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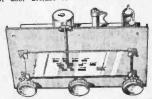
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(GUARANTEED) R.S.C. MAINS TRANSFORMERS

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FULLY SHROUDED (continued)—
425-0-425v, 200mA, 6.3v, 4a. C.T. 6.3v,
4a. C.T. 5v, 3a
450-0-450v, 250mA, 6.3v, 4a. C.T. 5v, 3a
69/9
0UTPUT TRANSFORMERS
Midget Battery Pentode 66:1 for
3/84 etc. 3/84 OUTPUT TRANSFORMERS
Midget Battery Pentode 66:1 for
384, etc. 3/9
Small Pentode. 5000 to 30 ... 3/9
Small Pentode. 708.000 to 30 ... 3/9
Standard Pentode 5,000 to 30 ... 5/9
Standard Pentode 7/8.000 to 30 ... 5/9
Standard Pentode 7/8.000 to 30 ... 5/9
Output 100 100 to 30 ... 5/9
Push-Pull 8 watts. EL34, or 6V6 to
30 or matched to 150 ... 5/9
Push-Pull 10-12 watts to match 6V6
or EL34 to 35-8 or 150 ... 18/9
Push-Pull 10-12 watts 6V6 or EL34 ... 18/9
Push-Pull 10-12 watts 6V6 or EL34 ... 18/9
Push-Pull 10-12 watts. 6L6. KT86
Push-Pull 7 or Mullard 510 Ultra
29/9
Push-Pull 20 watts, sectionally
wound, 6L6. KT86. etc. 49/9

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PARTS PRICE LIST AND EASY BUILD PLANS 2/2

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(4 Transistors, plus 2 Diodes)

New design now uses moving coil speaker.

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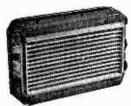
Handsome pocket case. May be built for 55/- P.P. 3/-

"Best transistor set I have ever built-dozens of stations."-A.G.H., Deal, Kent.

PARTS PRICE LIST AND EASY BUILD PLANS 1/6

BEGINNERS PUSH-PULL FIVE

(5 Transistors, plus Diode)



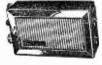
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 250 Milliwatts output stage.
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(MW/LW and TRAWLER BAND)

(5 Transistors, plus 2 Diodes)



supersensitive round FERRITE ROD AERIAL and 3in. moving coil speaker. Attractive case in black with speaker grill in red. On test Home, Light, Radio Lux., and many Continental stations were received.

Total cost of all parts £2.19.6 P.P. 3/-.

EASY BUILD PLANS AND PARTS PRICE LIST 1/6

TRANSONA-6

(6 Transistor plus 2 Diodes)

M/L & T, BAND



350 Mw Mullard pesh-pull output Transistors. Powerful magnet 3in. high grade speaker. Push-pull trans-formers. This is a top performing receiver. Nearly 30 stations listed in one evening including Luxembourg loud and Luxembourg loud and clear. A pleasure to listen to, FERRITE ROD AERIAL. All parts sold separately, including pale

blue gleaming polystyrene case with duo-diffusion grilles in red. Uses 9 volt battery. Sockets for car aerial.

Total building cost £5.9.6 P.P. 3/-. Size 61 x 44 x 11 in. "Agreeably surprised with Trawler Band reception. Luxembourg as loud as local. Your easy build diagram helped a lot...my first attempt."—H. S., Penzance, Cornwall (poor reception area). PARTS PRICE LIST AND EASY BUILD PLANS 16

NEW SUPER SIX DESIGN

MED/LONG WAVES, TRAWLER BAND AND S.W. TO APPROX. 40 METRES

- ★ 6 1st grade Transistors
 (inc. Mullard and Surface
 Barrier) plus 2 DIODES.
 ★ Top grade 3in. L/speaker.
 ★ 2 R.F. Stages for extra
 - boost.

 High Q 7in. Ferrite Rod Aerial.
 - * Easy build diagrams. No aerial or earth required (except as car radio).
 - Attractive pale blue case with speaker grilles in red. 350 Milliwatts output stage

Sockets for car radio.

* Test receiver tuned in over 30 stations.

THIS FINE RECEIVER MAY BE BUILT FOR **£6.9.6**Plus 3/- P.P. PARTS PRICE LIST AND EASY BUILD PLANS 2/-

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(Opposite Co-op)

10 a.m. to I p.m. SAT.

BARGAINS! **MULTI-METER**

MODEL 200H (Illus. on right). 20,000 ohms per volt, 20 ranges comprising A.C. volts, 5 ranges up to 1,000 V D.C. volts, 6 ranges up to 2.5KV, C.C. current, 3 ranges up to 26 ohms, resistance, 2 ranges up to 6 meg, capacity 2 ranges up to 0.1, decibels—20 to +22. Scale cornerwise to the equivalent of 4 in. movement is a pocket size instrument measuring 4 x 31 x lin. Complete with text prode hartery and constrains 3½ x lin. Complete with test prods, battery and operating

3½ x in. Complete with test prods, pattery and operating instructions, price 66.19.6, post free.

MODEL EPIOK. Similar in size and appearance to 200H except that this is 10,000 ohms per volt and maximum D.C. volts. 1,200 instead of 2.5K, also no capacity range. Price

£5.19.6. Post free.

ALL METERS BRAND NEW AND FULLY GUARANTEED



MODEL TPSS. (Illus. on left). 20,000 ohms per volt, D.C. volts, 5 ranges up to 1,000 A.C. volts, 5 ranges up to 1,000 resistance, 2 ranges up to 10 meg., capacity 2 ranges up to 0.1 decibels —20 to +26. One switch control really beautifully

0.1 decibels —20 to +26. One switch control really beautifully made precision instrument, size only $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{6}$ in, price only 5.19.6. Post free.

MODEL TP10. Similar in size and appearance to TP5S, but sensitivity 2,000 ohms per volt, price 63.19.6. Post free.

MODEL UI. A robust instrument of 1,000 ohms per volt sensitivity. A.C./D.C. volts up to 1,000. D.C. current up to 500, resistance up to 200K, size $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{6}$ ins. complete with test prods, single switch control, large easily read scale, price only 62.19.6. Post free.

15 amp Thermostat

Adjustable over a fairly wide range of temperatures, suitable for wall mounting to control heating. Excep-tional bargain at 9/6, plus 1/- post and insurance. Suitable crackle finished case 7/6

Transistor Amplifier



4 transistors including two in push-pull—input for crystal or magnetic microphone for pick-up—feed back loops—sensitivity 5 miv—output 11 watt peak into 35 ohm speaker. Speakers available. Price 62/6. Postage and Insurance 2/6.

Transistorised Stethoscope

Trace signal right through. Radio, T.V., Tape amplifler:
Hi-Fi, etc.—simplest way to fault-find—carry it like a countain pen—all parts including transistor barrel crystal, everything except battery, 12/6 plus 1/6, data included or separately 1/6. Or complete with deaf aid type agraphene 20/6. type earphone, 20/-.

Transistor Set Cabinets



Very modern cream cabinet, size 5½ x 3 x 1½in. with chrome handle, tuning knob and scale. Price 7/6, plus 1/6 postage and packing.

Special quotations for quantities.

AERIAL TUNING UNIT



This comprises variometer in the form of silver plated coll. contact being made by geared wheel controlled by the handle in the front. The position of the wheel is indicated by a is indicated by a veedermeter fitted in the front. The unit also contains many

useful sparce including Moving Coil Meter. Limi-ted quantity only, price 12/6 each, post and ins. 3/6

PHILCO STEREO RECORD PLAYER CABINET



at London branches.



BRAYHEAD TURRET TUNER

complete with Band 1 and Band 3 coils. New but removed from unused equipment. Less valves 15/- each or with valves 25/- each. Post 2/6.

Knobs 3/6 extra.

Morganite Potentiometers

Single and 2-gang types available
Standard size with good length
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Single types, 1/- each. values
available: 5K, 10K, 25K, 50K,
10K, 25K, 50K,
10K, 25K, 10K, 2 meg.
Gang type 3/- each—values available: 5K+5K, 10K+10K+ meg. ±
hmeg. 2 meg. ± 2 meg.

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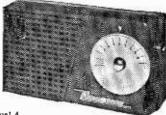
- Transistor output transformer, to match OCS1 into 3 ohm, 4/8.
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- Set of coils for Long and Medium Wave radio with circuit, 5/6.
- lin. spindle connectors, metal with grub screws, 4/6 per doz.
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 - Resistors, 1½ watt 100 assorted com-prise two each of 50 values covers good range up to 2 meg., 10/-.
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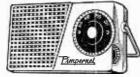
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AMPLIFIER. 300 milliwatts pull output using two OC71 and two OC72 transistors. Fully assembled. 69/6. Knobs, 3/6 extra. P. & P. 2/6.

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Now using printed circuit and supplied with miniature earphone for personal listening at no extra cost.

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- Brand new and unused in original
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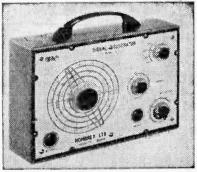
- ★ Compact and portable—only $6\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$
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FREE TRANSIT IN-SURANCE, All valves are new or of fully guaranteed ex-Government or ex-equipment origin. Satisfaction or Money back Guarantee on goods if returned un-used within 14 days.

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HIGHEST QUALITY-COMPARE OUR PRICES

GUARANTEED

MOST MULLARD MAZDA COSSOR SCOPE, BRIMAR, FERRANTI TYPES. PROCESSED IN OUR OWN FAC-TORY.

Guaranteed Guaranteed NEW TYPES 12in. £2. 0.0 £3. 5.0 £2.10.0 £3.15.0 14in.

MW 86/94 £5-0-0 15/17in.£3. 5.0 £4.10.0 CRM 172 MW 48/64 £6-0-0

13 CHANNEL T.V.s Table Models. Famous Makes. Absolutely Complete. These sets are unequalled in value due to huge purchase direct from source. They are untested, and not guaranteed to be in working

Carr. etc., 15/-

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CO-AX standard and low loss, 25 yds., 18/6; 50 yds., 22/6; 100 yds., 42/6. Co-ax Plugs 1/8. Wall outlet boxes 3/6.

r.v.c. CONNECTING WIRE. 100 yds., 30 mll: Special Price 7/6. 200 yds., 30 mil: special price, 12/6. 25tt. Coil, 1/-, 5 Coils different colours, 4/-.

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CONDENSERS. 25 mixed. Electrolytic. Many popular sizes. List value £5. Our price 10/-.

UA20 AUTOCHANGERS. Latest B.S.R. 10 mixed records, Brand new Unrepeatable 26.19.0, Also UA14, "A Proven Choice", 27.19.0. P.P. '4/-.

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TAG STRIPS. From 3 way to 12 way. Mixed parcels of 25—3/9. The best and cheapest way to buy!

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TRAV-LER TAPE RECORDER Superior, Transistorized, Portable Fast Rewind, Built-in High Output Speaker. Unrepeatable, Listed 29 gns. OUR PRICE 15 gns.

MICROPHONES. "Eagle" 100C,
With stand 48/8
T.S.L. Crystal Stick ... do. 35/-With T.S.L. Crystal Stick "Jennen-Crown" M.C.-110 B.M.-3 Crystal "Eagle" Lapel Mike "Romagna" Crystal Mike 85/-45/-55/do. do.

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"Pifoo" wit SOLDERING IRONS. "Pi built-in Searchlight, 22/-. with angled bit, 16/9.

ACCUMULATORS, 1 Cell, 2 v. 3-5 amps, 3/n, 12 Cells 24 v. in Teak Case, 27/6. 3/-. 12 P.P. 2/6.

TRANSISTORS. Red Spot 3/6 ca. White Spot 4/6 ca. Yellow Spot 2/8 ca. Germanium dlodes 8d. ca. 8/- doz. 710K-UP CARTRIDGES. "Acno" 65.5, 23/6. "Sonotone", 17/-. "Stelg and Reuter", 17/8. Power Point, 17/-.

GET 15. G.E.C. high power, contact cooled, manufacturers matched pair transistors, with push-pull input and output transformers. Knock out price 29/-. P.P. 1/6.

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METERS. 0-25 amp. 9/-, 0-300 milliamps. 12/6, 0-500 m.a., 12/6, 0-30 m.a., 12/6, 0-1 m.a., 25/-, 0-50 micro-amps.

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ALL WAVE TRANSISTOR. Terrifically wave Thansistus. Terrifically sensitive on short wave. Due to fortunate purchase, we can offer at 18 gas. ONLY.

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EB91	4/6 ECL80	9/6 EM81	10/6 PL81	11/- UCC84	10/11 INS	10/6 6AM5	7/6 6L18	11/6 10F1	12/6 36L6GT 10/-
EBC41	8/9 ECL82	10/6 EY51	9/6 PL82	8/6 UCC85	9/6 IRS	7/6 6AM6	4'- 6Q7G	7/6 12AH8	12/- 35Z4GT 8/-
	9/9 ECL83	15/- EY86	10/- PL83	9/6 UCH42		6/6 6AOS	7/6 65N7G	7/6 12AT7	7/6 35Z5GT 9/6
EBF80									8/- 80 8/6
ECC81	8/- EF41	9/6 EZ40	7/6 PL84	9/6 UCH81	9/61 IT4	5/6 6AT6	8/6 6U4GT	12/- 12AU7	8/-180 8/8
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OC44	11/-	OC8I	8/-
OC45	10/-	OC84	11/-
OC70	616	OC170	13/6
OC7I	6/6	OC171	14/6
OC72	8/-	V6/2R	9/3
OC73	16/-		
OC75	8/-	PXI02	5/-
OC77	8/_	XB102	7/6
G.E.C. 51	similar to C	C72 3/6.	

Matched pairs-2xOC72 16/-. 2xOC78 16/-.

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OA70	3/_	OA73		OA79	
OA8I	3/-	OA85	3/	OA91	3/6
OA95	3/6	CG6E	4/-	CG12E	
GEX34		GD9	4/-	GD4	4/_
BTH X	D201	1/-,		_	
Set of	six tr	ansistor	s, la	x OC44,	2 x
OC45,	I x O	C81D, 2	× O	C81, 37/6	set.

METAL RECTIFIERS Battery Charger Types, 12 volt. 2 amp 7/-, 3 amp 10/-, 4 amp 12/6, 5 amp 14/6.

MICROPHONES Mic. 39/1. Stick Type 37/6. Table Stand for above 7/6. TSL Stick Microphone MX3 35'-Acos Mic.40 19/6. Acos Mic.45 29/6. Microphone Model BM3 45/-. Table Stand to suit above 12/6.

RECORD PLAYER CASES Baseboard cut suitable for a BSR UAI4. available in red, turquoise, grey and black/yellow. 63%-each. available Amplifier and Loudspeaker to suit above, 7916.

RECORDING TAPE Sin. reel, 600ft., Acetate	21/-
7in. reel, 1200ft., Acetate 7in. reel, 1800ft., PVC	

Transistor Driver and Output Transformers, 10/6 pair.

Small Reset Counter by Veeder Root Ltd., up to 999, 12/- each.

Caby Multi-Range Test Meter Model M1. A.C./D.C. 6 v., 30 v., 120 v., 600 v., 1200 v. D.C. amps 30 m/a: 300 m/a. Resistance O-10,000 ohms. Price 54., inclusive of test prods, instructions and batteries.

Westinghouse Contact Cooled Recti-fier. I6RD 2-2-7-1, 5/-.

MULTI-RANGE TEST METERS Pifco All in One Radio Meter, 32/6. Test Master Model 200H, 20,000 ohms per volt, £6.19.6.

Caby Model A10, £4.17.0. Caby Model B20, £6.10.0. Taylor Model 127A, £10.10.0.

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FOR WHICH PLEASE ATTACH
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Westinghouse LW13, 17/6. LW9, 16/6.

Mains Transformer, 250 HT Sec. Half wave. Standard primary 240 v., 6.3 v., I amp LT, 10'- each.

Pick-up Cartridges—B5R TC8H, 29/9, B5R TC8M, 29/9, B5R TC85, 45/1. Acos GP67/1, 23/9, Acos GP67/2, 23/9, Acos 73/1, 32/6, Garrard GC2, 23/3, Garrard GC8, 20/3, Garrard GC510, 34/6, Garrard EV26, 37/8, Philips AG3016, 21/-, Philips AG3063, 30/-, Ronette for Collaro Studio P, T and O, 39/9.

Repanco Miniature Doubled Tuned I.F. Transformers. 455 to 475 Kc/s, boxed Transformers. 455 to with circuit, 6/9 each.

EMI 9 v. battery operated 4 speed turntable unit, complete with pick-up heavy 82in. diameter metal turntable, ivory finish with red turntable mat., £5.9.6.

CHI, 2.5 millihenry choke, wound on Ferrite Core with wire ends, 2'6.

Repanco New Range of Miniature Transistor Transformers, $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{8} \times \frac{3}{8}$ in. IT45 Driver Transformer, 51- each. 1746 Push-pull output transformer to a 3 ohm speaker, 5/- each. TT47 Driver transformer, for single ended output stage, matching to a 35 ohm speaker, 5/- each.

TT49 L.F. coupling transformer, 5/- each.

"PRACTICAL WIRELESS" POCKET TRANSISTOR SUPERHET
TRANSISTOR SUPERHET
The New Yersion in a re-designed Cabinet with Carrying Strap.
Components Price List: Coil Set (Osc. and 3 I.F.'s), 221-; Driver Transformer, Type PW/DT, 81-; Ferrite Rod Aerial, Type PW/OT, 81-; Ferrite Rod Aerial, Type PW/FR, 86; Printed Circuit Board, 716; 2 Gang Capacitor, Type '00', 1216; Volume Control, Type Vc. 1545, 81-; Switch, 316; Hardware (Screws, nuts, washers, spacers, battery clips, cable cradles, cable studs, cable strapping), 41-; Transistors, Type YC (Set of 6), Xtal Diode, Type GD9, 431-; Speaker, 17110; Case, 1216; Capacitors, 151-; Resistors, 51-; Trimmers, Type MT31/Aa (3 required), 379; Constructional leaflet and "Blown-up" circuit diagram, 116. COMPLETE KIT £7.19.6.

Heater Transformer, Standard 240 v. primary 6.3 volt 1½ amp., 6'9. 6.3 volt 3 amp, 10'-.

Output Transformers: 10,000/3 ohms 40 mA, 4/6; 5,000/3 ohms 40 mA, 4/6; 5,000/3 ohms 5/9.

Weymouth Transistor Coils. P50/IAC Osc., 5/4; P50/2CC I.F., 5/7; P/50/3CC I.F.,

Printed Circuit Board, 9/-; Drive ransformer, 9/3; Ferrite Rod RA2W, 12/6.

Clarostat Potentiometer, Type 37, less switch, values from 5K ohm to 2 Meg., 2/10 each. As above with DPs, 4/6 each.

Write for detailed price list of components for circuits described in this magazine.

TERMS: Cash with Order or C.O.D. Postage and Packing Charges extra. rostage and racking Charges extra-Single valves 9d., Minimum Parcel Post charges 2'-. Please include sufficient postage with your order. Minimum C.O.D. fees and postage 3'6. These Postal Rates apply to U.K. only. For full terms of business See inside cover of catalogue. Personal shoppers 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. to Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to I p.m.



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For use with the MULLARD 2-valve pre-amplifier with which undistorted power output of up to 10 watts is obtained. We supply SPECIFIED COMPONENTS AND NEW MULLARD VALVES, including PARMEKO MAINS TRANSFORMER and choice of the latest Ultra-Linear PARMEKO or the PARTRIDGE Output Transformer, COMPLETE KIT OF PARTS (FARMEKO Output Trans.).



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MULLARD'S PREAMPLIFIER TONE CONTROL UNIT

Employing two EF86 valves, and designed to operate with the MULLARD MAIN AMPLIFIERS, but also per-fectly suitable for other makes. PRICE COMPLETE \$6.6.0 ASSEMBLED AND TO KUTS OF PARTS

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PRICE COMPLETE \$6.6.0 ASSEMBLED AND TESTED \$8.0.0 KITS OF PARTS Supplied strictly to MULLARD'S SPECIFICATION and incorporating:

• Equalisation for the latest E.I.A.A. characteristics.
• Input for Crystal Pick-ups, and variable reluctance magnetic types.
• Input (a) Direct from High Imp. Tape Head. (b) From a Tape Amplifier or Pre-Amplifier,
• Sensitive Microphone Channel. • Wide range BASS and TREBLE Controls.

COMPLETE MULLARD "5-10" AMPLIFIER

The popular and very successful complete "5-10" incorporating Control Unit providing up to 10 watts high quality reproduction. Only Specified Components and new MULLARD VALVES are supplied including PARMEKO MAINS TEANSFORMERS and choice of the latest PARMEKO or PARTRIDGE ULTRA-Linear Output Transformers.

KIT OF £11.10.0 OR ASSEMBLED £13.10.0

H.P. Dep. £2.6.0, 12 months at 17/-. Dep. £2.14.0 12 months at 19/10

ABOVE incorporating PARTRIDGE OUTPUT TRANS, £1.6.0 extra-



COMPLETE MULLARD "3-3"

THE IDEAL AMPLIPIER FOR A SMALL HIGH QUALITY INSTALLATION PROVIDING EXCELLENT REPRODUCTION OF UP TO 3 WATTS OUTPUT COMPLETE KIT 27.10.0 OR ASSEMBLED 28.19.6 (plus 6/8 carriage and insurance) H.P. Terms: Deposit 22.0.0 cand 8 months at 21.0.0. Complete to MULLARD'S SPECIFICATION including Mullard valves and a PARMEKO OUTPUT TRANSFORMER.

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A small versatile Unit employing the new MULLARD ECL86 valve and designed to provide two (or three) way conversation up to extreme distances. Operates from A.C. mains 200 to 250 Volts.

PRICES . . . MASTER UNIT and ONE EXTENSION

KIT OF PARTS £6.17.6 ASSEMBLED AND TESTED £8.0.0 Consists of a MASTER UNIT, size only 8½ x 5½ x 6in, and ONE EXTENSION (a second extension may be added to any time). The Master Unit incorporates switching and power supply and with the chassis completely isolated from the mains is operated in absolute safety. Cases covered in quality leatherette.

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FULL RANGE IN STOCK. please enclose S.A.E. for leaflets.

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£44.15.0

Deposit £9.0.0, 12 months at £3.5.7

The most complete chassis ever produced, combines a M and FM Tuners, a Stereo Control Unit and two High Fidelity Amplifiers in one compact unit, provide a total of 18 watts for both mono and stereo, Other features include: inputs for tape recording, play back, pick-ups and stereo radio (should this come about): separate wide range bass and treble controls and balance control.

STEREO 55

£33.15.0

Deposit £6.15.0, 12 months at £2.9.6 A junior version of the Stereo 12 Mk. 2 providing ten watts output five watts from each amplifier and covering the VHF and Medium

COMBINED ORDER PRICE REDUCTIONS

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The NEW COLLARO C60 4-speed Autochanger unit with Studio "O" Pick-up..... 27.19.6 The E.M.I. 4-speed Single Record Player with crystal Pick- \$6 9 6

£6.9.6 STEREO Pick-up, plays £8.13.10 GARRARD MODEL TA/MkII 4speed Player fitted high
output Crystal Pick-up.

\$8.10.0

GARRARD MODEL RC210. Auto-changer 4-speeds. High output. Crystal Pick-up. 29.19.6 Carriage and Insurance on each above 5/- extra.

SPECIAL CASH OFFER

This very attractive PORTABLE AM-PLIFIER CASE together with a good quality GRAM AMPLIFIER and a matched P.M. SPEAKER. ALL for ONLY 28.7.6 (Plus 7/6 Carr. & Ins.)

The Amplifier consists of a 2-stage de-sign incorporating 3 modern B.V.A. valves and has separate BASS and TREBLE CONTROLS.

The Portable Case will also accommodate almost any make of Autochanger and is attractively finished in Mushroom Grey Rexine. WE ALSO SUPPLY SEFARATELY—(a) The 2-stage (plus Rectifier) AMPLIFIER \$4.2.4 £4.2.6

(b) The PORTABLE CARRYING CASE

£3.17.6

(c) 6iin. P.M. SPEAKER 18/9. Carriage and Insurance 4/- extra. MULLARD FOUR CHANNEL MIXER UNIT

Self powered with Cathode follower output. Incorporates Two inputs for MICROPHONES One for CRYSTAL PICK UP and a fourth for RADIO or TAPE

£8.8.0 Complete Kit of Parts Assembled and Tested £10.0.0

Assembled and select TERMS: Deposit £2 and 12 months at 15/-. MODEL I.L. one microphone input matched for moving coil or Ribbon Mike. £1.17.0 extra.

JUBILEE MK. 2 £31.15.0

Deposit £6.7.0 12 months at £2.6.7 A Hi-Fi mono chassis giving eight watts push-pull output and covering VHF, medium and long bands. Tape recording and play back inputs.

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May, 1962

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This newly developed range of Truvox equipment is the fruit of more than twelve year experience in fulfilling the requirements of the enthus astic listener to recorded sound The precise construction and finish of the range ensures an outstanding performance. Complete Recorders, Decks and Tape Units—signal the entry of Truyox into the four-track Top quality allied to economy, is the result of this development programme.

MODEL R82

A complete Twin Track MONO £57.15.0
PORTABLE TAPE RECORDER
Deposit £11.11.0, and 12 months of £4.4-6

A complete Four Track Mono
Portable Tape Recorder incorporating outputs **£61.19.0**for STEREO reproduction.
Deposit £12.8.0, and 12 months of £4.10.10.

Two Recorders, beautifully styled; equipped with every modern (eature and (actility, 7in. reek., interlocked sush buttons, input mixins, superimposition, auto-stop, instant mechanical brakes, fast wind and rewind. Twin independent inputs, 4 watts output. 3 ohm and 15 ohm ext. speaker matching, two hi-fi connections and monitor speaker switch. (Stereo outlet on R.34 models).

Recorders supplied with 1200 ft, tape, spare reel, stick microphone and recording lead.

"SERIES 80" TAPE DECKS are available separately MODEL D82

Incorporating TWIN TRACK £26.5.0 HEADS Deposit £5.5.0, and 12 months at £3.11.10.

MODEL D84

MODEL D84

With FOUR TRACK HEADS
and Track Switch for MONO/STEREO operation
Deposit \$8.0,0. and 12 months of \$22.21.

These decks are ruggedly constructed, boautifully styled and precision engineered for outstanding dependability. Three motors, 7ln. reels, speed selector/of switch for 74 and 31 i.p.s. Instant mechanical brakes, fast wind and rewind 60 secs. per 1200 ft.). Push button operated with perfect interlock. Numerical counter, Pause lever, for short or long stops. Efficient hubloes for true and silent running of spools. Outstanding head performance, auto stop available as optional extra.

FULLY DESCRIPTIVE LEAFLETS FREELY AVAILABLE

MULLARD'S "10 PLUS 10"

STEREO POWER AMPLIFIER

A high fidelity design based on the famous Muliard "5-1)". Provides up to 16 watts (per channel) Superb

watts (per cname!) Supero reproduction. Frequency response flat to within 2 db from cys. to 60 Kc/s at 50Ww.
Total Harmonic Distortion at 10 watts 0.1%.
Total Harmonic Distortion at 10 watts 0.1%.
(a) ASSEMBLED COMPLETE AMPLIFIER, in cluding CONTROL UNIT (as Illustrated).....
Deposit £4.40, 12 months at £1.10.10.

THIS DESIGN. It is a should be assembled MAIN AMPLIFIER only (excludes control unit) for operation with our DUAL CHANNEL PREAMPLIFIER, this provides for a more versatile or elaborate installation and would be essential if a low output Magnetic Pick-Up, such as the Decca, is to be used.

PRICE:

(A) THE ASSEMBLED MAIN AMPLIFIER with the ASSEMBLED DUAL CHANNEL PREAMPLI-£30.0.0 FIER

£26.0.0

Please

MODEL PD82

Complete Twin
Track Mono Recorder-Preamplifier Unit
Deposit £8.8.0, and 12 months of £3.1.7. £42.0.0

MODEL PD84

Two self-contained units, self-powered to addfull tape facilities to existing sound reproducing installations (high fidelity equipment, radiograms, record reproducers, or good radio receivers). Comprising . Series 80 Tape Deck, plus integral record amplifier, play-back pre-amplifier and push-puli erase/blas oscillator, ready for easy connection.

The Unit is built to high fidel'ty standard. Frequency response is 40-20,000 c.p.s. at 74 i.p.s. and 40-12,000 c.p.s. at 31 i.p.s. Two independently controlled inputs for programme mixing. Superimposition for adding commentaries. Auto stop. Two output connections; 1 v. at 47K ohms and up to 10 v. at 250K ohms to match any ancillary equipment.

DUAL CHANNEL PREAMPLIFIER

Incorporates two Muliard 2-valve Preamplifiers combined into a Single unit enabling it to be used for both STEREOPHONIC or MONAURAL operation. It is designed primarily to operate with our range of MULLARD MAIN AMPLIFIERS but will also operate equality well with any make of Amplifiers requiring an input of 250 m/volts. COMPLETE KIT \$12.10.0 OF PARTS # 12.10.0 H.P. 22.10.0 & 12 mths, at 18/4

34

ASSEMBLED £15.0.0 AND TESTED £15.0.0 H.P. £3.0.0 & 12 mths. at £1.2.0

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50mW push-pull output. ★ Ferrite rod aerial.
Car aerial socket and coil. ★ M.W. and L.W. full coverage.
Operates on two 4.5v. cells. ★ Printed circuit board 8½ x 2in.
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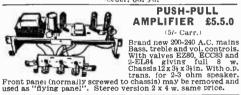
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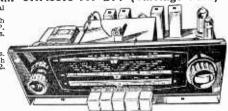
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Editorial and Advertisement Offices:
PRACTICAL WIRELESS
George Newnes Ltd., Tower House,
© George Newnes Ltd., 1962
Phone: Temple Bar 4363
Telegrams: Newnes, Rand, London, Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by Canadian Magazine Post.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES Including postage for one year
■ Inland £1.9.0 per annum ■
Abroad £1.7.6 per annum = Canada £1.5.0 per annum =
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OUR LATEST BLUEPRINT

VERY copy of this issue contains another free double-sided blueprint. The two sides cover Design No. 2-a twovalve mains TRF for the comparative beginner-and Design No. 5—a more advanced set, a transistorised battery superhet.

The Britannic Two is a straightforward receiver intended as an introduction to mains valve techniques and circuitry. Only two valves are used, with a metal rectifier for H.T. rectification. The first valve is however, two valves in one which makes the set in effect, a three-valve type. Whilst the simplicity of the circuit and construction makes the set suitable for those constructors who have only dealt with very simple sets so far, results are nevertheless very good even though long range reception of Continental stations cannot be expected.

The Mercury Six is a six-transistor superhet which has been designed to fit in a new and improved plastic case. The receiver is not of the miniature type and should be welcomed by those readers who are not confident of building a small pocket sized set. Also, the receiver is provided with a loudspeaker of larger size than usual—another feature which will be attractive to those constructors who find that the quality from miniature loudspeakers is not pleasing to their ear.

Both of these receivers cover both medium and long waves so that readers out of range of the medium wave Light Programme can hear it on long waves.

NEXT MONTH

We shall be including another free double-sided blueprint in every copy of the June issue—covering Design No. 3 and Design No. 6. The former. Design No. 3, is a seven-transistor pocket superhet and the latter a hi-fi switch-tuned F.M. tuner. demand for the June issue will be great; order your copy now.

CLUB REPORTS

We would like to remind club secretaries that they should send their reports in the style in which we print them. Although we always try to include all items of club news which are sent to us, the space which we can allow for them is limited and whenever we are forced to exclude one or two items, because of the lack of space, it is those which are badly written and not in our style which are left out. Therefore all news items should, if possible, be typed.

It should also be noted that reports should reach us well in advance of the date of publication. This means that we should receive notices not later than the 10th of the month for publication in the following month's issue. Secretaries should also take care to ensure that any "future events" listed will not have taken place when the issue is on sale.

We have always fostered the growth of the club movement and the space devoted to reports is entirely free. In return, we feel it is reasonable for secretaries to co-operate with us.

Our next issue dated June, will be published on May 4th.

Round the World of Wireless

POTENTIAL AND CURRENT NEWS

Broadcast Receiving Licences

THE following statement shows the approximate number of Broadcast Receiving Licences in force at the end of January, 1962, 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.

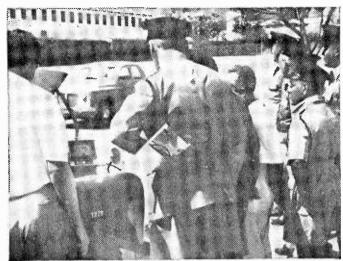
Region				Total
London			• •	653,563
Home Counties				602,615
Midland				445,070
North Eastern				471,348
North Western	•••			404.833
South Western	• •	• •		358,693
	**		• •	208.771
Wales and Border C	ount	les		208,711
Total England and Scotland Northern Ireland	Wales	5	:: 7	3,144,893 340,416 109,789
Grand Total		••	3	3,595,098

New Admiralty W/T Station in Mauritius

FOLLOWING the two big radio communication installations at the Admiralty W/T stations at Inskip and Forest Moor, Marconi's have now almost completed contracts in connection with a not her Admiralty station, this time in Mauritius.

The Mauritius project consists of a transmitting installation at Bigara, a receiving installation at Tombeau Bay and a communications centre at Vacoas.

Whilst George E. (Overseas) Ltd. are responsible to the Admiralty for the electrical and mechanical installation of the Mauritius station as the main contractor, and were responsible for the installation of all aerials, co-axial feeders and power cables, they have placed a sub-contract with Marconi's for the installation of the major portion of the radio equipment. A separate order has been entrusted to the directly company by Admiralty for "testing and put-ting to work". Nearly all the transmitting and receiving equipment, including the provision of VHF multichannel radio links for communication between the three sites, has been supplied by under separate Marconi's Admiralty contracts.



The police authorities in Aden are seen here at a demonstration of a Marconi traffic radar installation.

Traffic Radar

THE Portable Electronic Traffic Analyser (PETA) equipment by Marconi's is now in widespread use by the police forces of Britain. Thirty constabularies have purchased Marconi traffic radar and the majority of the equipments are in day-to-day use.

The steady growth of "Peta" sales—sixty-two sets have been sold to date—reflects the confidence of police authorities in the equipment as a saver of lives and a valuable aid in reducing the number of injury accidents on British roads.

The general police strategy is to use the radar speed check as a deterrent, and not as a trap. Motorists are usually warned by road signs placed prominently at county boundaries and in some cases also by notices displayed on either side of the actual monitoring point.

Denmark Frees Power Exchange

DENMARK'S intention to liberalise supplies of electricity from other Western European countries has been notified to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Organisation by the Danish Delegation. Denmark thus joins Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain,

Sweden and Switzerland, which already freely exchange supplies of electric power.

Free exchange of power between these countries takes two forms: "occasional" exchange, with the purpose of avoiding wastage of hydro-power or of providing emergency supplies to a network on which a technical breakdown has occurred; and "seasonal supplies", which electricity undertakings are not bound by contract to provide for more than six consecutive months.

Intercomm for Ferrying Aircraft

EIGHT sets of Ultra Electronics intercomm equipment have been ordered by Aviation Traders (Engineering) Ltd., for their ATL/98 "Carvair" aircraft.

The "Carvair", a DC4 conversion, has been ordered by Channel Air Bridge, a sister company of Aviation Traders (Engineering), who will operate the aircraft from next month on their car-ferry services to Rotterdam and also, from April, to Basle, Geneva and Strasburg.

Ultra Electronics Ltd., have previously supplied intercomms for ten other aircraft in the British United Airways group, to which Channel Air Bridge and Aviation Traders (Engineering) Ltd. belong.

Skylark Trials

TELEMETRY equipment made by Associated Electrical Industries Ltd. was used in a recent firing of a "Skylark" High Altitude Research Rocket in trials at the Woomera Range in Australia. The rocket was successfully fired to a height of over 80 miles and the instrumentation head subsequently recovered.

During the flight of the rocket valuable scientific data was transmitted to the ground by means of the AEI Type 450 Telemetry equipment used. This equipment functioned perfectly throughout the flight which was over 800

seconds in duration.

E.E.V. in Paris

AT the recent "Salon International des Composants Electroniques" held from 16th to 20th February, 1962, in Paris, the English Electric Valve Co. Ltd., was one of the exhibitors. The Company's French Agents, Etablissements Tranchant, Etablissements Tranchant, arranged the display of products. This included high power magnetrons, klystrons, television camera tubes, T.W.T.'s, power triodes and examples from the major part of the range of specialised valves and tubes manufactured by the English Electric Valve Co. Ltd.

Tour of Europe

IN a bid to increase its already substantial trade with Europe, Avo Limited of Westminster a Metal Industries Group subsidiary) is to send a demonstration van on an extended tour of Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The tour started on 16th March and will last until the end of May and possibly longer.

The complete range of Avo's electrical, electronic and nucleonic measuring intruments will be carried and demonstrations will be given to Government departments, technical colleges and industrial concerns.

Products in the nucleonic field will include radiation monitoring equipment, portable survey meters and D.C. amplifiers for the measurement of minute currents as sociated with ionisation chambers.

Electronic equipment on show will include valve characteristic meters, transistor analysers, valve voltmeters and signal generators.

Newfoundland-Canada Cable Link

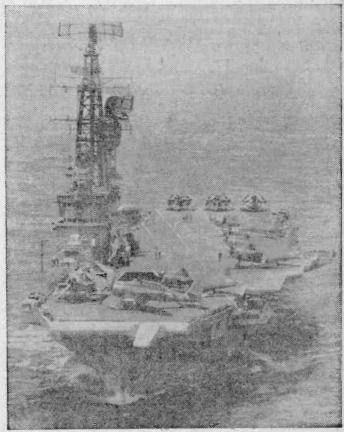
EQUIPMENT worth more than a quarter of a million pounds has been supplied by AEI for the Cantat B submarine cable system between Newfoundland and the Canadian mainland. This section of the round-the-world Commonwealth telephone cable project was recently inaugurated by the Queen. Installed at each end of this 450-mile link is AEI apparatus enabling up to 120 telephone conversations to take place simultaneously in the section, and equipment to feed power to the 20 submerged repeaters along the cable.

The submarine cable link, of which the terminal equipment forms a part, is the longest 120-channel link at present in existence. The terminal equipment has been supplied to the

order of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation by the Telecommunication Transmission Department of AEI Telecommunications Division. The equipment for power supply and cable frequency translation has been supplied by the same Department as subcontractors to Submarine Cables Limited (owned jointly by AEI and BICC), who have supplied and laid the submarine cable and repeaters.

Navy Order

A CONTRACT has been signed by Marconi's with the Royal Netherlands Navy for the supply of seventy-two 1kW broadband linear radio frequency amplifiers for the re-equipping of the fleet. These amplifiers are similar to those already being supplied in quantity to the British Admiralty.



H.NL.M. aircraft carrier "Karel Doorman", the keyship of the Royal Netherlands Navy (see "Navy-Order" above).

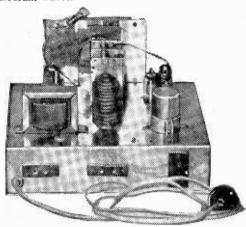
HE receiver uses comparatively few components and is easy to construct, yet the specification is kept as simple as possible consistent with good results so that the novice constructor can attempt the design with confidence.

Circuit Details

The principle of "straight" TRF radio circuitry, rather than the superhet type, is the choice in this design, but, in a great many locations, the use of a single tuned circuit between the aerial and the detector valve, even when reaction is used, is incapable of satisfactory separation of closely spaced stations, particularly on the medium waveband after dark. A stage of tuned R.F. amplification is therefore essential, and the use of a modern "double" valve, the ECF80, which comprises an R.F. pentode and triode in one envelope, enables the functions of R.F. amplifier and grid leak detector to be combined in the first valve (V1 of Fig. 1—see Blueprint 2).

The demodulated output, which also receives a degree of A.F. amplification in the triode section of VI, is then fed by resistance-capacity coupling to the high slope output valve V2, which is an EL84. It will be found that this combination gives adequate volume from local BBC stations and the principal Continental transmitters on long and

medium waves.



A view of the completed receiver.

Variable volume control is provided by VR1 between the detector and output stages, and a simple but effective "top-cut" tone control is provided in the output circuit of V2 by means of VR2 and C8; this, of course, is operative on both "radio" and "gram" reproduction.

Switching

Wavechange switching is accomplished by two poles "a" and "b" of the 4-pole, 3-way switch S1. In the "Long Wave" position, the switches across the R.F. and detector coils L1 and L2 are "open", and the whole of the tuned winding is in circuit. In the "Medium Wave" position, both switches are "closed", thus retaining in circuit the

Practical Wireless BRITANNIC

A TWO-VALVE MAINS TRF FOR THE BEGINNER

parts of the inductances of L1 and L2 required for medium waveband coverage. In the third, "gram" position, S1a and S1b are again in the "open" (Long Wave) position, as the risk of radio break-through by induction between wiring is less likely in this position. The third "pole" of the function switch—S1c—simultaneously, performs the switching from "radio" to "gram". In the M.W. and L.W. position, the control grid of the triode portion of V1 is connected to the grid leak capacitor C5, thus giving radio reception, but in the third, "gram" position, the control grid is connected to the "live" side of the gramophone pick-up input (the other side of the gram input being connected to the chassis line of the receiver permanently).

In order to ensure maximum efficiency and distortion-free amplification of the triode section of VI when working on "gram", the fourth pole of the function switch—SId—is arranged to disconnect the valve cathode from "earth", as used in the "grid leak detector" method of working, and to switch in the self-biasing resistor/capacitor combination R4 and C4. Although this may sound a little complicated, in actual practice it is not at all difficult to wire up, and by referring to Figs. 2, 3, and 5 (on Blueprint 2) the constructor should

experience no difficulty.

Equalisation

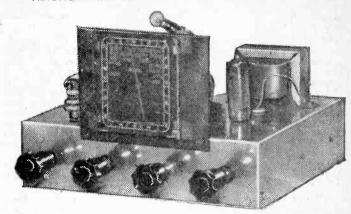
As there is ample amplification available, a fixed frequency correction circuit, comprising C11, C12, R7 and R8, is wired across the pick-up input sockets. This will be found to give a good compromise compensation for most types of records, particularly the modern L.P.'s and E.P.'s, but of course there is no reason why the constructor should not experiment with circuit values at this point, or indeed incorporate a different type of frequency correction circuit.

In some areas, where the general level of radio signal strengths is low, the need may be felt for some slight increase in sensitivity, and this can be very simply arranged by deliberately introducing a fixed amount of "positive feedback" (reaction) between the detector and R.F. stages. To do this, a short length, say 3in., of plastic-covered flex



TWO

By J. B. Willmott



should be soldered to each of the top contacts (fixed plates) of VC1 and VC2, and twisted together. If the wires are twisted together until the receiver is just on the point of sustained oscillation at the highest wavelength (condenser vanes fully meshed) on the medium waveband, a very useful increase in gain will be obtained on all wavelengths.

Power Requirements

The power supply arrangements, in view of the economical current consumption of a receiver of this type, are very simple. A double wound mains transformer, of the type used in small "gram amplifiers" or TV pre-amplifiers, will be adequate. Half-wave rectification is by means of metal rectifier MR1 and smoothing is carried out by the resistor R6 and double-section electrolytic C9A and C9B; it will thus be found that the hum level of the completed receiver is

very low. The chassis measures 10in. x 8in. x 2½in., this being a standard size readily obtainable from several suppliers; all positions and sizes of holes to be drilled are given in Fig. 8, but some will depend on the particular parts purchased. This work can be carried out with an ordinary hand drill, with bits to suit 4B.A. and 6B.A. clearance holes; the 3 in. control spindle and lead carrying holes are most easily made with a chassis punch of the appropriate size, as are the two lin, holes to accommodate the valveholders. However, if punches are not available, a smaller hole (or holes) can be drilled in the desired position, and enlarged with a round file.

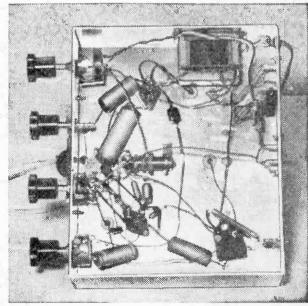
Marking Out the Chassis

It is a good plan to use the mains transformer and the valveholders as "templates" when marking out their fixing holes, and care should be taken to ensure that the orientation of the valveholders is such that short and direct wiring will be facilitated (see Fig. 2).

Having completed the drilling, check with Figs. 2, 3 and 8 to see that nothing has been overlooked — there are few things more annoying than to find that

when most of the components have been bolted down, a vital hole has been missed, and everything has to come off to allow drilling to take place.

It is recommended that the components be mounted in the following order: first of all the valveholders for V1 and V2. These are secured with 6B.A. bolts and nuts, and a soldering tag should be included on the bolt nearest pins 1 and 9 in each case. Next mount the 2-gang tuning capacitor VC1 and 2, using 4B.A. bolts and nuts. Always handle this component with the vanes fully meshed, to lessen the risk of damage. Now insert the cord spindle drive, volume control, tone control, and switch S1 through their respective holes in the front runner of the chassis, securing them tightly in place with the nuts provided. Place the drive drum on the tuning capacitor spindle, so that its groove is in line with the driving cord holes in



An under-chassis view.

the chassis. Hook the tension spring on to the drive drum (see Fig. 7), and thread the drive cord as shown, not forgetting to pass it twice round the drive spindle to ensure a firm "drive" without slipping. Knot the cord so that the tension spring is slightly extended, then test the movement of the whole mechanism. It should be possible to swing the tuning condenser from the fully open to fully meshed position with no binding or slipping. The metal scaleplate can now be fitted, making sure that the condenser spindle passes cleanly through the central hole provided, and the pointer fixed on the tuning capacitor spindle. Adjust the pointer so that it lies exactly horizontal when the plates of the condenser are fully meshed. The glass is fixed to the inside of the cabinet when the receiver is completed, or, alternatively, simple clamps can be made up from springy brass, and

bolted to corner holes in the dial backplate, so as to hold the glass in position when the receiver is out of its cabinet. (The dial and drive assembly can be obtained from the makers of the coils L1 and L2—Osmor Radio Ltd., 418 Brighton Road, South Croydon, Surrey.)

Returning now to assembly of components, the next item to be bolted down should be the mains transformer. This can be followed by the metal rectifier, which should be mounted as shown in Fig. 3, and the double electrolytic C9A/B, secured by its fixing clip, on top of the chassis with its connecting tag projecting below. The aerial/earth socket strip and the input sockets for the gram input can now be mounted on the rear chassis runner and also the loudspeaker sockets. Next, mount the tuning coils. The aerial coil (L1) is mounted above the chassis, and the detector coil (L2) below

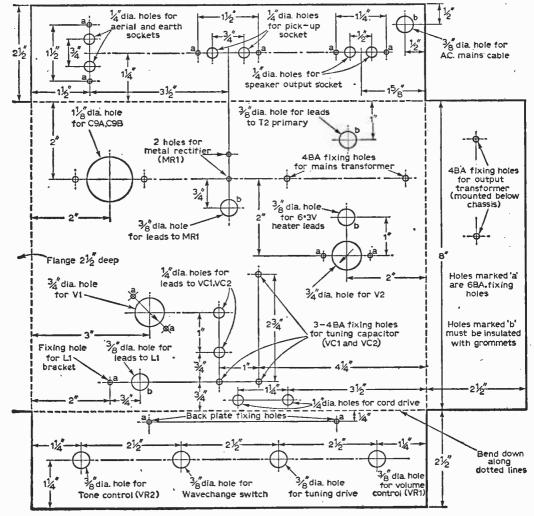


Fig. 8—The chassis drilling details.

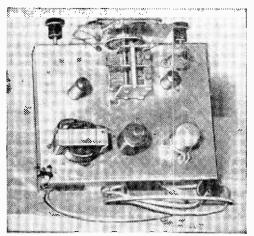
the chassis to minimise risk of unwanted interaction. Both coils are mounted on an aluminium

bracket (see Fig. 6).

Finally, mount the loudspeaker output transformer in the position shown. Check that everything is in place, and that the valveholders and coil tags are orientated as shown in Fig. 2.

Wiring Considerations

Wiring is straightforward for the most part, but certain points are worthy of note. The electrolytic condensers must be connected with their correct polarity, and this is given both in Fig. I, the circuit diagram, and in Fig. 2, the underchassis wiring diagram. The double electrolytic condenser



An above-chassis view.

C9A/B will be found to have a red tag and a yellow tag—the red tag is the positive connection of C9B and is connected to MR1 and R6, and the yellow tag is the positive tag of C9A and is connected to R3, R10, R1, etc.

Certain leads associated with V1B and V2 need to be made with screened cables-proper audio screened cable should be used rather than television coaxial cable. These screened cables are clearly indicated in both Figs. I and 2.

The wiring of S1 is shown in Fig. 5, rather than on Fig. 2, in order to clarify the connections needed; wires going to S1 in Fig. 2 have been

shown with arrowheads.

Each connection made when wiring up the receiver should be "ticked off" on the circuit diagram as it is made to reduce the risk of wiring errors. When wiring has been completed, but before switching on the set, it is advisable to check with an ohmmeter that there are no short circuits existing between the H.T. positive line yellow tag of C9) and chassis, and that the mains and output transformer windings have been correctly indentified and wired.

Testing the Set

Connect a suitable loudspeaker to the "L.S." sockets; a good quality 8in, diameter component is well worth while, as the standard of reproduction obtainable from this simple receiver is of a high order, particularly on "gram". Turn the wave-

change switch fully anti-clockwise (to the "gram" position), insert VI in the left-hand valveholder, and V2 in the right-hand one. Insert the mains plug, and switch on by operating VR1 until the switch "clicks". The pilot bulb should light up immediately, and in a few seconds, the heaters of V1 and V2 should be seen to glow normally.

Advance the volume control to about half-way, and touch the blade of a screwdriver on the "live" pick-up socket. A loud hum should be heard from the loudspeaker. On turning the wavechange switch to either of the other two positions (Medium or Long Wave Radio) this hum should cease, whilst operation of the tone control VR2 should enable a perceptible change in "pitch" of the hum to be discerned.

Alignment

First connect an aerial and earth to the sockets at the rear of the set. Turn SI to the Medium Wave position and tune to a station at the high wavelength end of the scale-in the evenings, the Third Programme on 464m would be suitable. Adjust the core in L2 so that the chosen programme is received at its correct position on the tuning scale. Then, adjust the core in L1 for maximum volume.

Tune to a station at the low wavelength end of the scale—for example, the Light Programme on 247m or Radio Luxembourg on 208m. Now adjust the trimmer (TC2) on top of VC2 so that the chosen station tunes in its correct position on the tuning scale. Then, adjust TC1 (the trimmer on top of VC1) for maximum volume.

The above two sets of adjustments at the high and low wavelengths ends of the tuning scale should now be repeated until the stations at each end tune at about their correct positions on the tuning scale.

When this Medium Wave alignment has been completed, it should be found, on switching to Long Waves, that the Light Programme on 1,500m

tunes at about the correct position.

If there are any signs of R.F. instability, i.e., a tendency for the receiver to go into uncontrollable oscillation at certain (or perhaps all) settings of the dial, this indicates unwanted coupling between the R.F. amplifier and detector circuits, resulting from closely coupled wiring. Owing to the fact that all connections to both "halves" of V1 are brought out at the base, a little more care in wiring, to ensure separation of grid and anode connections, is necessary than when using the older "octal" type valves with top grid connections. If tidying up the wiring fails to secure stability; the effect of increasing R2 to 1.5k or even 2k can be tried. An increase of R1 to 100k can also be tried, although in both cases there will be some slight loss of sensitivity. Naturally, a simple TRF circuit of this sort can only be expected to "pull in" the more powerful broadcasting stations, and this it will do on a simple indoor aerial of the picture rail variety.

Having checked the receiver for satisfactory radio operation, the way is now clear for a trial run connected to a suitable gramophone pick-up, preferably a high output crystal type, when an extremely pleasing standard of reproduction should be obtained, with an output more than adequate for domestic requirements.

How to make

C. AMMETERS

USING READILY AVAILABLE TRANSFORMERS TO GIVE LINEAR SCALES ON HOME-**BUILT METERS**

By S. W. Hunt

T is a great advantage to be able to measure alternating current accurately in the experimenter's workshop. Conventional A.C. ammeters are usually either of the moving-iron type, or of the hot-wire or thermocouple types. All of these have the great disadvantage of a very cramped scale at the beginning, and thereafter a rather extended scale, so that the useful range within the calibration of any instrument is rather limited. The moving-iron instruments have the further great disadvantage that they are all too often incapable of being calibrated with any scale having more than a few indicatory figures. This is because the pointer-movement of the cheaper moving-iron meters likely to be found in the hands of the amateur is almost always rather ill-defined. The familiar cheap pocket-voltmeters and milliammeters, with prods direct on the round case, are nearly always of this inferior moving-iron type, and the reader will be familiar with the fact that little more than indicatory readings are possible with such instruments.

Applications

There are many applications where such primitive alternating current meters are inadequate. As examples, the following may be mentioned:

(a) to check heater-currents of valves, especially in heater-chains;

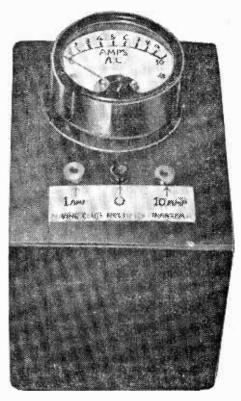
(b) to measure the current consumption of equipment connected to the A.C. mains:

(c) to measure the current consumption of A.C.

relays, motors, bells, buzzers, etc.
In all of these cases, reliable indications on a clear scale are required, and this scale should be as linear as possible—i.e., equal increases of current should produce equal increases of deflection at all parts of the scale.

To meet these requirements, it is desirable to be able to adapt a moving-coil meter, to read A.C. amps on a linear scale. This feature is not normally included on commercial nor amateur multimeters; such meters very often have A.C. volts ranges, but no A.C. amps ranges. This article describes the method of adaptation of a moving-coil meter to read A.C. amps. The discussion will be in three parts:

(a) general principle and method of calculating the size of the required components;



One of the author's completed instruments.

(b) description of the author's meter, having two ranges, 0 to 1A, and 0 to 10A A.C., using a 0.75mA f.s.d. moving-coil meter. This instrument will be described in detail, with calculations in full, as an example of the general principles outlined in (a);

(c) discussion of procedure to be adopted if the A.C. ammeter is to be in the form of an addition to an existing multimeter, instead of

being self-contained.

General Principles

An ammeter must have a very low net resistance, so that it does not hinder the current it measures. This means that the voltage drop across the ammeter must be very small—only a small fraction of a volt. This small voltage is not normally sufficient to operate a meter-rectifier properly; so that if a moving-coil meter with rectifier were simply connected across the calculated shunt, erratic readings, very non-linear readings, or no readings at all would be obtained. This is the reason why such ranges are normally absent on familiar multimeters.

It is thus essential to use a voltage of about 1 to 5, for proper operation of a meter-rectifier, but to keep to a mere fraction of a volt across the main current shunt from which the meter circuit is driven. The obvious solution to this problem lies in the use of a transformer between the shunt and the meter-rectifier. This must be a step-up transformer, and a ratio of 1:100 is normally adequate. The author has built several of these units, some as self-contained units (as described below), some as additions to existing multimeters, and one as a permanent fixture on the mains distribution panel in his workshop, indicating at all times the total mains current consumption in the workshop. For all of these instruments, a small heater transformer was used. A type with 230V primary and 6.3V secondary tapped at 4V, and rated at 1A or even less, is admirable for the purpose. There is no reason why the constructor should not use a much larger transformer out of the spares box if desired, except that this would make the meter unnecessarily clumsy. A miniature bell transformer would also serve the purpose, except that no ratio as high as 1:100 is normally present on such-but it would be a simple matter to reduce the number of turns on the secondary appropriately. It would also be quite in order to use a small output transformer, as long as a ratio of at least 1:100 is present on it. But, as said, the author has used small heater transformers throughout. Using the 4V and 6.3V tappings we have a 2.3V winding, which gives exactly the desired ratio of 1:100 with the 230V primary,

Complete Circuit

Fig. 1 now shows the complete circuit resulting from the above considerations. Voltages of the order of a twentieth of a volt from the main shunt R1 are stepped up to about five volts through the transformer. Using a moving-coil meter of 1mA f.s.d. after addition of the damper R3, and a value of 50000 for the multiplier, R2, these components together with the rectifier function as an A.C. voltmeter covering 0 to 5V. The damper R3 is essential, to provide electrical damping which causes the pointer of the meter to come to rest within a tolerable time, instead of swinging about for long periods. This damper should have a value of about two to three times the internal resistance of the meter. Together with the closed the meter it forms a closed circuit of relatively low resistance, which permits induced current from the meter to flow appreciably. Whilst the pointer of a moving-coil meter is still moving, the meter acts as a dynamo, generating a voltage. On closed circuit through R3, this voltage causes current to flow, and this current in turn will try to cause a meter deflection. This deflection will in the opposing sense to the pointer movement, which generated the current-i.e., it will tend to bring the pointer rapidly to rest, which was our purpose in including R3. Of course, such dampers reduce the net sensitivity of the meter, by the ordinary rules of shunting meters, but this has to be disregarded. The initial sensitivity of the meter must be adequate. A $500\mu A$ or $750\mu A$ meter shunted to 1mA f.s.d is normally ideal, and easily obtainable. A 2mA f.s.d. movement, shunted to about 3mA or 4mA f.s.d. by means of R3, is also usable. It is not advisable to use meters with an initial sensitivity poorer than 2mA f.s.d. as troubles with non-linearity are then likely. Meters with initial sensitivities better than 0.5mA f.s.d. are of course usable, but then more sensitive than necessary and thus unnecessarily fragile,

Calculating Component Values

Matters are not quite so simple as the above discussion would lead one to suppose. There are losses of voltage in the circuit which have to be allowed for in calculating exact circuit values for a practical meter. The chief and most serious of these losses are the voltage drops across the D.C. resistances of the transformer windings. These must be calculated, as shown below, and allowed for in calculating the required shunt R1. Less serious are losses due to the rectifier characteristic and magnetic leakage of the transformer. These are initially ignored, and then corrected for in the finished meter by means of making R2 a pre-set potentiometer, and adjusting this whilst the meter is operated in series with a standard meter, or with a known current. Lacking any better standard, the completed meter may be connected for this purpose in series with various mains appliances to

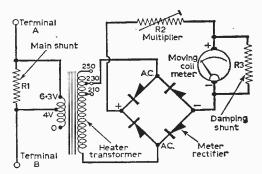


Fig. 1—The complete basic circuit of the A.C. ammeter described in this article.

the mains. For appliances of known wattage, the current is known. Alternatively, the completed meter may be connected in series with a resistance of a few ohms to a voltage supply of a few volts A.C. The voltage drop across the series resistance may be measured with an ordinary A.C. voltmeter, whence, by Ohm's Law, the current flowing in the circuit is known, and thus R2 can be set accordingly.

Equivalent Circuits

It is possible, for our present purposes, to represent our transformer as an "ideal perfect transformer" (perfect coupling, no leakage, zero D.C. resistances of windings)—with the "faults" of the actual transformer depicted by appropriate virtual external "components". Thus the resistors

R4 and R5 (Fig. 2) appear in series with the two windings, and represent (and are equal to) the respective D.C. resistances of the windings. These resistances R4 and R5 should be measured as accurately as possible, by means of passing a suitable direct current through them (do not exceed the rating of the transformer), and measuring the voltage drop produced, using a good millivoltmeter. The voltage drop (millivolts) divided by the current flowing (miniamps) gives the winding resistance in ohms.

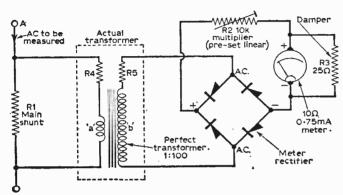


Fig. 2—The equivalent circuit of Fig. 1 for calculations. For f.s.d.: Winding 'b'—5V at 5000Ω impedance. Winding 'a'—0.05V at 0.5Ω impedance (= 100mA).

R5 is virtually in series with the actually present external resistor R2. The sum should be equal to 5k to give a 5V meter action with a 1mA f.s.d. meter. A meter of somewhat greater sensitivity than this must be used and shunted with R3 to give 1mA f.s.d. The author used a 0.75mA f.s.d. meter of 10Ω internal resistance, and made R3 equal to 25Ω . This gave near enough 1mA f.s.d.; great accuracy is not needed at this stage because final adjustment is made, as said, with R2, and several remaining errors can be corrected simultaneously with this.

Having proceeded thus far, we can reckon with 5V appearing at the winding "b" of the perfect transformer in Fig. 2 when the meter is showing full-scale. The perfect transformer is of ratio exactly 1:100 so that one twentieth of a volt exists across winding "a" of the perfect trans-

former for full scale deflection.

Now, as far as the main shunt R1 is concerned, we may replace the perfect transformer winding "a", and all subsequent resistance simply according to the normal rules of impedance transformation of a transformer, as will already be familiar from the matching of loudspeakers to output valves with a transformer. A transformer multiplies or divides the impedance by the square of the factor by which it multiplies or divides the voltage, i.e. by the square of its turns ratio. We have a circuit of 50001 connected to winding "b" of the perfect transformer, and the turns ratio is 100, thus the impedance ratio is 10,000. Thus the 5,000Ω appear divided by ten thousand at winding "a", i.e. as half an ohm. We may thus replace everything except R1 and R4 by a resistor of half

an ohm, across which we need one-twentieth of volt for full-scale deflection, i.e. 100mA must flow through it at full scale deflection.

The circuit has now come down to Fig. 3, it which everything is known except the main shun R1, which can therefore be calculated. The applic able formula appears with Fig. 3 also.

The following details of the meter built by the author, serve as an example of the principle outlined above. An A.P.W.2878 surplus mete movement was selected. This is a moving coi

meter with 10Ω internal resis and 0.75mA tance, full-scaldeflection. It is obtainable in surplus stores and bears square-law scale 0 to labelled "Radiation Meter". 2% 25Ω wire-wound resisto should be fitted as damper, R. which brings this meter to approx 1mA f.s.d. A 10k linea pre-set potentiometer is fitted a

A small half-amp heater trans former was used, and the main primary D.C. resistance wa about 250 Ω for this transformer and the D.C. resistance, R4 between the 4V and 6·3V tap was found to be 1·175 Ω .

The resulting value for the main shunt, R1, required for a 1/full-scale range, according to the formula in Fig. 3, thus come out of 0.186Ω . Now, a second

range, with 10A full-scale, was desired, it is use less to switch shunts, as the total impedance is so low that random contact resistance of the switch would cause erratic errors. Thus the 0.186Ω shun

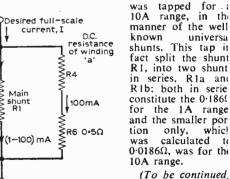


Fig. 3—The effective circuit for calculating the main shunt (winding 'a' of Fig. 3 has been replaced by 86)

shunt (winding 'a' of Fig. 3 has been replaced by R6).
Calculation of the main shunt:

R4 + R6 I - 100

R1 100

RI 100
Now R6 = 0.5Ω; therefore RI =
$$\left(\frac{100R4 + 50}{1 - 100}\right)$$

where I is the desired FSD current in mA, and R4 is the D.C. resistance of winding 'a' in Ω. (Obviously, I must be at least 100mA, which represents the maximum final sensitivity.)

How Transistors Work

By B. N. Rolfe

A BASIC NON-MATHEMATICAL EXPLANATION

T this stage it would, perhaps, be desirable to investigate in a little more detail the effect that temperature has on transistors. Much has been written about the temperature sensitivity of transistors and how excessive temperature, such as the heat from a soldering iron can ruin them. Also, how the heat from a bench lamp can alter the characteristics of a transistorised circuit and cause rather bewildering voltage and current readings during the course of fault tracing in a transistor receiver. All these things are perfectly true and should be heeded.

Ratings

Transistors possess what is known as a "maximum power rating", which applies essentially to the collector junction. This rating, of course, is the product of the collector current and voltage, and is rather like the anode power rating (or anode dissipation) of a valve. With a transistor, however, collector current and voltage are rather critical, and will be dealt with later.

The maximum power rating of the collector (often called maximum collector dissipation) is very much related to the temperature of the junction. It will be recalled from previous articles in this series that the collector junction is subjected to a reverse bias and that collector current flows only when there is a forward current in the base circuit.

When there is no base current, then there should be only very little collector current, and in fact, the collector current which exists at that time is called "reverse leakage current"—rather like the reverse current which occurs in an ordinary germanium diode when it is connected for reverse conduction.

This current is due essentially to "minority carriers" at the junction (these will be considered in detail later). However, when there is a forward current in the base/emitter junction there occurs a diffusion of "positive holes" into the collector/base junction, which have the effect of increasing the density of minority carriers and thus cause an increase in collector current. To a point, depending on the type of transistor, the collector current increases with increase in base/emitter current

Effect of Temperature on Minority Carriers

A perfect transistor junction would be one which passed no reverse current whatever. Unfortunately, the perfect is never possible, and there is an extra shortcoming in a transistor junction in that the reverse current increases with increase in temperature. Thus, if we consider a transistor circuit

(Continued from page 1138 of the April issue)

with zero base/emitter current with a microammeter in the collector circuit, as shown in Fig. 20, at normal room temperature there would be a small reverse leakage current, which, would increase considerably with increase of temperature of the transistor.

The maximum junction temperature for most small transistors is of the order of 75°C. At higher temperatures, the efficiency of the transistor falls and, as the temperature is still further increased, the transistor no longer behaves as a semi-conductor but turns into an ordinary conductor. This happens because a rise in temperature causes what is termed "thermal agitation" within the make-up of the germanium crystal. Electrons are freed from their normal orbits and thus contribute to current flow.

What is a Semi-conductor?

Before dealing with the more practical matters associated with transistors and their circuits, it will be instructive to consider a little of the theory of transistors, as this will help to a clearer understanding of the various factors discussed in the foregoing paragraphs.

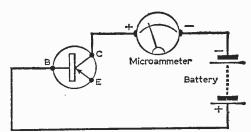


Fig. 20—At normal room temperatures, a small reverse leakage current flows in the base/collector junction when there is zero base/emitter current (see.text).

An ordinary thermionic valve requires a vacuum in which to operate; electrons are emitted by the cathode and are attracted to a positively charged anode through a vacuum. A control grid is inserted between the cathode and anode to control the flow of electrons and hence the anode current.

A transistor, on the other hand, does not require a vacuum, but works instead in a perfect insulator in which is introduced certain impurities as a means of controlling the flow of current. The perfect insulator used is usually germanium, which is a crystal, and in its perfectly pure state the electrons of each atom are tightly "bonded"

together. This means that there are no free electrons. It will be recalled that a flow of electricity constitutes a movement of free electrons in the conductor. Best conductors are those which have most free electrons, like copper, silver and similar metals, while the best insulators are those with the least free electrons, such as rubber, glass, mica, germanium and so on. The free electrons are caused to move in a conductor by its being subjected to a difference in electrical potential (in volts) between its ends. The free electrons then flow from negative to positive, since electrons are attracted by a positive charge. The idea is illustrated in Fig. 21.

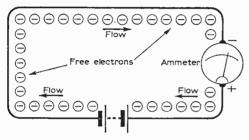
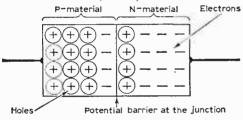


Fig. 21 (above)—Movement of free electrons constitutes a current of electricity.

Fig. 22 (below)—Operation of the crystal diode (see text).



There is no perfect insulator, but pure germanium approaches the ideal. Like all atoms, an atom of pure germanium features a central, positively charged, "nucleus" surrounded by electrons in orbit—rather like the planetary system, where the nucleus is the sun and the electrons the orbiting planets. The number of electrons in orbit is equal to the positive charge of the nucleus, and the atom has zero overall charge since the negative electrons exactly cancel out the positive charge of the nucleus.

Bonding

Germanium has four orbiting electrons to each atom, and the lattice-like structure of the crystal is achieved because the electrons of one atom share the orbit path of the electrons of an adjacent atom. In this way the atoms are "bonded" together and there are no free electrons for ordinary conduction. However, controlled conduction is implemented by the introduction of a little impurity into the germanium. Arsenic is such an impurity with five orbiting electrons to each of its atoms. What happens is that an atom of germanium in the

crystal lattice is replaced by an atom of arsenic, and only four of the arsenic electrons pair-up with the four electrons of an adjacent germanium atom. This leaves one electron per arsenic atom which is not paired and which is free for ordinary conduction.

Conduction is, of course, limited by the number of free electrons so created, and for that reason the material is called a "semi-conductor". Also, since conduction is by way of electrons which are negative, the semi-conductor is called "n-type"—n for negative.

P-type Material

A different type of semi-conductor is produced by the introduction of an impurity with only three orbiting electrons, such as indium. The effect here is that the three indium electrons pair with three of the electrons of an adjacent germanium atom, leaving one germanium electron per indium atom without an electron partner.

This electron deficiency is called a "positive hole"; the term "hole" is used to denote that there is a vacancy for an electron. Such vacancies continue to exist within the crystal, and conduction is said to be by way of a movement of holes. When such a material is subjected to an electric potential a hole is filled by an electron from an adjacent atom. This move leaves a hole behind which itself is filled by an electron from another atom, and so the process continues—a movement of electrons from negative to positive and an apparent movement of holes from positive to negative.

Since the holes move in the opposite direction to electrons they are said to be "positive" current carriers, and for that reason semi-conductor material of such nature is called "p-type"—p for notified.

It may be said, therefore, that semi-conductors possess a conductivity which falls somewhere between that of conductors and insulators, but unlike the latter materials—the conductivity of which decreases with increase in temperature—semi-conductors increase in conductivity with increase in temperature. This is because some of the orbiting electrons are "agitated" out of their orbits due to the rise in temperature, and are thus available—rather like free electrons—to contribute to conduction.

We are now back almost to where we started, but it is essential that we complete the story in terms of semi-conductor junctions and transistors.

p-n Junction

When a piece of germanium is processed at one end for p-type and at the other end for n-type the current carriers in each type of semi-conductor diffuse in either direction across the junction. The holes from the p-region diffuse into the n-region and the electrons from the n-region diffuse into the p-region. A condition of equilibrium results whereby a "potential barrier" occurs across the junction. This potential is created because the p-material acquires a negative charge due to its loss of holes, while the n-material acquires a positive charge due to its loss of electrons. The effect is shown in Fig. 22.

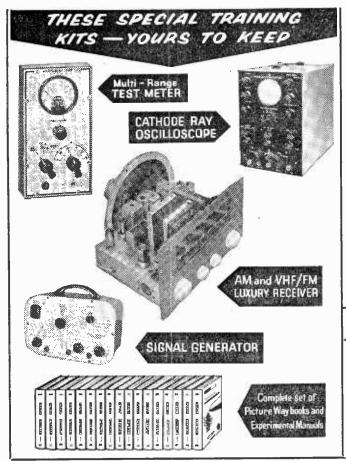
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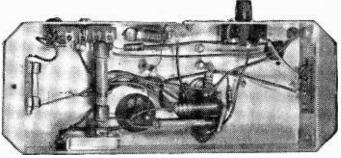
CASTLE ROAD, CAMBERLEY, Phone: Camberley 22760

photo-electric CONTROL unit

AN INEXPENSIVE INSTRUMENT WITH MANY APPLICATIONS

By V. E. Holley

RIGINALLY, this device was built to announce the arrival of customers in business premises normally open to the street, which it did by sounding a buzzer at the rear of the building. It has many other uses and will, in fact, enable any electrical or electro-mechanical operation to be controlled by a beam of light. The circuit is simple and the parts are few.



An underside view of the unit.

Signal Circuit

The valve, V1, in Fig. 1, is a photo-electric tube, type 90CV. It is a vacuum tube with a cathode of caesium on oxidised silver and as its peak sensitivity lies in the near infra-red region, it is more responsive to artificial light than to natural daylight. The anode is supplied with a

positive voltage of about 70 and when the cathode is illuminated, a small current flows through the load resistor, R1. Depending on the degree of illumination and the exposed area of the cathode, up to 10V can be developed across the load; a practical working level is about half this figure.

Fig. I-The circuit of the unit.

Control Circuit

The double triode valve, V2, operates a relay. The two anodes are supplied through the 33k resistors R2 and R3 and bias is provided by R4 which is common to both cathodes. A relay is connected between the two anodes. It will be seen that R2, R3, the two triodes and the relay form a bridge circuit which, under static conditions with zero voltage on the grids, is balanced so that no current flows through the relay. Each half of V2 then draws a current of 5.5mA and the anode voltages are about 110. The load resistor for V1 is also the grid resistor for V2A and when a positive voltage is produced across it by illumination, the current through V2A increases, the common cathode voltage rises correspondingly and reduces the current through V2B. The bridge is unbalanced and a current flows through the relay connected across the centre of it. Capacitor C1 absorbs any inductive surges occuring across the relay.

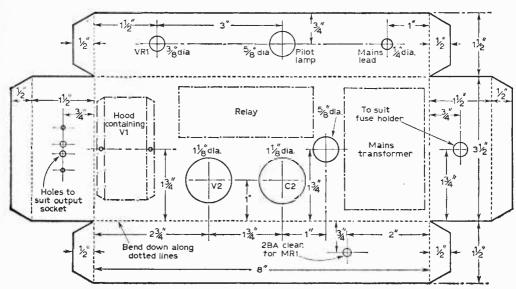


Fig. 2-The drilling details of the main chassis.

Under the conditions described, the relay energises when light falls on V1, but the usefulness of the unit is much increased by arranging that it can, at will, be made to energise when illumination ceases. This is easily achieved by applying a positive voltage to the grid of V2B to unbalance the bridge so that illumination restores the balance and de-energises the relay; VR1 pro-

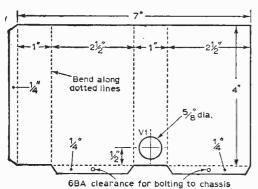


Fig. 3-Details of the "hood" for VI.

vides a variable positive voltage for this purpose. The closing of the relay makes available at the output socket a 6.3V supply for operation of a buzzer or other electro-mechanical device.

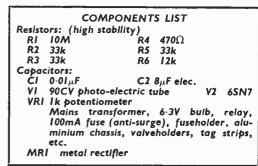
Power Supply

The unit requires about 20mA at 250V—290V in addition to a supply at 6.3V A.C. for the valve heater and pilot light and any external service for which this voltage is required. A total current of 2A will usually be enough. This is supplied by a miniature mains transformer having a half

wave H.T. winding. A contact-cooled rectifier and a reservoir capacitor of $8\mu F$ provide the H.T. supply; no smoothing is needed. A potential divider consisting of R5, R6 and VR1 provides a 70V anode supply for V1 and a voltage variable from 0 to 6 for the grid of V2B. It is important that the voltage at the lower end of R5 does not exceed 70, because if it does, the maximum "dark" anode voltage of V1, which is 100, will be exceeded when first switching on and before the cathode of V2 warms up and draws current.

Construction

The device may be constructed in any convenient form and, if desired, V1 can be a separate plug-in unit. The form here described is suitable for most general purposes and requires a chassis of 18s.w.g. aluminium sheet about $8in. \times 3\frac{1}{2}in. \times 1\frac{1}{2}in.$ as shown in Fig. 2. The service for which it is required may in some cases dictate the type of relay but generally a simple inexpensive type having an operating current of about 3mA will serve well. The resistance of the energising coil is not important. The resistors are not in themselves critical though they have a



rather critical relation one with the other, and the values given should be used; R2 and R3 should be reasonably well matched. Because the unit may be switched on unattended for long periods, it is essential that it should be properly fused. In addition to the 100mA fuse in the chassis it is advisable that the supply be taken through an outlet or 13A plug fused at 1 or 2A as a safeguard

against a fault in the connecting

cable.

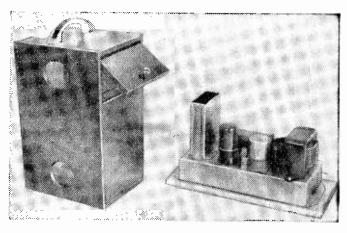
Although the 90CV relatively insensitive tube, precautions are necessary to exclude random light. It is accordingly fitted inside a hood, the measurements of which are given in Fig. 3. Suitable material for this is 20s.w.g. aluminium sheet or 24s.w.g. tin plate. With this hood, painted matt black inside, the unit will operate satisfactorly in a well-lit room so long as it is not pointed directly at a light or a highly reflective surface, or at a window in daylight. Details of the wiring and connections are given in Fig. 4.

Testing and Adjustment

When the unit has been wired up, check first with V1 removed and zero voltage at the grid of V2B, that the voltage at the lower

end of R5 does not exceed 100 on first switching on; if it does, R5 must be increased. It is unlikely that any alteration will be needed unless the supply volt-

age exceeds 300. If the relay is to be energised on illumination, there is nothing more to be done apart from replacing V1. If the reverse is required, keep V1 unilluminated and apply a gradually increasing positive voltage to V2B grid by adjustment of VR1 till the relay closes. As a guide to performance, satisfactory operation should be secured from a lighted match held an inch or so



The complete unit and its cabinet.

from the end of the hood or from a fecusing torch at a distance of 10ft. to 15ft., depending on the efficiency of the torch.

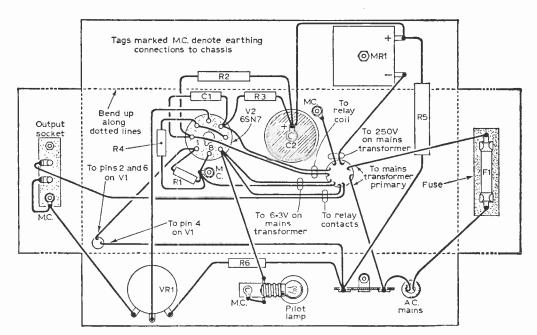


Fig. 4—The underchassis wiring diagram.

Signal Source

A suitable operating signal for distances up to 8ft. or so can be produced from a 6.3V 0.3A dial light arranged to produce a well focused beam. Nothing expensive in the way of lenses or reflectors is needed; good results can be had with a lens from a cheap pocket torch and no reflector. If secret operation is required, the beam may be coloured red without loss of range, when it will be invisible under most conditions so long as it is not allowed to strike reflecting surfaces and the stray light is reduced to a minimum. Fig. 5 shows a suitable arrangement for this purpose. Here, lamp, lens and red filter are enclosed in a box which is extended forward four to six inches to contain the stray light and the beam is allowed to pass out through a hole in the distant

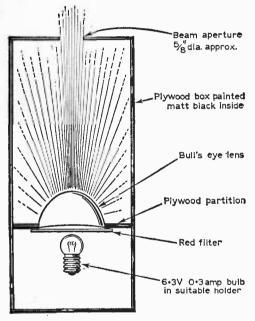


Fig. 5—The construction of a suitable light source.

end about $\frac{1}{6}$ in. in diameter. The interior of the box should be painted matt black. The 6.3V supply for the lamp may be taken from the heater circuit of the control unit.

Application

In addition to acting as a warning device, the unit has, with minor variations, given good service in other directions. Its most useful role is perhaps in conjunction with a simple electro-mechanical counter (for example, the electronic digital counter) where it has been used for such diverse purposes as time and motion study and counting peaches on a fruit grader. In this last application it was made to divert the flow of fruits from one channel to another after, a predetermined number had passed the control point. No doubt other applications will suggest themselves to the reader.

Housing the Unit

In the form here described, the unit can cinveniently be housed in a plywood box about 10in. X 4½in. X 6in. The chassis should be bolted to a baseboard of ½in. ply, and the remainder of the box fitted over it as a cover. Ventilation is required and can be provided by cutting some 2in. diameter holes in the sides and covering them with perforated zinc secured on the inside with impact adhesive. Holes are required in the cover for the mains lead, the pilot light and the output socket and for screwdriver access to VRI. Photo tubes deteriorate if exposed to light when not in operation, so part of the top of the cover should be in the form of a hinged door above the tube hood, which can be closed when switching off. A couple of panel-pins driven through the sides into the "door" close to one end will serve as hinges.

Photocell Details

Base	B7G
Max, anode supply voltage	100
Max. dark current at 100V	0·05μA
Max. cathode current	$10\mu A$
Sensitivity in μ A/lumen	20
Cathode area in cm ²	3.1

HOW TRANSISTORS WORK

(Continued from page 32)

Now, if a battery is connected across the junction so that the positive side is connected to the p-material and the negative side to the n-material, the current carriers in each material will again start diffusing across the junction. This produces a current flow in the forward direction, as

would be expected.

However, if the battery connections are reversed, the potential barrier at the junction is reinforced, and in an ideal case there should be no current flow. In practice, though, a small reverse leakage current flows. This is because of the inevitable presence of electrons in the p-material and holes in the n-material. These reversed current carriers are called "minority carriers", as previously intimated. They increase in density with increase in temperature, and thus cause the reverse leakage current to increase as the junction warms up—see Fig. 20.

The Transistor

We already know that the transistor has two junctions. A pnp transistor consists of a very thin region of n-material sandwiched between two regions of p-material, while an npn transistor consists of a very thin region of p-material sandwiched between two regions of n-material.

The filling of the sandwich is called the base, while the outside pieces are called emitter and collector respectively (basic details were given in the first article of this series). We thus have two junctions—the emitter/base junction and the col-

lector/base junction.

The former is biased for forward conduction (emitter positive with respect to the base), while the latter is biased for reversed conduction (collector negative with respect to the base).

(To be continued)

Experimenter's

(Continued from page 1114 of the April issue)

S stated on page 1112 of the April issue (following the details of rectifier nomenclature), about 400 to 500V appears at the anode of V1. Now V2 supplies V1 with the correct bias to give the necessary voltage drop across V1 (see page 907. February issue) to keep the voltage at its cathode, i.e. at the stabilised H.T. output terminals, at a pre-set level. This pre-set level is determined by VR1, and is always such that the resulting output voltage causes a voltage at the slider of VR1 on the bleeder R16. VR1, R17 approximately equal to the operating voltage of the reference neon V3 (90V). This neon is fed from the anode of V1 via R14 and the anti-oscillation condenser C8. V2A serves to compare the voltage at the slider of VR1 with the neon V3, changing its anode current and thus the bias on V1 in the appropriate sense if any error is detected. V2A and V1 thus constitute a D.C. difference-amplifier with virtually total negative feedback. C7 makes the negative feedback even greater for A.C., so that any alter-

By M. L. Michaelis

nating voltages, regardless of their origin, are strongly damped out. This cancels hum from the transformer, rectifier and smoothing; it also cancels hum introduced into V2, and finally it strongly cancels alternating voltages of any frequency coming back into the power supply from the external load. The net effect is that C7 reduces the dynamic A.C. internal impedance of the power supply to well under one ohm at all normal frequencies, effecting virtually complete decoupling of various items of equipment connected simultaneously to the output, and reducing the remaining hum-ripple to negligible proportions.

V2B is normally cut off by about 10V bias, and is thus fully inoperative as long as the H.T. supply is not overloaded. Its cathode is taken to a stabilised negative 90V supply from V4, and its grid to a stabilised negative supply of about 100V from V5. The negative 10V difference cuts V2B off. Now, the output load current must flow through R9 and VR3, and the voltage drop across this parallel combination adds itself in series to

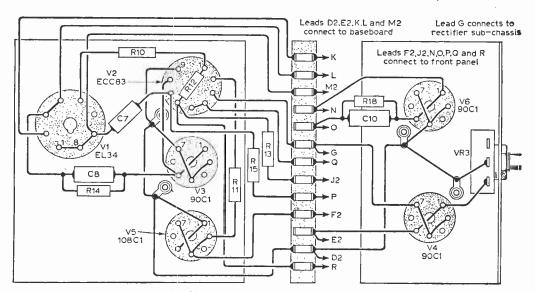


Fig. 13—Wiring diagram of the valve chassis.

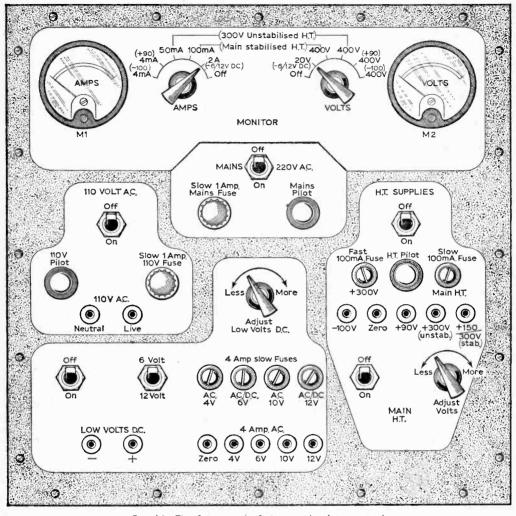


Fig. 14—The front panel of the completed power pack.

the negative 90V supply, drawing the cathode of V2B down with it. VR3 is adjusted with a screwdriver until the short-circuit current is 120mA. At 100mA output current, the cathode of V2B has fallen sufficiently for the valve to reach cut-on, and the consequent flow of anode current biases V1 to prevent further rise of current. The result is that, as soon as the rated maximum load of 100mA is tending to be exceeded, the voltage rapidly collapses with increasing load, so that even the full short-circuit current is only 120mA. A slow 100mA fuse is incorporated, which is rated to blow within five minutes at 120mA. Thus a complete short-circuit load does no damage to the power supply, yet is cut off after about five minutes if not removed by hand before then. These characteristics are virtually ideal for an H.T. supply for experimental purposes:

- (a) High degree of voltage stabilisation within the rated current range.
- (b) Strong limiting of short circuit current to nondangerous value.
- (c) No damage and no fuses blowing when accidental short-period short-circuit made.
- (d) Fuse protection against prolonged short-circuit.

Other H.T./Bias Outputs

The negative 100V stabilised supply of V5 is available also externally. The negative 90V supply of V4 is not useful externally, as, on account of R9, it is not stabilised with respect to chassis, and is thus not taken to any external terminal.

D3, C11, C12 and R19 provide an unstabilised H.T. supply of about 300V. This is used to feed

(Continued on page 43)

CHECK with these

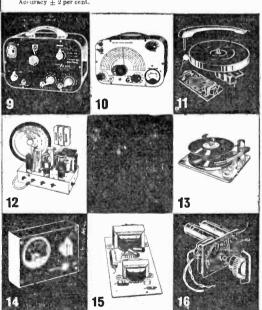
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(Continued from page 40)

H.T. to V2 (ahead of its fuse, so that V1 does not lose bias if the 300V unstabilised fuse is blown), and (subsequent to its fuse), to feed the corresponding output terminals, and the plus 90V stabilised bias supply (valve V6). It is possible to do away with V6 altogether, taking the plus 90V

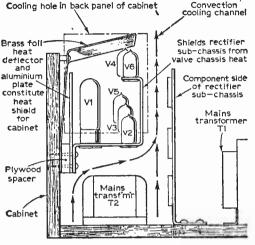


Fig. 15—The valve chassis heat screens.

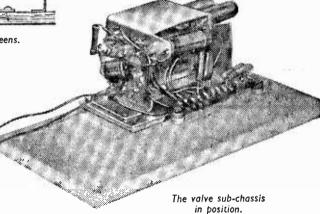
output from V3, but this was found to impair the stabilisation of the main stabilised H.T. output somewhat, giving some degree of interaction between the two outputs. This is not the case with V5, which can serve its double purpose of biasing V2B as well as providing a minus 100V output, without any disadvantages, because V2B is normally cut off anyway.

The 300V unstabilised output is intended for operating stock items of equipment such as valve voltmeters, etc., whilst the main

stabilised output feeds experimental circuits. Thus only the latter output requires the special short-circuit protection described above. The stock equipment is assumed to be normally in good working order, and thus more simple fuse protection suffices. Although the full short-circuit current of the unstabilised 300V output is only 125mA, on account of R19, the discharge surge of C12 blows the fuse at once upon shorting the output. A fast 100mA fuse is used, however, so that the 125mA current alone also suffices to blow the fuse within a few seconds if the short is present before switching on, in which case C12 would never receive any charge.

Thus, it may safely be said that the power supply is fully protected against overloads and short circuits. Overloads either blow the fuses within a tolerable time, or do no damage. On the other hand, they do not continually blow fuses on mere momentary accidental short circuits liable to occur during experimental work. The whole power supply is thus admirably adapted to the needs of the experimenter's workshop, and was in fact envisaged, designed and built to meet just these needs in the author's experimental workshop.

(A supplementary article on the Experimenter's Power Pack will appear shortly.—ED.).



For the deaf in church

THIRTEEN deaf aids have been installed in the Parish Church of St. Matthew, Rugby, as well as a public address system. The work was carried out by Associated Electrical Industries Ltd.

A number of seats in the church are reserved for deaf aids and appropriately marked. The equipment—a single headphone on an arm—can be had on request from a warden who will link it up and plug it in.

The public address system can be used from four points, the pulpit, lectern, reading desk and prayer desk. Every effort has been made to make the equipment as unobtrusive as possible. The four microphones are hidden from view and the main twin cable is concealed in the flooring. Wiring on the lectern has been hidden inside the Church's handsome brass eagle.

.The microphones can be faded in and out as required and the volume control is in an amplifier cabinet alongside the organ.

The equipment was dedicated on 14th January, by the Vicar of St. Matthews and the Rural Dean of Rugby, the Reverend Canon E. Liddell Paine.

The equipment was supplied and installed by Sound Equipment Group of the AEI Electronic Apparatus Division.

A direct-reading FREQUENCY-

FINAL ADJUSTMENTS AND CALIBRATION

By E. Dexter

(Continued from page 1121 of the April issue)

CONTINUING with the description of the circuit of this instrument, the monostable multivibrator circuit (V5) is now outlined.

The Monostable Multivibrator Circuit, V5

This stage is the real frequency-measuring heart of this instrument. It is also the most critical stage, and the most difficult to make operate. It is thus of advantage to build it last of all, making certain first that all previous stages are working correctly. The triode on pins 1, 2, 3 conducts heavily in the resting state, as the grid leak, R28,

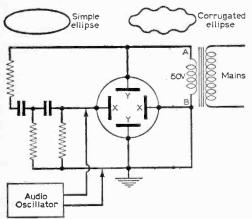


Fig. 6a—Calibration of an audio oscillator against the mains supply frequency. By applying a 50V A.C. waveform to the X and Y plates (in conjunction with suitable phase-shifting networks), an ellipse can be obtained on the screen of an oscilloscope.

When the output of the audio oscillator is also connected, the ellipse becomes corrugated (as indicated) and this corrugated ellipse will appear stationary if the frequency of the audio oscillator is an integral multiple of the mains frequency. This method covers up to about 500c/s or Ikc/s. For higher frequencies, an oscillator is tuned to 500c/s or Ikc/s and then used in place of the mains-derived waveform in the above circuit and connected to points A and B (see text).

is returned to H.T. positive. Consequently, the cathodes are at a high potential, higher by more than the grid base than the potential of grid pin 7 set on the slider of VR2. Consequently the triode section (pins 6, 7, 8) rests cut off, and C19 is at the full H.T. voltage, with zero meter current. If now one of the trigger pulses from the differentiated square wave as discussed above arrives via C11 to grid pin 7, it lifts this grid momentarily above cut-on. The resulting start of anode current in R23 results in a voltage drop across this resistor, which is fed, via the condenser selected by Sla, to grid pin 2, thus reducing current in this triode section. The cathodes thus fall in potential which is equivalent to a further rise of grid pin 7 voltage, so that the process is cumulative and the triode (on pins 1, 2, 3) is rapidly cut off, and the other triode (normally resting cut off) is now drawing a definite current, depending only upon its own circuit conditions, and in no way dependent on the previous stages which merely initiated the process. This definite current flows until the condenser selected by Sla has charged sufficiently through R28 to allow grid pin 2 to cut on again. The cumulative process then takes place in reverse, back to the initial resting state, which is stable until a new trigger arrives. The condenser selected by Sla discharges again, by virtue of grid current at pin 2 and through R23. Thus all electrons collected by anode pin 6 finally reach C19; some were used during the response-pulse to charge the condenser selected on Sla. but are returned soon after to C19 (this is the reason for the negative spike and tail after the responsepulse, in the waveform shown for the junction of R24 and R25—page 47).

Independent Registration in V5

We now see that one definite pulse of current into C19, representing a clearly-defined quantity of charge, results for every trigger received at grid pin 7. The size of this is determined by conditions in the circuit of V5, and, in particular, the duration is determined by R28 and the capacity selected by Sla. The charge is in no way whatsoever dependent on the previous stages, given certain conditions discussed below. Thus registration in V5 is necessarily fully independent of the original input waveform at V1, provided transformation into trigger pulses at grid pin 7 of V5 has been successfully achieved, merely the

frequency of the input to V1 has any effect on events in V5, this then determining the corresponding number of the well-defined pulses of current which pass per second into C19. It is thus obvious that the number of electrons (charge) per second received by C19 is directly proportional to the input frequency to V1, but in no other way dependent upon the input to V1. C19 is thus called the "frequency-integrating condenser".

It may seem very strange that the capacity of C19 in no way affects the accuracy, and it does not matter if the capacity is somewhat unstable and non-constant. Thus a perfectly simple small electrolytic of ordinary tolerance is satisfactory The reason for this is that we are not interested in measuring the accumulated charge in terms of a voltage produced on C19 (in which case the exact capacity would, of course, be vital for accuracy), but merely wish to use C19 as a form of "storage depot" to accumulate the charge on the fast pulses, too fast to operate the moving coil meter direct, and then to pass it on to the meter on the slower time constant of about one-third of a second dictated by C19 and R16. The only ultimate requirement demanded of C19 is thus that it really does pass the whole charge received from V5 anode pin 6 ultimately through the meter, and no more and no less. In other words, C19 must not leak unduly. The circuit details are seen to be such that leakage current of C19 must pass through the meter, so that a faulty component for C19 will show up at once in that the meter reading will not return to zero.

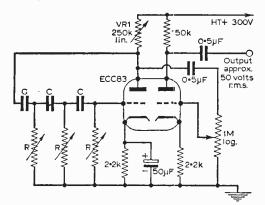


Fig. 6b—A simple sine wave audio oscillator which can be used for either of the audio oscillators required for the procedure illustrated in Fig. 6a. VRI should be adjusted for the "best" sine wave. The frequency of operation is given by

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{(6) \cdot C.R}} c/s$$
 where C is in μF and R in M Ω .

Leakage Current

Contrary to what one reads and hears so frequently, that the leakage current of a $32\mu F$ electrolytic is normally about a milliamp or so, which would give permanent full-scale deflection of the meter here used, that is not so. Under modern standards of component manufacture, the author considers any electrolytic having even a

few per cent of this leakage figure to be of definitely inferior quality. He has had long experience of modern electrolytics, and found leakages so small that charges can be held for many hours. It is possible and normal that C19 will cause a deviation from zero on the meter, to a just visible extent, and if this persists after the initial operating hours, it may be corrected with the zeroing-screw on the meter, frequency readings being in no way affected in their accuracy.

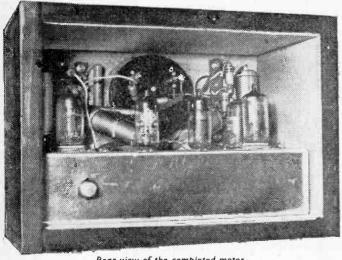
With a new electrolytic, or upon first switching the instrument on after a period of rest. large leakage current flows to charge and reform C19. Thus the meter always goes over hard to full scale upon first switching on, returning to zero a little later. A second jump to full scale may or may not take place as V5 warms up and seeks its resting state. Such behaviour is fully normal, but could damage the meter if not cared for. This is the reason for the inclusion of the zener diode D2. This makes it impossible for excessive current to flow through the meter. This protection is also needed for a third reason, namely if a frequency much greater than that giving full scale deflection were applied on any range this could also cause excessive current through the meter.

The Zener Diode for Meter Protection

The zener diode is chosen with a zener voltage of 12, and a maximum zener current of 150mA, i.e. all that R29 will pass even in the event of a total short circuit. A zener diode has the property of behaving as a normal diode in the forward direction (positive anode) but passing as much current as necessary to keep the voltage across it at no more than the zener voltage in the reverse direction (anode negative) as soon as this voltage would have been exceeded, were it an ideal normal This device is thus ideal for protecting meters against excessive current, the circuitry described in this article showing a quite typical arrangement for this form of application. R15 shunts the meter, to damp pointer oscillations, giving a final sensitivity in the region of 1mA f.s.d. R16 thus converts the meter to a voltmeter of about 10V f.s.d., and the 12V zener diode is connected across the points at which the 10V would need to be applied. It thus prevents the voltage rising above 12 across these points. Any current in excess of just over full scale deflection of the meter is thus harmlessly shunted off through the zener diode. The constructor can make R15 himself from resistance wire, and trim the exact value so that meter current is limited to only very slightly more than full-scale for the zener diode used. The zener diode also prevents all reversecurrent surges which would drive the meter pointer backwards against the stop, because for such it conducts immediately at zero voltage, the same as any other diode. Thus, reverse surges when C19 discharges through the meter circuitry into the other stages of the circuit upon switching off the instrument pass primarily through the zener diode and not through the meter. The constructor is warned not to operate this circuit without the proper zener diode in position, as otherwise there is serious danger of destruction of the meter.

It should be pointed out that some types of zener diode pass a small current prior to attaining

the full zener voltage, which would make itself felt as slight non-linearity of frequency scale in the instrument here described, taking the form of cramping of the upper end of the scale to a small This can be distinguished from straybe such that no 50c/s voltage is present anywhere on Sla/Slb in other settings of this switch, as otherwise the excellently low noise figures of the pre-amplifier would be seriously impaired with



Rear view of the completed meter.

50c/s Frequency Check

At the same time as Slb switches the mains frequency to V1, Sla is repeating the 50c/s f.s.d. range, so that it is merely required to turn the meter shunt VR3 until exactly full-scale deflection is obtained. All fluctuations, whatever their origin, which may have occurred since original calibration of the meter scale, are cancelled, thereby and original calibration holds true again, and may be checked again as often as necessary. Within limits, it is thus not necessary to use any particular exact H.T. voltage, as deviations can be corrected with VR3. However, the design voltage is 300, and a stabilised supply of this voltage is naturally the ideal. All voltages marked on the wiring diagrams, given to assist the constructor in judging for proper operating conditions, refer to 300V H.T. supply, and were made with a

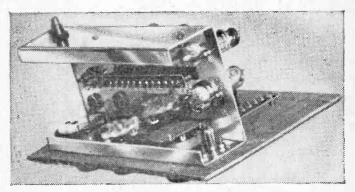
capacity effects in V5 circuitry giving a similar form of nonlinearity, because the latter is present chiefly on the highest ranges, whereas the former will be equally present on all ranges. The remedy in all cases is proper of initial calibration scales against inputs of known frequency, which should not be omitted if any good degree of accuracy is desired.

Monitoring Facilities and Correction for Calibration

The charge per response-pulse produced in V5 in response to input triggers is, as already mentioned, determined solely by

conditions prevailing in V5 circuitry. *Deliberate* alterations are made solely with the range switch S1a, all other alterations or fluctuations are unwanted and random, and must be capable of compensation if the whole circuit is to be of ultimately useful accuracy and

reliability. Such random fluctuations will include effects of changing H.T. voltage, ageing of V5, thermal drift in resistors, etc. Accordingly, a method of comparing against the mains frequency by switching the heater voltage into VI on a fifth position on Slb, is provided. The arrangement of R30, C2 and R3 was found necessary in this feed line to avoid instability otherwise resulting from the close coupling of V1 and V5 through the wafers of Sla/Slb, and the arrangement is also seen to



Underchassis view of the meter during assembly.

valve voltmeter against chassis. Adjustment of VR2 is necessary at each different H.T. voltage.

Choice of Range Condensers

The check against the mains frequency described above will naturally fix the 50c/s range without further comment, but we also require this correction then to hold for all the ranges. The condition for this to be achieved is obviously good stability in the range condensers C12 to C15, and proper adjustment of these initially against each other and against their respective scales when performing initial calibration against known frequencies.

The ultimate accuracy of the whole instrument will thus depend upon the quality of C12 to C15, and the care with which initial padding of these with parallel condensers is made and the meter scales calibrated against known frequencies.

Initial Calibration

The writer feels it necessary to point out a method of calibrating any variable audio oscillator against the mains frequency, provided a simple oscilloscope with access to all deflector plates of the cathode ray tube is available. Alternatively, a simple cathode ray tube may be purchased for a few shillings from advertisers in this magazine, and fitted with nothing more than a rudimentary power supply and focusing arrangement. Timebases are not needed, nor is a Y-amplifier, provided the audio oscillator output is at least 10V or so.

This method of calibration can be used in cases where any form of calibrated audio oscillator or reliable set of reference-frequencies is out of reach

of the experimenter.

The mains-derived voltage of about 50 to 100 r.m.s. from a transformer secondary is fed direct to the Y-plates, and also to the X-plates via phaseshifting R/C couplings as shown in Fig. 6a. The transformer voltage and condenser values should be found by trial and error to give an ellipse of suitable size and "openness" on the screen. The sine wave output of the audio oscillator is then also fed to the X-plates as shown in Fig. 6, resulting in a corrugated ellipse. The audio oscillator is tuned until the corrugated ellipse ceases to rotate, which will be found for any oscillator frequency which is an exact multiple N of the mains frequency, and N is given by counting the number of complete sine waves forming the corrugation on the stationary ellipse. If the ellipse is slowly rotating, the number of revolutions per second gives the beat frequency, i.e. the error in cycles per second, in this measurement. It should be possible to use this method up to about the tenth to twentieth harmonic of the mains, i.e. some 500c/s to 1kc/s.

To continue, a second fixed oscillator should be rigged up (Fig 6b includes a circuit for this which may be made up rapidly from the spares box), and tuned to exactly 500c/s or 1kc/s by means of the above method. This is then used in place of the mains to produce the ellipse, and the main oscillator then tuned further to obtain further check-points up to many kc/s, at intervals of 500c/s. The main oscillator can be feeding the cathode ray tube, the instrument of this article, and any other apparatus to be calibrated, all simultaneously, and the appropriate points marked in on the scales as the ellipse comes to rest each time. It is not necessary to count the corrugations on the ellipse each time, but merely to tune the oscillator slowly upwards, and each time the ellipse comes to rest, then it is known to correspond to the next harmonic of the ellipse frequency.

This procedure may seem tedious, but it need be made only once and for all, as it necessarily provides the experimenter with a permanent audio standard in his workshop.

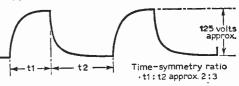
Trigger Input to V5

It is necessary to experiment with the exact value for C11. This should be large enough for secure operation of V5, yet no larger than necessary.

WAVEFORMS I-Pre-amplifier gain full on; input at least

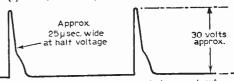
IV r.m.s., and a sine wave of about 500c/s frequency.

(a) Waveform at cathode of V1.



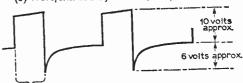
(b) Waveform at output socket SK2: square wave.

(c) Waveform at output socket SK3 (trigger output):



One trigger pulse per cycle of sinewave input. II-Pre-amplifier gain full on; input at least IV r.m.s. sinewave; frequency to be half f.s.d. on each range in turn.

(d) Waveform at the junction of R24/R25



Pulse time tp

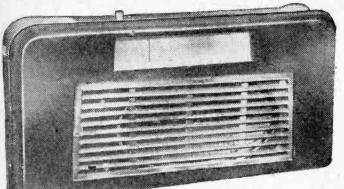
Here, tp is independent of input frequency on any range being dependent only on the range set (R28 and choice of capacitor on SIa).

The pulse time to should be set to equal the time of one-third of one cycle of the frequency desired to give f.s.d. Observe the waveform on an oscilloscope, and adjust the value of R28 until this condition is satisfied (see text). The adjusted value of R28 should satisfy the condition on all ranges.

PRE-AMPLIFIER TEST

Gain full on; feed in 150mV r.m.s. sine wave signal at about 500c/s and observe on an oscilloscope the waveform developed across a 5.6k resistor across SK2. This should be 15V r.m.s. undistorted. Greater input gives output distortion. Change load resistor to 56k; maximum undistorted input/ output should now be 250mV/25V r.m.s. meter should operate for any signal input exceeding 100mV r.m.s.

VR2 should be set to about 30° of turn below the point where anode pin 6 of V5 begins to draw current, indicated by a permanent small reading on the meter. This small current commences 30 above the correct setting of VR2, whilst if VR2 is then turned up still further, self-oscillation of V5 starts, resulting in full-scale meter deflection. This adjustment of VR2 should be made with no (Continued on page 78) input signal at V1.



Practical Wir MERC

A SIX TRANSISTOR BATTERY SUPERHET RECEIVER

HIS receiver is not of the miniature type, and this avoids the difficulties which can arise when components and wiring have to fit in the minimum space. It is thus rather easier to construct than a miniature receiver. Performance is very good indeed, especially as a large loudspeaker can be accommodated, and the ferrite rod aerial is well clear of other parts. The receiver is light, completely portable, and of about average size for non-miniature transistor portables. A ready-made cabinet is available, so the finished set has a

satisfactory and modern appearance.

The whole receiver is constructed on a single insulated panel, with the larger components at the rear, and most wiring and small components at the front. All wiring and components can be seen, and this simplifies checking and testing. When the receiver is finished and tested, it can be inserted into the cabinet as a single unit. This, and the fact that there is plenty of space for wiring and parts, should make the receiver suitable for constructors who have not had experience of building miniaturised designs. A further difficulty sometimes experienced is the correct trimming and alignment of a superhet type receiver, so full details of this are included.

Circuit Notes (see Blueprint 5)

The complete circuit is shown in Fig. 1, and it is recommended that the component values given should be followed. Only in the case of the by-pass condensers is there much possible latitude in values. The first transistor emitter by-pass condenser $(0.01\mu\mathrm{F})$ in parallel with 3.9k) should not be changed in value. With the two intermediate frequency stages, emitter by-pass condensers are $0.1\mu\mathrm{F}$ and $0.5\mu\mathrm{F}$. This is larger than often used, but materially helps to avoid troublesome whistles due to oscillation in these stages.

Each I.F. transformer has five pins, of which only four are used. Bare leads or parts should not be allowed to touch the unused pins. The fixed condenser shown wired to pin 2 of each transformer is incorporated inside the can, by the maker and may be ignored. These three condensers have no values marked in Fig. 1, and will not be found

on the wiring plan.

Of the three 60pF trimmers, TC1 will be adjusted on medium waves, and TC2 and TC3 on long waves. The adjustment of TC2 and TC3 has no effect whatsoever on medium waves.

effect whatsoever on medium waves.

With the output stage, the value of the base resistor R18, and emitter resistor R19, are chosen to suit the pair of output transistors used.

Component Tolerances

Although, on the blueprint, tolerances of resistors are given as 20%, or 10%, 10% components are to be recommended and are in fact more readily available. R17 and R18 should preferably be of 5% tolerance. Capacitor values are not critical except for C7 and C10, which should be of 2% tolerance.

Transistors and Diode

The receiver will give very good results with Mullard transistors. An OC44 is suitable for Tr1, two OC45's for Tr2 and Tr3, with an OC71 for Tr4, and a matched pair of OC72's for Tr5 and Tr6. With these transistors, the red spot indicates the collector lead, other leads being as in Fig. 4.

The diode should be a reliable one of named manufacture, such as the Mullard OA81. A cheap surplus diode in poor condition can cause a great loss of signal strength and sensitivity.

It is possible to use different transistors in driver and output stages, but these would usually need some change in resistor values, and perhaps different driver and output transformers.

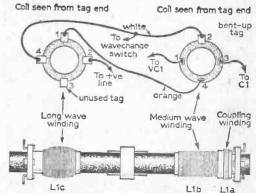


Fig. 5—The ferrite rod aerial connections.

ess

JRY SIX

By F. G. Rayer

Insulated Panel

This is paxolin, and $11\frac{1}{4}$ in. $x \cdot 5\frac{1}{4}$ in. $x \cdot \frac{1}{4}$ in. $\frac{1}{16}$ in.). The top corners are rounded, as in Fig. 3, so that the panel may be inserted in the case with clearance all round. An oval aperture $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. $x \cdot 5\frac{1}{4}$ in. is cut for the speaker. This can be carried out by drawing a pencil line round the speaker, then removing the speaker and drawing the oval about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. smaller all round. Drill one or more holes to introduce a fine-toothed pad-saw or similar blade, cut out the oval, and clean up the

edges with half-round file.

Drill \$\frac{1}{8}\$in. holes for the volume control and tuning drive spindle bushes. Position these carefully so that the control wheels will project correctly through the slots

in the case.

Small holes to clear the transistor leads can then be drilled as shown in Fig. 3, but no parts are fitted until all drilling is

The tuning condenser is mounted with three countersunk 4B.A. bolts. These bolts must be very short, to avoid damaging or shorting the condenser. Make the clearance hole for the spindle large enough, so that the condenser can lie flat on the panel, and not raised by the ball-bearing retaining ring.

The drive cord will pass round two pulleys, on 4B.A. bolts. Locate the right hand pulley (Fig. 2) so that the cord to which the pointer is attached runs parallel with the top of the panel. The cord will be given one complete turn round the driving spindle. Nylon cord is not much recommended, as it will not give a very good grip here. The pulleys should turn freely on their bolts, and the bolts are locked in place by having one nut each side of the panel.

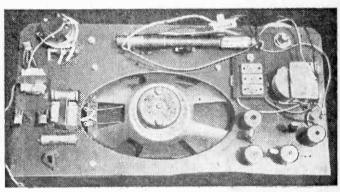
The oscillator coil and I.F. transformer have pins, and earth tags. Correct drilling can easily be found by pressing a piece of paper against the pins, and then using this as a template for marking the panel. An in. drill will easily give clearance, but check that each coil or transformer can be inserted. If drilling has been inaccurate, enlarge the holes as necessary with a small round file. A tain, drill will be suitable for the earth tags.

BLUEPRINT 5

Drill T_8 in. holes for the $100\mu F$ and $50\mu F$ condensers (C15 and C11), and also for the driver and output transformer leads, which pass straight down through the panel. The three holes A, B and C are also needed near the volume control, and a hole for the ferrite rod mounting.

Loudspeaker Mounting

This should be prepared, but the loudspeaker should not be fitted to the panel until wiring is otherwise finished. A piece of hardboard 7½ in. x 4½ in. is placed inside the cabinet, and is marked with an aperture to match that in the cabinet front. This is easily done by pencilling round inside the opening. Also mark the four screw holes in the cabinet on to the hardboard, and run a ½ in. drill through these points, so that the screws will start easily. The hardboard is bevelled slightly, with a rasp or glasspaper, so that it lies flat against the curved inside of the cabinet.



The receiver complete except for its cabinet.

The oval marked on the hardboard is sawn out, the loudspeaker placed so that it matches this, and the positions of the four 6B.A. bolts, which secure the loudspeaker to the hardboard, are marked. These holes are drilled, and countersunk at the front (a few turns with a larger drill will do this).

The loudspeaker is secured with four countersunk 6B.A. bolts, each 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) in. to 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) in. long. Place two nuts about \(\frac{1}{2}\) in. apart on each bolt. The bolts pass through the four holes in the paxolin panel, and another nut is run on each.

A check can be made to see that the receiver will fit in the cabinet. If the tuning wheels are a little too near the front or back, they may be moved slightly on their spindles, or the nuts on the 1½in. bolts can be re-adjusted, until the panel comes in the correct position, when the hardboard is right against the inside of the cabinet front.

Rear of Panel

With the loudspeaker assembly removed, all the parts shown in Fig. 3 can be mounted. There is no point in cutting the transistor leads very short. It will be convenient if three pieces of 1mm sleeving each 1 in. long are cut for each transistor, and placed on the leads. This will prevent shorts here, and give in. of lead above the panel, so that there is no danger of breaking any of the wires off. Ensure that each transistor is used in its correct position, and place emitter, base and collector leads as shown by e, b and c in Figs. 2 and 3.

The oscillator coil has a spot to show pin 1, and the pins are positioned as in Fig. 2. The first and second I.F. transformers are coded white, and the third I.F.T. is coded blue.

The three 60pF trimmers are attached to a piece of paxolin about 11 in. x 11 in. This is done by drilling clearance holes for the trimmer tags and adjusting screws. Solder leads to the trimmer tags as in Fig. 3 and mount the assembly on the bolt holding one pulley, using an additional nut.

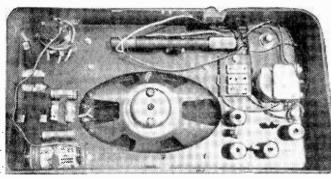
It is as well to leave the ferrite rod until last, to prevent any damage to the windings. Check that the $50\mu F$ and $100\mu F$ condensers are inserted with

positive and negative leads as in Fig. 3.

Front of Panel Wiring

Fig. 2 shows the wiring, and the resistors and other small parts. There is plenty of clearance, and no need to keep each wire and component tight against the panel. All leads should be protected with insulated sleeving.

All the following points may first be joined together; the 'can' tags of the oscillator coil and I.F. transformers, gang condenser frame, 6B.A. tag to earth the loudspeaker, positive tags of the $100\mu F$ and 50 µF condensers, and the switch, tag C, and the metal case of the 5k volume control.



The receiver installed in the cabinet.

The oscillator and I.F. stages, up to the diode occupy the left of the panel, in Fig. 2. The audio amplifier (driver and output stages) are at the right.

Transistor connections can be checked against

the following:-

Tr1: Emitter to 1 on oscillator coil: base to C1 and junction of R1 and R2; collector to 6 on oscillator coil

Tr2: Emitter to C6 and R6; base to 1 on 1st. I.F. transformer; collector to 3 on 2nd. I.F. trans-

Tr3: Emitter to C9 and R11; base to 1 on 2nd. I.F. transformer; collector to 3 on 3rd. I.F. transformer.

Tr4: Emitter to C14 negative tag and R16; base to negative tag of C13 and the junction of R13 and R15; collector to 'Brown' on driver trans-

former. Tr5: Emitter to R19; base to green lead of driver transformer; collector to green lead of output

Tr6: Emitter to R19; base to vellow lead of driver transformer; collector to yellow lead of output transformer.

Solder all transistor leads rapidly, keeping the iron in contact with the joint only for a second or so, and removing it quickly. An electric iron with an kin. or 3 in. bit will be convenient, and will be at the correct temperature if it has been switched on long enough. Use cored solder, applying this to the joint, not to the iron.

A few leads pass through the panel. Three go to the volume control, and are marked A, B and C in both Figs. 2 and 3. One lead goes from the condenser frame to the "positive" line, as des-

cribed. Another lead goes from the fixed condenser C4 to pin 4 of the oscillator coil. There is also a lead from the condenser C1 to 3 on the

aerial.

'Aerial and Wavechange Switch

The ferrite rod is held by a fastening which passes round it and the mounting cradle, which is secured to the panel by a 4B.A. bolt. In Fig. 3, the medium wave section is at the right, and the long wave section at the left.

Connections are numbered in Figs. 1, 3 and 5 (Fig. 5 is on page 48). Tag 1 is the beginning of

the M.W. section, and goes to the 208pF section of the gang condenser; that is, the front plates tag. Tag 2 is the end of the M.W. section, and goes to tag 4, which is the beginning of the L.W. section. Tag 2 on the L.W. section is returned to the gang condenser frame, or earth line.

The $0.04\mu F$ condenser (C1) goes to the M.W. coupling winding, tag 3 and tag 4 (the end of this winding) is wired to tag 1 on the L.W. winding, which is a tapping.

Leads are best of thin flex, so that the windings can be slid along the rod. It is not very likely that trouble should arise in connecting the windings, but if any difficulty experienced, note that the

with the L.W. section entirely disconnected. To do this, temporarily wire tags 2 and 4 of the M.W. section to the receiver earth line (condenser frame).

If any difficulty arises on L.W. only, check that the tapping 1 on the L.W. section is electrically near the "earthed" end of the coil (tag 2). This will not be so if the leads to tags 2 and 4 are reversed in error. Beginning from point 1 on the

M.W. coil, and proceeding to tag 2, then to tag 4 on the L.W. section, and thence to tag 2 on the L.W. section, all turns should be seen to be wound in the same direction. This will not be so if one section is placed on the rod the wrong way round, or if the leads to tags 1 and 2 on the M.W. section, or to tags 4 and 2 on the L.W. section, are reversed. Any errors of this type will cause difficulty on long waves, but not on medium waves.

Two small bolts hold the wavechange switch in the cabinet slot. Use short flexible leads to the switch, connecting it as in Fig. 3. It is easiest to solder a flexible lead to trimmer TC2 for this purpose, before mounting the trimmer

assembly.
Wiring should be checked against the diagrams. It is also worthwhile checking that the values of colour-coded resistors have been read correctly. The speaker assembly is then added by inserting the four bolts through the holes in the panel, and securing with nuts. The output transformer secondary leads are then soldered to the speaker tags.

Use 6in. lengths of thin flex for the battery leads, taking care to solder the correct clip to each lead, so that positive goes to the on/off switch (earth line) and negative to the 100μ F (C15) condenser, as in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.

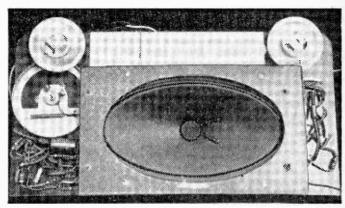
I.F. Circuit Alignment

It is useful to connect a meter, reading up to about 15mA or 20mA, in one battery lead, for initial tests. When the set is switched on, this meter should show about 6mA to 10mA, the exact current depending on individual components. If the meter shows a high current, some wiring or other fault exists, and should be looked for at once. Do not leave the set switched on with a large current flowing.

If a signal generator is available, set this to 470kc/s, and place the output lead of the generator near the collector lead of TrI. Then adjust the three I.F. transformer cores for maximum output. The modulation tone of the generator should be heard clearly in the speaker, and the reading of the meter in circuit should rise to 15mA or more. Keep signal strength down by reducing the generator output, or taking the output lead a little way from the receiver.

All adjustments in the receiver should be made with a fully insulated tool. This can be made from a strip of paxolin, or an insulated rod, filed to engage with the cores and trimmers. It is impossible to align the set properly with a metal tool, even if it has an insulated handle.

If no signal generator is available, tune in any station which can be heard. Then adjust the I.F. transformer cores for maximum volume. All three transformers should "tune in" quite sharply, with all cores in a reasonable position. That is, not so far unscrewed that they are in danger of falling out, and not screwed right in out of sight.



The front of the receiver with the cabinet removed.

When the three I.F. transformer cores have been adjusted in this way, leave them untouched during subsequent alignment.

Medium Waves

Put the switch in the M.W. position. That is, towards the left, in Fig. 3. The only adjustments to be made, with the set switched to medium waves in this way, will be to the oscillator coil core, trimmer TC1 (see Fig. 3) and the position of the M.W. winding on the ferrite rod.

Tune in a station of fairly low wavelength (200m to 250m) and unscrew TC1. As TC1 is unscrewed, keep the station in tune by slightly closing the tuning condenser. If volume slowly improves as this is done, then begins to fall, leave TC1 at the setting giving best volume.

If volume is best with TC1 screwed fully down, push the M.W. winding slightly further on the rod, and repeat as above. If volume is best with TC1 fully unscrewed, draw the M.W. section slightly off the rod, and repeat as described.

When reception here seems good, tune to a high wavelength station (around 400m to 450m or 500m). Slowly adjust the oscillator coil core, meanwhile keeping the station in tune, by manipulation of the tuning wheel. A setting for the core should be found which gives best results. Also try moving the M.W. section on the ferrite rod slightly, if necessary, for best results.

The receiver should now perform well over the M.W. band. However, one set of adjustments will influence the other, so trim up again at a low wavelength, and repeat once or twice, as described, until no further improvement seems possible.

Initially, it may be necessary to choose powerful local stations, to obtain alignment which is approximately correct, but, as alignment proceeds, sensitivity will increase considerably. Weak distant stations should then be used for final adjustment, as with these it will be easier to find the exact, optimum position for trimmers, etc.

Do not choose powerful stations for final adjustment, with the volume control turned back to keep volume down, as this will make the work difficult.

(Continued on page 54)

SERVICING TAPE RECORDERS

EQUALISATION AND RECORDING SPEEDS

By T. S. Smith

S mentioned in the previous article in this series, the recording-level indicator gives a useful check on the recording circuits—if a recording cannot be made and the indicator works normally, the fault probably lies in the recording head feed and switching circuits such as the equalisation network and switches "D" and "A" in the circuit (page 1123, last month). If the machine also fails to replay, the record/replay head could be open-circuited.

Poor quality recordings may originate from a defect in the "record/replay" equalisation switching, such as switches "C" and "H" in the circuit. Poor reproduction of a tape recording may be

caused by a similar fault.

In the type of circuit shown, a definite defect in V4 stage would cause failure of both the bias oscillator and replay output stage. The symptoms would be no replay and severe recording distortion. accompanied by erase failure. The recording distortion, of course, would only be revealed by playing the tape on another recorder, in which the replay sections were working correctly.

Frequency Response

The overall frequency response of a tape record can never be perfectly "flat". Let us take the case of a perfectly flat recording amplifier through which a tape record is made. The recording amplifier is coupled to the recording head in such a way that the recording current is constant at all frequencies. This is called "constant-current" recording, and is adopted in almost all recorders.

Let us now suppose that the tape is passing the recording head at a constant speed and that an audio signal is applied to the input of the recording amplifier, and also that the signal can be varied in frequency from the very low end of the spectrum into the very high end at a con-

stant level.

Characteristic

This means that, irrespective of frequency, the signal current in the recording head will always be the same. The general set-up with frequency characteristics is given in Fig. 6. Here the signal source is produced by an audio generator, and if this test is ever performed it is most important to ensure that the signal level from the generator remains the same as the frequency is altered.

(Continued from page 1145 of the April issue)

Now, if a recording is made at various frequencies over the audio spectrum from, say, about 40c/s to 10,000c/s, and the recording is played back again through a replay amplifier with a perfectly flat frequency response with some means of monitoring the output in terms of level, a rather unusual effect will be observed.

Top and Bass Cut

From below 2,000c/s or thereabouts the output will fall at the rate of about 6dB per octave. Maximum output will occur at about 2,000c/s (depending on the tape speed), and the output will again fall at higher frequencies. The set-up for observing this effect is shown in Fig. 7 (a) and the resulting recording/replay response is shown in Fig. 7 (b).

The bass cut occurs because the rate of change of magnetic flux at the replay head decreases with decrease of frequency. It should be remembered, of course, that the replay head is rather like a dynamo, the output of which increases with increase in speed of the rotor. The dynamo gives an output which is approximately proportional to the rate of change of magnetic flux, which is caused by the rotor revolving.

Take-up Supply spool spœl Erase Recording head Constant Frequency — Flat response Recording amplifier Frequency -Constant Audio output Frequency -

Fig. 6—The arrangement of tape recorder, amplifier and audio signal generator for producing a constant-current recording over the audio-frequency spectrum.

The rate of change of magnetic flux at the replay head is, of course, a function of the frequency of the recorded sound. The higher the frequency, the greater the rate of change of flux and the greater the output voltage from the replay head winding. Thus, the output goes on increasing at the consistent rate of 6dB per octave of frequency increase until it reaches a peak.

Gap Width

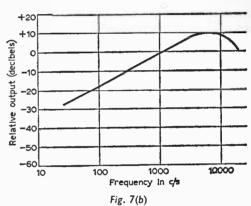
The output then starts falling very rapidly for an entirely different reason. Actually, there is more than one reason for this. One is inherent to the recording process in that the very short "magnets" which are produced on the tape at high frequency tend to demagnetise themselves, which happens normally with very short magnets. Another reason has something to do with the gap size of the replay head—the smaller the gap, the better the high-frequency response. This is because a very small gap is shorter than the very small magnets impressed upon the tape at

Take-up Supply spool spool Frase Playback head head Tape recorded as in Fig. 6 Output meter Playback Flat response amplifier Output **^** Load Frequency -Fig. 7(a)

and 30in./sec while the home recordist usually has to make do with a top speed of 7½in./sec. This should not be taken to mean that high-quality recording cannot be made at the lower speeds. Indeed, with recent improvements in tape, gap dimensions and equalisation, recordings containing frequencies up to about 10,000c/s are possible at 7½in./sec. The very low speeds, however, are essentially unsuitable for recording high-quality music and are used mainly for speech and dictation purposes.

Constant-Current Recording

In most domestic-type recorders the replay out. put valve is often also employed as the recording amplifier valve, and a circuit after the style of that shown in Fig. 8 is often evolved. Here V1 is the replay output valve with T1 as the output transformer. On "replay", switch S1 connects the loudspeaker across the secondary of the transformer in the ordinary way. A further switch usually at point "X" on the diagram, disconnects the record/replay head from the output valve and connects it in place across the input of



If a tape, recorded as shown in Fig. 6, were replayed as shown at 7(a), and the output monitored on an output meter, a graph of relative output against frequency would appear as shown at 7(b).

high frequencies, whereas a gap of larger dimensions may approach the size of the recorded magnets and thus give very little or zero output as the frequency is raised.

Other reasons are related to the "coercivity" of the tape and the speed of the tape past the recording and replay heads. Tape coercivity is a measure of the ability of the tape to resist demagnetisation, so a tape of relatively high coercivity is likely to result in an improvement in high-frequency response, owing to the reduced risk of demagnetisation of the higher frequency magnets. Most modern tapes have a fairly high coercivity value.

Recording Speed

Speed is most important so far as the highfrequency performance is concerned. Far better recordings can be made at a tape speed of 15in./sec than at, for instance, 3½in./sec or lower. Professional recordists use tape speeds of 15in./sec

the replay amplifier. The output stage then works in the normal manner, its signal being received at

the control grid.
On "record", however, S1 connects the load resistor R2 across the secondary of the output transformer and the recording head is connected to the network comprising C1 and R1. The loudspeaker, of course, is also disconnected by S1. Bias is applied to the recording head through R3 and C2. Now, when the recording signal is applied to the control grid of V1, a fairly high peak A.F. voltage occurs across the primary of T1. The output stage is loaded by R2 so there is no possibility of damage to the output valve or the output transformer.

Varying Impedance

The recording head contains mostly inductance due to its winding, plus a little resistance. It will thus have an impedance value which increases with increase of frequency of the signal applied

from the output stage. A typical high impedance recording head may have an inductance in the region of 0.8H. Excluding winding resistance, this would give an impedance of 500Ω at 100c/s and $50,000\Omega$ at 10,000c/s.

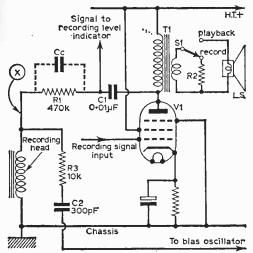


Fig. 8—A circuit diagram giving the essential elements for constant-current recording,

However, since this is fed over such a range of frequencies via a high value resistor R1 (470k), the varying impedance is almost totally swamped by the resistor, and so far as the signal source of the anode is concerned, there is a total impedance variation of only $470,500\Omega$ to 520,0000, representing the very small ratio of about 1.2.1. Without RI there would be a variation of 500Ω to $50,000\Omega$, which represents a ratio

Clearly, then, the source provides an almost constant current into the recording head network. What really happens, of course, is that the voltage across the recording head rises with frequency (as the impedance rises), but because the impedance rises at the same time, the current remains constant.

Series Resistor Value

The value of R1 is selected to suit the impedance of the recording head, and when it becomes necessary to replace this component, one of equal resistance must be used. If the resistor increases in value, the constant current function will not be destroyed, but the current in the head will be decreased and under-recording will result.

A decrease in value will upset the constant current characteristics and will probably cause over-recording at the lower frequencies. The bias may also be disturbed, since some of the bias signal will be shunted by the relatively low impedance of the source (i.e., valve anode circuit).

Capacitor C1 in the network is essentially to block D.C. However, its impedance increases with increase in frequency and thus tends to reduce the recording level a little towards the high-frequency end of the audio spectrum. This is not

unduly troublesome, for, in effect, this is the same as giving a little bass boost to the recording, and

some circuits may require this.

On the other hand, it may be necessary to provide a little more recording current at the higher frequencies to compensate for some of the high-frequency losses occurring in the overall system. This is sometimes accomplished by connecting a capacitor of suitable value across the recording head feed resistor, as shown by the broken line in Fig. 8.

MERCURY

(Continued from page 51)

L.W. Band

Put the switch in the L.W. position (towards the right in Fig. 3) and tune in the Light Programme on 1500m. Adjust TC2 until this station falls at roughly the centre of the band. Adjust TC3 for best volume.

It should then be possible to receive some overseas long wave transmissions. Choose one near the low wavelength end of the band (tuning condenser open) and re-adjust TC2 and TC3 as necessary, for best volume.

Then, locate a station towards the high wavelength end of the band, and move the long wave section of the aerial along the rod, for best volume.

These stages can be repeated as necessary, to bring about any final improvement.

Important Notes

The alignment procedure may seem very difficult, but in practice it is not generally so. Remember that an insulated tool, as described, must be used. If all wiring is correct, local stations should usually be heard at reasonable volume almost at once. This gives a signal for initial tests. Deal with the circuits in the order given-I.F. stages, medium waves, then long waves.

With a meter connected as described, the "no signal" current will probably be around 7mA or 8mA, but may be a little outside these limits. If the current is much under 6mA, and the speech and music sound distorted, R18 is probably too low in value for the transistors used. This would be possible if a different pair from those mentioned were fitted.

The extent to which the meter reading rises will depend on the volume, and will be around 10mA to 15mA for average purpose, but may be up to 25mA or more for maximum volume. If R18 is too high in value, current peaks will be much heavier than necessary.

Cabinet Fitting

The receiver is inserted from behind, with the control wheels projecting through the slots. Adjust the position of the receiver until the wheels can turn correctly, then screw the receiver in place. This is done by passing four countersunk screws through the holes in the cabinet front, and driving them into the hardboard.

To hold the battery in position, thread a piece of fairly stout elastic through two holes in the panel. This will take either the square type of 9V transistor battery, or the slightly smaller round

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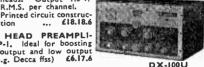
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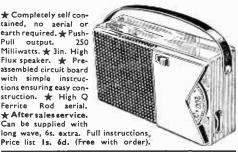
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AND A.F. STAGES

(Continued from page 1050 of the March issue)

By G. J. King

VINLIKE their valve counterparts, transistorised A.M./F.M. receivers usually feature two stages arranged exclusively for the amplification of the I.F. signals. This means that when the set is switched to "F.M." there are three stages of I.F. amplification, since the A.M. mixer then operates as an extra stage. It will be recalled that such switching was dealt with in Part 5 of this series (in the March issue), and that the circuit in Fig. 13 dealt with the A.M. frequency changer (I.F. amplifier on F.M.) and the first I.F. stage. Fig. 11 in Part 4 (February issue) showed the

transistorised VHF/F.M. tuner; Fig. 15 of this months article, gives the final I.F. detector and A.F. stages of a typical set, so the complete circuit of the receiver can be formed by joining together

the sections of Figs. 11, 13, and 15.

a replacement is of identical type. A transistor with a lower frequency cut-off would very much impair the overall gain on F.M., while one of different characteristics, although possessing the required frequency performance, might upset the I.F. tuning and neutralising.

Common I.F. Stage

Tr5 of Fig. 15 is the I.F. amplifier which is common to both F.M. and A.M. It is fed from the series-connected I.F. transformers at the base, and is loaded at the collector by the primaries of the ratio detector transformer (for F.M.) and the final A.M. I.F. transformer. The base is stabilised by the potential-divider R1/R2, and R3 is the emitter resistor. A small amount of degenerative feedback is applied between emitter and base by the capacitive-divider C1 and C2.

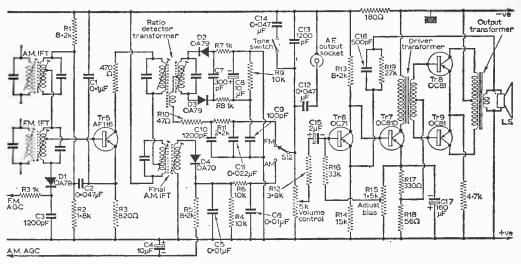


Fig. 15-The final I.F. detector and A.F. stages of the Perdio (model 95) A.M./F.M. receiver.

At this stage it should be noted that while a large percentage of transistor VHF/F.M. sets adopt the framework described in the last three articles, a smaller number use two separate I.F. channels one for A.M. and the other for F.M. Apart from the composite I.F. stages, however, the operation of the various stages is almost identical to that of those already described.

Stages which are required to amplify the F.M. I.F. use transistors which provide a worthwhile gain at the F.M. I.F. of 10.7Mc/s. The Mullard AF116 is a transistor popular for this position, and it is important to ensure that the transistor used as

A little of the I.F. at the secondary of the F.M. I.F. transformer is rectified by diode D1 and fed back through R3 to the VHF tuner R.F. base circuit. This gives a form of F.M. AGC and prevents the I.F. amplifier from being overloaded by strong F.M. signals.

A.M. Detector

When the I.F. stages are carrying A.M. signals, the amplified A.M. I.F. is developed across the primary of the final A.M. I.F. transformer, induced into the secondary and thus applied to the A.M. detector diode D4. The audio signal is developed across the load resistor R4. Across this load also occurs a direct voltage of a strength depending on the amplitude of the I.F. signal, and this voltage is used as AGC on the I.F. stage preceding Tr5 (see Fig. 13, March issue) on A.M. only.

Condenser C5 removes spurious 1.F. signal at the load, and further filtering is provided by R6 and C6. The audio output is then fed to the A.M./ F.M. change-over switch S12, and from there it is fed to the volume control.

Ratio Detector

When the set is switched to "F.M.", the F.M. I.F. signal is developed across the primary of the ratio detector transformer (10.7Mc/s), induced into the tapped secondary and applied to the ratio detector D2 and D3. The load is R9 and the "stabilising capacitor" is C8. This combination gives a fairly long time-constant and thus makes the detector insensitive to A.M. interference. A constant direct voltage occurs across R9/C8 of a strength dependent on the amplitude of the F.M. I.F. signal.

The audio load of the ratio detector is C10, and the F.M.-derived audio output is fed to the other terminal on S12 through R11, which, in association with C11, provides de-emphasis to balance the pre-

emphasis applied at the F.M. station.

The low value resistor R10 limits the currents in the diodes on strong signals and in this way prevents the diodes falling too much out of balance, which might otherwise happen with a consequent impairment of A.M. limiting on very

strong F.M. signals.

Resistors R7 and R8 in the diode circuit act as a resistive "swamp" and thus mask the differences in forward resistances of the two diodes. Without these components, it would be difficult to balance the ratio detector, but in some sets a variable resistor is used in one diode circuit, and the idea is to adjust this for minimum output when an A.M. signal is injected into the tuner or I.F. stages. C9 is really in parallel with the load and stabilising capacitor, and its purpose is to remove any I.F. signals which may be present at this point.

The Audio Stages

Clearly, then, either the A.M. or F.M. audio signal is present across the volume control. With the set under discussion, this audio signal is taken to an output socket through the isolating capacitor C12. This is useful for the signal is of very good quality at this point and may thus be used for applying to the "radio input" of a tape recorder or hi-fi amplifier as a signal source.

Fixed tone control (for the best equalising) is provided by C13, and additional "top-cut" can be switched in by the "tone control" switch. This simply puts an extra capacitor in parallel with the

fixed tone control capacitor.

The audio output from across the volume control is fed to the base of the first A.F. transistor (Tr6) through R12 and C15. Tr6 works in fairly conventional common emitter mode, with R13 as the collector load and R15 as the emitter resistor. However, the collector is direct-coupled to the base of the "driver" transistor Tr7 and, likewise, the base circuit of the push-pull pair (Tr8 and Tr9) is direct coupled to the emitter circuit of Tr7. With all the audio transistors coupled in this

manner, a means is provided whereby adjustment to the base current of Tr6 gives corresponding changes in the static conditions of the remaining transistors. Moreover, improved thermal stabilising also results.

Bias for Tr6

It will be seen that the base of Tr6 is not connected to a conventional resistive potential-divider, but instead is biased from the P.D. across the "adjust bias" pre-set R15, via R16. The

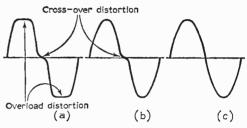


Fig. 16—The waveform (a) shows overload and crossover distortion. The input signal should be reduced to clear the overload distortion (b), and the "adjust bias" pre-set should be set to eliminate crossover distortion (c).

voltage across R15 is given partly by the emitter current of Tr7 and partly by the voltage drop across the emitter resistors of Tr7-R17 and R18.

Now, when R15 is adjusted, there occurs a change in Tr6 collector current, which is reflected into Tr7 as a change in base current. This changes the voltage drop across Tr7 emitter resistors, and as the voltage here is partly responsible for the base current of Tr6, a very efficient stabilising effect results, as may be required to stabilise the effects of temperature change of the transistors.

The change of potential at the junction of R17/R18 is reflected into the base circuit of Tr8 and Tr9 as a change of base current. This is useful because now R15 may be used initially to set the operating point of the push-pull pair. This is accomplished by feeding a 2kc/s sine wave signal into the A.F. output socket and monitoring the output on an oscilloscope connected across the loudspeaker terminals. A milliameter is also connected in series with the battery positive lead.

Adjustment

The audio output from the generator should be adjusted in level to avoid overload distortion and R15 should then be adjusted to eliminate cross-over distortion of the output stage. There may be two points over the range of R15 where the latter occurs, but the point finally chosen should be that where the total receiver current does not exceed 15mA.

In Fig. 16 is shown a series of waveforms which may be obtained; (a) shows overload distortion accompanied by crossover distortion; (b) shows crossover distortion only: and (c) shows the sine wave which should result when R15 is correctly adjusted, and which should be almost a replica of the input waveform.

(Continued on page 62)

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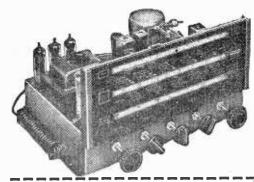
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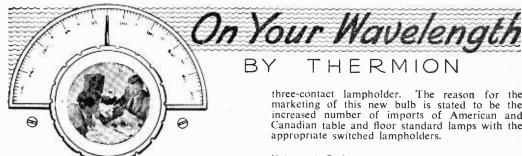
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Radio Cooking

HAVE just heard that the miniature transistorised radio has now reached the realm of the kitchen—a new cooker which has recently been introduced has a transistor set built into the splash plate at the back. The idea apparently is to provide the house-wife with a radio set to which she can listen while doing her chores and which cannot be removed from the kitchen. The loud-speaker is at the side of the cooker and the set is insulated against moisture and heat. If this idea catches on, no doubt we shall see transistor sets in many other seemingly unlikely places.

Nomenclature

Talking of the transistor radio sets reminds me that for some time, I have been meaning to put in a plea for the correct use of the word 'transistor' by the lay press. It now seems that this word no longer means the actual tiny electronic gadget, but a transistorised radio set. I often hear my non-technical friends talk of buying a 'transistor' when they mean a complete set and not just one of the parts.

I think that non-technical advertising people are to blame for giving too much prominence to the transistor side of miniature sets, although I cannot remember actually seeing an advertisement

in the national press for a 'Transistor'.

A New Light Bulb

Although sales campaigns for electric light bulbs are still carrying on, it seems to me that nothing really new has appeared for some time. The two most recent developments have been the introduction of a new shape for the envelope of the bulb, and the use of an opal type of coating inside the bulb for the better diffusion of light. The only other development has been rather negative—the coiled coil filament, once very popular, has now been rejected as causing more rapid failure.

However, now a boost to the common electric light bulb appears to be imminent—a new type has been announced which has two filaments in one envelope. These two filaments can be switched on singly or together to give three degrees of brightness. This procedure varies the current taken by the bulb to give ratings of 60W, 100W and 160W.

The bulb has a special base cap with three contacts, but at the time of writing it is believed that no British manufacturer produces a suitable three-contact lampholder. The reason for the marketing of this new bulb is stated to be the increased number of imports of American and Canadian table and floor standard lamps with the appropriate switched lampholders.

Volumetric Radar

Aircraft speeds continue to increase, and more and more are in the skies at once; at the same time, methods of tracking planes must be improved both in efficiency and speed and ease of operation. Radar is the answer of course but until recently it seemed that conventional techniques would not be able to cope indefinitely. The major limitation arose from the fact that the plan position and aircraft heights were found on separate equipments such as a fan beam and nodding height finder. Thus, to track aircraft flying at high speeds and rapidly changing heights, duplication of equipments would be needed, making the system unwieldy and expensive.

Volumetric radar is now being introduced—a technique originally designed to meet defence needs. Basically, the system works by using a number of radar beams stacked one above the other. Information of plan position is gained by adding signals from all the beams. However, an aircraft flying at a given height will give a stronger signal from one or two particular beams and this can be used to determine the height.

In effect, this method divides the air space under observation into layers and, by suitable techniques, one layer at a time can be used for a plan position display thus reducing the radar operator's task. Height finding is also more rapid and accurate.

How much more informative radar is these days; let us hope that more and better systems will be evolved for coping with the increasing traffic and reduce even further the numbers of accidents.

'Cordless' Telephone Switchboards

Rapidly gaining favour in large firms are electronic 'cordless' telephone switchboards. These have a number of advantages over conventional switchboards; for instance, only one telephone is required at each extension for both internal and external calls, and local calls may be dialled direct after dialling a simple code to obtain a GPO line without the need for the operator's services.

Connections are made by the operator simply by using key switches instead of the more familiar cords and jack-plugs, and in some instances, the operator 'dials' calls simply by pressing numbered buttons. Another feature is the attractive appearance of the switchboard and its small size, and where multiple position boards must be installed, less space will be taken up, resulting in more room for the operators.

--- Club News----

REPORTS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY OF CHESHAM AND

Hon. Sec.: Capt. C. G. Stephenson, G3CLJ, 21 Lynton Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire

The first R.A.E. course for 1962, which commenced on February 6th, is being supported with enthusiasm by members. Construction and transmitter modification is, at the moment, taking second place to redecoration which is being carried out by members at the society's headquarters.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Hon. Sec.: P. Carbutt, G2AFV, 19 Warner Road, Barnsley, Yorkshire.

On February 23rd, members attended a lecture given by H. H. Eyre, on high frequency crystal filters. A sale of members' surplus equipment was held on March 9th and on the 23rd, J. Kruse gave a lecture on hi-fi speakers.

April 13th—Workshop practice, by J. Walker. April 27th—VFO/CO mixers, by W. Lee.

BRADFORD RADIO SOCIETY

BRADFORD RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: M. T. G. Powell, G3NNO, 28 Gledhow Avenue,
Roundhay, Leeds 8, Yorkshire.
The meeting on February 27th was taken up by a display of
members' equipment. On March 13th members attended a
lecture by G3LZW about audio amplifiers. The Annual General Meeting was held on March 27th.

Future Events: April 10th—Spares sale. April 25th—Field day arrangements.

DERBY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: F. C. Ward, G2CVV, 5 Uplands Avenue, Littleover, Derby.

The A.G.M. of the society was held on February 7th, when the new committee of officers was elected. On February, 11th the G5YY Trophy was competed for, and on 14th a discussion on reflectors was lead by S. Swindell. The annual dinner and dance was held on February 17th and on the 28th members enjoyed a film show.

Future Events: April 11th—Advanced work on two metres, by T. Douglas. April 29th—Trentham Gardens Mobile rally.

EXETER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: S. Line, 46 Roseland Crescent, Hearitree, Exeter,

At the meeting on February 6th, J. White gave an interesting talk and demonstration of his top band transmitter/receiver and his VHF receiver.

The society meets on the first Tuesday of each month and meetings begin at 8 p.m.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: G. Sunter, 24 Booth Fold, Luddenden Foot, Halifax, Yorkshire.

On March 6th members heard a talk, given by G3MAX, on the conversion of surplus. March 20th was a ragchew night and on April 3rd G3IBN gave some aerial demonstrations.

Future Events:

April 17th—Ragchew. May 8th—Life on two metres, by G5YV.

MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: G. H. Grayer, G3NAQ, 103 Vicarage Road,
West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

The North Midlands Mobile Rally, which is being organised by this society, will be held at Trentham Gardens, Trentham, on Sunday, April 29th.

NORTHERN HEIGHTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: A. Robinson, G3MDW, Candy Cabin, Ogden, Hallfax, Yorkshire.

Recent activities have included a demonstration of tape recorders given by T. Fawthrop. On March 21st members heard a falk by G3GJV on his mobile equipment.

Future Event:

April 18th-Annual General Meeting.

PETERBOROUGH RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: D. Byrne, G3KPO, Jersey House, Eye, Peter-

borough.

At the February meeting, G3DAF gave a lecture on "Christmas Island." His talk was illustrated with coloured slides: Arrangements have been made for a rally at Skegness in June.

PLYMOUTH RADIO CLUB

Hon. Sec.: R. Hooper, 2 Chestnut Road, Peverell, Plymouth, Devon.

A spares sale was held at the clubroom on March 20th. The judging for the G5ZT Trophy was carried out on April 3rd. Future Event:

May 8th-Annual General Meeting.

PRESTON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: W. K. Beazley, 9 Thorngate, Penwortham,
Preston, Lancashire.
The society meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each

month and the meetings begin at 7.30 p.m.
On March 13th, W. H. Brown, G3NQX, gave a talk on masts and

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT RADIO CLUB

Hon. Sec: H. E. Taynor, G3NAH, 103 Cross Lane, Royston, near Barnsley, Yorkshire.

The club's newly completed H.F. band transmitter is now operating on 80, 40 and 20m. VFO as applied to a top band transmitter was the subject of the lecture given on February 15th, and on March 15th the subject was electrical installation and supply.

Future Event: April 19th—Modulator for a top band transmitter.

SPEN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: N. Pride, 100 Raikes Lane, Birstall, near Leeds.
On February 28th, aerial problems was discussed by A. R. Bailey,
and on March 14th L. Dougherty gave a lecture on radio astronomy. At the meeting on March 28th, G3ADQ gave a talk on single side band.

Future Events:

April 11th—Railway signalling. April 25th—Simple maths, by L. Stevenson.

STOKE-ON-TRENT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: J. Brindley, G3DML, 40 Milehouse Lane, Newcastle, Staffordshire.

The RSGB has confirmed the re-election of G3COY to the posts of affiliated society representative for Stoke-on-Trent Amateur Radio Society, and town representative for the RSGB in Stoke-on-

The society will again be co-operating with the Midlands Amateur Radio Society for the annual mobile rally at Trentham Gardens. Details of this and other events were discussed at the AGM held on March 22nd.

FAULTS IN VHF/F.M. RECEIVERS

(Continued from page 58)

Very few A.M.-only transistor portables feature such fine detail in the audio stages, but this is desirable in F.M. sets if full advantage is to be taken of the high quality reproduction which F.M. is able to provide.

Feedback

A further aid to quality is the negative voltage feedback loop in Fig. 15. This is from the secondary of the speaker transformer, via R19, back to the emitter of the first A.F. transistor Tr6. The capacitor (C16) across R19 provides frequency selectivity in the feedback loop, and gives more feedback at the higher frequencies than at the lower ones.

Previous articles in this series have embraced both valve and transitor F.M. sets, and have given various ideas for obtaining the best results; the next and concluding article will deal with final points on servicing.

(To be continued)

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(11.50N: W0696A, W0696B, 50/6, Post 2/6, W0710, 55/6, Post 2/6, W0892, 62/3, Post free; W0767, 27/*, Post 1/6, W01796A, 57/6, Post

276. PARTRIDGE: P3667. 60/-, post free. P4014, 98/6, post free; P4131, 60/-, post free; P3501A, 99/-, post free; P5202, P5203, 95/-, post free; P4133, 52/6, post 2/6; P4073, 45/-, post 2/6. PARMEKO: P2611, 28/-, post 2/-.

MAINS TRANSFORMERS

GILSON: W074LAB, 634-, post free; W0838, 48/9, post 2/9; W01328, 58/6, post 3/6.
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We have two new designs for Transistor amplifiers which can be used to greatly improve the signal from any crystal set. Leaflet available.

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The kits are easy to build and very detailed instructions are supplied.

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circuits. ● Log/Anti-Log, 500k, 1 meg., 2 meg. ● Log/Log. 50k,
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GOODMANS: Axiom 110 10in. £5.2.0; Axiom 112 10in. £8.14.0; Axiott 8in. £6.15.0; Axiom 300 12in. £11.5.9; Axiom 400 12in. £16.1.0; Audiom 60 Bass, 12in. £9.12.9; Trebax Tweeter £6.4.0; CX 500 Cross-over Unit £1.19.0. WHITELETY: HF 1016 10in. £8.4.0; HF 1012 10in. £5.2.6; HF816 8in. £7.0.9; T816 8in. £6.10.0; T10 Tweeter £4.8.3; T359 Tweeter £1.15.10; CX3000 Cross-over unit £1.11.6; CX1500 Cross-over unit £2.0.0, H.P. Terms available.

AMPLIFIER KITS

We have full stocks of all components for the Muliard 510. Mullard 3-3. Mullard 2 and 3 Valve Pre-amp. Mullard Stereo. Mullard Mixer. GEC 912 Plus. Fully detailed list on any of these sent upon request. Instructional Manuals: All Mullard Audio Circuits in "Circuits for Audio Amplifiers". 9/5. GEC912. 4/6. All post free.

TAPE RECORDING EQUIPMENT

TAPE REGORDING EQUIPMENT
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B.S.R. 1792 28.19.6 21.16.6 12 of 13/7
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We now stock the Martin Recorder Kits. These are partly assembled kits for complete tape recorders. The Amplifier Printed Circuit panels are completely wired, but the assembly of this and external components is left to the constructor. Very complete instructions are supplied. Send for leaflet, MODEL C for Collaro Studio Deck 21.11.0.
MODEL C for Collaro Studio Deck 21.11.0.
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ARMSTRONG PARO-S. This is a ready made version of the Mullard Tape C Pre-amplifier. Price £16.16.0. Hire Purchase Deposit £3.8.0, and 12 monthly payments of £1.4.7. MULLARID †APE C PRE-AMPLIFIER. We stook complete kits and all components. Send for list.

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SINGLE RECORD PLAYERS
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The AVO Models 7 and 8 are both latest models from current production—not to be confused with Government Surplus.

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NOW SUPPLIED COMPLETE WITH PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD AND FREE GIFT OF MINIATURE EAR PIECE. An easy "first step" set for the young constructor. This miniature marvel with the BIG performance has an internal Ferrite rod aerial—5 transistors and 1 diode—separate medium and long waveband control—200 milliwatt push-pull output—24in, moving coll speaker—unbreakable plastic case with carrying handle. Complete with full instructions. Circuit diagram 1/6, free if all parts bought. All parts sold separately.

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This two-wave band superhet receiver incorporates six first grade Mullard Transistors and one Diode: Printed circuit: Internal Ferrite rod aerial; develops 400mW push-pull output driving 8x 3 speaker: M.W. and L.W.; operates on two 4.5 v. batteries. Although full portable (car aerial socket provided) this set has a performance superior to many mains radios of much greater size.

87.19.6

Attractive two-tone cabinet—size 94 x 6 x 3 in. Price includes full assembly and alignment instructions.

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TRANSISTOR THE SUPER **'SONIC SIXTY'** RADIO KIT VALUE

6 Mullard transistors, 1 diode, internal ferrite rod aerial, 7 x 4 high quality speaker, printed circuit, 500mW push-pull output. MW and LW calibrated direct drive assembly.

88.19.6
P. & P. 4/8
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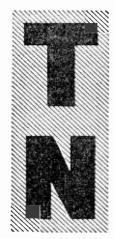
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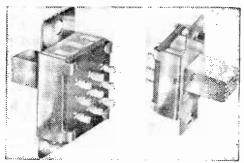
ews

MINIATURE SLIDER SWITCHES

TWO miniature slider switches, Types S5 and S6, primarily designed for use in the radio and television field have been introduced by the Plessey Company Limited.

Both types have "make-before-break" contacts operated by sliding a plastic button. "Break-before-make" contacts can be supplied if required.

Type S5 is a 2-pole 2-position, and Type S6 a 3-pole 2-position switch; in each case the moving contacts are fitted inside the operating button and are thus completely protected from external damage.



Two new switches from Plessey Ltd.

Both types have identical specifications, differing only in the switching facilities provided. The frame is of cadmium plated steel and both moving and fixed contacts are in hard brass, silver plated.

The switches are made by The Plessey Company Limited, Ilford, Essex.

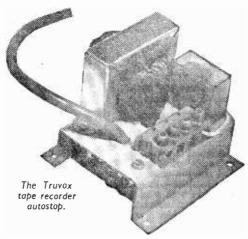
AUTOMATIC TAPE STOP

THE DA.83—made by Truvox—is an automatic stop for tape recorders designed to stop the motors as soon as the metal foil or metallised portion at the end of the tape reaches the tape guides.

The Autostop—as it is called—embodies a relay the purpose of which is to switch off the tape deck motors when the end of the tape is reached. The relay receives its impulse from a voltage applied between two tape guides or pillars on the tape deck.

The unit has its own independent and self-contained power supply which delivers approximately 20V D.C.

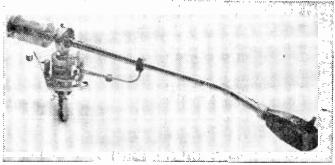
The relay operates when an electric circuit is completed by the tape foil coming between the guides or pillars, one of which is insulated and the other in metallic contact with the tape deck. To resume normal operation after the Autostop has worked, all that needs to be done is to switch off momentarily. The tape stop is made by Truvox Limited, Neasden Lane, London, N.W.10.



PICK-UP ARM

THE Council of Industrial Design in London recently chose the S.M.E. precision pick-up arm (models 3012 and 3009) for a Design Centre Award.

The pillar is of hardened steel and the tone arm is of stainless steel, made non-resonant by an internal lining of fibre wood. All the bearings are totally enclosed and the pivot friction is very small. The mass is balanced longitudinally and laterally and the lowering control is hydraulically damped to reduce the risk of damage to the stylus and record.



The S.M.E. precision pick-up arm.

The two models are approximately 9in. and 12in, in length and cost £18 15s. 0d. and £20 12s. 6d. respectively (purchase tax extra).

S.M.E. Limited, Steyning, Sussex.



TRANSISTOR RADIO

THE T.R.102 is a new 7 transistor radio recently introduced by Bush Radio. This receiver has two original features, the first being that it is turned "on" and "off" by opening and closing the scale cover, and the second is that a touch on the tuning knob illuminates the pointer scale.

It covers both medium and long wavebands and the waveband selection is by push button and a third button gives maximum/minimum treble tone.

The moulded cabinet is in cream, with a turquoise scale cover and red and black scale. A ferrite rod aerial is built into the set and a socket is provided for connecting an external aerial. A socket is also provided to connect an earphone for private listening.

The T.R.102 costs $21\frac{1}{2}$ guineas and is made by Bush Radio Ltd., Power Road, Chiswick, London,

W.4.

NEW RECORD PLAYER

A NEW and improved version of the model RP392, "Nine-Octave" record player has just been released by Ekco.

Provision is made for the instant addition of stereophonic facilities by the interchange of pickup heads and the connection of a separate stereo unit by means of a single plug-in lead.

The Model RP392 provides high-fidelity reproduction of all records manually or automatically. The 8W amplifier ensures an ample reserve of sound output, while the push-pull output stage has a frequency response covering nine octaves (30c/s to 16kc/s). Independent bass and treble controls are incorporated and a switched amplifier input socket allows reproduction from a tape recorder, microphone or radio.

The cabinet is finished in scratch-resistant walnut veneers with a woven plastics speaker grille.

The price of the record player is 55 guineas and it is made by Ekco Radio and Television Ltd., Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

NEW RANGE OF INSTRUMENTS

A NEW range of instruments made up from standard Lektrokit components is announced by A.P.T. Electronic Industries Limited. The first units in the range are two decade resistors (type LKU-211 and LKU-221), a decade capacitor (type LKU-111), and a capacitor box (type LKU-121).

The units are intended both for industrial applications, and also as medium accuracy instruments for use in universities, technical colleges and

schools.

The two decade resistors cover the ranges 1Ω to 1·11k (LKU-211), and 1k to 1·11M (LKU-221). Each unit comprises three decades controlled by 12-way switches, which give a short-circuit and an open-circuit position in addition to ten equal increments of resistance.

The decade capacitor covers the range 50pF to 0.111μ F. The unit comprises a continuously variable air-spaced capacitor for the range 50pF to 1000pF, in parallel with two switched decades using high-grade polystyrene film capacitors, for the higher values. The switched decades cover the ranges 1,000pF to 10,000pF, and 10,000pF to 100.000pF (0.1μ F).

The capacitor box provides various values of capacitance commonly met with in circuit design, from $0.05\mu F$ to $28\mu F$. The unit consists of a number of individual capacitors, each controlled by its own on/off switch, which brings the capa-

citor into circuit when required.

All the units are designed to form part of a uniform range of inexpensive but sturdy instruments and are of the same size. The cases are made up from standard components of the Lektrokit chassis construction system, and are intended for operation with the panel horizontal.

The Lektrokit chassis construction system consists of a range of simple and inexpensive components which can be assembled using screws and nuts, to make electronic chassis of any shape or size likely to be met with in most laboratory or small production requirements.

A.P.T. Electronic Industries Ltd., Byfleet, Surrey.



A Decade Resistor from the new range of Lektrokit units.

Br	and	new. i	ndiv	idually		PL82	8/-	, ∨R99	8/-	6AM5	5/-	6X5GT	5/-	80	5/6	8020 10/-
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1 511			•			PT15	10/-	I	7/6	6AQ5	7/-	6Z4	5/6	82	8/-	9002 5/6
1	V	AL'	VΕ	S		PT25H	7/6	VR 150/		6AT6	5/-	7B7	7/6	83V	9/-	9003 6/-
Ι.	-					PX4	19/-	l	7/3	6B7	5/6	7H7	7/3	84	8/-	9004 2/6
AL60	6/-	EBC90	5/-	EZ40	7/-	PX25	9/-	VT4C	25/-	6B8G	2/6	7C6	7/-	85A1	9/-	9006 2/6
AR8	5/-	EC52	8/-	EZ4I	6/9	PY32	12/-	VU39	6/-	6C4	2/6	7C7	6/6	85A3	15/-	Cathode
ARDD5	2/-	EC70	10/-	EZ80	6/-	PY80	6/9	W31	7/-	6C5	61-	7Q7	7!-	89	6/-	Ray Tubes
ARP3	3/-	EC90	20/-	EZ81	6/9	18Y9	7/-	X66	8/-	6C6G	3/-	7V7	5/-	210VPT		
ARP4	3/6	ECC81	5/6	FW4/50		PY82	8/-	Y63	5/-	6C8G	5/-	7Y4	6/-	7-pin	2/6	ACR1 15/-
ARP12	2/9	ECC82	6/6		6/6	PY83	7/3	Y65	41-	6D6_	4/-	7Z.4	4/6	250TH	€9	CV1596
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ARP24	3/6	ECC84	7/-	GL450	10/-	QP21	6/-	Z31	6/-	6F7_	5/-	9D2	3/-	393A	15/-	3FP7 25/-
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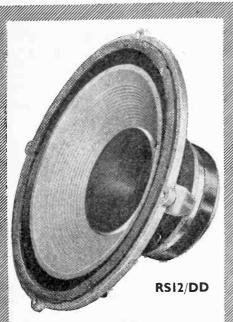
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Using your

MULTIMETER

By G. J. King

THE USE OF THE MULTIMETER IN RADIO CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICING

HE multimeter (sometimes called "multirange meter") has many applications in the fields of radio construction and servicing, and is probably one of the most useful pieces of single test equipment ever evolved. This is the basic instrument which should be in the possession of all keen experimenters, since without it or an array of separate test meters, very little can be done. A good instrument will tell almost all there is to know about the fundamental operation of a radio set, whether it be of commercial origin or home constructed.

There are many instruments from which to choose, ranging from a few pounds to many tens of pounds, but in all cases the heart of the instru-

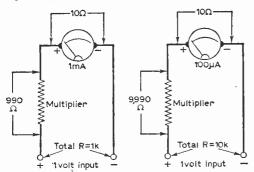


Fig. 1 (left)—The basic voltmeter circuit, showing how the use of a 1mA movement provides a sensitivity of 1,000 Ω /V. The multiplier is set for a full-scale deflection of 1V.

Fig. 2 (right)—By the use of a $100\mu\text{A}$ movement the sensitivity is increased to $10,000~\Omega/V$. Again, the multiplier is set to give a full-scale deflection of 1V.

ment is the moving-coil movement. This is essentially a current measuring device. That is, it gives a reading in proportion to the amount of current flowing in its moving coil. The most useful meter movements are those which provide maximum deflection of the pointer for the smallest amount of current.

All moving coil meters require some current to cause the pointer to move, and when making measurements on radio equipment it is essential that the smallest possible current is taken from the circuic under test. The meter is operated, of course, by the test circuits, and if a lot of current is required to move a pointer then it follows that

the circuits under test will be expected to supply, in some cases, a current considerably in excess of that for which they were originally designed.

Certain circuits can provide the extra current to operate even the most inefficient of movements without any trouble, but other circuits cannot supply even a few microamperes of extra current. The amount of current required by a movement to provide full-scale deflection of the pointer is a measure of the movement's sensitivity. Some meters require 10mA or more, while others give full-scale deflection with a current of less than 1mA

Instruments of low sensitivity are ideal for certain power applications where an extra few milliamperes will be unnoticed, but with all radio work, a meter of the very highest sensitivity should be chosen. No meter will have a sufficiently low sensitivity as to damage the circuits under test. What happens is that the meter "loads" the test circuits so that the voltage present with the meter connected (and as recorded by the meter) falls to a value considerably below that present with the meter removed.

Thus, although a reading may be given, it may be of little use as it is grossly incorrect owing to the loading of the meter. To fit in with this aspect of loading, instrument sensitivities are often given in terms of "ohms-per-volt," or ohms/volt (Ω/V) : that is, the total amount of resistance present between the terminals of a voltmeter in relation to the full-scale voltage. For example, a meter with a sensitivity of $1,000\Omega/V$ would have a resistance across its terminals of $1,000\Omega$ on the "1V" range. $2,500\Omega$ on the "2.5V" range, $100,000\Omega$ on the "100V" range and so on. The resistance value as determined by the voltage selected thus shunts the circuit under test when the instrument is applied to make a measurement, and in very high resistance test circuits, there is almost a total "swamp" effect caused by the meter, thereby seriously modifying the circuit's normal operation.

Multiplier Resistor

The terminal resistance of a voltmeter is equal to the sum of the resistance of the movement and the value of the series-connected multiplier resistor. The multiplier resistor value is computed so that the total terminal resistance passes the current required to give full-scale deflection on the movement. For example, if the movement has a full-scale deflection of 1mA, then to give full-scale deflection when 1V is applied, the total resistance must equal the voltage divided by the current, in volts and amperes respectively when the resistance is in ohms, or in volts and milliamperes when the

resistance is in thousands of ohms (i.e. kilohms). This would be $1,000\Omega$. A little of this is made up by the resistance of the movement and the remainder by the multiplier resistor, as shown in Fig. 1.

der by the multiplier resistor, as shown in Fig. 1. This is where the sensitivity "loading factor" comes in, for, with a 1mA movement arranged with a multiplier to give 1V full-scale deflection (f.s.d.) the sensitivity is 1mA/V. The sensitivity is exactly the same, of course, if the multiplier is arranged to give a full-scale deflection of, say, 100V. The total terminal resistance would be $100,000\Omega$ against 100V full-scale deflection (still 1,000 ohms/volt).

On the other hand, a movement with a full-scale deflection of, say, $100\mu A$ (0.1mA) would require a total terminal resistance of $10,000\Omega$ to give full-scale deflection on 1V, see Fig. 2. This would produce a sensitivity of $10,000\Omega/V$. Similarly a $10\mu A$ (0.01mA) movement would result in a sensitivity

of 100.000Ω/V.

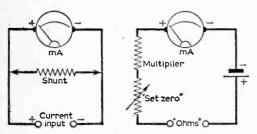


Fig. 3 (left)—For current measurements, the movement is shunted by a resistor, called a "shunt". Fig. 4 (right)—The basic circuit of the "ohms" section of a multimeter.

Clearly then, when making voltage tests in high resistance circuits, the instrument should be adjusted to the highest possible range, consistent with a useful deflection, for then the loading is minimised.

Now that transistor circuits demand the measurement of very small voltages, the lowest voltage range should not be much greater than 1V, whereas 1,000V represents a good full-scale top range. Intermediate ranges of 5V, 10V, 100V, 250V and 500V are useful.

The minimum sensitivity should not be less than $10,000\Omega/V$, but if possible an even higher sensitivity is desirable, as we have already seen. The cost of instruments rises considerably with increase of sensitivity, so the final choice may be dictated by the pocket rather than technical desirability.

It should be remembered that there are some extremely good meters available, particularly on the surplus market, with a sensitivity of $1,000\Omega/V$ or less. These can prove very useful for certain tests, but if they are ever used to measure voltages in high resistance circuits, their limitations must be kept fully in mind.

Current Readings

It usually follows that a multimeter with a high sensitivity (in terms of Ω/V) will measure smaller direct currents than a similar instrument with a lower sensitivity. The reason for this has already been dealt with, and that is the higher sensitivity

is brought about by the use of a more sensitive movement, i.e., one which will give full-scale deflection with a small current.

When a multimeter is switched to the current ranges, the movement is applied directly across the terminals, and the various current ranges are given by the connection of "shunt resistors" of suitable value across the movement terminals, as shown in Fig. 3. Even on the lowest current range a shunt is often used, but it is usually of fairly high resistance to swamp variations in movement resistance in production. This shunt is often variable in some way as a calibrating device.

Resistance Ranges

Resistance is measured on a multimeter by connecting a battery in series with a multiplier resistor, and having a variable resistor—labelled "set zero"—to allow full-scale deflection to be set when the meter leads are connected together. The scale is calibrated directly in "ohms," and if a resistor is connected between the test leads the deflection will be something less than full-scale, depending on the value of the test resistor (see Fig. 4).

Again, the highest resistance measurement possible is governed by the sensitivity of the instrument. The battery, which is invariably accommodated inside the instrument housing, also has a bearing on top resistance measurements, and some instruments have two or more resistance ranges, brought about by the use of different shunts

or battery voltages or both.

A.C. Ranges

There are three basic types of multimeter. Firstly, the D.C.-only version, which measures D.C. voltage and current and possibly resistance. Secondly, the type which measures D.C. voltage and current, resistance and A.C. voltage only. And thirdly. the truly "universal" instrument, which measures voltage (A.C. and D.C.), current (A.C.

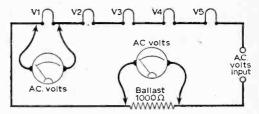


Fig. 5—By measuring the A.C. voltage across a valve heater or ballast resistor, the current may be found by Ohm's law (see text).

and D.C.), resistance and possibly capacitance and inductance.

In radio work, A.C. current usually requires to be measured in heater chains and similar circuits, but the same information can be obtained by an A.C. voltage measurement across a valve heater or ballast resistor, and then computing the circuit current from Ohm's law (i.e. current equals the voltage measured across the resistor divided by the value of the resistor)—see Fig. 5.

the value of the resistor)—see Fig. 5.
[An article on adding A.C. current ranges to multimeters appears on page 28.—ED.]

(To be continued)

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x 64m. x 44m. at base
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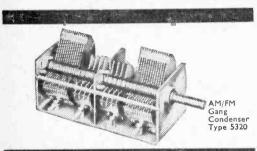
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394		68N7GT	6/-	35%4GT	8/-	ECC84	7/6	N17	7/6	UL41	8/6
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4

Transistorised SQUARE WAVE

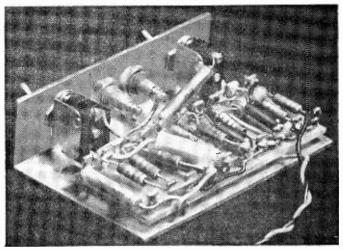
AN INEXPENSIVE INSTRUMENT FOR USE WITH AN OSCILLOSCOPE

Generator

By A. Foord

SOUARE wave consists of a fundamental sine wave with the addition of all the odd harmonics. In theory, all the odd harmonics up to infinity are included in a perfect square wave, but in practice this is never realised. The harmonics in the case of this generator do, however, extend well into the R.F. band. This property of the square wave renders it a considerable asset for quick fault finding in radio receivers and A.F. amplifiers, since it can be injected at any point of any stage, and will give an output at the loudspeaker.

If an oscilloscope is available a great deal of information can be obtained about the frequency response of an A.F. amplifier and



The completed unit.

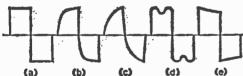
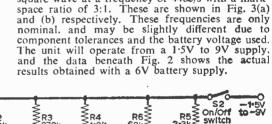


Fig. 1—If an oscilloscope is available an A.F. amplifier may be tested by applying a square wave input and observing the output on the oscilloscope.

by observing the output of the amplifier most of its faults can be determined. For example, in Fig. 1(a) the input square wave is shown. In Fig. 1(b) the rounded leading edges show that the amplifier has a poor high frequency response, and the waveform of Fig. 1(c) shows an even greater deterioration of H.F. response. Low frequency deficiency is shown in Fig. 1(d), while L.F. phase distortion is shown in Fig. 1(e).

The Circuit

The circuit used by the author is shown in Fig. 2 and consists of a conventional multivibrator. With S1 open, the unit produces an excellent square wave at a fundamental frequency of 6kc/s. With S1 closed, the unit produces a



square wave at a frequency of 440c/s with a mark-

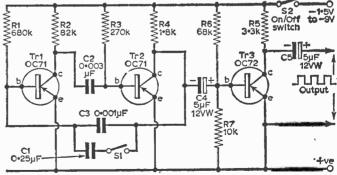


Fig. 2—The circuit of the generator. With SI open, the frequency is 6.6kc/s and the mark-space ratio I:I; with SI closed, the frequency is 460c/s and the mark-space ratio 3:1. Current consumption is about 2.5mA and the output 5V peak-to-peak.

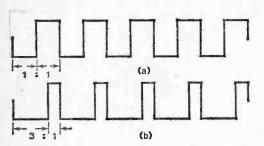


Fig. 3—a—The output waveform with S1 open; b—the output waveform with S1 closed.

The square wave is produced by Tr1 and Tr2. It is then passed into Tr3 and is shaped and limited. If the constructor is not

limited. If the constructor is not too particular about the shape of the wave, Tr3 may be omitted as the action of Tr3 can only be seen on an oscilloscope. In this case, the output would be taken from the positive side of C4.

Construction

The construction used by the author is shown in Fig. 4. The tagboard used was a ten-way type, and the transistors can be wired up so that they fit neatly down between the components on the tag-board. A compact unit could be made in a small case if a 1.5V cell were used for power.

COMPONENTS LIST

Resist	ors:				
RI	680k	R5	3-3k		
R2	82k	R6	68k		
R3	270k	R7	10k		
	1.8k				
Capa	citors:				
ĊI	0·25μF	C4	5µF	12YW	elec.
C2	0.003µF	C5	5μF	12YW 12YW	elec.
	0.001 µF				
Trl	, Tr2 OC71's				
	OC72				
SI,	S2 On/off sw	itches			
Batte	ry (see text), to	ag board,	etc.		

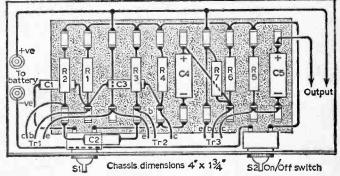


Fig. 4—The component layout and wiring diagram.

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12/18v. 5A. 13/6 43/68v. 15A. 47/6
12/18v. 16A. 13/6 48/60v. 2A. 18/6
12/18v. 10A. 12/6 48/60v. 2A. 18/6
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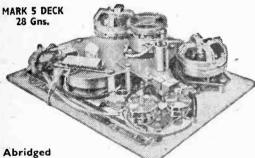


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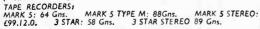
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Letters to the Editor

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

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 the cover.

SOLDERING TRANSISTORS

SIR,—Since the use of transistors has become so popular and the number of circuits published so many and varied, it is often necessary for real enthusiasts like myself to make use of the same transistors while experimenting with different circuits. I have found that by using short lengths of rubber-covered flex of different colours for collector, base and emitter positions, I can avoid the use of the soldering iron on the actual transistors. I merely pull out three or four strands of wire from the lengths of coloured flex, solder one end of each into position and then slip the actual leads of the transistors into the "open" ends of the flex—the removal of a few strands of the original wires makes this an easy matter, but good contact is assured. Using this method the transistor leads may be shortened to half-an-inch or so without risking any damage from over-heat-

I hope this tip may prove useful to other readers. -C. J. SHANNON (Southampton).

VINTAGE MODELS

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Forwarch's letter in the February issue, I would like to say that I also have—and enjoy listening to—an old American radio. It is a Weston which was given to me during the second World War. At that time it had just been reconditioned and now it is still in working order. Although only a four-valve set, it gives a better tone than nearly every modern set that I have heard.

I would like to correspond with any other Weston owners.—P. G. THOMAS, 6 Eton Ave., Heston, Middlesex.

SIR,—I am greatly interested in the correspondence you receive concerning vintage receivers. I have a Portadyne, five valve, mains model A72, purchased new in 1934 for 11 guineas. The set is still in daily use and all the valves are the originals and the only replacements have been a couple of volume controls and one condenser. The quality is still very good, apart from slight mains

hum.

I also have a Portadyne six valve portable model PB6, which I bought last year at the local market for five shillings, complete with eliminator. The set was in working order and has been in

constant use in my cellar workshop. The only problem is keeping an accumulator constantly on charge to cope with the drain of six valves.

The set owned by Mr. Munro ("On Your Wavelength," March issue) brings back happy memories. My uncle was a great A.J.S. motor-cycle enthusiast, and I well remember visiting him and being shown the latest marvel, an A.J.S. radio, exactly as shown in Mr. Munro's photograph, the only difference being that there was a large frame aerial on top.—D. ROBINSON (Bootle).

F.M. QUALITY

SIR,—I am a regular reader of PRACTICAL WIRELESS, and feel that I must write and say that I strongly disagree with the correspondents who state that their vintage A.M. receivers are far better than modern receivers. These people can never have heard a good F.M. tuner, coupled to a high quality amplifier and speaker.

Most owners of these old receivers state how good the bass response is. This is due to the fact that all they hear is bass and no top response, as the bandwidth of the receiver will not cover higher audo frequencies, plus the fact that 4.5kc/s is the higher, audio frequencies are not transmitted on L.W./M.W. A.M. transmissions.

On M.W. and L.W. many stations have other stations competing for the same frequency, therefore the listener hears the required station but with another station in the background.—D. G. RICHMOND (Whixley, Yorkshire).

SIR,—I must endorse the remarks made by Mr. T. G. Davies (March issue) concerning anomalies of F.M. reception.

About 18 months ago I substituted a pair of coils in a Philips turret-tuned TV receiver with a pair of home-made coils wound to cover Band II. Despite the obvious fact that the TV set used a conventional A.M. demodulator, the F.M. transmission came through loud and clear.* I would hesitate to say that quality was better than a ratio detector would provide, but to my ear it was certainly satisfactory.

About the same time I modified the ratio detector circuit of a home-built F.M. tuner to a simple diode A.M. demodulator and much to my surprise the tuner worked admirably with a greatly increased sensitivity and no appreciable loss of quality. It certainly would appear from my experience that the use of conventional forms of F.M. demodulation are unnecessary in view of the additional complication involved.

I have also noticed the weak repetition of F.M transmissions at points on the dial other than the

^{*} Slope detection!—ED.

correct one. As in Mr Davies's case the nearest station was Wenvoe, but I put this down to freak reception of Wrotham and other distant stations, but as I had no other means of checking frequencies at the time, this theory remains unconfirmed.

—D. G. B. ARTHUR (London, S.W.9.).

CORRESPONDENTS WANTED

SIR,—I am sixteen and would like to correspond with any other radio enthusiasts of my own age, and anyone who has any information on, or has had any experience with, a six-valve "Metro-Stentor" radio.

This radio was purchased for ten shillings, with a rather pathetic 78 rev/min only record player in a magnificent cabinet. The circuit includes two 6V6's in push-pull, driven by a transformer from the anode of the double-diode triode. Also a two-position pre-selector control is fitted as standard (how many modern radios have this incorporated?)

The output, after a few modifications, is in excess of 11W, and with full long, medium, and short coverage and twin speakers; it is as good a radio as I have encountered in a long time.

P. Forbes (55 Shackleton Road, Tilgate, Crawley, Sussex).

SIR,—I am very interested in radio constructing and theory, and hope to take the R.A.E. shortly. I would like to correspond with someone of my own age (16). All letters received will be answered.—K. BAKER ("Bonaccord," 87 Batley Road, Alverthorpe, Wakefield, Yorkshire).

CALLING ALL CARS

SIR,—Thermion recently spoke about an interference generator to cut out noise from small radio portables. When is someone going to produce a small transmitter receiver to be fitted to all cars and work on a standard frequency? I have in mind a small R/T set behind the drivers right ear which would have a range of 30 yards and enable the driver of one car to speak to the other, such as in the case of overtaking. For city use there would be a jumble of speech but this could be overcome by the police who could use a high power transmitter in the control of traffic.—W. MACKENZIE (Kingussie).

A DIRECT-READING FREQUENCY-METER

(Continued from page 47)

Response-Pulse Duration

Whereas D1 removes the negative spikes of the differentiated square wave at Sk3 output, they are still present at pin 7 of V5, because there simply C11 and VR2 are used for differentiating. It is necessary that the response-pulse from V5 should have ended of its own accord before the negative spike arrives at C11, as this could otherwise terminate the response-pulse in V5 prematurely, giving erratic readings. This condition is obviously satisfied if R28 is made no larger than the value giving response-pulses on each range no longer than one-third of the time of one cycle of the input frequency giving full-scale deflection.

If this maximum size of response-pulse (to be enecked on an oscilloscope) does not allow sufficient meter deflection to be obtained, then a more sensitive meter must be used. A 500 µA movement should then be used, and D2 must be replaced by a 6V zener diode. Although the prototype worked well ultimately with the cheaper ImA meter arrangement, adjustment was tricky and near the limit of what was possible, so that, if available, the 500 µA meter might be used right

from the start.

Alternatively, the constructor might try raising R27 to 56k or even 100k, and placing C11 between Sk3 and pin 7 of V5. This causes negative spikes to be absent at grid pin 7 too, and thus removes the necessity for the restriction of response-pulse time-length. Two disadvantages of this method are then the lower voltage level, which may lead to difficult triggering of V5, and the interference to triggering of V5 possible when apparatus is fed from Sk3. The issue must be decided by experiment. It is also possible to duplicate the arrangement feeding Sk3, but making the counterpart of R27 then about 56k, for triggering V5.

Input Waveforms Acceptable

It is the positive-going transition of each cycle of any input waveform to V1 which will ultimately lead to a trigger to V5. Thus the only restriction placed on an input waveform is that such positive transitions of sufficient steepness must be present.

The steepness on a sine wave is certainly sufficient, and a sine wave is the simplest wave form possible. Consequently it is reasonable to suppose that for any other waveform, if positive transitions are weak, the negative ones are likely to be all the more distinct, e.g., a positive sawtooth. In such cases it is merely necessary to reverse the polarity of the input voltage. The input polarity should be such that the steepest transitions are from negative to positive. If of incorrect polarity, a single amplifier stage will reverse a signal. If from an anode circuit, it may be possible to tap off from a cathode resistor, or vice-versa, or from elsewhere in the circuit supplying the waveform, where polarity is reversed.

But this point is not so very critical. The prototype is remarkably easy going regarding waveforms it will accept. Fed from the extension speaker terminals of a radio set, the behaviour is exactly as expected. Relatively low readings on mediumwave music, higher but strongly fluctuating readings on speech, considerably higher readings on everything on an F.M. transmission, and very great readings of many kilocycles greater than anything else as soon as the carrier is detuned, with hiss, noise and sideband-splash of high frequency, or if any heterodyne whistles appear. The prototype will sort out and indicate the frequency of a heterodyne whistle considerably weaker than the actual programme on which the whistle is located, which is rather remarkable. Better proof of its generosity in type of waveform acceptable is hardly needed.

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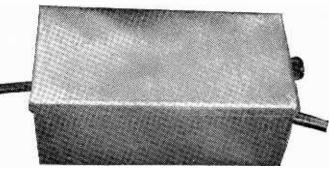
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Transistor Receiver Mains Unit

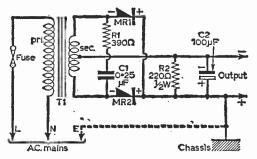
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The circuit.

course, very useful indeed when testing receivers or experimenting with them. It can be disconnected in a few moments, so that the battery can be replaced when the receiver is to

changes whatever are needed in the receiver.

The circuit is shown in Fig. 1. The transformer isolates the secondary circuit and receiver from the mains. Two rectifiers are used in a full-wave circuit, with centre-tapped secondary. The 220Ω resistor draws a current of about 45mA, and as a result the output voltage is largely stabilised against fluctuations which would otherwise arise with changes in current drawn by the receiver. The 100μF condenser is for smooth-

Constructional Details .

Fig. 2 shows the layout of parts, and all wiring. A box approximately 4in. x 2in. x 13in. deep will easily hold the components. An aluminium plate is cut to fit in this box, with a little clearance, and the parts are assembled on this.

The transformer is held in place by passing its securing tags through holes. The primary leads go to the fuse holder, and an insulated tag, these

items forming anchor points for the mains flex.

Both rectifiers are bolted to the chassis plate by their positive terminals, and the plate is also common to the mounting tag of the 3-tag strip, and the positive lead of the output circuit. It is essential that the secondary centre tap (blue) goes

COMPONENTS LIST

Resistors:

RI 390Ω₂W

 $R2 220\Omega_{2}^{1}W$

Capacitors:

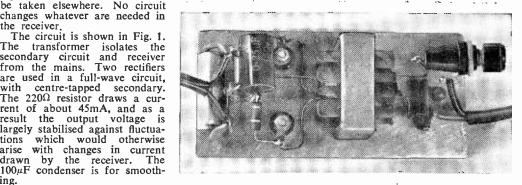
CI 0-25µF 150VW

C2 100µF 12VW elec.

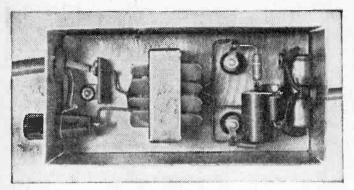
MRI, MR2 G | 7-M rectifiers

TI 9/0/9V transformer (Osmor)

Two tag strips, 100mA fuse, fuseholder, etc.



A top view of the unit.



The unit assembled in its ease.

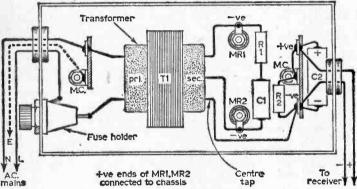


Fig. 2-The wiring diagram.

to the negative side of the circuit, as shown. The 100μ F condenser should have an insulated sleeve, or should be covered with some type of insulation, to avoid contact between the can (negative)

and chassis.

Twin flexible leads of convenient length pass through a grommet, to supply the receiver. If the receiver uses any of the popular kinds of 9V battery, a pair of battery clips can be soldered to these leads. The receiver battery leads can then be clipped to the eliminator output leads with a minimum of trouble. If the receiver uses a battery with

If the receiver uses a battery with sockets, a suitable socket strip can be purchased, or obtained from an old battery. The receiver can then be plugged into the eliminator output, or battery, at will.

For the mains circuit, use good quality flex. A 100mA fuse is inserted in the fuse holder, and it is preferable that this fuse be wired in the "live" mains lead, as in Fig. 1, so if a nonreversible (3-pin) plug is used, employ red for this lead, and take it to the "L" pin of the plug. Black is then used for "N" (neutral). When a

3-pin plug is available, the chassis and secondary circuit can be earthed at the earth pin, as shown by the dotted line in Fig. 1.

The chassis plate can be held in the box by the same bolts which secure the tag-strips, extra nuts being used underneath to obtain clearance for the rectifier terminals,

Testing

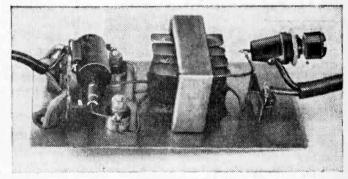
If a meter is available, connect it to the output leads, and insert the mains plug. The meter should show about 9V, the exact figure depending on the mains voltage, etc. The voltage on the prototype was found to read just over 9, with no load, and slightly under 9 with a receiver

under 9 with a receiver drawing 16mA. This compares favourably with a battery, and is suitable for any set of usual type.

Polarity

The meter will confirm that polarity is correct—it is essential that this is so. If the clips or sockets have been soldered to the correct leads, it will be impossible to connect the receiver incorrectly.

The eliminator leads or clips must not be allowed to come into contact with each other.



Another view of the unit.

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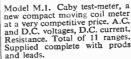


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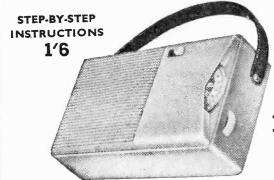


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