APRIL 1974 20p

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SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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Electronic piano. Part 3: assembly of the



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Build a stereo tuner Doppler in loudspeakers

wireless



This month's cover picture shows the red, green and blue triple optical head of a colour television projection equipment made by Pye TVT. (Photographer Paul Brierley)

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (published May 22)

Radar for cars. Clutter-free system for avoiding road collisions.

Colour-sound system. Compact equipment for controlling light hue and brightness by audio signal frequency and amplitude.

Novel stereo f.m. tuner. Part 2: decoder; assembly; setting-up; and a frequency meter.

electronics and the cabinet.



March 21st-April 20th.

and a stand

Aries

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What is an engineer worth?

The short answer to the question What is an engineer worth? is: what he can get. This may seem cynical to those who have certain ideas about the intrinsic worth of an engineer—in terms of his education, qualifications and so on—but because this intrinsic worth cannot be evaluated in money there can be no other answer. In practice the engineer has to accept a prospective employer's evaluation of his worth, perhaps after the two of them have bargained about it. In private industry the settlement may be a capricious one, very much dependent on market forces and therefore seemingly unfair in relation to other workers. At the time of writing there are bricklayers and carpenters earning $\pounds4,000-\pounds5,000$ p.a. in the London area. How many engineers can command this level of salary? It may seem that in state-run organizations such as the Civil Service things are better because they are more regularized and predictable. As a result the engineer may be more ready to accept without question the employer's evaluation of his worth: it seems to be based on the accumulated wisdom of the state and the will of the people.

Of course there have been plenty of studies, reports and recommendations made on behalf of the engineer. Last year, for example, we had the fourth CEI survey of professional engineers and the IEEE manpower report. Such investigations are mainly intended to let the engineer see where he stands and what are his prospects: they don't hope to change anything. One of the most forthright statements was in the famous "Brain Drain" report, which said there was clear evidence "that industry undervalues its engineers, technologists and scientists" and recommended that industry should be prepared to "promote within its own salary structure the pay of qualified engineers, technologists and scientists". More recently the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers has been campaigning against engineering employers' "apparent willingness" to classify professional engineers "alongside the mass of technicians and manual employees" in concluding pay agreements.

Much of the agitation for improved pay rests on the assumption of a superior order of intellectual ability in the professional engineer relative to other engineering workers—an ability to analyse and conceptualize, to see clearly the fundamentals of problems—which has been brought to a high level by three or more years' education and given the stamp of an official qualification. This is the core of the engineers' claim. It is a strong case and nobody disputes it. Why, then, do not engineers have the courage of their convictions and organize themselves to deploy this advantage in a more effective way? Mere recognition is not enough. The CEI is a toothless watchdog. The reluctance of engineers to organize themselves into pressure groups or unions is partly because, like many creative people, they are individualistic by nature, and partly because the word "professional" for them has an image that is aloof from the cloth-cap image of the trade union. They therefore turn their backs on collective bargaining in a world which operates on collective principles. If only they were able to recognize fully the significance of their own strength they would find the will to use it.

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Novel stereo f.m. tuner

1—Circuits and operation

by J. A. Skingley and N. C. Thompson

Plessey Components Ltd, Swindon

Using a ready-made front-end, integrated circuits and only one inductor, this tuner design is simple to operate, construct and set up. It includes novel circuitry to give inter-station muting, a.f.c. restricted to less than station spacing, a single-lamp tuning indicator, temperature-compensated varicap tuning allowing stations to be preset, and a linear-scale frequency meter. A simple stereo decoder circuit (part 2) uses active filters to eliminate "birdies" and remove subcarrier harmonics. Printed circuit wiring diagrams, assembly instructions and setting up procedure will appear in part 2.

The designer of technical equipment for the domestic market faces a problem. On the one hand the technical operating requirements can dictate a multiplicity of controls and demand a detailed knowledge of their use. On the other hand the operation must be simple and easily understood by people of all walks of life and professions. This design had to cater for non-technical people and children.

The first requirement then was that the system used should mask the technicalities and present the user with the simplest possible mode of operation, relying at most on traditional skills learned from more conventional a.m. receivers, without sacrificing the advantages to be had from a modern f.m. tuner.

The second requirement was to provide a tuner which was at least as good as the best commercial unit on all technical parameters. The total design objectives were therefore

requirement 1-ease of operation : (a) provision for push-button tuning (b) no undesirable outputs (c) powerful a.f.c. (d) sensitive, unambiguous tuning indication requirement 2-good performance: (a) 2µV for 30-dB signal-to-noise ratio (b) 3-dB limiting 0.5µV (c) image rejection 40dB (d) i.f. rejection 65dB (e) capture ratio 2dB (f) a.m. rejection 60dB (g) a.f. response ± ldB, 20Hz to 15kHz. The combination of these objectives led to a system which to our knowledge is unique (Fig. 1).

The core of an f.m. system is its i.f. strip, and in this design it was decided to use a block filter and integrated-circuit limiting amplifier. The distribution of selectivity and gain has conflicting requirements. From the point of view of noise selectivity should come after gain; from the view point of intermodulation effects gain should come after selectivity. The ideal choice is one where the gain and selectivity are uniformly distributed throughout the system, and this was more nearly achieved in traditional i.f. amplifiers using discrete components. The use of integrated circuits however precludes the use of this system because selectivity cannot be integrated.

There are however a number of advantages to the use of block filters over distributed systems. They can be designed as a single entity, providing a shaped response via the controlled interaction between sections to give a complex pole system, and avoiding the need for delicate stagger tuning of discrete sections. Termination conditions are easily allowed for, the filter as a whole is less sensitive to variations in transistor parameters. The filter used in this receiver is the Murata SFG-10.7 MA, which has excellent bandwidth and selectivity (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. In this tuner design limiting and demodulation is provided in a five-stage amplifier and a balanced demodulator, both in the SBA750A i.c., additional gain being provided by a two-stage discrete-component preamplifier. Integrated muting circuit eliminates inter-station noise and the novel one-lamp indicator makes tuning simple.



Fig. 2. Filter characteristic is maintained by making filter "see" 330 ohms at source and load.

Wireless World, April 1974

The integrated amplifier must have excellent limiting characteristics to provide a good a.m. rejection, and the device chosen achieves this by the use of a five-stage limiting amplifier and a balanced demodulator. This is the Plessey SBA750A which has 45dB rejection at 200 μ V and 60dB at 2mV input. These figures correspond to 2 μ V volts and 20 μ V respectively at the input in this design. This device also features a mutable a.f. amplifier which is used in the mute circuit to be described later.

It is interesting to reflect here that, at the present stage of integrated circuit development, the system designer has a wide choice of such building blocks, and, being relieved of the detailed design of these, has far more scope for originality than he used to have. This would seem in contrast to the gloomy forecast once made that all design would be done by the i.c. manufacturer, leaving the system designer the simple task of plugging in devices. In fact it is this new freedom which brings to light the need for new building blocks, and in turn produces more advanced systems.

Objective 1(a), is met by using a varicaptuned front end. The performance of commercially-available units, although capable of improvement, is equal to our design objectives and presents the simplest solution. The unit chosen was the Mullard LP1186, which can be conveniently mounted on a printed circuit board.

To achieve objective 2(a) more gain is required than that given by the above items. This extra gain is provided by a two-stage feedback amplifier as shown in Fig. 3. The first stage acts as a transconductance amplifier, its gain being defined by the 100-ohm emitter resistor. The second stage then functions as a transresistance amplifier or current-to-voltage converter. The combination therefore has a gain defined by the $100-\Omega$ resistor and the 2-k Ω feedback resistor, and has a value of 26dB. The output impedance of this stage is around 90 ohms,



Features of this simple-to-operate stereo tuner include a muting circuit to prevent unwanted signals being heard (e.g. weak stations, signals affected by flutter, and mistuned stations), a single-lamp tuning indicator and a linear frequency meter.







Fig. 4. Mute circuit, operated by the amount of amplitude modulation in the i.f. output, has the advantage of suppressing unwanted outputs due to detection on the non-linear regions of the S-shaped demodulation curve. Point X, fed from the demodulator via Fig. 5, feeds the tuning indicator, which is held off by Tr_{11} in the presence of noise. An output from this circuit unmutes the stereo output from SBA750 i.c. First five transistors are contained in SL3045 i.c.

and so a buffer resistance of 240 ohms is used to present the filter with its required source impedance of 330 ohms. This introduces a slight loss of gain, but ensures that the correct filter characteristic is obtained.

Muting circuit

The system so far described provides an audio output from an aerial input and could therefore be used as a tuner as it stands. However, this is really where our story begins. If the above system is used, the first thing soon realized is that the interstation noise is highly objectionable. In fact it corresponds to a fully modulated signal over the entire audio band, since the input stage noise is sufficient to achieve limiting in the last i.f. stage, with a bandwidth equal to the i.f. filter pass-band.

In addition to this ear shattering blast, as a station is tuned a highly distorted version of the station programme is received before the correct tuning point is reached, also at a high volume. This is of course due to detection via the "S" curve of the detector, and will be produced at equal intervals either side of the correct tuning point. The net result of all this is design objective 1(b), the suppression of all unwanted outputs. Put the other way round, the only sounds heard should be correctly tuned stations.

Audio muting is achieved by using the remote gain control facility of the SBA750.

This is a pin connection usually taken to a remote potentiometer carrying d.c. only. For our use the potentiometer is replaced by a p-n-p transistor $(Tr_{12}, Fig. 4)$ which is controlled from a number of sources.

Because the noise level is sufficient to produce a fully limited signal from the i.f. amplifier, the magnitude of this cannot be used to detect the presence of the station to un-mute the system, and this presents a problem. The solution is simple in concept.

What is required is a measure of the degree of limiting taking place within the i.f. amplifier, and this is easily monitored by detecting the amount of amplitude modulation present in the i.f. output. This has the advantage of detecting the spurious responses mentioned earlier, as these are in fact caused by the high-slope edges of the i.f. filter response converting the frequency modulation into amplitude modulation which is then detected by the quadrature detector.

The first device in Fig. 4 acts as a buffer to the i.f. amplifier output, which is very sensitive to capacitance loading. The next two devices form the amplitude detector. Transistor Tr_{14} is diode-connected and fed with a small current from the supply. As the five devices Tr_{13} to Tr_{17} are contained on one chip of silicon (SL3045), they have well matched base-emitter voltages, and this causes Tr_{15} to conduct the same current as Tr_{14} . The 1-k Ω resistors in Tr_{14} and Tr_{15} bases provide a higher input impedance for the signal while preserving the voltage match, since the base currents are also equal.

The collector of Tr_{15} would sit at a relatively high voltage due to its smaller load resistance, but application of the i.f. signal (noise or "clean" 10.7MHz), which is about 400mV pk-pk, causes this stage to rectify bringing its collector down to a low voltage. The collector time constant is chosen so that the 10.7-MHz signal is filtered out but allowing amplitude modulation up to about 100kHz to be followed. This modulation can only be negative, as the i.f. is amplitude limited, and this produces positive-going signals, when present, at Tr_{15} collector.

The following transistor pair is biased with Tr_{17} normally on, so that this positivegoing signal turns on Tr_{16} and hence Tr_{3} , both of which are normally non-conducting. In the presence of noise therefore the capacitor in Tr_{3} collector is charged rapidly taking the base of Tr_{11} positive. This will happen in the presence of any form of a.m. noise or spurious signals, and may be used to mute the receiver.

Single-lamp tuning indicatof

There are many ways of meeting objective l(d). However there is a need to provide an indication which is readily understood by all, without the need for instruction, which



Fig. 5. A.F.C. amplifier has its voltage swing limited to restrict a f.c. action to less than station spacing. Using a computer programme, the tuning potentiometer network was optimized to provide uniform lock-in range over the tuned band and correct temperature compensation of the front-end. Diodes in potentiometer smoothing circuit allow quick charging of capacitors and keep settling time after switch-on short.



Fig. 6. Circuit of f.m. receive section of tuner with a.f.c., muting and tuning indicator circuits. Frequency is displayed on a moving-coil meter (circuit in part 2). Resistors in this circuit should be 2% tolerance.

ruled out several of the recently-used types. These include the centre-zero meter and the two-lamp system, as neither of these provide a maximum response at the correct tuning point, which is the conventional mode of adjustment. This topic is to be covered in another article and the final design is shown. in Fig. 5.

Inputs are taken from the balanced demodulator output via $10k\Omega$ resistors and fed to a long-tailed pair with the addition of a third transistor. This device is connected so that it conducts a maximum current (one third of the tail current) when the inputs are balanced. The collector of this (point X) is connected to the base of Tr_7 (Fig. 4), the d.c. conditions being arranged so that at balance, and assuming Tr_{11} is off, Tr_7 conducts 20mA into the single l.e.d. indicator, D_3 . This then has a maximum brilliance at the correct tuning point.

The Tr_{11} tuning indicator is extinguished in the presence of noise, since Tr_{11} conducts away the current supply to it when its base is made positive by the action described earlier.

Objective 1(b) can now be easily obtained. We only require the audio signal to be unmuted when there is a correctly tuned station being received, that is, when the tuning indicator is fully lit. The voltagecurrent characteristics of a l.e.d. are similar to those of a zener diode; therefore a 240ohm resistor is placed in series to give a voltage-varying point, and this is used to operate the mute transistor Tr_{12} (Fig. 4). The system will only pass a correctly tuned signal of significant signal-to-noise ratio. Very weak stations, stations suffering from gross interference or aircraft flutter, spurious responses, and even strong stations which are mis-tuned by more than a few tens of kHz will be completely muted.

A.F.C. circuit

There now only remains the objective 1(c), the provision of a.f.c. This function received a lot of thought and discussion before the system described was finalized. A high degree of loop gain was required to reduce the tuning error to negligible proportions, but when this was tried, however, several disadvantages came to light.

Firstly it was found impossible to tune the receiver with a.f.c. applied. One station would be captured and the tuning control rotated past several others on the dial before the original station was lost, and then it was not known which station had been recaptured. The tuning was completely ambiguous, in opposition to the main requirements and objective 1(d) in particular. There are several expensive commercial tuners having this fault.

The solution to this problem is simple in hindsight. What is needed is indeed high gain, but the frequency range should be restricted to less than the typical station spacing. This is easily achieved by limiting the swing voltage available from the a.f.c. amplifier. One requirement for the above system to be successful is that the tuner

61

	Components	(main boa	rd)
Filter Mura	ta SFG 10.7MA	C16, C23	IµF (stack foi)
Front-end m	nodule Mullard LP1186		polycarbonate)
Mains transformer		C_{17}, C_{19}	22µF (25V electrolytic)
RS Components (634 Trans)		C70	4.7µF (63V electrolytic)
Push buttons		C_{21}, C_{22}	220µF (16V electrolytic)
RS Comp	onents (Press 2P)		
Pre-set pots		Resistors (all Electrosil TR5 2%	
RS Comp	onents (Lin Cerm 50k)	except thern	nistor)
Multi-turn pots		R1, R4, R26	100Ω
RS Components (Multi pot 50k)		R ₂	4.7kΩ
Regulator		R ₃	390Ω
RS Components (MVR 15)		R,	2.4kΩ
Rectifier		R ₆	2kΩ
RS Components (REC 70)		R_7, R_9	330Ω
Meter RS Components (MR 42A)		$R_{B_1} R_{27}$	240Ω
		R10, R11, R16, R24, R28,	
Semiconductor devices		R 101 R 12, R 10	. R ₄₃ 10kΩ
IC ₁	SBA750A	R12	5.6kΩ
IC,	SL3045	RIA	IMΩ
Tri, Tra	2N3904	R14, R33, R14	, RAD to RAT 6.8kΩ
Tra, Tra to 7	Fr10 BC179	R14, R18, R10	lkΩ
Tr. to Tr., Tr., Tr., BC109		R17	100kΩ
D_1, D_2	IN4148	R21, R22, R36	20kΩ
D3	5082-4403 (l.e.d.)	R ₂₃	5.1kΩ
D_4, D_5	1N4001	R25	150Ω
-		R29, R31	12kΩ
Capacitors		R35	5.1kΩ
C1. C14	10nF (disc ceramic)	R37	11 k Ω
C2, C3, C. 6	7 47nF (disc ceramic)	R44, R45	1.2kΩ
C4, C24	0.1µF (disc ceramic)	R46	8.2kΩ
C_7, C_8	8.2pF (min. plate ceramic)	R47	6.2kΩ
C9, C15	100pF (min. plate ceramic)	R48	2.7kΩ
-10	470pF (disc ceramic)	R49	82kΩ
Cu	0.22µF (stack foil	R ₅₀	200kΩ
	polycarbonate)	R ₅₁	1.1kΩ
C_{12}, C_{18}	2.2µF (63V electrolytic)	R ₅₂	120Ω
-13	10nF (stack foil	RT ₁	VA10555
	polycarbonate)		thermistor
	poryour bonuity)		uner mator

should not have a temperature drift greater than the hold-in range of the a.f.c. This would anyway render the tuning calibration unreliable. In this design the a.f.c. amplifier is used to provide temperature compensation independently of the hold-in range. The circuitry used is shown in Fig. 5.

The differential output from the tuning indicator triple is further amplified by Tr_5 and Tr_6 . Due to the action of the triple there is a common-mode signal present in its output, and this is rejected by Tr_5 and Tr_6 by providing them with a constant-current tail from Tr_4 . Also under extreme mistuning it would be possible for Tr_5 or Tr_6 to bottom, causing a spurious output voltage and incorrect a.f.c. action. Diodes D_1 and D_2 are included to prevent this from happening. They limit the swing available by clamping Tr_8 and Tr_{10} collectors together at a maximum of 0.6 volts difference.

The a.f,c. can easily be cancelled by closing switch S_2 , thus removing differential gain. The output voltage is now determined by the current from Tr_4 , which is fixed, and the total load resistance in the common mode. This includes the thermistor common to both collectors which is selected to provide the correct compensation of the front end, via the following network.

This network was optimized by a computer programme to provide a shift of the end voltages of the tuning potentiometer by amounts representing equal frequency shifts. This results in a uniform lock-in range over the tuned band, and also correct temperature compensation. A possible method of switching and tuning potentiometers is shown; alternatively these may be connected in parallel provided that the total resistance remains at $50k\Omega$.

The positive end of the tuning potentiometer, point A, is connected via a total of $10.6k\Omega$ to the positive supply, and any residual mains ripple at this point will modulate the tuning and produce a hum at the output. Less than 0.1mV ripple is required to produce a hum level at least 60dB down on full

Performan	Ce	
Sensitivity	1.8µV for 30dB s/n (mono, see graph in part 2 for stereo)	
3-dB limiting	0.7µV	
image rejection	42dB	
i.f. rejection	60dB	
capture ratio	1.8dB	
a.m. rejection	60dB (see graph)	
mute level	3 to 5µV	
output level	180mV stereo	
	1.7V mono	
harmonic distortion	0.5% for 75kHz dev.	

signal. Therefore, the resistance is split and two 220μ F capacitors inserted as shown. This has the desired effect, but produces a slow sweep across the tuning range as these capacitors charge up after switch-on. This is annoying as several stations are captured by the a.f.c. in passing, before the wanted station is reached.

To overcome this defect, it is arranged that D_4 and D_5 diodes rapidly charge the capacitors, by-passing the 1.2-k Ω resistors.

When fully charged, the voltage drop across these is insufficient to keep the diodes forward biased and they cease to conduct, allowing the full time constant to become effective. By this means the switch-on settling time is greatly reduced. These diodes can be seen in Fig. 6 which shows the discrete components and their inter-connection with the integrated circuit and frontend module.

The tuner circuit described provides the optimum performance with regard to the needs of all users. Operation is simplicity tself. The set is silent while tuning between stations and the tuning indicator is un-lit. When a station is encountered the tuning indicator lights fully and the set un-mutes. The tuning control is now left untouched in the knowledge that no further adjustment is equired. If an adjacent station exists, the control may be turned further and the tuning amp will blink off then on again and the new station will be heard; again no further adjustment will be required. This action is similar to turning a rotary switch. If this new station is further away, the set will remain silent until it is reached; mis-tuned stations cannot be received. If the a.f.c. is disabled, for instance when hunting upband for foreign stations, the tuning indicator allows a sensitive fine adjustment to be made. The mute facility may also be removed under these conditions to allow weak stations of less than 5 to 10µV to be received.

The design has been sufficiently thorough to ensure that the performance can be guaranteed, provided that the components specified are used and the layout of the p.c. board is as recommended. Setting up can be done with nothing more than a trimming tool, for the single tuned circuit, and a pair of eyes.

Part two will include details of an improved stereo decoder, assembly instructions, and setting up procedure.

Paris components exhibition

As semiconductors have been a marker, for many years, of the state of development, we thought we would have a look and see what was happening here. Trends are towards larger-scale integration of almost everything, from computers to car radios, and the number of stands on which displays for meters, calculators, clocks, watches and any parameter not previously thought of makes one wonder whether liquid crystals, light-emitting diodes, neons, or some device yet to see the light of day will be the standard in ten years' time.

Semiconductors

To get down to details, an example of ls.i. was shown by Motorola, who had the MC6800 set of ion-implanted, n-channel integrated circuits, which together form a microcomputer. (Will the next step be a nano-computer, one wonders?) The set consists of an 8-bit central processor, an 8k ROM, a 1k RAM, an interface for peripherals and an asynchronous line interface. The processor, in a 40-pin pack, handles decimal or binary and accommodates 72 instructions, with provision for up to 64 bytes of external memory—in any form.

Also by Motorola is the set of three i.cs for a PAL decoder, giving final R, G and B tube drive from the composite video signal. One of the set is the MC1327 colour demodulator, which is already known, together with the TBA 395 (chrominance) and TBA 396 (luminance) modules. The last two contain a gain-controlled chrominance amplifier, a gated burst amplifier, p.l.l. reference oscillator, chrominance amplifier a.g.c. generator (this is usually known as a.c.c. automatic chrominance control) and colour killer, together with black-level clamps, beam current limiting and tracked control of saturation and contrast.

Chips for calculators continue to evolve, and General Instrument Microelectronics showed two new ones. The 8-digit C595 possesses automatic constant on all four functions, and percentage. It has one memory, but four separate keys allow the memory to be updated, information stored, cleared or read. All functions are in the one chip, including display and clock. The C150 is a 14digit unit for office or scientific work, which offers the facility of storing and operating upon two numbers simultaneously, for example, in the solution of quadratic equations. C151 is a version for general use, with a direct square root key.

SGS-Ates showed a range of seven integrated circuits—in various stages of development—which together make up a virtually complete colour receiver. The planning is such that three of the i.cs are concerned with the colour section of receivers, the remaining four being usable in monochrome sets. One remarkable chip, the TDA1170, contains the entire vertical deflection circuitry, providing 1.6A peak-to-peak to the deflection coils. A voltage stabilizer is built in to provide immunity to supply variations.

SGS-Ates also had their TDA2020, a 15W audio amplifier on one chip, claiming high-fidelity performance at a t.h.d. figure of 1% at 15W. It requires $\pm 18V$ supplies, and has a power-limiting circuit with thermal shut-down. The two-rail supply enables direct coupling of the loudspeaker. The amplifier is also available in industrial guise as the LO68, to be used as a servo driver and error amplifier combined.

An automotive i.c. by ITT Semiconductors, the SAJ280, is intended to ensure that seat belts are worn. The unit is named "Interlock" and creates all manner of visual and aural commotion if the belts are unfastened either before or after ignition, which it also prevents in such circumstances. It will refrain from 'such behaviour if the vehicle is moving when the belts become unfastened.

"Old-fashioned" semiconductorstransistors-are acquiring a very humdrum connotation lately, but nevertheless development continues in all the important parameters. Motorola had the range of high-power Darlingtons which are intended as replacements for the 2N3055, 2N6253 and 2N625 single types. The new pairs offer $h_{\rm FE}$ between 500 and 5000, with VCEO of 45 to 80V. Shunt diodes across the output transistor are built in. RTC were also showing power Darlingtons, in p.n.p. and n.p.n. configurations, offering $h_{\rm FE}$ of 3000 typical at collector currents of 1.5A to 10A. Collector voltage ratings are between 60 and 100V and, again, the shunt diodes are built in.

Transistors and diodes for high frequencies, shown by RTC, include the BFT50 low-noise type (less than 2dB at 500MHz); the BFT51, a 1W, 12V type with an f_T of 2500MHz at 140mA; the BLX38 linear class A wide-band amplifier, delivering 700mW at -60dB intermodulation in Bands IV and V; two Gunn oscillators for 3cm work and some gallium arsenide avalanche diodes for use as X-band oscillators, producing 4W.

Pentawatt is the name given by SGS-Ates to the new 5-lead package with an integral bolt-down heat sink, claimed to be usable up to 50W.

Instruments

While we were not primarily looking for new instrumentation, it was there in abundance, and must be **mentioned** at least.

Marconi Instruments TF2370 spectrum analyser displays the spectrum of the signal in a completely new way. The information normally presented in analogue form-the spectrum-is stored in a memory which is organized as a 256 X 512-point matrix. The 512-point axis corresponds to the x axis, or frequency base of the display, and the memory is addressed as the sweep progresses, so that at the end of a sweep, the point of the spectrum at each frequency increment is stored at one of 256 (vertical) addresses or one of the 512 (horizontal) lines. At the end of the sweep, the memory is read at a rate of 76Hz, modulating the brightness of 512 vertical lines to produce a representation of the spectrum. The system has the advantage that the spectra of nonrepetitive signals can be displayed without loss of brightness or the use of storage tubes. It also permits two images to be displayed, for example a reference trace and the signal from a circuit under test. Resolution is 5Hz and 0.1dB, a 100dB dynamic range is provided and a 9-digit frequency meter is incorporated.

New equipment from Philips includes the PM3260, a dual-trace 120MHz oscilloscope with SmV sensitivity. An extremely high e.h.t. of 20kV enables the observation of the "two nanoseconds every other Thursday" type of phenomena. Time-base speed is Sns/cm and y rise time is 3ns. The PM3010 is a dualtrace instrument measuring only $86 \times 153 \times 190$ mm and weighing 1.8kg, but providing a y bandwidth of 5MHz with sensitivity of 30mV/div. The battery pack is rechargeable.

From Iskra, the Digimer 1 is a 3-digit multimeter for a.c. and d.c. volts and current, and resistance. Resolution is from 0.1mV, 0.01mA and 0.1Ω . The unit is of unusual form, being somewhat like a tiny petrol pump in appearance, the readout being where the gallons normally appear. Each function is selected by a separate unit, which is plugged into the base to form a foot.

Research Notes

Yoga and electronics versus stress disease

A medical use of a closed-loop feedback system has been reported in the *Lancet*. The patient is part of the loop and the feedback is used to change of the state of his body.

High blood pressure is often the result of psychological stress. A possible treatment is to relieve the stress by Yoga exercises, which can relax both the mind and the body. An Indian-born doctor. Mrs Chandra Patel, now working in London, has reported encouraging results. She uses a simple measurement (skin resistance) as an indicator of tension. The patient's skin resistance is made to control the frequency of an audio oscillation. By monitoring the pitch the patient can "hear himself relaxing" and this helps him to improve his performance of the relaxation exercises. Some of Dr Patel's patients have been able to reduce or even abandon the use of drugs to relieve blood pressure.

The Lancet, 73.11.09

Neutron radiography

If a metal-and-plastic clock is X-rayed, only the metal parts show up clearly. If neutrons are used instead of X-rays only the plastic parts appear. This useful property makes neutron radiography complementary to X-radiography.

The physical basis of neutron radiography is the way in which neutrons interact with matter. A neutron has about the same mass as a proton, and this makes it interact more strongly with single protons than with heavier nuclei. (It merely "bounces off?" a heavy nucleus, with little loss of energy—an elastic collision.)

In nature, single protons occur in hydrogen atoms, so the substances which stop neutrons most effectively are hydrogen compounds such as water and plastics. Living tissue, which contains both water and organic compounds, is also revealed.

A difficulty in neutron radiography is that the silver compounds in photographic film do not interact strongly with neutrons. so ordinary photographic film cannot be used to register neutron pictures. At the Nuclear Research Centre at Karlsruhe in West Germany, where neutron radiography is used to take pictures of the insides of fuel elements, much work has been done to find ways of facilitating photography. What is required is some means of image conversion which can change the emergent neutron beams into, some form of radiation which affects a photographic emulsion. The required conversion can be accomplished by allowing the neutrons to pass through thin films of metals such as dysprosium. gold, indium and gadolinium. The neutrons activate the metal atoms and make them emit various kinds of radioactive rays which follow the same density pattern as the neutron beams.

Exposure of the film can either be direct, with the film and foil in contact during neutron bombardment, or indirect. The indirect method makes use of the fact that the neutron bombardment leaves the metals slightly radioactive. The foil therefore serves as a storage device, and a photograph can be made by laying it over a film and leaving it there until the "remembered" radiation pattern has exposed the film sufficiently.

The exposure times required for neutron radiography are short, compared with X-radiography, and the technique has possible medical uses.

Black holes and naked singularities?

Astronomers are beginning to search for "black holes", strange dead stars. Since they emit no light or radiation of any kind the search is difficult, and may well require the aid of electronics for success.

The notion of a black hole is quite simple, and goes back to the 18th century. Laplace pointed out that, according to Newtonian physics, the "escape velocity" which a moving object has to reach in order to leave a star increases as the gravity at the star's surface increases. In a very large star, with the same density as the earth, gravitation could be so intense that the escape velocity would exceed the velocity of light. So nothing, not even light, could leave the star, which must appear black to an outside observer.

Stars of the required size do not exist, but there is good reason for believing that the necessary gravitational strength can be obtained in another way, namely the packing of all the mass of a normal-sized star into a very small space. What governs density is energy. Thermal energy keeps atoms and molecules apart. The energy inside the atom keeps the electrons away from the nucleus. It is theoretically possible for this energy to be lost as radiation, giving rise to an unimaginably dense body made up of closely packed atomic nuclei. If such a collapsed star has a mass greater than about 1.3 times the mass of the sun then the gravitation can be large enough to prevent light, radio waves, Xrays and all other forms of radiation from leaving. The star is black. But the process doesn't stop there. The gravitation is by now so strong that the matter of the star continues to be crushed. The star becomes even smaller and denser, until perhaps it shrinks away to nothing. But so long as its gravitation remains it appears from the outside as a black hole of a size which depends on the mass; in other words, the "black hole" begins where gravitation reaches the required intensity and does not depend on the size of the lump of matter inside

How do you detect a black hole without going close to it and so running the risk of being sucked in and destroyed? One possibility is to find a black hole which is one partner of a double star, that is, two stars orbiting about one another. To an observer, the pair would appear as a single visible star which exhibited peculiar motions. Another possibility involves a possible amplification effect on passing electromagnetic waves. A wave passing near the star could split into two parts, one being sucked into the black hole and the other continuing outside. These two waves could in theory interact in such a way that the internal wave reinforced the external wave. The effect is small, but it is possible that a positive feedback mechanism might exist which would allow the external wave to reach a large amplitude before leaving the sphere of influence of the black hole.

An even stranger possibility is the "naked singularity", which is a completely collapsed star not contained in a black hole and therefore capable of being communicated with. It may seem impossible to communicate with a speck of nothingness made of energy-less matter, but the prospect is not necessarily as bleak as that. If the collapsing star is spinning, as many stars are, then it still has angular momentum, and this prevents it from collapsing into nothing. There may, therefore. be very small, dense, spinning bodies which can reveal their presence in some way, such as exciting nearby gas into states which produce radiation.

It all sounds rather abstract, but black holes and singularities are of such great interest to physicists and cosmologists that the search for them is bound to continue over the years.

"Horn loudspeaker design"

We apologize that it has been necessary to postpone the publication of the second part of J. Dinsdale's article "Horn loudspeaker design". This second part will now appear in the May issue.

Doppler distortion in loudspeakers

Simple techniques for the separation, measurement and assessment of intermodulation distortion due to the Doppler effect

by James Moir, F.I.E.E.

James Moir & Associates

The significance of the Doppler distortion produced by loudspeakers has been the subject of discussion for many years, opinions ranging all the way from "there isn't any such distortion", to the very opposite view that it is "the main source of distortion in loudspeaker reproduction". Such wide differences of opinion generally arise when there is no well founded body of measured data on the extent of the distortion, but in this instance, the issue has been clouded by the different methods of expressing the scanty data that is available. It should assist our understanding if the origin of Doppler distortion is clarified.

Frequency intermodulation distortion

Consider a loudspeaker reproducing two tones having frequencies f_1 and f_2 , with a frequency ratio of twenty to one, then while the loudspeaker cone is moving towards the listener to reproduce one half cycle of the lower frequency, f_1 , it will simultaneously reproduce ten complete cycles of the higher frequency, f_2 . On the reverse half cycle of the lower frequency, while the cone is moving away from the listener, it will reproduce the second ten cycles of the higher frequency. This is a classical Doppler situation, the pitch of the higher frequency as heard by the listener, being increased as the source moves towards the listener, and decreased as the source moves away from the listener.

An observer listening to a signal frequency, f_2 , from a source moving towards him with a velocity, v, hears the resultant note with a frequency, f'_2 , where,

$$f_2' = f_2(c+v)/c$$

where c = velocity of sound in air. When the source is moving away from him he hears the note as having a frequency,

$$f_2'' = f_2(c-v)/c$$

The velocity of sound in air is around 1125ft/s and the velocity of the cone generally below 10ft/s but dependent, of course, on the frequency and amplitude of the lower frequency. Thus the maximum change in pitch (frequency) due to the Doppler effect is in the region below 1%.

When the moving source is a loudspeaker diaphragm executing a sinusoidal motion, the note as heard by the listener will swing cyclically between the two limit frequencies

quoted above at the frequency of modulation, f_1 , a simple example of frequency modulation. The mathematics of this are well understood, the known result being the appearance of two sidebands, symmetrically disposed about the carrier frequency at frequencies $(f_2 \pm f_1)$ and having amplitudes that are an indication of the extent of the Doppler distortion. It is necessary to differentiate between the value of the carrier frequency shift Δf_2 measured in hertz and the frequency at which the sidebands due to this shift appear. The carrier shift is an indication of the extent of the Doppler distortion and it is at its acceptable limit when it is only 20-30Hz. The sidebands are always spaced from the carrier at the frequency of the modulation, f_1 , because the carrier frequency deviation is cyclic at this modulating frequency.

The amplitude of the two sidebands can be predicted by some mathematical manipulation of the basic equation for a frequency modulated wave.

 $v = V_0 \sin (2\pi f_1 t + M \sin 2\pi f_2 t)$ (1) where

 $M = \frac{\text{carrier frequency deviation}}{\text{modulating frequency}}$ Δf_2

$$=\frac{f_1}{f_1}$$

Quantity M is the modulation index, familiar to the engineer interested in frequency modulation broadcasting. With the standards adopted for f.m. broadcasting a transmitter fully modulated to a deviation of 75kHz by a 15kHz signal, has a modulation index of 75/15 = 5 but as will be seen in the later discussion the frequency deviation in any audio application is at its very worst, only a few tens of herz and the resultant index, M, is almost invariably much less than unity.

The amplitude of the two sidebands that are generated can be obtained by expanding Equation 1 in Bessel form. It has been shown that this results in the series,

$$e = EJ_0(M) \sin 2\pi f_2 t + J_1(M) \sin (2\pi f_2 t + 2\pi f_1) t + \sin (2\pi f_2 - 2\pi f_1 t) t - J_2 \dots (2)$$

where J_0 : Bessel function of order 0 J_1 : Bessel function of order 1

 J_2 : Bessel function of order 2.

Values of $J_0(M)$, $J_1(M)$, $J_2(M)$ can be obtained from standard mathematical tables but examination of the data indicates that if the analysis is confined to the frequency deviation range that is of real interest in Doppler distortion problems, then M is always below 1 and the sideband amplitude is then simply $M/2 \times$ the amplitude of the carrier frequency.

If it is assumed that the lower frequency signal applied to the loudspeaker is 100Hz then for M = 0.1, M/2 = 0.05 and the two sidebands have amplitudes that are 5% of the amplitude of the carrier frequency f_2 . The deviation $\Delta f_2 = 0.1 \times 100 = 10$ Hz. This is the frequency deviation Δf_2 of carrier f_2 and if this has the standard test frequency of 3kHz the flutter amounts to 10/3000 = 0.3%.

Amplitude intermodulation distortion

Distortion sidebands of a very similar type appear when a two frequency signal is applied to any device that has a non-linear input/output characteristic¹. If two sinusoidal voltages $V_1 = V \sin(2\pi f_1 t)$ and $V_2 =$ $\sin(\pi f_2 t)$ are simultaneously applied to a device having a transfer characteristic represented by the power series,

$$V_0 = a_1 V + a_2 V^2 + a_3 V^3 + a_4 V^4 \quad (3)$$

the output will include in addition to the harmonics of f_1 and f_2 two sidebands having frequencies of (f_2+f_1) and (f_2-f_1) with amplitudes proportional to the coefficients a_7 and a_4 in Equation 3. It will be seen that the frequencies of these two sidebands are identical to those produced by frequency intermodulation but the amplitude of the two sidebands is determined by an entirely different factor, the degree of amplitude non-linearity in the device. The extent of this non-linearity is indicated by the value of the coefficients a_2 and a_4 in the power series of Equation 3. The sidebands produced by this amplitude dependent intermodulation are subsequently referred to as the a.i. sidebands. These a.i. sidebands are produced in loudspeakers by non-linearities in the suspension, non-uniform distribution of the magnetic field in the gap and at higher

frequencies by non-linearities in the cone material.

The distortion spectrum that results from applying two separate test frequencies is in the simplest example like that shown in Fig. 1. The two sidebands $f_2 \pm f_1$ are the sum of the Doppler and amplitude modulation components whereas the $f_2 \pm 2f_1$ are almost invariably due to amplitude intermodulation. The remaining two distortion components are the first two harmonics of the two test frequencies f_1 and f_2 .

it should be remembered that the presence of the amplitude intermodulation sidebands implies the simultaneous presence of harmonic distortion components having frequencies of $2f_1$, $3f_1$, $2f_2$, $3f_2$, etc. These have no equivalent in the frequency intermodulation case. With the same amount of distortion power in both the f.i. and a.i. sidebands, the total distortion power due to the amplitude dependent distortions will usually be the greater proportion of the total distortion. The first order intermodulation sidebands whether due to Doppler or amplitude intermodulation are seen to form only a small part of the total distortion. It is thus unlikely that their presence will be easily detected.

It has generally been considered that the amplitude dependent distortions were the prime cause of much of the residual distortion in loudspeakers. Perhaps it should be remembered that it has never been conclusively demonstrated that the addition of the lower order harmonics alone results in any significant loss in sound quality. Thus violins, all of unquestionable tonal quality, differ markedly in their harmonic structure. The quality deterioration that is evident when harmonic distortion is present is generally assumed to be due to the sidebands components $(f_2 \pm f_1)$, $(f_2 \pm 2f_1)$ etc., that inevitably accompany harmonic distortion, but do not accompany the harmonics in musical instruments.

Measurement technique

Separate determination of the amplitude of the a.i. and f.i. sidebands has evidently proved difficult if judged by the complexity of some of the techniques used. The technique to be described provides a simple method of not only separating the two sets of sidebands from each other but allows the f.i. sidebands to be separated from the music being reproduced by the loudspeaker.

Our technique is to insert an amplitude limiter and f.m. discriminator designed for a carrier frequency of 3kHz into the measuring system. This particular carrier frequency was chosen as it allows data obtained to be compared with that obtained by other investigators² when assessing the subjective effect of wow and flutter, a very similar form of frequency intermodulation distortion.

The arrangement of the test equipment is shown in the block diagram of Fig. 2. Test signals are provided by two Bruel and Kjaer type 1014 signal generators, adequately decoupled and fed via a Quad type 303, 50



Fig. 1. Distortion spectrum of a 7in loudspeaker unit.

watt amplifier to the loudspeaker under test mounted in the open air. The output signal from the loudspeaker is picked up by a Bruel & Kjaer type 4131 microphone mounted on the axis of the speaker at a distance of 1 metre, amplified and then fed in parallel to the 3kHz limiter and discriminator and to a Marconi type 2330 narrow band analyser. Meter M_1 , checks the amplitude of the two separate input signal components f_1 and f_2 and the total amplitude of the combined signals, meter M_2 reads the f.m. distortion components only, while meter M_3 indicates the amplitude of each of the individual components of the speaker output signal spectrum. The reading of M_2 is proportional to the frequency deviation of the carrier f_2 . This is related to the modulation index, M, by the simple relation,

$$M = (\Delta f_2 \times f_2) / f_1$$

Beers and Belar³ derived an equation for the f.m. distortion components. This is,

distortion factor =
$$2900 \frac{f_2 \times \sqrt{P_1}}{f_2^2 \times d^2}$$
 (4)

where P_1 is the power at frequency f_1 and d is the cone diameter.

This equation provides a guide to the relations that should exist among the data collected.

It will be seen that the distortion should be proportional to the frequency f_2 and to the amplitude of f_1 (i.e. $\sqrt{P_1}$), be independent of the amplitude of f_2 but inversely proportional to the square of the cone diameter. A measuring system intended to obtain data on the amplitude of frequency modulation sidebands should meet the following requirements. (1) The limiter and discriminator should not respond to an amplitude modulated signal. (2) No frequency intermodulation components should be measurable at the amplifier output terminals when the two-frequency test signal is applied.

As used, the measuring system provided loudspeaker distortion values that were independent of the amplitude of f_2 over a range of at least 10:1 and they were directly proportional to the amplitude of f_1 up to a power output at least ten times the power applied to any of the loudspeakers during testing. The requirements of (1) and (2) were met with a large factor of safety.



Fig. 2. Block diagram of the test equipment.



Fig. 3. Level of Doppler distortion. See text for further explanation (a) 12in (30.4cm) diameter loudspeaker (b) 4in (10.1cm) diameter loudspeaker.

Amplitude intermodulation measurement

While the test system as shown in Fig. 2 measures the frequency intermodulation components alone, and ignores the amplitude intermodulation components, it appeared desirable to be able to separately measure these amplitude intermodulation sidebands. To do this advantage was taken of the absence of any frequency term in Equation 3. Thus when none of the coefficients of V in Equation 3 are frequency dependent, the amplitude intermodulation distortions produced are independent of the test frequencies, provided only that the amplitudes of the test signals are held constant. A choice of two frequencies such as 4kHz and 900Hz eliminates almost all the components due to frequency intermodulation, leaving only the intermodulation components due to amplitude interactions.

Experimentally, this is found to result in a modulating frequency of about 200Hz. Below this, the coefficients become frequency sensitive. To obtain data in this region, advantage is taken of the dependence of the a.m. components and the independence of the f.m. components on the amplitude of f_2 . Experience, subsequent to the development of the technique, has shown that there is little advantage in using it for measuring the amplitude of the a.m. sidebands, values of adequate accuracy being obtained by subtracting the measured value of the f.m. sideband amplitudes from the measured value of the total sideband amplitude. There is some phase ambiguity in this but it does not appear to be significant in typical loudspeakers. We now have a test system in which the amplitude intermodulation and frequency intermodulation components can be separately measured.

Measurement of frequency intermodulation distortion is generally carried out with the lower frequency f_1 , somewhere around 70 to 90Hz. A loudspeaker having a frequency response limited by a high conesurround-enclosure resonance frequency will not reproduce at constant level frequencies below this resonance frequency because of the restriction to cone motion. In consequence, it will minimize Doppler distortion. Conversely a loudspeaker having a prominent bass resonance in that portion of the frequency band containing high levels of bass signal, will introduce considerable f.i. distortion.

Test samples

The data obtained on three of the speakers is typical of the results obtained on many other units. They are fairly representative of the products available on the market but the choice was biased towards demonstrating the effect of radiator size on the frequency intermodulation distortions.

The first unit tested was a 12in (30.4cm) cone speaker covering the full audio range mounted in a ported enclosure having a volume of 3,200 cu. in. The second was an enclosure of 1498 cu. in using a single 7in (17.7cm) diameter unit to cover the full range. The third was a 4in (10.1cm) diameter unit in an enclosure of 400 cu, in.

All three systems were operated at an onaxis sound pressure level of 85dB at the carrier frequency of 3kHz. It is appreciated that this may be a little below the sound level at which the hi-fi enthusiast may operate his system but it enabled the performance of the three systems to be compared without grossly overloading the smaller units. In all cases the level of the lower frequency, f_1 , was varied over a range sufficient to confirm the expected relation between sound pressure level and distortion.

Test data

The first result was the finding that the amplitude of the f.i. sidebands as calculated from Equation 2, for the two smaller speakers, agreed almost exactly with the measured values. This suggested that subtantially all the distortion sidebands $(f_2 \pm f_1)$ introduced by these speakers were due to frequency intermodulation, the amplitude intermodulation sidebands being at least 20dB below the frequency intermodulation sidebands at the same frequencies. This was confirmed by further analysis of the 12in unit where the a.i. distortion just about equalled the f.i. distortion. Typical test data is quoted in the following table, the results applying to a sound pressure level of the f_1 component of 85dB at a frequency of 80Hz.

It is interesting to note that the amplitude

Intermodulation distortions in typical speaker systems

Amplitude (dB)	Frequency (dB)
-40	-16
-41	-25
-43	-41
	Amplitude (dB) -40 -41 -43

intermodulation components showed little dependence on cone diameter, not only in the three units used for the tests quoted above, but in a large number of other units tested. This rather suggests that this residual distortion is a basic property of the diaphragm material, but no further work has been carried out on this aspect of speaker performance.

Distortion on programme

In practice, frequency intermodulation takes place between all the components of a complex music signal rather than between one high frequency and one low frequency signal. Music has an extremely complex and continuously varying frequency spectrum so another technique was devised to show the amount of frequency intermodulation distortion developed during the playing of an ordinary programme. This technique takes advantage of the lack of dependence of the frequency intermodulation distortion on the level of the higher frequency carrier signal, f_2 .

A notch filter tuned to 3kHz is inserted at a convenient point in the amplifier system to remove the 3kHz components of the music, but at a later point in the chain, a 3kHz signal from a signal generator is inserted and adjusted to about 50% of the programme level.

A filter in the microphone pre-amplifier circuit removes this inserted signal and the 3kHz band from the reproduced signal and channels it through the limiter and discriminator and into a high speed chart recorder. With the filter and the limiter and discriminator out of circuit a chart record of the signal at the microphone output is obtained. The chart is then re-wound, the filter inserted, the record replayed and the



Fig. 4. Level of Doppler distortion for a well-known electrostatic loudspeaker.



output of the discriminator recorded below the upper music curve. Thus we obtain two curves showing music and f.i. distortions on the same chart. This arrangement has the subtle advantage that it also eliminates all the wow and flutter modulation present in the recordings where these were used as test material.

Typical results obtained on two speaker systems are shown in Fig. 3 as confirmation that the test system is not a limiting factor. Fig. 4 illustrates the results obtained on a well-known electrostatic loudspeaker. This particular unit has lower f.i. distortions than any other type so far tested.

Significance of Doppler

We now come to the significance of the Doppler distortions, a more contentious subject, ignoring the suggestion that it does not exist. The next line of defence is usually that the Doppler distortion cannot be heard and therefore is of no consequence. This is a sterile line even if it were well founded. Progress towards the perfect reproduction can only be achieved if each distortion is removed as it is identified. If we find a way to remove an inaudible distortion, it should be removed to help bring into prominence the remaining distortions and allow those to be deat with. As each distortion is removed those remaining become more obvious and at a later stage in the development, the distortion that was inaudible becomes of prime concern.

How should we assess the importance of Doppler? The existence of several schools

Fig. 5. Subjective thresholds for sinusoidal modulation of piano music.

of thought has led to much misunderstanding. If in a particular loudspeaker the sidebands due to Doppler are of greater amplitude than the sidebands at the same frequency due to amplitude modulation, it is almost certain that the Doppler sidebands are subjectively more significant. The amplitude of the Doppler sidebands as a percentage of the carrier can then be compared with the amplitude of the a.m. sidebands at the same frequency expressed in the same way. This is the technique we use to indicate the relative importance of the a.m. and f.m. sidebands. On this interpretation virtually all the sidebands are due to Doppler when using single loudspeakers having cone diameters below twelve inches. At this diameter the a.m. and f.m. sidebands are about equal, but in speakers having cone diameters above this value the a.m. distortions predominate.

We have earlier noted that the sidebands whether due to Doppler or amplitude intermodulation are only a small part of the total distortion spectrum and if judged on this basis it is possible to show that their presence is of no significance. There is, however, little evidence to suggest that the lower harmonics themselves are subjectively annoying, largely because they are harmonically related. This simple harmonic relation does not hold for any of the sum and difference components so they may be expected to be more annoying per per cent, than the harmonics. For these reasons it would seem unreasonable to expect the subjectively judged distortion to be indicated by com-

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paring the power in the Doppler sidebands to the total distortion power.

Yet other approaches are to express the amplitude of the f.m. sidebands as a percentage of the amplitude of the carrier frequency f_2 or to compare the total power in the two f.m. sidebands to the power in the carrier frequency f_2 . We feel that neither of these are as realistic as comparing the amplitude of the a.m. sidebands and Doppler sidebands at the same frequency.

An alternative way of assessing the importance is to compare the values of flutter that result from the Doppler process with the known data on the significance of flutter. The most comprehensive data is that due to Stott and Axon.² In a well conducted experiment they found that the "just audible" amount of flutter was around 1%, when reproducing piano music. Their data is reproduced in Fig. 5. On this basis all the loudspeakers used in our music recording tests would be adequate. I personally would reject this view, feeling that even a moderately experienced observer is about ten times more sensitive to flutter than Stott and Axon suggest. Thus on balance, I feel that comparing the amplitude of the f.m. and a.m. sidebands gives a true picture of the relative importance of the f.m. and a.m. sidebands.

Listening tests

Obtaining a decision by listening tests is unlikely to be a simple matter. Not only is the distortion power in the sidebands a small part of the total distortion but the f.m. and a.m. sidebands vary in different ways when the amplitude of the high frequency signal, changes. The Doppler component is not dependent upon the amplitude of the high frequencies being reproduced, whereas the amplitude intermodulation distortion is directly proportional to the amplitude of the higher frequencies. Thus the proportion of the f.m. and a.m. sidebands to the total sideband distortion power varies continuously as the music spectrum changes.

We have attempted to assess the importance by experiment but only with a small listening crew. The Doppler sidebands in the 3kHz region were removed by suitable filters and tape recorded. The a.m. sidebands were similarly obtained by filtering from the signal spectrum in a slightly overloaded amplifier and these were also tape recorded. The two sets of sidebands were then compared when reproduced at the same level. Both observers were agreed that the Doppler sidebands were subjectively more annoying than an equal percentage of the a.m. sidebands.

As a second check the performance of three loudspeakers having very similar frequency response and amplitude distortion figures but very different Doppler distortion figures were subjectively compared and again both observers decided that the speakers with the higher Doppler distortion values sounded rougher than the speaker with low Doppler distortion values. The result is more convincing because the decision about the sound quality was made before either of the observers knew that one of the speakers had much lower Doppler distortion values than the other two units.



Fig. 6. Level of Doppler distortion (a) three unit monitor with 3kHz cross-over frequency (b) three unit monitor with 2kHz crossover frequency.

Reduction of Doppler

On the basis of the test data presented earlier it appears necessary to have a bass radiator area not less than about 120-150 square inches in any single wide band loudspeaker.

It is often thought that the use of a two unit system is a complete solution but this is highly unlikely when changeover frequencies in the kHz region are used, a practice that is almost universal because of the extension of the frequency range that results. All the signal components below the changeover frequency are then Doppler modulated. If two separate units are used, each dealing with a fraction of the total spectrum the crossover must be in the 300-500Hz region to remove the relatively large low frequency signals from the high frequency unit.

This aspect is well illustrated by the charts in Fig. 6 representing two high quality (and high priced) speaker systems. In respect of Doppler distortion, it will be seen that neither system is significantly different to the single 12 inch unit. On comparing these results with those quoted earlier for the electrostatic speaker, the electrostatic unit distortions are about five times lower than the speaker system using a 3kHz cross-over.

Simple cross-over networks are of little value. A series capacitor achieved very little, for the current in the speaker unit is then directly proportional to frequency below the cross-over frequency and the h.f. unit tends to operate as a constant velocity device up to the changeover frequency. Any crossover network must have an attenuation of at least 12dB/octave below cross-over to effectively eliminate low frequency modulation of the high frequency speaker.

A three unit system can be a further step in the right direction if the lower changeover frequency is below about 500Hz but it is not automatically so. The acoustic impedance facing the middle range and high frequency unit diaphragm is modulated by the low frequencies reproduced by the larger low frequency speaker and in some systems this results in appreciable Doppler distortion.

As another alternative, horn loaded designs, can be adopted. The mouth area of the horn is then the effective area of the low frequency radiator. This is generally several hundred square inches and thus Doppler distortion is almost invariably very much lower than from any other type of speaker. This is one reason and possibly the major reason why horn loaded loudspeakers usually have a "cleaner sound" than any open diaphragm speaker system though this may be accompanied by a more restricted bass response. It is suggested that the achievement of low distortion is much more important in obtaining good sound quality than any extension of the frequency range below 70-100Hz.

Acknowledgement

I have to thank Mr W. R. Stevens of our laboratory who produced practically the whole of the experimental data. This article is the essence of a paper read at the September 1973 meeting of the Audio Engineering Society of America in New York.

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Communications 74

Brighton June 4 to 7

Users of radio and line communications systems will find the very latest techniques and equipment described and demonstrated at "Communications 74", a four-day conference and exhibition to be held at the Metropole Convention Centre, Brighton, Sussex. from June 4 to 7. Over 100 exhibitors will take part and 56 papers will be read. Some papers and exhibits will be of interest to communications equipment designers. Full details will be given next month but here is some advance information:

Exhibition. The 100 or more exhibitors will include many of the best-known names in the UK electronics industry, together with organizations such as Cable & Wireless, the Post Office, the MPT, the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office. The event is supported by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Electronic Engineering Association, and will cover the fields of data communications, civil mobile radio communications, fixed radio communications, defence communications, recording systems, test equipment and ancillary devices and equipment. For free exhibition tickets contact the organizers: ETV Cybernetics Ltd, BETA, 109 Kingsway, London WC2 6PU (telephone, 01-405 6233; cables, BUSQUIP LONDON WC2).

Conference. The 56 papers are to be presented by speakers from well-known companies, colleges, Government departments and other organizations in the field of communications. Overseas speakers will come from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Sweden and the USA. Organized by *Electronics Weekly* and *Wireless World*, the conference will be divided into four broad subject areas: June 4, data communications day; June 5, mobile communications day; June 6, fixed communications day; June 7, defence communications day. While the emphasis of the conference is on uses of communication systems, there will be four equipment design papers presented on each day, run in a separate morning session. For further information contact: Roger Woolnough, IPC Electrical-Electronic Press, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London SEI 9LU (telephone, 01-261 8590).

News of the Month

Anglo-French digital telecommunications pact

France and Britain are to collaborate in the development, manufacture and marketing of a digital telecommunications switching system. It will be based on a combination of the existing E10 digital switch, developed by the French company CIT-Alcatel and at present operated in the French public telephone network, and the system 250 stored programme confrol processor, developed by Plessey.

The importance of the digital switch is its use in the pulse code modulation system of digital transmission which has already been adopted by the British and French Post Offices as their future standard and which administrations all over the world are expected to turn to in the 1980s.

Development costs could be 5 to 10 million pounds, and the partners claim that the world market for their sort of product in the early 1980s will be around £500m a year—excluding the US, Japan and Germany. The system is code-named Felicite and the partners should be ready to take orders by the end of 1976.

Sonex versus Hi-Fidelity '74

Competition for the annual Sonex audio exhibition held this year at the Post House Hotel, Heathrow will have given the organizers food for thought. Thirty companies exhibited their products at the nearby well-organized Hi-Fidelity '74 exhibition in the Heathrow Hotel, as opposed to 35 at Sonex. Both exhibitions ran during the same period from March 27 to 31. The need for a new exhibition arose, according to the organizers, Pyser Britex (Swift) Ltd, through increasing annoyance expressed by manufacturers and distributors at the conditions under which they have been obliged to display their products at recent exhibitions-"It is impossible to mount a worth-while hi-fi exhibition where most of the products have to be displayed in small hotel bedrooms".

Attendance at Sonex was similar to that at the Hi-Fidelity '74 exhibition. Information on new products introduced at both shows will be presented in the next issue of *Wireless World*.

17% UK semiconductor growth predicted

40% for m.o.s. circuits

In predicting the growth of the UK semiconductor industry for 1974 at a "conservative" 17%, J. D. Hurley who is general manager of ITT Semiconductors said his forecast had been tempered because of recent increases in the price of gold (gold content can account for as much as 25% of device prices) and other raw materials. Despite the shortage of silicon wafers, due to the "lead" time of capital investment of two to three years following the 1971 recession, device prices had been held firm. Mr Hurley said in reviewing the semiconductor industry for 1973.

During that year there was a sharp growth in custom circuits (up by 100%), and a general semiconductor growth (28%) that exceeded ITT expectations (16%). A trend to m.o.s. and complex i.cs was confirmed, and "forward integration"—the semiconductor industry making complete calculators, watches, microcomputers and electronic cash registers became fact. EEC legislation came into operation, one effect of which is that duty must be paid on equipment if the majority of devices used are not European.

For ITT Semiconductors it was a year of record export growth, and of 55 new products, contributing to a 25-fold increase in m.o.s., television and custom bipolar i.cs and an overall sales increase of 60% (against a predicted 30%). It also marked record capital investment for ITT—in new diffusion and design areas and in new equipment, both for maskmaking and automated assembly. Threeinch silicon wafers can now be handled.

Other UK electronics industry predictions for 1974 include a 15% increase in value of semiconductor device usage in colour receivers, a 20% increase in telecommunications equipment and a 17% increase in the computer and industrial sectors. In the semiconductor industry, exports are expected to be up and imports down. A 40% growth in m.o.s. devices is anticipated with a doubling for silicongate and complementary devices-see histogram on this page. For themselves, ITT Foots Cray expect another year of high capital expenditure and a 47% sales increase, maintaining their capability in both m.o.s. and bipolar devices, and in both digital and analogue areas. Current m.o.s. involvement includes automotive products, "white" goods controls, industrial controls, telephone devices, display drivers for electronic voltmeters, cash registers, cipher machines, computers and calculators, as well as unspecified military systems.

Universal telephone microcircuit

A new m.o.s. l.s.i. microcircuit can provide the electronics for a line-powered, pushbutton telephone incorporating both access pause and re-dial facilities. It can be programmed to suit the impulse dialling speed, the mark-to-space ratio and the inter-digit pause of any national telephone system employing impulse dialling principles.



Forecast for UK m.o.s. market shows an overall 40% increase for 1974 over 1973. This masks a forecast 100% increase for silicon-gate and complementary devices. (Source: ITT Semiconductors.)

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The microcircuit, AY-5-1100 series, was developed by General Instrument Microelectronics at their Glenrothes, Scotland design centre and has a 20-digit capacity to provide adequate storage for future intercontinental STD numbers. A re dialling facility is provided in two of the versions. If a number is engaged, the caller merely presses the retain-button and replaces the receiver. Then when he picks up the phone, if the line is free, the number is set up ready to be re-dialled with one button depression. The microcircuit has been designed to work with a store-and-control chip to form a short number or "repertory" dialler.

The complete microcircuit sub-system. providing re-dialling facilities is available in an 18-lead d.i.l. package. Control pins are provided for externally adjusting the impulse rate, inter-digit pause and markspace ratio.

In the 12-lead TO8 version, impulse rate, inter-digit pause and mark-to-space ratio are all mask programmed to the customers's specification, and the access pause and re-dial facilities are omitted. This circuit arrangement provides the optimum packaging solution for applications where single number repertory dialling is not required. Versions with 14 and 16 leads complete the options open to the manufacturer.

Error-free underwater communication

What is believed to be the first telegraph error detection and correction equipment designed specifically to provide teleprinter to teleprinter communication under water has just been completed. The equipment, called Sonar 2010 by the Royal Navy, was designed by Marconi Communication Systems Ltd, in collaboration with the Admiralty Underwater Weapons Establishment for Royal Navy underwater tactical communications.

The programme to produce the type 2010 equipment started in 1967 with a series of studies in which research equipment was taken to sea on vessels of the Royal Navy to determine the techniques that could be best employed to overcome the many difficulties that face the underwater communicator. The problem is particularly acute in data transmission. which has to cope with the effects of fades. multipath, noise bursts and doppler shifts caused by the relative motion between communicating vessels.

From the early research trials, a combination of techniques was involved, and this was followed by the design and manufacture of prototype production equipment. A further series of sea trials took place and the equipment was evaluated under a variety of propagation conditions chosen to represent those found in service use.

The trials were highly successful and beat the target of 98 per cent error free copy under a wide range of propagation



180 million were sold in 1972 and RCA

expect the total to reach 300 million by

Production is scheduled to start this year and will cover a shipfitting programme of existing and new RN vessels over a period of years. Interest has also been expressed by NATO and Commonwealth countries.

Sensitive solid-state TV camera

A very sensitive solid-state television camera, capable of taking pictures by the glow of a candle has just been developed. The new television camera is wallet-sized and weighs less than a pound. Developed by General Electric in the United States, it can be adapted for use with an ordinary television set to produce exceptionally crisp images even when light levels are extremely low.

The camera light sensor is a chargeinjection solid state device-a quarterinch-square m.o.s. chip which performs the same job as the camera tube in conventional TV cameras. Since the miniature device can be fabricated with current solid-state manufacturing techniques, it could be manufactured for a fraction of the cost of a conventional television camera.

Each pair of 20.000 capacitors on the imager-chip functions as an individual light-sensing device. As light strikes the chip, each capacitor-pair collects a charge proportional to the light striking it. To process the electrical charge into a television picture, each pair of capacitors is individually addressed by scanning circuits to release its charge, "injecting" it

into the base of the chip. The imager can be scanned at speeds compatible with ordinary television sets. If a pair of capacitors should fail, the result is only one minute dark spot on the screen.

Circards award

The Circards idea has won recognition as the best innovation in IPC Business Press journals during 1973; Wireless World entered the scheme on behalf of the compilers-Jack Carruthers, John Evans, Joe Kinsler and Peter Williams, all of Paisley College of Technologywith the conviction that Circards was a unique innovation in electronics information publishing.

As well as providing performance graphs and data on tested circuits, both new and standard, Circards describe circuit operation. effects of component changes, how to modify circuits to extend performance, and give component values and suggestions for further reading. Articles published in the journal alert and introduce readers to the chosen topic. Format is chosen for ease of handling "at the bench".

Circards are available in sets of ten or 12 cards, at £1 per set (see p.100).

Optical reader captures data

A system based on an optical page reader has been developed by the Communications Branch of British Airways for use as an input device to their worldwide telegraph network. The airline is marketing the equipment in the UK under the name BARDATA.

An electric typewriter produces both the clearly human readable character and, immediately beneath it, a miniature bar code. By separating the need for the machine to read from a complicated character-comparison technique and allowing it to simply scan the bar code, it has been possible to produce an economic desk-top optical reader.

The technique, using a page reader by the Datatype Corporation of Miami, USA. was originally designed to provide an effective means of converting typed script into typeset for the newspaper industry. It can also be used as a computer input system and has application in the field of order entry and stock control.

Arthur Bulgin

A well-known personality in the British electronics industry, Arthur F. Bulgin, chairman of A. F. Bulgin & Co. Ltd, died at Westcliff, Essex, on March 29, aged 75 years. He was one of the founders in 1932 of the Radio & Electronic Component Manufacturers' Federation. His passing marks the end of 51 years in the industry.



Letters to the Editor

Sound radio compression

I realize that m.f. broadcasting is, by and large, a passé subject in this swinging quadraphonic era. Nevertheless, there must still be a lot of people about who, like myself, live in poor reception areas for v.h.f., listen to reasonable quality car radios, and have perforce to use m.f. when, as is becoming increasingly common, the complementary v.h.f. channels are devoted to different programmes.

In general I have no complaints about the quantity of signal received or of interference. What does get my goat is the apparently unnecessary and deliberate degradation of programme quality which results from the application of excessive degrees of audio compression at some transmitters.

Until a year or so ago the local prize for wooden sound was firmly held by the Brookmans Park Radio 4 transmitter but it has now passed to the most effective audio mangler I've heard for a long time, the Radio London transmitter at the same location. To hear the compressor of this one attacking the individual syllables of the words of slow speakers and rendering them almost unintelligible is an experience to forego.

I wonder if your erudite readership could provide me with a rationale for the practice and perhaps persuade me that, as a manifestation of "progress", it improves my listening lot.

C. Higham, Olney, Bucks.

Plug-in p.c. boards

As large users of professional audio equipment we have become increasingly concerned about one particular aspect of reliability. It has been our experience that a high proportion of faults are due to contact failure in switches, connectors, etc. Switches have improved considerably in recent years with the use of better contact material, but one area of persistent trouble is the plug-in printed circuit board.

This all seems to stem from the very widespread practice, with most manufac-

turers, of not fitting a male connector to the board, It is almost standard to form contact "fingers" on the edge of the board which are then "hard gold plated", and this then mates with various forms of edge connector. Without exception, we have had contact trouble with this type of board from every manufacturer whose products we use. In contrast to this we have been using p.c.bs in equipment that we have built ourselves, for about seven years, and each board is fitted with a male connector, usually the ISEP type made by ITT. To the best of our knowledge we have never had a failure using this system. The cost of a typical 25-way male connector is about 90p, and we consider this a small price to pay for reliability. The cost of a fault occurring on a recording session, with a studio full of musicians, can be very high. It is still worse if the fault is not a complete break and is not noticed until after the session. One further disadvantage of the board with integral connector is that, if you have the misfortune to drop a board on its connection edge, this can easily be broken. The whole board is then a write-off.

So manufacturers please note, you are indulging in dangerously false economy. Some of the p.c.bs can cost as much as £300 for a spare, and still they won't spend £1 or less on a male connector. One manufacturer of tape recorders even multiplies the madness by plugging one board into another which is itself plugged into a third board!

R. N. Goodman, The Decca Record Company Ltd, London, N.W.6.

The costs of engineering

Your editorial in the December 1973 issue on the "Costs of Engineering" calls for some comment. In the first place, the cost estimates made at the start of large engineering projects are usually made by engineers themselves and not, as you imply, imposed from without by authorities deficient in engineering competence. However, it is not my purpose to discuss this aspect of the problem in detail.

A more important matter which I wish to raise is to question the justification for basing policy in engineering project work so strictly on a purely "cost" basis as we have tended to do in the last two decades. To the accountancy minded managers by whom we have come to be dominated. "cost" has come to mean cost in the short term. Since accountants rarely look more than five years ahead, if as far, the cost of a project tends to be based entirely on the estimate of present-day costs or at best an extrapolation of these for a year or two ahead. It takes no account whatever of the real cost to the community as a whole over a much longer period extending often to several decades. An example which is currently only too

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obvious is the readiness with which we turned to oil for electricity generation and away from coal only ten or so years ago just because oil was then so much cheaper. Nor do the cost-accountants pay very much attention to the hidden or secondary costs of projects such as costs which may be attributable to polution of the environment.

It seems to me to be imperative to cease to regard short-term costs as so overwhelmingly important and instead to attempt to use value to the community in the longer term as the criterion by which to judge whether new engineering projects should go ahead or not. I accept that it is extremely difficult to arrive at credible estimates of value to the community but this is no excuse for not trying. William Ross, Malvern,

Worcs.

Model railway control system

I would like to reply to Mr Ganderton's criticisms (March, Letters) about my article "Model railway control system" published in the November 1973 issue.

Armature inertia after power is removed permits coasting for a few milliseconds as shown "typically" in Fig.1 of the article. The mechanism used does not affect the control system function; gear or worm and wheel mechanisms are both successful. The addition of a large flywheel increases the starting load of the motor and makes smooth "start from rest" more difficult than without a flywheel.

The "armature slot" (after removal of the armature) of some Hornby, now Hornby/Wrenn, mainframes can be sawn and filed out to take a ring field magnet and still retain the original bearings. A suitable magnet is obtainable from a "Monoperm" motor sold by Radio Control Supplies Ltd, 581 London Road, Isleworth, Middlesex. A 2-6-4 tank has been succesfully modified.

I agree that anyone lacking confidence in their skills with saw and file and electronics "should leave well alone".

Criticisms regarding Hornby ring field motors are best directed to Hornby & Co. Motors taking 2A under stalled conditions are quite suitable for the control system. The "about 6-watt" dissipation quoted in my article is for an eightcoach train traversing 3ft radius curves on a typical gradient (1:200) at full speed. Apparently, Mr Ganderton has overlooked the fact that it should not be necessary to apply full power to start a heavy train. On the train detailed above a 25% duty cycle was necessary, thus even under a 2A stall condition and with coach illumination the dissipation in Tr_{28} or Tr_{31} is typically (24.5-12)2 X 0.25=6.25 watts, using Trix 'Scotsman with Milliperm motor.

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3.05A in Fig.2 relates to the peak on-demand current at 29.5 volts expected of the power supply and is equal to a nine-coach train pulling away from stop with lights and whistle on, i.e. full load for this controller. The Peco Streamline track used to run the system on has given no trouble during 12 months of service. Track current, carrying capacity has been found adequate at 0.1 volts drop/yd/amp. Every possible track type has not been tried and tested; however, the track used by Mr Ganderton will probably be adequate provided sufficient connection points are used. Mr Ganderton's figure of 2.5A for 1.52mm c.s.a. copper conductor is surely incorrect; the IEE Regulations for Electrical Equipment, page 126, rate 1.5²mm c.s.a. copper conductor at 13A. Current collection limitations of the brush system and contact pressure of the wheels are a more likely source of trouble; however, no trouble has been experienced so far, standard brush gear being used.

Electronics for coach lighting fits inside the toilet or parcels compartment of most coaches, other coaches having room under the seats. The original coaches modified had ample room to house the electronics and still retain the original seats and passengers etc. A photo depicting the above, and another showing electronics for whistle and locomotive etc in a Trix 'Scotsman, was supplied with my article but not published.

I am well aware of the scales used by Trix and that I have accepted a compromise. However, eventually this is true of most modelling in my opinion, e.g. full size track is not nickel plated, nor do railway companies require 15 locos to handle 35 coaches!

The first* loco cost £3.50 to modify. the whistle a further £4 and each coach about £1.25. A controller cost about £12 to build, since a controller has to be provided anyway. The real extras are only the locomotive and coach costs, which, considering the extra realism derived from train operation, is, I feel, cheap. The system has been fitted without interfering with cab fittings or crew.

Mr Ganderton states that the system is "not a viable proposition" and that the same or better results can be obtained at lower cost by other electronic circuits. In the absence of such circuits I can only conclude that Mr Ganderton is doing a little pointless huffing and puffing.

P. Cowan.

*Not including motor modifications which may cost a further 50p-£1.

Modified automatic noise limiter

Having tried out most of the modifications to the Nelson-Jones tuner suggested in your columns during the past



two years, I was most interested in the automatic noise limiter described by P. Hinch (November 1973 issue) as his circuit offered a simple, add-on method of muting the high inter-station noise characteristic of these tuners.

I built and installed a noise limiter. It worked well except when the sensitivity of the noise sensing circuit was increased (by R_{19} on Mr Hinch's Fig.1) to remove all but the signals from the local transmitter. When a programme with high stereo content was being received, the limiter would intermittently mute on loud passages. Apparently some of the multiplexed stereo signal (up to 53kHz) was getting past the 3-pole high-pass filter used to separate broad-band noise from the broadcast signal.

The filter used by Mr Hinch is equivalent to three 100kHz single-pole filter sections cascaded, and has a rather gentle roll-off, as can be seen in curve (a) in the accompanying graph. By tolerating some pass-band ripple, this filter can be replaced by a Chebychev filter having a much sharper cut-off. Curve (b) shows the response of a 0.5dB ripple, 3-pole, Chebychev, having a similar (150kHz) -3dB frequency to Mr Hinch's design, but with the attenuation at 50kHz increased from 21dB to 35dB. This filter response can be obtained, using the tables given by M. Bronzite (W.W. March 1970, p.117), without changing the design of Mr Hinch's circuit, by making the following component value changes (referring to his Fig.1):

 C_1 33 pF silver mica or polystyrene:

- $R_6 = 1.8 k\Omega$
- R_{2} 33k Ω
- R_8 82k Ω All 5% carbon film.

I have also added a 22nF disc ceramic decoupling capacitor between +V and earth, close to Tr_1 . As C_1 has been halved, these modifications also reduce the loading on the tuner output in the 0-53kHz frequency range.

Using a noise limiter with these modifications, I have been able to cut off all but the local transmitter, and, even with R_{19} set for maximum sensitivity, there is no muting due to strong stereo signals.

M. L. G. Oldfield, Department of Engineering Science, Oxford University.

TV picture interference

I have read with interest D. C. Cooper's letter published in December concerning moving dots on his TV picture.

I, too, have noticed the appearance of similar dots on my monochrome u.h.f. set. first on BBC2 and then, a few months later, on BBC1. The ITV picture is, so far, unaffected. Unlike Mr Cooper's, though, my dots appear in a single line, slightly above the field test pulses, i.e. outside the picture area.

I cannot explain these dots, except that I think they cannot be anything to do with cable distribution systems as suggested by Mr Wood of the BBC, as my reception is direct from the Mendip transmitter. George Cavarra, Bristol.

I, too, have observed the moving pattern of dots on a television screen and supposed that they were connected with the BBC data transmission experiments. Unlike Mr Cooper's (December 1973 issue) observations, mine occurred on a monochrome receiver (BBC2 transmission) but at the extreme top of the picture. They are, I assume, only scen because the frame amplitude has deteriorated—the set is some ten years old. I have not observed it on a new colour set operating from the same aerial. Like Mr Cooper, I live in the Guildford area. J. G. Steel,

Guildford, Surrey.

Multimeters for blind students

Readers may be interested to hear of two d.c. multimeters for blind students built recently for schools in Sydney. The circuitry of the instruments, as shown, owes much to that of the aural-tactual meter described by Dr R. S. Maddever (*Wireless World*, January 1973).

As in Dr Maddever's circuit, Tr_2 drives a constant current of 0.1mA through R_7 which thus produces a variable reference voltage between 0 and 100mV. Now, if the reference voltage is appreciably greater than an applied input voltage, the output of amplifier A is positive and that of amplifier B is negative. Conversely, if the reference voltage is appreciably less than that applied to the input, the amplifier output polarities are reversed. Thus in both cases, either amplifier A or B in conjunction with

 $R_2 = 27k\Omega$

 $R_3 = 33k\Omega$



Circuit of multimeter for blind students (G. P. Roberts). Tr_1 and Tr_2 are silicon p-n-p types, e.g. BC177, BC187. D_5 is a 400mW, 4.3V zener diode, e.g. BZX79/C4V3, and other diodes are small signal silicon types, e.g. BA100, IN914A.

diodes D_6 or D_7 is able to sink the 3mA required to operate the "minisonalert" which produces an audible signal at 3500Hz. However, the network consisting of R_8 , R_9 and R_{10} is arranged so that for values of reference voltage very nearly equal to the input voltage, the outputs of both amplifiers go positive, producing an audible null. The width of the null-a compromise between accuracy and ease of setting of R_{τ} —is adjusted by means of R_8 . In practice, the high open loop gain of the Motorola 1458 dual op-amp ensures that the "edges" of the null are quite sharply defined, allowing the null width to be made as small as 0.2mV.

Where an attenuator raises the source impedance as seen by the input, the capacitor C_1 allows the instrument to be used to measure d.c. quantities containing moderate amounts of a.c. ripple. Although slowing the response time, this facility is useful when poorly regulated mains supplies are involved. The zener diode D_5 is included to further stabilize the current sources Tr_1 and Tr_2 against changes in battery voltage.

The instruments were built in diecast aluminium boxes measuring $8\frac{1}{2}$ in $\times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in \times 2in. A simple in-built attenuator provides push-button selection of three voltage ranges (1V, 10V and 100V) and three current ranges (10mA, 100mA and 1A). A standard linear wirewound potentiometer was used for R_7 and this, in conjunction with a large pointer and embossed scale of 2.2in radius, was found to be easily read to accuracies of within 2% of full scale. Front panels were made from plastic laminate board. Braille dots were made by pushing ordinary dress-making pins through tight fitting holes drilled in the board, and cutting off their stems flush with the other side. The panel was also engraved for the benefit of sighted teachers.

The materials and metalwork were provided by the School of Mathematics and Physics, Macquarie University, with help particularly from Mr Ingram Paterson.

G. P. Roberts, Cheltenham, N.S.W., Australia

Buying groups

May I through the courtesy of your columns bring to the attention of component retailers the way we are attempting to deal with an urgent problem which affects all of us—I refer to the shortage of electronic components.

There are many buying groups operating successfully in commodities ranging from groceries to television sets, but we believe we are the first (and perhaps the only one) dealing in electronic components. We are the poor relation of this industry and it is the manufacturer who can buy bigger quantity who comes first. "Group One" has been functioning for about three years, during which time it has prevented the total disappearance of many vital components by large purchases. To give us more buying power we would like to recruit more members. Would any electronic component retailer who is interested, please contact me at the address below. A. Sproxton,

Home Radio (Components) Etd, 234–240 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3HD.

Licences

I would like to point out for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications that the installation and use of wireless telegraphy apparatus in the UK is an offence contrary to the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 except under and in accordance with the terms of a licence issued by the Ministry. Furthermore it is an offence to manufacture and import apparatus for wireless telegraphy capable of operating on frequencies between 26.1-29.7MHz and 88-108MHz. Any enquiries should be sent direct to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Bridge Road, London SE18UA.

B. Griffin,

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, London, S.E.1.

Electronic piano design

Part 2-assembling circuits and case

by G. Cowie, B.Sc.

Most electronic keyboard instruments are insensitive to touch, the keys operating on/off switches. The touch-sensitive feature of string pianos is retained in this design, while still being simple and inexpensive to construct. It is small, portable and, with headphones, is ideal as a practice instrument. Basic design points and detailed circuits were given in part 1 (vol. 80 no. 1459 pages 8–13). This article gives constructional details of a case, together with guidance on component layout, assembly and wiring. Part 3 will describe how to test and tune the instrument, suggest an alternative tone generator using an m.o.s. master oscillator, and give some other optional circuit refinements.

The piano is designed so that the 33-in keyboard will just fit inside its case. There is a metal projection at the low end of the keyboard that must be sawn off flush with low C for the keyboard to fit. The keyboard base plate is used as a chassis for the keying circuitry, and the remaining circuitry is mounted in the upper rear of the case.

Before starting work, you should consider the finish for the case. As described, the case is suitable for finishing with paint, leatherette, or, like the prototype, with Formica. If a Formica-type finish is wanted then a lot of time can be saved by using a plastics-surfaced board for parts 2, 3, 5, 7 and possibly 11 (Fig. 9). Some dimensional changes will be necessary, and parts 4, 5 and 6 must be shortened to 33.1in. Exposed wood edges may be painted. Wood parts are fastened together by glueing and dowelling or nailing.

Start by cutting the wood parts to shape, using a rasp if necessary to trim them to exact size. Parts 2 have notches cut in them to fit parts 4 and 6. Parts 2 should be identical, and this can be checked by clamping them together. It is important that the internal width from front to back is a fraction over 33in (say 33.1in) otherwise the keyboard will not fit. This dimension is identical to the length of part 3.

The case is deeper from front to back than strictly necessary, and if you do not intend to put anything other than the circuitry described inside the case, you can reduce the front-back dimension by up to three inches. This involves shortening parts 1, 2 and 7.

Case assembly

Begin assembly by gluing and panelpinning part 1 to part 4. Add parts 2, and dowel part 4 to parts 2. Next attach part 6 with glue and dowels. (Dowelling should be done by drilling one of the parts to be joined and then, holding the parts in their final position, passing the drill through the hole already drilled to drill the mating part to about an inch deep. Spread glue on the dowel and the mating surfaces, place the parts together and knock the dowel fully in.)

Part 3 rests on top of part 1 and is fixed to parts 2 by dowelling. Tack parts 3 and 1 together with a few panel pins and fill up the crack with glue and strips of wood. Part 3 has one edge planed off at 45°, and the opposing edge is also planed at 45° to fit against part 1.

Part 5, the back panel, should be left slightly oversize until fixed in place. It is more convenient to drill the holes, with a bit and brace, before fixing. Three holes of $\frac{3}{3}$ -in dia. and two holes for a mains connector and fuse are required, their positions not being critical. Apply glue to mating surfaces and secure the part 5 with panel pins.





Notes on components

The pieces of Veroboard for the key circuits boards are $17 \times 5in$, as advertised by various suppliers, but which does not appear in Vero's current lists. If the board specified cannot be obtained, a slightly longer and narrower board could be used instead.

The resistors used on the keying boards are a-watt because larger resistors would be more difficult to fit in the space available. Similarly the diodes should not be bigger than the Do-7 size, which is about 0.3-in long excluding leads. "Untested" silicon signal diodes were used in the prototype, and proved to be satisfactory. They are very cheap, but it is necessary to test them with an ohmmeter, both to weed out a few faulty diodes from the batch and also to determine the polarity of each diode. The ohmmeter will give a reading characteristic of a silicon junction when its red lead is applied to the cathode (+) end the diode and its black lead to the other end.

"Untested" transistors may be used to save money but in my experience they are less satisfactory than cheap diodes. It is to be expected that nearly all the batch will be usable for something, but that half will be leaky with a tendency to deteriorate. They should be tested as thoroughly as possible to ensure that the transistors used have a gain of greater than 40 at 100mA and a leakage of less than a microamp or so. The transistors specified are a medium-power type, and low-power transistors should not be substituted in the key circuits. The dividers and op-amps must be good devices, not rejects. They can be bought nowadays for little more than 55p and 25p each, respectively. In the remainder of the circuitry the choice of semiconductor devices is not critical.

Capacitance values for the key circuit capacitors C1, C2 should be adhered to as closely as possible. Voltage ratings are low to minimize bulk and cost, but are not critical provided that C_1 is 10V or more and C_2 is 6V or more. Tantalum capacitors are preferred as the tolerance on capacitance values is closer. On the other hand it is not known what effect the better power factor of the tantalum capacitors (without series resistors) will have on the life of contacts S_1 and the tantalum capacitors are more expensive. Aluminium electrolytic capacitors performed adequately in practice. Essentially the question is one of initial cost versus reliability.

The operational amplifier used for the summing preamplifier should be a 741 as this type is internally compensated. As no compensation is needed for the oscillator op-amps the slightly cheaper 709 type can be used instead. Lead connections for several packages were given in part 1. At each step in the assembly check that the parts are squared up. If a rear panel of plastics-coated board is used, cut out a neat aperture about 3×4 in before assembly. Subsequently the aperture can be closed by a connector panel fixed to the inner surface of part 5. When the lower case assembly is completed set it aside for the glue to harden.

The keyboard is bolted to two metal channel sections 13, which in turn are screwed to the hinged upper half of the case. In their normal position, parts 13 rest on part 1, touching parts 2, so that they fix the height of the keyboard and its position; ideally 0.5 in clear of parts 2.

Parts 13 are fixed to the vertical front part of the keyboard chassis by two brackets of 1-in angle, 14-in long. For each fixing, drill two holes in the keyboard chassis and two in parts 13, the last-mentioned being countersunk. A section of flange of each part 13 must be cut away over a length of three inches to clear the top and bottom C actuator slots and the keyswitch mounting area behind. (To do this with an ordinary hacksaw cut and file away a portion of the flange so that the hacksaw blade can be got into position to cut away the remaining scrap section with a longitudinal cut.) Bolt the parts 13 in place, with the nuts inside, and place the whole assembly on a flat surface. Make sure that parts 13 are square to the keyboard, and drill at each end of the keyboard, near the springs, a 6BA-clearance hole so that the chassis plate can be bolted to part 13 flange.

Place the assembly inside the lower case to check that it fits without jamming, and decide on the precise position of the keyboard with respect to part 3. If the keyboard is to be well forward, as in the prototype, then the edge of part 3 must be relieved so that the white keys do not strike it. (It is a good idea to put small packing pieces underneath parts 13 as then it will not matter so much if swarf and shavings collect there.)

On looking at the top of the keyboard,

there is an obvious transition between the seen and unseen parts of the black eyes. It is important to know the exact horizontal distance (about 11in) between this point and part 6. This dimension, less 0.05-in clearance, less the hinge thickness, less the thickness of any laminate finish on part 11, is the front-to-back depth of the upper case assembly. If a mistake is made then either the black keys will strike on part 11 or there will be an unsightly gap.

Lay the parts of the upper case, 7-12, together to check that they form a structure of the right size when fitted together. Parts 8 rest on parts 13, and part 7 placed on top should be flush with the top of the lower case. Make sure the gap between pieces 12 and 13 is sufficient to clear the keyboard.

Glue and nail parts 7 and 9 together, and add parts 8, dowelling it to part 9 and dowelling or nailing them to part 7. Plane the front edge of part 12 to a 30° angle and fix it to parts 8 with dowels. Add part 15 with dowels to give some central support to piece 12. Leave this assembly to dry. Check that the upper case assembly fits into the lower case without jamming or leaving an excessive gap at the sides.

Part 11 is thin so that the mains on/off switch and any extra controls can be mounted on it. Fit it by relieving the front of part 7 at 30° or by relieving part 11. leaving some gap to be filled or concealed; the lower edge of part 11 should be relieved at 30° on the inner side. Use glasspaper or a sanding disc to smooth down the mating surfaces for part 11. Attach part 11 with glue and a few panel pins. Use the parts 10, suitably shaped, and some glue to fill and strengthen the join between parts 7 and 11. Put the assembly aside to dry upside-down so that parts 10 will stay in place. (At this stage the upper and lower case halves may be painted on the inner surfaces.)

Attach two lengths of $\frac{1}{2}$ -in or $\frac{5}{6}$ -in square wood (parts 16 and 17, Fig. 10) to the keyboard chassis plate to act as bearers for the key circuit boards, which are to be $\frac{7}{8}$ to lin



Footswitch for sustain action is simply a push-button switch embedded in a wood block.

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below the main plate. Fix part 16 by woodscrews to the front vertical plate. which must be drilled for four fixing holes. Secure part 17 by woodscrews at its ends to parts 13; a countersunk hole is required in each part 13. Drill the main plate in two places by the springs, about one-third and twothirds of the length of the board, so that packing pieces can be fixed in place to stiffen part 17. The keys scratch easily so protect them during drilling.

The desired surface finish is most conveniently applied to the outside of the upper and lower case at this stage. In the prototype all visible surfaces are white Formica except for the inner surfaces of parts 2 and the top edge of part 3, which are black.

Various accessories are next fitted to the case. Fit the three jack sockets, the mains connector socket, and the mains fuseholder to the rear panel. Next fit the mains switch and indicator lamp to the front panel. Attach the piano hinge to the upper case, with the axis rod above the top surface. Arrange the upper case in the fully open position. supported on a block, and screw the hinge to the lower case. This is trickier than it seems and it is best to put in two small screws first so that the assembly can be closed to check whether it is all lined up and fits properly. If all is well then the hinge may be securely fastened by 1/2-in countersunk-head brass screws.

Screw parts 13 to parts 8, thereby fixing the keyboard into the upper part of the case. Serew an eyelet into each side of the case, inside, next to part 3, and provide a similar fixing on the keyboard chassis. Permanently attach two restraining cords to hold the upper case open in a suitable position for working inside. Check that the assembly still closes. Fit the case carrying handle and add metal ties between parts 3 and I at the handle location. Two large selftapping screws are used to hold the case closed. Turn the case upside-down and drill two holes near the front of the case in such a position that they pass through the flange of part 13. These holes must be of the root diameter of the self-tapping screw. Next drill the wood to the clearance diameter. grease the screws and screw them into place by repeatedly making one turn in and half a turn out.

Circuit assembly

In one sense the assembly work is very simple as there are only five major circuits involved, none of which has more than a dozen components. There is, on the other hand, a great deal of work to be done, and very boring and repetitious work at that. To give some idea of the time involved, fitting 60 components on boards will take $l\frac{1}{4}$ to $l\frac{1}{2}$ hours from unpacking to checking the soldered joints, and putting in the 183 key wires will take at least a day. Clean soldering and general neatness are very important, greatly increasing the chances that the circuitry will work as intended.

Make up the power supply, oscillators, and amplifiers first, so they can then be used to test the key circuits.

No detailed assembly is shown for the power supply as it is a simple wired unit and the original was made from junk. For safety Fig. 10. Key circuit boards are supported by parts 16. fixed to front Morelli keyboard plate, and 17, screwed at sides. (This would be seen if parts 2 and 13 were transparent.)

Fig. 11. Keyswitch as bought is normallyopen (top) and is simply modified to normally-closed (bottom).

Fig. 12. View of underside of keyboard (with lid raised) shows key circuit boards with dividers and, beneath, keyswitches and actuators.

it is best to make the power supply on a metal baseplate and completely enclose it in an earthed metal case. Mount the +5-V regulator on a small heatsink of $\frac{1}{16}$ -in thick aluminium forming the lid of the case. As the case of the regulator forms its 0-V connection it should be isolated from the heatsink with the standard kit of mica washer etc, so that the 0-V line can be floated or grounded as necessary. Make sure that no live terminal is within $\frac{1}{4}$ -in-of anything on the low-voltage side. Earth any metal parts of the on/off switch showing on the front



panel, as well as the metal case of the power supply. Mount the unit in the lower lefthand part of the case.

Keyswitch modification

The keyswitches as bought are of the triple normally-open type, not normally-closed as required. This is of no consequence as it is a simple matter to hook the bent wire of each pair around the straight wire, so that the switch becomes normally-closed (Fig. 11). It is less easy to arrange for the contacts to open in the correct sequence. In the proto-



type this was done by mounting the keyswitches and then bending both wires of all three pairs until the desired result was achieved. As the differential between S_1 and S_2 opening is fairly critical, and there are 366 wires in all, this was tedious. I therefore devised a procedure which is not only less laborious but should give more satisfactory results.

Under each key is a plastics actuator rod capped by a rubber boot which is designed to push the straight key switch wires (see Figs 12 & 13). A notch 0.1-in deep must be effectively produced at one side of each pusher, and the simplest way of achieving this seems to be to stick a tiny square of plastics sheet, not to the rubber boot, but to the two wires that must move first (Fig. 13). This should be 0.10-in (2.5-mm) thick, and about 0.15-in (4-mm) square. One side of the keyswitches has a large rectangular notch which exposes the wires. This is the visible side, and the opposite side is the mounting side. The plastics squares of course go on the mounting side of the wires.

Simplest way to attach them is to apply a little glue with a matchstick to the ends of the two wires, touch them on the square to pick it up, adjust it carefully for position, and leave the assembly upside-down to set. Contact adhesive should stick most materials: alternatively a solvent adhesive or Araldite could be used.

The keyswitches must be mounted on a spacing piece (part 18, Fig. 10) stuck to the main plate of the keyboard chassis. The thickness of the spacer must be determined before the keyswitches are mounted. Find a piece of packing which will support one of the keyswitches in an operating position so that the rubber actuator is almost touching the plastics pad. This should ensure that when the key is pressed, the actuator opens first two contacts almost together, and the third before reaching the end of the travel (the differential is 0.10in). A piece or pieces of packing, preferably of plastics, two inches wide and in all 33-in long are stuck down with contact adhesive, and the keyswitches are stuck to this with contact adhesive. They should be as far back as possible consistent with correct operation; and they can be placed with sufficient accuracy by hand.

Oscillator assembly

The twelve oscillators (Fig. 14) are identical except for the tuning resistors (see Table 3 in part 1). The frequencies used depend on whether a C-C or F-F keyboard is chosen: 2093 to 1108Hz and 1397 to 739.8Hz respectively.

The layout shown in Fig. 15 is designed to enable six oscillators and six buffer transistors to be assembled on a $2\frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times 0.1$ in pitch Veroboard. In the prototype two of these were mounted on plug-in carriers so that the oscillators could be removed easily for tuning and repairs, but to make things as simple as possible I recommend that all twelve oscillators and the buffer transistors be mounted on a piece of Veroboard of at least $5 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in which is wired for plugging into a suitable edge connector with a minimum of 16 ways (that is twelve outputs, three power lines, and a space for a polarizing/locating key).





Fig. 14. Output from the oscillators (one of twelve shown) is taken from R_{205} to feed Tr_{201} drivers, which can be arranged as in Fig. 15. Board wiring is the same whichever package the 709 or 741 i.e. comes in. (Arrangement of R_{201} is meant to show the outer leads of the component connected together, with the wiper connected to track 5.)

glue pads to contacts as shown.

Use the layout given, placing the oscillators in four rows of three. The order is not important, but it is helpful if they are arranged on the board in strict alphabetical order. Break the copper tracks where shown with a Vero spot face cutter or drill. All tracks should be broken between oscillators except the three power lines, and the four tracks under the i.c. must also be broken. Wire resistor R_{205} to the buffer transistor.

The integrated circuits may be either the 709 or the 741; see part 1 for pin connections. Note that the twelfth or eighth pin is not connected in the 741 but is internally connected in the 709 and so no connection must be made to it. Either skeleton or button-type perset pots may be used, the skeleton type being easier to mount. Resistors R_{201} to R_{204} should be 2%, $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt types, and the capacitors polystyrene or polyester. The component leads may be left a little long to stand them off the board. The presets form a small part only of the tuning resistance so their stability is less important.

Mount the edge-connector of the oscilators in the upper right part of the case, and arrange a clip to hold the free end of the oscillator board.

Amplifier assembly

The summing preamplifier and headphone amplifier (Figs 16 & 17) can both be assembled on a $2\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ in piece of Veroboard, of 0.1-in pitch, and arranged to plug into a suitable edge-connector. An internal connection must be made between R_{404} and the input of the headphone amplifier, and the external connections are the three power lines, two inputs, low level output, and headphone output. A 741 op-amp must be used in this circuit.

Fig. 15. Twelve top-octave driver transistors (Tr_{201} , six shown) can be arranged to enable six oscillators and drivers to be accommodated on $2\frac{1}{2} \times Sin$ Veroboard or, preferably, all twelve on a 5 × Sin board.

Mount the edge-connector for this board in the upper right part of the case, together with a 12-way tagstrip.

Wire the three power lines to the tagstrip, using fairly thick stranded wire (24/0.2mm). Connect a lead for the +8-V line from the power supply to the tagstrip, and check that none of the wires can be trapped when the case is closed. Mount the dropper resistors R_{506} and R_{507} on the tagstrip. Mount the components R_{501-3} , D_{501} , $Tr_{501/2}$ on the tagstrip, making connections to the power lines. Two of the tags are also terminals for the bias and damper lines. Wire the amplifier edge-connector to the two output sockets. The low-level socket should be

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wired conventionally, but the headphone socket should be a three-way socket with the 0-V line wired to the middle contact and the signal to the inner contact, so that normal connection is made to a two-way jack, but the coils of stereo headphones are connected in series. Wire the sustain pedal connection from the tagstrip to the sustain pedal socket. Connect power lines to the oscillator and amplifier edge-connectors from the tagstrip. If the power supply uses a 9-volt transformer then R_{507} must be about 18 ohms to drop the raw direct voltage to the 8V required for the switch busbar, and for a 6.3-volt transformer it must be about 3 ohms.

Key circuit assembly

The key circuits are assembled on two large pieces of 0.1-in pitch Veroboard, one $5 \times$ 15in, the other, containing the odd key circuit, $5 \times 16\frac{1}{2}$ in. The overall length is calculated to be just less than the distance between parts 13 flanges. The 12 groups of key circuits are identical, and the 61 key circuits are themselves identical save for the connections of diode D_1 . The assembly details are given in Fig. 18 which shows the divider and the top key circuit. The whole group should be exactly five inches long, the pitch of the key circuits being 0.9in.

Mark each circuit board with two rows of three $2\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ in rectangles, using a scriber. Mark within these the areas occupied by the key circuits. Each occupies a width of eight holes, the boundaries between key circuits falling on the ninth rows of holes where several tracks must be cut to electrically isolate the circuits. Fit the divider i.cs in their correct positions, at the top of each rectangle and one hole from the left-hand edge. Use Veroboard pins or some cheaper equivalent to attach the key wires, three to each key circuit.

At the assembly is quite a large operation, much time will be saved if it is approached methodically, for instance by taking 61 components (e.g. R_3), bending all the leads, fitting to the board, bending the leads flush with the tracking, clipping the leads to 0. lin from hole, and then soldering.

Each group of key circuits must be assigned to a letter, C, A etc. and the resistors R_4 fitted, following Table 3. The lowest values go with the highest pitch notes. and so the key circuit nearest the divider will have R_4 of 1k, 1.2k or 1.5k Ω . The positions of diodes D_1 vary; in the no. 1 key circuit the cathode goes to track 1 (pin 14 of i.c.); in no. 2 to track 3 (pin 12); in no. 3 to track 6 (pin 9); in no. 4 to track 7 (pin 8) and in no. 5 to track 4 (pin 11).

The lowest pitch key circuit takes the form of a small 13th letter-group, in physical arrangement. It fits on the extra $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in of board next to the C letter-group. The divider could be almost any t.t.l. flipflop but 1 recommend a 7493, mounted on a dual in-line socket so that it can be changed easily. The connections are easily deduced: pin 14 is wired to track 4 of preceeding stage, D_1 cathode goes to track 3.

Lines for +5-V, 0-V, output, and collector busbars run the length of each board. Three tracks should be commoned for the ground busbar to reduce the resistance. Fig. 16. Summing preamplifier and headphone amplifier (Fig. 17) can be included on the same board.



ov

-5V

+5V

Fig. 17. Headphone amplifier, together with R_{404} , could be omitted if an external amplifier is used.



Parts list

Fig. 18. Layout of one

divider and key circuit.

Outputs from divider

position) key circuits

alongside that shown:

(Thirteenth divider

feeds only one key

circuit). Two large

boards bear 61 key

related to any one

divider, uppermost

circuits and 13 dividers.

In the five key circuits

wire of D1 connects to

different i.c. terminals

or tracks (see text).

suggested in part 3.

to this board is

A minor modification

feed four similar

(except for D1

- 1 Plywood $34\frac{1}{2} \times 16 \times \frac{1}{4}$ in
- 2 Plywood* $18 \times 6 \times \frac{1}{2}$ in (two)
- 3 Ply or hardwood* $33 \times 3\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ in
- 4 Deal $34\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ in
- 5 Ply or hardboard* $34\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{16}$ in
- 6 Ply or hardwood $34\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ in
- 7 Plywood* $33 \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3}$ in
- 8 Plywood or deal $10 \times 3\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$ in (two)
- 9 Deal $33 \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$ in
- 10 Deal 15 x 3 x 3 in (two)
- 11 Ply or hardboard $33 \times 3 \times \frac{3}{16}$ in
- 12 Deal 33 x 1 x 1 in
- 13 Aluminium or steel channel 13 × 2 × §in (two)
- 14 Piano hinge 33in
- 15 Plywood or deal $4 \times 1\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ in
- 16 Deal $31 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ in (or $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6}$ in)
- 17 Deal 33 x $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ in 18 Plastics spacer 33 × 2in (see "keyswitch modification") Dowel rod $2m \times \frac{1}{4}$ in Aluminium angle bracket $2\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3}$ in Deal block to house sustain switch $6\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ in Perspex 4 sq in $\times 0.1$ in thick Carrying handle and bolts Aluminium plate 16-in for heatsink TO-3 insulator kit Metal box for power supply Deal for stand: $26 \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ in (four) 16×6× 1/2 in (two) $34 \times 5 \times \frac{1}{3}$ in *Parts 2, 3, 5 & 7 could alternatively be Contiboard

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"switch" busbar being soldered and insulated first.



Fig. 20. Simple stand for the piano can be made from deal.

Key wiring

Six wires about 1-in long extend from the back of each keyswitch (Fig. 19). Bend down the extreme right-hand wire of each switch (looking from the rear), and solder to them a bare tinned-copper wire of about 22 s.w.g. Inspect this work and cover the wire (switch busbar) with a length of adhesive tape. Do the same for the third wire from the right (left, as shown), and cover the damper busbar with tape. The third, bias, busbar should be of slightly thicker wire, and is soldered to the gold wires as shown. The bias contacts are the pair that open last. Bend the remaining gold wires upwards and outwards to make it easier to connect the flex wires.

To mount the two key circuit boards, use six small nails, bent over at 45°, in part 17, on which the boards rest. To hold the boards while the case is closed, drill four holes in part 16 to take retaining screws with large washers, which overlap the boards.

Key wiring must be done with miniature stranded flex wire. Connect a wire to the switch contact, top C. Pass the wire through the gap between part 17 and the keyboard plate and lead it along part 17, then up through a right angle towards the connecting point-the pin on track 11 of the top C key circuit. Similarly, connect the damper wire to the pin on track 2, and the bias wire to the pin on track 18. Place cable ties at intervals along part 17 to hold the wires and tie wires together to the board in groups of six where they pass up over the lower edge of the boards.

When several keys have been wired up check whether the system works. Wire the bias, switch, and damper busbars to the tagstrip, and connect the ground 0-V line to each key circuit board. Check that the power supply delivers the correct voltages and connect the +5-V and collector busbar lines to both boards. Connect oscillator signal lines for the letter-groups in use, plug in headphones, connect the output busbar to the amplifiers, temporarily ground the positive input of the summing preamplifier, plug in the oscillators and amplifiers, and switch on. If the wired keys do not work look for faults as detailed later (part 3).

The remaining key wires may be put in when you are satisfied that the system is more or less in working order. The wires should be cut a little long, leaving about two inches of slack.

Tuning details together with some optional circuits will be given in the third and final article.

H.F. Predictions April

Seasonal trend and low solar activity combine to produce FOTs and LUFs which give a restricted choice of time and frequency for reliable day to day communication. The charts show that the restriction is severe when both ends of a circuit are in the northern hemisphere. A magnetic disturbance observed at the end

of February is almost certain to recur at about 27-day intervals over the next six months: April 16 to 26 is the next expected appearance.



Guglielmo Marconi

An appraisal, on the centenary of his birth

by W. J. Baker

Guglielmo Marconi, who was born on April 25, 100 years ago, was a manysided genius who, in his lifetime, probably achieved more honours, including the Nobel Peace Prize, than any man before or since. For all that, there was a curious thread which ran through his life; it was rather as if some daemon, while -providing him with pre-eminence, always contrived to give it a bitter-sweet quality; a denial of the full satisfaction that was his goal.

If genius is a matter of acquiring the right genes, then Marconi collected his by a circuitous route. The story of his birth has all the ingredients of a romantic novel¹. It begins when one Andrew Jameson, together with his brothers, emigrated from Scotland to Ireland, where Andrew founded a distillery (even teetotal readers will have heard of Jameson's Irish whiskey). Concurrently he founded a family of four daughters, the menage being a moated manor. Daphne Castle of Enniscorthy. One of these girls, Annie Jameson, was not only beautiful but possessed a singing voice of a quality which brought her an offer to appear at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

At this juncture papa put his foot firmly down. No daughter of his was going to appear on the stage; however, by way of recompense he offered Annie the prospect of going to Italy, to stay with some banker friends of the family in Bologna, where she might study *bel canto*. So, half a loaf being better than nothing, Annie went.

Andrew Jameson's attempt at family diplomacy boomeranged with painful accuracy. For his Italian friends had a son-in-law; a widower with one child. Annie was still a minor; the widower was seventeen years her senior, but they fell in love and Annie returned to Ireland to ask permission to marry. This time papa jumped with both feet. Allow his daughter, a mere child, to marry an unknown Italian, almost old enough to be her father, and of a different religious persuasion? Unthinkable! Annie was kept at home and forbidden to communicate with this foreigner. But somehow she did and as soon as she became legally of age she fled via England to France, where at Boulogne she was met by her suitor. On April 16. 1864, Annie Jameson was

married to Giuseppe Marconi. whereupon the pair returned to Bologna. A year later their first child, Alfonso, was born. Almost as if reluctant to enter the scene, a further nine years elapsed before their second child arrived. on April 25, 1874. So, Guglielmo Marconi's maternal grandfather was a Scot and I am rather surprised that they have not made more of this north of the border.

In spite of the foregoing, this is not a biography of Marconi. Those readers who are sufficiently interested will already have read at least one of the several which are around 1.2. Those who regard history as bunk would only be bored by a potted account of what he accomplished. All I propose to do is to select one or two of the bitter-sweet episodes referred to earlier, by way of illustration of what I meant. So no more of the boyhood of Marconi, except to say that his father was a wellto-do landowner who was intent that his sons should eventually manage his estates; to this end his younger son's interest in physics was ruthlessly discouraged and the electrical apparatus he constructed was destroyed whenever it was discovered. It is a miracle that Marconi survived this antagonism and that he did is due to his

obdurate refusal to give in and to the secret encouragement and devotion of his mother, Annie Jameson Marconi. Nor must we forget Alfonso, nine years older than his brother, but helping him whenever possible; Alfonso was Marconi's first assistant, the hewer of wood and the drawer of water; never making the headlines, just staying quietly in the background and, after father Giuseppe's death, looking after their mother while Guglielmo was pursuing his endless quest for improvements to wireless telegraphy. Both Annie Marconi and Alfonso are buried in Highgate cemetery, Guglielmo in Italy.

Throughout his life Guglielmo Marconi was a loyal Italian, and his first act, after bringing his wireless telegraphy system to a workable state, was to offer it, unprotected by patents, to the Italian P. and T. Understandably, they were not particularly interested, for what had this odd contraption, with its slow speed and mere mile or so of range, got to offer against their inland telegraph system? It was a mistake; had it been offered to the Italian Navy the reaction would doubtless have been different, for at sea wireless telegraphy had no competitor. But, stung by the P. and T's indifference, the Marconi family



Marconi (left) and his assistant Kemp with apparatus

(Giuseppe had grudgingly come around by this time) decided that England, where they had influential relatives, was the place to send Guglielmo. Britain, too, had the most powerful navy and the greatest mercantile fleet in the world—both potentially valuable customers.

So, Marconi, at the age of 21, came to London-accompanied by his mother. They arrived in February 1896 and until recently it has always been assumed that he made his first patent application on June 2 of that year. Recently however, it has been discovered that the initial application was on March 5, 1896 (Application No. 5028/96). Provisional protection was granted on March 19—almost three months earlier than supposed and soon after his arrival in England.

Who was the first to "invent" wireless telegraphy? The controversy, over the years, has unfortunately become political rather than technical, involving rival ideologies in terms of prestige and doing nothing to enhance the prestige of either Prof. A. S. Popov or Guglielmo Marconi. It is futile for many reasons. One is that, prior to the critical year 1895, about 20 "inventions" for signalling through space without wires had been made, at least two of which employed Hertzian waves. Another is that, had neither man ever lived, wireless telegraphy would have come almost as quickly. It is also futile because the partisans adopt differing rules and standards and because certain acts of faith are called for.

Prof. Oliver Lodge was the first man to demonstrate publicly that the tube of metal filings that he christened the coherer could be actuated by Hertzian waves. The coherer consisted in essentials of a glass tube containing two metal contacts between which metal filings were loosely packed to give a high resistance. It had been known for years that when a Leyden jar (capacitor) was discharged in the vicinity of the tube the filings cohered and formed virtually a shortcircuit, but it was generally accepted (except perhaps by Prof. E. Branly of France, who did much useful experimental work) that it was the light of the spark discharge that operated the device.

Lodge, in two lectures given in 1894, showed otherwise and presented to the world a much more sensitive means of detecting the presence of Hertzian waves than had been known before. But the Branly type of coherer, as used by Lodge. needed to be tapped to restore it to the high-resistance state after the advent of every wavetrain and it could never be relied upon to return to the same resistance value after successive taps. As a consequence its sensitivity varied pro rata: thus, although, when carefully adjusted in the laboratory, it would unerringly trigger on the first half-cycle of a wavetrain and thus detect its presence, the subsequent decohering tap might well restore it to a comparacively insensitive state. It follows therefore that when used to receive telegraphy it would miss a large proportion of the dots and dashes.

24. Southampton Buildings. Chancery Lone. W.C. Learen 19th 1896. TELEPHONE Nº 65050. -----CARPMAEL . LONDON 4. Marconi Esp. ne application N. 502846 dated 5th March 1896. for "Surprove ments in telegraphy "and in apparatus therefor."_ Dear Sir We beg to inform you that the provisional specification lodged with the above application has been urcepted by the Comptroller of Patents, and provisional

Part of a letter from Marconi's patent agents, dated March 5, 1896, informing him of the acceptance of the provisional specification for "Improvements in telegraphy and apparatus therefor".

Between the mere initial registration of the presence of Hertzian waves and the faithful following of telegraphy signals there was a great gulf fixed, as both Marconi and Popov were to find out. Both constructed apparatus deriving from Lodge's demonstration equipment, including the electric bell type of tapper, and both ran into trouble. We know that Marconi had to produce several designs of coherer and experimented with 300-400 different types of metallic filings mixtures, as well as introducing important modifications to the electrical circuits of the tapper before a recognizable message could be received. Popov, too, had the same trouble apparently for he, too, completely redesigned the Branly coherer and modified the tapper.

Back now to Popov versus Marconi. As far as can be gathered the Russian claim is *not* that on May 7, 1895 Popov actually demonstrated wireless telegraphy but that the apparatus he used for a lecture on that occasion was capable of sending and receiving telegraphic signals had he so wished. During the lecture he did, in fact, show how the coherer could be used as a detector of thunderstorms but as electrical storms do not occur to order even for eminent scientists he used a Hertzian transmitter to simulate natural disturbances. A short antenna was used at the coherer receiver.

That Popov had telegraphy in mind around this date is shown by a newspaper report a week later, which stated that the importance of his experiments lay in their theoretical application to signalling over distances without wires. His own description of his apparatus was published in January 1896 and this also expresses the hope that "when further perfected" the apparatus might be used for signalling over a distance.

Undeniably, Popov was the first to demonstrate in public a practical use for the coherer. Undeniably, he was the first to publish an account of his apparatus. Undeniably, on paper, the equipment had an inherent capability for achieving short-range wireless telegraphy. The critical question is-was Popov's coherer sufficiently good to follow every dot and dash of a Morse message? We do not know, neither are we ever likely to now. The only clues are that the minutes of the meeting make no mention of telegraphy and both the newspaper and Popov's own published article refer to it in the future tense.

One point that further confuses the issue is that Popov was a civilian scientist in the employ of the Russian Navy and therefore subject to security restrictions. It is not impossible therefore that even before May 7, 1895 Popov had demonstrated telegraphy to Russian Navy officials in the privacy of his laboratory and was restrained from doing more than hint at its possibility in print. But this is pure speculation, unsupported, as far as I am aware, by any shred of evidence. All that can be said is that if military security robbed Popov of his rightful credit then it did so in vain, for in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904 the Russian Navy was using German wireless equipment while Marconi stations were installed on land.

As for Marconi, his early work was done in secrecy because he had no patent protection. We have his own unsupported statement that he first had the idea of wireless telegraphy "in the fall of 1894 or possibly early in 1895" and that he began his experiments in the early summer of 1895. By September of that year he was demonstrating ranges of one to two miles to close friends (including a Mr William Miller of Dublin). The first official document is the patent application of March 5, 1896, and this was followed by the complete specification on June 2. In that month Marconi was giving demonstrations to William Preece. Engineer-in-Chief of the British Post Office and to War Office officials, all of whom were impressed. Preece gave a public lecture on the demonstrations in September, 1896 and a more complete account at Toynbee Hall, London in December. Technical details of Marconi's apparatus were not published until some time after, for obvious reasons of commercial security. What is certain is that Marconi registered the world's first patent for wireless telegraphy; that he formed the world's first radio company (1897) and the world's first radio factory (1898). As to whether Popov or Marconi sent the first experimental wireless messagewell, the partisans will probably always go out by the same door which they came in. There are indications that neither of them was the first, but as the other candidates also demand acts of faith as a condition of acceptance, perhaps we had better leave them alone.

Another bitter-sweet triumph for Marconi was the famous transatlantic experiment of 1901: The details of this episode are well known, so suffice it to say that Marconi claimed that on December 12 and 13, 1901, he and his assistant, G. S. Kemp. operating a temporary receiving station on a cliff-top at St. John's Newfoundland, received signals in the form of the three dots of the letter S in Morse code, sent by prearangement from Marconi's new high power transmitter at Poldhu, Cornwall.

It would be idle to pretend that this news did not provoke controversy at the time and indeed there is an informed school of thought today that maintains that the signals did not get across. It is not difficult to see why, quite apart from the facts that no witnesses were present and that no further listening watches were possible because of the intervention of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, which had the message-carrying monopoly in the area. The transmitter at Poldhu was experiencing teething troubles; it was



Marconi demonstrated his ultra-short-wave radio telephone system in Italy between Santa Margherita Ligore and Levanto, a distance of 25 miles, on November 19, 1931.

feeding an antenna which had been built in one week (to replace the original, destroyed in a gale). The radiated frequency according to Marconi himself was about 800kHz (366 metres) and therefore quite unsuitable for daylight operation over long distances, although no one was aware of this at the time. The radiated power is not known with certainty but figures lying between 3kW and 12kW have been given.

At the receiving end the antenna consisted of 400ft of wire, elevated at one end by a kite, which was flapping madly up and down in an Atlantic gale. The receiver itself consisted of what was subsequently known as an Italian Navy selfrestoring coherer with a telephone earpiece and a Leclanché cell in circuit with it, the whole being connected between the antenna and earth, either directly or via a jigger or h.f. transformer (it is not known which particular approach was in use at the times the signals were stated to have been heard). No tuned circuits were employed and no amplification was possible.

The self-restoring "coherer" consisted in essentials of a glass tube with threaded rod inserted from either end. One rod terminated in a small cylindrical block of iron, the other in a similar block of carbon. The two were screwed into close proximity and a tiny blob of mercury inserted between them. For many years I have maintained a belief that this was not a coherer at all, but a solid-state rectifier with an oxide film on the mercury's surface providing the rectifying agency. One of these devices has recently been examined by Dr G. L. Grisdale of the Marconi Research Laboratories who has confirmed that this is so. The specimen on test was shown to have a rectifying performance (at best) of about 7dB below that of a modern germanium point-contact rectifier.

It has frequently been said that a couple of months later Marconi vindicated his claim by his tests aboard the liner Philadelphia. For these he used an antenna slung between two 150ft masts and connected to one of his new tuned receivers which embodied a Marconi coherer and a Morse inker. Sailing westward he received messages at a distance of 1551 miles from Poldhu, and isolated Morse letters at 2099 miles. This however is not a vindication of actual reception of signals at St. John's, for the ranges quoted were obtained at night. Daylight reception ceased at 700 miles (roughly one-third of the Poldhu-St. John's distance). The Italian Navy device was also tried on the Philadelphia but the range obtained was never better than 700 miles. What the Philadelphia experiment did do was to prove conclusively that Marconi was right in his basic belief that signals could cross the Atlantic, albeit (at the frequency employed) only over a night path. (It has always seemed to me to be curious that this was the first time the "night effect" had been noted, considering the number of stations which were by then in operation.) On this occasion Marconi made no mistake; the messages and signals were automatically recorded on paper tape and duly witnessed by ship's officers.

So, to return to the Newfoundland experiment, it will be seen that the doubting Thomas school of thought has a strong case. Let us now consider the other side of the coin. Marconi would have been insane to have pretended that he heard the signals, as exposure would inevitably follow. Furthermore, for him to have done so would have been completely out of character, for he was always meticulous in his public statements.

Various suggestions have been made in attempts to account for the mystery. Some have believed that he genuinely mistook static discharges for the three dots of the letter S. This is hardly likely; both Marconi and Kemp were far too experienced to have been thus deceived. particularly as the Poldhu signals were machine-sent and precisely timed. Others have theorized that in all good faith he imagined he heard what he so badly wanted to hear-a common human experience. Others have invoked earth currents in order to explain the matter. Another suggestion has been that he heard faint signals but that these emanated from nearer at hand than Poldhu, and it is true that one or two transatlantic liners were by this time wireless-equipped (the Lucania for one was within feasible range). There were also a few shore stations in the USA and Canada and at least one amateur

Now, after over 70 years of speculation comes a startling theory, namely that Marconi did, after all, receive the Poldhu signals; not, as he believed, on the fundamental frequency, but via a harmonic at h.f. This is a theory which, to my knowledge. has been privately expounded for some years by Mr G. R. M. Garratt. formerly of the Science Museum and a well-known authority on telecommunications history. I believe that detailed calculations are being made and that there is some reason to suppose that these will vindicate Mr Garratt's ingenious and far-seeing suggestions. I understand that the matter has been discussed in a paper at the joint IEE/IERE colloquium "The Marconi Heritage" on April 25.

The bitter-sweet transatlantic episode had at least one major effect on Guglielmo Marconi. His summary treatment by the cable company turned him into an implacable foe of all such organizations and with obsessive energy he flung himself into the problems of providing a commercially viable transatlantic service, often working a sixteen-hour day and pouring money into his projects at a rate which alarmed his fellow directors. Initial failure gave way to limited success. Invention followed invention, the magnetic detector, the directional antenna and the rotary disc discharger being only three of many. Not until 1907 was a fully reliable day and night two-way transatlantic service possible, by which time the wavelength used had gone from 366 metres to 6000 metres and the power from the original 3-12kW to 300kW. For this purpose a giant station had been built at Clifden, Ireland and was communicating with the refurbished Glace Bay station in Canada³.

Even then Marconi was denied complete satisfaction, for the bulk of the traffic was between London and New York. The messages were transferred across the Atlantic quickly enough but the link between Glace Bay and New York was 800 miles of landline which was permanently overloaded. occasioning up to 12 hours' delay. Not until 1914 when Caernarvon (transmitting) and Towyn (receiving) stations were built in Wales and equivalent stations at Tuckerton and New Brunswick in New Jersey State in the USA could the wireless service compete on equal terms with the cables. Triumph at last for Marconi? Not so. Almost immediately, war broke out and the two British stations came under the control, first, of the Post Office and then of the Admiralty.

For some years prior to this, Marconi had enlarged his anti-cable horizons to the whole world. His ambition now was toown and operate a chain of high-power stations that would link the major areas of the (then) mighty British Empire. Time after time the prospects brightened in this respect, only to cloud over again by reason of Government prevarication or change. Not until 1924 did anything definite emerge and even then it was only half a loaf. An Empire Chain was decided upon, but a Government Committee decided that the Post Office should own and operate all stations in Britain which communicated with the Empire (with a partial exception in the case of Canada) while private enterprise should be free to develop communication between Britain and foreign countries. This by no means was what Marconi had worked for through the years, but at least he already held contracts for building giant long-wave high power stations in Australia and South Africa, with more in prospect in other countries.

Behind the scenes the Marconi-Franklin h.f. beam system was being developed, with promise that world communication could be achieved at a fraction of the size, power and cost of the mighty longwave stations. The system was not, however, fully engineered and had not been tried on a long-term basis. Should it be kept secret and the long-wave stations proceeded with? Or should Marconi inform everyone concerned and give them the choice? It was a difficult decision, but in the event the customers were told and elected for the untried beam system. So, for once, Marconi got something approximating to his desire. He built all the beam stations in Britain and throughout the world: they were successful beyond all expectations and, to Marconi's intense satisfaction, cast gloom over the world's cable interests. It seemed that at last Marconi had achieved total success.

But no. His daemon intervened again in the form of the British and Dominion governments, who, as a belt-and-braces insurance in the event of war, wanted to retain the cables. Pressure was brought to bear to bring about a merger between the various cable interests and the Marconi Company. In this, Marconi's seemed to hold all the aces, because by 1927 the cable companies had already lost half of their traffic to the beam system. Incredibly, in view of this, a merger was agreed in which the Cable Group held 56.25% of the voting power and the Marconi Company 43.75%.

Thus in April 1929 Cable and Wireless Ltd came into being; the Marconi Company ceased to be directly involved in message-carrying as a source of revenue and thereafter was limited to the areas of research, invention, development and manufacture. The lifelong ambition of Guglielmo Marconi, which began on the cliff-top in Newfoundland, was over almost as soon as he had achieved it.

A lesser man would have retired from the scene but Marconi went on to pioneer microwave communications and, towards the end of his life, despite recurring heart attacks, was feverishly working on marine navigation by microwaves and investigations into what eventually became known as radar.

Marconi was from first to last a patriotic Italian subject. He was a member of the Senate and, admiring the way in which Mussolini had so successfully raised the standard of living in Italy in his early years of office, had become a member of the Fascist party in 1923, although never a politically active one. On the other hand, he had a deep affection for England, which had given him his opportunity and where much of his work was done.

Then, at last, the daemon relented. On July 20, 1937, yet another heart attack occurred, this time fatal. At least he had been spared the mental crucifixion which his divided loyalties would inevitably have brought when Italy and Britain went to war.

A strange man; almost, one would think, unknowable. Those who were his chosen assistants served him with fanatical loyalty, yet he was always "Mr Marconi". He could be ruthless; he could be extremely kind, but always aloof. In his later years he seemed to be in some fear of his life; at Marconi House, London, he would never share the lift with someone he did not know personally. He seldom was without an innocent-looking walking stick which concealed a rapier. This, however, might have some justification. Mentally deranged people not infrequently wrote to him complaining that "his" radio waves were the cause of their disturbance.

He sincerely believed that the true role of radio communication was to save lives; although he spoke little of it there can be no doubt that the steadily increasing part that the technology was playing in weapons of destruction brought periods of self-examination, as for instance on the occasion when he was elected Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University, he remarked to the Principal "Have I done the world good or have I added a menace?"

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Colour TV tube developments

New types recently on the market

The Trinitron tube developed by Sony was the first colour television receiver tube to break away substantially from the established design technique of the shadowmask tube which came out in the 1950s (see WW, December 1971, pp. 589-592). It was characterized by cathodes arranged in a horizontal line instead of in triangular or "delta" formation, a single electron gun instead of three separate guns, and an "aperture grille" and vertically striped colour phosphors instead of the circularhole shadow-mask and dot pattern of colour phosphors. Since then a variety of new tubes, all using horizontal "in-line" cathodes, vertically slotted masks and vertical phosphor strips, have been put on the market, and several have already appeared in television receivers.

One of the first in this category was the RCA "Precision in line" tube mentioned in our 1972 review of sets (WW, October 1972, pp. 466-467). The aim of this development has been a colour tube display system, for small receivers, which can operate without any dynamic convergence correction circuitry. The absence of this circuitry, plus the absence of convergence coils on the tube neck and the fact that there is no need for lengthy adjustments by the set manufacturers or service technicians, has made this tube very attractive to set makers. It is a thinnecked type with a 90° deflection angle, available initially in a 20-in size. A 110° angle would have reduced the depth of receivers but the convergence simplification could only be achieved with a 90° tube. However, shorter electron guns and the omission of convergence coils has enabled the neck to be shortened by 46mm relative to that of a conventional 90° colour tube.

In the electron gun structure of the RCA tube all three grids are provided by a common component and this makes for a small beam-to-beam spacing of 5mm. For static convergence correction four small ferrite magnets act on the outer two beams with respect to the middle one. The red beam is placed in the uncritical middle position, the idea being that red errors have the greatest visual effect in the picture. The



Example of the 110° Toshiba tube, showing the neck components fitted.

shadow mask does not have continuous vertical slots like the Trinitron but each slot has horizontal bridges across it to give mechanical stability to the mask. Overall this design has the advantages that the screen can be filled with more phosphor material than is possible with the conventional dot structure; it avoids the loss of brightness at picture corners that has to be traded in the shadow-mask tube for correction of geometry distortion; and the effect of external magnetic fields, such as the Earth's, is greatly reduced.

Dynamic convergence corrections are provided by the deflection coils themselves, by virtue of the geometry of their windings and the way these are laid on the tube envelope relative to the electron beams. The deflection yoke, known as a "precision static toroid", is formed by wires laid into grooves in plastic rings cemented to a toroidal core and this, in turn, is cemented permanently to the glass envelope by the tube manufacturers to provide an integrated tube and deflection assembly. Convergence adjustments are made by the manufacturers before cementing, the yoke being moved horizontally and vertically to cause the blue and green rasters to converge with the red raster.

This RCA tube is made under licence by a number of European television tube manufacturers.



Comparison of the neck components required for a 27-inch conventional shadow-mask tube (right) and for an RCA "Precision in line" tube (left).

The latest European developed tube in the new category is a 26-inch 110° type, one of a family designated 20AX, which has been recently announced by the Philips group-in the UK by Mullard Ltd. This has horizontal in-line electron guns, a vertical-stripe screen and a shadowmask with staggered vertical slots. This slotted mask has about the same transparency to the electron beams as the conventional round-hole shadow mask. The electron gun is reduced in length and allows the tube neck to be about 2cm shorter than that of the 110° conventional "delta" gun tubes so far released by Mullard. The 20AX family has an internal magnetic shield, a 6.3V, 0.75A heater and a "quick vision" cathode by which a picture appears on the receiver screen only 5 seconds after switching on the set (normally there is a 15-second wait).

The tube design is described as "selfconverging", which means that part of the dynamic convergence is performed by the geometry of the deflection coils and part by an additional small winding on the deflection voke through which suitable currents are paseed. There is no pre-alignment of the yoke and tube by the manufacturer, as with the RCA tube. the tube and yoke being supplied as separate components. Electronic circuitry required is reduced from the normal dynamic convergence correction printed-circuit board to a small p.c. board on which the tolerances of the convergence correction are adjusted by seven independent variable components. The maximum tolerance adjustment required in this system amounts to a 2mm shift on the screen. Mullard have demonstrated a receiver using the system,



Structure of the slotted mask of the Toshiba colour tubes. Note the hexagonal cross-section of the horizontal bridges between slots.

which, they claim, eliminates 70-100 dynamic convergence components and nine related adjustments. It is expected that the 26-inch tube will appear in "luxury" sets in Germany during 1975 while a smaller version will be available in 1976.

Just before the Mullard announcement the Japanese manufacturer Toshiba showed in London a whole range of tubes with inline guns and vertically structured masks and screens as described above: 14-inch and 16-inch tubes with 90° deflection angles; and 16-inch,18-inch, 20-inch and 22-inch tubes with 110° deflection angles.

These tubes use a slotted mask (see diagram of structure) and the screen has vertical stripes of red, green and blue phosphors with black stripes between them. The electron beam landing on the screen is wider than the pho-phor stripe of each colour (in the horizontal direction) and, of course, is shorter than the stripe in the vertical direction. This provides what the makers call a "hybrid landing system" and is claimed to give superior



Dynamic convergence correction circuitry for a 110° Toshiba tube used in a PAL television receiver. Neck components are shown on the right.

Wireless World, April 1974

uniformity of white on the screen and insensitivity of the beam to registration the phosphor in the vertical with direction. These characteristics allow greater freedom in the design of the deflection yoke than is possible with the conventional shadow-mask tube and allow a simplification in the dynamic convergence adjustment procedure. In the 90° tubes the number of controls required for dynamic convergence adjustment is only two. Convergence circuitry for a 110° tube used in a PAL receiver is shown in the diagram. The mask and screen structure of the Toshiba tube is claimed to give a 60% increase in brightness and 10% increase in contrast relative to a conventional shadow-mask tube with a tinted faceplate. It is also claimed to give higher resolution-about 50% more information than is possible with a conventional shadow-mask tube.

Incidentally, Sony introduced a 114° version of their Trinitron last year and this is used in an 18-inch colour television set, KV1810UB, put on the British market early in 1974 by Sony (UK) Ltd. The extra wide angle design is claimed to improve picture quality by giving sharper electron beam focusing and more accurate beam landing on the phosphors.

Sixty Years Ago

Radio-navigation

The use of radio signals as an aid to navigation was brought to public prominence by the development of equipment such as GEE and OBOE during World War II. Aircraft and ships were equipped with navigational radio long before this, of course, but it may come as rather a surprise to read the following extract, taken from our issue of April. 1913. The Government referred to is presumably the French one.

"Wireless lighthouses are being established by the Government along the French coast, the first two being located on islands near the approach to the port of Brest. Two more are planned for the port of Havre. The lighthouses will operate by a system almost exactly like that of ordinary lighthouses, except that, instead of light waves, wireless waves will give the information to approaching ships. The great advantage of such lighthouses is that fog will not hinder their efficiency. When a ship approaches Brest, and is within thirty miles of the islands, wireless signals will be picked up. If the ship has an instrument to detect the direction from which the signals come it will be easy to apply the information; but even if it does not have such an instrument the receipt of any signals at all will be of assistance, for the exact positions of the two lighthouses are known, and a comparison of the strength of the signals from each will help in estimating the ship's position. Each station, like an ordinary lighthouse, will send out flashes every few seconds, together with special signals to indicate which station is sending. The sending apparatus is automatic, and is constructed so that it will run for thirty hours without any attention."

Photographic development timer

Multiple unit giving elapsed-time indication and an audible warning

by R. G. Wicker

A multiple timer is described which has been built as an aid to photographic paper development. Six independent timers are used which may be started at random intervals as each sheet of exposed paper is placed in the developer. A "time elapsed" meter is included which indicates the state of the timer which will next reach its terminal condition. An audible signal is given each time a timer reaches the end of its period and an indicator light is included which shows when all six timers are simultaneously in use.

When printing on photograpic paper from a negative the paper is first exposed to the light in an enlarger or contact printer for a period of the order of seconds. Several timers have been described, using both analogue and digital techniques^{1,2} which indicate or control this time to a degree of accuracy which is more than adequate for the required purpose. (Errors of up to 10% are difficult to detect in the final print.)

After exposure the paper is then placed in a developer where it must remain for approximately two minutes-the normal time for black and white prints with developer at 20°C. Various clockwork clocks are available to time this period but these suffer from a number of drawbacks. The clock not only needs starting but has to be stopped and reset manually. The face, although luminous, is not always easy to see in the near darkness of the darkroom. When several prints are produced from one negative they become available at 15 or 20sec intervals and the operator must then remember the time intervals at which prints are introduced into the dish to know when to remove them. It is obviously less timeconsuming to develop several prints concurrently than to develop them individually.

It was to overcome these limitations of clockwork timers that the unit was developed and constructed. The timer has proved useful and accurate and the maximum capacity of six simultaneous prints has been found to be just about right. When working alone it is unusual to use more than four timers at a time; with an assistant one does occasionally get up to six. To date the need for a greater number has not been felt.

Circuit operation

Both digital and analogue timers were considered. Whilst it is fully realised that greater accuracy can be achieved by digital



Fig. 1. Block diagram of the timer.

methods using, for example, the 50Hz mains as a master clock, the complexity needed to realise a multiple timer using these techniques, the cost involved in the digital timers and a suitable elapsed time indicator led one to adopt an analogue technique, shown in block form in Fig. I. Using a ramp generator as the basic timer circuit means that a simple meter indicator, which gives a continuous and ergonomically satisfactory elapsed time indicator, can be used, although integrated logic circuits are used in the control section of the unit.

An input switch is used to start each timer in turn, the input signal being steered to the appropriate timer. An "end of time" detector produces a reset pulse which resets each timer to zero in turn. The reset pulse is applied to a multivibrator via a pulse lengthener to produce an audible "bleep" and warn the operator should he not be paying attention to the meter at that particular time.

Timer. As mentioned, a ramp generator is used as the basic timer circuit, shown in more detail in Fig 2.

The basic requirements of the timer were considered to be

(a) to produce a time delay of $2\min \pm 5\sec$.



Fig. 2. Ramp generator circuit diagram. C_1 is 1μ F and $R_1 11M\Omega$ in the instrument described, which runs up in 2min.

(b) to "run" or "standby" in accordance with the state of a logic input,

(c) to provide a linear output at suitably low impedance to drive a 1mA meter, and (d) to be simple and economical to build. Economics in terms of home construction tend to be affected to some extent by availability of components through retail channels. A Miller type circuit was chosen for the ramp generator and a "Darlington pair" followed by an emitter follower using three high gain transistors gave the desired result. The timing capacitor C_1 should be of low leakage and should be a paper or polycarbonate type. Including the emitter follower in the feedback loop helps to linearize the circuit. Field effect transistors, with their high input impedance, are an attractive proposition where long time constants are required but their higher cost is not warranted in this case.

The circuit, as shown, yields a linear ramp with an amplitude of at least 90% of the supply voltage with a run up time of 2min. having a $C_1 R_1$ product of some 10farad.ohms. One microfarad capacitors were used in the prototype but larger values could be used to advantage especially if longer periods are required, for example in some colour processes, where 4min development is needed. R_1 was adjusted for each timer to give the required period. The accuracy with which R_1 is adjusted is a matter of choice but the prototype was adjusted to give an accuracy of + 2secs and this has been maintained over a period of several months. No temperature cycling has been attempted as the timer is used in the near constant temperature environment of a darkroom.

When a logic "1" is applied to the anode of D_1 , Tr_1 and Tr_2 are switched hard on and Tr_3 is consequently switched off, the output voltage at the cathode of D_2 being $0\dot{V}$.

When a logic "0" is applied to the input, C_1 charges through R_1 , the charge being slowed down and linearized by Miller effect. After a period of time the output voltage reaches approximately rail voltage, Tr_1 and Tr_2 being cut off and Tr_3 hard on. The input diode D_1 prevents C_1 charging via the low output impedance of the controlling logic whilst D_2 is used to combine the output of all the ramp generators to the metering circuit input. The meter will thus only "see" the ramp generator output with the highest voltage, i.e. the one with the least time to run.

Meter and detector. The metering circuit consists simply of a suitable meter and

multiplier adjusted to read 10V f.s.d. (if a 12V supply rail is used). The scale would ideally be calibrated in minutes and seconds but in practice a linear scale reading 0 to 1 or 0 to 100 is quite acceptable, as percentage of time rather than absolute time is a satisfactory indication. The sensitivity of the meter is only of secondary importance as long as the output of the ramp generators is not loaded to the point of reducing the voltage gain of the generators and thus affecting the ramp time. A 1mA meter is suitable as of course would be any meter of greater sensitivity.

The detector consists of a Schmitt trigger circuit driving a reset pulse generator. As the slew rate at the input to the detector is only of the order of 80mV per second a ramp amplifier has to be introduced to improve the accuracy of the detector. The bias of this amplifier is adjusted so that only the positive end of the ramp is amplified and adjustment of this bias is a convenient point at which the firing point of the trigger circuit may be set. The hysteresis of the Schmitt is kept small to enable the circuit to differenliate between two nearly equal voltages as may occur when two timers have been started within a few seconds of each other.

The slew rate at the input to the trigger may be further increased by including a suitable zener diode in the feed to the amplifier base but in practice this has not proved necessary.

The reset pulse generator is coupled to the trigger circuit via a small value capacitor and produces the necessary short, t.t.l.-compatible reset pulse for the control logic. Fig. 3 shows the circuit of this part of the system.

Control logic. To control the ramp generators in the required manner the control logic must produce six independent outputs, all at logic "1" (+3.4V). Means must be provided for each logic output, in turn, to be switched to a logic "0" (0.4V) on command from a unique input switch. The outputs must, similarly, revert to their standby condition (logic "1") in the correct order at the command of the reset pulses.

Three dual JK flip-flops are used to provide the necessary outputs and twoinput NAND gates and inverters are used to steer the reset pulses, as in Fig. 4. One pair of two-input NAND gates are used to produce fully compatible input pulses from the input switch control. This circuit not only produces a pulse with correct levels, rise time and fall time, but also ensures that contact bounce does not cause spurious starting of several timers simultaneously.

All the flip-flops have their K inputs grounded and their J inputs connected to the Q output of the previous flip-flop except for the first flip-flop in the chain which has its J input connected to + 5V. Initially, with all the timers in "standby", all the flip-flops are in the reset state with the Q outputs at "O" and the \overline{Q} outputs to the timers at "1".

The first operation of the switch will set the tirst flip-flop as only this one has a "1" on its J input. On release of the switch the "1" is transferred to the output of the flip-flop thus enabling timer No.1 to start its run up and changing the J input of flip-flop No.2 from "0" to "1". Each subsequent operation of the input switch will set the next flip-flop allowing the associated timer to run up and presetting the following flip-flop. When the sixth and last flip-flop is set, its Q output, now at "1", switches on the indicator transistor and lights up the "FULL" indicator lamp.

The first requirement of the control logic is thus satisfied. Resetting of the flip-flops in sequence presents a more complex problem when using a single reset pulse generator for all the timers. Whereas the output of a JK flip-flop changes at the end of a clock pulse it is reset at the start of a pulse applied to the reset terminal. Thus a reset pulse of any duration long enough to ensure resetting under the most adverse conditions would be gated through to subsequent flip-flops and thus reset more than one flip-flop at a time. Gates can be delayed by including a suitable CR network in either the input or output terminal but under these conditions they may become unstable at the transition point and produce what amounts to a train of pulses at the output; an undesirable state of affairs, which can be prevented by using an inverter as the delay element.

The reset pulse is therefore applied directly to the first flip-flop (which will always be the first to be reset) and via gates to all the following flip-flops. The gates are controlled by the state of the preceding flip-flop via inverters which act to delay this "enabling input" to the gates until after the termination of the reset pulse. In this way the gate which drives the reset input of flip-flop "n" will not be enabled by the changing output of flipflop "n-1" until several microseconds after this change has occurred, by which time the reset pulse which reset flip-flop "n-1" has finished.



Fig. 3. Meter and trigger circuit. Meter can be 1mA or less.


3 % SN7404N

Fig. 4. The control logic circuit.

Thus each flip-flop and its associated timer is reset in turn in the same order as they were set by the input switch.

Audible warning. At the time when the Schmitt trigger changes state, when a timer has reached its terminal point before being reset, the collector of Tr_5 in Fig. 3 switches from near OV to approximately +6V. This voltage is applied to the base of Tr₉ in Fig. 5, which in turn switches on to charge C_4 . The charge thus stored then discharges as base current for Tr_{10} , one half of a multivibrator operating at a few kHz. Tr_9 and C_4 thus lengthen the short reset pulse so that the audible warning multivibrator may oscillate long enough for the signal to be heard. A short "bleep" is thus produced by the device each time a timer has reached its final time and is reset.

Construction and setting up

No particular precautions are necessary in construction other than those appertaining to the use of integrated circuits. The lead lengths around the ramp generators should be kept as short as possible as there is considerable power gain between the input and output terminals of this part of the unit. No parasitic oscillations were experienced using this circuit configuration but some of the early stages of development showed that this particular problem should be kept in mind. The prototype was constructed on two boards, one with the timers and the other all the other parts of the system. The power supply should provide 12V at about 5mA and 5V at about 300mA for the logic circuits. No supply stabilisation has been found necessary, the only precaution being to ensure that the supply line to the t.t.l. circuits does not exceed the manufacturers' recommendations. Fig. 6 shows a suitable circuit.

On the author's unit a small yellow plastic box, of a type well known to most photographers. was mounted in front of and below the meter face. The inside of this box was lined with chrome-plated



Fig. 5. Circuit to give audible warning of a timer reaching its preset condition.



Fig. 6. Power supply.

adhesive tape and two 6V. 40 mA bulbs were mounted within the box. These bulbs are connected in parallel across the 5V supply line, thus illuminating the meter face and incidentally providing sufficient light to obviate the use of a separate darkroom lamp.

For setting up purposes R_1 , the timing resistor, should be replaced or shunted by a resistor of about $220k\Omega$ —a wait of 2min each time one wishes to check the operation of the reset or logic soon becomes tedious. Next, each timer should be checked individually to see that the output voltage reaches at least 11V (reset generator not connected). With the meter multiplier adjusted so that the meter reads 10V full scale the Schmitt threshold should

now be adjusted until the reset pulse is generated just as the meter reaches full scale. When, and only when, one is satisfied that all is in order does one begin to adjust R_1 to give the correct time. With the threshold set as above it was found that R_1 was typically $I \parallel M\Omega$ ($C_1 = I \mu F$) and the value was made up of suitable resistors until the desired degree of accuracy was reached.

A reset button is useful during the setting up and testing period and if desired can be fitted permanently. Its main use in operation is to reset all the timers to "standby" when the unit is first switched on but it can be considered as an optional extra. Similarly the "FULL" indicator can be omitted as one rarely loses count of the

number of prints which have been passed through the enlarger on to development.

Possible modifications

Often some photographic processes require longer or shorter periods than the 2min for which this unit was designed. Using larger values of C_1 , time periods of several tens of minutes can certainly be achieved with no great difficulty. One facility which might be considered for certain applications is the ability to switch from one time to another as required. This can readily be achieved by switching in various values for VR₁, the threshold control, and simultaneously switching the meter multiplier so that the meter always reads full scale for full time. Should this technique be adopted a more sensitive meter should be used, as in the shortest time position a full scale reading may be required from a ramp voltage of only 1 or 5V. A maximum to minimum time ratio of at least five-to-one is readily achievable and ten-to-one can be obtained if one can tolerate a certain degree of non-linearity in the elapsed time indicator. This non-linearity is mainly due to the knee voltage of the ramp output diode, D₂ which, while insignificant in a 10V ramp, ceases to be so when the ramp is reduced to 1V. The use of gold bonded germanium diodes could well be considered in this position to improve linearity of the indicator should this be thought sufficiently important.

The unit may be extended beyond the six timers of the present system but care should be taken that the loading of the input switch gates is not exceeded. A gate or inverter can be included to increase the available fanout. Although the present unit does go beyond the recommended fanout for the input gate (just), no trouble has been experienced as a result of this.

A simple multiple timer such as the one described can find numerous applications in industry. The timing C or R could be switched to give a range of times.

A continuously variable control of Cor R is hardly a practical proposition due to the number of ramp generators which need to be ganged. Should this facility be required the timing can be continuously varied by means of a potentiometer at the input to the Schmitt trigger circuit to alter its firing point. A ganged control must be included in the meter circuit so that f.s.d. always corresponds to the ramp terminal voltage. A combination of both techniques could be used with a switched C to give, for example, 1, 4 or 16min whilst the threshold control would give a calibrated range of 25% to 100% of the set time.

References

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2. Jowett, J. H. "Inexpensive Photographic Timer", *Wireless World*, Aug. 1958 Acknowledgment

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Colour separation overlay

Generation of television picture "insets"

by Gwilym Dann

An everyday use of colour separation overlay is seen in news broadcasts where a framed area behind the newsreader is filled with picture material which can be changed with each different news item. A conductor may be seen surrounded by close-up shots of various musicians, or dancers can be given a background which may range from street scenes to pictures of faraway places either in the form of stills, or from film or video tape.

Fundamentally, all that is required to achieve effects of this nature is a highspeed switch which will change-over the signal from a camera looking at the foreground figure to one from a video source providing the new background material. Fig. 1 shows the basic requirements. As distinct from the cuts between video sources performed as a manual operation, this switch must change-over as the scanning beam passes the image boundaries between figure and background or vice versa.

We must now consider how the switch may be given information so that it will change-over at these boundaries. Before the advent of colour television, overlay was attempted by arranging a brightness or contrast distinction between the foreground figure and its background. The sudden change in the camera signal as the scanning beam passed over the figure/background boundary was used to initiate a pulse which controlled the electronic switch, as indicated in Fig. 2.

From a practical point of view this system required that the figure should be overall light in tone against a background that was as evenly dark as possible. Only the simplest of effects could be achieved in this way and the results were unsatisfactory mainly because the lighting of the foreground figure had to be very flat in order to avoid shadows. Shadows, after all, might have the same tone as the background and this could result in the inserted background appearing in quite the wrong places. Worse still, an open mouth would be a shadow area and it was practically impossible to avoid the new background being seen therein.

The next step was to make use of



Fig. 1. Basic requirements for an overlay system.

colour distinction between the foreground figure and the background, albeit with monochrome cameras. The figure was lit with yellow light and the background with blue. Two cameras were then set up so that they received an identical image by means of an optical beam splitter. By fitting one camera with a yellow filter and the other with a blue, it was possible to derive a much more precise switching signal and a much more successful overlay resulted. This ingenious system was, however, operationally clumsy and difficulties in setting it up made it an unattractive production adjunct.

The introduction of colour television naturally re-opened the possibility of making use of colour discrimination between the foreground figure and its background, especially as the colour camera had the built-in ability to provide accurately registered images of red, green and blue components of the scene being viewed. It was fortunate also that in the colour television system there exist signals which embrace parameters of both colour and brightness, namely the colour difference signals, B - Y, R - Y and G - Y. The choice of one of these signals for use in an overlay system is dictated by other than purely electronic considerations. The foreground figure will inevitably exhibit flesh colouring and we must choose a colour which is completely different for his or her background. A little thought will show that blue would be a suitable choice of colour which is remote from that of normal flesh. Additionally of course, we must forbid to the artiste any dress material or accessories which are blue in colour. From this it follows that the chosen colour difference signal will be B-Y and it is interesting to consider the values of this signal for the whole range of colours which may be seen by the foreground camera.

The B-Y values of signal voltage for each colour of the standard colour bars and those for white, black and grey are shown in Table 1. If these values are plotted as shown in Fig. 3, it will be seen that a datum may be drawn for which the value of blue is on one side and the values for the other colours, including white, black and grey, are on the other. Applying the B-Y signal to a suitable voltage discriminator will therefore result in a keying signal which can be used to control the electronic switch of an overlay system.

The basic requirements of an overlay system utilizing the principle of colour separation have now been described. It will be apparent that no great electronic complexity is involved. The necessary hardware is a comparatively small addition to the circuitry of a television studio. In a practical situation however, comprehensive switching facilities have to be provided to gain access to a number of different video sources together with means of controlling the operating level of the voltage discriminator.

It may perhaps be mentioned that considerable care has to be taken in installation to ensure very exact coincidence in timing the arrival of signals on each side of the electronic switch. Errors in this connection could result in displacement of the foreground figure image with respect to the "hole" which has been "punched" in the inserted background.

It is of course necessary for the blue backing behind the foreground figure to have certain requirements as regards hue, saturation and luminance. Stated simply the hue should approximate to the peak response of the system's blue channel. Paint manufacturers can be asked to provide a paint with specific I.E.C. co-ordinates but a certain amount of trial and error is involved. The final hue and saturation may depend on the material to which the paint is applied and also on the need to introduce fire-resisting additives.

Studio lighting must provide sufficient luminance in the blue backing so that a satisfactory signal-to-noise ratio is provided in the blue channel. However, care must be taken to ensure that the lighting level on the backing is not excessive because reflected light tends to creep round the profile of the foreground figure. This effect is known as "rimming" and if severe, can be quite unpleasant in the final result. Furthermore this blue outline can make determination of the correct switching level somewhat difficult and because of the poor definition of outline an aberration known as "tearing" can occur. A certain amount of blue rimming is usually accepted as an inevitable feature of colour separation overlay. It may be reduced to a satisfactory degree by increasing the physical separation between the backing and the foreground figure, but it is unfortunate that studio-floor conditions do not always allow the necessary degree of separation to be achieved.

As described so far, the requirement has been one where the foreground figure occupies an appreciable portion of the television frame as in the case of news broadcasts. Where trick shots are involved such as a dancer seen floating over rooftops, she has to be small in the frame and this means that her blue backing has to be correspondingly large in area. In addition it will be necessary for an appreciable area of floor to be given blue Under these conditions, treatment. reflected blue light will tend to suffuse the figure of the dancer and it is extremelydifficult to avoid a somewhat unnatural effect. Fortunately however, motion of the figure and perhaps the background tends to reduce the subjective awareness of this blemish.

Picture material intended for use as a background in colour separation overlay has fixed dimensions with respect to the



Fig. 2. Principle of contrast discrimination.



Fig. 3. B-Y values from Table 1 showing. discriminating datum.

television frame. There is no simple or direct way in which it may be changed in size or offset so that it appears in only a portion of the final composite picture as seen by the viewer. In news broadcasts, for example, the required material is provided by slide transparencies and it is necessary for the reduction in size and offset to be obtained optically, in the transparency scanner.

In other programmes the requirement may be for a full-size picture of a remote interviewee to be seen as if on a large-scale monitor beside the interviewer. To achieve this the incoming material is displayed on a "behind-the-scenes" monitor. An auxiliary camera is then trained on this monitor and the shot is adjusted so that the incoming picture fits the overlay blue area beside the inter-



	-				
	R	G	В	Y	B-Y
Yellow	1.0	1.0	0	0.89	- 0.89
Cyan	0	1.0	0.3		
Green	0	1.0 0 0.59 -		-0.59	
Magenta	1.0	0	1.0	0.41	0.59
Red	1.0	0	0	0 0.3	
Blue	0	0	1.0	0.11	0.89
White	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0
Black	0	0	0 0 0		0
Grey	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0



Fig. 4. Auxiliary monitor and camera set-up to allow offset and reduction in size of incoming picture for overlay.

To overlay switch



Fig. 5. Studio arrangement for overlay of full-size picture into part of frame.

viewer. This is illustrated in Fig. 4. The signal from the auxiliary camera is now the one which is fed to the overlay equipment for insertion as a background. Since the overlay blue area is all that is visible to the interviewer the illusion that he is addressing the distant speaker is completed by affording him a suitably disposed monitor out of shot of the main or foreground camera. The set-up as shown in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 schematically shows the signal paths to the overlay switch.

Earlier in this article, good reasons were given for the choice of blue as the colour of the backing in colour separation overlay. This is because blue does not appear in normal flesh tones. However, reference to Fig. 3 will show that an equally satisfactory switching datum can be drawn with respect to the colour yellow. While it can be shown that yellow in this connection has a measure of discrimination against caucasian flesh tones, it would not be a satisfactory colour for the backing if the foreground figure had blond hair. The availability of a B-Y signal in the television system is another reason why the colour blue is almost universally adopted for use in colour separation overlay.

In some types of television production it is not always required to use overlay continually and it may not be desirable or artistically pleasing for other cameras to show viewers the rather vivid blue backing. This difficulty can be avoided by using a neutral backing which can be given the required blue colour by lighting methods. This may be by means of suitably filtered projectors from the front or alternatively by rear projection on to some translucent material. When overlay is not required, the backing may be illuminated by light of another colour. Rearward illumination of a translucent backing with blue light results in considerably less blue rimming of the foreground subject. Future developments in the process may make increasing use of this method when studio conditions allow.

Although colour separation overlay as a process has been available to the broadcaster for many years, its full capabilities have never been fully explored and it may be interesting to consider why this is so. Day-to-day use of the system in news broadcasts involves minor additions to existing production routines; anything beyond this can involve a great deal of preparation and planning. Moreover it is by no means certain that the results will be satisfactory and there may be a good deal of time-consuming rehearsal before success is achieved. In an industry where, as elsewhere, time is money, uncertainties are anathema and there is a preference for old and welltried methods where success is more assured.

One of the criteria involved is whether the effect is required to deceive or merely to produce a dramatic or spectacular result. In the former, success will only be achieved if the viewer is unaware of trickery and this means that a natural effect must be obtained. In the latter case however, naturalness is not essential and it will not matter if the viewer recognizes the effect as an intended gimmick.

An example of the unexplored possibilities of colour separation overlay is its use in providing a substitute for conventional scenery. An actor can be made to appear in a variety of settings obtained from still photographs or moving film which would pass for the real thing. The producer however, is unlikely to be



Fig. 6. Signal paths for overlaying fullsize picture in part of frame.

satisfied with the single viewpoint or size of shot which is forced on him by this arrangement. For example, he would be unable to cut to another camera with a different view of his actor because, unless the scenery is very distant, it too ought to change its appearance or perspective. There would be other difficulties from a production point of view but these are beyond the scope of this article.

Colour separation overlay can be successfully used to take the place of back-projection methods where a moving background must appear behind actors who are seen riding in a train or motorcar. Once again there is a difficulty in that we expect to see such a background out of focus compared with the foreground actors. This is achieved almost automatically with back projection of film due to the rearward spacing of the b-p screen. With overlay, the moving background would, unless special methods are employed, be as sharply in focus as the foreground actors and the effect would not be completely natural.

Colour separation overlay has been more successfully employed in the field of light entertainment. It can easily provide a flying-carpet illusion. an artiste appearing with his "other self" or the turning of a magazine page to disclose a new and moving scene.

It will now have been made clear that successful use of colour separation overlay depends on a large number of factors outside the field of electronics. It is a further example of the engineer's dilemma in that, having produced a clever device he not only looks for someone to use it, but to see it achieve its full potential.

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Instruments Electronics Automation

Exhibitors, exhibition details and new products

The 10th International IEA exhibition is to be held at Olympia, London from May 13 to 17 and this year has approximately 600 exhibitors represented by over 300 companies. Opening time is from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and admission is free. The organizers of the show, Industrial Exhibitions Ltd, state that increased stand size, keen overseas interest and heavy bookings stimulate confidence that the UK's domestic troubles will not disrupt one of the electronic industry's major international events. A list of manufacturers and distributors at the exhibition is shown below. In addition to these there will be several publishers, banks and ancillary services to the electronics industry present.

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Wireless World, April 1974



International Instruments will be showing the new Radiometer type BKF10 distortion analyzer. Designed as an integrated test system for audio equipment, its readouts include percentage distortion, frequency and signal-to-noise ratio. A self-contained sweep system allows amplitude response to be plotted (top left).

Allied International are expected to have the Electrovert "Minipak" automatic wave-soldering machine on view (bottom left).

Type BR100 d.c. resistance bridge from J. J. Lloyd Instruments will grade resistors into pre-set bands with 20 p.p.m. accuracy (above).

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Traffic information broadcasting in West Germany

by R. C. V. Macario, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.I.E.E. University College of Swansea

The use of v.h.f. car radios with tone decoders will provide varying degrees of automatic traffic information reception. The system illustrates the use of digital techniques within the accepted type of analogue modulation.

The Wireless World a few months ago' surveyed some of the possibilities of broadcasting traffic information to the motorist and outlined the principal factors which lay behind various proposals. Since that time tests by the European Broadcasting Union have led to the recommendation of the ARI² (auto-motive radio information) system conceived by Blaupunkt in W. Germany. This system has been undergoing steady development over the last few years so that tests of the system are at a very advanced stage and not confined to small areas or a single town, but indeed cover the whole of W. Germany.

The writer had the opportunity to try the system quite independently with a current v.h.f. car radio and a fully developed ARI adaptor—which will be described—fitted as a normal car radio installation. The unit was used across part of Europe and listening tests were favourable, as indeed the EBU's must have been.

The techniques³ behind the system are of special interest as the system makes use of digital techniques within an essentially analogue system. This move towards digital techniques in domestic systems will doubtless show a marked increase in the near future.

The system

The aim of the Blaupunkt v.h.f. radio system is to make use of the existing network of v.h.f. transmitters and appropriate car radios in the country wishing to introduce an ARI system. When an existing v.h.f. transmitter is adapted for the system, it is called a traffic information station. Because there is usually more than one programme in any regional area of a country, not every transmitter need be allocated, and in West Germany the allocation is about one in three. Short regional traffic information messages are then broadcast by these stations, as the need arises. The station is also identified by its transmission of the third harmonic of the 19kHz v.h.f.- pilot tone.

f.m. stereo pilot tone, namely 57kHz (see Fig. 1) which can also be amplitude modulated in the manner described below. The additional tone does not cause interference with stereo transmissions. This identifying signal enables the traffic information station decoder attached to a v.h.f. car radio to recognize such stations. We then have the following choices:

1. At home, no changes to the programmes are apparent, except that one knows one's local traffic information station, and can receive so-called strategic traffic information.

 In the car, with a "decoder", one can recognize traffic information stations in all regions, but has still a free choice of listening.
 The additional transmitter identifying signal enables automatic functions to be introduced for the motorist, some of which will be referred to.

A great deal of discussion on all the possibilities of this scheme is possible, but probably sufficient has been said so far to give at least the general idea on the system aims.

Transmitter modifications

The principal modifications to the existing v.h.f. transmitter which is to be marked as a traffic information station are sketched in Fig. 2 and are:

The 57kHz pilot tone.

• Additional 1.f. amplitude-modulation tones, obtained by division of the 19kHz pilot tone.

• A traffic information desk microphone which switches on the l.f. tones when it is in circuit.

The tones, A, B, C, D, are called "regional tones". Although four are shown, there could be more or less. A transmitter in region A would use the A tone, marked as 23.75kHz, a transmitter in region B would use the B tone, etc. The additional tone, marked DK (125Hz) from the German Durchsagekennung which has been translated as "message only marking", is an additional identifying signal from the transmitter which enables the car radio decoder to do more than just listen. The DK tone modulation depth is kept to half that of the principal regional tone, which allows a 57kHz modulation depth of up to 60% without the likelihood of over modulation. The DK tone cannot interfere with the programmes, as it only appears during a traffic information broadcast.

Vehicle decoder

This is an optional extra to the car radio, but is of course the extra which provides the service the system is designed for. The following levels of sophistication exist, in ascending order:



Fig. 1. Modulation spectrum of v.h.f.-f.m. stereo transmitter with traffic information pilot tone.





Fig. 2. Traffic information station transmitter showing additional circuits.



1. Station indication only. The decoder indicates which stations being received are traffic information stations by recognizing the 57kHz identifying signal.

2. Regional station indication. The decoder will recognize only stations on a regional basis, by recognizing the 57kHz signal and the regional modulation tone.

3. Regional indication and message only. In addition to recognizing stations the decoder controls the audio output of the existing radio so that only traffic messages are heard.

4. Automatic set tuning, regional station recognition and message handling. In addition to all the recognizing, etc., automatic returning of the receiver for the purpose of the message is possible.

The first three levels are operated by the available demodulated f.m. signal (audio prior to de-multiplexing). The last system with automatic retuning of the receiver requires "access to the set", and is somewhat beyond the principle of an adaptation of an existing receiver, but does illustrate the sophistication which can now be offered to the driver of a vehicle.

Decoder electronics. The electronics used in the system is interesting in the fact that the decoder needs to recognize low frequency tones fairly rapidly. and reliably. We shall consider a specific decoder which is particularly illustrative. namely the station/ region/message type; system 3. A photograph of such a decoder is shown as Fig. 5. The general structure of the decoder circuit is shown in Fig. 3, and this demonstrates the action the unit provides.

For example, by means of a tape recording outlet, the existing audio in the receiver is diverted through the decoder and the audio switch (the unit marked in Fig. 3). Depressing switch "RD" of the push buttons keeps the switch on and the radio works normally. Depressing the switch "SK" (traffic information station), means that the receiver only operates when a traffic information station is received (because of the 57kHz).

Depressing instead a regional button, "A" for example, means the switch only operates when the selected regional station is tuned in. In other words the receiver is muted except when the driver tunes into an appropriate station. This action requires the rapid response action just mentioned, because the audio needs to come "alive" as the set is tuned. The indicating lamp on the decoder also helps here, and also a.f.c. on the receiver is assumed. On the other hand the system acts as a tuning aid to the driver, especially in a congested v.h.f. spectrum.

The final sophistication in this system is when button DK is depressed. This holds off the audio, even in the presence of the 57kHz and the regional tone. until the 125Hz message tone appears. The car radio will then only apparently turn on during a traffic information message.



Fig. 4. Functional organization of the decoder circuits.

A more detailed diagram of the arrangement for this type of decoder at the present time is shown as Fig. 4. Apart from the logical connections, three main paths are evident, which clearly look for the three main indication signals from the traffic information transmitter, namely (i) the 57kHz pilot tone, (ii) the regional modulation tone in the range 20-60Hz, and (iii) the message tone of 125Hz.

The 57kHz tone is conventionally filtered and envelope detected, and will light the indicator lamp with either the **RD**, or the SK button depressed. The modulation tones are also obtained from the envelope.

The regional tone signal, if selected with a normal active tuned circuit or with a narrow band phase-lock loop, would have a response time which would be too long to enable the tune-in feature described above to be used. For instance, the response time in the worst case could be of the order of 0.5s. which is far too long. To overcome this problem a digital technique is used. as indicated in Fig. 4 which can be explained as follows. The regional modulation tone is pre-selected in an active bandpass filter covering the possible regional frequencies which are in the band 23.75 to 53.98Hz in the existing West German scheme. The resulting sine wave is then sharply limited to form a square wave at the tone frequency. The positive going edge, say, is then used to start a square wave oscillator running at

some six to ten times faster than the input tone. The number of oscillations within half a regional tone period are counted. This count is at the same time compared to a preset count set by the regional button, A, B, \ldots , etc. If the two counts are equal at the end of one half period a "yes" is registered. by which means the frequencies can be discriminated. In other words the system acts as a frequency discriminator with a response time of the order of one wave period of the frequency being selected, in this case a few tens of milliseconds, which of course is very much shorter than the fractions of a second referred to earlier. Since the modu-



Fig. 5. Station/region/message ARI decoder connected to v.h.f. stereo receiver.

lation tones and the transmitter pilot tones are exactly synchronous, it is possible, by using techniques similar to that just described, to signal a very large number of tones with equally rapid unambiguous recognition.

07

The selection of the message tone of 125Hz uses a synchronous detecting phase lock loop. This gives a better performance with regard to signal-to-noise ratio at the expense of slower acquisition. For instance, the message tone only appears during a message, and not during a tuning operation; also it is at a lower level of modulation and is the most likely tone to be subject to intermodulation by the message speech.

The unit shown as "logic" carries out the operation of turning the "ARI" light on at the right time, and operating the audio switch according to the control button positions.

References

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World of Amateur Radio

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V.h.f./u.h.f. notes and news

The remarkable tropospheric ducting conditions on January 19-21 brought "wideopen" band conditions for many amateurs using v.h.f. and u.h.f. bands and resulted in what was probably the first contact with this mode between England and Austria at a frequency above 1GHz when G4BEL and OE2OML made contact on the 23-cm band over a distance of 640 miles. Other examples were the exchange of slow-scan television pictures between several British and West German amateurs on 144MHz at distances up to about 550 miles; there were many 144MHz contacts southwards to Spain and eastwards to Poland. An analysis published by Professor Walter Dieminger, DL6DS of the Max-Planck-Institut für Aeronomie, of atmospheric conditions over Berlin shows a pronounced inversion at heights of about 3km on the 19th, dropping to about 1km on the 20th and 21st and then gradually rising again. British amateurs must envy the frequent tropo ducting conditions that exist in such areas as the eastern Mediterranean providing excellent paths, for example, between Cyprus and Israel.

On the 13-cm band (2304MHz) two Czechoslovakian stations (OK1WFE and OK1KIR) have made contact over a distance of 243km; OK1WFE uses a 0.8-watt transmitter, a receiver with Schottky diode mixer and a 1.8-m parabolic dish aerial.

The GB3VHF beacon station at Wrotham, Kent has changed frequency to 144.15MHz in accordance with the new band plan.

Sic transit gloria DX?

Activity on h.f. bands recently underlines the steady reduction in m.u.f. as we approach another sunspot minimum. 14MHz has been closing early and on many days 21MHz opens only for northsouth paths.

Recently Katashi Nose. KH6IJ of Hawaii has written nostalgically in CQ of long-distance working on the h.f. bands in the thirties: "Time was when skill, knowhow, luck and patience were the hallmarks of a DXer. Today I'm afraid it is who you know and how much you can buy. Organized DXing (expeditions, special schedules etc) as we know it today is a postwar phenomenon only 25 years old. The 'golden age of DX' was 1934 to 1939-AC4YN from Lhasa, Tibet, ON4CSL 'the voice of the Belgian Congo'-such things as 11-year cycles had not yet been conceived. ZS2A was S9 on 7MHz. There was no pressure, stations were there for the digging -none of the pettiness and snarling; characteristic of the phone bands today. If someone stole your DX from under you, you admired his skill, but then most of the serious DXing was done by c.w."

He continues: "I remember August 31, 1939 very well. I worked Europeans never before possible from Hawaii. DX was never the same after that. After the warthe day of the manufactured contact and the Master of Ceremonies had arrived."

Most active h.f. amateurs, even though they may not agree that pleasant DXing died as early as 1939, will understand the sentiments of KH6IJ. Perhaps one of the reasons was the introduction after the war of "single-channel" working where everyone knew the frequency on which the distant station would be listening—a very effective system when there is no great competition to work a particular station but leading to anarchy when a rare call-sign appears.

Top band activity

Despite the general belief that low sunspot activity always means good conditions on 1.8 and 3.5MHz, Stewart Perry, W1BB does not rate the 1973/74 Top Band season as good as the year before and reports very variable conditions. Nevertheless by January 31 he had worked 32 countries compared with 30 the year before. In his "Bulletin" he reports that Phil Ashton, G3XAP has now completed his "worked all continents" but contacting VK6HD after two years of effort with 9 watts input: now he intends trying to do it all again but this time with 5 watts. Many amateurs must have envied the aerial system at W2WLN/2 during ARRL 1.8MHz tests: a 1-wave insulated vertical with 300-ft radials every 3 degrees (120 radials) and two Beverage aerials 1000ft long towards Europe and terminated in a 120-radial earth. Apparently this is a United States Coastguard centre used to test Loran-A transmitters. F. J. ("Dud") Charman, G6CJ has an interesting theory that at the critical sunset/sunrise periods, ionospheric tilts can produce conditions where signals arrive at significantly higher angles than at other times and that when this happens dipole type aerials can be more effective than long-wire aerials designed for lowangle reception. He believes this applies to most h.f. bands but that these periods of "focusing" with the ionosphere tilted from a lower (day) height to the higher (night) height are quite short.

Marconi centenary

Guglielmo Marconi is on record as saying: "You know I have always considered myself an 'amateur'" and once wrote in Wireless World "I consider the existence of a body of independent and often enthusiastic amateurs constitutes a valuable asset towards the further development of wireless telegraphy". To mark the centenary of his birth a special amateur station, GB2MT, operated from April 25 to 28 from the house at 71 Hereford Road, Bayswater, London, where Marconi lived from 1896 to 1897; it used 3.5, 14 and 21 MHz s.s.b. Italian amateurs have been operating a centenary station, II4FGM, from near Bologna, Italy where Marconi was born on April 25, 1874.

Amateur growth continues

Amateur radio licences in the UK at the end of 1973 totalled 23,779. representing an increase of 1,692 during the year. Since most of the mobile licences are held by amateurs also holding a fixed station licence the total number of British amateurs was about 19,500. The Class B licences (v.h.f./ u.h.f. telephony only) continue to increase more rapidly than the long-established Class A licences, although the rate of increase was a little less in 1973 than in 1972.

	end- 1971	end- 1972	end- 1973
Class A	14,065	14,462	14.930
Class B	3.012	3,718	4,328
Class A/mobile	2,666	2,854	3.081
Class B/mobile	545	826	1,176
Amateur television	214	227	254

It would be interesting to know the age distribution of people taking out a licence for the first time: there is a general belief that the hobby is attracting fewer youngsters. One indication is that although RSGB membership has remained roughly the same during the 1970s (about 16.500), associate membership (mostly youngsters) has dropped from about 1,500 to just over 1,000.

In brief

The annual convention of the Northern Radio Societies' Association is being held this year on Sunday. May 12 at the Belle Vue Pleasure Centre, Manchester . . . Other mobile rallies during May include: May 5 Spalding Tulip-time rally at Surfleet; May 12 South Leicestershire at the Westfield Activity Centre, Hinckley; May 19 Northern mobile rally at Victoria Park Hall, Keighley; May 26 Hull mobile rally at Bishops Burton ... The annual reunion of RAOTA (Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association) is on May 17 at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London WC1 ... GB2ITU will operate May 9 to 19 from Tonbridge School . . . The third convention of the British Amateur Radio Teleprinter Group is on Saturday, May 18 at the Village Hall, Meopham, Kent .

PAT HAWKER, G3VA

Alarm circuits

Sensing, processing and indicating

by J. Carruthers, J. H. Evans, J. Kinsler and P. Williams Paisley College of Technology

As well as introducing series 13 of Circards this article touches on the concept of data domains

In this topic the viewpoint changes. Previously in Circards, circuits have been described as separate entities, with the articles laying a foundation, and the cards showing the practical alternatives. The dilemma is that the title used here, though commonly applied to the topic, can be misleading. This is because so many "alarm circuits" have several identifiable subsections each of which can be readily classified under headings such as those of previous series e.g. Schmitt trigger and astable circuits. Even heading this article "Alarm systems" might confuse since it could convey the idea of a conglomeration of alarms.

A typical alarm arrangment is shown in block diagram form in Fig. 1. An alarm signal is required from some output transducer when the signal from an input transducer indicates a particular fault condition. The intervening blocks are required to process the signal representing the fault condition, to detect a particular voltage/current level which is an analogue of the input parameter, and to deliver power to the output transducer. Before considering each of these sub-sections individually, there is a general principle which can be very helpful in considering such systems—the concept of data domains.

Data domains

Information on physical systems is obtainable in the form of physical quantities such as force, distance, energy. The required information may often have to be obtained by monitoring some more complex property involving a function of the more common parameters. In few cases is the information in such a form that it can be conveyed and displayed directly. It has to be transmitted through some medium or series of media first. To the practising engineer the medium is not the message but rather the barrier that hinders the appearance of that message.

In passing through these media the information takes on new forms or dimensions. For each new set of dimensions we may postulate a domain in which the data exists. Within that domain there may take place further conversions without going outside the domain. Thus the first main division is between inter-domain and intradomain conversions. The division is arbitrary since the selection of domain interfaces is arbitary. One possible division is discussed below but readers may have their own ideas on this.*

For the purpose of this article, the domains are determined by the following considerations: is the data (a) continuous or discontinuous and (b) instantaneous or not. These conditions applied to electrical phenomena provide us with four domains. In addition there is the much larger physical domain (P) containing all non-electrical data. For other disciplines it is this domain that would be sub-divided into more convenient packages, as for example the heat/ light/sound divisions of physics. The electrical domains are thus

	Instan- taneous	Non- instan- taneous		
Continuous	A	t		
Discontinuous	D	D		

An A or amplitude function e.g. voltage/ current/resistance. is an electrical signal precisely and continuously related to some other function which may or may not be within the A domain itself. It has an instantaneous value which is a measure of some property of the unknown. An example is the electrical resistance thermometer where the resistance (A domain) is a continuously variable function of the instantaneous temperature (P domain) i.e. a P-A domain conversion occurs.

A t function is also continuously variable, but to represent the data a finite time must elapse i.e. it is not instantaneous. This property should not be confused with the finite delays imposed by the physical limitations of systems, which prevent the instantaneous change in an A function. A t function will have corresponding delays in responding to changes in the data, but even with a fixed input requires a finite time to complete the conversion. An example is an oscillator whose frequency is proportional to a voltage. To determine that frequency at least one period must elapse (often many) and the data conversion is non-instantaneous. Such a voltage-controlled oscillator is performing an A-t conversion, the amplitude of the output waveform being irrelevant as all the data resides in the time-function.

Conversions may take place through more than one domain, and the shortest route in a system is not necessarily the best. If we wish, for example, to convert from temperature to frequency (a P-t conversion) we can do so by constructing an oscillator whose frequency is temperature dependentt, or we can use a thermocouple to generate a direct voltage that, amplified, controls a v.c.o. The latter can be considered as a P-A-A-t conversion with the voltage amplifier being an A-A converter i.e. input and output both existing in the amplitude or A domain. Better linearity of frequency against temperature could be achieved in this second approach.

Where the data is required in digital i.e. discontinuous form, a similar distinction can be made as to whether the data appears simultaneously at input and output (within the delay constraints mentioned above) or whether a finite time is required for the data conversion. The two categories resulting are the parallel and series modes respectively $(D_p \text{ and } D_s)$. They may also be thought of as a spatial and temporal ordering of the data-a pulse train representing the data in serial form conveys that information correctly regardless of the frequency if the order pattern is correct. In a digital voltmeter the data might be converted into serial form following an initial voltage-to-

†This can also be considered as a hidden form of $P \cdot A \cdot i$ conversion since the temperature affects some A parameter such as R, C etc.



Fig. 1. Typical alarm circuit with input and output transducers.

^{*}This approach was prompted by the excellent book "Digital Electronics for Scientists" by Malmstadt & Enke (Benjamin) which proposed a slightly different division.

frequency/time conversion, while it would be stored and displayed in parallel form. The data domain conversion pattern would then be $A-t-D_p$.

Within each domain, there may be a great variety of possible forms for the data, and multiple conversions can and do take place. Even a "simple" amplifier may have individual stages best viewed as V-I and I-V converters, while a voltage amplifier can be regarded as a V-V converter.

Transducers

These are the interfaces between the physical (P) and electrical domains (A, I, D_p, D_s) . The range and variety is too large to cover in such an article as this, but some obvious examples are worth discussing. If an electrical conductor is subject to temperature variations its conductivity will vary. For metallic conductors the temperature coefficient of resistance is normally positive and the characteristic is sufficiently welldefined to allow precision thermometers to be based on it (platinum resistance thermometers). For semiconductors the coefficient may be negative or positive and of much greater magnitude though generally less well defined. This makes devices such as thermistors, which depend on this property. particularly useful in alarm circuits as a relatively sharp transition takes place in the resistance value and switching of a load is simplified.

If such a resistance which depends on a physical parameter is incorporated in a bridge circuit (Fig. 2) then by suitable selection of the other resistors the critical resistance value of the transducers may be made to correspond to the bridge balance point. Any high gain differential input amplifier may be used to detect this change of polarity about the balance point, providing a large output swing. Addition of positive feedback provides hysteresis, minimizing the output switching that would occur from noise or other stray input signals, when close-tobalance comparators or general-purpose



Fig. 2. Bridge circuit for including a sensing resistor.

operational amplifiers may be satisfactory in such applications.

Other physical parameters may affect the resistance of particular conductors and semiconductors. For example a polycrystalline film of cadmium sulphide in darkness has a very high resistance (>1M Ω), while exposure to sunlight may drop that resistance to a few hundred ohms. Where the changes are as extreme as this, the variable resistance could simply be placed in series with a supply voltage and the load to provide a direct if somewhat imprecise alarm.

Other semiconductors when exposed to particular gaseous impurities show similar large variations in resistance and are now used in gas and smoke detectors, though they require a separate power source to raise their operating temperature. Even the basic resistance thermometer mentioned above can be adapted to detect other physical parameters; for example the flow of air or other fluid across a heated filament removes the heat more rapidly causing the resistance to fall. Thus detection of fluid velocity is a possibility.

Other transducers give a voltage or current that is a function of a physical parameter; the e.m.f. of a thermocouple and the current flow in a reverse-biased photodiode are examples. Yet others may involve the variation of electrical parameters such as capacitance or inductance, coupling between coils. etc. In such cases a common alternative to the bridge technique, still viable with the substitution of a.c. drive to the bridge, is to make the frequency of an oscillator depend on the variation of the reactance used, and follow the oscillator by some form of frequency-sensitive switch.

Following the input transducer the signal may need to be amplified, filtered or modified (domain conversion of some form) in some signal-processing stage prior to being fed to a level-sensing stage. In some cases the two functions can be combined, as operational amplifiers having very high gain can suffice. If the output of the levelsensing device is insufficient in magnitude to drive the required load then a further power stage may have to be substituted (Fig. 1).

Additionally it may be required to cause this output signal to be an audible tone or an interrupted voltage for flashing a lamp. Either case could require an astable oscillator or similar form of generator (Fig. 3). A monostable circuit may be interposed to delay the onset of the alarm output for some period after the appearance of the fault signal and logic gating would be added in more complex systems to generate alarm outputs that depend on a particular combination of input parameters.

Thus most alarm systems can be broken down into simpler blocks and the block diagram of a burglar alarm could be iden-



tical with that for a circuit intended to sense icy conditions on a road. By appreciating and making use of this principle, it is often possible to make very economical designs of alarm circuits by adapting the best individual blocks from previously published alarm circuits. The major design problem is then that of making the blocks compatible in respect of supply voltage load requirements and the like.

Titles of cards in Series 13 are

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Cire	cards, which are normally ready fo
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C	and assess was swilling in the Ortoka

Fig. 3. Arrangement for operating a lamp and/or loudspeaker.

An f.e.t. curve tracer

Concluding part of a sixth-form project

by L. G. Cuthbert

Queen Mary College, University of London

It is usually easier to build and test an electronic system as a series of blocks. Each can then be built, connected to the previous one and tested before the following one is added. Furthermore, the use of such blocks does illustrate the concept of the curve tracer as an electronic system.

Circuit description

Ramp generator. The basic ramp is obtained by forming a relaxation oscillator (Fig. 7), with R_3 , C_1 and unijunction Tr_1 . As explained in the system considerations, it does not matter that the ramp is an exponential rather than a linear function of time, but excessive non-linearity does mean that some parts of the trace would be much brighter than others. The potential divider R_1 , R_2 is therefore used to reduce the voltage on base 2 of the unijunction, thus reducing the firing voltage.

The IC_1 is used to separate those parts of the ramp above and below zero thus producing the triggering and clippedramp waveforms at the two outputs. A small amount of gain is used on this amplifier to keep the voltage swing to about 12V and the amount of clipping is controlled by preset resistor R_{13} which shifts the signal, before separation, by a variable amount. Since the amplifier is used in its inverting mode a second inverting stage IC_2 is used to reinvert and produce a positive going ramp. Similarly, the common-emitter stage $(R_7 \text{ and } Tr_2)$ is used to reinvert the triggering part of the waveform. Since a fairly low-value base resistor (R_{7}) is used, the transistor is easily saturated and a fairly square pulse is produced.

Switch S_1 enables the drain voltage to be held at a constant value of about 11-12V so that the current amplifier can be calibrated. This is explained later.

Current sense amplifier. Drain current passing through the 100Ω resistor R₁₄ (Fig. 8) develops a small voltage across it, proportional to the current. This is amplified by a difference amplifier to give the y output (drain current) for the oscilloscope. Preset resistor R₁₉ enables the output voltage to be conveniently related



Fig. 7. Circuit diagram of the ramp generator.



Fig. 8. Current sense amplifier.



Fig. 9. X-voltage amplifier.

to the drain current. A value of 200mV/mA is quite suitable.

To calibrate this output, the switch on the ramp generator is set to the "cal" position and its output connected to the input side of the series resistor (R_{14}) . The other side (drain terminal) is connected through a milliammeter to R_{20} which is varied until a current of about 5mA is obtained. Adjustment of R_{19} until the output voltage is 1V will give a calibration of 200mV/mA.

X-output amplifier. The x-axis of the display is the drain voltage so this circuit (Fig. 9) is simply a non-inverting buffer amplifier (to take negligible current) connected to the drain terminal. Preset resistor R_{21} is used to enable a suitable calibration of the x scale to be obtained.

Unfortunately, while a positive voltage applied to the x input of many oscilloscopes produces a trace movement from left to right, as expected, on others the reverse happens. A unity gain inverter is therefore provided for such cases.

Staircase generator. This is a standard transistor pump circuit driven by a differentiating and squaring circuit. Using a differentiating input has the advantage that the staircase "block" is triggered by a negative edge rather than by a pulse and therefore it can be used in applications where only an edge is available for instance the resetting edge of a normal sawtooth.

A transistor pump rather than a simple diode circuit is used as this ensures that each step is of equal magnitude. As capacitor C_4 is loaded only by the unijunction and a high-impedance buffer amplifier, negligible current is drawn from this capacitor and therefore the steps do not droop.

Variable resistor R_{21} is used to alter the voltage on base 2 of Tr_6 so that the voltage at which the unijunction fires can be varied, thus changing the number of steps before the staircase is reset.

Gate drive circuit. The output of the staircase generator is a series of steps starting at OV and rising in equal positive



Fig. 11. Gate drive circuit.

increments. However, the f.e.t. requires that the gate voltage should be negative and therefore an inverting amplifier with variable gain is used to invert the staircase. Since the unijunction transistor (in the staircase "block") does not reset the capacitor quite to zero, a variable offset control (R_{28}) is provided so that the whole staircase can be shifted, thus enabling a zero step to be achieved. The gate voltage must never be positive but there is enough range on this "zero step" control to shift the waveform across zero producing a positive voltage at the output of the inverter. Clamping diodes are therefore used in the feedback loop to clip the output to zero.

Operation

The curve tracer has been designed to work with any oscilloscope with an external x input but on some of the cheaper dualtrace ones where the chopped-beam technique is used the display will have a mottled appearance. This is because the electron beam is rapidly switched between the two traces and, as only one is being used for this display, there will be blank parts when the beam is being used for the other trace. This can be avoided by carefully



Fig. 10. Staircase generator.

setting the gain of both y inputs to be identical, connecting both inputs together and shifting both traces until they are superimposed on top of each other.

The separate triggering pulse should eliminate flyback problems. However, on most oscilloscopes there is a slight phase difference between x and y inputs so that, even though the flyback should follow the main trace, a small Lissajous figure is in fact created and the flyback will depart slightly from the main trace.

Several variable resistors are provided and these fall into two groups: those which are used only to calibrate the curve tracer; those which are used to set up the required gate conditions for the f.e.t. being tested.

Calibration

The variable controls in this category are separation (ramp generator) set current and y gain

(current sense amplifier)

x gain (drain voltage amplifier) and a suitable calibration procedure is as follows:

(a) Calibrate the oscilloscope: use the y' input in the d.c. mode. Remove the f.e.t.

(b) Use the oscilloscope on its internal timebase. Connect the y input to the gate terminal and adjust the separation control until a staircase just appears.

(c) Connect the x output to the external x input of the oscilloscope and the drain current output of the curve tracer to the y input and switch the oscilloscope to the external timebase. Set the y range to 200 mV/div and put switch S_1 of the ramp generator block to the "cal" position. Connect a milliammeter between the drain terminal and the set current terminal of the terminal current amplifier. Adjust the set current control until the milliammeter reads 5mA and then vary the y gain resistor of the current sense amplifier until the oscilloscope trace is deflected 5 divisions. The y output is now calibrated as 200mV/mA drain current.

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(d) Put S_1 in the "run" position. Use the y trace of the oscilloscope to measure the magnitude of the drain voltage at the drain terminal. Adjust the x gain control $(R_{21}$ on the x amplifier block) until a suitable deflection is obtained on the x axis of the oscilloscope display.

Gate voltage conditions

A suggested setting-up procedure is:

(a) Connect the gate terminal to the y input of an oscilloscope.

(b) Adjust the step size resistor until the required step size is obtained.

(c) Adjust the number of steps control to get the required number of steps.

(d) Use the zero step potentiometer to shift the whole staircase until the top (least negative) step just reaches zero. It is important not to raise it any more as the clamp holds the top step at zero but the rest would still move up, thus reducing the step size between the top two steps.

Once adjusted, characteristics of different f.e.ts can be obtained simply by plugging the device into the transistor socket.

Appendix

If any teachers have any difficulty with building the curve tracer or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me: L. G. Cuthbert, Schools Liaison Tutor, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS. Telephone 01-980, 4811, ext. 719 or 561 (departmental office).

Suggested semiconductor devices

Many different semiconductor components are suitable for this project, but the following types are those used in the prototype at Queen Mary College. Type numbers are those of Texas Instruments Ltd, but this does not imply that this manufacturer is particularly recommended. Most manufacturers make equivalent or similar components.

Bipolar transistor	BC182L
Unijunction transistor	TIS 43
F.e.t.	2N3819
Operational amplifier	SN72558P
	(2 in a package)
	SN72741P
	(1 in a package)
Diode	1S44
Printed circuit boards	and components

Printed circuit boards and components are available from: E. Tomlinson, 33 Manchuria Road, London SW11.

Literature Received

ACTIVE DEVICES

Available from Signetics is a data book entitled "Memory and Interface Handbook", which gives information on m.o.s., t.t.l. and e.c.l. Signetics International Corporation, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge, London SE20 Price £1

PASSIVE DEVICES

A revised price list of Erie products is now available. The new prices are applicable to all shipments made on and after February 4, 1974. Erie Electronics Ltd. South Denes, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk WW409

A range of film legends and film symbols are now available for use with the range of illuminated push-button switches and signal lights manufactured by Highland Electronics Ltd, 33-41 Dallington Street, London EC IV OBD WW411

APPLICATION NOTES

Two application notes on the use of a new Norbit 2 solid-state control module GLD60 are available. The first is entitled "Grounded-load

EQUIPMENT

The first of a series of system reports on the use of mobile radio for communication and data transmission is now available from Storno Ltd. Each report will combine a straightforward description together with a section of technical details. Storno Ltd. Frimley Road. Camberley, Surrey ... WW428

GENERAL INFORMATION

New Products

Pulse generator

The model 4300 general-purpose pulse generator covers the repetition frequency range of 3Hz to 30MHz in seven ranges. The pulse width is variable between 20ns and 100ms and the delay when the triggering facility is used can be adjusted from less than 50ns to 100ms. Transition times are less than 5ns and jitter on rising and falling edges is less than 0.1% of the repetition interval. The output can be either $\pm 10V$ into a high impedance or $\pm 5V$ into 50Ω , an adjustable base-line offset being provided in both cases. Single-shot and double-pulse modes are made available and the repetition rate may be derived from an external oscillator. The price is £279. Solartron-Schlumberger, Farnborough, Hants. WW301 for further details

Car radar aerial

Aerials for use with car collision-avoidance radar have been introduced by EMI-Varian. Working at 35GHz, the printedcircuit flat pair configuration provides sufficient cross-coupling for direct pickup between transmit and receive aerials to function as the local oscillator signal, when doppler or f.m. modes are in use. The -3dB aerial beamwidth is 5° \times 5°. the bandwidth being 34.5 to 35GHz. EMI-Varian Ltd, 248 Blyth Road. Hayes, Middlesex.

WW302 for further details

Printed-circuit miller

This small milling machine is intended for use in design offices and similar situations wherein single printed-circuit boards or small proving quantities are needed quickly. It is an adaptation of the conventional engraving machine, in which a stylus follows a sketch or master and controls the movement of a milling cutter on the material. The control of cutter movement is manual, and a power unit is available to drive the 12V motor. A selection of cutters is provided, and the machine may be used to drill the component holes in the finished board. The miller costs £160 and is available from West Hydc Developments Ltd, Ryefield Crescent, Northwood, Middx.

WW303 for further details

Signal generator synchronizer

Designed for use with the TF2015 signal generator, the synchronizer enables the output frequency to be set and maintained within 2 parts in 107, by means of a phase-lock loop. An auxiliary output is taken from the TF2015 to the synchronizer, where its phase is compared with that of a reference frequency. A control voltage resulting from the comparison is applied to an external f.m. connection on the generator, thereby adjusting the frequency of the generator until it is in coincidence with the reference. The reference frequency in the TF2171 is set up on switches, whereupon the signal generator is tuned until the acquisition of lock is indicated. Amplitude

and frequency modulation of the signal generator can be used while the synchronizer is in control. Marconi Instruments Ltd, Longacres, St. Albans, Herts. WW304 for further details

Stroboscope

Type 1222A Strobotorch from Dawe can be controlled from either its internal oscillator or from an external pickup at rates between 300 and 36,000 flashes per minute. Non-contacting pickups of various types producing 200mV r.m.s. or more will trigger the unit, although the trigger input circuit prevents spurious signals when mechanical contacts are used. The $5-10\mu$ s flashes are produced by a 12W xenon tube, the repetition rate being indicated by meter. A pulse is emitted for use with a digital frequency meter. Dawe Instruments Ltd, Concord Road, Western Avenue, London W3.

WW305 for further details

Turns-counting dial

Radiatron have produced a turnscounting dial to match the Elma range of collet-fixing knobs and dials. The 025 dial is calibrated and can be adjusted to one hundredth of a turn, complete turns, 0–14, being indicated in a window. The three standard Elma colours of grey, grey-black or red-grey are used in the dial and caps are available in a variety of colours. The unit can be obtained to fit spindles of 0.25in, 3mm, 4mm and 6mm. GDS (Sales) Ltd. Michaelmas House, Salt Hill, Bath Road, Slough, Bucks.

WW306 for further details

dBm meter and graphic equalizer

Two American products recently intro-



WW301



WW302



WW303

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duced by the British agency Scenic Sounds Equipment are a dBm meter model 81 and an eight-centre-frequency graphic equalizer.

The dBm meter, manufactured by DBX, is battery operated and provides measurement from -70 to +10dBm on a single scale which has a true r.m.s. response, the result of a patented sensing circuit. The meter is also available with a 50dBm range. Accuracy is $\pm I$ dB at 0dBm to ± 2.5 dB at -70dBm. Response from -40 to +10dBm is 20Hz to 20kHz and at -70dB is 20Hz to 7.5kHz. Size of the unit is 4 \times 4 \times 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in and it weighs 3lb. Price is £92.

The Aengus graphic equalizer uses RC networks throughout and is primarily designed for professional recording studio use as it can be easily slotted into the appropriate point of a mixing desk input channel. Eight centre frequencies can be treated simultaneously and are located at 50Hz, 100Hz, 220Hz, 500Hz, 1kHz, 2.2kHz. 5kHz and 10kHz. Eight leveroperated switches provide boost or cut at each frequency in twelve steps: +15, +12, +9, +6, +4, +2, 0, -2, -4, -6, -9and -12dB. Input impedance is $9.5k\Omega$ (high level) and $5k\Omega$ (low level) and output impedance is 1000 balanced. Normal operating level is +4dB, OVU. At high level, insertion loss is zero. Low level provides 6dB of gain. Unequalized frequency response is ±0.2dB, 20Hz to 20kHz, measured at +4dBm. Equivalent input noise is -86dBm unequalized and -84dBm equalized. Distortion from 20Hz to 2kHz is stated at 0.1% t.h.d. at 4dBm. Power requirements are ±15V, 75mA (maximum output) and the dimensions of the module are $1\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in face, and $5\frac{3}{4}$ in depth. One other feature is a push-button which can switch the equalizer in or out of the signal path. The module can be mounted in a 19in rack system. Price is £147.

Both units are available from Scenic

Sounds Equipment, 28 Bryanston Street. London W1H 7LS.

WW307 for further details (model 81 dBm meter)

WW308 for further details (Aengus graphic equalizer)

Choppers

Field-effect transistors are used as the switches in three types of chopper intended as plug-in replacements for the mechanical variety used in Controle Bailey, Leeds and Northrup and Cambridge amplifiers and recorders. MTL208, 210 and 211 are claimed to exhibit voltage and current offset drifts of less than 0.1µV/°C and 0.03nA/°C and are said to operate safely at 75°C. The MTL208 and 211 possess an "on" resistance of 250 ohms and revert to 109 ohms in the "off" state. The drive to the f.e.t. switches is obtained from the 50/60Hz supply, via a transformer which is double-screened to minimize coupling between the supply and the input. Measurement Technology Ltd, 26-30 John Street, Luton, Beds. WW309 for further details

Very-low-frequency counter

Digital measurements of very low frequencies normally take several minutes to achieve a sensible resolution (about 17 minutes at 1Hz to 0.1%). The type 207 by Time Electronics neatly surmounts this obstacle by determining the time of one cycle of the unknown frequency, during which a higher crystal-derived measuring frequency is counted. The reciprocal of this result is then obtained and displayed as frequency-the instrument is also scaled to display revolutions per minute. The range of frequencies acceptable are 0.001Hz to 100kHz or 0.1 r.p.m. to 106 r.p.m., the ranges being automatically selected. Digital and analogue outputs are provided and a printer unit is available.

Time Electronics Ltd, Botany Industrial Estate, Tonbridge, Kent. WW310 for further details

Servo driver

The EM100 servo drive systems are control units for 12-24V d.c. motors and incorporate power supplies. Almost any type of motor up to 1/6 h.p. can be used, including basket-wound and printedcircuit types. Control input amplifiers are 741 op-amps, which confer flexibility on the type and level of control permissible. Stall current is rendered innocuous by a protection circuit. The system will operate in velocity, positional or velocity/ positional modes, in which overshoot is greatly reduced. McLennan Engineering Ltd. King's Road, Crowthorne, Berks. WW311 for further details

Thick-film power controller

Proportional control is a feature of the ZC1/250-15 zero-switching controller, a new unit in the Hyreg range from Westinghouse. It is intended mainly for use in temperature-control applications and will control resistive loads of 3.75kW at 25-250V r.m.s. The module includes the protected power triac and control circuitry, the only additional components necessary being the thermistor sensor, three resistors and a potentiometer. Engineering publication ZC1 provides a complete specification. Westinghouse Brake & Signal Company Ltd, Semiconductor Division, Chippenham. Wilts. WW312 for further details

Printed-board switch

A novel configuration is adopted by NSF for their Type FL switch, which is a ball-index rotary type intended for direct contact to a printed-circuit board. Five



WW305



WW307



wafers can be used on each mechanism, each wafer having 12 positions, and 1, 2, 3. 4 or 6 poles can be accommodated on each wafer, subject to a maximum of 16 per switch. Shorting or non-shorting 5VA contacts of gold-plated copper can be used, switching up to 0.2A. N.S.F. Ltd, Keighley, Yorks.

WW313 for further details

Frequency synthesizer

With an output of 0.1Hz to 9.99MHz, the Syntest SI-60 digital frequency synthesizer produces a t.t.l. compatible square-wave at an accuracy of ± 10 p.p.m. Frequency is set either by front-panel edge switches or by an external b.c.d. signal to a resolution of three figures. with four or five digit versions available. Settling time to within 10% of the desired frequency is 1ms. Price is £270. Lyons Instruments Ltd, Hoddesdon. Hertfordshire.

WW314 for further details

Drum printer

The "Mini-Kit" printer is a system of units which may be assembled by the user to fit his own requirements. The basic unit is the 18 column, 3 lines per second printing head, which is complemented by a parallel-entry logic-compatible drive unit accepting 4-bit b.c.d. inputs, a power supply and wiring harness. The head, which uses red/ black ribbon, prints "on the fly", the paper being ejected either vertically or horizontally with the characters in the correct orientation for easy reading in both cases. The printer costs about £230. Electrographic Peripherals Ltd, Printinghouse Lane, Hayes, Middx.

WW315 for further details

Sound emitter

A new range of high-power sound emitters, working in the range 200–300W is announced by Gearing & Watson. They have used their experience in the design of large vibration generators to enable them to ensure reliability in the new units. A



WW313

series of horns is available to derive a variety of radiation patterns from the basic drive units, which are designed for operation from the company's power amplifiers. The drive units are capable of producing a pressure level of 130dB at 1m using the correct horn for the application. Gearing & Watson (Electronics) Ltd, Birch Close, Eastbourne, Sussex. WW316 for further details

Trimmer capacitor

The Trimline is tubular in form, with a constant length of 18mm. Adjustment is by means of a screwdriver slot at one end. and the elimination of the conventional moving piston has improved the linearity of the law to within 2%. The capacitance range exceeds 0.5pF to 5pF in ten turns of the adjuster. Air is used as the dielectric, a coaxial sleeve being the moving element, which is precisely guided by a glass outer sleeve to maintain linearity. A slipping clutch is provided. Jackson Brothers (London) Ltd, Kingsway, Waddon, Croydon, Surrey.

WW317 for further details

Servo amplifiers

Two high performance servo amplifier modules, conservatively rated as 250 and 600 watt linear d.c. power amplifiers, are being marketed by the Cranfield Unit for Precision Engineering. They are manufactured to quasi-military standards of ruggedness, and are claimed to provide high reliability and case of use and maintenance under adverse conditions.

Designated the CUPE 2501 and CUPE 6001, the amplifiers are housed in 488.60mm (19in) rack mounting chassis or free-standing cabinets. They have high open loop gain (107). wide bandwidth, low drift and distortion, adjustable current limiting and are said to be short-circuit proof. A removable front sub-panel gives *in-situ* access to the multiple summing functions, compensation networks, zero balance and current limit controls. Power stages are protected against loadinduced voltage, current transients and thermal overload.



WW314

A high-gain f.e.t. input operational preamplifier, with high input impedance and low drift $(10\mu V/^{\circ}C)$ drives a lowgain. high-power output stage equipped with bi-directional current limiting circuitry. Internal feedback loops make the amplifiers unconditionally stable over a wide range of load and environmental conditions, while anti-saturation networks prevent lock-up and phase reversal under severe input overload conditions.

The pre-amplifier module is mounted on a p.c. card which also accommodates the summing network and additional feedforward and feedback compensation networks as required. Power stage is single-ended, consisting of a complementary pair of silicon power transistors operating in class B. Adjustable current limit controls permit setting the maximum output current between 10% and 100% of peak current.

Current limiting is bi-directional with independent adjustment for each polarity. Rapid response prevents demagnetisation of all electrodynamic loads and devices. A fail-safe automatic load disconnect is provided to prevent damage due to motor back EMF in the event of mains failure or removal. Cranfield Unit for Precision Engineering, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Berks. WW318 for further details

Racks and cases

Lektrokit Ltd, formerly part of A.P.T. Electronics, have launched a range of enclosures and hardware for the electronics industry. In addition to the company's range of British products they are offering the Motek range which is available in the UK exclusively from Lektrokit. Motek products, which include 19in racking systems, chassis modules, ventilation units and instrument cases, are offered ex-stock. The racking systems are available in an industrial finish or with anodised-aluminium front sections. There are five basic chassis modules for use in the racking system, each available in five different heights and three depths. The instrument cases are available in three models, also offered in five heights and three depths. Lektrokit Ltd, Trafford Road, Reading, Berks RG1 8JR. WW319 for further details



WW319

Solid State Devices

The names of suppliers of devices in this section are given in abbreviation after each section and in full at the end of the section.

Field-effect switches

Two high-speed f.e.t. switches, the SD210 and SD211 by Signetics, are intended as digital or analogue switches in applications where switching times in the order of 0.7ns are required. Both are n-channel enhancement devices with permissible input signals of ±10V (SD210) and \pm 5V and "on" resistances of 30 ohms. The SD211 has a gate/source protection diode.

WW330 for further details Signetics

Power-control circuits

A range of TO-3 encapsulated integrated circuits for power control, including half and fully controlled thyristor bridges and switches for heating and lighting applications. The PH400 range is available in 120V or 240V versions and will handle up to 90A peak surges.

WW331 for further details

International Rectifier

Voltage regulators

Series 843 dual-tracking regulators produce $\pm 12V$ or $\pm 15V$ outputs, the negative line tracking the positive output within ± 10 parts per million over the range -55° to 125°C. Stabilization and regulation are both 0.005% with a load of 300mA maximum. The devices are TO-8 packaged.

WW332 for further details Beckman

Dual timer

NE556 by Signetics is a dual version of the established 555 timer, used as a modulator, clock generator, switch and many other applications. The 556 is available in versions in the temperature ranges 0-70°C (NE556), -55 to 125°C (SE556 and SE556C), all versions being contained in dual-in-line packages.

WW333 for further details

SDS

CCD image sensor

CCD110 is a 128/256 element chargecoupled linear sensor, intended primarily for optical character recognition. It is a two phase device which can be clocked by t.t.l. clocks at rates in excess of 10MHz. A preamplifier and compensation amplifier are on the same chip, and the dynamic range is 200:1. The circuit is t.t.l. compatible and is contained in an 18-pin d.i.p.

WW334 for further details Fairchild

Matched dual transistor

A closely-matched transistor pair by Precision Monolithics Inc, the mono-Mat-01 is made by a silicon nitride "triple passivation" process, which is claimed to afford extreme stability of critical parameters. The device exhibits voltage offset matching of 40-100µV and $h_{\rm FE}$ matching of 0.7 to 3%. Voltage offset drift is 0.15 to 0.5µV/°C and hre at 10nA collector current is around 590. Over the range 0.1 to 10Hz. noise is 0.23µV peak to peak. The device is in a 6-pin TO-99 case.

WW335 for further details

Bourns

Colour TV i.c.

Mullard announce the TCA300, an integrated circuit consisting of synchronous detector, matrix and clamps to determine black level. Subcarrier filter capacitors are included. A complete decoder can be assembled using this unit, TB540 and a **TBA560**.

WW336 for further details Mullard

Crystal oscillator

MC12060 is a 16-pin d.i.p. circuit from Motorola, which incorporates a crystal oscillator and buffer stage, together with sine-to-e.c.l. and sine-to-t.t.l. converters. The series-mode crystal is external to the package, as are by-pass capacitors and fine-tuning circuit, if required. Stability is around 8 in 108 per degree centigrade. Fundamental crystals from 100kHz to 2MHz can be resonated and above this frequency the MC12061 can be used up to 20MHz, providing a stability of about 16 in 10⁸.

WW337 for further details Motorola

Power Darlingtons

Complementary Darlington pairs from Motorola exhibit current gain of 1000 at 10A. The MJ2500 and MJ3000 (p-n-p and n-p-n respectively) comprise driver and power transistors and emitter/base resistors in a single TO-3 pack. Power dissipation is 150W at a case temperature of 25°C, the units having a collector rating of 80V. In a complementarysymmetry audio output stage, a pair of these devices will put out 60W into an eight-ohm load.

WW338 for further details GDS

Audio amplifier

A 5W audio amplifier from RS Components incorporates both preamplifier and output stage. Total harmonic distortion is 5% at 5W r.m.s. (0.3% at 1W, 400Hz)

and noise is -75dB. The sensitivity and input impedance is suitable for crystal/ ceramic pickups, and the -3dB amplitude/frequency response is 20Hz-30kHz. Information provided with the amplifiers covers the incorporation of the unit into a stereo amplifier with tone controls. WW339 for further details RS

Audio amplifier

The MFC4000B is a simple, integratedcircuit audio-amplifier, designed for small radio receivers. Supply voltages up to 12V are acceptable, and the device will produce 250mW in 16 ohms. At 9V supply and 200mW, total harmonic distortion is around 2%, an input signal of 240mV giving full output. Current drain is about 3mA when quiescent. WW340 for further details

Motorola

Variable capacitance diode

The 574BAY is a silicon diode intended for use in v.h.f. television tuner bandswitching and as a transmit-receive switch in small transceivers. Maximum reverse voltage is 35V, maximum forward current being 100mA. Typical capacitance is 0.8pF and resistance 0.5 ohms. WW341 for further details Mullard

Suppliers

- Signetics International Corporation. Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, London SE20.
- Mullard Ltd, Mullard House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HD.
- Motorola Semiconductors Ltd, York House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex.
- R.S. Components Ltd, 13-17 Epworth Street, London EC2.
- GDS (Sales) Ltd, Michaelmas House, Salt Hill, Bath Road, Slough, Bucks.
- Bourns (Trimpot) Ltd, Hodford House, 17/27 High Street. Hounslow, Middx. TW3 1TE.
- SDS Components Ltd, Hilsea Trading Estate, Portsmouth, Hants. PO3 5JW.
- Fairchild Semiconductor Ltd, Kingmaker House, Station Road, New Barnet, Herts.
- International Rectifier Co. Hurst Green. Oxted, Surrey.
- Beckman Instruments Ltd, Queensgate, Glenrothes, Fife.



by "Vector"

"A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS"

Professor M. W. Thring, head of the department of mechanical engineering at Queen Mary College. London, is probably best-known to the general public as "the man who designs robots"; a tag which, although justified, is only a part of his story, as most engineers will know and the professor's service on many national committees will testify.

He is, for instance, deeply concerned about the role of the engineer in society. Now, most of us, I imagine. are too preoccupied with the problems of meeting the next mortgage payment to bother ourselves overmuch about the suicide course along which the world is accelerating. Naturally, we brood a bit at times over such matters as world over-population, arms escalation, pollution, damage to the environment, the impending exhaustion of minerals, the steady deterioration in the quality of life and the growth of violence, drug-taking, suicides, alcoholism and stress illnesses. "It's a deplorable state of affairs," we say in effect "and it's high time the politicians got down to doing something about it."

"Wrong!" says Professor Thring in a paper* published a few months ago. "It's you, the engineer, who has to get down to it." And he proceeds to tell us why, in no uncertain terms. His point is that we live in a technology-orientated world in which, ever since the industrial revolution, the engineer has been the key factor. Out of that revolution came much that was good and much that was evil, with the engineer solving every problem presented to him by his masters without regard for the consequences for the world at large. It's high time, argues Professor Thring, that we concerned ourselves with the morality of our work instead of blindly carrying out orders. In his view, we can no more shrug off responsibility for what we're doing than could the commandant of Belsen.

The parallel he draws is unpalatable, but apt. For we're blueprinting a future which, by comparison, may well make Belsen seem a Sunday-school picnic. Merely by conforming to the system we're squandering irreplaceable resources at such a rate that within a few lifetimes there won't merely be shortages; there just won't be anything left; and let's not delude ourselves that magic new minerals will arrive to take the place of the vanished ones, because they won't.

Just consider this at a personal level. No matter what plans we're making for that baby in his cot, it's certain that as an adult he won't enjoy the same quality of life that you take for granted; at best he will live in an ant-like society in which everything that isn't compulsory is forbidden. Your grandchildren will be condemned to misery and squalor, not entirely because of the shortages themselves but because inevitably law and order will collapse as the "have-nots" struggle against the "haves". The legacy we are leaving to later generations-by then probably nuclear-doped mutantsis one of savagery and (as like as not) cannibalism. Time is against us: you, in your lifetime, will see a significant deterioration.

As Professor Thring says, one of the main obstacles is that we just don't want to know. Some of us look on the future as hopeless and trust that we'll be dead before the crunch comes; the more optimistic try to convince themselves that the present system will somehow cope, and, with a bit of patching here and there and a little further effort by engineers and scientists, it will all come right in the end. It won't. Neither will it suffice to content ourselves with theorizing about the situation. Either we get down to the nittygritty or we end up by crucifying our own flesh and blood.

The villain of the piece, asserts the Professor, is the profit motive. To serve this god, vast quantities of precious, irreplaceable materials are squandered day and night in the manufacture of nonessential commodities; it produces evil by-products and dumps them in the cheapest possible way, in callous indifference to the damage done to the environment. With certain miniscule exceptions, we're all thoroughly conditioned to the concept that the acquisition of money and possessions is the yardstick of success; it's the norm; the accepted way of life. In spite of such manifest lunacies as Centre Point, we seldom question whether or not there's a better way of doing things.

If I read him correctly, the Professor's argument is that only by breaking free from the profit motive, with its cardinal tenet that "if there's a percentage in it. go ahead and make it", can we clear decks for action in the matter of conserving our resources. We've got to decide what we really need, as distinct from what the persuaders tell us we should have (and "we" in this context means everybody of course).

In a survival situation, human needs are simple; food, drink and some means of maintaining a reasonable body temperature are the basics. Provision of these is top priority. Beyond them, all other items are, in degree, luxuries and parasitic upon the staples. Now, Professor Thring isn't suggesting that we must adopt such a Spartan existence as that, but merely that we should abandon sufficient fripperies to halt our lemming-like march to destruction. We must hold an objective stocktaking and, as the Professor puts it, jettison many of our cherished luxuries. The amount we're prepared to discard is the measure of our concern for the future. Every ounce of metal or other material must be accounted for and only used if absolutely necessary. Every possible scrap must be recycled. Every gallon of fuel must transport the maximum load to an essential destination.

Of course, the conditioned reply to anyone who dares to attack the profit motive is to yell "Yah, boo! Dirty communist!" I've no idea what Professor Thring's political views are, but I would point out that the Communist bloc is as firmly wedded to the profit motive as we are, as anyone who has had dealings with an Iron Curtain trade delegation will testify. There's an interesting point here, though. We tend to sneer at the lack of variety in consumer goods available in Communist countries; but could it be that they're consciously playing the ant to our grasshopper, conserving their resources against the day when we'll have to go begging?

But it's one thing to accept Professor Thring's diagnosis in principle; how does he suggest that we go about applying his remedy? This is a world crisis, not a national one. We've got to have global control of all resources, with equitable shares for all. We've got to provide the present famine-prone areas with an assured standard of living. And we've got to achieve a zero population growth in every area of the world-all this, not at some nebulous future date, but within 15 years, says the Professor. It seems to me that this calls for a super-powerful United Nations organization with one or two miracles, like a mass change of heart, thrown in. Perhaps Professor Thring willgive us the nuts and bolts in his book.

What part could electronics play in the new order? We're a relatively clean industry in the sense that in the main we don't use tons of raw materials in our devices. But when we come to a stocktaking of how many of our products are really necessary, then our hands begin to look mucky. Do we, for instance, need such a multiplicity of sound and vision stations operating all day and half the night, churning out (for the most part) escapist rubbish, forgotten by next day when it's time for our next "fix"? But I'll have more to say on this topic in my next article.

^{* &}quot;Towards a Creative Society." *Electronics and Power*. Nov 29, 1973. Based on a forthcoming book, "Machines---Master or Slaves of Man?" (Peter Peregrinus Ltd.)

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1023-030 1024-010 1024-030 1025-010	E H H H H	30 10 30 10	TO-56 Lead on 5 strips TO-58 Lead on 5 strips TO-518 Lead on 5 strips TO-510 Lead	5.85 2.15 5.85 2.15	1366-005 2367-005 2368-005	ZJJ	5 5 5	22 Pin, .156" Spacing, Circuit Side 22 Pin, .156" Spacing, Component Side 22 Pin, .156" Spacing, Circuit Side	6.50 5.40 5.40
1025-030	Ğ	30	TO-5 10 Lead on 5 strips	5.85	_		DI	SCRETE COMPONENT STRIPS	
D	UAL	-IN-I	LINE PACKAGE SUB-ELEMENTS	2.15	1302-005 1311-010 2301-005	BB L	5 10 5	16 Discrete, Component Strip, mounts 80 Universal Strip, mounts 80 discretes Mounts 105 components	3.95 4.30 3.40
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	-		4 PADS		1321-010	CC	10	.100" wide	2.50
1201-005	U V	5	6 DIP's/Strip, 14/16 Lead, pwr. and gnd avail. 6 DIP's/Strip, 14 Lead, pwr. and gnd pins 7/14 Housest, 20 DIP's of a triper	6.50 5.40	1325-010 1326-010	GG	10 10	Single Row .100" hole spacing Double Row .100" hole spacing	2.90
1205-005 W 5 Chiversal, 30 DIP's on 5 strips 1207-005 X 5 6 DIP's/Strip, 14 Lead		5,40	COPPER TAPE, DONUT PADS						
			3 PADS SHOWN		7101	P	1	.062" wide x 9 ft. long	0.55
1202-005 1204-005 1206-005 1208-005	v≈∧c	555	8 DIP's/Strip. 14/16 Lead, pwr. and gnd. avail. 6 OIP's/Strip. 14 Lead, pwr. and gnd. plns 7/14 Universal, 30 DIP's on 5 strips 6 DIP's/Strip. 14 Lead	5.60 4.70 5.60 4.70	7103 7104 7201 7202	PPRE	1 250 250	187/ wide x 91. long 250° wide x 91. long 100° dia. pada 125″ dia. pada	0.70 1.45 1.80 1.80
-			DOUBLE PADS		- 1251	B	3	Copper Sneet, 5 x o	4,15
1221-005 1222-005 1223-005	U V W	5555	6 DIP's/Strip, 14/16 Lead, pwr. and gnd. avail. 6 DIP's/Strip, 14 Lead, pwr. and gnd, pins 7/14 Universal, 30 DIP's on 5 strips 5 DIP's/Strip 14 Lead	5.05 4.70 5.05 4.70	EPOX PR	Y-G E-D	LASS	S BOARD MATERIALS PRE-SHAPED ED HOLES on .100 INCH GRID PATT	BOARDS
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1231-005 U 5 6 D/P's/Strip, 14/16 Lead, pwr. and gnd. avail. 4.70 1232-005 V 5 6 D/P's/Strip, 14 Lead, pwr. and gnd. pins 7/14 4.30		CONNECTORS, 156 PIN SPACING							
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CU-1500 camera control unit



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 Other models in the range: D60--- 60 watts per channel

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 Dimensions
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Maximum: istortion	90 watts average power per channel into 5 ohms load.	Line:	
Pre-amplifier:	Zero. (Cannot be identified or measured as it is below		
Power amplifier:	Interent orcor horse.)	»Sizē:	$1\% \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 11^{\prime\prime}$ deep overall.
at rated output: at 25w output:	Less than 0.02% (typically 0.01% at 1 kHz.) Typically 0.006%.	Weight:	21 lb.
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Write or phone for leaflet A25.274 which describes the design philosophy and conception of the HD250, together with a complete specification.

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Systems for the transmission of data (and speech) by digital methods; data modems, data loggers, terminals, networks; telemetry; facsimile and broadband data systems; error correction.

MOBILE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS: (Civil)

Systems for communications with and between aircraft, ships and land vehicles; radio determination and radio navigation systems; personal radio and paging systems; orbiting satellites for maritime and aeronautical mobile systems.

FIXED RADIO COMMUNICATIONS:

Point-to-point services for speech and data transmission using long-distance radio links; VHF, UHF and microwave radio-relay links; over-the-horizon (and tropospheric scatter) communications satellites and earth stations.

DEFENCE COMMUNICATIONS:

Systems for tactical and strategic situations, taking into account the special requirements of military (land, sea and air) communications including transportability, flexibility, robustness, reliability and compatibility.

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national Exhibitors, both manufacturers and users. They include the following world famous company names and authorities. Bell Telephone (Belgium). BAC, Cable & Wireless. Decca, Exchange Telegraph. The Home Office, Honeywell, IAL, ITALTEL (Italy). ITT, Marconi, Ministry of Defence, Post Office Telecomms.. Racal, Redifon, RF Communications (USA). Siemens. Storno. Thomson CSF (France). Together they cover the fields of DATA---MOBILE RADIO--FIXED RADIO & DEFENCE COMMUNICATIONS.

Dimension 2 THE CONFERENCE

So many papers were submitted for the Conference that it was necessary to introduce an additional session on each of the four days. There will now be 56 papers presented in the course of the Conference.

The main user stream will be linked to the daily themes of the total COMMUNICATIONS 74 event, and the technical and designer sessions in parallel will ensure that delegates will find something of interest to them during the whole run of the Conference.

Another innovation, the introduction of afternoon sessions on two days for the shorter presentation of papers on a wide range of topics. Interest will be maintained on two evenings with films on communications subjects.

Dimension 3 THE INWARD MISSIONS

Missions sponsored by Inward the Electronic Engineering Association are being brought into this country to coincide with COMMUNICATIONS 74. Four are made up of users of Radio & Data Communications systems, covering the four major aspects of communications in the exhibition, an official delegation from NATO/SHAPE and a mission of International Journalists.

Official guests, they are invited into this country through the British Overseas Trade Board and the Ministry of Defence in association with leading manufacturing companies. The Home Office. Post Office Telecommunications and The Communications 74 Committee are also host authorities, and a two-day visit to COMMUNICATIONS 74 is part of the Missions programme.

Dimension 4 THE DELEGATES

The most important dimension of all, we need to receive many thousands of you THE DELEGATES, if we are to call COMMUNICATIONS 74 a success. However, we already know that we may expect a very heavy traffic of senior Radio & Data

Communications systems users throughout the four days.

You will have noted under the headings of Exhibition and Conference that there will be a lot to see and hear and that means hard work. However, we have also designed a social programme, it is below and we hope it will help to make you feel that you are seen to be very important in our scheme of things and that you will be made very welcome at COMMUNICATIONS 74.

Dimension 5 THE VIP PARTICIPATION AND THE SOCIAL EVENTS

In COMMUNICATIONS 74 we have a full commitment on the part of government ministries and agencies, and an international line up of the best known manufacturers in Radio & **Data Communications**

They have come together and have supplied leading authorities in their various fields to speak in our planned schedule of four official luncheons and a banquet. In addition we finish off on a friendly note with a Farewell Supper-Dance.

From all of this you will realize that a complete programme is waiting for you the user. manufacturer or designer of Com-munications systems throughout the four days of COMMUNICATIONS 74.

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COMMUNICATIONS

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS Organised by ELECTRONICS WEEKLY and WIRELESS WORLD

Tuesday June 4-Data Communications Day

She care care a	on manual cations bay
Session	1: Data Communications
	9.30-12.30: Winter Garden
	11.20: Highlight Paper
Session	2: Equipment Design 1
	9.30–12.30: Clarence Room
Session	3: Mobile Communications
	9.30–12.30: Hall 5
Evening	Film Session:
	From 18.30: Clarence Room

Thursday June 6-

Fixed Communications Day

Session 8: Fixed Communications 9.30-12.30: Winter Garden 11.20: Highlight Paper Session 9: Equipment Design 3 9.30-12.30: Clarence Room Session 10: Defence Communications

9.30-12.30; Hall 5 Session 11: Short Communications Papers 14.30-16.30; Hall 5

Wednesday June 5— **Mobile Communications Day**

Session	4:	Wobile Communications
		9.30–12.30: Winter Garden
		11.20: Highlight Paper
Session	5:	Equipment Design 2
		9.30-12.30: Clarence Room
Session	6:	Maritime Communications
		9.30-12.30: Hall 5
Session*	7:	Short Communications Papers
		14.30-16.30: Hall 5
Evening F	Film	Session:
		From 18.30: Clarence Room

Friday June 7-

Defence Communications Day Session 12: Defence Communications 9.30-12.30: Winter Garden 11.20: Highlight Paper Session 13: Equipment Design 4 9.30-12.30: Clarence Room Session 14: Testing/Mobile Facsimile 9.30-12.30: Hall 5

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Astrologically speaking...

May, June and December, however if you are careful and do not attempt anything too rash, the remainder of the year should not present you with too many problems.

All in all a productive future is forseen in your horoscope.

...now discover our scope!

The 5AV and 1EV series of high voltage cartridge rectifiers are rated at 50mA and 10mA average rectified current respectively.

The 5AV series is offered over the voltage range 2kV to 6.5kV VRRM and is in a 5mm x 10mm diameter package offering the design engineer an extremely compact solution to many high voltage rectifier problems.

The 1EV series offered with V_{RRM} ratings up to 12kV is in a 16mm long package that provides longer tracking paths than the 5AV series enabling the lower voltage types to be used without further encapsulation.

The 1EV series has fast reverse recovery characteristics and so is suitable for use in high frequency systems where rectifier efficiency is important. Both series are available now.

HURST GREEN OXTED SURREY RH8 9BB TELEX RECTIFIER OXTED 95219 TELEPHONE OXTED 3215/4231




Don't buy a calculator - build one.

Advance Electronics have two calculator kits which would give you great pleasure. In construction and use.

First, our hand-held mini executive which we developed in conjunction with 'Electronics Today International'. It has the four functions plus a constant and a fixed/floating decimal point facility for only £24.95 (inc. VAT, etc.).

If you're manipulatively dextrous, it will take you about three hours to build the calculator using our fully documented assembly instructions.

We've only got a few left and we suggest you use our coupon and your cheque book today.

Now if you'd prefer a desk top version, look at our beauty. This was designed in conjunction with 'Wireless World' to the same spec as our pocket sized kit but including light intensity control.

It's more expensive (at £34.95, inclusive of everything) but provides larger keys with the faster desk-top action.

We haven't too many of these left, either, so do use the coupon. One other point. Although they're kits, the end-product is robust and comes with the full backing of the Advance Electronics name. They are emphatically not toys and will give you years of continuous and reliable use. Shouldn't you be 63 1 picking up a ball point and a kit right now?

Advance Calculators: Our job is making yours easier.

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To: Ad	ance Electronics Limi	ted,

Telephone: (0279) 55155. Telex: 81510.

Please send me an 'ETI' Kit of your mini Executive hand-held calculator. I enclose my cheque for £24.95 in fullpayment. Or

Please send me a 'Wireless World' Kit of your desk top calculator. I enclose my cheque for £34.95 in full payment.

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Name _____



Advance Electronics Limited, Raynham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. Telephone: (0279) 55155. Telex: 81510.

The Sinclair Cambridge... no other calculator is so powerful and so compact.

Complete kit-£24-95! (PLUS VAT)

Cambr

The Cambridge - new from Sinclair

The Cambridge is a new electronic calculator from Sinclair, Europe's largest calculator manufacturer. It offers the power to handle complex calculations, in a compact, reliable package. No other calculator can approach the specification below at anything like the price - and by building it yourself you can save a further £5.50 !

Truly pocket-sized

With all its calculating capability, the Cambridge still measures just 41 x 2 x 11 That means you can carry the Cambridge wherever you go without inconvenience - it fits in your pocket with barely a bulge. It runs on U16- type batteries which gives weeks of life before replacement.

Easy to assemble

All parts are supplied - all you need provide is a soldering iron and a pair of cutters. Complete step-by-step instructions are provided, and our service department will back you throughout if you've any queries or problems.

Total cost? Just £27.45! The Sinclair Cambridge kit is supplied to you direct from the manufacturer. Ready assembled, it costs £32.95 - so you're saving £5-50! Of course we'll be happy to supply you with one ready-assembled if you prefer-it's still far and away the best calculator value on the market.

*Uniquely handy package.

Features of the Sinclair Cambridge

41" x 2" x 11, weight 31 oz.

*Standard keyboard. All you need for complex calculations.

*Clear-last-entry feature.

* Fully-floating decimal point.

*Algebraic logic.

*Four operators (+, -, x, -), with constant on all four.

*Constant acts as last entry in a calculation.

*Constant and algebraic logic combine to act as a limited memory, allowing complex calculations on a calculator costing less than £30.

*Calculates to 8 significant digits, with exponent range from 10⁻²⁰ to 10⁷⁹.

*Clear, bright 8-digit display.

*Operates for weeks on four U16-type batteries. (MN 2400 recommended.)

Actual size!

The kit comes to you packaged in a heavy-duty polystyrene container. It contains all you need to assemble your Sinclair Cambridge. Assembly time is about 3 hours.

A complete kit!

- Contents:
- 1. Coil.
- 2. Large-scale integrated circuit.
- 3. Interface chip.
- 4. Thick-film resistor pack.
- 5. Case mouldings, with buttons, window and light-up display in position
- 6. Printed circuit board.
- 7. Keyboard panel.
- 8. Electronic components pack (diodes, resistors, capacitors, transistor).
- 9. Battery clips and on/off switch.





4¹/₂ in long x 2 in wide x ¹¹/₁₆ in deep

This valuable book - free!

If you just use your Sinclair Cambridge for routine arithmetic - for shopping, conversions, percentages, accounting, tallying, and so on - then you'll get more than your money's worth.

But if you want to get even more out of it, you can go one step further and learn how to unlock the full potential of this piece of electronic technology.



How? It's all explained in this unique booklet, written by a leading calculator design consultant. In its fact-packed 32 pages it explains, step by step, how you can use the Sinclair Cambridge to carry out complex calculations



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Why only Sinclair can make you this offer

The reason's simple : only Sinclair - Europe's largest electronic calculator manufacturer - have the necessary combination of skills and scale.

Sinclair Radionics are the makers of the Executive - the smallest electronic calculator in the world. In spite of being one of the more expensive of the small calculators, it was a runaway best-seller. The experience gained on the Executive has enabled us to design and produce the Cambridge at this remarkably low price.

But that in itself wouldn't be enough. Sinclair also have a very long experience of producing and marketing electronic kits. You may have used one, and you've almost certainly heard of them - the Sinclair Project 60 stereo modules,

It seemed only logical to combine the knowledge of do-it-yourself kits with the knowledge of small calculator technology.

And you benefit !

Take advantage of this money-back, no-risks offer today The Sinclair Cambridge is fully guaranteed. Return your kit within 10 days, and we'll refund your money without question. All parts are tested and checked before despatch - and we guarantee a correctly-assembled calculator for one year.

Simply fill in the preferential order form below and slip it in the post today.

Price in kit form: £24.95 + £2.50 VAT. (Total: £27.45) Price fully built : £29.95 + £3.00 VAT. (Total : £32.95)

To: Sinclair Radionics Ltd, London Road. St Ives, Huntingdonshire, PE174HJ Please send me a Sinclair Cambridge calculator kit at £24.95 + £2.50 VAT (Total: £27.45) a Sinclair Cambridge calculator ready built at £29-95 - £3-00 VAT (Total : £32-95) *I enclose cheque for £ made

out to Sinclair Radionics Ltd, and crossed. *Please debit my *Barclaycard/Access account. Account number Delete as required.

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What you see is what you get.



The extraordinary Shure SM7 professional microphone features something you've never seen before: a built-in Visual Indication Response Tailoring System that offers you four different frequency response curves—and shows you the curve you've selected with a graphic readout (see above) at the back of the microphone! Choose: 1. flat response; 2. bass roll-off; 3. presence boost; 4. combination of roll-off and presence. And there's more: the SM7 delivers exceptional noise isolation with a revolutionary pneumatic suspension mount... an ultra-wide, ultra-smooth frequency response ... an integral "pop" and wind filter ... and a cardioid pickup pattern that looks "text-book perfect." The Shure SM7 Studio Microphone was extensively field-tested in recording studios and broadcasting stations! Write:

Shure Electronics Limited Eccleston Road, Maidstone ME15 6AU Telephone: Maidstone (0622) 59881



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Alpha. World Beater.

Alpha from Advance sets a new standard in multimeters.

With 5 functions and 24 ranges (a glance at its front panel reveals all).

What you can't see is the Alpha's 0.5% accuracy on dc – and that it's tough and lightweight... at only 2lbs.

Alpha's fully portable and battery operated – with mains units and rechargeable batteries available. Best of all, Alpha costs only £62.00+VAT. And delivery is first class.

Please use our enquiry number. It will get you Alpha's better data.

Advance: our job is making yours easier.



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Steren decoder

Project 80 Active Filter Unit (AFU)

only $\frac{3}{4}$ deep x 2" high

a58

Living with hi-fi takes on new meaning with Sinclair Project 80. The electronics of these revolutionary new modules are all contained within elegantly designed matching cases no more than three-quarters of an inch deep. They are designed for mounting on any appropriate flat surface by means of 6BA bolts extending from the rear of each module and which pass through suitably drilled holes. Connections are taken away out of sight in a similar manner. The possibilities opened up by Project 80 are endless - superb hi-fi systems can be installed in ways hitherto only dreamed about and never before made practical. No more cutting out and shaping to put modules in position. A few holes drilled with the aid of templates supplied and the job is done. Now you need never again be faced with problems of keeping the hi-fi from clashing with carefully thought-out furnishing schemes. (That will surely please wives!) Slider controls have been introduced in place of knobs and all modules in the range incorporate new up-dated circuitry with emphasis on performance standards and bullt-in protection against overload and shorting. The aim was to re-think modular construction completely - to make it infinitely more versatile, even simpler and more reliable - the result - Project 80 - another triumph for Sinclair, and the most exciting construction modules ever

the slimmest, most elegant hi-fi modules ever made

Typical Project 80 applications				
System	The Units to use	Units cost		
Simple battery record player	Z.40	£5-45 54p V.A.T		
Mains powered record player	Z.40, PZ.5	£10-43 £1 04 V A.T.		
30W, RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp.	2 x Z.40s. Stereo 80; PZ.6	£30-83 £3.08 V.A.T.		
50W (8 Ω) RMS continuous sine wave de luxe stereo amp	2 x Z,60s, Stereo .80; PZ.8	£3383 £338VAT		
Indoor P A.	Z.60. PZ.8	£14·93 £1 49 V.A.T.		



speakers ... almost anywhere

Project 80 FM tuner, decoder, and A.F.U. may be added as required

new thinking in modular hi-fi

Stereo 80 pre-amplifier and control unit



Each channel has its own separate tone and volume controls operated by sliders, enabling ideal environmental matching to be obtained. A virtual earth input stage forms part of the up-dated circuitry that ensures the finest possible quality from all signal sources. Generous overload margins are allowed on all inputs. Clear instructions with template are supplied. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Size = $260 \times 50 \times 20$ mm ($104 \times 2 \times 3$ ins) Finish = Black with white indicators and transparent sliders

Finish – Black with white indicators and transparent sliders Inputs – Magnetic pick-up 3mV RIAA corrected; Ceramic pick-up 300mV Radio 300mV; Tapa 30mV Signal/noise ratio ~ 60di, Frequency range – 20Hz to 15KHz \pm 1dB: 10Hz to 25KHz \pm 3dB Power requirements – 20 to 35 volts Outputs – 100mV + AB monitoring for tape Controls – Press button for tape radio and P.U. Sliders for volume, bass (~ 12dB to - 14dB at 100Hz) treble (+ 11dB to - 12dB at 10KHz)

R.R.P. £11.95 +E1-19 Project 80 FM tuner and stereo decoder



Twin dual varicap tuning: On the decoder, solid 4 pole ceramic filter: switchable A.F.C.

state stereo indicating beacon.

R.R.P. £11.95 +£1-19 V.A.T.

R.R.P. £7.45 -0.74

Making the Project 80 F.M. tuner and decoder available separately gives a wider choice of systems and saves money where stereo reception may not be required. The tuner is a triumph of electronic design and assures excellent performance. The decoder gives a 40dB channel separation with 150mV output per channel. Both units may be used with other than Project 80 systems.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF TUNER

Size = 85 x 50 x 20mm (3½ x 2 x 3ins) Tuning range = 87.5 to 108 MHz Detector = I.C. balanced coincidence for good A.M. rejection

One I.C. equal to 26 transistors Distortion – 0.2% at 1 KHz for 30% modulation 4 pole ceramic filter in 1.F. section Aerial Impedance - 75 Ω or 240-300 Ω Sensitivity - 4 microvolts for 30dB quieting. Output - 300 mV for 30% modulation Power requirements - 23 to 33 volts

DECODER Size - 47 x 50 x 20mm (17 x 2 x fins) One 19 transistor I.C.

Guarantee

If, within 3 months of purchasing any product direct from us, you are dissatisfied with it, your money will be refunded on production of receipt of payment. Many Sinclair appointed stockists also offer this guarantee. Should any defect arise in normal use, we will service it without charge. For damage arising from mis-use a charge (typically £1-00) will be made.



Sinclair Radionics/Ltd. London Road, St. Ives, Huntingdon PE17 4HJ Telephone St. Ives (0480) 64646

Z.40 & Z.60 power amplifiers totally short-circuit proof

Z.40

Z.60 Intended for use in Project 80 installations, these modules readily adapt to an even wider range of applications. Both incorporate built-in protec-tion against short circuiting and risk of damage from mis-use is greatly reduced

Z.40 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Size~55 × 80 × 20mm (2± × 3± × 3ins) 9 transistors Input sensitivity – 100mV Output = 15 watts RMS continuous into 8 Ω (35v) Frequency response = 10Hz = 100KHz \pm 1d8 Signal/noise ratio - 64dB Distortion – at 10 watts into 8 Ω less than 0.1% Power requirements – 12 to 35 volts

2.60 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Size - 55 × 98 × 15mm (24 × 31 × 2ins) 12 transistors Input sensitivity - 100-250mV Output - 25 watts RMS continuous into 8 Ω (45V). Distortion – typically 0-03% Frequency response – 10Hz to more than 200KHz ± 1dB Signel/noise ratio - better than 70dB

Built-in protection against transient overload and short circuiting Load impedance – 4 Ω min; max, safe on open circuit Z.40 R.R.P. £5.45 - 0.54 VAT .: Z.60 R.R P. £6.95 - 0.690 V.AT

Project 80 active filter unit

Makes a highly desirable part of any worthwhile system where inputs may be from record, radio or tape. As with Stereo 80, separate controls applied to each channel make it easier to obtain ideal stereo balance.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS Size - 108 × 50 × 20mm (41 × 2 × 1 ins)

Voltage gain - minus 0·2dB Frequency response - 36Hz to 22KHz controls minimum Distortion – at 1 KHz – 0-03% using 30V supply HF cut off (scratch) – 22KHz to 5-5KHz, 12dB/oct, slope L,F, cut off (rumble) – 28dB at 20Hz, 9dB/oct, slope

R.R.P. £6.95 +0.69

Power supply units PZ.8

Stabilised. Re-entrant current limit-ing makes damage from overload or even direct shorting impossible. Normal working voltage (adjust-able) 45V.

R.R.P. £7.98 + 0.79p V.A.T. Without mains transformer PZ.5 30V unstabilised R.R.P. £4-98 + 0-49p V.A.T.

PZ.6 35V, stebilised R.R.P.£7-98 + 0.79pV.A.T.

For scratch and

rumble control

Transistorised

active circuitry

To SINCLAIR RADIONICS LTD. ST. IVES, HUNTINGDON PE17 4HJ Please send post paid for which I enclose Cash/Cheque for £. including V.A.T.

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Address

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MT30/2

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74 Series T.T.L. I.C'S ME-PAR STILL IOWEST IN PRICE FULL EPECIFICATION GUARANTEED, ALL FABOUS MANUFACTURERS NOW WE GIVE YOU 50w PEAK (25w R.M.S.) PLUS THERMAL PROTECTION! The NEW ALGO HILE ANDIO					
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$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	PPOINT Clip Sp TOI Single Sp Clip Sp TOI Double 8p THERMISTORS LINEAR IC:s 10mA. 100mA. VA 1005 15p 709 14 pin DIL 40p VA 1026 15p VA 1026 15p 741 14 pin DIL 38p VITCH 23p VA 10655 15p 741 14 pin DIL 95p VA 10655 15p VA 10665 15p VA 10665 15p 748 8 pin DIL 45p VA 1077 15p 748 8 pin DIL 45p VA 1077 15p 16 pin 16 pin 16 pin
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conveying. Cooling Electronic equipment, Air blast	
to 575) Airblast Fan, 440v 3ph 50c 0-75hp 2850rpm.	
price incl. car. £41.00. Seconak model 350 250v	
w.g. net weight 34ibs, price incl. carr, £26 00.	
free air weight 7 tibs price incl. p.p. £14-50.	
Weight 101bs, price incl. p.p. £18-50.	
Model HSPOB 8hg up to 29 in, mercury rom 1420, E.E. 3 phase induction, motor the cent 200/250v	
380/440v, £21:00 incl. carr, Gast MFG, Vacuum pump, 0522, 9702, 8264	
Motor 110/120v, A.C. 1 ph. 60c 1725 rpm, Class E, 10cult to 10in Mercury in 2 mins maintains vacuum	
635mm Mercury. Or as compressor 10psl int. or 15 osi cont 628:00 incl. carr.	•
Where p.p. not advised add 10p per £ handling and post (in UK). Cash	3.
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 SAFETY MAINS ISOLATING TRANSFORMERS PH 120/240V Set 120/240V Centre Tapped & Screened

 VA
 Weight
 Ste cm.
 PAP

 20
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 70x 75x 60
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 140x108x118
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 1 A 20 Weil version. £3 62. P & P 220. LOW VOLTAGE TRANSFORMERS PRIMARY 200-250 VOLTS 12 AND/OR 24 VOLT RANGE Units. Weight Size cm. Secondary Windings 20 Sav boo 5 0 5 1 4 61x 29x 3-5 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 5 1 4 61x 29x 3-5 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 5 1 4 61x 64x 5-1 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 5 1 4 61x 64x 5-1 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 5 6 4 94x 69x 7-0 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 5 6 612 89x 10-25 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 6 612 89x 10-25 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 6 612 89x 10-25 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 6 612 89x 10-25 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 7 6 612 89x 10-25 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 8 812 121x 89x 10-2 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 10 18 8 140x 89x 11-3 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 10 18 8 140x 89x 11-3 0.129 e1 0/55 Ax2 0 30 32 0 172 x 15 3/11-3 0.129 e1 15 Ax2 0 70 UT RANGE PRIME Amps. 127 244 0-5 0.25 1-0 0.5 2 1 4 2 6 3 8 4 10 5 12 6 16 6 20 10 30 15 60 30 Ref. No. 111 213 71 18 70 108 72 116 17 175 187 226 P&P 3 records of windows 0-12V #1 0-25A x2 0-12V #1 0-26A x2 0-12V #1 0-26A x2 0-12V #1 1A x2 0-12V #1 1A x2 0-12V #1 0A x2 0-12V #1 6A x2 0-12V #1 5A x2 0-12V #1 5A x2 0-12V #1 15A x2 0 p 22 22 36 42 52 52 52 52 52 67 82 1:22 1:44 1:90 2:68 3:20 3:80 4:25 5:10 6:56 8:36 15:40 28:44 Weight ib oz 1 4 2 4 3 4 4 8 6 4 6 12 8 0 12 0 13 12 Ref No. 112 79 3 20 21 51 51 117 88 89 Amps. Size cm. PAP 61×58×48 70×67×61 89×77×77 99×83×86 99×96×86 121×86×102 121×86×102 121×93×102 121×18×102 140×102×118 £ 1-42 1-92 2-90 3-58 4-25 5-30 8-31 8-18 10-33 P 22 36 36 42 52 52 52 67 67 0.5 1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0 5.0 5.0 0-12-15-20-24-30V 8.0 50 VOLT RANGE Secondary Taps Weight /b oz 1 12 2 12 5 8 6 12 10 0 12 0 12 0 13 0 23 0 Weight Size cm. Amps. & P Ref. No. 102 103 104 105 107 118 119 Ref. No. 126 127 125 123 40 120 120 122 189 P

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 70× 64× 61 83× 74× 76 93× 89× 86 99×102× 86 121×105×102 146×102×118 140×127×118 172×127×140 8/ £ 1 90 2 83 3-87 5-26 6-99 10-35 13-51 11 93 p 30 38 42 52 52 52 52 52 52 52 52 52 52 52 52 0-19-25-33-40-50V 0.5 PAP £ 1.93 2.70 4.25 8.46 8.36 9.85 12.41 13.85 28 36 42 52 67 82 ... 20 09 22 49 P&P 3 P 10 22 10 10 23 0 10 23 0 38 38 38 38 1-31 1-52 1-52 2-03 2-73 1-52 1-50 1-61 3-08 2-82 2 16 & P P £ 1 81 2 93 6 40 P 30 42 52 52 57 5-02 7-53 Carriage via 8.R.S. Also stocked: SEMICONDUCTORS . VALVES AVOMETERS . ELECTROSIL RESISTORS PLEASE ADD 10% FOR V.A.T. including P. & P. RRIE electronics THE MINORIES, LONDON EC3N 1BJ TELEPHONE: 01-488 3316/8

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DERTED TROUBLE	2L86 0-88 0-88 PY82 0-30 U12/14 1 00 2N2147 0-96 AP186 0-61 GD6 0-31 OC26 0-48 2L91 0-40 PC86 0-60 PY83 0-35 U16 1 00 2N2237 0-25 AP239 0-42 GD6 0-31 OC28 0-48
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1A3 0 52 68H6 0.70 6L10 2 00 12BA6 0 40 10PL12 0.35 BL63 2 00 ECC33 1.40 F 14507 5 50 6BJ6 0 55 6LD12 0.30 10BF6 0 50 30PL33 0.75 CL33 1.50 ECC35 0 95 F	2 Y51 0.40 PCF32 0.35 Q575/20 U45 0.78 AA120 0.17 BCY12 0.55 GET110 37 OC70 8-14 2 Y51 0.40 PCF34 0.59 1-00 U47 0.80 AA129 0.17 BCY33 0.22 OFT573 48 OC71 0.12
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1C2 0.70 0BQ7A 0.55 0P16 0.23 12/50T 0.33 35A3 0.65 CV988 0.25 ECC89 0.28 1 105 100 0887 1.00 0P112 0.34 12/50T 0.33 35A5 0.80 CV10 1.00 ECC83 0.28 1	Y67/0 0-33 PCF2000 67 1-00 U76 0 55 AC113 0 28 BCY39 0 28 GETS73 -17 0C75 0-15 Y68 0-40 PCF8000 75 UV04/7 1-00 U78 0 40 AC114 0 44 BC167 0-16 GETS63 -58 0C76 0-17
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6AH6 0-60 6P18 0-55 10C14 0-38 25Z5 0-80 6060 1 00 E1148 0-53 EF86 0-30	KT2 0.50 PL82 0.40 UP60 0.35 X61 1.25 AP124 0.28 BYZ15 1.03 0A210 0.63 XZ30 0.23 KT2 0.50 PL83 0.45 UT855 0.44 X65 1.25 AP124 0.28 BYZ15 1.03 0A211 0.75 Y543 0.20
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6AL5 0-16 6F32 0-86 10114 0-45 30C17 0 90 AC2PEN EAF42 0 80 EF96 0 80	KT74 1-00 FL506 0 90 UM80 0 44 LP15 (ACI313, ACI34, ACI57, AA120), 58p per pack.
6ANS 0 60 6GH9A 0.75 10. D120 40 F3 0 60 AC2PENDD EB34 0 25 EF184 0.02	KT81 2:00 PL601 0 80 UU5 1:00 and Diodes 1-OC81D and 2-OC81, 479. KT81 2:00 PL601 0 80 UU5 1:00 and Diodes 1-OC44 and 2-OC45, 479.
6AUS 0 34 GUT 0.75 10P13 0.70 30FL2 0.75 AC6/PEN FSC41 0.65 EFT-80 2.00	KTW611 00 1184 0 60 UU19 0.27 1N4952 0 55 1 walt Zenard, 2 4v., 2 7v., 3v., 3 6v., 6 3v., 4 7v.,
6AR6 1-00 615GT 0-40 10P18 0-42 30FL13 0-55 0-38 E8C90 0-38 EK90 0-32 6AR6 1-00 615GT 0-40 10P18 0-42 30FL13 0-55 AC/PEN(7) E8C90 0-38 EK90 0-32	N(8)69 1-00
6ATC 0 38 4J7(1 0 30 13ACC 0 65 301.1 0 40 0 98 EBP80 0 39 EL33 2:00 6ATC 0 38 4J7(1 0 30 13ACC 0 65 301.1 0 40 0 98 EBP80 0 39 EL33 2:00	Millibili of galage are unused and subject to the manufactures guarantee, during a during the set of the subject to the manufactures guarantee, during a during the set of the s
4AV6 0-33 6/U6A 0 75 112AE5 0-65 30L17 0-70 AC/TP 0-98 EBF99 0 30 -2135 2-50	MU12/14 then each additional item 3p extra. Orders between 45 and 410 add 25p total. Orders over 410 MU12/14
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VALVES AZ:1 0 55 DY802 0-37 AZ:1 0 60 KABCA0 CIL33 1:00 0 38 CL33 1:50 KAP42 0-75 OX31 0:50 EAP5010-30 DAP96 0:50 EBP60 040 DP96 0:50 EBP73 0:40 DP51 0:50 EBP73 0:40 DF51 0:50 EBP73 0:40 D	ECP92 0.40 EP98 ECH92 0.40 EP183 ECH43 1.25 EP183 ECH43 0.40 EF183 ECH43 0.40 EF133 ECH83 0.43 EL33 ECH84 0.45 EL34 ECL80 0.55 E1.41 ECL84 0.45 EL34 ECL84 0.45 EL34 ECL84 0.45 EL34 ECL84 0.45 EL34 ECL84 0.45 EL44 3<20	0.75 EZ30 0.28 0.28 0.28 0.30 EZ31 0.29 0.20 0.20 0.35 EZ30 0.40 0.2 0.40 0.2 0.35 EZ30 0.40 0.5 PC 0.55 0.20 0.45 PC 0.55 GZ30 0.45 PC 0.55 PC 0.45 PC 0.45	12 0.46 PD500 1.42 12 0.46 PENA5DD1 14 0.45 PENA5DD1 15 0.46 PENA5DD1 14 0.45 PENA5DD1 15 0.66 PF1.200753 20 0.45 FL30 0.80 16 0.45 PL30 0.80 1780 0.30 FL80 0.45 1810 0.80 PL30 0.75 1810 0.85 PL304 0.75 1800 75 PL304 0.75 1800 75 PL304 0.75 1800 750 PL304 0.95 1800 750 PL304 0.95 1805	PY88 0.34 UCH42 0.75 PY850 0.38 UCH42 0.75 PY300 0.00 UCL28 0.38 PY300 0.50 UCL28 0.38 PY800 0.50 UCL28 0.70 PY810 0.50 UCL43 0.70 PY810 0.75 UF28 0.42 U741 0.75 UF28 0.42 U741 0.75 UF28 0.42 U741 0.75 UF44 0.85 U741 0.76 UF28 0.42 U741 0.76 VF35.12 UF44 U740 0.86 VF35.12 UF45.12 U741 0.76 VF35.12 UF35.02 U741 0.76 VF35.12 UF35.02 U741 0.76 VF35.12 UF45.02 U741 0.75 VF35.12 UF35.02 U741 0.75 VF35.12 UF35.02 U7450 0.40 U	134 0.40 68W7 0.8 3Y4 0.70 6C4 0.33 8040 0.80 6CD66 1.33 8040 0.80 6CD61 1.43 6.405 0.45 6CD61 1.43 6.405 0.45 6CD61 1.43 6.405 0.45 6CD61 1.43 6.405 0.45 6CD61 6.43 6.405 0.45 6CD61 6.43 6.405 0.45 6CD61 6.43 6.405 0.26 6CD70 5 6.405 0.26 6SD701 5 6.405 0.26 6SD701 5 6.816 0.28 6SL7010.3 6BL7010 <td>0 9 9507 0.50 90715 1.05 907 0.46 5 874 0.46 3007 1.10 6080 2.25 0 755 0.75 0.75 0.076 0.90 6146 2.00 0 786 0.75 0.076 0.90 6146 2.00 0 786 0.75 0.9071 0.90 3871 4.50 0 775 0.70 0.9071 0.90 3871 4.50 0 775 0.75 0.017 0.95 3571 1.00 5 787 9.25 0.017 0.95 3571 1.00 1 746 0.75 0.901 0.0 3071 4.50 1 746 0.75 0.917 0.95 3571 1.00 1 746 0.75 0.917 0.95 3571 1.00 1 2AD6 0.00 0.9711 0.00 3071 4.50 5 127 0.76 0.0171 0.95 3577 3.00 1 2AD6 0.00 0.9711 1.29 577 3.00 1 2AA70 0.40 35467075 3.077 3.00 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.978 10.0 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.978 10.0 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.908 8.00 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.76 0.90 5 12A76 0.03 0.971.1 0.95 3577 3.00 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.76 0.90 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.75 0.75 0.75 0.75 1 28A70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.074 0.75 8.00 1 2AX70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.00 10.75 8.00 1 2AX70 0.45 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 2 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2</td>	0 9 9507 0.50 90715 1.05 907 0.46 5 874 0.46 3007 1.10 6080 2.25 0 755 0.75 0.75 0.076 0.90 6146 2.00 0 786 0.75 0.076 0.90 6146 2.00 0 786 0.75 0.9071 0.90 3871 4.50 0 775 0.70 0.9071 0.90 3871 4.50 0 775 0.75 0.017 0.95 3571 1.00 5 787 9.25 0.017 0.95 3571 1.00 1 746 0.75 0.901 0.0 3071 4.50 1 746 0.75 0.917 0.95 3571 1.00 1 746 0.75 0.917 0.95 3571 1.00 1 2AD6 0.00 0.9711 0.00 3071 4.50 5 127 0.76 0.0171 0.95 3577 3.00 1 2AD6 0.00 0.9711 1.29 577 3.00 1 2AA70 0.40 35467075 3.077 3.00 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.978 10.0 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.978 10.0 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.908 8.00 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.76 0.90 5 12A76 0.03 0.971.1 0.95 3577 3.00 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.76 0.90 1 2AA70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.75 0.75 0.75 0.75 0.75 1 28A70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.074 0.75 8.00 1 2AX70 0.45 3524 0.75 0.00 10.75 8.00 1 2AX70 0.45 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 2 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0.00 8.00 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
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STER	EO IC I	DECODE	R		Audio	Connectors

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TRANSISTORS

Very wide range of types is shown together with grouped and tabulated specifications for each one. Outlines are illustrated, and there is a full range of supporting hardware. Also near-equivalent tables are given,

.C.s

Here too a wide range of TTL types are shown, together with linear and special purpose types. Over 60 circuit and connection diagrams as well as much other useful information is included,

MINITEDN DIGITAL INDICATORS

3015F Seven	segment	filament.	compatible	with standard
logic modules.	0-9 and	decimal	point: 9mm	characters in
16 lead OIL.				£1-20
Suitable BCD de	coder driv	er		£1.15
3015 G showing	+ or - 8	1 & dec	. pt.	£1-20

CAPACITORS POLYESTER C.280

Redial leads for P.C.B. mounting. Working voltage 250V d.c. 0-01,0-015,0-022,0-033,0-047 ea.3p 0-088,0-1,0-15 e8.4p 0-22,5p:0-33,7p;0-47,8p;0-68,11p;1-0,14p;1-5,21p; 2-2,24p

TANTALUM BEAD

0-1, 0-22, 0-47, 1-0 mF/35V	ea. 13p
2-2/16V_2-2/35V_4-7/16V_10/6-3V	ea. 13p
4-7/35V, 10/16V, 22/6-3V	ea. 16p
10/25V. 22/16V, 47/6·3V, 100/3V	ea. 18p

 POLYCARBDNATE

 Type B42540 Working Voltage—250V

 Values in mF: 0-0047; 0-0068: 0-0082; 0-1; 0-012; 0-012; 0-005; 0-082; 0-018; 0-022; 0-027; 0-033; 0-039; 0-047; 0-055; 0-086; 0-082; 0-1

 0-018: 0-022; 0-027; 0-033; 0-039; 0-047; 0-055; 0-086; 0-082; 0-1

SILVERED MICA Warking voltage 500V d.c. Values in pF=-22 to 820 in 32 stages 1000, 1500 7p: 1800 8p: 2200 10p: 2700, 3600 12p: 4700, 5000 15p: 6800 20p: 8200, 10.000 25p

CERAMIC DISC 1000pF/500, 2000/500, 5000/500, 0.01mF/50, 0-02mF/50, 0-1mF/3---each 2p: 0-05mF/50V---3p

CERAMIC PLAIN: In a range of 26 values from 22 to 6800pF/50V d.c. each 2p

POTENTIOMETERS

ROTARY, CARBON TRACK. Double wipers for g	oad
contact and long working life	
P.20 SINGLE linear 100ohms to 2-2 megohms ea. 1	ł4o
P.20 SINGLE lon 4-7Kohms to 2-2macohms na. 1	140
JP.20 DUAL GANG hp. 47Kohms to 2.7 merchine es /	18-
IP.20 OUAL GANG too 4.7Kohms to 7.2msochms on 4	10.
IP 20 DUAL CASIC Los/sector 10K 22K 42K 4	endin 1
or 20 DOAL DAND LUGRATING TUK. 22K. 47K, 1 mego	mm
oniy ea. 4	48p
JP.20 DUAL GANG antilog 10K only	1Bp
2A DP mains switch for any of above 14p extra-	
Decades of 10, 22 and 47 only available in cancer about	
Skelaton Carboo Breasts Tarto DD heatental or west	in all
Snorth calcon ridgets type FR, northpritill of vill	IGEN

SLIDER

Linear or log. 10K to 1 meg in all popular values	ea, 30p
cscutcheon plates, black, white or light grey	88, 100
Control knobs, blk/wht/red/yel/gm/blue/dk. grey/it grey	ea. 7p

JACKS AND PLUGS

SOCKETS 2 circuit unswitched 51/SS		120
 Circuit 2 break contacts 51/88 Circuit unswitched (Not GPO) S3SSS Circuit with 3 break contacts 52/888 		15p 17p
2 circuit with chrome nut and black/white/red/green unswitched S5/SS with 2 break contacts S6/BB	or	grey 16p 20p
Miniature 3.5mm 2 circuit, (black) 2 br. cont S6/B8		9p

2 circuit screened top entry Pa	240
side entry SEP1	360
Line socket mong 231	400
Line socket atereo 244	45.0
3 circuit unscreeped, black/orgy/schite, PA	460
2 Circuit, unscreened, black/white/radiblack/aroon/arou 81	400
3 Circuit screen ton entry P3	19P
side entry SEP3	5 SP
Miniature 3-5mm 2 circuit accorned PS	33p
Miniature 3-5mm 2 circuit uncompand antique enforce fic	130
and a summer anscreened ABLORS COROLIS NO	10p

INSULATED SCREW TERMINALS

In moulded polypropylene, with micket plate on brass. With insulating set, washers, tag and nuts 15A/250V In black/brown/red/yellow/greer/blue/grey/white. Type TP.1

DIN CONNECTORS

2 wey loudspeaker	Socket	10p	Plug	12p
3 way audio	Socket	10p	Plug	12p
way audio 180°	Socket	12p	Plug	15p
way audio 240°	Socket	12p	Plug	15p
S wey audio	Sockot	13p	Plug	15p

RESIS	TOR	s			
, Code	Watts	Ohms	1 10 9	10 to	99100 up
00000	1/20 1/3 1/2 3/4 1	82-220K 4-7-470K 4-7-10M 4-7-10M 4-7-10M	9 1.3 1.3 1.5 3.2	8 1-1 1-2 2-5	7-5 0 9 nett 0 9 nett 0-9 nett 1-9 nett
WW	1/2 3	0-22-3-9 1-10K	4 9 7	3.3 9 7	2-3 nett 8 8
Codes;	7 on film	1-10K	9	9	8 nett
MO = m WW = v	etal oxi	de. Electrosi Ind. Plessey.	TR6. ul	ra low r	ioise,
Valuest E12: 10	AII E1	2 except 0	1W, C 27, 33.	1W. 47	nd MO W. , 56, 68, 82
E24: as 62, 75	E12 pl	us 11, 13, d their decad	16. 20. les.	24. 30.	36, 43, 51,
5% excep Prices 4	ies: hWW	10% ±0.050	and Mt	W 29	of the same

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Advertisement accepted up to 12 noon Thursday, May 9th for the May issue subject to space being available.

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> Starting pay at age 19 is \pounds 1,450 a year, including contributions to a compulsory pension scheme, with an additional allowance averaging \pounds 300 for shift duties. After two years, satisfactory service your pay becomes \pounds 1,840, rising to a maximum of \pounds 2,450 at age 26 years. If you are over 19 years of age your salary is dependent upon age at entry.

There are opportunities for further promotion to positions with a basic salary of \pounds 3,475 and prospects for advancement into Senior Management.

For further information, write to the Inspector of Wireless Telegraphy (L57.), IMTR/WTS, Room 643, Armour House, St. Martins-le-Grand, London ECTA-TAR.

Post Office Telecommunications

National Air Traffic Services

3616

Electronics Test Engineers

Pye Telecommunications of Cambridge and Haverhill have immediate vacancies for Production Test Engineers. The work entails checking to an exacting specification VHF, UHF radio-telephone equipment before customer delivery; applicants must therefore have experience of fault finding and testing electronic equipment, preferably communications equipment. Formal qualifications, while desirable, are not as important as practical proficiency. Armed service experience of such work would be perfectly acceptable.

Pye Telecommunications is the world's largest exporter of radio-telephone equipment and is engaged in a major expansion programme designed to double present turnover during the next five years. There are, therefore, excellent opportunities for promotion within the company. Pye also encourages its staff to take higher technical and professional qualifications.

These are genuine career opportunities in an expansionist company, so write or telephone without delay for an application form to:

Mrs A E Darkin at Cambridge Works, Elizabeth Way, Cambridge CB4 1DW Telephone: Cambridge 58985 or Mrs C Dawe at Colne Valley Road, Haverhill,

Suffolk CB98DU Telephone: Haverhill 4422



department.

CIRCUIT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERS TELEVISION SYSTEMS SALARY RANGE £7,000 (OPEN)

Telecommunications

Spread your wings and take off to

West Midlands Gas Any Telecommunications Technician worth his salt wants to work with the most advanced electronics equipment available. We at West Midlands Gas are

proud to tell you that we use microwave radio, digital supervisory systems and UHF radio for telemetry and data transmission and also make extensive use of VHF UHF mobile R T systems. Our computer communications networks are amongst the most sophisticated in the country. As you will see this calls for technicians who have attained ONC, have some knowledge of this kind of

equipment and are keen to further their careers in a sophisticated telecommunications environment.

Salaries will be up to £1926 per annum with possible

progression to Senior Technician in a range up to £2487 per annum on proven ability. Possibilities exist for

further promotion to systems design and management

The posts are based at Solihull but involve travel

WEST MIDLANDS

GAS

posts through career development within the

The Grass Valley Group, Inc. (USA), a leading manufacturer of television line and terminal equipment, has immediate openings for highly qualified circuit development engineers. Specifically, we are looking for creative and resourceful people who are capable of carrying ideas through to completed products. Applicants are expected to be familiar with the latest solid state devices and techniques, and preferably should have experience in the design of video switching systems, video processing systems, and possibly digital video systems. Some experience in television studio operations and techniques is also desirable. Educational requirements are a C.E. or a B.Sc. in electronic engineering. A minimum of five years' design experience is required.

If you are interested in a challenging and rewarding career with an expanding company, please airmall a resume of your educational and technical background, work experience, and personal history to William L. Rorden, Chief Engineer, The Grass Valley Group, Inc., P.O. Box 1114, Grass Valley, California 95945, USA. Resumes need not be formal; however, we are interested in learning as much about you and your experience as possible. Immediate consideration will be given and response made to suitable applicants, with a view toward arranging personal interviews in London In early 1974, All resumes will be treated in confidence. References will be required at or prior to the time of interview.

Grass Valley is a small town located in the foothlils of the Sierra Nevada mountains in northern California, adjacent to summer resort and ski areas, and 2-1/2 hours from San Francisco.

THE GRASS VALLEY GROUP, INC. A.A.

3614

3651

Pye Telecommunications Ltd

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

HIGHER SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

post-qualification experience.

SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

of special value can be offered.

post-graduate experience.

experience is required:

required.

minimum.

Applicants should be under 30 years of age but this require-ment may be waived if special qualifications or experience

can be offered. Formal qualifications are the same as for Scientific Officer above but in addition the following

(a) Applicants with 1st or 2nd class honours degrees-

(b) Applicants with other qualifications-at least 5 years

Salary Scale: £2,221-£2,854 (subject to review) with entry point dependent upon experience beyond the minimum

Applicants should be at least 25 and under 32 years of age, although the upper age limit may be waived if experience

Applicants should have obtained a 1st or 2nd class honours

degree and have had a minimum of four years appropriate

Salary Scale: £2.798-£3.895 (subject to review). Entry will

normally be at the minimum of the scale but applicants with

experience of special value may be entered above the

at least 2 years post-graduate experience;

HANSLOPE PARK MILTON KEYNES MK19 7BH

has vacancies in the following fields of R & D work :

- (a) HF Communications:
- (b) VHF/UHF Communications;
- (c) General Electronic circuit design:
- (d) Design and development of small mechanisms;
- (e) Component Reliability and Environmental Testing;

(f) Operational Analysis.

Fields (a)-(e) are at Hanslope Park but field (f) will be in the London area and for this a good engineering/scientific background is essential.

Appointments will be made within the grades of Scientific Officer. Higher Scientific Officer and Senior Scientific Officer in accordance with the following definitions:

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

Applicants should not be more than 27 years of age and should have one of the following qualifications:

- (a) A degree in a scientific or engineering subject;
- (b) Degrec-standard membership of a Professional Institution:
- (c) A Higher National Certificate or Higher National Diploma in a scientific or engineering subject;
- (d) A qualification equivalent to (c) above.

Salary Scale: £1,435-£2,329 (subject to review) with the entry point determined by qualifications and experience.

Applications stating the field of work and grade required should be made to :

Administration Officer **HM** Government Communications Centre Hanslope Park Hanslope MILTON KEYNES MK19 7BH

3660

COME DOWN UNDER

Here's a once in a lifetime opportunity to work for Australia's leading electronics company specialising in the supply of components to hobbyists and industry. The Dick Smith Electronics Centre, situated in Sydney, is expanding its activities very rapidly and we desperately need staff, both for counter sales and mail orders. Interested?

We want people with experience in this field who will come out for at least two years. In return we will guarantee your return flight (but we know with all the opportunities out here you will never go back).

Pay naturally depends on experience but would be in the vicinity of £3,000 P.A. for counter and mail order staff rising to £5,000, for those with management experience.

The weather is great, our winter, is like your summer. The beaches fabulous. The future unlimited. So please write to Dick himself (airmail of course) giving a brief life story and enclosing a photo if possible. All replies will be treated in strict confidence.

Write now to Dick Smith, Managing Director, Dick Smith Electronics Centre, 162 Pacific Highway, Gore Hill, N.S.W. 2065, Australia.

P.S. This advertisement was written by someone who grabbed a similar opportunity three years ago and hasn't looked back since!

ELECTRONIC EVALUATION ENGINEER

We are manufacturers of the specialist range of Leak and Wharfedale HI-FI products and the demand for our quality products, which are designed, developed and manulactured to precise published specifications, is continually increasing. The company's policies, therefore, include controlled expansion, continuous improvement to current products and the extension of our product range.

of our product range. A vacancy is available in the Engineering Function for an Electronic Evaluation Engineer to provide a technical support service on product evaluation and the supply of fectored products. This will involve him in the assessment of performance, con-truction, safety and suitability of factored products and others and the preparation of written reports. This position will also demand close taison with suppliers, quality control departments and product planning for the preparation and assistance with the technical specifications required.

Applicants should be educated to HNC or degree level and have had a minimum period of four years project or product experience in Hi-Fj Electronics or a closely related field.

The company's premises are located at Idle, Bradford, convenient for travelling from both Bradford and Leeds and near to the pleasant rural surroundings of the Aire Valley.

The company can offer competitive employment conditions including trae life assurance and contributory pension scheme. Salary: £2,200-£2,700

Application forms may be obtained from:



J. R. Murgatroyd, Personnei Officer, Rank Radio International, Bradford Road, Idle, Bradford BD10 8SF. Tel: 612552

RANK RADIO INTERNATIONAL

3633

3639



The international music. electronics and leisure Group.

Trials and Commissioning gineers

The Systems and Weapons Division of EMI Electronics Ltd. at Feltham is expanding its Trials and Commissioning Staff in order tofulfill major new commitments in the Aero-space field. Therefore the following vacancies have arisen.

Trials Engineers

Senior Trials Engineers are required with specialist experience in some of the following technical areas or other related fields. 'L', 'C', and 'S' band transmitting and receiving equipment. Minicomputers and digital data handling systems

Analogue data communication Specialised peripheral test equipment

Following a period of training and familiarisation, the appointments involve overseas travel for short periods while some positions will involve overseas residence.

Commissioning Engineers

These positions, although based at Feltham, offer the opportunity of spending varying periods of time testing and commissioning a complex radar type equipment at service establishments. The work involves the investigation of defects and repair of faults found during installation. Familiarity with modern test equipment is essential and applicants should be qualified to at least ONC level.

If any of the above positions appeal to you please contact: J. Morrison, Personnel Officer, EMI Electronics Ltd., Victoria Road, Feltham, Middlesex. Tel: 01-890 3600 Ext. 44 or 117 or outside normal hours 01-890 3921.

3662

ELECTRONIC ECHNICIANS

WALSGRAVE HOSPITAL

Two Electronic Technicians are required for the Electronics Department dealing with the maintenance of a wide variety of electronic and electro-medical apparatus.

Applicants must possess H.N.C., H.N.D., or O.N.C. in electronics or equivalent City and Guilds Certificate.

General diagnostic maintenance experience in the electronic field is necessary. Training in maintenance of specialised hospital equipment will be given.

Salary scale from £1.773 to £2.211 p.a. Additional payments are made if overtime is required.

Applications stating age, qualifications and experience, together with two referees, should be sent to the Group Engineer, Coventry Hospital Management Committee, P.O. Box 92, The Birches, Tamworth Road, Keresley End, Coventry.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH WALES, BANGOR

School of **Electronic Engineering Science** Industrial Development Unit Electronic Design Engineer

required to join a small team engaged in the design and development of radio navigation tracking systems. QUALIFICATIONS: Degree or equi-

valent plus relevant experience in radio system engineering. SALARY: Within range £2,000 to

£2,500 per annum.

The successful candidate will be required to take design responsibility in the areas of R.F. signal processing circuits, and telemetry interface systems. A knowledge of digital integrated circuit techniques would be useful.

Applications (two copies), giving details of age, education and experience, together with the names and addresses together with the names and addition of two referees, should be submitted to the Secretary and Registrar, Univer-sity College of North Wales, Bangor, by not later than 31st May, 1974. 3665

Coventry Hospital Management Committee

Service Area Planning Engineers

The Independent Broadcasting Authority requires additional staff to participate in surveys and planning work associated with the expansion of the UHF colour television service and the Independent Local Radio service. The appointments will be made to the Authority's new offices near Winchester in Hampshire.

Engineers £2,538-£3,087

Vacancies exist for Engineers to assist in the planning of the UHF television and Independent Local Radio station networks and the planning and execution of associated field surveys and site tests. Where field survey and site test work are undertaken, the Engineers will assume responsibility for a survey team in the field and for the analysis of results and the provision of survey reports. These Engineers should be qualified to HNC level and should have a sound basic knowledge of radio wave propagation and basic television principles, plus experience of radio frequency measurements. Ref. WW/2355.

Junior Engineers £1,944–£2,358

Those with more limited experience but with good potential, will be considered as Junior Engineers, and will assist more senior staff over the whole range of survey and planning work. Ref. WW/2356.

All candidates should have a clean current driving licence and should preferably have the ability to climb aerial support structures up to about 150 feet. They should be prepared to work throughout the United Kingdom and to spend periods of varying duration away from base, for which appropriate allowances will be payable.

INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

Those interested should write or telephone for an application form quoting the appropriate reference no. to:

The Personnel Officer, Independent Broadcasting Authority. Crawley Court, Winchester, Hants SO21 2QA. Tel: Winchester 822599.

Closing date for completed applications: May 1st. 1974.

HUDDERSFIELD TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Applications are invited for the following post in the Department of Educational Resources:

ELECTRONIC ENGINEER

To be responsible for the operational efficiency and maintenance of the College's television service. A thorough, practical understanding of T.V. systems (cameras, videotape recorders, etc.) is essential. The ability to service audio visual equipment (cine projectors) an advantage. A high degree of flexibility, initiative and the ability to work unsupervised are of paramount importance.

Salary range, £1.644 to £1.926 per annum.

Applications, giving details of age, experience and qualifications, together with the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Registrar, Huddersfield Technical College, New North Road, Huddersfield, HD1 5NN, Yorkshire, not later than 6th May, 1974. 3867

Sales Engineer-

Northern England and Scotland

Nuclear Chicago, a company in the rapidly expanding Searle Group, require a Sales Engineer to take responsibility for the Northern England and Scotland area, preferably residing in the Manchester area.

residing in the Manchester area. The work involves promoting sales of Searle Radiographic and Searle Analytic products in Northern England and Scotland. Formal qualifications, although desirable, are not as important as practical proficiency. A knowledge of electronic instrumentation is essential, and the familiarity with nuclear techniques is highly desirable. Candidates must be prepared to travel extensively in the U.K.

The post carries a good starting salary with regular reviews, four weeks annual holiday, a company car and excellent conditions of service.

Please apply to:

Mrs E M Parr, Personnel Manager. G D Searle & Co Ltd., Lane End Road, High Wycombe, Bucks.



3661



EEV needs another top-flight man or woman, for R & D work on duplexing devices

At the English Electric Valve Co., Lincoln, we have some of the best facilities in the United Kingdom for microwave research and development work. Right now, we need a man, or woman, who can use these lacilities to the full, and contribute original thinking to the next generation of duplexing devices. He, or she, will also work on new and improved allied low-power microwave components such as TR tubes, solid state limiters, filters, noise generators, mixers, etc.

Age is less important than experience in microwave work—that's why we are operating within an age range of 25 to 50 for this important post. We would prefer to take on a Charlered Engineer, but those with lesser qualifications who feel they have a vital contribution to make, will be very seriously considered. Salary will be based on previous experience.

Please contact Mr. J. L. Scott, giving details of your career to date, and tell him how you think you could contribute to the future development of duplex devices. English Electric Valve Co. Ltd., Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford, Essex.

Telephone: Chelmsford (0245) 61777.



3647

English Electric Valve Co. Ltd.



COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS ENGINEERS

Qualified Engineers are required as Senior members of a team engaged in evaluation, design and installation of communications systems which cover the use of HF/SSB, VHF, UHF, BROADCAST, MICROWAVE, TROPOSCATTER and DATA TRANSMISSION techniques.

Recent contract awards have necessitated an expansion of the Systems Engineering Group, primarily in the HF/SSB and UHF communication fields. Participation will include negotiations at a senior level with military and commercial organisations, and will involve some overseas travel.

Successful applicants must have a broad theoretical and practical background in communication methods, principally HF/SSB and UHF, and be able to undertake projects from inception to final system implementation.

Remuneration and conditions are in line with the importance of these positions and include free life insurance and non-contributory pension scheme.

Further information regarding these positions can be obtained by telephoning 01-759 9911, ext. 55.

Written applications quoting ref: WW/CSE to The Personnel Manager,

COLLINS RADIO COMPANY OF ENGLAND LTD, Heathrow House, Bath Road, Hounslow TW5 9QW



required to assist in the maintenance of the S.R.C. sponsored AE1 EM7 1MEV high voltage electron microscope. The successful candidate will work under the guidance of a Grade 7 Technician to maintain and improve a wide range of electro-mechanical, electronic and vacuum systems. Applicants must have a good knowledge of electronics and will be expected to provide technical guidance with respect to the design of transistor circuitry. Salary range £2,182-£2,557, including London weighting. Applications giving details of qualifications and experience together with the names of two referees should be sent to Mr. G. J. Green, Department of Metallurgy and Materials Science, imperial College, London, SW7 2BP, before 17 May 1974. [3643]



to pick up the sound of £2,500 per year?

We are looking for young people with finely tuned ears to the technical world of audio and hi-fi who know what is going on in the marketing fields as well. This ability, coupled with experience of technical writing or publications work, could secure them a post with our group of leading hi-fi publications.

Write to the Group Editor; Clement Brown, Haymarket Publications, Gillow House, 5 Winsley Street, London W1A 2HG. 3624

Service Engineer

for Audio/Hi-Fi Department,

Good practical knowledge of leading makes. Attractive employment terms.

Write or telephone for appointment to:

JOHN KING (FILMS), 71 East Street, Brighton Tel: 25918/27674

3654

ULSTER : THE NEW UNIVERSITY

C.C.T.V. TECHNICIAN

Applications are invited for the above post (Technician: Grade 5) from persons with at least seven years relevant experience including work in the field of CCTV.

Qualifications: H.N.C. or equivalent. Salary scale: £2,007-£2,382 per annum. Application forms and further particulars should be obtained from The Registrar. The New University of Ulster. Coleraine. Northern Ireland (quoting Ref: 74/36) to whom completed applications, including the names and addresses of three referees, should be returned not later than 31st July. 1974.

Telecommunications

South West England

Applications are invited from recently qualified technicians to train for appointments in telecommunications within the South Western Region of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The successful applicants will initially be based at Durley Park, Keynsham, near Bristol, where training will be given on the Generating Board's telecommunications equipment. After training staff may be asked to move to any of the Region's locations for which relocation expenses will be paid.

Applicants should have a telecommunications or light current background and have academic qualifications leading to H.N.C. or full C. & G. Technological Certificate.

Salary within a range £1.836-£2,535; the starting point will depend upon qualifications and relevant experience.

Application forms may be obtained from Bristol 32251, extension 33 of 3, or by writing to the Personnel Manager; please quote Vacancy No. 142/74.

Central Electricity Generating Board South Western Region Oakfield Grove, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2AS



3596

TRANSISTOR APPLICATIONS ENGINEER

FERRANTI have a vacancy in the Applications Laboratory of their Electronic Components Division at Chadderton, Lancs., for an Engineer to work on the application of R.F. Power Transistors at VHF and UHF frequencies. The work involves the design of appropriate circuits, customer liaison and general technical back-up to the marketing and device development engineers.

Candidates should possess a degree or H.N.C., have previous experience in this field, and be able to work with the minimum of supervision.

Application forms may be obtained from T. J. Lunt, Staff Manager, Ferranti Limited, Hollinwood, Lancs. Please quote reference GH.

FERRANTI

A COMPUTER ENGINEER

is required by the Express & Star Newspaper to maintain Real Time Digital equipment PDP-11 Computer system with a variety of peripheral equipment.

We are the fourth largest provincial evening newspaper in the country and are the only one, possibly in Europe, to have this type of computer system. It is an integral part of our daily production/ publishing systems. Because of this it is vital that the equipment is available at all times and maintenance and servicing are of the utmost importance.

The person appointed will probably have some two years experience in mainframe and peripheral equipment and be educated to at least H.N.C. standard. He must be able to work without direct supervision, work the hours that are necessary to complete the task and fit into a young team. He should also be able to maintain an adequate spares level.

Anyone interested should write to:---

Group Personnel & Staff Welfare Manager, EXPRESS AND STAR, Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3BU.

13622

ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS

In 1961 we introduced the world's first electronic desk-top calculators, with the trade name of ANITA. There have been many changes in technology since then, but we have remained leaders in the field and our calculators have been sold in many countries around the world including the U.S.A. and Japan. Due to further expansion of our activities with calculators and more complex systems we have vacancies for service engineers at our National Service Centre at Hemel Hempstead. Our range of electronic business equipment is wide and our engineering requirements are correspondingly varied. We are now seeking additional staff ranging from junior technicians (with day release, where appropriate) to qualified, experienced engineers. The positions are permanent and we offer first class conditions of employment. Please write or telephone for an application form from D. D. Davies, SUMLOCK COMPTOMETER LTD., 1. FROGMORE ROAD, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HP3 9RJ, HERTS, TEL: 0442 -61771



Rockwell International

PAPUA, NEW GUINEA DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS The Occartment of Posts and Telegraphs, Papua, New Guinea, invites applications for appointments in the following categories of the telecommunica-tions service: he following categories of the telecommun s service: 1. Assistant Director (Level 1) 2. Engineer (Class 5) AS 17.300 2. Engineer (Class 5) AS 11.382-12.644 5. Engineer (Class 3) AS 11.348-12.664 5. Engineer (Class 2) AS 9.581-10.702 6. Senior Technical Officer (Grade 2) 3. Senior Technical Officer (Grade 2) 4. Senior Technical Officer (Grade 1) AS 8.599-9.103 9. Technical Officer (Grade 2) AS 7.843-8.347 10. Technical Officer (Grade 2) AS 12.09-9.103 9. Technical Officer (Grade 1) AS 8.599-9.103 11. Clerk (Class 7) AS 12.013-15 12. Clerk (Class 7) AS 9.876-10.538 14. Clerk (Class 6) AS 8.886-9.548 ALIFICATIONS

QUALIFICATIONS Assistant Director and Engineers to be graduates and/or Chartered Engineers with previous relevant experience in a telecommunications administration or industry.

Senior Technical Officers and Technical Officers to be holders of approved Olploma or Certificate from a recognised institution.

Clerk (Class 9) to be a graduale in Economics or similar discipline, other Clerks will fill positions as Traffic Officers, marketing and tariff managers, accounting. Ilcensing and similar positions.

DUTIES A wide variety of appointments are available and more detailed descriptions are obtainable (see below).

CONDITIONS Contracts will be for four years. Fares to Papua. New Guinea and to the U.K. on completion of New duty.

Three months leave after 21 months service with leave fares paid to Sydney. Government accommodation with heavy lurnishings available at reasonable rental.

Apply in first Instance for Application Form. Information on service conditions and available vacancies to the Personnel Manager. Preece. Cardew and Rider. Paston House. 165-167 Preston Road. Brighton, BNI 6AF, Sussex.

13664

FOR

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING

RING ALLAN PETTERS

> 01-261 8508 01-928 4597

Visual and Aural Aids Technician

Education Department

Fully qualified and experienced person required to assist in the installation, repair and maintenance of Radios, Tape Recorders, Projectors, Televisions, etc., In schools and other educational establishments. other Five day, 40 hour week.

Wages £33.30 per week, plus bonus.

CROYDON

Applications with details of relevant experience to: The Stores Assistant, Education Service Centre, Princess Road, Croydon CR0 2QZ (telephone: 01-684 9393.





INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

The Department of Psychology require a Technician for the Departmental Workshop.

Duties will include construction and maintenance of Electronic apparatus for use in the research carried out in the department, Applicants should possess ONC or C & G Finat Certificate or equivalent.

Salary:- Technician on a scale £1,440-£2,292 plus London Weighting (£126).

Starting point dependent' on Age, qualification and experience.

Application forms and details can be obtained from The Secretary, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF quoting ref. IM/WW. 13642

TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS FOR ST. ALBANS AND LUTON

OUALIFIED OR NOT!

OPPORTUNITIES for challenging work on testing and calibrating valve and solid-state electronic measuring equipments embracing all frequencies up to u.h.f. in Production. Service and Calibration departments.

APPLICATIONS are invited from people of all ages with experience or formal training in electronics and from Ex-Services technicians.

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SALARIES, negotiable and backed by valuable fringe benefits. Overtime normally available.

GENEROUS RE-LOCATION EXPENSES available in most instances

CONDITIONS excellent; free life assurance, pension schemes, canteen, social club.

371-hour, 5-day, working week.

WRITE or phone for application forms quoting reference ww



MARCONI INSTRUMENTS LTD. Longacres, St. Albans, Herts Tel: St. Albans 59292 Luton Airport, Luton, Beds Tel: Luton 33866



A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company

Sales Engineer Power Grid Tubes

A Sales Engineer is needed by the English Electric Valve Company Limited to sell its expanding range of power grid tubes. He will visit customers in the U.K. and overseas and be responsible for ensuring the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with customers at both the technical and commercial levels

His brief will also include the preparation and implementation of medium and long term marketing plans to further the already considerable success of this major European Company in this field.

The successful candidate will possibly have a recognised professional qualification in engineering and preferably experience in the power tube field, although these are not essentials, as comprehensive product training can be given.

An excellent salary and other benefits consistent with a major. Company will be offered.

Write or telephone J. L. Scott, English Electric Valve Company Limited, Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford, Essex. Tel: Cheimsford (0245) 61777.



364B

English Electric Valve Co. Ltd.

ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS

Ferrantl Limited in Edinburgh have a variety of vacancies for Electronic Engineers and Technicians involving work on avionics systems. This includes test equipment design and maintenance. quality and test engineering, reliability engineering and environmental testing.

A background of experience and knowledge in some of the following areas of technology would be particularly relevant:

> Digital and analogue techniques **Microwave Engineering** Servo Techniques Lasers and Optics **Electronic Displays**

We are particularly interested in applications from ex-Services personnel who have relevant experience of 2nd- and 3rd-line maintenance and fault diagnosis. We offer a variety of interesting work in fault finding and acceptance testing of electronic systems.

Qualifications ranging from degree level to Ordinary National Certificate or their Services equivalent will be acceptable.

Those recently qualified with a degree or H.N.D. (Mechanical or Electrical) but who lack the above experience, should also apply.

These posts are based in Edinburgh which offers an attractive living environment with many recreational activities within easy reach.

The Company operates a contributory pension and lifeassurance scheme and will assist with relocation expenses where necessary.

Apply in writing with particulars of qualifications and experience to the:

FERRANTI

Staff Appointments Officer, Ferranti Limited, Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH3 2RS.

JUNIOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT + SCHOOL LEAVER

We are a busy major international advertising agency working on household name clients. To assist in the operation and maintenance of audio visual equipment we now require a further two assistants.

One should preferably have had experience in using this type of equipment, although full training will be given. Salary is negotiable, four weeks holiday, B.U.P.A. and excellent working conditions.



Ring Colin Forster 01-836 2424 at Leo Burnett Ltd. 48 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2.

SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER --- ELECTRO

An exciting and challenging polition exists for an experienced Electronics Engineer. He would be required to take charge of the design and manufacture on fixed price contracts, and also to allocate part of his time to in-house product development.

The company, situated in Hadleigh, enjoys an International reputation and manufactures a range of function generators, phasemeters, r.m.s. voltmeters, stepping motor control systems, and air velocity meters.

Please send complete resume before telephoning for an interview. Salary in range £2,750 to £4,000 per annum. Profit sharing scheme

ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS

This position is open to qualified electronics engineers with H.N.C. or equivalent who have at least two years practical industrial experience in the electronics manufacturing industry. The position entails work-ing under a project leader and will cover the whole gamut of electronic circuit and manufacturing design.

Good basic salary on the scale £1,800 to £2,600 per annum. Profit sharing scheme. Applications, to include a resume, to:

J. N. Prosser, PROSSER SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS LTD Lady Lane Industrial Estate, Hadleigh, Ipswich, 1PT 60Q. Telephone: Hadleigh (047 338) 3005.

3605

3655

3634

ELECTRONICS MARKET RESEARCH

£2.000 + Bonuses

Man with HNC/HND in Electronics, clean driving licence, required by market research agency to maintain, transport and operate tachistoscopic reaction timer, and photographic equipment in varying locations in Great Britain (and Europe if linguist).

Please contact Managing Director specifying qualifications and career to date.

PACKAGING and PERCEPTUAL **RESEARCH LTD.**,

> 18-20 Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London, W1R 1PA.

Telephone: 01-734 0528/9

3627

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER

Qualified Engineer required for interesting work on a wide range of devices and systems used by and for blind people.

A sound basic knowledge of analogue and digital techniques, together with several years experience in a field of design, development and maintenance is necessary. Some experience of light electro-mechanical devices would be an advantage. Applications in writing, an advantage. Applications in writing, giving full details of education, quali-fications and experience. including present post and salary, to Personnel Officer, Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Gt. Portland Street, London WIN 6AA.

3636

ELECTRONIC SERVICE

Office Machine Company has the following vacancy:

SENIOR SERVICE ENGINEER to assist Workshop Manager, must have experience of repairing digital printed circuit boards, preferably electronic calculators, good elec-tronic knowledge and experience in a Service Department. Salary £2,700.

ELECTRONIC WORKSHOP SERVICE ENGINEER

to repair calculator printed circuit boards. Good basic electronic know-ledge required and experience in a Service Department. Salary up to £2,200.

Apply to:

Mr. V. Knlght, Automatic Business Machines Ltd., 104, New Kings Rd, Fulham, S.W.6. 01-736 5196 3621

WALTHAM FOREST COLLEGE FOREST ROAD, LONDON, E17 4JB offers the following academic posts because of continuing expansion. DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY LECTURER II: RADIO, TELEVISION AND ELECTRONICS

Applicants must have good practical experience of the Industry and possess INC or the appropriate City and Guilds qualifications, or equivalent, Knowledge and experience of CCTV an advantage.

LECTURER I: RADIO, TELEVISION AND ELECTRONICS

Applicants must have good practical experience and should possess City and Guilds 172 (old No. 48). City and Guilds 272, or equivalent qualifications.

Most posts are tenable from 1st September, 1974, but some appointments may be made earlier unless specifically stated. College of Education students may be appointed from the end of their course. SALARIES-Burnham F.E. Scale:

Lecturer 1-61.660-62.847 plus London Alfowance 6118;

Lecturer 11-12.515-13.243 plus London Altowance 1110;

Senior Lecturer-23.291-23.655 plus London Allowance £118;

Head of Dept. Grade IV-£3,968-£4.396 plus London Allowance £118.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Principal (Staffing), Waltham Forest College. Forest Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 41B. Tel. 01-527 2268. Ansafone Service 17.00.09.00 hours.

Closing date 2 weeks from the appearance of this advertisement. (363) [363]

CHELSEA COLLEGE University of London

Electronics Technician (GRADE 3)

required for interesting work in Applied Acoustics research group. Salary Scale £1,825 to £2,095 per annum including £175 London Allowance

Further details and application forms from the Departmental Superintendent (3AA), Departments of Physics and Electronics, Pulton Place, London, SW6 5PR. [3628

AUDIO TESTERS **EXPERIENCED** FOR LEADING ELECTRO-MUSICAL COMPANY

INTERESTING WORK WITH MIXERS, ECHO UNITS,

AMPLIFIERS (VALVE AND TRANSISTOR) ETC.



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The English Electric Valve Company need a Sales Engineer to join a team marketing advanced microwave tubes and devices. Based in Chelmsford, his key objectives will be to develop and exploit new markets for a rapidly expanding product range. He will visit and negotiate with customers in the U.K. and overseas and will be personally involved in all aspects of the microwave product marketing plans.

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The Company is the most important professional electronic tube company in Europe and is recognised throughout the world as a major force in the industry. An excellent salary and other benefits consistent with joining this major company will be offered.

Write or telephone J. L. Scott, English Electric Valve Company Limited, Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford, Essex. Tel: Chelmsford (0245) 61777.



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3649

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Suitable applicants should have experience in electro-medical and closed circuit TV equipment. Applicants with minimum ONC or equivalent qualifications and relevant experience should apply in writing to:-

> The Personnel Manager, PHILIPS MEDICAL SYSTEMS LTD., 45 Nightingale Lane, London, 5.W.12.

FIJI RADIO ENGINEER

required by the Posts and Telecommunications Department to lead a small team engaged in the installation and commissioning of VHF. UHF and SHF radio links, both single channel and multi-channel and all associated equipment. May also be required to assist with detailed planning of systems and Installations.

Candidates must hold a Final City and Guilds Certificate in Telecommunications (including Radio C) or equivalent plus five years supervisory experience on maintenance or installation of VHF, UHF or SHF radio systems.

SALARY in the range \pounds 2.280 to \pounds 3.340 p.a. which includes an allowance, normally tax free, of \pounds 700 to \pounds 1,000 p.a. Terminal gratuity 20% on basic salary, 25% on allowance. For a married man with two children paying tax at the standard rate the total emoluments described above, including gratuity, approximate to a gross (i.e. before tax) UK return of \pounds 3,500 to \pounds 4,750 and for a single man about \pounds 3,300 to \pounds 4,800 p.a.

Other benefits include: low local income tax, generous paid leave, subsidised accommodation: free family passages, children's education allowances and holiday visit passages; (tour $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 years), appointment or disturbance grant up to £200, car loan up to £600.

The post described is partly financed by Britain's programme of aid to the developing countries administered by the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

For further particulars you should apply, giving brief detalls of experience to



M Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number M2K/740307/WF 3599

Recording Studio Maintenance Engineer

This is an important position in an international company involving interesting work with a small team concerned with the maintenance of all sound equipment in the studio.

Previous experience is necessary and it will be rewarded by an attractive salary and fringe benefits.



Ring the Studio Manager on 01-636 3434 —or, if you prefer, write to him at CBS Records,

31-37 Whitfield Street, London W1.

RADIO OPERATORS

Leaving the Service in the next 18 months? If your trade involves radio operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post with the composite signals organisation.

On satisfactory completion of a 7 months specialist training course, successful applicants are paid on a scale rising to $\pounds 2.893$ p.a.; commencing salary according to age—25 years and over $\pounds 2.126$ p.a.

During training salary also by age, 25 and over, $\pounds 1,607$ p.a. with free accommodation. The future holds good opportunities for established status, service overseas, and promotion.

Training courses commence at intervals throughout the year. Earliest possible application advised.

Applications only from British born U.K. residents up to 35 years of age (40 years if exceptionally well qualified) will be considered. Full details from :

Recultment Officer, Room A/1105, Government Communications Headquarters, Priors Road, Oakley, Cheltenham, Glos., GLS2 SAJ. Telephone Cheltenham 21491 Ext. 2270.

TECHNICIANS

We are engaged in the manufacture and servicing of sophisticated audio electronic equipment for the music industry. Due to expansion there are now vacancies for Technicians experienced in this field and top salaries plus fringe benefits are being offered.

For further details please phone or write, giving qualifications and experience to:

> MAVIS LTD., 11a Sharpleshall Street, London N.W.1. Tel. 722 7161. 3327



This could be the opportunity you've been looking for. Due to continued expansion we are looking for experienced engineers to join our teams in Liverpool. Manchester and Preston.

You will be fully experienced in servicing a wide range of audio equipment and will be capable of supervising a modern, busy workshop.

Salary negotiable around £1,750.

Assistance with re-location expenses will be given by the company.



3618

92

Applications in writing to The Managing Director. Hardman Radio N 33 Dale Street Liverpool L2 2HF 3551

WORK IN CENTRAL AMERICA

RADIO ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS NEEDED IN HONDURAS AND GUATEMALA

The local Radio Stations in Guatemala and Honduras transmit classes in agriculture, adult literacy, and simple health topics, to the people in the rural areas—approximately 90% of the population.

The training of local people to maintain the transmitters and to deal with the technical production of the programmes is being carried out by four British volunteers. We need people to replace them for a further two-year period.

Information: Frances Chadwick, Overseas Volunteers/CIIR, 41 Holland Park, London, W.11. Tel: 01-727 3195. Visitors welcome, 3630 LEEDS POLYTECHNIC EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY UNIT (Re-advertisement)

Recording Services Technicians T4

(£1,644 - £1,926)

(according to qualifications and experience), Ref. 13/17

To operate and maintain the off-air recording service and maintain the television equipment used in the distribution system for all video recording. Must be able to maintain hetical scan VTRs.

Application forms (quoting ref. no.) together with further details may be obtained from the Administration Officer. Leeds Polytechnic, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3HE, and should be returned as soon as possible.

3608

Electro-Medical Service Department requires

ENGINEERS

for testing and servicing electronic apparatus. Applicants should be aged 20-30, and should be of O.N.C. standard.

Apply in first instance in writing to:

SIEREX LIMITED Electro-Medical Department, Heron House, Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 8BZ

CARDIFF

£1,416-£1,644 (Tech 3)

required to work in the Llandaff College of Technology in the Marine Electronics Section of the Maritime Studies Department. Experience required in the installation, maintenance and repair of the electronic-equipment as Installed on ships of the Mercantile Marine. An M.R.G.C. or P.M.G. certificate preferred, but other electronic qualifications would be considered.

Application forms are available from the Personnel Officer, County of South Glamorgan, City Hall, Cardiff, CFI 3ND (Telephone Cardiff 31033, ext. 454) and must be returned within 10 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

COUNTY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN

BOTSWANA BROADCASTING ENGINEER

With either a Final City and Guilds Certificate in Telecommunications; HNC, Engineering Diploma, or equivalent, and five years experience of installation and maintenance of studio equipment is required for operational, maintenance and training duties. He must be conversant with all studio equipment and be capable of diagnosing faults and carrying out repairs. He is required to negotiate with Posts and Telecommunications engineers for Outside Broadcast circuits and to establish technical facilities at OB locations. The duties also include drawing up training schemes for local Technical Assistants, normal instruction and 'on the job' training.

SALARY in the range £2,470 to £3,740 p.a. which includes an allowance, normally tax free, of £640 to £1,340 p.a. Terminal gratuity 25% on basic salary. For a married man with two children paying tax at the standard rate the total emoluments described above, including gratuity, approximate to a gross (i.e. before tax) UK return of £4,100 to £5,500 and for a single man about £3,700 to £4,900 p.a.

Other benefits include: Low local income tax, generous paid leave, subsidised accommodation, free family passages, children's education allowances and holiday visit passages, tour 2-3 years, appointment grant up to £200 and car loan up to £600 normally payable.

The post described is partly financed by Britain's programme of aid to the developing countries administered by the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

For further particulars you should apply, giving brief details of experience to



M Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number M2K/740234/WF

3600

Avionics Inspector

Due to continued growth and expansion in our Avionics Service Centre, an interesting opportunity exists for an experienced electronic test engineer to join our Quality Control team as Avionics Inspector.

Have You?:

ONC or equivalent. Practical electronic equipment experience including calibration. Working knowledge of Ministry and C.A.A. procedures.

If so, you could be the engineer we are seeking.

Attractive salary negotiable from £2,200.

3 weeks' paid annual leave, excellent sickness benefits; and contributory pension scheme.

Please apply Immediately for interview:

Mr. M. J. Hinge, FieldTech Limited, Heathrow Airport (London), Hounslow, TW6 3AF. Tel: 01-759 2811, ext 28. 354

SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WIRELESS TECHNICIAN

Applications are invited from men, aged 17 or over, for four posts of Wireless Technician in the Sociilsh Home and Health Department. The location of the posts ara-1 in Edinburgh, 1 in Inverness, and 2 in East Kilbride.

QUALIFICATIONS: Sound theoretical and practical knowledge of Wireless Engineering, including HF, VHF and UHF and Communications equipment generally. Possession of an HN or C & G Certificate an advantage but provision may be made for those who wish to continue their studies for one of these qualifications. The work involves installation and maintenance of equipment located a considerable distance from headquarters. Candidates must be able to drive private and commercial vehicles and have a clean driving licence.

SALARY: £1,253 (age 17) to £1,836 (age 25 or over); scale maximum £2,158. These are unestablished appointments with prospects of establishment after one year's continuous satisfactory service.

Application forms and further information may be obtained by writing to the Scottish Office Personnel Division, Room 220, 22/25 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1LY quoting reference PM4/4/74. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 16 May 1974.



ww7

3468

Electronics Engineers

Audio

Engineer required for design and development of high quality audio equipment for home and professional use.

Laboratory Instruments

Engineer required for design and development of laboratory measuring instruments and power supplies.

TECHNICIAN

A technician or junior engineer is required for general duties in drawing office and factory liaison in the manufacture of audio equipment, laboratory instruments and power supplies.

Based at factory in Bristol.

Write in first instance giving qualifications and experience:

RADFORD ELECTRONICS, LTD., Bristol, BS3 2HZ

[3658

Senior Estimator Telecommunications

is required to work in our Technical Services Dept. He will be responsible for cost estimating of installation and maintenance work for both audio and telephone equipment.

Practical experience in a similar activity is essential and an O.N.C. or City & Guilds in telecommunications is desirable.

The successful applicant will be based at our new offices in Cambridge, but must be willing to travel. A company car, plus attractive salary will be provided.

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Communications Ltd

Cromwell Road, Cambridge CB1 3HE. Tel: Cambridge (0223)

3655

Please telephone or write to: John Bell, Personnel Manager,



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Project Leaders

Experienced team leaders Engineers with proven managerial ability are required to plan and control the progress of development teams building advanced prototype equipment. The work will require the use of modern management techniques.

Candidates, qualified to degree/HNC level should have a good background in digital and analogue development work but some experience in minicomputers and mechanics would be an advantage.

An appreciation of the problems and requirements of putting electronic equipment into production is most essential.

electronics and leisure Group. Project Development

Hayes Middlesex

The international music.

Engineers are required to join project development teams engaged in putting advanced prototype equipment into production. The work involves development and production engineering during the pre-production run of equipment containing analogue, digital and mechanical hardware.

Candidates, qualified to degree/HNC level should have a good background in the development and production of electronic capital goods. Some experience in minicomputers would be an advantage.

3650

Senior Development Engineer

We require a senior man qualified to degree/HNC level to take part in and control the progress of hardware and software developments requiring the use of modern management techniques.

He will have several years experience in analogue and digital circuit design and should be familiar with use of minicomputers. Some experience in mechanical design would be an advantage. The man appointed must be acquainted with the processes and the problems of putting electronic capital goods into production.

Development Engineers

Engineers are required for hardware developments. This will principally include analogue and digital circuit design but some mechanical work will be involved. Some programming experience with minicomputers would be an advantage.

Candidates, should be qualified to degree/HNC level with at least three years experience in a similar field.

American I.R. roo Award 1973

Attractive salaries appropriate to experience and qualifications will be offered. These could be up to £4,000 for exceptional candidates. There are good fringe benefits including a contributory Pension Scheme and assistance with removal expenses where appropriate. Please write giving brief details of career to: Mr. K. E. Goodman, Personnel Department, EMILIMITED, 135, Blyth Road, Hayes, Middx.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

Department of Applied Physics and Electronics

Applications are invited for the post of SENIOR

DEMONSTRATOR

to supervise the Electronics Laboratory and demonstrate in it. The post is tenable from 1 October 1974 for two years in the first instance renewable for a third and final year.

Salary on the scale £1,719-£2,613 plus F.S.S.U. benefits.

Applications (3 copies), naming three referees should be sent by 3 May 1974 to the Registrar and Secretary, Science Laboratories, South Road, Durham, from whom further particulars may be obtained obtained 3673

Technical Publications Assistant

We require a Data Sheet Writer/ Editor to compile information and write product data sheets, write and produce leaflets, operating manuals and similar technical publications. Applicants should be qualified to ONC/HNC level in Electrical or Electronic Engineering. A knowledge

of electronic tubes would be an advantage,

Applications in writing to: Mr. R. E. Hinsley, Personnel Officer. English Electric Valve Co. Ltd., Chelmsford, Essex.

English Electric Valve Co. Ltd.

3669

A major programme of expansion has created a number of new opportunities for engineers to join our development teams.

The EMI-SCANNER computerised X-ray system, introduced by EMI LIMITED in 1972 and since acclaimed by leading neurological hospitals in Europe and the United States as a major breakthrough in diagnostic radiology, has now surpassed the £8 million mark in export orders.



British Solomon Islands **RADIO TECHNICIAN**

Required by the Posts and Telecommunications Department to be responsible to the Senior Technician for workshop construction, manufacture, modification, installation and maintenance of electronic equipment such as transmitters, receivers, radar, distance measuring equipment, aerials and auxiliary apparatus.

Candidates must have passed a five year trade course or have equivalent services qualifications and three years field or factory experience. Knowledge of air navigation aids and raido teletype an advantage.

SALARY in the range £2,460 to £3,350 p.a. which includes an allowance, normally tax free, of £1,310 to £1,550 p.a. Terminal gratuity 25%. For a married man with two children paying tax at the standard rate the total emoluments described above, including (gratuity, approximate to a gross (i.e. before tax) UK return of £3,800 to £5,250 and for a single man about £3,000 to £5,400 p.a.

Other benefits include-low local income tax, generous paid leave, subsidised accommodation, free family passages, childrens education allowances and holiday visit passages, tour 2 years, appointment grant up to £200, car loan £600 and outfit allowance up to £80 normally payable.

The post described is partly financed by Britain's programme of aid to the developing countries administered by the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

For further particulars you should apply, giving brief details of experience to



M Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number M2K/740259/WF 13613

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL BRIGHTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

SENIOR TECHNICIAN

Required as soon as possible for work in the Radio and Television Laboratories. Applicants must possess a City & Guilds Final Certificate in radio and television servicing and have had relevant practical experience. Salary within the T4 Scale (£1,644-(1,926), according to age, experience and qualifications. An additional allowance is payable for approved qualifications. Application form and details available from Chief Administrative Officer. Brighton Technical College, Peham Street, Brighton, BN1 4FA, Tel: Brighton 685971.

Applications to be returned within ten days of advertisement.

[3604

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE TELECOMMUNI-CATIONS BRANCH OF HM DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

Member of the telecommunications branch serve in more than 60 diplomatic missions overseas and also in the UK.

Applicants should be skilled in the operation of HF radio communication equipment and be competent at sending and receiving the Morse code. They should produce evidence of a sound knowledge of radio and electronic theory, e.g. MPT/PMG grade I or equivalent City & Guilds certificates. Successful candidates will receive training on specialised equipment before taking up overseas appointments.

Futher particulars may be obtained from:

Communications Administration Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Hanslope Park, HANSLOPE, Milton Keynes MK19 7BH.

SITUATIONS VACANT

CAN YOU WRITE CLEAR, concise technical handbooks? If you think you could, and have a thorough understanding in electronics, why not join us as a technical author. Obviously, previous experi-ence would be an advantage but is not necessary as full training would be given. We have vacancies in many parts of the country. Starting salaries are high with excellent prospects for advancement, Box No. WW 3414.

ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE ENGINEER re-L quired for major London studios. Must be willing to travel at moment's notice. Ring 229 2345. [3612]

HI-FI AUDIO ENGINEERS. We require experi-enced Junior and Seniors and will pay top rates to get them. Tell us about your abilities. 01-437 4607. [19

PIANO P.C.B.'s for W.W. Electronic planos. Enquiries to Baldock Electronics, 23 Turpins Way, Baldock, Herts. Tel: Baldock 2559. [3670

YOUNG ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN required YOUNG ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN required for the construction, testing and servicing of electronic equipment at our works in N.W.I. Very varied work, Qualitications: ONC or C&G or ex-app:entice or similar desirable, Excellent opportunity for right person with a small expanding company. Please write for an application form to: Young Electronics Ltd., 54 Lawford Road., London, NWS 2LN. [364]

SITUATIONS WANTED

EXPERIENCED Radio. TV and CTV, hifstereo Service Engineer-Dutch Nationality-seeks per ist August 1974 a suitable position in Holland or abroad after his return from West Africa. He is 28, matrice with one child. Is in possession of Certificate N.E.R.G. (British Equivalent for Communication Technician) and studying for M.T.S. (Technical Schooling) application). Used to be responsible for a Service Department. Please send reactions with salary statement to Box WW 3638 of this magazine.

ANNOUNCEMENT

REWARD for information leading to the recovery of the following stolen instruments. Cossor 'scope CDU110 serial No. 1213. Solariron DVM A223 scriai No. 401238, avo meter MK8 serial No. 34813. Telephone 01-352 5623.

ARTICLES FOR SALE

ARVAK ELECTRONICS. 3-channel sound-light converters. from £18. Strobes, £25. Rainbow Strobes, £132.—12A Bruce Grove, N17 6RA. 01-808 [23]

BACK numbers of Wireless World, 1950 to 1973 inclusive, with odd issues missing. Offers invited, buyer collects. Craigmore, East End, Witney, Oxford-shire, Tel. Fricland 882105.

BUILD IT in a DEWBOX quality plastic cabinet 2 in. x 24 in. x any length. D.E.W. Ltd. (W.), Ringwood Rd., Fernwood, Dorset. S.A.E. for leaflet. Write now-Right now. 176

CONSTRUCTION AIDS—Screws, nuts. spacers etc., in small quantities. Aluminium panels punched to spec. or plain sheet supplied. Fascia panels etched uluminium to individual requirements. Printed circuit boards—masters, negatives and board, one-off or small numbers. Send 6p for list. Ramar Constructor Services. 29 Shelbourne Road. Stratford on Avon, Warwks.

HEWLETT PACKARD 565A digital recorder, 160; Solartron LM1426 digital voltmeter, £75; Marconi wabbulator TF 1104/1, £40; 1.C.L. 80 column punch, £30; 1.B.M. 80 column card reader. 1120; creed 7B teleprinters, £12; Record pen chart recorder, £15. Denby, 104 Rooley Lane, Bradford, Varks 13672 Yorks.

Oil filled

LADDERS 8ft 10in closed-21ft extended, £23.54. delivered. Home Sales Ladder Centre (WW2). Haldane (North) Halesfield (I) Telford, Shropshire, Tel: 0952-586644. [23

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DRINTED Circuit Board in 6 widths: 2 in., 2} in., 3 in., 3 in., 4 in. and 5 in. x any length; 1/16 in. single-sided fibreglass, 2p per 3 sq. in. Double-sided 1p per sq. in. P & P Sp per order. SAF guotations for other sizes and quantity discounts.-I. Knopp. 11 Communit Gardens, Braintree, Esser. CM7 6LY. Tel. Braintree 25254. [15

SUPERB Instrument Cases by Bazelli, manufactured from heavy duty PVC faced steel, choice of 30 types, send for free list, Bazelli Instrument Cases, Dept. 22, St. Wilfrids, Foundfy Lane, Haiton, LA2 6LT, near Lancaster. [3646]

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For ££'s more profit just look at these prices!

Big Savings on Type Goods ToSHIBA Valves Yalves packed Type Price DY 87 27p DY 802 27p AC 127 Semi-Conducts EG 202 27p EB 91 10p AC 127 AC 127 EG 202 27p AC 128 ECC 82 27p AC 141K EF 183 32.5p AC 151 EF 184 32.5p AC 154 PCC 89 38p AC 156 PCC 89 38p AC 187K PCF 80 30p AC 187 PCF 801 40p AC 187K PCF 802 38p AD 142 PCL 83 37.5p AD 142 PCL 84 31p PCL 85 37.5p AT 149 PL 200 48.5p AF 115 PL 84	pods Type AF 239 BA 145 Dr5 BC 107 I7p BC 108 J30p BC 113 30p BC 113 30p BC 113 30p BC 117 I8p BC 132 20p BC 117 18p BC 133 30p BC 133 30p BC 134 30p BC 143 30p BC 153 24p BC 154 23p BC 157 23p BC 157 23p BC 158 23p BC 159 50p BC 182L 45p BC 1832 45p BC 187	Goods Type 45p BC 21.1 14p BD 12 11p BD 13 12p BF 155 25p BF 167 20p BF 173 25p BF 181 25p BF 181 25p BF 181 20p BF 196 12p BF 218 12p BF 218 12p BF 258 14p BF 337 18p BFY 52 12p BFY 52 12p BY 126 28p BY 127	Goods Price 15 p 70p 45p 20p 20p 20p 20p 20p 20p 20p 20	Type E. 1222 IN 60 OC 71 OC 72 EHT RE: Type ITH Dect ITH Dect Type ITH Dect TYPE ITH Dect ITH TAG I ITH TAZ G ITH Dect ITH Adepils ITH Adepils ITH Adepils ITH Adepils ITH Adepils ITH Adepils ITH Adepils	Goods Price 30p 05p 7:5p 15p CTIFIER TR ca Col. 950 Mk II 950 Mk II 950 Mk II 95 Stick 03 Stick 04 Stick 05 COLOUR PLX C.C.R.T. B22 C.C.R.T. B22 C.C.R.T. ULLY GUA	Type BU 105/02 2SC1172B R2008B R2010B Cods	Goods Price £2.40 £2.40 £2.00 £2.00 £2.00 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
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Sectioned iron-plated bit, after 40,000 simulated operations using 60/40 Solder.



Sectioned fron-plated bit, after 40,000 simulated operations using SAVBIT Solder.



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ALLOY

5

(nominal major elements)	
50/33/17 Sn/Pb/Cd	TLC
62/36/2 Sn/Pb/Ag	LMP
62/35.7/2/0.3 Sn/Pb/Ag/Sb	Sn62
63/36.7/0.3 Sn/Pb/Sb	Sn63
60/40 Sn/Pb	K
60/39.7/0.3 Sn/Pb/Sb	Sn60
50/50 Sn/Pb	F
50/49.7/0.3 Sn/Pb/Sb	Sn50
50/48.5/1.5 Sn/Pb/Cu	Savbit
45/55 Sn/Pb	R
40/60 Sn/Pb	G
40/59.7/0.3 Sn/Pb/Sb	Sn40
30/70 Sn/Pb	J
20/80 Sn/Pb	V
15/85 Sn/Pb	
Pure Tin	P.T.
95/5 Sn/Sb	95A
5/93 5/1 5 Sn/Ph/Ag	HMD

le	Solidus °C	Liquidus °C	Specification
	145	145	DIN 1707
	179	179	DIN 1707
	179	179	QQ-S-57 1E
	183	183	QQ-S-57 1E
	183	188	B.S. 219
	183	188	QQ-S-57 1E
	183	212	B.S.219
	183	212	QQ-S-57 1E
it 1	183	215	DTD 900/4535 DIN 1707
	183	224	B.S.219
1	183	234	B.S.219
	183	234	QQ-S-57 1E
	183	255	B.S.219
	183	275	B.S.219
	225	290	
	232	232	B.S.3252
	236	243	B.S.219
P.	296	301	B.S.219

Melting Temperature

Grad



For full information on these and a Selector Guide to other MULTICORE products please write on your Company's letterhead direct to Multicore Solders Limited, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 7EP. Tel: Hemel Hempstead 3636 Telex: 82363