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\$1.00 ■ SEPT. 1978

# Radio-Electronics

THE MAGAZINE FOR NEW IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

## COVER STORY

### CAPACITANCE METER

4-digit display reads out any capacitor value between 1-pF and 9999- $\mu$ F. Measures ceramics, paper, tantalum and electrolytics  
Story starts on page 37

### PINK-NOISE TESTING

Setting up a graphic equalizer is not easy. But when you have a pink-noise source, it can be done quickly and accurately. The how-to procedure starts on page 44

### VIDEO MODULATORS

Individual reports on all of the modulators that we could locate. Must reading if you are planning to buy one to use with your computer or TV game or TV camera. Turn to page 47

### BUILD FLUE BUG

Protects against heat loss through an open fireplace flue. This device warns you to close the flue once the fire is out.

## PLUS

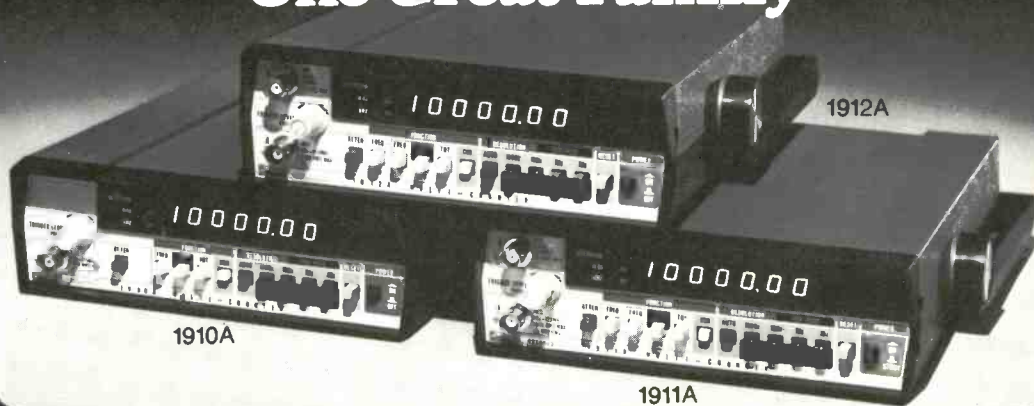
- ★ Hobby Corner... power supplies
- ★ Computer Corner... 8253 programmable interface timer
- ★ R-E Tests RG Dynamics Pro 16
- ★ R-E Tests Leader Audio Analyzer
- ★ State-Of-Solid State
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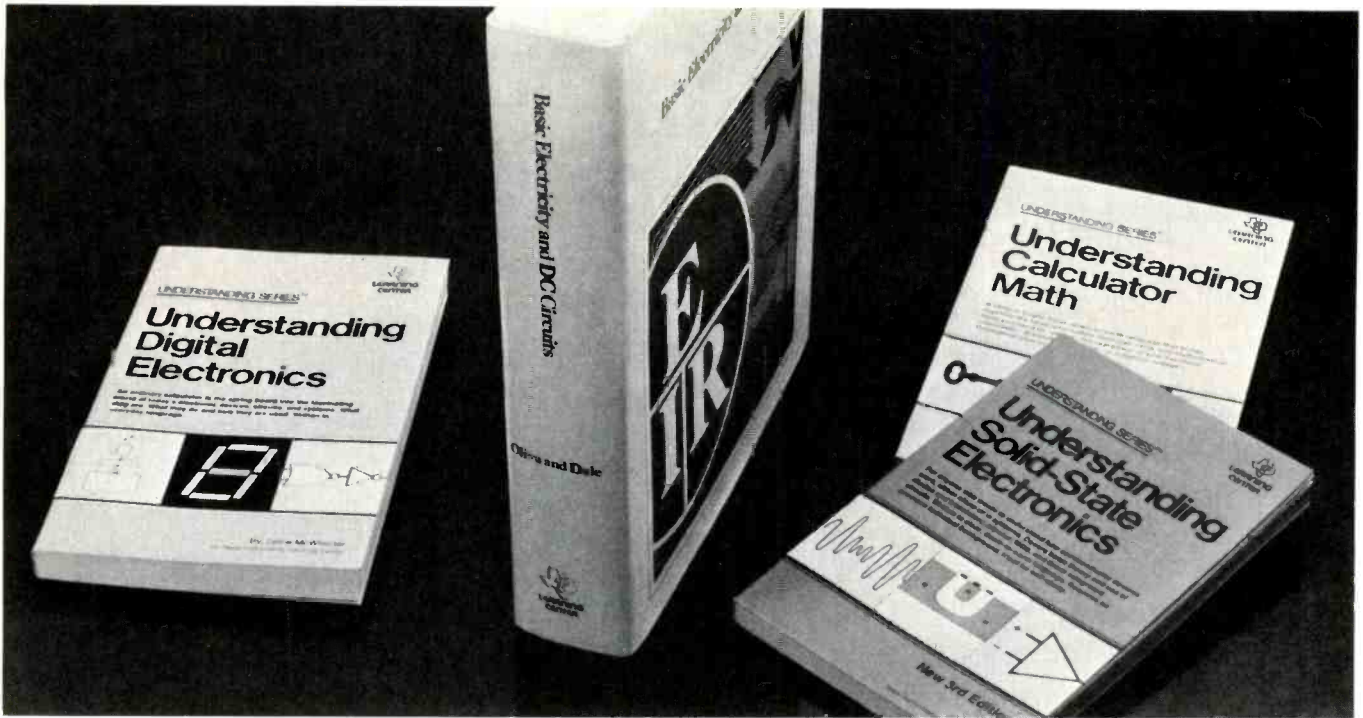
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SEPTEMBER 1978 Vol. 49 No. 9

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4-digit LED readout gives direct reading of all capacitor values from 1 pF to 9999  $\mu$ F
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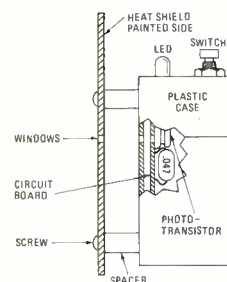
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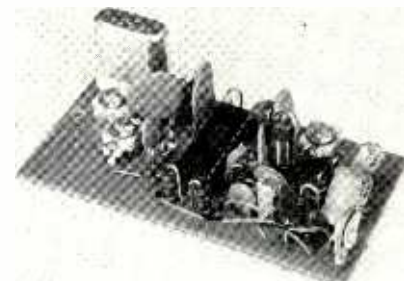
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**Final Assembly of Flue-Bug.** Spend a few dollars and save a bundle. Story starts on page 41.



**ATV Research Pixe-Plexer.** One of many video modulators reviewed in this issue. Turn to page 47.

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# Looking ahead

**CB tariff hike:** To protect the domestic CB equipment industry from foreign competition, President Carter has ordered import duties increased, following the finding by the U.S. International Trade Commission that American manufacturers were injured, or were likely to be injured, by imports (see **Radio-Electronics**, May, 1978). Tariffs were increased April 11 from 6% to 21%. After one year, they'll drop to 18%; the next year to 15%, then revert back to 6% after four years.

For ailing American CB manufacturers, the effects should be immediately beneficial. For some of them, actual survival was at stake. (Some, of course, have already gone out of the business; a few have gone into bankruptcy.) For CB buyers, the new duties mean price increases. As soon as the duty-increase order was issued, several manufacturers announced price increases; others are coming, and it's forecast that the general price level will rise 10% to 15%. Since CB prices have been extremely depressed and there is currently an oversupply, many bargains are still available. But the departure of many firms from the field, cutbacks in production by others—and now the duty increase—should mean that further price increases are in the works. The time to buy seems to be now.

**Audio revolution:** It's coming one way or another, but not without plenty of dispute and controversy. Trouble is, audio appears to be headed for two completely different revolutions. There's a big dispute as to which one will come first, and whether they're actually complementary or whether one will pre-empt the other. The potential revolutions involve new recording materials and techniques.

For years, the tape and tape equipment industries have been conferring about a potential new type of coating for magnetic tape which uses fine metal alloy particles instead of oxides, with startling improvements. Now 3M has announced it will introduce metal-particle tape cassettes under the name "Metafine" this year. The 3M tape is claimed to deliver maximum output 5 to 10 dB greater than chromium dioxide tapes or double that of standard tapes, with lower distortion and better frequency response. The only trouble is that it will require new equipment for recording, because of differences in bias, erase current and other parameters (it can be played back on standard recorders in the chrome bias position). The 3M people say the performance is so much better than traditional tapes that tape speed can be reduced by an order of four to achieve about the same performance, or at current speeds open-reel performance can be attained on a cassette recorder.

Tandberg has introduced tape decks which will use Metafine, and 3M says more hardware will be on the market before the year is over and the first Metafine cassettes, in the C90 configuration, will be priced somewhere between high-quality cassettes and open-reel tape, perhaps in the \$10 range. Following 3M's announcement, Fuji said it would have metal tape as soon as there was equipment on the market which could use it.

Other tape manufacturers, all of which have been developing metal tapes, denounced 3M's move, saying that standards were necessary before such tape could be introduced. BASF, Memorex, Maxell and TDK all indicated that they thought it was unfortunate that 3M had, in effect,

jumped the gun with its own standard. 3M, on the other hand, said the exact formulation and characteristics of Metafine had been reached in consultation with recorder manufacturers which will adopt the standard.

**The other revolution:** Some tape and equipment manufacturers thought that metal tape, revolutionary as it is, would be overtaken by an even more revolutionary development—digital audio recording. Several manufacturers have shown high-priced pulse code modulation (PCM) digital recorders based on videocassette recorders. Sony, Hitachi, Panasonic, JVC and Mitsubishi all have demonstrated prototype machines, generally quoting potential \$3,000 to \$4,000 cost. Some professional studio digital recorders are already on the market. Digital recorder performance is phenomenal—one set of specs quotes 85-dB dynamic range, no wow or flutter and virtually linear frequency response.

Mitsubishi and Philips have already announced development of digital disc recording systems based on optical videodisc techniques. RCA is experimenting with digital audio recordings compatible with its capacitance videodisc system. Matsushita, the Japanese parent of Panasonic and Quasar, has demonstrated a PCM version of its mechanical videodisc which is pressed from standard PVC phonograph record material on standard presses.

Which comes first—metal tape or digital recording—and are they compatible? Nobody will answer the first part of the question, but 3M and some other tape companies state that metal tape is suited to digital recording. Others insist that conventional oxide is far better for digital recording and they doubt that metal tapes will even work.

**CB of the future:** A new "deluxe" personal radio service to supplement, and possibly eventually replace, the present CB on 27 MHz, has been proposed in a study by the FCC's Personal Radio Planning Group. The recommendations are advisory only, but give some clue to the FCC's thinking about personal radio. The proposal envisions a new narrowband FM service, in either the 222-224 or 900-MHz areas, designed for microprocessor-equipped transceivers. Among the advanced features seen for equipment operating on the new band are automatic transmitter identification to reduce policing problems, a selective calling system which automatically switches transmitter and receiver to a vacant channel once contact is made on a calling channel, interconnection with telephone service, repeaters to extend calling range.

Although the 900-MHz transceivers probably would cost 20% to 30% more than those in the 222-MHz area, the study said the higher frequency may be more desirable, because in the 222-MHz band amateurs would have to be relocated at a cost to them of perhaps \$24.5 million in new equipment. The FCC was careful not to be too specific about the future of the 27-MHz band, but it did note that this current band would become less attractive as sunspot activity reaches a peak between 1980 and 1984, and it saw no relief from problems of interference to other services, even if current emission standards are further tightened.

**DAVID LACHENBRUCH**  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

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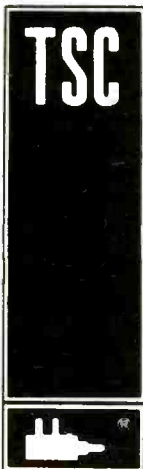
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## FCC reviews open competition for long-distance phone service

When you make a long-distance phone call today, you are billed for that call along with all local messages and it appears on one bill. And although there are over 1500 phone companies (mainly AT&T) providing long-distance service all over the U.S., individual communities are served by only one company, this service being called "sole source service."

Now other companies are requesting permission to compete in providing long-distance service. The system would work something like this: You make a call from New York City to Chicago, using a particular long-distance service company at its New York office, which would then relay your call via microwave to its Chicago station. At this point, your call would be hooked into the Chicago phone circuit and become a local call. Your local telephone company then bills you for all local calls, including the one made to the long-distance service company's New York office. You then pay the long-distance service for the Chicago call.

As a result of an earlier U.S. Court of Appeals ruling, the FCC is now enjoined to find whether it is in the public interest to prohibit competition among individual companies in providing long-distance service. Some of the issues that the FCC could address itself to are: will the service result in better service, more innovation and rate reduction? And since the phone company claims that long-distance rates help subsidize local rates in both cities and rural areas, would opening up the field to competition jeopardize such subsidies?

## First digital facsimile message service between U.S. and Japan

It is now possible to send an 8½- by 11-inch page of copy from the United States to Japan in under 26 seconds, using a digital facsimile service developed by RCA Global Communications, Inc. (RCA Globcom).

The system called *Q-Fax* was initiated early this year between San Francisco, Washington, DC, New York City and Japan. Using this system, a printed or handwritten message can be sent or received in languages that do not use roman letters (such as Japanese) without translation. First, a facsimile message is written or typed on forms supplied by RCA Globcom or on a regular 8½- by 10-inch sheet of paper, delivered to RCA Globcom's office in San Francisco, using messenger service, a special line leased from the RCA operating center, or by domestic communications carrier working with the *Q-Fax* service. At the receiving end, in this case Japan, the messages are delivered via messenger or mail service. Copy sent from Japan to the U.S. will be delivered via a domestic net-

work, through the mails, or in San Francisco, Washington and New York, by messenger.

The service operates at 4888 bits-per-second with a 9600- or 2400-bit-per-second capability; the charge per page, \$10.

## Speech control unit cuts listening time in half

The first portable speech compressor/expander, the *model A7 Speech Controller*, has been developed by the Variable Speech Control Company of San Francisco. The speech controller uses a *Variable Speed Control* system to record speech up to 2½ times faster than normal speech (350 words-per-minute as opposed to an average rate of 100 to 140 words-per-minute). The instrument can also be slowed to 60% of the normal speech rate. There is no accompanying distortion at either high or low levels.



The ultra-high speed helps shorten by half the amount of time needed to tape minutes of meetings, lectures, interviews, etc. Blind or visually handicapped persons can record information as fast as a normal reader. The slow-speed function is helpful in learning a foreign language, in remedial teaching and in absorbing difficult technical data. And, of course, business office dictation and transcription are simplified since the material that is recorded can be speeded up or slowed down to match typing speed.

Standard cassettes are used for both recording and playback modes, and slide controls handle playback speed and volume. Other features include a built-in condenser mike plus a hand-held mike with a remote on-off switch; a three-digit tape counter; a PAUSE switch; cue and review controls; and an earphone jack. The *model A7 Speech Controller* sells for \$295.

## Children's electronic spelling aid developed by TI

*Spelling B*, a handheld electronic learning aid that teaches children from five to 10 how to spell, has been introduced by Texas Instruments. The calculator-based device uses its memory bank of 264 words to teach through word-picture association and games. A colorful picture book accompanies *Spelling B*.



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS' SPELLING BEE is a calculator-based device that uses games and activities to teach children from six years old up how to spell 264 most-used words. The learning aid comes with illustrated picture book.

Pressing the go pushbutton on the device allows a randomly selected number to be displayed; this number represents one of the 264 words retained in memory. The word describes one of the familiar objects illustrated in the picture book. The child uses the number to discover the matching picture and then presses the *Spelling B*'s alphabet keys to spell the word. A "Right" or "Wrong" answer is keyed in. The child also has a second chance to spell the word right; if the second try misfires, the correct answer is displayed on the readout. Scores are shown after each set of five games, and the game can be played on three different levels of proficiency.

*Spelling B* requires one 9-volt battery, it weighs 14 ounces and measures 6.6 × 4.6 × 1.7 inches; it sells for a suggested retail price of \$30.

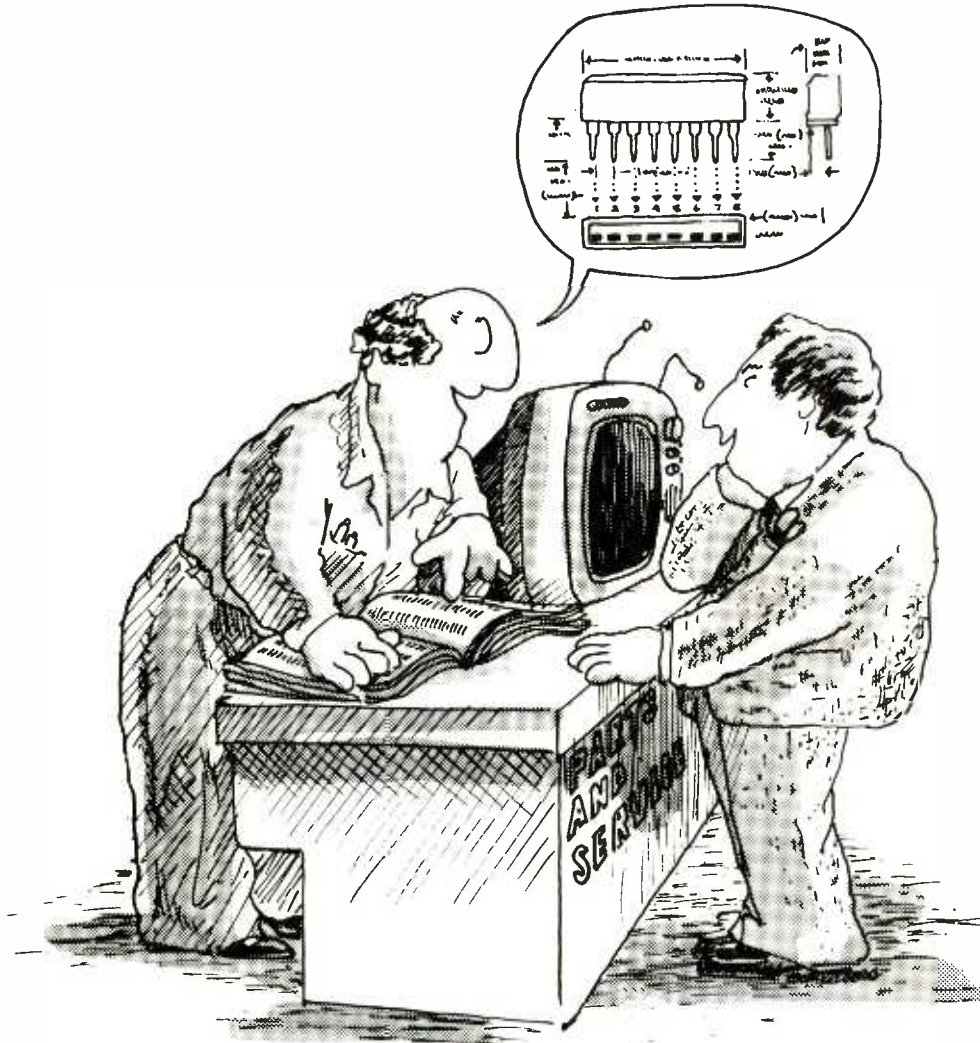
## New expanded VCR line now on market

Jack Sauter, division vice president of marketing for RCA Consumer Electronics, has announced the development of the company's expanded line of *SelectaVision* video cassette recorders and cameras. The development is attributed to "the market acceptance of 'SelectaVision' and indications that the public is moving towards increasing purchases in this new dimension in television enjoyment."

The new line includes three VCR player/recorders (one of them in a four-hour programmable format), two black-and-white cameras and two color cameras. The *model VCT400* programmable recorder is designed to allow four recordings at differ-

*continued on page 12*



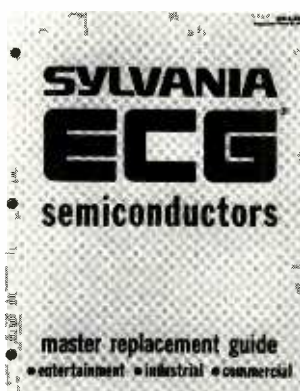


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# new & timely

continued from page 6

ent times, channels and even days of the week. It features varactor tuning and electronic program indexing that allows faster access to each program on a two-hour or four-hour cassette and carries an optional retail price of \$1200. A deluxe recorder, the *model VCT201*, contains six IC's; it has an electronic timer to preset the time and channel for both beginning and end of unattended recording. It has an optional retail price of \$1075. The *model VCT200* recorder has been redesigned with improved circuitry to provide a sharper picture and carries an optional price tag of \$1000.

The *model BW003* black-and-white camera (\$299.95) has a pop-up viewfinder, 16-mm lens, built-in mike, redesigned power supply and a new AC outlet. The *model BW004* camera (\$399.95) has a zoom lens for wide-angled shots and closeups with three power magnifications; the built-in viewfinder comes with a tally light and is calibrated for proper picture composition.

The first RCA color cameras for use with the VCR's are the *model CC001* and *model CC002*; the latter camera features a professional grade zoom lens and electronic viewfinder.

## **Boris, the talking chess computer, teaches and plays the game**

While there are already a few chess computers on the market, Chafitz, Inc., of Rockville, MD, has designed the first randomly programmed "talking" computer that can both teach and play a good game. They have named the computer Boris.

In the words of Steve Chafitz, company president, "Boris is the result of major advances in integrated-circuit technology." Until now computer chess games have required large commercial devices for high-level games; now it is possible to perform those games on postage-stamp-sized microprocessors.

Here are some of Boris' capabilities: It can play against opponents at all skill levels—from the rank amateur to the most advanced chess master. It can teach elements of the game; any player unsure of a move can ask the machine what to do next. You can also change places with the computer in the game and learn how to overcome sticky chess situations. Boris also is programmed to comment on the play, being given to such remarks as "illegal move," "congratulations," "I expected that" and even "good move!"

The position programming allows the human opponent to set up any board position to play specific strategies. Each chess piece rank is displayed electronically so that you can keep track of each piece at all times. Boris will solve all "mate-in-two" problems, and no player has to play the same game twice, due to the computer's

random programming. Priced at \$299.95, Boris comes in a walnut case complete with chessboard and a set of chess pieces. It is expected to be marketed via department and specialty stores.

## **Four-hour VCR's marketed in Europe**

A four-hour videocassette recorder has been developed by Grundig AG (Germany) for the European market (with a five-hour cassette on the way). The Grundig *model SVR4004* VCR will also be sold under license in the United Kingdom:

The Grundig device closely follows the European debut of Philips' three-hour cassettes and Sony's 3½-hour *Betamax* recorder. Priced at \$1400, the Grundig VCR features infrared remote drive control, automatic station search, plus programmable channel selection and timing capability of up to 10 days in advance. The four-hour cassette, using 570-meter-long, 16-micrometer thick tape, is expected to retail for about \$33 in Germany.

## **Digital voice protection system safeguards public-safety communications channels**

Motorola Communications and Electronics, Inc., has developed a system that effectively prevents unauthorized eavesdropping on public safety communications channels such as those used by law-enforcement agencies, fire departments and the like. The system is called the Digital Voice Protection (DVP) System and can be incorporated in portable and mobile units,

base stations, repeaters, control stations, total area coverage (TAC) stations, consoles and microwave systems.

No actual voice components are used; the signals sound like random noise emissions. A dual technique translates these random signals into clearly understood messages: Regular speech is converted to digital speech via continuously-variable-slope delta (CVSD) modulation. It is then scrambled using a vast amount of unrelated codes, each of which can be loaded into a DVP radio's memory using a code inserter that cannot be activated for visual recall. This insures that the DVP system is accessible to just a few persons.

The system features a narrow RF channel bandwidth. It operates with 25-kHz channel spacing in the UHF band or a 30-kHz spacing in the VHF band. A code-detect feature squelches the speaker system if an incoming code does not match that stored in the receiver's memory. A dual-code detect option allows you to add a second code for special messages.

The DVP system offers dual-mode operation; that is, messages can be sent "in clear" as well as digitally. This makes the system adaptable to existing communications networks on existing channels. As additional protection is needed, the DVP portion of the system can be expanded.

An FCC license is mandatory before the system can become fully operational. Further information can be obtained from Barbara Bennett, Motorola Communications and Electronics, Inc., 2122 North Palmer Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60195. **R-E**



**MOTOROLA DVP SYSTEM PROVIDES HIGH-LEVEL VOICE SECURITY FOR public safety communications channels. The system can be integrated into portable, mobile and base-station radios, as well as in total area coverage (TAC) stations and microwave systems.**

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For a chance to have your day run a little smoother, contact your local B&K-PRECISION distributor for immediate delivery or a demonstration.

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# editorial

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## The Best Is Yet To Come!

It's a marvelous world of electronics that we live in. We've got TV sets with 7-foot screens, video tape recorders, CB radios, digital wristwatch-calculators, TV games, computers, light dimmers, smoke alarms, burglar alarms, garage-door openers . . . . I guess I could go on for pages. But that's what we have now, today, in our hands. And that's only the beginning.

In 1908 when this company started publishing magazines about electronics—our first publication was called **Modern Electrics**—the word "electronics" had not yet been coined. And about the most electronic device around was the DeForest audion—a diode with a third element—a control grid. Little did we know where we would be only a few short years later.

Today in 1978 we are surrounded by electronic devices. If you took them away, many of us might consider that we had been pushed back into the dark ages. But what about tomorrow? What will the new electronics devices be? Will they even be electronics?

We recently asked the readers of this magazine on our Free Information card to tell us what they thought the next breakthrough in consumer electronics would be. Out of thousands of responses not one reader mentioned any device not in current use. But here are some that we have come up with. Some of our ideas border on science fiction, yet man on the moon, television, and satellite communication were science fiction only a few short years ago. Here goes . . .

1. Total communications system and computer terminal on your wrist.
2. Direct electronic learning machines. Couple brain to recorder. Play the tape (hologram) and you *know* the subject.
3. Direct-couple TV camera to brain, restoring vision to the blind.
4. Electronic anti-gravity (I know that gravity is not an electronic field and therefore cannot be countered, directly, by an electronic signal. But maybe there's an electronic field that can shield physical objects from the effects of gravity).

There's four items to consider. Please don't devote any effort toward proving them unworkable; many experts have proven that airplanes won't fly and that the world is flat. Do send me your look at future electronic devices and if you've built something special, tell me about it too. We'll publish the great ideas and your name. Think up the impossible and send it to me. Do it quickly or by the time the post office delivers your idea, it may have already been built.

  
**LARRY STECKLER**  
Editor

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CIRCLE 19 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

## PINK NOISE/GRAPHIC EQUALIZER

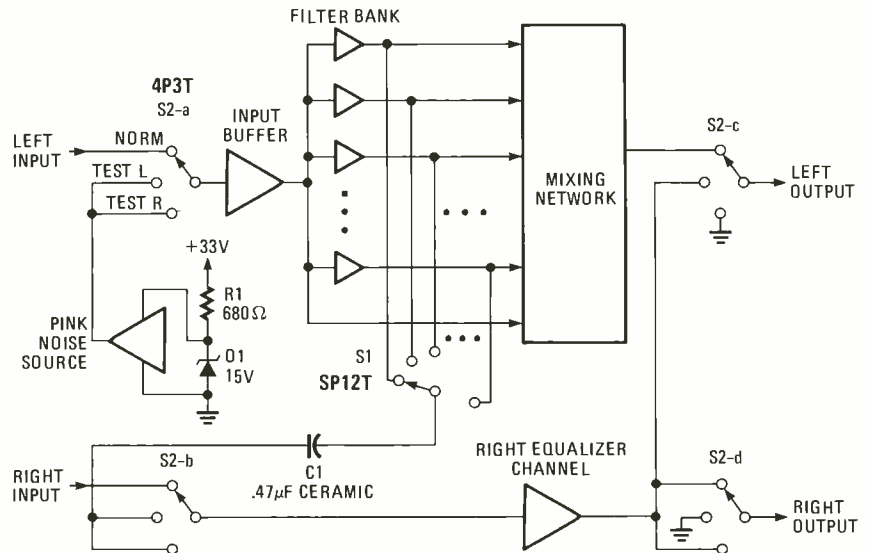
The pink-noise tester described in the January 1978 issue ("Pink Noise Generator Tests Your Hi-Fi," page 43) will not test the equalizer described in my article, "Graphic Equalizer For Your Stereo System," in the May 1978 issue, page 37. However, it *is* an excellent testing tool.

The pink-noise article suggests shorting out the filter section; this produces a phase-shift oscillator.

Furthermore, with the given topology on the equalizer described in the May 1978 issue, turning off the filter (e.g., installing a switch in series with  $R_{in}$ ) will cause that band to be flat, not attenuated.

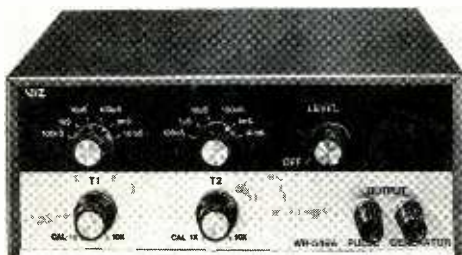
Other errors I have observed:

1. Figure 1-c—the switch arm is mis-drawn.
2. Figure 2—the values of +12 dB and -12 dB are reversed.
3. The equalizers of Fig. 1 are not true graphic equalizers—they have ripples in their frequency response of typically 3-dB



continued on page 22

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*John E. Cunningham*

**Special Projects Director  
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I'll tell it to you straight. If you think electronics would make a nice hobby, check with other schools.

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Patterns shown on TV and oscilloscope screens are simulated.

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**LETTERS**

*continued from page 16*

P-P at a flat setting. To my knowledge there are no consumer versions of this type equalizer available. Furthermore, the circuit of Fig. 1-b seems to be copied from the *National Audio Handbook* and that circuit also oscillates.

The diagram shows a graphic equalizer/noise tester system. In this diagram, switch S1 can be replaced with a test probe, capacitor C1 only prevents clicks. Resistor R1 and diode D1 can be replaced by a battery, and switch S2 can be replaced by reconnecting patch cords. The pink-noise generator is available from West Side Electronics, Box 636, Chatsworth, CA 91311,

for \$9.95 postpaid; the graphic equalizer is available from Synergistic Sound Systems, 1608 S. Douglas Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537, for \$90 postpaid.

To adjust the equalizer, turn switch S2 to "Test Left." Adjust the *right*-hand channel controls until the output of your system is independent of the position of S1 (adjust the bottom right-hand band with S1 connected to the bottom left-hand band, etc.). Adjust the left-hand channel slide potentiometers to be the same as the right-hand channel. Change switch S2 to "Test Right." Repeat the adjustments to the right-hand channel. Simple! There's plenty of room inside and on the rear panel of the equalizer to mount the pink-noise generator and switches.

JOE GORIN

**TELEPHONE ACCESSORY**

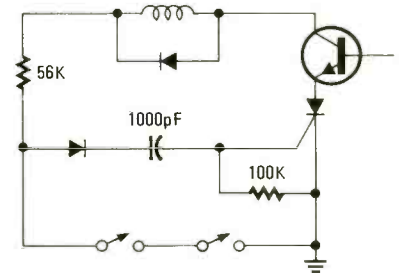
The Autodialer and Cassette Interface featured in the May 1978 issue seems to be designed on the assumption that burglars are polite. But I doubt that the typical burglar is going to stop to close a window or back door after gaining access.

If S1 in Fig. 1 (see May, 1978, page 41) is not reclosed, the SCR will refire itself immediately after every one of the infrequent pulses from the unijunction transistor.

Furthermore, an appreciable "open" period on a phone line is required to disconnect it at the exchange. A mere flick of relay RY1-3, even if attained, will probably not do the trick. So what you have is what the phone company calls a "calling party hold." It will tie up the line indefinitely.

WARNER CLEMENTS  
Beverly Hills, CA

*Mr. Clements is correct for all but the momentary break switches. My application was on automatically closing doors in which this problem never showed up. On a later use of the circuit, however, this did indeed prove to be a problem, and was*



*remedied by replacing capacitor C1 with a 100,000-ohm resistor and placing a 1000-pF capacitor in series with the gate lead of the SCR between the diode and the 100K resistor as shown above.*

JULES GILDER

**COSMAC-1802 GROUP**

I am sure that many of your readers would be happy to know that we are forming a COSMAC-1802 User's Group, that will include Basic Elf, Elf-2, Super-Elf, VIP, Infinite, etc.

The purpose of the group will be to correspond and exchange software and ideas, plus we will possibly publish a newsletter. Membership is *free*. Anyone who is interested should write to: Patrick Kelly, P.O. Box 7162, Los Angeles, CA 90022.

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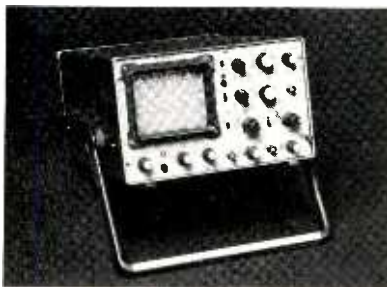
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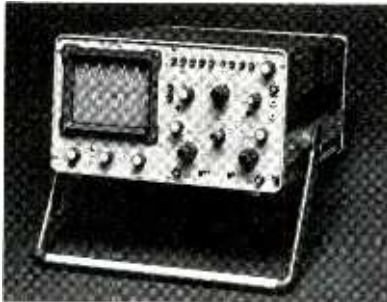
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- Delayed timebase
- Channel Sum and Difference

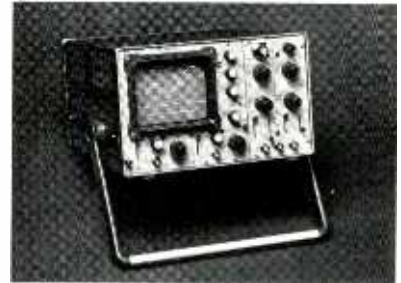
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Cleveland, OH 44114. In Europe contact Gould Instruments, Roebuck Rd., Hainault, Essex, CB10 1EJ England.

For brochure call toll-free (800) 325-6400, Ext. 77. In Missouri: (800) 342-6600.

 **GOULD**



#### Gould OS 3300 B

- DC to 50 MHz
- Dual trace
- Two independent timebases
- Mixed sweep
- 1 mV/div sensitivity
- Channel Sum and Difference

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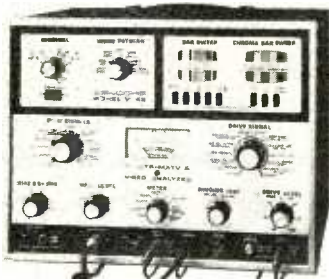
#### Gould OS 4000

- DC to 10 MHz — dual trace — digital storage (RAM) — no deterioration of stored trace — pre-trigger viewing — output to analog and digital recorders — simultaneous stored and real time viewing.

Circle No. 80

# equipment reports

## Sencore Model VA-48 TV-VTR-MATV-Video Analyzer



CIRCLE 101 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

SENCORE, INC. (3200 SENCORE DRIVE, SIOUX Falls, SD 57107) has produced a new analyzer, the *model VA-48 TV-MATV-VTR-Video Analyzer*. Since lack of space will keep me from discussing all its many features, I'll just cover the most interesting and important details.

The *model VA-48* generates RF/IF and

video signals. It generates all the standard color-bar, dot, crosshatch, single-dot and single-cross patterns, plus two other unusual ones that we'll discuss later on. It can develop these signals at RF, on all VHF and on six UHF channels (four channels are fixed, two are tunable). It has an IF output for use as a tuner substitute, and two more outputs for injecting signals at higher levels into the second and third video intermediate frequency stages. A switchable 4.5-MHz crystal can be used for tuning. In the IF signal stage, the three most important trap frequencies and a sound IF are provided.

On the other side of the panel, a DRIVE SIGNAL selector switch can deliver drive signals for vertical and horizontal-output stages, for either tube or transistor stages; horizontal drive pulses for SCR (Silicon-Controlled Rectifier) horizontal-output stages; two vertical and horizontal composite sync signals, one designed for tubes, the other for transistors; a horizontal keying pulse, a 1000-Hz audio signal; and a 3.58-MHz oscillator signal. The last position of the control lets you inject any of the

video patterns as a video signal. The video output is also fed to the VTR standard jack; this is a fixed 1.0-volt P-P signal, with negative-going sync. The DRIVE LEVEL control handles the output level and polarity of all other signals. A P-P voltmeter on the panel reads the amplitude of any drive signal, from 10 volts up to 1000 volts. Two special scales are used for peaking and nulling.

The *model VA-48* also has a RINGING TEST circuit that was developed by Sencore for testing flybacks and yokes; the same meter is used as an indicator. The meter can also be used as an external meter for signal tracing; there is an input jack just below it.

On the bottom of the panel to the left are a BIAS-B+ SUB control plus jacks. This can be used for DC biasing or as a DC power supply for modules and circuits that do not need more than 1.0 amp. The voltage is adjustable from 0 to 35.

There are only three output cables (one is a common). The RF/IF signals originate from a BNC jack and shielded cable with screw-on

*continued on page 26*



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## EQUIPMENT REPORTS

*continued from page 24*

baluns and adapters for connection to any RF or IF circuit. The drive signals have a coax cable with clips. Cables are provided for the meter input, and the VTR (Video Tape Recorder) output jack and cable has a phono plug that matches all standard VTR inputs. All these cables fit into a compartment on the back of the case.

The RF/IF signals can be adjusted from 100  $\mu$ V to 5000  $\mu$ V. The control is marked from 0 to 5; the point marked "1" means 1000  $\mu$ V, a standard level for CATV/MATV systems. In the TUNER SUB position of the RF/IF SIGNAL selector switch, full output is used; there are two more selector settings for checking the second and third IF's for stage-by-stage signal injection. All the output signals of the model VA-48 are phase-locked to the crystal-controlled RF/IF signals; this includes the RF/IF/video signals and even the drive signals. No matter what signal is used, it will show a stable pattern.

Now here are the goodies: There is a 3.58-MHz oscillator drive signal on the drive signal control. This signal can substitute for the oscillator in the TV set; its amplitude is adjustable. Reversing the polarity of this produces a 3.58-MHz signal with a 90° phase shift. All video patterns can be used for signal-tracing video stages, even up to the picture-tube input.

The feature that really got me all excited was one providing two sweep patterns; one is called Bar Sweep and the other, Chroma Bar Sweep. These modes are patented by Sencore, and with them, you can actually align the IF stages of a TV set by feeding the RF output into either the tuner test point, antenna or IF input. You can view the output at the video detector using a scope, or just by looking at the TV screen! The bar sweep signal consists of numerous bursts of different frequencies for checking the IF response at these points. This is a practical and usable version of the multi-burst signal used in VITS (Vertical Interval Test Signal).

The carrier is modulated with the different frequencies. The first frequency (at the left of the scope or TV screen) is a staircase pattern forming black, grey and white bars, then a white bar (the white flag in VITS) at the right. Between these bars is a set of five video frequencies: 188 kHz, 755 kHz, 1.51 MHz, 3.02 MHz and 3.56 MHz. By the way, these frequencies are not sinewaves but carefully clipped and regulated squarewaves! If your scope has a very wide bandpass, you can see this squarewave pattern. All these frequencies are plainly marked on the panel, and each one can be switched in or out. The panel also shows the patterns that appear on the TV screen and the scope patterns at the detector output.

To check the IF alignment (one of the most useful tests because it tells you whether it does need alignment or whether the trouble lies somewhere else) you just feed the signal into the RF input and look at the output. No bias boxes, disabling horizontal output, etc., are needed. For example, if the low-frequency bar at the left is sharp, you know that the low-frequency response is OK. If the 3.56-MHz bar on the right is blurred or even missing, this tells you the high-frequency response of the IF is off; the scope pattern should show all the bars at the same amplitude. The IF touchup control makes them like this if there is no problem in the IF. The 40-page operator's

manual for the model VA-48 includes some quick tests for determining the amplitude of the bars without using a scope. All you do is adjust the brightness control.

For color-bandpass alignment, a different set of three bars is used—3.08 MHz, 3.56 MHz and 4.08 MHz—whose amplitude is different from that of the others (it must be in order to get the correct output). This signal can be used as RF/IF modulation or as a video signal. The P-P value of the input signals is regulated so that the output shows a pattern similar to the Bar Sweep—three bars of equal amplitude. On the TV screen, the middle bar is blue; the outside bars have no color but will show small stationary rainbows. Again, the frequencies of the bars, the screen pattern and the scope patterns are shown on the model VA-48 panel. These frequencies can also be switched in or out. The same brightness-control test can be used here; just turn the control down and see which bar goes out first.

The usefulness of this instrument is limited only by the ingenuity of the user. By providing the best test for any stage's performance (injecting a known good signal and checking the output) you can pinpoint a great many troubles in a very short time. The instruction manual contains a great many tests with diagrams, control settings and all. All you need for checking any color TV set is the model VA-48, a good digital meter and a scope.

You can use the model VA-80 for quick-testing video tape recorders/players. You test tape recorders by feeding in any video signal, (such as the two bar sweeps) record them and then play them back. Players can be tested by injecting the video signals and tracing them through the circuitry. Any kind of problem will show up under these tests.

The model VA-48 is not a low-cost instrument (it costs \$975), but it can be an inexpensive one if it is used properly, since it should pay for itself in a short time in decreased servicing time. **R-E**

## Chemtronics Model SD5 Solder/Desolder System

UNSOLDERING COMPONENTS ON PC BOARDS has been a source of conversation and argument for some time. It is as important as soldering and difficult to do correctly. It's hard to get a multilegged component out with the old "melt and jerk" system! The solder-wick technique, in which a woven copper braid absorbs the molten solder, has always been popular. However, there are minor drawbacks. (I always manage to burn my finger by holding it too close to the end!) And if you hold the wick too far back, it could be a bit too limp.

Now, Chemtronics has developed a new alternative—the model SD5 Solder/Desolder System. This system solves one of the main problems—trying to use the wick in a small coil. (I always kept mine on the floor under the bench along with the solder, also coiled.) The model SD5 System has a tiny reel with a 2.5-inch Teflon probe in the end. You pull the wick up through this probe and out as far as you want. You can hold the reel in the palm of your hand and apply the wick right to the desired place. (Hint: Don't pull out more than about one-half inch of the wick; this gives you better control over it.) This unit is called the model D5 Desoldering Tool. Despite the small size of the reel, it holds 5 feet of wick that

*continued on page 32*





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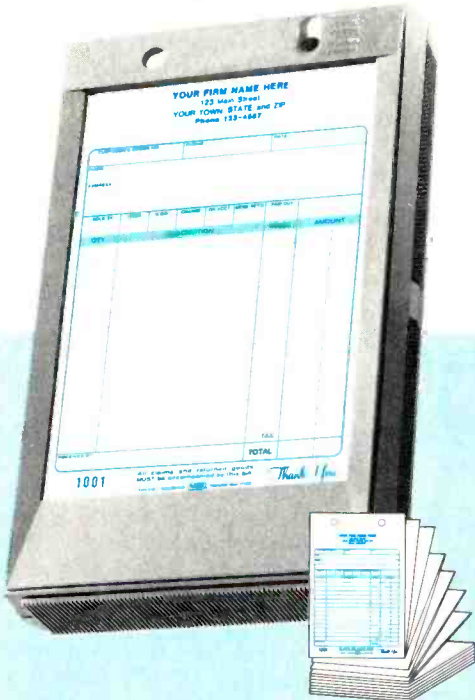
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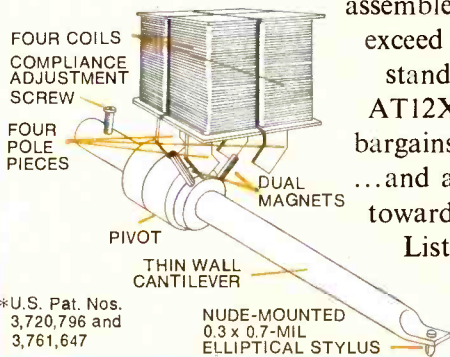
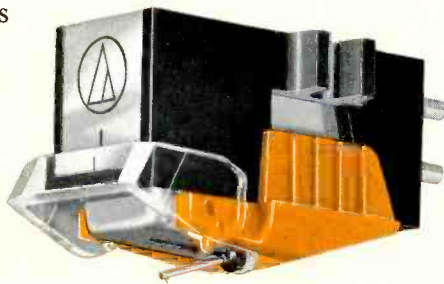
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### EQUIPMENT REPORTS continued from page 26

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The *model D5 Desoldering Tool* plugs right into the end of a spool of Chemtronics solder! The *Teflon* probe can be pushed back down inside the spool for convenience, for use in tool kits, etc. The *SD5 Solder/Desolder System* lets you keep the solder and wick right under your hand for instant use. The 60/40 solder (with a pure water-white rosin flux core) is



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The wick is not tinned; this allows much faster solder absorption. The 0.1-inch size is just right for most work. If you run into a very tight place, you can trim the end of the wick at an angle to get right at it. For larger joints, place the wick on the joint and push down on the *Teflon* probe; this spreads the braid out to cover the joint.

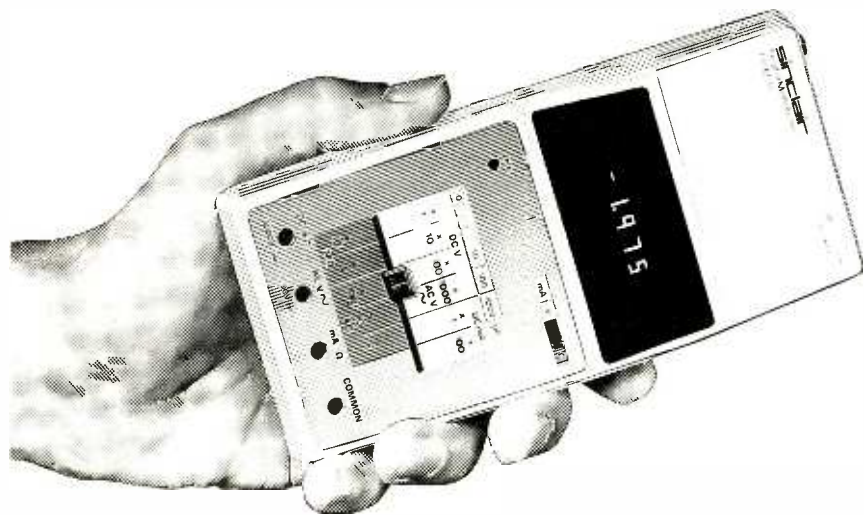
This is one of those handy little items that doesn't look very impressive at first glance, but in use proves to be a real timesaver. (Just the elimination of scorched fingertips is a big plus!) Here's another suggestion. After the reel is empty, why not roll up some of the solder and thread it up through the probe? This would give you a useful item for either your workbench or tool kit. I haven't tried it yet but it ought to work. You'd have to buy another *model D5 Desoldering Tool* to obtain the extra probe, but this won't be expensive. The wick refills come without the probe, which you can just pull out of the original reel.

One last benefit of the wick system that I almost overlooked. The wick also acts as a heat sink to help prevent picking-up of PC-board conductors, heat damage to delicate components, and so on. I used it on the base of a transistor; just three passes of the desoldering

continued on page 34

# The Sinclair PDM35.

## A personal digital multimeter for only \$49.<sup>95</sup>



### Now everyone can afford to own a digital multimeter

A digital multimeter used to mean an expensive, bulky piece of equipment.

The Sinclair PDM35 changes that. It's got all the functions and features you want in a digital multimeter, yet they're neatly packaged in a rugged but light pocket-size case, ready to go anywhere.

The Sinclair PDM35 gives you all the benefits of an ordinary digital multimeter — quick clear readings, high accuracy and resolution, high input impedance. Yet at \$49.95 it costs less than you'd expect to pay for an analog meter!

The Sinclair PDM35 is tailor-made for anyone who needs to make rapid measurements. Development engineers, field service engineers, lab technicians, computer specialists, radio and electronic hobbyists will find it ideal.

With its rugged construction and battery operation, the PDM35 is perfectly suited for hand work in the field, while its angled display and optional AC power facility make it just as useful on the bench.

### What you get with a PDM35

3½ digit resolution.

Sharp, bright, easily read LED display, reading to ±1.999.

Automatic polarity selection.

Resolution of 1 mV and 0.1 nA (0.0001 μA).

Direct reading of semiconductor forward voltages at 5 different currents.

Resistance measured up to 20 MΩ.

1% of reading accuracy.

Operation from replaceable battery or AC adapter.

Industry standard 10 MΩ input impedance.

### Compare it with an analog meter!

The PDM35's 1% of reading compares with 3% of full scale for a comparable analog meter. That makes it around 5 times more accurate on average.

The PDM35 will resolve 1 mV against around 10 mV for a comparable analog meter — and resolution on current is over 1000 times greater.

The PDM35's DC input impedance of 10 MΩ is 50 times higher than a 20 kΩ/volt analog meter on the 10 V range.

The PDM35 gives precise digital readings. So there's no need to interpret ambiguous scales, no parallax errors. There's no need to reverse leads for negative readings. There's no delicate meter movement to damage. And you can resolve current as low as 0.1 nA and measure transistor and diode junctions over 5 decades of current.

### Technical specifications

#### DC Volts (4 ranges)

Range: 1 mV to 1000 V.

Accuracy of reading 1.0% ±1 count.

Note: 10 MΩ input impedance.

#### AC Volts (40 Hz-5 kHz)

Range: 1 V to 500 V.

Accuracy of reading: 1.0% ±2 counts.

#### DC Current (6 ranges)

Range: 1 nA to 200 mA.

Accuracy of reading: 1.0% ±1 count.

Note: Max. resolution 0.1 nA.

#### Resistance (5 ranges)

Range: 1 Ω to 20 MΩ.

Accuracy of reading: 1.5% ±1 count.

Also provides 5 junction-test ranges.

**Dimensions:** 6 in. x 3 in. x 1½ in.

**Weight:** 6½ oz.

**Power supply:** 9 V battery or Sinclair AC adapter.

**Sockets:** Standard 4 mm for resilient plugs.

**Options:** AC adapter for 117 V 60 Hz power. De-luxe padded carrying wallet. 30 kV probe.

### The Sinclair credentials

Sinclair have pioneered a whole range of electronic world-firsts — from programmable pocket calculators to miniature TVs. The PDM35 embodies six years' experience in digital multimeter design, in which time Sinclair have become one of the world's largest producers.

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The Sinclair PDM35 comes to you fully built, tested calibrated and guaranteed. It comes complete with leads and test prods, operating instructions and a carrying wallet. And getting one couldn't be easier. Just fill in the coupon, enclose a cheque/MO for the correct amount (usual 10-day money-back undertaking, of course), and send it to us.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**EQUIPMENT REPORTS**  
continued from page 32

tool and the transistor dropped out of the underside, with the holes left looking neat and clean.

The *model SD5 Solder/Desolder System* comes in different sizes: with 16-gauge solder, \$12.66; with 18-gauge solder, \$12.86; and with 21-gauge solder, \$13.74. You can get the *model D5 Desoldering Tool* with a .06-inch wick, \$2.29; with a .10-inch wick, \$2.45. Wick refills are obtainable: .06-inch size, \$1.49; .10-inch size, \$1.65. Prices are suggested retail prices. All are available from Chemtronics, Inc., 45 Hoffman Avenue, Hauppauge, NY 11787. **R-E**

**Heathkit's Model EC-1100  
BASIC Programming  
Course**

THE HEATHKIT BASIC (BEGINNER'S ALL-PURPOSE Symbolic Instruction Code) course consists of a packed, 14-section manual plus appendixes in loose-leaf form, a programming workbook and a final examination in a sealed envelope. (The course was developed by Heath Company, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.)

The manual is different from most other BASIC manuals in that it doesn't try to impress you with introductory concepts that discourage you from going any farther. The text is written in an uncomplicated, bright manner, making learning fun rather than a chore. A semiprogrammed approach presents

information that is closely followed by related questions. The correct answers are camouflaged in dark red boxes, and if you have no willpower, the answers can be totally covered with a card. However, like all self-study courses, you are on your honor and you will only get out of the course what you are willing to put in. Certain places in the text direct you to the workbook in which you answer additional questions and write program segments based on your accumulated knowledge at that point. Those who already have Heathkit or other computers with a BASIC interpreter perform the experiments detailed in the workbook. Hands-on experience gained by actually running programs is an extremely powerful supplement to the written material.

The workbook includes some simple but interesting programs, such as "Name the State Capital," how to calculate parallel resistances and how to plot random number distributions. The appendixes include background information on converting from one number system to another, plus the details of Benton Harbor BASIC and extended Benton Harbor BASIC.



CIRCLE 50 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

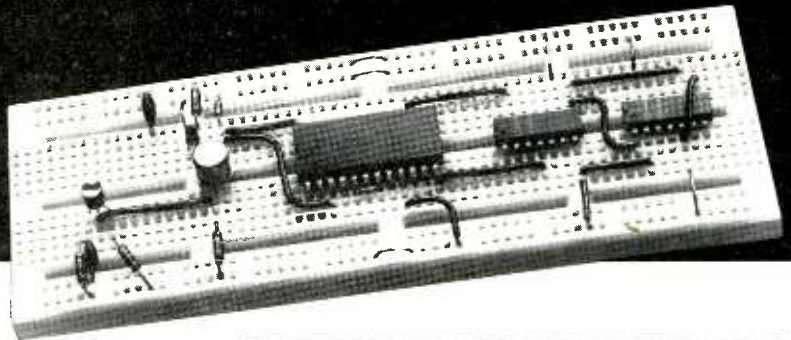
As soon as you have enough fundamentals under your belt, you are introduced to flow charts and you learn how to break down programs into smaller, more easily handled segments or subprograms. The emphasis is on planning your work by carefully defining the problem before actually writing a program.

The overall philosophy of this course concerns building—starting with a "one-room doghouse," proceeding through a "kennel" and up to a "monument." After working through statements, lists, arrays and strings, you arrive at the "monument"-building section, where a problem of moderate complexity is traced from its initial concept all the way through the bells and whistles.

The program developed in this section is Blackjack. In discussing card arrangement, modulus arithmetic is explained and used to represent the 52 cards of the deck. The cards are assigned numbers that can be converted into their individual values and suits. The BASIC random function RND is used to "shuffle" the deck. When you are finished, you have a BASIC listing for a deluxe version of Blackjack. To run the program on any particular computer some minor changes may have to be made. By that point you should be competent enough to implement these changes easily. In addition to knowing BASIC, you must be familiar with the way the operating system of your computer is initialized, how the BASIC interpreter is called up and the way BASIC language programs can be stored and recalled in memory or on tape or disc.

The *model EC-1100* course (which sells for \$29.95) is particularly useful in view of the nearly universal acceptance of BASIC by microcomputer buffs. **R-E**

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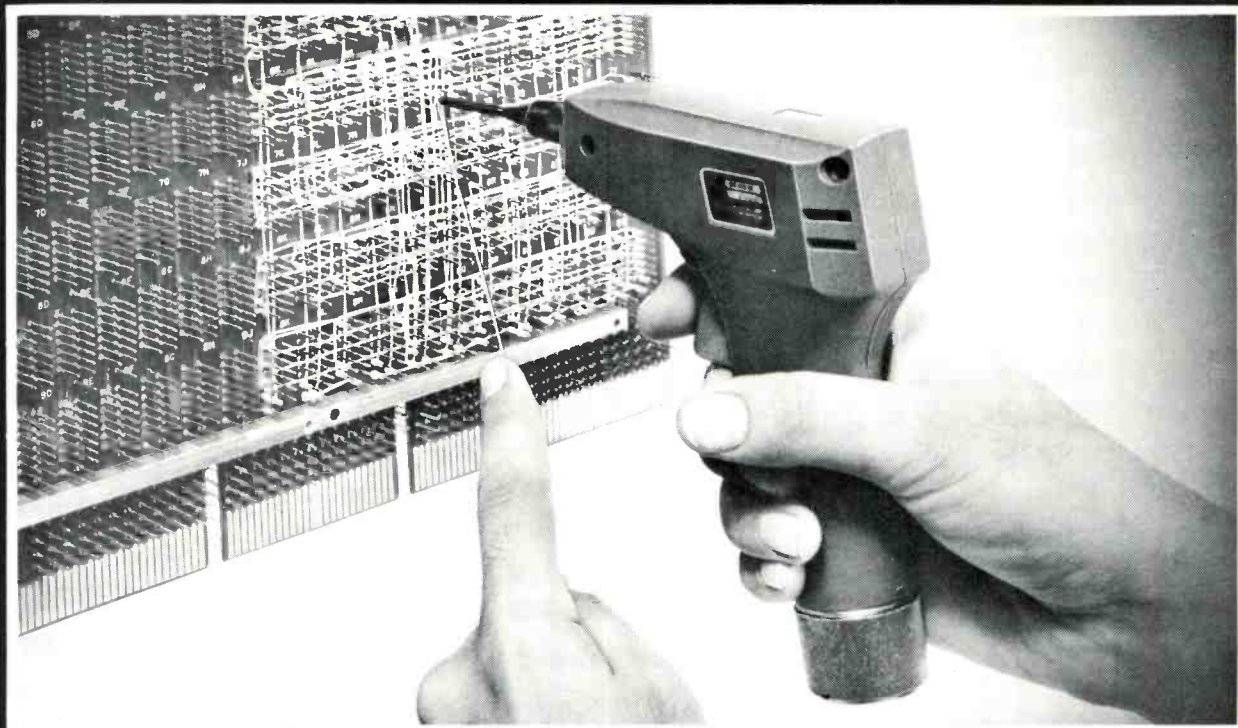
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# BUILD THIS

## pF → .01F

# Digital Capacitance Meter

*A valuable addition to the experimenter's workbench or technician's tool kit this meter verifies the value of suspected capacitors and performs quality-control checks on project components.*



**BILL WILSON AND BILL OWEN\***

CAPACITOR VALUES FROM 1 pF TO 9,999  $\mu$ F are easily measured using the model CM-1000 Digital Capacitance Meter. This wide measurement range is achieved using a carefully designed capacitance measuring circuit. A quartz-crystal timebase, 1% film resistors, and a precision SE555 integrated circuit timer (SE instead of NE prefix indicates premium part) yield 1%,  $\pm 1$  count accuracy. Four jumbo LED digits and four pushbutton ranges with automatic decimal point placement make capacitance measurement convenient, reliable, and accurate.

To measure a capacitor simply connect its leads across the counter's input terminals on the front panel. Polarized capacitors such as electrolytics and tantalums must be connected with positive lead to the "+" terminal and negative lead to the "-" terminal. Simply depress the appropriate range switch and the counter comes alive displaying the capacitance count with up to four digits of resolution. Open capacitors cause the counter to read zeros while a shorted device causes a very large reading that may not stabilize. Leaky capacitors tend to read much higher than their labeled value and will indicate different values from range to range.

Of course it's no trick to sort through

\*Product Engineers, Optoelectronics, Inc.

### SPECIFICATIONS

#### Capacitance Ranges

R1/pF	0000—9999 pF
R2/ $\mu$ F	.0000—.9999 $\mu$ F
R3/ $\mu$ F	00.00—99.99 $\mu$ F
R4/ $\mu$ F	0000.—9999. $\mu$ F

#### Accuracy (Typical factory calibration at $T_a + 70^\circ - 79^\circ$ F.)

R1/pF, R2/ $\mu$ F	$\pm 1\%$ of reading, $\pm 1$ count
R3/ $\mu$ F	$\pm 1.5\%$ of reading $\pm 1$ count
R4/ $\mu$ F	$\pm 2\%$ of reading $\pm 1$ count

#### Timebase

Ref. oscillator frequency	3.579 MHz
Ref. oscillator accuracy	$\pm 0.05\%$

#### Power Requirements

Input voltage	105-125VAC 60Hz
Input power	3.5 watts

#### Environmental

Operating temperature range	+5° to +45° Celsius
Storage temperature	-10° to +65° Celsius

#### Physical Dimensions

Overall dimensions	3"H $\times$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "W $\times$ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "D
Approx. weight	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb

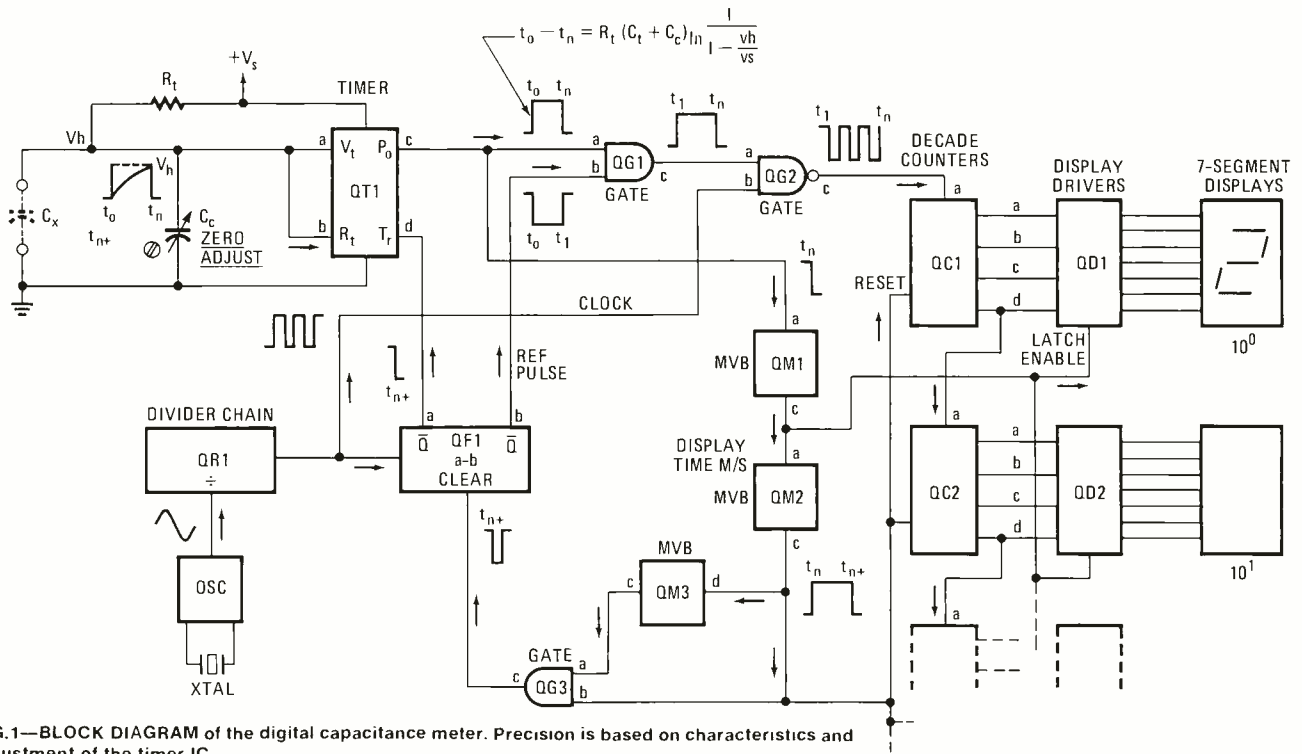


FIG. 1—BLOCK DIAGRAM of the digital capacitance meter. Precision is based on characteristics and adjustment of the timer IC.

your junk box capacitors using the capacitance meter just as you would use an ohmmeter to check resistors. Bargain capacitor assortments can be checked for a real savings because hard to decipher military codes, color bands, or no markings at all present no problem with this meter. You can perform quality-control checks on the capacitors you are using in your construction projects. Air variables and ceramic trimmers are frequently unmarked and can be checked for minimum and maximum values or even calibrated in terms of angle of rotation.

Almost all components have a certain amount of capacitance that can affect circuit performance. Wire bundles, coax cable, and twisted pairs all can be easily checked if suspected of causing problems.

Two different samples of coax can be compared for minimum capacitance per foot. Other components that can be checked for capacitance include rectifiers, transistors, LED's and other devices.

The capacitance meter's accuracy and resolution are important factors when selecting critical capacitor values. Precision RC networks and oscillators are easily constructed with precisely known capacitor values. A capacitor's temperature stability is of critical importance in many circuits and can be checked by heating or cooling the component and measuring its change in capacitance.

In some instances it is not convenient to measure capacitance at the meter's front panel terminals. A probe can be used for remote capacitance measure-

ments. It will of course add its own capacitance to the measurement. The probe's capacitance can be subtracted from readings or the front panel zero adjustment can be reset. By using the capacitance meter probe, the distributed capacitance

**The following parts are available from Optoelectronics, Inc., 5821 N.E. 14 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334.**

CM-1000K Complete Kit .....	\$129.95
CM-1000WT Factory Wired & Tested .....	179.95
CM-1000 PC Boards Only .....	24.95
P-1000K Cap. Counter Probe Kit .....	3.95
P-1000 Assembled Probe .....	6.95

Add 5% shipping, handling and insurance, for foreign orders add 10%. Florida residents add 4% State Sales Tax.

### PARTS LIST

**Resistors are 10%, 1/4 watt unless otherwise noted**

- R1—243,000 ohms, metal film, 0.25%, 1/8 watt
- R2—11,300 ohms, metal film, 0.25%, 1/8 watt
- R3—2430 ohms, metal film, 1%, 1/8 watt
- R4—220 ohms, 5%
- R5, R8, R21—100 ohms, carbon potentiometer, 1 watt
- R6—243 ohms, metal film, 1%, 1/8 watt
- R7—33 ohms, 5%
- R9, R11—10,000 ohms
- R10—3300 ohms
- R12, R14—330 ohms
- R13—6.8 megohms
- R15—8.2 megohms
- R16—180 ohms
- R17—R19—2200 ohms
- R20—1000 ohms

- R22—11 megohms
- R23—R26—100 ohms
- R27, R28—4700 ohms
- C1—47 pF NPO disc
- C2—15-60 pF, ceramic trimmer
- C3, C13, C19, C23—0.47 μF, 50 volts
- C4, C5—3.3 μF tantalum
- C6—.001 μF
- C7, C8, C9, C11, C12, C14, C17, C20, C27, C28—0.1 μF
- C10—.01 μF
- C18—.02 μF
- C21—3300 μF, 16 volts, electrolytic
- C22—220 μF, 25 volts, electrolytic
- C24—33 pF NPO disc
- C25—8.2 pF NPO disc
- C26—470 pF disc
- D1—D4—1N4002 silicon rectifier diode
- IC1—556 dual timer
- IC2—IC4, IC12, IC14, IC16, IC18—74LS90 decade counter/divider

- IC5—74LS73 flip-flop
- IC6—4001 quad NOR gate
- IC7—74LS04 hex inverter
- IC8, IC9—74LS00 quad 2-input NAND gate
- IC10—SE555 precision timer
- IC11—voltage regulator, 7805
- IC13, IC15, IC17, IC19—4511 BCD to 7-segment decoder/driver
- DIS1—DIS4—MAN-6680 7-segment LED display
- XTAL1—quartz crystal, 3.579 MHz
- S1—S5—5-gang SPST pushbutton switch
- T1—power transformer, 117 VAC primary, 10 VAC secondary
- J1, J2—insulated banana jack
- F1—120-volt, 125-mA fuse
- Miscellaneous: PC boards, 1 8-pin IC socket, 4 16-pin IC sockets, 14 14-pin IC sockets, line cord, hardware

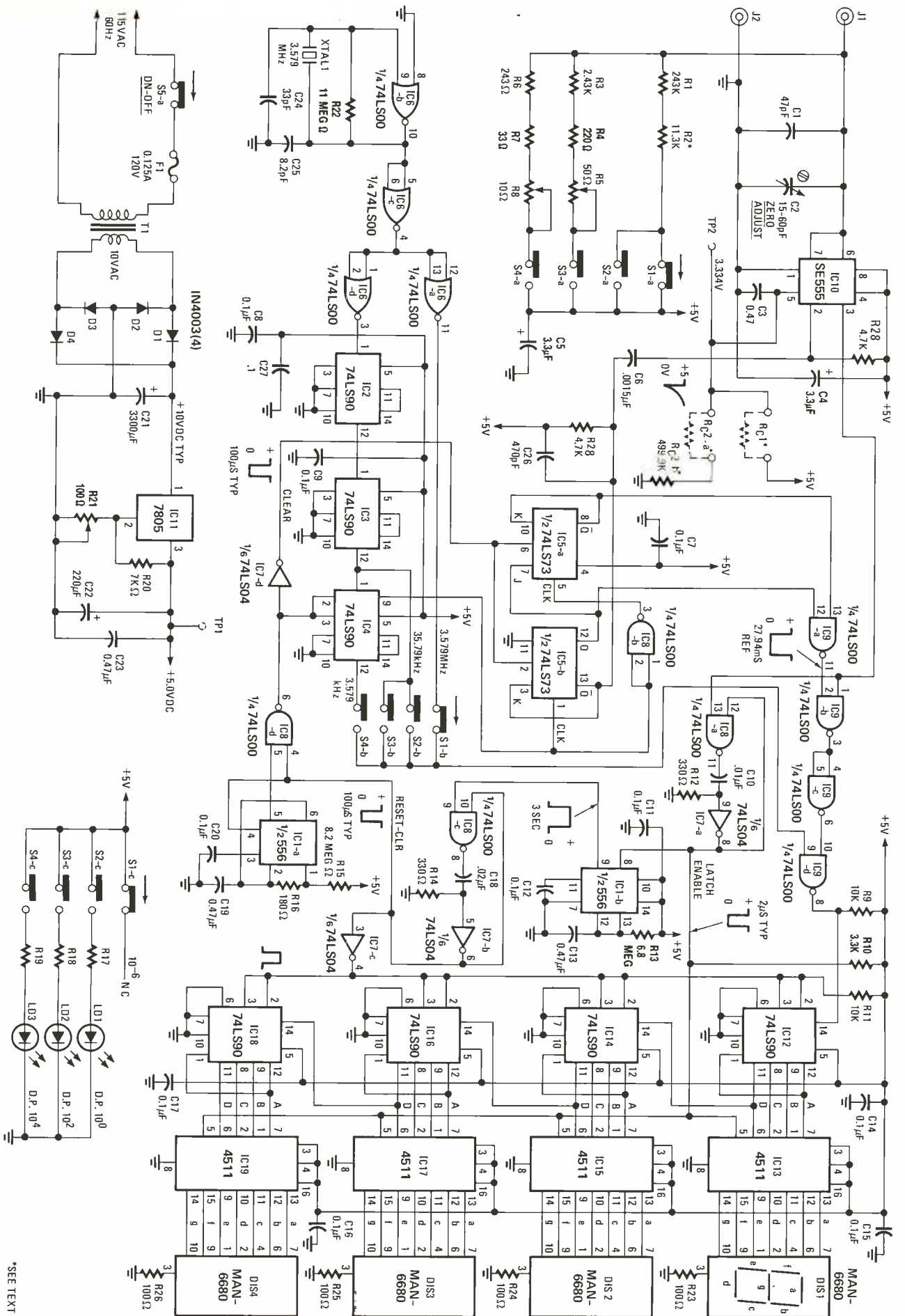


FIG. 2—SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM of the capacitance meter. Maximum values of the four ranges are 9999 pF, 0.9999 µF, 99.99 µF and 9999 µF. Accuracy is ±1% of reading ±1 count.

\*SEE TEXT

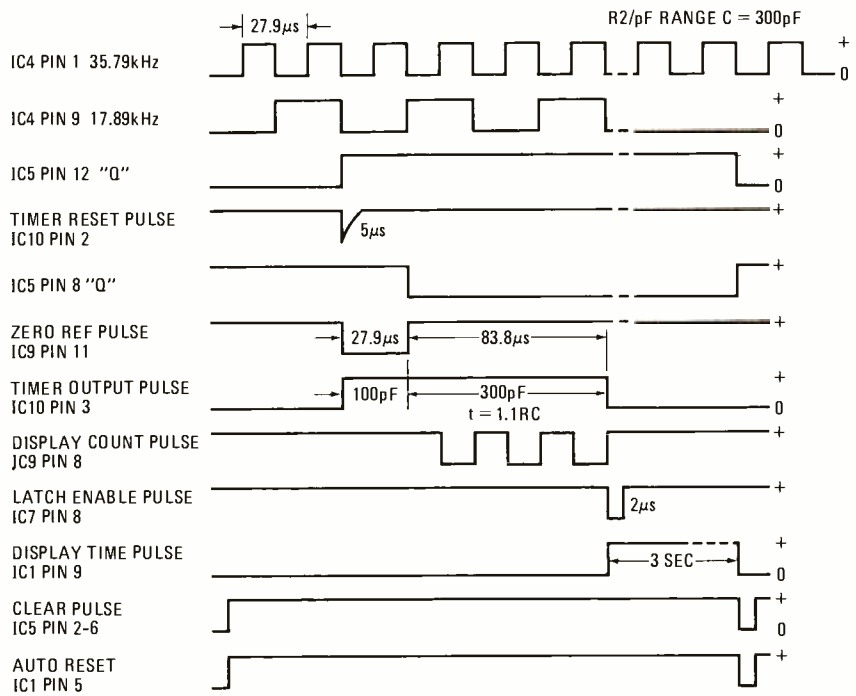
associated with materials, components, and assemblies (PC board runs, switches, terminals, etc.) can be measured.

### Circuit description

The capacitance measuring circuit is shown in simplified block form in Fig. 1. The capacitor to be measured,  $C_x$ , is connected across the input terminals and appears in series with resistor  $R_i$  and voltage  $V_s$ . (Disregard capacitor  $C_c$  for the moment.) Upon application of a trigger pulse to input "d" of timer QT1, input "b" of QT1, which was previously held internally at ground potential, is set to its high state allowing voltage  $V_s$  to charge the capacitor  $C_i$  through resistor  $R_i$ . The charge voltage,  $V_h$ , appearing at input "a" of QT1 reaches a level—after a period of time—that follows the relationship,  $V_h = V_s (1 - e^{-t/RC})$  where  $V_s$  equals the supply voltage and  $e^{-t/RC}$  is an exponential function with  $R$  and  $C$  expressed in megohms and microfarads and "t" in seconds. If  $R$  is 1 megohm and  $C$  is 1  $\mu$ F the  $V_h$  after 1 second, "t" becomes:  $V_h = V_s (1 - 0.368) = 0.632V_s$ . If the monostable circuit QT1 has an input threshold level  $V_t$  at "a" that will activate a reset condition at exactly  $0.632V_s$ , then the output will be a pulse whose duration is equal to  $T = RC$ .

The pulse output of timer QT1 enables gate QG2 and allows clock pulses from frequency divider QR1 to flow through to the counter stages QC1 and QC2. The BCD input to display drivers QD1 and QD2 from the counter stages is decoded to provide segment data to the display when enabled by a pulse from QM1, a one-shot multivibrator that is triggered when the pulse output of QT1 goes low at the end of the timing period,  $t_n$ . Multivibrator QM1 also serves to trigger multivibrator QM2, the display time monostable which resets the counter stages and the reference pulse flip-flop QF1, which in turn triggers timer QT1 and begins another measurement cycle. Astable multivibrator QM3 insures the logic is reset if for any reason a normal reset pulse does not occur, as when power is first applied.

On the diagram you see an additional capacitor,  $C_c$ , across the input terminals in parallel with capacitor  $C_x$ . Because shunt capacitance exist across the input measuring terminals, lead wires and semiconductor junctions, the combined distributed values appear in parallel with the capacitor to be measured and when attempting to measure low values of capacitors, significant errors occur in the readout as  $T = R(C_x + C_L)$  where  $C_L$  is the combined distributed capacitance. Capacitor  $C_x$  is adjusted to produce a pulse width output from timer QT1 that is equal in duration to a reference pulse from flip-flop QF1 ( $T_o - T_1$ ). When both pulses are compared at the inputs of QG1, the output of QG1 will remain low and gate QG2 will not be enabled. But when the pulse from timer QT1 is longer



**TIMING CHART** for the model CM-1000 digital capacitance meter. Helpful in troubleshooting and in understanding circuit operation.

in duration, the output of gate QG1 goes high and enables gate QG2. Consequently, clock pulses are fed into the counter stages. The period  $T_o - T_1$  represents the "zero" compensation adjust interval with the time  $T_1 - T_n$  representing the time period due to the capacitance under measurement. The total period is approximately equal to  $R(C_x + C_c + C_L)$ .

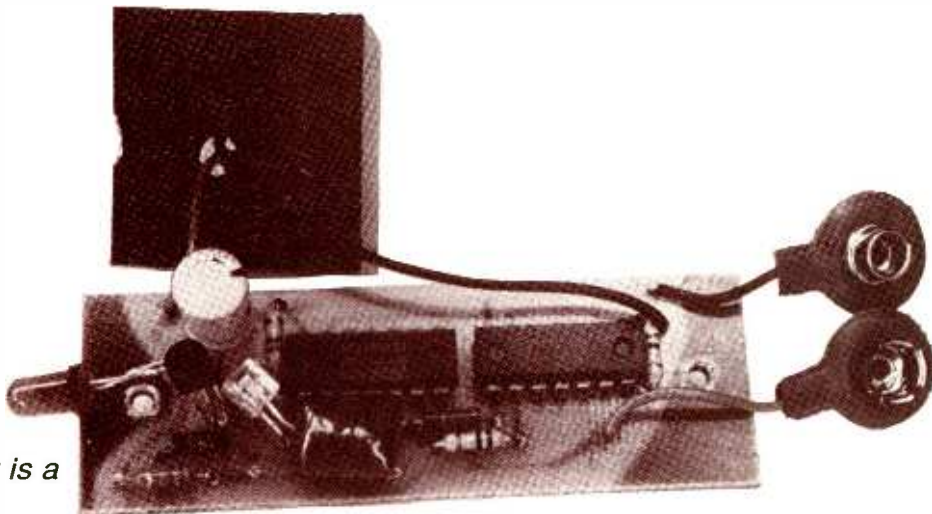
### Practical circuit

The actual digital capacitance meter circuit as shown in Fig. 2 operates in the manner previously described. A 555 timer (premium version) is used as the pulse-width generator. The timing chart helps understand circuit operation. The internal threshold level of the 555 is given as  $2/3 V_{CC}$  ( $V_s$  in the example). This ratio is established by internal resistors within the 555 timer and if these resistors are held accurate then  $t_h = 1.098RC$ . As the current through  $R_i$  ( $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  in Fig. 2) increases, the saturation voltage across the internal discharge transistor within the device increases and can exceed 100 mV at 10 mA. Consequently the capacitor under measurement will not be fully discharged prior to the reset trigger pulse; thus,  $t_h = RC \ln V_s / (1 - V_A - V_{sat})$  where  $V_{sat}$  equals the saturation voltage across the discharge transistor at the measured current. An external means of setting the 555 threshold level is afforded through the control voltage input (pin 5), trimmer. Compensation resistor  $R_{c1}$  (or  $R_{c2-a}$  and  $R_{c2-b}$ ) sets the value to exactly  $2/3 V_{CC}$  (3.334 volts for the  $V_{CC}$  voltage shown). (The digital capacitance meter kit comes with a precision 555 timer and a compensating resistor to be installed at  $R_{c1}$  or  $R_{c2-a}$  so the device delivers precisely 3.334 volts DC at test point TP2 to insure the specified 0.1% accuracy. If you

obtain your own 555 timer, you'll have to experiment with resistive compensating networks to get the desired voltage at TP2.) Capacitor  $C_3$  at pin 5 must have low leakage as it also shunts the internal resistor network. A leakage current up to 100 nA can exist at pin 7 during the output high state but with the  $R_i$  values shown this does not contribute to significant errors. Finally, there exists a propagation delay between the trigger pulse and output risetime of the 555 which must be considered on the low ranges. It should also be mentioned that noise and AC line components appearing at the input terminals can introduce serious errors; good grounding and shielding practices should be used throughout. The clock pulses are obtained from a time-base oscillator using a readily available 3.579-MHz crystal. The divider chain IC6, IC3, IC3 and IC4 provide four ranges, 1—9999 pF, .0001—to .9999  $\mu$ F, .01—99.99  $\mu$ F and 1—9999  $\mu$ F. Capacitors with high leakage and/or series resistance will produce errors in readout. Capacitors with high leakage should be read on the highest range possible (low  $R_i$ ) and capacitors with high series resistance read on the lowest range possible. *If a capacitor reads differently on two or more ranges, this generally indicates a high leakage factor* (assuming proper calibration of  $R_i$  on each range). The range resistors ( $R_i$ ) should be accurate to within .25% and temperature stable. The counting and display circuits shown are conventional, with utilization of low-power (74LS) TTL devices and some CMOS decoders to minimize current consumption (about 250 mA for the unit shown). The display provides four decades of readout giving good measurement resolution on all ranges.

## Flue Bug

*An open fireplace damper is a constant source loss of air-conditioned or furnace-warmed air in your home. This low-cost electronic device warns you to close the damper as soon as the fire is out.*



FRED BLECHMAN, K6UGT

IF YOU OWN A FIREPLACE, THERE CERTAINLY have been times when you've forgotten to close the damper after the fire went out. Prior to the energy crisis this was not a terribly serious omission. Now, however, with energy conservation and the escalating cost of utilities, it has become much more important to close the damper to reduce the cost of heating or cooling your home. A 48-inch-perimeter open fireplace flue can allow 8% of air-conditioned or furnace-warmed air to escape your house! So, to save money and help conserve energy, you can build the Flue-Bug, available in kit form for under \$10.

You may wonder, why such a strange name? Well, this gadget simply "bugs" you until you close the fireplace-flue damper. The unit winks and blinks after the fire has gone out—and it keeps blinking for days until you notice it and shut it off. It does *not* itself close the damper, it simply reminds *you* to close it.

### How it works

The circuit, shown in Fig. 1, uses two standard CMOS (Complementary-Symmetry Metal-Oxide Semiconductor) integrated circuits: IC1 is a quad 2-input NAND gate, and IC2 is a hex inverter. In other words, IC1 has four separate NAND gates, each with two inputs, and IC2 contains six separate inverters. Figure 2 shows the logic symbols of the two types

of IC's used in this design. Figure 2-a shows a 2-input NAND gate, in which output pin 3 is LO (near ground) only when *both* inputs are HI. All other inputs result in a HI output. Figure 2-b shows an inverter that simply changes a HI to a LO, or a LO to a HI. With these facts firmly in mind you'll be able to follow the circuit explanation. For such a seemingly simple task, the circuit is quite complex.

A photo-Darlington transistor is used to sense light and radiated energy from the fireplace. Small holes in the heat shield, case and PC board allow light and heat, from the desired direction only, to impinge on the phototransistor. This biases the junctions and allows the current to flow from collector to emitter. Therefore, when you aim the Flue-Bug at the fireplace from about 5 feet away, the phototransistor senses when a fire has been lighted and when it has gone out. When the fire is out, then the Flue-Bug will start blinking.

The circuit explanation that follows is almost a minicourse in digital logic. You don't have to understand it to use the Flue-Bug, but it does illustrate some basic digital design, and by following this detailed description you can analyze many other circuits. Figure 3 shows how to follow the changes in logic states during reset, standby, fire on and fire out.

Assume that the phototransistor does *not* sense a fire. Pressing the reset push-button pulls pin 1 of IC1 LO, thus making pin 3 HI, regardless of the state of pin 2. Pin 4 is therefore HI. Since the phototransistor does not sense a fire and its dark-resistance is therefore quite high, input pin 5 of inverter IC2-c is LO, making output pin 6 HI. Since both inputs to NAND gate IC1-b (pins 4 and 5) are HI, output pin 6 goes LO, bringing pins 2 and 13 LO. This keeps pin 3 HI, and the circuit is stable. Since output pin 11 of NAND gate IC1-d is HI (because pin 13 is LO), output pin 2 of inverter IC2-a is LO, keeping NAND gate IC1-c output pin 8 HI. This keeps output pins 4, 8 and 10 of inverters IC2-b, IC2-d and IC2-e LO. Transistor Q2 does *not* conduct in this state, so the light-emitting diode (LED1) does not light up.

When the RESET button is released, IC1-a pin 1 is pulled HI by the positive voltage through resistor R2, but nothing else in the circuit changes.

Now, light the fireplace and the phototransistor "sees" the fire. This drastically lowers its collector-emitter resistance, and the input of inverter IC2-c goes HI, so its output goes LO. This pulls IC1 pins 5 and 12 LO. Output pin 6 of NAND gate IC1-b goes HI, making pins 2 and 13 HI. Since pins 1 and 2 are now both HI, the output of NAND gate IC1-a goes LO,

## PARTS LIST

All resistors 1/4 watt, 5% carbon.

- R1-R3—100,000 ohms
- R4—16 megohms
- R5—22,000 ohms
- R6—5100 ohms
- C1—.047  $\mu$ F, mica
- C2—22  $\mu$ F, 10 volt, electrolytic
- LED1—red, jumbo light-emitting diode
- Q1—photo-Darlington transistor (Motorola MRD-14B or GE L14H)
- Q2—2N2222, 2N3904 (or equiv.) NPN switching transistor
- IC1—74C00 CMOS quad 2-input NAND gate
- IC2—74C04 CMOS hex inverter
- S1—normally open pushbutton switch, miniature

Misc.—Battery snaps; plastic case (2 1/8-in.-square  $\times$  3 1/8-in. long, sprayed with silver paint); heat shield (3 1/2  $\times$  4 1/4  $\times$  .03-inch-thick aluminum); two No. 4-40  $\times$  3/4-inch screws; 2 1/2-inch-long spacers; solder (2U6 or equiv.); 9-volt battery.

The following items are available from Interfab Corp., 27963 Cabot Rd., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677:

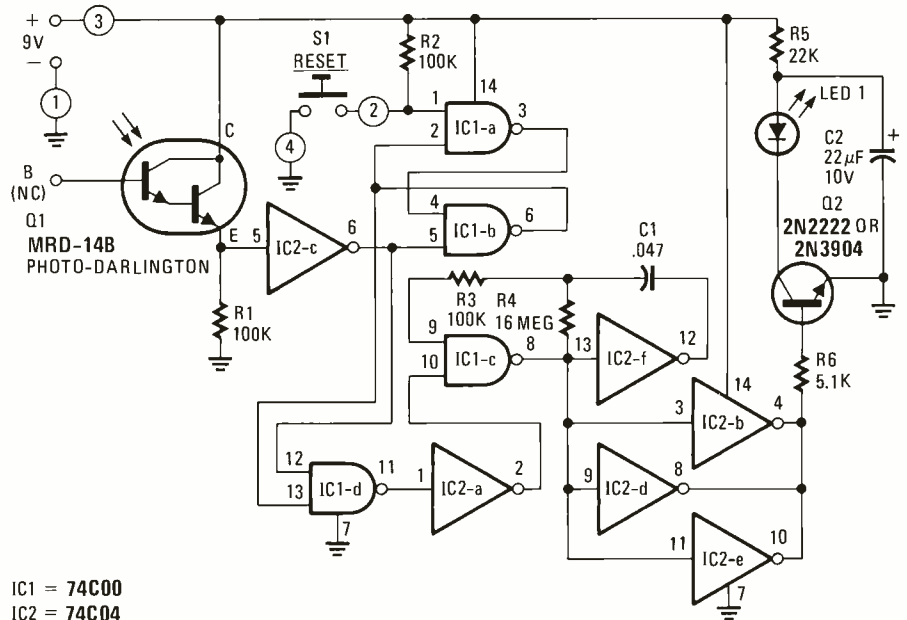
Kit FB-2: Complete parts kit, including PC board, all holes predrilled, battery not included; instructions, \$9.50 postpaid. Assembled and tested, \$12 postpaid.

California residents add state and local taxes as applicable.

pulling pin 4 LO, making the output of NAND gate IC1-b HI, thus latching this part of the circuit. (NAND gates IC1-a and IC1-b are wired as a flip-flop.)

Note that output pin 8 of NAND gate IC1-c is still HI (pin 13 went HI, but pin 12 went LO), therefore, the LED is still not on. However, when the fire goes out, the phototransistor resistance increases and, at some point, forces pin 5 of inverter IC2-c LO. This makes the output of this inverter HI, pulling IC1 pin 12 HI. Since pin 13 is already HI, NAND gate IC1-d changes state, and its output (pin 11) goes LO. This is inverted by IC2-a, whose output goes HI, thus making pin 10 of NAND gate IC1-c HI. Pin 9, the other input to NAND gate IC1-c, is already HI, through resistors R3 and R4 from pin 8. Since both inputs of IC1-c are now HI, pin 8 goes LO, causing several things to happen. Inverters IC2-b, -d and -e (operating in parallel for greater current capability) change state to a HI output and forward-bias transistor Q2. This allows LED1 to flash on, powered by the charge from capacitor C2.

Meanwhile, note what happens back at NAND gate IC1-c. (See Fig. 4.) When pin 8 went LO, inverter IC2-f changed state to a HI output, releasing a charge into capacitor C1, which then discharged through R4 to the LO at pin 8. The voltage at point A drops until pin 9 (through resistor R3) is brought below the threshold voltage, and NAND gate IC1-c changes to a HI output. This cuts off the LED, and causes



IC1 = 74C00  
IC2 = 74C04

FIG. 1—FLUE-BUG is built using 2 CMOS IC's. Light-sensitive photo-Darlington transistor is used as sensor.

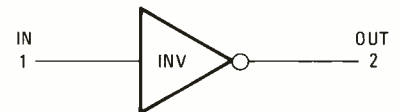
inverter IC2-f to change to a LO output state. Now capacitor C1 charges through R4 until point A rises to the transfer voltage. Fed through resistor R3, this transfer voltage is seen by pin 9 of NAND gate IC1-c as a HI, therefore, its output goes LO and the LED starts blinking. This circuit is a gated astable oscillator, and as long as pin 10 is held HI, the LED will flash at a slow rate (determined by C1 and R4). When the RESET button is pressed, or the phototransistor again senses light, gate IC1-c pin 10 is pulled LO and the oscillator stops in the LED-off condition.

Note that during the time that inverters IC2-b, -d and -e have a LO output and the LED is off, capacitor C2 is being charged through resistor R5. When Q2 is biased-on (inverters IC2-b, -d and -e HI output), the capacitor C2 charge flows



1 AND 2 HI = "3" LO  
ALL OTHERS = "3" HI

a  
NAND GATE LOGIC



"1" HI = "2" LO  
"1" LO = "2" HI

b  
INVERTER LOGIC

FIG. 2—POSITIVE INPUT LOGIC. NAND gate is shown in a and inverter is shown in b.

PIN #	74C00 (IC1)				74C04 (IC2)			
	RESET	STANDBY	FIRE ON	FIRE OUT	RESET	STANDBY	FIRE ON	FIRE OUT
1	L	H	H	H	H	H	H	L
2	L	L	H	H	L	L	L	H
3	H	H	L	L	H	H	H	⎓
4	H	H	L	L	L	L	L	⎓
5	H	H	L	H	L	L	H	L
6	L	L	H	H	H	H	L	H
7	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
8	H	H	H	⎓	L	L	L	⎓
9	H*	H*	H*	⎓*	H	H	H	⎓
10	L	L	L	H	L	L	L	⎓
11	H	H	H	L	H	H	H	⎓
12	H	H	L	H	L	L	L	⎓
13	L	L	H	H	H	H	H	⎓
14	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

NOTE:

\*MEASUREMENT REQUIRES VERY HIGH IMPEDANCE INSTRUMENT (ABOVE 50 MEGOHMS) OR CIRCUIT ACTION IS AFFECTED.

FIG. 3—TRUTH TABLE shows logic state of IC pins during normal operation.

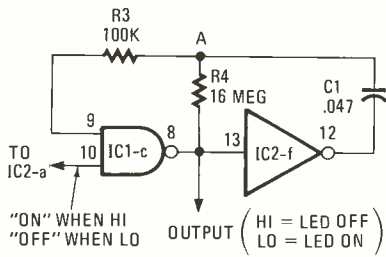


FIG. 4—GATED ASTABLE OSCILLATOR as used in the circuit shown in Fig. 1.

through the LED to provide a bright "blink" of short duration. Thus, battery power is conserved, yet the flashing LED is visible in brightly lighted surroundings. The battery drain is only 5  $\mu$ A during reset or standby, 80  $\mu$ A when the fire is lighted and an average of approximately 2  $\mu$ A when the LED is blinking. This means that a standard zinc-carbon battery will last about a year in normal use, or about 10 days' blinking.

### Construction

Constructing the Flue-Bug is much easier than understanding the circuit operation. Be sure to use small-diameter rosin-core solder, a low-wattage soldering iron and a magnifying glass to check your soldering. (The kit contains detailed step-by-step instructions that should be followed closely.)

The PC board pattern is in Fig. 5; and the parts layout is shown in Fig. 6. Be sure to properly orient the IC's, electrolytic capacitor C2, LED1 and transistors Q1 and Q2. The red-lead female battery snap goes to the PC board positive trace, and the black-lead male snap goes to

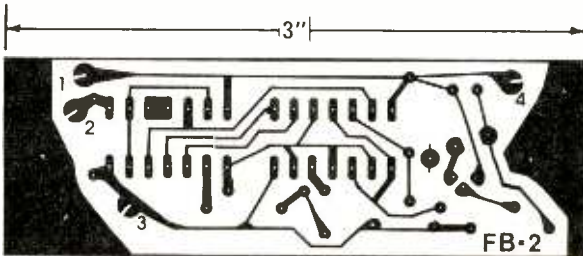


FIG. 5—PRINTED-CIRCUIT BOARD shown full size.

ground. Position the phototransistor over the small hole in the PC board, with the curved face toward the hole. Bend capacitor C1 down, after soldering it to the PC board to allow room for the battery inside the case. Mount the LED, as shown in Fig. 6, with the lead that is closest to the "flat" on the base of the LED going to the connection near phototransistor Q1. Mount pushbutton switch S1 in the cover corner hole, with two wires going to the PC board.

Connect a standard 9-volt transistor radio battery to the snaps and test the unit before the case and heat shield are installed. With the battery connected, shield phototransistor Q1 from the light and press the RESET button. If the LED was blinking before you pressed the but-

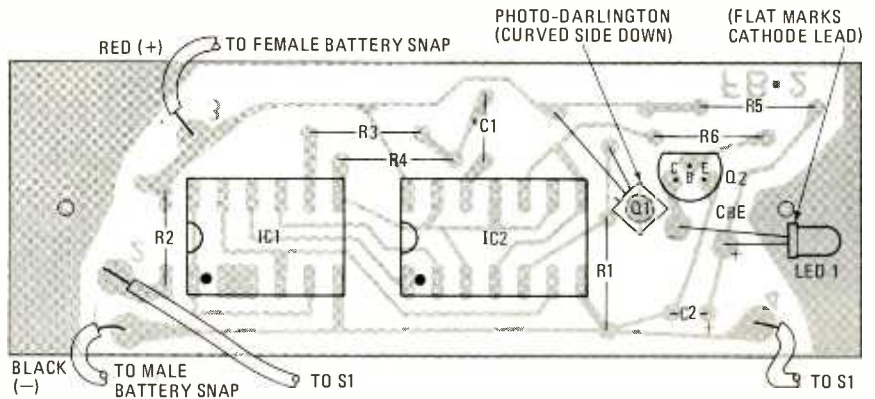


FIG. 6—COMPONENT PLACEMENT diagram.

ton, it should now stop. Next, expose the phototransistor to the light—nothing should happen. Cover phototransistor Q1 again, and the LED should start blinking immediately, thus demonstrating the surprising light sensitivity of the Flue-Bug.

If the device doesn't work properly, the most likely causes are wrong parts placement or orientation, or poor solder joints or solder bridges. Figure 3 shows the states of all pins on both IC's under all conditions. You can check these states with a multimeter having a sensitivity of 20,000 ohms-per-volt or better.

Before assembling the PC board and battery into the case, pretap the holes at each end of the PC board by twisting a mounting screw into each hole to form threads. Figure 7 shows the complete assembly. Carefully slide the battery-PC

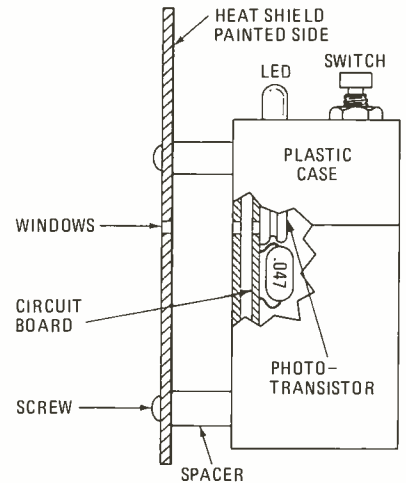
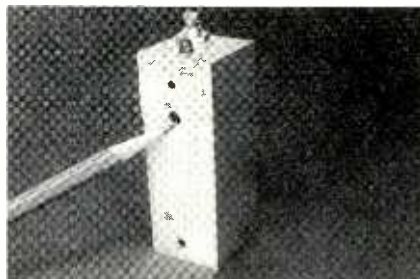
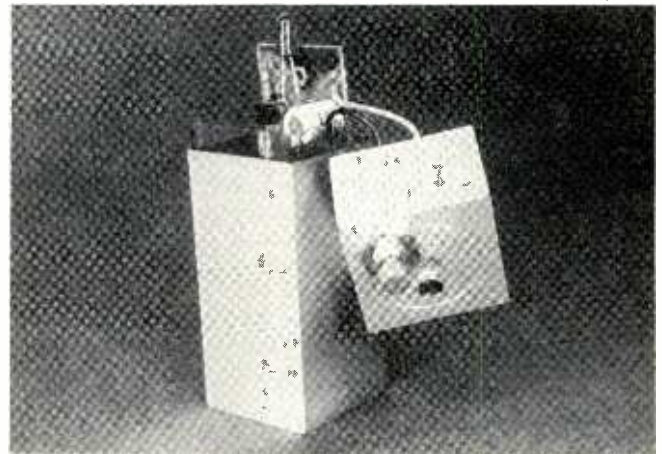


FIG. 7—FINAL ASSEMBLY of Flue-Bug.

**FLUE BUG with housing cover removed. Reset button is in top. Heat shield is on far side of case and can't be seen.**



**\*PENCIL POINTS TO WINDOW. Similar aligned windows are in heat shield and circuit board.**

board assembly into the case, making sure the phototransistor is opposite the case hole. Place the cap on the case so that the LED projects through the upper hole. Using screws and spacers, attach the heat shield so that the unit stands upright. Make sure that the bare metal side of the heat shield faces outward (to reflect heat from the plastic case) and that the black-painted side faces the unit (to prevent reflected ambient room light from falsely triggering the phototransistor). R-E

# Audio Testing With Pink Noise

*One of the most common uses of the graphic equalizer today is in tailoring the response of an audio system to fit a particular need. The use of a pink-noise generator simplifies making the equalizer adjustments.*

JEFFREY G. MAZUR

MY ARTICLE "PINK NOISE GENERATOR Tests Your Hi-Fi" (January 1978 **Radio-Electronics**) described a simple and inexpensive device that could be used to properly set up a graphic equalizer. Since the use of pink noise has generally been restricted to sophisticated audio engineering labs, many readers were unfamiliar with the techniques involved. This article will therefore attempt to explain in greater detail how a Pink Noise Generator works and how best to use it.

Once again let's recall what pink noise and white noise are. These signals are a mixture of all frequencies (in this case all *audio* frequencies) with precise amplitudes. White noise contains all frequencies at the same amplitude while pink noise has a 3 dB-per-octave rolloff associated with it (see Fig. 1). Incidentally, the color pink was chosen as an analogy to the frequencies of the light spectrum. Red light corresponds to the lower-frequency portion of the visible spectrum and a mixture of all frequencies produces white light. Thus, a mixture of light with a heavier emphasis on the lower frequencies (equivalent to a high-frequency roll-off) results in the color pink.

To generate pink noise you begin with a source of white noise such as the MM5837 IC, as described in my earlier article. This device contains a 17-bit shift register and an oscillator that generates a pseudorandom digital sequence. Unlike traditional semiconductor junction noise sources, the MM5837 provides a signal of uniform noise and output amplitude. This signal is then fed through a -3 dB-per-octave filter to give pink noise. Since the minimum rolloff with a single-stage filter is 6 dB-per-octave (due to the reactance of a capacitor), a special design is needed to achieve the required 3-dB rolloff. This technique involves cascading several stages of lag compensation. The result is

shown in Fig. 2. Figure 3 plots the response of this circuit, in which the "ripple," or deviation from a linear slope, is found to be  $\pm 1/2$  dB.

The filter, together with the MM5837, yields a pink noise output, as shown by the curve in Fig. 4. Note that this curve is not an ordinary frequency-response plot; it represents the energy spectrum of the noise in  $1/3$ -octave segments. This is achieved by passing the signal through successive bandpass filters corresponding to the frequencies along the horizontal axis. Thus, the curve represents the type of response you should expect when using the individual filters in a graphic equalizer. Figure 4 shows the output is quite flat. The large deviations at the low end are the result of the extreme low frequencies (0 Hz-15 Hz) generated by the pink noise generator. (Although the noise generator frequency output extends from essentially zero, it is not shown in Fig. 4 because the curve-plotter used begins at 30 Hz.) The true

reading is taken as the average value of the waveform.

## Graphic equalizers

Now that you have a good source of pink noise, how can you use it? For a high-quality audio system, one of the goals is to achieve a flat frequency response. This means that the music you hear from the speakers will most closely resemble the sound heard by the recording engineers. Most electronic equipment contained in a stereo system can reproduce these frequencies quite accurately. For example, amplifiers commonly have frequency-response specifications of  $\pm 1$  dB over the entire audio spectrum (20 Hz-20 kHz). However, in speakers, such flatness is rarely achieved. To make matters worse, speaker response depends largely upon its location in the room with respect to walls, furniture, etc. In fact, the room itself can account for frequency-response fluctuations of  $\pm 10$  dB or more. This is due to resonances within the room, absorption of sound by curtains and carpeting, as well as reflections from the walls, etc.

A graphic equalizer allows you to electronically alter the system's frequency response to compensate for any mechanical and acoustical problems encountered in the speaker and room. With ten or more tone controls the graphic equalizer lets you adjust system response octave by octave to flatten out the overall frequency response. The problem of setting each control accurately is solved by using the pink noise generator.

## Determining equalizer settings

When testing with pink noise you must be careful not to misinterpret the results. A strict procedure should be followed to eliminate any problems before they affect the final equalizer settings. Start with all

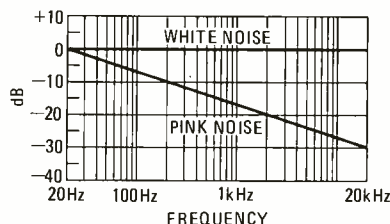


FIG. 1—SPECTRUMS of white noise and pink noise.

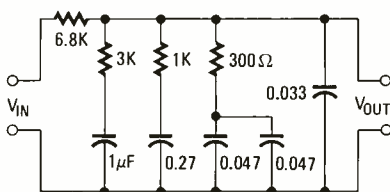


FIG. 2—PASSIVE FILTER with a -3 dB-per-octave rolloff.



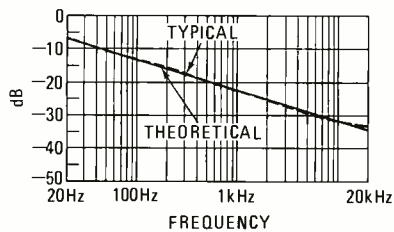


FIG. 3—FREQUENCY RESPONSE when using  $-3$  dB-per-octave filter. Note deviation from ideal response of approximately  $\pm \frac{1}{2}$  dB.

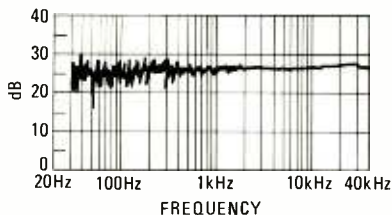


FIG. 4—PINK NOISE GENERATOR OUTPUT. Curve does not represent frequency response; it shows the energy distribution of the output signal.

the equalizer controls in their mid-position. Then, connect the pink noise generator to a suitable input of the system. Since most low-level electronics are reasonably flat, any place before the power amplifier will usually be adequate. Any auxiliary, tuner, or tape input is fine. A microphone is set up, placed in a normal listening position and connected to some sort of level-indicating device, e.g. the mike input of a tape recorder with a VU meter. If you use a tape recorder, make sure that there are no automatic-level (ALC) or frequency-dependent circuits that affect the meter reading.

With the pink noise generator on, you should hear a static-like sound from the speaker. Set the volume control so that a VU reading of 0 is obtained with the meter input level (MIC or RECORD level control on a tape recorder) about three-fourths of the way up. Next, check for background noise. Turn the pink noise generator off. The level meter should drop almost all the way down. Any residual reading is either due to electrical noise (i.e., hum) or background noise such as a TV set or nearby conversation. If the meter does not drop by at least three-fourths ( $-10$  dB) do not proceed until the background noise is reduced. Next, turn the generator back on (the VU meter should read 0) and place all the equalizer controls to their minimum positions. As each control is turned down, the meter reading should drop and, finally, with all the controls down it should read less than two-thirds scale ( $-8$  dB). If this does not happen, then there is too much leakage through the equalizer. Try turning on a high-cut (hiss) or low-cut (rumble) filter, or both. Remember that for these filters to have any effect, the pink noise must be applied before the equalizer circuits, as is usually the case with auxiliary or tuner inputs. If a filter is

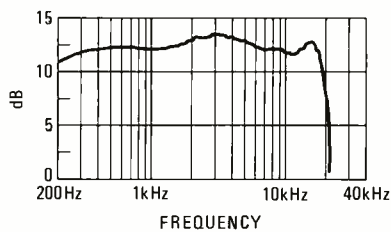


FIG. 5—TYPICAL FREQUENCY RESPONSE for the Superscope model EC-1 microphone. Curve was obtained in an anechoic chamber with a controlled (constant) sound field.

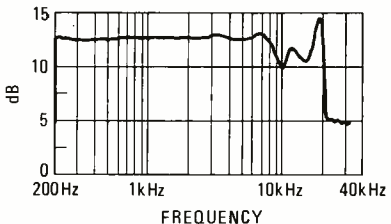


FIG. 6—MICROPHONE RESPONSE for Superscope model EC-5. Curve was obtained in an anechoic chamber with a controlled (constant) sound field.

necessary to reduce the leakage noise, then leave it on when setting all controls except for the extreme control it affects. That is, if the low-cut filter is needed, leave it on when setting all but the lowest frequency control on the equalizer.

Then, set one control (usually the one affecting a frequency of 1 kHz) to its middle or 0 position and readjust the volume control for a VU reading of 0. Then, turn this control back down and raise each of the other controls one at a time until the 0 VU level is reached. Mark this position of each control in pencil on the equalizer (or take note of its position on a scale alongside the control), after which return the control to its minimum position. When all the controls have been marked, place them at their recorded positions; this setting represents the flattest response for the system. Note that when you set the lower-frequency controls, the level meter may oscillate back and forth with the low-frequency "beat" produced by the pink noise generator. By watching the needle carefully, however, you should be able to set it to bounce equally on either side of the 0-VU level.

### Microphone frequency response

A vital part of pink noise testing relies on the frequency response of the microphone used. It is important to have some idea of its true frequency response. Many manufacturers supply some information, sometimes in the form of a graph; but unless the graph specifically refers to the unit you own, there may be some question as to its accuracy.

Electret condenser microphones offer the best frequency response for a reasonable price. Superscope, for example, manufactures a model EC-1 microphone that sells for about \$10 and gives a fair response (see Fig. 5). The model EC-5 mike (about \$30) is an excellent mike and

has a very flat frequency curve (see Fig. 6) that makes it quite suitable for pink noise testing. The odd response between 10 kHz and 20 kHz should not concern you. Since one control usually covers this entire octave, you can use the average value over this range. In this case, let's estimate the overall response of the mike in this octave as  $-2.5$  dB. By setting this control for a reading of  $-2.5$  dB during setup, you can effectively cancel out the nonflatness of the microphone. Set the equalizer controls for the same reading that would correspond to the frequency response of the microphone for that octave. This can be applied to any mike whose frequency response is known no matter what the actual response looks like. If your meter is not calibrated in decibels, this can be approximated by setting the control for the 0 level and then altering it the required amount by reading the dB scale usually supplied for the equalizer controls.

Finally, once the equalizer has been set for a flat frequency response, minor alterations can be made to suit your individual taste or to correct for other equipment deficiencies. Several settings may be required to account for varying room acoustics. For example, if there are curtains in the room that are sometimes open or closed, make a response test each way. Any control settings that differ for each situation should be clearly identified so that the proper setting can be made.

### A few words of caution

The above procedure will work only with equalizers whose controls follow some regular pattern; that is, each control must cover some multiple or submultiple of an octave. For this reason, parametric equalizers, which are extremely useful and whose popularity is growing, cannot be set up this way; they require a real-time or spectrum analyzer for proper setup.

### A final note

Since the MM5837 is a digital 17-stage device, it cycles through its entire sequence in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seconds. Thus, the noise exhibits a noticeable repeating pattern that may make the pink noise generator unsuitable for use in psychological testing or wind and rain sound effects. These uses may require a more conventional white-noise source such as that obtainable from a reversed biased transistor.

R-E

### REFERENCES:

1. BOHN, DENNIS, *Audio Handbook*, National Semiconductor, 1977, pp. 2-56-2-59.
2. SHANFIELD, DANIEL, "Audio Equalizers," *Stereo Review*, May, 1976, pp. 64-67.

# Pioneers Of Radio

The worlds of electric and electronic communications owe much to pioneering researchers and inventors. Among them are Thomas A. Edison, Heinrich Hertz and Sir Oliver Lodge.



THOMAS ALVA EDISON

FRED SHUNAMAN

ONE EVENING IN NOVEMBER, 1875, THOMAS Edison, working alone in his laboratory, discovered what he believed to be "an entirely new force." Working with a magnetic vibrator, which included an iron-core coil and an interrupter similar to an old-fashioned doorbell, he noted that sparks jumped from the iron core to any metal body brought close to it. A wire connected to any metal part of the vibrator carried this new force and sparks appeared if the wire was touched to any large metal object. Even if the wire was turned back on itself and formed into a ring, and the end of the wire touched any part of the ring, a spark occurred, which was contrary to any of the then-known laws of electricity. "This," said Edison, "is simply wonderful and a good proof that we are dealing with a not-now-known force."

Further tests confirmed his opinion—the new force did not affect an electro-scope or galvanometer, and would not attract small bits of dry cotton wool.

However, Professor Edwin Houston of Philadelphia, who had conducted somewhat similar experiments in 1871, disagreed. He and his colleague, Elihu Thomson, repeated the earlier experiments (see **Radio-Electronics**, December 1975, page 26), and showed that the effects were due to "induced currents" and that the reason Edison could not detect them with (direct-current) instruments was that each current was immediately followed by an "inverse current" that neutralized it.

Edison must have been convinced, for in 1885 he applied for a patent on a "Means of Transmitting Signals Electrically." The patent drawings showed a coil with a low-voltage primary and a rotary circuit breaker to interrupt the primary current. One end of the high-voltage secondary was grounded, the other was attached to a condensing surface suspended as high as possible. One patent drawing depicts this condensing as a wide metal-foil ribbon between the two masts of a ship.

Edison put this invention into use with a "grasshopper telegraph" for communication from a moving train. A foil-covered board on a car roof was the mobile antenna—the telegraph wires served as the trackside antenna. (The system was a success but abandoned after a few weeks because of lack of business.)

The short distance covered by this only practical application of his invention may be one of the reasons Edison's radio was brushed off as an "induction device." The other—and more important—reason is a matter of language. In 1885 (the year after the transformer was invented) induction meant *electrostatic induction* unless otherwise specified. Today it means *magnetic induction*, and modern electronics historians read it as such in the old accounts. Yet before electric waves were known, any electric action at a distance was attributed to electrostatic induction.

Both in the language Edison used and in the distances he expected to cover, it was quite clear that he was not speaking of magnetic induction. He said:

"If sufficient elevation can be obtained to overcome the curvature of the Earth . . . signalling may be carried on by static induction without wires . . ." (obviously beyond the visual horizon). And in explaining his grasshopper telegraph, he told a reporter: "This invention uses what is called static electricity."

## Heinrich Hertz

THERE ARE MANY ANSWERS TO THE question, "who invented radio?" But the only answer to "who *discovered* radio?" is Heinrich Hertz!

However, not even this great discovery was entirely new. The Irish physicist Fitzgerald had predicted radio waves and, together with Oliver Lodge, had attempted to reproduce them on wires. Von Bezold of Germany had conducted experiments somewhat similar to those Hertz would perform. "Unfortunately," said Hertz, "their researches did not help me—I learned of them subsequently."

Hertz had noted—like others—that electric discharges produced effects on metal objects separated in space from the discharge. He also noted that these cases were always accompanied by a spark. The effects, he said, depended not only on their theoretical possibility, but also on a "special and surprising property of the electrical spark that could not have been foreseen by any theory."

Therefore, in 1887 Hertz began to work with spark discharges, developing what became the familiar spark-coil transmitter. To detect any waves that might be produced, he used what was called a Reis spark micrometer. This device was an incompletely closed wire loop or rectangle, leaving a small opening at the wire ends. The purpose was not simply to try detecting a spark-discharge effect. He had done that before with a Leyden jar. He wanted to discover if the effects repeated consistently—were in fact *waves* following each other at a regular rate.

Any waves, Hertz reasoned, must ". . . act with a much stronger effect on a circuit having the same period of oscillation than upon one with only a slightly different period." Varying the size of his detector loop, he found that indeed the spark was strong at a certain size, and diminished as the loop was made bigger or smaller than the ideal size. Making a graph of this effect, Hertz produced the first "tuning curve."

Next, Hertz attempted to reflect the waves, using a sheet of zinc, 4 meters long and 2 meters wide, fastened to the end wall of his laboratory. The detector showed points between the transmitter and the end of the room where the sparks were bright, others where they were small or invisible. Thus, he was positive he had produced standing waves in space and was able to measure the transmission wavelength. By calculating the frequency, he was able to estimate the velocity of the waves, and discovered they traveled at or

*continued on page 57*

# VIDEO MODULATORS

## turn your TV into a video monitor

*If you are into VTR's, TV games or TV cameras for security and surveillance applications; a video modulator may be needed to feed the signal into an ordinary TV set used as a monitor. This concluding story looks at modulators now available*

FRED BLECHMAN K6UGT

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS VTR'S, TV GAMES, VIDEO CAMERAS AND home computers have been brought into many homes. Many of these devices have their own CRT monitors. To use an ordinary TV set as a monitor, you'll need a video modulator to develop the video-modulated RF carrier. This month we continue a discussion of available modulators begun last month.

Since the video signal from the computer consists of pulses with sharp rise- and falltimes, the edges of the pulses become rounded in the process of going from video to modulated VHF, then through the TV video bandpass amplifiers to demodulated video. Although the modulators could only be rated "good" (not "excellent") for this use, the resulting TV display was certainly usable. Letters and numbers on the TV screen were relatively sharp. The punctuation marks, extremely important in some programming, however, were not clear. In other words, for *reading* data on the TV screen, a video modulator would be adequate, especially if the characters are large. However, for small characters or for *programming*, you should consider using a video monitor or modifying your TV to provide a video input jack.

The documentation provided with the modulators tested varied from excellent to nonexistent. Some manufacturers were very careful to point out the FCC restrictions on their use and potential for interference with your neighbors' TV reception. Others totally ignored the subject! ATV Research, on the other hand, is aware of FCC regulations regarding devices that connect to TV antenna terminals (the FCC designates these devices as Class 1 TV devices). Therefore, ATV Research includes several suggestions with their video modulator kits:

1. If the unit is not being built within existing shielded equipment, enclose it in a metal box.
2. Use only coaxial-type input and output connectors, such as BNC or SO-239.
3. Do not use a higher operating voltage than is specified for the unit.
4. Never connect the unit to the TV antenna terminals without *disconnecting* the TV antenna or using an antenna changeover switch with at least a 60-dB attenuation.
5. Stop operating the unit immediately if you are causing interference with your neighbors' sets.
6. Do not sell or lease these units in assembled form.

Now let's take a detailed look at the products each manufacturer is offering in alphabetical order.

### Advanced Computer Products

P.O. Box 17329, Irvine, CA 92713

The *model U1001* RF Modulator is the lowest-priced assembled unit that can be used with a standard NTSC video signal, and it will also handle audio. Four mounting tabs and smooth top and bottom surfaces make this unit easy to mount. The RF output is pretuned to TV Channel 3, but can be changed to Channel 4 by grounding the switch terminal. The input voltage is not critical, since this modulator circuitry appears to be regulated internally. The power drawn is 18 mA at the recommended 9 volts DC.

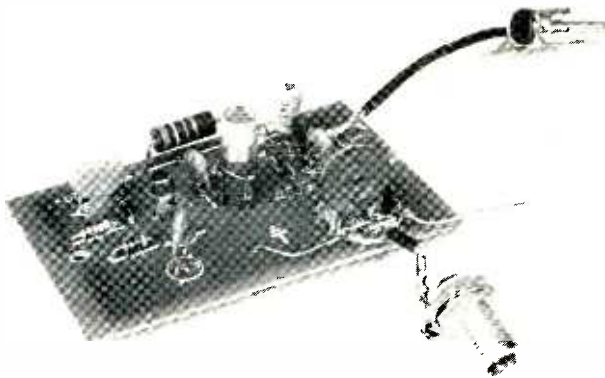
This modulator has double shielding and gives the appearance of a high-quality unit. However, the performance of the unit tested was disappointing in a computer environment. The interference rejection was poor, apparently due to low RF output. Although there were no external adjustments, popping off the flanged covers revealed several screws that could be adjusted to increase the output. We did not attempt to do this, since the documentation provided with the unit was only a simple connection diagram.

If you are inclined to experiment, this looks like it has the makings of a great unit. Considering that it is completely assembled and includes audio (all for \$7.95), it might well be worth the effort of adjusting some tuning screws. And, used outside of the computer environment, it worked fine.

### Advanced Video Products

5835 Herma Street, San Jose, CA 95123

The *model RF-1* comes in kit form and can be easily assembled in 30 minutes, using the step-by-step instructions; a large, clear schematic; a components layout; and a photograph of the finished unit. There is no component crowding, and slug-tuning the VHF output frequency from Channels 2 to 6 is easily and precisely performed with the tuning wand provided. The video input potentiometer can be set with your fingers or a small screwdriver. The overall performance of this unit was among the best tested. A Zener-regulated power-input circuit allows the modulator to be used over a broad range of input voltages (9 volts to 20 volts) without affecting the output. Two large mounting holes are provided on the PC board. No connectors or cabinet are provided, and no precautions against interference are mentioned in the documentation.

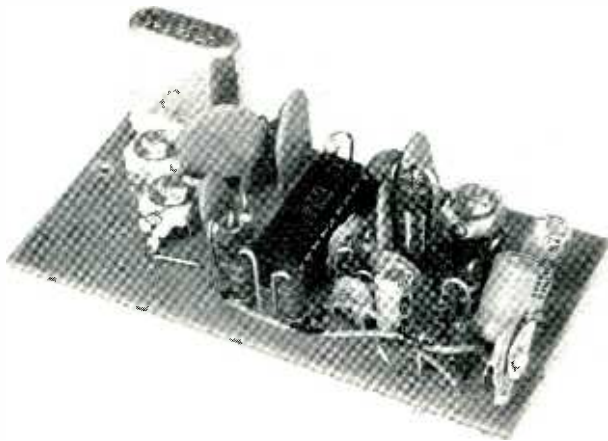


**MODEL RF-1 rf modulator from Advanced Video**

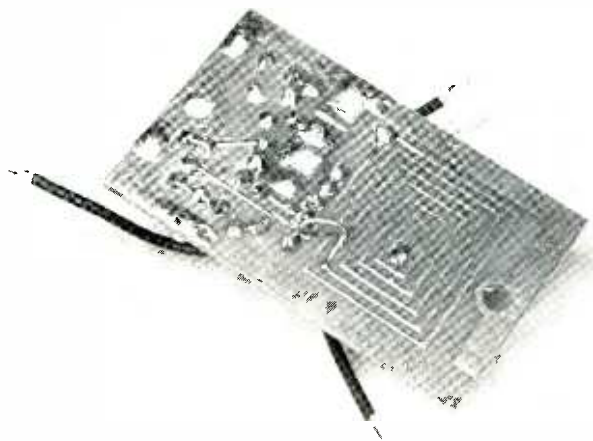
**ATV Research**

13th and Broadway, Dakota City, NE 68731

Both ATV Research units have excellent, clearly printed detailed instructions, including schematics and precautions regarding interference and FCC restrictions. Both units use a printed-circuit inductor (with spiral rectangular turns) for the VHF tank circuit, and output channel tuning is performed by adjusting a small trimmer capacitor with an insulated tool (not provided).



**ATV RESEARCH PXP-4500 Pixe-Plexer**



**PXPV-2A PIXE-VERTER made by ATV Research**

The model *PXPV-2A Pixe-Verte*r is the only video modulator tested that requires a *negative* power-supply voltage. This is no problem if the ground connection between it and its associated inputs and outputs is properly polarized or isolated.

It takes only about 30 minutes to assemble the *Pixe-Verte*r, but you must work carefully because the components are somewhat crowded together, and several PC board holes must be

enlarged for the parts to fit on the board. Also, you will have to decide which TV channel you want to use, since a jumper to one of the turns of the printed-circuit inductor determines the output-frequency range. Two mounting holes are provided, and, because both the input video level and output frequency control are adjustable, it is easy to interface with the video source and TV set, using your own connectors. However, be careful of the supply-voltage polarity! No case is included.

The model *PXP-4500 Pixe-Plexer* is designed for the advanced experimenter and hobbyist who wants exceptional versatility. However, along with such versatility come complexity and many options.

The *Pixe-Plexer* is built around a National Semiconductor LM1889 TV video modulator 18-pin IC. This IC is designed to interface audio, color difference and luminance signals to the TV receiver's antenna terminals. The LM1889 consists of a sound subcarrier oscillator, quadrature chroma modulators, and RF oscillators and modulators for two low-VHF channels. The *Pixe-Plexer's* external components, including a 3.58-MHz TV color crystal, are on a PC board with a 24-hole breadboarding section. This design allows you to use the LM1889 with various experimental input and output circuits, as a sort of breadboard. And for even more flexibility, a 10-page reprint of the LM1889 data sheet is included that contains various circuits. The ATV Research PC board was designed for a multipurpose circuit; *you* determine what options you want.

This unit is not for beginners. It takes about 1½ hours to assemble, and interfacing requires that you provide a relatively high current demand (from 40 mA to 50 mA at 15 volts) and biasing voltages. You may need an external power supply if your video source cannot supply 50 mA at 15 volts. Also, because the *Pixe-Plexer* handles audio as well as video, this unit may be more complex than is needed for simple applications. Tuning requires adjusting three trimmer capacitors and a small potentiometer, plus varying bias voltages for some applications; no tuning tool is included. Two large mounting holes are provided, but no case or connectors.

**California Industrial**

P.O. Box 3097K, Torrance, CA 90503

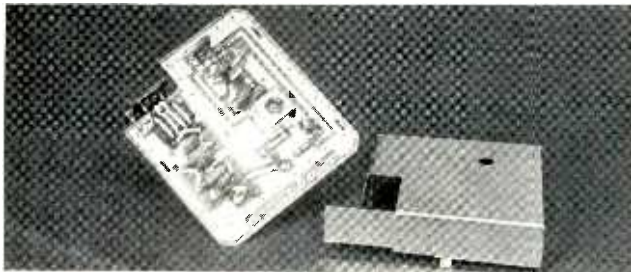
The model *CA-010410* comes already assembled, complete with metal case, an RCA phono-jack RF output connector, and four mounting tabs protruding from the side of the case. (Double-sided tape could also be used for mounting.) Access holes allow precise tuning to Channels 3 or 4, but a miniature hex tuning wand is needed to turn the slug. The unit has no adjustment for video input level or supply voltage. It works very well at a 1.5-volt input, with only 0.5-mA drain, so a AA-size battery cell can operate it for several hundred hours. However, the video input signal must be limited or VHF output overmodulation results. You can install a small 1K potentiometer to accomplish this easily. A mating RF connector and 15 feet of coax cable are included.

The RF output jack, an RCA phono-type, is mounted directly onto a PC board, with no center-hole clearance. Therefore, the RCA plug you use to mate with it may need to have the male center terminal shortened, or it will be stopped by the PC board before the outer shell makes contact. The input connections are three wires to which a small transistor socket mates nicely. The shielded container is easily opened, and the unit can be removed in one piece with desoldering, since the entire circuit is built on a single PC board. The unit's construction is of very high quality, and built around a  $\mu$ A3086 IC. Although the brief instructions include a schematic and connection information, they do not contain a circuit explanation or any precautions. In the comparison tests, this unit's performance was among the better of those surveyed. This was the smallest and least expensive preassembled unit designed to work with a standard NTSC negative-sync video signal. It also uses far less power than any other unit tested, therefore, battery operation is practical.

### Delta Electronics

7 Oakland St., Amesbury, MA 01913

The *model 5500R Videocube* (described in **Radio-Electronics**, August, 1977) is one of the most sophisticated kits we surveyed. The two-sided PC board can be assembled easily in 45 minutes, and the top shield included with the kit provides the necessary RF radiation protection. The kit also contains an antenna switch, and the unit's output is designed to feed directly into 300-ohm TV antenna terminals. (It has an on-board balun coil to convert the 75-ohm unbalanced circuit output to a 300-ohm balanced line that connects to the antenna switch.) There are no mounting holes, but double-sided tape could be used on the shield for mounting the unit.



VIDEO CUBE 5500-R from Delta Electronics

The modulation technique involves adding a resistor to ground at the video input, with the value based upon the video-signal amplitude. This resistor sets the forward bias on a signal diode that controls the amount of RF signal fed from the oscillator section to the output. Positive video signals tend to cut off the diode, while negative video signals (such as the sync pulses) increase diode conduction, thus providing the RF negative modulation needed at the TV terminals. This technique seems best suited to interfacing with game circuitry, rather than with a standard 75-ohm camera or computer video. In any case, extra components and some tinkering are required for best results. For example, to connect the *Videocube* to a computer, the instructions recommend using a circuit containing three resistors and a tantalum capacitor. A footnote adds that the two resistor values must be "adjusted for optimal display." In testing this modulator, we used some typical values for this network, and the operational results were still the poorest of all the units tested! Furthermore, adjusting the slug-tuned coil to the proper output frequency is difficult without a special tool, which is not supplied in the *Videocube* kit. No doubt additional experimentation will improve the results.

The kit's documentation provides a great deal of information, most of which was included in the August 1977 **Radio-Electronics** article, plus FCC interference test requirements.

### Electronic Systems

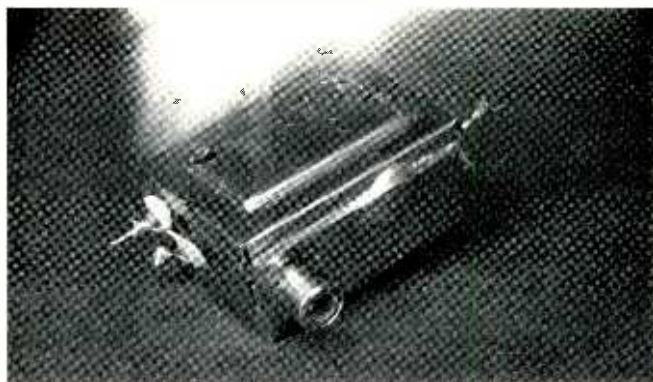
P.O. Box 212, Burlingame, CA 94010

You can assemble this unit (*model 107*) easily in 30 minutes, and four corner mounting holes are provided. No shield or cabinet is supplied, and no interference precautions are mentioned in the brief, but adequate, assembly instructions. Half of the board is taken up with a rectifier/filter/regulator circuit that allows you to use a 12-VAC center-tapped transformer for the power source. If you use a 5-volt DC source (about 10 mA) these components are *not needed*. The modulator circuitry is simple, uncrowded and performs well. However, there is no input video-level control potentiometer, and you must set the output frequency by squeezing or opening the 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ -turn hand-wound open tank coil! You can buy the PC board alone for \$7.50 and use your own components (standard resistors, capacitors and a standard 2N2222 transistor) to save money if you plan to run this device on 5 volts DC. No connectors are supplied.

### Formula International, Inc.

12603 Crenshaw Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250

This unit is small, inexpensive, comes already assembled and



E & P MODULATOR from Formula Int'l and Godbout.

is completely shielded, but it cannot be used with a standard negative-sync video input signal. If your video source has *positive* sync, or can be inverted to positive sync by taking it from a different point in the output circuit, this unit is the *only* video modulator tested that can operate with a standard U.S.-manufactured TV set. (You might also be able to invert the input signal with a simple transistor circuit.) No video input control is provided either. This same unit (marked E & P on the case) is also sold by Godbout Electronics and both are pretuned to TV Channel 3.

There was no schematic included and no precautions concerning RF interference. Two mounting tabs or double-sided tape can be used to secure the unit on a flat surface. An RCA phono-type jack is used for the VHF output connection.

### Godbout Electronics

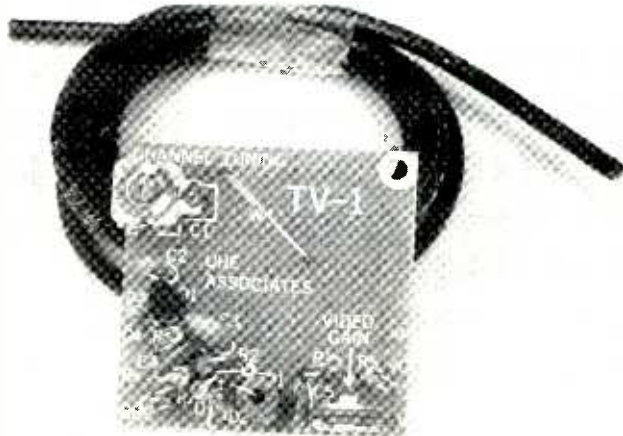
Oakland Airport, CA 94614

This unit is identical to the Formula International unit, therefore, the same comments apply, except that no documentation at all was received with this unit. Since Godbout is normally very good about documentation, this omission was probably unintentional.

### Jade Computer Products

5351 West 144th St., Lawndale, CA 90260

The *model TV-1* is an excellent unit in every respect. It is small, takes about 20 minutes to assemble, has the best sensitiv-



VIDEO-to-TV INTERFACE, model TV-1 by Jade and Quest.

ity of any unit tested and performs as well or better than units costing almost three times as much. It is the smallest unit tested in cubic volume—small enough to fit within the video source enclosure—so no case is supplied. It operates from 5 volts to 12 volts (only 1.5 mA at 5 volts), has an on-board video input-level potentiometer, and is capable of tuning from Channels 2 to 6 with a simple trimmer-capacitor slotted-screw adjustment, using an insulated small-tip tool (not included). A single corner

mounting hole is provided.

The documentation is complete, clearly printed and includes a clear photograph of the finished unit. The kit also contains over three feet of miniature RG-174 A/U 0.1-inch-diameter, 50-ohm coaxial cable to aid in interfacing the finished unit. All you need to add are input and output connectors, plus power. The high-quality glass-epoxy PC board is clearly silk-screened to show component and input-output locations, and is solder-masked on the back to prevent solder bridges. The resistors are mounted vertically to save space and, although this gives a crowded appearance, presents no problem in assembly. Most of the board space is occupied by a 4½-turn printed-circuit spiral inductor that is etched on the foil side of the board. Detailed interference precautions are included.

Although I might appear to be biased, since UHF Associates supplied the units and much data for this story, I must report in all honesty that this unit, manufactured by UHF Associates and distributed by Jade Computer Products is—in my opinion—the best buy of any of the units tested. It is also available from Quest Electronics, Byte Computer Shops and Olson Radio (Olson Part No. MP-112).

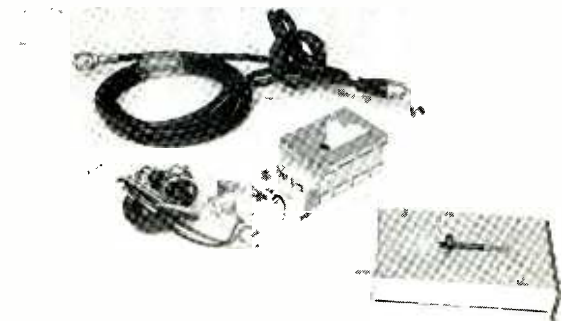
### M & R Enterprises

P.O. Box 61011, Sunnyvale, CA 94088

Available at many local computer shops, or by mail from M & R, the *SUP "R" Mod II* is simple to install and use. It is completely assembled and shielded and comes with detailed illustrated documentation. It is pretuned to Channel 3 and includes a video level control. Included are a 10-foot length of coaxial cable, with connectors at each end, and an antenna changeover switch, plus double-sided tape for mounting the modulator and switch on any smooth, flat surfaces such as a wall or the back panel of the TV set.



M & R ENTERPRISES Sup "R" Mod II. Cable and switch not shown.



SUP "R" MOD II, cables and switch included

This unit is designed for the nonelectronic microcomputer user who is not familiar with a soldering iron and does not wish to learn how to use it. All you need to add is a DC source between +5 and +12V at about 7 mA. Installation is simple, and two ferrite cores are used on the cables to help prevent RF interference with neighboring TV sets.

### Quest Electronics

P.O. Box 4430E, Santa Clara, CA 95054

This company offers the *model TV-1* or the *model RVFN-1* at the same price. For details, read the sections on the Jade and Vamp units in this article.

### Ramsey Electronics

Box 4072, Rochester, NY 14610

The *model VD-1* kit is the second smallest unit we tested, and construction was easy and fast—about 20 minutes. Unfortunately, the two mounting holes are extremely small, and there is no video input-level control. Therefore, mounting and interfacing this unit takes a little extra effort. The current required at 5-volts input is only 4.5 mA, which probably can be drawn from the video source power supply. All components are mounted vertically on a small but uncrowded PC board, and input and output designations are clearly labeled. The kit comes complete with components layout, schematic and parts list, but without interference precautions. No case, connectors or cable are included.

The output channel frequency is slug-adjustable from Channels 4 to 6, but you need a small hex tuning wand (not supplied). Game, camera or video cassette recorder performance was good, but with a computer, a display with small characters (64-per-line, 16 lines) was only fair. This is the least expensive kit and certainly adequate for noncritical applications.

### UHF Associates

Box 24, Jenner, CA 95450

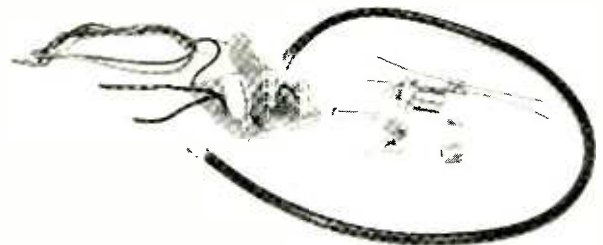
The *model TVS-100* is unusual because it provides both video and audio modulation of a carrier frequency, allowing the TV receiver's sound system to complement the picture information. Designed to plug directly into a S-100 computer bus, the *model TVS-100's* power requirements are 15 volts at 40 mA. The tuning is more complex than for most other units. A switch selects the Channel 3 or Channel 4 outputs and RCA jacks are used for all input and output connections. On-board level controls are included for both audio and video inputs.

The assembly time for this unit should run from 1 hour to 1½ hours. The unit tested was a preproduction model that performed among the best in all test categories. Price, availability and documentation were not available at the time this survey was made. The *model TVS-100* will probably be available only in kit form because of FCC restrictions on the sale of assembled units without the video source attached.

### Vamp, Inc.

Box 29315, Los Angeles, Ca 90029

This small, well-designed kit (*model RFVM-1*) assembles easily in 20 minutes. The excellent documentation includes a schematic and a components lists and layout, and it devotes considerable space to RF interference considerations. Vamp also includes coax cable and an F-59 connector for the output, as well as two extra resistors for creating an RF attenuation network if



RFVM-1 sold by Vamp and Quest Electronics

your unit causes interference. Two mounting holes are provided, as well as two mounting screws, nuts and even two spacers! The on-board video input control is easily set with your fingers (the control has a knurled outer knob), and a small insulated screwdriver (not supplied) can be used to set the RF oscillator trimmer capacitor. The tank coil is etched on the PC board—2½ turns of a rectangular spiral. All it takes to power this simple unit is 5 VDC at 1.5 mA. No case is provided because this small unit could be mounted in the existing case of the video source. Performance was among the best, except when used with a computer terminal.

R-E

# Innovations In Phono Cartridges

*The overall performance of a phonograph record playback system depends largely on the characteristics of the cartridge. This is the story of the Shure V15, type IV that advances the science of record playing.*

LEN FELDMEN  
CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR

A WHILE BACK, I, ALONG WITH SEVERAL audio journalists, attended the 1978 Technical Seminar held by Shure Brothers, Inc., of Evanston, IL. At the seminar, we were introduced to Shure's newly designed *model V15 Type IV* phono cartridge, the latest (and most expensive) in a series that began more than a decade ago with the development of the original *model V15* cartridge. This article will present some of the less well-known design considerations and innovations that went into the creation of this new phono cartridge.

## Real-versus-theoretical requirements

The requirements of a top-grade phono cartridge (at least on paper) are relatively few. The pickup should, of course, have an extremely uniform amplitude response with respect to frequency (generally, if erroneously, called frequency response). It should be able to follow the undulations in the most heavily recorded record grooves even when low downward tracking forces are applied. Shure calls this quality "trackability," and, in many ways, this term indicates more about a cartridge's tracking ability than does the older compliance specification.

In a moving-magnet phono cartridge, the shank and magnet assembly form the heart of the transducer. The assembly's performance criteria include low equivalent mass; high-resonance frequency (preferably beyond the audio range) and low-resonance Q; high resistance to bending and fracture; and the proper geometrical considerations.

Figure 1 shows the final shank design used in the new *model V15 Type IV* styl-

us compared with the shank used in the older *model V15 Type III* stylus. This design is called a telescopic shank and uses a precision outer reinforcing tube that is in close contact with the shank. The net effect of the changes made in the stylus was to reduce the overall mass plus the mass of the stylus assembly, while maintaining the same overall geometry and bending strength. In terms of performance, the new shank improves the high-frequency trackability of the cartridge,

maintains shank resonance beyond the audio range and improves resonance control by reducing the mass that the bearing must control.

Figure 2 shows a cross section of the *model V15 Type IV* stylus assembly. In addition to the telescoped shank structure it features a new, lightweight high-energy magnet, a newly designed two-function bearing system, and what Shure terms a hyperelliptical nude diamond tip. All these new features are designed to increase or improve trackability.

## How much trackability is enough?

Figure 3 shows the trackability-versus-frequency curve of the *model V15 Type III* and the *model V15 Type IV*, each measured at a 1-gram tracking force. The theoretical maximum recorded velocities that are likely to occur at various frequencies in a modern recording are shown. The small circles show that actual velocities often exceed these theoretical limits. Note that some of these measured velocities actually exceed the trackability of the older *model V15 Type III* and *model V15 Type IV* cartridges, but *model V15 Type IV* shows a significant improvement in trackability over the earlier model. To track the few remaining peak velocities that still fall outside the newer trackability curve, it would be necessary to increase the downward tracking force of the new cartridge to its maximum of 1.25 grams.

## Stylus-tip shape

Figure 4 compares the older, elliptical stylus used in the *model V15 Type III* (and many other cartridges) and the newly designed hyperelliptical tip of the *model V15 Type IV*. The *model V15 Type IV*

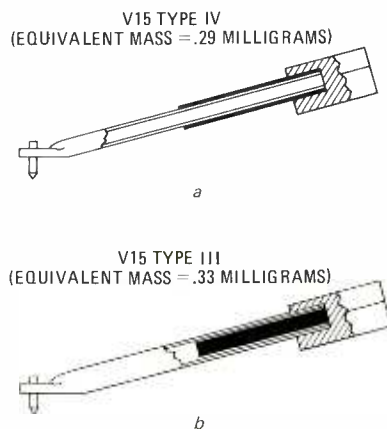


FIG. 1—STYLUS ASSEMBLY of the V15 Type IV is shown in a. For comparison purposes, the stylus assembly of the V15 Type III is shown in b.

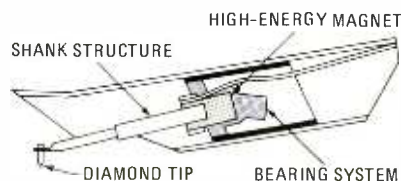
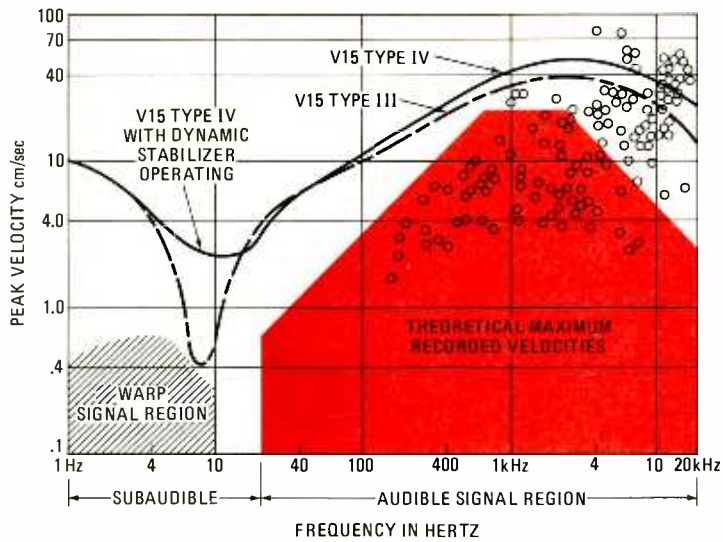
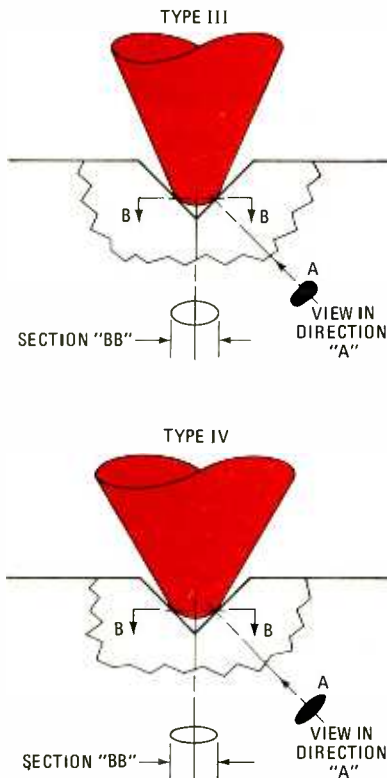


FIG. 2—SHANK STRUCTURE of the V15 Type IV stylus shown as a cross-sectional view.



■ THEORETICAL RECORDED VELOCITIES    ○ ACTUAL MEASURED RECORDED VELOCITIES  
**FIG. 3—TRACKABILITY-VS.-FREQUENCY** of the V15 Type III and V15 Type IV cartridges as mounted in an SME 3009 pickup arm.

“footprint” (shown in Fig. 4 as a black oval) is longer and narrower than the traditional elliptical tip-groove contact area. The new tip is said to provide as much as a 25% reduction in distortion over the conventional elliptical stylus. Figure 5 is a bar graph showing typical second harmonic and IM distortion levels for various stylus-tip shapes. The optimized contact area of the hyperelliptical tip significantly reduces both harmonic distortion (shown by the white bars) and IM distortion.

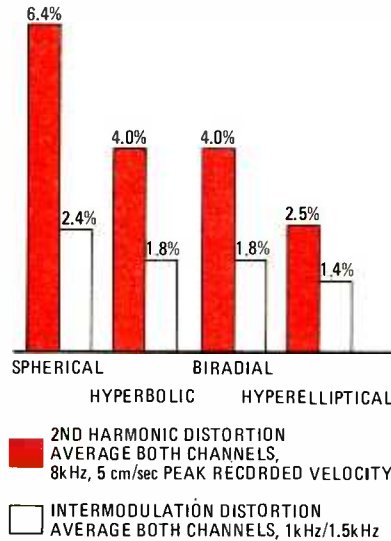


**FIG. 4—NEW HYPERELLIPTICAL TIP** of the V15 Type IV provides better contact with the record grooves than the conventional elliptical tip of the V15 Type III.

### Pickup/arm resonance

It has long been recognized that the conventional phono cartridge arrangement at the end of a pivoted arm has a built-in problem of low-frequency stability. This problem is a result of the resonance that is inherent in the conventional cartridge/arm arrangement.

Figures 6 and 7 show the most serious effects caused by this resonance. The



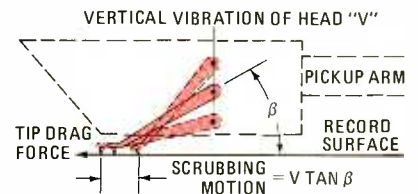
**FIG. 5—HARMONIC AND INTERMODULATION distortion** for various tip shapes.

scrubbing motion of the stylus in the groove can actually cause program material to warble in pitch as if the turntable itself were fluctuating in speed. In fact, the groove speed relative to the tip *does* change because a fraction of the velocity of the arm vibration is added to the groove velocity.

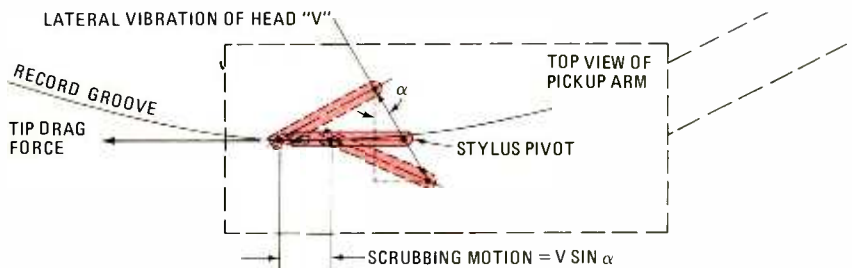
For example, at arm resonance, total amplitudes of  $1/32$  inch are easily observed. If the system resonance is at 8 Hz (typical) the resonance velocity will be about 2 cm-per-second. This velocity will produce a scrubbing velocity of 0.6 cm-per-second along the groove axis. The groove speed at a 4.5-inch radius is about 40 cm-per-second, so the frequency modulation will be about 0.6 cm/ to 40 cm-per-second, or 1.5%—producing a quite audible warbling effect.

Another less obvious result of arm resonance is that the stylus force is “used up” when the arm vibrates. In the previous example, if the pickup compliance is assumed to be  $20 \times 10^{-6}$  cm-per-dyne, 2.0 grams of stylus force will be required to offset the arm vibration alone. Since this is greater than most total stylus-force requirements, mistracking occurs.

The most common excitation force likely to cause such arm vibrations at or near their resonant frequency is record warp. Warps generally occur in a broad low-frequency spectrum extending from about 0.5 Hz to 10 Hz, with maximum occurrences at around 3 Hz or 4 Hz. This form of excitation operates principally in a vertical direction. A minor source of arm vibration is the change in stylus drag force with modulation. Signals having a substantial recorded velocity will increase drag force considerably, and the arm offset angle or the vertical tracking angle geometry will cause a drag-force component to move the pickup. Figures 6 and 7 also show this effect.

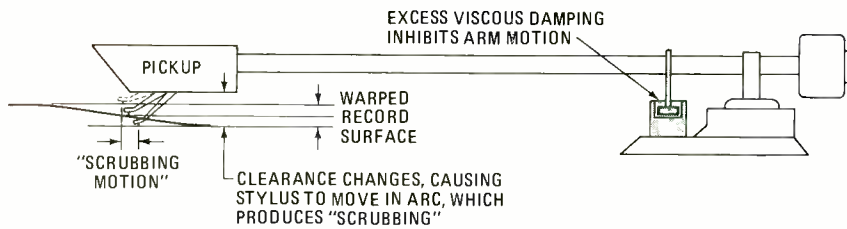


**FIG. 6—VERTICAL VIBRATION** of pickup arm changes the vertical angle of the stylus and causes a scrubbing motion. This can create a warble in the pitch of the program material.

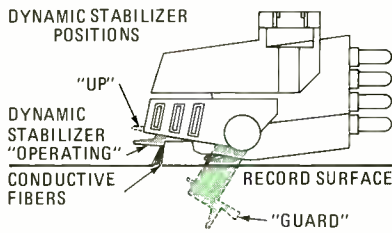


**FIG. 7—LATERAL VIBRATION** of pickup arm also causes a warble effect in the pitch of the program material.





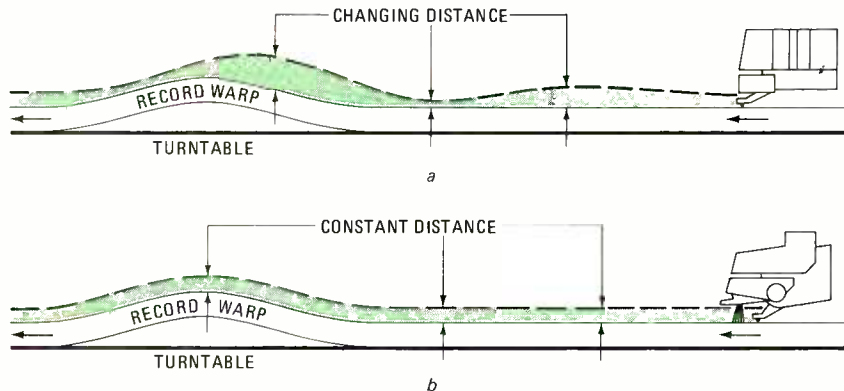
**FIG. 8—**VISCOUS DAMPING is commonly used to reduce pickup arm resonances. However, this approach also inhibits the pickup arm from tracking severe record warps.



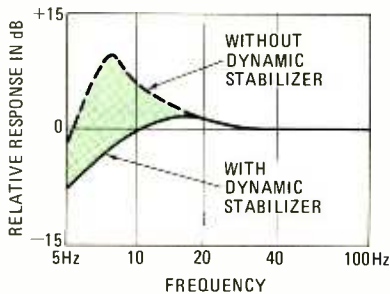
**FIG. 9—**DYNAMIC STABILIZER of the V15 Type IV has three positions.

controlled by the pad instead of the stylus. In the past, viscous damping applied to arm pivots was also used; however, with high-compliance pickups when the damping is sufficient to control resonance, the arm cannot move fast enough to track severe warps, and the stylus assembly must compensate by changing its protrusion (see Fig. 8).

The *model V15 Type IV* cartridge provides an interesting and practical solu-



**FIG. 10—**SEVERE WARPS change the distance between the record surface and a conventional cartridge, as shown in *a*. The dynamic stabilizer maintains a constant distance, as shown in *b*.



**FIG. 11—**FREQUENCY RESPONSE showing effect of dynamic stabilizer on the resonance of the pickarm and cartridge combination.

Previous solutions to the resonance problem can be divided into active and passive categories. A passive solution would be the use of a dynamic vibration absorber. An example of this approach is the damped pickup-arm counterweight. Another approach is to attach a pad or brush to the end of the arm, so that it contacts the record surface. Most of the total arm force is applied to the pad, which then overpowers the dynamics of the arm and maintains a constant spacing for the pickup. The problem with using this method is that the pickup arm's progress across the record tends to be

tion to this problem: The system uses a structure called a dynamic stabilizer, similar in appearance (and partly in function) to the flip-down stylus guard found on many other cartridges. The stabilizer, shown in Fig. 9, has two unique features. The first is a graphite-filament, brush-like structure located on the bottom front edge of the stabilizer. The second is the viscous damped trunion bearings that replace the standard stylus-guard pivots.

Position 3 ("Guard") in Fig. 9 shows the stabilizer detented downward and functioning as a stylus guard; position 2 is the normal playing ("Operating") position. The graphite filaments contact and ride the record surface, while the viscous damping provided by the bearings of the assembly controls the vertical resonance. The stabilizer filaments are placed as close to the stylus tip as possible, to insure that any motion caused by record warps is applied to both the stylus and the stabilizer simultaneously. The result is that the tone arm closely follows the record irregularities, thereby minimizing warp effects on the stylus.

If you compare the two illustrations of Fig. 10, you will note that in the upper drawing, a conventional cartridge tip

fluctuates because of severe record warp, with changes in the distance between the stylus tip and the record surface. The lower half of Fig. 10 demonstrates that when the Shure dynamic stabilizer is used, constant distance is maintained between the stylus tip and the record surface even during severe warps. The dynamic stabilizer reduces the overall resonant Q of the system and raises the resonant frequency, as shown by the frequency-response curves of Fig. 11 (plotted for frequencies below 100 Hz and down to the subaudible range). With the dynamic stabilizer operating the improvement is dramatic.

The *model V15 Type IV* cartridge has a stylus-force tracking range from 0.75 gram to 1.25 grams, and the dynamic stabilizer exerts a 0.5-gram force on the record surface. Thus, the total arm force must be set between 1.25 grams and 1.75 grams. Since the major part of this total force is actually exerted by the stylus, the pickup, rather than the graphite fibers, controls the arm movement across the record, as it should. In position 1 (refer to Fig. 9) the stabilizer is retracted and the fibers do not touch the record surface. The tracking force for this mode must therefore be set for the stylus-force range of between 0.75 gram and 1.25 grams.

According to Shure, small-diameter graphite fibers were chosen for several reasons. Because static electricity can attract the arm and pickup, the fibers help stabilize the tracking force.

The graphite fibers also serve as a record-cleaning brush. Each strand is only 7.6 microns in diameter, enabling it to sweep loose dust from the record grooves and prevent dirt and dust from being ground into the groove walls. Another function of the stabilizer is as a shock absorber. When a pickup arm is accidentally dropped, a conventional stylus assembly receives the full shock upon impact. In addition, the springiness of the stylus assembly can cause it to bounce across the record, thus creating several groove-damage points. In normal operation the viscous damped stabilizer cushions the impact of the dropping arm and prevents such bouncing.

This cartridge is a top-grade performer when measured objectively using carefully controlled and maintained test records. In this design, however, Shure seems to have gone a step farther by taking into account the many nonideal conditions that exist when you play records in the real world of high fidelity at home. These secondary problems, such as static electricity, record-surface dust and impact damage, as well as low-frequency instability caused by arm resonance combined with record warp and the like, are effectively handled by Shure's unusual and innovative dynamic stabilizer. Thus the *model V15 Type IV*, cartridge design truly advances the science of record playing.

# Radio-Electronics Tests RG Dynamics Pro-16 Dynamic Processor



CIRCLE 120 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

1

**LEN FELDMAN**  
CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR

OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH A SIGNAL PROCESSOR was with a unit produced by U.S. Pioneer Electronics Corp., the *model RG-1*. Even in this early unit, some innovative concepts had been applied to dynamic expansion, and fewer of the "pumping and breathing" effects commonly associated with expanders up to that time were noticeable.

RG Dynamics, Inc. (4448 W. Howard, Skokie, IL 60076) has further perfected those earlier circuit ideas relating to dynamic signal expansion and noise reduction. The present unit is more sophisticated and, more important, it runs rings around the earlier effort in actual performance.

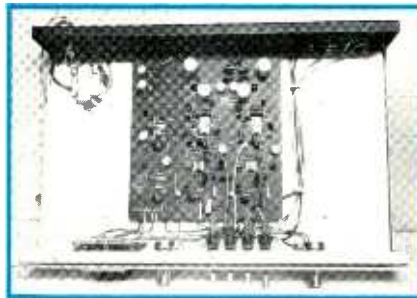
Figure 1 shows a front-panel view of the processor. A brief description of its controls will give you an idea of its enormous control flexibility and variations in expansion that are possible. A dual-channel LED display panel, containing 5 LED's per side, provides a constant visual indication of what sort of signal processing is occurring. The lower pair of LED's light up red and serve as power-on indicators when signal processing is not turned on. They also indicate when the transition occurs between downward expansion and upward expansion. The upper four pairs of LED's are calibrated in 4-dB increments from 4 dB to 16 dB, and indicate the total amount of expansion taking place at each instant. The display greatly simplifies input-level adjustment, and once levels are set correctly for a given program, it can be turned off by a toggle switch or left on, as desired.

A dynamic expansion-control knob is continuously variable and selects the degree of expansion from 4 dB to 16 dB. A second toggle switch selects one of two expansion rates or slopes. Slope number 1 is recommended for FM broadcasts and most popular records (these have usually been highly compressed at their source); while slope number 2 is recommended for use with less heavily compressed program sources. A third switch provides tape monitoring facilities (replacing those on your

amplifier or receiver that you could use to connect the *model Pro 16*); this switch also permits processing of signals connected to your system's tape inputs. The remaining switch introduces or defeats processing. At the right of the panel, an input-level control sets the correct level for proper processor operation, as indicated by the LED display.

## Technical description

The *model Pro 16* uses several standard IC's and an intelligent circuit board layout; the entire circuitry is contained on a single circuit board that occupies only about one-half the chassis width of the unit (see Fig. 2).



2

This unit is a peak-expansion/noise-reduction instrument that works on playback-only, unlike some compander systems that require prior program material encoding. Its expansion is determined by the signal itself, using two basic circuit elements. The first is a sensor circuit that samples both program level and frequency content and creates a control signal. The second is a gain-control amplifier that is operated by the control signal. The unit uses a patented peak detector whose outputs are free of ripple and require little filtering. Time

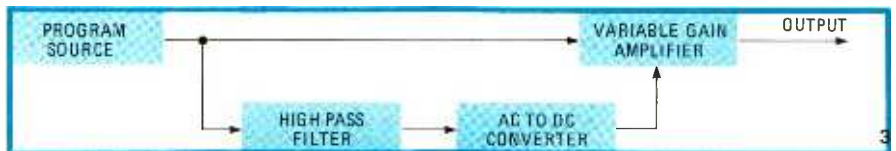
constants have been set with an attack time of 600  $\mu$ s and a decay time of 80 ms. More conventional designs often provide much longer time constants and are therefore not capable of tracking program material accurately. Although there are separate control and amplifier sections for each channel, the inputs of the sensor circuit are partially blended so that a signal appearing in only one channel controls (to a lesser degree) the gain of the other.

While the amplifiers have essentially flat frequency response, the sensor circuit has a shaped frequency response with a broad peak at 2500 Hz, sloping off above and below that frequency. The sensing circuit is therefore most responsive to the frequency range containing the strongest musical signal harmonics. Being frequency-sensitive in this way, the *model Pro 16* is less susceptible to pumping effects.

The output of this section of the sensor circuit is applied to the peak detector, which then produces a DC output that is proportional to the peak values of the applied musical signal. This DC signal is fed to the gain-control amplifier where it controls or varies the system's open-loop gain. A fixed gain of between -4 and -7 dB is applied to all signals below 5 mV (noise-reduction mode) while expansion begins at or above 10 mV (upward-expansion mode). A block diagram is shown in Fig. 3.

## Lab measurements

The measurements summarized in Table 1 indicate the signal-handling and distortion characteristics of the *model Pro 16*, but they really do not depict how it operates as an expander. We therefore plotted two sets of curves showing processor gain as a function of mid-frequency input signals. In Fig. 4, maximum and minimum expansion settings were used together with the slope 1 setting, while in



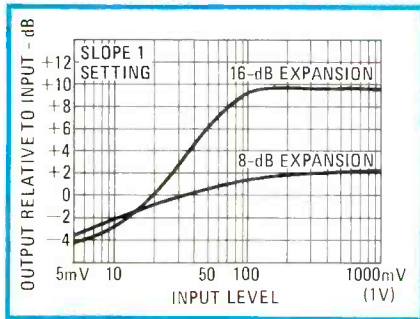
3

## MANUFACTURER'S PUBLISHED SPECIFICATIONS:

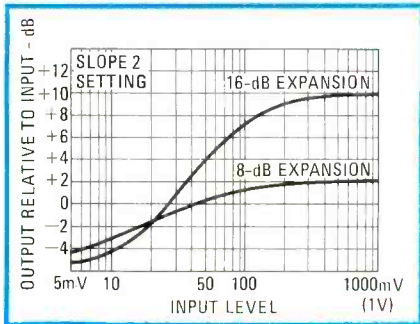
**Total Expansion:** 4 dB to 16 dB, continuously variable. **Downward Expansion:** -4 dB to -7 dB. **Upward Expansion:** 0 dB to 9 dB. **Attack Rate:** 600  $\mu$ s. **Decay Rate:** 80 ms. **Maximum Output Voltage:** at maximum expansion, 6.5 volts. **Rated Output Voltage:** 1.0 volt. **Minimum Input Required:** level control at maximum, 50 mV. **Harmonic Distortion:** at rated output, maximum expansion, 0.08%. **IM Distortion:** 0.1% (60 Hz and 2 kHz, mixed 1:1, 1 volt out). **Hum and Noise:** 80 dB below rated output, at maximum expansion. **Input Impedance:** 80,000 ohms. **Output Impedance:** 300 ohms. **Power Consumption:** 3 watts. **Dimensions:** 19 W  $\times$  3 1/2 H  $\times$  12 inches D. **Weight:** 6 1/4 lb. **Suggested Retail Price:** \$299.

Fig. 5, the same input-versus-output relationships were plotted using the slope 2 setting. Note that at lower expansion settings (8 dB) there is virtually no difference between the slope 1 and slope 2 modes. For maximum-expansion settings, the slope 1 mode provides steeper expansion. Note, too, that below around 10 mV to 20 mV (depending upon what slope mode and expansion degree are selected) output levels are actually lower than input levels (negative dB readings) indicating

downward expansion and attendant noise reduction.



4



5

The more conventional measurements shown in Table 1 clearly indicate that introducing the *model Pro 16* in any high-fidelity signal path in no way degrades the musical signals either in signal-to-noise performance or in any increased overall audible harmonic or IM distortion.

### Summary

The real usefulness of a dynamic signal processor such as the *model Pro 16* can be appreciated only by actually hearing the unit perform under a variety of program-source conditions (as mentioned in Table 2, along with our overall product evaluation). If you are looking for exaggerated and unnatural dynamic expansion, this is not the unit for your system. If, however, you want to restore some of the lifelike qualities to compressed material and you can appreciate the resulting improvement, then the *model Pro 16* signal processor offers reproduction improvements with none of the audible drawbacks previously associated with such signal-processing devices. R-E

**TABLE 1**  
**RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT**

Manufacturer: RG Dynamics, Inc.

Model: Pro 16

### DYNAMIC SIGNAL PROCESSOR MEASUREMENTS

	R-E Measurements	R-E Evaluation
<b>RATED OUTPUT (V): 1.0</b>		
Maximum output (V)	7.0	Very good
THD at 1-volt output (%)	0.047	Excellent
IM at rated output (%)	0.09	Very good
Hum and noise, referenced to 1 volt (dB)	87	Excellent

### EVALUATIONS OF CONTROLS, CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN

Ease of installation	Excellent
Effectiveness of Indicators	Superb
Arrangement of controls	Very good
Design and construction	Very good
Ease of servicing	Good

**TABLE 2**  
**RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT**

Manufacturer: RG Dynamics, Inc.

Model: Pro 16

### OVERALL PRODUCT ANALYSIS

Retail price	\$299
Price category	Medium
Price/performance ratio	Superb
Styling and appearance	Very good
Sound quality	Excellent
Mechanical performance	Very good

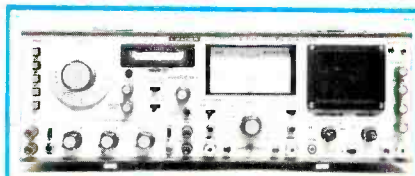
**Comments:** In the last analysis, a signal-processing device such as an expander, a noise-reduction unit or a peak limiter must be judged more by listening than by bench measurement. There is no easy way to measure whether such devices will impose their *own* peculiar sonic aberrations upon the total musical reproduction being heard. Terms such as "breathling" or "pumping" have been applied to these devices. In the case of the *model Pro 16*, these undesirable effects have been reduced to an almost imperceptible minimum and the controls are sufficiently flexible and variable so that proper trade-offs can be made, depending upon the nature of the musical programming being augmented.

Like any device of this kind, it can be overused. Some of our better (and less-compressed) musical test records required a very moderate degree of expansion (around 4 dB to 6 dB total), while much of the FM programming required almost the full available expansion range provided by this unit. By making available two types of expansion slopes as well as variable expansion, RG Dynamics has given you enough control options to properly and effectively handle any expansion requirements of almost any kind of compressed program material. Using the *model Pro 16* for even a short while tends to spoil you. Removing it from the signal path makes just about every program sound squashed and flat, with much of the excitement of live music gone. Yet, that is what we listen to most of the time. Until the predicted transition to digital recording takes place (with all its dynamic range benefits), the serious listener who craves restored dynamic range from his or her program sources may want to install an expander. Given the choices, the *model Pro 16* offers extremely effective expansion capability without any audible disadvantages.

# Leader Model LAS-5500 Audio Analyzer

**LEN FELDMAN**  
CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR

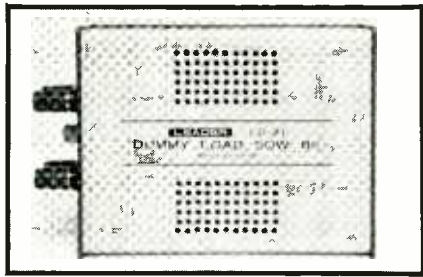
IF YOU PLAN TO EVALUATE OR TROUBLESHOOT high-quality audio equipment, you will discover that you need at least a dozen separate test instruments to perform the job correctly. Leader Corporation (151 Dupont Street, Plainview, NY 11803) offers an ingeniously designed instrument, the *model LAS-5500* Audio System Analyzer, which combines at least seven instruments into a single compact package. The Audio System Analyzer (see Fig. 1) contains an audio oscillator, a precision



**CIRCLE 121 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD** attenuator, a highly sensitive wow-and-flutter meter that can also measure tape-speed drift in percent, an AC voltmeter, a 5-MHz bandwidth oscilloscope and a separate twin-8-ohm dummy-load box (see Fig. 2). The dummy load

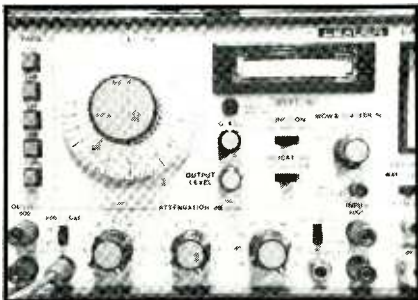
neatly is packed into the lid of the unit along with the necessary interconnecting cables and connectors.

The front panel of the *model LAS-5500* is divided into sections for ease of operation, and switching functions are arranged so that each section can be used independently or internally interfaced with other related sections. The left-hand side of the front panel (see Fig. 3) shows the audio oscillator, with a continuously variable decade frequency knob and five associated multiplier switches. Output level is continuously adjustable by an output-level control, or, the oscillator output can be connected internal-

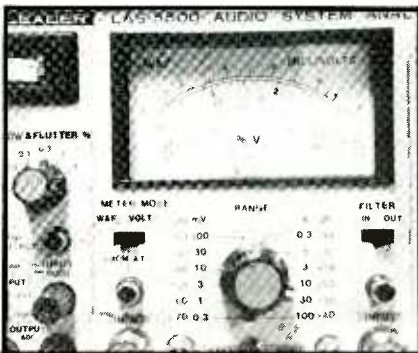


ly to the precision attenuator whose three knobs in the lower part of the front panel provide fixed signal attenuation from 0 dB to -101 dB in 0.1-dB increments.

Figure 3 also shows the wow-and-flutter measuring section with its calibration and drift meter (calibrated to 5% deviation in tape speeds). The AC voltmeter section (see Fig. 4) reads wow-and-flutter in percent, as well as AC volts, dBV (0 dB equals 1 volt) or dBm (0 dB equals 0.775 volt across 600 ohms, or 1 mW). The most sensitive range of this meter is 0.3 mV full-scale; this range permits hum-and-noise readings down to -90 dB below a 1-volt reference. A standard "A"-weighting filter can be introduced into the meter circuit for any S/N measurements that require its use.



3



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The oscilloscope section is shown in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6. In Fig. 5, a 10-Hz squarewave is displayed that confirms the scope's response down to DC. In Fig. 6, a 20-kHz squarewave was applied to the vertical input and a higher sweep rate was used, thus demonstrating the ease and accuracy with which high-frequency signals can be displayed. The display area is calibrated with an 8 × 10-division nonilluminated graticule, each division measuring 6 mm (approximately, 0.25 inch). Although sweep rate and vertical sensitivity are continuously variable by concentrically mounted potentiometers associated with the sweep-frequency and vertical-input switches, there is no calibration setting. For this reason, if the scope is used as a precise voltmeter, it is necessary to use external calibration voltages or known frequencies. A switch located in the scope section permits you to parallel its vertical input directly across whatever the voltmeter is reading. A switch on

**MANUFACTURER'S PUBLISHED SPECIFICATIONS (PARTIAL):**

**AUDIO OSCILLATOR:**  
**Frequency Range:** 10 Hz to 1 MHz ( $\pm 3\%$  above 100 Hz). **Output Voltage:** variable to more than 3.0 volts RMS into 600-ohm load. **Response:**  $\pm 0.3$  dB. **Distortion:** 0.05% 500 Hz to 20 kHz; 0.1% 100 Hz to 100 kHz, less than 1.0% 10 Hz to 1 MHz. **Output Impedance:** 600 ohms.

**ATTENUATOR:**  
**Input/Output Impedance:** 600 ohms, unbalanced. **Range:** 0 to 101 dB in 0.1-dB steps. **Accuracy:**  $\pm 2\%$  **Frequency Response:**  $\pm 2\%$  to -70 dB, DC to 200 kHz. **Maximum Input:** 0.5 watt (17 volts RMS or +27 dBm).

**VOLTMETER:**  
**Range:** 30  $\mu$ V to 100 volts in 12 ranges; -90 dB to +40 dB, referenced to 1.0 volt. **Accuracy:**  $\pm 3\%$  of full scale, referenced to 1 kHz. **Frequency Response:**  $\pm 3\%$ , 20 Hz to 100 kHz. **Input Impedance:** 10 megohms/65 pF. **Weighted Filter:** JIS "A" curve.

**OSCILLOSCOPE:**  
**Vertical Sensitivity:** from 10 mV-per-division to 100 volts-per-division. **Vertical Bandwidth:** DC to 5 MHz, -3 dB. **Risetime:** 70 nS. **Input Impedance:** 1 megohm-per-40 pF. **Maximum Input Voltage:** 600 volt (DC + AC peak). **Horizontal Sensitivity:** 200 mV-per-division. **Bandwidth (horizontal):** DC to 250 kHz, -3 dB. **Maximum Input:** 100 volt (DC + AC peak). **Input Impedance:** 100,000 ohms. **Sweep Frequency Range:** 10 Hz to 100 kHz. **Synchronization:** Internal (+ polarity).

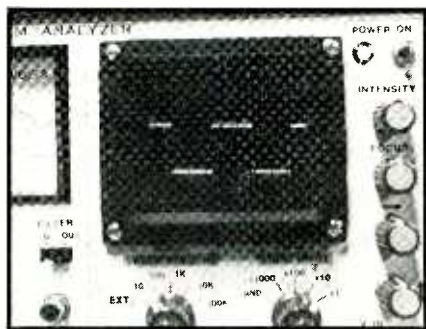
**WOW AND FLUTTER METER:**  
**Measuring Modes and Frequencies:** JIS, CCIR at 3 kHz; DIN at 3.15 kHz. **Input Voltage Range:** 15 mV to 10 volts RMS. **Test Ranges (5):** 0.03% to 3% full-scale. **Response:** 0.5 Hz to 200 Hz (JIS); 0.3 Hz to 200 Hz (CCIR); 0.3 Hz to 300 Hz (DIN).

**GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS:**  
**Power Supply:** 100, 115, 200 or 230 volts, as specified, 50 Hz to 60 Hz, 36 VA. **Dimensions:** 17.7 W × 5.9 H × 16.9 inches D. **Weight:** 25 lb. **Supplied Accessories:** dummy load (two 50-watt, 8-ohm resistors); low-capacitance probe; assorted plugs and cables; and binding post adapters.

the voltmeter selects either of two inputs, labelled LEFT and RIGHT, so that you do not have to constantly change connections back and forth when testing stereo audio equipment. Also provided are an external horizontal input and a switch to select AC, DC or the voltmeter input to the vertical amplifier of the scope section.

### Audio oscillator performance

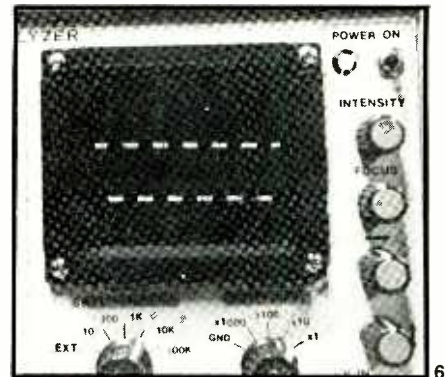
The audio oscillator has a frequency range that extends from 10 Hz to 1.182 MHz. In our tests, the frequency dial was set by eye to the 1-kHz mark and the actual frequency output was 993 Hz, an error of less than 0.7%. At a 20-Hz setting, the output was exactly 20 Hz while at 20 kHz, our frequency counter read a 20,055-Hz output, an error of less than 0.3%. Maximum output voltage was 6.3 volts un-terminated and 3.15 volts when terminated in a 600-ohm load.



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This signal source is adequately low in distortion for making measurements on tape equipment and on all but the current super-specification audio amplifiers. At 20 Hz, harmonic distortion of the audio oscillator's output signal measured 0.18%, decreasing to 0.02% at 100 Hz, 0.01% at 200 Hz, 1 kHz and other mid-frequencies and increasing to a max-

imum of 0.05% at 20 kHz. Amplitude was uniform over the entire audio range, and the -3-dB rolloff point occurred at 220 kHz.



6

### Voltmeter accuracy

We checked the AC voltmeter accuracy of the model LAS-5500 against our digital AC voltmeter, which has an accuracy of better than 0.5% and we discovered that the model LAS-5500's meter accuracy is almost as good at mid-scale, with errors increasing to approximately 1.0% at full-scale. The frequency response of the meter extended to well beyond 200 kHz, as claimed.

### Wow-and-flutter measurements

The wow-and-flutter measuring system was easy to use and, with a 3-kHz tone recorded on a standard test record played on a pitch-adjusted turntable, we were able to confirm the accuracy of the drift readings on the calibration meter by using a calibrated strobe disc to set precise 3% deviations from true speed. Sure enough, the drift meter read exactly +3% or -3%. For some reason, the DIN 3.15-kHz signal did not appear at the wow-and-flutter signal-output terminal when that switch position was selected. Instead, the output remained

at exactly 3.0 kHz. Perhaps a miswiring of the slide switch in the particular unit tested accounts for this. The various weighting factors incorporated into the wow-and-flutter measuring section permit an easy interpretation of percentages and eliminate having to "estimate" this parameter for tape decks and turntables, which is usually required when using unweighted wow-and-flutter measuring equipment.

### Summary

Our overall product evaluation of the *model LAS-5500* is summarized in Table 1. This instrument is a space and time saver for the audio bench. It also greatly reduces the complexity of tests and measurements made on audio equipment. While its price may seem prohibitive at first, if you total the cost of a wide-range accurate AC VTVM, a good audio generator, an accurate wow-and-flutter meter and a wideband oscilloscope, it will become clear that the *model LAS-5500* represents something of a bargain. **R-E**

**TABLE 1**  
**RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT**

Manufacturer: Leader Instruments Corp.

Model: LAS-5500

### OVERALL PRODUCT ANALYSIS

Retail price	\$1995
Price category	Medium-high
Price/performance ratio	Good
Styling and appearance	Very good
Sound quality	N/A
Mechanical performance	Excellent

Comments: We feel that this multifunction test instrument is most suited to service-bench use and, in the laboratory, for measuring tape-recorder equipment performance. Its sinewave signal source, although accurately calibrated and extremely flat in response, is a bit too high in its harmonic distortion content to be used to measure today's super-hi-fi audio amplifiers, preamplifiers and receivers. Since tape recorder distortions are generally of a higher magnitude, the audio oscillator contained in the *model LAS-5500* will not contribute to the overall distortion readings made of tape equipment under test or alignment.

Of course, it would have been nice if the instrument had some form of distortion-measuring device. Used by itself, the *model LAS-5500* can determine amplifier overload or clipping levels only by observing output waveforms on the screen of the wideband oscilloscope provided. The wow-and-flutter meter section cannot be faulted in any way; it offers an easy way to measure this important tape recorder and turntable parameter. The high-quality precision attenuator is handy to have in any lab or shop and is accurately calibrated. The 8-ohm loads, supplied separately, have only a 50-watt rating, although we found this rating can be exceeded for short periods of time without degrading the accuracy of the load resistors. Here again, if you regularly test high-powered audio equipment, you will need higher-power-rated loads. Perhaps the best feature of the *model LAS-5500* is its compact size and arrangement. These days, with all the sophisticated equipment necessary to properly test audio equipment, it's a pleasure to find a multipurpose instrument that not only replaces several separate test equipment items but occupies less than 18 inches of valuable bench space.

## PIONEERS OF RADIO

*continued from page 46*

near the speed of light. With a large prism of asphalt (measuring  $5 \times 2 \times 1.5$  feet) he showed also that the electric waves could be refracted like light waves.

With these proofs, the scientific world accepted the idea of electric waves in space.

Hertz's discovery began not only the scientific study of radio, but also attempts to use it to communicate. In India, the physicist Bose read of Hertz's experiments, duplicated them and devised improved apparatus with which he toured Europe and convinced many scientists of the existence of electric waves. And in Italy, just a few-years later, the young Guglielmo Marconi read Hertz's obituary and decided to try to use these waves as a means of communication.

### Sir Oliver Lodge

ALTHOUGH SIR OLIVER LODGE IS NOT TOO well known today, he was considered a leader—if not *the* leader—in the wireless field during the 1890's and the early 1900's. The eminent electrical engineer and author, Sylvanus Thompson, for example, attacked Marconi in a letter (*Saturday Review*, London, April 5, 1902) for posing as the inventor of something new. He (Marconi) was, claimed Thompson, merely using "the apparatus of Lodge . . . the original inventor of wireless telegraphy," with a few modifications.

In 1883, the Irish physicist George

Fitzgerald surmised at a meeting of the British Association that "Maxwellian" waves might be produced by the oscillatory discharge of a Leyden jar, "if only we had the means of detecting such waves." In 1888, Lodge and two associates set out to produce and detect such electromagnetic waves, using what were later called Lecher wires to detect them. In Lodge's words:

"I found that the waves could not only be produced but also detected, and the wavelength measured, by getting them to go along guiding wires adjusted to the right length for sympathetic resonance. Thus I obtained the phenomenon of nodes and loops, due to the production of stationary waves by reflection at the distant end." In the same year, Lodge learned of Hertz's work in the field, and immediately attempted to transmit waves through free space.

In 1899, he lectured to the Royal Institution on "The Oscillatory Discharge of a Leyden Jar," demonstrating "many of the effects of these waves, both on wires and in free space." He called his detector (a needle point touching an aluminum plate, in circuit with a battery and telephone receiver) a "coherer" because an electric wave caused both the point and plate to cohere, or stick together, thus lowering the resistance and producing a signal in the phones. Shortly thereafter, when Branley announced his metal-filings coherer, Lodge adopted it, believing it more reliable and easy to adjust than his single-point detector.

In 1894, during a lecture in honor of Hertz (who had just died) Lodge demon-

strated the detector. He used a mechanical tapper or vibrator to shake the detector filings apart after a signal passed through them. The coherer was thus constantly ready for action. Holding the transmitter key down for a longer or shorter time produced a long or a short signal in the receiver. Using this tapper, Lodge showed how the dots and dashes of the Morse code could be produced with radio equipment.

Lodge felt that Popov, Righi and others may have been influenced by his 1894 lecture. Professor Alexander Muirhead, who was present at the time, certainly was, and Lodge says he "conceived the desire to apply it to practical telegraphy." The result was a successful Lodge-Muirhead venture into commercial wireless.

Sir Oliver was an early proponent of tuning, which he called "syntony," to reduce interference and increase the range of communications. Although both Hertz and Tesla had mentioned the effect of resonance, in 1897 Lodge was able to obtain a patent (British patent 11,875) on syntony. Marconi later bought the patent from the Lodge-Muirhead syndicate, enormously strengthening his competitive position.

Lodge was interested in a wide variety of other subjects, especially psychic phenomena, and spent much of his time in later years pursuing them. He continued to write on radio topics, however, until well into the 1920's. Sir Oliver Lodge died in 1940. **R-E**

TAKE THE CET TEST AS PRESENTED IN **Radio-Electronics** each month, one chapter at a time. This month's test questions are on AC circuits. See if you can get 75% or more correct. Also, review your answers as well as the discussion of each question on DC circuits that appeared in the July 1978 issue of **Radio-Electronics**. Join the thousands of electronics technicians who proudly display their CET certificate, and who are helping raise the public recognition of electronics technicians to the highest level. To receive free information regarding where you can take the CET test, write to IS CET: 310 1/2 Main St., Ames, IA 50010.



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readiness to qualify as a

### Chapter 3 questions, AC circuits

1. The test leads of an oscilloscope connected across an ordinary 117-volt 60-Hz power source would show what peak-to-peak deviation if the scope is calibrated for 100 volts-per-inch?

- ( ) a. 1.17 inches
- ( ) b. 1.65 inches
- ( ) c. 2.35 inches
- ( ) d. 3.3 inches

2. The circuit in Fig. 1:

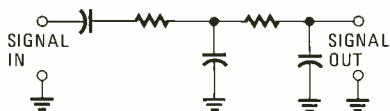


FIG. 1

- ( ) a. passes low frequencies to ground

- ( ) b. passes low frequencies to the output
- ( ) c. is a high-pass filter
- ( ) d. must have an RC time of less than 1/10th the lowest input signal frequency in order to be effective

3. In a series RLC circuit such as Fig. 2:

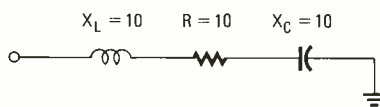


FIG. 2

- ( ) a. equivalent impedance is 20 ohms
- ( ) b.  $X_C$  and  $X_L$  add and are subtracted from R to arrive at the equivalent impedance.
- ( ) c. equivalent impedance is 30 ohms
- ( ) d.  $X_C$  and  $X_L$  cancel. The equivalent impedance is 10 ohms

4. The circuit in Fig. 3 is called:

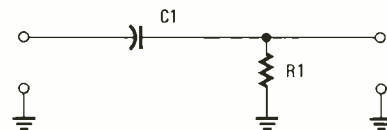


FIG. 3

- ( ) a. an RC integrating circuit
- ( ) b. a differentiating circuit
- ( ) c. resonant circuit
- ( ) d. low-pass filter

5. In Fig. 4, if the inductive and capacitive reactances (L and C) are equal the frequency at point A is:

- ( ) a. unequal
- ( ) b. equal to  $\sqrt{R^2 + (X_C - X_L)^2}$
- ( ) c. unknown
- ( ) d. resonant

6. The circuit in Fig. 4 would be used as:

Before you try this month's questions, let's take a look at the answers to the questions that appeared in the July 1978 issue of **Radio-Electronics**.

### Correct answers to DC circuit questions

1. **Correct answer is "b."** Maximum power from a battery to the load will occur when the load is equal to the

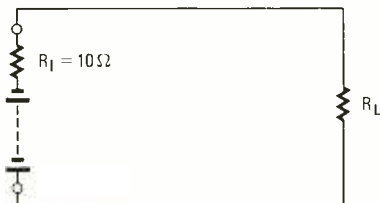


FIG. 8

internal resistance of the battery—in this case: 10 ohms (see Fig. 8).

2. **Correct answer is "b."** The base voltage of the circuit in Fig. 9 is determined primarily by the size of R1 and the small amount of emitter-base current.

3. **Correct answer is "d."** In Fig. 9 a current through R3 (and therefore R2) of 2 mA would give a voltage drop across R2 of only 1 volt under normal operating conditions. Therefore, the circuit has a problem which

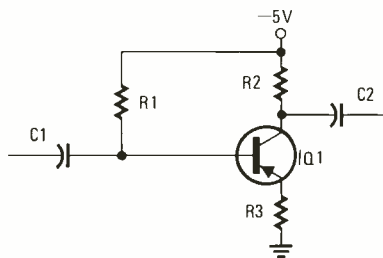


FIG. 9

causes an extremely large R2 drop (4 volts). Of the four choices, "d" is the best: "C2 may be shorted."

4. **Correct answer is "b."** No voltage doubling action can take place if rectifier D1 is open. Therefore, the circuit (see Fig. 10) will act as a half-wave 150-volt power supply.

## ANSWERS TO

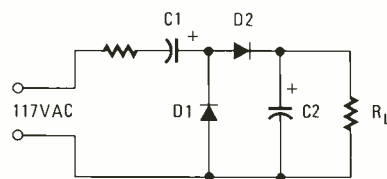


FIG. 10

5. **Correct answer is "d."** D3 through D6 act as a voltage regulator, conducting once the  $V_O$  voltage exceeds

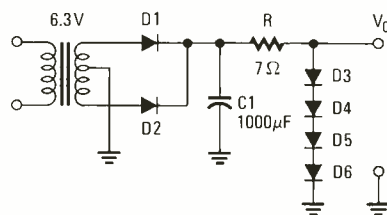
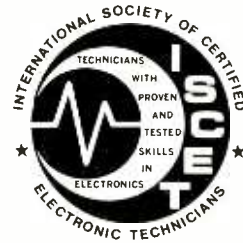


FIG. 11

their combined characteristic "turn-on" point. This maintains a constant voltage at point  $V_O$ . (see Fig. 11)

6. **Correct answer is "b."**

# Be A CET



of questions aimed at checking your  
Certified Electronic Technician

DICK GLASS

- ( ) a. a trap to eliminate all but a band of wanted frequencies
- ( ) b. an oscillator

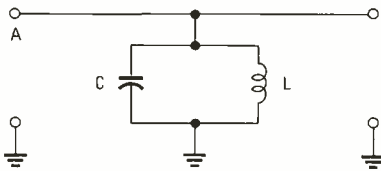


FIG. 4

- ( ) c. a filter to eliminate low frequencies
- ( ) d. a filter to eliminate high frequencies

7. What is the time constant for the cathode circuit in Fig. 5?

- ( ) a. 4700 seconds
- ( ) b. 470 microseconds
- ( ) c. 4.7 microseconds
- ( ) d. 4.7 milliseconds

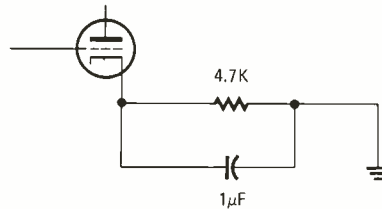


FIG. 5

8. Increasing the size of R in Fig. 6 will have what effect?

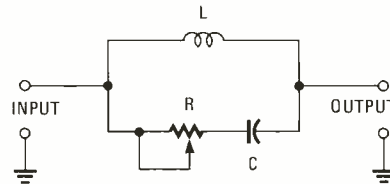


FIG. 6

- ( ) a. None.

- ( ) b. It will not change the resonant frequency but will broaden the response curve.
  - ( ) c. It will change the resonant frequency.
  - ( ) d. It will reduce high frequency reactance.
9. What is the reactance of a 5-henry choke coil at 15,750 Hz?
- ( ) a. 222,700 ohms
  - ( ) b. 494,550 ohms
  - ( ) c. 78,750 ohms
  - ( ) d. 494.5 ohms

10. To reduce 27 mHz Citizens band interference in a TV set, which of the networks in Fig. 7 would you place in series with the TV antenna?

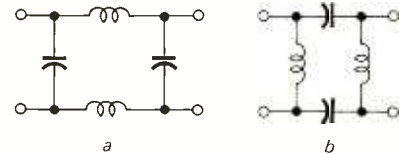


FIG. 7

- ( ) a. Network A
- ( ) b. Network B

Be sure to keep this month's issue of **Radio-Electronics** so you can check your answers in the next CET test. The new questions appearing in the next CET test will be on transistors and semiconductors. **R-E**

## PRIOR QUIZ

7. **Correct answer is "c."** Removing the input signal will cause grid leak bias to be lost, therefore excessive plate current will develop.
8. **Correct answer is "a."** Current flow is 'against the arrow' in a diode, or in this case: from A to C. When A is

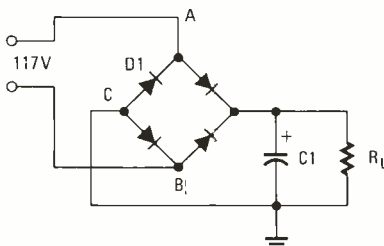


FIG. 12

more positive than C (and B), D1 cannot conduct. (See Fig. 12)

9. **Correct answer is "b."** Without C1, R1 would produce degeneration, i.e.: the cathode voltage would directly 'follow' the signal seen on the grid in

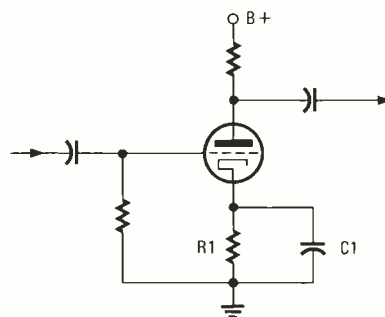


FIG. 13

Fig. 13, reducing the amplification in proportion to the signal strength.

10. **Correct answer is "a."** Reverse AGC would reduce the emitter current by lowering the base control voltage. Forward AGC would reduce the amplifier current by increasing the control voltage past the linear portion of the curve to a point where gain is reduced as collector current is increased. See Fig. 14.

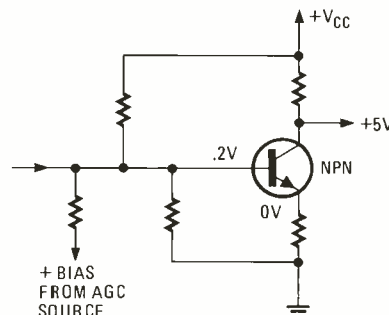


FIG. 14

# Antique Radios

## Bringing them back to life

*There is a tremendous amount of interest and a reasonable profit in restoring old radios. This article tells you what radio restoration is all about and how you can become actively involved.*

**JACK DARR**  
SERVICE EDITOR

THERE HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS RISE IN INTEREST IN ANTIQUE radios lately. (The price of the old sets has gone up, too!) Most of these radios are not very hard to fix; in fact, they provide a good place to use logical troubleshooting methods.

The only difficulty you will have will be in a few circuits that were common in the early days but haven't been used for a long time. They are not too hard to handle; you just probably haven't run across them. If you know about them ahead of time, it'll make repairing them a lot easier. (I can speak with authority, because I've worked on 'em when they weren't antiques but the current models!)

### Tubes and circuits

The early battery-type vacuum tubes were triodes—'01A, '12, '10, 71A, etc., and the filaments were 5 volts DC. The original filament power source was a 6-volt automobile battery with a small dropping resistor in series. It was a variable resistor (called a rheostat) so you could turn the voltage up as the battery went down. In some very old sets, it was also the *volume control*! I use the term filament instead of heater because these devices were of the "red-hot hairpin in a bottle" type, and the filament was the source of the electrons.

This setup led to an unusual circuit. When these tubes were used with an AC power supply, they developed hum problems. So, the filaments were fed from a center-tapped winding on the power transformer. This equalized the AC voltage from either side of the filament to ground. Since the cathode must have a ground-return to complete both plate and grid circuits, the center tap of the filament winding was grounded. If a high bias voltage was needed, which was usual in older power tubes (the 71A tube needed -40 volts on the grid), a resistor could be connected from the center tap of the winding to ground. Or a positive voltage could be applied to this point. The grid circuits returned directly to ground; therefore, making the filament positive made the grid that much more negative with respect to

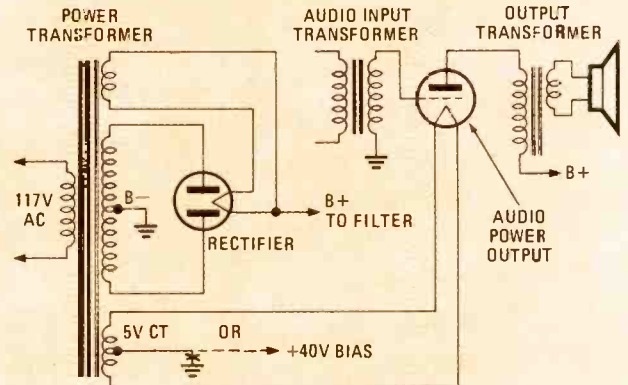


FIG. 1—FILAMENT CENTER TAP is the ground return for the "cathode" circuit. Bias may be applied at this point.

it. Figure 1 shows these two circuits.

If manufacturers didn't want to use a center-tap filament winding, they connected a small variable resistor across the winding with its slider grounded. In stages like audio drivers that were more sensitive to AC hum, this could be varied for the

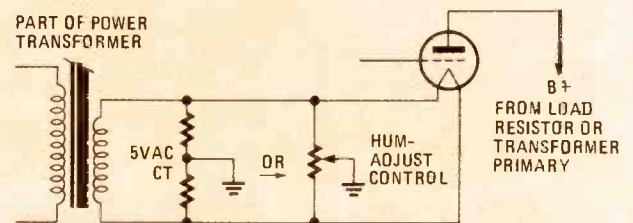
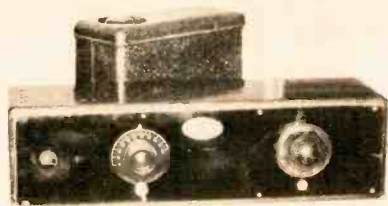


FIG. 2—LOW-OHM FIXED RESISTOR was often used instead of center tap. If adjustable, it could reduce hum. (Later ones on AC tubes were commonly called "humdingers.")



ATWATER KENT model 36, 1927



FRESHMAN MATERPIECE, 1925



FRESHMAN MASTERPIECE, 1925





RADIOLA 60 by RCA



PHILCO CORP. model 90B, 1931



ZENITH model 75 Radio Phonograph, 1930

least hum; therefore, you'll find this marked HUM CONTROL in some of the sets. (See Fig. 2.)

Around 1926, the first tube with a separate cathode sleeve was developed; and, as far as I know, it was the type '27 triode. (Now, we have to use the term heater again!) A year or so later, the first tetrode tube was developed. That was the type '24, the famous "screen-grid" tube with higher gain. (This tube and I went into the radio business in the same year. It's done better than I have!) These tubes got rid of a problem that had bugged designers since the beginning—neutralization!

Other tubes soon followed: the 35/51 and the first 6-volt 0.33-amp tubes, the 36-10-39 group. (The '38 was the first AC-operated pentode with a suppressor grid.) Then along came the '40 tubes, including the famous '47 power-output pentode, that could be found in about half the sets sold in the middle 1930's. We also had the 56/57/58 series, with 2.5-volt heaters. However, all this comes from my fallible memory, so, don't pin me down on it.)

### Power supplies

The first radios used batteries. The filament battery was called the "A" battery, and the plate battery was called the "B" battery. If separate batteries were used for grid bias, they were called "C" batteries. These terms hung on when the first AC-power radios were built. (To this day, most of us old-timers use "B+" when we refer to the high voltage DC supply of a radio—even in TV applications, where the proper term is "low voltage DC supply.")

There were some odd components in these circuits that were eliminated in later radios. The stock circuit always had a power transformer. The B+ voltage was fed from the secondary winding, which was always center-tapped, and was the negative return. A full-wave rectifier tube was used, generally a type '80.

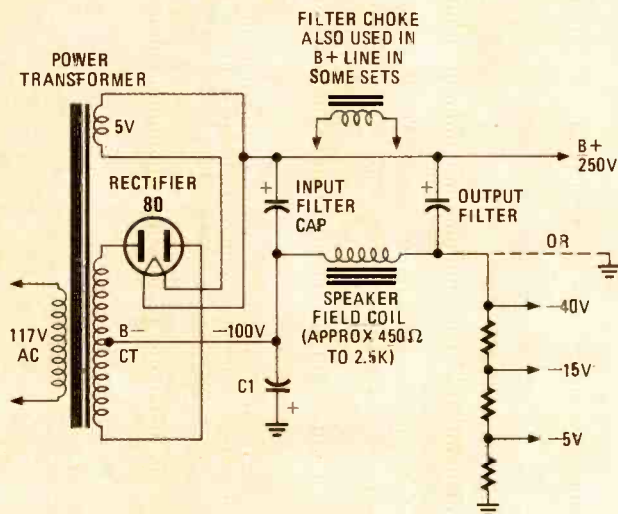
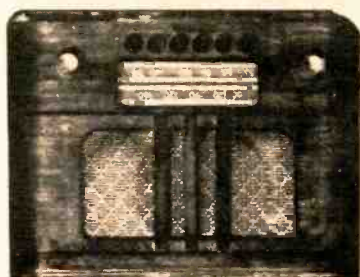


FIG. 3—THE SPEAKER FIELD COIL could be in the positive or negative leg of the power supply. Note that filter capacitors may go to negative terminal.

This negative return was a "B—" supply.

Figure 3 shows one of the old power-supply circuits. Many sets isolated the negative return of the B+ supply at the center tap and ran it through the field coil of an electrodynamic speaker to ground. (An electrodynamic speaker resembles modern dynamic speakers but it had a good-sized field coil to develop the magnetic field and needed a fairly heavy current.) All current drawn by the circuits in the set passed through the field coil, which also acted as the filter choke. In quite a few sets, the field coil was in the positive leg of the B+ supply. It works



RCA model 95T5, 1938



SILVERTONE model 8005, 1941



MODEL 6050 Sears Silvertone

exactly the same since the same current flows on both sides of the power supply circuit.

With the field in the negative leg of the B+ supply, the current developed a negative voltage drop. This drop was taken off and used as bias on stages that needed it. In many radios, some small resistors were used between the field coil and ground to develop lower bias voltages. The unusual feature in this circuit lies in the connection of the *input* filter capacitor. Note that the negative connection does not go to ground but to the B- line. Connecting this capacitor to ground when you replace it results in a terrific hum. In quite a few of these old radios, another capacitor (C1) was added, as shown in Fig. 3. This capacitor was connected with its negative lead to the center tap, and positive lead to ground.

### Bleeders

Voltage regulation wasn't so great in most antique sets. To improve this situation somewhat, many sets used a long string of resistors connected from the B+ voltage to ground. This type of resistor was called a bleeder resistor. Its function was to draw a certain constant "bleeder" current, placing a partial load on the power supply. As a result, variations in the load currents of the various stages did not cause so much change in the voltage. Atwater-Kent was one manufacturer who used this circuit extensively.

Figure 4-a shows a typical bleeder circuit. This bleeder was connected directly to ground. Figure 4-b shows another type

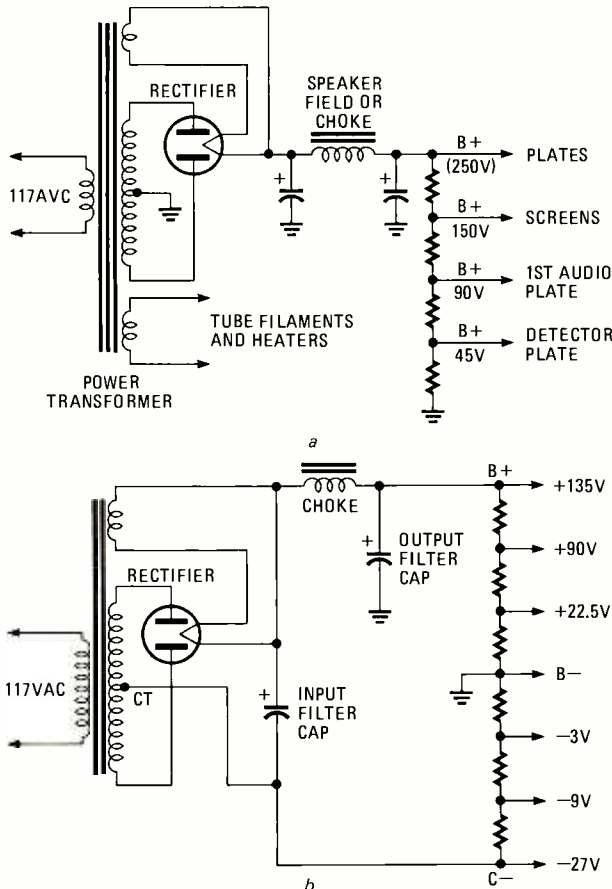


FIG. 4—BLEEDER DROPS THE B+ voltage for different stages of the receiver, while stabilizing the power-supply output (a); and (b) bleeder with negative end for bias.

that had a tap connected to ground and more resistors going to B- at the transformer center tap, so that they could tap off negative voltages for biasing.

### Signal circuits

The oldest radios are all TRF (*Tuned Radio Frequency*) types. This means there was a string of RF amplifier stages, one after the other (cascaded) with a detector and audio amplifiers.

There were two reasons why: First, this was the first radio receiver circuit, and second, RCA held a patent on the superheterodyne circuit! That circuit was invented during World War I by Major Edwin Armstrong. (Yes, "FM Armstrong" himself.) So, for quite a while, if you owned a superhet radio, it was an RCA model. Eventually all radios became superhets.

The TRF's comprise a string of up to three amplifier stages. More than three stages resulted in stability problems, to say nothing of tuning problems. The first sets had three separate tuning capacitors. Dials were calibrated from 0 to 100. (This resulted in your having to log the settings, with entries like "KDKA: 47-51-42"!)

Then a three-gang capacitor was developed that would track, and then the ad men had a field day selling "one-dial tuning"! Before then, however, some wild and wonderful schemes were used. The Atwater-Kent units drove all three tuning capacitors from the middle shaft, with the outboard capacitors driven by small belts made of thin brass on metal drums. (If you need a replacement for these, cut some thin strips of brass shim stock, and solder the ends together.) To prevent slippage, a tiny hole in the belt slipped over a pin on the drum.

The superheterodyne radios generally used separate triode oscillators with a tetrode mixer. The most popular (but not universal) intermediate frequency was 175 kHz. The IF transformers were generally tuned by a pair of mica compression trimmers, accessible through holes in the top of the shield cans. Some later transformers used powdered-iron cores, with a long, thin brass screw coming out the top and bottom. Since the ends of these screws were split (they broke off very easily, which caused problems) we soldered a nut on the end of the screw and used a *Bakelite* hex-tool to tune them). Some manufacturers used fixed-tuned IF transformers (the early Majestics, for instance) tuned them up at the factory and then ran the shield can full of hot tar. This is what I call an early example of encapsulation!

Several manufacturers followed the same procedure with the DC power supplies. The filter capacitors and chokes were mounted in a big square tin can and filled with tar. This is where the term filter block came from! You replaced the whole thing if any single part blew.

### Servicing—parts substitution

Servicing the old sets can be fairly easy, especially if you have a schematic. Even though it was common practice then to omit DC voltage readings from the diagram, it's not difficult to check them. In early TRF sets with triodes, the B+ voltage is about +180—the voltage of four 45-volt B-batteries in series. This voltage will be used as plate voltage on the RF amplifiers and audio output stage, with about +90 volts on the first audio stage and still less on the detector stage—from +22.5 volts to +45 volts. These voltages are tapped-off the bleeder resistor, and negative bias is picked up as discussed earlier.

In the superheterodyne sets and in later sets using tetrodes, the B+ voltage is about +250 for plates, with about +100 to +150 on the screen grids.

Many sets used grid-leak detectors (see Fig. 5). The grid-leak resistor and grid capacitor were often unmarked. The resistor

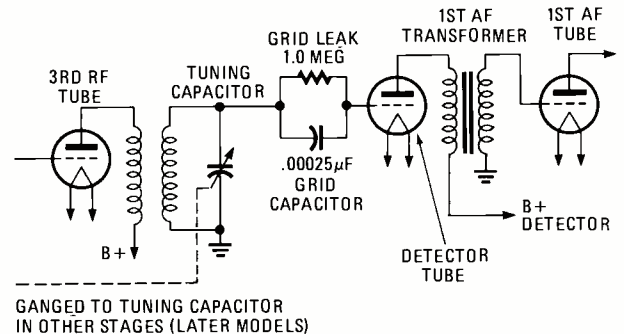
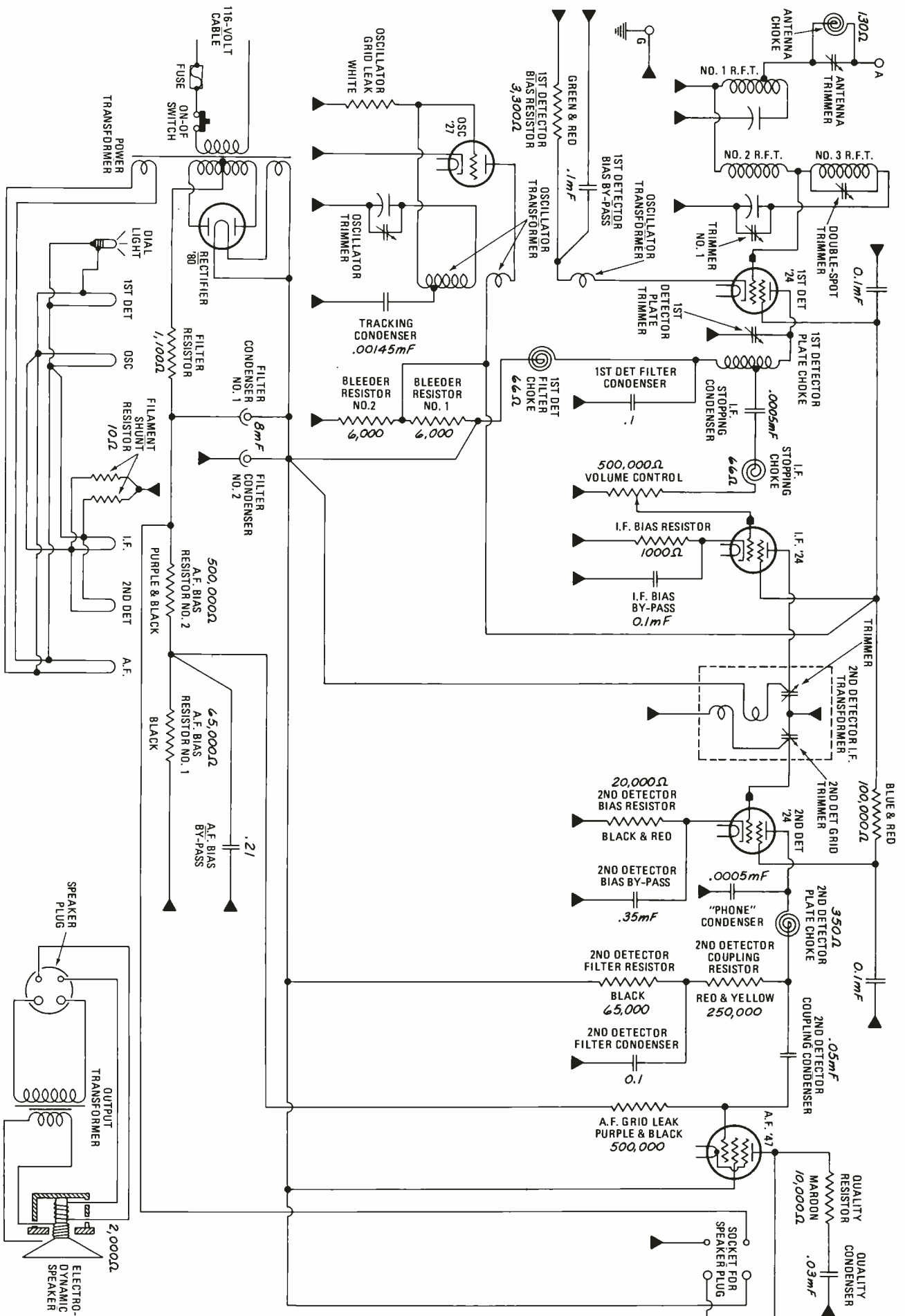


FIG. 5—GRID-LEAK DETECTOR USED in most old TRF radios. In many cases the "leak" resistor went direct from grid to ground.



EARLY SUPERHETERODYNE, the Atwater-Kent models 84 and 84-F.

was a glass-body type with metal end caps and was clip-mounted on the mica capacitor. The resistor value was usually 1.0 megohm, and the capacitor was 250 mmf—now called pF (or 0.00025  $\mu$ F).

### Servicing the B+ line

The first step in servicing the B+ line is to take all the tubes out. Now turn the set on and check the B+ voltages. (To know what reading to expect, check the AC voltage from either plate of the rectifier tube to ground. If it reads about 160 volts RMS, the B+ voltage will be +180. If it reads 220 volts RMS, then the B+ voltage will be about +250.)

The '80 rectifier tube will have to be left in, of course, to read the B+ voltage. If its plate becomes red-hot, turn it off *quickly*, you've got a short. If you check from the B+ voltage to ground, the cause of the short should be easy to find. For an easier test, lift up one end of the bleeder-resistor network. For a ballpark figure, these bleeders averaged about 25,000 to 50,000 ohms total in most sets.

Many older sets used paper filter capacitors with a range from 2  $\mu$ F to 4  $\mu$ F. This range was as much as these capacitors could have and still be small enough to fit into the cabinet. They can be replaced by 4  $\mu$ F–8  $\mu$ F, 450-working-volt, electrolytic tubular capacitors (noncritical). If the filter is encapsulated, find the shorted capacitor and clip off the lead. Fit the replacement capacitor under the chassis, if any. Make sure to connect the negative terminal to the right place.

The next step was the use of wet electrolytic filter capacitors. The first such type was a huge 3-inch brass or copper can with an insulating disc on top. This type was succeeded by the more familiar-looking aluminum can, which was about 1 inch in diameter. The advantage of the wet electrolytic capacitor was that it was truly self-healing. The can was one electrode, and an aluminum corkscrew was the other electrode; the electrolyte was really a liquid. If the capacitor arced over, it would heal up instantly and be as good as new! The disadvantage was that if you turned the chassis upside down to service it and forgot to tape over the *vents* on top of the filters, all the liquid leaked out and you had to replace all the filter capacitors! These electrolytic types ran about 8  $\mu$ F at 450 working volts. They can also be replaced by tubular capacitors with the same capacitance or greater and the same working voltage.

### Checking bleeders

If you discover that several B+ voltages are off-value, one of the bleeder resistors is probably open, and you'll need the schematic to find the value. If a diagram isn't available, you can determine the approximate resistance by connecting a 25K-50K potentiometer in the place of the open. Turn on the set and adjust the potentiometer until the B+ voltage at that point returns to normal. Use the ballpark voltages previously given as a guide. Then take the potentiometer out and read its value; replace it with a 5-watt wirewound resistor.

The early bleeders varied in type. Atwater-Kent used an odd variety—a large strand of asbestos that had resistance wire wound around it and then was insulated. The wire ends were made of blobs of molded solder, some up to 12 inches long, and they might use eight or ten taps. The underside of the chassis looked like a nest of snakes.

Another common and unpopular type of bleeder was called a *Candohm* (canned ohms). These resistors were flat and wirewound with taps connected to metal tabs. The entire resistor was insulated with empire cloth, a fabric soaked in fish oil, then covered with a tin shield that served as the mounting; hence the name, *Candohm*. This type of bleeder would break down to the grounded tin case, and was prone to developing intermittents. (One stock cure was to run a sharp-pointed knife down the wirewound resistor to make sure it stayed open, and then tack a 5-watt wirewound resistor to the terminals.)

### Replacing IF transformers

If one of the IF transformers in an old set is open (a common

occurrence) you can often substitute a modern-type IF transformer. Take the old transformer out of the shield can. Now select a replacement transformer and mount it on the chassis in the original hole. For the sake of appearance, you can put the original shield can back, and the set will look just like it did. I used this trick on a beautiful old Scott All-Wave radio that I was overhauling, and the set worked just as well as ever. You can obtain 175-kHz IF transformers in small cans from the J. W. Miller Company, as well as 262-kHz, 455-kHz and even 132-kHz types. Many sets then were supposed to be tuned to 450 kHz or 460 kHz, but any 455-kHz transformer will cover that range.

You may also find open RF coils. In many very old sets, these coils are often single-layer solenoids, wound on forms that are up to 2 to 3 inches in diameter. If those are bad, they can be completely rewound without too much trouble. (Most of the open circuits are at the coil ends and can be repaired by unwinding one turn and resoldering.) If the whole RF coil must be rewound, count the turns as you unwind the original and use the same size wire and the same winding direction. Even oscillator coils can be rewound if they're single-layer coils. If they are multiple-layer or honeycomb coils, a replacement can probably be found in an RF coil catalogue.

### Checking tubes

If your tube tester won't check the old tubes, just plug the tubes into the set; if they light up, they may be good. The best tube test is signal-tracing. Feed a signal to the grid and read the signal on the plate. In the RF or IF stages, read the signal voltage at the detector output as you move the signal generator through the IF stages toward the antenna.

Many older tubes had such heavy filaments (to avoid hum; the heavy filaments had a much longer thermal lag between AC cycles) that they can be rejuvenated in the same way as picture tubes. Just raise the filament voltage about 10%, let it heat for a while, then try it.

You may have noticed that I've referred to tubes as "01A," "71A," etc. The apostrophe indicates that the last two numbers are the only ones that are really significant. At first, the tubes were designated "201A," "301A," etc. The first digit indicated the brand name—RCA tubes were all marked "2," Cunningham tubes were all marked "3," and so forth. (This description may not be precisely correct, but it gives you the general idea.)

### Speakers

The oldest radios used horn speakers. They were driven by what amounted to a big earphone. Next came electromagnetic speakers, or just "magnetic" for short. These speakers had a pair of coils, driven by the output stage, which moved an iron vane or armature connected to a paper cone with an iron rod. Next came electrodynamic or moving-coil speakers, which were similar to those used today.

The big difference is that these old speakers had a "field coil," as I mentioned earlier. Current had to flow through it to provide the magnetic field. Some of the first speakers had their own separate field supply—a transformer, rectifier and filter that energized the field directly from the AC line. The next versions were used in series with the B+ line of the DC power supply. The field coil served as the filter choke.

Any of these dynamic speakers can be replaced by a modern PM dynamic speaker of the same size. Just connect the voice coil directly to the original output transformer, matching impedances, of course. Most speakers were 8-ohm voice-coil types. If the field was used as the filter choke, replace it with a suitable iron-core choke with an inductance around 8–10 henries at 250 mA.

If the output transformer is open, you can find replacements for them. The '12A tube has a load impedance of 10,000 ohms; the '71A's load is 5000 ohms, and so on. You can find the right load impedance for any transformer in supplements at the back

*continued on page 97*

# Forest Belt tells...

## What You Need To Know About SPECIAL SIGNAL GENERATORS

**SIGNAL GENERATORS FOR TV.** Last month, we covered signal generators used in troubleshooting and evaluating stereo systems. This month, we continue the coverage with TV signal generators.

Two procedures have long served troubleshooters in finding out what's wrong with a TV: signal tracing and signal injection. Both are intensely practical; both are fast; both are dependable—when you're sure of the signal being fed into the set.

That's where today's special signal generators come in handy. They produce specific, definite input signals, sometimes for the front end of a receiver, sometimes for a particular section. In either case, you can be sure of what you're dealing with as you diagnose troubles, and this confidence speeds repairs. You cannot always be that certain when you depend on station signals for testing.

A few generators today have evolved into multipurpose instruments that justify the term "analyzer" (which indeed several are called). This Special Section introduces you to some of these unique instruments, and tries to guide you in taking advantage of the new efficient troubleshooting they can provide.

# Television Servicing: Modern Generators Make It Easier

*The television sweep generator is a very specialized instrument that, in the hands of an expert, can be used to troubleshoot and service modern color television circuits with speed and accuracy.*

TELEVISION TEST EQUIPMENT IS WORTH more today than ever before. First, signal generators, particularly the newer color-bar units, are more compact and yet far more stable than they have been up till now. Tight, dependable oscillators and frequency counters, brought about through IC technology, virtually eliminate guesswork—and end your worries about whether the instrument has the jitters or the set has.

Second, video generators have become increasingly versatile as TV sets have become more complex. As you will see, some more recent equipment has even developed some entirely new approaches to video analysis and trouble diagnosis. Such usefulness can save you time and even earn you money, not to mention making servicing easier.

Moreover, the advent of consumer-priced home video recorders promises new things to work on, even though they are a bit more complicated. New challenges are opening up with unlimited potential. Of course, like any other opportunity, it's valuable only if you're ready for it. Preparedness requires that you keep up with the new technology and equip yourself for dealing with it.

## For IC's: Old habits into new

Integrated circuits comprise the major change in TV receivers. In certain ways, placing many stages on a single IC eliminates several service and adjustment worries. Today's TV sets have fewer coils to align in the RF, IF and color stages. Integrated circuits turn formerly critical stages into more elaborate designs that are less touchy, yet, because of IC technology, are no more costly.

Unless you have discovered how easy IC's are to troubleshoot, they may leave you in some awe. No doubt about it, they are exotic inside. You may not understand all their architecture, design, composition, manufacture and inner workings. However, you need not worry about servicing them. You probably already have whatever knowledge you need, maybe without even realizing it. All you have to do now is to ease yourself away from

certain old troubleshooting habits and acquire some updated thinking. I warn you fairly, however, you do need test instruments. Let's take an example:

A good color generator performs several basic tests. It can prove especially valuable when the color section of a TV receiver you're servicing is peppered with IC's. Trouble-tracing with a station signal may be manageable, but it cannot compare with using a fixed, dependable signal of steady, known characteristics. This is true of the keyed-rainbow pattern (the most commonly used), and of so-called NTSC patterns—which have started re-appearing in service-type generators.

Let's take a hypothetical case: One very new-model Zenith color chassis exhibits no picture at all. The sound is OK. At examination, the screen is black. But this often is part of the missing video symptom in recent sets. As it happens, there's a photocell-operated brightness limiter in this set that accommodates room lighting. Flipping a flashlight beam across the photocell causes enough "speckle" to appear on the screen to show that the high voltage and the CRT are working.

Your first thought is—the luminance is blocked. You feed in a steady signal, in this instance a keyed rainbow. Your oscilloscope shows the signal is OK at the video-detector output, and at the input lug of the module that handles chroma and luminance. More tracing proves that the signal is OK at the input to the luminance IC. However, in checking waveforms around the luminance IC, you discover that the signal from the chroma IC is missing. This leads you to make tests at the chroma IC.

Your scope shows that the input to the chroma IC is OK, but there's no output signal at any terminal. One thought of course is that the IC may be defective. But *all* the outputs are missing. A faulty IC could cause that symptom, but the situation should prompt at least some second thoughts. With everything shut down in this IC, perhaps the trouble lies outside it—for example, the DC supply voltage could be missing.

Sure enough, it is. Someone else replaced this IC once before; its predecessor was bad. However, one pin wasn't soldered properly during replacement. There's no voltage on the DC input pin, and therefore no operation. No video reaches the R-Y, B-Y and G-Y outputs, nor the luminance IC.

However, one main point you should recognize is the advantage of using a generator signal instead of a station signal. Figure 1 shows the waveforms found at the luminance IC input when you use a station signal, a keyed-rainbow signal, a standard EIA color bar (in what's known

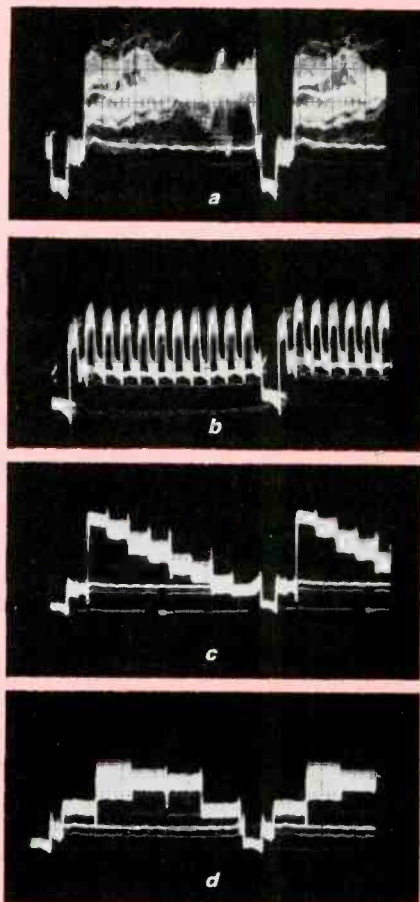


FIG. 1—STATION SIGNAL (top) contains constantly changing video. Fixed patterns from generators make tracing and analysis much easier.

as the NTSC format) and a color-bar pattern developed by Sencore for the new model VA48 video analyzer. Note that here you deal mainly with video signal levels.

Figure 2 shows the same four signals as they appear on your oscilloscope at the input to the chroma amplifier IC. Any of the latter three signals is easier to recognize for tracing purposes than the station signal.

The other major point is that tracing stage operation is the best method of finding IC trouble. No matter how you have approached troubleshooting in the past, today you need a step-by-step, logical way to diagnose faulty sections, localize defective stages and isolate troubled circuits. (For more details, note the box about *Easi-Way Servicing* in last month's Special Section.)

Then, when you have found an IC that doesn't do its job, take the following steps:

1. Check that all signals—such as video, keying, blanking, etc.—are reaching the IC. Often the IC operates incorrectly or not at all when even one signal is missing.
2. Verify that all DC voltages are reaching the pins of the IC. In the previous example, voltage was available at the foil, but could not be measured at the pin on the opposite side of the PC board.

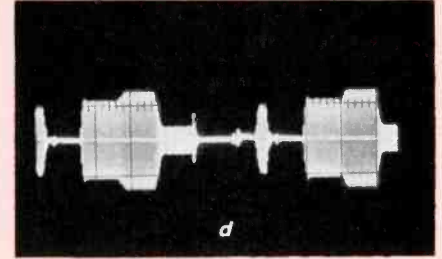
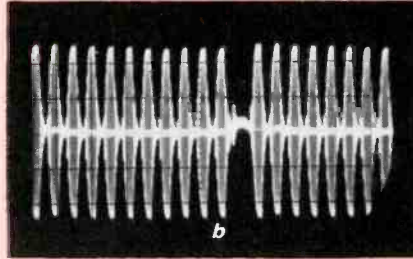
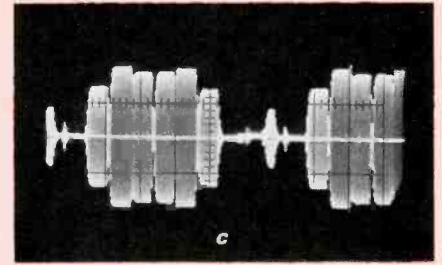
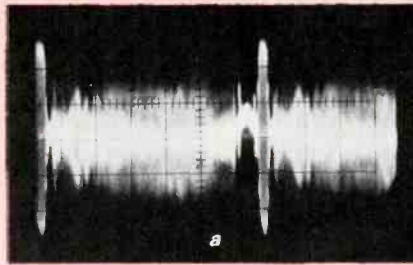


FIG. 2—CHROMA CONTENT of test signals provided by (a) station signal, (b) keyed-rainbow generator, (c) NTSC-type color-bar generator and (d) Sencore model VA48 video analyzer.

3. Verify that all DC voltages from the IC are present. If they're not, do not automatically assume the IC is defective. A loaded circuit may be dragging the voltage down. You know how to isolate that kind of circuit problem—by cutting circuits loose, one at a time.
4. If you do have to replace the IC, do a clean job. Desolder thoroughly, with some form of vac-

uum device or desoldering braid. Clean out the holes and clean the foil. Insert the new IC solidly against the board, and make sure no pins get bent in the process. Finally, carefully solder each pin with a hot iron. A fast-on/fast-off operation with the iron does the best job; but be sure you apply heat long enough for the solder to flow, or it won't bond the pins solidly to the foil.

## Align And Conquer

OK, that takes care of some of the basic troubleshooting procedures around IC's. Now, let's dig a little deeper into the methods of reaching down into the IC.

Many of us still shy away from aligning TV receivers. We often assume (or pretend we believe) that sets don't need alignment. It's true that receivers come from the factory almost perfectly aligned, and often "cooked" in. But that does not prevent aging from affecting color performance. Too often, we just ignore alignment and tell ourselves that it's OK to watch a less-than-perfect picture.

If you're guilty of that attitude, you're losing out on two counts. First, you're missing a chance to show how really top-grade color TV looks. Second (and more important) you're overlooking an exceptionally effective troubleshooting technique that we can call "align and conquer." Many of us have used a version of this technique since the early days of color TV. It works just as well today.

Moreover, with today's alignment generators, there's really no excuse for being afraid to align a set. It is *not* a haphazard process, no matter what oldtimers tell you. Anyone who thinks aligning a TV set is a big job just hasn't discovered how to do it with modern instruments. Only

when you try it will you see how easy it is; just a smidgeon of experience makes the whole process fairly quick.

Let's briefly revisit IF alignment because it's the easiest type to understand and to perform. The alignment principles are simple. You adjust a group of coils to certain frequencies, and their response "curves" overlap to render the wideband response that passes video and chroma information in the right proportions.

A few alignment gadgets, some of them designed specifically for certain TV sets, save time. Collect them, keep them all together and use them when the alignment guidelines for a set suggest their application. Likewise keeping a *complete* set of alignment tools (stored in a drawer or in their roll pack) should avoid wasted time and the damaged coils that come from using a wrong tool. Half of all the time that is spent unnecessarily during alignment is a result of being poorly prepared.

It takes only a few minutes to make all the preliminary connections, especially once you are familiar with them. A multi-voltage bias box is necessary. You apply recommended DC voltages to the tuner and IF automatic gain control (AGC) lines, and sometimes to the AFT terminal

on the tuner. Some TV alignment generators include these well-filtered DC sources; use your DC voltmeter to make sure that they apply the proper voltage *when connected*. These bias connections are vital because they prevent the stages from being overloaded by the input signal. Signal overload can distort response.

The 60-Hz sinewave used to drive the sweep oscillator in the generator must also be fed over to the scope's horizontal amplifier. With a triggered scope, this means setting the sweep for *external input* (not external trigger). If the instrument is a dual-trace scope, you must set the timebase switch at its X-Y position; one of the two input channels is thus converted to a horizontal input channel, and accepts the 60-Hz sinewave from the sweep generator. You adjust the input-voltage switch of that channel for a comfortable trace width, without overscan.

For IF alignment, a mixer injection point has been provided on virtually every TV tuner. Injecting a sweep signal at the mixer isolates any input-cable effects from the tuned circuits you must align. On a few sets, the alignment instructions recommend using an isolation network. Some generators have cables with proper 75-ohm terminations and do not need this

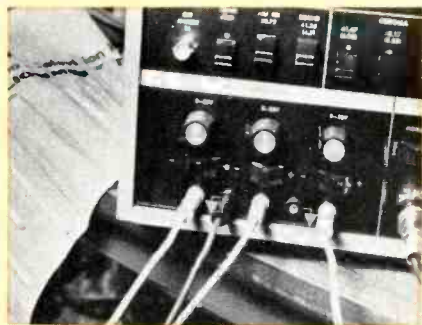
isolation pad. (A 300-ohm termination matches the antenna terminals for tuner alignment, but not this mixer input which is for IF applications.)

One new modular TV set, which at present lacks service instructions, incorporates varactor tuners with the mixer injection point down inside. During the warranty period, you are supposed to send the entire module to your nearest distributor, who sends it to the factory for any repairs or alignment. But you know how that story generally ends up. Sooner or later, you will have to work on sets like this. Eventually, the company will produce a suitable plug. Meanwhile, wrap a lead around the post and dress the pigtail through the access hole in the cover plate. The cover must remain back in place while you test or align.

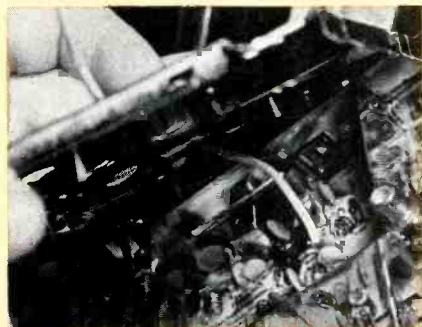
Any handy point following the video detector can serve to connect the scope vertical input. You can avoid having to use an isolating pad if you make the connection just after the first video amplifier. You do not need a demodulator probe.

A lot of time can be saved if you keep a sweep generator and scope set up ready for a quick alignment check. You can use an old scope; its response is unimportant. If your instruments are already set up, you just make three or four connections and you have (1) an assessment of the IF response (and color alignment too, as you will see) and (2) an immediate means of diagnosing and correcting discrepancies in the IF or color-bandpass sections.

Figure 3-a indicates somewhat the type of curve you're likely to see from the IF strip of a three- to four-year-old set.



DC VOLTAGES from B&K model 1077 video generator can clamp AGC and AFT lines for troubleshooting or alignment.



MIXER INJECTION POINT in varactor tuner is post on printed board, accessible only with shield cover of tuner lifted.

Normal aging has changed the gain in some stages, and you will note a bit of overpeaking just down-frequency from the picture IF marker (45.75 MHz). The sound trap at 41.25 MHz is fairly close to the value for proper adjustment, and the skirts at both ends are correctly steep for the adjacent-channel sound and picture traps. In other words, only minor touchup

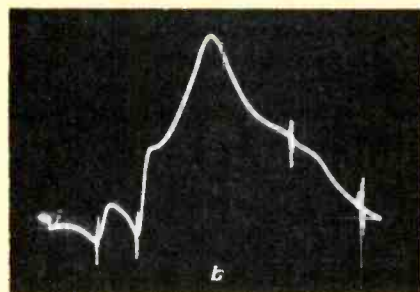
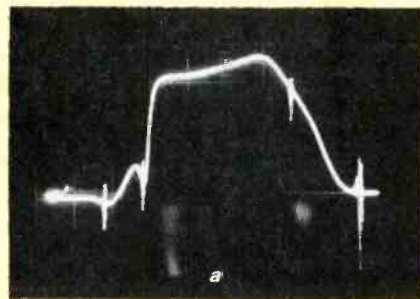


FIG. 3—SWEEP RESPONSE CURVES of video IF, with markers (left to right) at 39.75 MHz, 41.25 MHz, 45.75 MHz and 47.25 MHz. Bottom curve indicates serious alignment flaw.

is necessary. Actually, this set operates well without any control adjustment, and you would be justified in proceeding no further with alignment. This particular set has passed your alignment test.

However, suppose the curve looked like the one in Fig. 3-b. Something in the IF has to be fixed. But what? One quick check involves a slight adjustment of each coil slug. Note its position, then turn each IF adjustment a tiny amount, all the while watching the curve on the oscilloscope. Each time, return the slug to its starting position; this is not yet a touchup. A slug that has little or no effect on the curve is faulty, or its decoupling capacitor is defective. If the tuning peak (or dip) is very slight or broad, you can suspect a faulty amplifier adjacent to that coil or transformer.

This little procedure takes only a few moments. You don't even have to look up which coil is which, until you find the faulty one. This trick may sound oversimple, but it identifies a defective IF coil or trap almost every time. In Fig. 3-b, the 47.25-MHz adjacent-channel sound trap has a faulty capacitor across it.

In another set, two of the three traps seemed to have little effect on the curve, which was severely distorted. It turned out they had a common ground foil, which was cracked and open.

In still another receiver, the sweep curve failed to appear at the video amplifier. Using a probe at the video-detector

output revealed no curve there either. Yet, with a demodulator probe and some extra push from the generator, the technician found that RF signal was reaching the IF integrated circuit. (Don't expect to see a conventional sweep curve here, just an RF curve. You can verify that it is generator RF signal by raising and lowering the output level.) Moving to the output pin of the IC, we found a curve. This curve was distorted because some of the coils are *after* this point, between the IF-amplifier IC and the video-detector IC. The IF-amplifier IC was obviously working.

Probing around the video-detector IC showed that signal was going in, but there was no signal going out to the AFT, to the sound IF section, nor of course to the video amplifier. The conclusion was that this detector IC wasn't functioning. Direct current tests were confusing, but the input voltage was there. Conclusion: the IC must be bad and it was.

Yes, you could have traced this problem with ordinary video signals. But you would not have proved that the IF's were OK as you proceeded. Nor, when the faulty IC was replaced, would you be already hooked up to run through a quick video IF alignment—which proved advisable because someone else had fooled around with the alignment before giving up on this tough dog.

### Conquering color by alignment

While you're hooked up for sweep tests and adjustments, it's important to inspect the chroma-bandpass response. Fig. 4-a shows the first curve taken without touchup; one of the bandpass coupling transformers is misaligned. A demodulator probe connected to the bandpass-amplifier input, and with the sweep fed in at a video amplifier, both reveal the actual shape and relative amplitude of the color sidebands as fed through these coupling transformers.

You can set the bandpass-amplitude control here to insure that no marked part of the curve drops below about 70% of the peaks. Figure 4-b shows the curve when all are properly aligned and adjusted. Naturally, any defects in this system prevent a proper curve from appearing, and alignment attempts often indicate where the trouble is.

Afterward, it's advisable to view the *overall* curve for color bandpass, including the IF section. Actually, both the IF video and bandpass must dovetail to produce the correct overall response.

So you drop the sweep feed point back to the tuner mixer point. Reset the sweep generator to produce an IF sweep curve of about 45 MHz, as for IF alignment. Be sure the DC biases on the AGC lines are according to the manufacturer's recommendation. Markers at 3.08 MHz, 3.58 MHz and 4.08 MHz indicate the curve points.

As Fig. 4-c shows, properly aligned IF



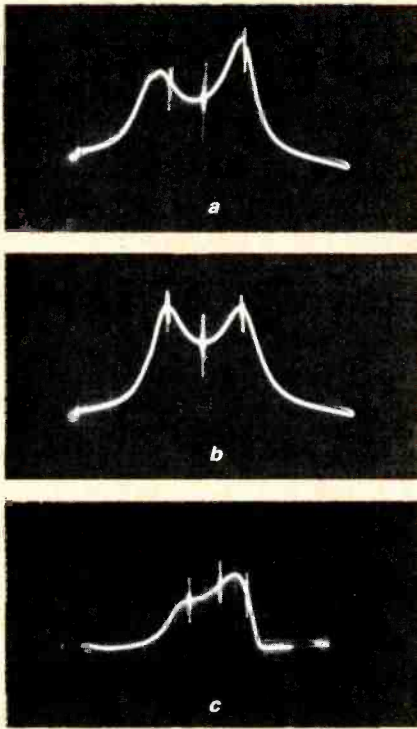


FIG. 4—SWEEP CURVE for bandpass amps, with markers (left to right) at 3.08 MHz, 3.58 MHz and 4.08 MHz. Faulty response from defect in bandpass section is shown at *a*, correct shape for curve, with signal injected at video amp is shown at *b*, and a bandpass curve when video IF stages are included appears at *c*.

and bandpass-coupling stages place a peak between the 3.58-MHz and 4.08-MHz markers, with the 3.08-MHz marker about one-third down the lower-frequency skirt. The 4.08-MHz portion of the curve must not be higher than the 3.58-MHz portion. A slight touchup of the first bandpass stage and then, if necessary, the IF coils (those that affect the *down-frequency* IF skirt) will shape the curve and place the markers as they should be. If in doubt, consult the manufacturer's recommendations for the right shape.

Finally, you must set the color-sync or burst-processing system. Now, you can turn off the sweep setup and revert to a keyed-rainbow pattern generator (or an NTSC-type display, if you prefer). Again, however, your diagnostic and checking technique consists of trying to align the tuned circuits, and of tracing the signal with an oscilloscope if it is missing,

inadequate or distorted.

The first adjustment in the color-sync section, for example, involves using a voltmeter. If adjusting the burst input or ringing coils does not show the proper DC peaking at the voltmeter test point, you know approximately where to look for trouble. Then, you should probably use the scope probe to do some tracing and inspecting of waveforms and amplitudes. Verify that the signal reaches the input (see Fig. 5-a). Then you'll ordinarily find test points for tracking it through the burst section.

In most designs, the DC test point for adjusting the burst transformers is at the ACC/(Automatic Contrast Control) stage. So any defect that prevents coil adjustment from affecting that DC voltage must exist between the input and the ACC detector. Your scope can verify the continuous waveform produced by the 3.58-MHz oscillator. Figure 5-b shows how this signal looks at the output of the burst gating stages.

#### Your own IC data

Eventually, if all checks OK during the adjustments, you come to the IC itself. The receiver's service information should tell you all you need to know about signal inputs and outputs around an IC, plus all the DC voltages. However, this often is not the case. You can obtain this informa-

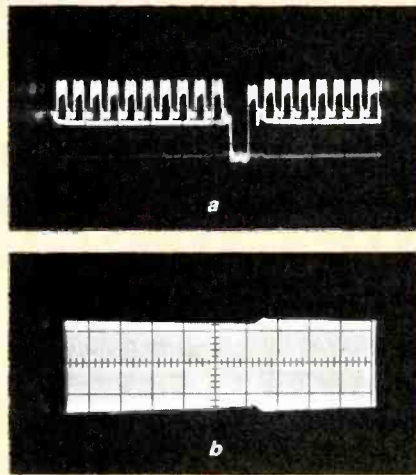
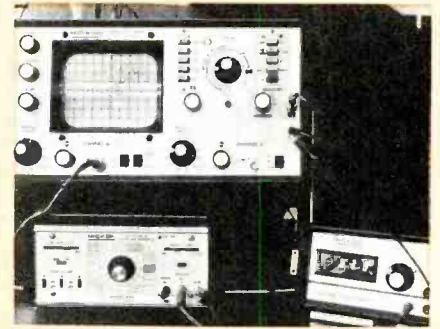


FIG. 5—COLOR-SYNC ALIGNMENT requires burst source and voltmeter (at ACC). Patterns can be traced to burst-processing IC (*a*), and at the output of continuous-wave oscillator (*b*).



TV TEST SETUP of Hickok instruments consists of model 517 double-trace scope, model 246 color-bar generator and 334 DMM.

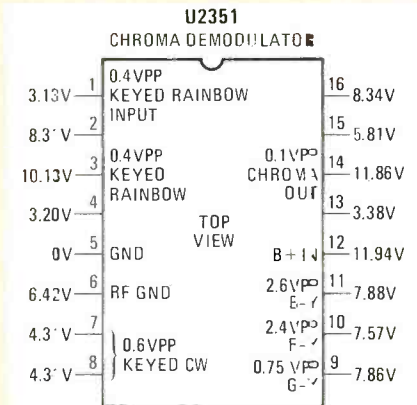


FIG. 6—HOW TO ADD PERTINENT DATA to a base diagram of an IC used in a TV set or similar equipment.

tion for yourself. All you need is a working TV set, whatever pattern generator you use for color servicing, your oscilloscope, and a digital or analog voltmeter.

Figure 6 shows a way to record the information that works for any IC; it shows an IC-data diagram for the new U2351 chroma demodulator IC.

A digital voltmeter reads the DC values quickly and accurately. Your scope tells you the peak-to-peak signal values. One key, as you can see, is the use of a steady signal from a color-pattern generator, a keyed rainbow in this case. Use any generator you're accustomed to. What you develop with a diagram like this is a standard against which to compare and evaluate later performance whenever a color section using this IC malfunctions.

Using your regular generator, make diagrams for every IC in all chassis you service often. Keep this IC data with the chassis service information.

## Pattern Diagnosis

As any bona-fide technician knows, television diagnosis presents a considerable challenge. Any help in pinpointing trouble a faster, surer way is certainly worth pursuing.

A TV signal is itself extremely complex. To further complicate matters, an awesome array of different signals of

many sizes, waveshapes, frequencies, time durations, etc., are developed and manipulated within the receiver. As sets have become easier and steadier to operate, the multiplicity and complexity of signals in the chassis have also grown. However, test instrument designers have kept pace, and as technology advances, so

do the generators built to cope with servicing.

Radio technicians got by with simple modulated RF generators. But there was no comprehensive (and affordable) signal generator for TV until B & K Manufacturing Company (Now the B&K/Precision Division of Dynascan) produced the

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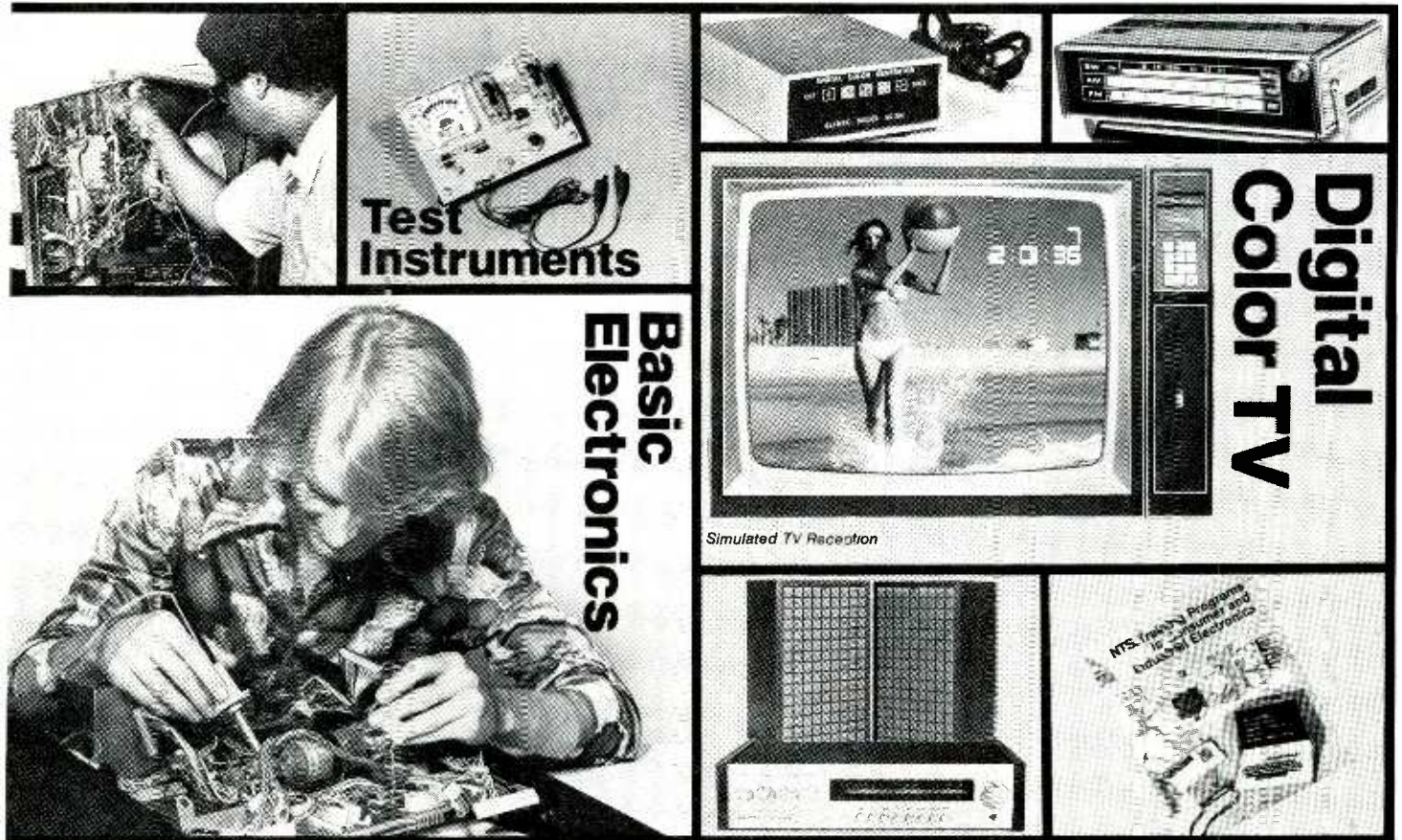
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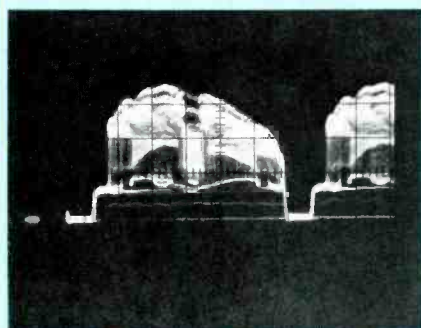


FIG. 7—VIDEO PATTERN generated by B&K/Precision model 1077 resembles Indian-head test pattern used in early TV days. Video in waveform stays constant, thereby making tracing easier.

model 1076 Television Analyst more than a decade ago. This was a miniature TV transmitter—a flying-spot scanner that produced a standard circular test pattern (see Fig. 7), sync pulses and drive pulses to feed almost any portion of a TV receiver. Today, its modern descendant, the B&K/Precision model 1077 Television Analyst, does these things and more. It's a test-pattern and pulse-waveform generator for servicing virtually any video equipment.

Very recently, Sencore Inc. introduced the first new all-around TV signal source in years. The model VA48 Video Analyzer simulates just about every signal a TV set needs. In addition, the model VA48 brings some new techniques to video diagnosis and troubleshooting.

This unit has no circular test pattern, but it does generate two unique video patterns. One appears on the television screen as a series of vertical lines with different spacings. The top part of Fig. 8 shows the screen pattern. If you're familiar with video testing signals, you may recognize this as a *multiburst* pattern. Its video waveform appears in the lower part of Fig. 8. The test signal comprises short bursts of various frequencies, one after the other.

You may ask, why this particular pattern? It contains several elements. First, on the left is a gray-scale staircase pattern: black, gray and white. It works for any R-G-B gray-scale adjustments, and for checking video-amplification linearity.

Next comes the multiburst pattern, which tests video frequency response all the way to the CRT. This pattern produces one cycle at 188 kHz; then four at

755 kHz; eight cycles at 1.51 MHz; a 16-cycle burst at 3.02 MHz; another at 3.56 MHz; and one final cycle at 188 kHz again. In terms of TV screen resolution, these bursts represent, respectively, 16 lines, 65 lines, 125 lines, 250 lines and 295 lines. A similar frequency-response-vs.-resolution chart on the circular test pattern produced by the model 1077 is shown in Fig. 7. Both patterns indicate the ultimate response of the TV receiver to details in the video stage.

Sencore calls this video pattern a "Bar Sweep." Once you know how to interpret these bars, it will eliminate the need for conventional sweep alignment. You can even learn to align the TV receiver according to these patterns. The concept is unique, and Sencore has patented the pattern.

The model VA48 produces another patented color-servicing pattern called the "Chroma Bar Sweep." It is shown in Fig. 9, along with its oscilloscope waveform. A solid center bar is generated at 3.56 MHz, in proper phase to produce a blue output from the chroma demodulator. On each side are modulated signal

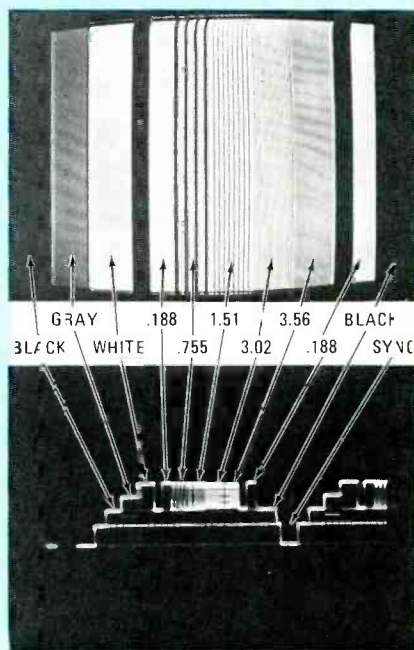


FIG. 8—VIDEO "BAR SWEEP" created by Sencore model VA48 TV analyzer contains several frequency samples, and reveals IF and video response on screen of TV set.



SENCORE model VA48 video analyzer.

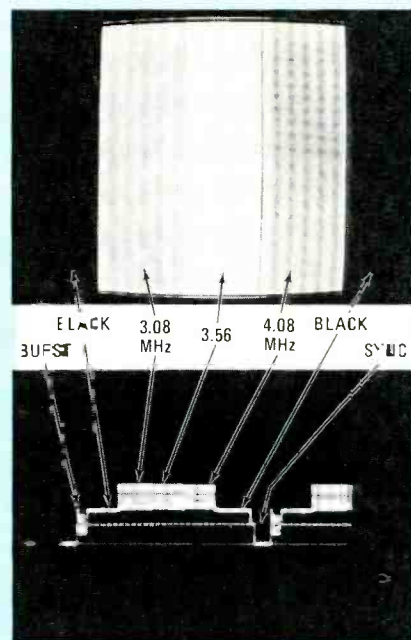


FIG. 9—"CHROMA BAR SWEEP" places blue center bar on screen, with displayed bars of 3.08-MHz and 4.08-MHz signal verifying proper bandpass response. Signal can be injected at tuner or after video detector.

bursts of 3.08 MHz and 4.08 MHz. Just as the other multibursts enable IF alignment without using sweep gear, these bursts are for chroma alignment.

### Scoping the patterns

Some of us prefer signal tracing to injecting when working in the IF and video sections of a TV receiver. You usually feed the pattern signal into the antenna terminals because it's the handiest way. Or the model 1077 and the model VA48 (and most color-pattern generators) can also be used to supply their signal directly without RF—a volt or two that you can inject right after the video detector. Either way, you use your scope to follow the patterns through successive stages.

You're probably familiar by now with the waveforms produced by a TV test pattern such as that generated by the model 1077. They resemble station-signal waveforms. On the other hand, because the model VA48 instrument is so recent, some characteristics of its pattern may be new to you.

Study the waveform in Fig. 10-a. Signal from the model VA48 has been fed into the tuner front end, and the oscilloscope probe has been connected at the video-detector output.

Note the amplitudes of the four higher-frequency multiburst signals. Each of the signals has made the trip through the tuner and IF sections without any significant attenuation. A slight reduction in the 3.56-MHz bar is allowable.

Misaligned IF transformers, or even a defective IC, can severely reduce video response. Figure 10-b shows the result of some fault in a detector IC. Both the 3.02-MHz and 3.56-MHz signals are no-

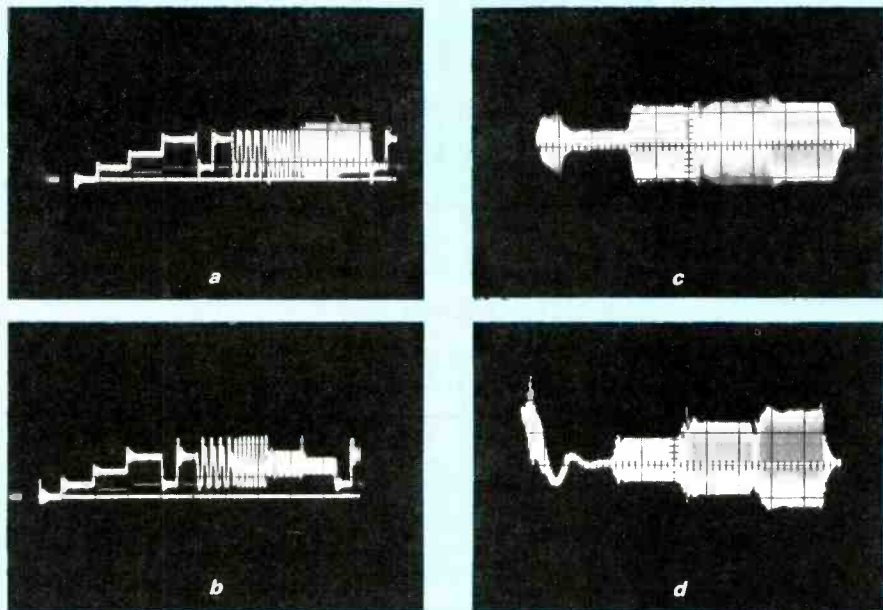


FIG. 10—WAVEFORMS RESULTING from use of test signals generated by Sencore model VA48. See text for significance of what these waveforms reveal.

ticeably reduced in amplitude at the video-detector output. Scoped with a demodulator probe, the waveform at the input to this IC was very similar to the original input signal (see Fig. 10-a).

If you modulate the RF input signal with the chroma-bar-sweep pattern, you can evaluate the entire tuner/IF/chroma chain. Just scope the output of the chroma amplifier system. Normal bandpass for the entire chroma sideband signal, from 3.08 MHz to 4.08 MHz, delivers a waveform to the chroma demodulator similar to that shown in Fig. 10-c. Levels of the three bar signals fed from the model VA48 video analyzer are factory-adjusted to allow for the difference in actual response in the receiver amplifiers. If all is correct, the chroma output point shows all three bursts of signal at the same level. But misalignment in the bandpass amplifiers can alter the response.

The result, shown in Fig. 10-d, could also come from video IF misalignment. Suppose the 41.67-MHz, 42.17-MHz and 42.67-MHz markers are *not* properly placed on the IF response skirt (at about 40%, 60% and 80% levels, respectively). This curve discrepancy would, since signal is coming through the IF strip, also distort the curve at the bandpass test point. In this instance, however, the trouble is in bandpass alignment—because the IF waveform, when you use the multi-bar sweep, already proved OK.

You can also inject the chroma-bar-sweep signal at the chroma feed point that follows the video detector; this bypasses the video IF strip. However, a bit of "tilt" will occur in the model VA48 pattern—the first bar is the highest, the second less high, and the third the least high—because of the built-in tilt that accommodates proper video IF alignment. A small amount of practice with a

working set will quickly familiarize you with this phenomenon.

Incidentally, if you're in a hurry to fix a set and haven't yet become accustomed to the patented Sencore patterns, the model VA48 generates a tightly locked keyed-rainbow pattern. You can use it as you would the keyed-rainbow pattern from any color-pattern generator.

#### Other injection hints

Both generators produce sweep substitution signals for driving the sweep sections of TV receivers. In most TV sets, you merely select the correct pulse signal, set the proper amplitude and connect it. If sweep starts again, you are injecting *beyond* the defective stage or circuit.

Some precautions are worth mentioning. First of all, if you're not already doing so, you should use an isolation transformer to power the TV set. If you don't, you can damage test instruments and sets, and you can give yourself some nasty shocks. Plus, you may damage some IC's and transistors if you're not careful. *Always isolate* the set you're testing.

Here's another precaution to take when working with any chassis using transistors and IC's: Keep the generator-drive controls turned to zero until *after* you make the connections and turn the set on. (Naturally, you turn the set off while you make test connections and insure that they do not accidentally bridge together any terminals. Jumper leads with tiny insulated alligator clips make connections safer on many modular boards.) After the set is operating again, bring up the signal drive slowly and carefully. Transistor and IC stages take less drive than tube stages. Too much signal can be damaging.

#### DC diagnosis

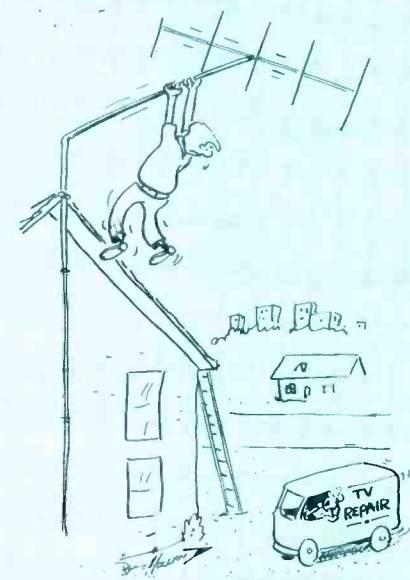
Remember, you can inject DC voltage, too; it's called *clamping*. This is a valu-

able technique to use when you're dealing with DC-controlled stages. For example, DC determines the frequency of the voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) that is part of new 503-kHz sync systems. Various AGC arrangements involve DC voltages—most sets now have three controls for the IF, VHF tuner and UHF tuner. A low-impedance DC voltage that you can vary lets you check DC effects on these controlled stages or circuits.

Here's an example. With a B&K/Precision model 1077, the complaint was overload, diagnosed on sight as probable AGC trouble. A DC voltmeter check at the various AGC output terminals of the sync-AGC integrated circuit proved nothing conclusive. A Channel 3 input signal, raised and lowered in level at the input antenna terminals, caused two of the three AGC voltages to vary; however, in an unfamiliar chassis, it's hard to know whether the variations are correct or not. The third voltage, for the VHF varactor tuner, remained steady—with no change at all. Weak input RF appeared OK, but as soon as enough signal was fed in to overcome snow, overload ruined the picture, sync, color and sound.

Two possibilities seemed apparent: Either the IC was not developing proper AGC for the tuner, or the DC voltage was being loaded down along the line or in the tuner.

A clamp voltage from the bias section of the model 1077 was connected to the tuner AGC line. Altering the "injected" DC voltage did change the gain in the tuner. Overloading could be eliminated by setting this clamp voltage properly. The conclusion was that the sync-AGC integrated circuit was not producing that particular DC voltage properly, even though every other IC function appeared normal. Replacing the IC cured the problem. **R-E**



"Ben's Hardware didn't have a 20-foot ladder. You want me to try Teely's Hardware?"

# computer corner

## 8080 The 8253 programmable interval timer IC.

M. DEJONG, C. TITUS, J. TITUS, D. LARSEN and P. RONY\*

THIS MONTH'S COLUMN INTRODUCES THE characteristics of the Intel 8253 programmable interval timer. This versatile I/O chip can be used in a wide variety of applications (such as a real-time clock, event counting and period counting) in addition to replacing software-implemented timing loops. For example, interval timers have been used in a number of diverse applications, including a digital cardio-tachometer, a data-logging timer that uses several phototransistors to measure velocities and accelerations, and a program to sample nonperiodic waveforms for subsequent display on an oscilloscope.

The 8253 is a 24-pin IC that requires a single 5-volt supply and contains three independent 16-bit *interval timers*, each of which can be operated in six different modes. An *interval timer* has been defined<sup>1</sup> as a device that measures the time interval between two actions, or a timer that switches electrical circuits on or off for the duration of a preset time interval. Figure 1 shows both the pinout of the 8253 IC and how it can be interfaced with an 8080A/8085-based microcomputer

TABLE 1—ADDRESSING THE 8253 programmable interval timer.

Control Inputs					COMMAND	Memory address
$\overline{CS}$	$\overline{RD}$	$\overline{WR}$	A1	A0		
0	1	0	0	0	Load counter #0	200 000
0	1	0	0	1	Load counter #	200 001
0	1	0	1	0	Load counter #2	200 002
0	1	0	1	1	Load control register	200 003
0	0	1	0	0	Read counter #0	200 000
0	0	1	0	1	Read counter #1	200 001
0	0	1	1	0	Read counter #2	200 002
0	0	1	1	1	No operation (three-state)	—
1	X	X	X	X	Disable chip (three-state)	—
0	1	1	X	X	No operation (three-state)	—

Note: X = don't care (logic 0 or logic 1)

003<sub>8</sub>, with the aid of address-bus signals A0, A1 and A15 (see Fig. 1 and Table 1). Note in Table 1 that the  $\overline{RD}$  and  $\overline{WR}$  control inputs determine whether you are loading or reading a specific register. It is

not possible to read the contents of the control register.

Table 2 summarizes the coding for the 8-bit control register within the 8253 IC. Bits D7 and D6 determine the selection of the interval timer; bits D5 and D4 determine the nature of the read/write operation of the chosen timer; bits D3, D2 and D1 select the mode of operation of the chosen timer; and bit D0 determines whether the timer counts down in binary or binary coded decimal (BCD).

Figure 2 is the block diagram for a typical 8253 counter. The microcomputer loads the 16-bit down-counter as two successive bytes (a HI byte and a LO byte) via the bidirectional data bus, D0 through D7. If the gate line, GATE, is active, negative-edge transitions at input CLK decrement the counter. When the counter reaches zero, output pin OUT becomes active, its actual behavior depending upon the mode programmed into the control

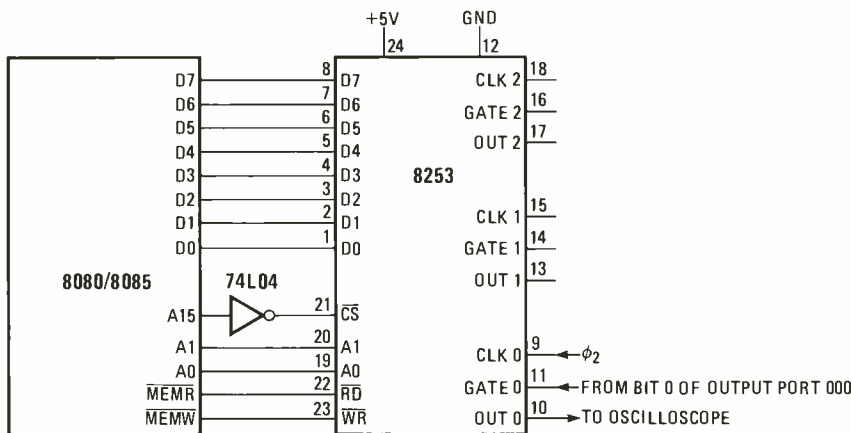


FIG. 1

system using memory-mapped I/O.<sup>2</sup>

The 8253 IC contains four internal registers—three interval timers and a control register—that are decoded as memory locations 200 000<sub>8</sub> through 200

Dr. DeJong is head of the Department of Mathematics/Physics at The School of the Ozarks. Mr. Larsen, Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Rony, Department of Chemical Engineering, are with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Both Mr. J. Titus and Dr. C. Titus are with Tychon, Inc.

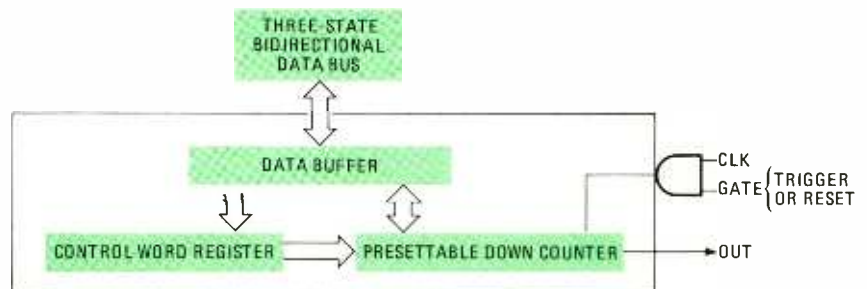


FIG. 2

TABLE 2 (right)—CODING FOR THE 8-BIT control register in the 8253 IC.

register for the counter (see Table 2). The 8253 IC contains three 16-bit counters, each of which can be programmed independently in any one of the six operation modes. Counter inputs and outputs, CLK, GATE and OUT, for the chosen counter are independent of the CLK, GATE and OUT of the remaining two counters on the IC.

In addition to the address bus, data bus and control-bus connections shown in Fig. 1, inputs CLK<sub>0</sub> and GATE<sub>0</sub> to counter 0 are connected respectively to the  $\phi$ <sub>2</sub> (TTL) microcomputer clock output (typically 2 MHz) and to bit 0 of accumulator output port 000<sub>h</sub>. Any TTL-level clock with a frequency of less than 2 MHz can be used as input to CLK<sub>0</sub>, and any suitably debounced switch or source of strobe pulses can be used to control the timer at GATE<sub>0</sub>. Counter output, OUT<sub>0</sub>, can be connected to an oscilloscope to observe each of the six timer operation modes.

In a future column, we will discuss a demonstration program for the 8253 interval timer that shows the loading, latching and reading of counter 0 as well as the various output modes. Other reference material<sup>3,4</sup> contains additional descriptions of the 8253 IC.

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Bits			Control Function
D7	D6		
0	0		Control word is for counter #0
0	1		Control word is for counter #1
1	0		Control word is for counter #2
1	1		—
D5	D4		
0	0		Latch both bytes of chosen counter for read operation
0	1		Load or read only most significant byte of chosen counter
1	0		Load or read only least significant byte of chosen counter
1	1		Load or read LS byte first, then MS byte of chosen counter
D3	D2	D1	
0	0	0	Mode 0: Output = 1 on zero counter
0	0	1	Mode 1: Retriggerable variable-width one-shot
X	1	0	Mode 2: Programmable rate generator
X	1	1	Mode 3: Programmable squarewave generator
1	0	0	Mode 4: Delayed strobe (software triggered strobe)
1	0	1	Mode 5: Triggered strobe (hardware triggered strobe)
		DO	
		0	Count down in binary
		1	Count down in binary coded decimal (BCD)

Note: X = don't care (logic 0 or logic 1)



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# HOBBY CORNER

*When you want to use a different power supply voltage there are some points you must consider. Take a look at them and some typical hobby supplies this month.*

EARL "DOC" SAVAGE, K4SDS, HOBBY EDITOR

FROM TIME TO TIME WE RECEIVE INQUIRIES about the power supply voltage for a particular Hobby Corner project. The usual question is whether or not another voltage can be used. Since this problem seems to trouble some of you, let's take a look at the main points of power supplies.

The first question is how much voltage? This, of course, varies. A good general rule is to apply the voltage that is specified by the author of the article. In Hobby Corner, I try to show a range of voltages whenever suitable. For example, the designation "5-15 VDC" on a schematic means that any voltage from 5 to 15 will operate the circuit properly. Many other writers do the same thing.

There are times, however, when only one specific voltage is given. In these circuits, applying a different voltage will almost always cause the circuit to function improperly or not at all. Often using another voltage can even destroy components in the project, so you had best play it safe.

Transistor circuits are not *usually* critical in this respect. In addition to studying the schematic, read the text carefully (this applies to *all* projects). Quite often, the power supplies for transistors can be varied a few volts with no harm done, but keep in mind that this is not *always* true.

Many digital circuits using IC's are designed around TTL IC's because they are less expensive and are available in a great many types. These TTL's are also quite voltage-conscious. If you get more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  (0.25) of a volt from the 5 volts they require, you are asking for trouble.

CMOS IC's, on the other hand, are growing in popularity and variety. Although they cost more than TTL's, these IC's have certain advantages. One advantage is that they function with a relatively wide range of applied voltages—normally from 3 volts to 15 volts. (Remember, however, that other components in a CMOS circuit can put more stringent limits on the applied voltage.)

While the information given above will

provide you with some general guidelines, it is always advisable to use the voltage specified. That way, you can avoid potential problems that are not always apparent.

How can you provide the required voltage? And what about the usual additional requirement that the voltage be *regulated*? There are many more ways to do this than space permits in this column. You should study power supplies and power supply theory—transformers, diode rectifiers, filter capacitors, discrete and IC regulators, and how they all work together. Then, you can design whatever supply you need.

## Some power supplies

In the meantime, here are some power supplies that should keep you going. The first is not actually a complete power supply, but a method of obtaining a lower-regulated voltage from an existing higher voltage supply.

Often an experimenter can obtain a source of DC voltage from an AC supply, or from a battery. If the source is 12 VDC, for example, and he needs 8 VDC, he can obtain it by using a three-terminal regulator, as shown in Fig. 1.

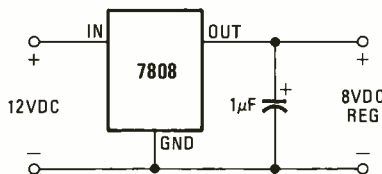


FIG. 1—CIRCUIT USED TO TRANSFORM a DC voltage.

These three-terminal regulators are great little devices. They have built-in protection against overcurrent and overheating. If you accidentally short the output, they simply shut down until the short is removed. Such regulators are available for both positive and negative voltages from 5 volts to 24 volts with a current capacity of up to 1 ampere (and there are ways of increasing that). There are several series including the 78xx, 79xx, 320Kxx, 320Txx, 340Kxx and

340Txx—in which the designation "xx" stands for the voltage output of each regulator—i.e., the 7808 has an 8-volt output.

The three-terminal regulator does use up some voltage so you will have to supply more input than output. Normally, a *minimum* of 2.5 volts more should be applied; e.g., at least 7.5 volts into a 5-volt regulator. The difference in input voltage can be greater but you have to be careful of power dissipation. For example, if your regulator won't operate or it shuts down now and then for no apparent reason, the input voltage may be too great. In many uses, 100% or even 200% over the recommended voltage won't cause trouble.

## Building a supply

Now, let's build a power supply from scratch similar to the one shown in Fig. 2. (Of course, this is just one of a number of possible designs.)

In tailoring this circuit for your particular needs, you must work backwards, so to speak, starting with the output. When you decide what output voltage (and current) you need, select the type of regulator that will provide it. In this case, let's use 5 volts and select a 7805 regulator, which has a 5-volt output at a current of up to 1 amp, with a good heat sink.

Since you must apply 7.5 volts or more to the regulator, this, in turn, determines the output of the transformer. The voltage drop in the diode rectifiers is negligible, but you must consider the design of the rectifier.

This is a bridge rectifier, which means that the entire secondary voltage is used—whether or not there is an unused center-tap connection. Therefore, you need a transformer that will provide 7.5 volts across the entire secondary.

You could use a 6.3-volt transformer to provide a *peak* voltage of 8.8 ( $1.4 \times 6.3$  volts RMS). This will work just as long as not too much current is drawn out of the supply because filter capacitor C1 charges to the peak voltage. The more current you use (that is, the heavier the load) the less C1 maintains the peak voltage charge and the lower the effective voltage to the regulator becomes. In fact, a point is reached where the regulator won't regulate.

For a light load such as a couple of transistors or IC's, use a 6.3-volt trans-



former. Otherwise, use an 8-volt, 10-volt, or 12-volt transformer. I would choose a 12-volt transformer since it is easier to find and usually does not cost much more than a 6-volt unit. So, referring to Fig. 2, let's put in a 12.6-volt transformer with a 1-amp current rating.

With respect to choosing the diode

imum reverse voltage that should be applied to the diode.

In our circuit the PIV is equal to 1.4 times the RMS voltage, or about 18 volts ( $1.4 \times 12.6 = 17.64$ ). Because of its ready availability, we'll use a 1N4001 rectifier, which is rated at 50 PIV at 1 amp. Larger rectifiers could be used just

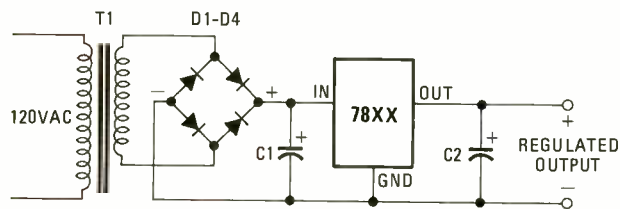


FIG. 2—A TYPICAL POWER SUPPLY.

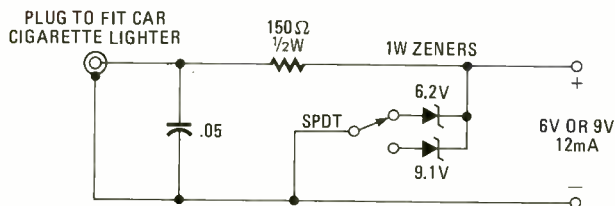


FIG. 3—VOLTAGE ADAPTER for use in automobile.

rectifiers, there are two important considerations: the PIV (*Peak Inverse Voltage*) and the load-current ratings. Since our supply has a 1-amp rating, we'll use that value even though in the bridge circuit each diode conducts only one-half the load current. The PIV (also called PRV for *Peak Reverse Voltage*) is the max-

as well. You could also use a ready-made bridge rectifier that contains the four diodes in one block, just as long as it meets the rating requirements.

The final components in the power supply are the capacitors. Capacitor C1 is the filter capacitor, whose function is to

*continued on page 96*

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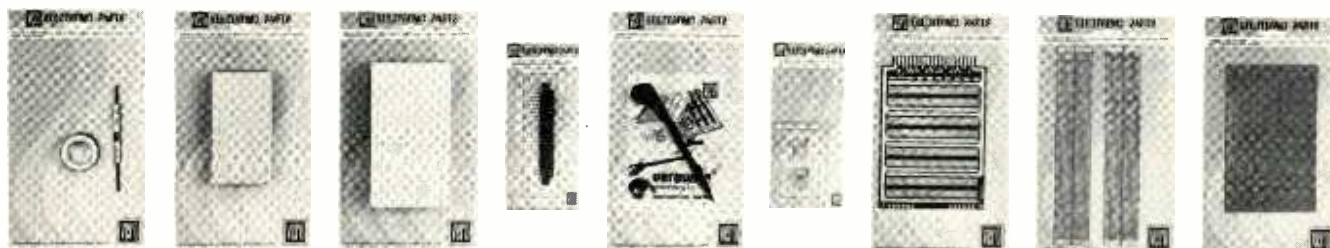
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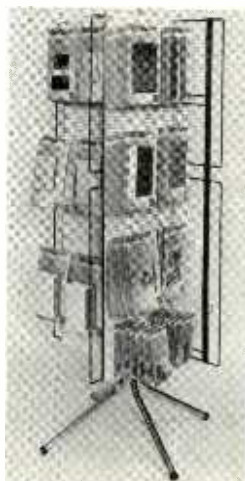
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# state of solid state

Microprocessors are inching their way into home appliance applications. Here's a look at how the TMS1100 is teamed up with triacs to control a microwave oven.

KARL SAVON, SEMICONDUCTOR EDITOR

THYRISTORS ARE TOUGH COMPONENTS. Silicon-controlled rectifiers and triacs are more damage-resistant than other semiconductors because their regenerative latching mechanism switches them rapidly through the dangerous half-on, high-dissipation region. Thyristors (especially

the versatile triac) are unbeatable in AC power switching applications. Their use in industrial control systems is not new, but their recent availability in low-cost plastic packages is responsible for their growing application to home appliances. Thyristors are present in the horizontal-

deflection systems and remote power off-controls of TV receivers. They are also found in microwave ovens, where moderate amounts of power are switched and modulated. They have proved to be more dependable than relay contacts and conventional transistors.

Microcomputers, too, have moved from their industrial beginnings into the appliance market. The control microcomputer is an inexpensive IC, the result of thousands of hours of human endeavor and accomplishment. Single-IC microcomputers such as the Texas Instruments

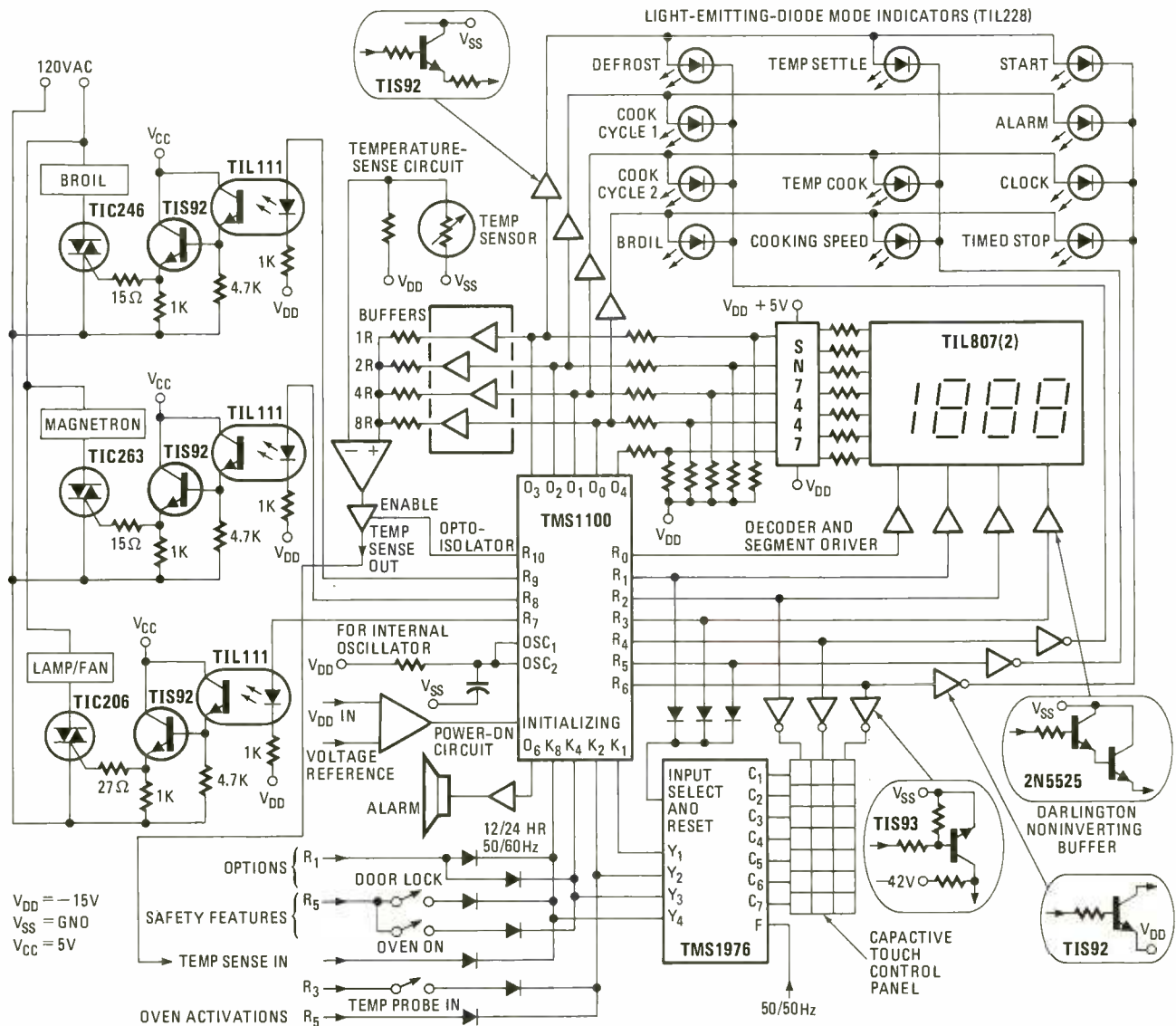


FIG. 1—MICROWAVE OVEN CONTROL system based on Texas Instruments TMS1100 8-bit microprocessor.

TMS1000 contain the central processing unit (CPU), a small amount of RAM (Random-Access Memory) and a substantial block of ROM (Read-Only Memory).

Microwave cooking is generally a time-sequential procedure. Each time interval has a different heat setting. Combining a microcomputer with triacs in an oven-controller system eliminates many objections to such an ecologically attractive appliance. The factory presetting of popular cooking procedures and easy user programming of special sequential operations are just two possibilities of such a combination.

Figure 1 shows the partial schematic of a microwave oven-control system built around the TMS1100, a single-IC microcomputer with 2048 eight-bit words of ROM. The ROM is factory-programmed to carry out the control-function algorithms designated by the oven manufacturer. The design approach is competitive with discrete control-logic circuitry, and is more reliable because of the product's reduced component count.

The control system's primary function is to properly activate the oven's power-consuming heat and air-circulation portions: The magnetron, the broiler heating coil and the lamp and fan, shown on the left-hand side of Fig. 1. Each element is connected in series with the AC power line and a controlling thyristor. The triacs are chosen to handle the individual circuits' current requirements: the TIC263 controlling the magnetron is rated at 25 amp, the TIC246 is rated at 16 amp and supplies from 5 to 10 amp to the heater element, and the TIC206, rated at 3 amp, supplies about 1 amp to the lamp and the fan.

A triac is the equivalent of two SCR's connected back to back. It can be triggered by either positive or negative gate voltage with respect to main terminal No. 1 (the axial lead merging with the gate lead), although the sensitivity is different depending on the power source and trigger polarities. The triac triggering pulse must only be long enough to insure regenerative latching. This minimum pulse-width requirement varies from about 2 to 20  $\mu$ s depending on the level of gate overdrive for those triacs shown in Fig. 1. If the gate drive is discontinued by the time the AC signal waveform reverses its polarity, so that the triac current is reduced below its holding current, the triac turns off. Radio frequency interference is minimized if turn-on is restricted to zero crossings of the power-line cycle. In Fig. 1, the three TIS92 emitter-follower transistors supply the turn-on gate current. The series resistors between the emitter of the transistors and the triac gates determine the gate current. These resistors generally supply twice the nominal current to take care of tolerance and temperature variations.

The signals on the triac gate and the

driver-follower transistors are referenced to one side of the AC power line. For safety and to prevent power-line or SCR-induced transients from damaging or causing incorrect computer operation, it is necessary to isolate the power circuitry from the processor circuitry and operator controls. Optical couplers are a natural choice for this isolation because only light and high-resistance leakage paths exist between the input and output sides of the circuit. An internal LED provides photon coupling to a phototransistor; a higher LED current provides more light and more current drive to the phototransistor base. Standard couplers provide a voltage isolation of 2.5 kV. Note that the three TIL111 optical coupler inputs are driven by microcomputer outputs R7, R8 and R9. These outputs are controlled by the ROM program permanently stored in the TMS1100 to trigger the triacs in response to predetermined sequences or by direct front-panel control. The SETR and RSTR instruction mnemonics correspond to the machine language codes controlling the status of these outputs.

The controls and displays are directly interfaced to the microcomputer through outputs R<sub>0</sub>—R<sub>6</sub>, outputs O<sub>1</sub>—O<sub>3</sub> and inputs K<sub>1</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>, K<sub>4</sub> and K<sub>8</sub>. The TMS1976 capacitive touch-control IC converts touch into logic levels.

The column being scanned is selected by outputs R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> under program control, and the six parallel panel outputs feed the TMS1100 through inputs K<sub>1</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>, K<sub>4</sub> and K<sub>8</sub>. Since these inputs are the only microcomputer inputs, they must be shared by other oven functions, including the safety features and temperature-sensing input. These other inputs are strobed by the R outputs not used to scan the touch panel. The LED oven display is multiplexed by driving the segments from microcomputer outputs O<sub>0</sub>, O<sub>1</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and O<sub>4</sub>. In this case, the binary computer outputs are decoded by the SN7447 BCD-to-7-segment decoder/driver. The TMS1100 includes a PLA (Programmable Logic Array), which in some applications is programmed for 7-segment display decoding.

The other LED oven-function indicators are scanned by outputs, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> and driven by outputs O<sub>0</sub>—O<sub>3</sub>. Keyboard scanning is done with the same R outputs used by the display. The input sense instruction (mnemonic KNEZ) can be used to detect an input switch condition, then jump to a routine that determines which input (or inputs) has been activated and respond to it. Then, a few milliseconds or so after the interruption, the program can continue with the display-scan routine.

For additional information on thyristor gating for microprocessor applications, write for *Bulletin CA-191* from Texas Instruments Incorporated, Inquiry Answering Service, Box 5012, M/S 308 (Attn: CA-191), Dallas, TX 75222. R-E

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# service clinic

## The low-voltage regulators in solid-state TV sets can cause a myriad of problems.

JACK DARR, SERVICE EDITOR

WHENEVER THE SERVICE CLINIC MAILBAG becomes very heavy on a particular subject, it's time for a discussion. In this case, the topic is the DC voltage regulators that are used so much in solid-state TV sets. You'll find lots of them, from the very simplest to very complex units.

When something goes wrong in a TV set, the first thing you should do is check the B+ voltage. The logic of this test is easy: Since the B+ voltage supply is common to every stage in a TV set, it must function properly or nothing works. In the older tube-type sets, this voltage supply normally could not go up. So, we checked to determine if it was high enough.

The situation is different in solid-state power supplies. The standard circuit feeds rectified and filtered DC (in most cases) to a voltage regulator that drops the voltage by about 25% (a ball-park figure), and then holds it very tightly at that value. You will often find up to six or seven separate DC voltage regulators in these solid-state sets. And, of course, if a circuit has been installed in a set to handle over-voltage problems, it can also cause problems! In solid-state TV, the high voltage is directly proportional to the DC supply voltage. With the DC supply voltages often as low as 25–30, even a very small increase in voltage could cause a considerable effect. For example, 25 volts is fed to a voltage multiplier to produce 25,000 volts. If the supply voltage rises by only *one* volt, the high voltage goes up 1000 volts! So, this voltage must be regulated very tightly. Solid-state circuits hold the supply voltage within very tight limits.

Therefore, when you discover problems in a set that could have been caused by too much output voltage from the horizontal-output stage, you must first check the DC voltage regulators for blown horizontal-output transistors, shorted dampers, etc. Lately, quite a number of assorted problems have been showing up in my mailbag. Practically all of which could have been solved (and eventually were) by checking the DC voltage regulators. The simplest problem was a complaint about a CB radio that "this resistor is burning up." It was in a low-voltage DC supply with a regulated

input, and a Zener diode clamp on the output. The Zener was suspected, checked and found to be open. Even after the Zener was replaced, the resistor still burned up! When the *input* voltage was checked, it read +28 volts instead of the +15 volts it should have. The pass transistor in the primary voltage regulator was shorted.

In another mysterious case involving a batch of symptoms in a color TV set, I checked the DC supply voltages in all the affected stages (but not as soon as I should have!) and they were all high. A factory field engineer then suggested plugging the set into a variable-voltage line transformer, and bringing the line up until the DC voltages read the correct value. I did this and all the symptoms disappeared, the set worked beautifully! It didn't take long to pin down a bad regulator circuit and a couple of shorted Zener diodes that were causing all the problems.

It's a good idea to remember variable-voltage line transformers because they are a quick and easy way to get a handle on any case where the problem is DC voltage regulation: Just use the variable-voltage transformer as a substitute voltage regulator. It may help when you run into similar cases.

The simplest and most common circuit is the series regulator (see diagram). In this circuit, a power transistor that can carry the full load current of the circuits is controlled by an error-amplifier stage.

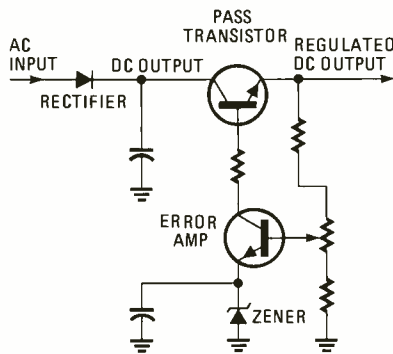


FIG. 1

This, in turn, is controlled by the DC output voltage through a voltage divider network across the output line. In some

cases, the regulator transistor (pass transistor) is controlled by a regulator-driver that is itself controlled by the error-amplifier transistor.

Series regulators are subject to the same problems found in all circuits. If the pass transistor opens, there will be no DC output voltage. If it shorts, the full DC voltage will be applied to the load circuits. Faults in the error-amplifier or driver transistors can also cause difficulties. If any one of these transistors fails, be sure to check *all* the others because they may also have blown along with the first one. You will often find Zener diodes used as bias clamps in the error-amplifier stage; be sure to check the diodes for shorts and opens.

Some voltage regulators use quite elaborate circuitry—pulse-width-modulated (PWM) types, triggered SCR's controlled by PUT's, etc. In the future, we'll discuss these various types of regulators and how to test them. Meanwhile, here's a good hint, especially for PWM's—be sure to check waveforms; these are critical! In addition, you should also literally go back to the "oldest test in the book" and make sure that you check the B+ voltage supply first! **R-E**

## service questions

### SYNC-SOUND PROBLEM

*I have a GE model H-3 chassis in which the problem seems to be mostly bad sync and bad sound. There could also be some AGC problems, but overriding it doesn't seem to help. I have an idea that the problem may lie in the input to the sound-sync amplifier V6c. I checked the diode, but I can't get a reasonable reading.—D. M., Longmont, CO.*

If the diode is either open or shorted, or if any of the components are bad (the open peaking coil, etc.) this would upset not only the sync but the AGC as well. The AGC input *signal* comes from the plate of V6c, as well as the signal input to the sync-separator. If the video signals to these points are not correct, then you're in the right place!

(Feedback: "We're both right. The problem was in the input circuit. I made more resistance checks and found a high resistance from point 12 to ground, which

meant that L157 would be open. After a half hour of work, I removed it. It was open. I replaced it with a 68  $\mu$ H and no more problems!")

#### LOW BOOST VOLTAGE

*I had a problem with this RCA CTC-19D. The boost was quite low—+850 volts. You wrote that it should be higher than that, which was right! I found that the pincushion transformer had shorted turns in it, which was loading the boost down. The normal boost turned out to be +1080 volts, as you said! Now it works. Incidentally, how do you check a VDR?—H. B., Brooksville, FL.*

With great difficulty! Seriously, the best way to check VDR's is still replacing them with exact duplicates. In a few cases, where they are used as shunts in the feedback loop of the vertical stages, etc., you can tell by disconnecting them. Defective VDR in these cases reduces height.

#### INTERFERENCE IN ANSWERING DEVICE

*Our business uses a telephone answering machine. Right across the street is a shop specializing in CB. They work late hours and the CB transmitters trip the device! It gets annoying when you have 50 or 100 extra calls to monitor every morning! How can we get rid of this?—H. I., Lockport, NY.*

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This problem is apt to be due to the RF signals from the CB getting into the audio input of the answering unit. Try looking up a 250-pF capacitor to ground right at the input jack. If this helps but doesn't cure the problem, open the lead from the input jack to the first preamplifier stage and add a small RF choke in series with 250-pF capacitors to ground on both ends.

This will have no effect on the audio signals since these components are so small. It might be a good idea to add 0.05- $\mu$ F, 600-volt capacitors to bypass both sides of the AC line to the answering machine; some RF signals may be coming in through the AC line.

#### ONE CHANNEL, NO COLOR

*I have a couple of problems with a Panasonic model CT-62P. The color's gone on Channel 2 plus there's no fine tuning. The color and fine tuning are OK on all other channels. Channel 2 shows only squiggles for color. Any ideas?—R. E., Menasha, WI.*

This is a fairly common problem with this type of tuner. It's basically a turret tuner, and each channel strip has its own fine tuning. A tiny gear on the front is engaged by the drive gear and moves the oscillator core. If this little gear has been screwed in too far, the drive gear won't be able to engage it. You can take the cover off and turn till you can remove the

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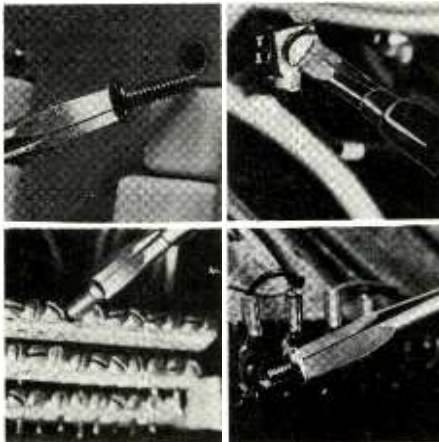
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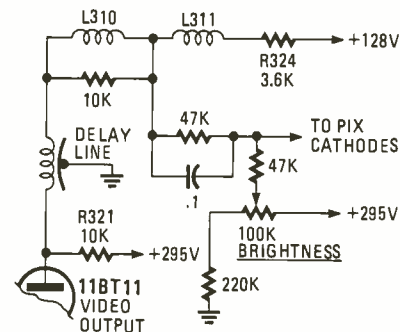
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Channel 2 strip without having to pull the tuner. Just turn the gear back out a turn or two by hand, then put it back.

### ODDBALL REACTIONS

*This Admiral model 19TS341C came in with no picture or sound and the thermistor burned up. After I replaced this, no brightness! If I lift one end of R105 (470 ohms in a +295-volt source, power supply), the brightness comes back. I've checked everything else hooked to this line and I can't find anything wrong. Every time I hook R105 back up, out it goes. Do you have another approach?—H. T., Elizaville, NY.*

Well, yes. Try this: Check the high voltage while the raster is on, then hook up R105 and see if you lose the high voltage or if it stays up. If it stays up, some-



thing is causing the picture tube to be cut off. The video output plate-supply circuit actually has three "legs," two to +295 volts, and one through L311 and resistor R324 back to +128 volts. This arrangement seems to be used as some sort of clamp to keep the picture tube cathode voltages in line. If this voltage line is off, or open, it could cause the cathodes to become too far positive.

(Feedback: "Bingo! Your crystal ball is excellent. Resistor R324 had gone way up in resistance. That did it.")

### VOLTAGE MISMATCH

*This Audiovox model ID-400 stereo came in with no output at all on the right channel. Changing the output IC brought it back, but there's now a bad distortion in the left channel. When I checked the DC voltages on the two output IC's, I found they don't match exactly, and pin 9 of the left IC reads +7.0 volts. The same pin on the right IC reads 0 volt. There's nothing connected to this pin on either IC. Where do you think the trouble lies?—M. R., Auburn, MA.*

There are two fairly good ways of checking IC's: One, if the signal "goes in but won't come out"; two, if the DC voltages "developed inside the IC" are off. Both tests should be used, and if they both give the same result, it should be pretty conclusive. The left IC does seem to be bad. Since nothing external is connected to this pin, this voltage indicates there's something bad inside. Change this IC too.

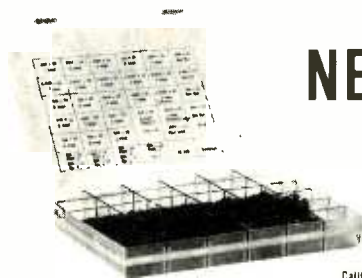
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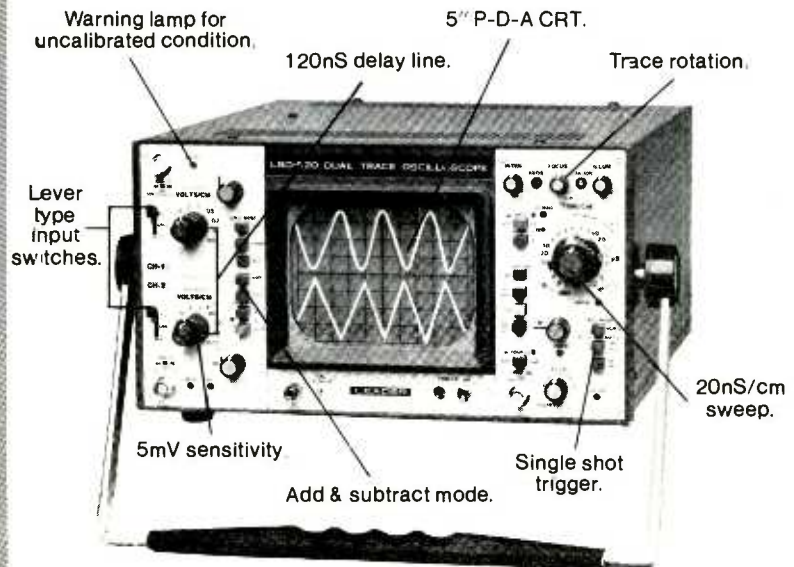
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# new products

More information on new products is available from manufacturers of items identified by a Free Information number. Free Information Card is inside back cover.

**ELECTRIC DRILL, model 6275 Iso-Tip and model 6280 Iso-Tip**, are small-shank tools that accommodate drills and burrs up to 1/8-inch diameter. Drill's small size makes it ideal for prototype work, PC board applications, solder removal. Included are



a collet chuck, 3 collets, 2 drill bits and 10-foot cord. Power requirements: *model 6275*, 110-volt source; *model 6280*, 12-volt supply. Units are housed in sturdy lightweight plastic. Prices: *model 6275*, \$27.50; *model 6280*, \$23.95.—Wahl Clipper Corp., 2902 Locust St., Sterling, IL 61081.

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**PORTABLE VOM MULTITESTERS, models NH-55, NH-67, 80-M, 90-M**. The *model NH-55* measures 0-1 megohm in two ranges, 60 ohms centerscale, and provides a 2000-ohm/volt sensitivity on AC/DC 0-102, 50-, 250- and 1000-volt ranges. Includes two resistance ranges, a dB range and DC range. Comes with test leads, battery and instructions. Optional pouch, *model NH-5P*. Measures 3 3/8 x 2 3/8 x 1/8 inches; weighs 4 oz, including battery.

The *model NH-67* features 20,000 ohms-per-volt DC and 10,000 ohms-per-volt AC on all ranges. Can measure DC on any of 8 ranges; AC voltage, on 5 ranges. Includes one dB range, 5 DC ranges and 4 resistance ranges. Test leads, battery, instructions; optional carrying case. Measures 5 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches; weighs 1 lb, including battery.

The *model 80-M* measures DC voltage on 7 ranges, dB and AC on 6 ranges. Included are 4 DC ranges and 4 resistance ranges. Used with a



power supply, can also measure capacitance and inductance. An optional pouch, *model H-8P*, is available. Unit measures 7 x 5 1/4 x 3 1/8 inches; weighs 2 lb, including battery.

The *model 90-M* (shown) features 50,000 ohms-per-volt DC and 12,500 ohms-per-volt AC on all ranges. DC voltage can be measured on 7 ranges; dB and AC voltage on 6 ranges. Included are 5 DC ranges and 4 resistance ranges. Leads, battery and instructions; optional carrying case, *model H-9C*. Measures 6 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 1 1/4 inches; weighs 1 lb, including battery.

On all models (except *model NH-55*), handle doubles as stand. Suggested retail prices: *model NH-55*, \$12.50; *model NH-5P*, \$1.50; *model NH-67*, \$25.50; *model NH-6C*, \$2.65; *model 80-M*, \$56.50; *model H-8P*, \$8.95; *model 90-M*, \$41.00; and *model H-9C*, \$3.25.—Mura Corp., 177 Cantigue Rock Rd., Westbury, NY 11590.

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**CB BASE STATION MICROPHONE, Astatic model 1104C**, is preamplified and adjustable for

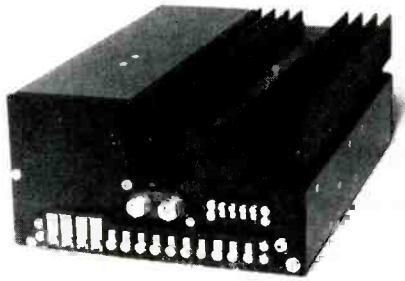




correct modulation level via master-gain control. Amplifier has external slide controls for volume and tone adjustment. Mike is housed in high-impact plastic and comes in eight decorator colors. Power is supplied by a 9-volt battery; also included is a 6-wire coil cord that allows for relay, electronic or virtually any type hookup. Price: \$83.—Astatic Corp., Harbor St., Conneaut, OH 44030.

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**FOUR-OUTPUT SWITCHING POWER SUPPLY, model MGQ-300**, features isolated outputs of +5 volts 30 amp, -5 volts 5 amp, and ±15 volts 2 amp, all overvoltage- and current-protected. Unit's temperature range is -10°C to +70°C, with a 2.5%-per-°C derating from 50°C at full output. The model MGQ-300 measures



12.25 × 3.9 × 7.5 inches, weighs 13 lbs, and operates at either 110 VAC or 220 VAC. Unit price is \$695, with quantity discounts available.—Gould, Inc., Electronic Components Div., 4601 North Arden Dr., El Monte, CA 91731.

**CIRCLE 109 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD**

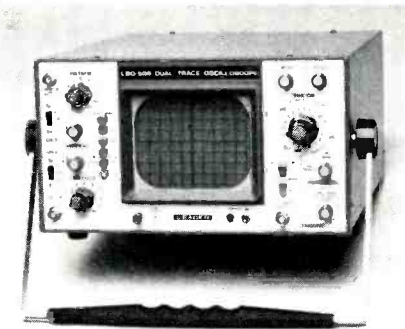
**DOUBLE-SIDED PC BOARD KIT, model 750**, uses photographic methods to produce boards (darkroom not required). Kit includes sensitized



copper-clad boards, ultra-violet light source, exposure glass, clamps, photoresist developer, etchant, trays, resist remover and a .040 drill bit for making IC pin holes. Kit weighs 3 lb, and sells for \$25.—Injectoall Electronics Corp., 98-100 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542.

**CIRCLE 110 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD**

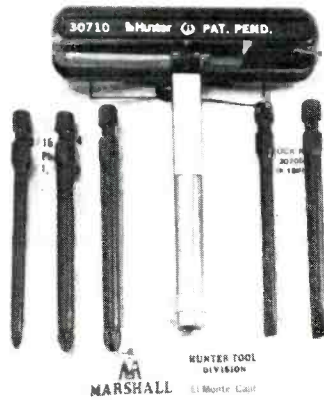
**DUAL-TRACE OSCILLOSCOPE, model LBO-508**, is designed for many industrial, lab and service applications. Specifications include 10 mV-per-centimeter sensitivity, 17.5-ns risetime, sweep speed range from 0.5 μs-per-centimeter to



200 ms-per-centimeter. Other features include add/subtract modes for Channels 1 and 2, automatic chop, automatic triggering, front-panel X-Y operation. Oscilloscope comes complete with probes, measures 6 1/4 × 10 1/4 × 14 1/4 inches and weighs under 14 lb. Price: \$689.95.—Leader Instruments Corp., 151 Dupont St., Plainview, NY 11803.

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**SIX-PIECE TOOL SET, model 30705, Tork-It**, contains handle (model 30710), three Phillips blades and two slotted blades. The Tork-It tool is designed specifically to loosen hard-to-remove screws, and can also be used to tighten or drive



super-hard self-tapping metal or case-hardened screws. Shock-resistant alloy-steel blades are 1/4-inch hex drive. Unit comes in plastic kit, convenient for wall hanging or tool kit. Suggested list price, \$13.96.—Hunter Tools, 9674 Telstar Ave., El Monte, CA 91731.

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**IC TEST CLIP, model 4236**, 14- to 16-pin DIP test clip with reduced thickness for testing ultra-dense packages. Has nontarnishable nickel-silver

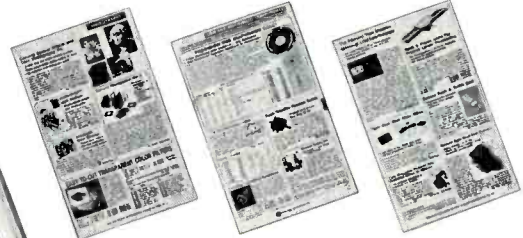


contacts; the lower contacts measure 1.02 mm and provide a positive electrical connection. The upper-end test points are square, serrated, measure 0.63 mm, and are designed to handle wrapped wire, mini-test clips, or model 4185 IC jumper cable. A molded barrier between each contact allows live-board connections without shorting adjacent contacts. Glass-filled nylon casing can withstand temperatures to 240°C. Price: \$5.75 each.—ITT Pomona Electronics, 1500 E. Ninth St., Pomona, CA 91766. R-E

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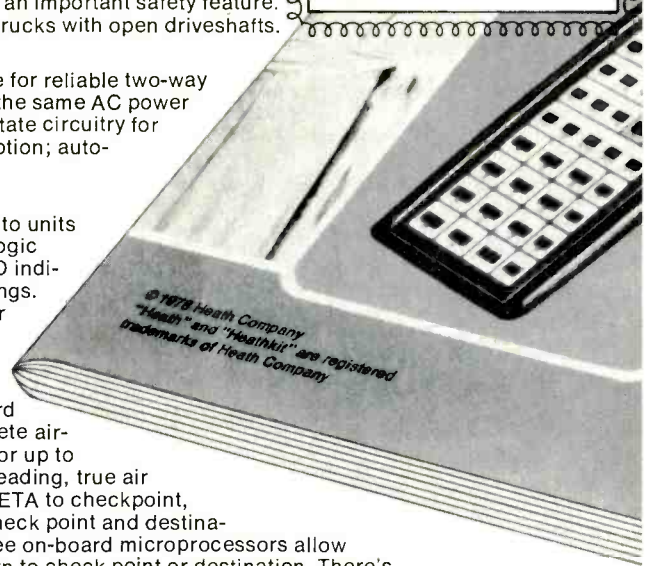


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# new lit

**LOGIC TESTERS**, *The Logical Force Sourcebook*, 15 pages, describes three different types of troubleshooting tools—logic probes, a digital pulser (accessories available) and standard and advanced logic monitors. Complete specs are given for each unit.—**Continental Specialties Corp.**, 44 Kendall St., Box 1942, New Haven, CT 06509.

CIRCLE 114 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

**TOOL KITS AND TEST INSTRUMENTS CATALOG**, 27 pages describing tool kits with a broad range of applications, including electronic repairs, instrument repairs, field repairs, medical electronics, jewelry making, and many more. Test instruments come assembled and include testers, VOM's, DMM's and oscilloscopes.—**ETCO Electronic Tool Corp.**, Claremont Ave., Thornwood, NY 10594.

CIRCLE 115 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

**MUSIC SYNTHESIZER CATALOG**, *Aries Music 77*, 12 pages, describes manufacturer's system, which is not just a keyboard but uses a wide variety of modules to create your own patchcord electronic music synthesizer. These modules include signal sources, controllers and modifiers, and among the units described are an ADSR envelope generator, a voltage-controlled amplifier, a dual mixer, a stereo reverb and output, plus a keyboard group. The catalog also includes two pages of sample systems. Most units are available as kits or prewired. The catalog contains a glossary of terms, a price list and an order form.—**Aries Music Incorporated**, Box 3069, Salem, MA 01970.

CIRCLE 116 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

**PICTURE TUBE SETUP CHART**, *78115*, is a 28-page, 5- by 8-inch, spiral-bound, hardcover book that details almost 2000 TV picture tube types, showing the heater and G-1 voltages and socket for each unit number. This list was developed for use with manufacturer's *model LCT-910 Tester/Rejuvenator*. Setup chart is available for \$6.95, plus postage; or with picture tube adaptors for \$17.90, plus postage.—**Leader Instruments Corp.**, 151 Dupont St., Plainview, NY 11803.

CIRCLE 117 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

**SEMICONDUCTOR CATALOG**, 1978-1979, 238 pages, lists complete line of Zeners, temperature-controlled diodes, NPN switching transistors, silicon-transient voltage suppressors and high-speed, high-voltage switching transistors. Many of the units are described in detail along with their applications. Devices are listed numerically by category, and both JEDEC and company's type numbers are shown.—**Semiconductor Industries, Inc.**, 2001 W. 10th St., Tempe, AZ 85281.

CIRCLE 118 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

**ANTENNA CATALOG**, expanded listing of TV and FM antennas and accessories, MATV equipment, replacement antennas, CB and two-way radio accessories, etc. Among the new products listed are a 75- to 300-ohm indoor/outdoor balun antenna; replacement dipoles; MATV cables and adaptors. Also included is a replacement guide for SRA-series and RA-series antenna dipoles and back-of-set antennas.—**RMS Electronics, Inc.**, 50 Antin Pl., Bronx, NY 10462.

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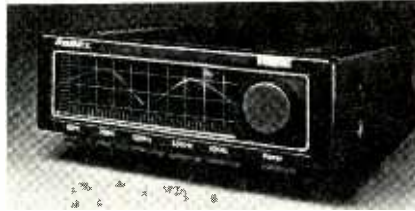
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CIRCLE 12 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

## stereo products

**CAR STEREO BOOSTER AMPLIFIER**, model GE-500 *AcoustaTrac*, is designed for use with tape decks, radios and speakers having 15-watt (or more) power-handling capacity. A visual display of the amplifier response is shown on an illuminated screen. The all-integrated circuit delivers



over 40 watts of undistorted RMS stereo power; and other features include five frequency slide controls, front-to-rear fader, power indicator light and audio bypass switch. Suggested retail price: \$79.95.—Sparkomatic Corp., Milford, PA 18337.

CIRCLE 122 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

**TAPE RECORDER MIXER**, model 2A, is specially designed for multi-channel recording. The mixer

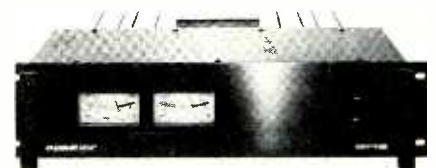
can be used with the model MB-20 meter bridge, and features four VU meters, independent bus/tape switches for each channel and built-in 1-watt headphone amplifier. Channel pushbuttons are color-coded to correspond to output buses. Controls include a straight-line fader (level control for the input channel) and master fader, which serves as the output-level control. The mike-input jack



accepts a 1/4-inch phone plug, the line-in jack accepts a standard phono plug. The line output doubles as the bus output, and the auxiliary output line can be used in parallel with the main line. The model 2A accepts several selectable inputs. It can be used either ahead of the tape recorder or it can fit into the output of the multi-channel recorder. Prices: model 2A, \$400; model MB-20 meter bridge, \$200.—TEAC Corp. of America, 7733 Telegraph Rd., Montebello, CA 90640.

CIRCLE 123 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

**POWER AMPLIFIER**, *Grandson*, is third in manufacturer's Ampzilla line, and comes in two models, one with 2 power meters calibrated in watts and dB, the other with no meters (utility model). Both are rated at 80 watts-per-channel into 4 ohms from 20 Hz through 20 kHz at less than 3% (typically 0.15%) total harmonic distortion. Transient modulation distortion is reduced to below .01%, and fully DC-coupled circuitry includes servo-control loop to maintain DC offset to less than  $\pm 25$  mV. The *Grandson* also features an IC-controlled, bias-current regulator, and thermal breakers are provided to protect against output transistor overheating.



Specifications for both models: Power output (20 Hz to 20 kHz, with both channels driven) is 120 watts-per-channel minimum into 2 ohms, 80 watts-per-channel minimum into 4 ohms, and 40 watts-per-channel minimum into 8 ohms; THD and IM distortion less than .08% (typically .05%) from 15 Hz to 40 kHz into 8 ohms, less than 0.3% (typically 0.15%) from 15 Hz to 25 kHz into 4 ohms, less than 1.0% (typically 0.6%) from 20 Hz

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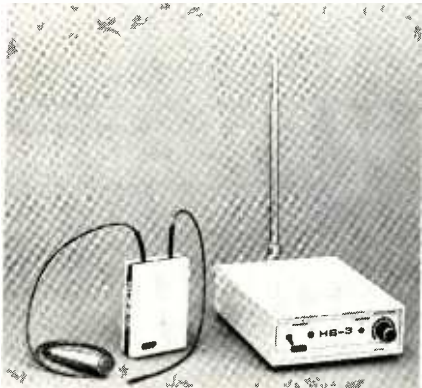
CIRCLE 87 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

to 25 kHz into 2 ohms.

Units measure 19 W × 4¼ H × 11 inches D, and weigh 20 lb. Prices: utility model (without meters) \$309; metered unit, \$349.—**Great American Sound Co., Inc.**, 20940 Lassen St., Chatsworth, CA 91311.

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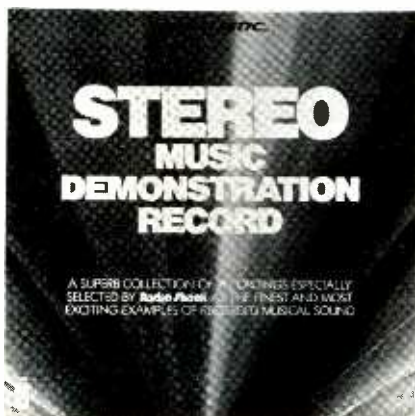
**WIRELESS SOUND SYSTEM** is a line of high-frequency, high-fidelity wireless microphones and receivers operating in the range from 150 MHz to 210 MHz. The transmitter can be used with either



a regular or a rechargeable battery and a choice of mike heads is available. Further information is available from the manufacturer.—**Edcor**, 3030 Red Hill Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

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**DEMONSTRATION STEREO MUSIC RECORD**, on *Realistic* label, contains popular, classical and semiclassical selections designed to demonstrate the full capability of high-quality audio systems.



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CIRCLE 126 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



You mean it takes all this equipment just to play Rock and Roll? \_\_\_\_\_

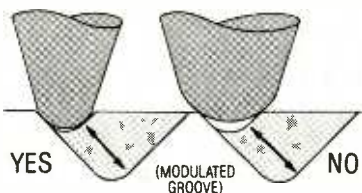


# fact: a stylus tip does not a cartridge make. so why all the fuss?

The stylus tip is only part of the complex stylus and cartridge structure, and performs a single function — it positions the entire stylus assembly so that all groove undulations are traced without damaging the record. The production of a top-quality tip calls for exquisite micro-craftsmanship, precision polishing, unwavering uniformity, and exact orientation. (However, important as it is, an exotic diamond stylus tip configuration simply isn't a cure-all for what might ail an otherwise deficient cartridge, regardless of high-flying claims you may have heard or read.)

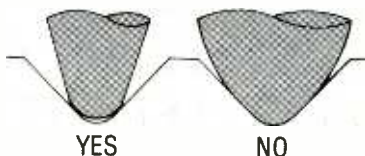
Here are the basic criteria a top-quality stylus tip must meet:

### IT MUST FIT THE MODULATED GROOVE

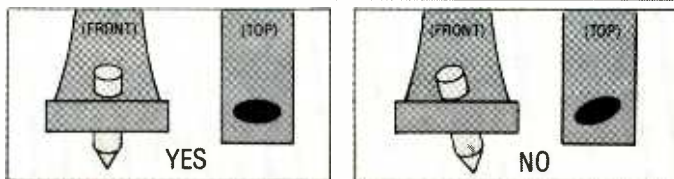


If the tip is shaped so it's oversized at its contact points, it can rise out of the modulated groove (the arrows indicate modulation of one groove wall) and "crest" at the record surface, causing extreme distortion and noise.

### IT MUST NOT "BOTTOM" IN THE GROOVE



A slightly-undersized or too-pointed stylus tip may ride the groove bottom, lose contact with the groove walls, mistrack, and generate high noise levels.



### IT MUST BE CORRECTLY ORIENTED

Skewed or rotated orientation introduces distortion.



### IT MUST BE A GENUINE SHURE STYLUS

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# Solid State News

Here are just a few of the ideas presented in National Semiconductor's *Pressure Transducer Handbook*. The book presents electrical and mechanical possibilities and such applications as flowmeters, pressurized-cable fault location and accelerometers. The handbook is available for \$4 from National Semiconductor Corporation, 2900 Semiconductor Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

The pressure transducer makes a good microphone and spans a wide frequency range all the way down to DC. The pressure sensor element goes out to 50 kHz, and the internal amplifier limits this range to 30 kHz. If the pressure port is inserted into a wind instrument, it must be protected from breath moisture by an acoustically transparent material. Electronic attack (the rising portion of the envelope waveshape) processing can add new flexibility to many otherwise physically restricted musical instruments.

Transducers are selected that have bipolar pressure ranges to sense acoustic compression and expansion phases. Gauge types automatically reference the pressure against the natural room pressure. Absolute pressure devices centered around 15 psia can also be used. Parabolic and hyperboloid microphones are constructed by mounting the transducer at the focal points of the reflective structures.

## Thermometers

How about constructing a thermometer from a pressure transducer? This is not such an unusual idea because many standard thermometers are pressure oriented. A fluid contained in a closed bulb changes its level as the temperature modulates the pressure inside the bulb. Absolute pressure transducers provide the convenience of an electrical output by connecting a sealed bulb to the pressure port on the transducer. The inner and outer surfaces of the bulb are made absorptive or reflective to suit applications where, for example, it is important to simulate the performance of a cooking implement.

## Automotive applications

The automotive electronic possibilities for pressure transducers are attractive. These transducers are already in limited use for measuring oil pressure, manifold pressure, etc. And current interest in emission control and computer-controlled performance optimization opens up a whole spectrum of potential applications. For instance, differential pressure transducers that sense the pressure gradient across a venturi tube in the fuel system



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can measure fuel flow, which a central automotive microcomputer could convert into miles per gallon.

### FM IF subsystem

The Motorola MC3357 is a narrow-band FM receiver circuit that includes almost all components between the second mixer and the audio and squelch output. Narrowband FM systems are used in commercial, public safety and ham transceivers, as well as in scanning and paging receivers.

The MC3357 operates as low as 4 volts with a typical current drain of only 3 mA. In a battery-operated, hand-held radio it replaces 20 to over 100 discrete components. The circuit has an internal doubly balanced mixer and a Colpitts local oscillator to convert the 10.7-MHz input to the 455-kHz second IF frequency. The signal is amplified by a five-stage emitter-coupled IF amplifier-limiter and is demodulated by a quadrature detector. An external bandpass filter inserted between the converter and the second IF amplifier defines the selectivity. The audio is processed by an active filter amplifier. Typical sensitivity is 5  $\mu$ V with a 3-kHz signal deviation and 350 mV of recovered audio.

### Second-generation MC6800 MPU

Previously, improvements that were made to the MC6800 increased its frequency limits and extended its temperature range. Now, a sufficiently major architectural change has been made that warrants providing the device with a new number.

The MC6802 is completely software- and hardware-compatible with all other members of the M6800 microprocessor family. The MC6802 is an MC6800 with an internal clock oscillator and driver, plus 128 bytes of RAM occupying the first 80 (0000 to 007F) memory addresses. It has a low-power standby mode for memory retention.

The MC6802 is available in a plastic package in quantities of 25 for \$22 each. For information, write Motorola Semiconductor Products, Inc., Box 20912, Phoenix, AZ 85036.

### Doppler detector diodes

Parametric Industries has announced the PD422 Doppler detector diodes for use in police radar systems and such motion-detection devices as braking systems and intrusion alarms. The diodes are glass encapsulated, hermetically sealed and encased in ceramic for high burnout resistance and high sensitivity. The operating frequency of the PD422 is 10.525 GHz  $\pm$  250 MHz, and the sensitivity is -60 dBm. The PD0919, which operates at 24.150 GHz  $\pm$  250 MHz, is also available.

For more information, write Parametric Industries, Inc., 742 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890. R-E

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## HOBBY CORNER

continued from page 77

smooth out the ripple in the pulsating DC voltage from the rectifier. The value of this electrolytic capacitor is not critical, but I recommend a minimum capacitance of 1000  $\mu$ F. Anything larger than 2500  $\mu$ F is probably a waste of money.

As you know, electrolytic capacitors are available in a variety of working-voltage (WV) ratings. The practical rule for specifying this rating is 1½ times the maximum peak voltage applied. In the case of C1, the supply would require a minimum WV rating of 27 ( $1.5 \times 18 = 27$ ). A commonly available rating is 35 WV, which is probably what you will use. You can use a higher WV rating, but it is a good idea not to use more than two or three times the needed value.

The function of C2 is to assist in voltage regulation. It is a high-quality 1- $\mu$ F electrolytic—usually a tantalum capacitor is recommended—mounted close to the regulator with short leads. You would then select the WV rating. In a 5-volt supply, that would be a minimum WV of 8 ( $1.5 \times 5 = 7.5$ ), although you can cut this figure a little closer on a regulated power line.

This is your basic power supply for solid-state circuits. Using these principles, you can easily design your supply to meet output requirements of 5 volts to 24 volts. Observing current ratings especially, one transformer can even provide more than one regulated output.

The supply should contain a switch and a fuse in the transformer primary and probably a power-on indicator light. In addition, a current meter and perhaps a voltmeter can be advantageous in the output circuit.

As previously stated, because this only scratches the surface of power supply design, don't forget to study other supplies and principles.

### A reader circuit

John Holland of Hopkinsville, KY, sent in the handy circuit shown in Fig. 3. This is an adapter that provides regulated voltages of 6 or 9 at the flick of a switch using a 12-volt automobile cigarette-lighter socket. Thus, you can operate your transistor radio without running down its battery.

John cautions about getting the Zener diodes' polarity correct. His adapter is constructed in a small box, and the output current is limited to a maximum of 12 mA.

Note that this circuit is more versatile than the one shown in Fig. 1, since it will yield two voltages. On the other hand, it lacks the built-in protection provided by the three-terminal regulator, so be careful about loading it too heavily.

Thanks, John, for sharing your circuit with us. Perhaps other readers will do the same.

R-E



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## ANTIQUÉ RADIOS

continued from page 62-C

of some receiving tube manuals. For example, GE's *Essential Characteristics* manual lists a great many older tubes.

### Interstage audio transformers

The old sets all shared a common problem even when they were new—open interstage audio transformers. Winding impregnation hadn't reached its peak at that time. For some reason, the primary windings, with a fairly high positive voltage on them, would corrode at any pinhole in the insulation and then open. You can detect this by the presence of a bright green spot. (This also happened to IF and RF coils with positive voltages.)

If the primary of an interstage transformer is open, you can shunt it with a resistor of about the same value (from 25K–50K) and then connect a coupling capacitor from the plate to the grid of the next stage (see Fig. 6). You may even be able to find

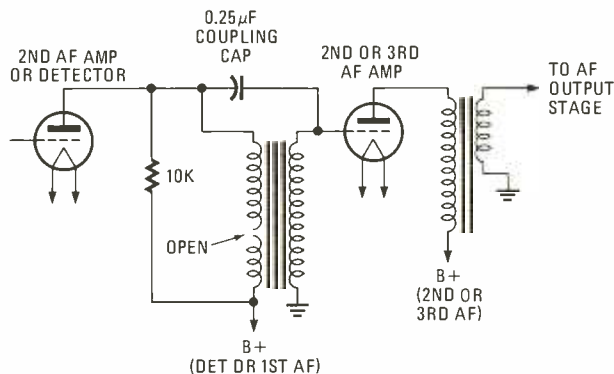


FIG. 6—"QUICK-AND-DIRTY" fix for an open AF transformer.

suitable replacement interstage audio transformers. They are not too critical—a ratio of about 10,000-ohm plate to a 30–50,000-ohm secondary, or a *step-up* of 3:1 or so.

Many old sets had these transformers potted; Atwater-Kent, for example. You might be able to melt the tar, get the old transformer out, then slip a new transformer inside and put the can back! The work—and dirt—is worthwhile only if you wish to maintain the antique appearance of the old set.

### Service data

Service data is very helpful on all sets. For reliable data on very old radios, Gernsback's *Official Radio Service Manuals* and John F. Rider's *Perpetual Radio Troubleshooter's Manuals* are invaluable. Volume I of either manual contains most of the real oldies and quite a few more are in Volumes II through V. Another and readily available source of data on antique radios is Volume I of *Most-Ofen-Wanted 1926-1938 Radio Diagrams*. Mr. M. N. Beitman, at Supreme Publications, Box 46, Highland Park, IL 60035, is the publisher of the *Most-Ofen-Needed* series of service manuals. He also collects individual volumes and complete sets of Gernsback and Rider service manuals for resale.

One of the annoying things about service data in the early days was the manufacturers' reluctance to give anything but the bare schematic! (Does this sound familiar? There's nothing really new under the sun!) In fact, the Atwater-Kent Company forbade their distributors to inform service technicians about parts values! You asked for a black-and-white resistor and that's what you got.

(We found a way around this situation. Whenever any of us got his hands on a new model Atwater-Kent, he fixed it, then used his ohmmeter to measure all the resistance values! He kept a log of these values and, at the next Radio Trades Association meeting, made copies of everyone else's list. Finally, Atwater-Kent wrote down these values on the schematics, which you can find on many of the early models.

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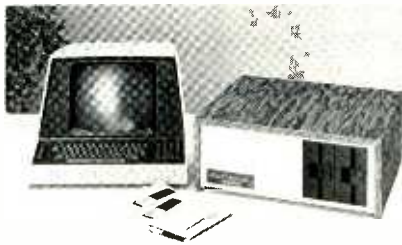
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Prices: SOROC model IQ 120 terminal, \$995 (assembled only); model HORIZON-1 (single-disc)—kit, \$1599; assembled, \$1995; and model HORIZON-2 (dual-disc)—kit, \$1999; assembled, \$2349.—North Star Computers, Inc., 2547 Ninth St., Berkeley, CA 94710.

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**COMPUTER SYSTEM, model MICRO-68, comes completely assembled and is built around the 6800 microprocessor. The unit features 6-digit LED display, 16-pushbutton keyboard, built-in power supply, 128 words of RAM, and 510 MON-1 Bug PROM. Edge connectors are provided for expansion to 64K of memory and 16-bit I/O. All**

memory lines can be buffered on-board. The model MICRO-68 is housed in a hardwood cabinet with acrylic plastic lid and measures 9 X 16 X 2 inches. Price: \$495.—Electronic Product Associates, Inc., 1157 Vega St., San Diego, CA 92110.

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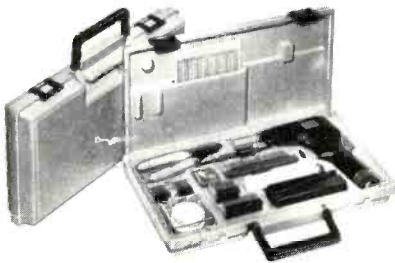
**ORIGINATE/AUTO ANSWER MODEM, model USR-330, is a hardware, asynchronous, half/full**



duplex modem operating in both originate and auto answer modes at a 0-300 baud data rate. The unit uses MOS/LSI circuitry, a crystal-controlled digital receiver and transmitter and active filters. Once interfaced with phone lines and computer, the *model USR-330* answers calls automatically and connects them immediately with the computer. The modem is available with an RS232C interface, a 20-mA current loop, or both interfaces. Comes with its own 115 VAC 60-Hz power supply. Prices: with RS232C interface, \$185; with 20-mA current loop interface, \$185; and with both interfaces, \$195.—U.S. Robotics, Inc., Box 5502, Chicago, IL 60680.

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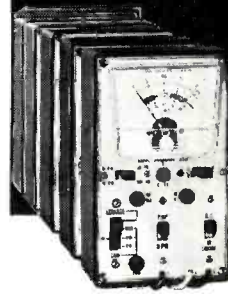


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# new books

**EASI-GUIDE TO ACCESSORIES FOR CB . . . TWO-WAY . . . HAM RADIO**, by Forest Belt and Marti McPherson. Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc., 4300 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46268. 144 pp. 5½ × 8½ in. Softcover \$3.50.

Every ham operator, CB or two-way radio owner sooner or later wants to upgrade his system with the proper accessories. This handy illustrated guide describes such basic equipment, how to use it and, most important, how to choose what's best for your needs.

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**ANALOG AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATION**, by W. David Gregg. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10016. 603 pp. 6½ × 9 in. Hardcover \$21.95.

This book prepares the user for participation in the various engineering, scientific and technical aspects of the communications industry. Concepts and systems pertaining to both analog and digital communications are examined and related to practical applications and services. A step-by-

step approach explains the similarities and differences of each system. Worked-out examples are provided, with a set of problems given at the end of each chapter.

**BASIC SOFTWARE LIBRARY, VOLUME I, Business and Recreational**, by R. W. Brown. Scientific Research Institute, 1712 Farmington Court, Crofton, MD 21114. 300 pp. 8½ × 11 in. Softcover \$24.95.

The average reader with little or no background in computers can use this book to execute many individualized business and recreational programs with relative ease. All the programs use the BASIC computer language, and have been tested on several computer systems. Each program is introduced by a brief description, a list of possible users, instructions and program limitations (if any) that could arise if run on different systems.

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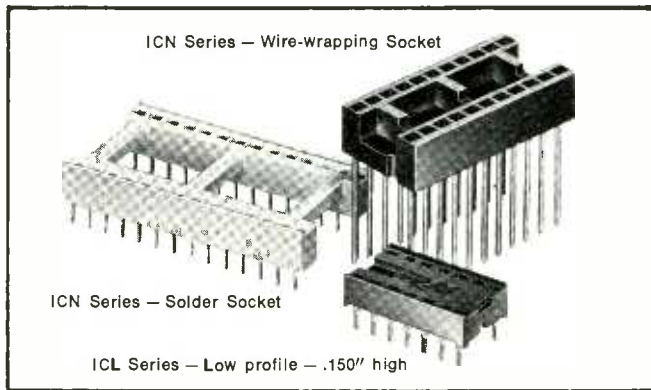
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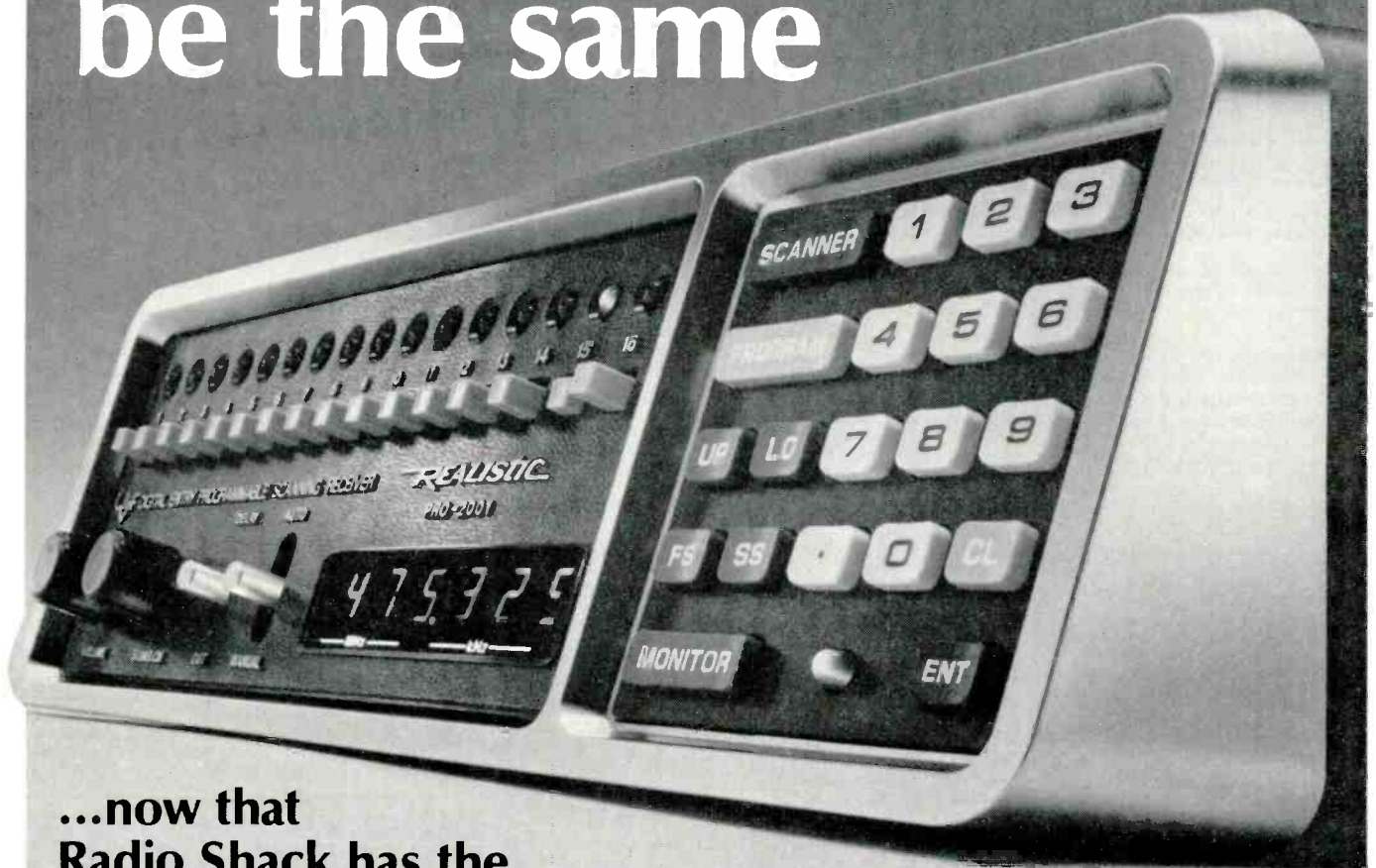
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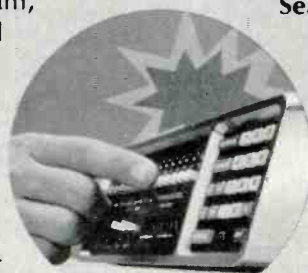
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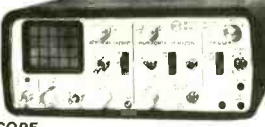


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**12:28** .8" LED ALARM CLOCK

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**Vector**  
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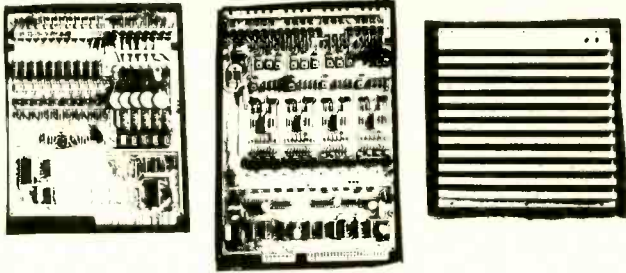
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5 power transistors, plus diodes, resistors & capacitors. These boards were returned to factory for repairs, and most have a burnt component or two.

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STOCK NO.6812C, board 1,	5.95	2/10.00
STOCK NO.6812D, Board 2,	4.95	2/8.00
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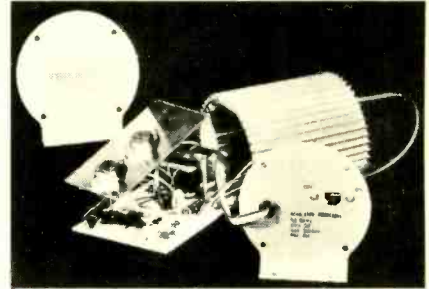
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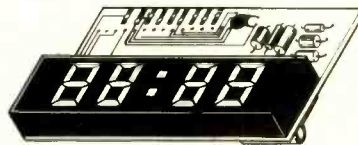
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2SA 497	1.60	2SB 77	.70	2SC 305	3.60	2SD 108	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 505	1.20	2SB 78	.70	2SC 306	3.60	2SD 109	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
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2SA 530	1.30	2SB 81	.70	2SC 309	3.60	2SD 112	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
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2SA 653	2.80	2SB 99	.70	2SC 327	3.60	2SD 130	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 659	.59	2SB 100	.70	2SC 328	3.60	2SD 131	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
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2SA 666	.70	2SB 103	.70	2SC 331	3.60	2SD 134	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 671	1.40	2SB 104	.70	2SC 332	3.60	2SD 135	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 672	.70	2SB 105	.70	2SC 333	3.60	2SD 136	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 673	.70	2SB 106	.70	2SC 334	3.60	2SD 137	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 678	.70	2SB 107	.70	2SC 335	3.60	2SD 138	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 679	4.90	2SB 108	.70	2SC 336	3.60	2SD 139	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 680	4.90	2SB 109	.70	2SC 337	3.60	2SD 140	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 682	1.50	2SB 110	.70	2SC 338	3.60	2SD 141	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 683	.70	2SB 111	.70	2SC 339	3.60	2SD 142	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 684	.70	2SB 112	.70	2SC 340	3.60	2SD 143	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 685	.70	2SB 113	.70	2SC 341	3.60	2SD 144	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 697	.70	2SB 114	.70	2SC 342	3.60	2SD 145	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 699A	.90	2SB 115	.70	2SC 343	3.60	2SD 146	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 705	.70	2SB 116	.70	2SC 344	3.60	2SD 147	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 706	1.60	2SB 117	.70	2SC 345	3.60	2SD 148	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 715	1.40	2SB 118	.70	2SC 346	3.60	2SD 149	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 719	.59	2SB 119	.70	2SC 347	3.60	2SD 150	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 720	.59	2SB 120	.70	2SC 348	3.60	2SD 151	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 721	.59	2SB 121	.70	2SC 349	3.60	2SD 152	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 725	.59	2SB 122	.70	2SC 350	3.60	2SD 153	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 726	.59	2SB 123	.70	2SC 351	3.60	2SD 154	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
2SA 733	.59	2SB 124	.70	2SC 352	3.60	2SD 155	2.80	2SK 68	1.30	AN 362	3.00	AN 362	3.00		
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Sensitivity: less than 10 mv.  
Frequency range: 5 Hz to 60 MHz, typically 65 MHz  
Gate time: 1 second, 1/10 second, with automatic decimal point positioning on both direct and prescale  
Display: 8 digit red LED 4" height  
Accuracy: 2 ppm, internal TCXO standard.  
Input: BNC, 1 megohm direct, 50 Ohm with prescale option  
Power: 110 V ac 5 Watts or 12 V dc @ 300-400 ma  
Size: Approx. 6" x 4" x 2", high quality aluminum case

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A great attention getter which alternately flashes 2 Jumbo LEDs. Use for name badges, buttons, or warning type panel lights. Runs on 3 to 9 volts.  
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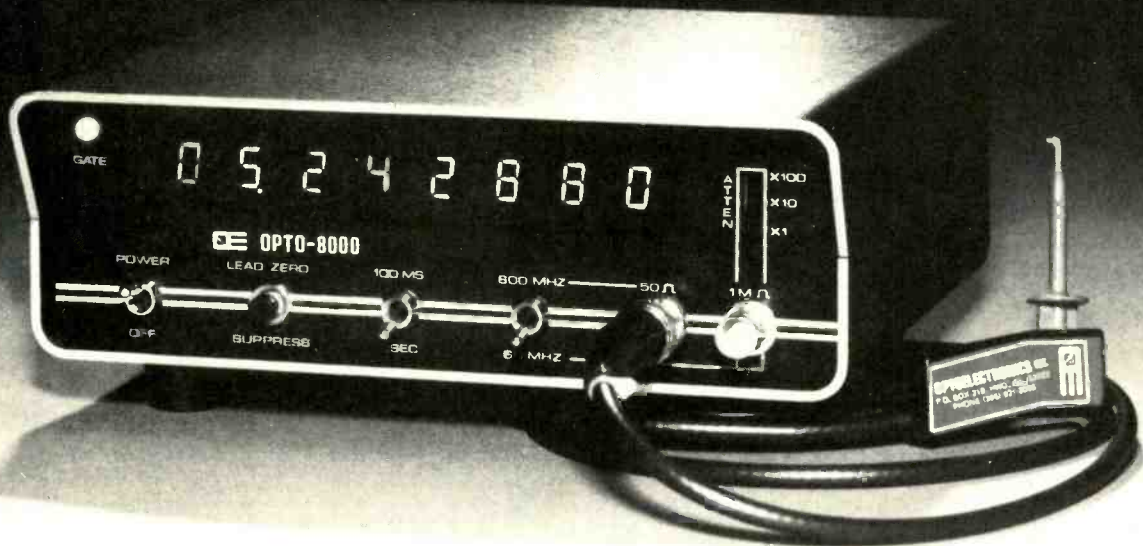
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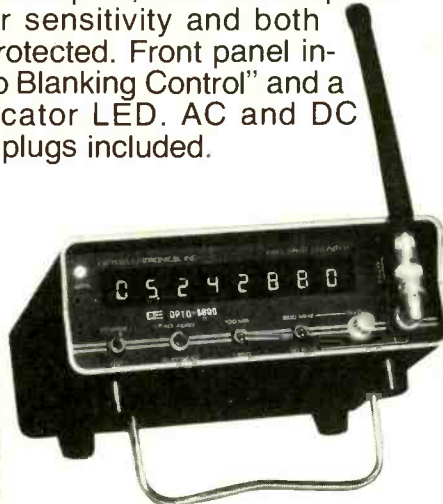
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3" x 1.1" x .4"

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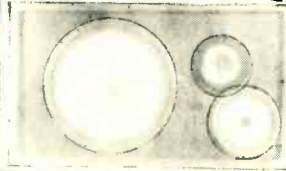
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- One Hour Assembly

### 12V 1 AMP POWER SUPPLY

INPUT VOLTAGE 25V MAX. OUTPUT CURRENT 1 AMP. MAX. LOAD REGULATION 50mV. OUTPUT VOLTAGE 12V. LINE REGULATION 0.01%. KIT CONTAINS ALL PARTS EXCEPT FOR LINE CORD AND TRANSFORMER.

ONLY \$4.50

### 7400 TTL DIGITAL CIRCUITS

7400	11	7442	47	7490	65	74156	89
7401	13	7443	49	74157	55		
7402	13	7444	59	7492	43	74160	55
7403	13	7447	68	7493	43	74161	65
7404	15	7448	71	7494	67	74163	65
7404	29	7450	13	7495	67	74164	75
7404	29	7450	13	7495	67	74165	89
7405	44	7451	13	7496	67	74165	89
7406	16	7453	13	74100	30	74174	85
7408	19	7450	19	74104	49	74175	85
7410	13	7470	27	74107	28	74180	67
7411	18	7472	25	74109	31	74181	93
7412	26	7473	29	74121	29	74182	68
7416	15	7474	29	74123	48	74191	98
7420	13	7475	47	74132	99	74192	81
7423	25	7476	31	74136	99	74193	81
7425	29	7480	31	745381	95	74194	81
7433	26	7481	55	74141	75	74195	69
7437	23	7482	47	74152	61	9316	85
7438	23	7483	67	74153	61	9601	31
7440	13	7485	89	74154	98	9104	35
7441	76	7489	125	74155	89		

### LINEARS

709	Operational Amplifier	25
710	Differential Comparators	40
711	Dual Differential Comp	25
712	Mail Adder	25
749	Stereo Pre-Amp by Fairchild 2/51	
LM 301	Operational Amplifier	30
LM 307	Operational Amplifier	30
LM 308	Operational Amplifier	95
LM 309K	5V Lamp Regulator	1.49
LM 710	Voltage Comparator	25
LM 311	Voltage Comparator	85
LM 318	Operational Amplifier	1.15
LM 723	Voltage Comparator	69
LM 324	Quad Operational Amplifier 1/20	
LM 377	Dual 2W Amplifier	1.85
LM 3900	Quad Op-Amplifier	40
LM 741	Operational Amplifier	25
LM 748	Operational Amplifier	25
NE 553	Quad Timer	1.95
NE 555	Timer	40
NE 556	Dual Timer	95
NE 567	Tone Decoder	1.25
1458	Dual Op-Amplifier	55
75491	Quad Segment Driver	35
75492	Hex Digit Driver	35
3043	IF Amplifier	75
8038	Voltage Cont. Osc	3.95

### MICROPROCESSOR SUPPORT CHIPS

8212	I/O port	3.50
8214	P. I. C.	12.95
8216	Non Invert Bus	4.95
8216	— Clock Gen.	4.95
8226	— Invert Bus	3.95
PI0 for Z-80		14.95
CT10 for Z-80		8.20
8228	Sys. Controller	8.20
8251	Prog. comm. Interface	10.95
8255	Prog. perp. interface	13.50
8820	Dual Line Recr.	1.75
8830	Dual Line Dr.	1.75
2513	Char. Gen.	7.50
8838	Quad Bus. Recvr.	2.00
74LS138N	— 1/8 decoder	.99
8T97	Hex Tri-State Buffer	1.25
1488/1489	RS232	1.50
TR1602B	UART	3.95
TR1663	UART	8.50

### CLOCK & COUNTER CHIPS

MK50252	Clock Chip	\$4.99
MK50250	Alarm Clock	3.75
MK50380	Alarm Chip	2.95
FCM7010	Direct Drive Clock Chip	4.95
MK5005	4 Digit Counter w/Latch	8.50
MK5002	4 Digit Counter	8.95
MK50395	6 Digit UP/Down Counter	12.95
MK50397	6 Digit Elapsed Timer	8.95
CT5005	Calculator Chip w/Docs	1.25
MK5021	Cal. Chip w/sg. rt.	2.50

SOCKET SPECIAL!  
28 PIN IC SOCKET  
3 FOR \$1  
WHEN PURCHASED  
W/CLKIC IC

### HOUSE # TTL IC's

7400	10/100	Please specify	7437	6/1	00
7404	10/100	that you	7438	6/1	00
7408	10/100		7414	3/1	00
7420	10/100	are ordering	74153	3/1	00

House Number: TTL

### CRYSTALS

300	KHz	\$1.50
37945		1.25

### 74LS00 LOW POWER SCHOTTKY

74LS00	21	74LS47	73	74LS136	37	74LS258	71
74LS02	21	74LS51	26	74LS138	71	74LS260	26
74LS03	21	74LS54	26	74LS139	71	74LS266	26
74LS04	28	74LS55	26	74LS145	85	74LS279	55
74LS05	28	74LS56	35	74LS151	70	74LS290	61
74LS08	21	74LS74	35	74LS152	70	74LS293	61
74LS09	28	74LS76	49	74LS155	69	74LS295	95
74LS10	21	74LS83	73	74LS156	70	74LS298	95
74LS11	21	74LS85	135	74LS157	75	74LS385	55
74LS13	45	74LS86	36	74LS158	71	74LS366	55
74LS14	99	74LS89	55	74LS160	85	74LS367	55
74LS15	26	74LS92	55	74LS161	85	74LS368	55
74LS20	24	74LS93	85	74LS162	85	74LS370	175
74LS21	28	74LS109	38	74LS163	85	74LS393	145
74LS22	28	74LS112	38	74LS164	1.49	74LS670	2.30
74LS26	32	74LS113	38	74LS168	85	74LS193	95
74LS27	32	74LS114	38	74LS170	48	74LS193	95
74LS30	26	74LS122	49	74LS170	69	74LS194	95
74LS32	32	74LS124	99	74LS173	1.10	74LS195	85
74LS37	32	74LS125	47	74LS174	1.00	74LS196	85
74LS38	32	74LS126	81	74LS176	81	74LS197	85
74LS40	26	74LS132	79	74LS190	95	74LS251	85
74LS42	65	74LS133	35	74LS191	95	74LS253	81
				74LS257	71		

### TTL SPECIAL!

9002/7400	10/1.00		
9003/7410	10/1.00		
9004/7420	10/1.00		
9006/7460	61.00	9000 series parts	
9007/7430	10/1.00	prime from ITT	
9016/7404	8/1.00	Pin for Pin	
9024/74102	8/1.00	compatible with	
9300/74195	3/1.00	7400 series	

### PROMS

1702A	— 1K	— 1.5us	3.95 or 10/35	
2708	— 8K	Intel	— 450ns	14.95
5204	— 4K			7.95
825129	— 1K			2.50
27085	— 8K	signetics	650ns	9.95

### DIODES

IN 4002	1 Amp	100 PIV	40/\$1
IN 4004	1 Amp	400V	15/\$1
IN 4007	1 Amp	100V	10/\$1

IN 54A		\$8/\$1
IN 270		10/\$1

### GERMANIUM DIODES

IN 746	3.3V	400M	4/\$1
IN 752	5.6V	400M	4/\$1
IN 1958	8.2V	400M	4/\$1
IN 5259	39V	500M	10/\$1
IN 5271	100V	500M	10/\$1
IN 5280	180V	500M	10/\$1

### HOUSE # ZENER

4.7V	500 MW	10/\$1
9. V	500 MW	10/\$1
10V	1 Watt	8/\$1
15V	500 MW	10/\$1
22V	5 Watt	6/\$1

### SWITCHING DIODES

IN 4148/IN914	Long Leads	20/\$1
IN 4148/IN914	Cut Leads	40/\$1
IN 4148/IN914	PC Leads	100/\$2

### VOLTAGE REGULATORS

7805	Pos	5V	1 Amp	99
7808	Pos	8V	1 Amp	99
7808	Pos	8V	1 Amp	99
7812	Pos	12V	1 Amp	99
7815	Pos	15V	1 Amp	99
7818	Pos	18V	1 Amp	99
7824	Pos	24V	1 Amp	99
7905	Neg	5V	1 Amp	110
7912	Neg	12V	1 Amp	110
7915	Neg	15V	1 Amp	110

### 723 VOLTAGE REGULATORS

Output voltages variable from 2 volts to 37 volts  
A very versatile and popular device — 14 PIN DIP 69c

### MOTOROLA VOLTAGE REGULATOR

MC1469R TO 96 3 lead package for 3 to 30V output  
Provides 600 MA direct output or more by using an external power transistor. Regular catalog price — \$4.00 each. With specs \$1.95 each

### TO-5 HEATSINKS

Similar to Thermalloy 2205G  
Finned with insert. 5/\$1.

### TO-5 HEATSINKS

STANDARD SLIP-ON 6/\$1.

### HEATSINKS FOR VOLTAGE REGULATORS

Black anodized aluminum "U" shaped.  
Fits TO-220 cases.

4 FOR \$1.00

### CMOS

CD4001	19	CD4017	95	CD4040	100	CD4071	19
CD4001	19	CD4018	95	CD4041	69	CD4081	19
CD4002	19	CD4019	19	CD4042	69	CD4507	35
CD4006	120	CD4020	97	CD4043	60		
CD4007	19	CD4021	97	CD4044	80	CD4510	100
CD4009	47	CD4022	97	CD4046	139	CD4512	110
CD4010	39	CD4023	19	CD4047	1.50	CD4516	79
CD4011	19	CD4024	75	CD4049	35	CD4518	110
CD4012	29	CD4025	19	CD4050	39	CD4520	69
CD4013	32	CD4027	39	CD4051	1.19	CD4528	85
CD4014	78	CD4028	85	CD4053	1.19	74C02	45
CD4015	78	CD4029	99	CD4056	1.15	74C04	32
CD4016	32	CD4030	35	CD4066	78	74C107	79

### SOCKETS

• 8 Pin Low Profile	20	• 18 Pin Low Profile	30
• 14 Pin Low Profile	22	• 28 Pin Low Profile	69
• 16 Pin Low Profile	25	• 40 Pin Low Profile	89

### Bowmar 4 Digit LED Readout Array

Full 1/2" Litronix Jumbo Dual Digit LED Displays  
4 JUMBO 50" DIGITS ON ONE STICK!  
WITH COLONS & AM/PM INDICATOR  
\$3.95

DL 722 - C.C.	DL 728 - C.C.
DL 721 B.C.A.	DL 727 - C.A.
99c	\$1.29

### UNMARKED

### 1702A EPROMS

3.50 Ea. or 10/\$32.00

LIMITED SUPPLY

### IMSAI SPECIAL

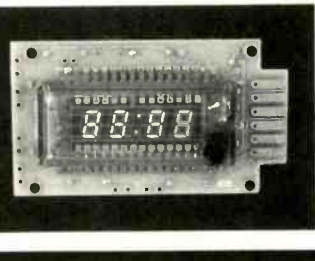
### S-100 Connector

\$3.95 Ea.

# THE NO-HASSLE CLOCK

The MA1003 is a complete clock module, requiring only time-setting switches, case, and 12V DC. With built-in crystal controlled timebase (ideal for car or van clock) and low power, highly visible fluorescent blue readouts. If you can find a simpler or better way to build a clock... tell us about it!

**\$16.50 each or 3/ \$46.**



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Why settle for the limitations of a TRS-80 4K system? Expand it to 16K with our conversion kit. Includes eight uPD416 1x16K dynamic memories and instructions for converting your machine to 16K. You could pay up to \$290 elsewhere... but our kit is only \$190.

## REGULATORS SOLD HERE

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Last two digits indicate voltage; 78 series regulators are positive and cost \$1.25 each, 79 series regulators are negative and cost \$1.35 each. Voltages available: 7805, 7806, 7808, 7812, 7815, 7824; 7905, 7906, 7908, 7912, 7915, 7918, 7924.

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32-2102-1 fully buffered, 16 address lines, on board decoding for any 4 of 64 pages, standard 44 pin bus, may be used with F-8 & KIM

**EXPANDABLE F8 CPU BOARD KIT**  
\$99.00  
featuring Fairbug PSU 1K of static ram, RS 232 interface, documentation, 64 BYTE regisr.

**C/MOS (DIODE CLAMPED)**

4001	-18	4019	-37	4049	-35	74C73	-65
4002	-18	4020	-30	4050	-35	74C74	-45
4006	-95	4021	-50	4053	-110	74C83	-1.15
4007	-18	4022	-90	4055	-125	74C86	-40
4009	-37	4023	-18	4066	-70	74C93	-75
4010	-37	4024	-75	4071	-18	74C151	1.40
4011	-18	4025	-18	4076	-97	74C160	1.05
4012	-18	4027	-37	4518	-100	74C161	1.05
4013	-29	4028	-80	74C00	-22	74C174	1.05
4014	-75	4029	-95	74C02	-22	74C175	1.05
4015	-75	4030	-33	74C04	-24	74C193	1.20
4016	-29	4035	-97	74C09	-22	74C901	.48
4017	-90	4042	-65	74C10	-27	74C902	.48
4018	-90	4046	-135	74C42	-85	74C914	1.70

2708 BK EPROM (40K)	\$ 9.75
2522 STATIC SHIFT REG	\$ 1.95
2513 CHARACTER GEN	\$ 2.10
2518 HEX 32 BIT SR	\$ 1.25
2102 (1450n)	\$ .99
2102 (1450n)	\$ 1.25
MU5270 4K X1 DYN	\$ 3.48
MC 4008P	\$ 1.95
2101 1.254 4 STATIC	\$ 2.45
2111 1.256 4 STATIC	\$ 2.45
2112 1.256 4 STATIC	\$ 2.75
2114 4K STATIC RAM (450n)	\$ 8.50
5280 2708 4K DYNAMIC RAM	\$ 3.40
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5204 4K PROM	\$ 4.95
8252Z	\$ 1.95
8251Z	\$ 3.25
AV 5 1013 UART	\$ 5.25
8703C TELETYPE 3 STAGE	\$ 13.50
BINARY 8 BIT A/D CONVERTER	\$ 13.50
8080A	\$ 9.50
8080A	\$ 3.00
8228	\$ 4.95

**CRYSTALS \$3.45 ea.**

4.000 MHz	26 cond. - .50/par foot
6.000 MHz	40 cond. - .75/par foot
6.144 MHz	50 cond. - .90/par foot
8.000 MHz	50 cond. - .90/par foot
10.000 MHz	50 cond. - .90/par foot

CTS 206-B eight position dip switch... \$1.60  
CTS 206-A four position dip switch... \$1.45  
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2 1/2" diameter 4V at 500 ma \$4.00

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FND 803 C.C. 5"	\$ 85	FND 807 C.A. 8"	\$ 1.95
FND 510 C.A. 5"	\$ 85	DL 704 3" C.C.	\$ 85

**PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD**  
4 1/2" x 6 1/2" SINGLE SIDED EPOXY BOARD 1 16" thick unpopulated \$ 5/2 \$60

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2N 3820 P FET	\$ 45
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2N2646 UJT	\$ 45
ER 900 TRIGGER DIODES	4 \$1.00
2N 6028 PROG UJT	\$ 65

MINIATURE MULTI-TURN TRIM POTS  
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CCD 201C 100x100 Image Sensor	\$95.00
CCD 202C 100x100 Image Sensor	\$145.00

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This board is a 1/16" single sided paper epoxy board, 4 1/2" x 6 1/2". DRILLED and ETCHED which will hold up to 21 single 14 pin IC's or 8 16 pin or LSI DIP IC's with buses for power supply connector.

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TIL-118 OPTO-ISOLATOR \$ 75  
MIXED PINS 1000/100 \$1.00  
1000/58.00

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MCM 6571A 7 x 9 character gen... \$10.75

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PRV	1A	3A	12A	50A	125A	240A	
100	06	14	30	80	3	7.0	5.00
200	07	20	35	1.15	4.25	6.50	
400	09	25	50	1.40	6.50	9.50	
600	11	30	70	1.80	8.50	12.50	
800	15	35	90	2.30	10.50	16.50	
1000	20	45	110	2.75	12.50	20.00	

SAD 1024 a REDIGON 1024 stage analog "Bucket Brigade" shift register. \$18.95  
IN 1418 (1N914) 15, \$1.50

**RS232 CONNECTORS**

DB 25P male	\$2.95
DB 25S female	\$3.50

**REGULATORS**

309K	\$ .95	340K-12.15	
723	\$ .50	or 24V	\$ .95
LM 376	\$ .60	340T-5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 18 or 24V	\$ .95
320T-5	\$ .95	78 MG	\$1.35
		79 MG	\$1.35

**TRANSISTOR SPECIALS**

2N6233-NPN SWITCHING POWER	\$ 1.95
MRF-8004 A CB RF Transistor NPN	\$ 1.50
2N3712 NPN Si TO 3	\$ 1.00
2N1546 PNP GE TO 3	\$ .75
2N4908 PNP Si TO 3	\$ 1.00
2N6056 NPN Si TO 3 Darlington	\$ 1.70
2N5088 PNP Si TO 92	4 \$ 1.00
2N3137 NPN Si RF	\$ .85
2N3918 NPN Si TO 3 RF	\$ 1.50
2N1420 NPN Si TO 5	3/5 \$ 1.00
2N3767 NPN Si TO 66	\$ .70
2N2222 NPN Si TO 18	5 \$ 1.00
2N3055 NPN Si TO 3	\$ .60
2N3904 NPN Si TO 92	6/5 \$ 1.00
2N3906 PNP Si TO 92	6/5 \$ 1.00
2N6206 NPN Si TO 220	\$ .50
2N6109 PNP Si TO 220	\$ .55
2N3638 PNP Si TO 5	5/5 \$ 1.00
MPSA 13 NPN Si	4/8 \$ 1.00

**TLT IC SERIES**

7400-13	7448-65	74151-61
7401-13	7447-58	74153-61
7402-13	7448-68	74154-94
7403-13	7450-15	74155-58
7404-15	7472-25	74157-55
7405-13	7473-28	74161-55
7406-16	7474-28	74163-55
7407-20	7475-45	74164-85
7408-18	7476-30	74165-95
7409-18	7480-31	74170-168
7410-13	7483-85	74173-120
7411-18	7485-87	74174-95
7412-13	7486-28	74175-85
7413-36	7489-125	74176-75
7414-60	7490-42	74177-75
7415-22	7491-58	74180-85
7417-25	7492-43	74181-190
7420-13	7493-43	74190-100
7425-25	7494-67	74191-100
7426-22	7495-65	74192-79
7427-19	7496-65	74193-79
7430-13	74107-28	74194-80
7432-22	74121-29	75225-150
7437-21	74122-38	74196-86
7438* 21	74123-45	74279-55
7440-13	74125-40	74267-50
7441-70	74126-40	75491-50
7442-37	74150-94	75492-50

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MM 5387AA new clock chip which will directly drive LED'S 1/2/24 hrs., 1 supply & alarm \$5.95

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ALCO MINIATURE TOGGLE SWITCHES \$ .95  
MTA 106 SPDT \$ 1.70  
MTA 206 PDPDT \$ 1.85  
MSD 206 PDPDT CENTER OFF LEVER SWITCH \$ 1.85

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PRV	2A	6A	25A
100		1.30	
200	.75	1.25	2.00
400	.95	1.50	3.00
600	1.20	1.75	4.00

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8 PIN 17 24 PIN 35	\$ 7.80
14 PIN 20 28 PIN 40	\$ 7.80
16 PIN 22 40 PIN 60	\$ 7.80
18 PIN 25	\$ 7.80

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S 1010 6 10 WATTS	\$ 7.80
S 1020 6 20 WATTS	\$15.70
S 1050 6 50 WATTS	\$28.50

**TANTULUM CAPACITORS**


22UF 35V 5 S1 00	6.8UF 35V 4 S1 00
47UF 35V 5 S1 00	10UF 10V 5 S1 00
68UF 35V 5 S1 00	22UF 25V 5 S1 00
1UF 35V 5 S1 00	15UF 35V 3/5 S1 00
2.2 UF 20V5 S1 00	30UF 6V 5/5 S1 00
3.3UF 20V 4 S1 00	47UF 20V 5 S1 00
4.7UF 15V 5 S1 00	68UF 15V 5 S1 00
	100UF 10V 4 S1 00

**74LS SERIES**

74LS00	19	74LS137	70
74LS02	19	74LS138	70
74LS03	19	74LS139	70
74LS04	21	74LS151	59
74LS05	21	74LS153	59
74LS06	21	74LS155	82
74LS08	20	74LS157	59
74LS09	20	74LS158	79
74LS10	20	74LS160	79
74LS11	40	74LS161	79
74LS12	21	74LS163	79
74LS13	21	74LS164	80
74LS14	21	74LS165	80
74LS15	21	74LS166	80
74LS16	21	74LS167	80
74LS17	21	74LS168	80
74LS18	21	74LS169	80
74LS19	21	74LS170	80
74LS20	21	74LS171	80
74LS21	21	74LS172	80
74LS22	21	74LS173	80
74LS23	21	74LS174	80
74LS24	21	74LS175	80
74LS25	21	74LS176	80
74LS26	21	74LS177	80
74LS27	21	74LS178	80
74LS28	21	74LS179	80
74LS29	21	74LS180	80
74LS30	21	74LS181	80
74LS31	21	74LS182	80
74LS32	21	74LS183	80
74LS33	21	74LS184	80
74LS34	21	74LS185	80
74LS35	21	74LS186	80
74LS36	21	74LS187	80
74LS37	21	74LS188	80
74LS38	21	74LS189	80
74LS39	21	74LS190	80
74LS40	21	74LS191	80
74LS41	21	74LS192	80
74LS42	21	74LS193	80
74LS43	21	74LS194	80
74LS44	21	74LS195	80
74LS45	21	74LS196	80
74LS46	21	74LS197	80
74LS47	21	74LS198	80
74LS48	21	74LS199	80
74LS49	21	74LS200	80
74LS50	21	74LS201	80
74LS51	21	74LS202	80
74LS52	21	74LS203	80
74LS53	21	74LS204	80
74LS54	21	74LS205	80
74LS55	21	74LS206	80
74LS56	21	74LS207	80
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74LS58	21	74LS209	80
74LS59	21	74LS210	80
74LS60	21	74LS211	80
74LS61	21	74LS212	80
74LS62	21	74LS213	80
74LS63	21	74LS214	80
74LS64	21	74LS215	80
74LS65	21	74LS216	80
74LS66	21	74LS217	80
74LS67	21	74LS218	80
74LS68	21	74LS219	80
74LS69	21	74LS220	80
74LS70	21	74LS221	80
74LS71	21	74LS222	80
74LS72	21	74LS223	80
74LS73	21	74LS224	80
74LS74	21	74LS225	80
74LS75	21	74LS226	80
74LS76	21	74LS227	80
74LS77	21	74LS228	80
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## APPLE II SERIAL I/O INTERFACE \*

Part no. 2

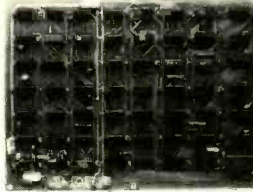
Baud rate is continuously adjustable from 0 to 30,000 • Plugs into any peripheral connector • Low current drain RS-232 input and output • On board switch selectable 5 to 8 data bits, 1 or 2 stop bits, and parity or no parity either odd or even • Jumper selectable address • SOFTWARE • Input and Output routine from monitor or BASIC to teletype or other serial printer. • Program for using an Apple II for a video or an intelligent terminal. Also can output in correspondence code to interface with some selectrics. Board only — \$15.00; with parts — \$42.00; assembled and tested — \$62.00.



## T.V. TYPEWRITER

Part no. 106

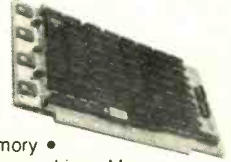
• Stand alone TVT • 32 char/line, 16 lines, modifications for 64 char/line included • Parallel ASCII (TTL) input • Video output • 1K on board memory • Output for computer controlled cursor • Auto scroll • Non-destructive cursor • Cursor inputs: up, down, left, right, home, EOL, EOS • Scroll up, down • Requires +5 volts at 1.5 amps, and -12 volts at 30 mA • All 7400, TTL chips • Char. gen. 2513 • Upper case only • Board only \$39.00; with parts \$145.00



## 8K STATIC RAM

Part no. 300

• 8K Altair bus memory • Uses 2102 Static memory chips • Memory protect • Gold contacts • Wait states • On board regulator • S-100 bus compatible • Vector input option • TRI state buffered • Board only \$22.50; with parts \$160.00



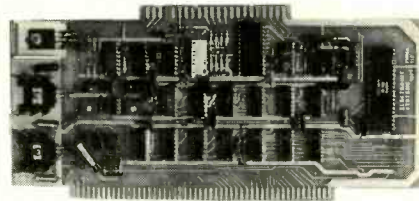
## MODEM \*

Part no. 109

• Type 103 • Full or half duplex • Works up to 300 baud • Originate or Answer • No coils, only low cost components • TTL input and output-serial • Connect 8 ohm speaker and crystal mic. directly to board • Uses XR FSX demodulator • Requires +5 volts • Board \$7.60; with parts \$27.50



## TIDMA \*



Part no. 112

• Tape Interface Direct Memory Access • Record and play programs without bootstrap loader (no prom) has FSX encoder/decoder for direct connections to low cost recorder at 1200 baud rate, and direct connections for inputs and outputs to a digital recorder at any baud rate. • S-100 bus compatible • Board only \$35.00; with parts \$110.00

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## DC POWER SUPPLY \*

Part no. 6085

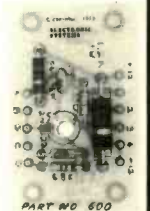
• Board supplies a regulated +5 volts at 3 amps., +12, -12, and -5 volts at 1 amp. • Power required is 8 volts AC at 3 amps., and 24 volts AC C.T. at 1.5 amps. • Board only \$12.50; with parts excluding transformers \$42.50



## RS 232/TTY \*

Part no. 600

• Converts RS-232 to 20mA current loop, and 20mA current loop to RS-232 • Two separate circuits • Requires +12 and -12 volts • Board only \$4.50, with parts \$7.00



## TAPE INTERFACE \*

Part no. 111

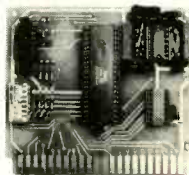
• Play and record Kansas City Standard tapes • Converts a low cost tape recorder to a digital recorder • Works up to 1200 baud • Digital in and out are TTL-serial • Output of board connects to mic. in of recorder • Earphone of recorder connects to input on board • No coils • Requires +5 volts, low power drain • Board \$7.60; with parts \$27.50



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Part no. 101

• Converts serial to parallel and parallel to serial • Low cost on board baud rate generator • Baud rates: 110, 150, 300, 600, 1200, and 2400 • Low power drain +5 volts and -12 volts required • TTL compatible • All characters contain a start bit, 5 to 8 data bits, 1 or 2 stop bits, and either odd or even parity. • All connections go to a 44 pin gold plated edge connector • Board only \$12.00; with parts \$35.00 with connector add \$3.00



## RS 232/TTL \*

Part no. 232

• Converts TTL to RS-232, and converts RS-232 to TTL • Two separate circuits • Requires -12 and +12 volts • All connections go to a 10 pin gold plated edge connector • Board only \$4.50; with parts \$7.00 with connector add \$2.00



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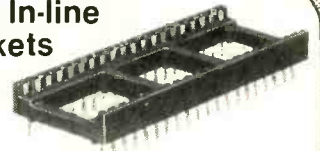
Stock level	Part No.	Price	Stock level	Part No.	Price	Stock level	Part No.	Price	Stock level	Part No.	Price
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1300	74H01	.16	12000	74H20	.16	3000	74H60	.18	1000	74H78	.55
11600	74H02	.16	6000	74H22	.16	2000	74H61	.18	1500	74H87	2.75
8900	74H03	.16	2000	74H30	.18	2000	74H62	.18	1000	74H101	.35
51000	74H04	.17	24000	74H40	.16	2000	74H64	.16	1000	74H102	.35
9000	74H05	.17	3000	74H50	.16	6000	74H65	.16	1000	74H103	.50
1500	74H08	.22	2000	74H51	.17	1000	74H71	.35	2000	74H106	.45
17000	74H10	.16	1000	74H52	.17	2000	74H72	.31	1000	74H108	.49
4400	74H11	.22	6000	74H53	.17	2000	74H73	.49	3000	74H113	.24
1000	74H12	.16	1000	74H54	.18	24000	74H74	.24	2000	74H114	.24
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6800	7423	.07	56000	7491	.19	21000	74175	.39
13000	7425	.12	45000	74150	.39	11000	74180	.34
43000	7437	.09	69000	74151	.29	13000	74181	.79
57000	7438	.09	12000	74152	.89	31000	74182	.29
22000	7443	.15	90000	74153	.29	30000	74190	.34
38000	7445	.19	33000	74154	.49	48000	74191	.34
23000	7454	.07	2900	74155	.29	16000	74194	.34
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# FULL SIZE DISK SYSTEM \$995



For just \$995, your DISCUS I<sup>™</sup> system is complete. Complete with software. Completely assembled.

Its' full-size floppy disk format gives you a quarter-million bytes per diskette. And 5 times the speed of mini-floppies. Plus, DISCUS I is both S-100 and IBM compatible.

Unlike other disk systems, DISCUS I<sup>™</sup> comes assembled and tested — the Disk Jockey I<sup>™</sup> controller, cables, and a freestanding Shugart disk drive in a handsome cabinet with power supply.

And you get the software you need, ready to self-load and run: DOS, ATE<sup>™</sup> assembler/editor, patches for CP/M\*, and Advanced BASIC. CP/M\* (\$70), Micro-Soft Extended Disk BASIC (\$199) and Micro-Soft FORTRAN (\$349) are options.

Ask for a demonstration of DISCUS I<sup>™</sup> at your local computer store. Or, if unavailable locally, send your check or money order to Thinker Toys, 1201 10th St., Berkeley, CA 94710. Or call (415) 524-5317 10-4 Pacific Time. Add \$7 handling; Cal. res. add tax.

\*CP/M is a trademark of Digital Research.

A PRODUCT OF MORROW'S MICRO-STUFF FOR

# Thinker TOYS™

CIRCLE 61 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



## YX-360TR

TRANSISTOR TESTER  
20K OHMS/VOLT

### SPECIFICATIONS

DCV 0-0.1-0.5-2.5-10-50-250-1000 (20k $\Omega$ /V) : 3%, 25k  $\Omega$ /HV probe)  
DCA 0-50 $\mu$ A 0-2.5-25mA 0-0.25A (100mV & 250mV) : 3%  
ACV 0-10-50-250-1000 (8k $\Omega$ /V) : 4%  
Freq. 30Hz to 30kHz  
 $\Omega$  x1 x10 x1k x10k (max. 20M)  
Batt. 1.5V x2 & 9V x1  
dB -10 to +62  
ICEO 0-150 $\mu$ A 0-15-150mA : 5%  
hFE 0-1000 : 3% (w/connector)  
150, 100, 57 420gr

ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE

SAN-HV14 Hi-Volt Probe, 25KV, 480 M OHM \$7.50  
SAN-FE2, hFE Semiconductor Connector \$3.50

## MULTI-TESTER

IT TESTS  
TRANSISTORS AND LED'S  
AS WELL!!

**\$28.50**

Surprising versatility at bargain prices! May be used as a transistor circuit analyzer measuring hFE with the optional connector. A 3 volt battery source gives extended capability in checking semiconductors and LEDs. Range placement on the selector dial gives fast operation and maximum safety from accidents misselections. Meter movement is protected with a diode and a varistor. Ohms scale has a 20 ohm center for accurately reading low ohm values. Popular school item.

- Measures hFE & ICEO (options)
- High versatility at low cost
- Ohms scale has 20 ohm center

## THE MOST POPULAR MM5314 CLOCK KIT

Features:

- \* 12/24 Hours Display
- \* 50/60 Hz Input
- \* 6 Digits Bright Orange Readouts

Kit includes plastic case, MM 5314 I.C. One set transistor drivers, P.C. Board, gas discharge displays, all other electronic parts and transformer. Catalog no. DC-8SP

**SPECIAL PRICE**  
**\$16.95 PER KIT**



## 9 STEPS LED LEVEL INDICATOR KIT



for most stereo amplifiers

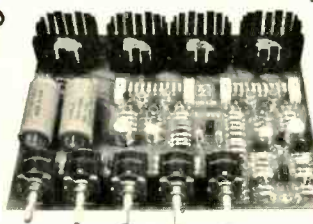
This new project works as a pair of VU meter to indicate the output level of your amplifier from -20dB to +3dB. Kit includes all LED, transistors, electronic components, P.C. Board and instructions.

Easy to build and fun to see.  
**ONLY \$9.90 EA.**

## 60W + 60W

STEREO

AMPLIFIER



OCL pre amp. & power stereo amp. with bass, middle, treble 3-way tone control. Fully assembled and tested, ready to work. Total harmonic distortion less than 0.5% at full power. Output maximum is 60 watts per channel at 8 $\Omega$ . Power supply is 24-36V AC or DC. Complete unit

Power transformer only \$37.50 ea.  
\$7.50 ea.

## RCA 2N3055



NPN power transistor.  
100V 115 watt  
15 amp  
**2 for \$1.80**

## COMPUTER GRADE CAPACITORS

All capacitors are Brand New U.S. made in standard size



5600MFD	60V	\$2.20 EA.
8500MFD	35V	\$2.75 EA.
9000MFD	50V	\$3.25 EA.
4200MFD	150V	\$2.50 EA.
3000MFD	15V	\$1.50 EA.
11000MFD	35V	\$3.20 EA.
14500MFD	40V	\$3.40 EA.
20000MFD	55V	\$3.50 EA.
23000MFD	20V	\$3.00 EA.
58000MFD	20V	\$3.20 EA.
100,000MFD	6V	\$2.50 EA.

## VHF

## MODULATOR

(Size of a Match Box)



This unit converts the video signal to RF signal. Ideal for computer terminal or TV games.

Video Input: 1V DC RF  
output: 1.5MV  
Pre-set at 61.25 MHz  
(channel 3)  
Frg. adjustable  $\pm$  3 MHz  
Power Supply 5~8V DC 10MA

**NEW**

## MARK II

with both RF and audio signal output allows you to have sound!!  
**\$8.50 EACH**

## DIP SWITCHES



(On-Off Contacts)

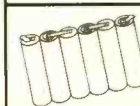
4 positions	\$1.50
5 positions	\$1.60
6 positions	\$1.70
7 positions	\$1.70
8 positions	\$1.80
10 positions	\$2.00

## PHOTO RESISTOR |C.D.S.



This U.S. made photo resistor is packed in a clear glass case with a dia. of 1/8". Max. range 50K $\sim$ 0 $\Omega$ .

**80¢ ea.**



## AA SIZE NI-CDI BATTERY

6 in a pack (1.2V X 6) 500 MA/HR  
**SPECIAL PRICE**  
**\$4.80 PER PACK**

## MERCURY SWITCH



The switch is a light bulb type SPST with a drop of mercury inside. Ideal for alarm control, or a motion device switch. Small size like a 6V light bulb.

**60¢ ea.**

CIRCLE 55 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



## SUPER 15 WATT AUDIO AMP KIT



**ONLY \$23.50 each**

Uses STK-015 Hybrid Power Amp

Kit includes: STK-015 Hybrid IC, power supply with power transformer, front Amp with tone control, all electronic parts as well as PC Board. Less than 0.5% harmonic distortion at full power 1/2dB response from 20-100,000 Hz. This amplifier has QUASI-Complementary class B output. Output max is watt (10 watt RMS) at 4Ω.

## 30MHZ FREQUENCY COUNTER KIT



Only ~~\$59.50~~ **\$53.50**

Take advantage of this new state-of-the-art counter featuring the many benefits of custom LSI circuitry. This new technology approach to instrumentation yields enhanced performance, smaller physical size, drastically reduced power consumption (portable battery operation is now practical), dependability, easy assembly and revolutionary lower pricing!

- 0.5" red LED 6 digits display
- Resolution: 1 Hz at 1 sec. 10 Hz at 1/10 sec.
- Sensitivity: 10 Mv RMS to 30 Hz
- Internal power supply: 5.2V at 1 amp regulated
- Input connector: BNC type
- Input power required: 117V AC 50/60 Hz
- Diode protected for over voltage input

Model 250-30A

Includes all parts, PC Board and Transformer



## FM WIRELESS MIC KIT

This new model FM wireless MIC kit uses 3 high freq. transistors, works in the FM range (88-108 MHz). It transmits the sound wave fidelity clearly over long distances (up to 250 ft.). Kit comes with all electronic parts, P.C. Board and mini microphone!

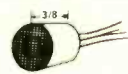
**\$6.95 EACH KIT**

## SOUND ACTIVATED SWITCH



All parts completed on a PC Board SCR will turn on relay, buzzer or trigger other circuit for 2-10 sec. (adjustable) Ideal for use as door alarm, sound controlled toys and many other projects. Supply voltage 4.5V-9V D.C. \$1.75 ea./2 for \$3.00

**Sub-Mini Size Condenser Microphone \$2.50 each**  
FET Transistor Built-In



## FLUORESCENT LIGHT DRIVER KIT

12V DC POWERED  
Lights up 8-15 Watt  
Fluorescent Light Tubes  
Ideal for camper, outdoor  
Auto or Boat



Kit includes high voltage coil, power transistor, heat sink, all other electronic parts and PC Board, light tube not included!  
**ONLY \$5.50 PER KIT**

## MANY SOUND DECISIONS!



\$3.60 EACH

Solid state sound indicator operating voltage 6V DC 30μA. Small size approximately 3/8" X 1 1/4".

Model EB2116 (Continuous)  
Model EB2126 (Slow Pulse)  
Model EB2136 (Fast Pulse)



Continuous



Slow Pulse



Fast Pulse

## 1Watt AUDIO AMP

All parts are pre assembled on a mini PC Board  
Supply Voltage 6-9V D.C.  
**SPECIAL PRICE \$1.95 ea.**



## "FISHER" 30 WATT STEREO AMP

(15W X 2)  
Kit includes 2 Pcs. Fisher PA 301 Hybrid IC all electronic parts with PC Board. Power supply ± 15V DC (not included). Power band with (KF 1% ± 3dB). Voltage gain 33dB. 20Hz - 20KHz.

**Super Buy Only \$22.50 each kit**



## 5W AUDIO AMP KIT

2 LM 380 with Volume Control  
Power Supply 6-18V DC  
**only \$5.00 ea.**



## TIMER KIT

Time Controlled from 1-100sec. Ideal to be used as timer delay unit for burglar alarm, photo service, and other purposes. Max. loading 110V, 2 AMP. Supply voltage 12-18V DC.  
**\$11.50 each**



PT-80 ELECTRONIC IC TIMER

## ELECTRONIC ALARM SIREN

COMPLETE UNIT  
Ideal for use as an Alarm Unit or hookup to your car back up to make a reverse indicator. Light Output up to 1300B  
Voltage Supply 6-12V **\$7.50**



AU-999

## 19 KEY HEXADECIMAL KEY PAD

- 1-0 Homekey
  - ABCDEF ← → Key
- SPECIAL \$10.50 ea.**



## LINEAR SLIDE POT 500KΩ SINGLE

Metal Case 3" Long  
2 FOR \$1.20



## DIGITAL ELECTRONIC LOCK KIT

for auto ignition, entry door, burglar alarm, etc.  
4 Digits Programmable to CMOS I.C. Any Combination  
400R RELAY AND KEY PAD NOT INCLUDED  
**\$6.50 ea.**



## BATTERY POWERED FLUORESCENT LANTERN

- FEATURES
- Circuitry: designed for operation by high efficient, high power silicon transistor which enable illumination maintain in a standard level even the battery supply drops to a certain low voltage.
  - 9" 6W cool/day/light miniature fluorescent tube.
  - 6 X 1.5V UM-1 (size D) dry cell battery.
  - Easy sliding door for changing batteries.
  - Stainless reflector with wide angle increasing illumination of the lantern.



\$9.60 EACH  
MODEL 888-R

## POWER SUPPLY KIT



0-30V D.C. REGULATED  
Uses UA723 and ZN3055 Power TR output can be adjusted from 0.30V, 2 AMP. Complete with PC board and all electronic parts.  
0-30 POWER SUPPLY **\$10.50 each**  
Transformer for Power Supply, 2 AMP 24V x 2 \$6.50  
30V DC Panel Meter \$4.20

## 12V DC MINI RELAY

P.C. Board Solder Type  
2AMP Contact SPDT \$1.30 EA  
2AMP Contact DPDT \$1.75 EA  
5AMP Contact 4PDT \$2.20 EA



## ELECTRONIC SWITCH KIT



CONDENSER TYPE  
Touch On Touch Off  
uses 7473 I.C.  
and 12V relay  
**\$5.50 each**

## AUTO ALARM KIT



The Crimefighter Auto Alarm is an electronic, self-controlled auto protection system, normally mounted within the glove box of an automobile. Two minutes after turning off the ignition, the alarm automatically turns itself "on". When auto is re-entered, the horn will sound after a 10-45 second entry delay. The automobile owner, by inserting the ignition key, will activate the alarm. Once activated, the alarm will sound for two minutes before automatically turning off. The alarm then resets and is ready to again protect the vehicle from unwanted entry.

FEATURES: Simple installation: 5 wires. Automatically turns on when auto is parked. Adjustable entry time. Extended exit time to allow for unrush exit from vehicle. Numerous applications include protection of boats, campers, trailers, motorcycles, trucks. Cannot be deactivated by "hot wiring" an auto. Cannot be turned off without ignition key. Negative ground only.

**ONLY \$14.00 PER KIT**

## LED ALARM CLOCK



COMPLETE UNIT  
NOT A KIT  
• 0.5" RED LED READ OUT  
• 24 HRS. ALARM SET  
• 10 MINS. SNOOZE SET  
• AM/PM ALARM INDICATORS  
• SECOND DISPLAY SWITCH  
• AUTOMATIC BRIGHTNESS CONTROL  
• COMPACT AND HANDSOME PACKING  
• 110V AC 60HZ INPUT  
**\$17.50 EACH**

## 2 1/4" ROUND SPEAKER



8Ω 0.25W  
for most sound projects

**SPECIAL 3 for \$2.00**

## I.C. TEST CLIPS



Same as the E-Z clips  
With 20" Long Leads  
In Black and Red Colors  
**\$2.75 per pair**

## 12V D.C. AUTO DIGITAL CLOCK



Complete Unit  
Not a Kit!  
0.4" blue color 4 digits display. Turn off readouts when car is not running. X'tal controlled time base for time accuracy. Special designed case for easy mounting on top of your dashboard. Ideal for car, boat and campers.  
**SALE!**  
**ONLY \$20.50 ea. \$24.50**

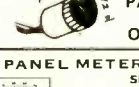
## GELYTE



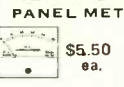
Rechargeable Battery  
6V 9AMP hour by Gould  
all batteries are new unused, solid with no liquid chemicals \$9.50 EACH

we pay shipping

## Sub Mini Size PANEL METER



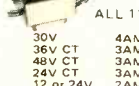
500 UA  
**ONLY \$1.20 ea**



**\$5.50 ea.**

Size 60MM X 66MM  
White Face Type  
0-50 UA 0-30V  
0-100 UA 0-50V  
0-5MA 0-100V  
0-100MA

## TRANSFORMERS



ALL 117 VOLT INPUT

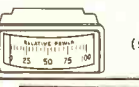


12V AC Output 200MA \$2.75 EA.  
16V CT AC Output 100MA \$2.10 EA.  
6V DC Output 120MA \$1.90 EA.  
12V DC Output 100MA \$1.90 EA.

## AC POWER SUPPLY

Wall Type Transformer

## WIDE ANGLE PANEL METER



1 3/8" x 3/4"  
1MA Full Scale  
(scale marks 0-100)  
**\$1.50 each**

## HOUR INDICATOR

This unit is 1 5/8" long operating voltage 4V D.C. will tell you how many hours your circuit or machine has been in service up to 100 hours.  
Limited Quantity **ONLY \$1.75 ea.**

## HEAVY DUTY CLIP LEADS



10 pairs - 5 colors  
Alligator clips on a 22" long lead. Ideal for any testing.

**\$1.85/pack**

## MINI-SIZED I.C. AM RADIO

Size smaller than a box of matches!  
Receives all AM stations  
Batteries and ear phone included

**Only \$8.50**



## MINI-MINI



TOGGLE SWITCH  
Half size of submini toggle switch rated 3 amp 125V AC contact

MS 2432P	SPST	0.90	0.80
MS 244	SPDT	1.00	0.90
MS 245	DPDT	1.20	1.10

LARGE QUANTITY AVAILABLE FOR OEM

## SUBMINIATURES TOGGLE SWITCHES



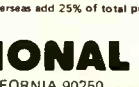
SPDT On/Off \$1.30 ea  
DPDT On/Off \$1.50 ea  
3PDT On/Off \$1.75 ea  
Mini size Rocker Type  
Also available at the same price

## MINI SIZE REED RELAY



Approx. 1" square  
SPST Normal Open  
Contact rated 1AMP  
Coil 6-12V DC  
All brand new by AMF  
3 for \$2.00

## PUSH-BUTTON SWITCH



N/Open Contact  
Color: Red, White, Blue, Green, Black, 4/5/1.00  
N/Close also  
Available 50 ea.  
LARGE QTY. AVAILABLE

## SOLID STATE ELECTRONIC BUZZER



Mini size 1" x 3/4" x 3/4"  
Supply voltage 1.5V 12V  
Ideal for Alarm or Tone Indicator  
**\$1.50 each**

MINIMUM ORDER \$10.00. California residents add 6% sales tax and 10% shipping. Out of state add 15% of total purchase for shipping charges, out of USA and Overseas add 25% of total purchase. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:



# FORMULA INTERNATIONAL INC.

12603 CRENSHAW BOULEVARD • HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA 90250

For more information please call (213) 973-1921, (213) 679-5162

STORE HOURS 10-7 Monday - Saturday

SEND \$1.00 FOR DETAILED CATALOG





## ELPAC POWER SUPPLIES

Completely Assembled

**SPECIFICATIONS:**  
105-125/210-250 Vac, 47-440 Hz Input:  
Line Regulation ±0.1%  
Load Regulation ±0.1% no-load to rated-load  
Output Ripple and Noise ±0.1% p-p, dc to 10 MHz  
Input/Output Isolation 100 megohm dc, 900 Vac  
Short Circuit Current 35% rated current

PART NO.	RATINGS	PRICE
SOLV15-5*	15 5 3	\$36.95
SOLV15-12*	15 12 1.5	36.95
SOLV30-5	30 5 6	59.95
SOLV30-12	30 12 3	59.95
OVPT	over voltage protection for SOLV30-5, -12	9.95
*SOLV15-5, 12	includes OVP installed	

## NEW! BULB-ENERGY SAVER

BULB-ENERGY SAVERS used for years by major industrial users — now available for home or office use. Bulb Savers can cut electrical bills by as much as 3%. BULB-SAVERS lengthen light life by:

1. Acting as an electrical "shock absorber" turns the bulb on slowly, eliminating the "thermal shock" Bulb life increases 300 percent.
2. Banishes Current "Surges". Cushions line voltage surges when other loads cut power lines.
3. Reduces Energy Consumption

Bulb lasts 3 or more times longer.  
Fits Standard Socket  
6 watts to 200 watts

BES-1	1-9	10+
	1.39 ea.	1.20

## CRYSTALS

THESE FREQUENCIES ONLY

PART NO.	FREQUENCY	CASE	PRICE
CY1A	1.000MHZ	HC33	5.95
CY1 84	1.8432MHZ	HC33	5.95
CY2A	2.000MHZ	HC33	5.95
CY2 01	2.010MHZ	HC33	1.95
CY2 50	2.500MHZ	HC33	4.95
CY3 27	3.2768MHZ	HC33	4.95
CY3 57	3.579545MHZ	HC33	4.95
CY3A	4.000MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY4 91	4.916MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY7A	5.000MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY5 18	5.185MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY6 14	6.144MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY6 40	6.400MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY6 55	6.5536MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY12A	10.000MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY14A	14.31816MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY19A	19.432MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY18 43	20.000MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY22A	20.000MHZ	HC18	4.95
CY30A	32.000MHZ	HC18	4.95

## TRIMMERS

10MM size trimmers - .394" Dia.  
Part No. 1-9 10-24 25-49 100+  
TR-11(valve).35 .30 25 20

Resistance values - 100, 500, 1K, 2K, 5K, 10K, 20K, 50K, 100K, 200K, 1 meg

## TRIMPOTS

Single-Turn - 1/2 Watt  
Square - Top Adjust - 3/8" Size  
Part No. 1-9 10-24 25-49 50-99  
840P(Value) .99 .89 80 .70

Resistance Values - 50, 100, 500, 1K, 2K, 5K, 10K, 20K, 50K, 100K, 200K, 500K, 1 meg

## 15-Turn - 3/4 Watt

Rectangular Slide Adjust 3/4" x 1/4" Size  
Part No. 1-9 10-24 25-49 50-99  
830P(Value) 1.35 1.25 1.20 1.15

Resistance Values - 50, 100, 500, 1K, 2K, 5K, 10K, 20K, 50K, 100K, 200K, 500K, 1 meg

## 1/16 VECTOR BOARD

D. Part No.	Hole Spacing	P-Pattern	L	W	Price
PHENOLIC	64P44 062XXXP	4.50	6.50	1.72	1.54
	169P44 062XXXP	4.50	17.00	3.69	3.32
EPOXY	64P44 062WE	4.50	6.50	2.07	1.86
GLASS	64P44 062WE	4.50	8.50	2.56	2.31
	169P44 062WE	4.50	17.00	5.04	4.53
	169P44 062WE	8.50	17.00	9.23	8.26
EPOXY GLASS	169P44 062WEC1	4.50	17.00	6.80	6.12
COPPER CLAD					

## CONNECTORS

25 Pin-D Subminiature

DB25P(as pictured)	PLUG	\$3.25
DB25S	SOCKET	4.95
DB51226-1	Cover for DB25 P or S	1.75

## MOLEX CONNECTOR PINS

M-530-1	\$1.95/100 pins (minimum order)
	\$16.00/1000 pins

Pre-packaged in strips

## INSTRUMENT/CLOCK CASE

Injection molded unit.  
Complete with red bezel.  
1 1/2" x 4" x 1-9/16"

**\$3.49**

## MICROPROCESSOR COMPONENTS

P8085 CPU	\$29.95	COP 1802 CPU	\$19.95
8080A CPU	10.95	Z80 CPU	24.95
8212 8-Bit Input/Output	4.95	2650 MPU	26.50
8214 Priority Interrupt Control	7.95	MC6800 MPU	19.95
8216 Bi-Directional Bus Driver	4.95	MC6810AIP1 128 x 8 Static Ram	5.95
8224 Clock Generator/Driver	5.95	MC6820 8-Bit Parallel Interface Adapter	7.95
8228 System Controller/Bus Driver	5.95	MC6821 8-Bit Parallel Interface Adapter	11.50
8251 Prog. Comm. Interface	9.95	MC6830 1024 x 8 Bit ROM	14.95
8255 Prog. Periph. Interface	10.95	MC6850 Asynchronous Comm. Adapter	14.95

RAM'S	PRICE	PROMS	PRICE
1101 256 x 1 Static	\$ 1.49	1702A 2048 x 1 Famous	\$ 5.95
1103 1024 x 1 Dynamic	.99	3203 2048 x 1 Famous	14.95
2101 256 x 4 Static	5.95	82523 32 x 8 Open C	5.00
2102 1024 x 1 Static	1.75	825115 4096 x 1 Bipolar	19.95
2107/5280 4096 x 1 Dynamic	4.95	825123 32 x 8 Tristate	5.00
2111 256 x 4 Static	6.95	745287 1024 x 1 Static	7.95
2112 256 x 4 Static	5.95	2708 8K EPROM	10.95
2114 4K x 1 Static 450ns	9.95	2716 T.L. 16K EPROM	29.95
2114L 4K x 1 Static 450ns Low Power	10.95	2719 Intal (2516 T.L.) 16K EPROM	39.95
2114-3 1K x 4 Static 300ns	10.95	6301-1 1024 x 1 Tri-State Bipolar	3.49
2114L-3 1K x 4 Static 300ns Low Power	11.95	6330-1 256 x 1 Open C Bipolar	2.95
7489 16 x 4 Static	1.75	74186 512 x 1 TTL Open Collector	8.95
8101 256 x 4 Static	5.95	74188 256 x 1 TTL Open Collector	3.95
8111 256 x 4 Static	6.95		
8599 16 x 4 Static	3.49		
21102 1024 x 1 Static	1.95		
74200 256 x 1 Static	6.95		
93421 256 x 1 Static	2.95		

ICM CHIPS	PRICE	MEMORIES	PRICE
MM5282 2K x 1 Dynamic	3/1 000	MM5013N 1024 Bit Accumulator Dynamic	2.95
MM4027 (UPD414) 4K DYNAMIC 16 PIN	5.95	500512 Bit Dynamic	2.95
MM4116 (UPD416) 16K DYNAMIC 16 PIN	29.95	MM5017N Dual 500/512 Bit Dynamic	3.95
TMS4044-45K 4K STATIC	14.95	2504T 1024 Dynamic	2.95
		2518 Hex 20 Bit Static	2.95
		2519 Hex 40 Bit Static	2.95
		2522 Dual 132 Bit Static	4.00
		2524 512 Dynamic	9.95
		2525 1024 Dynamic	2.95
		2527 Dual 256 Bit Static	2.95
		2528 Dual 250 Static	4.00
		2529 Dual 240 Bit Static	4.00
		2532 Quad 80 Bit Static	2.95
		2533 1024 Static	2.95
		3341 F16	6.95
		74LS870 4 X 4 Register	1.95

CDP1802 Manual	280 Manual	2650 Manual	AY-5-1013	30K BAUD	PRICE
					\$ 7.50
					7.50
					5.00

## SPECIAL REQUESTED ITEMS

TELEPHONE KEYBOARD CHIPS	ICM CHIPS	MMOS READ ONLY	MISCELLANEOUS
AY-5-9100 \$14.95	ICM7045 \$24.95	MEMORIES	11390 \$39.95
AY-5-9200 14.95	ICM7205 19.95	MC68571 \$13.50	MK04040 \$17.50
AY-5-9500 4.95	ICM7207 7.50	MC68574 13.50	MS030CH 3.75
AY-5-2376 14.95	ICM7099 6.95	MC1408L1 5.75	TL308 10.20
HD0185 7.95	ICM7099 6.95	MC1408L1 5.75	95H90 11.95
74C822 9.95	TV GAME CHIP SET	LV180111 \$125.00/set	
	AY-3-8500-1 Chip and 2 0.10 MHZ Crystals	MC016(74416) \$1.50	
		4N33 3.95	

## The Sinclair PDM35. A personal digital multimeter for only \$59.95

Now everyone can afford to own a digital multimeter.

The Sinclair PDM35 is supplied completely assembled with test leads and a production-writer and Operator's Manual. The Sinclair PDM35 is tailor-made for anyone who needs to make rapid measurements. Designed by engineers, field service engineers, lab technicians, computer specialists, radio and electronic hobbyists will find it ideal.

The Sinclair PDM35 changes that. It's got all the functions and features you want in a digital multimeter, yet it's neatly packaged in a rugged but light pocket-size case, ready to go anywhere.

Technical specifications:  
DC Voltage (4 ranges): Range: 1mV to 1000V Accuracy of reading: 1.0% ± 1 count. Note: 10 mV input impedance  
AC Voltage (40 Hz-3 kHz): Range: 1V to 500V Accuracy of reading: 1.0% ± 2 counts  
DC Current (6 ranges): Range: 1mA to 200mA Accuracy of reading: 1.0% ± 1 count. Note: Max. resolution 0.1 nA  
Resistance (5 ranges): Range: 1Ω to 20 MΩ Accuracy of reading: 1.5% ± 1 count. Also measures diode continuity ranges.  
Dimensions: 6.3 in x 3.1 in x 1.9 in Weight: 6.1 oz  
Power supply: 9V battery or Sinclair AC Adapter (quantity not shown)  
Sockets: Standard 4 mm for resilient plugs  
Options: AC adapter for 117V 60 Hz Power; Deluxe padded carrying case

PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
PDM35	Digital Multimeter (Completely Assembled)	\$59.95
PDM-AC	I17 volt AC Adapter	6.95
PDM-DP	Deluxe padded carrying case	6.95

## BK PRECISION 3 1/2-Digit Portable DMM

- Overload Protected
- 3 high LED Display
- Battery or AC operation
- Auto Zeroing
- 1mv 1V to 0.1 ohm resolution
- Overrange reading
- 10 meg input impedance
- DC Accuracy 1% typical
- Ranges: DC Voltage: 0-1000V AC Voltage: 0-1000V
- Freq. Response: 50-400 Hz
- DC/AC Current: 0-100mA
- Resistance: 0-10 meg ohm
- Size: 6 3/4 x 4 1/2

Model 2800 \$99.95

Accessories:  
AC Adapter BC-28 \$9.00  
Rechargeable Batteries BP-26 20.00  
Carrying Case LC-28 7.50

## 100 MHz 8-Digit Counter

- 20 Hz-100 MHz Range
- 6 LED Display
- Crystal-controlled timebase
- Fully Automatic
- Portable — completely self-contained
- Size — 1.75" x 3.75" x 5.63"

Four power sources (i.e. batteries, 110 or 220V with lighter adapter and external 7-10V power supply)

MAX-100 \$134.95

ACCESSORIES FOR MAX 100:  
Mobile Charger Eliminator use power from car battery Model 100 — CLA \$3.95  
Charger/Eliminator use 110V AC Model 100 — CAI \$9.95

## 63-Key Unencoded KEYBOARDS Hexadecimal Encoder

This is a 63-key, terminal keyboard newly manufactured by a large computer manufacturer. It is unencoded with SPST keys, unattached to any kind of PC board. A very solid molded plastic 13 x 4" base suits most application. IN STOCK

19-key pad includes 1-10 keys, ABCDEF and 2 optional keys and a shift key.

\$29.95/each \$10.95/each

\$5.00 Minimum Order — U.S. Funds Only  
California Residents — Add 6% Sales Tax

Spec Sheets — 25¢  
1978 A Catalog Available — Send 41c stamp

## Jameco ELECTRONICS

PHONE ORDERS WELCOME (415) 592-8097

MAIL ORDER ELECTRONICS — WORLDWIDE  
1021 HOWARD AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070  
Advertised Prices Good Thru September

## The Incredible "Pennywhistle 103"

**\$139.95 Kit Only**

The Pennywhistle 103 is capable of recording data to and from audio tape without critical speed requirements for the recorder and it is able to communicate directly with another modern terminal for telephone "hamming" and communications for the deaf. In addition, it is free of critical adjustments and is built with non-precision, readily available parts.

Maximum Data Rate ..... Frequency Shift Keying, full-duplex (half-duplex selectable).  
Data Format ..... Asynchronous Serial (return to mark level required between each character).  
Receive Channel Frequencies ..... 2025 Hz for space, 2225 Hz for mark.  
Transmit Channel Frequencies ..... Switch selectable. Low (normal) = 1070 space, 1270 mark. High = 025 space, 2225 mark.  
Receive Sensitivity ..... 15 dbm nominal. Adjustable from -6 dbm to -20 dbm.  
Transmit Level ..... 15 dbm nominal. Adjustable from -6 dbm to -20 dbm.  
Receive Frequency Tolerance ..... Frequency reference automatically adjusts to allow operation between 1800 Hz and 2400 Hz.  
Digital Data Interface ..... EIA RS-232C or 20 mA current loop (receiver is optoisolated and non-polar).  
Power Requirements ..... 120 VAC, single phase, 10 watts.  
Physical ..... All components mount on a single 5" by 9" printed circuit board. All components included.  
Requires a VDM Audio Oscillator, Frequency Counter and/or Oscilloscope to align.

## The Original the 3rd Hand \$9.95 each

Leaves two hands free for working  
Clamps on edge of bench, table or work bench  
Position board on angle or flat position for soldering or clipping  
Sturdy, aluminum construction for hobbyist, manufacturer or school rooms

## DIGITAL STOPWATCH

- Bright 6 Digit LED Display
- Times to 99 minutes 59.99 seconds
- Crystals Controlled Time Base
- Three Stopwatches in One
- Times Single Event — Split & Tallyer
- Size 4.5" x 2.15" x .90" (4 1/2 ounces)
- Uses 3 Penrite Cells

Kit — \$39.95  
Assembled — \$49.95  
Heavy Duty Carry Case \$5.95

Stop Watch Chip Only (7205) \$19.95

## IMS 3 1/2 DIGIT DPM KIT

- New Bipolar Unit
- Auto Zeroing
- 5" LED
- Single IC Unit

Model KB500 DPM Kit \$49.00  
Model KB503 5V Power Kit \$17.50

## JE700 CLOCK

The JE700 is a slow clock tick clock, but is a very high quality unit. The unit features a simulated walnut case with dimensions of 6 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 1 1/2". It utilizes a MAX72 high brightness red/white and the MM5318 clock chip.

12 or 24 Hour  
115 VAC  
KIT ONLY \$16.95

## JE803 PROBE

The Logic Probe is a unit which is for the most part indispensable in trouble shooting logic. It carries TTL DTL TTL CMOS. It derives the power it needs to operate directly off of the circuit under test drawing a scant 10 mA max. It uses a MAX93 readout to indicate any of the following states by these symbols: (H) (L) (W) (P) (L) (S) (P). The Probe can detect high frequency pulses to 45 MHz. It can be used at MOS levels or circuit damage will result.

\$9.95 Per Kit

## T<sup>2</sup>L 5V 1A Supply

This is a standard TTL power supply using the well known LM093 regulator IC to provide a solid 1 AMP of current at 5 volts. We try to make things easy for you by providing everything you need in one package, including the hardware for only

JE225 \$9.95 Per Kit

## CSC PROTO BOARDS

PROTO BOARD 6 \$15.95 (6" long x 4" wide)

PB100 - 4.5" x 6"	\$ 19.95
PB101 - 5.8" x 4.5"	29.95
PB102 - 7" x 4.5"	39.95
PB103 - 9" x 6"	59.95
PB104 - 9.5" x 8"	79.95
PB203 - 9.75 x 6 1/2 x 2 3/4	80.00
PB203A - 9.75 x 6 1/2 x 2 3/4	129.95 (includes power supply)

PROTO CLIPS

14 PIN	\$4.50
16 PIN	4.75
24 PIN	8.50
40 PIN	13.75

# INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONICS UNLIMITED

**LOW POWER SCHOTTKY - 74LS series**  
 Prime Motorola IC's - Factory warranted  
 Buy \$10.00 -any mix- deduct 10%  
 Buy \$15.00 -any mix- deduct 10%

## IC SALE

**LINEAR CIRCUITS**  
 All guaranteed functional  
 Some items overmarked house numbers  
 Buy \$10.00 -any mix- deduct 10%  
 Buy \$15.00 -any mix- deduct 15%

74LS00	\$.18	74LS54	\$.18	74LS157	\$.44	74LS251	\$.66
74LS01	\$.18	74LS55	\$.18	74LS158	\$.53	74LS252	\$.66
74LS02	\$.18	74LS56	\$.26	74LS160	\$.63	74LS256	\$.83
74LS03	\$.18	74LS83	\$.60	74LS161	\$.63	74LS257	\$.44
74LS04	\$.20	74LS86	\$.30	74LS162	\$.63	74LS258	\$.66
74LS05	\$.20	74LS89	\$.71	74LS163	\$.63	74LS259	\$.83
74LS08	\$.18	74LS90	\$.42	74LS165	\$.86	74LS260	\$.18
74LS09	\$.18	74LS92	\$.43	74LS168	\$.84	74LS262	\$.29
74LS10	\$.18	74LS93	\$.43	74LS169	\$.84	74LS279	\$.31
74LS11	\$.18	74LS95	\$.74	74LS170	\$.84	74LS283	\$.71
74LS13	\$.31	74LS109	\$.61	74LS171	\$.84	74LS290	\$.56
74LS14	\$.48	74LS112	\$.26	74LS174	\$.51	74LS293	\$.63
74LS15	\$.18	74LS113	\$.26	74LS175	\$.51	74LS295	\$.89
74LS20	\$.18	74LS114	\$.26	74LS181	\$.21	74LS298	\$.89
74LS21	\$.18	74LS122	\$.33	74LS190	\$.96	74LS365	\$.36
74LS22	\$.18	74LS123	\$.63	74LS191	\$.81	74LS366	\$.36
74LS26	\$.21	74LS125	\$.36	74LS192	\$.64	74LS367	\$.36
74LS27	\$.18	74LS126	\$.36	74LS193	\$.64	74LS368	\$.36
74LS28	\$.20	74LS132	\$.59	74LS194	\$.66	74LS378	\$.69
74LS30	\$.18	74LS133	\$.18	74LS195	\$.64	74LS390	\$.96
74LS32	\$.18	74LS136	\$.28	74LS196	\$.76	74LS393	\$.96
74LS33	\$.21	74LS138	\$.51	74LS197	\$.76	74LS395	\$.96
74LS38	\$.21	74LS151	\$.44	74LS240	\$.39	74LS490	\$.78
74LS40	\$.20	74LS153	\$.44	74LS241	\$.39	74LS570	\$.89
74LS42	\$.60	74LS155	\$.76	74LS243	\$.32		
74LS51	\$.18	74LS156	\$.76	74LS244	\$.39		

**TTL - 7400 - Full Spec**  
 Some items overmarked house numbers  
 Buy \$10.00 -any mix- deduct 10%  
 Buy \$15.00 -any mix- deduct 15%

7400	.10	7441	.75	7491	.64	74163	.75
7401	.15	7442	.35	7492	.39	74164	.65
7402	.14	7443	.45	7493	.39	74165	.75
7403	.12	7444	.60	7494	.59	74166	.95
7404	.14	7445	.50	7495	.59	74170	1.50
7405	.17	7446	.55	7496	.49	74173	1.25
7406	.15	7447	.55	74100	.89	74174	1.05
7407	.15	7448	.60	74105	.38	74175	.65
7408	.18	7450	.15	74107	.25	74176	.70
7409	.15	7451	.15	74121	.29	74177	.70
7410	.10	7453	.13	74123	.32	74180	.40
7411	.19	7454	.10	74125	.45	74181	1.95
7413	.30	7460	.10	74126	.40	74182	.70
7414	.55	7464	.20	74132	.60	74185	1.85
7415	.22	7465	.20	74141	.70	74190	.95
7416	.14	7470	.27	74145	.70	74191	.85
7417	.20	7472	.30	74150	.89	74192	.50
7420	.14	7473	.29	74151	.50	74193	.50
7423	.28	7474	.18	74153	.50	74194	.85
7425	.32	7475	.42	74154	.95	74195	.50
7426	.15	7476	.29	74155	.55	74196	.80
7427	.20	7480	.17	74156	.40	74197	.75
7430	.17	7483	.58	74157	.45	74198	1.40
7432	.15	7485	.75	74158	.55	74199	1.25
7437	.15	7486	.27	74160	.65	745200	3.25
7438	.15	7489	1.25	74161	.60	74279	.65
7440	.13	7490	.35	74162	.95		

LM300H	.49	LM340T (78XX)	1.19	LM566CN	1.19	ULN2208	.89
LM301CN	.20	5,6,8,12	1.19	LM567CN	1.19	ULN2209	.89
LM302H	.45	15,18,24	1.19	LM567H	1.49	CA3046	1.19
LM304H	.80	LM370	.65	LM703H	.59	CA3081H	1.49
LM305H	.45	LM372N	2.93	LM703CN	.39	CA3081H	1.99
LM307CN	.20	LM376CN	.25	LM709N	.25	CA3082	1.45
LM307H	.30	LM377N	.95	LM709H	.29	LM3900N	1.35
LM308H	.39	LM380N	.79	LM710N	.59	LM7524	.79
LM309H	1.05	LM380N-8CN	.59	LM711N	.35	LM7525	.79
LM309K	1.05	LM381N	1.75	LM723H	.55	LM7535	.45
LM310CN	1.07	LM382N	1.75	LM723N	.52	80388	4.59
LM311CN	.40	LM385K	.25	LM733H	.59	75450AN	.35
LM319N	1.13	LM387CN	.49	LM739H	.65	75451CN	.25
LM320K	NE531V	1.90	LM741CN(8)	.25	75452CN	.25	
LM320K	NE540L	1.90	LM741CN(14)	.32	75453CN(351)	.25	
LM3201 (79XX)	5,5,8,12,15	1.29	LM741H	.35	75454CN	.35	
LM322N	5,12,15	1.19	LM747H	.79	75491N	.75	
LM324N	LM555CN	.39	LM747N	.65	75492N	.75	
LM329N	LM556CN	.85	LM748CN	.25	XR320	1.19	
LM340K	LM560N	2.95	LM1310N	2.25	XR2207	1.49	
LM565H	LM561N	2.95	LM1414N	1.60	XR2567	1.49	
LM566H	LM655N	.59	LM1456CN	1.29	XR4136	1.49	
LM566H	LM655H	1.39	LM1800N	.89	XR4202	.69	
LM566H	LM666H	1.39	LM1800N	1.75	XR4739	.69	

**TTL - 7400**  
 tested and passed logic test-  
 not full parametric specs  
 minimum 10 pcs or \$1 per item

**IC SOCKETS**

Low Profile	16	24	Tail	Wire Wrap
8 pin	\$.36			8 pin .45
14 pin	.19	28 pin	.44	14 pin .49
16 pin	.21	40 pin	.61	16 pin .55
18 pin	.28			

7400	.05	7460	.05
7401	.05	7472	.12
7402	.05	7473	.12
7403	.05	7474	.10
7404	.06	7476	.12
7405	.06	7483	.18
7406	.09	7485	.25
7407	.09	7486	.12
7409	.07	7491	.20
7410	.05	7493	.14
7416	.12	7495	.20
7420	.06	74100	.40
7423	.12	74107	.12
7425	.17	74123	.18
7426	.09	74125	.22
7427	.09	74126	.22
7430	.07	74132	.22
7432	.08	74141	.25
7437	.07	74145	.25
7438	.07	74150	.40
7440	.05	74151	.20
7441	.30	74153	.15
7442	.20	74154	.40
7443	.20	74163	.35
7444	.20	74164	.35
7445	.20	74161	.25
7446	.30	74180	.25
7448	.30	74182	.25
7450	.06	74191	.30
7451	.07	74192	.28
7453	.06	74194	.28
7454	.05	74195	.18

**LED DISPLAY, Red 7 seg**  
 NSN74R common cathode  
 .3" RHD.....\$ .59

**LED DISPLAY, Red 7 seg**  
 MAN72 common anode  
 .3" LHD.....\$ .59

**LED DISPLAY, yellow 7 seg**  
 MAN82 common anode  
 .3" LHD.....\$ .69

**PLASTIC CASES**

**VERO - dark and light gray**  
 nominal 0.0

2514F	2"x4"x1"	\$4.34
2516G	2"x4"x1.6"	4.90
2518H	2.6"x4.7"x1.6"	5.48
2520J	3.2"x6"x2"	6.24
2522K	4.3"x7.4"x2.4"	8.28
2556G	2.6"x4.7"x2.6"	6.74
2760D	4.3"x7.4"x2.4"	(w/ handle/stand) 10.78
2525F	2.8"x5.4"x2.4"	(ventilated) 5.40
1591C	2.6"x4.8"x1.6"	2.65

**SUMMER CIRCUITS**  
 ELEKTOR 78

Double issue containing more than 100 circuits - such as high-perf. disc pre-amp, Audio control amp., LED level indicator, Car ammeter, Bike speedometer, A/D converter and many more.

with order \$3.00  
 mag only 4.25

**CERAMIC DISC CAPACITORS - 50V**

1pf	22pf	56pf	120pf	270pf	820pf	.022uf
5pf	27pf	68pf	150pf	390pf	.001uf	.030uf
7pf	33pf	82pf	180pf	470pf	.0047uf	.050uf
10pf	47pf	100pf	220pf	600pf	.01uf	.1uf

1-10 per value \$1.00ea  
 100-1000 .05ea  
 1000- .04ea

**CAPACITOR KIT - ceramic disc**  
 50V, 24 values, 10 capacitors each

1pf	33pf	82pf	220pf	820pf	.022uf
5pf	47pf	100pf	270pf	.001uf	.030uf
10pf	56pf	150pf	470pf	.0047uf	.050uf
22pf	68pf	180pf	600pf	.01uf	.1uf

capacitors only.....\$11.95

**TANTALUM CAPACITORS - solid dipped**

.1u/35V	\$.20	6.8/6	\$.25	15/50	\$.40
.22/35	\$.20	6.8/16	\$.25	22/16	\$.40
.33/35	\$.20	6.8/50	\$.30	33/10	\$.50
1/35	\$.20	10/16	\$.30	47/6	\$.50
2.2/20	\$.25	10/25	\$.35	47/25	\$.55
2.2/35	\$.25	10/50	\$.35	56/6	\$.65
3.3/35	\$.25	15/10	\$.35	100/20	1.25
4.7/16	\$.25	15/20	\$.35		

**TANTALUM CAPACITOR KIT**  
 solid dipped, 12 values, 5 each  
 .1u/35V 2.2/35 10/25 33/10  
 .33/35 4.7/16 15/20 47/25  
 1/35 6.8/16 22/16 56/6  
 capacitors only.....\$14.95

**ELECTRONIC BUZZER**

Miniature, Solid State

6V 15ma	(4-9V oper.)	\$1.29 ea.
12V 15ma	(8-20V oper.)	\$1.29 ea.

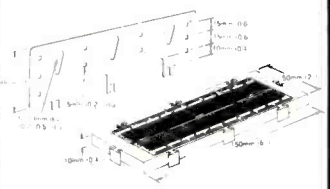
**TRIMPOT - Single Turn**  
 Mepco - Cermet 8014  
 .5w, + 100 PPM/°C + 20%  
 500 ohm, 2K, 10K, 20K, 50K,  
 100K, 500K, 1M.

1-9	10-99	100-999	1000-
\$.75ea	.69	.63	.57

**TRIMPOT - 25 turn**  
 Bourns - Cermet 3299W  
 PC Mount, vert. adj.  
 2K, 10K, 20K

1-9	10-99	100-
\$1.65	1.50	1.35

**BIMBOARD - BREADBOARD KIT**



Solderless breadboard section has 94 breadboard strips of 5 sockets each. 2 bus strips of 40 sockets each. Component bracket for switches lamps etc., accepts leads .10" to .035" diameter. \$11.95 ea.

MM5316	Clock Chip	.95
MM5370	Clock Chip	3.95
MM5375AA	Clock Chip	2.95
CT7001	Clock Chip	4.95
2513(caps)	Char. Gen.	3.95
2513(L.C.)	Char. Gen.	3.95
MM1101	256 bit RAM	.65
MM1103	1K RAM	.75
MM5261	1K RAM	.55
MM5262	1K RAM	.95
F93410	256 bit RAM	.95

**CLOCK KIT - Mark I**  
 6 digit clock kit with one PC board. Accommodates MM5314 clock chip and 6 FND 359 displays contains all components except transformer. Includes 3 switches. Board has terminals for remote displays. \$10.95

**METAL FILM RESISTORS**  
 + 1%, 1/4w, + 50 PPM/°C  
 Standard Decade Values 10.5 - 464K

Qty.	Ea.	Min 10/value	Min 100/value
1-99	\$.20	\$.15	
100-999	.20	.10	\$9.00/100
1000-			8.00/100

**Carbon Film ± 5% 1/4w or 1/2w**  
 15 ea. of 12 values:  
 100, 220, 470, 1K, 1.5K, 3.3K  
 4.7K, 6.8K, 10K, 33K, 100K, 1M.  
 \$5.45

**Carbon Film ± 5% 1/4w or 1/2w**  
 Usage Evaluated Assortment  
 5 to 20 ea of 44 values.  
 \$12.95  
 Supplied in 15 Drawer 60 Comp. Cabinet. \$22.95 + \$2.00 Sh.

**PRECISION RESISTOR PACKAGE**  
 Metal Film ± 1% 1/4 watt  
 Starter Kit - 2ea. 60 values  
 120 Resistors 10.5 ohm- 464K  
 \$14.95  
 Supplied in 15 Drawer 60 Comp. Cabinet - \$26.50 + \$2.00 Sh.

**Rohm**  
 QUALITY RELIABILITY

**CARBON FILM RESISTORS**  
 + 1%, 1/4w, + 50 PPM/°C  
 Standard Decade Values 10.5 - 464K

Qty.	Ea.	Min 10/value	Min 100/value
1-99	\$.10	\$.05	
100-999	.10	.04	\$3.00/100
1000-			2.50/100

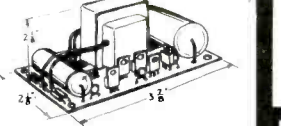
**IC BREADBOARD**

Silver plated copper circuits holds 5 - 16 pin DIP IC's and interconnection holes. \$1.00

**UNIVERSAL BREADBOARD**

Silver plated copper circuits fits any IC and related components. 2 triple rows of 27 holes for DIP. 3-3/16"x5-1/16" \$1.00

**REGULATED POWER SUPPLY**



Plus & minus 5V, 12V and 15V. Uses 3 LM340T and 3 LM320T regulators, 115



T.M.

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WITH EACH ORDER OF \$10.00 OR MORE  
(one gift per order) our famous MAGIC  
SOUND SWITCH - Request No.  
022SU210. (2 oz.)

BUILD YOUR OWN PARABOLIC MICROPHONE!

**THIS IS DIFFERENT**

Giant 22" transparent plastic "dish"! Use it to construct long distance parabolic microphones, sound concentrators and projectors. Exclusive design provides high gain and audio capture capability. High front to back ratio. Construction ideas included. (4 lb.) 022MP233.

**19<sup>95</sup>**

TELEPHONE KEYBOARD SPECIAL!



Similar to Western Electric - Matrix Encoded.

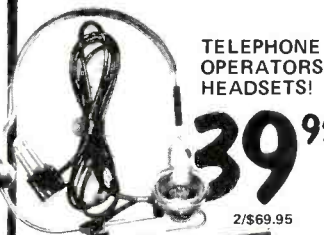
SEPTEMBER SPECIAL! Nice, non-tactile pad action. Exactly as pictured. Terminated for PC board mount or wire wrap. 3" x 2 1/2". Use to build encoders, decoders, dialers, computer entry systems, electronic locks, control keyboards, etc. (3 oz.) 022SW263.

## ETCO-PAK

### PARTS KITS

"BOXES & BAGS" OF THE FINEST PARTS AT WONDERFUL SAVINGS!

022PT339	1 lb. of single sided CU clad epoxy PC board (1 lb.)	\$2.95
022PT338	1 lb. of double sided CU clad epoxy PC board (1 lb.)	\$2.95
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022DR155	DIALIGHT 521-9186 micro LED (1 oz.)	.19c, 10/\$1.79, 100/\$15.95
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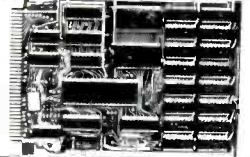
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002	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
003	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
004	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
005	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05

**MINIBOX METALIZED POLYESTER CAPACITORS**

MINIBOX METALIZED POLYESTER CAPACITORS

MINIBOX METALIZED POLYESTER CAPACITORS

**PATENTED CHROMATEMETER SCREEN, DIE CAST METAL FRAME**

PATENTED CHROMATEMETER SCREEN, DIE CAST METAL FRAME

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1-4	24 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
1-5	28 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10

### MOLEX I.C. SOCKET PINS

Part No.	Description	Price
1-1	16 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
1-2	18 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
1-3	20 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
1-4	24 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
1-5	28 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10

### MINIBOX METALIZED POLYESTER CAPACITORS

Part No.	Description	Price
001	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
002	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
003	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
004	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
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Part No.	Description	Price
1-1	16 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
1-2	18 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
1-3	20 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
1-4	24 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
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### MINIBOX METALIZED POLYESTER CAPACITORS

Part No.	Description	Price
001	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
002	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
003	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
004	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05
005	1000V 10 13210 10.35C	0.05

**PATENTED CHROMATEMETER SCREEN, DIE CAST METAL FRAME**

PATENTED CHROMATEMETER SCREEN, DIE CAST METAL FRAME

PATENTED CHROMATEMETER SCREEN, DIE CAST METAL FRAME

**ICE 200K**

ICE 200K

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### MOLEX I.C. SOCKET PINS

Part No.	Description	Price
1-1	16 Pin Molex I.C. Socket Pin	0.10
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#### SPECIFICATIONS:

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Ranges: 10mV/DIV in 11 calibrated steps plus variable control.

Accuracy: ± 4%

Frequency Response: DC to 30 MHz.

Risetime: 11.7ns

Overshoot: 4% or less.

Vertical Modes: Channel A only, Channel B only, Alternate A & B, Chopped A & B, Add (A + B).

##### TIME BASE

Sweep Rates: 2 SEC/DIV to 0.05 SEC/DIV in 24 calibrated steps plus variable control.

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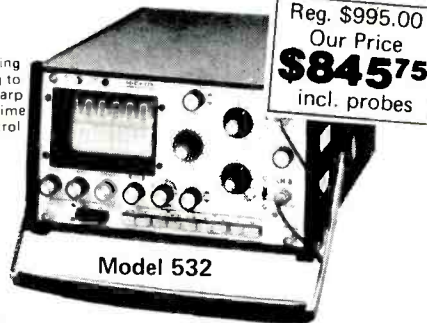
##### TRIGGERING

Modes: AC-HF, AC-LF

Sources: Line, Internal, External.

Slope: Positive and negative; continuously Variable level.

Sensitivity: Internal, 1/2 division to 30 MHz



Model 532

##### GENERAL

CRT: 4-inch flat faced round with viewing area of 6 x 10 divisions. P31 phosphor with 3.8 kV accelerating voltage.

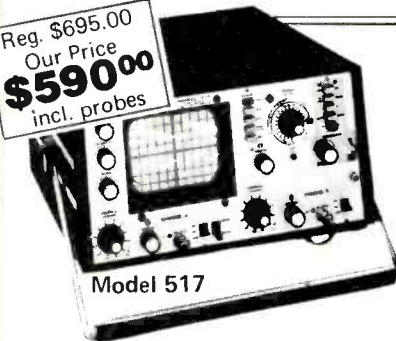
Power Requirements: 105-125V, 50-400 Hz, 35 watts.

##### DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT

6-7/8" h x 11-1/4" w x 17-3/4" d, 27 pounds.

##### ACCESSORIES

Rack mounting kit RM-4 (P/N 100-138) also available.



Model 517

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#### SPECIFICATIONS:

##### VERTICAL

Ranges: 10mV/cm to 50V/cm in 12 calibrated steps. Variable control from 5mV/cm to 50V/cm.

Accuracy: ± 3%

Frequency Response: DC to 15 MHz.

Risetime: 24ns.

##### TIME BASE

Sweep Rates: 0.2 SEC/cm to 0.5 μSEC/cm (0.1 μSEC/cm with X5 expander) in 18 calibrated steps.

Variable control from 0.1 μSEC/cm to 1 SEC/cm.

Accuracy: ± 5%

##### TRIGGERING

Slope: + & - . Variable level control.

Sensitivity: 1 division (on CRT) to 27 MHz guaranteed.

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##### ACCESSORIES

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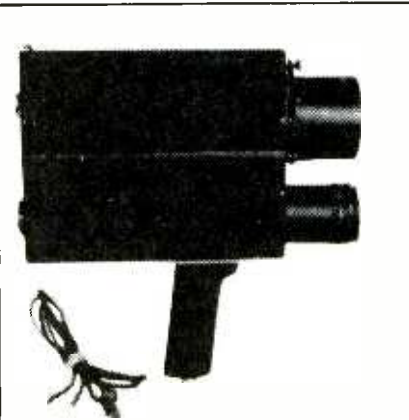
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No need to be concerned about replacement parts. There is not one component that is made anywhere else but in America.

**4 MOUNTS ANYWHERE, EVERYWHERE.**

With the spectacular Unimount, you can fit your K40 to any mounting surface—anywhere. And that's guaranteed too. 100%. That means this single K40 antenna can easily fit any vehicle you own—or you'll ever own. That includes choppers, dune buggies, gutters, mirror mounts, luggage racks, trunks, hatch-backs, through roofs, semi's, pick-up's & RV's.

**5 SOLD BY PROFESSIONAL DEALERS THAT TAKE PRIDE IN SERVICING CBER'S.**

Like pro-golf clubs, the K40 antenna is sold through pro-CB/Electronic stores only. It's not being sold to mass merchandisers. It's not being sold to Sears or Penney's or any retail outlets that cannot offer full-time professional support to the service you need. We control that because we personally qualify each and every retailer before we sign him on.

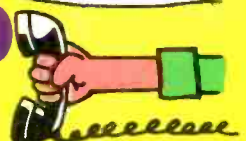
**6 HERE'S OUR DEAL.**

Make a check for \$38.50. Rip out this page and run over to your local CB shop for your very own K40. If he is out of K40's, have him call us immediately. We'll get it out to him in 24 hours. Here's how:

**REACH!**  
for your dealer's phone and dial,

**312-697-7400**

**GO FOR IT.**



Our boys will be waiting for him at  
**AMERICAN ANTENNA, Elgin, Illinois.**  
An All-American Product by an All-American Company.