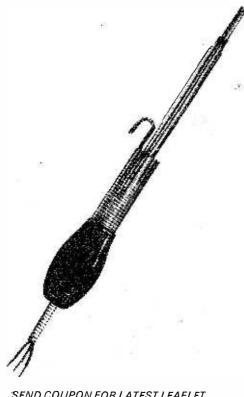


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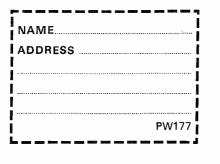


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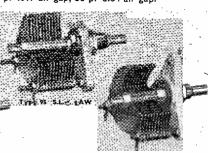
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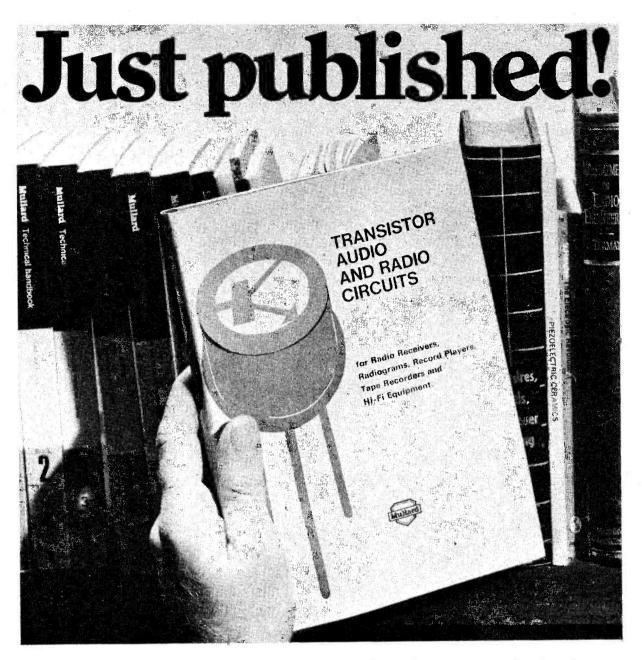


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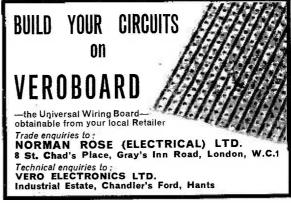
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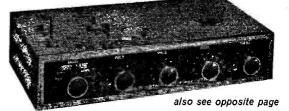




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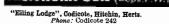


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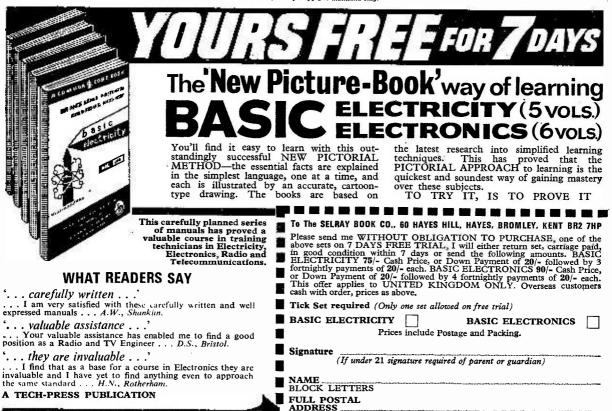
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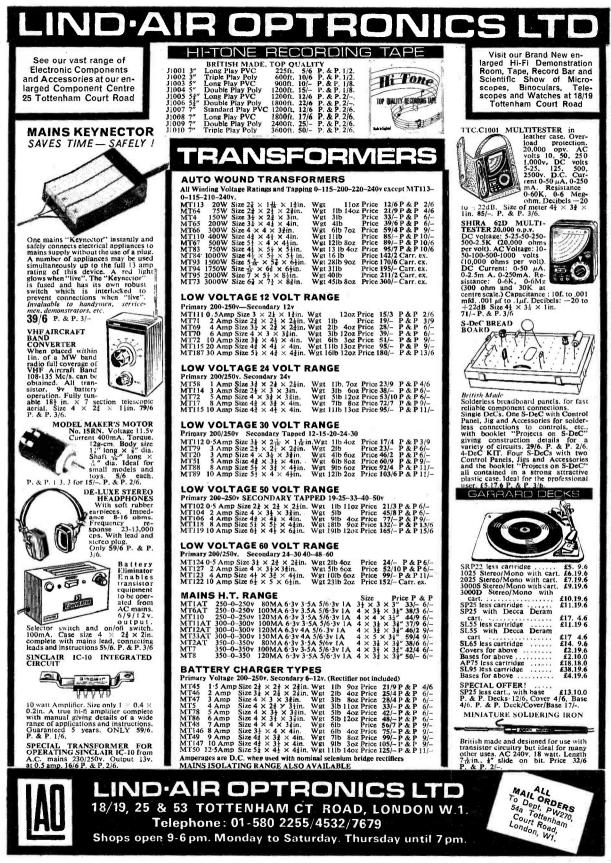


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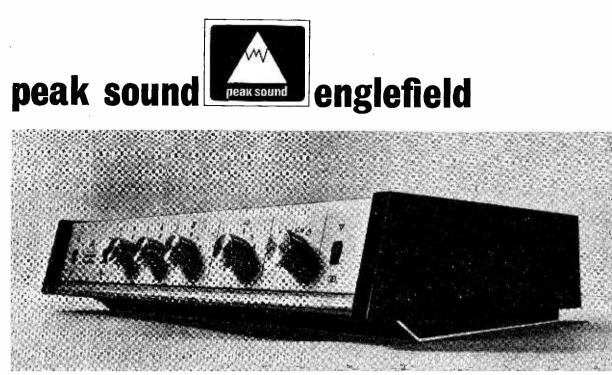
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GT 7/6 GT 7/3 GT 7/3 GT 7/9 5/9 6/- GT 5/9 G 7/6 6 4/- 6 4/- 6 4/6 6 6 4/6 6 6 4/6 6 6 13/-	//6 128 //3 191 //9 191 //9 191 //9 101 /9 201 //9 201 //9 201 //9 201 //9 201 //9 300 //6 300 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30 //6 30	11/9 124 1260T 1260T 1260T 12/0 1040T 11/0	BK91 6 DK92 6 DK96 16 DL35 19 DL92 16 DL94 16 DL94 16 DY87 1- EB91 1- EB91 1- EB91 1- EB780 16 EBF80 16 EBF80 16 EBF80 16 ECC81 19 ECC82	5/9 E1 8/3 E1 7/- E2 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 2/3 E E1 2/3 E E1 6/9 E E 6/9 E E 8/- E E1 2/3 E E1 5/9 E E1 2/3 E E1 5/9 E E1 2/3 E E1 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 2/3 E E1 5/9 E E1 2/3 E1 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 2/3 E1 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 5/9 E E1 2/3	F183 5/9 F184 5/6 H90 6/3 L33 8/9 L34 9/6 L41 10/6 L90 4/6 L90 2/6 M80 7/6 M81 7/6 M81 7/6 Z41 8/- Z41 8/- Z41 8/- Z80 4/6 Z81 4/9 Z32 8/9	PCL82 PCL83 PCL85 PCL85 PCL86 PENA4 1 PFL200 1 PL81 PL81 PL81 PL83 PL84 PL500 4 PL500 4 PL508 2 PM84 PX25 1	8/9 UBF80 7/- UBF89 9/- UC92 7/6 UCC84 9/- UCC85 8/3 UCF80 2/6 UCH42 1
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G 2/6 G 2/9 3 6/- 7GT 4/2 G 3/3 GT 6/6 GT 5/5 GT 5/5 GT 5/5 1 14/- 18 7/- 18 7/- 18 7/- 14/- 18 7/- 14/- 18 7/- 15/- 17 3/- UC 4/2 UC 4	2/6 35 2/9 35 6/- 35 4/3 60 3/3 A4 6/6 A 4/3 BT 5/9 C 7/- C 6/9 C 7/- D 5/6 D 3/9 D 4/- D 5/6 D 3/9 D 4/9 D	SL6GT 8 SW4 4 SW4 4 C/VP210 C/VP210 C/VP210 SZ31 9 SZ31 9 SZ31 9 SZ31 6 SZ31 6 SZ31 6 SZ31 6 SZ31 6 SZ31 6 SZ33 7 SZ31 6 SZ33 7 SZ31 6 SZ33 7 SZ31 6 SZ33 7 SZ31 6 SZ33 7 SZ31 6 SZ31 7 SZ31 7 SZ31 6 SZ31 7 SZ31 7	16 ECH42 16 ECH81 17 ECH83 16 ECH83 173 EF41 1/3 EF83 1/3 EF81 1/3 EF81 1/3 EF85 1/9 EF86 5/6 EF81 5/6 EF91 4/- EF94	13/6 P 5/9 P 8/3 P 6/9 P 6/9 P 8/6 P 8/6 P 8/6 P 8/6 P 8/6 P 8/6 P 4/9 P 4/6 P 5/3 P 5/3 P 5/3 P 5/3 P	C88 10/3 C96 8/6 C90 7/6 C90 7/6 C90 7/6 C900 7/6 C908 8/6 C908 8/6 C908 9/- C88 9/- C708 9/6 C708 9/6 C708 9/6 C708 10/6 C708 10/	R 19 R 20 U26 U26 U49 U49 U78 U193 U251 U301 U329 U329 U329 U461 U329 U461 U329 U461 U46 U47 U329 U46 U49 U49 U49 U49 U49 U49 U49 U49	6/9 AC 127 6/6 AD 140 2/6 AF 115 3/- AF 115 3/- AF 116 3/6 AF 125 3/6 AF 127 4/3 0C 44 2/6 0C 71 4/3 0C 44 8/6 0C 71 4/6 0C 71 4/6 0C 81 0/6 0C 81 0/6 0C 81
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ACY40 3/3 BF184 1/0 OU81D 3/- 2/3023 19/6 ACY41 4/4 BF194 3/- OC170 3/9 21/3702 3/6 ACY44 8/- BFY50 3/- OC171 3/9 21/3702 3/6 ACY44 8/- BFY50 5/- 20/370 3/9 ASY27 6/- BFY50 5/- 21/3705 3/4 ASY28 6/- BFY52 5/- 21/3705 3/4 ASY28 8/- M1481 27/3 20/11 20/9 21/3707 4/- BC108 3/- TIP31A 17/- 21/302 3/11 21/3819 9/- BC108 3/- TIP31A 17/- 21/302 3/11 21/3820 18/9 BC109 3/3 TIP31A 17/- 21/303 3/11 21/3820 18/9 BC109 3/3 TIP31A 17/- 21/303 3/11 21/3820 18/9 BC108 3/- TIP31A 17/- 21/303 6/5 21/4058 4/6 BC1831 2/2 TI544 1/9 21/306 6/5 21/4058 3/6 BC1831 2/2 TI544 1/9 21/306 6/5 21/4058 3/6 BC1831 2/2 TI544 1/9 21/307 6/5 40408 14/11 202160Unifunction 14/11. DIODES
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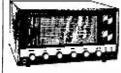
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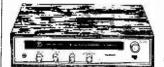
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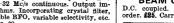


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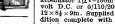
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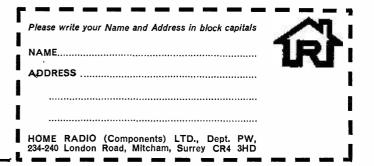
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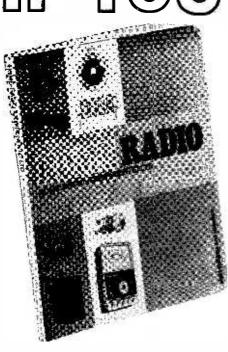
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WIRELESS

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

The point is...

FOR as long as we can remember, Practical Wireless has offered a readers' postal query service. In a measure, of course, we are obliged, at least morally, to do all we can within reason to help out readers with problems relating to articles and projects which have been published in these pages. Nothing in this world is perfect, however; sometimes readers think we fall short of their ideal and sometimes we feel that readers expect too much. It might be helpful to consider what is involved, especially to newer readers.

First of all, cost. Even if a reader submits a query strictly to the rules, enclosing a prepaid envelope plus a query coupon, it can cost several shillings to process a reply, taking into account all the time and expenses involved. In fact, to answer a query costs us more than we get from the sale of a magazine! This is why we cannot guarantee a reply if the rules are broken.

Secondly, the time factor. Many queries can be dealt with immediately. Others involve a good deal of research, which may mean telephone calls and letters to manufacturers, etc. Also, in order to provide the best possible service, many queries are dealt with by a panel of outside specialists.

Thirdly, feasibility. We cannot be held responsible for poor workmanship!

Fourthly, terms of reference. Don't write asking for formulae or valve and transistor characteristics that can be obtained from standard data books; don't ask us to modify a P.W. design to suit a personal requirement. Of course, we cannot undertake to run a free professional advisory and design service.

Fifthly, procedure. All queries should conform to the rules: i.e., query coupon, SAE, etc. We regret that technical queries cannot be answered over the telephone.

Sixthly, period of validity. We cannot guarantee to answer queries relating to projects published more than two years ago.

We are constantly trying to improve the turn around in readers' queries, but the sheer volume often endangers the aims to provide a quick and effective advice service. We are fully conscious of the help often needed and we will continue to do everything possible to sort out the difficulties. All we ask in return is that readers try to appreciate just how much is involved in running a free query service.

W. N. STEVENS—Editor.

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Issue 756

FEBRUARY 1970

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March issue will be published on February 6th

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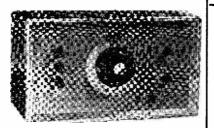
First London rally

We hear from Mr. A. P. Teale, G3SGT, the Hon. Sec. of the Ealing and District Amateur Radio Society, G3UUP, that the Society will be holding a Mobile Rally at the Hanwell Community Association on May 10th, 1970.

It is thought that this will be the first time a rally has been held in London and it is hoped that it will prove to be a large and successful one with attendance figures in excess of 500.

The Automobile Association will do the signposting (15 signposts in all) and have their own exhibition caravan at the sight. In the main hall there will be many other trade stalls. The Rally address will be: Hanwell Community Association, Westcott Crescent, Hanwell, London, W.7. Further details may be obtained by sending a s.a.e. to Bill Teale, G3SGT, 16 Whitestile Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

Low pass filters



Lionmount & Co. Ltd., are now manufacturing Low Pass Active Filters which can be varied continuously throughout the passbånd.

Two types are available, one of which covers the range 1kHz to 10kHz in one band—the other being a switched-band version covering the frequency range of 1Hz-10kHz in four switched bands. The designs are based on 9th order Butterworth or Chebyconfiguration and can chev realise 80 dB/decade attenuation at cut off.

The filters will accept an input voltage of $\pm 10V$. peak and may be loaded with a minimum of 2000 ohms. Lionmount & Co. Ltd., Belleview Road, New Southgate. London. N.11.

Interlocking boxes



Liden Products (Whitewood) Ltd introduce their storage boxes which interlock with each other. By sliding these in and out numerous permutations can be made. The all-round grooving allows for several boxes to be joined up. The boxes are provided with holes at the back for wall fixing; a slot in the front for inserting identification labels and removable plastic divider in each box. They are available in grey or white.

The measurements are: $2\frac{1}{4}$ x $4\frac{7}{8}$ in. and the width for the large box is 4in. Small boxes cost 2s. 6d. and large boxes 4s. 6d.

The Gunn effect

An article on Gunn effect devices and their applications, originally published in Mullard Technical Communications, is now available as a pamphlet.

It contains an explanation of the Gunn effect, describes the construction of the device and gives advice on the design of oscillator cavities for Gunn devices. Factors affecting stability are discussed and information is given on noise, frequency locking and pulsed operation.

Requests for the pamphlet should be made on companyheaded notepaper to I.E.D./ Valves Sales, Mullard Limited, Mullard House, Torrington Place, London, W.C.1.

Pathfinder radio group

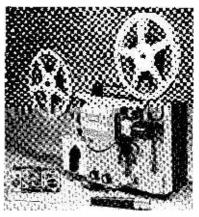
We have been informed by the organiser of the Pathfinder Radio Group, Mr. Lex-Arnold, that the Group is temporarily inactive due to reorganisation. Membership applications will be dealt with as and when the Group is re-formed.

The sound of Eumig

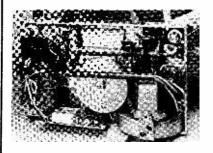
Eumig have announced the Mark S 712D projector which takes Super-8, single and standard-8 sound films, has an f1.6 15/27mm zoom lens, and costs only £110 15s 5d.

There is a combined record and playback amplifier with an integrated circuit (the first time that i.c.'s have been used in an amateur sound movie projector). Amplifier line-up is: type TAA 310 i.c., two 2N5172 transistors, two BC148B transistors, a complementary pair AC187K/188K, two DAX13 diodes, one MV1 varistor, a B832001P/130E thermistor and a type BY164 silicon bridge rectifier.

The frequency range on edgestriped film is 80-8,000Hz at 18 frames per second and 75-10,000Hz at 24 f.p.s. Signal to noise ratio is 40dB.



The Eumig S 712D. Below, viewed from the back, the amplifier is seen mounted under the central flywheel.



... TALKING OF PROJECTORS, DON'T FORGET THE P.W. FILMSHOW.



How your cassettes are recorded



Fraser-Peacock Ltd., announce that they have been appointed sole distributors for the Infonics range of high-speed tape duplicating equipment.

As well as reel-to-reel equipment, a new reel-to-Philips cassette duplicator is now available. The machine shown will make four 1-hour programmes (C 60 cassette) in four minutes.

In addition to their reel-to-reel service, the company are now able to offer a high-speed cassette copying service. Fraser-Peacock Associates Ltd., 94 High Street, Wimbledon Village, London, S.W.19.

FET F.M. tuner

Tripletone announce their Solid State FET F.M. Tuner which uses a dual gate f.e.t., minimising drift and giving improved signal/ noise performance. The outputs are fed via emitter followers.

The tuner can be supplied in mono form to which the decoder board can be plugged in at a later date. Price of the Stereo Mk. 2 F.M. Tuner is £37 19s. 10d. including PT complete with decoder. The mono version costs £31 9s. and the decoder unit separately is £8. Both models are available without teak case at £35 1s. 3d. and £28 13s. 9d. respectively. The Tripletone Manufacturing Co. Ltd., 241a The Broadway, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

Mullard pocket data book

We hear from Mullard that stocks of their 1969 Pocket Data Book are now exhausted. It is regretted therefore that no further orders can be accepted. Preparations for the 1970 edition are, however, in hand and a further announcement will be made in due course.

V.H.F./F.M. reception on band II

With the announcement by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications (G.P.O.) of the next twelve Local Broadcasting Stations, it is appropriate to draw attention to the need for suitable aerials and properly adjusted v.h.f. receivers.

The BBC recently completed an analysis of complaints of unsatisfactory v.h.f. reception received during 1968/69 and this shows that more than 50% of complaints were due to the use of inadequate aerials or to faulty or maladjusted receivers.

Class 'B' stereo

Welbrook Engineering and Electronics Ltd. have released two new stereo amplifiers both incorporating an entirely new design of output circuit.

For further details on the amplifiers, model W.30 priced at £52 and model W.20 priced at £42, contact Welbrook Engineering and Electronics Ltd., Brooks Street, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 3HT.

Readers are cordially invited to the Practical Wireless and Practical Television Filmshow (in collaboration with Mullard Ltd.)

at

Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1 (Great Hall Site)

on

Friday 6th March, 1970 7-15 p.m. for 7-30 p.m.

W. N. Stevens, Editor Practical Wireless and Practical Television will be in the chair

The film this year is entitled "Something big in Microcircuits" and the principal speaker will be Mr. Ian Nicholson of Mullard Ltd.

THE MICROTEST a multi-range test meter C. MARSHALL

T is generally true that the more accurate a multimeter is, the larger it will be and the greater will be its cost. For many home constructors both space and money are severely limited, and they are usually forced into either buying or making a small, cheap multimeter. The accuracy of such a meter is limited partly by the short-scale length which limits the reading accuracy, and partly because of the limited number of ranges which are provided. This latter failing means that many readings must be taken near the zero end of the scale where the accuracy is greatly reduced.

This article begins by discussing some of the factors which limit the accuracy of a multimeter. then describes a multimeter which reduces the effects of these limitations by providing many more ranges than usual but without using any non-standard switches. The Microtest is both small and inexpensive, but maintains a high standard of accuracy comparable to instruments costing much more.

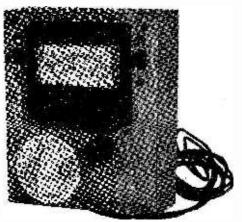
MULTIMETER ACCURACY

The most common measurement made by a multimeter is that of voltage, although the same sources of error also affect the measurement of current. The voltmeter is basically a high sensitivity current meter in series with a high resistance, and there are five sources of error associated with such an arrangement.

1. The voltmeter may draw current from the voltage source it is required to measure, and this may affect the voltage being measured. This situation can best be improved by reducing the full scale current required by the meter. It is normally difficult to obtain meters more sensitive than 50μ A f.s.d, and this is the sensitivity that is used in the Microtest.

2. The meter scale on anything but the most expensive meters is normally a mass-produced linear scale, but unfortunately the actual meter deflection may not be exactly linear, thus causing an error in reading. This error is usually greatest at about centre scale, but its magnitude is seldom quoted in advertisements for meters of the type intended for this instrument. Its effect is normally lumped together with the next source of error to give an overall accuracy figure for the meter.

3. The meter required for the Microtest has a nominal sensitivity of 50μ A f.s.d., but unless the meter is individually calibrated (and thus expensive), its actual sensitivity will differ from the nominal value. The magnitude of this error is normally given so as to cover both the f.s.d. error and the non-linearity error, and is typically about 2% of the



reading, although it is often quoted as the same percentage of the full-scale reading.

4. The most important source of error in a multimeter is the error involved in reading what the meter deflection actually is, and this is the real limitation on the smallness of a multimeter. A typical $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch square meter has a scale length of about 3 inches, and with a fine knife-edge pointer it should be possible to read the meter to within $\pm 0.5\mu$ A, or 1% f.s.d. The scale markings are normally so coarse that any improvement on this would be difficult. It may be thought that an error of 1% should hardly be called "most important", and this would be true if the error were to remain at a constant 1% over the whole scale, but unfortunately this is not the case: the error is a fixed 0.5μ A at all points on the scale.

Most multimeters provide ranges which increase in multiples of ten, such as 10V, 100V, 1000V etc. If it were required to use such a meter to read a voltage of 101V, then this would have to be measured on the 1000V scale, and the meter deflection would be only about 10% full scale. When making this reading our fixed error of 0.5μ A causes an error of no less than 10%, which is far from being unimportant. If however the ranges were grouped closer together so that it was never necessary to make a reading at less than 25% full scale, then this error is kept to the much more satisfactory level of 4%.

The ideal system would be to have the ranges increasing in multiples of $\sqrt{10}$ each time, giving full scale deflections of 1V, 3.16V, 10V, 31.6V, etc, and a maximum error of about 3%, but unfortunately meters with suitable scales are not generally available in the price range required. However a reasonable compromise can be made by having ranges of 1V, 2.5V, 10V, 25V, etc, where the maximum error is 4%. A scale divided into 100 equal divisions will give easy reading on all ranges. To provide coverage from 1V to 1000V f.s.d. using these scales would normally require seven positions of the range switch, and for a similar coverage of current ranges from $100\mu A$ to 2.5A would require a further ten positions. Although it is not impossible to obtain eighteen way switches, they are very expensive, and a much simpler solution is possible. If ranges are provided on the switch in the usual scale-of-ten series, and a separate two way switch is used to change the meter sensiti-vity to give the intermediate 25V ranges, then only nine range positions are needed to give the required coverage, leaving three other positions of a standard twelve way switch for resistance ranges. This is the method used in the Microtest to provide increased accuracy for a given meter size, with fewer components and reduced cost. The actual circuits used are described later.

5. The final source of error comes from the multiplier resistors themselves, and these are the components over which the constructor has the most control. These can be obtained to almost any required accuracy, and 1%resistors are the ones recommended for this circuit. A higher accuracy would greatly increase the cost without a great increase in meter accuracy, because of the other sources of error. If a somewhat lower performance is satisfactory then 2% resistors could be used instead. In order that the accuracy of the meter should not change with age, it is important that high stability resistors should be used throughout.

We have therefore three sources of error affecting the accuracy of our multimeter: a sensitivity error of 2%, a multiplier error of 1%, and a reading error of 0.5μ A, which is at worst a 4% error. The maximum error should therefore not be greater than 7% at the worst case and 4% at the best. Fortunately, because these sources of error may be of differing signs the actual error is likely to be very much less than this, and it can be shown that a

better estimate of the maximum error is given by taking the square root of the sum of the squares of the individual errors. This gives an error of 4.6% at the worst case and 2.5% at full scale, which is quite adequate for most construction and repair work.

As a comparison, if the accuracy of reading had been improved by doubling the scale length of the meter (and at least doubling its cost), and ranges were provided in the usual scale of ten, then the worst case accuracy would have been 5.5%. A ready built meter costing about £10 would not be expected to be better than about 3% accurate.

When a.c. voltages are being measured with a multimeter, the resistance of the bridge rectifier is in series with the multiplier, and this can cause additional errors on the low voltage ranges. On the Microtest, 1V and 2.5V a.c. ranges are provided with the intention that these be used only for indicating the presence of a small signal, not for making accurate measurements at these levels. The rectifier can cause gross non-linearity of the scales, and the maximum error on these ranges can easily be as high as 20%. Similar remarks would also apply to any other multimeter providing such ranges without the use of an amplifier. It is most important that this limitation is realised when using the Microtest.

THE CIRCUIT

The full circuit is shown in Fig. 1, and this will be studied in its separate functions.

Most of the circuitry is fairly standard, except for the two way switch associated with the meter which is used to change the sensitivity of the meter. With the switch in the x1 position the series and shunt resistors have no effect. If the meter is of 1000 ohms internal impedance (a typical value) the meter will

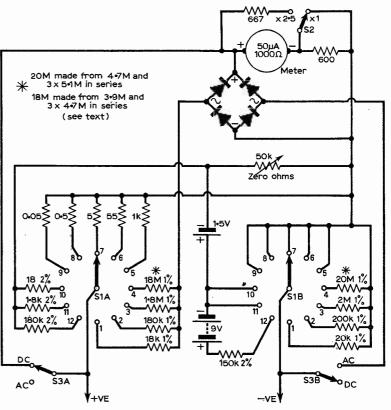


Fig. 1: The complete circuit of the Microtest.

read full scale when 50μ A passes through it (voltage ranges) or when 50mV is applied across it (current ranges). When the switch is moved to the $\times 2.5$ position, a shunt is placed across the meter which reduces the sensitivity to 125μ A f.s.d. The series resistor reduces the voltage sensitivity of the shunted meter to 125mV f.s.d. These two adjustments have the effect of multiplying the voltage or current required for full scale deflection on any range by 2.5. This function may be used on any voltage or current range provided by the meter, but not on the resistance ranges.

One small disadvantage of this feature should be pointed out here. When the Microtest is being used to measure a voltage on the $\times 2.5$ range, then the current drawn from the voltage source for full scale deflection will be 125μ A, giving a sensitivity of only $8k\Omega/V$, compared to $20k\Omega/V$ on the x1 range. If the source being measured is of a high internal impedance, then different readings would be obtained according to which range was being used for the measurement because of the different loadings imposed on the source. For most measurements this effect causes negligable error, but it is important to be aware that it can occur in certain cases.

The range switch S1 is a two-pole twelve-way switch and for most convenience in use it should be the type without a stop, to allow continuous rotation. A ceramic switch with silver plated contacts would be the best from the point of view of reliability, but a paxolin wafer switch costing only a few shillings can give many years good service before the contacts wear. Once again a compromise is necessary between cost and performance, and it is worth spending some time deciding just what sort of performance you require from your Microtest, then spending accordingly.

S1b switches in the d.c. multiplier resistors and the appropriate batteries for the resistance ranges. S1a switches the shunts for the current ranges, and the multipliers for the a.c. voltage ranges and the ohms ranges. All the multipliers are standard values at 1% tolerance and little difficulty should be experienced in obtaining them. The a.c. voltage multipliers are chosen so that the meter reads r.m.s. voltage for a sine wave input: for other input waveforms the meter will read 1 .11 times the average voltage.

The 1000V multipliers on the a.c. and d.c. ranges will have to withstand up to 2500V when the $\times 2.5$ function is used. While this does not exceed the power rating of the resistors, it does exceed their voltage rating of about 750V. To get round this problem each of these multiplier resistors is made up from four separate resistors so as to divide the voltage load between them. Under no circumstances should fewer resistors be used, and even so, care must be taken when wiring up the Microtest to provide a good clearance between the high-voltage multipliers and the other components.

The bridge rectifier used in the original Microtest was a surplus unit advertised simply as a 50μ A meter rectifier. Almost any meter rectifier will work in the circuit, but in order to keep the scale linear a metal oxide rectifier of the type intended for use at 50μ A should be used. The leakage resistance of the bridge should be as high as possible or the meter sensitivity will be reduced. The addition of the bridge rectifier introduces an error of up to 2% on all a.c. voltage measurements.

The current ranges provided are of perfectly standard form, each range being obtained by a separate shunt. The resistance quoted for the shunts on the circuit are approximate values only, and are given for 1000 ohm meter. In practice the shunts have to be individually adjusted to give the required ranges, and this process is described in more detail below. A 50μ A range was not provided on the original Microtest, 100μ A being the most sensitive range. The reason for this was simply the lack of available positions on the range switch. If a 50μ A range were considered essential, it could easily be provided, but only at the expense of, say, the 1A range.

Three resistance ranges are provided, these having 18Ω , $1.8k\Omega$ and $180k\Omega$ as the centre scale readings. These three ranges are adequate to cover the full range of prefered values of resistance, and to give reasonable indications down to 0.1Ω . Using standard 2% resistors for the resistance ranges will give an accuracy of between 5% and 10% over the useable portion of the scales, which is about as good as any other multimeter. For increased accuracy of measurement other techniques such as a bridge have to be employed. The accuracy of the resistance range is not greatly dependent upon the oattery voltage, but these should be renewed as soon as their voltage is not full to prevent the possibility of their leaking into the case and damaging other components.

A few words about the choice of meter would not be amiss here, as this is the heart of the instrument. Within reason it is usually worth getting the most expensive meter you can afford, as its accuracy will increase with price. There would be little point in getting a meter bigger than about 4 inches square or the instrument would hardly warrant the Microtest; about 3 inches square would seem to be a reasonable compromise between cost and performance. The scale

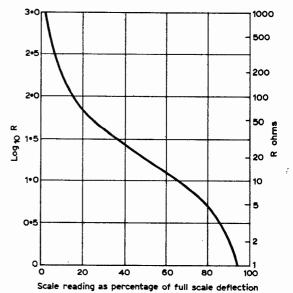


Fig. 2: Resistance measurements can be calculated from a graph stuck on the bottom of the case.

is best divided into 100 equal divisions, marked 0-10. A fine knife edge pointer will greatly increase the accuracy of reading the meter. The resistance scale may be either drawn directly onto the meter's scale plate if great care is taken, or a calibration graph may be attached to the back of the Microtest. A graph suitable for either purpose is given in Fig. 2.

CONSTRUCTION AND TESTING

The component layout of the Microtest is in no way critical, except that high current leads should be kept as short as possible to avoid unwanted voltage drops. Because the actual size and layout of the instrument will depend to a large extent on the meter chosen for the Microtest, no details are given of the cabinet construction or component layout. The prototype used a three inch square meter, and the whole instrument was built into a Formica box $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}'' \times$ $1\frac{1}{2}''$ deep. Either the front or back of the instrument should be easily removeable to enable the batteries to be changed when necessary.

All the multipliers and shunts are mounted directly onto the range switch to minimise their lead length. The shunt and series resistors used to change the meter sensitivity are mounted directly onto the multiplier switch, and the bridge rectifier is mounted on the a.c./d.c. switch. The batteries can be held in place by small sponge pads on the lid of the case. Contact is made to the 9V battery by a snap connector, and to the 1.5V battery by two small brass contacts fixed to the case. The "ohms-zero" control should preferably be a wire-wound control for reliability.

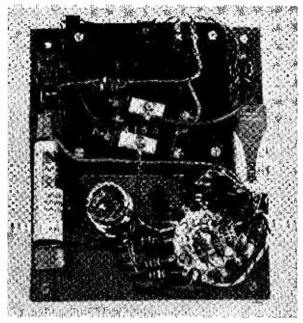
The Microtest should first be built omitting the current shunts and the $\times 2.5$ multipliers. No provision is made in the circuit for accurately setting the voltage ranges, but if a high accuracy meter is available it is worth getting an estimate of the accuracy of the Microtest by comparing the readings of the two instruments when they are reading the same voltage. The accuracy should be within the limits stated in the first section. If such a comparison is not possible then it must be assumed that the error is zero when using the instrument.

The $\times 2.5$ multiplier must now be added. Using

any convenient voltage source such as a twelve volt battery in series with a $50k\Omega$ variable resistor, set the Microtest and the variable resistor until the meter reads full scale on the 10V range. The multiplier switch should be set to $\times 1$. Now without altering any other components, select a resistor or a number of resistors so that when soldered directly across the meter terminals the reading drops from 10V to 4V.

While the meter is still set up reading 10V full scale the 100μ A shunt can be prepared by the same technique. This time a resistor is required that will reduce the meter deflection to half scale (5V), and again this should be done as accurately as possible. When selected it should be wired directly onto the range switch in the correct position for the 100μ A range. The series resistor of the $\times 2.5$ multiplier can now be selected.

Connect a 9V battery, $100k\Omega$ variable resistor and the Microtest set to read 100μ A all in series, and adjust the variable resistor until the meter reads full scale. Now try a number of resistors in the multiplier position until one is found which gives a meter reading of 100μ A in the $\times 1$ position and 40μ A in the $\times 2.5$ position. This resistor may then be left in



An interior view of the prototype.

position, completing the setting up of the range multiplier. This will have a negligible effect on the accuracy of the voltage ranges.

There are two methods of adjusting the three remaining current shunts. The simplest and most accurate method is to use a calibrated meter in series with the Microtest, then adjusting the appropriate shunt until the two instruments read exactly the same. All adjustments should be carried out at the current required to give full scale deflection of the Microtest. Great care must be taken to ensure that the full current is never passed through the meter except when the shunt is firmly soldered into place, or the meter will be severely, if not fatally, damaged. The 1A shunt should be made from wire no thinner than 22swg, or it will be burnt out when the 2.5A passes through it. The other shunts are not particularly critical as the currents involved are small. A few feet of thin copper wire should be sufficient for the 100mA shunt and two 10 ohm resistors in parallel form the basis of the 10mA shunt.

The alternative method of calibration is to use one range of the Microtest to set the current being used to calibrate the next range up. This method is not to be recommended if the first method is possible, because errors gradually creep in during the calibration, and the 1A range can easily be as much as 10% in error. A regulated supply of at least 30V in series with an appropriate value of variable resistor is used as the current source.

Initially the meter is set to read 250^µA f.s.d. and the current adjusted to exactly this value. This setting should be continually checked during the next stage. Wire in an appropriate value resistor as a 1mA shunt, then turn to this range. With the multiplier switch set to $\times 1$, adjust the 1mA shunt until the meter reads exactly 250^µA. The 1mA range is now calibrated, and this range may now be used to set the reference current to 2.5mA, which is used in turn to calibrate the 10mA range. This process is repeated until all the shunts are correctly adjusted. It is then worth repeating the whole process to check the final accuracy. When using the meter it is important that all the ranges should agree with one another at the points where they overlap. When these shunts are finally set to your satisfaction, the Microtest is ready for use.

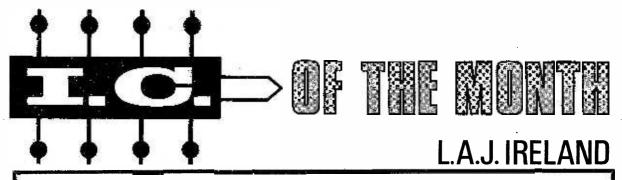
★ components list

Resistors

1% high stability types
18k Ω , 20k Ω , 180k Ω , 200k Ω , 1.8M Ω , 2M Ω , 3.9M Ω ,
4x4·7M Ω, 3x5·1M Ω.
2% high stability types
18 Ω, 1·8k Ω, 150k Ω, 180k Ω.
High stability types selected for use as shunts
5 Ω, 55 Ω, 600 Ω, 680 Ω, 1k Ω.
Zero-ohms potentiometer, 50k Ω wirewound.
Switches 2 pole 12 way rotary. 2 pole 2 way slide type.
1 pole 2 way slide type.
Miscellaneous
Batteries: 1.5V U16, 9V PP3; Rectifier: $50\mu A$ bridge meter type; Meter movement: 3in. square moving coil.

No meter will remain accurate for long if it is regularly overloaded: the needle will get bent and the coil will be damaged. To avoid such accidents with any multimeter always begin making a measurement with the meter set to the highest range, then working down. When making current measurements, do not change ranges while the meter has a high current flowing through it, as it is possible for the shunt to be disconnected for an instant as the switch is moved, and in that instant the meter may be damaged. Provided the Microtest is treated, like all other sensitive instruments, with care and respect, it will provide many years of useful service, repaying its cost many times over.

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Number 4

The Mullard TAD100, a.m. tuner and preamp.

I N January of 1968 Mullard introduced their TAD100 linear i.c. which was principally designed for use in medium and long wave portable receivers although the frequency response of the circuit was such that it could also be used as a 107MHz i.f. amplifier and audio preamp. in f.m. receivers. In addition to many of the passive components required in an ordinary radio set the circuit also incorporates all the active elements as far as the audio driver stage. Different output stages can therefore be chosen to suit individual requirements. This month's article describes how the TAD100 may be used in a medium wave receiver giving an audio output of about 500mW.

The complete receiver circuit is shown in Fig. 1. The first three transistors are used in the front end of the receiver with the first stage of the longtailed pair transistors acting as an r.f. amplifier and the second stage as mixer. A separate transistor is used as the local oscillator with the oscillator signal injected at the base of Tr2 and the i.f. produced extracted at its collector. The block filter type LP1175 is the only selectivity element used to extract the 470kHz signal but it provides sufficient attenuation and bandwidth as three conventional i.f.t.'s. Due to the emitter follower action of Tr4 and Tr5 the input impedance of the i.f. amplifier is very high and the three stages are arranged in a d.c. feedback circuit to the base of Tr3. Tr7 acts as the detector with the audio signal appearing across its emitter resistor and it also supplies the a.g.c. voltage for controlling the bias of Tr1.

Due to its stability and flexibility the differential amplifier or long-tailed pair arrangement forms the basic circuitry in most linear i.c.'s and where previously it would have been economic madness to use extra discrete transistors the i.c. comes into its own. Even in the audio stages of the TAD100 this is evidenced with the use of four transistors in the preamp and driver stages. The audio signal from the volume control is applied to the base of Tr9 which is diode connected to the Darlington pair Tr10 and Tr11. Overall negative feedback of up to 20dB can very, neatly be applied to the base of Tr8 thereby providing good stability under a wide range of operating conditions. The only two other active elements used in the set are the complementary output pair of transistors Tr12 and Tr13 and these are directly coupled to the i.c. driver stage and deliver 500mW. into a 15 ohm speaker.

Continued on page 765

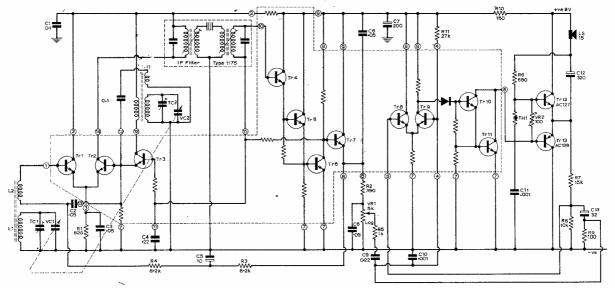


Fig. 1: A practical circuit for a m.w. radio using the TAD100 and an i.f. filter type 1175. The thermistor and C11 junction should be shown connected to the base of Tr13.

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2N706A 2/9d.
2N929 5/8d. □ 2N1613 4/8d. □ 2N3011 9/1d. □ 2N3053 6/2d. 🗆 2N3055 15/9d. 🗆 3N140 15/3d. 🗆 BFY50 4/8d.
BFY51 3/9d.
BSY27 18/-BSY95A 3/3d.
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REPARENCE TRANSISTOR PART 1

THE cheap transistor radio can often pose something of a headache for the professional engineer. All repairs take time, and sometimes an elusive fault can take more time than a straightforward fault on a television receiver. The situation is aggravated by a lack of service information and spares where, as is more often than not, the radio is imported. A repair bill can result which is a large proportion of the original cost of the set, and the owner naturally thinks he is being had.

Because of this, many dealers understandably refuse to accept these cheaper radios for reepair. Amateur repairers not having to make their time pay may agree to have a go, often later to wish they had not!

In general, it is prudent to set a time limit of say a quarter of an hour and if the fault cannot be located in this time, the set should be returned to the owner as being beyond economic repair. This calls for quick, short-cut methods of diagnosis and repair, some of which may be frowned upon if used with conventional equipment, but which in many cases would be the only alternative to refusing the repair. We should add that these remarks do not apply to the better class transistor radio which is backed by spares service and technical information. These should, of course, be serviced in the normal way.

A common fault is for the receiver to be completely dead. While in theory a number of things could be responsible, in practice a few faults crop up with almost monotonous regularity, so these can be checked first.

Batteries that have been left in cause corrosion of the contacts which of course remains when the owner fits new batteries. Often the trouble is nothing more than poor battery contact due to this cause. The remedy is obvious.

Another very common source of trouble is the on/off switch. Generally an integral part of an edge-type volume control, they are impossible to repair economically and the only course is to fit a complete new control. Fortunately, the value of the volume control seems to be standardised at $5k\Omega$, and a number of component firms make controls that will fit. The main consideration is physical size, if too large it will jam in the case aperture, and if too small, will not reach far enough through. The disposition of the contacts may not line up with the original on the printed panel but this can usually be overcome by bending some of the contacts and soldering a section of copper wire to those that may not reach. A few controls have the switch mounted externally in which case a repair can often be made by adjusting the switch contacts.

A quick test can be made on both battery contacts and switch by taking a voltage reading at some convenient point on the print, from an earth point, say one of the coil screening cans to one of the tags on the output or driver transformer. This should show almost full battery voltage, if it is much less, there is a high resistance in series, possibly corroded battery contacts or faulty switch.

Correct voltage measured here means we must look further. Scratching the volume control terminals with the meter probe and the meter switched to the ohms range should produce crackling in the loudspeaker, and if so, suggests that the fault is in preceding stages. No crackling means trouble in driver or output circuit. Open-circuit loudspeaker speech coils are not at all uncommon, especially the higher impedances, so this is worth checking next; failing this, check earphone socket shorting contacts.

MECHANICAL DAMAGE

Often the radio has been subject to a fall and a frequent result is that the output or driver transformer is partly wrenched from its position in the print. A casual glance may not indicate this but sometimes one or more of the fine wires coming from the windings are broken away from their terminal posts. Whenever there is trouble in this end of the set, it is always worthwhile to make a visual examination of the transformers, especially the lead-out wires.

If the set is lively from the volume control onwards, flicking the waveband switch may produce clicks, which would suggest that the i.f. stages are working and that the mixer and r.f. stages should be investigated first. It is still possible for the i.f. stages to be at fault, but the odds are on the previous ones.

If the trouble appears in the first stage it is wise to check the connections to the ferrite aerial coils. The rod is not always rigidly mounted, and any mechanical shock could easily strain the fine wires from the coils to the print. In many cases these wires are left long enough by the makers to facilitate adjustment by sliding along the rod, but this slack may already be taken up by a previous alignment. Broken aerial wires are very common and can give rise to several faults. Complete lack of signals is one, where the broken lead is common to both wavebands or as is sometimes the case, where there are more than one broken. Often it leaves one waveband dead and sometimes produces a rather puzzling symptom of breakthrough from one band into the other. Thus the light programme on 1500 metres is superimposed on the BBC London or Welsh Home service.

A close look at the components mounted on the printed panel would not come amiss. Look for vertically mounted parts that are leaning over at an angle, suggesting they may have been forced and either damaged or pulled from their printed connection. Components mounted near the battery compartment are particularly prone to this sort of trouble by suffering from the attempts of a hamhanded owner to replace the batteries! A probe at any likely looking suspect with an insulated tool will confirm the suspicion.

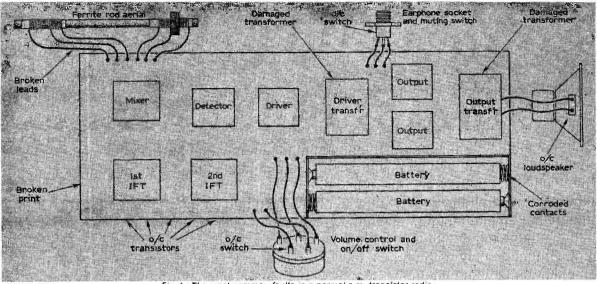


Fig. 1 : The most common faults in a normal a.m. transistor radio.

The rough tests we have described followed by a visual check of the suspected part of the circuit will take just a matter of a few minutes. Many faults will come to light by this means. Remember that a large proportion of troubles with portable transistor radios are mechanical in origin.

Next, after these checks, the most likely possibilities to investigate are printed circuit faults or defective transistors. This is where the meter must be used again and voltage measurements taken. We will have already roughly isolated the section of the receiver in which the trouble lies, so now collector, base and emitter voltages of transistors within that section can be measured. If service information is not to hand, exact readings cannot be compared with correct figures, however in most cases defects can be quickly spotted.

Collector voltages are generally not less than about three-quarters of the battery voltage except in audio stages where the collector is directly coupled to the base of the following stage. Where two batteries or a tapped battery is used, the full voltage is often only applied to the output stage and perhaps the driver, the rest of the circuit being supplied from one battery or section.

Base and emitter voltages vary considerably according to the circuit from a few tenths of a volt to over one volt. The main thing is to compare the base voltage with the emitter. Assuming germanium p-n-p transistors, the base must be slightly more negative than the emitter, so a difference of one or two tenths of a volt should be measured. A higher base voltage could be due to an internal leak or an open-circuit bottom bleeder resistor to the base. A low base voltage could indicate an opencircuit top resistor. No emitter voltage is the result of an open-circuit transistor, unless of course the emitter has no series resistor. A high emitter and base voltage low collector voltage with 8

betrays excessive current due to internal leakage.

Some confusion can result when taking voltage readings as to which point to measure from, as some sets have positive earths and others negative. It is usually the most straightforward practice to ignore the earth and to clip the positive lead of the meter to the battery positive terminal taking all readings from there.

If a transistor appears to be at fault, it is not always necessary to remove it in order to try a replacement. This takes time, and more time is wasted re-fitting it if it is not the trouble, to say nothing of possible damage by soldering (it is usually impossible to use a heat sink). In most cases, just connect a substitute in parallel with the suspect. on the print side of the board and without cutting the wires. If the set works, then the old one can be removed and the replacement fitted properly, if not. little time is wasted. The old one seems to have little effect on the working except where it is drawing excess current. In such case, just disconnect the collector wire.

Many imported sets use transistors with type numbers that mean little to the average engineer. An equivalent list is very handy if available. If not,

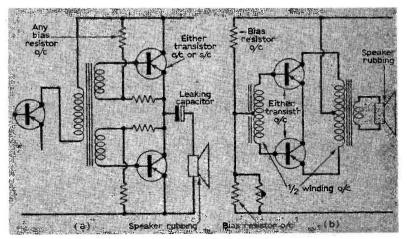


Fig. 2: Faults associated with the two commonest output stages.

Wharfedale Unit 3 build-it-yourself high fidelity loudspeaker kit

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A big success right from the word 'Go', the Wharfedale Unit 3 kit gives you a genuine hi-fi speaker system at a very low cost.

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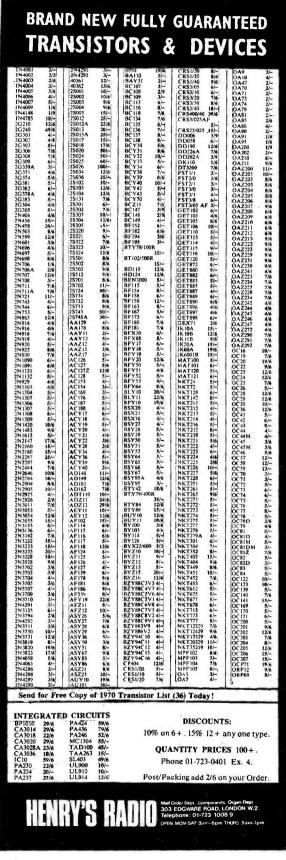
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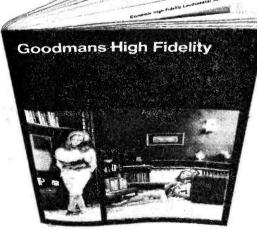
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Name.		
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or if the type is not listed, then fit anything which is in the same class (mixer, r.f., a.f. or output). Unlike valves, transistors have a high degree of compatibility and in the field of the cheap portable radio, any minor differences in performance are unimportant, it might even be better than the original! Certainly it is uneconomic to spend time trying to chase exact equivalents even if there are such. The output stage is the only one where some thought may have to be exercised in choosing a replacement, and alteration of the base forward bias may be required. After replacing such, check for distortion and that the quiescent current is reasonable for the type of set.

This brings us to perhaps the most troublesome and frustrating fault to locate, print faults. These may be dry joints between print and components or hair-line cracks in the print itself.

Bending and flexing the panel will often make the fault come and go although not necessarily indicate where it is. Gentle prodding around will sometimes bring it to light, but not always. Another way of tackling the trouble is to take a voltage reading around the suspected area, then flex the panel to see if there is any change in value. This can be repeated at various points, and any change discovered followed up through connecting print and components.

DISTORTION

Another very common complaint is distortion. In by far the majority of cases, the trouble is in the output circuit, so diagnosis should not take so long as with some other faults. First of all though, check the battery voltage. Even if it is claimed to be a new battery, it could have been left switched on when not in use, not an uncommon occurrence.

The usual source of trouble is failure of one half of the push-pull output pair. If the series configuration is used, take voltage readings to find if the collector of the bottom transistor and the emitter of the top one are about half of the battery voltage. If this mid-point is in fact either higher or lower by any marked extent from the half value, most likely one of the transistors is either open-circuit or partially so, or has a high leakage, depending on whether the voltage is high or low and which transistor is defective. The quickest and cheapest course is to replace both transistors. Before doing so though, just check the base-bias resistors, and take another measurement with the speaker disconnected. The capacitor feeding the speaker may be leaky and cause an abnormal voltage reading, disconnecting the speaker will remove the leakage return path and restore correct voltage if this is the cause of the trouble.

If the output stage is of the normal transformer push-pull type, voltage readings will not be a great help. Defective transistors will not have a great effect on voltage because of the low series impedances. Voltages should be measured of course, to make sure that bias is present and the output transformer windings are continuous. If these are in order, the quickest way of checking the transistors is to short the base to emitter of each in turn with a screwdriver blade. When both transistors are working correctly, the result will be distortion and a drop in volume. Shorting a defective one will have little or no effect, while shorting its companion will stop the set working completely or nearly so.

Thus the faulty transistor can be quickly located

and replaced. Discretion can be used as to whether it is deemed necessary to replace the other as well. If only one is replaced, then the replacement should be of the same type.

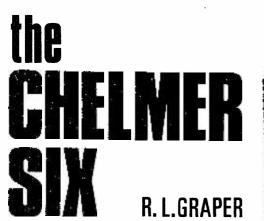
A frequent cause of distortion is the loudspeaker. Trouble is due to the speech coil rubbing the pole pieces of the magnet. This is not always easy to identify as it can sound very much like distortion originating in the output stage. It is usually worse at low volume settings, because the rubbing tends to be masked at higher volumes. Often it can be felt by gently pushing the cone in and out with the finger tips, but this is not always decisive. Hooking up another speaker is the best test. Impedance is not too critical, a 3-ohm can be used in place of an 8-ohm for testing, but a series resistor should be used in a 30-ohm circuit. A 15-ohm speaker is very useful for bench testing if one can be acquired, as it can be used with almost any circuit.

Distortion can be traced to other causes than the output circuit. The driver stage can be responsible and even the pre-detector stages. These however are rarer and will have to be tackled by voltage measurements and other conventional servicing techniques.

TO BE CONTINUED

con	nponents	ist	
Resist			
	820 Ω	R7	
R2		R8	10k Ω
R3	8·2k Ω 8·2k Ω	K9	100 Ω 180 Ω
	8·2κΩ 1kΩ	RIU	180 Ω 27k Ω
R6		RIT	27832
	esistors, 1 watt,	10% typ	- e
	5kΩ pot. with		55
VR2	100 Ω preset	pot.	
apac	itors		
C.	0.1	C8	0.05µF
C2	0∙05µF	C9	0 [.] 05µF 0 [.] 22µF
C3	0.020h	C10	0.001µF
C4 C5	0 [.] 22µF	C11	0·001µF 320µF 12∨
		C12	320µF 12∨
C6 C7		C13	32µF 12∨
		176n E aa	nged tuning capacito
TC1	TC2 trimmer	canacit	ors associated wit
,	above	oupdon	
emic	onductors		
	100 Integrated	circuit	
Tr19	A C197		
Tr13	AC128		
lisce	laneous		
L1, L	2, medium ae	rial on fe	errite rod suitable fo
208p	F tuning with	secondar	y; T1, oscillator co
			ter type LP 1175; TH
VA1	077; Loudspeak	er 15Ω ty	/pe.

The sensitivity of the receiver is very good giving a performance comparable to an equivalent eight transistor quality receiver using conventional discrete components. In addition the TAD100 integrates the major portion of the set providing a far more reliable and rugged receiver.





HE author's first attempts at transistor set construction were not very successful, mainly through being too ambitious with miniaturisation. The sets made were mixtures of reflex circuits, employing home wound ferrite aerials with feed-back windings, but they could not be relied upon for stability, and reproduction quality was far removed from that easily obtainable with a modern superhet which may be built for little extra cost.

The author decided to adhere strictly to the superhet circuitry recommended by Weyrad and Mullard, which has stood the tests of time and reliability. There are a few slight deviations from some components used due to lack of availability of the original items, but the performance of the substitutes is well up to standard. The chassis design, and layout of the components was, however, arranged by the author to give a really robust set. yet one which could be removed from its cabinet in a few seconds.

In fact the "Chelmer Six" is one hole fixing in its cabinet, the only control needing attachment being the tuning knob. To achieve this simplicity the speaker is mounted on the chassis, and the volume control and switch are mounted on two brass studding pedestals. No fixing screws are necessary, as four turnbuttons inside the cabinet press the chassis panel firmly against the front panel of its cabinet.

The circuit

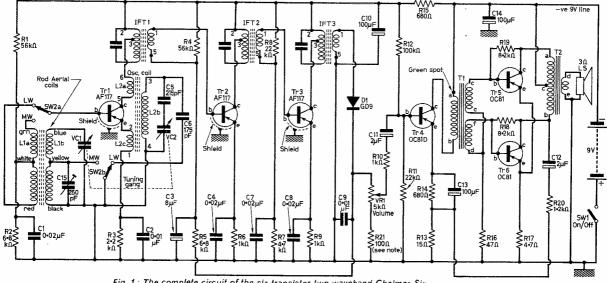
The full circuit is shown in Fig. 1. The signal received in the ferrite aerial is tuned by VC1, the aerial section of the ganged capacitor. The signal is then fed into the mixer/oscillator Trl via the small coupling coil on the aerial. The signal, now at i.f., passes on to two stages of i.f. amplification. The amplified signal is then fed by the third i.f. transformer to the detector diode, D1, where the audio signal is extracted.

This signal is tapped off by the $5k\Omega$ potentiometer VR1, the volume control. The signal passes on to Tr4, the driver stage, and on to the phase-splitting driver transformer T2. The push-pull amplifier consists of Tr5 and Tr6. The much amplified signal is then fed to the loudspeaker via the output transformer T2. There is, of course, an a.g.c. system, R5 and C3. which controls the bias of Tr2.

One detail that must be explained is a series resistance of 100Ω . R21. This allows a faint signal to be received immediately the set is switched on, thus acting as a safety precaution to prevent one unwittingly leaving the set on when not in use.

Construction

The main component board drilling plan is shown



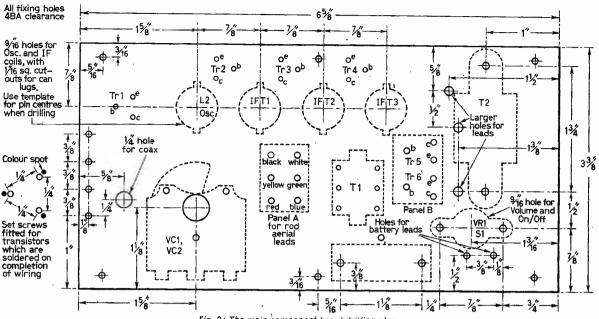


Fig. 2: The main component board drilling plan.

in Fig. 2 and the plan for the front panel in Fig. 3. The two panels, when all the components are mounted, are bolted together with studding and nuts. Studding is also used for mounting the slide switch and volume control to the component board, and also to retain a perspex panel holding the 250pF padding capacitor. Diagrams of all the sub-panels, control mountings and chassis feet are in Fig. 4. The tag panels A and B have to be made up as shown to fit the available panel space. The rear feet are simply to allow the board to stand upright when out of the case. hole for the knob of the potentiometer; these components usually have only flat edge controls which are not long enough, so the author stuck on a tapered type knob with Evo-Stik. The loudspeaker holes will have to be determined by the speaker itself which can, of course, be positioned on the panel to mark the fixing hole centres.

Referring to Fig. 2 again, it is as well to make a paper template for marking out the centres for the oscillator coil and i.f. transformer pins, and advisable to keep the pins of the latter the same way round as shown. The oscillator coil should be

The chassis

The chassis is constructed from two panels of $\frac{1}{16}$ in paxolin. These are connected together by four lengths of 4BA or 6BA brass studding. The main (rear) panel carries all of the components, except the loudspeaker. while the larger second panel has mounted on it the loudspeaker. This system allows the speaker to be positioned close to the front of the cabinet

101/4 3/16 3″ 3" All fixing holes 4BA clearance Number of small holes drilled as shown to form speaker fret 21/2 Cut-out for 3¾ 7/8 hole for Volume and On/Off wavechange silde switch 7/6 3/g hole tor 3⁄4° 7∕8 VC1,VC2 1¹³ 11/16 1% Fixing hole dimensions may vary for different models of loudspeaker

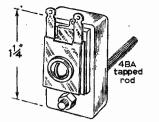
Fig. 3: The front panel drilling plan.

spot marked on the panel in red between pins 1 and 6 so that intermediate pin numbers can be identified. On the P50/1 transformer there will be found an identifying red spot on the top of the screening can, and between pins 1 and 6. A template should also be made for the tags of the driver and output transformers.

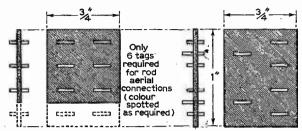
Special care should be taken when drilling the centres for the Jackson '00' gang capacitor. Take great care that the mounting screws are not too long, or the fixed plates of the capacitor may be fouled.

and provides a convenient battery space.

All the component centres and positions for the various holes are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. When drilling for the tuning capacitor shaft and the six holes for the screwed brass rods, bind the two panels firmly together with plastic tape and drill holes in both simultaneously. Make sure, of course, that the panels are correctly aligned with the shorter panel on the left. It is not necessary, however, to drill the two or three fixing holes for the tuning capacitor through both panels as the extension spindle or shaft only passes through the front panel. Note the clearance



This padder can be omitted If the correct value of 175pF is available. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining this exact value so a 250pF variable was used, but adjustment of long -wave section was found to be very tricky.



Main panel drilled for tags which project through

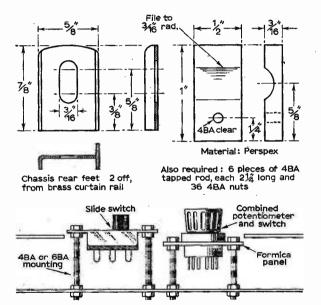


Fig. 4: Details of the sub panels, control mountings, chassis feet and I.w. trimmer capacitor support. Tag panel A is shown on the left, panel B on the right.

The author drilled lots of small holes at random all over the panel, which may be found useful if the constructor finds that an odd wire needs to be passed through the panel. This drilling should, of course, be done before actually mounting the components on to the panel.

Wiring

With the circuit diagram Fig. 1 and the wiring plan Fig. 6 to refer to, the constructor should find no difficulty as there is plenty of space available. The author prefers the method of laying resistors and capacitors flat on or near to the panel, rather than the more conventional method of mounting these components vertically. Make sure that all the electrolytic capacitors are correctly connected for polarity. It is best to solder the transistors on last, the triangular arrays of screws on tag panel B being provided to allow all other components to be put into position and wiring completed first. Colour spot marking beside these pins is useful to avoid mistakes when the transistors are soldered on finally. The spot marks should be put on both sides of the panel.

Care is needed when soldering to the i.f. transformer and oscillator coil pins, which should be gripped with a pair of thin nosed pliers to form a heat-sink.

The potentiometer with its incorporated switch is a little tricky to wire up and colour coding beside the small tags might be an idea to avoid mistakes. Note also the colour coded and numbered tags on panel A (Fig. 4) which tie up on the circuit with the leads taken from the ferrite rod aerial.

A little extra spacing is needed, incidentally, at each side of the tuning capacitor to avoid the grub screws of the extension spindle, these project slightly, and free rotation of the control is essential.

Fig. 6 gives an idea of the length of the various wires required. Wires not connected are shown crossing, and only where a black dot is shown are the wires soldered together.

The Weyrad transformer LFDT3 has a split secondary, and there is a correct way of wiring it so the author advises the reader to study the Weyrad literature before connecting it. The colour code spot denotes the start of the primary.

Alignment

A signal generator is, of course, the ideal instrument to use for alignment, but an alternative procedure is feasible, and will be described.

- 1. Switch the set to m.w.
- 2. Set the aerial and oscillator trimmers to mid-point.
- 3. Use tuning scale to set tuning capacitor to correct position for the local station.
- 4. Adjust the oscillator coil core to bring this station in at the correct point on the tuning scale.
- 5. Tune to a weak signal anywhere in the band, preferably one not subject to fading, and adjust the i.f. transformer cores for maximum output.
- This will ensure that the i.f's. are peaked for maximum gain.
- 6. Tune to the high frequency end of the band and adjust the oscillator trimmer to bring the station in line with the scale calibration.
- 7. Tune to other end of band and adjust the medium wave coil on the ferrite rod for maximum gain.
- 8. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until adjustment of one end has no effect on the other.
- 9. Switch the set to l.w.
- 10. Tune in Radio 2 on 1500m. and adjust l.w. aerial winding for maximum volume.
- 11. Trim C15 to obtain maximum volume of Radio 2.

Use the correct trimming tool; a thin brass strip mounted in an insulating handle. The brass strip should pass right through the full length of the slot in the iron cores of the transformers and oscillator coil. Do not use an ordinary screwdriver for these adjustments or the lugs will break up and jam in the thread.

The scale used is that issued by Weyrad for use in conjunction with their rod aerial RA2W. Unless the set is incorporated in its cabinet, on to which the scale is glued, the alignment adjustments will have to be delayed until the cabinet is completed.

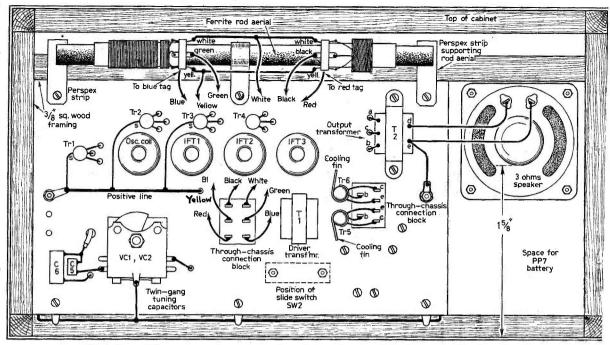
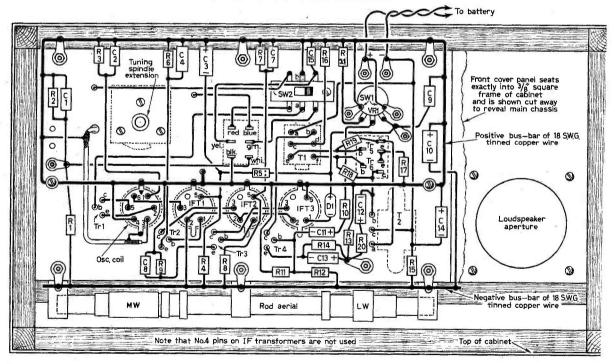


Fig. 5: (above) The component layout viewed from the rear of the case, the drilling plan is shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 6: (below) The main wiring diagram.



The cabinet

The author has always favoured plastic laminate material, such as Formica, for radio cabinets. The material is light and very strong, so that when built on a light section wood frame it cannot warp. Further it can be obtained in many attractive colours. When the panels are cut out they should be fastened together with adhesive tape and trimmed up to make exact pairs. Unbind and bevel all the edges at 45° , which makes a neat cabinet with flush edges. On the front panel a frame of $\frac{3}{8}$ in square stripwood is next glued, spaced from the edges to a distance equal to the thickness of the material. The frame thus formed need not be

★ components list

Resistors				
R1	56k Ω	R12	100k Ω	
R2	6·8k Ω	R13	15Ω	
R3	2·2 k Ω	R14	680 Ω	
R4	56k Ω	R15	680 Ω	
R5	6·8k Ω	R16	47 Ω	
R6	1k Ω	R17	4·7 Ω	
R7	4·7k Ω	R18	8·2k Ω	
R8	22k Ω	[°] R19	8·2k Ω	
R9	1kΩ	R20	1 •2k Ω	
R10	1kΩ	R21	100 Ω	
R11	22k Ω			
All r	esistors 🕹	watt, 10% tole	erance	

VR1 5 k Ω log. potentiometer with switch

Capacitors

C1	0 [.] 02µF	C9	0·01µF
C2	0 [.] 01µF	C10	100μF, 12V
C3	8μF, 12V	C11	2μF, 12V
C4	0 [.] 02µF	C12	2µF, 12∨
C 5	215pF, 2% ceramic	C13	100µF, 12V
C 6	175pF, 2% ceramic	C14	100µF, 12V
°C7	0 [.] 02µF	C15	250pF trimmer
C8	0 ∙02 µF		
VC1	, VC2 208+176pF t	uning	capacitor. Jackson
type	"00".		

Inductors

- L1 Ferrite rod aerial, 6in. x 76in., Weyrad RA2W
- L2 Weyrad P50/1AC oscillator coil (red spot)
- IFT1, 1FT2 Weyrad i.f. transformers type P50/2CC (white spot)
- 1FT3 Weyrad i.f. transformer type P50/3CC (blue spot)
- T1 Driver transformer. Weyrad LFDT3 or Radiospares T/T1
- T2 Output transformer. Radiospares T/T2

Semiconductors

Tr1	AF117	Tr5	OC81 } matched pair
Tr2	AF117	Tr6	OC81
Tr3	AF117	D1	GD9, OA81, OA91, etc.
Tr4	OC81D		

Miscellaneous

Loudspeaker $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter 3Ω or 8Ω , SW2, 2 pole 2 way slide switch; paxolin sheet; 4BA brass studding; battery clips; Formica for case etc.—see text for case materials.

mitred to 45° , but the lengths should be exact and tried out before glueing. The top panel should also be fitted with a $\frac{3}{3}$ in. wood frame but only on rear edge. The end panels and bottom may be left out until after assembly before glueing on the remaining strengthening stripwood pieces.

Before actual assembly of the panels into box form it is best to cut out the large hole for the loudspeaker in the top right hand side of the front panel.

Assembly is quite simple. Treat the outside faces of the kin, wood framing with Evostik and after a short drying time bring the panels together to form the box shape. Then cut the lengths of 3 in. stripwood for the sides, and lengths of 1 in. square wood for the battery holder and glue them in individually. Four screw holes only are necessary for the back panel cover which can be countersunk. The best method of getting the correct position for drilling out the clearance holes for capacitor spindles and that for the potentiometer knob is to spot at each centre with Indian ink. The chassis can then be carefully inserted until the spindle and knob touch, leaving a black dot on the panel. The large hole for the potentiometer knob can then be marked with compasses, cut out by means of a fretsaw and piercing saw blade.

The front panel of the chassis should fit neatly inside the frame of the front panel of the cabinet. A piece of speaker fabric can be glued inside, over the speaker aperture to improve the appearance and exclude dust.

The carrying strap was cut from lin. plastic material, and the cross strips from Formica.

The set described has been in use continuously for several months, and yet no maintenance has so far been necessary.



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WAS recently asked for advice about an old 12in. loudspeaker that had suffered from the attentions of house-proud mice. The mice had succeeded in removing most of the cone but the voice coil, leads and inner cone support were intact. (Fig. 1.)

I suggested that the unit should be returned to the makers for re-coning, but the owner was horrified to learn that this would cost at least $\pounds 2$ and probably $\pounds 4$. He bought a new low-cost 12in. unit for 32s. and presented me with the relics of a first-class loudspeaker.

This presented such a challenge that I decided to try to make an entirely new cone, incorporating some ideas I have had on this subject.

A BIT OF THEORY

The problem is that the cone should be as light and rigid as possible and also be very free to move. Some of the best loudspeakers use expanded plastic foam diaphragms, constrained by a soft plastic roll surround. This arrangement produces a loudspeaker that is very free of distortion and coloration over a band from maybe 40Hz to 2kHz, but a tweeter is also needed.

Alternatively, a soft corrugated paper cone can produce sound over the whole audio band, but this is achieved because the cone does not vibrate as a whole at the highest frequencies; only the centre moves and h.f. radiation may be improved by fitting a small inner cone to the voice coil. This type of speaker generally gives a rather poorer performance than is realised with separate l.f. and h.f. units.

In production, the cones for both types of speaker are stamped or cast in a mould. Obviously, it is unrealistic to try to make a mould for a single loudspeaker and the amateur must try to build cones in a different manner, not losing sight of the need for lightness, strength, and a flexible surround.

There must be thousands of old loudspeaker units lying around unused because the cones are damaged. Any of these is a suitable subject for restoration and the methods suggested should make a unit with a very good performance.

MAKING THE OUTER CONE

The first thing with any unit is to remove most of the old cone; this may sound drastic, but it makes things far easier. Remove the paper or felt gasket from the chassis and remove the old cone surround from the chassis. Trim the cone to leave a rim about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide around the coil former and leave a support for the voice coil leads. (Fig. 2.) You must be very careful of the voice coil leads; if you wreck them it is very difficult to save the speaker.

The outer cone is made from a sheet of thin good quality paper. I used tracing paper, but good lightweight drawing paper is also suitable. This must be marked out in such a way as to make a suitable shaped cone. In the case of a 12in. Good-

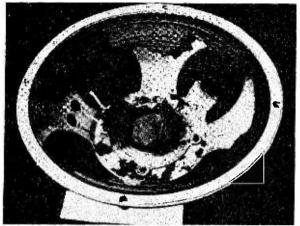


Fig. 1: The 12in. Goodman's loudspeaker attacked by mice. The cone has been destroyed, but the coil assembly is intact.

man's which has a fairly steep cone of about 105° , this can be made from a circle of 6in. radius, with a sector of 90° removed. (Fig. 3.) There are various tips that will assist you in making a suitable paper cone. Do not use the sheet of high quality paper for this experiment—use brown paper.

Draw a circle of 6in. radius and inside that draw concentric circles of radius $5\frac{3}{4}$ in., $5\frac{1}{2}$ in., 5in., and in the middle of $\frac{3}{4}$ in., $1\frac{1}{4}$ in., $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. radius (as in Fig. 3). Draw in a radius and cut along this, cut around the outside circle and around the innermost circle. This will give you a variable sized cone former, which can be pinned or glued temporarily and offered up to the voice coil.

The aim is to make a template for the final cone. By adjusting the amount of overlap the cone can be made more or less acute and you should aim to make it fit with a gap of about $\frac{3}{2}$ in. all round the

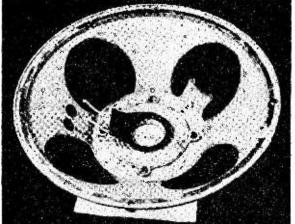
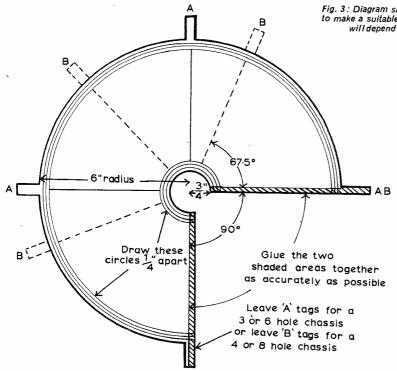


Fig. 2 : The cone is trimmed and tidied up. The surround is removed entirely.



inside of the chassis level with the rim. The outer diameter can be trimmed to size by cutting all round one of the lines that you draw. The inner diameter should be made a snug fit around the outside of the voice coil former, again by trimming all round inside the template, using the lines as a guide. Then mark the template to indicate the degree of overlap required to get the correct angle.

The template for a 12in. Goodman's unit is shown in Fig. 3. Very conveniently, the cone is made by cutting out a 90° sector. The outer radius is about 6in. and the inner radius about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. After marking out the circles with compasses, mark out a series of radii as is shown in the diagram: these and the tags "A" and "B" are used later to align the cone in the chassis. I have drawn the cone template so as to suit either a 6-hole chassis or a 4 or 8-hole chassis. If the chassis has 3 or 6 holes, draw in the radii and tags shown as full lines in the diagram. For a 4 or 8-hole chassis, 3 equidistant lines should be drawn, as shown dotted and the tags "B" should be made. Cut out the paper and glue it up using the overlap and the various circles as guides: if you do this, it should be truly conical.

Obviously, if the loudspeaker had a flatter cone, requiring a sector of only 60° to be removed, the "A" radii should be spaced 100° apart or the "B" radii 75° apart.

Now you must attach the paper cone to the existing voice coil. This job must be done perfectly as it is the basis for the final cone. I used balsa wood cement spread pretty thickly on the old cone and then offered up the new paper cone, fitting it, rather like a motor tyre so that the lines drawn around the new cone were concentric with the voice coil. While setting, the cone was held in place by Sellotape between the chassis and the tags on the edge of the cone.

When the glue has set, it is an advantage to fit

Fig. 3: Diagram showing how a sheet of paper should be marked out to make a suitable cone for a 12in. speaker. The detailed dimensions will depend on the speaker, but this will serve as a guide.

> an extra layer to the inside or apex of the cone: this inner cone can be about 1in. wide and serves to strengthen the attachment of the new cone to the voice coil.

SUSPENDING THE CONE

The edge suspension should be firm enough to support the coil in the magnet but flexible enough to allow free movement of the cone. Suitable materials for the suspension are chamois leather (expensive), cloth or polyurethane foam. A sheet of foam, 15in. square and $\frac{3}{16}$ in. thick costs 7d at Woolworths, but be careful to get the thinnest material!

This foam is marked out into a ring of the same outside diameter as the chassis and an inside diameter about $\frac{1}{2}$ in smaller than the new cone.

The new cone is temporarily suspended by attaching the tags on

its edge to the chassis. In doing so, ensure that the cone is circular and centred (I found that it was a help to put a disc into the cone to shape it: try a 7in. gramophone record), the chassis holes can be used as guides.

The foam surround is cut into 4, 6 or 8 equal sectors and two opposite sectors are glued to the chassis using Copydex adhesive. The inner edges of these sectors are then glued to the cone. After the glue has set, test that the cone moves freely. Continue thus until a complete surround has been built and replace the gasket strips (Fig. 4).

STRENGTHENING THE CONE

The thin paper cone will be far too flexible for hi-fi purposes. It can be made very much more rigid by reinforcement with expanded polystyrene

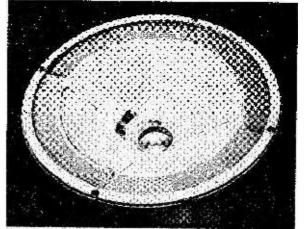


Fig. 4 : The thin paper cone is suspended at its edge by polyurethane foam. The centre is reinforced and guide lines help in centring the cone.

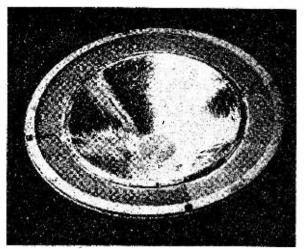


Fig. 5: The finished bass unit. The cone has four layers of polystyrene foam and is finished with aluminium foil.

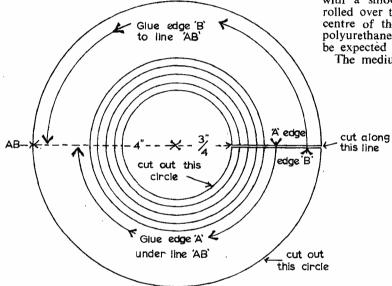


Fig. 6: Diagram showing how a sheet of card should be cut and glued to form a small h.f. radiator for the centre of the large cone.

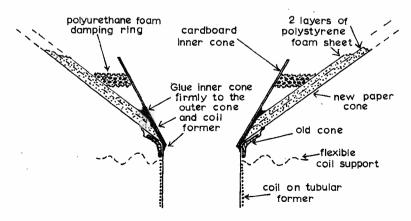


Fig. 7: Diagram showing the fitting of the h.f. radiator cone to the large cone and the siting of a damping ring of polyurethane foam. foam. The foam can be bought as a roll of household insulation costing about 6s 11d for 33ft. x 3ft. x 2mm. This very light material is cut to the same shape as the cone template (Fig. 3) and divided into three or four sectors. The sectors are then glued around the inside of the thin paper cone. This glueing must be as strong as possible and I suggest you use either Copydex or Britfix balsa cement (many glues dissolve polystyrene—carry out a test).

At this point you must decide whether you want a hi-fi bass unit or a medium quality full range unit. For hi-fi you need a rigid cone, but this will not respond well above 2kHz. For medium quality, the cone may be less rigid but should be fitted with an auxiliary high frequency cone at the centre.

The rigid l.f. cone is made by adding three further layers to the cone. The gaps between the sectors of succeeding layers should be staggered for strength. These layers are glued on with Copydex. The cone is finished off with a layer of aluminium cooking foil, again cut to the template and glued with Copydex. This foil is rolled down on to the cone with a smooth object to ensure adhesion and is rolled over the inside and outside of the cone. The centre of the cone is finished with a dust cap of polyurethane foam (Fig. 5). This speaker should not be expected to perform well above 2kHz.

The medium quality full range version uses only two layers of polystyrene foam and no aluminium skin. It is fitted with a laminated inner cone of 60° angle. This accessory cone is made from a circle of radius 4in. marked out as in Fig. 6. Use thin card, similar to postcard, and mark out a series of guide-rings $\frac{1}{8}$ in. apart; these will help in fitting the cone to the voice coil. Cut along a single radius and fold the two cut edges, one inside and one outside the cone to form the double cone. Glue it carefully all over with Copydex.

As the purpose of this small cone is to radiate directly from the coil, it must be fastened firmly to the voice coil tube. First, trim up the polystyrene foam around the apex of the large cone, until the small cone is a snug fit on the large cone and edge of the coil former (see Fig. 7). Then trim the apex of the small cone, using the guide-rings to ensure concentricity until the cone apex is only slightly smaller than the large cone. Then glue the small cone on to the large cone and coil former with balsa cement.

Practical experience shows that thin cones of this type have undesirable resonances. These can be damped to a great extent by fitting a ring of polyurethane foam between the h.f. cone and the main cone. This should be made of $\frac{1}{3}$ in. thick foam (Woolworths, agair cut in a ring of outside radius $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. and inside radius $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. and fitted over the inner cone as ir

★ components list

Approximate Materials required cost 1 sheet tracing or drawing paper 15in. x 20in. 6d. 1 roll polystyrene foam wall (You only need about covering 33ft. x 2ft. x 2mm. 6s.11d.* 3ft. of this, so you can scrounge it!) 1 tube balsa wood cement (Britfix) 1 tube Copydex 2s. 6d. 1 sq. ft. of domestic foil (L.F. (Give the rest to your unit only) 2s. 9d.* wifel) 8in. square of card 0.015in. thick (Full range unit only) 1 sheet polyurethane foam 15in. x 15in. x 15in. 1 sheet polyurethane foam 6in. x 8in. 1 trange unit only) 7d. Woolworths.				
14s. 9d. or 12s. 7d. * You can restore about ten loudspeakers from these packages! <i>Tools</i>				
Pencil, ruler, protractor, pair of compasses and scissors.				

Fig. 7; this is not glued in place. An appropriate circle of foam should be cut and glued inside the inner cone to protect the pole of the magnet from dust.

The main problems are that the new cone may be eccentric or may not be firmly glued to the voice coil. This is very easily tested by feeding the speaker with between 3 and 10 watts of 50Hz signal; for a 3 Ω speaker, 4 to 6 volts; or for a 15 Ω speaker 8 to 12 volts from a transformer will provide this power. The cone should vibrate through about $\frac{3}{8}$ in, but should not set up a scraping noise in the process. If the speaker can stand this usage, it should stand domestic music!

For various purposes, it is useful to find the bass resonant frequency; unfortunately, you will need an a.f. generator and an amplifier for this. Connect an a.c. voltmeter across the loudspeaker and feed from the amplifier via a 15Ω to 30Ω resistor. Resonance causes the loudspeaker impedance to rise and thus the voltage across the voice coil rises and the point at which this voltage is maximum is the resonant frequency. Alternatively, the resonance can be seen as a greatly increased amplitude of cone movement. When designing a new enclosure, the resonance is used to assist in tuning the enclosure and so the value should be noted carefully.

If the finished cone causes rubbing on the poles of the magnet, it is a comparatively simple task to re-align it; the site of friction can be observed and the whole cone pulled to and fro to free the coil. After the correct pull has been found, the foam surround can be freed from the cone and re-glued appropriately.

The instructions given here hold for a typical 12in loudspeaker with a pole piece of about $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter. For other units, appropriate adjustments to the dimensions will have to be made.

If you do not have a tweeter or crossover unit, the wide range medium fidelity unit can be used without further modification.

For the best results, the 1.f. unit is preferred. My speaker responds very smoothly from 50Hz to 1.5kHz, and is flat over this range to \pm about 5dB. The bass resonance is 32Hz.

THE COLUMN

URING the winter months there is quite a lot of DX on the medium waves from about 1500 hrs. GMT onwards. Stations reported recently include Taiwan 750 KHz; Bagdad 760; Radio Irana Teheran 895 (closes down at 1930 hrs.); Anwhei China on 940; Kermanshah Iran 985; AIR Calcutta on 1130; VOA Okinawa 1178 (behind Horby Sweden); Kabul Afghanistan 1280; China 1290; Teheran 1325; Kuwait 1345; Ahwaz Iran 1390. The VOA station in Malalos in the Philippines on 920 was transferred recently to the Philippines government and is now called the Voice of the Philippines, it has programmes in English and signs off at 1600 hrs. Later in the evening a number of interesting African stations can be heard. Tenerife in the Canaries is usually a prominent signal on 620 KHz. Monrovia in Liberia on 629 is more difficult but has been logged. EAJ103 Radio Sahara in El Aioun is on 656; Dakar in Senegal on 764 is generally strong after Sottens closes down; EAK92 Las Palmas Canaries is on 827 mixed with EAJ1 Barcelona: EFJ57 in Tenerife is now on 894 after moving recently from 872; EAJ202 Radio Villa Cisneros in Spanish Sahara is on 998; Radio Atlantico Las Palmas on 1097 is behind EFE14 Madrid; Conakry Guinea on 1403 is invariably a strong signal with African music after 2300 hrs.; Funchal Madeira 1529 is sometimes audible before close down at 2300 hrs.

A number of European MW stations broadcast special programmes in English for DXers. Sweden Calling DXers is on 1178 KHz at 2300 hrs. GMT on Tuesdays, Radio Portugal has a DX programme on Mondays on 755 and 1161 at 2300 hrs. and on 1412 at 2315 hrs. Recently, Deutschlandfunk on 1268 has started DX Circle at 1800 hrs. on alternate Wednesdays. This programme is introduced by Alan Thompson of the World DX Club. Radio Andorra 701 KHz now has a nightly programme of pop music and announcements in English starting at midnight GMT. Reports are requested and should go to PO Box 1, Andorra.

The writer is often asked by newcomers how they can find North America on the MWs. At this time of the year, the easiest station to locate is CBA Moncton New Brunswick, an outlet of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on 1070 KHz. Paris II on the same frequency closes down at 2300 hrs. GMT nightly and when the path is open CBA should be audible after the Paris carrier is switched off. If it is not heard by 2330 hrs. then conditions are below average and a further attempt should be made a few days later, conditions do vary. Other stations that have been logged recently between 2300 hrs. and midnight GMT are VOCM on 590 in St. John's, Newfoundland; WOR New York City on 710; WABC also in NYC on 770; WHDH Boston on 850; CJON St. John's Newfoundland on 930; WINS in NYC on 1010; WBAL Baltimore on 1090 and WNEW 1130 in NYC. When conditions are good numerous NA stations can be heard up to 0300 hrs. when interference starts to become CHARLES MOLLOY troublesome.

F.G. SADLER, G3UZ HERE is one item that seems to have escaped discovery, L and I have never seen in print, and that is "How to buy get into shack. the and unbeknown to the wife, new gear". I have been around this country and abroad visiting other "Hams" at various times and during this period, have picked up quite a few hints and tips on this subject, and for what they are worth I will try to pass them on.

First tip is to get the XYL to pay a visit to her mother and as soon as she is out of the way, go out and buy a new bit of gear. As soon as you arrive home place it on the bench with other equipment, if after a time she happens to spot it, do not worry, you can get away with it in nine cases out of ten, by saying: "Haven't you seen that before dear, it has been laying on the bench for years. I know this can work very well, as, just after the war, I got rid of XYL as described above, and straightaway went down to radio dealer and bought a R1155 receiver. I had to carry it about two miles to my home, but I was so pleased about it all, it seemed to me as light as a feather!

Tip No. 2, again you are thinking about a piece of new gear, first thing to do is to get your best friend, who by the way is also a "Ham", to pay you a visit then after he has been there for about half an hour and just as the XYL is bringing a cup of tea

home and dry ! "I reckon this paint is wonderful, don't you? Just feel the surface, it's bone dry !' 1/11/11/10/

> into shack, let him drop the remark that he has a bit of useless gear at home that he intends to throw out, you up and say (while wife listens) as a great favour to him you will take it off his hands for spare parts.

As soon as XYL is out, bring in gear, place on bench, when she arrives home again, take her in shack, show her gear with the remark, "What a good chap that Fred is to be sure, look dear he has even brought it around". One look at it, and she will reply "Another bit of rubbish, expect". Alas it is a sad state of affairs that wives think this way but you've got your new piece of gear!

No. 3 tip and best of all, to my way of thinking, was passed to me by a friend who resides in Eire, and this is how it goes.

When you come home from work, and you are having your meal, get your copy of PRACTICAL



When smuggling a new piece of gear into the shack, make sure the XYL is not lurking round the corner!

WIRELESS out and start to read it. Suddenly you read out to the XYL, an advert., contained therein relating to "So and So quick drying paint". "I must get a tin of that" you say and you do so.

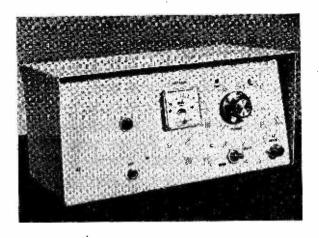
Now you have got your new gear, which you have hidden under cover of bench, so straight to the shack you go, open up the tin of paint, and paint an old cabinet. When this has been done (door and windows have been kept shut whilst doing the job so the smell of the paint cannot get out), put new gear on bench, stick old repainted cabinet under bench, then rush out of shack, to living room where XYL is reading paper and say : "Come and have a look at the job I have just painted." When she gets into the shack the smell of paint is really awful, however, do not let her go back to her newspaper yet. Just say: "I reckon this paint is wonderful, don't you? Just feel that shiny surface dear, it is bone dry." Though she may feel the top of gear, she will not take much notice of it being new as she will want to get away from smell of paint, so once again you have run out as a winner!

If later on, she does happen to see it and asks about it, and where it came from you can always turn around to her and say "Why you little silly billy, that's that bit of old gear I painted up, don't you remember?" Well, Mr. Editor, I have done my best to help other "Hams" in their painful ordeals, and I sincerely trust they have happier times buying their gear.

The TWO-FIFTY FIFTY TRANSMITTER A S CARPENTER G3TYJ

Now that the 2-metre (144-146MHz) amateur band is usable by GPO-licensed G8 (Class B) call-signs additional to Class A licensees, a reasonably potent v.h.f. transmitter design may be of interest to readers. All parts used in the transmitter are readily obtainable and the total building cost, when every item has to be purchased, is in the region of £10.

When operated in the author's preferred mode, viz. A1 (c.w.) emission the transmitter will run at up to 40W input from a 300V d.c. supply rail voltage and at 25W input from 250V d.c.; running the



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transmitter from a h.t. rail voltage lower than 250V is not recommended, except perhaps for preliminary setting-up operations.

Current requirements are 200mA (minimum) plus 3 amps from a 6.3V a.c. source for the heaters and panel warning lamp. A complete power supply unit (PSU) should be provided as an outboard item.

The transmitter keying socket is associated with the penultimate r.f. stage but the final valve is fully protected during "key-up" conditions by fitment of a clamp valve. Provision is also made for type A3 emission (phone) working via an external modulator;

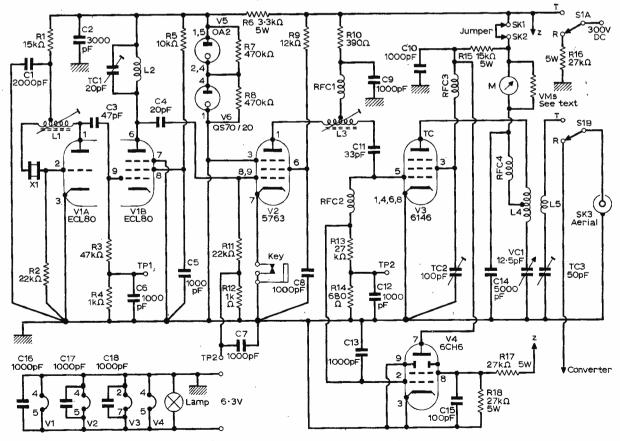


Fig. 1: The complete circuit of the transmitter.

anode and screen modulation requires audio power of some 15W and must be provided by a separate unit. Clamp valve modulation, although not so effective as preferred anode and screen systems, can possibly be used; this does confer simplicity and a suggestion regarding it will be made later.

CIRCUITRY

The complete circuit of the "Two-Fifty" transmitter is given in Fig. 1 where the required final output in the 2-metre band is secured via multiplied oscillations generated initially at a nominal frequency of 8MHz and obtained via a crystal. The crystal oscillator coil L1 in conjunction with the triode section of V1a is tuned to the third crystal harmonic in the 24MHz region; this is injected into the pentode grid circuit of V1b. Output multiplied to 72MHz is available at the pentode anode and is developed across coil L2. The 5763 valve, V2 then doubles the 72MHz input applied to it and signals in the 144MHz band are developed at the pi-tuned anode-grid coil Le. The PA valve, a 6146, then raises the signals to a suitable level for transmission.

Output is taken from a small link coil, L5, wound centrally within series-tuned coil L4. In the PA stage choke RFC3 and trimmer CT2 are neutralising items whilst the pair of sockets SK1-2 fitted in d.c. supply circuit permit modulation to be applied to both anode and screen from an external unit.

The PA anode meter M is useful as a current monitor but for more precise tuning-up an absorption type wavemeter is preferred; meter M in the prototype is a 5mA f.s.d. item shunted to read 0-150mA. The shunt value required is 0.2 ohms approximately for the particular movement used and this is made up by winding some fine enamelled copper wire on to a $\frac{1}{3}$ in. former and checking the panel meter to f.s.d. against an external test meter appropriately driven to 150mA.

PA PROTECTION

The drive voltage present at the "earthy" end of choke RFC2 when the transmitter is operating is in connection with the control grid of clamp valve V4, but biasing it to cut-off; V4 is thus normally inoperative. If the voltage developed across R13-14 by drive disappears at any time however, the clamp valve conducts heavily and a large voltage drop occurs across R15 as extra current is drawn; the 6146 valve screen voltage then falls low and the valve is protected. The clamp valve thus immediately offers itself as a keying safety device which can operate in sympathy with the Morse characters keyed. The valve specified for the clamp operation is a 6CH6 but any small output pentode capable of accommodating a current capacity of 40mA or so is suitable.

Keying the transmitter causes h.t. voltage fluctuations thus it is essential to stabilise the supply to V1; series-connected stabiliser valves V5 and V6 enable this to be done satisfactorily. A single OA2 stabiliser valve can be tried but this does reduce the available h.t. potential to V1 to 150V. A type QS70/25 can be used in place of the QS70/20 specified, provided base differences are noted at the wiring-up stage. Series resistor R6 should be so chosen that current taken by the stabiliser valves does not exceed 20mA under any circumstances.

★ components list

Resistors:						
R1	15kΩ	R12 1kΩ				
R2	22 kΩ	R13 27kΩ				
R3	47kΩ	R14 680Ω				
R4	1kΩ	R15 15kΩ, 5W				
R5	10kΩ	R16 27kΩ, 5W				
R6	3·3kΩ, 5W	VMs See text				
R7	470kΩ	ר דם				
R8	470kΩ	$R18 > 27k\Omega, 5W$				
R9	12kΩ	All ½W, 20% except				
R10		where stated				
R11	22kΩ	where stated				
BHI	22832					
Valves						
V1	ECL80	V4 6CH6				
v2	5763	(or see text)				
v3	6146 Brimar	V5 0A2				
•••	0140 Brillion	V6 QS70/20				
		10 20,0,20				
Capac	itors:					
Ċ1	2,000pF ceramic	C13 1,000pF ceramic				
C2		C14 5.000pF				
°C3		C15 1,000pF ceramic				
	20pF ceramic	C16 1,000pF ceramic				
C5		C17 1,000pF ceramic				
C6	1,000pF ceramic	C18 1,000pF ceramic				
00	(feed through	VC1 12 [·] 5pF variable				
	type)	CT1 20pF air-spaced				
C7	1,000pF ceramic	trimmer				
C8	1,000pF ceramic	CT2 100pF trimmer				
C9	1,000pF ceramic	CT3 50pF air-spaced				
C10						
	1,000pF ceramic	trimmer type C801				
	33pF ceramic	or similar				
C12						
	(feed through					
	type)					

Miscellaneous:

Key socket, self-closing type; Modulation input sockets (2); Coaxial-type aerial socket; DPDT switch; Valveholders (see text), B9A (3), B7G (2), I.O. (1); panel and chassis material; Meter, miniature panel type 0-5mA (see text) or 0-150mA.

SWITCHING

The function switching of the "Two-Fifty" transmitter is simply, if crudely, done by means of S1A-B, one section being used for h.t. purposes and the other for aerial change-over. A more refined method of switching r.f. may be desirable but since the system seems to work to date it is retained. Resistor R16 is fitted as a current "bleeder" during "receive" periods. On/Off switching proper is associated with the external PSU.

LAYOUT AND CONSTRUCTION

Layout of v.h.f. equipment requires care and it is thought that the layout adopted can hardly be improved upon since it affords short, direct wiring. Wiring-up should follow normal v.h.f. practice with a single chassis connecting point being used for each stage; thick connecting wire of solid coresay 18s.w.g.—is required. Ceramic valveholders must be used for V1, V2 and V3; a metal ring should be associated with the V3 valveholder and tags No. 1, 4, 6 and 8 should be soldered directly to it with short lengths of 18s.w.g. copper wire.

COIL WINDING

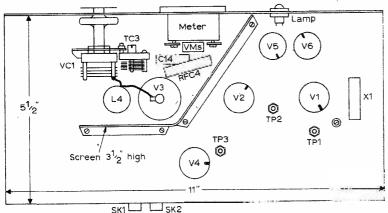
All coils are wound by hand and full details are given below:

Coil No.	Frequency MHz	Turns	Wire s.w.g.	Coil former and spacing etc.
L1	24	25	30 enam	 3/8 in. dust-cored former, turns close wound, tapped 5 turns from X1 end.
L2	72	4	16 t.c.	¹ / ₂ in. air-cored, turns spaced wire thickness.
L3	144	34	16 t.c.	륭in. dust-cored former, turns ' spaced wire thickness, centre tapped.
L4	144	4	16 t.c.	턀in. air-cored, turns spaced wire thickness × 2. Tapped centrally.
L5	<u></u>	1	22 t.c.	§in. air-cored. P.V.C. insulated and inserted centrally in L4.
Note	e:t.c.=tinne	d coppe	erwire. e	enam.=enamelled copper wire.

RF chokes RFC1 and RFC2 can be v.h.f. types or some 100 turns of fine enamelled copper wire may be wound on to a 1M Ω resistor. For choke RFC3 40 turns of 36d.s.c. copper wire are closewound on to a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter air-cored former whilst choke RFC4 consists of 50 turns of 30s.w.g. enamelled copper wire close-wound on to a $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. length of ball-pen barrel approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter.

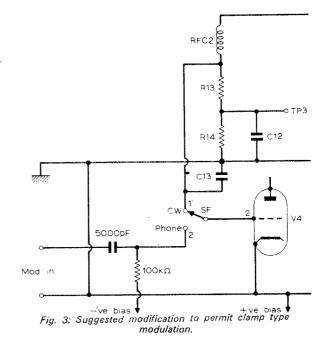
TESTING

Initially the oscillator should be checked with a low h.t. voltage applied and with V2 and the *insulated* jumper to sockets SK1-2 removed. A test meter set to read 0-10mA connected from TP1 to chassis (chassis + ve meter prod) should indicate when the core of L1 is adjusted; the core is first adjusted for maximum meter indication then rotated to slightly disengage the windings and until the meter reading falls by a small amount. Failure to make this adjustment may result in the oscillator going



KI --- 5K2

Fig. 2: The above-chassis layout.



"dead" when switched on next time. An absorption type wavemeter should now show the circuit to be operative at the crystal frequency \times 3, viz. in the 24MHz region. With V2 plugged in, the meter is moved to TP2 and CT1 adjusted for maximum indication after which L2 is checked with a wavemeter for output in the 72MHz region. At TP3 the core of L3 is set for maximum meter indication and a wavemeter check at 144MHz made. If VC1 is now rotated the test meter at TP3 should show little or no change as L4 is tuned through resonance but in practice a sharp downward kick may be observed; when this occurs CT2 needs to be reset and should be adjusted to provide but the smallest change in reading when the test is repeated.

With the function switch S1 set to receive an insulated jumper can be applied to sockets SK1-2, a low-wattage lamp applied to the aerial socket and power applied. The lamp should glow when S1 is moved to "Transmit" and when VC1 is adjusted for lowest panel meter reading—say 100mA.

When the key jack-plug is inserted —or the keying contacts opened—the panel meter reading should fall very low and the lamp should go out. If this does not occur either the clamp valve is not functioning or the 6146 valve has "taken off"; this can be checked by momentarily touching the tapping point of L1 with a screwdriver blade whereupon the lamp should dim and then recover from the disturbance.

The current passing through the stabiliser valves should also be checked; if they remain unlit resistor R6 is too high in value.

----continued on page 781



BY D. BOLLEN

PART 2

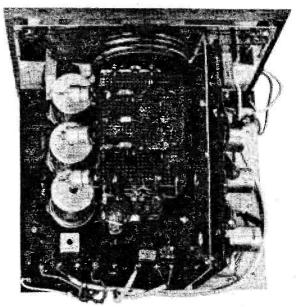
Last month the theory and circuit of the Panadaptor were given. This month's article deals with the construction.

PANORAMIC RECEIVER CONSTRUCTION

USING Fig. 6 as a guide, drill a $5\frac{2}{8}$ in. × 7in. s.r.b.p. panel to take the tuning capacitor mounting screws, B9A coil holders, i.f. transformer tags, VR4, C12, the bias battery, and all turret tags. Also, holes to take the aluminium bracket screws and the two wires going to the diode tuner panel. Insert and rivet all turret tags before mounting the above components on the s.r.b.p. panel. Complete coil holder and i.f. transformer wiring using Fig. 6b as a guide, but ignore for the time being all connections to the converter controls and diode tuner panel.

The next stage is to make up the diode tuner panel on either 0 lin. matrix Veroboard, with 21×30 holes and copper strips running parallel to the longest side, or else plain drilled s.r.b.p. or the same matrix with copper wire or Cir-Kit strips on the underside. Insert and wire up diode tuner components as shown in Fig. 7, and take care to observe the correct diode polarities.

Four short 18s.w.g. copper wire legs will serve to mount the diode tuner panel on top of the



Top view of the Panadaptor-compare this with Fig. 6.

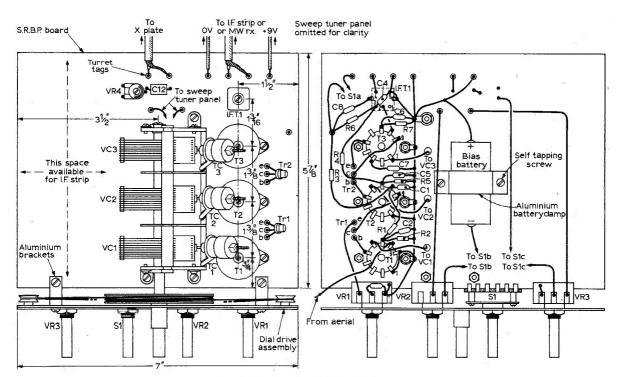
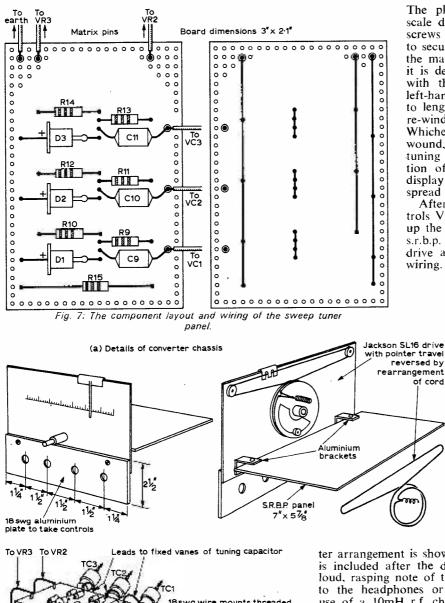


Fig. 6: The layout and wiring diagram.



The plate is bolted to the tuning scale drive assembly with two 4BA screws and nuts, which also serve to secure the aluminium brackets on the main s.r.b.p. converter panel. If it is desired to have a tuning scale with the lowest frequency on the left-hand side, it will be necessary to lengthen the drive cord and then re-wind it as shown in Fig. 8a. Whichever way the drive cord is wound, a clockwise rotation of the tuning knob gives a natural deflection of signals on the oscilloscope display to the right, and the bandspread control VR2 works similarly.

After mounting the converter controls VR1, VR2, VR3, and S1, offer up the tuning capacitor spindle and s.r.b.p. converter panel to the scale drive assembly, then complete final wiring.

COUPLING ARRANGEMENTS

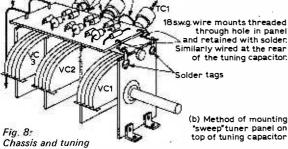
If a transistor medium wave portable receiver is to hand, this can be employed as a mixer-i.f. strip without any modification, by feeding the output from the converter straight to the aerial socket of the receiver, and by taking an output straight from the receiver detector diode to the oscilloscope Y amplifier. The resistor R8 shown in Fig. 4 can be inserted if instability is experienced. A slightly bet-

ter arrangement is shown in Fig 9a, where switching is included after the diode detector to prevent the loud, rasping note of the sweep input being relayed to the headphones or loudspeaker. Note also the use of a 10mH r.f. choke in series with lead from the oscilloscope X terminal, to reduce harmonic interference from the timebase flyback, which can be especially troublesome on Top Band.

of cord

A problem likely to be encountered when the converter output is coupled to a medium wave receiver via the ferrite aerial winding is that, with the ferrite aerial still in circuit, it may be difficult to avoid spurious medium wave signals, especially after dark. Figure 9b gives an alternative method of coupling which removes the ferrite aerial from circuit. Where the ferrite aerial has a separate base winding, the circuit of Fig. 9c can be employed.

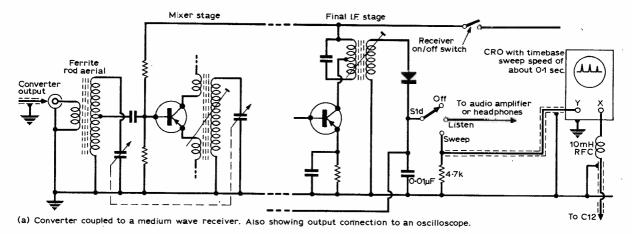
If a transistor receiver is not available for use with the converter, a 1.6MHz i.f. strip will have to be constructed, or purchased as a module. To achieve a performance comparable to that obtained with a mixer stage and 465kHz i.f. strip, the 16MHz i.f. strip should have three stages of amplification. A way of connecting the first i.f. stage to the converter output is shown in Fig. 9d.

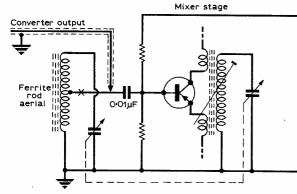


constructional details.

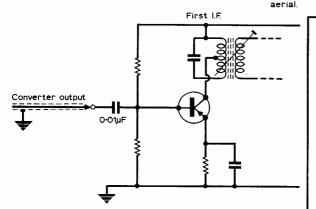
converter tuning capacitor, for details see Fig. 8b. Solder tags (4BA) to accept the ends of the wire legs are screwed to the tuning capacitor frame by means of the tapped holes provided. After offering up the tuner panel, solder the legs to the solder tags.

Make up and drill an 18s.w.g. aluminium plate to take the converter controls, according to Fig. 8a.





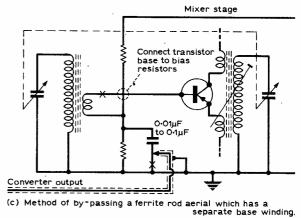
(b) Alternative method of coupling to by pass the ferrite rod



(d) Converter coupled to a 1-6MHz I.F. strip. Fig. 9: Coupling arrangements for the Panadaptor—see text for explanations.

When the medium wave receiver or 1.6MHz i.f. strip employs p-n-p transistors its supply rail will, of course, be at negative potential, which will conflict with the power requirements of the n-p-n transistor converter. However, in the interests of stability as well as simplicity, it is preferable anyway to employ two batteries, one for the converter and one for the receiver or i.f. strip.

Next month's final part will describe the alignment procedure and show the traces given on an oscilloscope by the prototype.



THE TWO-FIFTY TRANSMITTER

continued from page 778

Although in no way comparable to anode-andscreen modulation a clamp valve system can be tried when the simple additional switchery around SF in Fig. 3 is suggested. Negative bias—3 or 4 volts —sufficient to bring the panel meter pointer to about half-scale is needed. Modulation from a simple 2or 3-stage speech amplifier using say 12AX7s and with a crystal microphone should swing the screen potential of the 6146 valve in sympathy with the input signals. Adequate space exists on the transmitter chassis for the inclusion of such a simple modulator. It must be appreciated however that no practical tests with this form of modulation have been made.

So far no mention has been made of the actual crystal frequency except to say that it should be in the 8MHz region; it should of course be selected in relation to the particular area in which the transmitter is to be used. The 144-144-10MHz region is a nationwide c.w. segment but for phone working the 2-metre Band Plan zonings should be observed; it is also necessary to keep clear of various Services guard channels.

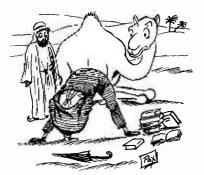
Final loading into the station aerial can follow preferably using as an aid an absorption type wavemeter; the setting assigned to trimmer CT3 can then be found which affords optimum performance.



Talf the fun of reading the glossier technical magazines comes from their correspondence columns. Professor Pundit begs for space to point out that the formula for interactive floating feedback given by J. Sproggs in his otherwise interesting article contained the sort of popular error usually attributed to inattentive schoolboys. The parsating factor, given as 10⁻⁵Zt_{sup}, had been proved 0.0072% too large in detailed experiment by the Capanfish Lab-oratories in 1937, and verified by independent field research.

Well, of course, Sproggs is not the man to take that lying down and he parries smartly to the effect that the learned Professor should have taken more trouble to read right through the offending article, where, in para 4 of Page 391 he would have seen that parsation was indeed compensated by factor K. Mr. S. goes on to say that he is surprised that Prof. P. should have seen fit to use the now discredited Binnacle Assessment. It was to be hoped, for the sake of the professor's pupils, that the bulk of his teaching was not based on such fallacious argument.

Thoroughly incensed, the Prof. fights back, quoting armsful of sources, and Sproggs caps him with reference to recent spin-off researches from the NASA programme. He implies that the Prof.



His head buried in the sand.

782

has his head buried too deeply in the historical sand.

It goes on for a few months, with others joining in to add their weight or villify; with the inevitable red herring letter (which Henry always suspects the Editor to have written himself), until a terse '*This correspondence is now closed*' allows us to concentrate on another argument that has sprung up.

Half the trouble with these 'frank exchanges' is lack of communication. Words are a treacherous form of communication, especially when used to discuss a subject as beset by different standards as electronics. Or, worse, high fidelity audio, where one man's power is another man's fixation.

Just at present there rages an argument about the relative merits of Class A and Class B operation of push-pull transistorised output stages. The protaganists have been polite, so far. Gordon J. King has recently been experimenting with amplifier assessment, and concludes that crossover distortion is such a subjective matter that by the time you have got down to the low levels where you doubt the validity of your instruments, the noise level of the amplifier masks instrumental interpretation anyway. Agreed! There does not seem much point in donning earphones to listen to your hair grow.

Taking a practical example of a 20-watt amplifier (r.m.s., we presume?) with the good noise figure (overall noise relative to full power output) of 78dB . . . You will already have noted that we needed to qualify two of our parameters—that's how it goes with hi-fi lads . . . he works out the maximum distortion measurable by the usual methods, and finds that this gives a ratio to the noise level of 2900:18 (44dB, or 0.65%).

From which we conclude that it is virtually impossible to measure low-level distortion at power around the 10mW mark (for the



Listening to your hair grow.

aforementioned amplifier) as the distortion falls into noise.

Let's come down a bit to where the air is not refined. Down to information retrieval, in fact. That formidable term simply means being able to flip over the pages until you find the data you want. My back numbers of PW are well-thumbed and dog-eared by this process because I had no way of finding the information I wanted except a vague jog of the memory and a patient flip. Now you would think that someone as erudite as Marshall McLuhan would see the value of browsing.

But, No Sir, in Dewline Newsletter he talks about communications and says: 'To go on building nineteenth century spaces for the storing and dissemination of classified information is perfectly natural. It is also fatal.' He goes on to advocate microfilmed books, available to all at the touch of a button, extracts appearing on your TV screen.

If the Dewline extract had appeared in one of our technical glossies. McLuhan would soon have been challenged. What seems obvious to the dogmatist can be torn to pieces by the terriers of technical readership. He has overlooked the basic point about books—that all the information is under one's hand; that browsing can turn up related facts as we subconsciously do our ferreting.

Obvious

Innit?



BROMSGROVE & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB G3VGG

THE club was formed in January 1965 when John Harvey, a keen SWL, decided to put a CQ in the local newspaper calling any radio enthusiasts to a meeting at the Bromsgrove Co-op Hall. Twelve chaps turned up for the first meeting.

Among them was the Late Jack Casey, G8JC. Jack was a great help in helping to form the rules of the club and getting the finances organised. The present chairman Jack Gwynne, G2CLN has held that office right from the first meeting and has played a major part in the development of the club. G2CLN has been a source of inspiration to the members in getting club projects organised and also in helping with RAE lectures.

Other founder members include the present treasurer, John Harvey and J. Dufrane (Hon. Sec.). Since then the club has made great strides, a prominent landmark was the acquisition of a club shack. January 1st 1967 saw every able-bodied member armed with paints, brushes, tools, etc. and in a short time work benches and an "operating table" were fixed up. Now the shack boasts a top band Tx and various Rx sets for members' use. In addition, the club, using its call sign G3VGG takes part in various contests.

NFD is a very popular event and at the present rate of progress we should win the event in 1975! VHF and f.m. in particular is becoming very popular and a club project organised by G2CLN is for a 2m f.e.t. converter. The club has operated portable on 2m on the Clee Mills.

A very popular event is the annual mobile picnic: this is a true picnic and the aim is to cater for the wives and kids as well as the amateurs. This year's picnic on August 31st was held in the grounds of Hartlebury Častle, near Kidderminster, talk-in stations operating on 2m and top band.



A group of members at the finish of the 1967 N.F.D. event

Other outdoor activities include several exhibition stations put on at local fetes and flower shows.

The club's newsletter is edited by Ray Young and his XYL.

Licensed members include Howard, G3NOY: Robin, G3WNT; Hugh, G3VHL; Ian, G3WUG: Ken, G810 and several perspiring RAE candidates.

For SWL members the club runs a logging contest -each month a specified band with points for number of calls logged. A trophy has been presented by G2CLN to be awarded to the winner at the end of the year.

Club meetings are held every second Friday of the month at the Co-op Hall in Bromsgrove, talks and demonstrations with film shows, etc. Visitors are welcomed.

Details from Jack Dufrane, Hon. Sec., 44 Hazelton Road Marlbrook Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.



ISSUES WANTED

ISSUES WARTEDSeptember 1967 issue of Practical Television.—R. H. Taylor, 7 Antrobus Close, Sutton, Surrey. ...the issues of P.W. containing part 2 onwards of the Spectreuphon article by I. J. Kampel (March 1964 on).—E. J. Thornton, Townley Hall, Burnley, Lancashire. ...February 1963 issue of P.W. which contains details of the General Purpose Communication Receiver by R. F. Graham.—W. Butterworth, 50 Kinder Avenue, Hazelhurst, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.February 1966 issue of P.W.—James Beveridge, 18 Braeside, Haugh of Urr, Castle Douglas, Kirkudbrightshire.

...issues of P.W. from May 1966 to February 1967; from November 1967 to January 1968 and the March and April 1968 issues. Dates inclusive.—M. Donald, 116 Moncks Spur Road, Redcliffs, Christchurch &, New Zealand. ...June 1964 issue of P.W. please state price.—45 Victoria Street, Burton-on-Trent.

June 1964 issue of IP.W. please state price.—45 Victoria Street, Burton-on-Trent. Staffs.
 ...Journ of these issues of P.W.: April and May 1966 and September to December 1967. Also would like Tape correspondent interested in SWL and of 15 years of age.—
 Kevin Piper, 118 Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex.
 ...sell or lend March and April 1967 issues of Practical Television.—R. A. Jackson, 228 Woodside View, Honington, Bury St. Edmonds, Suffolk.
 ...February 1968 issue of Practical Television.—Michael Camilleri, 18 St. Anthony Street, Valletta. Milata.
 ...February 1966 issue of Practical Television containing the article Scope from an old TV Chassis.—J. P. Thurgood, Moorfield, North Cowion, Northallerton, Yorks
 ...the Practical Wireless magazine dated May 1963 containing the Double Con version Communications Receiver.—Keith Portman, 23 Fell Wilson Street, Warsop Mansfield, Notts.
 ...August and September 1961 issues of P.W.—John Watson, 20 Watson Road,

August and September 1961 issues of P.W.-John Watson, 20 Watson Road, Sheffield, 10.

Sheffield, 10.
...November and December 1964 issues of P.W. describing the 10-5 Receiver.—
P. Hudson. 338 Bennett Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4JD.
...January 1967 issue of P.W. containing details of the "Explorer".—S. Kendall,
...Practical Wireless March and April 1965 containing mods to the 19 set.—A. M.
Laird, The Tower, Patra Road, Kirkmichael, Ayrshire.
...copies of P.W. from October 1953 to July 1954 containing the P.W. Electronic
Organ.—A. D. Varley, "Belfairs", 292 Liverpool Road, Penwortham, Lancs, PRI OLY.
1. Willesden Road, Hughesdale 3166, Victoria, Australia.



A series of simple transistor projects, each using less than twenty components and costing less than twenty shillings to build

T was not many years ago that virtually all transistor amplifiers consisted of a driver transistor feeding its output into a phase-splitting transformer which powered a couple of output transistors which in turn fed their output to an output transformer. Things have changed, however; firstly with the introduction of cheap pairs of complementary transistors and secondly the rapid rise in the price of transformers against the general trend of price reductions in the electronic component field.

It is now possible to build a really simple transformerless amplifier giving an output of between 750mW and 1W feeding into a 3Ω speaker which costs well under £1. The quality is *not* high fidelity but it does compare favourably with the better quality transistor radios. The supply voltage shown, 9V, is about the lowest that this type of amplifier will operate from. However, a greater output can easily be achieved merely by increasing the supply to a maximum of 20V—no circuit modifications are necessary.

The Circuit

Tr1 acts as a high gain amplifier feeding a complementary pair; one of the output transistors amplifies the positive going signal which appears at the collector of Tr1, while the other takes care of the negative going signal.

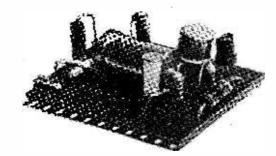
The circuit is a very common type but most recommend the use of 15Ω or even higher impedance speakers. 3Ω speakers are, however, far more common and are generally cheaper and the component values have been chosen to ensure that this impedance speaker can operate with the circuit. If higher impedance speakers are already available they may, of course, be used, but this will be at the expense of volume.

Considerable heat is dissipated from the output transistors—especially when using a supply in excess of 9V—and adequate heat sinks are imperative. The larger types of battery should be used as the current drawn at full output can be as much as 150mA—far too much for the PP3, etc.

The Complementary Pair

Several complementary pairs of transistors were tried and all worked perfectly including an unmarked pair retailing at 3s. 6d. including postage and packing from Bi-Pre-Pak Ltd. These transistors are germanium types and are matched, but the gain of one pair is not necessarily the same as another; three pairs were built into circuits, one low gain, one high gain and the other chosen at random—all worked well.

No. 10 ONE WATT AMPLIFIER



The prototype is constructed on a small piece of Veroboard but almost any method of construction should be satisfactory.

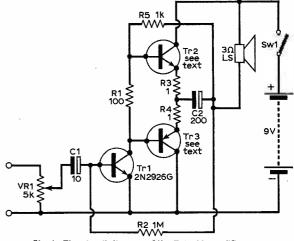


Fig. 1 : The circuit diagram of the Take 20 amplifier.

★ 🛛 components list

R 1 100Ω	10%, 	• •	••		3d.
R2 1MΩ	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				6d.
R3, R4 1Ω	"				3d.
R5 1kΩ	"			••	
C1 10µF 25V		••	••		2d.
C2 200µF 25V	`	••	••	1s.	3d.
VR1 5kΩ log.		••			0d.
Tr1 2N2926G		••	P= 0	2s.	6d.
Tr2, Tr3 pair†			••	2s.	6d.
3 Ω Loudspeake	er*	••	••	3s.	0d.
† Bi-Pre-Pak Li	td.			14s.	
	peaker, Padg ents for addro ces are only	esses	• .	Store,	see

Construction and layout are absolutely straightforward and so no layout diagram is shown. The prototypes, one of which is shown in the photograph, were built on Veroboard, but there is no reason why pin board or even tag board should not be used.



READERS' letters which have been received in connection with the series of "Clubman" receiver articles, (PRACTICAL WIRELESS, January to July 1968), indicate that an "S" meter would be a desirable addition to the receiver. A simple circuit has therefore been developed and tested in the prototype, and will be described here. It is suitable for use in the Mk II version onwards, and could pos-

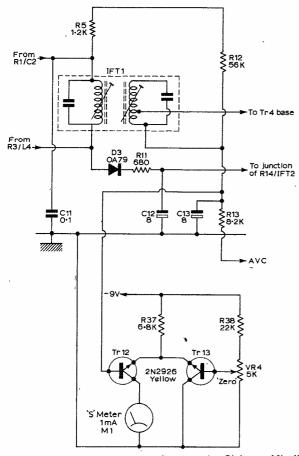


Fig. 44: 'S' meter circuitry as fitted to the Clubman Mk. II receiver.

sibly be used in other transistor receivers having similar i.f. circuits.

The main requirements of an "S" meter circuit are that it should give a sensible indication of signal strength and, for transistorised equipment, it should have a low current consumption.

Circuit Description

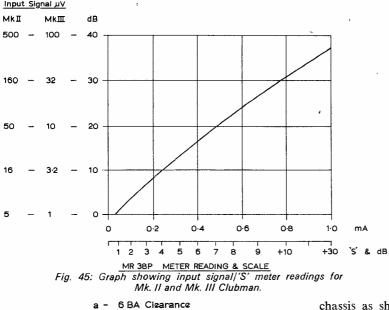
The "S" meter circuit (Fig. 44) operates from the a.g.c. line of the receiver. It consists of two silicon transistors Tr12 and Tr13 connected as a "long-tailed pair". The base of Tr12 is connected to the receiver a.g.c. line on the i.f. panel at D5-9, the junction of R12, R13, C13 etc. (see P.W. March 1968, Page 831, Fig. 23) and the base of Tr13 is connected to the slider of the "zero" control VR4. A current is fed to both emitters via R37 and the "S" meter itself is in the collector circuit of Tr12.

With no input signal, the base of Tr12 is at approximately -0.9 volts, with respect to chassis. VR4 is adjusted so that Tr13 is conducting all the current supplied by R37 and no current is passing through Tr12 to the meter. In the presence of any signal, a positive voltage is developed at the detector diode causing the base of Tr12 to become less negative. This results in Tr12 conducting and allowing the current supplied by R37 to flow through the collector of Tr12 to the meter. The increase of meter current with increase of input signal is approximately logarithmic, which will give a linear scale for the meter when this is calibrated in decibels. The particular meter used is a MR38P "S" meter which is scaled in "S" units and in dB above S9.

It is usual to make each "S" unit equal to a 4dB increase in signal. Unfortunately the "S" units and dB markings on the scale are not linear and do not agree exactly with the changes of input signal. However, the error is sufficiently small over the major portion of the scale to be neglected for most practical purposes. The meter indication has been found to agree well with "S" reports based on personal estimation of the received signal.

The graph in Fig. 45 shows the relationship between input signal and "S" meter reading for the Clubman II and Clubman III with its r.f. stage.

The position and mounting of the meter depends on personal requirements. It is obviously easier to



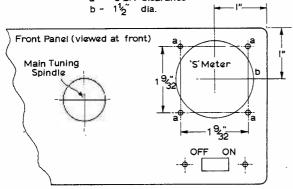


Fig. 46: Front panel drilling for the 'S' meter.

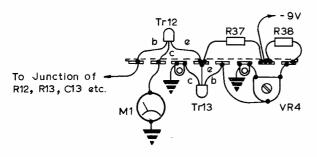


Fig. 47: Component layout and wiring for the 'S' meter circuitry.

mount the meter externally if the receiver is already built. The meter could be housed, for example, in a small metal or plastic box. Alternatively, it is possible to fit the meter at the right-hand side of the front panel of the Clubman II, as shown in Fig. 46. With the meter in this position, the clearance between the meter case and the oscillator coil L4, 5 and 6 is very small and it is necessary to remove the coil screening can. If the receiver is about to be constructed, the oscillator coil holder could be positioned $\frac{3}{4}$ in. further back to give the necessary clearance. In the Clubman III etc., the r.f. tuning control is in the position required by the meter. The more experienced constructor will find it still possible to fit the meter to the front panel but it is necessary to dispose of the separate r.f. tuning control. This may be done by replacing the two-gang tuning capacitor VC1, VC2 and the single r.f. tuning capacitor VC4 with a three-gang unit, e.g. Wingrove & Rogers, C73-23. The capacitance law of this unit is different to the Jackson one used originally and a new dial will be required. The use of a three-gang tuning capacitor in the Clubman V, with the d/f loop aerial, is not recommended due to difficulties in getting the loop aerial to track the main tuning circuits. The "S" meter circuit may be built on a small tagstrip under the

chassis as shown in Fig. 47, or on Veroboard and mounted in some convenient position.

🖌 components list

Resisto	rs:
R37	6·8kΩ, ½ watt, 10% carbon
R38	$22k\Omega$, $\frac{1}{2}$ watt, 10% carbon.
VR4	
Semico	nductors:
Tr12	2N2926
Tr13	2N2926
Meter:	, · · ·
M1	MR38P "S" Meter (1mA)

'S' Meter Adjustment

With no signal input to the receiver, the "S" meter zero control VR4 should be adjusted so that the pointer indicates just off the zero end of the scale, about 50 microamps (0.05 milliamps). This ensures that the meter indicates even the weakest of signals and does not have a "dead" zone at zero.

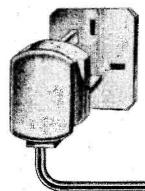
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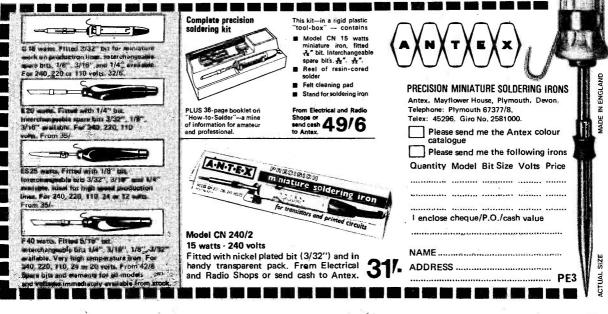




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quality 9 x 5½ x 3½in. deep

veneered in natural teak with

with 3 ohm speaker unit mounted on $\frac{1}{2}$ in. baffle. Exceptional value on ½ in. baffle. Exception 37/6d. P. & P. 3/9d. each.

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CAXTON COLUMN. This is a column

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sion speaker 7+ x 6+ x 4 in

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over, 16/6, P. & P. 1/-. EAGLE Crossover units 3 or 16 ohms, 16/-, P. & P. 1/-. BAGLE Crossover units 3 or 16 ohms, 16/-, P. & P. 1/-. Bakers 12in., 25 watt 15 ohm £6.6.0. P. & P. 3/6. CANCELS PREVIOUS LIST





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ADASTRA DOUBLE 5 stereo solid state amplifier housed in handsome cabinet veneered in natural teak. Size 11± x 6x 5±in. 10 Transistors --power output 5 watts peak per channel. 220-240v AC. Output impedance 12 to 15 ohms (our Cowdrey speaker system eminently suitable). Smart blue escutcheon. £14.14.0. P. & P. 10/6.

SCOTT. This elegant tapered cabinet 10 ± x 16 x 5‡in. deep is attractively finished in black cloth with striped grey Vynair front. Suitable for table or for wall mounting. Fitted with 13½ x 8 in. speaker unit and volume control. 3 or 15 ohms impedenceplease state impedence required. £4.5.0. P. & P. 7/6d each. Fitted with E.M.I. 13 x 8 in. speaker unit and twin tweekers. 15 ohms impedence, capacity 10 watts. 30/- extra.

SPEAKERS: Elac Heavy duty Ceramic Magnets 11,000 line, 10in, round, 1 Sofin, 3 ohm or 15 ohm, 48/6. P. & P. 3/6. Sin. round 15 or 3 ohm, 42/6. P. & P. 3/6. E.M.I. 134 × 8in. 3 ohm, 45/-, 15 ohm 48/6. P. & P. 1/6. E.M.I. 3 in. tweeter 17/6. P. & P. 1/6. E.M.I. 134 × 8in. fitted two 24 in. tweeters. 15 ohm 17/6. P. & P. 4/6. E.M.I. 134 × 8 in.

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8/6, Sin., 10/6, P. & P. 1/-. CARTRIDGES, Stereo: Sonotone 9TA H/C Diamond, 47/6, 9TA Sapphire, 37/6, STA Sapphire, 30/-. Ronette S105 Medium Output, 28/6. S106 Hibh Out-put, 28/6. DC284 Stereo Compatible, 22/6, Acos GP93/1 Sapphire, 37/6. GP94/1 Sapphire, 39/6. GP81 Diamond, 42/-. GP91 Stereo Compatible (High, Medium or Low Output), 25/-. TA800 converts Philips AG3301. AG3306 to B.S.R. SX1H. Plus-in head complete with cartridge, 50/-. TA700 equivalent to B.S.R. SX1M, 35/-. Japanese equiva-lent to B.S.R. TCS8, 35/-. P. & P. 1/6. Mono. Acog GP67/2 will replace Collaro

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IONTH **NEWS FOR** DX LISTENERS

Y the time that you read this a tragic event may have occurred in the world of Shortwave radio. I am referring to the cessation of foreign language broadcasts from the Voice of Denmark. Originally scheduled for the 1st. April 1970, the date of closure was brought forward to the 1st. January 1970.

The decision was taken by the Danish Radio Committee and two reasons were given: (1) very few people listen to the Voice of Denmark (although 3,000 letters were received in the last half year); (2) The Danish Radio and Television Service has to cut its budget (although the Shortwave department costs only 345,000 D. Kr. annually, which is a fraction of the cost of one of the expensive TV productions).

If you have any loggings of Radio Denmark which you have not used for reception reports I suggest that you use them now and include a plea to keep the station open. Rodney Baggaley wrote to me from Daventry suggesting that protests should also be sent to the Director-General of Danmarks Radio at the following address:-Mr. Hans Sølvhøj, The Director-General, Danmarks Radio, Radio House, Copenhagen, Denmark.

In the past several stations have made similar decisions only to have them reversed by the large number of protests from shortwave enthusiasts from all over the world. Please act as soon as possible and we may yet be able to save this excellent station from extinction.

Worldwide QSL Card Poll

The results of this poll, which was conducted by the Cellardyke Short Wave Radio Group to find the shortwave station which has issued the best QSL card since January 1967, arrived just too late for inclusion in the last issue. Votes were received for nearly fifty stations and the top five with the number of votes in parentheses were:-

- 1) Radio Portugal (62)
- 2) Radio Australia (48) (47)
- 3) = Radio RSA
- 3)=Radio Nederland (47)
- 5) Radio Canada (46)

Congratulations to Radio Portugal who emerged as clear winners.

The poll was also used to determine what details were thought to contribute to an ideal OSL card. The results indicated that date, time and frequency were regarded as essentials. The next most popular detail was transmitter power followed by transmitter location, reporter's name, genuine signature on the QSL, etc.

THE BROADCAST BANDS Malcolm Connah

Frequencies in kH7

Times

Africa

Nigeria: The Voice of Nigeria in Lagos has dropped 11770 for the English broadcast to Europe and has now been noted on 7275, 15365 and 21455 from 0600 to 0730.

Seychelles: F.E.B.A. test transmissions are scheduled for 0030-0330 on 15165; 1300-1630 on 17755 and 1700-2000 on 21635 using a power of 3 kW. Reports should be sent to F.E.B.C., Box 234, Victoria, Seychelles or to F.E.B.A., Sky Waves, St. Paul's Road, Woking, Surrey. Taped reports should preferably be sent to the British address.

Asia

Cyprus: As reported last month the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation continues to transmit with a power of 30 kW on 15260 and 17875. From the 1st. November they introduced the new frequency of 11910. The station issues a very good multicoloured OSL card.

Syria: Radio Damascus has returned to the frequency of 15165 for its broadcasts in German at 1830. French at 1900 and English at 2030.

Europe

Greece: Radio Athens has news in French, German and English at 0715-0730, 1115-1130, 1315-1330 and 1830-1845 on 9605 and 11720; 1730-1745 and 1945-2000 on 15345 and 17745; 2200-2215 and 2300-2315 on 11720 and 15345.

South America

Brazil: Radio Piratininga, Sao Paulo, has a religious programme in English, Monday-Friday, at 2100-2115 called "Lesson for Life." The frequencies are announced as 6025 and 11745.

Ecuador: The Voice of the Andes, HCJB, is testing on 21460 to Europe from 1800 to 2145.

El Salvador: El Salvador has announced that it is going to have an international service. The broadcast will be from 0300 on 9555 and the languages used will be Spanish, French and English.

Mexico: A new station is Radio Mexico, XERMX, Apt. 20100, Mexico City 20. The station has been heard testing from 2350 to 0300 on 11720 with announcements in English, French, German and Spanish.

THE AMATEUR BANDS David Gibson, G3JDG

G OOD news this month for the ten metre fans. The band has been providing some very good openings and quite a large number of eager hearing utensils have been frantically logging most continents. Signal levels have varied and it must be admitted that some of the signs from further afield have been down in the 5 and 4 range.

One item of interest for those who like tuning in to something a bit different. Why not tune down between 28 and 27MHz and eavesdrop on the American citizens band? Some of these stations have to be heard to be believed. Seriously though, the citizens band does give an excellent indication of just how much the band is open, particularly towards W land.

As might be expected, the fifteen metre band opened up with ten and some very good openings here too. Down another notch on twenty things have been quite good but surprisingly enough it is ten metres which has provided the majority of DX signals. Twenty has been open at times but mostly to S. America with good sigs from PY and surrounding districts. Africa, too, has done quite well on twenty from the s.w.l. in Britain's point of view.

Forty and eighty have had their moments but mostly Europeans (EUs) logged at this QTH. One or two W stations made it through the QRM on forty and in the W segment of eighty.

Topband hasn't fared too well. Lots and lots of QRM/QRN and the best for the month was only GW and GM. No W stations were logged on c.w. Anyone hear any W-type tweets down the l.f. end?

Logland

On to the field where lovely logs grow. This one was cared for by John Moore (Leicester) and is an all-band edition. Envious readers should (like me) gnash CQ on their teeth while reading—160: GM3ONS/A, GM3UYF, GM3WDF GW3RBM.

80: CTIGD, JW1CI (Bear Is.), KV4FZ, OY1X, UA9KAX, VE11E, VP2VP, W1EBC.

40: EA6BN, PJØDX, WA2ZAA.

20: CT2AK, DU1BEN, ET3ZU, FG7TI/P/FS7, FG7XT, HK3RQ, HK4AXZ, HZ1AB, JA8EL, JW1CI, KP4AST, KR6NR, KV4FZ, KZ5DA, LU8DF, OD5BZ, PJØDX, PY1NBF, TA2SC, TG9UZ, TF2WLN, VE1SH, VE2DHF/YV1, VE5US, VP2VI (Tortola), VP7DL, VP8KD, VS6DR, YV1EJ, ZS5XA, 4X4UF, 5A1TL, 5H3LV, 8P6AZ, 9H1BL, 9Y4AA.

15: CR7IZ, DU1FH, F6ABP/FC, JA3LVT, JA8QN, KH6SP, KL7MF, OD5FA, PJØDX, PZ1CU, TG9F, UA9FU, VE2AFC, VE3BMB, VE5XC, VE7TL, VP2VP, VK6US, W7RM, ZS6AR, 4M1A (Venezuela ?), 4X4KT, 9Q5GV, 9Y4AA.

10: CN8DŴ, CN8HD, CR6LV, CT2AS, CX7BF, EP2BQ, ET3USA, HC1RF, HK4DF, K6NA, KV4AD, KZ5AT, LU2QT, MP4BBA, OA1BT, OA4PF, OD5BZ, PJ1AA, PJØDX, PY1NBF, PZ1DB, UAØBP, VE1ATC, VE2AYW, VE3BIZ, VO2AP, VP2VI, VS6AL, VS6DR, VUØDK, W6ESI, XW8CR, ZS5DC, 4Z4HF, 5Z4ALS, 9H1BP. All this bunch on s.s.b. picked up with the aid of a 60ft. end fed and a CR100/2.

A. Woodland (Somerset), confesses to usually listening to non-amateur type stations (some people have no shame) but admits to weakening while ill. His receiver is a Hammarlund SP600JX (suddenly I'm green) and the aerial a V-beam 40ft. up plus a 72ft. vertical "condensed" into 41ft. (Good Gawd!) Stations logged on ten metres include—CE3OE, CR6CA, EP2BQ, GC4LI, HK4DF, JA1AEA, JA2CLI, JA4FRB, JA6YCU, JA7BCR, JA8PMK, KA9MF, KH6SP, KR6VX, KV4FZ, KZ5CD, K6CM, K6KGU, K7AB, LU7FAG, LU8DKA, LX1BW, MP4BL, OA1OX, OA4PF, OD5EP, PJØDX, VE6AUT, VE6ADX, VE7AGZ, VE8YM, VK6US, VP2GBL, VP9BU, VP9EP, W6ABN, W6EJJ, WA6EPQ, W7AC, W7GUX, XE1WS, XW8CS, YN1HS, YV6GL, ZE1CY, ZE1JU, 6Y5DW, 8P6CX, 9Y4AA. All these on s.s.b.

A. Crooks (Leicester), recently had his RA1 serviced and peaked up. It showed its appreciation by teaming up with a PR30 and 45ft. end fed to hook these on 15 s.s.b.—CX1JM, JW1CI, KØVBX, K5QHS, JA2KKZ, TF3EA, UD6BD, VE6XF, VE7HN, VP8KO, (S. Orkneys), W6ZQI, W7GVA, WF2LIB, ZS5JY, 9I5EJ (Zambia).

B. Hughes (Worcester), JR5OOSE, dipole, had a quick squint at 20 and came up with—CR7DS, CR6IK, CR4BC, JX8IL, LAØAD, SVØWN, TG9EP, TR8MC, VUØGE, VK9KY, (Cocos Keeling), VK2BKM/VK2 (Lord Howe Is.), VP2GLE, VR1L, ZS2MI, 6W8BD, 9V1PA, 9X5AA.

All these on s.s.b. except ZS2MI on Marion Island who was a.m., just shows what you can receive without a b.f.o.

A. Lister (London), CR7OA, home brew preselector and 150ft. end feed informs that ZL's are loitering on 3.8MHz from 0600-0700. Fifteen with this set up raised—AP2AGC, CT1GD, EA6BN, IS1LIO, KP4KBS, KV4FZ, LG5LG, LX1JES, PY1MT, TF2WKO, VE3ZO, VO2DAL, VQ8CR, dozens of W's, ZS6QK, 4X4LN, 5A3JR, 9Q5FM, 9Q5AE. On eighty, Adrian's best were five ZL's and he managed VK2WX on ten metres.

R. Hall (Belfast) modified AR88D, 50ft. end fed; listens at weekends. The last session on twenty s.s.b. produced—AP5HQ, CR6IK, CT1WB, FP8AP, HK3RQ, HR1KAS, JA9AG, KC4CL, KZ5NG, OZ7TF, PJ1AA, TF2WKI, VE3CBG, VK6RU, VP7DL, 3Z3AMZ, 4X4OS, 6Y5SR, 8R1UC, 9H1M, 9K2CF, 9N1MM, 9Y4UV to mention just a few.

NEWS of contests-

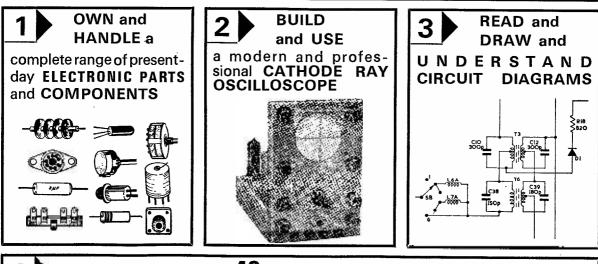
According to my diary, contest lovers will be out of luck for the cold days in January. I can find only two with February not faring very much better.

January 10-11th., AFS contest; 31-Feb. 1st., French c.w. contest.

Logs for the Amateur Bands, with stations in alphabetical order, must arrive before the 18th. of each month. Logs only to: 5 Edward Close, St. Albans, Herts.



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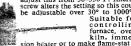
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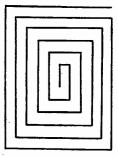
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PART NINE



S INGLE semiconductor devices can be produced easily nowadays. They are rugged, stable and efficient. An early thought was why not put several devices on to one chip so that even more space saving could be achieved, not to mention the other advantages of this method. The advent of planar technology, where devices are produced by diffusion from one side of the chip only, brought this idea to economic feasibility in the form of integrated circuits.

SEMICONDUC[.]

The Planar Process

by M.F.DOCKER, M.Sc.

BASIC

The techniques used to produce a planar epitaxial transistor and the diode counterpart are the same as those used to produce integrated circuits and it is convenient to discuss them together at this point. As was explained some time ago an epitaxial layer is one which has been produced on the surface of a silicon chip in such a way that its crystal structure is the same as that of the underlying layer or substrate. It is possible to produce an epitaxial layer of intrinsic p- or n-type material depending on the requirements.

An essential part of the process of producing devices by this method is that of masking the areas which are not to be affected by the various diffusion processes that are to take place. The method most commonly used is that of silicon dioxide masking. After a layer of epitaxial silicon has been grown on the surface of the crystal a layer of silicon dioxide (SiO₂) is produced over this either by an electrolytic oxidation (anodising) or by chemical deposition of silicon dioxide by oxidation of an organic silicon compound (tetraethyl orthosilicate). The uniform layer of silicon dioxide can then be etched with hydrofluoric acid to expose sites for later diffusion processing to take place. In order to locate the regions to be diffused, photolithographic techniques are used. A layer of photoresist is painted on to the slice, a suitable mask is used to protect the required pattern, and unexposed photoresist is removed to leave a mask which is resistant to hydrofluoric acid. Following this it is possible to etch the exposed regions to reveal the epitaxial layer into which dopent atoms can be diffused to produce the devices.

When producing a single silicon planar epitaxial diode it is only necessary to expose one region, although generally several hundred diodes are produced on a single wafer. If an n-type epitaxial layer has been grown then a diffusion of p-type impurity into the exposed region will produce a graded junction diode structure as seen in Fig. I, where the various stages in the production of a single diode are shown in detail. In order to provide an ohmic contact to the n-type region it is necessary to go through the processes of photolithography and etching once more in order to allow a heavy diffusion of n^+ -type dopent to provide a cathode contact. Finally, metallising is carried out to provide contact to the n^+ - and p-type regions, and leads are attached to these regions after the slices have been cut to separate the individual diodes. The current and voltage ratings of the devices depend as always on the geometry of the arrangement and on the doping levels used. A compromise between the speed, capacity and maximum rating of the devices has to be made in order to suit the individual requirements.

Advantages of the epitaxial planar process described are numerous. The devices are produced by diffusion from one side of the chip only, simplifying manufacturing techniques; the epitaxial layer has reproducible properties which are uniform across the surface of the wafer, and it is possible to produce high resistivity material in this way. Of course, not only diodes are produced in this manner; resistors, capacitors, transistors and field effect transistors can all be produced by the planar process.

Isolation in I.C.s

Integrated circuits usually include several of the different devices on the same chip. The problem which now arises is that of isolation of one device from another to avoid unwanted circuit interconnections. Two processes are commonly used to achieve this. First, the use of two back-to-back diodes can be conveniently obtained in integrated circuit form. Both diodes are arranged to be reverse

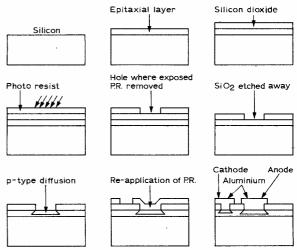


Fig. 1 : Planar technology : the stages involved in the manufacture of an epitaxial planar diode.

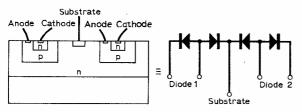


Fig. 2: Integrated circuit isolation achieved by means of back-to-back diodes.

biased all the time the circuit is in use. This reduces the coupling between the devices to that across a reverse biased diode, namely, several tens of megohms with a parallel capacitance of a few picofarads. Fig. 2 shows two diode structures in an integrated circuit together with this isolation arrangement. The diodes in this case are produced by double diffusion. In order to provide isolation with this arrangement the substrate has to be held more positive than any other point in the integrated circuit, and, of course, with a p-type substrate the substrate has to be made negative.

The second method is to produce isolated pockets of epitaxial material inside regions of polycrystalline material surrounded by thin layers of silicon dioxide. The method of achieving this is somewhat involved, but the important consideration is that the lifetime of the charge carriers in such polycrystalline material is very short. Hence the conductivity is very low so that good isolation is achieved. This method is not used so extensively in manufacturing because of the extra number of steps required in the process. Back-to-back diode isolation provides sufficient immunity to interference for the majority of applications.

Devices can be made in a similar way, not using an epitaxial layer but simply by carrying out diffusion into the surface of the substrate. These devices are called planar devices, sometimes abbreviated to just planar. They are also passivated with silicon dioxide in a similar way to that in which the planar epitaxial devices are treated, as described below.

Integrated Circuit Components

Capacitors are required in many circuits, but unfortunately they are difficult to fabricate in integrated circuit form. It is relatively easy to produce small value capacitors, as described in a previous article, using the capacitance of a reverse biased diode. In this way capacitors of up to 0.001 microfarad can be made. Larger values have to be obtained in other ways, either by use of external capacitors or by using electronic methods of multiplying the diode capacitance.

Another method of producing capacitors is by utilising the capacitance across the silicon dioxide layer. During the diffusion processes involved in making the integrated circuit a layer of high conductivity silicon is produced where the capacitor is required. Subsequently a layer of silicon dioxide is grown over this and finally a layer of metal is put on top to produce the second electrode. An advantage of this structure is that the capacitor produced is non-polar, that is it can be used with voltages applied in either direction.

The other passive element which can be fabricated using the diffusion process is the resistor. Since

very thin sheets of high resistivity epitaxial material are available it is possible to produce resistors simply by placing two contacts on to a suitably shaped region of the epitaxial layer. There are two ways a given resistor can be made. First, a long wide resistor can be used; secondly, a short thin resistor may be used. The choice depends on several factors including the accuracy required and the power which the resistor will have to dissipate. The important factor determining the resistance is the aspect ratio of the resistor, that is, of course, the ratio of the length to the width of the resistor. It is possible to produce resistors with values up to 20,000 ohms, but it is very difficult to make the value of the resistor exactly equal to the circuit requirements. To overcome this difficulty the circuit of an integrated unit is designed so that its operation depends not so much on the absolute value of each resistor but on their relative values. Thus, in bias chains a potential divider is used rather than a single series resistor. This is because the relative values are determined by the mask shape whereas the absolute values depend strongly on the characteristics of the epitaxial layer. It is practical to produce resistor values accurate to within 10%, but ratios can be obtained with an accuracy better than 2%.

It is not practical to use or produce inductors using integration techniques. Consequently if it is essential to use these components they have to be provided externally to the circuit. However, using active filter techniques it is possible to dispense with the inductor in many circuit arrangements. In this way it is possible to produce filter circuits using only resistors and capacitors and yet attain very high Q values.

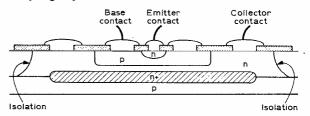
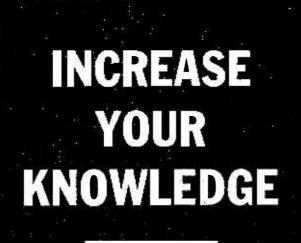
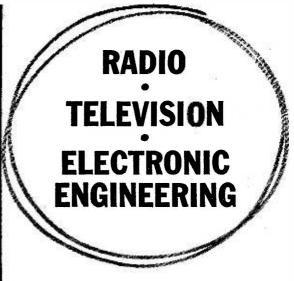


Fig. 3: Construction of an integrated circuit planar epitaxial transistor.

Bipolar transistors are produced in integrated circuits by multiple diffusion techniques. For instance, an n-p-n silicon epitaxial transistor, as shown in Fig. 3, could be produced in an integrated circuit by the following processes common to all diffusion device production. A layer of epitaxial n-type silicon is grown over a clean p-type silicon wafer. This epitaxial layer later becomes the collector of the transistor and because of this it has a high resistivity or low impurity concentration. After suitable oxide masking, photolithography and etching, a p-type diffusion is carried out to produce the base region and also in integrated circuits to produce the isolation region previously described. During the diffusion an oxide layer is regrown over the exposed region. Subsequently this is reetched in the position of the emitter and an n-type diffusion is carried out to produce a low resistivity emitter with the resultant high injection efficiency. Finally a layer of silicon dioxide is grown over the device completely in order to passivate it against atmospheric contamination, and small areas are





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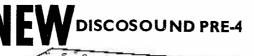
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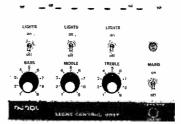
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One point not yet mentioned is the presence of the n^+ region in the collector layer. This is provided to give a uniform field across the collector to base junction, effectively lowering the collector output impedance.

Logic and Linear I.C.s

It should now be apparent that most semiconductor devices can be produced in integrated circuit form and thus circuits of high complexity can be produced on a single chip of silicon. The procedures involved in producing optimisation of the manufacturing techniques for a given circuit are very involved, but in most cases it is possible to arrange that an integrated circuit will perform the desired function as well as its discrete component counterpart.

There are basically two types of integrated circuit available and these can conveniently be classified as "logic" and "linear" circuits. The difference between the two classes is that the logic circuits are used in applications where they are required to give yes/no types of output, whereas linear circuits are expected to give an output which has some continuous relationship with the input signal. In this context linear is used somewhat inappropriately as it in fact covers circuits with feedback which results in their output varying with the input signal but in a far from linear manner.

Types of Logic Circuit

The logic circuits are of very varied type. The first solid state logic circuits made were combinations of resistors and diodes and they performed numerous gating functions. Fig. 4 shows an "and" gate using these elements. If A and B are at the +5V level then C will also be at the +5V level, otherwise C will be at the zero level. Notice that if A and B are open circuit C assumes the high state.

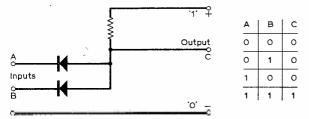


Fig. 4: Simple diode-resistor logical AND gate with corresponding truth table.

Following on from this start there have evolved Resistor Transistor Logic (RTL), Diode Transistor Logic (DTL), Transistor Transistor Logic (TTL), Emitter Coupled Logic (ECL), Emitter Emitter Coupled Logic (E²CL) and MOST logic circuits. Each of these types has its own advantages as seen in the following examples. RTL has a medium speed of operation which means that when a logical switch is made to the input the output follows this change within about 20 nanosec and the circuit also has a fairly low power consumption, each gate taking about 10mW. DTL is somewhat faster than RTL, especially when the nonsaturating type of logic is used so that all the transistors are in the active state rather than being either fully on or off. TTL

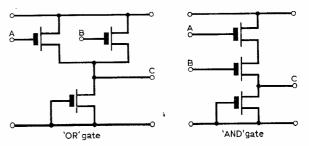


Fig. 5: MOST logic gates.

has a very long propagation delay. Emitter coupled logic has a very short propagation delay but has a large dissipation per gate. E^2CL is mainly used in the central processors of computers: it has an even shorter delay, typically one or two nanoseconds.

The final arrangement considered here is the MOST logic circuit which consists of arrays of MOS transistors. A MOST logical "and" and "or" gate are shown in Fig. 5. The advantage of this circuit type is that it is relatively cheap to make in highly complex arrangements as no isolation is required between the elements. They are slow but happily consume very little power.

Thus, there is a trade off between the speed of operation of the logical element and the power dissipation per gate. This is an important criterion for the circuit designer and the ideal system would use a combination of the different types to achieve maximum efficiency.

The final article in this series will describe the different linear circuits which are available and also the principles underlying thick and thin film circuit manufacture.

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LETTERS... The Editor does not necessarily endorse the views expressed by correspondents

Air wave wasters

Recently I have heard a large amount of discussion on the BBC World Service on Commercial Radio in Great Britain. As you probably know, Australia has had commercial radio ever since broadcasting began. I think therefore that I am qualified to pass judgement on these nuisances and air-wave wasters.

I listen to many commercial radio stations in Australia and can state that what I have heard has been nothing but a programme format of continuous pop, high-powered advertisements rammed down the listener's throat and news that is often inaccurate. The number of advertisements is fantastic. For instance, in one quarter-hour on the local radio station up here (8DN-1240kHz) there was onehalf of a gramophone record played (a latest pop of course) and all the rest of the time was taken up with advertisements.

I think therefore, that these airwave wasters should be banned from cluttering up the air-waves and government radio should be developed to the point of having a service not unlike the BBC. Terry Robinson (Darwin, Australia

A few memories

As a reader of your excellent magazine for more years than I care to recall, together with some of its early contemporaries which did not make the grade, your editorial article of issue 751 September 1969, encouraged me to write to you for the first time.

Needless to say I heartily applaud the sentiment of your article, we do with the advent of the i.c. have chance once again to rationalise, human nature being what it is, however, I wonder if the nettle will be grasped?.

Whilst pondering on this matter and the extent to which the art of radio construction has changed my mind went back to the halcyon days of the spaghetti resistance, Lewcos coils, Telsen, dutch R. valves, and all the last word gadgetry which was perpetrated upon the somewhat bewildered constructor even in those early days. I feel certain that some of your more senior readers must recall the "Magic" indoor aerials, the Loewe valves, and even then the attempts at integrated circuitry, I seem to recall that one could purchase a large black box which contained a transformer coupled amplifier, and which had three valve holders mounted upon its top, all one required was the ability to wire up an H. F. section and Voila! a wireless set.

In my opinion the period from the early twenties up to the late thirties was a fascinating one in the development of radio, and I write to ask if it would be possible for a series of articles with pictures and circuitry of constructional projects of the period could be printed, even small articles of the period would I feel raise a smile, and probably the wry comment that little is really new under the sun.

In closing I should like to do something that I have intended to do for so many years, that is to thank you for a very well pro-duced magazine which has remained a real constructors magazine for so long. Long may you flourish. R. C. Armet (Transvaal, Republic of South Africa).

[I would like to hear from readers who would like to see reprints of parts of 1920-1930 articles.]—Editor

Ban the speaker!

Nowadays one reads of semiconductor devices being used to produce coherent light, etc. but nowhere can I find any reference to their being used to produce sound. This surprises me as I remember witnessing this phenomenom in 1964 whilst playing around with a set of transistors. (These transistors came boxed in a set and were, I believe, of Italian manufacture. They were encased in black-painted metal cans.)

I had built a crystal set at this time and was using the transistors to amplify the signal sufficiently to feed a loudspeaker. Being a

newcomer to electronics at this time and entirely ignorant of circuitry I remember that in the three transistor amplifier lash-up I employed a separate battery for each transistor! Unorthodox as this procedure was, it worked well and to my great delight the strains of music obligingly came blasting out of the speaker! On removing the speaker, however, to make some adjustment or other, I noticed that I could still hear the music! The volume was not as high as with the speaker connected but was still at a comfortable level. My first thought was that the sounds were emanating from the speaker transformer core (a large, ex-TV item) but this was not the case. The sound source was the transistors themselves. I cannot now recall if one or all of the transistors were "soundingoff," but at least one of them was. I believe the actual sound came from the transistor cans which, as mentioned above, were metal and rang when "pinged" with a finger nail, but what caused them to vibrate I have never been able to ascertain.

I should be extremely grateful if any of your readers can collaborate this phenomenon or offer any explanation as to how it could have occurred.-J. B. Jobe (Worcester).

Marconi station

I thought that some history of the above station might be of interest to readers. It was opened in 1910 and was an outstanding landmark round these parts. It could be seen for many miles with its 400ft. aerials standing along the slopes of Cafn Dee mountain near Caernarvon.

With the advance of modern developments the old station went out of commission in 1939 and the aerials were pulled down.

During the First World War, the first wireless transmission ever sent to Australia from this country was transmitted from this station by Lloyd George to Hughes, another Welshman who was Prime Minister of Australia at the time.-H. Roberts (Caernarvon, N. Wales).

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Manufacturers and Export Inquirie OBSOLETE TYPES A SPEC QUOTATIONS FOR ANY VALVE Express postage 9d. per valve. Ordinary postage 6d. per valve. Tube postage 7/6 each Special Express Mail Ord	IALITY 14 inch NOT LISTED 17 inch W.O. No C.O.D. 19 inch 21 inch 12 inch	FUBES DAF \$4 0 DAF \$4 5 0 \$6 0 AC13 \$6 0 AF1 \$12 0 AF1 \$28 0 AF1 \$28 0 AF1	'91, DF91, DL92, o '96, DF96, DK96, DL92, o '96, DF96, DK96, DL92, o TT '17 5/- OC28 8/- 0 14 5/- OC28 8/- 0 15 5/- OC34 6/- 0	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $

14 PART

Field Effect Transistors

There are two basic forms of construction used in the manufacture of field effect transistors (f.e.t.s). The resulting devices are known as junction f.e.t.s and insulated gate f.e.t.s. It will be convenient to examine each type separately.

Junction f.e.t.

The junction f.e.t. is a device utilising a single p-n junction with a structure very similar to the unijunction transistor which is a related device. The basic structure is illustrated in Fig. 12 and consists of a bar of n-type

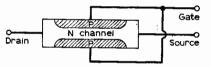
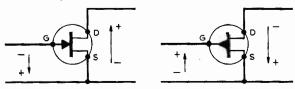


Fig. 12: Basic structure of a junction F.E.T.

semiconductor, usually silicon, with a p-type region on either side of the bar. The n-type portion between the p-type regions is called the channel and current flows through the channel from drain to source. Now if the diode formed between the p-type region, termed the gate, and the source is reverse biased by a negative potential on the gate, an electric field is set up in the channel which restricts the current flow through it. If the voltage is sufficiently negative all current flow is inhibited through the channel. The bias voltage for zero current is called the pinch off voltage (Vp).

The operation of an f.e.t. depends on an input through a reverse-biased diode and therefore the f.e.t. characteristically has a very high input impedance ($\sim 10M\Omega$). As with other semiconductor devices p-type and n-type materials can be reversed to give a p-channel f.e.t. with an n-type gate, and in this case the potential on the gate is reversed. The symbols for n-channel and p-channel f.e.t.s are shown in Fig. 13 together with the biasing voltages for normal operation. It should be remembered that the arrow direction indicates the diode forward current direction and hence potentials are such as to reverse bias the diode.

At this point most of us with valve experience will





(b) P channel FET

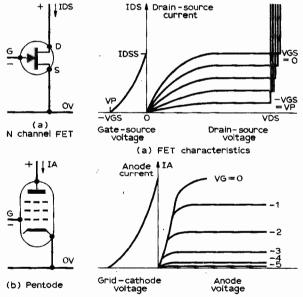
Fig. 13: B.S. preferred symbols and applied polarities for junction F.E.T.'s.

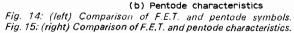
M.K.TITMAN, B.Sc.(Eng)

have noted the similarity between valves and f.e.t.s. In fact the n-channel f.e.t., which is by far the most commonly available f.e.t., is strikingly similar both in voltage polarities, as shown in Fig. 14, and characteristics, shown in Fig. 15. Unlike the valve however the maximum drain to source voltage is limited by breakdown characteristics, whilst f.e.t. transconductance

 $\frac{Ids}{ds}$ gm) varies with bias voltage (Vgs) and is a Vgs

maximum at Vgs=0. The transconductance is more linear than for conventional transistors.





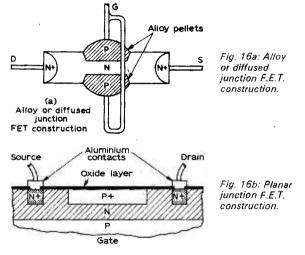
Manufacturer's parameters for f.e.t.s usually include the items shown in Table 2, which also includes typical ranges of values for n-channel devices. Other parameters include maximum reverse transfer capacitance at 0.5-10pF and noise figures between 1-5dB. These are usually only important for critical applications.

Field effect transistors are used for many applications including microphone preamplifiers, d.c. differential amplifiers, r.f. amplifiers in v.h.f. radio circuits, switching circuits and instrument input amplifiers. At present they are used in circuits which particularly require the special features of low noise levels and high input impedance. The extremely low drift currents of 1pA $(10^{-12}A)$ per ° C and high input impedances make them particularly suitable for use in input and buffer circuits.

Table 2: Typical f.e.t. paramete

Parameter	Symbol	Typical values
Max. gate-source voltage	Vgso	20-50V
Max. drain-source voltage	Vds	20-100V
Drain-source current at Vgs=0 Max. pinch off voltage	ldss	0∙5-100mA
Vgs=Vp	V(p)gs Vgs(off)	2-10V
Max. gate current Transconductance	lgss gm	0·1-10nA 0·25-30mA/V

Typical input characteristics of an f.e.t. preamplifier are $Zin\!>\!1M\Omega,\ Cin\!>\!10pF,\ noise\ voltage\ <0.5mV$ and bandwidth $>\!100MHz$

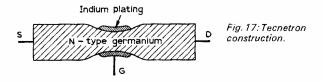


(b) Planar junction FET construction

Figure 16 illustrates the two basic forms of junction f.e.t. construction which are used at present. The alloy construction of Fig. 16(a) is still the most common where p-type pellets are alloyed to either side of an n-type slice. The geometrical outline is also used for diffused junction f.e.t.s. As with conventional transistors planar construction, using the more accurate photographic techniques, is used increasingly in close tolerance f.e.t. manufacture, and this form of construction is illustrated in Fig. 16(b).

A special form of construction used to obtain good high frequency characteristics is illustrated in Fig. 17 and this device is known as a tecnetron. Indium is deposited on the surface of an n-type slice etched to receive the plating. The result is a thin channel region of small area giving low capacitance and therefore good high frequency characteristics. The structure is however electrically and thermally less robust and is at present rather uncommon.

As with conventional transistors the encapsulation of



f.e.t.s is mainly of the popular TO-18 or TO-5 types. A plastic encapsulation is shown in Fig. 18 but as the lead out connections are still unstandardised the precise terminal designations should be obtained from the manufacturer.

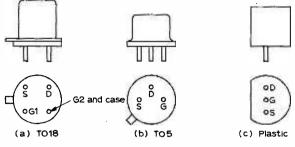
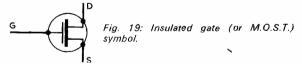


Fig. 18: F.E.T. encapsulations.

We have now examined the junction field effect transistor and should consider the second basic form of construction known as insulated gate f.e.t. It is interesting to note that it was experiments with crude constructions to obtain the insulated gate f.e.t., or unipolar transistor as it was then known, that led to the discovery by Shockley of the conventional or bipolar transistor. The insulated gate f.e.t. was therefore a forerunner of the modern transistor but it is only with the discovery of planar epitaxial techniques that the insulated gate or metal-oxide semiconductor (m.o.s.) transistor has been a practical proposition in terms of noise and gain.

Insulated Gate f.e.t. or Metal-Oxide Semiconductor Transistor (m.o.s.t.)

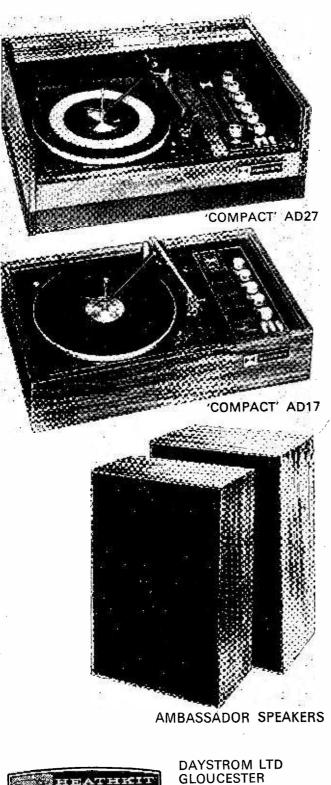
Metal-oxide semiconductor transistors (m.o.s.t.s) are constructed with p- or n-type semiconductor channels. In place of the reverse biased p-n junction which provides the controlling electric field, the field is formed through an extremely thin insulated junction. The insulation is provided by a silicon dioxide layer which acts as an efficient insulator. The basic form of construction is similar to that shown in Fig. 12 for a junction f.e.t. except that the junction is formed between a metal connection and the p- or n-type channel. The insulation is silicon dioxide thermally grown by passing steam over the basic chip. The basic symbol for a m.o.s.t. is shown in Fig. 19.



The m.o.s.t. has properties which are peculiar to insulated gate structures. Two basic modes of action are possible. Firstly the depletion mode in which current normally flows through the channel but is reduced by channel width depletion until zero current flows at maximum gate voltage. The second mode of operation is known as the enhancement mode and in this mode the device is normally off but is turned on up to saturation point by increasing gate potentials. The enhancement mode is achieved by altering the end connections and type of channel material so that the path between the drain and source appears as back-to-back diodes and the gate potential increasingly reduces the blocking effect. It is clear from this that all junction f.e.t.s belong to the depletion mode of operation since the gate p-n junctions must be reverse biased.

—continued on page 806

Heathkit for the new "Compact"



GL2-6EE

"Compact" Sound of the 70's

The fabulous stereo "Compacts" Models AD-17 and AD-27 are setting the pace in hi-fi for the 1970's. They offer outstanding value and performance. The AD-17 comprises a BSR MA-65 turntable/Shure M44-MB magnetic cartridge and a 10 watt (RMS) per channel stereo amplifier all mounted on a Teak or Walnut plinth. **Kit Price £54.** Carr. 13/-

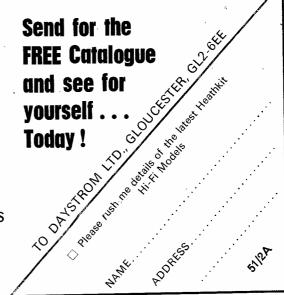
The AD-27 is similar but uses the MA-70 turntable and includes an FM stereo tuner. In this case the "plinth" is better described as a small cabinet. It has the additional features of a "Roller Shutter" lid and is available in Teak or Walnut.

Kit Price £82. Carr 13/-

Heathkit offer many exdellent loudspeaker systems the new "Ambassador" Hi-Fi loudspeaker is winning many friends. Its cabinet is supplied ready assembled and finished in selected Teak or Walnut veneers to harmonise with other current Heathkit hi-fi equipment. It uses three loudspeaker units a 12in. bass, 5in. mid range and a 1in. Dome Pressure Tweeter.

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The complete Heathkit hi-fi range of stereo amplifiers, tuner/amplifiers, FM tuners, Stereo "Compacts", loudspeaker systems and ancilliary hi-fi equipment are all described and illustrated, many in full colour. In a wonderful free catalogue.



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AMPLIFIERS						
ARENA 210 Amplifier	£34	13	D	£28	0	Q.
ARMSTRONG 521 25 watts per channel	£52	0	0	£44	0	٥
DULCI 207 Stereo Amplifier	£25	0	0	£17	0	0
DULCI 207M Stereo Ampli-		Ť	·			
fier takes magnetic P/U	£30	0	0	£20	19	0
GOODMANS Maxamp	£54	0	0		19	6
New LEAK Stereo 30 Plus	£53	0	0	£43	19	6
New LEAK Stereo 30 Plus in teak case	£59	10	0	£47	19	6
New LEAK Stereo 70	£63	0	0	£49		6
LEAK Stereo 70 in teak case	£69	10	0	£56	4	6
New LEAK Stereo 70 Plus in teak case	£69 1	0	0	£54	19	6
LINEAR LT.66 Stereo Ampli-						
fier	~	18	0	£13		6
QUAD 33 Pre-amplifier	£43	0	0	£35	19	6
QUAD 303 Stereo Main Amplifier	£55	0	0	£46	19	6
ROGERS Ravensbourne 50 watt Stereo	£59	10	0	£48	19	6
ROGERS Ravensbourne in teak case	£64	0	0	£52	13	6
ROGERS Ravensbrook	£44	0	0	£36	19	6
ROGERS Ravensbrook in Teak Case	£49	0	a	£38	19	6
Teak Case	£28	7	6	200	15	6
TRUVOX TSA.200		12	0	£39	19	6
TUNERS						
ARENA 211 Stereo with	020	10	0	£33	40	6
decoder	£39 £52	9	0	£44	19	6
ARMSTRONG 524 FM	£40	4	6	£34	19	6
ARMSTRONG M8 Stereo	£9	10	0	£.7	19	6
decoder DULCI FMT.7 FM	£22	1	0	£17	19	6
DULCI FMT.7S FM Stereo						
Tuner	£31 £82	0	0	£25	5 19	0 6
AM/FM Stereo Tuner LEAK Troughline Tuner	LOZ	10	9	æn	19	•
with multiplex	£51	10	6	£39	19	6
LEAK Stereofetic Chassis	£56	11	0	£45	19	0
LEAK Stereofetic in teak	£64	14	4	£52	19	6
QUAD Stereo FM	£51	0	0	£44	19	6
ROGERS Cadet Mark III Tuner	£20	12	6	£17	13	0
ROGERS Ravensbourne Tuner with Decoder TRUVOX FM 200/1C with	£61	17	9	£5Ž	12	6
decoder	£60	11	10	£45	19	0
TUNER/AMPLIFIERS ARENA 2400 with Decoder	£90	6	0	£69	19	6
ARENA 2500 complete with Decoder	£97	0	o	£79	0	0
ARENA T1500F AM/FM Stereo Tuner/Amplifier	£72	9	0	£59	19	6
ARENA T900 AM/FM Stereo Tuner Amplifier	£303	9	0	£258	0	Ø
ARMSTRONG 525 25 watts per channel FM	£87	16	9	£74	19	6
ARMSTRONG 526 25 watts	£98	15	6	£85	19	6
ARMSTRONG 127		19	9	£37	19	6
(Teak Case for 127)	£3	17	0	£3	10	0
(NEW) GOODMANS						
Model 3000 with stereo decoder	£77	14	7	£66	19	6

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TANDBERG solv Super 10/71 Tuner/Amplifier AM/FM and 2 short wave- bands TELETON MX.990 Stereo	£75	18	0	£65	18	0
Tuner/Amplifier with AM/FM Multiplex Stereo Radio c/w two Speakers, each Speaker containing 8In. bass, 2in. tweeter TELETON F.2000 AM/FM Stereo Tuner/Amplifier	£64	13	2	£48	19	6
2 x 5 watts KMS with	£51	0	0	£37	19	6
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TELETON CMS.400 AM/ FM Multiplex Tuner/ Amplifier with 2 speakers boxes and turntable	£105	15	0	£79	19	6
TELETON 7ATI Stereo Tuner/Amplifier AM/FM	£126	0	0	£89	0	0
50 watts RMS Stereo Decoder and F.E.T.	£133	0	0	£89	0	0 -1
THE GOODMAN 3000 MU A complete Audio Suffe complete with Speakers, netic cartridge. All Wir Beautifully finished in Ter £140.9.0. COMET PRICE						
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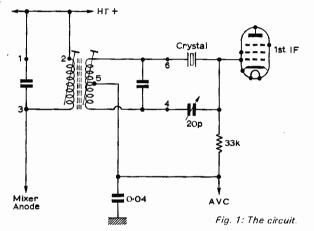
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Receivers in the higher price range often have a crystal filter to give a very considerable increase in selectivity compared with transformers, thus reducing interference from adjacent transmissions. The simplest type of filter is that with a single crystal and variable phasing. The filter described here was fitted as an addition in the allwave "Progressive Superhet" (March 1969 issue) but could equally well be included in other homeconstructed, surplus, communcations-type receivers.

Figure 1 is the circuit, and uses the centre-tapped i.f. transformer listed, numbers being for the pins of this component. This i.f.t. is intended for 465kHz, but was found to be satisfactory anywhere in the 455-470kHz range.



The crystal was 464.75kHz, obtained from the supplier listed. There is no need to use this exact frequency, as all the i.f.t.s are later aligned on the crystal frequency.

When the 20pF variable capacitor is adjusted to balance the stray crystal circuit capacitance a symmetrical response curve similar to that at A in Fig. 2 is obtained. The crystal has a Q very much higher than that of an ordinary tuned circuit, so the response curve is very sharp, giving high selectivity. F is the crystal frequency. The ordinary tuned circuits of the other i.f.t.s help to reduce the response

★ components list

Type IFT11/465/CT i.f. transformer (Denco, Clacton,	
Ltd., 357/9 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex).	

Crystal, 464·75kHz or similar (Henry's Radio. Ltd., 303 Edgware Road, London, W.2).

 $33k\Omega \frac{1}{4}$ -watt resistor.

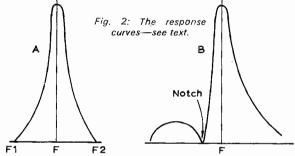
- 20pF or similar miniature air-spaced variable capacitor.
- Insulated extension spindle, coupling, bush etc. (Home Radio, 187 Londòn Road, Mitcham, Surrey.)

at the wider skirt frequencies, F1 and F2.

If the variable capacitor is adjusted slightly, changes in phase produce the notch shown at B: this is a frequency at which there is minimum response. The position of this rejection notch can be varied by adjusting the phasing capacitor, and can be moved to the other side of the resonant frequency F. The normal selectivity of the other i.f. tuned circuits helps compensate for the hump and extended skirt of B.

F.G. RAYER

Maximum selectivity may be increased by reducing the value of the $33k\Omega$ resistor, or reduced by increasing the resistor value. Selectivity with the circuit balanced (A, Fig. 2) is too great for normal reception, so for this purpose some means of cutting out the crystal or reducing its effect becomes necessary. The best method is to short out the crystal with a low-loss low-capacitance switch connected with short leads, but there are other ways such as adjusting the phasing capacitor well off optimum setting or bending one corner of a moving plate so that the capacitor shorts when closed. These methods avoid the switch but leave a secondary dip from the crystal when tuning.



In the receiver mentioned, the first i.f.t. is removed and the centre-tapped type fitted in its place. The phasing capacitor is mounted on paxolin, fixed to the chassis with brackets. A <u>t</u>in. dia. insulated extension rod is attached to the capacitor spindle with a coupling, and passes through a bush placed in the "R.F./I.F. Gain" control position, this potentiometer being moved to the right of the panel above the chassis.

With other receivers, a well-screened layout is best, to avoid stray coupling round the crystal, thereby reducing its efficiency. The layout should also permit short wiring. Some commercial receivers have the phasing capacitor fitted to the panel, with only an insulated bush, but this can cause misalignment because of hand capacitance effects.

For best possible results alignment is quite critical, and is best done by tuning-in a quite strong, steady signal, such as that from a **BBC** transmitter.

With the crystal in circuit and the phasing capacitor about half closed, tune slowly through the signal, observing the S-meter or a meter temporarily placed in the h.t. circuit to one i.f. stage.

A very sharp peak should be seen, with a

805

broader but similarly strong response at a second but near frequency. The sharp peak is from the crystal, and broad peak from the i.f. tuned circuits.

Tune to the sharp peak, and adjust all the i.f.t. cores slightly for best results. As this is done, the second broad peak will disappear, and signal strength at the sharp peak will rise considerably.

Careful tuning will now probably show a response similar to that at B, Fig. 2. Adjust the phasing capacitor until this changes to that at A. Reduce signal input (a very short aerial can be used to do this) and carefully touch-up the i.f.t. cores.

With all i.f.t.s tuned exactly on the crystal, and the latter balanced, observation of the S-meter will give a response like that at A. If the receiver is tuned slightly above or below a carrier, adjustment of the phasing capacitor one way or the other should be found to place the carrier in the rejection notch, B. so that it almost completely disappears.

As the receiver i.f. has been modified, the oscillator cores and trimmers should be touched up, for best results on each band.

Maximum selectivity is primarily for c.w. only, the passband being too narrow for speech. However, when operating in a congested amateur or other band, selectivity can be degraded somewhat by adjusting to obtain the curve B, meanwhile placing the notch so as to reduce interference. This allows a great improvement in the reception of voice transmissions.

P.W. GUIDE TO COMPONENTS

continued from page 802

Insulated gate f.e.t.s are commonly of the depletion type and can be directly substituted with junction f.e.t.s of the same effective channel type. Gate currents are of course considerably lower and gate-source bleed resistors can be as high as 1,000M Ω and mainly depend only on external leakage requirements. The principal disadvantage of m.o.s. transistors is the high noise levels which are associated with the insulated gate and which preclude their use in small signal circuits.

Field effect transistors therefore are an extremely useful alternative to conventional bipolar transistors. They are encapsulated in similar cases to transistors, and where heavy current devices are required an interdigitated or multichannel device is used. At present plastic encapsulated, wide tolerance junction f.e.t.s (n-channel) are available from 5s. whilst closer tolerance f.e.t.s, both n- and p-channel, are usually available from £1 to £20. Insulated gate f.e.t.s are of the same order of price. Since the vast majority of f.e.t.s are junction nchannel devices it would be wise for the amateur to use these widely available and hence cheaper devices.

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A real communications type receiver with continuous coverage from 550kHz to 30MHz in four switched bands. Incorporated in the design are a variety of features found only in the best sets—switched a.g.c., S-Meter and B.F.O.

The problem of tackling a set of this complexity is overcome to such an extent that it can truly be classed in the beginners range. The set initially starts as a six transistor receiver and will provide excellent coverage in this form, but it builds up to a twelve transistor plus four diode set with the features mentioned above.

METAL DETECTOR

This article describes the principles of metal detection including the limitations of amateur types and goes on to describe a practical circuit which in addition to being useful for locating house wiring etc. can give endless hours of fun. In the described form the metal detector should cost under 50s. including headphones but a cheaper and simpler version making use of a standard radio set is also described.

BOOKSHELF SPEAKER

The "Decibella" speaker exclosure contains a woofer and a tweeter, frequencies above 3kHz being fed to the tweeter and below 3kHz to the woofer. A series L-C crossover network is employed.

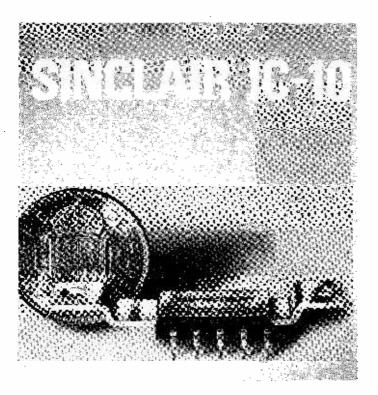
Size of the enclosure is 13 x 8in. with a depth of $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. and fed from a 10 Watt amplifier, two of these units will give really good stereo listening.

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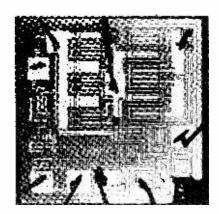
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MONOLITHIC INTEGRATED CIRCUIT HIGH FIDELITY AMPLIFIER AND PRE-AMP



the world's most advanced high fidelity amplifier

The Sinclair IC-10 is the world's first monolithic integrated circuit high fidelity power amplifier and pre-amplifier. The circuit itself, a chip of silicon only a twentieth of an inch square by a hundredth of an inch thick, has an output of 5 watts R.M.S. (10 watts peak). It contains 13 transistors (including two power types), 2 diodes, 1 zenor diode and 18 resistors, formed simultaneously in the silicon by a series of diffusions. The chip is encapsulated in a solid plastic package which holds the metal heat sink and connecting pins. This exciting device is not only more rugged and reliable than any previous amplifier, it also has considerable performance advantages. The most important are complete freedom from thermal runaway due to the close thermal coupling between the output transistors and the bias diodes and very low level of distortion.

The IC-10 is primarily intended as a full performance high fidelity power and pre-amplifier, for which application it only requires the addition of the usual tone and volume controls and a battery or mains power supply. However, it is so designed that it may be used simply in many other applications including car radios, electronic organs, servo amplifiers (it is d.c. coupled throughout) etc. The photographic masks required for producing monolithic I.Cs are expensive but once made, the circuits can be produced with complete uniformity and at very low cost. It also enables us to give a 5 year guarantee on each IC-10 knowing that every unit will work as perfectly as the original and do so for a lifetime.

SPECIFICATIONS

Output 10 W	atts peak, 5 Watts R.M.S. continuous.
Frequency respon	
Total harmonic di	
Load impedance	3 to 15 ohms.
Power gain	110dB (100,000,000,000 times) total.
Supply voltage	8 to 18 volts.
Size	1 $ imes$ 0.4 $ imes$ 0.2 inches.
Sensitivity	5mV.
Input impedance	Adjustable externally up to
	2.5 M ohms

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The first three transistors are used in the pre-amp and the remaining 10 in the power amplifier. Class AB output is used with closely controlled quiescent current which is independent of temperature. Generous negative feedback is used round both sections and the amplifier is completely free from crossover distortion at all supply voltages, making battery operation eminently satisfactory.

APPLICATIONS

Each IC-10 is sold with a very comprehensive manual giving circuit and wiring diagrams for a large number of applications in addition to high fidelity. These include stabilised power supplies, oscillators, etc. The pre-amp section can be used as an R.F. or I.F. amplifier without any additional transistors.



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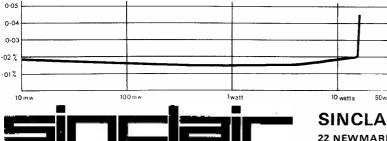
THE WORLD'S LOWEST DISTORTION HIGH FIDELITY AMPLIFIER.

For four years, the Sinclair Z.12 dominated the constructor world, being the best setting unit of its kind this side of the Atlantic. Excellent as it was, the new Sinclair Z.30 is still better. Half the size of the Z.12, it has more than twice the power, very much greater gain and a level of distortion 50 times lower. This incredible figure results from using over 60dB of negative feed back with a constant current load to the driver stage obtained by incorporating a two transistor circuit in place of the more usual boot-strapping. 9 silicon epitaxial planar transistors are used to provide enormous power (up to 20 watts RMS continuous sine wave, 40 watts peak). The circuitry of this marvellous amplifier allows it to be operated from any voltage from 8 to 35 to perfection.

At all output levels, distortion is only 0.02%. This puts true laboratory standards into the hands of every user of a Z.30. Two Z.30s and a new Stereo Sixty will make a stereo assembly of such perfection that it could not be bettered in its class no matter how much you spent. But the Z.30 has an enormous variety of applications, particularly where quality, precision and reliability are essential. Yet this brilliant new Sinclair design costs not a penny more than its famous predecessor.

APPLICATIONS

Hi-fi amplifier; car radio amplifier; record player amplifier fed directly from pick-up; intercom; electronic music and instruments; P.A.; laboratory work, etc. Full details for these and many other applications are given in the manual supplied with the Z.30.



SPECIFICATIONS

Power output: 15 watts R.M.S. into 8 ohms using a 35 volt supply: 20 watts R.M.S. into 3 ohms using a 30 volt supply.

Output: Class AB.

- Frequency response: 30 to 300,000Hz \pm 1dB.
- Distortion : 0.02% total harmonic distortion at full output into 8 ohms and at all lower output levels.
- Signal-to-noise ratio: better than 70dB unweighted.
- Input sensitivity: 250mV into 100 Kohms. Damping factor: > 500.

Daniping factor . > 500.

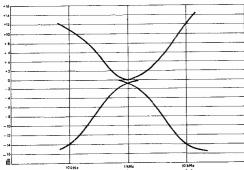
- Loudspeaker impedances: 3 to 15 ohms.
- Power requirements: From 8 to 35V. d.c. (The Z.30 will operate ideally from batteries if required).

Size: $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Built, tested and guaranteed, with circuits and instructions **89/6** manual

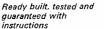
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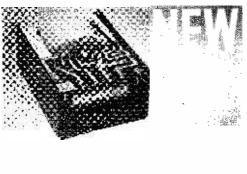




Curves to show bass and treble cut and boost

£9.19.6





nc lei

This attractive and completely new unit is intended for use with two new Z.30 amplifiers to provide the finest possible standards of stereo reproduction. Four press buttons and four rotary controls are used to provide on-off, three input selectors and Volume, Bass cut/boost, Treble cut/boost and Stereo balance. The on-off button also switches the power amplifiers. The front panel in brushed aluminium is flush mounted to the cabinet front, it being necessary only to drill holes to accommodate the controls. Rear adjustable brackets hold the chassis tight to the cabinet. The very latest ganged rotary controls are used to afford compactness and extra long working life free from noise.

The Stereo-60 may also be used with 2 IC-10's or any other high performance amplifiers.

SPECIFICATIONS

Input sensitivities—Radio—up to 3mV Magnetic Pickup --- 3mV; correct to R.I.A.A. curve ± 1dB; 20 to 25,000 Hz. Ceramic Pickup-up to 3mV: Auxiliary -up to 3mV.

Output-250mv.

Signal-to-noise ratio—better than 70dB.

PZ.5 POWER SUPPLY UNIT

A new heavy duty mains power supply unit designed specially to drive two Z.30s and a Stereo Sixty. New compact design. For AC Mains, 200-240V/50Hz.

£4.19.6

Channel matching—within 1dB.

Power consumption 5mA.

black knobs and controls.

• Size 81 x 11 x 4 ins.

-15dB at 100Hz.

Front panel—brushed aluminium with

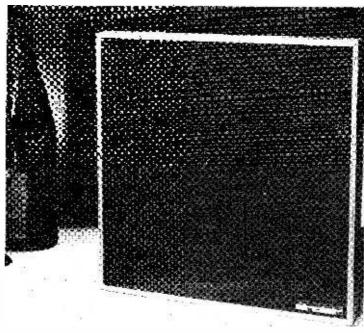
Q.16 Loudspeaker and Micromatic on next page.

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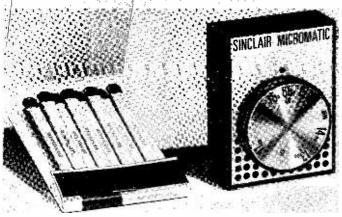
SINCLAIR **Q.16** new elegance in an outstanding loudspeaker

All the superb features which went to make the Sinclair Q.14 have been incorporated in the new Q.16 which gives an exciting new opportunity for you to match your Sinclair equipment with modern decor. Employing the same well proven acoustic system in which materials, processing and styling are used in such a radical and successful departure from conventional design, the new Q.16 presents an entirely new appearance with its attractive teak surround and all-over special cellular foam front chosen as much for its appearance as for its ability to pass all audio frequencies without loss. The Q.16 is compact and slim. Its new styling makes it eminently suitable for shelf mounting, but it is no less versatile than its famous predecessor. Listen to a pair of Q.16s in stereo and marvel at the standards of quality and clarity they give.



The Q.16 will handle loading up to 14 watts R.M.S. and presents an 8 ohm impedance to the amplifier output. Frequency response extends from 60 to 16,000Hz with exceptional smoothness. A specially designed driver system is used in a sealed and contoured pressure chamber to ensure good transient response at all frequencies Size: $9\frac{3^{\prime\prime}}{3^{\prime\prime}}$ square $\times 4\frac{3^{\prime\prime}}{3^{\prime\prime}}$ deep from front to back.

SINCLAIR MICROMATIC



Complete kit incl. earpiece, case, solder and instructions in fitted pack. Plus 11d: P.T. surcharge Ready built, tested and guaranteed, with earplece. Plus 1/1d. P.T. surcharge Mallory Mercury Cell RM675 (2 rea,) 2/9 each

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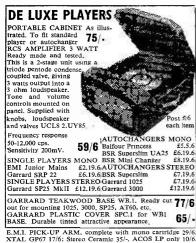
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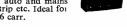
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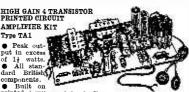
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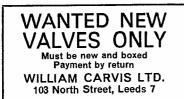
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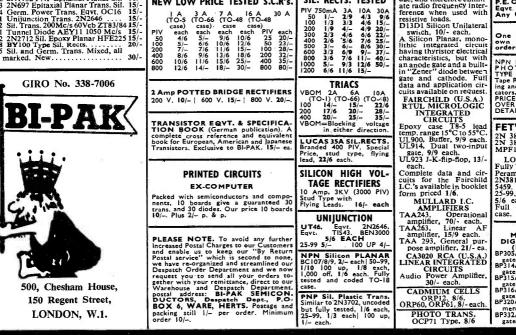
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