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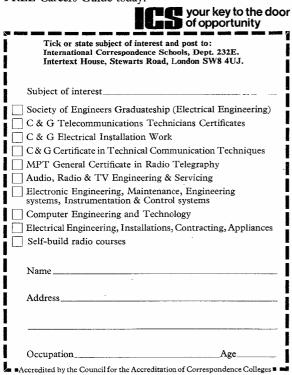
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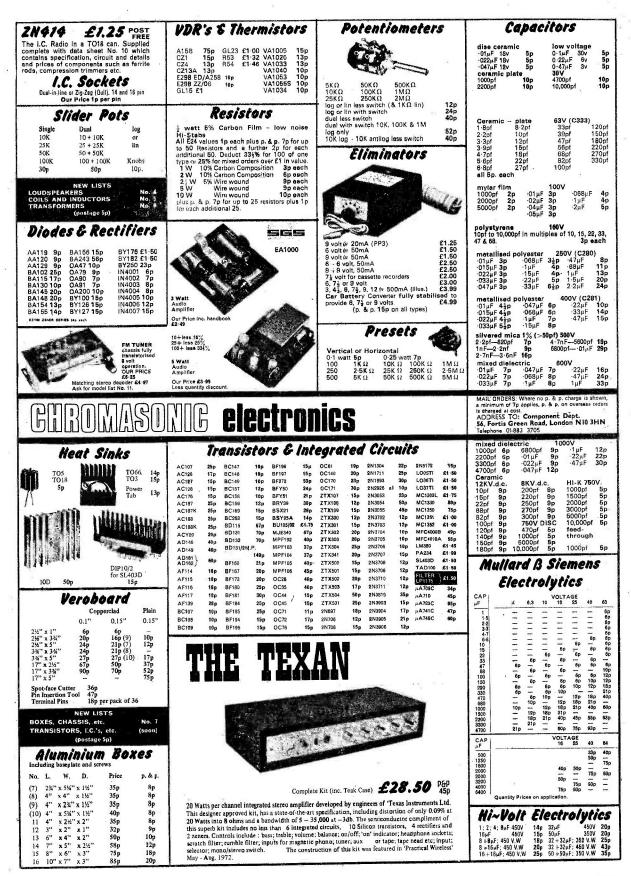
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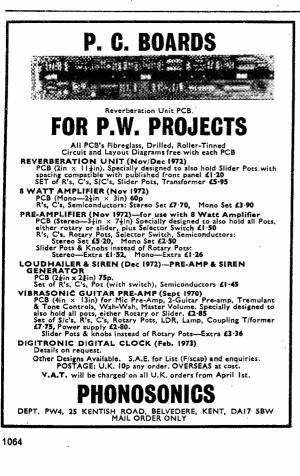
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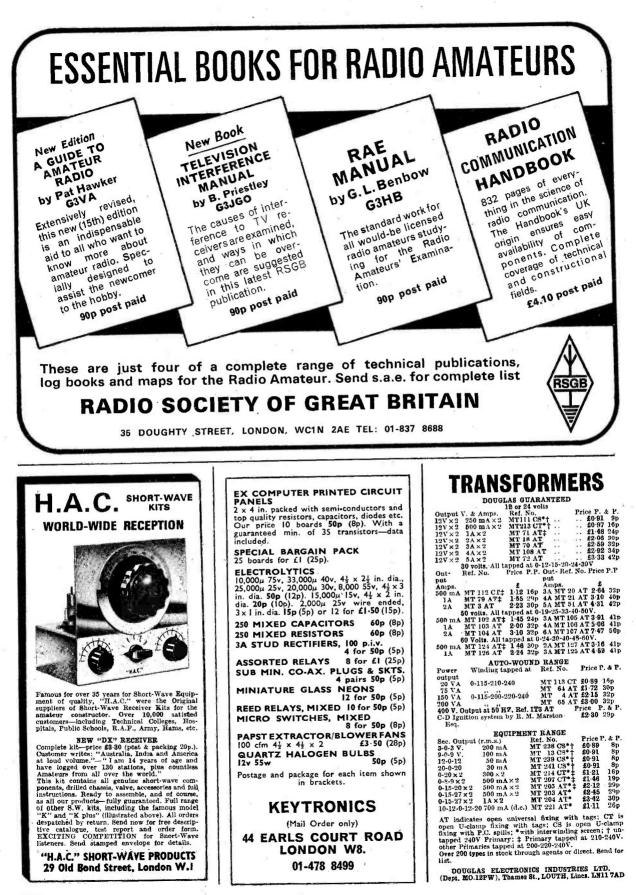
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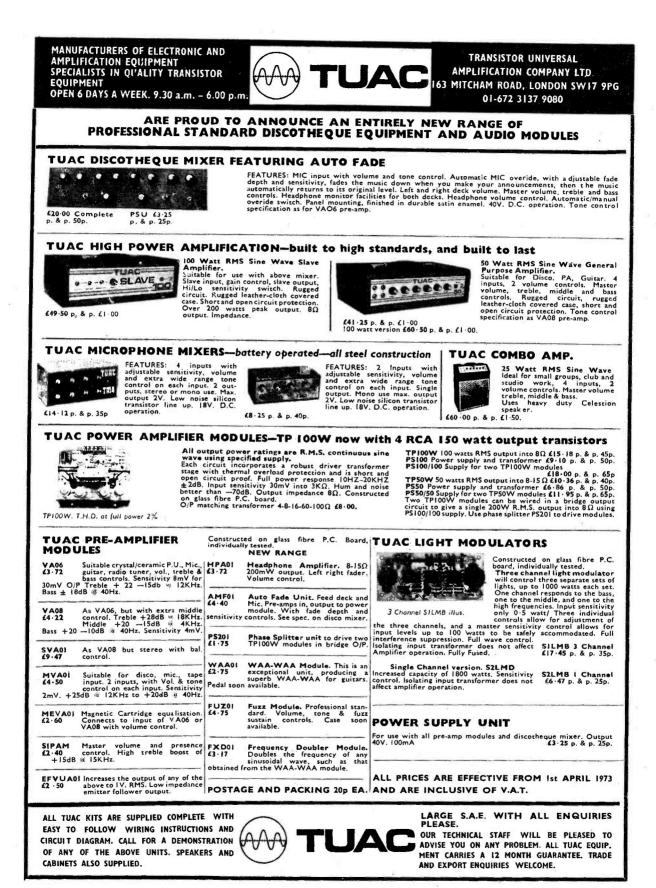
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THIS IS THE FIRST PAGE **BI-PAK** SECTION OF THE GREA **GUARANTEED DEVICES** BRAND NEW FULLY 2N3054 2N3055 2N3391 2N2919 0 · 48 0 · 50 2N 4059 2N 4060 0 AD162 AD161 & BD137 BD138 BD139 BF188 BF194 BF195 0019 BC148 BC149 00 0.25 9(1371 18 0.20 0-20 0-20 0.33 10 12 0 2G371 2G371B 2G373 2G374 2G374 2G378 2G381 2G381 2G401 2G401 2G414 2G417 2N388 2N388A 2N388A 00 OC29 OC22 OC23 OC24 OC25 0.35 0.63 0.38 0.42 0.56 2N2220 50 12 0000000 1227777777777722220022257884485228570 10113 0.22 0.20 0.20 0.17 0.14 0.14 0.24 0.24 0.24 0.47 2N2220 2N2221 2N2222 2N2368 AC113 AC115 AC117K AC122 AC125 AC125 AC126 Ő ñ. 9N4061 2N3391 2N3391A 2N3392 2N3393 2N3394 2N3395 2N3402 2N3402 2N3403 2N3404 2N3404 14 18 14 14 14 14 2N4061 2N4062 2N4284 2N4285 2N4286 2N4286 2N4287 2N4288 2N4289 2N4289 2N4290 2N4290 AD162 (MP) 12 14 14 45 . 62 R(150 ň 18 0.55 0.60 0.80 0.60 0.65 0.65 0.70 0.70 0.65 BC150 BC151 BC152 BC153 BC153 BC154 BC157 BC158 BC158 ň 20 12 17 17 54 ň 20 17 28 30 18 12 12 BD140 BD155 BF196 00000 ADT140 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0.25 0.60 0.65 0.50 0.50 0.65 0.65 0.40 0.40 BCZ12 BD121 BD123 BD124 BD131 BD132 BD132 BD133 19 20 19 (Eg) 0A91 IN34 0000 out 1N34A 1N914 1N916 0.05 0.05 CG651 (Eq) OA70-OA79 0.08 OA5 0.35 OA5SL 0.21 AD140 0 · 20 0 · 42 0 · 87 IN916 IN414B IS021 IS951 AD142 AD143 AD149 BF182 BF183 BF184 BF185 0000 es BC145 BD135 BD136 - 30 ŏ 87 ŏ 16 2N2218 0.33 AD161 BC147 b JUMBO COMPONENT PAKS THE NEW S.G.S. 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T1 8 2G3713 OC71 T2 8 D1374 OC76 T3 8 D1216 OC81 T4 8 2G381T OC81 T5 8 2G382T OC81 T6 8 2G384B OC44 T7 8 2G384B OC44 T7 8 2G384B OC45 T7 8 2G39A 2N.109 T10 8 2G417 AF117 All 50p each pak	UNCTION Gavt. 2N2646, 543. BEN3000 b, 25-99 25p UM CELLS RP12 43p RP61 40p each AL PHEPOSE U4	3 15 Plastic Case 1 Amp 4 30 Silicon PNP Alloy 7 5 25 Silicon Planar Tran 6 25 Silicon Planar MPN 30 Silicon Alloy Transis Silicon Planar NPN 8 20 Fast Switching Silicon 9 30 RF. Germ. PNP Tr. 10 Dual Transistors 6 1 12 25 RF Germanium Tr 10 VHF Germanium Tr	Silicon Re Trans. TO- sistors PN Transisto istors SO-2 con Trans. ansistors 2 lead TO-5 ansistors T PNP Transi	schiers IN4000 Series 5 BCY26 28302/4 5 BCY26 28302/4 rs TO-5 BFY50/51/52 rs TO-5 BFY50/51/52 r PN P 00200, 28322 NPN 400 MHz 283011 N1303/5 TO-5 282060 0.6, OC45, NKT73 Stors TO-1 NKT667, AF117	0.50 0.50 0.50 0.50 0.50 0.50 0.50 0.50	Q38 7 2N3646 TO-15 plastic 300 MHz NEN 0.50 Q37 3 2N3053 NEN Silicon transistors . 0.50 Q38 7 NEN transistors 4 × 2N3703, 3 × 2N3702 0.50 ELECTRONIC SLIDE-RULE 0.50 ELECTRONIC SLIDE-RULE 0.50 Conversion of Frequency and Wavelength. Calculation of L, C and G of .Tuned Circuits. Reactance and Belf Inductance. Area of Circles. Volume of Cylinders. Resistance of Conductors.
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 BP930	12p	11p	10p	
BP932 .	13p	12p	11p	
BP933	130	12p	11p	
BP935	18p	12p	11p	
BP936	13p	12p	11p	
BP944	13p	12p	11p	
BP945	25p	24p	22p	
RP946	12p	11p	10p	
BP948	25p	24p	22p	
BP951	65p	60p	55p	
BP962	12p	11p	10p	
BP9093	40p	38p	85p	
BP9094	40p	38p	35p	
BP9097	40p	38p	35p	
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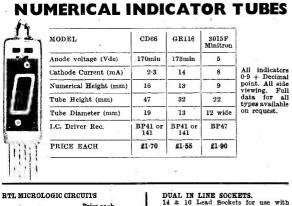
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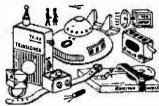
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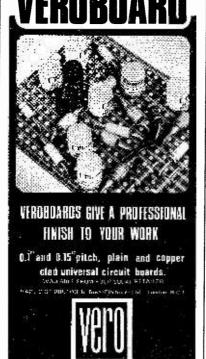
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dAN8 49 645GT 29 12AT6 23 30PL13 75 DM71 38 ECL36 6AQ5 21 6476 18 12AV6 23 130PL14 68 DY87(6 22 ECL36 6AR5 30 647G 24 12AV6 28 30PL15 87 DY802 29 ECL36 6AT6 15 647M3 88 128Ac4 30 35A3 48 BS0C4 165 ECL36 6AU6 19 647M1 28 128Ac4 28 30 35A3 48 BS0C4 165 ECL36 6AU6 19 647M3 28 128Ac4 27 35L647 48 BS87 1.20 ECL36 6AV6 28 6K76 10 128H7 27 35L647 42 BS87 1.20 ECL36 6AW8A 54 6K86 16 1270T 33 35W4 32 BS80C 60	28 HN 309 1 40 PL33 38 UP42 60 AAZ13 18 MATCHED TRANSISTOR SETS:- 28 HN 309 1 40 PL33 38 UP42 60 AAZ13 18 MATCHED TRANSISTOR SETS:- 28 HN 20 53 PL36 .46 UF80 .35 AC107 .10 MATCHED TRANSISTOR SETS:- 28 HV R2 .53 PL36 .46 UF80 .35 AC107 .10 LP15 (AC113, AC154, AC157, AA120) .58 52 HV R2 .53 PL43 .42 UF85 .44 AC113 .26 per pack, 1-0OC810 & 2OC81, 435, 1-20C84 .45 .54 KT2 .25 PL81A .48 UF86 .63 AC127 .17 1-OC84 2-OC45, 435, 1-OC82D, & .45 .54 KT41 .98 PL82 .28 UF89 .27 1/2 .076 .45 .45 .05 .43 .1-0C82D, & .45 .54 .54 .54 .54 .54 .54
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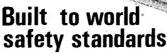
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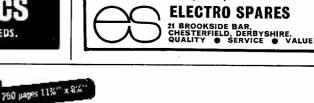
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APRIL 1973

The Buyer and VAT

During these last few weeks before Value Added Tax takes effect, readers will be contemplating whether to buy now or wait until after April 1st. It will undoubtedly pay to wait on such items as domestic receivers, some Hi-Fi equipment and electrical goods, but component suppliers are being hard pressed to meet demand before the infliction of VAT.

One way of circumventing purchase tax has been to supply equipment in kit form, but these items in any form will be liable for VAT at one common percentage rate, since VAT is a tax on the basic purchase price or charge for service.

We would expect that all suppliers will make it quite clear to all customers, at the trading premises and through advertisements, whether quoted prices include VAT. The basic retail price should remain the same as now. Whatever you pay for goods or services from April 1st, you should not be paying any purchase tax or selective employment tax levies; you should be paying VAT on top of the normal retail price, based on the Chancellor's Budget announcement on March 6th.

Kit and component prices should not be raised before April 1st and manufactured goods subject to purchase tax of more than 15% should be noticeably reduced after April 1st.

Shopkeepers and other traders are not legally bound to show the amount of VAT in cash transactions; neither will they necessarily show special "tax invoices" for retail sales, but it is worth remembering that if you purchase at a cut price rate, the VAT charged will be correspondingly lower. Goods obtained by hire purchase or credit agreements will be subject to tax at the current rate at the time when transaction documents are signed. Interest rates on these terms are not taxable. Private sales between individuals do not attract VAT because neither party is defined as a "taxable person", unless the seller is a trader required to register with H.M. Customs and Excise.

Our advice to readers who are thinking of buying goods by mail order during March is to determine first whether purchase tax is chargeable; if it is then wait until April. Items not subject to purchase tax (such as components and secondhand or used goods) should be ordered early. If of substantial value, send your order by P.O. "Recorded Delivery" and keep the counterfoil of your Postal Order, Money Order, or cheque.

You should be prepared for a VAT levy on charges for packing service but not for postage.

continued on next page

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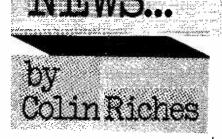
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THE MAY ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON APRIL 6th

WIRELESS

VOL 48 NO 12

Issue 794



VAT

To the best of our knowledge, the prices quoted in this issue were correct at the time of going to press.

From April 1st 1973, there will be no purchase tax but a large number of goods will carry Value Added Tax. For further details, see our Leader article.

Tulip Time Rally

The 1973 "Tulip-Time" mobile rally will be held on Sunday May 6th at Surfleet, 4 miles north of Spalding on the A16.

The Spalding and District Amateur Radio Society will also be operating a Special Activity station, GB3STF on 12th-13th May from The Grammar School, Priory Road, Spalding, in connection with the 1973 Tulip Festival. Operation will be on s.s.b./c.w. on all bands 160-10m. with a.m. on 2m. All contacts will be confirmed by special QSL cards.

Of interest to "Going Back" fans—the Wireless Preservation Society will have an exhibition of vintage radio on show to the public. I hope to be able to publish further details later.

RSGB "Jubilee Year" President



Photograph by P. M. Fletcher.

This picture shows Dr. J. A. Saxton, D.Sc., PhD, CEng, FIEE, FInstP, the new President of the RSGB. On the left of the picture is Swedish Amateur Lt. Col. Per Anders Kinman, SM5ZD, who received the Calcutta Silver Key award. Sir John Eden, the P.M.G. is on the right.

In his address, Dr. Saxton said he felt very proud that he had been chosen as President of the RSGB for its Diamond Jubilee Year. He also said that he was extremely delighted that Sir John had been able to attend and that all there were greatly honoured by his presence.

Dr. Saxton went on to say that the Society would continue to do all in its power to continue to deserve the Ministry's support.

Per Anders Kinman has been made an Honoury Vice President of the RSGB in recognition of his outstanding service with the IARU Region 1 in which he has served for many years.

The Calcutta Key he received was first presented 20 years ago and it has been awarded annually by the RSGB to the person they feel has made, in any one year, the most significant contribution to international friendship and goodwill through the medium of Amateur radio.

The Buyer and VAT

continued from previous page

If you order from a current catalogue or advertisement after April 1st, you should add the VAT percentage rate to the basic retail price shown. Then add the estimated or stated charge for postage and packing. If a service is chargeable, such as equipment repair or consultation, VAT will be levied at the standard rate. Trading in secondhand and used goods will also be taxable under VAT.

Finally, good news for P.W. readers: newspapers and magazines will be "zero-rated", which means that no VAT is chargeable on these. Transactions of any kind in the U.K. for the direct exportation of goods and services are exempt from VAT.

M. A. COLWELL-Editor.

Feb P.W. Cover

Many enquiries have been received for information on the book and log book shown on the front cover of the February issue of PW. Both can be obtained from the Radio Society of Great Britain, 35 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1. "How to Listen to the World" costs £2 post paid. The log book shown is intended for transmitting Amateurs and costs 60p post paid but another one, intended for listeners, is available at 45p post paid.

Cordless Iron

This cordless soldering iron comes from the U.S.A. It is completely portable needing no mains power for operation. It has its own power supply which is automatically charged from the stand which itself is connected to the mains. There is a small light near the tip which is very useful for seeing exactly where you are applying heat.

The iron heats up in under 5 seconds and has an "indestructible" iron-plated bit. It costs $\pounds 9.25$ complete with charging stand and fine bit. A heavy-duty bit is also available.

The exclusive distributors in Great Britain are Pact International Electronics Ltd., P.O. Box 19, Royston, Herts, SG8 5HH.



Sonex 1973

The technical author and writer Donald Aldous will be heading a small team to organise the Special Features at "Sonex "73".

Two recital/lecture sessions will be presented each day at the Exhibition's new venue the Excelsior Hotel, London Airport, Heathrow.

Speakers will include Bert Webb, who will lecture on pickups, arms and turntables and Kenneth Shearer, speaking on listening room acoustics.

There will also be a lecture on tape cassettes and an examination of current loudspeakers and trends.

Sonex '73 will run from Friday, March 30th to Sunday, April 1st, inclusive.

Sound '73

"Sound '73" is the exhibition run by the Association of Public Address Engineers. New P.A. equipment and new techniques in the public address and allied fields will be on show.

As in past years, there will be a lecture programme held in the hotel's "City Room". John Maunder from Shure Electronics will give a lecture and demonstration on microphones on Tuesday, 13th March at 14.30hrs.

Mike Beville from Audio and Design Recordings Ltd. will lecture on Components and Limiters (Wednesday at 14.30hrs.)

On Thursday March 15th at 10.30hrs, a member of the Hornsey College of Art will talk on Industrial design of Public Address Equipment.

Venue will be the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel, March 13-15, from 10.00-18.00hrs.

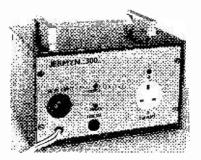
Jermyn Inverters

Jermyn Distribution market two inverters, both giving an output of 250V. Input for the 150W version is 12V and for the 300W type, 24V.

A feature of the design enables these inverters to charge the 12/24V batteries up to 10A when plugged into a power socket.

If the mains supply fails, the inverter automatically switches to its "invert mode" providing 240V emergency power immediately.

Should the unit be accidentally overloaded its drive is so adjusted, that the output voltage falls completely, switching the



I.E.E. Conferences

The following new conferences to be held in 1973 and 1974 are being organised by the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

"Electrical Signals from the Brain" 27-30 August 1973—in Oxford.

"Symposium on Electromagnetic Wave Theory" 8-12 July 1974—in London.

Further details of the conferences mentioned above are available from the Conference Department, IEE, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL.

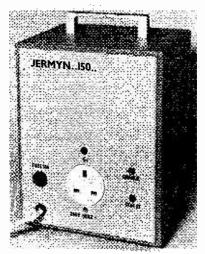
De-soldering Unit

In the February issue we mentioned the Litesold De-Soldering Unit and a misprint stated the price at \pounds .75. This should have read \pounds 2.75. Apologies to Light Soldering Developments and any readers that may have been inconvenienced.

unit off, eliminating any problems.

An internal 15A fuse blows should the battery leads be connected wrongly. Indicator lights illuminate to show whether the unit is charging a battery or providing a 250V 50Hz output.

Both types of inverter can be obtained in kit form or already built. The kit for 150W costs £25 (£29 built) and 300W £34 (£39 built). Jermyn Distribution, Vestry Estate, Sevenoaks, Kent.



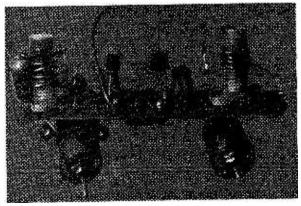


W HF radio provides a most useful signal source for any hi-fi enthusiast and, despite the 15 kHz frequency limits, the live BBC broadcasts are certainly up to the standards of the finest records.

The advantages are numerous—being a nonmechanical system the distortion is very low and the self-generated noise is also very low, the result being a large dynamic range and the possibility of encoding two channels on a single signal. This, plus the excellent BBC technique, makes f.m. radio an invaluable source of material. Unfortunately there are several difficulties in securing top quality f.m., regardless of the equipment used.

SIGNAL-TO-NOISE

Referring to Fig. 1, it can be seen that the performance of a receiver depends on the strength of the signal applied to the aerial socket of the receiver. The mono signal-to-noise ratio assumes an optimum value (usually 50 or 60 dB) with only a few μ V input—even on cheap tuners. The signal-tonoise performance does not improve so rapidly on stereo, however, and in many cases could be improved on even with inputs in the region of a few hundred "V—hence the increase in noise on stereo



First of the two VHF amplifiers described in the article. This one uses field-effect transistors.

in most situations. A person who gets no increase in noise is indeed most fortunate and need read no further!

As regards crosstalk and distortion, these parameters usually reach optimum values with fairly small inputs and usually there is not much improvement to be had by an increase in the signal.

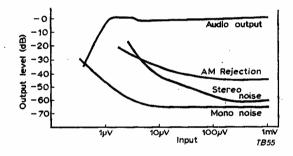


Fig. 1: Graphs comparing receiver performance with the input signal *level*.

Very few people are fortunate enough to be able to receive "near perfect" stereo without a large aerial, loft or roof mounted. A large aerial, besides having the necessary gain usually has the advantage that it is highly directional and eliminates multipath distortion from reflected signals. In many situations, a reasonably large aerial, three or more elements, carefully sited, and with a low loss feeder gives good stereo but perhaps not of the very highest quality.

The major downfall in domestic stereo reception is that of "stereo" noise—perhaps not excessive but sufficient to mar an otherwise excellent signal. The obvious way to reduce this noise is to increase the signal feeding the tuner by an "aerial amplifier". At present in this discussion we must assume that the amplifier be perfect, having gain but generating no noise itself.

OTHER NOISE

At this point many readers may well be wondering about the other forms of noise, thermostats, car ignition and other spurious signals. These signals are picked up by the aerial and sometimes, even, by the feeder, and consequently will be amplified, together with the f.m. signal, by our "ideal" amplifier, which we are using to combat stereo noise. This brings us to the last important parameter of f.m. receivers, amplitude modulation limiting.

The "ideal" f.m. tuner is designed to respond to f.m. only and a.m. signals are rejected to an infinite degree. Unfortunately, no receiver is perfect and some degree of sensitivity to a.m. is unavoidable.

The a.m. limiting of the receiver improves with increasing signal input, as seen from Fig. 1, so that increasing the signal and spurious a.m. together actually reduces the level of audible interference. Unfortunately, when the receiver is switched to receive a stereo transmission, the stereo decoder in the receiver is actually only sensitive to amplitude modulation of the stereo subcarrier. In the decoder some measure of a.g.c. is applied to the subcarrier amplifier and this maintains a constant level of stereo interference from an a.m. signal regardless of the actual input voltage to the tuner.

It can therefore be seen that whilst increasing the tuner input with an "ideal" amplifier, the "stereo" interference level remains substantially constant whilst the "mono" component of the audible interference has been reduced by virtue of the amplitude limiting of the f.m. discriminator.

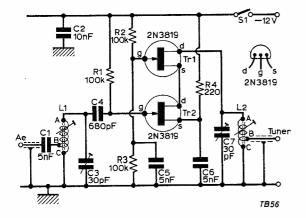
AERIALS

Earlier in this discussion, we talked of elaborate and efficient aerial systems but the previous discussion on aerial signal amplification implies that, with a good amplifier, an aerial providing only a minimal "clean" signal can be used to run an f.m. tuner with a high degree of success.

Unfortunately, some tuners are not so sensitive as others and sometimes require millivolts to function at their best. This means considerable amplification of the few tens of microvolts coming from a rather poor aerial!

The better tuners nowadays use f.e.t.'s in the input circuits to keep noise to a minimum and to keep cross modulation low; so any proposed amplifier should have at least as good a performance as the front end of the tuner.

This is very demanding when tuners such as Sony, Radford and Fisher are considered, but it is possible to improve these tuners on a very poor signal by a remarkable degree.



[.] Fig. 2: Circuit of the amplifier using two f.e.t.'s.

To design an amplifier with a front-end comparable to the best tuners use has to made of f.e.t. devices which possess the best noise properties of all the common solid state devices presently available and are responsible for the excellent performance of the best tuners.

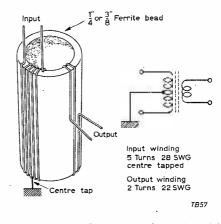


Fig. 3: Details of simple transformer to match balanced 400 Ω feeder to 75 Ω coaxial feeder.

The design chosen for the amplifiers in this article is not often used with solid state devices but was once very common with valve Band III television tuners. The amplifier is a cascode configuration giving reasonable gain with very low noise and good cross modulation.

The input to the amplifier, Fig. 2, is 75 Ω co-axial feeder so Fig. 3 shows a transformer that can be constructed from a small ferrite bead for 400 Ω balanced feeder.

THE PCB

The amplifier can be very easily built on a single piece of printed circuit $4'' \times 2''$ and it is recommended that fibreglass board be used.

To etch the required print design as shown in Fig. 4 (full size), the diagram is traced on to the copper side of the print with carbon paper and the marked areas painted in with high quality enamel. When the paint is dry, the print is immersed in the etching solution and agitated until completely etched (only paint and base material can be seen). The etching solution can be ferric chloride solution but a useful alternative is "Liquor-Ferri Perchloridi Fort" which is obtainable from chemists and should be used undiluted. Rub the copper surface of the board with "Ajax" or similar scourer before painting, to ensure a clean surface.

The enamel paint can be removed with paint stripper once the etching is complete and the board washed and cleaned with wire-wool. The holes for the components should be drilled with a t_{32}'' drill, preferably in a wheel brace.

Construction is straightforward except that the f.e.t.'s should be left until last and soldered in with the iron disconnected from the mains—surprisingly little voltage will break down the gate junction.

The coils, Fig. 5, are wound on the formers which are located on the board and stuck with Araldite. The 30pF variable capacitors must be connected so that the rotor is connected to the earth line. The author used 30pF Philips beehive trimmers mounted

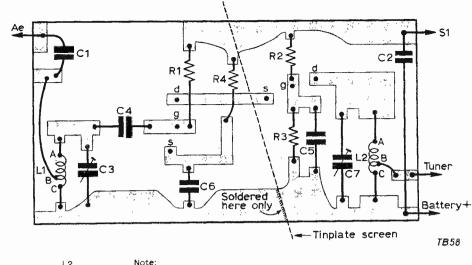


Fig. 4: Printed circuit board, for the circuit of Fig. 2, shown actual size.

L1 L2 Note: L1 and L2 both wound on $\frac{1}{4}$ Dia formers using 4 Turns 1 4 Turns 18 SWG copper wire TB59

Fig. 5: Winding information for L1 and L2.

★ components list

C Decistore	
A RESISTAND	
R1 100kΩ R2 100kΩ R3 100kΩ R4 220 All $\frac{1}{2}$ W 5%	54 - J
	es
Capacitors	28 ° 4 8
C1 5nF 400V C5 5nF 12V	7. Z
C2 10nF 12V C6 5nF 12V C3 30pF Trimmer C7 30pF Trimmer	
	4
C4 680pF 12V	é X
Miscellaneous Tr1-Tr2, 2N3819, On-off switch, 12V battery, Co-axi	. 2
Tr1-Tr2, 2N3819; On-off Switch, 12V Dattery, Co-axi	eu 🦷
sockets (2), PCB, see text, Coll formers.	× 3
BE200 AMPLIFIER Resistors	12
Resistors Da colo DE tolo	1× 2.
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	<u> </u>
R2 10kΩ R4 1·5kΩ R6 6·8kΩ All ±W 5%	× 3
	х х. с
* Capacitors	849 - A
C1 1nF 400V C2 30pF Trimmer C7 10nF 12V	ù š
C3 10nF 12V C8 680pF 12V	* ~ 1
C3 10nF 12V C4 680pF 12V C4 680pF 12V C9 1nF Feed-through	24 m
C5 1nF Feed-through C10, 30pF Trimmer	3 K - S
Miscellaneous	2k
Tr1-Tr2, BF200, On-off switch. 12V battery, Co-ax	
sockets (2): PCB, see text. Coll formers.	14. 3
POWER SUPPLY	
Capacitors	
C1 100nF (kV C3 2000)F 10V C5 100nF 1	
C2 2000µF 10V C4 1000µF 15V	45 J
	» .
Miscellaneous R1, 10Ω ↓W 5%, D1-D2, 1N4002, D3, 12V zener 2	w.
mounted on aluminium $2^{\prime\prime} \times 1^{\prime\prime}$ minimum	ří,
8V hell transformer, Fuse, 1A. On-off DP mai	ns
switch, LP1, 3-5V 20mA for FET amp + 2 stages	or
3.5V 40mA for FET amp + 4 stages.	12 - 2

on the copper side of the board. The resistors should be small low noise types and the capacitors need only be low working voltage.

The completed amplifier should be screened by placing tin plate at the position indicated and soldered to the positive line as support.

The amplifier is mounted in a small wooden box, measuring approx. 4" cube internally, covered inside with tin foil, which is connected to the positive supply line. A front panel can be made from a piece of double-sided copper board with the input and output sockets and the on/off switch. The printed board is soldered to the front panel by the positive line, so earthing the front panel.

With a 12V battery connected, the output is fed to the tuner and the input is fed by an "inefficient" aerial, in most cases a short piece of wire.

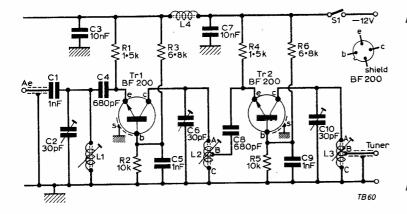
With the amplifier on, the tuner is switched to the local stereo station and the tuning capacitors C3 and C7 set midway. The cores in the coils (L1 and L2) are then adjusted to give the strongest signal, best observed on a tuning meter or audibly by judging least noise.

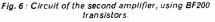
The amplifier is then assembled in the case and the capacitors C3 and C7 tuned to give the best signal. The tuning will be sharp and critical, so care should be taken when adjusting.

The amplifier, when connected between the proper aerial and tuner, should have sufficient gain to overcome most of the tuner noise, without introducing significant noise itself. When used on weak local radio stations, the improvement will be very marked, especially in mono. Unfortunately, this usually requires the amplifier to be re-tuned to the local channels. However, connecting 27 Ω resistors across L1 and L2 will broaden the bandwidth considerably, enabling the amplifier to be used over a number of channels.

BF200 AMPLIFIER

However, for many of the "poorer" tuners, this amplifier will still not be good enough to fully drive the tuner on a moderate signal. For optimum stereo in such cases two of the amplifiers could be





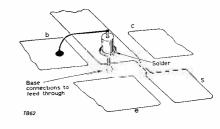


Fig. 8: Method of mounting feed-through capacitors.

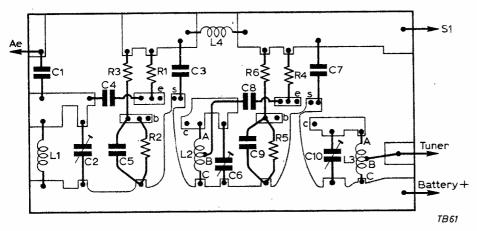


Fig. 7: Illustration, actual size, of the printed circuit board for the BF200 amplifier.

connected in series. The price of f.e.t.'s, however, makes this uneconomical and ordinary low-noise silicon transistors used after the f.e.t.'s work very well. The proposed amplifier, Fig. 6, is two stages of a conventional r.f. amplifier design. Fig. 7 shows a full size print layout for two stages, although for additional gain or bandwidth more stages can be used, although greater than five would be difficult to keep stable.

The board is etched in the same manner as before and a similar front panel and box are prepared. Alignment is the same, tuning the coils and finishing with the capacitors.

The transistors specified are BF200 and these should be used for at least the first two stages to keep the noise level down; after this such transistors as 2N706 work very well. An alternative for the BF200 is BF180 or BF181.

Fig. 8 shows how C5 and C9 are constructed with 1000pF feed-through capacitors. L4 is made by wrapping a few turns of 36s.w.g. d.c.c. copper wire round a ferrite bcad. Fig. 9 gives the winding information for L1, L2 and L3.

The two amplifiers just described will enable good stereo to be obtained from a mediocre signal without the need for a "fancy" tuner. The improvement that can be expected depends greatly on the individual circumstances. The author has used the amplifiers with a Sony ST5100 tuner and a poor aerial and found the results almost as good as when a proper aerial was correctly installed on the roof. The cost of a pair of amplifiers is comparable to a decent

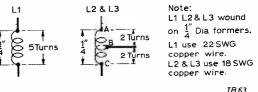
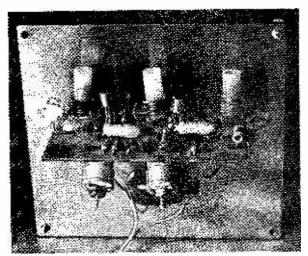


Fig. 9: (above) Details of the three coils shown in Fig. 6. In the photograph (below) the second amplifier board is shown soldered to the front panel consisting of double-sided p.c.b.



aerial less downlead and fitting, so financially it is a viable proposition, although not a substitute for a first class aerial.

In order to split one signal to run several outlets and obtain maximum signal at each of the outlets, a star-splitter is used. This arrangement provides correct impedance matching throughout the system.

Figure 10 shows the circuit of a star-splitter. The value of the resistors R depends upon the impedance of the feeders (Z) usually 75Ω , and on the number of outlets (n) which can be as many as required.

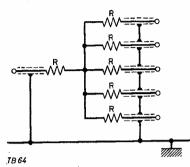


Fig. 10: Circuit of star-splitter enabling several outputs to be obtained from a single input.

The relationship is: R = Z(n-1)/n+1. For example, for a splitter for a 75 Ω system with two outputs the resistors to the nearest preferred value are 27 Ω . Small ¹₄W resistors are suitable and indeed preferable to physically larger types.

All of these systems involve a loss of signal and this must be made up by amplification before the splitting. For a distribution system, splitting six or

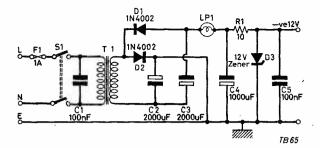


Fig. 11: Suggested power supply for the v.h.f. amplifiers.

eight ways, two f.e.t.'s followed by three transistors should be adequate. One important point to note is that the outputs of the splitter must all be loaded by a 75 Ω resistor when not in use, otherwise a loss of signal results and the splitter may form the node of standing waves in the feeder.

If either of the amplifiers is built as a distribution system, it is perhaps a good idea to build a small mains unit to power the whole system. It is desirable that this supply be stabilised to guard against changes in the tuning of the f.e.t.'s if the supply voltage changes.

Fig. 11 gives a circuit of a simple power supply based on an 8V bell transformer with voltage doubling and zener stabilisation. The lamp, LP1, can be used to give on/off indication.

It is hoped that this article has given sufficient information for the home constructor to build an amplifier system to improve the performance of a tuner to reach the very high standards of the B.B.C. stereo transmisions.



NOVEL TONE GENERATOR

WHENEVER home constructors and experimenters need to build a source of audio frequency, the choice nowadays is usually a transistor multivibrator. The reasons for this selection are easily understood. It requires few components, avoids the need for a transformer and gives a strong output signal. These virtues outweigh the fact that the square-wave output does not make for a particularly pleasing sound when amplified and fed to a loudspeaker.

In designing the a.f. tone generator to be described, the author set out to devise a circuit which would possess all the aforementioned merits of the multivibrator and at the same time give a better audio tone. In the circuit shown in Fig. 1—which, as a transistor circuit, is thought to be original—the writer believes these objectives have been largely achieved.

N. NAUGHTON

It will be noticed that the circuit is actually simpler than a multivibrator and basically it is a sawtooth generator. Like all sawtooth generators it depends upon the charge and discharge times of a

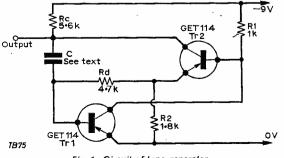


Fig. 1; Circuit of tone generator.

capacitor for its action. But as linearity of the sawtooth ramp is not important for the required purpose, the provision of constant current is omitted in the circuit shown.

In Fig. 1 the two transistors perform the function capacitor C charges via the charging resistor Rc and the base-emitter junction of Trl. The charging current flowing through the B-E junction turns on Tr1 and the flow of collector current causes a voltage drop across R1 which results in the potential on the base of Tr2 dropping to a level low enough to turn off Tr2. As the charge on C rises the charging current diminishes so that the potential on the base of Tr1 decreases to a point where Tr1 turns off. The base of Tr2 now goes strongly negative causing Tr2 to turn on and C now discharges via Tr2 into the discharge resistor Rd. While discharge current is flowing in Rd it maintains a positive potential on the base of Tr1 thus preventing further switching action during the period of discharge. When C has discharged, it again draws current through Tr1 once again turning off Tr2. The cycle then repeats.

The foregoing is a simplified description of the operation but many will find it interesting to measure the balance of currents and potentials which exist in the circuit under static conditions when C is removed.

The frequency of oscillation is not readily calculated since it is influenced by several factors one of which will be determined by the type of coupling employed to connect the output. However, for practical purposes values of C ranging between 2μ F and 5000pF will cover the audio spectrum.

APPLICATIONS

A useful feature of the circuit is that it uses only one capacitor. With the values given, the generator should oscillate at any point within the a.f. range the actual point being determined by the value of C selected. Thus it becomes a simple matter to construct a signal generator giving a number of spot frequencies as desired; the only extra components needed being a multi-pole switch and a few capacitors. Many other audio applications will doubtless occur to readers.

For those interested, an interesting feature of the circuit is that because the charge and discharge paths of C are independent, the circuit can readily be made to produce right-handed or left-handed sawtooth waveforms. Moreover, by choice of p.n.p. or n.p.n. transistors, the polarity of either slope can be created as desired at source, thereby eliminating inverting stages. Although some value of Rd is essential for circuit function, in practice this can be less than 1000 thus allowing fast flyback times. There is no reason why C can not be a very large value electrolytic so that the circuit can easily be adapted for timing application.

GENERAL

No constructional details are given since the generator will mostly be incorporated in some larger project. Experimenters can assemble the components on a length of Veroboard or tagboard.

As stated at the outset, the circuit is primarily intended as an a.f. generator and the values given have been chosen to give a roughly pyramid waveform at the collector of Tr2. A strong output signal is also available at the collector of Tr1 but this is a steep sided pulse and the "softer" toned signal at the Tr2 output can be readily appreciated. Coupling of the output is perhaps best determined to suit the individual case but too tight a coupling to the Tr2 output is best avoided. This is less important if the Tr1 output is used.

With the component values given, the circuit places no critical demands on the transistors' characteristics. Seven widely differing types, in various combinations, have been tried with success. However, experimenters using low values of Rd—especially with a high value of C—should note that Tr2 must then be a device capable of handling the heavier discharge current. Tr1 and Tr2 must both be either p.n.p.'s or n.p.n.'s, the -9V becoming +9V if n.p.n.'s are used.



The latest development in television receiver design is touch-sensitive tuning, using touchbutton units which provide a completely nonmechanical means of channel changing. A very high-impedance electronic switching circuit selects the required channel when a finger is placed across a pair of contacts to complete the appropriate circuit. Several models featuring touch tuning are now on the market and this month we are investigating the technique and the circuitry involved. The change from mechanical to all-electronic channel selection should improve the stability and reliability of TV tuning.

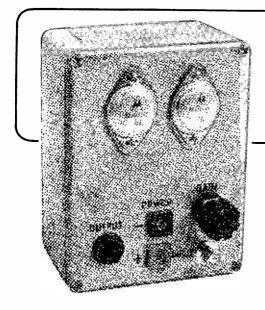
BAND III PREAMPLIFIER

Another Bunney wideband aerial amplifier intended for DX work. The two-transistor (BF272) design on test lifted a weak signal from mere traces of line sync pulses to a solidly locked noisy image. Part of Roger's present programme of improving his DX receiving equipment.

SERVICING

Plenty on the servicing front this month. John Law in his new fault-finding series investigates the line timebase used in most KB-STC models. Vivian Capel completes his guide to power supply circuit servicing. Les Lawry-Johns starts on the single-standard **Bush-Murphy TV181S/ V2016** series. And Caleb Bradley takes us further with the BRC 2000 colour chassis.







T HE audio amplifier to be described was designed to deliver in excess of 10W r.m.s. into an 8Ω load, whilst being constructed in a 4^{1} ₂in. x 3^{1} ₂in. x 2in. diecast aluminium box. The size of the box is, in fact, limited not by the size of the i.c. but by the passive components, especially the output capacitor which must be included in the circuit. The use of the i.c. has added one inestimable advantage in that the current through (and the power dissipated by) the output stage under overload conditions can be limited. It is thus possible for the output to be short circuited without disastrous results.

The i.c., although capable of giving a 1 watt output without any other transistors, has been primarily designed for use as the driver stage of an amplifier



capable of delivering up to 35 watts into an 8Ω load. A description of the working of the i.c. has not been included as it is not necessary for the constructor to completely understand the operation of the device for it to be used successfully.

Two transistors in the i.c. are responsible for the current and power limiting facility. It was calculated that under maximum current limiting and with the normal current gain of a power transistor, the output stage of the i.c. would be overloaded. One way of curing this fault is to use a Darlington transistor. This in fact was done, the Darlington pair being contained in the TO3 metal case of the power transistor. The current gain of the complementary Darlington pairs is in excess of 1000.

CALCULATIONS

The final circuit used for the prototype amplifier is shown in Fig. 1 but since other constructors may wish to use different power supply voltages and load impedances from those used by the author, the method of calculation of the current and power limiting components is given. The basic circuit should be adhered to as it is only the values of R6, R8, R9 and R11 which need to be changed.

The following section shows the worked equations used to give the value of the components in Fig. 1.

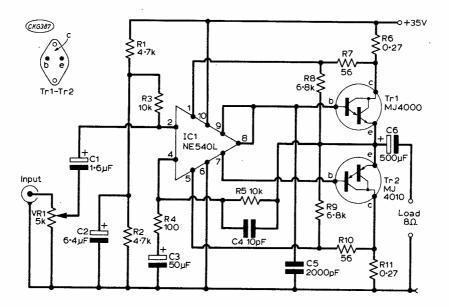


Fig. 1: Circuit diagram of the amplifier and pin connections for the output transistors.

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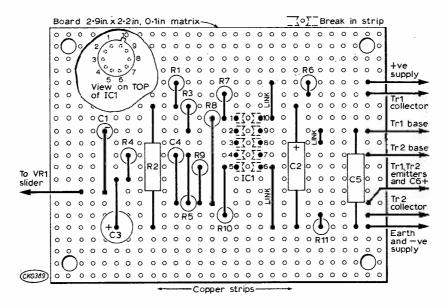


Fig. 3: Component layout on top of veroboard, the copper strips running horizontally underneath.

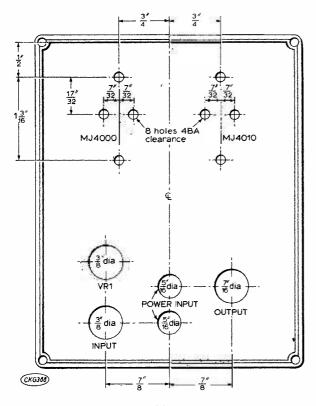
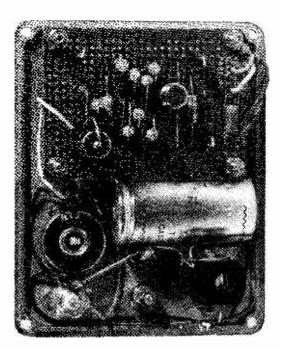


Fig. 2 : Drilling details for the box lid on which components are mounted

They are based on a supply voltage (Vcc) of 35V and a loudspeaker impedance of 8Ω (R_L). Before beginning the calculations it must be remembered that there are two limitations imposed by the active devices used; the supply voltage must be in the range 10 to 40V, and the maximum current through the transistors Tr1, Tr2 must not exceed 4A. We can calculate:



This view of the completed amplifier emphasises the restrictions on the physical size of the output capacitor C6.

Peak current in transistors is:

$$\frac{\mathbf{V}_{cc}}{2\mathbf{R}_{L}} = 2 \cdot 2\mathbf{A} \left(\mathbf{l}_{pk}\right)$$

If this value is above 4A we must use either a lower supply voltage or higher load impedance. To provide current limiting of this value and assuming no voltage drop across R7, R10 we calculate the values of R6 and R11 as:

$$R6 = R11 = \frac{650mV}{I_{pk}} = \frac{0.65}{2.2} = 0.296 \ \Omega$$

The nearest preferred value of resistor, which must be lower in value than the calculated value, is 0.27Ω . The basis of the working of the power limiting facility is difficult to explain in such a short article but works on the principle that both a high voltage across or a high current through a transistor and its network of resistors (Tr1, R6, R7 and R8) will tend to turn off the transistor. The resistor network acts to sense the power dissipation in the transistor and to limit this dissipation. The value of R7 and R10 is 56 Ω . In all cases the value of R8 and **R9** is:

$$R8 = R9 = \frac{V_{cc}}{6mA} = 5.8k\Omega$$

The next highest preferred value, $6 \cdot 2k\Omega$, is rather difficult to obtain and the value has been increased to $6 \cdot 8k\Omega$. The voltage gain of the circuit is 100 and although this may be altered by changing the value of R4, the effect of such a change on the stability of the amplifier is difficult to predict. Under d.c. conditions the capacitor C3 represents an open circuit and the d.c. gain becomes zero, the voltage at the emitters of the two transistors, determined by the ratio of the values of R1 and R2, being at half the supply voltage.

\star components list

Resistors	
	•
R1 4-7kΩ R5 10kΩ R9 6-8kΩ	
$\mathbf{R2} 4.7 \mathrm{k}\Omega = \mathbf{R6} 0 \cdot 27\Omega \pm 02 < \mathbf{R10} 56\Omega$	1
R3 10k Ω R7 56 Ω R11 0.27 Ω \pm 02	. 3
R4 100Ω R8 6 8kΩ VR1 5kΩ log	1
All #W 5% except R6 and R11	2
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Capacitors	÷
C1 1-67/E 40V C4 10nE	Ì
C2 6-4µF 25V C5 2000pF	đ
C3 50//F 35V C6 500//F 50V	
Note: C6 should not be over 24" long and 1" dia.	4
Semiconductors	1
Tr1 MJ4000 Ti2 MJ4010	2.2.2
(both with mica washers and bushes)	-
IC1 NE540L	
Available from SCS Components, POB 26,	
Wembley, Middlesex	1
Miscellaneous	•
Diecast box, $4\frac{1}{2}^{"} \times 3\frac{1}{2}^{"} \times 2^{"}$. Veroboard 2.9" x 2.2",	
0-1" matrix. Input socket, Output jack socket.	
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CONSTRUCTION

The complete circuit is constructed in a diecast aluminium box using the lid to hold all the components and the rest of the box as the cover. Fig. 2 shows the lid marked out for drilling, after which the power transistors are mounted (the NPN transistor Tr1, MJ4000 on the left as seen in .Fig. 2) using mica washers with bushes. It is best at this stage to check whether the collectors of the transistors have been accidentally shorted to the box lid. The remainder of components should be fixed to the box lid, a tag washer under the input socket nut providing the main connection to the lid.

The component board is a $2 \cdot 9$ in. x $2 \cdot 2$ in. piece of 0.1 matrix veroboard, with the copper strips running along the 2.9in. length of the board, Fig. 3. After cutting the strips below the i.c., drilling the mounting holes and cleaning up the rough edges, a few moments should be spent with a meter checking that no lines are shorted together and that the strips below the i.c. are completely severed.

There should be no difficulty in constructing the board, but it is advisable to use different coloured wires for the flexible connections as this assists in the final wiring. The capacitor C6 is held in place by its wire leads, the positive end of the component being connected to the emitter of Trl. The circuit board is held above the transistors on four 4BA screws with either two sets of nuts and washers or lin. long spacers. The nut heads are stuck on the box lid with epoxy resin adhesive.

The final stage of wiring consists of connecting all the leads from the board to their respective terminations, wiring a negative supply earth lead to the earth end of the output socket, the negative supply socket, and the solder tag on the input socket. Lastly a wire is taken from the centre of the input socket to one side of VR1, the remaining potentiometer connection being taken to earth (the slider goes to the input on the board).

A power supply capable of delivering the maximum requirements of the amplifier must be used. In the author's case a supply of 35V at 2.5A. Under these conditions the amplifier was able to deliver nearly 15W r.m.s. into an 8Ω load.

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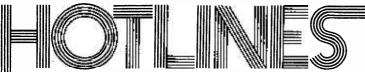
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FOR some time now, weather satellites have been happily orbitting the earth some 800 miles up. These animals transmit a picture of the earth and a suitably equipped station below can receive these pictures. They show cloud distribution which is useful in helping to guess whether it will rain or not on the following washday.

3D RAIN?

Now comes news about a satellite built by the RCA. It is equipped with special sensors and boasts the distinction of being the very first operational satellite to provide a three-dimensional picture of the earth's weather. It is equipped with some very impressive sounding equipment; a scanning radiometer, a very high resolution radiometer and a vertical temperature profile radiometer.

The very high resolution radiometer (v.h.r.r.) has two channels and offers images from both the visible and infra-red regions. It can sense the thermal energy given off by objects below, down to half a mile in area.

Resolution is far better than the pictures provided by television cameras or the radiometers used in earlier satellites. The solar cells in the satellite, NOAA - 2, generate some 500 watts and over 10,000 individual cells are used to achieve this power. Who knows—television announcers of the future may be forecasting that three dimensional rain is on the way.

LIQUID CRYSTALS

It now seems a certainty that liquid crystal displays will have a big impact on the electronics market. I reported these as being already built into a multi-digit display being marketed at the Electronica exhibition in Germany late last year. Now, the U.S. giant, North American Rockwell is reported to be mass-producing liquid crystal devices.

The liquid crystal phenomenon was first discovered way back, as long ago as 1888. The basic principle is that certain liquids become opaque when they are subjected to an electric field. With no field present, they are transparent. The North American Rockwell displays consist of two small plates of glass. Although these are bonded together, they are separated by a tiny gap—about a thousandth of an inch. This tiny gap is filled with the special liquid which is affected by an electric field. The cell is thus completely transparent.

However, when a small electric field is applied (this takes about 25V to achieve the desired effect) the cell becomes opaque. Without a field, the molecules in the liquid are uniformly and regularly oriented. The application of the electric field causes this molecular structure to become disoriented and the molecules thus scatter the light giving an opaque effect.

The voids or spaces into which the liquid is put can be formed into figures or letters for the purposes of forming a display. Conductors to the liquid are formed from tin oxide which is a transparent conductor. The liquid crystal display draws almost no power—about 10mW or one hundredth of a watt. Perhaps we will have windows some day which will be clear until we press a button?

OZONE SPEEDS UP RESIST REMOVAL

Integrated circuits (i.c.'s) are delicate little beasts especially during their manufacture. Part of this process is a photographic one. There is a particular stage in the printing of each mask where unwanted photo-resist has to be removed. Considering the size of elements on individual i.c.s this removal is a delicate business. The General Electric Company in the U.S.A. have come up with a new method of removing unwanted photoresist. It consists of exposing the resist to ultra-violet rays in the presence of air. It takes about 40 minutes for a typical film of resist to be removed. The depolymerisation of the resist happens at a rate of about a thousand angstroms per minute. By injecting 2% ozone gas into the chamber with the specimen the process is speeded up some ten times.

Earlier, I talked of liquid crystals and many have leapt in claiming that the solid state flat tube television screen is here. One British manufacturer, however, is obviously unimpressed. Mullard has opened a

ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

new factory in County Durham. The sole purpose is to manufacture shadow mask colour television tubes.

Although only officially opened in December last year, pilot production was already said to be running at the rate of 100,000 tubes delivered from this plant. By the end of this year, production is estimated to be in the region of 500,000 tubes and by the end of this present decade, production will be running at some 900,000 tubes/annum. All this adds up to a lot of colour television receivers—have you got yours yet?

LASERS ARE BACK

Lasers are back in the news again, this time in America where the Optical Physics Division of the National Bureau of Standards is applying one to monitor pollution. A major contributor to atmospheric pollution is nitrous oxide. It is found lurking in such jolly jollop as flue gases and in the exhaust fumes from motor vehicles.

The laser beam is directed through a magnet whose coils are driven by an audio amplifier and is detected by an infra-red device. The amplifier generates a modulating magnetic field which has the effect of sweeping the absorption line through the laser line. The detector produces a signal which has a direct relationship to the amount of nitrous oxide in the sample being investigated.

Concentrations of nitrous oxide as low as 20 parts per million (p.p.m.) can be detected but workers believe that concentrations right down to 0.1 p.p.m. will be detectable as the method is improved.

FLYING SPOT

Useful things oscilloscopes. Have you ever wondered just how fast that tiny spot of light travels across the cathode ray tube? Before you start to make calculations, think of the latest fast writing oscilloscope, the HP 184A. The writing speed for this unit is so fast that the spot travels 400cm in one millionth of a second.





IAN SINCLAIR

E VER since the day when Marconi equipped the yacht *Elettra* with radio to act as a mobile test-bed, electronics and boats have been closely associated. The first really extensive use of radio was at sea, and after the Titanic disaster all ships were required to keep radio watch continuously for distress signals. The requirement for ships to be fitted with radio and staffed with trained operators did not, however, extend to small boats at that time, and it is only fairly recently that radio and electronic aids for pleasure craft have become more of a necessity for serious boating.

MARINE HAZARDS

Electronic devices for use at sea present some design problems which do not appear in land-based equipment. The most obvious hazard is moisture, not the fresh water moisture of a foggy day on land but the salt-laden moisture which corrodes its way through soldered joints, cable terminations, plugs and sockets, and most other metal-to-metal joints in a remarkably short time. As well as the corrosion problem, which can be completely solved only by total encapsulation, there is the problem of insulation resistance.

Salt spray is quite a good conductor and in valve equipment in particular, operating at high voltages, protection of equipment from saline elements is a problem to designer and operator alike.

It was largely the water-spray problem, as well as the cost factor, which has kept electronics out of small craft for so long. In large vessels, the radio and radar equipment could at least be mounted in an enclosed space at a reasonable height above the deck, well away from the direct spray except in the most extreme conditions. In small boats, such sprayfree havens cannot be found, and there is little chance of keeping the equipment free of water by heating coils, as were once used on bridge-mounted radio and radar. The advent of solid state equipment has opened up a new dimension in marine applications, especially with the possibility of cutting down on interconnections by using integrated circuits. Vibration is one of the most pressing problems in small craft, where the rumble of even a small diesel engine is enough to loosen plugs from sockets or wires from soldered joints.

Some of the most up-to-date equipment used for pleasure craft can be seen at the annual Boat Show, held each year in London in January. This year you would have found amongst other more glamorous displays, several kinds of communications equipment.

One-stand showed a "triple-standard" television receiver, complete with inverter for use with ship batteries, for use in most yachting centres in the world. But for those who insist on wind in their sails, there was a complete analogue computer, taking information on wind speed and direction, water speed, currents, intended course, and displaying the optimum trim on a model.

RADIO AIDS

Radio is still the mainstay of marine electronics, and it is hardly surprising that there should not be many advances in this direction as there are in instrumentation. The latest ranges of transmitter/ receivers are geared to the most recent International regulations, which call for s.s.b. working in the marine bands between 250kHz and 4·1MHz and the use of all solid state equipment has resulted in very compact apparatus.

A large number of v.h.f. and u.h.f. radiotelephones were also shown, and one interesting new development is the Marconi "Pocketphone" intended for communication on large vessels, such as tankers, and during docking and cargo handling operations.

The v.h.f. and u.h.f. equipment uses frequency modulation, and most make provision for the reduction of channel spacings to 25kHz, which will soon be a Post Office requirement. The bands used are within the range 148MHz to 174MHz in v.h.f. and 440MHz to 470MHz in u.h.f. Communications equipment was being shown by (among others) Marconi Marine, Electronic Laboratories (Marine), Ajax Electronics and S.P. Radio A/S of Denmark.

The latter firm was showing a receiver operating under the spray from a waterfall, whose salt content I did not sample, and also showed the "Dual-watch" facility on receivers. This enables the operator to fulfil the requirements of listening for distress signals along with normal working. The distress frequency is preset, so that the set is tuned permanently to that frequency in the watching circuits.

Working can be continued on other channels, and if a signal is received on the distress frequency (or any other being watched) the receiver output is instantly and automatically switched to the watched frequency. A lamp indicator also shows when a call is being received on the watched channel, and flashes during normal operation to show that the watch is being carried out.

DIRECTION INDICATOR

An interesting device for the small boat is the "Seafix", a hand-held radio direction indicator by Electronic Laboratories (Marine). This consisted of a t.r.f. transistor receiver with "autodyne" detection over the range 200 to 400kHz, with the calibration most accurate at 300kHz, the centre of the Marine Beacon band.

Switched to NAV, the autodyne circuit is used to receive beacon transmissions, and the highly directional ferrite rod aerial can be used for finding the bearing of the beacon within 2° (at half rated range). Switched to BC, the "Seafix" can be used to pick up the long-wave shipping forecasts broadcast on this band. A stethoscope headset was used in preference to loudspeakers or conventional phones, and water sealing was by the conventional compressed rubber gaskets.

RADAR

Radar has for a long time been one of the most important navigational aids for larger vessels, but is seldom seen on smaller craft. There are several reasons for this: the cost of any radar installation is high, since it must include the cost of modifications to the vessel as well as the provision of the apparatus.

Radar equipment is often unavoidably large, heavy and dependent on high voltages, since the cathoderay tube and the magnetron must use high voltages, although it is now possible to replace the klystron local oscillator by Gunn diodes or other semiconductor devices.



Manufacturers are not dragging their heels over these problems, but are commendably cautious, since they know only too well how much the readings of a radar receiver come to be relied on. Any compression of size or cost must therefore not be made at the expense of accuracy of plotting if we are not to have a rash of "radar-assisted" collisions. All the big names in marine radar (Decca, E.M.I., Marconi Marine) showed small radar outfits, but these were not really intended for the amateur.

The Hepplewhite "Marine Check" is a continuous scanning self-powered instrument designed to minimise risk of collision with other vessels whose radar may not pick up small boats in bad weather or low visibility—the "Marine Check" will however, detect the other vessel's radar transmission and allow you to take avoiding action.

The scanning head is a miniature, precision, solidstate detector and amplifier of continuous, pulsed and modulated X-band radar transmission (9,000 to 11,500MHz) with electronics mounted in a shockproof case and will receive radar transmissions at sighting distance.

As the sensitivity is reduced, the directional power of the antenna is proportionately increased to a point where the bearing is located on a narrow sector. If this bearing, which is indicated on a compass scale, remains constant, you may be on a collision course, also as the pulse length increases as the distance decreases, it is possible, within limits to determine if the transmitting vessel is approaching or receding.

The "Seascan" radar by Electronic Laboratories (Marine) is designed for the amateur, and has a power consumption of only 48W from 12V, 24V or 48V battery supplies. The only vacuum devices used are the display tube and the magnetron, the local oscillator being a Gunn diode whilst the magnetron modulator uses a thyristor. Unfortunately no circuit details were available and all the units on the stand were dummies.

One interesting new development in radar for the small craft is a passive radar detector by Hepplewhite Marine. This picks up the X-band (9,000 to 11,500MHz) transmissions from other vessels, and has a small directional aerial consisting of a Perspex "horn" on which waves are guided (along the surface) by the effect of the permittivity of the material. The received radar signals are mixed with the output of a local oscillator, and the beat note amplified. The point of strongest signal can be identified by altering the mixer bias so that only a signal of the maximum strength will produce a beat note; this enables the operator to find the bearing of the craft carrying the radar.

SPEED MEASUREMENT

Water and wind speed instruments have for a long time been a weak point in the instrumentation of boats. The traditional methods of measuring speed have depended on anemometers for wind speed and submersible "logs" for water speed. The anemometer is the device using three or four cups at the ends of radial rods pivoted so that the effect of wind is to revolve the assembly about its axis. The



The Electra Magnetic Log is an impellerless speed and distance indicator.







Fig. 1: The Doppler Principle.

Imagine a transducer giving out sound waves. These waves travel in water at a speed of about 1,000 metres per second. Speed equals frequency multiplied by wavelength.

If the transducer moves at a speed "V", the speed of the waves towards the reflector is now 1,000+V metres per second. We have not changed the frequency of transmission, so the wavelength must now be less,

 $(1.000 + V = f \times new wavelength.)$ The waves are now reflected to a moving object, so that more waves per second hit

the receiving transducer. The frequency is now higher by a factor $\frac{c+V}{v}$ where c is C

the normal wave speed and V is the speed of the transducer and boat. The final effect is to receive waves of shorter wavelength and higher frequency.

speed of rotation, which depends on the wind speed, is measured by counting the number of switching operations of a reed switch under the influence of a magnet on the rotating shaft. This count is converted into an analogue signal which drives a meter. Wind direction is found by using a vane coupled to a potentiometer to show the angular position by voltage detection on a meter.

The traditional submersible "log" consists of a small propeller whose shaft is held in a casing containing a reed switch. The rotation of the propeller as the "log" is towed behind then registers relative water speed just as the anemometer registers relative wind speed. The snag is that the propeller of the log is easily jammed by anything encountered in the water from jellyfish to seaweed, and this can have the effect of making calculation of speed and distance incorrect.

SPEED-LOGS

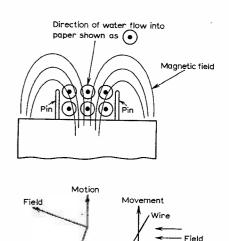
Two novel speed-logs were shown, each representing refreshingly different thinking about the problem. Space Age Electronics showed their Doppler speed log. This uses a ceramic transducer to project a 1MHz sound beam ahead of the ship. Most of the beam is dissipated in the water, but a small part is reflected from the layer of relatively still water (the boundary layer) close to the boat.

When the boat is moving, the reflected frequency is not the same as the transmitted frequency (Doppler Effect). If the boat is moving ahead, the reflected frequency is higher than the transmitted frequency; if the boat moves astern, the reflected frequency is lower.

Referring to Fig. 1, the transmitter, because of its movement, "packs in" more waves between itself and the still layer than it would if it were not moving. Because more waves are travelling, the wavelength seems shorter. Also, when the waves reflect from the boundary layer, the receiver has also moved towards them, making the frequency of the received waves seem higher.

When the reflected wave is detected, the shorter wavelength appears as a higher frequency (speed = frequency \times wavelength), whose value depends on the difference between the speed of sound in water and the speed of the boat. By beating the transmitted frequency against the reflected frequency, a measure of speed can be obtained.

The method is dependent on obtaining a reflection from relatively still water, and so the transmitting/



+e.m.f. Right-hand law

Fig. 2: An e.m.f. is produced between two metal contacts, providing the direction of flow is at right-angles to the line joining the contacts.

receiving head must be located where such a layer is within range. Precise location varies from boat to boat. To allow for variations in installation, the calibration is adjustable, so that the distance log can be checked against accurately known distances (between two land-marks, for example). The circuitry uses three integrated circuits, 17 transistors and eight diodes. A "log" accuracy of better than \pm $1_2^{1}\%$ (typical) is claimed.

The "Electra" magnetic log, produced by E.M.I. marine uses the magnetohydrodynamic principle for its operation; this is the generation of a voltage by induction when a conducting liquid flows past a magnetic field.

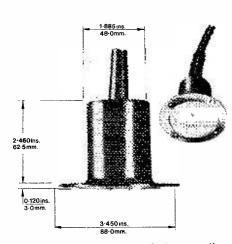
By arranging a magnetic field to cut the direction of water flow at right angles, an e.m.f. is induced between two metal contacts in the moving water, provided that the direction of flow is at right angles to the line joining the contacts (Fig. 2)

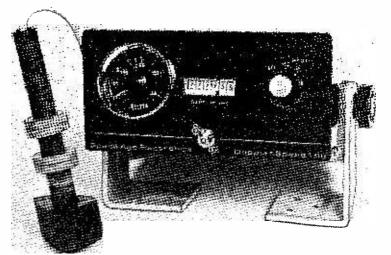
The Electra Magnetic Log operates on this principle, but with some ingenious modifications. The magnetic field used is an alternating field. In this way, the voltage generated is also alternating, which disposes of two problems at once. One problem is polarisation; when a steady voltage exists between two contacts in sea water, an electrolysis action takes place causing corrosion of the metal. The use of a.c. avoids polarisation problems and makes it easy to amplify and display the output from the contacts. As with the previous method, the positioning of the measuring head is critical.

ECHOSOUNDERS

Echosounders have been used for a considerable time, and changes have been in detail rather than in concept. Basically, a marine echosounder consists of a pulse generator working at ultrasonic frequencies in the region 20kHz to 150kHz (the higher frequencies are used for inshore work). A transducer converts the electrical pulses into sound waves directed from the bottom of the boat into the sea, and a receiver, using the same transducer, detects the pulse reflected from the bottom of the sea.

The shape of the received pulse provides a guide to the nature of the sea bed, for example, a muddy





The electro-magnetic transducer for the magnetic log. As the boat moves along, a small e.m.f. is produced and sensed by two probes. This signal is then amplified and displayed in speed and distance units.

The Doppler speed-log does not rely on the flow of water to move a mechanical part like an impeller or paddle wheel. A small streamlined transducer, mounted flush with the underside of the hull, transmits a high frequency ultrasonic signal 70cms ahead. A small part of this signal is reflected back from the boundary layer between the hull and the water.

sea bed is indicated by a broad pulse, a sandy bed by a narrow pulse, a rocky bed gives multiple reflections. Pulses received from intermediate depths can indicate shoals of fish. The time delay between transmission and reception is proportional to the depth of sea.

Because the pulses are travelling in the water at the speed of sound (around 1,000 metres per second) rather than at the speed of radar waves in space (some 30 million metres per second), scanning rates have to be lower than the 1,000Hz commonly used in radar. Scanning rates of once per second are common, although this is rather too low for display on a long persistence cathode ray tube screen.

The display method traditionally used is a rotating wheel carrying, or illuminated by, a neon which flashes on transmission of the pulse and again when the echo is received. The stationary bezel round the wheel is then calibrated in metres of depth (now replacing fathoms on the latest charts).

The large number of echo sounders at the show demonstrated several novel points of design. Most interesting was the use of electro-luminescent diodes to replace neons, so avoiding the need to generate a high voltage supply (Brookes & Gatehouse). A common feature of all the echo sounders was the use of high scan rates for the shallow water ranges (up to six pulses per second) so giving better definition in critical conditions.

Lead zirconate titanate crystals were in evidence as transducers, encapsulated in various plastics. For professional use, chart recording echosounders were shown (these, of course, have been around for a long time). The Marconi Marine chart-maker used electrosensitive paper which changed colour when a small voltage was applied between the front of the paper and the back.

WATER-LEAK AND WATCH

In addition to the displays of electronics for communication and navigation, there were some interesting exhibits in the "miscellaneous" class. Space-Age Electronics were showing their water-leak and watch alarm, and judging by the sound which could be heard all over the first floor of Earls Court, almost every chandlery firm was demonstrating it. The instrument is basically a conventional leakage detector using stainless steel pins as probes. If the pins are immersed in water for more than four seconds, an alarm is given, but only if the immersion is for longer than four seconds, a time carefully chosen to avoid continual false alarms in heavy seas. When there is no conductivity between the pins, all transistors are biased off, so ensuring practically no standby current. The sound given out is a rising frequency note which is most easily distinguished amongst other sounds.

The watch facility also provided on this instrument gives an alarm note of gradually increasing amplitude every three minutes. If an alarm button is pressed during the alarm, or before it, the instrument remains silent until another three minutes has passed. If the helmsman is asleep and does not press the alarm button, the alarm warning increases to maximum intensity.

GAS ALARM

The Electra gas alarm, from E.M.I. Marine, is of considerable interest. Unlike previous gas alarms, which used heat conduction from a hot wire to detect changes in the air composition, the Electra gas alarm uses semiconductor sensors. No details were given, but it is possible that the sensors consisted of infra-red electroluminescent diodes and detectors. Any change in the air composition caused by petrol vapour, butane or propane gas, carbon monoxide, smoke, paraffin fumes, diesel fumes is indicated by two visual warnings in the form of a meter reading and a red warning lamp.

In addition, a loudspeaker gives out a 2.5kHz note when the gas concentration exceeds the safe limit. In this way, no panic is caused by small concentrations of gases, since only the discreet visual warning is given, but dangerous amounts operate the audible alarm so that evacuation or other measures can be taken. Remote warnings can also be fitted.

All in all, the Boat Show is developing considerable interest from the point of view of electronic aids. It is unfortunate that so few exhibitors were able to cope with technical queries, but all of them were most helpful.



No. 98 First in the Field

HAD a chap in the shop today, searching for an SP4. It is true: even in the glitter of a hi-fi establishment, where every prospect teases and only valves are vile, we still get enthusiasts with thirty-year-old equipment, hopeful of our being able to provide the missing link.

Which leads us, philosophically, to a contemplation of some of the 'firsts' we nowadays take for granted.

Example: the quasi-complementary transistor amplifier circuit, which has given us so much trouble since its inception. I have come across the September 1956 copy of *Electronics*, a McGraw-Hill publication, in which R. C. Lin, then of RCA, Princeton, first propounded his output circuit in which, to quote: '. . the two upper transistors conduct during the negative half-cycle and the two lower transistors conduct during the positive half-cycle.'

In his summary, he gave amplifier distortion at 100cps (sic) and 400cps as below 1 per cent at six watts, and though he admitted that the distortion might be expected to rise at 5,000cps, he made no mention whatsoever of its fierce spikiness at a fraction of a watt, which is the mariner we've had wrapped around our necks ever since.



The mariner wrapped around our necks.

Inventions, especially worldshaking innovations such as the transistor proved to be, have a habit of spawning themselves much more prosaically than we would like to imagine. No technologist runs screaming through the corridors of the M.I.T. with 'Eureka' echoing behind him. More likely, something as laconic as the 12/29/39: 4.15 p.m. entry in William Shockley's notebook may be handed down to posterity: 'It has today occurred to me that an amplifier using semiconductors rather than vacuum tubes is in principle possible."

In principle: hardly in practice. He was thinking of a Schottky-barrier FET kind of device, with copper-oxide as the semiconductor. And, as Henry could have told him*, it didn't work. Instead, the experiments of the team included covering metal points with wax and pushing them down on to p-type silicon treated to give an n-type surface. They surrounded the point with water and found they could obtain power amplification.

To quote Brattain: '. . . the group was jubilant that day.'

Trouble was that the water would evaporate. Maybe it was all that heavy breathing. So they switched to glycol borate to reduce evaporation. One trouble: amplification was obtainable only below 8Hz—hardly hi-fi yet.

There were lots more experiments, culminating in evaporated gold spots and germanium, and then, on Dec. 23rd 1947, two gold contacts less than two-thousandths of an inch apart were made to the same piece of germanium and the first transistor happened.

No sudden breakthrough—no inspirational brainchild—and no immediate christening, I may add. It was a month later that a chap called John R. Pierce of the Bell technical staff mooched into Brattain's office and pointed out that the 20dB point-contact amplifier they had made was the



Runs screaming through the corridors.

". . . dual of a vacuum-tube, circuit-wise." He mentioned the important valve parameter, transconductance. Then he went on to talk about its electrical dual, transresistance. To quote Brattain once more: ". . . then he said "transistor", and I said, "Pierce, that is it!!"

What about a few more firsts in our field? Who déveloped the first p-n junction? Bet you can't even say his name, let alone remember it. Well Henry can, with the benefit of some help from Edward A. Torrero, who is Associate Editor of *Electronic Design*. He was William Pfann (with the aid of a chap called Jack Schaff; let's give credit where it is due). They also worked for Bell Laboratories.

But Bell eschewed silicon for germanium, because the impurities, back in the early 1940's, were easier to control. It was left to Texas Instruments to develop silicon types of transistor, and to Motorola to introduce the diffused base transistor.

So I could continue. Henry hasn't the space to name those to blame.

But the "first" we are all concerned with is that original alltransistor radio. And who made that? A firm called Regency, in 1954. How's that for a significant 'first'?

* With the benefit of hindsight. Ed.

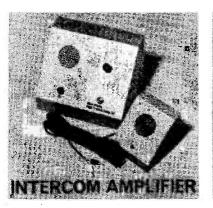


RADIO

ALARM CLOCK

PE TUNER

Issue. In addition to the usual constructional articles and features, the May issue will include a special extra 8-page coloured supplement describing eight easy projects for the home, designed and described by one of our top designers; you are bound to find at least one of these of interest. This supplement is fully illustrated with all the details on how to build these projects.

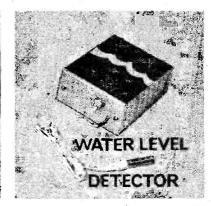




MANY OTHER CONS RUCTIONAL ARTICLES PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES. PRICE 20p.



LAMP DIMMER



ALL IN THE MAY ISSUE ON SALE 6th APRIL

Following the success of the Texan amplifier published in this magazine during May to August 1972, the applications laboratory of Texas Instruments Ltd. have developed exclusively for P.W., a compatible unit for the rontrol of Psychedelic lights from a sound source. The initial design features zero voltage. control A more sophisticated design incorporating lamp dimming facilities will also be covered in this series of articles. For stereo operation two P.W. Tricolour units are reoured as a

F 1 had been a ked, a couple of years ago, what "prochedelin igns were, I could only have made L i wild substantiate were, it perhaps a medical term referring to some sort of ultra-violet treatment for disorders of the inter" Or, possibly, the latest in pet food some streatment form of offal? The truth, food some streatment of the truth, worns however, dawned slowly, What my "trendy" young striends were talking boot was the latest innovation, the offspring of a morrise between light and music. it was not simply a novelion of a 'pop' version of sur et lunière but a more intimate relationship between the two media togit could be made to betweed the two, media toth could be made to respond directly to sound. Rashing influesly for a fantare, discreting there is the Debussy It is, how-ever, unlikely that percondict here swith be installed in the Royal result of the discretion of our readers who occasionally frequent the discretion of a dance hall will be familiar with this incortion to is prob-able too that many have given though in the incor-onation of the readers into their own domasic lighting systems. What it might be asked, does this incore. involve'

In essence a psychologial light system works like this: sound controlled modulators convert bass... LAMP OVER-RIDE CONTROL middle and trable frequencies into corresponding bursts of light thus utting a new "visual" duran-sion to the beat of the music. This is achieved by taking a gagaal from access the louisponseption mains and feeding it into a filter circuit whose contouts provides (the see which correspond to the sound spec trum-pass, middle and treble and any combinations of these make channels. These pulses then pass-through an interface cheat and energise appropriate triacs. The latter, as will be seen, act as electronic switches and furn on the lamps

This attrite will attended a explain fully the con-struction of psychodelic fight control units for bath mono and sterie component. It is simed at the home: constructor, who possesses nothing more than an average amount of shall

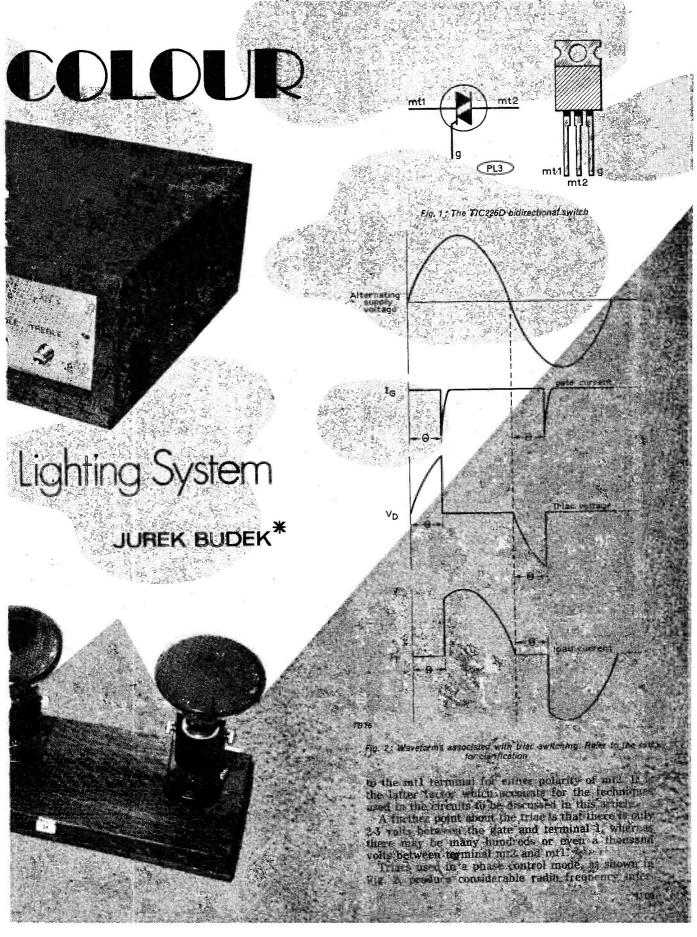
Zero Voltage Switching

As stated, the lights are intered on and off by utilising a device count a trine, i.e. a setticonductor a bidigectional soutch (Fig. 1). This incluses two theristors Fannected back to back thus spatrolling the positive and as a two cycle of the supple voltage Whereas the thyristor relatives a positive sate to a rathede voltage and will turn on only when the anode voltage is positive with respect to the cathode, triacs will turn on when the sate voltage polarity is the same as voltage between tot2 and mill main terminal a 2 and 1), i.e. positive for the positive half write and negative for the meaning half cycle. In addition a

MONO/STEREO CAPABILITY ZERO VOLTAGE SWITCHING **NEGLIGIBLE RADIO** INTERFERENCE

nn

PART ONE



ference (r.f.i.) due to the step change in current. The noise thus generated is spread by means of conduction through the wiring system or by radiation. Suppressing r.f.i. becomes more difficult and expensive as the load increases. Uncontrolled switching of "psychedelic" lamps on and off will have a similar effect and will also introduce additional noise in the loudspeakers. A simple solution to this problem is to arrange the switching so that it always takes place at the point where the mains supply voltage crosses zero, as shown in Fig. 3.

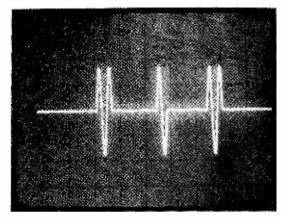


Fig. 3: Waveform depicting zero voltage switching.

This technique is called 'zero voltage switching' or 'burst firing.' In this way isolated numbers of half or full cycles will pass through the lamps and thus avoid step change in currents, which also has the additional advantage of increasing the life of the lamp.

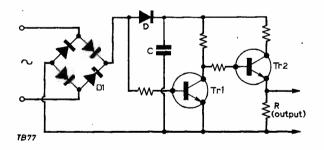


Fig. 4: Basic circuit which generates the pulses at the point of zero voltage crossing.

Fig. 4 shows the circuit used to generate the pulses at the point of zero voltage crossing. Transistor Tr1, whose base is connected to the unsmoothed supply from the bridge rectifier D1 is on most of the time.

However, each time the mains voltage crosses zero, its base voltage is taken below the holding on voltage and it thus turns off, giving positive pulses on its collector. In order to reduce the loading on transistor Tr1, transistor Tr2 has been added. Positive pulses appear as an output across resistor R each time the mains voltage crosses the zero point.

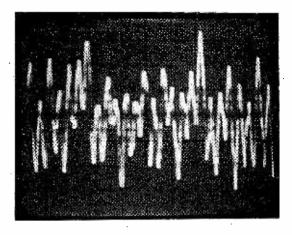


Fig. 5: Typical music voltage waveform at the terminals of a loudspeaker.

In order to control the lamp switching with respect to the frequency bands, we need a circuit which will separate out the low, middle and high frequencies from the voltage waveform appearing at the terminals of a loudspeaker. A typical voltage waveform appearing at this point is shown in Fig. 5.

Filter

A circuit which separates frequencies into bands is called a filter. There are various types of filters which could be employed; e.g. one commonly used is a resistor/capacitor (r.c.) network for high and low pass filters and an inductor/capacitor (l.c.) network for middle frequencies. The elegant way, however, specially developed for the *P.W. Tricolour* is to employ integrated circuit (i.c.) operational amplifiers, in a positive fixed-gain configuration, as the active filter element and resistors and capacitors as passive elements. By choosing suitable component values a sharp separation between bass, middle and treble frequencies can be obtained.

The shape of the filter response is determined by a factor known as the damping ratio (ζ). The lower this ratio, the sharper the cut-off and there is a *peaking* effect. This *peaking* effect is of no importance in our application. As approximately 1.5 volts is required to turn on the interface circuit, and thus to switch on the appropriate lamps, the filter characteristics are expressed in volts against frequency and not in the more usual decibels against frequency.

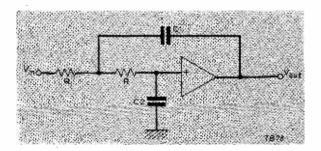


Fig. 6: Basic low pass filter as used in the P.W. Tricolour.

The theory of filter design is quite extensive and complex. We will however only outline the necessary basic concepts and give some simplified formulae.

Let us first look at a basic low pass filter (i.e. one which will stop all frequencies except those below a chosen frequency). The circuit of such a filter is shown in Fig. 6.

Here the angular cut off frequency,

$$o = \frac{1}{R\sqrt{C1 C2}}$$

and the damping factor

$$\zeta = \sqrt{\frac{C2}{C1}}$$
$$\zeta = \underline{1}$$

 $\omega 0 =$

 $\sqrt{2}$

 $C_{\sqrt{R1}R2}$

Critical damping occurs when

and, for the reason explained before, i.e. to improve the sharpness, this value is reduced to 0.5. From these equations, the filter component values can be established.

The high pass filter (passing all frequencies above a chosen one) is shown in Fig. 7 and again requires only one operational amplifier, two resistors and two capacitors.

Here the angular cut-off frequency,

and the damping factor

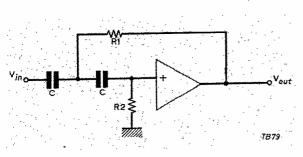


Fig. 7 . Basic high pass filter. 🔺

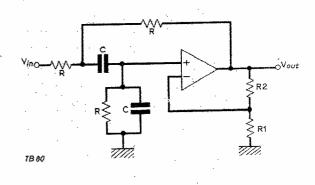


Fig. 8: Basic band pass filter.

Once more from these equations, the filter components values can be established. Finally, the band pass filter; which, of course, as its name suggests, passes a band of frequencies. This, as can be seen from Fig. 8, is a little more complicated than the other two.

The centre angular frequency
$$\omega 0 =$$

and the quality factor

$$= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4 - \frac{R2}{R1}}$$

Q

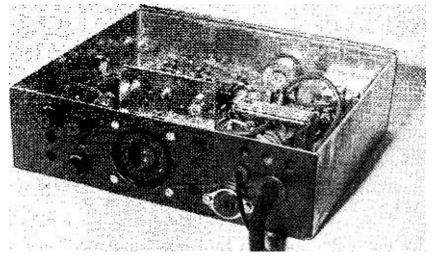
 $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{RC}$

 $Q = \frac{2\Delta f}{fo}$, where $2\Delta f$ is the difference between

two frequencies at which the voltage output of the

filter is $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ of its maximum value. From the above

formulae, relevant component values can be obtained. Musically oriented readers will recall the 'unisono' note played on the oboe during the orchestra's tuning-up time, just before the concert begins. This note is middle 'A' with a frequency of 440Hz; a frequency which has been chosen as the centre frequency for the middle band-pass filter in



Rear view of the P.W. Tricolour.

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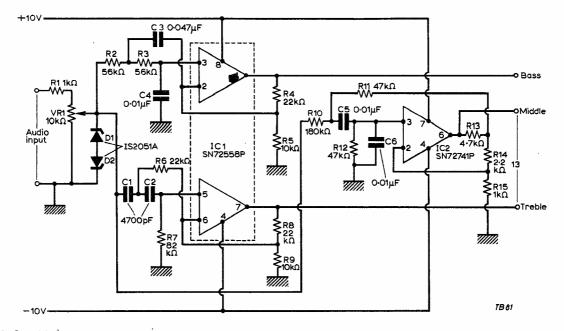


Fig. 9: Complete P.W. Tricolour filter circuit. This unit is used without modification, with either the zero voltage switching unit (Fig. 12) or with the lamp dimming unit, to be described later in this series.

this design. Cut-off frequency for the low pass filter has been chosen to be around 200Hz and that of the high pass filter (treble) about 1kHz.

Based on the above assumptions, a complete filter has been developed with the component values as shown in Fig. 9. The alert reader will notice that some of the component values differ from the figures obtained using the formulae. This has been done intentionally in order to improve the separation between the various frequency ranges.

The input to the filter circuit has been limited to 5 volts peak to peak by using two 5 volt zener diodes connected back to back. Three i.c. operational amplifiers are used. Two of which are contained in one 8 pin package, SN72558P and the other i.c. is contained in a second 8 pin package, SN72741P.

Fig. 10 shows output voltage response of the three filters plotted against frequency for a peak input signal of 0.5 volts. The effectiveness of the filters are obvious. The solid state switches—triacs—turn on their corresponding lamps at filter output voltages equal to and higher than 1.5 volts.

Figs. 11a to 11d show four oscilloscope photographs. These show traces with the vertical axes representing voltages and the horizontal one time. In each instance the four traces were taken simultaneously (i.e. they have a common time axes). In the oscillograms the top trace corresponds to the voltage at the loudspeaker terminal. The other three traces were taken at the outputs of the respective filters.

Fig. 11a was taken at a time when the treble

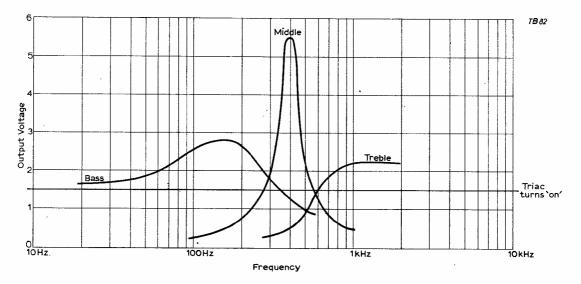


Fig. 10: Output voltage/frequency response of the filter circuit shown in Fig. 9.

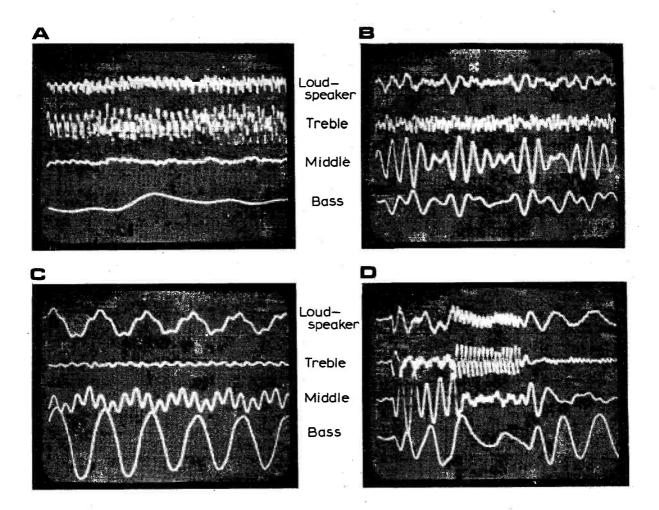


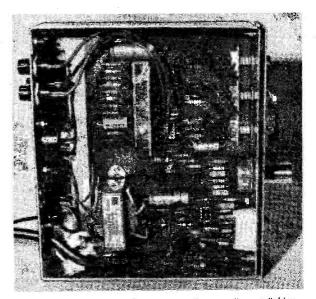
Fig. 11: (a-d) A full explanation of these waveforms is given in the accompanying text.

frequency was predominant. In Fig. 11b the middle frequency is the strongest signal, while in Fig. 11c it is the bass. Fig. 11d shows some interesting combinations of all three frequencies. The middle frequencies predominate at the beginning of the trace, then the treble takes over at the centre of oscillogram and towards the end of the trace it is the turn of the bass to predominate.

A $10k\Omega$ potentiometer has been added at the input to the filter circuit to allow the voltage level at which the lamps are switched to be controlled. In this way it is possible to establish the best effect for 'soft' or 'party' type music. The *P.W. Tricolour* is suitable for use with 4 to

The *P.W. Tricolour* is suitable for use with 4 to 15Ω loudspeakers. The load represented by the filters is negligible compared to the loudspeaker impedance.

It should be noted that the simple filter circuits illustrated at the beginning of this article used operational amplifiers. An operational amplifier has high input impedance, very high gain, and low output impedance, enabling the filter component values to be determined independent of the amplifier parameters. The amplifiers used were shown having a voltage gain of unity. This means that the output voltage of the high and low pass filters can never



Underside view of the P.W. Tricolour with zero voltage switching.

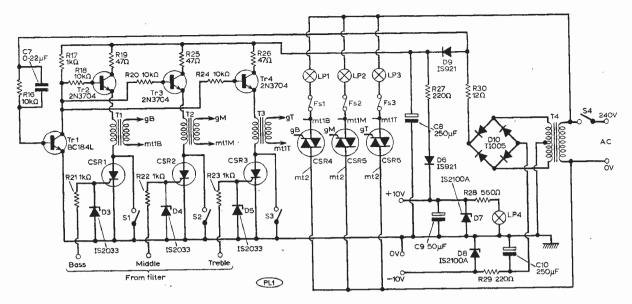


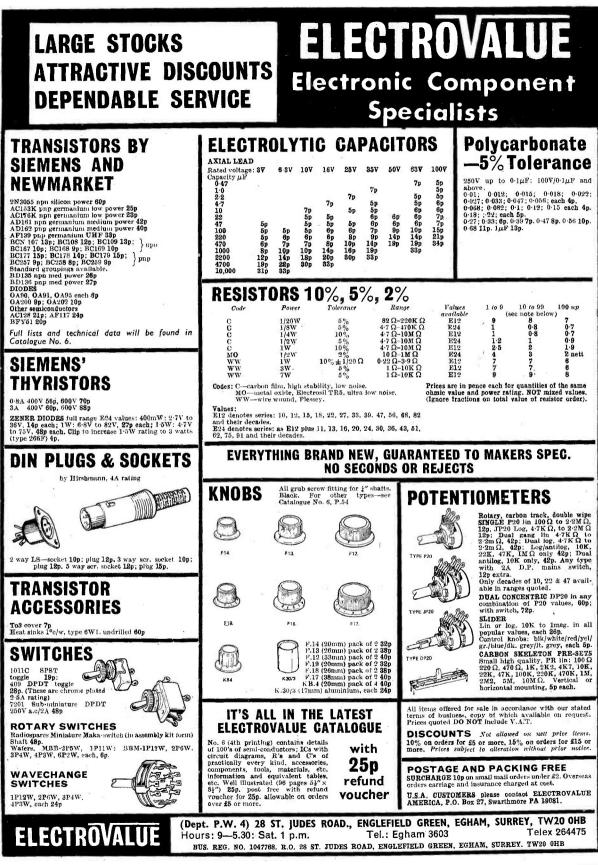
Fig. 12: Zero voltage switching control unit. The positive and negative 10V supply lines are the d.c. supplies to the filter unit (Fig. 9).

be more than the input voltage. In order to achieve voltage gain so that sufficient output can be obtained to drive the interface circuit at low volume levels, the basic circuit must be modified. This involves reducing the proportion of output voltage from the amplifier that is used as feedback to the filter capacitors and resistors. This is achieved by the use of a resistive potential divider at the output of the amplifier. This is shown in Fig. 9. The resistor ratio determines the gain of the filter in the pass-band.

The P.W. Tricolour is suitable for either mono or stereo record playing. In the case of the stereo system, the lights will flash in accordance with the signals appearing at the terminals of one of the speakers. However, for stereo enthusiasts who wish to use two units, the interconnecting arrangement will

🛨 components list	*	com	ponen	ts list
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Nonderson and a strange of	011		
Resistors;			
🖉 🕅 1kΩ	_ R16 10kΩ	Semiconductors: Tr1 BC184L	3
R9 56kΩ		Tr1 BC184L	and the state of the
R3 56kΩ	R18 10kΩ ->> > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > >	Tr3 2N3704	
R4 92k2 R5 10k12	R20 10kΩ ** **	Tr4 2N3704	とれる新 ギオ ハハ
R5 22kD	P21 1kΩ	D1 IS2051A	
R7 82k0	R22 1kΩ	D2 152051A D3 152033	
R8 22kΩ	R23 1kΩ / . · · · · · · ·	D3 IS2033 D4 IS2033	
R9 10kΩ	R24 10kΩ	D5 IS2033	Carl Mary Carl Star & Mary Market Mary Star
R10 180kΩ R11 47kΩ	Dog #70	D6 IS921	Texas Instruments
R12 47kΩ	× R27 220Ω	D7 IS2100A	* * * Ltd., **
R13 4-7kΩ	R28 560Ω	D8 IS2100A	K X X X X X X
R14 2.2kΩ	R29 2200	D9 15921	
R15 1kΩ	🗧 💥 R30 : 12Ω ¥W 🐁 🛸 🔺 👋	D10 TI005 Br CSR1 TIC44	loge recimes
All 10% #W unless	otherwise specified	CSR2 TIC44	
		CSR3 TIC44	States States & X X
Capacitors:	Transformers:		
C1 47000F	T1, Pulse trans-		* * * * * * * * * *
C2 4700pF	T2, former, type T3 PT-ATA ITT Ltd. **	CSR6 TIC226D	a second and a second
C3 0 047µF C4 0 01pF	T4 Miniature mains		
C5 0 01aF	transformer 240V 💘	(m) = 1. m	
C6 0.01aF	nrimary 0-12V, 0-		2 Y 1 Y 1 Y 1 Y 1 Y 1 Y 1 Y 1 Y 1 Y 1 Y
C7 0·22µF	12V r.m.s. 6VA,	Miscellaneous:	
C8 250p F 25V	type 12V R.S.	VR1 10kΩ linear	5A fuses and panel mounting
C9 50µF 25V	Components	NG954444100 1 1 4 ADD 12 ADD 1	holders
C10 250pF 25V	i, c'(>×m××	LP1, LP2, LP3	
Integrated Circuits	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	LP4	TIL 209 Indicator lamp Texas
	· · · · · · · · ·	101 CA CA	Bush in Link Mark & 2
* 1C1 \$ \$N72558P	Texas Instruments Ltd.	^{**} S1, S2, S3 S4	Push on-push off Single pole mains on-off rocker
IC2 SN72741P	and the second second second	34	Single pole mains on-on rocket
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4way 5 way 6 way 8 way 9 way 10way 12way 40p 70p 10 10 11 70 11 70 70p <td 40p 40p 40p 70p 70p 70p 70p 70p 70p 95p 40p 40p 40p 70p 70p 70p 6 poles poles poles poles poles 10 70 poles 11 poles 12 poles

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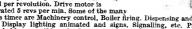
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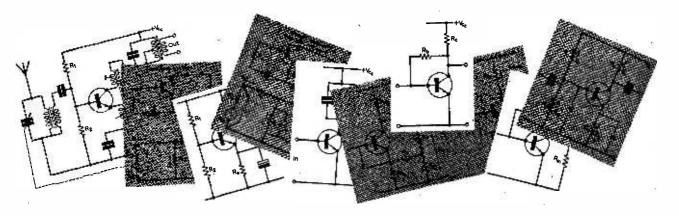
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TRANSISTOR CIRCUITRY for beginners PART 15 H.W. HELLYER & MICHAEL HOLLIER

Tone control circuitry

Toward the end of the last part of this series of articles that was published, we were concerned with frequency-dependent feedback. Without being intentionally devious, we skated over some of the finer points and here shall try to keep our promise of digging more deeply into the matter of tone controls, their design and their limitations.

The utter purist will not deign to acknowledge the need for tone controls! Everything should be flat, he says. There should be, he further asserts, no need to alter the frequency response of an amplifier if all the other parts of the audio system are in order. True, but Utopia has not yet arrived, whatever the politicians promise, and there will be nasty pops and crackles from our records, hiss from our tape, peaks and troughs from many a cartridge and even worse deviations by the time the sound escapes from the loudspeakers.

Even then, we are not finished. If the little woman insists on foot-deep rugs and wall-to-wall drapes, or if your pad is scoured to its functional austerity, man, you will need same trimming of the ideally flat response to compensate for—in the first case, the premature absorption of treble, and in the second, the 'hardness' of the sound. Tone controls may be regarded as necessary evil, but as long as we are obliged to have them, let's make sure they do not detract from the best possible performance. And in so many commercial designs, they do.

First steps

Before delving into the tone control circuit as a whole, we must take a look at the effect of the passive components with a change in frequency. Back in the days when Poppa bought his radiogram because it sounded 'mellow', the tone control was simply a network of passive components, usually across the output stage, with variation of the resistive part of a series capacitor-resistor shunt that drained away progressively more and more of the upper frequencies. It was, in other words, a variable treblecut device. One or two more enterprising makers

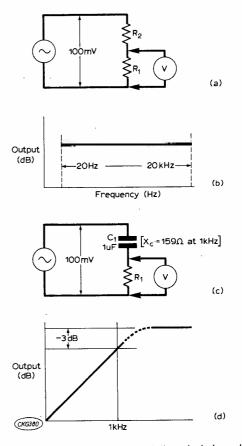


Fig. 74: (a) For a simple resistive network the output shown by the voltmeter is in proportion of the ratio of the resistors to the applied input voltage. In (b) theoretically, the output should not change with frequency, giving a "straight-line" graph. (c) Substituting a capacitor for R2 makes the output frequency dependent while (d) shows an example of the curve we might expect from a simple network such as (c) having a "slope" of 6dB per octave.

fitted alternative resistor-capacitor combinations in the grid circuit of output valves, and others even went so far as to label these Bass or Treble Boost and Cut, but all such passive networks, i.e., those which do not have inbuilt amplification, must attenuate the overall signal.

The point about the passive tone controls is that the attenuation varies the frequency. Take the case of a simple resistive network, as in Fig. 74(a). If we have two resistors of equal value, fed by a signal generator, the output across the measured one will be half the input signal in amplitude, but will not change in frequency. A graph of the situation would be a straight line, as Fig. 74(b).

But if we now substitute the upper resistor with a capacitor, C1 in Fig. 74(c), we find that the measured output will be exactly half the input at 1

only one frequency. Reactance $X_c = \frac{1}{2\pi fC}$ where X_c

is in ohms, C in farads and f is the frequency at which the test is made, in hertz.

Working out the reactance of a $l\mu F$ capacitor at

1kHz, we get
$$\frac{10^{\circ}}{6\cdot 28 \times 1000 \times 1} = 159$$
 ohms.

But if we now measure the voltage across a similarvalue resistor, we find that instead of half the signal input, we have slightly more. Instead of our attenuator dropping the output by 6dB (to half voltage) at 1kHz, it will have dropped the output only 3dB. This is because the voltage across the capacitor is 90° out of phase with the voltage across the resistor. The output voltage ratio is 0.707.1, not 0.51.1 In fact, if we alter the frequency of the generator, we will find that the measured output drops as the frequency falls. The rate of 'slope', as shown in Fig. 74(d), is 6dB per octave, an octave being a frequency change of 2:1.

This 3dB drop has a further significance when we tackle power output stages, for if the drive voltage to the amplifier fell sufficiently for the power output to drop 3dB, this would be the well-known 'half-power-point'. This is the figure normally quoted in amplifier specifications—a point to which we shall return later. Below this -3dB point in Fig. 74(d), the slope of the curve falls away regularly by 6dB per octave, i.e., a ratio of 2:1, a reduction of output by a half each time the frequency is halved.

Making it active

It helps to regard tone control as a method of frequency correction. The introductory remarks we have made, and references to frequency-dependent

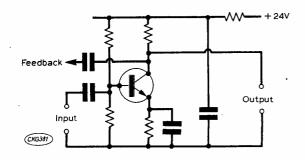


Fig. 75 : A collector-follower amplifier arranged so that its output can be measured with and without feedback.

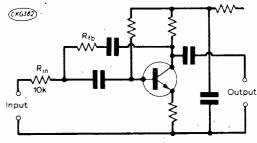


Fig. 76: The basic circuit used for tests.

feed-back in previous articles, should have prepared the regular reader for this approach. Simple tone controls are types of filters. We shall deal thoroughly with filter circuitry later, but at the moment it is necessary to observe that the 'filter' of Fig. 74(c), for example, is called a 'first order filter', having a 'slope' of 6dB per octave. Second order filters have slopes of 12dB/octave and third-order filters, 18dB/ octave. As we shall see, **real** filters, used in welldesigned audio amplifiers, should ideally have a third-order slope to be effective.

These filters are passive devices. They contain no amplifying stage or stages to put back the signal attenuated by their action. If we make a marriage of the virtual earth circuitry we talked about in Parts 12 and 13 of this series and the fundamentals of tone control circuitry touched upon in Part 11, we get an amplifier with frequency-dependent feedback, which becomes, if we correctly design it, a better tone control circuit.

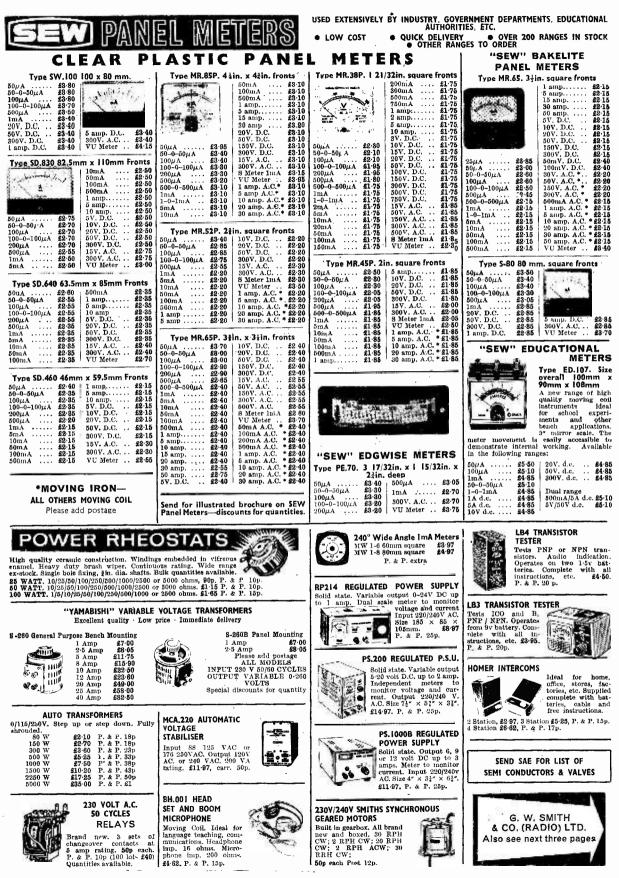
First, we need what is known as an 'inverting amplifier'. If you take a look at Fig. 75, you will see that this can be a collector-follower circuit, so arranged that we can measure its gain with or without the feedback. In practice, this is a useful circuit, and the component calculation will be discussed as we go along. It is convenient to use the 24-volt supply described in Part 13, December PW. Fig. 76 shows the circuit devised by Mike and used for tests on the prototype.

With an input from the audio generator, and an output measured with a millivoltmeter, we can measure the open-loop gain. This is the gain of the amplifier with no feedback connected. Here, a word of warning is required: in many erudite theoretical articles, 'open-loop gain' is bandied about freely, but an inspection of the circuit will often show that it would be virtually impossible to measure it in practice. Our aim in this case is to show what we mean by the term, then, by applying the feedback we need, to modify the gain and achieve our controlled response, i.e., effect a tone control.

In our prototype, the open-loop gain, (G_0) was 260. It is absolutely essential when carrying out these measurements to mount the circuit in a screened box, use screened input and output leads and make sure our construction is 'solid'. We use Veroboard for convenience: it allows connection of additional components while retaining the versatility of wired circuitry. We use the very convenient Norman Rose aluminium boxes, because they are inexpensive, easily worked for outlet holes, tag-strip mountings, etc., and have a simple lid which not only completes the screening but also affords an easy access for modifications.

TO BE CONTINUED







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5J7G	-24	B729	-54	ECL82	-29	PABC8	0 .31	PY32	· 52	Z77	•
SK7G	.12	CCH35	-67	ECL86	-85	PC86		PY33	-52	Transis	toz
5K8G		C¥31	·28	EF39	-38	PC88	-47	PY81 PY82	·25 ·25	AC107 AC127	:
5Q7G		DAF91 DAF96	.58	EF41 EF80		PC96 PC97	.92	PY83	-26		
SL7GT		DF91	-16	EF85		PC900	.20	PY88	-88	AF115	
5V6G	-28	DF96	.36	EF86		PCC84	- 29	PY800	•81	AF116	•
SV6GT	·28	DH77	-20	EF89	-28	PCC85	-23	PY801	•81	AF117	•
SX4	.02	DK 32	-88	EF91		PCC88		R19	-80	AF125 AF127	:
6X5GT	•28	DK91	•28	EF92	·27	PCC89		R20 U25	•70	OC26	:
10P13	•58	DFA3	•50	EF98 EF183		PCC189 PCC805	- 40	U26		0C44	
12AT7		DK96 DL35	.40	EF184	-29		.08	U47	-78		
12AU7 12AX7		DL35 DL92	.26	EH90		PCF82	-88	U49	-70	0C71	
19BG6G	75	DL94	-47	EL33	-55	PCF86	.46	U52	•81	OC72	•
20F2		DL96	-88	EL34	-48	PCF800	-58	U78	·24		•
20P3	•75	DY86	-24	EL41	-54	PCESAI		0191	-68	0C81 0C81D	:
25L6GT	-19	DY87	-24	EL84	-23	DORIGAN		U193 U251	·31 ·61	0C81D	2
25U4GT	•57	DY802	-33	EL90 EL95	+26 +38			U301	-38	OC82D	
3001	-26	EABC80				PCF806		U329		OC170	
30C15	•98	•		•		·					
READERS RADIO 85 TORQUAY GARDENS, REDBRIDGE, ILFORD,											
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Mir	im	im post/i	hack	ing on 1	vaľ	ve 7p., (on ea	ch addit	iona	i valve,	

SUPERSOUND 13 HI-FI MONO AMPLIFIER



A superb solid state audio amplifier. Brand new components throughout. silicon transistors plus 2 power out-put transistors in push-pull. Full wave rectifica-tion. Output

approx. 13 watts r.m.s. into 8 ohm. Frequency response 12HZ--30KHz ± 3db. Fully integrated pre-amplifier stage with separate Volume, Bass boost and Treble cut controls. Suitable for Volume, bass boost and show to be the start state artridge. Sensitivity approx. 40mV for full output. Supplied ready built and tested, with knobs, essuitcheon panel, input and output plugs. Overall size 3" high x 6" wide x $7\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. AC applied AC 200/250v. PRICE £10.50. P. & P. 25p.



Tication gring ade-quate smoothing with neglighle hum. As rectifier, Two dual potentioneters are provided for bass and treble control, giving bass and treble boost and ett. A dual volume control is used. Balance of the left and cut. A dual volume control is used. Balance of the left and right hand channels can be adjusted by means of a sepa-rate Balance' control fitted at the rear of the chassis. Input sensitivity is approximately 3000/y for full peak output of 4 watts per channel (8 watts mono), into 3 ohm speakers. Full negative feedback in a carefully calculated circuit, allows high volume levels to be used with negligible distantize States. distortion. Supplied complete with knobs, chassis size $11^{\prime\prime} w \times 4^{\prime\prime} d$. Overall height including valves 5^{''}. Ready built & tested to a nigh standard. **PRICE 48-92** P. & P. 45p.

POWER SUPPLY UNIT 200/240v. A.C. input. Four switched fully smoothed D.C. outputs giving 6v. and 7[‡]v. and 9v. and 12v. at 1 amp continuous (l¹/₂amp intermittent).

Intermitten), Fitted insulated output terminals and pilot lamp indicator. Hammer finish metal case overall size 6⁺ × 3⁺ × 2⁺. Suitable for Transistor Radios, Tape Recorders, Ampli-fiers etc. etc. Ready **PRICE £4.50** P. & P. 35p. built and tested.

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MAINS TRANSFORMER. For transistor power supplies. Pri 200/240v. Sec. 9-0-9 at 500mA. 859. P. & P. 13p. Pri. 200/240v. Sec. 12-0-12 at 1 amp. 95p. P. & P. 13p. Pri. 200/240v. Sec. 10-0-10 at 2 amp. \$1-45. P. & P. 30p.

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A must for servicemen and home constructors. Including many 1000's of British, U.S.A. European and Japanese transistors. ONLY 40p. Post 5p.

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DELUXE QUALITY PORTABLE R/P CABINET MK II. Denote $\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A})$ in the initial formula in the line of the initial initial of the initial initialization initial initial initial initial initial initializatio



Beautifully made teak finish enclosure with most attractive Tygan-Vynair front. Size 164⁺ high x 104⁺ wide x 54⁺ deep. Fitted with F. M.I. Ceramic Magnet 13⁺ x 8⁺ bass unit, two H.F. tweeter units and crossover, Power handling 10 watta Available 3 or 8 or 15 ohms impedance.

OUR PRICE £8.40 Carr. 65p Cabinet Available Separately \$4.50 Carr 60p Also available in 8 ohms with EMI 13" x 8" bass speaker with parasitic tweeter $\pounds6.50$ Carr. 65p

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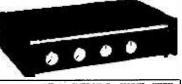
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(Magnetic input components 30p POWER PACK KIT	extra) £3.00	P. & P. 30p
CABINET		P. & P. 30p
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(Post Free if all units purchased a Full after sales service

Also available ready built and tested **321.00.** Post Free. Note: The above amplifier is suitable for feeding two mono sources into inputs (e.g. mike, radio, hoin record decks, etc.) and will then provide mixing and fading facilities for med-tam powered II if Discotteque use, etc.



3-VALVE AUDIO AMPLIFIER HA34 MK II. AMPLITER HAAA MK I. Designed for Hi-Fi reproduc-tion of records. A.C. Mains opated heavy gauge metal characteristic for the second second plated heavy gauge metal charasis, size 74° w. x 4° d. x 44° h. Incorporates ECC38, 44° h. Locorporates ECC38, 44° h. Locorpo

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Sinclair Project 60

Now-the Z.50 Mk.2

with built-in automatic transient overload protection

When originally introduced, the Sinclair Z.50 proved how it was possible to design and produce a popularly priced modular power amplifier having characteristics to challenge the world's costliest amplifiers. Many thousands of Z.50's are now giving excellent service day in, day out. But we have also learned that constructors do not always use their Z.50's ideally. That is why we have introduced modifications whereby risk of damage through mis-use is greatly reduced and performance further enhanced. The Z.50 Mk.2 has improved thermal stability, more accurately regulated D.C. limiting to ensure more power. Z.50 Mk.2 is compatible with all other Project 60 modules, and may be incorporated to advantage in existing systems. Eleven silicon epitaxial planar transistors are now used, two more than in the original Z.50'; circuitry has been re-designed, making this versatile high performance amplifier better than ever.



The Z.30 provides excellent facilities for the constructor requiring a high fidelity audio system of less power than that available from Z.50's. Using a power supply of 35 volts, Z.30 will deliver 15 watts RMS into 8 ohms, or 20 watts RMS into 3 ohms using 30 volts. Total harmonic distortion is a fantastically low 0.02% at 15 watts into 8 ohms with signal to noise ratio better than 70 dB unweighted. Input sensitivity 260mV into 100K ohms. Size 80 x 57 x 13 mm ($3\frac{1}{3} \times 2\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{3}$) Z.30, Z.50 and Z.50 MK.2 modules are compatible and interchangeable.

Guarantee

If, within 3 months of purchasing any product direct from Sinclair Radionics Ltd., you are dissettistied with it, your money will be refunded at once. Many Sinclair appointed Stockists also offer this same guarantee in co-operation with Sinclair Radionics Ltd.

Each Project 60 module is tested before leaving our factory and is guaranteed to work perifectly. Should any defect arise in normal use, we will service it at once and without any charge to you. If its returned within two years from the date of purchase. Outside this period of guarantee a small charge (typically £1.00) will be made. No charge is made for postage by surface mail. Air Mail is charged at cost.



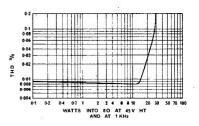
Brilliant new technical specifications

Input impedance 100 KΩ Input (for 30w into 8Ω) 400mV Signal to noise ratio, referred to full o/p at 30v HT 80dB or better Distortion 0.02% up to 20W at 8Ω. See curve Frequency response 10Hz to more than 200 KHz \pm 1dB Max. supply voltage 45v (4Ω to 8Ω speakers) (50v 15Ω speakers only) Min. supply voltage 9v

Load impedance – minimum : 4Ω at 45v HT Load impedance – maximum : safe on open circuit



with free manual £5.48



Typical Project 60 applications

System	The Units to use	together with	Units cost
Simple battery record player	Z.30	Crystal P.U., 12V battery volume control, etc.	£4.48
Mains powered record player	Z.30, PZ.5	Crystal or ceramic P.U. volume control, etc.	£9.45
12W. RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp. for average needs	2 x Z.30s, Stereo 60 ; PZ.5	Crystal, ceramic or mag. P.U., F.M. Tuner, etc.	£23.90
25W. RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp. using low efficiency (high performance) speakers	2 x Z.30s, Stereo 60 ; PZ.6	High quality ceramic or magnetic P.U., F.M. Tuner, Tape Deck, etc.	£26.90
80W. (3 ohms) RMS continuous sine wave de luxe stereo amplifier. (60W. RMS into 8 ohms)	2 x Z.50s, Stereo 60; PZ.8, mains transformer	As above	£34.88
Indoor P.A.	Z.50, PZ.8, mains transformer	Mic., guitar, speakers, etc., controls	£19.43

the world's most advanced high fidelity modules

Stereo 60 Pre-amp/control unit



Designed specifically for use on Project 60 systems, the Stereo 60 is equally suitable for use with any high quality power amplifier. Since silicon epitaxial planar transistors are used throughout, a really high signal-to-noise ratio and excellent tracking between channels is achieved. Input selection is by means of press buttons, with accurate equalisation on all input channels. The Stereo 60 is particularly easy to mount.

SPECIFICATIONS—Input sensitivities: Radio – up to 3mV. Mag, p.u. 3mV: correct to R.I.A.A. curve +1dB:20 to 25,000 Hz. Ceramic p.u. – up to 3mV: Aux – up to 3mV. Output: 250mV. Signal to noise ratio: better than 70dB. Channel matching: within 1dB. Tone controls: TREBLE+12 to –12dB at 10KHz: BASS +12 to -12dB at 100Hz, Front panel: brushed aluminium with black knobs and controls. Size: 66 × 40 × 207mm.

> £9.98 Built, tested and guaranteed.

Project 60 Stereo F.M. Tuner



The phase lock loop principle was used for receiving signals from space craft because of its vastly improved signal to noise ratio. Now, Sinclair have applied the principle to an F.M. tuner with fantastically good results. Other advanced features include varicap diode tuning, printed circuit coils, an I.C. in the specially designed stero decoder and switchable squelch circuit for silent tuning between stations. In terms of high fidelity this tuner has a lower level of distortion than any other tuner we know. Stereo broadcasts are received automatically, a panel indicator lighting up as the stereo signal is tuned in. This tuner can also be used to advantage with most other high fidelity systems.

SPECIFICATIONS—Number of transistors: 16 plus 20 in I.C. Turning range: 87.5 to 108MHz. Sensitivity: 7µV for lock-in over full deviation. Squelch level: Typically 20µV. Signal to noise ratio: > 65dB. Audio frequency response: 10Hz – 15KHz (\pm 1dB). Total harmonic distortion: 0.15% for 30% modulation. Stereo decoder operating level: 2µV. Cross talk: 40dB. Output voltage: 2 x 150mV R.M.S. maximum Operating voltage: 25–30VDC. Indicators: Stereo on ; tuning. Size: 93 x 40 x 207mm.

£25 Built and tested. Post-free.

Super IC.12 Integrated circuit high fidelity amplifier



Having introduced Integrated Circuits to hi-fi constructors with the IC.10, the first time an IC had ever been made available for such purposes. had ever been made available for such purposes, we have followed it with an even more afficient version, the Super IC.12, a most exciting advance over our original unit. This needs very few ex-ternal resistors and capacitors to make an astonishingly good high fidelity amplifier for use with pick-up, F.M. radio or small P.A. set up, etc. The free 40 page manual supplied, details many other applications which this remarkable IC make possible. It is the equivalent of a 22 transistor circuit contained within a 16 lead DIL package, and the finned heat sink is sufficient for all requirements. The Super IC.12 is compatible with Project 60 modules which would be used with the Z.50 and Z.30 amplifiers. Complete with free manual and printed circuit board.

SPECIFICATIONS

Output power: 6 watts RMS continuous (12 watts peak). 6-80. Frequency Response: 5Hz to 100KHz \pm 1dB. Total Harmonic Distortion: Less than 1%. (Typical 0.1%) at all output powers and frequencies in the audio band (28V). Load Impedance: 3 to 15 ohms. Input Impedance: 250 Kohms nominal. Power Gain: Supply Voltage: 6 to 28V. Quiescent cur-rent: 8mA at 28V. Size: 22×45×28mm including pins and heat sink.

Manual available separately 15p post free.



Power Supply Units The new PZ.8 Mk.3



The most reliable power supply unit ever made available to constructors. Brilliant circuitry makes failure from over load and even direct shorting of the output impossible. This is due to an ingenious re-entrant current limiting principle which, as far as we know has never before been available in any comparable unit outside the most expensive laboratory equipment. Ripple and residual noise have been reduced to the point of almost total elimination. This is, of course, the perfect unit for Project 60 assemblies, particularly where the new Z.50 MK.2 amplifiers are used. Nominal working voltage-45.

PZ.8 Mk.3-£7.98 (Mains transformer, if required) £5.98

PZ.5 30v. unstabilised (not suitable for Project 60 tuner) £4.98 PZ.6 35v, stabilised

(not suitable for IC. 12) £7.98



the easy way to buy and build Project 60 without soldering

Project 605 in one pack contains : one PZ.5, two Z.30's, one Stereo 60 and one Masterlink, which has input sockets and output components grouped on a single module and all necessary leads cut to length and fitted with clips to plug straight on to the modules thus eliminating all soldering.

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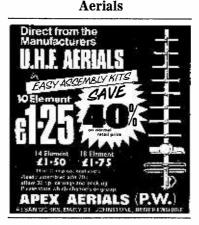
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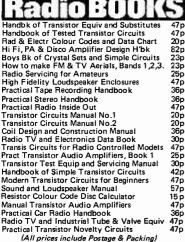
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