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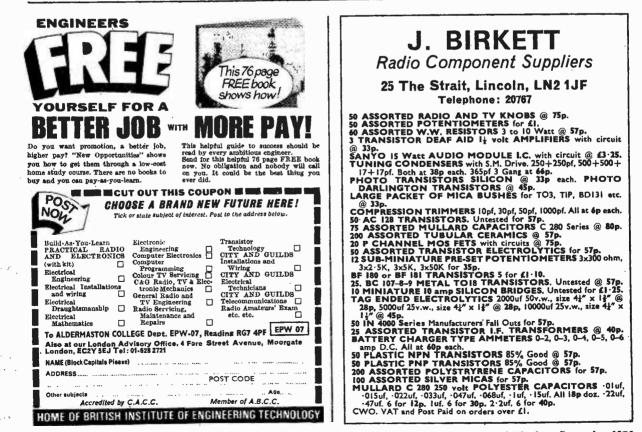
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Practical Wireless, September 1975

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13in × Bin Bass unit 15 wi 8 ohm or 15 ohm 8in x Sin 5 watt 3, 8 or 15 ohm 8in x Sin 10 watt Dualcone 8 ohm 6ir 10 watt 8 ohm 8in 10 watt 8 ohm 8in 10 watt 8 ohm 7in x 4in 3 or 8 ohm Elac 6ir 8 ohm Dualcone	£5 45 £1 70 £2 95 £2 65 £4 50 £2 25 £1 30 £2 65 £1 30 £2 65	ster. GP101 com GP104 cera BSR XSM o crysi SX6M SC5M i SC5M i SONOTC 9TAHC 9TAHC
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13in × Bin Bass unit 15 wi 8 ohm or 15 ohm 8in × Sin 5 watt 3, 8 or 15 ohm 8in × Sin 10 watt Dualcone 8 ohm 6ir 10 watt 8 ohm 8in 4 or 15 ohm 7in × 4in 3 or 8 ohm Elac 6ir 8 ohm Dualcone Elac 8in 8 ohm Dualcone Elac 8in 8 ohm Dualcone Baker. Group 25 12in 8 or 15 ohm Adastra 'Top 20' 12in 25 watt 8 or 15 ohm Adastra 'Hi-Ten' 10in 10 wort 8 ohm	£5 45 £1 70 £2 95 £2 45 £2 45 £2 45 £2 45 £2 45 £2 45 £2 45 £1 30 £2 65 £2 70 £3 75 £12 00 £8 25 £3 75	ster, GPI01 com GPI04 cera BSR XSM o crysi SX6M crysi SCSM SONOTO 9TAHO 9TAHO 9TAHO 0Dia 3509 M AUDIO AT5
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	Cone Tweeter 10 w 8 or 15 ohm (K20 Cone Tweeter 3 wa 8 ohm (K2003) Horn Tweeter 8 oh. (K2007)	ut.	£1 · 55	
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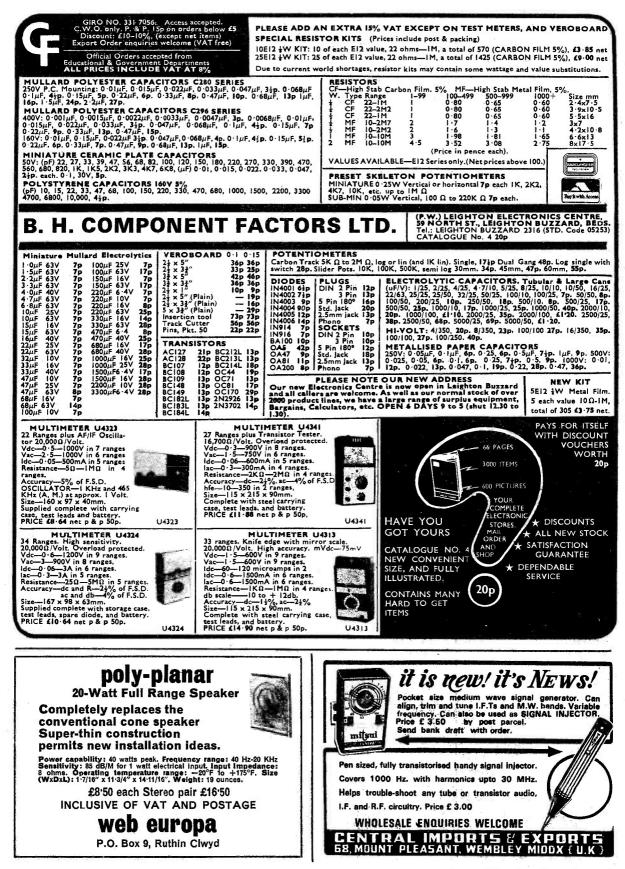
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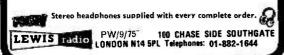
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Lenco stereo cassette mechanisms from Goldring.

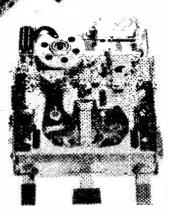
Lenco cassette mechanisms, as recommended by Practical Wireless for the Kempton and Ascot car stereo players, have major appeal for the enthusiast.

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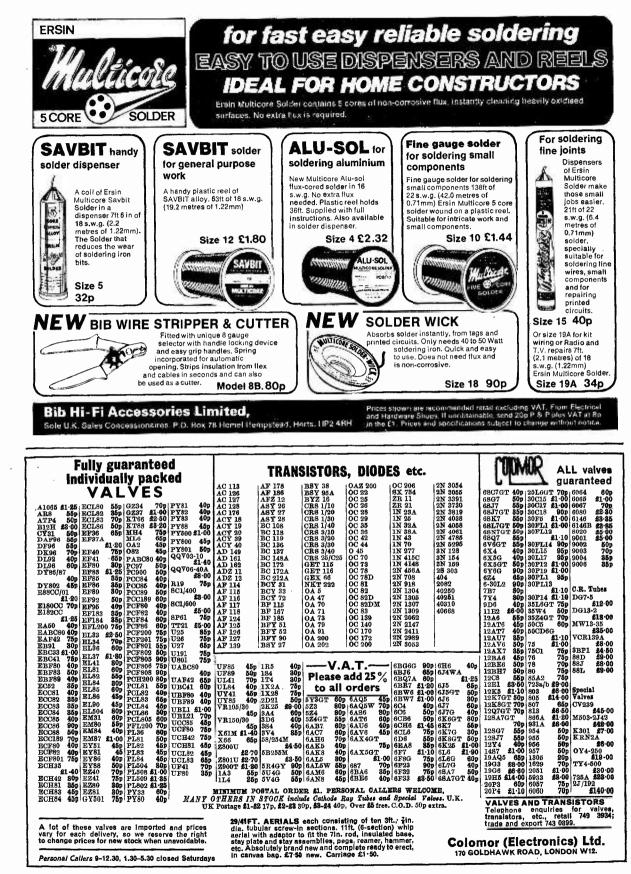
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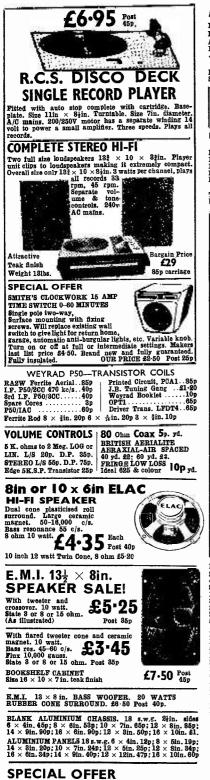
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Viscount V amplifier (As System 1a) MP60 type deck (As System 1a) Two Duo Type III matched speakers – Enclosure size approx. 27" × 13" × 11¹/₂". Finished in teak simulate. Drive units 13" × 8" bass driver, and two 3" (approx.) tweeters. 20 watts BMS. 8 achows franceury renon. Drive un two 3" RMS, 4 RMS, 8 ohms frequency range – 20 Hz to 18,000 Hz.

Complete System with these speakers £85,00 + £7.60 p & p.

PRICES: SYSTEM 1a Viscount IV R103 amplifier £25.00+£1.90 p & p. 2 Duo Type IIa speakers £30.00+£6.50 p & p. MP60 type deck with Mag. cartridge de luxe plinth £20.00+£3.30p&p. and cover Total if purchased separately; £75.00 Available complete for only: £65.00 +£6.50 p & p.

PRICES: SYSTEM 2 Viscount IV R103 amplifier £3 £25.00+£1.90 p & p 2 Duo Type III £46.00+£7.50 p& p. speakers MP60 type deck with Mag. cartridge de luxe plinth £20.00+£3.30 p&p. and cover Total if purcha £91.00 separately:

Available complete for only £81.00 +£7.60 p & p.

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Scotland and the Orkneys P & P Surcharge System 1a £1.75 System 2 £3.50

EMI SPEAKERS AT FANTASTIC REDUCTIONS **EASY TO BUILD SPEAKER KITS LE-4 SPEAKERS**

Superb performance and beautifully finished in selected teak veneers. A professional standard four-way speaker system giving 25 watts RMS power handling. Bass unit is $14^{\prime\prime} \times 9^{\prime\prime}$ with $8^{\prime\prime} \times 5^{\prime\prime}$ unit for mid-range and twin $3^{\prime\prime}$ high frequency units to give monitor type

quality and performance. Specification - Size 33"×14"×16" approx. Impedance 8 ohms. Power handling 25W RMS. (Peak 50 watts.) Frequency range 35 Hz-20 KHz.

Our Price £34.00 each (normally £66.00)+£5.80 p & p. Scotland and the Orkneys P & P Surcharge £3.50

These superb simulated teak-finished speaker kits have been specially designed by RT-VC for the cost-conscious hi-fi enthusiast who wants top quality speakers but

doesn't want to spend the earth. Built to EMI's exacting specification, these new RT-VC speaker kits (350 type kit) incorporate 13" × 8" woofer, 31" tweeter and matching crossover.

Easily put together with just a few basic tools.

Specification (each speaker): Impedance 8 ohms. Power handling 15 watts RMS (30 watts peak). Response 20–20,000 Hz. Size $20^{\circ} \times 11^{\circ} \times 9\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ approx. Comparable built units (EMI LE3) sold elsewhere for over £45 pair.



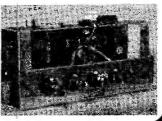
£22.00 pair complete

+£5.20 p & p. Complete with crossover Components and circuit diagram



47K (for magnetic cartridges). AC Mains only 240V. Controls - volume, bass, treble, on/off, mono/stereo switch. Chassis size $11'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{4}''$ aoprox.

£6.90 +£1.20 p & p.



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approx. woofer with a 3" tweeter, crossover components and circuit diagram. Frequency response: 20 Hz to 20 KHz. Power handling 15 watts RMS into 8 ohms. (Peak 30 watts.)

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and circuit diagram

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Easy to assemble construction kit comprising fully completed and tested printed circuit board on which no soldering is required. All connections are simple push fit type making for easy assembly. Fine tuning push button mechanism is fully built

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Controls volume manual tuning and five push buttons for station selection. illuminated tuning scale covering full, medium and long wave bands

scale covering hun man high Size chassis 7" wide 2" high £9.50+£1.05 p & p. and $4\frac{1}{4}$ deep approx. **£9.50**+£1.05 p & p. Speaker including baffle and fixing strip £2.00 +45p p & p. Car Aerial Recommended - fully retractable £1.60+40p p & p.

The Tourist I Kit For the experienced constructor. If you can solder on a printed circuit board you can build this model. Same technical specification as Tourist TT. Price £8.20+£1.05 p & p.

Reliant Mk IV Mono Amplifier, ideal for the small disco or house parties. Output 20 watts RMS into

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*Attractive styling. INPUT SENSITIVITIES - Input - 1). Crystal mic. guitar or moving coil mic, 2 and 10mV. (Selector switch for desired sensitivity.) – Inputs – 2), 3), 4).

Medium output equipment — ceramic cartridge, tuner, tape recorder, organs, etc. — all 250mV sensitivity. AC Mains, 240V operation. Size approx:

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Stereo 21, easy to assemble audio system kit. No soldering

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Two speakers with cabinets. Amplifier module. Ready built with control panel, speaker leads and full, easy to follow assembly instructions. Specifications - For the technically minded:

Input sensitivity 600mV. Aux. input sensitivity 120mV. Power output 2,7 watts per channel. Dutput impedance 8–15 ohms. Stereo output 27 warts per chainer, output impedance 5-15 mins, overall headphone socket with automatic speaker cutout. Provision for auxiliary inputs – radio, tape, etc., and outputs for taping discs. Overall Dimensions. Speakers approx. $15\frac{1}{2}$ × 8" × 4". Complete deck and cover in closed position approx. $15\frac{1}{2}$ × 12" × 6"

Complete only £23.20 +£3.00 p & p.

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For the man who wants to design his own stereo here's your chance to start, with Unisound pre-amp, power amplifier and control panel. No soldering – just simply screw together. 4 watts per channel into 8 ohms. Inputs: 120mV (for ceramic cartridge). The heart of Unisound is high efficiency 1.C. monolithic power chips which ensure very low distortion over the audio spectrum. 240V. AC only.

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INCORPORATES: Pre-Amp with full mixing facilities, including switched input for mic with volume control, switched input for auxiliary with volume control, bass and treble controls, volume control, and blend control for turntables. Two B.S.R. MP60 type single play professional series decks, fitted with crystal cartridges.

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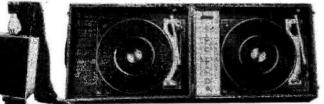
Elegant self selector push button player use with your stereo system.

Compatible with Viscount IV system,

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION: Pre-smp – Output – 200mV. Auxiliary inputs – 200mV and 750mV into 1 meg. Mic input – 6mV into 100K. 240 volt operation. Turntables capacity – 7", 10" or 12" records. Rumble, wow and flutter Rumble Better than – 35d8. Wow Better than 0.2%. Flutter Better than 0.06% (Gaumont kales meter). Enise – Stin black mainplate with Finish - Satin black mainplate with black turntable mat inlaid with

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION: Pre-amp - Output - 200mV

brushed aluminium trim. Tonearm and in black and brushed controls aluminium

Console size — Unit Closed $-17\frac{3}{4}$ " × $13\frac{3}{4}$ " × $8\frac{3}{4}$ " (app.) Unit Open $-35\frac{3}{4}$ × $13\frac{3}{4}$ × $4\frac{3}{4}$ (app.) This disco console is ideally matched for the Reliant IV and Disco 50 or any the unit is filling amplifier. The unit is fillished in black PVC with contrasting simulated teak edging, diamond spun control knobs with matching control panel.

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ceramic cartridge, and fea separate full range bass an	d treble controls on both					Mars .
mic and deck inputs. An available for P.F.L. May b mains operated. Fitted wi	the used for mono and is the sturdy screening case.	SAXON.	L. L.	<u> </u>	Chaper	Сл.
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Ino bass an	Wide range d treble,	0		ULTIMIX 100		
Control attracti	s. Sturdy and ve vynide Twin outputs.	0 C C.S.R 8	100W rms four	inputs <i>slider</i> con ge bass and treble	trols plus	s master Fantastic
AMON IFICD Ideal fo	r groups, etc. Fully		value, ideal for	complete disco's,	groups, c	lubs etc.
		CCETO	SAXON MULTI	MIX 50-Exactly a	s above	but 50W
£39.90 tested : guarant	and seed.	CSE50			3 45010	
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all this is

SAXON

GUARANTEED TESTED HIGH PERFORMANCE

MODULES-now better value than ever

Money saving high

performance audio equipment

POWER SUPPLIES

UNSTABILISED-READY WIRED & FUSED

DIRECT FROM OUR OWN FACTORIES



INVERTORS

.

240v-50Hz from your 12v car battery. 25 watt—£4·20 40 watt—£7·35 75 watt—£10·71 150 watt-£19·10 300 watt (12v)-£29·85 300 watt (24v)-£23·75 -619-10

All above invertors are in kit form but may be purchased built up in metal case & ready for use, Price list sent on receipt of s.a.e. Prices include post & packing.

P.W. AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY

240y-50Hz-150 watt invertor with built in battery charger. In event of power failure switches over automatically from battery charging to invertor operation. Cct. as appeared in Dec. 72 P.W. Complets kit of parts (excluding meter) £22:59+£1:10 p.4 p.

FLUORESCENT LIGHT INVERTOR KIT 8 watt-12v-Fluorescent light, suitable for tents, caravans, houses, boats & secondary lighting for factories, hotels, etc. 12"-8 watt-£2.99+25p p. & p. Built up £4+25p. 21"-13 watt £4.50+300. -13 watt-£3.30+30p p. & p. Built up-

TRANSFORMERS & COILS Both high volume & small order capacity available.

Special offer. Miniature mains transformer 12-0-12v-6V.A.--- \$5p plus 10p p. & p.

TRADE & EXPORT ENQUIRIES WELCOMED

ORION STEREO ASTROIGNITION **AMPLIFIER**

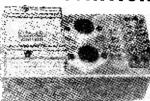


20 + 20 Watts r.m.s. into 8 ohm load. Distortion less than 0.01% 100Hz-10kHz. Frequency response ± 1dB 20 Hz to 20 kHz. Hum level virtually nil with vol. full on.

This is a power amplifier of superb quality incorporating the very latest design features. Professional hi-fi enthusiasts have classed it as fantastic and real value for money. The CCT incorporates a low flux transformer and inputs for disc. tape, tuner etc.

Complete kit of parts including slim line bookend case, silk screened front panel & knobs. £43 incl. VAT & p. & p.

The bookend case, I.C.s & semiconductors, P.C. board, Transformer, etc. may be purchased seperately if desired. Send S.A.E. for further information



ASTRO IGNITION SYSTEM Complete kit of parts for this proven and tested system £9 50 incl VAT. Ready built with only two connections to alter £12.50 incl. VAT. Thousands have used this system both home and abroad. Consider these advantages more power, faster acceleration, fuel economy, excellent cold starting, smoother running, no contact breaker-burning. Also because of the high energy spark, the fuel mixture can be made weaker giving further economy and fewer plug problems. Fitting time when built 5 minutes approx. Please state whether positive or negative earth.

Trade and export enquiries welcomed.

ASTRO ELECTRONICS, Spring Bank Rd., West Park, Chesterfield.

VALVE BARGAINS AERIAL BOOSTERS Any 5 64p, 10 99p, 50 £4. We make three types of Your choice from the Aerial Boosters all for
following list:ECH84, ECC82, ECC80, ECC80, EC180, PCF80, PCE8

TOROIDAL TRANSFORMERS FOR THE TEXAN II

Designed by S.I.G.A. ELECTRONICS in conjunction with exas Instruments for uprating Texan 20+20 Amplifiers. Pri. 220-240V; 50Hz; Screen; Sec. 25-20-0-20-25V, 1.5A. ully impregnated; flying lead connections. Ref. T1295 Price £6.70 + 25% VAT post 50p.

Ref. T1295/F with resin filled centre, 2BA clear hole.

Price £7.10 + 25% VAT post 50p.

oroidal transformers suitable for Audio Power Supplies Pri. 240V 50Hz; Screen; fully impregnated; flying leads

REF	SECONDARIES	O.D. (cms) HT.	Price	Post
315	(a) 33-0-33V 2A	12.0 $ imes$ 4.4	£8·50	£0·69
	(b) 25-0-25V 0·1A			
291	(a) 33-0-33∀ 4A	13·0 × 5·7	£10·69	£0·78
	(b) 25-0-25V 0·2A			
061	20-0-20V 1A	8.5 imes 4.0	£4·87	£0·50
360	25-0-25V 1·5A	7.7 imes 4.5	£6·26	£0.50
285	25-0-25V 2A	10·8 × 5·1	£6·37	£0 [.] 60
284	0-45V 1A	9.5×4.4	£5·15	£0·60
000	0-45V 2A	12.0 $ imes$ 4.4	£6·64	£0·69

erms: Cash with order, please add 25% VAT to goods only. Quantity discounts available on request.

Dept. PW 03

S.I.G.A. (ELECTRONICS) LIMITED Sunderland Road, Sandy, Beds SG1910Y

HIGH POWER BATTERY MOTOR

12v operated, strong 12v operated, strong enough to power a motor mower, go-cart or similar. Speed easily variable. These motors can also be used as a brake for



used as a brack for any rotating machine. simply by coupling the spindle to the machine and short-circuiting the windings by a variable resistance, price 22: 50+post and V.A.T. 740, D/TTO but 6/12v even more powerful as 15° larger and is series wound $23\cdot50+85^{\circ}$ post and V_{0} V.A.T.

FIRE ALARM SWITCHES



in cast iron case with break glass panel. These are red and engraved "Fire break glass"; they have hinged lid and second safety switch for testing purposes. Limited quantity. \$1.75 each+post and VAT

DC HIGH CURRENT PANEL METERS

FANEL METERS 34" wound wide angle 240µ movement meters, flush mount-ing fitted with external shunks, made by Compton Parkinson brand new, still in makers cartons. These are a real bargain at 25-50 each. Reason-able quantities available in the following ranges: 0-10 amps, 0-20 amps, 0-63 amps, 0-40 amps, 0-50 amps. Post and VAT 80p each.

EDGE MOUNTING MOVING



PERMEABILITY TUNERS

+ post



M.W. two stage ideal for use with ZN414 or similar circuit. Price 15p each + post and VAT 15p.

Size $2\frac{4}{2}$ x 1" by Weston, 100 μ A movement scaled DB, unused still in original maker's cartons. $\frac{42}{50}$ each

and VAT 50p

OVEN THERMOSTAT

Made by the famous Diamond H Company, this has a sensor joined by a capiliary to a variable control and when fitted with a knob is ideal for many ovens or processes. Sop each + post and VAT 15p.

NUMICATOR TUBES

For digital instruments, counters, timers, clocks, etc. Hi-vac XNII Price 90p each, 20p Post and VAT

WINDSCREEN WIPER

6

CONTROL Vary speed of your wiper to suit conditions. All parts and instructions to make. **£3**.25 £1.00 to make. £3 post and VAT.

PORTABLE CABINET OFFER

PORTABLE CABINET OFFER A nicely made portable oblined, soft paided black finish intended for portable stereo system. Dimensions as sketch. With motor board cut out for Garrard SP 25. This was obvious originally made for a de-luxe record player. Offered at 8195+21:50 post and VAT, carriage free if bought with the Garrard or BSR record decks.

HIGHLY SENSITIVE MOVING COIL RELAY



panel mounting with glass window, this measures approx. $5\frac{1}{2}'' \ge 4'' \ge 5''$, triggering current can be varied from a fraction of a milliamp to 5 milliamps by removing the front and adjusting the setting level. Price 58 each +

Sec. 6. 6

SOUND TO LIGHT UNIT



Add colour or white light Add colour or white light to your amplifier. Will operate 1, 2 or 3 lamps (maximum 450w). Unit in Box all ready to work. \$7.95 plus 80p VAT and

Practical Wireless, September 1975

AUDIO AMPLIFIER

1.14

12.2

AUDIO ATIPLIFIER Part of the famous Reditume background music system, secondhand, but believed in good order. However, no guarantee; we are selling for sparse value oaly. These are 6 valve amplifiers, the output valves are $2 \times EL$ 34 in push/pull, complete with mains transformer, rectifier and ample smoothing: equipment. The mains transformer alone, today would cost at least 44. Size is 94'', 64'', Checonly \$2.00+postage and VAT \$1.50.



BREAK-DOWN UNIT

BREAK-DOWN UNIT Contains hundreds of useful parts some of which are as follow-66 silicon diodes equivalent OA 91. 63 reflectors mostly $\frac{1}{2}$ watt 5% covering a wide range of values. 4×1 mid 400v infd condensers. 15 × 01 mid 100v condensers. 2 RF chokes. 8 × K89 valve holders. 1×4 H choke. 1×115v transformer. 1 boxed unit containing 4 delay lines also tag panels, trimmer con-densers, suppressors, etc., on a useful chassis sized appror. 9'×6'×7''. Only 75p (the 66 diodes would cost at least 10 times this smound). This is a snip not to be missed. Prost and + VAT 75p. VAT 75p.

GPO PUSH BUTTON DIALLING UNIT

Will take the place of the mormal rotating dial, has 10 numbered keys, so suitable for other digital systems. A desk mounting unit with rubber feet, this is a very intricate and expensive plece of apparatus. New and unused—our price only £9 each+£1.36 post and VAT.

24V POWER PACK



Normal mains input with a thermal safety device, 800 mA output, 4000 mfd of smoothing and full wave rectification, completely enclosed in plastic box and with flex for mains and terminal block for output Price \$1.75+£1 post and VAT.

8-SWITCH DISCO LAMP

CONTROLLER Mains motor driving a drum with adjustable trips operating 8 changeover 10 amp switches, so a total of 40K watis of lighting can be controlled enabling an unlimited variety of effects to be schieved and ohanged with the minimum of effort. This is a real snip a \$7:50+\$1.15 post and without the statement of the stateme

HONEYWELL PROGRAMMER

HONEYWELL PROGRAMMER This is a drum type timing device, the drum being calibrated to equal divisions for switch setting purposes with trips which are influ-itely adjustable for position. They are also arranged to allow 2 operations per switch per rotation. There are 15 changeory micro switches each of 10 amp type operated per revolution. Drive motor is mains operated per revolution. Drive motor is mains operated firing. Dispensing and Vending machines. Display lighting animated and signs. Signalling, etc. Price from makers probably over 420 each. Speelal sulp price 49-85 £1-00 Post and VAT. Don't miss this terrific bargain.

HORSTMANN 24-HOUR TIME SWITCH





4 All Day 5 Continuously Twice Daily All Day Continuously Continuously Suitable, of course, to programme other than central heating and hot water, instance, programme upstairs and downstairs electric heating or heating a cooling or taped music and radio. In fact, there is no limit to the versatility this Programmer. Mains operated. Size $3in \times 3in \times 2in$ deep. Price 45-60. 8 Post and VAT, as illustrated but less case.



CENTRIFUGAL BLOWER Miniature mains driven blower centrifugal type blower unit by Woods. Powerful but specially built for quick running-driven by cashioned induction motor with specially built low noise bearings. Overall size $4^{4} \times 4^{4}$, 4^{4} . When mounted by flange, air is blown into the equipment but to suck air out, mount it from centre using clamp. Ideal for cooling electrical equipment or fitting into a cooker hood, film drying cabinet or for removing flux smoke when soldering, etc. etc. A real bargain at 22:50p. 55p Post and VAT.

SHORTWAVE CRYSTAL SET

Although this uses no battery it gives really amazing results. You will receive an amazing assortment of stations over the 19, 25, 31, 39 metre bands—Kit contains chassis front panel and all the parts. \$1.85—orystal earphone 50p. 60p Post and VAT.

TERMS:

Where order is under £5 please add 30p surcharge to offset packing expenses.



NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH

EHT transformer. American made, sealed in a steel case measuring $6\frac{1}{4}'' \ge 6'' \ge 5\frac{1}{4}''$ high with large porcelain stand-off insulators; it is extremely a stand arout to give 10 km at well-made, looks good enough to give 10 kv at .1 amp, intended for American mains, its primary would have to be fed through a variac or similar.

would have to be fed through a variac or similar. With 90 input EHT output is 6.5v. Price £15 Skicker stirp inter-phone. This is 4 copper wires mounted on an adhesive tape intended for tele-phone extressions, it can also be used for FM aerials, etc. It is invisible under thick wallpaper and of course carpet or other floor coverings. Price £5 per 100' reel+postage and VAT 60p.

Price 25 per 100' reel+ postage and VAT 60p. 24" panel mester, 0-9 amps, flush mounting, these ware made for military applications, probably measurements of RF power. They work on the hot wire principle so they are suitable for AG or DC measurements. These instruments have a considerable interest and they are seldom on offer these days. Consequently they are very suitable for school labs, measures and exhibitions. Price 21.50 each+post and VAT 40p.

Price **31.50** each+post and YAT 40p. Instrument Mains Transformer, 6.37 at $\frac{1}{2}$ amp and 1157 at 100mA. This is an upright mounting open construction, small size (2" x 24" x 24"). Price **31.40** + postage and YAT 60p. DITTO. 6.37 at 1 amp nad 150 at 200 mA. This is a fully shrouded upright mounting transformer. size approx. 24" x 3" x 3". Price **31.95**+post and VAT 88p.

S x 5 . Frice 3.1 by propose and AAI copy. Instrument power supply mounted on a chassis size $9^{11} \times 34^{11} \times 44^{12}$. This is suitable for instruments which use values and has AC outputs of 150 v and 2007. Frice 32.560 + post and VAT 74.

This has a transformed by the set of the se

Instrument case, size $9'' \ge 9'' \ge 54''$, made from sheet steel grey hammer finish. No holes in these 75p+post and VAT 49p.

yap+post and VAT 49p. Holidays are coming, don't forget you can fool the thieves with our completely automatic daylime off, nightime on switch; it is simplicity itself to fit—iust put in parallel with landing light switch Price this month and September is only 28 + post and VAT SO; after this the price has to up-probably to 24 50 owing to increased costs to us. Pilot lamp bargain. Box of 10 x 247 .05 amp tabular MES lamps made by Philips, the selling price of which is 25p each—our price only 50p per box.

box. Lasi chance for this wire bargain. Heavy duty 3 core waterproof flex 1.5 mm (3-10 amp) very heavy insulation, ideal for running down the garden, will take a heater as well as power tools; would cost 30p per metre in your local shop-our price, 100 meter coil only 37.504 + 22.00 carriage and VAT per coil. Micro Switches. Standard size and type made by Honcywell, Burgcess, Pye, Plessey or similar famous makers, two tag type hormally open. 129 each less usual quantity discount which makes them Sp each if you buy 1,000 or over. DITTO, change over switching, 159 each or 109 for 1,000 or over.

change over switching. 15p each or 10p for 1,000 or over. Relay by STC-S pin octal base, plug-in with perspex cover over contacts, an expensive and well-made relay for 24 volt working. £1 each+ VAT & post 10p. O-I mA panel meter, Eagle 14" square full vision, perspex cover, current price over £3 each-sale price 52+post & VAT 30p. Solenoid 250 rmain Soperated. A small (14"×14"× 1") solenoid metal encased with plunger. Sale price 40p each+post & V.A.T. 10p. Reversible motor with gear box which rotates a splined shat causing a carrier to travel backwards and forwards along same shaft; litt switches fitted at each end stop the motor II is an ex-tremely well-made device which would be used for opening and closing a dre renotely, or similar. We nave one only and the price is 625+carriage and VA.T. 54.

opening and closing a door remotely, or similar, We nave one only and the price is 285 + carriage and V.A.T. 24. Instrument motor with electro brake made by Evershed & Vignibles L4. This is described as a hysteresis motor, maker's ref. FEX 25 CO30; the electric brake is easily removed. Sale price 24 500 each + post & V.A.T. 100p. 6 switch disco lamp controller. This is a mains motor driving a rotating drum made up of discs witch levers, contact is made via 10 and witches. A real bargent at 287.75 + post & agard A real bargent at 287.75 + post & agard 9'' × 4' loudspeakset cerbank up the disc oblained. There, Sale 21 10 amp otherwitz, a good per-former. Sale 21 10 amp otherwitz, a good per-former. Sale 21 10 amp otherwitz, a good per-former. Bale 21 10 amp otherwitz, a low of equipment, but little used and any not received in genteel order would be exhcanged. Price, 10 for

equipment, but little used and any not received in perfect order would be exheaned. Price, 10 for 75p + post & V.A.T. 18p. Glock switch for Tricity cooker, made by Smiths and probably a replacement in many other cookers. This has clock in the centre and the two control switches on the right-hand side. The top control switches on the right-hand side. The top control switches on the right-hand side. The top control switches on the right-hand is in-finitely adjustable over the 12 hours; the lower switch selects mannal or automatic. No glass front, but you could take thie off you existing clock. Price **£1.75** each+post & V.A.T. 36p.







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2N2217 0:22
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2N2220 0:22
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2N2222 0:20
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2N22368 0:18
2N2369 0:15

 | BF115 04 BF117 04 BF118 07 BF119 07 BF121 04 BF123 04 BF125 04 BF127 04 BF152 04 BF152 04 BF154 04 BF154 04 BF154 04 BF155 07 | 5 2N 3819 6 2N 3820 1 2N 3821 1 2N 3821 1 2N 3823 6 2N 3904 6 2N 3904 6 2N 3904 6 2N 3905 1 2N 3906 6 2N 4058 6 2N 4058 6 2N 4059 6 2N 4050 1 BC113 | 0.29 2N4 0.51 2N5 0.36 2N5 0.29 2N5 0.29 2N5 0.31 2N6 0.28 2N6 0.28 2N6 0.12 2N6 0.12 2N7 0.10 2N7 0.10 2N7

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6 BC117 | 0.16 2N7
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 | EAR | I.C's | - | |
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| BC804
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BD116 | $\begin{array}{c} 0.37\\ 0.37\\ 0.25\\ 0.27\\ 0.28\\ 0.28\\ 0.28\\ 0.28\\ 0.28\\ 0.28\\ 0.28\\ 0.28\\ 0.20\\ 0.28\\ 0.20\\ 0.28\\ 0.20\\ 0.28\\ 0.20\\ 0.28\\ 0.81\\$ | 2N29714 0-21
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 | BF162 0 BF163 0 BF164 0 BF165 0 OC44 0 OC70 0 OC71 0 OC74 0 OC76 0 OC76 0 OC77 0 OC76 0 OC78 0 OC81D 0 OC82 0 | 11 BC119 11 BC120 11 BC126 11 BC125 12 BC125 13 BC126 14 BC126 15 BC132 16 BC136 17 BC136 18 BC140 18 BC142 18 BC142 18 BC143 18 BC143 18 BC143 18 BC145 18 BC145 | 0-81 2N7
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5 0.24
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4 0.61
3 0.31 | <i>Type</i>
SL701C
SL702C
TAA263
TAA293
TAA350
uA703C
uA703C
uA709C
uA711C
uA712C | 0.46 0
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uA723C
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TBA800
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| BD121
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AD140 0.49
AD142 0.49

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OC83 0
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0.20 2N5

 | 194 0-56
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296 0-56 | | | SI | LICO
 | N REC | TIFIE | RS | |
 |
| BD132
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BFY53
BSX19
BSX26
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BSY39 | 0.61
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AD149 0-51
AD161 0-36
AD162 0-36
AD162 0-36
AD162(MP)
AD162(MP)
AD140 0-51
AF114 0-25
AF115 0-25
AF115 0-25
AF117 0-25

 | OC169 0 OC170 04 OC171 01 OC200 04 OC201 05 OC202 04 OC203 06 OC204 06 OC205 06 OC205 06 OC205 06 OC2071 04 ORP12 04 ORP60 04 | 26 BC152 26 BC153 28 BC154 28 BC154 29 BC158 20 BC169 26 BC169 26 BC160 26 BC161 36 BC167 11 BC168 1* BC169 1* BC170 | 0-18 2N5
0-29 2N5
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0-19 2N6
0-12 283
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 | 458 0.32
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03 0.56
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04 0.71
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PO BOX 6 WARE HERTS

PU BUX 6 WF	NE HENIS	
SUPER UNTESTED PAKS	QUALITY TESTED PAKS	МАММОТН І.С. РАК
Pak No. Description Price	Pak No.Quality Tested PaksPriceQ 1 20 Red spot transistors PNP0.60	APPROX OG DIETES
U 1 120 Glass Sub-min. General purpose Germ. diodes 0.60	Q 2 16 White spot R.F. transistors PNP 0.60	APPROX. 206 PIECES TP Assorted fall-out integrated circuits, including: Logic.
U 2 50 Mixed Germanium transistors AF/RF 0-60 U 3 75 Germanium gold bonded sub-min. like OA5, OA47 0-60	Q 3 4 OC 77 type transistors 0.60 Q 4 6 Matched transistors OC44/45/81/81D 0.60	74 series, Linear, Audio and D.T.L. Many coded devices but some unmarked—you to identify.
U 4 30 Germanium transistors like OC81, AC128 0.60	Q 4 6 Matched transistors OC44/45/81/81D 0.60 Q 5 4 OC 75 transistors 0.60	OUR SPECIAL PRICE £1.20p
U 5 60 200mA sub-min. silicon diodes 0.60 U 6 30 Sil. Planar trans. NPN like BSY95A, 2N706 0.60	Q 6 5 OC 72 transistors 0.60	
U 7 16 Sil. rect. TOP-HAT 750mA VLTG. RANGE up to 100 0.60	Q 7 4 AC 128 transistors PNP high gain 0.60 Q 8 4 AC 126 transistors PNP 0.60	WORLD SCOOP
U 8 50 Sil. planar diodes DO-7 glass 250mA like OA200/202 0.60 U 9 20 Mixed voltages, 1 Watt Zener Diodes 0.60	Q 9 7 OC 81 type transistors 0.60 010 7 OC 71 type transistors 0.60	TORED SCOOL
U10 20 BAY50 charge storage diodes DO-7 glass 0.60	Q11 2 AC 127/128 Complementary pairs	JUMBO SEMICONDUCTOR PAK Transistors-Germ. and Silicon. Rectifiers-Diodes-
U11 20 PNP Sil. planar trans. TO-5 like 2N1132, 2N2904 0-60 U13 30 PNP-NPN Sil. transistors OC200 & 2S104 0-60	PNP/NPN 0.60 Q12 3 AF 116 type transistors 0.60	Triacs—Thyristors—I.C.'s and Zeners, ALL NEW
U14 150 Mixed silicon and germanium diodes 0.60	Q13 3 AF 117 type transistors 0.60	AND CODED APPROX 100 PIECES
U15 20 NPN Sil. planar trans. TO-5 like 2N695, 2N697 0.60 U16 10 3Amp sil. rectifiers stud type up to 1000 PIV 0.60	Q14 3 OC 171 H.F. type transistors 0.60 Q15 7 2N2926 Sil. Epoxy transistors mixed	Offering the amateur a fantastic bargain PAK and an enormous saving-identification and data sheet in
U17 30 Germanium PNP AF transistors TO-5 like ACY 17-22 0.60	colours 0.60	every pak. ONLY £1.85p
U18 8 6 Amp sil. rectifiers BYZ13 type up to 600 PIV 0.60 U19 20 Silicon NPN transistors like BC 108 0.60	Q17 5 NPN 2 × ST.141. & 3 × ST.140 0.60 Q18 4 MADT'S 2 × MAT 100 & 2 × MAT 120 0.60	
U20 12 1.5 Amp sil. rectifiers top hat up to 1000 PIV	Q19 3 MADT'8 2 × MAT 101 & 1 × MAT 121 0.60	
U21 30 AF. Germ. alloy transistors 2G300 series & OC71 0.60 U23 25 MADT's like MHz series PNP transistors 0.60	Q20 4 OC 44 Germanium transistors A.F 0.60 Q21 4 AC 127 NPN Germanium transistors 0.60	UNTESTED LIN PAKS
U23 25 MADT's like MHz series PNP transistors 0.60 U24 20 Germ. 1 Amp rectifiers GJM series up to 300 P1V 0.60	Q22 20 NKT transistors A.F. R.F. coded 9.80	Manufacturers Fall Outs" which include Functional
U25 25 300 MHz NPN silicon transistors 2N708, BSY27 0.60	Q23 10 OA 202 Silicon diodes sub-min 0.60 Q24 8 OA 81 diodes 0.60	and part Functional Units. These are classed as 'out-of's spec' from the makers' very rigid specifications, but are
U26 30 Fast switching silicon diodes like IN914 Micro-Min 0.60 U29 10 1 Amp SCR's TO-5 can. up to 600 PIV CRS1/25-600 £1.20*	Q25 15 IN 914 Silicon diodes 75PIV 75mA 0.60	ideal for learning about I.C.'s and experimental work.
U32 25 Zener diodes 400 mW DO-7 case 3-33 volts mixed 0.60	Q26 8 OA95 Germanium diodes sub-min- IN69	Pak No. Contents Price ULIC709=10 × 709 0.60
U33 15 Plastic case 1 Amp sil. rectifiers IN4000 series 0.60 U34 30 Silicon PNP alloy trans. TO-5 BCY26 28302/4 0.60	Q27 2 10A 600 PIV Silicon rectifiers IS425B 0.60*	ULIC710 = 7 × 710 0.60
U35 25 Silicon planar transistors PNP TO-18 2N2906	Q28 2 Silicon power rectifiers BYZ 13 0.60 Q29 4 Sil. transistors $2 \times 2N696$, $1 \times 2N697$,	ULIC741 = 7×741 0.60 ULIC747 = 5×747 0.80
U36 20 Silicon planar NPN transistors TO-5 BFY50/51/52 0.60 U37 30 Silicon alloy transistors SO-2 PNP OC200, S2322 0.60	1×2N698 0.60 Q30 7 Silicon switch transistors 2N706 NPN 0.60	ULIC748 = 7 × 748 0.60
U38 20 Fast switching silicon trans. NPN 400 MHz 2N3011 0.60	Q31 6 Silicon switch transistors 2N708 NPN 0.60	
U39 30 RF. Ger. PNP transistors 2N1303/5 TO-5 0.60 U40 10 Dual transistors 6 lead TO-5 2N2060 0.60	Q32 3 PNP Sil. trans. 2 × 2N1131, 1 × 2N1132 0.60 Q33 3 Silicon NPN transistors 2N1711 0.60	C280 CAPACITOR PAK
U43 25 Silicon trans. plastic TO-18 A.F. BC113/114 0.60	Q34 7 Sil. NPN trans, 2N2369, 500MHz	
U44 20 Silicon trans. plastic TO-5 BC115 0.60 U45 7 3A SCR. TO66 up to 600 PIV \$1.20*	(code P397)	Containing 75 of the C280 range of capacitors assorted in values ranging from .01uF to 2.2uF. Complete with
U46 20 Unijunction transistors similar to TIS43 0.60*	2N2095 0.60	identification chart. FANTASTIC VALUE
U47 10 TO220AB plastic triacs 50V 6A <th< td=""><td>Q36 7 2N3646 TO-18 plastic 300 MHz NPN 0.60 Q37 3 2N3053 NPN Silicon transistors . 0.60 O</td><td>ONLY £1.20p.</td></th<>	Q36 7 2N3646 TO-18 plastic 300 MHz NPN 0.60 Q37 3 2N3053 NPN Silicon transistors . 0.60 O	ONLY £1.20p.
U49 12 NPN Sil. plastic power trans. 60W like 2n5294/5296 £1-20	Q38 5 PNP transistors $3 \times 2N3703$, $2 \times 2N3702$ 0.60	
Code No's mentioned above are given as a guide, to the type of device in the pak. The devices themselves are normally unmarked.	Q39 5 NPN transistors 3 × 2N3704, 2 × 2N3705 0.60 Q40 5 NPN transistors 3 × 2N3707, 2 × 2N3708 0.60	SIL. G.P. DIODES
	Q41 3 Plastic NPN TO18 2N3904 0.60	
VOLTAGE	Q43 5 BC 107 NPN transistors 0.60 0.44 5 NPN transistors 3 × BC 108, 2 × BC 109 0.60 <th< td=""><td>300 mW 40 PIV (min) SUB-MIN FULLY TESTED Ideal for Organ builders</td></th<>	300 mW 40 PIV (min) SUB-MIN FULLY TESTED Ideal for Organ builders
EXCLUDE VAT REGULATORS	Q45 3 BC 113 NPN TO-18 transistors 0.60	30 for 50p, 100 for £1.50, 500 for £5, 1000 for £9.
	Q463 BC 115 NPN TO-5 transistors $$ 0.60Q474 NPN high gain transistors $2 \times BC$ 157,	
AT 25% TO ALL	2×BC 168	G.P. SWITCHING TRANS
*ADD 8% TO.3 Plastic Encapsulation	Q49 3 NPN transistors 2×BFY 51, 1×BFY	TO18 SIM, TO 2N706/8 BSY27/28/95A
uA.7805/I.129 5V	52	All neurable devices No open and shorts ALSO
uA.7812/L130 12V	Q51 7 BSY 95A NPN transistors 300MHz 0.60 Q52 8 BY 100 type silicon rectifiers £1.20	AVAILABLE IN PNP similar to 2N2906, BCY 70 20 for 50p, 50 for \$1, 100 for \$1.80, 500 for \$8, 1000 for
(Equiv. to MVR12V) \$1:25p add 20p overseas nA.7815/L131 15V	053 25 Sil, & Germ, trans, mixed all marked	£14. When ordering please state NPN or PNP
(Equiv. to MVR15V) £1.257	new £1.50 Q54 6 TIL 209 Red LED £1.20*	when ordering pictule state in in or init
Minimum order 75p (Equiv. to MVR18V) \$1-25p		G.P. 100
* THYRISTORS	WINTESTED T.T.L. PAKS	30 WATT GERMANIUM TO3 METAL CASE Vcbo 80V, Vceo 50V, IC 10A, Hfe 30-170 replaces the
		majority of Germanium power Transistors in the OC,
PIV 0.6A 0.8A 1A 3A 5A 5A 7A 10A 16A 30A TO18 TO92 TO5 TO66 TO66 TO64 TO48 TO48 TO48 TO48 TO48	Manufacturers "Fail Outs" which include Functional and part Functional Units. These are classed as 'out-of-	AD NKT range. 1-24 25-99 100+
10 0·13 0·15	spec' from the makers' very rigid specifications, but are ideal for learning about I.C.'s and experimental work.	44p 41p 37p
30 0.19 0.22		
100 0.25 0.30 0.25 0.25 0.48 0.48 0.51 0.57 0.58 £1.43	UIC00 = 12×7400 0.60 UIC72 = 8×7472 0.60 UIC01 = 12×7401 0.60 UIC73 = 8×7473 0.60	G.P. 300
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	UIC02=12×7402 0.60 UIC74= 8×7474 0.60	115 WATT SILICON TO3 METAL CASE
400 0.30 0.39 0.55 0.57 0.62 0.71 0.77 £1.79 600 0.39 0.48 0.69 0.69 0.78 0.99 0.90	$UIC04 = 12 \times 7404$ 0.60 $UIC76 = 8 \times 7476$ 0.60	Vebo 100V, Veeo 60V, IC 15A, Hfe, 20-100 suitable
800 0.58 0.65 0.81 0.81 0.92 £1.22 £1.39 £4.07	$\begin{array}{c ccccc} UIC05 = 12 \times 7405 & 0.60 & UIC80 = 5 \times 7480 & 0.60 \\ UIC06 = 8 \times 7406 & 0.60 & UIC81 = 5 \times 7481 & 0.60 \\ \end{array}$	replacement for 2N3055, BDY11 or BDY20 1-24 25-99 100+
DIODES	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	50p 48p 46p
	$U1C13 = 8 \times 7413$ 0.60 $U1C86 = 5 \times 7486$ 0.60 $U1C20 = 12 \times 7420$ 0.60 $U1C20 = 5 \times 7420$ 0.60	
TypePriceTypePriceTypePriceTypePriceAA1190.08BY1010.12BYZ160.410.4850.09	$UIC30 = 12 \times 7430$ 0.60 $UIC91 = 5 \times 7491$ 0.60	INDICATORS
AA120 0.08 BY105 0.18 BY217 0.36 0A90 0.07 AA129 0.08 BY114 0.12 BYZ18 0.36 0A91 0.07	$UIC41 = 5 \times 7441$ 0.60 $UIC92 = 5 \times 7492$ 0.60	3015F Minitron 7 Segment Indicator \$1.11p*
AAY30 0.09 BY124 0.12 BYZ19 0.28 0A95 0.07	$UIC43 = 5 \times 7443$ 0.60 $UIC94 = 5 \times 7494$ 0.60	MAN 3M L.E.D. 7 SEGMENT DISPLAY
AA730 0.09 BY124 0.12 BYZ19 0.28 OA95 0.07 AAZ13 0.10 BY126 0.15 CG62 OA200 0.07 BA100 0.10 BY127 0.16 (OA91Eq) 0.06 OA202 0.07	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	MAN 3M L.E.D. 7 SEGMENT DISPLAY 0.127" High Characters \$1.76p*
AA730 0.099 BY124 0.12 BY719 0.28 0.495 0.07 AA213 0.10 BY126 0.15 CG62 0.4200 0.07 BA100 0.10 BY127 0.16 (0A91Eq) 0.06 0.4202 0.07 BA116 0.21 BY128 0.16 CG631 (0A70- SD10 0.06 BA126 0.28 BY130 0.17 0.479 0.07 SD10 0.06	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	MAN 3M L.E.D. 7 SEGMENT DISPLAY 0.127" High Characters \$1.76p*
AA730 0.096 BY124 0.12 BY719 0.28 0.495 0.07 AA213 0.10 BY126 0.15 CG62 0.4200 0.07 BA100 0.10 BY127 0.16 (0A91 Eq) 0.06 0.4202 0.07 BA116 0.21 BY128 0.16 CG651 (0A70- SD10 0.06 BA126 0.28 BY130 0.17 0.479 0.07 SD10 0.06 BA124 0.12 BY133 0.21 0.05 Short 1N34 0.07 BA154 0.12 BY134 0.21 Leads 0.21 1N34 0.07	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	MAN 3M L.E.D. 7 SEGMENT DISPLAY
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AAY30 0.099 BY124 0.12 BYZ19 0.28 0.495 0.07 AAZ13 0.10 BY126 0.15 CG82 OA200 0.07 BA100 0.10 BY127 0.16 (OA91Eq) 0.06 OA202 0.07 BA116 0.21 BY128 0.16 CG651 OA70- SD10 0.06 BA126 0.82 BY130 0.17 OA79 0.07 SD19 0.06 BA148 0.15 BY130 0.21 OA5 SD19 0.06 BA148 0.15 BY130 0.21 OA5 SD19 0.06 BA155 0.15 BYX38/300.42 OA10 0.14 1N34 0.07 BA155 0.15 BYX38/300.43 OA10 0.14 1N34 0.06 BA173 0.15 BYZ10 0.36 OA47 0.07 1N914 0.06	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	MAN 3M L.E.D. 7 SEGMENT DISPLAY 0.127" High Characters £1.769* ZENER DIODES FULL RANGE IN STOCK VOLTAGE BARGE 2-33V
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	MAN 3M L.E.D. 7 SEGMENT DISPLAY 0.127" High Characters £1.76p* ZENER DIODES FULL RANGE IN STOCK VOLTAGE BARGE 2-33Y

CAUSE FOR ALARM!

A recent press conference New Scientist magazine demonstrated just how easy it is to bug an MP's private conversation within the House of Commons. A simple bugging device (miniature radio transmitter) was planted in the MP's office, without his knowledge, by a member of the staff of New Scientist. His conversation was not only bugged but recorded in another office within the House of Commons and outside the House, on Westminster Bridge!

It appears that the sole purpose of the *New Scientist* exercise* was to publicly demonstrate just how easy it is to bug any building or person, and that even strict security is not a defence against bugging. The alarming extent to which the magazine was proven right was confirmed by photographs and tape recordings of the House of Commons bugging operation.

It will surely come as a surprise to many of our readers that the only offence that appears to have been committed was contravention of the Wireless Telegraphy Acts operating a radio transmitter without a licence! There is no doubt whatsoever that the Radio Regulatory Department of the Home Office would certainly not have issued a licence for the operation of this device, which operated within the 88-108 MHz FM broadcast band.

Anti-bugging equipment is used in the House of Commons for the detection of bugging devices, but with its vast number of rooms and also the large daily influx of thousands of people, it would therefore be quite easy for an individual or organisation to plant one or more bugging devices, which could go undetected indefinitely. The bugging/electronic surveillance industry both in this country and abroad produces some highly sophisticated devices, many operating on frequencies and principles which make their detection by current anti-bugging equipment virtually impossible. There certainly appears to be a recent proliferation by companies in the UK, of electronic surveillance devices.

Advertisements offering micro or miniature VHF transmitters to all and sundry appear regularly in newspapers and periodicals. Anyone can purchase these devices by post and there is no doubt whatsoever that they are certainly in widespread use as bugging or surveillance devices not only in the UK but also in other countries. No boardroom, office, laboratory, workshop, vehicle or person for that matter, is free from the threat of electronic bugging.

The next time you go out for your "evening pint at the local," beware of what you say. Someone up to several hundred yards away may be "tuned-in" to you!

Think about it.

* "How we bugged the Commons"—New Scientist 10th July 1975

LIONEL E. HOWES-Editor

NEWS...

CMOS book

OTOROLA have just published a comprehensive 48-page new CMOS brochure which is available free of charge to all electronics engineers. The brochure lists the entire Motorola CMOS family and is complete with a full set of logic diagrams and family technical data. Advanced information is given on nearly 40 new CMOS devices that will be introduced by Motorola during 1975, including some functions that have never been available before in integrated circuit form.

Of particular value is the section devoted to equivalents of Motorola CMOS devices. This includes an 'other manufacturers' to Motorola interchangeability guide, a complex function (MC14500 family) equivalents chart listing devices from ten different manufacturers, and a list of TTL/CMOS functional equivalents.

The brochure also includes a CMOS interface guide, design hints and a bibliography of applications notes and technical articles. Motorola Ltd., Semiconductor Products Division, York House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex.

Low-cost solar cells

B ELL Telephone Laboratories have announced two new electronic devices which may provide a cheap means of providing electrical power from the sun's energy.

Should it be possible for the new devices to be manufactured using thin-film techniques—like those employed for making integrated circuits—they should be much cheaper to manufacture than silicon solar cells.

The new devices are an offshoot of studies involving the finding of new photodetectors for converting light into electrical signals. One of them has an efficiency of 12.5% in converting sunlight into electricity. This compares with the efficiency of the silicon solar cells used in space vehicles and satellites.

NEWS.

Osmor coils

O SMOR Limited tell us that they still receive numerous requests from constructors all over the world for coils. The Company ceased production of RF coils some 7 years ago to concentrate on their main products, reed relays.

Error

Due to an error, the Linear I.C. section of the Chromasonic Electronics advert in the July 1975 issue of Practical Wireless, was incorrectly priced. The magazine apologizes for any inconvenience caused to readers.

Sir Edward Fennessy

THE Council is pleased to announce that Sir Edward Fennessy has accepted an invitation to become a Vice President of the Society of Electrical and Radio Technicians.

Sir Edward's career in electronics goes back to 1934 when he joined Standard Telephones & Cables Limited development laboratories after graduating from London University. In 1938 he moved to the Air Ministry research establishment at Bawdsey where he joined the team working on the development of radar. In 1940 he entered the Royal Air Force where he was immediately involved in the planning and construction of radar defences. When he left the RAF in 1945, he was a group captain and chief engineer of No. 60 Group. He joined the Board of Decca Navigator Company and between 1946 and 1949 established the system as an international marine aid to navigation. His next appointment was Managing Director of Decca Radar, a position which he held for fifteen years. He became Managing Director of Plessey Company Electronics Group in 1965.

He joined the Post Office as Managing Director Telecommunications and a member of the Board in 1969. In 1973 he was appointed additionally as Board



Design guide

36-PAGE GUIDE to the range of digital products available has been produced by Semicomps Ltd., and is obtainable free of charge. The guide covers not only the main general purpose logic families but also the large area of MOS memories, shift registers and special purpose LSI circuits. Products from leading manufacturers such as Motorola, R.C.A., Signetics, G.I.M., Mostek and Ferranti are included to make this one of the most comprehensive aids available for the digital designer. Semicomps Ltd., 5c Northfield Industrial Estate, Wembley, Beresford Avenue: Middlesex HA0 1SD.

Richard Arbib

ICHARD ARBIB, who has died aged 65, was Chairman of Kelsey Industries Ltd. He was also Chairman of Multicore Solders Limited since that Company started in 1939. He built Multicore up into the largest manufacturer of flux-cored solder wires in the world and the Company was one of the first winners of the Queen's Award to Indusoutstanding try for export achievement in 1966.

In recent years he made a considerable contribution in establishing BIB Hi-Fi Accessories Limited, the manufacturers of Europe's largest range of hi-fi accessories for audio equipment, and many products within the range were his own invention.

Mr. Arbib served on the Radio Industry's Council and the Council of the Radio and Electronic Component Manufacturers Federation for over 30 years and was been closely associated with the electronics industry during his whole career.

member for data processing and was reappointed Managing Director Telecommunications for a further three years.

He received a knighthood in the New Year's Honours List and became Deputy Chairman of the Post Office in March of this year.



Books received

World Radio/TV Handbook A complete directory of international radio and television. Contains details of every shortwave station around the world, frequencies used by each country, foreign broadcasts, long and medium wave stations together with domestic programming. Price £3.50 (soft cover)

 $f_{5.00}$ (sold cover)

Billboard Limited, 7 Carnaby Street, London, WIV IPG. Telephone: 01-437 8090.

Ernie and 'Irene'

T HAT machine which selects Premium Bond numbers up at Lytham St. Annes, namely ERNIE (Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment) now has a sister.

Plessey Telecommunications is producing for the Central Bank of the Philippines a sister installation which has been christened IRENE. (Indicating Random Electronic Numbering Equipment).

IRENE is a complex of electronic units controlled by a computer. Winning numbers are generated at random and stored in the computer memory for checking and subsequent transfer to magnetic tape machines.

RAE Course

THE City of Bath Technical College, Avon St. Bath, will be offering a course of instruction to prepare for the May 1976 City & Guilds Radio Amateurs Exam.

The tutor is P. A. Bubb G3UWJ.

Further details and enrolment at the College 11th and 12th September.

A RADIO Amateur Course will be held at the North East Essex Technical College, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex. For further information please contact D. Mason, Electrical Engineering Department, at the College, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LL or telephone Colchester 70271 ext. 66.



THE P.W. Tele Tennis game is an excellent starting point for anyone wishing to experiment with TV games. Most games require some form of scoring and this article describes a method similar to the commercial version seen in arcades where the score is displayed on the screen itself.

MODIFICATIONS TO CIRCUITRY

As originally described there are no signals inside the game which indicate which player has won or lost. These signals are provided by new serve/lose logic on Board G which replaces the serve/lose logic on Board D of the original game. (To avoid confusion with existing boards and components, all items in the modifications are numbered sequentially from the existing game.)

The logic of Board G is shown on Fig. 1.

This is very similar to the original logic on Board D except that a "lose" signal is generated and stored separately for left and right players. The score counter counts on a negative-going (1 to 0) edge.

Suppose the left hand player misses the ball. A coincidence between "ball" and "left base" will be detected by IC34a and its output will go to 0. This will set the bistable formed by IC33a and IC33b, the output of IC33b going to 0. This blanks the ball, and at the same time the 1 to 0 edge is used to step the counter. This output is therefore labelled "count right". (As the left hand player lost, the right hand player's score is incremented.)

The ball, meanwhile, is still bouncing around the court even though it is blanked, so detection of a miss must be prevented on the right hand side. The "count right" output, which is still at 0 is taken to IC34c to inhibit the detection of the coincidence of the ball and right base. The blanked ball can now bounce round the court indefinitely without further effect on the count outputs.

The sequence of events if the right player misses the ball is similar. The bistable formed by IC33c and IC33d is set, the ball is blanked and IC34a inhibited by "count left".

The serve logic is also similar to that on Board D. The two serve buttons are gated with (right base + right bat) and (left base + left bat) signals and the resulting 0 output from IC32b or IC32a used to reset both of the "lose" bistables. The ball is unblanked and the game starts. The normally closed contacts on each serve button inhibit the "miss" that could be generated at the moment the ball is served.

GAME IN PROGRESS

The on-screen display circuit requires a signal indicating that a game is in progress to turn off the display during a game. This is provided by IC35a which gives a 0 out when both "count right" and "count left" are at 1. This will occur when both "lose" states are reset, i.e., a game is being played.

The modifications required on Board D are quite straightforward. First, ICs 28 and 29 are removed. If sockets have been used on Board D these ICs can be reclaimed for use elsewhere.

Next the two signals "left bat or left base" and "right bat or right base" are brought out. This is best done by connecting to the wire links on Board D as shown in Fig. 7.

The serve button connections are transferred or linked to Board G. Note that the two normally closed contacts are now used independently.

Finally on Board D, the "ball" and "blanked ball" pins are linked to the same pins on Board G.

The other signals required by Board G are "left base" and "right base". These are already provided on Board B.

These interconnections are summarised on Fig. 2. When Board G is connected to Board D the game can be played as before; it is not necessary to complete the display circuits at the same time.

SERVE INDICATOR

Board G also contains logic to indicate which player is to serve. Tele Tennis is usually played to a rough adaptation of table tennis, i.e., first to 21 wins.

In table tennis, the players change serves after

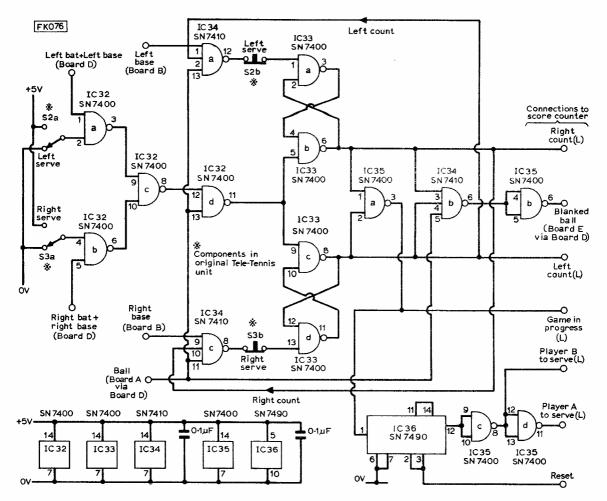
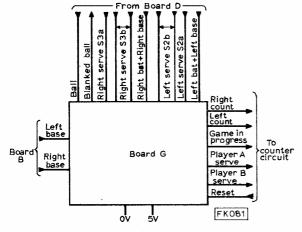


Fig. 1: Logic diagram of Board G which contains the new Serve/Lose logic. The (L) after some of the signals indicates negative logic (logic 1 = 0V). Fig. 2: below, Summary of connections to Board G from the original Tele Tennis Boards B and modified Board D (see Fig. 7).



five serves. A counter is included on Board G to count serves and indicate which player is to serve next.

The counter used is IC36, a 7490 decade counter which conveniently consists of a $\div 5$ counter and an independent $\div 2$ counter.

The \div 5 counter counts the serves from the "game in progress" signal and after five serves the \div 2 counter changes state indicating that the service passes to the other player. After another five serves the $\div 2$ counter changes back. The serve indicators are displayed on the screen itself.

The serve counter is reset by the button used to reset the score counters.

If it is required to add the serve indicators only without the scoring, a suitable signal exists within Board D. The output of IC27d goes from 1 to 0 on each serve, and this signal can be used to step the 7490.

The format of the on-screen display is shown in Fig. 3. As can be seen, the numbers are formed from seven segments identical to a conventional seven-segment display.

As in the original game, generation of the ball, bats and base lines is a question of timing to give a bright-up on the screen at the correct time.

The timing of the character generation is shown on Fig. 4. Delay Q1 is fired by the line sync pulse, and Delay Q4 by the field sync pulse. These determine horizontal and vertical position of the characters respectively.

Delay Q1 starts an oscillator consisting of two delays Q2 and Q3. These determine the width and separation of the characters respectively.

Delay Q4 fires Delay Q5 which on completion of its delay fires Delay Q6. These determine the height

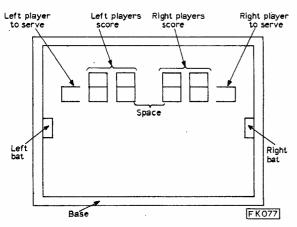


Fig. 3: Format of the scoring display on the TV screen. Only one of the serve indicators will appear at a time and the whole display is blanked during the course of a game.

of the top and bottom halves of the character respectively.

At the end of delays Q^2 to Q6 a narrow strobe pulse is generated. These strobe pulses are labelled SP2 to SP6 and determine the width of the lines in the character.

It can be seen that

Segment	а	occurs	at	(SP2	OR	Q2)	AND	SP4
Segment	b	occurs	at	(SP5	OR	Q5)	AND	SP2
Segment	С	occurs	at	(SP6	OR	Q6)	AND	SP2
Segment	d	occurs	at	(SP2	OR	Q2)	AND	SP6
Segment	е	occurs	at	(SP6	OR	Q6)	AND	SP3
Segment	f	occurs	at	(SP5	OR	Q5)	AND	SP3
Segment	g	occurs	at	(SP2	OR	Q2)	ANÐ	SP5

In practice, segments b and f do not occur alone, and these can be simplified to (Q5 AND SP2) for segment b and (Q5 AND SP3) for segment f.

The circuit diagram for the timing is shown in Fig. 6. This is quite straightforward and needs little examination. Note that the line sync pulse clears Q2 and Q3, stopping the oscillator. This allows Q1 to start the oscillator again via IC55a at the same point in each line.

GATING

Having obtained the timing waveforms we must now gate the characters with them.

The order in which the characters are displayed is:

- 1. L.H. player to serve.
- 2. L.H. player most significant digit.
- 3. L.H. player least significant digit.
- 4. Space.
- 5. R.H. player most significant digit.
- 6. R.H. player least significant digit.
- 7. R.H. player to serve.

These signals are gated in turn to the character generation by a counter triggered by the oscillator Q2 and Q3. The circuit of the score counting, gating and character generation is shown in Fig. 5.

SCORE COUNTERS

The score is counted on the four decade counters IC37 to IC40 giving a two decade count for each player.

The outputs from each decade counter are gated in turn along with the serve indicators and the middle space to the seven segment decoder (IC46) ★ components list **BOARD G SERVE/LOSE LOGIC Integrated Circuits** SN7410N IC32 IC33 SN7400N IC34 **SN7410N** SN7400N 1C35 IC36 SN7490N **BOARD H CHARACTER GENERATION** Resistors Switch R69 1kΩ S5 Single pole biased R70 1kΩ changeover :: 100Ω R71 R72 100Ω R73 1kΩ **Integrated Circuits** 1C37-1C40 SN7490N (4 off) IC41-IC44 SN75151N (4 off) IC45 SN7493N IC46 SN7448N (not 7447) SN7412N (3 off) IC47-IC49 LC50 SN7404N IC51 **SN7400N BOARD J TIMING** Resistors 1kΩ (11 off) R74-R84 R85 $2 \cdot 2k\Omega$ **R86** 1kΩ $2 \cdot 2k\Omega$ R87 **R88** 1kΩ 2·2kΩ R89 VR15--VR17 10kΩ (3 off) skeleton VR18-VR20 100kΩ (3 off) ∫ presets Capacitors C41 2200pF C47 470pF 470pF C42 1000pF C48 1000pF C49 0-33µF C43 C44 0-22µF C50 0.33µF C51 0.33µF C45 0.1µF C46 0.1µF Diodes D29-D39 1N914 (11 off) Integrated Circuits IC52-IC54 SN74123N IC55-IC57 SN7400N FK078 Fleid sync Q4 \$SP4 Q5

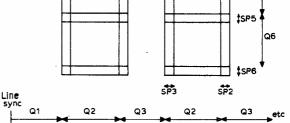


Fig. 4: An enlarged section of the score display which shows the timing of the various segments which go to make up the characters. The smaller character at top left shows the segment designation referred to in the text.

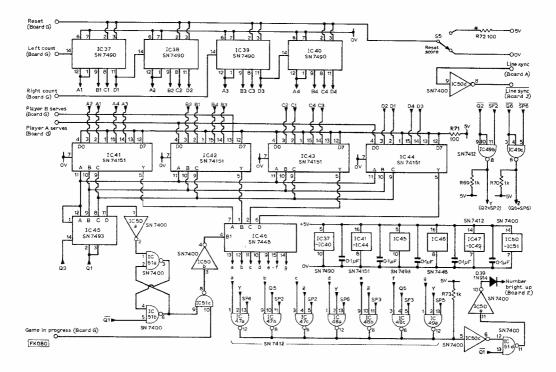


Fig. 5: Logic diagram of Board H, the character generation board. S5 is a new component which can be mounted on the front panel.

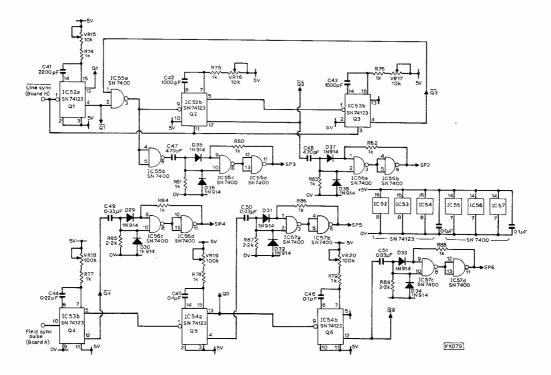


Fig. 6: Logic diagram of Board J which contains the timing logic.

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by the four multiplexer circuits IC41 to IC44. The operation of the multiplexer circuits as as follows.

Each IC has eight data inputs, labelled D0 to D7, three gate inputs labelled A, B and C, and two outputs labelled W and Y. The IC simply takes the binary address on A, B and C and gates the data on the corresponding input in true and complement forms to the outputs Y and W respectively.

Thus, for example, if A, B, and C are at 110 (binary 3, A being the least significant digit) the data on D3 will appear on output Y and its complement on output W.

If ABC are fed from a binary counter, each of the inputs in turn will be selected as the counter counts from 000 to 111.

In this application, four multiplexers are used to gate the four binary coded outputs from each decade counter to the seven segment decode matrix IC46. The sequencing is done by the four bit binary counter IC45. Only the first three digits are used for the selection, the fourth being used for display blanking as described later.

The counter is stepped at the end of Delay Q3, and is reset to zero at the start of each line by Delay Q1.

There are therefore seven segments for each character appearing in turn at the outputs of IC46.

All that is necessary now is to gate these with the timing pulses as described earlier.

The outputs from IC46 are positive going (unlike the conventional seven segment decoder) and can be gated by NAND gates. The gating is done by the open collector NANDS IC47, IC48 and IC49. The gating signals (Q2 or SP2) and (Q6 or SP6) required for segments a, c, d, e, and g are generated by IC49b and c. The picture will bright up if any of the seven outputs from the NAND goes to a 0. These are Wired-ORed together and the resulting signal inverted by IC50c to be fed to Board E for mixing with the other video signals.

CHARACTER SIZE

If the characters on the screen are made fairly small it is possible for the binary counter IC45 to reach full count and start again, giving a second score at the right hand side of the screen. To prevent this, after eight counts the bistable constructed of IC51a and b is set. This is used to inhibit the seven segment decoder via its blanking input. This bistable is reset at the start of each line by Q1.

Unfortunately the characters have to be displayed quite large in order to avoid the inherent flicker of horizontal lines on a random interlace system.

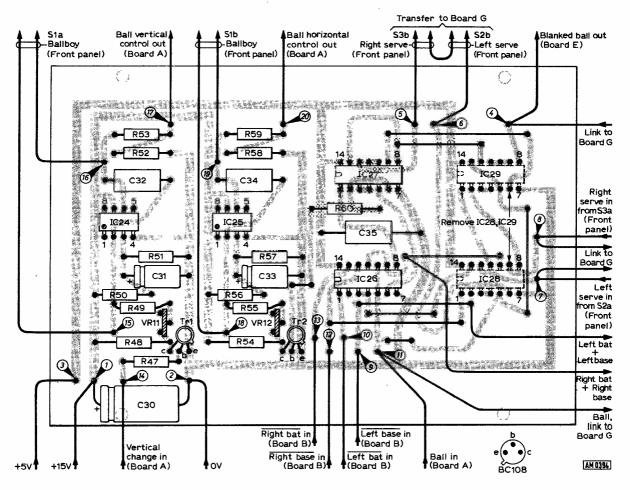


Fig. 7: Modifications to be made to the Board D in the original Tele Tennis unit.

This means that if the characters were left on during a game the screen would be rather cluttered. The "game in progress" signal on Board G is therefore used to blank the displays during the game.

Invalid codes are used to generate the serve indicators and the space between the two scores.

Decimal 10 (1010) generates the "left hand player to serve" signal in position D0; decimal 11 (1011) generates the "right hand player to serve", signal in position D6; decimal 15 (1111) generates a space in position D3 and in position D0 and D6 when the serve indicators are not lit.

The score counter is reset by the reset button. This also initialises the serve counter.

Because all the gates on Board J are utilised, the inversion of the line sync pulse required to fire Delay Q1 and clear Delays Q2 and Q3 on Board J is done by inverter IC50d on Board H.

SETTING UP

The interconnections between Boards H and J are straightforward and self-explanatory, as are the connections from Boards G and A to H and J.

The bright-up signal from Board H has to be oned with the other signals coming to Board E. This is done by adding an additional diode to D17-D23.

The additional diode (D39) is mounted on Board H, and is connected to the common junction of D17-D23. This is best done by removing R61, putting through pins in its two mounting holes and reconnecting R61 to the through pins. The lead from Board H can then be soldered neatly to the through pin at the junction of R61 and the diodes.

- Setting up the displays is done as follows:
- (1) Set trim pots VR15-20 to mid positions.
- (2) Turn on the game. Press the reset score button.
- (3) Somewhere on the screen there should be a "player A to serve" and two zero symbols although they will probably be distorted and may even run off the sides of the screen.
- (4) Adjust VR15 (horizontal) and VR18 (vertical) to bring the display roughly to the middle.
- (5) Adjust VR16 and VR17 to give the required character width and gap respectively.
- (6) Serve the ball until one character shows the symbol for 2. Adjust VR19 and VR20 to give the required heights for the top and bottom halves.
- (7) Adjust VR15 and VR18 again to position the display as required.
- (8) Try playing the game. The display should go off during a game and come on when a player loses. After five serves the serve indicator should change sides.

The sizes of the lines that make up the characters are determined by C47 and C48 for the two vertical lines and C49, C50 and C51 for the three horizontal lines. The sizes of the lines can be increased or decreased by increasing or decreasing the size of the corresponding capacitor.

POWER SUPPLIES

The Tele Tennis game obtains its 5V supply from a 7805 regulator. This is rated at 600mA, and is not capable of driving both the game and the scoring. It is therefore necessary to improve this supply, add

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another separate supply for the scoring or add a completely separate supply to drive both the game and the scoring.

Having two separate supplies for the game and the scoring logic is not good practice. Because logic signals pass between them there is a danger that some integrated circuits could be damaged if the two supplies differed by more than about 0.5V. The 7805 regulator has a tolerance of 0.25V so there could be 0.5V difference between two regulators. This difference could be increased during turn-off and turn-on as the supplies ramp up and down. It is not recommended that two supplies are used.

RS have recently introduced an uprated version of their MVR5V regulator. This is the RS309K which is rated at 1 2A. This is capable of supplying the needs of both the game and the scoring.

Fortunately this is pin compatible with the 7805 regulator although the heatsink originally fitted is not adequate. The recommended heatsink needs a thermal resistance of about 4° C/W. The regulator should therefore be mounted on to a suitable heatsink on the cabinet, and leads extended to it from Board F.

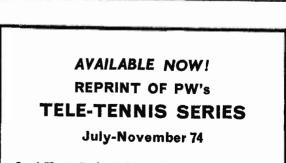
The transformer now needs to supply 12-15V at 1A. If a 0.5A transformer was fitted this will need changing.

The rectifier diodes D25-D28 are rated at 1A and are theoretically capable of handling the current needed. The author has had nasty experiences with rectifier diodes and likes to see them loaded at no more than half their rated current. Pessimists like myself should change them for 3A diodes such as 1N5401.

If it is intended to add any more modifications to the Tele Tennis, adding a substantial five volt supply to power the game should be considered now. This could be done either by using a higher power regulator such as the RS HPV regulator which will supply 2A or even purchasing a commercial fixed voltage power supply.

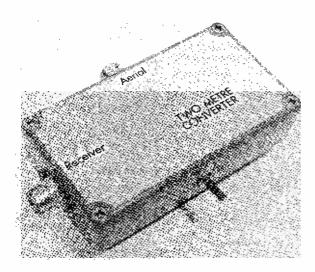
People who wish to design their own power supplies should be careful. You have probably spent a significant amount of money on TTL integrated circuits and commercial supplies have over-voltage protection and other features to look after your investment. Failures of logic power supplies can be very expensive.

It is recommended that at least one 0.1μ F capacitor be used for decoupling every three integrated circuits.



Send 75p + 7p (post & packing) to: Chief Cashier (PW Tele-Tennis), IPC Magazines, Tower House, Southampton St., London, WC2E 9QX.





W. H. Bond F. R.C.S. G3XGP

THIS 2m CONVERTER IS INTENDED TO BE USED WITH AN EXISTING HF BANDS RECEIVER. LATER WE SHALL DESCRIBE AN RF AMPLIFIER TO GO WITH IT, FOLLOWED BY A LOW POWER FM TRANSMITTER. ALL THREE UNITS ARE HOUSED IN SIMILAR SMALL DIECAST ALUMINIUM BOXES TO MAKE UP A COMPLETE STATION FOR THE 2m BAND.

THIS miniature converter is designed to complement the small transmitter to be described in PW, and has an output of 28-30MHz. This IF is chosen because of the peace and quiet on that band, requiring no input filter, and although the gain of most receivers falls at this frequency, the lack of breakthrough ensures a quiet band and a good S/N ratio. Construction is considerably eased

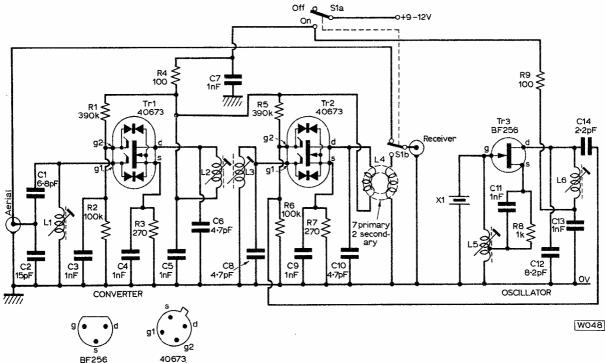


Fig. 1 : The complete circuit diagram of the converter. The oscillator circuit uses a crystal on 116MHz for easy calibration, while the output from the converter is via a wideband toroidal transformer.

by the use of commercial coils of high Q and excellent stability; gate-protected MOSFETS simplify construction and the risk of damage in use is largely eliminated.

The crystal oscillator is unconventional and is the only part of the circuitry requiring any care in setting up. Results are comparable with other converters, the S/N ratio is good and it can be optimised by the adjustment of two resistors.

THE CIRCUIT

The circuit Fig. 1, follows modern popular practice, Tr1 being a gate-protected MOSFET which has internal zener diodes to protect against static from handling and from any excessive RF applied during use. The double channels isolate input and output circuits to give excellent separation so that neutralization is not required. These circuits are tuned by L1 and L2 respectively. To avoid the need for a tap on the input coil L1, C1 and C2 provide a match for a 50 to 75Ω aerial. Further tuning is



Fig. 2: Full size drawing of the printed circuit board viewed from the underside. Owing to its small size, considerable care should be taken in the drawing and etching of this board.

achieved by the slug in L1. L1 also provides a DC return for gate 1 of Tr1, forward bias for the second gate being provided by R1 and R2, decoupled by C3.

The channel current of Tr1 is controlled by R3 with C4 as bypass, and since the channel current varies the S/N ratio, R3 may be varied to suit the characteristics of the particular MOSFET employed. The drain load of Tr1 is L2 and C6, the whole of the RF input stage being decoupled by R4 and C5. L2 is inductively coupled to L3 and C8, while L3 provides a DC return for gate 1 of Tr2. Gate 2 of Tr2 is forward biassed by R5 and R6 and receives the oscillator injection voltage via C14 at 116MHz. This gives the required mixer product of 28-30MHz from the drain load of L4, broadly tuned to these frequencies by C10. The channel current of Tr2 is controlled by R7, bypassed by C9 and some control of mixer noise is available by variation in the value of R7. C7 serves to decouple the whole circuit.

OSCILLATOR

The oscillator circuit is unusual, in as much as the high frequency crystal employed requires an inductance to tune out the capacity of the crystal and its mounting. This same inductance, connected in parallel with the coil, is employed in a Hartley circuit to supply the necessary feedback to maintain oscillation. The crystal is connected between earth

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★ components list

Resist R1 R2 R3 R4	398kΩ 100kΩ	* * * * *	R6 R7 RJ R9	100kΩ 270Ω 1kΩ 100Ω				
RB	390KQ	18 M. C.		*sistors	10% 1 W			
Capac C1 C2 C3	6-8pF 15pF	(76' ; 197' - 6	C9	4.7pF 1nF 4.7pF	.æ			
C4 C5	1nF×	. γ ς. <i>×</i> 4γ.	C11 C12 C13	1nF 8-2pF	~ *			
.C7 Semi	1nF		C14	2 2pF	94.65 ····			
771 Tr2	40673 40673	* ** * * * ?:		BF256	CONTRACTOR ON CALL			
Misceltaneous L1, L2, L3 and L5, MC6S Toko colls, type 503HS 04BY5A (44 turns). L5, S18 Toko coll 44 turns tapped at 25 turns. L4, Toreid core type CR0718A. Colls and core available from Ambit International, 87 High St., Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4RH. Eddy- stone diecast box 115 x 64 x 32mm (44 x 22 x 14 in.) type 7134P. 2. Coax sockets. Stand-off, bushes. DPDT switch: 116MHz crystal, type HC18/U, available from PM Electronic Services, 7A Arrowe								
Par)	lable from Road, U e glass PC	pton, Wi	rral, N	lerseyaid	le L49 0UB.			

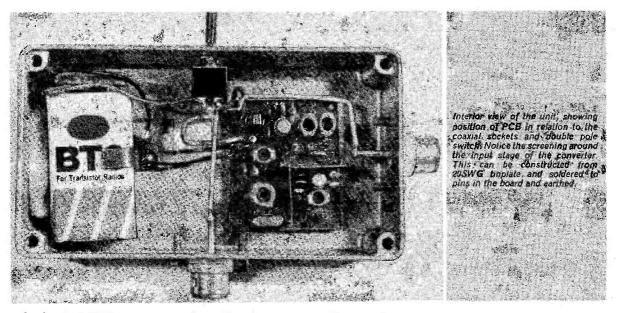
and gate of Tr3, which is in parallel with L5 tapped to provide feedback from the emitter. R8 limits current flow through the oscillator, by-passed by Ol1 with neutralization of the crystal capacity obtained by careful adjustment of L5. The output from the oscillator is taken from the drain, the load being L6 tuned by C12 and the slug in the coil. C12 also decouples to earth, with the output being passed to the second gate of the mixer through C14.

The circuit is designed for operation between 9 and 12V without zener stabilization. These circuit facts, together with the additional capacity across the crystal, result in slightly inaccurate frequencies although the error should not be more than 15kHz. For average amateur use such an error is immaterial.

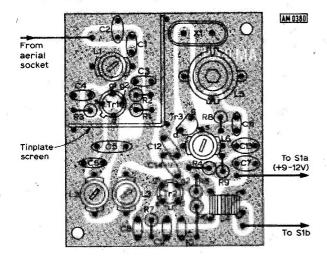
CONSTRUCTION

The circuit is made on a printed circuit board and the technique of preparation is worth repeating. Using Fig. 2, make a tracing, stick it to a suitable piece of single sided copperclad board and dot punch each of the component mounting holes. Drill each point with a No. 60 drill and file off the burrs on each side. Following Fig. 2, link the holes using either a Dalo pen or a Staedtler Permawriter making the gaps between the copper lands as narrow as possible. Etch in ferric chloride or ammonium persulphate and common salt (much cleaner), both slightly warmed. When completed, remove the etch resistant with Brillo or steel wool. Examine with a magnifying glass and remove any excess copper remaining between lands.

Construction is considerably simplified by the use of suitable Toko coils and only the output toroid need be wound, (7 turns primary, 2 turns secondary



of about 22SWG copper wire), taking care the windings terminate over the PCB connections. Because of the small spacing of components on the recommended circuit board, start at the centre and work outwards making all component leads as short as possible and mounting the coils and screen last of all. Omit R9 until the oscillator has been placed on frequency.



Component side view of the PCB, shown approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ times actual size. For components to fit the hole spacings correctly, the leads should be kept as short as possible.

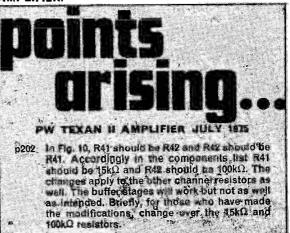
SETTING UP

The omission of R9 allows the oscillator to be put on to frequency without energizing the converter. Give the oscillator a power supply by temporarily connecting 9 to 12V via a milliammeter to the C12 end of R9, and adjust L5 and L6 for minimum current. A frequency meter makes this adjustment easy, but failing this an RF 'sniffer' placed near L6 will show maximum output and the milliammeter minimum current, when the coils are correctly adjusted. Now insert R9 and connect power to the correct point; the consumption should be 10mA. Adjust L3 and L2 for maximum current. Connect the aerial to the input, or, alternatively, supply a 144-146MHz signal from a signal generator, and adjust L1. Meanwhile, feed the output into a receiver tuned to 28-30MHz, looking for maximum gain, and readjusting all three coils approximately. After acquaintance with the unit it is worth while altering the values of R3 and R7 to obtain the best signal-to-noise ratio.

CONCLUSIONS

As a straightforward converter to 28-30MHz this very small unit gives excellent results with a 9 to 12V supply, the optimum behaviour depending on adjustment of the voltage supply or the two emitter resistors R3 and R7.

Although this converter contains an expensive crystal it is easy to construct and adjust, and is further enhanced by the quiet IF selected and the certainty that, using commercial coils, only minor adjustment is required for satisfactory operation.



THE SECOND ARTICLE IN THIS SERIES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE AND WILL DESCRIBE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2m PRE-AMPLIFIER.

Practical Wireless, September 1975



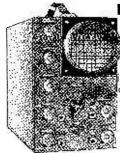
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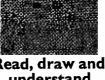
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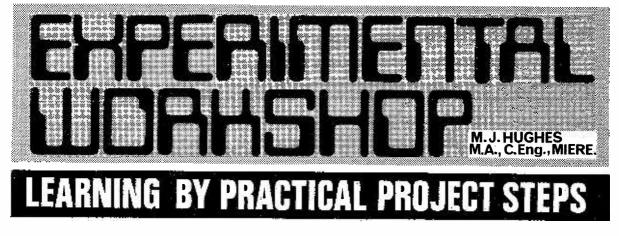
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576						Practical W	ireless, September 1975



PART 16-TRF RADIO RECEIVERS

When a radio signal is transmitted it comprises what is called a "carrier" on which is superimposed the audio signals we wish to receive. The carrier can be one of a vast range of frequencies which cover the radio frequency spectrum from a hundred kilohertz to several hundred megahertz. The audio frequency signals are superimposed on the carrier by a process known as "modulation" and there are several forms. The oldest form is AMPLITUDE MODULATION (AM). As its name suggests the audio frequencies are used to make the carrier's amplitude vary in exact relationship to the amplitude of the audio signal, as shown in Fig. 112.

All frequencies are suitable for amplitude modulation but generally speaking we think of the long, medium and short waves as being the primary domain for AM. Within the same bands there are other modes of modulation which are used for specific commercial or technical reasons. For example, most amateurs using telephony now operate on SSB (single sideband) as this enables them to radiate power more efficiently while, at the same time, using only half the bandwidth. However, SSB is still only another form of AM.

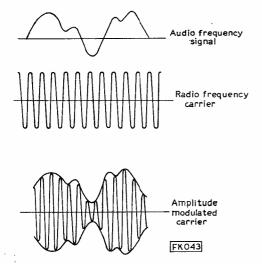


Fig. 112: Formation of an amplitude modulated (AM) signal from audio and RF sources.

Facsimile transmission of photographs and weather maps is carried out on the short waves using a process resembling FREQUENCY MODULATION (FM) although not in its normal form. We normally associate FM with the VHF bands, ranging from about 80MHz and upwards in frequency. With frequency modulation the carrier is modulated by shifting its frequency up and down in proportion to the amplitude of the audio signal impressed upon it. It should be clear that when frequency modulation is applied to a carrier the receiver has got to be capable of receiving a range of frequencies when it is tuned in, the maximum positive and negative-going excursions of the frequency being set by the maximum amplitude of the audio signals. Therefore the receiver has to have a certain bandwidth centred on the nominal frequency of the carrier. Although this seems obvious for FM signals the same argument applies to the reception of amplitude modulated signals, but the reason is not quite so obvious.

When a signal is amplitude modulated the carrier is modified to become (1) sum of the carrier plus the frequency of the audio signal and (2) difference between the carrier and the audio frequency, plus (3) carrier frequency. Thus if a carrier frequency of 1,000,000Hz is used to carry an audio tone of 1,000Hz and 999,000Hz, plus the original carrier. These extra signals are called the upper and lower sidebands. The frequencies of the sidebands depend on the frequencies of the audio signals but one can limit the excursion of these sidebands by preventing audio signals greater than a certain frequency reaching the modulator.

On the medium waveband the width of the sidebands becomes critical in so far as they might cause one station to overlap another, so the more one limits the frequency range of the audio signal the more stations, theoretically, can be accommodated in a particular waveband. This is one of the reasons why one does not expect the same high-frequency response from a station received on the medium waveband as one received on FM at VHF where, at present, there is less problem with station crowding and a wider bandwidth can be used.

We can experiment with a straightforward medium wave transistor portable radio to experience the presence of the sidebands. Try tuning in a station,

making sure to obtain the best setting of the dial to give a good quality signal. Now very gently offset the tuning upscale and downscale. Notice that the sound quality becomes more shrill as it losses its bass frequencies. This is simply moving the tuning of the receiver to pick up the higher frequency sidebands, at the expense of the lower frequencies which are nearer to the carrier and consequently move out of the bandwidth of the radio.

Clearly a radio receiver MUST have a bandwidth that allows the reception of the carrier as well as the maximum excursions of the sidebands, for every setting of the dial, if we wish to get the best quality signal. A receiver having too narrow a pass-band will cause high frequency audio signals to be lost, even on tune but, on the other hand, a receiver having too wide a pass-band will suffer from interference from stations on adjacent channels.

We have dived into the deep end of this kind of explanation although all we are going to describe are a few experiments on T-Dec. The answer is, simply, that the bandwidth of tuned circuits is most important and we hope to instil a better appreciation of how good quality tuned circuits and good matching can make or mar a radio receiver.

We shall limit ourselves to receiving amplitude modulated signals on the medium waveband, approximately 525kHz to 1 605MHz. The signal transmitted from the broadcasting station is broadly described as an electromagnetic wave. To be more precise, there are two signals radiated by a transmitter, one is rather like a magnetic field which can induce small currents in coils wound on ferrite rod aerials and the other is an electrostatic field which needs a long wire aerial or a dipole for reception. One signal always goes with the other but the range of the electrostatic signal is usually greater.

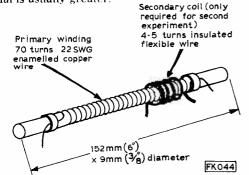


Fig. 113 : Construction of aerial coil on ferrite rod, used in experiments shown here.

In practice most modern transistor radios embody ferrite rod aerials and operate by picking up the magnetic field; usually we are only interested in receiving local stations on the medium waves. Because of this we shall use a ferrite rod, Fig. 113, aerial for all our experiments this month. When winding this make sure that the turns are tight and try to separate one turn from the next by about the thickness of the wire. Sellotape can be used to hold the ends of the wire in place.

If this coil is placed with its axis perpendicular to the line between the receiver and a transmitter the radiated magnetic field, oscillating at the carrier frequency, will induce small voltages across the windings, just like a transformer in which the secondary has been moved away from the primary. Obviously the induced voltages are going to be very small indeed, in reality a microvolt or two. More important is the fact that ANY radio stations lying on the right line will induce voltages irrespective of the frequency. A transformer will operate, in theory, with any frequency of input voltage if one ignores problems involving power dissipation. Off the perpendicular line the induced voltages will be lower.

If we place a capacitor in parallel with the coil we alter the state of affairs significantly by making a frequency selective, or tuned, circuit. The impedance of the parallel circuit becomes low for all except one particular frequency, the resonant frequency, given by $f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}}$. The impedance of the circuit rises to a maximum value depending on

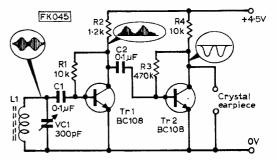


Fig. 114: First experiment, demonstrating effect of loading on coil Q.

the Q, or efficiency, of the coil. The higher the Q the sharper will be this tuning.

There are two main factors which control the Q of a coil. One, which we can do very little about, is the internal resistance of the coil itself. This should be as low as possible for maximum Q, hence the use of reasonably thick 22 SWG wire. The second factor is the effect of parallel resistance across the tuned circuit, which is directly influenced by connecting into another stage. This latter effect is something we definitely can control.

The first two experiments demonstrate very effectively the effect of loading on the Q of the tuned circuit. Use the coil to make up the circuit of Fig. 114 on T-Dec, Fig. 115. The tuned circuit is connected via C1 to the relatively low input impedance stage of Tr1 which is operating as a detect-

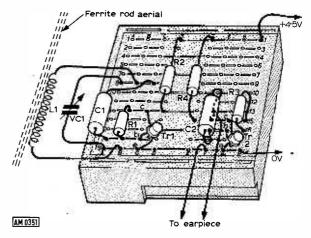


Fig. 115: Arrangement of Fig. 114 on T-Dec. Practical Wireless, September 1975

You have heard of "Long Life" batteries, milk and beer, so why not a "Long Life" catalogue? The thought struck me the other night when I visited a friend to chat about a joint project we were building. We needed a few bits and pieces, so he went to a drawer and pulled out a catalogue. Yes, it was the famous Home Radio Components catalogue alright, but at first I didn't recognise it. "Gracious! How old is it?" I exclaimed. "Oh" he said, "about 5 or 6 years". Fascinated, I said "Can you still use it? Surely, it's years out of date?". "No, not really" he said, "you see many basic things like plugs, sockets, resistors, capacitors, switches, don't change much. Only the prices change, and Home Radio were wise enough to take all prices out of their catalogue many years ago and put them on a separate list. What's more, they were far sighted enough not to change their catalogue numbers, so all I have to do is to write or phone them occasionally and 'hey presto' along comes an up to date price list. Not a penny extra to pay!" "You really believe in "Sure thing" he replied, "but I might have bought four or five catalogues and still not ordered any more goods. These catalogues must cost Home Radio a bomb to produce, so I imagine they are quite pleased if one of their catalogues produces business for say two years or more. However I must admit it's about time I got myself a new one"

This conversation set me thinking, Home Radio Components



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really do produce a catalogue that will last and last, and a service to back it up. So if you are keen to save the pennies, send for a copy today. You may still be using it in 1977. On the other hand, if you really like to keep up with the latest developments, Home Radio will be happy to sell you a new one. Each year they spend at least 5 or 6 months revising it in order to bring the latest trends to your notice. Either way you cannot lose. Especially when you bear in mind, that although the initial cost is 65p plus 33p postage and packing, they enclose 14 vouchers each worth 5p if used as directed. Add to that the fact you could easily make it last two or three years . . . well, to borrow a phrase, "You never had it so good". Don't wait, send off the coupon today with your cheque or P.O. for 98 pence.

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DC Current 0-1 mA 0-100mA	2 3 3 50 0.56 3 20 4 50 0.64	PLEASE	POWER Output switched		e CC 12-05	1.1
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ing amplifier. It is biased into almost complete conduction so that when positive going excursions of any applied AC appear at its base the transistor finds it hard to go any further into conduction and there will be little negative going signal at its collector. On the other hand negative going excursions will find it easier to take the transistor slightly out of conduction and amplified positive signals will appear at the collector. These positive signals should be at the carrier frequency but will be varying in amplitude in sympathy with the audio frequency. It is necessary to "detect" the signal by cutting off the negative going portion otherwise we shall be unable to regain any audio information as the average signal level would have been zero. The detected signal, still at radio frequency, is then fed to a second, more conventional, grounded-emitter amplifier where its level is increased. The signal at the collector of Tr2 is fed to a crystal earpiece the capacitance of which effectively shunts out the radio frequency component

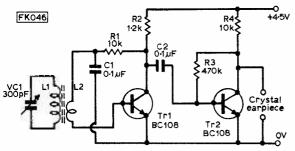


Fig. 116 : Circuit modification to retain high Q of tuned circuit.

of the signal leaving only the audio frequency "envelope" which should be heard as an audio signal in the earpiece.

You will be fortunate if you can hear anything very much with this circuit until VC1 is set to its minimum capacitance, i.e. the vanes are fully open, and then you should hear a conglomeration of local stations all on top of each other. The signals will be weak and almost impossible to separate from one another. The reason for this is that the input impedance of Tr1 is very low and has lowered the Q of the tuned circuit, as well as being so low that we are getting anything but optimum power coupling between the two stages.

To prove the point use the same components in the slightly different circuit shown in Fig. 116. Notice that you need to put about four turns of flexible insulated wire on the ferrite rod over the top and at the end of the basic 70 turn coil. This secondary

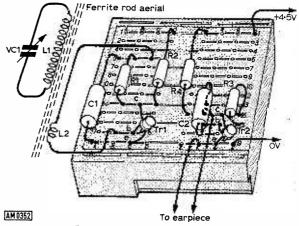


Fig. 117: Layout of circuit of Fig. 116.

coil has a much lower output impedance and while the voltages developed across it will be less than the main coil there is a greater current drive ability. We have made, in effect, a simple transformer which allows the current sensitive input stage of Trl to draw the current it wishes without reflecting its impedance across the main tuned circuit. If this theory is correct the Q of the main tuned circuit should not be so adversely effected. Make up the circuit Fig. 117 and you should be pleasantly surprised by the vast improvement in signal level obtained as well as the improved ability to separate the stations, or selectivity.

We should, perhaps, add a note of sympathy for those who live in the more remote parts of the country because, although we imply good reception

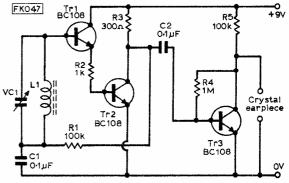
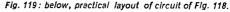
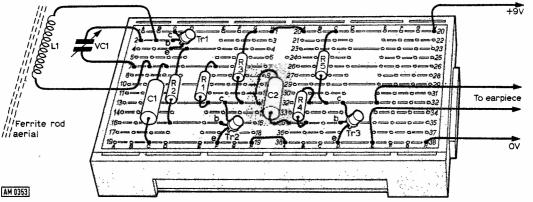


Fig. 118 ; above, shows addition of emitter follower stage to provide feedback.





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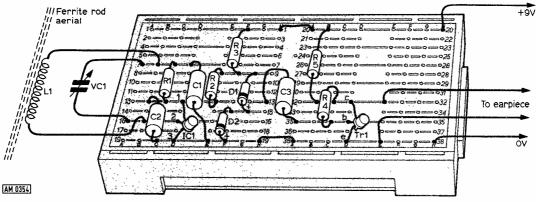
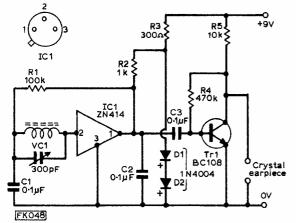


Fig. 121 : above, suggested arrangement for Fig. 120.

Fig. 120: below, alternative TRF circuit arrangement using the ZN414 integrated circuit.



from this circuit, it would be fairer to add that it is only suitable for reception of stations within a fifty to hundred mile radius!

For those who do not like having to wind an extra coil on the aerial there are other ways of improving the Q. If the output impedance of the tuned circuit cannot be reduced than the alternative is to increase the input impedance of the subsequent amplifiers. The circuit of Fig. 118, layout in Fig. 119, shows how this can be done by using an emitter follower. This has a very high input impedance and is biased into conduction by the $100k\Omega$ resistor, R1, feeding its base through the coil. The bias current is obtained by negative feeback from the collector of Tr2 and C2 bypasses any radio frequency signals to earth. Tr2 acts as an amplifying detector just as before and Tr3 provides a greater degree of amplification. Note the high value of collector load for Tr3, which is necessary to prevent instability. You can reduce this value down to about $10k\Omega$ in easy stages but at some point you might find that the circuit starts to oscillate.

While this latter circuit does work we have included it to demonstrate, in a simple way, the principle of operation of a very well known integrated circuit which, these days, is by far the best way of making a TRF radio. It is the ZN414, well worth the investment of about a £1, if nothing else, for the satisfaction of getting a radio to work when outside the range of the preceding experiments! The integrated circuit, Fig. 120, contains a very high input impedance amplifier which is biased in much the same way as our preceeding experiment, with R1. The IC contains a much higher degree of amplification than we could possibly obtain with conventional components without instability creeping in and as a bonus contains the detector and a degree of automatic gain control as well.

Apart from the obvious advantages of the extra gain and added refinement of AGC there is little difference between the principle of operation of this device and the preceding circuits. Resistor R2 corresponds to the collector load which goes to the positive rail. In the case of the ZN414 it only needs $1 \cdot 2V$ to drive it and we have obtained this by using the forward voltage drop across two diodes, D1 and D2, in series with R3. C2 acts, in place of the internal capacitance of the earpiece, to filter out the RF carrier and we have added a conventional audio amplifier stage to bring up the level for comfortable listening. When using this little radio note the high degree of selectivity given by its high input impedance. The layout is given in Fig. 121.

Finally, a brief point about having too narrow a bandwidth which would limit high frequency audio response. This problem did not crop up at all in our experiments, apart from the earlier reference to it. The reason is that normally the Q of simple tuned radio frequency circuits is never likely to give too narrow a bandwidth, consequently a TRF receiver such as the one described, will give as high a quality output as is possible when operating on medium waves. The only drawbacks which would force one to more sophisticated circuits are the lack of sensitivity and the problems of overcrowding on the waveband which necessitate narrower bandwidth receivers giving poorer quality associated with narrow bandwidth.

This is the concluding part of the present series of Experimental Workshop.

points arising . . .

REACTION TIMER

April 1975. In the circuit diagram Fig. 1 page 1098, R3 should be shown as $27k\Omega$ and R4 as $47k\Omega$. The component list is correct.

BENCH STABILISED POWER SUPPLY

February 1974. In use a fault developed giving a permanent output of over 30V. This was found to be caused by a short circuit inside Tr1, a 2N3053. This was replaced by a Texas Instruments BFT39 which has proved satisfactory.



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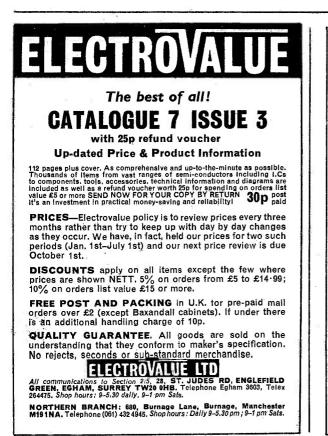
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B EFORE describing this project, a word of warming. Although exceedingly simple and easy to make, this device operates directly from the mains and has its components connected to the live mains without isolation from a transformer. This circuit is probably not suitable for less exprienced constructors. The project should definitely **NOT** be made unless the constructor is prepared to go all the way and make a fully insulated and earthed metal case similar to that which will be described.

Speed control

The circuit makes possible the speed control of series wound brush electric motors as found in small portable electric drills such as the Black and Decker D520 and D720 series. When the device is in circuit speed control is effective from about 20 r.p.m. to half the drill's normal speed and at low speeds very little of the normal torque is lost; this constant torque effect is produced by making use of a feedback signal developed across the windings of the electric motor during the portion of the mains cycle when the thyristor is not conducting. Because the non-conducting cycle is necessary it is not possible to insert a triac instead of a thyristor to obtain speed control up to maximum speed. Almost any thyristor having minimum ratings of 3 amp and 400V breakdown can be used in the circuit.

Thyristor operation

To make the thyristor conduct it is necessary to pass a current between the gate and the cathode while a potential difference exists across the anode and cathode of the device. This trigger current is produced when the gate is made positive with respect to the cathode.

Referring to Fig. 1, R1 in conjunction with VR1 and D1 form a potential divider and rectifier across the mains so that the signal at the wiper of VR1 is a positive going half wave signal, the amplitude of which can be varied with VR1. If there was a

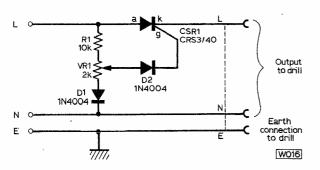


Fig. 1 : Circuit diagram of the Motor Speed Controller.

Practical Wireless, September 1975

★ components list

R1	10kΩ 5V			`			
VR1	2kΩ-2W	wirewoul	nd				1.1
D1	1N4004		· ·		í .	2.1	÷.,
D2	1N4004		•		·	· · ·	
CSR1	-CRS3/40) or simila	ar 3A, 400	V th	yrişi	tor 🕓	
Metai	case, M	K socke	t, termina	al b	lock	is, c	able
	محسة أحام تدبيد	zel knob.	bracket fo	or th	vrisi	tòr. c	boot
clamp	. wide bez						
			stand off	spa	cers	. Ru	bber

normal resistive load across the output instead of a drill motor, the signal at the gate of the thyristor would rise in a positive direction in exact phase with the rise of the mains across the normally switched off device.

When the gate current so produced reaches its trigger threshold the thyristor will turn on and hold on for the duration of that positive mains cycle—the power being dissipated in the load. At the end of the mains cycle the thyristor switches off because its "holding current" falls to zero. During the negative half cycle which follows, the thyristor will not turn on but at the same moment in the next positive half cycle the first conduction cycle will be repeated.

Motor action

This explanation assumes a resistive load which guarantees that at the start of each positive half cycle the potential at the cathode of the thyristor is zero with respect to the gate, hence it is not difficult for the potential of the triggering voltage—set by VR1—to drive sufficient trigger current into the gate.

If, however, a drill motor is connected across the output, the drill will start to rotate as soon as the first positive half cycle is applied, but at the end of the cycle—when the thyristor switches off—the motor will "coast" on without extra power being applied.

During this coasting action the armature of the motor behaves like a generator and produces a positive voltage at the cathode of the thyristor so when the next conducting cycle begins the potential at the gate has to reach a higher absolute value before the trigger current flows. This occurs later on in the cycle so consequently less energy is applied to the motor and it will not receive such a great "kick" of power. The effect is that the motor slows up slightly.

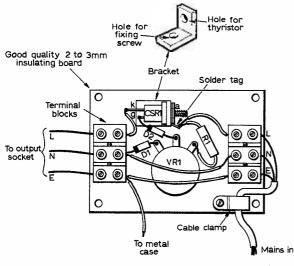
This operation will, of course, occur repetitively over consecutive cycles and after a small period of time the system reaches equilibrium and the motor runs at a speed set by the potential at the wiper of VR1. If torque is applied to the motor it will naturally try to slow down during the negative half cycles so a lower reverse voltage will be generated and the "kick" of the next positive cycle will be greater, thus maintaining the near constant torque.

At slow speeds when no load is applied to the motor the speed may hunt up and down—a process known as "skip cycling" because the coasting action of the motor may prevent a further power kick over several cycles; as soon as torque is applied, however, the skip cycling effect stops.

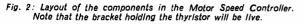
Assembly

When assembling the device take great care over insulation—sleeve the leads of all the components which should be mounted on a good quality insulated board, see Fig. 2.

Remember that all connections are live to mains voltages **INCLUDING** the bracket for the thyristor and its mounting sorew on the reverse side of the board. Because of this the board should be mounted on a metal front panel with stand-off spacers (Fig. 3), and the metal panel must be earthed.



W017



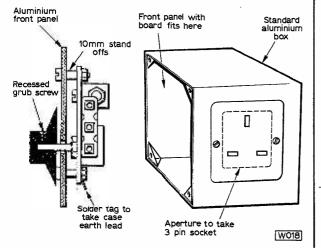
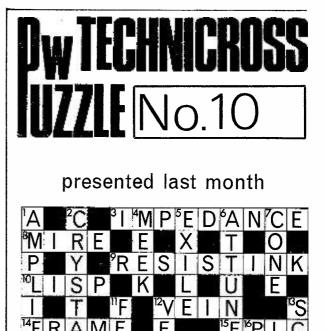


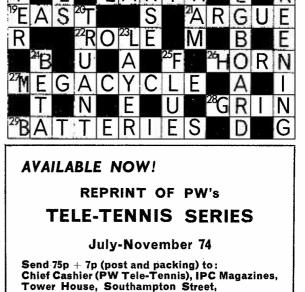
Fig. 3 : Suggested "safe" method of housing the Motor Speed Controller.

Do not rely on the insulation of the spindle of the potentiometer. Use flush knobs which are either collet fixing or have a deeply recessed grub screw. Input and output leads are taken to standard electrical terminal blocks screwed to the board and the mains input lead should be anchored securely with a cable clamp.

The output can be connected from within the earthed case to a standard flush mounting MK wall socket which is screwed to the outside of the case if a suitably sized aperture is cut to take the terminations of the socket. DO NOT FORGET THE EARTH CONNECTION TO THIS SOCKET.

Note that R1 must be a five watt device and VR1 a two watt wirewound potentiometer.





Practical Wireless, September 1975

London, WC2E 9QX



M.J.HUGHES M.A., C.Eng., MIERE

EBD

T HIS project is a wonderful example of how modern technology can bring what was a supersophisticated project into the realms of anyone who is reasonably competent at wielding a soldering iron. At the same time mass production of the complex integrated circuit used has brought down the cost to an amazingly low figure. Some people might complain that the introduction of modern large scale integrated circuit technology takes all the fun out of amateur electronic construction. This may, perhaps, be the case in some instances but there are many constructors who may not have the time to embark on lengthy projects and who like to get down to a job and see it through in one or two sittings.

It should not take the experienced constructor more than an hour or two to put this project together. Because of the simplicity of the electronic assembly it could, perhaps, be considered more as an exercise in neatness of construction and, for the real enthusiast, could be a useful exercise in producing a "do-it-yourself" printed circuit board.

PERFORMANCE

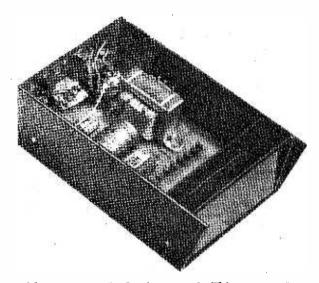
Having sounded the fanfare perhaps we had better say a few things about the end product itself. On the face of it the device is "yet another" digital clock but there are a few significant differences. For a start, use is made of the popular General Instrument Microelectronics device the AY-5-1224. This is one of the lowest priced digital clock IC's on the market, readily available from several advertisers in this magazine. Being a 16 pin DIL (dual-in-line) package there is not the usual high cost of a specialised socket. The small number of output pins clearly inplies that there are no fancy options such as alarm or six digit capabilities. By clever design the manufacturers have made amazing use of the few pins by giving them duplex functions from a strobe signal.

For example, by adding a few diodes to the external circuitry one has the option of 12 or 24 hour display (in the 12 hour mode the higher significant zeros of the hours presentation are blanked). The internal dividers can be pre-selected to operate from 50Hz or 60Hz inputs. In this project we have limited the design to 50Hz operation from 240V mains. The clock can be set to display minutes and seconds instead of hours and minutes, by the introduction of a further diode. There is a very unusual feature in the "reset to zero" facility which resets the display to "All Zeros" whether counting in the 12 or 24 hour mode, in hours and minutes or minutes and seconds. This reset clears the early stages of the counter chains completely giving a true zero. An extra diode in the circuitry will give a BCD output instead of the seven segment output (we shall not make use of this facility in this project) and, if desired, the segment drive outputs can be complemented by means of a single diode operating from the strobe line.

For those who have not come across the device before we show the typical general purpose application circuit in Fig. 1. We have deliberately left out component values on this drawing to avoid confusion with the circuit we shall be adopting for the project. A big attraction of the device is that it requires so few external components to get it to function. Its supply voltage is comparatively flexible, between 12 and 18V, and this means one does not have to make use of a sophisticated power supply. A half wave rectified supply is adequate. This means that with a carefully designed printed circuit layout the whole clock can be made very compact without introducing too many constructional problems. The mechanical construction is rather novel, using three printed circuit boards in a "bedstead" structure. Pins are used to route connections from one board to the next and there is the absolute minimum amount of free wiring.

Because of the "reset to zero" facility of the IC it seemed a pity to miss the obvious application of using the device as a stop clock (it will operate in "start/stop/reset" mode when counting in hours and minutes or minutes and seconds). Rather than include the necessary push buttons and switches in the basic clock it was felt wiser to offer this facility





with an external plug-in control. This means that those who just wish to make a simple clock can omit the extra components. Having the external control means that the user has remote control of the clock and this in itself could be a very useful feature for some applications.

A very important application, which seems to have been missed out on in previous clock designs, is that in a photographic darkroom. What better than a red

★ components list

Resistors				
R1 470k Ω R6 2.2k Ω R11 1k Ω				
R2 1k Ω R7 1.5k Ω R12 1.5k Ω				
R3 2·2kΩ R8 1·5kΩ R13 1·5kΩ				
$R4 2 2k\Omega$ $R9 1 5k\Omega$ $R14 1 5k\Omega$				
$R5 2.2k\Omega$ $R10 1.5k\Omega$ $R15 1k\Omega$				
All 1 or 1W 5%				
1				
Capacitors				
C1 1000 μ F 25V C2 0.022 μ F polyester				
C3 1000pF polyester				
Co roopi polyester				
Semiconductors				
D1 1N4001 D2/3/4 1N4148				
LED1/2/3/4 MAN3640 LED5 General purpose LED				
Tr1 to 11 inc ZTX108				
IC1 AY-5-1224				
All available from PW advertisers				
All available from PVV advertisers				
Miscellaneous				
T1, Transformer 240V/12V 100mA, see text. SK1/				
PLG1, 5 pin DIN plug and socket. S3, SP on/off				
slide switch. S4, 2P changeover pushbutton unit.				
S5, SP push-to-make switch. 3-way mains lead with				
grommet and clamp. Cabinet material. Feet, plastic				
or rubber. Set of PCB's (3). Timer control box, 75 x				
50 x 25mm (3 x 2 x 1in.) with lid. Veroboard pins,				
0.1in. (18). Sockets for LED's and IC1, see text.				
A specially wound transformer is available from				
Foresight Electronics, 62 High Street, Croydon,				
Surrey for £1.54 inc. VAT/pp. The same firm can				
supply the three PCB's for £2.04 inc. VAT/pp.				

LED display in a darkroom when printing on black and white paper? More will be said about stop clock applications when the control unit is described. Another advantage of keeping the extra stop clock components outside the main clock is that the overall size can be kept down.

For the same reason it was felt desirable to keep the current drain of the clock to a minimum, allowing use of a small transformer, and to this end, high efficiency seven segment LED displays are used. These are MAN3640 manufactured by Monsanto. Other types that have the correct pin configuration could be used but they will not give as much illumination.

FINAL CIRCUIT

The circuit for the complete clock, including the switch and DIN socket for the stop clock facility, is shown in Fig. 2. Notice that only three external diodes are used in association with the strobe line of the IC. These allow fast setting of hours and minutes at pins 1 and 16 respectively when the specific switch is closed. The diode going to pin 13 selects a 24 hour display. If a 12 hour display is required this diode should be left out.

The 1000pF capacitor between pin 3 and earth sets the multiplexing frequency and the 50Hz reference signal is fed to the input of the clock (pin 4) via a 470k Ω and a 1k Ω resistor. The junction of these resistors is taken to the DIN output socket so that an external switch can earth the signal at this point thus stopping the clock. In order to reset the clock to zero, from the remote unit, it is necessary to take an output from the strobe line and pin 15 to the

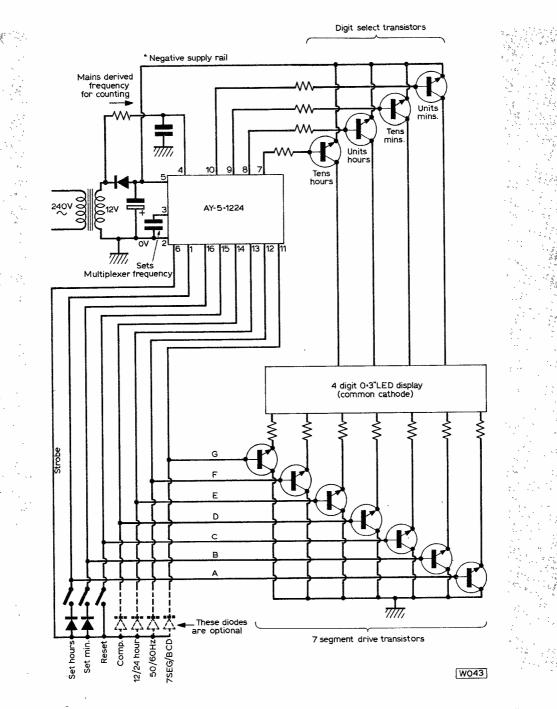
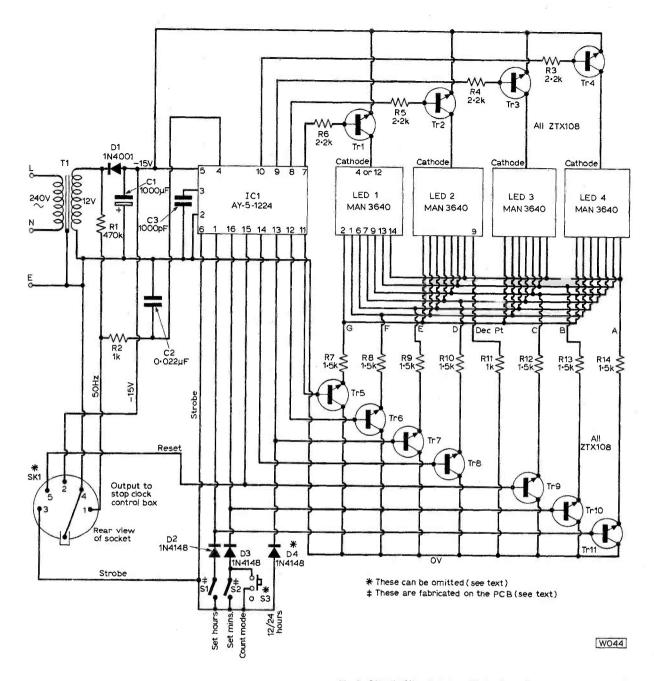


Fig. 1: General application circuit for the AY-5-1224 integrated circuit, emphasising the few components needed externally.

DIN socket. The rest of the circuitry is associated with the LED display.

ZTX108 transistors are used for digit select and segment drive. With the component values given the maximum current per segment is 10mA thus the common cathode digit select transistor never has to carry more than 70mA, well within the capabilities of the ZTX108. As the digits are multiplexed 70mA represents the total display current apart from the decimal point (a further 15mA). Note that to get a balance in illumination level it is necessary to drive the decimal point of the units of hours digit through $1k\Omega$ while the rest of the digit segments are driven through $1.5k\Omega$. The IC itself draws 10mA. This gives a MAXIMUM current for the whole circuit of 95mA hence the transformer has to be rated at 10mA at 12V rms to be on the safe side.

Unfortunately there are transformers and transformers! There are several types available on the market which will serve the purpose but they are either large and will not fit the circuit board or they are rather optimistically rated and tend to get hot



when operating continuously at the full circuit current. It is for this reason that we have arranged for a special transformer to be wound. It can be operated at the maximum current in the unventilated cabinet without overheating and has been specially designed to plug directly into our printed board layout. Before using other 100mA rated transformers check their temperature rise when operated over a period of half an hour or more at full load.

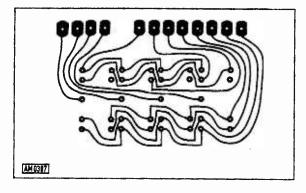
CONSTRUCTION

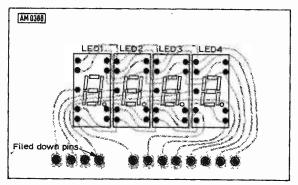
The circuit is built on three printed circuit boards which are designated:—the front panel, Fig. 3, which carries the LED displays; the rear panel Fig. 4, carry-

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Fig. 2: Circuit of the clock described in the article, including the switch and socket required for the stop-clock facility.

ing the external connecting socket and switches; and the main board Fig. 5, which embodies the rest of the circuitry. At an early stage the constructor must decide whether or not he wants to use the stop clock option. If this is not necessary and only a desk or mantlepiece clock is required items SK1 and S3 can be omitted. At the same time it is not necessary to cut the fixing holes for them in the rear panel. If it is decided to keep the option open, drill out the fixing holes for these components and drill and file the small slot for S3. The fixing holes and slot are marked in the printed circuit layout for the rear panel. Make sure that the two holes between the copper lands near the top of the rear panel are





drilled out to about ${}^{1}_{8}$ inch (enough for a matchstick to slide through). These holes are to facilitate operation of the hours and minutes set switches SI and S2.

Once all the holes are drilled start assembly by inserting all the Veroboard pins into their holes on the front and rear panels. Pins for 0 lin veroboard were used in the prototype and these require a suitable hole to ensure a tight fit. They should be inserted from the COPPER side of the board and pressed gently into place until they are firmly gripped in their holes. DO NOT SOLDER THEM IN AT THIS STAGE. If improvised pins are used trim off any excess which protrudes on the top side, with a pair of strong side cutters or a fine hacksaw blade, and then carefully file the cut end flush with the board. Try not to make file marks on the board surface.

Finish off the top side (non copper side) of the front and rear panels by painting with a matt black paint.

When the paint is dry insert and solder the LED sockets into place. The LEDs themselves are inserted later. Notice that only 9 of the 14 possible locations are drilled for each socket. This is to allow space on the foil side of the board for the large number of conductors. Because of this remove, or bend flat, the pins of the socket which are not required. Be very careful with the soldering because the lands are not very large and it is very easy to get a blob of solder bridging across the narrowly spaced conductors. Note that the spacing between socket locations has been set with the Texas Instruments "Low Profile" DIL socket in mind. Other types of sockets might be too wide in which case it might be necessary to file material off the sides of each socket until the four fit neatly together. Put the front panel aside and start assembly of the rear panel.

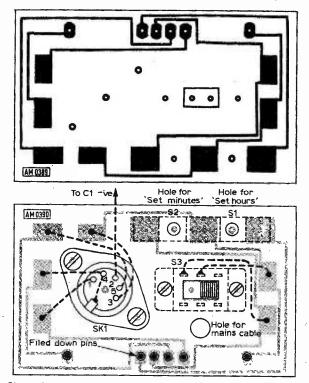
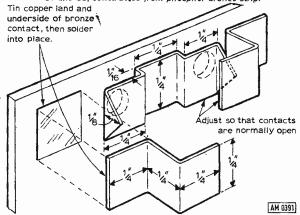
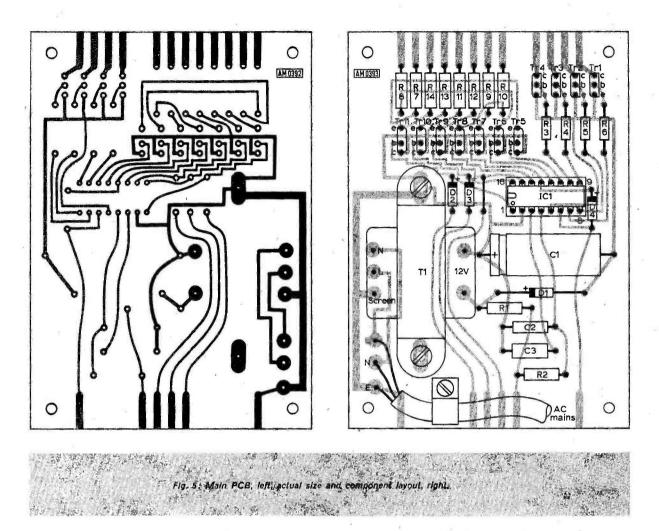


Fig. 3 left, and Fig. 4 above, show the end PCB's actual size and component layout. Fig. 4a below, shows the details of the two switches \$1 and \$2, constructed from phosphor bronze strip.



Insert and bolt into place SK1 and S3 then connect their tags to the copper lands of the board as shown in Fig. 4. With reference to Fig. 4a, cut and bend springy phosphor bronze (a piece of draught excluder strip will do nicely) into the shape of the contacts for S1 and S2. These contacts should be soldered on their respective copper lands having first tinned the underside of each contact where it comes into contact with the land. Now proceed to assemble the main board.

When installing the transformer make sure to cut the spills off short after they have been soldered into place, to prevent any possibility of them shorting against the bottom of the case on final assembly. Now decide on whether 12 or 24 hour display is required. For stop clock operation is might be best to go for 24 hour display so that one can time up to 23 minutes 59 seconds when switched to time in minutes and seconds mode. For a 24 hour display insert D4 but this diode can be omitted if a 12 hour



version is required, with preceding zeros ripple blanked.

Be careful about the polarity of the small diodes and in particular make sure that the transistors are connected correctly. It should be noted that the four digit select transistors, which are on their own, are orientated differently from the rest of the transistors! Ideally, use a 16 pin socket to carry IC1 otherwise one may invalidate any manufacturer's guarantee. If it is decided to solder it into place take all the necessary precautions to prevent damage from static charges. When installing IC1 be especially careful that it is inserted the correct way round! See Fig. 5. As already said, take care not to allow any solder to bridge the gaps between the narrowly spaced conductors in the vicinity of the transistors. Do not solder the mains cable into place just yet.

It is now necessary to join the three boards together. The three boards should be brought together by supporting on books so that the pins on the front and rear panels register exactly with the lands on the main board, see photograph. Make sure that the end panels are at right angles to the main board and then apply a generous amount of solder to each pin, ensuring that the pad on the end panel is wetted at the same time as the length of the pin is soldered to the main board. This operation should be done very carefully as the pins carry the electronic signals

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round the corner on to the end panels as well as providing mechanical support to the main board.

It only remains to fix the mains cable into place with the cable olamp and solder the three cores into their respective holes on the main board. Use the smallest diameter three core cable available and make sure that the inlet hole is suitably grommetted. Apart from testing and assembly into the final case the clock itself is now finished. Plug in IC1 and the four LED displays, taking very great care that they are the right way round. If in doubt make sure that that the decimal point can be seen at the bottom right hand corner of the device when viewed from the front.

Apply power and the LEDs should display a group of digits. If S3 is switched to count in minutes and seconds the right hand digit should immediately start counting at second intervals. If this is the case put S3 into Hours and Minutes display mode and the rapid counting should stop and the right hand digit should change once a minute. Try the 'hours' and 'minutes' set switches by pushing a matchstick into each hole in turn until the respective contacts are brought together. Check that the connections going to SK1 are functioning correctly. Firstly set S3 to count minutes and seconds and then using a short piece of wire short pins 3 and 5 (of SK1) together; the display should reset to "All Zeros". Remove this shorting link and then short pins 1 and 4; Photograph of the underside of the electronic clock with an enlargement to show how the printed circuit board lands are soldered to the pins in the end boards.

> The illustration below is of the two simple shapes forming the cabinet for the clock. Inside dimensions are given for the inner lower part, the upper outer part being made to fit. In this prototype the metal used was 165WG aluminium.

this should stop the counting as the 50Hz input is effectively earthed.

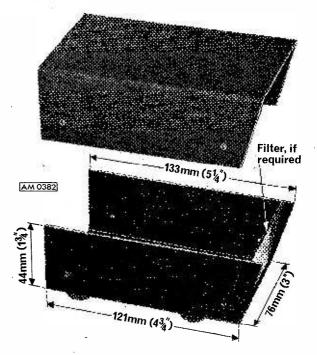
There is the option of using the fifth terminal (No. 2), and in the prototype this was connected, via a short wire, to the negative rail of the clock (the negative lead of C1) as it was felt that a small current in the remote control unit could be used to light an LED showing that all was well and that the clock was working.

THE CABINET

The cabinet is made from two pieces of folded aluminium which slide over each other and held in place with self-tapping screws. A piece of red perspex is Araldited in a vertical position at the front end of the narrower channel to form the front "window". This should be so positioned that the LED displays just touch it when the rear panel of the clock is JUST inside the back end of the channel. The assembled "bedstead" chassis should be fixed into position with self-tapping screws but do not forget the earthing solder tag which has to be connected with a flexible lead to the point where the mains inlet cable is connected on the underside of the board. This earthing of the case is MOST IMPORTANT because it is metal and we suggest that in some applications one could be in a photographic darkroom where there is always a certain amount of dampness present!

TIMER OPERATION

As a photographic enlarger timer, the mode switch should be set to count in minutes and seconds when the clock can be stopped or started with a remote switch across pins 1 and 4 of the DIN socket. A simple single-contact push switch connected across pins 3 and 5 will reset to zero. It would be very



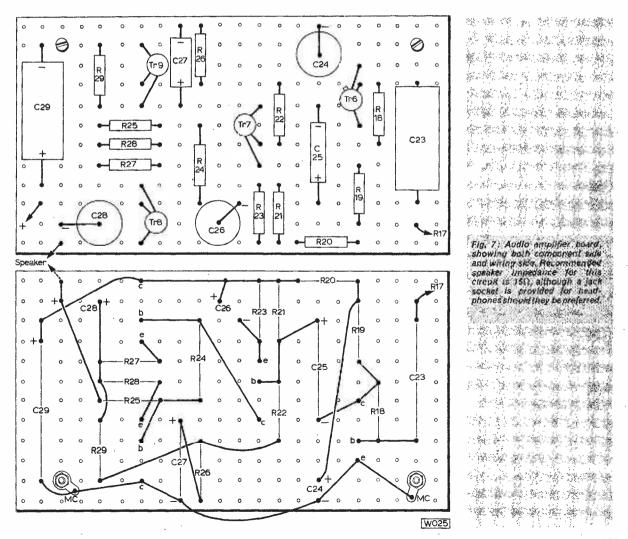
simple to use a ganged switch to start and stop the clock which would also switch the enlarger lamp on and off. One can use a spare contact on the simple remote control unit, Fig. 6, to switch an LED on and off. When it is on it reminds the operator that the clock is timing. This is where the -15Vsource came in useful. It is quite conceivable that one could use this same current source to operate a relay. But be careful, do not draw more than 10 or 20mA from the supply. This should be intermittent with a duty cycle of about 50/50 to avoid overheating the transformer.

The clock could prove very useful in school

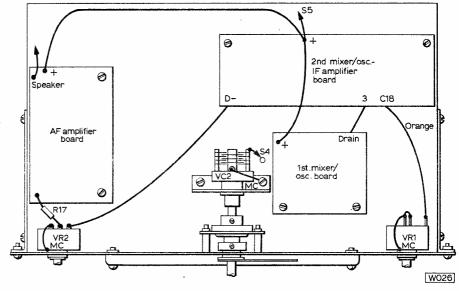


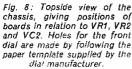
AUDIO BOARD

Fig. 7 shows both sides of this board, which is prepared and wired in a similar way to the earlier boards already described. Solder a red flexible lead from C29 for battery positive and a lead from C28 negative for the speaker the other side being returned to chassis. A jack socket is fitted to allow a speaker or phones to be plugged in. A 15Ω speaker is most suitable, being attached to a baffle or enclosed within the cabinet. The amplifier is tested by connecting C23 to an audio signal, or VR2. The unit has considerable gain so that it is easy to overload with strong signals. This is useful for weak signals, but naturally means that VR2 must be turned well back for stronger transmissions. The amplifier alone will draw about 10 to 12mA with no signal, rising to 25 to 50mA with full volume. The quiescent current can be adjusted by changing R24, for a 39\Omega resistor with a 100 Ω pre-set in series, if particular transistors should require this sort of adjustment.



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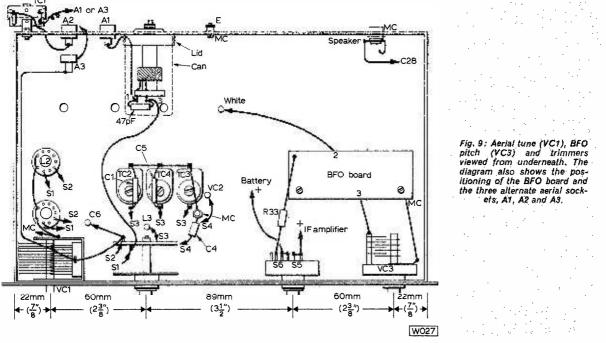
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

For a rigid assembly, panel and chassis are fixed together with side brackets, as in Fig. 8. This also shows the position of the circuit boards. Holes for the dial are made by following the paper template provided. VC2 is supported on a strong bracket to avoid any movement and it should line up correctly with the drive. If necessary, a little adjustment to the position of the spindle can be obtained by making the bracket hole larger than necessary and placing a washer each side the bracket. The dial cursor is fixed to a collar which can be moved. This and the shaft are locked with the cursor at zero on the dial and VC2 fully closed.

Connect all board positive leads as shown and run a lead down, (Fig. 9), to S5 which has 3 positions, CW/SSB, AM and OFF. S6 is wired so that the circuit to R33 is completed in the second "on" position only. The receiver can be tested on AM reception only with the BFO and VC3 omitted.

Fig. 9 shows the layout and connections under the chassis. Check that VCl is mounted just clear of the side and that the fixing nuts of the aerial coils are only done up finger tight. The pins should be cleaned if necessary, and not 'cooked' with the iron when soldering connections to them.

Ceramic pre-sets are used for the oscillator circuit and mounted with 8BA bolts. The beehive air-spaced type of trimmers would probably be better as several turns are needed to move them from maximum to minimum value. As each trimmer proved to be set near half value, 30pF, 50pF or 60pF trimmers would also appear to be suitable.



BANDSWITCH

The bandswitch is of a type in which contacts are fitted both sides of an insulated wafer. Switch connections are shown in Fig. 10, contacts S1 and S4 are separated from S2 and S3, for clarity.

If reference is also made to Fig. 1, no error should arise here as, with this type of switch, contacts can be easily seen. Somewhat similar rotary switches with hidden contacts are also available, and with these a check should be made with a meter.

If a fully-insulated speaker jack is used the outer or sleeve tag must be connected to the chassis or negative on the audio amplifier.

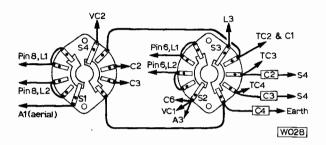


Fig. 10: Bandswitching for the Dual Conversion receiver is achieved with the wafer switch shown above. In the prototype only one wafer was used with contacts mounted both sides.

ALIGNMENT

A signal generator or accurately calibrated receiver will prove useful when adjusting the various circuits, but satisfactory alignment is possible without either.

465kHz IF. If a generator is available, couple it loosely to Tr3, placing an insulated lead near Tr3 should be sufficient. Adjust the five cores of IFT2, IFT3 and IFT4 for best results. Each core should have a definite peak and need little movement. A correctly shaped tool, such as that available from the IFT maker, should be used, as a wedge-shaped metal blade would probably crack the cores and upset the adjustments.

If no generator is available, wait until some signal can be accurately tuned in, then peak up the cores for best results. The signal should be relatively weak, with VR1 turned back and VR2 well towards maximum, so that adjustments are not masked by the AGC action.

Second Mixer. Rotate the core of L4 until the oscillator carrier is found at about 6MHz with a receiver. Alternatively, set the core with about 6mm $({}^{1}_{4}in)$ of thread projecting. Now peak both cores of IFT1 for best volume with a 5 5MHz signal from the generator loosely coupled to pin 3, slightly adjusting L4 as necessary to peak up the signal.

If no generator or receiver is available tune in any signal and adjust IFT1 and L4. Do this a little at a time to peak the signal, meanwhile rocking the tuning control from side to side if necessary. Should no signals be received, temporarily connect an aerial through a 100pF capacitor to pin 3 of IFT1. Breakthrough is almost certain to arise, and the signal can be peaked up by adjusting IFT1 and L4. Subsequently, shift each core slightly to avoid this unwanted signal and later peak up these cores when signals can be tuned in. First Oscillator. If a receiver is available, it is easy to set the core of L3, on 160m first, as described. The trimmers can then be adjusted to give the coverages listed. Alternatively, adjust the core of L3 until some Top Band signal is received. When L3 and L4 are suitably adjusted lock each with a fixing nut. The other trimmers are then adjusted, with the bandswitch in the appropriate position, until the other amateur bands are found.

Aerial Circuit. This is peaked with VC1 for best volume. If necessary, adjust L1 or L2 until both bands fall within the swing of VC1. It will be apparent that it is possible to obtain four other bands by deliberately tuning the aerial circuit to the second channel, or image frequencies. The second channel is IF x 2 from the wanted signal, that is 11MHz, if the IF is $5 \cdot 5$ MHz. For example, the oscillator tunes $7 \cdot 15$ to $7 \cdot 55$ MHz for Top Band so the second channel for this range is $12 \cdot 65$ to $13 \cdot 05$ MHz, which is remote from the wanted frequencies but which may provide some signals if VC1 is deliberately set to minimum capacitance. A similar effect is observed with some commercial equipment using this method of tuning but it does not indicate a fault.

IFT1 is actually set to some frequency near $5 \cdot 5$ MHz, which avoids interference, and L4 adjusted to convert this to 465kHz. Such adjustments are easily made a little at a time when the receiver is working and it should be clear that the operation of the receiver does not depend on IFT1 being tuned to exactly $5 \cdot 5$ MHz.

Dial calibration is best made with a crystal marker or similar after finishing alignment adjustments. The scale is marked 0 to 100 will be useful when first checking the band coverage.

BFO CIRCUIT

Fig. 11 shows the circuit of the BFO with Tr10 an oscillator working on approximately 465kHz, the frequency being adjusted by the BFO pitch control VC3. Switch S6 brings the BFO into operation in its last position only, for CW (Morse) and SSB (single sideband) reception. The value of VC3 is not too critical as long as sufficient shift of the BFO frequency is possible. Note that connections to 4 and 5 must be as shown, for the circuit to operate.

If, however, the circuit of the BFO appears not to be oscillating, evidenced by the lack of a beat note on AM or CW signals or inability to resolve SSB signals, the connections to pins 4 and 5 on the coil should be reversed.

ASSEMBLY AND ADJUSTMENT

The BFO is assembled as in Fig. 12. A lead from the MC tag is provided for the moving plates tag of VC3 and the lead coded brown is for the fixed plates.

The lead coded white runs up through a hole, near IFT3. Coupling or injection is to the base of Tr5 so that the BFO level is raised for diode D1.

Coupling was found to be suitable when the thin insulated lead from the BFO looped around the body of C19. Coupling is not in any way critical. However, if coupling is too tight, sensitivity to all signals is unnecessarily reduced. On the other hand, if coupling is very small, strong SSB signals will sound like

badly over-modulated AM, or will not be resolved at all. If VR2 is near maximum and VR1 is turned back to obtain reasonable volume, and SSB and CW signals are then received well, the amount of coupling to the base circuit of Tr5 is optimum.

To obtain a satisfactory frequency range for VC3 it is necessary to adjust the core of the BFO inductor which can be done by tuning in an AM signal,

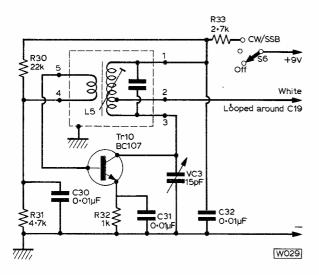


Fig. 11: Complete circuit of the BFO. The oscillator transistor Tr10 works at approximately 465kHz, frequency being varied by VC3, after rough adjustment of the core in L5.

with VC3 half open, and adjusting the BFO coil until a loud heterodyne whistle is heard. The correct position is the zero-beat or middle setting. An audio tone, rising in pitch, is then obtained if VC3 is rotated either way. Check with one or two other signals to make sure that a harmonic of the BFO, reaching the aerial circuit, is not responsible.

When receiving CW, adjust VC3 to the position

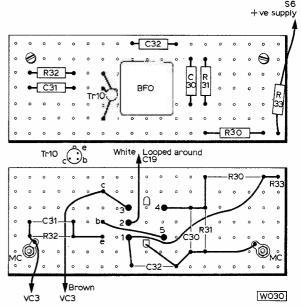
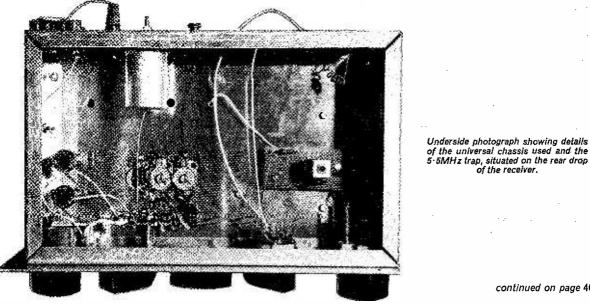


Fig. 12: Underside and topside of BFO board. The output signal is taken via an insulated lead, looped around C19.

giving best reception, which may prove to be either side of the zero position. To receive SSB it is essential to adjust VC3 carefully, and to the required side of its zero position. The off-set used for 20m is the opposite to that on 40, 80 and 160m. The way in which this control operates will soon become clear in use. Remember that for all but weak signals it is essential to reduce gain prior to the detector, by turning back VR1.

5^{·5}MHz TRAP

This is an optional item which can be added at any time. Its purpose is to reduce the strength of any unwanted signals which may be using frequencies near to that of the first IF, and which are



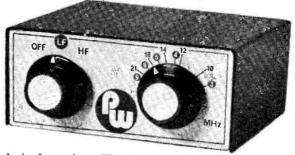
continued on page 403



In the less expensive versions of the communications type receiver the more commonly met deficiencies in short wave performance are lack of sensitivity and poor front-end selectivity on the higher frequency bands. With such a receiver the bands above about 12MHz may well appear to be completely dead at a time when a more expensive receiver can still produce a lively selection of signals. As a result the listener using the cheaper receiver may be failing to hear many stations simply because of the poor performance of his receiving equipment.

SELECTIVITY

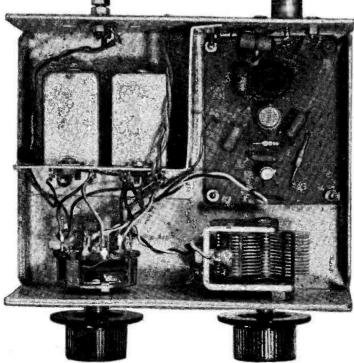
In the simpler receivers the selectivity of the main IF amplifier is generally adequate for the separation of signals on adjacent channels, but the selectivity of the tuned circuits ahead of the mixer stage often leaves a lot to be desired. Since this type of receiver is usually a single conversion superheterodyne having an IF of around 465kHz, the effect of poor HF selectivity will be severe second channel or "image" interference on the high frequency bands. Thus, on the 14MHz amateur band severe breakthrough from broadcast stations operating in the 15MHz band is frequently experienced. On the other bands, reception may be marred by CW or teleprinter interference from stations operating roughly 1MHz, or twice the IF, above the frequency of the



desired station. This assumes that the receiver follows the usual practice in which the local oscilator for the mixer stage is operated at a frequency above that of the signal.

The problem of lack of receiver sensitivity on the higher frequencies can be readily solved by merely adding a pre-amplifier stage to the main receiver. However, this solution is likely to aggravate the second channel interference problem unless some additional selectivity is provided in the pre-amplifier unit. This add-on unit would then effectively become a preselector amplifier and, with its aid, the performance of the receiver, in terms of both its sensitivity and selectivity, can be greatly improved.

For the relatively small cost of making a suitable add-on unit the user of a simple inexpensive receiver,



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Interior view from above, of the 'U' shaped thasis, showing details of the PCB, coils and switch layout. The two coils, L1/L2 are mounted on a small screen with their bases towards the front panel to facilitate short wiring. Sec. 3.

is able to compete on rather more favourable terms with other listeners fortunate enough to have more expensive equipment.

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

In this article a pre-amplifier unit is described which makes use of an integrated circuit amplifier to provide the additional gain. This gives the advantage of simplicity in construction since few external components are needed with the IC. A Fairchild type μ A703 RF/IF amplifier was chosen for this purpose since it is inexpensive and is readily obtainable.

Basically the μ A703, which has six lead wires, is a single stage two transistor amplifier of the emittercoupled type. A third transistor provides the constant-current feed for the emitters of the differential amplifier stage. The chip also incorporates resistors and diodes to provide the correct bias for the amplifier and allow the supply to be decoupled. Since it is difficult to fabricate large value capacitors on an IC chip, the decoupling capacitors have to be wired externally.

The type of amplifier circuit used and its small physical size ensure that the feedback of signals from output to input, inside the amplifier, is extremely small. This means that stable operation of the circuit is readily achieved without the need for any form of neutralisation. The μ A703 has a forward transconductance of some 30 mmhos at the frequencies in use, so there is no lack of available gain.

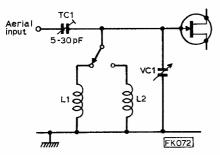


Fig. 1 : Alternative aerial coupling circuit to that used in the prototype, but of a simpler design.

MATCHING STAGE

For the short wave bands, the input impedance of the μ A703 amplifier is about 1500 Ω . If this impedance were connected directly across the input tuned circuit, it would cause severe shunt loading, reducing the effective Q and hence the selectivity of the input tuned circuit.

The effects of loading on the tuned circuit can be reduced by using a coupling winding on the tuning coil to feed the amplifier input. It then becomes possible to provide a rough impedance match over most of the tuning range, although there will be a reduction in the signal voltage fed to the amplifier because of the step-down transformer action of the coupling winding. Also the need to switch the extra winding on the coils makes band changing arrangements more complicated.

An alternative impedance matching technique makes use of a field-effect transistor as a source follower stage between the tuned circuit and the amplifier input. This stage will have a very high input impedance and a low output impedance thus providing the required buffering action between the tuned circuit and the amplifier. Since the gain of the source follower is nearly unity almost all of the signal is passed to the amplifier. The source follower has an input impedance of more than $1M\Omega$. It will therefore produce virtually no loading effect on the input tuned circuit, permitting maximum operating Q and hence high selectivity to be maintained.

To ensure that the correct bias conditions are maintained within the 703 amplifier, it is recom-

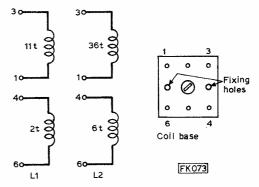


Fig. 2: L1/L2 coil winding details and pin configuration.

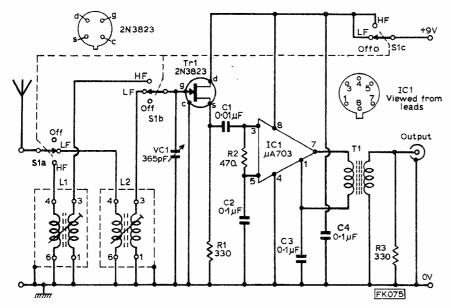
mended that the DC resistance of the external circuit connected between the input terminals of the 703 should be less than 1000Ω . This is achieved here by connecting a 470Ω resistor across the 703 input terminals.

If the output of the source follower transistor were connected directly to the input of the 703 some of the current from the transistor would flow into the amplifier input circuit and upset the internal biasing conditions. To avoid this, the source follower output is coupled through a capacitor to the 703 input. Although the 470 Ω resistor providing the bias path for the 703 is effectively shunted across the output of the source follower, it has little effect upon the signal level fed to the 703 amplifier.

INPUT TUNING

For most SW listeners the more interesting of the bands lie within the range 3MHz to 25MHz. This range can be covered using only two switched coils. The first coil is used to tune from 3MHz to 10MHz whilst the second covers frequencies from say 9MHz up to about 27MHz. For frequencies below about 3MHz it is likely that the performance of the receiver will be quite adequate without the need for a pre-amplifier. If it is desired to include the 28 to 30MHz amateur band, this should be possible by readjustment of the two tuning ranges. This may, however, involve some loss of coverage at the lower frequency end of the range.

Tuning is carried out by means of a single gang 365pF air spaced variable capacitor. In the present climate of component shortages it may be difficult to obtain the particular type of tuning capacitor specified. As an alternative almost any air spaced variable capacitor of small physical size and with a maximum capacitance of 350 to 500pF should be suitable. A 208+176pF dual gang transistor radio type could be used with the two sections connected in parallel to give 384pF. Although the tuning is fairly sharp at the higher frequencies it should not be necessary to fit a slow motion drive to the capacitor.



The signal from the aerial is coupled to the tuned circuit through a link winding on each of the tuning coils. These windings are switched at the same time as the main tuning coil when the frequency range is selected. An alternative and simpler approach to coupling the aerial circuit is to feed the signal through a capacitor in series between the aerial terminal and the gate of the transistor, as shown in Fig. 1. This simple arrangement however is not as effective as the use of separate switched link windings.

Each of the tuning coils is wound, together with its aerial coupling winding, on to a 6mm diameter coil former. The formers used are Neosid types on a square base as used for the IF strips of older television receivers. The coil former is 35mm long and is mounted inside an aluminium screening can to reduce stray pick-up. Tuning coverage is adjusted by an iron dust core.

For the lower frequency range a tuning inductance of about $6 \cdot 4\mu H$ is required, obtained by a winding of 36 turns of 28SWG enamelled wire close wound. The aerial coupling link consists of 6 turns of the

★ components list

Resistors R1 330Ω	R3 330Ω
R2 470Ω	All resistors 10% W
Capacitors	
C1 0.01 <i>u</i> F	C3 0.1µF
C2 0-1µF	C4 0.1µF
VC1 365pF air space	
Semiconductors	
Tr1 2N3823 (FET)	
IC1 µA703 or equiva	lent
and the second	
Miscellaneous	a sa
L1, L2 see text. S	1, 3-pole 3-way wavechange
switch. T1, toroldal c	ore type T-50-2 Carbonyl 'E',
	ectronic Supplies), 3 Bryn Clyd,
	lwyd, CH7 4RU. Equivalent
cores (up to 30MHz) also available from other
distributors.	

same wire wound on top of the main winding at the end near the coil former base.

and

Fig. 3: Complete circuit dia-

gram of the SW Preamplifier

giving details of IC1 (µA703)

nections.

Tr1 (2N3823) base con-

The coil used for the high frequency range is wound with 24SWG enamelled wire and consists of 11 turns wound to form a single layer coil about $12 \cdot 5mm$ ($^{1}_{2}in$) long. This means that the turns will be spaced out roughly one wire diameter apart. For this coil the required inductance of $0 \cdot 8\mu$ H will be obtained when the iron dust core is inserted. The link winding is 2 turns of 24SWG wire, wound between the turns of the main coil at the base end of the coil former. Figure 2 gives details of the coil windings and also the pin connections on the coil bases. In Fig. 3 the complete circuit of the preamplifier unit is shown.

OUTPUT TRANSFORMER

Rather than use a second tuned circuit ganged to the input circuit, a broadband untuned transformer is used to couple the output from the pre-amplifier to the main receiver input. This simplifies range switching and reduces the possibility of amplifier instability.

To produce an efficient broadband RF transformer the toroidal type of construction is employed. In this, the core of the transformer takes the form of a doughnut shaped ring of powdered iron material. The windings are wound on the core by looping the turns through the central hole as shown in Fig. 4.

A T-50-2 type core is used for the transformer in

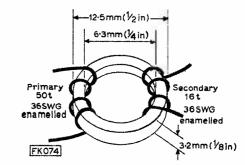


Fig. 4: Transformer T1, is of toroidal construction, efficient for broadband RF applications.

Practical Wireless, September 1975



10 + 0 = 20?

I would advise Sinclair Scientific owners to be careful if they use Mr. McBriar's "clear last entry" system (Letters, June) as this can give some very surprising results. I suggest they try the following key sequence to illustrate the point: 1,E,1,+,1,E,-,9,9,+. This gives the answer 2.0000 01 or, in effect, 10 + 0 =20!!

This incorrect result is caused by an anomaly in the calculator's logic, but it can be avoided by limiting numbers to the range 10^{-50} to 10^{50} . — R. T. Russell (Kent).

So now you know!

I have been reading the various letters over the past few months concerning the reception of public service broadcasts and was particularly interested in the selection appearing in the June edition.

I have, for a long time, been concerned about this aspect of the law and, since I am employed in the legal profession, I have been able to go into the matter at some depth.

My first encounter was when I was about to purchase a communications receiver and the typical footnote on ads. the warned that for reception of certain broadcasts a licence "not generally available to the public' was required. Appreciating that a C.R. would cover trawlers, etc., I contacted the, then, Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications to find out about this licence. I was quite surprised to receive a reply stating "I should point out . . . that it is an offence contrary to the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 . . to listen intentionally to broadcasts from . . . police, firebrigade, etc., and **no** licence **can** be issued . . ." (emphasis marks my own). The letter went on to state that the maximum fine for a first offence was £50, and £100 thereafter.

I, like D. H. Myers, could not accept that merely to listen intentionally was an offence and I buried myself in the statute books to read the Wireless Telegraphy Acts 1949 and 1967, the Marine, etc., Broadcasting (Offences) Act 1967 and the Post Office Act 1969. There was nothing I could find to support the view that to listen intentionally was, in itself, an offence. I was continually bothered by references to "authorised broadcasting stations". Could this, I thought, mean that we could not listen to Hilversum?

Determined to prove that Big Brother was NOT going to tell me what I could or could not listen to, I wrote back to the Ministry quoting what I had read and adding, with some relish, that even the dreaded Marine Broadcasting Offences Act did not prohibit LISTENING to such stations!

The Ministry took considerable trouble with their detailed reply:

(1) An authorised broadcasting station is defined (Statutory Instrument 1970 No. 548. The Wireless Telegraphy (Broadcast Licence Changes and Exemption Regulations 1970)) as "a station for the time being authorised to conduct a broadcasting service pursuant to the International Radiocommunications Regulations for the time being in force".

(2) "Broadcasting service" is defined in those Regulations as "a radiocommunication service... where the transmissions are intended for direct reception by the general public".

(3) Section 5(b)(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 makes clear that it is an offence ... to use ... any ... apparatus with intent to obtain information as to the contents, sender or addressee of any message which ... the person using the apparatus is (not) authorised by the Minister ... to receive.

Surely, I thought, this had proved my very point—there had to be intent to obtain information! I stopped my correspondence with the Ministry at that point feeling somewhat pleased with myself.

A little later, in a legal journal, I found a decision of the High Court which was to shatter this. The case in question was "Paul

v Ministry of Posts". The Court had dismissed an appeal, holding that a man who listened to firebrigade messages without authority was guilty of an offence under Section 5(b)(1), although there was no intention to use this information for an improper use. (Anyone who has access to a copy of "The Times" for 6th March, 1973, can read the full facts for himself). It does, though, seem clear from this decision that merely to listen is to intend to "obtain information, etc." and is therefore an offence in itself! Of course, merely to tune to a public service by accident is specifically exempted by the same section but, those who continue to listen do so at their peril! Remembering that ignorance of the law is no excuse.

I STILL find this piece of law totally unacceptable and the day it is repealed will be a day to rejoice. As to whether freedom of choice is being curtailed is a matter of personal belief. I myself think it is. But, to criticise the, now, Home Office for seeking to uphold the law is not, in my opinion, at all fair. Whether the law is just or unjust, it must be accepted to be the law. The Home Office has been given the job of operating this sphere of law and they, like me, have to do their job whether they like it or not. Those of us who do not approve must take all proper steps to change the law not sit back damning a government department which has the unenviable task of operating the law.—(Name and address supplied).

Single handed

I recently built the PW Tele-Tennis by M. J. Hughes, and found it to be a great time-passer. However, one draw-back to the game is that it requires two players. For this reason, I cut the copper track of the OV line, feeding IC23 (NE555). A switch was then inserted, and mounted on the outside panel.

The outcome of this modification, is that the right-hand bat loses height, and provides a wall to bounce the ball off. Also, readers may like to know that it is impossible to beat the machine, when wired in this manner!—A. O'Brian (Sunderland).

Calculating danger

The paragraph in "Production lines" about the "Mickey Math" calculator has prompted me to put pen to paper about calculators in general.

As a sixth form student I have so far resisted the temptation to invest in a calculator for two main reasons:

(a) Financial—no elucidation needed!

(b) Not only do I consider that I don't need a calculator—I think that, as far as I, and others in school are concerned, it would be a positively bad thing.

After several years of handling "A" level equations I have acquired a sort of mental agility which is useful, not only in tedius calculations, but also in quick estimations of everyday problems. For example, I never multiply by 5, I divide by 2 and move the decimal point one place to the right. Then there's the old trick of finding whether a number is divisible by 9, by adding the digits —I have recently found this works with 3 as well.

If one used a calculator, these little tricks would not be necessary, which perhaps would detract from one's understanding of the ideas involved. Also, calculators are not allowed in exams, so it's useful to have the practice in calculation before.

To be fair, I do make extensive use of slide rules, logs and other tables, but there are tricks to be learnt or invented with these as well.

Teaching a child to use a calculator certainly isn't teaching it maths. Although children learn processes for addition, multiplication, etc., they do not necessarily understand exactly what they are doing, until years later, after a lot of experience working with numbers. It is only comparatively recently that I realised precisely why, when dividing vulgar fractions, you "turn the second one upside down and multiply."

Will children soon be leaving Junior School who do not really understand what is meant by addition, subtraction, etc., and cannot multiply or divide without their calculators?

Agreed, the pocket calculator is a good thing for the housewife, checking bills, or the businessman or university student; but with programmable calculators (i.e., pocket computers) becoming cheaply available, as I am sure will happen, the range of functions available on calculators will extend to embrace more complex algebraic ideas, even perhaps integral and differential calculus.

Shall we soon see students leaving sixth form college for University who cannot solve a simple quadratic equation without their "Acme Pocket Comput-o-matic"? --Jonathan Gebbie (Hants)

Why bother !?

How right you are, dear Editor, in your editorial on Technological Poverty (August). The daughter, aged 24, of a colleague is a temporary shorthand typist with a bank in the City of London and although she admits that 'she is not all that good' has been offered a permanent position in the bank at £70 a week or £3,640 a year! She's 'thinking' about it because it means starting at 9am instead of at 9.30am!

After a lifetime in electronics and communications my present salary as a senior executive on a national monthly electronics magazine is £3,875! I feel like throwing myself into the river! (Name and address supplied.)

DUAL CONVERSION RECEIVER—contd from page 398

introduced into the receiver through the aerial circuit. If interference of this type is present, it can be easily identified as it is not influenced by tuning.

Whether or not such interference arises depends on the actual aerial and other circumstances. The most likely cause of trouble would be with a long, random length end-connected aerial. The use of some form of resonant amateur band aerial, or aerial tuner, will reduce chances of 5 5MHz breakthrough. Direct pick-up is also largely avoided by using a metal cabinet, while the frequency of the first IF can be shifted one way or the other, if necessary, to avoid a strong transmission.

TRAP CONSTRUCTION

The trap comprises a 13.6μ H slug tuned coil, with a 47pF silver mica capacitor in parallel. The Denco "White" Range 3 (valve type) miniature coil is suitable and the maker's can is used for screening. The capacitor is connected across pins 1 and 3, Fig. 9. Pin 1 goes to the aerial or an aerial trimmer if the aerial is very long, and pin 3 is connected to S1. Drill the can lid to take the coil mounting bush. Drill a small hole for a lead high on the side of the lid and cut off a little of the can threaded portion so that the can does not cover the hole when screwed in place. Also drill a small hole in the middle of the bottom of the can.

Use the coil to fix the lid inside the back runner of the chassis, near the aerial socket, and run a lead from pin 1 through the hole to the socket. Solder a lead to pin 3, pass it through the hole in the can bottom, and screw the can in place. The lid must make contact with the chassis runner, so the paper coil identification label should be removed.

The trap can be set by coupling the signal generator to the aerial, tuned to 5.5MHz, and then rotating the core for minimum volume. Alternatively, set the core for minimum interference from any unwanted signal around this frequency.

AERIAL

Many signals should be heard with an indoor wire, or quite short outdoor aerial. For extreme distance reception, an efficient external aerial will be essential. With aerials of medium length, TC1 is unscrewed to reduce loading of the tuned circuit, while with long aerials, TC1 or another series capacitor can with advantage be plugged into socket A1. Though many transmissions can be received without an earth, better reception of weak and difficult signals can be expected when this is provided.

It is necessary to provide holes in the back of the case so that the aerial sockets etc. can be reached. These can be made with a chassis punch, or small holes can be drilled to take a saw blade so that a suitable aperture can be cut. An opening lid was formed in the prototype by cutting out a piece 254×127 mm (10×5 in) with a saw, and hingeing this at the back. When closed, the lid rests on strips bolted to the case top each side. This lid is not essential.

continued from page 401

the pre-amplifier unit. This type of core has an outside diameter of 12 5mm $({}^{1}_{2}in)$ and is 3 2mm $({}^{1}_{8}in)$ thick with a central hole of 6 3mm $({}^{1}_{4}in)$ diameter. Thus the core is roughly 3 2mm $({}^{1}_{8}in)$ square cross section. These cores are colour coded to indicate the type of material used. In the case of the T-50-2 the colour code is red and the material is effective up to a frequency of at least 30MHz.

A primary winding of 50 turns is wound on the core using 36SWG enamelled wire, each turn being threaded through the central hole in the ring core. Try to wind the turns in an even layer but do not pull the turns too tight otherwise the enamel coating on the wire may be damaged. Make sure that turns do not cross or overlap one another since this can greatly reduce the efficiency of the transformer. When the winding is complete, twist the free ends loosely together to hold the winding in place on the core.

In the remaining space on the core between the ends of the primary winding 16 turns of the same gauge wire are wound on to the core to form the secondary of the transformer. Once more check that there are no crossed turns and that the primary and secondary windings do not overlap. When complete, the windings will be slightly loose on the core but there is no need to worry about this. It is not advisable to cement the windings with coil cement since this can increase the capacitance of the windings and reduce the efficiency of the transformer.

When the unit is connected to a receiver the load impedance presented to it by the receiver input circuits will vary considerably over the tuning range. If the load has a high impedance, and is reactive, it is possible that the 703 amplifier can become unstable at the higher frequencies. To avoid this, and to even out the gain over the complete range, a shunt damping resistor (R3) is connected across the secondary of the output transformer.

One advantage of using the toroidal type transformer is that the magnetic field of the transformer is confined almost entirely to the ring core. This results in very little stray RF field, which makes screening unnecessary.

CONSTRUCTION

The components of the amplifier circuit are mounted on a small printed circuit board measuring 50mm (2in) by 62 5mm (2^{1}_{2} in). A suitable layout for the PCB is given in Fig. 5. The output transformer T1 is simply held down on the board by its four wires. If desired the core can be fixed with a nylon or tufnol screw, but NOT a metal one.

a nylon or tufnol screw, but NOT a metal one. A simple inverted "U" shape chassis 125mm (5in) wide, 100mm (4in) deep and 50mm (2in) high is used to carry the tuning components and the PCB. For the cover, another "U" shaped piece of aluminium can be used and is fixed to the main chassis with self-tapping screws. Note that the two tuning coils are mounted on a small aluminium screen with their bases facing the front panel to give short wiring runs to the switch and tuning capacitor. Aerial and earth input sockets, and the output coaxial socket for the feed to the receiver are mounted on the back of the chassis. It is important that the PCB should be spaced from the chassis to reduce stray capacitance to earth from the coppertracks.

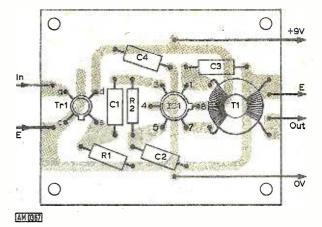


Fig. 5: PCB, full size, showing the component layout above and foil side below.

PERFORMANCE

A gain of some 20 to 30dB in signal level can be expected over the tuning range of the unit. This is equal to about 3 or 4 "S" points in signal strength. The output of the unit is connected to the aerial and earth terminals of the main receiver via the shortest length of coaxial cable possible. Alternatively a twisted pair or balanced twin feeder cable could be used, but the advantage of a screened cable is that there is less possibility of direct pick-up of strong signals on the cable.

Current consumption of the unit is approximately 10mA at 9V. A PP6 type 9V battery can be used to power the unit which should give good battery life. Alternatively a small mains-driven power unit can be used.

OPERATION

Using the pre-amplifier is quite straightforward. First tune the main receiver to the desired frequency band and select the appropriate range on the preamplifier. Adjust the unit's tuning capacitor until maximum signal or noise is obtained. In some cases it may be found that there are apparently two signal peaks in the pre-amplifier tuning. One will occur when the pre-amplifier is tuned to the main receiver image frequency. Usually the correct tuning point for the pre-amplifier will be at the lower frequency peak.

Once the unit is tuned for the band it should be possible to operate throughout the band with no further adjustment of the unit's tuning, since the peak is fairly flat over a band of some 200 to 300kHz on the higher frequency bands.





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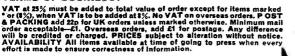
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Practical Wireless, September 1975

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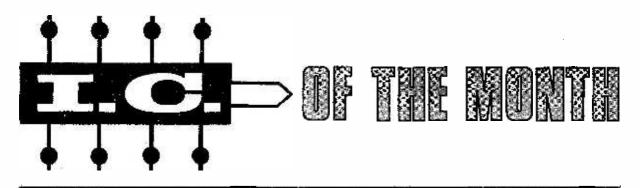
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Number 53

THE TAA930 is a linear integrated circuit containing a four stage IF amplifier-limiter, a balanced coincidence FM detector and a voltage regulator in a single encapsulation. In circuits using this Sescosem device, demodulator tuning requires only one coil with a single winding.

The TAA930 has been specially designed for use in the sound system of television receivers. It is available in two different 14-pin plastic encapsulations. The TAA930A is a dual-in-line device, whilst the TAA930B has its connecting pins bent into the quad-in-line configuration. Electrically the two are identical.

TYPICAL CIRCUIT

A typical circuit for the use of the TAA930 in a television sound section is shown in Fig. 1. The coil L1 consists of 46 turns of enamelled wire (about 22 s.w.g.) with a tapping six turns from the earthed end of the coil. This coil can be tuned with a ferrite slug. The coil L2 consists of 32 turns of the same wire in a close wound coil.

CHARACTERISTICS

The limiting action will commence when the input voltage is only about 50μ V; the input resistance is 15 kilohm. When a signal modulated to the \pm 50kHz deviation level is applied at an amplitude of 10mV, the audio output signal is about 1.4V when a 12V power supply line is used, or about 0.75V r.m.s. with a 9V supply.

The output is taken from an internal emitter follower. The output impedance is about 100 ohms with a 12V supply or 150 ohms with a 9V supply. The minimum recommended load is two kilohm.

The absolute maximum permissible supply voltage is 15V, but the device normally operates from a 9V or a 12V supply line. The power supply current is typically 12 to 17mA.

The AM rejection ratio of the TAA 930 is plotted against the input voltage in Fig. 2. It can be seen that the rejection is over 50dB at normal input levels.

The TAA 930A is available from Phoenix Electronics (Portsmouth) Ltd., 139-141 Havant Rd., Drayton, Portsmouth, PO6 2AA at £1.42 plus 20p postage and packing (V.A.T. included). TAA930 IF/FM DETECTOR

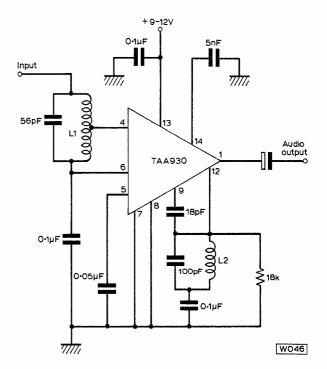
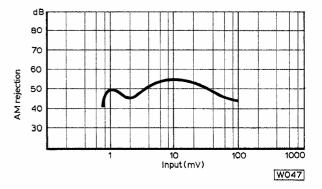
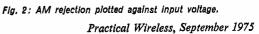


Fig. 1: A typical circuit using the TAA930 integrated circuit in a television sound system.







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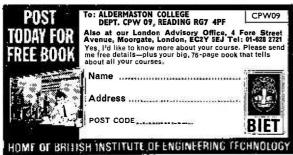
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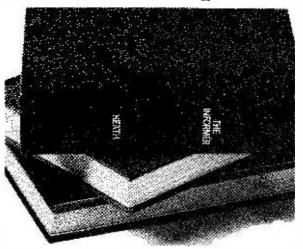
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Practical Wireless, September 1975

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G2BAH (ex G4CJN), Kendal, reports: "I happened to be listening on 80m. and heard someone in Manchester testing. We established a strength 8 qso each way. He had a *VFA laying on his kitchen table and was making tests to see if it would load

established a strength 8 gso each way. He nad a *VFA laying on his kitchen table and was making tests to see if it would load up, etc. An old timer, a G2 and 2 letters, so he knew what he was doing". G3ZDR worked a W3 on 20m. using a *VFA and a PM3A with 2 watts. G3VFA worked WITW on 20m. using a *VFA and 750mW. W6TYP worked WA6JPR over hundreds of miles on 40m. using *VFA and microwatts "equivalent to ONE MILLION !!! miles per watt of input power" (So says his WORLD RECORD achievement certificate). Here is YOUR Complete WORLD RECORD AERIAL SYSTEM for 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m. plus all SW BC bands and every-thing between FOR ANY LOCATION... thing between FOR ANY LOCATION-SYSTEM "A" for modern communications RX's and QRP xcvrs. SYSTEM "A" for modern communications KA's and GRF XCVrs. SYSTEM "D" for other SW and MW receivers SYSTEM "J" for TX's and XCVR's up to 500w. PEP 160 thru 10m. JOYMATCH 111B A.T.U. low impedance aerial input receivers JOYMATCH LO-Z 500 X including external RF meter JOYMATCH Triple Purpose A.T.U. (Short Wave coverage only) KIT JOYMATCH Triple Purpose A.T.U. (Short & Medium Wave Bands) KIT Either KIT assembled ready for use with easy to follow instructions £32.76 £24 · 43 •• ... £40·72 ۰. • • £15.97 ۰. £22.12 • • .. • • £7·26 • • • • • • •• . . ۰. £7.26 JOYMATCH Artificial Earth (Ground) Matches Short-Medium wave JOYMATCH Artificial Earth (Ground) Matches Short-Medium wave JOYMATCH Aerial Bandswitch (Aerial & A.T.U. for Domestic Receivers DX-CRYSTAL SET Mk 2 (World's first Short Wave & Medium Wave Crystal Set) ... ۰. ۰. • • £8·77 £7.26 •• • • . . £7·26 • • £4.73 • • ۰. • • • • • • Communications Headphones 8 ohm. Suitable for modern communications £4.82 Communications Headphones 8 ohm. Suitable for modern communications VALVES, Complete replacement set incl. OA2 for 9R59DE & 9R59DS ALL PRICES DELIVERED (incl. insurance) Send STAMP for full list of PARTRIDGE PRODUCTS including PARTRIDGE SUPER PACKAGE COMPLETE STATION FOR ANY LOCATION. Comprising: QR666 TRIO G.C. Rx, 111B A.T.U., World Record VFA, matching headphones, outdoor ••• insulators, feeder, connecting cables. Delivered £185-00. (PRICES SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE) Phone 0843 62535 ÷ or 62839 BOX 5 **GRO**ADSTAIRS BARCLAYCARD After office hours lza Buy it with Acces **G3CED G3VFA**



ELEVISION tyros will remember the old projection television sets. A long, cylindrical projection "tube" was used to project the image on to a screen. A problem at the time was the use of very high voltages to run the tube. This idea fell out of favour and never really caught on in the home. It may therefore come as a surprise to learn that a company is manufacturing not just a projection tube, but the whole system, including screen; and suitable for colour. Designated the Videobeam, it will receive colour television transmissions (all u.h.f. channels 21-68) and it will also accept video tape input or a signal direct from a suitable camera. A further input accepts computer data where the system would prove useful for giving direct viewing of a printout in alpha numeric form.

The 1.75m. wide image is projected onto a special screen which is curved. The sound is also "projected" at the screen and is reflected back to the audience. The manufacturers claim that some 40 people can view the screen in comfort.

WATCH THE CALCULATIONS

A few Ginsbergs ago I mentioned a wristwatch/calculator (electronic, of course). Having now seen just what they look like I can only comment, "fascinating". The same remarks apply to the price-about \$400. But hope is not lost if you aspire to owning one and haven't got too many pennies. A plastics specialist manufacturer has mentioned that he can see the price dropping to \$20! He argues that a huge part of the cost of these miniature marvels lies in the expensive, bespoke metal cases. His answer is to simply switch to special, tough, plastic cases which can be modelled/moulded into some very attractive shapes.

The "buttons" on the watch/ calculator are depressed using the point of, say, a ballpoint pen. The proposed plastic cases and keyboards measure 40 x 35 x 3mm, deep. The keys themselves are only 3mm, in diameter. In the basic design of the plastic case, up to seven functions could be accommodated which includes a memory. Readout of the watch I have seen is a liquid crystal type but doubtless LED versions are around too. Not available over this side of the pond—yet.

S.A. TV

Changing channels, back to television, I see that the long awaited South African television transmissions are finding their way into the ether. The official inauguration of these transmissions was back in the early part of this year. One hour test programmes are the order of the day so far with a promise of daily broadcasts from 1800-2300 to follow.

The licence fee is around £25, and the cost of a 26in. colour (PAL) receiver is about £700. Despite this high price it is estimated that some 175,000 sets will be sold this year and that colour receivers will account for 75% of this figure.

l²L

For the semiconductor enthusiasts, keep a sharp lookout for the new I²L (injection logic) which seems to be creeping in quietly. Fairchild has recently introduced a 4,096-bit RAM (random access memory) with an access time of only 100ns, Another giant, Texas Instruments, is also working hard on I²L products although it is playing its cards very close to the chest with not too many details available at present. Philips has already used I²L in an in-house motor control requirement, I predict that injection logic will have quite an impact once it gets started in a big wav.

SWL's NOTE

People who, listen in the radio spectrum from 2-30MHz will be pleased to hear of new equipment just launched on to the market (but not so pleased to hear the price!). Radio signals in this sector rely on reflection from the various ionised layers high above the earth. There are different layers which can affect the signal. At times a signal will just fade, sometimes a band is "open" working well and full of signals. Later, the same band can be almost dead and void of any radio life at all.

ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Which band do you choose, and how long will it stay "open"?

The new equipment tells all. The unit has a c.r.t. display which shows two sets of data. One is a barograph display which shows intensity of the received signals (in dBs) and shows which signals in the spectrum are strongest at a glance. Beneath this display is another which shows via which path these signals are reaching the receiver and taking into account single and multiple path transmissions. Part of the system is a sounder transmitter which sweeps the band over a five minute period.

The band is divided up into various data channels. Another part of the equipment makes seven duplicates of each channel and these are transmitted as a package of tones. These are transmitted and received by the receiver which can then calculate to allow for things like short-term fading, static bursts etc. Just for the record, a sounder transmitter/receiver system costs in the region of 100,000 dollars—then, of course, you may want to purchase the modern unit....

SIG. GENNY

It seems that in the dim distant Ginsberg past, memories of having two small signal generators marked a.f. and r.f. respectively come to light. A separate "box" was required for each job. This seems a far cry from one new signal generator just released which covers, in a single box, from 15Hz to over 1GHz. Needless to say it doesn't end there. The unit has both analog and digital readout, has an a.f. voltmeter built in and does numerous things quite automatically. Accuracy is almost frightening and mention is made of "four options". Grudgingly I must give it best over the ubiquitous BC221 which was the pride and prestige symbol of many a ham station.







by Eric Dowdeswell G4AR

O N several occasions in the past I have mentioned the possibility of running a small contest for readers of this page, with a couple of prizes thrown in. Very briefly the idea is to ask you to submit a cassette recording of the best DX that you hear over a period of, say, a month, on any amateur band. The "best" recording will take into account the band, time, mode, clarity of signal etc. If you have a cassette recorder it ought to be alongside your receiver anyway, always ready to record a choice bit of DX, so why not fix up a permanent lead out of your set to take immediate advantage of the recording facility?

Full details next month, I hope, so start practising and don't forget to make an entry in your log at the same time as the recording or you will be wasting your time! Better still, use the microphone to put the details of date, time etc., on the tape immediately after the recording.

Pete Dawson (Westward Ho! N. Devon) may wonder why he hasn't heard from me in reply to his first letter. Unfortunately Pete, you did not give your full address. For those willing to lose a few hours sleep Pete listed quite a few Central American prefixes heard between about midnight and 0400 on 3.5 and 14MHz. His "very ordinary" equipment is an old R107 with a Delta loop (for 14MHz?) and an inverted Vee about 50ft at the top. Pete has 246 countries to his credit and naturally has trouble in finding a new one these days, although he has been looking for the HK0AA and CE0A DXpeditions without success. I suggest Geoff Watts' DX News Sheet is the best and latest source of info on such matters. See July column.

Another first-timer is **Peter Allen** A8677 (Taunton) using a Trio 9R59DS and a G5RV aerial plus a G8AEV converter for 2m aided by an eight element horizontal beam and a five element vertical "for mobiles and repeaters". Not a bad idea, Pete! With the benefit of hindsight it now seems a pity that the early workers on 2m did not go for vertical polarisation in the first place! I have sent my condolences to **Mike Conolly** A8796 (Yeovil) who has had to move from the village of Odcombe to a "terrace house in the centre of Yeovil", losing the lovely countryside and its DX potentialities! However, Pete has had his 2m halo fixed on a TV mast at 45ft plus a pulley for the eventual long-wire. Good thinking!

Neil Whiteside A8859 (Hitchin, Herts) has only been watching the SW bands for a few months with his 50ft wire feeding a CR100/8 and Codar PR40 preselector. He deplores the selfish attitude of amateurs who seem to choose 3.6MHz for tuning up their rigs on a Sunday morning thus QRM'ing the RSGB News Bulletin. Although you are not too far from Chelmsford, I think one of the other transmissions might be better for you, Neil. Try the first one from G2MI in Bromley, Kent. Neil hopes to take his RAE in December plus the Code exam and to get his G4+3 right away. Very wise of vou, OM. Top Band enthusiast Tim Charles (Colchester) bemoans the usual summer fade out of that band and seems to have gone to the other extreme by concentrating on 2m. Recent lift conditions on 2m have enabled Tim to listen to Europeans working through the GB3BC repeater. In fact, Tim has copied nine repeaters so far, including PA0ALK, DB0SM, DB0WW and DB0ZO.

Andrew Swiffin A8603 (Cheadle) couldn't leave radio alone when he went camping near Ullswater, taking along a transistorised set and loaded whip aerial. He was pleased with VP1PF and several W's on 80m plus some GDX on 160m in daylight. Colin Fawcett (Oldham) gets back on the bands after five years' absence but so far has not fixed up a decent aerial for his Eddystone 840C. Paul Barker (Sunderland) got back into the SSTV groove again finding plenty of activity from Europe on 20m plus his first-ever reception of SSTV signals on 10m, from three DLs.

"M. C. P. Bennett" reveals that he is Michael, at long last! At Slough he found some nice ones on 15m including three VP8s. Attention, all those in Aberdeen! Stan Sutherland GM4BKV, secretary of the Aberdeen ARS, tells me of RAE courses starting at the local Tech College in September but he's short of candidates at the moment. Anyone contemplating taking the RAE next May and living around Aberdeen should write to Stan at 67 Greenfern Road, Aberdeen AB2 6TP. Even if next May seems too soon it is still worth looking into. John Bennett (Bristol) is yet another newcomer to the amateur bands and he has a Codar CR7OA and a 35ft wire. He has already joined the Western-Super-Mare Radio Club which is a very good way of sorting out the mysteries of our hobby!

I was glad to note that John Porter (Baslow Derbys) had a look at the CW end of 15 and 20m for a change. Quite a few countries and prefixes can often be heard for new ones down at the LF end of the bands so why not try it out sometime? There are fast ones and slow ones with straight keys and electronic wonders so the newcomer to code need not fear that he won't be able to copy anything at all, even if it is only call-signs.

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Log extracts

J. Porter:— 15m JA4HG/MM PY2ELV 20m CE6DT FG7AQ KA2AD KV4AAR YS1GW 5L2FH (Liberia) 8P6FU

P. Dawson:— 80m CP1AT EA9FC HP1GD VP2ABC (Barbuda) VP2VBG (Virgin Is) ZP5AL 20m CE1FA CP1AT FG7AR HR1LM KZ5RT TG9CQ VP1IL VS5MC 9N1MM 9Y4NB

P. Allen:- 20m A4XFX VQ9R 9X5PT

T. Charles:— 80m VP2AYL 8P6CP 40m HC2JN HK2DBK VK5QQ ZL4AW 20m FG7XE FP8CH HC2IK HP2BF OA2BJ VQ9MC YS1JWD 15m CE3RC VQ9SS/C (Chagos) ZS2JL 2m DR2NO (FM) via DB0SM GC8FBO OZ2BB

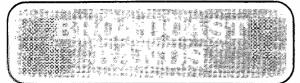
M. Connolly:— 80m CE6DP FP8DH JY3ZA PJ8HS 20m A4XVG C5AG C31LO KZ5JM VE8DC VP2SV 9X5SM

A. Swiffin:--- 80m PJ8HS VP1PF 20m C5AM M1D 5L5F 10m OJ0MA

P. Barker:— 20m SSTV DJ7IC DL2AE HB9AQU 11MSV K1LEM YZ2CDS 20m KD4ITU OY8KH ZP5PT 15m SSTV ON5TB 15m ZD7FT ZD8RD 10m SSTV DK4NA DL1WX DL7HT 10m 8SK2AT

M. Bennett:— 80m 7X4MD 20m M1D TI2MEF 3B8DO (Mauritius) 15m M1C TU2FD VP8JC VP8NK VP8ML ZP5VO 7Q7RM 7X0WW

All stations are SSB except those in bold which are CW.



SHORT WAVE BROADCASTS by Derek Bell

letter arrived "chez Bell" recently from a writer in London, who wishes to remain anonymous, asking "is it really a must to have an expensive communications set to pull in stations like Radio Nacional de Brasil?" On the face of it OM, no, but, and it's that little word that is the crux of the matter, while many SWLs (Short Wave Listeners) and DXers are content with their Astrads and VEFs there are a good many who, after a while, yearn to move on to bigger and better sets. They find that they would like a product detector or that they need the finer tuning that only a more expensive set can give. While we are now in a sunspot minimum and the more far-flung stations are beyond our reach, there will come a time when, as solar activity rises, the transistor portable sets will tend to become cluttered with signals and the AR88, or Trio or Codar with their better sensitivity, selectivity and suchlike refinements will come into their own. A lot of the present licensed amateur operators of today started out as SWLs and decided to seek something a little more complicated. So it seems that if a transistor portable fills your needs then stick with it, but if you seek to probe the far reaches of the bands then a communications receiver is a must.

After having indulged in a little philosophising Fred Tagg from Nottingham writes to show us a new wrinkle on DXing. He has hooked his PYE PM128 into a Celestion Ditton speaker and says that it really sounds good. His chimneys look like Jodrell Bank, says Fred, and his logbook has items like:—

Radio Kuwait on 11940 at 1800 Radio Israel on 12025 at 2030

Ghana on 21545 at 1525

Fred also says that being an ex "met" man his main interest is CW transmissions of weather reports and wonders if anyone else has the same interest. **Ian McLean** of Port Glasgow in Scotland has come up against the bane of the SWL, TV timebase interference. Although he is using screened coax cable for his aerial he still gets a "buzzing sound". Ian, I am afraid that there is little that can be done to cure this. In continental countries the TV sets are lined with foil to reduce this nuisance but here in the UK manufacturers do not seem to bother.

Colour TV sets are the worst offenders and they can radiate over several hundred yards. I personally have a "gremlin" that I suspect is a thyristor in a nearby factory, which, on occasions, ruins my medium wave listening with a similar "buzzing sound". Ian says that while in Canada he got a Citizens Band licence and wonders why we cannot have a similar set-up here. Ah! why not, passed to you, Lord Annan.

More "gen" has been sent in regarding the summer changes to schedules. **Geoff. Thompson** from Lincoln reports that Radio Budapest is now airing its DX show on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1515 on 1340, 6025, 7175, 9585, 9833, 11910, 15125 and 17780. This same writer also has logged Radio Argentina al Exterio on 11710 at 2300 using a ITT Euromarine dangling on the end of 12 metres of wire.

Radio Canada International seem to be taking a close look at their mailing list as they are writing to every one of their members asking them to renew for a two-year period. They were kind enough to send a copy of the latest schedule which is as follows:—

0600 to 0800 on 7290 6100 in English, French and German.

1715 to 1800 on 17820, 15325, 7235, 5995 in German.

2005 to 2159 on 15325, 11855, 9685 in French and English.

These details apply to the European target area but the station also has a service for the USSR, Eastern Europe and Africa. I think the DXer here in the UK will be lucky to hear these since the aerial system at Sackville, New Brunswick will not be set to favour us. The World DX Club reports that Radio Pakistan is now asking for reports to be mailed to World Service P.O. Box 443 Karachi. This station runs two 1000 kilowatters at Islamabad and can be heard in English on 15115, 15325, 17700, 17830 and 21730 at various times during the day. They are also noted for dictation speed news broadcasts in English which I think must be unique on the short waves.

"I have also heard Radio Baghdad but I am not sure of the frequency except that it was in the 31m band." These words were penned by John Higginbotham of Holyhead and express the feelings of us all. Radio Baghdad is one of the most notorious "floaters" in the short wave spectrum. They were recently reported on 9735 in English at 1955 but their official frequency was announced as 9745 for



the English transmission at this time. On another occasion they were logged on 3240 at 1947 while for this time the announced freq. was 9745.

Jon Seddon joins us now, having just built himself a crystal set and fitted it with an ATU. Jon admits that the freqs. he logs are prone to be a little wayward as he only has a "crude tuning scale". He has, however, managed to get some accurate frequencies and these were marked on the dial and the dial then sub-divided with a pair of compasses to give a better readout. I hope, Jon, that you manage to build a more sensitive set, and that we 539kHz, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia on 587kHz with that I will draw the curtain now and wish you and yours best 73s.

MEDIUM WAVE DX by CHARLES MOLLOY

BABYLON, in Iraq, is the most recent addition to the growing number of megawatt broadcasters on the medium waves. Operating on 1038kHz with a power of 2000kW it beams towards North Africa and can be heard in the UK during the evening between European channels 1034kHz (Milan) and 1043kHz (Dresden). Other high power outlets to search for are Kuwait with 1500kW on 539kHz, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia on 587kHz with 1200kW, Istanbul on 1016kHz with 1200kW and two Libyan stations, El Beida on 1124kHz and Tripoli on 1250kHz each with 1000kW.

The Iberian peninsula is an interesting hunting ground for the medium wave DXer. In Spain there are chains of low power commercial stations spread across the country. Well over 100 of them transmit on 1106kHz, 1133kHz, 1394kHz, 1412kHz, 1430kHz, 1520kHz and 1570kHz and many of them sign off between 2330 and midnight GMT. The DXer who listens on a single channel at this time can often hear one station after another become dominant only to be replaced after sign-off by a weaker companion. Use a loop to reduce QRM and listen on 1133kHz for ECS8 Sevilla, EFJ19 Castellon, EFJ46 Zaragoza; 1412kHz for EAJ16 Granada, EAJ17 Murcia, EAJ25 Tarrasa, EAJ64 Segovia; 1430kHz for EAK5 Valencia, EAK11 Malaga; 1475kHz for EAJ19 Asturias, EAJ59 Cadiz, EAJ60 Almeria, EAJ72 Zamora; 1570kHz for EFE10 Alava, ECS10 Mancha.

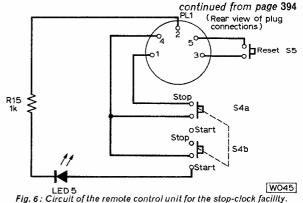
Mark Reddie of Edinburgh, who has been tuning round the medium waves with his Bang and Olufsen 600 receiver, reports hearing Radio Tirana at Durres in Albania on 1457kHz. Mark is building a MW loop aerial and hopes soon to own a communications receiver. P. Bookbinder (Shepherds Hill) is astonished to see the results achieved by DXers in reports to this column. He would now like to build a medium wave loop aerial and he wonders where he can obtain plans of one. Articles on loop construction have appeared in *Practical Wireless* issues April 1973 and November 1966. Although these issues are out of print, bound volumes of *Practical Wireless* are usually available in main libraries throughout the UK. A medium wave loop is an indoor aerial that is tunable and directional. It is usually constructed in the shape of a square with a 40in side and has a main winding of seven turns tuned by a 500pF variable capacitor and there is a one-turn coupling winding which is connected to the aerial and earth terminals of the receiver. The windings are supported on a wooden frame. Maximum pick-up is along the plane of the windings and there are two nulls, directions of minimum pick-up, which are at right angles to the windings. When using a loop, peak up the signal with the loop tuning control and rotate the loop for optimum results.

Radio Andorra on 701kHz 300kW broadcasts in French, Spanish and in English (m'nt-0200) and Sud Radio Andorra 818kHz 900kW can be heard in French during the evening. Each station will send a QSL card in return for a correct reception report (and return postage in the form of an International Reply Coupon which is obtainable at main post offices). Andorra, which is a tiny republic in the Pyrenees located between France and Spain does not have a short wave service and the DXer who would like to add this "country" to his verification list will have to turn to the medium waves. The address of both stations is Andorra-la-Vielle, Andorra.

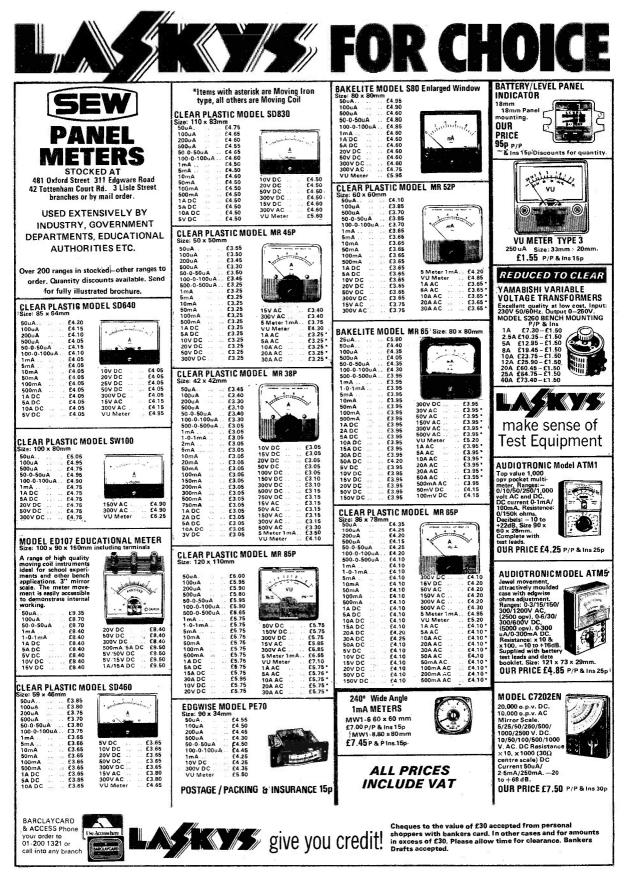
BROADCAST BANDS

Short Wave Reports by the 15th of the month to Derek Bell, c/o Practical Wireless, Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, EC4A 4AD. Medium Wave Logs to Charles Molloy, 132 Segars Lane, Southport, PR8 3JG.

'EASYBUILD' ELECTRONIC CLOCK



physics laboratories for pendulum timing and other applications where timing to the nearest second is sufficient. It could also prove very useful for controlling circuit training activities for athletes and when switched to the Hours and Minutes display mode the stop/start function still operates. Thus the stop clock is perhaps unique in that it allows a stop/start facility over a 23 hour 59 minute period and this could be very useful in biological and biomedical applications. Finally, the beauty is that by simply unplugging the remote control lead the device reverts to a very smart miniature desk clock to impress other executives, an attractive mantlepiece clock to impress your neighbours or a lovely bedroom clock to impress your wife!



Practical Wireless, September 1975

IT MAKES SENSE TO





Practical Wireless, September 1975

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CRYSTAL CALIBRATOR CT432 mains operated unit giving O/ps at 100Kc, 1 Mc/s and 10 Mc/s these 3 O/Ps are obtained from 3 separate crystals, also as provision for feeding in ext freq to give beat freq using phones supplied with copy of H/B, a fuller disc of these very neat units on our list £19.

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SIGNAL GENERATORS type TF144G made by Marconi standard radio type covers 85Kc to 25 Mc/s in 8 ranges, O/P variable from 1Uv to 1 volt, int mod var up to 70% at 400c/s fitted meter to read RF and Mod levels provision for ext mod. Supplied tested for use on 200/250v mains with circ, inst, leads £25.

ROLLER COASTERS coil 5 x 13" dia 36 turns silver plated fittings and carbon brush £3.30.

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Practical Wireless, September 1975



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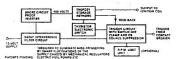
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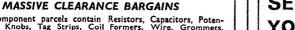
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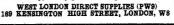
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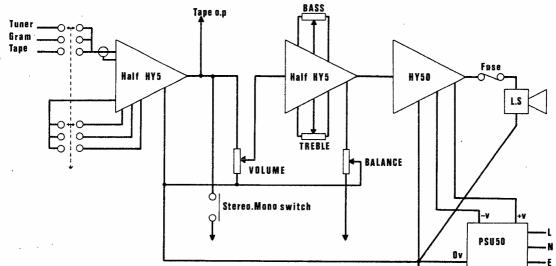
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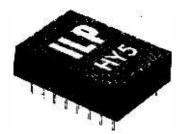
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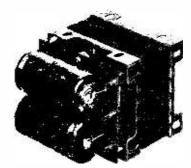
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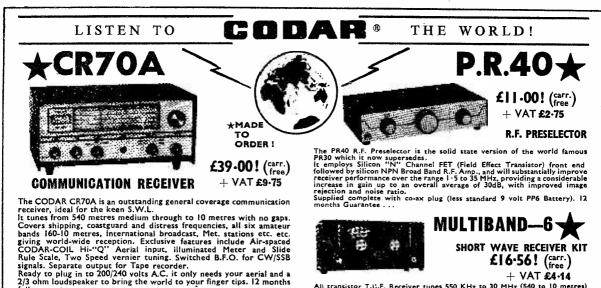
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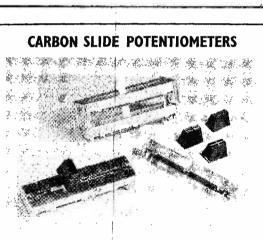


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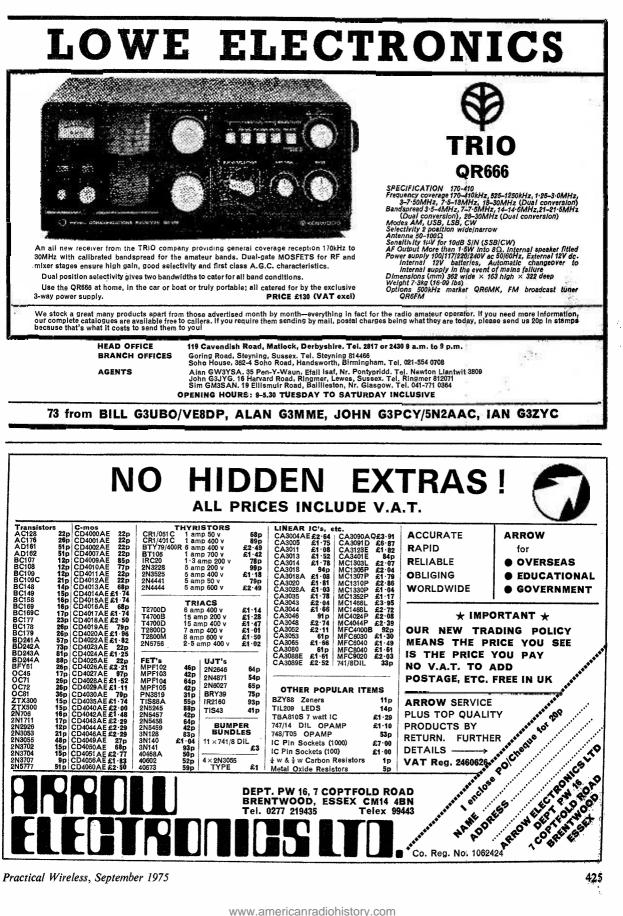
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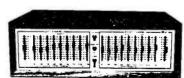
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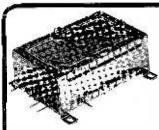
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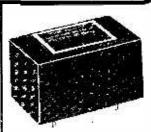
Varicap FM tunerhead: The EF5603 represents the top of the range in TOKO FM tuner modules. With 5 double varicap tuned circuits, and dg MOSFET RF stage, the performance is really excellent. (12v supply) 1-24 £9.05 each



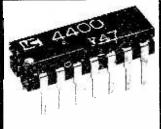
Coils for VHF RX/TX's S18 are fully molded coils, complete with cores. A wide range of custom types with up to two taps is available standard types for VHF are avilable ES. 1-24 18p each



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