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Brilliantly designed by the Sinclair research and development team, the Micro-6 is years ahead of anything the Americans, Japanese or Germans have yet produced. For within its minute dimensions, just $14 / 5 \mathrm{in} . \times 13 / 10 \mathrm{in} . \times \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$., it incorporates the features of a de-luxe receiver. The professionally styled case and dial give this set outstanding appearance and make it a delight to use. Building the Micro-6 will be the most fascinating experience you have ever had in electronics. Send for yours today and you will have for your pride and lasting pleasure the smallest and most efficient receiver of its kind on earth.

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One of a series of specialised micro-electronic transistor designs by

# SEt IN THE WORLD 

 $\star$ six stage sensitivity.* Unique circuitry gives immense power and quality.
- Plays in car, train, bus or plane.
* Self-contained ferrite rod aerial and batteries.

K
Excellently detailed building instructions.

## CHASSIS VIEW ACTUAL SIZE



This life-size illustration of the Micro-6 shows the ingenious printed circuit boord layout which makes it such a deiight to build. By following the well presented instructions handbook, building could not be simpler.

## TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

The Micro-6 uses Micro-Alloy Transistors (MATs) in a completely new circuit comprising six stages. Two stages of R.F. amplification are followed by an efficient doublediode detector which drives a high gain three stage A.F. amplifier. Powerful A.G.C. is applied to the first R.F. stage to ensure fade-free reception of the most distant station, and tuning covers the entire medium waveband. This is widened out at the high frequency end to provide improved separation of Continental stations. The tiny ferrite rod aerial and earpiece socket were both specially designed for this set. This socket incorporates a switch which operates automatically on inserting the earpiece plug, and switches off when the plug is withdrawn. Listening is by means of the high-impedance lightweight earpiece provided, Quality of reproduction is outstandingly good.
Instructions for building the Micro-6 set a new standard of clarity and simplicity. The diagrams are a masterpiece of technical illustration and the text contains all the information you require. Parts for building the Micro-6 together with instructions come to only....

59'6
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MORE SINCLAIR DESIGNS ON NEXT PAGE

A.G.C.



BLOCK DIAGRAM OF CIRCUIT

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The success of the Sinclair 'Slimline' has been demonstrated again and main in the letters we have publithed from amone the many hundreds sent to us by enthusiestic builders of this femous receiver. Of these, none urpasses the one we publish below. It typifies better than anything the ase with which the 'Slimline' can be buile and also the excellence of the performance it offers. Newcomers to micro-transistor set building cannot do better than gtart risht away with the 'Slimline' now.

## SINGLAIR "'Slimline"

Simplicity itself to build

60 A Bromley Road,


It gives you Europe in the palm of your hand

The Sinclair 'Slimline' is a micro-miniature receiver with self-contained ferrite rod aerial and accommodation for a standard PP.S battery. Using Sinclair MAT Transistors and special circuitry, it provides grant power and quality, tuning over the whole medium waveband and will play in car, bus or train. With all components, goldetrimmed blue case (size 2 tifn. $x$ iHin. $x$ $\frac{4}{4}$ in.) and lightweight earpiece, to build this set coste

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Esfiswan YD202 Germanium diodes
目

## MICRO ALLOY TRANSISTORS

## Mat 100 Mat 101 <br> Mat 101 Mat 120 <br> Mat 1 ？



Transistor Aviriio．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．818
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RECORD PLAYER AMPLIFIE解
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Eminently suitable for bass, lead or rhythm guitar and all other musieal instruments




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High-hdeluty push-pull output. Separate bass and treble "cut" and "boost"
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A highly efficient unit incorporating a massive $15 i n$. high tux loudspeaker specially constructed to withstand heaviest load conditions. Ratiag 25 watts. Individur. bass and treble controls pive high impedance jack socket in puts are separately controlled. All controls are convenientlv positioned in a recess on tod of the cabinet. Cabinet is ol substantia construction and attractively fin ished in two conttasting tones of Rexine and Vynair. Size approx. $24 \times 21 \times 131 \mathrm{n}$. Operation from 200250 v. 50 c.p.s. A.C. mains.
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Size $30 \times 20 \times 151 \mathrm{n}$. for 12in. Speaker. Sutable Speake Only 7 sns

AUDIOTRINE III-FI SPEAKFR GYS TEMS. Consisting of matched $12 i n$ 12, (0) line. 15 ohm high quality speaker: cross-over unit (consisting of choke condenser, etc.) and Tweeter. The smooth resporise and extended frequency range ensure surprisingly realistic reproduction. Standard 10 watt ratink e4.19.9. Carr. 5/Or Senior 15 watt, e6.19.9. Carr. 7/6.

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18in. Beautiful 18in. Beautful wannutveneergant contemıporary design. Robustconst丁uction. Uncut, removDepth above baseboard $5 t^{\circ}$.



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Quality Tapo Tape Amplifler wig negative feedback equallsation for earh of 3 speeds. Hish Flux P.M. Speaker, empty Tape Spool. a Reel of Best Qualit Tape and a Handsome Portable Carrying Cabinet with latest attractive two-tone polychrome finish, size $144 x 15 \times 84$ in. high ahd circult. Total cost if purchased individually approximately f40. Performance equal to units in the 860 med class. S. A. E for eafets. TEItBS, Deposit $\mathbf{2} 2.13 .9$ and 12 monthly parmenks of $44 /$. Cash price if settled in 3 months.

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 PUSH-PULL ULTRA, LINEAROUTPUT 'BUILTTIN' TONE
Two mput sockets with associated controls athow mixing of "mike" and gram., as in Alo. H 1 gh sensitivity. Includes 5 Valves, ECC83. tionali wound output transformer speclally tionally wound output transiormer specially designed for Ultra Linear operation and reliabie smail condensers on current man BASS AND TREBLE 'Lift" and "Cut" Frequency

 PANLY ${ }_{0}^{8}$ SOLDERED JOLNTS ${ }_{23}$ millivolts INPUT required for FULL OUTPUT. Suitable for use with all makes and types of pick-ups and microphones. Comparable with the very best desigas for STANtypes of pick-ups and microphones. Comparable wUSICAL INSTHUMENTS such as STRING BASS, LEAD OR KHYTHM GUITARS, etc.
OUTPUT SOCKET With plug provides $300 \mathrm{v}, 30 \mathrm{~mA}$, and 6.3 F .1 .5 a . For supply of a OUTPUT SOCKKT With plug provides 309 x $71 n$. For A.C. Mains $200-250 \mathrm{v} .50 \mathrm{c} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{s}$. Output for 3 and 15 ohms speakers. Kit is complete to last nut. Chassis is fully punched, Fuld instructions and point-to-point wiring diagrams supplied. only 8 Cins. Carr. Cor factory built 5 pol-extra.) If required louvred metal cover with 2 carrying handles can be supplied for 18/9. TERMS ON ASSEMBLED UNITS. DFPONIT $24 / 9$ and 9 monthly payments of 24/9. Send S.A.E. for illustrated leafet detalling Cabinets. Speakers. Microphones. etc. with cash and credit terms.
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A complete set of parts for the construction of a stereophonic amplifier gjving 5 watts high quality output on each channel (total 10 watts). Sensitivity is 50 millibass and Treble Control give equal variation of "lift" Bass and Treble control give equal variation of "cut" provision is made for use as straight and "cut". Provision is made for use as straght ECC83, EL84, EL84, EZ81. Outputs for $2-3$ ohm speakers. Point-to-Point, wiring diagrams and in- 8 EnS. structions supplied. Send S.A.E. price list 2/6. Carr. 10/Kit can be supplled assembled and ready to use for $59 / 6$ extra.

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 $300-0-300 \mathrm{v}$, 130 mA .6 .3 v .4 a . 6.3 v . 1a. . for Mullard 510 Ampliffer
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 $300-0-300 \mathrm{~V}$. 130 mA . ${ }^{6.3 \mathrm{~V}} \mathrm{~F}$. $4 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{C.T}$. . $6.3 \mathrm{z} .33 / 9$ $350.0-350 \mathrm{v}$. 100 mA . $6.3 \mathrm{v}, 4 \mathrm{a}$. $0-5-6.3 \mathrm{v}, 3 \mathrm{a} \cdot 27 / 11$ $350-0-350 \mathrm{v}, 150 \mathrm{~mA} .6 .3 \mathrm{v}$. 4 a . $0-5-6.3 \mathrm{v}$. $3 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{I}^{2}$ 35/8

FELLY SHIROUTBEIN (continued)-$425-0-425 v .200 \mathrm{~mA} .6 .3 v, 4 a$, C.T. $5 v, 3 a .$.
$425-0-425 v .200 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 v, 4 a$, C.T. 6.3 v $4 \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{T} .5 \mathrm{v}$. $\mathrm{Ba} \mathrm{A}, 6.3 \mathrm{~V}$. 4 a , C.1.. 6.3v
 Midget Battery Pentode 66:1 for 3S4 Small
Small Pentode, $5,000 \Omega$ to $3 \Omega$ Standard Pene $78,000 \Omega$ to to $3 \Omega$ Standard Pentode $7,000 \Omega$ to $3 \Omega$ $10,900 \Omega$ to $3 \Omega$
Push-Pull 8 waits, EL84, or 6 V 6 to $3 \ddot{\circ}$ Or matched to $15 \Omega$
Push-Pull 10-12 watts to match 6V6 or Following to $3-8$ to $15 \Omega$
Following types for 3 and 10 n speakers Push-Pull 10-12 watts 6 V6 or EL81 Push-Pull 15-19 watts, 6L6, KT66 Push-Pull Muhard 510 Ultralinear ${ }^{*}$ 6L6,KTG6, EL34, etc.

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MOOTHING CIIOKEA $150 \mathrm{~mA}, 7-10 \mathrm{H}, 250$ ohms. $90 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{H}, 350$ hms $\because$ $11 / 9$ $60 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{H}, 350 \mathrm{ohms}$ | $\because \quad 5 / 9$ |
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| . | CRIARGEFR TRANSFORMERS All with 200-230-250v. $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ Primaries: $-9-15 \mathrm{Y}$. 14, 12/9: 0-9-15v. 2日, 14/8: 0-9-15y $3 \mathrm{a}, 16 / 9 ; 0-9-15 \mathrm{v}, 5 \mathrm{a}, 19 / 9 ; 0-9-15 \mathrm{v} .6 \mathrm{a}, 23 / 0 ;$ $-9-15 \mathrm{v} .8 \mathrm{a}, 28 / 8$.

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 Value， 50 ohna to 50 K． $46 ; 100$ K．． $7 / 6$.
 TRITMCDS Gergeaie． $30,50,70 \mathrm{pF}, \mathrm{M} ; 100 \mathrm{pF}$ $150 \mathrm{pF} ., 1 / 8 ; 250 \mathrm{pF}{ }_{4}$ 1／6； $500 \mathrm{pF}^{2}$ ． $760 \mathrm{pF} ., 1 /$


 100 to 10 meg D 10 to 50.100 to $g 2$ meg 81 10ntirtong OZ1， $2 / 6 ; 022,2 / 4 ;$（07s， $1 / 6$ ．
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MAMS TRAMSPORMERS 200950
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3，${ }^{4}, 5,6,8,9,10,12,15,18,24,30$ v

HULLARD＂H10＂Mais Transtormar PARYELO MAINE TRAPSPORMRR \＄\＄8／6 pectal contract，the ratiug can sately to doubled．Guaranteed ：y yeara frimary $\because 10-230-250$ v．H．T． $800-0-300$ マ 50 mu
6.3 \％． 1.8 mp．Bize $4 \mathrm{z} 3 \mathrm{I} \mathrm{I} 3 \mathrm{k} . \quad . \quad 17 / 6$
 O．F．TAANSEORMERE，Hesvy Duty，5／6．sulti－ retio． 1 ． 15／8．Battery＇4／6．Sub min．5／9．
10 w．O．F，matchang trans． $3,7,15 \Omega$ ，18／8．
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 250 \％．for charging at ${ }^{2}, 6$ or 12 V．，If anopen $15 / 8 ;$ smpa．，17／6；ampu，29／s．ot cuit iscluded． AIT GAB BATTERY CHARGRR with am．

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 0－14 500 c рa．M．D． vin De Eave 15 v 7,000 c．p．s．$\quad .9$ gns 12h11．Bhee＂3 W．20－18，（100 12 gns.


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3 p．4－way or 1 p．12 w－wy tong gpindle
Wivechange＂Mairns 3／6 able： 1 p． 12 way． 2 p． 6 way． 3 p． 4 way 4 p． 3 wey， 6 p． 2 wav， 1 water switch． $8 / 6$ y wafer switch，12／6： 3 wafer switch， $16 /$ addicional wa fers up to $12,3 / 6$ each extia

Togele
d．t．witches． $4 / \mathrm{s.p}$.
．Min．Slide d．p．d．t．， $3 / 6$. ． d．p．d．t．，4／－．M1n．Slide d．p．d．t．，3／B．

High output．Gize hin．dia．x in．
ACON MiC． 14 ，insert 11 in ．dia．x tin．， $8 / 6$ ACAS Se－DE LUXE STICK AIKE 35／－ GSL MEITAR（＇ONTA（＇T MIKH：

15／6
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 HRMCE STAND for stove 12／8．Bpares in stock． 1／18in．Paxolin Panels， $10 \times 81 \mathrm{n} ., 2 /=$ Mhiature Contact Cooled Rectifiers， 250V $50 \mathrm{~mA}, 7 / 6: 250 \mathrm{~V} 60 \mathrm{~mA}, 8 / 6: 250 \mathrm{~V} 85 \mathrm{~mA}$,

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 Collaro＊track Collaro Studio Pre－amp． \＆$_{2.8 .0}$ tapedeck £10．10．0
COMPLETEERECORINING PLAY－
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MANS DROPPERS．Midget adjustable aliders 0.3 A． 1,000 ohms， $8 / \% ; 0.2 \mathrm{~A}, 1200$ ohms， $8 /-$ ； $0.15 \mathrm{~A}, 1,500$ ohus． $8 /-: 0.1 \mathrm{~A}, 2,000$ oheng，6／－． MIKE TRANSFORMERS， $50-1,3 / 9$ ．
P．V．C．Conered Wire，single or stranded，2d．yd． Sleeving， 1 or $2 \mathrm{~mm} ., 8 d . ; 4 \mathrm{~mm}, 3 \mathrm{gd} ; 6 \mathrm{~mm} ., 5 \mathrm{~d}$ ，yd SPEAKER－FRET．Gold，Maroon or Green Cloth $17 \times 25 i \mathrm{n} ., 5 /-: 25 \times 33 \mathrm{in}, 10 /=$ ．Tygan，various colour 5 hn．wide from $10 /-\mathrm{ft} . ; 26 \mathrm{in}$ ．Fide from $5 /=\mathrm{ft}$ ． Samplea 1／－．Expanded Metal，Gold， 12 I $12 i n$, ， $6 /-$ Prael mounting iuse bolder，2／－，Fuses 1 fin．GOmA－ 5A，6d．Insulated side cutters，8／6．Bib Stripper，3／6）

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## SEND NO MONEY NOW:

[^5]Yol. XXXIX No. 686 APRIL, 1964


## Right Tool for the Job

NOTHING offends the enthusiast more than a scarred spindle, a burred screw, a broken iron-dust tuning core or a Turk's-head bundle of twisted wires in place of a soldered connection.

Yet it is the enthusiast, the home handyman, the amateur experimenter who is the worst offender. Ask any full-time service engineer!

It would be easy to answer that the reason is a lack of proper facilities, or the high cost of tools. Easy, but not entirely accurate. What are the proper facilities, the correct instruments, the right tools for the job? The true enthusiast would answer that there is not a task beyond the scope of the kitchen table, a few basic items of test gear, a few wellchosen tools and an adequate file of back numbers of Practical Wireless and Practical Television.

Very often, the home-built chassis is spoiled because a few shillings have been begrudged in the purchase of the necessary tools. The tool-kit need not be elaborate: a few screw-drivers, good pliers. electrician's and radio types, side or top-cutters, large and small Phillips screw-drivers and a selection of spanners form the basis of the "hardware department". Desirable extras are: a small hammer, hacksaws, files, drills, taps and a bench-vise. And, most important for the radio enthusiast, a good, instrument-type soldering iron.

What has been left out? Quite a lot. we hear readers protesting. Each has his personal hobby-horse. But there is one glaring omission from our list-the tools that nowadays are almost inclispensable. Those elusive plastic necessities, the trimming tools. A good set of these saves hours of filing away at knitting needles or cursing over cores despoiled by a clumsy grub-screw driver.

The problem is-where to obtain a set of tools at a reasonable price? Full-time engineers regard as a wise investment the commercially marketed "tuining kit". But our, home enthusiast begrudges spending a couple of poinds for the sake of one or two tools that may be employed very infrequently. So he is faced with the prospect of a cracked core, jammed in its former. the victim of a makeshift tool.

Despite the arguments advanced by many radio servicemen. the amateur enthusiast is no fool. A regular reader of Practical. Wiretiss is sufficiently well-informed to know when and how to adjust his receiver. In these days of massproduction, sets in the "nopular" bracket have pre-tuned" coils, and only the most perfunctory spot-checks are made before they leave the factory. And cores do shake loose occasion-ally-not surprising if one considers the vibration set up by the Mersev beat or the full blast and bellow of Wagner.'

A touch of adjustment helnc in these cases. And the con-: structor can hardiv finish his job without recourse to the trimming tool Which is whe the Practical Wireiess' trimming tools should be worth much more than their intrinsic value to the home enthusiast.

Our next iscue dated May will be pubisisied on April 7th


WITH readers from as far away as Southampton and Coalville among the audience. the 1964 Practical Wireless Film Show (held on January 31st) must have had the highest ever attendance tigures for this annual event. There was hardly a seat vacant when the first part of the programme-an illustrated talk by Mr: I. Nicholson, of Mullard Limited. on colour and u.h.f. televisioncomnenced at Westminster's Caxion Hall, where all the P.W. film


An atcenuve quaience ac tne frachicai Wiretes, rimm bnow istens co Mr. I. Nicholson of Mullard. Shows have been held.' Undoubtedly. it. was this first topic which prompted more people than ever to write for tickets and, as always, Mr. Nicholson's talk proved to be of great interest and value.

In the chair this year was the Editor of. Practical Wireless. Mr. W. N, Stevens: Although present at last year's show, this was the first occasion on which Mr. Stevens has addressed an audiençe of his readers.

After an interval for refreshments. the audience returned to the hall to see a film supplied by Mullard limited on the. use and applications of ultrasonics. The meeting ended with a short question and answer session when Mr. Nithotson replied to queries put forward by members of the audience, mostly on the subject of colour and u.h.f. TV.

## Equipment Transmits Ship's Data Automatically

THE Marconi International
Marine. Company Limited has recently received an order from. Shell International Marine Limited, for iwelve sea-borne -installations of newly developed equipment which attomatically transmits'hull and engine performance data from ships anywhere in the world to a central receiver. The order also includes 2 duplicate receiving terminal, to supplement the one which has been. in experimental use for a number of months with trial. ransmitting installations on
board two of the Shell Company tankers.

The system. which demands exceptional accuracy of transmission to combat interference, noise and fading, was developed by the Marconi Marine Company in collaboration with Shell engineers. Data are transmitted from the ship in a special code provided by Marconi Autospec error correcting equipment fed with ordinary teleprinter signals.

The high frequency transmissions are received at either the G.P.O. station at Bearley, War-
wickshire. or at the Dutch P.T.T. station at Scheveningen. From here the signals travel by land line to the Shell central affices in London where detection is achieved in telegraph equipment, after which the Aurospec terminal equipment provides ine error cortection. The output is next passed through teleprinter machinery to produce a punched tape similar to that presented to the Autospec on board the ship. A computer then processes the tape which contains the required data.

## Néw Tube. "Sees"; in Dark

ANEW electronic tube which can."see" in the dark, has been announced by EMI Electronics Limited. This tube is the first, four-stage cascade image intensifier to be made available comerercially and the two versions being marketed are the type 9694 and type 9692.

With the ability to multiply the strength of the available light. a million times, these tubes achieve important improvements over existing image intensifiers, and will find applications in the armed services as a means of night vision and in the fields of nuclear and atomic physics.

## Gold Plating Improves Transistors

THE Bedford' firm of Texas Instruments 'Limited manufactures a wide range of semiconductor devices for a variety of uses: in the electronics industry, and for some time now has incorporated a form of gold plating in the manufacturing processes to increase the reliability of their transistors. etc. This is because gold has a number of special properties which give it advantages over other substances traditionally used. . Some texas transisters,';'for example, have.; an internal plating of 24 carat gold which effectively withstands the acid etching solution used during their manufacture. The gold is presented to the component parts of the transistors to be plated in the' form of a solution called PMD 63 acid gold. which has been developed by PMD Chemicals. Limited' of Coventry.

These gold deposits. which can be as thin as 20 micro-inches, also:reduce the risk of impurities being transferred to the semiconductor wafers: an important consideration in transistor technology.

## Plessey acquires S. African firm

THE share capital of the Instrument Manufacturing Corporation of South Africa Limited, has been acquired by the Plessey Company Limited. This was añnounced recently by Mr. A. E. Underwood, the Chairman and Managing. Director of Plessey Overseàs Limited.

The: Instrument Manufacturing Corporation had previously been associated with the Group, making Plessey communications equipment under licence, and also. with the South African Council for Scientific- and Industrial., Research in the development of electronic surveying equipment.

## Recording Conference to be held at:I.E.E.

FOR the first time, the recently establishied United* Kingdom and Eire Section of the European Region of the' Institute of Electrical and "Electronics Engineẹrs (see Round the World of Wireless, 'December 1963): is spon\$oring an international conference, to be held in London at the ${ }^{\text {re }}$ Institution: of Electrical Engineers. The: International Conference on Magnetic Recording is also sponsored by the I.E.E. and the. British Institution of Radio Engineers, and in a joint statement issued by the three official bodies, it is provisionally announced that the conference will be divided into audio recording, viden recording, digital applications, analogue applications, recording : media and general problems.

Synopses of papers were invited from foreign authors - as well as from the U.K. for the conference which will be held during the week beginning 6th July, 1964. As part of the conference, a technical exhibition of displays relevant to the subject of the conference is to be,staged at the I:E.E.

## CARIBBEAN COMMUNIGATIONS PROJEGT

FOR some years, wireless communications between the islands of the Eastern Caribbean and the rest of the world have been supplied by a limited number of h.f. radio channels. Recently, however, Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited, have announced their participation in a project to establish a multi-channel tropospheric scatter and microwave system: which, together with existing links and submarine telephone cables, will provide improved and increased communications between the ${ }^{\text {in }}$.individual islands :and' the North American continent.

A tropospheric scatter system-has been in inse between Trinidad and Barbados since 1961; when: a number of other inter-island links in the Leeward and Windward:Islands wereralso inaugurated, and, it is these links which Cable and Wireless (WI) Limited now propose to integrate in their new system. One of, the main completely new links to be established will be a tropospheric scatter system between Barbados and Antigua, and on both these islands the:installation of equipment will require extensive building.

To link this integrated system with the United States, an $80-$ channel submarine telephone cable is to be laid between-the islands of Antigua and St. Thomas, as from this latter island there extends another telephone cable (128 channels) to Florida. The Antigua-St. Thomas cable. will be owned jointly by Cable and Wireless (WI) Limpited and the American Telephone and Telegraph. Company, anid to complete the link to the mainland, the British company will negotiate the purchase of rights in. $\cdot$ the American-owized' 'St. Thomas-Florida cable.
Inter-island s" communications using the new installations shouild be: possible by.-June ${ }^{-1} 1965^{\circ}$ and during the latter half of the samo year, the telephone cables: which will bring the West Indies into better:contact with the Commonweilth and the whole of the world should be operational.

## New Relay Station for Northern Ireland

## NORTHERN IRELAND'S new <br> BBC trañsmitting station néar

 Enniskillen was brought into service on Monday, 24 th February. This relay station will bring v.h.f. radio and-channel-5 television to 48;000 people in Co. Fermanagh and South-West Co . Tyrone who previously were out of range of these BBC services. Also improved reception for a further 40,000 living in the fringe areas of the Divis and:Londonderry stations will result from the introduction of this new. transmitter.The three Band 11 radio programmes are the Northern Ireland Home Service, The Light Programme and The Third Programme/Network Three. which are - transmitted on $93.3 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$, $88.9 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ and $91.1 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ respec tively.

THE PRACTICAL WIRELESS

# Trimming Tool Set 

A USEFUL AID<br>FOR THE AMATEUR CONSTRUCTOR

TRIMMING tools are the sort of equipment more often made than bought. In an emergency, one ransacks Granny's workbox for plastic knitting needles, or sharpens a matchstick, or breathes a prayer and resorts to the grubscrew driver.

This is usually because the need for alignment is comparatively rare, and toolkits that contain a comprehensive set of trimming tools are expensive. This month's free offer of a set of plastic trimming

Hiattened shank, usually of brass, which is used to move a ferrite core in the coil of many radios and television turtets. Again, the thick sbank 2tiord a firm grip.

No. 2 has a thin blade with long shank, of dimensions similar to the blade of No. 1. Purpose of the long shank is to insert through a recessed former, where No. 1 would not reach. An example is the oscillator tuning core of a television tuner unit. No. 1 should be used where possible to make final adjustments.

The wide blade of No: 2 fits mica and ceramic trimmers, ferrite por-cores and slotted hex-hut compression trimmers. It should not be used tas a serew-drivir, for obvious reasons.

No. 3 is a double-ended hexagon trimmer. Tuning slugs with hexagon-shaped holes that go right through the slug aire in common use. It is convenient to adjust the two cores of a transformer from the same end of, the screening can.

The short-shanked end, adjusts the nearer slug: the long shanked end is inserted through the upper slug without disturbing its position, inserted in the lower slug, which can then be adjusted independently. The diameter of the long shank allows it to rotate in the hexagonal bore of the upper slug.

No. 4 is a pair of plastic tweezers-invaluable when working in the confined space of a small set. The upper end is finished in a substantial "plug"., which has its use in pushing coil turns or formers on ferrite rods, where a metallic blade is impractical.

This Illustration shows each of the trimming tools in detail.

tools should be more than welcome.
The tools are designed to fit the majority of tuning devices in current use. The material from which they are made is a plastic with sufficient elasticity to prevent chipping and premature wear, and is hard enough to make firm contact with slots and apertures of the slugs and screws to which they are applied.

No. 1 has a short blade at the lower end and a slot at the top. The short blade is suitable for the majority of iron dust cores employed in radio and television receivers, (excepting transistorised radios). The thick shank offers an adequate grip for controlled adjustment over a small arc.

The slotted ead is suitable for turaing the

No. 5 has a fine, narrow blade at the lower ond for the adjustment of slotted cores widely used in transistorised radios. The slots are ...generally carried through the core, and the correct method of adjustment is to insert the trimming tool as far as possible befure turning. to reduce torsion.

The hook at the other end of the tool is useful for dressing leads, holding tuning cords, and testio: wire-end connections.

Other uses will undoubtedly be found for this set of five tools in its vest-pocket wallet, by our ingenious readers. When we discover Graingy has borrowed the hooked tool to do up her buition boots, we shall know the wheel has turned full circle!

# The ART of ALIGNMENT 

## BY H. W. HELLYER

T|HE successful alignment of the tuned circuits of a radio receiver needs three things: (a) a reliable signal source, (b) trustworthy trimming tools and (c) an intelligent assessment of the means and methods of carrying out the job.

The fir'st two requirements are easy. If a signal generator is not available a suitable signal source is provided by the simple receiver alignment aid described on page 1155. The second requirement is fulfilled by the handy pack of trimming tools presented with this issue of Practical Wireless. This article is an attempt to provide the third requirement with an accent on practice.

A commercial receiver may be assumed to have its tuned circuits adjusted to or at least within working tolerances of the correct frequency. Indiscriminate adjustment of tuning slugs. trimmers, coils, etc., is not to be recommended. But by a logical approach to alignment and calibration many small improvements can often be made.

The home-built receiver is a different matter. Beginning with the assumption that all the circuits are completely out of tune but that the set is working-that a noise of some sort can be produced from the loudspeaker-we can "pull" the circuits into tune without recourse to the elaborate test instruments that we would like to have but cannot afford.

## Audio Output

We start at the audio frequency stages of the receiver. We are not concerned here with the quality of the signal except indirectly. For our present purpose it is enough to make sure that the audio stages are working by injecting an a.f. signal at a point immediately following the detector and hearing a note through the loudspeaker or phones.

The usual injection point, for convenience, is across the outer two terminals of the volume control. To avoid hum it is desirable to connect the screened or earthy lead of the signal generator ("alignment aid") to the earthv connection of the potentiometer, which will normaliy be the left-hand tag viewed from rear. The live input should be isolated with a capacitor of about $0 \cdot 1 u \mathrm{~F}$.

In the case of a.c./d.c. apparatus it is advisable to check that the chassis is returned to neutral hefore connecting the generator. Furthermore, an isolating canacitor should be used in the earthy lead from the signal generator as well as in the live lead.

The sound we now hear from the loudspeaker, a 400 or $1,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ note, for example, is sufficient
for most rough alignment tests. But if sensitivity assessment is to be carried out, or more precise tuning, it is necessary to provide a visual indication.
The ear is notoriously inefficient in detecting loudness variations; a change in sound intensity of about 1 dB is about the smallest we can identify.

## Sensitivity

The sensitivity figure given for a radio is generally understood to mean the input r.f. voltage, with standard modulation ( $30 \%$ at $400 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$, amplitude modulated), required to produce a standard audio output. The snag is that the so-called standard audio output may vary widely from maker to maker. Usual standards are: For sets developing up to $1 W, 50 \mathrm{~mW}$; for sets upwards of $1 \mathrm{~W}, 500 \mathrm{~mW}$. (Car radios usually have a 1 W standard.)

Where the sensitivity is simply quoted as so many microvolts this is understood to denote a 50 mW output. A different method of expression is ". . . decibels below 1 V " or, referring to input power. ". . . decibels below 1 mW ". In addition the term "field strength input" may bo met and this is used to define, for convenience the sensitivity of receivers using loop or ferrite rod aerials.

A meter connected across the secondary of the output transformer is the usual convenient method of indicating output changes.

If the meter is used in place of the loudspeaker a substitute load should be provided to prevent damage to the output transformer (as $\mathbb{R}$ in Fig. 1a) This should be a wire-wound resistor of sufficient wattage to dissipate the audio power at full output and of equivalent resistance to the impedance of the loudspeaker it replaces.

The output meter could be an ordinary a.c. voltmeter with a full-scale deflection of up to 5 V . More precise instruments do not concern us here. The a.c. ranges of a multimeter are not intended for accurate measurement of voltages at frequencies above 50 to 100 cycles.

An alternative method of measuring output is to read the anode current of the output valve. This can be done directly by inserting the meter in the anode lead or indirectly by using a meter with smaller f.s.d. and a shunt, or by measuring the voltage across the cathode bias resistor.

The indications, where these means are employed, will rise as the maximum output is approached. A rising indication is obtained when measuring current consumed by a transistorised receiver--a useful method of registering output.

A rising indication can also be obtained across the detector load, and alignment can be carried cut with an unmodulated signal using this method.

An unmodulated signal will produce an accurate indication of varying current in a controlled i.f. stage as a.g.c. voltage varies. One advantage of the connection of a voltmeter at the screen grid of a controlled stage is that the meter reading dips as resonance approaches. Points of connection are shown in Fig. 2.

## lw. Alignment

General practice nowadays is for intermediate frequencies to be $470 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$. Some older sets may have i.f.s of 455 or $465 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$, and a number of receivers more than 15 years old used a $110 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ intermediate frequency.

The exact frequency can be ascertained by injecting a signal across the final i.f. transformer primary. Damp the secondary with a resistor of about $470 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Full r.f. input is then "forced through " and the generator tuned until an output peak is obtained. Then the transformer primary tuning is adjusted slightly, the generator frequency setting "rocked" (i.c. swung a little above and below the normal setting) and adjustment conlinued until the maximum possible response is obtained.

With a little patience it is possible to determine the exact point of resonance this way.

Next render the local oscillator inoperative by short-circuiting the appropriate section of the ganged tuning capacitor. First check whether d.c. is present at this point. If so use a capacitor as a shunt instead of of a direct short-circuit: suggested value $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$.

Remove the damping from the i.f. transformer,


Fig. It indication of audio output level. (a) across secondary of output transformer. (b) Measuring anode current, directly and indirectly. (c) Measuring current consumption of a transistorised radio.
set the generator to the correct i.f. as determined and adjust from back to front of receiver (i.e. timal i.f. secondary, primary, first i.f. secondary, primary)

Always keep the volume control at maximum and the input level of the signal down to reduce the possibility of overloading occurring and the a.g.c. from coming into operation, which would dampen the effect of peaking at resonance. Where stagger-tuned or over-coupled i.f.s are used, as on some s.w. sets, refer to the maker's instructions for frequency settings and for any special procedure to adopt.
In some transistor sets the i.f. tran iformers have a single slug. Many of these slugs are small and easily damaged. Where the slot extends through the core use the appropriate tool. inserted carefully to bear on the full area of the walls of the sloi. If a slug cracks it can be removed without damage to coil or former by chipping the brittle material out with a sharp point such as a scriber.


Fig. 2: Signal level in a controlled i.f. stage. Using a c.w. input, measuring anode and screen grid current, test for dip. Using modulated signal at higher level. a.v.c. voltage becomes more positive.

It is more .difficult to remedy the error of cracking or burring the slot of a conventional slug. Better sometimes to remove its accompanying slug and withdraw the broken core through the coil former. In dire emergency a couple of drops of oil run down the former helps to release the scarred core, and can soften elastic sealing enough to allow a grub screw driver to do the rest.

Where cores are waxed first insert a grub screw driver in the slot-making sure you have chosen a size that fits-1hen apply heat to the blade with a soldering iron until the wax begins to soften. then unscrew the core a turn gently.

The plastic tool should then be reinserted for final adjustments. In the case of slugs with hexagon holes a suitable Allen key may be used in the same way. Never attempt to adjust one of these hollow cores with an ordinary screwdriver blade.

## R.F. Alignment

Before starting any r.f. alignment ensure that the tuning pointer is correctly set. (heck that with the tuning gang at maximum canes fally meshed) the pointer lines up with the low frequency (long wavelength) end of the scale and with the gang fully open with the h.f. (short wavelength) end. If the pointer does not line up adjust it at one extreme end. Then leave it strictly alone!

The straight set: Except where band-pass circuits are involved the principle of t.r.f. alignment is as for r.f. alignment of a superhet (see below). The tuned circuits of the demodulator stage are


Fig. 3: A dummy aerial unit. The coil LI consists of 40 turns of 28 s.w.g. enamelled wire wound over lin. of a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter plastic rod. The unit should be enclosed in a metal can.
trimmed near the high-frequency end of the band. The r.f. tuned circuits are then adjusted for maximum output with correct calibration noted. Any low-frequency adjustment is made by slightly bending the split vanes of the tuning rotor or by adjusting the cores of the inductors if these are permeability tuned. Then final adjustments at the h.f. end are repeated. Adjust m.w. before l.w. as


Fig. 4: Necessity for padding and trimming. (a) Rate of change of frequency and of angle of rotor of tuning capacitor is not equal for both r.f. and oscillator circuits. (b) Adding parallel and series capacitance modifies the tracking error. Alternative method consists of forming blades of oscillator rotor diff erently from r.f. (ganged) rotor.

The superhet: Having tuned the i.f. transformers for maximum remove the short-circuit from the local oscillator and apply signal generator input to the aerial and earth sockets via a suitable dımmy aerial.

Note:--The construction of a dummy aerial unit was described in "Test Gear Accessories" (February issue of Pracrical. Wireless). The circuit is reproduced here as F g. 3.


Fig. 5: Typical transistor receiver frequency changer. TCI is a common trimmer, across the oscillotor section of the ganged capacitor. TC2, plus a fixed capacitor, is switched across the circuit for I.w. reception. The coil is tuned by a common core.
Where a ferrite rod aerial is employed, as in the majority of transistorised portables, it is only necessary to couple the output from the signal generator loosely to the aerial coils.

For this purpose a coupling coil should be made by winding 20 to 30 turns of 22 s.w.g. enamelled wire on a 3 in . diameter former. This coil is connected to the signal generator leads and then placed close to the rod aerial. The positioning of the coupling coil may have to be varied until the right amount of coupling is achieved.

Exact procedure to be followed depends upon the circuit, and tracking points are stipulated by the manufacturer. Very often long-wave tuning is effected by adding capacity across the medilim wave circuits and adding inductance in series: this means that m.w. circuits should be aligned first.

General method when in doubt is to tune to the high-frequency end of the medium wave band, say at $1.500 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ ( $200 \cdot$ melires). adjust oscillator trimmer, advancing the screw until the first peak is tuned, then tune to $600 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ ( 500 metres) and adjust the coil core or series padder capacitor, rocking the gang slightly for optintunt results."

Retune at the high-frequency end and recheck again at the low-frequency end. Then switch to long wave and adjust the oscillator trimmer either at the $200 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ position of the Light Programme, for best reception, or at the higher end of the band.


Fig. 6: Typical valve frequency changer. Separate bottom-coupled coils are used and the capacitors C1, C2 provide effective series capacitance for long-wave tuning.

Finally adjust aerial trimmers and cores or padders in the same sequence. In the case of ferrite rod aerials make final adjustments by widing the coils along the rod.

## Rejectors and Wavetraps

Many receivers employ fluned circuits in the merial-to-frequency changer cection for the purpose of removing unwanted signals. Unless one is familiar with these circuits the particular frequency to which they should be adjusted may not be
obvious. They are usually of two kinds. the i.f. wavetrap and the inlage frequency rejector.

The lirst maty be a parallel-tuned rejector in the aetial circuit or a series-tuned asceptor acros's the mput. It should be adjusted ifter the itif. circuits are aligned and preferably before linal, tuning of the r.f. circuits.
The method is to tune the set to a point near the centre of the l.w. band, inject a strong signal at intermediate frequency to the aerial socket and tune the trap for minimum response.
The second is used to reject a signal at or near a frequency which is at a distance "frequency spaced). from the recerved signal' such as to produce an i.f. To tune. inject a strong, signal-at the high-frequency end of the m.w. band (say 250 m ). then switch to l.w. and tune the receiver to a point exactly twice the i.f. from this point. For example, a. $470 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ i.f. would give. $1.200-$ $(470+470)=260 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}(1.154 \mathrm{~m})$. When a signál is heard, adjust for minimum response.
These adjustments are extremely important in the alignm...t of short-wave receivers but such rejectors and wavetraps are not always found on receivers covering only the broadcast bands.

## F.M. Receivers

The foregoing has been a brief rundown on alignment of a m . receivers.
The alignment of f.m. receivers is rather more complicated and especial care must be taken since comparatively small errors in alignment can have disastrous effects on the receiver performance.

An f.m. signal generator (wobbulator) is requited and. preferably, an oscilloscope. Thus is will, be apparent that the alignment of f.m. receivers should not be attempted by the inexperienced-or by the ill-equipped.

## Alignment Without Test Instruments

## By J. 0. Bencin

To the amateur constructor with limited facilities for testing, the building of a receiver (particularly of a superhet often culminates in disappointment. This is often because, although the receiver may be correctly constructed, it may not produce audible results after the initial switch-on, for the basic reason that the tuned circuits require adjustment.
It cannot be over-emphasised that optimum results can only be obtained with the aid of some test equipment. The article by H . W. Hellyer shows how alignment can be achieved using the simplest requirements in the way of test equipment.

The article which follows shows how alignment can be carried out, even with NO test instruments. It must. however, constantly be borne in mind that, ar best, only an opproximation to optimum results can be obtained in this way. The notes which follow explain the basic principles-and it will be seen that carrying out alignment under these conditions is in effect simply an application of common sense.

T1HE first thing is to understand the functions of the critical components. Trimmers are small ariable capacitors connected in parallel with the main tuning capacitor; they affect the highfrequency (low wavelength) end of the tuning range.

Padders (sometimes called trackers) are connected in series with the main tuning capacitor and they affect the low-frequency (high waveleng(h) end.

In some receivers tracking is carried out by varying the inductance of the tuned circuits. - In acthal fact. of course, both trimmers and padders affect both ends of the range. but they are adjusted at the extremes mentioned above.

## R.F. Circuits

In the signal frequency (r.f.) circuits the padder is often fixed and the trimmers (usually mounted on the tuniog gang assembly) are of the "postage
stamp " type: adjustable by means of a small screw in the centre.

In the'oscillator circuit, however. both padders and trimmers are generally variable (though not always). Ifg. 1 shows a typical arrangement of a frequency changer. with irimmers and padders indicated.

## Pretuned Components

Commercial i.f. transformers are sold approximately tuned to the required frequency, so that if everything else in a newly built set is in order, some results (even if nowhere near optimum) should be obtained. A final adjustment, which will depend on the circuit capacitances of the individual receiver, is all that is usually required. In any event, it is rarely necessary to make any drastic alterations to the setting of the i.f. cores. In other words, never attempt to align a set by haphazardly screwing and unscrewing i.f. cores as this will certainly result in such utter misalignment that it will be virtually impossible to put things right without the assistance of calibrated test instruments.

One has only to remember that each tuned circuit must be aligned to an exact frequency for the best results, so that blind "twiddling" is obviously doomed to fallure from the start.

## Commercial Coil Packs

Similarly, if a commercial coil pack is used for the r.f. tuned cricuit, the variable will often only need a final touch or two to allow for individual strays. Otherwise, check that all trimmers are not screwed up tightly but are about half open. Where padding is achieved by the adjustment of a core in a coil. the notes given on i.f. cores apply; these cores are despatched from the factory in somewhere near the right position.

When a receiver is completed and the wiring thoroughly checked, switch on and leave it to warm up for ten minutes or so. This is to allow for the frequency drift which will occur during that period.

## Seale Calibration

Connect up an aerial (unless a ferrite-rod r.f. arrangement is used) and carefully search around the medium waveband for the local BBC programme. the volume turned toward maximum. In all probability it will appear well out of the marking on the scale. This can be corrected by slowly adjusting the medium wave oscillator trimmer. Unscrewing the trimmer moves the station towards the lower wavelength end of the scale and tightening it up moves it towards the higher wavelength end. Small movements of this trimmer are essential. otherwise the station could well be shifted out of the range of the tuning gang capacitor.

Having adjusted the position of the station to correspond with the dial reading. volume will probably not be very high. So now adjust the medium wave trimmer for optinum volume.

If. at this or any subsequent stage of alignment. the output becomes very strong this should be
reduced not by turning down the volume control but by reducing the signal input by the simple expediency of shortening the aerial or using a less efficient one, even a shont length of throw-out wire. This is because excessive signal input will bring the a.g.c. circuits into operation and this can produce misleading results due to damping.

Next step is to retune the receiver to the Light Programme (still medium wave). To do this it may be necessary. to adjust the m.w. oscillator trimmer slightly. After this adjust the m.w. trimmer for best output.

## 1.F. Stages

Return to the Home Service and align the i.f. stages. Trim each core in turn, starting from the detector end and working back to the frequency changer. Do not over-adjust these cores as instability could result. The final position of the cores should be near their original position.

Having done this, retune the receiver to the Third Programme. Northern, or a strong continental station of known wavelength in the region of $450-550 \mathrm{~m}$. Now adjust the m.w. padder (or core if used) so that the station is brought to the right position on the scale. It will now be necessary to make the final calibration adjustments by alternately adjusting the oscillator trimmer for the Light Programme and the oscillator padder (or core) at the high wavelength end until both stations come in as near as reasonably possible correct on the scale.

Luxembourg enthusiasts can, of course, make the low wavelength adjustments on 208 m , even though this may mean in some cases a falling off of sensitivity at the Light Programme wavelength.

## Long Wave Band

For the long wave band a similar procedure can: - he carried out: First locate the light Progranime ( 1.500 m ) and bring it into line on the scale by adjusting the l.w. oscillator trimmer. then adjusting the l.w. aerial trimmer if provided. Retune the receiver to Luxembourg and retrim. Retune to Paris (Allouis) and bring into calibration by adjusting the l.w. padder (or oscillator core). "Thén recheck the calibration on the Light Programme and readjust if necessary. The i.f. cores, of course, must not be touched.

## Ferrite Rod Aerials

In receivers with ferrite rod aerials the r.fr circuit final adjustments are made by sliding the appropriate coils along the rod. Once set for optimum they should be sealed.

In the above suggested procedure it is assumed that the builder will be relying on his ears' for judging peaks. This. of course, is far from ideal; although experienced constructors can get reasonable results in this way. Far better to use a visual output indicating device: this presents no problems, for every constructor should have a test meter of some kind. Reference to the preceding article by H. W. Hellyer will explain how an ordinary test meter can be used for this purpose.

## simple TRANSMITTERS for model control

## BY F. G. RAYER

EFFICIENT model control transmitters are very easily made at low cost. The transmitters described here can be put into operation with a minimum of difticulty and may be used with any home-built or commercially manufactured valve or transistor c.w. receiver.

All the transmitters are of the tuned type and may be adjusted to operate on any firequency in the $26^{\prime 4} 6-27.28 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ Model Control Band.
It is illegal to operate transmitting equipment unless the user holds a G.P.O. licence. Licences for the operation of model control equipmem are usually granted with the minimum of formality. Application should be made to the Radio Services Department. Gieneral Post Office, Headquarters Building, London, E.C.l.

## Single-valve Transmitter

A single-valve transmitter, to run from dry batteries is shown in Fig. I. The 3 D6 value is used because it is easily obtained as surplus and works well in this type of circuit. With the tament sections connested in paralle); as shown,

fig. 1: The circuit of o one-valve model control transmitter.
the drain is 0.22 A from $\mathrm{A}, 1 \ddagger \mathrm{~V}$ dry battery.
Other output type valves are salisfactory. Miniature valves such as the 154.3 . $4, ~ 314$ and 304 may be fitted, if to hand, and will require a B7C holder instead of the loctal- $->$ pin holder of the 3D6.

The components are best assembled on a small laninated plastic panel. The actual layout is not very important provided all leads are short and direct. The 25 pF - capacitor can be mici with a 350 V dise or paper capacitor in the $0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ position. The $15 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor is 1 W . Terminals or tags are provided to connect the control key switch.

An air-spaced beehive trimmer is suitable for tuning and can be adjusted with a length of insulated rod or tube suitably filed to engage with the top portion. If an ordinary short-wave tuning capacitor is used it must have an insulated extension spindle at least 4 in . long.
The h.t. battery voltage can be, chosen to suit the purpose in view: A 60 V battery is sufficient for short-range Horking but if the model is to be controlled at a distance a 90 V or 120 V battery is needed. The filament is left switched on while the equipment is in use. The control key suitch in the h.t. negative lead is closed when a signal is to be radiated.


Fig. 2: Including on r.f. choke avoids the need for a topped coil.
The transmitter can be tested. without an aerial. by bringing the lump loop in Fig. 6 near the coil Li. The butb should light when the key is closed. An aerial is not attached until the transmiter is tuned as described later.

Fig. 2 is a somewhat similar circuit but a r.f. choke (L.3) is added to avoid any need for tapping the coil Li. Connections in Fig. 2 are numbered for a $3 V 4$ valve. which requires a B7G holder.

Any ordinary receiver type short-wave shoke is suitable. Or the choke can be made by winding 100 turns of 34 s.w.g. enamelled wire, side by side. on a $\frac{1}{8} \mathrm{in}$. diameter insulated tube. Component values are as for Fig. 1.

## Two-valve Transmitter

If more power is required two valves may be used in the circuit shown in Fig. 3. Each valve drives the other and equipment of more powerful
type than this is not generally employed for model control. Two 3D6 valves are shown but 3 V 4 s or other output pentodes or tetrodes may be used instead.
This transmitter is capable of radiating a strong signal. It can also be used as a one-valver merely by withdrawing either valve. This allows a suspected valve to be checked. Slight retuning will be necessary after inserting or removing a valve.

A: symmetrical layout is most suitable with short grid and anode leads. Batteries and keying can be exactly as described for the one valve curcuits.

## Transmitter Coll

In all circuits L2 is the tuned part of the coil and $L 1$ is an aerial coupling winding. . A suitable coil can be made as in Fig. 4.
The winding L2 conssists of 20 s.w.g. tinniedcopper or enamelled wire. L1 is of well-insulated wire such as thin flex. plastic insulated bell wire or bare wire provided with sleeving. Some modification in the wire gauge or other details will not be very important provided the coil can be tuned to a frequency in the band.

For the circuits in Figs. 1 and 2, I2 can be 11 turns on a $\frac{7}{8}$ in. diameter former wound at about ten turns per inch. The circuit in Fig. 3 has more stray capacity and 10 turns will suffice. When a


Fig. 3: A two-valve circuit for greater power.
centre-tap is: required this is made by soldering a lead on the centre turn of the coil.

Stout self-supporting coils are satisfactory and can best be wound with 14s.w.g. or 16 s.w.g. wire with ends soldered to tags bolted to the plastic panel.
The winding L1 has two turns and is wound over the centre of L2.

## Iedirectly Heated Valve

The $6 \mathrm{C4}$ indirectly heated valve is particularly
handy for ${ }^{\prime} 6 \mathrm{~V}$ running, either frọm $\mathrm{a}^{1} 6 \mathrm{~V}$ accumulator or from a four-cell dry battery. The heater requires only 0.15 A .

Fig. 5 shows a transmitter circuit for the 6C4 with pin connections. This is "particularly converiient when a small rotary converter can be used to obtain the h.t. supply as all power may then' be taken from a 6 V accumulator.

The heater can also be' run from a 6.3 V a.c. supply' obtained from a small 6.3 V transformer. 1 his is convenient when testing equipment indoors or using models indoors or in the garden.: . In these circumstances h.t. current may be drawn from a small eliminator or power pack. A supply detivering up to about 15 mA at 200 V or so will be satisfactory. Plug connectors may be arranged so that the transmitter can be operated from batteries, a rotary generator or a mains power unit as required.

## Loop and Wavemeter

Fig. 6 shows the lamp loop previously mentioned and the bulb should light if the twoturn coil is brought near the tuning çoil of any. of the transmitters. For such tests it is necessary to short the transmitter key terminals: with wire or close the key or switch. Such a lamp loop is very useful as it allows a quick check to be made to. assure that the transmitter is working.
Fig. 6 also shows a simple absorption wavemeter circuit. L1 can be. wound in a similar
 manner to the coil 12 in Fig. 4, but will need 13 turns. L2 is two turns, not averwound on L_1 but situated about $\frac{1}{k}$ in. from one end of 1.1 .
Construction should be rigid and the 15 pF -miniature variable capacitor VCL . is fitted with a knob with pointer. All the parts can be assembled

Fig. 4: Winding details for a suitable tuning coil.


Fig. 5: A transmitter employing the 6C4 valve.
on a strip of laminated plastic or mounted in a mall insulated box.

The wavemeter can be calibrated from a transmitter that is known to be already tuned into the $26.96-27.28 \mathrm{Me} / \mathrm{s}$ band. To do this hold the wavemeter near the transmitter coil and adjust the 15 pF capacitor until the bulb lights. Withdraw the wavemeter from the coil until the lamp almost extinguishes, then carefully readjust VCl for maximum light. 'The tuning point is then' marked on the scale.

To tune up any of the transmitters described set the wavemeter to the marked tuning poini, and hold it near the uansmitter coil. The transmitter trimmer is then rotated for maximum brilliance in the wavemeter bulb.

In all cases when using the wavemeter keep' it at such a distance from the transmitter coil that the bulb only just glows when tuning is correct. Exact tuning will then be more easily seen arid errors caused by tight coupling will be avoided.

Any transmitter should be tuned roughly before futting the aerial. Slight retuning will be necessary


Fig. 6: Left: the lamp loop; right: a simple absorption wavẹmeter.
when the aerial is attached. All the transmitters described will work well with a vertical rod aerial some 3lt to 5 ft or so long. For maximum range a. qudrter-wave aerial-may be adopted and is - 8 ft 6in. long. For average purposes some change in the aerial length will not be important.


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sEVERAL articles have appeared in this magazine employing multuvibrator enrcuits, and the purpose of this particular article is to describe how the many functions of such circuits can be combined into a single compact unit. Some of these functions are as follows:

Audio oscillator, for testing anuplifiers, speakers etc.
Square-wave and saw-tooth wave generator for oscilloscopes.
Audible and visual metronome.
Variable frequency switching unit.
Simple monotone electric organ.

## THE BASIC MULTIVIBRATOR CIRCUIT

The basic circuits of a valve and a transistor multivibrator are shown in Figs.. 1 (a) and (b), and illustrate the similarity between the two types. In view of the low cost of audio tramsistors nowadays. there is little point in using the valve circuit with its additional wiring, especially as transistors will enable the unit to be built far more compactly.

The sequence of oscillations in Fig lib) are as follows: Upon suitching on. one or other of the transistors is bound to conduct slightly more current than the other. Suppose, for example, Trl conducts more current than Tr2, this will cause a voltage drop across R1 and result in a drop in voltage applied to the hase of Tra through (:1, callsing still less collector current in fow in Tr? through R?. This reduces the voltage drop across $R 2$ and incredses the voltage applied to base of Trl through Ca, which in turn increases further the current in the collector of Tr1. The process continues until the voltage drop across R1 is too great for Trl to
conduct. then the sequence quickly changes over with Tr2 conducting and cuting off Tr1 and 80 on.

## FREQUENCY CONTROL

It is obvious that the frequency of operation depends upon the values of Cl and C 2 and of VR1 and VR2, assuming the collector loads R1 and R2 are kept constant. Also, for the on/off periods of each transistor to be maintained equal VRI must equal VR2 and C1 equal C2. It is impractical to make Cl and C 2 variable, therefore fixed values in equal pairs are switched in to cover the ranges required as shown in the fully developed design which is depicted in Fig. 2. A fine control over the frequencies is given by VR1 and VR2 but these were not ganged together in the prototype, since there are occasions when the unit



Fig. I: Bosic multivibrator circuits for (a) valves, (b) tronsistors.


Fig. 2: The fully developed circuit of the instrument.
frequency, VR1 and, VR2 also govern the d.c. bias applied to the transistors, and adjustment of these controls will therefore cause distortion of the waveform if made outside certain limits, which can be found by experiment. The switch S3 selects which waveform is required; this signal being fed to an output socket JK1, which is a miniature jack plug of the type gericrally used in transistor radios.

No attempt should be made to insert an attenuator either fixed or variable in the unit, or distor-
and base R1. This allows $\operatorname{Tr} 1$ to conduct for a period of up to approximately 30 seconds, the interval being dependent upon the values of C16 and VR2. During this period the relay RLA will operate. after which it will cut-out until the process is started again by pressing S6. which causes C 16 to discharge quickly. This form of timer has the distinct advantage that virtually no current is drawn from the battery during the of periods:

The switch S4 determines whether Tr3 is to


Fig. 3: A mains supply unit for the Multitone.
tion will occur. It' should be possible to obtain a frequericy coverage from approsimately $1 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ to 100ke/s with the values of C1-12 shown.

## timing device

The timer is controlled by S1 which switches off the capacitor selected by S 2 and instead inserts a $350 \mu \mathrm{FF}$ ' capacitor (C16) between collector Tr1 and base Tr2,-with no coupling between collector Tr2
operate the speaker or relay. When the speaker is in use. the volume is controlled lhy VR3; the bias for Tr3 is created by leakage through C14, limited. by R6.

A surplus $80 \Omega$ balanced armature unit was used as an internal speaker, on the prototype. This speaker can be connected directly to the collector of Tr. 3 without employing an output transformer. but the use of the latter enables external speakers
to be tested directly if the leads are brought 10 another jack socliet JK2. When the relay RLA is smitched in, bias is applied only through. VR4. thus ensuring that T r 3 does not conduct during the off periods. VR4 can take the form of a miniature pre-set type and should be adjusted so that the relay just operates and no more current is drawn by Tr 3 than is necessary.

It will be seen that a supply of 18 V is needed to energise the relay on the prototype, half of this voltage being dissipated in the transistor. whilst the oscillation section requires only 9 V . which is in turn dropped to approximately $4!\mathrm{V}$. through $R 5$.

The relay illustrated is of the high speed type with dual $1.000 \Omega$ coils. these are connected in parallel and care must be taken to ensure that these are joined in phase. To check this one must first Incate the tags running to the coils, join them in parallel, and check that the relay will function on only 9V. If it does not. the connections to one coil must be reversed.


## Capacitors:

Cl 1.000 pF mica or ceramic
C2 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper
C3 $0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper
C4 $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elecirolytic 12 V
C5. I 1 F electrolytic 12 V
C6. $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 12 V
C7. $1,000 \mathrm{pF}$ mica or ceramie
C8 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper
C9 $0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper
Clo 0.i $\mu \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic 12 V
CII 1/2Felectrolytic 12 V
$\mathrm{C} 12 \quad 10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electroyltic 12 V
C13 25, F electrolytic 12 V
C14 $8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 12 V
C15 $50 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic I2V
C16 $350 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 12 V
$\mathrm{Cl} 7 \quad 0.01_{\mu} \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic 12 V

## Transistors:

## TrI XB112 (OC70, 71) <br> Tr2 XBII2 (OC70,71) <br> Te3 XCIOIA (OC72)

## Miscellaneous: <br> RLA High speed relay, 1.000 s $+1,000$ s 2 <br> TI Outputtransiormer <br> LSI Small speaker unit (see text) <br> JK1, 2 Miniature jack sockets <br> B1, 2 volt battery (PP4) <br> Switehes: <br> si Slide switch, d.p.d.t. <br> \$2 Rotary switch, 6 way <br> 53 Slide switch, s.p.d.t. <br> S4 5 ( $\}$ Slide switch, d.p.d.t. <br> 56: Press button switch



A rear view of the assembled instrument.

POWER UNIT COMPONENTS LIST<br>Resistors:<br>R9 200』 $3 W$<br>R10 20 I W<br>$\forall$ RS $100 \Omega$ potentiometer, wire-wound<br>Capacitors:<br>C18 $500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ eiectrolytic 25 V<br>Cl9 100 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic 25 V<br>C20 $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 25 V<br>\section*{Miscellaneous:}<br>MRI Bridge rectifier, 12 V<br>T2 Mains transformer, battery charging type<br>RLB Heavy duty relay, 12 V coil<br>SKI B9A value holders<br>SK2 Mains power outlet socket, 3 pin

## CONSTRUCTION

A photograph of the prototype is shown, but no exact details of component layout are given since this is in no way critical and will in any event depend on the size of components used: such as the relay and speaker. However, a few details of the housing may be of interest.

The origina! unit was built in a $6 \frac{2}{2}$ in. $x 4 \frac{1}{2} i n . x$

13in. plastic lunch box (such as are obtainable from many multiple stores). All the components are mounted on a bakelite baseboard cut to fit exactly in the plastic lid. Holes must be drilled in the lid to accept the potentiometer spindles and switch heads; also an opening for the speaker cut and suitably covered.

The baseboard and the lid can eventually be held logether by additional nuts on the potentiometer spindles. Care must be taken in drilling the lid and case as this is somewhat brittle. The embossing on the lid ean be filed off and the surface painted or covered. As cats be seen from the photograph the back wa left transparent to enable the operation of the reldy to be invpected.


Fig. 4: The electronic organ keyboord circuit.

## MAINS SUPPLY. UNIT

It is always difficult to acquire a relay sensitive enough to operate off a small transistor, hut having contacts sufficiently large to control the mains, supply for controlling lighting etc. A far easier method is to use the small relay in the main unit to control a heavy duty relay energised by a low voltage with contacts strong enough to tackle several amps of mains current. Furthermore, as this second relay is hound to draw several milliamps through its coil, it is better to run this from a l.t. supply from the mains rather than impose a heavy strain on batteries. At the same time there will be power available to operate the oscillator unit. hence the reason for the double-way action of S 5 of Fig. 2.

## POWER-RACK COMPONENTS

An illustration of a compact mains unit with heavy duty relay is shown and the circuit is given in Fig. 3. A IIV relay was used in the unit shown, but there is Jittle point in quoting an exact value to replace the $100 \Omega$ potentiometer VR5 as this will depend upon the resistance of the relay coil. This potentiometer should be set to ensure that the relay operates without more current being drawn than necessary. It is suggested that the connections from the relay contacts and mains be brought to
during current for the heavy duty relay voltage the long off periods, thus keeping. the voltage from the mains supply unit down, during these intervals.

The :ransformer shown is the standard type used for battery charging and the bridge rectifier a-i2V type as used also for this murpose.

## MONOTONE ELECTRONIC ORGAN

Anyone who has a copy of the February 1958 isale of Practical. Wireiess will see a similarity between the valve circuit of the "Simpletone" Electric Organ described by the present author and the circuit of the multitone unit. In fact a similar keyboard can be coupled to the circuit of Fig. : between the base of Trl and chassis since any resistance connected to these points will


Fig. 5: The basic construction required in an organ keyboard.


Fig. 6: The circuit of a monotone organ.
effectively shunt VR1 and R2 through the power supply and C13. In order that the keyboard can have maximum coverage VR1 and VR2 should be set to maximum resistance.

The circuit of the keyboard is shown in Fig. 4. It will be seen that this consists of a number of potentiometers (one for each note) wired in series, each one having a switch connected across it, which takes the form of the keys. When all the keys are di rest, as are $\mathrm{S} 2-4$, there will be a complete short circuit. This means that Trl in Fig. 2 receives no bias from VR1 and R1 and therefore does not conduct, and so the unit stays muted. Immediately one of the keys is pressed. as SI, the "short" across one of the tuning potentiometers is broken (as VR1 in this case) and the unit will


A view of the mains power pock.
produce a note depending upon the value set by VRI ete.

The basic idea of bow a keyboard can be adapted or built is shown in Fig. 5. Contacts consisting of drawing pins are held together by pressure from a light spring embedded in snall indents drilled in the key and baseboard at the front end. The keys are supported by a central bar passing through the keys.

It must be made clear that this organ can, of course, produce only one individual note at a time.

## IMPROVED ORGAN CIRCUIT

Anyone more concerned with building this organ rather than the rest of the unit of Fig. 2 may prefer to use the more suitable circuit of Fig. 6 . In this the components of VR1 and VR2 of Fig. 2 are replaced by fixed resistors and the output stage improved. The values of C 1 and C 2 will be chosen according to what part of the musical scale the keyboard is to cover.

Only four notes are shown in Fig. 4 but in practice it is possible to tune over several octaves if tuning potentiometers of up to $500 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ are employed. In large keyboards not all these potenthometers should be as high as 500kn for only a resistance of a few thousand ohms will be needed to tune the higher notes. On smaller keyboards, separate notes need not be made for half-tones (black notes). If a capacitor of about $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ is switched in with a press-batton switch (Cl and S5 in Fig. 4) any mote emitted will be dropped by $a$ half-tone.

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BIG DEMAND! HURRY FOR YOURS!



TTHE BBC claims that sound broadcasting is able to provide a wide choice of programmes for all sections of the community because of the altermative services available, and that such services are economical in cost and equipment when compared with television. In view of this, one is all the more astonished to learn that as from the end of March there will be no more daily programmes for children.

This decision is surely irreconcilable to the spirit of the BBC's charter, furthermore I believe it can be shown to be completely illogical when the policy adopted in respect of other programmes is examined.

## An Insignificant Minority?

The axe is to fall because the total number of Iisteners has diminished to some undisclosed figure which apparently represents an "insignificant level" in the minds of the programme planners of Portland Place. One appreciates that the rival television will hold a greater attraction for youngsters nowadays, but is it fair that the minority who cannot for some reason or another, see TV programmes should be deprived of their own daily programme on sound radio? The BBC has a particular duty and responsibility to cater for this group of young impressionable aged listeners, even as it caters for those other "special minority interests" through the medium of the Third Programme and Network Three where, incidentally, the average audience is only 50.000 .

Don't misunderstand me; this is no snide attack an the "Third", for indeed 1 appland the enterprise shown by this service. My own sympathies are, as often as not. with the minority interests and the craze for popularity ratings leaves me cold. In any case, aren't many of these listener research figures a duhious criterion to apply when attempting to assess the real worth of a programme We can be pretty certain that anyone who takes the trouble to tune in to a programme of minority eppeal will listen to it, whereas I suspect some of

## Your Wavelength 1

the so-called popular programmes with their mass following are listened to with varying -degrees of indifference, or are even related to the indignity of background sound by many of their reputed devotces.

1 know this is election year. but the BBC should not allow itself to be caught up in the Opinion Poll fever. If the Corporation is to preserve the fine tradition of public service created over the years it must not allow itself to be unduly infuenced by (Dr. Gallop) Silvey's reports, but should obtain second opinion before performing a major operation on the established programme structure.

## When We Were Young

Although the title Children's Hour was dropped some time ago, this programme for the younger listeners has been as much a traditional feature of sound broadcasting as the late lamented 9 o.clock news. It was one of the first regular programmes to be established in the early days of broadcasting, and listening to Children's Hour soon became an essential part of the daily routine in countless homes throughout the country. I expect quite a few readers can recall the names and the voices of the radio "aunts" and "uncles" of those far gone days. and the delight and enthralment they brought to our firesides. The greatest thrill was to hear one's own name coming over the magical ether when birthday greetings were read out. Remember the special treatment accorded to twins? But of course if you did listen in as a child you have plenty to recall without any further prompting by me.

## Speed the Service

A newly opened restaurant not far from my office is really "with it". in a communication sense. When visiting this establishment the other day I was intrigued by odd chirping sounds that came spasmodically from various directions. After a moment or so the source of these cricket-like sounds was traced to small receivers carried by the waiters in the top pockets of their jackets. Then it became apparent that a selective calling system was being used to give each waiter an audible warning when his orders were ready for collection from the servery. A laudable attempt to speed the service, but perhaps a little disconcerting to the customer. J felt.

This is just another of the varied uses to which the magnetic induction paging or personal call system is being applied. Although truly a wireless method of communication, this system relies upon the magnetic field created by an r.f. current flowing in an enclosed loop of wirc, and not upon electromagnetic waves propagated into space, reception heing confined more or less to the area enclosed by the loop.


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# Easy-to-make cabinets to house your hi-fi 

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These easy-to-makesectional units are part of an outstanding new range of designer-styled cabinets for high: fidelity sound equipment. They are the direct result of a close cellaboration between-well-known Iridustrial designer Frank Guille Des rca. fsia and Percy Wilson.ma, technical editor of "The Gramophone" and prominent authority on acoustical engineering.
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is a fine quality board with superior screw-holding qualities; specifically 'made for easy and economical furniture-making within the home. It comes in 20 standard sizes, fully verieered on'all surfaces and ready
to polish. No special skills are required, and you need only basic household tools. Total cost of Vipboard for the cabinets shown above is $£ 27.0 .4$. The individual cabinets cost from £2.8.11 (units 2 and 5 ).

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# Alignment Aid 

An r.f. and a.f. oscillator for receiver adjustment

ALTHOUGH beginners often make use of broadcast signals for alignment and test purposes it is usually better to employ a signal source more under one"s own control.

Although the aid presented here follows in the main a fixed pattern. it does possess the advantage of being entirely self-contained and because transistors are used pequires no external connections to the domestic mains supply.

## Facilities Provided

Two outpots are provided. From socket SK 1 a fixed audio frequency sine wave signal may be extracted and this may be used to test audio amplifiers, etc. A portion of this audio signal is also allowed to modulate a radio frequency oscillator operative over two bands. viz.. $550-1.500 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ approximately (Range 11 and $200-480 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ approximately (Range 2). This r.f. modulated signal is available at socket SK2 and may be used to align and test broadcast band receivers.

A switch ( $\mathrm{S}_{2}$ ) is also. provided to enable the user to cut out the audio modulation at any time leaving the r.f. signal still present. When the unit is operated in this manner current consumption is very low indeed. being in the region of $600 \mu$. 1 $(0.06 \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{~A})$.

The circuit diagram (Fig, I) show's that three transistors are employed. The broken vertical line shown almost at the centre of the diagram does not here indicate screening but is drawn to show the division between the two sections. that portion to the left of this line comprising the r.f. oscillator.

## Audio Oscillator

The two transistor configuration to the right of the line mentioned is the audio oscillator which may be dealt with first for it is a very reliable arrangement based on one recommended by Mullard Lid. for use with their transistors. This circuit is essentially a Wien bridge network.

Considering TR2. if nscillation is to he nbtained a $360^{\circ}$ phase shift must be made to occur between input and ouppit and although this can be achiesed with only one transistor plus sufficient passive components in an external reactive network. heavy lasses iend to prevent the circuit from functioning unless high potentials are employed. A
single transistor can also be made to oscillate at audio frequencies by using with it suirable a.f. transformer in a reversed feedback circuit. How. ever. a method superior to either of these lies in the use of an additional transistor which costa no more than a transformer. and is also less bulky, The 2 -transistor arrangement oscillates readily and with care can be made to provide an excellent sine waveform.

The main frequency determining components associated with TR2. TR3 are C7. R10. C8. R9, and in similar valve circuits it is not uasual to

## BY K. F. PERRY


find either the equivalent pair of resistors or capacitors made ganged and variable so that "a wide frequency range may be covered. In a transistor circuit of this kind varying the resistor values is not practical except over a very limited range or the operating conditions are seriously upset. The operating frequency can be varied though by changing the capacitor values ( $C 7, \mathrm{CP}$ in this case). Usually the values are $R 9=R 10$ and $\mathrm{C} 7=\mathrm{C}$ 8. but where a single frequency output is required dissimular vilues may be choien. In the relevant section here $\mathrm{R} 9=\mathrm{R} 10$. but if $\mathrm{C} 7=\mathrm{C} 8=01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ $(10.000 \mathrm{pF})$ the operating frequency approximates to $3 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$. Putting instead $\mathrm{C} 8=\mathrm{C} 7 \lesssim 10=0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
lowers this to about $1,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. This may be further lowered by increasing the value of C7 but was not done in the prototype since as the frequency is lowered it becomes increasingly difficult to obtain a good waveform of adequate amplitude.
Waveshaping is effected in the emitter circuit of TR2 where a.c. feedback is introduced due to only :partly bypassing the emitter resistor. The value of R11 is actually somewhat critical if a pure sine waveform is required, for if too high in value amplitude is seriously affected whilst on the other hand a low value ensures a distorted waveform. If no oscilloscope is available it will generally be satisfactory to adjust RII to as high a value as possible whilst listening to the note produced in headphones. Although a square wave sounds "clicky" this is not really a reliable guide-and anyway temperature changes may also introduce discrepancies later. A variable "form" control is bardly worth while here, however.

The output is extracted at TR2 emitter circuit via C11 whilst the section is rendered inoperative as required by opening S2 $_{2}$. whereupon the base and collector feeds are broken to the transistors. With $\mathbf{S}^{2}$. closed total current consumption is 2 m A .

## The R.F. Oscillator

As mentioned earlier current consumption falls to about $600 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ when TRI circuitry is working alone to produce the necessary r.f. oscillations.

Using a reversed feedback circuit, energy is returned from collector to base in TR2, due to C2, via T1 or T2 whichever is in use at a given time and in the correct phase to maintain oscillations for as long as supplies are connected.

The transformers used here are of a type originally designed for use with valve circuits and although the turns ratio might not be optimum construction is simplified in that they are readily obtainable. Either transformer winding, as selected by S1A, is tuned by VCl, 2. This variable capacitor is a miniature twin-gang, the sections have values of 208 pF and 176 pF , and these are paralleled. the measured capacitance of the specimen used in the prototype being 400 pt due to "extras" being contributed by the inbuilt trimmers. If a 50 pt (nominal) single-gang type tuning capacitor is to hand this might prove slightly better particularly on Range 2: physical size is of some importance. however. and solid dielectric types sometimes tend to act sluggishly.

The oscillations may be extracted at various points but in this design the lower member of the hase feed potentiometer is selected, a crude attenuator (VR1) being employed.
If $S \geq$ is in the "open" position there is no audible indication that TR1 is functioning. unless this is made to beat with another r.f. signal: but when $S 2$ is closed audio signals of suitable amplitude are injected into TRI collector circuit via


Fig. I: The complete circuit of the unit.


Fig. 2: Dotails of the instrument's case.
wiring also. It will be noted that space for the PP6 battery used exists below the tag board but a larger size battery could also be used by fitting a suitable tho-pin socket to a side-member, leads from the external battery being connected when required.

If four self-tapping screws are removed from the front panel all the items shown in Fig. 3 pull away leaving a shell. The drive and scale associated with VC1. 2 is a Muirhead reduction type 3 in . diameter and graduated 0-180. this having been pruned from a now discarded RF27 unit. Both Fddystone and Jackson manufacture a suitable alternative. however. but these are graduated $0-100$. If preferred. a simple card scale traversed by a suitable pointer may be used instead. and this may be calibrated direct instead of using a graph as was

R16. These a.f. signals mix with the r.f. signal and, done with the original model. in effect, render the latter audible.

## Range Coverage

Range 1 covers the medium waveband whilst Range 2 is adjusted to cover $200 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}-480 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ which necessitates modifying T1.

Ignoring unseen capacitances and assuming use

## Preliminary Work

First hork consists of preparing the casing on the lines of Figs. 2 and 3 and mounting the respecfive items thereon. Details relating to the tag board are shown in Fig. 4 and to simplify matiers the of a variable capacitor with 2 sweep of $50-400 \mathrm{pF}$, an inductance of some $1.600 \mu \mathrm{H}$ is required to cover the desired range and to this end $\$ 0$ turns are removed from the main winding of the transformer. In this way the Light Programme transmission on $200 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ can be used as a marker for subsequent scale calibration whilst allowing oscillations to be produced at $470 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ and thereabouts for i.f. alignment purposes. Some suggestion regarding seting up this range will be given later.

## Heusing the Unit

A closed-in metal container must be used in order to minimise radiation. For the original model a sixppiece sectional aluminium chassis was used. The side sections are supplied flanged with flat top and base plates and with nuts and bolts and self tapping screws with which to put them together.

The unit may also be built into a convenient OXO tin or similar container if the lid is strengthened. The dimensions of the container are shown in Fig. 2.

The unit proper is huilt on to the inside of the front panel. the small items being secured'to a miniature $18 \cdot$ way tag board. The general layout adopted may be clearly seen in Fig. 3. the back heing shown removed to reveal some of the


Fig. 3: Loyout of major components and 51 connections as viewed from the rear.

36 tags are given imaginary numbers. although these may be marked on a paper strip and glued to the board to facilitate wiring up.
To avoid defacing the front panel unduly only two points are used on the boatd (tags 19 and 36) for-fixing. although VC.1, 2 also assists. The 6R. 1 bolt at tag 19 also helps retain one side of the coavial type output socket carrying af.

Before placing the board in position VC.1. should the filted, holes being drilled at " $A$ " and
"B" (Fig. 4a) to enable the fixed vanc base spills to ${ }^{-}$project through. A stiff copper wire is then passed through the holes in these spills and solder applied. A 6BA solder tag and bolt are also affixed to the base outer casing of VC1. 2-a threaded hole exists-and a further short stiff wire is soldered between jt and tag 12. Tag 12 must also be connected to either tag 19 or tag 36 if connection is not likely to be automatic via VC1, 2 shafting. ctc. When the tuning capacitor is correctly located it should stand neatly and firmly on the board 6BA nut and bolt
the vanes of the variable capacitor do not foul the windings at any point of travel.

But before finally mounting T1-snip the "wire leading to the underside of spill 6 .and carefully unwind 50 turns cutting off the freed lengths as they become troublesome. It might be found that to remove the turns they must pass below the leads assuciated with the other winding at spills 8 and 9 , but if care is taken no problem need arise for the wire may be made to pass between the two pieces.

When the correct number of turns have been. Metal fanel removed the end is tinned, wound

(b)


Fig. 4: , (o) Tag boord numbering and mounting arrangernent; (b) top view of tag board; (c) tag board wiring.
between the iwo rows of tags without toushing them at any point.
Tag ? is then removed carefully and the hole enlarged just sufficiently to allow the fixing stem of Tl to pass through; one of the holes running along the centre of the board is similarly enlarged to accept. T2, a check being made here to see that
round the spill base No. 6, and soldered quickly. Both coils' may then be locked in position ising thumb picisure only on the polystyrene nut provided. The lag board can then be affixed to the incide of the front panel but spacers must be litted to keep lag 20-35 from coming into contact with the metal.

The board may then be wired to agree with Hig. 4a. b. c.- the transistors being left until last io avoid damage. All items used most he modern miniature types. The connections shown in Fig. 3 mlust also be made.

Tinally a pair of black and red leads are twisted together and connected to carry the battery supply potential, stud connectors being soldered as appropriate. The cores of T1. T2 are then unscrewed so that the brass sterins project at the underside of the board.

## Testing

When the wiring has been checked thoroughly Si should be set to position 1 and a temporary lead soldered from the link across VCI. 2 sections to tag 12 and the negative lead from a meter set to read 0.10 m .4 connected to the battery negative terminal. The positive meter lead is then connected to the negative stud connector and the positive stud connector clipped to battery positive. With S2 closed S1 is rotated one point and the current noted on the meter: this should approximate to 2 mA . If the meter tends to read full scale switch off and investigate for this indicates that a fault exists. If all is well a pair of headphones may be connected to the a.f. socket whereupon the note should be heard.
The frequency may be checked against an audio generator or a well-toned piano. ete. If an oseilloscope is alvalable the waveform may also be adpusted as was mentioned earlier. the headplones heing removed for this purpose. Finally the unit is switched off and placed in its case after removing the temporary short applied to $\mathrm{VCl}, 2$.

## Calibration

Range 1 can be calibrated with the aid of a hroadsast band receiver. Remove the aerial from the receiver and connect the unit by means of screened leads or coaxial cable.

By first tuning the receiver to a known frequency and then making the generator output coincide with this (making certain the fundamental frequency is being generated) many points can be located around the scale. the readings being jotted down in order later to be transferred to a graph relating scale divisions to frequency. These points may then be joined and a curve obtained, (see Fig. 5).

On range 2 use can be made of. the very accurate light Programme transmissions on $200 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$. With the unit switched of this transmission is luned in on the receiver before exchanging the aerial for the generator output. Swinging the generator pointer or dial hard over to fully engage the variable

## COMPONENTS LIST

| Resistors: |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RI | $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  | $3.9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R2 | $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} 12$ | R10 | 3.9k! |
| R3 | 1.2k!2 | R1I | $1.8 \mathrm{kS2}$ |
| R4 | 3.9k』 | R12 | $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R5 | $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R13 | 10k! |
| R6 | $27 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R14 | 100 O |
| R7 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R15 | $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R8 | 33 k S | R16 | 22 k S |
|  | All $\pm 1$ | arbon |  |
| VRI | $3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ po |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Capacitors:Cl : 100 F electrolytic 6 V |  |  |  |
| C2 50 pF m |  |  |  |
| C3 50pF-mica |  |  |  |
| C4 5000 pF ceramic |  |  |  |
| C5 $\quad 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ceramic or pape |  |  |  |
| C6 $\quad 0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ceramic or paper |  |  |  |
| C7 0.01 4 F ceramic or paper |  |  |  |
| C8 0.1ヶF paper |  |  |  |
| C9 2if electroly |  |  |  |
| C10 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 6 V |  |  |  |
| CII $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ceramic or paper |  |  |  |
| VCI, 2 | $208+$ | n-gan | (Jackso |
| Switches: |  |  |  |
| 51 4-pole, 3-w |  |  |  |
| S2 | On Of |  |  |
| Transistors: |  |  |  |
| TRI OC44 |  |  |  |
| TR2 OC81 Mullard |  |  |  |
| TR3 | OC81 |  |  |
| Transformers: |  |  |  |
|  | Miniat (Denco | $\begin{aligned} & \text { urpos } \\ & \text { ange । } \end{aligned}$ | e coil |
| T2 | Miniat (Denc | purpo ange | coil |
| Miscellaneous: |  |  |  |
| Six-section aluminium chassis 7 in . $\times 5 \mathrm{in}$. $\times 2 \mathrm{in}$. |  |  |  |
| (Home Radio) or suitable tin. Tag board, miniature 18 -way, $4 \mathrm{i} \mathrm{in}, \mathrm{x} 1 \mathrm{l} \mathrm{in}$. Two coaxial sockets, |  |  |  |
| surface mounting type. Drive and reduction |  |  |  |
| gear (see rext). PP6 o volt battery. Three |  |  |  |
| control knobs. Stud connectors, wire, sleeving, |  |  |  |
| solder | , etc. |  |  |

capacitor vancs should cause the output to coin cide at this setting of the reoeiver dial if the generator is set to Range 2, but should it not do so the core of T1 may be adjusted until it does. The vanes of VC1. 2 must be almost fully engaged . at $200 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$.

After noting the dial reading and leaving the generator set the receiver is switched to medium wave and tuned around 500 metres ( $600 \mathrm{ke} / \mathrm{s}$ ) until the generator note is again heard. If the generator is now switched to Range 1 and adjusted to $600 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ the fundamental frequency will be heard. If either dial is now moved the signal will disappear. Leaving the generator set at $600 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ the recciver pointer is slowly rotated anti-clockwise when the note will again be heard at $1,200 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$.

With the receiver so set further calibration points on Range 2 can be obtained for by switching in this range and searching for the original 200 ke is signal. Slowly rotating the generator dial will cause the signal to be heard at $240 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}(1,200 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ to which receiver is tuned is the 5 th harmonic of $240 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}), 300 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ and $400 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$, and if $600 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ can be obtained on this range also so much the better although this could nor be done with the prototype.


Fig. 5: A frequencyidegrees of rotation graph.
These readings should be jotted down bat if the receiver in use is a superhet expect spurious responses at around $470 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ and $235 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ for the i.f. stages of the receiver are affected. These frequencies can be easily spotted however. because oscillations will occur all around the receiver dial. It should be found that $470 \mathrm{ke} / \mathrm{s}$ occurs before the vanes of VCl. 2 are quite fully open. Harmonics can be made use of to fill many spaces in the calibration and $440 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$, for example. can be located via the Wales Home Service $(81 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s})$ and $s \mathrm{~s}$ on.

To check on the $300 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ reading (Range 2 ) set the receiver pointer to 1.000 metres. It may he noted that if the generator is used with a transistor. receiver or other receiver fited with a ferrite aerial no direct connection need he made if the outnit lead is brought close to the rod.

IHIS receiver was designed and constructed in response to a request from a friend for the installation in the cabinet of an existing obsolete radiogram of a new radio chassis and modern four-speed record player unit... The requirements were that the completed instrument should provide reliable reception of the local B.B.C. programmes, plus Radio Luxembourg, together with realistic reproduction of gramophone records, possibly with emphasis on the "pop" variety in the case of the latter!
The receiver was to be used in an area where the B.B.C. programmes are reliably received, free of interference, and thus the complication and expense of providing for v.h.f.-f.m. reception, as well as a.m. broadcasts, could be avoided. Also, as no short-wave listening was envisaged and the only continental station required was Radio Luxembourg on 208 m , it was evident that a receiver embodying preset tuning had much to recommend it.
This latter arrangement also avoided possible difficulties in obtaining a suitable dial and drive mechanism to suit the exisfing cabinet. With preset tuning no dial is required and the existing cut-out in the cabinet was "blocked in" with a suitable rectangle of veneered wood, drilled to accept the contripl spindles and red indicator light of the new chassis.
The only drawback to the use of preset tuning was that it had been found in past experience that unless extremely carefully constructed and wired, such arrangements tend- to drift " off tune " after a period of use and require periodical readjustment. However, a solution to this problem was found in the use of a complete ready-made four-station tuning coil pack with "gram" position on the selector switch. This coil pack is manufactured by Denco Lid. and after a lengthy period of use, with several hundred operations of the selector switch in the course of domestic use, the tuning bas heen found to remain perfectly stable and no readiustments have proved necessary.

This coil pach is available in two versions: four medium wave stations or three $m$ :w and one long wave stations. The area in which the set is intended to operate will be the deciding factor in the choice of coil pack. If the B.B.C. Light Programme is well received at all hours of the day on 247 m (medium wave band) then coil pack
chassis via the aerial tuning coils.
type CP4/MG will be required, but if the Light Programme is normally best received on 1.500 m (long wave band) then type CP4/LG "will be required.

Owing to the fact that each ind vidual station will, when alignment is completed, be accurately adjusted for padding and trimming of oscillator and aerial tuning circuits, rather than the compromise adjustments which have to be made when a receiver with variable tuning has to be capable of "sweeping" across each complete waveband, the sensitlvity will be found to be of a high order and ample volume will be obtained on a short indoor aerial in most locations, although, of course, the best possible aerial should always be used in the interests of minimum background "noise". As the receiver utilises a conpletely isolated full-wave power supply an external earth may be used and this will be found to further aid towards stable and interference-free reception.

Having deall with the main features of the design in so far as radio reception is concernied let us now turn to the "gram". requirements." The present-day popularity of records featuring a pronounced "beat" with an accompaniment of guitars, double bass; etc., calls for a circuit which will give some emphasis to the lower frequencies, particularly as a loudspeaker unit ( 8 in , diameter) in the moderate price range was to be incorporated. With this in yiew a "bass boosting" preamplifier stage, operative on "gram" only, was incorporated, this being V4 on the circuit diagram (Fig. 1),

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that for sake of clarity the internal coil switching arrarigements of the coil pack have been omitted but all points of connection to the colour-coded tags provided on this component are clearly shown.

The incoming radio signal is tuned by switching in the appropriate coil between point "greer " and chassis, the capacitor Cl acting as a fixed tuning eapacitor in place of the conventional twoganged variable. The selected signal is applied io the control grid of the mixer section of the frequency changer valve V 1 , for which a 6 K 8 is specified. C2 is merely a d.c. blocking capacitor to prevent the passage of the a.v.c. voltage to


The oscillator section of V1 is wired as a Colpitts oscillator. This circuit is noteworthy far its long-term stability and freedom from drift as a result of slight supply voltage changes. Tuning is performed by switching the appropriate coil between points "red" and "blue" and by the existence of fixed capacitors C7 and C8.
The i.f. signal appearing at the mixer anode of V1 is selected by the preset.tuning of the primary of T1 ( $465 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ ) and impressed on the control grid of $\mathrm{V}_{2}$ via the secondary winding of $\mathrm{T}_{2}$. V 2 . which is a $6 \mathrm{B8}$, is a multi-purpose valve and fulfils the function of i.f. amplification in its pentode section. The output at the pentode anode is coupled via $\mathrm{T}_{2}$ to one of the diodes (pin 4), which acts as a demodulator. The resultant a.f. signal is filtered of residual r.f. by R12, C14 and C15 and the a.f, voltage is developed across R11.

A portion of the i.f. signal appearing at the
anode of V 2 is fed to the second diode (pin 5) via C13, which acts as a.v.c. rectifier, and the resultant voltage is applied to the grid of V2 (decoupled by R8 and C 10 ) and to the grid of. V1 lfurther decoupled by R6 and C9). The application of a.v.c. bias voltage to two stages will be found to considerably assist in-counteracting the fading which tends to afflict after-dark reception, particularly of Radio Luxembourg on 208 m .

Returning to the passage of the a.f. signal appearing across R11, this is now applied to the "radio/gram" changeover switch $\mathrm{S}_{1}$ included in the coilpack. This-switch is so wired that in each of the four pre-selected radio station positions the signal is fed via C16 to the "top" of VR1, the volume control.

The desired level of signal is tapped off by the slider of VR1 and applied to the control grid of V3, which is a high-slope output pentode of type


Fig. I: The complete circuit including the power pock.

6 625 (or EL33). Thus no intermediate stage of audio amplification is provided for radio reception and in practice it will be feund that a more than adequate signal is available to "drive" V3. The output from $\sqrt{ } 3$ is fed to the output transformer T3 and thence to the loudspeaker output sockets. A simple top-cut tone control comprising C18 and VR2 ${ }^{-}$is wired across the primary of the output transformer.

## GRAMOPHONE PRE-AMPLIFIER STAGE

When the selector switch is turned to the ".gram" position (" C " in Fig. t') the radio circuit is isolated and the output from V4 is fed via the volume control to the output stage V3.
The purpose of $\mathrm{V4}$, which is a 6 J 5 valve, is, as rreviously explained. to provide some, preamplification, particularly of the bass frequencies. The signal from the pick-up, which in the original
can be omitted, resulting in a.fixed value of negative voltage feedback over the latter stage, which will be an aid to improved quality in reproduction but with some loss of maximum available volume.

The components R18, R19 and C21 provide the desired emphasis of the bass frequencies before the signal is fed to V 3 .

The power supply circuit is entirely conventional. In actual practice this portion of the circuit is mounted on a separate chassis which can conveniently stand on the foor of the cabinet in which the receiver is installed.

The output voltages are terminated in an octal socket at one end of the chassis. A suitable octal plug, fitting into the above socket, conveys the various supplies to the main chassis by a six-way flexible cable. Four leads convey the h.t. and 1.t. supplies, the remaining :wo leads go to the on/of

## COMPONENTS LIST

| Resistors: |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R2 | 10k』 IW | R9 | $330 \Omega$ | R16 | k |
| R3 | $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | R10 | $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | R17 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R4 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R11 | 470kת | R18 | $68 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| 25 | 22012 | R12 | 47k $\Omega$ | $R 19$ | $22 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R6 | 220 kS | R13 | $150 \Omega$ | R20 | 39k |
| R7 | $68 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R14 | 10k $\Omega$ |  |  |

All $\pm 10 \%$, W earbon unless otherwise stated VRI $500 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ porentiometer
VR2 $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ potenclometer with switch ( 52 )


C19 $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 350 V
C20 $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 25 V
C21 $0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper 350 V
C22 $16+16 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electroiytic 450V

## Transformers:

TI l.F. transformer, 465kc's (Denco IFT6B/465)
T2 I.F. transformer, 465 kc 's (Denco IFT6A/465)
T3 Output transformer $5000 \Omega$ primary (Parmeko P2641)
T4 Mains transformer. Secondaries: 250-0. 250 V 80 mA ; $6.3 \mathrm{~V}, 3 \mathrm{~A}$; 5 V 2 A (Douglas MTI)
Valves:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| V1 | $6 K 8$ | $V_{3}$ | $6 P 25$ | V5 | $5 Z 4$ |
| V2 | $6 B 8$ | $V_{4}$ | $615 M$ |  |  |

Miscellaneous:
Lt Smoothing choke 10 H 80 mA
LSI Speaker unit 8 in. dia., $3 \Omega$
Coil pack, Denco CP4/MG or CP4/LG
Six I.O. valveholders. Two I.O. grid clips. One I.O. plug. Indicator lamp holder, panel mounting, red lens and 6.3 V lamp. Tagstrips; three 2 -way, one 4 -way, two 2 -way. Three 2 -way socket strips. A.E., P.U., L.S. Three control knobs.
 12 in . $\times 5 \mathrm{Sin} . \times 3 \mathrm{in} .$, and one $8 \mathrm{in} . \times 4 \mathrm{in} . \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. (Home Radio). Screened, single core cable; insulated flex, various colours (for power cable); connecting up wire; insulated sleeving; nuts and bolts, washers and solder tags.
is developed across R16 and fed to the control grid of V4.
It may be found that some crystal pick-ups provide a sufficiently high output to overload V4. which will be evidenced by distortion on loud passages irrespective of the setting of the volume control. In such cases the insertion of R16a (shown dotted in Fig. 1) will put matters to rights. A suitable value for R 16 a will be $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.
The anode of V4 is well decoupled: from the h.t. line by R14 and C19 and no feedback troubles should be encountered in spite of the high overall gain of the audio stages. In many arcas C. 17 connected across the cathode resistor R13 of V3 receiver was of thie" standard" lon-priced crystal type with tumover head to suit 78 or l.p. discs,
mains switch which for convenience is mounted on the main chassis. The author's preference is to combine this switch with the tone control (VR2) rather than, as is more usual practice, with the volume control (VR1). This avoids constant movement of the volume control every time the receiver is switched on or off. with consequent unnecessary wear of the track of this component; which can quickly lead to "noisy" operation.

## CHOICE OF COMPONENTS

Components of any reputahle make can be employed throughout this receiver and. apart from the Deneo coil pack. no hard and fast specifications are laid down in the list of components.

A mains transformer of the top mounting type
is shown in the illustrations-and on-the-drilling diagram of the power supply chassis (Fig. 3). Naturally if a different type is used there may be need of alteration here.

In the interests of long-term tuning stability good quality silver, mica capacitors of the. close tolerance $(2 \%$ or better) must be used.in the CI; こ2. C6, C7, and C8 positions. All other resistors and eapacitors can be of-the standard $20 \%$-tolerance type.--

The off-repeated warning against. using ex-equipment rapacitors of doubtful origin is again emphasised as these can lead to disappointing results and tedious efforts to trace the :ause ; of -unsatisfactory or srratic operation.

The i.f"' transformers T1 and I 2 are of the standard rather han the possibly more popular midget "type as they are then nore in keeping with the octalized valves. The collour coding of their lead"s may nö necess:
them. - A- component - with-a-top--flyvlead; (for connection to top cap grid of V 2 ) is cssentíal in the fitst i.f. transformer II.

## PREPARING THE CHASSIS

The-two atuminium-chassis-of the specified size are a standard pattern obtainable, ready folded to shape; from several advertisers in this magazine.

. A. view of the main chassis when finisted.


Fig. 2: The main chassis drilling details:
ic diagrams. as manufacturers often', have their wn, preferences in this matter: However usually a ata chart is supplied when the components are urchased giving the necessary "key" to the erminations.
If a typc, of i.f. transformer having tags or pins $s$ output terminations rather than coloured flyads is obtained it will. of course. be necessary to mend the drilling of the chassis to accommodate

Constructors who have the $\quad$ vecessary workshóp facilitics for making up the chassis from sheet aluminjum. can. of colirse, do so, and in that case all drilling and cutting can be done whilst the metal is in the flat state.

All positions and dimensions of drilling holes are clearly seen by reference to Figs. 2 and 3.

It is strongly recommended that both chassis are completely drilled before commencing on any


F1g. 3: Drilling dimensions of the power pack chassis.
assembly or wiring work; this then enables the workbench to be completely cleared of filings, waste metal, etc., before proceeding. The large valveholder holes are best cut out with one of the special chassis cutters-available for this purpose (Itin. diameter) and a tin. punch is useful for making the holes for control spindles, mains leads, etc. For all other drilling an ordinary hand drill,


Fig. 4: Coil pack layout.
with bits: to provide holes of 4 in., $4 B: A$. or 6B.A. clearance, will be adequate.

The exact position of fixing holes for the valueholders, mains transformer, choke. output trans*. former and the electrolytic smoothing capacitor C 22 is best marked out by using the actual components as a template.

The group of tin. dianieter holes shown around the hole which accommodates the control spindle of the coil pack selector switch is to provide access
to the tuning coil cores from the front of the chassis. The best way to mark their positions with aceuracy is to obtain a piece of stiff card (a postcard will suffice) and cut from it a piece of the same dimensions as the coil pack. i.e. 3 in. $x=\frac{1}{2}$ in. Make a in. diameter hole in the centre. Now place this piece of card over the' spindle bush of the coil pack and temporarily fasten it in place with the fixing nut.

By firmly pressing the card dowin against the base of each coil (which will be found to protrude slightly above the surface of the metar baseplate) an outline mark of the position of each coil can be made. Now remove the card. pencil in the exact position of each. coil and punch $\frac{1}{4}$. holes at each of these positions.

The punched card can now be'fastened to the front runner of the chassis, using Sellotape, taking care that the central hole is aligned with the coil pack spindle hole. The actual chassis runner is now drilled with $\frac{1}{4}$ in. holes through the marker holes in the card.

If desired the card can be left affixed to the chassis and the appropriate" "key letters" applicable to each coil core, ascertained from Fig. 4, neatly written alonsside. This will serve as an easy reference when alignment is earried out or if any future adjustments have to be'made to the nreset tunine at a later date.

When all holes have been dritled. clean up any rough hurrs with a round fite and make a firial check with Figs. 2 and 3 to make sure that none have been omitted.

TO CONTINUED

# versatile Tremolo unit 

## A FIVE-TRANSISTOR INSTRUMENT

## BY J. HITCHIN

NO self-lespecting dance band or jazz group is now complete without at least one instrument making use of a tremolo unit. A new amplifier bought or made now would almost certainly incorporate such a unit, and the effect is beginning to be used with other instruments than the guitar-with which it was first associated. For instance, the effeet can be very pleasing when used with the piano accordion, especially if this has a builtin microphone, as many of the latest models have.

Fven when a tremolo unit is built in to the amplifier there are still very good arguments for an independent unit. The instrumentalist may not he able to reach the main amplifier as he is moving around the stage, and a separate unit enables more than one instrument to use the same main amplifier.

There are also. of course, many thousands of perfectly good amplitiers already in existence which do not have a buitt-in tremolo unit. These can, of coursc. be modified by building in a tremolo unit. though this would not give the flexibility of a separate unit.

Most of these existing anıplifiers are of the valve type and the construction of a separate valve unit involves trouble with power supplies and the use of long and unwieldy leads.

The obvious answer is the use of a transistorised unit with its own battery supply. This can be in the form of a small box suitable for slipping in the pocket. or in the case of a guitar or accordion can be built into the instrument.

The unit described here is of this type. It provides facilities for the control of depth and speed of tremolo over the ranges of 0 to $100 \%$ and 5 to $15 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ and also for adjustment of gain. The unit has a maximum gain of approximatcly 15 anci so provides a useful preamplificr which may be installed close to the microphone or pick-up.

Unlike some other tremolo units the output signal amplitude is independent of any control setting other than that of the gain control since the modulation is of the downward type and the peak amplitude of signal remains constant whatever the modulation depth. Whilst there is obviously a decrease in the lotal amount' of power in the final output signal the effective volume level is very little affected. This can be very important to the user as the need to readjust volume levels duping the course of a complicated performance as the tremolo is switched in and out is eliminated.

The circuit uses five transistors and can he assembled on to a circuit board $3 \frac{1}{2}$ in. by $6 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. This
circuit board may be of the printed circuit. type (a layout for a printed circuit board is given in Fig .3) or may be a plain sheet of insulating board with inserted tags (a wiring sketch is shown in Fig. 4): The layout of components is the same in each case.

## Description of Circuit.

The transistors $\operatorname{Tr} 1$ and $\operatorname{Tr} 2$ form a collectorcoupled multivibrator 'whose speed of oscillation is controlled by the capacitors C1 and C2, resistors R1 and R2 and potentiometer'VR1.

Variation of the potentiometer VR1 provides the speed contral and a range of from 5 to $15 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ is available. It will be noted that the control is effective in only one base return and so the output at any other than one sefting must be asymmetrical. Various forms of symmetrical control were tried, such as ganged potentiometers in the two base returns and the return of equal base resistors to a variable voltage divider.

The final decision to use the circuit shown in Fig. 1 was taken on the grounds' of simplicity and because in a series' of comparative listening.tests at various speeds and depths of modulation. it was found the most satisfactory. It should be remembered that there is no standard that 'defines the shape of modulation in such a unit ald the practical results of a test are the only final answer.

Those wishing for a "different ". sound for their tremolo effect should try variations in the multivibrator networks, checking each time with the musician who will be using the unit.
The modulation is transferred from the collector of transistor Tr2 via the $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor R 6 to the top of the modulation depth potentiometer VR2. This potentiometer is bypassed by a $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor (C3) which removes the higher harmonies from the -modulating waveform. Unless this . is done some of the higher harmonics. will appear in the output. resulting in a ticking sound at the modulation frequency.

Transistor Tr3 is the modulating device and acts by varying the impedarice of a potentiometer chain of which it forms the lower half. The input signal from the pick-up is applied via a $30 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor, R7, to the emitter of $\operatorname{Tr} 3$ and via C4 to the base of transistor Tr4. The modulating signal is applied from the slider of the modulation potentiometer to the base of Tr3. The signal causes the emitter-to-collector impedance of Tr 3 to fluctuate in sympathy with the signal.

The signal arriving at the base of the first amplifying transistor Tir4 is therefore moduläted at the multivibrator frequency. As the emitter-
base impedance can be reduced to a very small value it is possible to achieve virtually $100 \%$ modulation. The values of the feed resistor for modulation' R6 and the input resistor R7 have been chosen so that with commonly used magnetic pick-ups the full range of rotation of the potentiometer is required to produce $100 \%$ modulation.

The remaining two transistors. Tr4 and Trs, form a preamplifier with a gain from input terminals to output of approximately 15 and can provide a maximum output signal of about 1 V . The first stage is of the grounded collector type and was chosen so that its high impedance input should not damp the modulator section. This stage is directly coupled into the base of TrS. a grounded emitter stage.

Gain control is applied to the final stage by means of the potentiometer VR3 and the capacitor C6, which act so as to vary the a.c. feedback applied to the stage. A gain control range of 20 dB is provided which is adequate for adjustment at the instrument itself, coarse gain control being carried out by using the controls on the main amplifier or on the pick-up itself.

The output is taken from the collector of $\operatorname{Tr} 5$ via G7 and R11, the time constant of these being selected to be as high as possible while still giving attenuating at the modulating frequency.
In the case of modulation not being required. the multivibrator is stopped by joining the collectors of Tr 1 and Tr 2 together by means of S.1. This method of stopping the multivibrator was chosen because it maintains the correct d.c. conditions on the base of the modulator transistor Tr 3 .

The unit is powered by a divided 9 V line, that is to say plus and minus $4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~V}$. Such a supply system was chosen because it made the problems of decoupling simpler and enabled smaller capacitor to be used and. furthermore, kept input and output terminals sensibly close to earth.
Before describing the construction in detail the following point should be noted.
It was assumed throughout the design of the unit
that it would be used 'with either an a.c.-onfy amplitier or with a properly designed a.c.-d.c. amplifier incorporating an isolating transformer in the input terminals. No musical instrument should be connected to the terminals of an a.c.-d.c. amplifier which make direct contact with the chassis. Many musicians have received severe shocks as a result of not taking these precautions and fatalities have occurred.

## COMPONENTS LIST

## Resistors:



## Capacitors:

$\mathrm{Cl} 2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytie 350 V
C2 ${ }_{1} \mathrm{LF}$ electrolytic 350 V
C3 $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 25 V
C4 0.04 paper 150 V
C5 $2 \times 100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 12 v
C6 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 12 V
C7 0.02 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ paper 150 V

## Switches:

SI Push-on, push-off type switch (Bulgin S360, $\$ 560$ or $\$ 561$ )
S2 Toggle switch, d.p.s.t.
Transistors:
TrI OC71
Tr4 OC44
Tr2 OC71
Tr5. OC71

## Tr3 OC7I

## Miscellaneous:

Input jack socket, if required (Bulgin 16 shorting type). Output jack, if required (Bulgin 12). Insulated board $6 \frac{1}{2}$ in. $\times 3 \frac{1}{2}$ in. or printed circuit board.


Fig. I: The tremolo unit circuit.

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## Construction

The tremolo unit has bcen constructed in two forms: as an independent unit suitable for placing on the-floor close by the player and with the modulation switch operated by foot; as a sub-unit suitable for building into an existing amplifier or into a musical instrument such as a guitar.

In either form the basic construction may employ either an insulating board with targ inserts or a printed circuit. Details of each. method are shown on the diagrams. Where the tag-board construction is used all the wiring is carried out on one side of the board and the components: are fitted to the other side.

## Drilling Diagram

Drilling details for the component board are given in Fig. 2.


Fig. 2: The drilling dimensions of the panel.


Fig. 3: The printed circuitry and component layout and wiring.


Fig. 4: Point-to-point wiring for a component board using tags fixed into a plain sheet.

The small holes should be located on to the panel by drawing out this diagram full size and pricking through on to the panel. In the case of a: printod circuit being used it is necessary to ensure that the holes are drilled centrally in the printed track.
The same drilling diagram is used for both methods of construction, i.e. printed circuit or wired tags. Single printed circuits can be produced by painting the required pattern direct on to the board in a resistant paint and etching in diluted nitric acid.
The board used measures $6 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. by $3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$., this size being chosen because it fits neatly inside; one of the Eddystone series of cast boxes, making a strong and reliable unit for foor use. The modulation 3 witch is fitted to the board, while the on/off switch and the three potentiometers are mounted separately either on a strip of material or directly of the cast box or instrument panel.
The batteries are mounted in simple clips on the bottom of the box or in a suitable place in the inftrument or amplifier.
If the unit is mounted inside an existing amplifier it is a good idea to change the main on/off switch to a rype that carries additional contacts, enabling both switches to be combined. This eliminates the risk. of forgetting to turn off the tremolo unit and thus draining the batteries.

The components lists gives the recommended components, though suitable alternatives for many of them+exist. The transistors are all OC71s with the exception of Tr4, which should be an OC44. Constiuction is straightforward and even when usiog the tag-board method it is impossible to use overlong leads. The flying leads to the potentiometers should not exceed 18 in . in length: screening was found unnecessary for these leads. though they should he neally twisted into bunches.

Becanse of the relatively high sensitivity of the
unit it is recommended that a shorting-type jack should be used for the input to avoid stray "pick-up" when it is not connected to the instrument pick-up.
The wired panel is mounted on simple spacers when installed to avoid trapping the wiring or shorting out the printed track.

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The text is written for the young beginner and naturally more advanced readers will find some of the information superfluous. The author is sure that any beginner will be able to make this radio as a result of this article.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1035 OF MARCH ISSUE

BY E. V. KING

COMPARING the circuit of Fig. 3(a) with that of Fig. 7(a) readers will note the additional coil 12 which will pick up electro-magnetically the oscillating voltage on L. 1 .
The advantages of this a rrangement are that the diode circuit will not now "damp" down" the coil 1.1 and render the circuit "flat" or non-selective, and also that the circuit will match into the transistor, which will later be substituted for the diode.
Reference to Fig. 4 (stage 3) will show that the coil 1.1 is now covered with a layer of thin card and 30 turns of thin plastic-covered wire wound on in two layers, definitely all in the $\cdot$ same direction. As before the start is knotted. Sellotape keeps the coil in place. : The ends are designated as $C$ and $D$ for start and end respectively.

Fig. 7(b) shows the rearranged circuit wiring. The following alterations are made to the wiring in Fig. 3:

1. The lead AU is removed entirely.
2. Coil lead D is soldered to. tag B. the thin coll lead being also left intact.
3. The coil end $C$. (knotted) is joined to the end of the diode at U.

## Testing the Aeria:

 TransformerThe long aerial is now coninected to A , the water pipe earth to IB and the phones as before.


Fig. 7a (left): Crystal detector with aerial transformer consisting of 11 and L2; $b^{\prime}$ (right): the new wiring.


Fig. 80 (above): Ineorporoting a simple transistor amplifier into the eireuit; $b$ (below): the wiring of the amplified set.

so that the aerial "pick-up" is itself amplified and the ferrite rod will then suffice on its own. Meanwhile the OC44 transistor Tr is wired as an a: $f_{i}^{\prime}$ amplifier. In doing this much of the future witing, will be performed and many components tested. All additional wiring is shown in Fig. 8(b).

The switch Si is fitted (Fig. 8 and Fig. 2). Some battery clips should be obtained from an old battery. The following connections are removed:

1. The end of L2 connected to tag B.
2. Both leads going to the phone terminals.

The following connections and components are added (refer to Fig. 8):

1. Wire from switch Si to sbattery negative, using a clip.
2. Wite from rotor (moving vanes). of. VC1 to batiery plus.
3. Check for certain that polarity of battery is correct.
4. Remove battery temporarily.
5. Position diode D1 with red end on U' if this is not already so.
6. Join the end "C" of L2 to red of diode.
7. Join the other end of L 2 to tag $T$.
8. Connect $C 2$ between $T$ and, $V$, shortening the leads and covering them in sleeving.
9. In the same way $\mathbf{R 2}$ is wired between $V$ and T. Make a good, round soldered joint every time.
10. Connect tag V to tag $\mathbf{S}$ (emitter of transistor Tri).
11. Connect tag $W$ to tag $R$ (base of transistor Tr 2 ).
12. Connect R1 between tag $T$ and switch S1.
13. Connect switch \$1 to phones.
14. Connect R4 between $Q$ and $P$.
15. Join P and spare phone terminal.
16. Check the wiring now carefully against the theoretical diagram (Fig. 8a), inking this in as each part is traced. Rectify any errors made.
17. Look carefully for tags touching adjacent tags in error and whiskers of wire causing shorts.

## Testing the Amplifier

The phones are connected as usual. If high resistance phones are used, short out R4 with a wire loop. If a crystal insert is used wire it to either side of R4, and short the actual phone terminals.

Clip on battery, put ferrite in the coil, connect earth to tag "B" and aerial to "A". Switch on and a station is almost sure to be heard at once. The vanes of VCl and the ferrite rod will be almost out for the Light Programme. The sound will be so loud that it should be heard about two yards from reed-type phones.

If the aerial is now moved to the spare end of C1 the selectivity will be much better and the optimum tuning position will be with the ferrite rod well in and the vanes of VC1 about a quarter turn out. When no station is heard a slight hiss should be heard, and if the base wire of the transistor Tr 1 or $\operatorname{tag} R$ is touched with a metal object (such as a screwdriver blade held in the hands), mains hum will be heard if the house is wired for a.c. If a milliammeter (on 10 mA range) is placed in the positive battery lead it will show the collector current of the transistor. This should be between 1 mA and 2 mA but can safely be up to 3 mA .

The diode D1 must be connected the correct way round and in fact it may be damaged by incorrect use. Some diodes now have no colour and the direction of the "catswhisker" means nothing. Thus, if in doubt (when the red end is

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By M. H. Thomas

'WHS receiver is a struightforward t.t.f. design and as such is a simple stt for the beyinner to build. As well as construction details, brief notes on the working of each of the main components will 'be given.'. The set will tune the medium waveband. $200-550 \mathrm{~m}$ and reception of both Home and Contiaental stations will be found to be quite satisfactory, even on a fairly short aerial, although the more distant stations will require a slighty longit aerial for bost tesults.

## H.F. and Detector \$toses

1.1 incorporates the arial coupling sail and the tuned grid coil for V1. This coil is the Wrarite PA2, while L2 is the Weatite HF2. Tbls Lettet cpil is the anode coupling coil 20d tuned detectot coil for V2.

The aerial is contiected to $t a g$ "Y" of Li via C1. VCl and VC2 are a j00pF twip gity runing capacitor fitted with trimmers and slow-mption tuning drive. This gang suacs the stecondratis of


Fig. 1: The simple eircult of the receiver.

## The Powar Supply Circuit

The power supply is derived from the $200 \cdot 240 \mathrm{~V}$ a.ce. mains. Output from the 230 V winding on the mains ranffermer $T 2$ is rectified by the metal rectifier MRi to a pulsating d.c. current. MRI should not be rated at less than 40 mA and, in fact. a 50 ma rectifier would be thost suitable.

Another winding on the milias transformer supplies 6.3 V to the three valve heaters and also to the dial lamp.
$\mathrm{C} 10 / 11$ is a dual electrolytic capacitor, $32+32 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 350 V . C. 10 is the smoothing capacitor working in conjunction with the smoothing choke (L3), while Cll is the reservoir capacitor.

L1 and L2 to the required frequencies.
R1 and VR1 form a potentiometer befween h. positive and negative. The voltage toppgd off at the slider of VR.I is applied to the cathode of $\mathrm{V}_{1}$ and thus controls the amplification of this mege. The Ousput Stage

The output stace ukes an EL 32 pentode value. $C 7$ is a $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 35 \mathrm{~V}$ capacitor whioh couplo the audio frequescy sipnal it the anode of $\sqrt{2}$ th the grid of V3. It is important that this capaoitor be reliable as a slight positive voltage:on the E4, 32 control grid would prevent the recelver funciming normally.

C 8 is a $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 450 \mathrm{~V}$ paper capacitor fitted across


FIg. 2: :The layout of the larger components, most of which are mounted on the top side of thessis.
the secondary of T1 in order to reduce the high note - response, since this is rather excessive with pentodes; while'at the same time -it hefps to cut out heterodybe whistles due to neighbouring stations on medium waves-which can otherwise become quite :objectionable, particularly after dark when many more Continental stations are received at good strength. T2 is a standard output trans-former-it provides an anode load for $V 3$ and the 'secondary matches a $3 \Omega$ loudspeaker. A 5 in. diameter loudspeaker unit-should be satisfactory.

## Chassis and Construction

A chiassis about 6 in . by 12 in , with $2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. runners would be-a -convenient size. It is recommended that the main components be to hand when marking the chassis for drilling.

The construction is fairly straightforward and the beginner chould have no ditticulty if Figs. 2 and 3 are followed with care. Ensure that all solder joints are good. All Jeads must be kept reasonably short and should also be well separated as. far as possible.


Fig. 3t The underchassis wiring.

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17／6 еа． PどE V4，VT14，CTM4，VTIT $17 / 6$ ea． EKCO 221，231 ．．．．25／－ea． FERGUSON 204，206，306，498 17／6ea． PHILIPS 1446 U， 1458 U．． $17 / 6$ ea． Mc』ICHAEL MPl4 ．．17／6ea． SOBELL T346 ．．．． $17 / 6$ ea． SCAN COILS for above Models 10／－ea．P．\＆P． 3／－ea．

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2 WATT AMPLIFIER．A compact unit with tone and volume controls．With valves（ $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{L}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{P}, \mathrm{P} \times 2$ ）on a board complete with ofp transformer and din．speaker．Crisp reproduction． Absolutely ready to plav．ONLI $39 / 6$ ，plus $2 / 6{ }^{2}$ ．\＆$P$ ． 4 WATT AMPLIFIER．Valve lime up $6 \mathrm{BR}^{-7}$ or EFsu，l5I84， EZu0．Fitted with volume，\}ass, and treble lift controls. Absolutely complete．ONLY $£ 3.12 .6$ ，plus $4 / 6 \mathrm{P}$ ．\＆P．

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QUALITY 6 TRANSISTOR RADIO，giving sparkling reception on medium and long waves．Good tone from Bin．speaker． Socket for car aerial．In robust，stylish case in mixed colours． £6．15．0．
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COMPLETE 14 TV SETS－Untested
Choice of PYE，PHILIPS，EKCO and SOBELI，well packed－ but at owners＇risk．£2 EACH，rlus lifi－carriage aftl packing．

## valves

| EBHI | 2／－ | F゙Z， |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| EBH |  |  |

 EC＇vos
 ETHA： ECH3．
ECH +2

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 Postage and Package is fod．on each valve．
TV TUBES，ail ex emmpment set tested，C1RM141 176 ea． MULLARD 14 in ．tubes ot all types．AW and MW．Alt $17 / 6$ ea．P．\＆P．11\％
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> JAG ELECTRICS \＆ CABINET MAKERS LTD． 2c Church Street，Slough，Bucks． TRADE INQUIRIES INVICED

Mount the following items in the order eiven:
(a) The valveholders.
(b) The coil iL2.
(c) The volume control and the on/ott
". switch.
(d) The mains transformer.
(e) The smoothing choke.

Complete as far as possible all the under-chassis wiring, leaving suitable lengths of wire to run to the upper side of the chassis to the output transformer, the V3 grid cap and to the dial lamp.

\section*{Resistors: <br> | R1. | $180 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R5 | 470k』d |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R2 | $220 \Omega$ | R6 | 470k $\Omega$ |
| R3 | $3 \cdot 3 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | R 7 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R4 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | Re | 270 $2+W$ | <br> \[

All \pm 10 \% . \frac{1}{W} , excepr where otherwise stated.
\] <br> <br> All $\pm 10 \%, \frac{1}{4} W$, except where otherwise stated. <br> <br> All $\pm 10 \%, \frac{1}{4} W$, except where otherwise stated. <br> VRI $5 k \Omega$ wire-wound potentiometer.}

## Capacitors:

| Cl | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper 750 V . |
| :---: | :---: |
| C2 | . $0.01{ }^{\text {L }}$ F paper 350 V |
| C3 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ paper 350 V |
| C4 | 0.01pif paper 3SOV |
| C5. | 25 ${ }^{\text {fr }}$ electrolytic 25 V |
| C6 | 500pf mica or ceramic |
| C7 | 0.01/fF. paper 350 V |
| C | 0:01 15 F paper 450 V |
| C9 | $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 25 V |
| C10 | $33_{\text {aF }}$ F dual electroiytic 350 V |
| Cll | $32 \mu \mathrm{ff}$ dual electrolytic 350 V |
| VCI | 500pf twin gang, with trimmers |
| VC2 | 500pf $\}$ TC2. |

## Valves:

VI, V2, SP6I, V3, EL32

## Inductors:

L1. Medium wave nerial coll (Wearite PA2)
L2 Medium wave h.f. coil (Wearise PHF2)
L3 Smoothing choke $10-20 \mathrm{H}, 50 \mathrm{~mA}$
Tranisformers:
TI Pentode output transformer, to match $3 \Omega$ loudspeaker
T2 Mains transformer with capped primary. $\therefore$ Secondaries: $0-250 \mathrm{~V} 50 \mathrm{~mA} ; 6.3 \mathrm{~V} 1.5 \mathrm{~A}$
Other Circuit Components:
MRI Metal reczifier, 250 V 50 mA
SI Double-pole, on/of switch
LSI Loudspeaker, 5 in. diameter, $3 \Omega$ speech coll.
Miscellaneous:
Chassis, dial drive drum and pointer. Knobs, nuzs, bolts, etc.

Mount the main components on the upper side of the chassis and complete the wiring above and below.

The wiring should be carried out throughout with insulated wire and all chassis fixings (marked "MC") should be to solder tags screwed on with the main components.

The polarity of the electrolytic capacitors and the metal rectifier MRI must be carefully observed when wiring in these components.

## Setting Up end Allgnment

When the set has been 'plugged in to the mains rotate the gang capacitor until the BBC Light Programme (247m) is beard. The maximum signal


Fig.4: A suitable dial for the receiver, with details of the tuning drive.
and volume can then be obtained by the adjustment of the trimmers TC1 and TCi. Fent best results the aerial that is intended to be normally used should be attached to Cl during the alignment procedure.

## Cabinet and Dial Construction

Fig. 4 illustrates a suitable dial and tuning drive design. The necessary calibrations can be made during and after the alignment procedure. The metal plate of the dial is bolted to the chasnis and the drive cord passes through two suitably placed holes in the chassis upper.

A pleasing. but simple, cabinet can be constructed from s-ply tin. board with a pesboard back which will allow sufficient ventilation. When the cabinet has been constructed it can be painted or covered with a suitable adhesive plastic sheeting.

## "JUNIOR" Crystal + I

-continued from page 1114
not marked) try reversal for a few seconds only at a time. Some diodes appear reddish at one or both ends due to a copper seal in the glass. Ignore this coloration.

## Simple theory of the Circuit

The rectified d.c. from the rectifier is now used to cause base current to flow from the base of the OC 44 transistor to the emitter. This in turn causes a larger collector current to flow from collector to emitter. This flow is the amplification of the transistor and the current will deprend on the signal picked up.

The end of the coil $D$ could be connected to the battery plus line but R1 and R2 (bias resistors) are ready connected for future use and so end $D$ is taken to their junction. The capacitor $C 2$ bypasses the r.f. signal to earth (battery+). The $2 \cdot 2 k \Omega$ collector resistor R4 limits the transistor currents to a safe value but may be omitted if high resistance phones are used.

Next month the design will be further developed and the transistor utilised to provide both r.f. and a.f. amplification.

# BOOKS REVIEWED 

## A ${ }^{2}$ C $O F$ COMPUTERS

By Allan L'ytel; published by W. Foulsham e Co. Ltd. 128 papes, $5 \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}$ ins $\times-\frac{8}{6}$ ins. Price 16s.

T10 the uninitiated the seemingly incredible tasks the modern computer can "perform are as bewildering as its physical appearance is forbidding-a huge metallic carcase with electronic entrails beyond the comprehension of ordinary man. Many take one look, from a safe distance, then walk away convinced that the' mysteries 'of the computer are entirely beyond them.

It is just. for such people that Allan Lytel has written $A B C s$ of Computers. This is a basic introduction to the subject and the author's teaching experiences have obviously been applied with good effect in the planning of the book. First published in America, this book will be very useful to the British reader, since the basic principles of computer technique are similar-in both countries.

The whole field of computer activity is covered, as suggested by the title. After a general déscription of digital and analogue, computers the electronics each employ are broken down to their fundamentals, and the operation of: these basic circuits is explained. Then follows information on components, numbering systems, logical circuits, calculating circuits, information storage, etc.

A final chapter deals with the subject of Programming-this is the procedure that has to be carried out before a computer can be put to work on a particular task. Perhaps a fitting subject to conclude with, for this frightening monster is at last cut down to size; it cannot think for itself and is dependent upon us humans, after, all!F.E.B.

## PRINCIPLES OF FEEDBACK DESIGN

By G. Edwin end Thomas Roddam; published by lliffe Books Led. 234 pages, $5 \frac{1}{4}$ ins $\times 8$ ins. Price 45 s.

TIHIS is a book'for the design engineer who wishes to obtain practical guidance in respect of the problems that have to be solved when designing feedback amplifiers. This particular aspect of circuit' design has assumed considerable importance' with the "increasing use of automatic control systems. To design the rather sophisticated wide-band amplifiers incorporated in these systems, a rather fuller understanding of the principles of feedback is demanded than if one were only concerned with the application of feedback in ordinary' audio 'amplifiers.
The 'first part of the book deals with the application of feedback to simple amplifiers and shows how the response can be easily determined before : the 'amplifier' is built. The 'second part deals . with c. signal ::flow. diagrams, the analytical approach and the use of feedback amplifiers as
cut-off . filters. How a : knowledge" of basic principles can assist the understanding of closed loop systems in general is discussed in the final chapter.

Feedback is dealt with at a rather more advanced level than that found in the normal textbook, but without delving, so deeply into the mathematical treatment as the very advanced works on this subject: As might be expected from these two "old hands.", the authors have produced a polished and lucid text.-D.B..

## STEREO FOR BEGINNERS

By B. I. Webb; published by.Miles Henslow Publications Led 118 pages, $5 \frac{1}{2}$ ins $\times 8 \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}$ ins. Price 78. ©d.

SOONER or liater every recorded music devótee is faced with the problem-mono or stereo. Those already possessing a hi-fi equipment and previously quite contented with the quality, of reproduction become assailed with doubts and wonder whether they should convert to stereo. Others about to purchase or' build' up. a sound reproduction system. from scratch must, of course, resolve any doubts on this subject one way or the other before making the initial purchase.

What is stereo? Is it just a gimmick; is it worth while in a small room, does the ehd"effect justify the additional cost? These :are the kind of questions likely to perplex many who enjoy and appreciate good music and drama but who have little or no knowledge of the technicalities involved in the reproduction of sound from radio, disc or tape sources.

Mr. B. J. Webb has set out to explain what is implied by the term stereo and, illustrates how stereo can give added pleasure'to the serious listener.

The scene is set with a short history of stereo and explanations of the differences between singlechannel mono and twin-channet stereo. .Then, each link in the chain of the reproducing apparatus is discussed and considered from the various points of view such as expense, size of listening room and other personal factors. Examples of typical commercial amplifiers, speakers, pick-ups and turntables are given. Since this book is directed to those who are musical enthusiasts first and foremost, and who are concerned with the: ultimate sound $\cdots$ output rather, than iwith the methods whereby this is achieved, technicalities have been kept to, a minimum but guidarice is -provided regarding the salient features one must look for in commercial equipment and the more important terms and expressions quoted in manufacturers' sales literature .. are' explained ' 'sufficiently adeauately.

While the emphasis is, understandably, on reproduction from gramophone discs, information concerning tape 'recording and experimental stereo transmission by the BBC is also included.-D.D.R.

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4 bands ooveriag $550 \mathrm{~K} / / \mathrm{s} 5030 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ continugus．Operation 200／240 volt．A．C．special features 1n－ olude：Easy to read illuminated slide rule dial－Buit in Q multi－ plier－Aerial trimmer－caifibra． ted electrical bandspread on amateur bands－ $0-100$ logging scale－noise limiter－AVOMVC Belector－stable oscillator and HE 40 4WAYEBAND COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER Junior yersion of HE － 30 ．Similar tyle． $550 \mathrm{kols}-30 \mathrm{mcfa}$ ． S Meter－ A．N．L．Bandspread－2．0． 20 V．Actoils．
$\qquad$ coption－budt in edgewise ＂g＂meter．Output for phones or STD spenker． Supplied brand new and guaranceed with manual． 242 carriage paid．S．A．E． for full detafls．
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ERSKINE TYPE 13 DOUBLE SEAM OSCILLOSCOPE
Ime base $2 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}-750 \mathrm{Rc} / \mathrm{s}$ ．Calibrators at 100 Kols and IMc／s．Separate Y1 and Y2 amplifers up to $5.5 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ ． in perfect working ordor．\＄87．10．0． Carr．201－

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cuble woilel Good used cond 18.180 Rick slowel．As new cond ．．il 18.18 .0 Rsek Model Good used oond 27818 ． ．B－Rack model is identical to table model with extended front panel to ft a 19 in ．rack．Carriage siont panel to $200 / 250$ volt A．C．Dower upplied for all above recelvers，also soll separetely 59／6，carr．5／－．S．A．E．for details．


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\text { 70V. P.1.V. }
\end{array} \\
& \text { 4 } \\
& \text { 70V. P.I.V. }
\end{aligned}
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OAzor minlature eotifiers， 1 －each． soounts for quantíties Please add postaze． plete with，Guaranteed perfect working order．Supplied com post 5／－extrs

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ghorts，lesknge
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Cabactty 4 rangeg 2PF－2，000 MFD．Resistence 1 ranses 2 ohms－ an meg．ohm．Turnis，ratio and impedance manges Re⿻d Whon resistance alrect on meter to $200 \mathrm{men} . \mathrm{Siz} 104 \mathrm{z}$ I shm
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# TEST GEAR accessories <br>  Part 3 <br> BY C. MACKAY 



TTHE zathode follower is a device which employs $100 \%$ negative feedback and therefore cannot amplify. The reader may begin to wonder why it is ever used at all. The reason is that although it has a very hiyh impedance input. it has the ability of being able to work ifto almost any output impedance, It could, therefore, be described as an impedance transformer.

When using an oscilloscope in the examination of low-level phenomena the, high input impedance is very important and necessary, but if there is a high degree of amplification inside the 'scope the hum picked up from the mains wiring by the test leads may be so extensive as to mask any other low-level signals present. If the test leads were connected to a low impedance, pick-up of hum is

Fig. 9: The circuit of the cothode follower probe unit.
virtualfy eliminated. The cathode follower, therefore. tulfils the requirements of baving a low output impedange whilt retaining a very high input impedunce.

## A CATHODE FOLLOWER PROBE UNIT

It is now proposed to give full detalls for the construction of a cathode followior probe unit. The theoretical circuit is given, in Fig. 9. It will be seen that a simple attenuator has been included which gives a $10: 1$ reduction ratio. If this is not required it could easily be omitted.

Fig. 10: A suitoble power supply cliciuit for the probe unit.

Power supplies tequired are $150-250 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. at about 12.5 mA and 6.3 V at 0.3 A . In order that no hum should be induced inside the unit a 6 V battery was used for the heater supply, while h.t. was derived from a small workshop power unit:

If a power supply is available fram the
oncilloscope then this should be used. On the other hand, if the reader wishes to: mate amall power pack a suitable circuit which may. be cheaply constructed is shown in Fig. 10.

## BUILDING THE PROBE UNIT

The probe unit was built', ingide 'on old cylindrical i.f. transformer screeniaf. can and it

mould seem very likely. that most constructors buversome old screening can which would ido.

The size rand 'shape. of the screening can is unimportant; so long 'as all the components can be comfortably mounted "inside. The 'author's screening can was 2 fin. in diameter and $3 \frac{3}{4}$ in. high with at twist-on base. Inside, a circular piece of paxilin 2 in . in diameter was mounted about 1 in . above the base: on pillars. A.'sin: hole and other maller'inoles were drilled in the centre of the

n-1Les (dbove) Drilling details of the paxolin panel, iNb (rithe) complete wiring diagram of the probe.
paxolin to tike the waiveholder: as.in. Fig. 11a and the components were mounted on, the valve side at the paxolin in a manner, similär, to that used for prioted circtits as shown-in Fig. 11b. In fact a priofedicircuit could have been used ieffectively and the method of construction of the : probe unit is wolworth investigation by the experimenter.
 arectly the isame manner as that used for the detector probe (see last month's issue). The attenuàtor switch used was a two-pole, two-way We wehonge switch, although "oñly one pole was

## COMPONENTS: LIST FOR CATHODE - FOLLOWER PROBE UNIT



```
12.|M\Omega
R3*47M\Omega
    R4:150\Omega
    R5:10k\Omega
    Cl: 2;000pF:ceramic.
    SI 1 pote, 2 way (see text).
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## Micellaneous:

It B7G ivilveholder. 16 S:W/G. wire (about 6 Inches) : : 2 mmo "Systoflex (about 6 inches). 4 inches iof, copper or brass4tubing to take 6 BjAi stitudding. 2 yards of coaxial cable: 6 yards of isingle'flex OR-2:yards"of.3-way flex. I crocodile'clip. - 1 l wire retaining .clip: I Meccano. rithtangled bracket.- liscreening can (see text). Nicas; boles. solder tags
required, since, this-type of switch : did not project out into the can and thus did not interfere, with the other components. The switch was mounted well up on the canc as ${ }_{\not}$ near the probe as possible. The connecting cables are; passed through suitable holes in the base: The output to the oscilloscope consists of a length of coaxial cable. Several (say six) ventilation holes should be drilled to keep the unit cool and a length of flex, terminating in a crocodile clip, shoułd be attached to a solder tag on the top' of the can.

## OPERATIN゙G INSTRUCTIONS

The unit is connected to the oscilloscope and to the power pack! The clip is-attached to the chassis of the instrument under examination and the probe

is used as, if it were an ordinary test probe.: The unit gives' a reduction of the input voltage by about one part in 40.

No hum is either induced' within.the, probe?unit or picked up from outside the unit.

There is no phase shift. or phase. distortion and the unit shows no distortion of waveform at $10 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$.

The completed unit is very reliable, sturdy and efficient.; Note that the output voltage to the oscilloscope has a d.c. component which is normally removed by the isolating capacitors of the oscilloscope.

Next month Part 4

## TOP QUALITY-LOW COST $C R E$ <br> AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT

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## this ${ }^{66099}$ business

To those with but a limited knowledge of mathematics, the operator "j" encountered in textbooks, is a quite mysterious and deterring character. This orticle sets out to explain in simple terms the meaning of " $j$ " and how it makes circuit colculations easy.

By Roy Hartiopl

MOST of 4 . when we think of numbers, ustally think in terms of things. The figure 5 , for instance, conjures up thoughts of live people, or tive apples, or five radio sets waiting to be repaired. Because of this it is only natural that, when we think of manipulating numbers, we instinctively think of maniputating things. Five minus three raises in our minds the vision of three of our radio sets repaired and returned to the customers and only two remaining. And so on.

The limitations of this way of thinking about numbers, starts to show up when we come to negative (or minus) quantities. We can imagine five radio sets minus three. but how about flice radio sets minus six. leaving one minus radio ser. Silly. isn't it. It's bad enough trying to visualise negative quantities at any time. but when we open a book on radio theory and find that this "j" which is often referred to is not enly a minus quantity but the squate root of a minus quantity. we are likely to give this "imaginary" quantity away as being well beyond the limits of our particular powers of imagination. Try to imagine what the square root of minus one radio set looks like!

What most of us overlook, and what teachers of 'marhematics seldom seem to get round to explainting. is that there isn't really one mathematics. but a whole host of them. and in each one the numbers and symbols and processes, such as addition. multiplication etc, all have slightly slightly different shades of meaning. At the moment we are concerned with two of the varietics. For want of better names we could call them the "Mathematics of Things, and the "Mathematics of Measurement".

The Mathematics of Things is the kind of mathematics we have already mentioned. It is concerned with things like apples and people and radio sets, and is oldest kind of mathematics known to man. All of us know this mathematics and can use it without trouble, and there is no need to explain it further.

The Mathematics of Measurement. however, although it uses the same numbers and symbols and processes, is actually a far more sophisticated business, and only began when man had learnt to
cultivate the soil: and the ownership of land and the exchange of commodities had begun. 'let us compare the mathematics of measurement and the mathematics of things. and see how different they really are despite their superticial resemblance to each other.

## Distinction Betwein Things and Idees

The first fact we discover is that numbers, like one. two, three etc.. have a distinctly different shade of meaning in the mathematics of measurement to their meaning in the mathematics of things. One man or one apple or one radio set is an exact description of quantity. Is means exactly. precisely and definitely one. But in the mathematics of measurement, one inch or one gallon or one mile hasn't got the same kind of meaning at all. One can draw two lines and say they are an. inch apart as near as can be measured, but who can say they are absolutily and definitely and exactly one inch apart? And anyway what is one inch? It isn't two lines on a piece of paper, it isn't even the piece of paper between the two lines. It isn't anything which we can see or feel or weigh. In short, an inch is not a thing at all. It is an idea which exists in our minds. and which we can use to help to explain the world around us. So the first great difference is that, the one mathematics deals esentially with things. while the other deals with ideas.

This fact enables us to do. in the mathematics of measirement, what would be impossible and absurd in the mathematics of things.

If we chop a radio set in half we cease to have a receiver at all in any sensible meaning of the word. But if we chop an inch in half. the two bits are exactly the same kind of thing-that is. length -as the original inch was. If we divide our radio set into enough bits we will finish up with a collection of molecules and atoms which bave completely lost every trace of their original radio character. But we can go on dividing a length indefinitely without its ever ceasing to be a length.

Even when we do simple addition there is a subtle but very distinct difference. In the mathematics of things. we can add three radio sets 10 two radio sets and have five radio sets: In the
mathematics of measurement, however, when we add three inches and two inches we don't really have five separate inches, but we get one length of five inches. So while it may be a kindergarten howler to say five ones make one, it would be quite correct to say that five lengths of one inch make one length of five inches. So next time junior tells that five ones make one, don't laugh. He may be quite right!
When we come to subtraction, and minus quantities, the differences between the mạthematies of things and the mathematics of measurement really begin tó show up. Suppose we havé five radio sets and take three away. Three from five, leaves two. Suppose we have a length of five inches and take three inches away: Again three fromitive leaves two. The situation is exactly the same, or is it? It might. appear to be until we ask-what has happened to the things which were taken away.

In the: case of the radio sets we, must literally have taken three away: sent them back to the customers, or dumped them on the local rubbish tip or, broken them up. But what about the three inches which were. "taken away""? They've completely disappeared, not a whisker. or even a smell is left. Lewis Carroll, who when he was not writing children's books, was Charles .Dodgson, 'a professor of mattiematics at: Oxford, must have had this; kind of subtraction in mind when he wrote about the Cheshire Cat gradually disappearing until only tha grin was left floating in the air. This is typical of the kind of paradox we can get into when we start thinking of ideas as if they were actual things.

## Negative Quantities

In the example of subtraction given above. it is at least possible to do it in both cases. But what if we have five radio sets and try to subiract six. We immediately-get into the realms of absurdity. One just can't have minus, one radio set' consuming minus a couple of hundred watts and occupying a n negative amount of space. True; we often speak of negative quantities of things in the sense that we may owe somébody a set which isn't in stock. But., here again, we are rẹally: déaling with measurement of amounts. and are no longer working with the mathematics of things.:
Although we can't make sense of subtracting six radio sets from fiye, we can make very real sense of subtracting six inches from five inches. The"best way'tolexiplain this is to begin by drawing a diagram of what happened when we subtracted thee ;inches from five inches. We began with five inches, 'Hike this,


Then:we subtracted three inches, which looked like this,

ande we finishëd with two inches, which looked like this.


If we:had actually "taken away" three inches, they ought to be-lying in a litte pile in' the corper.

But they aren't. So the only? way we can really make sense of the subtraction: is to consider the five inches as a distance: in one direction, and the minus three inches as a: distance insthe opposite direction.' So what we are really doing is not subtracting at all but ADDING. a positive distance (which is a distance in one direction) to a negative distance (which is a distance 'in the opposite direction). Looking at things'in! this :way :we can draw a diagram like this.


And now, when we try to subtract" six inches from five inches we don't have the slightest trouble. We finish up with minus onełinc̣ tand"our diagram looks like this.


The minus one inch simply means that we have finished up: in the opposite direction to that in which we first-started.
"Iet us take another example as shown in the sketchibelow.

$\because$ Here we have a diagram showing plus 3 in . and minus 3 in . separately. What is the difference between them? Simply that they are going in the opposite directions. Now we know in mathematics that if we multiply a number suich as 3 . (plus 3 ; that is!) by a minus quantity we get a minus answer. For instance $3 \times-1=-3$. But we have just seen that the only difference between 3 and -3 is that they are going in opposite directions. So multiplyinfo a quantify by a mipqus quántitý means "swinging" it round to the opposite direction. For instance in multiplying 3 by - -5 we are really doing two things. We are swinging the 3 round so that it goes in the opposite direction. and becomes -3 and then we are "stretching " it tọ' five times its brevious length:

Both of these processes would be meaningless in the 'language of the mathematics' of "things:' but make common sense "in the mathematics "of méasurement.

## An Operator

When uşed in this way in multiplication, the minus sign is no longer a symbol for mére subtraction. Its meaning has been changed and extended


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until it would more accurate to call it an "operator", that is, a symbol which "operates" on a quantity to change it.

This, of course, doesn't apply to length alone. It applies to any measurement we like to think of. A negative electric current, for instance, docsn"t mean a kind of ghostly counterpart of a "real" current. It simply means a current flowing in the opposite direction to the direction which we have chosen to call positive.

This explanation also makes sense of the business of multiplying a minus quantity by another minus quantity, a thing which many people find confusing. What actually happens can be illustrated by the sketch below. The example shows $-3 \times-3$.


What really happens is that we begin with a minus 3, that is three units in the direction opposite to the one we call "plus". Multiplying this by -1 swings it round to the opposite direction, which, in this case is the plus direction. In addition. the 3 , now plus 3 , is stretched three times making it into plus 9. From this we can also see that, regardless of what direction we start with, each time we multiply by a minus, we swing our length round to the opposite direction. So multiplying something by $-1 \times-1$ has exactly the same result as multiplying by +1 , and that, of course, is the same as leaving it alone.

There is, by the way, no fundamental reason why we should choose a direction to the right as being positive, or assume that the line is swung round in an anticlockwise direction. These conventions are a kind of mathematical rule of the road to prevent the confusion which would be caused by everyone using different conventions. In mathematies, as in life, one thing leads to another. Having found that the minus sign is an operator which swings a length round to the opposite direction, there seems no reason why we shouldn't have operators which swing the line, say, only half way round, like this. Call this operator " j ".


Why should the symbol " j " have the property of swinging the length through $90^{\circ}$ ? Simply because we have decided it should be so. We define $j$ as an operator which would swing a length through $90^{\circ}$.

This method of approaching a problem highlights the fundamental difference between working with thirgs and working with ideas.

## Black Boxes

If we are repairing a radio, we don't pick some unidentified "black box" component and say, "This is going to act like a smoothing capacitor" and promptly solder it across the h.t. supply. If we did anything like this it would be likely to have disastrots results, because the thing has physical properties which are quite independent of our wishes.

But when we are dealing with ideas, we do exactly he opposite. We pick up the first " black box" which is handly and say "this has certain properties" and forthwith "solder" it into our general scheme of ideas. Then we try to find out what relationship it has to the rest of the system, and thus get some idea of its other properties.

In the case of j , the only thing we know is that by definition, it swings a length anticlockwise through $90^{\circ}$.

But because this is so. we can immediately see that multiplying again by j must swing our length anticlockwise through another $90^{\circ}$ like this.


When we look at the direction of the $j^{2} \times 1$, we find it $1 s$ identical with -1 . So our definition of $j$ results in the concluion that multiplying by $j^{2}$ has exactly the same effect as multiplying by -1 and therefore $j^{2}$ must be equal to -1 . Thus, by simple arithmetic, $j$ must be equal to $\sqrt{ }-1$. And that is where we come to a full stop, because in the mathematics of things there is " no such animal". But in the mathematics of measurement the limitations don't apply. We have already seen that -1 is not always a quantity, but is sometimes an operator; and exactly the same thing applies to $\sqrt{ }-1$. It is in fact better to think of it not as $\sqrt{ }-1$ but as "operator j ".

There is, actually, a very good reason why $j$ must have a value like $\sqrt{ }-1$, something which is not a quantity in any sense of the word. The $\sqrt{ }-1$ a-is as a label which prevents us from being able to add quantities at right angles to each other by any simple addition. In the same way, we have to label distances on maps as being 10 miles North by 6 miles East. We can't just add the two, and say that 10 miles North +6 miles East is 16 miles North-east.

## A Direction Label

We often hear $\mathbf{j}$ referred to as an imaginary quantity. It seems a silly description. One might just a; well say that the direction North is an imagimary quantity. The fact is that they aren": "ytartities" at all. They are direction labe!s which give the mathematics of measurement the
ability to work with direction as well as with distance.

The great advantage of $j$. from a mathematical point of view, is that although it is a direction label like North. it can be treated mathematically. as though it were a number. It can be multiplied, divided, squared, and all the rest. and always give a useful and sensible result. Take for instance $j^{3}$ and $j^{4}$. The sketch below shows how these values fit into the general scheme of things without conflicting with any of our previous assumptions.


This is where we use the fact that $j=\sqrt{ }-1$ and, therefore that $\mathrm{j}^{2}=-1$. The $\mathrm{j}^{2} \mathrm{l}$ becomes simply -1 , which is the opposite direction to +1 . And the $i^{3} 1$ becomes $\mathrm{j}^{2} \times \mathrm{jl}$, which is simply -jl . Again, -jl is the direction opposite to that indicated by $+j l$. Finally multiplying four times by j brings us back to the start and mathematically we have

$$
\mathrm{j}^{1} 1=\mathrm{j}^{2} \times \mathrm{j}^{2} \mathrm{l}=-1 \times-11=+1 .
$$

So it all adds up.
Our j notation will not only define directions at right angles to each other. but. if we wish it, also directions in between. Take for instance the line at $45^{\circ}$ in the sketch below.


Let us use our previous technique and take a block box "operator $C$ " and say that $+C$ swings our line through $45^{\circ}$. Then Cl will he our line. If we multiply by $C$ again we will bring our line round to $90^{\circ}$. which is jl. So we see that $\mathrm{C}^{2} \times 1$ equals $j$ and $C$ is equal to $\sqrt{ } \mathrm{j}$. In this case we can forget ahout $C$ because $V^{\prime} j$ is the same thing and saves up introducing another symbol. Those who are familiay with indices will know that $\sqrt{ } j$ is often written as $j^{\ddagger}$. But that is another story.

In short, by using powers of $j$ we can specify any distance and direction we like. and swing lines round mathematically in different directions without having to draw complicated graphs and charts.

Next month we shall consider how operator $;$ can be used to our advantage.

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| $6 \mathrm{K7G}$ | 1／6 | $30 \mathrm{FL1}$ | $9 / 6$ | EBF89 | 6／－ | EZ81 | 4／6 | PY81 | 519 | UF89 | 6／3 |
| $6 \mathrm{K7GT}$ | 41. | 30 L 15 | $8 / 6$ | EBL21 | $8 / 3$ | CZ32 | $8 / 8$ | PY82 | 4／9 | UL41 |  |
| 6K8G | $4 / 3$ | 30 PL 1 | 9／－ | ECC40 | 716 | KT32 | $5 /$ | PY83 | 518 | UL44 | $18 / 6$ |
| 6 K 8 GT | 719 | $30 \mathrm{PL13}$ | $9 / 6$ | ECCB1 | $3 / 8$ | KT36 | 14／－ | Pr88 | ${ }^{151}$ | UT84 | 88 |
| 6L6G | 5／9 | 30 PL 14 | 12／3 | ECC82 | $4 / 9$ | KT61 | $7 / 6$ |  | 15／－ | UL84 | $6 / 3$ |
| ${ }_{6}^{6 L D} 20$ | 5／3 | 35 A | 14／－ | ECC83 | $6 / 8$ | KTW631 |  | TH21C | $9 / 6$ | UT21 | 6／6 |
| ${ }_{6 \mathrm{P} 28}$ | 616 | $35 \mathrm{L6GT}$ | 4／11 | ECC84 | $6 / 3$ $6 / 3$ | MU14 | 51 | TH23 | ${ }_{5} 9 / 9$ | UY41 |  |
|  |  | ${ }_{\text {AZ31 }}$ | 6／616 | ECFBO | $6 / 3$ | MX40 | $8 / 6$ | TY86F | 11／3 | UY85 | － |
| 6QiGT | 719 | B36 | 4／6 | ECF | 813 | N18 | 5／6 | U22 | 6／－ | VP1321 | 15\％ |
| 7 GT | ／8 | $\mathrm{CCH}^{5} 5$ | 12／3 | ECH35 | 6 \％ | PC85 | $9 / 8$ | U24 | $12 /-$ | W76 | $3 / 6$ |
|  | 5／6 | ${ }_{\text {CY }} 1$ | $9 / 6$ $12 / 6$ | ECH81 | $88 /$ | ${ }_{\text {PCC8 }}$ | 7／6 | U20 | $8 / 6$ $8 / 6$ | X63 | 5／6 |

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| $\mathrm{l}^{\frac{3}{4}}{ }^{\text {m }}$ |  | $\ldots$ | ．．． | 2414 | ， |
|  | Meter | ．．． | ．．． | $33 / 2$ | ， |

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CLIFTON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: J. Rose, G3OGE, 63 Broomfield Road, Beckenham, Kent.

The evening's programme for those members who attended the meeting of February 215t, was provided by a 'Voize of America' tape recording.
DERBY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: F. C. Ward, G2CVV, 5 Uplands Avenue, Little. over, Derby.

Always an enioyable event for members of this Society, the annual dinner and dance was this year held on February $15 t h$ and as usual proved to be a great suceess.

## LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT AMATEURRADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: H. James, G3MCN, 448 East Prescot Road, Knotty Ash, Liverpool 14.

On llth February members had the opportunity to comment on the future plans of the Society. A week later on the 18th, G3PLX and G3PPN delivered a lecture and discussion with "'v.h.f." as their subject.

The last meeting of February was held on the 25 th which was an open evening.

## MELTON MOWRRAY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: D. W. Lilley, G3FDF, 23 Melton Road, Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray. Leicestershire.

This Sosiety's activities for february included a demonstration of amateur radio on the 5th and listening to an R.S.G.B. recorded lecture on the 20th. At the amateur radio demonstration, the Rev. A. W. Shepherd operated G3N!B/A. The lesture on the 20th was recorded by W. H. Allen under the title of "Two Metres"'
MITCHAM AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: A. Thurley, G3SQ //T, 50 Bruce Road. Mitcham, Surrey.

Proposed aiterations to Society rules were among subjects on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 14th February.
NORTHERN HEIGHTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: A. Robinson, G3MDW, Candy Cabin. Ogden, Halifax. Yorkshire.

This Sociecy is achieving good attendance fifures for all its meetings. At a recent meeting on February 19th, Mr. F. C. Luxton gave a talk entitled "Accidents in the Shack" which included mention of electrical faults.

March 4th apart from being a ragchew evening for most members, was also a committee meeting night.
OXFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: B. Green, G3PMI, 3 Barnet Street, Iffley Road, Oxford.

Meetings of this Society are held on the second and fourch Wednesday of each month, beginning at 7.30 p.m. An R.A.E. course is currently being given tor unticensed members, who can also attend a slow morse class which is being run.
PRESTON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.; W. K. Beaziey, G3RTX.9 Thorngate, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire.

Prospective members are invited to any of the Club meetings which are heid on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. A programme of interesting talks has been arranged for these meetings which commence at 7.30 p.m.
READING AMATEURRADIO CLUB
Hon. Sec.: R. G. Nash, G3EJA, "Peacehaven", 9 Holybrook Road, Reading. Berkshire.

Contests were under discussion at the February 29th meeting of this Society, when members met to decide on a programme for Club participation in the competitions of 1964.

## ROTHERHAM AND DISTRICT RADIO CLUB

Hon. Sec.: J. W. Howe, G3NXZ, 18 Laburnum Grove, Conisbrough, Doncaster, Yorkshire.

New members will be welcomed at Club meetings which are held on alternate Fridays, ar the new Club room at the T.A. Centre, Fitzurwiani Road, Rotherham.


## SALOP AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: K. E. Jones, G3RRN, Greystones, Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire.
This newly-formed Society reports that it has recently been issued with a Club callsign-G35RT-and that its membership has risen to 40.
Society events during February have included a film show which was given on the 13 th .

## SCARBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: P. B. Briscombe, G8KU, "Roseacre", Irton, Scarborough. Yorkshire.
February began with a surplus sale on the 6th. On the 13th members discussed arrangements for the Society's effort in National Field Ciay this year.
A week later. G3NRI took for the subject of his talk. "Toptand Trarsmitters" which was followed on the 27 th by a more general tak covering transmitters and receivers given by G3FVW.
March 5th was another surplus sale meeting.
SOUTH BIRMINGHAM RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: T. W. Legg, Flat 3, 80 Alcester Road, Birmingham 23.
A general discussion followed the talk given by G2AGK on 20th February under the titie of " 30 Years of Amateur Radio".
SPEN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: N. Pride, 100 Raikes Lane. Birstall, Leeds.
On February 11 th a group of members travelled to Bradiord to hear a lecture given by Mr. G. N. Patchett entifled "Colour Television". February 20th was a junk sale.

On March 5th Mr. S. Marsden gave an interesting talk entitfed "Moon Brunce"

## STOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO

 SOCIETYHon. Sec.: R. A. G. Macintosh, 50 Field Lane, Old Swinford, Stourbridge. Worcestershire.
At the only meeting of this Society during February-the IfthGraham Woolfenden accompanied the second of his talks entitled "Hi-fi Without Tears" with a demonstration.
WEST KENT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
R. Trevitt. 28 Dales $A$ venue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

On February 14th members enjoyed a film show evening with films supplied by the Electricity Board. Members who attended the meeting for February 28th heard a talk given by D. Colwell entitled "Beginner's Approach to Hi-fi". Mr. Colwell also gave a demonstration of some equipment.

## P.W. LEADER COMPETITION

Owing to the unexpectedly large numbers of entries for this competition, it has been considered necessary to hold over publication of the results until the next issue (May).
We would like to thank the very many readers who have sent along entries.

Winners will be notified individually by post.

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# Simple BASS BOOST Circuits 

# MODIFICATIONS TO CONVENTIONAL FOUR-VALVE SUPERHETS 

By M. L. Michaelis

COMMON tone-control circuits in simple fourvalve superhets for medium and long waves are mostly either of the kind shown in Fig. 1a or as in Fig., 1 b. Both of these circuits achieve "bass-boost" by reducing treble gain, not by increasing bass gain.
The circuit of Fig la simply reduces treble gain when the tone control slider is at the Cl end, because VR1 and C1 then form a powerful voltage divider for higher frequencies. The available output power of the amplifier is not reduced in this arrangement.
In Fig. 1b full treble is allowed to pass through the amplifier, and develop power in the output valve. Unwanted treble power is then shunted to chassis via C2 and VR2 in the "bass" setting of VR2. This arrangement, as well as reducing treble gain, wastes power, thus reducing the available output power in the speaker in the "bass " setting. Thus the circuit of Fig. 1b, although popular. nevertheless often gives a very weak and muffled effect if any attempt is made to get strong bass in this way.
The circuit of Fig. 1a is also relatively weak, as it gives no increase of true bass gain.
This article now points out a very simple arrangement for tone control which gives true increase of bass gain: if desired, in very considerable amounts! It can easily be incorporated into the audio section of any conventional four valve superhet, the additional components required being merely a small 1.5 intervalve transformer and a few resistors and capacitors. There should be enough room to accommodate these components on the chassis of most existing receivers, in a conveniently close position relative to the valves concerned.

## Auxillary Transformer Coupling for Bass Boost

Fig. 2 shows a typical example of the suggested modification carried out in a simple receiver in the author's possession. The ECH81 frequency changer stage and EF80 i.f. stage are not shown. as these are perfectly conventional and do not concern the subject of this article.

Before modification of this receiver, a tone control of the kind shown in Fig. Ib was present, which was removed: also R1 was returned directly to chassis and R2 went straight to R3. T1. VR1 (as new tone control) and Cl have been added during the modifications.

R2, C2 and R1 represent conventional resistancecapacity coupling between the two amplifier stages. This has now been augmented by an additional
transformer-coupled path between the two valves, which is operative only for really bass frequencies because of the large capacity of Cl shunting the high impedance secondary winding of the transformer. VRI allows complete control, right from zero to maximum, of the amount of this additional bass injected into the bottom end of R1 and passed on to the 6 V 6 output stage. It thus serves as bass tone control.

## Variation of Characteristics

By variation of $R 2$ in relation to the resistance value of VRI and the step-up ratio of the trans-


Fig. Ia (above): Simple treble-cut tone control at the input to an amplifier. Fig. 16 (right): Treble-shunting tone control circuit at anode of an audio output stage.
former T1, the amount of maximum bass boost can be widely influenced.
If the resistance chosen for VRI is divided by the turns ratio of the transformer and the result again divided by the value chosen for R2, then we get as final result the number of times that the bass across the track of VR1 is greater in amplitude than the pass passed-on via the resistance-capacity coupling.

In the example shown in Fig. 2 this is seen to be three times. R1 and the anode load (total) of the EBC41 valve then act as further voltage divider, to fix the maximum amount of this additional bass actually reaching the grid of the 6 V 6 output valve. The exact behaviour depends on the relative phasing between the two paths (resistance-capacity

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| 122/12 | Single | 25-5000 | 15 | 32 or 75 | 20 | 12,000 | 160.000 | Copper | 121 n . | 1110. | 61 bs . | $\mathbf{8 7 . 7 . 0}$ |
| 128/12A | Dual | 30-15000 | 15 | 32 or 75 | 20 | 12.000 | 160,000 | Aluminium | 12in. | 1110. | 81 bs . | 28.8 .0 |
| 122/14 | Single | 25-5000 | 15 | 32 or 75 | 22 | 14.000 | 186.000 | Copper | 12 ln . | 11 ln . | 71 bs. | 9 gns. |
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## GERALD BERNARD

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path and transformer path) coupling the valves, so that effects obtained when reversing one winding on the transformer (either one will do) should also be studied when experimenting with this circuit.

In the author's example shown in Fig. 2, conditions were such that about twice the total bass voltage reached the grid of the 6 V 6 than did without the modification (with VR1 slider at the top). This meant that bass power was increased by a maximum of four times.

## Transformer Resonances

The behaviour of this circuit, with apparently the same circuit components, may be completely different for two different transformers. This is because C1 can resonate with the inductances involved in T1. If such resonances are present, the bass-boost will be even greater than would be
in the erample shown in Fig. 2 (VR2, R4, R5). The overall sharacteristics can be modified by varying the phasing of the transformer relative to the negative feedback, and by altering the intensity of the negative feedback (e.g. try other values for R4 in Fig. 2).

## Amplitude Modulation Reception Only

It should be emphasised that this circuit is specifically intended for normal medium and longwave a.m. reception. It will here probably lead to full success in getting the "vintage model tone" out of modern receivers in this class where the "vintage model" fans felt the tone to be too shrill.

This circuit is unsuitable for good v.h.f. reception, where the full-range treble, absent in medium wave a.m. broadcasts, is transmitted. The circuit here discussed does not pay proper atten-


Fig. 2: A typical example of the type of bass-boost tore control discussed in this article.
expected along the lines just discussed.
If one aims to make C 1 resonate with the transformer in the middle of the range of bass frequencies one desires to boost, i.e. those between about $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ and $200 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ which the straightforward resis-tance-capacity coupling reproduces " too weakly", and then chooses the resistance of VR1 such that this resonance is sufficiently damped to be effective over this frequency range, one can get a very pleasing effect. The "crossover" between the boosted bass-range and the unaffected middle and treble ranges is then quite sharp and well-defined, giving a sonorous bass without muffling of other frequencies.

Further factors to vary during experiments to get best results arise if the circuit already contained a negative feedback channel, as was the case
tion to such treble-in fact it plays havoc with it. Thus please confine experiments with this circuit to normal a.m. receivers.

The receiver modified in Fig. 2 contained a small Goodmans 5in. round speaker, and was housed in a medium sized wooden cabinet some 9 in . x 12 in . $x 7 \mathrm{in}$. deep. The degree of mellow bass impression obtainable even with this small speaker (after making the modifications discussed) was quite surprising, and even more noticeable on an extension speaker of larger size.

It rust again be stressed that each case of a modification along the lines of this article must be individually trimmed. It is hoped that possible lines of experiment and direction of results produced by the various changes in question have been made sufficiently clear.


## Amateur Band Receiver

']HE American firm of Hammarlund have introduced an improved successor to their well cstablished type HQ-110 antateur receiver. The new receiver-type $H Q-110 A$-incorporates a better degree of stability, both mechanical and electrical, as well as a number of new features.

The dual conversion superhet circuit employs 12 valves giving excellent image response, rejection and selectivity. Hammarlund receivers are marketed in the U.K. by K. W. Electronics Limited, Vanstard Works, I Heath Street, Dartford, Kent.


One of Hammarlund's latest amateur receivers, the type HQ-110A.

## Component Comparator

1 N instrument which will match or grade resistors or capacitors in terms of percentage deviation has been announced by Aero Electronics Limited. Known as the SCOBA R/C Component Comparator, it provides a direct reading from zero to either $+20 \%$ or $-20 \%$.

In essence the instrument is a $50 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ bridge in which the degree of out of balance operates a meter calibrated in per cent. A resistance range between $100 \Omega$ to $50 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ and a capacitance range from 10 pF to over $12 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ can be accommodated by the comparator.

Apart from its primary purpose, the instrument will be found useful for making impedance measurements. The manufacturers are Aero Electronics Limited, Gatwick House, Horley, Surrey.


The new Component Comparotor made by Aero Electronics Limited.

## V.H.F. Portable Receiver

'THE "Pinguette 720 " is a four waveband portable receiver made by the German firm Akkord, and is now available in the U.K. Long, medium, short and v.h.f. are the bands covered by the receiver and selection is made by push-bution switches.

The 9 -transistor circuit provides 1.5 W output through a 4 in by $7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. loudspeaker. Included in the design is a telescopic aerial and an illuminated dial. Unusual features in a receiver of this size are the separate bass and treble tone controls.

The Pinguette 720 is available in a choice of cabinet colours at 39 guineas through the U.K. agents Denham and Morley Limited, Denmore House, 173/175 Cleveland Sireet, London, W.I.


This v.h.f. portable is made by Akkord of Germany.

## Vacuum Soldering Iron

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## getting to the point

SIR.-The other day while searching for an obscure component in a forgotten corner of the workshop, I came across a little device of yester-year which I thought some of your younger readers would be interested and amused to hear about.

It consists of a circular metal base about $2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. in diameter, to which is fixed a metal bracket. This bracket carries a 2 in . metal shaft which can pivot about its centre and can revolve along its length. At one end of this shaft is a small pulley wheel with a rubber tyre. The bracket carries another shaft, but this one is fixed in a horizontal position and on to it slides a metal "flywheel", which has a knurled knob attached to it so that it may be spun on the shaft. On the opposite face of the flywheel to the kaob, is mounted a disc of glasspaper. Now when the flywheel is slid along the fixed shaft so that the glass-paper disc makes contact with the pulley wheel, revolving the flywheel will impart a reciprocal motion to the pulley wheel, which thus causes the free sbaft to revolve. Ingenious to say the least. but the most remarkable thing about this device is (or was) its use which is, in fact, to sharpen fibre gramophone needles which were at one time in vogue.

Apparently in those far off days before diamond styli, the demand for gramophone needles was so great that these miracles of engineering were commonplace with audiophiles.

In use, the blunted needle was fixed in the free end of the revolving shaft, there to meet the glasspaper disc $180^{\circ}$ away from the contact point of the pulley wheel. And here, as the abrasive disc whirled one way. the needle spun in a counter direction giving the little piece of fibre a new lease of life.

What a shame modern audio practices has made such wonderful inventions redundant. - B. C. Bretton (Berwick-upon-Tweed).

## NOT SO MUCH PLASTIC PLEASE

$S^{1}$IR,-First let me say that no one admires the advanced design of present-day transistor receivers more than I. $\rfloor$ do detest. however, the flimsy construction employed for the cabinets of all but the most expensive models. Plastic in all its many forms is a marvellous material, but as used in most portables it often proves to be little more than decorative as it cracks easily when

Whilst we are always pleased to assist readers with their terhnical 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 recゃivers 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.
The Editur does not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed by his correspondents
dropped and is then practically impossible to repair. Even the chrome plated metal grills and adornments which are at present very popular, are usually only thin additions to a basically plastic case.

When remembering the all-dry portables of several years ago, despite their formidable weight they were always sturdy and able to withstand quite severe knocks. With a modern portable in my pocket I have a tendency to worry the whole time that it will suddenly come to grief against something more solid than its vulnerable cabinet.

Another design improvement I would like to see receiver manufacturers adopt, is the fixing of printed circuit panels by flexible mounts before they are attached to the outer case. This would give a degree of protection for the components even if the case itself suffers from a fall.-A. D. Parkingson (Plymouth, Devon).

## TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

SIR.-We are not all aspiring Beatles you know: though by the contents of recent issues of P.W: it would seem as though half the radio construction enthusiasts in the country are about to forsake their communication receivers and twist and shout their way through twenty watts of guitar amplification. Of course it's good to know that my favourite magazine is keeping its finger on the pulse of things, but with echo chambers, metronomes, guitar pick-ups, tremolo units and guitar amplifiers turning up regularly in the past year or so's issues, I sometimes feel that Liverpudlian readers of P.W. are getting more than their fair share of attention.

Further as a reader who has never been within a hundred miles of Merseyside, I would remind you that there are other musical instruments besides the guitar which can benefit from the application of electronics. How about a bagpipe amplifier. for instance; yeah, yeah, yeah.-I. $\%$ JMAEGON (Edinburgh).

## EX-GOVERNMENT COME-BACK

SIR,-After the war years I, along with thousands of other kindred spirits, revelled in the flood of service equipment which burst on to the radio construction market. Inevitably however, this flood has lessened to a stream, and seemingly this stream could eventually trickle dry.

There seems to me, however, that there is one
gleam of hope for ex-government fans. We are always being amazed by the statement which usually accompanies the announcement of new acquisitions for one of the three services that the missile, tank, warship, or what have you, is out of date before it is put into service. This is due no doubt to the fantastic speed of development in engineering these days, and it is most often reported when the R.A.F. acquires a squadron or two of new fighters.
Well then, if this becomes the rule throughout all the industries supplying the services $I$. as an ex-government addict, look forward to the day that sees the radio shops being flooded with surplus equipment only a year or so old yet already outdated. Long live progress. - C. L. Harper (Oxted, Surrey).

## FILM SHOW APPRECIATION

SIR,-II count myself very fortunate to have been among the audience of this year's Practical Wireless Film Show. The lecture on colour television was most enlightening and interesting. The second half of the programme on ultrasonics. not to mention the tea and sandwiches-helped to make it a very enjoyable evening.

I am already looking forward to next year's show.--S. J. Kent (London, S.E.25).

## Sir-l would be grateful if any reader could sell or loan me...

... the issues of P.W. concerning the conversion of the No. 19 set.-C. Richardson, 27 Cauldwell Lane, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.
... the details of converting the R .220 reception set to receive local amateur and BBC transmissions.-P. JACKSON, 36 Ashton Court, Lillington, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
$\therefore$ the December 1962, January, February, March and April 1963 issues of P.W.-S. H. Jones, Wayside, 23 Holly Road, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.
. .. service information, circuit diagram, etc., of the Smith's Radiomobile car radio, model 4260 (control unit) and
amplifier and power pack type A, Ref. 46028B.-R. A. C. WARD, 21 Woodfield Drive, East Barnet, Hertfordshire.
. . .the base connections of the war surplus c.r.t. type 10E/759.-K. Partridge, 73 Cavendish Road, Sunbury-onThames, Middlesex.
... the circuit diagram of the R. 1155 receiver. I would refund postage costs.-G. M. Scholes, P.O. Box 72, Zomba, Nyasaland.
. . . the circuit and any aerial details for the R. 220 Mk.II receiver.-C. Warner, 7 Hester Close, Hightown, Liverpool.
$\ldots$ information on the $R .3118$ receiver. -689040 A/A Strange, $\dddot{M}_{\text {M }}, \mathbf{M} 3$ Apps. Wing, J. E. Squad, R.A.F., Locking, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset.
.t the manual of the Collins radio type $R-278 B / G R$ or T.O. 31R2-2GRC-27.-R. V. Wright, 4A Nepal Avenue, Atherton, Manchester.
... the circuit or instruction leaflet of the "Costa Brava" three transistor receiver.-S. T. Wood, 259 London Road, South Benfleet, Essex.
.. the July, August and September 1963 issues of P.W.-M. J. © . .the July, August and September 13 Hampden Road, Leicester.

No $38 \mathrm{Mk} .$. the circuit and any other information on the Derby.
. the circuit and any information on the R.1132A receiver.-B. Millward, 162 Hollydale Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 24.
. the handbook and/or circuit of the R. 107 receiver.-P. M. Prickett, 31 Leopold Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire.
...the issues of P.W. giving data on the No. 19 set.-N. A. Morgan, Heywood House, Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.
. . . all the issues of P.W. dealing with the Malvern tape recorder, except the July 1963.-T. E. Smith. Lynton Lodge, Goose Lane, Little Hallingsbury, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.
... the issues of Practical Television following the July 1959 issue, which contain articles by R. W. Wells entitled "A Closed-circuit Colour TV System."-S. Davidson, School House, School Road, North Berwick, East Lothian.
$\ldots$..the circuit and any data on the type 105A transmitter unit.-K. Sheehan, 406 Mourne Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12, Irish Republic.
K. Taytor, ${ }^{\circ}$ Pany information on the wireless set No. 68T.K. Taylor, 5 Park Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey.

## TRADE NEWS

## —continued from page 1202

circuit boards in an entirely new way. The normal process is to apply a large iron to the joint and extract the component while the solder remains a liquid. With such components as i.f. transformers, this process requires a specially designed bit to heat all the pins at once and the excessive heat used during the unsoldering can often cause damage to nearby components and also the printed circuit itself.

The new device--named the "Soldermaster"consists of a small, high temperature iron with a hollow bit. Through this bit a vacuum (produced by an Austen pump) is applied to the soldered joint. The vacuum draws the solder as it melts through the bit into a "trap" from which the solder may be removed after the operation is completed.

With the vacuum pump turned off, the "Soldermaster" can of course be used as a normal soldering iron. The makers are Charles Austen Pumps Limited, Petersham Works, High Road, Byfleet, Surrey.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR RADIO FANS

READERS not already aware of its existence will be interested to learn of the special magazine programme for radio and recording enthusiasts which is broadcast every fortnight on Network Three, Sundays 2.30p.m.

We can bighly recommend this programme which includes talks by leading personalities in
radio, tape recording and hi-fi. It also features discussions and other items of interest to all readers of Practical Wireless. Recent programmes have included a History of the R.S.G.B. and a talk on tape recording clubs by Practical Wireless contributor F. C. Judd.

For details of the next programme, please refer to the "Radio Times".

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| 1 L 4 |  | 6 L 6 |  | 20P5 | 11／6 | EABC80 | 6／－1 | E281 |  | 089 | 819 |
| 1LD5 | $8 / 8$ | 6L6G | $6 / 6$ | 98A6C |  | EAC91 | 4／－ | FC4 | \％${ }^{1}$ | U24 | 12／6 |
| 1LN5 | 4／－ | 6L18 | 719 | 25L6GT |  | EAF41 | $8 / 8$ | FW4，300 | \％ $1-$ | U85 | 8／－ |
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| 105 |  | 6N\％ |  | 2625 |  | EB41 | 51. | G234 |  |  | 12／－ |
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| $2 \mathrm{DE1}$ | $5 / 6$ | 8979 |  | 30c1． |  | EBC81 | $5 / 8$ | HVR2 | 91－ | U62 | 410 |
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| 3A5 | 6）－1 | 6876 | 9／－ | 30FL1 | $10 / 6$ | EBE88 | 718 | 87330 | $3 / 6$ | 078 | 4／5 |
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