Radio-Electronics Radios Radio-Electronics

THE MAGAZINE FOR NEW IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

Make A Panel Meter A DIGITAL VOM It's Easy To Do

More Build-It Info
PROGRAMMABLE DRUMS
Are Fun To Play

ALSO:

Z-80 Computer Corner
R-E Lab Tests BIC Beam Box
Jack Darr's Service Clinic
Hobby Corner
State Of Solid State
More Hobby Computer Listings
Equipment Reports—

- **★ Sabtronics Digital Meter**
- ★ Motorola HEP Microcomputer Kit

* Tenna Mindbi



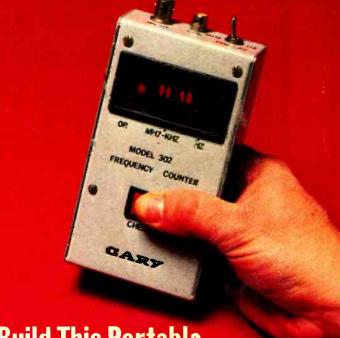
NEM ECALL NO OBRES

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What's New In POLICE-RADAR DETECTORS A Picture Story



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With 4-Digit Readout





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Take, for example, the Shure SM58 and SM59 microphones:

SM59

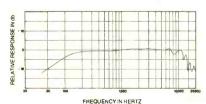
Mellow, smooth, silent...

The SM59 is a relatively new, dynamic cardioid microphone. Yet it is already widely accepted as a standard for distinguished studio productions. In fact, you'll often see it on TV... especially on musical shows where perfection of sound quality is a major consideration. This revolutionary cardioid microphone has an exceptionally flat frequency response and neutral sound that reproduces exactly what it hears. It's designed to give good bass

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s a special hum-bucking coil for superior noise reduction!

Some like it essentially flat...

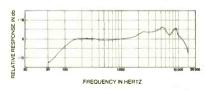


SM58

Crisp, bright "abuse proof"

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...some like a "presence" peak.



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THE MAGAZINE FOR NEW IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

Electronics publishers since 1908

MARCH 1978 Vol. 49 No. 3

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BUILD ONE OF THESE

Portable Frequency Counter

Palm-sized 30 MHz counter with a 4-digit LED display that delivers 6-digit resolution. by Gary McClellan

Digital Multimeter

Start by building a 31/2-digit panel meter; add a few shunts and range switches, and end up with a digital multimeter. by Dr. E. H. Borneman and Robert Benward

Programmable Drums—Part II

Conclusion of a 2 part series for a hi-fi add-on that lets you tap out a beat with your fingertips. by John S. Simonton, Jr.

COMPUTERS

Z-80 Computer Corner

A look at the different interrupts available with the Z-80 CPU. by William Barden, Jr.

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Conclusion of who makes what and what it is they make.

by Chester H. Lawrence

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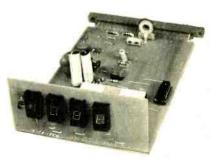
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ON THE COVER

This month's feature construction project is a hand-held portable frequency counter. The unit measures to 30 MHz with a 90 mV sensitivity. The readout is a 4-digit LED display that provides 6-digit resolution. A must for any workbench. The complete construction details start on page 35.



A BASIC DIGITAL PANEL METER. Turn to page 40 to see how to build this and then turn it into a complete digital multimeter.



B.I.C.'s MODEL FM-10 BEAM BOX indoor FM antenna. R-E's Hi-Fi Lab puts it through its paces. For a complete report, turn to page 66.

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3

looking ahead

Another videodisc: Matsushita Electric of Japan, the world's largest manufacturer of television sets and parent company of Panasonic and Quasar, has demonstrated a new videodisc system that uses discs strongly resembling standard LP audio records, and made with standard record-pressing equipment and materials. It is a mechanical system with grooves recorded in the "hill-and-dale" method. A twist stylus system uses a piezoelectric material to convert mechanical vibrations into voltage fluctuations.

Matsushita calls its system *Visc* and has developed two variations—both use two-sided 12-inch vinyl records, but one plays for 30 minutes per side, the other for one hour per side. In either variation, the disc revolves at 450 rpm and contains two high-fidelity audio channels as well as a color video program. Matsushita is targeting the player to sell for \$480 to \$600 on the Japanese market, and discs themselves to sell 20% to 50% more than an audio LP record. The diamond stylus is said to be capable of more than 1,000 hours life.

Matsushita says marketing schedules will depend upon the support of programming companies throughout the world. The specs and parameters of the *Visc* system appear to be so close to those of the RCA capacitance system that the question of potential compatibility was certain to arise—and did. An RCA disc spokesman was asked this question; his reply was that, except for the fact that the center holes on the two discs are different sizes (RCA's is large, Matsushita's is audio-disc size), there should be no reason why Matsushita and RCA discs couldn't be played interchangeably, given some other minor modifications. Both sides insisted their development work was completely independent of each other.

AM stereo closer: An AM stereo system now seems inevitable, and some authorities predict that the parameters of the chosen system could be available before the end of '78. The industry-wide National AM Stereo Radio Committee completed its field-test report as 1977 ended and submitted it to the FCC. The document covered three systems that were submitted for testing (by Belar, Magnavox and Motorola). Although the report made no recommendations, it noted that all three systems were capable of providing good stereo with fidelity close to that of FM, that they all used economically feasible transmitters and receivers, and required little more bandwidth than mono AM and were compatible with existing AM receivers. Two other AM stereo systems, not submitted to the committee for testing, have also been proposed to the FCC by Harris Corporation and by Kahn Communications.

FTC and video games: After a year's investigation, the Federal Trade Commission has tentatively cleared most video games of responsibility for causing injury to TV sets. Based on its inquiry, the FTC stated that "reasonable" use of video games should not damage TV screens. It added the warning, however, that prolonged use of some sets might imprint patterns on some screens, particularly on black-and-white sets. The FTC conceded it had received no consumer complaints, but some special

tests conducted by the National Bureau of Standards found that some games with high modulation settings could imprint a pattern on a monochrome set after 100 to 200 hours of use, but these games would not affect color sets until at least 350 hours of use.

The Commission recommended that consumers purchase games with low-modulation video signals, and those that create constantly changing patterns, colors and brightness levels when turned on but not being used in play. Players are urged to adjust the TV for a normal broadcast picture before turning the game on, and to turn the game off when not in use. The FCC said it would continue to monitor TV games—with special emphasis on the new programmable types—for possible imprint problems.

FM car radio costs: Why does the cheapest auto manufacturer's FM-AM radio cost around \$140 or \$150 when you can buy a portable FM-AM radio for \$10 or \$15? Why does a monophonic FM-AM car radio cost about twice as much as a standard AM car radio? The National Association of Broadcasters and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting admitted they didn't know the answers, but decided to find out whether there was any hanky-panky involved. Because both of these groups endorse legislation that requires that all radios sold in the U.S. contain both FM and AM bands, they were also interested in determining whether large-scale production could reduce FM car radio prices.

Booz, Allen Applied Research made the study for them. The final report specifically studied original-equipment radios that were supplied with three domestic and two import-band autos. The sticker price for the AM-only radios ran \$66 to \$80, while the low-end FM-AM radios for the same cars ran \$135 to \$154. It was discovered that the difference in price between the FM-AM radios and the AM radios didn't represent just profit, but, indeed, the FM section added substantially to the cost. The investigation determined that the markup on an FM-AM radio was about 15% better than that on a low-end AM radio, but that most of the price differential "is directly related to manufacturing cost."

The study didn't offer much hope for any substantial reductions in prices, even if AM-only radios suddenly were outlawed. Additional economies of scale in producing FM-AM radios "are not expected to be significant," said the report, "since AM-FM radio production is currently well over 6 million units per year."

The report did hold out the prospect of price reductions for mono FM-AM radios of from \$15 to \$30, or an average of 15%, if all radios were FM-AM. The logic was that FM-AM radios would then occupy the bottom of the line and would carry the bottom-of-the-line profit ratios currently experienced by AM-only radios. The eventual increased use of IC's should chop off another \$11 to \$30, the report forecast.

DAVID LACHENBRUCH CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

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new & timely

RCA receives patent to manufacture amorphous silicon solar cells

Dr. David E. Carlson, head of the Photovoltaic Device Section of the RCA Corporation Energy Systems Research Laboratory, recently was granted a U.S. patent for "a semiconductor device having a body of amorphous silicon." Based on initial lab tests, it is believed that hydrogenated amorphous silicon soiar cells will be able to produce electricity at costs competitive with conventional power sources by the mid to late 1980's.

RCA envisions that amorphous silicon cells could be used by developing nations lacking more sophisticated power distribution capabilities. Solar cell power supplies could be adapted to small village areas that



AMORPHOUS SILICON SOLAR CELLS can be produced less expensively than conventional crystalline cells, and are expected to be a cost-effective answer to future power requirements. Shown is Dr. David E. Carlson of RCA laboratories operating the glow-discharge equipment used in manufacturing hydrogenated amorphous silicon solar cells.

receive adequate sunlight but whose electricity requirements are modest. After the technology is improved, amorphous solar cells could be used by more developed nations, particularly where large amounts of DC power are required.

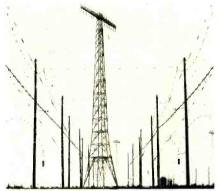
The chief advantage of amorphous silicon cells is their low cost. The material used (a sand derivative) is easily available; a glow-discharge fabrication process is used similar to that used in conventional fluorescent lights; and very thin layers of the material can be spread on large substrates of inexpensive glass or steel sheeting. And because the arrangement of amorphous silicon atoms is not as orderly as that in crystalline solar cells, the material is easier to grow and deposit on inexpensive substrates.

Although conventional silicon cells work more effectively, they are more expensive to fabricate than amorphous silicon cells. Crystalline silicon requires higher processing temperatures (1100°C), compared with the lower 300°C required by amorphous silicon cells. Crystalline cells are also thicker. Amorphous cells can be manufactured in 1-foot-square entities, compared with conventional cells that use 3-inch-diameter wafers.

Last "Radio Central" antenna tower demolished

In 1921, President Harding threw a switch that officially opened "Radio Central," the world's most powerful radio station, and ushered in a colorful era in radio communications. In December, 1977, the last of the 12 giant antenna towers erected in Rocky Point, N.Y., for "Radio Central" by RCA came crashing down . . . the 410-foot tower had become a dinosaur in an age of advanced communications technology.

The Rocky Point facility was the principal station that linked the U.S. with the rest of the world, transmitting messages to Europe, Central and South America. In the early 1920's, longwaves were necessary for such long-distance transmission, and the state-of-the-art mandated the erection of high steel towers to support the antenna structures. The Rocky Point facility had 12 such towers that stretched over a three-



ROCKY POINT, NY, FACILITY as it appeared in the early 1920's.

mile area on the eastern end of Long Island. Each tower was 410 feet high and weighed 150 tons.

When shortwave transmission rendered the towers obsolete, they were all taken down except for one, which was used for a while to support aviation beacon lights and high-frequency radio antennas. When this no longer became necessary, the order went out to demolish "the last of the giants," thus closing a chapter in communications history.

TI to have 16K EAROM by mid-1978

Texas Instruments has announced to its customers that it plans to make available in

sample quantities by mid-1978, the first American-made Famos-type 16K EAROM (Electrically Alterable Flead Only Memory). The device is reported to have an access time of 450 ns. The EAROM differs from an EPROM in that it can be erased and reprogrammed entirely by electrical signals, whereas an EPROM is erased by ultraviolet light.

Nippon Electric Company presently manufactures an 8K EAROM, but it is not yet available in quantity; and General Instrument Corporation makes EAROM's in the nitride family—the fastest device having an access time of 600 ns. Intel is also reported to be working on an 8K device that is erased by ultraviolet light.

The TI EAROM is organized as 2048 words by 8 bits and requires three power supplies—one each for read, write and erase

Computerized system used in road testing

Performance-testing wheeled vehicles normally consists of someone sitting on the passenger side taking down data manually under sometimes nerve-racking and uncomfortable conditions.

Lamar Instruments has now produced an automated computerized road test system that eliminates the necessity for a data-taker. It also reduces costs and simplifies data collection for single-seat vehicles such as motorcycles and race cars.

The Lamar road test system weighs only 25 lbs, and consists of a microcomputer, keyboard, cassette tape recorder for program inputs, a fifth wheel for feeding basic speed and distance data to the computer, and a printer. The LCD display reads out speed in mph, time in seconds, distance in feet and the engine's rpm.



COMPUTERIZED ROAD TEST SYSTEM from Lamar Instruments. Also shown is the optional VHS-THT tester consisting of two telescopes with photocells. As the vehicle passes the line of sight of each telescope, the computer is triggered. When used on a slatom run (a weaving course marked by pylons), the computer prints out the elapsed time to pass both photocells and the average speed.

A decided improvement over the old method of data gathering is provided by the printer, which produces a permanent continued on page 12

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The basic system sells for \$4995, with all the necessary hardware and software for

TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR MAGNAVOX FIELD-SERVICE PERSONNEL



editorial

Radio-Electronics .

Hugo Gernsback (1884-1967) founder

M. Harvey Gernsback, editor-in-chief and publisher

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new & timely continued from page 6

record of reduced and formated data that can be compared on the spot with other data or printed directly on a report, thus eliminating many hours (sometimes days) of reducing raw data to a comprehensible state.

The basic system sells for \$4995, with all the necessary hardware and software for acceleration and braking tests. Additional software for aerodynamic drag, road horsepower and other vehicle handling and driver performance parameters are being developed. For further information, write Lamar Instruments, 1024 17th Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

LED's developed for daytime display

As everyone knows, conventional LED displays are difficult, if not impossible, to read in bright light or in the sun. Now, however, Hewlett-Packard has designed a discrete light-emitting diode that it claims can compete with LCD's, incandescent, gas discharge and other displays used for daytime applications.

The red and yellow 7-segment LED displays can be viewed in direct sunlight or in ambient lighting up to 10,000 foot-candles in intensity. To achieve that performance, a high-contrast gray package was developed along with high-efficiency chips having large, active pn junctions.

For direct viewing in sunlight, a commercially available acrylic neutral-density gray filter blocks out the sun's rays. The LED displays are expected to have many automotive, avionic, instrument and measurement applications.

Casio introduces compact new mini-calculators

At a recent media conference, Casio, Inc., manufacturers of electronic calculators, displayed three new compact, fully

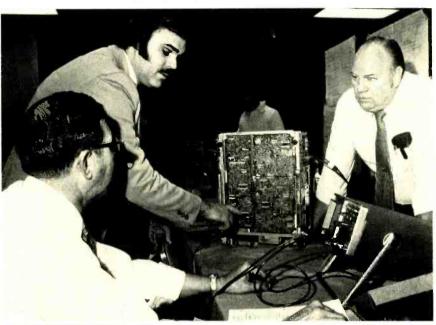


CASIO LC-78 MINI-CARD CALCULATOR is no bigger than a credit card, yet offers four math functions. percent and memory.

functional mini-calculators: the *model LC-78*, the *model MQ-2* and the *model AQ-810*.

The simplest, and smallest, calculator is

TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR MAGNAVOX FIELD-SERVICE PERSONNEL



IN DECEMBER, MAGNAVOX held a series of four, week-long service workshops at its Fort Wayne division headquarters. These seminars were aimed at giving field service personnel "hands-on" experience with Magnavox's new videocassette recorder. Here, Howard Shoudy (rear), service training specialist, shows VCR circuitry to Jim Fritsche (left), Cleveland division and Bill Nurge (right), Dallas division. A January series is planned for dealers and independent service technicians at selected sites throughout the country.

the *model LC-78* (shown) which is about the size of an ordinary business card and weighs 1.4 ounces. It features an 8-digit LCD readout, four basic math functions, plus percent and memory.

The model MQ-2 is slightly larger and weighs 1.6 ounces. Its capabilities include an 8-digit calculator and watch/calendar that displays the year, month, date and day, its time memory can show the exact time in two time zones, and its calculator includes four math functions and percent.

The model AQ-810 consists of a calculator complete with memory, percent and square root. This unit can perform time calculations. The timer function contains two "beep" reminders. The eight-digit readout displays hours, minutes, seconds and AM-PM. It is powered by two silver oxide batteries that give the user 3000 hours of continuous use.

Focusing system uses linear IC

Honeywell, Inc., has recently designed an automatic-focus system for cameras. This focusing system, called the *Visitronic* module, will doubtless find increasing applications in the camera field, particularly in view of the increasing demand for home videotape TV cameras and in automated equipment. The module will be incorpo-

rated into the Konica C35AF camera that will be introduced next spring.

The process resembles conventional split-image focusing. In the automatic-focus linear IC, two separate images are focused on a pair of photodiode sensor arrays placed at opposite ends of the body of the IC. Each array receives the image via a separate mirror—one mirror is fixed on one array, the other is linked to the camera lens and scans down the scene. At the point at which the output signals from the detector arrays nearly match, the camera lens moves into focus position.

For this match to take place, each sensor array is divided into four quadrants, each producing a separate current output signal that is fed into one of eight logarithmic amplifiers (which are sensitive to voltage mismatch). The amplifiers feed each signal to four absolute-value circuits, at which point each signal is fed to a summing circuit. The latter then inverts the signal so that when the two images match, a summing circuit output signal known as a correlation signal reaches a peak.

The correlation signal is fed into a peak detector, whose output signal then turns on a solenoid that moves the lens to focus at the best point. The entire process takes place in the instant it takes to press the shutter button.



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editorial

Report From The Winter CES

Having just returned from the 1978 Winter Consumer Electronics Show, I should be brimming with news of the wonderful new consumer electronics products to appear this year. But I was disappointed. There were lots of electronics at what turned out to be the largest show of its kind, but very little that was really new.

Video tape recorders are a boom market. More manufacturers are announcing new models and fantastic sales. Projection TV is another boom area, but the price tag keeps the total numbers down. However, Panasonic has joined this race and several other major brands are expected to climb on the bandwagon shortly.

The home computer is alive and well. Even more new units are appearing and each has its own built-in attractions. However, there is one point that seems to be escaping some buyers. If you want a TV game, don't buy a home computer. It's true that you can play some rather elaborate games with a computer, but programmable TV games remain under \$200 while home computers start at \$595.

There were no flat-screen TV's; no 3-D TV's; very little 4-channel stereo; and no startling breakthroughs. There were smaller calculators; cheaper calculators; more new TV manufacturers; lots of new companies offering me-too products; and hundreds of add-on telephone products.

To summarize, the electronics business is alive and well. Perhaps exciting, really new products will appear this June at the Summer Consumer Electronics Show. Meanwhile, the manufacturers and dealers seem to believe that they are going to sell a bundle of consumer electronics this year, and I think that they are right.

LARRY STECKLER

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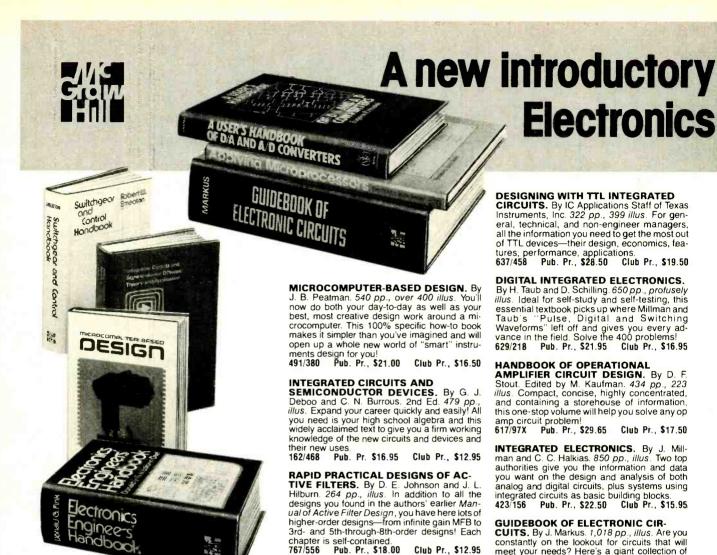
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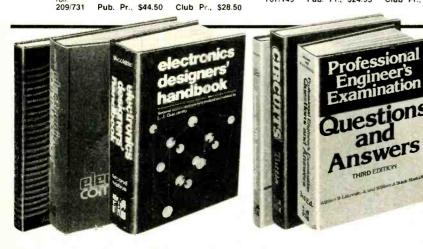
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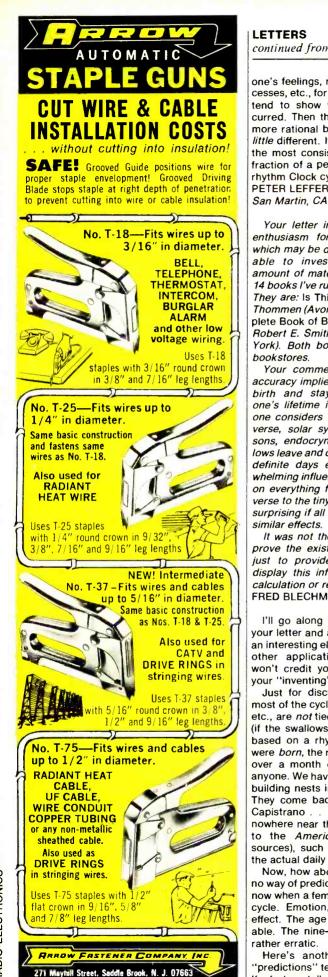
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CIRCLE 61 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

LETTERS

continued from page 16

one's feelings, moments of efficiency, successes, etc., for several months. This would tend to show where the real peaks occurred. Then the clock could be set on a more rational basis. After all, we are all a little different. It would be truly amazing if the most consistent human trait (within a fraction of a percent) would be these Biorhythm Clock cycles. PETER LEFFERTS

Your letter indicates a general lack of enthusiasm for the biorhythm concept, which may be due to your not having been able to investigate the overwhelming amount of material on the subject. Of the 14 books I've run across, I recommend two. They are: Is This Your Day? by George S. Thommen (Avon paperback) and The Complete Book of Biorhythm Life Cycles by Dr. Robert E. Smith (Ardvark Publishers, New York). Both books are available at most bookstores

Your comment regarding the extreme accuracy implied in life cycles that start at birth and stay on-schedule throughout one's lifetime is not so "fantastic" when one considers the "accuracy" of the universe, solar system, earth rotation, seasons, endocryne rhythms, etc. The swallows leave and come back to Capistrano on definite days each year. With the overwhelming influence of "rhythms." or cycles. on everything from the infinity of the universe to the tiny atom, it would certainly be surprising if all living things did not exhibit similar effects

It was not the intention of the article to prove the existence of biorhythm cycles, just to provide an electronic device to display this information without constant calculation or reference to tables.

FRED BLECHMAN

I'll go along with the last paragraph in your letter and acknowledge that you have an interesting electronic project . . . lots of other applications too. Furthermore, I won't credit you with or complain about your "inventing" biorhythms.

Just for discussion, let's consider that most of the cycles in birds, animals, plants, etc., are not tied to the DAY they are born (if the swallows at Capistrano came back based on a rhythm starting the day they were born, the return would be spaced but over a month or so and wouldn't excite anyone. We have those very same swallows building nests in the eaves of our houses. They come back two to three days after Capistrano . . . but their family-raising is nowhere near that predictable!) According to the American Scientist (and other sources), such cycles are "corrected" by the actual daily or seasonal cycles.

Now, how about human cycles? There is no way of predicting the day five years from now when a female will start her "monthly" cycle. Emotion, health, etc., have a big effect. The age of maturity is not predictable. The nine-month gestation period is rather erratic.

Here's another thought. Many times 'predictions" tend to become self-fulfilling. If a fortune teller, "the stars," or a computer says today is an individual's good day, often he gets hyped up . . . and sure enough, he has a good day. (This has been proven with experiments involving teachers' attitudes towards their students.) But . . . fortune tellers (for obvious reasons) emphasize the good possibilities.

It is true I did not research the literature on biorhythms, but commonsense has some place, too. PETER LEFFERTS

San Martin, CA

AMPAK ERROR

Thank you for featuring Pacer's Ampak in the December 1977 issue ("New Products"). But apparently an error was made in setting up the feature. The first line reads: "measures 1-8 amps DC." However. this should read "1-800 amps DC." MICHAEL HUBER

General Manager, Pacer Industries, Inc. Chippewa Falls, WI

0000PS!

There are errors in the schematic of the digital capacitance meter on page 38 of the December 1977 issue. Capacitor C3 is .001 μF as in the parts list; not .01 μF . The number 6 pins of displays DIS1, DIS3 and DIS4 should go to R42, R43 and R44, respectively, instead of to the points indicated in the diagram.

BRICKLAYING TECHNIQUES

Walter Cardwell's IC bricklaying techniques (December 1977 issue) lend themselves particularly well to an application no one mentioned in the articlecomputer memory construction.

Memory IC's are usually connected to each other in parallel, except for the input, the output and, sometimes, the chip select pins. To make a 1K × 8 memory using eight 2102's, for example, trim only the input and output pins, as in the article. Stack the IC's one on top of the other, and solder the common leads together.

For nK × 8, trim the IC select pin on the bottom of each 1K × 8 block, and stack the blocks. If you must have sockets, you can use Molex pins soldered to each IC to hold the one above it. However, this technique will not be as sturdy as direct soldering, and the stacks will be taller. On the plus side, this method allows easier cooling. Of course, the heat-sinking methods described in the article should be used where necessary. For memory expansion, Mr. Cardwell's method saves the cost of a rather expensive PC board. EVERETT B. OGDEN Delmar, NY

VIDEO MODULATOR

Please advise any of your readers who plan on building the video modulator (Radio-Electronics, August, 1977, page 33) that the "complete" kit of parts does not include the printed circuit board for the switch nor the bottom RF shield.

In addition, Delta Electronics also charges postage and handling. This is not mentioned in the parts list on page 34. ELMER P. VANDENBURGH La Grange, IL

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Motorola Educator II Microcomputer Kit



CIRCLE 101 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

THE MOTOROLA EDUCATOR II HEP KIT IS AN M6800 microcomputer system learning tool designed with future expansion in mind. Data is entered through eight toggle switches, and the system is controlled by three additional center-off, spring-loaded toggle switches. The binary data-output display consists of eight discrete LED's. A ninth LED is extinguished when the processor is running. To power the unit an external 5-volt, 1-amp supply such as

the Motorola *HK1001* is required. A beginner should start out by confronting data and instructions on a bit-by-bit basis with the toggle switches. As he advances, the computerist will seek more convenient modes of operation, and can add more sophisticated keyboard and display systems through two 44-pin edge connectors.

The Educator II microcomputer board uses a HEP version of the M6800 (HEP C4801), two IC's with 512 words of RAM that contain utility programs, 128 words of user RAM and a C4821 peripheral interface adapter (PIA) with 16 inputs and outputs, and some handshaking leads.

The M6800 is a popular microprocessor with a versatile architecture that uses two 8-bit accumulators, a 16-bit index register, a 16-bit program counter, a 16-bit stack pointer and an 8-bit condition code register (CCR).

The ROM firmware, DBUG, has routines for loading, reading and running user programs. It also contains a cassette tape routine. This produces an audio output and deposits specified portions of RAM into an external cassette tape recorder. A complementary read routine is intelligent enough to search a tape

for a file number indicated by the data-switch settings.

The M6800 microprocessor recognizes the software interrupt instruction (SWI) code 3F. When the microprocessor encounters this instruction, a vectored jump to DBUG saves the status of the accumulators, index register, program counter and CCR in RAM locations 00F4 through 00FA. This is an invaluable troubleshooting aid. You can, by inserting SWI instructions in crucial locations in the program, interrupt program execution at those places so that you can inspect the registers and memory contents.

The 128 words of RAM provided with the kit are assigned addresses from 0080 to 00FF, with the last 14 locations, F2 through FF, reserved for use by the DBUG firmware. There is enough board space for an additional 128 words from 0000 to 007F. Larger blocks of memory can be added externally using one of the 44-pin connectors and proper address decoding.

To read memory, the upper and lower bytes of the address to be inspected are entered with the data switches and the LOAD LEAST SIGNIFICANT and LOAD MOST SIGNIFICANT switches.

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The EXAMINE switch is then used to sequentially inspect memory locations starting at that address. Memory contents are read out in binary by the 8 data LED's. Each time you depress the EXAMINE switch, the lower byte of the address being examined is displayed on the LED readout. Releasing the switch displays the memory contents. Storing programs or data into memory is similar except that the STORE switch is used and data is entered by the data switches. Running a program is a bit more complicated since the program starting address must first be stored in the DBUG program counter storage locations 00F9 and 00FA. Then the GO/HALT switch is toggled to initiate processing.

The manual includes kit assembly instructions, an explanation of the microcomputer hardware, some theory of number systems, suggestions on writing programs, operating instructions and application programs. A schematic and a firmware listing are included. However, only one of the two pages of firmware is listed, but this may be due to the early edition of the manual. The other page is easily read out using the EXAMINE facility.

turn page



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Inevitably, when you debug programs, you must add or delete instructions. Assuming there is sufficient memory space, deleting instructions can be as simple as overwriting with no-operation commands. Adding instructions, though, means moving every instruction following the added instruction. The alternate technique of inserting patches or jumps to other parts of memory is both slow and wasteful of memory. The manual presents one short application program that moves all the instruc-

tions down one memory location, starting at the location where the addition is to be made. and inserts the added instruction at that point. The program can be executed repeatedly so multiple word instructions or a series of instructions can be inserted sequentially by depressing GO as many times as required. A delete-data program works similarly, taking out one word at a time by moving all subsequent program steps up one byte and overwriting the instruction being removed. (It's a big help.)

Educator II looks like a good way to get going with a capable microprocessor that has the capability to grow. The HEP Kit is priced at \$169.95. For more information, write Motorola HEP/MRO Operations, 705 West 22nd Street, Tempe, AZ 85282.

Mindblower Model PS-69RD Stereo Speaker/ **Amplifier**



CIRCLE 102 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

WHEN I WAS ASKED TO TEST TENNA CORPoration's Mindblower, model PS-69RD, car stereo speaker/amplifier system, I took one look at the spec sheet and flinched. At that time, the mere thought of 60 watts of audio-30 watts rms-per-channel-in a car that I would be driving was indeed mindblowing. I couldn't conceive of anyone using, or even wanting, 60 watts of audio for a car stereo setup.

I reluctantly agreed to test the Mindblower when I realized that I could install it at the same time as the model XTAL XA-909 FM stereo radio/cassette player I had just bought to go in my 1973 Gas Guzzler. I had not yet selected the stereo speakers for the rear-deck installation, so why not use the Mindblower instead? It could be installed with the same amount of labor.

When the amplifier/speaker system arrived from the factory, I was impressed with its appearance. The system consists of two heavy wide-range 6 × 9-inch speakers, chrometrimmed black plastic grilles and a small control unit.

The back of each speaker (see photo) has an oblong case that covers and protects the 30watt amplifier that is arranged around the heavy ceramic speaker magnet. A glance at the owners' instructions showed that the installation would be fairly simple. I'd need help at only one point-someone had to crawl into the trunk and hold the speakers in place while I inserted the mounting screws from inside the

Installation was a breeze

Everything went smoothly. The FM radio/ cassette player was hung under the dashboard on a Mount 'n Lock CB installation bracket. (The bracket is fastened to the dashboard with four heavy bolts. The car stereo is held in the Mount 'n Lock bracket by two locking nuts that must be unlocked with a key before the radio can be removed.) The Mindblower control box was mounted close by. Each speaker/ amplifier unit has four leads. Two leads are for power—one fused for the 12-volt positive supply and one for the power ground; the other leads are for audio. Only three wires run back to the speakers—the + 12-volt line and the two hot speaker leads. The negative power lead and the audio return leads are grounded to the car's chassis close to one of the speakers.

The three leads from the control box were tucked up behind the dashboard and run across to one side, down behind one of the kick panels, inside the channel under the door sills and under the rear seat into the trunk area. My car, like many others today, has cutouts for 6 × 9-inch speakers in the metal underside of

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the rear deck. All I had to do was crawl into the trunk and use an icepick to punch up through the speaker mounting holes into the car. The holes are guides for positioning the grille and for cutting away the pressed board and leatherette finish on the rear deck. With my son in the trunk holding the speakers, I was able to get the four mounting screws for each speaker through the grilles and into the speed nuts on the speaker frames. Tightening the screws was a problem.

(The rear window on my car has a very sharp slope and is quite rounded on the sides. This feature, along with the positions of the speaker cutouts, made it impossible to use any of the standard screwdrivers that I owned.) A borrowed 3-inch stubby Phillips screwdriver enabled me to tighten two screws in each speaker. The other two screws were left loose while I spent several weeks finding and buying an offset (right-angle) screwdriver.

Great sound

The control box has a two-position slide switch to select the output mode and a potentiometer to control bass boost and volume level. The switch, when in the STEREO position, lets you hear your stereo radio or tape player output at about the volume level that would be available minus the *Mindblower*. The output voltage of the radio or tape player is attenuated so that when the signal passes through the *Mindblower*, it emerges at about the normal level. The switch placed in the POWER position lets the full radio or tape deck output voltage drive the *Mindblower* amplifiers up to maximum power output. This voltage is tapped oil a frequency-selective network by the poten-

iometer

At first, on drives around town, I listened to FM radio and tapes with the switch in the STEREO position. The car-filling sound was great. The sensation was similar to listening through stereo headphones. The bass was solid and the highs crisp—a credit to the *Mind-blower* and the FM radio.

On a long drive at highway speeds, road and wind noises intruded on the radio's sound. I was annoyed when I found that outside noises were still interfering even with the volume control set at maximum. Then, I remembered the *Mindblower* mode switch and threw it to POWER. Wow! What a difference. I now had the volume to override outside noises. Maximum power was available with the potentiometer fully clockwise in the POWER PLUS position. Bass boost is added to the output when the control is in its fully counterclockwise BASS POWER position.

The sound is clean at all levels. The maximum volume level can be set with the potentiometer on the control box. You can set intermediate levels with the radio's volume control. I was surprised to find the *Mindblower* very tolerant of audio input driving power. Overload distortion was not noticeable until the set's volume control and the level control on the *Mindblower* were both advanced to maximum. Backing off either control reduced the distortion without appreciably reducing the volume level.

I'm convinced

There is a place for high-power audio in car radio systems. It is a must if you want to listen to music with the same ease and freedom from distractions that you have in your living room. On the road, you seldom realize just how loud you are playing the radio until you stop at a light or toll booth. The sound now is often overpowering. This gives a good indication of the sound level you need to overcome outside noises.

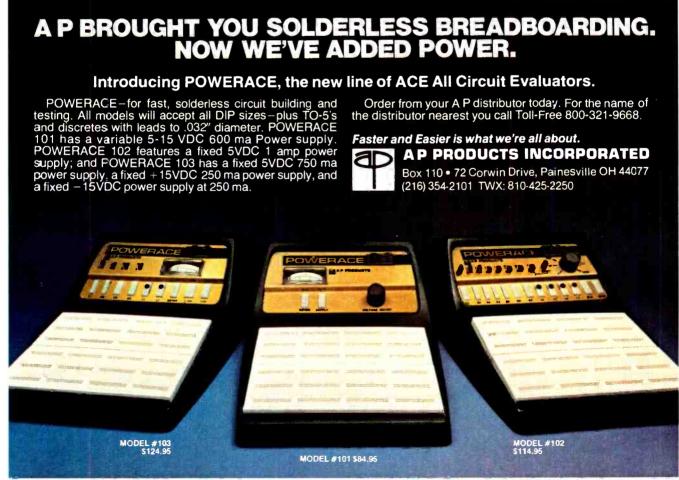
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If you should ask if high-power stereo in your car is for you, I'd say yes! For no matter how you feel about loud music in the quiet of your listening room, you need more power if you want the same ratio of signal to outside noise that you enjoy at home.

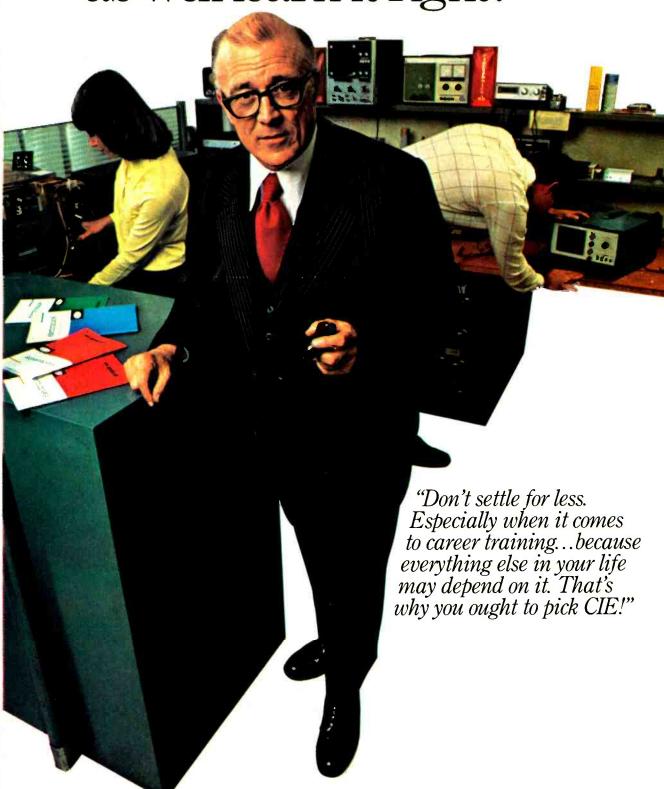
There are other audio power boosters available, but the *Mindblower* is the only one I know of that combines the amplifiers with especially tailored hi-fi speakers. So, if you want boosted audio, consider this system. It goes in real easy and the sound is mighty good. The price is also right at \$69.95 from Tenna Corporation, 19201 Cranwood Parkway, Cleveland, OH 44128, or available at your local car stereo dealer.

(Note: If you go for the *Mindblower* or any other audio power booster that requires placing the amplifiers under the seat or in the trunk, **do not** rely solely on the fuse in the car's accessory circuit and the fuse at or in the amplifier. Use an independent fuse just for the amplifier and connect it to the hot supply lead as closely as possible to the car's fuse block. Select a fuse that is just heavy enough to hold up under maximum-volume power drain.)

The Mindblower has two fuses: one in the hot line about 6 inches from each speaker/
continued on page 32



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continued from page 27

amplifier. A few days after I installed the system in the car, some rip-off artist broke into the car and tried to steal the FM radio/cassette player. He would have made it if he could have defeated the Mount 'n Lock bracket. In his attempt, he yanked on the cabled wires running back from the Mindblower control box. The power cable insulation was cut on a sharp metal edge in the channel under the rear door so the 12-volt lead shorted to the chassis. When I turned on the ignition, the current drawn was high enough to melt and ignite the wire insulation for its entire length between the fuse block and the short, but it was not

high enough to blow the fuse until after the fire gained headway. An 8-amp fuse in the line directly at the fuse block would have prevented the fire and a costly replacement of much of the wiring behind the dashboard.

Sabtronics Model 2000 Digital Multimeter

IF YOU DON'T ALREADY OWN A DMM, OR IF YOU own a bulky bench type and are looking for a battery-powered portable, take a serious look at the Sabtronics *model 2000*. (Sabtronics International Inc., Box 64683, Dallas, TX 75206.) It has impressive specifications and many features that a few years ago could be found only in expensive lab instruments. These



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include a basic DC accuracy of 0.1%, a 3½-digit readout, automatic polarity, automatic zeroing and automatic overrange indication. The *model 2000* is available only as a kit at \$69.95.

The front panel of the model 2000 is uncluttered and easy to understand. In the upper center-half is the 31/2-digit 0.36-inch-high LED display. Directly below this are 9 pushbuttons. The POWER on-off switch is red and located to the far left. Next, from left to right, are the AC, VOLT, AMP and OHM function switches. These switches are grey. The VOLT, AMP and OHM switches are interlocked so only one can be depressed at any one time. The AC pushbutton is not interlocked and selects either AC or DC measurements (AC when depressed). You use the AC pushbutton in conjunction with the VOLT, AMP and OHM pushbuttons to select AC volts, DC volts, AC current, DC current and resistance. (The AC pushbutton has no effect on the ohms function.)

To the right of the function pushbuttons are four range pushbuttons that are white. Three select the full-scale reading and the fourth is a × 10 multiplier. The basic full-scale resistance ranges are 100, 10K and 1M. Using the ×10 multiplier expands the number of resistance ranges to six—100, 1K, 10K, 100K, 1M and 10MEG. There is a 100% overrange capability on all ranges. So, for the 10-megohm resistance range, the upper measurement limit is 19.99 megohms.

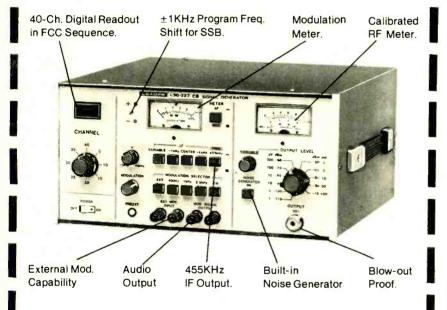
The basic full-scale current ranges are $10 \mu A$, 1 mA and 100 mA. The $\times 10 \text{ multiplier}$ extends the number of ranges to six— $10 \mu A$, $100 \mu A$, 1 mA, 10 mA, 100 mA and 1 amp. With the 100% overrange capability on all ranges, the 1 amp scale will read to 1.999 amps. Two amperes is also the maximum allowable input current. The ranges and upper measurement limit holds true for both the AC and DC current scales.

Voltage ranges are selected just like the current and resistance ranges, with the basic full-scale ranges being 100 mV, 10 volts and 1 kV. No, the ×10 multiplier won't extend the upper measurement limit to 10 kV. The maximum allowable input voltage is 1 kV. In fact, the 100% overrange capability on the 1 kV scale is academic. Using the ×10 multiplier permits you to select full-scale voltage ranges of 100 mV, 1 volt, 10 volts, 100 volts and 1 kV. This holds true for both the DC and AC voltage ranges.

At the far right of the front panel are the input jacks. The COMMON input jack is black and the volt-ohm-amp input jack is directly above it and red. Both of these jacks accept banana-type plugs. Test leads are extra. An optional set of 36-inch black and red test leads are available from Sabtronics for \$3.50, part No. TL-36P. The probes that come with the optional test leads are the standard barreltype.

continued on page 102

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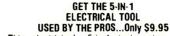
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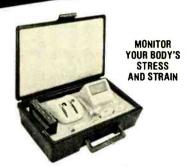
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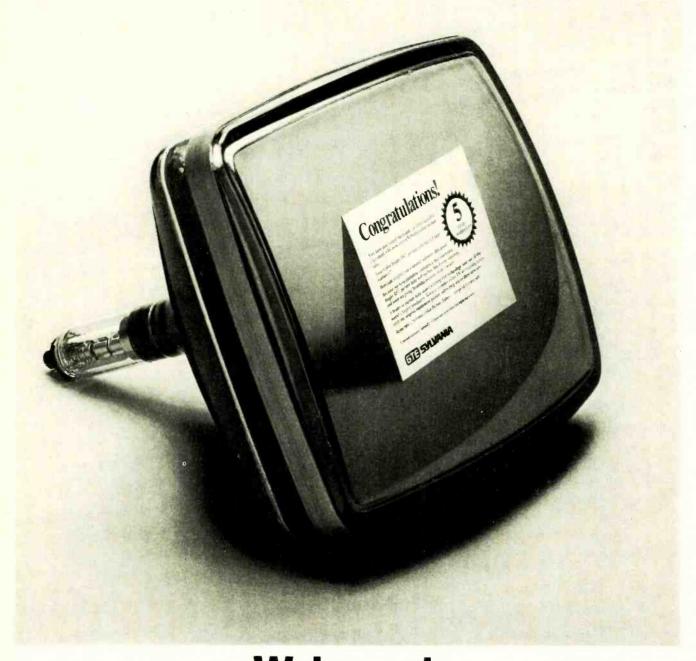
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MAHCH 19/8

Portable 30-MHz Frequency Counter

You can hold it in the palm of your hand. Yet it reads to 28-Mhz and better, has a 70-mV sensitivity and a 4-digit readout that delivers 6-digit resolution.

GARY McCLELLAN

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A frequency counter that measures frequencies to 30 MHz, and is small enough to fit in your coat pocket! Sure you would, and for good reason; counters are becoming more popular every day.

Our pocket counter may be small, but it has grown-up features. The maximum frequency it will measure is 23 MHz typical, with 70-mV sensitivity. However, you can go as high as 30 MHz with 90mV sensitivity. The input impedance is the standard 1 megohm, meaning you can use scope probes on this counter for easier circuit checking. Oh yes, overloads can happen and this counter is protected from most of them. It will take 120 volts AC right from the wall outlet without harm! The unit is powered by four rechargeable NiCad batteries, and since the current drain is low, they will last a long time. The batteries also help make this counter portable, like a calculator.

The heart of any counter is its time-base, and this one has a crystal-controlled timebase, just like the big counters. We use a color TV burst crystal (3.58 MHz) in our unit and this gives good accuracy. You can normally expect better than \pm 0.005% accuracy with \pm 0.003% typical, depending upon the frequency being measured. Like other counters, the higher the frequency you measure, the better the accuracy. The display is all LED—4

digits of 0.112-inch-high display. Don't let that display fool you either! With just a flip of the three-position range switch you can get up to two digits more, for a total of six digits with the power consumption of four digits! Quite a counter!

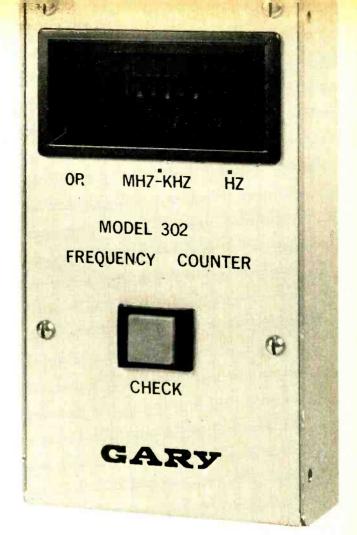
The pocket counter is easy to build. It has nine IC's, most of which are CMOS and the rest are low-power Schottky. So all of a sudden the counter is easier to build and the power drain is reduced to about a half watt. You should be able to build this project in about three evenings or less. A PC board makes the job easy. And all parts mount on this board, except for a few switches, jacks and the battery that must go on the case. Special arrangements have been made to bring you a lowcost kit to make the construction task easier. Or, if you prefer, the PC layouts are shown so you can roll your own. Nearly all of the parts are available through mail order houses, and the few harder to get parts are available either from the author or from several suppliers mentioned later on.

How it works

The counter uses the classic "window counting" technique that is the basis for almost all frequency counters in use today. Figure 1 is a block diagram of a counter based on this technique. This basic counter has four sections; input

amplifier, gate, timebase and decade counter/display section. Here's how it works. Input signals are squared up by the input amplifier and are applied to the gate section. It is necessary to square up the input signals because digital circuitry does not respond too well to analog-type signals such as sinewaves. The timebase circuit puts out three synchronized signals in this order: gate-enable, data transfer (latch) and reset. The gate-enable signal is applied to the gate section, causing the signal from the input amplifier to pass through it. This is called the window, and the time the gate allows the input signal to pass through is precisely determined.

The gated signal is then counted up by a string of of decade counters, wired in series. Usually, there are at least 4 decades total, with 6 decades being typical. The signals from these counters are then applied to a display latch that transfers the output from the counters to the displays upon command from the transfer line from the timebase. This reading is frozen at the displays while the decade counters are reset to zero and the count sequence is repeated. The latches are very important, because without them you would see the decade counters count up, stop briefly at the correct count, then reset to zero and repeat. This is the basic frequency counter, and there are few



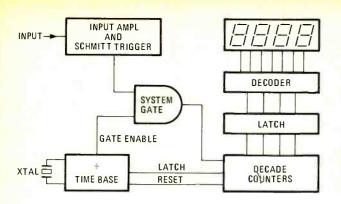


FIG. 1—BLOCK DIA-GRAM shows the four sections of the basic counter: input amplifier, gate, timebase, and decade counter display.

designs that are very different.

Now let's take a look at our counter. It is just like the basic counter. Figure 2 is a block diagram of the unit. You should be able to identify the input amplifier, the counter/display and the timebase, but the gate will be difficult. The gate section is part of the input amplifier and will be discussed further on. There are some divider sections following the input amplifier. Their purpose is to divide the input signal so that it will run the counter/display section. A CMOS LSI IC (IC5) handles the counting at this point. Its maximum frequency range is about 2 MHz, so with the dividers (normally called prescalers) it is easy for a 2-MHz IC to count over 20 MHz. By the way, that CMOS counter saves you twelve TTL IC's or about 184 soldered connections! This is the secret of a successful counter that anyone can build.

Operation of our counter is just like the window counting method first described. The only difference is the frequency dividers that scale down the input frequency for the CMOS counter/display IC. Normally you don't find them in other counters; instead you change the the timebase frequency by tapping off dividers there to get the different ranges. Our counter provides Hz, kHz and MHz ranges just like the big counters, but with fewer parts and low power drain.

The circuit

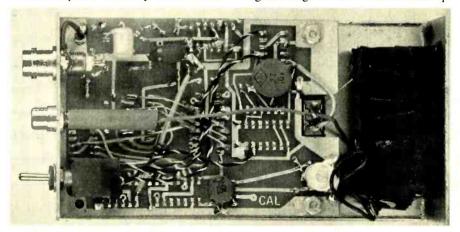
Now let's dig deeper into the circuitry. Checking the schematic (Fig. 3) you'll find that the input signal appears at Q1, a FET source follower. Diodes D1 and D2

form the overload protection network. The signal passes from the follower, which is there to give a high-Z input, to IC1, a quad NAND gate. The first section is biased for amplifier operation by R4 and the stage provides about 10× gain or so. Surprisingly, TTL gates make stable amplifiers. Not hi-fi but fine for counters. The next two stages (gates, really) act as the Schmitt trigger, squaring up the signal to proper TTL levels. Resistor R6 sets hysteresis or trigger point. The final section, IC1-d, is the gate, with transistor Q7 and resistor R19 controlling its on and off times. These two parts convert the CMOS (think low current) timebase output to the low-power Schottky TTL (think higher current) gate input. From there, the signal is divided down by 10 in IC2, by 10 again in IC3 and by 100 in IC4. Low-power Schottky 74LS90's in

the first two spots insure high-frequency operation and low power drain. A typical 74LS90 will go to 35-40 MHz and draw about 5 mA.

Compare that to a standard 7490 that goes to 20–25 MHz and draws 25 mA! Switch S1 is the RANGE switch. It selects the proper range by switching different places in the divider network. From there, the selected signal goes to IC5, a National Semiconductor MM74C926 counter array that counts the signal, latches it and drives an LED display. This IC houses 4 decade counters, 4 latches, a display driver and multiplex logic.

Now let's take a look at the rest of the counter. The timebase consists of IC6, IC7-a, IC8-a and IC9. A color-TV crystal, XTAL1, generates the reference frequency, with IC6 providing the associated oscillator and counting down to 60 Hz. This signal drives IC7, a divide-by-60 counter, to get the necessary 1-second timebase. IC7 also provides part of the reset and latch signals as well. The 1-Hz output drives IC8, which converts it into a 1-second-on and 1-second-off pulse for the gate section. Finally, the IC9 gates create the reset and latch (or transfer) pulses necessary for proper operation of the counter. Sections IC7-b and IC8-b are wired to form an overrange indicator-that's the circuitry you see wired to LED1. IC7-b acts as an inverter, causing the SR flip-flop of IC8-b to energize on negative edge of the waveform that ap-



INSIDE VIEW OF BASIC COUNTER shows just how easy a construction job it is. Most components go right on the circuit board.

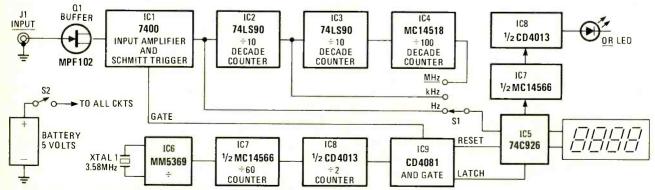


FIG. 2—BLOCK DIAGRAM OF THE COUNTER described in this article. The gate section is different than that shown in Fig. 1 and there are some additional divider stages.



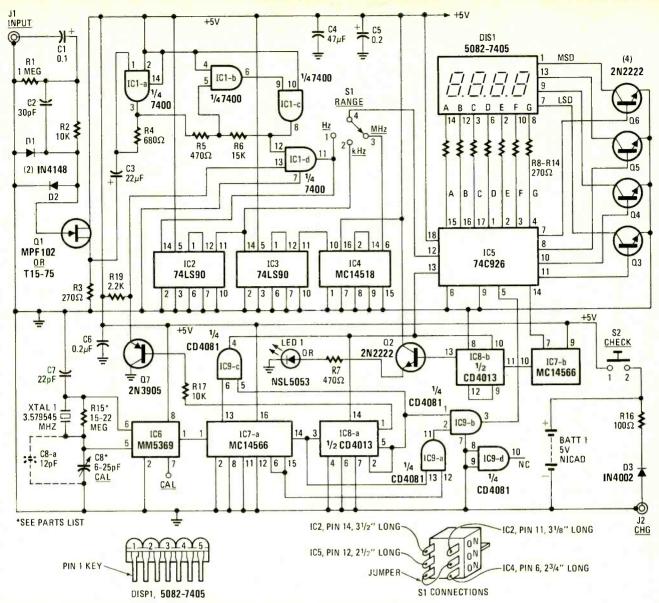


FIG. 3—FULL SCHEMATIC OF THE COUNTER makes it easy to follow the circuit description. Resistor R18 (10K) was inadvertently omitted. It connects between Q2's base and pin 13 of IC8-b.

All resistors 1/4-watt carbon film type unless noted.

R1—1 megohm

R2, R17, R18-10,000-ohm resistors

R3, R8-R14-270-ohm resistors

R4-680 ohms

R5, R7-470 ohms

R6—15,000 ohms

R15-15 to 22 megohms

R16-100 ohms, 1/2 watt

R19-2200 ohms

C1-0.1 μ F, 200-volt tubular

C2-30 pF disc

C3-22 µF, 6-volt tantalum

C4-47 µF, 6-volt tantalum

C5, C6-0.2 μ F, 10-volt disc (0.1 μ F OK)

C7-22 pF mica

C8—either a 6-25-pF trimmer or a 6-18pF trimmer plus 12-pF mica cap (C8-a)

D1, D2-1N4148

D3-1N4002

DIS1-5082-7405 display (Hewlett-Packard). Poly Paks 92CU3199

LED1-NSL5053 LED National or similar

Q1-MPF102 FET

Q2-Q6-2N2222 transistors

Q7-2N3905 PNP transistor or similar

IC1—SN7400 IC, Active Electronics IC2, IC3—SN74LS90 IC, Active Electr. IC4—MC14518P CMOS IC dual BCD up-

counter

IC5—MM74C926N CMOS IC (National) Tri-Tek or Liberty Electronics

IC6—MM5369N CMOS IC (National)

IC7—MC14566CP CMOS IC timebase generator (Motorola) or HEP C4055P

IC8-CD4013 CMOS IC

IC9-CD4081 CMOS IC

J1-BNC female coax connector

J2-RCA phono socket

S1—single-pole, 3-position toggle switch, C&K 7211 (Poly Paks 92CU3016)

S2—SPST, normally open pushbutton switch, C&K 8121-J81-3-2 or similar

BATT1—5-volt NiCad battery pack; 4-size
AA cells in holder

XTAL1—3.579545-MHz color TV crystal Misc.—LMB CR531 case, model 302 PC board, display bezel, 12-volt wall plug

board, display bezel, 12-volt wall plug transformer with RCA plug (battery charger), 3/6-in. threaded spacers, etc.

Note: A kit of all above parts is available from Gary McClellan and Co., Box 2085, 1001 West Imperial Hwy., La Habra, CA 90631. Complete kit of all parts and unpunched case, \$39.95 postpaid. California residents add state and local taxes as applicable. PC board only, \$5.95 postpaid. Write for prices on other parts.

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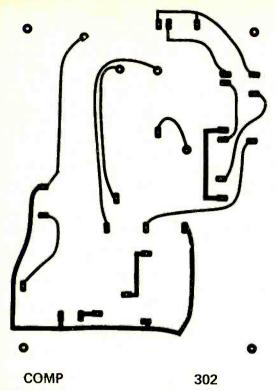


FIG. 4—FULL-SIZE FOIL PATTERN of one side of the 2-sided circuit board. Used with Fig. 5 you can make your own circuit board.

pears at the overrange output (pin 14) of IC5.

Now that you know how it works, let's get started on the construction!

Put one together

Construction of this counter is pretty easy if you take your time. Also, use of a PC board is strongly recommended. If you wish, you can duplicate one from the patterns in Figs. 4 and 5, or buy one from the author.

The first step is to locate the parts. Sources are given in the parts list for the tougher ones to help you get the components without a lot of problems. Write the sources for more information and prices if you desire. One thing that's important here: you must use quality parts. That means NO JUNK! Cheap reject "retested" type parts will cause you more problems than you can believe when it's time to check out this counter! A word to the wise is sufficient.

Start construction by stuffing the PC board. It contains nearly all of the parts, and when you finish stuffing, you can test it prior to putting it into the case.

Study Figs. 6 and 7 before you start. Probably the best way to begin is to install the diodes, D1 and D2. Place the board in the position shown with the side saying "COMP" in the corner face up. Install the two diodes as shown and solder. The next step is to install the transistors. This will require a little extra care, as the holes do not exactly match the leads coming out of the transistors. That means you will have to bend a lead

on most of the transistors—an easy task. Install FET O1 first. Notice how the flat side faces. Next, add the PNP transistor, Q7. This one plugs directly into the three holes with no bending. The same is true of Q2. It mounts near the top of the board. Finish up by installing the four transistors near the center of the board. Bend the emitter lead on two transistors so that it goes between the base and collector leads, then place each transistor in the Q4 and Q5 spots on the board. The emitter leads go to the foil bus on the other side of the board, the collector leads point toward the center of the board and the base leads point toward the top edge of the board. Transistors Q3 and Q6 are installed last. They go in place without bending. The base leads face the exact center of the board, and the collectors face the top edge. So much for the transistors.

The next step is to install the display. Do LED1 first, noting that the flat spot faces the center of the board. You can substitute almost any LED here, so don't feel stuck with the one specified. Then add DIS1. This is a rather tricky part, and there should be a dot showing pin 1 on the reverse side. If not, you may have to try it and reverse it later if you get strange readings. To make life easier all readouts supplied with the kit have an unused pin (pin 4) cut and you simply orient the readout as shown. (If you use the Hewlett-Packard display specified, pin 1 is notched as shown on the inset in Fig. 3.—Editor)

Next, you can install the resistors.

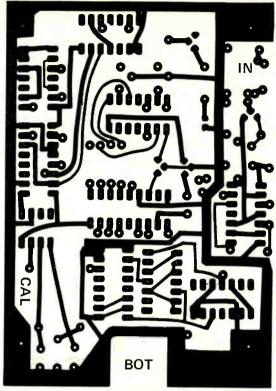


FIG. 5—THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CIRCUIT BOARD. This fullsize pattern used with the one on Fig. 4 can be used to make your own circuit board for this instrument.

Stick them in as shown. Leave about 1/8 inch on the 22-megohm resistor leads because the crystal will mount on them. Oh yes, this resistor is part of a \$5.95 kit offered by Optoelectronics and others. It is called a "clock timebase" kit and features many other parts you will be using. Keep the rest of the leads short.

Continue with the capacitors. Since only four mount on the component side, no comment is necessary! If your clock timebase kit included a 12-pF mica capacitor, install this transistor at the place marked C8.

Then install the crystal, XTAL1. Bend its leads over so that they can touch R15 (22 megohms). Make sure the plastic body of the crystal is snug against the resistor, then solder the leads. Take a piece of bare wire and quickly solder it to the metal case of the crystal. Bend the wire over the end of the board and solder it to the foil. See the illustrations.

The next step is to install the IC's. Use *Molex* pins for IC5, and don't install this part until just before testing the board. Use a low-power grounded-tip soldering iron for all work here; this is especially important. Remember you are working with CMOS! Double-check for proper placement and proper orientation when you are done.

Now turn the board over as there are some components to be installed on the reverse side. See Fig. 7. Start with the capacitors. Install C4 first, with the positive lead on pin 14 of IC1 and the minus lead on the large foil running near this IC. This capacitor is a $47-\mu F$ unit. Be sure

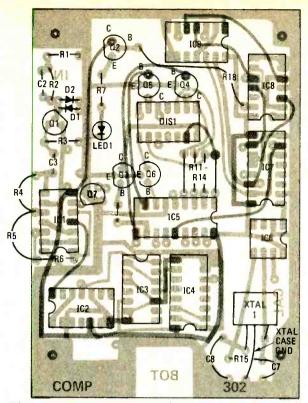


FIG. 6—PARTS PLACEMENT DIAGRAM shows exactly where all the parts mount on the topside of the circuit board. Diagram also shows how the two foil patterns overlap. View is from the top side of the circuit board with the bottom foil pattern shown in the lighter shade of grey.

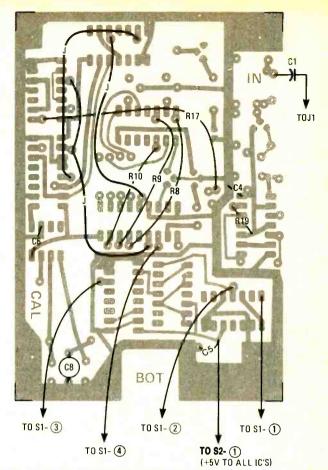


FIG. 7—PARTS PLACEMENT DIAGRAM for the bottom side of the circuit board.

to keep those leads short! Then install C5 $(0.2-\mu F \text{ disc})$ between pin 5 of IC2 and the large foil running near the IC's. Remember that the large foil running around the edge of the board is ground! Last, add C6 $(0.2-\mu F \text{ disc})$ between pins 8 and 2 of IC6 (MM5369). Then add trimmer C8 to complete the job.

Now add the jumpers. Even though the board is double-sided, some jumpers are unavoidable. Use insulated wire. Check Fig. 7 carefully.

Next, add the remaining five resistors. Install the three 270-ohm resistors first, from display to IC5 (MM74C926). Then add R19 (2.2K) between pin 4 and pin 13 of IC1. Cut two lengths 1 inch long of spaghetti tubing and slip them over the leads of R17 (10K). Then connect it between pin 1 of IC8 (CD-4013) and the base pad of transistor Q7.

Set the module aside temporarily and turn to switch S1. Check Fig. 3 for details and then attach leads cut to the lengths indicated. Add the jumper. Solder the switch leads to the places indicated. Check over your wiring at this point around the switch, and if everything's OK, proceed to the last step.

Finish up the module by adding a 1½-inch piece of insulated wire to pin 5 of IC2. This is the power lead and it goes to S2. Then add a 2-inch piece of wire from the large foil (ground, remember) near-

by. This is the negative battery lead.

That's it for the bulk of the construction. Check your wiring at this point for the usual things—errors and shorts, and correct them if necessary. You may want to proceed to checkout at this point to test the module, then return to finish the box.

Get out the box and lay out the front for the various parts. Use the module you built to determine sizes, etc. Note the cutout in the board. Switch S2 fits in this spot, so don't forget. Turn to the top of the box and lay out the two jacks and switch. Place them as far from the front of the box as you can. This will allow more clearance between the parts and the module when it is installed. Clean up the box and label it.

Install the four ³/₈-inch spacers in the box with 4-40 × ³/₄-inch screws. Then add the display bezel, jacks J1 and J2 and switch S2. Drill holes to match the mounting screws in the module and then drop it in, display facing the box. Secure it with lockwashers and 4-40 nuts. Install S1, noting that the jumper faces the adjacent edge of the box. Then add C1, the 0.1-µF, 200-volt tubular capacitor between J1 and the pad marked IN on the circuit board.

Next, wire switch S2. Attach the short wire that comes from pin 5, IC2 to it. Also, add resistor R16 (100 ohms) and

diode D3 (1N4002) between the other switch contact and J2. Cover these parts with a short length of spaghetti tubing. This will prevent problems later! Finish up by installing the four-battery pack between ground on the module and S2. The switch is positive, of course; don't forget!

Checkout and calibration

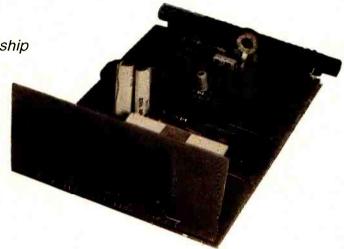
The checkout part is easy and takes little time. If you have the module only, connect it to a 0-250-mA meter and 5volt power supply. If all's well, the meter will read about 100 mA and the display will light. It will first show a jumble of numbers and then in a few seconds read 00-00. This is normal and the next step is to touch the pad marked IN with your finger. You will probably get a jumble of numbers and the LED will blink. If not, flip S1 until you get results. Next, connect a signal generator set to around 10 MHz to the IN pad and advance the output level. Flip S1 through its three ranges and you will get a reading close to what the generator is set to. Even without calibration, this counter is surprisingly accurate! If all is well at this point, install the module in the box and proceed to "calibration."

If you already installed your module in the box, you can still perform the simple continued on page 124



3½-Digit DMM

The digital panel meter has the same relationship to the DMM as the D'Arsonval panel meter has to the analog multimeter. Build your own multimeter using a DPM



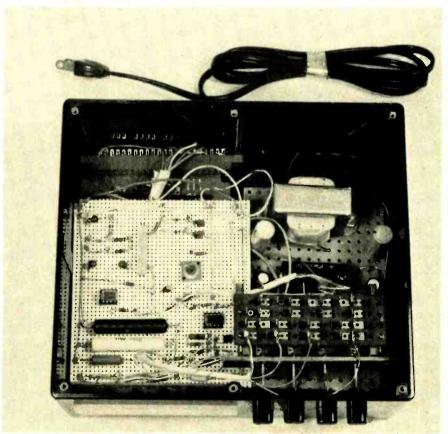
DR. E. H. BORNEMAN AND ROBERT BENWARD

A DIGITAL PANEL METER IS THE HEART OF every digital multimeter. This article describes a relatively simple circuit for a 2-volt DPM (Digital Panel Meter) using readily available IC's that can be easily converted into a digital multimeter (DMM) by adding some voltage-divider and current-shunting circuits. The resulting instrument, including power supply, can be simply packaged to become a very functional and rather attractive digital multimeter.

DPM circuit and operation

The basic DPM circuit is shown in Fig. 1. It uses a minimum number of parts, with most of the circuitry in two IC's; one a signal conditioner, the other a digital processor. These IC's include an onboard clock and a medium quality internal reference (40 ppm/°C). The measuring system uses dual-slope integration with its advantages of noncritical clock frequency, high rejection of AC signals and use of noncritical components.

The 8052 signal conditioner has three phases of signal conversion, these being auto-zero, integrate input and integrate reference. At the end of a measurement the system automatically reverts to auto-zero mode until a new measurement is started. If no overload has occurred in the previous measurement, it takes 10 milliseconds for the auto-zero to null. At power-on or after an overload it takes 100



INTERIOR OF A DIGITAL MULTIMETER based on a version of the digital panel meter in the head photo above. The DPM (at left) used point-to-point wiring on perforated board. See Fig. 8 for layout drawing.

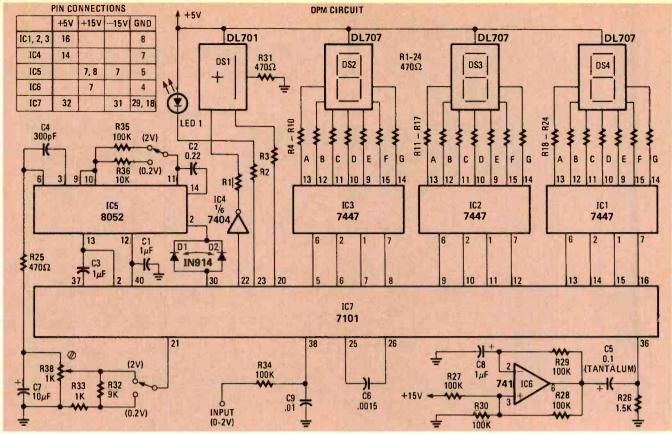


FIG. 1—DIGITAL PANEL METER SCHEMATIC. The unit is simple and easy to construct; using either point-to-point wiring or a couple of PC boards.

All resistors 1/2 watt, 10% or better R1, R2, R4-R25, R31-470 ohms R26-1500 ohms R27-R30, R34, R35-100,000 ohms R32-9000 ohms R33-1000 ohms R36-10,000 ohms R38-1000 ohms R38-1000 ohms, miniature potentiometer All capacitors 10 volts DC or higher C1, C3-1 μF, Mylar

C4—300 pF, disc C5—0.1 μ f, tantalum or metallized film C6—.0015 μ F, disc C7—10 μ F, electrolytic C8—1 μ F, electrolytic C9—0.01 μ f, disc Semiconductors D1, D2—1N914 diode DS1—+1 LED digit, Litronix DL701 or

DPM PARTS LIST

C2-0.22 µF, polypropylene

DIS2-DIS4—7-segment LED digit, Litronix DL707 or equal LED1—Red LED, 0.2-in. diameter Integrated circuits IC1-IC3—7447 BCD/7-segment decoder/driver IC4—7404 hex inverter IC5—8052 signal conditioner IC6—741 op-amp IC7—7101 digital processor

milliseconds to null.

None of the circuit component values are critical in determining the accuracy of the instrument. For example, the reference capacitor and auto-zero capacitor (C1 and C3) are both shown as $1.0~\mu F$. These rather large values minimize the effect of PC board leakage. The 0.22- μF value of the integration capacitor C2 is selected for PC board considerations alone, since the very small leakage at the integration input is nulled at auto-zero. It

The following are available from Hobbi House, 969 Ball Ave., Union, NJ 07083 (800-631-7485).

Digital Panel Meter, includes all parts listed in the DPM Parts List plus PC boards, \$29.95.

Set of PC boards for DPM (2 boards), \$6.95.

Digital Multimeter, includes all parts listed in DMM, DPM and Power Supply Parts Lists, \$49.95. is very important that this capacitor have very low dielectric absorption.

The DPM is calibrated by putting a standard mercury cell across the input (any convenient reference source less than 2 volts can be used) and adjusting the 1K pot until the reference voltage is correctly displayed on the readout.

Initially the DPM circuit was built on a perf board, but the later models were constructed on two PC boards with one board containing the displays and the second, with a 15-pin edge connector, containing all the circuitry.

The foil pattern for the main PC board is in Fig. 2. The parts are positioned as shown in Fig. 3. Figure 4 is the pattern for the display board. Figure 5-a shows the jumpers that are installed from the front side of the board. Figure 5-b shows the locations of three jumpers connected to the 7-segment displays. The drawings in Fig. 5-c show how the jumpers can be added. The main and display boards are

joined by 26 jumpers as detailed in Fig. 3 and Fig. 5-d.

Start with scraps of leads clipped off the resistors and other components that have been installed. Insert the leads from the foil side of the display board and solder in place. Insert the unattached lead ends in the holes in the main board, adjust the boards so they are close together and at right angles. Solder one end, check board alignment and then solder the other. Solder the connections between the ends.

Electrical characteristics of the DPM are as follows:

Power supply: +5 V @ 200 mA; +15 V @ 25 mA; -15 V @ 25 mA. Linearity (full scale): 0.1 count typ.; +1 count max.

Rollover [differential in equal (+V=-V=2V)]: 0.1 count typ.; +1 count max.

Noise (full scale): -0.05 counts Leakage current into input: 5 pA typ.; 30 pA max.

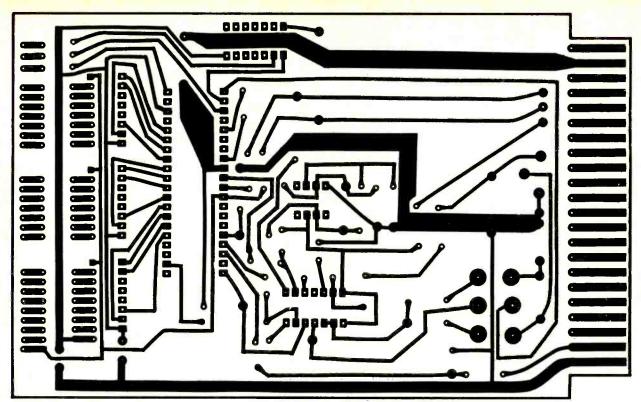


FIG. 2—FULL-SIZE FOIL PATTERN for the main board. The "fingers" on the right fit into a female PC board connector for connections to the DMM switching circuitry.

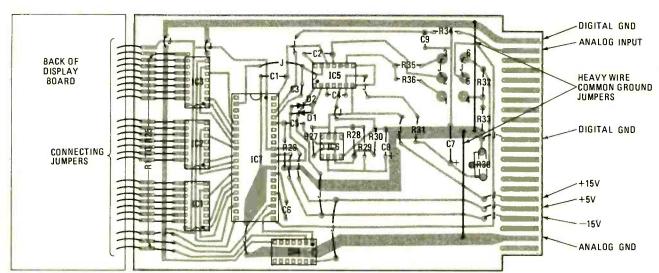


FIG. 3—HOW COMPONENTS ARE PLACED on the main board. Note the location of jumpers, IC positioning and electrolytic capacitor lead polarity.

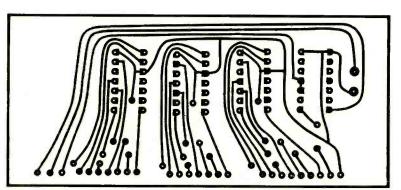


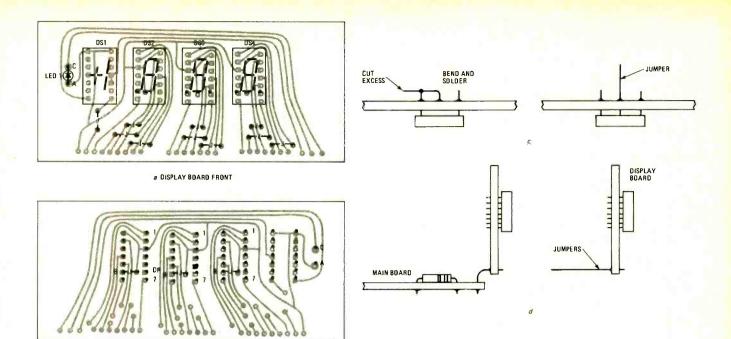
FIG. 4—DISPLAY BOARD foil pattern is full-size. Jumpers must be installed on both sides of the board as detailed in another figure.

The power supply for the DPM must deliver regulated outputs of +5 volts, +15 volts, and -15 volts DC. A circuit diagram for the power supply is shown in Fig. 6.

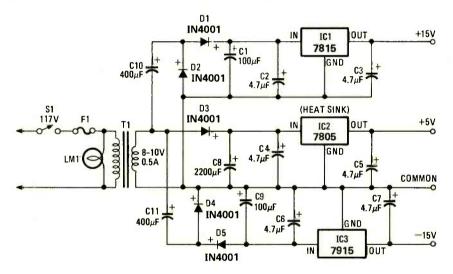
Although rather low currents are required for the DPM, the output currents supplied by this circuit will operate all the additional functions of the multimeter circuitry to be described. Good regulation is required (0.1%), so three voltage regulator IC's are used.

Conversion of DPM into digital multimeter

The basic DPM can be converted into a



A DISPLAY BOARD BACK FIG. 5-MOUNTING AND JUMPER DETAILS for display board. Drawing c shows how back-of-board jumpers are formed while d, along with Fig. 3 shows how boards are joined by jumpers.



digital multimeter by adding the circuitry shown in Fig. 7. This circuit uses pushbutton DPDT switches. However, these can be replaced with a multisection rotary switch. Functions performed by the digital multimeter are listed in the following table.

DC volts: 2, 20, 200, 2000

AC volts: 2, 20, 200, 2000 (RMS) Ohms: 2K, 20K, 200K, 2 megohms, 20 megohms

Direct current: 200 mA, 2A, 10A Alternating current: 200 mA, 2A, 10A (RMS)

The circuit shown in Fig. 7 connects directly into the input of the 2-volt DPM.

POWER SUPPLY PARTS LIST Capacitors 25 volts DC or higher

C1, C9 — 100 μ F, electrolytic C2–C7 — 4.7 μ F, tantalum C8-2200 µF, electrolytic

C10, C11-400 µF, electrolytic Semiconductors

D1-D5-1N4001 diodes

IC1-7815 positive 15-volt regulator

IC2-7805 positive 5-volt regulator

IC3-7915 negative 15-volt regulator

S1-SPST switch

T1—power transformer, 8-10-volt, 0.5-A secondary

LM1-117-volt pilot lamp

F1-0.25-ampere fuse

FIG. 6-POWER SUPPLY DIAGRAM. Three solid-state voltage regulators set the levels of voltages needed to operate the multimeter.

Accuracy of the multimeter functions depends on the precision resistors used in the voltage-divider and current-shunt circuits. I recommend 1% or better, to take advantage of the inherent high accuracy of the DPM. Unless otherwise indicated, all other resistors in the circuit are 1/4 watt, 10%.

All resistors 1/4 watt, 5% unless noted

R1-9 megohms, 1/2 watt, 1% or better

R2-900,000 ohms, 1/4 watt, 1% or better

R3-90,000 ohms, 1/4 watt, 1% or better

R4-9000 ohms, 1/4 watt, 1% or better

R5-1000 ohms, 1/4 watt, 1% or better

R6-0.1 ohm, 10 watts (20 watts optional)

1% or better R7-1.0 ohm, 10 watts, 1% or better

R8-10 ohms, 1 watt, 1% or better

R9-100 ohms, 1/2 watt

R10, R30-30,000 ohms

R11, R21-1 megohm R12-10 megohms

ADD-ON MULTIMETER PARTS

R13-6200 ohms

R14-750 ohms

R16-910 ohms

R17-1000 ohms, miniature

potentiometer

R25, R26—10,000 ohms R27, R29—5100 ohms

R28-2500 ohms, miniature

R15-4300 ohms

R18-4700 ohms

R19, R23-3300 ohms

R20, R22-9100 ohms

R24-470,000 ohms

potentiometer

All capacitors 25-volts DC or higher

C1-.01 µF, ceramic

C2-150 pF, ceramic

C3-C5-4.7 µF, tantalum

Semiconductors

D1, D2-1N914

D3-D6-1N4003

D7-6.2-volt Zener diode

Q1, Q2-2N3904

IC1, IC2-LM308 op-amps

Miscellaneous

S1, S3-S9—DPDT pushbutton switch or equivalent

S2-4-pole DT pushbutton switch or equivalent

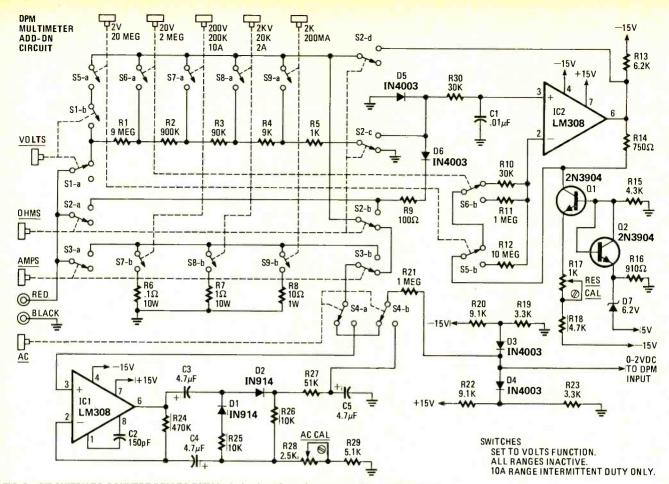
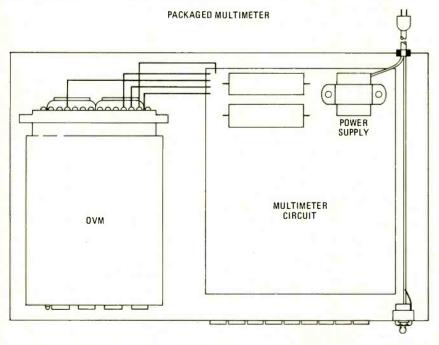


FIG. 7—CIRCUITRY TO CONVERT DPM TO DMM includes function selector switching, multiplier and shunt resistor networks and a few active components.



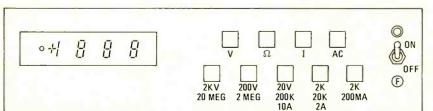


FIG. 8—HOW BASIC PARTS ARE LAID OUT in a typical instrument case. The DPM connects to the multimeter circuit through an edge connector and a short length of cable.

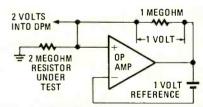


FIG. 9—SIMPLIFIED OHMMETER CIRCUIT. Equal voltages at op-amp inputs are essential to proper ohmmeter operation.

The multimeter can now be made into a finished packaged instrument by housing it in a chassis case similar to that shown in Fig. 8 and the photograph. Here the basic DPM is mounted on the left side of the chassis with the display showing through a tinted red or gray acrylic plastic window, the power supply plus multimeter circuitry being housed in the right side. On-off and function switches are mounted in the right front panel. Such a packaged instrument, though home built, can offer a very attractive and useful meter for both amateur and professional use.

DMM operation

The DMM circuit is built around relatively simple and well-proven circuit principles. The circuit diagram in Fig. 7 shows all functions are fed into the DPM on the 0-2-volt scale. The DC voltage input to the DMM feeds into a precision resistor voltage divider, with the scale continued on page 103



Part II—An electronic musical instrument accessory with a difference. Novel programming capabilities give you unusual time signatures along with bridges and introductions.

LAST MONTH, AS WE BEGAN THE STORY ON this unique musical instrument accessory, we covered its applications, circuitry and theoretical operation. Now, we'll go forward with construction details. A PC board simplifies construction.

Assembly

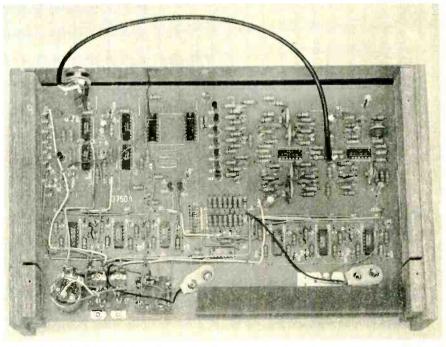
For easy assembly, the drum set has been designed so that everything, except for the audio output jack and the sync input tip jack, mount directly on the circuit board. This minimizes point-to-point wiring (although there is still some) and produces an exceptionally easy unit to work on. For all practical purposes there are no wires tying the circuit board to panel-mounted controls; in fact, the case is simply a shell to hide the components

A circuit board is mandatory. You can etch your own PC board using Fig. 5 as a guide. Boards are also available commercially, as are complete kits (see parts list.)

Note that the touch-switch pads that form the bulk of the unit controls are a part of the PC board. In the commercial version of this board, the touch pads are covered with a colored ink; contrasting color designates the control areas. If you make this board at home, transfer lettering can be applied directly to the touch pads and a strip of thin transparent tape applied over that. Since the touch switch-

JOHN S. SIMONTON, JR.

es do not require direct contact to operate, the insulating layer provided by the tape will suffice but it must be kept as thin as possible. Once you have the board the way you want it, mount the parts: Resistors and capacitors first; then solid wire jumpers (note there are several of these, as indicated by the solid lines connecting points in Fig. 6); then semiconductors, diodes, transistors, IC's, etc. Observe the orienta-



INSIDE VIEW OF THE UNIT shows how parts are positioned on the circuit board. Note that this is a one-sided board.

45

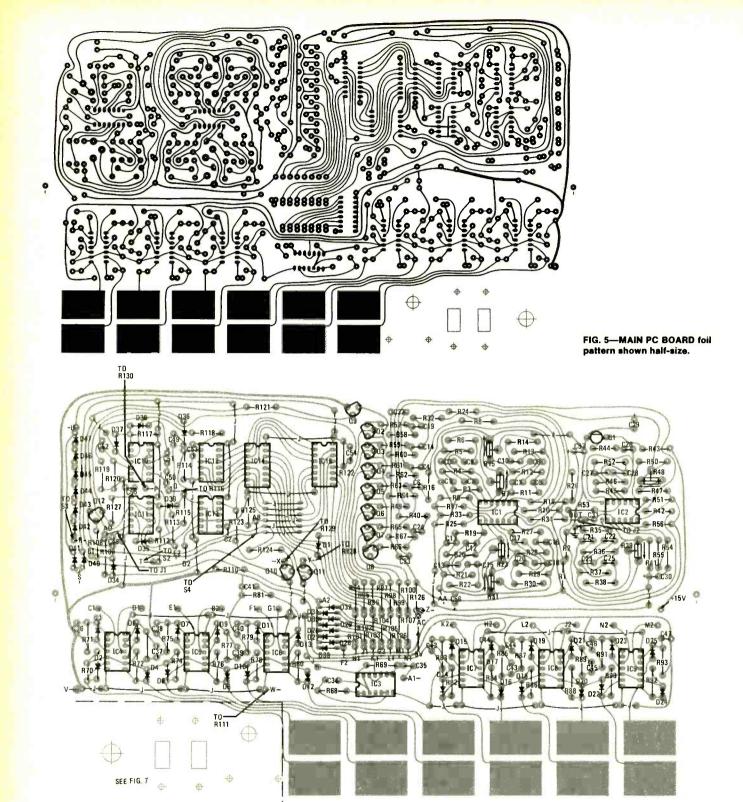


FIG. 8—COMPONENT PLACEMENT DIAGRAM. Wiring of the PC mounted controls and switches are shown in Fig. 7.

tion of electrolytic capacitors, semiconductors and IC's.

Because CMOS logic is used, the common rules of good practice must be followed when installing these parts. In general, avoid static build-up—Do not wear nylon clothes, use a grounded soldering iron and don't run across the carpet before picking up the parts.

After mounting all the electronic components, mount potentiometer R130 and slide switches S3 and S4. Mount a 3-lug tie strip somewhere in the vicinity of these controls (such as under one of the S4 mounting screws as shown in Fig. 7). Note that the two PROGRAM and BRIDGE LED's are mounted on their own circuit board. The foil pattern for the LED board

is shown in Fig. 8. This board also mounts resistors R128 and R129 and is held in place by the mounting shaft of PROGRAM pushbutton S2, as shown in Fig. 9.

There are numerous connections that are made with stranded, insulated wire on the component side of the circuit board. Points with the same letter prefix are connected together (A1 to A2, etc.).

All resistors 1/2 watt, 10% or better, unless noted.

R1, R5, R41, R46, R58, R60, R62, R64, R67, R121, R127-10,000 ohms R2. R65-6800 ohms R3, R4, R11, R12, R19, R20, R27, R28, R35, R36, R51-2.2 megohms

R6, R8, R14, R22, R30, R38, R43, R52—1 megohm

R7, R15, R23, R31, R39, R48-50,000ohm trimmer, PC mount R9, R17, R25, R33-18,000 ohms R10, R18, R26, R34, R42-3.9 megohms R13, R108, R110, R112, R115, R117,

R122-R125-33,000 ohms R16, R24, R32, R56-330,000 ohms R21-39,000 ohms

R29, R57, R61, R63-68,000 ohms R37, R101-R104, R106, R107, R118-15,000 ohms

R40, R45, R114-220,000 ohms R44, R113, R128, R129-2200 ohms

R47, R116-82,000 ohms R49-100 ohms

R50, R54, R55, R119-150,000 ohms R53-27,000 ohms

R66, R94-R100-47,000 ohms

R68, R105-4700 ohms R69-R93-680,000 ohms R109, R120-470,000 ohms R126-47 ohms R130-500,000-ohm log-taper potentiometer with SPST switch C1, C11, C16, C21, C33, C48, C54, C55-.01μF, 50 volt, ceramic disc C2, C3, C12, C13, C17, C18, C34, C52-.001µF, 50 volt, ceramic disc C4, C9, C14, C19, C22, C23, C32, C35-C47, C49-.005µF, 50 volt, ceramic disc C5, C10, C15, C20, C24-C26, C31-

.05μF, 50 volt, ceramic disc C6-C8, C27, C28-500 pF, 50 volt, ceramic disc

C29, C57-2.2µF, 10 volt, electrolytic C30, C50, C51-1µF, 10 volt, electrolytic C53-100 pF, 50 volt, ceramic disc C56-33µF, 10 volt, electrolytic D1-D47-1N914 or 1N4148

LED1, LED2-light-emitting diodes (Texas Instruments TIL209B or equal)

Q1-2N2712 specially selected noise

Q2-Q8, Q11, Q12-2N5129

Q9, Q10-2N5139

IC1, IC2-LM3900 or CA3401 IC3-IC11-CD4001 quad NOR gate

IC12-CD4024 seven-stage counter IC13-CD4013 dual-D flip-flop

IC14, IC15.-2112 256×4 RAM S1-SPST switch ONR 130

S2-SPST momentary-contact pushbutton

S3, S4-SPST slide switches J1-insulated tip jack, red

J2-2-conductor phone jack

Misc.-two 9-volt battery clips, one battery holder for 4 penlight cells (Keystone type-182 or equiv.), one lug-type terminal strip (one lug grounded, two

insulated).

The following are available from Paia Electronics, 1020 Wilshire, Oklahoma City, OK 73116:

Order No. 3750—Complete kit including all parts, case, step-by-step instructions. \$79.95 plus \$3.00 shipping.

Order No. 3750PC-Set of two etched, drilled and silkscreened circuit boards. \$15.00 plus \$1.00 shipping.

Oklahoma residents add state and local taxes as applicable.

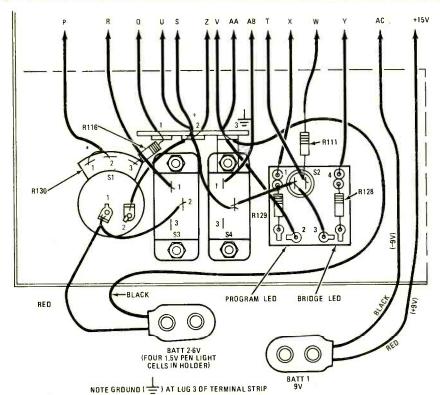


FIG. 7—CONTROLS AND SWITCHES are mounted on the main PC board. Point-to-point wiring to the main board is shown in Fig. 6.

There are 13 pairs of these points, designated from A to N (except for I).

Finally, perform the wiring between the controls and the remaining designated points on the circuit board and install the battery snaps, as shown in Fig. 7.

Testing and calibration

The capacitive touch switches used in the programmable drum set require a moderate-quality earth ground to operate properly. In most cases, the ground established to the amplifier through the audio output cable will suffice.

After carefully checking for misplaced components, solder bridges and cold solder joints, turn the TEMPO control fully counterclockwise past the "click" and turn all six internal trimmer potentiometers (R7, R15, R23, R31, R39 and R48) to their minimum sustain position (opposite the direction of the arrows in Fig. 6). Place the SCORE switch in the 1 position and turn the SAVE switch off.

Load the 6-volt battery pack with four AA penlight cells, making sure to observe the orientation of the batteries. Connect this battery pack to the snap attached to

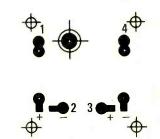


FIG. 8-LED BOARD foil pattern shown full size.

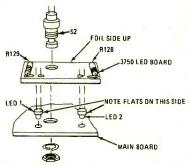


FIG. 9-LED BOARD is mounted directly to the main PC board. Point-to-point wiring to main PC board is shown in Fig. 7. Components are mounted on foil side of board.



FIG. 10-FOX TROT is used as a programming example in text.

the on-off switch on the TEMPO control. Connect another 9-volt transistor radio battery to the remaining snap (see Fig.

Using a jumper cable, connect the phone-jack output of the drum set to an instrument amplifier or the auxiliary input of a hi-fi amplifier.

Turn the power on by advancing the TEMPO control clockwise. When the unit is first turned on, you may (if the volume of the amplifier is set high enough) hear a burst of noise lasting about one second. This is normal.

One or both LED's may also come on when power is first applied. Touching the RESET pad should extinguish these LED's.

To test the drum oscillator circuits sustained-oscillation capability, advance the internal trimmers one at a time in the sustain direction (the direction of the arrows) until the drum circuits start oscillating. Once you have established that an oscillator is capable of sustained operation, retard its trimmer control fully (opposite the direction of the arrow) before testing the next oscillator. Note that trimmer R48 is an adjustment of the noise source used in the snare drum circuits; it does not produce a tone but rather a steady hiss as it is advanced.

To adjust the drum sound oscillators, touch RESET and then press the PROGRAM button. The PROGRAM LED then indicates that you are in the program mode. Advance the TEMPO control clockwise approximately three-fourths of its total rotation.

At this point, pressing any of the drum sound pads should produce a repeating percussion sound in the amplifier's speaker. Adjust the rate at which this sound repeats with the TEMPO control.

With a finger on the wood BLOCK pad, adjust trimmer R7 in the sustain direction (the direction of the arrow) until the sound approximates that of a wood block.

Similarly, touch CLAVE and adjust R15; touch TOM and adjust R23; and touch CONGA and adjust R31. Touch ACCENT BASS and adjust R39; then touch BASS and confirm that the bass drum sound is heard, although at a lower volume level than ACCENT BASS.

Touch the SNARE pad and adjust R48 until the noise source approximates that of a snare drum. It may be necessary to adjust TOM control R23 to obtain the maximum realism from the SNARE generator.

Touch RESET and the PROGRAM LED goes off (this resets the unit's internal event counter to zero); then press PRO-GRAM again to reactivate the PROGRAM LED. Tap each drum sound control pads in turn, ACCENT BASS, TOM, CONGA, CLAVE, BASS, SNARE, WOOD BLOCK and REST. Do not hold these pads down long enough for the sound to repeat, only long enough for a single drum sound to be generated. Finally, touch the REPEAT pad (to indicate the point at which the pattern is to repeat) and, finally, the PLAY pad. At this point the drum set should begin playing back the entered pattern.

Having verified the unit's ability to store a program, you are ready to test the bridge pattern. Reset the unit, and while resting a finger on the BRIDGE pad, touch RESET again. (Note: The activation of the

bridge circuit is sequence-sensitive; this can only be activated by touching RESET while the BRIDGE pad is being touched). The BRIDGE LED will come on, indicating that you are in the bridge mode. Push the PROGRAM button (observing that the PROGRAM LED lights), and you are ready to program the bridge.

Program some easily recognized pattern (such as four clave beats) then touch REPEAT and RESET.

Touch PLAY, and the test pattern of all drum sounds programmed previously should be heard. Allow this pattern to play for a couple of cycles, then touch BRIDGE. When the pattern playing reaches the repeat stage, the unit should switch to the bridge pattern (as indicated by the BRIDGE LED lighting) and, as long as the pad is touched, should continue to play. Release the BRIDGE pad. The BRIDGE LED may not immediately extinguish, and the unit may not immediately shift back to the main pattern. This shift should only occur at the point in the bridge pattern where it would ordinarily repeat.

Using the drum set

Before discussing the operation and use of the controls, the following points need mentioning:

- 1. Battery current drain is a significant 100 mA in full operation and 30 mA in the SAVE mode. Therefore, use the SAVE sparingly and turn the unit off when not in operation. The penlight batteries should be good for ten hours of intermittent operation, and the 9-volt transistor radio battery should have essentially shelf life.
- 2. There is a natural tendency to enter patterns "in tempo" by beating out the rhythm on the touch switches. This is not the way that it is done. Any pattern must have REST's entered with it for proper drum-beat spacing.

The operation of the controls is as follows:

 TEMPO—This knob, at the righthand edge of the control panel, sets the tempo at which a programmed rhythm pattern plays back. Clockwise rotation of the control increases the tempo.

The power switch is a part of this control, and rotating the control fully counterclockwise past the "click" turns off the power. The power should be turned off any time that the unit is not being played or programmed.

The TEMPO control also sets the rate at which drum sounds are repeated during programming. In the program mode, continuously activating a drum pad will cause that sound to be repeated at a rate set by the TEMPO control. Each drum sound heard will also be entered into memory.

 SAVE—The SAVE switch holds a programmed pattern for short periods of time. Sliding the SAVE switch to the on position allows the TEMPO control to be rotated to the full-power off position without losing the scores currently programmed into memory. The save switch should be left off any time it is not being used to actually save a score.

 SCORE—The SCORE switch allows two independent rhythm patterns (each with its own bridge pattern) to be programmed and selected for playback.

PROGRAM—Pressing the PROGRAM
pushbutton puts the unit into the
programming mode for pattern
entry or modification. The PROGRAM LED will light anytime the
unit is in the programming mode.

 CONTROL—There are four touch pads: RESET, REPEAT, PLAY and BRIDGE. Get in the habit of touching the RESET pad every time before anything else is activated. This control resets the internal event counter that determines the next programmed event; it also takes the unit out of the program or bridge modes.

The primary function of the REPEAT pad is to enter into memory the point at which the currently programmed pattern is to repeat. This pad can also be used during playback to go back to the beginning of a pattern without stopping the unit entirely. This is useful for special effects, introductions, etc.

Touching the PLAY pad reproduces the programmed pattern selected by the SCORE switch at a rate set by the TEMPO control. This control pad latches so that a single tap will start the unit, which will then continue to play until stopped by touching the RESET pad.

The BRIDGE pad is used one of two ways, depending on whether you are programming a score or playing one back. To program the bridge, the following sequence must be followed: RESET (always reset before anything else), then while touching the BRIDGE pad, tap the RESET again (the BRIDGE LED should light, indicating the bridge mode); then push PROGRAM (the BRIDGE LED should still be on) and now the PROGRAM LED should light indicating the program mode. The bridge pattern can then be programmed in the same manner as a main score.

During playback, touching the BRIDGE pad at the time of the repeat will cause the drum circuitry to begin playing the bridge rather than the main score. The BRIDGE key does not latch, and you must touch it at the time of the repeat in order for the unit to shift to the bridge pattern. When the repeat point of the bridge pattern is reached, the unit will shift back to the main score unless the BRIDGE pad is still being touched, in which case the bridge pattern will be repeated.

 DRUMS—The eight touch pads on the left side of the panel control the drum sounds: BASS, ACCENT BASS (down-beat, etc.), TOM, SNARE, CONGA, WOOD BLOCK, CLAVE and, most important, REST.

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Forest Belt tells...

What You Need To Know About Servicing Citizens Band Radios

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What happened to CB radio? Nothing you need worry much about. Sales dragged for a while, but most signs indicate there will be a significant improvement by Spring this year.

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The number of radios is growing, too. More than 200,000 new CB license applications reach the FCC every month—even in so-called bad times. This means that service needs are also growing. If you already repair CB radios, or plan to, or even wonder if you should, you must be aware of certain factors that affect the business now. This special section should help you meet some of the new circumstances in CB servicing.

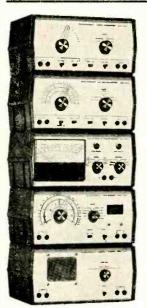


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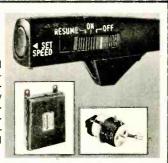
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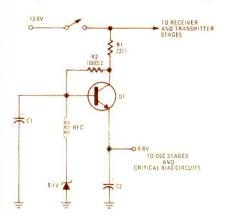


FIG. 3—TRANSISTOR REGULATOR IS rare for inexpensive CB radios, and usually includes a Zener diode.

it's only a half-watt resistor, the heat may change its value. Eventually, the resistor chars or, if the resistance decreases, the current may rise high enough for the fuse to blow.

Second, Zener diodes open. It may not be noticeable unless some critical stage malfunctions because of varying voltage. Hence, in any set with Zener diodes, it is wise to include some measuring voltage across each diode... within 5 percent of the Zener rating. Schematic diagrams usually list the voltage to expect across each Zener.

Transistor voltage regulator

Enough low-cost sets use transistor regulators that you should know what to expect of them. Figure 3 is a diagram of the usual transistor circuitry. Actually, the regulating action begins with the Zener diode in the transistor base circuit.

Transistor Q1 operates as a series regulator. The output, which stabilizes at about 8.6 volts, depends on the voltage drops across Q1 and R1. The internal resistance of Q1 is determined, of course, by the emitter-base bias.

Suppose that more current is being drawn at the Q1 output. Emitter voltage tends to become slightly less positive. The Zener holds the base voltage steady so that the net bias on NPN transistor Q1 becomes greater in the forward direction. This, in turn, lowers the series resistance of Q1, bringing the output voltage back up to 8.6.

Now, suppose less current is drawn. The voltage at the Q1 emitter rises, thus reducing the forward bias on transistor Q1. Less conduction in Q1 is the equivalent of increasing its effective resistance. Less current can flow and the output voltage drops back to equilibrium at 8.6.

Equally important, this regulator cures input-voltage fluctuations. Even if the input voltage alters, the Zener diode prevents the base bias from varying. The output voltage would tend to follow the input-voltage variation up or down, but it cannot do so because of the regulating action described above.

To troubleshoot, measure the voltage across the Zener diode. If the voltage is high, replace the diode; if low, open the emitter lead of the transistor. If the voltage then rises back to normal across the Zener, the fault may be in the transistor; test it while the lead is loose. Or, you may have to trace a short along the regulated DC supply line.

That about covers what you might find in the DC supply sections of a low-cost transceiver.

Transmitter Keying

SWITCHING FROM RECEIVE TO transmit modes (called transmitter keying) is relatively simple in low-cost CB transceivers. There are three switching methods: relay switching, simple electronic switching and transistor electronic switching.

Changing from the receive to transmit modes involves four basic operations:

- 1. Disabling the receiver. Usually, this is done most simply by removing the DC voltage supply from the receive stages. That's how a relay does it. But there are also other means, as discussed later on in this article.
- 2. Activating the transmitter. A relay can simply apply the DC voltage to the transmit stages. Electronic switching uses other ways to activate the stages.
- 3. Disconnecting the speaker. The audio stages and output transformer double as modulator components for AM transmitting. And if the speaker were on, it would cause acoustic feedback to the mike.
- 4. Transferring the antenna connection from the receiver input to the transmitter output. This switchover is simple with a relay. Electronic keying requires a different approach.

These are the fundamental alterations that switch the receive mode to the transmit mode. The CB operator initiates them by pressing the mike button. Figure 1-a shows how this is done when a relay system is used.

Roughly one-fourth of low-cost CB transceivers incorporate relay keying.

Most mike push-to-talk (PTT) buttons have two sections. Figure 3-a

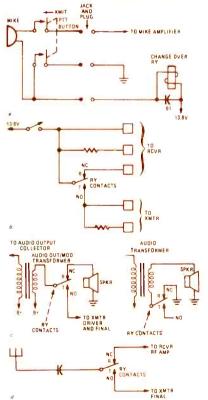


FIG. 1—THREE SETS OF CONTACTS ON relay accomplish the four receive-to-transmit switchover operations.

shows a double-pole single-throw (DPST) version. One set of contacts feeds the mike's output voltage to the mike amplifier stage; the others are keying contacts. They ground one end of the keying-relay coil. Since the other end connects to the 13.8-volt DC supply line, closing the mike-switch contacts energizes the relay coil.

The keying relay contains at least three sets of contacts. One contact set (shown in Fig. 1-b), transfers the DC supply voltage from the receiver to transmitter stages; this takes care of the first two changeover operations in our list of four. Another set of contacts disables the speaker (Fig. 1-c). In some designs, the relay transfers the output of the audio power stage from the speaker to the transmitter RF section, changing the audio function to modulator. In other schemes, the contacts merely unground the speaker or one transformer winding to eliminate speaker sound.

And finally, Fig. 1-d shows that one set of contacts moves the antenna connection from the receiver input to the transmitter output.

There's a specific procedure you use to troubleshoot different keying troubles. For relay keying, you start by pushing the relay armature, using your finger or an insulated rod. If the transceiver shifts to transmit, the contacts are working; concentrate on the keying circuit.

The coil cord causes more keying trouble than any other component. Open the mike and check the voltage on the relay side of the mike switch. Is it missing? The coil cord or plug may be open. Or the relay or its connection to the DC voltage line are open. Try keying with a jumper lead: First jumper the keying contacts at the coil cord, at the plug and finally right at the relay.

Occasionally, you may find a relay that pulls in OK when you press the mike button; the receiver stops, but the transmitter doesn't start. pressing the relay with your finger does start the transmitter. Either the relay contacts are dirty and need burnishing, the relay coil is partially shorted or the relay is misadjusted. A new relay proves the surest cure for any of these defects.

Electronic keying

Keying without a relay saves the cost of an expensive component-the relay. Actually, all four changes can be accomplished with one set of switch contacts-in the mike. Figure 2 is a diagram of one design that incorporates a number of techniques found in other models although not always together.

Two principles allow the electronic keying arrangement shown in Fig. 2 to turn the receiver off and the transmitter on: (1) Apply proper DC operating voltage to the transistors in a stage, and the stage operates. Remove the voltages, and the stage stops. (2) In typical circuitry, you can turn off any NPN transistor by applying a high positive voltage to its emitter circuit. This is termed a kill voltage. Return the emitter circuit to ground potential, and the stage turns on again.

Figure 2 shows how this happens. This keying design uses one DC voltage bus in two ways. The same voltage serves both as a kill voltage and as a supply voltage. Source point 4 in the Fig. 2 diagram marks the voltage (6.1)



SOME MICROPHONES USE A LEAF switch (right), while others use a plungertype DPDT switch.

used for transmit-receive keying.

Study the supply line bus first. This DC branch supplies voltage to the collector of the receive mixer, as well as bias for the base. It is not necessary to show the other receiver stages on the diagram; the 6.1-volt supply goes to each of them. Note that the emitters of these receiver stages go to ground through the usual resistor.

Pressing the mike switch to its transmit position grounds point 4. The voltage drops to zero. Resistor R4 limits the current so the short doesn't overload the DC input. Of course, the receiver stages can't operate with zero voltage fed to their collectors and bases. Releasing the mike button restores the voltage, and the receiver works.

Turn your attention now to the connections along the bus labeled the "kill line." First, look at the transmit buffer stage. The collector voltage on this transistor comes from source point 1. The bias voltage develops through selfbias. But the stage can't operate - with 6.1 volts positive on the emitter, the stage is dead.

But move that mike-switch contact from the receive mode to the transmit inode, and the voltage goes to zero. Grounding the emitter circuit this way brings the stage to life.

The same operating principle controls

the transmit oscillator IC. This IC turns on when the mike switch grounds one of its pins. The rest of the time, during the receive mode, the positive kill-line voltage deactivates the transmit oscillator IC.

Generally, only two or three transmitter stages need to be kept off during the receive mode. The driver and final stages can stay idle and draw a bit of current from their DC voltage supplies with no harm done. These stages do not really operate until driven by the RF drive signal from the transmit oscillator and buffer stage. The mike amplifier is usually included among the switched stages, kept off during the receive mode so that no mike sound can reach the audio stages.

Cutting off the receiver and turning on the transmitter takes care of switchover operations Nos. 1 and 2 listed earlier. Now let's consider a third operation: the antenna.

There's really no need to transfer the antenna. You can connect the transmitter's RF output to the same point as the receiver input, and leave it. However, the receiver input needs protection from the transmitter's RF power. Diode D2 and the kill line (see Fig. 2) provide such protection.

With 6.1 volts on its cathode, diode D2 is reverse-biased and exerts no effect on the base circuit to which it's connected. Closing the mike switch grounds the cathode, and D2 becomes conductive.

The last transfer operation concerns the speaker switchoff. Figure 2 shows how this is done: Pressing the mike switch to the transmit position ungrounds the speaker or the audio transformer.

Switching other stages

The keying setup shown in Fig. 3 probably needs little explanation. You know that applying a positive voltage to the NPN transistor emitters holds them cut off. So, in this system the mike switch grounds the emitters of

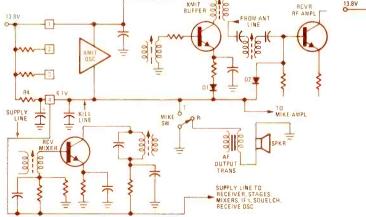


FIG. 2-MIKE SWITCH GROUNDS A COMBINATION SUPPLY and kill bus to change set to transmit mode,

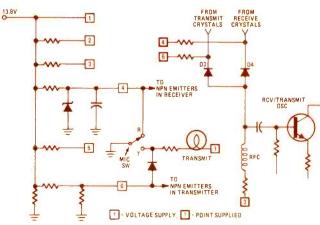


FIG. 3-KILL LINES FOR TRANSMIT OR RECEIVE ARE grounded by mike switch. Same lines connect crystals through diodes.

either the receive or transmit stages.

There's one additional refinement—a transmit lamp connects to the transmit side of the mike switch. The diode keeps the source 6 voltage from reaching the lamp, because the source 1 voltage is more positive, which keeps the diode backward-biased. Grounding the mike switch places the full source 1 voltage across the lamp/resistor, and the lamp glows. The same switch contact takes the source 6 voltage to zero as the diode finds forward bias (cathode-grounded).

In one model, an added trick lets the designer use only one transistor for both the transmit and receive oscillators. Here's how it works.

Consider voltage source 6 first. Applying this voltage to the D3 cathode keeps the diode open. Transmit crystals therefore have no effect on the oscillator. Meanwhile the source 4 voltage is grounded, and diode D4 conducts. Diode D4 connects a receive crystal to the oscillator (whichever crystal the channel selector chooses).

Pressing the mike switch reverses the situations: Source 6 is grounded, D3 conducts and a transmit crystal connects to the oscillator. Source 4, at full voltage, cuts off diode D4, blocking any receive-crystals effect.

Transistor keying

A few transceivers incorporate a transistor to make the change from the receive mode to the transmit mode. One simple arrangement appears in Fig. 4. This diagram shows that PNP transistor Q1 does not conduct as long as the base DC circuit stays open; no bias can develop. Closing the mike switch completes the base return path. Transistor Q1 conducts and places the voltage at source points 4 and 5.

You already know how the two voltages work. Source 4 feeds a DC supply voltage to the transmitter stages. If the mike switch is open, there is no DC voltage at source 4 and the transmitter stays off. Meanwhile, the lack of voltage at source 5 leaves the receiver-stage emitters at near-zero volts, which is about the same as grounding them; and the receiver works.

With the mike switch closed, transistor Q1 conducts, voltage at source 5 kills the receiver stages, and voltage at source 4 activates the transmitter. It's as simple as that.

Some designers prefer switching the DC supply voltage between the receiver and transmitter stages. Yet, they want to avoid the cost, bulk and mechanical problems of a relay. So, you find quite a few low-cost CB models including a transistor and diode or several transistors to accomplish the voltage switchover.

Figure 5 shows another simple ar-

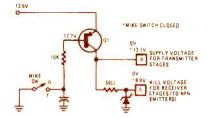


FIG. 4—ELECTRONIC SWITCHING, WITH transistor turning on supply voltages, appears only in a few low-cost sets.

rangement. First, let's suppose the mike switch is open. A connection to the 8.6-volt regulated line places a high positive voltage on the emitter of PNP transistor Q1. However, with the base circuit open, Q1 cannot conduct. Source 5 develops no voltage, which means the transmit stages cannot operate, since they depend on source 5 for their voltage supplies.

Source 6 obtains voltage through the 390-ohm resistor. Diode D1 cannot conduct, since its cathode faces an open mike switch. Source 6 feeds the receiver stages, and they operate.

Now, with the mike switch closed, two things happen. First, grounding the D1 cathode causes D1 to conduct. This conduction shorts out the 6.5 volts at source 6, dropping it to zero. Without any operating DC voltage, the receiver stages stop working.

Second, completing the base-bias circuit allows Q1 to turn on. The 8.6-volt supply travels easily to source point 5, and from there to the transmit stages; so, the transmitter operates.

About the most complex transistor keying system you'll find, (at least in low-cost radios) is shown in the diagram of Fig. 6. Again, to visualize how this system works, imagine the mike switch is open. A strong positive bias is applied to Q1 through resistor R1. While conducting, Q1 applies a positive DC supply from the 13.6-volt input line to the diode D1 anode. The forward-biased diode applies the voltage to source point 7 and the receiver stages.

Resistor R2 carries the voltage down to the base of Q3. This voltage turns on Q3, which then acts as a short at

the base of Q2. With no base bias, Q2 cannot operate. Hence source point 9 develops no DC voltage, and the transmit stages remain inactive. Closing the mike switch shorts the base of Q1 to ground, Without a base bias, Q1 then stops conducting, volt-

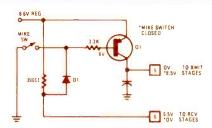


FIG. 5—WHEN MIKE SWITCH CLOSES, diode grounds receiver supply voltage, and transistor applies voltage to transmitter.

age at source 7 drops to practically zero and the receiver stops operating.

With little or no voltage being sent through Q1, the base of Q3 has insufficient bias to turn on, so Q3 appears as if it is open. This "open" condition lets the R3 voltage bias Q2 into conduction. Therefore, source point 9 develops DC voltage, thus turning on the transmitter stages.

Troubleshooting keying circuits

You already know that a broken wire inside the microphone coil cord is the most likely cause when a transmitter won't key. Check the mike switch, too. Burnishing the contacts helps, if they are accessible. But be careful not to warp the contact leaves; they get out of adjustment easily. When you have the set open on the bench, clip a jumper lead across the keying point (where the mike-switch wires connect). This will tell you instantly whether the trouble is in the mike/plug/cord combination or in the transceiver chassis.

Wherever a mike switch grounds certain circuits for transmit keying, test with jumper leads. Where DC voltages are switched, disconnect the mikeswitch wire from its DC voltage source. Try jumpering the voltage first to one side, then the other.

Transistors or diodes are usually the cause of improper transistor keying. Fast ohmmeter and/or transistor tester checks may save you a lot of analysis. In a complex system such as that shown in Fig. 6, a clamping voltage can be your best troubleshooting device. Start with the last transistor in the chain (example: Q2 in Fig. 6) and work your way back.

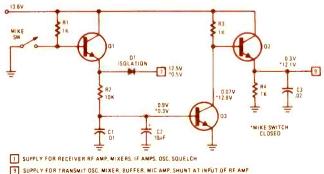


FIG. 6-MULTITRANSISTOR KEYING SYSTEM FEEDS VOLTage to transmit stages (mike switch closed) or to receiver stages (switch open).

MARCH 1978

Servicing Synthesizers

How to troubleshoot both the PLL and the multi-crystal types.

THERE IS ONE SECTION IN A CB transceiver that operates whether you are transmitting or receiving—the frequency synthesizer. This section initiates internal RF signals for both receiver and transmitter.

Inexpensive CB radios are predominantly 23-channel sets. Very few use a phase-locked loop. Some 80 percent incorporate frequency synthesizers, by

far the most popular being the 6.4.4 type of synthesizer. This version consists of a master oscillator with six crystals, a receive oscillator with four crystals and a transmit oscillator with another four crystals. A few low-priced transceivers use a 6.4-2 synthesizer, having six and four crystals in two synthesizer oscillators, and one each in the receive and transmit oscillators.

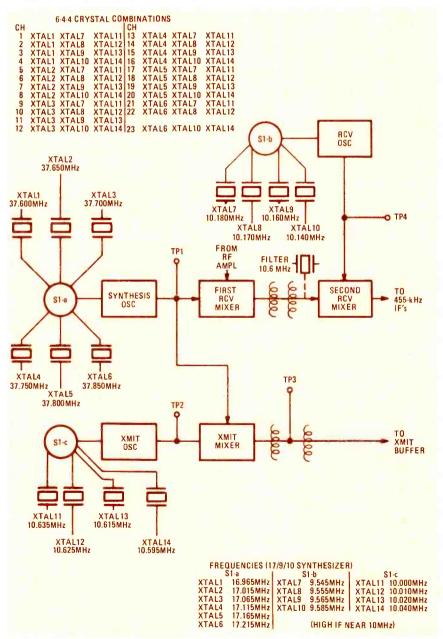


FIG. 1—THE 6-4-4 SYNTHESIZER FALLS MAINLY IN TWO FREQUENCY GROUPings: 37/10/10 (the most popular) and 17/9/10, using a 10-MHz high IF signal.

How synthesis works

Synthesizer operation is easy to understand, no matter in what kind of CB radio. It involves simple heterodyning.

The block diagram of Fig. 1 shows the type of synthesizer used by a majority of low-cost 23-channel CB radios; the most common crystals for this type of radio are shown. You are safe in stocking up on these crystals... you'll use them.

First, study the operation of this synthesizer during the transmit function; the receive oscillator is off, and the transmit oscillator is on.

For example, assume the channel selector is set for CB Channel 9. To discover which crystals are activated, consult the crystal combination chart in Fig. 1. (Each Sams *PhotoFact* Schematic contains a similar chart.)

In our example, crystals X3 and X11 are the ones involved in transmitting the Channel 9 signals. (Remember, the receive oscillator is off.) The signals generated by the synthesis oscillator and the transmit oscillator meet in the transmit mixer, where they heterodyne. Subtracting the crystal X11 frequency from the crystal X3 frequency, (37.700 minus 10.635) gives 27.065 MHz—the output of the transmit mixer.

Release the mike button and the set returns to the receive condition. This cuts off the transmit oscillator and activates the receive oscillator. The synthesis oscillator continues to operate. The Channel 9 crystal combination for receive is crystals X3 and X7.

However, the Fig. 1 block diagram shows that the signals from these two crystals do not heterodyne together directly. Instead, the synthesis oscillator signal goes to the first receive mixer, where it heterodynes with whatever incoming CB signals are present. Since the channel selector is set at Channel 9, here's what happens if there is a Channel 9 signal present.

Crystal X3 produces a 37.700-MHz signal. If that signal heterodynes in the first receive mixer with a 27.065-MHz signal the resulting high IF signal is 10.635 MHz. This high IF signal mixes in the second receive mixer with a signal from the receive oscillator. Since crystal X7 is selected when the switch is at Channel 9, the 10.635-MHz signal heterodynes with a 10.180-MHz signal.

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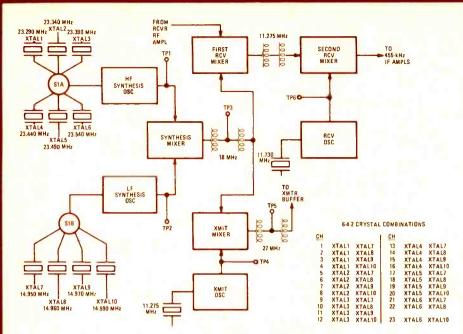


FIG. 2—THE 6-4-2 SYNTHESIZER HAS HIGH- AND LOW-FREQUENCY SYNTHESIS oscillators, and separate single-frequency receive and transmit oscillators.

The difference is 0.455 MHz-of 455 kHz, the low intermediate frequency.

Using the same method, you can figure out how any other channel operates. The crystal combinations chart will show you which crystals are used in any channel position. The 37/10/10 crystal frequency arrangement shown in Fig. 1 is typical and the most common. However, there is another set of frequencies that is used fairly often-17/9/10. Frequencies for each of these crystals are listed in the box in Fig. 1. Crystals in the vicinity of 17 MHz control the synthesis oscillator; crystals near 10 MHz operate the transmit oscillator; and those near 9 MHz control the receive oscillator. If you see many of these sets, it's probably a good idea to carry one each of these crystals also.

Most of these receivers are double-conversion units. On schematic diagrams, the high IF is labeled either 10 MHz or 10.7 MHz, depending on the synthesizer crystals. Either way, the receive oscillator then heterodynes that high IF signal down to the second or low IF, which is always 455 kHz.

The so-called 10.7-MHz high IF signals are actually at 10.6 MHz, but they are listed that way because 10.7-MHz IF coils are common. The coils can be aligned at whatever frequency the synthesis crystals beat the incoming CB signal down to: Slightly above 10.6 MHz in 37/10/10 combinations and barely above 10 MHz in the 17/9/10 arrangement. Occasionally, 37/10/10 models will have a ceramic-tuned filter instead of coils between the two mixers. Almost always, it is listed as a 10.7-MHz filter, but it actually centers a bit below that frequency.

To be sure you understand the synthesis system shown in Fig. 1, use your

calculator to go through the following 17/9/10 example: Assume the channel switch is set to Channel 19. Crystals X5 and X9 control the synthesis and receive oscillators, respectively.

Incoming signals mix with the 17.165-MHz synthesis signal to create high IF signals. Only a 27.185-MHz (Channel 19) signal places a 10.020-MHz signal into the second receive mixer. And that's the only high IF signal that can heterodyne 9.565 MHz (from crystal X9) and produce the correct low IF signal of 455 kHz. Any other incoming CB signal produces the wrong intermediate frequencies and is rejected.

In the transmit mode, crystals X5 and X13 heterodyne in the transmit mixer. Together their 17.165-MHz and 10.020-MHz signals produce a 27.185-MHz signal, the carrier for Channel 19.

Another synthesizer

Figure 2 shows a type of frequency synthesizer found in some low-cost CB's. I call it a 6-4-2 synthesizer. But you might also call it a 23/14 system because of the approximate number of crystal frequencies in the two synthesis oscillators. Again, it pays to keep this dozen crystals on hand. (Two crystals belong in the transmit and receive oscillators.)

Both synthesizer oscillators operate continuously when the set is on, for both transmit and receive functions. Let's choose Channel 23 for example. I recommend you run through the heterodyne calculations to see how this synthesizer operates in the transceiver. Fire up your calculator.

For Channel 23, the Fig. 2 chart names crystals X6 and X10. Crystal X6 holds the high-frequency synthesis

oscillator at 23.540 MHz. Crystal X10 holds the low-frequency synthesis oscillator at 14.990 MHz. This synthesis mixer is additive; its output signal is 38.530 MHz.

In the transmit mode, the receiver mixer and oscillator are disabled. The transmit stages are all turned on. An 11.275-MHz signal mixes with the 38.530-MHz signal in the subtractive transmit mixer. Subtracting 11.275 MHz from 38.530 MHz gives 27.255 MHz, the carrier frequency for Channel 23.

In the receive mode, the transmit stages are off and the receive stages are on. As in the other systems, the synthesizer frequency beats in the first receive mixer signal with incoming CB signals from the receiver's input RF amplifier. The only CB signal that produces the correct 11.275-MHz high IF is the 27.255-MHz signal. You can check it on your calculator. Just subtract 27.255 MHz from the 38.530-MHz synthesizer signal.

Next, the 11.275-MHz IF signal heterodynes in the second receive mixer stage with an 11.730-MHz signal from the receive oscillator. Your calculator will show the difference is 0.455 MHz-which is the 455-kHz low IF signal.

Just as an exercise in understanding double-superhet receivers, use your calculator to see what happens to any other incoming signal, beating with the Channel 23 synthesizer signal. Suppose that the antenna is receiving signals from Channels 2, 4, 8, 9, 12, 17, 19 and 23. Choose any one of these signals and run it through the two mixers.

For example, try channel 9. Subtracting 27.065 from 38.530 (with the synthesizer set for Channel 23) gives an IF signal of 11.465 MHz. The high IF signal transformer, since it is tuned to 11.275 MHz, tries to reject this signal, but a small portion probably gets through to the second mixer.

In the second mixer, whatever is left of this 11.465-MHz IF signal mixes with the 11.730-MHz signal from the receive oscillator. The difference frequency is 0.265 MHz, or 265 kHz. That's a long, long way from 455 kHz. There is no way a 265-kHz signal can make it through the low IF amplifiers. Thus, the set has rejected the original Channel 9 signal.

If you work out any of the other signals except Channel 23, you'll see that the same thing happens to them. On the other hand, if you change the channel selector switch to choose a new combination of synthesizer crystals, the incoming signal frequency for that channel will heterodyne ultimately to exactly 455 kHz.

Troubleshooting synthesizers

Three instruments are all you need

With synthesizers, only two kinds of components give the most trouble. The worst offenders are transistors; the second most troublesome are crystals. In an oscillator that is running off-frequency, the fault is probably a crystal. If the output voltage is too weak or missing, you can usually blame the transistor. Occasionally, a switch or other component can cause the voltage problem.

Your frequency counter is the first instrument to reach for. Figures 1 and 2 show test points. In some CB models, these test points are brought to test-point posts on the PC board. In other models, you might have to hunt the base of a transistor for the test connection. Be sure your frequency counter is sensitive enough to be locked by the signal, which in some oscillators may not exceed 20 to 40 volts P-P.

Use the crystal combinations chart in Fig. 1 to find the proper arrangement for the 644 synthesizer. Connect the frequency counter to test point 1. Set the channel selector to enough different channels to verify all six crystal frequencies in the synthesis oscillator. None should vary more than 1000 Hz from the indicated frequency. A crystal with a marginal frequency might leave the transmitter legal but not received well by other CB stations. Likewise, it might make the receiver operate marginally, even while testing OK for sensitivity.

Furthermore, anytime a crystal varies by 1000 Hz, you can expect it to shift more. Replacing such a crystal is your best insurance against a quick callback.

Second, use your frequency counter to test the output of the transmit oscillator (TP2). If no test point is provided, go to the base of the transmit mixer. If the mixer input point is the same for both signals, one may override the other, and the result may confuse the counter. You might conclude that one oscillator is running and the other isn't.

You have two alternatives. Some technicians keep a 0.1 μ F capacitor,



FOURTEEN CRYSTALS are a sign that the synthesizer is 6-4-4; the 6-4-2 synthesizer needs only twelve crystals.

with test leads attached, for killing an oscillator. You just clip the capacitor jumper from the oscillator base to ground. That lets only the signal from the other oscillator show up at the mixer input.

The other alternative is to move the frequency counter to test point 3. If all six synthesis oscillator crystals are OK, any discrepancy in the 27-MHz output votlage from the transmit mixer must be caused by either a bad mixer or a faulty crystal in the transmit oscillator. If the signal is merely off-frequency, blame the crystal. If the mixer transistor is defective, you might find either no output voltage at all or only from one or the other oscillator.

In any case, these three fast frequency checks show you the condition of the synthesis oscillator, transmit oscillator and mixer.

Test point 4 lets you verify the frequency of the receive oscillator. If it's wrong, the proper low IF cannot be developed by signals in the first mixer.

With a strong input signal and a sensitive frequency counter, you can check the high IF at the first-mixer input. If you don't know what the exact frequency should be, get out your calculator. From the frequency of whatever synthesis crystal the channel selector switch has chosen (see Fig. 1), you subtract the assigned frequency for that CB channel. The difference is the IF you should expect. In a 37/10/10 synthesizer, a normal

high IF signal ranges from 10.595 MHz to 10.635 MHz. In the 17/9/10 configuration, the IF frequency is from 10.0 MHz to 10.04 MHz.

If you suspect a transistor is causing the problem, you can check it quickly by analyzing voltages with your DMM or by taking the base lead loose and measuring forward and backward with the ohmmeter. You also save time if you use a quick-check type of in-circuit transistor tester.

Troubleshooting a 6-4-2 synthesizer (see Fig. 2) differs only slightly. First, you check all the crystals in the HF oscillator by connecting the frequency counter at test point 1. Then, check the IF oscillator crystals at test point 2. Finally, verify that these crystals are heterodyning to the right frequencies, by connecting the frequency counter at test point 3. If all crystals are OK in both oscillators, all you have to do is check one combination just to be sure the mixer is working properly. Here's where your calculator comes in handy, because service schematic diagrams seldom list synthesis-mixer outputs.

For example, suppose the channel selector is set at Channel 12. The switch connects crystals X3 and X10 to their respective oscillators. Since the mixer is additive, your frequency counter at test point 3 should read close to 38,380 MHz.

Then, move to test point 4. Any discrepancy in frequency here, with the synthesizer frequency at test point 3 being correct, indicates there is a fault in the transmit-oscillator frequency. Or, perhaps the same 38-MHz frequency shows up at test point 4; that means the oscillator isn't working.

Ordinarily, the best place to start testing the receiver side is at the receive oscillator, in both 6-4-4 and 6-4-2 synthesizers. In Fig. 1, the receive oscillator test point is No. 4; in Fig. 2, it's test point 5. Use a frequency counter to find out whether or not the oscillator is working accurately.

If your frequency counter is not sensitive enough to check the oscillator output directly, try checking at a mixer output. In the receiver, this may still not suffice, because there may be less signal following the mixer than out of the oscillator.

23-Channel PLL

YOU MAY RUN INTO SOME TROUble trying to understand how low-cost sets with a phase-locked loop (PLL) work. Many diagrams are misleading. They don't really indicate the way a PLL operates. A block diagram shows separated portions of an integrated circuit, without ever showing the internal connections that interrelate the separate sections. The block diagram shown here will try to circumvent this problem.

You may already know how a PLL operates, but here's an explanation. This circuit is common in low-cost 23-channel sets; it uses either the PLL-01A integrated circuit or the PLL-02A IC. A few other PLL IC's are used;

they work about the same.

The heart of any PLL system is a DC-tuned oscillator, called a voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO). The main job of a VCO is to provide the internal signal for the receive and transmit mixers. In 23-channel sets, the same VCO frequency is used for both transmit and receive modes. Only resetting the channel selector switch changes the VCO's output frequency.

A phase-locked loop tuning system takes its name from the loop formed by the stages controlling the VCO frequency. A sample signal from the VCO is fed to a loop mixer and heterodyned against the signal from an overtone oscillator. The overtone oscillator runs on the third overtone of an 11.8066-MHz crystal; its output is therefore nominally 35.42 MHz.

The VCO can run at almost any frequency. But for the sake of example, let it run at 37.66 MHz. This frequency, mixed with the signal from the overtone oscillator, produces a loop signal at 2.24 MHz.

This 2.24-MHz signal is fed through a buffer amplifier, to a programmed downcounter or divider, which is part of a TTL-type IC.

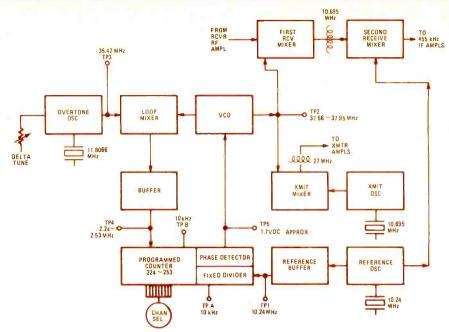
A specially designed channel selector switch connects a particular combination of high and low voltages to certain pins in the IC. In our example, suppose the channel selector is set at CB Channel 1. High and low voltages program the divider to down-count by a factor of 224.

A 2.24-MHz loop signal fed into this 224 down-counter produces an output signal at 0.01 MHz, or 10 kHz. And that output signal is fed to a phase detector.

Meanwhile, a reference signal is being developed by a reference oscillator that is controlled by a 10.24-MHz crystal. Passing through a buffer stage, this signal is fed to another divider, inside the IC, which produces a fixed 1024 down-count. Hence, the reference oscillator and the 1024 divider produce a tightly controlled reference signal at 10 kHz.

This 10-kHz reference signal proceeds-still inside the IC-to the same phase detector that receives the downcounted loop signal. The phase detector checks to see if both signals match precisely in frequency and phase. If they do, as in the example just described, the DC voltage output DC of the phase detector stabilizes. Do not make the mistake of thinking that the voltage output goes to zero; it does not. The phase detector simply holds a ramp voltage at some specific value. This DC voltage is applied to the voltagecontrolled oscillator, and determines its frequency.

To understand how this PLL system



TYPICAL 23-CHANNEL PHASE-LOCKED LOOP CAN BE TESTED WITH DC CLAMP voltage connected to test point 5, so you can control the voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) manually.

controls the VCO frequency, let's turn the channel selector switch to Channel 9. As you know, the channel selector switch chooses the high and low voltages that are applied to the programmed divider inside the IC. Rearranging the high and low voltages reprograms the variable divider to a new down-count factor. For Channel 9, because of the divider's inner design this down-count factor is 234.

You know immediately that the 37.66-MHz VCO frequency will not provide the right loop signal. In order for the phase detector to receive a 10-kHz signal from the programmed counter, a 2.34-MHz signal must come down the loop from the loop mixer. Mixing a 37.66-MHz signal from the VCO with a 35.42-MHz signal from the overtone oscillator results in a signal of 2.24-MHz, not 2.34 MHz.

The 2.24-MHz signal on the loop line is now divided by 234 instead of 224. Obviously, this cannot produce a 10-kHz signal for comparison with the reference. The phase detector senses this discrepancy. It sets its ramp voltage in motion, which then starts swinging the VCO frequency. Only when the VCO frequency reaches 37.76 MHz does the phase detector stabilize the ramp voltage.

Why a VCO frequency of 37.76 MHz? Because this is the frequency which, when it is beat against the overtone oscillator signal of 35.42 MHz produces a 2.34-MHz loop signal. And this is the only loop-signal frequency that will divide perfectly to 10 kHz in the programmed down-counter. In addition, the phase detector can lock only at that frequency. Any slight shift in the VCO frequency throws the

phase detector off, and its ramp voltage automatically corrects the VCO frequency.

The PLL diagram shows where the VCO output goes. When the transmitter is keyed, the output mixes with the transmit oscillator. In the case of Channel 9, in which the VCO is stabilized at 37.76 MHz, the subtractive transmit mixer heterodynes 37.76 MHz and 10.695 MHz to produce a frequency of 27.065 MHz, which is the Channel 9 carrier frequency.

When the receiver is operating, the VCO output mixes with incoming signals from the receiver RF amplifier. From here on, operation is similar to CB receivers using synthesizers. In this case, only a frequency of 27.065 MHz will mix with the 37.76-MHz signal from the VCO to produce a 10.695-MHz high IF signal. And that is the only signal that can beat in the second mixer with a 10.24-MHz signal and produce a 455-kHz low IF signal. You may have noticed, a sample of the 10.24-MHz reference signal is fed to the second mixer instead of a receive oscillator signal.

Troublehunting in PLL

That's how a 23-channel PLL system works. Now, how do you troubleshoot it? Here's a step-by-step procedure that uncovers virtually any defect you are likely to encounter in a PLL.

First, here's a point to remember. Suppose you narrow down a trouble to the inside sections of an IC. This means replacing the entire IC. Some sections are contained in more than one IC, and some discrete stages use transistors. Adapt your techniques to suit.

Start measuring DC voltage at test

point 4. The service schematic should indicate the voltage there within a few tenths of a volt. If this voltage is wrong, the VCO can be far off-frequency or even pushed to the point where it stops oscillating. The PLL system shown in the block diagram states that 1.7 volts is nearly correct. So, the voltage should fall somewhere between 1.3 and 2.1. Much voltage outside that range indicates trouble, but this does not necessarily show where the trouble is.

Next, clamp the DC voltage line at test point 4. Choose a well-filtered and well-regulated DC power supply. Connect its output to test point 4. If there is no test-point post, clip this output to the DC voltage line that feeds the capacitive diode controlling the VCO frequency. Clip your multimeter to the same point and adjust the DC supply to approximately 1.7 volts, or whatever value the schematic calls for.

Now connect a frequency counter to the VCO output (test point 2). The frequency should fall somewhere within the limits specified for that VCO. Sets having PLL-01A IC's run the VCO at a frequency of 21 MHz, and the discrete-reference oscillator operates at 6.4 MHz. The PLL-02A and most other 23-channel systems operate the VCO near a 38-MHz frequency, with a 10.24-MHz frequency reference.

Actually, the VCO shown here operates from 37.66 MHz to 37.95 MHz. If the proper voltage does not bring the VCO into this frequency range or very close, the VCO needs servicing or adjustment.

Next, if the frequency is alsmot correct, adjust the clamp voltage—without regard to its specific value—to make the VCO operate at some steady frequency. The precise frequency doesn't matter much as long as you can measure it and it holds steady.

For example, assume your counter reads 36.710 MHz. Move the counter to test point 3, the overtone oscillator output. If the loop-mixer input is missing or is not precisely at 35.42 MHz, there's your trouble; cure it.

Take out your calculator; it's an important servicing tool. Keep it handy because you'll be doing several calculations.

Whatever frequency comes from the overtone oscillator, subtract that from the measured frequency of the clamped VCO. Suppose, for example, that the DC-clamp voltage has set the frequency of the VCO oscillator at 37.705 MHz. Simultaneously, your frequency counter shows the overtone oscillator output at 35.422 MHz. Your calculator tells you that the difference between the two frequencies, which is or should be the output of the loop mixer, is 2.283 MHz.

Your frequency counter ought to find that 2.283-MHz frequency at the mixer output or at test point 3 following the buffer stage. If it doesn't, there's trouble in the mixer or buffer stages. If this signal is wrong or missing, you'll have to cure the trouble before you proceed.

Next, check the dividing action of the programmed divider or down-counter in the IC. But, you say, the output goes to the phase detector, which is also inside the IC. How can you check this? Most monolithic PLL IC's include internal test points that are brought out to blank pins. Therefore, you can check the divider action with your frequency counter.

Remember that the 2.283-MHz (2283-kHz) frequency is the signal that enters the programmed down-counter. Set the channel selector to any channel you wish. The system is disabled, because of the DC clamp voltage on the VCO control line, so dialing the switch does not affect the VCO. Just for example, set the switch for Channel 1. The divider factor there is 224 for Channel 1. Therefore, the divider should divide by 224 whatever frequency enters.

With your calculator, divide 2283 kHz by the factor the channel switch has selected, which is 224. Your calculator tells you that the output of the programmed divider should be 10.192 kHz. If you had chosen some other channel, the divider factor would be different, and the frequency at test point B would also be different. However, your calculator would tell you what it should be. For instance, with Channel 9 and a divider factor of 234, the output frequency should be 2283 kHz divided by 234, or 9.756 kHz.

Now let your frequency counter verify whether or not the programmed down-counter produces the correct frequency (in this case 10.192 kHz). Connect the counter to whichever IC pin corresponds to test point B on the IC you're working with. If the frequency is within a couple of Hz, the programmed divider is working correctly. If the symptom complaint has been that one or two channels are incorrect, verify the down-count for those channels.

When your frequency counter verifies everything your calculator has told you around to this point in the loop, then everything so far is working OK. Now, check out the reference side of the PLL. The frequency counter at test point 1 indicates whether the reference crystal is on-frequency and if the oscillator and buffer are working. Most systems in low-cost 23-channel CB's operate with a 10.24-MHz reference frequency. (An exception is those

using the PLL-01A IC, which operates with a 6.4-MHz reference frequency.)

Then, if the reference stages are working, check the fixed divider inside the IC. Again, there is a no-connection pin that forms the output test point (test point A) for the fixed divider. Your frequency counter should verify the exact down-count, whether from 6.4 MHz or 10.24 MHz, always to exactly 10.0 kHz. If this frequency deviates more than 1 or 2 Hz, find the trouble.

Incidentally, if your frequency counter shows the fixed-divider out put test point is 16 kHz, either the wrong IC or a wrong-frequency reference crystal have been installed. By the same token, if the counter reads almost exactly 6.25 kHz, you have the same trouble.

Finally, check the phase detector by first connecting the clamp voltage close to the VCO. Then, break the DC line voltage somewhere between the clamp voltage and the DC voltage output of the IC's phase detector section. Now, with the VCO still held stable by the clamp voltage, connect your DC voltmeter to the phase-detector output; the DC voltage here should be steady, and close to the value shown on the set's schematic.

If everything checks out OK around the PLL, the phase detector should pull the VCO right onto frequency and lock it there when you remove the clamp voltage. If it doesn't, the fault is in the phase detector or ramp-voltage section of the IC. In either case, the IC must be replaced.

However, suppose that earlier troubleshooting found that dividers were defective. It is important that you check both of them if you find one bad. Why? Because the DC voltage input, (Vcc input) might be at fault. Usually, normal voltage is somewhere on the order of 5 or 6. It must be close to correct, or the IC cannot operate normally. If you find that IC action is defective and replace the IC when actually the only trouble was in the Vcc input, the new IC wouldn't work either.

Radio-Electronics

Tests

CIRCLE 95 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Model FM-10 Beam Box Antenna

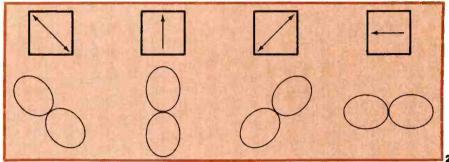
LEN FELDMAN CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR

I HAVE FOR MANY YEARS BEMOANED THE FACT that most purchasers of good FM tuners and receivers seldom realize the full potential from their investment. That's because they do not, or cannot, install an adequate directional outdoor antenna specifically designed for FM signal reception. The usual 300-ohm T-wire packed with most hi-fi tuners and receivers, while theoretically suitable for proper FM signal reception, generally suffers in performance because it is seldom positioned for best reception and often ends up casually tossed behind the tuner or under a rug. The so-called "rabbit ear" antennas, although they can be oriented for best signal reception, are cumbersome and inconvenient to place properly.

Several FM radio manufacturers have attempted to design and market indoor antennas that incorporate booster RF amplifiers and other electronic schemes. The trouble with most of these schemes is that along with amplifying the desired signal, they amplify background noise as well. Most FM front ends have about as good a noise figure as can be obtained, and increased signal strength is hardly ever a problem unless you live many, many miles from an FM station.

The real problem in FM reception, especially stereo FM reception, lies in trying to feed a proper signal to the antenna terminals—one that is free of interfering reflections, known as multipath. TV viewers are all too familiar with signal reflections, since they cause multiple images to the right of the main picture. In FM reception, such signal reflections cause distortion, loss of stereo separation and, in extreme cases, increased background noise. The solution, of course, is a directional antenna.

B.I.C.'s new model FM-10, Beam Box, is, as far as we know, the first indoor FM antenna of its kind. Figure 1 shows it is physically designed to look like other high-fidelity components. In fact, it can be positioned alongside, under or above the rest of the components in



your system. One of the key features of this new indoor FM antenna is that its reception patterns can be altered without physically rotating the entire unit. A BEAM DIRECTION switch at the right of the front panel hooks up to pairs of antenna elements so that four Figure 8 reception patterns can be obtained, each displaced from the next by 45 degrees. The reception patterns generated by the different switch settings are shown in Fig. 2.

To use The Beam Box, connect its rearpanel output terminals to the tuner or receiver antenna terminals either by using the 300-ohm transmission line supplied, or, if 75-ohm coaxial operation is desired, by a suitable length of this type of cable terminated in a standard connector that must be purchased separately. If your tuner is equipped with a signal strength meter, first tune to the desired frequency and then use the BEAM DIRECTION switch to choose the beam pattern that results in the greatest deflection of the signal strength meter. Next, the BANDWIDTH control, next to the BEAM DIRECTION switch, is turned from its broadband position to its narrowband or sharp position. When this is done, a four-section variable-tuning capacitor, with its associated coils and other passive front end parts, is introduced as part of the antenna circuitry.

When the BEAM DIRECTION switch is set to the narrowband position, *The Beam Box* acts, in effect, as a front end in front of your tuner's own front end, and therefore contributes significantly to image rejection, spurious response rejection and, to a lesser degree, selectivity. You simply turn the TUNING control until signal reception is optimized, observing the signal strength meter or, if none is available, listening for the cleanest, least noisy FM reception. The owner's manual suggests that after the initial optimization, it is advisable to recheck using the BEAM DIRECTION switch, since occasionally a different directional pattern can further improve reception once the other controls have been set.

Lab measurements

Two sets of experiments were conducted to determine the usefulness of *The Beam Box*. Our laboratory is equipped with a precision field-strength meter, the Blonder-Tongue model 4127 that reads directly in microvolts. This meter was first hooked up to a standard 300-ohm wire dipole antenna of the type normally supplied with most tuners or receivers. The dipole antenna was placed in a fixed position and not reoriented during the tests (much as it would be used in a typical installation). Several received signals were tuned to on the field-strength meter and readings were recorded.

Next, The Beam Box was connected to the field-strength meter and tuned to the same signal frequencies. The received signal strength was again recorded. Results of these tests are listed in Table I and, as can be seen, in most instances, signal strengths received using an optimally adjusted and tuned Beam Box were greater than those received using the nominally positioned standard dipole antenna-despite the fact that The Beam Box (by virtue of its 8th-wavelength elements) actually has less theoretical gain than a half-wave dipole antenna. Even in the few instances where signal strengths were greater using the dipole antenna, subsequent listening tests revealed that reception quality was superior when The Beam Box was used, once again proving that the signal quality counts more than actual signal strength.

Our second experiment involved measuring the residual background noise of an FM received signal. FM noise reduction is not

MANUFACTURER'S PUBLISHED SPECIFICATIONS:

Frequency Range: 88 MHz to 108 MHz. Antenna Gain: -5 dB (narrowband); -12 dB (broadband). Receiving Elements: four 8th-wavelength extruded aluminum elements. Output Impedance: 300-ohm balanced or 75-ohm unbalanced (coaxial) connection. Standing-Wave Ratio (VSWR): less than 1.5:1, narrowband. Bandwidth, in narrowband position, 3 MHz at -3-dB points. Dimensions: $14\frac{1}{2}$ W \times $4\frac{1}{2}$ H \times $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches D. Net Weight: 8.5 lbs. Accessories: 44-inch length of 300-ohm transmission line, terminated at each end with spade-lug connectors. Suggested Retail Price: \$89.95.

TABLE I				
Station Frequency (MHz)	Signal Strength (µV) Using B.I.C. Beam Box Tuned And Set For Best Reception	Signal Strength (µV) Using Fixed Wire-Dipole Tacked To A Wall		
89.1	125	50		
89.9	62	48*		
92.1	60	60*		
96.3	100	45*		
97.1	250	125		
99.9	160	30		
101.1	160	70		
102.7	80	100		
104.3	115	90		
106.7	250	30*		
107.9	35	5*		

These stations exhibited severe multipath reception problems when the fixedposition dipole antenna was used.

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

Manufacturer: B.I.C.

Model: FM-10 Beam Box Antenna

OVERALL PRODUCT ANALYSIS

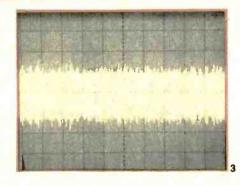
Retail price Price category Price/performance ratio Styling and appearance Sound quality Mechanical performance Unique, no comparison possible Excellent Superb Not applicable Excellent

Comments: This unique product will probably be the answer to many FM enthusiasts' prayers. It is the first indoor FM antenna that really does a good job and is not an eyesore in your listening room. The combination of directionality switching and tuned circuits actually can and does improve FM performance of any tuner or receiver, regardless of its price, since it enables the user who is prohibited from installing a proper directional outdoor FM antenna to receive the least amount of multipath Interference and optimum signal quality. It takes a bit of getting used to, since it is necessary to tune The Beam Box each time you listen to a new station. But the effort is worthwhile, since each received signal is truly optimized if you use The Beam Box properly and the procedure becomes habitual. B.I.C. includes a station log sheet that can be filled in with your favorite station call letters, their frequency and the correct BEAM DIRECTION switch setting for each station. This cuts down the antenna tuning time the next occasion you want to

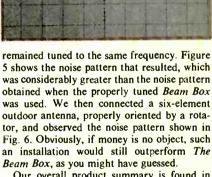
listen to one of the logged stations. If the desired signal strengths are just too low to provide adequate limiting in your tuner, The Beam Box won't help. But if you are plagued with poor FM reception even from nearby signals (because of reflections, etc.) The Beam Box could be the next best thing to an expensive directional outdoor antenna array/rotator combination. If Installing an outdoor antenna is either prohibited or prohibitive, the B.I.C. Beam Box seems to be a viable alternative.

always a function of signal strength. There are a few FM tuners and receivers around (notably, those manufactured by Harman Kardon) that do provide what is called a quieting meter instead of the usual signal strength meter. To simulate this kind of indication, we connected a bandpass filter (tuned to around 100 kHz) to the detector output of a tuner. The output of the filter was connected to the vertical input of an oscilloscope. Since the filter allows only noise components in the 100-kHz region to pass through, the audio modulation of the received signal does not affect the display. This sort of display gives a good indication of quieting or noise content in a received FM signal.

We tuned to a relatively weak signal, using The Beam Box, with the BEAM DIRECTION switch and tuning controls set arbitrarily. Figure 3 shows the high level of background noise (lack of quieting) that resulted. We then opti-



mized the BEAM DIRECTION, switched to the narrowband position, and tuned the tuning control on The Beam Box and the noise quickly diminished, as shown in Fig. 4. By way of comparison, we then connected a standard dipole antenna to the same tuner, which



Our overall product summary is found in Table 2, together with summary comments concerning The Beam Box. For those who might wonder why we rated the price-performance ratio as excellent, the only thing that beats the performance of The Beam Box is a carefully installed, highly directional outdoor antenna. However, the cost of such an installation (including the price of the antenna and accessory parts, cable, mast and, likely a rotator if all your station signals originate from points about the compass) might well be double or triple that of The Beam Box. R-E

computer corner

Z-80 A close look at the three different interrupts available in the Z-80 WILLIAM BARDEN, JR.

LAST MONTH, WE LOOKED AT THE VARIOUS addressing modes of the Z-80. This month, we'll examine three different ways the Z-80 can be interrupted.

Interrupts

The Z-80 has two interrupt inputs—INT, which typically comes from an external device requesting I/O (Input/Output) service; and a nonmaskable interrupt, NMI. The nonmaskable interrupt is the least sophisticated of the two; so, NMI will be examined first.

The NMI interrupt cannot be disabled by the DI (Disable Interrupt) instruction. This means that even if the NMI line to the Z-80 is brought to a logic 0 level, the CPU will always act on the interrupt. The NMI signals important system conditions that must be acted on immediately, such as system power failure or system reset. Whenever the NMI line is brought to a logic-low level by external circuitry, the CPU executes a RESTART instruction to memory location 0066H. You will recall that a RESTART instruction automatically saves the contents of the program counter by pushing it into the stack, and the RESTART instruction initiated by the NMI interrupt performs the same action. The NMI is not implemented in the 8080 microprocessor.

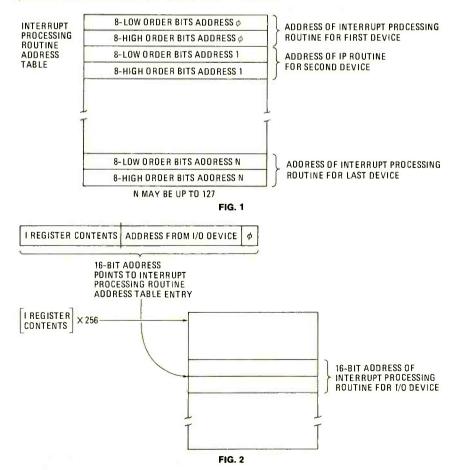
The INT interrupt operates in three modes, selected by prior execution of one of three special mode instructions—IMO, IMI or IM2. For this type of interrupt to occur, the interrupt enable flip-flop must be set. The interrupt enable flip-flop is set or reset by two interrupt control instructions, El and DI (Enable Interrupts and Disable Interrupts). As in the 8080-based and other microcomputers, there are times when interrupts are permitted and other times when interrupts must be inhibited. An obvious example of a time when interrupts must be disabled is when a previous interrupt has just occurred and is in the first stages of being processed. If a second interrupt was to occur while the status of CPU flags and registers is being saved in the stack, the second interrupt might destroy the previous contents of the CPU registers and status flags. Another example of an interrupt-disable period is when the system is first initialized. If an interrupt were allowed to occur before system devices were reset and

initialized, a spurious or unexpected interrupt might result and be erroneously processed.

If an IMO instruction has been executed, the Z-80 is in mode 0 which is identical to the 8080 interrupt mode. If the interrupt enable flip-flop is set and signal INT is brought down to a logic 0 level, the CPU enters an interrupt state and signals the interrupting external device by the IORQ signal together with the M1 signal. When the interrupting device receives these two signals, it responds and the Z-80 behaves in a fashion identical to the 8080. A RESTART instruction is jammed onto the data bus. Encoded within the one-byte RESTART instruction is a three-bit field with a value of 0 through 7 and the CPU transfers control to memory location 0, 8, 10H, 18H, 20H, 28H, 30H, or 38H, depending upon the value of the field (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,

6, or 7). At the same time, the CPU saves the contents of the program counter in the stack. The eight locations typically contain jumps to interrupt processing routines elsewhere in memory, since eight bytes is not really enough memory to process most interrupts. At the end of interrupt processing, a Return (RET) instruction pops the address of the interrupted instruction from the stack and transfers control back to the main program at the point of interruption.

When interrupt mode 1 has been initiated by execution of an IM1 instruction, an interrupt on the INT input pin while the interrupt enable flip-flop is set causes a RESTART to location 38H. Why is this mode convenient? Because mode 1 needs no external hardware to jam the RESTART instruction onto the data bus at the proper time. The CPU automatically transfers control to the proper location, as in the case of the NMI interrupt. This mode is not implemented in the 8080 microprocessor.



The remaining interrupt mode, mode 2, is the most powerful interrupt mode of the three. Using this mode, up to 128 interrupt levels can be used in the Z-80 system. A table of addresses representing up to 128 interrupt processing routines is stored anywhere in memory. Figure 1 shows this table, in which each entry consists of two bytes representing the address of the interrupt processing routine. Register I is previously loaded with an eight-bit value representing the address of the start of the table divided by 256₁₀. For example if the table started at 2000H, register I would be loaded with

With mode 2 previously set by an IM2 instruction and the interrupt enable flipflop set, an interrupt on the INT pin causes the same IORQ and M1 response as mode 1. The difference is that the interrupting device supplies an eight-bit value representing the lower-order eight bits of the interrupt vector, while register I supplies the eight higher-order bits of the interrupt vector as shown in Fig. 2. The CPU treats the two bytes as a 16-bit memory address and puts the contents of that memory address and that memory address plus one into the program counter, thus effectively transferring control to the interrupt vector address retrieved from the table. Note that the least significant bit of the address from the I/O device must always be a logical 0, so that the resulting address points to the first word of the interrupt vector table entry. Using mode 2, up to 128 external I/O devices could cause 128 unique interrupts with a subsequent transfer of control to 128 different interrupt processing locations. Obviously, external logic is required to properly establish the priority of these devices so that only one interrupt can occur at a time. Mode 2, of course, is not implemented in the 8080.

Next month, we'll discuss how to interface the Z-80 to I/O devices and to additional memory.



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0 to 10 dr from 20 Hz to 20 kHz; ± 0.3 dB from 1 Hz to 100 kHz.

10 dr from 20 Hz to 20 kHz; ± 0.3 dB from 1 Hz to 100 kHz.

10 dr from 20 kHz to 20 kHz; ± 0.3 dB from 1 Hz to 100 kHz.

10 dr from 20 kHz to 20 kHz; ± 0.3 dB from 1 Hz to 100 kHz.

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ELECTRONICS

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Hobby Computer Mainframes

THIS DIRECTORY GREW TOO LARGE TO FIT INTO A SINGLE ISSUE. So this concluding section had to be held over for this month. Before starting this section we have one correction and one addition to last month's section. The address for the Mits Division of Pertec was incorrect; the proper address is PCC Microsystems, 21111 Erwin St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

Also, some gremlins resulted in the listing for ECD not appearing in alphabetical order. So here it is now, at the top of this month's list.

ECD

Makes *Micromind*, an assembled ready-to-use machine with 8K of memory built around a 6500A microprocessor. Comes complete with an 80-key software definable keyboard; I/O interface board; high-detail graphics and character display processor; power supply, RF modulator and connections for up to four tape recorders plus TV or monitor. Price, \$987.54. Available from ECD Corp., 196 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Southwest Technical Products

Complete line of hobby computer equipment. Includes 6800 computer complete with 4K of memory. Kit, \$395. Additional memory, \$100 for 4K; \$250 for 8K. Terminal monitor CT-64 features 64-character lines, upper-and-lower-case letters, switchable control character printing, word highlighting, full cursor control, 110–1200 Baud serial interface. Kit, \$325; 12-MHz monitor, \$175.

MF-60 dual mini-floppy kit with controller, chassis, cover, power supply, two disc drives, \$995. MF-6X kit expands unit to four drives, \$850. Other peripherals include PR-40 alphanumeric line printer that prints 40 characters per line at 75 linesper-minute. Price, \$250. Southwest Technical Products Corp., 219 W. Rhapsody, San Antonio, TX 78216

Space Byte

A single-card self-contained 8085 CPU for the S-100 bus. Operates at 3 MHz using 450-nS memory. Two on-board RS-232C serial I/O ports with software-selectable Baud rates. Also 16K RAM boards with on-board voltage regulators for S-100 systems. Prices not available. Space Byte Corp., 1720 Pontius Ave., Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Spectrum 8

Complete in one cabinet, this computer system includes 8085 microprocessor, video terminal that produces 80 characters by 24 lines, cassette drive unit, keyboard and software and 16K RAM. Price, \$2195. Spectrum 8, 3750 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107

STM Systems

Baby I microcomputer you can fit into an attache case. 6502-based system with 2K of RAM \$850, assembled only. With 4K RAM, \$1000. 4K RAM add-on, \$205. Floppy diskette drive with power supply and controller, \$750. STM Systems Inc., P.O. Box 248, Mont Vernon, NH 03057

Szerlip Enterprises

No main frame here, only a PROM setter for 1702A and 2708 PROM's. Plugs into S-100 computer. Complete kit, \$210; assembled, \$375. Szerlip Enterprises, 1414 West 259 St., Harbor City, CA 90710

Technical Design Labs

ZPU card for S-100 bus machine features Z-80 microprocessor with two on-board clocks. Kit, \$269; assembled, \$345. Z16 memory module with 16K on board, but can be purchased in 4K increments. Uses 4200 memory IC's. 4K kit, \$169; 8K, \$295; 12K, \$435; 16K, \$574; 4K expansion kits, \$140. Systems monitor board, \$295 for kit, \$395 assembled. Xitan microcomputer systems. Xitan Alpha I mainframe with ZPU board, system monitor board \$769 for kit, \$1039 assembled. Alpha 2 expands Alpha I by including Z16 memory module and software package. Kit, \$1369; assembled, \$1749. Technical Design Labs, Research Park, Building H, 1101 State Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540

Technico I

Single board 16-bit 9900 microprocessor. Just hook up power supply and terminal. Kit, \$299; assembled, \$399. Comes with 1K of PROM, 512 bytes of RAM. Expands on-board to 6K, can address up to 32K words. Technico, Inc., 9130 Red Branch Rd., Columbia, MD 21045

Telpar

Model PS-40 printer offered as a silent Teletype alternative. Offered with multifunction interface (F-8 microprocessor). Assembled only, \$400. Power supply, \$100; case, \$100. Telpar, Inc., 4132A Billy Mitchell Rd., P.O. Box 796, Addison, TX 75001

Thinker Toys

Developers of the *WunderBuss*, a 20-slot S-100 busboard that includes a *Noiseguard* noise-squelching system. Kit, \$76, with 10 edge connectors, \$120; with 20 edge connectors, \$154. Also available: an 8080 CPU/front panel kit, \$250. Speakeasy I/O board kit (three cassette channels, parallel and serial ports), \$120. 8K dynamic RAM kit, \$159; assembled, \$188. 4K static memory kit, \$109. Thinker Toys, 1201 10th, Berkeley, CA 94710

TLF

Assembled microcomputer with 8K of memory, 2K of control PROM, tape controller, buffered external bus and 110 Baud serial interface. Fully assembled and tested for the *Mini 12*, a 12-bit machine, \$895. A 24-line parallel interface also available. Digital cassette storage system complete with two tape drives, \$795. TLF, P.O. Box 2298, Littleton, CO 80161

Vector Graphic

Hobby computer systems and accessories, including *Vector 1* computer consisting of custom cabinet, 18-slot motherboard S-100 bus, power supply, 8080 CPU board, PROM/RAM board with 1K RAM, room for 2K ROM. Kit, \$619; assembled, \$849. 8K memory boards assembled, \$265 and \$275. Vector Graphic, Inc., 790 Hamshire Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361

Xybek

A *Prammer* memory board on an S-100 bus card. Contains up to 1792 bytes of EPROM, 256 bytes of RAM, an integral EPROM programmer. Kit, \$209; assembled, \$289. Extension kit, \$15. Xybek, P.O. Box 4925, Stanford, CA 94305

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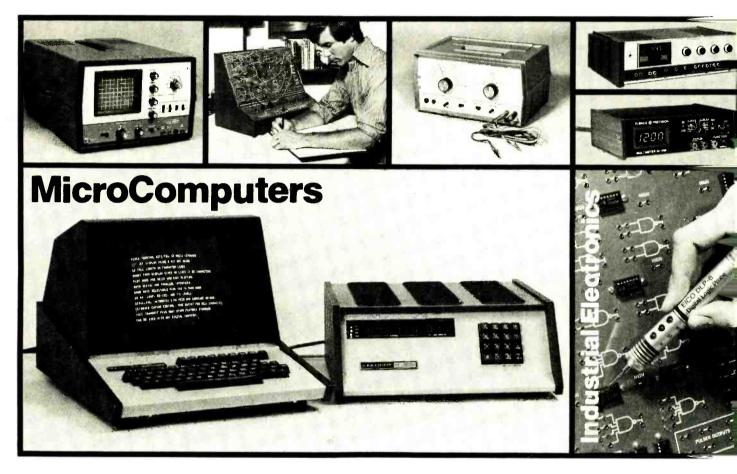
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75

hobby corner

A basic game roller or chase circuit that's the basis for many games. Plus some simple modifications to change the odds. EARL "DOC" SAVAGE, K4SDS, HOBBY EDITOR

YOU KNOW, HALF THE FUN OF THIS ELECtronics hobby is building a circuit and then seeing what else you can make it do. This month's circuit can be changed in a number of ways.

Many games require a spin of a counter or a toss of the dice to determine the order of play and/or the number of moves per turn. Here is a circuit that will do that job at the push of a button. The parts are few and inexpensive and construction is within the capability of virtually anyone. We'll start with a basic circuit and then change it around.

Game circuit

The basic game roller circuit shown in Fig. 1 uses only three IC's. The 555 timer, an astable multivibrator, produces a very rapid series of pulses whenever switch S1 is open. These pulses are counted in groups of 16 and converted into binary form by the 7493.

Now if you have the facility of reading binary numbers quickly, you could stop with the 7493 and simply put an LED on each output line. Most of us, however, take too much time to convert mentally from binary to decimal numbers, so an electronic converter is added. The 74154 is a 1-of-16 decoder/demultiplexer that is wired here so that each of its 16 output

lines goes low sequentially and in step with the binary count delivered by the 7493. When the switch is closed, only one LED remains on. It is only necessary, then, to determine which line is low by noting which of the 16 LED's is glowing. Notice in the schematic that only one current limiting resistor (R3) is used for all the LED's since only one is on at any one time.

Thus, Fig. 1 is a spin counter that indicates any number from 1 to 16. The clock is designed to be fast enough so that the number on which the count stops is quite random. In fact, the LED's are switching on and off so fast that they all appear to be glowing dully. For this reason, the player cannot make the count stop where he would like.

The speed of the clock can be changed easily. Reducing the value of C1, R1 or R2 will *increase* the rate. Increasing one of these values will decrease the rate. You may wish to substitute a pot for R2 to make it easier to change the frequency (a 250K pot will provide a wide adjustment range).

Adaptations

Another interesting use for this circuit is to make a "traveling light" sign. If you line up all 16 LED's and slow the clock, it

+5V +5V R3 VV-0+5V 330Ω 12 (1) 23 9 (2) 22 7493 10K \$ 555 TIMER/ PULSE GEN 8 (4) 21 74154 11 (8) 20 8 4-LINE TO 068 9 16 LED'S 16 -LINE 10 DECODER 11 13 14

FIG. 1

appears that the light is traveling down the line. Additional LED's would make the device even more eye-catching.

Fortunately, it happens that each output pin of the 74154 will carry a number of LED's. Since each LED you add will increase the current only about 0.1 mA, you don't even need more limiting resistors. Use two or more LED's on each output and connect them as shown in Fig. 2. (Figure 2 shows the connection for output pin No. 1 only. The other output

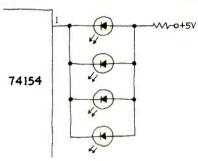


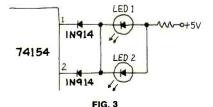
FIG. 2

pins are connected similarly.) The only caution is that you may have to match the LED's on each output. If one LED draws all the current (and light) from the other LED's on the same output, put it on another pin where it is more evenly matched.

Now arrange your LED's in a 1-16, 1-16, 1-16, etc., order. If you have 4 LED's on each pin, it will appear that 4 lights are traveling down the line. Of course, the display is made more interesting if you form a circle or rectangle or some other shape. By turning the pot you've substituted for R2, you can vary the speed with which the lights move.

So far, we have done nothing to change the probabilities or odds that one number (LED) will come up any more often than another. There has been an equal chance for every number. The following modifications will change that.

First, let's connect two outputs together as shown in Fig 3. A low level at either



output pin No. 1 or No. 2 will light both LED's. If both of the LED's represent numbers, your rule of play could call for continued on page 79

A major advance in cassette deck design. The new Sansui SC-5100.

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service clinic

Vertical OTL (Output TransformerLess) output stages adapted from audio amplifier technology—how they work and how to troubleshoot them.

JACK DARR, SERVICE EDITOR

MANY SOLID-STATE TV SETS USE COMPLEmentary-symmetry and stacked ("totempole" or quasi-complementary-symmetry) vertical output stages. Basically, these stages are alike, but in the complementary-symmetry stages, transistors of opposite polarity are used. There are variations in the DC power supply, but the circuit operates the same. The advantages are obvious. The circuits don't need a big, expensive vertical output transformer, because they're all OTL (Output TransformerLess) circuits.

These simple circuits can develop some peculiar symptoms. For instance, how about a vertical sweep that covers only the top or bottom half of the raster, yet is perfectly *linear*?

The OTL circuits are the same as the output circuit used in so many audio amplifiers, with minor differences. They work in Class B. Each transistor conducts on only one half-cycle of the input signal, and cuts off completely on the reverse-polarity half. One transistor sweeps the top half of the raster and the other transistor, the bottom half. Therefore, the reason it is possible to have a linear half-raster is that one transistor isn't conducting at all! This is usually due to an open transistor or a bad connection.

How it works

A typical example of this comes from the Admiral M45 chassis and is shown in Fig. 1. Note the waveforms in the upper right-hand corner. The top and bottom waveforms (waveforms a and c) taken across the emitter resistors show very clearly how first one then the other transistor conducts. The center waveform (waveform b) is the combination of the top and bottom waveforms, taken to ground from the junction of the emitter resistors where the vertical yoke is connected

Since the first two signals were taken across a resistor, the voltage peaks are directly proportional to the current through the resistor and yoke winding. These transistors are termed the top ramp and bottom ramp vertical output transistors because they generate a ramp voltage (linearly rising sawtooth), and the two together give the complete sawtooth that is needed to scan the whole screen.

During the top half of the scan, the top transistor is turned on, and the bottom transistor is cut off completely. In the middle of the screen, the top transistor is turned off, and the bottom transistor finishes the job.

The following question has puzzled many technicians, present company included: The top transistor is connected to B+ (145 volts). Current flows through it and the yoke. If this current is cut off during the bottom half of the scan. from what source does the bottom-half transistor get its DC voltage supply?

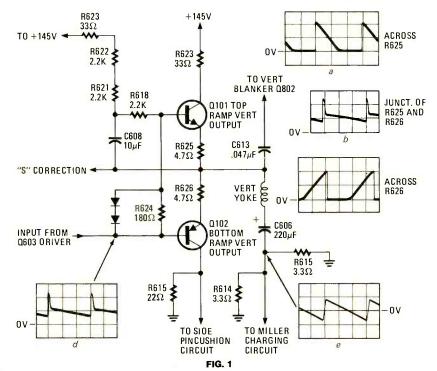
The answer is simple. Note capacitor C606 (220 μ F) in series with the vertical yoke return to ground. While the current flows through the top transistor, capacitor C606 charges. When the top transistor cuts off, capacitor C606 discharges through the bottom transistor, and away we go

This is only one valuable clue in finding problems. If the DC power supply is normal, both transistors are good, but you still have no vertical sweep, check the capacitor to see if it is open. Not only will you lose the DC voltage at the midpoint,

but the vertical yoke winding will have no return to ground. In normal operation, you will read about +59 volts DC at the junction of the output-transistor emitter resistors. The middle waveform (waveform b) in Fig. 1 is a pulse sawtooth waveform with a voltage of about 100 P-P. Your meter reads this voltage as the charge on the capacitor, therefore it is lower.

As in the audio circuit, the crossover (the midpoint in the cycle where the transistors switch conduction) is very important. In audio, you can have a little crossover distortion and maybe not hear it, but you can see it in a raster. Several different networks are used in these circuits just for this purpose. Figure 1 shows a familiar circuit: the two series diodes between the output bases correct the bias ratio and provide turn-on and turn-off at just the right time.

A feedback loop taken from the yoke connection (junction of the emitter resistors) is fed back into the first stages for Scorrection. This corrects any tendency of the predriver stages to be nonlinear or show a droop in the rising part of the sawtooth. Note also that the vertical yoke winding does not go directly to ground through the return capacitor. A small sawtooth voltage is picked off across a small resistor (R615 and R616 in paral-



lel); this is fed back into the Miller charging circuit used in the vertical oscillator circuit, which is not shown in the Fig. 1 diagram.

This circuit develops a very linear sawtooth waveform. The correct signal, shown in waveform e of Fig. 1, is a voltage waveform taken across a resistor again so that it is directly proportional to the yoke current.

DC voltage readings plus raster observations help greatly in finding circuit troubles. Check all of them, especially the DC voltage at the junction of the outputtransistor emitters. This voltage will read about +59 DC. If this reading approaches normal, the output stages are probably working.

Another odd problem affecting linearity occurs if bootstrap capacitor C608 in the base of the top transistor (Q101) is open. Capacitor C608 provides a little regenerative feedback to raise the gain of transistor O101. Other linearity problems can be caused by a drift in the value of resistors in the feedback loops or by open bypass capacitors, etc.

You can use a scope to check the waveforms for amplitude and distortion and determine just where the trouble lies. Follow the feedback loops back to where they are used, and you can pin down the cause of any distortion very quickly.

The OTL circuit uses a single-ended DC power supply; the clue is that one of the output transistors always goes to ground. Another clue is the big coupling capacitor (C606) in series with the yoke winding. This will hold true whether the circuit is complementary-symmetry, a "totem pole" using identical NPN or PNP transistors, or a quasi-complementary-symmetry circuit using identical output transistors and complementarysymmetry drivers.

You will also find the same circuit using dual-polarity DC power supplies, which is almost always used with complementary-symmetry transistors. This circuit will not have a big yoke-coupling capacitor; the yoke returns directly to ground. Equal and opposite DC voltages are supplied to the output transistors. A circuit similar to the one shown in Fig. 1 would probably show something like +60 volts on the top (NPN) transistor collector, and -60 volts on the bottom (PNP) transistor. These are ballpark figures, or course, since the actual voltages depend on the design, type of transistor. screen size, etc. What is important to remember is the ratio between the DC voltages, bias voltage and so forth. Another handy hint is to check all the controls for reaction. If you find one that has no reaction at all or an incorrect reaction, check the circuitry around this control thoroughly and find out why.

An OTL is a good circuit, and one in which it is not at all hard to diagnose problems, if you know how it works and what it does when it isn't working! R-E

service questions

NO BOOST VOLTAGE

I can't get any boost voltage on this Admiral H1-1A portable. The tubes are good and supply voltage is normal. Any idea?-G.V., E. Hartford, CT

Check the deflection yoke. If it has a light blue plastic mount and is marked "Made In Taiwan," it could be bad as many of these have been.

(Confirmed by reader!)

HIGH-VOLUME SPEED LOSS

When the record is first started on this Panasonic SG-635, everything is fine. When a loud passage comes in, the turntable slows away down! I don't get it!-H.K., Garrettsville, OH

I didn't either until I looked at the schematic. The turntable motor is not driven from the AC line, but from the DC power supply. Apparently it has enough output to keep the turntable running until the amplifier starts to draw more current. This is normal; this type of amplifier takes only small currents nosignal, but current drain goes up drastically on loud passages.

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Check the DC power-supply output and motor voltages. They are regulated. You should read 9.1 volts at the power-supply output (at all times) and +3.25 volts across the motor and on the regulator-transistor collector. There may be very low or open input filter capacitor in the DC power supply.

SUDDEN COLOR CHANGE

This Truetone WEG-4419A-47 will intermittently change color to a reddish, bluish, etc., raster. It's never shown the same color twice. The voltage-regulating transistor runs hot, and the DC voltages are off. The +30.7 volt line is only about 20.

Also, while checking, my probe slipped and I blew the Zener diode ZD601. Since I can't find a replacement, I could use help.—M.D.O., Mena, AR

Get those DC voltages back up to normal, and your problem will probably go away. The Zener diode is shown as a 31-volt type, but an RCA SK-3095 will replace it. Check the regulator transistor. This can be replaced by an RCA SK-3054. Also, don't overlook the "Regulator Protector" (error-amp) transistor Q602; an SK-3124 will replace this.

The 30.7-volt line feeds the color amplifier transistors. If this voltage is quite low, these transistors will clip the signal

badly and distort the colors. Heat-related shifts in the regulated DC voltage cause changes.

TUBE HEATER OUT

Although I have high voltage, sound and so on, I can't get the screen to light on this Sony TV-500U. The picture-tube heater doesn't show any glow; is it supposed to?—C.V., Jessup, PA

This isn't one of those tubes with "dark heaters." I'd say it should definitely show a light. The circuit uses a small tertiary winding on the horizontal *driver* transformer to supply the picture-tube heater. Since you have high voltage, this transformer ought to be good. Check that winding for the voltage, which will be AC. Check the continuity on the picture-tube base, from pin 1 to pin 3, the heater terminals. Try hooking a small 12-volt bulb across the driver transformer tertiary; if the bulb lights up, then the picture tube is open.

POWER TRANSFORMER NEEDED

I need a substitute power transformer for an amplifier made by Aims Amplifiers, Inc., which is not in business any more. This model "Dual Twelve" has two 12AT7's, four 7025's, and two 6550's, and is rated at 120 watts into 4 ohms.—W.M., Newark, DE

From the schematic you sent, plus the ratings on the tube manual, this should be fairly easy. It seems to have a bias winding on the high-voltage secondary, which would be normal for a high-power amplifier using 6550's. I'd recommend using a Thordarson 24R38.

However, the 6550 tubes listed in GE's tube manual are rated at 20 watts per tube. This should be about 40 watts pushpull, not 120 watts! Sounds like someone was being a touch optimistic with power ratings. (If so, no wonder the power transformer blew out.)

TRACE PROBLEM

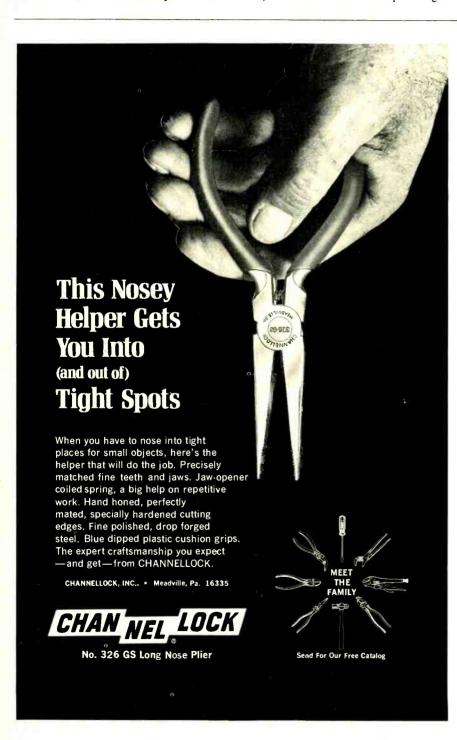
I have a trace problem in a Precision ES-550 scope. After about half an hour, it broadens until the intensity and focus controls won't correct it. What's doing this?—A.M., Lowell, IN

Look at the network of high-value resistors from the high negative voltage supply, to the intensity, focus and astigmatism controls, to ground. Some of these resistors are probably off value. If the 1.0-megohm resistor between the slider of the INTENSITY control and the CRT cathode has gone away up in value, it will cause the symptom you describe.

This is obviously a thermal; you can speed up the process by heating up each resistor with a soldering iron, after a cold start. Alternate: Cool each one after the trouble shows up.

CHECKING OLD TUBES

I'd like to know how you can check the older tube types, like Nos. 80, 43, 45, etc.,



in a late-model tube tester.-K.F., Raleigh, NC

With great difficulty! It is true that these are "only tubes," pentodes, etc. But you'd have to make up a socket panel and then connect it to your present tube tester. You'll have to identify the plate, grid, cathode, etc.

An easier way is to check them incircuit. For example, if there are 250 volts AC on the plates of an No. 80 tube, but only about 100-volts DC output, the tube is weak or the input filter capacitor is open.

The same thing applies to any amplifier tubes. If the plate voltage is too high (supply voltages and load resistors normal), the tube is low in emission. Check the grid voltage to make sure the tube isn't biased-off. (Watch out for tubes like the 45's, which used a very high bias, up to 30-40 volts negative on the grids!).

HORIZONTAL OSCILLATOR

This GE FS-chassis portable won't light up every time it's turned on. However, once you touch anything in the horizontal oscillator circuit, it starts. After it's going, it never stops. What is causing this?-M.M., Chicago, IL

The schematic shows this is the same Colpitts circuit used in several other portable makes. The most common cause of this symptom is the two capacitors across the oscillator coil: C262/C263, .0027 µf and .0068 μ f. Try new ones in here.

(Feedback: "These capacitors were both good on the test. However, an eyelet in the PC board at one end of C263 wasn't very good! Same results. Thanks.")

NO VERTICAL SWEEP

This T935 Magnavox came in with no vertical sweep. A new tube didn't help. The DC voltage was very low on the input half-plate. I can inject a signal to the halfplate and get full sweep, floating. All resistance readings look good.-L.N., Philadelphia, PA

All vertical multivibrator sweep circuits are basically the same: A two-stage RC-coupled audio amplifier with its tail in its mouth. Translation: A very heavy feedback from output to input to make it oscillate. Since the "amplifier" is obviously working, the problem is one of the parts in the feedback loop.

(Feedback on the feedback: "Yep. Capacitor C410, 0.001 µf to ground, had shorted.")

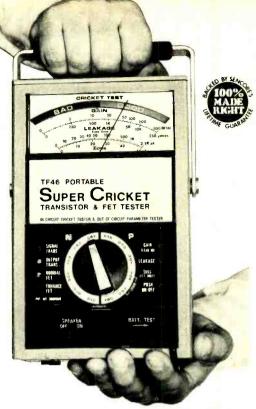
OUTPUT TRANSFORMER SUB

I need a substitute for the output transformer in an old Motorola record-player console. The part number is 25C60394A03-E. I've checked with the local distributor and parts houses; no luck. Can you help?—L.B., Narragansett, RI

A Triad S-55X is an exact duplicate for that part number.

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83

Solid-State Update

Microcomputers

Microkit has produced the M8-40 *Microemulator* and M8-41 Debug and EPROM programmer as a \$1,250 package.

The Microemulator plugs into a CPU socket. It can be used for debugging development systems, production testing and maintenance of microprocessor systems in their own environments. The

system has a monitor; emulator mode; single step and trace execution; hardware breakpoints; and 2708/2704 EPROM programming.

The programmer is available for 8080, 6800 and Z-80 microprocessors. Microkit, Inc., 11205 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

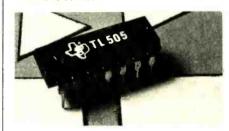
The Signetics 2651 Programmable Communications Interface (PCI) is a

combination Universal Synchronous/ Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter (USART) and baud rate generator that is compatible with the 2650, 8080, Z-80 and 6800 microprocessors.

The USART function takes the parallel output data of a microprocessor and converts it into a serial bit stream. Received serial data is converted into a 5-to 8-bit word for entry through the microprocessor's data bus. Asynchronous false starts caused by noise are detected, and the number of start bits, and odd, even or no parity selection is implemented. Baud rates from 50 to 19.2 kilobits-per-second can be program-selected.

The 2651 interface should prove useful in intelligent terminals, communication controllers, data concentrators and frontend processors.

Texas Instruments' TL505 is an A/D converter designed to work with micro-processors such as the TMS1000 in such applications as high-impedance sources, weight scales, and thermal, light and moisture sensors



The TL505 has 0.1% accuracy, onchip reference voltage, auto zero and high-impedance MOS inputs. Threedigit BCD conversions are completed in 500 ms by the TL505/TMS1000 combination.

Microprocessors

There have been some recent developments in National Semiconductor's SC/MP 8-bit and PACE 16-bit microprocessors. First, for those who cannot see the logic of hooking a \$3000 terminal to a \$100 evaluation/development board, a new low-cost SC/MP keyboard kit has been developed. The calculator-like device has a keyboard with hexadecimal and system control keys, and a built-in six-digit hex display. The buffer, decoder and driver circuits mount on the empty portion of the SC/MP kit board. A new ROM replaces the original kit bug ROM.

The ABT (abort) key terminates the command in process and returns the system to a wait loop. The MEM key displays the next memory address and its contents. The TERM key terminates the present mode and then enters data at specified addresses. And the GO key followed by



TERM begins program execution at the last referenced address.

The price of the ISP-8K/400 keyboard kit is \$95, including a hand-held wire-wrap tool.

National has also released the \$499 ISP-8P/301 low cost development system for the SC/MP microprocessor. The basic LCDS system comes with a 16-key hex keyboard, three control switches and a six-digit hex display. The CPU card supplied with the system plugs into one of four available sockets.

Programs can be entered, examined and run in continuous or single instruction modes, and can operate through a teletype using SC/MP DEBUG.

National's SC/MP II, which is an N-channel version of the older P-channel microprocessor, is twice as fast and uses only one-fourth the power of the earlier type. Only a single +5-volt supply is needed as compared with the +5- and -7-volt supplies used by the PMOS microprocessor. Typical instruction execution time is 5 μ s.

The PACE 16-bit microprocessor costs \$20 ordered in quantities of 100, and \$13 in 5000 lots. These prices represent a 50% price reduction, and prices are expected to drop even more in 1977. The cost of the PACE microprocessor is now one-half that of the General Instruments microprocessor and one-fourth that of the Texas Instruments device.

National Semiconductor Corporation, 2900 Semiconductor Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

Watch circuits

RCA has three new CMOS timing circuits 'for liquid-crystal watches, the CD22001H, CD22002H and CD22003H.

The first two are two-button, five-function circuits that display hours, minutes, month, date and seconds on a 3½-digit display. The CD22002H can be reset by pressing both switches simultaneously. This resets the watch and disables the high-voltage (4.5 volts) display supply for minimum current drain during storage. The CD22003H also includes a 15-minute stopwatch.

The RUN II mode displays alternating hour/minute and month/date. Thirty and 31-day months are corrected automatically, but February is fixed at 28 days so that resetting is necessary only during leap year.

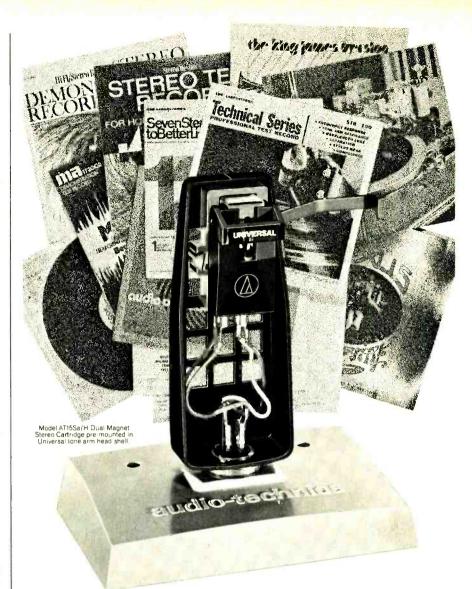
Schottky TTL's

Motorola has signed a second-source agreement with Fairchild Camera and Instrument Company that provides for a technology exchange.

Motorola plans to produce low-power Schottky TTL products; while Fairchild will second-source Motorola's M6800 microprocessor.

Motorola has been successfully making

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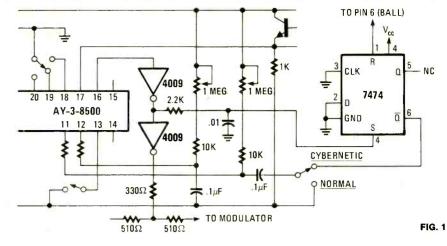
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selected Schottky devices to prove compatibility with Fairchild's LS process, and now plan to produce all Schottky LS products offered by the industry as well as introducing new devices.

BIFET op-amps

Texas Instruments has added four new devices for a full line of five BIFET operational amplifiers. The devices have a high slew rate, low input bias and offset current and offset voltage selection.

The TL080 and TL081 are single amplifiers, that have offset-voltage null capability. The TL081 includes internal frequency compensation.

The dual TL082 and TL083 types have internal compensation, and the TL083 has offset voltage nulling.

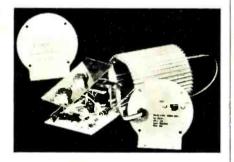
The devices add to the previously announced TL084 quadruple operational amplifier. Commercial prices range from 52¢ to \$1.30 each in 100 quantity.

Game modification

Those who have been following game circuit developments are no doubt aware of the General Instrument AY-3-8500 TV games IC. Figure 1 shows a modification (courtesy of R. Dowden, Ashland, VA) that lets you play against the machine in the so-called "cybernetic mode." With the switch in the cybernetic position, the ball output on pin 6 of the AY-3-8500 is connected to the reset input of the D-type flip-flop and the filtered junction of the two 4009 inverters is connected to the set input of the flip-flop. The flip-flop is set on each vertical sync pulse and reset by the ball pulse. The output then has a pulse width that is proportional to the vertical deflection of the ball. The complemented output of the flip-flop connects to the return side of the paddle position capacitor and switches it to ground whenever the flip-flop is set. This automatically controls the right-hand paddle to keep it in the same vertical position as the ball.

Using the capacitor connected to the right-hand paddle on pin 11 permits initial adjustment by using "Pelota," one of the IC's six games.

The paddle potentiometer varies the skill of the machine and creates a weak left-side handicap. R-E



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7808 7812 7815	7912 7915 7918	Kit of parts for power supply.		
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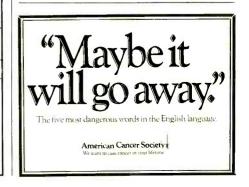
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FOCUS PROBLEM

The picture tube in this Magnavox T935-04 was replaced with an 18VAKP22. Now I can't get any focus. There are three taps on the chassis: +550 volts, +280 volts and ground. It won't focus on any of them!—L.N.. Philadelphia. PA

There are two different types of picture tubes used in this Magnavox series. Some use the "standard" bipotential tube (25kV high voltage, 5kV of focus), but others use a low-focus voltage Einzel-lens tube.

The 18VAKP22 is a bipotential tube and needs 4 to 5 kV for focus. If you add the stock focus-dropping network it should work. Use the flyback modification kit, No. 171321-1, which uses a voltage tripler.

FM INTERFERENCE TV

I'm an engineer at an FM stereo station operating at 3.2 kilowatts on 97.7 MHz. We were getting complaints from residents that we were upsetting Channel 10 with our second harmonic. We took the station off the air until we could get this checked. The measured second harmonic at the transmitter was something like 100-dB down!

After much searching, the cause of the problem was found. Broadband TV antenna boosters were being overloaded. The input stages were actually being driven into Class C and doubling our carrier! This not only created problems for the user but it radiated into neighbors' sets.

The cure was to install FM traps between the antenna and the booster input; boosters with built-in FM traps also worked well.

(Many thanks to Tim Metzger, Jewett City, CT, for this information.—Ed.)

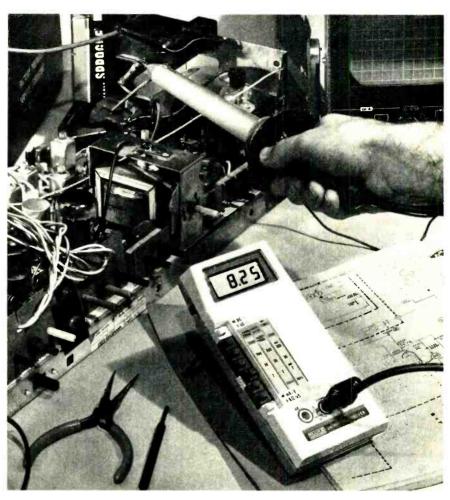
SUB FOR TRANSISTOR

This Sears 518.41960357 chassis blows the 1.5-amp fuse. Transistor Q500 seems to be bad. I can't find a listing for it. I ordered one from Sears but haven't heard from them yet. Can't find any shorts in the DC voltage supply.—W.G., Kingston

Transistor Q500 is not bipolar! It's a PUT (Programmable Unijunction Transistor). Sylvania shows it under the OEM part number and says to use an ECG-6402 (which is a PUT.) The key is that the gate goes to the anode, not to the cathode as in an SCR (Silicon Controlled Rectifier).

There is another PUT in the DC regulator circuit. It gates on the SCR to control the +114-volt supply line. I suggest you monitor the +114-volt line. If it goes too high, this will make all the circuits fed from it take too much current, thus possibly causing the blown fuse. We have heard from other technicians who have run into PUT's; one said he had checked it every way he could think of, but when he *changed* it, that fixed it!

How do you really use a multimeter?



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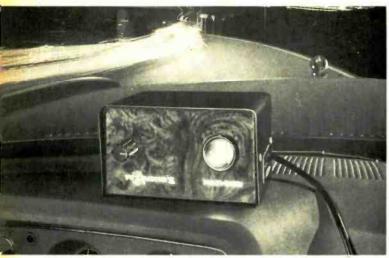
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CIRCLE 64 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



ELECTROLERT FUZZBUSTER II is a multiband detector that covers both the X and K bands. It sells for \$129.95, mounts on the dash and plugs into your cars cigarette lighter.



RADATRON XK RADAR SENTRY is two-band unit. Offers both visual and audio warnings; has front-panel sensitivity control.

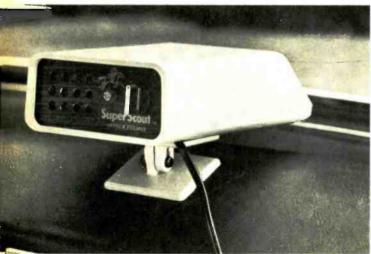


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TYPICAL POLICE RADAR UNIT. The antenna can be remotely positioned when necessary. It reads out directly in MPH.

ARTHUR FULMER SUPER SCOUT also covers both K and X bands. Plugs into lighter or permanently wired in with supplied connectors. Red light and beep alarms.

WHISTLER RADAR EYE multi-band detector. The closer the radar the faster the alarm light blinks and the faster the audio beep. Price is \$159.95.







BEARFINDER TWO + TWO uses two separate antennas—one for K band, one for X band to provide maximum sensitivity. Both audio and visual alarms are provided.

WHISTLER RADAR EYE blocks false triggering from 2-way radio, CB and microwave transmissions. It will set you back \$99.99.



These radar-sensing devices are intended to warn you of the locations of police-radar. They are not a substitute for staying below the posted speed limit.



AUTOTRONICS SUPER SNOOPER detects all types of police-radar. Automatic sensitivy control and audio alarm with volume control.





RIGEL SIDEWINDER warns of radar e therehead of or benind your vehicle. Price is \$129.95. The unit detects both X and K band radar.

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CREI prepares you at home for broader and more advanced opportunities in electronics – plus offers you special arrangements for engineering degrees

There is no doubt television repair can be an interesting and profitable career field. TV repair, however, is only one of the many career areas in the fast growing field of electronics.

As an indication of how career areas compare, the consumer area of electronics (of which TV is a part) makes up less than one-fourth of all electronic equipment manufactured today. Nearly twice as much equipment is manufactured for the communications and industrial fields. Still another area larger than consumer electronics is the government area. That is the uses of electronics in such areas as research and development, the space program, and others.

Just as television is only one part of the consumer field, these other fields of electronics are made up of many career areas. For example, there are computer electronics, microwave and satellite communications, cable television, even the broadcast systems that bring programs to home television sets.

As you may realize, career opportunities in these other areas of electronics are mostly for advanced technical personnel. To qualify for these higher level positions, you need college-level training in electronics. Of course, while it takes extra preparation to qualify for these career areas, the rewards are greater both in the interesting nature of the work and in higher pay. Furthermore, there is a growing demand for personnel in these areas.

Unlike most other home study schools, CREI programs are devoted exclusively to preparing you for careers in advanced electronics. All of CREI programs are college level. And CREI gives you both theory and practical experience in advanced electronics.

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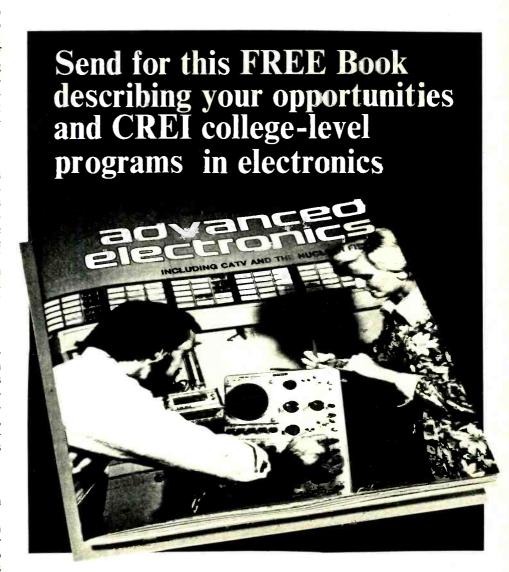
CREI gives you a choice of specialization in 14 areas of electronics. You can select exactly the area of electronics best for your career field. You can specialize in such areas as computer electronics, communications engineering, microwave, CATV, television (broadcast) engineering and many other areas of modern electronics.

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1200V ranges)
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200 mV, 2V ranges)
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CIRCLE 83 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

new products

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

HIGH-FIDELITY SPEAKERS, models AR-17, AR-18. Both speaker systems contain an 8-inch acoustic-suspension woofer and 1½-in. ring-radiator tweeter with a crossover frequency at 2000 Hz. The model AR-17 has a low-frequency response of -3 dB at 50 Hz and the model AR-18 is -3 dB at 62 Hz. Power handling capability is 100 watts continuous per channel being driven to

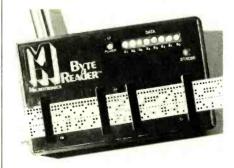
15-FUNCTION TOOL KIT, *model 96006*, comes in a heavy-duty vinyl case imprinted to simplify tool identification. The kit includes an interchangeable screw- and nutdriver series and the *Plike*—a 4-in-1 electrical tool that performs all plier, crimp-



clipping 10% of the time. Cabinets each measure $10 \times 18 \frac{1}{2} \times 8^{3} \frac{4}{4}$ in. The *model AR-17* comes in oiled walnut veneer and the *model AR-18* (shown) comes in walnut grain vinyl veneer. Manufacturers' suggested retail price for *model AR-17*, \$95; *model AR-18*, \$65. Speakers are sold only in pairs.—**Teledyne Acoustic Research**, 10 American Dr., Norwood, MA 02062.

CIRCLE 116 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

PAPER TAPE READER, Byte Reader, is designed for the home computer hobbyist. A Lite Optimizer circuit senses intensity of external light source and adjusts photo transistor sensitivity levels. LED's visually indicate data being sent to the



computer. Kit sells for \$69.95; assembled: \$84.50. Add \$3 shipping and handling; California residents include state or local taxes as applicable.—**Microtronics**, Box 7454N, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

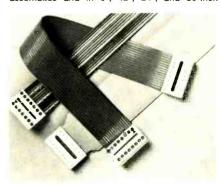
CIRCLE 117 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



er, stripper and cutter functions. Included in the screwdriver-nutdriver series are a handle, a 4-in. extension, 3/16-in. and $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. slotted screwdrivers, No. 1 and No. 2 Phillips screwdrivers and 3/16-in. through $\frac{1}{6}$ -in. nutdrivers. Kit measures 6 \times 8½ \times 1 in. Suggested retail price: \$21.19.— **Hunter Tools**, 9674 Telstar Ave., El Monte, CA 91731.

CIRCLE 118 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

DIP JUMPERS, flat cable/conductors for jumpering within a PC board, making interconnections, interfacing I/O signals, etc. Available in 14-, 16-, 24-, and 40-pin single-ended or double-ended assemblies and in 6-, 12-, 24-, and 36-inch



lengths. Copper alloy jumpers mate with standard IC sockets, cable is grooved top and bottom and conductors are made of No. 28 AWG tin-

CIRCLE 94 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

METAL DETECTOR, TR Earth Challenger (stock No. 80,262) is a fully transistorized, balanced instrument that combines quality and power with low cost. Made of rugged aluminum and weighing

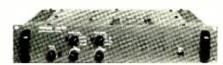


2 lb., 6 oz., unit features electronic housing and 6-in. waterproofed search coil. Nine-volt transistor battery included. Deluxe version of *TR Earth Challenger* (stock No. 80,251) comes with tele-

scopic shaft and 10-turn metal/mineral tuner. TR Earth Challenger, \$39.95; Deluxe TR Earth Challenger, \$59.95.—Edmund Scientific, 7782 Edscorp Bldg., Barrington, NJ 08007.

CIRCLE 119 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

POWER AMPLIFIERS, models CP120, CP500 and CP500M, are dual-channel units that can be operated independently or as a bridged unit. The model CP120 (shown) is rated at 61 watts-perchannel, 122 watts in the bridged mode. The model CP500 and model CP500M are both rated at 255 watts-per-channel, 510 watts bridged. The model CP500M also contains peak-reading meters, a blown-fuse indicator and a thermal protection indicator.



Three *PowerLock* threshold settings (full, half and quarter power) protect against overload and reduce clipping. Other features include V₄-in. phono jack inputs and rugged all-steel construction for on-the-road use. Prices: *model CP120*, \$339; *model CP500*, \$649; and *model CP500M*, \$779.—**Technical Audio Products Corp.**, 3810 148th Aye. N.E., Bedmond, WA 98052.

CIRCLE 120 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

MULTIFAMILY LOGIC PROBE, model LP-2, is designed to test and troubleshoot digital circuits such as gates, clocks, CPU's, UART's, etc. Pulse detection and pulse stretching provides instant readout of logic levels, positive and negative transitions, pulse symmetry (duty cycle), and abnormal circuit conditions for major logic families, including TTL, DTL, HTL and CMOS. Gives pre-

cise measurements (within 0.15 V) of logic levels and transitions, with positive go/no-go conditions. No adjustments are necessary; just set a single switch for logic family, attach clip leads and touch probe to circuit in question.



Built-in pulse stretcher can be used to detect pulses as short as 300 ns. Unit probe features plug-in connector system and phono jack, and space is provided in front of the $model\ LP-2$ for interchangeable tips. The unit measures 5.8 \times 1.0 \times 0.7 inches and bears a manufacturer's resale price of \$24.95.—Continental Specialties Corp., 44 Kendall St., Box 1942, New Haven, CT 06509.

CIRCLE 50 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

MICROCOMPUTER, Horizon 1, is a single floppy disc drive mainframe featuring the Z-80A microprocessor and includes 16K bytes of memory and 12-slot mother-board with serial terminal interface. (With a second disc drive, unit is called

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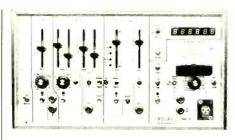
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MODEL 101 AUDIO TEST SYSTEM consists of two sine/ square/friangle function generators, pulse generator, frequency counter and AC voltmeter. As a system it will generate a frequency response plot on an X-Y recorder or scope.

Time base generator offers symmetrical or independent control of the positive and negative sides of the ramp providing a duty cycle of 1% to 99%. Frequency range is .002 Hz to 100k Hz. Amplitude is 16 Vpp into 500 ohms with ±5 VDC offset. The time base output drives the X axis of an X-Y recorder. Manual mode provided for setup.

Audio sweep generator provides manual frequency adjustment or log or linear sweep of 20 Hz to 20k Hz. Blanking mode provides zero reference line on an X-Y recorder or tone burst. Amplitude is 16 Vpp into 500 ohms or 10 Vpp into 8 ohms.

Pulse generator frequency range is 002 Hz to 800k Hz. Pulse width is adjusted independent of frequency from 4 seconds to 40 nanoseconds. Outputs are complementary TTL.

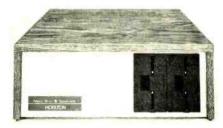
AC voltmeter has full scale sensitivities from 1 mV to 250 V. Fast or slow, peak or true RMS and log or linear modes are provided. Output drives Y axis of X-Y recorder.

Frequency counter is 6 digit, 50 or 60 Hz line triggered, and reads either internal or external. Sensitivity is 10% of voltmeter full scale at 20k Hz. 1 or ½ second update.

Dimensions: 8 x 14 x 3. Shipping weight: 9 lbs. \$695. Stock to 30 days. Warranty: 1 year, 3 year \$70. Master Charge and Visa. Specs and operating information on request

FIDELITY SOUND

1894 Commercenter W. #105 San Bernardino, Ca 92408 (714) 889-7623 Horizon 2.) System is also S-100 bus-compatible for use with a wide variety of peripheral boards. System includes full extended BASIC, with sequential and random disc files, formated output, line editor, strings and machine language CALL.



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CIRCLE 82 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

HANDLES, BLADES, KITS, Series 99. Complement of five handles accomodate 85 nutdriver, screwdriver and special-use shafts. Series also includes multitool and handy-roll kits and sets in plastic cases, plus high-carbon steel blades and



precision-formed steel head sockets. Patented spring device in handle holds blades firmly for easy insertion and removal.—Weller Xcelite Electronics Div., The Cooper Group, Apex, NC

CIRCLE 98 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

FREQUENCY COUNTER, model 7208, offers full 8-digit LED display and operation to 60 MHz with 1-Hz resolution. Model 7208A, with optional prescaler, can operate to 600 MHz. Unit features selectable gate times (1 sec and .1 sec), and 115



VAC or 12 VDC operation (jack included). Housed in metal cabinet, the instrument measures $5\frac{1}{2} \times 6 \times 2$ inches. *Model 7028* (60 MHz) assembled: \$169.95; kit: \$119.95. *Model 7028A* (600 MHz)





MM200 SPECIAL FEATURES

FUSED INPUT PROTECTION A 1 amp fuse protects DC and AC currents circuits while a 50 milliamp fuse protects the resistance circuit from damage. The two fuses, easy to replace, avoids the components breakdown when wrong or overranging signals are applied.

FULLY BATTERY OPERATED A battery gives you eight hours of operation and is rechargeable in 16 hours. The AC/DC converter will also recharge the battery while using the instrument (recharging time in this case is longer).

BRIGHT LED DISPLAY A $0.3^{\prime\prime}$ bright LED display allows you to use the instrument in the field or in the laboratory in any type of light condition.

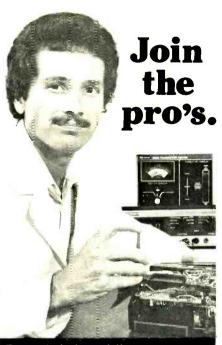
FULL 2000 COUNT PLUS OVERRANGE Direct readout up to 1999 counts. Two flashing bars on the first LED indicates an overrange condition in the measurement.

LOW COST The cost of the MM200 is \$119.95 which includes two test leads and an AC/DC converter. The rechargeable battery is optional and its cost is \$15.00.

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Expand your talents into a new area -work full time or part time, independently or for a wide variety of employers. Learn at home in spare time, or attend intensive training program in Colorado.

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assembled: \$199.95; kit: \$149.95.- Davis Electronics, 636 Sheridan Drive, Tonav anda, NY 14150.

CIRCLE 121 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

DUAL-TRACE 25-MHz SCOPE, model LBO 515. offers continuously variable delay from 1 µs to 5 seconds. Sensitivity is 5 mV -per- division and risetime is 14 ns. Unit features rectangular CRT with internal graticule; high accelerating voltages; selectable sync; automatic, normal, single-trace and reset modes with 20-Hz to 10-kHz frequency



rejection. Overall accuracy for both channels is

Includes beam rotator, trigger for both channels and polarity-inversion switch for Channel 2, front-panel astigmatic control, and × 10 magnification. Priced less than \$1400 and is complete with probes and accessories.-Leader Instruments Corp., 151 Dupont St., Plainview, NY 11803

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PARTS CATALOG, Quality Semiconductors And Electronic Parts, Catalog No. 10, contains 14 pages of transistors, linear IC's, CMOS units. plugs, test accessories, frequency counters (kit and assembled), clocks (kit and assembled) and many different tools and replacement parts. A handy order form is included.-Aldelco, 2281 Babylon Turnpike, Merrick, NY 11566.

CIRCLE 103 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

CONDENSER MICROPHONES, MS2420, brochure describes three condenser replacement mikes specifically designed to cover 97% of today's cassette requirements. Full details and specifications are included.-Workman, Box 3828, Sarasota, FL 33578.

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SPEAKERS, Truth In Listening, 14-page full-color catalog that defines the characteristics of accurate sound reproduction as well as describing manufacturer's line of hi-fi speakers. Complete specs, charts, photos and drawings accompany the text. Catalog is available from manufacturer or AR dealers.—Teledyne Acoustic Research, 10 American Dr., Norwood, MA 02062.

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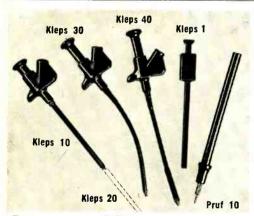
TEST EQUIPMENT "WISH BOOK." 1977-78 Edition, 23 pages, features five new instruments on the front cover: a CB analyzer, video analyzer, DMM, 230-mHz frequency counter and portable tester. Full descriptions of these and other test

units are accompanied by large clear photos and complete specs.-Sencore, 3200 Sencore Dr., Sioux Falls, SD 57107.

CIRCLE 107 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

WORD PROCESSING SYSTEMS, The Microcomputer and Word Processing-A Cost Effective Analysis, is an article analyzing the cost effectiveness of various microcomputer wordprocessing systems and compares several popular IBM systems with an MITS microcomputerbased system using a Selectric terminal output. It is estimated that current microcomputer word processing is cost-effective at a correspondence level of from 300 to 400 letters per month. Send a 24¢ SASE.—Center for the Study of the Future, Dept. B, 4110 N.E. Alameda, Portland, OR 97212.

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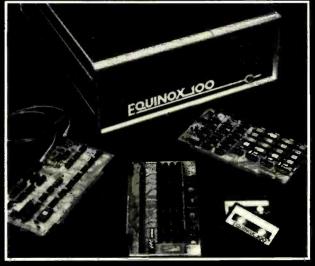
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MINI-CATALOG No. MC-477 shows a full line of silicon rectifier bridges, diodes, high-voltage rectifiers, assemblies and TV high-voltage diodes. Also featured are high-voltage devices, industrial multipliers and X-ray assemblies.-Electronic Devices, Inc., 21 Gray Oaks Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710.

CIRCLE 109 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

TEST INSTRUMENTS Catalog No. BK 78 contains 40 illustrated pages of DMM's, frequency counters, high-voltage probes, oscilloscopes and many other test instruments. Each device is thoroughly described and complete specifications are given -B&K-Precision, Dynascan Corporation, 6460 W. Cortland Ave., Chicago, IL 60635.

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HEATH/SCHLUMBERGER INSTRUMENTS Catalog No. 811-23 contains 32 pages of test devices for hobbyists and service personnel. Among new products listed are frequency counters, an FET multimeter, a lin/log swept-function generator and a low-cost voltage-controlled function generator. Oscilloscopes, distortion analyzers, VOM's and VTVM's and color TV service equipment are just some of the many devices described .-Heath/Schlumberger Instruments, Dept. 570-010, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

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Teaching Digital Counters To Count

Digital displays have uses in most facets of our lives; ranging from watches to home appliances and test instruments. They are all basically counters. Here's a way to make a decade counter count by some number other than 10.

FRED BLECHMAN, K6UGT

DIGITAL COUNTING CIRCUITS ARE BECOMing the standard means for measuring almost any variable, such as time, frequency, voltage, current, resistance, temperature and events. The conventional readouts used with digital devices normally display in decimal format. However, the counting circuits themselves usually count in binary code, a system that is based on powers of 2. Since the count is displayed decimally, typical IC counters automatically reset to 0 after the decimal count of 9, running from 0 to 9 and then repeating. Also, the counter outputs trigger the next highest digit, (whenever more than one digit is used) to carry the count. Thus, 09 becomes 10 on the next count, and 199 becomes 200.

However, if you want the count to go back to 0 at some point other than 9, how do you program the counter to do this? While this is "duck-soup" for the digital engineer, most experimenters and newcomers to digital electronics find this confusing, and there is little information available in recent literature. The explanation and examples that follow should lift the veil of mystery from digital counting circuits and allow you to apply these principles to your own special needs. Just bear in mind that the following explanation is not intended to be all-inclusive.

IC counters

Although different IC counters are available for special purposes, the most popular is the 7490 decade counter. Actually, it contains divide-by-2 and divide-by-5 sections in one package; these sections can be wired, as shown in Fig. 1, to form a divide-by-10. Note that pins 2, 3, 6, 7 and 10 are grounded for normal counting. (Actually, either pin 2 or pin 3, and either pin 6 or pin 7 must be grounded; but it's best to ground them all for decade counting.) A logical-high (about 5 volts) output at pin 12 rep-

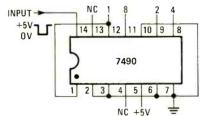


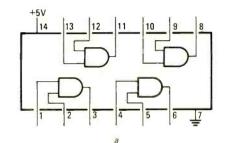
FIG. 1—7490 IC connected as a divide-by-10 counter.

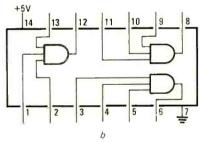
DECIMAL Number	PIN NUMBER			
	11	8	9	12
0	L	L	L	L
1	L	L	L	Н
2	L	L	Н	L
3	L	L	Н	Н
4	L	Н	L	L
5	L	Н	L	Н
6	L	Н	Н	L
7	L	Н	н	Н
8	Н	L	L	L
9	Н	L	L	Н

FIG. 2—BCD OUTPUTS from 7490 IC when connected as a divide-by-10 counter as shown in Fig. 1.

resents a decimal count of 1; pin 9 is a decimal count of 2; pin 8 is a decimal count of 4; and pin 11 is a decimal count of 8. Normally, these pins are a logical low-nearly at ground potential-when off. Now, as the 7490 is triggered at pin 14 with a negative-going pulse, a high output appears at pin 12 on the first count, at pin 9 on the second count, and on both pin 12 and pin 9 on the third count. On the fourth count, only pin 8 is high; pin 9, pin 11 and pin 12 are low. On the fifth count, pin 8 and pin 12 are high. On the sixth count, pins 8 and 9 are high. What is happening is that the counter is "adding" decimally with a single output or combinations of outputs. Figure 2 shows this counting sequence.

The 7490 resets to 0 at the next count





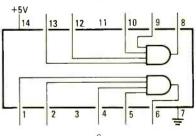


FIG. 3—TYPICAL AND-GATE IC's. The 7408 Quad 2-input AND gate IC is shown in a. The 7411 Triple 3-input AND gate IC is shown in b, and c shows the 7421 Dual 4-input AND gate IC.

after 9 when wired as shown in Fig. 1. Pins 2 and 3 are two reset pins that are normally used to set the counter to 0 when the counter is first turned on. The internal reset circuitry is designed so that when both pins 2 and 3 go high, the 7490 resets to 0. For normal counting, either (or both) pins 2 or 3 must be low.

It now becomes simple to reset the 7490 at the desired count. To reset to 0 at

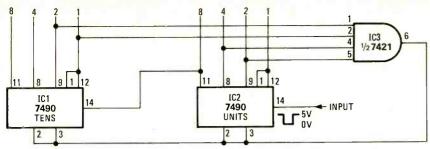


FIG. 4—DIVIDE-BY-36 counter. The 7490's count from 00 to 35 and are then reset to 00.

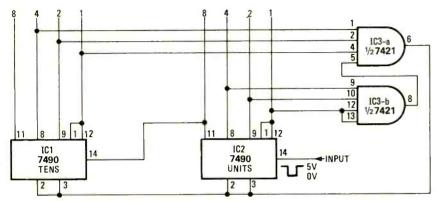


FIG. 5—DIVIDE-BY-77 counter. The counters are reset by the AND gate after they reach a count of 76.

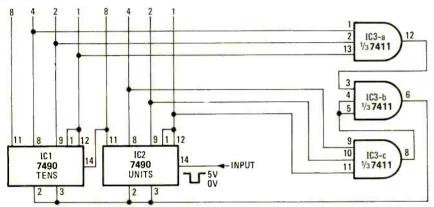


FIG. 6—DIVIDE-BY-77 counter. Same circuit as Fig. 5 except with a different arrangement of AND gates.

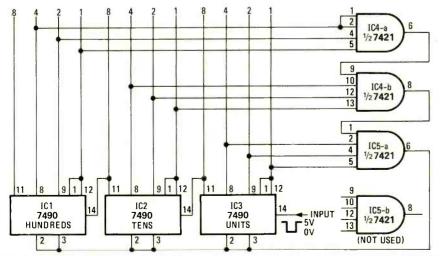


FIG. 7—ANY NUMBER of decade counters can be programmed. Here, three decade counters are connected to divide-by-777.

the second count (so that the 7490 counts 0 to 1 and back to 0), simply connect a jumper from pin 9 to pin 2, and remove the ground from both pins 2 and 3.

(Leaving a pin unconnected is the same as connecting it to a high level). For a count of 3 (0 to 2), connect pin 2 to pin 9 and pin 3 to pin 12. For a count of 4,

connect pin 2 or pin 3 to pin 8, and leave the other reset pin unconnected. For a count of 5, connect one reset pin to pin 8 and the other reset pin to pin 12. For a count of 6, connect the reset pins to pins 8 and 9.

When you want the decade counter to reset after a count of 7, you need to have some way to sense when three pins (pins 8, 9 and 12) are all high at the same time. Although other circuitry could be used, it is easier to use standard AND gates to trigger the reset terminals with a high output when all inputs to the AND gate are high. Figure 3 shows several typical AND gates. You could, for example, connect pins 8, 9 and 12 to the three inputs of one 7411 AND gate (Fig. 3-b), and then use the output from the AND gate to trigger reset pin 2 of the 7490, leaving pin 3 unconnected. This would give you a count from the 7490 of 0 to 6 and back to 0 on the seventh count.

When there is more than one digit, logic gates are a necessity, since you may have to sense the state of several counteroutput lines. For example, suppose you wanted to reset to 0 after 35 countsthat is, from 00 to 35 and back to 00. The reset would occur at the 36th count. Figure 4 shows one way to do this. Here's what happens. With each negative-going pulse into pin 14 of the units counter, the count advances one count. At the count of 09, output 8 and output 1 (pins 11 and 12) are high. On the very next count, all outputs go low. The negative-going output at pin 11 is directly coupled to pin 14 of the tens counter, and it advances one count to 10. This happens again at 20 and 30. A 7421 four-input AND gate is connected to sense when the tens counter is at 3 and the units counter reaches 6. At that instant, all four inputs to the AND gate are high, so the output goes high and directs the reset pins on each counter to return the count to 0. Only at the count of 36 are all four inputs to the 7421 gate high; until then, the 7421 output is low and the 7490's count normally.

Figure 5 shows another example, this time using both sections of the 7421 IC. Here, at the count of 77, the high output on pin 6 of the 7421 resets the counters to 00, so that they count from 00 to 76. Here's how it works: The 4-2-1 outputs of each 7490 are connected to the 7421 inputs, as shown in Fig. 5. When the tens counter is at a count of 7, three inputs of IC3-a are high, but the output at pin 6 is still low since the fourth input (the output of IC 3-b) is still low. When the units counter reaches a count of 7, all the inputs to AND gate IC3-b are high (note that IC3-b pin 13 must be jumpered to any of the other input pins of IC3-b); output pin goes high, providing the last needed high input for IC3-a to output a high on pin 6, thus resetting the 7490's.

This could also be done by using all three AND gates of the 7411 IC. (See Fig. continued on page 106

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EQUIPMENT REPORTS

continued from page 32

The front panel itself is black with white legends, and it's well designed with the human operator in mind. There are just enough legends to know what you've selected without confusing the issue. The ranges are "keyed" to the function switches by white lines, so you can tell instantly which set of ranges goes with

The case is a light blue and measures 8 X 61/2 × 3 inches. There's a tilt stand on the underside of the case. When set, the stand raises the front of the instrument for easy viewing on a workbench. With the stand retracted, the instrument lies flat on the work surface.

Power is supplied either by batteries or from an external power supply kit. A plastic battery holder is provided that accepts four C-cells. The model 2000 draws about 120 mA from a 4 to 61/2 volt DC source. This translates into an operating time for standard zinc carbon batteries of 8 hours. Switching to alkaline batteries increases the operating time to 25 hours. If you desire, you can also use a NiCad battery pack. Sabtronics offers two different size NiCad battery packs as optional accessories. The NB-1200 is a sub-C size NiCad pack that sells for \$12.95 and will power the model 2000 for 10 hours. The NB-500 pack is made up of AA size NiCad batteries that will power the model 2000 for 4 hours. The NB-500 sells for \$7.75.

To recharge the batteries, the EP-12V External Power Kit is required. It consists of a separate PC board with a voltage regulator, charging circuit and external power jack. The assembly mounts on the inside of the rear panel of the model 2000. Access to the external power jack is provided through a hole in the rear panel. External power comes from an AC power adapter. This is one of those calculator-type plug-and-transformer modules with a long wire that has a plug on the end of it. The AC power adapter must supply 8.5 to 15 VDC at 150 mA. Sabtronics offers two AC power adapters as optional accessories: The AC-115 for 115 VAC and the AC-230 for 230 VAC With the External Power Kit and the AC Power Adapter, the sub-C size NiCad battery pack can be recharged in 16 hours. This combination also supplies enough to power the model 2000 directly from the line voltage.

Specifications

For those readers who like specifications (and who doesn't), here goes: The 100 mV and 1 volt DC ranges have a 100 μV and 1 mV resolution, respectively, and both have a $\pm 0.1\% \pm 1$ digit accuracy. At the opposite end of the DC voltage range is the 1000V range with a 1 volt resolution and a $\pm 0.5\% \pm 2$ digit accuracy. The input impedance for the DC voltage ranges is 10 megohms and the response time is 0.5 seconds.

The lowest AC voltage range is 100 mV with an accuracy of 0.3% ± 2 digits at 60 Hz and a frequency range of 40 Hz to 50 kHz. The highest AC voltage range, 1000 VAC, has an accuracy of 1% ±2 digits at 60 Hz and a frequency range of 40 Hz to 500 Hz. At the two ends of the DC current ranges, 10 µA and 1 amp, the resolution is 10 nA and 1 mA, respectively, while the accuracy is $0.1\% \pm 2$ digits and 1% ±1 digit, respectively. The 10 μA AC current range has an accuracy at 60 Hz of 1% ± 5 digits and a frequency range of 40

Hz to 500 Hz. The 1 amp range has a 60 Hz accuracy of 0.8% ±2 digits and a frequency range of 40 Hz to 20 kHz. Response time on the AC current ranges is 5 seconds maximum. Maximum input current on all ranges is 2 amps, overcurrent protection provided by a fuse

Now for the ohms ranges. The lowest ohms range, 100 ohms, has a resolution of 0.1 ohms with an accuracy of 0.1% ±1 digit. This accuracy also holds for the 1K, 10K, 100K ranges. The 100-ohm range uses a measuring current of 1 mA. At the opposite end of the scale is the 10-megohm range with a resolution of 10K ohms and an accuracy of 0.5% ±5 digits. The 10-megohm range uses a measuring current of 100 nA. Open circuit voltage for the X1 ranges (100, 10K, and 1MEG) is 100 mV. For the ×10 ranges (1K, 100K and 10MEG), the open circuit voltage is 1 volt. All the resistance ranges are protected against a maximum input voltage of 250 VDC and 250 VAC RMS. Input protection is provided by a 2-amp fuse.

Did I forget anything? Oh yes, the input continued on page 108



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switches arranged so that the maximum coming off the divider into the DPM input is always 2 volts.

The AC volts input goes through the same voltage divider and then into a "precision rectifier circuit" that converts the signal into DC to feed the input to the DPM. The 2.5K pot in this circuit lets you calibrate the output of the precision rectifier on a one-time basis against a standard AC input signal.

The ohmmeter circuit is shown in simplified form in Fig. 9. Here, one leg of the op-amp contains a standard reference voltage that is adjustable through the 1K pot to exactly I volt. The other leg contains the portion of the voltage divider that is active for measuring a particular resistance range. In the illustration the 1-meg resistor shown is used to measure 2 megohms full scale. Since the op-amp operation dictates that the inputs to both legs must be equal, and since the outputs are common, exactly 1 volt must also appear across the 1-meg resistance. This constant voltage forces a constant current through the resistance being measured; in this particular case 2 megohms. The 2 volts developed across the 2-megohm resistor is then fed into the DPM, registering a full-scale reading. Other resistance values for the unknown will, of course, produce proportional voltages feeding into the DPM.

The resistance circuit is calibrated on a one-time basis by adjusting the 1K pot with a standard resistor across the input. When the DPM registers the correct reading of resistance, it has been calibrated. An alternate method is to adjust the pot so that exactly 1 volt appears across the 750-ohm resistor (R14) at the output of the op-amp.

The direct current input is taken off the three shunt resistors, R6, R7 and R8. Each resistor develops exactly 2 volts across it for maximum scale readings. Note that the high current scale is limited to 10 amps only because of the low wattage (10 watts) of the 0.1-ohm resistor (R6). If you make this a 20-watt resistor, you can read 20 A full scale. These resistors should be at least 1 percent tolerance or better for good measurement accuracy.

The multicontact pushbutton switches shown in the circuit diagram are of course the easiest to wire, although layered rotary switches can also be used. The correct decimal point for each scale can be displayed by connecting pin 6 of the appropriate display number (DS-2, 3 or 4) through the appropriate scale switch to ground through a 470-ohm resistor.

The entire DMM circuit can easily be layed out and assembled on a $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ inch piece of perforated circuit board with 0.1-inch hole spacings. R-E

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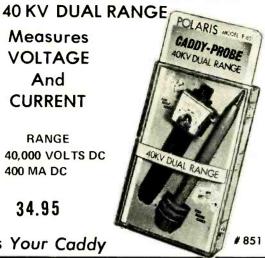
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new books

COUPLING OF EXTERNAL ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS TO TRANSMIS-SION LINES, by Albert A. Smith, Jr. Wiley-Interscience, Div. of John Wiley & Sons, 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10016. 132 pp. 6 imes 9 inches. Hardcover \$14.50.

Electromagnetic radiation causes not only disruption in communications but can pose a very real hazard to humans and equipment. This book examines some of the problems involved in coupling electromagnetic fields to transmission lines and offers application data in the form of solved examples and spectrum profiles. The material presented is applicable to coupling problems in communications, data processing, and in power, telephone and control systems. Teachers will find the book useful in graduate or advanced undergraduate classroom work. Several appendices, bibliography and an index make up the back of the book.

CMOS COOKBOOK, by Don Lancaster. Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc., 4300 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46268. 416 pp. 51/2 × 81/2 in. Softcover \$9.95.

This is another in the "Cookbook" series that presents the reader with all the nuts-and-bolts material needed to understand and use CMOS integrated circuits. The material presented is long on real-world applications, is detail-oriented and the easy-to-read style is not overloaded with mathematical formulas and theory.

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A QUICK LOOK AT BASIC, by Donald D. Spencer. Camelot Publishing Co., Box 1317, Ormond Beach, FL 32074. 64 pp. $5\frac{3}{4}\times8\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Softcover \$4.95.

This book presents the BASIC programming language. Written in easy nontechnical style, the material offers those with little or no computer background an opportunity to learn BASIC in just a few hours. Exercises and examples are given to supplement and reinforce the text.

TAPE RECORDING FOR THE HOBBYIST, Fourth Edition, by Art Zuckerman. Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc., 4300 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46268. 160 pp. $5\% \times 8\%$ in. Softcover \$4.95.

This book uses nontechnical language to explain the ABC's of how to select and use a tape recorder, add special effects (including instructions on how to create your own effects from everyday household objects), and edit tapes. The reader is instructed in what to look for in the controls and special features of an instrument, and how to match tape with the machine. Chapters also include suggestions on using a recorder to tape parties and special events, and to create sound-track accompaniment for film. The final chapter tells you how to care for your recorder.

COMPUTER DICTIONARY, by Donald D. Spencer. Camelot Publishing Co., Box 1317, Ormond Beach, FL 32074. 160 pp. $5\% \times 8\%$ inches. Softcover \$5.95; hardcover \$9.95.

All students of computer science/data processing in schools and colleges, teachers, businessmen, programmers, systems analysts and other computer users will find this dictionary a handy addition to their reference library. Simple clear, nontechnical language is used to define terms.

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continued from page 101

6.) This illustrates that different gate arrangements can be used—just so long as the output does not go high until the desired count.

For larger numbers—three digits or more—the same approach can be used, but more gates must be used. Figure 7 shows how to count from 000 to 776 and back to 000 at the next count (777). This can be termed a worst-case example. since it requires three outputs from each 7490 counter.

You can use NAND gates, such as the 7400, 7410, 7420 and 7430 instead of AND gates, but inverters (such as the 7404) would be needed between the 7490 and the inputs of the NAND gates. The 7490 outputs are high, and the NAND gate inputs must all be low to get the high output needed to reset the 7490's. A simpler approach, using NAND gates and inverters, is to use an inverter between each NAND output and the reset pins.

Sometimes you can reset two digits without using gates, if the desired reset count is 1, 2, 4 or 8 at each 7490. For instance, a reset at the 18th count to 0 (17 to 00) could be done by separating the reset pins, as shown in Fig. 8. Since both reset pins on each 7490 must be

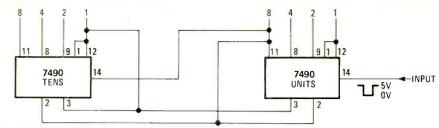


FIG. 8—AND GATES are not always necessary, depending on the desired count. For a divide-by-17 application, the 7490's can be wired as shown.

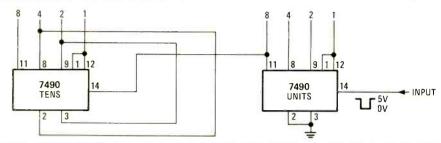


FIG. 9—DIVIDE-BY-60 counters are commonly used in clock circuits. The 7490's can be wired without using AND gates as shown.

high to reset to 0, this occurs only when the count goes to 18. At all other times, one reset pin on each 7490 is low.

Another resetting requirement is needed for minutes and seconds counting in digital clock circuits. Here the next count after 59 is 00 instead of 60. Figure 9 shows the circuit for this. The units counter automatically resets to 0 after a count of 9, but the tens counter will not

reset until the 6 count, since only then are both reset pins high.

Common CMOS 4000 series counter IC's do not lend themselves as neatly to this simple system since many of them don't have BCD outputs and dual reset pins. But they too can be programmed to count, if you give it a little thought and have an understanding of the basic techniques discussed in this article. R-E



YOU DON'T NEED A BENCH FULL OF EQUIPMENT TO TEST TRANSISTOR RADIOS! All the facilities you need to check the transistors themselves — and the radios or other circuits in which they are used — have been ingeniously engineered into the compact, 6-inch high case of the Model 212. It's the transistor radio troubleshooter with all the features found only in more expensive units. Find defective transistors and circuit troubles speedily with a single, streamlined instrument instead of an elaborate hook-up.

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continued from page 48

A programming example

For example, Fig. 10 (See page 47.) shows a simple shuffle/fox trot tablature. The most basic principle is that since the shortest note that is used is an eighth note, and since the tempo clock, once set, pulls events out of memory as a constant tempo, each event from memory will represent an eighth note. The quarternote accented bass will actually be entered into memory as an ACCENT BASS followed by a REST.

To prepare for programming, first touch RESET, press the PROGRAM button (acknowledged by PROGRAM LED), then enter the score on the drum pads like

ACCENT BASS / REST / SNARE / REST / BASS / REST / REST / SNARE and, since this line must be repeated again and again, finish off by touching REPEAT.

Tricks & things

There is more versatility and power in the drum set than the control labeling tends to indicate. Here are some discoveries that we've made; other possibilities are only limited by the imagination of the

Using the bridge as an intro—You can begin playing with the bridge rather than the main score by placing the unit in the bridge mode then touching PLAY.

Playing a manual tempo-You can play a score to a manual tempo by tapping on the REST pad in the tempo that you want. Each tap advances the event counter and causes any programmed drum sounds to play. The REST pad can also be used as a nonlatching play key. Simply touch this pad continuously and the unit will play at the rate set by the TEMPO control.

Playing only a portion of a score—The REPEAT pad can be used in the PLAY mode to cause a pattern to begin again before the programmed repeat point is reached. Simply tap the pad. If you are touching the BRIDGE pad at the same time, the unit will switch to the beginning of the bridge.

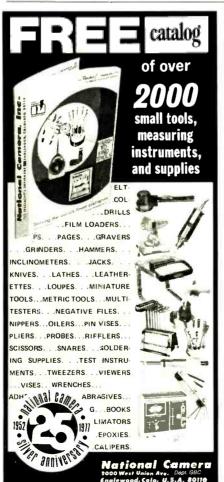
Editing—Some limited editing is possible by single-stepping to the point to be changed using the REST pad. When you get to the event that is to be changed, put the unit in the program mode (in this case, do not reset—simply press the PRO-GRAM button) and alter the events desired.

External synchronization/manual play — The pin jack on the rear of the case provides a means of either foot-switch controlling the unit or synchronizing to external events. A 5-volt trigger applied to this input causes the clock to run at the rate set by the TEMPO control. If the triggers applied to this input are short, the event counter will advance one event for R-E each pulse.



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EQUIPMENT REPORTS

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impedance on the AC voltage ranges is 10 megohms shunted by 25 pF. Also, the sample rate is 4 per second.

Assembly and use

Assembling the *model 2000* was a breeze. The instruction manual contains step-by-step procedures with plenty of illustrations. Little is left in the way of guesswork. It took me about 9 hours to assemble the unit. However, you should accept this figure with a grain of salt, since I'm not sure whether my ability with a soldering iron compares with that of the tortoise or the hare.

After the assembly procedures have been completed, the unit must be calibrated. The instruction manual contains two separate calibration procedures. The first calibration procedure is prepared for the kit builder who has no other test equipment other than the *model 2000*. The procedure uses data supplied by Sabtronics on four resistors and a voltage reference. There is also an AC peak detector circuit consisting of a diode and a capacitor that must be built for calibrating the AC voltage scales.

To calibrate the *model 2000* to within published specifications, the second calibration procedure must be followed. This procedure requires a meter calibrator such as the Fluke *model 760*, a 4½-digit DMM such as the Hewlett-Packard *model HP3465A*, and an AC signal generator.

Anytime you acquire a new test instrument, it takes time to get used to it. With the simple

front panel layout of the *model 2000*, it took almost no time to become familiar with it. I've used the *model 2000* to troubleshoot numerous circuits and it performed perfectly. The *model 2000* now occupies a permanent corner on my workbench and its sleek blue case adds a little decor. If you're thinking of acquiring a new DMM, take a look at the *model 2000*. **R-E**

Sencore Model CB42 CB Analyzer



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EVER SINCE I WAS A TEEN-AGED TECHNICIAN, I've been crazy about "analyzers"—instruments that could make all kinds of tests. Of course, when I was a teen-ager, the sets were simpler and so were the analyzers. I still have several different types on my bench. These versatile instruments can be real timesavers.

The Sencore people have come out with an Analyzer for CB radios, the *model CB42*. This instrument has an RF signal generator that

SPECIAL REPORT: Jack Darr, Service Editor of Radio-Electronics writes: Oneida's Nu-Color Picture Tube Restorer 'Lives up to its name'

This device is designed to restore color to old picture tubes with one or more weak

I had a trade-in Wards TV, with a picture tube so bad it had to be seen to be believed. The blue gun read almost normal emission; the green gun would come up to the bottom end of the BAD sector on the meter; and the red gun just barely wiggled the needle.

The Nu-Color model 90A is a plug-in device that is inserted between the picture tube and socket, like a brightener. However, it is not a brightener, at least in the



usual sense of the word. Between its plug and socket is a little box with three color-coded slide controls, one for each color.

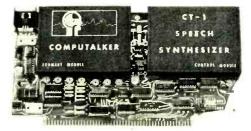
Starting with all controls at the OFF position, I plugged the Nu-Color in and turned the set on. As expected, the raster was a bright blue. I adjusted the controls of the Nu-Color and came up with a good-looking color-bar pattern. Twiddling the grey scale and the Nu-Color controls gave an excellent color picture. Reds saturated normally, with the color control all the way up and all other things looked very good! This device lives up to its claims and its name; it certainly did "restore the color" to this old dog.

As Oneida is careful to explain, the *Nu-Color* is not intended as a "cure-all" for color troubles, but it will help correct problems due to unbalanced picture-tube emission. The device can be installed and adjusted in the home with very little trouble.

For details write: Dalton Smith, President, Oneida Electronic Mfg. Co., Box 678, Meadville, Pa. 16335

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covers from 375 kHz to 12 MHz for IF's and a CB RF signal generator that covers all 40 channels with provisions for five more channels. Both of these generators can be modulated by 400 or 1000 Hz AM, or zero. Or external modulation or a dual-frequency special audio signal (500/2400 Hz). The modulation percentage of both can be set to zero, 30% or 100%. The attenuator will drop the signal level from 1.0 volt to a minimum of 0.1 μ V.

There is also a 7-digit frequency counter with dual inputs, one has a 50-ohm impedance (built-in 12-watt dummy load) and the other has a 1.0-megohm impedance for high sensitivity. The counter also indicates the RF or IF output frequency. An RF wattmeter with digital readout, a digital readout plug-in crystalchecker that shows the fundamental frequency of any crystal from 1.0 MHz to 20.0 MHz. A modulation-percentage readout, for both positive and negative modulation percentages and a special readout on any channel that displays the percentage of error of the transmitter frequency. A microphone-tester that doubles as a substitute speaker; a built-in oscillator/ mixer circuit that beats the 27-MHz CB frequencies down to about 1.0 MHz. The oscillator/mixer circuit permits you to use just about any narrowband scope. The model CB42 also features a very simple receiver sensitivity test and an equally simple signal-to-noise ratio receiver test. A switch-selected speaker-load 4, 8 or 16 ohms with an audio wattmeter readout that can read up to 20 watts. I hope I haven't left any out, although I might!

Imagine each of these instruments in its own case. You'd have a stack of boxes that would cover up the average service bench. Sencore has managed to put them all in one 11×14 inch box! The only instrument you would need beside the model CB42 would be a scope for looking at modulation waveforms. Any scope will do.

Every function and test on the model CB42 can be selected individually by the controls, which are very plainly marked. Input-output jacks are in a row along the bottom of the panel. The RF signal generator is a crystalcontrolled digitally programmed phase-lockedloop with a crystal accuracy of 1.0 ppm. It has a knob that selects either of two bands, Channels 1-23 and 24-40. Actually 45 since there are five spare positions not hooked up, but can be easily connected if they're ever needed. The IF generator covers from 375 kHz to 12.0 MHz in five ranges; the frequency of these are read out on the display. The IF tuning knob is a three-turn pot, for easier setting of exact frequencies. The RF/IF output has its own jack, with 50-ohm output impedance.

For transmitter frequency tests, the CB rig is connected to the 50-ohm input, and the switch set to external frequency/50-ohm load. In the next position of the switch, the 1.0 megohm high sensitivity input of the frequency counter is connected to the jack on the panel. If you set the CB tuning knob of the RF generator to the same frequency as the CB set and turn to the next position of the switch, the readout will give you a direct reading of the percentage off-frequency. The signal generator's PLL is accurate to within 1.0 ppm, and the readout has a rated accuracy of .001%. Since FCC specs call for only .005% tolerance, these are well within limits. These tests work in the same way for SSB transmitters.

A very versatile test instrument that can certainly speed up any kind of CB radio work and pay for itself in the number of jobs you can get out in a day.

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(continuation from the January issue.)

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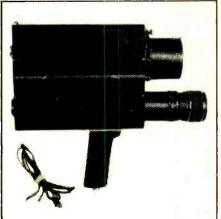
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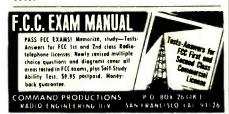
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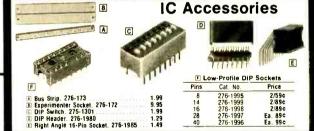
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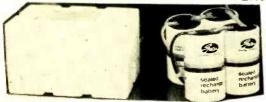
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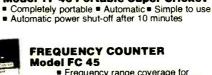
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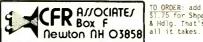
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ANSI Notch

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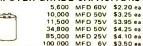
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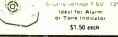
JOY STICK



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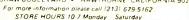


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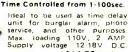


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 One Hour Assembly
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	7400	111	DIG	IAL	CIR	CUIT	5
7400	11	7430	.13	7480	.31	74153	.61
7401	.13	7432	23	7481	.55	74154	98
7402	.13	7433	.26	7482	57	74155	89
7403	.13	7437	.23	7483	.67	74156	89
7404	.15	7438	.23	7485	.89	74157	.55
74L04	. 29	7440	.13	7489	1.25	74160	55
74504	.44	7441	.76	7490	65	74161	65
7405	.13	7442	.47	7491	.61	74163	65
7406	.16	7443	.59	7492	.43	74164	85
7407	.16	7444	.59	7493	43	74165	.89
7408	.19	7446	.68	7494	.67	74174	.85
7409	.19	7447	.68	7495	.67	74175	85
7410	.13	7448	.71	7496	.67	74180	67
7411	.18	7450	.13	74100	.30	74181	1 93
7412	. 26	7451	.13	74104	49	74182	.68
7413	.37	7453	.13	74107	.28	74191	.98
7416	.15	7454	13	74109	.31	74192	79
7420	.13	7460	19	74121	.29	74193	.81
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Z4L\$00	.21	74LS47	.73	74L\$136 .37	74LS258 71
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74LS04	.28	74LS55	.26	74LS145 1.00	74LS279 55
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74LS08	.21	74LS74	.35	74LS153 .70	74LS293 61
74LS09	.28	74LS76	49	74L S155 .69	74LS295 95
74LS10	.21	74LS83	.73	74LS156 70	74LS298 95
74LS11	21	74L S85	1.35	74LS157 75	74LS365 55
74LS13	.45	74L S86	.36	74LS158 71	74LS366 55
74LS14	.99	74LS90	.55	74LS160 85	74LS367 55
74LS15	. 26	74LS92	.55	74LS161 85	74LS368 55
74L \$20	.24	74LS93	.55	74LS162 .85	74LS390 1 75
74L S21	-28	74LS109	.38	74LS163 85	74LS393 1.45
74LS22	.28	74LS112	.38	74LS164 1.49	74LS670 2.30
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74LS30	. 26	74LS122	.49	74LS170 1 69	74LS194 95
74LS32	32	74LS124	.99	74LS173 1 10	74LS195 85
74LS37	.32	74LS125	.47	74LS174 1.00	74LS196 85
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CD4001	.19	CD4018	.95	CD4041 6		19
CD4002	.19	CD4019	.19	CD4042 6		35
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CD4009	.47	CD4022	.97	CD4046 1.3		1 10
CD4010	.39	CD4023	19	CD4047 1.5		79
CD4011	.19	CD4024	75	CD4049 3		1 10
CD4012	.29	CD4025	.19	CD4050 3		69
CD4013	.32	CD4027	39	CD4051 1 19		.85
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932	Dual 4 Input Buffer	8/
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	JK F/F	8/
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		5/
	(see 934 above)	10/
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094	Dual JK F/F	8/
097	Dual JK F/F	8/
099	Duai JK F/F	8/3
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301	Dual 5 Input NAND Gate	15
302	Quad 2 Input Buffer open collector	18
303	Quad 2 Input NAND Buffer	.15
311	Master Slave F/F	.18
312	Dual JK Flip Flop	.18
321	Quad 2 Input NAND Gate	18
322	Dual 5 Input NAND Gate	15
323	Quad 2 Input NAND Gate	.18
324	Quad 2 Input NAND Gate	18
325	Dual 2 Dual 3 Input NAND Gate	.13
326	Dual 2 Dual 3 Input NAND Gate	.13
331	Dual 5 Input Expander	.13
222	Manufacture to a	4.0

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Hex Inverter
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ITT 501 Quad Seq. Dr	35	
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•	16 Pin Low Profile	25
	18 Pin Low Profile	30
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7408	10/1 00 that you 74141 10/1 00 are ordering 74153	
7420	House Number TTI	3/1.00

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	House Number 112.		-
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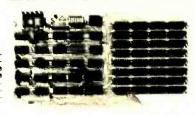
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8K, 16K, 24K, 32K using Mostek MK4115 with 8K boundaries and protection. Utilizes
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Buy an S100 compatible 8K Ram Board and upgrade the same board to a maximum of 32K in sleps of 8K at your option by merely purchasing more ram chips from S.D. Sales! At a guaranteed price — Look at the features we have built into the board.

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Schottky devices.

POWER REQUIREMENTS
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01 board regulation is provided. On board (invisible) refresh is provided with no wait states or cycle stealing required.

MEMORY ACCESS TIME IS 375ns.

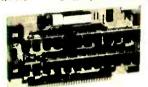
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8K FOR \$151.00 16K FOR \$259.00

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CHECK THE ADVANCED FEATURES OF OUR Z-80 CPU BOARD: Expanded set of 158 instructions, 8080A software capability, operation from a single 5VDC power software capability, operation from a single 5VDC power supply, always stops on an M1 stale, frue sync generaled on card (a real plus feature!), dynamic refresh and NM1 available, either 2MHZ operation, quality double sided plated through PC board; parts plus sockets priced for all IC's. "Add \$10 extra for Z—80A chip which allows 4MHZ operation.

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4. MFE 700/750 d 277.

4. MFE 700/750 d 279.

6. CDC 940/4/906.

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Fully Buffered — on board regulated — reduced power consumption utilizing low power 21.02 — 1 500ns RAMS — Sockets provided for all IC's. Quality plated through PC board. *Add \$10. for 250ns PAM operation.



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Low Cost Cassette Interface Kit

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Features: Play and record K.C. Standard 2400/1200 ht bapes, 300 Baud. TIL I/O Compatible, Phase Leck Leop, Both 22 Pin Connector and 8 Pin Molex Connector. Comes partially susembled. Occillator and phase leck loop pre-luned to K.C. Standard, Selector switch sends coasetts data or sustillary lapart data to microprosessor. LED indicates logic 1 level.

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Features: Litronix dual 1/2" displays, Mostek 50250 super clock chip, single I.C. segment driver, SCR digit drivers. Kit includes all necessary parts (except case). Xfmr optional. Eliminate the hassle. \$12.95

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checkout. Make sure that the batteries are fully charged, then connect a 0-250mA meter across S2 and perform the test as described.

There are two ways you can calibrate your counter. Both are pretty easy, but they do require quality equipment that is in calibration. Try to beg or borrow the best equipment to be mentioned you can if you don't have it already. The accuracy of your counter will depend on it!

The first method is probably the best. You'll need a counter that has an accuracy to at least \pm 0.001%. Let it warm up

for a few minutes (the calibration counter) and attach a X10 scope probe to its input. Ground the probe ground to the case of your counter, and touch the probe tip to the large pad on the board marked CAL. Press S2 and hold it for about a minute. Note that the batteries should be fully charged! Then adjust the trimmer (C8) for a reading of 3,579, 545 Hz. There will be some jitter in the last digit, but try to get it close to a "5" as you can. You must be within ± 179 Hz to meet the accuracy spec. That's it!

The other method is to connect a known signal to the input of the counter and adjust the trimmer until you get a proper reading. Take a signal generator/

counter combination and attach it to the input jack J1. Then set the generator to 10,000,000 Hz or exactly 10 MHz. Next, set S1 to the MHZ position, and press S2. The display will show a jumble of numbers and then two seconds later show a reading close to 10 MHz. If not, adjust the output level on the signal generator until it does. Adjust trimmer C8 for a reading of 10-00. Flip S1 to KHZ and you should get 00-00 with the overrange lamp lit. If not, adjust C8 until you do.

Now put it to work

Using this counter is a snap! Simply unsnap it from your belt (get a surplus calculator case) or take it out of your toolbox and connect it to the signal you want to check. Press S2 and hold it for at least six seconds for two readings. Meanwhile, set S1 to MHZ to get a reading, flipping it to KHZ or HZ for a reading if necessary. Presto! In seconds you have a reading of four digits!

If your frequency is 1 MHz or greater, you can get up to six digits of resolution by combining two ranges. Here's how to do it: Say you are measuring a frequency of 10.125 MHz. On the MHZ position of S2 you will get 10-13, with the dash mark indicating the decimal point printed on the case. On the KHZ position you will get a reading of 25-00 plus overrange (OR). Here's how to combine the readings:

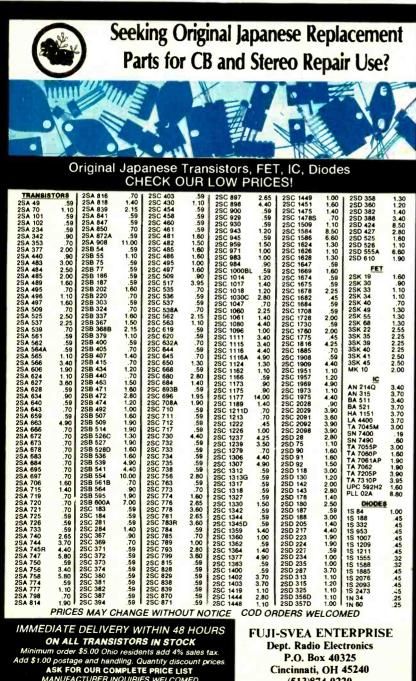
> 25-00 10-125-00

That's all there is to it. But remember to always drop the least-significant digit from the MHz range (that's the "3") when combining the two ranges. As you can see, we actually got seven digits of resolution in this digit. But actually, there will be some jitter in this digit during the measurement, making its usefulness rather limited. You can perform the same stunt of combining readings on the kHz and Hz ranges, too. But in this case three numbers will overlap.

A few last words concerning the display of this counter. Decimal points were left out of the display to save power, and as a result, were printed on the case. Also, a digit was blanked in the readout to emphasize a decimal on the MHz and KHz ranges. On the Hz range, the decimal is at the far right end of the display, so you ignore the gap. With a little practice you will get used to this arrangement.



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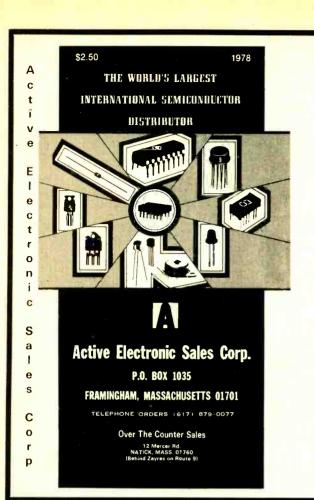
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MAN 8 GO Common Anode-red
MAN 8 GO Common Anode-orange
MAN 40 Common Calmode-orange
MAN 40 Common Anode-orange
MAN 40 Common Calmode-orange
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1N4001	50 PIV	1 AMP	12/1.00	1N1184	100 PIV	35 AMP	1.70
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	1-9	10.49	50-100		1-9	10-49	50-100	
10 pf	.05	.04	.03	.001µF	05	.04	035	
22 pt	.05	.04	03	.0047µF	.05		.035	
47 pf	.05			.014F	.05	.04	035	
100 pf	.05	.04	.03	.022µF	06		.04	
220 pf	.05	.04	.03	.047µF	.06	.05	04	
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.001mf	12	.10	.07	.022mt	13	.11	.08	
.0022	.12	.10	.07	.047mt	.21	.17	.13	
.0047mf	.12	.10	.07	.1mf	27	23	17	
.01mf	12	.10	.07	.22mf	.33	.27	.22	
				JMS (SOLIO)				
.1/35V	.28		.17	1.5/35V	.30	26	21	
.15/35V		23		2.2/25V	.31		22	
22/35V		23		3.3/25V	.31	.27	.22	
.33/35V		.23		4.7/25V	.32		23	
47/35V		.23		6 8/25V	.36		.25	
.68/35V		23		10/25V	.40	.35	.29	
1.0/35V	.28	.23	.17	15/25V	.63	.50	.40	
			MINUM E	LECTROLYTIC				
	Axial				Radial			
.47/50V	15	13	.10	.47/25V	.15	.13	.10	
1.0/50V	.16	.14	.11	.47/50V	.16		.11	
3.3/50V	.15	13	10	1.0/16V	.15		.10	
4.7/25V	.16	.14	.12	1.0/25V	.16	.14	.11	

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2 DIG

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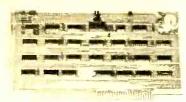
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Colors: Red,Blu	e,Green.	Yellow.Blac	k.Orange.	White
Wire packaged	in plastic	bags Add	25¢/lengt	n for tubes.

Wire packaged	in plastic	bags Add	25¢/length	for tubes.
	100	500	1000	5000
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3 in.	.82	2.60	4.71/K	4 22/K
319 in.	86	2 80	5 12/K	4.55/K
4 in	.90	3.00	5.52/K	4.88 K
4½ in.	.94	3.21	5.93/K	5 21/K
5 in.	.98	3.42	6 34/K	5 52/K
51, in.	1.02	3.65	6.75/K	5.86/K
6 in.	1.06	3.85	7.16/K	6 19/K
6½ m.	1.15	4.05	7.57/K	6.52/K
7 in.	1.20	4 25	7.98/K	6.85/K
7% in.	1.25	4.45	B.39/K	7 18/K
8 10	1.29	4.65	8 80/K	7.53/K
819 in.	1.32	4.85	9 21/K	7 B4/K
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SPDT 6VDC 200 OHM COILS 1 AMP 20 WATT DC CONTACTS 2.95 LONG LIFE (1 X 109) OPER. HIGH SPEED (500 HZ)

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PICTURE IS APPROXIMATION, RELAY HAS FOUR PINS ON ONE END AND TWO ON OTHER, PINS ARE SPACED .1" X 1". 1/2A CONTACTS

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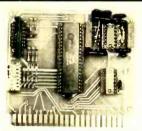
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- Low power drain +5 volts and -12 volts required
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- All connections go to a 44 pin gold plated edge connector
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Part no. 6085

volts at 1 amp.

regulators

1.5 amps.

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• Board supplies a regulated +5

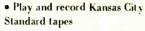
volts at 3 amps., +12,-12, and -5

• Board has filters, rectifiers, and

• Power required is 8 volts AC at

3 amps., and 24 volts AC C.T. at

TAPE Part no. 111 INTERFACE



- Converts a low cost tape recorder to a digital recorder
- Works up to 1200 band
- Digital in and out are TTL-serial
- Output of board connects to mic. in of recorder
- Earphone of recorder connects to input on board
- Requires +5 volts, low power
- Board \$7.60; with parts \$27.50
- No coils

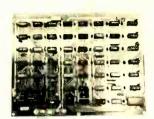


no. 107 RF

MODULATOR

- Converts video to AM modulated RF, Channels 2 or 3
- Power required is 12 volts AC C.T., or +5 volts DC
- Board \$4.50; with parts \$13.50

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Part no. 106

- Stand alone TVT
- 32 char/line, 16 lines, modifications for 64 char/line included
- Parallel ASCII (TTL) input
- Video output
- 1K on board memory
- Output for computer controlled curser
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- Scroll up, down
- Requires +5 volts at 1.5 amps, and .12 volts at 30 mA
- Board only \$39.00; with parts \$145.00

8K STATIC RAM



Part no. 300

- 8K Altair bus memory
- Uses 2102 Static memory chips
- Memory protect
- Gold contacts
- Wait states
- On board regulator
- S-100 bus compatible
- Vector input option • TRI state buffered
- Board only \$22.50; with parts \$160.00

TIDMA

• Board only \$12.50

Part no. 112

- Tape Interface Direct Memory Access
- · Record and play programs without bootstrap loader (no prom) has FSK encoder/decoder for direct connections to low cost recorder at 625 band rate, and direct connections for inputs and outputs to a digital recorder at any band rate.
- S-100 bus compatible
- Comes assembled and tested for \$160.00

APPLE I MOTHER BOARD



Part no. 102

- 10 slots 44 pin (.156) connectors spaced 34" apart
- Connects to edge connector of computer
- Pin 20 and 22 connects to X & Z for power and ground
- Board has provisions for bypass capacitors
- Board cost \$15.00

MODEM



Part no. 109 • Type 103

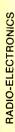
- Full or half duplex
- Works up to 300 band
- Originate or Answer
- No coils, only low cost components
- TTL input and output-serial
- Connect 8 ohm speaker and crystal mic. directly to board
- Uses XR FSK demodulator
- Requires +5 volts
- Board \$7.60; with parts \$27.50

To Order:





Mention part number and description. For parts kits add "A" to part number. Shipping paid for orders accompanied by check, money order, or Master Charge, BankAmericard, or VISA number, expiration date and signature. Shipping charges added to C.O.D. orders. California residents add 6.5% for tax. Parts kits include sockets for all ICs, components, and circuit board. Documentation is included with all products. Dealer inquiries invited. 24 Hour Order Line: (408) 374-5984.





Mutual radio programs via Westar satellite

The Mutual Broadcasting System and Western Union have recently agreed to allow Mutual's network radio programs be broadcast over Western Union's Westar satellite system. The agreement, which is awaiting FCC approval, will enable Mutual to transmit its radio programs via satellite to more than 500 100-foot receiving antennas, connected directly or indirectly to the broadcast company's 780 affiliate sta-

The advantage of satellite transmission, as opposed to land-line transmission, is that "radio signals will have a 15 kHz quality equalling that of FM stereo," states Gary J. Worth, Mutual's executive vice president in charge of the satellite program. Transmission quality would be substantially improved, since present land transmission typically involves a 5-kHz signal, with some branches receiving only 3.5 kHz signals. The agreement will let Mutual use up to six 15-kHz program audio chan-

Both Mutual and Western Union asked the FCC to allow programs to start being transmitted from Washington, DC, to its nationwide affiliates. If the FCC gives its consent, it is expected that this service could start around mid-1978.

Future stereo recordings to use digital techniques

Digital techniques will very soon replace analog techniques in stereo recordings. Even now, several Japanese manufacturers are marketing laser-based systems that play back discs whose audio signal has been pulse-code modulated (PCM).

It is expected that mass-produced PCMbased recordings will use standard 30-cm discs because they can be produced as inexpensively as in analog recordings, However, the key lies in system standardization, and until unanimity is reached on specifications, PCM discs will be impractical and tape will be the medium used.

Alex DeKoster, senior acoustic engineer at Acoustic Research, Inc., Norwood, MA, feels that although mass-market PCM systems will start off being expensive, "demand will force the price down." However, he predicts that it will take about three or four years for the system first to catch on, then another five or six years for the price to come down

In digital recording systems, frequency response and dynamic range are independent of the characteristics of disc or tape, and there is no channel crosstalk. Signals are retimed during playback, eliminating wow and flutter. In all PCM systems announced thus far, frequency response is flat within a fraction of a dB to 20 kHz, and the dynamic range is at least 85 dB, or better than that of any listening room and 20 dB better than that of most analog systems.

The chief virtue of PCM techniques is that all the necessary components are available. For instance, video tape recorders have reached a stage of development where they can be used as a basic building block; semiconductor lasers appear ready to be mass produced; and phase-lockedloop synthesizers and crystals are in good supply. There is even the possibility of a price reduction on key components. R-E

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CSC PROTO-BOARD SOLDERLESS BREADBOARDS

MODEL NUMBER	NO. OF SOLDERLESS TIE-POINTS	IC CAPACITY (14-PIN DIP'S)	MANUFACTURER'S SUGG.LIST	OTHER FEATURES
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PB-100	760	10	19 95	Kit - with larger capacity
PB-101	940	10	29 9 5	8 distribution buses. higher capacity
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AVANTI Invents the Saturn Base

The reason the "Saturn" is so revolutionary is that it is absolutely the only combination vertical and horizontal omni-directional antenna. That's right, it needs no rotor! You can pick up mobiles (which are vertical) or horizontal and vertical beams.

The "Saturn", invented after years of research by Avanti engineers, is the latest development using AVANTI's unique CO-INDUCTIVE principle to give you the performance of two antennas combined into one

The "Saturn" not only works on both polarities, but pounds out signals like an air hammer and picks them up like a magnet. Both polarities offer high gain figures.



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The P.D.L. and Moonraker made dual polarity famous as the only antennas to have during the last sun spot cycle, and this time around any serious C.B.'er will want to have the "Saturn."

In fact, having a "Saturn" and a "P.D.L." or "Moonraker" will put you in the elite group of C.B.'ers who "always seem to get out better."

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