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\$1.25 AUG. 1980

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Tuning in worldwide SW stations  
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CIRCLE 21 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

# Extended Lifespan

*JS&A was destined for failure when we introduced our first electronic blood pressure unit. But then a miracle happened.*

Model 310



Model 410



Advertisements were starting to appear everywhere. JS&A had just introduced the world's first home electronic blood pressure unit in a massive national advertising campaign.

But something was strange. JS&A often tests its products in its catalog first before they are nationally advertised. If they sell well, we then start a national magazine advertising campaign. The blood pressure unit sold well in our catalog, but for some strange reason, it wasn't selling well in magazines.

## SHOCKING DISCOVERY

And then we found the answer. A few months earlier after our blood pressure unit appeared in our catalog, our computer manager (let us call him Ralph to protect his identity) handed us a computer printout of the catalog sales results.

Scanning the results, we discovered that the blood pressure unit was the best-selling product in our catalog—far exceeding every other product by five times.

The results were so positive that we immediately placed hundreds of thousands of dollars in an advertising campaign launched in early 1978.

Just as the advertisements were starting to appear, Ralph walked into our president's office with some startling news. "There's been a mistake," Ralph said. "The computer printout was wrong. The blood pressure unit is actually our worst selling product but a computer error gave us the wrong information."

And so our president sat back and watched JS&A advertisements appearing everywhere, knowing full well that the campaign would cost his company almost the price of a new computer.

Then came the miracle. As if by plan, the American Medical Association came out with

an advertising campaign urging consumers to take their blood pressure regularly to combat hypertension or high blood pressure. Ads appeared everywhere.

The campaign revealed that there may be as many as 25 million Americans who have high blood pressure and don't know it. Simply by taking their own blood pressure and discovering hypertension early enough, Americans could be saving their lives and reducing the chances of heart attacks. Suddenly our campaign started to sell blood pressure units by the thousands.

## AWARD RECEIVED

This year JS&A's president received the Extended Lifespan award for "pioneering in the distribution of home health electronic devices" by the Committee for an Extended Lifespan. In accepting the award, our president made it very clear that the award was earned as a result of a computer error and not as a result of his brilliance.

This story is painfully true. And although it may be a slight embarrassment to us, there is one aspect that is not. JS&A was indeed the company that pioneered the electronic blood pressure units and has always selected the very best units available to offer at the very lowest prices possible.

## NEWEST UNIT

Our newest unit shown above is another example. The model 310 sells for only \$69.95 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling (Illinois residents, please add 6% sales tax.) You simply wrap the velcro cuff around your arm (you can even keep your shirt on) and inflate the cuff. Both an audible tone and a visible red light will indicate your systolic and diastolic readings. The system is extremely accurate, comes with a self-bleeding air valve and can be stored in a convenient carrying case that

comes with each unit.

The deluxe model 410 functions similar to the first system except that the readings are displayed in digits, and the unit also displays your pulse reading. It sells for \$139.95 plus \$2.50 per unit for postage, insurance and handling. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with either unit, you may return it within 30 days for a prompt and courteous refund including your \$2.50 postage and handling. To order either unit, credit card buyers may call our toll-free number, or you may send your check or money order to the address below.

Both units use solid-state components, come complete with instructions and a one-year limited warranty, and should give you years of trouble-free service. If service should be required, we maintain a service-by-mail center as close as your mailbox. JS&A is America's largest single source of space-age products—further assurance that your modest investment is well protected.

If you are concerned about your blood pressure or know somebody who is concerned about monitoring his or hers, we recommend JS&A's latest units.

Incidentally, Ralph left JS&A on his own accord and bought a farm in another state. There were no hard feelings when he left. How could there be? Order your blood pressure unit at no obligation, today.

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# Hand-held computer power is here!

## An autoranging DMM breakthrough from B&K-PRECISION.

B&K-PRECISION's new microcomputer controlled Model 2845 is a major advance in digital multimeter technology. At a price comparable to ordinary manually operated units the 2845 brings microcomputer intelligence to a handheld portable DMM. When applied to a circuit, its computer selects the range providing maximum resolution without the slow "hunting" action characteristic of many bench-type autoranging DMM's.

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- Microcomputer autoranging speeds operation and stabilizes readings
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- Measures AC/DC voltage; AC/DC current; resistance
- Meets tough U.L. 1244 safety standards

Available for immediate delivery from your local distributor. For additional information contact your distributor or B&K-PRECISION.

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Canadian Sales: Atlas Electronics, Ontario

Model 2845 \$175



CIRCLE 38 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



## BUILD

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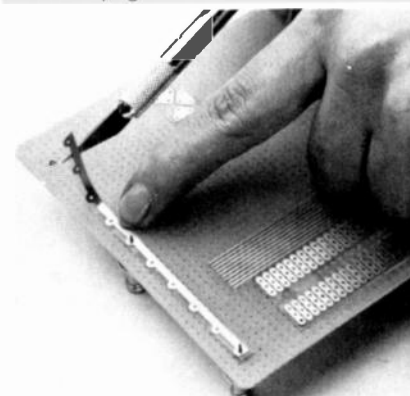
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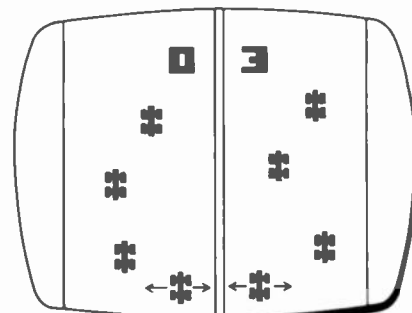
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## ON THE COVER

Finally, the construction article you've all been asking for: An 8-part series describing a full blown, fully mobile robot complete with manipulator arms. Options include remote control operator, operation via external computer via the remote-control link and an on-board computer. Suggestions are given for adding senses such as sight and feel. The basic robot, minus the options, can be built for under \$400. Get started building yours today. Complete details start on page 37.



A QUICK AND EASY way to make one-of-a-kind printed circuit boards. The details start on page 66.



**RACEWAY VIDEO GAME** you can build lets you pretend to be an *Indy 500* race-car driver without ever leaving the comfort of your armchair. Construction details start on page 42.

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# looking ahead

**What's new in color:** The 1981 color-TV lines will emphasize random-access digital keypad tuning heavily, in both manual and remote models, with remote control getting greater stress, comb filters spreading to more brands, and audio output jacks appearing in an increasing number of models.

The popularity of cable TV is reflected in the new sets, too. Almost all brands now make it possible to tune at least the special midband cable channels, while Zenith and Quasar feature "105-channel" keypad tuners that can get both midband and superband cable channels. The comb filter, initiated by Magnavox in 1978, now is featured in a substantial number of models by RCA, Zenith, and Quasar, as well as Magnavox. The circuit, which uses a glass delay line in most brands, increases apparent resolution from about 260 to 330 lines and eliminates "cross-color" effects such as crawling dots and color patterns in black-and-white details. RCA uses a special IC which also incorporates horizontal and vertical peaking, instead of using discrete circuitry with a delay line. In addition to keypad tuning, some brands—exemplified by RCA and Zenith—add programmed channel-scan controls which automatically tune preselected channels in sequence.

Last year's rush to add high-fidelity audio amplifiers and speakers seems to have been moderated in many cases, presumably because consumers showed little willingness to pay for the good sound. However, an increasing number of sets now give viewers the options of plugging in their own hi-fi amplifiers, through built-in audio-output jacks. The only new sound gimmick for 1981 is Sony's Matrix Sound in its top-of-the-line 26-inch console, which uses twin hi-fi amplifiers and a bucket-brigade delay device to simulate stereo.

Some notable new one-of-a-kind color TV sets and gadgets: 1. Zenith's *Space Phone*, featured on one 19-inch and several 25-inch remote sets, uses the TV set as a telephone amplifier. Plugged into a telephone jack, the set's audio system sounds a buzz when the telephone is ringing. Touching a button on the wireless remote unit shuts off the TV sound and brings in the telephone caller's voice over the speaker. A microphone built into the set lets viewers carry on a phone conversation without leaving their seats. 2. RCA's 19-inch set does double duty as a TV monitor, containing 11 inputs and outputs, including two sets of audio and video inputs for monitoring two VCR's, video games, disc players or other devices. The outputs serve to permit recording from the set's tuner or the simultaneous display of tape or disc output on several sets. 3. Sony's 3.7-inch AC/DC color set, weighing only seven pounds, can serve as a VCR monitor also, having input and output jacks.

**Videodisc update:** RCA has finally demonstrated the production prototype of its *SelectaVision* videodisc player, scheduled to be in national distribution early next year. The compact unit weighs about 22 pounds and contains a feature not displayed on previous experimental models—visual search. That is a pushbutton-activated system that scans the disc at about 10 times normal speed in either forward or reverse, while a high-quality picture is dis-

played on the screen, for location of any segment of the disc. The player has five pushbuttons—forward and reverse visual search, forward and reverse rapid access, and pause. The rapid-access feature lets the user find a segment of the disc by observing the elapsed-time LED. The only additional control is a load-play-unload lever. RCA reiterated that its discs would play for one hour per side, have monaural sound at the start, backed by an initial catalog of 150 titles, with new releases monthly.

Meanwhile, Sony announced that it was entering production of optical videodisc players and discs compatible with the Philips-MCA laser-reflective approach. However, it will concentrate on the industrial-institutional market and says it is uncommitted on which system to back for the consumer market—if any.

**Cable progress:** The sky seems to be the limit for mushrooming cable TV. At the recent National Cable TV Association convention, cable operators heard progress reports on new technology in their future. Pioneer Electronics demonstrated a developmental alphanumeric two-way home terminal, to be available in 1981, designed to include video channel selection, two-way viewdata access to information banks, home security, electronic transfer of funds, and electronic mail. An earlier Pioneer-made device, to be used in Qube cable systems in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, can tune 110 channels by remote control and let the viewer tune in a virtually infinite number of "pay-per-view" channels. Many cable-equipment manufacturers showed 400-MHz systems, permitting carriage of 56 channels (or 112 or 168 channels with multiple cables.) Cox Cable announced a test of banking via cable this year in two of its locations. Subscribers will be able to charge purchases made via cable directly to their bank accounts.

**Cable and VCR:** Videocassette recorders and cable TV sometimes don't mix so well. Because a VCR can't tune to the special frequencies used by many cable systems for additional programs, a VCR-owning cable subscriber normally has the choice of either taping only the channel he watches (if he wants to tape a special cable channel) or taping only the standard numbered channels unattended. Various switching arrangements have been designed to get around that problem; another solution is to rent a second cable box for the VCR.

A new solution has recently been offered for the problem. Vidcor, of New York, is now marketing a small attachment that converts all special cable channels to standard UHF channels. That little converter, installed ahead of the VCR, permits the tuning of special cable channels on the UHF band of the recorder. It also will permit remote-controlled TV sets to be tuned to cable channels directly from the wireless remote unit. Incidentally, the converter is very similar to those used by Magnavox and others in their new-model sets for remote tuning of special cable channels. A similar unit is also available from Etco Electronics, North Country Shopping Center, Route No. 9, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

DAVID LACHENBRUCH  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Facts from Fluke on low-cost DMM's

# Conductance: What it is, and what it can do for you.

We've often referred to conductance as the "missing function" in DMM's — the capability so many of you have wanted in a DMM but couldn't find until we introduced the 8020A Analyst.

Since its introduction, the Fluke 8020A has become the world's best-selling DMM. And four more low-cost models with conductance ranges have been added to our line. But you'll still find this function only on Fluke DMM's.

Simply stated, conductance lets you make resistance measurements far beyond the capacity of ordinary multimeters. Until the 8020A, there was no way to make fast, accurate readings from 20 M $\Omega$  to 10,000 M $\Omega$  — ranges typically plagued by noise

pickup. Yet, measurements at these levels are vital in verifying resistance values in high-voltage dividers, cables and insulators.

With conductance, the inverse of ohms, which is expressed in Siemens — Fluke DMM's can measure extreme resistances. Simple conversion of direct-reading conductance values, then, yields resistance measurements to 10,000 M $\Omega$  (and 100,000 M $\Omega$  with the 8050A), without

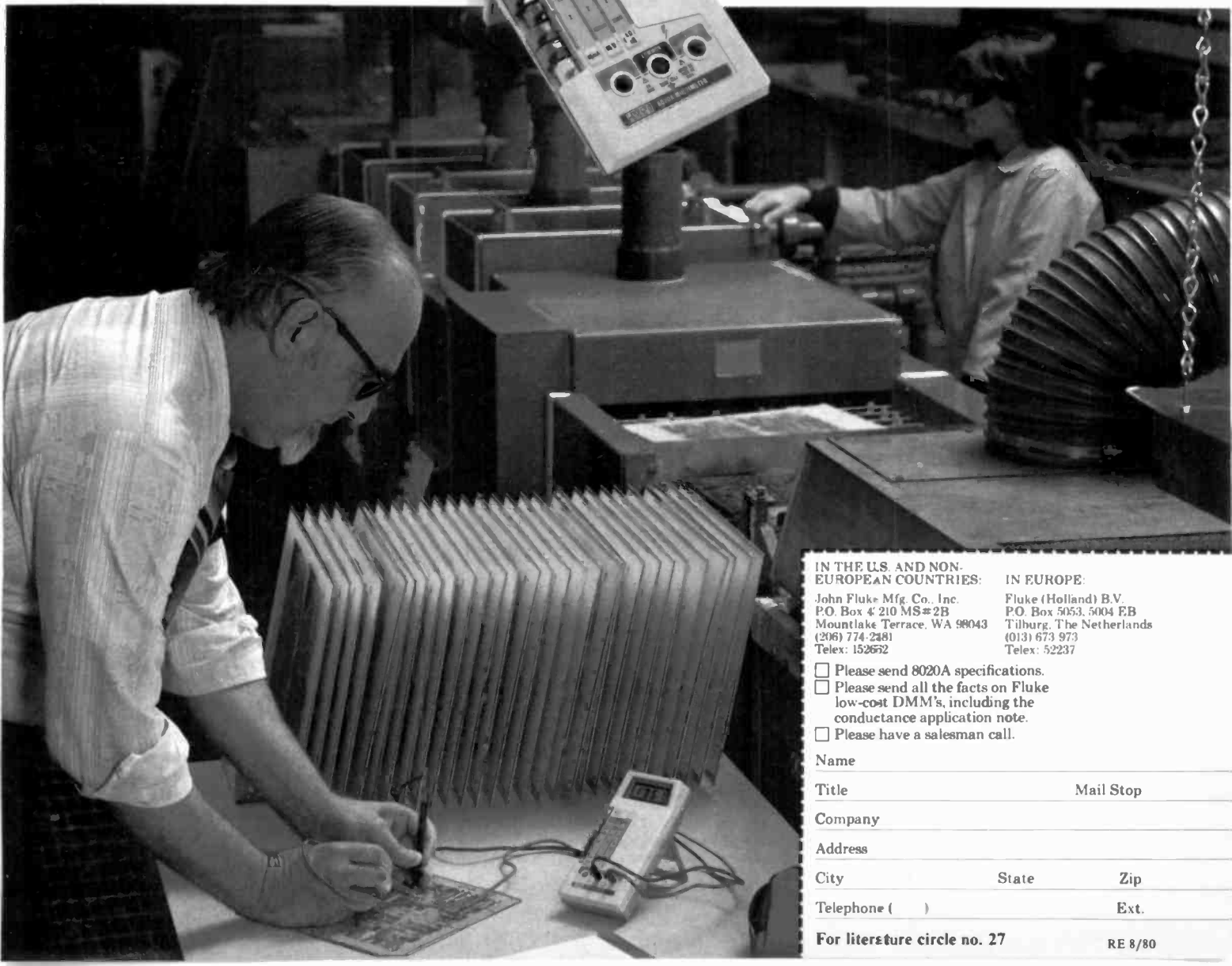
special shielding and using standard test leads.

Here the 8020A is being used to check leakage in a teflon pcb. With a basic dc accuracy of 0.1% and an exclusive two-year warranty, this seven-function handheld DMM has made hundreds of new troubleshooting techniques such as this possible, and more are being discovered every day.

For more details, call toll free 800-423-0361; use the coupon below; or contact your Fluke stocking distributor, sales office or representative.



8020A  
Multimeter



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Tilburg, The Netherlands  
(0131) 673 973  
Telex: 52237

- Please send 8020A specifications.
- Please send all the facts on Fluke low-cost DMM's, including the conductance application note.
- Please have a salesman call.

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Company

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City

State

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For literature circle no. 27

RE 8/80

# what's news

## Microprocessors oversee "Shining House of Dreams"

The Ahwatukee ("Shining House of Dreams" in the Crow language) House was built by Motorola engineers near Phoenix, AZ, to demonstrate microprocessor applications in a home environment. Computers provide up to 100% automatic control of various operations, always over-ridable in such a way that the homeowner always feels in absolute control of all operations.

Lights, for example, are turned on and off by ordinary wall switches. But the switches are not connected to the lamps—they instruct a computer. Thus the homeowner can program given areas to light up automatically at given times or light levels, or even—with the help of the intrusion detector—when someone enters the room.

Environmental control is automatic. Once programmed by the homeowner, various areas are heated or cooled to maintain a desired temperature. The computer selects the cheapest way—opening or closing windows or turning on heaters or coolers—to adjust the temperature, thus saving energy costs.

Intrusion controls (motion detectors) and smoke detectors protect against burglary and fire by alerting the homeowner and sounding alarms or turning on lights. Even the conventional door key and lock is superseded by a pad resembling a calculator keyboard beside the door. When the person outside punches the proper code word, the door opens. The code can be limited to work at certain times only, or on certain days—to allow maintenance personnel to enter, for example.

The homeowner will control the computer with a keyboard that works with an ordinary TV set as a display. Besides control, he can use the system for information storage and display, entering—for example—tax information, savings account data and other material, to be called up when

wanted, or displayed at a given data and time. A daily calendar, with reminders of events for the day, may be displayed.

The present features of the microprocessor home are only a beginning, and others, depending on the homeowner's imagination and—in some cases—on the development of new hardware, are bound to be added.

## Stereo AM broadcasting approved by FCC

On April 10th of this year, the FCC, approved a stereo AM broadcast system. The system presented by the Magnavox Consumer Electronics Co. got the nod over three other competitors. It will be compatible with ordinary AM—that is, present broadcast receivers will pick up the stereo program as a monaural signal, much as a monaural FM receiver can receive an FM stereo program. Special receivers will of course be needed to receive the stereo AM as stereo.

AM stereo will have an advantage in that its range will be greater than that of FM, which is confined to a distance of a few miles from the transmitter. On the other hand, the narrower bandwidth of an AM channel will not permit as high-quality reception as the wide band of FM.

## RCA sees *SelectaVision* highly popular in Europe

The mass market for the *SelectaVision* Video Disc system is at least as great in Europe as it is in the United States, RCA's Executive Vice President Herbert S. Schlosser told the recent Fourth International Video Disc and Videogram Conference in London.

*SelectaVision* is a capacitance system with a grooved disc played with a diamond stylus. The disc revolves at 450 rpm and has up to an hour of programming on each side. It can be attached to any color or black-and-white receiver.

Europeans, Mr. Schlosser pointed out, are much more limited in their opportunities to receive off-the-air TV than are Americans. About half the households in the United States can receive at least nine stations (and with cable, many more). But a TV viewer in London can pick up only three channels. The same is true in Paris or Hamburg. And there is practically no weekday programming in England or France until noon, while Germany has only limited morning programming. The European, therefore, has a greater need for a supplemental form of programming than his American counterpart. With the video disc, consumers can "choose the programs they want, and play them when they want."

The *SelectaVision* system is expected to reach the retail market early 1981, with units going to dealers for demonstration in December 1980. Retail price is expected to be under \$500.

## Dan Noble dies at age 78

Dr. Daniel E. Noble, FM pioneer and early leader in solid-state electronics technology, died February 16 last. He was 78 years old.

Dr. Noble was especially noted for his work in two-way mobile FM radios, having designed and put into operation the first two-way FM system ever used by a State police department, that of Connecticut. Later joining Motorola (in 1940), he was responsible for their commercial FM communications-systems development. After the war, he founded the Motorola research laboratory in Phoenix, AZ. The lab became the Semiconductor Products Division of Motorola.

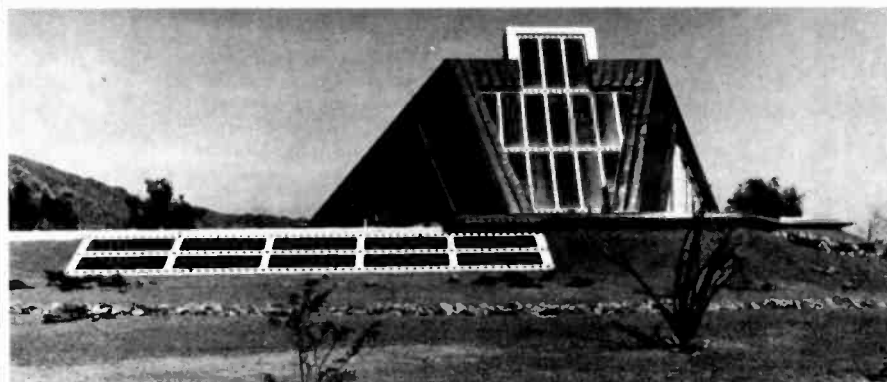
Dr. Noble also had some distinction as an artist. Among his paintings are the January and May covers of the IEEE *Spectrum* magazine.

## Crystal Clear records now available in dbx

Crystal Clear Records of San Francisco and dbx Inc, of Newton, MA, have joined in announcing plans to issue Crystal Clear albums in the dbx Encoded Disc format. The initial offering will include Volumes I and II of *Sonic Fireworks* (a collection of organ, brass and percussion music), *New Directions* by Laurindo Almeida, and *Taj Mahal Live*.

Each album, says the director of dbx's Encoded Disc program, has been expanded to include previously unreleased selections by the artists featured.

The dbx encoding consists of compressing all frequencies 50% in recording, thus doubling the dynamic range of the record. A dbx Decoder (which retails for \$109) expands the record output back to its original volume for playback through stereo equipment.



DESIGNED TO FIT its mountain and desert surroundings, the *House of Dreams*' unique features include solar collectors for heat and hot water supply and high earth banking against both heat and cold. (The Ahwatukee House has other non-electronic unique features. For example, there is not a square room in the house.)

continued on page 13



**BK PRECISION**



**PHILIPS**

**TRIPLETT**

**VIZ**

**LEADER**

**HICKOK**



**Hitachi**

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**Non-Linear Systems**

**KEITHLEY**

**DORIC**

**DATA PRECISION**

**DATA PRECISION Model 938**  
0.1%, 3 1/2-Digit, LCD DIGITAL CAPACITANCE METER



**\$169**

- **WIDE RANGING** — from 199.9 pF full scale (0.1 pF resolution) up to 1999 µF full scale, in eight ranges...virtually every capacitance you'll ever need to measure.
- **FAST AND EASY TO USE** — Direct reading, pushbutton ranges. Just plug in and read.
- **EXCEPTIONALLY ACCURATE** — provides ±0.1% basic accuracy.
- **TOUGH AND COMPACT** — Built to take rough usage without loss of calibration accuracy. Fits and goes anywhere, takes very little bench space, always handy for quick capacitance checkout, matching, calibration, and tracking.
- **PORTABLE** — Palm-sized, light-weight, operates up to approximately 200 hours on a single 9V alkaline battery.
- **EASY READING** — big, clear, high-contrast 3 1/2-digit LCD display, a full 0.5" high, readable anywhere.
- **VALUE PACKED** — Outstanding measurement capability and dependability. Outperforms DC time-constant meters, and even bridges costing 2 to 5 times as much.
- **RELIABLE** — warranted for 2 full years.

**FLUKE DIGITAL MULTIMETERS**

**Model 8022A: The Troubleshooter**

**\$139**

- **Six functions**
  - dc voltage
  - ac voltage
  - dc current
  - ac current
  - resistance
  - diode test
- 3 1/2-digit resolution
- 0.25% basic dc accuracy
- LCD display
- Overload protection

**Model 8020A: The Analyst**

**\$179**

**Model 8024A: The Investigator**

**\$219**



**NEW**

- **Seven functions**
  - dc voltage
  - ac voltage
  - dc current
  - ac current
  - resistance
  - diode test
  - conductance (1/R)
- 3 1/2-digit resolution
- 0.1% basic dc accuracy
- LCD display
- Overload protection
- **Free case**
- Two year parts and labor warranty

- **Nine functions**
  - dc voltage
  - ac voltage
  - dc current
  - ac current
  - resistance
  - diode test
  - conductance (1/R)
  - logic level and continuity detect
  - temperature (K-type thermocouple)
- Peak hold on voltage and current functions
- Selectable audible indicator for continuity or level detection
- 3 1/2-digit resolution
- 0.1% basic dc accuracy
- LCD display
- Overload protection

**KEITHLEY MODEL 130 DIGITAL MULTIMETER**



**NEW \$99**

	RANGE	ACCURACY
<b>DC VOLTAGE</b>	200mV, 2V, 20V, 200V, 1000V	.5%
<b>AC VOLTAGE</b>	200mV, 2V, 20V, 200V, 750V	1%
<b>DC CURRENT</b>	2mA, 20mA, 200mA, 2000mA, 10A	2%
<b>AC CURRENT</b>	2mA, 20mA, 200mA, 2000mA, 10A	3%
<b>RESISTANCE</b>	200Ω, 2kΩ, 20kΩ, 200kΩ, 20MΩ	.5%

**New Portable Digital Capacitance Meter**

**BK PRECISION**

**MODEL 820**



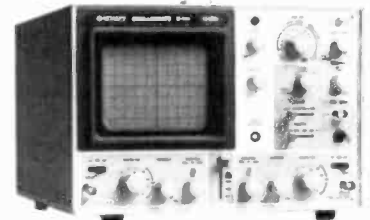
Call For Our Price

- Measures capacitance from 0.1 pF to 1 Farad
- Resolves to 0.1 pF
- 10 ranges for accuracy and resolution
- 4 digit easy-to-read LED display
- 0.5% accuracy
- Special lead insertion jacks or banana jacks
- Fuse protected
- Uses either rechargeable or disposable batteries
- Overrange indication

**HITACHI**

- V-151 15 MHz Single Trace
- V-152 15 MHz Dual Trace
- V-301 30 MHz Single Trace
- V-302 30 MHz Dual Trace
- V-550B 50 MHz Dual Trace, Dual Time Base

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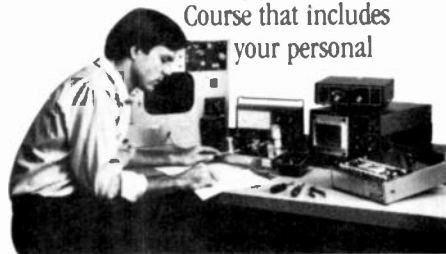
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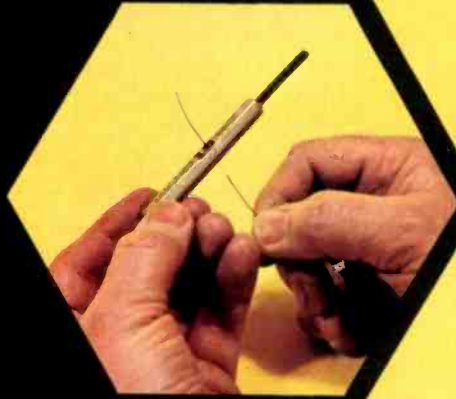
WSU-30M makes a "modified" style of wrap, in which approximately 1 1/4 turns of insulated wire are wrapped in addition to the bare wire for purposes of added mechanical stability. Designed for the serious amateur, the WSU-30M features compact, all metal construction for years of dependable service. This unique tool is remarkable value performing the work of three separate tools at a fraction of the cost.



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# what's news

continued from page 6

## Radios will be optional on American Volkswagen cars

Volkswagen of America (VWOA) has changed its policy of supplying radios as standard equipment on more than 80% of the cars sold by it in the United States, reports the Custom Automotive Sound Association, which sponsored an antitrust suit against Volkswagen some months ago. With the announcement of Volkswagen's new policy, the suit has been dropped.

Radios may still be offered as standard equipment on the Volkswagen Sirocco, the Camper/Combi, Cabriolet, Jetta, and on the Audi 5000's and the 5000 Turbo. On other models, radios, and related sound equipment will be offered to the dealers as options.

## Sony Corp of America cleared in antitrust case

A jury in the Federal District Court, Providence, RI, not only cleared Sony of antitrust charges leveled against it by a former distributor, but assessed damages against the complainant.

Lavine Distributors, Inc., of Providence, claimed that it had been illegally terminated in 1976, and that Sony had engaged in an illegal combination and conspiracy to maintain resale prices of Sony brand products. They sought \$4.1 million in damages.

The 6-member jury found in Sony's favor, and further determined that Lavine had engaged in a warranty fraud scheme. They awarded Sony \$21,000 on its counterclaim.

## New programmable pacemaker adapts to patient changes

A new family of computerized, programmable heart pacemakers was introduced at the 29th annual scientific session of the American College of Cardiology by Medtronic, Inc., Minneapolis manufacturer of heart pacemakers and related equipment.

The new pacemaker, *Spectrax*, is not only extremely small and light (10 mm thick, weight 45 grams) but contains a computer chip that permits a physician to change the instrument's functions to meet changing medical conditions throughout a patient's lifetime. In the past, that required another operation and installation of a new and different pacemaker.

An external programmer generates a burst of radio-frequency energy that can tell the implanted pacemaker to change the patient's heart rate, the strength or length of the electrical stimulus, and a variety of other vital pacemaker functions. The chip inside the pacemaker that makes those changes carries codes and information that can cause the instrument to perform almost a million different combinations of functions. Yet the tiny size of the chip and its supporting electronics combines with the small, lithium-iodide batteries to make

the *Spectrax* one of the smallest pacemakers available. The life expectancy of the lithium-iodide batteries is 8 to 10 years.



THE MEDTRONIC PACEMAKER programmer and two of the small *Spectrax-SX* pacemakers

Many adults have experienced changed conditions that demanded surgical removal of their pacemakers and replacement with ones matched to the new conditions. But children who need a pacemaker will find the programmable instrument particularly valuable. A young child's heartbeat is faster than that of an adult, and slows down as the child grows. In the past, children have required repeated operations to install new pacemakers. The new instrument is easily adjusted to the decreasing rate through childhood and adolescence—in fact is sold with a lifetime guarantee. (If a new implant is required, the pacemaker is supplied free of charge.)

Medtronics hopes to maintain that guarantee through design elements that have been proved in previous pacemaker models, the long-life power cells, simplified mechanical design, and laser welding of the outer metal covering.

## Two-way cable television to affect U.S. policies?

Experiments with audience talk-back cable-TV shows indicates that government agencies may be very receptive to opinions voiced (or rather voted) by viewers of a TV show. A recent presentation by QUBE, the Warner-Amex interactive cable system, at Columbus, OH, featured Dr. Jere Goyan, Commissioner of the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA).

The point at issue was a controversy between the FDA and the drug manufacturers and pharmacists. The FDA proposes that prescriptions be accompanied by a slip or brochure giving information about

the drugs contained in it. Dr. Goyan held that in view of the widespread and increasing use of prescription drugs, information about "possible side-effects or long-term hazards, and precautions about taking the drug" is vital. He pointed out that in 1979 tranquilizer misuse alone caused 1,500 deaths.

The manufacturers and pharmacists hold that supplying such information would increase the cost of a prescription 30 cents. The FDA sets the increase at 6 cents.

At the end of the show, viewers were asked if they would be willing to pay 30 cents more for the information. The "yes" votes were 69% via QUBE; 31% said "no." The second question, put to those who had voted "no" on the first, was: "Would you be willing to pay 10 cents (the FDA's maximum estimate) per prescription? Again the answers were 69% "yes," 31% "no."

At the end of the polling, Dr. Goyan stated that the FDA would "weigh carefully" the subscriber responses, and reported that after a similar show in 1979—on food labelling—the FDA had put forward a plan "to accomplish most of the things QUBE viewers had requested," especially in the area of including more percentages of contents and more nutrition information on food labels.

## TV sales down, VTR's up in 1980's first quarter

Sales to retailers of color TV's were 2,297,056 receivers in the first 13 weeks of 1980, down 2.7% from the 2,360,170 units sold in the first quarter of 1979, the EIA reports. Black-and-white TV sales in the first quarter of 1980 were 1,272,703 units, a decrease of 11% from the 1,429,872 sold in the same period last year.

Videotape recorder sales in the first quarter of 1980 were 158,124 units, up 59.2% over the 99,346 units sold during the same period in 1979. Much or all of the increase, of course, may be due to the greater availability of videotape recorders this year.

## Electronic telephone book planned for French phones

The French Department of Posts, Telecommunications and Telegraphs (P.T.T.) expects to try an experimental electronic telephone book by the end of 1981. About a quarter of a million subscribers in Normandy will get a small-screen terminal with a keyboard attached to their phones. Upon tapping out the area code and the name of the desired contact, the phone number will appear on the screen. The small-screen device may later provide restaurant information and a wake-up service, and automatically transfer telephone calls.

If the terminals can be produced for about \$100, it will be cheaper than replacing telephone books regularly. R-E

## Cable TV & Ma Bell When will we ever learn

Human beings are supposed to be able to learn from their mistakes ... but sometimes it sure seems as if we don't. Cable television and the Telephone Company form a case in point.

Effective June 7, 1980 it became legal in New York State for Ma Bell customers to connect their own extensions, do their own wiring, etc. In other words, the phone company brings its line into the house and the customer can then do the rest. This has happened only after many years of dispute, argument, court battles, and payment of millions of dollars to Ma Bell by customers who could have taken advantage of a less costly alternative. By the way, guess who paid for Ma Bell's legal costs in trying to prevent customer control.

Finally we have learned that it is less costly for telephone users, you and me, (and believe it or not, Ma Bell as well) to permit us to buy and hook up our own phones. We even have the option of buying our phone from Ma Bell.

We are told that cable television is different. Here the cable company must come in and hook up the set. It must provide the wiring, the adapters, the converters and all the rest of the required equipment. Here you must pay for each extension each month, and you cannot buy your own equipment.

How long does it take to learn a lesson? Why is it so hard to do it right from the beginning? There are 15 million families in the United States already signed up for cable TV, and that number grows every day.

Why can't we, right now, in the early days, decide to do it the way Ma Bell learned? Let the cable company provide only the cable. Since the FCC requires it, let the cable company terminate that line and hook up the first set. But qualified people should then be permitted to do the additional hookups. That means local TV service technicians, and other readers of **Radio-Electronics**. It is already law in one state, Rhode Island. It works in Canada. It should be a national law now. The equipment needed should have a purchase option attached to it just like the one the phone company provides.

Cable companies are going to give us many reasons why it won't work. If I had \$225 million dollars a month at stake, I could find a bunch of reasons why it couldn't work, too (\$225 million is the estimated monthly billing of cable-TV companies in the U.S.—and that's a very conservative estimate). But let's think of the public good for once, and early enough to do the public some good.

If you agree I'd like to receive your comments and recommend that you pass them on to your legislator. If you disagree, let me know too. We'd like to present your viewpoint to our readers. Discussion now might save a lot of dollars tomorrow.



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# satellite tv news

## A summer-full of sports and politics

This summer's agenda of satellite-transmitted programming will be heavily augmented by a variety of new offerings—starting with a hefty dose of political coverage. Every major news organization will be in Detroit to cover the Republican convention; and what with the commercial TV networks, independent news gatherers, and local stations beaming reports via satellite we're likely to have non-stop coverage of the floor proceedings. The Democratic convention in New York may offer slimmer pickings, since the TV network coverage will be carried via cable locally within Manhattan to the networks operations centers.

In the sports area, there will be more baseball broadcasts via satellite, including a new Thursday-night series transmitted via RCA Satcom I Transponder 9 by UA-Columbia Satellite Services. And ESPN is stepping up its sports coverage by moving into ever-more-arcane areas; one of ESPN's latest contracts is with the United States Table Tennis Association. During the coming year, the all-sports channel (on Satcom I Transponder 7) will carry at least 52 table-tennis events of 90 minutes each. Meanwhile, the familiar sources of satellite programming are also beefing up their offerings. Showtime has expanded its offerings to 14 hours per day, signing on at 1:30 p.m. on most afternoons. The company has committed \$14 million to new programming, so you'll be seeing a lot more made-for-pay TV shows on the Showtime transponders as well as on Home Box Office.

## Second cable TV network now operating

The second cable TV network—a collection of about 15 program services aboard 11 transponders on Comstar D2—is now beaming its variety of shows, supplementing the primary cable network that is carried via RCA's Satcom I. Although there was the possibility of some minor rearrangements in transponder assignments aboard Comstar D2 (that is parked in orbit at 95° west longitude), here's the basic line-up with "V" standing for vertical polarization and "H" for horizontal polarization: 5V *ESPN*; 6V *Rainbow Communications* (for Prime Time Network, a program service designed for older Americans); 7V *Satellite Program Network* and other services; 8V *Showtime*; 9V and 9H *Home Box Office* (possibly for several new services HBO and its cousins in the Time Inc. family have planned); 10V *Satellite Communications Network*; 10H *Spanish International Network* (for its *GalaVision* Spanish-language pay TV channel); 11H *Warner Amex Satellite Entertainment*; 12V *United Video* (for Times Mirror Cable's programming to various cable TV systems); 12H *National Christian Network*.

Although there was originally a great deal of skepticism about the success of the second cable network, a number of recent developments seem to assure that it will be a success. The presence of such major program suppliers, and Warner-Amex Satellite Entertainment and HBO, will mean strong programming on the bird. In addition, a consortium of programmers who are putting their shows on Comstar D2 have banded together to buy earth stations that will be given away free to the nation's largest cable-TV systems. That will assure an audience for cable-TV systems that might otherwise have waited to install a second dish.

## Getty-ing ready for Premier's premiere

If Getty Oil Company and four major Hollywood studios have their way, yet another all-movie pay TV service will be

traveling via satellite soon after January 1. Getcom, a communications subsidiary of the giant oil company, and Columbia Pictures, Paramount Pictures, 20th Century-Fox, and Universal Studios have proposed to launch a new pay-TV service called *Premiere* that will show new movies before the films are released to Home Box Office or other pay-TV services. Some complicated arrangements are involved in the preliminary plans, including the use of Transponder 21 (the SPN transponder) on Satcom I for the West Coast feeds and use of Comstar D2 Transponder 5V for the East Coast prime-time evening transmissions. (The Comstar transponder was originally intended for ESPN, the all-sports network that, coincidentally, is 85% owned by Getty Oil; ESPN has another transponder aboard Satcom I.)

Complete plans for *Premiere* will be released later this year; and it could face a rocky legal road—since many of the current pay-TV companies have threatened to file an antitrust suit against the studios for alleged monopoly practices. *Premiere* will probably carry about 150 movies per year.

## Lights, camera, satellite

Filmmaker Francis Coppola (director of *The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now* and other hits) predicts "all films will be made electronically within five years" and that studios and remote locations will be linked via satellite to cut spiraling production costs. The innovative director, who has just bought a Hollywood lot with sound-stages and all production facilities, told a Los Angeles reporter "there is no reason studios can't be connected by satellites, sharing images and sound around the world."

Dependence on satellites will also include distribution to theaters to reduce print costs, Coppola predicted. He plans to earmark 50% of his Zoetrope Studios' profits for research and development, with heavy emphasis being placed on new electronic technology.

## Around the satellite circuit

Sears has dropped out of the plan for a partnership with Comsat General to develop a direct-to-home satellite broadcasting service. The original idea called for Sears to handle the installation of small earth terminals that would be placed at customers' homes once the service started—which was presumably several years away. Now Comsat is looking for another partner in the venture, possibly one of the other large national retail chains with a big TV service/installation department.

There's more teleconferencing aboard the various satellites—mostly private meetings of industry associations and companies. The idea is spurred by the continuing energy crisis and inflation, which makes it very costly for companies to send executives around the country for meetings. So, instead, company officials meet at local sites and are interconnected via satellite hookups. Among the most recent companies to get into the business is Holiday Inns; they have established a subsidiary called HI-Net. HI-Net actually coordinates the programming from Home Box Office and other entertainment services that are beamed into motels around the country newly equipped with rooftop antennas. But during daytime hours, HI-Net is using the same transponder for private meetings between customers gathered at various Holiday Inns nationwide. Many other private organizations and government agencies are also stepping up their use of satellites for such teleconferences.

GARY H. ARLEN



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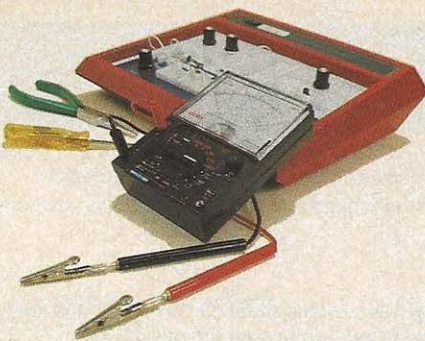
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SFG-1 Complete Set \$16.00

SFG-2 Plans only \$1.50

GARY McCLELLAN  
La Habra, Ca

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It was gratifying to see Bob Cooper recommend the Motorola wideband amplifier for a 70MHz IF strip in his article, "Backyard Satellite TV Receiver" (April 1980). Unfortunately, the device title was quoted as AWT-120; it should have read MWA-120.

The MWA-120 is one of a family of nine thin-film hybrid amplifiers in TO-39 packages. The MWA series have three frequency ranges: 0.1-400 MHz, 0.1-600 MHz, and 0.1-1.0 GHz. Each frequency range has three types of single-stage Class-A amplifiers biased at 10, 25 and 60 mA. The input

and output impedance is 50 Ohms and the amplifiers are unconditionally stable.

Should your readers require a data sheet of the MWA-120, or any other hybrid amplifier in the series, they should call the Motorola Literature Distribution Center at (602) 994-6561.

ALAN WAGSTAFFE,  
Motorola Semiconductor Group,  
Phoenix, AZ

## TRIGGERED OSCILLOSCOPE

I would like to call attention to an error in figure 4 of the Triggered Oscilloscope (April 1980 issue.) A 10- $\mu$ F capacitor (C306) should be connected from the cathode (bottom) of D303 to ground, with the positive end to the diode. Also the polarity mark on C319 is reversed.

For your readers who would like to duplicate the instrument, I can supply the four boards etched and drilled, along with a graticule for 3" CRT for \$15.00 at the following address:

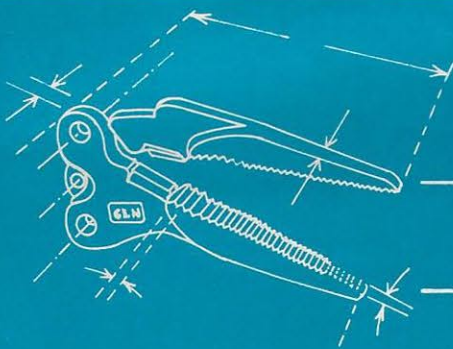
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## TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Telephone-construction projects, such as the music-on-hold telephone accessory, and telephone convenience items like automatic telephone dialers (both in the November 1979 issue) are becoming very popular. Part 68 of the FCC Rules addresses "network harm," but fails to outline necessary terminal device "characteristics." The result is that most of those devices will work in most circumstances—but not universally.

A few suggestions are offered for the authors and hobbyists. Telephone systems vary. While most modern systems maintain a constant battery potential, some older systems reverse that polarity to the caller during conversations. A diode bridge can be added if needed. 1200 ohms will hold the line in most cases, but that resistance may be too high. A telephone is nominally 200 ohms ( $\pm 50$  percent or more). The hold circuit should be slightly higher in resistance than the telephone, so that it will release when the telephone is lifted. A hold value of 400 ohms gives much more assur-

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# letters

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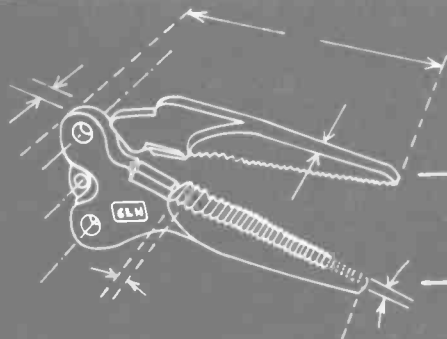
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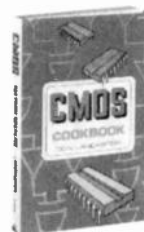
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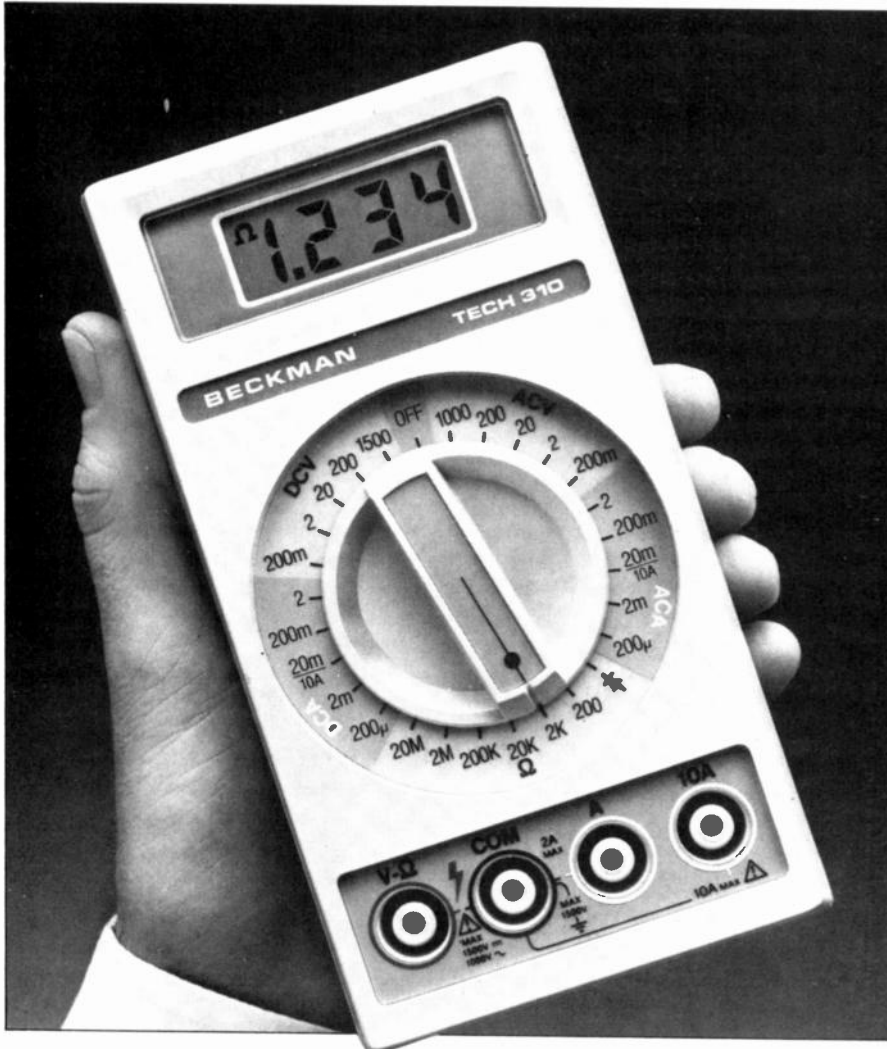
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## BECKMAN

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### LETTERS

*continued from page 22*

ance of holding the telephone system than 1200 ohms. (I don't know what effect the lower resistance would have on the hold circuit published.)

Upon reading the article, I made a simple test. My telephone system measured 50 volts open circuit and 40 mA short-circuited. That computes to 1250 ohms resistance. With an additional 1250-ohm hold circuit, the current would be about 20 mA. There is no voltage polarity reversal. The published circuit should work in that case.

The telephone system generally supplies 50 volts through a resistive and inductive network and through wires (resistance) into the home. The R-L network is usually a relay coil—often 400 ohms. The relay pull-in current is generally 20 mA or greater. The hold current may range from 10 mA to near the pull-in current, depending on the relay (or electronics) characteristics. A simple drop-out test can be made with a variable resistance and an mA meter.

One final note: Sometimes modern ancillary electronic devices are used in telephone systems that have non-standard characteristics. There is a high probability that the music-on-hold would not work (as published) with such ancillary devices.  
NAME WITHHELD

### ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

My experience has shown that government bureaucrats and politicians are too involved with their own problems to consider suggestions and improvements that are not funded or credited to a government agency.

For several years now, I have researched many ancient manuscripts and have concluded that many secrets of energy have been known for thousands of years.

Your editorial in the November 1979 issue made reference to the discovery of chlorophyll as an additive in a solar cell by the University of Tokyo's Department of Synthetic Chemistry. I suggest that a close examination of the ATP (Adenosine Tri Phosphate) molecule would reveal some startling things, and, furthermore, since chlorophyll increases the efficiency of the solar cell by 30%, I'm convinced that the addition of phosphate to the solar cell would not only extend that efficiency 30 to 50% but also the length of its usefulness. In other words, since the phosphate molecule is charged, it is kept in an unstable state long after the sun goes down.

Because the phosphate and sugar function as a complementary energy generator and transporter, it is my serious conviction that phosphate and sugar are very necessary as the electron collector in the solar cell, but a sugar-phosphate battery may be the answer to an efficient energy cell.

The ATP molecule is the secret to our life's energy and the chlorophyll triphosphate (CTP) cell may be the answer to solar energy; the phosphate battery may be the storage cell of the future.

For what it's worth, I wish to share this information with anyone interested enough to read it, and perhaps some reader will be able to develop it as a future energy source.

RALPH GARNER,  
New York, NY

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Starting at just \$129.95 for a Level "A" operating system, you can now build the exact computer you want. Explorer/85 can be your beginner's system, OEM controller, or IBM-formatted 8" disk small business system...yet you're never forced to spend a penny for a component or feature you don't want and you can expand in small, affordable steps!

Now, for just \$129.95, you can own the first level of a fully expandable computer with professional capabilities—a computer which features the advanced Intel 8085 cpu, thereby giving you immediate access to all software and development tools that exist for both the 8085 and its 8080A predecessor (they are 100% software compatible)—a computer which features onboard S-100 bus expansion—plus instant conversion to mass storage disk memory with either 5-1/4" diskettes or standard IBM-formatted 8" disks.

For just \$129.95 (plus the cost of a power supply, keyboard/terminal and RF modulator, if you don't have them already), Explorer/85 lets you begin computing on a significant level...applying the principles discussed in leading computer magazines...developing "state of the art" computer solutions for both the industrial and leisure environment.

## Level "A" Specifications

Explorer/85's Level "A" system features the advanced Intel 8085 cpu, an 8355 ROM with 2k deluxe monitor/operating system, and an 8155 ROM-I/O—all on a single motherboard with room for RAM/ROM/PROM/EPROM and S-100 expansion, plus generous prototyping space.

(Level "A" makes a perfect OEM controller for industrial applications and is available in a special Hex Version which can be programmed using the Netronics Hex Keypad/Display.)

PC Board: glass epoxy, plated through holes with solder mask • I/O: provisions for 25-pin (DB25) connector for terminal serial I/O, which can also support a paper tape reader...provision for 24-pin DIP socket for hex keypad/display...cassette tape recorder input...cassette tape control output...speaker output...LED output indicator on SOD (serial output) line...printer interface (less drivers)...total of four 8-bit plus one 6-bit I/O ports • Crystal Frequency: 6.144 MHz • Control Switches: reset and user (RST 7.5) interrupt...additional provisions for RST 5.5, 6.5 and TRAP interrupts onboard • Counter/Timer: programmable, 14-bit binary • System RAM: 256 bytes located at F800, ideal for smaller systems and for use as an isolated stack area in expanded systems...RAM expandable to 64k via S-100 bus or 4K on motherboard.

System Monitor (Terminal Version): 2k bytes of deluxe system monitor ROM located at F000 leaving 0000 free for user RAM/ROM. Features include tape load with labeling...tape dump with labeling...examine/change contents of memory...insert data...warm start...examine and change all registers...single step with register display at each break point, a debugging/tracing feature...go to execution address...fill blocks of memory from one location to another...fill blocks of memory with a constant...display blocks of memory...automatic baud rate selection...variable display line length control (1-255 characters/line)...channelized I/O monitor routine with 8-bit parallel output for high speed printer...serial console in and console out channel so that monitor can communicate with I/O ports.

System Monitor (Hex Version): Tape load with labeling...tape dump with labeling...examine/change contents of memory...insert data...warm start...examine and change all registers...single step with register display at each break point...go to execution address...fill blocks of memory from one location to another...fill blocks of memory with a constant...display blocks of memory...automatic baud rate selection...variable display line length control (1-255 characters/line)...channelized I/O monitor routine with 8-bit parallel output for high speed printer...serial console in and console out channel so that monitor can communicate with I/O ports.

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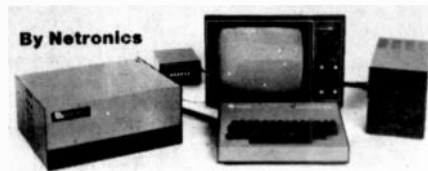
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registers...single step with register display at each break point...go to execution address. Level "A" in the Hex Version makes a perfect controller for industrial applications and can be programmed using the Netronics Hex Keypad/Display.



Hex Keypad/Display.

## Level "B" Specifications

Level "B" provides the S-100 signals plus buffers/drivers to support up to six S-100 bus boards and includes: address decoding for onboard 4k RAM expansion select-able in 4k blocks...address decoding for onboard 8k EPROM expansion select-able in 8k blocks...address and data bus drivers for onboard expansion...wait state generator (jumper select-able), to allow the use of slower memories...two separate 5 volt regulators.



Explorer/85 with Level "C" card cage.

Level "C" includes a sheet metal superstructure, a 5-card gold plated S-100 extension PC board which plugs into the motherboard. Just add required number of S-100 connectors.

## Level "D" Specifications

Level "D" provides 4k or RAM, power supply regulation, filtering decoupling components and sockets to expand your Explorer/85 memory to 4k (plus the original 256 bytes located in the 8155A). The static RAM can be located anywhere from 0000 to EFFF in 4k blocks.

## Level "E" Specifications

Level "E" adds sockets for 8k of EPROM to use the popular Intel 2716 or the TI 2516. It includes all sockets, power supply regulator, heat sink, filtering and decoupling components. Sockets may also be used for soon to be available RAM IC's (allowing for up to 12k of onboard RAM).

## Order A Coordinated Explorer/85 Applications Pak!

Experimenter's Pak (SAVE \$12.50)—Buy Level "A" and Hex Keypad/Display for \$199.90 and get FREE Intel 8085 user's manual plus FREE postage & handling!

Student Pak (SAVE \$24.45)—Buy Level "A," ASCII Keyboard/Computer Terminal, and Power Supply for \$319.85 and get FREE RF Modulator plus FREE Intel 8085 user's manual plus FREE postage & handling!

Engineering Pak (SAVE \$41.00)—Buy Levels "A," "B," "C," "D," and "E" with Power Supply, ASCII Keyboard/Computer Terminal, and six S-100 Bus Connectors for \$514.75 and get 10 FREE computer grade cassette tapes plus FREE 8085 user's manual plus FREE postage & handling!

Business Pak (SAVE \$89.95)—Buy Explorer/85 Levels "A," "B," and "C" (with cabinet), Power Supply, ASCII Keyboard/Computer Terminal (with cabinet), 16k RAM, 12" Video Monitor, North Star 5-1/4" Disk Drive (includes North Star BASIC) with power supply and cabinet, all for just \$1599.40 and get 10 FREE 5-1/4" 5.25 diskettes (\$49.95 value) plus FREE 8085 user's manual plus FREE postage & handling!

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333 Litchfield Road, New Milford, CT 06776

- Please send the items checked below—
- Explorer/85 Level "A" Kit (ASCII Version), \$129.95 plus \$3 p&h.
  - Explorer/85 Level "A" Kit (Hex Version), \$129.95 plus \$3 p&h.
  - 8k Microsoft BASIC on cassette tape, \$64.95 postpaid.
  - 8k Microsoft BASIC in ROM Kit (requires Levels "B," "D," and "E"), \$99.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - Level "B" (S-100) Kit, \$49.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - Level "C" (S-100 6-card expander) Kit, \$39.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - Level "D" (4k RAM) Kit, \$69.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - Level "E" (EPROM/ROM) Kit, \$5.95 plus 50¢ p&h.
  - Deluxe Steel Cabinet for Explorer/85, \$49.95 plus \$3 p&h.
  - ASCII Keyboard/Computer Terminal Kit (features a full 128 character set, upper & lower case, full cursor control, 75 ohm video output convertible to baudot output, selectable baud rate, RS232-C or 20 ma. I/O, 32 or 64 character by 16 line formats, and can be used with either a CRT monitor or a TV set (if you have an RF modulator), \$149.95 plus \$2.50 p&h.
  - Hex Keypad/Display Kit, \$69.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - Deluxe Steel Cabinet for ASCII Keyboard/Terminal, \$19.95 plus \$2.50 p&h.
  - Power Supply Kit (± 8V @ 5 amps) in deluxe steel cabinet, \$39.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - Gold Plated S-100 Bus Connectors, \$4.85 each, postpaid.
  - RF Modulator Kit (allows you to use your TV set as a monitor), \$8.95 postpaid.
  - 16k RAM Kit (S-100 Board expands to 64k), \$199.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - 32k RAM Kit, \$329.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - 48k RAM Kit, \$459.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - 64k RAM Kit, \$589.95 plus \$2 p&h.
  - 16k RAM Expansion Kit (to expand any of the above up to 64k), \$139.95 plus \$2 p&h each.
  - Intel 8085 cpu User's Manual, \$7.50 postpaid.
  - Special Computer Grade Cassette Tapes, \$1.90 each or 3 for \$5, postpaid.
  - 12" Video Monitor (10 MHz bandwidth), \$139.95 plus \$5 p&h.
  - North Star Double Density Floppy Disk Kit (One Drive) for Explorer/85 (includes 3 drive S-100 controller, DOS, and extended BASIC with per-

CIRCLE 55 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

By Netronics

ASCII/BAUDOT, STAND ALONE



**Computer Terminal** COMPLETE FOR ONLY \$149.95

The Netronics ASCII/BAUDOT Computer Terminal Kit is a microprocessor-controlled, stand alone keyboard/terminal requiring no computer memory or software. It allows the use of either a 64 or 32 character by 16 line professional display format with selectable baud rate, RS232-C or 20 ma. output, full cursor control and 75 ohm composite video output.

The keyboard follows the standard typewriter configuration and generates the entire 128 character ASCII upper/lower case set with 96 printable characters. Features include onboard regulators, selectable parity, shift lock key, alpha lock jumper, a drive capability of one TTY load, and the ability to mate directly with almost any computer, including the new Explorer/85 and ELF products by Netronics.

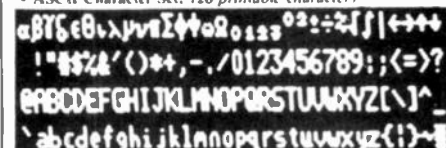
The Computer Terminal requires no I/O mapping and includes 1k of memory, character generator, 2 key rollover, processor controlled cursor control, parallel ASCII/BAUDOT to serial conversion and serial to video processing—fully crystal controlled for superb accuracy. PC boards are the highest quality glass epoxy for the ultimate in reliability and long life.

## VIDEO DISPLAY SPECIFICATIONS

The heart of the Netronics Computer Terminal is the microprocessor-controlled Netronics Video Display Board (VID) which allows the terminal to utilize either a parallel ASCII or BAUDOT signal source. The VID converts the parallel data to serial data which is then formatted to either RS232-C or 20 ma. current loop output, which can be connected to the serial I/O on your computer or other interface, i.e., Modem.

When connected to a computer, the computer must echo the character received. This data is received by the VID which processes the information, converting to data to video suitable to be displayed on a TV set (using an RF modulator) or on a video monitor. The VID generates the cursor, horizontal and vertical sync pulses and performs the housekeeping relative to which character and where it is to be displayed on the screen.

Video Output: 1.5 P/P into 75 ohm (EIA RS-170) • Baud Rate: 110 and 300 ASCII • Outputs: RS232-C or 20 ma. current loop • ASCII Character Set: 128 printable characters—



BAUDOT Character Set: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z . ? \* 3 3 8 ( ) , . 9 0 1 4 5 7 2 1 6 8 • Cursor Modes: Home, Backspace, Horizontal Tab, Line Feed, Vertical Tab, Carriage Return, Two special cursor sequences are provided for absolute and relative X-Y cursor addressing • Cursor Control: Erase, End of Line, Erase of Screen, Form Feed, Delete • Monitor Operation: 50 or 60Hz (jumper selectable).

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- Please send the items checked below—
- Netronics Stand Alone ASCII Keyboard/Computer Terminal Kit, \$149.95 plus \$3.00 postage & handling.
  - Deluxe Steel Cabinet for Netronics Keyboard/Terminal In Blue/Black Finish, \$19.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.
  - Video Display Board Kit alone (less keyboard), \$89.95 plus \$3 postage & handling.
  - 12" Video Monitor (10 MHz bandwidth) fully assembled and tested, \$139.95 plus \$5 postage and handling.
  - RF Modulator Kit (to use your TV set for a monitor), \$8.95 postpaid.
  - 5 amp Power Supply Kit In Deluxe Steel Cabinet (± 8VDC @ 5 amps, plus 6-8 VAC), \$39.95 plus \$2 postage & handling.
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- Send Me More Information



# equipment reports

## Leader LSG-16 RF Signal Generator



CIRCLE 101 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

WHEN WE UNPACKED THE NEW LSG-16 SIGNAL generator from Leader Electronics Corporation (151 Dupont St., Plainview, NY 11803), we discovered one of the smallest instruments of this type we had ever seen. It measures less than 10 inches wide, 6 inches high, and 5 inches deep and is obviously suitable for small work areas. Enclosed by a rugged steel cabinet, the generator weighs 5½ pounds. Its finish is gray with brushed aluminum.

The design of the LSG-16 is very straightforward—no bells or whistles—and operation is simple.

Two features incorporated in the LSG-16 are not usually found on low-cost equipment: A switchable line-voltage provision (120/240 VAC), and a crystal test socket. Type FT-243 crystals from 1-15 MHz (fundamental) may be inserted and tested for activity, or used as crystal-controlled markers. Perhaps it would have been better if they had used or added a socket for the more recent HC-18/U-type overtone crystals, but an adaptor for these can be easily fashioned.

The socket is a nice feature for test situations where CB or amateur crystals must be checked for condition and frequency, or when an accurate frequency standard is needed during a critical alignment procedure.

Most remarkable of all is the frequency stability of the generator. A FET oscillator is used and warmup time is negligible. As soon as we switched on the LSG-16, we zero-beat the output with the signal from a local broadcast station. No drift was observed. Even rapping the cabinet resulted in no shift in frequency. Crediting this stability to the low frequency we

were monitoring (1200 kHz), we switched to the highest range of the instrument. An FM broadcast station was selected, and again the instrument was zero-beat against it. Still no drift! Equally remarkable was the accuracy of the dial readings. Specifications indicate a tolerance of  $\pm 1.5\%$ . In practice, measurements were well within these limits.

The RF generator is tunable from 100 kHz to 100 MHz on fundamental frequencies; usable through 300 MHz on harmonics. The RF output level is adjustable, with 100 millivolts available up to about 35 MHz. Commonly used IF frequencies (455 kHz, 4.5 MHz, and 10.7 MHz) are prominently marked. A slide switch selects between high level ( $\times 10$ ) and low level output, with a potentiometer included to fine-tune the level.

An internal modulator is also provided. It operates at 1 kHz with approximately 30% modulation. External modulation may also be injected. The unit will accept any audio frequency input from 50 Hz to 20 kHz at levels up to 1 volt. A fixed audio output is also available: 1 kHz at 1 volt (maximum).

Although the instrument is compact, the  
*continued on page 32*

## MRO solid state problems?

# 1,100 RCA SK Series +3,000 JEDEC\* Devices

## 4,100 MRO Solutions

For full details, see your local RCA SK Distributor, or send for free copy of RCA MRO/Industrial Replacement Guide (1K6386). Write to: Sales Promotion Services, RCA Distributor and Special Products Division, P.O. Box 100, Deptford, N.J. 08096.

\*Joint Electron Device Engineering Council

# RCA SK Replacement Solid State



## Teach yourself the latest in electronics: from the fundamentals to microprocessors

Waiting for you in the new Heathkit Catalog is an exciting world of educational self-study programs, that can take you from fundamental electronics through microprocessor interfacing and computer programming.

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Whether you're an old hand at electronics, just beginning or perhaps interested in learning about computer operation and programming, Heath/Zenith Educational Systems has the course for you.

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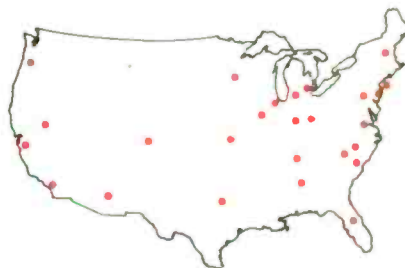
Self-Instruction Courses from Heath/Zenith Educational Systems are the effective, low-cost way to learn tomorrow's technology today:

Effective because each Heath/Zenith course is uncompromisingly developed for applied, useful learning. First, you read clear, concise text material. Then, you see each concept in large, easy-to-understand visuals. Finally, you get hands-on experience by performing experiments.

Low-cost because everything you need is included with each course. For example, electronic parts are included with each Electronic Fundamentals course, to make experimenting easier. And trainers, cassettes, slides and filmstrips are available for many courses, to enhance your learning experience.

Turn to pages 69-80 of the latest Heathkit Catalog for the full story on Heath/Zenith Educational courses.

If you don't already have a Heathkit Catalog, send for your copy today — at one of the addresses listed below. Or pick up your copy at the nearest Heathkit Electronic Center\* in the U.S. and Canada, where Heath/Zenith Educational Courses are sold.



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(\*See the white pages of your phone book for the location nearest you. In the U.S., Heathkit Electronic Centers are units of Veritechnology Electronics Corporation.)

ED-139

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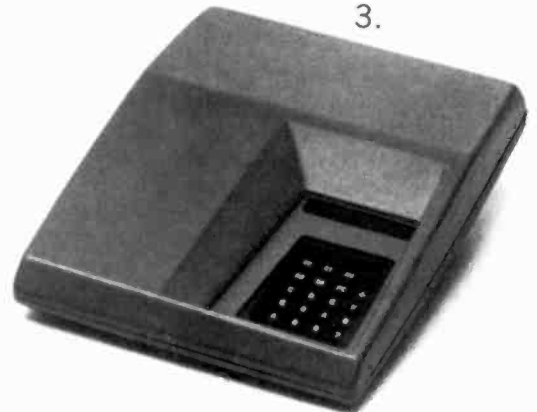


1.



2.

3.





2-Meter FM Transceiver

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Now, for the first time, you can learn all about microcomputers by working with your own production model at home. We'll explain the principles of troubleshooting and testing this remarkable instrument and, best of all, we'll show you how to program it to do what you want.

It's the perfect opportunity for you to learn BASIC high level language programming *and* assembly language programming.

Then, to learn how to localize microcomputer problems and solve them, you'll experiment and test with a digital multimeter and other testing gear.

But most important, you get to assemble and work with today's most sophisticated microcomputers, not home-made training devices. We believe this makes learning a lot more relevant and exciting.

In fact, production-model equipment is featured in all NTS electronics programs.

Our Color TV servicing program boasts the NTS/HEATH digital color TV (25" diagonal) you actually build and keep.

In Communications Electronics you'll build and keep an NTS/HEATH 2-meter FM transceiver, along with digital multimeter and service trainer.

Whichever NTS electronics program you choose, you can count on working with much the same kind of equipment you'll encounter in the field.

Find out more in our full color catalog on the program of your choice.

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Simulated TV Reception



Digital Multimeter



TECHNICAL TRADE TRAINING SINCE 1905  
Resident and Home-Study Schools  
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1. The NTS/HEATH H-89 Microcomputer features floppy disk storage, "smart" video terminal, two Z80 microprocessors, 16K RAM memory, expandable to 48K. Available in NTS's Master Course in Microcomputers.
2. The NTS/Rockwell AIM 65 Microcomputer A single board unit featuring an on-board 20 column alphanumeric printer with 20 character display. A 6502-based unit 4K RAM, expandable. Available in NTS's Microprocessor Technology Course.
3. The NTS/KIM-1 Microcomputer A single board unit featuring a 6 digit LED display with an on-board 24 key hexadecimal calculator-type keyboard. A 6502 based microcomputer with 1K of RAM memory, expandable. Available in NTS's Master Course in Electronic and Industrial Technology.

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**EQUIPMENT REPORTS**

*continued from page 26*

dial scale is large, making it easy to read. The vernier tuning is quite smooth, without the usual rubbery feel associated with many other low-cost signal generators. Backlash is essentially absent.

The oscillator circuit itself is a frequency-stable Colpitts type, coupled through an R-C network to a bipolar buffer to reduce loading by the circuit under test. The oscillator is drain-modulated by a series bipolar audio transistor. The modulator is driven by a separate phase-shift audio oscillator.

The audio oscillator is also used as part of the crystal oscillator. In fact, it is possible to superimpose the crystal oscillator signal on that produced by the variable RF oscillator.

A regulated DC supply is used for the RF oscillator to assure good stability and low hum. Although some RF leakage is present, it is minimized by internal shielding and AC line-filter capacitors.

Signal input to the generator is accommodated by two banana terminals (one chassis-grounded) at high impedance. The RF output is available from two screw-type binding posts which can also accommodate banana plugs. Terminal spacing is correct for plug-in banana-connector coaxial test leads.

The instrument cabinet has a carrying handle, and rubber feet insure scratch-free desk-top usage.

The instruction manual is quite comprehensive, and includes both block diagrams and a complete schematic diagram of the circuitry.

Everything considered, we were very im-

pressed by the Leader LSG-16 wideband signal generator. It is thoughtfully designed, expertly manufactured, and bargain-priced. The LSG-16 signal generator sells for \$149. **R-E**

**MFJ Enterprises LSP-520BX Communications Speech Processor**



**CIRCLE 102 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD**

MFJ ENTERPRISES, PROMINENT IN A BROAD line of amateur accessories, has introduced a logarithmic speech processor for the communications user. The LSP-520BX may be used with CB, ham, or other voice-communications service. To appreciate the benefits of a logarithmic speech processor fully, a brief review of speech-processing theory may be in order.

The average microphone faithfully reproduces voice frequencies and amplitudes as electrical signals that, in turn, are amplified and used to modulate the carrier wave of the transmitter. In single sideband transmitters, the audio level determines the level of the RF power output. Unfortunately, the average speech level frequently drops during weak sounds. That is where speech processing comes in.

A speech processor is a device that electronically selects the critical components of the voice and amplifies them to an optimum level. Overdriving, and its accompanying distortion, is no problem with a properly adjusted speech processor. The maximum modulation level is preset and can not be exceeded.

The LSP-520BX provides 30 dB of dynamic range using a type-741 IC logarithmic amplifier. Seven discrete transistors help contour the voice frequencies to an optimum passband. Three active filters assist that voice-shaping. By amplifying those frequencies that are normally of low intensity, but which contribute a great deal in intelligibility, average modulation percentage is increased substantially.

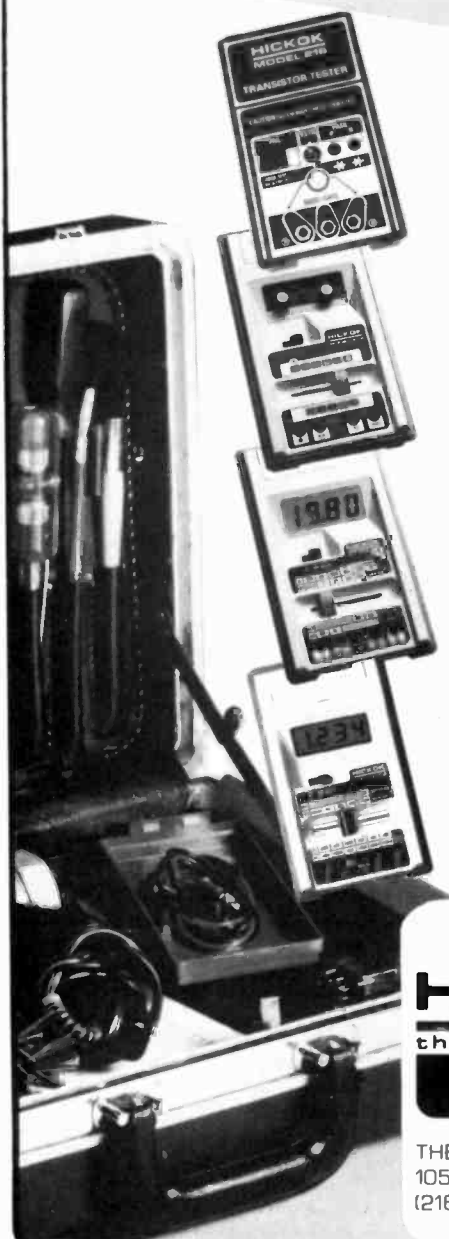
The LSP-520BX is self-powered, requiring an internal 9-volt battery. Since current drain while in use is only 3 milliamps, a standard "transistor-radio" battery will last many months with normal use.

The speech processor is available in two versions. The LSP-520BX has a front panel on/off slide switch, 2 standard 1/4-inch phone jacks (input and output), and a COMPRESSION level control. It is in a standard wrinkle-texture enamel-painted metal cabinet. The LSP-520BX II is electronically identical, but it includes an additional 4-pin mike jack, a rotary function switch that selects the range of the audio passband, an output cable (no connector), and is housed in an attractive wood-grained enclosure.

Both units are designed to work with low output, medium-impedance microphones (typical communications mikes). If your station mike has a high output-level, it is a simple matter to add a resistor to reduce the input to a level that the processor can handle easily without distortion.

*continued on page 34*

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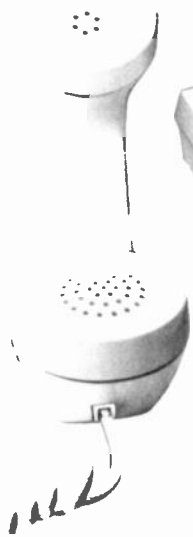
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ivate, simply press the secret opening code and a beep tone tells you the phone and dialer are ready for long distance calls. Only you know the codes for this amazing dialer. An instruction kit is included and explains all the secret codes.

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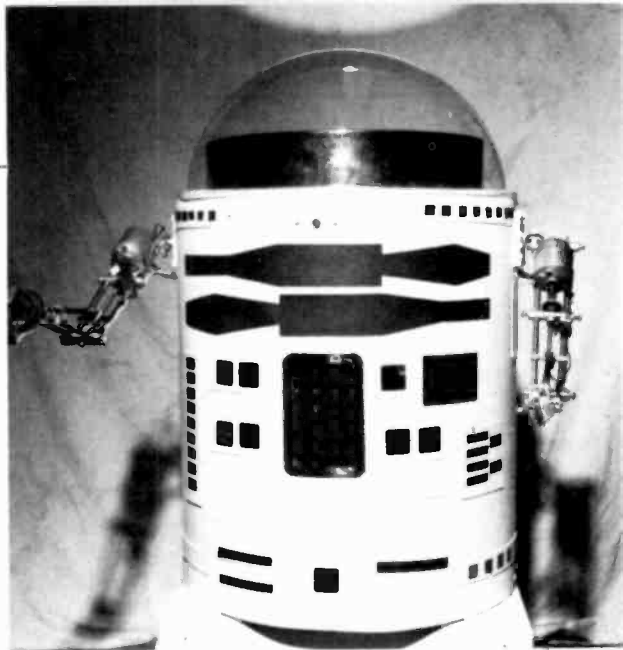


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# BUILD THIS

# UNICORN-1 ROBOT



*Ready for your own robot? You can construct one by following this multi-part series—and you won't need an engineering degree or special equipment, either.*

**JAMES A GUPTON, JR.**

ROBOTS ARE BECOMING VERY HOT ITEMS. They have already made a name for themselves as movie and TV stars, chess players, artists, typists, advertising men, and assembly-line workers in Detroit. This past April, a three-day conference and an exposition on robotics was held in New York.

This series of articles detailing the construction of a robot called Unicorn-One (a name loosely derived from *Universal Controllable Robot*) may not tell you how to build a device as elegant or articulate as *C3-PO*, but it will explain, step-by-step, how to design and assemble a robot that will be fully mobile, with manipulator arms to grasp, lift, and carry. Those features, in combination, will enable your robot to perform a wide variety of useful functions.

Unicorn-One is *truly* universal. The same robot body you will build can be operated from a control panel linked to it by cable, by remote radio control, or even by computer. It will even be possible to add an on-board computer to give the robot the ability to "think" for itself. As you will see, Unicorn-One's expansion capabilities are really limited only by what you want it to do.

The first parts of the series will deal with the construction of the mechanical portion of the robot—the object being to build a working mechanism for a reasonable amount of money.

You'll be shown how just a few common tools can be used to work steel and aluminum to almost machine-shop perfection. With a little ingenuity, an operational version of Unicorn-One can be

built for about \$200. Even if you purchase everything off-the-shelf, the cost should not exceed \$400.

Easy-to-follow instructions will be provided to assist you in the assembly of the robot's manipulators (arms), end-effectors (hands), body, and mobility base, and will detail all wiring necessary to power its moving parts. For convenience, this wiring will be brought out to a terminal strip, where it can be connected to whatever type of control equipment you desire to use.

Later installments will describe how the robot can be controlled in any of several different ways—from a cable-connected console or by radio link, providing for both manual and computer-controlled operation.

Provision is also made for the installation of an on-board computer which can be programmed in advance, reprogrammed in mid-sequence, or even left to operate on its own.

The final portion will discuss ways of providing Unicorn-One with senses such as touch and sight, giving it a way to understand and communicate with people, and, in addition, giving it the ability to react to its environment without human intervention.

## **Basic mechanical components**

Since we are building a robot from scratch, it might be a good idea to become familiar with some of the major components which affect its operation.

There are two electro-mechanical parts which are used to impart motion to the robot—motors and solenoids.

Motors are used for continuous motion (in the mobility base, for example, to get from one place to another, or in the arms, for lifting). Solenoids are usually used for a "one-shot" effort—say, opening or closing a grasping member.

Several different types of motors are used in Unicorn-One. Typically, they are low-voltage, high-speed, DC motors which are slowed down (they operate at several thousand RPM) to do what we want them to. That slowing-down is accomplished by gears, which gives us two benefits.

First, the rate of speed is reduced to a "real-world" level and, second, each time the speed is reduced by half, the torque (effective power) is doubled. That allows us to use inexpensive motors to give our robot a reasonable amount of strength. The same principle is used in automobile transmissions. (You can spin your wheels in low gear, but you can't start to build up any real speed until you get into second or higher.)

To put it in mechanical terms, if a motor spins at 6000 RPM, it won't do much for our robot arm unless it is geared down to make the action slower and more powerful. If we attach a 12-tooth gear to the motor, and mesh that with a 24-tooth gear, we'll achieve a speed reduction of 1:2 (12:24) and, at the same time, double the effective power of the motor. Every time the twelve-tooth gear turns once, the other will make only half a revolution, while transmitting the full power of the entire original revolution—which, if you add it up, doubles the original power of the motor.



## GLOSSARY

**Anti-backlash gear**—Gear used to reduce or eliminate backlash. See BACKLASH, GEAR.

**Angular motion**—Rotary motion about an axis, as in the case of wheels or gears.

**Backlash**—Unwanted "rebound" movement in gear systems resulting from inertia.

**Center punch**—Pointed tool used to indent the surface of hard materials for marking purposes or to form a starting point for drilling.

**Computer control**—Direction by means of instructions programmed into a computer.

**End-effector**—Unicorn-One's "hand."

**Gear**—Toothed wheel or cylinder that meshes with another to transmit motion or to change speed or direction.

**Gear ratio**—The relation between the number of teeth on one gear and another. The higher the ratio, the greater the reduction in speed and the greater the increase in torque.

**Manipulator**—Unicorn-One's "arm."

**Mobility base**—The part of the robot that gives it locomotion.

**Radio control**—Direction by means of instructions transmitted by radio to a receiver located at the object being controlled.

**Robot**—Machine that works automatically or by remote-control. Generally assumed to be manlike in shape and function.

NASA's space and planetary probes, however, are robots, and they don't look the least like us.

**Robotics**—The science of robots.

**RPM**—Revolutions per Minute

**Scribe**—Pointed tool used to mark hard surfaces to indicate areas to be cut, sawed, or drilled.

**Sensor**—Device which responds to a stimulus. A photo-electric cell would be an example of a light sensor.

**Shaft**—Rotating rod or bar which transmits mechanical power.

**Solenoid**—Electromagnet with a ferrous-metal rod through its core. An induced magnetic field causes the rod to move in or out of the core.

**Sprocket gear**—Large-toothed gear whose teeth ride in the links of a chain and impart motion to it.

**Switch-control**—Operation of an electrical or electronic device through the opening or closing of a circuit.

**T**—Abbrev. for "teeth."

**Tap**—Screw-like cutting tool designed to cut threads into drilled holes.

**Tap drill**—Drill bit whose diameter is best suited for use with a particular tap.

**Thread**—Spiral or helical ridge of a screw, bolt, nut, etc.

**TPI**—Abbrev. for "threads-per-inch."

**Torque**—Force that produces a twisting or rotating motion.

**Unicorn**—*Universal Controllable Robot.*

Using various gearing systems we can easily reduce the speed of a 10,000 RPM motor to an effective 167 RPM, allowing us to use that motor to give real-time motion to the robot's arms.

If we use what is known as a worm gear, we can not only change the speed of the motor—and increase its torque—but also change the direction of the motion. Such an effect can be used effectively in the robot's mobility base.

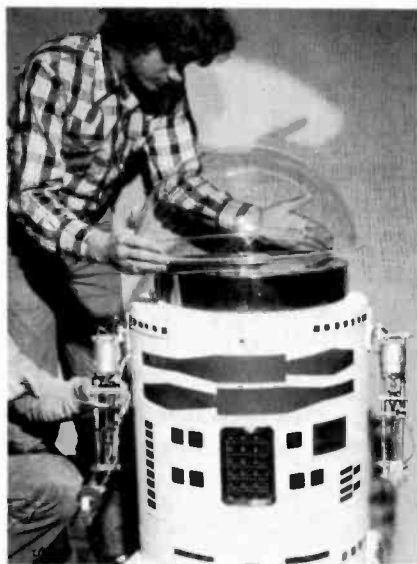
Various gear assemblies can also change a motor's output from angular (around the axis of the shaft) to linear—that is, from rotary to straight-line, as would be needed in order to push a "hand" forward.

Gears can also be used simply to change movement from one direction to movement in another (say, through an angle of 45°).

The second type of motor used in Unicorn-One is the *stepper motor*. That type of motor responds by turning just a little bit for each electrical pulse it receives. Thus it is possible to move a stepper motor just a fraction of a degree at a time, as might be required in steering the robot. If large amounts of motion are required, multiple pulses are applied.

In addition to the motors, we also use *solenoids* to control the robot's motion. A solenoid is an electromagnet which has a ferrous-metal core. When the magnet is energized, the core—usually a free-sliding metal rod—is either pulled into, or pushed out of, the magnet's coils. Unicorn-One uses solenoids to actuate its grasping members (hands/fingers). If power is applied, the solenoid is actuated and pulls the core inwards. That movement causes the "fingers" to close and to grasp the object in question; the grasp will be maintained until power to the solenoid is cut.

Some solenoids also incorporate gears,



**UNICORN-ONE** nearing completion. Humans at work give idea of robot's size.

and rotate the gears, and their attachments, through a specified angle, when they are actuated. (They may turn a wheel 45° at a single, momentary command, for instance.)

Finally, we have to consider *limit switches*. Those are absolutely necessary to the well-being of the robot. If we actuate a motor and do not, later, tell it to shut off, we are liable to do damage to the mechanical parts of the robot or even to burn out the motor itself. The limit switch is a device which senses when a mechanical part has reached the predetermined limit of its travel and opens (or closes) the appropriate electrical circuit to stop the device which is causing the part to move. Limit switches are an inexpensive way to give a measure of control to your robot without your having to pay attention to its every movement.

In addition to the above, we will also

use cables and pulleys, anti-backlash gears, bearings, and other mechanical devices to give motion to Unicorn-One.

As we encounter those various components in the construction of Unicorn-One, we'll go into a greater description of their function and operation, and explain why we are using them.

### Manipulator construction

The construction of a robot, judging from the available literature, is an expensive proposition, involving skills, materials, and tools not normally encountered in the type of project presented in **Radio-Electronics**. We'll dare to be different here, however, and show you how you can build Unicorn-One using tools you probably have on your work bench and materials that are easy to come by. Even if you have never worked with metals before, we'll provide you with the knowhow to construct a working robot.

The drawings in Fig. 1 show the dimensions for a robot of ideal size. You may, however, decrease or increase those dimensions to suit your budget or needs. Bear in mind that, for radio or remote control, where the power source must be self-contained, the robot's overall weight becomes a very important factor and you may want to deviate from the dimensions given.

The first portion of Unicorn-One that we'll construct will be the manipulators (arms). They will be fabricated from steel rod and aluminum plate, and dimensions and instructions for the metalworking will follow. We'll describe the construction of one manipulator. If you want a two-armed robot, do everything twice. Before you proceed, though, read and heed the following precautions about metalworking:

- Always wear safety goggles or glasses when sawing, drilling, tap-

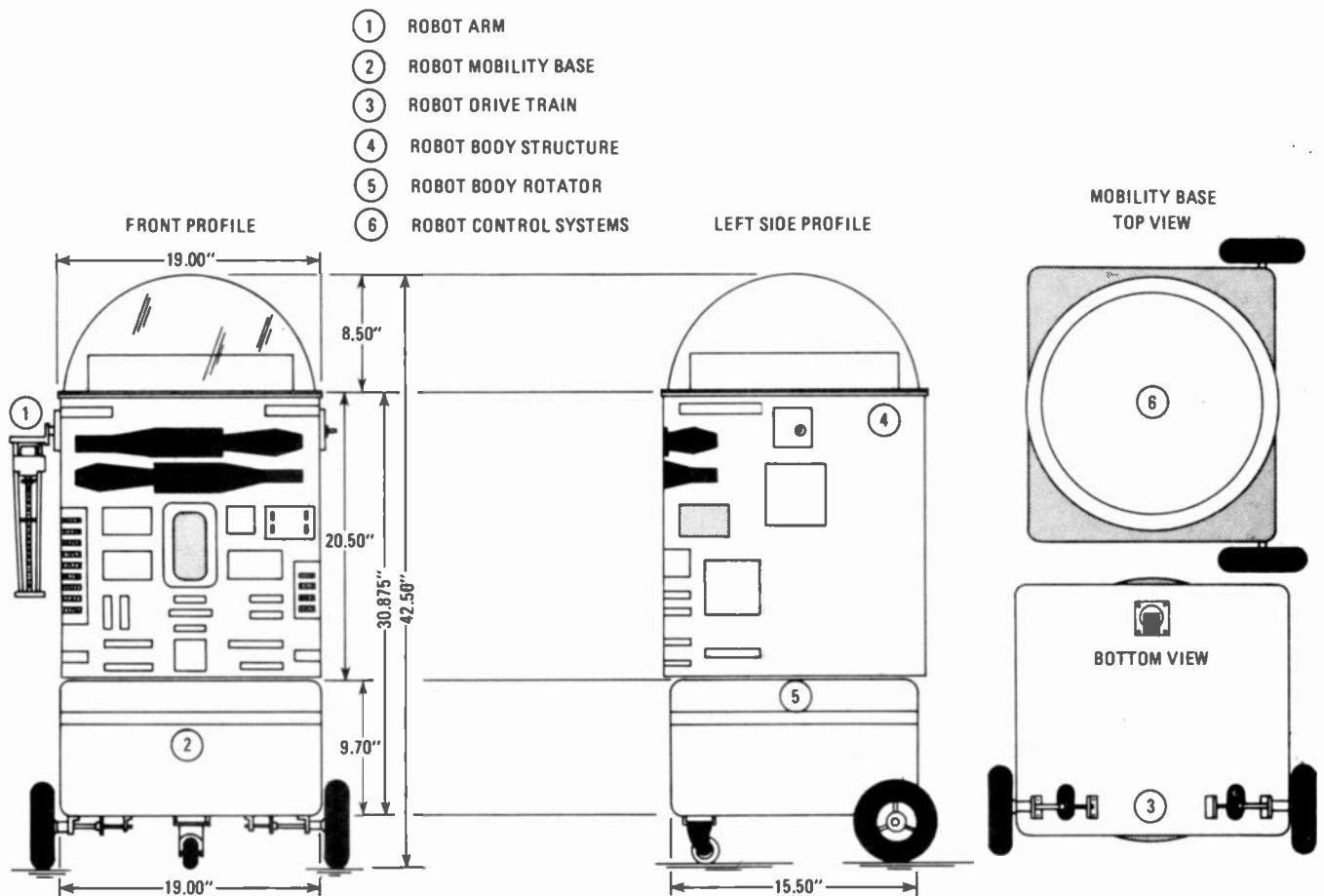


Fig. 1—DIMENSIONS of Unicorn-One as described in text. Size is not critical, though, and scale or dimensions may be altered to suit the requirements of the builder.

ping or filing metal (or wood or plastic)

- Never wear ties or loose clothing when operating power tools
- Hold tools properly and make sure pieces being worked on cannot move around

The instructions which follow are intended to be used in conjunction with the diagrams which accompany them. Do not try to rely only on one or the other. If you have a question, the diagrams can probably supply the answer if you study them.

Basically, there are only two different diameter steel rods used to make all the manipulator sections. The cross members are cut from 0.375-in. ( $\frac{3}{8}$ -in.) steel rod and the side rods from 0.2497-in. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ -in.) material. The threaded steel rod is  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter with 20 threads-per-inch. The shoulder and elbow hinges, and the two contractor-bar pivots, are cut from 0.250-in. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ -in.) aluminum plate.

The aluminum parts should be made first since they require more work than the rod sections. To keep costs low, use scrap material wherever you can.

The first step is to mark the dimensions of the aluminum part. Do that with a scribe, pointed nail, or even a knife. Don't use pencil, since it rubs off easily. When you cut the part, cut along the *outside* of the lines. You can always file off excess, but it's impossible to put back a little bit too much you removed while cutting. Use a vise to hold the piece steady and use a

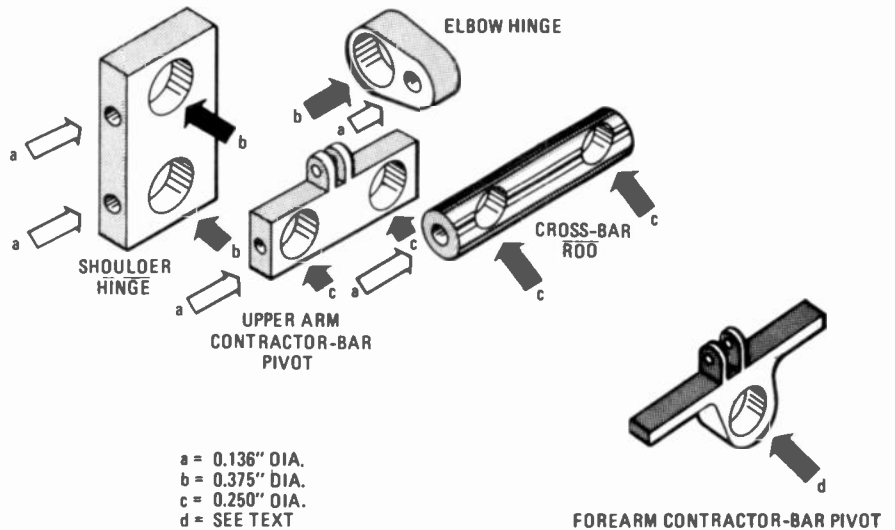


Fig. 2—DETAILS of the aluminum parts which must be fabricated. Steel cross-bar rod is also shown as an example. Note that there are several different versions of this part.

hacksaw blade with 24–32 teeth-per-inch to give a smooth cut.

The shoulder-hinge sections are two rectangles,  $1 \times 1.4$  inches, drilled to accept two  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch rod sections (Figs. 2 and 5). There are two ways by which the steel rods can be secured to those hinge sections: a  $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch hole can be drilled through each for use with roll or dowel pins, or a No. 44 bit (.086 inches) can be used to make a hole which can be tapped for a 4-40 machine screw. Figure 3 shows some of the taps and tap drills that can be

used in the construction of the robot.

For the elbow hinge (Fig. 2), outline the part on the aluminum plate and, using a punch, mark the places where holes will be drilled. Saw out a rough rectangle and drill the .375- and then the .136-inch holes. With the holes drilled, the part can be cut and filed down to the proper size.

The two contractor-bar pivot parts (Fig. 2) require a little more work. Again, cut the parts roughly to size (see Figs. 2 and 5). As in the shoulder-hinge pieces, either a dowel pin, or a 4-40 machine

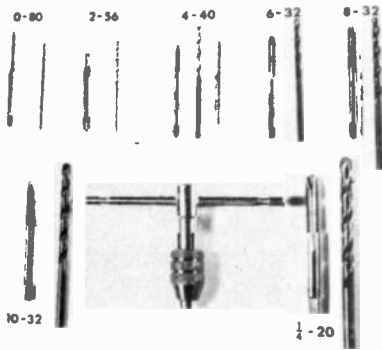


Fig. 3—TAPS AND TAP DRILLS. First number indicates size; second, threads-per-inch.

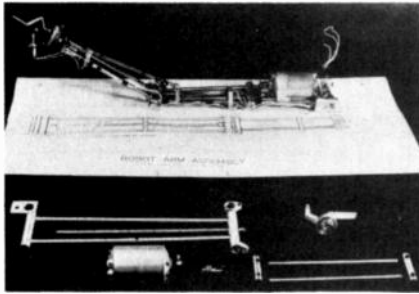


Fig. 4—MANIPULATOR ASSEMBLY. Finished unit and separate pieces are facing opposite ways.

screw, may be used to provide the pivot support. The upper-arm pivot part has a tapped  $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 hole for the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 threaded rod used to provide elbow action. That hole may be made either with a #7 bit (.207-in.) and tapped to  $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 or drilled out slightly larger—.413 in. minimum—

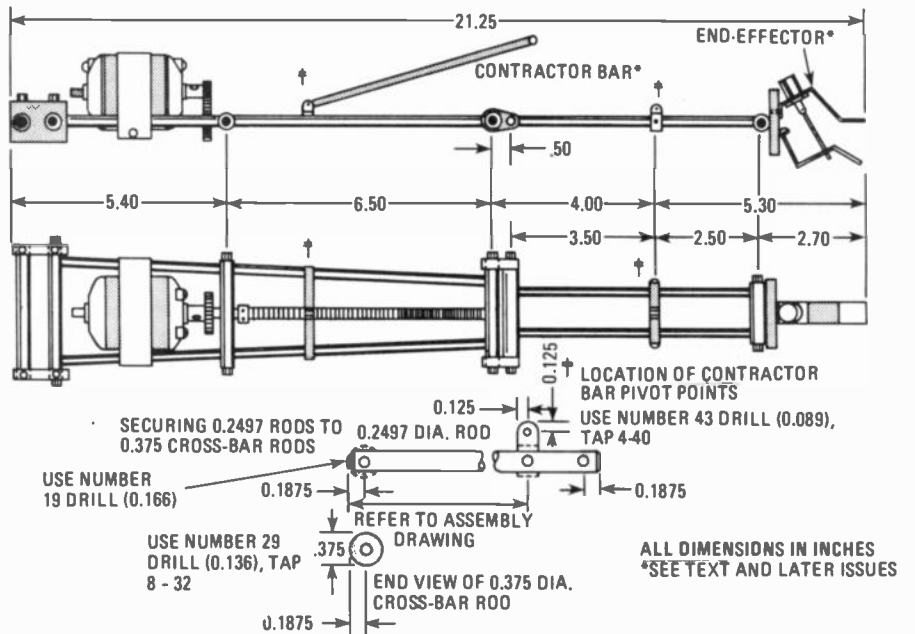


Fig. 6—SIDE AND TOP views of the assembled manipulator. End-effector and contractor-bar will be covered in the next installment.

to accept a threaded insert, which will give a smoother action. The latter approach is preferred, but the former will give satisfactory results, provided the work is done with care. Both pivot parts should be carefully cut and filed to shape.

To prepare the six steel cross-bar rod sections, cut each length slightly longer than called for. There will be two 3.25-inch sections, two 2.6-inch sections, one

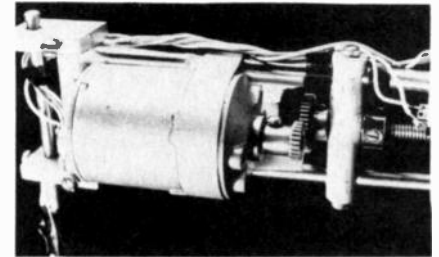
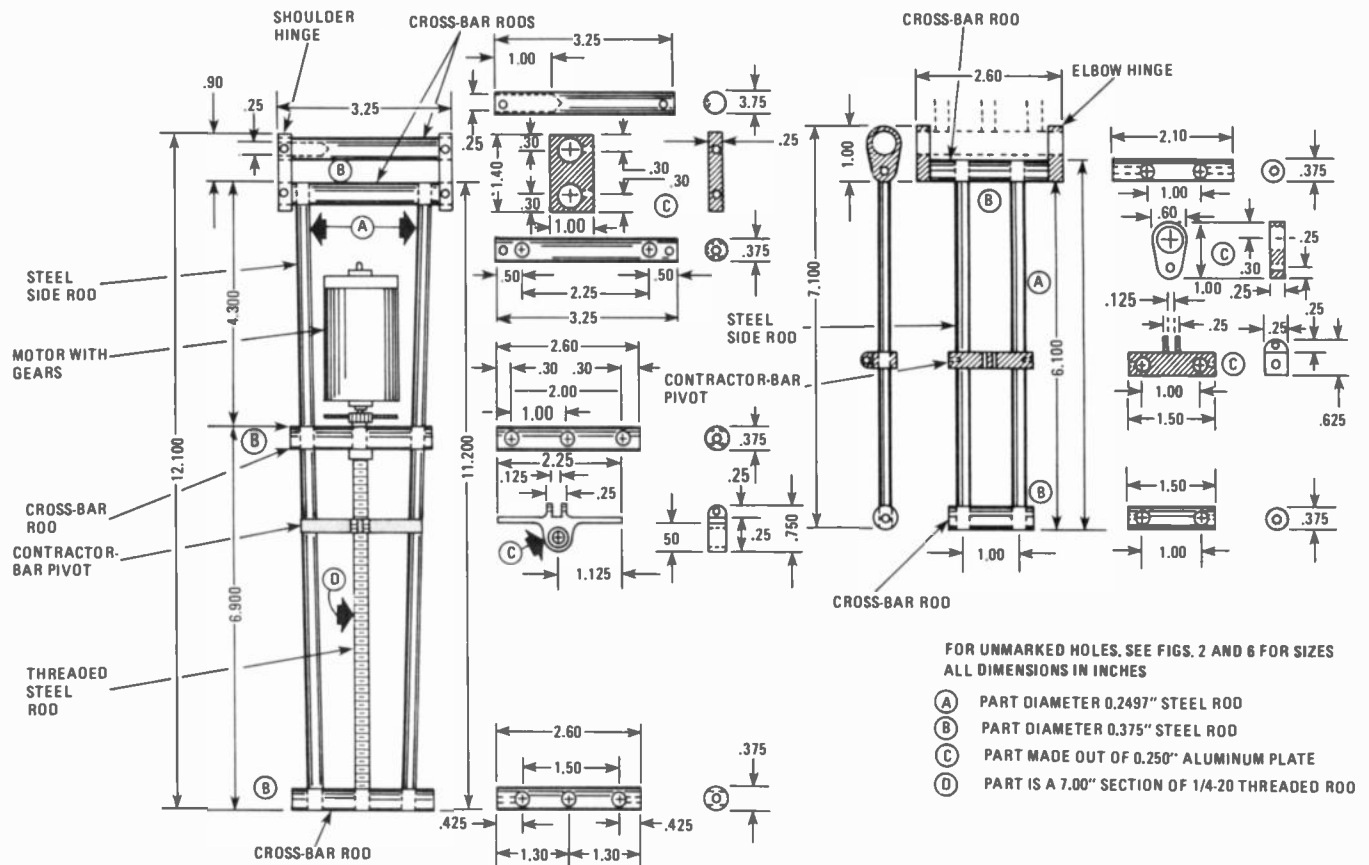


Fig. 7—MOTOR AND GEAR arrangement used to drive threaded rod, as described in text.



FOR UNMARKED HOLES, SEE FIGS. 2 AND 6 FOR SIZES  
ALL DIMENSIONS IN INCHES

- (A) PART DIAMETER 0.2497" STEEL ROD
- (B) PART DIAMETER 0.375" STEEL ROD
- (C) PART MADE OUT OF 0.250" ALUMINUM PLATE
- (D) PART IS A 7.00" SECTION OF 1/4-20 THREADED ROD

Fig. 5—FABRICATION AND ASSEMBLY details of the manipulator. It would be a good idea to make a copy of this and keep it near your workbench for reference.



**PARTS LIST**

Item	Size	Quantity	Supplier's part no.	Supplier	Item	Size	Quantity	Supplier's part no.	Supplier
Steel rod	0.2497 in. diam.	72 in.	SR 500	(A)	Dowel pins	OD 0.0625 in. 3/8-in. long	6	D16-625	(A)
Steel rod	0.2497 in. diam.	72 in.	SL-14	(B)	<i>or</i>				
Steel rod	0.375 in. diam.	36 in.	SR 375	(A)	4-40 screws	4-40 x 3/8 in.	6	Z9-4-40-A10	(B)
Steel rod	0.3497 in. diam.	36 in.	SI-33	(B)	8-32 screws	8-32 x 1/2 in. socket-head screws	44	Z9-8-32-A8	(B)
Sheet aluminum	0.0625 in. thick	6 x 12 in.*	SA 625	(A)	Elbow motor	12 VDC, 1/4-in. diam. shaft	2	P-42,670	(C)
Sheet aluminum	0.250 in. thick	1 x 18 in.	SA 250-18	(A)					
Sheet aluminum	0.250 in. thick	1.5 x 6 in.*	SA 250-9	(A)					
Threaded insert	OD 0.413 in. TPI 1/4-20	2	TI 1420	(A)					
Threaded rod	1/4-20	14 in.	TR 25020	(A)					
Threaded rod	1/4-20	14 in.	TI-7	(B)					
Reduction gears	20 T, 0.458 diam. 1/4-in. bore, 48-pitch	2	G 20 T-48	(A)					
Reduction gears	48 T, 1-in. diam. 1/4-in. bore 48-pitch	2	G 48T-48	(A)					
Shaft collar	OD 0.50 in. ID 0.2497 in.	4	C 525	(A)					
Shaft collar	OD 0.50 in. ID 0.2497 in.	4	C5-7	(B)					

**SUPPLIERS:**

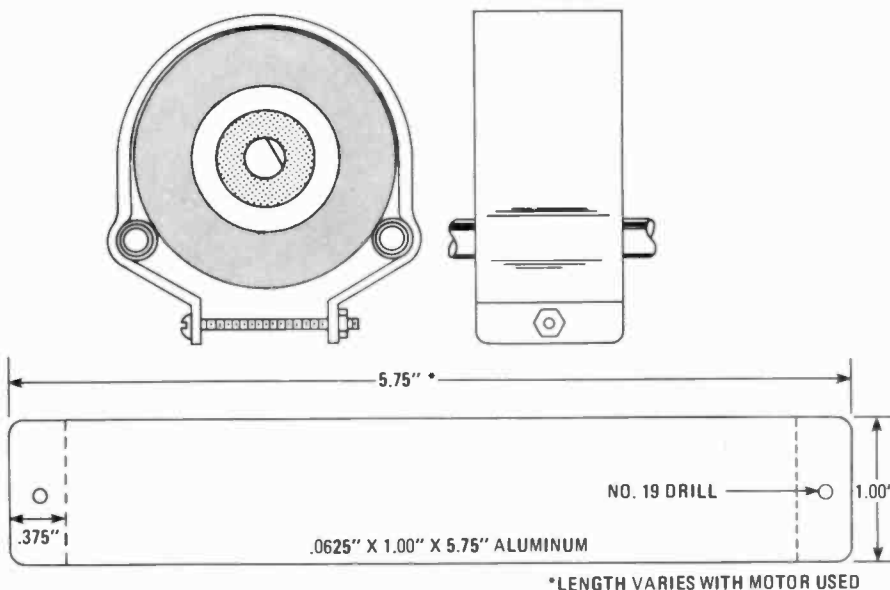
(A) **The Robot Mart**  
Room 1113  
19 W. 34th St.  
New York, NY 10001  
(Catalog \$3.00)

(B) **Winfred M. Berg, Inc.**  
499 Ocean Avenue  
Rockaway, NY 11518

(C) **Edmund Scientific Co.**  
101 East Gloucester Pike  
Barrington, NJ 08007

The above suppliers have catalogs available upon request.

NOTES: Items grouped together are interchangeable. Items marked with "\*" include quantities for end-effectors. Suppliers shown are not necessarily the only source for items indicated.



**Fig. 8—ATTACHMENT OF DC motor to side rods.** Clamp dimensions will vary according to the particular motor used.

2.1-inch section and one 1.5-inch one. Lock each piece into the chuck of a variable-speed electric drill and remove the saw marks by running the drill slowly and filing the rotating rod. When the saw marks have disappeared, angle the file approximately 45° to the rotating stock and lightly bevel the end of the section. Reverse the rod and repeat the procedure on the other end. Next, with the rod still

in the chuck, polish its surface with "A" grade silicon-carbide paper. That will give the rod a high-luster finish and remove any remaining surface scratches. The procedure is best carried out by two people.

Carefully drill the rod sections to receive the 0.2497 in. side rods. Each hole drilled must be perpendicular to the rod and parallel to the other hole. If they are

available to you, a drill press and "V"-block should be used to make sure of this. To allow the arm to taper, enlarge the holes slightly by "wobbling" a hand-held drill in them.

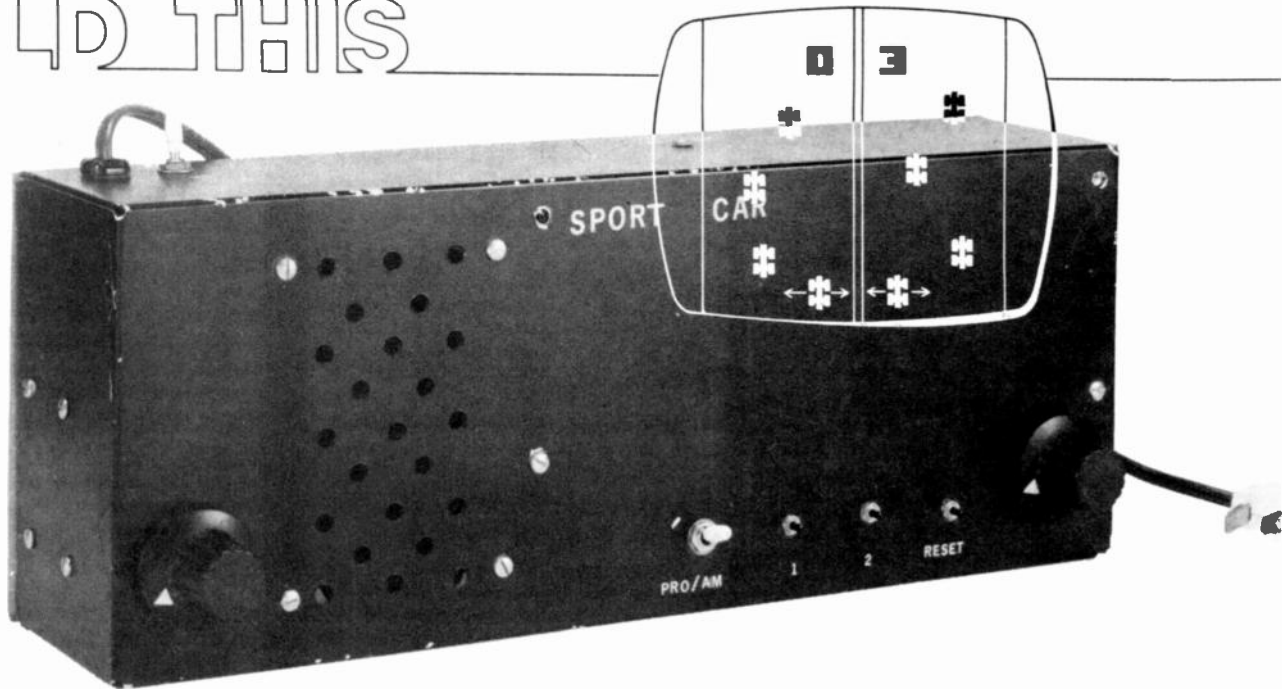
Figure 4 is a photograph of a fully assembled manipulator (with end-effector) and assembly details are given in Fig. 5. Also refer to Fig. 6. Those should help you to picture what has to be done, and where.

Drill into both ends of five of the six rod sections using a No. 29-bit (.136 in.). Use a punch to mark the center of the rod's diameter and to avoid slippage of the bit. Drill deeply enough to penetrate the .250-inch side-rod holes made previously. One of the 3.25-inch sections—the one which will be used at the top of the arm—gets a .250-inch hole, 1 inch deep, in one end. That will later be used to anchor the arm to the body.

Assemble the two 3.25-inch cross-bar rods and the rectangular shoulder-hinge plate. Use a center punch to mark the rods *through* the .136-inch holes in the plate. Take the assembly apart and use a No. 19 bit (.166 in.) to drill into the rods at the four places marked. Then tap those holes for an 8-32 thread. Also use an 8-32 tap on the .136 in. holes which were drilled into both ends of five of the rods.

Check your work against the diagrams  
*continued on page 76*

# BUILD THIS



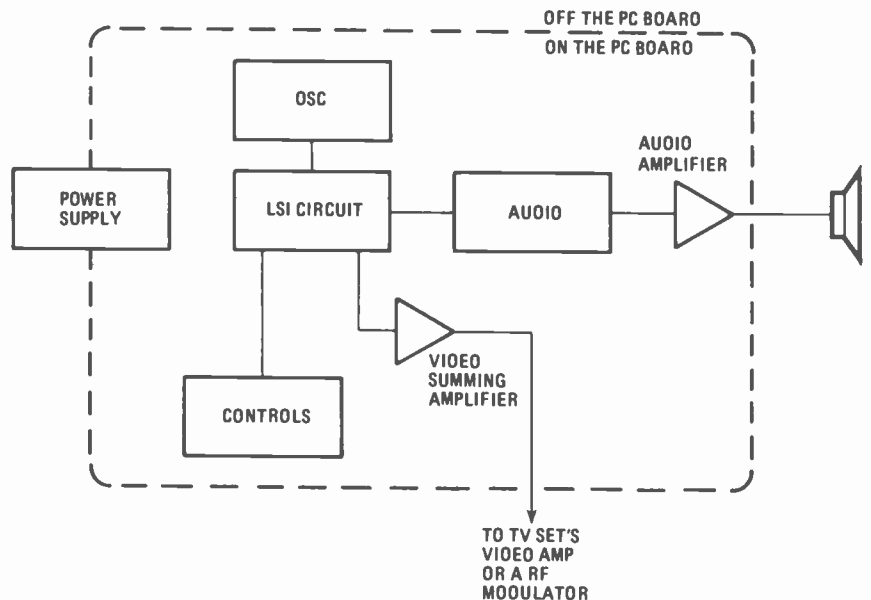
# RACEWAY VIDEOGAME

*Build this road-race game and enjoy all the excitement of the arcade version on your own video screen. Gentlemen (and ladies) . . . Start your engines!*

**L. STEVEN CHEAIRS**

AMONG THE POPULAR ARCADE GAMES, THE road-race type has always stood out. Many varieties of that game exist; they range from the animated types to the more recent video units, of the type we're about to describe. There is a major difference between the game described here and the average Arcade road-race—the average Arcade game's price tag is in the thousands of dollars; while this game will cost you less than a hundred dollars.

In the pages of *Radio-Electronics* magazine we have presented two other video-game kits: a tank and a motorcycle game. The tank game (Nov. 1978) required two players; while the motorcycle game (Jan. 1979) was only for a single player. The present game allows both single- and dual-player operation. Thus, if you find yourself alone, or where no one else seems to want to play the game when you do, you can use the single game mode. But, when two or more players are available. . . .



**Fig. 1—BLOCK DIAGRAM** of the Raceway videogame showing the major components of the system. Block labelled "Controls" is actually located off the board (controls are mounted on case).

NOTE: PINS 12, 15, 17, 26, 27, & 28 ON IC3 ARE NOT USED

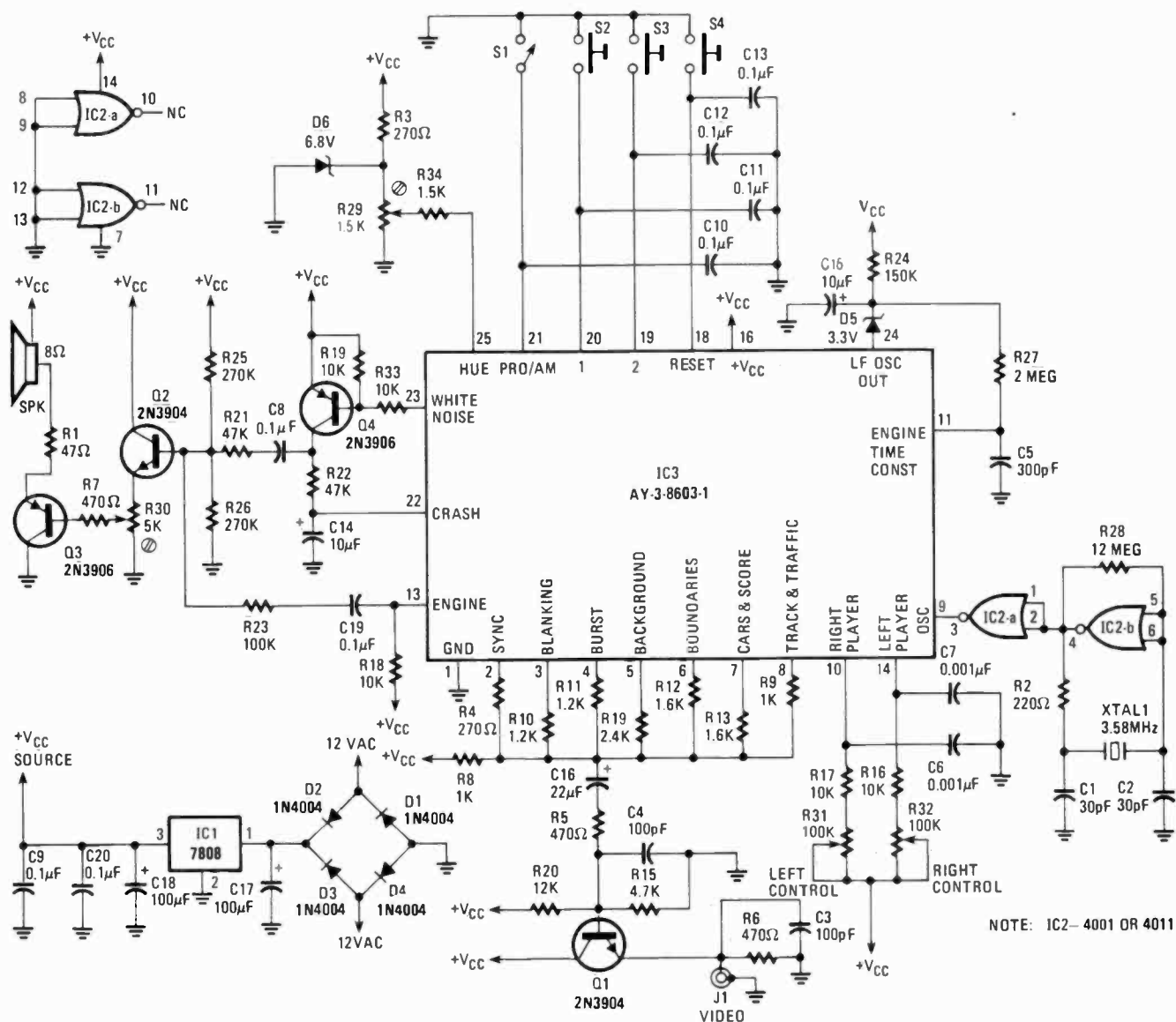


Fig. 2—COMPLETE SCHEMATIC of the Raceway game. The project may be built on a PC board using the foil pattern in Fig. 4 or wired point-to-point following this diagram.

**System description.**

The raceway game contains an assembled PC board and the switches, transformer, case and other hardware required for project assembly. Assuming that you wish to connect the system to a standard NTSC 525-line TV set, you will also need an RF modulator—many of which exist in the hobbyist's market.

The components contained on the printed-circuit board form seven distinct circuits. Two of those circuits contain components that are off the card; refer to the block diagram in Fig. 1 and the schematic in Fig. 2. The power supply provides 8 volts DC using a 12-volt AC, power source located off the board. The 12 volts AC is rectified by four silicon rectifiers and then filtered to reduce the 120-

Hz ripple that is created by the full-wave bridge. A three-terminal linear regulator develops the operating voltage—additional filtering is provided at the regulator's output.

The control section is composed of two potentiometers, four switches, two R-C timing networks, and four capacitors. The potentiometers are used to vary the R-C time constant; that time constant is proportional to the position of the user's race car image on the TV screen. One or two race cars can be steered using these controls. Switch S1, labelled PRO/AM, is used to select the level of difficulty. Two normally-open switches are used for selecting the number of players (S2, labelled 1, selects the 1 player option; S3, labelled 2, selects 2 players.) The third push-but-

ton normally-open switch S4 is provided to reset the game. A minor amount of debounce is provided by the capacitor across the switch contacts.

The 3.579-MHz crystal oscillator is formed using a CMOS gate, two resistors, two capacitors and a crystal. Another CMOS gate is used as a buffer between the oscillator and the LSI integrated game circuit. Next, the audio amplifier and filtering circuit is formed using three transistors and a few capacitors and resistors.

The video summing circuit is of the passive-resistive type. The resistors R4, R9-R14 are chosen such to give a video signal with an appearance similar to Fig. 3. The video signal out of the summing network is AC-coupled to the video amplifier Q1 which is wired as an emitter-follower. Note: if you use an RF modulator you may need to adjust the output





Fig. 3—COMPOSITE VIDEO SIGNAL typical of that produced by the summing network. It is a combination of raw video, sync and blanking signals generated by the IC. See text for explanation.

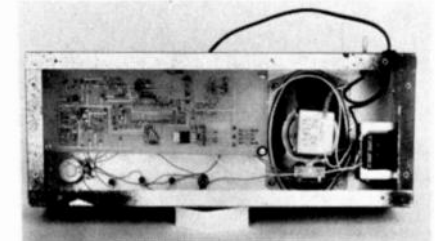
impedance of the amplifier. You do that by changing the emitter resistor. Normally, however, the adjustment will not be required. The final section is the LSI integrated circuit. That is a 28-pin DIP MOS IC that contains the game logic.

### Construction

The raceway game may be assembled using either point-to-point wiring or wirewrap or a printed circuit board. Working from the schematic diagram shown in Fig. 2 any of those construction methods may be used. If you decide to build using the printed-circuit approach, then use the foil pattern shown in Fig. 4. Components are placed on the board as shown in Fig. 5. (An etched and drilled PC board is available—see the parts list.)

Also, for those who do not have an adequate source of all the components, the source mentioned in the parts list will provide all of the hard-to-locate components on an individual basis or a complete kit that includes all electronic components, the PC board and the required hardware—including a blank unpunched case.

Assuming that you have chosen the PC board approach, start by laying all the electronic components out on a workbench. Make sure that the MOS and CMOS IC's remain in their conductive packages. Compare the components to the parts list to make sure you have everything you need. Mount the four corner spacers on the foil side of the printed circuit board with the hardware mentioned



COMPLETED UNIT. Components on bottom of board have been relocated in version described here.

upside-down so that the foil side is now up. Solder all of the pins using a 40-watt soldering iron with rosin-core solder. Replace the board with the component side up.

Install all of the resistors and capacitors. Verify their location and solder. Follow that step by installing the diodes, rectifiers, transistors, and voltage regulator; again, after placement and orientation, solder the components to the board. Lay the PC board aside until final assembly.

Locate the enclosure; drill the holes required for the potentiometers, switches, transformer attachment, PC-board attachment, speaker mounting, video output jack, and a line-cord strain-relief grommet. Next, paint the exterior of the case. After the paint is dry use dry-transfer lettering to label the controls. Follow that procedure by spraying the case with

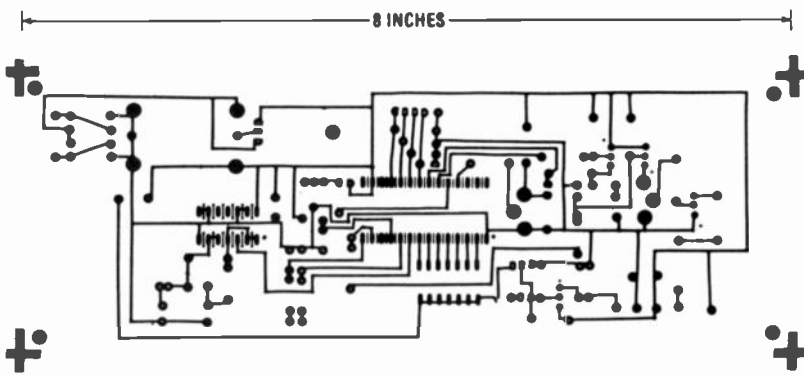


Fig. 4—FOIL PATTERN for the printed circuit board. For those who prefer not to etch their own, one is available from Quest-Star Electronics. See parts list for ordering information.

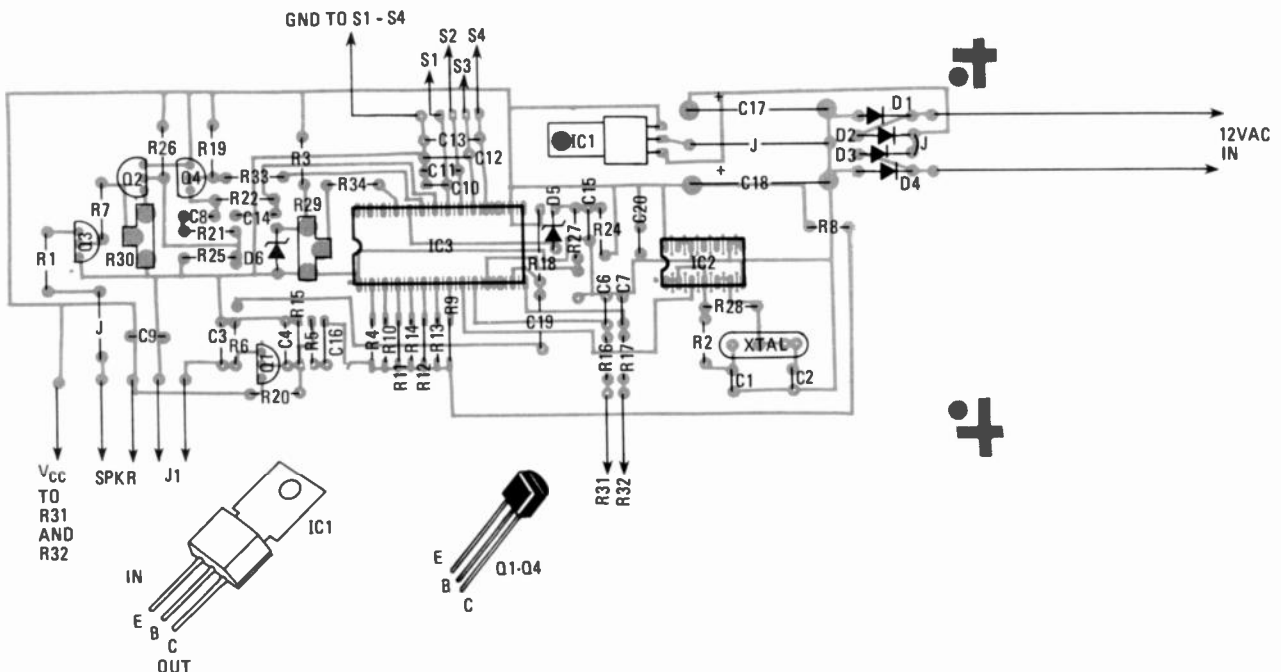
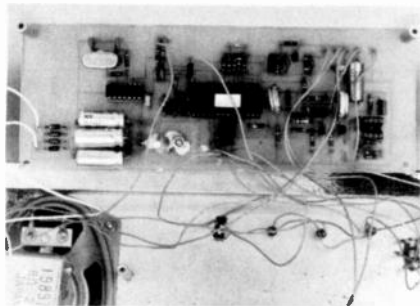


Fig. 5—PARTS PLACEMENT DIAGRAM. Power transformer, control potentiometers and switches, speaker and video jack are mounted off the board, on the case.



PC BOARD prototype.

### PARTS LIST

Resistors  $\frac{1}{4}$  watt, 5% unless otherwise noted

- R1—47 ohms
- R2—220 ohms
- R3, R4—270 ohms
- R5—R7—470 ohms
- R8, R9—1000 ohms
- R10, R11—1200 ohms
- R12, R13—1600 ohms
- R14—2400 ohms
- R15—4700 ohms
- R16—R19—10,000 ohms
- R20—12,000 ohms
- R21, R22—47,000 ohms
- R23—100,000 ohms
- R24—150,000 ohms
- R25, R26—270,000 ohms
- R27—2 megohms
- R28—12 megohms
- R29—1500 ohms, potentiometer, PC mount
- R30—5000 ohms, potentiometer, PC mount
- R31, R32—100,000 ohms, potentiometer
- R33—10,000 ohms
- R34—1500 ohms

### Capacitors

- C1, C2—30 pF
- C3, C4—100 pF
- C5—300 pF
- C6, C7—.001 $\mu$ F
- C8—C13—0.1  $\mu$ F
- C14, C15—10  $\mu$ F, 15 volts, tantalum
- C16—22  $\mu$ F, 15 volts, tantalum
- C17, C18—100  $\mu$ F, 15 volts, electrolytic
- C19, C20—0.1  $\mu$ F

### Semiconductors

- D1—D4—1N4004
- D5—1N746A Zener diode, 3.3 volts, 5%, 400 mW
- D6—1N754A Zener diode, 6.8 volts, 5%, 400 mW
- Q1, Q2—2N3904
- Q3, Q4—2N3906
- IC1—7808 voltage regulator, 3 terminals, 8 volts
- IC2—4001 quad 2-input NOR gate or 4011 quad 2-input NAND gate
- IC3—AY-3-8603-1 raceway game IC
- S1—SPST miniature toggle switch
- S2—S4—SPST normally open miniature push-button switch
- SPKR1—small speaker, 8 ohms
- J1—miniature phone jack
- XTAL1—crystal, 3.58 MHz

**Miscellaneous:** knobs, line cord, 12-volt, 850 mA (or higher) transformer, case and hardware.

**Note:** The following may be ordered from **Quest-Star Electronics**, 5412 Burntwood Way, Las Vegas, NE 89108: Kit of all parts \$59.95, AY-3-8603-1 game IC \$27.00, PC board \$12.95. Add \$1.75 for shipping. Nevada residents add local taxes.

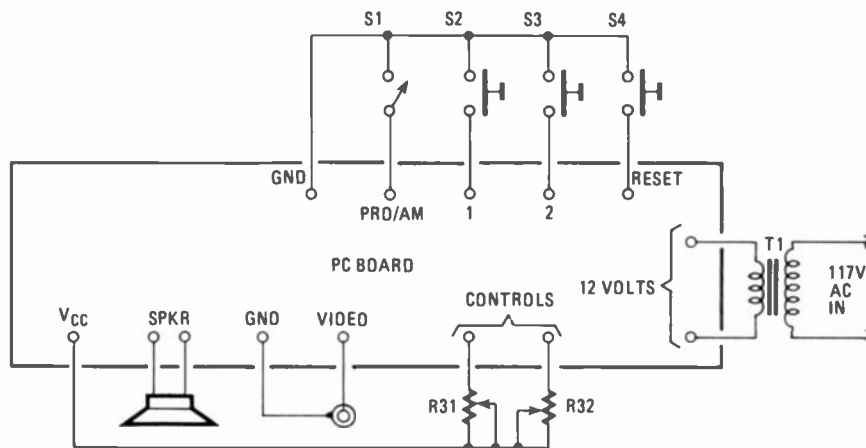


Fig. 6—DETAILS of off-the-board component connection. This should be used in conjunction with the parts placement diagram, Fig. 5. Also refer to photographs.

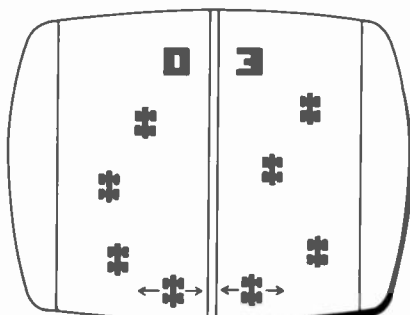


Fig. 7—RACEWAY VIDEOGAME display as it would appear on TV set or video monitor.

a clear lacquer paint to protect the finish—let the case dry for 12 to 24 hours.

Install the controls, transformer, line-cord, output jack, and speaker. Wire those components as shown in Fig. 6. Recheck the wiring! Plug the line cord into a wall outlet and check to see if the proper DC voltage exists—around 8 volts. If so, discharge the filter capacitors and then install the IC's. Remove the spacers from the wiring side of the PC board and reinstall them on the component side of the board. Next, mount the PC board in the case. The assembly is now complete. Note: if an RF modulator is used it may be installed in the enclosure or inside of the TV cabinet. That is up to your discretion.

### About the game

A typical game display consists of a two-lane highway with two player-controlled cars and randomly generated traffic. Each lane has a score at the top of the screen—see Fig. 7. The driver for each car is located at the bottom of each track. Adjust the TV contrast so the road is displayed as a white field; while the embankment, center line, player cars, and scores are gray. The traffic is displayed as black images. The car has horizontal motion only; that is a function of the potentiometer position. After the reset button is pressed the game starts. The TV screen shows the two tracks with the drivers' cars and the traffic. The scores are set to zero. Both tracks have the same set of random traffic. The traffic on the right is

24 horizontal scan lines ahead of the traffic on the left side of the screen. Thus, if the two-player game is selected, both players will encounter the same degree of difficulty.

The speed of the traffic in relation to the driver increases every two seconds, for up to a maximum of seven speeds, until one of the two players crashes his car into one of the obstacle cars. At that point all video motion stops and a crash sound is generated. The game again restarts in the slow motion and increases in speed every two seconds once more; during this time realistic engine sounds are simulated. The engine sound starts from a low and increases in pitch at four-second intervals during the periods when motion is observed on the screen. Every time a crash occurs, a point is scored for the opponent. The game ends when one of the players reaches 15 points.

The single-player game proceeds as outlined above, with the exception that only one of the player cars is present. The right car is removed—the left car is operable. After every eight cars that the driver passes he scores a point; those must be consecutive passes. The occurrence of a collision resets the pass counter—thus those cars passed between the last score and the crash will not be counted toward a new point. The score above the right track records the number of crashes. Thus the user is playing against the machine, since the first score to reach 15 points wins the game.

As can be seen, a realistic raceway game may be produced for use with a standard television receiver fed through a video modulator. (Several suitable video modulators are available on the market. You can get them through **Radio-Electronics** advertisers and computer stores. If you have an option, select one with a UHF output.) This game provides realistic motor and crash sounds. Also, skill selection is provided for easy or difficult driving conditions. Scoring is automatic and on-screen; it is color-keyed for each player. Both one- and two-game selections exist; all the timing signals for

*continued on page 77*

# ACCESSORIES For AUDIO TESTING

*Some of the most useful audio test equipment is very hard to find. Here are six easy-to-build accessories that will make your lab work easier and quicker.*

**GARY STOCK**

NEARLY EVERY AUDIO TEST BENCH USES a similar array of test instruments to service and evaluate the performance of stereo components—an oscillator, distortion analyzer, VTVM, and dual-trace oscilloscope are the most common pieces of equipment, although many others are also used. There is also a whole range of accessories that are used in conjunction with those major instru-

ments. These smaller components are often so specialized that they are not available from any manufacturer.

The key addition is a central switch-panel for interconnections between instruments and the various components under test, that is usually designed by each technician to suit his particular needs and manner of operation. In addition a whole range of other small filters,

attenuators, and loads are used. In the following section you'll see how you can build six of them and discover how they can be used best. All are passive devices, so power supplies are not needed. Any one of them can be built in a couple of hours, using off-the-shelf parts. They will significantly expand the testing and diagnostic capabilities of any test bench.

## High-power Load Bank and Standardized Reactive Loads for Amplifier Testing

EVERY AUDIO-TEST BENCH REQUIRES some sort of resistive load so the power output of an amplifier can be tested. The load must have enough power dissipation to be able to accept, without overheating, the output of large amplifiers. It must also have a stable, accurate, and non-reactive resistance value, typically either 4 or 8 ohms. Many testing laboratories use loads made up of large, wirewound non-inductive power resistors. Usually one or more 50-watt resistors are combined in order to get the required power-handling capability.

An inexpensive alternative is to construct the oil-cooled load bank shown in Figs. 1 and 2. This bank uses many 1- or 2-watt carbon composition resistors connected in parallel by busbar to derive precise 4- and 8-ohm loads. By constructing the resistor "ladder" on the inside surface of the lid of a one-quart paint can, and then immersing it completely in mineral oil, with which the

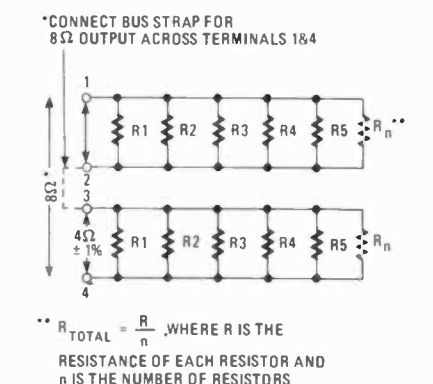


FIG. 1—SCHEMATIC illustrating principles of resistor-ladder construction.

can has been nearly filled, the total power dissipation of the resistors is increased substantially over their free-air dissipation, by a factor of three or more. Thus a ladder of twenty 82-ohm, 1-watt resistors would have an effective resistance of 4-ohms and a power-handling capacity of 60 watts continuous or

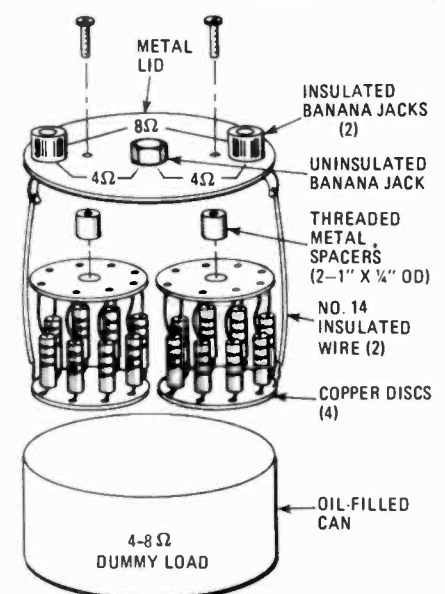


FIG. 2—PICTORIAL DIAGRAM of high-power load bank. Subassemblies contain twenty resistors each.



more when oil cooled, at least for the relatively brief periods normally involved in testing. To permit testing of the amplifier's performance into both 4- and 8-ohm loads, each load bank is made up of two 20-resistor ladders, each having a value of four ohms. These can be used separately to give two four-ohm loads or connected in series (see Figs. 1 and 2) by a short loop of busbar to provide an eight-ohm load.

A second load device, particularly useful when conformity to published specifications is one of the important considerations of the test, is an IHF-standardized loading network that deliberately simulates the reactive-impedance characteristic of a typical hi-fi loudspeaker with a resonant R-L-C network. The loading network tests the ability of the amplifier to deliver power into a loudspeaker at frequencies near the speaker's fundamental resonance, where substantial voltage/current phase angles exist.

The simplest way to use such a load

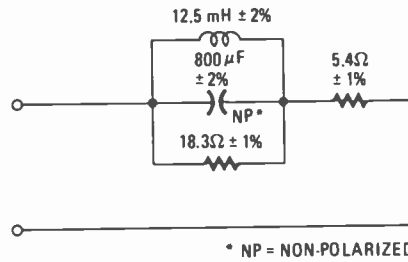


FIG. 3—IHF-STANDARDIZED load used for speaker simulation. Component values are critical.

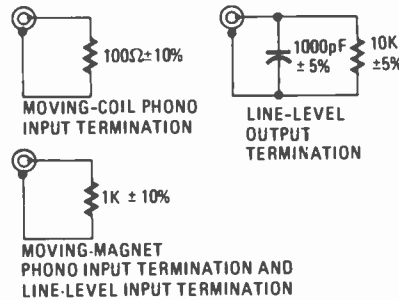


FIG. 4—SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM of the three common low-level input and output loads.

is to measure the difference between an amplifier's power output into a resistive load and into the reactive load, using an input signal in the 40- to 70-Hz range. The more involved procedures and formulae for formally determining an amplifier's reactive load rating as defined by the IHF are contained in their publication IHF A 202 (available for \$7.00) from EIA-Institute of High Fidelity, 2001 Eye St. NW, Washington, DC 20006. Make check for \$7.00 payable to EIA/CEG). These should be used when you test to verify an amplifier's published performance. Construction details are shown in Fig. 3.

The third loading device is a box that contains the standard low-power loads connected to the inputs and outputs of an amplifier or receiver for phono and line-level testing. These have also been standardized by the IHF, and schematics for several types of input and output terminations are shown in Fig. 4. They may be easily built into a chassis box with phono or BNC connectors.

## White-noise "Pinking" Filter

ONE OF THE MOST COMMONLY USED signals in high-fidelity testing is random noise. It is a noise signal that has, at any given instant, a gaussian (random) distribution of both frequencies and amplitudes. So it also has a long-term average amplitude that is linear across the audio spectrum. That distribution enables rapid testing of audio components. A random-noise signal is injected into the device under test and the device's output is analyzed for changes in the noise spectrum. Any change, of course, indicates a nonlinearity.

For use in lab testing and service work, random noise commonly comes in two varieties: "white" noise that has equal total energy distribution per cycle bandwidth, and "pink" noise that has total equal energy distribution per percentage bandwidth. When analyzed by a constant-cycle bandwidth analyzer (a 1-Hz or 10-Hz band analyzer, for instance) white noise exhibits flat total amplitude response; while pink noise exhibits flat total amplitude response when measured by a constant percentage bandwidth analyzer, such as a 1/3 or 1/10 octave analyzer.

Each type of noise is commonly used with its complementary analyzer. Using white noise with a constant-percentage bandwidth analyzer, that has

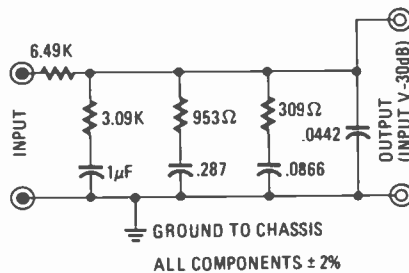


FIG. 5—PINKING FILTER. This device converts "white" noise into more useful "pink" noise.

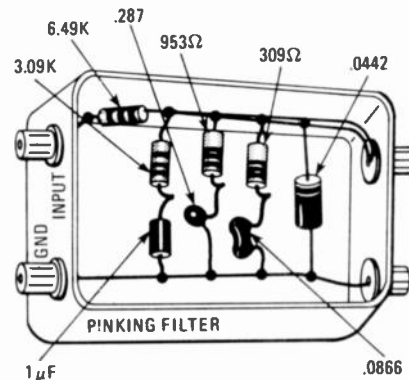


FIG. 6—PICTORIAL DIAGRAM showing suggested layout of pinking filter components.

an analysis window that becomes wider and wider as frequency rises, yields a noise-amplitude characteristic that rises at a predictable 3 dB per octave.

Pink noise analyzed by a constant-cycle bandwidth analyzer, whose window has a width that remains constant regardless of frequency, produces a response that falls at 3 dB per octave.

Most audio analysis work calls for constant-percentage bandwidth analyzers, so pink noise is by far the handiest test signal to have on the bench. Yet many noise generators produce only white noise. To convert a white-noise source to pink noise, a pinking filter is required. The filter (see Fig. 5) is a passive R-C network, so there are some limitations on the impedances of the equipment to be tested, if accurate frequency response is to be achieved. The output impedance of the device preceding the filter (usually a tape out or preamp out) should be no greater than 1k. The input impedance of the stage following the filter no less than 20k. The filter may be built into a small metal box (Fig. 6). Its input is connected via banana plugs directly to the front-panel outputs of the random-noise generator. A second pair of banana jacks, binding posts, or a phono jack are used for the output connector.

Component values here are critical. See May, 1980 "Hobby Corner" for information on making your own precision resistors.

## Step Attenuator for Input Signals

AUDIO MEASUREMENTS ARE USUALLY made at specific output levels. For power amplifiers, often at full power,  $-3$  dB,  $-10$  dB, and  $-20$  dB. The simplest way to make such measurements rapidly is to insert a step attenuator in series with the input signal. With the attenuator in its bypass position (all

resistive elements out of circuit) the amplifier's full output can be measured. Then sequential attenuation of the input signal in steps permits evaluating distortion at the various lower output levels. Details for such a step attenuator are shown in Figs. 7 and 8.

The unit provides up to 41 dB of at-

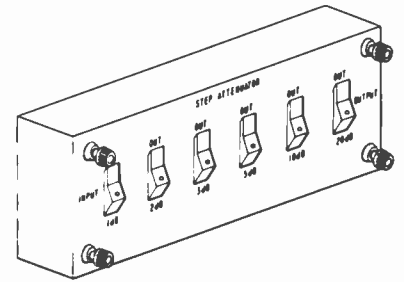


FIG. 8—POSSIBLE LAYOUT for an input signal step attenuator.

tenuation for low-power signals in six steps. It can be built into any type of shielded metal box, using DPDT toggle or rocker switches. Binding posts, BNC's, or phono jacks are used for input and output connectors. The uses of the device extend beyond testing of power amplifiers. It is equally valuable for evaluating tape recorder and loud-speaker performance.

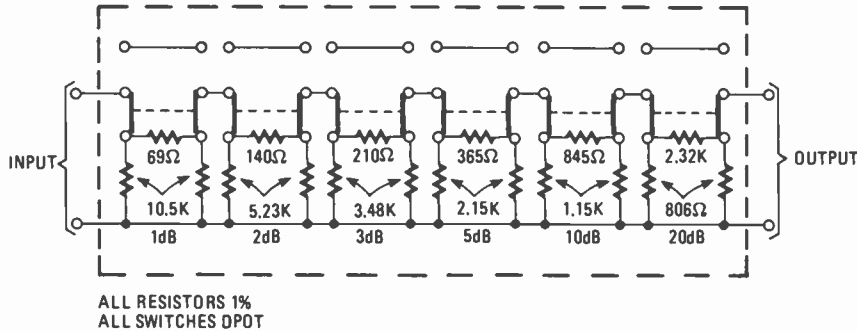


FIG. 7—STEP ATTENUATOR schematic. This device permits evaluation of output signals at predetermined input levels. DPDT switches may be either toggle or rocker type.

## RIAA-Equalization Inverter

ALL CONVENTIONAL RECORDS ARE CUT with an equalization curve that reduces the bass and increases the treble. A complementary bass-boost, treble-cut equalization is applied during playback by the phono preamplifier. The exact shape of this curve, is called the RIAA curve, after the organization—the Recording Industry Association of America—that standardized it.

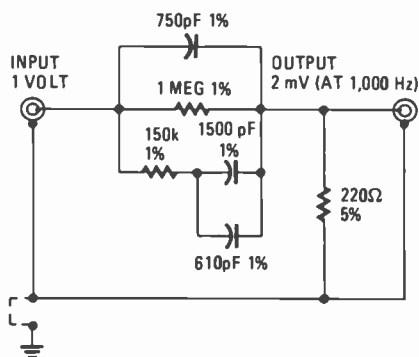


FIG. 9—RIAA EQUALIZATION inverter. Component values and tolerances are very important.

One important specification when measuring a phono-preamp stage is the accuracy of the equalization, since any deviation from the standard curve in effect introduces an error in frequency response. For many years,  $\pm 1$  dB was considered an acceptable figure. Improvements throughout the record-playback chain and greater interest in the sonic colorations of different preamplifiers, have convinced many re-

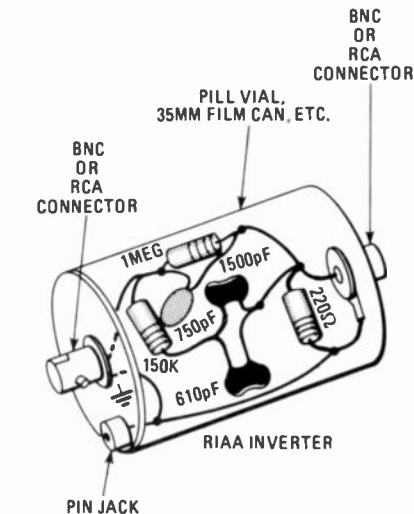


FIG. 10—CONSTRUCTION OF INVERTER using in-line enclosure. Pin jack permits separate ground.

viewers and design engineers that a good preamp section should be accurate to within 0.25 dB or even better.

The simplest method of evaluating the RIAA-equalization accuracy of a preamplifier is to insert an inverting filter, which precisely matches the standard curve, in series with the input test signal. The preamp section's output, as monitored with a precision voltmeter or strip chart recorder, should be constant at all frequencies in the audio range. Any meter deviation or wiggles in the chart recorder's graph indicate equalization errors.

Details for the construction of an RIAA-inverter are shown in Figs. 9 and 10. Note that the inverter circuit also attenuates the input signal considerably, to match the sensitivity of most preamp sections (typically 2mV or less for full output).

As you can see, the component tolerances necessary to deliver the required degree of accuracy are quite tight. You may have to individually measure and pre-select or trim the component values to obtain the tolerances needed. The inverter can be built up on a perforated circuit board, and housed in a chassis box. Use RCA or BNC connectors for input and output. It's a good idea, by the way, to make provisions for isolating the connector shields from chassis grounds. Different preamplifiers react in varying ways to phono-grounding arrangements, and maximum flexibility is desirable here.

R-E



"I'm afraid your computer has a terminal illness."

# Pictorial Guide to VHS Threading



*Even though electronics tells them what to do, mechanical devices do these jobs.*

FOREST BELT

A VHS CASSETTE RECORDER THREADS tape into the transport only for the PLAY and RECORD modes. Pressing the STOP button causes the mechanism to unthread the tape and then return it to the cassette.

That's something you need to know. In Beta machines, if you remember, inserting the cassette and pressing the carrier down until it latches makes the tape thread immediately. Beta tape remains wrapped around the video head drum and through the transport path during the record, play, fast forward, and rewind modes. It stays that way in the stop mode, too. Only when the EJECT button is depressed does the tape unwrap and return to the Beta cassette.

Not so in a VHS unit. Several things happen to make the machine ready to operate when you insert the cassette and press down the cassette carrier, but threading is *not* one of them.

Genuine familiarity with a video cassette recorder comes through experience. If you have access to a VHS machine, you can follow these explanations directly. Lacking a machine, study the photos. They should prepare you for the reality of opening up a VHS recorder to troubleshoot the mechanical portions of a threading or unthreading fault.

As you see each mechanical device pointed out in a photograph, the caption tells you what it does and how it works. In some instances, fault symptoms may not be obvious; however, the captions tell how to recognize the malfunctions. (Note: The VHS machine used for those photos is an RCA model VCT400. Other brands and models contain similar threading mechanics.)



**WITH SIDE, TOP AND BACK COVERS OFF** cassette carrier—chamber that holds cassette—becomes accessible. Removing four screws frees carrier cover. Pawl trips latch at end of cassette gate, a door in the cassette itself that protects tape inside, and, as carrier is pressed down, metal post near corner lifts gate to uncover tape at front of cassette.

Most common defect: warped cassette carrier assembly or bent metal post. Either is often caused by owner inserting cassette backward or upside down and then trying to FORCE carrier down to latching position. Only practical cure is

replacement of entire carrier assembly. But metal parts can hardly ever be straightened to the tight tolerances necessary for operation.

To inspect threading this way, press down on cassette and depress the PLAY button. Note: Continue pressure on cassette during operation; slight looseness with carrier cover off lets tape misalign and either tangle, break, or shut machine off. As long as you hold cassette down tight, machine should function in Play mode, sending picture and sound to TV monitor. If tape does not thread with PLAY button depressed, perform tests the way the following photos describe.

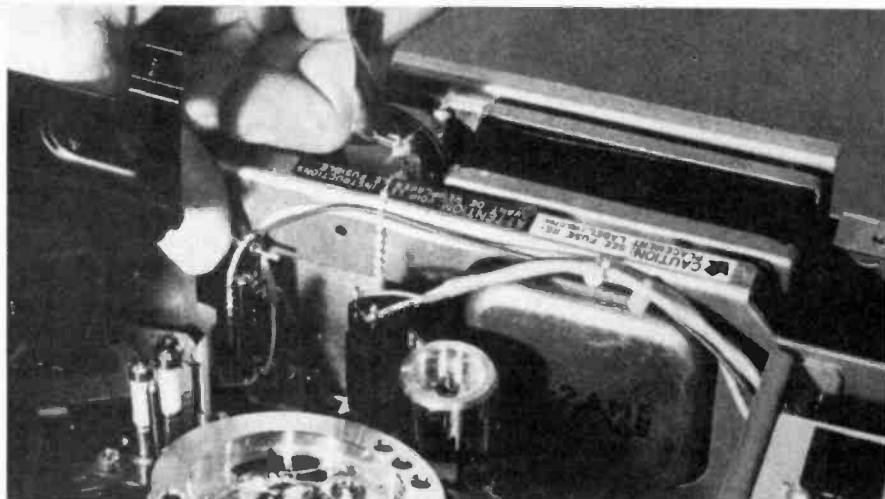


**OPERATION WITHOUT CASSETTE** can be accomplished by pushing the cassette carrier down until it latches. Then stick black tape over phototransistors at each side of mechanism. Otherwise, automatic shutoff lamp illuminates them and prevents PLAY button from latching. Even bench or room light can trip the auto-shutoff system, which instantly unlatches any operating button you might push.

Mechanical or electronic? With both phototransistors covered, press PLAY. If the button does not latch, listen for clicking of auto-shutoff solenoid each time you try to press the button down. Solenoid is just behind row of operating buttons, and hidden by them. A click indicates that the solenoid is unlatching the button. Trouble probably is electronic, in auto-shutoff system, or caused by some error or malfunction that activates auto-shutoff.

If there's no clicking, but you still cannot get the PLAY button to latch down, look for mechanical trouble. Solenoid might be stuck.

Two spring-loaded roller arms keep cassette



carrier down. Pull them away and press EJECT to release cassette carrier. From up position, push carrier down slowly keeping downward pressure on PLAY button at the same time. At bottom of

carrier travel, roller arms should slip over top of carrier-tray ends. If that does not release block on PLAY button, mechanical interlock is not working right.

**THREADING MECHANISM** in the stop mode leaves tape unthreaded (photo at left). Path of tape before threading leads across front of cassette, with gate up and exposing tape. Mechanism moves to threaded positions in play mode (photo at right). Drawing illustrates tape path in un-loaded mode, and labels key parts of threading mechanism.

With PLAY button latched down, switch closes to apply 12 volts to six-transistor stage that drives loading motor. Motor pulley drives worm gear. Two leading gears engage teeth around perimeter of two loading rings. Teeth cover only about one-third of circumference of each loading ring.

Loading or threading posts are part of loading rings. When motor drives rings, those posts move in arc, in slots in guide plate. If cassette were in place, both posts would protrude inside cassette, between tape and reel. Also "inside" tape path is *threading guide post*, right next to left-side loading-ring post. At right corner of cassette, also "inside" tape path, is capstan.

Loading motor turns rings, and ring posts move outward, each moving partway around one side of video-head cylinder. If a cassette were there, tape would be pulled outward from the cassette by each of these loading-ring posts.

Threading-guide post moves outward, too; but it is pivoted on arm and swings leftward, guiding tape in that direction. Threading-guide post establishes path that holds tape against full-erase head.

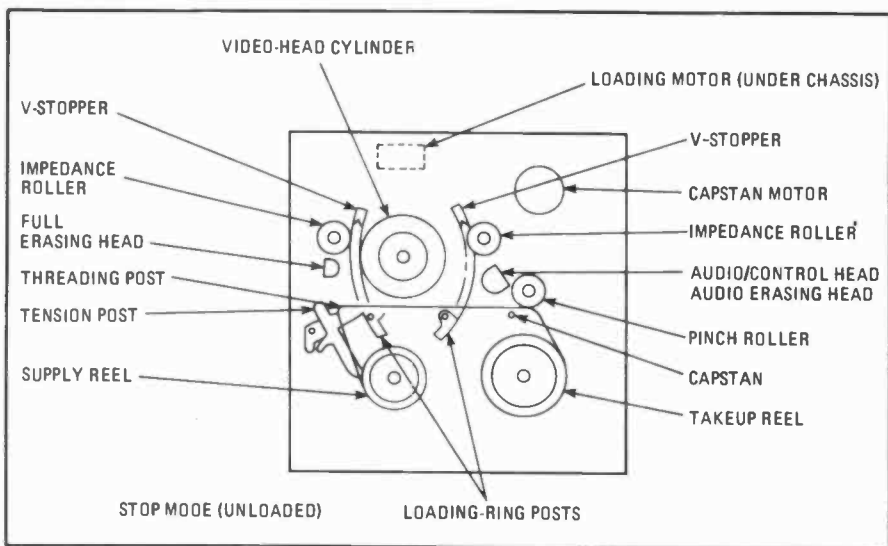
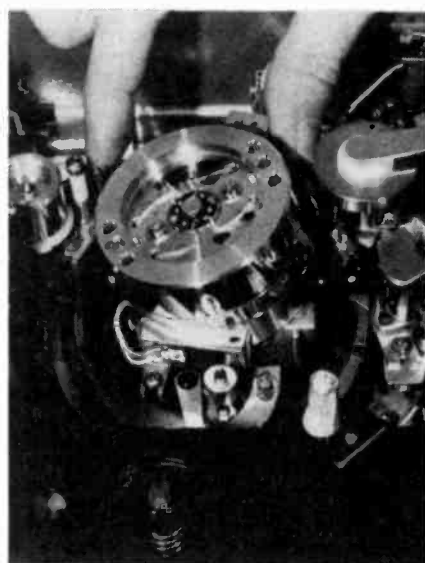
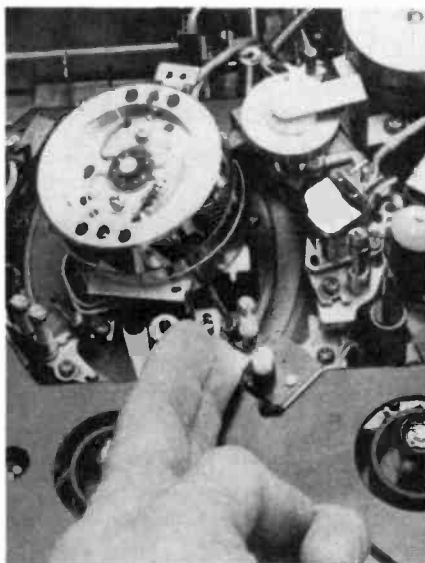
As that post approaches leftmost travel, its pivot arm levers another pivoted arm. *Tension post* on the second arm swings rightward and encounters tape. Attached to base of that tension arm is brake band that encircles base of supply reel turntable. If tape were to slacken a bit, brake band would tighten. Drag on supply reel would keep slack out.

As loading-ring posts pull tape outward along each side of cylinder, tab on left-side ring pushes impedance roller back slightly, to allow tape past. Then impedance roller returns into contact with tape. Impedance roller contacts tape firmly just before 90-degree direction change around left loading-ring post.

An *angle-post* right beside loading post changes tape direction another 90 degrees. At the same time, angle post orients tape to lie flat against canted cylinder.

As all that occurs on left side, right-side loading-ring post pulls tape from that side of cassette. But there are no threading-guide and tension posts on right side; another impedance roller positions tape close against right-side loading post. Angle-post there straightens up angle as tape comes from around cylinder. Tape path from impedance roller to capstan goes past audio and control head and holds tape in contact with that head.

When both loading rings have moved their



posts through complete arcs (about 110 degrees). A loading-end switch signals loading-motor drive stage to stop motor. Similar signal activates pressure-roller solenoid, which draws roller against capstan.

That completes loading. Capstan motor has turned on, as has cylinder drive circuitry. (Video-head cylinder operates from servo-controlled three-phase internal drive motor. In some machines it operates continuously, even in stop or unthreaded mode.)

**LEAF SWITCHES** signal when threading or unthreading has finished. Tab on left-side loading ring pivots arm that pushes loading-end switch closed.

In earlier VHS models, loading-end switch applies 12 volts DC (logic high) to logic circuits that turn off threading motor stages, activate pressure-roller solenoids, and switch electronics to playback. Unloading-end switch, activated by projection on right-side loading ring, grounds logic input when it closes. This applies logic low to stop reversed threading motor.

Some later VHS models have been altered to take logic low from both switches—that is, each switch grounds its respective circuit connection when it closes at end of action.

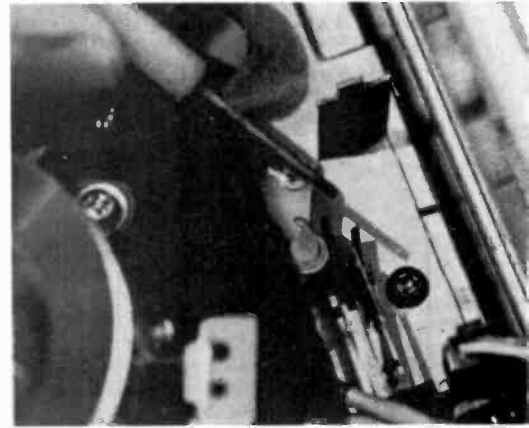
Microswitches often become misadjusted, but leaf switches seldom do. It's easy to tell by inspection whether a leaf switch closes as it should. However, leaf-switch contacts are

susceptible to oxidation. Occasional burnishing is an important part of preventive maintenance.

Most noticeable symptoms of faulty end-switches: Slight swishing sound of loading motor as its pulley slips in belt, motor having failed to shut off after loading. In unloading or stop mode, capstan may keep running after unthreading has supposedly finished.

Observe those switches. Normal operation calls for whichever switch is closed to open as threading or unthreading *begins*. Thus both stay open during actual load/unload activity. Failure of either switch to open thwarts this operation. Machine may refuse to load; may load and then kick out PLAY button but not unload; or may fail to unload when returned to stop mode either by auto-shutoff or manually.

Replacement is best, of course. Inept adjustment of a leaf switch often aggravates problems just described.



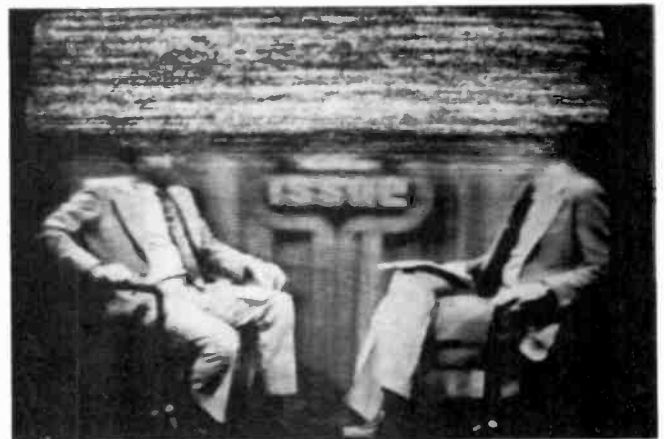
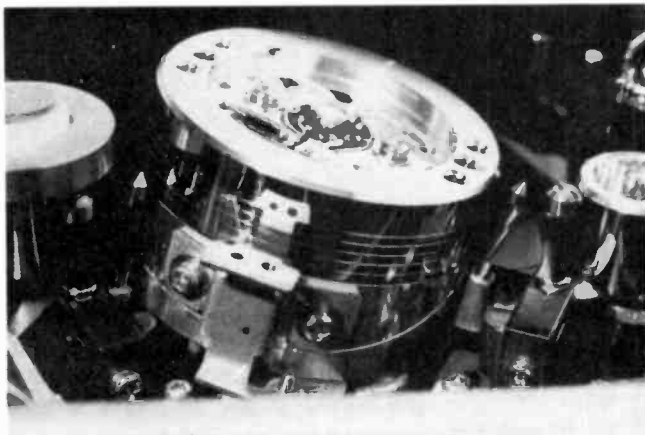
**SIMPLE FAILURE** of machine to load tape after PLAY button has latched down can point to broken or slipped drive belt. Characteristic of this symptom: slight whine of loading motor running but no hint of movement in threading mechanism. After several seconds without loading activity, automatic shutoff takes over and pops PLAY button back up.

Occasionally, jammed threading mechanism prevents loading. That situation generally is accompanied by some noticeable effort of loading rings to turn. Again, though, auto-shutoff takes over presently. A stray object jamming the machinery can often be dislodged by turning loading-drive worm gear backward by hand. Bent

parts would require replacement. Do not try bending them back yourself; bending might work for a while, but will result in callbacks and wasted time.

Slipping drive belt takes the same cure as in a high-grade record changer or audio tape recorder. Clean pulleys and belt thoroughly with alcohol. Best to replace belt. Do not touch either pulleys or inside surface of replacement belt. Be sure you have right belt; wrong size can create intermittent.

If loading motor fails to run, do not blame motor until you have checked out motor-drive stages. Transistor fault there, as often as not, lets motor run in one direction but not in other.



**TAPE POSITIONING** in transport can be critical. Guides and posts along path take care of that positioning. However, probably the most crucial are guide posts on loading rings (photo above). They align tape with respect to head wheel and thus with spinning video heads. Even slight misadjustment of just one guide post delivers band of snow (photo above, right). In some cases, you see multiple bands across picture. This symptom may not be too bad with tapes recorded on same machine.

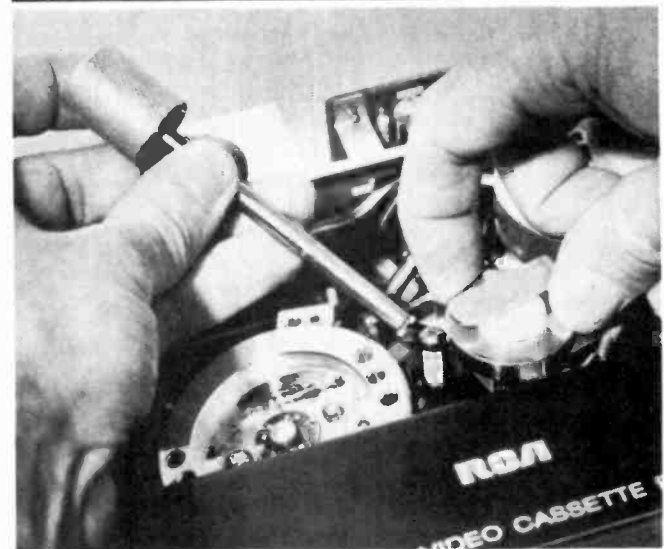
Examine tape itself. If tape shows crinkling along one edge, cause is likely in guide posts on loading rings.

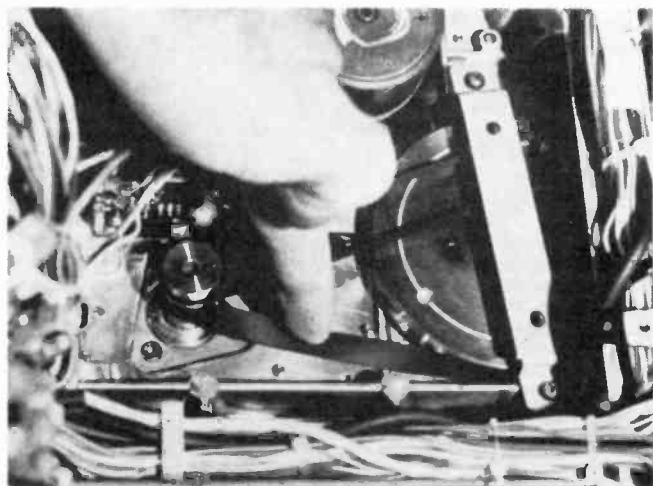
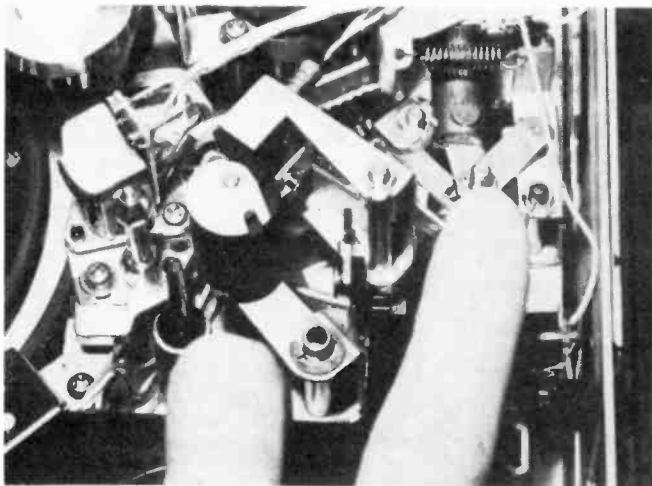
Heights of post guides are independently adjustable in most machines. It's easiest if you remove cassette-carrier cover. However, you can manage preliminary trial adjustment with only machine cover off.

Insert cassette (*not* your alignment cassette). Press PLAY. When the machine has threaded, turn off main power switch. That leaves posts out beside head wheel and accessible. To reach right-side post, you may have to push the impedance roller aside, as shown in photo at bottom right). Use only special tool for adjustment (RCA No. 144389; Magnavox No. VFK0137/171455-13). (When you turn machine back on, it automatically unthreads and cycles out to stop mode, since power was interrupted.)

Make your trial adjustments only slight—never more than one-half turn of alignment screw each time. After one attempt, play properly recorded tape and observe snow band. If it has become wider, you have gone in the wrong direction or have adjusted a post that was not out of line.

P. S. Misalignment of head wheel assembly *could* cause the snow bands; but that is not likely unless head wheel has been replaced and its supports improperly seated.





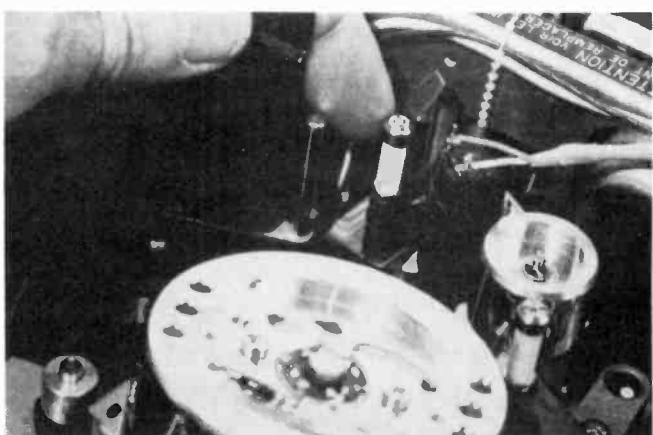
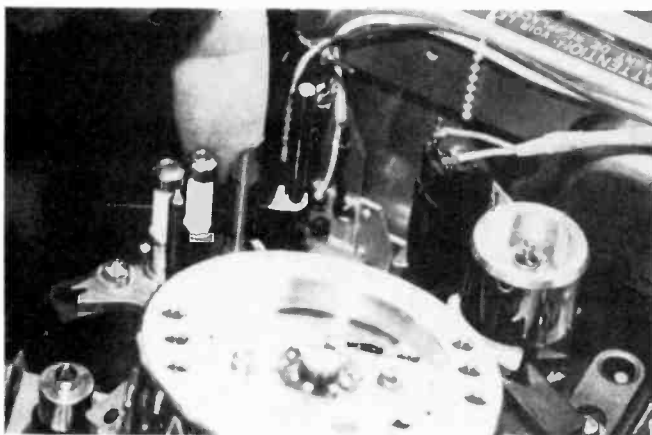
**STEADY MOVEMENT OF TAPE** through transport depends largely on capstan and pressure (pinch) roller. Minor speed variations are noticeable first in audio track. As "wow" grows worse, picture begins breaking up—and sometimes mutes completely, blanking off both video and sound. Control servos try to smooth out minor speed errors, but severe changes reach beyond their range. Indeed, too much slippage trips machine's automatic shutoff.

Transport or tape-movement faults fit into at least four categories. (1) Inadequate pinch-roller

pressure, or flatted or aged roller. (2) Capstan-drive slippage. (3) Excessive drag at supply-reel turntable. (4) Faulty cassette. A faulty cassette, which seldom happens, can be handled easily by simply substituting a known good cassette.

Pinch-roller trouble can develop from fault in solenoid (see photo above, left) or its linkages. Hardening rubber on pinch roller can allow slippage, and calls for new roller. Thorough cleaning of capstan shaft with alcohol should help, and should be done with any replacement roller. Keep finger-marks from both capstan and roller.

Capstan shaft has flywheel underneath deck, driven by flat rubber belt from pulley on capstan drive motor (see photo above, right). Aging belt or accumulation of oil or dirt on pulleys can induce slippage. Any video recorder should have new set of drive belts installed every year or so, or after 1000 hours of operation, as preventive maintenance. Suggest that to machine owner, when an older machine comes in. But you'd better not replace them without explaining first, unless they're actually defective; someone might accuse you of installing unneeded parts.



**DURING PLAY OR RECORD** operation, only motion applied to supply-reel turntable comes from tape being drawn out of cassette. Yet, turntable cannot be left free to "coast." Tape tension must be maintained so that tape stays in close contact with heads throughout transport.

When loading posts move outward, drawing tape with them, threading-guide post moves leftward. Its motion operates another *tension arm* on which is *tension post* that moves rightward, encountering tape. You can gauge motion of

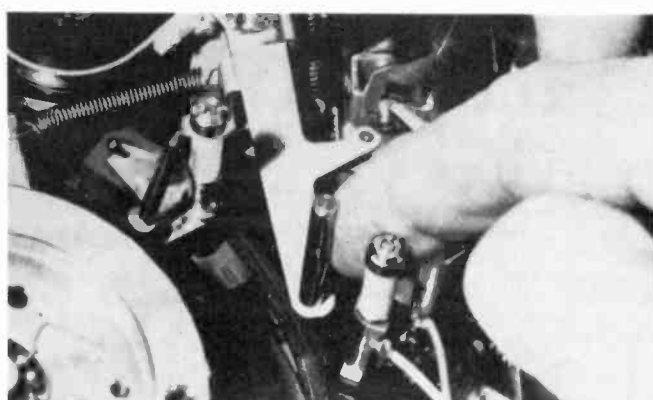
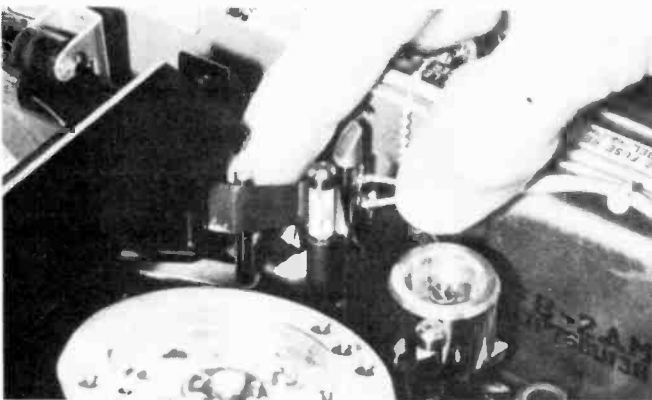
those two posts in photos at above right. Also, to help you visualize those actions, photo at bottom left shows tape route between these two posts.

Other end of tension-post arm attaches to brake band at base of supply-reel turntable (see photo at bottom right). If tape tries to slacken, slack allows tension post to move rightward, which tightens brake band around supply turntable.

That brake is thus self-regulating under most

circumstances. Too much braking overtightens tape and forces tension post slightly leftward, loosening brake band. However, misadjustment might leave the brake band entirely too tight and present too much drag on supply reel.

Foreign material, such as debris from broken tape, might work its way down alongside either turntable. That could impede rotation of turntable. Stuck takeup turntable causes tape to spill. After several seconds, in some machines, this condition activates the auto-shutoff circuitry.





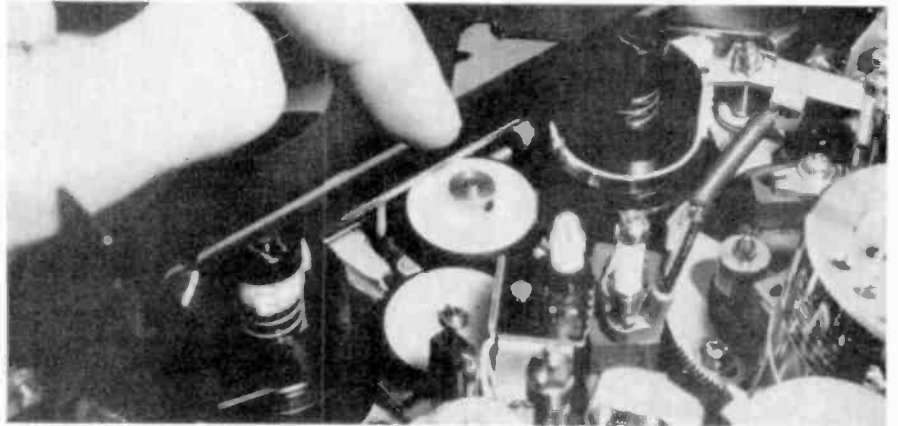
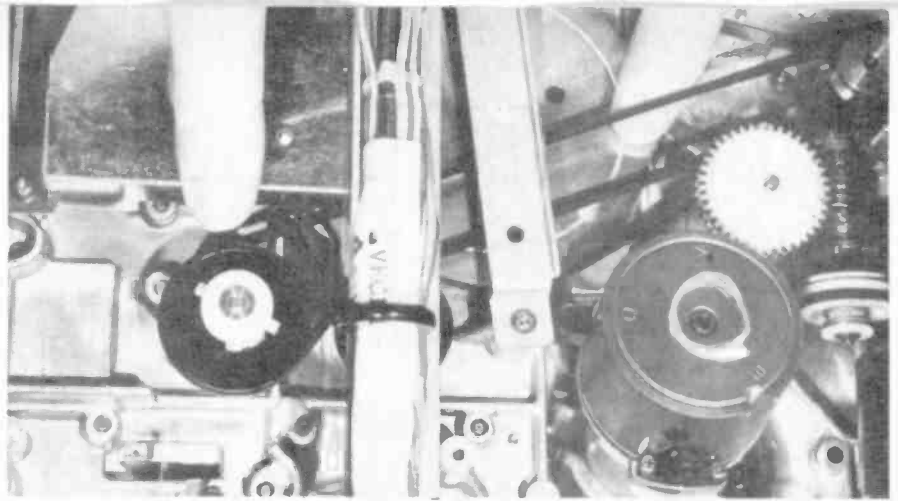
**FAST FORWARD AND REWIND** both operate only with tape unthreaded. Tape path carries it across front of cassette, with gate open, of course. Either operating button closes switch contacts that turn on capstan drive-motor. (Video-head cylinder, which has its own drive, remains off, in some machines.)

Rubber belt from pulley on capstan motor (see photo at top) spins fast-speed drive wheel (where finger points in photo at bottom). Mechanical coupling from REWIND button pulls fast-speed wheel into contact with rim of supply turntable. Result: turntable spins "backward" at high rpm, winding tape back onto supply reel very rapidly.

Pressing FAST FORWARD button pulls fast-forward idler wheel into contact with both fast-speed wheel and rim of takeup turntable. That pulls tape rapidly from supply reel and winds it up on takeup reel.

Defects are generally mechanical. (1) Button linkage may fail to pull correct wheel or idler into contact with proper turntable rim. (2) Turntable in question might be stuck, but that would also affect Play or Record modes. (3) Turntable may have lubricant on its rim. (4) One of idler wheels with rubber tires may be afflicted by defects common to such parts: aged and cracked or hardened rubber tire; dirt or lubricant accumulation; or chafed bearing at wheel center. (5) Drive belt may have broken, slipped off, or stretched. (6) Pulleys beneath deck (photo at top) may have accumulated grit or oil, or set screw might have come loose.

Cleaning takes care of dirt and oil. Replacement cures bad drive belt. Replacement is surest corrective for bad idlers. In every case, however, even after replacements, clean entire drive system with alcohol before you call any job complete.



**SOME PRECAUTIONS** are appropriate once you have found and cleared threading/unthreading problems.

Before you start reassembly of covers—even before you put cover back on cassette carrier—remove two strips of black tape covering end-sensor phototransistors. Otherwise, machine could damage video tape.

Inexperienced technicians reaching that phase of VCR repair often can't find or identify correct screws for replacing covers. To avoid such confusion, buy compartmented trays at hardware store and label each compartment. Less expensive: commandeered styrofoam egg carton from kitchen (see photo below).

With all covers in place, insert blank cassette tape and test all functions: Record from camera and tuner, at both speeds, using monitor; play-back into monitor; pause; fast forward; rewind; and, of course, stop. Be sure machine goes automatically to Stop mode and unloads at both ends of tape travel, and whenever you slow down capstan or head wheel by hand. **R-E**



# BUILD THIS

# \$ 10 LOGIC PROBE

*If you need to know what is—or isn't—going on in your digital logic circuitry, build this economical logic probe and find out.*

FRED BLECHMANN K6UGT

ANOTHER DIGITAL LOGIC PROBE? YES, BUT THIS ONE HAS A number of advantages over many probes available in kit-form or ready-made. It only takes about 30 minutes to assemble from a complete kit that's available. The high input impedance—about 1 megohm—keeps the probe from affecting most circuits, and the long, slim probe body makes it easy to get "readings" in crowded circuitry. A low parts count, using standard easy-to-find components, results in low final cost. This probe works with both TTL and CMOS circuitry, and is powered by the circuit under test. Perhaps best of all, the complete kit is under \$10!

## Circuit

The schematic (Fig. 1) shows the simple, no-frills circuit. The 555 timer (IC1) is connected to function as a Schmitt trigger, set to a fixed threshold value. The 555 acts as a comparator, with the output inverted relative to the input. With no input signal, pin 2 floats to a logic high level, holding output pin 3 low, so LED1 (the logic high indicator) lights. When the input is connected to a logic low level, pin 3 snaps high and LED2 (the logic low) lights. Resistors R1 and R2 isolate the LED's from each other and control the current through them. Resistor R3 provides feedback between the control voltage and threshold inputs. Diodes D1 and D2 isolate input pin 2 from spurious noise. Diode D3 protects the 555 from reverse polarity connection of the power leads.

## Construction

The circuit could be assembled on perforated board and mounted in any tubular container using some kind of metal probe pin. For those readers who are not handy at making their own enclosures, and prefer the compactness of a slim probe, a



FIG. 1—SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM of the logic probe. Device can be powered by 3.5 to 15 volts tapped off the supply in the device under test.

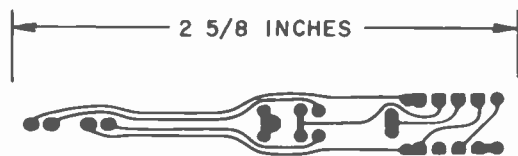


FIG. 2—FOIL PATTERN of the logic probe's PC board.

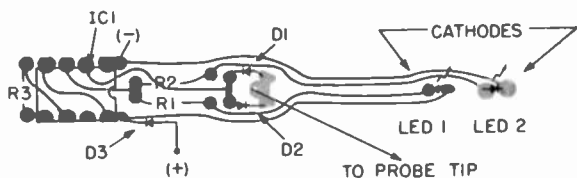


FIG. 3—COMPONENT LAYOUT shows approximate positioning of the parts on the PC board.

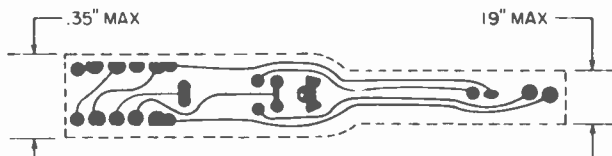
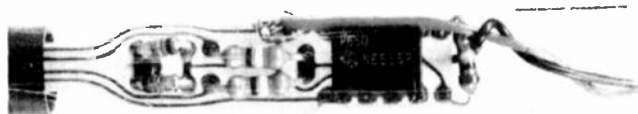


FIG. 4—THE PROBE CASE IS SMALL so the PC board must be trimmed to the dimensions shown.



CLOSE UP OF COMPONENT SIDE of PC board is shown in this view of probe-tip assembly.

### PARTS LIST

All resistors are 1/4 watt carbon.

R1—390 ohms

R2—390 ohms

R3—100,000 ohms

D1—D3—1N914 or equal, signal diode

LED1, LED2—Mini red light-emitting diode

IC1—555 timer

Miscellaneous: body, tip, pin, solder, wire, end cap, clips, insulators, PC board or perf board, cement.

All of the above parts, except the cement, including a drilled, plated PC board and clear plastic see-through body, are available from: PPG Electronics Co., 14663 Lanark St., Van Nuys, CA 91402. The complete kit is \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling, USA. The PC board alone is \$2 postpaid, USA. California residents add 6% sales tax.

kit is offered (see parts list) that includes a special probe-tip assembly and slim acrylic plastic tube for the body. A thin, solder-plated printed circuit board is supplied with the kit (or sold separately), that makes the assembly very easy and avoids unnecessary crowding of parts.

Figure 2 shows the foil side of the PC board, and the parts layout is shown in Fig. 3. The probe housing is small so the PC board must be trimmed as indicated in Fig. 4. There are only a few things to watch out for. Since the small-diameter probe body does not allow space for a socket, it is especially important that you orient pin 1 of the 555 properly. Also, be certain the bases of the LED's are only about 1/16 inch above the board and that the cathodes are oriented as shown in Fig. 3. See Fig. 5 to identify the cathode lead. Also, be sure the diode polarities are as shown—the banded end is the cathode.

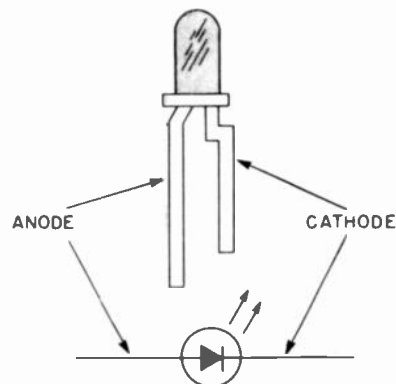


FIG. 5—LED POLARITY is often indicated by having the leads shaped as shown—the cathode lead is the shorter. In addition, the plastic package often has a flat on the rim immediately above the cathode lead.

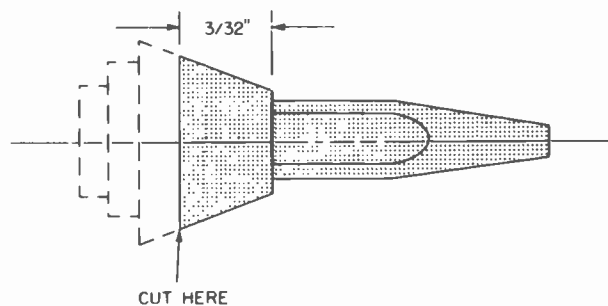


FIG. 6—THE PROBE TIP IS SALVAGED and adapted from the housing of a popular ballpoint pen.

Assemble and solder all components to the board, keeping all parts close to the board. D1 and D2 will have one end raised, so they are at about a 30-degree angle to the board, unless the particular diodes you use are very short. The extra hole between the junction of D1 and D2 at the narrow end will be used later. The same is true for the hole next to pin 1 of the 555. Diode D3's cathode (black band) is soldered in the extra hole next to pin 8 of the 555. The diode lies flat on the board; its anode is connected later.

Now you must prepare the probe-tip assembly. Recognize the

*continued on page 73*



# SERVO-CONTROLLED PICKUP ARM

*An unusual dynamically balanced pickup arm from JVC replaces many mechanical components with electronics to reduce the effects of resonance to a minimum.*

LEN FELDMAN  
CONTRIBUTING HI-FI EDITOR

THE CHIEF FUNCTION OF ANY PICKUP arm in a record-playing system is to keep the cartridge's stylus in intimate contact with the record groove without impeding movement of the stylus as it traces the complex microscopic undulations that are a physical representation of the music waveforms to be reproduced. One of the problems associated with pickup arms is arm resonance—the interaction of the arm's mass and the compliance of the cartridge's stylus assembly. The frequency of that resonance may be below 10 Hz. The higher the cartridge compliance, the lower the arm's resonant frequency.

Some arm/cartridge combinations may have resonance peaks that are as much as 20 dB higher than audible, musical low-frequency content in the record. When the arm is excited by very strong bass in the music or by warps in a record, arm resonance can cause intermodulation in the reproduced music. Under worst-case conditions, excessive pickup arm resonance can actually push the stylus out of the groove entirely.

There are two approaches to solving arm-resonance problems: reducing the mass of the arm to increase the arm's resonant frequency so that it is above audible range; or taking steps to damp out resonance peaks to below audibility. A pickup arm recently introduced by JVC and incorporated in their *model QL-Y5F* turntable shown in Fig. 1 attempts to damp resonance with purely electronic systems. Tracking force and anti-skating force are also applied completely electronically. The new pickup arm is called an *Electro-Dynamic (E-D) Servo* arm and is aptly named, since two fully electronic servo systems control all

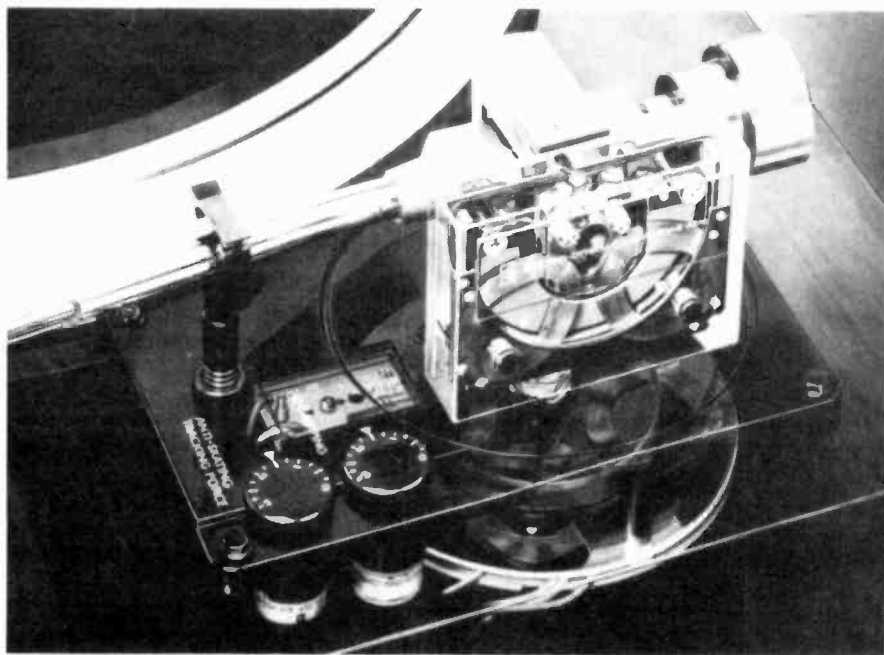


FIG. 1—JVC's MODEL QL-Y5F has unique servo-controlled pick-up arm.

horizontal and vertical motions of the arm from instant to instant while the arm tracks a record groove.

Two coreless linear motors generate the horizontal and vertical torques that move the arm. Each torque is controlled by its own independent servo system. Of the two most popular balancing systems used in pickup arms, dynamic and static, the dynamic type does a better job of keeping the stylus in close contact with the walls of the record grooves. But conversely, the spring that is used in most dynamically balanced arms, hinders, rather than helps, the arm to move smoothly as the stylus it carries tracks complex undulations in the grooves. The result is stylus movement

that is not totally free. Another important factor to consider is the applied anti-skating force. It is often mechanically applied and presents another source of friction and, in consequence, another cause of impeded stylus motion.

JVC's E-D Servo pickup arm is a dynamically balanced type that does not have the drawbacks you would normally expect. It has no spring to apply tracking force, nor does it have a second spring or magnet to apply skating force. Instead, it uses a balancing system in which torques, generated by the interaction of a built-in coil with a permanent magnet (actually two magnet-coil combinations, for horizontal and vertical torque generation) do the



JVC MODEL QL-Y5F.

job without any mechanical contact with the moving arm itself. What is essentially a statically balanced arm remains free of any mechanical linkage, and, therefore, has high sensitivity. An exploded view of the major elements of the new E-D arm is shown in Fig. 2.

If a conventional pickup arm is accelerated upwards by the warp of a record being tracked, its tendency is to rise even after the warp-area has flattened out, until gravity brings it back into contact with the record's surface. In the past, oil-damped arms have been used to attempt to correct that situation. In JVC's E-D Arm, when record warp starts to lift the arm, it generates a voltage in the vertical velocity-detection coil. This voltage is passed along to the vertical arm-drive circuit where it is converted into current, is amplified, and fed to the vertical arm-drive coil. The coil develops a magnetic field that

moves a magnet in the opposite direction to that of the initial force—in this case, downward. Since the entire process is electronic, it occurs in a matter of nanoseconds, before mis-tracking can occur. Incidentally, once static balance has been set for the arm/cartridge combination, variable tracking force is applied electronically, by a constant current, in much the same manner.

Lateral motion of the arm and cartridge is also under continuous electronic control by a similar system. Sudden physical shocks, whether mechanically or acoustically coupled to the turntable system are effectively "damped," as are excessive lateral arm excursions caused by records with center-holes that are not properly centered. The two separate horizontal and vertical servo systems work together to cancel all spurious arm movements, whether they are vertical, horizontal, or, as most

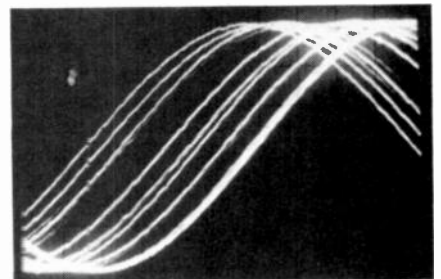


FIG. 3—SUBSONIC ARM RESONANCE distorts audible test tone.

often, a combination of both. And just as a constant current maintains downward tracking force vertically, anti-skating compensation is applied by the horizontal drive coil, also with a constant current. Despite the seeming complexity of the servo systems, adjusting the E-D Servo arm is actually as simple, if not simpler, than adjusting a conventional arm. Once the cartridge has been mounted and the counterweight has been set for zero-balance, the user merely turns both the Q-DAMPING and ANTI-SKATING/TRACKING FORCE dials to the value, in grams, recommended by the cartridge manufacturer.

The two separate linear motors that generate horizontal and vertical rotary torques are mounted so that those torques are created around the same axis as that of the pickup arm's rotary shaft. This is done so that no force is generated to try to shift the position of the rotary shaft, and prevents any reduction in arm sensitivity caused by eccentric application of additional friction components.

Operation of the more usual automated functions of the arm such as horizontal travel, up/down cueing, lead-in, lead-out and return functions

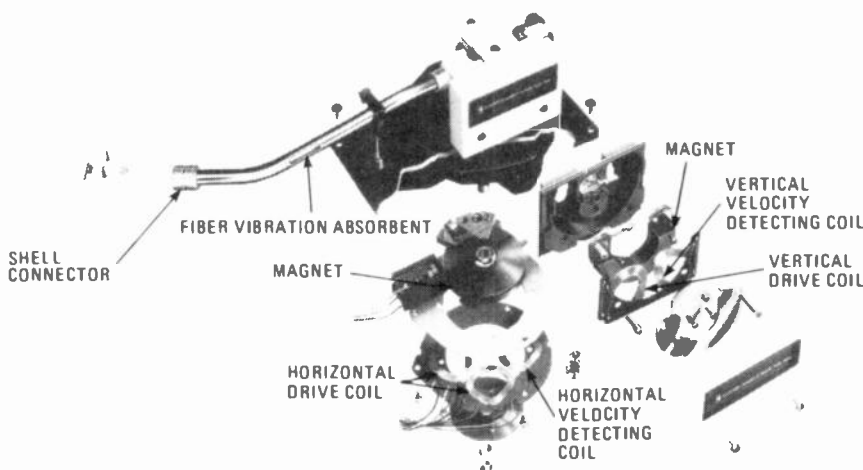
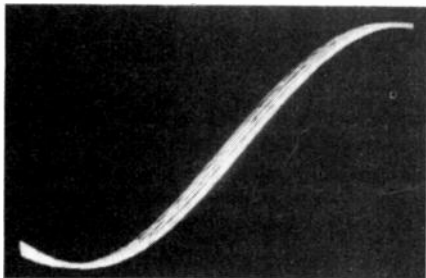


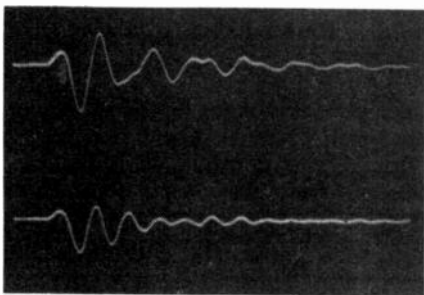
FIG. 2—SERVO-CONTROLLED PICK-UP ARM has velocity detecting and drive coils that are used to vary both the horizontal and vertical damping characteristics.

are also completely electronic and the arm does not contact any part of the cabinet at any time. It is even possible to adjust arm parameters during play, since tracking and anti-skating forces as well as resonance damping are all adjusted with continuously variable controls located at the base of the pickup arm.



**FIG. 4—SERVO-CONTROLLED PICK-UP ARM** reduces arm resonance. Audible test tone distortion is also reduced as compared to Fig. 3.

To illustrate the effect of arm resonance, we found a heavily warped record (not at all difficult to do, incidentally) that had served us well as a test record before it was inadvertently exposed to sunlight and hopelessly warped. Using a conventional pickup arm with a known resonance in the region of 8 to 10 Hz with a specific cartridge, that resonance was easily caused intermodulation at the higher audible frequencies on the test record. By synchronizing our oscilloscope so that it "locks" just one cycle of the desired test tone contained in the record, we see, in Fig. 3, how the subsonic warp or resonance frequency interacts with the desired audible-test frequency to generate distortion.



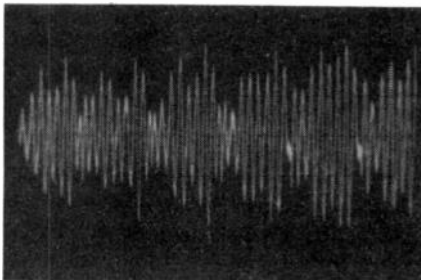
**FIG. 5—EXTERNAL SHOCK** applied to turntable cabinet is accentuated by arm resonance. Upper trace shows effect of external shock on conventional pick-up arm, while lower trace shows effect on servo-controlled arm.

The same warped record was then played using the new JVC Electro-Dynamic Servo pickup arm equipped with the same cartridge. The Q-Damping (or Resonance Damping) control was adjusted until virtually all of the effects of resonance disappeared from the scope presentation, as shown in the scope photo of Fig. 4.

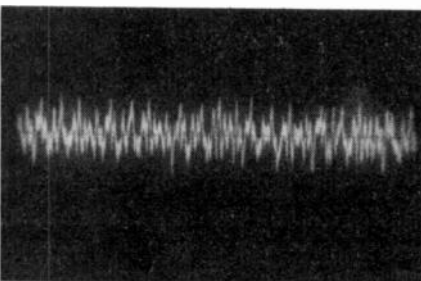
Uncontrolled resonance in a pickup arm can also accentuate the effect that an external shock applied to the turntable cabinet can have on reproduced music. The upper trace of Fig. 5 shows

the output waveform of a well-known cartridge after an external shock is applied to a turntable cabinet. The lower trace shows the output waveform produced by the same cartridge mounted in the E-D arm and adjusted properly for resonance control.

According to JVC, even signal-to-noise is improved by proper control of arm resonance. Since an unmodulated record groove contains wideband, random noise frequencies, it is reasoned that some of that noise energy will excite the resonant frequency region of the arm/cartridge combination and if such resonance is undamped or uncontrolled, overall noise amplitude will actually be



**FIG. 6—NOISE WAVEFORM** generated by unmodulated record groove that is traced with a conventional pick-up arm.



**FIG. 7—NOISE IS REDUCED** as compared to Fig. 6 when unmodulated groove is traced by new servo-controlled pick-up arm.

greater than it would be had the arm been properly damped and its resonance suppressed. To prove that last point, JVC supplied us scope photos of waveforms of noise generated when an unmodulated groove is traced with a pick-up arm whose resonance is uncontrolled (Fig. 6) and, for comparison, the waveform of noise generated when an unmodulated groove is traced with their new E-D arm (Fig. 7).

Although the phonograph record is now more than 100 years old, and we have come a long, long way from Edison's tin foil cylinders and steel phonograph "needles," there still seems to be no end to the innovative improvements that continue to be developed to aid in its reproduction and accuracy of playback. Probably the only development that will bring to an end this quest for perfection will be the standardization and popularization of a digital disc format. But since such standardization still seems to be years away, every new advance in analog record reproduction is a welcome one.

R-E



ROBERT B. GROVE

NO OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS a government that smiles more leniently on its eavesdropping citizens than does our own. Many countries ban radio listening altogether, while nearly all others regulate it to varying degrees.

### Listening and the law

While we Americans are free to listen to anything, we are prohibited from discussing what we overhear (unless the transmission is specifically intended for public consumption). Additionally, we may not use what we overhear for personal gain. Those laws are expressed by the 1934 Communications Act, section 605. The act is presently undergoing massive rewriting by Congress.

Obviously, many manufacturers, both domestic and abroad, are aware of the insatiable appetite that Americans have for "listening in." New shortwave receivers from offshore manufacturers like Sony, Panasonic, Radio Shack, Yaesu, and Kenwood-Trio, compete with Drake, McKay, Dymek, Heathkit, and other American manufacturers.

Some companies—notably Electra (Bearcat), and Regency—specialize in scanning receivers for the VHF/UHF enthusiast.

As a result, worldwide radio communications are being overheard at an unprecedented rate by unauthorized and uninvited listeners. Some agencies are becoming quite sensitive about the intrusion of their privacy. Treasury and Justice Department officials are openly opposed to scanner monitoring. Their hostility is not without cause: an alarming number of scanners have been





# TUNING IN ON WORLDWIDE SW STATIONS

*In radio circles, eavesdropping is a way of life. If you want to find out for yourself what's happening on the air, this guide will provide a number of worthwhile pointers.*

confiscated from suspects arrested during criminal investigations. The scanners had been used ostensibly to monitor law-enforcement channels to elude capture. On the other hand, many law-enforcement agencies welcome the public inspection of their communications to stimulate involvement.

The vast majority of scanner listeners are simply fascinated by the idea of intercepting a communication not intended for them to hear. It is a form of voyeurism, whether we admit it or not. And it's fun! (See Table I.)

### About scanners

Although crystal-controlled scanners are still with us for inexpensive monitoring of small numbers of frequencies, programmable scanners are growing rapidly in popularity. They are where the action is.

The "Big Three" in programmables are: Electra (Bearcat), Regency, and Radio Shack (Realistic). For the inveterate tinkerer, nothing can surpass the hours of fascination playing with a programmable scanning receiver. Those radios are available for VHF/UHF-FM monitoring, VHF-AM aircraft listening, or a combination of those functions. New products and innovative features are closely-guarded secrets with manufacturers. Industrial espionage is a real threat in this hotly-contested race for first place in consumer scanner marketing.

### Modern scanner design

Most modern scanners have outstanding sensitivity. They provide

metropolitan coverage while using only their small whip antennas. In fact, manufacturers prefer that their customers not use outside antennas. Often, the increased signal strengths aggravate problems of intermodulation, images, and other symptoms typical of front-end overload.

A frequent criticism heard from users is, "Why don't manufacturers listen to us? We want increased frequency coverage, S-meters, reduction of images and spurious signals, and increased search rates." Well, perhaps the tide is turning. I have just returned from a very productive meeting with a top

manufacturer of scanners where I served as a consultant. Many suggestions were carefully considered. There should be improvements in the months ahead!

Perhaps the most important development in recent scanners is the BC-220 from Electra. It combines VHF-AM aircraft monitoring with the usual complement of three-band FM coverage. More important, the dual-mode detector (AM and FM) qualifies the receiver as an excellent mainframe to be used with external frequency converters for those stalwart listeners who want to extend their frequency ranges. Thus, the military UHF-AM aircraft band (225-

**TABLE 1—SELECTED VHF-FM MONITORING FREQUENCIES**

Freq. MHz.	Service
43.58	Paging, nationwide.
47.42	American Red Cross network.
146.94	Most popular 2-meter ham frequency.
148.15	Civil Air Patrol.
150.00	Military navigational satellite.
152.54	Mobile telephone.
156.80	Ship calling and distress.
157.05	U.S. Coast Guard vessels.
163.20	U.S. Marshals, nationwide.
165.375	Secret Service.
462-975	Emergency Medical Team dispatch (larger cities)



**BEARCAT 220 from the Electra Co.**

400 MHz) could be covered, as well as the new 806-866 MHz FM land mobile band.

A number of manufacturers produce high-quality frequency converters, including VHF Engineering, Vanguard, JANEL, and Hamtronics.

### VHF/UHF ban

In the U.S., the most popular bands



REALISTIC DX-300 from Radio Shack

scan in the FM ranges are: VHF-low band (30-50 MHz); VHF-high band (150-175 MHz), and UHF (450-512 MHz). Probably 99% of the land mobile services operate their communications within those ranges.

VHF-low band is occupied primarily by users who need wide geographical coverage. Hilly or mountainous terrain is less destructive on signals within this band. Sheriffs' departments, utility companies, and military users populate that portion of the spectrum.

VHF-high band is the most densely-packed portion of the land mobile spectrum. Fortunately, it is not as vulnerable to skip interference as low band; otherwise most of the high-band frequencies would sound like CB channel 19! The popular two-meter ham band with its myriad repeaters is



PANASONIC MODEL RF-2900

found just below the high-band frequencies. The band of 144-148 MHz is allocated to the amateur services, and most programmable scanners cover at least a portion of that range. Federal government agencies are allocated the frequencies above 162 MHz.

UHF is used primarily in metropolitan areas. It provides some relief from VHF congestion. Short antennas and less co-channel interference are incentives for many UHF users.

### Frequency lists for VHF/UHF

Several companies produce periodic lists of frequencies for scanner buffs. Many of those lists are categorized by geographical region for maximum consumer convenience. Electra provides a frequency service. Dial 1-317-894-1230 to request a free frequency list for your area. It provides an excellent starting point to begin listening with your new scanner.

For the serious scanner user, one organization is outstanding for its service to members: The Radio Communications Monitoring Association (RCMA) with headquarters in Anaheim, California. Their monthly newsletter is packed with pertinent information for scanner enthusiasts. Frequency lists, new equipment reports, technical topics, and question-and-answer columns are meticulously prepared for each issue. New members are welcome. Write to RCMA (P.O.B. 4563, Anaheim, CA 92803) for a free sample copy of their excellent bulletin, and membership information.



YAESU MODEL FRG-7000

A very sensitive topic among scanner listeners is that of federal law-enforcement frequencies. Generally, those channels are considerably removed from the portion of the spectrum reserved for non-government law-enforcement operations. Some of those ranges are not tuneable with programmable scanners. An interesting book by Tom Kneitel is his *Top Secret Registry of U.S. Government Radio Frequencies*. (\$4.95 from CRB Research, P.O. Box 56, Commack, NY 11725). It covers the frequency range 25-470 MHz, and gives an idea of who is on which frequencies in the VHF/UHF spectrum. Several pages of operating and listening hints are included.

One major source of police, fire, and local government frequencies is the *Police Call Directory*, published by Gene Hughes. It is available through Radio Shack outlets. It may be ordered



PANASONIC MODEL RF-4900

from Hollin's Radio Data, P.O. Box 35002, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

### Shortwave reception

Below 30 MHz, everything is different: receivers, antennas, signal propagation, and even services. Shortwave listeners ("SWL's") often stay up into the wee hours of the morning to catch rare "DX" as distant stations are called in the vernacular (see Table 2). It is here that we may intercept "Air Force One" with its presidential com-

munications—spies with their cryptic broadcasts—pirate broadcasting stations at hidden locations—Coast Guard rescue missions—intercontinental telephone conversations—aircraft transmissions from worldwide countries as they cross the seas. The shortwave spectrum changes its signal-carrying characteristics from day to night. As a general rule, above 10 MHz is daylight use. Below 10 MHz is best heard at night.

Although many listeners are fascinated by everything they hear on the shortwave bands, most SWL's are polarized into one of two groups: Broadcast listeners (those who enjoy logging distant international broadcasting stations like BBC and Radio Moscow), and Utility DX'ers (two-way communications interception).

There is great challenge in both areas. Third world countries with their weak, temporary transmitters are elusive targets for the broadcast hunters. Military maneuvers and diplomatic communications are fascinating fare for the

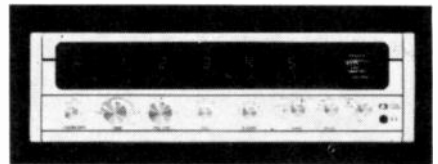


HEATHKIT MODEL SW-717

"Ute" fans. Yes, the shortwave spectrum is a whirlwind of intrigue.

Many hobbyists are rediscovering the excitement of shortwave listening, an enthusiasm that seemed to fade a few years ago. Time-honored companies like Hallicrafters, National, Hammarlund, Gonset, and RME fell by the wayside. Diversified companies like Heathkit, Collins, Radio Shack, and Drake survived the threat of extinction.

Certainly, the increase in Japanese competition contributed to the demise of those former giants. Many manufacturers have seized the opportunity to use off-shore manufacturing to their own advantage. We have finally grown to accept off-shore goods as a way of life. Much of that equipment has turned



McKAY DYMEK MODEL DR-101

out to be of consistently high quality—but some of it is not.

### Choosing a receiver

If you are planning to buy a general-coverage receiver, there are several key factors worth considering before you buy.

**TABLE 2—SELECTED SHORTWAVE MONITORING FREQUENCIES**

Freq. kHz	Mode	Service
3060	AM	Spies? Try this frequency on the hour, evenings.
3090	AM	Same as above, 15 minutes after the hour.
6175	AM	British Broadcasting Corporation, early evening.
6522	SSB	Commercial boats, Mississippi River system.
6715	SSB	Andrews AFB; Air Force One communications.
6723	SSB	U.S. Navy primary calling channel.
6753	SSB	Tactical Air Command, air-to-ground calling channel.
8959	SSB	Transoceanic commercial airlines.
9505	AM	Radio Moscow.
10390	RTTY	INTERPOL (You'll need a teleprinter for this one!).
10780	SSB	Cape Kennedy/Patrick AFB air-to-ground.
11243	SSB	Strategic Air Command "Alfa One" primary calling channel.
11740	AM	Voice of America.
13272	AM	Wide-area aeronautical weather broadcasts.
14894	SSB	Northern Air Defense Command (NORAD) network.

**1. Frequency Stability:** Tune in a stable signal at the upper frequency range of the receiver. Switch the BFO on. Does the pitch drift continuously over a period of merely a few seconds? Tap the cabinet. Does the signal waver in pitch? If the answer to both questions is "yes", then the receiver has both thermal and mechanical drift. Unless you are a glutton for punishment, forget that receiver!

**2. Image rejection:** All receivers suffer in varying degrees from a malady called images. It is the direct result of superheterodyne circuitry, used in nearly 100% of all receivers made today. The symptom is receiving the same signal in more than one place on the dial, usually displaced by twice the IF frequency. For example, if the receiver IF is 455 kHz, then you might hear 5000-kHz WWV time signals also on 5910 kHz. (5000 kHz + 2 × 455 kHz = 5910 kHz). That affliction is reducible—for a price!

**3. Frequency-readout accuracy:** There is a strong trend toward digital frequency displays. That is good. Even competitively-priced receivers can now afford a low-cost digital readout. Check the readout accuracy by tuning in a few stations of known frequencies (such as WWV time signals on 5, 10, 15 and 20 MHz), and reading the display. Some receivers can be calibrated easily for improved accuracy.

**4. Selectivity:** With an ever-growing demand for radio-spectrum space, radio-spectrum users find themselves crowded closer and closer together. Your receiver's responsibility is to separate them. Better receivers have switchable selectivity. Broad selectivity is used when audio quality is more important than interference rejection. But for weak-signal, crowded-band conditions, there is no substitute for sharp selectivity. To check your prospective receiver for selectivity, tune through the 6 to 12-MHz portion of the shortwave spectrum at night. Try to narrow in on individual signals. Single-signal recep-

tion in that crowded portion of the HF spectrum at night is the mark of a good receiver!

Those four characteristics—stability, image rejection, readout accuracy, and selectivity—are the most important considerations in buying a receiver for today's demanding needs. Other considerations—noise limiter, fine-tuning dial, S-meter, internal speaker—are usually included, and do not warrant special attention here.

Conspicuously absent is a check for sensitivity. Most modern solid-state receivers have adequate sensitivity. If you are in doubt, try the following simple test: At night, listen to the 6 to 12-MHz portion of the dial with no antenna connected. Preferably, short-circuit the antenna connection to the chassis ground terminal. Few, if any, signals should be heard. Now, (with the antenna terminal unshorted) connect a short length (a few feet) of wire to the antenna terminal. A barrage of very strong signals should be received throughout that range.

**Antennas for shortwave**

Selecting an antenna is reasonably straightforward for shortwave listeners. It should be 25 to 75 feet long, as high as possible, clear of obstructions such as buildings and trees, and as straight as practical without sharply doubling back on itself.

If you live in a tightly-regulated apartment building, adequate reception is still possible by running the antenna wire around the outer edge of the ceiling. A ground helps reduce electrical noise, but is not absolutely mandatory.

**Frequency sources for the SWL**

The newcomer is often faced with a dilemma: He has a fine receiving setup, but how can he find out where to listen? Fortunately, several excellent publications are available for the shortwave listener. The venerable Confidential Frequency List, Volume 4, is now available from Gilfer Associates for \$6.95. (P.O. Box 239, Park Ridge, N.J. 07656). Gilfer is also a good source for the World Radio and Television Handbook (\$14.95), an exhaustive directory of broadcasting stations worldwide.

Steve Handler has just released his World Radio Communications Guide for \$5.95. (Handler Enterprises, P.O. Box 48, Deerfield, IL 60015). It lists a wide range of frequencies from shortwave through UHF.

Getting into monitoring does not have to be prohibitively expensive. Crystal scanners are available for less than \$100 new. Programmables start at about \$250. Shortwave receivers of reasonable quality generally start in the \$300 range. Of course the upper limit is considerably higher. Watch for advertised specials.

**TABLE 3  
MANUFACTURERS**

For more information, circle the corresponding numbers on the Free Information Card inside the back cover.

**R. L. Drake Company**  
540 Richard St.  
Miamisburg, OH 45342  
CIRCLE NO. 90

**Electra Co., Div. of Masco Corp.**  
300 East County Line Rd.  
Cumberland, IN 46229  
CIRCLE NO. 91

**Heath Company**  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
CIRCLE NO. 92

**McKay Dymek Co.**  
111 South College Ave.  
Claremont, CA 91711  
CIRCLE NO. 93

**Panasonic Company**  
One Panasonic Way  
Secaucus, NJ 07094  
CIRCLE NO. 94

**Radio-Shack, Div. of Tandy Corp.**  
2617 West Seventh St.  
Fort Worth, TX 76107  
CIRCLE NO. 95

**Regency Electronics, Inc.**  
7707 Records St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46226  
CIRCLE NO. 96

**Sony Corp. of America**  
9 West 57th St.  
New York, NY 10019  
CIRCLE NO. 97

**Trio-Kenwood Communications, Inc.**  
1111 West Walnut  
Compton, CA 90220  
CIRCLE NO. 98

**Yaesu Electronics Corp.**  
15954 Downey Ave.  
Paramount, CA 90723  
CIRCLE NO. 99



# Step-by-step TV IF Align

*Aligning a TV IF amplifier isn't much of a chore as it sounds. With the equipment on hand, just follow the alignment instructions. Here are some helpful hints.*

**JACK DARR**  
SERVICE EDITOR

ONE THING YOU *MUST* HAVE BEFORE starting any TV IF alignment job is the *alignment instructions*. Why? For one thing, to show you *where* the different tuned circuits *are*, and what frequencies they should be aligned to! This will vary widely from set to set, even in sets of the same make. You have to *know* where things are; you can't just guess at it.

The manufacturer's service data should give you full alignment instructions. All *Sams Photofact Folders* have them. Pictorial diagrams or layouts of the chassis are necessary, to show you where each adjustment is. They also show you where various traps are, and to what frequencies they must be aligned. So, be sure you have this information first; study it and locate each adjustment.

Many sets have solid metal bottom-shields over the IF stages. Holes are provided in them so you can get alignment tools into the coils. It's often a good idea to look the IF stages up, and write their identification on the shield in pencil!

You'll need to locate the various hookup points, too. The video detector output is often provided with a metal "lance" or strip so that you can connect to it. The sweep signal must be fed into the input of the IF. That is on the *tuner*, since the mixer is actually the first IF amplifier, and its output transformer is the 1st IF transformer, also on the tuner. It is sometimes called the "mixer grid test point."

In transistor tuners, an alignment connection is usually provided for that, too. It will be shown in the alignment instructions; look it up. If it isn't, you

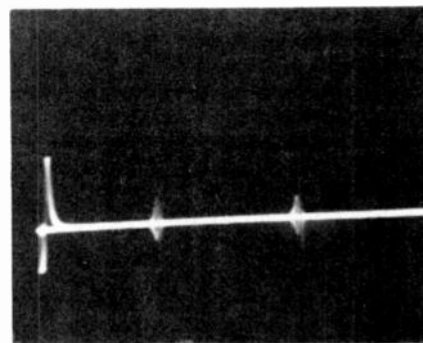


FIG. 1—SCOPE TRACE WITH TV OFF. The 45.75 MHz marker is at the right; the 41.25 at left. Sweep curve will come up between them

can often clip the sweep generator's output lead to some insulated part near the mixer transistor and radiate the sweep signal into the mixer.

### Sweep generators.

Sweep generators are generally built into a single cabinet that contains the sweep, markers, and marker adder. Many of the sweep generators also have bias supplies. The scope's vertical and horizontal sweeps are driven from the marker adder through separate leads.

If you leave the scope hooked up, you can often set up a TV for alignment by connecting only two leads! One is the sweep output, which goes to the mixer test point; the other is the "trace input," which is connected to the video detector output of the set. That is the marker-adder input from the set. Scope trace height can be adjusted by the TRACE AMPLITUDE control on the marker-adder. The scope's horizontal sweep, blanking, and phasing; can also be controlled by the marker-adder. By the

way, the scope must be set to EXTERNAL HORIZONTAL SWEEP position, that will leave you with only a dot on the scope screen unless the sweep generator is turned on! The actual horizontal sweep is coming from the sweep-generator.

### Adjusting the sweep centering

With this type of instrument, you can set up the markers and adjust the sweep-center and sweepwidth, even with the TV set turned *off*. The markers can be turned on, and they will show up on the scope trace. To locate the right place, turn on the 45.75 MHz and 41.25 MHz pix and sound markers. Next, adjust the SWEEP CENTER control until those are spaced about right on the scope. The SWEEP WIDTH will control their distance apart. Fig. 1 shows how that should look.

Now you're ready to go. Turn up the SWEEP OUTPUT amplitude control of the generator until you see the curve on the screen. Bias can be adjusted at this time. Check the alignment instructions and connect the bias leads to the points indicated. Set the voltage by hooking a multimeter to the bias points, and adjust for the value specified.

### Killing the TV horizontal sweep

Most alignment instructions call for disabling the horizontal sweep of the TV set, to prevent radiating harmonics into the curve, which would cause beats. Figure 2 shows a curve with such beats; that is a color bandpass curve. The wiggles on the curve came from the horizontal output.

To kill the horizontal sweep, pull the horizontal output tube. Do not simply take the plate-cap off; that may damage

# ment

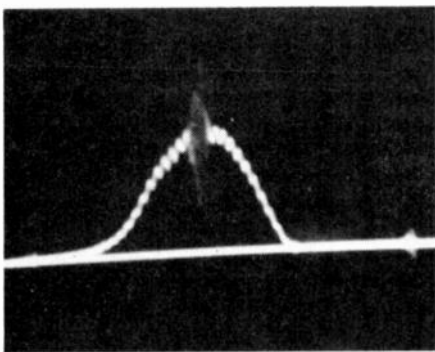
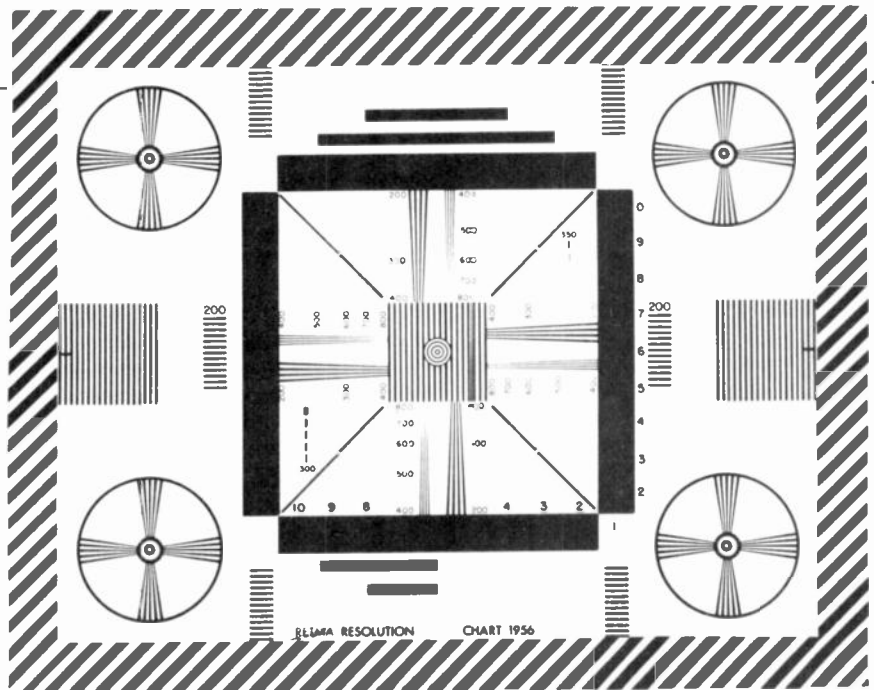


FIG. 2—HORIZONTAL OUTPUT STAGE is making the beats on the sweep curve.

the output tube. *Never* pull the horizontal oscillator tube alone; that will ruin the horizontal output tube in about 30 seconds. If the set is a series-filament-type and you can't pull the tube, disconnect the horizontal output tube's cathode lead from ground. In solid-state sets you can often pull the horizontal-output stage fuse or disconnect the DC supply.

### The actual alignment job

Now you're ready! Turn up the gain on the scope and sweep-generator until you see a curve about 2 to 3 inches high on the screen. (Many alignment instructions specify an output from the video detector of 2.0 volts P-P. You can calibrate your scope for that if you want to.)

You have the picture and sound carriers marked. Check the position of those markers: They should be at the places shown in Fig. 3. Check the overall *shape* of the curve. It should look a lot like this one. The pix marker (45.75) should be halfway up the right side and the 41.25 sound marker must be in the

trap-notch at the left, just where the curve touches the baseline.

### Reversing sweep direction

You *may* find that the curve is re-

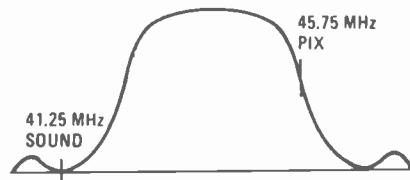


FIG. 3—HOW THE INITIAL CURVE should look; only pix and sound markers are on.

versed; 45.75 marker on the left, etc. Actually, that makes no difference at all as long as you know which is which. However, if you want to "make it look like the one in the book," flip the TRACE REVERSE switch found on many sweep-generators. If yours doesn't have one, pull the sweep-generator AC plug, turn it over, and put it back. That will do it. Many set-markers (and all Sams *Photofact Folders*) show alignment curves with the pix carrier on the right.

### Not enough marker height?

If you have a fine curve but the markers are tiny pips, hard to see, you have too much RF output from the sweep-generator. Turn the RF SWEEP output down and bring the scope vertical gain up to put the curve back to its original size. You'll see the markers get bigger. For a normal curve, with the scope set at 2.0 volts P-P for about a 2-inch-high pattern, you'll have plenty of marker gain; you'll find that there is a MARKER SIZE control on practically all sweep-generators.

Figure 4 shows a curve that you might see on the initial setup. The 45.75 MHz marker is on the right, 41.25 MHz marker on the left in the trap-notch. However, the 42.17 MHz color marker just above it is much too far down; also, the vital "color-slope" of the curve has a wrinkle in it! There's also a peak above the video carrier that shouldn't be there. Now we're ready to start straightening this out.

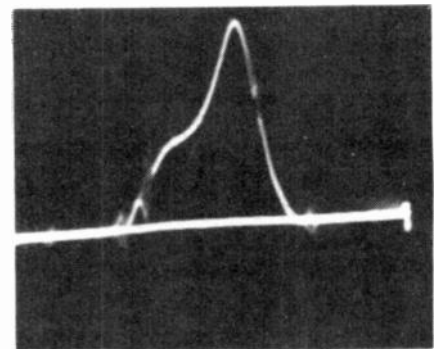


FIG. 4—FIRST CURVE ON SCOPE: Not too bad for a start; not too good, either!

### The first step

You'll find that the first step in all alignment procedures is the trap alignment. Since those do a lot to shape the curve, you can see why. They determine the slope of both sides of the curve and take out unwanted signals.

Set the 41.25 MHz sound marker first. It must always sit in the notch (in fact, it *makes* the notch!) at the left side of the curve. You'll often find two trap coils and an adjustable resistor used for this. The resistor is connected across one of the trap coils and is called a "Q-spoiler"; it flattens the response of the trap to just the amount needed.

There will usually be one trap in the IF input and one in the output. The Q-spoiler resistor may be at either end. In either case, watch the 41.25 MHz marker and adjust all of those until the marker is set exactly in the right place, just where the left side of the curve touches the baseline, and the curve is as steep as possible on that side.

On the other side of the curve, the 47.25 MHz adjacent channel sound marker (ADJ SND) is in the same position, just at the point where the slope of the curve touches the baseline. One more: The 39.25 MHz adjacent-channel picture will be seen to the left of the 41.25 MHz sound marker, on the baseline.

The worst trouble you can get into with incorrect trap adjustments is when they "get into the curve." To see what that does, deliberately detune the 41.25 MHz trap so that it moves to the right—into the curve. You'll see that side of the curve flatten out very badly. To find out what that will do to your picture, turn on the three color markers: 42.17, 41.67, and 42.67 MHz. That shows you the response of the IF to the important color signals.

Now turn the trap over into the curve and watch the three color markers. Figure 5 shows you what this could look like. What kind of symptom would that cause? No color, or very bad color.

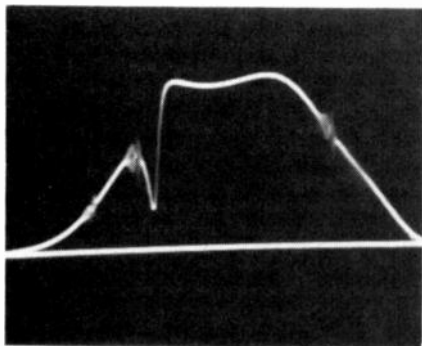


FIG. 5—WHAT YOU CAN SEE WHEN a trap is intentionally tuned into the curve.

Note that the color signals have now been almost obliterated by the trap! A marginal condition on this—where the trap is not quite in the middle of the color bandpass, but too close—can cause the "I can't tune the color in" symptom. The color will appear as you fine-tune, but will drop out.

### Order of alignment

Now, (finally!) we're about ready to start on the alignment of the tuned circuits. Don't try to take shortcuts here; do the trap adjustments, and all of the other preparatory steps, *first*. After that, the actual alignment is a breeze.

While you'll find variations, the typical order of alignment for the various stages and their frequencies will be something like this:

The 1st IF transformer, on the tuner:

tuned near 45.75 MHz, it affects the right side of the curve and the position of the pix carrier on this slope.

The 2nd and 3rd IF coils: peaked near the center of the band, about 43-44 MHz, they affect the tilt, bandwidth, and the top of the curve in general.

Last IF transformer, before the video detector: normally about 42 MHz; it affects the slope of the left side of the curve and determines the position of the color carrier on that side.

For the first step, rough in all the adjustments, starting at the 1st IF and working back toward the video detector. Get the curve as close as possible; go by the position of the 45.75 pix marker and 42.17 color marker on the slopes. Those should be at about 50% up on the curve and exactly opposite each other.

Now *look* at the curve. Are the sides as straight as possible? Are the pix and color markers at 50% up and are they at the same height? If so, fine. Now turn on the two color-bandpass markers and check the color-slope of the curve—the left side. But sure that it is straight and that *all three* markers are "up" on the slope. If the 41.25 MHz trap is set too close to the curve, it can pull down the lower bandpass marker, 41.67 MHz, until it's down on the baseline. That cuts off one sideband of the color signal and can give you some very strange pictures indeed! The 41.67 MHz marker should be up on the curve as far as you can get it—which won't be too far; it must *not* be on the baseline!

Figure 6 shows a typical IF curve after alignment: 41.25 MHz marker on

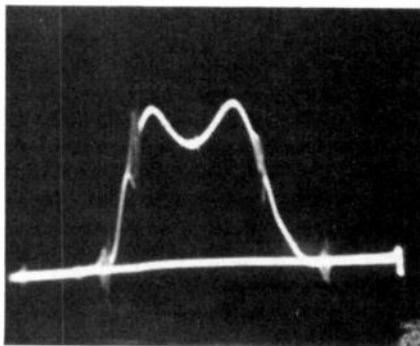


FIG. 6—ALIGNMENT IS COMPLETED. Dip in the center is normal in this receiver.

the baseline at left, 42.17 MHz color marker up the left slope, 45.75 MHz pix marker up the right slope, and 47.25 MHz adjacent sound marker on the baseline at right (Color band-limit markers off.) Note the dip in the center. That is not unusual; in fact, for this set, the alignment instructions specify "not more than 15%" dip. It is due to a little overcoupling of the middle IF transformers, to get a better bandwidth. Others will show a round-top "haystack" IF curve or a very small dip. Check the alignment instructions for

your set to see what the finished curve should look like.

When making those adjustments, remember what I said a while back. Tune for *shape, not amplitude!* Those stages are designed to give the proper amplitude: the tubes (or transistors) *will* have enough gain, but they must have the correct bandpass (meaning, curve shape). In olden days, many "technicians" used to "tune up the IF's" to get a blacker picture! They usually did so without test equipment—and wound up in a mess. Actually, the picture strength or amplitude is not determined by the amplitude of the curve but by the picture carrier's *position* on it! Not too long ago, I had good color but weak video in one set. Hooking up the sweep generator, I found the video carrier down to about 15% off the baseline! One "twitch" of the input IF adjustment brought it up to its proper place and I had all the video I wanted! That is a good example of the type of problem that can be so simply solved with sweep-alignment tests.

The preceding has dealt with color TV IF alignment, which is more critical than black-and-white. Alignment in black-and-white sets is pretty simple. You simply align for a symmetrical curve with the picture carrier about halfway up on the right side. The 41.25 MHz sound marker can be used to set the left side of the curve and, if you want to, a 44.0 MHz marker used to locate the center of the peak. Those will usually have the haystack curve we mentioned before.

R-E



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## A quick and easy way to make one-of-a-kind printed circuit boards.

EARL "DOC" SAVAGE, K4SDS, HOBBY EDITOR

YOU NEED NOT HAVE BEEN READING THESE pages very long to know that I firmly believe in doing things the easiest possible way. When it comes to building up a circuit on a board, we all know that a dedicated printed-circuit board is the easiest way to go.

In spite of that, I have recommended using a wiring pencil and a plain board when a pre-etched board is unavailable and you need only one or two copies. To my way of thinking, all that drawing and etching is too much trouble for a couple of boards. Well, times do change and so must I when the best of both worlds is available.

Now you can make a dedicated PC board without etching! All it takes is *E-Z Circuit* materials by Bishop Graphics (P. O. Box 5007RE, Westlake Village, CA 91359). Actually, the *E-Z Circuit* line includes materials for several systems. I'll tell you about the others later, but this month we'll concentrate on *instant* PC boards (well, almost instant). By the way, it is I and not Bishop who call these boards "instant."

This system consists of epoxy-glass

boards, plain or drilled, plus pressure-sensitive PC board *copper* patterns. There are all types of sockets (DIPS, SIPS, transistor), strips (distribution, terminal, conductor) and insertion-connector fingers for plug-in boards—all of those in various sizes and configurations. That array of patterns is completed by a selection of donut pads and tapes for laying down traces.

What? Sounds familiar? Careful now; don't miss the main point. Those patterns are not for making artwork—they are *copper*. When you have pressed them down on a board, you are ready to mount the circuit components, solder them in place and turn on the power! That is what I call instant PC boards.

There is even pressure-sensitive insulating tape. You can build a "bridge" right on the board by putting insulating tape across copper traces and then putting a copper trace on top of that. Now there is no need to solder in a jumper later. (And you don't have to be so careful trying to get a jumperless design in the beginning.)

The whole process of making a PC

board is quite as simple as it sounds. Take a look at Figs. 1 and 2; then tell me whether you would rather make your board the *E-Z Circuit* way or use the darkroom/etchant route.

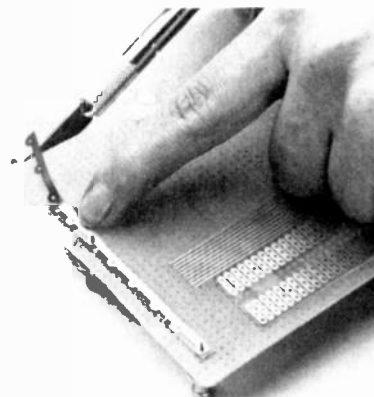


FIG. 1

The various patterns are available in small-quantity packages so you can get just what you need. The same is true of other parts of this PC-board system: IC sockets, individual wire-wrap or solder pins for discrete components, insertion tool and base, wire and wrap tool, alignment pins and so on.

Having used this *E-Z Circuit* system, I can report that it is quick, easy, and reliable. The patterns are full 1-oz copper. It is the best way I have found to make one- or two-of-a-kind PC boards—anything from the smallest to a 21- by 43-cm computer board.

If you are as I am, you sometimes make mistakes. The patterns, traces, and so on can be lifted and re-positioned if you do it carefully soon after putting them down. Even later, after the adhesive has set, you can still lift circuit parts to correct errors or make circuit modifications, but those parts cannot be re-used.

An added bonus is that this *E-Z Circuit* material can be used to repair damaged commercial or homebrew PC boards and/or modify such an existing board. Clean up the damaged traces, etc. and put down new adhesive parts. The ability to modify any board can salvage an otherwise useless one. For these reasons alone, you should keep some of that instant-board material on hand.

Bishop has a fine combination manual and catalog—identified as *EZ-102*. It can be ordered directly from Bishop at the above

*continued on page 68*

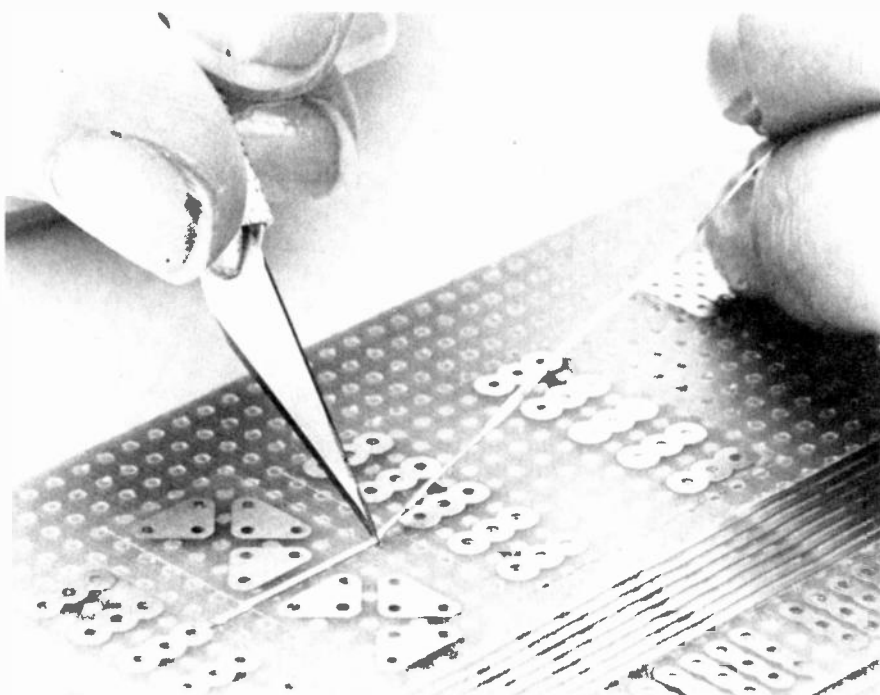


FIG. 2

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**6. RAPID DISPLAY UPDATE:** Internal housekeeping functions require only .2 seconds between any gate or sample time

period. At a 1 second gate time the counter will display a new count every 1.2 seconds, or a 10 second gate time a new count is displayed every 10.2 seconds. (10.2 seconds is the maximum time required between display updates for any resolution on any model listed).

**7. PORTABILITY:** All models are delivered with a 115 VAC adapter, a 12 VDC cord with plug and may be equipped with an optional ni-cad rechargeable battery pack installed within its case. The optional Ni-Cad pack may be recharged with 12 VDC or the AC adapter provided.

**8. COMPACT SIZES:** State-of-the-Art circuitry and external AC adapters allowed design of compact easy to use and transport instruments.

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**9. MADE IN U.S.A.:** All models are designed and manufactured at our modern 13,000 square foot facility at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

**10. CERTIFIED CALIBRATION:** All models meet FCC specs for frequency measurement and provided with each model is a certificate of NBS traceable calibration.

**11. LIFE TIME GUARANTEE:** Using the latest State-of-the-Art LSI circuitry, parts count is kept to a minimum and internal case temperature is only a few degrees above ambient resulting in long component life and reliable operation. (No custom IC's are used.) To demonstrate our confidence in these designs, all parts (excluding batteries) and service labor are 100% guaranteed for life to the original purchaser. (Transportation expense not covered).

**12. PRICE:** Whether you choose a series 7010 600 MHz counter or a series 8013 1.3 GHz instrument it will compete at twice its price for comparable quality and performance.

MODEL 8010A/8013 1.1 GHz/1.3 GHz

MODEL 7010A 600 MHz



MODEL	RANGE (From 10 Hz)	10 MHz TIME BASE			AVG. SENSITIVITY		GATE TIMES	RESOLUTION			EXT. CLOCK INPUT/OUTPUT	SENSITIVITY CONTROL	NI-CAD BATTERY PAC
		STABILITY	AGING	DESIGN	10 Hz to 500 MHz	500 MHz to 1.1 GHz		12 MHz	60 MHz	Max. Freq.			
7010A	600 MHz	$\pm 1$ PPM	<1 PPM/YR	TCXO*	15 mV	N/A	(3) 1, 1, 10 sec	1 Hz	3 Hz	10 Hz (600 MHz)	YES OPTIONAL	NO	YES OPTIONAL
7010.1A		$\pm 0.1$ PPM											
8010A	1.1 GHz	$\pm 1$ PPM	<1 PPM/YR	TCXO*	15 mV	30 mV	(4) 01, 1, 1, 10 sec	1 Hz	1 Hz	10 Hz (1.1 GHz)	YES STANDARD	YES	YES OPTIONAL
8010.1A		$\pm 0.1$ PPM											
8010.05A		$\pm .05$ PPM											
8013.1	1.3 GHz	$\pm 0.1$ PPM	<1 PPM/YR	TCXO*	15 mV	30 mV	(4) 01, 1, 1, 10 sec	1 Hz	1 Hz	10 Hz (1.3 GHz)	YES STANDARD	YES	YES OPTIONAL
8013.05		$\pm .05$ PPM											

\*TCXO = Temperature Compensated Xtal Oscillator

\*\*OCXO = Proportional Oven Controlled Xtal Oscillator

## SERIES 7010A

#7010A 600 MHz Counter - 1 PPM TCXO \$199.95  
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#EC-70 External Clock Input/Output \$35.00  
#CC-70 Carry Case - Padded Black Vinyl \$9.95

## SERIES 8010A/8013

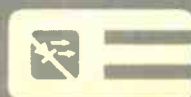
#8010A 1.1 GHz Counter - 1 PPM TCXO \$399.00  
#8010.1A 1.1 GHz Counter - 0.1 PPM TCXO \$450.00  
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#8013.05 1.3 GHz Counter - .05 PPM Oven \$599.00

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#P-102 Probe, Hi-Z General Purpose \$16.95  
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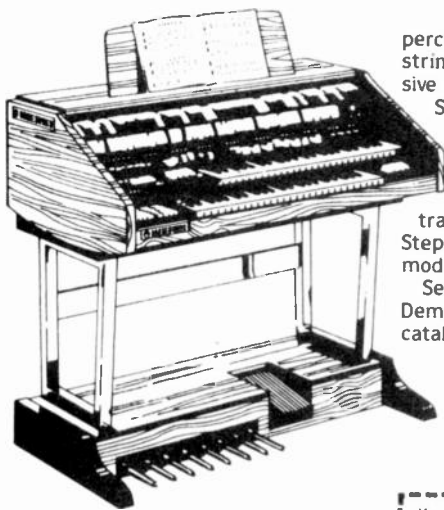
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### HOBBY CORNER

continued from page 66

address for \$1.50 postpaid in the US and Canada.

#### Semiconductor guide

Radio Shack has announced the release of the 1980 edition of the *Archer Semiconductor Replacement Guide*. This handsome new guide is even more elaborate than the old edition. It lists cross references/substitutions for more than 100,000 devices.

This book has data and pinouts for IC's, diodes, LED's, SCR's, and so on. In addition, there is other useful information pertaining to such matters as handling and testing.

It's a real money-saver—with just a couple of substitutions, you could save more than the cost of the Guide (\$1.99). You should have it (or something like it) near your workbench. You can obtain your copy at your local Radio Shack store.

#### Another mystery

Don Francois of Manchester, MO has sent another light mystery. Unlike the puzzle of a few months ago, however, that rather sneakily made use of several hidden subminiature components as well as other bits of subterfuge, this new mystery circuit is guaranteed to have *no* hidden parts. Examine the two circuits in Figs. 3 and 4.

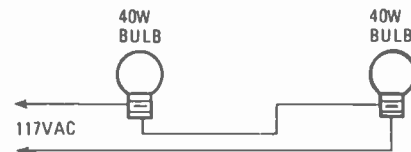


FIG. 3



FIG. 4

Don found that the measured voltage across all three bulbs was the same. He measured equal current in both circuits. You would expect the three bulbs to be of equal brightness but that was not so. The bulb brightness in one circuit was much greater than in the other.

Now, on the surface that is exceedingly strange. However, some thought should lead you to the answer to this seeming anomaly. (If you can guess which circuit is brighter, you should be on the right track.)

**WARNING: If you build those circuits to check the data, there is exposed 117 VAC. Take great care not to come into contact with that AC voltage.**

If you can figure out what is *really* happening in those circuits, let me know.

R-E

# new products

More information on new products is available. Use the Free Information Card inside the back cover.

**HAND-HELD DIGITAL THERMOMETER, model 940**, accurately measures temperature from  $-65^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  and displays the reading to  $0.1^{\circ}$  resolution on a large LCD module. The rugged, "palm-size" device comes complete with: 9-volt battery, removable probe and cable assembly, detailed instruction manual, two-year warranty,



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and certificate of traceability to NBS standards. It will operate for up to 200 hours from a standard alkaline battery. Push-button controls allow convenient display conversion from degrees C to degrees F. The instrument, complete with probe assembly, has a retail price of \$189.—Data Precision Corporation Division of Analogic Corporation, Electronics Avenue, Danvers, MA 01923.

**CAPACITANCE-MEASURING ADAPTOR, C-Probe II**, attaches directly to the input connector of any standard frequency-counter and allows a direct readout of the capacitor's value from 0.1 pF to 10,000  $\mu\text{F}$ . The basic accuracy of the C-Probe II's two capacitance ranges are 0.25% (pF

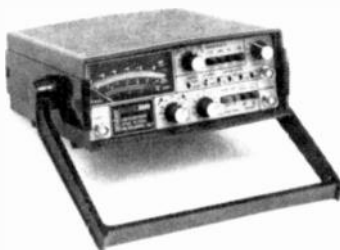


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range) and 0.5% ( $\mu\text{F}$  range). The  $\times 1$  and  $\times 10$  resolution button provides for 1 or 0.1 pF resolution (pF range) and 0.001 or 0.0001  $\mu\text{F}$  resolution ( $\mu\text{F}$  range). Ten-turn precision controls are used for pF and  $\mu\text{F}$  range calibration and for cancellation of stray or lead capacitance to 50 pF. Circuitry is all-CMOS, crystal control is used, and battery life is 100 hours. The C-Probe II lists for \$69.95.—International Instrumentation, Inc., Box 3751, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.

**DISTORTION-MEASURING SET, model 3500**, represents a breakthrough in performance/size/cost ratio. It combines the performance and features of large, expensive lab instruments in a

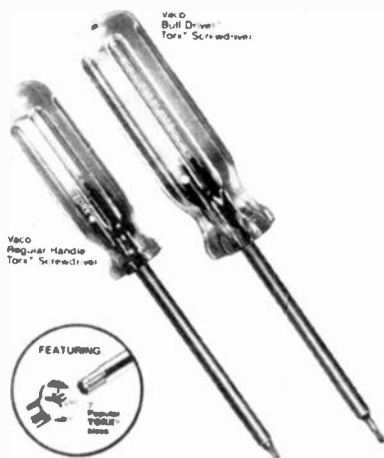
compact, case small enough to fit into an attache case. The Amber 3500 is a high-performance distortion-and-noise-measuring set incorporating



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an ultra-low-distortion sinewave oscillator, total harmonic-distortion analyzer, wideband and weighted true RMS-level meter, and narrowband tunable filter. It will measure signal level, frequency response, weighted noise, narrowband noise, crosstalk, and total harmonic distortion. It may be operated from line current or from an optional battery pack. The price of the 3500 is \$1,600.—Amber Electro Design, Inc., 4810 Jean Talon West, Montreal, Canada H4P 2N5.

**TORX SCREWDRIVERS** offers an expanded line including three new sizes of screwdrivers with the Bull Driver handle in sizes T8, T10 and T27, and a line of seven regular drivers with a comfordome handle in Torx sizes T8, T10, T15, T20, T25, T27 and T30. The line of insert bits includes a new size, T27, along with five other sizes. Also offered is a bit card No. 70432, which contains four



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replacement bits in four sizes. Each screwdriver has a blade-size diameter of  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The length of the Bull Driver is  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " and the length of the regular driver is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ ".—Vaco Products Co., 1510 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, IL 60062. R-E

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# communications corner

*A remote-controlled coax switch from Heath allows you to switch bands easily.* HERB FRIEDMAN, COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR

I RECENTLY CAME ACROSS A STACK OF magazines from the late 1940's, and the most impressive thing about that era—from a communications-derived viewpoint—was how much land we lived on. Most antenna feature and construction articles involved what would be at least an acre of land, or a backyard stretching out behind the house far enough for an 80-meter doublet, or even a rhombic for 40 or 20 meters.

Today, we're lucky to have our house on a 40 × 100 lot, and few are the neighbors who would permit an antenna to cross their property. For the cliff-dweller in a hi-rise apartment building, the backyard might extend as far as the next window, or the edge of a postage-stamp-size terrace. At best, a modern antenna farm might be no larger than what we can erect on a single mast.

Another loss for many amateurs, at least judging by the magazines of some 30 years back, was the tuned feeders. It was not unusual for a ham to use a single antenna for "all bands," using open-wire resonant feedlines and an antenna-tuning device to force system operation on several bands. Again, the key to multi-banding required lots of elbow room because the flat-top—the wire antenna itself without the feeders—often exceeded 100 feet. Today, we not only don't have the room, we probably couldn't turn up the insulators needed to make open-wire feeders. (I can even remember commercially-manufactured open-wire feeders used for TV antenna installations in the early 1950's.)

The general rule today seems to be: "Go up rather than out." It's not unusual to see a single mast or tower supporting a tri-band 10-15-20 meter beam, with a 6- and/or 2-meter beam above, and maybe the mast supporting an inverted-V for 40 and 80 meters, or a long-wire or doublet for 160 meters. And hanging down from this assemblage of sky-hooks is a rat's nest of coaxial transmission lines, most of which must be reconnected when the operator changes bands. To go from, say, 80 meters to 10 meters, the operator removes the 80-meter transmission line from the transceiver's output jack and connects the 10-meter line. Etc., etc., etc.

And this brings us to one of this month's topics, the Heathkit SA-1480 remote-controlled coaxial switch.

The remote-controlled coax switch is a simple idea; it's the actual construction that takes a bit of hardware. The main assembly is a 5-outlet motor-driven coax switch that mounts on the antenna mast. A short length of coax connects from the switch to each antenna. Running back from the switch to a remote controller in the shack is a single coax line and a multi-conductor control cable. To change antennas the operator simply dials in the desired one on the controller. The controller sends current down the proper pair of wires to cause the motor-driven coax switch to connect the transmission line from the shack to the correct antenna. All coax outputs except the selected one are maintained at ground. If desired, the controller can be set to ground all five coax outputs.

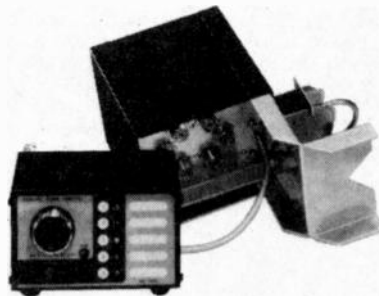


FIG. 1

The coax switch is weatherproof and comes with extensive hardware for mast mounting. The controller has a power switch and a selector knob. Five LED's indicate the selected antenna. (See Fig. 1.) A sixth LED indicates when all coax switch outputs are grounded.

Because the control voltage from the controller is 30 volts DC, the multi-conductor connecting cable can be ordinary vinyl-jacketed stranded wire such as you might use for an intercom. The transmission line can be any 50-72 ohm coax that can be terminated with a standard UHF connector. The operating range of the coax switch is DC to 150 MHz. Below 30 MHz, maximum VSWR is rated for a worst-case of 1.05:1.

From 30 to 150 MHz, the worst-case VSWR is 1.2:1. The rated power loss at 100 MHz is less than 0.2 dB. In plain terms, that means that if you feed in 105 watts you'll get out *at least* 100 watts (at 100 MHz). Loss is even less at lower frequencies, slightly greater at higher frequencies.

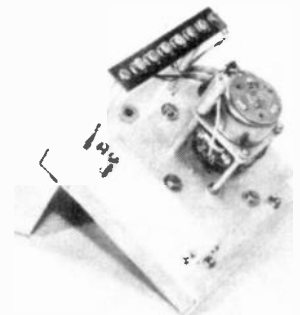


FIG. 2

If you look carefully at Fig. 2, you can't find the actual coaxial connections. That is because they are fully shielded in the small compartment in front of the switch motor. And that is what makes for a somewhat extensive mechanical assembly. The coax jacks are arranged in a circle and the switch wafer, which will eventually wind up inside a shield, is actually positioned on the jacks. The drive shaft from the switch motor passes through the shield and into the wafer. It's quite an assembly; it really has to be seen in order to be appreciated.

One switch wafer is external to the shield, and can be seen under the switch motor in the photograph. It serves as the mechanism that stops the motor in the correct position relative to the selected coaxial output.

## Direction indicator

Our second item this month is for those who want a more accurate indication of beam heading than can usually be obtained from a rotator's indicator. For those who have sufficiently accurate indicators, it provides a digital readout of the beam's compass heading.

The device is the Monitor DX-3 retrofit digital-readout system for Ham II, Ham III and Ham IV rotators. Priced at \$39.95, the device has three seven-segment LED digital devices that indicate compass heading to 360°.

*continued on page 72*





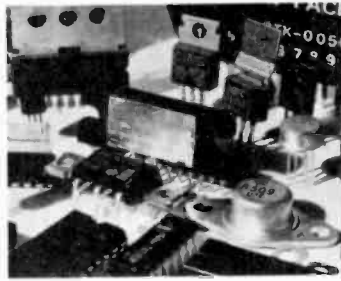
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## COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

*continued from page 70*

the above-mentioned rotators without cabinet modifications, and takes just three wire-connections. According to the manufacturer, it is adaptable to other rotator systems though no other information was given. The circuit

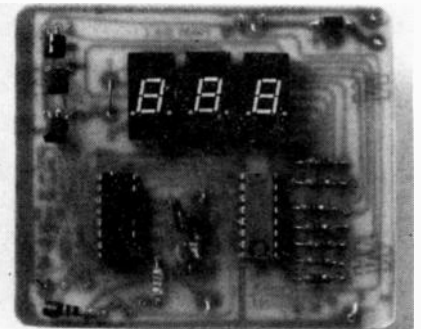


FIG. 3

board of the DX-3 is shown in Fig. 3. For additional information write to: Monitor, Box 55, Agincourt, Ont., Canada MIS 3B4.

### CB antenna

Our final topic this month is a CB antenna—one with a real difference, at least in mechanical mounting. The fact is, the *Super Scorpion* antenna by Antenna Specialists Co. has one of the most fascinating mounting systems yet seen on CB gear. The antenna itself is a trunk-lip or roof-mounting base-loaded 60-inch whip. Built into the base is a small lever that controls both electrical



FIG. 4

and mechanical connections. (See Fig. 4.) Position the antenna over its mounting location, flip the lever clockwise, and the antenna locks in place and secures the electrical connection. Flipping the lever counterclockwise releases both the electrical and mechanical connection. It's a lot more reliable than many magnetic mount antennas (at the very least it won't fly off at high speeds), and a lot easier to remove than the average trunk-lip mounted antenna. Just don't walk away from your car for too long with the antenna in place. That lever is what's called by lawyers "an attractive nuisance"—at least that's what they'll claim if you try to prosecute some young hoodlum caught trying to steal the antenna.

R-E

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CIRCLE 2 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

## LOGIC PROBE

continued from page 55

two-piece tip? It's the front end of a *Big Red* ballpoint pen, but with two holes pre-drilled for the mini-LED's. The small piece must be cut with a knife or razor blade, as shown in Fig. 6, so the shoulder length is no longer than  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch to allow room for the PC board. Scrape or file the plating from the top of the metal pin. Strip the insulation from the end of a 2 inch length of wire and wrap it around the top of the metal pin. Solder the wire to the pin and firmly press the wire-pin assembly into the plastic probe-tip until it is solidly seated. The pin should extend at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch beyond the front of the tip. Using a quick-setting glue on the outside of the probe-tip, cement it into the nosepiece to complete the probe-tip assembly.

Now insert the LED end of the PC board assembly into the probe-tip assembly so the LED's pop up into the two holes. A small amount of quick-setting glue at the bottom of the LED's *before* they are inserted into the probe-tip assembly could be used. A small stick could hold the LED's in position as the glue dried. It is easier, however, to just wedge some soft material like foam rubber under the front of the PC board to keep the LED's pushed up into the holes in the tip assembly.

Cut and strip the end of the wire from the probe tip and solder it into the hole between the junction at the near end of D1 and D2. Red and black wires about 2 feet long should be twisted together. Strip the insulation from both ends of both wires. Solder one end of the black wire to the PC board hole (ground or B-) next to pin 1 of the 555. Solder the red wire at the same end of the twisted-pair to the free end of D3, clipping off any excess lead wire after soldering. Make a simple knot in the twisted-pair about 3 inches behind the end of the PC board to act as a strain relief.

Slide the tubular probe body over the wires and PC board and down to the probe-tip assembly shoulder, cementing if desired. Using an icepick, knife, or other such tool, make a hole in the soft plastic end cap and push the twisted wires through the hole. Slide the cap over the end of the probe body. Slide the colored insulators on the free ends of the long wires (red on red, black on black, of course) and solder on the small alligator clips. Slide the insulators over the clips and your probe is complete.

### Using the probe

A 6- or 9-volt battery can be used for testing. Connect the red clip to positive voltage and the black tip to minus. The upper LED (furthest from the tip) should light. Now touch the probe tip to the minus side of the battery (the black clip). The upper LED should go out and the lower LED should light. If the probe fails that test, check the polarities and orientation of the 555, diodes and LED's. Also be sure you haven't connected the probe clips to the wrong battery terminals!

In normal use, connect the red and black probe clips to the positive and ground, respectively, of the circuit under test. The probe will operate from a source voltage of 3.5 to 15 volts, making it usable for virtually all common digital families. Do not exceed 15 volts to power the probe or at the probe tip.

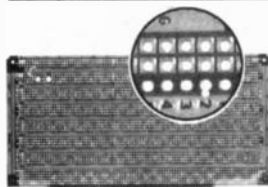
By touching each pin of a logic IC with the probe tip you can determine if that pin is at a logic low level, or changing. A slow change is very obvious since the probe LED's seem to jump back and forth. A rapid state change—a high-frequency pulse train—will make it appear that both LED's are on at the same time. If one LED is noticeably brighter than another, that means that the duty cycles (the ratio of time ON to total cycle time) are unequal. A noticeably brighter logic high indication, for example, means that the duty cycle for the logic high level is somewhat over 70%. (Since the LED's, R1 and R2 are not identical, equal brightness does not necessarily mean a 50% duty cycle).

Although this probe will not indicate pulses in the nanosecond range, pulse durations as short as a few milliseconds are apparent. The \$10 Digital Logic Probe won't substitute for a laboratory oscilloscope, but you'll find it handy and easy to use in all but hi-speed critical digital circuits.

R-E

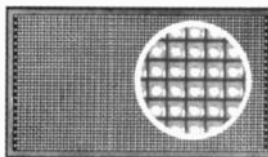
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## Tricks for catching the touchy intermittent.

JACK DARR, SERVICE EDITOR

THERE'S ONE PARTICULARLY VIRULENT type of intermittent that has been with us for a long time, and will be for longer: the "touchy" one. The circuit cuts out; then, touch a test probe to the circuit anywhere, and Pow! . . . the set starts working again and may work for weeks. It won't cut out on your bench, but just as soon as you take it home, out it goes again! That can be a time-waster. (I have a flair for understatements.)

However, there are a few tricks that can be used when you run into one of those. They've been worked out over a long period, so let's have a look at them. There are several things that'll make it easier.

**Step one:** Get all the data you can from the users. If they say "It quits; then if I turn it off and right on again, it'll play for a good while," look out. You have just gotten a touchy intermittent.

**Step two:** The usual cause of that is a very small transient. Somewhere in the circuitry there is a bad connection that is opening. Any transient causes a surge and that temporarily restores the connection and the set works. One of those transients occurs at turn-on. To avoid it, plug the set into a variable-voltage line transformer; adjust the line voltage to zero, switch the set on, and bring the line voltage up slowly and smoothly. If the problem shows up immediately, you're lucky. You can get some observations and verify what you found out from the user. That lets you locate the exact type of problem. No video but a raster, loss of sync, color, and so

on. Don't start sticking in test-probes yet!

**Step three:** You will need some test readings to pin down the trouble. There are two ways. First, the scope. Do not touch the probe to the circuitry; hold the probe tip near various points and turn the vertical gain up; look for a normal signal, or the absence of one. The second way is to turn the set off again, by reducing the line voltage, and hooking all of the test equipment on hand to test points, while it's off. In that way, you can avoid the tiny transient caused by touching things. You can get some data on DC voltages and signals and find out where the signal stops.

Now, back off and take a look at the problem. The major cause of such things is an *open* circuit that interrupts the signal or supply voltage, or anything else that will make the set stop working. That, of course, is the kind that "just stops playing"—no smoke or smell. (If you find a hot one, the location of the parts that are overheating will give you a dandy clue.) From statistics, that kind of problem is caused by a *cold solder-joint* more frequently than by any other fault. The typical characteristics of that kind of defect exactly match what we're seeing. The joint opens up, but the "ends" are so close together that any disturbance causes them to make contact again.

So, get out the well-calibrated eyeball and a good, big, magnifying glass and check the area of the trouble. We're all familiar with the appearance of cold sol-

der-joints. In most, the solder will be "fuzzy" or frosty-looking, instead of smooth and shiny. If the leads from the part come through the solder, check very closely for a hairline crack all the way around (see Fig. 1-a). Wiggle the lead slightly; if you see it move, there's one of them. (Like rattlesnakes, those sometimes come in pairs; don't stop hunting yet!)

The exception to the above is the infamous "pocket joint" (see Fig. 1-b). On the underside, they look perfectly good; smooth, shiny, and so on. However, the lead from the part is sitting in a "pocket" inside the solder bubble! Check: pull lightly on the lead from the top; if it moves, there you are. Those can be a real wipe-out if you don't suspect them; they have been around since the very early days.

It is always possible to shotgun suspected areas. Melt and resolder *all* of the joints in the area where the trouble occurred. Look out for joints where the solder comes off the instant the iron-tip touches it, leaving the lead sticking up through the eyelet. Chances are that it was a pocket joint. Nothing's perfect though; there is a hitch in this method. You may fix the set but not be certain about it. So, you're going to have to cook it for several days. Shotgunning, I think, should be a last resort. Try to get some kind of handle on the problem before you resort to that method.

Apply heat or cold to see if they affect the intermittent. Try tapping the PC board. *Don't* bang on it; tap very lightly and selectively so that you jar only one part at a time. The eraser end of a wooden pencil is a dandy tool for that. Also, try bending the PC board carefully up or down. That trick will often catch hairline cracks in PC conductors that could be causing the trouble. If that is suspected, or verified—but you can't manage to see the crack—run a bead of solder the whole length of the thing; that will bridge the gap whether you can see it or not.

In the old days, intermittently-open capacitors caused a lot of those problems. Later types don't seem to act up that way. Another good suspect is the resistors in the circuit. If they have been overheated enough, say by a shorted transistor that was replaced without catching the resistor, it may break in two in the middle. The ends still make contact until something—heat, cold, etc.—makes it move and open up. Fortunately for us the color-

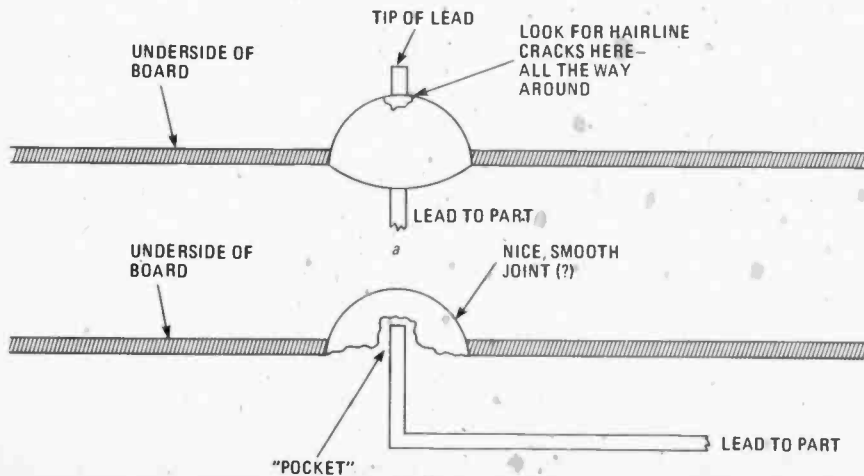


FIG. 1



code paint usually changes color when overheated. (Not always!) Look for any resistor that shows signs of being "off-color". A good check for those is to use an insulated prod with a "screwdriver" tip; put it under the body of the resistor and pry up gently. If the resistor is broken it'll come in two.

So, there is a partial list of the things that can cause that infuriating type of intermittent. Notice the careful use of the word "partial." I've been around this business too long not to know that there will always be more possibilities. Good luck and happy hunting! R-E

## service questions

### TRANSISTOR DATA

*I need help. I can't find a Sams folder for this Quasar TS-931; several people tell me Sams doesn't have it. Also need sub for horizontal regulator transistor Q501. Have schematic, no parts list, and they show it as PNP; the one in it is an NPN. I'm lost!—C.R., Norfolk, VA.*

This one is hard to locate in the Sams Index: Try looking under "AH-19TS931", in folder 1479-3. Quasar Service data is in CTV-7.

Q501 isn't a standard transistor. It's a Darlington amplifier, with an internal shunt diode. Quasar stock number is B1R/48S127512. Can't find a cross to this number in the Guides. You'll probably have to get an exact duplicate from Quasar. Get CTV-7 while you're at it. This is an NPN, but a stock transistor won't work; not enough gain.

### HELPFUL HINTS

In the July 1979 issue, I saw a hint from Leon Caldwell on erratic sync in a General Electric CD chassis. He found R251 gone up in value. A General Electric note I got later says that they have found these R251's to be failure-prone and are recommending replacing the original carbon-film types with solid carbons. I've found that a 1 watt type works better. This applies to the CD, C2, L2, and LB chassis.

They also recommend checking capacitor C274, 200 pF, 5kV, which is under the damper socket. If you find a 300 pF in here, change it to part No. EP22X15, which is a 200 pF. The bigger capacitor makes the feedback pulse higher, and results in overheating of R251.

Thanks a lot to W.A. Shingler, Shingler's Radio-TV, Lewistown PA.

### MORE ON BRIGHTNESS SHADING

Obed Elland, Dennisport, MA says "The horizontal output transistor, Q508, often develops leakage in the Sony KV-1710 chassis. That causes shading at the top of a raster. We've also found that

using substitute transistors can cause other odd problems".

Thanks very much, Obed. Useful thing to remember. Personally, I've never had too many problems with substitute transistors, as long as I paid careful attention to the type, voltage rating, etc. Practically all that I've used work very well. There is, of course, the occasional typographical error in the replacement guides. Usually it's so obvious that no correction is needed; sub has TO-3 case and the original is an RF amplifier, and so on!

### BLEEDER RESISTOR HOT

*In this Sony KV-1212U, I get very little high voltage (5 kV or so), no raster, and R813, the high-voltage bleeder resistor smokes. Thermistor gets hot and circuit breaker trips in 20 seconds. This resistor is in series with the high-voltage capacitor C902, 1000 pf, 25 kV. Capacitor shows no leakage on ohmmeter. What's going on?—L.K., Palm Bay, FL.*

Well, this high-voltage capacitor isn't often used any more. Older sets all had them. Note that it's connected right across the high voltage. Resistor R813 (1K, 1 watt), for some unfathomable reason, is connected in the ground return of this capacitor.

As far as I can see, only one thing could make this resistor blow up and give you all of the other symptoms; the high-voltage filter capacitor is breaking down! This is the only place you could get enough current to blow up the resistor! I'd try replacing the capacitor and see what happens.

### OSCILLATOR PROBLEM

*Got this GE 15XB from another shop. They had (incorrectly) replaced the fly-back to cure the high-voltage problems with no luck. I found an open collector shunt capacitor (C263) on the horizontal output transistor. That brought back the high-voltage but now the oscillator is far off frequency; too high. I've subbed all of the parts that should determine frequency with no luck! Incidentally; I read only about 100 pF on C263; it's a .0033. Thought paper capacitors did not change value, just opened. Why?—A.B., Rochester, NY.*

Take the easy one first! From the very small capacitance you read, it is probably the capacitance from the wire spiral that should make contact with the foil-roll! Now for the hard part.

The oscillator circuit here is a Colpitts. Frequency-determining parts are the coil, C259 (.02  $\mu$ F) and C257 (.0033  $\mu$ F). Check to make sure that those two haven't been reversed. You may find that the previous "tech" did one of my favorite tricks—put them in backward. If I'm not mistaken, that does make the oscillator run high in frequency. Obviously, the feedback is there since the oscillator is running, but some of the "constants" must be far off. Sounds like that to me; check it. R-E

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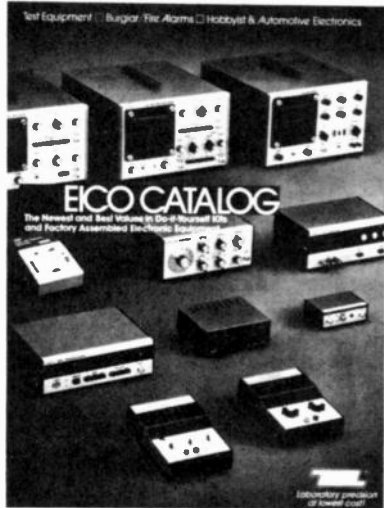
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## UNICORN-1 continued from page 41

to make sure that you have not omitted a step. It will be very frustrating if you are halfway through assembling the arm and discover that you have to take it all apart again to drill one small hole that you omitted earlier.

### Arm movement

The upper-arm assembly includes a section of 1/4-20 threaded rod which, when rotated by the elbow motor, allows the robot to flex its arm. The threaded rod, which passes through the threaded hole in the pivot slide bar, will move that bar one inch for every 20 revolutions it makes. Using the dimensions given, this will produce a maximum travel of 5.5 inches. A motor turning at 6600 revolutions per minute would be required to flex the elbow through 90° in four seconds.

The most readily available motor, however, turns at 10,000 RPM and would make that action too fast. If we add a one-inch diameter, 48-tooth gear to the threaded rod, and a 1/2-inch, 20-tooth gear to the motor, we reduce the effective speed of the motor by 50% and can achieve full elbow action in a bit under ten seconds. Figure 7 illustrates that arrangement. Note that the threaded rod has a collar secured to it by a set screw.

The collar prevents the rod from being pulled upward by the motor.

Figure 8 shows a clamp joining the motor and the side rods of the upper arm. That clamp is made from a piece of 1/16 x 1-in. sheet aluminum flared to accept an 8-32 bolt which applies tension to hold the motor in place.

While the preceding may sound somewhat complex at first reading, it can be done and will yield a perfectly workable robot arm. You are encouraged to use surplus sheet metal, rods, and gears to keep costs down. For convenience sake, however, a list of components and their sources is shown in the parts list.

The next part of this series will describe the assembly of the manipulators and will cover the construction of the robot's end-effectors (hands). In addition, we will go into the electrical wiring of the manipulators.

Should you have a question about any part of this series, the author may be reached in care of Radio-Electronics. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your inquiry to insure a prompt reply.

R-E



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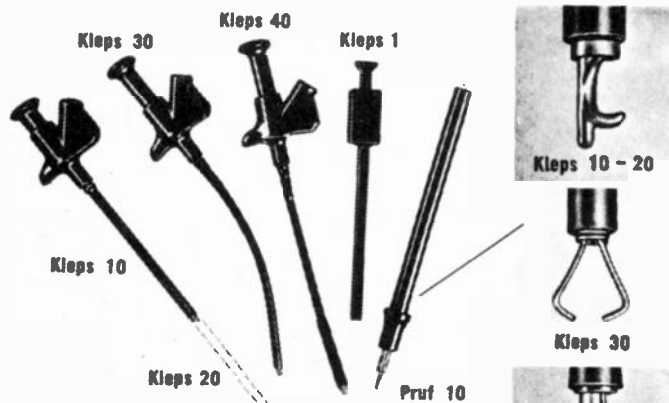
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## RACEWAY

continued from page 45

black-and-white are provided.

### Adjustment and troubleshooting.

There are two PC board potentiometers that require adjustment; the audio level and hue. The hue control (R29) is adjusted for the best contrast. The audio output (R30) should be adjusted to provide the desired noise level.

If problems occur after assembly use the following check list:

1. Are all components in the proper location?
2. Is PC board wired correctly to the external components?
3. Is the power supply voltage correct?
4. Is a 3.58-MHz clock signal present at pin 9 of the AY-3-8603-1?
5. Is there audio output?
6. Is there a composite video signal? (See Fig. 3 for waveform.)

If a "no" answer is generated by any of those questions then repair that portion of the circuit. For example, if a normal image is displayed, but the players' cars are not present; then check pin 7 to see if a video signal is present. If it is not, then the IC is bad; if a signal is present check the summing resistors. **R-E**

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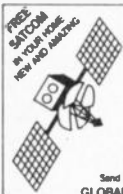


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4009	45	4028	45
4010	45	4029	45
4011	35	4030	35
4012	35	4031	35
4013	40	4032	37
4014	120	4040	100
4015	100	4041	100
4016	45	4043	100
4017	105	4046	195
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74522	140
74523	140
74524	140
74525	140
74526	140
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2N3192 NPN Si TO-3	8.55
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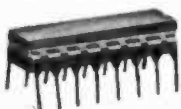
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4013	276-2413	1.19
4017	276-2417	1.99
4027	276-2427	1.19
4511	276-2447	1.99
4049	276-2449	.99
4050	276-2450	.99
4066	276-2466	1.59

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7400	276-1801	.69
7402	276-1811	.79
7404	276-1802	.79
7408	276-1822	.79
7447	276-1805	1.19
7448	276-1816	1.29
7473	276-1803	.79
7474	276-1818	.99
7475	276-1806	1.09
7476	276-1813	.89
7490	276-1808	1.09
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SN7404N	22	SN74132N	69
SN7405N	23	SN74133N	69
SN7406N	23	SN74139N	95
SN7407N	23	SN74141N	69
SN7408N	26	SN74142N	295
SN7409N	23	SN74143N	295
SN7410N	23	SN74144N	22
SN7411N	29	SN74145N	82
SN7412N	29	SN74147N	195
SN7413N	29	SN74148N	120
SN7414N	59	SN74150N	99
SN7415N	29	SN74151N	87
SN7416N	29	SN74152N	87
SN7417N	29	SN74153N	87
SN7418N	35	SN74154N	119
SN7419N	29	SN74155N	82
SN7420N	29	SN74156N	89
SN7421N	29	SN74157N	69
SN7422N	29	SN74158N	165
SN7423N	29	SN74160N	95
SN7424N	29	SN74161N	95
SN7425N	29	SN74163N	87
SN7426N	29	SN74164N	97
SN7427N	29	SN74165N	97
SN7428N	29	SN74166N	120
SN7429N	29	SN74167N	120
SN7430N	45	SN74168N	95
SN7431N	29	SN74169N	169
SN7432N	29	SN74170N	169
SN7433N	29	SN74171N	595
SN7434N	29	SN74172N	595
SN7435N	29	SN74173N	79
SN7436N	29	SN74174N	89
SN7437N	29	SN74175N	89
SN7438N	29	SN74176N	89
SN7439N	29	SN74177N	85
SN7440N	29	SN74178N	85
SN7441N	29	SN74179N	180
SN7442N	29	SN74180N	75
SN7443N	29	SN74181N	175
SN7444N	29	SN74182N	175
SN7445N	29	SN74183N	195
SN7446N	29	SN74184N	195
SN7447N	29	SN74185N	195
SN7448N	29	SN74186N	995
SN7449N	29	SN74187N	390
SN7450N	29	SN74188N	115
SN7451N	29	SN74189N	115
SN7452N	29	SN74190N	115
SN7453N	29	SN74191N	115
SN7454N	29	SN74192N	85
SN7455N	29	SN74193N	85
SN7456N	29	SN74194N	85
SN7457N	29	SN74195N	85
SN7458N	29	SN74196N	85
SN7459N	29	SN74197N	85
SN7460N	29	SN74198N	139
SN7461N	29	SN74199N	139
SN7462N	29	SN74200N	139
SN7463N	29	SN74201N	139
SN7464N	29	SN74202N	139
SN7465N	29	SN74203N	139
SN7466N	29	SN74204N	139
SN7467N	29	SN74205N	139
SN7468N	29	SN74206N	139
SN7469N	29	SN74207N	139
SN7470N	29	SN74208N	139
SN7471N	29	SN74209N	139
SN7472N	29	SN74210N	139
SN7473N	29	SN74211N	139
SN7474N	29	SN74212N	139
SN7475N	29	SN74213N	139
SN7476N	29	SN74214N	139
SN7477N	29	SN74215N	139
SN7478N	29	SN74216N	139
SN7479N	29	SN74217N	139
SN7480N	29	SN74218N	139
SN7481N	29	SN74219N	139
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SN7484N	29	SN74222N	139
SN7485N	29	SN74223N	139
SN7486N	29	SN74224N	139
SN7487N	29	SN74225N	139
SN7488N	29	SN74226N	139
SN7489N	29	SN74227N	139
SN7490N	29	SN74228N	139
SN7491N	29	SN74229N	139
SN7492N	29	SN74230N	139
SN7493N	29	SN74231N	139
SN7494N	29	SN74232N	139
SN7495N	29	SN74233N	139
SN7496N	29	SN74234N	139
SN7497N	29	SN74235N	139
SN7498N	29	SN74236N	139
SN7499N	29	SN74237N	139
SN7500N	29	SN74238N	139

# 74LS00

74LS00N	35	74LS184N	119
74LS01N	28	74LS185N	89
74LS02N	28	74LS166N	248
74LS03N	28	74LS168N	189
74LS04N	29	74LS169N	189
74LS05N	28	74LS170N	199
74LS06N	29	74LS171N	99
74LS07N	29	74LS172N	99
74LS08N	28	74LS173N	99
74LS09N	29	74LS174N	220
74LS10N	28	74LS175N	99
74LS11N	39	74LS181N	115
74LS12N	39	74LS182N	115
74LS13N	47	74LS183N	115
74LS14N	125	74LS184N	98
74LS15N	39	74LS185N	98
74LS16N	26	74LS194N	115
74LS17N	36	74LS195N	99
74LS18N	36	74LS196N	89
74LS19N	39	74LS197N	89
74LS20N	26	74LS221N	149
74LS21N	36	74LS240N	299
74LS22N	39	74LS241N	249
74LS23N	39	74LS242N	229
74LS24N	39	74LS243N	229
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74LS26N	36	74LS245N	895
74LS27N	39	74LS247N	110
74LS28N	36	74LS248N	110
74LS29N	39	74LS249N	150
74LS30N	39	74LS251N	179
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74LS32N	36	74LS253N	98
74LS33N	36	74LS254N	98
74LS34N	39	74LS255N	98
74LS35N	39	74LS256N	98
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74LS44N	39	74LS265N	249
74LS45N	39	74LS266N	249
74LS46N	39	74LS267N	249
74LS47N	39	74LS268N	249
74LS48N	39	74LS269N	249
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74LS52N	39	74LS273N	249
74LS53N	39	74LS274N	249
74LS54N	39	74LS275N	249
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74LS58N	39	74LS279N	249
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74LS60N	39	74LS281N	249
74LS61N	39	74LS282N	249
74LS62N	39	74LS283N	249
74LS63N	39	74LS284N	249
74LS64N	39	74LS285N	249
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74LS66N	39	74LS287N	249
74LS67N	39	74LS288N	249
74LS68N	39	74LS289N	249
74LS69N	39	74LS290N	249
74LS70N	39	74LS291N	249
74LS71N	39	74LS292N	249
74LS72N	39	74LS293N	249
74LS73N	39	74LS294N	249
74LS74N	39	74LS295N	249
74LS75N	39	74LS296N	249
74LS76N	39	74LS297N	249
74LS77N	39	74LS298N	249
74LS78N	39	74LS299N	249
74LS79N	39	74LS300N	249
74LS80N	39	74LS301N	249
74LS81N	39	74LS302N	249
74LS82N	39	74LS303N	249
74LS83N	39	74LS304N	249
74LS84N	39	74LS305N	249
74LS85N	39	74LS306N	249
74LS86N	39	74LS307N	249
74LS87N	39	74LS308N	249
74LS88N	39	74LS309N	249
74LS89N	39	74LS310N	249
74LS90N	39	74LS311N	249
74LS91N	39	74LS312N	249
74LS92N	39	74LS313N	249
74LS93N	39	74LS314N	249
74LS94N	39	74LS315N	249
74LS95N	39	74LS316N	249
74LS96N	39	74LS317N	249
74LS97N	39	74LS318N	249
74LS98N	39	74LS319N	249
74LS99N	39	74LS320N	249

# CMOS

CD4000	29	CD4093	99
CD4001	29	CD4094	295
CD4002	29	CD4098	249
CD4006	139	CD4099	225
CD4007	29	MC14408	1235
CD4008	139	MC14409	1235
CD4009	59	MC14410	1235
CD4010	59	MC14412	1235
CD4011	29	MC14415	895
CD4012	29	MC14419	895
CD4013	29	MC14421	895
CD4014	139	CD4501	39
CD4015	139	CD4502	39
CD4016	139	CD4503	39
CD4017	119	CD4506	895
CD4018	119	CD4507	895
CD4019	49	CD4508	395
CD4020	119	CD4510	139
CD4021	149	CD4511	139
CD4022	129	CD4512	139
CD4023	129	CD4513	139
CD4024	79	CD4516	169
CD4025	38	CD4518	139
CD4027	79	CD4520	139
CD4028	89	CD4555	495
CD4029	129	CD4556	495
CD4030	69	CD4566	225
CD4031	325	74C00	39
CD4032	215	74C02	39
CD4034	325	74C04	39
CD4035	119	74C06	495
CD4037	195	74C10	495
CD4040	129	74C14	165
CD4041	125	74C20	39
CD4042	125	74C30	39
CD4043	99	74C32	39
CD4044	99	74C42	185
CD4046	225	74C48	239
CD4047	125	74C73	99
CD4048	69	74C74	249
CD4049	69	74C85	249
CD4050	69	74C89	495
CD4051	110	74C90	185
CD4052	110	74C93	185
CD4053	110	74C95	185
CD4055	395	74C107	185
CD4056	295	74C151	249
CD4059	995	74C154	350
CD4060	139	74C157	210
CD4066	69	74C251	39
CD4069	69	74C181	239
CD4070	69	74C163	239
CD4071	35	74C164	239
CD4072	35	74C173	269
CD4073	35	74C175	275
CD4075	35	74C175	275
CD4076	129	74C192	239
CD4077	35	74C193	239
CD4078	35	74C195	239
CD4081	35	74C23	795
CD4082	35	74C23	695
CD4085	195	MM90C95	190
CD4089	295	MM90C97	125

# LINEAR

79H05	595	LM1414N	190
79M06	149	LM1458C/N	149
79M07	149	MC1488N	149
LM100H	295	MC1489N	149
LM106AH	295	LM1496N	149
LM1300H	79	LM1556N	150
LM1301C/N	35	LM1800N	79
LM1302N	99	LM1820N	95
LM1303H	99	LM1850N	95
LM1306H	325	LM1889N	395
LM1307C/N	29	LM2111N	175
LM1308C/N	99	LM2900N	99
LM1309N	149	LM2901N	250
LM1310C/N	149	LM2917N	295
LM1312C/N	99	CA3013T	229
LM1312H	175	CA3018T	199
LM1317T	275	CA3021T	349
LM1318N	149	CA3023T	299
LM1319N	125	CA3035T	275
LM1320C/N	149	CA3039T	149
LM1320T	125	CA3046T	129
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Bare Board w/all parts less mem.	99.95	

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- 2 Low Power
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Apple II or Cromemco (S-100) TRS 80 or Others soon

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9602	Card Extender	100.00
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9x7, 125 cps, 136 characters/line  
Full 15" width Super for business applications requiring large IBM format paper.

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30 Column Impact Printer

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- On board 2708 \* 2708 integrated (450ns.)
- Power on jump \* completely socketed
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### Z-80 SUPPORT CHIPS

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A super sensitive amplifier which will pick up a pin drop at 15 feet! Great for monitoring baby's room or as general purpose amplifier. Full 2 W rms output, runs on 6 to 15 volts, uses 8-45 ohm speaker. Complete kit, BN-9 **\$5.95**

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Runs on 3-12 Vdc 1 watt out, 1 KHZ good for CPO. Alarm, Audio Oscillator. Complete kit **\$2.95**

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For wired and tested clocks add \$10.00 to kit price. Specify 12 or 24 hr. format

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Transmits up to 300' to any FM broadcast radio, uses any type of mike. Runs on 3 to 9V has added sensitive mike preamp stage.

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A complete tone decoder on a single PC board. Features: 400-5000 Hz adjustable range via 20 turn pot, voltage regulation, 567 IC. Useful for touch-tone burst detection, FSK, etc. Can also be used as a stable tone encoder. Runs on 5 to 12 volts. Complete kit, TD-1 **\$5.95**



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Provides the basic parts and PC board required to provide a source of precision timing and pulse generation. Uses 555 timer IC and includes a range of parts for most timing needs.

UT-5 Kit **\$5.95**

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Produces LOUD ear shattering and attention getting siren like sound. Can supply up to 15 watts of obnoxious audio. Runs on 6-15 VDC. Complete kit, MB-1 **\$4.95**

**Siren Kit**

Produces upward and downward wall characteristic of a police siren. 5 W peak audio output, runs on 3-15 volts, uses 3-45 ohm speaker. Complete kit, SM-3 **\$2.95**



**60 Hz Time Base**  
Runs on 5-15 VDC. Low current (25ma) 1 min/month accuracy TB-7 Kit **\$5.95**  
TB-7 Assy **\$2.95**

**Car Clock**

The UN-KIT, only 5 solder connections

Here's a super looking, rugged and accurate auto clock, which is a snap to build and install. Clock movement is completely assembled — you only solder 3 wires and 2 switches, takes about 15 minutes! Display is bright green with automatic brightness control photocell — assures you of a highly readable display, day or night. Comes in a satin finish anodized aluminum case which can be attached 5 different ways using 2 sided tape. Choice of silver, black or gold case (specify).

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**IC SPECIALS**

LINEAR	TTL	SPECIAL
301 <b>\$1.35</b> 324 <b>\$1.50</b> 380 <b>\$1.50</b> 555 <b>\$1.45</b> 556 <b>\$1.00</b> 565 <b>\$1.00</b> 566 <b>\$1.00</b> 567 <b>\$1.25</b> 741 <b>\$1.50</b> 1458 <b>\$1.50</b> 3900 <b>\$1.50</b> 3914 <b>\$2.95</b> 8038 <b>\$2.95</b>	74S00 <b>\$1.40</b> 7447 <b>\$1.65</b> 7475 <b>\$1.50</b> 7490 <b>\$1.50</b> 74196 <b>\$1.35</b>	11C90 <b>\$15.00</b> 10116 <b>\$1.25</b> 7208 <b>\$17.50</b> 7207A <b>\$1.50</b> 7218D <b>\$21.00</b> 7107C <b>\$12.50</b> 5314 <b>\$2.95</b> 5375AB/G <b>\$2.95</b> 7001 <b>\$6.50</b>
CMOS	FERRITE BEADS	
4011 <b>\$1.50</b> 4013 <b>\$1.50</b> 4046 <b>\$1.85</b> 4049 <b>\$1.50</b> 4059 <b>\$6.00</b> 4511 <b>\$2.00</b> 4518 <b>\$1.38</b> 5639 <b>\$1.75</b>	With info and specs <b>19/\$1.00</b> 8 Hole Bead Beads <b>9/\$1.00</b>	

Resistor Ass't	Crystals	Switches	Earphones	Mini Speaker	Solid State Buzzers	Slug Tuned Coils	AC Outlet
Assortment of Popular values - 1/4 watt. Cut lead for PC mounting, 1/2" center, 1/8" leads, bag of 300 or more. <b>\$1.50</b>	3.759545 MHZ <b>\$1.50</b> 10.00000 MHZ <b>\$5.00</b> 5.248800 MHZ <b>\$5.00</b>	Mini toggle SPDT <b>\$1.00</b> Red Pushbuttons N.O. <b>3/\$1.00</b>	3" leads, 8 ohm, good for small tone speakers, alarm clocks, etc. <b>8 for \$1.00</b>	Approx 2 1/4" diam Round type for radios, mike etc. <b>3 for \$2.00</b>	small buzzer 450 Hz, 86 dB, sound output on 5-12 vdc at 10-30 mA, TTL compatible <b>\$1.50</b>	Small 3/16" Hex Slugs turned coil, 3 turns. <b>10/\$1.00</b>	Panel Mount with Leads <b>4/\$1.00</b>
CAPACITORS	DISK CERAMIC	DC-DC Converter	Ceramic IF Filters	Trimmer Caps	Crystal Microphone	Coax Connector	8 Volt Battery Clips
TANTALUM Dipped Epoxy 15 uF 25V 3/\$1.00 1.0 uF 25V 3/\$1.00 22 uF 25V 3/\$1.00	01 16V disk <b>20/\$1.00</b> 1 16V <b>15/\$1.00</b> 001 16V <b>20/\$1.00</b> 100 PF <b>20/\$1.00</b> 047 16V <b>20/\$1.00</b>	-5 vdc input prod. -9 vdc @ 30ma -9 vdc produces -15 vdc @ 35ma <b>1.25</b>	Mini ceramic filters 7 KHz <b>B. W. 455KHz \$1.90 ea.</b>	Sprague - 3-40 pf Stable Polypropylene <b>.50 ea.</b>	Small 1" diameter 1/2" thick crystal mike cartridge <b>\$.75</b>	Nice quality clips <b>5 for \$1.00</b> 1/2" Rubber Grommets <b>10 for \$1.00</b>	Nice quality clips <b>5 for \$1.00</b> 1/2" Rubber Grommets <b>10 for \$1.00</b>
Parts Bag	Connectors	Leds	Varactors				
Asst of chokes, disc caps, tantal resistors, transistors, diodes, MICA caps etc. sm bag (100 pc) <b>\$1.80</b> lg. bag (300 pc) <b>\$2.50</b>	6 pin type gold contacts for mA-1003 car clock module <b>.75 ea.</b>	Mini Red, Jumbo Red, High Intensity Red, Illuminator Red <b>8/\$1</b> Mini Yellow, Jumbo Yellow, Jumbo Green <b>8/\$1</b>	Motorola MV 2209 30 PF Nominal cap 20-80 PF - Tunable range - <b>50 each or 3/\$1.00</b>				

**Audio Prescaler**

Make high resolution audio measurements, great for musical instrument tuning, PL tones, etc. Multiplies audio UP in frequency, selectable x10 or x100, gives 01 HZ resolution with 1 sec gate time! High sensitivity of 25 mv, 1 meg input z and built-in filtering gives great performance. Runs on 9V battery, all CMOS. PS-2 kit **\$29.95**  
PS-2 wired **\$39.95**

**600 MHz PRESCALER**

Extend the range of your counter to 600 MHz. Works with all counters. Less than 150 mv sensitivity, specify -10 or +100. Wired, tested, PS-1B **\$59.95**  
Kit, PS-1B **\$44.95**



**READOUTS**

FND 359 4" C.C. <b>\$1.00</b>	FND 507/510 5" C.A. <b>1.00</b>
MAN 72/HP7730 33" C.A. <b>1.00</b>	HP 7651 43" C.A. <b>2.00</b>

**Sockets**

8 Pin <b>10/\$2.00</b>	14 Pin <b>10/\$2.00</b>	16 Pin <b>10/\$2.00</b>	24 Pin <b>4/\$2.00</b>	28 Pin <b>4/\$2.00</b>	40 Pin <b>3/\$2.00</b>
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**DC-DC Converter**

25K 20 Turn Trim Pot. **\$1.00**  
1K 20 Turn Trim Pot. **\$.50**

**Ceramic IF Filters**

Mini ceramic filters 7 KHz **B. W. 455KHz \$1.90 ea.**



**TRANSISTORS**

2N3904 NPN <b>15/\$1.00</b>	2N3906 PNP <b>15/\$1.00</b>	2N4403 PNP <b>15/\$1.00</b>	2N4414 NPN <b>18/\$1.00</b>	2N4518 FET <b>4/\$1.00</b>	2N5401 PNP <b>5/\$1.00</b>	2N6028 <b>4/\$1.00</b>	2N3771 NPN Silicon <b>1/\$1.50</b>	2N5179 UHF NPN <b>3/\$2.00</b>	Power Tab NPN 40W <b>3/\$1.00</b>	Power Tab PNP 40W <b>3/\$1.00</b>	MPF 102/2N5484 <b>\$.50</b>	NPN 3904 Type <b>\$0/\$2.50</b>	PNP 3906 Type <b>\$0/\$2.50</b>	2N3955 <b>\$.80</b>	2N2946 UJT <b>3/\$2.00</b>
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**Diodes**

5.1 V Zener <b>20/\$1.00</b>	1N914 Type <b>50/\$1.00</b>	1KV 2Amp <b>8/\$1.00</b>	100V 1Amp <b>15/\$1.00</b>
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**Crystal Microphone**

Small 1" diameter 1/2" thick crystal mike cartridge **\$.75**

**Mini RG-174 Coax**

10 ft. for **\$1.00**

**25 AMP 100V Bridge**

**\$1.50 each**

**Coax Connector**

Chassis mount BNC type **\$1.00**

**8 Volt Battery Clips**

Nice quality clips **5 for \$1.00**  
1/2" Rubber Grommets **10 for \$1.00**

**Mini-Bridge 50V 1 AMP**

**2 for \$1.00**

**Leds**

Mini Red, Jumbo Red, High Intensity Red, Illuminator Red **8/\$1**  
Mini Yellow, Jumbo Yellow, Jumbo Green **8/\$1**

**Shrink Tubing Nubs**

Nice precut pieces of shrink size: 1" x 1/4" shrink to 1/8" Great for splices. **50/\$1.00**

**OP-AMP Special**

BI-FET LF 13741 - Direct pin for pin 741 compatible, but 500,000 MEG input z, super low 50 pa input current, low power drain. 50 for only **\$9.00** 10 for **\$2.00**

**Regulators**

78MG <b>\$1.25</b>	7812 <b>\$1.00</b>
79MG <b>\$1.25</b>	7815 <b>\$1.00</b>
723 <b>\$1.50</b>	7905 <b>\$1.25</b>
309K <b>\$1.15</b>	7912 <b>\$1.25</b>
7805 <b>\$1.00</b>	7915 <b>\$1.25</b>

**Opto Isolators - 4N28 type**

Opto Reflectors - Photo diode + LED **\$5.00 ea.**  
**\$1.00 ea.**

**Molex Pins**

Molex already precut in length of 7. Perfect for 14 pin sockets. **20 strips for \$1.00**

**CO5 Photocells**

Resistance varies with light. **250 ohms to over 3 meg**



**new**

## ULTRAVIOLET INTENSITY METER

by BLAK-RAY



TWO MODELS:  
LONG WAVE  
AND  
SHORT WAVE

Meter consists of a sensor cell attached to a compact (3" x 3 1/4" x 3") metering unit. Can be hand-held or placed directly on surface for measuring. Can be used remotely, while connected to a meter housing by a 4-foot extension cord. Two models available - one for long wave and one for short wave ultraviolet. Readings are in microwatts per square centimeter. Weight: 1 lb.

Completely assembled (includes sensor cell, reduction screen, extension cord, contrast filter and certification report.)

**J-221 LONG WAVE**  
(300nm-400nm) ..... **\$242.00**

**J-225 SHORT WAVE**  
(200nm-280nm) ..... **\$260.00**

## CONTINENTAL SPECIALTIES



### Proto Clips

- 14 PIN CLIP PC-14 ..... \$ 4.50
- 16 PIN CLIP PC-16 ..... \$ 4.75
- 24 PIN CLIP PC-24 ..... \$10.00
- 40 PIN CLIP PC-40 ..... \$16.00

### Proto Boards



- PB-6 ..... \$17.95
- PB-100 ..... 19.85
- PB-101 ..... 22.95
- PB-102 ..... 26.95
- PB-103 ..... 44.95
- PB-104 ..... 56.95
- PB-203 ..... 89.95
- PB-203A ..... 155.00
- PB-203A-KH ..... 131.00

### Jumbo 6-Digit Clock Kit

- Four .670" ht. and two .300" ht. common anode displays
- Uses MM5314 clock chip
- Switches for hours, minutes and hold functions
- Hours easily viewable to 30 feet
- Simulated walnut case
- 115 VAC operation
- 12 or 24 hour operation
- Includes all components, case and wall transformer
- Size: 6 1/2" x 3 1/4" x 1 1/4"

**JE747 ..... \$29.95**



- Bright 300 ht. comm. cathode display
- Uses MM5314 clock chip
- Switches for hours, minutes and hold modes
- Hrs. easily viewable to 20 ft.
- Simulated walnut case
- 115 VAC operation
- 12 or 24 hr. operation
- Incl. all components, case & wall transformer
- Size: 6 1/2" x 3-1/8" x 1 1/4"

**JE701**

**6-Digit Clock Kit \$19.95**

### Regulated Power Supply

Uses LM309K. Heat sink provided. PC board construction. Provides a solid 1 amp @ 5 volts. Can supply up to +5V, +9V and +12V with JE205 Adapter. Includes components, hardware and instructions. Size: 3 1/2" x 5" x 2 1/4"

**JE200 ..... \$14.95**



**ADAPTER BOARD**  
-Adapts to JE200-  
±5V, ±9V and ±12V

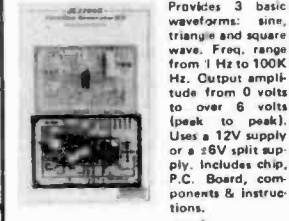
DC/DC converter with +5V input. Toroidal hi-speed switching XMFR. Short circuit protection. PC board construction. Piggy-back to JE 200 board. Size: 3 1/2" x 2" x 9/16" H

**JE205 ..... \$12.95**

## MICROPROCESSOR COMPONENTS

8080/8085 SUPPORT DEVICES		MICROPROCESSOR MANUALS	
8080A CPU	\$ 7.95	M-260 User Manual	\$7.50
8212 8-Bit Input/Output	3.25	M-COP1802 User Manual	7.50
8214 8-Bit Input/Output Control	5.95	M-2650 User Manual	5.00
8216 8-Bit Directional Bus Driver	3.49		
8224 Clock Generator/Driver	3.95		
8226 Bus Driver	2.49		
8228 System Controller/Bus Driver	4.95		
8236 System Controller	5.95		
8251 Prog. Comm. I/O (USART)	7.95		
8253 Prog. Interval Timer	14.95		
8255 Prog. Periph. I/O (PPI)	9.95		
8257 Prog. DMA Control	19.95		
8259 Prog. Interrupt Control	19.95		
6800/6809 SUPPORT DEVICES		ROM'S	
MC6800 MPU	\$14.95	1101 256X1 Static	\$1.49
MC6802CP MPU with Clock and Ram	24.95	1103 1024X1 Dynamic	.99
MC6810AP 128X8 Static Ram	5.95	1104 256X4 Static	8.95
MC6821 Periph. Inter. Adapt. (MC6820)	12.95	1107 1024X1 Static	1.75
MC6828 Priority Interrupt Controller	9.95	2102 1024X1 Static	1.95
MC6830L8 1024X8 Bit ROM (MC68A30-8)	14.95	2111 1024X1 Static	3.95
MC6850 Asynchronous Comm. Adapter	7.95	2112 256X4 Static MOS	4.95
MC6852 Synchronous Serial Data Adapt.	9.95	2114 1024X4 Static 450ns	7.95
MC6860 0-6000 bps Digital MODEM	12.95	2114-3 1024X4 Static 300ns	10.95
MC6862 2400 bps Modulator	14.95	2114-3 1024X4 Static 300ns low power	11.95
MC6860A Quad 3-State Bus Trans. (MC68126)	2.25	5101 256X4 Static	7.95
MICROPROCESSOR CHIPS--MISC/LANEUROS		5280/2107 4096X1 Dynamic	4.95
Z801700J CPU	\$13.95	7489 16X4 Static	1.75
Z801700J CPU	15.95	74S200 256X1 Static Tristate	4.95
CDP1802 CPU	19.95	93421 256X1 Static	2.95
2650 MPU	19.95	UPD414 4K Dynamic 16 pin	1.95
6502 CPU	11.95	UPD416 16K Dynamic 16 pin 250ns	7.95
8035 8-Bit MPU w/iodic, RAM, I/O lines	19.95	(MK4116)	
9388 CPU	19.95	TMS4044 4K Static	14.95
TMS9900JL 16-Bit MPU w/hardware, multiply & divide	49.95	45N1	
		TMS4045 1024X4 Static	14.95
		2117 16,384X1 Dynamic 350ns	9.95
		(house marked)	
		MMS262 2KX1 Dynamic	41.00
		PROM'S	
		1702A 2048 FAMOS	55.95
		2716INTEL 16K EPROM	59.95
		TMS2516 16K EPROM	24.95
		2716 1T 16K EPROM	
		*Requires single +5V power supply	
		TMS2532 4KX8 EPROM	89.95
		2706 8K EPROM	10.95
		2716 1T 16K EPROM	29.95
		**Requires 3 voltages, -5V, +5V, +12V	
		5203 2048 FAMOS	14.95
		6301-1(7611) 1024 Tristate Bipolar	3.49
		6330-1(7602) 256 Open C Bipolar	2.95
		82523 32X8 Open Collector	3.95
		825115 4096 Bipolar	19.95
		825123 32X8 Tristate	3.95
		74186 512 TTL Open Collector	9.95
		74188 256 TTL Open Collector	3.95
		74S287 1024 Static	2.95
UART'S			
A-Y-5-1013 30K BAUD	5.95		

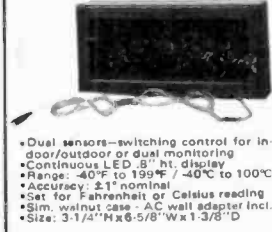
### Function Generator Kit



Provides 3 basic waveforms: sine, triangle and square wave. Freq. range from 1 Hz to 100K Hz. Output amplitude from 0 volts to over 6 volts (peak to peak). Uses a 12V supply or a ±6V split supply. Includes chip, P.C. Board, components & instructions.

**JE2206B ..... \$19.95**

### DIGITAL THERMOMETER KIT

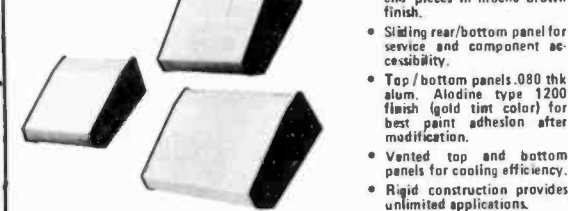


• Dual sensors—switching control for in-studio/outdoor or dual monitoring  
• Continuous LED .8" ht. display  
• Range: -40°F to 199°F / -40°C to 100°C  
• Accuracy: ±1°F nominal  
• Set for Fahrenheit or Celsius reading  
• Sim. walnut case - AC wall adapter incl.  
• Size: 3-1/4" H x 6-5/8" W x 1-3/8" D

**JE300 ..... \$39.95**

## DESIGNERS' SERIES

### Blank Desk-Top Electronic Enclosures



• High strength epoxy molded end pieces in mocha brown finish.  
• Sliding rear/bottom panel for service and component accessibility.  
• Top / bottom panels .080 thk alum. Anodize type 1200 finish (gold tint color) for best paint adhesion after modification.  
• Vented top and bottom panels for cooling efficiency.  
• Rigid construction provides unlimited applications.

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DTE-8	8.00"	\$29.95
DTE-11	10.65"	\$32.95
DTE-14	14.00"	\$34.95

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## The Incredible "Pennywhistle 103" Kit Only

**\$139.95**

The Pennywhistle 103 is capable of recording data to and from audio tape without critical speed requirements for the recorder and it is able to communicate directly with another modern terminal for telephone "banning" and communications. In addition, it is free of critical adjustments and is built with non-precision, readily available parts.

Data Transmission Method ..... Frequency Shift Keying, full-duplex (half-duplex selectable)  
300 Baud.  
Data Format ..... Asynchronous Serial (return to mark level required between each character).  
Receive Channel Frequencies ..... 2055 Hz for space, 2225 Hz for mark  
Transmit Channel Frequencies ..... Switch selectable: Low (normal) = 1070 space, 1270 mark, High = 025 space, 2225 mark.  
Receive Sensitivity ..... 46 dbm acoustically coupled.  
Transmit Level ..... 15 dbm nominal. Adjustable from -6 dbm to -20 dbm.  
Receive Frequency Tolerance ..... Frequency reference automatically adjusts to allow for operation between 1800 Hz and 2400 Hz.  
EIA RS-232C or 20 mA current loop (receiver is optoisolator and non-polar).  
Digital Data Interface ..... All components mount on a single 5 1/4" by 9" printed circuit board. All components included.  
Physical ..... 15 dbm nominal. Adjustable from -6 dbm to -20 dbm.  
Power Requirements ..... 120 VAC, single phase, 10 Watts.  
Requires a VOM, Audio Oscillator, Frequency Counter and/or Oscilloscope to align.

## TRS-80 16K Conversion Kit

Expand your 4K TRS-80 System to 16K.  
Kit comes complete with:  
• 8 xk UPD416-1 (16K Dynamic Rams ) 250NS  
• Documentation for conversion

**TRS-16K ..... \$59.95**

## JE610 ASCII Encoded Keyboard Kit



The JE610 ASCII Keyboard Kit can be interfaced to most any computer system. The kit comes complete with an industrial grade keyboard switch assembly (62-keys), IC's, sockets, connector, electronic components and a double-sided printed wiring board. The keyboard assembly requires +5V @ 150mA and -12V @ 10mA for operation. Features: 60 keys generate the full 128 characters, upper and lower case ASCII set. Fully buffered. Two user-define keys provided for custom applications. Caps lock for upper-case-only alpha characters. Utilizes a 2376 (40-pin) encoder read-only memory chip. Outputs directly compatible with TTL/DTL or MOS logic arrays. Easy interfacing with a 16-pin dip or 18-pin edge connector.

**JE610 (Case not included) \$79.95**

### Desk-Top Enclosure for JE610 ASCII Encoded Keyboard Kit

Compact desk-top enclosure: Color-coordinated designer's case with light tan aluminum panels and molded end pieces in mocha brown. Includes mounting hardware. Size: 3 1/2" H x 14 1/2" W x 8 3/4" D.

**DTE-AK ..... \$49.95**  
SPECIAL: JE610/DTE-AK PURCHASED TOGETHER (Value \$129.90) ..... **\$124.95**

## JE600 Hexadecimal Encoder Kit



The JE600 Encoder Keyboard Kit provides two separate hexadecimal digits produced from sequential key entries to allow direct programming for 8-bit microprocessor or 8-bit memory circuits. Three additional keys are provided for user operations with one having a bistable output available. The outputs are latched and monitored with 9 LED readouts. Also included is a key entry strobe. Features: Full 8-bit latched output for microprocessor use. Three user-define keys with one being bistable operation. Debounce circuit provided for all 19 keys. 9 LED readouts to verify entries. Easy interfacing with standard 16-pin IC connector. Only +5V DDC required for operation.

**JE600 (Case not Included) \$59.95**

### Desk-Top Enclosure for JE600 Hexadecimal Keyboard Kit

Compact desk-top enclosure: Color-coordinated designer's case with light tan aluminum panels and molded end pieces in mocha brown. Includes mounting hardware. Size: 3 1/2" H x 8 3/4" W x 8 3/4" D.

**DTE-HK ..... \$44.95**  
SPECIAL: JE600/DTE-HK PURCHASED TOGETHER (Value \$104.90) ..... **\$99.95**

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## "SELECTRIC" RS-232 TERMINALS

Built by Datal or Dura for CARTERFONE, off-lease, 15" carriage, self-contained power supply, solenoid drivers and RS-232 I/O. USED, "AS-IS" (may need some service). Incl. Replacement line cord, schematics and some info. Unusual Bargain! Complete I/O typewriter, IBM Model 735 Printer (sorry, no choice of case style) ... Over 400 In Stock!

8CD Code Selectric Terminal ..... ONLY \$469.00  
 Correspondence Code Selectric Terminal ..... ONLY \$549.00  
 Printer Refurbishing (check-out, cleaning & adjustment) Add \$80.00  
 Add \$25.00 to cover crate cost. Shipped via truck, collect.



## 12-INCH VIDEO MONITORS

12" (diag.) screen, BNC, composite video input, contrast & brightness controls. Mfd. by Motorola; rebuilt by OEM, then released. Features 80x24 character tuning, includes schematic & adjusting info.

Model No. XM 35147 ..... Only \$99.00

## SURPLUS DAISY TERMINALS

Diablo 1650 RS-232-C TERMINALS Features metal daisy wheel, 40 cps, 10 or 12 pitch, 88, 92, or 96 character wheels, 110, 300, 600 and 1200 Baud I/O, self-diagnostic, 256 character buffer. Diablo (Zerox) quality, switch-selectable ASCII or IBM 2741 (correspondence) line protocol, 132 columns @ 10 CPI, 158 col's. @ 12 pitch. Best of all, these are NEW & UNUSED! Hytype II mechanism.

Diablo 1650 RO Daisy Terminal ..... NOW ONLY \$3995.00  
 Regularly Over \$5,000.00

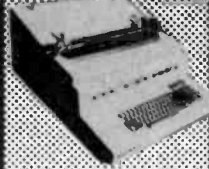


## KSR DAISY TERMINALS

Over 100 Sold! These exciting refurbished KSR terminals feature the Diablo 1200 HYTYPE Daisy Wheel Printer. Self-contained keyboard, power supply, I/O interface board & a quality drop-wing typing table with chrome legs & casters. Uses various plastic replaceable "daisy" wheels. Features include: 10 & 12 pitch, 6 & 8 vertical lines/inch, RS-232-C, 110, 150 & 300 Baud; 10, 15 & 30 cps, ASCII protocol, text and PLOT mode with 1/60" horiz. and 1/48" vert'l spacing, keyboard or computer plotting. Includes plated bidirectional platen for 15" paper, & unique case design for easy read-ability.

This Exciting Daisy Terminal is Only ..... \$1500.00

Price includes shipping crate



Use Your Mastercharge or VISA SHIPPING We ship all units over 30 lbs. via truck C.O.D. This means you pay when your unit arrives.



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 FOR TV HORIZONTAL SECTIONS; HIGH VOLTAGE REGULATORS  
 REPLACES: 2N5076, 2N5077, 2N5838, 2N5665, BDY94, BU126, 2SC2121, 2N5840, 2SC1046, 2N5466, TIP556 AND MANY OTHERS.



LM3046	(CA3046) Transistor Array	.75
RCA 40430	400V 6A TRIAC TO-66	.75
CA3086	RCA Transistor Array	.80
LM567	Tone Decoder	.99
CD4046	PLL CMOS	.99
LM3302	Quad Comparator	.89
2SC1849	High Freq NPN TO-92	6/1.00
MPS A20	NPN GEN PUR	8/1.00

## AY3-8910 PROGRAMMABLE SOUND GENERATOR

The AY3-8910 is a 40 pin LSI chip with three oscillators, three amplitude controls, programmable noise generator, three mixers, an envelope generator, and three D/A converters that are controlled by 8 BIT WORDS. No external pots or caps required. This chip hooked to an 8 bit microprocessor chip or Buss (8080, Z80, 6800 etc.) can be software controlled to produce almost any sound. It will play three note chords, make bangs, whistles, sirens, gunshots, explosions, bleats, whines, or grunts. In addition, it has provisions to control its own memory chips with two IO ports. The chip requires +5V @ 75ma and a standard TTL clock oscillator. A truly incredible circuit.

\$14.95 W/Basic Spec Sheet (4 pages)

60 page manual with S-100 Interface instructions and several programming examples, \$3.00 extra.

## 1/2W RESISTOR ASSORTMENT

A good mix of 5% and 10% values in both full lead and PC lead devices. All new, first quality

(Ass't) 200 pieces-2.00

**7 WATT AUDIO AMP KIT**  
 SMALL, SINGLE HYBRID IC AND COMPONENTS FIT ON A 2" x 3" PC BOARD (INCLUDED). RUNS ON 12VDC. GREAT FOR ANY PROJECT THAT NEEDS AN INEXPENSIVE AMP LESS THAN 3% THD @ 5 WATTS. COMPATIBLE WITH SE-01 SOUND KIT. \$5.95

**ULTRASONIC RELAY KIT**  
 INVISIBLE BEAM WORKS LIKE A PHOTO ELECTRIC EYE. USE UP TO 25 FT. APART. COMPLETE KIT. ALL PARTS & PC BOARDS. \$21.50

**THE PERFECT TRANSFORMER**  
 117VAC primary, 12VAC secondary @ 200ma  
 Great for all your CMOS, or low power TTL projects. PC board mount. 99¢ ea. 3/\$2.50  
 Size: 1.5" W x 1.25" D x 1.25" H

**XAN SUPER DIGITS**  
 .6" JUMBO LED RED  
 6920 COMMON CATHODE .99 7 SEGMENT  
 6640 COMMON ANODE

NOW A SUPER READOUT AT A SUPER BUY! These are factory fresh prime LED readouts, not seconds or rejects as sold by others. Compare our price and send for yours today, but hurry, the supply is limited! SPECIFY: COMMON ANODE OR COMMON CATHODE

## NEW! MUSIC FOR YOUR EARS

Bullet's Electronic Music Maker™ Kit has a single 28 Pin Microprocessor Chip with ROM that has been programmed to play the first 6 to 10 notes of the 25 popular tunes listed below. Each tune can easily be addressed individually or played sequentially at the push of a button. The 3 chime sequences are activated at any time by separate switch closures so when used as a doorbell, one door can play songs while two others will play different chimes. The unit has a 5 watt audio Amp and will run on either 12VAC or 12VDC. Optional 117VAC transformer is available. Construction is very simple, works with any 8 or 16 ohm speaker, or horn speaker. (Not included.) Tunes can be remotely programmed using a single rotary switch, (not included), if desired.

Complete Kit \$16.95 Transformer \$1.35 (For operation on 117VAC)

Tunes: Toreador • William Tell • Hallelujah Chorus • Star Spangled Banner • Yankee Doodle • America, America • Deutschland Lied • Wedding March • Beethoven's 5th and 9th • Hell's Bells • La Vie En Rose • Star Wars Theme • Clementine • Augustine • Jingle Bells • God Save The Queen • Colonel Bogey • Marseillaise • O Sole Mio • Santa Lucia • The End • Blue Danube • Brahms Lullaby • Westminster Chime • Simple Chime • Descending Octave Chime.

## PARTS

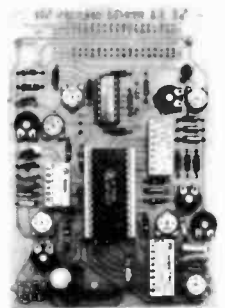
TL490	Bar/Graph Driver	2.50
7805	5V 1A Regulator	.99
78M05	1/2A TO-5 Reg. 5V (Hse #)	.60
LM3911	Temp. Transducer	1.10
555	Timer IC	.49
723	Voltage Reg. 14 Pin Dip	.50
7812	1A 12V Reg.	.99
2N6028	P.U.T W/Specs	.50
IL-1	Opto Isolator W/Specs	.60

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catalog free on request

## Sound Effects Kit \$18.50

The SE-01 is a complete kit that contains all the parts to build a programmable sound effects generator. Designed around the new Texas Instruments SN76477 Sound Chip, the board provides banks of MINI DIP switches and pots to program the various combinations of the SLF Oscillator, VCO, Noise, One Shot, and Envelope Controls. A Quad Op Amp IC is used to implement an Adjustable Pulse Generator, Level Comparator and Multiplex Oscillator for even more versatility. The 3 1/2" x 5" PC Board features a prototype area to allow for user added circuitry. Easily programmed to duplicate Explosions, Phasor Guns, Steam Trains, or almost an infinite number of other sounds. The unit has a multiple of applications. The low price includes all parts, assembly manual, programming charts, and detailed 76477 chip specifications. It runs on a 9V battery (not included). On board 100Mw amp will drive a small speaker directly, or the unit can be connected to your stereo with incredible results! (Speaker not included).



\* 76477 CHIP IS INCLUDED. EXTRA CHIPS \$3.15 EACH





Electricity from the sun.  
 5 Volt panel 1/4 amp \$50 2.5 Volt panel 1/2 amp \$40  
 GIANT 3 1/2 inch cell, delivers 1 amp \$8.50  
 Above cell with special motor & prop, runs in sun \$10.25

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 Computer video monitor chassis 12 inch, new \$50  
 Hy Gain CB chassls, trunk mount \$9.00



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 IR viewer, portable, new with choice of one lens...close up, telephoto or gen. purpose. Requires 6 volt DC btry. \$250

Parallel ASCII-II Keyboard  
 Unused ..... \$50.00  
 Red LED's large ..... 10/\$1.00  
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Govt surplus walky talky, used cond.  
 47-55.4 mc range.  
 Ant. \$5 each extra.  
 With data.

\$25 ea 2 for \$45

AN/PRC-6



INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONICS UNLIMITED

1" ORANGE LED DISPLAY 7 segment RHD MAN410 - common anode MAN460 - common cathode	\$1.13ea 10/\$7.95 25/\$17.50 100/\$65.00
1" ORANGE overflow 21 MAN4630 - common anode	5.89ea 10/\$5.95
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JUMBO RED LED .20" diffused	10/\$1.00
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JUMBO GREEN LED .20" diffused	7/\$1.00
SUBMIN GREEN LED .125" diffused	25/\$2.85
	100/\$9.75

METAL FILM RESISTORS			
R-0HM R60FY (R60) 1% 50ppm/°C	1-999	ea	pk-10
1/4w MIL-R-13509 250V/70°C	1000-	.25	1.50 2.25 7.50
.138" dia X .355" long (body)	5000-	.25	1.25 2.10 7.25
ALL STANDARD DECADE VALUES	10000-	.25	1.00 1.90 6.75
FROM 10ohm to 475K			.25 .95 1.75 6.00

LINEAR CIRCUITS 1/2 PRICE SALE

REG.	SALE	REG.	SALE
LM300H	8.59	LM376CN	5.50
LM301CN	.32	LM380-8	.80
LM302H	.59	LM565K	1.15
LM307CN	.32	LM709H	.34
LM308H	.79	LM733H	.89
LM308CN	.79	LM739H	.89
LM309H	1.05	LM748CN	.95
LM310CN	1.07	LM1414N	1.25
LM311H	.89	LM1800N	2.40
LM311CN	.89	75453CN	
LM311N	.89	(351CN)	.35
LM322N	.89	75491N	.75
LM340T-6V		75492N	.89
(7806)	1.19		.60

I.C. SPECIALS

8038N	\$2.75ea.
LM565N	.75ea.
LM567CN	.95ea.
LM158CN	.45ea.
LM555CN	.45ea.
XR320N	.85ea.

DIODES	
1N4148 400mw	15/\$1.00 100/\$5.00
1N4001 rectifier	12/\$1.00 100/\$7.00
1N4007 rectifier	10/\$1.00 100/\$9.00

DIPSWITCH - 4 sw	
8 pin DIP SPST	1-9 \$1.65ea
	10-24 1.55ea
	25- 1.49ea

REGULATED POWER SUPPLY  
 provides simultaneous outputs of plus & minus 5V, 12V, & 15V.  
 uses 115/29VCT transformer - 1amp total output. kit includes PC board (2 1/8" X 3 1/16"), all parts incl transformer, schematic & layout dwg.

10-24	\$14.95ea
25-	13.50ea
	12.50ea

DIPSWITCH - 8 sw	
16 pin DIP SPST	1-9 \$2.10ea
	10-24 1.95ea
	25- 1.85ea

IC BREADBOARD  
 2 1/16" X 6 9/16"  
 UNIVERSAL BREADBOARD  
 3 3/16" X 5 1/16"

	\$1.15ea
	10/\$10.00
	100/\$75.00

CRYSTAL CONTROLLED TIME BASE KIT  
 provides accurate 1 Hz, 10 Hz & 60 Hz double buffered outputs from 9VDC input. CMOS compatible. kit includes PC board, (1 5/8" X 3"), all parts (except battery), schematic, layout dwg, & instructions.

10-24	\$15.50ea
25-	13.75ea
	12.50ea

CLOCK CHIP MM5375AA  
 4-6 digit 60Hz 12hr alarm 24 pin

	\$1.95
	10/\$17.50
	100/\$150.00

Payment by check, M.O., UPS-COD, N/C or VISA. Add \$1.00 shipping/handling in US, Canada & Mexico. Other countries \$1.00 + 5% of order. California residents add sales tax. Minimum order \$10.00

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 Beckman TECH310 Reg. \$89.95 \$140.  
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 20 KΩ VDC • 10 KΩ VAC  
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 Model MAX100 Reg. \$150.00 \$127.50  
 20 Hz to 100 MHz  
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 Fully automatic  
**ESD Logic Monitor**  
 Model LM-1 Works with DTL, HTL, TTL, and CMOS • 16 LED display \$59.95  
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 Model 1500 Call Control Reg. \$349.95 \$249.95  
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**6" x 9" 3-Way Speaker**  
 20 oz. ceramic magnet  
 Model 8P2000-69TR \$14.95 ea.  
**FREE**  
 8 pc. Tool Set (value \$14.95) with \$200.00 purchase from this ad.  
**Weller Xcelite**  
 Cordless Soldering Iron Model 7800 \$29.95  
**Miniature High Fidelity 3-Way Stereo Speakers**  
 Model HF-9 \$69.50 PR Reg. \$149.95

**Portable Oscilloscopes**  
 15 MHz Dual Trace Triggered Miniscope Model MS-215 \$389.95  
 Reg. \$465.45  
 15 MHz Triggered Miniscope Model MS-15 Reg. \$349.80 \$289.95  
 30 MHz Dual Trace Triggered Miniscope Model MS-230 Reg. \$598.15 \$499.95

**Function Generator**  
 Model 2001 Reg. \$185.95 \$157.95  
 • Sine-, square-, triangle- and separate TTL square-wave output  
 • Frequency range: 1Hz-100KHz

**Attache Style Tool Case**  
 Model TC100-ST Reg. \$299.95 \$299.95  
**Service Master Tool Kit**  
 Model 99-SM Reg. \$79.95 \$49.95

**BK PRECISION**  
 Portable Digital Capacitance Meter Model 820 \$170  
 Measures capacitance from 0.1pF to 1 Farad • Resolves to 0.1pF • 10 ranges for accuracy and resolution • 4 digit easy-to-read LED display • 0.5% accuracy  
**3 1/2-Digit 0.1% Digital Capacitance Meter**  
 Model 3001 Reg. \$190.00 \$170  
 9 ranges from 1999 pF to 199.9 μF  
 0.1% of reading accuracy

**In-Dash Car Stereos**  
 8-Track Tape Player with AM/FM/MPX Radio Model C-777 \$52.50  
**Cassette Tape Player**  
 with AM/FM/MPX Radio Model CAS-888 \$57.50

**Logic Probe**  
 Model LP-1 \$44.95  
 • Compact circuit powered  
 • Detects pulses as short as 50 μsec  
 • DTL/TTL/HTL/CMOS compatibility  
**RC Circuit Box**  
 36 resistors (15 Ω to 10 MΩ) • 18 capacitors (100 pF to 0.22 μF) \$42.  
 Reg. \$49.95 includes test leads  
 VIZ Model WC 412A

**Proto Preassembled Boards**  
 Model PB-104 \$49.95  
 Fully assembled breadboard contains four OT-595 sockets, seven OT-598 bus strips and four 5-way binding posts  
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 Model PB-203A \$129.95  
 • Regulated  
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**30 MHz LEADER**  
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**DIGITAL MULTIMETER**  
 Simpson 461 Complete with nickel-cadmium batteries, AC charger/adaptor, test leads \$149.95  
**BSR X-10**  
 Remote Control for Lights & Appliances \$79.50  
 4 Pk Standard Starter Kit • One (1) Standard Command Reg. \$87.95  
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 (2) Lamp Modules • One (1) Appliance Unit  
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**Stereo Power Booster**  
 Model POW-40 \$24.95  
 40W stereo  
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 • Master Charge  
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**Chess Challenger 7**  
 Model BBC \$79.95  
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**Weller Controlled Output Soldering Station**  
 Model WTCPN Reg. \$77.50 \$54.95

**BK PRECISION**  
 30 MHz Portable Frequency Counter Model 1627 \$65.  
 Reg. \$130.00

TOLL FREE (800) 645-9518 in N.Y. State call (516) 752-0050

### 100 W CLASS A POWER AMP KIT

Dynamic Bias Class "A" circuit design makes this unit unique in its class. Crystal clear, 100 watts power output will satisfy the most picky fans. A perfect combination with the TA-1020 low T.I.M. stereo pre-amp.

#### Specifications:

- Output power: 100W RMS into 8-ohm 125W RMS into 4-ohm
- Frequency response: 10Hz - 100 KHz
- T.H.D.: less than 0.008%
- S/N ratio: better than 80dB
- Input sensitivity: 1V max.
- Power supply: ±40V @ 5 amp



TA-1000 KIT  
\$51.95  
Power transformer  
\$15.00 each

### PROFESSIONAL 10 OCTAVE STEREO GRAPHIC EQUALIZER!!



Graphic equalizer have been used for years in sound studios and concert arenas but were too expensive to be considered for home use. Now we offer you the facility at an affordable price. This unit can extend your control of your Hi-Fi system by minimizing the non-linearities of the combined speaker/room system. Fantastic features as follows:

- 10 double slide controls for two channels
- Cut out rumble, surface noise and hiss
- Minimizes speaker/room non-linearities
- Frequency response from 30Hz to 16KHz
- 10 tone controls plus defeat, monitor and tape selector.
- Control range ± 12dB in 10 octaves (30Hz, 60Hz, 120Hz, 240Hz, 500Hz, 1KHz, 2KHz, 4KHz, 8KHz, 16KHz.)
- Operating voltage 117V 50/60Hz.

FACTORY ASSEMBLED UNIT, NOT A KIT  
SPECIAL PRICE \$117.00 ea

### SUB MINI SIZE FET CONDENSER MICROPHONE



#### Specification:

Sensitivity: -65dB ± 3db  
FEO. Response: 50 Hz - 8 KHz  
Output Impedance: 1K ohm max.  
Polar Pattern: Omni-directional  
Power Supply: 1.5V - 10V D.C.  
Sound Pressure Level: Max. 120dB  
EM4RP \$2.50 ea. or 2 for \$4.50

### NEW MARK III 9 Steps 4 Colors LED VU

Stereo level indicator kit with arc-shape display panel!!! This Mark III LED level indicator is a new design PC board with an arc-shape 4 colors LED display (change color from red, yellow, green and the peak output indicated by rose). The power range is very large, from -30dB to +5dB. The Mark III indicator is applicable to 1 watt - 200 watts amplifier operating voltage is 3V - 9V DC at max 400 MA. The circuit uses 10 LEDs per channel. It is very easy to connect to the amplifier. Just hook up with the speaker output!

IN KIT FORM \$18.50

### SOUND ACTIVATED DISCO LIGHT KIT

Latest design electronic color light organ, with both sound and line input, the three color lights (not included) will change colors with the rhythm of the music; controlled by 3 ranges, low, middle and high. Ideal for party, bar, or home entertainment. Max. controlled output 1000 watts per color (3 colors). Kit includes aluminum cabinet, all electronic parts, P.C. board and transformer.



(Color Organ)  
\$45.50 per kit

TY-23

### MARK IV 15 STEPS LED POWER LEVEL INDICATOR KIT

This new stereo level indicator kit consists of 36 4-color LED (15 per channel) to indicate the sound level output of your amplifier from -36dB ~ +3dB. Comes with a well-designed silk screen printed plastic panel and has a selector switch to allow floating or gradual output indicating. Power supply is 6 ~ 12V D.C. with THG on board input sensitivity controls. This unit can work with any amplifier from 1W to 200W!

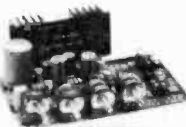
Kit includes 70 pcs. driver transistors, 38 pcs. matched 4-color LED, all other electronic components, PC board and front panel.



MARK IV KIT \$31.50

### 30W + 30W STEREO HYBRID AMPLIFIER KIT

It works in 12V DC as well! Kit includes 1 PC SANYO STK-043 stereo power amp. IC LM 1458 as pre amp, all other electronic parts, PC Board, all control pots and special heat sink for hybrid. Power transformer not included. It produces ultra hi-fi output up to 60 watts (30 watts per channel) yet gives out less than 0.1% total harmonic distortion between 100Hz and 10KHz



\$32.50 PER KIT

### BATTERY POWERED FLUORESCENT LANTERN

MODEL 888 R

#### FEATURES

- Circuitry: designed for operation by high efficient, high power silicon transistor which enable illumination maintain in a standard level even the battery supply drops to a certain low voltage.
- 9" 6W cool/daylight miniature fluorescent tube.
- 8 x 1.5V UM-1 (size D) dry cell battery.
- Easy sliding door for changing batteries.
- Stainless reflector with wide angle increasing illumination of the lantern.

\$10.50 EA

### STEREO AMPLIFIER



60 W

+  
60 W

#### COMPLETED UNIT - NOT A KIT!

OCL pre amp. & power stereo amp. with bass, middle, treble 3-way tone control. Fully assembled and tested, ready to work. Total harmonic distortion less than 0.5% at full power. Output maximum is 60 watts per channel at 8Ω. Power supply is 24 - 36V AC or DC. Complete unit. Assembled \$49.50 ea. Power transformer \$ 8.50 ea.

### SW AUDIO AMP KIT

2 LM 380 with Volume Control  
Power Supply 6 18V DC  
ONLY \$6.00 EACH

### PROFESSIONAL PANEL METERS



Type MU-52E

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| A. 0-50UA   | 8.50 ea. |
| B. 0-30VDC  | 8.50 ea. |
| C. 0-50VDC  | 8.50 ea. |
| D. 0-3ADC   | 9.00 ea. |
| E. 0-100VDC | 9.00 ea. |

All meters white face with black scales. Plastic cover.

### SPECIAL 0.5" LED ALARM CLOCK MODULE

#### ASSEMBLED! NOT A KIT!

Features: • 4 digits 0.5" LED Displays • 12 hours real time format • 24 hours alarm audio output • 59 min. countdown timer • 10 min. snooze control.



ONLY \$7.00 EACH  
SPECIAL TRANSFORMER FOR CLOCK  
(FREE)

### DIGITAL AUTO SECURITY SYSTEM

4 DIGITS PERSONAL CODE!!

SPECIAL \$19.95



- proximity triggered
- voltage triggered
- mechanically triggered

This alarm protects you and itself! Entering protected area will set it off, sounding your car horn or siren you add. Any change in voltage will also trigger the alarm into action. If cables within passenger compartment are cut, the unit protects itself by sounding the alarm.

#### 3-WAY PROTECTION!

All units factory assembled and tested - Not a kit!

### A NEW LED ARRAY AND DRIVER FOR LEVEL METERS

This series covers a wide range of level indication uses, output and input voltage, time related change, temperature, light measurement and sound level. The problem of uneven brilliance often encountered with LED arrangements as well as design problems caused by using several units of varying size are substantially reduced. 12 LEDs in one bar:

LED ARRAY	
GL-112R3 Red, Red, Red	\$5.50
GL-112N3 Green, Yellow, Red	\$6.50
GL-112M2 Green, Green, Red	\$6.50
GL-112G3 Green, Green, Green	\$6.50



### LED DRIVERS

1R 2406G is an I.C. specially designed to drive 12 LED. The number of LED is lineally illuminated according to the control voltage input terminal 21. Operating voltage is 9 12V D.C. \$5.35 EACH

#### DUEL CHANNEL VU METER

P.C. BOARD AVAILABLE AT \$4.50 EA.

### PROFESSIONAL FM WIRELESS MICROPHONE

TACT model WEM-16 is a factory assembled FM wireless microphone powered by an AA size battery. Transmits in the range of 88-108MHz with 3 transistor circuits and an omni-directional electric condenser. Element built-in plastic tube type case; mike is 6 1/4" long. With a standard FM radio, can be heard anywhere on a one-acre lot; sound quality was judged very good.

\$16.50

### FLASHER LED

Unique design combines a jumbo red LED with an IC flasher chip in one package. Operates directly from 5V-7V DC. No dropping resistor needed. Pulse rate 3Hz @ 5V 20mA.

2 for \$2.20

### BIPOLAR LED RED/GREEN

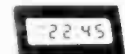
2 colors in one LED, green and red, changes color when reverse voltage supply. Amazing!

2 FOR \$1.60

### LCD CLOCK MODULE!

• 0.5" LCO 4 digits display • X'tal controlled circuits • D.C. powered (1.5V battery) • 12 hr. or 24 hr. display • 24 hr. alarm set • 60 min. countdown timer • On board dual back-up lights • Dual time zone display • Stop watch function.

NIC1200 (12 hr) \$24.50 EA.  
NIC2400 (24 hr) \$26.50 EA



### WANT TO BUILD YOUR OWN BLACK MAGIC BOX ON TOP OF THE TV FOR FIRST RUN MOVIES?

We have all the parts including hard to find UHF variator tuners and P.C. board. Call us for more information.

### FLUORESCENT LIGHT DRIVER KIT



12V DC POWERED  
Lights up 8 ~ 15 Watt Fluorescent Light Tubes. Ideal for camper, outdoor, auto or boat. Kit includes high voltage coil, power transistor, heat sink, all other electronic parts and PC Board. Light tube not included!

With Case Only  
\$6.50 Per Kit

### SUPER FM WIRELESS MIC KIT — MARK III



This new designed circuit uses high FET. FET transistors with 2 stages pre amp. Transmits FM Range (88-120 MHz) up to 2 blocks away and with the ultra sensitive condenser microphone that comes with the kit allows you to pick up any sound within 15 ft. away! Kit includes all electronic parts, OSC coils, and P.C. Board. Power supply 9V D.C.

FMC-105  
\$11.50 PER KIT

### PRESS-A-LIGHT SELF GENERATED FLASHLIGHT

EXCLUSIVE!! \$3.95 ea  
Model F-179



Never worry about battery, because it has none! Easy to carry in pocket and handy to use. Ideal for emergency light. It generates its own electricity by squeezing grip lever. Put one in your car, boat, camper or home. You may need it some time!

### ELECTRONIC DUAL SPEAKER PROTECTOR



Cut off when circuit is shorted or over load to protect your amplifier as well as your speakers. A must for OCL circuits.

KIT FORM  
\$8.75 EA.

### "FISHER" 30 WATT STEREO AMP



Super Buy  
Only \$18.50

MAIN AMP (15W x 2)  
Kit includes 2 pcs. Fisher PA 301 Hybrid IC all electronic parts with PC Board. Power supply ± 16V DC (not included). Power band with (KF 1% ± 3dB). Voltage gain 33dB. 20Hz - 20KHz.

### UNIVERSAL PROJECT BOARD

All P.C. boards are made from high quality phenolic, predrilled in different patterns for different purpose. All boards 1/16" single sided copper. Hole spacing is standard 0.1". Fits all kinds of I.C. transistors, capacitors and resistors. Ideal for school projects, engineering designs and prototyping.



SB072



BEL-008



M-34



BEL101

BEL202

BEL101	3 1/2" x 6"	\$1.75 EA.
SB072	3 1/2" x 6"	\$1.75 EA.
M-34	3" x 5"	\$1.75 EA.
CIRCUIT FIT	3" x 3 1/2"	\$1.25 EA.
BEL202	3" x 4"	\$1.25 EA.
BEL-008	2 1/4" x 5 1/2"	\$1.25 EA.

### PUSH-BUTTON SWITCH



N/Open Contact  
Color: Red, White, Blue, Green, Black  
3/\$1.00

N/Close also Available  
50c each  
LARGE QTY. AVAILABLE



### HEAVY DUTY CLIP LEADS

10 pairs — 5 colors Alligator clips on a 22" long lead. Ideal for any testing.

\$2.20/pack

### BATTERIES

PK/\$10.00  
2 PK/\$19.00



NICKEL CADMIUM BATTERY  
PACK  
'D' SIZE

ILLUSTRATED  
LESS COVER

Output: 3.6 Volts @ 3.0 Amp/Hour. Consists of three each 1.2 Volt 'D' size Nickel Cadmium Cells stacked and plastic film encapsulated. Tabs are provided at each end for electrical connections. The individual cells can be cut apart if desired. Rated recharge rate is 30 mA, 14-18 hours. Size 1 1/4" dia. x 7" long New Shpg. Wt. each pack, 1 lb.

### "C" SIZE BATTERY PACK



70 C size ni-cd battery in dng pack, gives out 12.5V D.C. 1.8 amp per hour. All fresh code, pull-out from movie cameras. Can be disconnected to use as single c cells. Hard to find \$15.00 per pack of 10 batteries

### ELECTRONIC ALARM SIREN COMPLETE UNIT



Ideal for use as an Alarm Unit or hookup to your car back-up to make a reverse Indicator. Light Output up to 130dB. Voltage supply 6 12V

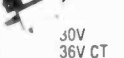
AU-999 \$7.50

### SUB MINIATURE TOGGLE SWITCH



SPST 2 FOR 2.80 SPDT 2 FOR 3.20  
6 AMP 125V AC CONTACT

### TRANSFORMERS



ALL 117 VOLT INPUT

30V	4 AMP	\$8.50 EA.
36V CT	3 AMP	\$10.50 EA.
48V CT	3 AMP	\$10.50 EA.
24V CT	0.5 AMP	\$3.00 EA.
18V CT	0.5 AMP	\$3.00 EA.
12V CT	0.5 AMP	\$2.50 EA.
6.3V	0.5 AMP	\$2.00 EA.

### AC POWER SUPPLY



Wall Type Transformer

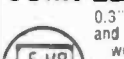
12V AC	Output 200 MA	\$2.75 EA.
16V CT AC	Output 100 MA	\$2.10 EA.
6V DC	Output 120 MA	\$1.90 EA.
12V DC	Output 100 MA	\$1.90 EA.

### ULTRASONIC SWITCH KIT



Kit includes the Ultra Sonic Transducers, 2 PC Boards for transmitter and receiver. All electronic parts and instructions. Easy to build and a lot of uses such as remote control for TV, garage door, alarm system or counter. Unit operates by 9-12 DC. \$15.50

### COMPLETE TIME MODULE



0.3" digits LCD Clock Module with month and date, hour, minute and seconds. As well as stop watch function!! Battery and back up light is with the module. Size of the module is 1" dia. Ideal for use in auto panel, computer, instrument and many others! \$8.95 EACH

### SOUND ACTIVATED SWITCH



All parts completed on a PC Board SCR will turn on relay, buzzer or trigger other circuit for 2 - 10 sec. (adjustable). Ideal for use as door alarm, sound controlled toys and many other projects. Supply voltage 4.5V 9V D.C. 2 for \$3.00

\$1.75 ea.



### FM WIRELESS MIC KIT

It is not a pack of cigarettes. It is a new FM wireless mic kit! New design PC board fits into a plastic cigarette box (case included). Uses a condenser microphone to allow you to have a better response in sound pick-up. Transmits up to 350 ft.! With an LED indicator to signal the unit is on #FMM2. KIT FORM \$7.95

### REGULATED DUAL VOLTAGE SUPPLY KIT

±4 30V DC 800 MA adjustable, fully regulated by Fairchild 78MG and 79MG voltage regulator I.C. Kit includes all electronic parts, filter capacitors, I.C., heat sinks and P.C. board.



\$12.50 PER KIT

### AA SIZE NI-CD RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

SPECIAL SALE  
4 FOR \$6.00

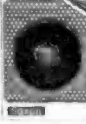
LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE

### POCKET SIZE AM-FM RADIO TR-945 with LED TUNING EYE



New design body with see thru speaker grill.

SPECIAL PRICE \$16.50 EACH



TR-945

### POWER SUPPLY KIT

0-30V D.C. REGULATED  
Uses UA723 and ZN3055 Power TR output can be adjusted from 0-30V, 2 AMP. Complete with PC board and all electronic parts. Transformer for Power Supply, 2 AMP 24V x 2 \$8.50



0-30 Power Supply  
\$10.50 each

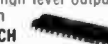
### I.C. TEST CLIPS

Same as the E-Z clips \$2.75  
With 20" Long Leads  
In Black and Red Colors per pair



### SOUND GENERATOR I.C.

Creates almost any type of sound — gun shot, explosion, train, car crash, star war, birds, organ ext. A built-in audio amplifier provides high level output. Operates from one 9V battery, 28 pin dip; we supply the datas. \$2.90 EACH



### ELECTRONIC SWITCH KIT

CONDENSER TYPE  
Touch On Touch Off  
uses 7473 I.C. and  
12V relay  
\$5.50 each



### 1 WATT AUDIO AMP

All parts are pre-assembled on a mini PC Board Supply Voltage 6 9V D.C. SPECIAL PRICE \$1.95 ea.



### LOW TIM DC STEREO PRE-AMP KIT TA-10 20

Incorporates brand-new D.C. design that gives a frequency response from 0Hz — 100KHz ±0.5dB! Added features like tone defeat and loudness control let you tailor your own frequency supplies to eliminate power fluctuation!

Specifications: • T.H.D. less than .005% • T.I.M. less than .005% • Frequency response: DC to 100KHz ±0.5dB • RIAA deviation: ±0.2dB • S/N ratio: better than 70dB • Sensitivity: Phono 2MV 47K/Aux. 100MV 100K • Output level: 1.3V • Max. output: 15V • Tone control: bass ±10dB @ 50Hz/treble ±10dB @ 15Hz • Power supply: ±24 D.C. @ 0.5A

Kit comes with regulated power supply all you need is a 48V C.T. transformer @ 0.5A.  
ONLY \$44.50  
X'former \$4.50 ea.



### SOLID STATE ELECTRONIC BUZZER

Mini size 1" x 3/8" x 3/8"  
Supply voltage 1.5V - 12V  
Ideal for Alarm or Tone Indicator



\$1.50 each

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Limited quantities - first come, first served. Sorry, at these low prices we cannot include spec sheets or accept COD/telephone orders. Part numbers must include the special -S suffix or you will be charged our regular prices. Parts may be house numbered or have dual markings. This is your chance to save!

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4012-S	Dual 4 input NAND	12/82
4020-S	14 stage counter	4/82
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4046-S	Phase locked loop	2/82
4071-S	Quad 2 input OR	12/82
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(package type M = 1008 M = minidip D = dip TR = TO99)

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7808-S	-8V regulator	2/82
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78M15-S	-15V regulator	2/82
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- NPN transistor similar 2N3904 100/87.95
- PNP transistor similar 2N3906 100/88.95
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- SN76477-S complex sound generator 1/82 \$0.50
- MA1003 12V DC clock module w/ case \$18.95
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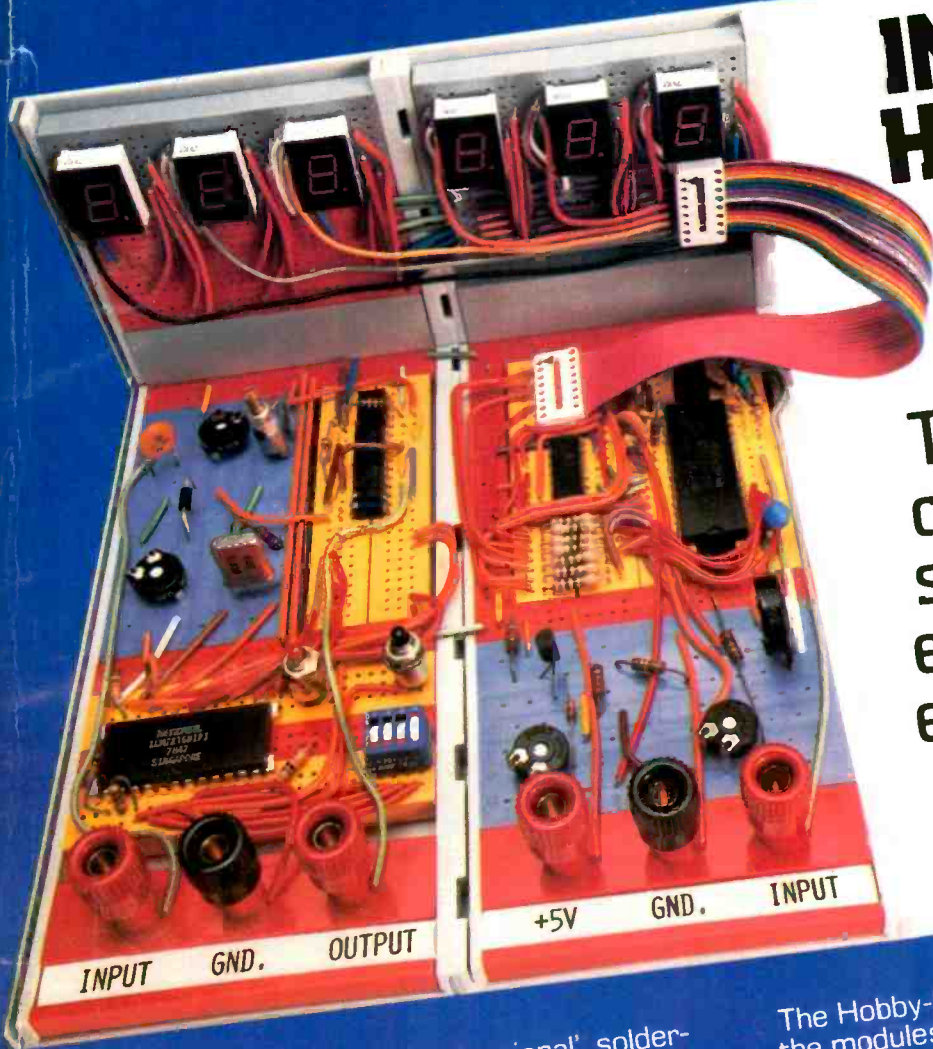
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At the core of the system are two expandable starter packs (priced under \$7.00), one for discrete component projects, the other for integrated circuit projects. Each comes with a number of Hobby-Blox modules that fit into a tray and an illustrated project booklet. In addition, the system includes 14 separate component packs you can purchase individually — terminal, distribution and bus strips, speaker panels, binding posts, etc. — priced from \$1.29 to \$3.59.

The Hobby-Blox system is easy to use because the modules are color-keyed and letter/number indexed. It's time-saving, because they're solderless. It's compatible with DIP's of all sizes and a wide variety of discrete components. And you save money, because the parts can be reused again and again.

How far can you go with the Hobby-Blox system? Take a look at the example above. Then you'll know why we say, "your only limit is your own imagination!"

**For a free catalog and the name of your nearest Hobby-Blox dealer call toll-free (800) 321-9668.**

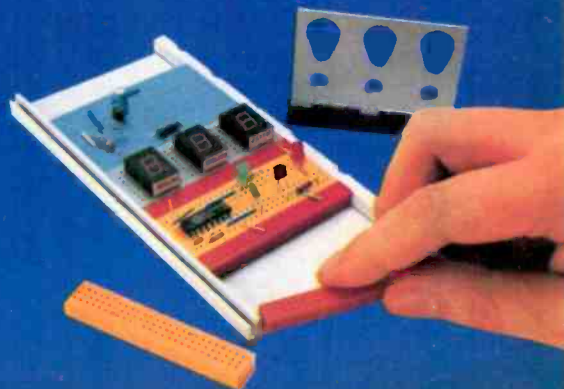
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CIRCLE 20 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD





# In one year our **K40** antenna has become the largest selling CB antenna in the world!

**1. It's the most expensive ...**

**\$42.50**

suggested retail

**And when you pay more, you expect more!**

**MORE PERFORMANCE:**

The K40 is guaranteed to transmit further or receive clearer than any antenna it replaces. We know it will. We've tested it with 771 CB'ers just like you for one year.

**MORE FLEXIBILITY:**

You can fit your K40 to any mounting surface. It will fit any vehicle you'll ever own! That includes choppers, dune buggies, gutters, mirror mounts, luggage racks, trunks, hatchbacks, through roofs, semis, pick ups and RV's.

**MORE QUALITY:**

It's not imported. It's not made in Taiwan, Korea or Japan. It's American made in an American town. It's made with better materials that cost more and by professional people we pay more. And we designed it right here in the U.S.A.

\*Including optional mounts at extra cost.

**... This Antenna is so DYNAMITE you receive a ...**

**DOUBLE GUARANTEE**

**GUARANTEE I:** The K-40 will transmit further and receive more clearly than the antenna it replaces or the customer will receive a prompt and full refund from the Registered K-40 Dealer who installed and tuned it.

**GUARANTEE II:** Unconditionally guaranteed for 12 months. Guaranteed against cracking, chipping, or rusting. Guaranteed against mechanical failure. Guaranteed against electrical failure. Guaranteed against accidental breakage. No exclusions. No gimmicks. For a full 12 months.

**2. It's made better...**



**3. It's proven best!**

**...Here's what the leading CB publications said.**

**CB TIMES:** "... it's not often that a product bursts onto the market scene, dominates and improves CB'ing for everyone. American Antenna and the K40 are doing it—repeated tests showed the K40 could out-perform the major competitive brands."

**RADIO-ELECTRONICS:** "The results of our tests showed that, in three different positions of the monitoring receiver, the model K40 equaled or out-performed the competitive antenna. Apparently, American Antenna's advertising is not merely Madison Avenue showmanship."

**PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:** "... an impressive 95% of the trials, the K40 out-performed the existing mobile antennas. We had to try one for ourselves. ... in every case, the K40 either equaled or out-performed its competitor."

"No ifs, ands, or buts! The K40 Antenna from American Antenna would have to be just about the best antenna around."

**CB MAGAZINE:** "Introduced in October, 1977, the K40 quickly became the top seller and in mid 1978, became the number one selling antenna in the nation."

**...Here's what CB'ers all across the country said.**

**ANTENNA SPECIALISTS:** "... truck driver and CB'er for 10 years ... 50% further than my M410 'Big Momma'."

—J.H. Collett, 207 McFee, Bastrop, LA

**AVANTI:** "I'm an electronic technician with a Second Class FCC license ... I was able to transmit 70% further and tune the SWR 75% lower than my Avanti!"

—H.R. Castro, VRB, Monserrante D-67, Salinas, Puerto Rico

**PAL:** "... 20% better in transmission and reception than my 5/8 wave Pal Firestick."

—John A. Blum, Box 446, Zelenople, PA

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—H. Bacher, Jr., 15 King Rd., Park Ridge, NJ

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