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Engineered to precision standards, this high-grade instrument is made avallable at the lowest possible price, incorporating associated with luxury instruments.
This "، scolpe" will appeal particularly to Service Engineers and Amateurs. A himh gain. eers and Amateurs. Alimh gain, extremmy stanle differential Y-amplifier ( $30 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{M}$ ). Provides ample sensitivity with A.C. or O.C. inputs. Espectally suitable for measuremernt of trankislor operatine conditions where maintenance of D.C. levels is of paramount importance. Push-puli X ampliner fay-back suppression: Internal Time-base Scan waveform avallable for external use: bulse outbut available tor ehecking Tin cille ofP ransiormers, etc. ; Provision for external wip and citc. Brightuess Modulation. Size 10in. high, ofin. wide. gin. deep. $P$. \& P. $7 / 6$ and 12 monthly payments of $26 / 6$.

NAIVES ANE THBE.


## 8-WATT PUSH.PULL AMPLIFIER

(UMPIETE WITH CRYSh HIDNPDCNER
A.C. mains $200-250$ v. Size 103 in . $x$ 6in. $x 24$ in. Incorporating 6 valves. H.F. pen., 2 triodes, 2 output pens and rectifier. For use with all makes and type of pick-up and mike. Negative feed back. Two inputs. mike and gram. and controls for same. Separate controls for Bass and Treble lit. Response $\pm 2 \mathrm{~dB} ; 4 \mathrm{db}$ down to 20 Kcs . Output 8 watts at $5^{\prime \prime}$, total distortion. Noise level 40 db down all hum. Output transformer tapped for 3 and 15 ohm speech coils. For use with Std. or L.P. records, musical instruments such as $\mathbf{6 4 . 1 9 . 6} \mathrm{P}$ Plus ${ }_{7} 6$, Or 20/= deposit Plus P. \& P. 7/6. and 4 monthly payments of $23 \%$.

## 2-TRANSISTOR POCKET RADIO

Plus Germanium diode, fully tuneable over medium and long waves. Size $3 \frac{1}{2}$ in. $x 4 \frac{1}{3} \mathrm{in}$. $x \frac{\mathrm{in}}{}$. Complete set of comoonents including case, 2 transistors and earpicce (less batteries).
$19 / 6$ P. \& \& P
Point to point wiring diagram 1/6 free with kit


## PUSH-FULL OUTPUT STAGE

Inclusive of transistors with input and output transformers to matrin 3 ohms speech coll, suitable for use with the above kit. Complete kit of parts including transistors.

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19 / 6 \underset{\&}{\mathrm{P}} \stackrel{\mathrm{P}, 1 / 6}{1}
$$

Point to point wiring diagram $1 / 6$ free with kit

## AC/DC POCKET MULTI-METER KIT



Comprising 2in. moving coil meter. scale calinrated in ACDDC volts, ohms and milliamps. Voltare range AC/DC 0-50. 0-100, 0-250, 0-500. Milliamps 0-10, 0-100. Ohms range 0-10,000. Front panel. range switch. wirewound pot (for ohms zero setting), toggle switch, resistor and rectifier. In grey hammer finish case.
19/6 Plus $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{P}}$. $1 / 6 \quad$ Bullt, and tested boint to point wiring diagram 1/-, free with $7 / 8$ extra.

## SIGNAL GENERATORS



Cash £6.19.6 or 25/-deposit and 6 monthly payments of 21/6. Post and Packing 5/- extra.
Coverage $100 \mathrm{Kr} / \mathrm{s}-100 \mathrm{me} / \mathrm{s}$ on fundamentals and 100. $\mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ to 200 Me/s on harmonies. Metal case 101n. $x$ Etin. $x$ fin.. grey hammer finish. Incorporating three miniature valves and Metal Rectifter. A.C. Mains 200/250 v. Internal Modulation of 400 c.p.s. to a unmodułated R F output continuously variable 100 millivolts. C.W. and mod. switch, variable A.F. output. Incorporating magic eye as nutput indicator. Accuracy plus or minus 2:.

Cash £4.19.6 or 25/- deposit and 4 monthly payments of 21/6. Plus Postage and Packing. 5/-.
Coverage $120 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}-84 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Metal case $101 n . x$ bin. $x$ Metal case 101 in . $x$ gim. $x$ 3in. Size of scale. 6 valves and $x$ A.C. mains $230-250 \mathrm{v}$. Internai modulation of 400 N . Internal modulation of 400 c.p.s. to a depth of $30 \%$ modulated or continuously variable 100 millivolts. c.W. and mod. switch variable A.D.output and moving cotl output meter. Grey hammer finished case and white panel. Accuracy plus or minus $2 \%$.
B.S.R. MONARCH

UA8 WITH FUL-FI HEAD

-speed plays 10 records 121n., $101 n$ or 7 in . at $16,33,45$ or 78 r.p.m. Intermixes 7in., 10in. and 12 in . records of the same speed. Has manual play position ; colour brown. Dimensions: $124 \mathrm{in} . \times 10 \mathrm{in}$. Space required above baseboard $4: i n$. below baseboard 23 in. Fitted with Full-Fi turnover crystal head.
\&6.19.6 Plus \& $_{5}^{5 /- \text { Pastage }}$ With stereon Headi, e7.19.6. plus
$5 /-\mathrm{P}$. \& P .

## CHANNEL TUNER

Will tune to all Band I and Band HI stations. BRAND NEW by famous manufacturer. Complete with PCC84 and PCFso valves ( in series) I.F. 16-19 or 33-38. Also can be modified as an aeria! convertor (instructions supplied). $22 / 6$ Plus 36 P. \& P.
Complete with knobs.
IILDTEIR TRANSFORMBIR to suit the above. 200-250 v. 6-Plus 16 P. \& P.

## MAINS TRANSFORMERS

All with tapped primaries. $200-250$ volts. $0-160,180,200 \mathrm{v} . .60 \mathrm{ma}$., C. 3 v. $2 \mathrm{amps} .10 / 6.320-0-320 \mathrm{v} .75 \mathrm{ma.} .6.3 \mathrm{v},. 2.5 \mathrm{amp} ., 5 \mathrm{v.}$,2 amp . $10^{\prime} 6 . \quad 230-0-280.80 \mathrm{ma} .6 . \mathrm{s}^{2} \mathrm{v} .2 \mathrm{amp} ., 6.3 \mathrm{v} .1 \mathrm{amp} ., 10 / 6$ Postage and packing on the above $3 /-$.

## F.M. TUNER UNIT

Permeability tuned, by famous German Manufacturer. Coverage 88- $100 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Complete with CC85. Size 4in. x 2in. $x 2 i n$.
$25 /=$ Plus P. \& P. $1 / 6$. Circuit diagram 1 - - , free with criminator Coil and Dis

## IMITATION

## LOG FIRE EFFECT

IN FIBIRE: GLASS Size 14 inches $\times 11$ Inctes 19/6 Plus P. \& P. 2/6.

## RADIO CHASSIS

A.C. MAINS 200/250 v. Medium \& Lont Wave Superhet. 4 valve and rectifier. Complete with 8in. P.M. speaker. Valve line-up 6 K 8 . $6 \mathrm{K7}$. 6Q7. EL32 and rectifier. These have been used but fully serviced with new Electrolytics and valves.
TEED.
$42 / 6 \begin{gathered}\text { Plus } 7 / 6 \\ \text { P. }\end{gathered}$

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Goods not dispatched outside U.K.

## NO DEPOSIT - INTEREST FREE - 20 or 36 WEEKS TO PAY!


P. 3/6.

3 TRANSISTOR AMPLIFIER $\begin{gathered}6 \text { volts. } 1 \text { control. } 79 / 6 \\ \text { P. \& P. } 3 / 6 .\end{gathered}$

Continental style cabinet including extra clip-on speaker cabinet. $15 \% \times 10 \frac{3}{8} \times 243 \mathrm{in}$. deep Takes B.S.R. 4-speed stereo autochanger. Printed circuit amplifier. Two 8 in. speakers. Carr. \& Ins. $6 / 6$.

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## 9/1

DEPOSIT. Balance at $7 / 11$ for 19 12 MONTHS GUARANTEE
Beautifully made for portable stereophonic record players. Latest design with printed circuit. Dimensions $3 \times 5 \frac{1}{2} \times{ }_{93}^{3} \mathrm{in}$. A.C. only. Mains isolated. Twin amplifiers each side giving $3-4$ watts output. Incorporating ECL82 triode pentode valve. Full tone, volume and balance controls. Complete and ready to fit
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## LDDK! at the low prices of our modern

 cloth covered RECORD PLAYER CABINETST.W.1. CABINET

79/6
Similar cabinet to the S.T.I less extra clip-on speaker cabinet. Size $15 i \times 19 \frac{1}{8} \times 10 \mathrm{in}$. Takes
B.S.R. U.A.8 4-speed autochanger, twin speakers

3 control amplifier. Ins., carr., 4/6.


29/6 Elegant cabinet, cloth covered in grey or red with sunken control panel and speaker fret. Size $13 \times 17 \times 8 i n$. deep Takes a B.S.R. Monarch 4 -speed autochanger. $7 \times$ 4in. elliptical speaker and most of the modern portable amplifiers. Carr \& ins. 4/6.
P.L. 10 CABINET

Size $143 \times 121 \times 6 \mathrm{in}$. Takes B.S.R. T.U. 9 4-speed record player unit. $8 \times 3 \mathrm{in}$, elliptical unit. $8 \times$ 3in. elliptical
speaker. Single control amplifier. Carr. \& Ins. 4/6.


A MUST if you are building your own tape.
Suitable for the Truvox Tape Recording Deck. Less front cast speaker panel. Size $13 \frac{1}{2} \times 15 \times 8$ in. deep. Detachable lid with ₹ompartment for spare tape. Covered in green washable plastic material. P. \& P. 4/6.

## EXTENSION SPEAKERS

## 19/9



Polished oak cabinet of attractive appearance. Fitted with 8in. P.M. speaker W.B. or Goodmans of the highest quality. Standard matching to any receiver ( 2.5 ohms .) Switch and flex included. Ins. car.r. 3/9.
8in. P.M. SPEAKER 8/9 Std; 2-5 ohms. With O.P. Trans., 10/-. P. \& P. 2/6.
Elliptical SPEAKER 19/6

## $7^{\prime \prime} \times 4^{\prime \prime}$.

## Elliptical SPEAKER <br> 22/6

 $9 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 4 \frac{1}{2}$B.S.R. FUL-FI Crystal Turnover cartridges

19/6
Brand new, including sapphire needles for L.P. and Standard. giving fullest range and finest tone obtainable for any player. Can be fitted to all standard pick-up arms. P. \& P. 9d

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56 Resist ; incl. 7 variable. Controls. Condensers, incl. electrolytics. Coils, 7 I.F. and R.F. Trans. 14 valve holders. 9 B7G, 5 B5G. 3 octal, 4 Trans. Mains-O.PP.-LineFrame. $\quad$ Chokes. 250 m.a. Metal rec. 300 volt 250 m.a. Fuse panel-scanning coils-focus magnet. Plugs-sockets-switch-chassis screws-tag strips, etc. I.F. strip in separate Power Pack can be used without dismancling. Chassis have been used, but were working when stored. 7 pages of circuits and instructions showing position of each component. Carriage. Iv,6.

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> 17" T/V CHASSIS
> COMPLETE AND working 24 GNS.

Complete chassis including 17in. tube permanent magnet speaker, 13 channel Turret Tuner (any two selected channels fitted). Other channels supplied on request at $7 / 6$ each. 13 valves. Chassis and valves guaranteed for three months. MW. CRT. 2 months' full guranatee Sound I.F. 19.5 Mcls. Vision $16 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. A.C. only. Ready and working to fit into your own eabinet. Carr, \& Ins., 25/-, As above, with I4in. tube, complete and working, E19.19.0.

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110 v. 6 v. 12 v. (special adaptor for $200 / 250$ v. 10/- extra). Automatic solder feed including a 20ft. reel of Ersin 60/40 solder and spare parts. It is a tool for electronic soldering or car wiring. Revolutionary in design. Instancly ready for use and cannot burn. In light metal case with full instructions for use. Post $3 / 6$


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4 waveband. 5 valve superhet radio. 2-tone covered metal cabinet size $24 \times 12 \times 10 \mathrm{in}$. deep. 4 control knobs. Positions for gram., p.u. and extension speaker. A.C. only. Ins. carr. 8/6.
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For all I.T.A. channels. Outdoor or loft. 3 elements. P. \& P. 2/6
T:V. AERIALS
15/6
B.B.C. indoor type. Folded dipole with 12 ft . co-ax. cable ficted. Post 1/9.
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35/-
COMBINED I.T.A. or B.B.C. New. L/SD. P. \& P. 2/6.
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Plated. Whip antennae. 50in. Iong collapsing to Ilin. One hole fixing P. \& P. I/-. (Not telescopic.)
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Good quality. Cut to any length. $1 / 6$ post on 20 yds .
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$1 / 6$
$75 \mathrm{ft} . \times \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in} . \operatorname{In}$ sealed tins. Post 9d.


## HOME RADIO <br> A.C. or Universal <br> 79/6 A.C./D.C. Universal mains 5 -valve octal superhet. 3 waveband receiver can be adapted to gram p.u. In attractive wooden cabinet. 9i! $\times 181 \times$ Il in. Ins., carr., 4/6. Terms available. <br> 

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38 mm . Brand new. P. \& P. 1/3.
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Low impedance. 38 mm . Brand new. P. \& P. $1 / 3$.
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Wide angle 90 deg. 38 mm . Low impedance. P. \& P. $1 / 3$.
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MAINS TRANSFORMERS
Primary 200-250. Secondary 300-0-300. $6 \vee$. at 3.3 amps. P. \& P. 2/9.
MAINS AUTO 0-205-225-245 VOLTS AT 300 m.a. 8/9
Isolated windings of 6.3 v . at $2-6 \mathrm{amp} .6 .3$ volt at $3-6 \mathrm{amp} .2 \mathrm{v}$. l-4 amp. P. \& P. 3/9.

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Standard size. 2-5 ohms. P. \& P. 1/-. 20 for \&1. P. \& P. 5/6. INITIAL PAYMENT. WEEKLY EASY PAYMENTS. Details on Request.

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## HI-FI 10 WATT AMPLIFIERS

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used and in perused and in per-
Mullard vaives. Dual inputs for " mike " and gram. etc. Bass and Treble Controls. High sensitivity and quality. For $200-250$ i. A.C. mains.

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Ultra Linear Push-Pull Amplifier with Built-in" Tone Control. Pre-amp stages high sensitivity, includes 5 valves (807 outputs). High Quality sectionally wound output transformer. spectation and reliable small condensers operation and reliable small condensers CONTROLS FOR BASS AND TREBLE "Lift" and "Cut" Frequency response $+3 \mathrm{db} 30-30,00 \mathrm{cics}$ Six negative feedback loops. Fum level 71 db . down. ONLY 70 millivolts INPUT required for FULJ, OUTPUT. Suitable for use with all makes and types of pick-ups and practically all microphones. Com. parable with the very best desien

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 MUSICAL INSTRU- STRING RASS, GUITARS, etc. OUTPUT SOCKET with plug provides $300 \% .30 \mathrm{~mA}$ and $6.3 \nabla$. 1.58 For supply of a RADIO FECDDER NVIE. Size approx. 12-3-7in. For A.C. mains $200-230-250$. 50 cs. last nut. Chassis is fully punched. Full last nut. Chassis is fuly punched. Full instructions and point-to-point wialus at $£ 7 / 15$ - or factory built $45 \%$ extra. Carriage 101 -. If required louvred metal cover with 2PICK-UP ARMS complete with HI-Fi turnover crystal haad. Acos GP54. Wimited number brand new. perfect, at approx hall price. Only 28/11.

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Ready for use in wainut veneered cablnet.
$6 \frac{1}{2 n}$. $2-3$ ohms. $29 / 11$. 8in. $2-3$ ohms, $35 / 9$. 101n. 2-3 ohms. 58/9. Very limited number.


SENSATIONAL TRANSISTOR OFFER 3 for 109 . A huge purchase enables us to offer Brand New. Guaranteed Brimar TS1 Audio Transistors at a small Iraction of list price.
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TERMS on assembled two Input model : DEPOSIT $18 / 9$ and 12 montaly payHIGII FIDEL, ITY MTCROPHONES and SPEAKERg in stock. Keen cash prices or credit terms if supplied with amplifier.

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 MIXER AUTO-CHANGERSBrand new. cartoned. Turnover sapphire styil. Many exclusive features. Unique design motor virtually free irom rumble 200-250 7. A.C. mains. Only \&5.19.6
PORTABLE CABINET
Full range of attractive
15/9

THE SKVFOLIR T.R.E. KNCEIVER. A design of a 3-valve Long and Medium wave 200-250 v. A.C. Matns receiver with selenfum rectifier. High gain ha: stave and low distor von decector SK SP6 pencede outpur alve hality are well up vo. Selectivit and qualty are well to standard, and simpircity or construe tion is a special feature. Porat-to-Polat ist 19 Moximam building costa.es 19.6 ist. 19. Maximum buidm, casta.e4.19.6 cabinet 12 in . x 6 in. $x 5$ ifn.

## R.S.C. PORTABLIE <br> TAPE RECORDER

A completely assembled unil in attractive

## COSSOR VHF/FM RADIO RECEIVER KITS

Inoluding 6 valves, Printed Circuit and Goodmans 10" $\times 6^{\prime \prime}$ Elliptical Speaker. retail at 15 GNS. .S Made to retail at 15 GNS. 2 2-19-19-6 Excellent frequency response. Auto-erase. Fast Lewind Takes up to 5ifin, lape spools. High Flux speaker, 3 watts output. Inputs for speaker. 3 watts output. inputs for 250 v. 50 c.p.s. A.C. mains. Sensational value ? Prjce including 'Mike' Reel of best qualjty tape

19 GHS and empty spool: Usual 12 months' guarantee. H.P. Terms; Deposit 44-and 12 monthly payments oI $33 / 4$.
R.S.C. BATTERY TO MAINS CONVERSION UNITS


Tyns BM2. Size B $\times 5 \mathrm{y}$ $x 2 \% n$ Supplies $12 J \%$. 90 y and 60 V . 40 mA and $2 \mathrm{v}, 0.1$ a to 1 amp fully smoothed. Therer hy complately mehbalteries and f.. 2 when accimulatiors when connesced to
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includes latest This consumption types 10 Complete it wpes. ready to use, $46 / 9$.

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Interleaved and Imprepnated. Primaries $200-230-250$ v. 50 c/ Screcmea.
TOP SIPROUDED DROP THROUGFI $250-0-250$ v. $70 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 2 a. 5 v. 2 \&... $17 / 9$ $350-0-350$ v. $80 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 2 a., 5 v. 2 a... $18 / 9$ $250-0-250$ v. 100 mA .6 .3 v. 4 a, 5 v. 3 a... $25 / 9$
$300-0-300$ v. $100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 4 a. 5 v. 3 a... $25 / 9$ $300-0-300$ v. $100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 4 a, 5 v. 3 a... $25 / 9$
$350-0-350$ v. $100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 4 a, 5 v. 3 a... $25 / 9$ $350-0-350$ v. $100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 4 a, 5 v. 3a... $25 / 8$
$350-0-350$ v. $100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 4 a. 4 a, C.T.


## FULLY SHROUDED UPRIGET

 $250-0-250$ v, $60 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ จ. 2 a. 5 v. 2 a Midget type 21-3-3in. ... ... 17/9 $250-0-250$ v. $100 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 4 a, 5 v. 3 a... $26 / 9$ $350-0.30$ v. 100 ma . 6.3 v. \& \&. 5 v. 3 a... 26/9 $300-9-300$ v. $13 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 4 a, 6.3 v. 1 a.for Mullard 510 Amplifier
$350-0-350 \mathrm{v}, 150 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{v}, 4$ a. 5 v .3 a ... $35 / \mathrm{g}$ $425-0-425$. 20 m mA. 6.3 v. 4 a. C.T
6.3 V. 4 a, C.T., 5 v, 3 a. Suitablo
Willamson Amplifier, etc. ... ... 49

## FILAMENT TRANSFOIRMERS

All with $200-250$ v. $59 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$, primaries 6.3 v . 1.5 a. $5 / 9 ; 6.3 \cdot v .2$ a. $7 / 6 ; 0-4-5.3$ v. 2 a, $7 / 9$ a. $811: 6.3$ v, 6 a
$17 / 6 ; 12$ v. 3 a, or 24 v. $1.5 \mathrm{a}, 17 / 6$.

## OUTPUT TRANSFORNERS

Midget Battery Pentode 66:1 for
3st, etc. 1 mall Pentode, 5000 n to 30 ..
Srmall Pentode $7 / 8,0000$ to 30
Standard Pentode $5,000 \Omega$ to $3 \Omega$
Standard Pentode. $7 / 8,000$ o to 30

Pash-pull $10-12$ watts to match 6 V 6
to $3-5-8$ or 150 to 3 or 15 n
Push-Pull EL84 to 3 or 15 n $\cdots$
Push-Pull $15-18$ watts, $6 \mathrm{~L} 6 . \mathrm{KT} 66$
Push-Pull for Mullard 510 Ultra Push-Pull for Mullard 510 Ultra Push-pull 20 watts. sectionally wound GL6. KT66, ete., to 3 to $159 \ldots 47 / 9$

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A complete set of parts to construct a Stereo amplifier with an or Vol £3-19-6 and point-to-point wiring diagrams supplied. Only good quality Carr. and pkg. $5 /-$ components and latest high grade valves used. Exceptionally realistic reproduction can be obtained at ample volume for the home, as can be demonstrated in typlcal urroundings at our County Arcade premises. A really sensational offer.

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LINEAR LA5 MINATURE: 4/5 WATY QEALITY ADIPLIFIIR. Suitable for use with any record playing unit, and 12 db . Separate Bass and Treble feed-back 12 db . Separate Bass and Treble Controls. For A.C. mains input of $200-250$ v. $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{Cs}$. Output for $2-3$ ohm speaker. Three miniature Mullard valves used. Size of unit only 6-5-5in. high. Guaranteed for 12 months. Only \&5/19/6. Send S.A.E. for and 5 monthly payments of $22 / 6$.

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| :--- |
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| 0.100, |
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## FOR ADDRESS SEE OPPOSITE PAGE

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All complete with polyester filled choke and jnterference suppressors starters and fuorescent tube-all ready, in fact. to switch on
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R／C BRIDGE MODEL C－3U．Measures Capacitance， $10 \mathrm{pF}(0.00001 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ to $1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ：Power Factor：Resistance， $100 \Omega$ to 5 MQ and indicates leakage．Automatic Discharge Safety－Switch．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．7．19．6
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## Practical Wireless

VOL. XXXY, No. 636, FEBRUARY 1960

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## PARLIAMENTARY BROADCASTS

TTHE question of broadcasting Parliamentary proceedings has been raised again recently. It has been mooted that the proceedings should be televised but there are a number of technical difficulties. It would be far easier, however, to provide sound broadcasting coverage, although wavelengths would have to be freed for the purpose. In our opinion, any attempt to broadcast all the proceedings of Parliament would be money wasted; the potential audience is far, far smaller than that at present enjoyed by the Third Programme. It would be more sensible to broadcast only a selection of the more interesting Debates in the course of, say, the Home Service Programme. The expense incurred would be of the same order as those of normal programmes. However, we think, that in view of the present-day apathy towards Parliamentary activity, it would hardly be worthwhile to increase the present coverage.

## RADIOS IN CARS

THE number of car owners in this country is rising steadily and many wish to be able to listen to radio programmes while travelling. Several years ago the only method of achieving satisfactory radio reception was to install a "car radio" with all the associated equipment including a power pack for obtaining H.T. from the normal 6 or 12 V car battery. Such radios were frequently difficult to fix in position, large in size, and caused a heavy drain on the battery. However, with the advent of the transistor, conventional portable radio receivers can be sufficiently sensitive to work satisfactorily inside most cars and form a convenient source of entertainment.

Some car owners, particularly radio amateurs, have improved reception by employing a standard car radio aerial with these portable receivers and from correspondence we have received it is clear that the majority do not appreciate the radio licence regulations. Provided a normal wireless licence is possessed a battery portable receiver can be used in a car without the need of any other licence, but if any form of car aerial is used in conjunction with the receiver, or the receiver can in any way be said to become a fixture in the car, then a separate car radio licence is required.

## THE "P.W." AND "P.T." FILM SHOW

A NOTHER film show, sponsored by this journal and our companion journal Practical Television, is to be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, as previously announced, on Friday, January 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. The Editor will take the chair and admission will be by ticket only. The event is being arranged in conjunction with Mullard Limited. The films are entitled, " Mirror in the Sky", "From Us to View", and "Photo Emission." There is still a small number of tickets remaining and applications for these should, therefore, be made now. Please mark your envelopes "Caxton Hall" in the top lefthand corner, and include a stamped, addressed envelope for the tickets.

# of <br> <br> Hiyeless <br> <br> Hiyeless <br> <br> POTENTIAL AND <br> <br> POTENTIAL AND CURRENT NEWS 

 CURRENT NEWS}

Bosumel the World

Broadcast Receiving Licences THE following statement shows the approximate number of Broadcast Receiving Licences in force at the end of October, 1959, in respect of wireless receiving stations situated within the various Postal Regions of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The numbers include licences issued to blind persons without payment.

| " |  |  | Toral |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| London Postal ... | a. | $\cdots$ | 860.803 |
| Home Counties |  | .. | 836,989 |
| Midland |  |  | 620,487 |
| North Eastern ... | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | 710,288 |
| North Western |  | ... | 571.594 |
| South Western |  | ... | 500,205 |
| Wales and Border | Counties | ... | 308,125 |
| Toral England and | Wales | $\ldots$ | 4,408,491 |
| Scotland ... |  | $\ldots$ | 523,970 |
| Northern Ireland |  |  | 151,919 |
| Total |  |  | 5,084,380 |

## Radio Research Station

T
HE Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has authorised changes in the terms of reference of the Radio Research Station, D.S.I.R., and has appointed Mr. J. A. Ratcliffe, C.B.E., F.R.S., to be the new Director from October 1. 1960, when the present Director, Dr. R. L. Smith-Rose, C.B.E., retires.

The Radio Research Station has earned for itself an international reputation for its detailed sludies of the propagation of radio waves by way of the ionosphere and the troposphere. Recently the programme has been reviewed and its scope has been extended so as to take advantage of the new techniques provided by rockets and artificial earth satellites.

Under its new terms of reference the station will undertake investigations of the upper atmosphere and outer space by both radio and non-radio methods. Half the total staff eflort of the station (amounting to about 80 scientists and assistants) will be made available for this purpose. The


Wellington (New Zealand) Airport, which has just been officially opened, is the first in the world to have a high-power ( 500 kW ) 50 cm radar installation. This, fogether with a similar one at Ohakea Airfield, has been supplied and installed by Marconi 's.

The Wellington installation posed many unusual engineering problems. The radar head, with duplicated transmitrerlreceivers, was sited on the highest point of a razor-back ridge, 1,630ft. high, control being effected from the Airways Control Centre four miles away, via a microwave radio link.

The received radar signals are also sent by microwave radio link to the airport and by a separate radio path to the Airways Control Contre for display on the radar screens.
necessary additional staff is being recruited.

## Electronic Control Systems

A NEW electronically con-
trolled positioning system, which when used in conjunction with a conventional drill, or other tool, enables very high degrees of accuracy to be obtained without a skilled operator, has been producing jet engine components at the Derby factory of Rolls-Royce Limited's Aero Engine Division for the past five months.

The system, which has been developed by E.M.I. Electronics Lid.. in collaboration with Optical Measuring Tools Lid. uses a 30 in . rotary table, and results obtained have been so satisfactory that Rolls-Royce has now placed orders for two more.

The new equipment allows work to be carried out to accuracies never before possible, and because it dispenses with expensive jigs and templates is particularly suitable for small batch working.

## BBC's Sound Services

THE BBC issued the following statement on Friday,
November 27th:
"The BBC has been considering for some time the development of its sound services in general, and their extension into local broadcasting. Any major extension of the existing services, particularly for local broadcasting depends, in the first instance, on the allocation of additional frequencies in the V.H.F. Band. The BBC has already made known to the Post Office its desire to use further V.H.F. frequencies to fill gaps in its present V.H.F. coverage and for local broadcasting. These frequencies, which are allocated internationally for broadcasting, are at present used in this country by other services, and their release for broadcasting is problematical. Until this quesfion is resolved it is not possible to proceed with detailed plans."

## Agreement

$\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{N}}$ agreement has been conWireless Telegraph Company
and the Government of India (Ministry of Defence) for the manufacture under licence in India of Marconi V.H.F. Multichannel Radio Terminals and Repeaters. and ancillary equipment. The agreement underlines the importance the Indian Government places on the development and expansion of internal communications.

Under the terms of the agreement Marconi's are to supply all necessary technical assistance for indigenous manufacture.
Dounreay's "Hot" Laborators ONE of the world's most elaborate "" hot" radioactivity laboratories is a vital feature of Britain's new fast breeder reactor at Dounreay, Caithress. No similar reactor has ever operated before and, because of its unusual features, it is essential for nuclear scientists to carry out laboratory examination of intensely radioactive fuel elements.

Everything in the laboratory is done by remote control, using closed-circuit television and protective windows. Engineers and scientists operate the complicated coupment from behind concrete walls. Mechanical hands, called Master Slave Manipulators, follow precisely the movements of an operator's fingers and are sufficiently sensitive to pick up a pin.

## Appointment

$I^{T}$ is announced by the Plessey Kenwright has joined the Company as Chief Engineer, Television Components Division, Components Group, Ilford.

Mr. Kenwright joined Pilot Radio Limited in 1940 and was appointed Chief Engineer of that Company in 1946. In this capacity he was responsible for the complete production programme for radio, television and other equipment.

Before joining Pilot Radio Limited, Mr. Kenwright was a radio design engineer with The Plessey Company Limited.

## Sales and Production of Gramophone Records in September

MANUFACTURERS' sales of gramophone records in September were valued at $£ 1.290 .000$ which was 3 per cent. higher than in September 1958. Total sales for the third quarter
of last year were 1 per cent. higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1958 but export sales were 6 per cent. lower.
In September the production of $45 \mathrm{rev} / \mathrm{min}$. records was 51 per cent. greater and $33 \frac{1}{3}$ rev./ min. records 23 per cent. greater than in September 1958 but 60 per cent. fewer 78 rev./min. records were produced.

The total production of gramophone records during the third quarter of last year was 5 per cent. higher than the third quarter of 1958; 66 per cent. fewer 78 rev. $/ \mathrm{min}$. records, 56 per cent. more $45 \mathrm{rev} . / \mathrm{min}$. records and 11 per cent. more $33 \frac{1}{3} \mathrm{rev} . / \mathrm{min}$. records were produced than in the corresponding quarter of 1958.

## Trade Fair in Moscow

$A^{N}$ Advisory Council of leading industrialists with wide experience of trading with the

Fair is organised in the best interests of British industry.
Mr. V. G. Sherren. Managing Director of Industrial \& Trade Fairs Limited, organisers of the Fair, and Chairman of the Working Committee, said at today's first meeting of the Joint Committee that the response from British industry to the Anglo-Russian Trade Agreement signed last year has been immediate and a large number of British companies regard the Fair as the ideal "stepping-off ground" for future trade relations.

## Tape Services for the Sick and the Blind

$\mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{N}}$ Friday, 30th October, the arrangements for the first steps in the co-ordination of tape-recording services for the sick and the blind were formally agreed on at the offices of the


Top telephone men of Britain get together. Left to right in this group, seen at the G.P.O.'s Dollis Hill, London, Research Station, when Britain's first experimental electronic telephone exchange was opened on November 10th, are: Sir Thomas Eades, Chairman of the Automatic Telephone and Electric Co.; Sir Lionel Harris, Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office ; Mr. J. R. Bevins, Britain's new Postmaster-General; Dr. J.N Aldington, Group Managing Director of Standard Telephones and Cables: and Mr. R. Robinson, Director in Charge of G.E.C's Telephone, Radio and Televison Works.

Soviet Union has been set up to advise on the organisation of the British Trade Fair to be held in Moscow in 1961. The Council will hold joint meetings at regular intervals with the Working Committee on the Fair. It will also act as an Exhibitors" Committee to ensure that the

British Recording Club, 145 , Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

The organisations which will now work in co-ordination with the British Recording Club are The Hospital Broadcasting Services. The Tape Reading Circle for the Blind, and the British Kecording Club Braille Services.

No. 6.-THE WIRING OF THE A.C. RANGES
Of THE MULTI-METER

By E. V. King

THIS final article will enable the construction of the multimeter to be completed. Few extra parts are required and none of the wiring so far carried out has to be altered or removed.

## The A.C. Range (Volts)

In order that the meter may be used for testing the mains side of a receiver, the unrectified transformer output for H.T. or the audio-output, the meter must respond to A.C. voltage. A moving coil instrument will flicker on A.C. so that we must accept A.C. into the test leads, pass it through the dropping resistors and then rectify it to D.C. before application to the meter. Full wave rectification is necessary to obtain a correct deflection and a special "meter rectifier" is usually employed to do the job. The author belicves these are of the copper oxide type, but are basically no different from any other rectifier. They are very small and compact, being about the size of six shillings piled one on another. This rectifier must match the full scale deflection of the meter. That is, in our meter, it must be bought as a "one milliamp meter rectifier (bridge type)" (see Fig. 30). These vary in cost between 6 s . 6 d . and 14 s .

The author tried the use of four ordinary


Fig. 30.-Circuit of the meter rectifier.
cheap germanium diodes and had reasonable success, the results of which will be given later. The use of four diodes would, of course, lower the cost considerably as they are very cheaply available on the surplus market. They would probably be harder to burn out than the copper oxide type rectifier which is very easily damaged by overload or by overheating when fixing the wires.

The low ranges of Volts are not accurate when the rectifier is in circuit so a switch is fitted to give direct connection to the meter for ordinary D.C. use, the rectifier being switched in for A.C. operation. The input to the meter at " $c$ " and


The completed meter.
" d " is always connected to the rectifier, but this has no affect on the meter (i.e., does not shunt it) as the rectifier resistance is very high.

## Wiring the A.C. Range

The switch S4, which must be a two-pole, throw-over type is fitted as shown in Fig. 31. Find out with a torch battery and lamp or by using the multi-meter on the resistance range when the contacts " $a$ " and "b" are making with " $f$ " and "e" and arrange the switch as shown. Then the down position will be "A.C." and the up or "Off" position will be D.C. It you did make an error, however, it would not be serious and would soon be discovered for the meter would refuse to work on "A.C." but would work on D.C. or A.C. when switched to D.C.

The meter rectifier is attached to the panel with a small bolt as shown in Fig. 31. Do not shorten the leads already attached. Now examine the rectifier. Two leads are green, one is red and one is black, or two tags have no colour, one is red and one is black. Or engraved in the black plastic near each tag is a sign, one + , one - , and two ~. The green leads, the colourless tags or the tags marked $\sim$ are those which accept A.C., the others obviously passing on positive and negative polarity respectively. The rectifier must not on any account be touched with a soldering iron. The leads should have sleeving slipped over them and they may be lengthened as required.
Here is a suggested plan to be carried out with careful reference to Figs. 31 and 27.

1. Unsolder the lead going to plus of milli-
ammeter and solder it to tag ". $d$ " on $S 4$
2. Unsolder leads from negative of meter, join them together and lengthen if necessary (or make fresh connections) so that they connect to "c" on $\$ 4$. This has been done on Fig. 31 by taking a wire from RS to " c " and from RS to pin 6 on S 2 and then on to the busbar joining R6. 7. 8 and 9.

All we have done so far is to connect leads which did go to the milliammeter to "c " and "d" on the suitch.
3. Join ${ }^{\prime} \mathrm{b}$ " of S 4 to plus of milliammeter.
4. Join "a" of suitch to minus of milliammeter.

Now put suitch in D.(.. position and test that the meter still works properly on all ranges as it did before. Do not proceed to wire in the rectifier until you are sure of this.
5. Take the two A.C. leads (green. colourless tags or marked $\sim$ ) and connect one to the plus terminal of the multimeter (fthat makes three leads to this terminal in all). Conncet the other to the busbar joining R1. 2, 3, 4 and 5 together. Make sure no shorts can occur as the leads will be rather on the long side.

Now put the switch to D.C. as before and check again that the meter still works perfectly on all ranges. If it does not. then the rectifier, is faulty unless you have cạused other wiring trouble. Again. do not proceed if the meter does not work at this stage.
6. Solder the positive lead from the rectifier to tàg " $f$ " on S4.
7. Solder the negative lead from the rectifier to tag " $e$ " on S4.
Now test on D.C. again: there should be no difference. You may now switch to A.C. and try it on a battery or A.C. voltage from a transformer. The same rules apply 10 this as applied to the D.C. meter. always start with SI off. and


Fig. 32.-Making a meter rectifier from fonur germantum diodes.
on the highest range. Never overload the meter.
An interesting point when tising a copper oxide rectifier is that if the meter is overloaded on D.C. ranges with the circuit of the multimeter the rectifier is much more likely to break down than the meter. This is a good point as on the whole the rectifiers are cheaper and easier to come by than meters. but it also means that if an obscure

fault occurs and no deflection can be obtained on any range it could be rectifier trouble. This would soon show up on removal of the reetifier. the remainder of the circuit being left intact and the switch $\$ 4$ being put on D.C.

Making ia Meter Rectifier with Four Germanium Diodes (Fig. 32)
Four diodes are mounted by passing the leads through four holes spaced about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. apart in some paxolin. The leads are twisted and soldered at their ends on the other side. Leads coded by colour are taken through four more holes to guard against accidental pulling.

The diodes should be tested on the resistance range and four with the lowest resistance chosen for use. If the meter shows a very high resistance reverse the connections in the above test.

The germanium diodes have an appreciable resistance in the forward direction so that the ranges will read low on A.C. but in ordinary servicing this will not matter.

Full details are given in the sketches of Fig. 32. Some diodes may be coloured the reverse way round so if. when wired in circuit. the meter tends to move backwards. simply change over the red and black leads from the rectifier bridge.

## Using the A.C. Ranges in Receiver Testing

The meter is suitched to A.C. 1.000 V range and the voltage range reduced with caution as each tost is in-progress. Onfig. 10 the meter may be
clipped across the mains leads (8 and 9) to test if the voltage is actually there and across at points 7 and 10 to test the switch (e and s).

In Fig 11 the meter would be used across the mains at 18 and 16 and then at 17 and 1610 test the switch. When connected across from 17 to 18 with the switch off it will tell you if the transformer winding is open circuit, it should slow the full voltage of the mains. Test the secondary of the transformer by puting the meter between point 15 (usually chassis) and each anode of the rectitier valve at 14 and then 13 . The readings slould be identical. If not. remove the value and lest again. The voltages will be higher but should be identical. If not H.T. windings are shorting, if they are the rectifier valve is faulty. The reading from 13 to 14 is not of much use but will be the sum of the other two readings. Test here with care as a $500-0-500$ transformer wil! have well over 1.000 V on this test.

Filament windings may be tested, but since the filament voltage should be fairly accurate and the meter is not, especially on the low (A.C) ranges. refer to the graph given (Fig. 33) or test a receiver known to he in working order and note the $5 \mathrm{~V}, 4 \mathrm{~V}$ and 6.3 V positions.

## Using the Meter to Test Condensers

'The meter is put on D.C. ranges, to resistance lest. One lead is clipped to the condenser and the other lead is touched, without contact with the hand. on to the other side of the condenser. For condenseis of $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and less, no deflection of the needle should be noticed. If there is, the condenser should be discarded. If the condenser is over $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and up to about $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, there should be a very small flich after which the needle should return to zero. If it does not, the


Fig. 33.-Reading filament soltages from a graph.
condenser is no use, having a high leakage value. If the condenser is $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ (or over) the flick will be more apparent (about $1 / 20$ full deflection), but should still settle to zero if the condenser is not electrolytic. In testing larger condensers the same idea is applied, but the original deflection


Rear view of the completed meter.
will be greater. This gives a rough estimation of capacity. When lesting electrolytics, the meter will probably move right over the scale and should return rapidty to almost zero. The nearer to zero it goes the better the condenser, and the more the initial llick the higher the capacity of the better polarised the condenser is. If the needle moves back slowly. over, say, one minute, it shows usually that the condenser needs polarising on a D.C. source. When testing electrolytics. the plus terminal of the meter should be connected to the minus of the condenser.
Trimmers may be tested for the usual fault of a dead short in the same way. Disconnect fiom circuit on one side first (as a tuning coil may be shunted across them).

## Conclusion

The radio enthusiast will now have a strong, serviceable meter with which he should be able to carry out all normal tesis; and fault detection should become much easier. Above all he will, in the construction of the meter, have gained much useful knowledge. If a commercia! instrument is overloaded and damage is done it is often necessary to return it to the makers. but the beginner with this meter should be able to trace any damage and repair it himself. Even if it happened to be the movement itself which needed replacing, this would be a small cost compared with a makers' overhaul.
If you are not in the habit of filing your Practical Wireless you should copy out the circuit of the completed meter, put it in an envelope, and pin it inside the meter for reference in the future if necessary. This is always a useful procedure, even if some apparatus is made for a friend, as ones memory of particular jobs often fades surprisingly over a tew years.

The author will be pleased to deal wilh any queries concerning this particular instrument through the usual query counon service.

# A 6K7 Superhet 

A CIRCUIT USING FIVE IDENTICAL VALVES

By J. Heath

THE GK 7 type of valve can be obtained very cheaply indeed. and in the receiver described here this valve is common to all stages. This fact much reduces the cost of building the set. and means that only one extra valve is needed for replacement in any stage throughout the whole receiver.

## Circuit

The circuit is shown in Fig. 1, and is for A.C. mains only. The first valve is employed as a suppressor grid mixer. with separate oscillator. Coils are for medium waves only, but a pair of long wave coils. with switching, can always be added easily. The third valve acts as a conventional intermediate frequency amplifier. and is followed by a grid detector. the valve being wired as a triode. This is a sensitive detector and requires few components. The last valve acts as output, with a screen grid dropper to prevent the maximum rating being exceeded. A contactcooled metal rectifier provides H.T.. but there is plunty of space for other types of rectifier.

It should be noted that equivalents of the 6 K 7 may be inserted instead. and these include the


CV1941. CV1943. EF39. KTW63. OM6. and Wts3. The 6K7G and 6K7CT types are also equally suitable. these having glass and glass tubular bulbs respectively. Looking at the valve or holder from below. and counting pins clockwise from the key-way. connections are as foliows:-

1. unused, but metal shell in metal types. and therefore wired to chassis.

2 and 7. heater.
3. anode.
4. screen grid.
5. suppressor grid.
6. unused,
8. cathode

Top cap, control grid.


Fig. 1.-The circuit diagram.


Fig. 2.-Chassis lavour.

These pin connections are, of course, common to all the stages throughout the receiver. It is thus easy to make a final check of valveholder wiring, before trying the set.

## Chassis Layout

A chassis $9 \mathrm{in} . \times 7 \mathrm{in} . \times 2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. deep will casily accommodate the parts, including a 4 in . or similar speaker. and the layout is shown in Fig. 2. A sensitive speaker of the lype used in battery portables will be satisfactory, and its output transformer may generally be retained becatise the primary current is only some 12 mA or so. A transformer for mains output valves, of larger type and greater current rating, is equally satisfactory.

Separate trinmers of 30 pF or 50 pF maximum capacity must be wired in parallel witi each section of the gang condenser, as shown in Fig. 2, if this item does not have trimmers already fitted. Any type of reduction drive is satisfactory. The smali drives made to fit directly on the condenser spindle have a projecting lug which must be held by a bracket or long bolt and lock nuts, or the drive cannot function.

The first I.F. transformer will normally have a lead issuing from the top, unless it is a midget component. This lead is for I.F. stage grid
connection. With the second transformer. all leads normally issue from the bottom, and the wire which would normally go to the diode can


The parts shown in the chassis layout diagram san be identified in this wien of the receiver.
be lengthened, and brought through the chassis. where it is joined to the 100 pF condenser and 470 k resistor. With some transformers it is quite

## COMPONENTS LIST

Two $465 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ I.F. transformers.
2 -gang 500 pF tuning condenser, with 30 pF or 50pF trimmers.
Reduction drive and control knobs.
Aerial and oscillator coils, 500 pF padder.
Five 6 K 7 or similar valves. Five octal holders.
Resistors : two 100 ohm, $1.5 \mathrm{k}, 10 \mathrm{k}, 15 \mathrm{k}, 100 \mathrm{k}$, four 47 k , two 470 k , 5 k pot. with double-pole switch.
Fixed Condensers : two 100 pF , 200 pF , three $500 \mathrm{pF}, \quad 0.005 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, two $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 12 V .W., or 25 V .W., 8 plus $16 / / \mathrm{F}, 350 \mathrm{~V}$.W. or similar.
$6.3 \mathrm{~V}, 1.5 \mathrm{~A}$ heater transformer.
$50 \mathrm{~mA}, 250 \mathrm{~V}$ metal rectifier.
Small smoothing choke.
Chassis : about 9in. $\times 7$ in. $\times 2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$.
easy to lift of the can and draw this lead through a top hole, as in Fig. 2, instead.
All connections above the chassis are shown in Fig, 2. With the output transformer. " $p$ " indicates the primary, and " $S$ " the secondary

The ratio is not very critical, and can be around $50: 1$. for a $30 h m$ speaker. The speaker itself is best left off until other constructional work and wiring has been completed.

## Underneath the Chassis

Wiring and components are shown in Fig. 3. The heater circuit is best connected up first. the insulated wire being run close against the chassis. With the heater transformer. the primary should be for $230 / 250 \mathrm{~V}$ and the transformer should supply 6.3 V .1 .5 A .

Mains connections should be made with good quality flex. that side of the circuit which goes to receiver chassis (via switch) being taken to mains neutral. This is easily arranged if a 3-pin plug is used to draw current from a 3 -socket wall outlet.

## Rectifier

The contact-cooled rectifier should be bolted securely to the chassis. burr being removed from the holes so that good thermal contact arises between rectifier and chassis. The ordinary type of rectifier can be mounted on brackets above the chassis.
(To be continued)


Fig. 3.-Wiring of the recciver.

# A TRANSISTOR REFLEX RECEIVER 

COIAPLETING AND TESTING

THE SET
(Cominued from page 744 of the Jamuary issue)

By D. B. Pity

THE circuit diagram of this receiver was given in the previous article (January issuc) and its operation was discussed. The construction of the receiver was begun and the two brass busbars used can be seen clearly in the illustration on the opposite page. When the ferrite rod has been mounted, as described last month, the stand and core of the pot should be fixed in the set with woodscrews or the bolts provided with it. making sure that it is not too near the ferrite rod. Failure to separate L1 and L2 by a gap of several inches may result in unpleasant howls and distortion.
We will now assume that all the components have been wired up and firmly fixed, with the exception of the battery, L1 and L2. Turn R5 to its fully negative position (i.e., rotor-arm shorted to emitter of T ). Now take 5 ft . of thin coil wire (the gauge is not important, but you should be able to handle it without breaking it) and wind 33 turns tightly on the middle groove of the bobbin. Secure the coil with thread or a very small rubber band that does not protrude beyond the rim of the groove, and reassemble the pot in its proper position, making sure that the wires emerge from the holes without being trapped between the cups, and that the plastic screw is turned up firmly but gently.

## Testing

Next, connect up the two ends of the coil temporarily to the correct circuit points (across C1) and also connect a temporary aerial to Tl collector terminal via a 47 pF capacitor. Do not shorten the coil leads yet; you may need the extra for adjustments.
Now take another 5 ft . length of coil wire and connect its ends (temporarily) to the proper points for L2 (i.e., base of T1 and junction of R1 and R2).
Next, take the ferrite rod (or the second potcore, if a fixed receiver with aerial is planned) and wind on about 20 turns of the wire. For a
rerrite rod this means bunch-wound towards one end: for a pot core it means the middle groove as before. You should now be able to hear, on turning the tuner, a local station or two. If using a second pot you must remember to close it when listening.

## Sensitivity

Carry on in this wav. adding turns one by one, until heterodyne squcaks straddle cacl? station. You must now judge the right moment to stop. An excesrive number of turns will make the receiver over-sensitive and esasperatingly difficuli


Fig. 2.-The wiring diagram.
to control without geared tuning. A slow. rhythmical chirping or " motor-boating " indicates a serious fault caused by insufficient separation of L. 1 and L2. cramping of wires and components, or failure of C11 or C12, and should be remedied before proceeding further.

When satisfied that the best degree of sensitivity has been reached. try the effect of using C1 and R5 controls together. Notice that although RS has little effect on tuning-scale positions. the loudest reception of a gisen station is by no means always achicved with the highest level of
L. 2 will improve performance. If you use this wire, clean the insulation from the ends of all the strands. Join all the strands together with solder and treat as one wire for fixing. Failure to observe these precautions will mean losing the advantages that this wire offers.

## Earth

The use of an earth wire is not recommended. but if you intend to try one. connect it to various points on the circuit until best results are achicved. If you are using a screen, then con- regeneration.

If you do not intend to use an acrial, you should now disconnect the temporary one and readjust the turns of L2 for ferrite rod alone. This will mean a few evtra turns for best results.

Finally, shorten the leads of L. 1 and L2 and fasten the ends properly. mahing sure that the two coils keep their proper distance apart.

## Notes

For really long-range reception. obtain two shaftextension bushes and shorten the shafts of L1 and C5 and use the coupling bushes to attach lengths of $\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{in}$. plastic rod or dowelling to these two components. If you can obtain a geared drive for C1, so much the better. Fix the two components at the back of the receiser and allow the ends of the plastic rods to project through the front of it sufficiently to attach the knobs. A last refinement which may be tried is to conned a small capacitor (maximum value 47 pF ) between the collector and emitter terminals of Tl . By the use of these three stratagems the turns on 1.2 may be considerably increased whilst control is maintained. Superhet sensitivity is thus achieved without instability. The receiver will not break into sellsustained oscillation, anyway. the above measures being remedies for hand-capacitance. etc. To constructors familiar with the temperament of orthodox regenerators, this automatic suppression of oscillation at the central tuning point of each station may come as a pleasant change.

## Screening

Screening has not been mentioned in the above note because no part of R5 or C1 is at the same potential and so it is difficult to apply. If you would like to try the effect, then place a large sheet of aluminium at the front of the receiver. electrically isolated from the circuit. drilling two holes for the plastic control shafts. If this is unsatisfactory, connect a high resistance potentiometer across the battery and take a wire from its middle terminal to the screen. Adjust the potentiometer setting for best results.

The use of Litz (stranded) wire for LI and

nect the earth wire to the screen and nowhere else.

## H.F. Reception

Reception on the lower (high frequency) end of the medium waveband. for which L1 is designed, will not be very loud. This is not the fault of the set but of the transistor specified when used in the common emitter (high gain) mode. Better results will be obtained with an OC45 for Tl and perfect results with an OC44, but at some extra expense. Alternatively, the waveband may be altered by adding half a dozen extra turns to Ll thus bringing in low-frequency medium-wave stations at high volume. If this is done. the number of turns on L.2 may have to be adjusted slightly.

If you use a second pot core for L2 (for a fixed set with an aerial) you may care to use the internal slug for small adjustment of inductance. For this you will have to.drill a $\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{in}$. hole in the baseboard or chassis on which L2 is mounted,


Close-up of part of the wiring.
directly under the centre of the core, so that a screvdriver can be inserted from the far side.

Do not forget that receivers that produce heterodyne whistles can spoil other people's reception if too long an aerial is used.

## COMPONENTS LIST

Resistors:
R1 -68K, W
R2-ITk, W.
R3 4.7h, ! W
R4-1k. ${ }^{\text {W W. }}$
R5-59alom, wirewound pot.
R6-47k, $\mathbf{W}$.
R7-220k 1W.
R8-10k, ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$.
R9- $4.7 \mathrm{~K}, ~ 1 \mathrm{~W}$.
R10 10k. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.
All resistors are of 10 per cent. tolerance.
Capacitors:
CI -537 pF variable (miniature or standard).
$\mathrm{C} 2-59 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 12 \mathrm{VW}$ electrolytic.
C3-10 1 pif ceramic.
C4 47 pF ceramic.
C5 $0.0013 / \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{F}}$ mica.
C6-8/F 12 VW electrolytic.
C7- $9 \mu^{5 / 5} 12 \vee \mathrm{~W}$ electrolytic.
C8-53aF 12 VW electrolytic.
C9 - $\quad \mathbf{4} 12 \mathrm{VW}$ electrolytic.
C10-47pF ceramic.
C11- 0.01 "F paper.
C12-100 $\mathrm{HF} \quad 12 \mathrm{VW}$ electrolytic.
C13 (is needed) - 47 pF ceramic.
Transistors :
TI-XA104.
T2-XB104.
Coiks:
L1 - Pot-core assembly, Neosid D10 (Denco).
L2-See text.

## Dindes:

XI and $\mathrm{X} 2-\mathrm{GEX} 34$

## Performance

No acrial or earth connection has been shown in the diagrams. Reception of local stations on the ferrite rod alone was adoquate during daylight, and after nightfall all the strongest mediumwave stations abcse about 230 metres were received at good volime, using standard high-
impedance headphones. The addition of one more transistor audio stage gave good loudspeaker loading with sufficient volume for an average domestic room. Tone, using a good 12 in . speaker, was apparently undistorted, and background noise (with this speaker) was negligible. This performance refers to Nottingham, which is not an especially good location for the ieception of Continental transmissions on the medium waveband.

Readers constructing this receiver should note that its performance depends, more than anything else, on the winding of L2. A little extra time spent in adjusting the number of turns, spacing of turns along the sleeve, and position of the sleeve on the rod, will be amply repaid in terms of results.

## Books Received

R.S.G.B. AMATEUR RADIO CALL BOOK. 1960 edition. 72 pp . 10 in . $\times$ 7in. Published by The Radio Society of Great Britain, New Ruskin House, Litte Russell Strect, London, W.C.1. Price 3s. 6d. 4s. by post.

The previous edition of the R.S.G.B. Amateur Radio Call Book appeared in November, 1958 , and since then more than 350 new calls have been issued. More than 300 calls cancelled, 100 old calls re-issued and more than 900 changes of address recorded. The popularity of the book can be judged from the fact that practically all copies of the 1959 issue were sold within a few months of publication.

AUTO RADIOS, by Jack Darr. 154 pp. $8 \frac{1}{2}$ in. $5 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. Published by John F. Rider Publisher inc., 116 West 14 th Sireet, New York, 11 , N.Y., U.S.A., and obtainable from Chapman and Hal!. 37, Essex Street, London, W.C.2. Price 26s.

This American book deals with the installation and servicing of car radio receivers and although many American expressions and lechnical terms are used, much of the information would prove of value to the serviceman in this country. Chapters deal with installation, servicing, $6-12 \mathrm{~V}$. conversions, hybrid radios and the workshop.

## BASIC AUDIO (three volumes), by Normail H.

 Crowhurst. 448 pages in all. $9 \mathrm{in} . \times 6 \mathrm{in}$. Puhlished hy John F. Rider Publisher Inc., 116 West 14th Street, New Iork 11, N.Y. Obtainable from Chapman and Halt, 37, Essex Street, London, W.C.2. Price 23s. per set.These three volumes deal with almost every aspect of A.F. theory and are illustrated throughout with line drawings. The treatment may seem rather elementary to some British readers, but no knowledge is assumed and the books should prove valuable to the practical man. The illustrations follow the typical American style.

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## Advantages

With a $\because$ F.O. it is usually possible to find a spot in the band which is free from interierence and thus a call may be made without causing QRM to stations already working. Also. if two-or more-stations in contact use the same frequency. less crowding of the band will result than if each operated on a different crystal, frequency.

In developing the V.F.O. described below; and shoun in circuit form in Fig. 1, the writer had a number of factors in mind. It should, first of all. hatc evcellent frequency stability particularly: in the erent of supply yoltage tariations, and also when the output circuit is tuned. The effiects of supply voltage variations are reduced by the use of the voltage stabilisers (Type VR150/30) shown in the power supply circuit. Fig. 2. The effects of tuning the oulput circuit are minimised by

## COMPONENT FOR V.HF.

R1, R3-100,000ohms, ᄅ W.
R2-22,0000hms, IW:
R4-220hms, 2W.
R5-4,700ohms, $1 W$.
CI, C9-100pF.
$\mathrm{C} 2, \mathrm{C} 3, \mathrm{C} 7, \mathrm{C} 8, \mathrm{C} 9-0.01 / \mathrm{F}$ (mica).
C4-500pF variable, see text.
C5-100pF variable.
RHC1, 2-R.F. choke. 2.4mH. Denco type RIC. 5.
I.I- 36 turns, 26 D.C.C. wire on sin. diameter former, close wound and tapped 12 turns from earth.
I.2-7Mc's coil. 40 turns 26 D.C.C. wire on pin. diameter former.
L3-14Mc's coil. 25 turns 18 D.C.C. evenly spread over 13 zin . on lin. diameter former.
VI-6CH6, or octal-based 6AG7.
V2-6V6.
running "straight through " when transmitting the fundamental V.F.O. frequency and only tuning the output when harmonic operation is required.

## Hartley Circuit

The oscillator section of the circuit is an

Fig. 1.-Circtuit of the V.F.O.
electron-coupled Hartley type oscillator operating on $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Output on the second and fourth harmonics ( 7.0 ) and $14.0 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ ) will be sufficient to drive an amplifier if the output circuit (C5 and 12 or 1.3 ) is tuned to either frequency. Thus, output can be obtained from the unit on three bands without the need of further doubling. A 6 CH6 valve was used in the prototype, but the larger 6AG7 can also be used successfully. V2 is an untuned buffer. isolating the V.F.O. from any eflects that the following amplifier may have. The oscillatory circuit is tuned by a 500 pF variable capacitor and with this capacitor a good slow motion dial is an absolute necessity, Alternatively, a 500 pF capacitor may be used to "set" the band and the actual tuning then carried out by means of a 50 pF variable connected in parallel.

## Harmonic Operation

When output is required on $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ band. the oscillator is tuned to the required frequency and switch SI (a) and (b) turned to the blanh position. The oscillatory voltage developed across RFCI is then applied directly across grid and cathode of the buttier valve. If output is required on $7 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ the oscillator is tuned still on $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ and the output circuit of C5/L2 switched into use through switch $S 1$ (a) and (b). this circuit is then tuned to the second harmonic of $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. For $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ output the oscillator is still left on $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ but L 2 is now replaced by 1.3 by means of the switch SI. and the circuit C5/L3 is tuned to the $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ harmonic. Output on this frequency-the fourth harmonic-will. of course. be less than on the fundamental frequency of $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ or on the second harmonic of $7.0 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ but nevertheless will be sufficient to drive an amplifier.
II the V.F.O. unit is followed by an amplifier. the whole arrangement forms a useful low-power transmitter, with an input to the final stage of about 15W. Fig. 3 shows the circuit of such an amplifier which may be operated from the power


Fig. 2.-Circuit of a suitable power supply.
should be adjusied to give maximum power amplifier grid current reading. The induclive part of the $\pi$-output coupling into the aerial (LI) may be one inductance tapped for use on the various bands and the tapping points then connected to a switch. However, plug-in coils are generally used by the writer since their use eliminates the losses normally associated with a switched inductance. Details of coils suitable for use on the popular 80,40 and 20 m bands are given below.

L2 and C6 are included as a series filter to reduce interference with the local Band I television (BBC) reception. L2 should be formed from nine lurns of Is gauge enamelted wire close-

## COMPONENTS FOR POWER UNIT

T1-350-0-350, 150 mA sec. $5 \mathrm{~V}, 3 \mathrm{~A}, 6.3 \mathrm{~V}, 5 \mathrm{~A}$. L-L.F. choke. $20 \mathrm{H}, 150 \mathrm{~mA}$.
$\mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{C}_{2}-16+16 / \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic capacitors. 500 W . V1-5Y3 or $5 \mathrm{Z4}$.
V2/V3-Stabiliser type VR150/30.
R-2,erbohms, 10 W fixed resistor.
unit normally supplying the V.F.O. This amplifier, if used as a doubler as well as an output stage, will enable the transmitter to operate on $28 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. if $\mathrm{C} 5 / \mathrm{L} 3$ is tuned to $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$, thus increasing the versatility of the unit. If this procedure is followed, no alteration to the power amplifier stage is required beyond tuning the aerial circuit to $28 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$.

## Power Amplifier

Only a little comment is required here since the amplifier is quite a normal circuit. The meter in the grid circuit (M1) is more of a necessity than a luxury since it permits accurate tuning of the circuit C5/L2 or L3 when using the oscillator on 7 and $14 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. The tuned circuit

```
    COMPONENTS FOR AMPLIFIER UNIT
C1, C2, C3-0.01 /F (mica).
C4-500 }\textrm{F}\mathrm{ variable.
C5 0.001/ F variable (2 x 0.0005/|F units in
    parallel).
R1, R2-22,000ohms. 1W.
R3, R4, R5-68,000ohms IW.
RFC1, RFC2-R.F. choke 2.5mH. Denco type
        RFC5.
M1 - 0-5mA moving-coil meter.
M2-0-50mA moving-coil meter.
L1-1.8Mc/s : 48 turns, close wound.
        3.5Mc/s: }32\mathrm{ turns, close wound.
        7.0Mc/s : }20\mathrm{ turns, 1/i in. long.
        14Mc/s : }10\mathrm{ turns, 1 lin. long.
        All coils wound with 22s.w.g. enamelled wire
        in Eddystone 11in. diameter coil formers,
        type 538. If these plug-in coils are used, then
        a chassis-mounting base, type No. 964, will
        also be required.
```

L2/C6-See text.

wound on a half-inch diameter former and $\mathbf{C} 6$ is a 25 pF variable capacitor. When the transmitter has been tuned up, as described below, the capacitor C6 should be adjusted so as to give minimum interference on a nearby television receiver tuned to the local BBC station.

With the addition of six turns to the grid end of the ascillatory circuit inductance, L1 (Fig. 1), C4 will tune over both the 1.8 to $2.0 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ and $3.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ bands. With the oscillator circuit luned to 2.6 to $2.7 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$, a suitable inductance wired to switch S1 (b), can be resonated at the fourth harmonic of $10.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ and then, by doubling in the aerial circuit output can be oblained on the $21 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ band.

Finally, a word of warning. Although the V.F.O. has obvious advantages, it has two particular disadvantages: (i) $l_{1}$ is very easy 10 slip outside the allocated frequency band, (ii) When harmonic operation is being used, it is also very easy to tune the amplifier to the wrong harmonic.

to be used and the rotation of the condenser should be limited by suitable stops to restrict luning to the desired range. Then, tune the receiver to the centre one of the three transmissions it is desired to receive and adjust the core of L 1 for maximum response. The inductance of $L 3$ may also be checked now by parting or closing the turns and observing the result on the meter connected between earth and the junction of R11 and C15 by way of a 100k isolating resistor. Adjust for maximum volts negative. If the coil is of the correct length and diameter, not much improvement is to be expected.

AFTER the I.F. circuits of the receiver have been aligned with the signal generator as described in last month's article an aerial should be connected and probably transmissions will be heard somewhere in the first 90 deg . of rotation of the luning condenser. Stations will probably be heard at near minimum capacity also. but the lower osciltator frequency is the one

## A Quality V.H.F./F.M. Receiver

No. 2.-ALIGNMENT WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS AND THE A.F. AMPLIFIER
(Continued from page 785 of the Jamuary issue)

By V. E. Holley



Fis. 4.-The circuit diagram of the A.F. amplifier and power pack.


Fig. 5.-Wiring diagram of the receiver omitting the detector sub-assembly and the R.F. and F.C. wiring.

## Alignment Without Instruments

The prototype receiver was first aligned by this method to establish is feasability. Pretuned l.F. transformers were not used. A subsequent check with instruments showed satisfactory alignment except that the I.F. was $11 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$, a discrepancy of no importance.
First detach the control grid cable of the EM34 tuning indicator from its connection to R16, fit a small crocodile clip to the end and re-connect. In the cathode lead of the indicator, insert a wire-wound potentiometer of from 25k to 50 k with its slider connected to earth. Clip the control grid to earth and adjust the potentiometer from maximum shadow angle; re-connect to R16. Connect the tuner to an audio amplifier and advance the volume control. A subdued "rushing." noise should be heard in the speaker. If it is not, there is probably a fault somewhere, which must be rectified before proceeding further. Check in particular that V2 is oscillating, by noting the voltage drop across R 7 ; it should not be more than about 20 . Assuming all is well, adjust the core of L 1, so that it is about $\frac{1}{1} \mathrm{in}$. below the open end of the former. Connect the best available aerial, advance the volume control fully and search for transmissions.

Reception will probably be weak and distorted. Select what appears to be the most powerful and check by reference to the published programmes that it is in fact a BBC F.M. transmission. If the signa! is not of sufficient strength to register on the tuning indicator tunc it for maximum volume by moving the cores of the I.F. transformers each a little at a time. Do not make any large adjustments nor any that do not increase the signal. As soon as a cicar visual indication
is obtained. turn down the volume control and use the indicator for all subsequent adjusiments.

The procedure is now the same as when using instruments. the transmission taking the place of the signal generator and the tuning indicator that of the meter. To adjust the bottom core of the detector transformer. first clip the contiol grid of the indicator to chassis and adjusi the

cathode potentiometer for zero shadow angle on the more sensitive side of the display. The valve will now perform as a sensitive zero indicator, i.e., a positive voltage on the grid will increase the shadow angle on one side of the display while a negative voltage will reduce the angle on the other. Clip the control grid to point $Z$ and adjust the core for zero. An approximate acceptance bandwidth test can now be carried out by
tuning slowly past the transmission. when the two maxima and centre zero can be observed on the indicator and judgment formed whether the maxima are equal and equidistant from zero. Finally, with the tuning indicator restored to normal. adjust the core of L. 1 as previously described.

## Interference

It is now necessary to find a source of interference for the adjustment of VRI. This can conveniently be arranged with a battery-operated bell or buzzer, the interference output being taken from one side of the contact breaker. via a $0.0 \mid{ }_{\mu} \mathrm{F}$ condenser to the grid of V3 or V 4 . It is desirable to nufl?e the bell or buzzer in some way: as for instance by enclosing it in a small box, so that the position of minimum output from the speaker can the better be determined. If the signal from the buzzer is not loud enough. it can be stepped up with a small output transformer. the secondary winding being included in series with the battery supply and the output taken via a condenser from one side of the primary.

Whatever the method of alignment. no adjustments should be made until the tuner has been switched on for about 15 minutes and has attained operating temperature.

It is inadvisable to attempt alignment without instruments in an area of poor signal strength unless pre-tuned I.F. Iransformers are used.

## Aerial

Within the primary service area of the transmitter, it will usually be found sufficient to use a length of flat twin P.V.C. flex, one end being split and the conductors extended to form a rotigh horizontal dipole 5 ft . long, which can be fived, for instance, to a picture rail. In less favourable conditions, a loft mounted dipole with reflector is recommended. This can be made from $\frac{3}{8}$ in. aluminium tube. or if the utmost is not required from it, $\frac{1}{8}$ in. galvanised iron wire will do.

The aerial should be $59 \frac{1}{2}$ in. in length overall. including a $\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{in}$. space in the centre for connection of the down lead. The reflector should be 62 in . long and should be mounted $31 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. in the rear. The addition of further parasitic elements is not usually worthwhile, but where the down lead is long. low-loss coaxial cable will make a noticeable difference.

The minimum desirable signal for first-class reception is that which produces zero shadow angle on the more sensitive side of the tuning indicator. This has been obtained with the prototype at 35 miles from the transmitter using a picture rail aerial and at 80 miles with a loftmounted dipole and reflector. Worthwhile results can be obtained from a smaller signal. In areas of poor signal strength, the sensitivity of the tuner can be increased by reducing the value of R12. Some of the limiting action will be lost. but this will not be noticeable provided the receiver is accurately tuned.

## Alternative Tuning Indicator

A tuning indicator of the less sensitive type as
commonly used in A.M. receivers can be employed as a-zero indicator with its control grid connected to point $Z$. Set it up as for alignment without instruments and adjust the potentiometer for zero shadow angle. The effective resistance in the cathode circuit can now be measured and the potentiometer replaced by a fixed resistor of that value. The display will overlap on one side of resonance and open out on the other. providing a very evact tuning indication. There will be some dimming of the display due to loss of volts between the target and cathode. but if the valve is in good condition. acceptable brightness will be obtained.

## The A.F. Amplifier

Economy in the power supply being a design leature of the receiver. attention was first directed to the output stage. which is the largest consumer. Push-pull is inexpensive in current apart


Fig. 7.-Wiring for the EM34.
from its other well-known advantages and it was decided to employ two small pentodes in this model. EL91s were selected. Two of these in push-pull will produce 4 W with negligible dislortion at the cost of only 25 mA . An output transformer with sufficient primary inductance for the high optimum load of 24.000 ohms is not. so far as the author is aware. available commercially, but fortunately it is possible to use one of lower inductance and make good the resultant attenuation of the lower audio frequencies by negative feedback. The component selected for the prototype has a stated primary inductance, a node to anode with no D.C. of 45 H . It provides a ratio of $72: 1$ which is satisfactory for a 3 ohm speaker. There are probably other suitable choices. The circuit of the A.F. section is given in Fig. 4.

## Circuit Operation

The EL91s are operated with 250 V on anode and screen and a bias resistor of 600 ohms. A by-pass resistor is not required as if the valves are reasonably well-matched. the signal currents will cancel out in the resistor. For $4 W$ output. this stage requires a grid-to-grid signal of 30 V peak and this is delivered by one half of VS arranged as a phase inverter with equal loads of 47 k in anode and cathode circuits. These load resistors should be matched as accurately as possible as also should the 0.47 M grid resistors in
the output stage. If matching facilities are not available, 5 per cent. resistors should be used. Decoupling and additional smoothing are provided by R24 and C28, and the stage is completed with a 2.2 k bias resistor and a 1 M grid resistor. The gain is 0.9 on each side, or 1.8 overall. The required input is therefore $30 / 1.8$ or 17 V peak.

The other half of V 5 is arranged as a resistance coupled amplifier and with a load resistance of 0.25 M affords a stage gain of 60 times. The input to its grid must therefore be $17 / 60$ or slightly less that 0.3 V peak, which the ratio detector is well able to produce with something in hand for negative feedback. Decoupling is provided by R20 and C25. In the grid circuit is the volume control with which is incorporated the mains on-ofi switch. As there are no heterodyne whistles, sideband chatter, etc., to contend with, a conventional tone control is unnecessary and is not included. A wide range of control over the balance of reproduction is, however, available by negative leedbach as will be described.

## Construction

The construction of this part of the receiver follows standard practice. The layout is not at all critical and more or less follows the circuit diagram. An octal socket was used for connecting the speaker as this is standard in other equipment in use by the author and the spare tags form uscful anchorages for small components.

## Power Supply

The mains transformer need have only two secondaries, $250-0-250 \mathrm{~V}, 60 \mathrm{~mA}$ and $6.3 \mathrm{~V}, 0.3 \mathrm{~A}$. If a transformer including a 5 V secondary is used, a $5 Z 4$ rectifier would be suitable. It has been
decided after listening to the set installed with its speaker in the cabinet. When the prototype was tried with a bin. speaker in a bass reflex cabinet. crisp. clean and well halanced reproduction was obtained with R32 $=100$ ohms and C33 omitled. When tried in a cabinet with internal speaker, there was some noticeable attenuation of lower frequencies which was remedied by including C33 at ${ }_{\mu} \mathrm{F}$. The values required will vary with the oulput transformer and speaker used and may be varied between 100 and 300 ohms and 2 to $8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. The feedback network renders unnecessary the tone correction resistor and condenser customarily employed with pentodes across the primary of the output transformer.

## Gain

No misgivings need be felt about the loss of gain resulting from feedback. Unlike the conventional A.M. receiver. the set is not required to deal with weak and distant transmissions and no large reserve of gain is required. Sufficient is provided to load the output stage fully.

The combination of modest A.F. gain, good smoothing and negative feedback combine to form a silent background and it should be necessary in the absence of a programme, to listen carefully within 6 in . of the speaker to discover by ear whether the set is switched on.

## The Cabinet

A sutable cabinet for the receiver may be made from 5 -ply wood. $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick and having an oak, walnut or similar facing. The best source of supply is an old cabinet or piece of furniture made of this material because, although the polish will have to be removed, the wood will noticed that some rectifiers are liable to introduce modulation hum in compact assemblies; the 6X5 and 5 Z 4 do not offend. A choke is used for smoothing in preference to a resistor to reduce heat generation and avoid voltage drop. The choke should have an inductance of not less than 10 H at 50 mA .

## Negative Feedback

When feedback is carried over three stages as it is in this receiver, it is desirable in the interests of stability that one stage should introduce some attenuation of extreme frequencies, particularly the lower frequencies. The limitations of the output transformer are thus turned to good accoumt and quite a large amount of feedback, either "straight" or frequency selective, may be applied with no untoward consequences. It is suggested that the receiver be completed with a 200 ohn resistor for R32 and temporarily omitting C33 and that the values of these components be


Under chassis view of the receiver.
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\end{aligned}
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P.D. and E.M.F.

Ithe September/October issue, I tried to make clear the distinction between potential difference (P.D.) and electro-motive force (E.M.F.), but it seems from the letters I have received on the subject that there is still some confusion. For instance. in the letter from Mr. W. F. A. Chambers, who is in Cyprus. is the statement that he thinks the term electro-motive force is superfluous and could be suppressed! Mr. Chambers adds to his confusion by discussing at length several circuits in which the valve is included. As is generally appreciated. valves cannot be treated as resistors. except when certain circuit conditions obtain. When trying to learn and understand the theoretical background to technical terms. it is always best to consider for analysis simple circuits.

There should be no confusion between P.D. and E.M.F. As I stated before, first comes the E.M.F.: you cannot have a current unless you push it around. Then comes the current and. finally, because of the current. the P.D. Just as. in order to produce a pressure difference across a horizontal tube containing water, the water must be flowing. If you go to the source of Ohm's I.aw. you will find it stated that the P.D. appearing across a conductor is proportional to the corresponding current flowing

## Reminiscences

## R

EGULAR readers of this page may remember that on page 215 of the May. 1959. issue I puillished a photograph of Mr. L. H. Brown. of Abingdon, operating one of his first receivers. Since then, Mr. Brown has sent me another letter enclosing a very interesting selection of photographs of an earls den of his fitted up around 1930. The illustration on the right shows part of the den and the scope of Mr. Brown's activities car be judged by the amount of apparatus visible. The room was a portion "abstracted from the coal cellar." and the lising room was behind the wall on the left of the photo. As my friends know. I have often adrocated placing amplifiers and radio tuners. etc.. away from the listening position: in other words. for most listeners, all that is required for radio reception is a loudspeaker and tuning controls. the amplifiers. which are probably home-constructed and without cabincts. being housed in a remote room. Mr. Broun appears to have planned his den with a similar idea in mind. To provide a baffle (so-
called "infinite") for the speaker. he made a hole in the wall between his den and the living room and mounted the speaker in it. This method is often said to give especially good results although. of course. it means that the radio programme will be heard in two rooms simultaneously.
In my opinion. a similar plan could be adopted for television receivers. the tube. loudspeaker. and controls being separate from the receiver chassis. This procedure is not as easy as it sounds. Mr. Brown. however. overcame the difficulties by entarging the hole in the wall. made originally for his loutspeaker. to accommodate a 12in. cathode ray tube so that all. that was visible in the living room was a speaker fret and an apparently flat screen. As Mr. Brown states. it was "A case of what the eye didn't see!"

Mr. Brown overcame the problem of tuning the radio from remote positions by the use of relays which were used to operate the motordriven unit attached to the tuning condenser.

## Our Film Show

PPractical Wireless and Practical Tclerivion are again holding a film show at Caxton Hall which will take place on friday, January 22 nd. There are still a few tickets left (which are free) and I advise you to take advantage of this last chance: it is always a most enjoyable evening.


Mr. L. H. Brown's earli den.

# Valve Coding <br> Systems <br> VARIOUS SCHEMES EXPLAINED 

EACH type of valve is distinguished by a number or by a group of letters and a number. In most coding systems these letters and numbers have a meaning so that anyone who is familiar with the coding system will be able to deduce a number of facts about a valve of which only the coding is known. Most manufacturers have their own codes and in addition the Services have a separate coding system.

## CV System

The CV system of valve coding is used by the armed forces and by research stations under Government control Most readers will meet valves with CV coding when they buy surplus equipment. This system of coding is one of the few in which there is no connection between the type of valve and the code number. Who would imagine, for instance, that the CV448 is a crystal dode, the CV449 a voltage stabiliser and the CV450 a power output valve? The valve type, usually known as the 807, has at least three CV equivalent numbers: CV124, CV1060 and CV1572. In such cases where a single type of valve has more than one CV number, the exact specifications of the various CV types are usually slightly different and they probably come from different manufacturers. A letter $X$ placed between the CV letters and the following number signifies that the valve is still in the experimental stages. Valve types in CV coding are much more difficult to remember than the combinations of letters and numbers used in almost all other systems.

Valves coded under a previous system are sometimes found in surplus equipment. Examples are ATP4 (Army transmitting pentode No. 4) and ARPI2 (Army receiving pentode $\mathrm{No}_{\mathrm{z}}$ 12). Yet another type of coding is the VR system, e.g., VR65 (valve, radio No. 65).

Valves with the above markings are made especially for the services by valve manufacturers who may also make exactly the same valve with their normal coding.

## American System

American valves used to have a coding which was mereiy a number (e.g., 80, 807, etc.), but now they are virtually all coded on a system set out by The Radio Manufacturers ${ }^{\circ}$ Association (Slandard ET-110). Many American-coded valves are found in surplus equipment and some Brilish manufacturers make valves marked with the American coding. The first figure gives the approximate heater voltage as shown below:-

0 Cold cathode.
1 Up to and including 1.6 V .
54.6 to 5.6 V .
65.6 to 6.6 V .
7. 6.3 V loctal types
$12 \quad 126 \mathrm{~V}$ approx.
1412.6 V loctal types.
$25 \quad 25 \mathrm{~V}$ approx.
3535 V approx.
If the heater has a tapped filament, the first coding figure shows the voltage across the whole of the heater. The usual operating voltages of the American 7 and 14 loctal series are 6.3 V and 12.6 V respectively. but their maximum ratings are 7 and 14 V . They are mainly intended for car radio receivers where the high maximun ratings are necessary because the battery voltage is high when it is being charged by the car dynamo.

## Second Symbol

The second symbol is a serial letter allocated in sequence and normally commencing with A. Letters I and O are not used. Rectifiers follow the sequence bachwards starting from Z . When the single letters have all been used for a particular group of valves, the system then uses two letters commencing with AB. Two identical letters are not normally used. The single-ended range of valves may have a letter $\mathbf{S}$ following the number which indicates the heater voltage. For example, the 6 SK 7 is the nearest single-ended equivalent to the 6K7 which has the same type of base. Although the 6SL7 is a single-ended valve, it is not related to the 6L7.
The final number in the American coding is intended to indicate the number of electrodes or other useful elements (such as screening) which are brought out to a separate external connection. The heater counts as one electrode for coding purposes, but if it should happen that the heater is tapped, it will count as two electrodes only if the tappings are of unequal voltage or current ratings. In the case of international octal valves with an all-metal envelope, the envelope counts as a useful element. Octal valves with a glass envelope have a similar coding to that of the corresponding valve with a metal envelope, i.e., one electrode is added for coding purposes even if no screening is brought out to a separate connection. An octal-based valve with $n$ useful elements, therefore, has a final figure of ( $n+1$ ) in its coding. This does not apply to the few valves in which pin 1 is used for a connection other than screening (e.g. types 6SN7 and 6SL7). If more than one electrode is connected to the same pin, these count as only one useful element.

## Suffix

A further letter (a suffix) may be placed after the main coding to show the external construction. Miniature, loctal and metal valves normally have no suttix, but sometimes a letter M is used to show the valve has a metal envelope. The letter M should really only be used for valves which have a metailised glass envelope. Octalbased valves with a comparatively large glass
envelope are given the suffix $C$ and those with the smaller glass envelope with straight sides (the " TY* bulb) are given the suffix GT (glass tubulari. Modified versions of valves are given suffixes starting with A. Suffixes $X$ and $Y$ indicate that the valve has a low loss base. those having the suffix $X$ being the best in this respect. The letter $W$ is used to distinguish military types. Voltage regulators are coded VR followed by a number showing the normal burning voltage. The linal number shows the approximate amount by which the striking voltage is higher than the normal burning voltage.

## Examples

$6 C 4$ (B7G):-6.3V triode.
6C5-GT (octal):-6.3V triode with small glass envelope. (One electrode is added because the base is octal.)

12SK7 (octal):-12.6V pentode with a separate suppressor grid connection.

6F6 (octal):-6.3V pentode with suppressor grid connected to the cathode.
oK8 (octal):-6.3V triode hexode. Hexode grids g. and $g_{4}$ are connected together and $g_{1}$ of the hevode is connected to the triode grid. The cathode is common to each section. One useful element is added because of the octal base. giving a total of eight useful elements.

12 AX 7 (B9A):-12.6V centre-tapped heater. Double triode with separate cathodes.

VR $150 / 30$ :-Voltage stabiliser running at about 150 V and striking at about 180 V .

## Mullard System

In the Mullard system most valves are represented by two or three letters followed by a number. The first letter signifies the heater voltage or, if the valve is intended for series heater connection in A.C./D.C. receivers, the heater current. The heater voltage is one of the most important factors which determines whether it is convenient to use a particular valve in a certain apparatus. The Mullard code for the heater voltage is shown in the table. If the heater is tapped (e.g.. ECC81) the voltage indicated by the code is for parallel connection.

The second (and any subsequent) letter indicates the general class to which the valve belongs; the code is shown in the third column of the table. More than one letter may follow the heater voltage if the valve contains two separate sections within the same envelope.

The type of base is indicated by the first figure following the letters as shown below.

$$
1.19 \text { Various. }
$$

, 20-29 B8G loctal.
30-39 International octal.
40-49 B8A rimlock.
50-59 Mainly B9G.
$60-79$ Sub-miniature.
80-89 B9A noval.
$90-94$ B7G.
The second or subsequent figure is only a serial number to distinguish valves of the same class which have the same heater voltage or current and the same type of base.

Mullard television tubes are coded MW or AW

foilowed by a number (e.g.. MW43-80). The MW tubes are magnetically locused and the AW lubes electrostatically focused. Semi-conductor devices have codes commencing with the letter O. The second letter is an A in the case of germanium diodes (e.g.. OA 70 ) or a $C$ in the case of transistors. Zener diodes for voltage stabilisation are coded OAZ followed by a number. Voltage stabiliser tubes sometimes have codes commencing with the average normal burning voltage (e.g., 85A1 or 150B2). but this does not apply to older types (e.g.. 7475). Incidentally. Mullard photographic flash tubes have the lettering LSD followed by a serial number!

## Examples

EB91. Double diode with a 6.3 V heater and a B7G base.
EBC33. Double diode triode with octal base and a 6.3 V heater.

DK91. Heptode frequency changer with a 1.4 V heater and a B7G base.
UCH42. Triode-hexode frequency changer with a B8A base and a 0.1A heater.
EABC80. Triple diode triode with a B9A (noval) base and a 6.3 V heater.

## Ediswan-Mazda Code

The Ediswan-Mazda code for current types of valve commences with a number indicating the heater voltage or current as follows :-
11.4 V .
66.3 V
100.1 A .
200.2 A
300.3 A .

This number is followed by a letter which indicates
(Continued on page 862)

# Using High-Cycle Transformers 

THESE COMPONENTS CAN BE EMPLOYED ON 50c/s MAINS

By J. B. Willmott

ANextremely useful and informative article on the subject of utilising the high-cycle mains transformer contained in Government Surplus AM. 1355 receivers, appeared in June, 1957, issue of Practical Wireless (which is now out of print) and, inspired by the contents, the present author has made further investigation into the uses to which this clas of componerit can be put. Also as there may now be many new readers who have not access to the above issue, the following general information relating 10 high-cycle transformers is given for the guidance of those wishing to experiment further.

## Specification

Firstly, then, a word about the lype of mains tiansformer found in most Government surplus equipment. As in the normal domestic receiver, the purpose of the mains transformer is to supply the necessary L.T. voltages for feeding valve heaters, normally 6.3 V for all except the rectifier, which is fed from a separate winding rated at 4.0 V (or, in some cases, 5.0 V ); and a centre-tapped H.T. secondary winding is provided to feed the anodes of the rectifier, frequently having a rated output in the region of 250 to 500 V .

The primary winding is designed 10 be fed from an 80 V supply at a frequency of $2.000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ instead of the 200 to 250 V at $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ which constitutes the normal range of domestic supplies. This means that the existing primary winding is quite unsuitable for connection to normal A.C. house supply, and on no account must this be done. Usually it is quite safe to connect the former H.T. secondary winding across the mains supply. but when making initial tests of this sort, it is essential that a fuse rated at not more than 2 A be placed in series with one, or preferably both connections to the mains supply, it is not safe to rely on the house fuses as these will be more highly rated, and give insufficient instantancous protection in case of accidental short circuit or erroneous conection to a low resistance winding on the transformer under test. Also, never forget to switch off and withdraw the mains plug before making or altering any connections.

## Identification

If an ohmmeter is available it is a simple matter to identify the former H.T. secondary windings, as these will usually have a resistance in the range of 50 to 200 ohms between either end and the centre tap, all other windings being of virtually negligible resistance. Failing the availability of such an instrument, use a torch battery and bulb in series with each group of sindings in
turn. Disregard all those where the bulb lights up (these will be the low resistance heater and original 80 V primary winding). Only those tags connected to the original H.T. secondary will have sufficient resistance to prevent the bulb from lighting. This method does not, of course, immediately indicate which are the "ends" and "centre tap" of the H.T. winding, but the following additional test will guickly establish this point.

Having now identified the former H.T. secondary connections, attach the mains leads (suitably fused as described above) to any two of them, and switch on. If there is no sign of overheating, or other form of distress (such as a loud "buzz" from the iransformer core laminations) proceed to measure the A.C. output voliage developed across the various former heater secondaries and the 80 V primary winding; in most cases this will be well below the original voltage rating. Now change over one of the mains leads to the formerly unused one of the three H.T. secondary tags, and again take voltage readings at the other windings. If the voltages obtained are the same as in previous case, it is proof that the mains lead which has remained undisturbed is. in fact. connected to the centre tap of the former H.T. winding. but if lower voltages (approximately hall the first set of readings) are obtained. one my ascume that the mains lead which has been changed. has, in fact, been

Spare (no connection)


Fig.1.-Top panel showing tag connections (as printed) including "hey" to connections to lower tag panel.
moved from the "centre tap " to the "outer end" of the winding. likewise. if the second set of readings is roughly double the first, one may assume that the mains lead which has been changed over. has in fact. changed from one of the "outers" to the centre tap. It is a good plan now to clearly label these tags as "Primary Outer (A):" "Primary Ouier (B)" and "Primary Centre ${ }^{\text {r }}$ respectively, for future reference.

## Output Voltages

An examination should now be made of the A.C. output voltages oblained from the various windings, using whole or half of the newly designated primary winding. and quite a useful range of low tension A.C. voltages will be available especially if various combinations of windings in series (correctly phased) are utilised, and
these may be used as heater supplies for valves in radio circuits. or. in conjunction with suitable metal rectifier, as source of D.C. for battery charging or running electric model railways.

There are several types of high-cycle transformer readily obtainable on the surplus market at extremely low prices (mainly, no doubt, because they have hitherto been regarded as of very little use by constructors). The author has made considerable use of the component found in Radar Receiver Type 3F, which it is understood is also


Fig.2.-Theoretical diagram of comections when used as a mains transformer on domestic 50 cs A.C. mains.

The original designutions are given in brackets.
utilised in a number of other radar receivers. This particular component. which is a fairly massive job weighing approximately 141b., has all its connections brought out to clearly marhed solder tags on panels mounted on top and at the base of the component.

The windings. in their original form. comprise an 80 V high-cycle primary (two centre tags at the base of the component). two pairs of "rectifier heater windings" (right-hand and left-hand pairs of tags at the base): whilst on the top panel there are heater windings rated at $4.2 \mathrm{~V}, 6.5 \mathrm{~V}$ and 6.3 V together with two entirely separte centre-tapped secondaries rated at $300-(0)-300 \mathrm{~V}$ and $550-0550 \mathrm{~V}$ respectively. Fig. 1 clearly shows the layout of these connections. By virtue of the existence of two isolated H.T. windings. either of which. in whole or in part. can be used as a primary on $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ mains, a very wide range of voltages is available from the various other windings. The most useful method of connection seems to be as follows:-

Use the entire $300-0-300$ winding as primary.
when on 240 V mains the follouing voltages appear:-
The $550-0-550 \mathrm{~V}$ winding gives $230-0-230 \mathrm{~V}$.
The 6.5 V and 6.3 V windings in series give 6.1 V . The 4.2 V . and the two "Rectifier (A and B)" windings in series give a total of 4.2 V .

## H.T. Supply

The 230-0-230V output is ample for feeding to the a nodes of a rectifier giving a D.C. output after rectification of approximately 235 volts "on load." the 6.1V supply appears to be adequate for feeding valve heaters rated at 6.3 V . no noticeable reduction in efficiency being observed by the author. and the 4.2 V supply can be used to feed the heater of a 4 V rectifier valve (such as the M(il4). The transformer is readily able to supply the current needed to operate a 5 -valve superhet receiver. or single-ended amplifier. It wili be noticed that the output from the former 80 V primary (which was found to be 30 V ) is not used in the above arrangement. but there are a number of uses to which it could be put. Firstly, it could be used to supply the heater of a rectifier. valve rated in the region of 30 V . type UR3C being an obvious choice. A UY4I. readily obtainable at cheap prices from advertisers in this magazine. could also be used. but as this is a ha!f-wave rectifier. the output from one half of the II.T. secondary only could be utilised, with a zonsequent drop in rectified H.T. voltage.

## Output Transformers

Quite apart from their employment as mains transformers as outlined above, these high-cycle transformers have a further useful range of applications as output transformers. Although their method of design is not strictly in accordance with audio output transformer requirements. their performance in this respect will usually be found equal. if not superior to that of the cheaper range of outpui transformers. By using the former high voltage secondary winding as a primary. and one or more of the former heater windings in series as the secondary, a suitable ratio to match the standard 3 or 15 ohm loudspeaker can usually be found. The turns ratio which gives greatest output with minimum distortion can usually be accepted as the correct working conditions. and in the case of the Radar Receiver Type 3F transformer referred to above. it has been found that using the whole of the $300-0-300 \mathrm{~V}$ winding as a primary, and the 6.5 V plus 6.3 V secondaries in series to feed a $30 h m$ speaker. gives good results.

## Earthing

Finally. it was found that in the original Radar Receiver 3F. one side of each of the 4.2. 6.5 and 6.3 V windings was bonded to earth the frame of the transformer): these connections must be removed by clipping off the interconnecting wires just below the surface of the top tag panel. otherwise windings will be short circuited when any attempt is made to connect them in series. There was also a " llying lead" from one side of the $300-0-300$ winding. formerly connected to a high voltage pencil rectifier mounted on brackets at the side of the transformer: this lead (and the pencil rectifier if present) should also be removed.

# An Experiment 

A highly serisitive circuit for the swl

By F. G. Rayer


#### Abstract

THIS is a mains operated circuit employing three valves (plus rectifier) and intended particularly for use on wovelengths between 10 and 100 m . Bandspread tuning is used to simplify the accurate logging of stations, and Amateur Band reception. The very high sensitivity of the detector stage, in particular, makes long distance reception possible with even a poor aerial.


## Circuit

The circuit is shown in Fig. 1, and can be modifice to some extent to suit valves or other components which may be to hand. The first valve acts as R.F. amplifier, and a switch enables the aerial circuit to be tuned or untuned at will. This means that it can usually be left untuned, tuning being confined to the detector alone. This simplifies operation, and one of the aerial coils can be switched in if conditions make this necessary. Good results will be achieved with the R.F. stage untuned. and this means that these coils can be omitted, logether with their associated variable condenser, if a simpler receiver is wanted. Tuning this circuit does, however, improve reception of very weak signals. Connections are for VR65 (SP6I) but other R.F. pentodes may be used. The 150 k potentiometer controls R.F. gain. With vari- $\mu$ valves the usual cathode circuit bias control can be used instead. Plug-in coils are used in the detector stage,

with a cheap surplus acorn valve which permits very short wiring. For single band working, a fixed coil can be used and only one aerial coil is then needed. A screen grid potentiometer controls regeneration. A 15 pF bandspreading condenser gives good coverage and very easy tuning, but values of 10 pF to 20 pF or so are practicable. In the same way 100 pF is not essential for bandsetting purposes. though a value of about 100 pF to 160 pF is most suitable.

## Output Stage

Another VR65 is used for output. but any 6.3V L.F. or output valve will be satisfactor!.


Fig. 1.-The circuir diagram.

# al S.W. 

 Threewith appropriate holder and bias resistor:- Loudspeaker reception is generally possible, even with distant stations, but phones can be used when preferred, and the 1 M potentiometer allows volume to be kept down to a comfortable level. High impedance phones are necessary and of the usual type. fed through a condenser to keep direct current and H.T. voltages out of them. The speaker transformer primary acts as a choke when using phones, but the speaher can be silenced by wiring a switch in one lead from transiormer secondary to speech coil.

In a set of this kind, complete isolation from the mains is wise, so the receiver draws current from a transformer, and the chassis can be earthed. Modification of this part of the circuit,


Underchassis view of the receiver.
to draw H.T. directly from the mains, is not recommended.

## Screened Panel

A chassis about 12 in . $\times 5 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in} . \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. deep, and a panel about 12 in . $\times 7 \mathrm{in}$., will be satisfactory. This allows a $3 \frac{1}{2}$ in. speaker to be accommodated, but a larger panel will be needed for a bigger speaker. Alternatively, the speaker can be in a separate cabinet, and much larger speakers will be satisfactory. A sheet of aluminium of similar dimensions to the panel should be placed behind the panel itself, if this is of three-ply. If a metal panel is used, this should be of stout gauge or adequately supported with panel brackets.

Fig. 2 shows the chassis layout, the detector stage being most important. Valve connections
in Fig. 2 are correct when viewing the 954 from its short end, which carries the grid pin. The long end carries the anode pin. Care is necessary to solder to the extreme end of the pins, and to remove the iron instantly, as excessive heating may erack the glass. The valve is supported by the connections to it, which should be short and direct.

## Condensers

The 100 pF band setting condenser should have a hnob or dial of such a kind that it can be returned accurately to any required reading. The large type of dial knob marked from 0 to 100 or 0 to 180 . with a small bracket screwed to the panel and acting as a mark against which to tahe readings. will permit accurate resetting. It is then possible to tune in logged stations with the 15 pF band spreading condenser. which has a similar dial and panel index. The separate logging of stations, by dial reading. will be possible even when they are so near in wavelength that logging would be impossible with an ordinary tuning scale.
Any $8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ or $16 \mu \mathrm{~F} 350 \mathrm{~V}$ or similar smoothing condensers are satisfactory. The large type can be mounted on the chassis as in Fig. 2. The output transformer is of the usual type for use with a mains output valve. The lead from the volume control slider to output value cap should be screened the braiding being wired to chassis. The cap lead of the ollzer valve is not screened.

## Underneath Components

Wiring is shown in Fig. 3. The heater circuit is completed first. leads being run against the chassis. If the mains transformer has a separate winding for rectifier heater, this is best used but some rectifiess can have the heater wired in parallel with the other valves. Many 5 V rectifiers such as the 5 Z 4 , are suitable. but need a transformer with separate 5 V rectifier heater winding. If the transformer has a centre-tap on the 6.3 V winding used for the other valves, this tap should be wired to chassis. If no tap is available, take one side of the heater circuit to chassis instead
Referring to Fig. 3, the 50pF aerial condenser is an insulated surplus type, but may be replaced by a pre-set condenser, or small short wave type condenser on an insulated brachet. operated by an insulated extension rod. The switch is a twowater five-way component, wiring being as shown in Fig. 1. The 150 pF aeriai tuning condenser requires a fairly large knob, but a dial is not needed because it is easily adjusted for best volume. The maximum capacisy is a little larger than that of the detector tuning circuit to provide some overlap in aerial tuning.
The centre 150 k potentiometer $\mathrm{r}_{2}$ acting as R.F. gain control, may be of 100 k to 200 k or so. The 100 K regeneration control can be replaced by 50 k , if to hand, provided that the 100 k fixed resistor wired to it is reduced to 47 k . The 1.M volume control can have a switch, for mains switching, or may be of 0.5 M value, if to hand.
The values of the various by-pass condensers are not very important. The $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ coupling condenser joined to the 1 M volume control should


Fig. 2.-Ahove chassis wiring diagram.
preferably be of mica fype as slight leakage will result in H.T. reaching the output valve grid.

The coil formers may be smooth or ribbed and the diameter and gauge of wire and spacing between turns are not eritical. Plug-in formers may be purchased. or made by fixing insulated formers 10 old value bases. For one band only. a single coil may be wired directly in circuit.

For approximately 10 to 20 m , five turns of lis.w.g. Wire. spaced to occupy lin.. on a $1 \frac{1}{1}$ in. dia. former, with the cathode tap half lurn from the earthed end. can be used. The primary is three and a half turns.

For about 18 to 30 m .11 turns of $22 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. wire
occupying $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in. on a lifin. dia. former. with cathode tap half lurn from the earihed end and six larns for primary. may be used.

The 30 to 60 m coil can be wound with 20 turns of 2?s.u.g. wire occupying $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in. on a $1 \frac{1}{4} i n$. diameter former. If the cathode tap threequarter lurn from the earthed end and 16 turns 1o: primary.

The largest coil for approximately 60 to 100 m . can have 35 turns of 24s.w.g. wire on a $1 \frac{1}{3}$ in. diameter former. with the tapping one and a-half lurns from the earthed end and 20 turns for primary.
(To be comtinued)


Fig. 3.-Under chassis miring diagram.

## Test Panel for Transistors

A SIMPLE UNIT FOR DETERMINING $\propto$

By R. Leyland

S
TANDARD methods of testing transistors include comprehensive series of measurements on input and ouput currents and voltages, enabling graphs of the D.C. characteristics to be draun. From these, A.C. characteristics can be derived but are delermined more directly by A.C. methods employing small A.C. inpus to measure the current gain and slope resistances.
Chechs on transistors can, however be made by less elaborate methods, and a citcuit compris-


Fig. 1.-Circuit of the rest panel in its simpler form.
ing the minimum of cemponents will measure the current gain, $\propto^{\prime}$, accurately enough for ordinary purposes. The current gain (unlike the leakage current) varies only slightly with tenperature changes, and its variation over the nuaximum range of base currents may be 25 per cent. or hiss, while a fourfold increase of collector voltage may be expected to increase $\alpha^{\prime}$ by only a third. Thus a test for the average value of $\alpha^{\prime}$ over a certain range of currents, and at a certain battery voltage, will serve as a reliable basis for comparing transistors.

## Basic Circuit

The measurement can be carried out with the circuit of Fig. 1. In one position of the switch a small current is applied to the base of the transistor through R2 and R3 and, is amplified by the transistor to give a considerable increase of collector current. In the other position of the switch, the base current becomes zero, but a resistance R1 is switched in across the transistor to make up the resulting drop in collector current. By adjusting R2, the amplified base current can be made equal to the current in KI, i.e., the milliammeter then reads the same at both positions of the switch.
Since $\alpha^{\prime}=\frac{\text { collector curtent increase }}{\text { base current increase }}=\frac{\mathbf{R 2}+\mathrm{R} 3}{\mathrm{R} 1}$


The patel of the rester.
approximately, the variable resistance R 1 can be provided with a scale reading $o^{\prime}$ directly. The resistance R3 is, of course, required to limit the base current, so avoiding the rish of damaging the transistor.

## Corrections

There are two errors in this measurement of $\alpha^{\prime}$. One is due to the assumption that the coltage across $(R 2+R 3)$ is the same as the vollage across R3. Actually it is less by the small potential drop between the base and emitter of the transistor. With 3 V on the collector, this P.D. across the inpui of the transistor is only about 170 mV , and means that the value of $\alpha^{\prime}$ gisen by the simple formula above should be increased by about 6 per cens. With higher collector voltages, the correction is maller, and is only


Fig. 2.-Correction factor to allow for P.D. acmass transistor inputs.

2 per cent. at 9 V . Below 3 V , however, the correction increases rapidly. These figures reter specifically to the circuit given. where the ratio of collector volts to the increase of collector


Fig. 3.-Modified gircuit enabling the correction factor to be measured.
current is in each case made equal to a resistance of 5k?

## Graph

A graph of the correction against collector voltage is given in Fig. 2, and only in exceptional cases will a transistor show a noteworthy deviation from this graph. With a 3 V battery, the correction factors for most transistors will be between 1.045 and 1.075 . Thus, the assumption that the correction factor is 1.06 is not likely to produce errors greater than $1 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at the most.

The test is at comparatively low levels of base and collector currents, and in output stages, $\alpha^{\prime}$ would attain a somewhat higher value. If it is desired to measure $\alpha^{\prime}$ with battery voltages higher than 3. it will be neeessary to replace the 1 mA meter with a 5 mA meter.

The remaining error is due to ignoring the


Fig. 4.-Temporary circuir arrangement for calibuaing $R 2$.
base current llowing through the meter. This means that (1) has to be subtracted from the result to obtain the actual value of $\propto$ '.

## Scales

It is possible to fix R2 and to vary R1 instead, and this has the advantage that a wire-wound
potentiometer can be used for RI, while if $R 2$ is made variable. a carbon-track potentiometer has to be used. There are however, a number of disadvantages in making R1 sariable. The milliammeter current would vary to a much larger extent with different transistors. and the scale of $\propto^{\prime}$ would follow a reciprocal law, with the lower end of the scale expanded. and the higher reading cramped. It would also be more difticult to determine the position of the scale markings.

In theory, when $R$ ? is made variable, a linear scale should be obtained. but imperfections in the carbon trich tend to make the seale divisions rather erratic in spacing, although something resembling a linear scale will be obtained.

## Modified Circuit

The correction factor can be ascertained directly. without knowing the battery voltage accurately, if a simple addition is made to the basic circuit. The modification is shown in Fig. 3. and consists of a potential divider containing a lo0k! fixed resistance and a variable 20 ks resistance. R 5 . By adjusting R 5 , the closing of switch S 2 can be made to have no eflect on the meter current. At this setting of R 5 . the correction factor can be read off directly, the scale


Fig. 5.-Temporary circuit arrangement for calbrating Ry.
being marked in accordance with the formula: Correction factoi $=\frac{\mathrm{R} 4+\mathrm{R} 5}{\mathrm{R} 4}$
its reading is multiplied by the correction factor rarging from 1.01 to 1.2 . With a $3 V$ battery, as previously stated, the pointer knob will give an indication in the neighbourhood of 1.06 .

The larger test panel has two dials and two switches. One dial gives $\alpha^{\prime \prime}$ approximately and its reading is multiplied by the correction factor given by the other dial. Then 1 is subtracted to give the final value of $\alpha^{\prime}$.

## Components

A panel of hardboard measuring 4 in . square will serve to mount the two potentiometers and the two toggle switches. The fixed resistors should be high stability types of 1 per cent. tolerance. Two lok! resistors in parallel can be used for the 5hs! resistance. R1 or a 5.1 ks resistor can be used. although this means that $(R 2+R 3)$ now has to be calibrated in multiples of 51 ks which is more ditticult than in multiples of 50 k ?

The scale of correction factors is also linear, and can be marked either by setting up a Wheatstone bridge circuit. or as in Fig. 5. by comparison with accurate fixed resistances. When $\mathrm{R}^{5}$ is set
at $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, this corresponds to a correction factor of 1.01: $2 \mathrm{~h} \Omega$ corresponds to 1.02 , and so on up to 20 k ! which corresponds to 1.2 .

To calibrate R 2 , bridge methods will be less suitable, and accurate resistances of $50 \mathrm{k}!2.100 \mathrm{ks}$, and so on (or 51k!, etc., if necessary) can be substituted for ( $\mathrm{RI}+\mathrm{R}$ ) in circuit ( Fig. 4), the


Fig. 6.-The panel layout
variable $R 2$ being adjusted to give the same readings of collector current.

## Panel

The end positions of the pointer knobs should be marked carefully to make it easy to replace them correctly. Paper can be glued to the panel to take the markings made with Indian ink, and this can be covered with cellophane, or transparent plastic.

The toggle switches employed have four tags. When the toggle is to one side. connection is made between the two lags on the opposite side. One switch, S2, is used simply as an on/off switch, but the other, SI, is connected as a single pole, change-over switch.

A three-way connecting block, secured to the underside of the panel, connects the transistor to be tested. Although relatively clumsy for the purpose, it serves reasonably well, enabling all types of transistor to be connected temporarily for checking. The positions of emitter, base, and collector are marked on the top of the panel and should be carefully observed.

Two insulated wires, each about 2 ft . long, lead from the test panel to the milliammeter in series with a battery, and should be coloured red and black to avoid the risk of connecting the battery the wrong way round. With a grid-bias battery, red and black wander plugs should be used. Reversed connections, even if they do not result in damage to the iransistor, will give rather puzzling readings.

## Measurement

The accuracy of the measurements will depend in part upon the care with which the scales have
been calibrated. The steps involved in making a measurement are as follows:
(1) Set R2 at the highest value of current gain, and R5 to the lowest value of correction factor.
(2) Connect the battery and milliammeter, observing the correct polarities and voltage.
(3) Connect the first transistor to be tested, making sure that it is the right way round
(4) With S1 and S2 at the unmarked positions, note the milliammeter reading carefully.
(5) Switch to "current gain" and adjust the "gain" dial to give the same milliammeter reading.
(6) Leaving SI switched to "current gain." switch S2 to " correction factor" and adjust the "correction factor" dial to give the same milliamineter reading.
(7) Multiply the readings of the two ctials logether (a slide rule will do this quickly) and then subtract 1.

It may be found that the milliammeter reading gocs on increasing slightly, owing to the gradual rise in junction temperature inside the transistor, and some readjustment of the dials may be required, but it will be found that this makes only a small difference to the value of $\alpha^{\prime}$. The difficulty is that if a large current flows through the transistor it will raise the junction temperature and increase the leakage current. If most of the current is now diverted to an external resistance ( R 1 ), the junction temperature will begin to fall and the leakage current will decrease slighily, making its value diflerent in the two switch positions.

## H.F. Operation

The value of $\alpha^{\prime}$ measured by the test panel applies at low frequencies. and at a particular value of collector voltage and current. When the transistor is working at higher frequencies this value will be reduced, and an associated phase shift occurs. An R.F. transistor of a particular


Fig. 7.-The wiring of the test panel.
type is stated to have a certain typical "cut-off" frequency fc. of. say. $8 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. This is tor the grounded-base arrangement. and is divided by $\alpha^{\prime}$ to obtain the "cut-off frequency", $\mathrm{f}^{\prime} \propto$ for the grounded emitter arrangement.

For example, if $c c^{\prime}$ is 40 , the groundedemitter cut-off 'requency will be
$\mathrm{f}^{\prime} \propto=8 / 40 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}=200 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$
It does not follow that a high $\alpha^{\prime}$ is a disadvantage, because the transistor with the higher $\alpha^{\prime}$ usually has the higher $f^{\prime} \propto$ also.

At the frequency fc , the current gain is reduced to 71 per cent. of its low-frequency value. e.g., from 40 to 28 . and a phase shift of 45 deg . occurs. At ten times this frequency ( $2 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ ) the current gain has fallen to 4 and the phase shift approaches 90 deg.

An R.F. transistor of these characteristics will nevertheless serve as a local oscillator over the long and medium waves. Used in the grounded base arrangement. a more level frequency- response is obtained. owing to the negative feedback.


## VALVE CODING SYSTEMS <br> (Continued from page 853)

the general class to which the valve belongs. The code is as follows:-

C Frequency changer.
CRM Television tube.
D Diode or double diode.
F Voltage amplifier, tetro te or pentode.
K Small gas-filled triode or tetrode.
L Voltage amplifier. triode, tetrode or pentode.
M Taning indicator.
P Power amplifier.
U Half-wave rectifier.
UU Full-wave rectifier.
The heater voltage of a rectifier is not placed in the coding. The letters are followed by a serial number.

## Examples

1 C 2 . Frequency changer with a 1.4 V heater. (B7G base).
6 C 12 . Frequency changer with a 6.3 V heater. (B9A base).
6 F33. 6.3 V pentode with the suppressor grid connected to a diode. (B7G base).
30PL1. Triode-beam power tetrode with 0.3 A heater. (B9A base).
UU9. Full-wave rectifier. ( 6.3 V heater, B8A base.)

## Marconi, Osram, G.E.C., M.O.V. Coding

This system of coding normally employs a letter or group of letters followed by a number. The letters indicate the class of valve and have the following meaning :-

A Valve with special industrial applications.
D Diode or double diode.
GU Gas-filled rectifier.
GT Thyatron.
H High impedance triode.
KT Kinkless tetrode or pentode.
L Low impedance triode.
M Metallised valve (usually placed at the end of the code).
N Output pentode.
$U$ Rectifier.
W Variable-mu pentode.
$X$ Frequency changer.
$Y$ Tuning indicator.
Z Sharp cut-off pentode.
The first number following the letters often indicates the approximate heater voltage or current, but this is not always the case.

## Examples

KT6o. Beam tetrode with 6.3 V heater.
KTW63. Variable-mu pentode with a 6.3 V heater.
DL63. Double diode triode with a 6.3 V heater. The triode is of the low impedance type.
XI7. Frequency changer with a 1.4 V heater.
Z77. Sharp cut off pentode with a 6.3 V heater.
HN309. High impedance triode-output pentode with a 0.3 A heater.
U52. Full-wave rectifier.
G.E.C. germanium diodes are coded GEX followed by a serial number. Current G.E.C. transistors are coded GET plus a serial number.

[^0]

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# Becoming an Amutenr 

No 6.-TWO ONE-VALVE RECEIVER CIRCUITS

By J. D. Pearson, G3KOC

THE reader may already be an experienced constructor, but if this is not the case then he is strongly advised to tackle a simple T.R.F. circuit; many such circuits have been published in past issues of this magazine. complete with detailed component lists and sound constructional advice.

It is a fact that there are still to-day many amateur stations using T.R.F. receivers for reception. particularly in certain European countrics. where there is no such thing as a "surplus" market. This point is made to illustrate the performance which can be achieved by a well designed T.R.F. set. having a sensitivity figure


Fig. 1.-Simple one-valve circuit using a trioule.
often well above that of the older-type superhet. Unfortunately the "straight" set cannot compare with the superhet as far as selectivity is concerned. And conditions being as they are on the amateur bands to-day. selectivity is of prime importance.

## Beginner's Circuit

The circuit in Fig. 1 is intended for the newcomer who has no constructional experience whatever. The coil dimensions given will ensure coverage of the 160 -metre amateur band. No apology is oflered to the more sophisticated constructor who may be following this series. It must suffice to state that the series is designed to enable the merest tyro to attain the standard required to take the R.A.E.
it will be seen that the circuit is batteryoperated: the beginner is strongly advised to


Mr. J. W. Wroth of Ram.sgase in his ten.
gain experience with this type of gear before attempting mains-driven circuits.
Although a type HI. 2 valve is shown almost any 2V battery triode will function satisfactorily in this circuit; and for those who wish to use the 1.4 V type of valve, a DF33 or DL35 in the octal-based range, and a 1T4 in the B7G range may be substituted, not forgetting of course to "strap" the screen-grid to the anode.
The .. circuit may be built using the "breadboard " method or alternatively, the more orthodox aluminium chassis. The HL2 whl operate with an anode voltage anywhere between 60 120 V and the 1.4 V type with an anode voltage between $45-90 \mathrm{~V}$. The potential applied to the anode will determine the "smoothness" with which "reaction" can be applied.

## Positive Fecdback

If a controlled amount of the output signal at the anode of the detector valve is fed back in the correct phase into the grid circust of this valve, the result is a high increase in the sensilivity of the stage. This process. if carried 100 far, causes the valve to provide its own gridexcitation and consequent self-maintained oscillation. The application of positive feedback in

## COMPONENTS LIST FOR FIG 1.

CI $-50 \mathrm{pF}(0.00005 \mu \mathrm{~F}$.) semi-variable trimmer.
$\mathrm{C} 2-150 \mathrm{pF}(0.00015 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ tuning, air-spaced.
$\mathrm{C} 3-300 \mathrm{pF}(0.003 \mu \mathrm{~F})$ reaction, air or mica dielectric.
C4 - $100 \mathrm{pF}(0.0001, / \mathrm{F})$ grid condenser, mica or silver mica.
R1 $-2.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ (Megohms) grid leak.
RFC - Radio Frequency Choke.
L1 -Grid coil, 45 turns 22 s.w.g. enamelled copper wire close-wound on $1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. diameter former.
L2 - Reaction coil, 15 turns as above, on same 'former, spaced ${ }_{3} \mathrm{in}$. from L1. (See Fig. 3.)
Miscellaneous-High resistance headphones, valveholder to suit V1, connecting wire. terminals, chassis and panel, coilformer and holder.
11 -HL2, I.P2, IT4, DI.35, DF33, etc.
The grid leak R1 may be increased in value experimentally to 3.3 or $4.7 \mathrm{M} \%$, but should not be decreased.
this manner is known as "reaction" or "regeneration."

In order to obtain maximum performance from a T.R.F. receiver it is essential that the application of reaction should not be too fierce. or "ploppy," thus losing the increase in sensitivity which results when the valve is operated on the threshold of oscillation. Factors which determine the smoothness with which the receiver slides into oscillation are (a) H.T. voltage: (b)


Fig. 2.-A onc-valve circuit using a pentode.
amount of coupling between grid and anode coils: (c) proportion of anode turns to grid turns on these coils; ( d ) the value of the grid leak and cordenser, and (e) the fitting of a well-earthed mutal panel to the chassis, eliminating handcapacity effects.


Fig. 3.-Details of the coils.
The beginner should. after building and operating the circuit of Fig. 1. experiment for himself by variation of the factors enumerated. If he has a milliammeter and inserts this in series with the H.T. supply to the valve, further lines of investigation will be revealed.

The next step is to supply the screen-grid of the valve with its own separate H.T. voltage through a variable resistor, as shown in Fig. 2. This allows a much finer control of reaction. in addition to that provided by C3. The strap between anode and grid should. of course. be removed. A screen-grid valve of the 2 V type carn. of course. be used in the circuit of Fig. I either with the anode and screen grid strapped. or as shown in Fig. 2.

Beginners should bear in mind that the pin connections to internal electrodes will differ with whichever type of valve is used. A commercial coil may be used in place of L1, L2 if the value of $C_{2}$ is altered according to coil-manufacturers directions.

## Satellites

BALLOONS with aluminised surfaces will be orbited about 1.000 miles up as relay stations for microwave communications and intercontinental TV transmission in tests by Bell Labs.. U.S.A.

Transmitters using 85 ft . parabolic dishes will beam 10 kW signals at the satellites at about $1.000 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. It is hoped reflection from a satellite will give a usable signal receivable with a parabola 2.300 miles away. The signal will be funnelled into a maser amplifier. in this case a ruby crystal bathed in liquid helium. Bell engineers expect extremely low noise figures with this maser and a special horn collector used with the receiving dish--signal-to-noise ratios up to a hundred times better than presently obtainable.

Where the new transoceanic cables carry up to 160 phone conversations at a time. a single microwave channel of this kind would carry 900 phone circuits, or a full-width TV channel. About 20 satellites would provide communication across the U.S.A. 95 per cent. of the time. This number would be required because such light. large. passive satellites would drift, failing to stay in the regular orbits of heavy. small, active satellites at present in orbit. or the doughnut-shaped satellite proposed by others.

## New Technique

ARATHER simple soldering technique recently developed now makes it possible to solder a wide range of materials previously joined only by ultrasonic processes.

The technique requires. in addition to the usual soldering materials. only a hand grinder with an abrasive grinding wheel of medium grit. To solder such " unsolderable " materials as stainless steel. aluminium. ceramics and glass. the grinder is turned on and the abrasive wheel (preferably preheated by grinding metal or by applying heat with a torch) is brought to bear on a soft solder such as Wood's metal or 40-60 lead-tin. The soft solder melts and flows on to the surface of the wheel: the solder-loaded wheel is then applied to the surface to be soldered until a slight amount of abrasion has taken place. using the pressure one would ordinarily used in grinding. The heat generated by the friction again melts the solder, which flows on to the freshly abraded surface and forms a positive bond. The surface of the other material is also given this treatment if it is not ordinarily tinned with solder alone. After this tinning operation. the soldering process is performed in the usual manner with standard $50-50$ lead-tin solder. Soldering flux or surface cleaning is unnecessary.

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# Improving Amplifier Quality 

USING PUSH-PULL CIRCUITS FOR BETTER RESULTS

(Continued from page 770 of the January issue)

By C. Stone

S
OME old amplifiers of robust type and quite sound design employ a centre-tapped transformer to drive two valves in push-pull in the output stage. Feedback will help correct djstortion arising in the transformer, but it is


Fig. 4.-A single triode phase inverter.
nevertheless worthwhile considering the use of a phase inverter valve instead of the transformer. A circuit for a single triode is shown in Fig. 4. When there is no space for an exura triode, it may be possible to fit a twin triode in the existing position. The 6SN7, for example would replace an existing 6.35 and at the same lime nake ayailable a further triode with similar characterist ics for use as phase inverter.

Component values may be varied somewhat, according to the valve ype chosen, and H.T. voltage. The anode and cathode load resistors (100k in Fig. 4) should be of fairly close tolerance-say 5 per cent. of specified value. Similarly, the 470 k grid resistors of the output valves should be of 5 per cent. tolerance, otherwise a rather large discrepancy may arise in the working of the iwo valves. For best results, a " matched " pair of values should be selected.

A typical output stage is shown in Fig. 5, and may be used with the phase inverter in Fig. 4. With home

constructed equipment the extra current can often be provided, when changing from a single output val'e to push-puli. As example, iwo 6 V 6 valves, with a 285 v supply, will require about 105 mA . The existing rectifier, mains transformer, and smoothing choke may thus well be of insufficient rating, and need changing. Alternatively, it is sometimes possible to use output valves of smaller type, so that the total H.T. current does not exceed that taken by a single output valve of larger type.

In Fig. 5, the valves are triode connected. Foi pentode working (screen grids to H.T. positive line) the optimum load is 8,000 ohms. When maximum


Fig. 5.-Outpit stage for circuir in Fig. 4.
output is required, with economical current demands, triode working is not recommended. It is also important to note that using valves in push-pull, as in Fig. 5, does not increase the amplification of this stage, compared with the use of a single valve.

## Complete Amplifier

A complete amplifier circuit, with feedback, and push-pull, is shown in Fig. 6. Feedback can be modified by changing the value of the 220 ohm resistor. Alhigher value will be needed here if a speaker having a speech coil impedance higher than 3 ohms is used. The amplifier will require a fairly good input such as may be obtained from a radio tuner. A 6 SN 7 may replace the two $6 J 5$ valves. Other
valves may be fitted, with values modifted to sutit if necessary.

For small inputs, such as obtained from some types of pick-up, or from a microphone, a triode or pentode pre-amplifier will be needed, and any tone correction circuits should be incorporated in this stage, not in the main amplifier.

## Layout

A circuit such as that shown in Fig. 6 can have a layout similar to that of the circuit diagram: construction is simplified as the circuit has a certain degree of symmetry. A small aluminium chassis can be used and the unit could be built on the same chassis as the radio tuner. The 6Vo valves will develop considerable heat and provision should be made to ensure adequate ventilation. If the amplifier is assembled in a wooden box for instance, expanded metal grilles.


Fig. 6.-A push-pull amplifier for a radio tuner, etc.

# GLOWS IN VALVES 

By J. B. Dance, M.Sc.

SOMETIMES a bluc. violet or pink glow is seen inside a valve whenever it is in use in dim light. This is. of course. nothing to do with the normal. red glow from the valve heaters. In certain circumstances a perfectly good valve may glow under normal operating conditions but in other cases a glow indicates that the value is faulty and it may then cause damage to other components in the circuit.

## Occurrence

Valves which have an anode voltage of a few hundred volts or more and a fairly high anode current often emit a blue glow when they are operating normally: This glow is due to parts of the electron stream missing the anode and striking the glass envelope or some other solid object within the valve (such as the mica which supports the electrodes). It is almost always possible to distinguish such a glow from the other type of valve glow (which will be discussed below) by merely noting the place from which the glow is emitted. If the glow emanates from the glass envelope of the valve or from any mica supports in the envelope, this does not indicate that the valve is in any way faulty. For example. the glass envelope of 807 valves almost always glows to some extent in normal operation.

If a blue. violet or pink glow is seen coming from the space between two electrodes, there is certainly some gas in the valve. This glow is due to the formation of charged particles or ions in the gas (known as ionisation). The process is
very similar to the formation of light in gas discharge lamps such as the yellow (sodium) and blue (mercury) street lamps.

## Vacuum

All ordinary radio valves are of the high vacuum type. If a glow is emitted from the space between the electrodes. gas has entered the valve and it is said to be "soft." A valve which has been "on the shelf" for a long time will probably have a very small amount of gas in it and may give a very slight blue glow when used. This disappears. however, when the valve is operated for a short time with a low resistance connected between its grid and cathode. A valve which emits a constant glow from the space betueen its electrodes should be regarded as a very doubtful component and should be replaced as soon as possible. A soft valve will have a high reverse grid current; that is. electrons pass on to the grid of the valve where they are neutralised by the positive ions in the gas. It is highly probable that the cathode will be damaged by positive ion bombardment.

In extreme cases the glow may extend outside the limits of the electrodes and sparking may occur inside the valve; it should then be discarded immediately. Sometimes a very small crack may be seen in the glass of a valve which is soft: in this case the getter-which should be of a bright metal deposit on the inside surface of the glassbecomes a dull white. Such a valve is invariably useless.

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By H. J. Long (G5LO)

BEFORE an Amatcur Sound Transmitting Licence is granted, the would-be amateur has to satisfy the authorities-in this case the Postmaster-General-that he has passed the City and Guilds Radio Amatcurs' Examination and. also, that he is proficient in sending and receiving Morse code at a speed of not less than twelve words per minute.

## Interference

The reason why the P.M.G. insists on a proficiency in Morse code is quite simple. If for some reason an amateur were operating his station and causing interference with a government or service station, he could be ashed to close down, or even move frequency. How is he to comply with these instructions if he is unable to read Morse ?

This being so, the enthusiast, if he wants to obtain bis "ticket," should make a determined effort to learn the Morse code. It is not so very difficult, so the following simple instructions are intended as a guide in taking the first sleps in learning the Morse code.

Various methods can be used in teaching Morse, some good, others perhaps not so good. Quite often the learner ashs a friend to send slow Morse on a buzzer or andio oscillator. This method can be used, provided the friend is a good operator and has what is termed a good "fist." But this can be very boring, even to your best friend! $\mathrm{So}_{2}$ if in doubt. my advice is to follow carefully the following simple instructions.

## Sound and Rhythm

The Morse code as used in radio is one that has been adopted internationally; most countries of the world use it. It consists of dots and dashes arranged in a given sequence which represent a letter of the alphabet, a figure, or an abbreviation.
Look at the list of the Morse code alphabet and note how each letter has its own character or symbol. For the purpose of timing, which is very important in making up the sound and rhythm from which the Morse symbol can be identified, a dash is equal to three dots in time, while the interval between the dots and dashes in a sequence, i.e., in the same letter, equals a dot in time. Between two letters in a word the interval is equal to three dots and between two words five dots.

Having studied the Morse code alphabet, it is at once apparent, even to a novice, that it is quite impossible to count the dots and dashes as they are being sent. This brings us now to the most important point to understand, in that to read

Morse code has a reputation of being difficult to learn; naturally, some effort is involved, but provided a suitable system is adopted from the outset, the task is by no means tedious.

Morse you have to memorise the sound or rhythm as applied to each letter being sent. In other words, you associate an individual sound heing heard and write it down as the letter it represents, or retain it in your memory until you have a complete word-the latter coming only after some considerable practice. A clear understanding of what the beginner is trying to do in learning Morse is perhaps the most important. noint of all.

## Memorising the Alphabet

The first step is to memorise each letter of the alphabet with its relation to the Morse symbol. Take a slip of paper and write down about four letters of rhe alphabet and alongside each leiter put the Morse symbol. It is perhaps better to choose the letters at random, not in alphaz betical order.
So we might now
have $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{W}$, E.
G- on our slip of
paper. At any odd moment look at one letter and its associated Morse symbol and in dit dah language repeat the Morse symbol mentally. For instance, if you look at letter N you would instantly say mentally dah dit, repeating it over and over again. Letter W dit dah dah. E dit, and G dah dah dit.
The reason why dit dal is used instead of dot dash is that the resulting sound you will eventually hear when reading Morse is much nearer the sound dit, which can be said in rather clipped terms, whereas dah is said in more drawn out terms, which lends itself to the dash which is equal to three dots in terms of time.

With sufficient practice, a few minutes at a time, you should in a short time be able to dit dah any of your four letters you have written down. When you know these letters perfectly. you may tahe another four and repeat the process until you have been right through the alphabet. Numerals and punctuation marks can be memorised in the same way.
Take your time in memorising these symbols, and if there are one or two letters of which you are not sure, go back over them. Time and patience spent on this first stage will be well repaid later on.

## Copying Morse

Having now reached this slage, we have to consider in what form the Morse is to be copied down.
To be ably to copy down Morse legibly calls for rather more care than. say. just writing one's signature, so clear, Jegible copying must be aimed a1. Block capitals or script writing should be preferred to long-hand, for with the latter one is apt to scribble. Having decided on what form the copving down is to be. be sure to stick to
that method. as to change one's style half-way through takes some doing.

We are now ready to have some copying prac-tice-no, not from the receiver yet, but from our own dit dah language. So copy down on paper any letter you mentally think of in the Morse symbol. In effect we are reversing the process we previously did, instead of memorising a letter we

## the international morse code

A-dit-dah.
B-dah-dit-dit-dit.
C-dah-dit-dah-dit.
D-dah-dit-dit.
E-dit.
F—dit-dit-dah1-dit.
G-dah-dah-dit.
H -dit-dit-dit-dit.
I-dit-dit.
J—dit-dah-dah-dah.
K-dah-dit-dah.
L-dit-dah-dit-dit.
M-dah-dah.
N-dah-dit.
O-dah-dah-dah.
P-dit-dah-dah-dit.
Q-dah-dah-dit-dah.
R -dit-dah-dit.
S-dit-dit-dit.
T-dah.
U-dit-dit-dah.
V—dit-dit-dit-dah.
W-dit-dah-dah.
X-dah-dit-dit-dah.
Y-dah-dit-dah-dah.
Z—dah-dah-dit-dit.

## NUMERALS

1-dit-dah-dah-dah-dah. 6-dah-dit-dit-dit-dit-dit.
2-dit-dit-dah-dah-dah. 7-dah-dah-dit-dit-dit.
3-dit-dit-dit-dah-dah. 8-dah-dah-dah-dit-dit.
4-dit-dit-dit-dit-dah.
9—dah-dah-dah-dah-dit.
4—dit-dit-dit-dit-dah. $\quad$ 9—dah-dah-dah-dah-dit.
5—dit-dit-dit-dit-dit.
see printed as a Morse symbol, we think of a Morse symbol and write it down as a letter.

Say dit dah and write down letter A. say dah dah dit dah and write down letter Q , and so on. What to say can be taken from a book or newspaper, but sometimes read from right to left. picking out the letters one by one, as this helps to break the habit of "over reading," which is anticipating a letter before it is sent, a habit that is quite hard to break when reading faster copy at a later stage. Twenty minutes at a time in any one sesssion is ample for this copying practice, but persevere with this until you can legibly transcribe any symbol of the Morse code from the dit dah to the written letter.

## Listening out for Signals

We are now in a position to commence stage three in our operations. This will require a short-wave receiver with headphones. If your receiver is of the communications type you will have to switch in the B.F.O. to receive C.W. If it is of the simpler. straight. type you will have to use your reaction control so that the set is just oscillating.

Look round the short-wave spectrum and tune in a C.W. signal that is being sent fairly slowly; there are usually plenty of signals to choose from. Having found such a signal, try to recognise, in dit dah fashion. the distinct sound or rhythem which you already associate with the letters of the alphabet As an example, say we have tuned in a station that is sending its call sign. such as. VVV de ABC VVV de ABC VVV de ABC. repeated over and over again. It shouls' not be too difficult to identify it in dit dah fashion as. dit dit dit dah. dit dit dit dah, dit dit dit duh. the
de as dah dit dit, dit, the de by the way means from. indicating that it is from the station the signal is being sent. and the actual call sign which is dit dah, dah dit dit dit, dah dit dah dit, or ABC.

If station $A B C$ was putting out a general call, it would be $C Q$ de $A B C$. the $C Q$ indicating that it was a general call. Or if as ZYX de ABC . this would indicate that station ZYX was being called by station ABC.
Copy down any letter you may identify. but if you miss one let it go and try again the next time round. With a little practice you will soon reach the stage where you can copy a call sign first go. From now on it is a matter for the individual, practice and still more practice. but do not overdo it. ten minutes at a time is ample.
By trying to copy; signals from commercial stations. which send signals automatically. but at hand speed between traffic, you should gain a good knowledge of the correct formation of the Morse symbol. which should serve you in good stead when you start to send Morse on the key, but. as we pointed out earlier. this article was intended as a guide in taking the first steps in learning the Morse code.

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Green--earth connection.
Red-phase (live) connection.
Black-neutral connection.
"The risk is most acute if the flexible cord provided with the apparatus has a core coloured red which serves as its earth connection; because if the user. following established British practice, connects this core to the terminal of a British connecting plug which mav itself be marked red. and then inserts. the phag into a normal British socket, the result will be that any cxposed metal parts of the imported apparatus connected to the red core will be charged at mains voltage. and represent a serious hazard.
"The attention of importers and wholesalers known to be handling foreign apparatus fitted with ilexible cords which do not conform with British practice in respect of colour coding has already been drawn by the Home Office Central Advisory Committee on Safety in the Home to this situation: the purpose of this notice is to warn vendors and users of the risk. so that they can enquire as to the nature of the flexible cord provided with appaasus in which they are interested."


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RECORD PLAYER CABINERS．Contempmary btyled 1 tin．$x 13 \mathrm{in}$ ．$x$ sim．． 3 gns ．Carr．and styler 18.
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$$

（f－in．Speaker and matohtog trulis．，22／＝P．\＆J． $1 / 0$ ．
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free．Set of 4 spec．Valves， $80 /-$ post free． free．Set of 4 spec．valves， $30 /-$ ，post free．

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LDN. 1 for 3 ohm speakers. Price $7 / 6$ ea, ( $15 /$ - per pr.) LDN. 2 for 15 ohm speakers. Price $10 /$ ea. (20/- per pr.) Note: Two coils are required to complete the network shown in the circuit diagram, i.e., for 3 ohm speakers two type LDN. 1 are required. (Please add 1/- to cover postage on each pair of coils.)
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The frequency at which the cross-over takes place may lie between $800 \mathrm{c} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{s}$. and $5 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ depending upon the relative performance of the two loudspeakers used. A reasonable compromise which will suit most pairs consisting of an 8 in . to 12 in . unit and a $2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. to 6 in . unit, is $2.5 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$.

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.... Club News

## REPORTS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

BRITISH INSTITUTION OF RADIO ENGINEERS
4, Bedforil Square, London. W.C.I.
MEETINGS for Jamary, 1960.
London.-Meetings are held at the London School ol Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Sireet, w.c.I.

January 15 th at 6.30 p.m.- "A Proposed Space-chargelimited Dielectric Triode"-G. T. Wright, Ph.D.
lanuary 271 h at $6.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. .- Training for Operaling and Maintaining Television Broadcasting Equipnent"-K. $\mathbf{R}$. Sturley, Ph.D., and A. E. Robertson.
Bristol, South Western Section.-Mectings held at the School of Management Surdies, Unity Sureet.
January 27h at 7 p.m.-" An Equipment for Automatically Processing Time Multiplexed Telemeiry Datia (Timetape)." J. If. Russell, N. Purnell and T. T. Waliers.

Cardiff, South Wales Section.-Meetings held at the Welsh Coliege of Advanced Technology.
fanuary 13 th at 6.30 p.m.- Television Broadcasting Methods " ${ }^{\text {M H. I. M. Hockley and N. Hughes, 13.Sc. }}$

Liverpool, Merseyside Section.-Mectings held at the University Cluh, 2, Mount Pleasamt.

January Ilih at 7 p.m.-.." High Frequency Propagationits Present and Fumure Use for Communication Purposes "A. F. Wilkins, O.B.E., B.Sc.

Nencastle-upon-Tyme, North Eastern Section.-Meetings are held at the Institution of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, Neville Hall, Westgate Road.

January ith at 6 p.11.-"Data Processing Machines "J. Allen and J. Keuting.

Wolverhampton, West Midands Section.-Mectings held at the Wolvertampion and Stalfordshire College of Technology, Wultruna Street.
January 13 th at 7.15 p.m.-"Electronics in Medicinc"P. Sigles.

DERBY AND DISTRICT ANATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec. : F. C. Ward (G2CVV), 5 , Uplands Avenue, Litteover, Derby.
FUTURE events:
January 13 th at 7.30 p.m.-Members' exhibition-ihree sections; juniors; bome constructed; hit assembled.
lanuary 20th at 7.30 p.m.-Open evening in sub-basement rooms.

January 27th at 7.30 p.m.-Quiz night.
February 3rd at 7.30 p.m.-Annud General Meeting.
February 7 h at $7.30 \mathrm{p}, \mathrm{m}$.-Proposed date for contest for G5YY.

## BRADFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Cambridge House, 68, Little Horton Lane, Bradford, 3.
Hon. Sec. : D. M. Prau (G3KEP), "Glenluce," Lyndale Road, Eluwick, Bingly, Yorkshire.
$O^{N}$ November 1017 three junior members gave lectures on "How We Began." On Noventher 18th the Society visited Messrs. Mains Radio Gramophones Lid., the manufacturing compury of the Radio Rentals Group. D. G. Enoch (G3KLZ), President of the Sociely. gate an interesting lecture on December list on "Tape and Disc Recording."

## Future events:

January 12th.-* Colour Photography"-Arihur Bailey.
January 2 Gath.-A Anual display of members' gear.
Fehruary 9th.-."Inexpensive Sound Fidelity",D. Prati (G3kEP), Hon, Sec.

February 23rd.-.Junk sale.
Meetings are held all $7.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. Morse classes are held by arrangement before meetings.

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

TIS club is just being lormed and meetings were held at the home of Mr. Alhert Field, 3, Coppice Averue, Hattield, Doncaster, 10 collect names of members. All enguiries from those interested in joining the Sociely should be addressed to Mr. Field Eibt the address given above.

## CALCOT RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec. : C. Aldous, 3, Oliver Drive, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire.
ON December toth Mr. S. Woodivard. of the Calcot Radion Society, gave a lecture and pracical demonstration on stereophonic sound.

Future even :
Jantary $213 t$ - A representative of Dynatron Radio swill give a leeture and demonstration.

## AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY OF CHESHAM AND

 DISTKICTHon. Sec. : K. R. Spratt, 207, Bois Moor Road, Chesham, Bucks. THIS recenlly formed society has not yet obtained premises and classes in morse and theory for R.A.E. are being given by ticensed members at their own hones. likewise all meetings are held on a rota basis at members homes. It is hoped, when premises are availathle as a Society H.Q., not only to get more local amateurs together, but to take in many of the radio-minded vouths of the district and enable them by lectures and morse training to beconie licensed hembers.

## A MATEUR RADIO MOBILE SOCIFTY

Hon. Sec.: G. E. Siorey (G3H1TC), 10. Ayon Road, Sunhury on-Thames, Middx.
FUTURE events :
January 30 th at 3 p.m.-At the Small Hall of the St. Bride Foundation Institute. Bride Lane, Fket Street, E.C.4.

The programme will include at least one lecture on a radio subject of general interest and the showing of several films.

The Soejety is planning at ra!ly ol an untisual hind to take plate nossibly in April or May of this year. The site will be somewhere between London and Birmingham. Those interested in attending either of the ahove mectings should write to the Secretary for further details.

## THE READING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Hon. Sec. : R. 1. Nash (G3EJA). 9, Holybrook Road, Reading.
THE November meeting was well attended and G4HZ and G5TP gave a short talk on aerials which proved most interesting to all concerned. The December mecting was held on the 19 th and was also well atlended. G3LLK gave an unusual and interesting talk on home-built receivers.

Future events :
January 30 th.-.Junk sale and discussion on future programme lor 1960.

## WELLINGBOROUGH AND DISTRICT RADIO IND

 TELEITSION SOCIETYHon. Sce. : D. J. Trusler, 87, Irchester Road, Rushden, Norblamts.
MEETINGS are held at the cluh room above the W.I.C.S.
(Every Thursday.)
(Every Thursday.)
Future evints:
January 7th.-Anmual general meeting.
January 21st.-"Transistors", a lalk by F. Manning.
February 4th.-A stereophonic sound demonstration by D.
Clarke and P. Butler in the Lecture Theatre of the Wellingborough
Technical College.
February llth.-Some aspects of photography. A talk by
T. Judge, Presilent of the Local Camera Club.

February 18 th.-. Film night in the clab room
March 3rd.-"Electronics and Radiation," talk by R. Mitchell, B.Sc,

## THE ELECTRONICS CLUB, TRIVANDRUM, S. INDIA

THIS is a newly formed club, being only four months old and having 23 members in all. As in other radio clubs the membership consists of hams, SiVL"s. Hi-Fi enthusiasts and experimenters. Lectures and discussions are arranged and the Club maintains a technical library. Films on scientific subjects are screened occasionally and it is hoped to bring out a quarie:ly club journal.
On Septemher 13 th an inaugural lecture was held and Dr. Hariharan, of the University College. Trivandrum. spoke on "Some Aspects of Microwave." The Club would like to receive copies ol Practical. Wirrless and olher magazines.

# Indoor Aerials 

FACTORS INVOLVED IN USING SMALL AERIALS

By W. Cleland

THE average domestic receiver usually gives sufficient loudness on a short length of aerial wire. and very often the " $E$ " socket, which is either a direct connection to the chassis. or connected to it by a capacitor, is left unused.

## Metal Plate

The return capacitance from this short length of wire to the "E" terminal and chassis of the set is very small. even when an earth is used. and a considerable increase in volume can be obtained by adding a metal plate to the end of the aerial wire. A sheet of aluminium placed out


Fig. 1 (Left).-.Aerial earth system, showing stray capacitance to earth. Fig. 2 (Right).-Increasing the end capacitance of a very short acrial by adding a metal plate.
of sight against a watl, behind some item of furniture, could be used for the purpose. The effect is similar to that of the horizontal section of an inverted " L" aerial. which adds topcapacitance.

With a mains radio, the addition of this metal plate will also assist in using the radio signals present in the mains. These reach the chassis of the set either directly: in the case of a live chassis, or through the interwinding capacitance of a mains transformer. Earthing the set. for example. to the third pin of a three-pin plug, is. therefore, unlikely to increase the volume, and a long wire to a clip on a water-pipe may cancel out some of the signal from the aerial, if the two run in the same direction.

The impedance of the mains to earth will be low, particularly if the cable has a metal covering. or a third wire connected to a water-pipe. Neither side of the mains is carthed on the premises, but one conductor is earthed at the power station.

## Battery Sets

Earthing is. therefore more important with a battery receiver. and will increase the volume. The signal input from the aerial can be increased by adding a metal plate. but the chassis of the


Fig. 3.-Earthing effect of mains connection.
receiver can be made to serve the same purpose by leaving the " $E$ " socket unused and earthing the end of the aerial wire instead.

To do this with a mains receiver takes advantage of the mains as an aerial, but also increases the intake of mains-borne interference. An isolating capacitor included in the connection from the aerial socket to a water-pipe is sometimes misleadingly called a "capacity" aerial, suggesting that the effect depends in some way on the capacitor.

When the receiver is of a miniature type, a short wire aerial will be found to produce enormous changes in volume according to the position of the set in relation to surrounding objects. If the aerial wire is swung backwards and forwards near any large metal object, a corresponding fluctuation in the sound output will be noticed. In sonne parts of a room. reception may be almost unobtainable, although a ferrite aerial will still be able to receive the signal.

## Internal Aerials

Unless the receiver is to be used in a fixed situation where a satisfactory aerial system can be provided, it is better to use a small frame aerial. or a more compact ferrite aerial. Although directional, these are the best types for portable radios as they are selfcontained and little affected by capacitance to external objects. The listener himself has an a p preciable capacitance. and can usually increase the volume by gripping the aerial; so his proximity to a midget receiver with an open aerial arrangement is likely to affect reception.


Fig. 4.-Reversed arrangement, sometimes called a "capacit,"" acrial when an isolating capacitor is inchuded.
Much greater volume can. nevertheless. be obtained with an open aerial system under suitable conditions, and although a ferrite aerial can be recommended for a portable set. it is worthwhile providing a socket for an external aerial as an optional extra. where this is possible without upsetting the tuning.

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Also $\frac{1}{2}$ watt High Stability. $5 \%, 10$ ohms ro 1 mer. 9d, ea.

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| 6AT6 | $9 / 6$ | EAF42 | 11/6 | EM80 | $11 / 6$ |
| 6BW6 | $11 / 6$ | EBF80 | 10/6 | EM8I | 11/6 |
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| $12 \mathrm{~A} \times 7$ | 11/- | ECF80 | 12/6 | PCC84 | 12/6 |
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## Increasing Signal-to-Voise IRatio

## LIMITERS CAN IMPROVE RESULTS

F a constructor is troubled by noise in the output of a receiver, his immediate reaction may be to add a noise limiter. Whilst this sounds perfectly logical, he will almost certainly be disappointed because a noise limiter will reduce only one particular type of noise and this is not necessarily the type which usually causes most trouble.
Broadly speaking, noise can be considered to be any unwanted sounds emitted from a speaker. The important thing is not the actual noise voltage at any point in the receiver, but the signal-to-noise ratio. Extra amplification alone will not improve the signal-to-noise ratio or the intelli-


Fig. 1(a).-Typical impulse noise.
gibility because both the signal and noise are amplified by the same amount. A given amount of noise will, of course, cause most trouble when the signal voltage is very low, i.e., when receiving weak signals or using a high gain audio amplifier.

## "Sharsh"

One type of noise is variously known as "hiss", " hash ", " mush" or "sharsh" because, when one speaks these words, the sound resembles that of the noise. Sharsh noise is a mixture of all frequencies and is, therefore, by analogy, sometimes called "white noise" because white light is a mixture of light of all frequencies.
Some sharsi is present at the aerial. The receiver noise (also sharsh) is added to this during the passage of the signal through the receiver: No matter how the sharsh originates, the signal-to-noise ratio of a receiver can be improved by increasing the selectivity. Excessive selectivity should not be used, however, or side band cutting will take place with consequent loss of high frequencies and of intelligibility. The signal covers a narrow band of frequencies but sharsh is present on all frequencies. An increase of selectivity may therefore remove much of the sharsh which is not actually in the signal frequency band. Noise owing to signals on near-by

By J. Ball

frequencies will, of course, also be reduced by increasing the selectivity. One of the simplest methods of obtaining excellent selectivity and therefore, comparatively little sharsh is the use of a double superheterodyne receiver. A circuit which can be added on to a receiver to convert it into a double superhet was described on page 388 of the July, 1959, issue of Practical Wireless.

The high frequency components of sharsh cause most of the trouble. A low pass filter (" top cut " or tone control) may therefore help considerably, but there is liftle point in using such a filter in a high selectivity recéiver. A steep cut low pass filter is useful for reducing sharsh on recordings. Sharsh noise from F.M. receivers is reduced by amplifying the high frequencies more than the low frequencies at the transmitter (pre-emphasis) and amplifying the low frequencies more than the high frequencies at the receiver (de-emphasis).

## Acrial

It is essential to use a good, well designed outdoor aerial if low noise is to be obtained when weak signals are being received. The noise picked up by a good aerial may not be any less than that from a poor aerial but the signal volt-age-and hence the signal to noise ratio-is greater.

Some sharsh is always generated in the receiver but at signal frequencies below about $20 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ it should be much less than the sharsh noise from the aerial in any well designed receiver. The only noise which is important is that generated in the R.F. stages or mixer because noise generated


Fig. 1(b),-After passing through a limiting circuit the noise peaks are reduced.
later in the receiver is completely masked by the amplifier noise from the early stages. Mixer valves are always very noisy and it is important to heen this noise as low as possible if it is desired to receive weak signals on high frequencies. A good R.F. stage should be used so that the signal is amplified as much as possible betore passing through the noisy mixer stage. Special R.F. stages which generate very low noise have been designed, but these lie outside the scope of
this article. It is also important to use the optimum aerial coupling and to ensure that the receiver is correctly aligned. Any noise which remains when the receiver aerial terminal is earthed is receiver sharsh noise.

## Impulse Noise

Impulse noise-also known as pistol shot or machine gun noise-consists of short isolated signals of duration about one thousandth of a second (much less than this at the aerial). It can originate in a number of ways including internal


Fig. 2.-A series audio noise limiter and detector. (The cathode of VI should be earthed.)
combustion ignition systems, clicks from electric switches. flashing signs. factory equipment and natural "static" lightning discharges. The noise from electric motors is a combination of sharsh and impulse noise.

Fig. 1(a) shows a typical example of impulse noise together with the wanted signal. Owing to the extremely short duration of impulse noise, the amplitude must be very much greater than that of the signal if it is to cause appreciable interference. Much of the noise can be eliminated by means of a simple audio noise limiter; the signal and the remaining noise then appear as shown in Fig. 1(b)., The noise limiter merely "chops off the tops" of the noise peaks leaving
the remainder of the noise just above the maximum signal level. A noise limiter will only reduce impulse noise and cannot affect sharsh.

A simple scries noise limiter is shown in Fig. 2. V1 is the audio detector and V2 is the additional noise diode. The circuit requires only three more resistors and one more condenser than a conventional diode detector circuit. A negative voltage which is proportional to the carrier level is developed across C2, but this voltage cannot change rapidly because C2 and R3 are both large. Noise peaks which exceed a certain level will drive the anode of V2 negative with respect to its cathode. During this instant of time the diode will not conduct and the audio signal will therefore be cut off or limited. The noise level at which this occurs is controlled by the bias on V2 which in turn depends on the carrier level at the time. The biasing, therefore, automatically adjusts itself whatever the input voltage from the last I.F. transformer in the receiver. If at any time it is desired to stop the limiter from working. it is only necessary to connect a wire from the anode of V2 to the cathode of the same valve. This could be done with a switch if desired so that the limiting circuit could be switched in and out. This particular noise limiter is of no use for Morse reception because the bias automatically adjusts itself to the carrier level. A noise limiting circuit of this type can be added to an existing receiver without any further drilling of the chassis if a suitable germanium diode (e.g., type IN34) is used for V2. Alternatively, a small diode of the normal type such as the VR92 or the EA76 may be mounted under the chassis to avoid the need for drilling it. Many variations of the circuit are possible.

## Microphony

Microphony is very different from the forms of noise mentioned previously. The component which is microphonic must first be found by careful tapping of components in the low level stages whilst the unit is working. If a valve is found to be microphonic it should be replaced, but it should not be discarded, as it will probably work quite well in a stage operating at a higher voltage level. Very occasionally, tuning condensers are found to be microphonic. and steps must then be taken to prevent the plates of the condenser from vibrating.


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One of the Pye " joystich " switches.

The EL. 3538 is a three-speed ( $1 \frac{7}{8}, 3 \frac{3}{3}$ and $7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. s .) tape recorder housed in a carrying case finished in blue-grey. Push-button controls, grouped at the front of the machine, ensure fully automatic operation. Using double-play tape. the machine will provide up 10 eight hours' recording and easy maintenance is facilitated by a plastic hood which can be detached for cleaning of the mechanism. The EL. 3538 weighs 301 b . and is equipped with a compact-type moving coil microphone, a 7 in . reel of long-playing tape. a spare take-up spool and a 5 in. loudspeaker.

Further information may be obtained from Philips Electrical Lid.. Century House, Shafteshary Alenue, London, W.C.2.

## "JOYSTICK" SWITCHES

A RANGE of new joystick control switches which are safer and more easily operated than conventional push-button systems has been developed by the Switch Division of Pye Lid. With manual or automatic return from two to eight positions, this new controller has many basic variations. The joystick has all the advantages of visual directional movement, plus the inclusion of an isolator for additional safety. This advance in sequence control technique allows a wide range of applications-all of which require considerably less space and are less expensive than an equivalent number of push-button units. Basically, the controller consisis of a varied number of robust switches mounted under a $3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. square chromium top plate. - The switches are grouped evenly each side of the square and are operated by a control lever which passes through an oil-filled spherical bearing. The operator moves the lever almost unconsciously in the direction in which a traverse or operation should take place-a movement similar to changing gear in a car. Directions in which the lever can be moved are controlled by a gate plate mounted below the switches. Controllers can be supplied with stepped switching for multi-speed control and latest types include built-in potentiometers for infinitely variable control. (Pye Lid., Cambridge).

## playing time calculator

REQUESTS for the "Scotch" Brand Playing Time Calculator, which has been offered free of charge to recording enthusiasts, have been so overwhelming that two printings have now


The "Scotch" magnetic tape playing time calculator.
self-energising balanced armature type, designed to operate with transistor amplifier, and function within a temperature range of 20-115 deg. F. They can, however. be specially processed to enable them to function satisfactorily at much higher temperatures if required.

They are ideal for use in hearing aids, dictating machines, tape recorders, lapel microphones, walkie-talkie sets. pocket transmitters and other miniature equip-' ment in which their light weight and compactness can be used to advantage.

Styron Polystyrene, which can be moulded to close tolerance and possesses the requisite electrical properties, is marketed by British Resin Products Lid., Devonshire Housc, Piccadilly, London, W.I.

## OSCILLOSCOPE DISPLAYS OF

 HYSTERESIS LOOPSTHE production of hysteresis loops is a very lengthy procedure when using ballistic or magnetometer instruments, involving the plotting of many coordinates. For this reason many schools have. in the past, found it impossible to include the experiment in their programmes. although the subject of hysteresis appears in the G.C.E. physics syllabus at " $S$ " level.

However, with an oscilloscope a direct display of a hysteresis loop may be obtained simply and with a minimum of preparation time, and since many school laboratories are equipped, with such an instrument the Mullard Educational
been completely exhausted. Further supplies are being prepared and efforts are being made to obtain further supplies to enable all requests to be fulfilled without delay. The calculator is obtainable from the Minnesota Mining \& Manufacturing Co., of 3 M House, Wigmore Street, London, W, 1 .

## NEW BRANCH

Iaddition to their branch at 42, Tottenham Court Road. Lasky's Radio Ltd. have now opened new and larger premises in Edgware Road. London, W.2, and have a complete stock of all high fidelity equipment. tape recorders and accessories, together with a full range of components.

## NEW MinIATURE MICROI'HONES

EXTREMELY small coil formers injection moulded in Styron Polystyrene are an essential feature of miniature microphones now being manufactured by A. P. Besson and Partner Ltd. St. Joseph's Close, Hove 4, Sussex.

These microphones are of the

Service has produced a leaflet describing the experiment and giving full theoretical and constructional details of the circuitry required. It is the latest in the series. "Demonstrations \& Experiments in Electronics" published by the Mullard Educational Service and may be obtained from Mullard Lid., Mullard House, Torrington Place, London, W.C.I.

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The Editor does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed by his correspondents.


#### Abstract

Whilst we are always pleased to assist readers with their technical difficulties, we regret that we are unable to supply diagrams or provide instructions for modifying commercial or surplus equipment. We cannot supply alternative details for receivers described in these pages. WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO ANSWER QUERIES OVER THE TELEPHONE. If a postal reply is required a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed with the coupon from page iii of cover.


## Admiralty W/T Station

SIR,-My attention has been drawn to a report ín Prictical Wireless for November. 1959, on the recently inaugurated Admiralty Wireless station at Inskip, near Preston.

The report in your section " Round the World of Wircless" on page 345 is not quite factual. The paragraph states that "the supply and instalJation of the transmitting equipment for the new Admiralty W/T station at Inskip, near Preston, Lancs, has recently been completed by Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. Ltd." Whilst it is true that Marconi was the major contractor and coordinated the elforts of the various subcontractors, it is of interest to note that Standard Telephones and Cables Limited supplied and installed eight short-wave transmitters' rated at 40 kW peak envelope power and two long wave transmitters rated at 10 kW and 5 kW respectively. In addition, we supplied several drive units.-J. Read (Publicity Manager, Standard Telephones and Cables Limited).

## Variometers

SIR,-Mr. Barringer's letter from Glasgow re variometers is interesting and no doubt he wonders at the small parts now used in radio. 1 started in 1910 and still potter with radio, though with wavelengths of a few centimetres. The variometer was very efficient and required no tuning condenser across it.
The reason for miniature parts today is the cost of materials and the great drive to make things small and not so bulky. Before the First World War, our tuning coils were wound on cardboard tubes, four and five inches in diameter, dipped in hot candle wax for insulation. One of mine was six feet long.
Wavelengths in those days were two thousand meters, and the stations were Cleethorpes, Nauen in Germany, and the Eiffel Tower, if I remember rightly.

Only spark transmissions were on the air. We made condensers from 2lb. jam jars, lined with tinfoil, inside and out, and we used a moving iron band, like the wire recorder for rectifying signals. Old ignition coils made fine sparks for sending and could be heard all over the world. Crystals with eat's whiskers came in later. Mostly silicon
set in Wood's metal. When valves came in, about 1924, we used to buy variable condensers in parts and build them up to the capacity we wanted. They were large affairs with big dials and even light bulbs to show the readings at night. The only valves at first were Dutch, just a filament, grid and plate, four pin. They cost 5 s. each and you had to try out several to find the one best suited to your circuit. Some valves were " soft" and some "hard."

Sirict attention was paid to wiring-up sets. Leads were of stiff tinned copper wire. No attention was paid to their length as wavelengths in 1924 were long. Mr. Barringer should try his hand at making a variometer. they are good, cheap to make, require no condenser for tuning. -R. K. Lioyd (Karubue, Central Africa).

## Modulation Indicator

$S^{1}$IR,-Below is a circuit for a simple modulation indicator which I have used at my station for several years, and which may be of interest to readers. I have no idea of the origin of this circuit; it was suggested by a friend of mine


Circuit of the indicator.
some years ago, when I contemplated building such a unit. It could be built into the existing rig. or as a separate unit.

The circuit incorporates a 6 E 5 magic eye, or any other similar tube as the indicator High tension and heater supplies are obtained from any convenient source.
R.F. coupling is effected by wrapping a length of "hook up" wire several times around the feeders from the transmitter, and connecting to the grid of the 6 E 5 indicator tube through a 50 pF mica condenser. It may be found that enough coupling is obtained by placing this wire near the final tank coil.

The method of adjustment is as follows: apply heater and H.T. voltage to the tube. Adjust R3 until the eye just closes. Now, line up transmitter without modulation applied, and adjust R.F. coupling from transmitter, until eye opens to 45 deg .

If the transmitter is now modulated, the "eye" will close at 80 per cent. modulation. It should be noted that readjustment of the R.F. coupling to the unit will be necessary when changing bands. -D. W. Smith (Greenock).

## Radio Club

SIR.-I am almost seventeen and have just started a Radio Club in the school which I attend. We have a small room at our disposal and $£ 10$ in the "kitty." I should like to know how to spend the money and what equipment to buy. I should like also to hear how other small clubs are run.

We have two experienced radio operators running the club and the members' knowledge of radio is not very great. Can anyone tender any advice ?-J. M. Rees (New House, The School, (Monmouth).

## Electronic Organ Data Wanted

SR,-There are one or two electronic organs on the market with 2 ft stops, but which, in fact, do not generate higher than 4 ft . I believe this effect is obtained by some form of filter or network, included between the generators and the amplifier. I have been unable to find any circuit or other data on this point, either in any of the many books on the subject, or at the Patent Office, and I wonder whether any readers who are interested in this subject may be able to offer any assistance in obtaining this 2 ft effect. I believe in America that there is one instrument which has a 1 ft . stop, obtained from a generated 8ft.--R. Penvant (N.W.).

## Transistors v. Valves

SIR.-To those who have experimented with both there can be no doubt as to the advantages of transistors. The real reason why transistors are not becoming popular is because the components required to go with them are not available.
Over 80 per cent. of transistor components available are made to go on the printed circuit board, thus dictating to the constructor what he shall build. Let us have some components with decent terminations and not short spills and then transistors will come into their own.-P. E. Addis (Minehead).

SIR.-I agree most heartily with Mr. B. Wallace. My interest in transistors has nothing whatever to do with matchbox, or portable, radios and lies in quality of reception with the absence of background noise. I disagree entirely with your November editorial. I have no knowledge of radio other than that picked up in relation to transistors during the last four years. I've put together almost as many circuits as those you have published and have damaged possibly six transistors in that time. I have never
yet damaged an OC70 or an OC71 though on one occasion I damaged a pair of OC72's in "push-pull," cost to buy OC70-8s. 6d.; OC7212s. 6d.-hardly expensive.-B. A. (Birmingham, 13)
[We think that B. A. has been lucky in not dumaging more transistors and would remind him that the sum of 8 s .6 d . is much more than a great many constructors can afford to pay for a careless mistake.-ED.]

## Selectivity

SIR.-In the past issues of Practical Wireless there has been a circuit of a M.W. Signal Booster, notes on medium wave aerials, and notes on improving selectivity by coupling the aerial to the receiver. The best improvement I have found is an aerial tuning unit (see diagram). The main coil is about 25 turns of 26 s.w.g. on 2 in .


Circuit of the aerial turning unit.
former with a link winding of five turns. The condensers are $0.0005 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ as used in crystal sets, etc. The coil will cover $180-300 \mathrm{~m}$ but by adding turns in the link winding and the main coil, by switching; there is no reason why stations up to $2,000 \mathrm{~m}$ could not be covered and by changing condensers and coil again short waves could be covered.-M. Reynolds (Nailsea).

## Information Required

SIR,-Can any reader supply information on the Bendix receiver BC624 (SCR522). There are a large number of the units available for sale and I should like some help as V.H.F. is rather tricky for a novice--J. R. Harvey (108, Fern Lane, Ileston, Middlesex).

## Correspondents Wanted

SIR,-I am 14 years old and I am interested in radio construction. I would like to correspond with others of around my age. I have been reading Practical Wireless for over a year now.-J. Wilkinson ( 12 Church Road, Walkden, Near Manchester, Lancashire).
$S^{I R}$.-I am 14 years old, and very interested in radio. I would like correspondents of my own age--J. C. Plunkett-Cole (Kennicott House, Ashburton Road, Totnes, S. Devon).


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PW98*
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## MISCELLANEOUS

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THE following blueprints include some pre-war designs and are kept in circulation for those constructors who wish to make use of old components which they may have in their spares box. The majority of the components for these receivers are no long er stocked by retailers.

| Tirle |  | Number | Price |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A.C. Fury Four | - | PW20* | 2/6 |
| Experimenter's Short Wave |  | PW30: ${ }^{*}$ | 2/6 |
| Midget Short Wave Two ... | $\ldots$ | PW38a* | 2/6 |
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| BBC Special One-valver ... | ... | AW387* | 2/6 |
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| Short-Wave World Beater | $\ldots$ | AW +36* | 3/6 |
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| Enthusiast's Power Amplifier | $\ldots$ | WM387* | 3/6 |
| Standard Four Valve | ... | WM391* | 3/6 |
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