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These statements are from John A. Buckner, President of Buckner Co., Lyndon, Kentucky, who adds in his letter,* "We have a unique situation in the Louisville area, with all television signals coming from a ridge west of town, and their power output varying greatly. We have two VHF stations -Ch. 3 and 11 - and four UHF stations - Ch. 15, 32,41 , and 68 . We must cover a broad range of signals, and an even wider variation of power output levels from these stations. The Winegard Chromstar antenna has proved to us and our customers that it does a beautiful job."
*A copy of Mr. Buckner's letter will be sent to you on request.

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# Radio-Electronics 

THE MAGAZINE FOR NEW IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

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GARAGE DOOR OPENERS can be money makers. To see how to install them turn to the story on page 50.


#### Abstract

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# looking ahead 

## Microcam

Also on the broadcast front, helping CBS cover the political conventions this summer will be the first electronic camera claimed to be smaller and lighter than a film camera. The culmination of many years of increasing miniaturization of television cameras for use in "electronic newsgathering," the Microcam was developed by Thomson-CSF Laboratories (formerly CBS Labs) under a CBS contract, but will be offered to all broadcasters later this year.

The camera is a full-featured studio-quality color unit using three Plumbicon pickup tubes, but weighs only eight pounds. An accompanying control unit with battery can be belt-mounted and adds another three pounds, for $1 \frac{1}{2}$ hours' operation. The camera can operate on flashlight batteries in an emergency. Its developers claim it is one-half the weight and size and requires one-half the power of the nearest competitive electronic camera. An added feature is its adaptability to charge-coupled semiconductor pickup devices, when they are available, as substitutes for tubes-which could further reduce the size, weight and power requirements.

## More TV games

There are going to be plenty of video game attachments on the market this year, according to plans now being made. In addition to those mentioned last month, these companies are also planning to enter the TV game field: APF Electronics, a leading calculator supplier, is expected to field a tennis-football-squash-handball game this summer, to sell at about $\$ 80$. Dyn Electronics plans a Ping Pong and tennis wireless game at less than $\$ 70$ by about the same time. Gran Prix, an importer, hopes to have a hockey-tennis-Ping Pong attachment in the $\$ 50$ -
to- $\$ 60$ range. The toy manufacturers are eyeing the field, too. Coléco will soon display a game using General Instrument's six-game chip at $\$ 50$ to $\$ 70$. Mego's, which makes Star Trek and other action games, will have a $\$ 50$ chipcontrolled unit soon. Ideal, Mattel, Kenner and Auroraall leading toy makers-are looking closely at the field and could move in soon.

## Historic plant closed

When RCA ends receiving tube manufacture July 30 , it will be a sentimental occasion tinged with history. Its plant in Harrison, NJ, was originally built by Thomas A. Edison in 1882 to produce electric light bulbs. General Electric acquired it in 1892 and continued to make bulbs there until 1918, when it started output of radio tubes. The Harrison plant was an important source of tubes for RCA Radiola radios throughout the '20's and was sold by G-E in 1930 to the RCA Radiotron Company, a subsidiary of RCA.

The plant is being closed because of the sharp decline in demand for receiving tubes in the face of the shift to solidstate devices. Industry-wide sales of receiving tubes have declined from 442,000,000 in 1966 to about $80,000,000$ in 1975-the latter figure being less than RCA alone sold in the heyday of receiving tubes. RCA's move leaves G-E and Sylvania as the sole U.S. manufacturers of receiving tubes. RCA will continue to market RCA tubes made by others.

## Computerized slides

Today, when you see a still picture (such as a station identification) on television, you're usually looking at a $35-\mathrm{mm}$ slide. Later this year, you may be seeing the product of a computer. Ampex and CBS have developed the first practical broadcasting device
to use digital recording techniques for video images-the Electronic Still Store system, or ESS. ESS converts any video signal (from film, tape or live camera) into digital form and stores it on a standard magnetic computer disc pack.

Up to 1500 still frames can be stored on a single disc, to be selected for readout, in any order, from a bulk memory with an access time of less than 100 milliseconds. The system has three modes of operation-record, reproduce and rearrange. In the latter mode, selected stills may be arranged in any order for sequential programming. One of the most attractive features of the system is that the discs have virtually unlimited shelf storage life, helping to alleviate the always-acute storage problem at TV stations. CBS will take delivery of the first ESS unit around midyear.

## Videodisc standards

The home videodisc came closer to reality as three major developers of optical disc systems agreed on standards for interchangeability of video records. Prime movers in the agreement were Philips and MCA. Both had agreed to merge their similar but different systems. Also participating in the standardization move but without committing themselves on production of the optical system was Zenith, and the French electronics combine Thomson-CSF is expected to join in.

The resulting specifications theoretically supply everything a manufacturer needs to know to build an optical videodisc player or make a disc. Among the specs selected: (1) 1800 rpm in a counterclockwise direction as viewed from the objective lens (underneath the discs in the prototypes already demonstrated). (2) The disc plays from the inside out. (3) Two basic disc sizes-12 and 8 inches. (4) Both rigid and flexible discs, the former $1.1-\mathrm{mm}$ thick, the latter $0.2-\mathrm{mm}$. (5) Two sound chan-
nels, at 2.3 and 2.8 MHz on the carrier. (6) Direct NTSC encoding, frequency-modulated.

The last specification-direct NTSC encoding-came as something of a surprise, as previous demonstration optical disc systems have used separate luminance and chrominance signals, encoded in a non-standard manner. The direct encoding will simplify the electronics in the player and should result in a better picture.

The interchangeability pact, of course, doesn't include the RCA capacitance disc system, which is basically incompatible with the optical design, despite reports that some sort of playable signal has been obtained optically from an RCA disc. So it still appears that two systems will fight it out in the marketplace.

## $364,000,000$ TV sets

While we're on a statistical kick, we can't resist noting that by latest count there were approximately $364,000,000$ television sets in use in the world, and that color sets passed the $100,000,000$ mark during 1975. Of the 146 countries with television stations, the United States has by far the most sets $-57,700,000$ color and $63,400,000$ monochrome, for a total of 121,000,000 . That's an average of 1.7 sets per American home. In terms of color sets in use, Japan (with 19,800,000 sets) is second to the U.S.; the United Kingdom is third with $6,820,000$, followed by West Germany with $4,350,000$ and Canada with $4,100,000$. In monochrome, the Soviet Union is second with around $50,000,000$ (this includes some color sets-no breakdown is available). Others in order are West Germany $(13,250,000)$, Italy (12,450,000), France (12,$000,000)$ and the United Kingdom $(10,900,000)$.
by DAVID LACHENBRUCH
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR


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# new eftimely 

## Quadriphonic broadcasting now feasible, says committee

The National Quadriphonic Radio Committee, sponsored by the Consumer Electronics Group of the Electronic Industries Association, has reported to the FCC that quadriphonic broadcasting is compatible with existing systems and with the FCC's allocation plan. It also reported that it can be carried out with commercially available equipment, or equipment well within present technology.

The report was the result of a 45 -month study of quadriphonic broadcasting. The committee studied five proposed systems and conducted subjective and objective tests to determine the compatibility, feasibility and practicality of the system. The tests consisted of subjective listening, closed-circuit and over-the-air broadcast tests in both home and mobile situations.

The Committee made it clear that the report was not intended to recommend or propose a specific system, but to assist the FCC in issuing a public notice for proposed rules that would establish a standard for quadriphonic FM broadcasting.

## New guide for WWV/WWVH issued by National Bureau of Standards

"The Use of NBS High Frequency Broadcasts for Time and Frequency Calibrations," is the title of the new guide published by NBS for all who use WWV or WWVH for getting standard time and frequencies or for more specialized uses.
In addition to discussing the widespread use of the signals for standard time and frequency information, the authors place special emphasis on using WWV/WWVH signals to measure time or set clocks with an accuracy of $\pm 100$ microseconds, or to calibrate frequency to a few parts in $10^{10}$. Specific suggestions are given on making observations, optimizing reception and measurement conditions, and using such items of equipment as oscilloscopes, delay circuits and time-interval counters.

Dimensions and construction details for several antennas are given, and instructions for measuring or computing receiver and propagation delays, great circle distances and incident wave angles.

The guide, identified as NBS Technical Note 668, is obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, for \$1.05.

## Sixty-one seconds make a minute

For the fourth year in succession, the official time and frequency stations WWV at Boulder, CO; WWVH at Maui, HI; and WWV's low-frequency supplements
(WWVB and WWVH) welcomed in the New Year with a 61 -second minute. The extra second was added to the last minute of the last day of the old year. Thus December 31 was actually the longest day of the year-24 hours and one second long.

The extra second was a time correction. The Earth has recently been slowing down in its annual circular tour and the added second has been necessary to keep our clocks from running ahead of the sun. The difference is not important to the average individual-at the present rate it would be 60 years before we would have to set the clocks back one minute-but is taken into account by astronomers, navigators and other specialized groups.

Since the National Bureau of Standards started making these corrections in 1972, five seconds have since been added-the first in June of that year, and the other four as "leap seconds" at the end of the last minute of each year.

## New communications satellite doubles previous capabilities

"A new generation of satellites," providing low-cost communications unmatched by any other carrier, according to RCA Communications president Howard R. Hawkins, was launched last December 12.
Satcom I will serve the whole 50 states of the USA, It will maintain a 22,300 -mile-


RCA SATCOM-I SPACECRAFT, shown above as it would look if the photographer could get near enough to take a picture, is equipped with 24 transponders-double the communications capacity of any conventional satellite now in orbit. The solar panels have 71 square-feet of silicon cells always oriented toward the sun.
high orbit over the equator at a point approximately south of Los Angeles. Its 24 channels give it twice the communications capacity of earlier satellites.
Each of these $34-\mathrm{MHz}$ channels is designed to carry 1,000 voice-grade circuits, one FM/color TV transmission or 64 million bits-per-second of computer data. The antenna directs all 24 channels to Alaska and the continental United States, and couples 12 channels to the Hawaii spot beam. A special modification of the Thor-Delta launch vehicle, providing 30 percent more power than earlier rockets, was necessary to put the oneton satellite into orbit.

The craft is powered by a combination of solar-array panels and three nickelcadmium batteries, with a maximum power of 740 watts. Its life period, with continuous full power, is designed to be eight years.

## M. Harvey Gernsback now Fellow of the Radio Club of America

The Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of Radio-Electronics was elevated to the status of Fellow of the Radio Club of America, for "contributions to Signal Corps publication during World War II and in electronics publication to the present," at the Club's annual meeting last November 21.
At the same meeting, Dr. Henri Busignies, chief scientist emeritus of IT T, also a Fellow of the Club, was awarded the highest honor of the association-the Armstrong Medal-for his military and civilian work in automatic direction finding, electronic navigation systems and moving-target radar. Edgar F. Johnson, head of the radio company that bears his name, received the Club's Sarnoff Citation for his services to radiomen, particularly amateurs, and his influence on radio since 1920

A special feature of the meeting was the presentation of a charter to the Club's Section 1, Washington, DC, the first loca section in the Club's 66-year history. It was announced that Section 2, the California Section of the Club, would be chartered at a semi-annual meeting and banquet in Washington late in March.

## Science depends on engineers says Belf's James B. Fisk

"It takes a lot of engineering to make the fullest use of research," Dr. James B. Fisk, recently retired President and Chairman of the Board of Bell Laboratories, told a recent meeting of the National Academy of Engineers at Washington, DC.

Dr. Fisk, in a speech accepting the Academy's Founders Medal, cited the
(Continued on page 12)


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## new etimely


#### Abstract

transistor, which required an entire or ganization to develop practical uses after it was discovered, as a particularly apt example. A "happy blending of basic science with the ingenious skills of the design, development and manufacturing engineers," he said, "has enabled us to do things widely beneficial to people."

\section*{"Breakthrough" World War DF presented to Smithsonian}


The Smithsonian Institution has received the precursor model of an invention that was a decisive factor in defeating Hitler's submarine "wolfpacks" in the most critical days of World War II. Known as the "Huff-Duff" instant radio direction-finder, it was presented to the Institution by its inventor, Dr. Henri G. Busignies, chief scientist emeritus of ITT.

The German submarine reported to home base with a radio technique designed to make detection impossible. The messages were recorded, then the submarine surfaced and sent everything in a "squirt" that might last less than a second. Ordinary direction finders were helpless against this technique.

The "Huff-Duff" scanned the whole horizon like a fast radar, making more than one $360^{\circ}$ scan during even the shortest transmission. The strength of signals received from any direction was displayed on a cathode-ray (picture) tube. Since the signals were strongest when the antenna was pointed in the direction of the incoming signal, the resulting patterns was described as "an electronic finger pointing" at the submarine source. Cross bearings from two stations receiving the signals pinpointed


SUBMARINE AT 355 DEGREES, says the electronic finger of the Huff-Duff display. Pictures like these meant destruction to the German submarine "wolfpacks" of World War II.
the position of the sub. Air and Navy forces were then dispatched to "search and destroy," and merchant convoys warned of the danger area.

German submarine losses rapidiy increased to 40 per month, and Allied convoy ship losses dropped to an astounding 2 percent of those at the height of the submarine campaign.

## Six youthful members of 4-H

 get Westinghouse scholarshipsProjects ranging from bringing a juke box back to life to constructing an electric automobile won $\$ 800$ scholarships for six $4-\mathrm{H}$ members at the 54th National 4-H Congress in Chicago last December. The scholarships were from Westinghouse Electric Corp., sponsor of the $4-\mathrm{H}$ Electric Program Contest.

The electric car, built from a $\$ 15$ junked automobile, was the project of 16 -year-old Randy Atkins, Cedar Bluff, VA. His car cruises 60 to 70 miles between charges and can travel at 55 miles per hour. It is powered by eight 6 -volt batteries.

Lynn Ann Goddard, 18, won her scholarship by organizing a $4-\mathrm{H}$ electric club for younger members and teaching them the rudiments of electrical maintenance (her own field of expertise), electrical theory and electrical safety.

A versatile battery charger built from parts out of a power scrubbing machine was the entry of E . Michael Krenzer, 16, Spencerport, NY, while Andrew J. Kutlik, also 16, Lodi, CA, designed and built an electric combination lock and alarm system.

William C. Padgett, Jr., 18, Walterboro, SC, submitted a juke box that was originally discarded. He raised the value from zero to $\$ 650$ with an expenditure of $\$ 35$ in parts and a great deal of time. The prize-winning entry of Norman Shubert, 18, Danube, CA, was a synchronous converter and transformer.

## Brazil's color TV system <br> good for both PAL and NTSC

Brazil exhibited a new television system, PAL/M, at the International Telecommunications Exhibition in Geneva last Fall. The PAL/M system has the same high quality of the German PAL delay-line system, while being compatible with the American NTSC system.

The Brazilians suggest that their solution to the "which system" problem may be the answer for some countries who have not decided which system to adopt, but may have pilot transmitters or large numbers of receivers using the NTSC system, which was the first to be widely used but does not reproduce color with the same fidelity as PAL.

## Ratio-Electronics.

Hugo Gernsback (1884-1967) founder

## M. Harvey Gernsback

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## HELP!

I must say that you have a very fine magazine. I enjoy it very much. The departments, Service Clinic, Service Notes, and Letters are a lot of help.

Would you please print a request for help? I have this old Stewart-Warner radio that I would like to restore. I would like to ask for anything that would be of help to me. Old service notes, schematic, circuit diagrams, etc. The information on the set describes it as a Stewart-Warner Speedometer Corp., item " 900 series", model 801, series B.
ARNOLD AMERSON
130 Alves Lane, Apt. \#1
Pittsburgh, CA 94565
Sorry Mr. Amerson. We opened our archives, but no luck. We did discover, however, a tremendous amount of dust.

Okay readers; dust off your files and see if you can help. Send any information you can dig up on this radio directly to Mr. Amerson.-Editor

## DIGITAL STOPWATCH

Reader John Morse, of Bridgeport, CT, tells us that he has come across two versions of the Novus Mathbox model 650 calculator-one of several models recommended in the November issue as the basis for a digital stopwatch. One version -obviously the one used in the stopwatch shown in the article-has the IC's mounted on a PC board. The second, and presumably a later version, has all the electronic components potted into a glob on the back of the read-out. This one is unsuitable for use in the construction of the stopwatch.

You can probably identify the two versions by opening the battery compartment and pulling out the battery holder. You'll see either the PC board or the glob on the back of the read-out. Mr. Morse also mentioned that in the model 650 Mathboxes he's seen, versions with the PC board have serial numbers beginning with "1" while the serial numbers on the others begin with "2".-Editor



## SX-70 BATTERIES

I look forward to every issue of your magazine as I have for the past ten years. As a hobbyist I particularly enjoy your hobby oriented projects. I would like to pass this item on to your other readers.

One asset other experimenters may have overlooked is the battery that comes with every pack of Polaroid SX-70 film. The battery measures $1 / 10^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{1 / 2} 2^{\prime \prime} \times 41 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ and is easily removed from the disposable pack after the last picture has been taken. The 6 -volt cell, in its own protective pack, has two openings where you can solder on leads. With two silicon diodes in series it provides 5 volts for digital IC work. Four batteries provide $\pm 12$ volts for op-amp projects. They can even be series-strung to replace expensive 22.5 and 67.5 volt batteries in tube and transistor applications.

One bonus they provide is that they come from the camera at a consistent 6.23 volts (checked with an accurate source) which provides for a calibration (continued on page 16)

# The Black Watch kit 

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| bled kit $\$ 49.95$. |
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## LETTERS

(continued from page 14)
check on test equipment. Their flat shape allows them to be used in many projects where standard batteries with their bulky holders would not fit. Their shelf life and current capacity make these a valuable power source that are presently being thrown in the garbage bythe million.
2nd LT. KENNETH M. SCHULTZ
Goodfellow Air Force Base
San Angelo, TX

## MORE HI-FI

I think your in-depth hi-fi test reports are very good. My only crificism is that there aren't more test reports in each
issue. I realize that with the proliferation of equipment available-it is impossible to cover everything. I do appreciate the fact that you are testing items other than receivers, turntables, etc. I especially appreciate your rear-view photo and the Overall Product Analysis.

I, personally, would like to see in-depth reports on several of the many system add-ons for improving dynamic range and increasing the $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio.

I am learning more about audio and what the specifications mean all the time -my education coming mainly from reading reports and studying the explanations and comments made regarding spees in the reports.

I got turned on to Len Feldman via folling Stone. He really knows hi-fi and

more important, he obviously loves to talk about it and explain it to others. Many equipment reports appearing in other magazines seem to go out of their way not to criticize any product. I like the way your reports take a stand on the competitive value of an item.

Keep up the good work.
BILL HATCHEL
Hayward, CA
Thanks for your comments concerning our hi-fi test reports. They are well noted. But perhaps now is a good time for an explanation of our editorial policy.

We too would like to devote more space and cover more equipment than we presently do. Each month we find it increasingly difficult to "squeeze" the vast amount of information in our test reports into the available number of pages. But we would also like to increase the number of construction, educational and service oriented articles as well.

If Radio-Electronics was a magazine devoted to one specialized area (highfidelity, for example), the decision would be easy-but it isn't. Radio-Electronics is a diversified magazine covering many specialized areas in electronics. We cannot devote more space to one specialized area without sacrificing the others.

Your comments, however, DO COUNT! We must have the support of our readers. Write to us, let us know about what you would like to see appear.-Editor

## KOMPUTER KORNER

Komputer Korner is one of the best ideas the editors have had for quite some time. Microcomputers and microprocessors are being widely used now, and this type of information should be of great value to your readers.

The reason I read Radio-Electronics is to become more informed about new electronic developments. When I read a good informative story published in an electronics magazine it makes a favorable and lasting impression. Komputer Korner is exactly that type of story.

My congratulations go to Tim Barry for the fine job he is doing on Komputer Korner, and I sincerely hope to see more information of this type on microprocessors and microcomputers in the months to come.
DAVID H. SCOTT
Mt. Home, ID
I thought all our ideas are "best" ideas! Oh well.

Komputer Korner is a monthly column that we hope will be with us for a long time. Although we are publishing only one column per month, there are two different Komputer Korner columns. One column, as you noted, is being written by Tim Barry. The second column is the result of the combined efforts of John Titus, David Larsen and Peter Rony. Watch for them both.-Editor

R-E

## DON'T MISS THEM!

This month's hi-fi test reports include the new Fuji FX-C60 cassette tape and the Harman-Kardon Citation 16 power amplifier. Turn to pages 53 and 55, respectively, for the complete story and full specifications.


From the deep jungles of jumbled software, from the rivers of mysterious circuits, he came. Mini-Micro Designer. He was tough and smart. And he glowed with purpose. To teach the people microcomputers.
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## KIMPUTER KIRNEK

> Microcomputer anatomy and the way it communicates to the outside world is described this month.

## PETER RONY, JOHN TITUS, and DAVID LARSEN*

*This article is reprinted courtesy American Laboratories

IN THIS COLUMN WE WILL DISCUSS THE "anatomy" of a typical microcomputer system. (See Fig. 1, page 24.) This system is based upon the 40 -pin 8080 microprocessor chip and possesses all of the minimum requirements for a computer.

- It can input and output data.
- It contains an arithmetic/logic unit (ALU), located within the 8080 chip, that performs the arithmetic and logical operations.
- It contains "fast" memory (speed is an important requirement for a functional computer these days).
- It is programmable, with the data and program instructions capable of being arranged in any sequence desired.
- It is digital.


## Memory

Lets first consider the data communication between the 8080 central processing unit (CPU) and memory. The following definitions ${ }^{1,2}$ will be useful in the ensuing discussion:
memory-Any device that can store bits in such a manner that a single bit or group of bits can be accessed and retrieved.
memory cell-A single storage element of memory.
memory word-A group of bits occupying one storage location in a computer. This group is treated by the computer circuits as an entity, by the control unit as an instruction, and by the arithmetic unit as a quantity. Each bit is stored in a single memory cell.
memory address-The storage location of a memory word.
memory data-The memory word occupying a specific storage location in memory, or the memory words collectively located in memory.
random access memory-A memory into which bits can be written (stored) and then read out again (retrieved).
read-only memory-A memory that can be repeatedly read out, but cannot be written into.
programmable read-only memory-A read-only memory that is field programmable by the user.
volatile memory-In computers, any memory that can store information only as
(continued on page 22)

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KOMPUTER KORNER
(continued from page 18)
long as power is applied to the memory. read-To transmit data from a memory to some other device.
write-To transmit data into a memory from some other device. A synonym is store.
The 8080 microprocessor uses 8 -bit words that are stored in memory by a 16-bit memory address bus. The memory address bus determines a specific storage location in memory. Therefore, $2^{18}=$ 65,536 different memory locations can be accessed by the microprocessor. This memory access is direct, which means that you don't have to engage in any special tricks or digital electronic gimmicks to access any given memory location within the 65,536 possible locations. Forty-pin integrated circuit chips do have their advantages, and this is one of them. The total memory capacity of the 8080 microprocessor is known in the trade as " 64 K ." This is far more memory than you will ever need for most applications, but it is nice to know that you have such power in reserve.

Data is transferred between the 8080 CPU and the memory via 8-bit input and output buses, both of which are shown in Fig. 1. By "input," we mean "input into the CPU." The term "output" is defined in a similar fashion. Our point of reference is always the CPU. Data leaving the CPU is always considered to be "output data;" data entering the CPU is always considered "input data." In the figure, we have indicated that the input and output data is transferred between the accumulator and memory. This is frequently the case, but in a more detailed look at the 8080 chip, you will discover that data stored in memory is transferred to other internal registers within the 8080 chip as well. The most obvious such register is the instruction register, from which the decoding of the instruction occurs. Other registers, known as general purpose registers, are classified by the letters B, C, D, E, H, and L .
The accumulator register is the heart of the entire microcomputer. Arithmetic and logic operations are always performed to or on the eight bits of data present in the accumulator. All input and output data passes through the accumulator with the aid of two computer instructions called in and out.

Between the 8080 CPU and memory there is a single output line called memory read/write. When this line is at a logic 1 level, you are able to read data into the CPU either from memory or from an external device. When this line is at a logic 0 level, you are able to write data from the CPU into memory or an external output device.

As a final point, you can use any type of "fast," digital electronic memory device, including random access memory (RAM), read-only memory (ROM), and programmable read-only memory (PROM). What do we mean by "fast" memory? Simply that the memory can perform either a read or write operation during a single microcomputer instruc(continued on page 24)


## KOMPUTER KORNER

(continued from page 22)
tion. A typical 8080 microcomputer system operates at a clock rate of $2-\mathrm{MHz}$ and a read or write operation takes only $3.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$. Thus, RAM, ROM and PROM all need an access time of about one to two microseconds to allow you to take full advantage of the maximum clock speed. Slower semiconductor memories can be used, but the microcomputer will have to "wait" while a read or write operation is completed.

## Data output

The 8 -bit output bus between the 8080 CPU and memory also serves as the output data bus to an external output device. When you provide output to an external device, there are several important points that you must remember:

- You must select the specific output device that will receive 8 -bits of data from the CPU.
- You must indicate to this device when output data is available on the output data bus.
- The device must capture this output data in a very short period of time, typically $1.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.

The third point is perhaps the most important. Keep in mind that the microcomputer is operating at a clock rate of 2 MHz . Each computer instruction is executed in a very short period of time, which ranges from $2 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ to $9 \mu \mathrm{~s}$. Thus, accumulator data designated as "output data" to an external device is not available for very long. You must capture it while it is available. We will discuss the techniques that you should use in a subsequent column; this topic is certainly among the most in-


FIG. 1
teresting topics that can be discussed in the area of computer interfacing.

## Data input

The basic considerations that apply to data output also apply to data input to the CPU from an external device. Thus:

- You must select the specific device that will transmit 8 -bits of data to the CPU.
- You must indicate to this device when the CPU is ready to acquire the input data.
- You must insure that the CPU acquires this data in a very short period of time, typically $1.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.


## Input/output device addressing

The 16 -bit memory address bus is time shared so that it can provide, at certain times, an 8 -bit device identification number called a device code. Eight bits of information allow you to decode $2^{x}=256$ different devices. When used in conjunction with 2 output-function pulses called in and out, the microcomputer system can address 256 different input devices and 256 different output devices. We might point out here that a "device" can be a complex machine such as a teletype, a CRT display, or a simple device such as a single integrated circuit chip. This is another interesting topic for discussion that we shall reserve for a subsequent column.

## Microcomputer interrupt

Not shown in Fig. 1 is a single input line to the microcomputer that generates (continued on page 30)


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## KOMPUTER KORNER

(continued from page 24)
a program interrupt during microcomputer operation. Such an interrupt would be generated by an external device that wishes to transfer data to or from the computer. This particular topic is quite complex and it will be a number of months before we tackle it in this column.

The above is about the best that we can do to describe the general "anatomy of a microcomputer in one thousand words or less. Microcomputers are fascinating machines. They are small and relatively inexpensive, so one is less likely to be intimidated by them. They are far simpler than their minicomputer and computer counterparts and can be readily repaired by the simple process of chip substitution. R-E
References

1. Graf, R. F., Modern Dictionary of Electronics, Howard W. Sams \& Co., Inc., Indianapolis, IN, 1972.
2. Blukis, J. and Baker, M., Practical Digital Electronics, Hewlett-Packard Co., Santa Clara, CA, 1974.

## Computer calls to computer

 via amateur radio satelliteTwo North American radio amateurs have made the first claimed remote access of a computer, not only through a two-way radio link but also via an amateur communications relay satellite.

An "execute program" command was transmitted by WB4BWK, W. Franklin Mitchell, Jr., Due West, SC, to VE2BYG/3, Randa!I S. Smith, Barrie, Ontario, via the AMSAT/OSCAR 7 satellite. On reception, it executed the stored program which consisted of a message from VE2BYG/3 to WB4BWK. The data was transmitted in ASCII code at a rate of 110 baud ( 110 units per second). The FCC has granted a waiver to hams interested in computers and radioteletype, permitting them to transmit ASCII-coded information by way of the satellite.

## Calculators good for kids <br> say mathematics teachers

The little hand-held electronic calculator, which formerly aroused some doubts in the minds of educators, is now acclaimed as a "valuable instruction aid" by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. "In the classroom," reads the Council's policy statement, "the calculator should be used in imaginative ways to reinforce learning and to motivate the learner as he becomes proficient in mathematics."

According to articles in Arithmetic Teacher and Mathematics Teacher, organs of the Council, important teaching uses of the calculator are to encourage inquisitiveness and creativity, to promote independent problem solving, to solve problems that would be impractical to attempt with pencil and paper, and to decrease the time needed to handle difficult computations. The Jittle computers can also be used more prosaically to solve consumer problems and to verify the results of pencil-andpaper calculations.



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# New CB Test Gear 

## Using the new CB test gear is easy and CB service is a whole new field for the consumer electronics technician. Consider getting started now

JACK DARR<br>SERVICE EDITOR

THE CITIZENS BAND HAS LITERALLY EXploded! For the last year or so, the sales of CB radios have soared to astronomical figures. A recent report (R-E January 1976) said that they had reached a level of 100,000 units a month, and the only reason they weren't selling more was that the setmakers couldn't keep up. The FCC has a tremendous backlog of license applications (about 350,000).

So there they are, "out there", and someone has to service them. The regular two-way radio repair shops can't keep up with the vast numbers of jobs. This makes it a lucrative field for the consumer electronics men. Only a few added test instruments will be needed. Most of them aren't hard to fix, with proper equipment.

The only new thing will be transmitter servicing. And with the right instruments, this isn't too tough. The transmitters and receivers are crystal-controlled, which makes frequency calibration very simple. Receivers are straight single conversion or dual conversion superheterodynes, with only one new circuit, the squelch. We'll cover the typical circuits, test equipment and methods, and the legal requirements of $C B$ radio servicing, and show you some of the ways to make this easier.

To repair the transmitters, a technician must hold an FCC Operator's License of at least a Second Class Radiotelephone grade, or higher. To get one you must pass the FCC test (which isn't any tougher than the CET test!) For a very helpful book on this, get a copy of Edward M. Noll's "Radio Operator's License Handbook, 3d Edition" (Sams, 21112). It explains all of the Rules and Regulations ("R\&R"'s) and gives sample questions with the answers. For a higher Class, "First Class Radiotelephone License Handbook" by the same author (Sams 21144), which covers First and Second Class 'phone license material.

The FCC requires that you have a copy of "FCC Rules and Regulations (R\&R's) Part 95" in your possession. This, with some Amendments, covers Citizens Band operation, and tells you what you can and can not do, and so on. This is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for a "nominal fee".

The most important thing in the R\&R's is the statement that "Only those persons properly licensed are permitted to make repairs or adjustments which may result in illegal operation." What this means in English is that the transmitter must be on-
frequency within the stated tolerance, and must not radiate a higher rf power than the license calls for. The original CB radios used a rating of " 5 watts input" meaning 5 watts input power to the final If stage. The rule now is " 4 watts (of rf power) input to the antenna", which is about the same thing.

If you're interested, "input power" is figured by reading the voltage and current of the fina! rf stage, and then multiplying to get W=EI. We now have direct-reading rf power meters, and the power measurements are as easy as reading the battery voltage with a VOM! Fig. 1 shows one of the new CB test instruments. We'll be talking about these and several others as we go.

The rule about radiation of too much rf power isn't hard to comply with! In most cases, the problems we find are too little rf output. Off-frequency operation is very


FIG. 1-WATTMETER MONITORS transceiver power output and antenna standing wave ratio. This unit has three power scales.
unlikely. With crystal control, the only thing that could cause this would be a bad crystal. This would throw the transmitter so far off that it wouldn't work at all.
(There is one thing that can result in illegal operation! This is the use of a "PEP Booster" (PEP $=$ Peak Envelop Power) of 50 watts rating that raises the transmitter output to that figure. These are completely illegal, and woe be to the CB operator caught using one! The FCC does monitor the CB bands, and the use of such a thing can mean a stiff fine.)

No periodic frequency checks or logs are required, as in commercial two-way radio service. However, for best operation, the frequency of both receiver and transmiter should be checked each time the set is serviced. Another new instrument that makes this really a snap is the digital frequency counter, such as the Simpson 7026 in Fig. 2. All you do is push the but-
ton, and these instruments give you a direct readout of the operating frequency down to the least significant digit. Frequency tolerance for the CB band is $.005 \%$ or 50 parts per million which is easy to get with modern crystals. This is roughly $\pm 135$ hertz.

## The CB radio

Most of the CB sets you'll see wil be


FIG. 2-FREQUENCY COUNTERS like this one read CB frequencies to an accuracy within 0.1 Hz .
"transceivers" (transmitter and receiver in a single case, sharing not only the power supply but quite a few circuits as well). I believe that the majority of these are mobile units with a 12 volt dc power supply. There are ac-powered base station units, but a lot of these are identical to the mobiles, with the addition of only a 12 volt dc power supply from the $A C$ line.

There are quite elaborate versions, some costing as much as a commercial two-way radio. The vast majority, though, will be the simpler ones used in cars and trucks. Solid-state circuitry is almost universal, because of the space saving. Some of these units are amazingly compact, though they have all of the functions of the bigger ones.
There are three main groups of frequencies used. The " $27-\mathrm{MHz}$ band" has 23 channels, and this is where most of the activity is. A band of frequencies around 72 MHz is used for radio control of models, and there is a "UHF Band" from 462.55 MHz to 467.725 MHz . Amplitude modulation is used almost exclusively.

## Transmitter testing

This is the part that will be new to most technicians. However, with the proper instruments, it isn't at all difficult. If you
know the fundamentals of the operation, no problems. Let's review a few of the basic principles.

The rf circuits of the transmitter put out a radio-frequency signal at the carrier frequency. The first check is for correct frequency; just feed the signal to a dummy load, couple the frequency counter to this and push the transmit button. Read the channel frequency from the counter readout. Channel 5, for instance, is 27.015 MHz .

Next we check the rf power output. This, too, is a cinch with the right instruments. The SWR/rf power meter of Fig. 1 will give you a direct reading. Fig. 3 shows another type, with a digital readout, that does not require a direct connection to the transmitter.

For bench tests, the rf is fed into a "dummy load". This is a resistance with 50 ohms impedance (the characteristic impedance of most CB transmitters). Thank goodness for a standard!

By coupling a "linear detector" to the dummy load, the rf signal and modulation can be read on an oscilloscope. Fig. 4 shows the schematic of such a detector; it must be built into a shielded case (A "Band-Aid" can is very handy, and common!)

There are a couple of reactions that can be of a lot of help. Let's go over them quickly. The reading you see on the rf power meter, without talking into the mike, is the unmodulated rf carrier power. It would look something like Fig. 5 if you had a 50 MHz scope, which isn't necessary. To make this useful for communications, we must "add intelligence" to it; or, "modulate" the carrier with an audio frequency.

Maximum modulation should be just a little below $100 \%$. Fig. 6 shows an rf carrier with about $95 \%$ modulation. Notice that the peak value of the rf waves is just about twice the peak of the unmodulated carrier. This happens because we are adding the power in the modulating signal


FIG. 3-FIELD STRENGTH METER with digital output. It has a frequency range of 2 to 1100 MHz .
to that of the if carrier.
Let's say that the rf signal in Fig. 5 has an amplitude of 5 volts peak. Now if we modulate this with a 5 -volt peak audio signal, the voltage on peaks will be doubled, because the two voltages (of the same polarity) will add. So, the peaks of the full-modulated signal in Fig. 6 will be 10 volts, and the carrier will be driven down to almost zero at points where the modulating voltage is opposite-polarity.

Would you like a fine simple test for


FIG. 4-LINEAR DETECTOR CIRCUIT. Use this to read the modulation of the transmitter and detect any sign of distortion. A sinewave input must be used.
this? Good; we have one. Just push the transmit button. Note the rf power reading. Now whistle loudly into the mike and watch the meter. If the reading goes up roughly $22 \%$, you are getting $100 \%$ modulation! (It doesn't come out double because the peak reading we just gave is voltage, and this is a power reading.)

There is one more, before we leave this section. If you whistle into the mike and


FIG. 5-UNMODULATED RF CARRIER with positive and negative peak voltages of 5 volts. You see this when you key the rig.
the power reading goes down look out. This means that you are over-modulating the rf carrier, and actually losing power output. There will also be quite a bit of distortion. Why? Fig. 7 shows the answer. Let's say that you have the same 5 -volt peak rf, but that your modulation is 8 volts peak. On the cancel-peaks, the rf carrier will be driven "below zero", as shown. So, you actually do not get as much rf power out as before, and the recovered audio will be distorted. In actual CB transmitters, this is usually due to a drop in the rf power output, rather than to an increase in audio modulating voltage. You come out with the same condition; too much modulating signal for the amount of rf. Common causes are mistuning of the rf final amplifier stage ("final"), mismatch to the antenna, and so on.

Now what if the modulator does get weak? This can happen if the mike is defective or if a driver stage in the transmitter has a bad transistor. Now the carrier will be under-modulated. The audio will be "clear but weak". The rf power meter will not show the normal rise in


FIG. 6-(top) AUDIO MODULATING signal, also positive and negative volts peak. (bottom) $100 \%$ modulated if signal. Note that where modulation and rf voltages add, we gel peaks of +10 and -10 volts. This is voltage; the power increases by about $22 \%$.
power with modulation, but it will not go down.

In the typical CB transmitter, the modulator stage is also the receiver audio output, so that any problems such as this will show up in the receiver too. (One "goody" for doing this is an open emitter bypass capacitor in the audio driver stage! This reduces the gain and causes quite a bit of distortion; check this with a scope on the emitter. Should be no signal present at all.)

## Final tests

For the best results, the $C B$ transmitter should be checked with the antenna normally used; on the vehicle, etc. If there is any trouble in the antenna, it will show up as a loss of rf power output. (And with only 4 watts of rf, we can't put up ẉith


FIG. 7-EXCESS MODULATION voltage or low RF voltage causes overmodulation, and loss of RF power output.
any loss at all!) One common cause of this is "standing waves" on the transmission line.

What's a "standing wave?" When the transmitter sends out an rf signal, it travels to the antenna through the transmission line. If the line, and the antenna, are per-
fectly matched, the antenna absorbs all of the rf power. (Where does it go? It radiates off into space as an electrical field. This is the only "one-way circuit" in electronics!)

However, if the antenna or transmission line isn't matched to the transmitter output stage, there will be a reflection of power from the antenna back to the transmitter! One cycle of rf will go down the line. bounce off the mismatch, and start back toward the transmitter. On the way, it will meet other cycles of rf coming from the transmitter. The two will add and cancel. and the result will be rf signals that simply run back and forth in the transmission line.

This does nothing at all for the total rf power output, since these standing waves represent precious rf power. They are called "Voltage Standing Waves" and the voltage standing wave ratio is a measure of the efficiency of any transmitter-antenna system. The abbreviation for this is VSWR or "Viz-War" if you want to call it that.

How do we check for this condition? (Are you ready for this one?) You read it on a VSWR Meter! This is a special rf power meter, which can be switched so that it reads "forward power" or normal rf output, or reversed so that it reads power coming back from the antenna. It is calibrated so that it reads the VSWR directly as a ratio. Such an instrument is shown in Fig. 8. This can be connected in series with the transmission tine to the antenna and left there. In the forward position, it will tell the operator whether he's "getting out" or not.
Standing-wave problems are often caused by improper tuning of the final in the transmitter. Most of the CB antennas used are well-built commercial designs, that have very low VSWR's. A VSWR of 1:1 is "perfect", and anything above this should be checked out. If you do run into problems, there is a little device called an "Antenna Matcher" which can help; Fig. 9. It can be installed in the transmission line, tuned up and left there.

A quick check of transmitter adjustments can be made, in the vehicle, with a simple rf detector, of the type shown in Fig. 10. It is just a radiation detector. You set it near the antenna and push the transmit button. Then, check all of the rf tuning adjustments on the transmitter. Set these for a peak on the rf meter, and there you are.

This is one fast way of catching any defective stages in the transmitter. If any of these adjustments fail to show a definite peak, that stage has a problem! After using such an instrument for only a little while, you'll be able to get a very good idea of whether this transmitter is putting out normal if power. Set the meter about the same distance from the antenna each time, and the rf reading will be close to the same.

Summing up on the transmitters, the final in a CB transmitter is something of a "broadband" affair. Since it isn't possible to provide really sharp tuning adjustments for each of the 23 channels, the finals are "peaked" somewhere near the center of the band.

So make your tuning adjustments on Channel 11 or 12; then check for rf output


FIG. 8-STANDING-WAVE-RATIO bridge reads relative forward power or reflected power and SWR.
on Channel 1 and Channel 23 to make sure that something isn't causing too much of a "droop" in the curve. Since the whole CB Class-D band is only 300 kHz from one end to the other, it's not impossible to get good results over the whole band.

## Checking receivers

The typical CB receiver will be crystalcontrolled. This makes it handy. You don't need a very accurately calibrated rf signal generator for alignment work! Just tune the signal generator for maximum output through the front end, and there you are.


FIG. 9-ANTENNA TUNER for $27-\mathrm{MHz}$ Citizens band offers improved operation of CB transceivers and reduces harmonic rediation and television interference. It can tune the transmission line to a $\mathbf{1 : 1}$ SWR.

For sensitivity tests, the generator should have an accurately-calibrated output attenuator. Most of the better CB receivers have astonishingly good sensitivity, of ten down around 1.0 mic ovolt or better.

The receiver's RF amplfier stage is also somewhat wideband, but the sensitivity is attained in the IF stages. Many of them use dual-conversion IF's, with the first one up around 10 MHz , and the second down around 455 kHz . Both oscillators will be crystal-controlled for stability.

## The squelch circuit

There is one circuit used in all CB receivers that isn't common in the broadcast types. This is the "squelch". This circuit does just what its name implies; it squelches the "blow" or hiss that would be heard in the absence of an incoming signal. (In the very first two-way police radios, it wasn't used. The constant roar drove the poor officers mad, so they simply turned the volume down. So they missed a lot of calls. This spurred the development of a working squelch circuit.)

The operation of a squelch circuit is simple. The most common type uses a high
bias on one of the audio preamplifier stages. This cuts off the tube/transistor, so that there is no sound in the speaker. The RF and IF stages are still picking up the random noise or blow. This is rectified. and used to maintain the cutoff bias.

When a signal is picked up, these stages will "quiet" because the signal overrides the random noise. This drop in the noise voltage causes the squelch circuit to develop a bucking voltage which "opens" the audio stage by cancelling the cut-off bias: the signal goes through.

In case you're wondering how the set can tell the difference between the noise and the signal, this, too, is fairly simple! The noise is "white noise", or random samples of all kinds of frequencies, mostly very high. So, we pick off only the very high-frequency signals and use them to hold the squelch off. The voice signals are,


FIG. 10-FIELD STRENGTH METER indicates relative field strength of CB antenna power over a frequency range of 1.5 to $200 \mathbf{M H z}$. A 7-ounce instrument.
by comparison, very low frequencies, so they have no effect on the squelch circuit itself.

Most problems in the squelch circuits will be due to weak tubes, leaky transistors, bad resistors, and so on. A very good check for the condition of this circuit is just turning the squelch control. If this will "break" (let the speaker blow) somewhere near the center of rotation, the squelch is in pretty good shape.

If you must turn it all the way to one end, and then it barely breaks the squelch. something has drifted off value, and will cause trouble very soon. If the squelch won't break at all, you may have trouble in the RF or IF stages, or in the controlled stage. Check the dc voltages with and without an input signal, and it shouldn't take long to pin down the guilty part.

## Odds and ends

Watch out for "Unauthorized Repairs"! Quite a few CB operators are amateurs. I don't mean amateur operators-I mean amateur technicians! When you get one of these sets, look it over very carefully. Check the type and location of all tubes and transistors. This kind of thing isn't hard to spot if you're looking for it, but it can really throw you a curve if you're
not really on your toes.
One set came in with simply awful sensitivity on the receiver. The rf tube was checked, and found to be perfectly good, also brand new. After much digging around, we noticed that the dc voltages around this tube socket were in very funny places for the tube in use. It turned out that the original tube was a dual-triode. The one in it was a triode-pentode. You may find a transistor installed backward, or npn's used where a pnp should be, and all sorts of goodies like that.

This brings up a very important pointservice data. With the right service data, we would have caught the tube substitution instantly; it wasn't there (at the time! It is now). You can get full service data for all of the U.S. makes of CB sets in Sams Photofact "CB Radio Series" of manuals. This will save a great deal of time in checking parts, locating tuning adjustments, and many other things.

## Check that voltage regulator!

Like all other electronic equipment, CB radios have their own peculiar problems. Since the majority of them are solid-state, and also used in vehicles, the car's electrical system must be in good shape. If the trouble is blown rf or audio transistors, etc., check the vehicle's voltage regulator.

It must never be higher than 13.8 volts with the engine running at cruising speed. If this voltage goes up to 15.5 or 16 volts, look out. Many operators have a habit of making long transmissions without letting up on the key. This normally heats up
output and audio transistors, and if the supply voltage is too high, can lead to failure due to overheating of the junctions.


AUTORANGING FREQUENCY COUNTER is great for CB service work. You only have to turn it on and select the mode.

In some sets, these transistors are not derated enough to begin with, and a 30 to $40 \%$ increase in the supply voltage can drive them into breakdown.

In certain sets, the rf output transistors will have to be replaced by the exact equivalents, due to socket or basing problems. Many of these are EIAJ types, such as 2SC1173, and others which do not as yet have U.S. exact duplicates. Mostly, the cases won't fit, and the extra wiring needed to convert may upset the stray capacitance of the final, and cause tuning problems. This will soon be remedied, I'm sure, but for now you may have to dig up exact duplicates. The back pages of Radio-Electronics are a good place for this! There are quite a few semiconductor supply houses listed in here who stock these special types of $C B$ transistors.


WATTMETER MONITORS transceiver power output and antenna standing wave ratio. The unit has a flat response directional coupler independent of frequency from 3.5 to 30 MHz. Three power reading scales cover 0 to 1000 watts. Expanded range calibration of the SWR scale permits direct reading of from 1:1 to 3:1 SWR.

## Final notes

In general, the TV technician who wants to get into CB radio work won't have too many problems. Practically all of his regular test equipment can be used, with only a few instruments added. As I said before, the FCC license test isn't any harder than the CET tests. You don't have to make periodic frequency checks; the only thing you might do here, if you do make a frequency check, is to note it on the statement, with the date and results. (You charge for this, of course!)
So, there you are. As so many of the CB operators say today "Arkie to Screw-driver-Jockey-Out!".

## Electronic games on home TV making a sudden upsurge

According to a number of dealers, electronic TV games became an important factor in toy departments for the first time last Christmas season. Odyssey, a Magnavox product, was introduced three years ago, but felt its first heavy demand last year with the result that the company's production lines worked full time to fill Christmas orders. Odyssey was described in full in the December, 1975 issue of this magazine (page 29) with block diagrams of the circuitry.

Another company, Broadmoor, puts out a game that requires a modified TV set, since the game signals are injected into the video circuitry. It plays hockey and tennis. Atari, maker of sports-arcade electronic games, produces a very popular game called Pong.

## Coding system to combat video tape pirating

A device to prevent illegal copying of videotapes has been developed by Goldmark Communications Corp., Byron Motion Pictures and Teletronics International, three organizations working in the television and motion picture field.

Called "Stop-Copy," the system uses a specially devised technique to code the magnetic tape electronically. The special coding permits a program to be played through the videocassette, but if an attempt is made to record the program on another videocassette recorder, the coding prevents video recording and the result is a blank copy. While the
"Stop-Copy" system is not yet compatible with all types of video recorders, a more completely compatible type is under devolopment.

The developers warn that although the present device is successful in prevent-
ing ordinary illegal duplication, it could possibly be circumvented by a skilled electronic technician. More sophisticated technology may be required to deter the professional who decides to engage in program pirating.

## COMPUTERIZED NEWSPAPER MAKEUP



MODERN NEWSPAPERS have replaced the traditional type-case and blue pencil with computerized composition and electronic-display editing. The above scene at the Minneapolis Star and Tribune is typical. Display ads are set up with the help of a Raytheon $\mathbf{1 , 0 0 0}$-line television screen and solid-state memory composition system. Items can be set up or erased either by the keyboard or with an "electric pencil" applied directly to the face of the tube. What the pencil crosses out is erased in the computer and can be replaced by material typed in from the keyboard. Display type of different sizes and faces can be selected and typed in almost as easily as typing one size and face on a standard typewriter.

# Tachometer and 

## Over-Speed Alarms

## The versatile CD4001 IC is the heart of these practical tachometer and overspeed alarm circuits that you can build and connect to any vehicle with a 6-or 12-volt electrical system

R. M. MARSTON

MANY MODERN SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES have practical applications in automobiles. One of the most useful devices is the CD4001 COS/MOS digital integrated circuit. The CD4001 is an inexpensive and readily available quad 2 -input NOR gate that features near-infinite input impedance, a low output impedance, near-zero quiescent current consumption, and the ability to operate from any supply source in the range of 5 to 15 volts.

The CD4001 is very versatile and can readily be made to act in a variety of gate, logic, inverter, and multivibrator roles. In this first part of this 2-part story, we show how you can use a single CD4001 IC to make an inexpensive but highly efficient precision tachometer or RPM meter for your car.

In Part 2 of the series, we'll go on to show how the basic tachometer circuit can be expanded so that it also acts as a precision red-line or over-speed alarm. This alarm generates an audio/visual output when the engine or vehicle speed exceeds a pre-set limit.
The tachometer and over-speed alarm circuits can be used on any gasolinepowered vehicle having a 12 -volt electrical system. If required, the tachometer circuit can also be used on vehicles with 6 -volt electrical systems by using a simple adapter device that is also described in this article. Before looking at the first of these circuits, let's digress a little and take a brief look at the characteristics of the CD4001 integrated circuit that forms the basis of these designs.

## The CD4001 IC

The CD4001 COS/MOS digital IC is a quad 2 -input NOR gate. The basic circuit and pin connections of the device are shown in Fig. 1. A full description of this unit was given in the September 1974 issue of Radio-Electronics. For our present purpose, it is sufficient to know that each of the four gates of the device features a
near-infinite input impedance, a low output impedance, near-zero quiescent current consumption, and the ability to operate from any supply source in the range 5 to 15 volts.

If a rising or falling voltage is applied to the input of a COS/MOS digital IC element, the output of the device remains unaffected until the input signal reaches a value known as the transition voltage, at


FIG. 1-LOGIC DIAGRAM and pin connections of the CD4001 quad 2-input NOR gate.
which point the output may switch rapidly from one logic state to the other. The transition voltage of a device is usually specified as a percentage of its supply voltage: The CD4001 has a typical transition voltage value of $50 \%$ of its supply voltage, the actual production spread limits being $30 \%$ to $70 \%$.
The CD4001 is a very versatile device. Each logic element of the CD4001 can be used as a NOR gate by using the connections shown in Fig. 2. A NOR gate provides a low (logic 0 ) output if either input is high (logic 1). Alternatively, the NOR gates can be used as NOT elements or simple pulse inverters by using the connections shown in Fig. 3. A NOT element provides a low output when the input is high, and vice versa. Note when using this device (and all other COS/MOS digital integrated circuits), that the unused input pins of the IC must be disabled by connecting them to one of the circuit supply lines.

Any two or more gates of a CD4001 IC can be cross-coupled to make a highly efficient version of any one of the three basic types of multivibrator. Figure 4-a shows the connections for making a simple $800-\mathrm{Hz}$ astable multivibrator or square-wave generator that operates whenever its power supply is connected, and Fig. 4-b shows a gated version of the same basic circuit. The Fig. 4-b circuit can be gated on by applying the full positive supply voltage to pin 2 of the IC, and can be gated off by reducing the voltage on pin 2 to zero.


FIG. 2-A NOR GATE is obtained by connecting one of the gates of the CD4001 as shown.


FIG. 3-A PULSE INVERTER is obtained by connecting one of the gates of the CD4001 as shown.


FIG. 4-ASTABLE MULTIVIBRATOR circuits operating at 800 Hz are shown. Circuit shown in a is a simple astable while circuit shown in $b$ must be gated to operate.

Figure 5 shows how two of the gates of a CD400 1 can be cross-coupled to form a monostable multivibrator. An outstanding feature of this particular circuit is that it can be triggered by any input waveform shape, irrespective of its rise-time or duration. The duration can be longer or shorter than that of the actual output pulse. The shape of the output pulse is independent of the shape oi the trigger signal. The output pulse of the circuit is actually initiated at the moment that the input trigger signal rises above the transition voltage. The circuit is unaffected by input voltages that fall below the transition voltage.

Finally, Fig. 6 shows how the monostable multivibrator described above can be used as a simple but very accurate linear-scaled analogue frequency meter, giving a full-scale reading of $1-\mathrm{kHz}$ on an


FIG. 5-MONOSTABLE MULTIVIBRATOR provides an output pulse when it is triggered.
inexpensive $1-\mathrm{mA}$ moving-coil meter.
Here, the input trigger signals are fed to the gate- A -gate- B monostable circuit via the QI preamplifier and via the gate-D inverter stage. The output pulses of the monostable are fed to the $1-\mathrm{mA}$ meter via gate C and current-limiting resistor R 8 . The supply line of the circuit is stabilized at 6.8 volts by the $\mathrm{R} 9-\mathrm{D} 2-\mathrm{C} 4$ network. Consequently, a current pulse of fixed amplitude and fixed length is fed to the meter each time the monostable is triggered.

The average current flowing in the meter in the above circuit is equal to the product of the peak pulse current and the pulse length and the repetition frequency of the pulse. In practice, the circuit gives a peak pulse current of approximately 2 mA and has a pulse length of 0.5 ms , so the meter reads its full-scale value of 1 mA at 1 kHz , and reads 0.5 mA at 500 Hz and 0.1 mA at 100 Hz . The circuit thus acts as a linearscale frequency meter.

Note that the meter in this circuit can not be damaged by applying too high an input frequency, since the maximum meter current is limited to 2 mA by R 8 , and all 1 mA moving-coil meters can withstand this magnitude of overload quite easily.

The Fig. 6 circuit can be made to read precisely 1 kHz at full scale by simply feeding an accurate 1 kHz signal to its input and adjusting R6 for the full-scale reading. The linearity of the circuit is equal to that of the basic meter. The circuit can be triggered from any input waveform shape, and has an input sensitivity


FIG. 6-LINEAR SCALE analog frequency meter has a $\mathbf{1} \mathbf{~ k H z}$ full-scale reading.
of approximately 100 mV RMS and an input impedance of about 10,000 ohms.

The circuit can be made to read alternative full-scale frequency values by altering the values of C 3 and/or R6-R7. Higher frequencies can be obtained by reducing the values of these components, and vice versa. The circuil gives a useful performance up to irequencies of a few hundred kHz .

The Fig. 6 circuit can easily be adapted to function as a lachometer, and forms the basis of the tachometer and red-line or over-speed alarm circuits described in this article.

## A high-performance tachometer

Fig. 7 shows how the Fig. 6 circuit can be adapted for use as a tachometer or RPM-meter on vehicles equipped with 12 volt electrical systems. Circuit operation relies on the fact that a vehicles contact breaker (breaker points) develops a waveform with a basic frequency that is directly proportional to the engine's RPM. In the Fig. 7 circuit, this waveform is picked up and used to trigger a monostable multivibrator. The output frequency of the multivibrator is indicated on a $1-\mathrm{mA}$ meter in the same way as the Fig. 6 circuit. In this case, however, the meter is calibrated directly in RPM rather than in frequency.

The interesting technical feature of the Fig. 7 circuit is the method of converting the basic contact breaker signal inte a form suitable for triggering the $\mathrm{COS} / \mathrm{MOS}$ monostable multivibrator. Fig. 8 shows the actual waveforms that are obtained in different parts of the circuit when it is connected to a 4 -cylinder engine at 3000 RPM. Note particularly the details of the contact breaker signal appearing at point "A" of the circuit.

As the contact breaker first opens, the ignition coil is thrown into oscillation at a frequency of approximately 10 kHz . In the first half-cycle of this oscillation, a peak signal of about 250 volts is developed across the contact breaker. This peak voltage drops rapidly to about 30 volts as ionization takes place across the vehicles spark plug gap. After 1.5 ms or so, the ionization process ceases and the coil again goes into oscillation.

This time the coil oscillates at a frequency of about 2.5 kHz . As this oscillation dies away the contact breaker voltage


FIG. 7-TACHOMETER CIRCUIT can be used on any car equipped with a 12 -volt electrical system.


FIG. 8-VOLTAGE WAVEFORMS obtained from tachometer circuit when it is connected to a 4-cylinder engine operating at 3000 RPM.


FIG. 9-RELATIONSHIP between frequency, RPM and the value of R7 needed to provide full-scale readings for different types of engines. The value of C2 is . $01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$.
stabilizes at the vehicles battery voltage of roughly 12 -volts. Eventually, the contact breaker closes again, and the voltage falls to zero. When the contact breaker reopens, another high-voltage oscillation is initiated, and the waveform repeats.

Thus, the contact breaker signal is quite complex and contains a variety of frequency and voltage components. To trigger the tachometer, we need to detect the basic contact breaker frequency but reject all the transient oscillatory voltages. The Fig. 7 circuit achieves this as follows:

First, the basic contact breaker signal is applied to the base of emitter follower Q1 via voltage divider R1-R2-R3 and diode D 1. The voltage divider reduces the amplitude of the signal by a factor of about 40 , and the diode eliminates the negative parts of the signal at point " $B$ " of the circuit. Any positive portions of the signal at point "B" that significantly exceeds the 6.8 volt


FIG. 10-6-to-12 VOLT converter enables the tachometer circuit to be used with cars equipped with 6 -volt electrical systems.


FIG. 11-METHOD OF CONNECTING tachometer to 6 -volt systems via the converter on cars with + ground is shown in a and - ground is shown in $b$.

Zener-stabilized supply of Q1 causes the base-collector junction of the transistor to become forward biased, so positive signals are automatically clipped at about 7.4 volts at point " $B$ " of the circuit.

The signal appearing at the emitter of Q1 is similar to that of the base, except that approximately 600 mV is subtracted from all parts of the waveform by the for-ward-biased base-emitter junction of the transistor. This waveform is fed to a peakdetecting time-constant circuit formed by $\mathrm{D} 2-\mathrm{C} 1$ and R 5 , with the result that a pulse waveform with a short rise-time and a relatively long fall-time is developed at point "C" of the circuit. This waveform is used to trigger the monostable multivibrator via R6.

Note that, since the monostable is fired by a positive-going transition voltage with a nominal value of 3.4 volts $(=50 \%$ of the 6.8 -volt supply), and since the input attenuator provides a division factor of about 40 , the monostable actually triggers at the moment that the contact breaker signal rises to approximately 126 volts. This occurs as the breaker points first open. The monostable is thus triggered synchronously with the contact breaker, but is unaffected by voltage transients with a magnitude lower than 126 volts or so. The Fig. 7 circuit thus acts as a versatile and accurate tachometer or RPM meter.

The tachometer circuit can be fitted to any vehicle having a 12 -volt electrical system, irrespective of the systems polarity. The supply leads for the tachometer are connected to the vehicle's battery via the ignition switch, and the circuits input terminal is connected to a suitable pick-up point. On vehicles with conventional ignition systems, the terminal is connected to the contact breaker. On vehicles fitted with capacitor-discharge ignition systems, the terminal should be connected to the high-voltage output point of the $C-D$ ignition unit.

Before attaching the unit to the car, it must first be calibrated to give the appropriate full-scale RPM readings for the particular vehicle in question. The procedure here is to first decide the full-scale RPM reading that is required, and then consult the graph of Fig. 9 to find the frequency that corresponds to that reading on that particular vehicle.

Thus, a frequency of 333 Hz corresponds to a reading of $10,000 \mathrm{RPM}$ on a 4 -cylinder 4 -cycle engine. The output of a square wave generator set to this frequency, with a peak amplitude of approximately 6.8 volts, is then connected to the input of the tachometer circuit after first setting potentiometer R 2 to its maximum value. Then adjust R7 to give the full-scale (cominued on page 82)

# Inside 30 Channel MATV Systems 



The demand for more channels in master-antenna TV distribution systems
increases as such systems are specified for new hotels, apartment
complexes and shopping centers. Here are how the wideband systems work.
BERT WOLF*
the new trend in maty (Master Antenna TV) systems is toward more channels and more services. Like CATV ( CAble TV) systems, MATV has been moving steadily toward more program choice over the past 26 years.

For a long time, systems were confined to the low VHF band (channels 2 thru 6). Then, new equipment permitted systems to carry the high VHF band (7 thru 13) channels. Once the technology permitted adjacent-channel operation, systems carrying up to 12 VHF channels were possible.

However, 12 channels were still not enough. Modern CATV systems use the midband ( 120 MHz to 174 MHz ) and the super-band ( 216 MHz to 300 MHz ), giving them 30 to 35 channel capability without UHF distribution. CATV systems convert UHF channels to lower frequencies to reduce cable attenuation and the high costs of UHF signal distribution. Figure 1 shows the spectrum for today's CATV systems.

Modern cable-TV systems typically exceed 12 -channel capability and the FCC currently requires a minimum of 20 -channel capability in the 100 largest TV markets. They also require 2-way capability, at least on a non-voice basis. Two-way capability typically involves the use of the sub-channel band ( 5.30 MHz ) for return information.

Many MATV systems are now being designed to carry over 20 channels so that they can accept a CATV feed. Other MATV systems are being de-

[^1]signed for more than 12 channels to accommodate all the available off-air channels plus local closed-circuit TV channels. As a result, there is a growing requirement for MATV systems with a capability of over 20 channels.

## Equipment requirements

Most passive MATV equipment (splitters, tap-offs, etc.) in use over the past 10 years are capable of passing the entire VHF spectrum (54 to 216 MHz ). For an all-channel MATV system to be CATV compatible, all equipment must be capable of passing 5 to 806 MHz to include the whole spectrum shown in Fig. 1.

The most critical piece of active equipment for a 30 -channel system is the internal distribution amplifier. Figure 2 shows a typical MATV amplifier capable of covering the entire 5 to 300 MHz spectrum. An important feature of amplifiers designed to handle midband channels is that they must use


FIG. 2-JERROLD MODEL IDA-45 30-channel amplifier with 2-way capability.
push-pull circuitry. This is essential to eliminate second-order distortion.

Second order distortion is not important in ordinary MATV amplifiers. This is because of the standard VHF frequency assignments established by the FCC. Take any pair of picture car-rier-frequencies in the VHF band (channels 2 thru 13) and you will find that neither their sum nor their difference frequencies (which are generated when two frequencies are mixed) fall within the VHF low-band (channels 2 thru 6) or the VHF high-band (channels 7 thru 13). Similarly all of the second harmonics of the low VHF band carriers (except channel 6 sound carrier) fall between the two VHF bands.

Figure 3 shows the spectrum obtained when 12 continuous-wave signals on the VHF picture carrier-frequencies were sent through a broadband VHF amplifier. Notice that none of the beats or harmonics are in a position to cause interference.

When it comes to the mid-band, however, second-order distortion becomes a very important factor. Midband channels are in the portion of the spectrum most affected by secondorder distortion. Push-pull circuitry cancels second-order distortion, making it possible to carry these extra channels.

Figure 4 is a functional block diagram of the output section of a typical push-pull RF amplifier. The first hybrid inverter splits the input signal into two equal portions. It sends half of the sig-

FCC CATV
TECHNICAL STANDARDS

*Jerrold 30 Channel Standard is identical to FCC CATV Standard except that Jerrold requires a carrier-to-noise of 50 dB minimum and the Isolation Between Outlets to be 18 dB minimum. (Required to limit noise addition to incoming signal to less than 0.5 dB , if incoming $\mathrm{C} / \mathrm{N}$ is 40 dB or less.)


Fig. 3-FREQUENCY SPECTRUM of 12 con-tinuous-wave signals with appreciable 2ndorder distortion.


FIG. 4-PUSH-PULL AMPLIFIER eliminates 2nd-order distortion.


FIG. 5-CONVENTIONAL MATV RISER system has high distribution losses.
nal in-phase to driver amplifier Q1. The phase of the other half of the signal is inverted 180 degrees and sent to driver amplifier Q2. Transistors Q1 and Q2 are a matched-pair arranged in a com-mon-emitter configuration.

The second hybrid inverter inverts the signal from Q4 and then combines it with the signal from Q3. A push-pull RF amplifier provides exactly the same advantages as a push-pull audio amplifier. Even harmonics are mixed at exactly the same amplitude, but $180^{\circ}$ out of phase. Therefore, they cancel each other and the second-order harmonic distortion is eliminated.

For large MATV systems, high-output capability is very important. Output capability is related to the number of channels carried by the amplifier and the amount of cross-modulation distortion that can be tolerated. MATV amplifiers should be rated at $0.15 \%$ cross-modulation ( -57 dB ) or better if they are to accept a CATV feed or if cascading is required. In systems where no implifier cascading is required, $0.5 \%$ cross-modulation ( -46 dB ) is generally considered tolerable.

## Typical 30-channel MATV systems

A typical MATV system is shown in Fig. 5. Observe that the risers go from apartment to apartment. There is no direct access to each apartment and therefore no direct control over a cable

TV connection without entering an apartment. At that point it is still impractical to discontinue service without affecting the other sets on the same riser. Another problem with the conventional riser system shown in Fig. 5 is that distribution losses are high.

A better way to do the job is shown in Fig. 6. This system uses one central core riser with horizontal feeders. Notice that this system does provide direct access to every subscriber at the central core. Further, only one line extender is required, rather than eight. Electrical contractors are accustomed to running conduit for vertical risers and it will take time before specifications can be changed to accommodate a central-core horizontal-feeder system.

In many instances, 30-channel MATV systems will be two-stage affairs. The first stage is to build a selfcontained, fully functional system that provides excellent quality and program variety. The second stage is to interface the MATV system with the CATV system as soon as a CATV feed becomes available. By planning ahead, you protect the system from obsolescence. When CATV comes to the area, no rewiring or extra equipment will be required.

Even if a CATV feed never becomes available .a 30 -channel MATV system can still deliver excellent services. In


FIG. 6-CENTRAL CORE RISER system has a single vertical riser.
addition to all available off-the-air channels, many other program sources are possible. Premium movies are becoming commonplace in hotels and motels. They may soon be available to residents in suitably equipped apartment house complexes, condominiums, housing developments and trailer parks as well.

Closed-circuit TV channels are being used both for security and entertainment. Some systems, for example, use one CCTV channel to watch the front door and another channel to see who is in the elevator. CCTV channels are also useful for time-message-weathermusic, watching swimming pools and recreation areas.

Hospitals, nursing homes and medical schools often use converters to provide restricted acces to certain programs. Anyone connected to the system can watch entertainment programs, but only authorized personnel equipped with converters can watch televised operations and medical training programs telecast on sub-, mid- and super-band channels.

The two-way capability of MATV systems may eventually be used to monitor fire and burglar alarms, polling, shop-at-home services, student response systems, etc. The possibilities are mind boggling.

We have the technology for 30 -channel MATV systems right now. They cost a little more than conventional MATV systems, but they are obsoles-cence-proof.

R-E

## Substitutes For Transistors

We have a machine of Japanese manufacture, with a solid-state control unit. A copy of the schematic is attached (see diagram). The transistors actually used are noted beside the symbots. It is still working. but I'd like to have information as to substitutes available in this country. before they blow out.W.A., Conyngham, PA.

There is a wise move. After an unknown device has blown, it's very difficult to get any exact data on it. I've noted possible substitutes on the diagram, where I could get the data. There are a couple of things that you will have to verify; see the "notes" marked.

1. The Zener diode. No listing on a 1S234, but this is obviously a Zener. Read the DC voltage across it. This will give you the correct rating.
2. These are SCR's. There are many of these available. To get the correct

ratings, measure the maximum voltage across them. Also, open the circuit and insert a milliammeter (ammeter?) and see what the maximum current is.

Note this on the schematic, as well as the normal DC voltages on all of the transistors. "SH-1" and - 2 are common silicon diodes, I'm pretty sure. R-E


New audio test equipment reduces measurement time
while increasing measurement accuracy. Here's
what this new equipment is all about.

LEN FELDMAN
CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR

IT TAKES A TECHNICIAN ABOUT TEN MINutes to plot the frequency response of an audio amplifier, using a fixed-frequency audio oscillator and an AC VTVM, if you count the time needed to transcribe the thirty or more readings from the meter to a piece of semi-log graph paper. The same task can be performed in a few seconds using a modern audio sweep generator, a chart recorder and/or a storage oscilloscope equipped with an audio frequency graticule.

The very best distortion analyzers. equipped with automatic nulling and even automatic level set (such as the Sound Technology 1700A described in the October issue of R-E) can provide a single reading of total harmonic distortion in less than five seconds. However, distortion analyzers cannot tell you what harmonics make up the total distortion and what the contribution of each of those harmonics


FIG. 1-IEC MODEL F34 function generator delivers square waves, triangular waves, pulses and tone bursts.
is. It has become increasingly apparent in recent years that a single figure of THD does not provide us with enough information to determine the "audible annoyance factor" of that distortion. High-order harmonics are known to be more bothersome. subjectively, than simple second- or third-order harmonic distortion.

Rumble meters, used to measure rumble of turntable systems, give a single figure (in dB ) of signal-to-noise ratio but the reading does not tell us the frequency or frequencies of the offending noise. Is it primarily sub-sonic rumble (in the 5 to 30 Hz range) or is it caused by multiples and sub-multiples of the rotation frequency of synchronous motors used to drive the turntable (usually at 1800 RPM. or, 30 Hz )?

With the development of audio sweep generators some years ago, there began a steady but growing trend towards simplification, automation and reduction of the time required to make many of the audio test measurements we have mentioned. Audio sweep generators, such as the IEC Model F-34 shown in Fig. 1, use a voltagecontrolled oscillator (VCO). The output frequency of the VCO depends upon the instantaneous voltage applied to a varactor diode-a diode whose effective capacitance varies with DC voltage applied to it. Such diodes serve as the frequencydetermining capacitance in oscillator circuits. A change of voltage of as little as 5 volts can cause the frequency of oscillation to change over a wide range.

An elementary system of sweep frequency analysis is shown in block diagram form in Fig. 2. The sawtooth generator


FIG. 2-AUDIO SWEEP GENERATOR is used to display the frequency response of anplifier on a CRT.
develops the ramp voltage required to sweep the VCO over its desired range of audio frequencies. The ramp or triangular voltage is also applied to the horizontal input of an oscilloscope to develop a horizontal trace in synchronism with the changing audio frequencies. Output from the oscillator is applied to the amplifier under test and output of the amplifier is displayed vertically on the oscilloscope.

The oscilloscope photo of Fig. 3 shows the response of an audio amplifier over the range from 300 Hz to $20,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ when the high-cut filter of the amplifier is switched into the circuit. The upper trace is the input signal, unvarying in amplitude over the specified range, while the lower trace is a display of the output of the amplifier under test. Frequency sweep in this case was linear, but if the ramp voltage


FIG. 3-SWEEP GENERATOR output is shown in upper trace. Frequency response of amplifier with high-cut filter turned on is shown in lower trace.


FIG. 4-FREQUENCY RESPONSE of an audio system with two notch filters is shown in the lower trace. Upper trace shows output of sweep generator.

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used to control the oscillator and the horizontal scope trace had been logarithmic, the display could have been made similar to the more familiar frequency plots of audio products. Vertical amplitude in Fig. 3 is also represented linearly, but again, insertion of a linear-to-log amplifier ahead of the connection to the scope's vertical plates could have altered the display so that it could be calibrated in dB's.

The oscilloscope photo of Fig. 4 shows the effect on response of a given amplifier when two notch filters are inserted in series with the sweep signal at frequencies of 2 kHz and 12 kHz . Notch filters are often used in sound reinforcement work to can-
cel audio feedback at specific frequencies. With such a convenient display available, it becomes easy to "tune" the filters to the exact desired frequency or, conversely, to read off the exact center, frequency of the filters after they have been tuned. To convert this display to the more familiar "single line" frequency plot, it is only necessary to add a wide-band amplitude detector, as shown in Fig. 5. The detector converts the sweeping audio frequencies into "average amplitude" and the oscilloscope photo of Fig. 6 (converted to $d B$ as well) is equivalent to that of Fig. 4 but more easily interpreted.

A unit that combines all these functions


FIG. 5-CONVENTIONAL SEMI-LOG frequency response display can be obtained with the setup shown.


FIG. 6-FREQUENCY RESPONSE of amplifier with vertical axis of oscilloscope calibrated
in dB.


FIG. 7-FIDELITY SOUND MODEL 100 combines function sweep generator with frequency counter and amplitude meter.


FIG. 8-LOW-FREQUENCY spectrum analyzer system.
plus more is Fidelity Sound's model 100 Audio Frequency Plotting System, shown in Fig. 7. This test equipment consists of two sine/square/triangle function generators, a pulse generator, frequency counter and peak amplitude measurement sections. The equipment is primarily intended to generate a frequency response plot on an $X-Y$ chart recorder or on a oscilloscope. Its audio sweep generator provides manual frequency adjustment or log/linear sweep from 20 Hz to 20 kHz . The peak amplitude measurement section measures internal or external signals from microphone levels all the way up to power amplifier output levels. The frequency counter has a 6-digit display and reads either internal or externally connected frequencies. This system sells for $\$ 525$.

## Low-frequency spectrum analyzers

Recently, two well known manufacturers of sophisticated test equipment have introduced low-frequency spectrum analysis equipment that could revolutionize and simplify audio equipment testing beyond the hopes of audio technicians and engineers. Spectrum analysis-or the investigation of signals in the frequency domain, as opposed to time domain observations on an oscilloscope-has been used in the radio-frequency region for years. With improvements in filter design, integrated circuits, circuit stability and reduced noise and oscilloscope storage techniques, it is now possible to display audio system performance in terms of spectral or frequency content.

The basic approach to audio spectrum analysis is shown in the block diagram of Fig. 8. The system operates as if it were a wide-range, tunable band-pass filter, controlled by the output voltage of the selfcontained audio sweep generator. An incoming signal enters the first mixer through a low-pass input filter. The other input to the heterodyne mixer is the output of a VCO. The output frequency of the VCO varies upward from the center frequency of the intermediate amplifier. Sweep range is adjusted to correspond to the portion of the audio spectrum to be examined. When the frequency difference between the input signal frequency and the VCO frequency equals the IF center frequency, the signal is detected and appears as a vertical deflection on the CRT.
Changing the bandwidth of the IF bandpass filter changes the analyzer's resolution. The narrower the IF bandwidth, the longer the time required for the filter to reach a stable output. This characteristic imposes limitations on the rate at which a given range of frequencies can be swept. The entire spectrum of interest cannot be observed simultaneously, as it can when an oscilloscope is used in the time domain.

Two different methods are used to overcome this viewing problem. A storage CRT may be used as a display mechanism. Using a storage scope, the sweep can be slowed down as much as needed, depending upon filter bandwidth, and the resulting curve can be stored and displayed on the CRT face almost indefinitely for detailed examination. This is the approach taken by Tektronix in their 5L4N Spectrum Analyzer. The analyzer itself is a plug-in module, shown in Fig. 9, and it


FIG. 9-TEKTRONIX MODEL 5L4N plug-in module spectrum analyzer.
closely to the IF frequency at every instant of time. The one-piece HP 3580A is shown in Fig. 11. The tracking generator output (see Fig. 10) is connected to the input of the circuit to be tested, while the output of the test circuit is connected to the analyzer's input terminals. The resulting single-line trace on the oscilloscope represents the frequency response of the circuit under test.

## Applications of spectrum analysis

Tektronix has published a most informative booklet, entitled "The Tektronix Cookbook of Standard Audio Tests." Of course, the booklet emphasizes the use of their 5L4N Spectrum Analyzer, but it is a storehouse of useful information regarding audio amplifier testing. Using just the spectrum analyzer (complete with storage
sweeps from one end of the audio spectrum to the other, distinct "blips" will be displayed at those frequencies where signals appear. By setting a zero-dB reference for the fundamental signal, the presence of all order harmonics is not only seen visually, but their amplitude, in dB , is instantly readable from the analyzer as shown in Fig. 12. To arrive at a conventional measurement in total percentage of distortion, simply add the various harmonic components together using the proper correction factors when adding "dB" numbers. A handy table is supplied in the Tektronix booklet for this purpose. Harmonic contributions that are $6-\mathrm{dB}$ or more lower than the major harmonic contribution can be ignored in determining the total harmonic distortion.

With greater emphasis on performance


FIG. 10-HEWLETT-PACKARD 3580A spectrum analyzer uses analog-digital-analog conversion scheme with display on a conventional CRT.
can be used with any one of many oscilloscope main-frame and plug-in units in that company's 5100 series of oscilloscope products. Optional plug-ins are available to convert the storage oscilloscope to time domain use for such applications as realtime storage of non-recurring signals such as musical energy frequency distribution, noise, etc. With these additional plug-ins, the storage scope can then be used as an ordinary oscilloscope, with the added advantage of being able to examine a permanently stored waveform trace at will.

The second approach to overcoming the slow-sweep rate of narrow-bandwidth filter spectrum analyzers involves the conversion of the vertical input signals from analog form to digitalized data. This digitalized data is recurrently circulated in a shift register and, as each digital word is recirculated, it is reconverted to its analog value and displayed on the face of an ordinary oscilloscope having normal persistence.

A block diagram of the Hewlett-Packard Model 3580A, which uses this analog-digital-analog display method is shown in Fig. 10. With the exception of the different display method, the basic scheme is similar to other traditional spectrum analyzers. The output of a fixed-frequency oscillator ( 100 kHz ) is mixed with the output of a VCO. The output of the mixer is fed through a low-pass filter that provides a signal whose frequency corresponds


FIG. 11-HEWLETT-PACKARD MODEL 3580A low-frequency spectrum analyzer.
scope mainframe) and a separate audio oscillator, plus load resistors and matching pads you can easily build yourself, the booklet lists the following audio performance tests that can be easily made with this equipment: Power Output, Frequency Response, Harmonic Distortion, Distortion vs. Output, IM Distortion, Power Bandwidth, Damping Factor, S/N Ratio, Square Wave Response, Crosstalk, Sensitivity and Transient Intermodulation Distortion.

Referring back to the question of harmonic content, it should be obvious that spectrum analysis will not only show distortion but will "break up" that distortion into its various harmonic components. If a single frequency signal is applied to the amplifier under test and the analyzer


FIG. $12-1-\mathrm{kHz}$ OUTPUT SIGNAL from an amplifier is displayed on a spectrum analyzer as a fundamental plus the odd-order harmonics.
specifications in high-priced audio equipment, the need for performance verification increases and test instruments such as spectrum analyzers, though relatively expensive (the Hewlett-Packard unit costs about $\$ 4500.00$, while the elements needed to put together the Tektronix system run just under $\$ 4000.00$ ), are likely to find their way onto the test benches of hi-fi company engineering departments and better-equipped hi-fi service centers. They may well pay for themselves in a relatively short time in terms of the test time and measurement time they can save.

R-E


THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE ON A SERVICE CALL, SEE IF YOUR CUStomer has a garage-door opener. If your customer does not, you have the opportunity to make that service call more lucrative by selling and installing an automatic garage-door opener.

Today's garage-door openers are easy to install because manufacturers have replaced the lollipop rail with the split rail. The lollipop rail is a long, one-piece rail used to guide the opener's drive chain and door arms. The one-piece design is awkward, if not downright difficult to store and carry. The newer split-rail comes in pieces and is ready to bolt together at the installation site. It's as strong as the lollipop rail and allows for smaller packages for easy storage and carrying.

Because of this new, compact packaging, more electronic distributors are carrying garage door-openers in stock. This means you can easily pick up one or two openers at your distributor and keep them in your car trunk, ready to go when your customer needs one. And with this ready
availability of openers from a wholesale source, you won't have much money tied up in inventory.

Installation is fast and goof-proof, taking less than two hours and using common tools. Most likely, you already carry most of the necessary tools for a garage-door opener installation. All you need is a screwdriver, pliers, wire cutters, adjustable end wrench, claw hammer, socket wrench, electric drill and stepladder. Everything else you need, from hardware to wire to lubricant, is generally included in the garage-door opener package.

## Installation

There are three basic steps to installing a modern garagedoor opener-assembling the unit, attaching the unit to the garage, and installing the radio controls. It's that simple, and just about that easy, especially since car installation of the transmitter is eliminated by the use of portable solidstate transmitters.

The first step is assembling the unit (top left) This begins with the assembly of the split rail. Most manufacturers use a threepiece rail that easily bolts together.

Attach the drive-chain sprocket bracket (top right) to the rail next, making certain the bracket and the rail are aligned.

The trolley assembly (lower left), the piece that connects the ends of the chain and actually pulls the garage-door open, slides onto the rail.

The rail is next attached to the power head (lower right). Place the power head on the package in which the system came to avoid scratching the cover. For extra convenience, a support may be placed under the sprocket bracket. Align the two holes in the motor end of the rail with the holes in the power head chassis and bolt the rail to the power head.


Installing electronic garage-door openers has always been profitable. Solid-state electronics and new mechanical designs have made the job easier and more lucrative. Here's how it's done, step-by-step

LEE PHILIP STRAL


The drive chain is installed once the rail is attached to the power head. This is accomplished by first looping the drive chain over the sprocket wheel on the power head.


Next, attach the drive chain to the trolley. First insert a screwdriver in the hole in the front end of the rail and slide the trolley up to the screwdriver. Thread a nut onto the trolley stud and fasten one end of the chain to the trolley.


Then, extend the chain around the idler sprocket wheel and forward to the trolley, being sure the teeth of each sprocket wheel engage the chain. Connect the end of the chain to the trolley and the unit is now ready to attach to the garage.


Attaching the opener to the garage begins with the installation of the header bracket on the vertical center-line of the garage door on the header wall above the door. If there is no stud on the header wall behind the center line, nail a $2 \times 4$ to reinforce the bracket.


Next, mount the headerr bracket to the header wall along the vertical center-line of the garage door.


With the power head still on the packaging material, raise the rail and attach it to the bracket.

Next, raise the power head onto a stepladder and open the garage door, making sure the door clears the rail. To properly position the unit, place a $2 \times 4$ on edge along the top section of the door, resting the rail on the piece of wood. The $2 \times 4$ is not a necessity, but it is convenient for establishing an ideal door-to-rall distance.



Hanging brackets are used to secure the power head to the garage. Measure the distance between the opener and the garage ceiling and cut both hanging brackets just beyond that length. Notch the ends of the bracket and bend them so the bracket hole is flush against the garage ceiling. Fasten the hanging brackets, first to the chassis, then to the roof supports.

After the opener is secured, close the garage door and attach the emergency release cord to the trolley release lever. Attach the straight door-arm to the trolley assembly on the rail and connect the curved door-arm in the vertical opening of the straight door-arm and, before temporarily connecting the two, find the best location for the door bracket on the garage door.


Ideally, the bracket should be in horizontal line with the top rollers of the door. When this is not possible, place the bracket as close to this alignment as possible, but within the upper eight inches of the top section of the door. When the best location for the door bracket is found, press the garage door snugly against the floor, mark the door bracket locations on the door and bolt the bracket in place.


Pull the emergency release cord and slide the trolley back from the door. Mark where the curved door-arm meets the bottom of the vertical opening on the straight doorarm and connect the curved and straight door-arms.

Installing the radio controls, once the most difficult part of the job, is now the easiest. Modern garage-door openers no longer require wired-in transmitter installation in the car. Instead, a compact, battery operated transmitter just clips to the sunvisor.


The receiver, also compact, easily attaches to the interior wall of the garage. (On some units, it's housed within the power head.) The antenna plugs into the receiver.


The receiver connects to the power head by running wires from the receiver, up the wall and across the ceiling to the power head.

Attach the wires to the power head and then to the receiver.


After this is done, just connect the power and the installation is complete.

Installing a garage door opener can make a service call more lucrative. So, too, can recommending accessories to go along with the opener.
(contimued on page 92)

# Radio-Electronics 



# Tests Fuji Model FX C-60 Tape 

## LEN FELDMAN CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR

ALL. OF OUR HIGH-FIDELITY EQUIPMENT REports to date have concerned themselves with the electronic hardware used to reproduce music in the home. An equal partner in the sound reproduction process is so-called "software"-the tapes and discs that we use as program sources. While few of us have any control over the quality of the discs we buy (choosing a recording ordinarily involves musical tastes rather than technical quality considerations), we can exercise a measure of selectivity when it comes to selecting the raw tape to be used on our open-reel or cassette tape decks.

Tape characteristics do vary greatly from brand to brand and from formulation to formulation. In attempting to test any tape, and especially cassette tapes, one has to establish not only reference levels of performance, but a standard tape deck whose performance capability does not become the limiting factor in the measurements made. In this, and any future cassette tape evaluations, we selected the Nakamichi model 1000 cassette deck because of our previous experience with this machine. It is capable of delivering uniform frequency response at the relatively slow cassette speed out to at least 20,000 Hz . Its bias is set such that Nakamichi's own EX tape will deliver $0-\mathrm{dB}$ playback level (as indicated on its self-contained

## SUMMARY OF MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS: PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Width Tolerance: $+0.00,-0.05 \mathrm{~mm}$. Length: 90 m (295.28"). Breaking Strength: 1.4 kg ( 3.09 lbs ). Yield Strength: 0.6 kg ( 1.32 lbs ). Maximum Elongation: $30 \%$. Residual Elongation: $0.02 \%$. Surface Resistance: $1.7 \times 10^{\circ}$ ohms. Thickness: Backing, $12 \mu$; Coating, $6 \mu$; Overall, $18 \mu$. Width: 3.81 mm ( $0.150^{\prime \prime}$ ).
MAGNETIC PROPERTIES:
Coercivity: 345 oersteds. Retentivity: 1520 gauss. Saluration Flux-density: 1820 gauss.
ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PROPERTIES:
Operating Bias Current: $105 \%$. Sensilivity ( 333 Hz ). +1.0 dB . Sensitivity Uniformity: ( 333 $\mathrm{Hz}) 0.3 \mathrm{~dB}$. Relative Frequency Response ( 10 kHz ): +2.2 dB . Oufput fluctuation $(8 \mathrm{kHz})$ : 0.3 dB . Maximum Output Level: +4.0 dB at 333 Hz . Signal-to-Noise Ratio ( 1000 Hz ): 58 dB . Erasure Effect: $(1000 \mathrm{~Hz}): 76 \mathrm{~dB}$. Print-through $(1000 \mathrm{~Hz}): 56 \mathrm{~dB}$.

## RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT

Manufacturer: Fuji Photo Film U.S.A., Inc.
Model: FX-60 Cassette Tape

## OVERALL PRODUCT ANALYSIS

Retail Price
Price Cátegory
Price/Performance Ratio
Styling and Appearance
Sound Quality
Mechanical Performance
$\$ 3.50$
Medium
Excellent
Very Good
Excellent
Comments: In addition to our laboratory testing, we used several of the new Fuji FX-60 cassettes to record a variety of program material, including music, test tones of sustained duration and voice. Playback of constant level recorded tones resulted in no audible variation in output level over a period of some ten minutes and there were no "drop-outs" during this same time period, indicating a high degree of consistency and uniformity in tape formulation and ferrix coating. As with any tape product, results will depend partly upon the bias conditions, equalization and overall quality of the machine with which the tape is used. However, the greater output at upper-mid to high frequencies of this new tape formulation should find favor with many cassette deck owners who seek better high-frequency response without sacrificing signal-to-noise capability or low distortion.
level meters) for $0-\mathrm{dB}$ input recording level at mid-frequencies. Under these calibrated conditions, the reference Nakamichi tape (EX C-60) tested on the reference deck at a record level of -20 dB resulted in a response curve that was down 3 dB at 21.0 kHz .

Without altering any bias calibration settings, we ran a response curve of the new Fuji FX C-60 tape, a photo of the cassette is shown in Fig. 1. Fuji is perhaps best known in this country and abroad for its photographic film products, but we learned that the company has also been manufacturing video tape and related products for some years. According to their descriptive literature, Fuji FX tapes are made with a gamma-ferric formulation, using particles which the company calls Pure Ferrix. The size of the particles is said to be 0.4 microns with a length to width ratio of $8: 1$. Be that as it may, the results of our frequency response tests are shown in Fig. 2. The first thing we noted

was that for the same $0-\mathrm{dB}$ recording level used with our reference tape, the Fuji sample delivered an output level of +1.5 dB , consistent with its claims for higher output. The response curve shows a slight rising characteristic above 3000 Hz . This rising response will be welcomed by owners of cassette decks that tend to roll-off response long before our reference deck and will lend a measure of "brightness" to resultant recordings. The $-3-\mathrm{dB}$ point using our reference deck occurred at a frequency of 21.5 kHz , a shade better than the reference tape.

Next, we measured distortion at several recording levels. At the 0 -db record level, THD measured just over $1.0 \%$. The $3.0 \%$ distortion level occurred at a recording level of +7.5 dB , which means that the FX tape offers excellent "headroom" or dynamic range capability. At recording
levels lower than -3 dB , THD readings become rather meaningless since the distortion meter begins to integrate residual noise into the single reading.

From a system point of view, the other important electrical characteristic that requires measuring is signal-to-noise ratio. Two methods were used in our tests. The unweighted $S / N$ measurement that takes into account noise at all frequencies resulted in a reading of -51 dB below the $3.0 \%$ distortion level. By installing an " A " weighting network between the output terminals of the deck and the meter, the reading improved to -58 dB . The " A " weighting network takes into account the audible effect of wideband noise that tends to be less bothersome when the noise consists of low frequencies. By way of comparison, our reference tape, tested under the same
conditions, had a headroom of +6.0 dB (for $3 \%$ THD) and an "A" weighted signal-to-noise ratio of 55 dB when measured under the same conditions.

## Mechanical considerations

The two halves of the new Fuji FX cassette package are held together with five tiny Philips head screws. The cassette package itself is precision molded and dimensional tolerances of our samples were extremely well maintained. The reference Nakamichi deck used in our tests is one of the few available that has three separate heads. It is therefore necessary to align the record head with respect to the playback head when a new cassette is inserted. This is easily accomplished by means of a tiny control that is rotated until a pair of LED indicators blink on and off equally. Nor-
mally, the adjustment is made before starting recording and re-checked from time to time during passage of the tape to make certain that variations in tape positioning have not taken place. We found no substantial difference in the alignment settings indicating a high degree of accuracy for both the precision tape and the package that contains it.

Based upon our tests, we would conclude that Fuji Film has developed an excellent cassette tape suitable for use by serious home recordists. We understand that there are plans afoot for the company to introduce a line of open-reel tapes as well as additional formulations of cassette tape. If the excellent quality of this first variety is carried over into these additional lines we should be hearing more about Fuji tape products in the future.

## Harman-Kardon Citation 16

JOINING THOSE COMPANIES WHO SPECIALize in high-powered, high-priced, superperforming basic power amplifiers is Harman-Kardon, with their impressive looking Citation 16, shown in Fig. 1. The massive rack-mountable front panel of this amplifier is highlighted by brushed aluminum covering most of its lower section, and a series of colored LED display lamps that are arranged in a pattern slanting from center upward to the left and to the right. Each set of eight LED's is arranged to flash successively, from the lowest to the highest depending upon the instantaneous power delivered by the amplifier to each speaker. Calibration of these lights is in dB , from 0 dB down to -30 dB . The $0-\mathrm{dB}$ point corresponds to different power levels, depending upon the setting of a rotary control at the center of the unit. One position of this control is used to test all the lamps, while another position can turn off the display entirely, if desired. The lower two-position control sets the display sensitivity for 4 ohm or 8 ohm loads. Table I, reproduced from a card supplied with the amplifier, shows the wide range of display levels available -all the way from 0.0039 watts to 160 watts. Thus, the LED display can be used to indicate power even when listening at moderate or background music levels. Separate neon indicator lights adjacent to the power on/off switch shows the user that both channels are being powered.

The rear panel of the Citation 16 (see Fig. 2) contains the left and right phonoplug inputs and the instrument-type output terminals nestled between dual-banks

of ten transistors each, mounted on heat sinks to the left and right of the input and output terminals. Eight transistors are
used in the output stages of each channel, output terminals. Eight transistors are
used in the output stages of each channel, while the remaining pair are drivers. Separate 4 ampere line-fuses are provided for

## MANUFACTURER'S PUBLISHED SPECIFICATIONS:

Power Output: 150 watts-per-channel minimum continuous power, driven into 8 ohm loads from 20 Hz to 20 kHz . Rated Harmonic Distortion: Less than $0.05 \%$ from 1 watt to 150 watts at any frequency from 0.5 Hz to 20 kHz . IM Distortion: Less than $0.05 \%$ from 0.015 watts to 150 watts. Frequency Response: From 0.5 Hz to 120 kHz at 1 watt into 8 ohms. Hum and Noise: Better than 100 dB below 150 watts. Damping Factor: 300. Square Wave Risetime: 3 microseconds. Slew Rate: Greater than 30 volts-per- $\mu \mathrm{s}$. Input Impedance: 10,000 ohms. Input Sensitivity: 1.25 volts for 150 watts. Phase Shift: Less than 0.5 degrees at 20 Hz ; less than 12 degrees at 20 kHz . Dimensions: $91 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ high $\times 191 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ wide $\times 13 \% 6^{\prime \prime}$ deep. Weight: 55 pounds. Suggested Retail Price: $\$ 795$.

each channel since this amplifier uses two completely separate power supply systems, including two identical power transformers that can be seen in the photo of the internal layout of the amplifier, Fig. 3.

## Circuit highlights

Individual circuit board modules (for each channel) include a driver board, an LED display board and an output heatsink assembly. In addition, a small relay printed-circuit board delays turn-on of the amplifier for about one second to prevent "pops" or power bursts from reaching the speakers.

Each of the two independent power supplies delivers two sets of voltages: $\pm 60$ volts to power the output and driver stages and $\pm 12$ volts to drive the LED display circiuts.

The driver board provides circuitry for gain and drive and also includes circuitry used in a current-foldback protection arrangement that protects the amplifier from damage due to short circuits or overloads at the output. The electronic
protection circuit insures the passage of full load-current when an 8 or 4 ohm load is present, but senses the presence of a short circuit and reduces the current level to a point where the transistor thermal dissipation is in a safe area. The circuit is designed so that the amplifier will deliver 11.1 amps peak current required for a 250 watt output into 4 ohm loads, but delivers progressively less current as the load impedance is reduced from 4 ohms to zero ohms, at which time maximum current is limited to approximately 8 amperes.

The amplifier can also be driven in a bridge mode (that is, monophonically) by rearranging the connection of two internal jumpers. In this mode, the channel identified as " $A$ " is driven with the input signal and connection to a single speaker is made by connecting its terminals to each of the positive output terminals of the amplifier. Under these conditions, the Citation 16 can deliver approximately 500 watts of power to a 4 ohm load!

The technical manual supplied with the unit goes into great detail regarding the circuit design, explaining what HarmanKardon believes to be the importance of fast risetime and good slew-rate and detailing how these criteria were met in the design. Each driver board uses a balanced IC for an input stage plus ten bipolar transistors.

## Laboratory measurements

A summary of significant laboratory measurements made on the Citation 16 power amplifier is listed in Table II. The amplifier delivered far more power at mid-frequencies and at the frequency extremes than its conservative rating would suggest. Note, too, that while no "official" power rating is listed by the manufacturer for 4 -ohm operation, we were able to read an output of over 250 watts-perchannel when a 4 -ohm load was connected, at the 20 Hz extreme. This measurement was obtained after first subjecting the amplifier to the usual pre-conditioning test at one third rated power for one hour. No thermal shutdown of the amplifier occurred at any point in all of our various tests.

While most manufacturers rate the power bandwidth for full power output at from 20 Hz to 20 kHz , the Citation 16 delivered full power ( 150 watts-per-channel into 8 ohms, both channels driven) all the way down to below 10 Hz (the limit at which our distortion analyzer can read THD) and up to 59 kHz .

Reducing the output power to the published rated power output of 150 watts-per-channel, THD measured $0.003 \%$ at mid-frequencies, while IM was a low $0.04 \%$ at this same power level. Though not shown in Table II, we also measured THD at 150 watts output at the frequency extremes and, amazingly, the THD at 20 Hz was as low as that measured at mid frequencies, while at 20 kHz , THD still measured a very low $0.03 \%$ for one channel and $0.02 \%$ for the other.

It is difficult to confirm a damping factor as high as that claimed by HarmanKardon (300) but we were able to measure in excess of 200 for this parameter. Residual hum and noise bettered claims of the manufacturer by a full 6

TABLE II RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT

## AMPLIFIER PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

## POWER OUTPUT CAPABILITY

RMS power/channel, 8 -ohms, 1 kHz (watts) RMS power/channel, 8 -ohms, 20 Hz (watts) RMS power/channel, 8 -ohms, 20 kHz (watts) RMS power/channel, 4 -ohms, 1 kHz (watts) RMS power/channel, 4 -ohms, 20 Hz (watts) RMS power/channel, $4-\mathrm{ohms}, 20 \mathrm{kHz}$ (watts) Frequency limits for rated output ( $\mathrm{Hz}-\mathrm{kHz}$ )

## DISTORTION MEASUREMENTS

Harmonic distortion at rated output, $1 \mathrm{kHz}(\%)$ Intermodulation distortion, rated output (\%) Harmonic distortion at 1 watt output, $1 \mathrm{kHz}(\%)$ Intermodulation distortion at 1 watt output (\%)
DAMPING FACTOR, AT 8 OHMS

Measurement

194
183
180
272
259
218
Under 10 to 59

R-E Evaluation Superb Excellent Excellent Superb Excellent Excellent Superb

FREQUENCY RESPONSE AT 1 WATT/CH ( $\mathrm{Hz}-\mathrm{kHz} \pm \ldots \mathrm{dB}$ )

| 0.003 | Excellent |
| :--- | :---: |
| 0.04 | Very good |
| 0.005 | Superb |
| 0.01 | Very good |

HUM \& NOISE, REFERRED TO 150 WATTS (dB)
INPUT SENSITIVITY FOR FULL OUTPUT (miV)
1200
dB , measuring 106 dB on each channel.
We applied a portion of the output of one channel of the amplifier to our spectrum analyzer when the amplifier was just beginning to clip with a 1000 Hz input signal (at an output power level of 195 watts into an 8 ohm load) and examined the harmonic distortion content. Results are shown in the scope photo of Fig. 4. To

the right of the fundamental 1 kHz signal can be seen a second harmonic component which is 72 dB below the fundamental (corresponding to approximately $0.025 \%$ ), while the barely perceptible third harmonic contribution is down about 75 dB (equivalent to a distortion of $0.0177 \%$ ).

Since Harman-Kardon emphasizes the importance of square wave response in evaluating amplifier performance, we decided to put the Citation 16 to this test as well. Figure 5 shows scope photos of input (upper trace) and output square wave signals applied to the amplifier at frequencies of 100 Hz (Fig. $5-\mathrm{a}$ ), 1 kHz (Fig. $5-\mathrm{b}$ ) and 10 kHz (Fig. $5-\mathrm{c}$ ). There is virtually no evidence of overshoot or tilt in any of these traces.


| TABLE III <br> RADIO-ELECTRONICS PRODUCT TEST REPORT |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| nufa | er: Harman-Kardon |  | tat |
| OVERALL PRODUCT ANALYSIS |  |  |  |
| Retail price \$795.00 <br> Price category High <br> Pricelperformance ratio Very good <br> Styling and appearance Excellent <br> Sound quality <br>  <br> layout Excellent <br>  Excellent |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Comments: It is clear that the designers of this new Citation amplifier were intent upon producing the most reliable and rugged power amplifier they knew how to make. Harman-Kardon's design philosophy regarding bandwidth and phase response is well known for audiophiles. They believe in wide-as-possible bandwidth-far beyond audible limits, and have incorporated that philosophy in this design. While we do not propose to get involved in this age old debate (there are equally respected manufacturers who differ violently with this concept, and maintain that extended bandwidth offers no audible benefit to the consumer and costs involved in extending bandwidth might be put to better use), we can only judge the results by what we heard during our listening tests. Sound reproduction, using the Citation 16 hooked up to a pair of low-efficiency speakers capable of response down to below 30 Hz was so clean and transparent as to defy description. <br> As for reliability and fool-proof design, the Citation 16 can operate into short circuits, unloaded operating conditions, and the kinds of reactive loads presented by electrostatic and other esoteric speaker designs. <br> The LED power display is effective and provides the more serious and technically oriented audiophile with a very accurate and continuous means of monitoring power fed to the loudspeakers. We suspect that Harman-Kardon's profit margin on the Citation 16 will not be eroded by their very generous two-year service warranty on parts and labor. |  |  |  |

## PICTURE RUNS SIDEWAYS!

The picture runs sideways in this Curtis-Mathes 56M-5748; just like a vertical roll, but crosswise. Now and then it will lock in, then start sliding again. The horizontal hold will stop it, but it slips again in a minute or two. Three shops have said this is a lemon. -L.B., El Paso, TX.

Well, there's an old saying that I just made up: "When you get a lemon, make lemonade!" Joking (?) aside, we have a couple of facts. First, we know the horizontal oscillator is running pretty well because the picture is straight-sided and you can, tell that there is only one picture present. However, you do not have any horizontal sync to speak of. The oscillator is freewheeling.

Ground the AFC grid of the horizontal oscillator tube. This should have some effect on the picture. If it doesn't, turn it off and see if this grid shows a short to ground! (Frankly,
circuit including the diode unit, all resistors and capacitors, and check continuity on the little ceramic capacitor that couples the horizontal sync from the sync-separator to the diode unit. If this is open, you could get exactly the same symptoms.

## PHOTOSENSITIVE TRANSISTOR!

We had a mysterious hum in a small transistor amplifier. Checking filters did not help. We finally found that you could cover one of the transistors with your fingertips, and the hum stopped! Or, turn out the bench lights! The transistor was a little plastic TO-92 case, but it was a light brown instead of the normal black.

Investigation and checking with the maker disclosed that this was actually the cause. The fix? Cover the transistor case with black tape. All transistor junctions are photosensitive, and the case of this one let in just enough of the fluorescent light to make it hum.

Thanks to Charles Varble, Chart TV, St. Louis, for this cute one!

## SAME WAVEFORM GRID AND CATHODE?

I've been all over the place in this Admiral $8 T 950$ color set, trying to find out why I can't get enough height. I need about three inches at bottom of from the description, that's what it sounds like!) Another possible cause of this is an open socket contact on the AFC grid of the horizontal oscillator tube. I had a set of another make with this problem and it was hard to catch. (It was trying to tell me what it was, but I didn't listen).

Check out the entire horizontal AFC

## Summary

In addition to subjecting the amplifier to the laboratory tests described, we spent a great deal of time listening to the amplifier connected to several pairs of our favorite speakers. Our conclusions are summarized in Table III. Certainly, just under $\$ 800.00$ is a lot of money for a power amplifier and there are other basic amplifiers around that provide as much power (or more) for less money. In our opinion, however, power output alone is not the sole criterion for judging this kind of component. Reliability, durability and just plain excellence of reproduced sound must play a part in the selection process too. Harman-Kardon seems to have taken all these factors into account-and morein producing this latest unit in the respected Citation series

R-E
the raster. All of the parts in the output circuit have been checked, and the tube changed. I see one funny thing. I get the normal waveform on the output tube grid, but I also get the same waveform on the cathode. That isn't right, is it?-J.M., Pettus, WV.

No, sir! This cathode is well bypassed! Whenever you see the same waveform with almost the same amplitude on both grid and cathode of an amplifier tube, you've got a terrific degeneration that reduces the gain of the stage very badly. The normal cathode waveform should be a distinct parabola with a P-P amplitude of about 11 volts. Check that $50-\mu \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic capacitor that bypasses the cathode. I'll bet you it's open.
(I won! It was.)


# BAUDOT TO ASCII 

## Build this converter so you can use your Baudot or other teletypewriter as an input device for the TV Typewriter

ROGER L. SMITH

LaST MONTH WE DESCRIBED AN ASCII TO Baudot converter that let you connect your TV Typewriter or Mark 8 Minicomputer to a teletypewriter for hardcopy print-out. Now, we show how to use your teletypewriter as an input device.

## BAUDOT to ASCII converter

The BAUDOT to ASCII conversion circuit may not be necessary for your application if all you wanted was a print-out device. However, if you intend to use your BAUDOT Teletype (or Kleinschmidt or Creed) machine for an input device, or if you are a ham operator and want to receive the BAUDOT RTTY signals on your TV Typewriter, you will want the BAUDOT to ASCII converter also.

The BAUDOT to ASCII conversion is simpler in that extra characters (shifts) don't need to be generated. The incoming serial BAUDOT data is clocked into the shift register IC13 (see Fig. 1). The leading "space" pulse starts the clock, which is stopped when this bit reaches flip-flop IC14-b. Gates IC19 and IC21 determine if the character is a letters or figures shift character and sets or resets flip-flop IC17-a accordingly. The proper PROM ( IC 20 or IC22) is then selected and the correct ASCII output character appears for the equivalent BAUDOT inputs. The shift inputs will generate a null.

Notice that the output ASCII data is not valid until the "data ready" line goes high ("1"). If your set-up requires a logic " 0 " signal for "data ready", use the $\bar{Q}$ output (IC15-a pin 4). This line will remain high for $10-\mathrm{ms}$ during which time the device being driven gates in the ASCII character. The PROM truth tables for IC20 and IC22 are shown in Tables I and II. These tables are on pages 00 and 00 .

## Adjustment

If you build the BAUDOT to ASCII Converter, you will need to adjust the oscillator (IC18). With all circuits hooked up (see Fig. 2), set the oscillator to a high rate ( 200 K trinımer near minimum), and while typing a "K", adjust the oscillator until the " $K$ " is received on the ASCII device. Keep turning the trimmer until you get a "Q", then back off half-way. Notice that if you are using both boards, you must add a suitable switch to change connections to pin 23 of the timing board when connecting the TV Typewriter I.

The boards are well suited for use with either TV Typewriter. If you are using the Model CT-1024 (Terminal System Kit from Southwest Technical Products) you can cut off the excess portion of the circuit board. Connection to a regular ASCIIencoded keyboard or Ham radio gear is also possible so long as the devices provide the proper "data ready" signals. The use
of these boards with the Mark-8 Minicomputer or other minicomputers is appealing. Output from the computer can then be the normal ASCII (as it would probably be for other output devices). Computer memory would not be used up in storing the codes, timing would be handled by the converter board and the software program would be simplified. R-E

## CONNECTION OF BAUDOT TO ASCII CONVERTER

## TV Typewriter I

On the timing board, cut the foil connection to pin 23. The REPEAT switch becomes the RECEIVE/NORMAL switch. (Substitute suitable switch if both boards in this article are to be used.

Add Molex pins and jumpers as shown in Fig. 4-a.
Note: CR and LF are not stored in TV Typewriter.
TV Typewriter II (CT-1024)
Add Molex plug P1 (09-52-3151) and wire the pins as shown in Fig. 4-b.
Note: CR and LF are not stored in TV Typewriter.
Minicomputer Connections
Connect as shown in Fig. 4-c.
Ham radio connections
Follow the schematic and observe power connections.
ADDITIONAL PARTS FOR ASCII TO BAUDOT CONNECTION
TV Typewriter I:

## Quantity Type

74123 dual monostable IC
1* 2524 512-bit shift register IC
2200 ohms, $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor
1* 6800 ohms, $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor
$2 \quad 220 \mathrm{pF}$ disc capacitors
1* SPST switch
6 Molex connector (part \#09-52-3103)
60 Molex pins $3 / 4$-inch (part \#08-54)
TV Typewriter II (CT-1024):
Quantity
Type
1* 2102 1024-bit memory
1330 ohm, $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ resistor
. 1 uF disc capacitor
Molex 15-pin connector (part \#09-52-3151)
Molex pins $3 / 4$-inch (part \#08-54)
SPST switch
ADDITIONAL PARTS FOR BAUDOT TO ASCII CONNECTION

## TV Typewriter I:

Quantity Type
6 Molex connectors (part \#09-52-3103)
60 Molex pins $3 / 4$-inch (part \#08-54)
TV Typewriter II (CT-1024):

## Quantity Type

1 Molex connector (part \#09-52-3151)
15 Molex pins $3 / 4$-inch (part \#08-54)
*These parts not required if you can set your Teletype margins to 32 spaces and you have automatic CR and LF.

## ASCII TO BAUDOT CORRECTION

Mr. Roger Smith called our attention to several discrepancies in his article "ASCII to BAUDOT" in the March issue. They are as follows:

The schematic in Fig. 1 shows a connection between pin 3 of IC2-a and pin 2 of IC5-a. This connection is in error. Pin 2 of IC5-a should connect only to pin 11 of IC7. Pin 3 of IC2-a should connect to the top end of C1 at the junction of the lines to pin-15 IC7 and pin4 IC9-a.

In Table 1, delete the 1's from the $B_{2}$ and $B_{0}$ output columns for word 31. Delete "Bell" and substitute "NULL."

## PARTS LIST BAUDOT TO ASCII CONVERTER

R22, R24-330 ohms, $1 / 4$ watt
R23-1000 ohms, $1 / 4$ watt R25-R31, R35-2200 ohms, $1 / 4$ watt
R32-100,000 ohms, $1 / 4$ watt
R33-200,000 ohm, trimmer
R34-33,000 ohms, $1 / 4$ watt R36-20,000 ohms, $1 / 4$ watt
R37-100 ohms, $1 / 4$ watt
C21, C27-C30-. $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, disc
C22-. $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 10 \%$, ceramic
C23-1 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 50$ volt, electrolytic (upright)
$\mathrm{C} 24-.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, disc
C25-100 pF, disc
$\mathrm{C} 26-.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, disc
C31-10 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 25$ volt, electrolytic
C13-74194
IC14, IC17-7474
IC15-74123

IC16-7404
IC18-555 timer
IC19, IC21-7430
IC20, IC22-8223 $32 \times 8$ PROM
See Connection Details for listing of additional parts

The following items are available from Southwest Technical Products Co., 219 W. Rhapsody, San Antonio, TX 78216:
A kit of all basic parts (order additional parts separately) for the BAUDOT To ASCII Converter for $\$ 19.50$ postpaid.
Etched and drilled printed circuit board for the BAUDOT To ASCII Converter for $\$ 4.35$ postpaid.


FIG. 1-BAUDOT TO ASCII CONVERTER schematic diagram.


BAUDOT TO ASCII CONVERTER printed circuit board foil pattern. Component side of double-sided board is shown $1 / 2$-size.


NOTE: THE CR AND LF ARE NOT STORED FOR THIS CONFIGURATION.

$b$


FIG. 2-BAUDOT TO ASCII CONVERTER connections to TV Typewriter I are shown in a, TV Typewriter II are shown in $b$, and minicomputer is shown in $\mathbf{c}$.



BAUDOT TO ASCII CONVERTER printed circuit board foil pattern. Bottom-side of double-sided board is shown $1 / 2$-size.

All other necessary construction and descriptive material on this project appeared in the February 1976 issue under the title "ASCII To Baudot Converter" and this material should be scanned if any further details are needed.

Elsewhere in this issue, on page 82 you will find the component-layout diagram for the printed-circuit board and Charts I and II, which are the Truth Tables for the type 8223 PROM used for IC20 and IC22. We do hope that you have enjoyed this project along with the others in this series of ad-ons to TV Typewriter II. R-E

VERTICAL SWEEP GONE
This little Airline portable, a GEN3267A, has got us going. No vertical sweep. Still, we can drive it with a B\&K Analyst, clear black to the pin-10 grid of the $17 \mathrm{JZ8}$, and get sweep. Everything else is fine, but no vertical ssoeep.O.W., Durant, OK.

This has just got to be something in the feedback loop, from plate of the output section to grid of the input section. This is what makes the circuit oscillate. Take it out, and all you have is a two-stage R-C coupled amplifier. If you can get sweep by feeding a drive signal to the input grid, the "amplifier" part is OK.

Suggestion: feed your drive signal to the input grid. Now follow it with a scope, from the output plate back to the input grid. Something in there will be open.

## SHORTED CRT IN SCOPE

(This is the end result of quite a bit of correspondence about a problem of severe blooming in the CRT of an Eico 460 oscilloscope. The reader wrote:)

Thank you for the hints about the trouble in my scope. I finally found that the DC voltage on the grid and cathode of the CRT were both the same. This was caused by an internal short between these elements. I blew this out by discharging a $40-\mu \mathrm{F}$ capacitor across them.-S. Goldhor, Hayward, CA.

# Serial Interface for TV II 

## To connect TV Typewriter II to a telephone or other two-wire system or to a magnetic-tape memory you need an adequate modem. Here's how to build one

## ED COLLE

FOR THE TV TYPEWRITER II TO COMMUNIcate via a two-wire system, a phone line or a magnetic-tape data storage system, the parallel ASCII data must be broken down into sequential one-bit-at-a-time form both when coming out of the keyboard and going into the terminal. The serial interface or UART (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter) provides this conversion from the parallel form into a series of properly timed one's and zero's including not only the serial data, but the start, stop and parity bits as well. The reverse is true during the receive mode. The baud rate or speed at which the serial data is transmitted or received can be selected from $110,150,300,600$ or 1200 baud with a single-pole rotary switch. There is a provision for "echo off" where the data is transmitted to the receiver, but is not put up on the screen until it is transmitted back by the receiver and displayed by the termminal; or "echo on" where the data is transmitted and simultaneously put up on the screen and is not echoed back by the receiver.

## SPECIFICATIONS

| Receive Format: | E1A RS-232 and TTL compatible with a mark equal to +1.5 to -25 volts and a space equal to +3 to + 25 volts. The range from +1.5 to +3 is the hysteresis region. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Input Impedance: | 1800 ohms |
| Transmit Format: | E1A RS-232 with a mark equal to 4.7 volts and a space equal to + 4.7 volts (2000ohm load) |
| Baud Rates Standard: Optional: | $\begin{aligned} & 110 \text { baud } \\ & 110,150,300,600, \\ & 1200 \text {-selectable } \end{aligned}$ |
| Stop Bits: | Automatic selection of 2 stop-bits for 110 baud and 1 stop-bit for 150, 300,600 and 1200 baud |
| Parity <br> 7 bit: <br> 8 bit: | odd, even, none no parity (bit 8 programmable to a 0 or 1) |

The input/output connections are type RS-232 compatible which will attach directly to most couplers and data sets, however, to record on or playback from magnetic tape it will be necessary to build some kind of FSK encoder/decoder system to get the digital data on and off the tape since this is not provided by the interface. Data to be transmitted can either be provided by the screen-read
board or the keyboard. The interface normally monitors the keyboard, however, a "ready to send" command from the screen board locks out the keyboard and allows the screen-read board to transmit its data.

The entire circuit is built on a $33 / 8^{\prime \prime} \times$ $91 / 2$ " circuit board that is plugged onto the main board at connector strips JI and J2 just behind the cursor and screen-read boards. Switch connections to the serial


FIG. 2-COMPONENT PLACEMENT diagram.

| PARTS LIST |
| :--- |
| Serial Interface Board-110 baud |
| All resistors are 1/4-watt, 10\%, unless |
| noted |
| R1-R7, R16, R24-22,000 ohms |
| R8, R15, R17, R20-R22, R29, R31, R37, |
| R39, R42-1000 ohms |
| R9, R27-47,000 ohms |
| R18, R38-12,000 ohms |
| R19-2000 ohms |
| R23-3900 ohms |
| R25-27 ohms |
| R26-2700 ohms |
| R28-5600 ohms |
| R30-330 ohms |
| C3-470 pF capacitor |
| C4, C6-33 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 25$ volt electrolytic |
| C5-.01 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ capacitor |
| C7-100 pF capacitor |
| C8-.001 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ capacitor |
| C9-330 pF capacitor |
| C10-C13-0.1 $\mu$ F capacitor |
| D1-D7-1N4148 silicon diode |
| Q1-2N5210 silicon transistor |
| Q2-PNP general purpose transistor, |
| gain $=100$, maximum Ver $=40$ voits |
| IC2-7493 counter |
| IC3-S1883 UART |
| IC4, IC10-74157 data selector |
| IC5-74132 quad NAND gate |
| IC6-7400 quad NAND gate |
| IC7-74123 dual one-shot |
| IC9-7474 dual type-D flip-flop |
| IC11-7404 hex inverter |
| IC12-7403 quad open collector NAND |
| gate |

## PARTS LIST

$150,300,600,1200$ baud option All resistors are $1 / 4$-watt, $10 \%$, unless noted

R10-180 ohms
R11, R13-1800 ohms
R12, R14-470 ohms
R32-R36, R40, R41-1000 ohms
R43-2700 ohms
C1, C14-300 pF capacitor
C2-50 pF capacitor
$\mathrm{C} 15-.005 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor
Q3-2N5210 silicon transistor
IC1-7497 rate multiplier
IC8-7404 hex inverter
XTAL $1-307.200 \mathrm{kHz}$ series resonant crystal

The following items are available from Southwest Technical Products Corp., 219 West Rhapsody, San Antonio, TX 78216.

CT-S Serial Interface Kit ........ $\$ 39.95$
S1-b Serial Interface Circuit ... $\$ 11.75$ Other add-ons for TVT-II include: Screen Read Board Kit .... $\$ 17.50$ (September 1975 issue)
Manual Cursor Kit
\$11.50
(November 1975 issue)
interface board are provided by a 12 -pin connector (JI) while the keyboard is plugged into another 12 -pin connector (J2) rather than J 9 of the main terminal board as is done if the interface board is not used.

## How it works

The serial interface circuit has been designed around a single UART chip that actually does most of the work. The other circuitry on the interface board interfaces
the chip itself to the circuitry on the main terminal board. The schematic diagram appears in Fig. 1.

During the transmit mode, both the outputs from the keyboard and the screenread board are fed into data selectors IC4 and IC10. These data selectors select either one of the two sets of inputs with the input from the screen-read board taking priority. Normally the keyboard is selected as the input. However, if the screen-read hoard starts to send data, the incoming
low-to-high transition at J2 pin-13 triggers IC7-a, a retriggerable 350 ms one-shot. This selects the screen-read inputs and locks out the keyboard by driving pin I of IC4 and IC10 low. It also blocks any data from being received during a screen read operation if the jumper from $S$ to $R$ is installed by forcing pin 8 of 1C9-a low. This gates the "output data available" line into the "reset data available" line of the UART chip. Since the keyboard and receiver are disabled for at least 350 ms after


FIG. 1-SERIAL INTERFACE OPTION for TV Typewriter II.


FIG. 3-FOIL PATTERN of component side of double sided board shown $1 / 2$ size.


FIG. 4-FOIL PATTERN of foil side of double sided board shown $1 / 2$ size.


each character is dumped during a screenread operation, there may be problems with a computer sending a return message too soon after the screen-read operation is completed, especially when using high baud rates. In these situations, you may not want to lock out the receiver during a screen-read transmission and can omit the jumper between points $S$ and $R$. You must be sure, however, that the TV Typewriter II is not in the echo mode and that the computer does not attempt to send data to it until the screen dump has been completed. This is indicated by an "!" trans mission if the auto-stop function on the screen read-board is being used.

Regardless of whether the data to be transmitted comes from the screen-read board or the keyboard, it exits from the data selector IC4 pin-12 to IC5-a pin 9 where it is gated with the transmitter buffer empty output from the UART chip, IC3 pin 22. When IC3 pin 22 goes high, it sets the output of the AND gate latch (IC6 pin 11) high. Each time this (IC6-a and IC6-b) latch is set, a $250-n s$ pulse is generated that loads the data at the output of the IC4 and IC10 data selectors into the input buffer of the UART chip. At the trailing edge of the same pulse, a pulse is supplied to the screen read board until it resets and forces IC6-a pin 9 low which resets the (IC6-a and IC6-b) latch. This reset pulse that is sent to the screen-read board allows it to find and store its next character until the UART transmitter buffer is ready for it. This double buffering enables the transmitter to transmit at up to 1200 baud without gaps or hesitations.
The serial data leaves the UART chip, (IC3 pin 25) and is gated with the trans mitter on/off input at IC12-c. Transistor Q2 then converts the serial TTL level output to RS-232 format.
During the receive mode, the incoming RS-232 serial data is converted into TTL compatible levels by a Schmitt trigger circuit consisting of IC5-d and its related components. The output at IC11-c pin 8 is then gated and fed into the serial input terminal of the UART chip (IC3 pin 20.) When the UART chip sees the stop bits of the character being received, output data available line changes to logic " 1 " (IC3 pin 19). If IC9-a pin 8 is at a logic " 1 " level, it means the terminal already has a character awaiting loading and is not ready to accept the new character waiting in the receiver data holding registers When the character in the terminal's register is finally loaded, the character accepted line feeding IC9-a (pin 11) changes to a logic " 0 " and toggles IC9-a forcing pin 8 low. This permits IC12 to pulse the output of IC5-c low clearing the output data available line and generating a negative going keypress strobe to load the new char acter into the terminal's data registers. Note that the keypress strobe jumper of the main terminal board must be wired for a negative strobe when the serial interface is being used

If an error is detected by the UART chip, it drives one of three IC3 outputs high. IC3 pin 14 changes to a logic " 1 " if a stop bit does not follow after the start bit and the correct number of data bits. IC3 pin 13 changes to a logic " 1 " if there is a parity error received. IC3 pin 15 changes

## R-E's Service Clinic

# Horizontal oscillators 

## Oddball symptoms

by JACK DARR<br>SERVICE EDITOR

This column is for your service problems-TV, radio, audio or general and industrial electronics. We answer all questions individually by mail, free of charge and the more interesting ones will be printed here.

If you're really stuck, write us. We'll do our best to help you. Don't forget to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If return postage is not included, we cannot process your question. Write: Service Editor, Radio-Electronics, 200 Park Ave. South, N.Y. 10003.
the recent service clinic about horizontal oscillator circuits got quite a bit of mail. Mainly requests for more information on this circuit. So, here it is. Let's look at some of the oddball symptoms you will find. With a little cool, logical thinking, you can get a handle on any of them.

OK, here's one; an oldie. When the antenna signal is applied to the receiver, the horizontal oscillator runs and you get a raster. Horizontal hold isn't too good. Turn to a dead channel or remove the antenna signal and out goes the raster and high voltage! Or, just the opposite. Raster off-channel, no raster with an antenna signal. (Not to be confused with an AGC blackout. If this happens, you do have high-voltage, but the tube is cut-off.) Weird, eh? Not too. The problem is in the horizontal $A F C$.

Why? Because the only difference between the two conditions is the presence or absence of the horizontal sync. In the first case, the horizontal oscillator will run when there is sync, but won't run without it. In the opposite case, the oscillator will run if the sync is not present; when the sync appears, this throws the oscillator so far off that it dies!

The major cause of this is a defective AFC diode unit. Sometimes due to a bad part in the anti-hunt circuit, etc., but mostly the diodes. To check, kill the AFC and see if this will keep the oscillator running, on- and off-channel.

In one really wild case, in an old Philco, the horizontal sync wasn't too bad but the vertical sync was terrible. After checking out the vertical circuits, I finally found that the ground-side of the horizontal AFC diode was shorted! This was pulling down the amplitude of the composite sync and upsetting the vertical oscillator first.

Another puzzler (unless you know it's there) comes up in sets using only the boost for the plate voltage supply of the horizontal oscillator. Figure 1 shows a typical example, an Admiral T2H-1A chassis. The complaint is often "no raster" or "narrow raster".

The horizontal oscillator plate voltage will be well below normal. Here, note that there is no direct path from the horizontal oscillator supply back to the $\mathrm{B}+$. Oh, no? There is, if you'll trace it out. When the set is turned
on, the DC voltage appears immediately, since solid-state diodes are used in the DC power supply, However, the damper tube must warm up enough to conduct current before any DC voltage shows up on the oscillator.

Without any output signal from the horizontal output stage, only the $\mathrm{B}+$ voltage appears on the damper cathode.


FIG 1
This is connected to the oscillator plate through two resistors. There will be enough voltage to start the oscillator. Once it starts running, it drives the horizontal output stage, producing a flyback pulse. This pulse is rectified by the damper tube, producing a much higher voltage, and everything starts to work.

If you have this kind of trouble, check the boost voltage. The boost capacitor is returned to ground instead of to $\mathbf{B}+$. It develops about +340 volts DC. If you measure only the $B+$ voltage of about +135 volts, you have no boost at all. A good check for this is to drive the horizontal output with a substitute drive signal.

If the boost voltage and high-voltage appears, then you have some problem in those resistors feeding the horizontal oscillator. If you still have no boost, check things like the boost capacitor, the horizontal winding of the deflection yoke, and the damper and horizontal output tubes. In one odd variation of this, I found 0 V DC on the damper cathode. This turned out to be an open cathode connection inside the damper tube! You should see the $B+$ voltage here before the horizontal output tube starts to work.

In another queer case, in an RCA CTC-53, the raster and high-voltage
was lost, the grid drive to the horizontal output tube disappeared and the plate voltage on the horizontal oscillator stayed well up. Substitution of all three tubes-oscillator, output and damperdid nothing. Eventually, the cause was discovered by looking at the top of the chassis. The horizontal oscillator tube was going out when the problem showed up. This was due to a heatercathode short in the tube ahead of it in the series-heater string! (Look at both sides of the chassis!)

There are a lot of questions on another type of circuit. This circuit has a "starter" resistor going to $\mathrm{B}+$, and a "running" resistor that goes to the
boost. The most common question is: "The resistors and tube are good, but I can't get enough DC voltage on the plate! When I turn it on, the plate voltage jumps away up and then drops to almost nothing." There's a simple answer to this; the horizontal oscillator is not running at all!

When the oscillator is running, its plate current is a series of pulses. The average plate current is quite low, so the DC voltage stays high. However, if the oscillator is not running, its plate current is constant and the average current is much greater. So, there is a large voltage drop across the load resistors. The quickest check for this is to scope

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the plate of the oscillator tube, or the grid of the horizontal output. Be sure that there is the proper drive signal there. If it's not, then you have pinned down the cause of the trouble.

The average oscillator circuit has only about 5 parts, so it shouldn't take too long to find out which one is causing the trouble. If all of these parts seem to be good, but the oscillator still won't run or won't run on-frequency, scope the DC voltage-supply lines-the $B+$. You should see absolutely zero signal of any kind here. If you see anything, this means that there could be a feedback loop through the DC power supply which can cancel the oscillations!

Another odd symptom is the in-termittent-start horizontal oscillator. Sometimes it starts, sometimes it doesn't. Touch any part of the circuit with a test probe and away it goes, and keeps running. One typical circuit is the Colpitts, shown in Fig. 2. If you run

into this kind of problem, replace both of the capacitors across the oscillator coil. Be sure to use exact duplicates. (One final hint: it is always a good idea to put them back exactly where they were. If you reverse them, you will see some peculiar reactions indeed. The source of this item will remain anonymous, which means "Don't give your right name!")

R-E

## reader questions

## WHA' HOPPEN?

Thank you for your letter and the help. I finally fixed this Zenith 18CC29. You told me to read the 6LB6 cathode current. I did. It went up from 200 to 300 then to 390 ma. Sides of the picture pulled in. I checked both tubes, and all of the parts in the high voltage, boost and sweep circuits. No luck. Everything checked good! Finally decided to change the 6 HV 5 high-voltage regulator tube just to see what would happen. That did it! 6LB6 current nor-
(continued on page 66)
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## READER QUESTIONS

(continued from page 64)
mal, full picture. Tried the old one; same thing. Picture pulled in and current went up. Now you tell me what happened -R.B., Santa Ana, CA.

Rubbing the crystal ball, the Swami replies: "From past experience, I'd say that the 6HV5 tube had a very bad case of grid emission. I have seen the same symptoms when a horizontal output tube developed this trouble, but I've never seen it happen in a regulator tube. Anything can happen, can't it?" Thanks. This could happen in any set using this type of high-voltage regulator; so, try a new tube to make sure!

## MORE ON PM MAGNET ERASURE

I have a letter from Mr. William A. Manly, Director Product Development of the Cobaloy Co., Arlington, TX, 76011 , with some very useful data on erasing tapes with a PM magnet. The original was in answer to $R$. G. of Baltimore in the Oct. 75 issue of R-E. I said that I didn't think it would hurt. Mr. Manly warns that this might be bad advice, depending on the intended use of the erased tapes. For ordinary lowfi, voice and similar applications, OK. But-now I quote:
"It's true that this erasure method will not result in any permanent damage to the tape or the recorder. A tape thus erased, however, will have a very high level of background noise on it (the so-called "DC noise") some 6 to 20 dB above the true (bulk-erased) background noise. Such a tape will have a tendency to magnetize the heads of any machine it's used on. If the heads are magnetized, they will tend to erase the short wavelengths of any tape containing information subsequently played on the machine. None of this makes any great difference to the inexpensive machine that employ DC erase and biasing, but I suspect that if R.G. is using 10.5 -inch reels as he says, he could well be using a pretty good machine and these considerations would definitely apply.
"For voice-only and other undemanding uses, $D C$ erase is fine. I would not recommed it for any highquality use where quality of recording is a consideration. By the way, the field of such a strong magnet should be kept well away, at least three feet, from any tape containing data that he wishes to keep. It will not only erase the signals, but a lower intensity exposure to powerful magnetic fields will cause printthrough to appear on the tape."

Thank you very much, sir! I intended the original reply to say something like that, but $I$ didn't get it in plainly enough. I appreciate the information and it will be duly filed for the next question on the subject.

## ODD VOLTAGES

This G-E T2250-H radio runs for 10 minutes then stops. I can't make sense out of the DC voltages! Any helpful hints?-S.C., Mentone, CA.

The power supply in this set is unusual. For one thing, be sure that you have the correct schematic; Sams 1038 shows both early and late production runs. There is some difference! When it stops, check the detector to see if you have a signal. If you do, the problem is in the audio stages. If you don't, the problem is in the IF or front end. (Feedback: reader found out that he was using the early production schematic on a late production chassis! Also, the audio output transistors were intermittently opening up!)

## NO HV REGULATION

I really. need help with this Zenith 14A10C29 color TV. I have no highvoltage regulation at all. The high-voltage varies from 20 kV to 30 kV with the setting of the brightness control. Not much change in picture size, but I do lose focus. All tubes have been subbed in the high-voltage and video circuits. The horizontal output tube grid-drive and cathode current is normal. Voltages on the high voltage regulator tube are off, but I can't find any bad parts in there.-D.B., Portsmouth, VA.

The 6HV5 high-voltage regulator grid-voltage comes from the boost, through several resistors and a VDR. You have undoubtedly checked the resistors, but a VDR is usually "checkable" only by substitution! Be sure that you get the correct one; this is a Zenith 63-8161.
(Feedback: that was it!)

## OUTPUT TUBE HOT

The 6LF6 horizontal output tube in this Motorola TS-929 gets red hot; intermittently, of course. When this happens, the grid bias on the GLF6 goes to zero. The bias comes from the FA panel. I've changed all the tubes on this panel, no help. Output transformer and yoke checked out. Any solution will be appreciated.-C.F., Pineview, GA.

I think you have the key clue; the zero bias on the 6LF6. Scope the FA panel output. If this signal is still present there while the 6LF6 grid drops to zero, you have an intermittent open in one of the connectors between the FA panel and the horizontal output. Sometimes one of the contact pins will be pushed back to the point where it makes intermittent contact with the board or plug.

## OUTPUT TUBE CUT OFF

The horizontal oscillator is working in this Zenith 14A9C50. The screen grid of the $6 L B 6$ reads +300 volts or more! No, it's not the screen bypass or
(continued on page 68)



RADIO-ELECTRONICS
Weller's WC-100 . . . the professional quality, feather-light cordless. Lets you make connections anywhere. Without AC cord and outlet.
Fingertip touch on exclusive sliding safety switch activates long-life, nickelcadmium battery. Heats tip to over $700^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ in 6 sec. Locks in "off" position to prevent accidental discharge in use or while restoring energy with fastpower recharger (UL listed)

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Circle 21 on reader service card

## READER QUESTIONS

(continued from page 66)
resistor; I read -110 volts on the control grid! When I touch my scope probe to the 6 LB6 grid, the raster comes back, full-screen. Otherwise, no raster at all. Get out the crystal ball, I need it!-R.D., Guttenberg, NJ.

You're so right; that output tube is firmly cut off by that much negative grid voltage. What you are probably doing with the scope probe is bleeding off enough of this to let the tube conduct. (This can happen if the grid resistor is completely open; even the high impedance of a FETVM will give it enough drop to let it work).
Trace the high-voltage hold-down circuit back over to the high-voltage regulator. You'll see a VDR in shunt to ground, a pulse-coupling capacitor to the flyback, and then a diode back to B + connected to the cathode of the 6 HV5. One of these parts is bad, causing the circuit to develop far too much negative voltage.

## LOSS OF VERTICAL SWEEP

I noticed an item in the October issue of R-E on loss of vertical sweep. I just had a novel case in a CTC-25 RCA! The symptom was a lot of $\mathrm{B}+$ on the grid of the 6GF7 vertical output tube. Started with heavy foldover and finally killed the oscillator. The tube conducted so heavily that it melted solder on the terminal strip where R164 and R165 are; these are the cathode resistors, near the 6JE6.

This was traced to an insulation breakdown in the service switch. Pin 2 of this had +405 volts on it and it was leaking to pin 7 , which goes to the grid of the vertical output tube. (Thanks very much to Donald A. Donadio, Winston-Salem, NC!)

## OdDBALL AFT PROBLEM

This one happened to me! The set was an RCA CTC-28E and it had AFT problems all over the place. At times the AFT wouldn't work on the low channels, then it would act up on the high channels. Voltage tests and a sweep test showed that the AFT seemed to be pretty close to normal. Marker right on crossover, etc. The set did not work too badly without AFT.

After some scratching of head, I finally decided to check the alignment. The only thing I could see was that the color looked a bit low on the curve, with the pix carrier a bit high. Would moving these help? You're darn right! Now the AFT works on low channels but not on highs!

The tuner showed a decided instability on 7 and 11 . So, I ran a neutralization alignment on it. That did it, for the high channels. (The tipoff symptom on this is a "hot leadin" on a high chan-
nel; touch it and you'll see beats in the picture. This seems to always show a need for neutralization).

## YOKE RETURN CAPACITOR BURNING

The yoke-return capacitor (C228) has burned up three times on this CTC40 RCA. Originally the boost rectifier was shorted, too. Now we get good color, plenty of sweep, but the capacitor keeps burning up. What's the reason for this? -A.M., Morgan Hill, CA.

The reason this capacitor burning up is that it's carrying too much current for its voltage rating. RCA is now sending out special capacitors for this. I'd replace it with one of them. Early models used two $1.5-\mu \mathrm{F}$ capacitors in this position, in parallel.

You might check the waveform on this capacitor; this should be only about 35 volts P-P. You shouldn't get more than this if your sweep is normal.

## GREEN STRIPE AT LEFT

After replacing several tubes, the raster and picture on this RCA CTC-22 reappeared. However, I have a small green stripe on the left side of the screen. All voltages are OK. However, scoping the control grids, I found a positive going spike in the waveform right after the horizontal blanking pulse. It was 35 volts P-P!

Someone had replaced the clamp diode on the green amplifier output with an ordinary silicon rectifier. I tried other diodes on hand, and each one showed a change in the spike! Any ideas?-E.S., Niagara Falls, ON.

Yep; if you can't get an exact duplicate of the original diode, use some kind of "fast-recovery" diode. RCA SK-3127, etc. These have a recovery time of less than 1.0 microsecond, and ought to help. There are several of these; use the one that will hold the applied DC voltage and have a very fast recovery.

## HIGH CATHODE CURRENT

I can't get the 21JS2 cathode-current down far enough to suit me on this Motorola TS-925. It's working pretty well as far as the high-voltage and sweep are concerned, but I have an uneasy feeling that it might not stand up for too long in this shape. Do you have any suggestions on this?-J.R., Greenир, KY.
Adjust the horizontal efficiency coil for a dip. If this still doesn't bring the cathode current of the 21JS6 down far enough, try reducing the ssereen-grid voltage on this tube. You can cut this down until you begin to lose width or high-voltage.
(Field feedback; it worked! Dropped 21JS6 screen grid from 220 volts to about 175, and it works fine!) R-E

##  CD-4

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Southwest Technical Products is proud to offer the most advanced CD-4 demodulator available. Our new CD-4 has characteristics superior to anything previously available thanks to the QSI-5022 integrated circuit used in the unit. This IC and the balance of the circuit was designed by Quadracast Systems Inc. under the direction of Mr. Lou Dorren. The QSI-5022 contains all the sub-system functions needed to demodulate a CD-4 disc, from the phono cartridge input to the output drive for the four power amplifiers. It may be used with either an RIAA equalized magnetic cartridge, or a semiconductor cartridge with flat equalization.

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The SWTPC demodulator connects
between the cartridge and the volumetone control portion of your system. If you did not want tone controls, actually all that would be needed in addition to our CD-4 demodulator would be volume controls for the front and rear amplifiers. The demodulator is self powered from any 115 Volt 60 Cycle line. When normal stereo discs are played on your system a muting system automatically turns off the rear channels. A manual override 2 or 4 channel selector switch is provided on the rear panel.

## SIMPLE CONSTRUCTION

As shown in the photograph, the vast majority of the parts mount on the epoxy-fibreglass circuit board. Part numbers and package outlines printed on the top of the board make proper assembly quite simple. Anyone with a minimum of electronic experience should be able to assemble this project without any problems. A copy of the article describing the CD-4 demodulator and assembly instructions are supplied in the kit.

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SERIAL INTERFACE
(continued from page 62)
to a logic " 1 " if there is a condition where the receiver is being sent characters faster than it can accept them. If any one of these three error conditions occurs, transistor Q1 turns on and presents a "?" to the terminal as an error indication for the character(s) for which the error was received.

The standard baud rate for the unit is 110 baud and is derived from the 15,840 Hz phase-locked oscillator on the main board that is brought in through pin 1 of J . The 15,840 clock frequency is divided-by-nine by IC 2 to produce 1760 Hz required by the UART chip for 110 baud. For higher baud rates, a crystal oscillator with a 307.200 kHz crystal is required as well as 1 Cl and IC8. Inverters 1 C 8 -a and IC8-b form an oscillator with a frequency of 307.200 kHz that is fed to flip-flop IC9-b pin 4 where it is divided by two and in turn fed to a programmable divider, ICl pin 9. By selecting correct inputs of this integrated circuit, the correct output frequency neccesary for each baud rate can be easily set. A five position rotary switch can be attached at jack JI that grounds the selected baud rate line providing easy selection of either $110,150,300,600$ or 1200 baud. The 110 -baud input inverter (IC8-f) also drives the stop bit select line of the UART chip, IC3 pin 36, to select the correct number of stop bits for 110 baud operation.

A terminal ready signal is provided at J1 pin 2 to tell external devices when the terminal is powered up, however, this output is a sense line only and should not be loaded when anything sourcing or sinking a current of more than 5 mA .

A power-up reset is provided by IC11-e to clear the registers inside the UART chip when power is applied to the terminal.

## Construction

It is not very difficult to assemble the unit, just be sure to orient all of the integrated circuits, diodes, electrolytic capacitors, transistors, and connectors as shown in Fig. 2. Note that the connectors are notched and must be installed exactly as shown in the drawing. The foil pattern of the component side of the double sided printed circuit board is shown in Fig. 3, while the foil pattern of the foil side of the board is shown in Fig. 4. If you use the $150,300,600$ or 1200 baud option, install the parts used for the crystal controlled oscillator and its related circuitry. Also attach a jumper between points $A$ and $C$ on the interface board. The various baud rates are selected by grounding the appropriate pin of connector $\mathbf{J}$ I. If you are not using the optional baud rates and wish to use the standard 110 baud then attach a jumper between points $A$ and $B$ instead of $A$ and $C$ on the interface board.

Without the screen-read board inserted on the TV Typewriter II main terminal board it will be necessary to jumper point $O$ to $P$ on the interface board. With the screen-read board installed on the main terminal board, omit the jumper.

If you want to guarantee that the receiver remains off during a screen-read

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dump, you will probably want to jumper point $S$ to $R$ on the interface board. If high baud rates are used and/or the turnaround time from whatever feeds the terminal is fast you may have to omit this jumper. If so, you must be sure the terminal is not in the echo mode and that whatever feeds the receiver of the terminal doesn't transmit during the time a screendump operation takes place.

It is also necessary to program the interface board for the correct parity and number of bits to be handled. The transmit and receive formats are identical and are programed with jumpers as follows:

Odd parity, no bit 8--jumper J to K and jumper $I$ to H
Even parity, no bit 8-jumper I to H No parity, no bit 8-jumper $G$ to $F$ and jumper I to H
No parity, bit $8=1$-jumper $G$ to $F$ No parity, bit $8=0$-jumper $G$ to $F$ and jumper $E$ to $D$
The appropriate keypressed strobe jumper should be installed. If your keyboard's strobe is positive going and narrow or if it is negative going and the data is held for at least 100 nanoseconds after the trailing edge of the strobe pulse, solder a jumper wire between pads L and N . Almost all keyboards will work in this configuration. Jumpering pad M to N instead is used for positive edge level triggering where the pulse is clean and there is no ringing. The board must not be wired for a positive keypressed strobe ( M to N ) if the screen-read board is used.

Before plugging the interface board into the main terminal board, be sure to insert the indexing key in $\mathbf{J} 2$ pin 2 to prevent the board from being plugged in backwards. Then orient the interface board so its component side is toward the center of the main terminal board and plug it into connectors J1 and J2

Input/output and control lines for the interface are accessed thru connector J1. $\mathrm{J}_{1}$ pin 7 is the RS-232 compatible input and J1 pin 6 is the RS-232 compatible output. Pin 2 of J 1 is a terminal ready status line that is high when power is applied to the terminal. You must be sure not to draw more than 5 mA from this pin when sensing this line. J1 pin 5 , pin 4 and pin 8 control the receiver off, transmitter off and echo off, respectively. Grounding the respective control line shuts off the selected function and J1 pin 1 is ground. Note that when the serial interface board is used, the keyboard must be plugged into jack $\mathbf{J} 2$ on the interface rather than the J9 connector on the main terminal board on the chassis.

## Checkout and use

The easiest way to check the unit out is to operate it in the echo mode and the receiver and transmitter switched off. This should display everything that is typed on the screen where it can be seen and checked. Since this mode uses both the transmit and receive circuitry, it is a good way to check everything on the interface for proper operation. If you have any problems, remove power and check carefully for assembly errors. If you find it necessary to troubleshoot the circuit, you will need an oscilloscope, a good background in digital theory and a thorough knowledge of how the unit operates. R-E


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BAUDOT TO ASCII
(continued from page 59)

TABLE!
TRUTH TABLE FOR 8223 PROM-TO BE USED AS IC22 Check that the symbols given here agree with your machine

| W0RD | INPUTS |  |  |  |  | OUTPUTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | SYMBOL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathrm{A}_{4}$ | $\mathrm{A}_{3}$ | $A_{2}$ | $A_{1}$ | A | ENABLE | B | B. | $\mathrm{B}_{5}$ | $B_{4}$ | $\mathrm{B}_{3}$ | $B_{2}$ | $B_{1}$ | Bo |  |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Null |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  | T |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | c |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | CR |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | Space |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | H |
| 6 | c | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | N |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | M |
| 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | LF |
| 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | L |
| 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | R |
| 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | G |
| 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |
| 13 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | P |
| 14 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | C |
| 15 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  | $\checkmark$ |
| 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | E |
| 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  | Z |
| 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | D |
| 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | B |
| 20 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 | S |
| 21 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 | $Y$ |
| 22 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | $F$ |
| 23 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | X |
| 24 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | A |
| 25 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | W |
| 26 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | J |
| 27 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Null |
| 28 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | U |
| 29 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | Q |
| 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | K |
| 31 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Null |
| ALL | x | x | x | x | x | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |

## TACHOMETER AND SPEED ALARMS

(continued from page 39)
reading on the meter.
Note that R7 comprises a fixed and a variable resistor in series. The graph of Fig. 9 shows the approximate total value of R7 that is needed to give full-scale meter readings at particular frequencies when C 2 has a value of $.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. Note that, if preferred, C 2 can be increased to $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and the R7 value can then be reduced by a factor of ten.

Once the unit has been attached to the car, the sensitivity control R2 should be adjusted to slightly above the minimum
value at which triggering can be reliably obtained without interference from spurious signals. The setting up procedure is then complete, and the tachometer is ready for use. The tachometer can readily be transferred from one vehicle to another by simply adjusting R 7 to give the required full-scale RPM reading, and adjusting the R2 sensitivity control to suit the individual vehicle.

## A 6-to-12 volt converter

Figure 10 shows the circuit of a simple 6 -to- 12 volt converter that can be used to enable the tachometer circuit to operate

TABLE II
TRUTH TABLE FOR 8223 PROM-TO BE USED AS IC20 Check that the symbols given here agree with your machine

| WORD | INPUTS |  |  |  |  |  | OUTPUTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | SYMBOL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $A_{4}$ | $A_{3}$ | $A_{2}$ | $A_{1}$ | A | ENABLE | $\mathrm{B}_{7}$ | B6 | $\mathrm{B}_{5}$ | $B_{4}$ | $B_{3}$ | $\mathrm{B}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{B}_{1}$ | Bo |  |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Null |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | CR |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 9 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | Space |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | \# |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | , |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | . |
| 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | LF |
| 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | ) |
| 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  |  | 4 |
| 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 8 |
| 13 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  | 0 |
| 14 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  | : |
| 15 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | ; |
| 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |  | " |
| 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  | \$ |
| 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ? |
| 20 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | Bell |
| 21 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 6 |
| 22 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 1 | ! |
| 23 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | / |
| 24 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | - |
| 25 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 2 |
| 26 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | , |
| 27 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Null |
| 28 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| 29 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| 31 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Null |
| ALL | x | x | x | x | x | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |

(continued on page 86)
on vehicles equipped with 6 -volt electrical systems. Circuit operation is quite simple. Gates A and B of the CD4001 IC are wired as a simple astable multivibrator or square-wave generator that operates at about 800 Hz . The output of the astable multivibrator is fed to complementary emitter-follower stage $\mathrm{Q} 1-\mathrm{Q} 2$ via a spare inverter-connected gate of the IC. The output of the emitter follower is fed to a volt-age-doubler circuit comprising C2-D1-D2-C3 and R2. The output of the circuit is taken from this voltage-doubler stage.

In practice, a vehicle equipped with a 6 -volt electrical system generates approxi-
mately 7 -volts under actual running conditions, and the converter gives a nominal output of about 11 -volts to the tachometer under this condition. This output voltage is more than adequate for driving the tachometer circuit.
Figs. 11-a and 11-b show how the converter and the tachometer can be connected to vehicles having either a positive ground or a negative ground electrical system.

In the concluding part of this article, we'll show how the basic tachometer circuit can be expanded so that it also acts as a red-line or over-speed alarm. R-E

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READER QUESTIONS
(continued from page 68)

## OUTPUT TUBE OVERHEATING

The 6BQ5 output tubes in one channel of this Truetone DC5941 amplifier get red hot after about 10 minutes. I tried new tubes; no luck. Is there a Sams folder on this chassis?-J.M., Birmingham, AL.

Look in Sams Photofact 466-4. This is an Airline, but the same amplifier. The overheating problem is probably due to a bias defect. If the cathode resistor and bypass capacitor are OK, then the coupling capacitor from the driver is probably leaky. Pull the 6BQ5 tubes, turn the set on, and read the DC voltage on the grids of the 6BQ5's. This voltage should be zero. If you read any positive voltage, the coupling capacitor is leaking.

## SUBSTITUTE TRANSISTOR

I need a substitute for the output transistor in a Bendix 248 automobile radio. The number on it is 4080187-0507 and I can't find that either! Help!-R.S., Sacramento, CA.

There's a trick in looking up part numbers in transistor guides. Look for the first two digits; in this case " 40 ". The computer that sorts out the numbers "keys" on the first two digits.

In this case, RCA lists an SK-3024 as an exact replacement for that long numbered transistor.

## SEVERE JITTER

The picture in this RCA CTC-51K is very unstable. Severe horizontal jitter that causes double images, and a vertical jitter at the same time. This is affected by both brightness and contrast controls. Horizontal sync range on hold control very small. Why?-J.M., Hat field, AR.

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try checking the plate load resistor of the horizontal oscillator! This is R40, and should be 220 K . In one known case, this dropped to about 40 K and caused the same symptoms you have. Oddly enough, there was plenty of sweep and high voltage, but it was very unstable. Apparently the horizontal oscillator was hunting very rapidly and upsetting the sync keying pulses, etc. Quick-check; horizontal oscillator plate voltage will be very high, almost 400 volts instead of normal +225 volts.

## UHF SNIVETS

I've got a couple of oddball problems in this Quasar TS.934. There are severe snivets on UHF, clean on VHF. The UHF picture and sound go out shortly after turn-on. The other one: I replaced the Z-panel DC regulator. After taking the UHF tuner out, I checked the $\mathbf{2 0}$-volt source and it was only 12 volts. I adjusted it to 20 volts as instructed, and the video and sound went out! Are these connected?-J.L., Fairfield, CA.
Your snivets could be caused by corona to the metal ring around the 6LF6 tube. This has happened. Move the ring so that it's nearer the bottom of this tube.

Voltage problem: it is possible that raising the 20 volt line to normal could have caused the AGC to cut off the IF. Run this voltage up to the normal level and then reset the IF and RF AGC controls. That ought to do it.

## TUNER DRIFT

This Admiral $3 L 36$ has a very severe tuner drift. After it warms up it may drift one whole channel. Tuner tubes checked and replaced, no help. Where to look?-M.W., El Cajon. CA.
"Drift" is something that changes the tuner oscillator frequency. (Fine basic statement!) Not apt to be a coil, but very apt to be a capacitor. In this tuner, they use a transistor with one terminal clipped, apparently as a varactor diode. This would be a very good "suspect"; try warming it up or cooling it off and see if this won't show up something.

## DISAPPEARING DIODE!

I can't find the 22-volt Zener diode, Y404, in this G-E 19QA chassis! It's not on the power-supply board, although the symbol is there. In the photo of this board in Sams 1388.3 , it's also gone. Shows it on the schematic, though. The 22.7 volt source shows a very low resistance. Help!L.C., Mena, AR.

It's still in the circuit, but not where you'd expect. Follow the line from the power-supply board down to a terminal strip on the back of the flyback cage; right under the sticker saying "19QA Chassis." It's underneath this board! Also, it's probably shorted if you're reading a low resistance on the 22.7 -volt line.

## WINDOW-SHADE PROBLEM

I have an odd brightness problem in this Zenith 20X1C38. Everything is normal except that the picture is dark at the top and bottom is too bright. When the brightness control is turned, the picture gets dark from the top down, like pulling a window shade down. Any assistance will be appreciated! -R.S., Aurora, CO.

You've got it; you've even got the right name for it. This is a classic case of "window-shade." It's caused by a shorted blanking diode in the vertical blanking circuitry. This will probably be the one connected to the green-white wire from the secondary of the vertical output transformer to the emitter of the 1 st video amplifier transistor. There are two more to the same point; check them all for luck.

## DIODE BLOWING

This Sears 528.40720320 color set came in with the horizontal output transistor, vertical output transistor and diode (continued on page 87)

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## AN INTERMITTENT FLYBACK!

The reader wrote that he had two symptoms; a vertical shrink and roll, and then the raster went black. Since these aren't normally from the same cause, I investigated. In this chassis the vertical oscillator is fed from boost. So, I suggested checking the boost. If this dropped, it could cause these two symptoms.

He wrote back, and said "Since this showed up only at the customer's house, I figured he had excessive line voltage that was causing the flyback to break down. So, I raised the line voltage, on the bench, and out it went. Cool it off and it came back!
"I replaced the flyback, and cured the trouble. First intermittent I ever saw like this, in a flyback!" (Thanks to Jack Mandik, Evanston, IL.)

Thanks, Jack. Me too.

## FLAT-TOPPING OF GRID-DRIVE

(Reader had previously written about problems in his scope. These were solved, then he wrote;) "Thanks for detailed suggestions regarding problems in Silvertone 7174. I used the scope, and sure enough, the grid-drive waveform on the 31JS6 tube flattened very decidedly when the trouble showed up. Replacing this tube cleared up the problem."

## READER QUESTIONS

(continued from page 85)
D773 shorted. Replaced all of these, plus the fuse, and everything worked well. Current through $1.5-A$ fuse 800 mA . Then diode D773 shorted again! Took it out and fed the vertical module from a 20 volt DC power supply. Current drain of vertical section is 550 mA , and it played for hours.

Tried another diode, and it overheated. Tried feeding 60 Hz AC through it, and it overheated again! Something is odd here. What's going on?-F.A., Orlando, FL.

The crystal ball says that the vertical module is all right; not overloading the power supply. Since it will work "for hours" on an outboard DC power supply, and draw what sounds like about normal current, this much ought to be OK.

From the schematic (Sams 1443-2) this diode and the $3300-\mu \mathrm{F}$ filter-capacitor provide the +21.6 volt source that drives the vertical module. However, the drive waveform is $15,750 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ! So, feeding the circuit with 60 Hz AC might keep the diode on too long and make it overheat. (Guess!)

More derating of this diode would be one way of helping. Try something like an RCA SK-3081, 1000 volts at 2.0 A . Alternate, do what several manufacturers have done in similar cases; parallel two diodes to raise the current handling ability. Won't take long to find out!

## FOCUS VOLTAGE DROPS TO ZERO

If I disconnect the lead from the tube-base, pin 9, the focus voltage reads OK. If I reconnert the lead, the focus voltage drops to zero. Raster goes dark. Is the picture tube shorted? If so, can it be repaired? -B.C., Thurmont, MD.

The chances are that you do have a short in the focus electrode! With zero focus-voltage, the raster will go out. You might try this; disconnect the focus lead from the tube -leave the other leads and the high-voltage connected. Turn the set on and see what voltage, if any, you read on the open pin-9 lead. This might tell you something about where the short is. For instance, if you get about 750-800 volts, the focus would be shorted to one of the screens. You might blow the short out by discharging an electrolytic capacitor between the base pins. No guarantee on this, of course!

## SYNC PROBLEM

I've got what looks like a sync problem in this RCA KCS141 chassis. The voltages around the sync-separator seem to be pretty close. Changed the tube and checked capacitors. The voltage on the plate of the AGC keyer goes off now and then; sometimes to +15 volts. I could use some ideas!L.P., Houston, TX.

There is one problem that I've run across on several occasions in this chassis. Check the voltage divider made up of R17 (12K, 2-watt) and R101 ( $47 \mathrm{~K}, 2$-watt) between the

+195 volt and +270 volt lines. This sets the cathode voltage on both the AGC keyer and sync separator stages. If either one of these resistors opens or changes in value, it'll cause trouble in both AGC and sync. You'll have to break the circuit to get a valid reading of either one of these. Wouldn't hurt to check. R67 ( 10 K ) to ground from this point as well.
(continued on page 95)

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Door force and opener-limit adjustments are usually made at the factory, but because garage doors vary, extra adjustment may have to be made after the opener is installed. If the door reverses itself at any point in travel, the door force must be adjusted.


If the door does not open fully, the opener limits need adjustment. Slide the power head chassis-cover forward. Adjustments are made by turning the large plastic limit nuts up or down a threaded shaft located just behind the motor. One complete revolution of the limit nut equals three inches of trolley travel. All adjustments require complete turns.

There are other minor problems that occasionally develop and these are usually attributable to even more minor causes, many requiring only minor electrical adjustments. For example:

- If the power head completely stops, check the electrical supply. Specifically, check for loose plugs, a blown fuse or circuit breaker and power shutoff.
- If the garage-door operates from the wall switch but not from the transmitter, it is most likely because the battery in the transmitter is dead.
- If the unit turns on but does not lift the door, the door may have been accidentally locked. All locks should be deactivated.
- If the garage light does not turn on when the door opens, check the bulb, socket and socket wires.

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JAPANESE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS inspect a new computer terminal that prints out information in Japanese characters, it is being demonstrated for them by Frank Tayior of the Raytheon Data Systems plant in Norwood, MA. The audience is part of a 36-person delegation sent by the Japanese Institute for Cultural Studies, who are on a month-long cultural exchange as guests of Boston University. Half the group are teachers of English and business in the Japanese public school system; others are Japanese college students who are continuing their education in the United States.

## Newest equatorial satellite will study communications

The Communications Technology Satellite (CTS) launched from Cape Canaveral, January 13, is the focal point of an international venture into the study of space communications, in which NASA and three American universities are involved.

Besides communications research, CTS will carry out a variety of education, health-care and community service demonstrations in remote areas.

Research of millimeter reception is one of the main projects for the satellite, according to information from the News Bureau of Ohio State University, one of the schools taking part in the study. (The other two are the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the University of Texas.) The millimeter band offers great advantages, among them being inexpensive receivers, compact antennas and a fantastic signal capacity.

A second important objective of the project is a quantitative study of scintil-lation-the atmospheric turbulance that causes stars to twinkle. An understanding of scintillation might be useful in studying a number of not entirely understood effects on communication, such as some types of fading and possibly the sunrise effect-that sudden change in signal strength at sunrise or sunset.

Ohio State University is receiving the signals from the satellite with the antenna consisting of four dishes in a "self-phased" array. Each dish measures only a meter in diameter. Although the satellite is "fixed" in position above the equator at $116^{\circ}$ west longitude, its position varies slightly because of variations in the earth's rotational pattern. The ground station tracks the satellite by measuring the difference in signal strength as received by each of the dishes and using the result to "phase" the antenna to aim it at the satellite. The physical array remains stationaryall the tracking is accomplished electronically.

R-E

## READER QUESTIONS

(continued from page 87)

## POWER FILTER OUT

I can't get anything through the active power-filter circuit in this Philco B311 TV. The collector voltage is 19.5, the base voltage also 19.5, and the emitter voltage is zero. If I connect an external 12 -volt supply to the emitter, the set works fine. I've changed the transistor, the resistor and the capacitor, but nothing helps. Why isn't the transistor turning on?-D.R., Rockwood, MI.

You're right; that's wrong! The transistor is definitely not conducting at all. The base circuit here is from the $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{r}}$ supply, through VR3,R85 and the base-emitter junction of Q100. Since you have (wisely) tried a new transistor and

parts, that clears that much up. The emitter circuit returns through the load circuits. The load circuits are clear because they'll work with an external power supply.

So! This leaves us with only one good suspect; the transistor socket, the wiring, and so on. Take your DC voltage readings right on the pins of the transistor itself, and see if you get something open!

## NO TINT CONTROL

Due to an accidental short while plugging in some controls, the tint control, transformer, and a couple of resistors blew up in this Penncrest 2890. These were replaced. Now I have good color, flesh tones, and so on, but the tint control has no effect at all! What do you think?-A.T., Benton, IL.

I think you still have something wrong in or around the tint control circuit itself. Since the control and the transformer were replaced, this would leave only the cable from chassis to control. This is probably one of those tiny coax cables we see so often of late. The initial short may have blown the center conductor open or caused the coax to short. Disconnect it and check. Check the tiny choke marked L.503; this may have been burnt when the short hit.

## GEAR TOOTH JITTER

This Wards Airline GEN-17148R has a problem with horizontal stability. Vertical lines are "rippled" (the old "gear. tooth' effect) and the horizontal hold control has very little hold-range. The picture won't jump to a double image, though. I've bridged electrolytic filters without any luck. Where to go now?-M.R., Gregory, MI.

Try grounding the pin-2 grid of the 6 FQ 7 horizontal oscillator tube, and see if you can juggle the hold control to make a single picture without the gear-tooth effect. If you can, this trouble is in one of two places. It may be a badly unbalanced AFC diode unit or a loss of the horizontal sync pulse feeding the diodes. You have the typical symptomsnarrow hold range, etc.

If the gear-tooth effect isn't cleared up by this, check the anti-hunt network capacitors (below the AFC diode unit on the schematic; Sams Photofact SED in 1288.) One of these parts may be open.

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