

**Radio-Electronics**

**HI-FI TEST REPORT**

75c ■ JULY 1975

# Radio-Electronics

THE MAGAZINE FOR NEW IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

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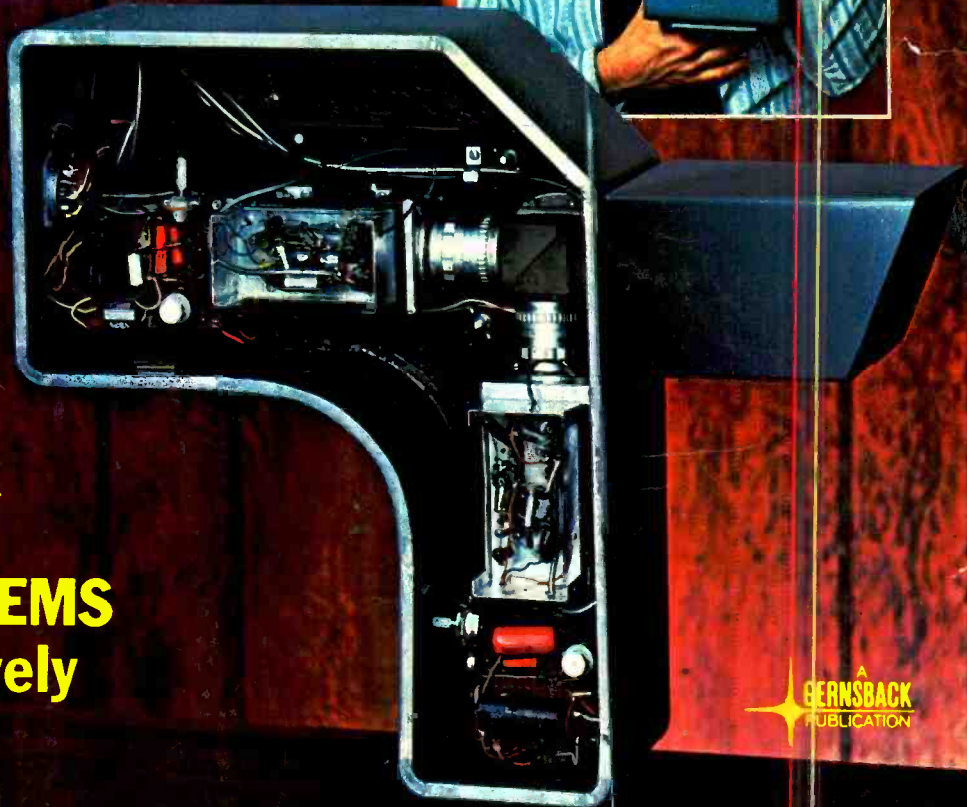
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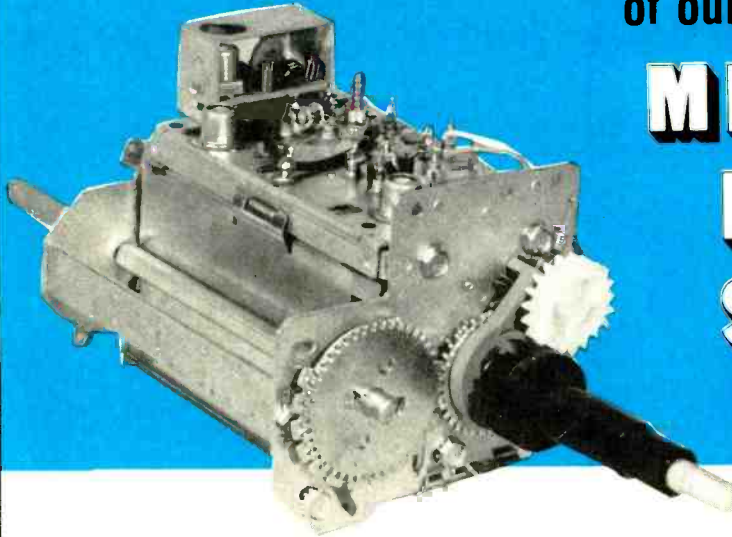
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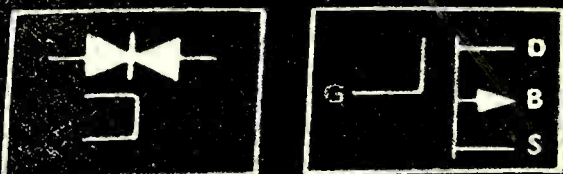
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# looking ahead

## Calculators' future

Worldwide calculator production totaled about 34 million units in 1974 and it will rise to more than 92 million in 1978, according to forecasts by Coleman & Co., a New York broker. Coleman predicts that the average factory price of all calculators will decline by 1978 from today's \$36.56 to \$22.39. Hand-held consumer calculators now average \$26.12 at the factory and will drop to \$11.40 in the same period.

L. J. Sevin, president of Mostek, a calculator manufacturing firm, warned American manufacturers that the calculator could go the way of the transistor radio—to the Far East. Before the end of this year, he said, Oriental assemblers may be able to put together six-digit calculators for considerably under five dollars. He gave this breakdown of costs: Vacuum-fluorescent display, 90¢; 4-function chip, \$1.30; keyboard, 60¢; battery 8¢; case, 20¢; labor 13¢; packaging and instructions, 16¢.

## Electronic journalism

In a few short months, television news coverage has been revolutionized by ENG. ENG means "electronic news gathering" and it was the hottest topic at the recent convention of the National Association of Broadcasters. In seminars and at the equipment exhibitions, it became obvious that the entire TV broadcasting industry is changing over from film to ENG for on-the-spot news coverage. ENG owes its existence to a little black box—called the time base corrector—that converts the output of a portable video tape recorder to a broadcast-quality signal.

In its simplest terms, ENG replaces news film with tape. Portable color cameras, some

of them weighing no more than a 16-mm film camera, are used to feed portable battery-operated VTRs, such as the Sony U-Matic or the Akai ¼-inch recorder. The tape is rushed back to the studio where it is electronically edited—generally using two special videocassette editing recorders. The output of the edited tape is fed through the time base corrector into a standard two-inch broadcast VTR for airing. Broadcasters using ENG cite these advantages: Speed—electronic editing plus elimination of the need for processing makes it possible to cover later stories on newscasts. More coverage—because ENG requires smaller crews than film, extra news teams can be used with the same staff. Economy—tape can be used over and over.

## Sony home VTR

Sony has introduced a videocassette recorder in Japan designed specifically for home use, and plans to market a similar unit in the United States this fall. Unlike Sony's industrial U-Matic VTR which uses ¾" wide tape, the new "Betamax" home device employs ½-inch tape. The most striking feature of the new home system is its extreme economy of tape. The helical-scan recorder moves the tape along at a lazy 1.57 IPS, making it possible to record a full hour of video on about 494 feet of tape in a pocket-sized cassette that costs only \$15. A 30-minute cassette will sell for \$10.

Sony says the tape economy is the result of a new recording head with an extremely narrow gap and a new high-density tape formulation. In Japan, a console containing the record-player, a clock-timer and a 17-inch Trinitron color set sells for about \$1,500. Future Sony color sets will have built-in VTR jacks to accommodate a videocassette deck that sells

for about \$760 in Japan. Since the deck doesn't put out an RF signal, it must be attached internally to older sets, at a charge of about \$100. The U.S. version of the color TV-VTR console is expected to include a 19-inch set, in keeping with American tastes for larger screens. Sony says it is producing 5,000 decks and 2,000 TV-VTR consoles monthly.

The new recorder provides the highest density of video information storage yet achieved on magnetic tape. A total of 20.6 square feet of tape is required for an hour's recording. This compares with 70.3 square feet an hour for the ¾-inch Sony U-Matic, 56.2 square feet for RCA's proposed home videocassette recorder and 93.8 square feet for the standard Japanese cartridge or open-reel video tape recorder.

## AM stereo

Why not put stereo on AM, too? This idea has cropped up from time to time, but never got very far. Now RCA has asked the EIA to set up a special study committee and has submitted its own proposed system. The RCA system uses a multiplexed L-R signal, frequency modulated. RCA says broadcasters who also have FM stereo outlets can use the same multiplex equipment to provide stereo AM and FM simultaneously. Regular AM receivers would still pick up a monophonic signal. To reproduce AM stereo signals, a special IC discriminator chip would be required in the receiver. Channel separation of 25 dB is claimed.

Two stations actually are broadcasting in AM stereo—but using a different system. Station XETRA in Tijuana, Mexico, has been putting out AM stereo since 1970, and WFBR in Baltimore is currently experimenting with it. Both are using a sideband system, in which the left and

right signals are transmitted slightly above and below the assigned station frequency. A radio tuned to the station's exact frequency receives a composite left-plus-right signal. To receive stereo programming, two radios can be used—each tuned to the proper sideband.

## Ghostless TV?

ABC has completed tests of circular polarization of TV signals in Chicago and is asking the FCC to approve this transmission system as an option for broadcasters. According to RCA, which is backing ABC's petition to the FCC, circular polarization can "virtually eliminate ghosting." This is because a signal which is polarized in a clockwise direction becomes a counterclockwise signal after it is reflected from an obstruction. This counterclockwise signal would be invisible to a special antenna designed for clockwise polarization.

The immediate beneficiaries of circular polarization would be viewers dependent on rabbit-ear antennas for reception. The new polarization method would give them more opportunity to eliminate ghosts by positioning the dipoles. For others, there's a catch. Although circular polarization won't harm reception by outdoor antennas, it won't improve it either. For ghost-free reception, a new antenna would be required. For broadcasters, too, the new system has a price. In addition to erecting a new transmitting antenna, an additional transmitter and a new tower will often be required. No wonder RCA is interested—it sees circular polarization creating a \$35 to \$50-million market in new transmitting and receiving equipment.

by DAVID LACHENBRUCH  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

# Radio-Electronics®

THE MAGAZINE FOR NEW IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

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JULY 1975 Vol. 46 No. 7

## BUILD ONE OF THESE

- 29 **Color TV Camera Costs About \$400**  
Try this 2-color system that produces lifelike results. It's an experimenter's dream. *by Gary Davis*
- 48 **Digital Memory For Your Scope**  
*Part II:* Final construction details include printed-circuit board patterns and parts placement diagrams. *by Chris Titus*
- 50 **COSMOS IC Burglar Alarm Circuits**  
*Part III:* More alarm circuits that really work plus useful data on how to use them effectively. *by R. M. Marston*

## HI-FI AUDIO STEREO

- 32 **R-E Tests The Sansui QRX-6001**  
First of a series of lab test reports that tell the true facts about new hi-fi gear. Exclusive to Radio-Electronics. *by Len Feldman*
- 45 **Make PA Work!**  
How to solve the problems of setting up a PA system so it can really do its job. *by David Yoshinari*

## GENERAL ELECTRONICS

- 4 **Looking Ahead**  
Tomorrow's news today. *by David Lachenbruch*

## TEST EQUIPMENT

- 16 **Equipment Report**  
Heath model IO-4510 dual-trace oscilloscope kit.
- 22 **Equipment Report**  
ACS Mark I function generator
- 25 **Equipment Report**  
Hickok model 270 function generator
- 35 **Test Equipment For Industrial Servicing**  
A detailed look at what's available today. The story includes both new and old equipment. *by Jack Darr*
- 53 **All About Oscilloscopes**  
*Part II:* Wrapup on what scope specifications really mean. Find out how much you know. *by Charles Gilmore*

## SOLID-STATE ELECTRONICS

- 42 **All About IC Operational Amplifiers**  
*Part II:* See how op-amps work and how you can put them to use. *by Don Lancaster*
- 87 **R-E's Replacement Guide for Japanese Transistors**  
*Part XXVIII:* More listings in our growing directory. *compiled by Elizabeth and Robert F. Scott*

## TELEVISION

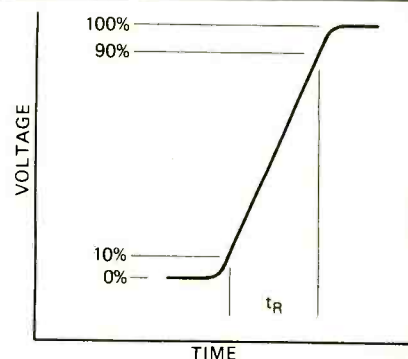
- 60 **Step-By-Step Troubleshooting Charts**  
What to do when a set has been damaged by lightning. *by Stan Prentiss*
- 65 **Service Clinic**  
More on HEW hold-down circuits in solid-state receivers. *by Jack Darr*

## DEPARTMENTS

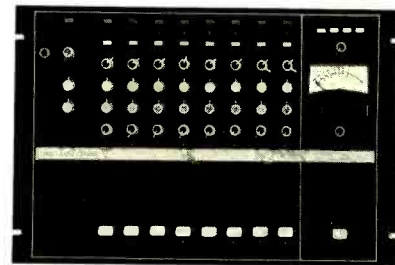
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| 98 Advertising Index     | 84 New Literature |
| 14 Letters               | 70 New Products   |
| 6 New & Timely           | 85 Next Month     |
| 101 Readers Service Card |                   |

## ON THE COVER

If you've always wanted to build your own color TV camera, here's your chance. This issue we feature the first part of a special construction article that tells you how you can do it now. For full details turn to page 29.



**RISE TIME IS JUST ONE** important scope specification. Find out just what it and the other scope specs mean and what you should know about them before you buy your next scope. **See page 53**



**PA SYSTEMS AREN'T MAGIC.** It just takes know-how to make them work right. Get some this month. **See page 45**

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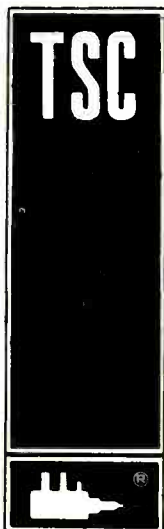
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## Citizens banders comment on proposed FCC regulation changes

REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Teams), the national organization of Citizens banders that organized to help motorists and others, commented in general favorably on the proposed revisions of the FCC Citizens band regulations. Among the REACTions were:

**Expansion of the Class-D band:** Increasing the number of channels, as proposed, is favored. But REACT opposes the elimination of straight AM in the Class-D service. Further, it suggests that expansion of the Class-D band should not be substituted for action to establish a new Class-E service in the 225-MHz region. REACT also advocates that all channels be open to both Inter-station and intra-station calls.

**Single sideband:** Retain the current 23 Class-D channels with both AM and SSB options. Divide the new channels equitably between AM and SSB-only operation, creating a basis for evaluating SSB-only operation.

**Emergency channel:** Limit emergency channel-9 to AM, to assure maximum participation in monitoring. Permit, on the emergency channels, communications necessary to maintain voluntary monitoring on those channels.

(An SSB emergency channel may become necessary, though REACT approaches the idea "with great reservations.")

**Calling channel:** The use of channel-11 for calling only is endorsed.

**Permissible communications:** Reducing the silent period to 1 minute "is appropriate." There is no objection to lowering the age limit to 16 years.

**Station identification:** Simplifying procedure by requiring the station to state only its own call sign is constructive, and may lead more licensees to give proper call sign identification.

**Antennas:** Changes in height limits, etc., are generally approved. But the establishment of antenna acceptance procedures is questioned. It would, REACT believes, increase complications and costs to the licensee, without benefiting him or contributing to the enforcement effort.

## Service organizations propose effective warranty procedure

To help solve the problem of providing warranty service, a committee composed of representatives of the three national electronic service dealer organizations have worked out a pro-

posal covering the warranty of consumer electronic equipment and the implementation of that warranty. The proposal will be submitted to all the national associations for study, approval and action.

The committee was composed of Nolan Boone, chairman, Little Rock, AR (member of NARDA, NATESA and NESDA); Joe Senatra, Milan, IL (representing NARDA); Leon Skalish, Glenolden, PA (representing NATESA) and Larry Steckler, Hicksville, NY (representing NESDA). The committee met at the Bismarck Hotel, Chicago, January 10 and 11, 1975.

Text of the proposal follows:

## WARRANTY STATEMENT

The warranty should be a full warranty for ninety (90) days covering all parts and all service. In any equipment using a picture tube, that tube along with any devices permanently attached to it by the manufacturer shall be covered (parts and service) for one (1) year.

**Exclusions** (*items not covered by the warranty*).

Faults outside the equipment (for example but not limited to—no AC power, antenna or reception problems).

Adjustment of any controls described in the owner's manual.

Abuse or misuse of the equipment (for example but not limited to—foreign objects inside the equipment, including liquids; dropping the equipment).

## IF AN ITEM IS NOT SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED IT IS COVERED BY THE WARRANTY

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WARRANTY

#### 1. Warranty Claims Filed by the Service Dealer

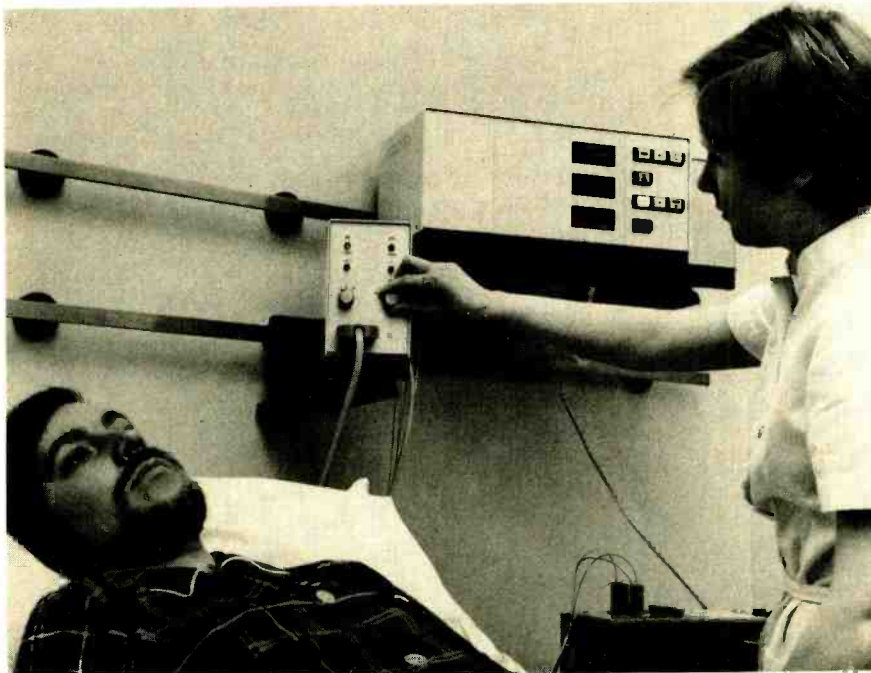
All claims shall be filed on an acceptable form. (It is the recommendation of the committee that a single form be developed for all warranty claims. Since EIA has developed such a form, they are encouraged to continue its development and full acceptance.)

#### 2. Manufacturers Payment to the Service Dealer

The amount of payment shall be determined by an agreement between the manufacturer and the service dealer. (The committee recommends that the service dealer should not accept any payment rate that is lower than that dealer's non-warranty service charges. This includes parts as well as service).

(This follows the procedures stated presently in the law of the State of

(continued on page 12)



**INSTANT CHECKER FOR PACEMAKERS** operates over ordinary phone lines. This one at the German Heart Center of Munich makes it possible for a patient to get a check in 50 seconds. Doctors and nurses at the Heart Center can then use the information to take indicated action immediately, often saving a life. (Electronic technicians may be equally interested in the track system that permits equipment to be made mobile and brought to each patient's bed.)



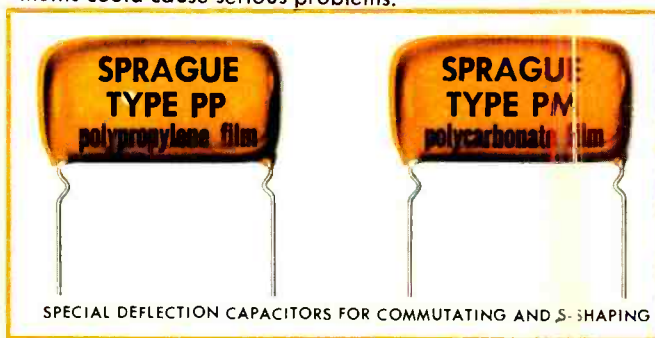
# Avoid serious problems when replacing film capacitors

Use genuine Sprague Type PP and PM Capacitors in critical deflection circuits.

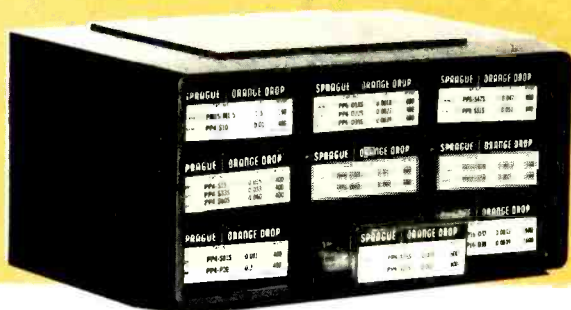
The next time you replace a dipped tubular in one of the newer color TV sets, don't automatically assume you're replacing an ordinary every-day film or paper capacitor. If it happens to be a deflection capacitor used for commutation or S-shaping, you need a *polypropylene* or *polycarbonate* film replacement with (1) high a-c current-carrying capability; (2) close capacitance tolerance; (3) good capacitance stability. The standard replacement capacitors used in the industry, even our superior Type PS dipped tubulars, just won't do the job . . . they could cause the set to become inoperative again.

Play it safe . . . dipped tubulars may look alike on the surface, but there can be a big difference in the film dielectric. Keep a supply of Sprague Type PP and PM capacitors

on hand for those critical situations where ordinary replacements could cause serious problems.



## A Service Technician Introductory Super Special . . .



## the KF-28 ASSORTMENT

... a total list price value of \$65.00... with a regular dealer net of \$35.95...

for a low, low \$ **25**<sup>20</sup> dealer net

Be ready for those critical application replacements in today's color TV sets with the KF-28 Assortment. It contains 41 Type PP and PM polypropylene and polycarbonate capacitors in 20 popular ratings, stocked in a handy cabinet that puts the film capacitors you need at your fingertips, neatly organized and easy to find. Measuring 9 3/4" wide x 5" high x 6 1/2" deep, this attractive blue 9-drawer cabinet has clear plastic drawers with adjustable dividers. Pre-labeled drawer fronts identify the capacitors inside. A raised area on top of the cabinet and a depression in the bottom facilitate stacking of two or more cabinets.

Get a KF-28 Assortment from your Sprague distributor today!

### ASSORTMENT KF-28 CONTENTS

Quan.	μF @ WVDC	Cat. No.	Quan.	μF @ WVDC	Cat. No.
2	1.5 @ 150	PM15-M1.5	2	.01 @ 600	PP6-S10S
2	.01 @ 400	PP4-S10	2	.066 @ 600	PP6-S66S
2	.015 @ 400	PP4-S15	2	.075 @ 600	PP6-S75S
2	.033 @ 400	PP4-S33S	2	.022 @ 800	PP8-S22S
2	.06 @ 400	PP4-S60S	2	.047 @ 800	PP8-S47S
2	.081 @ 400	PP4-S81S	2	.051 @ 800	PP8-S51S
2	.2 @ 400	PP4-P20	2	.0018 @ 1600	PP16-D18
2	.0018 @ 600	PP6-D18S	2	.002 @ 1600	PP16-D20
2	.0022 @ 600	PP6-D22S	2	.0033 @ 1600	PP16-D33
3	.0039 @ 600	PP6-D39S	2	.0039 @ 1600	PP16-D39

For cross-reference information on close-tolerance polypropylene and polycarbonate film capacitors, showing original part numbers with correct Sprague replacements, ask your Sprague distributor for Cross-Reference Guide C-873, or write to: Sprague Products Company, 81 Marshall Street, North Adams, Mass. 01247.

MEMBER



**THE BROAD-LINE PRODUCER OF ELECTRONIC PARTS**

Circle 4 on reader service card



JULY 1975 7

# Compare what you get training and you'll

## Compare costs

Only NRI offers five complete TV/Audio Servicing Courses from \$370 to \$1,095 . . . with convenient, inexpensive time payment plans. In the Master Course in color TV servicing, with a 25" diagonal solid-state color TV, you save as much as \$600 under the next leading home study school.

NRI saves you tuition because our costs are lower. We pay no salesmen, and we engineer our own kits and training equipment. We don't buy "hobby kits" from others. Nor do we penalize you with big interest charges for time payments. We pass the savings on to you.

## Compare training

NRI is one of the few home study schools that maintains its own full-time staff of technical writers, editors, illustrators, development engineers and publications experts. The people who design the kits also design the lessons . . . so that theory and practice go hand in hand. The lessons aren't "retro-fitted" to an outside-source "hobby kit." At each stage of building, you experiment with the *power on*; you don't wait till the set's completed to learn troubleshooting. The NRI set is designed exclusively for training. It is also a superb 100% solid-state receiver for your personal use.

## Compare choices

Most schools offer one course in color TV servicing, period. Only NRI offers you five different courses to match your needs and budget. The comprehensive 65-lesson course, complete with 7 kits, costs as little as \$370. Or you can choose the \$465 course that includes a 12" diagonal black & white portable TV for hands-on experience. Then there's the 19" diagonal solid-state color TV course for \$795; the advanced color TV course for trained technicians with an 18" diagonal color TV for \$645; and finally, the magnificent 25" diagonal solid-state color TV course, complete with console cabinet, oscilloscope, TV pattern generator, and a 3½ digit digital multimeter, for \$1,095. Other schools charge you hundreds of dollars more for an equivalent course.



# in TV/Audio home choose NRI.

## Compare equipment      Compare schools

NRI has engineered the widest variety of professional electronic lab equipment ever designed entirely for training at home. When you enroll in the Master Course in TV/Audio Servicing, for instance, you receive kits to build a wide band, solid-state, triggered sweep, service type 5" Oscilloscope; color pattern generator; solid-state radio; and a digital multimeter.

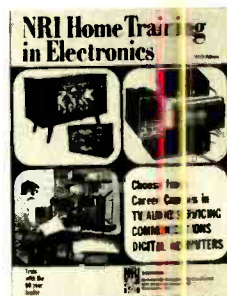
Before you settle on any home training course, compare the over-all program. See if you are getting kits engineered for experimentation and training . . . or merely "hobby kits". Count the experiments . . . compare the components. Don't just count kits. (Some schools even call a slide rule a kit.)

Home study isn't a sideline with NRI. We've been its innovating leader for 60 years. Ask any of the hundreds of thousands of NRI graduates. They'll tell you . . . you can pay more but you can't buy better training.

Along with each course, NRI provides bite-size, fully-illustrated lessons; personally graded tests; and the kind of person-to-person teaching that makes learning easier and faster.

Send for the free NRI full-color electronics catalog and discover why so many choose NRI. You'll find courses offered in TV/Audio Servicing, FCC License, Complete Communications Electronics, Digital Computer Electronics, Marine and Aircraft Electronics, Mobile Communications, etc.

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Minnesota that says: "Reasonable compensation... shall be the amount of money that the service dealer charges his other customers for like services or repairs not covered by warranty protection... In addition, the manufacturer shall reimburse the service dealer at that dealer's normal retail price... for all parts and materials needed to effect the manufacturer's guarantee."

All claims submitted to the manufacturer shall be paid *in full* or returned with question, within 30 days of receipt of the claim by the manufacturer.

### 3. Parts

Defective warranty parts removed by the service dealer shall be retained by that dealer for one (1) month and ten (10) days. The manufacturer may request that removed parts be picked up by his agent or be shipped to him at the expense of the manufacturer. If this request is not made by the end of the period of 1 month and 10 days from the date of the claim, the parts may be disposed of by the service dealer.

Payment for parts shall be a part of the warranty agreement between the manufacturer and the service dealer. (See Part 3: Manufacturer's Payment to the Service Dealer for details.)

Many of the procedures and recommendations and procedures in the proposal above are the result of long-term efforts by national, regional, State and local associations, who have put a great deal of time and effort into developing a practical warranty plan that would protect the equipment owner by making it possible for the service dealer to implement the manufacturer's warranty.

### Electronic lead poisoning test is quick and inexpensive

A new blood test for lead poisoning can be performed in one minute, with equipment far less complex and expensive than has previously been needed.

The new technique, devised by scientists at Bell Laboratories, uses the fluorescence, or light emission, of the blood when the sample is irradiated with a beam of blue light. To conduct a test, the nurse would take a drop of blood from the subject's finger, place it on a glass slide and insert it in a special fluorimeter. If the person has absorbed excessive amounts of lead, the blood gives off red light of a specific frequency. The intensity of the red fluorescence is recorded on a digital meter to indicate the lead level in the blood.

Lead poisoning is a serious problem, especially in cities, though the situation was improved somewhat by the 1970 restriction of lead in paint. Over 30,000

cases of lead poisoning were reported in the United States in 1973, and it is estimated that 25% of children, 5% of men and 2% of women have in their bodies quantities of lead that are near the toxic level. Young children often swallow paint chips and breathe dust



**THE PORTABLE ELECTRONIC TESTER** uses a single drop of blood (note the slide, foreground) and gives a quick digital readout.

that may have fallen from the walls of old houses. Another source of lead is city dust that has a high lead content from automobile exhausts.

Bell Labs scientists have also devised an inexpensive portable instrument that can be used by a school nurse. Former techniques required a small test tube full of blood, and expensive and complicated equipment and techniques, including atomic spectroscopy.

### Electronic labels will identify vehicles or shipping containers

A system that will identify large shipping containers, trucks or other vehicles by serial or license number has been delivered to the US Army by Fairchild Space and Electronics Co. for testing and evaluation.

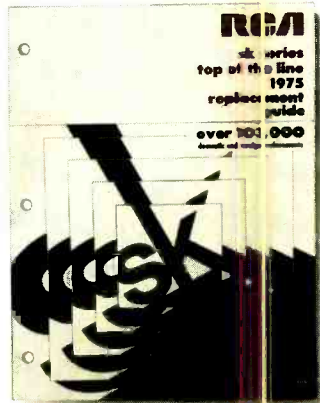
The system uses electronic labels to identify and record the location of containers used to transport goods. It can identify railroad cars, piggyback trailers and automobiles equally well.

The automatic interrogator reads the serial number on each container that passes through its field, reading labels while the containers are in motion at speeds as great as 85 miles-per-hour and at distances up to 20 feet. The accuracy is expected to be several orders greater than that obtained with existing systems.

**R-E**

410 to 1  
 you'll find  
 the  
 devices  
 you need  
 here.

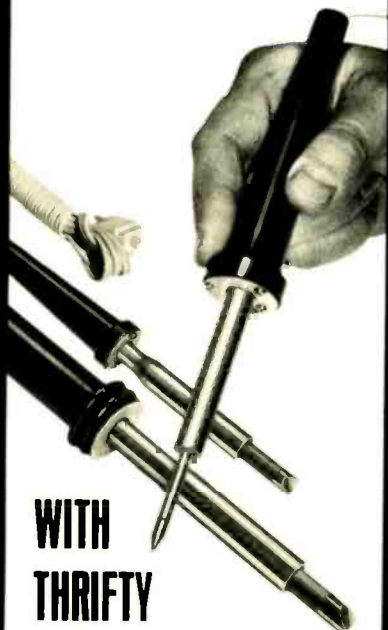
Over 103,200 devices can be replaced by 250 RCA SK Series types. That's 410 to 1! Best ratio in the industry. Which means the odds are, SK's your best, fastest way to get what you need. With minimum inventory. And RCA provides the top quality you'd expect from a top manufacturer of OEM devices. Same strict AQL standards, same strict Director of Quality Assurance. Get SK devices and your free 1975 SK Series Replacement Guide from your local RCA distributor.



Circle 5 on reader service card

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Circle 6 on reader service card

# letters

## MOD FOR ALARM SYSTEM

In regard to your article "Protect Your Home, Build An Electronic Alarm System" in the April 1974 issue of *Radio-Electronics*, I would like to make a slight modification.

A problem is encountered when the door is first opened to arm the security system. When the alarm is first turned on, pins 8 and 9 of IC1 are at zero potential. When the door is opened, pin 9 goes to a logic 1. As soon as the door is closed, pin 8 changes to a logic 1 at a time constant of  $R4 \times C3$ . At the same time, pin 9 is discharging at a time constant equal to  $R5 \times C4$ . There is a slight coincidence on pins 8 and 9 during which the output pin 10 goes to a logic zero and latches in starting the fifteen-second delay.

The problem can be solved by replacing R4 with a 1-megohm resistor. This change in value will slow down the charging rate and eliminates the coincidence problem.

TEDDY VANSTEEN  
Lindenhurst, NY

## TVT—MARK-8

I just wanted to add my thanks for the Mark-8 Minicomputer project.

I have enclosed two photographs, one of the Mark-8 next to my TV Typewriter, and the other, an internal view of my Mark-8 with the front panel lying down.



As can be seen, I panel mounted the LED's rather than putting them on the PC board and used modular construction with a simple mother board and Molex edge connectors instead of the suggested wire connectors.

I am in the process of writing an interactive supervisor program to execute commands typed on the TV Typewriter. It permits me to create and edit programs, execute them, list them, or store them on cassette via an interface I designed.

My TV Typewriter, constructed last year thanks to you, also has a programmable desk calculator in the same cabinet.

I would like to see some sort of calculator interface, since the Mark-8 is a little limited in dealing with large decimal numbers. In addition, while my present Mark-8 will use 1K of 1101 memory, I would like to expand with a



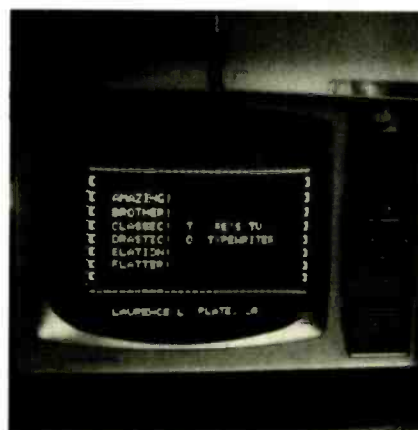
denser chip and a PROM. How about another board providing up to 3K of 2102 RAM or some PROM.

Lastly, let me add my voice to those requesting a regular column based on the Mark-8 for new programming ideas and hardware.

Thanks again for a great project.

STEVEN J. WINICK  
Silver Spring, MD

## LOOK ME OVER!



I installed my TVT in cabinets and moved all the switches from the mainframe to the keyboard cabinet.

I added four keys to my TVT to get the [, ], — and / symbols, completing the TVT alphabet set.

LAURENCE PLATE JR.  
Santa Barbara, CA

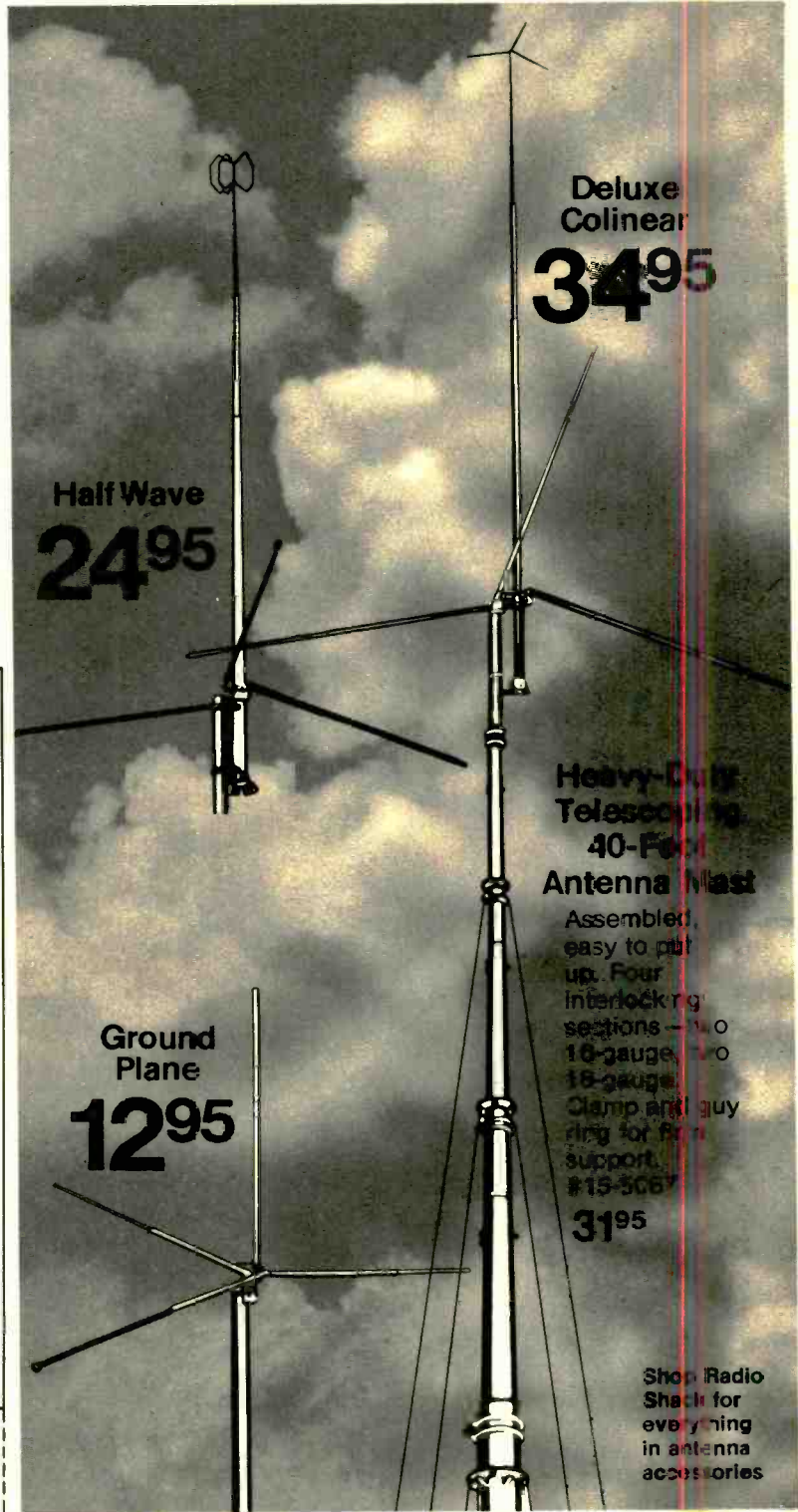
# Radio Shack announces new heights in Archer<sup>®</sup> antennas!

FCC rules now allow your omnidirectional CB antenna to be 60 feet above ground—triple the old limit! Take advantage of the amended rules to upgrade your antenna (Part 95, Sections 95.3 & 95.37C).

**Deluxe Colinear.** Outstanding 4 dB gain and low radiation angle—this is the one for maximum omnidirectional CB range. 19-ft., 10-in. 5/8-wave radiator. Static dissipator. Fits masts to 1-5/8" dia. #21-1133.

**Half Wave.** More gain (3.75 dB) than many high-priced omni's. 5-section seamless aluminum half-wave radiator, 52" radials, static dissipating hex loops, 1.25-to-1 VSWR. Fits masts to 1-5/8" dia. #21-902.

**Ground Plane.** The low-priced "omni with the mostest." All tubular aluminum elements, quarter wave radiator, three 108" quarter wave radials, static discharge protector. Fits masts to 1-5/8" dia. #21-901.



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# equip reports

## Heath IO-4510 DC-15 MHz Dual-Trace Oscilloscope

THE OSCILLOSCOPE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A necessity on the experimenters and technicians workbench. Up until recently however, the calibrated dual-trace triggered-sweep scope has been considered a luxury item. But this has all changed. The advent of integrated circuits and the application of state-of-the-art electronics in consumer products has made the scope a necessity.

For those readers considering purchasing a new scope, the IO-4510 should definitely be among the ones being considered. This recent addition to the Heath Co. line is a lab-quality instrument with impressive specifications.

The vertical amplifiers have a sensitivity of 1mV/cm to 5 V/cm in a 1-3-5 sequence, accurate to 3%. Frequency response is DC to 15 MHz (—3dB). Rise time is 24 nanoseconds with less than 3% overshoot. The input impedance is 1 megohm shunted by 38 pF. Maximum input voltage is 400 volts peak combined AC and DC.

The horizontal time base has a range of 200 ms/cm to 100 ns/cm in 22 calibrated steps with a 1-3-5 sequence, accurate to within 3%. A concentric control provides continuously variable speeds between steps, with a maximum range of 500 ms/cm. The variable control can be pulled out to expand any sweep speed times five, accurate to within 5%.

An external horizontal input signal can be applied directly to the deflection circuits by turning the time base switch to the appropriate position. This input has an impedance of approximately 200K ohms. A horizontal input attenuator is not provided and the input sensitivity is 0.2 V/cm. All input connections are of the BNC type.

In the X-Y mode, one of the scopes two vertical amplifiers is used as the horizontal amplifier. Therefore, the horizontal sensitivity is equal to the vertical sensitivity and a calibrated attenuator is available for the horizontal signal. The scope is switched to the X-Y mode by turning the time base switch to the appropriate position. The X-Y phase shift is less than 3° at 100 kHz (an important factor to consider when using the scope as a vectorscope).

Triggering can be selected from either the line frequency, either vertical input signal or an external trigger signal. The trigger select switch and concentric level

(continued on page 22)



# MIT'S Altair Computer Report

## Altair Computer Language You Can Understand

A Computer Language You Can Understand

versive, general-purpose computer  
anced data processing. It is easy

overall MITS computer concept.  
understandable and affordable.

versions. The first of these is a  
Altair with as little as 4,000 words  
language has 6 functions (RND,  
addition to 15 statements (IF ...  
NEXT, READ, INPUT, END, DATA,  
T, STOP and 4 commands (LIST,

option is the 8K BASIC designed  
is 8,000 words of memory. This  
the 4K BASIC only with 8 addi-

tional functions (COS, LOG, EXP, TAN, ATN, INP, FRE, POS) and  
4 additional statements (ON ... GOTO, ON ... GOSUB, OUT,  
DEF) and 1 additional command (CONT). This BASIC has a multi-  
tude of advanced STRING functions and it can be used to control  
low speed devices—features not normally found in many BASIC  
languages.

The third ALTAIR BASIC is the EXTENDED BASIC version  
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memory. It is the same as the 8K BASIC with the addition of  
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ALTAIR BASIC is only the beginning. MITS is currently engaged  
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ing System is scheduled for delivery in August. Other software  
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Here's how our payment plan works:

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Month Three	\$68.75	Expander Card
Month Four	\$68.75	Case with hardware
Month Five	\$68.75	1K Static Memory Board with 256 words of memory
Month Six	\$68.75	CPU Board with all components except processor chip
Month Seven	\$68.75	Control Board with all components
Month Eight	\$68.75	Processor chip
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$550.00</b>	(Retail price: Altair \$439.00, Memory \$103.00, Postage and handling \$8.00—total \$550.00)

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Offer expires July 30, 1975.

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The Altair Users Group is both a means of communi-  
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Members of the Altair Users Group are encouraged  
to submit programs by entering Altair "Software Con-  
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Computer or Altair options.

Contest winners are announced in the Altair news-  
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information on Altair hardware and software develop-  
ments, programming tips, general computer articles  
and other useful information.

Associate Memberships are available to non-Altair  
customers for only \$30.00 a year. Membership fees are  
refunded to Associate Members who buy an Altair Com-  
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## COMPUTER TRADE-IN

If you have a Mark 8 or a Scelbi-8H computer and  
you'd rather have an Altair 8800, we will offer you  
\$150.00 on a trade-in for an Altair plus 4K of memory.

For an Altair Computer kit, send in your used com-  
puter plus a check for \$561.00 (\$439.00 for an Altair  
plus \$264.00 for memory plus \$8.00 for postage and  
handling minus \$150.00). For an assembled Altair with  
4K of memory, send in your used computer plus a check  
for \$817.00.

## PRICES

Altair Computer kit with complete assembly instructions	\$439.00
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1,024 word memory board	\$176.00 kit and \$209.00 assembled
4,096 word memory board	\$264.00 kit and \$338.00 assembled
Full Parallel Interface board	\$92.00 kit and \$114.00 assembled
Serial Interface board (RS232)	\$119.00 kit and \$138.00 assembled
Serial Interface board (TTL or teletype)	\$124.00 kit and \$146.00 assembled
4K BASIC Language (when purchased with Altair, 4,096 word memory and Interface board)	\$60.00
8K BASIC Language (when purchased with Altair, 2 4,096 word memory boards and Interface board)	\$75.00
EXTENDED BASIC (when purchased with Altair, 3 4,096 word memory boards and Interface board)	\$150.00

NOTE: Altair Computers and software come with complete docu-  
mentation and operating instructions. BASIC language is available  
on either paper tape or cassette tape (specify). Warranty: 90 days  
on parts for kits and 90 days on parts and labor for assembled units.  
Prices, specifications and delivery subject to change.

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(A TRUE STORY)

Bill De Medio of Conshohocken, Pa., has it made.

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“As a master electrician, you’re the boss on the job—even when you’re working for someone. You get respect, good money, and like my old man said, you don’t have to take baloney from anyone.”

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As an ICS student, you study at home, on your own schedule. You waste no time traveling to and from class. And you never have to miss a paycheck.

*At 23, Bill De Medio has more freedom, more security, and gets more respect than guys twice his age. (Photograph by Frank Cowan.)*

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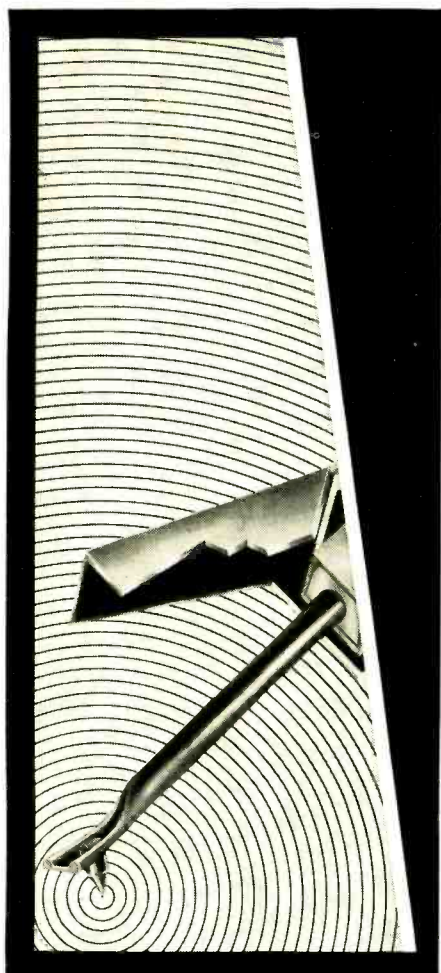
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Circle 10 on reader service card

## EQUIPMENT REPORTS

(continued from page 16)

control permits the time base to be triggered at any point along the positive or negative slope of the trigger signal. In addition, an AUTO position on the concentric level control generates a baseline when no trigger signal is present. This aids the operator in locating a trace when there is no input signal applied to the scope. The AUTO position also triggers the time base at the zero crossing point of the trigger signal.

The TRIGGER MODE select switch permits triggering on either AC or DC trigger signals. In the DC mode, the bandwidth of the trigger signal is DC to 30 MHz, typically DC to 45 MHz. In the AC position, the bandwidth of the trigger signal is 20 Hz to 30 MHz, typically 20 Hz to 40 MHz. A third position of the TRIGGER MODE select switch permits triggering on the high-frequency components of the trigger signal only. This ACF position has a trigger bandwidth of 15 kHz to 30 MHz, typically 15 kHz to 45 MHz. The scope will trigger on any input signal that will produce a vertical deflection of 0.5 cm or less. The sensitivity of the external trigger input is 0.5 V or less, typically 0.1 V. The impedance of the external trigger input is 1 megohm shunted by approximately 30 pF. An internal non-adjustable delay line allows the scope to display at least 20 ns of pretriggered waveform.

A front panel connector provides a calibrated 1 V peak-to-peak square wave. This signal can be used for calibration checks and for probe compensation adjustments.

The CRT graticule measures 6 cm × 10 cm and the illumination is adjustable. A P31 phosphor is used that produces a blue trace. This phosphor is a compromise between a fast writing speed and high burn resistance. The CRT is a special type that uses post-deflection acceleration to increase the writing speed. The acceleration potential is 4000 volts.

### Assembly

Typical of Heath Co. products, the assembly instructions are concise and easy to follow.

The circuits are mounted on five plug-in printed circuit boards. The delay lines are etched and comprise two more printed circuit boards. Assembly was straight forward and high-quality components were provided.

A hefty number of IC's are used and all IC's are mounted in sockets for easy removal. Circuit board interconnection is done via a pre-assembled wiring harness. Chassis layout is neat and the circuit boards are easily accessible. Both the top and bottom covers are removable.

One sure blessing are the printed circuit board switches. These eliminate the need to connect wires to each individual point on the rotary switches. An assembly chore that I despise with a passion. Jumper wires are also minimized by the use of double-sided boards where necessary.

The scope is housed in a 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. high × 12<sup>7</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. wide × 21<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. deep metal

cabinet with a swing handle that matches other top-of-the-line test instruments from Heath. An AC line switch allows operation from a 100 to 140 VAC or 200 to 280 VAC power source.

### Comments

Assembly was smooth and the scope worked perfectly when power was first applied, except for one hitch. The input to one of the vertical amplifiers was grounded. A few minutes of investigation revealed that the printed circuit board near the input switch wasn't completely etched through. One good scrape with a sharp instrument cleared this problem up instantly.

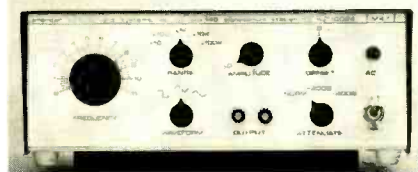
The calibration procedures are complex and require some patience. The initial calibration procedures should be gone through about three times from beginning to end to set the scope up properly. I'm not criticizing the scope for this point. In fact, I'm complimenting it. All lab-quality calibrated scopes are typical of complex calibration procedures. After the initial calibration procedures are completed, simple touch-up calibration should be performed periodically.

I have used the scope for about two months and it has performed flawlessly. I've yet to find a signal that this scope cannot give a rock-steady display of. The sensitivity is adequate for just about any application you can think of. I would have preferred the bandwidth to be in the 30 MHz to 50 MHz range, but for the price, the scope is hard to beat. Then again, how often do you run across signals that have components higher than 15 MHz.

The scope sells for \$549.95 in kit form. The factory wired and calibrated version, SO-4510, sells for \$750. R-E

## ACS Mk 1 Function Generator

FOR SOME REASON, PROBABLY DUE TO MY sedentary habits, I had read about Function Generators, but had never seen one before. So when I opened the box and found one, a little of what we used to refer to as "woodshedding" was in order. In the long ago and far away, this meant going to the woodshed with an alleged



Circle 91 on reader service card

musical instrument for badly needed practice. So, I had to do a little excavation in my reference library. This turned up an excellent description of the thing. ("Electronic Measurements and Instrumentation," Oliver and Cage, McGraw-Hill; Ch. 10, Audio Signal Sources, pp. 345-349).

It turns out to be a very special type of audio signal generator. Sine, square  
(continued on page 25)



July, 1975

DYNACO IS RIGHT —

Most of you are aware of the new FTC Power Amplifier Rating Rule. I would like to commend Dynaco Inc. for having the courage to challenge portions of this rule and I would like to join them in asking for a review by the FTC. The purpose of this rule was to protect consumers from being misled by inflated power output claims and confusing distortion and bandwidth figures; by "home entertainment" sound equipment manufacturers. Such manufacturers are, generally speaking, divided into two groups; the packaged or console systems manufacturer and the component systems manufacturer. The "Rule" applies to both, although I do not feel that component manufacturers have been guilty of the type advertising that the FTC seeks to eliminate. The vast majority of the consumers who purchase component sound equipment are sound "enthusiasts". They have available to them at least half a dozen magazines that regularly test and report on this type equipment. No component manufacturer in his right mind would attempt to sell his product by resorting to the type advertising and claims that have been used by console manufacturers. The type consumer that purchases component sound equipment is far too knowledgeable to be fooled by fantastic power output claims.

The "Rule" is supposed to provide "a single industry standard which is meaningful to the consumer". (Federal Trade Commission bulletin—Nov. 1974) Now any of you who are in any way familiar with amplifiers well know that such a thing is simply impossible unless a considerable amount of information (some of it quite technical) is provided. The "Rule" does not do this however. It attempts to inform the consumer by means of a single statement concerning power output at a specific bandwidth and distortion level. Worse, yet, it does not allow any type statement on other characteristics, such as bandwidth, unless the prescribed power and distortion information is also given. The effect of the "Rule" as it now stands is to make it impossible for a manufacturer to provide some types of data no matter how badly he may want to.

The worst part however is yet to come. In addition to the problems with the required disclosure all amplifiers must be preconditioned by being operated at one third (1/3) rated power output for a period of one hour. Now this just happens to be almost exactly the point at which maximum heat is generated by a class B amplifier. This may be a realistic operating level for console equipment, but it is totally unrealistic as far as the average component amplifier is concerned. As Dynaco points out, this is only 5.0 dB below maximum output (clipping). Operation under such conditions would result in almost continuous gross distortion which the owner of component equipment would never tolerate. This is like requiring the automobile manufacturers to run all cars on a dynamometer at maximum rated horsepower output for the equivalent of 500 miles before any tests are made to "warm up the engine". You can imagine the result. Neither cars, or amplifiers sold for personal use are designed to withstand operation at maximum stress point on a continuous basis. Requiring this can only result in one of two things; the manufacturer will derate the power and seriously mislead the consumer as to actual capabilities, or he will be forced to add considerable cost to the product to make it capable of continuous operation under worst case conditions. Unfortunately some manufacturers of industrial duty "wall shakers" have cheered on this concept for selfish reasons.

I do not think that the "Rule" as now stated helps the consumer. It is now quite clear what the results are going to be for the purchaser of console equipment. Read the ads and see for yourself; manufacturers of this type sound equipment simply no longer make any statements about power output, distortion, or bandwidth. Do the consumers now know more than previously? Have they been helped in any way? I feel that this attempt at regulation has resulted in problems for component manufacturers, whose customers were in no need of government bureaucratic protection and no benefit whatsoever to the purchasers of console equipment who still don't know any more than before.

I would be happy to send anyone who is interested a copy of Dynaco's excellent technical analysis of the situation. If you would like to offer any comments pro or con directly to the FTC, you can write: Mr. C. E. Aldhizer—FTC, Room 508 Indiana Bldg. 615 Indiana Ave., Washington, D.C. 20580.

Daniel Meyer

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## EQUIPMENT REPORTS

(continued from page 22)

and triangular waveforms can be generated with extreme precision. How, in just a moment. The name function generator comes from the fact that there is a mathematical function which can describe any sinewave or other signal with a continuously-repeating waveform. So the signal can also describe the mathematical function; ergo, function-generator.

The major difference between this instrument and the older types is that it does not generate signals by means of a conventional oscillator. They're *synthesized*—"made up" from a different type of signal. Integration of a square wave can develop a triangular waveform. A triangular waveform, fed through a long series of biased-diodes and resistors, will product a sine waveform. The use of large numbers of diode-resistor combinations, easily possible in IC circuitry, can give us sinewaves with very low distortion.

Before the advent of the IC, such instruments were large and very expensive. Now, they come in very compact packages indeed. The one I got is the Mk. 1, built by American Circuits and Systems, Inc., Box 149, Planetarium Station, N.Y. 10024. This is a little dandy; it's only 4 inches high, 11 inches long and 8 inches deep. This will generate all three function signals (sine, square and triangle) over a frequency range from 10 Hz to 1.0 MHz. A 5-step decade control on the front panel, together with a continuously variable control, lets you set any desired frequency, at an accuracy of  $\pm 5\%$  of full-scale.

Maximum output level is 20 volts P-P. This can be adjusted to whatever level is needed, by means of a three-step attenuator; Normal (0 dB), -20 dB and -40 dB. A continuous attenuator is also provided for fine adjustment. The DC level of the output signal can be adjusted, positive or negative, by the Offset control. Range of DC offset is  $\pm 10$  volts open-circuit,  $\pm 5$  volts into 600 ohms. The waveform desired is selected by a switch on the panel.

More interesting features are found on the rear panel. By the use of the FM jack, the signal can be frequency-modulated. Feeding a signal into the VCO jack changes the frequency; this stands for voltage controlled oscillator. A square wave fed into this will make the Mk. 1 generate a series of "bursts" of high-frequency, separated by short periods of much lower frequencies. A ramp waveform, going from 2 volts to 12 volts, with the Frequency dial set at "1", will linearly increase the frequency by 10:1. These can also be used as outputs, for working with TTL circuitry.

The ACS Mk 1 is a new development in function generators. Previous types have been quite bulky, and more than quite expensive. Due to the use of IC's, this unit can be sold at a price that makes it available to the rest of us! It can be bought in kit form, for still more savings. While these have always been

considered lab instruments in the past, signal generators of this type could well be very useful in service shops and smaller schools. Especially so in shops doing hi-fi work. A source of low-distortion signals over such a wide range is always a useful tool. **R-E**

### Hickok Model 270 Function Generator

IF YOU SAID TO MANY TV TECHNICIANS, "Hand me that function generator," you wouldn't get it. In fact, you wouldn't have gotten it from the average technical writer of this column either up until a while ago. However, if you said "Hand me that versatile audio-frequency signal generator with sine, square and triangle



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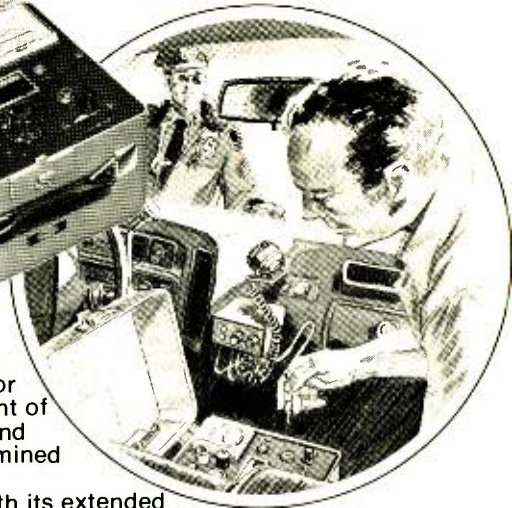
waveform outputs, plus a lot more," you'd get a function generator. It would be a Hickok model 270, in fact. This started out as a lab instrument, but we won't go into that. What we do want to cover is the numerous things that an instrument like the model 270 can do in the typical electronics service shop

This little instrument is useful in audio

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The FM-2400CH with its extended MHz. The range covers 25 to 1000 frequencies can be those of the radio frequency channels of operation and/or the intermediate frequencies of the receiver between 5 MHz and 40 MHz.

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**RF crystals** (with temperature correction) ... 24.00 ea.  
**RF crystals** (less temperature correction) .... 18.00 ea.  
**IF crystals** ..... catalog price

Write for catalog!



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and radio, and also in many tests for TV circuits. I found a whole lot of things that I had always wanted to do, but never could. Handy, fast and accurate tests that can help speed up service work in a great many areas.

The sine and square waves are already familiar to us. The sinewave output of the model 270 has less than 1% distortion up to at least 20 kHz. The rise-time of the square wave is 0.5 microseconds or less. In addition, the model 270 will go up to at least 500 kHz with little distortion. So, you can feed a square wave into a video amplifier stage and check it for frequency response, ringing, delay, and so on.

The new one is the triangle waveform. This is very handy for checking gain-linearity of amplifiers, and even oscilloscopes. Clipping is very easy to spot; easier than with a sinewave, even! Also; if the amplifier has any distortion, this shows up as a bend or warp in the straight sides of the triangle!

The nuts and bolts features of the model 270 are really simple. The frequency is controlled by a main dial calibrated from 1 to 10. The operating frequency range is determined by 6 push-buttons. Ranges start at 1.0 Hz to 10 Hz, and go up in order to an upper frequency of 1.0 MHz. All you do is multiply the dial reading by the figure on the button. For example, on the  $\times 10$  range, a dial setting of 5 gives you 50 Hz.

A variable attenuator gives you fine

control of the output level. There are also three fixed pushbutton attenuators, 0 dB, -20 dB and -40 dB. You can get up to -80 dB of attenuation by using both the knob and the pushbuttons. (Note: at least *one* of the attenuator buttons and one of the waveform buttons must be down. If they aren't, no output. Ask me how I found out.)

The controls are arranged very conveniently, so that operation of the instrument is simple. The dial is marked in white figures on a black background—easy to read. It is AC-powered and comes on instantly. There are many other special tests that can be made with the model 270. These are hooked up to a printed-circuit card connector on the back panel. You can get PSK (Phase Shift Keying), FSK (Frequency Shift Keying), AM modulation where an external signal is modulated by the 270's output frequency or vice versa, and FM keying. You can even feed another signal into the rear connector and use the 270 as a mixer, you'll get the sum of the two signals at the output terminals. This lets you make intermodulation distortion tests very quickly. Many other tests can be made, the instruction manual has full details.

The model 270 does all of these things with one huge (!) IC; not physically big, but electronically big. The DC power supplies are electronically regulated. This enables it to have a very good stability rating for both frequency and amplitude

calibration. Something less than 0.1% under line voltage or temperature variations.

One of the "Things I always wanted to do but never could" is an *audio sweep*. All you need is a source of a low AC voltage; a 6-volt filament transformer or the 6-volt filament from your tube-tester. Hook a small pot (100-500 ohms,) right across this. Now, connect the voltage output and the common to the FM terminals on the back of the model 270. The hot side must be connected through a blocking capacitor, somewhere around 0.5 to 1.0  $\mu$ F.

Varying the AC voltage will now make the 270 sweep the dial frequency both ways from the indicated frequency. The amount of voltage controls the range of sweep. Feed the regular output terminals to the input of any audio amplifier. If you scope the input with one channel of that new dual-channel scope, you'll see that this is absolutely flat. Now hook the other channel to the output of the amplifier, and there you are. You will usually see the zero-beat point in the center of the screen, with the frequency going up in both directions. This too *should* be flat. The chances are that it won't be, at first. You can see the actual effect of both the bass and treble control settings. Somewhere in there you should be able to find a point where the output *is* flat. If so, you've got a good amplifier. You can use any of the three output waveforms for this, but I like the sinewave best. You

## Telematic Universal Test Rig System

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can check the effect of the bass-boost controls and anything else in the amplifier.

By raising the center frequency of the sweep, you can make sweep-frequency tests of radio IF stages, and even on RF stages up to 1.0 MHz. Just hook the scope to the output of the detector, sweep it at 60 Hz and away you go. This was a feature of the old Hickok 288 RF signal generators of long ago (and still is. I have one on my bench that is used for this job today.) You can spot regeneration or any other problem in an IF stage in short order. This is a place where you can use that old recurrent-sweep scope. Its frequency response will be ample for this kind of work.

The wide frequency coverage of the model 270 makes it possible to do tests in video stages. Hook the output to the video detector output or video amplifier input and adjust the frequency to make the pattern you want. Use a square wave for this and you can make any number of vertical bars on the TV screen. You can get down to only a single bar that gives you a half-black, half-white screen. Very handy for checking overshoot, ringing and horizontal smear in the video amplifier. The triangle waveform will show a gradually shaded pattern from the edge to center.

By feeding a square wave external signal into the AM modulation terminal on the back panel, you can generate "tone-burst" signals at any frequency you want.

This is often used to check hi-fi systems for response to sudden peaks of signal, and so on. Incidentally, you can use your old audio generator for this if it has a square wave output. If it doesn't, you can make up a clipper with a couple of diodes that will give you an acceptable square wave for the modulation, or I should say keying. Takes only a very small signal to do this.

You will find many other tests that you can make with this versatile little instrument. Read the instruction book for details.

Fitting right in with present conditions, the model 270 doesn't cost an arm and a leg, for an instrument of its quality and precision. **R-E**

**BASIC ELECTRICITY AND AN INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRONICS**, Third Edition, by the Howard W. Sams Editorial Staff. Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc., 4300 W. 62 Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268. 208 pp. 10 3/4 x 8 1/4 in. Softcover \$5.95 (in Canada \$7.25).

From beginning to end, this book appears to have been written for the student and beginner who sees a bright future in electronics and wants to learn more about it. It begins with a description of the composition of matter and the role of the electron. Progressing in an orderly fashion, the text lays the foundation for each new subject from the structure of atoms to basic circuits in the important science of electronics. **R-E**

**MANUAL OF LINEAR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS**, by Sol D. Prensky. Reston Publishing

Co., Inc., Box 547, Reston, VA 22090. 289 pp. 9 x 6 in. Hardcover

This volume explains and illustrates the field of linear integrated circuits including op-amps and all other forms of linear IC's. It offers a thorough discussion of the underlying principles strengthened by a host of application schematics. In addition there is a comprehensive selection guide and cross-references for IC type numbers. There is also a complete section on breadboarding and testing techniques. As a practical presentation of basic principles, there are more than 100 application schematics and the cross-reference index describes well over 300 manufacturers type numbers with identifying codes for second source types.

**PRACTICAL TRIAC/SCR PROJECTS FOR THE EXPERIMENTER**, by Richard Fox. TAB Books, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214. 192 pp. 8 1/2 x 5 1/4 in. Hardcover \$7.95; Softcover \$4.95.

Here is a balanced blend of thyristor theory and practical circuits using readily available low-cost SCR's, triacs and diacs. The volume contains complete easy-to-understand operational theory applicable to all the basic thyristor devices: the SCR, the programmable unijunction transistor, the diac and the triac itself. As the theory begins to fall into place, the reader will find himself using thyristors for myriads of little jobs around the shop, for variable control of line voltage or on-off switching of high-current loads or control of AC loads. Perhaps he'll even want to build the light organ. Written for both the technician and advanced hobbyist, the book assumes a basic knowledge with respect to the basic fundamentals of semiconductor circuitry. **R-E**

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# BUILD

## this COLOR TV CAMERA for about \$400



*Having only two channels of video, this camera produces remarkable color pictures. Any amateur or experimenter can build it for about \$400*

by GARY DAVIS

INCREASING INTEREST IN CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV and the public acceptance of color have created a need for a low-cost color camera. A complex, high-quality broadcast color camera can cost \$90,000 or more. Although recent developments have brought the cost down for educational and industrial use, prices are still out of range for most amateurs and experimenters.

The camera described in this article was developed on the premise that an advanced experimenter or amateur could build a color camera without getting into extremely complex mechanical, optical, or electrical problems. All parts are easy to obtain. The two vidicon tubes are standard low-cost black and white types. Color filters are low-cost and available at any glass company. To keep the cost, weight, and size to a minimum, a small black and white TV set is used to supply all voltages and scanning signals to the camera head. The camera uses only 12 transistors in addition

to the black and white TV set. The optical system is extremely simple. The cost of the camera, excluding the case, is approximately \$400.

### Color processing

There is a little known process of using only two colors instead of three to generate color images. This theory dates back to 1914 when William F. Fox and William H. Hickley patented a color motion picture process involving a red filtered scene shown alternately with a green filtered scene projected in black and white only while the red filtered scene was projected through a red filter. The effect was later independently re-discovered by Dr. Edwin H. Land in 1955. This phenomenon has since become known as the Land Color Theory after articles by Land appeared in the proceedings of the *National Academy of Science* in 1959 and the May, 1959 issue of *Scientific American*. Dr. Land found that the human eye can perceive scenes

in full color when the image is filtered through long- and short-wavelength filters, then recorded separately on black and white photographic film.

To recover the scene in full color, it is then only necessary to project the scene recorded on the two separate photographs, with a long wavelength light source illuminating the long wavelength photograph, and a short wavelength light source illuminating the short wavelength photograph. In Land's process, the colors in the scene arise not from the choice of wavelengths, filters, or overall brightness levels, but rather from the interplay of longer and shorter wavelengths over the entire scene.

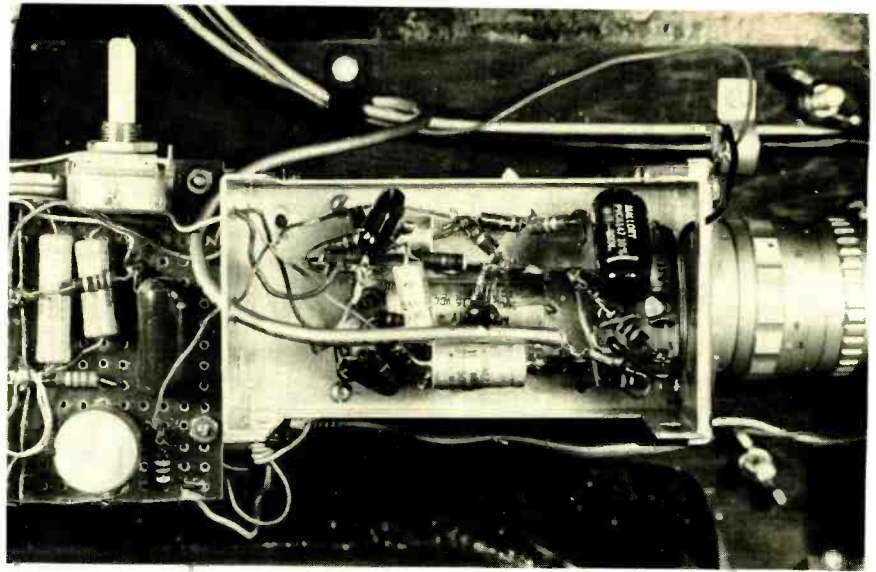
My camera system is similar to Land's process. The two color filter wave lengths correspond to the wave length or combination of wave lengths, generated by the three illuminating phosphor colors in a conventional color picture tube. The filter for the long wavelength image, centered at

approximately 650 millimicrons, is red. The short wavelength filter, centered at approximately 475 millimicrons is cyan, a bluish-green. In effect the two color channels are a combination of the three primary colors. Inputs to the green and blue color difference amplifiers of the color monitor are combined, allowing the blue-green phosphor dots to produce cyan, corresponding to the cyan or short wavelength filter in the camera head. The red color difference amplifier and the red phosphor dots of the color monitor handle only the signal from the red or long-wavelength tube.

Colors hold true over a wide range of different red, green and blue images due to the interplay of the red and cyan signals. In fact, the only camera operating color controls are the red and cyan lens iris adjustments. The receiver contrast control may also have to be re-adjusted depending upon lighting conditions. The color receiver tint and color-level controls have no effect in this arrangement since the signal is not encoded to a NTSC signal.

Tests indicate that NTSC color encoding can be done by feeding the cyan signal to the combined blue and green color inputs, and sending the red to the normal red input of a commercial NTSC color encoder. With this arrangement, the camera output could be video taped or transmitted by a ham TV transmitter.

Extensive testing of both the conventional three-tube color system and the simpler two-tube system indicates of course, that the two-tube system cannot duplicate three-tube performance in all respects. The main difference being some averaging of colors along the junction point of the blue-green spectrum, some difficulty with



Close-up view of one of the preamplifier circuits that are mounted over the vidicon tubes.

shades of yellow and some hues of magenta. However, the system produces surprisingly good color. The colors are rich and vivid. Blues are blue, greens are green, and reds are red. Complex colors such as skin tones, browns, hair colors, etc. are reproduced well.

The advantage of using only two tubes instead of three, at least for the home experimenter or low-cost application, far outweighs the relatively minor additional color discrepancies encountered with the two-color process. These advantages include:

Camera registration, the art of overlapping images to perfectly coincide, is much simpler.

The camera can be built with one-third less parts.

Camera sensitivity is greater since light must be divided only two ways instead of three.

Optics are much simpler allow-

ing the use of a simple cube prism to split the incoming light in two directions.

### How it works

Figure 1 is a block diagram of the entire camera system. Light from the scene first passes through a cube prism. The prism itself absorbs approximately 40% of the light. Approximately 50% of the remaining light is bent 90 degrees to the red lens. The prism is available from Edmunds Scientific Co. The cyan camera lens gets a straight through view of the scene. Both camera lenses are Cosmimar 25 mm, available from Denson Electronics Corp. The prism must be placed before the objective lens so the glass in the prism won't affect the focal length of the lens. The color filters are placed between the lens and vidicon face plate. The cyan filter consists of two layers of Plexiglas green No. 2414. The red

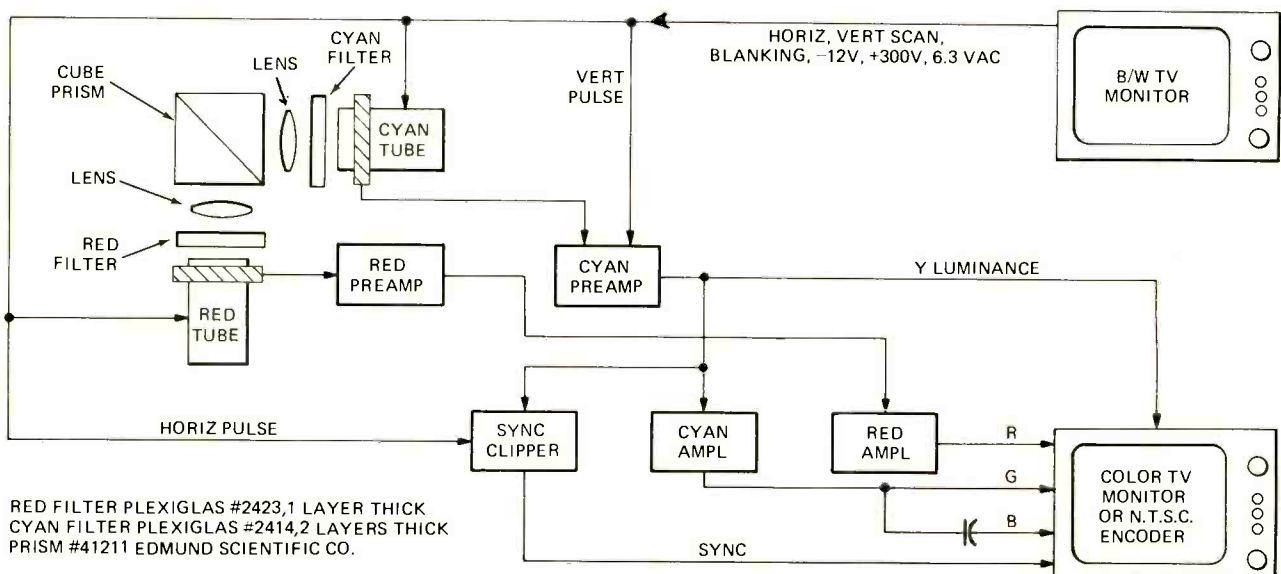
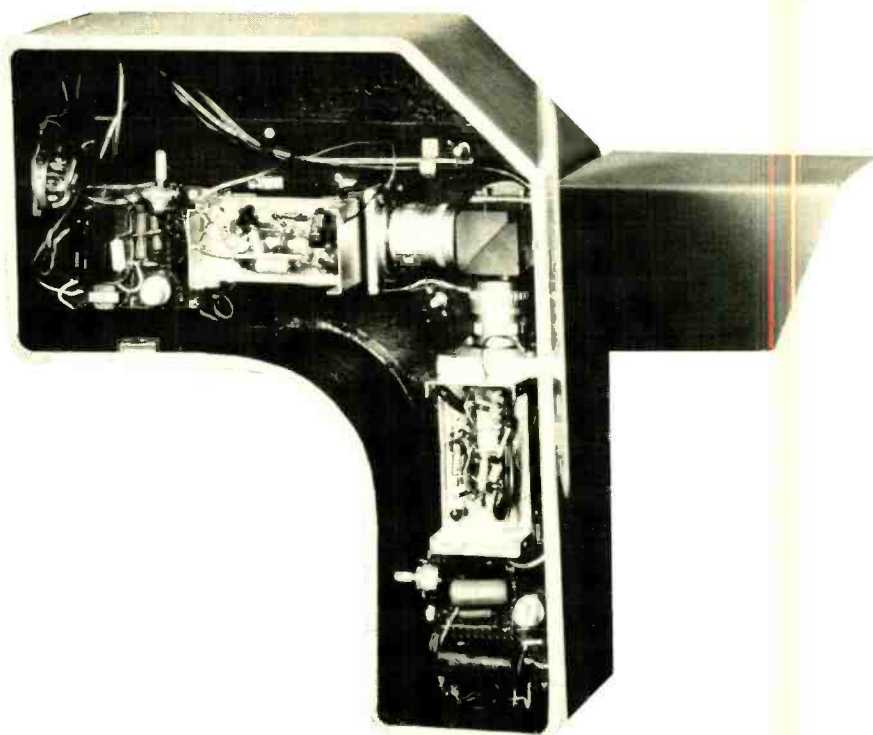


FIG. 1—BLOCK DIAGRAM of the camera head. Operating voltages and sync signals are supplied by a black-and-white TV receiver.

filter is Plexiglas red No. 2423, one layer thick. Both yoke and focus coil assemblies are available from Denson Electronics. This assembly also contains the alignment magnets which are used to register the two images. These yokes are built to very close tolerances and register well. Don't be tempted to substitute another type of yoke.

Again, referring to the block diagram, the black and white TV feeds horizontal, vertical, scan, blanking, -12 volts, +300 volts, and 6.3 VAC to the camera heads. The output of the cyan vidicon is fed to the cyan preamp. A vertical sync pulse is added and the video amplified to approximately 1 volt VP-P. This output also forms the luminance signal and is fed to the color monitor's luminance amplifier to provide the black and white information. The cyan preamp also feeds the cyan amplifier where the signal is inverted and raised in amplitude to drive the grids of the G - Y and B - Y amplifiers. The grids are coupled together with a .5  $\mu$ F capacitor.

The cyan preamp output is also fed to the sync clipper where the vertical sync pulse is inverted and sent to the color monitor's sync separator. The horizontal sync pulse is fed separately to the sync clipper in order to prevent contamination of the blue and green amplifier in the monitor. The red preamp output drives the red amplifier which in turn drives the R - Y amplifier. The sync clippers, cyan amplifier, red amplifier and a -18 volt power supply are located in the color monitor so that all signals may be sent to the color monitor on a single 4-conductor



LAYOUT OF THE CAMERA HEAD is shown. Camera case was constructed from sheet metal.

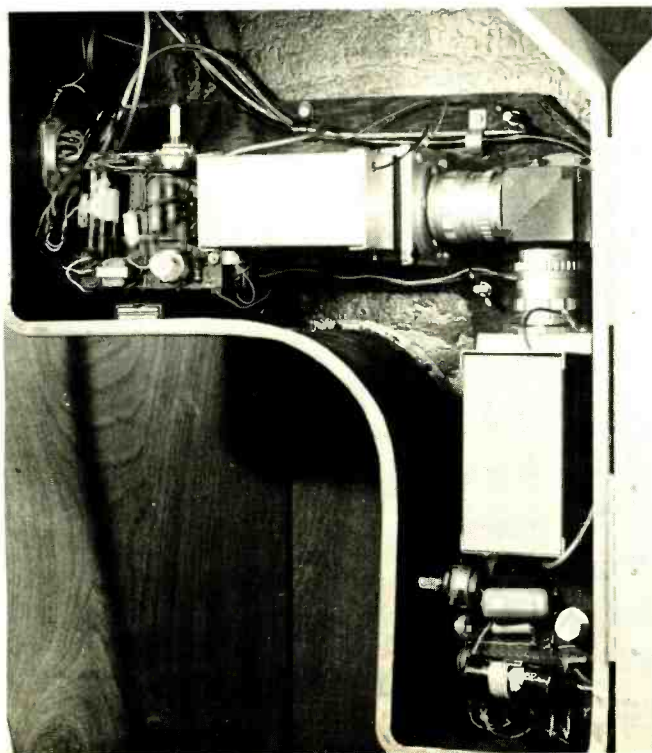
cable. A multi-conductor cable is used between the black and white TV set and the camera head. This 2-piece configuration also allows the camera to be used hand-held. The camera head weighs 18 lbs.

Many camera builders will want to include the small black and white TV in the camera case to act as a view finder. The horizontal sync will have to be re-applied to the TV sync separator for operation as a view finder.

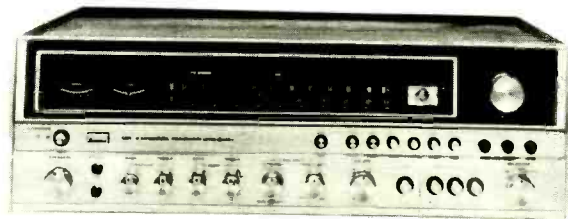
Do not use an AC-DC type TV with this project because of the shock hazard involved. A square sun shade on the front of the camera prevents stray light from striking the prism in bright sunlight. Paint the inside of the camera case black. The camera case is not commercially available and may be constructed out of sheet aluminum.

I found the easiest method of mounting the parts for mechanical alignment is to build each camera head as a separate unit. After both heads are tested and operate correctly, lay both heads and the prism on a wood mounting board. The camera is initially registered and adjusted mechanically, optically, and electrically while laying on its side. Remember, for good registration, every optical and electrical parameter—focal length distance, scan amplitude, yoke alignment, optical and electrical focus adjustments—must exactly match the other channel. Finally, when all electrical adjustments and tests are complete, screw down the heads and mount the prism. The whole camera assembly is then placed inside the camera case. All camera tests and registration adjustments are made using a standard TV test pattern with a series of vertical color stripes glued to the top of the test pattern. The colors I use are red, orange, yellow, dark green, light blue, dark blue, and magenta.

Next month we will cover the camera heads, circuit details, modification of the two TV sets, adjustments registration, and final check out. R-E



CLOSE-UP VIEW of camera head shows details of layout and optic system.



# Tests Sansui QRX-6001

by **LEN FELDMAN**

CONTRIBUTING HIGH-FIDELITY EDITOR

THE SANSUI QRX-6001 4-CHANNEL RECEIVER is one of two versatile quadriphonic all-in-one units introduced by that firm during the past year. The two units differ primarily in their output power-ratings, with the more powerful QRX-7001 selling for \$120.00 more than the unit reviewed here and delivering 10 additional watts-per-channel, according to published ratings. Both units have every needed facility for handling all 4-channel material, including QS (developed by Sansui), SQ (the matrix system promoted by CBS) and so-called "discrete", and CD-4 records (jointly developed by JVC and RCA.)

An overall view of the front panel is shown in Fig. 1. The softly illuminated dial scale area contains both a center-of-channel tuning meter and a signal-strength meter. Above the linearly calibrated FM frequency scale, illuminated words appear to denote stereo FM reception as well as the many modes of quadriphonic listening. An indicator light at the right of the frequency scale displays a large numeral "2" or "4" depending upon user's selection of 2-channel or 4-channel listening. Detailed views of the left and right sections of the front panel are shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Pushbutton switches handle power on/off, 2-channel stereo selection (with an optional choice of having the back speakers reproduce the same material as the front pair), synthesized quadriphonic listening (from stereo program sources), QS, SQ and discrete 4-channel modes. Three screwdriver adjustable recessed controls are used to set up the CD-4 demodulator circuit to match phono cartridges used with the receiver and a test record is packed with each receiver for this purpose. The lower section of the front panel contains nine rotary controls (including speaker switching of main, remote or both, dual concentric pairs of bass and treble controls for front and rear channels, balance controls for left-right and front-back adjustment, a master volume control and a program source selector switch) and four more push-buttons for loudness compensation, two tape monitoring circuits and selection of auxiliary inputs which are independent of the setting of the main rotary selector

switch. A pair of phone jacks (for connection of stereo or 4-channel headphones) are located adjacent to the speaker selector switch.

Details of the rear panel are shown in Figs. 4 and 5. A diagram that shows the variety of equipment with which the QRX-6001 is designed to operate is in Fig. 6. A pivotable AM ferrite bar antenna is also located on the rear panel and is usually sufficient for most receiving sites.

## Circuit configuration and features

The FM front-end of the receiver contains a dual-gate transistor (FET) used as an RF amplifier. A four-gang capacitor tunes in the FM stations. Two sections serve as interstage tuning between RF amplifier and mixer stages. The FM I.F. section contains five integrated circuits, six bipolar transistors and multiple dual-element ceramic filters. The CD-4 demodulator circuit uses 24 transistors, 2 IC's and 6 FET's. Tone controls are

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

Manufacturer Sansui Model #QRX-6001

### FM PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

SENSITIVITY, NOISE AND FREEDOM FROM INTERFERENCE	R-E Measurement	R-E Evaluation
IHF sensitivity, Mono ( $\mu$ V)	2.2	good
Sensitivity, Stereo ( $\mu$ V)	30.0	acceptable (see text)
50 dB quieting signal, Mono ( $\mu$ V)	3.8	good
50 dB quieting signal, Stereo ( $\mu$ V)	50	acceptable
Maximum S/N ratio, Mono (dB)	70	very good
Maximum S/N ratio, Stereo (dB)	62	good
Capture ratio (dB)	1.5	good
AM suppression (dB)	55	acceptable
Image rejection (dB)	75	very good
I-F rejection (dB)	90	excellent
Spurious rejection (dB)	80	good
Alternate channel selectivity (dB)	73	very good

### FIDELITY AND DISTORTION MEASUREMENTS

Frequency response, 50 Hz to 15 kHz ( $\pm$ dB)	+0.5, -2.0	good
Harmonic distortion, 1kHz, Mono (%)	0.3	good
Harmonic distortion, 1kHz, Stereo (%)	0.45	very good
Harmonic distortion, 100 Hz, Mono (%)	0.2	very good
Harmonic distortion, 100 Hz, Stereo (%)	0.6	good
Harmonic distortion, 6 kHz, Mono (%)	0.4	very good
Harmonic distortion, 6 kHz, Stereo (%)	1.3	acceptable
Distortion at 50 dB quieting, Mono (%)	0.6	very good
Distortion at 50 dB quieting, Stereo (%)	1.2	acceptable

### STEREO PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

Stereo threshold ( $\mu$ V)	30.0	poor
Separation, 1 kHz (dB)	33	good
Separation, 100 Hz (dB)	31	good
Separation, 10 kHz (dB)	31	excellent

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASUREMENTS

Muting threshold ( $\mu$ V)	30	poor (see text)
Dial calibration accuracy ( $\pm$ kHz @ MHz)	100 @ 108	very good

### EVALUATION OF CONTROLS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION

Control layout	good
Ease of tuning	very good
Accuracy of meters or other tuning aids	excellent
Usefulness of other controls	good
Construction and internal layout	very good
Ease of servicing	good
Evaluation of extra features, if any	very good

### OVERALL FM PERFORMANCE RATING

good



FIG. 2 — LEFT SECTION OF FRONT PANEL includes meters, speaker selector, two phone jacks, and two sets of tone controls.



FIG. 3—RIGHT SECTION OF FRONT PANEL includes 2-channel/4-channel mode indicator, and main or auxiliary input selector. Pushbuttons just below the dial scale selects the various 4-channel decoding modes.

the familiar Baxandall feedback type. Relay and terminal protection is provided for the power output sections, each of which is direct-coupled to the speakers in a complementary-symmetry circuit. In addition to the relay protection circuitry, each output line is fused, but fuses can be reached only by removing the wood cabinet.

The most sophisticated circuitry in this receiver is probably the QS-Variomatrix decoder. Three IC's form the heart of this decoder circuit and it provides up to 20 dB of separation in all directions when reproducing QS encoded matrix 4-channel discs. By changing the coefficients of the matrix it is also adapted to the QS format.

Equally interesting is the newly developed "synthesizer" circuit developed by Sansui. This circuit, in effect, "encodes" ordinary stereo programming, making it more suitable for QS 4-channel decoding by the QS-Variomatrix circuit just discussed. While most stereo programs produce an interesting "4-channel effect" when played through any matrix decoder, the "synthesizer" circuit enhances this effect significantly.

#### FM tuner measurements

Results of our FM performance measurements are in Table I. Stereo sensitivity, which seems quite poor upon first glance, is really a function of the mono-to-stereo switching threshold of the tuner section. Since this switching occurs at a rather high 30 microvolts, to all intents and purposes that is the "stereo sensitivity" of the receiver. Muting threshold in our view, is also set too high (at 30  $\mu$ V) and what's more, because of the arrangement of the function switch, muting can only be defeated (for tuning to those "weak signals") when the switch is set to the mono position. This insures that weak stereo signals will not break through the muting barrier, but prevents users from DX'ing for distant stereo signals—however noisy they might be. Overall performance rating of the FM section might have merited a "very good" or even an excellent (instead of the "good" assigned) were it not for this limitation.

### TABLE II RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT

Manufacturer Sansui Model #QRX-6001

#### AMPLIFIER PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

	R-E Measurement	R-E Evaluation
<b>POWER OUTPUT CAPABILITY</b>		
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 1 kHz (watts)	32.5	good
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 20 Hz (watts)	26	very good
RMS power/channel, 8-ohms, 20 kHz (watts)	25.5	very good
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 1 kHz (watts)	N/A	see text
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 20 Hz (watts)	N/A	see text
RMS power/channel, 4-ohms, 20 kHz (watts)	N/A	see text
Frequency limits for rated output (Hz-kHz)	18-24	excellent
<b>DISTORTION MEASUREMENTS</b>		
Harmonic distortion at rated output, 1 kHz (%)	0.065	excellent
Intermodulation distortion, rated output (%)	0.11	very good
Harmonic distortion at 1 watt output, 1 kHz (%)	0.07	very good
Intermodulation distortion at 1 watt output (%)	0.09	good
<b>DAMPING FACTOR, AT 8 OHMS</b>	12	acceptable
<b>PHONO PREAMPLIFIER MEASUREMENTS</b>		
Frequency response (RIAA $\pm$ — dB)	1.0	very good
Maximum input before overload (mV)	250	superb
Hum/noise referred to full output (dB) (at rated input sensitivity)	63	very good
<b>HIGH LEVEL INPUT MEASUREMENTS</b>		
Frequency response (Hz-kHz, $\pm$ — dB)	15-30, 1	excellent
Hum/noise referred to full output (dB)	82	excellent
Residual hum/noise (min. volume) (dB)	86	very good
<b>TONAL COMPENSATION MEASUREMENTS</b>		
Action of bass and treble controls	See Fig. 9	good
Action of secondary tone controls	N/A	N/A
Action of low frequency filter(s)	N/A	N/A
Action of high frequency filter(s)	N/A	N/A
<b>COMPONENT MATCHING MEASUREMENTS</b>		
Input sensitivity, phono 1 (mV)	2.34	
Input sensitivity, auxiliary input(s) (mV)	95	
Input sensitivity, tape input(s) (mV)	100	
Output level, tape output(s) (mV)	100	
Output level, headphone jack(s) (V or mV)	N/A	
<b>EVALUATION OF CONTROLS, CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN</b>		
Adequacy of program source and monitor switching		very good
Adequacy of input facilities		good
Arrangement of controls (panel layout)		very good
Action of controls and switches		excellent
Design and construction		very good
Ease of servicing		good
<b>OVERALL AMPLIFIER PERFORMANCE RATING</b> (NA = Not available, or non-applicable)		very good

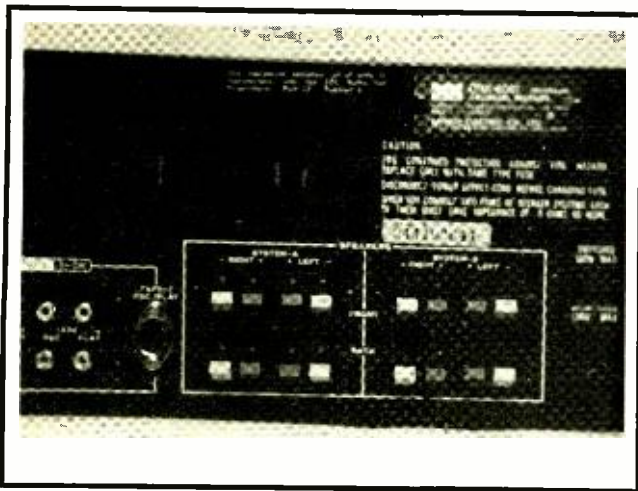


FIG 4 (above)—RIGHT SECTION of rear panel.

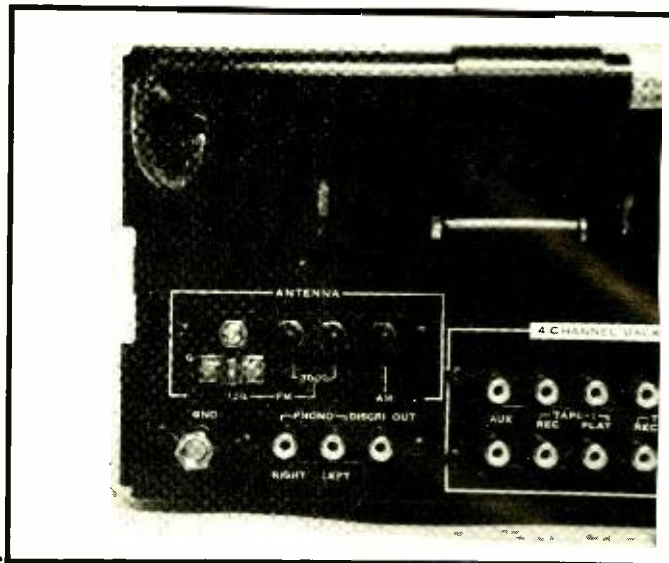


FIG. 5 (right)—LEFT SECTION of rear panel.

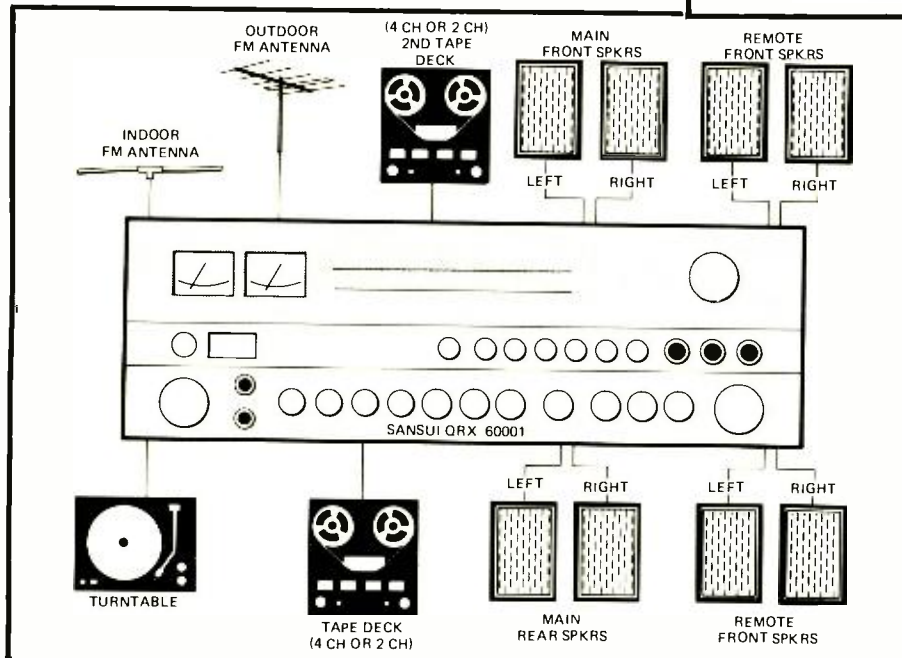


FIG. 6—THE VARIOUS components that can be connected to the Sansui QRX-6001 are shown.

### Amplifier performance measurements

Amplifier performance measurements are listed in Table II. Since Sansui chose not to provide an FTC approved power rating for 4-ohm operation, no power output measurements were made with 4 ohm loads, nor can we vouch for unconditional stability at 4-ohm load operation with full power delivered continuously. At 8 ohms, however, the amplifier generally exceeds its ratings by a fairly wide margin. For example, at 25 watts per-channel output, THD and IM distortion measured only 0.065% and 0.11% respectively for mid-frequencies and distortion readings were still well below the rated 0.5% even at the frequency extremes of 20 Hz and 20 kHz. Tone control range and loudness control action (measured at -30 dB below full rated output) is shown in Fig. 7 and conforms to expectations. Sansui elected to boost both treble (moderately) and bass in their loudness circuitry. Listeners who

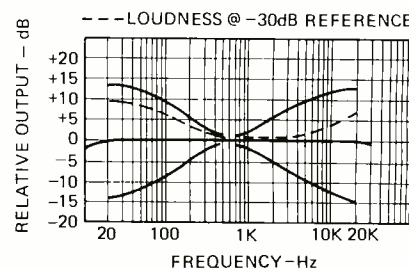


FIG. 7 — BASS, TREBLE AND LOUDNESS control range, Sansui QRX-6001.

prefer only bass enhancement at low listening levels would be better off using the tone controls rather than the "fixed" loudness compensation circuitry for that purpose.

While our hum measurement in "phono" falls short of the 70 dB claimed by Sansui, we suspect that their measurement is made using some form of weighting curve, whereas ours is measured  
*(continued on page 64)*

### TABLE III RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT OVERALL PRODUCT ANALYSIS

Manufacturer	Sansui	Model	#QRX-6001
Retail Price			\$759.00
Price Category			Medium-high
Price/Performance Ratio			good
Styling and Appearance			excellent
Sound Quality			very good
Mechanical Performance			very good

#### Comments:

The Sansui QRX-6001 4-channel receiver is designed to favor its use as a quadriphonic component. QS-Variomatrix performance has been refined to the point where, with proper program material, separation is virtually as good as that obtained from discrete sources. Recognizing that other 4-channel program sources exist, Sansui has finally incorporated a good CD-4 demodulator circuit, as well as semi-logic in its SQ matrix decoding (not as effective for SQ listening as the Variomatrix QS circuits are for QS records and broadcasts, but certainly better than earlier non-logic equipped SQ decoders). With a good antenna (or in strong signal areas) the high stereo threshold will pose no problems. Power output is ample for even moderately low-efficiency speaker systems, but stay away from speaker systems that require more than 20 watts minimum.



# Test Equipment for Industrial Servicing

Here's a roundup of industrial test equipment, offering many special features and accessories. This equipment is used in automotive, marine, aircraft and many other applications

by JACK DARR  
SERVICE EDITOR

FIRST THERE WAS ELECTRICITY AND THEN came electronics. They were considered as separate disciplines for quite a while. There was some basis for this. Electrical work involved high voltages and currents, and heavy machinery. Electronics was confined to little radios. Now, we find electronic controls on all kinds of electrical machinery, and the twain have met again.

They were never truly separate. I refuse to belabor the obvious point that electronics training begins with a solid foundation in basic electricity. Also, all electronic tests are made by reading electrical quantities; volts, current, etc. So, technicians working in this field could call it "electronicity" or something equally silly. The equipment covered here will be intended for industrial use; everything *but* "entertainment electronics" radio, TV, audio. This includes industrial, appliance, automotive, aircraft, marine, and many others.

## The instruments

The speed and accuracy with which we do the job depends on our instrumentation. We work with quantities which cannot be seen or heard (though they can be *felt*, in certain cases. Also smelled). The first test instrument was a D'Arsonval DC milliammeter. We shunted this and got an ammeter. Adding multiplier resistors gave us a DC voltmeter. Adding rectifiers we got an AC voltmeter. With a little switching, we could put all this in the same case, and the volt-ohm ammeter was born. There was only one thing we couldn't read with ease; *alternating current*. None of the early VOM's had any way of reading this.

Things have changed. The test equipment manufacturers are making it easier and easier for us. They are giving us simpler, specialized test instruments to get the readings we need a lot faster. They're compact, rugged, and have an accuracy that would have been unbelievable about 20 years ago. This article will be an admittedly incomplete rundown on some typical units in this field. We'll show you the latest units from three of the older companies. This is equipment that is available *now*, off the shelf. Things that can help us get the job done fast.

## The VOM's

The basic unit in most of these testers is a VOM—a VOM that the old timers wouldn't recognize! Most of them use 20,000 ohms-per-volt movements. Some use FET amplifiers for even greater sensitivity. Quite a few of these are very compact; "shirt-pocket" types. The rest are the old "standard" size. They are available in special carrying cases, made of tough plastic. These are heavily padded with foam plastic, and have pockets for the various accessories, test leads, and so on. They look like expensive attache cases; very neat.

They're all well-protected against accidental damage, physical or electrical. The VOM's are built into high-impact plastic cases. Electrically, all of the meters have protective diodes to save the movement from surges or inadvertent overloads. Many are also protected by special fast-blow fuses (bless their hearts), they provide spare fuses inside the meter case, to save you a long trip back to the shop. One make has a special circuit-breaker; a bright red button pops up on overloads. These are about as foolproof as possible, though probably not totally foolproof. Somebody will invariably try to read line voltage on the ohms scale, or something.

Beside the standard VOM ranges, special "adapters" are available. With these, you can read practically any quantity you need; speed, temperature, pressure, sound level, and on and on. You'll see more on these as we go along.

## Special features

I've always been fond of test equipment that makes things easier. I believe that the one thing that made the greatest impression on me was the "clamp-on ammeter." As I just said, in the early days, you simply couldn't read alternating current without going through a lot of trouble. There were AC ammeters, of course. They were about 12 inches in diameter, weighed around 30 pounds and cost an arm and a leg. The only place you saw them was in power-houses. Like all current meters up till now, you had to open the circuit and put them in series.

Now it's a breeze; actually, a one-hand operation. You can have a meter that fits in the palm of your hand, with

a pair of funny-looking jaws and a push-button. Push the button, the jaws open; close them around any one conductor in the circuit and presto; an instant amp reading. As all working technicians know, the actual load current drawn by any kind of electrical unit is the best indicator of its condition. Let's see how this handy little device does it.

Figure 1 shows how it works. The

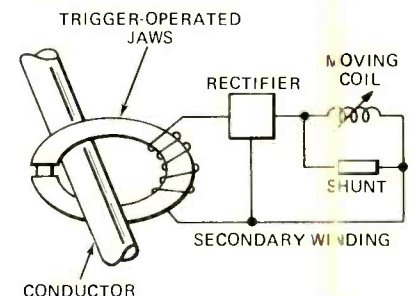


FIG. 1 — AC AMMETER MEASURES CURRENT without direct electrical connection. (courtesy Amprobe)

"jaws" are actually the *iron core* of a transformer. The conductor acts as a one-turn primary. Another winding on the core steps the voltage up so the meter can read it. The changing magnetic flux in the wire, when current is flowing, gives us an AC voltage directly proportional to the amount of current flowing in the conductor. To read currents of different values, shunts are connected across the meter by a selector switch, usually in the clamp-on adapter unit. No disturbance of the circuit is necessary.

The only thing you must do is to be sure that you have only one of the circuit conductors inside the jaws. More than one will upset the magnetic fields, and the reading will be incorrect. Either conductor of a two-wire circuit can be used. For house wiring and similar testing, go to the circuit breaker box, where the wires are easy to get at. The instrument's jaws are well-insulated, so you can go in without danger of shorting anything.

For any plug-in unit, such as an appliance, special plug-in "line-splitters" are available. These separate the conductors; they're built in plastic cases, with a "ring" to clamp the jaws through. Several of these are made with built-in

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multipliers; you can read the current directly, or divide by 10 or by 20, for low values of current. (I'll admit that this was news to me, and I don't have any details, but some people claim to be making clamp-ons that can read *DC*! The principle of operation is slightly different, but they are just as simple to use.)

### Special test adapters

In addition to the easy alternating current tests mentioned before, special adapters can give you readings of many different quantities. Read temperature on a VOM? But certainly! All you need is a plug-in thermocouple, and a scale or scales on the VOM calibrated in degrees Fahrenheit, or degrees Celsius. Read speed in RPM? Same thing. A small generator is held on the end of a rotating shaft; it develops a voltage proportional to the speed, and the meter has scales to read it. Another version uses light, chopped and read out on a meter. No physical contact with the revolving machinery is needed.

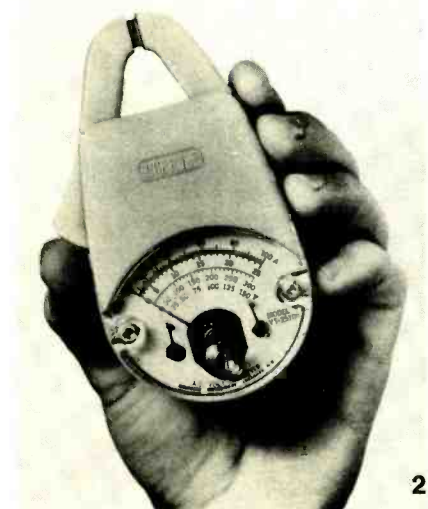
The government-specified safety tests for AC leakage on any appliance can be made. Special scales are provided on many units. Under OSHA, this is mandatory for most appliance service work. With these instruments, it's fast and easy.

For testing small thermocouple controls, used with gas-fired appliances, special millivolt ranges are provided. They start at about 50 mV and go up to about 1.5 volts.

Light levels and sound levels, also required tests under some OSHA regulations, are equally simple. Many of the special VOM's can do this with plug-in sensors. For production-line or quality-control testing, these can be obtained in single-function units, for making that one test.

For electricians working with poly-phase AC lines and equipment, an adapter is available that will identify the correct phase-sequence of any three-phase line. It will work up to 550 volts, and can be used with the AC voltmeter of the VOM.

For the final touch, many of these testers can be bought in special models calibrated at 50 Hz for overseas work, or at 400 Hz for aircraft and marine work. These are special-order types, of



course. All U.S. units are calibrated for 60 Hz.

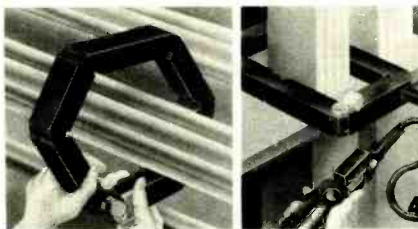
Let's look at a few typical models starting with the ultra-compact "shirt-pocket" types. Figure 2 is the Amprobe Model YT-25100, in their "Junior" line. This is also an AC voltmeter; test leads can be plugged into the case.

Figure 3 shows a higher range unit,



the Amprobe RS-1000. This, too is a voltmeter. It's a multi-range instrument; the scales are on a cylinder operated by the thumbwheel control of the switch. Only the scale in use can be seen. It will read AC current from 0-15 amps up to the scale seen here, 1000 amps. An ohmmeter range is also provided.

For the Really Big Stuff, a special kind of Clamp-on is used, as in Fig. 4.



This is the Amprobe "Amp-Tran"; it is used with any of the RS series Amprobes. It can read currents up to 6000 amperes. It's used with the huge bus-bars found in power plants and heavy industry.



Going on in alphabetical order, the Simpson Electric Co.'s "Amp-Clamp" can be used with any AC voltmeter, having a full-scale range of 2.5, 3.0 or 5.0 volts, at 5000 ohms-per-volt minimum (Fig. 5). The current range varies with the meter used. It'll go up to 250 amps with

a 2.5-volt AC scale, or to 500 amps with a 5-volt meter.

Figure 6 shows the latest version of



the Amp-Clamp, just introduced. This is a self-contained unit with its own meter. There are three models, the 294, 295 and 296. The difference is only in the ranges and functions. Test leads can be plugged into the unit for voltage and resistance readings. Note the little button on the side of the case. You can hook up the Amp-Clamp, turn the machine on, and then press the button. This locks the meter needle in place; you can take the reading and then look at it later! Ranges from 0-6 amps up to 300 amps.

Figure 7 shows a familiar face. This

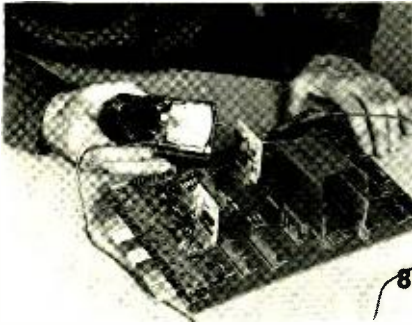


is the Triplet Model 310 Miniature VOM, with a Model 10 Clamp-On AC Ammeter adapter. The adapter plugs into the top of the case and locks. This automatically makes contact with the Common jack; the test lead is then plugged into the VOM jack, and the selector switch set for 3 volts AC. The current-range switching is then done by the selector switch on the Model 10 Adapter. As you can see, this is really a "one-hand" operation. (You can use your *right* hand if you like!)

The unit shown is the original version of the Model 310. There is a later model just out, the 310-Type 3. This is a drop-resistant, ruggedized version, with a textured surface on the case to make it easier to hold.

By unscrewing the tip from the common test-lead and putting it in the end of the case, any of the 310's can be used "one-hand" for any kind of testing (Fig. 8). For applications needing very high sensitivity, there is another one, the 310-F, a FETVM. The later versions have a very handy polarity-reversing switch on the upper left corner of the

case; under the man's right thumb in Fig. 8. This reverses the polarity of not



only the DC voltmeter but the ohmmeter; very convenient for transistor tests.

For the last, (but not least) of the shirt-pocket instruments in this area, Fig. 9 shows the Amprobe Model VT-100

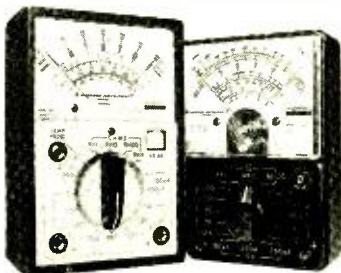


9

"Volt-Probe". It reads AC or DC voltages. There is no meter needle! The scale lights up to show you the voltage reading. Very useful for working in some of the dark places we get into!

Now we come to the "standard" size VOM's; the larger units like the Simpson 260, Triplet 630, and others. However, in these something new has definitely been added. These are far more versatile than the old ones. All of the stock ranges are provided, and many special ranges as well, as you'll see.

In alphabetical order again, Fig. 10 shows the Amprobe Models AM-1 and AM-2. The AM-2 is a standard VOM. The AM-1 has the same ranges, and provision for temperature readings with a



10

plug-in thermocouple probe. Note the DC "millivolt" ranges, for checking control thermocouples.

The Simpson Model 265 seen in Fig. 11 can read AC and DC volts, and has a



11

low-voltage scale of 300 mV, as well as plug-in AC and DC amperage. Current up to 12 amps can be read.

The Triplet Model 615 in Fig. 12 is a specialized industrial-test VOM with many special ranges. Up to three separate



12

thermocouple probes can be plugged in at the same time. Any one of these can be read by moving the selector switch. Handy for reading input and output temperatures, on air-conditioners, etc. The DC millivolts ranges start at 60 mV full-scale, and go to 1500 mV. A built-in AC leakage test is included; this is the one we're supposed to make on all appliances before delivery. With this, it can be done with a flip of the switch.

For reading AC current, a slightly different version of the clamp-on ammeter is used. This works exactly like the rest, but has extension leads so that the meter can be left on the bench. Line-splitters and dividers are available with it.

All of these instruments are available in special carrying cases, to hold the basic instruments and the adapters, probes, etc. Fig. 13 shows the Amprobe Model TM-43A. The line-splitters and extensions are strapped in the lid, and in pockets in the case. Other instruments in this line have their own cases, some smaller than the one shown.

Figure 14 shows the Triplet Model 615 in its carrying case. The thermocouple probe is at the left, with the test leads, and the AC ammeter clamp-on and line-splitter, divider are at the right.



13



14

Figure 15 shows the Simpson 260 VOM, and one of its "family" of adapters. These plug into the Model 260, to convert it to quite a variety of uses. In addition to the Audio Wattmeter unit



15

shown, there are adapters to make the 260 into a transistor tester, DC VTVM, battery-tester, temperature tester, AC ammeter microvolt attenuator, and even a "milliohm-meter." The last one has a low range of 0.1 ohm full-scale. Note the heavy test-leads needed to get accurate readings in this area. Incidentally, the Simpson units shown also have the carrying cases.

Now we come to the single-function testers, for specialized work. Figure 16 shows the Amprobe "Fastemp" thermometer. Three separate probes can be used at once, with a selector switch. This is their Model T-150. Intermittent or continuous readings can be made,

(continued on page 68)

# Understanding the OP AMP

OP AMP

The operational amplifier is an important building block to the design engineer and experimenter. This article presents some practical circuit applications.

by DON LANCASTER

THE FIRST ARTICLE IN THIS SERIES (MAY 1975 issue) described the operational amplifier and presented 14 basic rules needed to design around them.

This concluding article describes a few practical devices and presents and presents some circuit applications.

### Some devices

So, we now have most of the use rules for negative-feedback op-amps, particularly the 741. Let's take a close look at some actual devices, and then we'll go on to some actual circuits you might like to try or use for design.

The four easiest to use op-amps are the 741 itself, available from just about anybody (see the table). The 5558, a dual 741 in an 8-pin can and a plastic mini DIP is from *Signetics* and in a can and 8- and

14-pin DIP's from *Motorola* as a MC1458; a quad 741 in a 14-pin package called the 4136 is made by *Raytheon*; finally a greatly improved 741 called the LM318 is available from *Advanced Micro Devices* and *National*. Condensed data for these four devices appear in Figs. 1 through 4. Only the 741 and the LM318 have pins brought out for balancing offsets—you have to use external offsets for the rest of the circuits. Costs vary widely, but around 80¢ per 741-style amplifier new and half that for surplus are typical, with the LM318 priced under \$5. The LM318 is thus very much a premium device, but anytime you need the slew rate or the higher frequency response, it is a very good choice. There are other moderately improved 741-style devices, including the *Motorola* MC1741S, and several devices

by *Silicon General*. These are intermediate in price and performance and generally offer around 5 V/μs slew-rate and better noise performance. And, of course, there are many premium devices offering considerably better performance.

Finally, there are some other quad amplifiers often called *Norton amplifiers* or *automotive op-amps*. These are not true operational amplifiers and cannot be used in the circuits that follow. Further, there are very serious use restrictions for these devices. For the vast majority of your applications, you'll find the devices of Figs. 6 through 9 the best overall choice to use.

### Some applications

Let's turn to some applications. We'll assume you have a good split power sup-

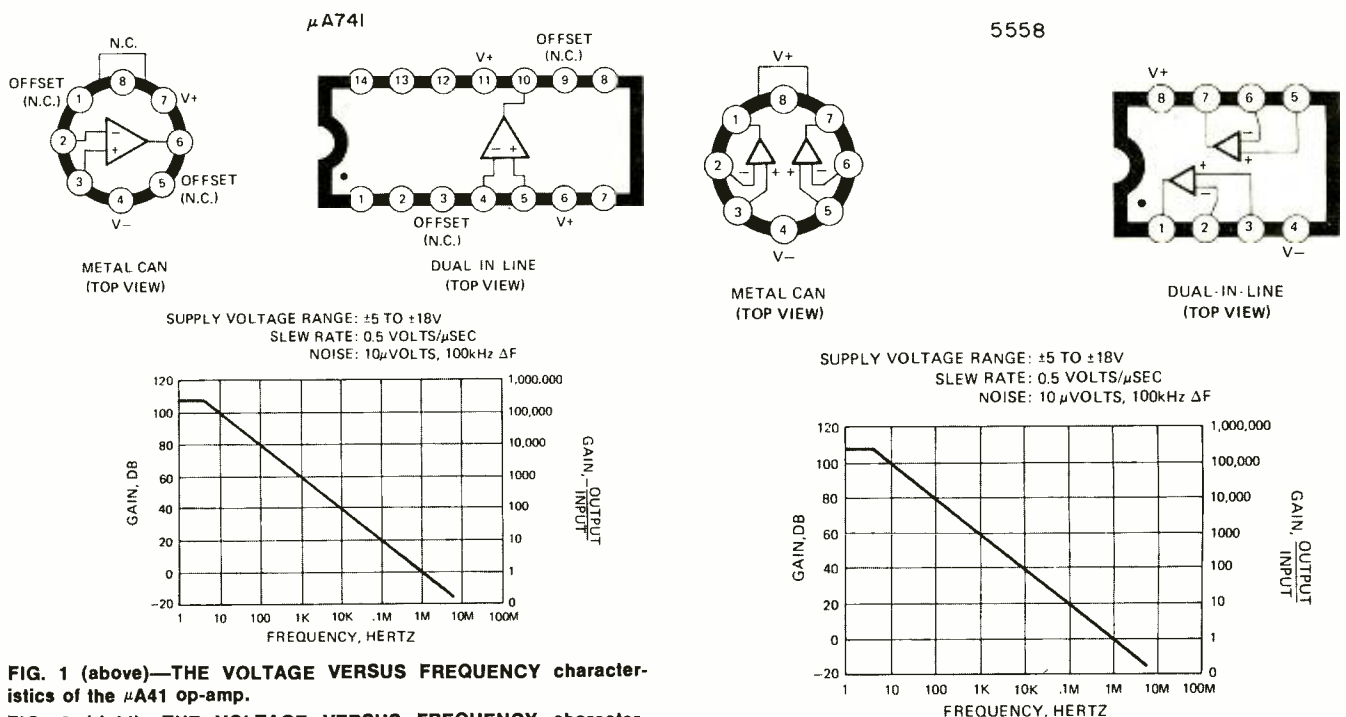
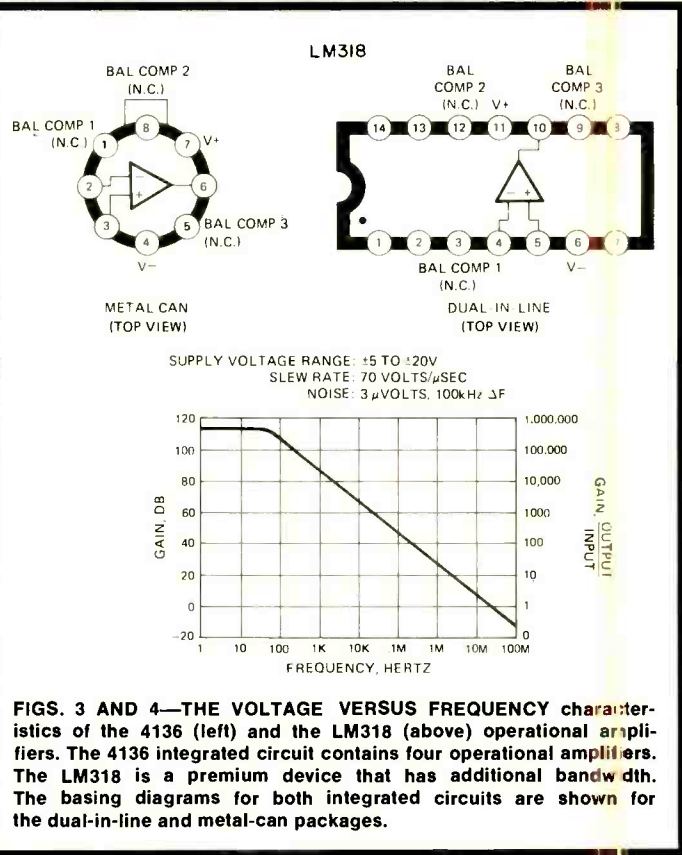
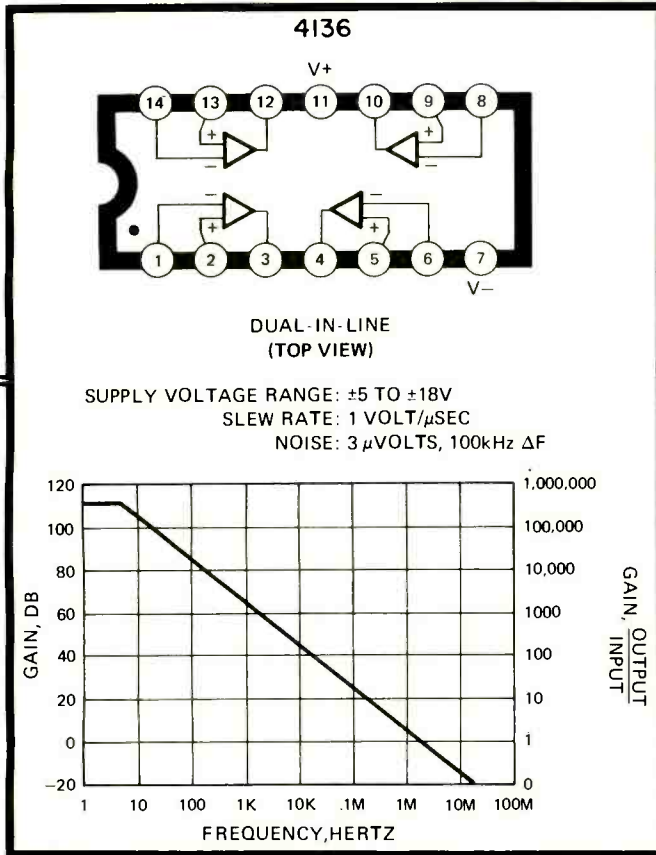
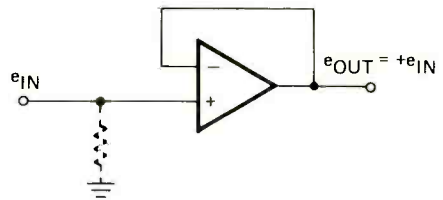


FIG. 1 (above)—THE VOLTAGE VERSUS FREQUENCY characteristics of the μA41 op-amp.

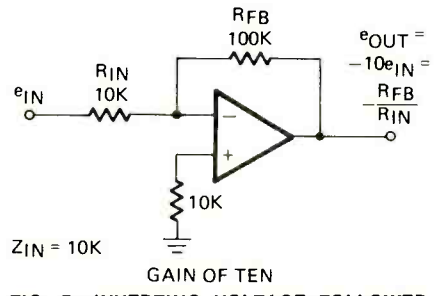
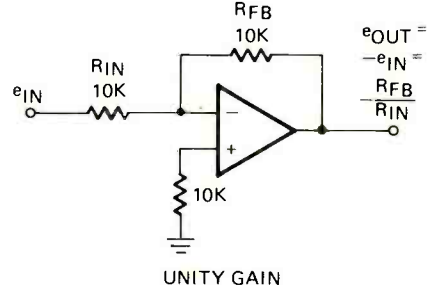
FIG. 2 (right)—THE VOLTAGE VERSUS FREQUENCY characteristics of the 5558 op-amp.



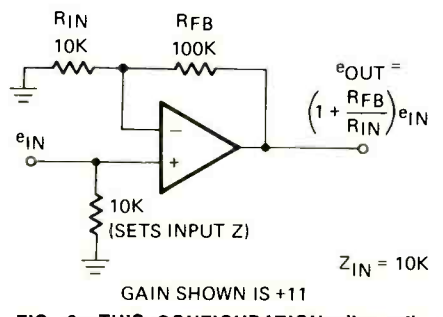
**FIGS. 3 AND 4—THE VOLTAGE VERSUS FREQUENCY characteristics of the 4136 (left) and the LM318 (above) operational amplifiers. The 4136 integrated circuit contains four operational amplifiers. The LM318 is a premium device that has additional bandwidth. The basing diagrams for both integrated circuits are shown for the dual-in-line and metal-can packages.**



**FIG. 5—THE UNITY-GAIN CONFIGURATION of an operational amplifier. The circuit has a voltage gain of exactly one.**



**FIG. 7—INVERTING VOLTAGE FOLLOWER circuit. The gain is determined by the ratio of feedback and input resistance.**



**FIG. 6—THIS CONFIGURATION allows the gain to be adjusted by the ratio of feedback to input resistance.**

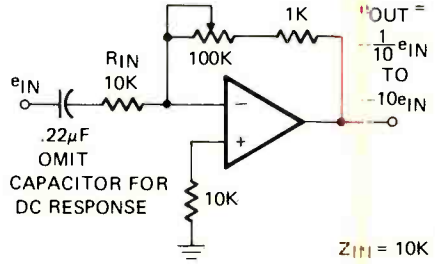
ply, ranging from  $\pm 5$  to  $\pm 20$  volts, with  $\pm 15$  being the best, or its battery equivalent.

Suppose we use 100% voltage feedback from the output to the negative input. The output voltage always must equal the input voltage and the gain of the amplifier will always force the difference between output and the + input to zero. The output will follow the + input with unity gain, giving us a *voltage follower*. The input impedance is very high since we are going into the + input and the frequency response (although not necessarily the slew rate) is very good since we don't

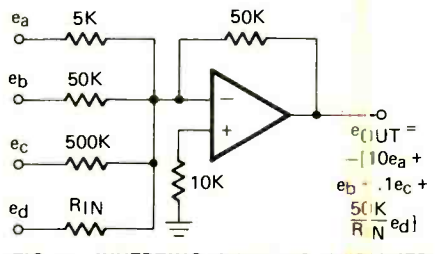
need much loop gain. The output impedance is very low and you can think of the circuit as a super emitter follower.

The circuit is shown in Fig. 5. Its advantages over a single transistor include a gain of *exactly* one, no temperature dependent 0.6-volt offset between input and output, a higher input impedance, and a lower output impedance. Note that you must provide base current bias through your source for the + input.

Figure 6 gives us a voltage follower with gain. Here instead of 100% feedback, we feed back only a fraction, voltage-divider style, and we end up with



**FIG. 8—INVERTING VOLTAGE FOLLOWER circuit. This configuration allows adjustment of the gain via a potentiometer.**



**FIG. 9—INVERTING SUMMING AMPLIFIER circuit. The gain of each input is independently determined by the resistance ratio.**

a non-inverting voltage amplifier with gain. The gain is anything you want from one upward to anything less than ten times the open-loop gain. Reasonable limits for a gain of ten are 10 kHz and 100 kHz for unity gain. With the LM318, you can run respectively at 200 kHz and 2 megahertz for the same gains.

Note that the gain is NOT the ratio of the two resistors but is *one plus the ratio*. Thus, the *minimum* gain is unity. Note also that you must provide base current for the + input through the source of your signal.

The standard inverting gain-of-ten am-

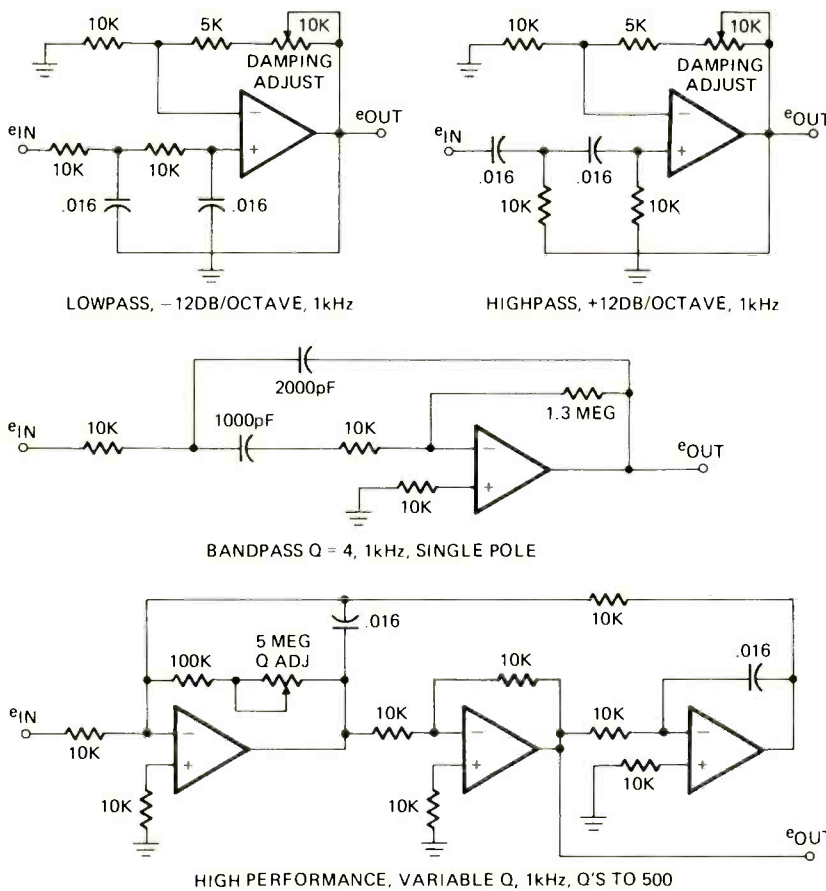


FIG. 10—ACTIVE FILTER circuits. Highpass, lowpass, and two bandpass filter circuits are shown. The values of the capacitors are changed to change the frequencies.

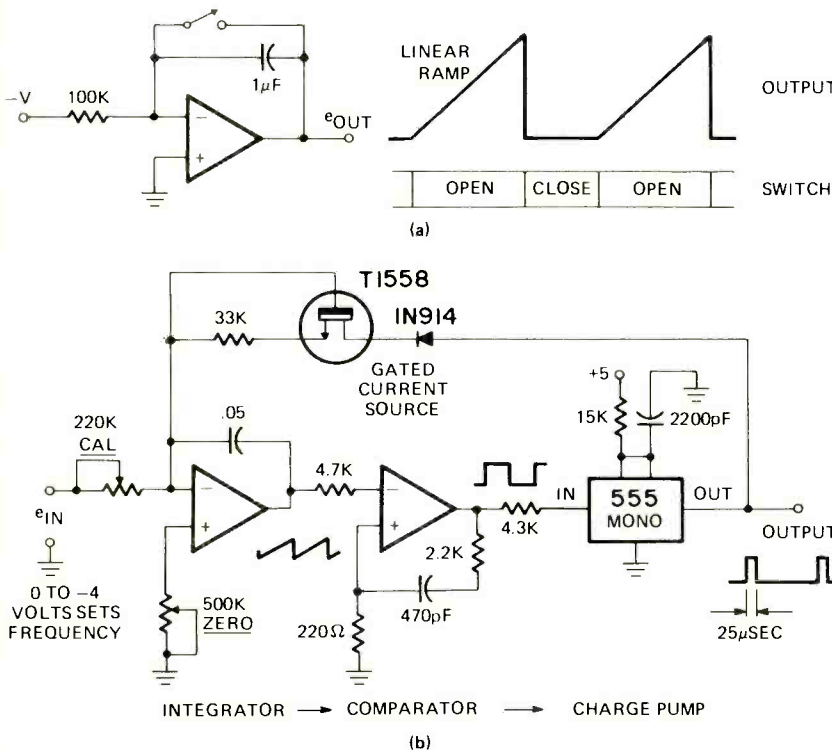


FIG. 11—ACTIVE INTEGRATOR is shown in a. The slope of the linear ramp output is determined by the R-C time constant. The switch returns the output to zero. A voltage-controlled oscillator using an integrator is shown in b.

plifier is shown in Fig. 7. Here the gain is set by the ratio of the output resistor to the input resistor. With a 10K resistor on the input and a 100K resistor on the output, the gain will be 10, and so on. DC bias need not be provided by the source, and you can capacitor-couple the input for AC only applications. With identical resistors, the gain will be -1. Since we are going into the - input and since the - input is a virtual ground, the input impedance equals the input resistor, or 10K if a 10K resistor is being used. We can vary the gain as shown in Fig. 8. In Fig. 9, we have a mixer or summer circuit. As many inputs as needed can be used, and the gain of each will be independently set by the ratio of its input resistor and the feedback resistor. Since there is a virtual ground on the - input, there is no interaction between inputs and you get a linear summation of the inputs. Input impedance and gain is set for each input by its resistor. Note that the circuit inverts, so the low-frequency output will be 180° out-of-phase with the input.

Figure 10 shows us some active filter circuits, including second-order low-pass and high-pass filters, and two different types of bandpass poles. The frequencies shown are 1 kHz. Change capacitors to change frequency. The damping control sets the peakedness or droop of the response at the cutoff frequency. The three-amplifier band-pass filter needs only a gain of 3Q or so per amplifier at the center frequency and independently adjusts Q, gain, and frequency. Q's of several hundred to a thousand are possible.

A ramp generator is built using the circuit of Fig. 16. It is also called an integrator and the slope rate of charge buildup is given by the formula:

$$i_{in} = C \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$$

i = current in milliamperes

C = capacitance in  $\mu\text{F}$

$\Delta v$  = voltage change in volts

$\Delta t$  = time interval in milliseconds

Note that you MUST enter via the - input for an integrator of this type and you must provide base current bias through the source.

A voltage-controlled oscillator or VCO can be built using the combined integrator-comparator circuit of Fig. 11. The negative input continuously charges the capacitor in the positive direction. When it reaches zero, the snap-action comparator (note positive feedback) trips a monostable and current source (both these have to be precision) and charges the capacitor rapidly negative. The capacitor jumps back negative and the time to charge is set by the input current. Output frequency is precisely related to the input voltage. It is called a charge subtractor VCO and can be made very stable. Maximum frequency using 741's is around 10 kHz, with best performance below 5 kHz.

We'll end our applications survey with a quick look at some non-linear techniques. If we use an op-amp and two ordinary silicon diodes, we can build the half-wave rectifier with a choice of polarity shown in Fig. 17. The normal 0.6-volt drop across the silicon diode is taken out completely by the op-amp, and you

(continued on page 82)



# Make PA Work

Setting up and operating a sound reinforcement system is not difficult if you are aware of the intricacies that are involved in the procedure

by DAVID YOSHINARI\*



THE SOLUTION TO MOST SOUND REINFORCEMENT problems is usually found in the proper match between performers, equipment, and the environment. With the proper choice of equipment and careful planning, a sound equipment installer can overcome problems that often prevent a sound reinforcement system from performing as it should.

Sound reinforcement systems come in a large variety of types. A simple system used for lectures might consist of a single microphone, amplifier, and loudspeaker, while an outdoor rock concert could require an array of equipment that can only be transported by a caravan of trucks. To illustrate two basic types of systems often encountered, let's look at two examples.

Figure 1 shows a system intended to provide sound reinforcement for a lecture or speech. Typically, a single microphone is placed on a podium or a floor stand, perhaps two feet in front of the lecturer. The microphone is connected to a small microphone mixer, a power amplifier and a pair of loudspeakers located on each side of the stage. In some installations, a single speaker or cluster is located directly above the stage. This simple system, called a public address system, would certainly be adequate for

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a local political speech or a graduation day ceremony. But when a rock group arrives for an appearance, a much larger system is a must.

A typical sound system designed for live entertainment is shown in Fig. 2. In this system, many microphones are used to cover all vocalists and several musical instruments. Multiple power amplifiers and large, efficient speaker systems are needed for the vocalists in order to compete with the high sound levels produced by the electrified musical instruments. The microphone mixer, or audio console, is preferably located in the audience seating area where the sound technician can both see and hear the performance. Most groups demand an on-stage monitor or "foldback" system consisting of speakers aimed back toward the group, rather than toward the audience. These speakers reproduce the vocalists and percussion instruments so the group can hear themselves sing over the sound of their electrified instruments. Finally, accessory devices such as echo units, equalizers, limiters, electronic crossovers and digital time delay lines may be included to produce various sound effects.

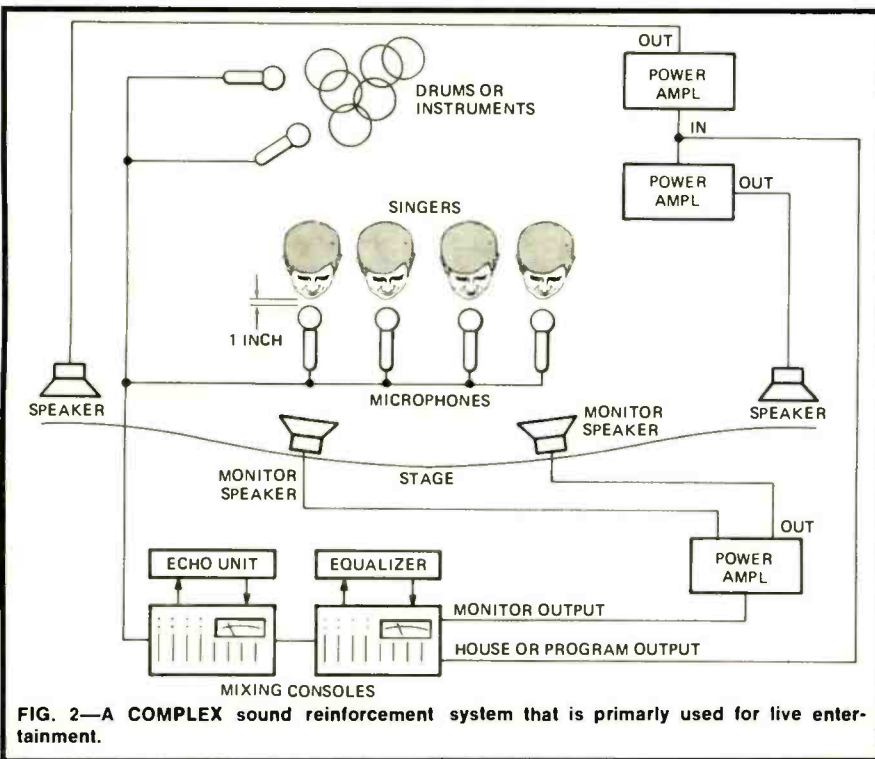
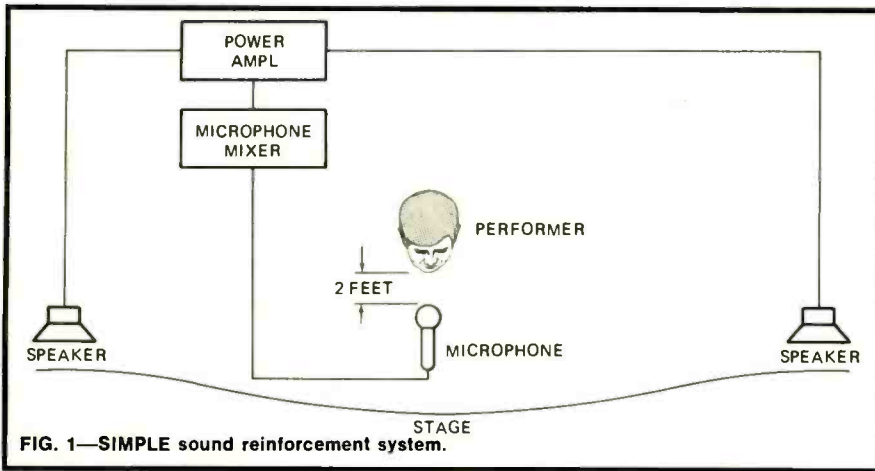
Even though the systems of Figs. 1 and 2 are drastically different, they share problems that are common to most sound reinforcement systems. Specifically, problems related to sound quality, intelligi-

bility, feedback, coverage, reliability and equipment compatibility will be frequently encountered in most sound reinforcement situations.

## Sound quality

In sound reinforcement systems, poor sound quality usually refers to poor fidelity, lending an unnatural character to the sound. Poor fidelity is normally caused by frequency response problems or by the presence of distortion. Consequently, the solution to the problem of poor sound quality requires a system with good frequency response and low distortion.

A reasonable design goal for frequency response of a sound reinforcement system is uniform response from 150-Hz to 7-kHz for speech-only systems and from 50-Hz to 12-kHz for speech and music systems. Some factors that affect frequency response are: 1) Cables. To achieve good high-frequency response, high-impedance microphone cables must be kept under 20 feet in length. If longer cable runs are required, low-impedance microphones should be used. 2) Loudspeaker response. The loudspeakers chosen for the job must have a wide-range frequency response both on-axis and off-axis. 3) Microphone response. A microphone should be chosen with a frequency response that complements the



THE AUDIO CONSOLE should be placed in the audience for easily blending the sound.

original sound source. Manufacturer's catalogs can supply many hints concerning the proper choice of microphones.

Even when all of these three factors are considered, the frequency response of the system may still be inadequate, due to the characteristics of the room itself. In a difficult acoustical environment, electronic equalizers and filters can be used to compensate for deficiencies in the system or room response.

Distortion is the second key factor that

contributes to poor sound quality. Distortion can originate in several places in a sound system. For example, Some condenser microphones contain electronic circuitry which can be overdriven when subjected to high sound pressure levels. When high sound levels are expected, the choice of a good quality dynamic microphone will prevent this source of distortion.

Microphone input circuits in mixers or audio consoles may also generate distortion if they are overdriven as a result of high sound pressure levels. A circuit that performs perfectly for the system shown in Fig. 1 with its relatively low sound pressure input to the microphone, might overload badly when used with the loud singing often associated with the system shown in Fig. 2. To prevent this type of distortion (which is very common), the microphone signal level must be reduced to an acceptable level. Some audio consoles have input attenuators for this purpose. If you are installing a console that does not have this feature, insert external attenuator pads of 15 dB or more

in the microphone lines. Then check every other electronic device in the sound system and make sure that it is operating within its intended range of signal levels. A VU meter or overload indicator is very helpful here.

Another common source of distortion is power amplifier clipping. This is often caused by overdriving the power amplifier input. If the power amplifier does not have enough output power for the job, it may be operating at nearly full power on an average basis with no reserve power for peaks. Peak clipping and distortion will result. A speaker load impedance that is too low for the power amplifier will make this situation even worse.

Loudspeakers can also contribute to distortion in the sound system. Inherently, every loudspeaker produces some distortion due to nonlinearities in the conversion of electrical energy to sound energy. At higher sound levels, this distortion may become objectionable. This is particularly true of speakers that are not specifically designed for sound reinforcement applications. Sound-reinforcement speakers can generally operate at high sound pressure levels without objectionable distortion. Nevertheless, even sound reinforcement loudspeakers must be used within their ratings. Check them periodically to make certain that there has been no deterioration.

### Intelligibility

Intelligibility is the most important problem in vocal sound reinforcement. Good intelligibility is necessary to achieve communication between the person speaking and his audience. The causes of poor intelligibility are primarily related to frequency response, distortion, ambient noise and room reverberation.

For maximum intelligibility, the frequency response of the system should emphasize those portions of the human voice that convey the most speech information. This frequency response is not necessarily optimum for high fidelity music reinforcement. Many studies have shown that a peak of 3- to 6-dB in the frequency range of 4- to 7-kHz can be helpful in emphasizing critical sibilant and consonant sounds. Excessive low frequency response can be detrimental to intelligibility and it is usually advantageous to provide a low-frequency roll-off below 150 Hz. Microphones are available with these frequency response characteristics and additional equalization is not normally required.

Ambient noise in a room reduces intelligibility by masking the speech information. Ventilation fans, motors, audience noise (especially in dinner clubs) and sound leakage from outdoor sources (traffic, machinery, etc.) are prime contributors to the ambient noise level in a room. For good intelligibility in a noisy environment, the sound system should be capable of producing a level approximately 20 to 25-dB higher than the ambient noise level. The amplifier power and speaker efficiency must be adequate to achieve this level.

An excessively reverberant room will

reduce the intelligibility of any sound reinforcement system. In such a room, the audience may hear a great deal more reverberation than direct sound, and intelligibility will be impaired. In this case, the excessive reverberation is really a "noise" competing with the desired sound. Reverberation problems can be minimized by using directional speakers located close to the audience and aiming them away from large reflective walls or ceilings. The best solution to the reverberation problem, although usually impractical and expensive, would be to acoustically treat the room with sound-absorbing materials.

### Feedback

Acoustical feedback is such a common problem in sound reinforcement that we almost expect it to make its presence known as if it were part of the live performance. Regardless of the size or complexity of the system, feedback is one problem that any sound technician would like to eliminate. Three kinds of equipment are normally used to reduce or eliminate feedback: directional microphones, directional speakers and electronic equalizers.

A good unidirectional microphone can greatly reduce the likelihood of feedback. A unidirectional microphone has maximum sound pickup in only one direction, so aim it in the direction of the originating sound. In this position, it will tend to pick up the desired sound while rejecting both the direct and reverberant sound field that the loudspeaker system produces at the sides and rear of the microphone. A sound system test for feedback should always be made under actual performance conditions. Items such as tables and podiums can direct sound reflections into the microphone, and these items should be considered part of the total sound system environment.

The directional characteristics of the loudspeaker system can also be used to minimize feedback problems. Speakers should be placed as far forward on the stage as possible and aimed toward the audience and away from the microphones. In reverberant environments, the reflected sound of the speakers can eventually reach the microphone and cause feedback. In this situation, the speakers should be placed high and aimed downward at the audience to minimize reflections from the rear wall and ceiling.

Once the microphones and loudspeakers have been positioned for minimum feedback, electronic equalization can add further improvement by reducing the gain of the system at frequencies where feedback occurs. Figure 3 shows an electronic filter designed to reduce feedback any of eight one-octave filter bands. Narrow-band filters containing as many as 27 one-third octave filter bands are also available to provide finer control. An ordinary digital frequency meter is very useful for identifying feedback frequencies. The technique used for feedback equalization is to slowly increase the system gain until a feedback frequency is sustained. The appropriate filter is then adjusted while the system gain

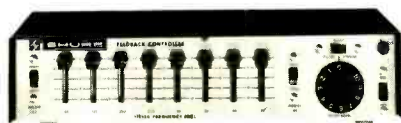


FIG. 3—SHURE M610 equalizer is designed for controlling feedback.

control is increased until the feedback mode shifts to a different frequency. The procedure is then repeated with other filters.

If feedback suddenly occurs during a performance, it would be unwise to attempt an adjustment of a narrow-band equalizer. To cope with this situation, some consoles provide anti-feedback filters which can be instantly switched into the console circuit to eliminate the feedback condition. The console in Fig. 4

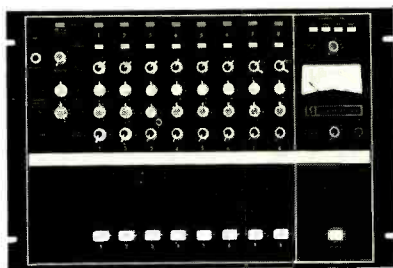


FIG. 4—SHURE SR101 audio console.

provides one additional aid to control feedback. It has a phase reversal switch controlling the console output. As surprising as it may seem, low-frequency feedback problems can often be eliminated by using this switch.

### Coverage

Coverage refers to the ability of a sound reinforcement system to deliver an adequate sound level to the entire listening area. Inadequate coverage is usually due to low speaker sensitivity, too few speakers, improperly aimed speakers, insufficient amplifier power or inadequate gain.

Loudspeaker sensitivity is expressed in terms of the sound pressure level (SPL) produced on-axis at a reference distance for a given power input in watts. The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) method of measurement uses a distance of 30 feet with a power input of 1 milliwatt. Another commonly used set of conditions is a 1-meter measurement for a power input of 1-watt. Speaker manufacturers generally use one of these two rating methods. From either rating method, the SPL can be determined for any other distance or power input (within the speaker's maximum power rating). Textbooks covering loudspeaker design contain equations that can be used for these calculations. As a rule of thumb, the SPL decreases by 6-dB each time the distance from the speaker is doubled, and it increases by 10-dB each time the power is increased by a factor of 10. For example, a speaker which produces 102-dB SPL at 4-feet with a power input of 1-watt will produce 96-dB at 8-feet, 90-dB at 16-feet, 84-dB at 32-feet and so forth.

If the required SPL at 32 feet is 94 dB, then the amplifier power would have to be increased from 1 watt to 10 watts (10 dB).

In general, horn-loaded loudspeakers have high efficiency but a very large enclosure is required to achieve good low-frequency response with this type of speaker system. In applications where size and portability are important, some column loudspeakers feature excellent efficiency in a relatively small package. It is possible to combine the features of both types of loudspeakers as shown in Fig. 5. The loudspeaker illustrated in

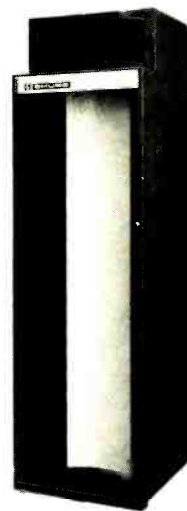


FIG. 5—SHURE SR108 column speaker system.

this figure combines high-efficiency with a wide frequency response.

The correct number of loudspeakers is determined by the size and shape of the room. In a rectangular room seating about 1000 persons, a pair of speakers similar to the one shown in Fig. 5 will usually be adequate. The speakers should

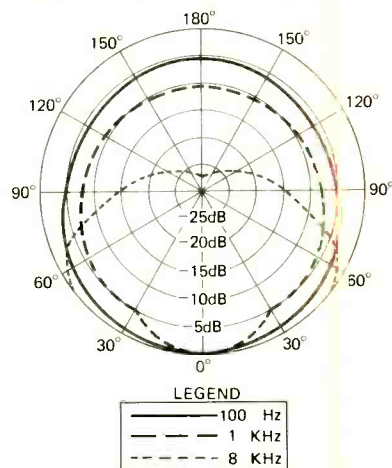


FIG. 6—HORIZONTAL POLAR RESPONSE graph for speaker system shown in Fig. 5.

be placed on each side of the sound source and positioned so that they aim toward the back of the listening area. If the room is particularly wide, it may be necessary to cluster two or three speakers on each side of the stage. In this case, each speaker should be positioned so that

(continued on page 63)

# BUILD THIS Digital Scope Memory

Add this accessory to any scope to convert it to a  
4-channel digital storage scope

by CHRIS TITUS

LAST MONTH WE PRESENTED THE CIRCUIT description, operation and construction details of the DSSC.

This month, the article will conclude with a few applications on the foil patterns.

## Ramp selection

To determine whether we need a positive or negative sawtooth for the X-axis deflection, we must first examine the operation of an SN7476 J-K flip-flop. We know that if both J and K are at a logic 1 (+5V), we can clock the clock input of the flip-flop and the output frequency of either Q or  $\bar{Q}$  will be exactly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the clock frequency. If we were to observe the clock input and the Q output of the flip-flop on a dual-trace scope, we would expect to see the waveform in Fig. 5. Notice that the Q output changes on the negative edge (NET) of the clock signal. Also remember that the scope's beam is being swept from left to right.

If instead of sweeping the beam from left to right, we could imagine the beam being swept from right to left, we would expect to see the waveform in Fig. 6. The visual differences are fairly obvious. In Fig. 6, the J-K flip-flop looks as if it were a positive edge triggered (PET) device.

Using these two examples, the selection of the appropriate ramp is fairly simple. We must calibrate our instrument so that when we test a SN7476 with the DSSC, the scope display looks like Fig. 5. Of course, different devices could be used for the calibration, but the SN7476 is very common and easy to use. It is important not to confuse the SN7476 with the many other types of flip-flops. If different scopes are to be used quite often with the DSSC, it would be very easy to bring out both ramps to a SPDT switch mounted on the rear of the DSSC.

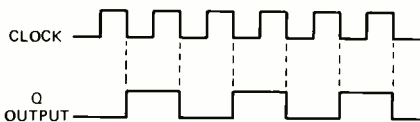


FIG. 5—OUTPUT WAVEFORM from a J-K flip-flop that would be observed on an oscilloscope.

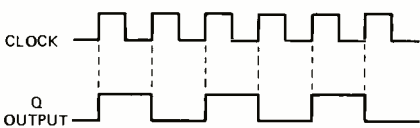


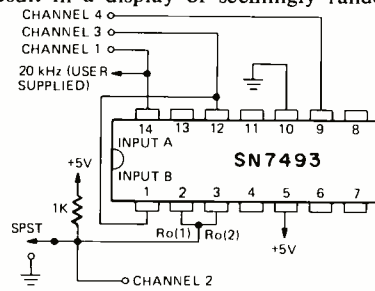
FIG. 6—OUTPUT WAVEFORM from a J-K flip-flop if the scope beam traced from right to left.

This would certainly speed the calibration procedure.

## Using the DSSC

To use the DSSC to diagnose digital logic, we must first properly adjust some of the external controls. No matter which channel we use to trigger the DSSC or what our data acquisition speed is, we must always arm the DSSC before each use by depressing the ARM pushbutton. After the DSSC is armed and triggered, the data will continue to be displayed until the DSSC is again armed or power is lost. We must also set the CHANNEL SELECT switch to determine which of the possible 6 signals; the 4 data inputs, manual pushbutton or external trigger source, will be used for triggering. We must also determine whether we will trigger the DSSC on a positive or negative edge (PET or NET).

The frequency selected will greatly influence the quality and usefulness of the displayed data. If we want to observe a 2-KHz (500- $\mu$ s) pulse train, we would not set the frequency at 2MHz (1 pnt/500 ns). At this frequency, we would completely fill the memory before one complete cycle of the 2-KHz signal had occurred. Too low a frequency will often result in a display of seemingly random



### DSSC CONTROL SETTINGS

FREQUENCY - 200 KHz  
CHANNEL SELECT - CHANNEL 2  
PET/NET - NET  
PRE-TRIGGER/NORMAL - PRE-TRIGGER  
DELAY/NORMAL - NORMAL  
THUMBWHEEL SWITCHES - NOT APPLICABLE

BY GROUNDING THE SWITCH TO THE Ro(1) AND Ro(2) INPUTS WE TRIGGER THE DSSC.

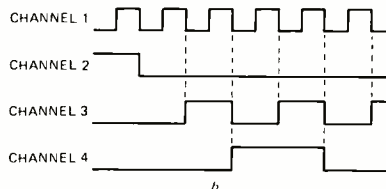


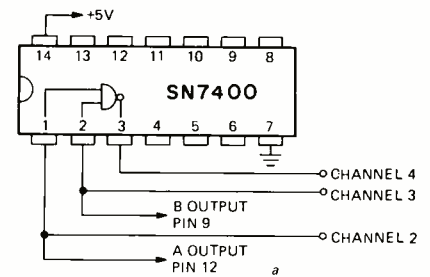
FIG. 7—4-BIT BINARY COUNTER can be tested using the DSSC. The connections are shown in a, and the resulting waveforms are shown in b.

data. A reasonable rule-of-thumb would be to select a frequency 4 or 5 times faster than the data frequency. It may be desirable in some cases to use the crystal clock in the DSSC to synchronize the logic under examination to the DSSC. These frequencies can be derived from the 2-deck rotary switch and be brought out to a binding post.

The PRE-TRIGGER/NORMAL and DELAY/NORMAL switches can be set to all 4 possible combinations. Normally however, either both the switches will be in the NORMAL position or one will be in the NORMAL position and the other in either the PRE-TRIGGER or DELAY position. The setting of the thumbwheel switches is self-explanatory. Note that in the DELAY mode, the trigger source, as selected by the CHANNEL SELECT switch, is also used to pulse the down counters. Finally, a good ground *must* be established between the DSSC, via a GND binding post and the logic being tested.

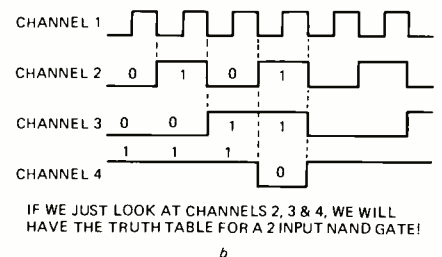
Figures 7 and 8 are just two examples of some TTL circuits that can be tested with the DSSC, the appropriate DSSC switch settings, and the observed oscilloscope display.

R-E



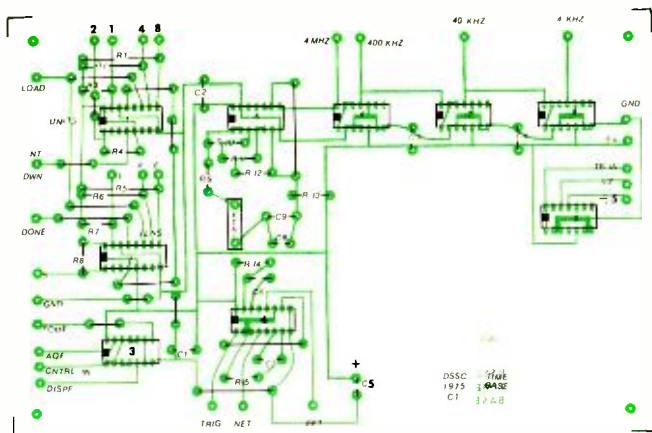
### DSSC CONTROL SETTINGS

FREQUENCY - 200 KHz  
CHANNEL SELECT - CHANNEL 3  
PET/NET - NET  
PRE-TRIGGER/NORMAL - NORMAL  
DELAY/NORMAL - NORMAL  
THUMBWHEEL SWITCHES - NOT APPLICABLE  
KEEP THE PREVIOUS COUNTER CIRCUIT, KEEPING THE SWITCH CLOSED TO GROUND, ADD THE SN7400 AND MOVE THE DATA INPUT WIRES FOR CHANNELS 2, 3 & 4.

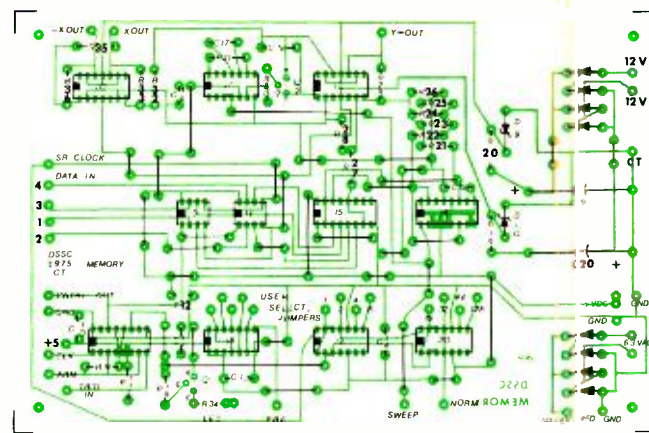


IF WE JUST LOOK AT CHANNELS 2, 3 & 4, WE WILL HAVE THE TRUTH TABLE FOR A 2 INPUT NAND GATE!

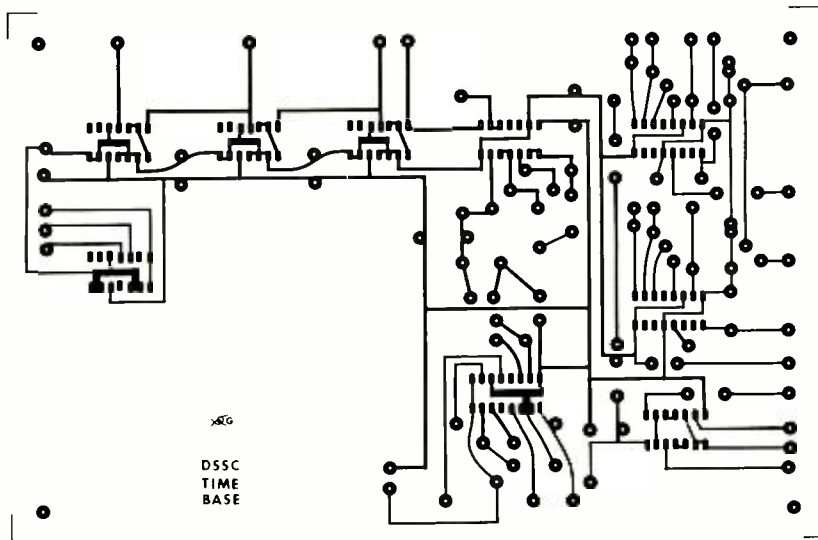
FIG. 8—THE DSSC can be used to dynamically test NAND gates. The connections are shown in a, and the resulting waveforms are shown in b.



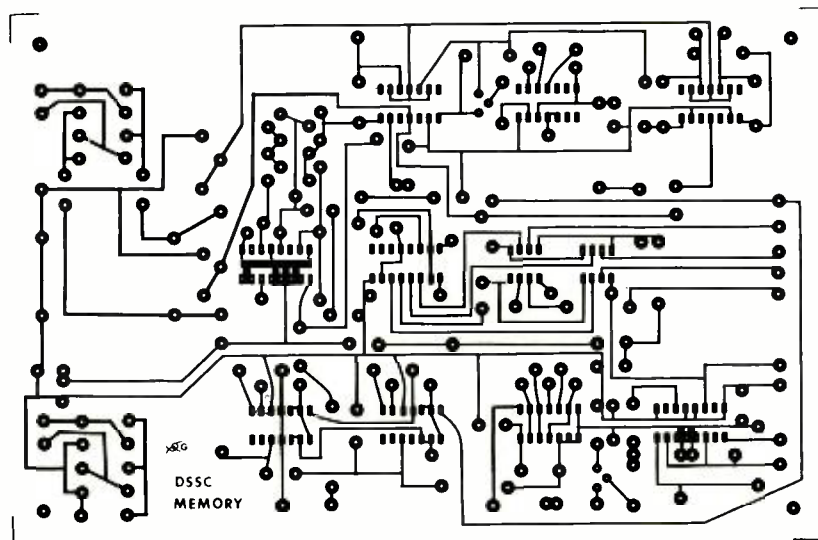
COMPONENT LAYOUT of the time base circuit board shown from the component side up.



COMPONENT LAYOUT of the memory circuit board shown from the component side up.



FOIL PATTERN for the time base circuit board is shown 1/2-size.



FOIL PATTERN for the memory circuit board is shown 1/2-size.

R1-R8, R13, R16, R17, R30, R32—1000 ohms  
 R9, R11, R18, R34—220 ohms  
 R10—560 ohms  
 R12—1800 ohms  
 R14, R15, R28—470 ohms  
 R19—47 ohms, 1W  
 R20—220 ohms, 1/2 W  
 R21-R26, R27, R29—10,000 ohms

R31, R35, R36—4700 ohms  
 R33—5600 ohms  
 C1-C4, C10-C16—.1-μF ceramic disc  
 C5—100-μF 6V electrolytic  
 C6, C7—62-pF ceramic disc  
 C8—33-pF ceramic disc  
 C9—1.7—14-pF trimmer; Johnson 189-505-5 or equal

C18—.001-μF polystyrene  
 C17—.002-μF ceramic disc  
 C19, C20—500-μF 25V electrolytic  
 C21—10,000-μF 10V electrolytic  
 Q1—2N2222 general purpose NPN  
 Q2—2N5060 SCR  
 D1-D8—1N4001 or equal  
 D9, D10—12V, 1W Zener, 1N4742 or equal  
 IC1, IC2—74192 synchronous decade up/down counter—TTL  
 IC3, IC5—7400 quad nand gate—TTL  
 IC4—74123 monostable multivibrator—TTL  
 IC6, IC7, IC8, IC9—7490 decade counter—TTL  
 IC11—74121 monostable multivibrator—TTL  
 IC10, IC12—747 dual operational amplifier  
 IC13, IC14—N2527V dual 256 bit static shift register (Signetics)—MOS  
 IC15—74153 dual four-to-one multiplexer—TTL  
 IC16, IC17—7476 dual J-K flip-flop—TTL  
 IC18—7430 8-Input positive nand gate—TTL  
 IC19, IC20—7493 4-bit binary counter—TTL  
 Q3—LM309K or equal  
 T1—24VCT 1/2 A power transformer  
 T2—6.3V 1A power transformer  
 LED—MV 5020 or equal  
 XTAL—4.0000 MHz crystal available from International Crystal, 10 North Lee, Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
 Order as: 4,000 KHz EX series crystal \$3.95  
 S1—2 pole, 11 position, 2 deck rotary switch, NON-SHORTING (1 pole/decade)  
 S2—1 pole, 6 position rotary switch, NON-SHORTING  
 S3, S4, S5, S9—SPDT miniature toggle switch  
 S6, S7—SPST normally open, momentary pushbuttons  
 S8—Digitran 23102-2; 2 module thumb-wheel switch, BCD complement with one common

**Misc.**  
 Mounting hardware, fuseholder, line cord, fuse, power (110 VAC) switch, 6-way binding posts, 2 BNC connectors for the X and Y signals, pilot light, rubber feet, Bud chassis AC 412 and bottom plate BPA 1520.

The Johnson 189-505-5 is available from:  
 Circuit Specialists Co., Box 3047  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85257  
 — or —  
 Burstein-Applebee, 3199 Mercier St.  
 Kansas City, MO 64111

Both the memory and time base Glass, Epoxy printed circuit boards, drilled, cut to size and ready for component insertion are available for \$12.95 postpaid from Techniques Inc., 235 Jackson Street, Englewood, NJ 07631. New Jersey residents should add 5% sales tax.



# Easy-to-build COSMOS burglar alarms

Three more burglar alarms are described. In addition, different sensor systems and methods of installing a burglar alarm system are explored.

by R. M. MARSTON

IN PARTS 1 AND 2 OF THIS 3-PART ARTICLE, we showed how you can use modern COS/MOS digital integrated circuits to produce your own tailor-made burglar alarm systems. In this concluding part of the series, we show how you can use COS/MOS to make a variety of 10-watt alarm-call generators to use in place of alarm bells or sirens in these alarm systems. We also give advice on how to select alarm sensor systems to solve your own particular home-protection problems.

## Alarm-call generators

The COS/MOS digital IC known as the CD4001AE quad 2-input NOR gate can readily be made to function as a modulated or unmodulated low-frequency waveform generator. The output of such a generator can easily be fed to a speaker via a simple 10-watt 2-transistor power amplifier stage. Such a system functions as a very efficient alarm-call generator, for use in place of conventional alarm bells or sirens. These alarm generators can be activated via the normally-open contacts of the main alarm system.

The circuit of a simple 10-watt monotone alarm-call generator is shown in Project 11. Here, two gates of the CD4001AE integrated circuit act as an 800-Hz square-wave generator. The output of this generator is fed to a 5-ohm speaker via a direct-coupled power amplifier stage formed by Q1 and Q2. The action of the circuit is such that the transistors are alternately switched from the fully off to the saturated states at a rate of 800 Hz, so the power losses of the circuit are quite low. More than 10 watts of power are fed to the speaker from the 12-volt supply.

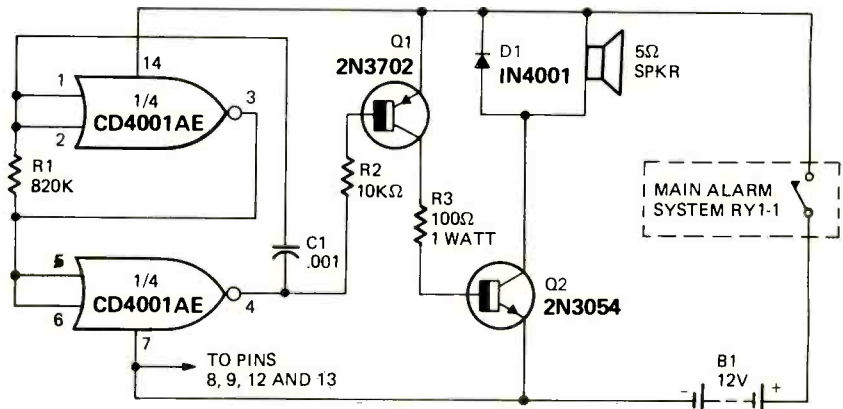
The Project 11 circuit makes use of only two of the four available gates of the CD4001AE COS/MOS IC. The remaining two gates are disabled by shorting pins 8, 9, 12 and 13 to pin 7.

Project 12 shows how all four of the gates of the CD4001AE can be interconnected to make a pulsed-tone alarm-call

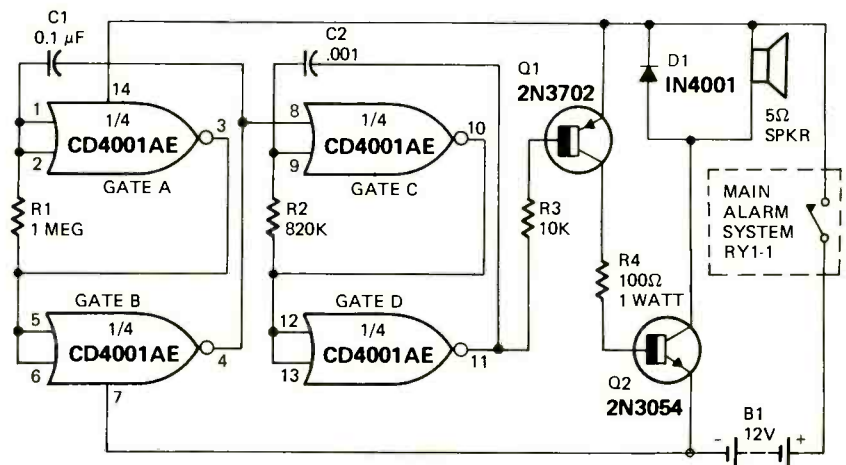
generator, which produces an 800 Hz tone that is pulsed on and off at a rate of 6 Hz. Here, gates A and B are wired as a 6 Hz square-wave generator, which is used to alternately enable and disable the 800 Hz oscillator formed by gates C and D. The output of the 800 Hz oscillator is fed to the speaker via transistors Q1

and Q2. More than 10-watts of power are fed to the speaker from the 12 volt supply.

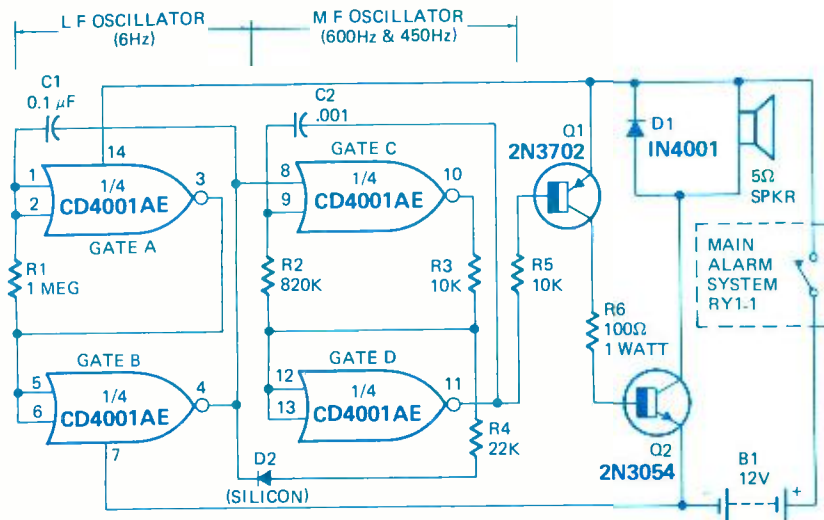
Finally, Project 13 shows the connections for making a warble-tone alarm-call generator. The output of this generator switches alternately between 600 Hz and 450 Hz at a rate of about 6 Hz. Here, the 6-Hz oscillator formed by gates A



PROJECT 11—MONOTONE 10-watt alarm-call generator. Two gates of the CD4001 IC form an 800-Hz square-wave generator.



PROJECT 12—PULSED-OUTPUT 10-WATT alarm-call generator. This circuit uses all four gates of the CD4001 IC.



NOTE: D2 = GENERAL-PURPOSE SILICON DIODE

**PROJECT 13—WARBLE-TONE 10-WATT alarm-call generator. The output switches between 600-Hz and 450-Hz.**

and B is used to vary the period and thus the frequency of the oscillator formed by gates C and D. The output of the CD-4001AE is fed to the speaker via Q1 and Q2. The output power of the circuit is greater than 10-watts.

Note that the three alarm-call generator circuits of Projects 11 through 13 each use a 12-volt battery supply. Also note that each circuit uses a 5-ohm speaker, and that a damping diode is wired across this speaker to suppress unwanted back EMF's.

Your choice of the three alarm-call generator systems will be entirely a matter of personal taste. As can be seen from the circuit diagrams, each type of generator can easily be converted to either of the other two types by simply changing a few IC connections and adding or deleting a few components, so I suggest that the reader tries out all three circuits and then decides which sound he likes best.

Once a generator system has been selected, it can be activated from the main alarm system by wiring the alarm's normally open RY1-1 contacts in series with the generators positive supply lines, as shown in the diagrams. Note that the generator must use supply batteries that are independent of those of the main alarm system.

**Alarm sensor systems**

All the alarm circuits that we've described in this story are 'contact-operated' types. They are activated by the making or breaking of electrical contacts that are built into simple sensor devices. These sensors can take the form of microswitches or reed relays that are activated by the opening of a door or window, of pressure pads that close when a person steps on a rug or carpet, or of lengths of wire or foil that break when a person forces an entry through a window, wall, floor, or ceiling.

The selection of a complete alarm sensor installation depends on a number of factors. Included amongst these are the physical properties of the particular building that is to be protected, the value

of the goods that are to be protected, and the ideas on crime prevention of the individual property owner. The choice of an installation is a very personal matter. The following notes are given to help you make that choice.

Any building can, for crime prevention purposes, be regarded simply as a box that forms an enclosing perimeter around a number of interconnected compartments. This perimeter 'box' is the shell of the building, and contains walls, floors, ceilings, doors and windows. To commit any crime within the building, an intruder must first break through this perimeter, which thus forms the owners first line of defense.

Once an intruder has entered the building, he can move from one room or 'compartment' to the next only along paths that are pre-determined by the layout of internal doors and passages. In moving from one room to the next, he must inevitably pass over certain 'spots' in the building, as is made clear in Fig. 3, which shows the ground-floor plan of a small house. Thus, to move between the lounge and the hall he must pass over spot X1. To move between the kitchen and the hall he would tend to

pass over spot X2, and to move from the ground floor to the upper floor he must pass over spot X3. These spot points form the owners second line of defense.

Thus, the owner can obtain protection by using full or partial 'perimeter' defense, or by using 'spot' defense or by using a combination of the two methods.

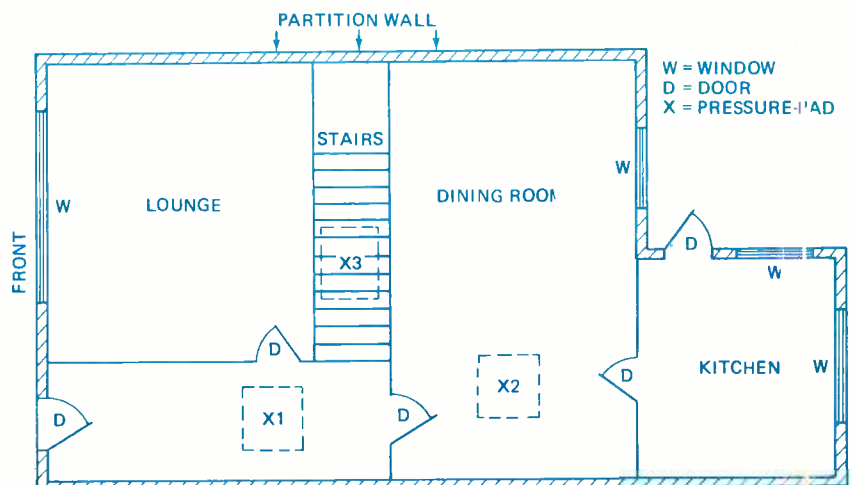
The most expensive type of alarm sensor installation that can be fitted is the full perimeter defense system that includes series-connected sensor wires built into all walls, floors and ceilings, as well as microswitches or reed relays on all doors and windows. This type of installation is normally fitted only to commercial buildings such as jewelry stores and storage warehouses where the risks of burglary by skillful intruders is very high.

The least expensive type of alarm sensor installation is the spot defense system, which can consist of just two or three pressure pads wired in parallel and hidden under rugs or carpets. This type of installation is adequate where the risks of burglary are small and the value of the protected goods is fairly low.

Intermediately priced 'partial' perimeter defense installations can range from something as simple as a microswitch on a single side or rear door, to something that includes microswitches or reed-relays on all doors and window frames, plus protective foil on all windows and sky lights. These systems can give adequate protection against both the amateur and professional burglar, particularly when the installation is coupled to a spot defense system.

Burglars can, in general terms, be described as fitting into three distinct types. The most common of these is the novice or amateur burglar who will enter a house at random in the hope that it contains items worth stealing. This type of intruder usually has insufficient skill or motivation to beat even the simplest detector devices, and will run off at the first sound of an alarm bell.

The second type of intruder is the small-time professional. This type of burglar breaks into a house only if he is sure that it contains valuable items. Before attempting to enter a house he makes a thorough reconnaissance of its defense systems, and commits the actual



**FIG. 3—GROUND-FLOOR PLAN of a small house showing suitable positions (marked 'X') for pressure-pad 'spot' defenses.**

burglary only if he thinks he has found an unprotected entry point, such as a skylight or an accessible ceiling or floor. He may be so nonchalant that he will ignore an alarm bell for several minutes before fleeing. The best defense against this type of intruder is a carefully thought out partial perimeter system combined with a few 'spot' defense points.

Finally, the most difficult burglar to beat is the organized professional, who plays for high stakes and will go to great lengths to win. He may be willing to simply crash his way through a defense wall and hurt anyone that gets in his way. He may be undeterred by the sound of an alarm bell. The most effective defense against this type of criminal is a multiple perimeter system where the main building is surrounded by a partially-protected outer perimeter, such as a wall, and all valuables are held within a fully-protected inner perimeter, such as a strong room.

It should be noted that all alarm systems should, ideally, be fitted with a 'panic' facility, to enable the owner to summon aid if an intrusion occurs while he is on the premises.

Different crime-prevention authorities have different ideas on the best way to protect a home against burglary. Some claim that every effort should be made to keep burglars out of the house at the outset and that all possible points of entry should be protected. Others claim that a determined and skillful burglar can get past all but the most comprehensive perimeter defense systems, so the most sensible approach is to have a very simple partial perimeter defense system combined with an efficient spot defense network, so that the intruder can enter the premises with relative ease but is scared off as soon as he gets inside.

Thus, there are many points to consider when selecting a sensor system and the reader must make up his own mind as to the best system to use in his particular case. Once the sensor system has been selected, the layout of the complete alarm system installation must be considered. The following notes should be of value in this respect.

### Alarm system installations

Figure 4 shows how a complete alarm system installation can be broken down

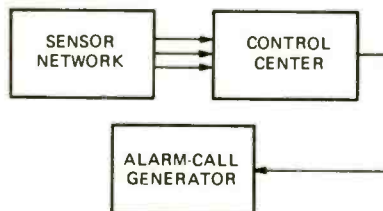


FIG. 4—BLOCK DIAGRAM of a practical alarm system installation.

into three basic 'blocks', namely, the sensor network, a control center, and the alarm-call generator. The layout of the sensor network has already been discussed, and is a matter of individual decision.

The alarm-call generator can either be mounted in a prominent position on

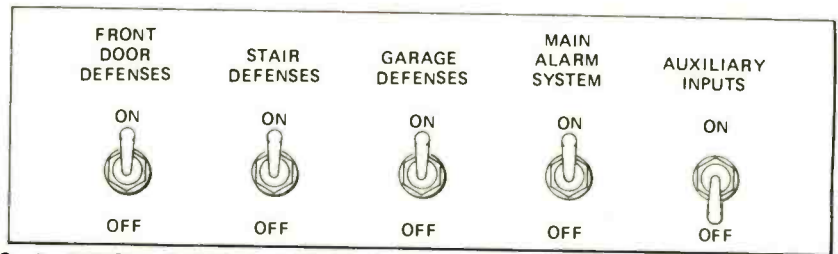


FIG. 5—TYPICAL CONTROL CENTER instrument panel is shown.

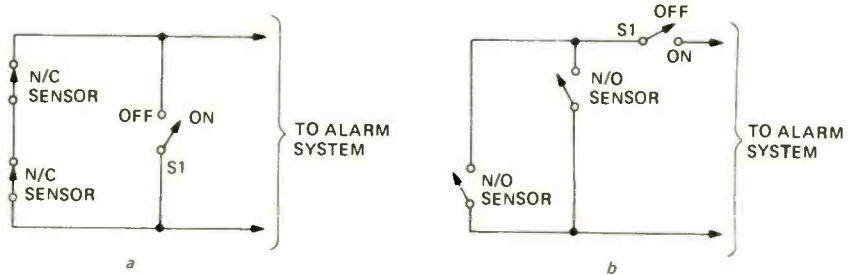


FIG. 6—METHOD OF ENABLING and disabling sensors. Circuit-a shows connections for series-connected normally-closed sensors. Circuit-b shows connections for parallel-connected normally-open sensors.

the front of the building to act as a deterrent to would-be burglars, or it can be concealed inside of the house in such a position that it can be heard equally well inside and outside the building. In either instance, the generator and its battery supply should be housed in a strong burglar-proof box, and connected to the control center either via an armor-clad cable, or via cable that is concealed within the plasterwork, etc.

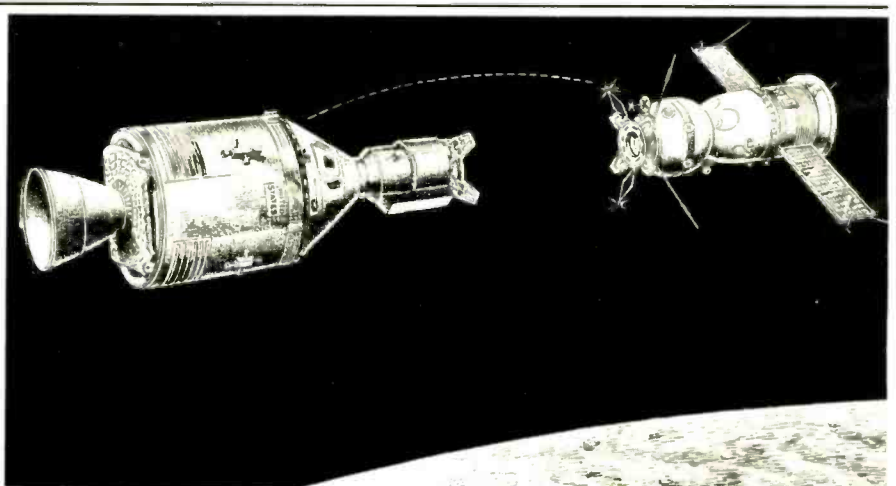
The control center contains the electronics of the alarm system, together with the systems battery supply, plus a number of switches that enable different parts of the system to be turned on or off or to be tested. The center should ideally be housed in a burglar-proof box, and the connections to the sensors should be made via armor-clad cable or concealed wiring.

Figure 5 shows a typical control center instrument panel, with five control switches. It should be remembered that, as shown in Parts 1 and 2 of this article, certain sections of the alarm system (such as fire sensors and panic facilities) must

be permanently enabled, so the MAIN ALARM SYSTEM switch controls the burglar alarm sections of the circuit only. The auxiliary sensor devices, such as flood, over-heat, power-failure, or gas-leak detectors, are controlled by the AUXILIARY INPUTS switch. The last three switches enable individual sections of the burglar alarm sensor system, such as the front door, stair, or garage defenses, to be connected or disconnected from the circuit.

Finally, Fig. 6 shows the connections for turning individual sections of the alarm sensor network on and off. Series-connected normally-closed sensor networks can be enabled and disabled by wiring them in parallel with the MAIN ALARM SYSTEM switch (S1), as shown in Fig. 6-a. The sensors are enabled when S1 is open, and are disabled when S1 is closed. Parallel-connected normally-open sensor networks can be enabled and disabled by wiring them in series with S1, as shown in Fig. 6-b. The sensors are enabled when S1 is closed, and are disabled when S1 is open.

R-E



APOLLO AND SOYUZ ABOUT TO DOCK in the forthcoming Apollo Soyuz Test Project, as seen by an imaginative artist. The vehicles will be interlocked with the help of a VHF Ranging System designed and built by RCA, and mounted aboard both vessels. Range is determined by transmitting radio signals from Apollo to Soyuz and retransmitting them to Apollo. By measuring the time required to make the round trip, the distance between the vehicles is monitored continuously.



# All About OSCILLOSCOPES

Oscilloscopes often look easy but there's more to them than meets the eye. This article explores oscilloscope specifications and features

by CHARLES GILMORE\*

TO MORE COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THE oscilloscope, the exact meaning of the numerous specifications applied to oscilloscope capabilities must be thoroughly understood. The modern high-performance oscilloscope has many involved and interrelated specifications indicating its performance characteristics. It is extremely important when selecting an oscilloscope that the measurement requirements be understood and that all specifications of the instruments under consideration be compared on an equal basis.

## Vertical bandwidth

Vertical bandwidth is one of the most fundamental specifications of an oscilloscope. This specification, more than any other, will determine the suitability of a particular oscilloscope for the measurement job at hand. It is the goal of the oscilloscope manufacturer to create a vertical amplifier whose frequency response is constant until an upper frequency limit is reached, where a controlled roll-off (decrease in gain) starts. The bandwidth of the oscilloscope is defined as the point at which the displayed vertical signal has been reduced by 3-dB with respect to some low-frequency reference point. As vertical signals increase in frequency, the oscilloscope should continue to roll-off at a rate slightly greater than 6-dB per octave. This controlled roll-off is necessary to provide proper vertical amplifier response to complex signals.

Oscilloscopes having a vertical frequency response which rolls off at a rate considerably greater than 6dB per octave will not faithfully reproduce the high frequency components of complex waveforms. On the other hand, oscilloscopes with insufficient high-frequency attenuation will tend to overshoot.

Note that a signal reduced by -3dB is at its half power point, not half voltage point. At -3dB, the voltage is 0.707 of the reference value. In addition, a signal reduced in amplitude by 3-dB due to an increase in frequency has a large phase shift with respect to the reference point, normally in the area of 45°.

Occasionally, the vertical bandwidth of an oscilloscope is specified with a deflec-

tion limitation. Such a specification might read 10-MHz at 4-centimeter deflection, 8-MHz at full deflection. This specification indicates the oscilloscope may not be used at its full bandwidth if full deflection must be used. This specification is popular with solid-state oscilloscopes that have a limited vertical-plate driving capability. Generally speaking, most higher cost modern oscilloscopes are not specified in this manner. However, one should be cautious when purchasing a unit if this will result in application limitations.

Oscilloscopes come with vertical amplifiers that are only AC coupled as well as with vertical amplifiers having both AC and DC coupling—usually switch selectable. AC/DC coupling is the most versatile, but AC-only coupling is generally lower in cost. When an oscilloscope is operated in the AC coupled mode, it will exhibit an upper -3dB bandwidth caused by the vertical amplifier high-frequency roll-off and a lower -3dB bandwidth caused by the low-frequency limitation of the AC input coupling capacitor. The -3dB lower-frequency limit is usually 2 to 10Hz. When AC coupled, the highest potential that may be applied across the input coupling capacitor must be specified. This is usually 400 to 600 volts. It should be noted that this specification is peak AC plus DC, not just DC.

The input mode selection may also have a third position in addition to the AC and DC positions described above (See Fig. 1). This third position, usually called ground, disconnects the input connector from the input amplifier. The input to the vertical amplifier is grounded. This feature is frequently used to note the zero volt input position of the trace on the CRT.



FIG. 1—A CLOSEUP PHOTOGRAPH of the vertical input of a Heath IO-4510 dual-trace 15-MHz oscilloscope. Notice the three position input coupling switch, with the center position marked ground.

## Risetime

Closely related to vertical bandwidth is vertical risetime. Risetime is defined (See Fig. 2) as the time required for the

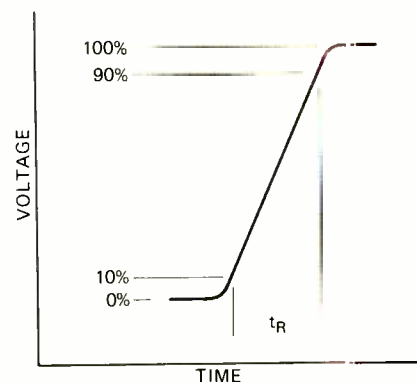


FIG. 2—THE DEFINITION OF RISE TIME. Fall time is also defined in a similar manner.

signal to increase in amplitude from 10% of its total value to 90% of its total value. The risetime specification of an oscilloscope is important in determining the limits of risetime measurements that may be made by the oscilloscope. Risetime is directly related to bandwidth. The formula is:

$$t_r = 0.35/F_{MHz}$$

This equation gives the risetime in microseconds when the -3dB bandwidth is given in megahertz. An oscilloscope which meets this requirement will have proper high-frequency roll off.

Risetime is especially important if the oscilloscope is to be used for pulse analysis. If pulse analysis is of prime concern, the oscilloscope should ideally have a risetime that is equal to or less than 20% of the risetime of the pulse to be measured.

## Deflection sensitivity

Vertical deflection sensitivity ranks equally with vertical bandwidth as an important oscilloscope specification. Both of these limitations can prevent a measurement from being made.

The deflection or input-sensitivity specification indicates the smallest voltage that will produce a standard deflection (usually 1 vertical division on the

\*Design Engineer Heath Company, Benton Harbor, Mich.

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CRT).<sup>\*</sup> Stated in another way, deflection sensitivity indicates the maximum vertical amplification available. As a typical example, an oscilloscope might have a sensitivity of 10-mV. This oscilloscope would display a 10-mV peak-to-peak signal as 1-cm high on the CRT. Note that this is a peak-to-peak specification, not RMS. A 10-mV RMS sinewave would cover approximately 2.82 divisions as a 10-mV RMS sinewave signal is a 28.2-mV peak-to-peak signal. Sensitivity obviously costs money; therefore, the amount of sensitivity required must be weighed against the cost of the oscilloscope. Often the oscilloscope is utilized with an accessory probe and this probe acts as a voltage divider, reducing the input signal by a factor of 10 or more. If this is the case, one must remember the oscilloscope sensitivity is effectively reduced by the same factor. To obtain maximum sensitivity, some models offer increased sensitivity at a reduced bandwidth. Oscilloscopes offering this feature typically give an additional gain of 10 at a reduction in bandwidth by a factor of four. For example, a 10-MHz oscilloscope might maintain 10-MHz bandwidth at 10-mV per-centimeter. However, the input attenuator may be adjustable to 1-mV per-centimeter, but with a bandwidth of only 2½-MHz. Often this bandwidth is adequate, as high-frequency signals may not be of interest at high sensitivity levels.

### The input attenuator

The maximum sensitivity of an oscilloscope cannot be used on all measurements. For example, a 10-mV per centimeter oscilloscope with 6-cm of total vertical display will show an off screen display for signals in excess of 60mV. In order to overcome this problem, an input attenuator is provided. This input attenuator is usually one of two types. On the simplest oscilloscopes, this may be nothing more than a variable control, or at best, a three position switch labeled  $\times 1$ ,  $\times 10$ ,  $\times 100$ . In such oscilloscopes, the amount of attenuation and the vertical sensitivity are generally uncalibrated. The more sophisticated oscilloscopes have an attenuator with steps calibrated in resultant vertical deflection sensitivity. This is usually a 1-2-5 sequence, although occasionally a 1-3-10 sequence is used.

For example, let's take an oscilloscope that has a basic deflection sensitivity of 1 millivolt-per-centimeter. Due to high impedances and stray capacitances, a simple resistance divider will not maintain the same attenuation at high frequencies as it does at DC. To correct this, the input attenuator must be capacitively compensated. With compensated attenuators, attenuation is constant at all frequencies.

<sup>\*</sup> Many of the older oscilloscopes used full-screen or one-inch as a standard. Generally, the change to more modern oscilloscopes has seen a change from a full-screen specification to a per-division specification. Time-base specifications reflect this as well. The recurrent sweep was specified in terms of frequency of a sawtooth wave which covered the full display area; newer designs specify time-per-division.

The step attenuator has a disadvantage in that it will not allow signals of any arbitrary amplitude to be made exactly full-scale or some other desired size. To permit such operation, most oscilloscopes include a variable control that adjusts the effective attenuation between the indicated value and its next highest position. For example, an oscilloscope used at 500 millivolts-per-division can be adjusted continuously between 500 millivolts-per-division and 1 volt (1000 millivolts)-per-division by use of this control. The variable control will have a CALIBRATED position (normally, extreme clockwise). In the CALIBRATED position, the deflection factors indicated on the step attenuator fall within the accuracy limits set for the oscilloscope. Accuracy of attenuation is normally  $\pm 3$  to  $\pm 5$  percent. Vertical accuracy specifications also include any inaccuracies found in the vertical amplifier. Accuracies are frequently not specified at the high frequency limits, at temperature extremes, nor on extremely low cost instruments.

### Input impedance

For most service work, a high input impedance is desirable. One megohm has been chosen as a standard. As was noted in the discussion on attenuation, there is capacitance involved with attenuators. Therefore, the input impedance specification of an oscilloscope includes the value of capacitance found in parallel with the 1-megohm resistance. This capacitance usually lies in the area of 20 to 40 pF, if the oscilloscope is designed to be used with a divider probe. Obviously, the lower the capacitance the better. Other impedances have been used. Some of the older very low cost oscilloscopes have inputs ranging from 100K to 10 megohms. Some of the very sophisticated high-frequency oscilloscopes built today have a nonreactive input for their 150 MHz-plus capability.

### Input connectors

Most oscilloscopes are provided with a BNC input connector. This is the most desirable, considering the availability of cables and probes with mating BNC connectors. Other input connectors used are the 3- or 5-way binding posts (generally used on very low cost oscilloscopes) and the UHF connector (SO-239) found on some older models (see Fig. 3).

### Positioning range

Vertical amplifiers are provided with a continuously variable control permitting the operator to adjust the vertical position of the trace. The range of the position control and the effect of extreme positioning will be different for different oscilloscopes. The range of the position control is measured in windows. A window is the full distance across the CRT in the direction of interest. For example: an oscilloscope specified as having two vertical windows is capable of deflecting a waveform occupying the full vertical display area upward to the extent that the bottom of the waveform is at or above the display center line. The con-

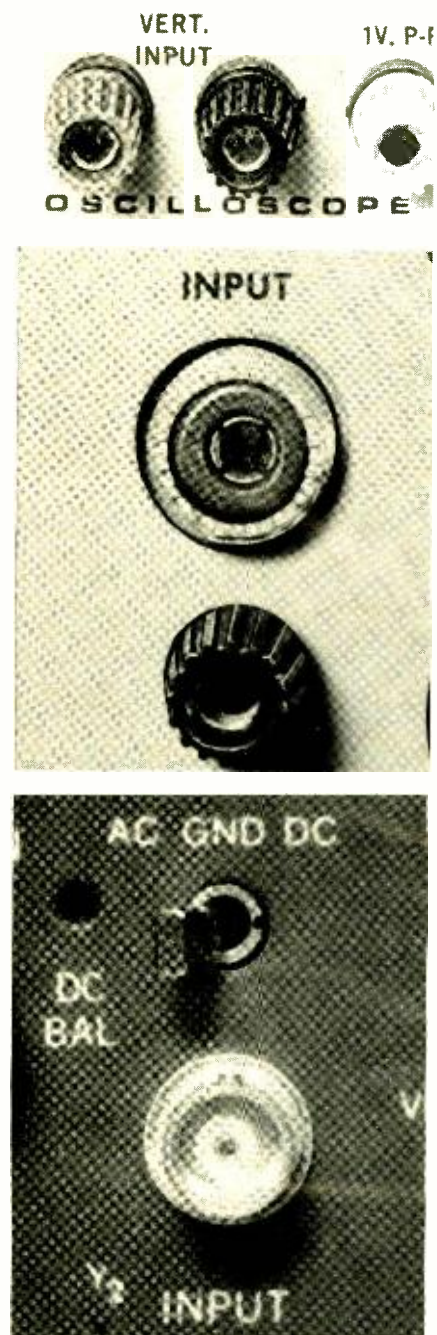


FIG. 3 — COMMON INPUT CONNECTORS used for oscilloscopes. The BNC (bottom), the 5-Way (top), and the UHF (middle). Most frequently the vertical input will be one of the coaxial types; however, the horizontal and trigger inputs may be 5-Way.

trol should also be able to deflect the trace downward until the top of the waveform will be at or below the center line. When the position control is adjusted to either of these extremities, there should be no on screen distortion of the waveform. The position control may have more range, but beyond the two windows (one window on screen, one half up, and one half down) there may be distortion of the trace. Vacuum tube oscilloscopes tend to have a larger number of vertical windows. The more modern solid state oscilloscopes are frequently limited to two windows, and many have as little as one and one half windows.

## Vertical delay lines

To correct for trigger and sweep start-up, a delay line is used in the vertical amplifier circuit. The object of the delay line is to uniformly delay signals of all frequencies by an amount slightly greater than the time required to permit triggering, start-up of the sweep circuits, and unblanking of the CRT before the triggering signal is presented to the CRT. Specifications will indicate the amount (number of nanoseconds) of pre-triggered waveform which will be displayed.

Delay lines are generally some form of transmission line and they are expensive, but they are essential for good pulse analysis work. Today this is especially necessary with the use of digital circuitry, where the measurement of pulse risetime may be critical to the proper operation of a circuit.

## Recurrent sweep

As noted earlier, recurrent-sweep is the simplest form of time base available. The recurrent-sweep time base offers no way of making calibrated time measurements except by comparison. The recurrent-sweep specifications indicate the upper and lower frequencies of the sweep oscillator. The frequency can be changed with a variable control within a decade range and over multiple decades in switched steps. A sweep oscillator frequency range from 5 Hz to 500 kHz is typical. Converted to time-per-division, assuming there are 10 horizontal divisions, this gives an equivalent range of 20 ms-per-division to 200 ns-per-division. A few oscilloscopes make provisions to lower the sweep oscillator frequency by use of an external capacitor.

The recurrent-sweep time base may also have a control to adjust the amplitude of the synchronizing signal injected into the sweep oscillator from the vertical amplifier. Switch selection of positive (+) or negative (-) going synchronizing signal is frequently made available. Often this same switch will permit positive or negative synchronization on an external signal or a sample of the powerline frequency.

## Calibrated sweep

Oscilloscopes with a calibrated-sweep permit the user to make time measurement, and as a result, specifications with accuracy limits as opposed to the operational characteristics of the recurrent-sweep. The period of the time base is selected by time-per-division.\*

The switch sequence is either decade (on lower cost oscilloscopes) or 1-2-5. Slowest sweep speeds vary with the manufacturer and the price of the oscilloscope, but usually are in the vicinity of 200 ms-per-division to 2 seconds-per-division. The fastest sweep speeds are dependent upon the bandwidth limit of the oscilloscopes. A rule of thumb is the

\*The majority of oscilloscopes use the centimeter as the basic horizontal and vertical division. There are some oscilloscopes, however, with vertical divisions slightly longer or slightly smaller than a centimeter. For this reason, the general term "division" will be used.

fastest sweep speed should present no less than three complete cycles of a waveform whose frequency is identical to the vertical bandwidth of the oscilloscope. For example, a 10-MHz oscilloscope would require an upper sweep speed of  $3 \times \frac{1}{10 \times 10^6} = 300$  ns for the full horizontal span, or 30 ns-per-division. This requirement would be met by an oscilloscope time base having a maximum speed of 200 ns-per-division and a  $\times 10$  magnifier yielding a 20-ns-per-division display.

For low bandwidth oscilloscopes (3-5 MHz), the fastest sweep speeds are in the area of 1 to 0.5  $\mu$ s-per-division and sweep speeds of 0.2  $\mu$ s-per-division to 0.5  $\mu$ s-per-division are common on 50 MHz oscilloscopes. Although the time-per-division may be stepped in either a 1-2-5 or 1-10-100 sequence by the time base switch, there is usually provision to vary the time-per-division continuously between steps with an uncalibrated control. Accuracy of the time base is usually  $\pm 5$  to  $\pm 3$  percent. Time base speeds are often affected by temperature, line voltage variations, and age, so they should not be used as ultimate standards of time comparison.

## Triggering controls

The triggered oscilloscope gains much of its flexibility from the various modes of operation which may be selected for the time base trigger circuits. The trigger

signal, taken from the vertical amplifier, is used to start the sweep generator. Variations on the trigger signal include selection of positive or negative triggering, level of triggering, AC or DC coupling, high or low frequency filtering and selection of trigger source including an external source, the power line as well as the vertical amplifier channels. Each of these features adds to the ability to observe complex waveforms, (see Fig. 4).

Older oscilloscope designs also incorporate a stability control which assists in proper operation of the trigger circuits. The stability control is adjusted prior to using the trigger level control. Generally speaking, stability controls are not found on modern oscilloscope designs.

The method of defining trigger sensitivity and triggering bandwidth are not constant. The following are Heath Company standards for such measurements. Trigger sensitivity indicates the smallest deflection (or external input level) that will permit a stable trace on the face of the CRT. Sensitivity of 1 division or less is desirable. An oscilloscope requiring more than 1 division of vertical deflection in order to maintain a stable display does not have sufficient trigger sensitivity for many applications.

Trigger bandwidth can be defined as the highest frequency at which a stable trace can be maintained with some nominal deflection (often one division). Trigger bandwidth determines the ease with which the oscilloscope will trigger on complex waveforms and what the stability of high-frequency signals will be. An oscilloscope with a trigger bandwidth twice the vertical bandwidth provides exceptional triggering performance, while one with a triggering bandwidth of less than its own vertical bandwidth creates difficulties when complex waveforms are being observed.

## Time-base modes

The time-base generator itself usually has two modes of operation, normal, and automatic (auto). In the normal mode, the sweep generator is cycled by each trigger pulse, which follows the completion of a sweep and hold-off period. In the automatic mode, the oscilloscope automatically generates trigger pulses in the absence of a signal in the vertical amplifier. This provides an automatic baseline (trace) during the absence of a vertical signal rather than the blank CRT evidenced by no signal in normal mode.

Some oscilloscopes provide a time base mode called single-sweep. Single-sweep permits the operator to select a set of conditions that will trigger the sweep, and then "arm" the sweep. When the particular set of conditions occurs, the time base will be activated for one sweep and then remain locked out until re-armed. This mode is especially useful when attempting to observe fast events occurring randomly and at widespread intervals. Frequently, such events will be recorded by an oscilloscope camera.

## Horizontal bandwidth

As the main requirement of the horizontal amplifier is to pass the sweep signal, (continued on page 82)

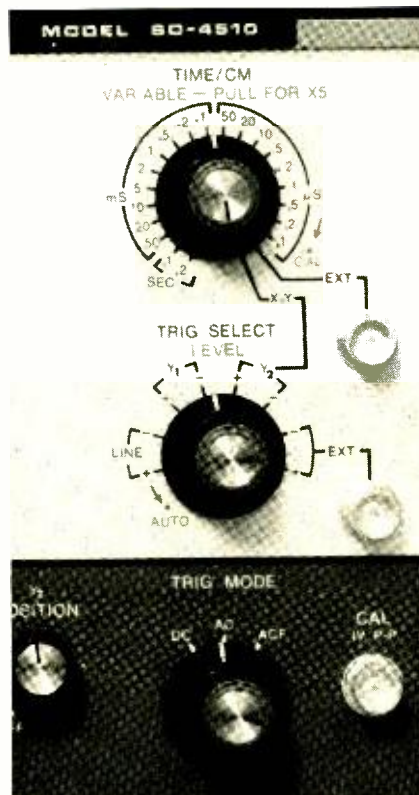


FIG. 4 — THE TRIGGERING AND SWEEP CONTROLS of the Heath IO-4510 dual trace 15 MHz oscilloscope. Note that in addition to source and slope selection, the operator may also select DC, AC, or ACF (AC coupled through a 15 kHz high pass filter) coupling. The automatic mode is selected by full counter-clockwise operation of the trigger level control.

# Step-by-step TV Troubleshooters Guide

*Troubleshooting a television receiver that has been struck by lightning isn't difficult if careful analysis and step-by-step procedures are used.*

by STAN PRENTISS

WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES A VACUUM tube or a transistor television set, the problems often differ, but lots of work and careful analysis can cure the problems just the same. High input impedances in tube receivers plus larger turn-on potentials and more ac coupling usually prevent the lightning arc from penetrating much beyond the i.f. amplifiers or power supply. But with small signal devices and a great deal of dc coupling, there are relatively more damage-susceptible base-to-emitter and base-to-collector junctions combined with well-known bipolar tendencies to short. As a result, solid-state receivers can have additional subsystems affected other than tuners, i.f. strips, and power supplies—at least this one did.

When delivered to the distributors, the complaint tag read: "Fuse blows after warmup, brightness can't be controlled, contrast won't work, too much video noise, no picture, hit by lightning." The set was a 19DC22 Zenith with 4 receiving tubes, 5 IC's, 15 transistors, and a high voltage tripler. Now, since the receiver came from a local TV shop (or, in a similar instance, from an "electronics enthusiast"), the initial procedure is a careful visual inspection for severed wires, dangling components, poor or wrong connections, burned areas, and missing or damaged circuit boards. Indeed, one side of the pincushion transformer coil was disconnected, a number of capacitor and resistor leads clipped, left open, or rejoined with a smear of solder, and a few bare wires crunched together. All these have to be reconnected, separated, and secured *before* troubleshooting procedures are begun.

With the various circuits restored to their probable operating conditions, the immediate reaction is to turn the set on. **But don't you dare!** Remember, this receiver has raster but *no* picture, will blow power supply fuse and has all its lightning-developed troubles plus others that may have been around before the lightning bolt.

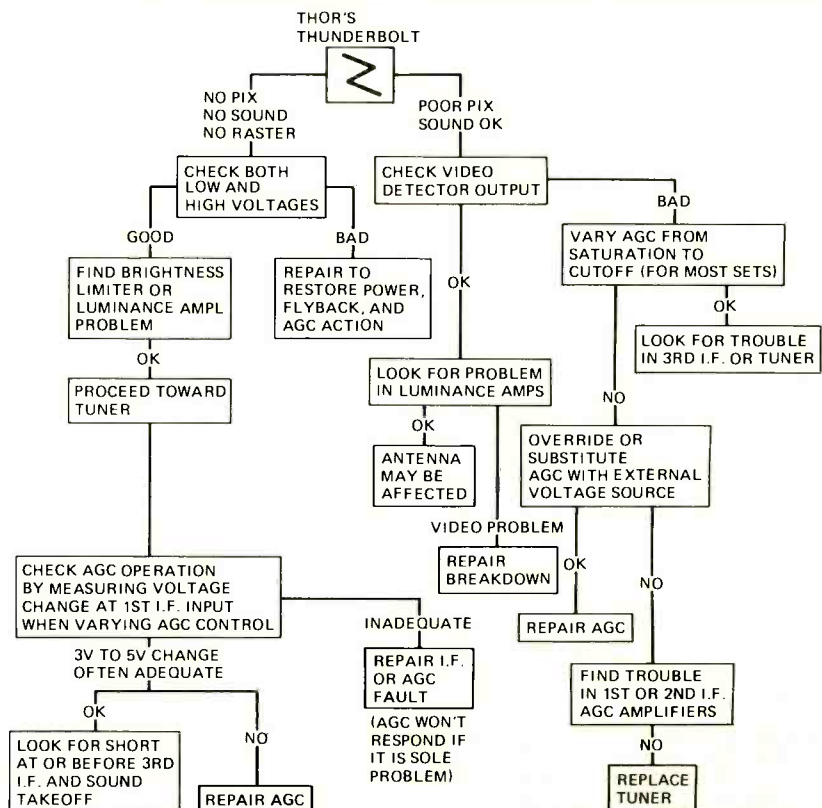
So approach the problem carefully, deliberately, and in low gear.

## Step-by-step

First, try a substitute tuner for at least vhf (uhf too, if possible) and also a preliminary i.f. check. If a substitute tuner isn't available, just disconnect the old tuner from B+ as well as the i.f. cable, *then* turn the set on. As expected, the fuse does not blow, the 24-volt regulator output is acceptable, and there is no special drain on any of the power supply voltages—they're fine. So you either repair the tuner yourself (maybe only a transistor), send it out to a specialty house such as Castle, PTS, etc., or install an exchange tuner supplied by Zenith.

With another tuner in place, however, the picture is still far from satisfactory, and there are either potential i.f. or agc problems yet to be detected and conquered.

In many of the newer receivers—just as in this Zenith—most operational sections are located on plug-in boards. So several screws later, the i.f. strip is disconnected and replaced as well as the IC on the video processor module that supplies sync, video, and agc outputs to the rest of the receiver. Now, indeed, a picture does appear that is somewhat recognizable, but the brightness control remains limited, contrast advance produces rippling distortion when turned toward maximum drive, and there is no



**THIS IS A DIFFICULT CHART** because tube and transistor sets react differently, especially when luminance is ac coupled, or agc is composite-waveform detected instead of just the sync tips. So we proceed in several different directions to cover most situations.

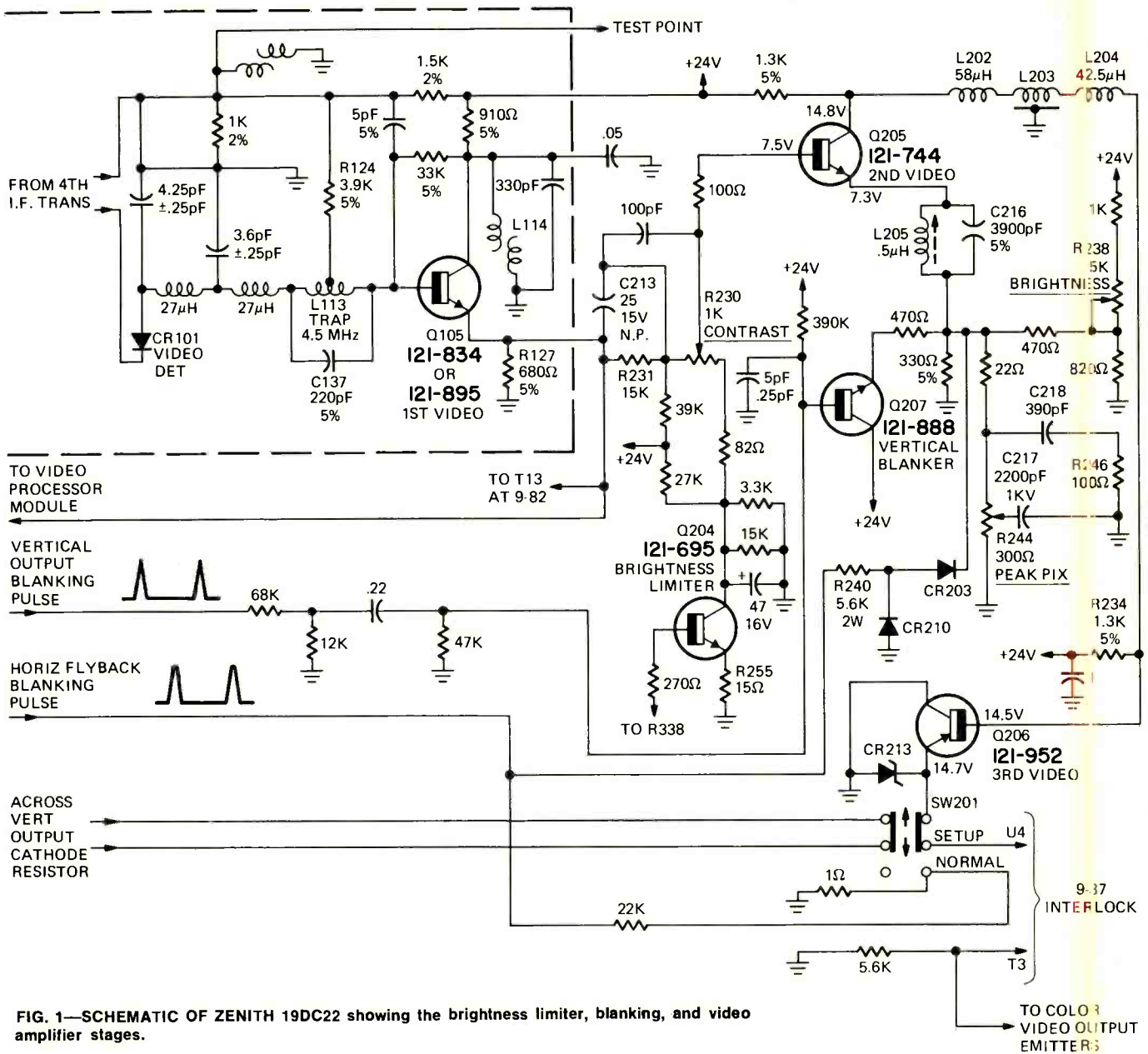


FIG. 1—SCHEMATIC OF ZENITH 19DC22 showing the brightness limiter, blanking, and video amplifier stages.

color.

Obviously there are difficulties in the video amplifier section also, and the lack of color may either result from this problem or can be a separate fault of its own. Again, the procedure is simply step-by-step. However, instead of replacing parts and semiconductors wholesale, a little circuit inspection is often helpful in these or any other circumstances to prevent wasting both time and parts. A few minutes spent in rational contemplation may save hours of frantic futility. So with tuner, i.f., and agc sections repaired and in operation, let's look at the rest.

#### Video amplifier analysis

The schematic in Fig. 1 shows video being envelope detected through half-wave rectifier CR101, and sound trapped by L113, a special non-distorting inductor and resistor-capacitor

combination (R124-C137) used to reject the 4.5-MHz signal and prevent possible 920-kHz beats between the 3.58-MHz chroma sidebands and intercarrier sound. L114 in the collector circuit of Q105 is a channel-8 self-resonant coil. The video signal, still in negative polarity, is developed across R127 and routed to both the video processor module and to the 2nd video amplifier Q205. The emitter circuit of Q205 has a C216-L205 broadly-tuned parallel trap normally set to remove stray 3.58-MHz chroma information that does not belong in the luminance channels. The video signal from the collector of Q205 now proceeds through peaking coils L202-L204 and the L203 delay line—necessitated by slower moving, narrower passband chroma—to the base of the 3rd video amplifier Q206. This is a PNP follower stage, whose emitter is clamped by the Zener diode CR213.

Two of these three video amplifier stages have additional controls. The brightness limiter, connected to one end of the contrast control will conduct harder when there is additional high voltage demand. Lowering the dc potential on this control and, consequently, the base drive of the video amplifier, will reduce cathode ray tube beam current. There are also horizontal and vertical blanking pulses—both positive in polarity—connected to the emitter of the second video amplifier Q205. During the 1.4-ms field retrace, Q205 is back biased and cut off by a positive vertical pulse on its emitter, and during horizontal retrace, by an 11.1 μs positive pulse to the same emitter. Consequently, the 2nd video amplifier and the remainder of the luminance circuits are blanked at both field and line rates to securely cut the pix tube off during these synchronizing intervals. There is also a dc

brightness control in the emitter of the 2nd video amplifier that biases this stage from the +24-volt line, and also an RC peak picture potentiometer-capacitor arrangement which, when tuned, rolls off high frequency response by producing degeneration in the same amplifier. All right, now that the trouble is developed, let's get to troubleshooting.

### Oscilloscope to the rescue

Since the +24-volt bus supplies most transistors and all IC's, and you've already established that enough current isn't being drawn to blow 24-volt regulator fuse, the best means to tackle this problem is with a dc oscilloscope. Why dc? Because you'll need to read both dc levels and ac amplitudes simultaneously to correlate your information. Time base and its reciprocal, frequency, are incidental, since the problem is loss of luminance and chroma. First, let's tackle the luminance breakdown; and to do this we'll work slightly backwards, exactly as you would do if there was an i.f. fault.

Our basic problem appears to be the waveform at the base of Q206 shown in Fig. 2 (upper trace). Instead of some seven volts in amplitude, this trace barely measures six volts and is hardly more than a smear where separate video and sync levels must appear. The blanking pulse at the emitter of the vertical blanking amplifier is precisely 18 volts (Fig. 2, lower trace), as it should be, and requires no further consideration. However, the waveform at the emitter of the 2nd video amplifier contains the same distortion, while the base of this transistor has a *fixed* dc value, regardless of contrast control setting, and exhibits additional distortion whenever the contrast control tries to increase bias. A quick check of the brightness limiter confirms that it will control picture tube blooming by simple, manual adjustment—so it, too, can be eliminated.

But how do you decide whether Q205 or Q206 is at fault? In this instance, since they're dc coupled, by deductive reasoning. Luminance and contrast are both affected, remember, and the 3rd video amplifier emitter follower is a larger metal case transistor that undoubtedly has greater emitter-to-base breakdown and power handling ability than the 2nd amplifier, which is a small signal device. So pull Q205 out of its holder and replace it.

Video once more comes booming in, as the emitter of the 1st video amplifier produces a good composite waveform—Fig. 3, upper trace—and the base of 3rd video amplifier (Fig. 3, lower trace) responds with good video and sync separation and also a change

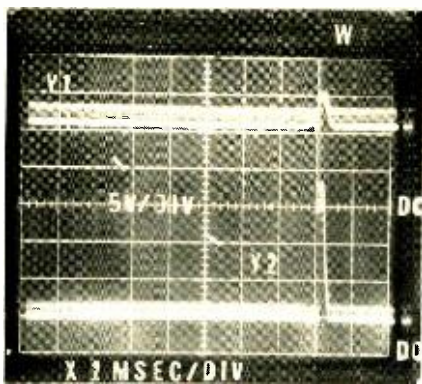


FIG. 2—A BREAKDOWN at the base of the 3rd, video amplifier is evident in top trace. Bottom trace shows a good vertical blanking pulse at the emitter of the vertical blanker.

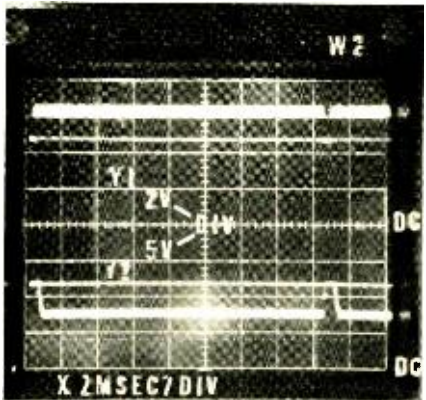


FIG. 3—THE EMITTER of the first video amplifier is good as shown in top trace. Bottom trace shows the base waveform of the 3rd video amplifier when repaired.

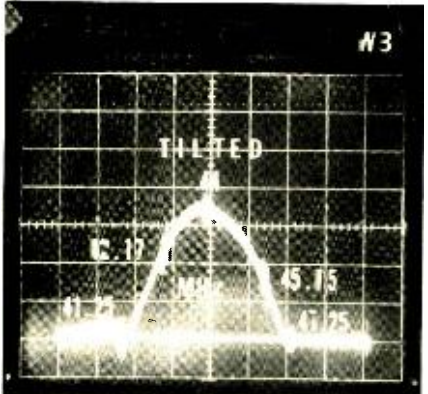


FIG. 4—SWEEPED RESPONSE at initial mating of new tuner and i.f. strip—slightly off.

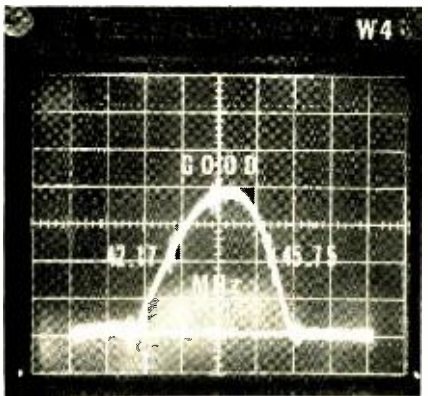


FIG. 5—MIXER COLLECTOR COIL tweaking balances video carrier and chroma subcarrier markers.

in dc level. The 3rd video amplifier, of course, tells us the rest of the luminance channels are all right and, lo-and-behold, excellent contrast with very black vertical, broad bars appear on the receiver's pix tube. This means the luminance problems are over, but there's still no color. A sensitive finger tip, however, soon fixes that. The chroma amplifier IC on the chroma module assembly (not shown) is rather warm to the touch, and a simple substitution restores all color bright as ever.

### Final touch up

Yes, i.f. response curves *do* change as illustrated in Fig. 4. Although the 41.25-MHz sound carrier and 47.25-MHz lower adjacent channel sound carrier traps are exactly in place, the 42.17-MHz chroma and 45.75-MHz video carrier markers are off somewhat more than their nominal 50 percent points should tolerate. Therefore, a little tweaking of the mixer coil is in order, and they're virtually balanced (See Fig. 5). The "haystack" is now ready to go to work with full bandpass chroma and luminance, and no i.f. waveform tilt to disturb color. **R-E**

**RESISTIVE AND REACTIVE CIRCUITS**, by Albert Paul Malvino. McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. 592 pp. 9 1/4 x 7 1/4 in. Hardcover \$12.95.

A comprehensive textbook that provides all the information needed to prepare a technician for more advanced electronic courses. The first part of this book discusses resistive circuits with dc or ac sources as these are very prominent today because of direct-coupled circuits. The second part of the book covers reactive circuits such as transients, ac theory without using trigonometry or complex numbers. The final section of the book which does require a knowledge of trigonometry goes into extensive coverage of things such as phasor analysis, resonance and instantaneous ac analysis. Definitely a textbook quite valuable to anyone who wants to more fully understand both resistive and reactive circuitry.

**SIMPLIFIED COMPUTER PROGRAMMING—THE EASY RPG WAY**, by Kelton Carson. TAB Books, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214. 240 pp. 8 1/2 x 5 1/4 in. Hardcover \$8.95; Softcover \$5.95.

A computer, being a very complex system, requires literally thousands of steps and instructions to perform even a simple operation. The instructions are provided by a program which may be compared to a list of instructions for computing the square root, for example. Rather than actually write out the thousands of instructions for a computer, the programmer uses a language to have the computer prepare a program for him. By doing this, all that is left for the programmer is to write a few instructions in a few simple forms. The computer then translates the simple people language of the forms to the complex machine language of the computer. This book shows how it's done.



## MAKE PA WORK

(continued from page 47)

its angle of coverage slightly overlaps that of the speaker next to it. Coverage angles will usually be specified by the speaker manufacturer in the form of a polar response graph as shown in Fig. 6. This particular speaker (Fig. 5) provides coverage over a 140 degree angle in the horizontal plane.

In rooms with high ceilings, speaker clusters may again be used. In this case, it may be necessary to tilt some of the speakers vertically in addition to overlapping their horizontal directional patterns. To make sure coverage is adequate, it is wise to walk around the entire listening area while the speaker is in operation, adjusting the position of the speakers for an even sound-level throughout the room.

### Reliability

It should be obvious that reliability is a most important characteristic of good sound reinforcement equipment. Yet we still hear about microphones that "died," power amplifiers with shorted output transistors and speaker voice coils that opened up. To avoid these problems, choose rugged, conservatively designed equipment, read the instructions and use the equipment properly.

Microphones for sound reinforcement use must be particularly rugged. They must be impervious to corrosion and strong enough to withstand accidental drops onto a hard stage. They must include built-in dust filters to prevent foreign particles from reaching the microphone diaphragm that could cause noise, distortion, or eventual failure. Microphones which can withstand recording studio use may not be rugged enough for sound reinforcement applications.

Power amplifiers, mixers, and other electronic equipment should be capable of operating properly over a wide range of AC line voltages. It is not uncommon to find AC line voltages as high as 130 volts. And for large outdoor concerts, perhaps operating from portable generators with long AC extension cords, AC line voltages as low as 90 volts are sometimes encountered. It is a good practice to check out all electronic equipment with a variable voltage AC supply to make sure performance is not degraded within the range of expected AC line voltages.

The power amplifier in a sound reinforcement system must be reliable under all possible conditions of use. In addition to amplifying the output of the mixer or console, it must provide a good match to the speaker system in terms of power capability and impedance rating. Even though many ambiguous power output specifications are still being used, the sound technician is primarily concerned with the continuous power output that the amplifier can deliver to its rated load impedance. Fortunately, most commercial power amplifiers intended for sound reinforcement rather than home entertainment use are specified in this manner. A good commercial-grade power amplifier

should be capable of delivering this power indefinitely without blowing fuses or overheating, even while operating in a rack cabinet containing many heat-producing devices. A power amplifier designed for sound reinforcement should be capable of withstanding a shorted output for long periods of time. Figure 7 shows a typical power amplifier suitable for sound reinforcement use. Many high-power amplifiers designed for home



FIG. 7—SHURE SR105 POWER AMPLIFIER.

stereo systems are not adequate for commercial use due to inadequate protection circuitry and low thermal dissipation capability.

There are two primary aspects of loudspeaker reliability. These are the power handling ability and environmental protection. Loudspeakers are generally supplied with a rated maximum power handling capability in watts. Unfortunately, not all speaker manufacturers use the same methods for determining this rating. In general, speakers are rated in terms of maximum watts of program material rather than continuous sine wave power. It is essential to determine the maximum power capability of each speaker in use and make certain that the maximum rating will not be exceeded. It would be easier to match speakers to power amplifiers if the speakers were rated in terms of the maximum voltage which should be applied to them, since it is relatively easy to determine the output voltage capability of power amplifiers.

similar situation exists at each interconnection point in a sound system. If a sound system is constructed of components that are supplied by a single manufacturer, then interconnection should present no problems. But, if equipment is supplied by various manufacturers, it is necessary to pay particular attention to clipping levels, normal operating levels, impedances, gain, and noise specifications.

Table 1 serves as a guideline for interfacing system components according to their voltage levels. All of the voltages shown can be expressed in dBv, which means dB relative to 1.0 volt. This should not be confused with levels expressed in dBm, which means dB relative to 0 dBm. The reference "0 dBm" is the voltage necessary to produce 1 milliwatt of power in 600 ohms (0.775 volt rms). If an impedance other than 600 ohms is used, it is necessary to add or subtract a correction factor to take into account the different impedance. It is convenient to express voltage levels in dBv, because no particular value of impedance is implied.

When interconnecting two pieces of equipment, it is advisable to have about 10 to 15 dB of "head room." This means that the average signal level at the interconnection should be at least 10 to 15 dB below the output clipping level of the unit supplying the signal and 10 to 15 dB below the input clipping level of the following unit.

In any sound reinforcement system, the user will encounter several pieces of equipment, each with at least one level control. Overall, there may be three to six level controls, each capable of affecting the overall level in the room. Obviously, there will be many different ways of setting these several controls that will yield the proper overall gain. Unfortunately, many of these possible ways will yield either clipping at some point or too much output noise. It is best to read the manufacturer's instruc-

TABLE 1—TYPICAL VOLTAGES AND IMPEDANCES

	Impedance Ohms	Typical Voltage Range (V)	Voltage Range (dBv)
Lo-Z Microphones	50-250	0.1 mV to 100 mV	-80 to -20 dBv
Hi-Z Microphones	20K to 100K	1.0 mV to 1.0V	-60 to 0 dBv
Lo-Z Mixer Input	300 to 2.2K	30 mV to 1.0V (clipping level)	-30 to 0 dBv
Hi-Z Mixer Input	50K to 1 meg	320 mV to 10V (clipping level)	-10 to +20 dBv
Line Level Mixer Output	50 to 600	1V normal 10V peak	0 dBv normal +20 dBv peak
Power Amplifier Input	5K to 100K	0.5 to 2.0V	-6.0 to +6.0 dBv
Auxiliary Unbalanced Accessories	10K to 100K	0.1V to 1.0V	-20 to 0 dBv

Loudspeakers that will be used outdoors should be weatherproof. These speakers are constructed with waterproof drivers, special glues and corrosion-proof hardware. Speakers intended for portable applications should be particularly rugged.

### Equipment compatibility

We have already mentioned that speakers and power amplifiers must be matched in terms of power compatibility. A

tion books in order to determine optimum level settings. In general, it is desirable to set level controls near the front of the system as high as possible, consistent with adequate input clipping levels and adequate mixing range. Level controls near the power amplifier end of the system generally should be operated at reduced levels that still allow the power amplifier to develop full output power. In this way, a good signal to noise ratio will be preserved. (turn page)

## Other considerations

We have discussed six significant problem areas common to most sound reinforcement systems. There are many other problems that can arise in specialized systems, and naturally, the problem you experience at the moment is worse than any other. To complete our discussion of sound reinforcement systems, four other areas deserve attention. These are stage monitors, portability, specialized accessories and safety.

## Stage monitoring

The popularity of musical instruments located close to the vocal microphones has created a problem by making it difficult for a vocalist to hear his own voice. To solve this problem, a second totally independent sound system is used to provide stage monitoring.

To establish a monitor system, the audio console shown in Fig. 4 is equipped with individual monitor selection on every input channel and a separate monitor output for power amplifiers driving speakers on the stage. This hookup is shown in Fig. 2. The monitor system is capable of providing an independent selection of any voice or instrument on stage. The main criteria for choosing monitor speakers are peak-free frequency response, medium to high efficiency and small size.

## Portability

Portable sound systems are becoming more common as a result of their flexibility. The system shown in Fig. 2 could be a portable system that might be moved from auditorium to gymnasium to meeting room all in the same day. Professional entertainers prefer to travel with their own complex systems to assure consistent results, rather than perform using an inferior "house" installation. Some factors that must be considered when choosing equipment for portable applications are; size, weight, ease of operation and hook-up, and the availability of rugged portable shipping cases.

An example of a portable system is shown in Fig. 8. In the photo is the console shown in Fig. 4. The power amplifier shown in Fig. 7 and a pair of



FIG. 8 — PORTABLE sound reinforcement system.

portable speaker columns complete the system. The console and power amplifier are in portable cases, that also provide room for the console-to-amplifier cable. The speakers also have cable storage space. This entire system can easily be

carried in a station wagon and it can be set up in minutes.

## Accessories

Many accessories and techniques are available for advanced sound reinforcement systems. A brief description of some of these is included, but a detailed study is beyond the scope of this article. A real-time spectrum analyzer is a tool that greatly simplifies the equalization of a room. When used with a calibrated test microphone and a pink noise generator, the real-time analyzer displays the average energy in each fractional octave band of the sound field produced by the speaker system at the location of the test microphone. A perfectly flat system equalization would appear as a straight line across the display of the real-time analyzer.

In large halls, speakers are placed in different locations throughout the hall to form a distributed speaker system. A 70.7-volt power amplifier is used to keep power losses in the speaker lines to a minimum. At the speaker, this higher voltage is coupled through a matching transformer to drive the low impedance speakers. In these systems, electronic (digital) delay devices can be used to reduce echoes.

Microphone placement for stage musicals and theatrical productions has always been a perplexing problem. The stage-mounted microphone stand shown in Fig. 9 aids distant sound pickup on a hard-surfaced stage. By keeping the microphone close to the stage floor, phase



FIG. 9 — STAGE-MOUNTED MICROPHONE provides superior sound pick-up on hard-surfaced stages.

cancellation due to reflected sound is minimized; this results in a greater output level and frequency response. In addition, the stage-mounted microphone stand can be hidden along the stage apron or behind footlighting.

For special effects, tape echo units, tape and digital delay devices, limiters or compressors, balanced modulators, electronic phasing (flanging) effect devices and keyboard synthesizers are sometimes interfaced with the sound system. The majority of these devices are electrically unbalanced and designed to interface with the audio console at an output level approximately 0.5 volts. To accommodate the input and output of these accessories, the console should have a pair of "link jacks" that break into the console signal path at the correct level. Tape recorders and synthesizers can be plugged into the console's auxiliary inputs directly, and balanced line-level equipment can be used on the line-level output of the console to drive power amplifiers. R-E

## R-E TESTS SANSUI QRX-6001

(continued from page 34)

"open circuit," referenced to maximum input sensitivity. The 63 dB measurement under these circumstances, is a highly acceptable hum and noise figure. Overall, the amplifier section is somewhat more conservative in design and ratings than the tuner section, and both the matrix and CD-4 circuitry performs well. Our amplifier section rating, therefore, moves up to the "very good" classification.

## Utilization and listening tests

Controls are easy to use, and only a few minutes of familiarization with the front panel is required by anyone confronted with the receiver. The instruction manual is well written and includes many illustrations. We appreciated the "click stop" positions of the tone and balance controls that enabled us to return to preferred settings easily. Most of our listening test was confined to playing QS and SQ encoded discs, with a sprinkling of CD-4 discs thrown in. The QS Vario-matrix system is an outstanding technological achievement—and works well for quadraphonic FM broadcasts as well as for QS encoded records. Two FM stations in our listening area use the QS encoding system, and listening to them over a set designed specifically for this format was a revelation.

As for the audio amplifier section, the low damping factor seemed to have no degrading effect on the bass we heard, and power output was more than adequate for our high-efficiency floor standing speaker systems, both in stereo and in 4-channel listening. Bear in mind that the Sansui QRX-600 does not include the so-called "strapping" or paralleling feature common to other 2/4-channel receivers. For this reason, it should be considered only by those who plan to equip their listening rooms with four speakers at the outset.

Our capsule summary, along with overall comments, is tabulated in Table III. We encountered no unusual heat problems when operating the QRX-6001 receiver over extended periods of time for high-level musical listening. The receiver also withstood its pre-conditioning tests at one-third continuous power output for one hour. Limited test time precludes our making a statement regarding long-term reliability and service-free performance. However, the physical layout, construction and short-term performance would indicate that the receiver is conservatively and well designed from this point of view as well. R-E



# R-E's Service Clinic

## High-voltage hold-down circuits

Part III:  
These circuits can produce  
some strange reactions

by JACK DARR  
SERVICE EDITOR

HERE IS THE CONCLUDING PART IN THIS series of articles describing the new high-voltage hold-down circuits. The RCA and Zenith circuits are covered.

Zenith's 25CC55 power supply chassis uses a limit-switch transistor and circuit for the hold-down function. Figure 6 shows this circuit. A special polarized neon lamp is connected into the base return of the limit-switch transistor Q209. A pulse from the flyback is fed to the anode of diode CR210, charging the 0.47- $\mu$ F capacitor, C242. If the pulses are within a safe operating limit, the capacitor will not take enough charge to allow the neon lamp to fire.

If the pulse voltage rises, indicating more output from the flyback and more high voltage, the charge on the capacitor goes high enough to let the neon lamp fire. The charge on the capacitor will hold the neon on (firing continuously) between flyback pulses. Once this lamp

The collector of the limit-switch transistor is directly connected to the anode of CR214, in the 24-volt regulator transistor base. So, the voltage drop from

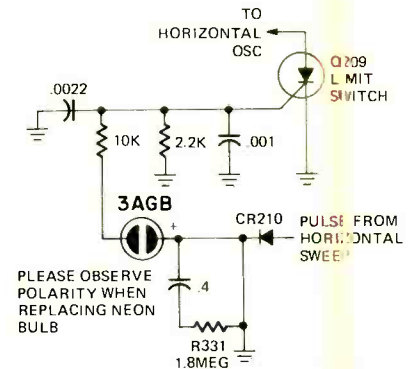


FIG. 7—LIMIT SWITCH IN 25DC57, with an SCR instead of the 25CC55's transistor.

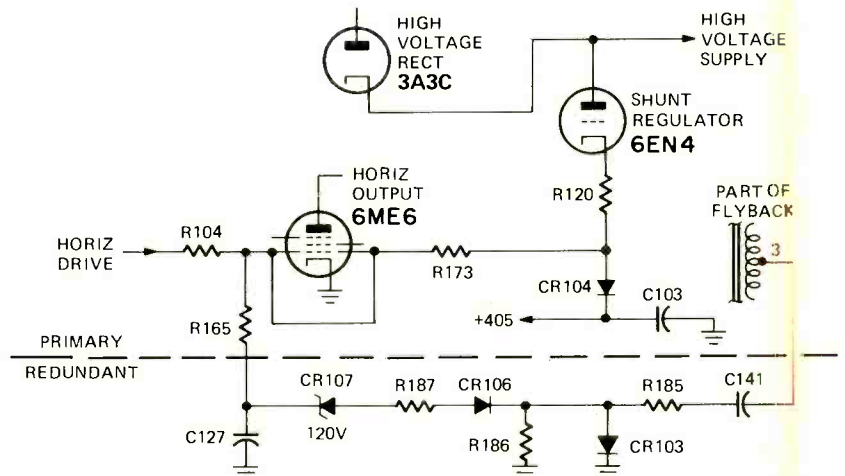


FIG. 8—THE REDUNDANT REGULATOR principle, found in RCA CTC 39 and CTC 50.

fires, it alters the base voltage of the limit-switch transistor, which goes into heavy conduction. With its emitter grounded, the collector voltage drops sharply when the transistor is in saturation.

the limit-switch transistor action turns off the 24-volt regulator transistor. It stops conducting (becomes an open circuit). The collector of the limit-switch transistor is the voltage source for the video module, as well as the I.F. and tuner AGC. In heavy conduction, this voltage drop practically kills the picture, due to the AGC action. The raster will stay on, but no picture or sound.

In the later model 25DC57's, the operation is the same; the transistor limit-switch has been replaced by an SCR (Fig. 7). Although the operation is the same, now the limit-switch SCR's anode feeds the horizontal oscillator. When it fires, the voltage drop turns off the horizontal oscillator and the HV. You lose the raster, of course. The reaction and symptoms of the SCR circuit is slightly different. If it is fired by a rise in HV, or accidentally fired by a line surge or

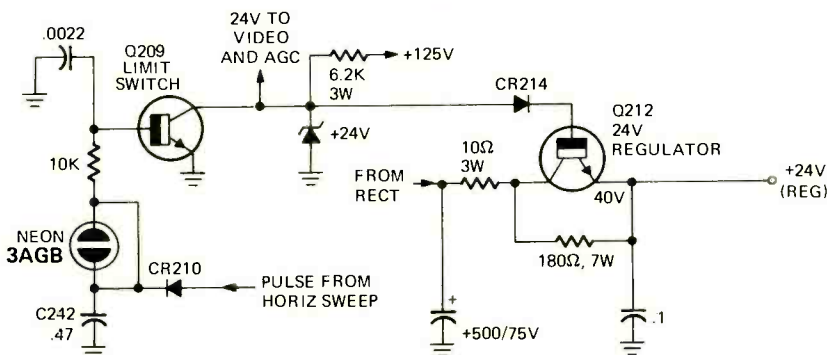


FIG. 6—ZENITH 25CC55 HAS LIMIT switch transistor for high-voltage hold-down.

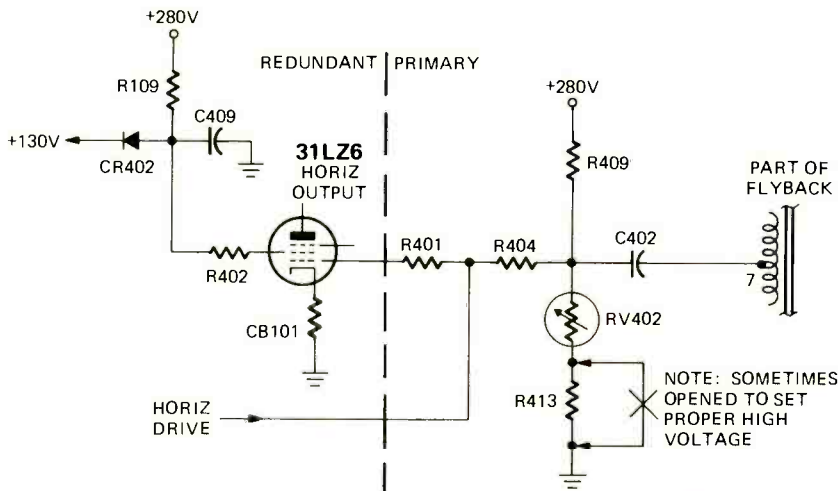


FIG. 9—REDUNDANT HV REGULATOR in screen-grid circuit, RCA CTC 51 and similar.

arc, the TV will be turned off. To check for this, turn the switch off and wait for about 10 seconds. This allows the charge on the capacitor to leak off. If the "trip" was accidental, the receiver will come on again as it should.

The neon lamp gives a good indication of what has happened. If it's lit, this shows that the limit switch has been tripped (in either circuit). Try turning the power off and waiting the 10-second period. If the set won't come on when the switch is turned on, then you check out the HV and horizontal sweep circuits, plus the regulator and limit switch. The neon lamp is a very special polarized type. Use only exact duplicates for replacements, and when you install it be sure it's properly polarized!

### Redundant regulators

In such sets as RCA's CTC39, CTC50, and later ones, you'll find the redundant-regulator system in use. This is the "triple-threat" type I mentioned in the beginning. Figure 8 shows the basic circuit. As you can see, it has a "stock" shunt regulator (that's one) the diode in its cathode (that's two) and a spare that goes into action if the first two fail! The primary regulator circuit is the same as that explained before.

The redundant regulator is below the dashed line. A pulse from the flyback is fed through C141 and R185 to shunt diode CR103. This diode acts as a clamp to hold the voltage to a certain negative level. If the flyback pulse rises in amplitude, raising the HV output, the 120-volt Zener diode CR107 conducts. This charges the filter circuit capacitor, C127. The higher negative voltage is fed through R165 to the 6ME6 control grid, reducing the output.

The part numbers shown in Fig. 8 are those used in the RCA schematic of the CTC39. The CTC50 circuit is exactly the same, but part numbers are different.

To check either circuit, read the DC voltage on the junction of R165 and CR107. In the CTC-39, this should be  $-78 \text{ volts} \pm 10 \text{ volts}$ . In the CTC50, (the parts will be R106 and CR105), the DC voltage will be  $-63 \text{ volts} \pm 7 \text{ volts}$ . If this voltage is out of limits, high, look for trouble in the HV circuitry. If it is too low, check the redundant-regulator circuitry.

### Redundant screen regulator

The CTC51, 52, 53 and 55 RCA's use a slightly different type of redundant regulator, with a novel effect. Figure 9 shows the circuit. The operation of the primary regulators is just the same, though part numbers will differ. For this, the pulse is fed to the VDR, RV402, which develops a negative grid voltage as before.

The redundant regulator is applied in the screen grid circuit of the 31LZ6. The clamp diode CR402 sets the screen grid voltage at +130V. It also connects the big filter capacitor of the +130-volt source to the screen for bypassing. C409 looks like a screen bypass, but it is a very small unit.

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If the primary regulator circuit goes out, letting the output rise, this causes the horizontal output tube to draw more screen-grid current. This drops the screen-grid voltage. Diode CR402 turns off, being reverse-biased. The main effect of this is to disconnect the filter capacitors from the 31LZ6's screen grid circuit! An unbypassed screen grid causes heavy de-generation, and reduces the gain of a tube. (Like the old radios with an open screen bypass!) So, the flyback drive is reduced, and the HV held within safe limits.

To check the operation of this type of regulator, turn the set off. Temporarily connect a 6,800-ohm, 5-watt resistor from the 31LZ6 control grid to ground. This is Point F on the PW-400 board. Connect a DC voltmeter from the screen grid to ground, and turn the set on. Screen grid voltage must not read more than +95 DC. If it's higher than that, check the dropping resistor R109, 12,000 ohms 4-watts, to see if it has been burned or dropped in value. (When you finish, be sure to take the shunt resistor off the control grid!)

### Summation

As you can see, there are several different types of these circuits. You will see quite a few different reactions and symptoms. You will probably run into slightly different versions in other sets, but if you remember the purpose of the things, they won't be hard to diagnose and repair.

The most important thing, to me, is to remember that they're there! In a lot of cases, troubles in the redundant regulator and similar circuits could cause an unwary technician to replace flybacks, yokes, and so on, only to find that he still had the same trouble he had when he started. This is embarrassing (and I'm not going to tell you how I get information like that!) Seriously, your best source of data on the use of these circuits is the factory service meetings and factory service literature. Check as much of this as you can, and it'll go a long way toward keeping you out of unnecessary trouble. This we can live without—we've got enough as it is! R-E



"Yes, Fred still tries to fix our TV. How'd you guess?"

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## INDUSTRIAL TEST EQUIPMENT

(continued from page 41)

with the press-to-read button, which has a lock-on position.

Figure 17 shows the Simpson Model 229 Series 2 AC Leakage Current Tester. It can read potential leakages that might be dangerous to the user. This could be a production-line tester or used in large shops.

The Simpson Electric Co. has two Insulation Testers; these are their Models 400 and 401. Both are powered by self-contained batteries. The only difference is in the test voltage range. The Model 400 tests up to 500 volts, and the Model 401 up to 1,000 volts. Each has ohm-



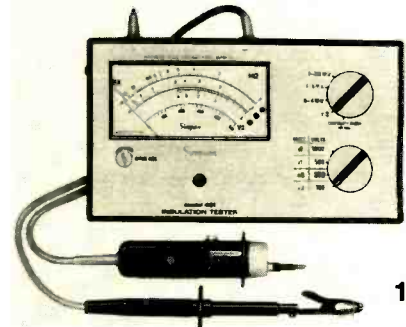
16

meter ranges from 0-0.4 ohm up to 200 megohms, in three ranges. To save the batteries, they are turned on only when



17

the button on the probe is pushed. The probe also has a light built into the tip, so that you can see the point you're checking!



18

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| 3EJ7 | 6AV6  | 6EB8 | 12AL11 |
| 3KT6 | 6AV11 | 6EJ7 | 12AT7  |
| 3Q4  | 6AX4  | 6EM7 | 12AU7  |
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| 4BN6 | 6AY3  | 6EY6 | 12BE6  |
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| 4BZ7 | 6BA6  | 6GH8 | 12C8   |
| 4CY5 | 6BG6  | 6GN8 | 17J28  |
| 4HA5 | 6BJ8  | 6GU7 | 18FW6  |
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Figure 19 shows an interesting instrument. It is the Simpson Model 410 Photo-Tachometer. No physical contact with rotating machinery is needed. A white (or black) mark is placed on the flywheel, gear, or whatever is to be



19

checked. The probe is held near the moving object; it can operate up to 12 inches away under the right conditions. It has a built in light and a photo-detector. Speed is read out directly on the multi-range meter.

Figure 20 shows the Simpson Model 886 Sound Level Meter, in its carrying case with all of the accessories needed. The round thing at the left is a calibra-



20

tor. This is held over the end of the Sound-Level meter, and provides a calibrated sound-source for accurate measurements. This kind of thing is often



21

needed to make checks required by OSHA for ambient noise-levels in plants, etc. (Rock bands not included. After all, it only goes to 140 dB!) Note the special "OSHA" calibration on the dial.

(to page 86)

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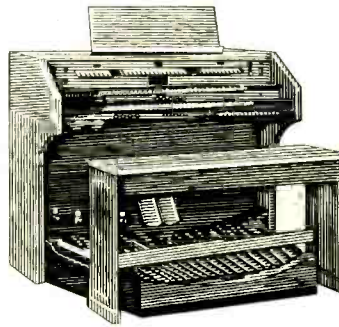
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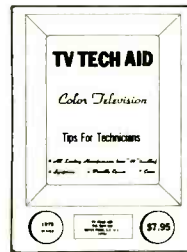
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## new products

*More information on new products is available from the manufacturers of items identified by a Reader Service number. Use the Reader Service Card inside the back cover.*

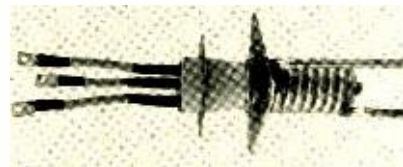
**DIGITAL MULTIMETER**, model 21 measures capacitance, AC volts, DC volts and resistance. Palm-sized unit has 4 DC ranges with 1-mV resolution; 4 AC ranges with 1-mV res-



olution; 4 resistance ranges with 1-ohm resolution and 4 capacitance ranges with 1-pF resolution. 3½-digit 0.027-inch LED readout (up to 2000 counts); simplified five-step calibration. Powered by 4 rechargeable NiCad batteries. \$269.00 with battery charger and belt carrying case.—**Data Technology Corp.**, 2700 South Fairview, Santa Ana, CA.

Circle 31 on reader service card

**TRIODE**, model DX-475. Water-cooled triode is used in industrial RF generators. Metal ceramic envelope construction permits high processing temperatures that yield better outgassing and higher maximum seal temperatures. Helical water cool-



ing coil is an integral part of the tube anode. The "K" grid provides a safety factor in grid dissipation.

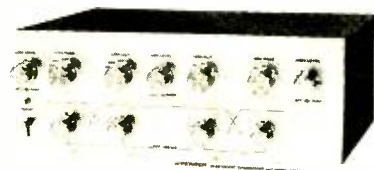
Other features include an integral grid connector, anode mounting and flexible filament leads for elimination of accessory hardware and ease of installation. Unit is rated at 20 kW input and 10 kW plate dissipation. — **Amperex Electronic Corp.**, 230 Duffy Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11802.

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**ELECTRONIC CROSSOVER NETWORK**, model SF-850. For use in bi-amp or tri-amp high-fidelity component systems. Solid-state

unit provides ten different crossover points for low- and mid- and high-frequency driver elements with each range level adjustable to meet the needs of speaker elements and listening room.

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**PA AMPLIFIERS, CHS-A Series.** Four amplifiers incorporate an electronic compressor and have facilities for connecting reverberation unit or acoustic equalizer unit.

Model CHS-20A is rated at 20 watts and comes equipped with one high- or low-impedance unbalanced microphone input and two high-impedance high-level auxiliary



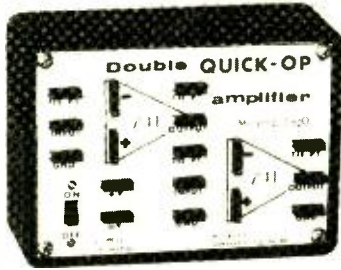
inputs. Each input has a separate volume control plus master volume and tone controls, compression switch, power switch and pilot light. Models CHS-35A, CHS-60A and CHS-100A are all similar except for their power ratings which are 35, 60 and 100 watts, respectively. They have two high or low impedance unbalanced microphone inputs and two high-impedance high-level auxiliary inputs, each with volume control, plus master volume and tone controls, compression switch, power switch and pilot light. — **Lear Siegler Inc., Bogen Div.**, P.O. Box 500, Paramus, NJ 07652.

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(continued on page 76)

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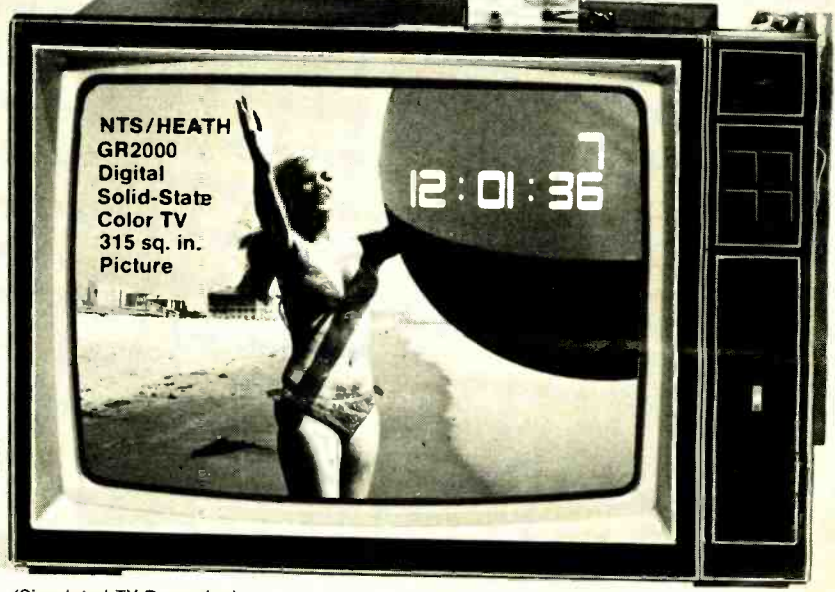
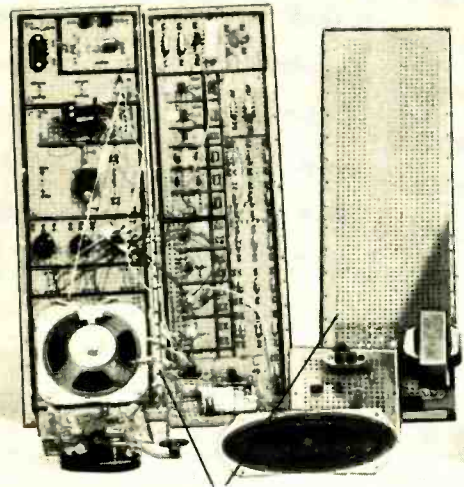
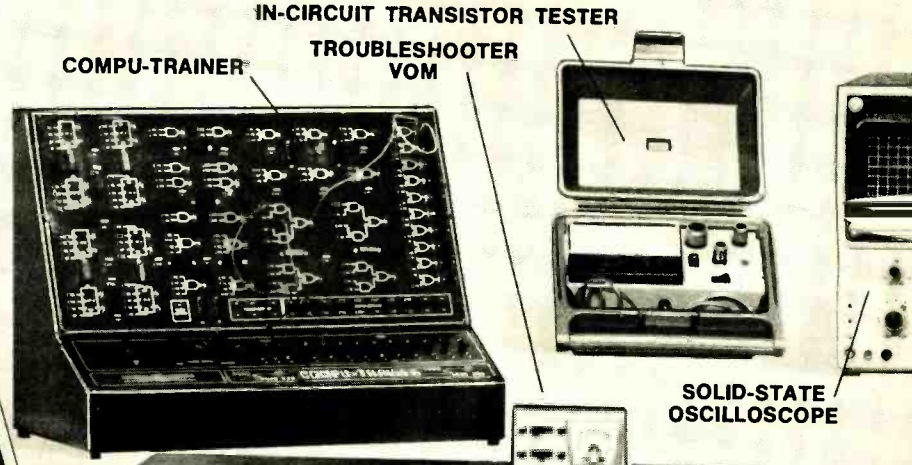
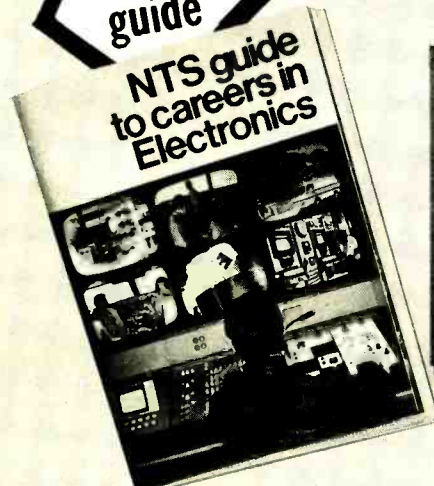
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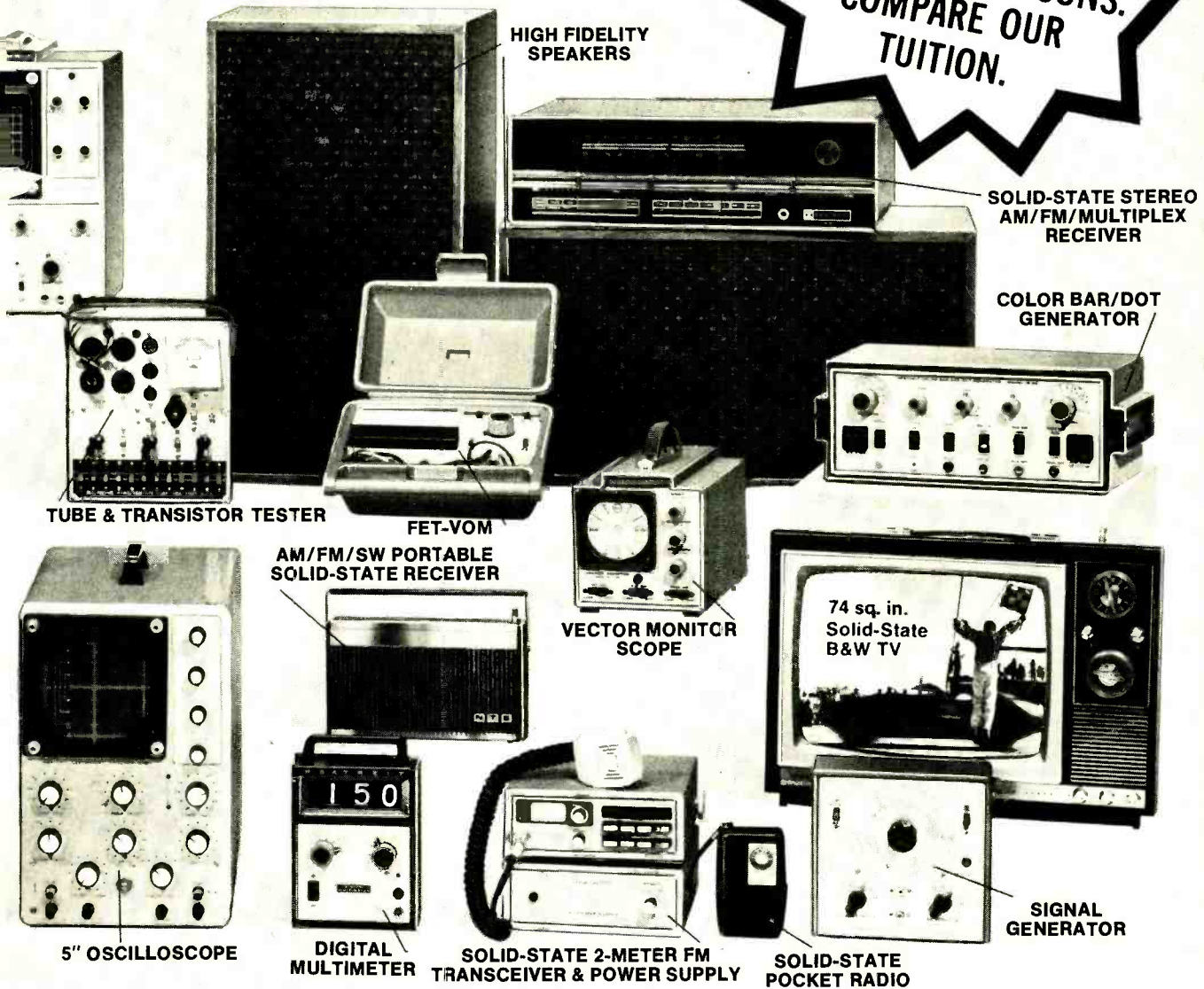
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# DIGITAL PERFORMANCE YOU CAN RELY ON.



The Hickok Model 334 DMM is a rugged, non-temperamental, hardworking tool that's easy to use and easy on your eyes. Hickok has established a unique reputation in digital electronics during the past 10 years. The Model 334 is another example of our engineering expertise — an economical lab quality instrument with exceptional durability and accuracy.

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- 3½ digit — auto polarity
- 26 ranges including 200 mV AC & DC ranges
- Fast response — 2.5 readings/sec

Basic Accuracies (% of reading)  
 DC Volts;  $\pm 0.2\%$  ( $\pm 0.5\%$  on 200V, 1200V ranges)  
 AC Volts;  $\pm 0.5\%$  ( $\pm 2.0\%$  on 200 mV, 2V ranges)  
 OHMS;  $\pm 0.5\%$   
 DC Current;  $\pm 1.5\%$   
 AC Current;  $\pm 2.0\%$

Ask to see the Model 334 at your Hickok distributor. It's a no compromise DMM at a price you can afford.

**\$229<sup>00</sup>**

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the value innovator

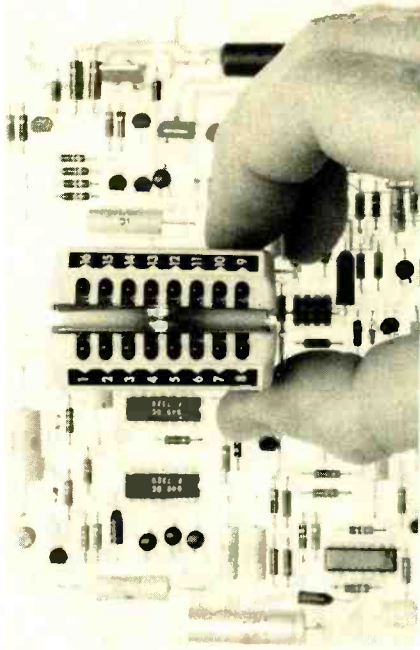
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Circle 28 on reader service card

## NEW PRODUCTS

(continued from page 71)

**LOGIC MONITOR.** Compact, self-powered, self-contained, pocket-size unit requires no calibrations or adjustments as it simultaneously displays static and dynamic logic



states of DTL, TTL, HTL or CMOS DIP IC's. Used for troubleshooting and signal tracing. High intensity LED's turn on when lead



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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

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voltages exceed the 2-volt threshold. No power supply is needed as power seeking gate network locates DIP supply leads and feeds them into the unit. 4x2x1.5 in.; \$84.95.—**Continental Specialties Corp.**, 44 Kendall Street, Box 1942, New Haven, CT 06509.

Circle 38 on reader service card

**OSCILLOSCOPE, model 1222A.** 15-MHz dual-channel scope has built-in delay line to make visible the leading edge of traces. Gives option of viewing Channel-A with Channel-B either added or subtracted (A±B modes). Identical dual-channels provide calibrated X-Y displays. Has 3% vertical accuracy, cali-



brated 8 x 10 cm display, internal graticule to eliminate parallax error, DC coupling, triggered sweep and pushbutton beam-finder.

Deflection factor is adjustable from sensitive 2 mV/cm to 10 V/cm. Built-in TV sync separation assures stable automatic triggering on frame or line for convenient TV troubleshooting. Calibrated sweep accuracy is within 4%. \$895.00—**Hewlett-Packard Co.**, 1501 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

Circle 39 on reader service card

**ALARM SYSTEM, model 511 Alert.** Wireless, solid-state, residential alarm system for do-it-yourself installation in apartments or single family dwellings.

Dual-function unit consists of control unit that houses a radio receiver and a loud klaxon alarm; exits and entrances are protected by transmitter/magnetic sensor com-

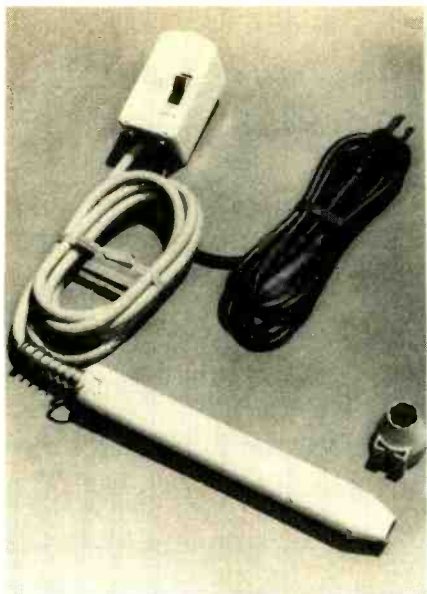


binations; personal protection is provided by portable "panic-button" transmitters. Unit incorporates FSK coding technique that makes it virtually immune to radio frequency interference. With FSK, many radio frequency channels are available. — **Linear Corp.**, 347 South Glasgow Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301.

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**HEAT TOOL, Heat Pen** is pneumatic flameless heat tool. Uses less than 300 watts of electricity and less than 1.5 cfm of pressurized air. Built to meet OSHA standards, no dangerous hot areas and has no motor or fan to wear out. Long-life interchangeable plug-in heating elements allow versatility by providing a range of heat from 150° to 800° F. Elements may be changed without use of tools within ten seconds.

Comes complete with 400°-600°F element, control unit with power and safety switches, baffle adapter and grounded cord



set, 5 oz.; \$79.50. Accessories include a complete line of baffles, remote foot switch, air regulators and fittings. — **Instruments America, Inc.**, 823 N.W. 57th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309.

Circle 41 on reader service card

**MODULATORS** add CCTV programs into master TV antenna systems or CATV systems. Designed to provide optimum performance, free of adjacent channel problems, beat and other problems associated with mixing into a system. Accept composite-video and/or audio signals. Video signals may be obtained on TV camera, video tape recorder, film chain or TV demodulator in either color or monochrome. Audio signals are derived from AM or FM tuner, tape recorder or high impedance dynamic microphone. Broadcast quality of signals occupy any one VHF TV channel from 2 to 13. May also be used as carrier-substitution generators.



**Model AVTM 4923**, provides both modulated visual and modulated aural RF carrier output on any single VHF TV channel; can be used to put both video and audio on unused channel of MATV system or onto single TV receiver. **Model VMT 4922** provides only modulated visual RF carrier output on any single VHF channel; can be used to put video on an unused channel of MATV system or onto a single TV receiver. **Model VM 4925** is similar to **VMT 4922** with additional capability of modulating video bandwidth of up to 8 MHz wide for high resolution CCTV or modulating combined 4.5 MHz aural and video signal from a microwave down converter output. **Model AMT 4921** provides only aural RF carrier output on single VHF TV channel; can be used to put audio on unused channel of MATV system or into single receiver. — **Blonder-Tongue Laboratories, Inc.**, One Jake Brown Road, Old Bridge, NJ 08857.

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out of  
**2** who  
have it  
don't  
know  
it...

**Do you?**

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When blood pressure goes higher than it should, and stays high, it sets the stage for heart attack or stroke.

Most cases of high blood pressure can be controlled with drugs and other advances in treatment. That's why you should see your doctor regularly. Only he can tell if you need help.

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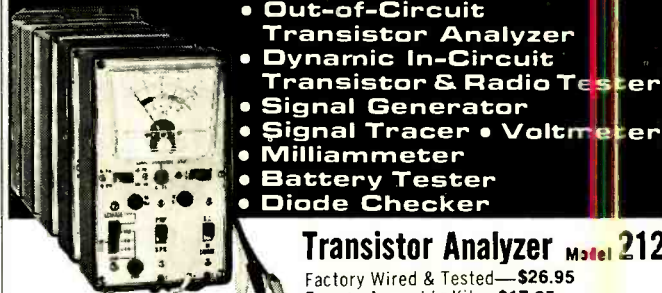
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# You can tear out all the cards in this magazine...

# But this is the one you should mail!

---

**If you're thinking of investing your money  
in a learn-at-home program in electronics, there are  
a few things you should know first.**

---

Selecting a home electronics program isn't easy. It could be one of the most important decisions you'll ever make for your future. So you want to decide carefully and get the best education you can.

After all, you're investing your time and money, and you want a full return on that investment.

#### **What should you look for before you select a school?**

You probably want a school with a proven track record of quality and performance. You want personal attention plus, the convenience of learning at home. You want the most up-to-date technical texts... teaching aids and learning methods.

But most of all you want to actually learn what electronics is all about. Not just theory, but actual hands-on experience with the latest and best technical equipment available today!

#### **At Bell & Howell Schools, you get all that...and so much more!**

Bell & Howell Schools has been in the home-study electronics business a long time. Almost half a century. In that time, we have developed teaching techniques that provide our students with the most vital and comprehensive learning system available for at-home study.

#### **Techniques like our "step-by-step" concept of learning.**

At Bell & Howell Schools, we start you off with the basics. Then take you step by step through the learning process. You work at a comfortable pace—not too fast...not too slow. If you already have some learning or experience, we'll arrange advanced standing in the program so you can skip the beginning lessons. And don't worry if you don't have any electronics background. 25% of our graduates never

even had any electronics training before enrolling with Bell & Howell Schools. (Based on a recent survey of our graduates conducted by an independent research firm. Survey results available on request.)

### Or our system of personal contact.

No course is without its problems. And when you get hung up on a problem, you want answers and you want them fast. Here at Bell & Howell Schools, we combine the convenience and pleasure of learning at home with a system of personal contact with faculty and other students that rivals—if not beats—any other program available.

For problems that "just can't wait" we have a toll-free "hot-line" that you can call and discuss your questions with an experienced instructor. You get real attention—someone whose only job is to see to it that your individual questions are answered. And answered quickly and clearly!

To help you develop your thoughts and understand electronics principles more thoroughly, Bell & Howell Schools has developed a unique feature that no other learn-at-home program has—In-Person Help Sessions in 50 major cities throughout the United States. These let you get together with instructors and other fellow students. There you can talk shop with other people who share your interests... explore your problems further... and get additional assistance.

But that's not all that Bell & Howell Schools will do for you! In addition to our vast experience and expertise, is a philosophy that the best learning comes from working with the best equipment available. And that's exactly what our students do!

### What better way to learn electronics than to actually work with electronics equipment?

And what better way to find out how things fit together... how they work and why they work than to actually build the equipment? And we don't mean gadgets that will be worthless to you later.

We mean equipment like the Bell & Howell Schools exclusive "Electro-Lab<sup>®</sup>" electronic training system including design console, digital multimeter and oscilloscope, that you can use professionally after you've graduated.

The design console will allow you to set up and examine circuits without having to solder them in place.

The digital multimeter measures voltage, current and resistance and displays its findings in big clear numbers for easier reading.

And the solid-state "triggered sweep" oscilloscope is similar in principle to the kind used in hospital operating rooms to monitor heartbeats. But you'll use it to monitor and analyze tiny integrated circuits. And you'll find the "triggered sweep" feature locks in signals for easier observation.

### That's not all you build when you choose a course from Bell & Howell Schools!

To learn the most advanced electronics technology, you have to work with the most advanced training tools.

So in addition to the exclusive "Electro Lab<sup>®</sup>" system that you will build as part of Bell & Howell's Home Entertainment Electronics program, you'll also build a 23" diagonal color TV with digital features.

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? Well, digital electronics is exciting! Its growth and application are giving us new and better products and a whole new realm of split-second accuracy that was just a dream a few years ago. And this new technology is being applied more and more to TV's, clocks, radios and other home entertainment equipment.

By studying with Bell & Howell Schools—one of the first schools to introduce digital electronics as part of its training program—you can actually get in on the ground floor of this new technology while learning all the basic electronics principles and skills you'll need to detect and troubleshoot problems professionally on digital and other electronic equipment.

Make no mistake about it! As you build your digital color TV, you'll get a thorough grounding in electronics principles. You'll develop a working knowledge of "state of the art" integrated circuitry and the 100% solid-state chassis. Plus you'll actually know how to program a special automatic channel selector to skip over "dead" channels and how to build a remarkable on-the-screen digital clock that flashes the time in hours, minutes and seconds.

### But most importantly, you'll have the skills that could lead you to a brighter future...

And isn't that what education is supposed to be all about? At Bell & Howell Schools we've always thought so although no school can guarantee you a job or income opportunity. Get full details about us, our courses, our philosophy of education by mailing the postage-paid card today. If you take one of our courses for vocational purposes, this program is approved by the state approval agency for Veterans' Benefits.

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● **Does more than Pay for itself in  
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...it gives you Maximum Power  
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...while reducing Maintenance  
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● The Allison OPTO-ELECTRIC System eliminates the Points and Condenser, replacing them with an OPTO-ELECTRONIC TRIGGER, using a Light-Emitting Diode and Photo transistor. As there are NO moving parts in rubbing contact... Timing adjustments are PERMANENT... The only "TRUE" Electronic Ignition... that you can buy for under \$100

● Gives 40-Times more Timing Accuracy than ANY system using "Mechanical" Breaker-Points! UNLIMITED RPM! "Electronically-Controlled" DWELL automatically supplies HIGHEST Performance at both Low and High speeds. Spark strength does not fall off at high RPM. POSITIVE SPARK helps eliminate "Misfire" for faster acceleration and improved Engine Performance! Smoother running (No timing fluctuation as with Magnetic Units). Easier Starting under any condition! Sparkplugs LAST 3 to 10-Times LONGER

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**SCOPES**

(continued from page 59)

nals with reasonable fidelity, the bandwidth of this amplifier is generally not great. Bandwidths in the order of 1 to 3-MHz are quite common. Normally this is no serious limitation, as most external horizontal signals are of the sweep nature themselves.

One should also remember that when specifying a limit of horizontal bandwidth such as -3-dB at 3-MHz, the manufacturer is also specifying a phase shift. In certain measurements (especially phase measurement), phase shift in the horizontal amplifier relative to that in the vertical amplifier can cause measurement errors.

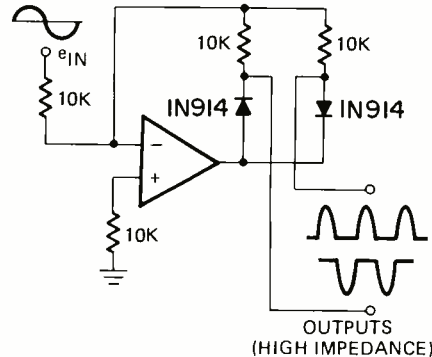
The input impedance of a horizontal amplifier may vary from oscilloscope to oscilloscope. However, most oscilloscopes are specified with either 100K or 1 megohm with some shunt capacitance. On more elaborate oscilloscopes, the horizontal sensitivity specification may also include specifications for a horizontal attenuator and a variable gain control. The most limited of oscilloscopes has only a fixed amplitude specified for horizontal sensitivity. External horizontal input connectors will normally be the same as those of the vertical input. However, the 5-way binding post is occasionally used when the vertical input connector is of the BNC type. **R-E**

**OP-AMPS**

(continued from page 44)

get a linear rectifier that crosses over essentially at zero. You can add a second stage to invert one side to make this into a full-wave rectifier.

There are, of course, many more things we can do with low-cost operational amplifiers, particularly the 741, its improved offspring, and the LM318. The only trick



**FIG. 17—PRECISION RECTIFIER eliminates diode offset and non-linearity.**

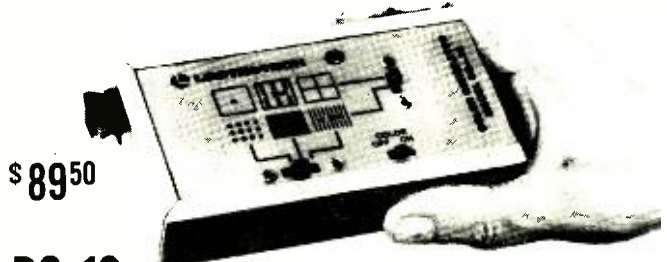
is to be sure you obey the simple use rules associated with them. Remember, always use feedback (usually to -). Always provide a source for input base current bias on both the + and - inputs. And never try to run at an operating frequency unless you have at least ten times the open loop gain your circuit calls for. **R-E**

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**BG-10** battery-operated, fits in shirt pocket!

No AC plug in... automatic on & off with LED indicator... fast, easy hook-up with coaxial cable... all essential patterns... Low power consumption for extended battery life (Uses inexpensive 9 volt batteries) • Shuts off when not in use • Enclosed RF cable compartment • Size: 5 1/2" x 3" x 1 1/8". Only 12 ounces • TV station type sync signals • CMOS LSI IC for all counting functions... no internal adjustments • RF output on Ch. 3, 4 or 5.

**BG-10** (less battery) ..... \$89.50  
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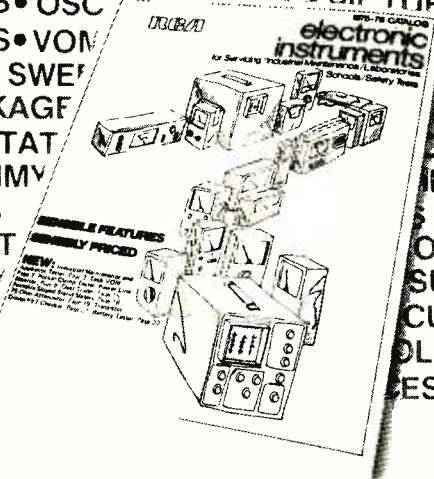
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**1975-76 REPLACEMENT CATALOG AND TELEVISION GUIDE FOR TRANSFORMERS.** 66-page catalog features several hundred replacement transformers. Includes color TV components, deflection yokes, flybacks, vertical outputs and filter chokes as well as power, filament and audio transformers. —**Triad-Utrad Litton Distributor Services**, 305 North Briant Street, Huntington, IN 46750.

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**QUARTZ CRYSTAL CATALOG.** 10-page catalog provides product information on the company's line along with application engineering information. Contains: general engineering and design information, method of testing, definitions, low frequency crystals, medium frequency crystals, temperature coefficient curves generalized for medium and high frequencies, high-frequency crystals and mil spec crystals. —**Crystek Crystals Corp.**, 1000 Crystal Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33901.

**TECHNICAL BOOKS CATALOG.** 42-page catalog describes over 339 current and forthcoming books plus 14 of the firm's electronic book/kits. Includes books on advertising, appliance repair, audio, hi-fi, stereo, do-it-yourself, electronic music, transistors, semi-conductors, hobby and experiment, medical electronics, test equipment and much more. —**Tab Books**, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214.

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**PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS CATALOG.** 24-page catalog features unidirectional dynamic microphones, ribbon microphones, omni-directional dynamic microphones, utility microphones, microphone mixers, audio control components, stereo preamplifiers, "plug-in" problem solvers, microphone accessories, component accessories and stereo cartridges. Contains many illustrations. —**Shure Brothers Inc.**, 222 Hartrey Avenue, Evanston, IL 60204.

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# next month

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## ■ Special Test Equipment

None of it is new, but all are rarely seen. For example, have you ever heard of a phase lock synchronizer.

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There are heaps of controls on that front panel and if you don't use them correctly, you're not going to get a trace that means anything. So here's a run-down on how to handle a modern scope. We know you'll enjoy it.

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Len Feldman continues to present detailed reports that tell you more about hi-fi gear than you've ever seen before.

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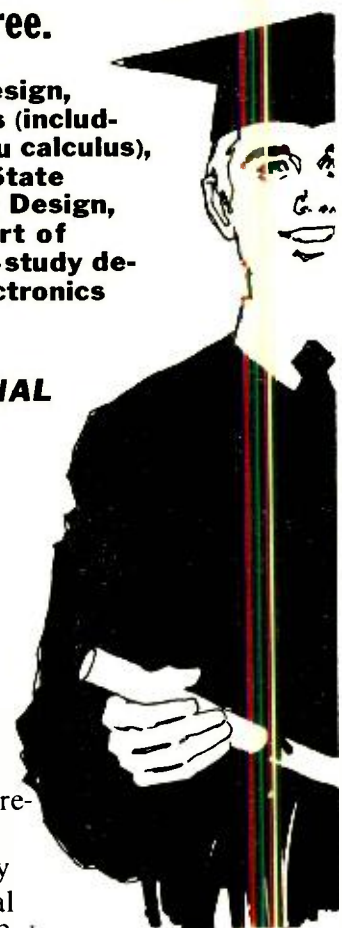
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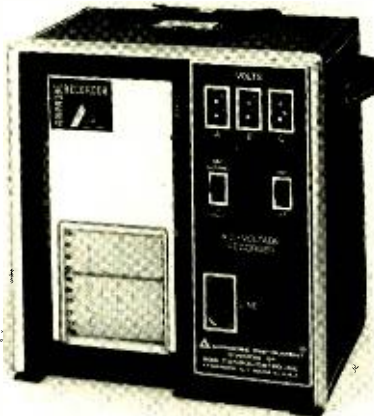
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## INDUSTRIAL TEST EQUIPMENT

(continued from page 69)

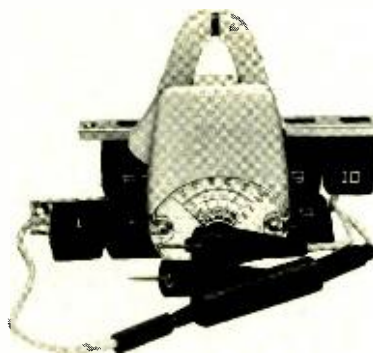
An instrument for reading light levels is shown in Fig. 21. This is Simpson's Model 408 Illumination Level Meter. This is used to get a check on light levels in work areas, etc.; once again necessary for compliance with certain OSHA regulations.

For certain tests, a continuous monitoring and recording of quantities can be very helpful. This can check line voltage, load current, temperature, and other things. Figure 22 shows a typical unit, the Amprobe Model LAVA81, which is a recording Volt-Ammeter. Other models



in the same line record temperatures, AC voltage, or voltage and current simultaneously. Any quantity that can be converted to an electrical signal by a transducer can be recorded. Simpson also makes a strip-chart recorder. It's their Model 603.

Lastly but not leastly, here is an ingenious little instrument that can really be very handy. It's the Amprobe Model ALP-501. It's a conventional volt-ammeter-ohmmeter, with something added.



It has an automatic "wire-identifier" feature. You simply plug the ends of the wires into the Station-Marker Holder, and then go to the other end. There, just touch the probe to any of the wires, and the meter will read out its *number!* Note the "1 through 10" boxes on the meter-scale. It's called the "Line-Probe."

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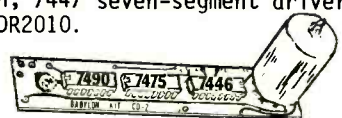
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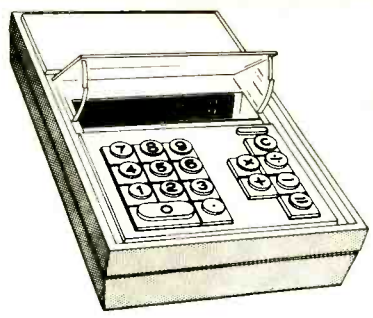
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74L73	.75
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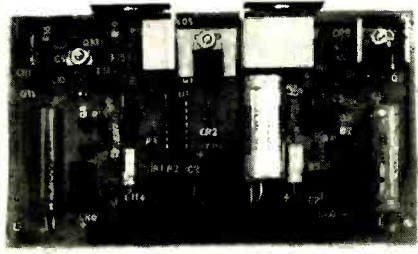
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LINEAR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

Table listing various linear integrated circuits including General Purpose Amplifiers, Matched NPN Transistors, Audio Circuits, Power Control Circuits, Transistor Arrays, Linear RF Amplifiers, Limiting Wideband Amplifiers, and Radio Communications Circuits.

PLESSEY SEMICONDUCTORS

Table listing Plessey semiconductor products such as AM det./AGC amp, SSB demod, AF amplifier, Dual bal. modulator, Receiver mixer, Square law device, Mod/phase lock, Mod/phase loop, and Operational Amplifiers.

Table listing Plessey semiconductor products including Dual 4 I/P OR/NOR gate, Triple 3 I/P NOR gate, Triple 3 I/P NOR gate, Dual 4 I/P OR/NOR gate, Triple 3 I/P NOR gate, and SP1600B Dual 4 I/P OR/NOR gate.

Table listing Plessey semiconductor products including SP8641A, SP8641B, SP8642A, SP8642B, SP8643B, SP8650B, SP8651B, SP8652B, SP8653B, SP8654B, SP8655B, SP8656B, SP8657B, SP8658B, SP8659B, SP8660B, SP8661B, SP8662B, SP8663B, SP8664B, SP8665B, SP8666B, SP8667B, SP8668B, SP8669B, SP8670B, SP8671B, SP8672B, SP8673B, SP8674B, SP8675B, SP8676B, SP8677B, SP8678B, SP8679B, SP8680B, SP8681B, SP8682B, SP8683B, SP8684B, SP8685B, SP8686B, SP8687B, SP8688B, SP8689B, SP8690A, SP8690B, SP8691A, SP8691B, SP8692A, SP8692B, SP8693A, SP8693B, SP8694A, SP8694B, SP8695A, SP8695B, SP8696A, SP8696B, SP8697A, SP8697B, SP8698A, SP8698B, SP8699A, SP8699B, SP8700A, SP8700B, SP8701A, SP8701B, SP8702A, SP8702B, SP8703A, SP8703B, SP8704A, SP8704B, SP8705A, SP8705B, SP8706A, SP8706B, SP8707A, SP8707B, SP8708A, SP8708B, SP8709A, SP8709B, SP8710A, SP8710B, SP8711A, SP8711B, SP8712A, SP8712B, SP8713A, SP8713B, SP8714A, SP8714B, SP8715A, SP8715B, SP8716A, SP8716B, SP8717A, SP8717B, SP8718A, SP8718B, SP8719A, SP8719B, SP8720A, SP8720B, SP8721A, SP8721B, SP8722A, SP8722B, SP8723A, SP8723B, SP8724A, SP8724B, SP8725A, SP8725B, SP8726A, SP8726B, SP8727A, SP8727B, SP8728A, SP8728B, SP8729A, SP8729B, SP8730A, SP8730B, SP8731A, SP8731B, SP8732A, SP8732B, SP8733A, SP8733B, SP8734A, SP8734B, SP8735A, SP8735B, SP8736A, SP8736B, SP8737A, SP8737B, SP8738A, SP8738B, SP8739A, SP8739B, SP8740A, SP8740B, SP8741A, SP8741B, SP8742A, SP8742B, SP8743A, SP8743B, SP8744A, SP8744B, SP8745A, SP8745B, SP8746A, SP8746B, SP8747A, SP8747B, SP8748A, SP8748B, SP8749A, SP8749B, SP8750A, SP8750B.

EXAR ICs

Table listing EXAR integrated circuits including XR 100K, XR 8101, XR 8102, XR 8103, XR 8104, XR 8105, XR 8106, XR 8107, XR 8108, XR 8109, XR 8110, XR 8111, XR 8112, XR 8113, XR 8114, XR 8115, XR 8116, XR 8117, XR 8118, XR 8119, XR 8120, XR 8121, XR 8122, XR 8123, XR 8124, XR 8125, XR 8126, XR 8127, XR 8128, XR 8129, XR 8130, XR 8131, XR 8132, XR 8133, XR 8134, XR 8135, XR 8136, XR 8137, XR 8138, XR 8139, XR 8140, XR 8141, XR 8142, XR 8143, XR 8144, XR 8145, XR 8146, XR 8147, XR 8148, XR 8149, XR 8150, XR 8151, XR 8152, XR 8153, XR 8154, XR 8155, XR 8156, XR 8157, XR 8158, XR 8159, XR 8160.

DIGITAL INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

Table listing digital integrated circuits including Process Control Circuits, PECL II - SP1000 SERIES, PECL III - SP1600 SERIES, and SP8640B.

STANDARD MICROSYSTEMS

Table listing Standard Microsystems products including COM2502, COM2502P, COM2017, COM2017H, COM2017T, COM2017P, COM2017Q, COM2017R, COM2017S, COM2017U, COM2017V, COM2017W, COM2017X, COM2017Y, COM2017Z, COM2018, COM2019, COM2020, COM2021, COM2022, COM2023, COM2024, COM2025, COM2026, COM2027, COM2028, COM2029, COM2030, COM2031, COM2032, COM2033, COM2034, COM2035, COM2036, COM2037, COM2038, COM2039, COM2040, COM2041, COM2042, COM2043, COM2044, COM2045, COM2046, COM2047, COM2048, COM2049, COM2050.

PREMIUM QUALITY TRANSISTORS

Table listing premium quality transistors including 2N173, 2N178, 2N183, 2N188, 2N193, 2N198, 2N203, 2N208, 2N213, 2N218, 2N223, 2N228, 2N233, 2N238, 2N243, 2N248, 2N253, 2N258, 2N263, 2N268, 2N273, 2N278, 2N283, 2N288, 2N293, 2N298, 2N303, 2N308, 2N313, 2N318, 2N323, 2N328, 2N333, 2N338, 2N343, 2N348, 2N353, 2N358, 2N363, 2N368, 2N373, 2N378, 2N383, 2N388, 2N393, 2N398, 2N403, 2N408, 2N413, 2N418, 2N423, 2N428, 2N433, 2N438, 2N443, 2N448, 2N453, 2N458, 2N463, 2N468, 2N473, 2N478, 2N483, 2N488, 2N493, 2N498, 2N503, 2N508, 2N513, 2N518, 2N523, 2N528, 2N533, 2N538, 2N543, 2N548, 2N553, 2N558, 2N563, 2N568, 2N573, 2N578, 2N583, 2N588, 2N593, 2N598, 2N603, 2N608, 2N613, 2N618, 2N623, 2N628, 2N633, 2N638, 2N643, 2N648, 2N653, 2N658, 2N663, 2N668, 2N673, 2N678, 2N683, 2N688, 2N693, 2N698, 2N703, 2N708, 2N713, 2N718, 2N723, 2N728, 2N733, 2N738, 2N743, 2N748, 2N753, 2N758, 2N763, 2N768, 2N773, 2N778, 2N783, 2N788, 2N793, 2N798, 2N803, 2N808, 2N813, 2N818, 2N823, 2N828, 2N833, 2N838, 2N843, 2N848, 2N853, 2N858, 2N863, 2N868, 2N873, 2N878, 2N883, 2N888, 2N893, 2N898, 2N903, 2N908, 2N913, 2N918, 2N923, 2N928, 2N933, 2N938, 2N943, 2N948, 2N953, 2N958, 2N963, 2N968, 2N973, 2N978, 2N983, 2N988, 2N993, 2N998.

XR 2206A FUNCTION GENERATOR KIT

Table listing XR 2206A and XR 2206B function generator kits, including specifications and prices.

1024 BIT READ/WRITE RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY

Table listing 1024 bit read/write random access memory products including EA 1500AJ and EA 1500ASJ.

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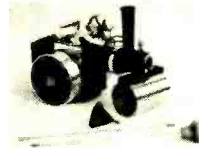
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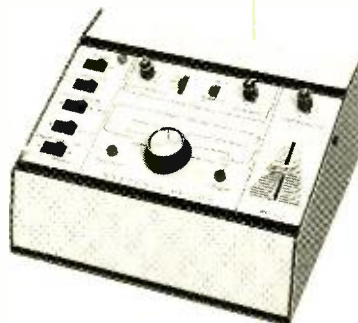


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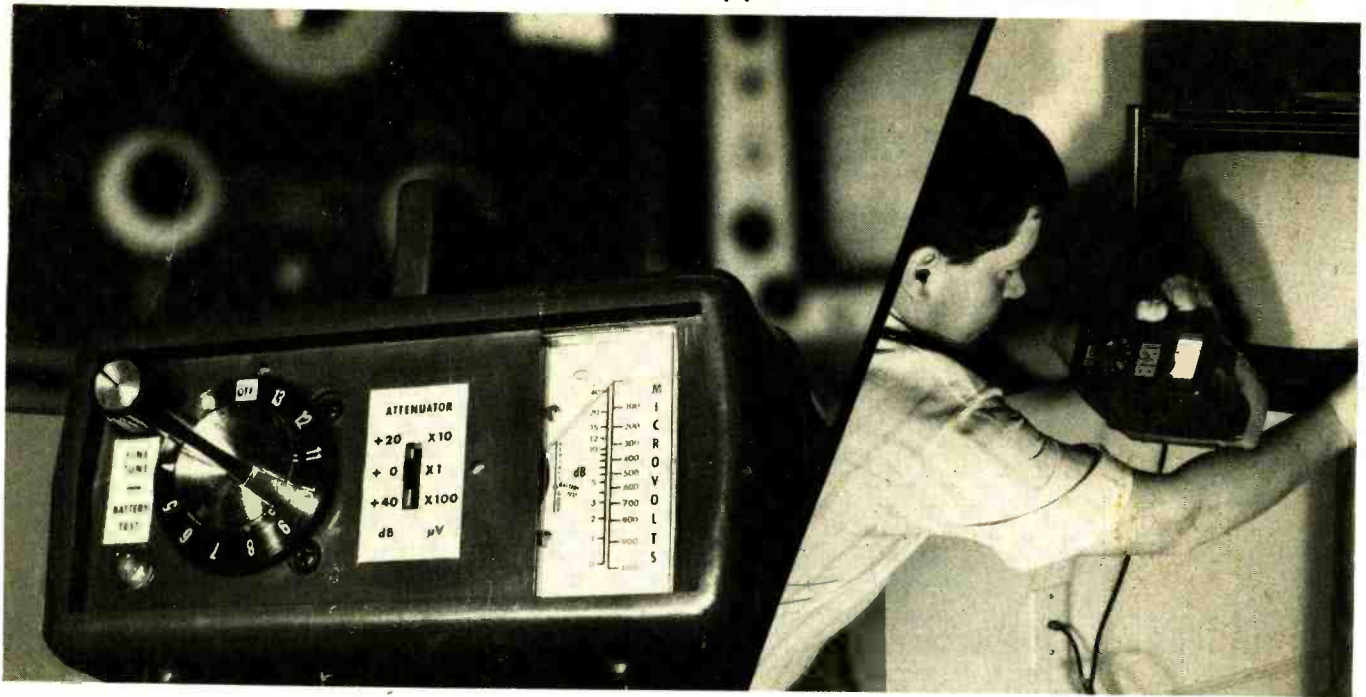
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