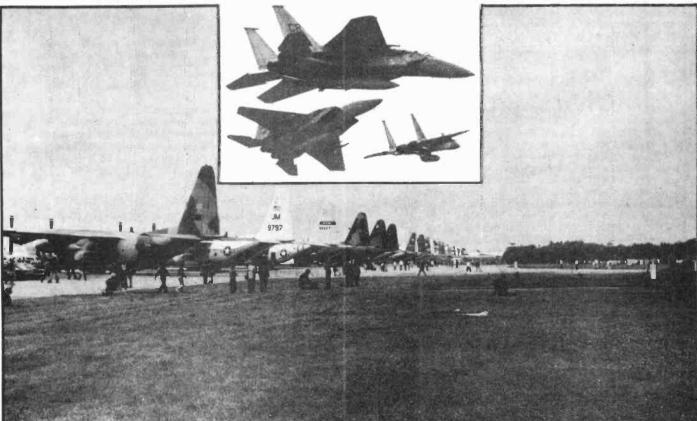
Belaw: Probably the ugliest aircraft flying. The A10 anti-tank craft. Note that because the engines are where they are from the ground they are hidden from next seeking missiles.



Left: RAF Buccaneer. Been around a while, but still a useful strike machine.

Below: the almighty Eagle. Undoubtedly the best military airplane in the world. Note the ECM pod slung beneath the plane. The heading photo shows this amazing machine in more detail. In any future conflict NATO would be expecting a lot from its Eagle squadrons.





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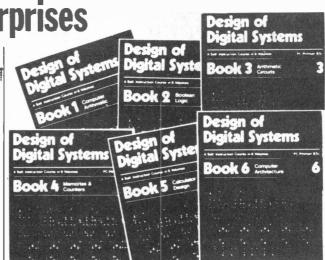
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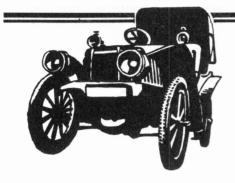
Book 3 Half adders and full adders; subtractors; serial and parallel adders; processors and arithmetic logic units (ALUs); multiplication and division systems.

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FUEL LEVEL MONITOR

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THE ETI LOW-FUEL-LEVEL ALARM is designed for use in modern vehicles fitted with 12 V electrical systems only. It is driven from the vehicle's existing fuel gauge system, and activates when the fuel level falls below a pre-set value.

When the alarm activates, a LED and a low-frequency oscillator switch on. The output of the oscillator can be used to activate the unit's own audible warning device, or to activate the alarm generator of the 'audible repeater' project described elsewhere in this issue.

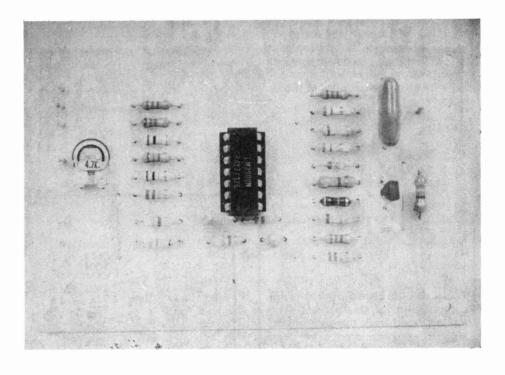
The alarm system is provided with a mute switch, which lets you disable the low-frequency oscillator 'warning' circuit, but not the LED circuit, once the alarm has been activated. The mute switch automatically turns off when the vehicle's ignition is first switched on.

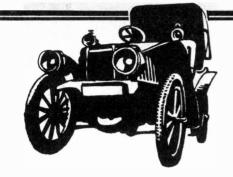
The Low-Fuel-Level Alarm is a genuinely useful unit to have in any vehicle and is inexpensive and easy to construct. The unit is, however, fairly difficult to fit into most modern cars, typically taking 2-3 hours to install. Installation usually involves the partial dismantling of the vehicle's instrument panel. (You have been warned!).

Construction

Construction of the unit is perfectly straightforward and should present no problems. Note that the PCB is provided with Veropin terminals for making external connections, including those to the off-board mute switch and the LED.

The load that is fitted in series with Q1 emitter can take a variety of forms, but must have an impedance greater than 100R. It can, for example, be a relay or a self-contained audible warning device. Alternatively, if the unit is to be used in conjunction with the 'audible repeater' project described elsewhere in this issue, the load can simply be a 4k7 resistor, and Q1 emitter can be connected to the auxiliary input (D15) of the repeater.





Installation

Installation is, in theory, simply a matter of connecting the unit's zero volt line to chassis, point 'A' to the + 12V side of the vehicle's instrument regulator, point 'B' to the output of the instrument regulator and point 'C' to the junction of the vehicles fuel gauge and transmitter unit, as shown in the main circuit diagram.

In practice, the implementation of these connections will probably involve the removal of the vehicle's instrument panel, and perhaps the PCB that is attached to the back of that panel. Make sure you disconnect the vehicle's battery before starting the installation work.

When using the alarm unit, note that, because the fuel in the tank tends to slop around a fair bit under actual driving conditions, and thus generate a fluctuating voltage across the tank's transmitter, the alarm system will operate intermittently as the fuel level approaches the pre-set 'mean' warning level, thus giving the driver an advance warning of the danger condition.

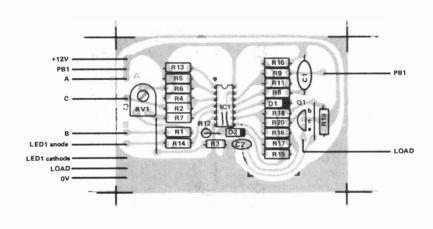
-HOW IT WORKS

The fuel-level indicating system of a modern car consists of a float-driven rheostat 'transmitter' in the fuel tank, which governs the magnitude of current flow through a hot-wire type of meter that is used as the fuel gauge: to ensure calibration reliability, the voltage supply to the system is controlled by a simple regulator (see main circuit diagram). A characteristic of this system is that the voltage across the transmitter rheostat increases as the fuel level falls, typically reaching 3 to 4 volts when the tank is emply.

The ETI Low-Fuel-Level Alarm works by monitoring the voltage across the transmitter rheostat (at one side of the fuel gauge), and activating an LED and a low-frequency oscillator when this voltage rises above a pre-set value (when the fuel level falls below a pre-set value). The oscillator can be used to drive a variety of types of load, including an audible warning device. The circuit is provided with a 'mute' facility which can be used to disable the oscillator but not the LED circuit. The 'mute' system turns off automatically when the vehicle ignition is first switched on. A brief resume of the circuit's elements is as follows.

IC1a is wired as a voltage comparator, with a small degree of regenerative hysteresis applied via R7 and R3. The trigger level of the circuit can be pre-set via RV1, which is driven from the same 'regulated' supply as the fuel gauge. The output of IC1a is normally high, but goes low when the input voltage rises above the pre-set trigger level. Under this condition LED 1 is driven on via IC1c and astable multivibrator IC1d is enabled via D2-R15. The output of the astable is fed to an external load via emitter follower Q1.

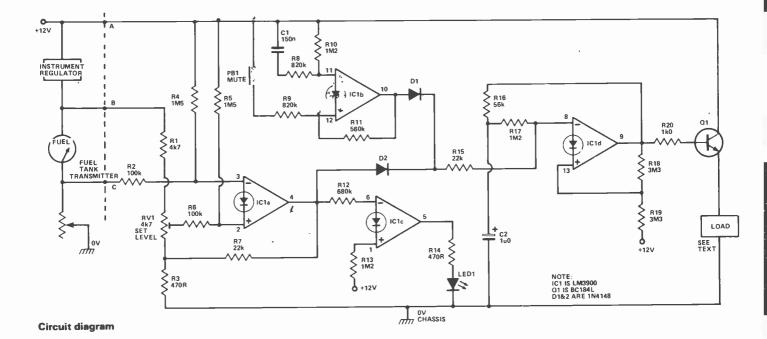
IC1b is wired as a simple bistable, which is automatically set to the output-low state at ignition turn-on via C1-R8. The output can be latched high, thus disabling the astable multivibrator (and hence the external load) via D1-R15 by momentarily closing MUTE switch PB1.



The component overlay

		PARTS	LIST-	
BUYLINES There should be no problems for components for this project. The optional load uses the same rated audible warning device as used elsewhere in this months ETI !	RESISTORS R1 R2, 6 R3, 14 R 4, 5 R7, 15 R8, 9 R10, 13, 17 R11 R12 R16 R 18, 19	4k7 100k 470R 1M5 22k 820k 1M2 560k 680k 56k 3M3	R20 POTENTIOMET RV1 CAPACITORS C1 C2 SEMICONDUC IC1 Q1 D1, 2	4k7 Preset 150n polyester 1u0 tantalum

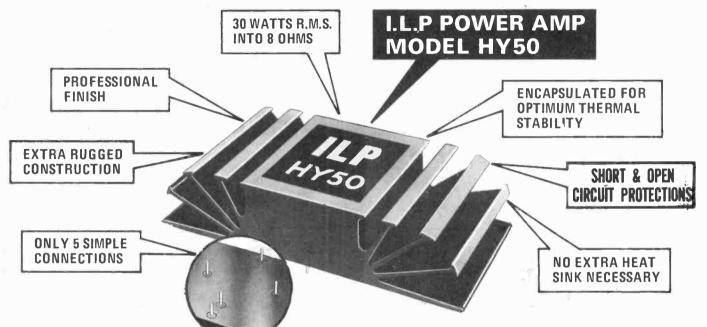
PROJECT: Fuel Monitor



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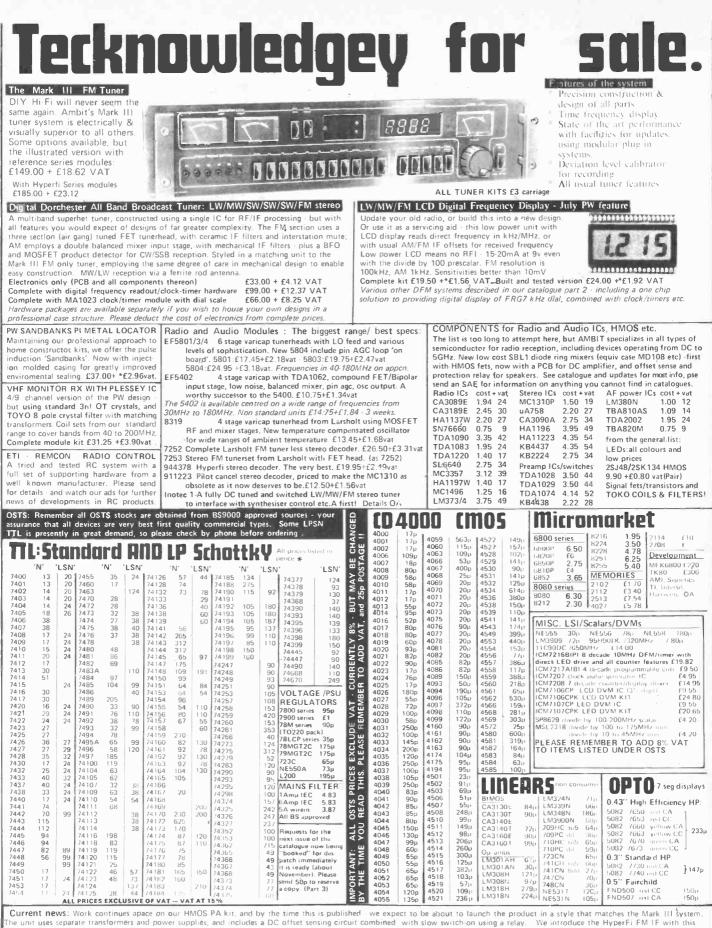
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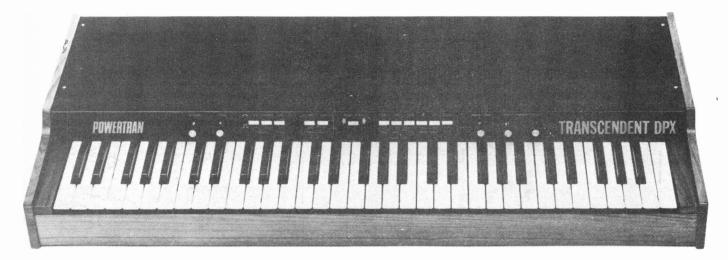
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e unit uses separate transformers and power supplies, and includes a DC offset sensing circuit combined with slow switch-on using a relay. We introduce the HyperFi FM IF with this rert - and a separate leaflet is available on request with an SAE. All new pricelist revision also available with an SAE. The Mullard DC controlled tone/volume and switch 1Cs with a 'more dvert nan HiFi' specification are in stock at last - together with reams of data (over 50 pages now). Also, RC enthusiasts will be interested to learn that we are supplying parts for various kits nov CWO please. Account facilities for commercial customers OA. Postage 25p per order. Minimum credit invoice for account customers £10,00, Please follow instructions on Terms: which is usually shown as a separate amount. Overseas customers welcome - please allow for postage etc according to desired shipping method. Access facilities for credit purchases. Catalogues: Ambit. Part 1 45p. Part 2 50p. 90p pair. Hours/phone : We are open from 9am 7pm for phone calls. Callers from 10am to 7pm. Administrative enquines 9am to 4.30pm please (not Saturdays). Saturday service 10am to 6pm.

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STRING THING



We continue this month with **Part 2** of the String Thing Saga (Son of Part 1) from Tim Orr. For those of you who missed Part 1, String Thing, otherwise known as the Transcendent DPX, is a digital, polyphonic, multi-voice keyboard instrument. (We suspect it probably makes marvellous coffee too.)

LAST MONTH WE began Tim Orr's String Thing project with a general view of the whole system and circuit details of the keyboard multiplexer and chorus/ensemble board. Constructional details of the keyboard PCB were also included.

This month we look at the note generator and demultiplexer circuits, thus proving the well-known phrase or saying 'What goes multiplex must be demultiplexed' (ETI apologise for the quality of humour in this article).

It is our normal practice to print PCB foil patterns for projects. However, in this case, all PCB foil patterns are copyright of Powertran Electronics, from whom you can buy a complete kit of parts for String Thing (see Buylines).

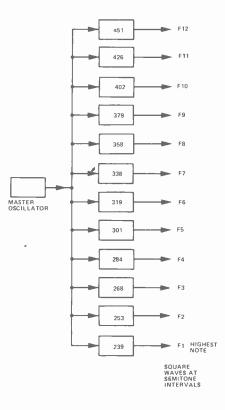
Part 3: We conclude String Thing next month with a description of the dynamics and voicing circuits. Also included are details of the power supply. Assembly and testing procedures round off the whole package.



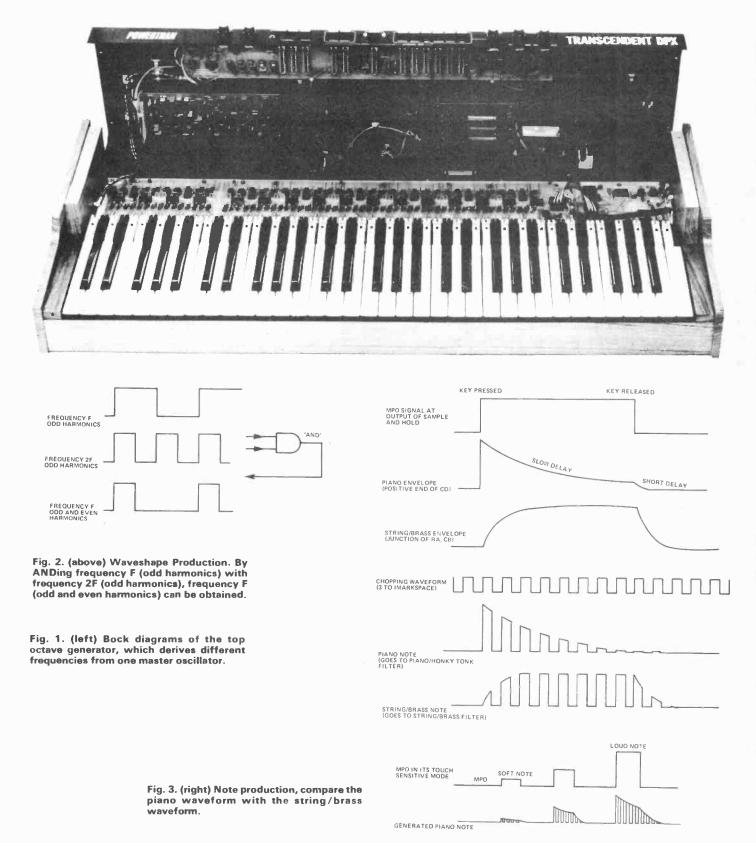
-BUYLINES

Powertran Electronics are supplying a complete kit of parts for this project at $\pounds 365 + 15\%$ VAT. Delivery by Securicor is $\pounds 2.50$ extra. Everything is included in the kit, down to the last nut and bolt. They even give you a plug.

Powertran will also supply components, boards, etc separately. Please send an sae for details.



Below: String Thing with its top panel lifted up, revealing the control circuitry.



HOW IT WORKS

Keyboard Demultiplexer

The MPO signal that the dynamics board generates is used to turn off and on the notes selected by the keyboard. However, the MPO signal is multiplexed and so a demultiplexing system must be used to route the MPO signal to the correct note generator. The demultiplexer is virtually the same as the circuit used for the keyboard multiplexer except that the signal can be considered as travelling in the other direction. When an MPO signal is generated it is routed through a switch selected by the current address count to the correct output. Here it is used to charge up a capacitor which forms part of a simple sample and hold circuit. The voltage on this capacitor is used to generate a note and so this voltage determines the amplitude of the note. So, when middle C is played on the keyboard, it is detected by the keyboard multiplexer which generates a signal (MPI) which it sends to the dynamics board.

The key velocity is computed and an MPO signal is generated, whose amplitude determines the volume of the note. The MPO signal is demultiplexed and the sample and hold circuit for middle C rises to the amplitude of MPO. The voltage from this sample and hold is then chopped with a squarewave at a frequency of middle C and hence the note is generated. The problem in using 4051's as demultiplexers is that the switches inside the device are 'make before break' in operation. This causes many of the switches to be connected together for a few hundred nanoseconds when the address changes. As a result of this, when middle C is played a few other notes turn on slightly. This problem is overcome by inhibiting the 4051 (with the OEN signal) for a short period when the address changes.

Note Generator

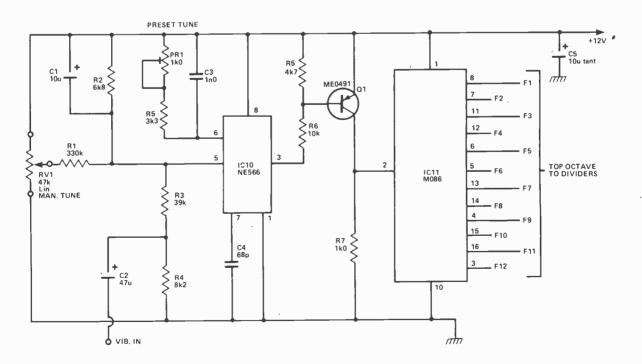
The waveform that appears at the output of the sample and hold when a note has been pressed is a squarewave, the amplitude of which is controlled by the velocity of the key depression. This squarewave is modified by two networks which produce two envelope contours that characterise the piano or the string/ brass sounds. The string brass network is a simple RC, ie R_A , C_B , lowpass filter which gives the envelope a slow attack and decay contour. C_A is clamped to the clamp generator for this contour. The piano network is a slightly more complicated RC highpass filter. When the output of the sample and hold goes high, the negative end of C_A also goes high. This pulls C_B high (via D_B). The positive end of C_B is discharged to ground by the R_A resistors. Note that whilst the key is pressed both C_A plus C_B are discharged by the R_A resistors. When the key is released, the output of the sample and hold returns to OV and the negative end of C_A goes negative. Now D_B is reverse biased and so the envelope decay rate is more rapid because there is now only C_B to be discharged by the R_B resistors. D_A discharges C_A upon release of the key.

Chopping Volts

The selection of waveforms is performed with an electronic single pole switch. A mode control signal selects the envelope on all 61 generators. The notes are produced by chopping the envelope voltage with a single transistor chopper. Two square waves from the divider chain, an octave apart, are mixed and used to turn the transistor on and off. The mixture of these two waveforms turns the transistor on for 75% of the time and off for 25%. The resulting waveform is a series of pulses with an envelope contour of either the piano or string/brass shape. Diode D_c is

Fig 4 (Below) The circuit diagram for the master oscillator section of the note generator board.

(Right) The keyboard numbering system used for the note generators, and decoupling components circuit which is repeated for each IC from ten to twenty.



used to reduce background signal breakthrough and the notes are mixed together in octave blocks and sent to the voicing board for filtering.

Master Oscillator Top Octave Generator Divider Network

The top octave of the keyboard is produced by a tone generator IC, the MO86. This is a preprogrammed digital divider that divides a master high frequency oscillator by twelve integers ranging from 239 to 451. These twelve divisions produce squarewaves which are spaced at semitone intervals. Conventional keyboard tuning has twelve notes per octave, the interval between each note being a semitone, which is separated by the twelfth root of two from its neighbour. So the tone generator IC can produce the top twelve notes for the keyboard.

The lower octaves are produced by dividing down the top octave with divide by two flip flops. This would produce a separate squarewave for each note of the keyboard. However, squarewaves don't have a suitable harmonic structure for they contain only odd harmonics. The problem is overcome by 'ANDing'

together two octave related notes to produce a pulse waveform with a one to three mark space ratio, which contains both odd and even harmonics. The resulting pulse has the frequency of the lower octave note, which means that for every note, a square wave one octave higher in pitch is needed to generate it. This is no problem for lower octave notes because the higher octave notes already exist. However, the top octave of the keyboard needs an extra stage of dividers, which means that the master oscillator must run an octave faster. If the highest note on the keyboard is 2.093 kHz then the master oscillator frequency is 239 \times 2 \times 2.093 kHz = 1000.45 kHz.

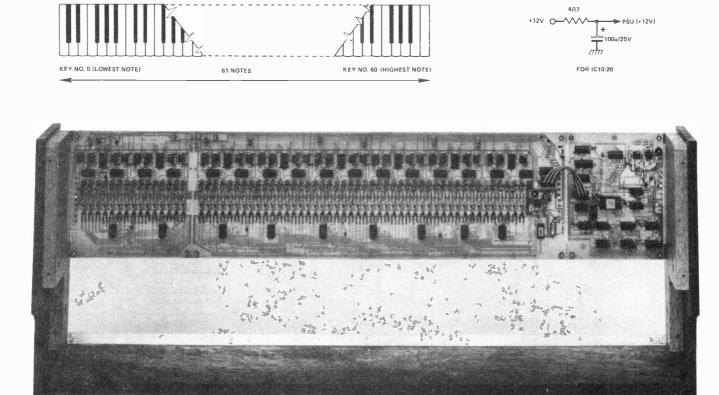
Master IC

The master oscillator has to produce a 12V squarewave at 1000.45 kHz, which doesn't drift with temperature and which can be voltage controlled. This is realised using a function generator IC, the NE566, which is capable of 1 MHz operation and has a relatively low temperature coefficient. Voltages from this IC can be used to control the oscillation frequency so that manual tuning and vibrato effects are easily obtained. A transistor (Q1) is used to level convert the output

squarewave from the NE566. This transistor is a fast switching PNP device. Ordinary transistors tend to saturate for about a microsecond, which is much too long a time for an oscillator running at this frequency.

Stage Division

The dividers used are HBF 4727A which have been specifically designed for organ type divider systems. The IC contains seven divider sections which have been split up into two two-stage sections and three one-stage sections. The advantage of this is that you can put the dividers near to where you want them, that is, next to the notes that they drive. Some other designs have used a CMOS divider, the 4024. This will produce all the required six octaves of division but localised around the IC. Therefore, a five octave keyboard would need 72 wires or PCB tracks eminating from the divider section. However, by using the HBF 4727A it is possible to spread the dividers out along the length of the note generating board, This greatly reduces the wiring because all of it is done on the PCB with about 14 tracks. There are, of course, PCB wire links but these are very much easier to handle than a large wiring bundle.

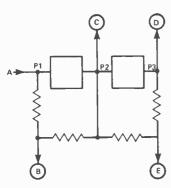


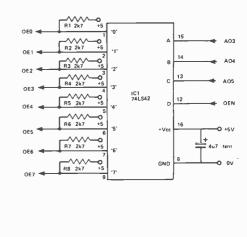
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4B 5B 6B 7B 8B 9B	 6C 7C 	IC13	6 3 2 4 5	12 14 10 9	- 11 13 -	56 55 54 53 52	 43 42
10B 11B 12B 3C 4C	- 11C 12C -	IC14	3 2 4 5	12 14 10 9	- 11 13 -	50 49 46 45	 38 37 _
8C 9C 10C 1D	8D 9D 	IC15	3 2 4 5	12 14 10 9	11 13 - -	41 40 39 36	29 28
3D 4D 5D 6D	 3E 4E 	IC16	3 2 4 5	12 14 10 9	- 11 13 - -	34 33 32 31	 22 21
10D 11D 12D 1E	10E 	IC17	3 2 4 5	12 14 10 9 8	11 	27 26 25 24 23	15
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8F 9E 10F 7F	 	1620	3 2 4 5 6	12 14 10 9 8	 	14 5 4 3 6	- - - -
	C 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B 8B 9B 10B 12B 3C 4C 5C 8C 10D 2D 4D 5D 6D 7D 10D 12D 3C 4C 5C 8C 7D 10D 12D 3D 4D 5B 8B 9B 11B 3C 4C 5C 8C 7D 10D 12D 3D 4D 5D 6D 7D 10D 12D 12D 12D 12D 12D 12D 12D 12	1B 1C 2B 2C 3B - 4B - 5B - 6B 6C 7B 7C 8B - 9B - 10B - 11B 11C 12B 12C 3C - 4C - 5C - 8C 8D 9C 9D 10C - 2D - 3D 3E 4D 4E 5D - 6D - 7D - 10D 10E 11D - 12D - 12D - 12D - 12D - 12E 12F 5E 5F 6E 6F 7E - 9E - 12E 12F 1F 1G	$\begin{array}{c c} C & D \\ \hline 1B & 1C & IC12 \\ 2B & 2C \\ 3B & - \\ 4B & - \\ 5B & - \\ 6B & 6C & IC13 \\ 7B & 7C \\ 8B & - \\ 9B & - \\ 10B & - \\ 10B & - \\ 10B & - \\ 11B & 11C & IC14 \\ 12B & 12C \\ 3C & - \\ 4C & - \\ 5C & - \\ 8C & 8D & IC15 \\ 9C & 9D \\ 10C & - \\ 1D & - \\ 2D & - \\ 3D & 3E & IC16 \\ 4D & 4E \\ 5D & - \\ 6D & - \\ 7D & - \\ 10D & 10E & IC17 \\ 11D & - \\ 2D & - \\ 3D & 3E & IC16 \\ 4D & 4E \\ 5D & - \\ 6D & - \\ 7D & - \\ 10D & 10E & IC17 \\ 11D & - \\ 12D & - \\ 1E & - \\ 2E & - \\ 5E & 5F & IC18 \\ 6E & 6F \\ 7E & - \\ 8E & - \\ 9E & - \\ 12E & 12F & IC19 \\ 1F & 1G \\ 2F & - \\ 3F & - \\ 4F & - \\ 3F & - \\ 9E & - \\ 9E & - \\ 9E & - \\ 10F & - \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

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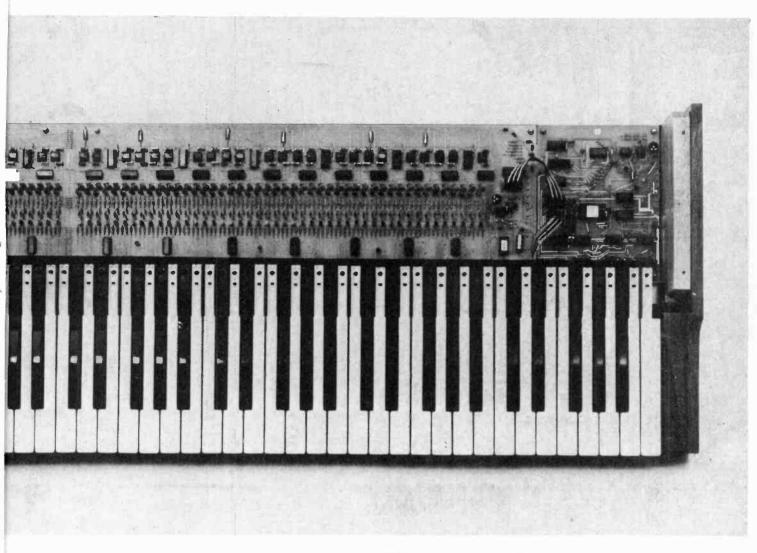
Above and below: connection details for IC12-20. The diagram below shows the annotations for the dividers, and the table gives the note, pin nos and connection points.



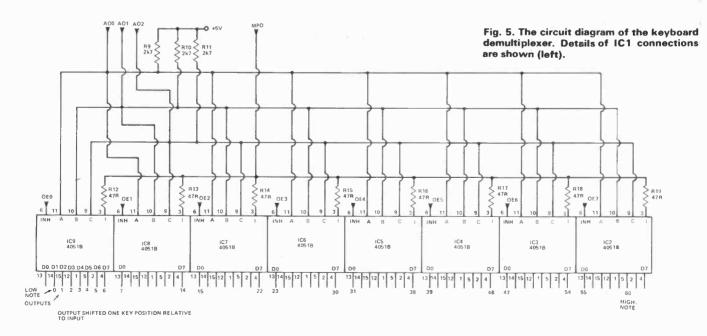


1Ú

PROJECT: String Thing

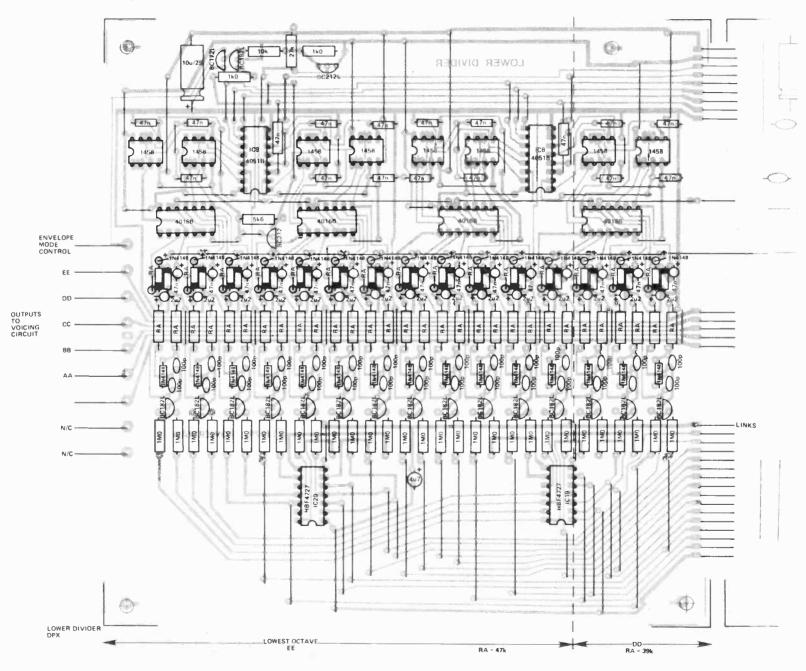


With the top panel removed, the two note generator boards can be seen.



12V TO PITCH POT PLTCH (TUNING) /IBRATO D1G 0V 0V ANA 12V 0dł 52 Şζ # 2Up Q 6 1N4001 ¢Ot 640 100° 54A 247 3 41 040 Õ 7 246 849 10168 Ô OWN 5 -0 14 LU 851511 C1856 è 40518 001 004 97 ٦ ONL 1001 100k 1615 HBE#151 ONL 80 1836 1458 8010NL T 22k 0₩ L 470 RA 5 RELENI 928 01/11 1458 400L 001 0101 Fig. 6. The component overlay of the top note generator. These components are repeated down the length of the Board for each octave, except for RA. A table of values for RA is given in Fig. 8. SPLENL INC "004 000 OWL \$ RELENI + \$Z/001 OWL TOP OCTAVE OWL 000 6 40168 OWL 84 OWL IC13 HBE9151 SPIDNI 0 BC 1856 0W1 -^{#001} 5 DIVI BPLDNL OWL 4051B 1C3 5 doga C OWL OWI (1001 O 14155 DWI 00000000 (III) \$ 1001 95 OWL 40168 -() 148 OWL ł. M+ A 8501 6 OVEL 100/58 EC. 100 4

Fig. 7. Component overlay of the lower note generator.

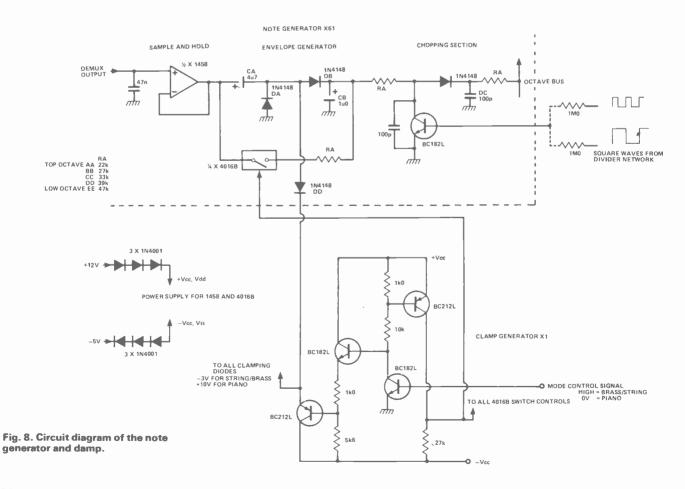


ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL - SEPTEMBER 1979

PROJECT: String Thing

PARTS LIST -

KEYBOARD Demultiplexer	Component	Qty	Envelope Section RESISTORS (all 1/5 W 5%	
RESISTORS all 1/5th Watt 5% R1-11 2k7 R12-19 47R	1k0 preset	1	1k0 5k6 10k 22k 27k	2 1 1 39 37
CAPACITOR C1 . 4u7 tant	1 n0 68p polystyrene alum 0u47 tantalum 100u 25 V electrolytic	1 1 1 1	27k 33k 39k 47k	37 36 36 36
SEMICONDUCTORS IC1 74LS42 IC2-9 4051B NOTE GENERATOR BOAI	MO86 NE566 MEO491	1 1 1	CAPACITORS 100p ceramic 47n (7.5mm pitch) 1u0 electrolytic 2u2 16 V tantalum 4u7 16 V tantalum	122 61 8 61 61
Master Oscillator and Octave Generator Component RESISTORS (all 1/5W 5%) 4R7 1k0 3k3 4k7 8k2	Top MISCELLANEOUS Top Note PCB Lower Note PCB	1 1 Qty 122	SEMICONDUCTORS TLMC1458C 4016B BC182LA BC182L BC212 1N4001 1N4148	31 16 61 2 2 6 244
10k 39k 330k	1 4u 7 16 V tantalum 1 HBF4727 1 14 pin DIL sockets	4 9 9	MISCELLANEOUS 8 pin DIL socket 14 pin DIL socket	31 16



ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL - SEPTEMBER 1979



What to look for in the Oct issue: On sale Sept 7th

SPEECH COMPRESSOR

For anyone out there using the airwaves, this ingenious circuit will enable you to increase your average power to peak power ratio considerably — thereby "upping" your talk power! And it doesn't use RF compression either.

REACTION TESTER

Single PCB construction with auto-start and random interval times built in. Readout is in 1/100 secs on two "jumbo" LED displays. All adds up to a pretty nifty little game does it not? Don't be slow picking up ETI next month!

LM 10 APPLIED

Next month Ray Marston attempts to fill the issue with applications — some of which you couldn't ever have dreamed of for his new champion chip, the amazing LM 10. See how close he gets to making it in the October issue of ETI.

CABLE TESTER

No it is not as simple as it sounds. You should know us better than that by now. This little unit will test any type of audio hook-up wiring — or indeed any conceivable cable.

Each wire is tested, in sequence, for open-circuit or short to earth (or other wires), and then visual indication of the state of each is provided. OK?

Audiophile amp Now you've all seen magazine projects for hi-fi amplifiers before. We've done several ourselve

amplifiers before. We've done several ourselves! However, we believe that NO-ONE — not even ETI — has produced a design anywhere near this quality before. Specifications include a noise figure of 83dB for the phono input, and a pre-amp distortion of 0.015%.

The power amp produces over 60W at 0.04 % THD with particular attention having been paid to "open-loop" performance such that TID is negligible. Hum and noise —110dB for the power amp. Listening tests played a huge part in settling the final design too.

The system is modular such that either the pre-amp or power amps can be utilised separately. Put them together and you have the best sounding magazine amplifier ever! Full details next month.

Analog delay

Since the advent of CCD (charge coupled devices) you could be forgiven for believing that all other methods of obtaining a time delay on a signal have curled up and died.

This is simply not so, and next month Tim Orr takes time off from String Thing to explain this largely unknown flourishing field.

RADIO CONTROLLED

Of course you've all built our radio control project out there haven't you? No?... Oh.

Well the reason why not could simply be that you haven't seen this article yet. Written by Geoff Chapman — one of the few real experts in the field, it illustrates the different types of model that can be operated by R/C and how to get them operational!

Full of the kind of detail you'd spend years of lost patience gathering.

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*ASC11 Keyboard Kits 96 printable characters, etc. £50.58 *ASC11 D/lux steel cab (IBM Blue) £15.02 *Kluge prototype board (build your own circuits) £12.83 *86 pin Gold plated connectors (EA) £4.00	SPECIFICATION *RCA 1802 8 bit microprocessor with 256 byte RAM expandable to 64K bytes	Name
*ELF Light pen writes/draws on TV screens £8.50 *Video graphics board 32/64 characters by 16 lines on TV/moni- tor screens £99.95 *ELF 11 Tinv basic on cassette £13.50	*RCA 1861 video IC to display program on TV screen via the RF Modulator Single Board with professional hex	Aduless
*ELF 11 Bug/monitor powerful systems monitor/editor £13.60 *T. Pitmans short course in programming manual (nil VAT) £4.00 *T. Pitman short course on tiny basic manual (nil VAT) £4.00 *RCA 1802 users manual (nil VAT) £4.00	keyboard fully decoded to eliminate the waste of memory for keyboard decoding circuits Load, run and memory project	Postcode
*On cassette test editor: assembler, disassembler (EA) £16.95 Save 10% and buy all three together. All units can be supplied wired and tested	switches 16 registers Interrup, DMA and ALU Stable crystal clock	Barclaycard/Access
Send S.A.E. for comprehensive brochure Add 15% VAT to all prices shown, plus £2, p & p over £20.	Built in power regulator 5 slot plug in expansion bus (less connectors)	To: NEWTRONICS 138 Kingsland Road, London E2 8BY Tel: 01-739-1582

DESIGNER'S NOTEBOOK

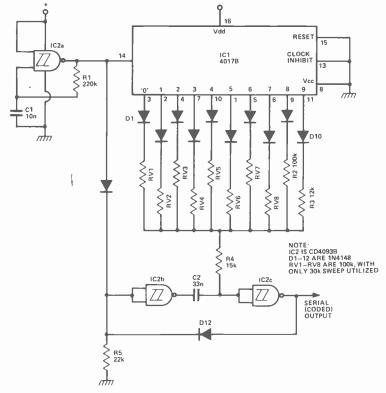
A monthly look at the notebook of ETI's chief design engineer, project editor Ray Marston.

SIMULTANEOUS multi-channel remote control systems, giving either fully proportional or simple on/off action (or a combination of the two) are widely used by the model 'plane, boat and car fraternities. Figure 1 shows the basic block diagram of an 8-channel version of the type of system in use.

In the transmitter, eight manually-actuated pots (in a proportional system) or switches (in an on/off system) are sequentially sampled at a fixed rate by an ENCODER circuit, which at each sample point generates a pulse with a width proportional to the state of the device being tested. The output of the encoder consists of a repeating series of 'frames' of eight width-controlled pulses followed by a synchronisation pulse, all presented in serial form.

Typically, in an 8-channel proportional system, the width of the controlled pulses may be variable from 0.5 mS to 1.5 mS (depending on the settings of individual control pots), the sync. pulse width may be 3 mS, the sample period 2 mS and the frame width 20 mS.

Fig. 1. Practical circuit of a 4017 based encoder.



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Servo code

The serial output of the encoder is coupled via a suitable 'link' to the input of a decoder circuit that is located in the remote receiver. The link may take the simple form of two wires (or only one if a ground return is used), or the more complex form of a modulated radio, ultrasonic, infra-red, or magnetic signal, etc. The decoder circuit detects the sync. pulse in each frame, and then counts the individual controlled pulses in the frame and routes each one to its own output terminal. There it may be fed to an electronic switch or a servo-mechanism which will reconstruct the original mechanical control movement that took place at the transmitter.

The 'heart' of the remote control system described above is the encoder and decoder. As already mentioned, the actual 'link' can take any one of a variety of forms. The basic control system is highly versatile and has a vast number of untapped potential applications. The number of channels that can be simultaneously controlled can range from two to dozens (or even hundreds). In on/off applications, the outputs can easily be binary decoded to give non-simultaneous on/off control of a vast number of remote devices: an 8-channel system can, for example, control 256 devices, or a 12-channel system can control 4096.

The system can readily be adapted to give remote operation of lamp dimmers, volume controls, 'combination' locks and garage doors, or independent on/off control of hundreds of household fittings via signals pumped down the mains wiring. You can even, if it takes your fancy, use the system to remote control a full sized piano from the comfort of an armchair via a hand-held keyboard and an infra-red link!

An 8-Channel Proportional Control Encoder

Figure 1 shows the practical circuit of a 4017based 8-channel encoder for use in simultaneous control systems. IC2a is a 500 Hz (2 mS) astable multivibrator that simultaneously feeds clock signals to the input of the 4017 and trigger signals to the input of the IC2b-IC2c monostable multivibrator. In any given clock cycle, the period of the monostable is determined by C2-R4-and by the resistance value in series with the relevant 'high' output of the 4017. In clock cycles '0' to '7' the pulse widths are determined by the settings of RV1 to RV8 respectively. In the '8' clock cycle the pulse has a width equal to the clock cycle period (2 mS), and in the '9' clock cycle the pulse is fixed at about 1 mS, thus giving a composite 3 mS sync pulse from the 8th and 9th cycles. The system is designed to give a fixed 20 mS frame width.

Note that, in conformance with normal practice, only one third (or less) of the sweep ranges of RV1 to RV8 are utilized. In practice, component values may have to be altered slightly to give precise ranges of coded output pulse widths.

An 8-Channel Proportional Control Decoder

Figure 2 shows the circuit of a decoder for use with the above system. The incoming 'coded' waveform is fed simultaneously to the clock terminal of the 4017 and to the trigger terminal (via C1-R1-D1) of the IC2c-IC2d monostable. IC2c of this monostable produces a negative-going pulse with a period slightly less than the 2 mS clock period (about 1.8 mS), and this negative pulse is ANDed with the positive clock signal by IC2a and IC2b to produce a reset output signal from the 3 mS input sync pulse, but not from the 'control' pulses, which all have periods significantly less than the 1.8 mS reference value.

Note that the value of R3 may have to be adjusted on test to set the correct reference period.

Outputs 1 to 8 of the 4017 are sequentially ANDed with the coded clock input signal once the counter has been reset by the sync pulse, so that each individual code pulse is routed to its own designated output terminal or channel. The individual outputs, which take the form of 0.5 mS to 1.5 mS pulses with repetition periods of 20 mS, can then be fed to suitable servos, etc, to convert the pulses into proportional mechanical movements.

Fig. 2. Suitable decoder circuit to match encoder (Fig. 1).



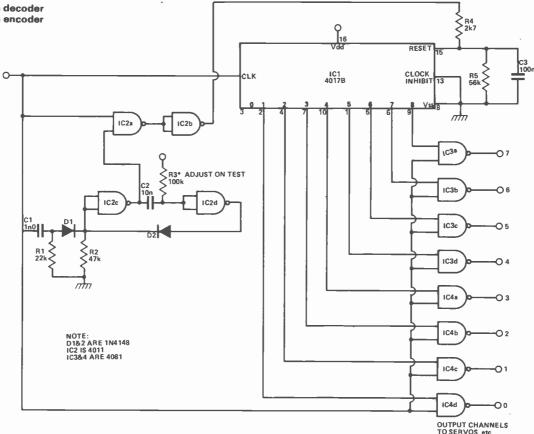
Multi-channel simultaneous on / off coder / decoder systems are technically no easier to implement than full proportional systems. In fact they are often more difficult. Figure 3 shows a practical example of a simultaneous 8-channel on / off control encoder.

Here, astable multivibrator IC2a simultaneously feeds 500 Hz clock signals to the 4017, to the IC3a-IC3b 200 uS monostable multi, and to one input terminal of the IC2b-IC2c AND gate. The other input of the AND gate is sequentially taken from the '0' to '7' outputs of the 4017 via any of the PB0 to PB7 switches that are closed, and directly from the '9' output. The outputs of the AND gate and the 200 uS monostable, plus the direct '8' output of the 4017, are all ORed to produce the final serial coded output across R4.

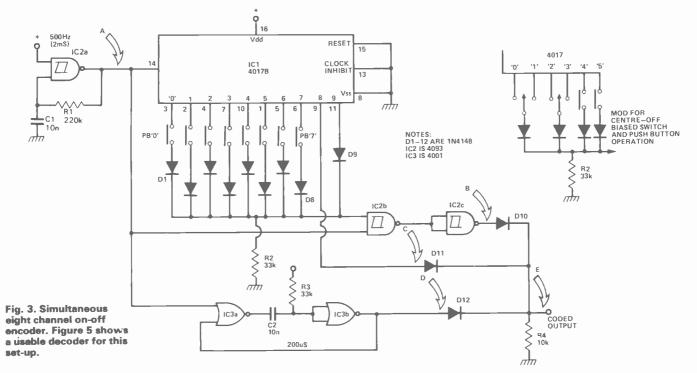
The final output waveform comprises 200 uS pulses and 1 mS pulses to represent off and on switch states respectively, plus a 3 mS sync pulse spanning the 8th and 9th clock cycles.

An 8-Channel Simultaneous On/Off Decoder

Figure 5 shows a decoder circuit that is suitable for use, with the above encoder. Here, the IC3a-IC3b-IC2a-IC2b network detects the input sync pulse and then resets the counter, and the IC3c-IC3d-IC2c-IC2d network detects 'wide' (1 mS) or 'on' code pulses and then ANDs the selected output of the 4017 via the IC4-IC7 array to produce a high potential on the appropriate output channel. Note that the purpose of the D-R-C network in each output channel is to convert a detected 'wide' pulse into a steady DC voltage that will remain high (or low) for greater than one frame period.



FEATURE: Designer's Notebook

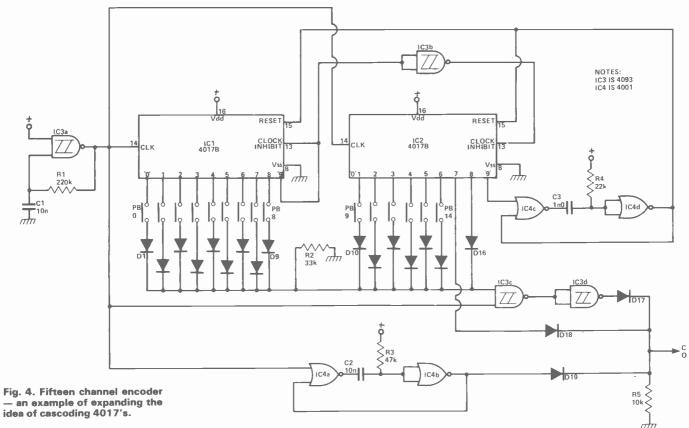


Note that the steady (non-pulsed) outputs of the eight channels of this system can readily be binary decoded to make a-total of 256 non-simultaneous channels available.

Expanded Multi-Channel Control Systems

All of the coder/decoder circuits presented in this month's "Notebook" can be expanded to incorporate

any number of channels (with appropriate increases in frame periods and miscellaneous timing component values) by using multi-stage 4017 counter networks (see the last Notebook) in place of the single counters shown here. If you want more information on this circuit and its brother decoder, you'll have to wait until the circuit reappears in an ETI project some-time later!



1

The Commercial Radio Control Scene

The commercial radio control scene is going through a world-wide boom at the present time. A big craze for radio controlled model or 'toy' cars is currently sweeping Japan, where manufacturers are planning to step up production from last year's 700,000 units to 2 million units in 1979.

At the back of this craze are some interesting new R/CICs. Single IC 6-channel transmitters (coder plus RF stages) and 4-channel receivers (RF stages plus decoder) will soon be available in the UK. The ETI design team expects to get samples of these chips within the next few months, and may describe them in a future feature article.

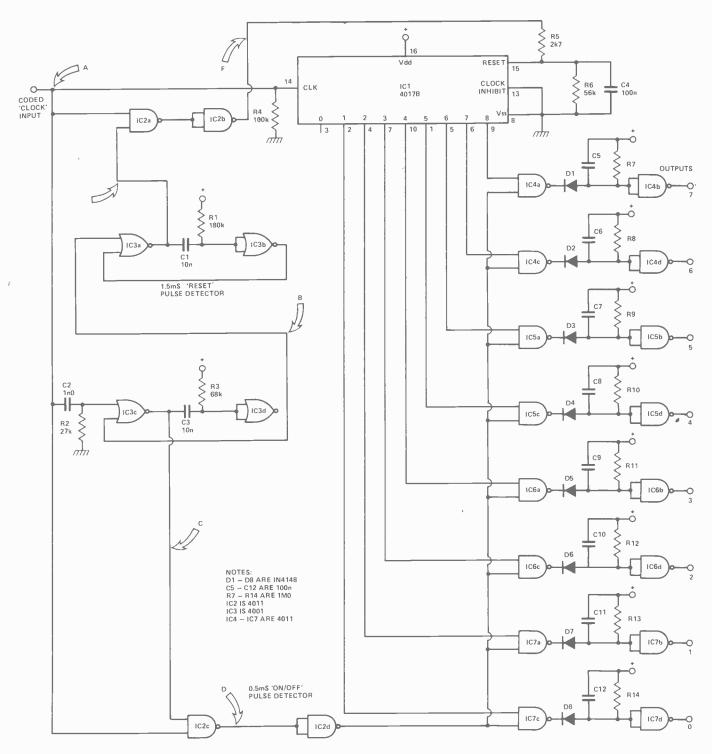


Fig. 5. Eight channel decoder which will operate as a system with either encoder (Figures 3 or 4).

The latest kit rom Sparkrite Featured by Shaw Taylor in DRIVE IN

the quickest fitting

CLIP ON

capacitive discharge electronic ignition in KIT FORM

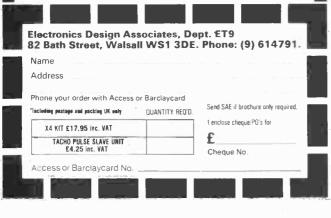
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THE KIT COMPRISES EVERYTHING NEEDED

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NOTE – Vehicles with current impulse tachometers (Smiths code on dial RV1) will require a tachometer pulse slave unit. Price £4.25 inc. VAT, post & packing



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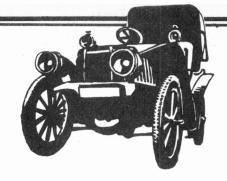


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OVERSPEED ALARM

This unit activates when your vehicles engine or road speed exceeds pre-set limits. It can be used as a stand-alone project, or can be used in conjunction with the fault monitor described elsewhere in this issue.

THE ETI OVER-SPEED ALARM is designed for use in petrol-engined vehicles fitted with 12 volt negative-ground electrical systems only. It is driven from the engine's contact-breaker points, and can be used to activate when the engine RPM exceeds a pre-set limit, or when the vehicle's top-gear road speed exceeds one of four pre-set values.

The unit switches on a LED and energises an optional load, such as a relay or an audible warning device, when it is activated. If the unit is used in conjunction with the 'Fault-Light and Turn-Indicator Audible Repeater' project described elsewhere in this issue, the optional load of the Over-Speed Alarm can be omitted and the unit's auxiliary output can be used to activate the audible warning device that is built into the 'Repeater' unit.

The over-speed alarm is inexpensive, is easy to build and is quite easy to install in the vehicle.

Construction, Installation And Use

Before starting construction, note the following points and add or delete components to or from the design as appropriate.

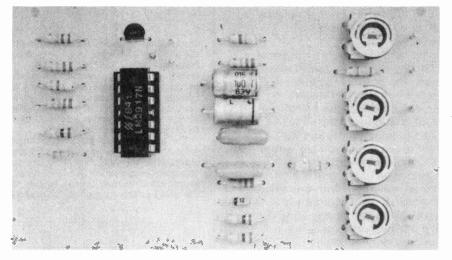
(1). If you intend to use the unit purely as a single-range excess-RPM alarm, delete SW1 and RV2 to RV4 from the circuit, and connect pin 3 of the IC to ground via RV1 and R6. In this case the circuit's positive supply rail can be taken to the vehicle's battery via the ignition switch, so that the system is permanently enabled when the vehicle is in use.

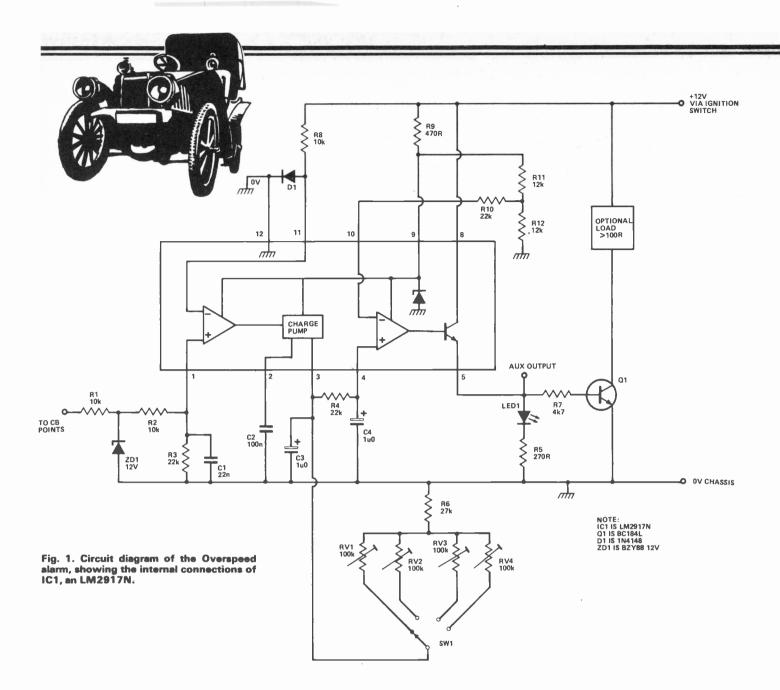
(2). If you are going to use the unit as a 4-range excess road-speed alarm, note that the system works on the assumption that you will always be in top gear when you exceed a speed limit and is thus designed to be effective only when the vehicle is in top gear. In this case, therefore, the unit's positive supply rail should be taken to the vehicle's battery via the ignition switch and an on / off switch. The on / off switch can either be a manually-operated type, or can be a microswitch that is activated by the

vehicle's gear lever.

(3). If you decide to fit the unit with an optional load, such as a relay or an audible warning device, the load must have an impedance greater than 100R.
(4). If you decide to use the unit in conjunction with the 'Audible Repeater' unit described elsewhere in this issue, you can eliminate R7 and Q1 from the design and connect the auxiliary output terminal of the over-speed alarm to the auxiliary input terminal of the 'Repeater' unit.

(5). The C2 value of the circuit must be chosen to suit the required RPM trigger range of your vehicle. A value of 100n enables an RPM span of 1500 to 6000 to be covered on a 4-cylindered 4-stroke engine. If your vehicle is an 8-cylinder 4-stroke, or a 4-cylinder 2-stroke, halve the value of C2 to get the same RPM span.





One you've sorted out these five points, you can go ahead with the construction and installation of the unit. Construction is simplicity itself, and should present no problems.

Installation is simply a matter of connecting the unit's 0-volt line to chassis, the positive rail to the vehicle's battery via the ignition switch (and possibly an on/off switch), the input to the vehicle's contact-breaker points and the output to a suitable audible warning unit as already described.

Calibration of the unit is a two-man operation, with one driving the vehicle to the required trip speeds and the other adjusting the unit's pre-set pots to give the required trigger action!

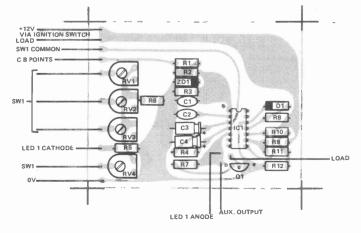
-HOW IT WORKS

The over-speed alarm works by detecting the engine RPM rate via the vehicle's contact breaker points, converting the resulting C-B frequency into a linearly proportional voltage and feeding this voltage to a comparator that trips and activates a LED and an audible warning device when the voltage (and thus the RPM) exceeds a pre-set value.

The assumption is made that the unit will only be used as an excess road-speed alarm when the vehicle is being driven in top gear (the engine RPM is directly proportional to road speed). In this case the unit's positive supply rail connection should be broken when the vehicle is not in top gear.

Most of the work of the unit is done by IC1, a frequency-to-voltage converter chip. Components R1-ZD1-R2-R3 and C1 'condition' the contact-breaker signal and make it suitable for driving the chip. C2 and RV1-RV4 and R6 determine the frequency-to-voltage conversion rate of the IC and C3-R4-C4 remove ripple from the resulting DC signal that is fed to one side of the IC's voltage comparator stage. The output of the IC is used to drive LED 1 and to switch on Q1, which is capable of providing a 120 mA load current.

PROJECT: Overspeed Alarm



PARTS LIST

Fig. 2. Component overlay.



"At last! My energy saving car! All I need now is fifty-five miles of mains cable

RESISTORS R1, R2, R8 R3, R4, R10 R5 R6 R7 R9 R11, R12	10k 22k 270R 27k 4k7 470R 12k
POTENTIOMETE RV1-4	RS 100k sub min presets
CAPACITORS	
C1 C2 C3, C4	22n polyester 100n polyester (see text) 1u0 63V electrolytic
	DRS LM2917N BC184L BZY88 12V 1N4148 0.2'' standard red LED
MISCELLANEOU SW1, single pole	S 4-way rotary switch.
ĎL	YLINES
DU	I LIINES
from Maplir optional load audible warr month's other	N can be obtained Electronics. The uses the same rated ning device as this car projects and the ts are available any-

BUILD YOU OWN METAL DETECTOR TR/IB TR/VCO BFO . . . Test equipment not required. Manuals for kits

available at 35p each (refundable). U.K. prices, VAT paid but add £1 post per detector or kit. Overseas: write for quote. Literature available: SAE Please.

Shadow TR/IB (il-lustrated). A true trans-mit receive/induction balance metal detector — uses the latest circuitry for maximum range and sensitivity. Speaker or phones. Pre-assembled search head with lightweight closed cell foam encapsulated coils for thermal insulation and water resistance. A very powerful machinel

Shadow TR/VCO. An advanced version of the above detector, Lse it as a sensitive TR/IB machine or switch to VCO mode when the depths achieved approach the maximum "in air" range. Low power requirement runs on standard 9 volt batteries. The most sophisticated detector available as a kit. Shadow TR/IB kit £23.50 (£29.95 assembled) Shadow TR/VCO kit £28.95 (£38.95 exception).

assembled).

assembled). Padded stereo headphones suitable for 'Shadow' detectors **£5.50**. **Designing your own detector?** Then we can supply the (hard to obtain) hardware "shell" including fully adjustable shaft with handle, search head moulding with hinge assembly, special clips to mount your own control housing (any box is suitable), ompletely non-metallic suitable for any type of detector (TR-PI-VLF-BFO etc.) Supplied undrilled as a kit with full instructions (as used on our Shadow range). Detector Shell kut **8**. **95**

Detector Shell kit £8.95. Low cost BFO detector. 200mm (B'') annular search head gives wide scan with easy pinpointing. Simple high efficiency circuit draws <3mA. Extra lightweight 300gms (10.5os) with battery. Very detailed construction manual ideal as a first project. Absolutely everything supplied including pre-assembled search head, tuning coil and earpiece. ALT3 detector (kit) - £13.95. Padded high Z headphones for ALT 3. £5.45. Detector Shell kit £8.95.

Order by post or phone (24 hours) - for quickest delivery quote credit card number. Callers by appointment only please



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		ZENER			MICRO's,					TTL				4-1-
1·N914	100		I0mA	.05	CPU's, E-P	ROMS	QTY.	20	QTY.	45	QTY.	25	QTY. 74LS76	
1N4005	600		1A	.08	QTY.		7400	.20	7492	.45	74H20 74H21		74LS76	.7
1N4007	1000	the second se	1A	.15	8T13	2.50	7401	.20	7493	.35	74H22		74LS80	
1N4148	75		0mA	.05	8T23	2.50	7402	.20	7494	.60	741122		74LS93	
1N4733	5.1		W Zenner	.25	8T24	3.00				.80	74H30		74LS95	2.0
1N4749	24		1W	.25	8197	1.75	7404	.20	7496		74H40			2.0
1N753A	6.2	and the second s	mW Zener	.25	74S188	3.00	7405	.35	74100	1.15			74LS107	
1N758A	10			.25	1 488	1.25	7406	.25	74107	.35	74H51		74LS109	1.5
1N759A	12	?v		.25	1489	1,25	7407	.55	74121	.35	74H52		74LS123	1.9
1N5243	13	3v	P.P	.25	1702A	4.50	7408	.20	74122	.55	74H53		74LS138	2.0
1N5244B	3 14	lv .		.25	AM 9050		7409	.25	74123	.55	74H55		74LS151	
1N5245B			**	.25	ICM 720		7410	.20	74125	.45	74H72		74L\$153	11
1N5349	12		3W	.25	ICM 7208		7411	.25	74126	.45	74H74		74LS157	1.
					MPS 6520		.7412	.25	74132	.75	74H10		74LS160	1.
QTY,	SOCKE	TS/BRID	GES				7413	.45	74141	.90	74H10	03 .55	74LS164	2.
8-pi	oin po	b .16	i ww	.35	MM 5314		7414	.75	74150	.85	74H10	06 1.15	74LS193	2
14-pi	oin pc	b .20) ww	.40	MM 5316	the second se	7416	.25	74151	.95	74L00	.30	74LS195	1.
16-pi		b .25	i ww	.45	MM 5387		7417	.40	74153	.95	74L02	2	74LS244	2
18-pi				.95	MM 5369		7420	.25	74154	1,15	74L03	3.35	74LS259	1
					TR 1602		7426	.25	74156	.70	74L04	.40	74LS298	-1.
20-pi				1.05	UPD 414	4.95	7427	.25	74157	.65	74L10	.30	74LS367	1
22-pi	pin po			1.15	Z 80 A	22.50	7430	.20	74161/931		74L20		74LS368	1
24-pi	oin po	b .45	i ww	1.25	Z 80	17.50	7432	.30	74163	.85	74L30		74LS373	2
28-pi				1.35	Z 80 P10		7432	.20	74164	.75	74L47		74S00	-
40-pi				1,45	2102	1,45	7437	.30	74165	1,10	74151		74S02	
	expins .0		Sockets	.35	2102L	1.75	7440	.20	74166	1.75	74155		74503	
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	mp Bridge		0-prv	.95	21078-4	9.50	7441	.15	74175	.95	74L72		74504	_
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		N2222 Plas	stic .10)	.15	2716 D.S		7445	.75	74181	2.25	74L85			
2N22				.19	2716 (5v		7446	.70	74182	.75	74L93		74520	
2N29				.19	2758 (5v		7447	.70	74190	1.25	74L12		74S22	
2N39		IP (Plastic)		.19	3242	1Q.50	7448	.50	74191	1.25	74LS0		74\$40	_
2N 39		PN (Plastic)	}	.19	4116	11.50	7450	.25	74192	.75	74 LS0		74S50	
2N30		-N PN 15A 60	2	.55	6800	13.95	7451	.25	74193	.85	74 L S0		74S51	
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			ear, Yello		8080	7.50	7454	.25	74195	.95	74LS0		74\$74	
D,L,7		seg 5/8" Hig			8085	22,50	7460	.40	74196	.95	74 L S0		74S112	-
MAN		seg com-ano		1,25	8212	2.75	7470	.45	74197	.95	74LS0		74S114	_
		seg com-ano			8214	4.95	7472	.40	74198	1.45	74 L S0		74S133	
MAN		seg com-ano			8216	3.50	7473	.25	74221	1.50	74LS1		74S140	
MAN	174 7:	seg com-catl	hode (Red)) 1.50	8224	4.25	7474	.30	74298	1.50	74LS1		74S151	
FND	359 7	seg com-catl	hode (Red)) 1.25	8228	6.00	7475	.35	74367	1.35	74LS2		74S153	
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AC176 AD161	18p 38p	BD139 BD140	35p 35p	2N3442 2N3702	135p 8p
AD162 BC107	38p 8p	BFY50 BFY51	15p 15p	2N3703 2N3704	8p 8p
BC108	8p	BFY52	15p	2N3705	9p 9p
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BC148 BC177	7p 14p	TIP30C TIP31C	70p 65p	2N3820 2N3904	44p 8p
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BC182	10p	TIP2955 TIP3055	55p	2N4058	8p 12p
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748	30p	LM380	75p	TDA1022	620p
7107	850p 900p	LM3900 LM3909	50p 65p	TL081 TL084	45p 125p
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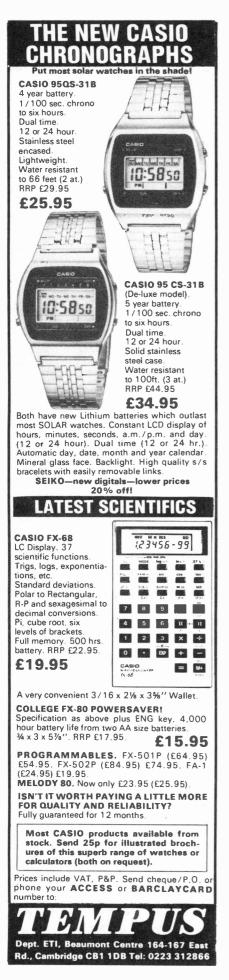
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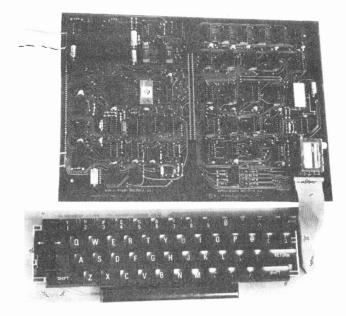
This month Henry Budgett treats us to the first lesson in the new science of Comparative Micrology. He prises the silver lining out of the micro supply cloud and even manages to squeeze in a club note.

Eight Versus Sixteen

AUDIOPHILE LONG SEEMS to have had a monopoly on comparitive equipment tests, whereas in the micro world it is not easy to compare machines of varying types down to the CPU level. Well, to change all that a new board has been announced by a firm called BL Microelectronics. Engineered on a double, double Eurocard, that can be split in two, with an attendant full ASCII keyboard it will allow direct comparison of the Z80 and TMS 9980 microprocessors. The unit is supplied as a kit with either or both of the CPU's and their monitors and has a number of interesting features.

Buffered Buses

The TV interface section, the right hand Eurocard section, provides a memory mapped display of 16 lines, 64 characters long using an 8 by 5 matrix. The character generator is a 2708 allowing the user to supply his own character sets if required. A cassette interface is also available on-board with a 300 Baud rate. The standard is modified Kansas City and a choice of output levels are available. Also supplied as standard on the board is an RS232 interface with programmable Baud rates. All the



The BIPROC 8/16 microcomputer board with no CPU and monitor installed. The board can be cut in two for rack mounting.

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bus lines are fully buffered and are available for user expansion, there are memory mapped I/O lines provided as well.

The system monitor is supplied separately for each CPU in a 2K EPROM and has six available commands allowing memory modification, inspection, dump and load, breakpoint insertion and program execution. However, the monitor also includes a microassembler so your programs may be loaded in mnemonic form as well as machine code, a very useful facility indeed.

By using the same monitor for each CPU in turn, the two may not be used at the same time for fairly obvious reasons, a direct comparison of the performance may be obtained. The price of the kit varies from £194 for the Z80 to £225 for both and further information can be obtained from BL Microelectronics at 1 Willow Way, Loudwater, Bucks.

Club Roundup

I have received a few replies from our Club Survey in CT last month. It seems things have changed a bit since I compiled the information!

The Thames Valley Amateur Computer Club is now run by Brian Quarm (Hon Sec) who may be contacted on Camberley 22186 and the Meetings Organiser is Brian Steer. Membership fees have not yet been decided and the club is open to anyone with an interest in computers. They meet on the first Thursday of each month and you may obtain more details from the Publicity Secretary, Chris Wallwork at Oak Cottage, Ecchinswell, Nr Newbury, Berkshire. The second and rather more embarrassing slip up was the South Yorkshire Amateur Computer Club. Mr Beard has written to tell me that he never has run an ACC, because he's a newsagent! So if you have his name on a list of clubs, please cross it off.

Mailbag

Two club newsletters arrived during the month, both Nascom orientated. The INUC have produced a newsletter, although not as well produced as some I have seen. It does make interesting and informative reading. The cartoons are quite amusing as well. The other one is from INMC, the official one, and is their second. Well I never got to see the first, but it's also well produced with excellent software listings which I shall be trying out when our ''2'' arrives. Keep up the good work and let's hear from some other clubs as well.

Supply And Demand

Many criticisms have been levelled at several firms in the micro business about the availability of product, both recently and over the past year. The earlier problem of Superboard II supplies has now been cleared and stock quantities are available from at least three suppliers, namely Lotus Sound, Watford Electronics and Videotime. The price is currently £229 + VAT.

The more current mysteries surrounding the supplies of the Apple II into the country are also clearing up. From conversations with several suppliers it now appears that Microsense are to be appointed UK master distributors by Eurapple and Keen Computers will be acting as distributors. Personal Computers, who previously held the distributorship are currently in the States clarifying their situation but stated that they are supplying to their dealerships. The new PAL card for the machine will shortly be available, after a long wait. The Apple is currently Black and White and selling at £830, the PAL card will be aevial input, cost in the range of £90. I hope this clears up any queries on the matter.

Chuckles

A couple of amusing tales have reached me concerning salesmen and systems. In one of London's computer shops, situated in the Hi-Fi jungle, a customer was heard to ask if he could implement COBOL on an ITT 2020. The reply? "No problem Sir. COBOL is just a better version of BASIC . . . Oh, you get machine code as well!" Uhh!

The second incident was related to us by a gentleman who had contacted an International Mainframe Business. He was offered a system with 8" VDU, ½ megabyte of disk store and a printer. The machine had 16K of RAM and a 4K BASIC. The BASIC, said the salesman, would handle numbers up to 40 decimal places and any number of strings. As if that isn't odd enough he then quoted a price, £11000! Well, it's a hard world these days.

Post Haste

News has just come in that Technalogics have received Post Office approval for their TECs computer system. This means that you can have a Teletext/Prestel/Basic system for around £2500 in its most complete form, the range starts at about £360. Sales will start in September, owing to PO restrictions, and Technalogics will convert any previously sold machine subject to test. For more information on the system see the review in CT May or contact Technalogics at 8 Egerton Street, Liverpool L87LY. Telephone 051-724 2695.

Foot Note

The Thames Valley ACC have just contacted me to say that they are having a ''Junk'' sale with bring-and-buy stalls at their meeting on the first Thursday in September. Phone Brian Quarm for venue details.



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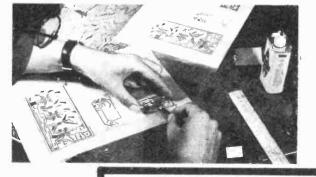
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computer plays black or white. D. Computer teaches book openir	an hu dinalauina naut mau	a to be actored
E. All "Book" moves are instant r		
2. The Chess Teacher		
A. On levels 2, 5, 7, 9, and H. the to enter.	computer will display best	suggested move for you
B. Plays against itself with white up	usually the winner.	:
C. Never makes an illegal move. D. Teaches end game solutions.		
E. Book openings teaches opening		1
F. Announces mate-in-two for you G. Problem mode permits setting		
3. Your Friendly Speaking Oppon		5/15.
A. Tells you all of its moves.		
B. Repeats all of your moves. C. Can be used by the blind, as the	e name will audibly tell you	every move and capture
and will repeat board position on	demand.	
D. Voice feature allows you to tap E. It even suggests your moves.	e record game play.	24
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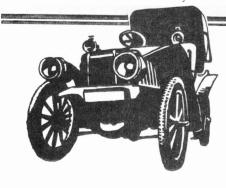
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REAR SCREEN HEATER CONTROLLER

An inexpensive unit that gives push-button turn-on and time-controlled (3-30 minutes) auto-turn-off of your rear-screen heater.

ONE OF THE MOST useful fitments in a modern car is the rear-screen heater. It can clear an iced or misted-up rear window in a matter of minutes. The only problem is, of course, that you are supposed to remember to turn the switch off again once the window has cleared. The ETI rear-screen heater controller is designed to overcome this little problem, by turning the heater off automatically at the end of a period that is pre-settable from 3 to 30 minutes, (and by letting you turn the heater on in the first place via a pretty little push-button, rather than via a dirty great 15 amp rocker switch!)

The unit is easy to wire into the vehicle, using just two connections for it's power supply and two connections for the screen heater control. The timing periods of the unit can either be pre-set on the PCB, or can be made fully variable via a panel-mounted pot, which can be placed adjacent to the start push-button and an indicating LED.

Construction

All of the electronics except the two relays, the push-button switch and

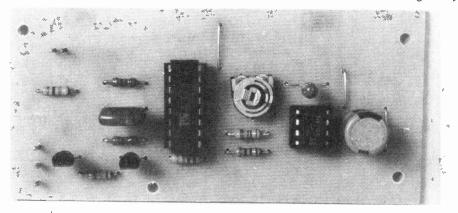
the LED 'ON' indicator, are mounted on a single PCB. Construction should present no problems, so long as care is taken to observe the polarities of all semiconductor devices and electrolytic capacitors. If you decide to make the timing periods variable via a panel-mounted pot, omit RV1 from the PCB and wire the external pot in it's place via suitable connecting leads.

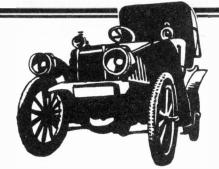
The completed PCB can be mounted on a suitable bracket or whatever, together with the two relays, LED 1 and PB1 (and also RV1 if you so desire). The type of mounting you use depends on your own tastes, and on the available space that you have in your particular vehicle. Note that RLA is a light-duty two-pole relay, and is used to 'slave' heavy-duty relay RLB, which must have contact ratings of at least 10 A.

Complete the interwiring of the PCB and relays, etc. and then give the circuit a functional check to see that everything is working OK.

Installation

The unit is designed to work in vehicles fitted with 12 V electrical systems only. The circuit diagram shows the connections for fitting the





unit to vehicles with negative ground systems, in which the positive supply is fed to the unit via the ignition switch and the 'O V' line goes to the chassis: reverse these notations for positive ground vehicles.

The two output leads from contacts RLB / 1 can be taken directly to the existing heater switch connections. The existing heater switch should be disabled or removed.

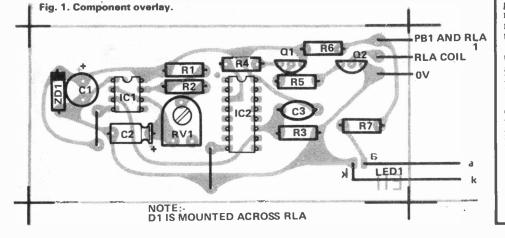
- BUYLINES —

The heavy duty relay is obtainable from Maplin Electronics, order no YB89W. The rating is for 12V coil, at 15A contact rating and coil resistance around 45R. Nothing else here should prove

difficult.

-PARTS LIST-

RESISTORS R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7	2k2 10k 1M0 12k 2k7 270R 470R
POTENTION	IETER
RV1	100k submin. Preset
CAPACITOR	S
C1	100u electrolytic
C2	1u5 electrolytic
C3	100n polyester
SEMICONDU	JCTORS
IC1	NE555
IC2	CD4020B
Q1	BC214L
D1	IN4001
ZD1	12V @400mW (BZY88)
LED1	0.2in. dia.
MISCELLAN RLA 12V 12 RLB 12V 45 PCB, fixing n	OR DPCO R SPCO (10 A contact rating)



-HOW IT WORKS-

PROJECT: Rear Heater Control

The basic action of the circuit is such that relay RLA turns on and energises heavyduty relay RLB, which in turn completes the rear-screen heater connections, as soon as power is applied to the unit via start switch PB1. As RLA turns on, contacts RLA/1 close and thus maintain the power connections to the unit once PB1 is released. The unit enters a timing cycle as soon as power is applied and at the end of this cycle (3 to 30 minutes) both relays automatically turn off and disconnect the unit's power feed and break the connections to the rear-screen heater, thus completing the operating sequence.

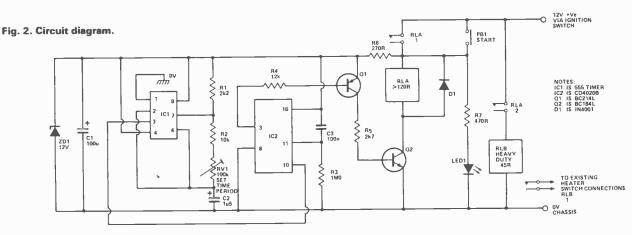
The heart of the unit is IC2, a CD4020B 14-stage ripple carry binary counter. This IC is clocked by the IC1 type-555 astable multivibrator circuit and the output of IC2 is taken from its 14th binary divider stage. At the moment of switch-on a positive pulse is fed to the pin-11 RESET terminal of IC2, thus emptying the counter and driving output pin-3 low, thereby causing RLA to turn on via Q2 and Q1, and activating RLB via contacts RLA/2.

The 555 astable starts operating as soon as power is applied and feeds clock pulses to IC2. The output of IC2 switches high on the arrival of the 8192nd clock pulse, thus turning RLA (and hence RLB) off via Q2 and Q1 and completing the sequence of operations.

The operating period of the 555 clock generator is variable over the approximate range 22 mS to 220 mS via RV1, thus making output timing periods of 3 minutes to 30 minutes available from the circuit.

The voltage supply to the main part of the electronic circuitry is smoothed via C1 and is limited to 12 volts peak via ZD1 and R6, thus ensuring reliable operation even under adverse power supply conditions. Note that two relays are used in this circuit. A two-pole relay is needed to give

Note that two relays are used in this circuit. A two-pole relay is needed to give the desired auto-turn-off action, but the relay that is supplying the rear-screen heater needs a contact current rating of at least 10 amps. Since 10 amp two-pole relays are not readily available, it has been necessary to resort to the use of two relays to obtain the required circuit action when using a low-current switch in the PB1 position.





ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL --- SEPTEMBER 1979

RAVEN ON...

A new regular spot for David Raven of Metac Electronics. From his lofty perch above the commercial world of electronics he can see a lot happening that we can't. A monthly report from the lookout post!

CHANGES AT SINCLAIR Radionics indicate a new direction for a company that grew famous in the dawn of consumer electronic products. Equity totalling 73% of the shares were sold to the National Enterprise Board after heavy losses were incurred during the earlier attempts to manufacture Digital Watches. The company required investment capital to help develop and manufacture the world's smallest television set and to date the NEB have invested £4.45 million. The company's operations are now divided into three groups comprising Industrial Instruments, Consumer Products and Research & Development. Each division will operate under independent management with Clive Sinclair heading the R & D section.

The NEB is apparently not planning further investment in the company and they are also trying to find a new investor to take over production of the Microvision. Calculator production is also threatened as the company takes a hard look at its full range of products.

They will, however, continue to produce the programmable calculators for at least a further 6 to 12 months.

The future for British made calculators cannot be seen as rosy in the light of the new government's attitude to the NEB and loss making companies. There is always a ray of sunshine just around the corner (so the story books tell us) and what better way to view it than through a "Flat TV screen".

At first inkling Sinclair's latest venture could be *the* winner after the previous modest successes achieved with calculators, watches and TV's.

Plans are afoot to manufacture a 3 inch screen model slightly smaller than a paperback book, using a new patented technology. It is claimed that the definition is better than a comparable cathode ray tube four times the size. An automated factory is to be set up employing about 150 people to manufacture this new product, code named TV2, and it is envisaged that a partner will be introduced to help finance the operation. (Sinclair has received £750,000 from the National Research and Development Corporation to carry out development work into television technology). This joint venture project provided NRDC with a share in any future profits.

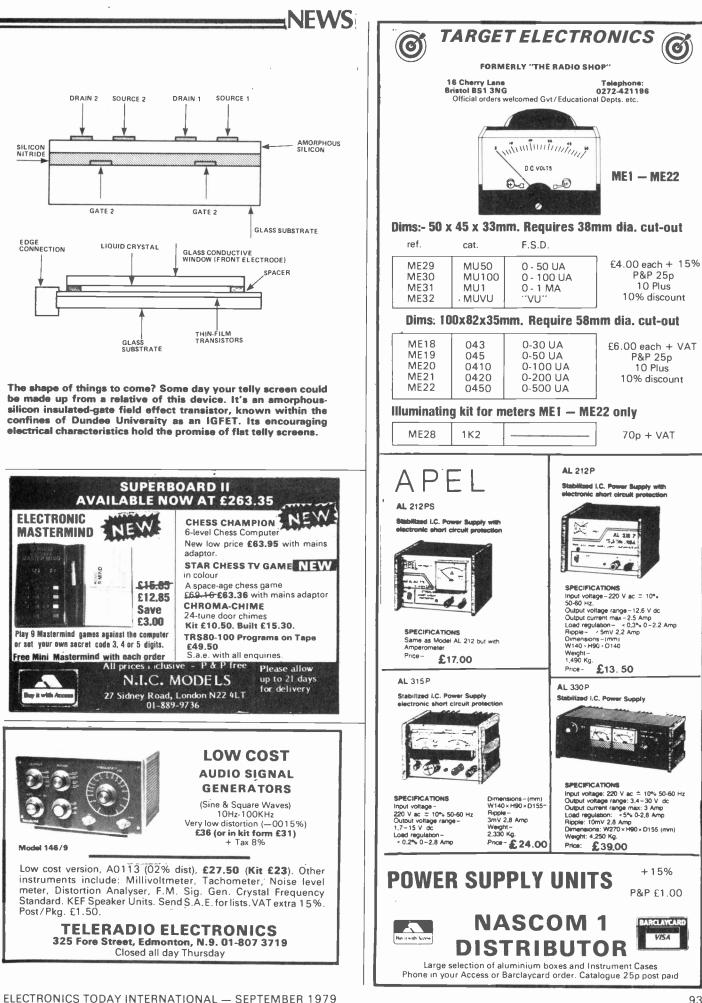
Deja Vu

Work on flat screen TV's is not however new since reports were published in 1973 by Westinghouse Research Laboratory. The original aim was to produce a screen using liquid crystal (which is not the technique used by Sinclair). Attempts were made to produce a flat screen display using FET's and neumatic crystals, a screen size of 6 inches by 6 inches, 20 lines per inch and 14000 picture elements, each driven by a cadmium Selenide FET. The main difficulties were, however, in controlling the two-component materials, Cadmium-Selenide used to produce the FET's. Research work at Dundee University has continued in this field headed by Professor Walter E. Spear.

Amorphous-silicon insulated-gate field effect transistors (IGFET's) are being produced at Dundee that have encouraging electrical characteristics. To drive the liquid crystal elements the amorphous silicon IGFETs require an on-to-off-current ratio of 300, and an on-resistance of less than 9 M to allow sufficient rapid charging of the elements, also an off resistance greater than 3000 M to prevent escessive charge decay between scans. When assembled, the liquid crystal would be sandwiched between a glass substrate which contains the IGFETs fabricated on the surface in a matrix pattern and a conducting glass window. In an integrated display the IGFET is connected at each junction of the X-Y matrix and stored information is discharged onto each column in turn. Meanwhile a scanner turns on all transistors in an addressed row. As a result, voltage proportional to brightness would be applied to each liquid crystal element in that row. The applied voltage rotates the plane of polarization of the element, altering the light transmitted through it. Moves to scale the process up have gone well and long term device stability may be better than the group compounds used previously. Specimens stored at room temperature for several years have shown little change and reproducibility looks good.

Electronic Fuel Savers

With petrol shortages destined to be the order of the day it is some comfort to know that a contribution to saving fuel can be made using micro-electronics. Lucas Industries are producing a chip which will continuously check fuel consumption and vary supply according to second by second changes in speed. It is expected that microchip monitors will be standard in every car during the next decade, controlling, in particular, fuelling, ignition, combustion and analysis of exhaust fumes. Future electric cars are predicted to take on a hybrid form running on batteries for short trips and coupling on a trailer with petrol, diesel or methane gas to charge up on a long distance drive. There are no miracle batteries on the way. Problems with one recent innovation using sodium sulphur were caused by the battery heating up to 500°C and having a tendency to set fire to the car. If you reside in the country and have access to unused corn then it may be worthwhile fermenting this into alcohol which can then be used as an additive. They also say that old chicken dung can be quite good for producing methane gas.



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Readers' Circuits IC1 4001 P14 +Ve P8,9,12,13 --Ve SW2 RESET IC1 4001 16 14 12 IC2 4017 TO 2nd 4017 CK (IF REQ'D) 9V PP3 15 C1 470n 13 SW1 COUNT 1 R1 10M R3 10M R2 10M LEDS 1 - 9 TO IC2 PINS SW3 DISPLAY ANSWER 4 1 4 1 1 11 1

Pocket Calculator

S. Lamb

The diagram shows an inexpensive pocket calculator which will count up to nine pockets which can, by adding another IC count up to 99 pockets. Although it can be extended indefinitely I feel it is ludicrous to have more than 99 pockets.

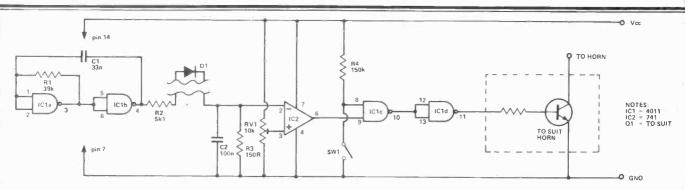
To use press SW2 to reset IC2, place unit in each pocket in turn and press SN1 (use microswitch with definite click action to avoid miscoun-

ting). Two NOR gates eliminate switch bounce effects and IC2 is incremented once per operation of SW1. When all pockets have been accounted for press SW3 to display answer. The nine LEDs are labelled 1 to 9.

If the switches are suitably recessed the answer can be retained indefinitely because of the low current requirement of CMOS and SW3 can be pressed for an instant answer.

The prototype was built in a polythene soap dish (Boots). It should be realised that if the counter is not in the 'reset' position and SW3 is opencircuit that one of the LED anodes will be at about + 9V and will reverse bias the other eight and may well exceed the typical maximum PIV of 3V. For extreme reliability put a silicon diode in series with each LED and a 100 k resistor in parallel with each LED (in case of leaky diodes).

The two unused gates of IC1 could be used to flash one LED as an 'overflow' indicator if required, or to construct a second counter perhaps for coat pockets.



Motorbike Protector

P. M. Jessop

Many of the accessories fitted to a motorbike can be quite valuable and easily removed by a thief. On a motorbike, a top-box may be lockable but can easily be removed complete.

This circuit will protect such

WC2H OEE

accessories. Diode D1 is mounted *inside* the box or other accessory and two leads are run to the rest of the circuit which should be mounted near to the horn. Gates IC1a and IC1b form an oscillator which charges C2 through D1 and R2. The voltage on C2 (normally nearly V_{cc} ; is fed to comparator IC2. If D1 is removed from circuit by cutting the leads, C2

discharges through R3 and the comparator is triggered. However, if an enterprising thief tries to bypass the alarm by shorting the leads, the voltage on C2 falls to about $\frac{1}{2}V_{cc}$ and again the comparator is triggered.

SW1 which should be well concealed, disables the alarm which will otherwise sound the horn if triggered.

Tech-Tips is an ideas forum and is not aimed at the beginner. We regret we cannot answer queries on these items. ETI is prepared to consider circuits or ideas submitted by readers for this page. All items used will be paid for. Drawings should be as clear as possible and the text should preferably be typed. Circuits must not be subject to copyright. Items for consideration should be sent to ETI TECH-TIPS, Electronics Today International, 145 Charing Cross Road, London

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240vac rev. per hoar £1.05. BUZZERS. Nimetare solid state buzzers. 33 X 17 X 15mm white plastic cose, output al 3	TODILS. SOLDEN SUCKEN. Plunger type, bigb michen tellen nezzie. E4.99, spars nezzies	19-PIECE PRECISION TOOL KIT. In plastic biogod casa, consists of 5 upnours, 4x2/6mm. 5 nut drivers 30mm, 3 small acrowdrivers. 2 Philips drivers, 1 nut. 3 Allan Keys E3.35.	Inserting, E4.10. CONTYNULTY TESTER. Tubular with with probe and croc. Ity land, E1.45 with balt.	12:05 (45)(13:0:13:0:13:0:14) 20-30% (45:05) (54)(2:0-00% 21:31) 544)(-1:2:15:25:24:30% 2:30% 2:30% 2:56 20% 2:56 12:35 (54) TRIAC XENON PULSE TRANS- FORMERS, EL (FPO 35%) 32p. Explose 1:30% min. pcb mounting 65p.	DHODES, 104001 10 far 35p, 104004 10 far 45p, 104007 10 far 50p, 117127 10 far 75p, 10114 (sumharad) 100 far £2,50 104148 (sumharad) 100 far £2,25, 50 valt 1 amp Bridge Reck, 18p,
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esch. 723 14-pin Oll regs 38p esch. FETS Union carbide K channel similar te 2033/9 15p. 301400 ur BFW61 40p esch. M203 desi maichad poir af single gate modefar in ose car 40p. 245042 pikatic (1952) sars 100V 300Mk 15p esch. 8X504 Opin isolater. 4. land istar red led te	denser, caréled, un ifrectional, 6000 hum or 50k, havy chermed copper case 12,95. Dynamie stick Mike, 5,000 ohms, auzelt awitch, fitted with standard jac 53,05. EM 104 53k, min, ilu pin adropphenas, condensor, 1,000 nhms imp., 50-16kbz ussa dient aid baffary fampleigt (5,40, 51,00,400, casetta mikes 200 ohm Impol. Mithad with 2,57.5mm lacks. avordt myrko.	FUSH SWITCHES HORE TO COMMIL OF The parage is mate 150 mesh, pash one brash vortage flack top 17p each. SLIDE SWITCHES all DPGT 15x8x12mm 13p, 16x11x3mm 13p, 22x13x8mm 13p, 22x13x8 cart of 14p, Mittigeta x1dier, deable action [12 tags] 29x9x11mm 25p.	RELAYS, Clara Elliol sub. min, relay IDx10mm 2 pinc ro, 1250 cell new 75p. Ministara secapusited read relay. D.1 matrix meesting, single make operated an I2946 50p. Continuents arrise, asside plastic can type. 2446.3 point cr/o Samp contexts, new 65p. 250476. Samb for a solid plastic can type. 2446.3 point cr/o Samp contexts, new 65p. 250476. Samb for any 3 point Samp contexts, sx. equipment, 11-pin bars, 60p mach. Mintl. 2604 for any inter 504-5517 pm.	CLIFF CLECKTEST, 13 amp maiss connec- ter, Meal for workshap, etc., provides rapid and safe maiss connection, waph mosifed case and lid with nees indicator and bess, E5, 15.	MURATA TRANSDUCERS, REC/SENDEN MURATA 40KHZ E3.50 poir.
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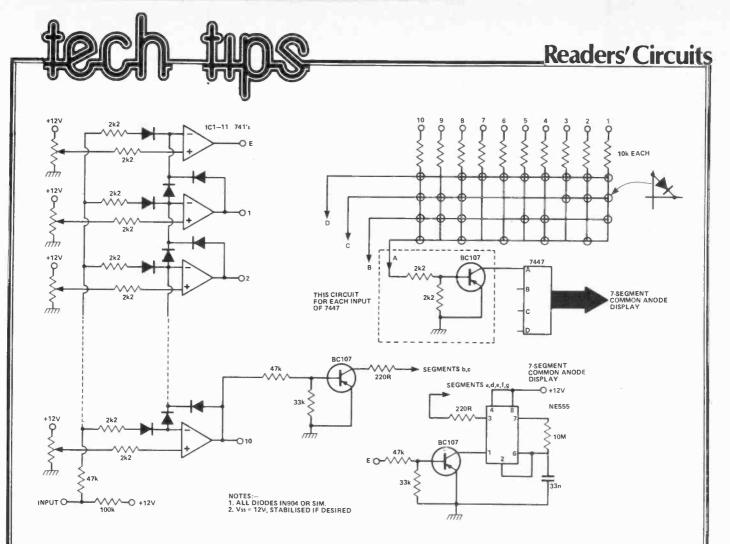
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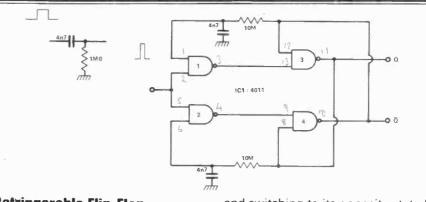
10 Gallon Digital Fuel Gauge

B. R. H. King

This circuit is based on the design published in ETI Circuits No 2, but has been extended to ten gallons without the need for the large number of diodes which would be required if the original circuit were used. Also incorporated is a flashing E when the tank is nearly empty.

The input is the voltage across the fuel-tank 'sender' which typically rises from zero at full tank, to about 5V when empty. As the voltage falls, the higher-numbered 741 comes on, extinguishing all the lower-numbered ones via the diode network. The outputs are fed to a decimal-to-BCD encoder (two pieces of veroboard with tracks at right-angles, with diodes sandwiched between). Each of the four outputs drives a BC107 to sink the inputs of a 7447 BCD-to-7 segment converter. This system is more economical in space and components than a discrete diode, decimal, 7 segment matrix. Output ten also provides drive to segments b and c of another display to give the figure one. This display is also used to show an E

which is flashed by a 555 turned on by output from the E 741. A certain amount of trial-and-error is required to get values to suit individual cars, display types etc and the voltage divider at the input provides bias to compensate for the non-zero output of the 741's in their off-state. The circuit needs to be calibrated by filling the tank gallon by gallon and adjusting the 10 k presets. The prototype works very satisfactorily.



Retriggerable Flip-Flop

G. S. Wills

The following circuit was devised as a cheap retriggerable flip-flop using a single Quad-NAND chip (4011).

It is sometimes useful to have a single input flip-flop instead of the usual SET & RESET, this one being used on the end of an ultrasonic remote pause for a cassette recorder and switching to its opposite state for each received pulse.

Gates 3 and 4 are wired as a standard flip-flop configuration, their inputs going to gates 1 and 2 which steer the input pulse alternately.

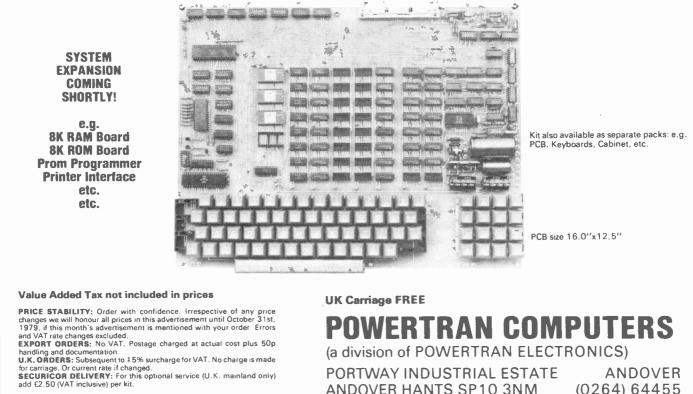
The only requirement to remember is that the input pulse must be shorter than the CR constant of the circuit, but this is easily arranged by including a differentiator network (at the input) with a lower time constant.



ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL - SEPTEMBER 1979



The kit for this outstandingly practical design by John Adams being published in a series of articles in Wireless World really is complete! Included in the PSI COMP 80 scientific computer kit is a professionally finished cabinet, fibre-glass double sided, plated-through-hole printed circuit board. 2 keyboards PCB mounted for ease of construction, IC sockets, high reliability metal oxide resistors, power supply using custom designed toroidal transformer. 2K Basic and 1K monitor in EPROMS and, of course, wire, nuts, bolts, etc.

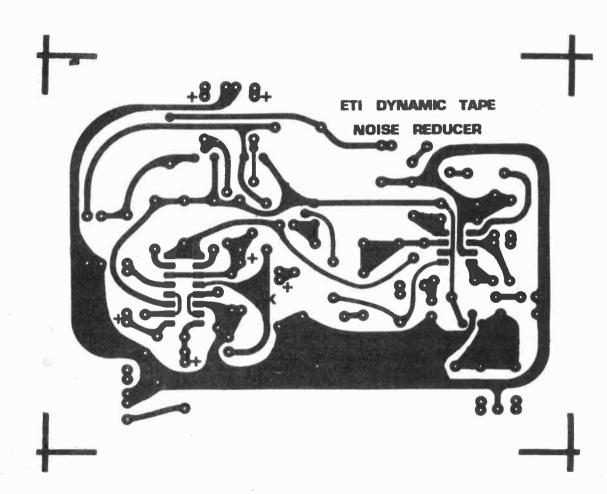


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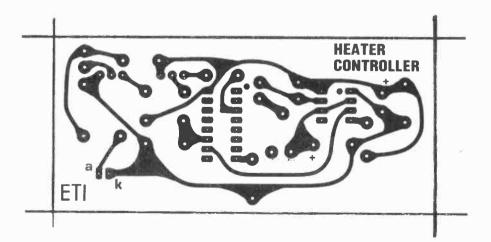
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PCB FOIL PATTERNS



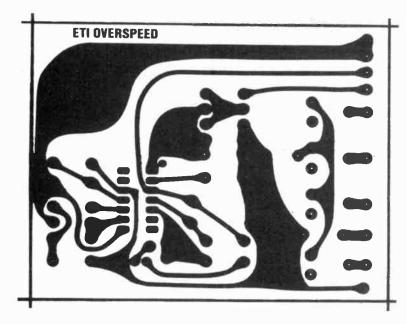
Above: dynamic noise filter foil pattern shown full size.

Below: full size foil pattern for the rear screen heater controller.



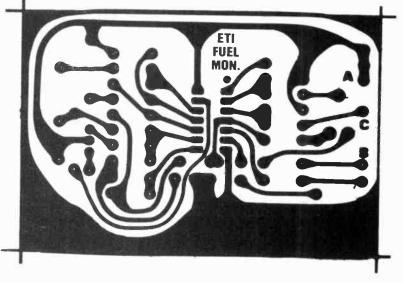
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PCB Foil Patterns

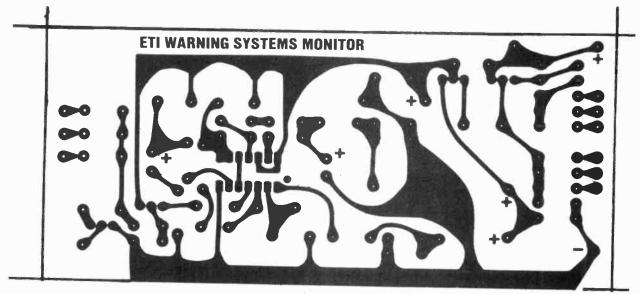


Left: full size foil side pattern for the overspeed alarm project.

Right: full size foil pattern for the fuel level monitor project



Below: full size foil pattern for the warning systems monitor project



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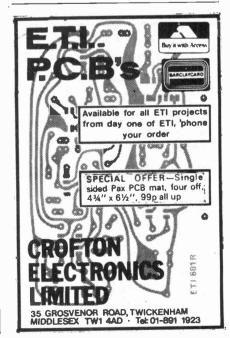
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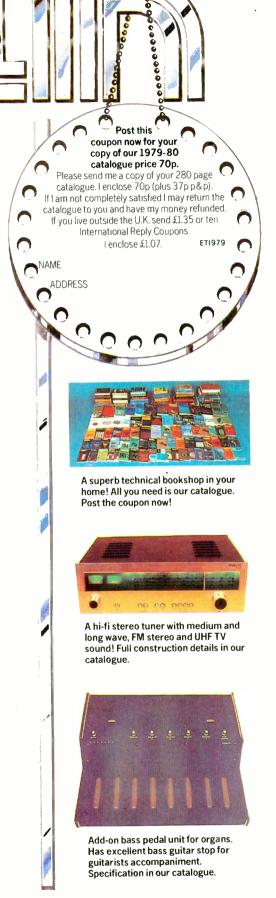
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